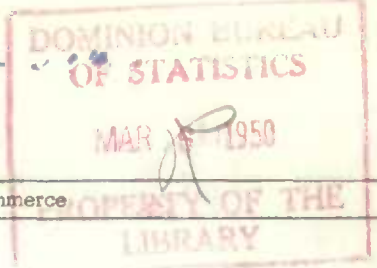


62



Historical File Copy  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
Labour and Prices Division  
OTTAWA



Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

For release 12 noon, March 4, 1950  
Price \$1.00 annually; 10 cents each

PRICE MOVEMENTS, FEBRUARY 1950 (PRELIMINARY) \*

COST OF LIVING: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index increased from 161.0 to 161.6 between January 3rd and February 1st. This increase of 0.6 points followed an unbroken series of small declines totalling 1.3 points and dating from the August 1949 peak of 162.8. Foods advanced 1.9 points to 201.3 during January, and again largely determined the change in the total index. Increases in beef and lamb prices overbalanced decreases in pork, while increases were registered for eggs, oranges, coffee and sugar. Clothing declined fractionally from 183.3 to 183.0, reflecting slightly lower prices for men's and women's wear. Home-furnishings and services decreased 0.6 points to 166.4, mainly as a result of lower quotations for dishes and soap. Fuel and light rose from 135.6 to 135.9 due to slightly higher rates for domestic gas and electricity in several cities. The miscellaneous index advanced 0.5 points to 132.1 because of advances in gasoline, theatre admissions and newspapers. Rents were not surveyed during February and the index remained unchanged at 125.0.

From August 1939 to February 1950, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 60.3 percent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
February 1, 1950	161.6	201.3	125.0	135.9	183.0	166.4	132.1
January 3, 1950	161.0	199.4	125.0	135.6	183.3	167.0	131.6
February 1, 1949	159.5	200.4	121.7	130.8	181.3	167.8	128.1

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY)  
(1926 = 100)

The index of Industrial Material Prices rose from 150.6 for the week of January 27 to 152.8 for the week of February 24. This was the highest point reached since April 1949, but was 7.1 points below the week of February 1949, and 7.2 points above the fourth week of February 1948. Some of the more important commodities to show increases were raw rubber, raw cotton, livestock, oats, B.C. fir and certain steel products, while hides and gum rosin declined. The index of Canadian Farm Products moved higher also, mounting from 144.2 to 145.3 in the same period. Livestock and eggs made sizeable gains, and grains and milk moved slightly higher, while decreases were noted for potatoes, onions, hay, tobacco, hides and poultry.

WEEKLY WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (1926 = 100)

	Week Ended -					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 27th	Feb. 3rd	Feb. 10th	Feb. 17th	Feb. 24th	Feb. 1950	Jan. 1950	Feb. 1949
Industrial Materials	150.6	151.3	151.4	152.3	152.8	152.0	150.2	160.3
Canadian Farm Products	144.2*	144.8	144.8	144.9	145.3	145.0	143.8*	145.8

\* Revised

SECURITIES:

The Investors' weekly index of 106 common stocks rose from 117.5 for the week of January 26th to a monthly peak of 119.0 for February 9, but thereafter reacted to 117.8 by the 23rd for a net gain of 0.3 points. Utility stocks were slightly firmer during February, the index for 16 issues advancing 1.7 points to 125.0. In the same interval, the index for 82 industrial stocks rose 0.2 points to 111.8 while 8 banks declined 0.4 to 142.4. Mining stock prices were fractionally firmer in February, the composite index for 30 representative issues stiffening 0.6 to 91.7 between the weeks of January 26th and February 23rd. The index for 5 base metal shares rose 1.3 points to 127.8 in the same period while a similar series for 25 golds firmed 0.3 to 73.4.

## Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39 = 100

	Week Ended 1950					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 26th	Feb. 2nd	Feb. 9th	Feb. 16th	Feb. 23rd	Feb. 1950	Jan. 1950	Feb. 1949
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>								
(106 Common Stocks) .....	117.5	118.6	119.0	117.7	117.8	118.3	119.0	108.1
82 Industrials .....	111.6	112.7	113.1	111.5	111.8	112.3	113.3	102.2
16 Utilities .....	123.3	124.9	125.7	125.3	125.0	125.2	124.3	115.1
8 Banks .....	142.8	143.6	142.8	143.3	142.4	143.0	143.0	131.0
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>								
( 30 Stocks) .....	91.1	91.7	91.2	90.7	91.7	91.3	92.8	85.9
25 Golds .....	73.1	73.3	73.1	72.3	73.4	73.2	75.0	68.8
5 Base Metals .....	126.5	128.2	126.9	126.0	127.8	127.2	127.8	119.5
<u>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LONG- TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX</u>	90.2	90.5	90.2	90.2	90.2	90.3	90.1	95.2

\* 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.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010711700