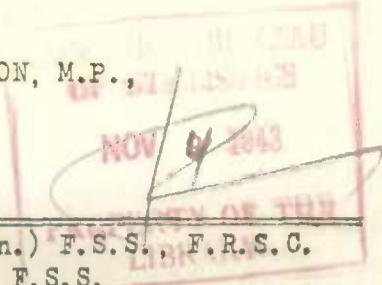


Published by Authority of the HON. JAMES A. MACKINNON, M.P.,  
 Minister of Trade and Commerce  
 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
 DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
 INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH



Dominion Statistician: S. A. CUDMORE, M.A.(Oxon.) F.S.S., F.R.S.C.  
 Chief, Internal Trade Branch: Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.  
 Prices Statistician: H. F. Greenway, M.A.

PRICE MOVEMENTS, OCTOBER, 1943 (PRELIMINARY) *Historical File Copy*

**WHOLESALE:** Following a sharp advance in Canadian farm products in the opening week of October, price changes throughout the remainder of the month were relatively small. However, the net rise in this index amounted to 4.9 points, and its October closing level of 103.8 was the highest since December 1929. Inclusion of the 30¢ per cwt. additional bonus on fluid milk which became effective October 1, was mainly responsible for increasing the animal product price index 7.1 points to 124.8 between September 24 and October 1. The final October index of 125.3 indicated a net gain of 7.6 points and reflected higher prices for eggs and poultry. Field product prices moved up 3.4 points to 91.0 between September 24 and October 29 on higher quotations for wheat and rye coupled with smaller advances for potatoes, onions and hay.

The composite weekly index for 30 industrial materials on the base 1926=100 moved 0.3 points higher to 99.6 between September 24 and October 29. The food sectional index which rose 1.0 to 100.1, recorded the sharpest advance. It reflected higher quotations for wheat which offset fractional declines for steers and hogs. A gain of 0.7 to 119.8 in the stable commodity series was due to advances for eastern spruce and for bleached sulphite pulp. No net change occurred in the manufacturing sub-group of 13 items which, after dipping to 83.7 during the week of October 8, subsequently recovered to 83.9 by the 29th.

**COST OF LIVING:** (Wartime increase 18.4 per cent--from 100.8 to 119.3). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined fractionally from 119.4 on September 1 to 119.3 on October 1, 1943. This index which has been specified as the basis for calculating cost-of-living bonus adjustments under Order-in-Council P.C. 5963 has increased 18.4 per cent between August, 1939 and October, 1943. It is now 1.4 points above the July, 1942 index upon which the last cost-of-living bonus adjustment was based.

Food prices which have contributed the greater part of the advance in recent months were also responsible for the October decline. The food index dropped from 133.5 in September to 132.9 in October. Sharply lower prices for potatoes and lesser decreases for lamb, beef, carrots and turnips were of greater importance than increases for eggs and butter. There was also a slight reduction in the fuel and light index from 113.4 to 113.3. Two group indexes advanced, rents from 111.5 to 111.9, and clothing from 120.6 to 121.1. Remaining group indexes were unchanged, homefurnishings and services at 118.2, and miscellaneous items at 108.3.

**SECURITIES:** Stock market prices moved lower on average in October, reflecting a sharp drop in power stocks. At 85.3 for the week of October 28, the Investors' index recorded a decline of 4.5 p.c. when compared with the final September level. Utilities dropped 9.6 p.c. to 100.5 in the same interval, while the industrial series of 68 issues declined 3.1 p.c. to 81.1. In the utility section power and traction stocks dropped 14.6 p.c. to 96.1 following the announcement that the Quebec government would proceed with legislation for expropriation of the Montreal, Light, Heat and Power Company. Other noteworthy reductions occurred for transportation stocks which dipped 4.8 p.c. to 113.7 p.c.; industrial mines were down 4.6 p.c. to 70.8; oils 4.4 p.c. to 79.6; milling shares 4.1 p.c. to 88.2 and pulp and paper 3.7 p.c. to 102.9. Beverage shares, with a gain of 6.6 p.c. to 150.0 registered the only significant upward change. Mining stocks shared in the general decline, and the composite index for 25 representative issues closed 2.2 p.c. lower at 76.9. Gold shares were off 3.1 p.c. at 68.5, while base metals eased 0.6 p.c. to 92.6. Dominion of Canada long-term bond prices continued steady during October as indicated by the yield on a 15-year 3 p.c. theoretical issue which remained at 3.00.

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

	Oct. 1943	Sept. 1943	October, 1943			
			Week ended -			
			7th	14th	21st	28th
<b>WHOLESALE</b>						
Industrial Materials .....	95.0	98.7	99.3	99.5	99.5	99.6
Canadian Farm Products .....	85.7	97.9	103.6	103.7	103.7	103.8
<b>COST OF LIVING</b> (1st of month) .....	117.8	119.4	----- 119.3 -----			
Foods .....	129.8	133.5	----- 132.9 -----			
<b>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</b> (94 common stocks)	65.0	89.3	88.0	86.1	86.1	85.3
68 Industrials .....	62.2	83.9	82.5	81.4	81.3	81.1
18 Utilities .....	72.0	110.3	109.1	103.5	103.9	100.5
<b>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</b> (25 stocks) ...	46.2	79.2	77.1	77.4	77.2	76.9
22 Golds .....	33.3	71.9	68.0	69.0	68.5	68.5
3 Base Metals .....	71.8	92.4	94.3	93.3	93.7	92.6
Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index .....	99.6	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3

Week ends Friday instead of Thursday.

