

62 002 c/

C A N A D A
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

Vol. 1

No. 6

PRICES & PRICE INDEXES

OCTOBER, 1923

-----+ + +-----

Published by Authority of the Hon. Thos. A. Low, M. P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce.

+ + +

OTTAWA

1923

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH.

OTTAWA.

(Issued November 6th, 1923)

Dominion Statistician:	R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S., F.R.S.C.
Chief, Internal Trade Branch:	F. J. Horning, B.A., F.S.S.
Prices Statistician:	Herbert Marshall, B.A.

PRICES AND PRICE INDEXES, OCTOBER, 1923.

The Index Number of Wholesale Prices (weighted) compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics was 153.1 in October as compared with 154.7 in September thus showing a drop of 1.6 points. 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 register a rise in the price level as compared with September; the remaining four indicate a fall. Vegetable Products (grains, fruits, etc.) show the biggest change having fallen from 148.0 to 141.6. This considerable drop was due to lower prices for grains, flour and vegetables. Animals and Their Products rose from 132.5 to 133.9. In this group declines in live stock and meat prices were offset by increases in those for milk, butter and eggs. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products, because of increased raw cotton quotations, rose from 196.7 to 197.3. Wood, Wood Products and Paper rose slightly from 177.9 to 178.2. Iron and Its Products fell from 168.2 to 167.4 due largely to lower pig iron prices. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products were 97.5 in October as compared with 98.3 in September, the continued decline in copper prices not being offset by increases in those for lead and silver. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products rose from 183.6 to 184.9 due to increased anthracite coal prices which were partially offset by the lower cost of gasoline. Chemicals and Allied Products because of lower white lead and wood alcohol prices fell from 165.7 to 164.5.

Consumers' Goods (i.e. food, beverages, tobacco, clothing, household goods, &c.) were practically stationary being 152.1 as against 152.3 in September. Declines in breadstuffs, meats and vegetables were offset by increases in fish, milk, sugar and eggs. Producers' Goods (i.e. materials used in manufacture) fell from 145.2 to 143.5, chiefly because of declines in materials for the meat packing and the milling industries.

Raw or Partly Manufactured Materials fell from 145.2 to 143.1 and Fully or Chiefly Manufactured Materials from 158.9 to 157.9. Domestic Farm Products fell from 128.8 to 122.3 due to declines in grain prices which more than counterbalanced increases in those for eggs, butter and milk. Fishery prices increased from 122.1 to 125.5. Articles of Forest and Mineral Origin were, on the whole, fairly stable.

CHANGES IN IMPORTANT COMMODITIES: Grain prices were again the centre of interest. The high point in October for cash wheat No. 1 Manitoba Northern was attained on October 6th when the price was \$1.00-5/8 per bushel. By October 19th it had sagged to 95 1/4¢. The average for the month was 97 3/4¢ as compared with \$1.06 in September. Early in October talk of governmental relief measures in connection with the American crop served as a somewhat bullish factor causing grain prices to rise sympathetically in Canada. These reports bore less weight as the month progressed and several bearish influences succeeded in depressing prices. The official estimate from Argentina indicated a very large crop and importers carried on a hand-to-mouth business awaiting developments. Persistent rumours were extant of considerable grain exports from Russia to Germany and other European countries. Buying by English co-operative societies from Russia was also reported.

Flax prices, No. 1 N.W.C., commenced the month at \$2.16½ and owing to brisk buying by Canadian and American crushers rose by October 12th to \$2.19¾. After that date, with the news from Argentina, the market became easier and the month closed with flax at \$2.01½. Oats #2 C.W. fell from 44¢ per bushel on October 1st to 41½¢ on the 31st. In sympathy with the lower grain prices flour also declined; first patent selling at \$6.50 per 2-93's jute as compared with \$6.90 in September. Shorts dropped from \$32.05 to \$30.70 per ton. In contrast to other grain prices that for American corn rose during the month, the average for cash grain being \$1.21 in October and \$1.03 in September. Anticipation of very keen buying when the new crop is marketed in order to replenish low stocks brought prices to a high level. Favorable weather conditions for harvesting the new crop eased prices at the close of the month. Good demand for raw sugar coupled with low Cuban stocks and a 3 months' period before new crop raws will be available caused another rise in sugar prices. Raw sugar 96° centrifugal was \$7.42 at the middle of October as compared with \$6.77 in September. The high level attained attracted sugar from South America and Europe and resulted in lower prices towards the end of the month. Granulated sugar rose in sympathy with raw from \$9.64 to \$10.17 per cwt. The rubber market was increasingly dull during October. Ribbed Smoked Sheets fell from 29¢ to 27¢ and Para Upriver fine from 28¢ to 24¢ per pound. Slackening of demand in American and other markets have been accompanied by a piling up of supplies in London, with a consequent slump in prices. The long spell of fine weather brought ample vegetable supplies to the markets consequently potato prices were easier. Quebec grades in car lots fell from \$1.34 to \$1.04 per bag and Ontario potatoes in small lots from \$1.75-\$2.00 to \$1.40-\$1.50 per bag. A combination of scarcity in raw materials and brisk demand to replenish stocks increased the prices of certain canned vegetables. Corn 2's rose from \$1.32½ to \$1.54½ and Tomatoes 2½'s from \$1.50 to \$1.79½ per dozen tins.

Plentiful supplies at both the Winnipeg and Toronto markets resulted in lower cattle prices. Choice Steers at Toronto fell from \$6.95 to \$6.75 per cwt. The hog market also was easier, thick smooth hogs averaging \$8.78 per cwt. as against \$9.94 in September. Meat prices moved in sympathy with the prices of live stock. Beef hind-quarters fell from \$15.20 to \$15.00 per cwt. Bacon dropped from 31¢ to 23¢ per pound and mess pork from \$34.00 to \$32.00 per barrel. Milk prices showed seasonal rises. The producers' price per gallon at Montreal increasing from 21¢ to 25¢ and the wholesale price at Toronto from 35¢ to 33¢-40¢ per gallon. Butter prices rose 1½¢ on the average and egg prices about 2¢. Fish prices have tended to increase owing partly to better demand and partly to short present supplies in some lines. Halibut was 13¢ as compared with 12¢ per pound in September.

In the textile group the position of raw cotton showed no improvement. Despite the fact that exports of this commodity from the United States are running far behind those of last year and that manufacturers in that country declare their inability to make cloth at marketable prices, upland middling, spot, rose from 29¢ to 30¢ per pound at New York. The Hamilton price for raw cotton 1-1-1/16" was 31½¢ in October as compared with 30½¢ in September. Lack of demand and increased shipments from Japan brought raw silk Kansai No.1 down to \$10.20 per pound, a fall of about 30¢ per pound. Silk, machine twist, felt the effect of the higher prices for raw material which have prevailed since the earthquake and rose from \$19.75 to \$21.00 per pound. Raw wool again registered a decline. Eastern wool, bright, ½ blood, declined from 31¢ to 30¢ per pound.

The iron and steel market on the whole held its own. Pig iron, basic, dropped \$1 per ton, being \$27.00 as compared with \$28.00 in September. The tendency to increasing stocks of raw copper mainly owing to the downward trend in European consumption is reflected in another fall in copper prices, Electrolytic being \$15.20 in October as against \$16.15 in September. Manufactured copper moved in sympathy,

sheets being \$20.25 as compared with \$21.25 and solid bare copper wire was 18¢ per pound, a fall of 1½¢. Lead was in a strong position conditions of supply and demand bringing about a rise from \$6.85 to \$7.10. Lead pipe rose in sympathy from \$12.60 to \$13.05. Lack of demand, both export and import, caused American zinc prices to decline. The Montreal price was \$3.00 per cwt. as compared with \$8.30 in September.

Anthracite coal rose from \$11.82 to \$12.46 per ton. Gasoline, reflecting United States conditions, fell from 25¢ to 24¢ per gallon. In the chemical group wood alcohol 97% declined from \$1.00 to 93¢ per gallon.

T A B L E.

Tables of price indexes and of the prices of leading commodities during October, with comparative figures for preceding months and for 1922 etc., will be found on the indicated pages according to the following arrangement:

I. Summary of Tables of Index Numbers	Page 3
II. Detailed Tables of Index Numbers (arranged according to component material)	Pages 4-5
III. Detailed Tables of Index Numbers (arranged according to purpose)	Page 6
IV. Wholesale prices of Important Commodities	Page 7

SUMMARY TABLES

Commodity	No. of Commod- ities	Avg. 1922	Aug. 1923	Sept. 1923	Oct. 1923
-----------	----------------------------	--------------	--------------	---------------	--------------

Prices 1913 = 100

Total Index 238 Commodities	238	150.4	153.3	154.7	153.1
-----------------------------	-----	-------	-------	-------	-------

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED
ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIAL

1. Vegetable Products (Grains, fruits etc.)	57	148.3	147.2	148.0	141.6
11. Animals and Their Products	50	135.1	126.9	132.5	133.9
111. Fibres, Textiles & Textile Products	23	178.2	195.9	196.7	197.8
1V. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	21	166.4	177.7	177.9	178.2
V. Iron and Its Products	26	149.7	170.3	168.2	167.4
V1. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	15	99.0	97.9	98.3	97.5
V11. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	17	189.3	184.0	183.6	184.9
V111. Chemicals and Allied Products	14	166.7	165.4	165.7	164.5

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED
ACCORDING TO PURPOSE.

1. Consumers' Goods	98	153.5	148.7	152.3	152.1
Foods, Beverages and Tobacco	74	145.9	144.5	150.9	149.3
Other Consumers' Goods	24	163.8	153.9	153.7	155.6
11. Producers' Goods	148	146.5	145.5	145.2	143.5
Producers' Equipment	16	189.0	184.5	185.0	186.4
Producers' Materials	132	142.0	141.3	141.0	139.0
Building and Construction Materials	32	162.0	167.9	166.7	167.0
Manufacturers' Materials	100	137.5	135.4	135.2	132.7

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED
ACCORDING TO ORIGIN.

Total Raw or Partly Manufactured	108	145.5	144.0	145.2	143.1
Total Fully or Chiefly Manufactured	130	154.9	156.3	158.9	157.9

1. Articles of Farm Origin (Domestic and Foreign)

A. Field (grains, fruits, cotton, etc.)					
(a) Raw or Partly Manufactured	46	147.7	145.0	146.2	139.1
(b) Fully or Chiefly "	42	159.1	165.6	168.2	167.9
(c) Total	88	152.6	154.8	155.7	150.9

B. Animal

(a) Raw or partly Manufactured	25	131.3	119.6	122.6	125.1
(b) Fully or chiefly "	28	141.7	138.5	140.9	145.4
(c) Total	53	136.0	128.9	135.1	136.2

C. Canadian Farm Products

(1) Field, (grains, etc.)	20	144.3	137.3	134.0	122.3
(2) Animal	16	130.4	113.6	119.8	122.4
(3) Total	36	139.2	128.6	128.8	122.3

11. Articles of Marine Origin

(a) Raw or Partly Manufactured	2	114.7	120.9	119.8	124.8
(b) Fully or Chiefly "	6	150.7	133.3	122.7	125.7
(c) Total	8	142.7	130.5	122.1	125.5

111. Articles of Forest Origin

(a) Raw or Partly Manufactured	16	158.3	170.0	170.3	170.6
(b) Fully or Chiefly "	5	199.1	208.6	208.6	208.6
(c) Total	21	166.4	177.7	177.9	178.2

1V. Articles of Mineral Origin

(a) Raw or Partly Manufactured	19	161.2	161.9	161.4	161.6
(b) Fully or Chiefly "	49	153.3	151.7	151.3	150.1
(c) Total	68	155.5	156.9	156.6	156.6

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES

(Classified according to Chief Component Material)

1913 = 100

Commodity	No. of Commod- ities	Avge. 1922	Aug. 1923	Sept. 1923	Oct. 1923
Total Index of all Commodities	238	150.4	153.3	154.7	153.1
I. Vegetable Products	67	148.3	147.3	148.0	141.6
Fruits	8	216.1	182.5	202.4	197.1
Fresh, Domestic	1	213.2	-	-	183.7
Fresh, Foreign	3	215.8	184.2	213.2	217.6
Dried	4	223.2	179.1	176.2	173.4
Grains	9	138.4	127.5	121.7	114.2
Flour and Milled Products	6	143.7	131.2	132.9	125.5
Bakery Products	4	161.8	154.9	154.9	154.9
Vegetable Oils	2	162.0	168.3	172.3	172.6
Rubber and Its Products	3	35.2	51.0	51.5	48.7
Sugar & Its Products & Glucose	4	153.1	213.6	227.9	240.4
Tea, Coffee, Cocoa and Spices	8	173.1	197.9	199.4	200.1
Tobacco	3	183.8	183.9	183.9	183.9
Vegetables	10	143.1	138.4	196.6	171.2
Miscellaneous	10	153.2	123.6	123.1	123.3
II. Animals and Their Products	50	135.1	126.9	132.5	133.9
Live Stock	4	102.4	100.5	98.3	94.1
Fishery Products	8	142.7	130.5	122.1	125.5
Furs	2	194.2	209.2	140.5	135.3
Hides and Skins	2	83.6	73.0	73.0	73.0
Leather, Unmanufactured	4	116.8	116.8	116.9	114.7
Boots and Shoes	4	146.4	138.2	138.2	138.2
Meats and Poultry	11	141.9	137.0	135.9	132.1
Milk and Its Products	11	136.0	132.5	142.6	147.7
Fats	2	111.3	111.2	116.9	124.1
Eggs	2	133.9	101.0	126.0	130.4
III. Fibres, Textiles & Textile Products	28	178.2	195.9	196.7	197.8
Cotton, Raw	2	173.5	211.9	226.8	236.1
Cotton Yarn and Thread	2	165.3	180.7	196.9	196.9
Cotton Fabrics	6	193.7	217.3	210.1	210.6
Cotton Hosiery	1	263.8	295.2	295.2	295.2
Sash Cord	1	183.7	206.8	230.5	230.5
Flax, Hemp & Jute Products	4	145.0	122.9	137.1	132.1
Silk and Its Products	3	211.2	217.9	258.6	261.7
Wool and Yarns	4	164.6	177.3	169.6	166.5
Woollen Cloth, Hosiery & Underwear	3	221.1	235.5	235.5	235.5
Miscellaneous	2	131.5	120.6	120.6	120.6
IV. Wood & Wood Products & Paper	21	166.4	177.7	177.9	178.2
Newsprint Paper Rolls	1	189.9	200.0	200.0	200.0
Lumber and Timber	14	160.3	167.5	166.4	167.0
Pulp	2	142.7	189.6	200.0	198.7
Furniture	3	230.4	229.1	229.1	228.2
Matches	1	331.2	332.4	332.4	332.4

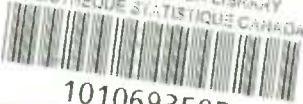
Commodity	No. of Commodities	Avg 1922	Aug. 1923	Sept. 1923	Oct. 1923
V. Iron and Its Products	26	149.7	170.3	168.2	167.4
Iron Ore	1	143.4	149.4	149.4	149.4
Cast Iron Pipe	1	177.9	194.0	194.0	194.0
Hardware (Chain, Bench Screws, Hinges Wire Nails)	4	175.2	188.6	188.6	188.6
Rolling Mills Products	9	146.2	165.6	164.0	164.0
Scrap Iron	1	101.0	151.2	141.2	141.2
Smelted Products	3	145.4	167.7	164.4	159.2
Tools and Hand Implements	3	196.7	214.8	214.8	214.8
Wire	2	179.4	190.1	190.1	193.0
Miscellaneous	2	169.5	176.5	176.5	176.5
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals & Their Products	15	99.0	97.9	98.3	97.5
Aluminium	1	81.6	99.9	99.9	99.9
Antimony	1	85.1	89.6	89.6	89.6
Brass Sheets	1	147.5	125.0	125.0	125.0
Copper and Its Products	4	101.1	105.2	104.0	97.5
Lead and Its Products	2	139.4	146.7	153.4	159.0
Nickel Anodes	1	84.9	82.1	82.1	82.1
Silver	1	114.1	105.7	106.5	108.8
Tin Ingots	1	78.1	94.7	100.0	98.9
Zinc and Its Products	2	128.2	140.6	143.8	139.0
Solder	1	81.8	96.0	101.8	101.3
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	17	189.3	184.0	183.6	184.9
Bricks	2	157.0	169.0	169.0	169.0
Pottery	2	391.0	281.4	281.4	311.4
Coal and Its Products	5	213.8	216.9	216.9	219.9
Glass and Its Products	2	163.7	181.8	149.0	149.1
Petroleum Products	2	129.2	104.8	104.8	102.0
Line and Cement	2	173.4	159.3	159.3	159.3
Miscellaneous	2	226.3	201.5	201.5	201.5
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	14	166.7	165.4	165.7	164.5
Coal Tar, Crude	1	212.5	231.3	231.3	231.3
Sulphuric Acid, 66°	1	180.8	180.8	180.8	180.8
White Lead, Putty and Shellac	3	178.4	194.4	194.4	186.3
Soap	1	158.4	157.9	157.9	157.9
Miscellaneous Inorganic Chemicals	5	172.2	156.7	156.7	156.7
Other Chemicals	3	116.0	114.8	117.7	113.7

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES
(Classified According to Purpose for which Used)
1913 = 100

Commodity	No. of Commodities	Commod- Avg. 1922	Aug. 1923	Sept. 1923	Oct. 1923
Total Index of all Commodities	238	150.4	153.3	154.7	153.1
1. CONSUMERS' GOODS (GROUPS A & B)	98	153.5	148.7	152.3	152.1
A. <u>Food, Beverages & Tobacco</u>	74	145.9	144.5	150.9	149.3
Beverages	4	193.9	219.0	220.4	221.1
Breadstuffs	8	149.0	136.2	136.2	130.1
Chocolate	1	96.8	100.0	96.0	96.0
Fish	8	142.7	130.5	122.1	125.5
Fruits	8	216.1	204.8	202.4	197.1
Meats, Poultry and Lard	12	140.0	135.4	134.8	131.6
Milk and Milk Products	11	136.0	132.5	142.6	147.7
Sugar, refined	2	159.5	216.1	230.9	243.5
Vegetables	10	143.1	183.4	196.6	171.2
Eggs	2	133.9	99.1	126.0	130.4
Tobacco	2	206.5	206.5	206.5	206.5
Miscellaneous	6	173.0	163.0	163.1	163.6
B. <u>Other Consumers' Goods</u>	24	163.8	153.9	153.7	155.6
Clothing, (Boots, shoes, rubbers Hosiery & Underwear)	11	161.8	160.9	159.9	159.9
Household Equipment	13	163.5	151.7	151.7	154.2
Furniture	3	220.5	229.1	229.1	228.2
Glassware and Pottery	3	381.0	274.2	274.2	303.5
Miscellaneous	7	161.9	150.5	150.4	152.8
II. PRODUCERS' GOODS (GROUP C & D.)	148	146.5	145.5	145.2	143.5
C. <u>Producers' Equipment</u>	16	189.0	184.5	185.0	186.4
Tools	4	199.5	216.0	216.0	216.0
Light, Heat & Power Equipment and Supplies	8	189.2	184.7	184.7	186.0
Miscellaneous	4	180.8	172.4	188.9	192.6
D. <u>Producers' Materials</u>	132	142.0	141.3	141.0	139.0
Building & Construction Materials	32	162.0	167.9	166.7	167.0
Lumber	14	160.3	167.5	166.4	167.0
Painters' Materials	4	177.4	195.0	196.7	192.5
Miscellaneous	14	165.1	166.7	164.8	164.8
<u>Manufacturers' Materials</u>	100	137.5	135.4	135.2	132.7
For Textile and Clothing Industries	21	182.0	204.3	204.3	205.4
For Fur Industry	2	194.2	209.2	140.5	185.3
For Leather Industry	6	102.9	95.3	95.4	94.2
For Metal Working Industries	27	111.2	118.6	118.3	117.8
For Chemical Using Industries	7	192.1	177.8	178.6	178.6
For Meat Packing Industries	4	112.0	103.4	101.4	95.8
For Milling and Other Industries	9	138.6	127.6	121.8	114.2
Miscellaneous Producers' Materials	24	151.4	147.3	154.1	154.4

WHOLESALE PRICES OF IMPORTANT COMMODITIES

Commodity	Unit	Aver. 1913	Aver. 1922	Sept. 1923	Oct. 1923
OATS, # 2 C.W.					
Pt. William and Pt. Arthur basis bus.		.340	.482	.445	.4238
WHEAT, # 1, Man. Northern					
Pt. William and Pt. Arthur basis "		.882	1.235	1.063	.977
FLOUR, first patents	2-98's				
Toronto	jute	5.368	7.65	6.90	6.50
SUGAR, raw 96° centrif					
Montreal	cwt.	2.995	5.054	6.77	7.42
SUGAR, granulated					
Montreal	"	4,198	6,672	9.643	10.17
RUBBER, ribbed, smoked sheets					
New York	lb.	.666	.175	.291	.272
RUBBER, para, upriver, fine					
New York	"	.872	.199	.281	.241
CATTLE, choice steers					
Toronto	cwt.	6.893	7.176	6.95	6.75
HOGS, thick smooth					
Toronto	"	9.029	12.66	9.94	8.78
BEEF HIDES, #1 city cured					
Toronto	lb.	.144	.128	.10-11	.10-11
SOLE LEATHER, mfr's, green hide crops					
Toronto	lb.	.40	.441	.40	.42
BOX SIDES, B.					
Mill	ft.	.203	.262	.27	.27
BUTTER, creamery, finest					
Montreal	lb.	.274	.36	.374	.389
CHEESE, Canadian, old large					
Montreal	"	.17	.227	.32	.32
EGGS, fresh, specials and extras					
Montreal	doz.	.35	.47	.40-48	.42-50
COTTON, raw 1-1/16"					
Hamilton	lb.	.135	.233	.305	.3175
COTTON YARNS, 10's white, single					
hosiery cops, Mill	"	.244	.404	.48	.43
SAXONY, 4-18 yds. to lb.					
Montreal	"	.441	.83	.872	.872
GINGHAM, amoskeag, 6-37 yds to lb.					
Toronto	yd.	.995	.137	.175	.175
SILK, raw, jap. filature, Kansai #1					
New York	lb.	3.80	7.40	9.00	11.00
WOOL, eastern bright 1/4 blood					
domestic, Toronto	"	.165	.217	.31	.30
WOOL, western range, semi-bright					
1/4 blood, domestic, Toronto	"	.215	.276	.37	.37
PULP, groundwood # 1					
Mill	ton	15.90	27.53	40-45	40-47.50
PIG IRON, basic					
Mill	"	19.00	28.08	28.00	27.00
STEEL MERCHANT BARS					
Mill	"	37.92	43.67	55.00	55.00
ELECTROLYTIC COPPER					
Montreal	cwt.	15.72	16.04	16.15	15.20
LEAD,					
Montreal	"	4.67	6.22	6.85	7.10
TIN INGOTS, straits					
Toronto	lb.	.465	.363	.465	.46
SPELTER					
Montreal	cwt.	5.80	7.40	8.30	8.00
COAL, anthracite, egg					
Toronto	ton	5.879	11.73	11.82	12.46
GASOLINE					
Toronto	gal.	.25	.327	.25	.24
SULPHURIC ACID, 66°					
Montreal and Toronto	cwt.	1.30	2.35	2.35	2.35



1010693505