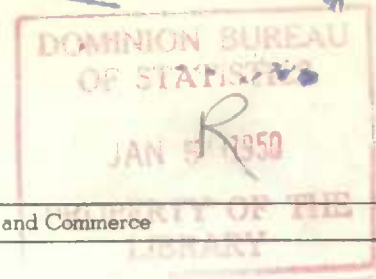


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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Labour and Prices Division
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PRICE MOVEMENTS, DECEMBER 1949 (PRELIMINARY)*

COST-OF-LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined from 161.7 at November 1st to 161.5 at December 1st. This marked the fourth consecutive fractional decline from the August peak of 162.3, and placed the index 2.6 points above December 1, 1948. This latest decrease was almost entirely due to the food index which dropped from 203.3 to 201.9. Sharply lower prices for eggs and slight decreases in meats overbalanced considerably higher quotations for coffee. Homefurnishings and services registered the only other decrease moving from 167.4 to 167.1, while the clothing index remained unchanged at 183.7. Fuel and light increased 0.1 points to 135.2 and the index of miscellaneous items 0.3 points to 130.5. The results of the November quarterly survey of rents moved the rent index from 123.9 to 125.0.

From August 1939 to December 1949 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 60.2 percent.

DOMINION COST OF LIVING INDEXES (1935-39=100)

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
December 1, 1949	161.5	201.9	125.0	135.2	183.7	167.1	130.5
November 1, 1949	161.7	203.3	123.9	135.1	183.7	167.4	130.2
December 1, 1948	158.9	202.0	121.7	129.1	181.5	166.2	124.6

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY)
(1926 = 100)

The index of Industrial Material Prices moved from 150.6 for the week of November 25th to 150.4 for the week of December 23rd, a level approximately 7 p.c. below that of the corresponding week of 1948. Tin declined sharply, and white lead, oats, and cottonseed oil were somewhat weaker, while higher quotations were noted for livestock, raw rubber, raw cotton, wool and steel sheets. Canadian Farm Products declined also, dropping from 145.1 to 143.9. Field Products showed no net change at 122.8, but Animal Products closed 3.3. lower at 179.1. Eggs were mainly responsible, dropping 35.6 points to an index level of 82.9 while hides and poultry declined more moderately. Slight advances occurred in quotations for livestock and wool.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes. (1926 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 25th	Dec. 2nd	Dec. 9th	Dec. 16th	Dec. 23rd	Dec. 1949 (4 Weeks)	Nov. 1949	Dec. 1948
Industrial Materials	150.6	150.7	151.3	150.3	150.4	150.7	150.1	162.3
Canadian Farm Products	145.1	145.1	145.5	145.5	143.9	145.0	144.8	148.8

SECURITIES:

Common stock prices moved narrowly in December, the Investors' Index for 106 representative issues standing at 118.6 for the week of December 29 compared with 118.8 for November 24th. The December 1949 average of 117.9 compared with an index level of 115.8 a year ago. The index for 82 industrial stocks receded 0.6 to 113.1 between November 24th and December 29th, while 8 bank stocks declined 3.1 to 140.1. The index for 16 utilities, on the other hand, rose 2.9 points to 124.1. Mining stocks were fractionally firmer. The composite index for 30 representative issues moved up 0.5 to 94.3 between the weeks of November 24th and December 29th. Five base metals advanced 1.4 to 129.3 in the same interval while the index for 25 golds changed 0.1, from 76.4 to 76.5. When compared with the December 1948 average, the composite mining stock index for December 1949 has registered an increase of 8.2 points to 92.4.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39 = 100

	Week Ended (1949)						Monthly Average		
	Nov. 24th	Dec. 1st	Dec. 8th	Dec. 15th	Dec. 22nd	Dec. 29th	Dec. 1949	Nov. 1949	Dec. 1948
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>									
(106 Common Stocks)....	118.8	117.4	118.4	117.6	117.7	118.6	117.9	118.2	115.8
82 Industrials	113.7	112.2	112.9	112.0	112.1	113.1	112.5	112.9	111.1
16 Utilities.....	121.2	120.7	123.1	122.2	122.6	124.1	122.5	121.6	120.2
8 Banks	143.2	140.6	140.8	141.2	140.4	140.1	140.6	142.2	132.4
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>									
(30 Stocks).....	93.8	92.1	92.8	92.0	90.9	94.3	92.4	95.2	84.2
25 Golds.....	76.4	74.4	73.5	72.9	73.6	76.5	74.2	77.3	63.0
5 Base Metals.....	127.9	127.1	130.9	129.8	124.8	129.3	128.4	130.1	127.1
<u>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX</u>									
	89.2	89.9	89.9	90.5	90.5	90.2	90.3	89.2	95.5

* 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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