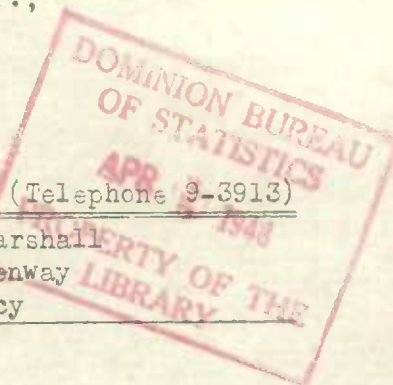


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Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
PRICES BRANCH



For release, 12 noon, April 3, 1948.

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, MARCH, 1948 (PRELIMINARY)

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index increased from 150.1 on February 2 to 150.8 on March 1, 1948. Although this placed the index slightly above the July, 1920 peak of 150.6, the increase during February was the smallest recorded in seven months. It was unusual in that the whole amount was contributed by the non-food sections of the index. The food group actually declined fractionally from 186.1 to 185.9 as price decreases for eggs and citrus fruits outweighed increases for vegetables; changes in other food sub-groups were mixed and comparatively small. The sharpest rise came in clothing which advanced from 165.1 to 169.9. Home-furnishings and services moved up from 159.9 to 161.2, and fuel and light from 120.1 to 121.0. The rent index remained at 119.9 and the miscellaneous items series at 122.8.

From August, 1939 to March 1, 1948, the increase in the Dominion cost-of-living index was 49.6 per cent (from 100.8 to 150.8).

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
March 1, 1948	150.8	185.9	119.9	121.0	169.9	161.2	122.8
February 2, 1948	150.1	186.1	119.9	120.1	165.1	159.9	122.8
March 1, 1947	128.9	148.7	113.4	109.1	133.1	133.6	116.0

SECURITIES: Between the weeks of February 26 and March 25, the Investors' index for 100 common stocks rose 1.3 points to 103.4, after touching a monthly low of 99.8 on the 18th. During the same interval the index level for 76 industrials advanced 1.8 points to 98.0, while 16 utilities moved up 0.2 to 109.2, and 8 banks declined 2.8 points to 126.0. Mining stocks, due to weakness in gold shares, were easier, the composite index for 30 representative issues receding 3.9 points to 80.7 between February 26 and March 25. In the same period the gold share series weakened 6.3 points to 68.2, while the base metals group rose 1.7 points to 104.6.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39=100

	Week ended -				Monthly Average -		
	March 4th	11th	18th	25th	March 1948	Feb. 1948	March 1947
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX							
(100 Common Stocks)	101.4	101.3	99.8	103.4	101.5	102.2	106.4
76 Industrials	95.6	95.6	93.9	98.0	95.8	96.0	99.2
16 Utilities	107.8	107.2	105.5	109.2	107.4	110.1	120.1
8 Banks	127.7	128.5	128.9	126.0	127.8	129.7	130.6
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX							
(30 Stocks)	84.5	83.4	80.1	80.7	82.2	83.3	85.7
25 Golds	74.3	72.9	68.8	68.2	71.1	71.3	73.8
5 Base Metals	103.1	102.5	101.2	104.6	102.9	104.9	107.8
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX ...	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7	96.7	92.1	84.6

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY): The weekly indexes of Industrial Material Prices, on the base 1926=100, averaged slightly lower for March. Declines in gum rosin, hides and raw wool proved of more importance than increases in oats, steers, hogs, raw cotton, raw rubber and zinc and depressed the index from 145.5 for the week ending February 27 to 145.0 for the week ending March 26. This was 3.2 points below the peak of 148.2 (revised) for the week ending January 23. Canadian Farm Products moved from 138.6 to 138.5 in the same period, as increases in rye, oats and livestock failed to offset reductions in potatoes, hay and hides.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes, 1926=100

	Week ended -					Monthly Averages -		
	Feb. 27th	March 5th	12th	19th	26th	March 1948	Feb. 1948	March 1947
Industrial Materials....	145.5	145.9	145.9	144.6	145.0	145.4	146.4	122.2
Canadian Farm Products*	138.6	138.7	138.1	137.8	138.5	138.3	138.7	122.4

* The indexes for Canadian Farm Products were revised because of retroactive payments on western wheat of twenty cents a bushel.

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