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, 3 P.M., September 7, 1948. (Telephone 9-3913)

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, AUGUST 1948 (PRELIMINARY)

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced 0.6 points from 156.9 to 157.5 between July 2 and August 2, 1948. It was the narrowest change since January, 1947. Among sub-groups foods rose 1.3 points to 202.6, reflecting increases for eggs, butter and meats which were only partially offset by sharp seasonal declines in vegetable prices. Higher prices for coal and coke coupled with a narrow increase in electricity costs at certain centres were responsible for a gain of 3.2 points to 127.7 in the fuel and lighting index. Clothing rose 0.5 to 175.9 due to increases scattered throughout the list, while the miscellaneous series advanced 0.3 to 123.4 following increases in barbers' fees, and laundry rates. The homefurnishings and services index, which registered a recession of 1.4 to 161.4, reflected mainly the effect of the removal of the 25 per cent special excise tax on the price of certain electrical goods. Rentals remained unchanged at 120.9.

From August, 1939 to August 2, 1948, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 56.3 per cent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home-furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
August 2, 1948	157.5	202.6	120.9	127.7	175.9	161.4	123.4
July 2, 1948	156.9	201.3	120.9	124.5	175.4	162.8	123.1
August 1, 1947	136.6	160.6	117.8	118.6	145.5	143.7	117.2

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY): (1926=100) The weekly index of Industrial Material Prices rose from 154.8 for the week ending July 30 to 162.2 for the week ending August 27. Included in the lengthy list of commodities to move higher were steel scrap, coal, wheat, livestock and non-ferrous metals, while raw rubber and raw cotton declined. Canadian Farm Products moved from 145.1 to 145.2 in the same period. Livestock and poultry quotations were sharply higher, but these increases were largely offset by lower prices for grains, potatoes, onions, hides and eggs.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes, 1926=100

	Week ended -					Monthly Average		
	July 30th	Aug. 6th	Aug. 13th	Aug. 20th	Aug. 27th	Aug. 1948	July 1948	Aug. 1947
Industrial Materials ..	154.8	160.5	160.6	161.5	162.2	161.2	154.9	132.4
Canadian Farm Products.	145.1	144.6	144.1	143.4	145.2	144.3	146.7	126.5

SECURITIES: The Investors' index for 100 common stocks registered a net loss of 0.1 to 113.6 between the weeks of July 29 and August 26. This compared with a high of 114.4 touched on August 5. During the same interval the index for 76 industrials eased 0.5 to 107.9 while that for 16 utilities weakened 0.4 to 122.9. Bank shares on the other hand were firmer, an index for this series advancing 4.2 points to 130.9. The composite index for 30 representative mining stocks weakened 0.9 points to 78.5 between July 29 and August 26 due to a decline of 2.8 points to 114.2 for base metal stocks. Gold shares recorded no net change during this interval, the index standing at 60.6 for both periods.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39=100

	Week ended -					Monthly Average		
	July 29th	Aug. 5th	Aug. 12th	Aug. 19th	Aug. 26th	Aug. 1948	July 1948	Aug. 1947
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX								
(100 Common Stocks)	113.7	114.4	112.7	113.6	113.6	113.6	116.3	105.5
76 Industrials	108.4	109.2	107.4	108.0	107.9	108.1	111.0	98.8
16 Utilities	123.3	123.9	122.2	123.7	122.9	123.2	126.2	117.1
8 Banks	126.7	126.1	125.6	128.9	130.9	127.9	127.8	129.4
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX								
(30 Stocks)	79.4	79.7	78.4	78.3	78.5	78.7	78.8	87.0
25 Golds	60.6	61.4	60.5	60.3	60.6	60.7	60.3	77.3
5 Base Metals	117.0	116.1	114.4	114.5	114.2	114.8	115.8	104.1
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS YIELD INDEX	95.7	95.7	96.0	96.7	96.4	96.2	95.6	83.9