

may be compared with price changes occurring elsewhere in the world. This is done in Table 21.18 which indicates the percentage changes over the previous year in the consumer price index for each country specified. For purposes of this comparison, countries are listed alphabetically, by region.

Intercity consumer price indexes. Table 21.19 provides indexes that compare levels of prices among 11 major Canadian cities. These indexes express prices in each city as a percentage of the combined cities average which equals 100. The comparisons shown are those in effect as of December 1973 for four commodity groupings and May 1971 for the remaining three categories. The selected commodity groupings in the Table make up about three quarters of the average urban consumer's budget. For technical reasons, shelter costs (for both rented and owned facilities) and restaurant meals, are not included in the comparisons.

The retail prices used for the intercity comparisons are largely those routinely collected in each city for the production of the consumer price index with the exception of the food for home consumption component which contains data from a special survey undertaken in May 1971. Comparability between cities was achieved, as far as possible, by matching quotations for similar qualities of goods and services and types of retail outlets. Since comparisons relate to prices that include sales and excise taxes, variations between provinces in the scale of such taxes imposed on a wide range of non-food commodities can be of significance in explaining intercity price differentials.

21.3.2 Industrial commodity price indexes

These relate to sales and purchases, at levels other than retail, of raw materials, semi-processed goods and manufactured products. They are constructed in two ways: on an industry basis, in which the indexes are prepared for individual industries and aggregated for groups of industries; and on a commodity basis, in which indexes are prepared for individual commodities and aggregated for groups of commodities. "Industry selling price indexes" for manufacturing industries are the principal industry-classified indexes available in Canada. The "general wholesale index" is a commodity-classified index.

Industry selling price indexes (manufacturing). Indexes of the selling prices of some 100 individual industries classified to manufacturing in the Standard Industrial Classification are produced and published monthly. In addition, indexes are available for major groups of manufacturing industries and, on a gross-weighted basis, for all manufacturing.

The indexes measure the change through time of prices received by manufacturers for their products. Prices reflected in the index are f.o.b. manufacturing establishment, excluding taxes levied on manufacturers' sales. The items and weights in the current indexes are based on manufacturers' shipments in 1961. The composite gross weighted index for manufacturing is presented in Table 21.20, for the years 1962-73.

The general wholesale index includes mainly manufacturers' prices but also incorporates prices of wholesalers, assemblers of primary products, and agents and operators of other types of commercial enterprises which trade in commodities of a type, or in quantities, characteristic of primary marketing functions. 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 21.21, the general wholesale index is presented for the period 1950-73. 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.

World wholesale price indexes. Comparisons of Canadian wholesale price indexes with those of other countries for the years 1971-73 are given in Table 21.22.

21.3.3 Price indexes of selected capital goods

This Section covers price indexes currently available for residential and non-residential building construction, engineering construction, and machinery and equipment purchased by the construction and forestry industries.

Residential and non-residential building construction indexes. Price indexes of residential and non-residential building construction are base-weighted indexes of materials and labour. They are presented in Table 21.23 for the years 1964-73.

Since the building material prices in these indexes reflect price movements on purchasers'