

Prices are grouped according to a commodity classification scheme based on chief component material similarities. Indexes classified according to degree of manufacture are also available. In Table 1, the general wholesale index is presented for the period 1937-64. This index is used as a conventional summary figure against which to observe the behaviour of particular price groups such as farm products, raw materials and building materials, for which separate price indexes have been constructed. Table 2 gives, for the years 1955-64, the general wholesale price index and two of its integral classifications—raw and partly manufactured goods, and fully and chiefly manufactured goods; also presented are two related systems—industrial materials and Canadian farm products. Annual price index numbers of non-residential building materials and residential building materials are given for 1955-64 in Tables 3 and 4, respectively. More specific indexes are published regularly in the DBS monthly publication *Prices and Price Indexes* (Catalogue No. 62-002), which also contains current series on retail and security prices. Vol. 23 of that publication is a historical summary reaching back to the year 1867 for some series.

A system of wholesale price indexes called *Industry Selling Price Indexes 1956=100*, refers exclusively to manufacturing industries and includes approximately 100 industry and 175 commodity indexes. DBS Reference Paper No. 62-515 contains tables, explanatory text, charts and weights relating to these indexes; current indexes are published monthly in *Prices and Price Indexes* (Catalogue No. 62-002).

1.—General Wholesale Index Annual Averages, 1937-64

(1935-39=100)

Year	Average	Year	Average	Year	Average	Year	Average
1937	107.7	1944	130.6	1951	240.2	1958	227.8
1938	102.0	1945	132.1	1952	226.0	1959	230.6
1939	99.2	1946	138.9	1953	220.7	1960	230.9
1940	108.0	1947	163.3	1954	217.0	1961	233.3
1941	116.4	1948	193.4	1955	218.9	1962	240.0
1942	123.0	1949	198.3	1956	225.6	1963	244.6
1943	127.9	1950	211.2	1957	227.4	1964	245.4

The general wholesale index moved slightly upward in 1964, reaching a high of 245.4. The fully and chiefly manufactured goods index advanced 0.9 p.c. and the raw and partly manufactured goods index declined 0.5 p.c. The industrial materials index rose 1.9 p.c. in the same comparison but the farm products index was 3.8 p.c. lower. The latter, however, is based on preliminary indexes for field products and total farm products, pending receipt of final participation payments from the Canadian Wheat Board.

2.—Annual Index Numbers of Wholesale Price Groups, 1955-64

(1935-39=100)

Year	General Wholesale Index	Raw and Partly Manufactured Goods	Fully and Chiefly Manufactured Goods	Industrial Materials	Canadian Farm Products		
					Field	Animal	Total
1955	218.9	209.7	224.5	236.0	180.1	245.1	212.6
1956	225.6	215.8	231.5	248.2	181.6	246.9	214.2
1957	227.4	209.4	237.9	240.3	169.2	258.0	213.6
1958	227.8	209.3	238.3	229.8	171.4	274.5	222.9
1959	230.6	210.9	241.6	240.2	176.1	271.6	223.9
1960	230.9	209.6	242.2	240.4	189.1	264.1	226.6
1961	233.3	212.6	244.5	243.2	191.7	270.0	230.9
1962	240.0	223.8	249.0	248.0	195.5	286.0	240.8
1963	244.6	226.9	254.2	253.5	197.2	275.4	236.3
1964	245.4	225.7	256.4	258.3	187.3 ^P	267.3	227.3 ^P