



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

DOMINION BUREAU
OF STATISTICS
APR 5 1949
(Telephone 9-3913)
Herbert Marshall
H. F. Greenway
F. H. Leacy

For release 3 p.m. April 4, 1949.

Dominion Statistician:
Director, Labour and Prices Statistics:
Acting Chief, Prices Section:

PRICE MOVEMENTS, MARCH, 1949 (PRELIMINARY)

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index fell from 159.5 to 159.2 between February 1 and March 1, 1949. As in the preceding month, declines in foods outweighed scattered increases in several other budget groups. Price reductions for shortening products, meats, butter and eggs were mainly responsible for the food index moving down from 200.4 to 199.1. There were moderate offsetting seasonal increases in a few vegetables. The clothing index rose from 181.8 to 182.7, and homefurnishings and services gained fractionally from 167.8 to 167.9. Fuel and light also moved up a small amount from 130.8 to 131.0. The miscellaneous items index held at 128.1, and the rent index continues nominally at 121.7 until returns from the March survey are complete.

The March, 1949 cost-of-living index was 57.9 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
March 1, 1949..	159.2	199.1	121.7	131.0	182.7	167.9	128.1
February 1, 1949..	159.5	200.4	121.7	130.8	181.8	167.8	128.1
March 1, 1948..	150.8	185.9	119.9	121.0	169.9	161.2	122.8

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY): Further declines in commodity markets carried the (1926=100) industrial material price index from 159.2 for the week ending February 25 to 156.0 for the week ending March 25. Steers, hogs and oats were higher, but lower quotations were recorded for lumber, cottonseed oil, rosin and lead. The index for Canadian Farm Products advanced from 145.1 to 145.4 in the same period, as increases in livestock and eggs outweighed declines in potatoes, corn, peas, hides, poultry and wool. However, the average level of this index for March was lower than the February average.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes, 1926=100

	Week ended -					Monthly Average		
	Feb. 25th	Mar. 4th	Mar. 11th	Mar. 18th	Mar. 25th	Mar. 1949	Feb. 1949	Mar. 1948
Industrial Materials	159.2	158.0	157.4	156.6	156.0	157.0	159.6	144.9
Canadian Farm Products ...	145.1	145.1	145.6	145.6	145.4	145.4	145.8	145.2*

* Revised due to the inclusion of equalization-payments for western oats and barley, August 1, 1947 to July 31, 1948.

SECURITIES: The Investors' index of weekly prices for 106 common stocks rose 1.9 points to 107.1 between February 24 and March 31. Strength was centred mainly in the utility series, an index for this group moving up 3.9 points to 115.5. Over the same interval the index for 82 industrials advanced 1.5 points to 100.2, while 8 bank stocks recorded a gain of 0.9 to 131.3. Mining stock prices presented a mixed pattern in March. Between February 24 and March 31 the composite index for 30 representative issues declined 0.1 to 85.1. Among sub-groups base metal shares weakened 1.6 points to 113.4 during the period under review, while gold stocks moved up 0.6 to 67.6.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39=100

	Week ended -						Monthly Average		
	- 1 9 4 9 -								
	Feb. 24th	Mar. 3rd	Mar. 10th	Mar. 17th	Mar. 24th	Mar. 31st	Mar. 1949	Feb. 1949	Mar. 1948
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX									
(106 Common Stocks).....	105.2	105.8	107.0	105.5	106.6	107.1	106.4	108.1	101.5
82 Industrials	99.4	100.0	101.1	99.4	100.4	100.9	100.4	102.2	95.8
16 Utilities	111.6	112.3	113.7	113.1	114.1	115.5	113.7	115.1	107.4
8 Banks	130.4	130.5	131.2	130.2	131.8	131.3	131.0	131.0	127.8
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX									
(30 Stocks)	83.2	82.9	83.4	81.4	83.4	83.1	82.8	85.9	82.2
23 Golds	67.0	66.5	67.5	66.5	67.4	67.6	67.1	68.8	71.1
5 Base Metals	115.0	115.2	114.5	110.4	114.8	113.4	113.7	119.5	102.9
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX									
	95.4	95.4	95.4	95.1	95.1	95.1	95.2	95.4	96.7

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010711689