

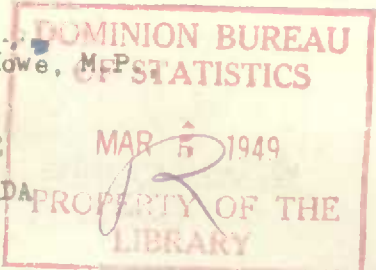
62 00

Historical File Copy

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. March 4, 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, FEBRUARY, 1949 (PRELIMINARY)

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined from 159.6 to 159.5 between January 3 and February 1, 1949. A drop in the food index from 202.2 to 200.4 overbalanced increases for fuel and light, home-furnishings and services, and miscellaneous items. Egg prices again moved sharply lower, while meats and shortening were also down. Citrus fruits advanced, with other foods showing little change. Firmness in coal and coke moved the fuel and light series up from 130.0 to 130.8. Homefurnishings and services also gained 0.8 to 167.8. There was a rise in miscellaneous items from 126.6 to 128.1 as tobacco, cigars, and theatre admissions showed some increases. The clothing index dropped fractionally from 181.9 to 181.8. There was no February re-calculation of the rent index which remains at 121.7.

The February, 1949 cost-of-living index was 58.2 per cent above the August, 1939 level.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
February 1, 1949	159.5	200.4	121.7	130.8	181.8	167.8	128.1
January 3, 1949	159.6	202.2	121.7	130.0	181.9	167.0	126.6
February 2, 1948	150.1	186.1	119.9	120.1	165.1	159.9	122.8

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY): The index of Industrial Material Prices continued to (1926=100)

move downward in February, dropping from 160.5 for the week ending January 28 to 159.2 for the week ending February 25, as lower quotations ruled for oats, steers, gum rosin, raw wool and raw rubber.

Canadian Farm Products declined from 147.8 to 145.1 in the same period. Increases were noted in poultry, eggs and potatoes, but these failed to offset reductions in grains, hay, hides and skins, livestock and raw wool.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes, 1926=100

	Week ended -					Monthly Average -		
	Jan. 28th	Feb. 4th	Feb. 11th	Feb. 18th	Feb. 25th	Feb. 1949	Jan. 1949	Feb. 1948
Industrial materials	160.5	160.0	159.7	159.3	159.2	159.6	161.7	146.4
*Canadian Farm Products	147.8	146.4	146.0	145.5	145.1	145.8	148.6	145.0

* Revised as an additional payment, retroactive to August 1, 1945, of twenty cents a bushel was announced for western wheat growers.

SECURITIES: The Investors' index for 106 common stocks registered a further drop in February to 105.2 for the week of the 24th compared with 112.2 for January 27th. During the same interval 82 industrial shares declined 7.6 points to 99.4 while 16 utilities weakened 6.2 points to 111.6 and 8 banks 1.5 to 130.4. Mining stock prices also receded in February as the composite index for 30 representative issues declined 4.2 points to 83.2. Among sub-group changes base metal shares moved down 11.2 points to 115.0 while the index for 25 gold stocks dropped 1.0 to 67.0.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHEQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010711688