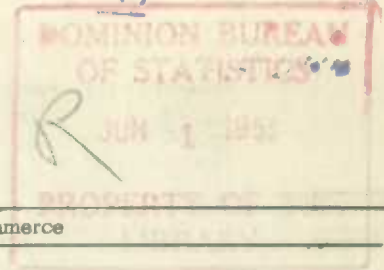




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PRICE MOVEMENTS, MAY 1951, (PRELIMINARY) *

COST OF LIVING INDEX:- The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living (1935-1939 = 100) index increased slightly from 181.8 to 182.0 between April 2nd and May 1st. This advance of 0.2 points or 0.1 percent was principally due to increases in clothing, homefurnishings and miscellaneous items, which were largely off-set by a decline in the food index. This index moved from 238.4 to 235.4 as a sharp drop in the price of butter was only partially counterbalanced by scattered increases in other foods, the most important of which were eggs and beef. Decreases were also registered by pork, oranges and cabbage.

The index of clothing prices advanced from 198.8 to 201.5 following increases in men's clothing and footwear. Increases were general in the homefurnishings and services group and the index advanced 4.2 points to 194.9. Within this group, furnishings, floor coverings and electrical equipment showed the most important changes. The fuel and light index declined 0.5 points to 146.2. Seasonal decreases in anthracite coal in eastern Canada were partially balanced by higher electricity rates in British Columbia. An increase in the miscellaneous index of 1.9 points to 140.7 was largely due to higher prices for tires, cigarettes and tobacco. Rents were not surveyed during April and the index remained unchanged at 137.6.

From August 1939 to May 1951, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 80.6 percent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings and Services	Miscellaneous
May 1, 1951	182.0	235.4	137.6	146.2	201.5	194.9	140.7
April 2, 1951	181.8	238.4	137.6	146.7	198.8	190.7	138.8
May 1, 1950	164.0	204.6	132.7	137.5	180.8	166.4	132.3

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

Industrial material prices receded further in May and the composite weekly index moved down from 304.5 for the week of April 27 to 302.6 for May 25. Among commodities recording decreases were: raw rubber, raw wool, tin, western oats, linseed oil, cottonseed oil, beef hides and imported United States bituminous coal. Higher prices were registered for: steel scrap, raw sugar, hogs, lead and zinc ingots. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets rose moderately during May, the composite index closing at 257.7 for the week of the 25th compared with 254.4 for the week of April 27th. Higher prices for Animal products, notably livestock, butterfat and eggs advanced the index for this series from 327.3 to 338.9. Field products receded from 181.5 to 176.4, due largely to lower prices for potatoes and grains.

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (1935-1939 = 100)

	Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18	May 25	(p) May 1951	April 1951	May 1950
Industrial Materials	304.5	303.2	303.2	303.8	302.6	303.2	305.4	230.2
Canadian Farm Products	254.4	256.3	257.1	256.5	257.7	256.9	256.6	234.1

(p) Preliminary

SECURITY INDEXES
(1935-1939 = 100)

Common stocks rose to new high levels in the opening week of May, but prices reacted sharply as the month progressed and final indexes were mainly at low points for the past four months. After touching a peak of 168.9 for May 3rd, the Investors' composite index declined to 156.5 by the 23rd for a loss of 5.9 p.c. since April 26th. In the same interval the index for 82 industrials receded from 170.1 to 160.1, while that for 15 utilities dropped from 159.4 to 149.0 and 8 banks from 144.9 to 137.7. Mining stocks were weak also, with both golds and base metal issues sharing in the recession. Between April 26 and May 23 the composite index for 30 representative issues declined from 95.8 to 88.3. Base metals moved down from 164.6 to 149.0, while golds closed at 61.8 against 65.8 a month earlier.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	Week Ended 1951					Monthly Average		
	Apr. 26th	May 3rd	May 10th	May 17th	May 23rd	(1) May 1951	Apr. 1951	May 1950
<u>INVESTORS' PRICE INDEX</u>								
(105 Common Stocks).....	166.4	168.9	167.5	163.9	156.5	164.2	165.6	128.7
82 Industrials.....	170.1	172.8	171.6	167.9	160.1	168.1	169.1	124.2
15 Utilities.....	159.4	162.6	159.2	155.2	149.0	156.5	159.7	131.2
8 Banks.....	144.9	143.4	145.5	143.7	137.7	142.6	144.1	146.1
<u>MINING STOCK PRICE INDEX</u>								
(30 Stocks).....	95.8	95.8	93.4	92.6	88.3	92.5	96.7	92.3
25 Golds.....	65.8	65.1	63.2	64.1	61.8	63.6	66.8	73.6
5 Base Metals.....	164.6	166.0	162.4	157.9	149.0	158.8	165.3	129.2
<u>GOVERNMENT OF CANADA LONG-TERM BONDS - YIELD INDEX</u>								
	105.1	104.8	104.8	104.8	105.1	104.9	104.6	90.2

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

(1) Preliminary

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

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