

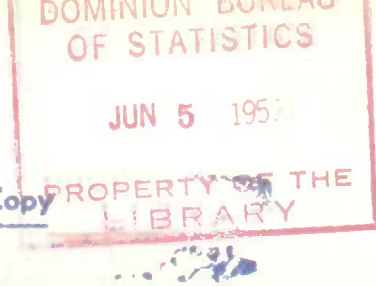


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PRICE MOVEMENTS, MAY 1953

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
(1949 = 100)

The Consumer Price Index for May 1st of 114.4, stood slightly below the April 1st index of 114.6. This latest fractional decrease conforms to the pattern recorded by the index over the past sixteen months, during which the index has declined from a peak of 118.2 in January 1952, to the current index of 114.4. Between April 1st and May 1st the food index declined from 110.9 to 110.1, as lower prices for butter, potatoes, tomatoes, onions, beef and veal, outweighed increases for coffee, eggs, grapefruit, lettuce, and fresh and cured pork. These price changes were recorded in combination with normal seasonal changes in the consumption of fruits, vegetables, meats, fats and eggs. The clothing series increased from 109.7 to 110.1 following fractional advances in a number of items. On the other hand the household operation index declined from 116.9 to 116.6, largely as a result of a seasonal drop in the price of coal in Ontario and Quebec. Counterbalancing increases and decreases in other items were scattered throughout this group. Amongst other commodities and services which were priced during May, advances for theatres and barbers, proved more important than a decline for gasoline, and the index moved from 115.0 to 115.1. The shelter component advanced slightly from 122.7 to 122.9 following small increases in both rent and home-ownership.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
May 1, 1953	114.4	110.1	122.9	110.1	116.6	115.1
April 1, 1953	114.6	110.9	122.7	109.7	116.9	115.0
May 1, 1952	115.9	115.5	119.6	112.3	116.2	115.6

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

The Cost-of-Living Index for May 1st was 183.6, as compared to 183.9 at April 1st.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
May 1, 1953	183.6	222.8	151.0	153.2	206.3	196.2	149.0
April 1, 1953	183.9	223.5	150.9	155.5	205.5	196.8	148.7
May 1, 1952	186.7	235.3	146.3	150.6	210.1	198.2	147.4

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

Industrial material prices at wholesale were firmer in May and the composite index for 30 price series advanced from 231.3 to 234.2 between the weeks of April 24th and May 22nd. Nine of the price series advanced led by a substantial increase in hogs and followed by tin, wheat, raw rubber, raw wool, lead, raw cotton, raw sugar and iron ore. Supporting the advance in certain imported commodities was a further easing of the Canadian dollar in terms of United States funds. Declines were noted for seven series, including copper, oats, sisal, wood pulp, steers at Toronto, imported bituminous coal, and white lead. Strength in animal products supported an advance in the composite index for Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets from 213.6 to 218.7 between April 24th and May 22nd. Animal product prices advanced from 255.0 to 266.9 in the same interval due to a sharp increase in hogs, coupled with lesser advances for eastern lambs, eggs, raw wool and western steers and calves. Eastern steers and calves moved lower as also did milk for cheese manufacture, fowl and fluid milk. Field products declined from 172.2 to 170.5, due to decreases in eastern oats, rye, wheat, potatoes and hay and western rye. Advances occurred for eastern barley and corn and western flax and potatoes.

Wholesale Price indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Apr. 24th	May 1st	May 8th	May 15th	May 22nd	May 1952	Apr. 1953	May 1953(P)
Industrial Materials	231.3	232.1	232.6	232.3	234.2	250.7	231.9	232.8
Canadian Farm Products	213.6	216.5	215.3	215.3	218.7	252.7	214.5	216.4
Field	172.2	171.8	171.6	170.5	170.5	240.0	173.0	171.1
Animal	255.0	261.3	259.0	260.2	266.9	265.4	256.0	261.8

(P) Preliminary

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

Following the sharp decline in April, common stock prices evidenced a steadier tone in May although the range of fluctuation was narrow. From a level of 158.3 for April 30th the Investors' price index advanced to 161.2 by the week of May 21st, while the closing figure of 159.1 indicated a net increase of 0.8 points. Among groups the greatest index increases were recorded for machinery and equipment issues, banks and beverages. Against these, losses were experienced by textile and clothing shares, industrial mines and transportation issues. Mining stocks registered a net loss in May as the composite index weakened from 94.3 for the week of April 30th to 92.8 by May 28th. Prices for both golds and base metals were easier, an index for the latter series receding from 153.1 to 148.8, while golds eased from 68.6 to 68.3.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Apr. 30th	May 7th	May 14th	May 21st	May 28th	May 1952	Apr. 1953	May 1953
Investors' Price Index								
103 Common Stocks	158.3	160.0	159.0	161.2	159.1	169.0	160.8	159.8
81 Industrials	157.6	159.1	158.2	160.7	158.3	172.4	160.6	159.1
14 Utilities	159.5	162.1	159.1	161.1	159.2	166.2	161.0	160.4
8 Banks	162.5	164.2	167.4	166.8	166.8	141.2	163.0	166.3
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	94.3	95.3	93.1	94.1	92.8	101.4	96.5	93.8
22 Golds	68.6	69.5	68.6	69.2	68.3	75.1	69.2	68.9
5 Base Metals	153.1	154.4	149.2	151.1	148.8	161.6	159.0	150.9
Government of Canada Long-Term								
Bonds - Yield Index ¹	119.1	119.4	119.4	119.7	119.7	112.6	118.9	119.6

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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