

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 1963-74.

**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 1951-74. 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 1972-74 are given in Table 21.22.

### 21.3.3 Price indexes of selected capital goods

This Section covers price indexes currently available for inputs into residential and non-residential building construction, completed new houses, 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 input indexes of materials and labour. They are presented in Table 21.23 for the years 1965-74. The indexes for residential construction are published in more detail in Table 21.24 on a 1971 base. Indexes are available for the total inputs of material and labour for five regions within Canada, and are also calculated for the inputs into individual trades in residential construction.

Since the building material prices in these indexes reflect price movements on purchasers' markets they contain sales tax changes. The wage rate component, from 1971 forward, is derived mainly from surveys of agreements conducted by the Canadian Construction Association for construction trades in various centres; these are base rates which reflect union scale or collective agreements. The combined indexes of materials and wage rates do not necessarily reflect changes in the price of construction output since they do not take account of changes in profit margins or in productivity but instead concentrate only on the prices of the inputs.

**New housing price indexes.** These are base-weighted Laspeyres type indexes of builders' selling prices, measuring pure price change for work put-in-place and land for new residential construction. Monthly market selling prices agreed between builder and buyer in purchase contracts are reported monthly. In the price sample are major builders who construct 100 or more housing units a year (or possibly fewer units if comparable models can be priced through time). Prices cover dwelling structure, land and services to land if these are not provided separately by municipality; they exclude legal fees, provincial land transfer tax and similar costs to buyer for property acquisition. Prices are for single unit houses except in Toronto and Ottawa where single, semi-detached and row condominium units are priced.

The index uses a base-weighted (Laspeyres) formula. Weights reflect the relative importance of individual models in a firm's total output, and the relative importance of individual companies in the single family housing market, in 1971. New firms brought into the sample are assigned weights reflecting their importance at time of entry. Quality changes not reflected in the index include model substitutions, changes in size and location of building lots, design and construction techniques and provision of such extra features as appliances. When