



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

OTTAWA

Historical File Copy

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

For release 3 p.m., May 5, 1952
 Price \$1.00 annually; 10 cents each

PRICE MOVEMENTS, APRIL 1952 (PRELIMINARY)*

COST-OF-LIVING INDEX (1935-1939 = 100) The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined 0.4 points or 0.2 per cent between March 1 and April 1. This latest decrease from 189.1 to 188.7 marked the third consecutive decline from the January 1952 peak of 191.5. Lower food prices were again the main contributor but clothing and homefurnishings also accounted for part of the decrease. The food index moved from 241.7 to 240.2 as decreases were registered for practically all foods except fresh pork, oranges and vegetables. The largest drop was shown by beef which decreased over three cents per pound, while potatoes recorded a much larger than seasonal increase of nearly one cent per pound. The index of clothing prices declined from 211.2 to 210.4 following decreases in items of both men's and women's woollen apparel. The homefurnishings and services series declined only fractionally from 200.8 to 200.5 in response to scattered price changes. An increase in the miscellaneous index from 146.9 to 147.9 mainly reflected higher sub-indexes for automobile repairs and maintenance, street car fares and newspaper rates. Fuel and lighting costs remained steady at an index level of 152.5, while rents were not surveyed during April and the index remained unchanged at 146.3.

From August 1939 to April 1952 the percentage increase in the total index was 87.2.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
April 1, 1952	188.7	240.2	146.3	152.5	210.4	200.5	147.9
March 1, 1952	189.1	241.7	146.3	152.5	211.2	200.8	146.9
April 2, 1951	181.8	238.4	137.6	146.7	198.8	190.7	138.8

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY) (1935-1939 = 100) The composite index for 30 industrial material prices continued to decline during April, dropping from 264.2 at March 28 to 257.6 at April 25. Price increases for sisal and steel sheets were outweighed by price decreases for many other items including raw cotton, raw wool, non-ferrous metals, hides, vegetable oils, steers and oats. The composite index of Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets stood at 241.8 on April 25, down 4.7 points from March 28 and 6.7 points from April 4. The field products index increased slightly from 216.6 to 219.3, due mostly to higher prices for potatoes. A 12.0 point decrease in the animal products index from 276.3 to 264.3 was caused by lower prices for steers, calves, raw wool, poultry, western lambs and eastern fluid milk.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 =100)

	1952 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Mar. 28th	Apr. 4th	Apr. 11th	Apr. 18th	Apr. 25th	Apr. 1951	Mar. 1952	Apr.(P) 1952
Industrial Materials	264.2	264.0	264.2	258.6	257.6	307.0	265.1	261.1
Canadian Farm Products	246.5	248.5	247.6	244.2	241.8	265.4	248.3	245.5

(P) Preliminary

SECURITY INDEXES: (1935-1939 = 100) The average level of common stock prices dropped sharply in April to cancel all gains accumulated since August 1951. The composite index for 105 stocks moved down from 175.3 for the week of March 27 to 169.4 for the week of April 24. In the same interval the group index for 82 industrials declined from 180.1 to 173.1 while that for 15 utilities receded from 168.6 to 166.3 and 8 banks from 142.5 to 138.5. Mining stock prices averaged lower also, the composite index for 30 representative issues closing at 100.4 for the week of April 24 as against 101.8 for March 27. Sub-group changes were mixed with the index for 5 base metals dropping from 165.2 to 157.8 between March 27 and April 24 while golds stiffened from 74.1 to 75.4 in the same period.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939=100

	1952 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Mar. 27th	Apr. 3rd	Apr. 10th	Apr. 17th	Apr. 24th	Apr. 1951	Mar. 1952	Apr. 1952
Investors' Price Index								
105 Common Stocks	175.3	181.9	179.1	172.6	169.4	165.6	177.6	175.8
82 Industrials	180.1	187.3	184.5	177.1	173.1	169.1	182.6	180.5
15 Utilities	168.6	175.4	172.3	167.5	166.3	159.7	170.4	170.4
8 Banks	142.5	142.2	140.4	139.4	138.5	144.1	143.6	140.1
Mining Stock Price Index								
30 Stocks	101.8	103.9	104.7	102.3	100.4	96.7	102.7	102.8
25 Golds	74.1	76.6	78.7	77.1	75.4	66.8	73.4	77.0
5 Base Metals	165.2	166.5	164.2	159.9	157.8	165.3	169.6	162.1
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index (1)								
	115.5	115.5	115.5	115.2	115.2	104.9	115.1	115.4

* 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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