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OTTAWA, March 17, 1949: The Dominion Bureau of Statistics today issues the regular monthly report on index numbers of prices received by Canadian farmers for agricultural products. The index numbers for the month of January 1949, are initially released and revisions of previously published data are included. Most of the price information used in compiling this index is obtained from reports furnished monthly by a corps of volunteer farm price correspondents throughout Canada.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The index of farm prices of agricultural products for January 1949 is estimated at 258.0 as compared with a revised estimate of 259.4 for December 1948. Since the publication of the last report a fairly substantial upward revision has been made in the general level of the index from August 1945 to date. This upward revision has been occasioned by the recent announcement by the Minister of Trade and Commerce that the initial lakehead price of wheat to the western producer would be increased 20 cents per bushel and made retroactive to August 1945. In addition the prices of oats and barley for the crop year 1947-48 have been advanced to include the final equalization payments of 5.881 cents per bushel for oats and 6.780 cents per bushel for barley.

The decline in the January index of 1.4 points below that of December 1948 comes as a result of lower prices paid for grains other than wheat, livestock, furs, poultry and eggs. The decreases in the prices of these commodities more than offset increases recorded for dairy products and potatoes.

Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products for Canada 1/  
(Base 1935-39 = 100)

Annual Averages			Monthly Averages		
			Month	1948	1949
1935	.....	88.0	January	240.6	258.0
1936	.....	96.9	February	240.3	
1937	.....	119.7	March	240.1	
1938	.....	105.0	April	242.7	
1939	.....	91.8	May	247.5	
1940	.....	96.8	June	257.5	
1941	.....	110.2	July	259.2	
1942	.....	133.1	August	264.1	
1943	.....	157.8	September	261.3	
1944	.....	172.3	October	260.2	
1945	.....	184.1	November	257.6	
1946	.....	200.6	December	259.4	
1947	.....	212.4			
1948	.....	252.5			

1/ Includes revised data since last report. See table page 3.

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The table on the following page presents the annual average of Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products by Provinces for the period 1935-47, and the monthly index numbers for the years 1948 and 1949. The prices used in computing the index are, as closely as can be determined, the prices which are actually received by farmers. Thus the storage, transportation, processing and handling charges which are not actually received by farmers are not included. On the other hand, subsidies, bonuses and premiums which can be attributed to specific products are all included to date.

The amounts paid per bushel on wheat participation certificates are included in the wheat prices up to July 1945. Subsequently, wheat prices include the ten cents per bushel retroactive increase announced on July 30, 1946 and paid on the 1945 crop. They also include the 20 cents retroactive payment made on all wheat delivered during the crop years 1945-46, 1946-47 and up to April 1, 1948, and the recently announced 20 cents per bushel payment to be made on all wheat delivered during the crop years 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48 and up to April 1, 1949.

Oats and barley prices include advance equalization payments until their discontinuance on March 18, 1947 and the adjustment payment made by the Canadian Wheat Board and western grain companies on deliveries of those grains from August 1 to October 21, 1947 when price ceilings were removed. In addition, oats and barley prices include final equalization payments up to July 1948. From August 1, 1946 to March 17, 1947, barley prices include the 10 cents adjustment payment made in respect of barley delivered during that period.

Flax prices include the adjustment payment of 50 cents per bushel made on all deliveries of commercial flaxseed during the 1947-48 crop year.

In compiling the index the fixed base weighted aggregative method has been used. Each commodity has been weighted by the annual average amounts sold in the five-year base period 1935-39. No adjustments for seasonal variation of the prices have been made. The index is based upon prices for about 50 farm products which contributed approximately 90 per cent to the total cash income received by farmers from the sale of farm products during the base period. The series is subject to revision as more complete data become available.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS 1/  
(1935-39 = 100)

	CANADA	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
1935	88.0	81.4	92.6	80.8	90.1	93.2	85.6	83.1	84.3	92.7
1936	96.9	118.0	103.5	110.2	98.6	98.8	94.0	93.4	93.8	100.4
1937	119.7	103.7	99.3	100.1	104.1	108.7	129.9	136.4	131.4	107.1
1938	105.0	92.4	101.4	97.4	107.0	104.0	104.9	107.6	105.6	100.1
1939	91.8	104.6	107.6	111.4	100.4	99.2	85.6	79.9	84.9	98.8
1940	96.8	101.6	99.6	110.1	103.7	104.2	92.8	86.5	90.6	103.6
1941	110.2	105.2	117.1	115.5	127.4	120.2	103.7	93.8	102.8	114.5
1942	133.1	156.2	144.1	160.4	153.4	147.0	122.2	110.5	121.7	140.6
1943	157.8	190.3	169.1	181.4	172.6	165.0	151.3	139.9	149.9	175.9
1944	172.3	172.7	173.3	171.9	171.7	168.7	173.1	171.4	176.9	179.7
1945	184.1	196.7	180.8	195.3	179.5	174.1	186.3	189.4	193.4	187.9
1946	200.6	194.2	191.1	207.7	196.9	187.4	204.3	209.5	213.2	199.0
1947	212.4	180.3	185.1	199.6	213.6	201.7	220.4	218.0	224.7	206.7
1948 - January	240.6	231.6	204.1	239.7	251.8	241.3	247.1	232.5	243.9	222.9
February	240.3	229.4	203.6	243.4	258.9	241.6	242.4	230.6	242.6	219.8
March	240.1	233.8	207.8	242.2	257.7	240.1	241.8	231.8	243.3	218.9
April	242.7	240.1	210.1	251.2	257.8	242.5	244.6	233.8	246.2	225.5
May	247.5	279.1	216.1	266.4	263.4	246.6	250.3	237.0	250.2	227.4
June	257.5	303.2	224.5	288.7	266.8	266.2	255.6	241.2	257.1	232.9
July	259.2	288.3	233.1	314.1	270.8	264.9	257.2	251.6	259.5	243.1
August	264.1	258.2	232.3	267.2	273.9	279.2	258.6	244.0	266.0	249.7
September	261.3	204.3	216.1	225.7	270.0	273.3	261.3	244.2	269.6	249.5
October	260.2	195.7	207.3	221.8	272.8	274.2	259.1	242.5	266.1	251.0
November	257.6	196.6	205.9	223.0	271.7	270.3	260.8	241.2	259.1	253.0
December	259.4	194.1	209.0	222.3	273.6	270.5	261.3	245.1	263.5	250.0
AVERAGE	252.5	237.9	214.2	250.5	265.8	259.3	253.3	238.8	255.6	237.0
1949 - January	258.0	196.0	212.9	227.7	275.5	267.9	260.0	243.8	260.2	248.1

1/ Includes revised data since last report.

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