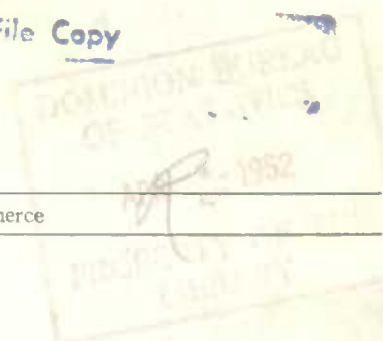




Historical File Copy

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
Labour and Prices Division  
OTTAWA



Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

For release 3 p.m., April 4, 1952.  
Price \$1.00 annually; 10 cents each

PRICE MOVEMENTS, MARCH 1952 (PRELIMINARY)\*

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

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index registered a further decrease of 0.9 per cent or 1.7 points, from 190.8 to 189.1 between February 1st and March 1st. This marked the third decline in the last four months and placed the index at its lowest level since September 1951. A sharp drop in the food index from 248.1 to 241.7 was mainly responsible for the latest decrease. Meats were substantially lower with beef cuts averaging down more than 5 cents per pound, fresh pork 3 cents, and bacon nearly 5 cents. Eggs showed a further seasonal decrease while cabbage and orange prices were also slightly lower. Among other foods a few slight increases were recorded. The clothing index declined from 213.0 to 211.2 due mainly to lower prices for both men's and women's top coats and men's suits. An increase from 200.1 to 200.8 for homefurnishings and services reflected slightly higher prices for items of furniture, floor coverings, dishes and hardware, along with an increase in telephone rates in Eastern Canada. Decreases were recorded for textile furnishings and cleaning supplies. The fuel and light index rose from 151.3 to 152.5 following increases in domestic bituminous coal. In the miscellaneous index, small advances in items of health, personal care and recreation overbalanced slight decreases in automobile tires and soap, and the index for this series increased from 146.5 to 146.9. The rent index advanced from 144.8 to 146.3 as rents were surveyed for the first time since November last.

From August 1939 to March 1952, the percentage increase in the total index was 87.6.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
March 1, 1952	189.1	241.7	146.3	152.5	211.2	200.8	146.9
February 1, 1952	190.8	248.1	144.8	151.3	213.0	200.1	146.5
March 1, 1951	179.7	233.9	137.6	146.5	196.3	188.6	137.8

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

The composite index for 30 industrial material prices continued to decline during March and weakened from 268.6 at February 29th to 264.2 at March 28th. Lower prices were noted for steers, wheat, raw rubber, beef hides, sisal, raw wool, crude oil, zinc, lead and copper. These outweighed moderate advances in raw cotton and western oats. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets were slightly firmer in March and the composite index moved up from 245.5 to 246.5 between February 29th and March 28th. The advance reflected strength in field products which moved from 205.5 to 216.6 due almost entirely to increases in eastern potato prices. Animal products declined from 285.5 to 276.3 reflecting lower prices for steers; calves, eggs and raw wool.

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

	1952 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb. 29th	Mar. 7th	Mar. 14th	Mar. 21st	Mar. 28th	Mar. 1951	Feb. 1952	Mar. (P) 1952
Industrial Materials .....	268.6	268.0	267.4	265.0	264.2	305.3	270.7	266.2
Canadian Farm Products .....	245.5	249.3	247.2	247.5	246.5	273.0	251.2	247.6

(P) Preliminary

**SECURITY INDEXES:**  
(1935-1939 = 100)

Industrial, utility and bank common stocks registered a moderately firmer tone in the first three weeks of March but reacted sharply in the final week to more than cancel accumulated gains for the month. From a level of 176.8 for the week of February 28th the composite index for 105 common stocks advanced to 178.2 for the week of March 20th but dropped to 175.3 by the 27th. The major groups all moved lower, the index for 82 industrials declining from 182.0 to 180.1 while that for 15 utilities moved down from 168.8 to 168.6 and 8 banks from 143.0 to 142.5. In the mining stocks strength in gold shares was sufficient to support a narrow increase in the composite index from 101.2 to 101.8 between February 28th and March 27th. The index for 25 golds advanced from 70.6 to 74.1 in the same interval. Base metals were easier, an index for this series reacting from 171.1 to 165.2 with most of the decline occurring in the final week.

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

	1952 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.
	28th	6th	13th	20th	27th	1951	1952	1952
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
105 Common Stocks .....	176.8	178.1	178.7	178.2	175.3	162.9	179.5	177.6
82 Industrials .....	182.0	183.1	183.9	183.2	180.1	165.0	185.2	182.6
15 Utilities .....	168.8	170.9	170.9	171.2	168.6	158.9	169.5	170.4
8 Banks .....	143.0	143.5	144.0	144.2	142.5	150.0	143.8	143.6
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
30 Stocks .....	101.2	103.5	102.8	102.6	101.8	100.3	102.6	102.7
25 Golds .....	70.6	73.6	73.0	73.1	74.1	71.2	71.2	73.4
5 Base Metals .....	171.1	172.0	171.0	170.0	165.2	166.7	174.6	169.6
<b>Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index (1)</b>								
	114.2	114.5	114.9	115.5	115.5	104.6	113.9	115.1

\* 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.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY  
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010711724