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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
PRICES BRANCH

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, OCTOBER, 1948 (PRELIMINARY)

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced from 158.9 to 159.6 between September 1 and October 1, 1948. Group indexes for foods, clothing, homefurnishings and services, and fuel and light recorded increases. A rise from 203.9 to 205.4 for foods was due mainly to higher prices for eggs, meats, and citrus fruits. The only appreciable declines were for vegetables. A few advances for coal and coke caused the fuel and light series to move from 128.5 to 128.8. Clothing moved from 179.9 to 181.0, and homefurnishings and services from 164.2 to 165.1. Many price averages for items in these groups recorded small advances, tapering off earlier increases in new autumn lines of merchandise. The rent index remained at 121.0 and miscellaneous items at 124.4.

From August, 1939 to October, 1948, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 58.3 per cent.

Dominion Cost-of-Living Indexes (1935-39=100)

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
October 1, 1948	159.6	205.4	121.0	128.8	181.0	165.1	124.4
September 1, 1948 ..	158.9	203.9	121.0	128.5	179.9	164.2	124.4
October 1, 1947	142.2	171.3	119.9	121.9	154.2	149.9	117.6

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY): (1926=100) The index of Industrial Material Prices declined from 162.4 for the week ending September 24 to 161.6 for the week ending October 29, as increases in oats and zinc failed to counteract fully the reductions in steers, hogs, pulp, raw rubber and linseed oil. The October monthly average of 162.0, was 0.7 below the September level, but 22.7 points above October of last year. Canadian Farm Products moved from 144.2 to 143.2 in the same period. This compared with a peak of 149.1 reached in the week ending June 25. Higher quotations were reported for hay and eggs, while livestock, hides, potatoes and wool declined.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes, 1926=100

	Week ended -						Monthly Average		
	Sept. 24th	Oct. 1st	Oct. 8th	Oct. 15th	Oct. 22nd	Oct. 29th	Oct. 1948	Sept. 1948	Oct. 1947
Industrial Materials...	162.4*	162.5	162.1	161.8	162.0	161.6	162.0	162.7*	139.3
Canadian Farm Products.	144.2	143.8	142.7	142.6	143.5	143.2	143.2	143.2	128.8

* Revised.

SECURITIES: Common stock prices recorded considerable strength in October following several months of narrow fluctuations. Between the weeks of September 30 and October 28 the Investors' index for 100 common stocks rose 6.0 points to 117.5. In the same interval the index for 76 industrials advanced 6.7 points to 113.0, while 16 utilities moved up 3.8 points to 122.6, and 8 banks 2.4 points to 130.3. Mining stocks were firmer also, the composite index for 30 representative issues gaining 3.3 points to 83.0 between September 30 and October 28. Strength in base metal issues provided the principal support in the mining group and an index for this series rose 9.8 points to 125.7. The gold stock index stiffened fractionally from 61.6 to 61.9 in the same period.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39=100

	Week ended -					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 30th	Oct. 7th	Oct. 14th	Oct. 21st	Oct. 28th	Oct. 1948	Sept. 1948	Oct. 1947
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX								
(100 Common Stocks)	111.5	115.2	115.7	117.1	117.5	116.4	113.4	105.5
76 Industrials	106.3	110.2	110.7	112.5	113.0	111.6	108.2	99.0
16 Utilities	118.8	123.3	123.4	123.3	122.6	123.2	121.2	117.0
8 Banks	127.9	127.5	127.6	128.0	130.3	128.4	128.3	126.8
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX								
(30 Stocks)	79.7	82.5	81.9	82.5	83.0	82.5	80.4	87.6
25 Golds	61.6	62.6	62.5	61.8	61.9	62.2	63.0	78.9
5 Base Metals	115.9	122.6	120.9	124.4	125.7	123.4	115.1	102.7
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS-YIELD INDEX...	96.4	96.4	96.4	96.4	96.0	96.3	96.1	84.2