

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

Historical File Copy

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, JANUARY, 1942 (PRELIMINARY)

WHOLESALE: Reflecting strength in the index for five food commodities the weekly composite series of 30 industrial material prices advanced from 91.8 to 92.6 between the weeks of December 26 and January 30. The advance in the food series from 80.7 to 84.6 in the same interval was due to higher quotations for wheat, oats, steers and hogs. An index for eighteen sensitive price series composed of five foods and thirteen manufacturing materials gained 1.1 points to 81.5 during the month, though the latter series remained unchanged at 80.4. The index for 12 stable commodities also held steady at 111.8. An advance of 3.3 points to 78.0 between December 26 and January 30 for the Canadian farm product wholesale price index mainly reflected strength in grain quotations in the field product section, though animal products also displayed firmness. The field products increase of 4.7 points to 64.1 was influenced by advances for potatoes, onions and hay in addition to grains. In the animal product section, livestock prices were moderately higher.

COST OF LIVING: (Wartime increase 14.5 per cent. - from 100.8 to 115.4). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined from 115.8 on December 1, 1941 to 115.4 on January 2, 1942. This index which has been specified as the basis for calculating cost-of-living bonus adjustments under Order-in-Council P.C.8253, has increased 14.5 per cent between August 1939 and January 1942. The food group declined from 123.8 to 122.3, as lower prices in the egg, fresh fruit, dairy product, and dry grocery sub-groups overbalanced increases for potatoes, onions and certain meats. Three index groups advanced fractionally as follows: fuel and lighting from 112.7 to 112.9, housefurnishings and services from 117.9 to 118.0, and miscellaneous from 106.7 to 106.8. Other groups were unchanged, rents at 111.2 and clothing at 119.9.

SECURITIES: January prices for industrial and utility stocks showed a further extension of the irregular decline which occurred in the final quarter of 1941. Between December 26 and January 29 the Investors' weekly composite index for 95 representative stocks moved 0.3 points lower to 66.5. Losses concentrated largely in the industrial section sent the index for this series down 1.2 points to 62.5 while the section index for 19 utilities gained 2.9 points due to a 9.5 point advance to 65.0 for transportation issues. Banks were fractionally firmer, closing 1.2 higher at 91.1. In the industrial section most pronounced losses were for beverages and foods and allied products which showed index declines of 8.2 and 5.8 points respectively. Other groups to register decreases in this section were pulp and paper and oils, while telephone and telegraph stocks in the utility section were weaker. Mining stock prices were fractionally firmer over the month, a composite index of 25 mining issues stiffening 0.4 points to 61.4 between December 26 and January 29. An advance of 3.4 points to 84.8 in the base metals index was responsible for the gain, as the index for 22 golds eased 1.0 to 49.7 in the same interval. Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices, reversing their easier tone of the previous month closed January at an index level of 102.0 compared with 101.9 for the final week of December.

SUMMARY OF PRICE INDEXES

(1926=100 for Wholesale Prices)

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

	Jan. 1941	Dec. 1941	January, 1942				
			Week ended -				
			2nd	8th	15th	22nd	29th
WHOLESALE/0							
Industrial Materials	80.1	91.7	91.9	92.2	92.4	92.5	92.6
Canadian Farm Products	67.2	74.6	75.2	76.2	77.2	77.8	78.0
COST OF LIVING - (1st of month)	108.3	115.8	----- 115.4 -----				
Investors' Price Index (95 common stocks)	71.3	67.2	68.2	67.1	67.0	66.4	66.5
68 Industrials	66.9	63.9	65.1	63.6	63.3	62.2	62.5
19 Utilities	77.3	68.7	69.9	69.6	70.3	70.9	70.7
Mining Stock Price Index (25 stocks) ...	79.4	63.2	63.3	62.2	62.5	61.4	61.4
22 Golds	74.4	52.2	51.4	51.1	51.0	50.3	49.7
3 Base Metals	89.2	84.8	86.8	84.1	85.1	83.3	84.8
Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bonds -							
Price Index	100.8	102.0	101.9	102.0	102.1	102.1	102.0
Yield Index	96.3	93.6	93.8	93.8	93.8	93.5	93.5
FOREIGN EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS -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.



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