



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, JANUARY 1953

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics' Consumer Price Index (1949 = 100) remained practically unchanged at 115.7 for January 2, 1953 as compared to 115.8 at December 1, 1952. The latest index compares with a level of 118.2 for January of a year ago. Price movements were confined within narrow limits between December and January, with the food index registering the largest group change of less than one half of one per cent. The index for this series declined from 114.1 to 113.5 as lower prices for eggs and oranges, combined with numerous slight decreases in other items, overweighed increases concentrated in fresh vegetables and beef. Clothing remained unchanged at an index level of 109.7. In the household operations series advances for coal, electricity, and telephone rates in some centres, as well as higher quotations for a few items of homefurnishings, moved the index from 116.1 to 116.5. The index of other commodities and services advanced from 116.6 to 116.7, due mainly to an increase in the index of recreation. The shelter index moved from 122.2 to 122.3 following the inclusion of results of a December rent survey.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
January 2, 1953	115.7	113.5	122.3	109.7	116.5	116.7
December 1, 1952	115.8	114.1	122.2	109.7	116.1	116.6
January 2, 1952	118.2	122.4	118.3	114.9	116.4	115.5

THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: The Cost-of-Living Index stood at 184.4 for January 2, 1953, as against 184.2 for December 1, 1952. (1935-1939 = 100)

COST-OF-LIVING INDEXES (1935-39 = 100)

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
January 2, 1953	184.4	226.2	150.2	153.9	205.3	196.0	148.9
December 1, 1952	184.2	226.1	149.9	152.7	205.4	195.3	148.8
January 2, 1952	191.5	250.0	144.8	151.2	215.3	201.1	145.7

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

Industrial Material prices at wholesale declined moderately in January. Between December 26th and

January 23rd the composite index for 30 price series receded from 241.6 to 239.7 due to reductions in widely scattered items. Among commodities registering decreases were the following: steers, hogs, wheat, oats, beef hides, raw cotton, unbleached pulp, raw rubber, sisal, lead and tin. Two commodities, cottonseed oil and domestic raw wool, were firmer in January. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets also moved down in January, the composite index declining from 224.0 to 219.6 between December 26th and January 23rd. Both field and animal product group indexes moved lower, the former series declining from 175.6 to 173.2 due to weaker quotations for potatoes and certain western grains, notably rye and flaxseed and eastern corn, oats and wheat. A decrease in the animal products index from 272.4 to 266.1 reflected lower quotations for steers, western hogs and eggs which outweighed a slightly stronger price level for eastern hogs, calves, lambs, butterfat, domestic raw wool and fowl.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1953					Monthly Average		
	1952	Week Ended						
	Dec. 26th	Jan. 2nd.	Jan. 9th	Jan. 16th	Jan. 23rd	Jan. 1952	Dec. 1952	Jan. 1953(P)
Industrial Materials.....	241.6	241.3	240.2	240.3	239.7	281.4	241.2	240.4
Canadian Farm Products	224.0	223.1	221.5	221.5	219.6	271.5 ^(r)	222.3	221.4
Field	175.6	175.8	175.5	173.8	173.2	224.8 ^(r)	176.4	174.6
Animal	272.4	270.5	267.5	269.2	266.1	318.2	268.3	268.3

(P) Preliminary

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

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

Common stock prices, with the exception of banks, remained relatively steady during January. The composite index for

104 common stocks moved up from 171.9 for the week of December 31st to 173.5 for the week of January 8th but subsequently declined to close at 171.8 for the week of the 29th for a net loss of 0.1 points. The index for 81 industrial stocks declined from 174.2 to 173.9 between December 31 and January 29 while that for 15 utilities receded from 168.0 to 166.7. Banks were firmer, the index for 8 issues stiffening from 157.8 to 162.6. Mining stocks were slightly weaker in January due to lower quotations for gold stocks. The composite index for 27 issues declined from a level of 106.0 for December 31st to 104.9 for January 29th with all of the loss occurring in the final week of the month. The index for 22 gold stocks moved down from 74.6 to 72.5 between December 31st and January 29th while the index for 5 base metals advanced from 177.8 to 179.1 in the same interval.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939=100

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Dec. 31st 1952	Jan. 8th	Jan. 15th	Jan. 22nd	Jan. 29th	Jan. 1952	Dec. 1952	Jan. 1953
Investors' Price Index								
104 Common Stocks	171.9	173.5	171.9	171.9	171.8	181.7	168.4	172.3
81 Industrials	174.2	175.4	174.2	173.6	173.9	186.7	169.9	174.3
15 Utilities	168.0	170.3	166.4	168.3	166.7	175.0	167.4	167.9
8 Banks	157.8	161.1	161.8	162.7	162.6	146.5	155.4	162.0
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	106.0	106.7	106.4	106.2	104.9	104.7	103.4	106.0
22 Golds	74.6	74.4	73.4	73.7	72.5	72.0	73.2	73.5
5 Base Metals	177.8	180.7	181.9	180.7	179.1	177.7	172.5	180.6
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index (1)								
	118.1	118.1	118.4	118.4	118.4	113.4	118.0	118.3

(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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