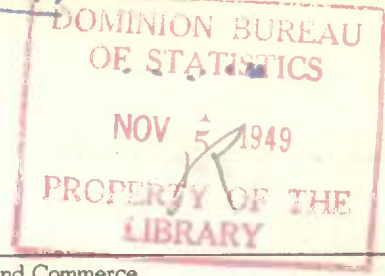




DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Labour and Prices Division
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PRICE MOVEMENTS, OCTOBER, 1949 (PRELIMINARY)*

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined from 162.3 at September 1st to 162.2 at October 1st. This placed the index 2.6 points above the level of a year ago, as contrasted with an advance of 17.4 points recorded between October 1, 1947 and October 1, 1948. The tenth of a point decline during September was caused mainly by decreases in foods which proved of more importance than increases for coal, coke and gasoline. The latter followed the establishment of a premium on the United States dollar.

The food index decreased from 207.0 to 205.0 as slight price reductions were registered for beef, lamb, pork, eggs, oranges and both fresh and canned vegetables. These overbalanced small increases in butter, lard, coffee and lemons. The only other group index to show a decrease was homefurnishings and services, which moved from 167.4 to 167.2, principally due to a decline in the average price of radios. Higher prices for United States anthracite coal and coke were sufficient to raise the fuel and light index from 130.1 to 134.1. The clothing index advanced 0.6 points to 184.1. Increases in men's winter overcoats and rubbers were largely responsible. The Index of miscellaneous items moved from 128.9 to 130.2 reflecting increases in gasoline and Montreal street car fares. The rent index remained unchanged at 123.9.

From August 1939 to October 1949 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 60.9 percent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
October 1, 1949	162.2	205.0	123.9	134.1	184.1	167.2	130.2
September 1, 1949	162.3	207.0	123.9	130.1	183.5	167.4	128.9
October 1, 1948	159.6	205.4	121.0	128.8	181.0	165.1	124.4

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY):
(1926 = 100)

Prices of industrial materials moved irregularly during October, and the Bureau's index, on the base 1926 = 100, rose from 149.0 for the week ending September 30 to 149.2 for the week ending October 28. At this level it was 7.7 percent below the final week in October 1948, and 8.6 percent below the peak of 163.2 touched for the fourth week of August 1948. Higher quotations were noted for wood pulp, scrap steel, crude oil, coal, hides, wheat and oats, while declines occurred in spruce and fir lumber, steers, hogs, lead and zinc. The index for Canadian Farm Products at wholesale fell from 145.8 to 144.6 in the same period. Hides and fluid milk advanced, but potatoes, hay, livestock, eggs and raw wool declined.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes, (1926 = 100)

	Week Ended -					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 30th	Oct. 7th	Oct. 14th	Oct. 21st	Oct. 28th	Oct. 1949	Sept. 1949	Oct. 1948
Industrial Materials	149.0	148.9	149.0	149.1	149.2	149.1	147.7	162.0
Canadian Farm Products	145.8	144.9	145.1	144.8	144.6	144.9	145.6	143.2

SECURITIES:

Common stock prices on Canadian exchanges recorded considerable strength in October. By the final week of the month levels closely corresponded with those obtaining at the beginning of 1949. When compared with the mid-year low point of 98.5 touched for the week of June 16, the advance in the composite index has amounted to 17.5 points. Between the weeks of September 29 and October 27 the Investors' index for 106 common stocks rose 5.5 points to 116.0. In the same period, the group index for 82 industrials advanced 6.0 points to 109.8; 8 banks 5.7 points to 141.4 and 16 utilities 1.8 points to 122.6. In the mining stock section, indexes for both golds and base metals were firmer. A weekly index for the former rose 3.4 points to 77.0 between September 29 and October 27, while a corresponding series for 5 base metals moved up 5.1 points to 126.6. The composite index for 30 mining stocks recorded a gain of 4.0 points to 93.8 in the same interval.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39 = 100

	Week Ended - (1949)					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 29th	Oct. 6th	Oct. 13th	Oct. 20th	Oct. 27th	Oct. 1949	Sept. 1949	Oct. 1948
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>								
(106 Common Stocks).....	110.5	112.4	114.3	114.4	116.0	114.3	109.6	116.4
82 Industrials.....	103.3	105.3	107.9	108.1	109.8	107.9	102.2	111.6
16 Utilities.....	120.8	120.9	122.6	121.5	122.6	121.9	122.7	123.2
8 Banks.....	135.7	138.5	138.7	140.7	141.4	139.8	135.2	128.4
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>								
(30 Stocks).....	89.8	90.7	91.0	90.6	93.8	91.5	89.9	82.5
25 Golds.....	73.6	73.9	74.2	74.3	77.0	74.9	75.0	62.2
5 Base Metals.....	121.5	123.3	123.8	122.5	126.6	124.1	118.8	123.4
<u>DOMINION OF CANADA LONG- TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX</u>								
	90.5	89.2	89.2	89.2	88.6	89.1	91.8	96.3

* Indexes published in this bulletin do not yet include data covering Newfoundland

N.B. Inquiries concerning indexes in this release should be directed to Prices Section,
Labour and Prices Division.



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