

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

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, AUGUST, 1941 (PRELIMINARY)

**WHOLESALE:** Wholesale price levels continued to advance during August, following a minor check in the week ending August 1st. Between August 1st and 29th the general wholesale index of 567 price series advanced steadily from 91.0 to 91.9, a rate of increase which was characteristic of the preceding four months. The principal August price advances occurred in vegetable products, animal products and textiles with smaller gains in wood, products, iron products, non-metallic minerals, and chemicals. Between August 1st and 29th, an index of industrial material prices moved up from 90.3 to 90.7, while Canadian Farm Products rose from 71.2 to 72.6.

**COST OF LIVING:** (Wartime increase 12.8 per cent - from 100.8 to 113.7) The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index for Canada advanced from 111.9 on July 2 to 113.7 on August 1, 1941. This index which has been specified as the basis for calculating cost-of-living bonus adjustments under Order-in-Council P.C. 7440, has increased 12.8 per cent between August, 1939 and August, 1941. The sharp rise between July 2 and August 1 was due mainly to higher food prices. The food index advanced 4.7 points to 121.3, and this alone would have been sufficient to increase the general index by 1.5 points. Residual increases in clothing, home furnishings, and the miscellaneous groups combined to add a further 0.3 points to the general increase of 1.8 points. In the food section, lower prices for vegetables were overbalanced by advances in all other sub-group indexes. The most important increases were recorded for dairy products, meats, and eggs. Group indexes for July 2 and August 1, 1941, were as follows: Foods 116.6 and 121.3, clothing 115.1 and 115.7, home furnishings and services 113.0 and 114.3, miscellaneous items 105.6 and 106.1. The rent and fuel indexes were unchanged at 109.7 and 110.5 respectively.

**SECURITIES:** Common stock prices held most of July gains during the first three weeks of August and then turned upward again towards the close. The August average for the Investors' index was 67.8 as compared with 67.5 for July. The Industrial group average moved up from 64.0 to 64.4, with Utilities advancing from 70.6 to 71.2. Closing strength was most pronounced among pulp and paper, beverages, and building material groups. The August average price index of 74.6 for a group of 25 mining issues was unchanged from its July level. The gold section eased from 66.2 to 66.0, but base metals rose from 91.3 to 91.7. An index of Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices stiffened from 100.8 in July to 101.2 for August.

SUMMARY OF PRICE INDEXES  
 (1926-100 for Wholesale Prices)  
 (1935-39-100 for Cost of Living and Security Prices)

			August, 1941			
	: Aug. : 1940	: July : 1941	: 7th	: 14th	: 21st	: 28th
<b>WHOLESALE</b>						
General - 567 Price Series .....	82.6	91.1	91.2	91.4	91.8	91.9
Industrial Materials .....	78.1	89.3	90.1	90.4	90.6	90.7
Canadian Farm Products .....	62.7	71.7	71.5	72.1	72.8	72.6
<b>COST OF LIVING</b> (1st of month) .....	105.9	111.9	----- 113.7 -----			
Investors' Price Index (95 common stocks) ..	69.3	67.5	68.1	67.5	67.7	68.0
68 Industrials .....	65.8	64.0	64.8	63.9	64.2	64.5
19 Utilities .....	73.6	70.6	71.5	71.2	70.8	71.4
Mining Stock Price Index (25 stocks) .....	71.0	74.6	75.2	74.8	74.1	74.4
22 Golds .....	64.6	66.2	66.2	66.3	65.5	66.0
3 Base Metals .....	83.7	91.3	92.9	91.7	91.1	91.2
<b>Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bonds</b>						
Price Index .....	99.1	100.8	101.1	101.2	101.3	101.3
Yield Index .....	100.0	95.8	95.6	95.3	95.3	95.3
<b>FOREIGN EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS</b> - noon rates (Bank of Canada) at Montreal						
U.S. dollars x .....dollars	1.105	1.105	1.105	1.105	1.105	1.105
Sterling x .....dollars	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.

Revised 1984  
1984

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