



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

OTTAWA

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, FEBRUARY 1953

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949 = 100) Between January 2, 1953 and February 2, 1953, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' Consumer Price Index registered a further fractional decrease from 115.7 to 115.5. Foods continued to account for most of the change, as the index for this series declined from 113.5 to 112.7. Among food items showing decreases were sugar, tea, eggs, oranges, potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce and celery. Margarine, and most meats, particularly fresh pork, were higher in price. Price changes in index items other than food were confined to narrow limits. The clothing index moved from 109.7 to 109.6, while the household operations group advanced from 116.5 to 116.6. No change was recorded by the index of other commodities and services which remained at 116.7. An increase in the rent index of 0.2 per cent from 123.5 to 123.8, advanced the shelter component from 122.3 to 122.5.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (1949 = 100)

Table with 7 columns: Total Index, Food, Shelter, Clothing, Household Operation, Other Commodities and Services. Rows for February 2, 1953; January 2, 1953; February 1, 1952.

THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: (1935-1939 = 100) The Cost-of-Living Index for February 2, 1953 was 184.9, as compared to 184.4 at January 2, 1953.

As was announced on February 26th, the Cost-of-Living Index will be published through September 1953.

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

Table with 8 columns: Combined Index, Food, Rent, Fuel and Light, Clothing, Home Furnishings & Services, Miscellaneous. Rows for February 2, 1953; January 2, 1953; February 1, 1952.

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

Industrial material prices at wholesale changed narrowly in February as indicated by the composite index for 30 commodities which declined from 238.7 for the week of January 30th to 238.4 for the week of February 20th. Price decreases, which were scattered, included fir timber, white lead, raw rubber, lead, zinc, oats and steers. These outweighed firmer quotations for beef hides, raw cotton, tin ingots, wheat and hogs. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets moved down again in February. The composite index stood at 215.6 on February 20th as against 217.0 on January 30th. The decrease was due to field products which receded from 171.8 to 168.3, as lower quotations occurred for eastern potatoes and eastern grains. Animal products advanced slightly, from 262.2 to 262.8, reflecting higher prices for hogs, eggs and fowl which outweighed a decline in steers.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939-100)

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 30th	Feb. 6th	Feb. 13th	Feb. 20th	Feb. 27th	Feb. 1952	Jan. 1953	Feb. 1953(P)
Industrial Materials	238.7	238.5	238.7	238.4	Not	270.7	240.2	238.5
Canadian Farm Products	217.0	216.2	216.0	215.6	avail-	259.6 ^(r)	219.9	215.9
Field	171.8	172.2	170.3	168.3	able	221.9 ^(r)	173.4	170.3
Animal	262.2	260.3	261.7	262.8		297.3	266.4	261.6

(P) Preliminary

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

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics Investors' index of common stock prices on Canadian exchanges weakened

slowly through the first three weeks of February but registered a moderate recovery in the final week. From a level of 171.8 for the week of January 29th the composite index for 103 common stocks declined to 167.2 by the week of February 19th, but thereafter moved back to 170.1 by the 26th, for a net loss over the month of 1.7 points. The group index for 81 industrials closed at 170.9 as against 168.1 for February 19th and 173.9 for January 29th. Utilities and banks, on the other hand, registered net gains, the index for the former closing at 168.5 as against 166.7 for January 29th, and that for the latter at 165.7 as compared with 162.6. Mining stocks presented a similar pattern to the investors' index, the composite index for 27 issues moving down from 104.9 for January 29th to 102.6 for February 12th but subsequently recovering to 103.5 by the 26th. Base metal stocks were responsible for the decrease, the index for this series declining from 179.1 to 173.8 between January 29th and February 26th. Golds were slightly firmer at 72.8 as compared with 72.5 on January 29th.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 29th	Feb. 5th	Feb. 12th	Feb. 19th	Feb. 26th	Feb. 1952	Jan. 1953	Feb. 1953
Investors' Price Index								
103 Common Stocks	171.8	170.0	168.5	167.2	170.1	179.5	172.3	169.0
81 Industrials	173.9	171.3	169.8	168.1	170.9	185.2	174.3	170.0
14 Utilities	166.7	165.9	164.7	164.9	168.5	169.5	167.9	166.0
8 Banks	162.6	166.2	164.4	163.0	165.7	143.8	162.0	164.8
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	104.9	104.3	102.6	102.6	103.5	102.6	106.0	103.2
22 Golds	72.5	72.3	71.5	72.2	72.8	71.2	73.5	72.2
5 Base Metals	179.1	177.5	173.7	172.3	173.8	174.6	180.6	174.3
Government of Canada Long-Term								
Bonds - Yield Index ¹	118.4	118.4	118.8	119.1	119.1	113.9	118.3	118.8

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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SUBJECT INDEX

For information on the use of this index, see the instructions on the inside cover.