



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, MAY 1952 (PRELIMINARY)*

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

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index declined 2.0 points or 1.1 per cent between April 1 and May 1 to reach 186.7. This placed the index below the level of July 1951, and marked the largest monthly percentage decline since January 1943. Lower food prices were again largely responsible for the change, and the drop in this series from 240.2 to 235.3 accounted for three-fourths of the decline in the total index. Among food items showing large declines were: butter, beef, bacon, veal, lard, shortening, and oranges. Fresh vegetables as a group were higher, led by a further substantial advance in potatoes. The homefurnishings and services index changed from 200.5 to 198.2; materially lower prices within the electrical goods group coupled with smaller decreases for furnishings and cleaning supplies were more important than increases in telephone rates in British Columbia and the Maritimes. Small decreases in footwear and men's wear lowered the clothing index fractionally from 210.4 to 210.1. The miscellaneous items series receded from 147.9 to 147.4 following a reduction in tobacco products, automobile tires, soap, magazines, and gasoline, which overbalanced higher quotations for theatre admissions, barbers' fees, and street car fares. A decrease in the fuel and light index from 152.5 to 150.6 was due to seasonal recessions in coal and coke which outweighed an advance in domestic gas rates. Rents were not surveyed in May, the index remaining at 146.3.

From August 1939 to May 1952 the percentage increase in the total index was 85.2.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
May 1, 1952	186.7	235.3	146.3	150.6	210.1	198.2	147.4
April 1, 1952	188.7	240.2	146.3	152.5	210.4	200.5	147.9
May 1, 1951	182.0	235.4	137.6	146.2	201.5	194.9	140.7

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

The index for 30 industrial material prices at wholesale declined from 257.6 to 249.9 between April 25th and May 23rd. Compared with May 1951 the index has registered a drop of 18.4 per cent. Scattered decreases occurred for numerous items in May including, among others, lead, raw rubber, raw cotton, United States bituminous coal, western oats, raw sugar and white lead. These outweighed small advances in western wheat, steers, beef hides, and raw wool. The composite index for Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets advanced from 241.8 to 247.7 between April 25th and May 23rd. Higher prices were noted for both field and animal products, and an index for the former series moved from 219.3 to 225.3 while that for the latter strengthened from 264.3 to 270.1. Among commodity changes potatoes moved up substantially while livestock and raw wool prices were generally firmer. Eggs were higher in Western Canada but lower in the East.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 =100)

	1952 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Apr. 25th	May 2nd	May 9th	May 16th	May 23rd	May 1951	Apr. 1952	May (P) 1952
Industrial Materials	257.6	252.5	250.7	249.9	249.9	306.1	258.4	250.8
Canadian Farm Products	241.8	243.4	241.9	242.5	247.7	265.3	245.4	243.9

(P) Preliminary

SECURITY INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

Following a sharp drop in the first week of May common stock prices recovered in the second week to hold within a relatively narrow range for the remainder of the month. The composite index for 105 industrial, utility and bank shares fell from 169.4 for the week of April 24th to 164.9 for May 1st but recovered to close at 168.7 for May 29th. The group index for 82 industrials registered a decrease of 1.0 points to 172.1 between April 24th and May 29th while 15 utilities declined the same amount to 165.3. The index for 8 banks advanced from 138.5 to 142.6. Mining stock prices moved within narrow limits in May, the composite index for 30 representative issues closing at 101.1 for the 29th against 100.4 for April 24th. Both base metals and golds were firmer, the index for the former advancing from 157.8 to 159.7 while that for the latter stiffened from 75.4 to 75.5.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1835 - 1839 = 100

	1952 Week Ended						Monthly Average		
	Apr. 24th	May 1st	May 8th	May 15th	May 22nd	May 29th	May 1951	Apr. 1952	May 1952
Investors' Price Index									
105 Common Stocks.....	169.4	164.9	171.5	169.6	170.2	168.7	164.2	175.8	169.0
82 Industrials.....	173.1	167.7	175.2	173.3	173.6	172.1	168.3	180.5	172.4
15 Utilities.....	166.3	164.2	168.8	165.3	167.3	165.3	156.0	170.4	166.2
8 Banks.....	138.5	137.9	140.6	142.4	142.6	142.6	141.7	140.1	141.2
Mining Stock Price Index									
30 Stocks	100.4	99.6	102.1	101.5	102.8	101.1	92.5	102.8	101.4
25 Golds.....	75.4	73.4	74.6	74.7	77.4	75.5	63.7	77.0	75.1
5 Base Metals	157.8	159.5	165.2	162.8	160.9	159.7	158.6	162.1	161.6
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index(1).....	115.2	114.9	114.2	112.6	111.9	111.9	104.9	115.4	113.1

* Indexes published in this bulletin do not yet include data covering Newfoundland.

(1) Yield Indexes Based on Rates as of 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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