

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA



Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce

Vol. 33 No. 2 (For release 10 a.m. March 4, 1955) Price: \$1.00 per year, 10¢ per copy

PRICE MOVEMENTS

FEBRUARY 1955

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX:

(1949 = 100)

The Consumer Price Index remained practically unchanged between January 3rd and February 1st, moving from 116.4 to 116.3. Group indexes were notably stable, foods being the only group to register a change of more than 0.1 points. The food index declined from 112.1 to 111.5 as decreases in the price of coffee, lard, eggs, beef and pork outweighed increases in tea, oranges and fresh vegetables. Clothing remained unchanged at 108.1 as small scattered increases and decreases balanced each other. Prices were steady within household operation, and the group index again stood at 117.1. Other commodities and services advanced 0.1 points to 118.3 under the influence of higher hospital rates in Eastern Canada. The shelter component continued its gradual advance, moving from 128.4 to 128.5.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
February 1, 1955	116.3	111.5	128.5	108.1	117.1	118.3
January 3, 1955	116.4	112.1	128.4	108.1	117.1	118.2
February 1, 1954	115.7	111.7	125.4	110.0	117.5	116.5

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEXES (WEEKLY)

(1935-1939=100)

The price index for thirty industrial materials advanced from 226.2 for the week of January 28th to 229.2 for the week of February 25th for a gain of 1.3 per cent. Price increases were led by advances of 14.3 per cent for steel scrap, and 10.5 per cent in sisal. In the latter, part of the increase reflected weakening of the Canadian dollar in terms of United States funds. Other commodities to record strength in February were white lead, tin ingots, raw cotton, bleached pulp sulphite, iron ore, wheat, copper and beef hides. Three price series registered decreases, viz., hogs, raw rubber and oats.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets declined from 207.4 for the week of January 28th to 204.8 for the week of February 25th, for a change of 1.3 per cent. The decline in the index was due to lower animal product prices as a 10 per cent decrease in hogs followed by lesser declines for eastern lambs and cheese milk, and western steers and fluid milk, outweighed increases in calves, eggs, eastern poultry, western lambs, and raw wool to lower the index from 249.6 at the end of January to 243.1 for the final week of February. Field products increased moderately as the index moved up from 165.3 for the week of January 28th to 166.4 for the week of February 25th. In the eastern field products section, potatoes, barley, corn and oats were higher while in the western component, flax, potatoes and hay were up. Rye in both the east and west was lower during the period under review.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1955 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 28th	Feb. 4th	Feb. 11th	Feb. 18th	Feb. 25th	Feb. 1954	Jan. 1955	Feb. ^P 1955
Industrial Materials	226.2	228.0	227.5	229.5	229.2	223.6	225.9	228.6
Canadian Farm Products	207.4	206.3	205.7	206.0	204.8	212.3	206.5	205.7
Field	165.3	166.0	166.0	166.6	166.4	160.0	164.5	166.2
Animal	249.6	246.5	245.5	245.3	243.1	264.7	248.4	245.1

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:
(1935-1939 = 100)

Following the mixed picture presented in January, common stock prices continued their upward trend in February. Between the weeks of January 27th and February 24th the composite index for 99 common stocks changed from 209.6 to 216.2. The three major groups were all firmer as the index for 78 industrials advanced from 213.8 to 220.9; that for 14 utilities from 181.6 to 185.0 and 7 banks from 232.6 to 241.9. All sub-groups, with the exception of textiles and clothing, moved up, led by machinery and equipment, pulp and paper, milling, oils, beverages and transportation issues.

Mining stocks were firmer in February as the composite index for 27 stocks advanced from 104.6 for the week of January 27th to 106.7 for the week of February 24th. Both golds and base metals registered increases, the former moving from 68.0 to 70.5 and the latter from 188.4 to 189.6.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1955 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	Jan. 27th	Feb. 3rd	Feb. 10th	Feb. 17th	Feb. 24th	Feb. 1954	Jan. 1955	Feb. 1955
Investors' Price Index								
99 Common Stocks.....	209.6	211.8	214.3	216.5	216.2	163.2	207.3	214.7
78 Industrials.....	213.8	216.2	218.6	221.0	220.9	163.2	211.0	219.2
14 Utilities.....	181.6	181.8	184.0	185.4	185.0	151.9	181.0	184.0
7 Banks.....	232.6	237.3	241.4	243.8	241.9	189.6	230.8	241.1
Mining Stock Price Index								
27 Stocks.....	104.6	105.5	106.0	107.4	106.7	83.4	102.7	106.4
22 Golds.....	68.0	68.6	68.9	69.2	70.5	62.1	68.3	69.3
5 Base Metals.....	188.4	190.0	190.8	194.7	189.6	132.0	181.3	191.3
Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index¹.....	99.3	98.6	97.3	95.4	96.0	112.7	99.7	96.8

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.

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010751071