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Agriculture Division

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OTTAWA, February 13, 1950: 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 December 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 December 1949 is estimated at 246.8 (1935-39 = 100). This compares with 245.9 for November and 259.9 for December 1948. Compared with a year ago, December prices were lower for nearly all commodities. Compared with the previous month, they were higher for livestock and dairy products and lower for potatoes and poultry and eggs.

For the first time since 1939, the annual index of farm prices of agricultural products turned downward. This index for 1949 stands at 251.3 just slightly below the record high of 252.6 established in 1948. A decline in the prices of grains, dairy products, potatoes, vegetables and furs during 1949 slightly offset an increase in the prices of livestock, poultry and eggs, fruits, tobacco and maple products.

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	240.3	257.7
1936	.....	96.9	February	240.0	253.2
1937	.....	119.7	March	240.3	251.5
1938	.....	105.0	April	242.6	250.9
1939	.....	91.8	May	247.5	250.9
1940	.....	96.8	June	257.4	254.7
1941	.....	110.2	July	259.1	253.9
1942	.....	133.1	August	263.9	253.4
1943	.....	157.8	September	261.5	249.8
1944	.....	172.4	October	260.1	247.1
1945	.....	184.2	November	258.0	245.9
1946	.....	200.8	December	259.9	246.8
1947	.....	212.5			
1948	.....	252.6 4			
1949	.....	251.3			

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

Lower grain prices since July comes largely as a result of the government authorizing the Canadian Wheat Board to undertake the marketing of western Canadian oats and barley delivered by producers during the 1949-50 crop year. Under this arrangement the Canadian Wheat Board will pay to producers upon delivery of these grains only an initial payment per bushel. These initial payments based on 60 cents per bushel for No. 1 Feed oats and 87 cents per bushel No. 1 Feed barley in store Fort William or Port Arthur are below the prices prevailing for these grains, prior to August 1, 1949. In addition to the initial payments made at the time of delivery, producer certificates are issued to the grower covering quantities and grades delivered. These certificates entitle producers to share in any surpluses accumulated by the Board through the sale of these grains delivered to the Board between August 1, 1949 and July 31, 1950. Any participation payments made on these grains at a later date will be added to the initial prices currently used in the price index and the index revised upwards accordingly.

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 these 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	172.4	172.7	173.3	171.9	171.7	169.1	173.1	171.4	176.9	179.7
1945	184.2	196.7	180.8	195.3	179.5	174.6	186.3	189.4	193.4	187.9
1946	200.8	194.2	191.1	207.7	196.9	187.9	204.3	209.5	213.2	199.0
1947	212.5	180.1	184.6	199.6	213.7	202.1	220.8	218.3	225.2	206.8
1948 - January	240.3	231.6	202.7	239.7	253.1	239.6	249.2	233.5	244.8	224.9
February	240.0	229.4	202.3	243.5	257.2	241.1	244.5	231.5	243.6	221.2
March	240.3	233.8	206.4	242.3	257.7	240.3	243.9	232.7	244.3	220.9
April	242.6	240.1	208.7	251.1	257.4	242.5	246.7	234.7	247.2	225.5
May	247.5	279.1	214.7	266.3	263.2	246.7	252.4	237.9	251.2	228.7
June	257.4	303.2	223.1	288.6	266.2	266.3	257.7	242.1	258.0	233.0
July	259.1	288.3	231.7	313.9	270.6	264.8	259.3	242.4	260.5	244.3
August	263.9	258.2	231.0	267.0	274.0	278.6	258.6	243.9	266.0	250.2
September	261.5	204.3	215.7	226.0	270.0	274.4	261.3	244.2	269.6	250.3
October	260.1	195.7	206.9	222.1	271.6	274.5	259.1	242.5	266.1	252.0
November	258.0	196.6	205.4	223.4	272.2	271.3	260.8	241.2	259.3	254.3
December	259.9	194.1	208.5	222.7	274.0	271.6	261.3	245.1	263.7	251.2
AVERAGE	252.6	237.9	213.1	250.6	265.6	259.3	254.6	239.3	256.2	238.0
1949 - January	257.7	196.5	213.4	227.7	274.1	267.3	260.0	243.9	260.4	247.6
February	253.2	200.5	215.5	224.4	271.4	260.3	257.0	240.9	255.1	242.4
March	251.5	199.9	212.7	223.5	267.8	256.2	253.9	240.5	256.9	242.8
April	250.9	197.8	208.0	219.4	260.1	254.3	254.5	241.8	261.3	243.3
May	250.9	195.5	206.8	217.1	256.5	254.1	257.3	242.7	262.3	241.0
June	254.7	210.6	208.2	215.8	261.1	264.8	256.8	242.6	262.2	239.5
July	253.9	214.5	207.0	216.8	260.4	265.5	253.4	240.4	260.5	243.7
August	253.4	248.0	219.3	232.2	261.4	261.7	248.3	237.9	262.4	248.8
September	249.8	211.9	208.9	229.7	260.7	260.0	248.8	236.0	252.2	245.8
October	247.1	195.4	210.9	217.5	256.8	257.7	242.8	233.8	251.2	246.2
November	245.9	190.2	203.6	215.3	256.1	254.2	244.8	235.8	249.6	246.0
December	246.8	186.9	205.8	209.0	256.9	256.3	245.0	235.9	251.7	240.8
AVERAGE	251.3	204.0	210.0	220.7	261.9	259.4	251.9	239.4	257.2	241.0

^{1/} Includes revised data since last report.

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