

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
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 PROPERTY OF THE

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, MAY, 1945 (PRELIMINARY) *Historical File Copy*

**WHOLESALE:** Canadian farm product prices averaged lower in May, and a composite weekly index declined 0.8 points to 104.8 between April 27 and May 25, (1926=100). Animal products moved down 3.0 points to 121.4 in this interval due to the May 1 seasonal reduction in the fluid milk bonus from 55¢ per cwt. to 35¢. Livestock, eggs and poultry prices were higher. In the field products section increases for potatoes and onions outweighed a decline in hay to advance the index 0.5 to 94.9 during the month.

The composite weekly index for 30 industrial material prices changed from 100.6 to 100.1 (1926=100) between April 27 and May 25. The stable priced commodity group fell from 120.4 to 118.9, while the index for five foods moved up 0.4 to 101.8 reflecting higher quotations for steers and hogs. These outweighed a fractionally easier price for oats. Manufacturing materials were 0.1 higher at 84.9 due to increases in rosin and raw cotton.

**COST OF LIVING:** (Wartime increase 18.1 p.c. - from 100.8 to 119.0). The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced from 118.7 on April 2 to 119.0 on May 1, 1945. Although the responsibility for this increase lay mainly with the food group, rents, clothing, homefurnishings and services, and miscellaneous items also recorded small gains. Fuel and light declined fractionally from 106.7 to 106.6. The food index moved up from 131.0 to 131.7, as higher prices for fresh vegetables and fruits outweighed small declines for dairy products and eggs. The rental index advanced from 112.0 to 112.1. Scattered increases in clothing and homefurnishings produced gains of 0.2 and 0.4 in these group indexes, which moved to 122.0 and 118.9 respectively. Hospital rates and barbers' fees were mainly responsible for the change in the miscellaneous items section from 109.2 to 109.4.

**SECURITIES:** Common stock prices on Canadian exchanges worked higher in May though there was a minor reaction as the month closed. At a level of 96.8 for the week of May 24, the Investors' weekly index for 100 common stocks was down 1.0 points from the monthly peak touched on the 17th. However, it showed an increase of 1.6 p.c. over the final April figure. The index for 74 industrials gained 2.6 p.c. to 92.1 during the month, while 18 utilities eased 0.9 p.c. to 113.9. Among the most pronounced sub-group increases were machinery and equipment, up 9.6 p.c. to 134.2; industrial mines 4.3 p.c. to 87.2, textile and clothing 3.3 p.c. to 141.7, and pulp and paper 2.9 p.c. to 151.5. Weakness was noted for two groups: the transportation index fell 4.5 p.c. to 156.7, while beverages dipped 1.0 p.c. to 201.7. Foods and allied products held unchanged at 107.0. Strength in mining stocks concentrated on the gold section, was more pronounced than that noted for industrials and utilities, the composite index for 25 representative issues advancing 4.3 p.c. to 94.4 between April 26 and May 24. Golds were 6.9 p.c. higher at 90.8, while base metal issues registered a minor decline of 0.9 p.c. to 98.8. The yield on a theoretical Dominion of Canada 15-year 3 p.c. issue remained unchanged in May at 2.96.

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

	May 1944	April 1945	May, 1945			
			Week ended -			
			3rd	10th	17th	24th
<b>WHOLESALE</b> /						
Industrial Materials.....	99.8	100.4	100.6	100.6	100.1	100.1
Canadian Farm Products .....	101.9	105.3	104.3	104.5	104.6	104.8
<b>COST OF LIVING</b> (1st of month) .....	119.2	118.7	----- 119.0 -----			
Foods .....	131.7	131.0	----- 131.7 -----			
<b>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</b> (100 com.stocks)	79.9	94.2	95.7	96.6	97.8	96.8
74 Industrials .....	74.8	89.0	90.6	91.7	93.3	92.1
18 Utilities .....	97.5	112.4	114.3	114.4	114.7	113.9
<b>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</b> (25 stocks).	77.5	90.5	92.7	94.4	95.4	94.4
22 Golds .....	69.2	85.3	88.4	90.6	92.2	90.8
3 Base Metals .....	93.0	98.6	98.9	99.5	99.0	98.8
<b>DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS</b>						
Yield Index .....	97.2	96.0	96.0	96.0	96.0	96.0

/ Week ends Friday instead of Thursday.

