



DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
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PRICE MOVEMENTS, SEPTEMBER 1953

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:
(1949 = 100)

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics' Consumer Price Index advanced a further 0.4 per cent from 115.7 to 116.2 between August 1st and September 1st. The latest index is still two points below the peak of 118.2, reached on January 2, 1952. A rise in the food index from 112.8 to 114.0, was influenced by shifts in the fall pattern of purchases in addition to price changes. Among foods which moved higher were most items of pork, eggs, coffee, lard, bread and butter, while fresh vegetables, fresh fruits and meats other than pork were lower. The household operation series advanced from 117.2 to 117.4 as increases in fuel and some household services outweighed slight scattered declines in other sub-sections. Higher costs of automobile operation, coupled with advances in street car fares and magazine subscriptions, were reflected in an increase in the other commodities and services index from 115.8 to 115.9. Clothing remained unchanged at 110.4 while the shelter component advanced from 124.1 to 124.2 due to slight increases for both rents and home-ownership.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
Sept. 1, 1953	116.2	114.0	124.2	110.4	117.4	115.9
Aug. 1, 1953	115.7	112.8	124.1	110.4	117.2	115.8
Sept. 2, 1952	116.1	115.8	121.2	110.9	116.0	115.8

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

The Cost-of-Living Index for September 1st was 186.3 as compared with 186.4 for August 1st. As announced on September 18th, this will be the last publication of this index.

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

	Combined Index	Food	Rent	Fuel and Light	Clothing	Home Furnishings & Services	Miscellaneous
Sept. 1, 1953	186.3	228.6	153.4	153.9	207.0	196.0	150.2
Aug. 1, 1953	186.4	229.5	153.3	153.6	206.7	195.9	150.0
Sept. 2, 1952	186.5	234.2	148.9	150.3	207.7	195.8	147.8

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

Industrial material prices at wholesale weakened slightly during September as the composite index for 30 commodities declined from 230.8 for the week of August 28th to 228.4 for the week of September 25th. Among commodity changes decreases were noted for raw sugar, zinc, steers, beef hides, wheat, lead, raw wool, western oats, raw rubber and bleached woodpulp, while slight advances occurred for sisal, hogs, and tin. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets, after mid-month weakness, subsequently recovered to close at 210.7 for the week of September 25th as compared with the same index level for August 28th. Group changes were mixed, field products receding slightly from 154.6 to 154.0 as declines occurred for prices of potatoes, barley and oats in Eastern Canada and flax in the West, which outweighed increases in potato and rye prices in the West and corn, rye and wheat in the East. On the other hand, animal products moved up from 266.7 to 267.3 reflecting increases in prices for calves, eggs, hogs, butterfat and milk for cheese manufacture in Eastern Canada and a firmer tone for calves, eggs, butterfat and milk for cheese manufacture in the West. Lambs and raw wool were lower in both the East and West while steers were easier in the East and hogs in the West.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Aug. 28th	Sept. 4th	Sept. 11th	Sept. 18th	Sept. 25th	Sept. 1952	Aug. 1953	Sept.(P) 1953
Industrial Materials	230.8	229.7	229.9	228.9	228.4	241.7	231.4	229.2
Canadian Farm Products	210.7 ^r	206.6	206.5	210.1	210.7	231.9	213.6	208.5
Field	154.6 ^r	153.8	154.5	154.7	154.0	194.8	157.2	154.2
Animal	266.7	259.5	258.5	265.6	267.3	269.1	269.9	262.7

(P) Preliminary

r. Revised

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

The sharp drop in security prices commencing in the latter half of August, continued through September as the Investors' Index dropped from 157.6 for the week of August 27th to 149.2 for the week of September 24th. This decline lowered the composite index to a level unequalled since December 1950. All groups were lower although greatest weakness was noted for the industrials series which dropped from 157.8 to 148.2. Utilities changed from 150.6 to 144.4 while the index for 8 banks declined from 171.8 to 170.0. Mining stocks were weaker also and the composite index for 27 stocks dropped from 87.9 to 82.5. The golds index moved down from 65.7 to 60.0 while the base metals series weakened from 138.7 to 133.9.

Weekly Security Price Indexes, 1935-1939 = 100

	1953 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Aug.	Sept.	Sept.	Sept.	Sept.	Sept.	Aug.	Sept.
	27th	3rd	10th	17th	24th	1952	1953	1953
Investors' Price Index								
103 Common Stocks	157.6	155.9	155.7	150.8	149.2	171.6	161.2	152.9
81 Industrials	157.8	155.5	155.1	149.9	148.2	174.3	161.6	152.2
14 Utilities	150.6	151.2	151.3	145.6	144.4	166.5	154.6	148.1
8 Banks	171.8	171.4	172.7	172.1	170.0	155.2	171.7	171.6
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks	87.9	86.8	87.5	83.0	82.5	106.6	90.7	85.0
22 Golds	65.7	64.7	64.6	60.8	60.0	74.4	67.5	62.5
5 Base Metals	138.7	137.5	140.0	133.8	133.9	180.2	144.0	136.3
Government of Canada Long-Term								
Bonds - Yield Index ¹	121.3	121.3	121.3	121.7	121.7	119.6	121.0	121.5(P)

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

(P) Preliminary - Average of four weeks

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



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