

# DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 1954

**THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:** The Consumer Price Index declined 0.2 per cent from 117.0 (1949 = 100)

to 116.8 between August 2 and September 1. Foods moved down 0.5 per cent from 114.4 to 113.8 as decreases were reported for a range of items, notably coffee, pork, lamb and practically all fresh fruits and vegetables. Butter, eggs and a number of canned foods were slightly higher. Advances in rents and homeownership resulted in a rise of 0.2 per cent in the shelter index, from 127.0 to 127.2. Price decreases for men's hats, work socks, overalls, and slacks and women's hosiery were principally responsible for a decline of 0.1 per cent in clothing from 109.6 to 109.5. Household operation was unchanged at 117.2 as increases for dishes, glassware, wool blankets, coal and shoe repairs offset decreases for several items of furniture, electric stoves and refrigerators, saucepans, paper goods and laundry services. The index for other commodities and services moved from 117.7 to 117.6 following scattered decreases in automobile operation which outweighed slight advances in radios and local transportation fares.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
September 1, 1954	116.8	113.8	127.2	109.5	117.2	117.6
August 2, 1954	117.0	114.4	127.0	109.6	117.2	117.7
September 1, 1953	116.2	114.0	124.2	110.4	117.4	115.9

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

The price index for thirty industrial materials registered no net change

between the weeks of August 27 and September 24, the level remaining at 222.7. However, price changes were general as increases for linseed oil, zinc, lead, raw rubber, raw cotton, fir timber, white lead, steel sheets and tin, offset decreases for African sisal, beef hides, hogs, cottonseed oil, raw wool, unbleached and bleached sulphite pulp, iron ore, wheat and copper. Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets continued to decline during September as the composite index changed from 206.9 for the week of August 27 to 202.5 for the week of September 24. Both animal and field products showed a 2.1 per cent decline as the former moved from 249.0 to 243.7 and the latter from 164.7 to 161.3 between August 27 and September 24. Changes in potatoes, hogs and lambs were the main contributing factors as their prices fell sharply. Eastern corn and rye, western steers, and eggs and raw wool also registered weakness. Western rye and calves and eastern eggs recorded substantial increases, followed by lesser changes for eastern barley, oats, wheat, cheese milk and western flax.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1954 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Aug. 27th	Sept. 3rd	Sept. 10th	Sept. 17th	Sept. 24th	Sept. 1953	Aug. 1954	Sept. p 1954
Industrial Materials .....	222.7	222.7	221.2	222.0	222.7	228.8	222.1	222.2
Canadian Farm Products .....	206.9	207.0	204.8	204.4	202.5	208.9	207.9	204.7
Field .....	164.7	163.9	163.6	162.8	161.3	154.0	167.6	162.9
Animal .....	249.0	250.1	245.9	246.0	243.7	263.7	248.2	246.4

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**SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:** Common stock prices tended upward again in September (1935-1939 = 100) as the composite index for 99 issues moved from 186.8 for the week of August 26th to 191.8 for the week of September 23rd. Among group changes the index for 79 industrials advanced from 188.1 to 194.0 while the series for 12 utilities moved from 168.2 to 171.9. The index for 8 banks on the other hand declined fractionally from 216.6 to 215.9. In the industrials section all sub-groups were higher except textiles and clothing. Advances were greatest for machinery and equipment, pulp and paper, industrial mines and oils. The utilities sub-groups all registered moderate increases. Mining stocks recorded an advance from 95.1 to 97.1 as both golds and base metals moved higher. The index for 5 base metals shifted from 158.3 to 162.3 while that for 22 golds increased from 67.5 to 68.6.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1954 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Aug. 26th	Sept. 2nd	Sept. 9th	Sept. 16th	Sept. 23rd	Sept. 1953	Aug. 1954	(2) Sept. 1954
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
99 Common Stocks .....	186.8	187.6	187.6	190.8	191.8	152.9	187.0	189.4
79 Industrials.....	188.1	189.4	189.2	192.7	194.0	152.2	187.9	191.3
12 Utilities.....	168.2	167.7	169.1	173.0	171.9	148.1	170.2	170.4
8 Banks .....	216.6	216.0	214.4	213.6	215.9	171.6	217.3	215.0
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks.....	95.1	95.5	96.6	96.9	97.1	85.0	95.6	96.5
22 Golds .....	67.5	68.4	68.8	68.4	68.6	62.5	67.8	68.6
5 Base Metals.....	158.3	157.7	160.4	162.3	162.3	136.3	159.2	160.7
<b>Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index<sup>1</sup></b> .....	98.0	97.7	97.3	98.0	98.3	121.5	97.3	97.8

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

2. Four weeks average

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

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