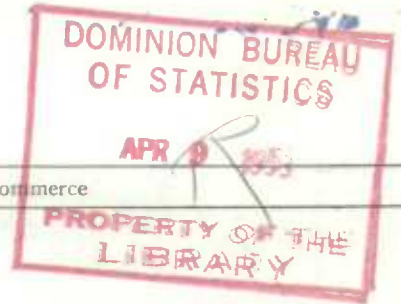


DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS,
Labour and Prices Division
OTTAWA



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

For release 10 a.m., April 4, 1953.
Price \$1.00 annually; 10 cents each.

PRICE MOVEMENTS, MARCH 1953

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949 = 100) The Dominion Bureau of Statistics' Consumer Price Index decreased 0.6 per cent from 115.5 at February 2nd to 114.8 at March 2nd, to reach the lowest level recorded since August 1951. The latest decline was almost entirely due to lower food prices, combined with a reduction in the price of cigarettes. The food index moved down 1.0 per cent from 112.7 to 111.6, to mark the lowest point recorded in two years. Among the various food items, decreases registered for tea, oranges, potatoes, and all cuts of beef and fresh pork, outweighed higher quotations for butter, eggs, tomatoes, ham, bacon and chicken. Within the clothing group fractional increases for several items overbalanced narrow declines, and the index advanced 0.1 per cent to 109.7. The household operations series also increased 0.1 per cent to reach 116.7, as a result of scattered slight increases. A decrease of nearly 15 per cent in the retail price of cigarettes accounted for most of the decline of 1.3 per cent, from 116.7 to 115.2, recorded by the series other commodities and services. The shelter index remained unchanged at 122.5 as an increase of 0.1 per cent in the rent component was offset by an equal decrease in the home-ownership sub-group.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
March 2, 1953	114.8	111.6	122.5	109.7	116.7	115.2
February 2, 1953	115.5	112.7	122.5	109.6	116.6	116.7
March 1, 1952	116.9	117.6	119.1	112.9	116.9	116.4

THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: (1935-1939 = 100) The Cost-of-Living Index for March 2, 1953 was 184.2, as compared to 184.9 at February 2, 1953.

COST OF LIVING INDEXES (1935-1939 = 100)

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
March 2, 1953	184.2	225.7	150.7	154.4	205.5	196.3	147.9
February 2, 1953	184.9	227.4	150.5	154.3	205.2	196.1	149.0
March 1, 1952	189.1	241.7	146.3	152.5	211.2	200.8	146.9

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

Industrial material prices at wholesale

declined still further during March from an index level of 237.0 for the week of February 27th, to 236.2 for the week of March 27th. Among commodities registering price decreases were: raw rubber, beef hides, raw cotton, sisal, zinc, wheat, oats and steers. These outweighed firmer prices for lead, white lead, copper and hogs. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets also continued to move lower, the composite index easing fractionally from 222.0 for the week of February 27th to 220.3 for the week of March 27th. Both field and animal products moved lower, the index for the former receding from 179.3 to 176.5 reflecting lower prices for potatoes and eastern hay. Lower prices for eastern livestock, except hogs, and butterfat outweighed strength in eggs and western calves to reduce the animal products index from 264.7 to 264.0.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb. 27th	Mar. 6th	Mar. 13th	Mar. 20th	Mar. 27th	Mar. 1952	Feb. 1953	Mar. 1953(P)
Industrial Materials	237.0	237.4	237.7	237.1	236.2	265.1	237.2	237.1
Canadian Farm Products	222.0	222.3	220.8	223.0	220.3	256.7	222.6*	221.6
Field	179.3	178.3	177.6	177.0	176.5	230.1	182.1*	177.4
Animal	264.7	266.3	264.0	268.9	264.0	283.3	263.1	265.8

(P) Preliminary * Revised to incorporate increases in initial payments for western wheat and barley for crop year 1952-53.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

The composite index for 103 common stocks moved up slightly during March from a level of 170.1 for the week

of February 26th to 170.5 for the week of March 26th. Strength was concentrated mainly in industrials and the index for this group advanced from 170.9 to 171.5, reflecting firmer quotations for pulp and paper stocks, oils, foods and allied products, beverages and building materials. Among industrials registering lower levels were: machinery and equipment issues, milling, textiles and clothing and industrial mines. In the utilities group easier quotations for transportation issues outweighed slight advances in communication and power and traction, lowering the combined index from 168.5 to 168.1. Banks stiffened from 165.7 to 165.8. In the mining stocks section weakness, mainly in gold shares, was sufficient to lower the composite index from 103.5 to 100.1. The index for 22 golds dipped from 72.8 to 68.1 between February 26th and March 26th while the base metals series eased from 173.8 to 173.5.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Feb.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Feb.	Mar.
	26th	5th	12th	19th	26th	1952	1953	1953
Investors' Price Index								
103 Common Stocks	170.1	168.2	169.7	171.4	170.5	177.6	169.0	170.0
81 Industrials	170.9	168.8	170.4	172.7	171.5	182.6	170.0	170.8
14 Utilities	168.5	166.6	168.0	168.1	168.1	170.4	166.0	167.7
8 Banks	165.7	165.6	166.8	165.3	165.8	143.6	164.8	165.9
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	103.5	103.1	102.0	101.5	100.1	102.7	103.2	101.7
22 Golds	72.8	72.2	70.4	69.6	68.1	73.4	72.2	70.1
5 Base Metals	173.8	173.9	174.2	174.4	173.5	169.6	174.3	174.0
Government of Canada Long-Term								
Bonds - Yield Index ¹	119.1	119.1	118.8	118.8	118.8	115.1	118.8	118.9

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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