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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

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PRICES & PRICE INDEXES

AUGUST, 1923

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OTTAWA

1923

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

OTTAWA.

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PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES, AUGUST 1923

The Index Number of Wholesale Prices (weighted) compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was 153.3 in August, showing only a slight fall as compared with July when it was 153.6. The year 1913 is reckoned as 100 and the index is computed from 238 price series.

GROUP CHANGES: The index numbers for four of the main groups indicate a fall in the price level as compared with July; two show an increase and the remaining two were stationary. Vegetable Products (grains, fruits, etc.) rose from 146.7 to 147.2 chiefly as a result of higher prices for grains. Animals and Their Products rose from 125.7 to 126.9 mainly on account of higher produce prices. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products declined from 198.7 to 195.9, the principal price decrease in this group being cotton. Iron and Its Products fell from 169.9 to 168.3 and Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products from 99.0 to 97.9. In the latter group there were reductions in copper, lead and tin. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products were unchanged, the index being 184.0, and Chemicals and Allied Products remained at 165.4

Consumers' Goods as a whole rose slightly, being 148.7 in August and 148.2 in July. The rise was due chiefly to an advance in the food group, though there were declines in fruits and sugar. Producers' Goods (i.e. materials used in manufacture) fell from 147.3 to 145.5 due to declines in materials for Textile, Building, Metal-Working and Meat Packing Industries.

Raw or partly manufactured Goods dropped from 144.4 to 144.0 and Fully or Chiefly Manufactured Goods from 157.6 to 156.3. The index for Domestic Farm Products rose from 123.9 to 128.6, chiefly due to grain, but products of the fisheries, mines and forest were, on the whole, downward.

CHANGES IN IMPORTANT COMMODITIES: A prominent feature of the price movement during August was the improvement in grain prices. #1 Manitoba Northern Wheat was \$1.07 per bushel on August 4th but had risen to \$1.22-3/8 by August 25th. The average for the month was \$1.13. Oats #20.0. were 42 3/4¢ on August 8th but were 48-5/8¢ on August 24th, the monthly average being 45 1/4¢. This improvement in grain prices is explained by the unfavorable crop conditions which developed in the West during August. Rust, sawfly, cool wet weather and frost tended to produce less optimistic crop reports both as to quantity and quality, with a consequent bulling of prices. The hog market showed a considerable improvement during August; the smaller supplies marketed after the low level of prices prevailing in July caused a rise in prices. The average for thick, smooth hogs for the month of August was \$10.23 per cwt., as compared with \$8.65 in July. The cattle and sheep market was at times subject to heavy runs during the month which were in a large measure due to drought conditions. The consequence was a falling off in the price of Choice Steers at Toronto from \$7.60 to \$7.10 per cwt., and of Sheep, choice, from \$5.60 to \$5.38 per cwt. Eggs, as is to be expected at this season showed rising tendencies. The Montreal price of Specials and Extras at the 15th of August being 35¢ and 40¢ per dozen as compared with 31¢ and 36¢ in July. Butter also revealed an upward seasonal trend, Creamery finest being 32 1/2¢ per pound in Montreal, as compared with 31¢ in July. Sugar continued its downward movement. The British market was said to be overstocked on account of supplies of Java Sugar, some shipments of Cubans raws even being turned back to the United States. A decline in the price of raws resulted, which

was reflected in the price of granulated. This latter movement appears to have been accentuated by the competition of American refined sugars shipped into Canada. Raw Sugar 96° Centrifugal was about \$5.60 per cwt., on August 15th as compared with \$7.15 on July 15th. Granulated declined from \$9.98 to \$9.03 per cwt. The average price of Raw Cotton, Upland Middling, declined in August to about 25¢ per pound as compared with 26½¢ in July. Towards the end of July Cotton had slumped considerably but after the beginning of August, owing to unfavorable official crop estimates, adverse weather conditions in some cotton sections, reports of boll-weevil damage, and the small carry-over from the previous crop year in evidence August 1st, the price of Cotton began to rise again. The spot price of Upland Middling at New York was about 22½¢ on August 1st but from the middle of the month onward it ranged around 25½¢ to 25½¢. The average price was prevented from rising to the level of the previous month by claims that the official figures were an underestimate, the falling off in demand on account of high prices and the critical conditions in Europe. Reductions in certain lines of cotton goods were in part the result of cheaper raw material. Cotton yarns, 10s, hosiery cops, were reduced from 50¢ to 44¢ per pound. Increased acreage and favorable crop conditions, giving promise of a good supply, brought raw jute prices from \$7.94 in July to \$6.98 in August. Lack of activity in the market for broad Silks had brought about a condition of cautious buying in the raw silk market with the consequence that this commodity declined in value. The price of Raw Silk, Japanese Filature, Kansai, No. 1 was \$7.10 per pound on August 15th as compared with \$7.80 on July 15th. Metal markets on the whole experienced a quiet month with the result that pig iron basic declined \$1 being \$29.00 per ton as compared with \$30.00 in July. Steel rails were \$51.00 as compared with \$52.00. Electrolytic Copper fell from \$17.25 per cwt., to \$16.40 and Tin Ingots from 45¢ to 44¢ per pound. One or two lines of Wood were easier. Hemlock 1" log run at Toronto dropped to \$30.00 from \$35.00 per M. bd. ft., and Shingles were \$6.00 as compared with \$6.25 in July. Cedar flooring at Victoria was \$48.00 in August and \$48.00 in July.

S U M M A R Y T A B L E S

Commodity	No. of Commodities	Avg. 1922	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923.
Prices 1913 = 100					
Total Index 238 Commodities	238	150.4	155.1	155.6	153.3
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIAL					
I. Vegetable Products (grains, fruits, etc.)	67	148.3	150.6	146.7	147.2
II. Animals and their Products	50	135.1	126.4	125.7	126.9
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	28	178.2	202.1	198.7	195.9
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	21	166.4	179.8	178.6	177.7
V. Iron and its products	26	149.7	171.5	159.9	168.3
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals & Their Products	15	99.0	101.7	99.0	97.9
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals & Their Products	17	189.3	183.1	184.0	184.0
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	14	166.7	164.4	165.7	165.4
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PURPOSE.					
I. Consumers' Goods	98	153.5	148.5	148.2	148.7
Foods, Beverages and Tobacco	74	145.9	143.9	143.3	144.5
Other Consumers' Goods	24	163.8	154.3	154.3	153.9
II. Producers' Goods	148	146.5	150.2	147.3	145.5
Producers' Equipment	16	189.0	184.5	184.4	184.5
Producers' Materials	132	142.0	146.6	143.4	141.3
Building & Construction Materials	32	162.0	168.4	169.8	167.9
Manufacturers' Materials	100	137.5	141.1	137.5	135.4
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO ORIGIN					
Total Raw or Partly Manufactured	103	145.5	147.2	144.4	144.0
Total Fully or Chiefly Manufactured	130	154.9	158.4	157.7	156.3
I. Articles of Farm Origin (Domestic & Foreign)					
A. Vegetables (grains, fruits, cotton, etc)					
(a) Raw or Partly Manufactured	46	147.7	150.4	145.4	145.0
(b) Fully or Chiefly Manufactured	42	159.1	172.4	169.8	165.6
(c) Total	88	152.6	159.0	155.2	154.8
B. Animal					
(a) Raw or Partly Manufactured	25	131.3	113.3	117.9	119.6
(b) Fully or Chiefly Manufactured	28	141.7	136.7	135.9	138.5
(c) Total	53	136.0	128.1	127.6	128.9
C. Canadian Farm Products					
(1) Vegetables (grains, etc.)	20	144.3	139.3	132.7	137.3
(2) Animal	16	130.4	109.3	108.7	113.6
(3) Total	36	139.2	126.3	123.9	128.6
II. Articles of Marine Origin					
(a) Raw or Partly Manufactured	2	114.7	156.3	119.8	120.9
(b) Fully or Chiefly Manufactured	6	150.7	129.9	135.1	133.3
(c) Total	8	142.7	135.7	130.1	130.5
III. Articles of Forest Origin					
(a) Raw or Partly Manufactured	16	158.3	172.6	171.1	170.0
(b) Fully or Chiefly Manufactured	5	199.1	203.6	208.6	208.6
(c) Total	21	166.4	179.8	178.6	177.7
IV. Articles of Mineral Origin					
(a) Raw or Partly Manufactured	19	161.2	164.3	161.9	160.7
(b) Fully or Chiefly Manufactured	49	153.3	151.6	152.3	151.7
(c) Total	68	155.5	157.7	157.5	156.9

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INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES

(Classified according to Chief Component Material)

1913 = 100

Commodity	No. of Commod- ities	Avge. 1922	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923
Total Index of all Commodities	238	150.4	155.1	153.6	153.3
I. Vegetable Products	67	148.3	150.6	146.7	147.2
Fruits	8	216.1	209.4	216.4	204.8
Fresh, Domestic	1	213.2	241.1	241.1	241.1
Fresh, Foreign	3	215.8	192.9	208.9	184.2
Dried	4	223.2	183.2	182.2	179.1
Grains	9	138.4	131.8	124.3	127.5
Flour and Milled Products	6	143.7	131.8	130.6	131.2
Bakery Products	4	161.8	154.9	154.9	154.9
Vegetable Oils	2	162.0	178.5	173.8	168.3
Rubber and Its Products	3	35.2	49.3	47.7	51.0
Sugar and Its Products & Glucose	4	158.1	240.0	235.6	213.6
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa & Spices	8	173.1	198.3	193.0	197.9
Tobacco	3	183.8	183.9	183.9	183.9
Vegetables	10	143.1	170.0	164.3	188.4
Miscellaneous	10	158.2	131.1	129.6	123.6
II. Animals and Their Products	50	135.1	126.4	125.7	126.9
Live Stock	4	102.4	113.6	108.6	100.5
Fishery Products	8	142.7	135.8	131.7	130.5
Furs	2	194.2	194.3	206.7	209.2
Hides and Skins	2	88.6	79.8	73.0	79.0
Leather, Unmanufactured	4	116.8	116.8	118.0	116.8
Boots and Shoes	4	146.4	145.3	143.2	138.2
Meats and Poultry	11	141.9	138.4	138.4	137.0
Milk and Its Products	11	136.0	126.6	128.5	132.5
Fats	2	111.3	114.1	110.4	111.2
Eggs	2	133.9	98.1	92.2	99.1
III. Fibres, Textiles & Textile Products	28	176.2	202.1	198.7	195.9
Cotton, Raw	2	173.5	227.6	219.3	211.9
Cotton Yarn and Thread	2	165.3	202.8	202.8	180.7
Cotton Fabrics	6	193.7	221.2	219.2	217.8
Cotton Hosiery	1	263.8	295.2	295.2	295.2
Sash Cord	1	183.7	230.5	230.5	206.8
Flax, Hemp & Jute Products	4	145.0	142.4	117.1	122.9
Silk and Its Products	3	211.2	233.5	226.4	217.9
Wool and Yarns	4	164.6	176.4	176.4	177.3
Woollen Cloth, Hosiery & Underwear	3	221.1	235.5	235.5	235.5
Miscellaneous	2	131.5	123.1	123.1	120.6
IV. Wood & Wood Products & Paper	21	166.4	179.8	178.6	177.7
Newsprint Paper Rolls	1	189.9	200.0	200.0	200.0
Lumber and Timber	14	160.3	170.6	168.9	167.5
Pulp	2	142.7	168.5	158.5	189.6
Furniture	3	220.4	229.1	229.1	229.1
Matches	1	331.2	332.4	332.4	332.4

Commodity	No. of Commodities	Avg. 1922	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923
V. Iron & Its Products	26	149.7	171.5	169.9	168.3
Iron Ore	1	143.4	149.4	149.4	149.4
Cast Iron Pipe	1	177.9	194.0	194.0	194.0
Hardware (Chain, Bench Screws, Hinges, Wire Nails)	4	175.2	188.6	188.6	188.6
Rolling Mill Products	9	146.2	164.6	166.6	165.6
Scrap Iron	1	101.0	151.2	151.2	151.2
Smelted Products	3	145.4	176.4	164.4	160.1
Tools & Hand Implements	3	196.7	214.8	214.8	214.8
Wire	2	179.4	181.2	181.2	181.2
Miscellaneous	2	169.5	176.5	176.5	176.5
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	15	99.0	101.7	99.0	97.9
Aluminium	1	81.6	106.2	106.2	106.2
Antimony	1	85.1	89.6	89.6	89.6
Brass Sheets	1	147.5	133.3	125.0	125.0
Copper and Its Products	4	101.1	112.8	110.6	105.2
Lead and Its Products	2	139.4	155.1	147.5	146.7
Nickel Anodes	1	84.9	82.1	82.1	82.1
Silver	1	114.1	112.5	105.7	105.7
Tin Ingots	1	78.1	98.9	96.8	94.7
Zinc and Its Products	2	128.2	135.7	139.0	140.6
Solder	1	81.8	101.8	96.0	96.0
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	17	189.3	183.1	184.0	184.0
Bricks	22	157.0	160.5	169.0	169.0
Pottery	2	391.0	326.3	311.4	231.4
Coal and Its Products	5	213.3	216.5	216.9	216.9
Glass and Its Products	2	163.7	181.8	181.8	181.8
Petroleum Products	2	129.2	102.9	102.9	104.8
Lime and Cement	2	173.4	159.3	159.3	159.3
Miscellaneous	2	226.3	193.1	201.5	201.5
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	14	166.7	164.4	165.7	165.4
Coal Tar, Crude	1	212.5	212.5	231.3	231.3
Sulphuric Acid 66°	1	180.8	180.8	180.8	180.8
White Lead, Putty and Shellac	3	178.4	193.3	194.4	194.4
Socp	1	158.4	157.9	157.9	157.9
Miscellaneous Inorganic Chemicals	5	172.2	158.6	157.8	156.7
Other Chemicals	3	116.0	114.8	114.8	114.8

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES.

(Classified According to Purpose for Which Used)

1913 = 100

Commodity	No. of Commod- ities	Avgc. 1922	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923.
Total Index of all Commodities	238	150.4	155.1	153.6	153.3
1. CONSUMERS' GOODS (GROUPS A & B)	98	153.5	148.5	148.2	148.7
<u>A. Food, Beverages and Tobacco</u>	74	145.9	143.9	143.3	144.5
Beverages	4	193.9	213.8	218.8	219.0
Breadstuffs	8	149.0	136.2	136.1	136.2
Chocolate	1	98.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
Fish	8	142.7	135.8	131.7	130.5
Fruits	8	216.1	209.4	216.4	204.8
Meats, Poultry and Lard	12	140.0	136.8	136.8	135.4
Milk and Milk Products	11	136.0	126.6	128.5	132.5
Sugar, refined	2	159.5	243.5	238.9	216.1
Vegetables	10	143.1	170.0	164.3	188.4
Eggs	2	133.9	98.1	92.2	99.1
Tobacco	2	206.5	206.5	206.5	206.5
Miscellaneous	6	173.0	161.4	161.5	163.0
<u>B. Other Consumers' Goods</u>	24	163.8	154.3	154.3	153.9
Clothing, (Boots, shoes, rubbers Hosiery & underwear)	11	161.8	166.1	164.7	160.9
Household Equipment	13	163.5	150.5	151.0	151.7
Furniture	3	220.5	229.1	229.1	229.1
Glassware & Pottery	3	381.0	317.1	302.9	274.2
Miscellaneous	7	161.9	149.0	149.6	150.5
II. PRODUCERS' GOODS (GROUPS C & D)	148	146.5	150.2	147.3	145.5
<u>C. Producers' Equipment</u>	16	189.0	184.5	184.4	184.5
Tools	4	199.5	216.0	216.0	216.0
Light, Heat & Power Equipment and Supplies	8	189.2	183.8	184.2	184.7
Miscellaneous	4	180.3	192.3	183.2	172.4
<u>D. Producers' Materials</u>	132	142.0	146.6	143.4	141.3
Building and Construction Materials	32	162.0	168.4	169.8	167.9
Lumber	14	160.3	170.6	168.9	167.5
Painters' Materials	4	177.4	205.7	200.9	195.0
Miscellaneous	14	165.1	168.0	169.4	166.7
<u>Manufacturers' Materials</u>	100	137.5	141.1	137.5	135.4
For Textile & Clothing Industries	21	182.0	209.0	206.6	204.3
For Fur Industry	2	194.2	194.3	206.7	209.2
For Leather Industry	6	102.9	98.7	95.9	95.3
For Metal Working Industries	27	111.2	122.6	119.9	118.6
For Chemical Using Industries	7	192.1	174.4	177.7	177.8
For Meat Packing Industries	4	112.0	110.0	105.1	103.4
For Milling and Other Industries	9	138.6	131.9	124.4	127.6
Miscellaneous Producers' Materials	24	151.4	155.6	155.1	147.3

WHOLESALE PRICES OF IMPORTANT COMMODITIES.

Commodity	Unit	Aver. 1913	Aver. 1922	July 1923	August 1923.
		\$	\$	\$	\$
OATS, # 2 C.W.					
Ft. William & Pt. Arthur basis	bus.	.340	.432	.449	.452
WHEAT, # 1, Man. Northern					
Ft. William & Pt. Arthur basis	"	.882	1.235	1.08	1.129
FLOUR, first patents	2-98's				
Toronto	jute	5.368	7.65	6.90	6.90
SUGAR, raw 96° centrif.	cwt.	2.995	5.054	7.15	5.57
Montreal					
SUGAR, granulated					
Montreal	"	4.198	6.672	9.975	9.025
RUBBER, ribbed, smoked sheets					
New York	lb.	.656	.175	.261	.255
RUBBER, para, upriver, fine					
New York	"	.872	.199	.266	.271
CATTLE, choice steers					
Toronto	cwt.	6.893	7.176	7.60	7.094
HOGS, thick smooth					
Toronto	"	9.029	12.66	8.65	10.23
BEEF HIDES, #1 city cured					
Toronto	lb.	.144	.128	.10-.11	.10-.11
SOLE LEATHER, mfr's, green hide crops					
Toronto	"	.40	.441	.44	.42
BOX SIDES, B.					
Mill	ft.	.203	.262	.27	.27
BUTTER, creamery, finest					
Montreal	lb.	.274	.36	.311	.324
CHEESE, Canadian, old large					
Montreal	"	.17	.227	.30	.32
EGGS, fresh, specials and extras					
Montreal	doz.	.35	.47	.31-.36	.35-.40
COTTON, raw 1 - 1 1/16"					
Hamilton	lb.	.135	.233	.295	.285
COTTON YARNS, 10's white, single					
hosiery cops, Mill	"	.244	.404	.50	.44
SAXONY, 4-15 yds. to lb.					
Montreal	"	.441	.83	.872	.872
GINGHAM, amoskeag, 6.37 yds. to lb.					
Toronto	yd.	.995	.187	.20	.20
SILK, raw, jap. filature, Kansai #1					
New York	lb.	3.80	7.40	7.80	7.10
WOOL, eastern bright 1/4 blood,					
domestic, Toronto	"	.165	.217	.32-.33	.33
WOOL, western range, semi-bright					
1/2 blood, domestic, Toronto	"	.215	.276	.38-.40	.38-.40
PULP, groundwood # 1					
Mill	ton	15.90	27.58	37-38	38.00
PIG IRON, basic					
Mill	"	19.00	28.08	30.00	29.00
STEEL MERCHANT BARS					
Mill	"	37.92	43.67	55.00	55.00
ELECTROLYTIC COPPER					
Montreal	cwt.	15.72	16.04	17.25	16.40
LEAD					
Montreal	"	4.67	6.22	6.50	6.50
TIN INGOTS, straits					
Toronto	lb.	.465	.363	.45	.44
SPELLER					
Montreal	cwt.	5.80	7.40	8.00	8.10
COAL, anthracite, egg					
Toronto	ton	5.879	11.73	11.82	11.82
GASOLINE					
Toronto	gal.	.25	.327	.25	.25
SULPHURIC ACID, 66°					
Montreal and Toronto	cwt.	1.30	2.35	2.35	2.35

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