

62 001

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
 Historical File Copy

Published by Authority of the HON. JAMES A. MacKINNON, M.P.,  
 Minister of Trade and Commerce  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
 DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
 INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.G., F.S.S. (Hon.)  
 Chief, Internal Trade Branch: Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.  
 Prices Statistician: H. F. Greenway, M.A.

PRICE MOVEMENTS, OCTOBER, 1941 (PRELIMINARY)

**WHOLESALE:** With the exception of a minor reaction in the third week, commodity markets showed steady strength during October. Reacting to a further sharp seasonal increase for eggs, coupled with higher prices for tea, coffee cocoa and spices, potatoes, cured meats, cotton thread, wool worsted yarns and soap, the composite wholesale price index of 567 commodities moved up 1.0 p.c. to 93.7 between the last week of September and the week ending October 24. Prices in the final week showed practically no change. The industrial material price index showed a minor decline of 0.4 points to 91.0 in the first four weeks of October, reflecting lower quotations in the foods section, and to a lesser extent in the manufacturing materials group. The stable group was unchanged at 110.6. Canadian farm product prices advanced from 72.9 for the week of September 26 to 73.7 for the week of October 24. Accounting for the increase higher prices <sup>ruled</sup> for eggs, hides and skins, fluid milk and raw wool among animal products, and these more than offset lower prices for grains in the field products section.

**COST OF LIVING:** (Wartime increase 14.6 per cent - from 100.8 to 115.5) The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced from 114.7 on September 2 to 115.5 on October 1, 1941. This index which has been specified as the basis for calculating cost-of-living bonus adjustments under the new Order-in-Council P.C.8253 (replacing P.C.7440) has increased 14.6 per cent between August, 1939 and October 1941. For the first time since last May, the food index declined fractionally, but other group indexes all showed increases. The food index moved down from 123.3 to 123.2 between September 2 and October 1, due to small price reductions for dairy products, eggs and vegetables, while other food groups recorded minor increases. The rent index advanced from 109.7 to 111.2 for October. Higher prices for coal and coke caused the fuel and light index to rise from 110.9 to 112.1. The clothing index moved upward from 117.4 for September to 119.6 for October, while home furnishings and services advanced from 115.8 to 117.3. The miscellaneous group index changed from 106.4 to 106.5, due mainly to an increase in gasoline prices.

**SECURITIES:** Following three months of hesitant recovery, the Investors' weekly index of 95 common stocks showed an irregularly lower tendency during October to finish the month at 68.9 as compared with 70.1 for the final week of September. Both industrials and utilities averaged lower, the former being off 1.1 points at 65.5 and the latter 1.9 at 71.6. The sharpest declines were recorded by industrial mines, 3.7 points lower at 71.2; building materials 3.2 points lower at 78.3; power and traction, down 2.3 points at 65.9, and machinery and equipment, 2.1 points at 78.6. Registering a relatively sharper decline than was noted for industrials and utilities an index of 25 representative mining issues dropped 8.2 points during the month to close at 66.8. Golds were off 8.3 points to 57.2 while base metals dipped 8.1 to 85.9. Moving counter to common stock prices Dominion of Canada long-term bond quotations registered a fractional advance as indicated by a gain of 0.3 points to 101.6. The corresponding yield index declined 0.3 to 94.7.

SUMMARY OF PRICE INDEXES

(1926=100 for Wholesale Prices)

(1935-39=100 for Cost of Living and Security Prices)

|                                                 | Oct.<br>1940 | Sept.<br>1941 | October, 1941 |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                                 |              |               | Week ended -  |       |       |       |       |
|                                                 |              |               | 2nd           | 9th   | 16th  | 23rd  | 30th  |
| <b>WHOLESALE</b>                                |              |               |               |       |       |       |       |
| General - 567 Price Series .....                | 83.3         | 93.2          | 93.3          | 93.7  | 93.6  | 93.7  | -     |
| Industrial Materials .....                      | 78.8         | 91.5          | 91.7          | 91.7  | 91.2  | 91.0  | -     |
| Canadian Farm Products .....                    | 64.6         | 73.3          | 74.3          | 74.4  | 73.7  | 73.7  | -     |
| <b>COST OF LIVING</b> - (1st of month).....     | 107.0        | 114.7         | 115.5         |       |       |       |       |
| Investors' Price Index (95 common stocks) ..    | 74.2         | 71.0          | 71.2          | 69.5  | 68.5  | 69.3  | 68.9  |
| 68 Industrials .....                            | 71.3         | 67.5          | 67.6          | 66.0  | 64.7  | 65.7  | 65.5  |
| 19 Utilities .....                              | 77.0         | 74.7          | 75.5          | 72.9  | 72.7  | 72.7  | 71.6  |
| Mining Stock Price Index (25 stocks) .....      | 79.2         | 75.4          | 74.5          | 72.4  | 70.1  | 69.6  | 66.8  |
| 22 Golds .....                                  | 72.9         | 66.0          | 65.1          | 63.8  | 61.8  | 60.5  | 57.2  |
| 3 Base Metals .....                             | 91.3         | 94.0          | 93.0          | 89.4  | 86.5  | 87.6  | 85.9  |
| Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bonds -            |              |               |               |       |       |       |       |
| Price Index .....                               | 99.7         | 101.3         | 101.3         | 101.3 | 101.4 | 101.4 | 101.6 |
| Yield Index .....                               | 98.6         | 95.2          | 95.0          | 95.0  | 95.0  | 95.0  | 94.7  |
| <b>FOREIGN EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS</b> - noon rates |              |               |               |       |       |       |       |
| (Bank of Canada) at Montreal                    |              |               |               |       |       |       |       |
| U.S. dollars(x) .....                           | 1.105        | 1.105         | 1.105         | 1.105 | 1.105 | 1.105 | 1.105 |
| Sterling (x) .....                              | 4.450        | 4.450         | 4.450         | 4.450 | 4.450 | 4.450 | 4.450 |

† 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.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010711586

Statistical Life Cycle