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PRICE MOVEMENTS, OCTOBER 1950, (PRELIMINARY) *

COST OF LIVING INDEX:- (1935-1939=100) The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index rose 0.9 points between September 1 and October 2 to reach 170.7. At January, the index stood at 161.0 and the October 1949 figure was 162.2. In contrast to the past few months, groups other than food accounted for most of the increase. The food index recorded an advance of 1.3 points to 220.1 reflecting increases for eggs, butter, milk, coffee and fruits. Reversing a January-September trend, meat prices declined slightly while fresh vegetables also moved lower. The clothing index rose from 182.3 to 183.5 largely as a result of higher prices for fall and winter items and footwear. Slight increases throughout the homefurnishings and services group advanced this index 1.6 points to 172.7. The index of miscellaneous items moved from 132.8 to 133.3 following increases in tires, barbers' fees, and certain drug items. Higher prices for coal and coke resulted in a slight gain in the fuel and light index from 140.8 to 141.0. Rents were not surveyed during October, and the index remained at 135.5.

Between August 1939 and October 1950, the cost-of-living index advanced 69.3 percent.

DOMINION COST OF LIVING INDEXES (1935-1939=100)

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
October 2, 1950	170.7	220.1	135.5	141.0	183.5	172.7	133.3
September 1, 1950	169.8	218.8	135.5	140.8	182.3	171.1	132.8
October 1, 1949	162.2	205.0	123.9	134.1	184.1	167.2	130.2

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)
(1926 = 100)

The index for 30 industrial material prices levelled off during October to close at 187.8 for the week of the 27th, compared with 186.3 for September 29th. Higher prices of non-farm origin items were closely balanced by decreases in farm product prices. Among commodity increases were: spruce lumber, wood pulp, steel shapes, raw rubber, rayon yarn and tin ingots. Losses were registered for wheat, oats, steers, hogs, linseed oil, cottonseed oil, lead, zinc and copper. Price changes reflected to some extent fluctuations in Canadian currency following the removal of fixed buying and selling rates at the beginning of October. Canadian farm product prices at wholesale declined slightly from a level of 142.2 for September 29 to 141.5 for the week of October 27. Both sub-groups were lower, the field products series receded 0.7 to 103.5 due to decreases for potatoes, corn and onions. Animal products moved down from 205.7 for September 29 to 205.0 for October 27, due to decreases in livestock and hides and skins. Fluid milk, eggs, fowl and raw wool registered gains.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1926 = 100)

	Week Ended -					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 29th	Oct. 6th	Oct. 13th	Oct. 20th	Oct. 27th	(p) Oct. 1950	Sept. 1950	Oct. 1949
Industrial Materials	186.3	184.7	184.3	187.1	187.8	186.0	185.2	149.7
Canadian Farm Products	142.2	141.4	140.9	141.1	141.5	141.2	142.7	145.6

(p) Preliminary

SECURITY INDEXES:
(1935-1939=100)

Prices of common stocks rose to new peak levels in the third week of October, but a decline in the fourth week cancelled almost all gains made during the month. Between the weeks of September 28th and October 26th, the composite index for 106 common stocks rose 0.2 to 143.2. This compared with a peak of 148.4 touched on the 19th. The index for 82 industrial rose 0.5 to 141.1 during the period under review, while the index of 8 bank stocks advanced 4.5 points to 154.1. Utilities were easier, the index for 16 representative issues receding 3.2 points to 137.1. The composite index for 30 mining stocks, after touching a peak of 93.5 for October 19, registered a net loss of 0.8 to 91.0 between September 28 and October 26. A decline in golds was responsible, the index for this series moving down 1.8 points to 63.1. Base metal shares, on the other hand, stiffened 1.3 points to 147.5.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39 = 100

	Week Ended 1950					Monthly Average		
	Sept. 28th	Oct. 5th	Oct. 12th	Oct. 19th	Oct. 26th	Oct. 1950	Sept. 1950	Oct. 1949
INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX								
(106 Common Stocks).....	143.0	143.8	146.2	148.4	143.2	145.4	141.5	114.3
82 Industrials	140.6	141.8	144.9	147.1	141.1	143.7	139.3	107.9
16 Utilities	140.3	138.9	138.4	140.1	137.1	138.6	138.2	121.9
8 Banks	149.6	151.2	152.9	155.5	154.1	153.4	148.4	139.8
MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX								
(30 Stocks)	91.8	90.9	91.2	93.5	91.0	91.7	90.0	91.5
25 Golds	64.9	63.6	63.8	65.5	63.1	64.0	62.7	74.9
5 Base Metals	146.2	146.1	146.6	150.1	147.5	147.6	145.1	124.1
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX	89.6	92.1	91.8	91.8	92.1	92.0	89.8	89.1

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

N.B. Inquiries concerning indexes in this release should be directed to The Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division.

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