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 DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
 INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, FEBRUARY, 1942 (PRELIMINARY)

**WHOLESALE:** A weekly index of 30 industrial material prices advanced from 92.5 on January 30 to 93.0 on February 27. An authorized increase in prices of certain steel products was mainly responsible for this advance. Steers also recorded increases, while wheat, oats, and hogs moved lower. Canadian Farm Products continued to gain gradually, rising from 78.0 on January 30 to 78.6 on February 27. The field product section rose fractionally from 64.1 to 64.2 as higher prices for potatoes, onions and hay more than offset decreases for grains. Animal products at 102.6 on February 27 were 1.3 points above the closing January level due mainly to gains for cattle, hides and skins.

**COST OF LIVING:** (Wartime increase 14.8 per cent - from 100.8 to 115.7). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index increased from 115.4 on January 2 to 115.7 on February 2. This index has risen 14.8 per cent between August 1939 and February 1942. Indexes for foods and miscellaneous items moved higher between January 2 and February 2, while the clothing index recorded a fractional loss. The food group advanced from 122.3 to 123.1, as increases for potatoes, onions, meats and tea overbalanced declines for fruits and eggs. The miscellaneous index mounted from 106.3 to 107.1 due to moderate increases in health costs and life insurance premium rates. The clothing index fell fractionally from 119.9 to 119.8. Other groups were unchanged: rents at 111.2, fuel and lighting at 112.9, and housefurnishings and services at 118.0.

**SECURITIES:** Further reaction to unfavourable war developments was reflected in the Investors' weekly index for 95 common stocks which moved 4.5 p.c. lower to 63.5 between January 29 and February 26. While all sub-groups were lower, slightly heavier declines in utilities moved the index for this section down 5.2 p.c. to 67.0 as compared with a drop of 5.0 p.c. to 59.4 for industrials. There was, however, a loss of only 0.5 p.c. to 90.6 for banks during the month. Group losses were relatively sharp in certain instances, notably oils which fell 14.0 p.c. to 42.2; transportation stocks were down 6.8 p.c. to 60.6; power and traction stocks 5.9 p.c. at 61.1; machinery and equipment 4.8 p.c. at 71.3; textile and clothing issues 4.8 p.c. at 107.2; industrial mines 4.7 p.c. at 68.8; and foods and allied products 4.6 p.c. at 82.3. Smallest loss for the month, with the exception of banks, was registered by building materials with a decline of 0.7 p.c. to 74.1. In the mining section losses were more substantial than for industrials and utilities. Between January 29 and February 26 the composite series of 25 mining issues dropped 9.3 p.c. to 55.7 paced by an 11.9 p.c. drop to 43.8 for 22 golds. During the same period base metals registered a decline of 6.6 p.c. to close at 79.2. As in industrials and utilities, however, the closing level of mining stocks was slightly firmer than its low for the month in the week ended February 19. A revised series of Dominion of Canada long-term bond yields based upon a 15-year 3 p.c. theoretical bond showed a slight decline during February, closing at a level of 99.3 compared with 99.6 at the end of January.

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

	Feb. 1941	Jan. 1942	February, 1942			
			Week ended -			
			5th	12th	19th	26th
<b>WHOLESALE</b>						
Industrial Materials .....	81.2	92.4	92.6	92.5	93.0	93.0
Canadian Farm Products .....	68.3	77.3	78.5	78.3	78.5	78.6
<b>COST OF LIVING - (1st of month)</b> .....	108.2	115.4	115.7			
Investors' Price Index (95 common stocks) ..	66.5	66.8	66.6	65.3	63.4	63.5
68 Industrials .....	62.3	62.9	62.6	61.5	59.6	59.4
19 Utilities .....	71.3	70.4	70.3	68.1	65.5	67.0
Mining Stock Price Index (25 stocks) .....	74.9	61.9	60.7	58.4	55.1	55.7
22 Golds .....	70.6	50.5	48.5	46.1	43.1	43.8
3 Base Metals .....	83.2	84.3	85.1	82.6	78.9	79.2
Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bonds -						
Yield Index .....	100.8	99.4	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.3
<b>FOREIGN EXCHANGE QUOTATIONS - noon rates</b>						
(Bank of Canada) at Montreal						
U.S. dollars (x) .....	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

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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