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PRICE MOVEMENTS, JANUARY 1952 (PRELIMINARY)*

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index (1935-1939 = 100) increased 0.2 percent from 191.1 to 191.5 between December 1, 1951 and January 2, 1952. Changes in each of the six main group indexes were slight, with four increasing, one decreasing and one unchanged.

Foods moved from 249.3 to 250.0, as increases in meats, vegetables and dairy products overbalanced decreases in eggs and fats. The fuel and light index advanced from 150.8 to 151.2 in response to higher coal prices in a number of cities. In the clothing group a decrease in women's wear outweighed small increases in men's work boots and wool piece goods. Similarly, small and scattered increases throughout the homefurnishings and services group were sufficient to raise this index from 200.6 to 201.1. The miscellaneous series advanced from 144.9 to 145.7 following advances concentrated for the most part in the health index. Rents were not surveyed during January and the index remained at 144.8.

From August 1939 to January 1952, the increase in the cost-of-living index was 90.0 percent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
January 2, 1952	191.5	250.0	144.8	151.2	215.3	201.1	145.7
December 1, 1951	191.1	249.3	144.8	150.8	215.5	200.6	144.9
January 2, 1951	172.5	220.2	136.4	141.5	187.1	179.8	135.8

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

The index for 30 industrial material prices at wholesale registered further weakness in January.

Between December 28th and January 26th the composite index receded from 284.2 to 279.3 due to decreases for wood-pulp, wheat, oats, steers, hogs, raw rubber, beef hides, raw cotton, raw wool and copper. Tin ingots moved up in the same interval. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets dropped sharply in January also. The composite index closed at 254.5 for January 26th as against 262.1 for December 28th. Substantial weakness in animal product prices, notably livestock and eggs, was responsible and an index for this series declined from 330.7 to 314.3. In the same interval the index for field products stiffened from 193.4 to 194.6 due to strength in potato prices and eastern grains.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 =100)

	1952 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Dec. 28th	Jan. 4th	Jan. 11th	Jan. 18th	Jan. 26th	Jan. 1951	Dec. 1951	Jan. (P) 1952
Industrial Materials	284.2	283.8	284.0	281.5	279.3	294.0	284.6	282.2
Canadian Farm Products	262.1	263.8	262.1	255.5	254.5	251.0	260.2	259.0

(P) Preliminary

SECURITY INDEXES: (1935-1939 = 100) Common stock prices generally recorded continued strength during the first four weeks of January but eased slightly in the closing week. From a level of 177.1 for the week of December 27th the composite index for 105 representative common stocks rose to 185.1 for the week of January 24th, but receded to 183.3 by the 31st. The index for 82 industrials moved up from 180.3 for December 27th to 189.4 for January 31st, while the utilities total index declined from 176.8 to 173.1. The bank series remained unchanged at 144.9. Mining stocks were firmer despite a decline in gold shares. The composite index for 30 representative issues closed the month at 104.7 as against 103.6 for December 27th. The index for 5 base metal issues advanced from 172.6 to 181.7 during the period under review, while that for 25 golds reacted from 73.5 to 71.1.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	1952 Week Ended						Monthly Average		
	Dec. 27th 1951	Jan. 3rd	Jan. 10th	Jan. 17th	Jan. 24th	Jan. 31st	Jan. 1951	Dec. 1951	Jan. 1952
Investors' Price Index									
105 Common Stocks.....	177.1	179.2	178.4	182.4	185.1	183.3	153.8	177.3	181.7
82 Industrials.....	180.3	183.0	182.3	187.8	190.9	189.4	154.8	180.6	186.7
15 Utilities.....	176.8	176.0	174.2	174.6	177.0	173.1	148.6	177.0	175.0
8 Banks.....	144.9	148.6	148.2	145.9	145.0	144.9	155.6	144.2	146.5
Mining Stock Price Index									
30 Stocks	103.6	104.3	104.2	102.9	104.8	104.7	97.6	103.4	104.2
25 Golds.....	73.5	73.0	72.3	71.6	72.2	71.1	68.8	73.2	72.0
5 Base Metals	172.6	175.8	177.3	174.6	179.3	181.7	163.5	172.4	177.7
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index (1)	112.6	112.9	113.9	113.9	113.6	112.6	113.4	112.0	113.4

* 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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