

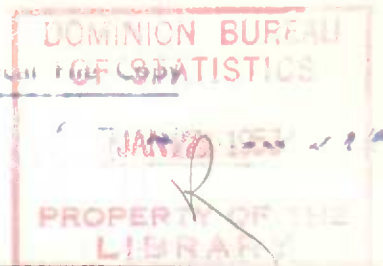


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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, DECEMBER 1952

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949 = 100) The Dominion Bureau of Statistics' Consumer Price Index decreased 0.26 per cent from 116.1 to 115.8 between November 1 and December 1. The latest decline came at the end of a six month period during which the index remained almost unchanged, and marked the lowest point reached by the index during 1952. Between November 1 and December 1 foods were the only group to register a substantial change. The food index decreased from 115.7 to 114.1 following a larger than seasonal drop in the price of eggs, and slightly lower prices for canned fruits and vegetables, grapefruit, potatoes and pork. Somewhat higher prices were quoted for other fresh fruits and vegetables, cheese, butter, and some cuts of beef. These price changes were in combination with seasonally lower consumption of bananas, fresh tomatoes and pre-cooked meats, and higher seasonal consumption of fats, canned pears, and lamb. The clothing index declined fractionally from 109.8 to 109.7 as slight decreases in men's and children's wear were partially offset by a small advance in the footwear index. Within the household operation group lower prices for household textiles, supplies and services were overbalanced by increases in the price of anthracite coal and the group index increased from 115.9 to 116.1. The index of other commodities and services remained unchanged at 116.6. The shelter index advanced from 121.4 to 122.2 under the influence of a 0.9 per cent increase in the rent component and a 0.3 per cent advance in the home-ownership series.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
December 1, 1952	115.8	114.1	122.2	109.7	116.1	116.6
November 1, 1952	116.1	115.7	121.4	109.8	115.9	116.6
December 1, 1951	118.1	122.5	118.2	115.2	116.4	115.0

THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX
(1935-1939 = 100)

Between November 1 and December 1 the Cost-of-Living Index decreased 0.32 per cent from 184.8 to 184.2.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
December 1, 1952	184.2	226.1	149.9	152.7	205.4	195.3	148.8
November 1, 1952	184.8	229.0	148.9	151.1	205.5	195.5	148.8
December 1, 1951	191.1	249.3	144.8	150.8	215.5	200.6	144.9

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

Industrial material prices at wholesale moved within narrow limits in December. The composite index for 30 price series moved between 242.3 for December 5th and 240.4 for the 19th to close at 241.6 for the 26th, as compared with the same figure for November 28th. Among commodity price series registering increases were: raw rubber, cottonseed oil, lead, white lead, imported bituminous coal and steers. Decreases were noted for the following: iron ore, export bleached wood pulp, beef hides, sisal, zinc, raw cotton, wheat and oats. In certain commodities decreases still continue to reflect the declining strength in the Canadian dollar. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets were slightly firmer in December and the composite index advanced from 222.1 to 224.0 between November 28th and December 26th. Strength was concentrated in animal products and the index for this series moved from 266.1 to 272.4 between November 28th and December 26th. Higher prices were noted for steers, lambs, calves and eastern butterfat, while eggs were seasonally lower. In the field product section lower prices for certain grains, notably flax and rye, potatoes and raw leaf tobacco outweighed an advance in hay to lower the group index from 178.0 to 175.6.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 =100)

	1952 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Nov. 28th	Dec. 5th	Dec. 12th	Dec. 19th	Dec. 26th	Dec. 1951	Nov. 1952	Dec. 1952 (P)
Industrial Materials	241.6	242.3	240.9	240.4	241.6	284.6	241.2	241.3
Canadian Farm Products	222.1	223.2	221.3	222.1	224.0	275.0 ^(r)	222.9	222.6

(P) Preliminary

(r) Revised to incorporate final payments for western wheat, oats and barley.

SECURITY INDEXES: Common stock prices continued to stiffen in December following (1935-1939 = 100) a trend established in the final quarter of 1952. Between November 27th and December 31st the composite index for 105 representative issues moved from 169.3 to 171.9. Year-end levels were, however, considerably below those of a year ago - the December 1951 average being 177.3 as against 168.4 for December 1952. Although the market continued to be selective all major groups moved up in December. The index for 82 industrials increased from 171.8 to 174.2 while that for 15 utilities advanced from 166.1 to 168.0 and 8 banks from 151.9 to 157.8. Mining stock prices were also firmer in December, the composite index for 30 representative issues moving from 102.0 to 106.0 between November 27th and December 31st. Both golds and base metals advanced, the former series increasing from 72.2 to 74.6 and the latter from 170.2 to 177.8.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	1952 Week Ended						Monthly Average		
	Nov.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.
	27th	4th	11th	18th	24th	31st	1951	1952	1952
Investors' Price Index									
105 Common Stocks.....	169.3	166.7	166.5	167.0	169.9	171.9	177.3	167.3	168.4
82 Industrials.....	171.8	168.3	167.7	168.1	171.3	174.2	180.6	169.2	169.9
15 Utilities.....	166.1	165.7	166.2	167.3	169.8	168.0	177.0	165.1	167.4
8 Banks.....	151.9	153.1	155.3	155.4	155.6	157.8	144.2	152.9	155.4
Mining Stock Price Index									
30 Stocks	102.0	102.8	103.0	102.0	103.2	106.0	103.4	100.8	103.4
25 Golds.....	72.2	73.8	72.8	72.0	72.8	74.6	73.2	71.1	73.2
5 Base Metals	170.2	169.2	172.3	170.7	172.7	177.8	172.4	168.8	172.5
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index(1)....	117.8	117.8	118.1	118.1	118.1	118.1	112.0	117.8	118.0

(1) Yield Indexes based on rates as of Wednesday of each week

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

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