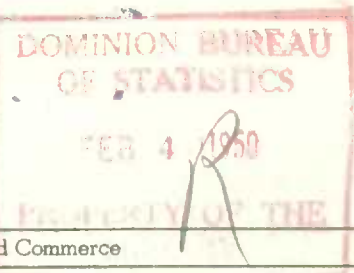




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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
Labour and Prices Division
OTTAWA



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PRICE MOVEMENTS, JANUARY 1950 (PRELIMINARY) #

COST-OF-LIVING:

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined 0.5 points between December 1, 1949 and January 3, 1950. This placed the index at 161.0 as compared to 159.6 a year ago, and 148.3 for January 1948. As has been the case for several months, the largest contribution to the decrease in the total index was made by foods which dropped 2.5 points to 199.4. This marked the first time the food index has been under 200 since May 1949. Within the food group, a drop of 16 cents in the average retail price of eggs accounted for most of the change. Among other food items, a 2.0 cent average decrease in pork prices was partially offset by a 0.7 cent increase in beef and veal. Lamb increased nearly 2.0 cents while lard and shortening declined 0.5 cents on average. Fresh vegetables rose fractionally, sugar increased 0.5 cents and coffee 5.4 cents. The clothing index declined from 183.7 to 183.3, reflecting slight but scattered decreases. Homefurnishings and services dropped 0.1 points to 167.0 as decreases in blankets, dishes and laundry soap overbalanced increases in telephone and laundry rates. Fuel and light increased 0.4 points to 135.6 following moderate rises in coke prices in some Ontario centres. The index of miscellaneous items showed the largest change, except for foods, in advancing 1.1 points to 131.6. This increase largely reflected the results of annual surveys of certain commodities and services which are characteristically stable in price. Prices and rates of this nature contributing to the rise were drugs, hospital charges, doctors' and dentists' fees, newspaper rates and barbers' fees. In addition, tobacco costs were up slightly. Rents were not surveyed during January and the index remained unchanged at 125.0.

From August 1939 to January 1950 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 59.7 percent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
January 3, 1950	161.0	199.4	125.0	135.6	183.3	167.0	131.6
December 1, 1949	161.5	201.9	125.0	135.2	183.7	167.1	130.5
January 3, 1949	159.6	202.2	121.7	130.0	181.9	167.0	126.6

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY)
(1926 = 100)

The index of Industrial Material Prices rose 0.3 points, from 150.3 to 150.6, between the week ending December 30,

1949 and the week ending January 27, 1950. The comparative index for the corresponding week of 1949 was 161.2, and for the fourth week of January, 1948 was 148.2. Moderate declines occurred in oats, hogs and rosin, while B.C. fir, steers, cotton, wool and sisal moved slightly higher. Canadian Farm Product prices at wholesale advanced from 143.1 to 143.6. Field Products were unchanged at 122.8, as a small decrease in grains was offset by increases in potatoes, onions and hay, but Animal Products mounted from 177.0 to 178.4, when higher quotations for livestock, hides, milk and wool outweighed declines in eggs and poultry.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes (1926 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Dec. 30th	Jan. 6th	Jan. 13th	Jan. 20th	Jan. 27th	Jan. 1950	Dec. 1949	Jan. 1949
Industrial Materials	150.3	150.2	149.7	150.4	150.6	150.2	150.6	162.4
Canadian Farm Products	143.1	143.0	142.9	143.3	143.6	143.2	144.6	148.8

SECURITIES:

The Investors' weekly index of common stock prices registered moderate weakness in January. After establishing an

opening peak of 120.1 for the week of January 5th the index subsequently receded to 117.5 by the 26th, for a net loss of 1.1 points when compared with the final December figure. In the same interval the index for 82 industrials declined 1.5 points to 111.6, while that for 16 utilities moved down 0.8 to 123.3. Bank shares, on the other hand, were slightly firmer, an index for 8 issues recording a net monthly gain of 2.7 to 142.8. Mining stock prices were easier also, the composite index for 30 representative issues declining 3.2 points to 91.1 between December 29 and January 26. The index for 25 gold shares dropped 3.4 points to 78.1 in the same period, while a similar index for 5 base metals changed from 129.3 to 128.5.

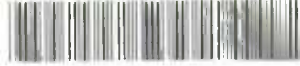
Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39 = 100

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	1949		1950			Jan. 1950	Dec. 1949	Jan. 1949
	Dec. 29th	Jan. 5th	Jan. 12th	Jan. 19th	Jan. 26th			
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>								
(106 Common Stocks).....	118.6	120.1	119.2	119.1	117.5	119.0	117.9	114.3
82 Industrials.....	113.1	114.2	113.7	113.5	111.6	113.3	112.5	109.3
16 Utilities.....	124.1	125.8	123.9	124.2	123.3	124.3	122.5	119.2
8 Banks.....	140.1	143.8	142.6	142.9	142.8	143.0	140.6	132.5
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>								
(30 Stocks).....	94.3	94.4	92.9	92.6	91.1	92.8	92.4	88.9
25 Golds.....	76.5	76.8	75.3	74.6	73.1	75.0	74.2	69.1
5 Base Metals.....	129.3	129.0	127.5	128.0	126.5	127.8	128.4	128.8
<u>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX</u>								
	90.2	89.9	90.2	90.2	90.2	90.1	90.3	95.4

* 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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