

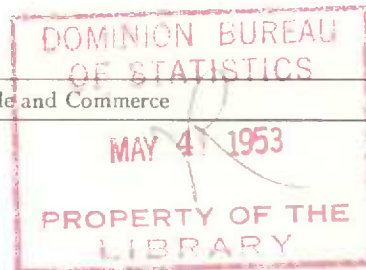
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, ~~MAY~~ ^{April} 1953

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949 = 100) The Dominion Bureau of Statistics' Consumer Price Index decreased 0.2 per cent from 114.8 to 114.6 between March 2nd and April 1st. This marks the fifth consecutive monthly decline and the index now stands at the lowest level since July 1951. Declines in food prices continued to dominate the total index and a drop of 0.7 per cent in this series from 111.6 to 110.9 reflected lower quotations for fresh meats, notably beef, veal and lamb, coupled with losses for potatoes and butter. Eggs were firmer as also were coffee, apples and processed pork. Among other groups changes were small, the index for other commodities and services moving from 115.2 to 115.0 due mainly to the removal of radio license fees which overbalanced advances in health care items. An advance in the household operation index from 116.7 to 116.9 was due to higher electricity rates. An increase in the rent component of the shelter index was reflected in a 0.2 per cent change to 122.7. Clothing remained unchanged at 109.7.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
April 1, 1953	114.6	110.9	122.7	109.7	116.9	115.0
March 2, 1953	114.8	111.6	122.5	109.7	116.7	115.2
April 1, 1952	116.8	117.2	119.4	112.5	116.8	116.6

THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: (1935-1939 = 100) The Cost-of-Living Index for April 1, 1953 was 183.9 as compared to 184.2 at March 2, 1953.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
April 1, 1953	183.9	223.5	150.9	155.5	205.5	196.8	148.7
March 2, 1953	184.2	225.7	150.7	154.4	205.5	196.3	147.9
April 1, 1952	188.7	240.2	146.3	152.5	210.4	200.5	147.9

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

Industrial material prices at wholesale continued

to decline in April from an index level of 236.2 for March 27th to 231.3 for the week of April 24th. Price decreases were concentrated mainly in metals, notably tin, lead, zinc and copper while steers, oats, raw sugar, raw rubber and white lead were also lower. Iron ore, beef hides and sisal were firmer. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets dropped to an index level of 211.5 for the week of April 17th but recovered slightly to 213.6 by the 24th as against an index of 220.3 for March 27th. Both field and animal products moved down, an index for the former declining from 176.5 to 172.2 between March 27th and April 24th due mainly to lower quotations for potatoes in Eastern Canada and lesser recessions for coarse grains. Weakness in livestock prices, notably steers and calves, outweighed an advance in fowl quotations to lower the animal products index from 264.0 to 255.0.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Mar. 27th	Apr. 3rd	Apr. 10th	Apr. 17th	Apr. 24th	Apr. 1952	Mar. 1953	Apr. 1953 (P)
Industrial Materials	236.2	234.9	234.0	231.0	231.3	258.4	237.0*	232.8
Canadian Farm Products	220.3	215.7	214.8	211.5	213.6	253.8	220.8	213.9
Field	176.5	175.9	174.9	172.6	172.2	234.0	177.3	173.9
Animal	264.0	255.6	254.7	250.4	255.0	273.7	264.3	253.9

(P) Preliminary

* Revised

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

Common stock prices deteriorated substantially during

April reflecting in part peace prospects in Korea and the possibility of a less tense international situation. By the 23rd of the month stock prices in some instances were at the lowest levels reached since the beginning of 1951. Between March 26th and April 23rd the composite index for 103 common stocks dipped from 170.5 to 155.6. For the same interval the index for 81 industrials declined from 171.5 to 154.7, 14 utilities from 168.1 to 156.4 and 8 banks from 165.8 to 162.8. In mining stocks weakness was in evidence also, the composite index for 27 representative issues moving from 100.1 to 91.8 between March 26th and April 23rd. Base metals registered greater weakness as the index dropped from 173.5 to 147.5. The decline in golds from 68.1 to 67.5 was, in contrast, relatively small.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Mar. 26th	Apr. 2nd	Apr. 9th	Apr. 16th	Apr. 23rd	Apr. 1952	Mar. 1953	Apr.(P) 1953
Investors' Price Index								
103 Common Stocks	170.5	166.1	162.5	161.7	155.6	175.8	170.0	161.5
81 Industrials	171.5	166.6	162.4	161.5	154.7	180.5	170.8	161.3
14 Utilities	168.1	164.8	162.9	161.6	156.4	170.4	167.7	161.4
8 Banks	165.8	163.4	163.0	163.3	162.8	140.1	165.9	163.1
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	100.1	100.5	99.2	96.8	91.8	102.8	101.7	97.1
22 Golds	68.1	70.1	70.4	69.6	67.5	77.0	70.1	69.4
5 Base Metals	173.5	170.2	165.0	159.0	147.5	162.1	174.0	160.4
Government of Canada Long-Term								
Bonds - Yield Index ¹	118.8	118.8	118.8	118.8	118.8	115.3	118.9	118.8

1. Yield Indexes based on rates as of Wednesday of each week.

(P) Preliminary - average of first four weeks only.

N.B. Enquiries concerning indexes in this release should be directed to The Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division

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