



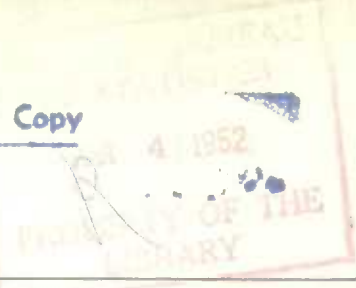
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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

OTTAWA

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, FEBRUARY 1952 (PRELIMINARY)*

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index (1935-1939 = 100) moved down 0.4 percent from 191.5 to 190.8 between January 2nd and February 1st, with lower prices for foods, clothing and homefurnishings accounting for the decrease. The food index moved from 250.0 to 248.1 as further decreases in eggs, beef, pork, lard and shortening overbalanced increases in butter, cheese, and fresh fruits and vegetables. The clothing index decreased from 215.3 to 213.0 reflecting lower quotations for items of men's woollen apparel and women's nylon hosiery. The homefurnishings and services group receded from 201.1 to 200.1 as decreases in furniture, wool blankets and soap outweighed increases in laundry and telephone rates. Higher prices for electricity and coke in some centres advanced the fuel and light series from 151.2 to 151.3. The miscellaneous index increased from 145.7 to 146.5, largely due to advances in health costs and barbers' fees. Rents were not surveyed during February and the index remained unchanged at 144.8.

From August 1939 to February 1952 the increase in the total index was 89.3 percent.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
February 1, 1952	190.8	248.1	144.8	151.3	213.0	200.1	146.5
January 2, 1952	191.5	250.0	144.8	151.2	215.3	201.1	145.7
February 1, 1951	175.2	224.4	136.4	141.7	192.4	185.1	137.0

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

The index for 30 industrial material prices at wholesale registered continued weakness in February, declining from 279.3 for the week of January 25th to 269.6 for the week of February 22nd. Lower prices for a number of items, mainly steers, hogs, oats, raw rubber, raw cotton, raw wool, beef hides, white lead, zinc and copper were responsible. When compared with the February 1951 level the index has shown a drop of 33.8 points or 11.4 per cent. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets moved sharply lower also. A weaker price tone was evident for both animal and field products. Animal product prices declined from 314.3 to 290.9 between January 25th and February 22nd due to weakness in livestock, raw wool, and eastern eggs. A decline in eastern field products, notably barley and potatoes lowered the composite field products index 3.4 points to 203.2. The total index for Canadian farm products moved down from 260.5 to 247.0 in the period under review.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1952 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 25th	Feb. 1st.	Feb. 8th	Feb. 15th	Feb. 22nd	Feb. 1951	Jan. 1952	Feb. (P) 1952
Industrial Materials	279.3	279.8	278.2	271.8	269.6	303.4	281.4	274.8
Canadian Farm Products	260.5	261.9	258.4	248.1	247.0	262.5	262.5	253.8

(P) Preliminary

SECURITY INDEXES: (1935-1939 = 100) Common stock prices were noticeably weaker in February, the composite index for 105 representative issues declining from 183.3 for January 31st to 176.8 for February 28th. In the same interval the index for 82 industrials moved down from 189.4 to 182.0 while that for 15 utilities declined from 173.1 to 168.8 and 8 banks from 144.9 to 143.0. Mining stock prices were easier also, and the composite index for 30 representative issues closed the month at 101.2 as against 104.7 for the week of January 31st. Weakness in base metals was mainly responsible, an index for this series dropping from 181.7 to 171.1. The index for 25 golds moved from 71.1 to 70.6 during the same period.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939=100

	1952 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 31st	Feb. 7th	Feb. 14th	Feb. 21st	Feb. 28th	Feb. 1951	Jan. 1952	Feb. 1952
Investors' Price Index								
105 Common Stocks	183.3	184.2	181.1	175.8	176.8	166.5	181.7	179.5
82 Industrials	189.4	190.7	187.3	181.0	182.0	168.0	186.7	185.2
15 Utilities	173.1	172.5	169.8	166.9	168.8	163.2	175.0	169.5
8 Banks	144.9	144.9	144.4	143.1	143.0	158.5	146.5	143.8
Mining Stock Price Index								
30 Stocks	104.7	104.5	103.3	101.3	101.2	104.7	104.2	102.6
25 Golds	71.1	71.2	71.7	71.1	70.6	74.3	72.0	71.2
5 Base Metals	181.7	180.9	175.8	170.6	171.1	174.5	177.7	174.6
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index (1)	112.6	113.2	113.6	114.5	114.2	97.7	113.4	113.9

* 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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