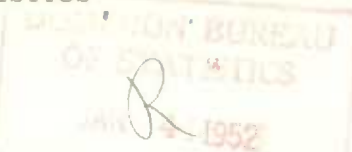




## DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, DECEMBER 1951 (PRELIMINARY)\*

**COST-OF-LIVING INDEX:** (1935-1939 = 100) The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined from 191.2 to 191.1 between November 1 and December 1, 1951 to mark the first decrease in twenty-three months. The last previous decrease was recorded between December 1, 1949 and January 3, 1950 when the index declined 0.5 points. The latest movement of the index was accounted for by a slight recession in foods which overbalanced small increases in clothing, and homefurnishings and services. The food index moved from 250.2 to 249.3 due to decreases in meats, particularly pork, and eggs, which proved of greater importance than a large increase in potatoes coupled with small advances in milk, butter and other vegetables. The clothing index rose from 214.6 to 215.5 reflecting increases in men's wear, notably suits, overcoats and sweaters. Widely scattered advances for furniture items, furnishings, floor coverings, hardware, dishes, electrical goods, laundry rates and telephone rates supported an increase in homefurnishings and services from 199.9 to 200.6. Indexes for fuel and light and miscellaneous items remained at 150.8 and 144.9 respectively. Rents were not surveyed in December and the index continued unchanged at 144.8.

From August 1939 to December 1951 the increase in the cost-of-living index was 89.6 percent.

Dominion Cost of Living Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
December 1, 1951	191.1	249.3	144.8	150.8	215.5	200.6	144.9
November 1, 1951	191.2	250.2	144.8	150.8	214.6	199.9	144.9
December 1, 1950	171.1	218.8	136.4	140.7	184.9	176.4	134.1

**WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)**  
(1935-1939 = 100)

The weekly index for 30 industrial material prices continued to decline in December to reach a level of 284.7 by the week of the 21st. This compared with a level of 286.2 for the week of November 30th and 280.9 for the month of December 1950. Fractional commodity price declines were registered for wheat, oats, raw sugar, raw rubber, raw cotton, copper and tin while narrow advances occurred for imported bituminous coal, steers, and hogs. Canadian farm products prices at terminal markets firmed narrowly from 258.9 to 259.4 between November 30th and December 21st. This compared with a level of 234.5 for December 1950. Both field and animal products moved up in the past month, the former gaining 0.1 to 191.0 due to increases for grains and hay which outweighed decreases in eastern potato prices. Higher prices for livestock, butterfat and fluid milk overbalanced continued weakness for eggs to advance the animal products series from 326.9 to 327.8.

**Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)**

	1951 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 30th	Dec. 7th	Dec. 14th	Dec. 21st	Dec. 28	Dec. <sup>(P)</sup> 1951	Nov. 1951	Dec. 1950
Industrial Materials .....	286.2	285.2	285.2	284.7	N.A.	N.A.	287.5	280.9
Canadian Farm Products .....	258.9	257.6	257.9	259.4	N.A.	N.A.	258.4	234.5

(P) - Preliminary

N.A. - Not Available

**SECURITY INDEXES:** Common stock prices moved up in December, recovering most of the (1935-1939 = 100) decline of the previous month. Between November 29th and December 27th, the composite index for 105 common stocks advanced from 170.8 to 177.1. The year's closing figure, however, was below the October 4th 1951 peak of 186.4, but was substantially above the closing figure for 1950 of 150.3. Between November 29th and December 27th, the index for 82 industrials stiffened from 174.6 to 180.3 while that for 15 utilities moved up from 166.1 to 176.8 and 8 banks from 142.6 to 144.9. Mining stock prices were firmer also, the composite index for 20 representative issues advancing from 100.1 to 103.6. The final figure compared with a 1951 peak of 108.7 for the week of October 4th and a 1950 closing index of 90.4. Both golds and base metals were stronger in December, the index for the former series advancing from 70.8 to 73.5 and that for the latter from 167.3 to 172.6.

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

	1951 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 29th	Dec. 6th	Dec. 13th	Dec. 20th	Dec. 27th	Dec. 1950	Nov. 1951	Dec. 1951
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
105 Common Stocks .....	170.8	178.0	177.5	176.6	177.1	146.3	174.0	177.3
82 Industrials .....	174.6	181.8	180.4	179.9	180.3	144.4	178.8	180.6
15 Utilities .....	166.1	175.9	179.4	176.0	176.8	141.2	167.2	177.0
8 Banks .....	142.6	143.6	143.9	144.5	144.9	152.6	141.0	144.2
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
30 Stocks .....	100.1	103.1	103.1	103.7	103.6	88.2	102.4	103.4
25 Golds .....	70.8	73.4	72.5	73.5	73.5	59.8	71.9	73.2
5 Base Metals .....	167.3	171.1	173.0	172.9	172.6	146.0	172.3	172.4
<b>Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index (1)</b>								
	110.3	111.0	112.3	112.3	112.6	96.7	107.8	112.0

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

(1) Yield indexes based on Wednesday of each week.

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

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