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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
PRICES SECTION

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
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PRICE MOVEMENTS, MAY, 1949 (PRELIMINARY)*

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index advanced from 159.3 to 159.5 between April 1st and May 2, 1949. The slight increase was mainly attributable to a rise of 1.0 in the food index which moved from 198.5 to 199.5 as a result of seasonal increases in meats, coupled with advances in a number of other foods. The clothing index moved up 0.1 to 183.3, while the index of homefurnishings and services rose the same amount to 168.1. The sharpest change was registered by the fuel and light index which decreased from 131.0 to 129.1 due to price declines for coke and anthracite coal in Ontario and Quebec. The indexes of miscellaneous goods and services and rents were unchanged at 128.4 and 122.4 respectively.

From August, 1939 to May, 1949 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 58.2 per cent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
May 2, 1949	159.5	199.5	122.4	129.1	183.3	168.1	128.4
April 1, 1949	159.3	198.5	122.4	131.0	183.2	168.0	128.4
May 1, 1948	153.3	191.2	120.9	122.7	173.6	161.9	122.9

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY): (1926=100) The index of Industrial Material Prices fell from 151.9 for the week of April 29 to 148.6 for the week of May 27. Non-ferrous metals paced the decline, while minor reductions occurred in coal, oats, rubber and raw cotton. The index for Canadian Farm Products moved slightly lower, from 148.0 to 147.8, in the same period. Advances were noted for potatoes, hay and eggs, but these were outweighed by lower quotations for grains, hides, tobacco, poultry and wool.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes, 1926=100

	Week ended -					Monthly Average -		
	April 29th	May 6th	May 13th	May 20th	May 27th	May 1949	April 1949	May 1948
Industrial Materials ..	151.9	151.2	150.0	149.8	148.6	149.9	133.9	150.7
Canadian Farm Products.	148.0	147.8	147.2	147.6	147.8	147.6	147.3	150.4 *

* Revised due to retroactive payments for grains.

SECURITIES: Continued weakness in common stock prices during May was reflected in a further drop in the Investors' index of 2.3 points to 103.1 between the weeks of April 28 and May 26. In the same interval the group index for 82 industrials receded 2.4 points to 96.5, while that for 16 utilities weakened 2.3 to 111.6, and 8 banks 0.5 to 131.6. Mining stock prices were substantially lower in May also, the composite index for 30 representative issues declining 4.5 points to 80.4. Base metal stocks, reflecting the recent sharp drop in metal prices, moved down 6.9 points to an index level of 103.3 between April 28 and May 26. Over the same period the index for 25 gold shares declined 3.3 to 68.3.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39=100

	Week ended - (1949)					Monthly Average		
	April 28th	May 5th	May 12th	May 19th	May 26th	May 1949	April 1949	May 1948
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX								
(106 Common Stocks) ...	105.4	106.4	105.7	105.8	103.1	105.3	106.4	116.5
82 Industrials	98.9	100.2	99.3	99.3	96.5	98.8	99.8	110.9
16 Utilities	113.9	114.1	114.0	114.2	111.6	113.5	115.7	127.8
8 Banks	132.1	132.3	132.2	133.3	131.6	132.4	132.4	128.4
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX								
(30 Stocks)	84.9	84.2	82.6	82.7	80.4	82.5	86.0	84.1
25 Golds	71.6	70.5	69.8	69.0	68.3	69.4	72.3	66.9
5 Base Metals	110.2	110.5	107.0	109.1	103.3	107.5	112.1	118.2
DOMINION OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS-YIELD INDEX	95.1	95.1	95.1	95.1	95.1	95.1	95.1	95.2

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

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