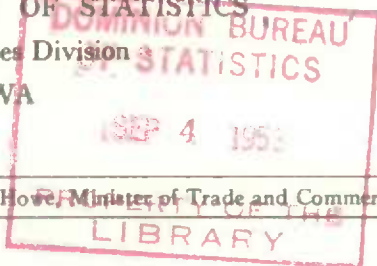




DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

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PRICE MOVEMENTS, AUGUST 1953

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics' Consumer Price Index (1949 = 100) increased 0.3 per cent from 115.4 to 115.7 between July 2nd and August 1st. This marked a third consecutive increase, subsequent to a six month decline, and placed the index at the same level as January 1953. The latest change, for the first time in many months, was largely attributable to factors other than foods which remained practically unchanged, moving from 112.7 to 112.8. Within the food group a substantial drop in the price of vegetables, coupled with decreases for fresh fruits and beef, was overbalanced by increases in bread, coffee, eggs, pork products and lamb. The clothing index moved up 0.1 per cent from 110.3 to 110.4, as a result of an advance in the price of knitting yarn and a fractional increase in men's wear. The household operation series changed from 117.0 to 117.2 due to higher quotations for fuel oil and scattered slight increases in homefurnishings and cleaning supplies. The largest group index change was registered by the other commodities and services component which moved up 0.5 per cent from 115.2 to 115.8, reflecting higher quotations for gasoline and hospital rates. The shelter index incorporated advances in both the rental and homeownership components, and moved from 123.9 to 124.1.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
Aug. 1, 1953	115.7	112.8	124.1	110.4	117.2	115.8
July 2, 1953	115.4	112.7	123.9	110.3	117.0	115.2
Aug. 1, 1952	116.0	115.7	120.6	111.6	115.8	115.8

THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEX: The Cost-of-Living Index for August 1st was 186.4, as compared to 186.0 for July 2nd.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
Aug. 1, 1953	186.4	229.5	153.3	153.6	206.7	195.9	150.0
July 2, 1953	186.0	229.2	152.9	153.5	206.5	196.0	149.2
Aug. 1, 1952	187.6	238.0	147.9	150.1	208.6	196.0	147.8

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

Industrial material prices at wholesale, following relative firmness in the first three weeks of August, declined moderately in the final week.

From a level of 231.2 for the week of July 31st, the composite index for 30 price series advanced to 232.2 by August 21st but subsequently reacted to 230.8 by the 28th. Among commodity price changes scattered decreases were noted for fir timber, raw wool, cottonseed oil, raw cotton, raw sugar, sisal, wheat, oats, iron ore, bleached sulphite woodpulp and copper. On the other hand, tin, hogs, unbleached sulphite woodpulp, white lead, raw rubber, steers and beef hides were somewhat higher. The composite index of Canadian Farm Products dropped from 220.3 for the week of July 31st, to 213.5 for the week of August 7th, largely due to the change in initial payment prices for western wheat and barley which came into effect August first. Subsequently, a further decrease to 210.8 by the 28th was registered. In addition to the change in the grains previously specified, lower prices were recorded for potatoes, rye, peas and raw leaf tobacco which overbalanced small increases in eastern barley and corn and western flax. As a result of these changes the field products index dropped from 173.8 to 154.8 between July 31st and August 28th. Animal products were relatively steady at an index level of 266.7 for August 28th as against 273.5 on the 21st and 266.8 on July 31st. In this section lower prices for lambs, raw wool, eastern poultry, calves and western steers, and milk for cheese manufacture almost balanced increases in hogs, eggs, butterfat, eastern steers, and fluid milk for cheese manufacture, and western calves.

**Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939-100)**

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	July 31st	Aug. 7th	Aug. 14th	Aug. 21st	Aug. 28th	Aug. 1952	July 1953	Aug. 1953
<b>Industrial Materials</b> .....	231.2	231.6	231.4	232.2	230.8	245.4	231.7	231.5
<b>Canadian Farm Products</b> .....	220.3	213.5	214.8	215.3	210.8	242.7	219.2	213.6
<b>Field</b> .....	173.8	159.0	158.8	157.1	154.8	208.1	173.1	157.4
<b>Animal</b> .....	266.8	267.9	270.7	273.5	266.7	277.2	265.3	269.7

**SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:**  
(1935-1939 = 100)

Security prices, after moving up in the first two weeks of August, dropped sharply in the latter half. From a level

of 161.3 for the week of July 30th, the Investors' composite index increased to 163.4 by August 13th but subsequently reacted to close at 157.6 for the week of August 27th. Greatest weakness occurred for utilities where an index drop from 156.1 to 150.6 was registered between July 30th and August 27th. In this section transportation issues dropped sharply while telephone and telegraph issues were fractionally lower. The industrials group moved from 161.6 to 157.8 as machinery and equipment, oils, industrial mines, building materials and beverages all declined. Pulp and paper issues, milling, textiles and clothing and foods and allied products stocks were firmer. The index for 8 banks changed from 170.1 to 171.8. Mining stocks were also easier in August, as declines were registered for both base metals and golds. The composite index for 27 representative issues dropped from 91.4 to 87.9 between July 30th and August 27th while the index for 5 base metals receded from 147.4 to 138.7 and that for 22 golds from 67.0 to 65.7.

## Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	July 30th	Aug. 6th	Aug. 13th	Aug. 20th	Aug. 27th	Aug. 1952	July 1953	Aug. 1953
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
103 Common Stocks .....	161.3	162.7	163.4	161.0	157.6	176.0	160.7	161.2
81 Industrials .....	161.6	163.2	164.1	161.5	157.8	179.8	160.5	161.6
14 Utilities .....	156.1	157.4	156.7	153.5	150.6	169.9	157.9	154.6
8 Banks .....	170.1	170.5	171.5	172.9	171.8	152.4	169.1	171.7
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks .....	91.4	92.1	92.5	90.4	87.9	110.2	91.4	90.7
22 Golds .....	67.0	68.2	68.5	67.5	65.7	77.6	66.3	67.5
5 Base Metals .....	147.4	146.8	147.6	142.8	138.7	184.9	148.9	144.0
<b>Government of Canada Long-Term</b>								
Bonds - Yield Index <sup>1</sup> .....	120.7	120.7	121.0	121.0	121.3	119.1	120.7	121.0

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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