

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

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, DECEMBER, 1943 (PRELIMINARY)

**WHOLESALE:** The weekly composite index of Canadian farm products moved up 0.1 points to 104.9 (1926=100) between November 26 and December 24. Animal products stiffened 0.8 points to 127.1 in this interval due to a reversal of trend in livestock prices which overbalanced seasonal weakness in eggs. Fowl prices also were fractionally stronger. Strength in livestock quotations reflected in part an authorized increase in the floor price of beef carcass of 1/2¢ per pound on December 20. A rise of 0.3 points to 91.7 for field products was due to a sharp increase in the price of unmanufactured tobacco and rye, coupled with slightly firmer quotations for potatoes and onions.

The composite index for 30 industrial materials gained 0.2 points to 99.4 between November 26 and December 24, reflecting strength in foods. The food index recorded a net gain of 1.5 points to 102.3, due to strength in steers which overbalanced a fractionally easier tone in hogs. Both the stable series of 12 items and the manufacturing group of 13 commodities were unchanged throughout the period at 119.7 and 82.9 respectively.

**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 from 119.4 on November 1 to 119.3 on December 1, 1943. Decreases in indexes for foods and fuel and lighting overbalanced a rise in homefurnishings and miscellaneous items. The food index dropped from 133.1 to 132.7 with declines for beef, pork, oranges, turnips and cabbage of greater importance than increases for butter, eggs and potatoes. The reduction in the fuel and lighting index from 113.3 to 111.9 was due to rebates in electricity bills in a considerable number of the larger cities. An index for homefurnishings and services advanced from 118.2 to 118.8 due to increases in the furniture and chinaware sections. The miscellaneous index moved up from 108.3 to 108.6, reflecting an increase in the recreation sub-group.

**SECURITIES:** Hesitant increases occurred on Canadian stock exchanges in December following the sharp decline in the preceding month. Between the weeks of November 25 and December 30 the Investors' composite weekly index for 94 common stocks stiffened 1.3 p.c. to 79.9 which compared with a mid-month peak of 80.9. Utilities lent main support to the rise, accumulating a net gain of 4.3 p.c. to 96.1. Transportation stocks paced by C.P.R., stiffened 14.3 p.c. to 110.3, recovering almost all of the sharp decline recorded in November. Substantial strength in pulp and paper stocks coupled with lesser gains for machinery and equipment issues and industrial mines moved the industrial section index 0.5 p.c. higher to 75.1. Banks were slightly weaker, easing 1.9 p.c. to 78.8. A rise of 4.5 p.c. to 74.9 for the composite index of 25 representative mining stocks was due to firmness for both golds and base metals. For the former a percentage increase of 5.1 occurred, advancing the gold index to 68.5, while base metals gained 3.8 p.c. to 86.6. There was no change in Dominion of Canada long-term bonds in December as indicated by the yield on a 15-year 3 p.c. theoretical issue which remained unchanged at 3.00.

SUMMARY OF PRICE INDEXES

(1926=100 for Wholesale Prices)

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

	Dec. 1942	Nov. 1943	December, 1943				
			Week ended -				
			2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
<b>WHOLESALE</b> /							
Industrial Materials .....	95.1	99.2	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.4	-
Canadian Farm Products .....	87.1	104.2	104.6	104.7	104.8	104.9	-
<b>COST OF LIVING</b> (1st of month) .....	118.8	119.4	119.3				
Foods .....	132.8	133.1	132.7				
<b>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</b> (94 com. stocks)	71.3	79.6	78.9	80.6	80.9	80.6	79.9
68 Industrials .....	67.2	75.1	74.1	76.0	76.5	75.7	75.1
18 Utilities .....	83.8	94.1	95.0	96.3	96.2	97.7	96.1
<b>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</b> (25 stocks)	54.7	72.9	72.0	74.2	75.1	75.3	74.9
22 Golds .....	44.7	65.9	64.8	67.5	68.5	69.3	68.5
3 Base Metals .....	74.4	85.7	85.5	86.5	87.0	85.8	86.6
<b>Dominion of Canada Long-Term Bonds</b> -							
Yield Index .....	99.4	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3

/ Week ends Friday instead of Thursday.





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The world population is growing rapidly... (The text is extremely faint and mostly illegible due to the quality of the scan. It appears to be a descriptive paragraph or a list of items.)

Year	Population	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	Age Group
1950	250,000,000	100,000,000	150,000,000	125,000,000	125,000,000	15-64
1955	260,000,000	110,000,000	150,000,000	130,000,000	130,000,000	15-64
1960	270,000,000	120,000,000	150,000,000	135,000,000	135,000,000	15-64
1965	280,000,000	130,000,000	150,000,000	140,000,000	140,000,000	15-64
1970	290,000,000	140,000,000	150,000,000	145,000,000	145,000,000	15-64
1975	300,000,000	150,000,000	150,000,000	150,000,000	150,000,000	15-64
1980	310,000,000	160,000,000	150,000,000	155,000,000	155,000,000	15-64
1985	320,000,000	170,000,000	150,000,000	160,000,000	160,000,000	15-64
1990	330,000,000	180,000,000	150,000,000	165,000,000	165,000,000	15-64
1995	340,000,000	190,000,000	150,000,000	170,000,000	170,000,000	15-64
2000	350,000,000	200,000,000	150,000,000	175,000,000	175,000,000	15-64