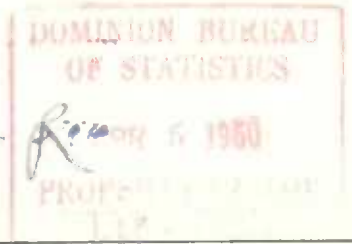




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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
 Labour and Prices' Division
 OTTAWA



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PRICE MOVEMENTS, MARCH 1950 (PRELIMINARY)*

COST-OF-LIVING:- The Dominion urban cost-of-living index advanced from 161.6 for February 1, 1950 to 163.7 for March 1st for a gain of 2.1 points. This marked a new post-war peak, exceeding the previous high point of 162.8 for August 1, 1949. Group indexes for rents, fuel and light, and miscellaneous items are now at their highest post-war levels, while foods, clothing and homefurnishings are appreciably below 1949 post-war highs. The increase in the index during February was due principally to higher levels for rents and firmer prices for certain foods. The results of the March quarterly survey of rents were reflected in an increase in the rent index from 125.0 to 132.7; this advance takes account of all rent changes since last November. The food index rose 2.7 points to 204.0 during February when strength in prices for beef, lamb, eggs, coffee and fresh vegetables outweighed narrow declines for canned vegetables. Fuel and light, the only other group to register an increase, moved up 0.4 to 136.3. The clothing index receded from 183.0 to 181.4 when lower prices were quoted for men's and women's topcoats and men's suits, while home-furnishings and services declined 0.1 points to 166.3. The index for miscellaneous items remained unchanged at 132.1.

From August 1939 to March 1950, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 62.4 percent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
March 1, 1950	163.7	204.0	132.7	136.3	181.4	166.3	132.1
February 1, 1950	161.6	201.3	125.0	135.9	183.0	166.4	132.1
March 1, 1949	159.2	199.1	121.7	131.0	182.7	167.9	128.1

WHOLESALE PRICES (WEEKLY)
(1926 = 100)

The index of Industrial Material Prices rose from 152.8 for the week of February 24 to 153.9 for the week of March 24. This was the tenth consecutive weekly increase since January 13, 1950, when the index stood at 149.7 but was 3.9 points below March 1949 and 8.7 points below the post-war peak of August 1948. Oats, steers, hogs, sisal, raw wool, raw cotton, cottonseed oil, zinc and raw rubber registered increases during March, while linseed oil, white lead, lead ingots and tin ingots declined. The index of Canadian Farm Product prices at wholesale moved 2.0 points higher, from 145.3 to 147.3, during the same period. Animal Products contributed most to the increase, advancing 3.4 to 185.0 due to gains for livestock, poultry, hides and skins, eggs, and wool. For Field Products, a gain of 1.1 to 124.7 was due to higher prices for grains, potatoes, and hay which outweighed declines for tobacco and onions.

Weekly Wholesale Price Indexes (1926 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb. 24th	Mar. 3rd	Mar. 10th	Mar. 17th	Mar. 24th	Mar. 1950 (4 weeks)	Feb. 1950	Mar. 1949
Industrial Materials	152.8	153.0	153.2	153.7	153.9	153.5	152.0	157.7
Canadian Farm Products	145.3	146.0	146.4	147.3	147.3	146.8	145.0	145.4

SECURITIES

The Investors' Index for 106 common stocks displayed moderate strength during March, rising from a level of 117.8 for the week of February 23rd to 119.0 for the week of March 30th. Selective strength among sub-groups was reflected in higher indexes for 82 industrials, up 1.2 to 113.0; 16 utilities, 1.3 points higher to 126.3, and 8 banks 1.1 to 143.5. Mining stocks were slightly easier, the composite index for 30 representative issues declining 0.2 to 91.5 between the weeks of February 23rd and March 30th. Weakness in base metals was responsible for the decrease, an index for this series receding 3.2 points to 124.6. During the same interval the gold shares series rose 1.2 to 74.6.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-39 = 100

	Week Ended 1950						Monthly Average		
	Feb. 23rd	Mar. 2nd	Mar. 9th	Mar. 16th	Mar. 23rd	Mar. 30th	Mar. 1950	Feb. 1950	Mar. 1949
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>									
(108 Common Stocks).....	117.8	118.3	117.9	119.2	119.3	119.0	118.7	118.3	106.4
82 Industrials	111.8	112.1	111.6	113.1	112.9	113.0	112.5	112.3	100.4
16 Utilities	125.0	126.0	126.3	127.0	128.2	126.3	126.8	125.2	113.7
8 Banks	142.4	142.4	142.6	143.2	142.9	143.5	142.9	143.0	131.0
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>									
(30 Stocks)	91.7	91.6	89.3	90.9	91.5	91.5	91.0	91.3	82.8
25 Golds	73.4	73.7	72.5	73.8	74.8	74.6	73.9	73.2	67.1
5 Base Metals	127.8	127.0	122.3	124.5	124.3	124.6	124.5	127.2	113.7
<u>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX</u>									
	90.2	90.2	89.6	90.2	90.2	90.9	90.2	90.3	94.7

* 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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