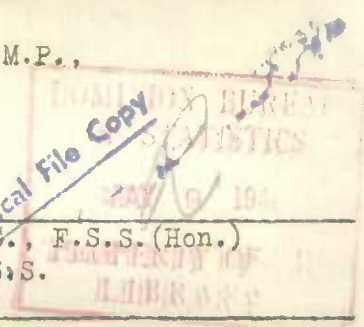


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Minister of Trade and Commerce
 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
 DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
 INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH



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PRICE MOVEMENTS, APRIL, 1940 (PRELIMINARY)

There was no change in the Bureau's composite weekly index of wholesale prices during April, the index remaining at 83.2. Displaying marked stability the index has held at this level for the past six weeks. Among the various components moderate advances were registered for animals, iron and steel products, non-metallic minerals and chemicals while declines predominated in vegetables, fibres and wood and its products. Non-ferrous metals showed no net change. For the composite industrial materials index a net decline of 0.8 p.c. was indicated which brought the final weekly index for the month to 79.3. Both sections of the sensitive index were lower while a narrow advance occurred in the stable group.

The Dominion retail price index for 46 food items declined from 78.5 in March to 78.3 in April, following reductions in a number of commodities. A moderate decline in coal prices was offset by increases for coke and wood, leaving the fuel index unchanged at 86.8.

Canadian common stock prices averaged lower for the fourth successive month, bringing the daily composite index for 95 stocks down 5.9 p.c. to 92.5 between March 30 and April 30. Marked weakness was noted for oils and industrial mines while pulp and paper issues were the only group to show any appreciable increase. In the mining section, price declines for both golds and base metals lowered the general mining stock index 4.7 p.c. to 126.8. Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices on the other hand displayed a firmer tone, an index for this series mounting from 114.3 at the end of March to 115.7 on April 30. The corresponding yield index moved down from 73.0 to 71.3 in the same interval.

Official buying and selling rates set by the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control Board for sterling and United States funds remained unchanged during April at \$4.43-\$4.47 and \$1.10-\$1.11 respectively. During the same period, sterling free market rates at New York ranged between \$3.58 1/2 on April 6 and \$3.46 1/2 on the 9th while the close at \$3.51 1/4 indicated a net loss of 2 1/4¢. Announcement was made during the month that the British Treasury had taken over an additional list of privately held United States securities in order to augment further their supplies of foreign exchange. The list, totalling 92 stocks and 25 bonds included a large number of leading United States issues. Canadian funds showed progressive strength as the month advanced, quotations rising from 81 3/4¢ at the end of March to a peak of 86 1/4¢ on April 15 while the close at 84 7/8¢ was up 3 1/8¢.

SUMMARY OF PRICE INDEXES
 (1926=100 for all index series)

	April 1939	March 1940	April 1940			
			4th	Week ended -		
				11th	18th	25th
<u>WHOLESALE</u> †						
General - 567 Commodities	73.4	83.2	83.2	83.2	83.2	83.2
Industrial Materials	64.6	79.7	79.3	79.4	79.8	79.3
Canadian Farm Products	65.5	71.3	71.5	72.0	72.6	72.5
<u>RETAIL PRICES, RENTS AND SERVICES</u>	83.1	85.7	-----not available-----			
(1st of month)						
<u>SECURITY PRICES</u>						
Investors' Price Index (95 common stocks)....	96.2	99.1	99.0	98.8	96.6	95.6
68 Industrials	157.7	159.2	159.0	158.8	154.3	151.9
19 Utilities	41.9	47.1	47.3	47.2	47.0	47.1
Mining Stock Price Index (25 stocks)..	143.7	132.6	133.6	133.2	129.5	128.6
22 Golds	110.1	96.5	97.7	97.0	95.2	94.5
3 Base Metals	282.6	281.8	283.8	282.3	273.5	269.8
Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bonds						
Price Index	118.8	114.0	114.4	114.9	114.7	115.4
Yield Index	67.5	73.4	72.9	72.3	72.6	71.7
<u>FOREIGN EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS</u> - noon rates						
(Bank of Canada) at Montreal						
Sterling xdollars	4.7038	4.4500	4.4500	4.4500	4.4500	4.4500
U.S. dollars xdollars	1.0050	1.1050	1.1050	1.1050	1.1050	1.1050
Netherlands florincents	53.41	58.95	58.93	58.92	58.92	58.92
Argentine peso - free market.cents	23.23	25.98	25.78	25.34	25.42	25.53

†Week ends Friday instead of Thursday. x Average of daily buying and selling rates set by the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control Board since September 18, 1939. Current buying and selling rates are \$4.43-\$4.47 for sterling and \$1.10-\$1.11 for United States funds.



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Historical File Copy

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Year	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value
1950	100	100	100	100	100
1951	100	100	100	100	100
1952	100	100	100	100	100
1953	100	100	100	100	100
1954	100	100	100	100	100
1955	100	100	100	100	100
1956	100	100	100	100	100
1957	100	100	100	100	100
1958	100	100	100	100	100
1959	100	100	100	100	100
1960	100	100	100	100	100