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PRICE MOVEMENTS, DECEMBER 1950, (PRELIMINARY) \*

COST OF LIVING INDEX:-  
(1935-1939=100)

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index rose 0.4 points to 171.1 between November 1st and December 1st, 1950. This compares with an index level of 161.5 at December 1949. The latest increase results from slight advances in all group indexes, except rents, which were not surveyed during December. Foods moved from 218.6 to 218.8, as small increases in dairy products and fruits and vegetables over-balanced decreases in meats and eggs. The clothing index rose 0.4 points to 184.9, due to increases in men's and women's wear, piece goods and footwear. The largest group index advance was registered by homefurnishings and services, which moved up 1.6 points to 176.4. Increases were general throughout this group. Slightly higher prices for coke advanced the fuel index from 140.6 to 140.7. The index of miscellaneous items rose 0.7 points to 134.1 following advances in personal care, recreation, and health sub-groups. The rent index remained unchanged at 136.4.

Between August 1939 and December 1950, the cost-of-living index advanced 69.7 percent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
December 1, 1950	171.1	218.8	136.4	140.7	184.9	176.4	134.1
November 1, 1950	170.7	218.6	136.4	140.6	184.5	174.8	133.4
December 1, 1949	161.5	201.9	125.0	135.2	183.7	167.1	130.5

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)  
(1926 = 100)

Further increases occurred for industrial material prices during December, the composite index for 30 representative commodities moving up 3.8 points to 196.8 between November 24th and December 22nd.

When compared with the December 1949 average of 151.0, the index has registered a gain of 45.8 points. Important commodity increases were recorded during December for iron ore, imported bituminous coal, steers, hogs, oats, wheat, linseed oil, zinc, copper and tin. Canadian Farm Product prices at wholesale also moved higher in the final month of 1950, the composite index advancing 1.3 points to 144.1 between November 24th and December 22nd. Indexes for animal and field products were higher, the former series advancing 2.2 points to 210.5, due to firmer quotations for livestock, hides and raw wool. Eggs were lower. A gain of 0.8 points to 104.4 for field products reflected increases for grains and potatoes, which outweighed a decline in onions.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (1926 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 24th	Dec. 1st	Dec. 8th	Dec. 15th	Dec. 22nd	(p)		
						Dec. 1950	Nov. 1950	Dec. 1949
Industrial Materials	193.0	193.9	193.5	195.0	196.8	194.8	192.6	151.0
Canadian Farm Products	142.8	142.9	143.5	144.0	144.1	143.6	142.5	147.8

(p) Preliminary

SECURITY INDEXES  
(1935-1939 = 100)

Common stock prices closed the year on an ascending price scale with strength concentrated in industrial issues. Between November 30th and December 28th, the composite index for 106 common stocks rose

9.5 points to 150.3 for a new twenty-year peak. The group index for 82 industrials moved up 10.2 points to 148.7 in the same interval, while the series for 16 utilities advanced 9.2 points to 144.4 and that for 8 banks 1.3 points to 154.1. Mining stocks were firmer also, the composite index for 30 representative issues advancing 3.8 points to 90.4. Higher prices for base metal stocks were mainly responsible, an index for five issues moving up 8.0 points to 150.0. Gold stocks rose 1.8 points to 61.1 between November 30th and December 28th.

## Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939=100

	Week Ended 1950					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 30th	Dec. 7th	Dec. 14th	Dec. 21st	Dec. 28th	Dec. 1950	Nov. 1950	Dec. 1949
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>								
(106 Common Stocks) .....	140.8	142.4	144.0	148.4	150.3	146.3	144.5	117.9
82 Industrials .....	138.5	140.2	141.9	146.6	148.7	144.4	142.7	112.5
16 Utilities.....	135.2	137.3	139.3	143.6	144.4	141.2	137.1	122.5
8 Banks .....	152.8	152.5	151.3	152.6	154.1	152.6	154.8	140.6
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>								
( 30 Stocks) .....	86.6	86.1	86.7	89.6	90.4	88.2	90.0	92.4
25 Golds.....	59.3	58.9	58.3	60.7	61.1	59.8	61.1	74.2
5 Base Metals.....	142.0	141.4	144.4	148.2	150.0	146.0	148.6	128.4
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LONG- TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX	96.0	96.4	96.4	96.7	97.3	96.7	93.9	90.3

\* 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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