

World Retail Price Indexes.—In order to place changes in Canadian retail prices in perspective with those occurring in other countries, Table 8 provides retail price indexes for selected countries and dates. It will be noted that increases in retail prices since 1949 have been world-wide. With the exception of Chile and Peru, where large increases in retail prices occurred, prices were relatively stable in all countries at the end of 1953. These indexes measure price change only within each country and should not be used to compare actual levels of living costs from country to country.

8.—Index Numbers of Retail Prices in Canada and other Countries, 1949 and December 1952 and 1953

(Base: 1948=100, except for France and The Netherlands where 1949=100. SOURCE: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations.*)

Country	1949	Month of December—		Country	1949	Month of December—	
		1952	1953			1952	1953
Australia.....	109	181 ^r	187	The Netherlands.....	100	122	122
Canada	104^r	120	120	New Zealand.....	102	130	138
Chile (Santiago).....	119	295	321	Norway.....	100	135	137
Denmark.....	101	124	123	Peru (Lima).....	115	156	170
Finland.....	108 ^r	155	155	Sweden.....	102	130	130
France (Paris).....	100	145	142	Switzerland.....	99	105	104
Iceland (Reykjavik).....	102	177	173	Union of South Africa.....	104	129	130
India.....	101	104	105	United Kingdom.....	103	128	130
Mexico (Mexico City).....	105	147	140	United States.....	99	111	112

Section 3.—Index Numbers of Security Prices

Security prices have long been utilized in statistical measurements related to economic phenomena and are, generally, sensitive to changing business conditions although this valuable characteristic is sometimes overshadowed by the fact that their movements may be influenced greatly by speculative interest very remotely associated with underlying economic conditions. Thus, in 1928 and 1929 common-stock prices advanced far beyond levels indicated by business profits and prospects. Security-price trends also have been at variance with other business indexes for short intervals at other periods.

Common Stocks.—Common-stock prices were firmer in the final quarter of 1952 but the trend was reversed in the opening months of 1953. Changes in security price levels in 1953 reflected, in part, prospects for peace in Korea together with a