

manual, Statistics Canada Catalogue 12-501 are produced and published monthly. In addition, indexes are available for major groups of manufacturing industries and for all manufacturing.

The indexes measure the change through time of prices received by manufacturers for their products. Prices reflected in the index are free on board from the manufacturing establishment, excluding taxes levied on manufacturers' sales. The items and weights in the current indexes are based on manufacturers' shipments in 1971. The composite index for manufacturing is presented in Table 21.19, for the years 1957-77.

The general wholesale index includes mainly manufacturers' prices but also incorporates prices of wholesalers and others. 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 21.20, the general wholesale index is presented for the period 1954-77.

Chemical and mineral process plant indexes. These are fixed-weighted indexes measuring the price movements of components representative of a processing installation bought by companies with a large processing activity, for example, chemicals, pulp and paper, petroleum refineries and mineral processing. The engineering and administration of the project, the construction of the buildings and the purchase and installation of the machinery and equipment required are all covered. Indexes for the period 1972-77 are given in Table 21.21.

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, highway 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 fixed-weighted input indexes of materials and labour. They are presented in Tables 21.22 and 21.23 on the 1971 base. Indexes are available for the total inputs of material and labour for five regions 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 federal 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 fixed-weighted 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. Price movements cover single unit houses in all cities and semi-detached and row condominiums in cities where this type of housing is widespread.

The indexes use a fixed-weighted 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. 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