

# DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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## PRICE MOVEMENTS

MAY 1955

### THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: (1949 = 100)

The Consumer Price Index moved from 116.1 to 116.4 between April 1st and May 2nd. The advance was due almost entirely to an exceptionally sharp increase in the price of potatoes from 47.8 cents to 73.8 cents per ten pounds. This increase also accounted for the advance in the food index from 111.0 to 112.3. Other foods were relatively stable; somewhat higher prices were registered for fresh fruits and most cuts of beef, while butter, margarine and all items of pork were fractionally lower. The clothing index remained unchanged at 107.9 as the few fractional decreases registered were not sufficient to move the total clothing series. A seasonal decrease in the price of coal and a slight drop in insurance rates on household effects decreased the household operation series from 116.9 to 116.4. The index of other commodities and services remained practically unchanged moving from 118.2 to 118.3 as higher quotations for theatre admissions and men's hair cuts overweighed decreases in automobile tires and insurance, and toilet soap. The shelter component moved from 128.7 to 128.8 as both the rent and home-ownership components moved up slightly.

Consumer Price Indexes (1949 = 100)

	Total Index	Food	Shelter	Clothing	Household Operation	Other Commodities and Services
May 2, 1955	116.4	112.3	128.8	107.9	116.4	118.3
April 1, 1955	116.1	111.0	128.7	107.9	116.9	118.2
May 1, 1954	115.5	110.2	125.8	109.9	117.3	117.5

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

The weekly composite price index for thirty

industrial materials moved within very narrow

limits during May, increasing less than 0.1 per cent from 233.0 for April 29th to 233.1 for May 27th. Commodity price changes were scattered, as six series, hogs, raw wool, raw cotton, raw rubber, fir timber and raw sugar, showed strength. Decreases occurred for beef hides, sisal, steel sheets, steers, imported bituminous coal, tin, iron ore, bleached sulphite pulp and western oats.

Canadian farm product prices at terminal markets receded 1.5 per cent from a level of 215.6 for April 29th to 212.3 for May 27th. Weakness was concentrated in field products, as the group index decreased 5.6 per cent from 190.2 to 179.5 between the final weeks of April and May. Eastern potato prices were substantially lower, while eastern wheat and tobacco also moved down. On the other hand, firmer prices were noted for western flax, rye, potatoes and hay, and eastern barley. Animal products strengthened as the group index rose 1.7 per cent from 240.9 to 245.1 during the period under review. Higher hog prices were the principal supporting factor followed by lesser increases for western steers, calves, eggs and raw wool and eastern poultry. Steers, lambs, eggs, cheesemilk and butterfat in the east, and fluid milk and butterfat in the west were lower.

Wholesale Price Indexes (1935-1939=100)

	1955 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	April 29th	May 6th	May 13th	May 20th	May 27th	May 1954	April 1955	May <sup>P</sup> 1955
Industrial Materials.....	233.0	233.3	233.4	232.6	233.1	224.3	233.1	233.1
Canadian Farm Products .....	215.6	215.4	213.3	212.6	212.3	214.8 <sup>r</sup>	212.7	213.4
Field .....	190.2	188.2	183.5	181.9	179.5	161.6 <sup>r</sup>	186.8	183.3
Animal.....	240.9	242.6	243.0	243.2	245.1	268.0	238.7	243.5

p - Preliminary

r - Revised to incorporate final payments for western wheat, oats and barley for crop year August 1953 to July 1954.

SECURITY PRICE INDEXES:  
(1935-1939 = 100)

Common stocks, following the pattern established in

April, continued to forge ahead in May. Between the weeks of April 28th and May 26th the Investors' index moved from 217.5 to 226.7, for a gain of 4.2 per cent. Over the same period the group index for 78 industrials moved up 4.3 per cent to 233.1 while 14 utilities advanced 5.3 per cent to 195.2 and 7 banks 0.6 per cent to 234.6. All except three sub-groups increased. Advances were led by beverages, machinery and equipment, pulp and paper, industrial mines and transportation issues. Milling, oils and textiles and clothing weakened slightly.

Mining stocks also were firmer in May due mainly to strength in base metal issues. The composite index for 27 issues changed from 110.6 to 114.8 between April 28th and May 26th while 5 base metals advanced from 199.4 to 212.0. Golds advanced moderately from 71.8 to 72.4.

Weekly Security Price Indexes (1935-1939 = 100)

	1955 Week Ended					Monthly Average		
	April 28th	May 5th	May 12th	May 19th	May 26th	May 1954	April 1955	May 1955
<b>Investors' Price Index</b>								
99 Common Stocks .....	217.5	219.3	219.3	223.1	226.7	179.5	216.5	222.1
78 Industrials.....	223.4	224.8	224.5	229.0	233.1	181.0	222.0	227.8
14 Utilities.....	185.4	190.7	189.0	192.0	195.2	162.4	185.6	191.7
7 Banks .....	233.1	230.5	237.1	235.4	234.6	204.0	233.0	234.4
<b>Mining Stock Price Index</b>								
27 Stocks.....	110.6	114.6	112.8	114.7	114.8	89.4	110.2	114.2
22 Golds .....	71.8	73.4	72.2	73.3	72.4	64.4	71.1	72.8
5 Base Metals.....	199.4	208.8	205.8	209.5	212.0	146.5	199.8	209.0
<b>Government of Canada Long-Term Bonds - Yield Index<sup>1</sup> .....</b>	95.7	96.4	96.4	95.7	96.4	99.7	95.2	96.2

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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