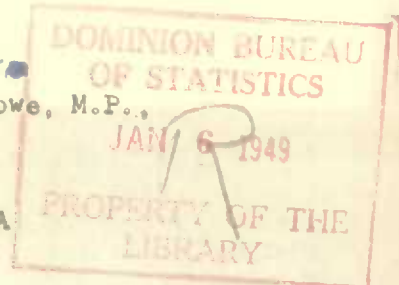


Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, M.P.,  
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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



For release 3 p.m., January 5, 1949.

(Telephone 9-3913)

Dominion Statistician: Herbert Marshall  
Director, Labour and Prices Statistics: H. F. Greenway  
Acting Chief, Prices Section: F. H. Leacy

PRICE MOVEMENTS, DECEMBER, 1948 (PRELIMINARY)

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index fell from 159.6 to 158.9 between November 1 and December 1, 1948. All group indexes except that for foods were either fractionally higher or unchanged, but an unusually sharp decrease occurred in the price of eggs and there were moderate reductions among meats, vegetables and fruits. This was the first decline of any consequence in the cost-of-living index since September, 1945. The food index dropped from 204.7 to 202.0 between November 1 and December 1. The rent index advanced from 121.0 to 121.7, representing the net change between September and December. During November, fuel and light moved from 129.0 to 129.1, and homefurnishings and services from 166.0 to 166.2. The two other budget group indexes remained unchanged, clothing at 181.5 and miscellaneous items at 124.6.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
December 1, 1948..	158.9	202.0	121.7	129.1	181.5	166.2	124.6
November 1, 1948..	159.6	204.7	121.0	129.0	181.5	166.0	124.6
December 1, 1947..	146.0	178.7	119.9	120.3	159.3	154.9	119.8

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY): The index of Industrial Material Prices rose from 162.0 (1926=100) for the week ending November 26 to 162.1 for the week ending December 24. Higher prices ruled for raw wool and zinc, while oats and sisal were somewhat weaker. Canadian Farm Products declined from 142.6 to 142.3 in the same period. Moderate advances were shown for tobacco, potatoes and livestock, but declines occurred for grains, hay and eggs.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes, 1926=100

	Week ended -					Monthly Average -		
	Nov. 26th	Dec. 3rd	Dec. 10th	Dec. 17th	Dec. 24th	Dec. 1948	Nov. 1948	Dec. 1947
Industrial Materials..	162.0	162.2	162.9	162.0	162.1	162.3	162.1	144.7
Canadian Farm Products	142.6	142.1	143.2	142.5	142.3	142.5	142.8	135.9



1010711686

**SECURITIES:** The Investors' index of 100 common stocks declined 0.4 points to 115.8 between the weeks of November 25 and December 30. When compared with levels of a year ago, however, prices have advanced moderately, the monthly average of 115.8 for December being 9.6 points above the corresponding index average for December, 1947. Mining stock prices were firmer in December due to strength in gold stocks. Between the weeks of November 25 and December 30 the composite index rose 5.1 points to 85.8 while the gold shares index advanced 7.5 points to 65.7. Base metal stocks were slightly easier, declining 0.4 to 126.1 in the same period. The net movement in mining stocks over the past year has been slightly downward as indicated by a recession of 2.4 points to 84.2 in the composite index. This was due to a drop of 11.8 points to 63.0 in the gold stocks index. Base metal stocks on the other hand were firmer, registering an index gain of 18.6 points to 127.1.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39=100

	Week ended -						Monthly Average -		
	Nov. 25th	Dec. 2nd	Dec. 9th	Dec. 16th	Dec. 23rd	Dec. 30th	Dec. 1948	Nov. 1948	Dec. 1947
<b>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</b>									
(100 Common Stocks) .....	116.2	116.4	116.3	115.7	115.0	115.8	115.8	117.8	106.2
76 Industrials .....	111.5	111.6	111.6	111.0	110.4	111.0	111.1	113.5	100.3
16 Utilities .....	120.5	121.5	120.5	119.6	119.0	120.5	120.2	121.3	112.1
8 Banks .....	132.9	132.5	132.9	132.7	131.9	132.1	132.4	132.6	133.6
<b>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</b>									
(30 Stocks) .....	80.7	82.0	82.5	85.0	85.9	85.8	84.2	82.7	86.6
25 Golds .....	58.2	59.8	59.8	64.0	65.9	65.7	63.0	60.5	74.8
5 Base Metals .....	126.5	127.2	128.8	127.5	126.1	126.1	127.1	127.9	108.5
<b>DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX</b>									
	95.7	95.7	95.4	95.4	95.4	95.4	95.5	95.7	84.8