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D.B.S. MEMORANDUM

Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa, Canada

1952 No. 9

Price: \$1.00 per year.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, SEPTEMBER 1952 1/
(1935-39 = 100)

The index of farm prices of agricultural products continued downward during September to its lowest level since February 1950. Estimated at 250.5, it compares with 259.7 for the previous month and 295.7 for September 1951. Lower prices for live stock and potatoes more than offsetting slight gains for dairy products, poultry and eggs accounted for the decline in the farm price index between August and September of this year. Compared with September 1951, current prices are lower for grains, live stock, dairy products, poultry and eggs.

The prices of western oats and barley used to construct the index during the 1951-52 crop year are final prices whereas those used since August 1, 1952 are initial prices only. In the case of western wheat prices for the 1951-52 season are initial plus interim payments, but only initial payments since the first of August. Initial prices payable during 1952-53 are unchanged from those paid during 1951-52.

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

Province	Monthly Index			Annual Index		
	Sept. 1952 2/	Aug. 1952 2/	Sept. 1951 3/	1951 4/	1950	1949
Prince Edward Island	309.9	378.9	243.0	235.8	189.6	204.1
Nova Scotia	259.7	271.5	250.7	243.6	206.5	210.5
New Brunswick	308.9	376.9	253.6	250.4	216.4	220.5
Quebec	277.9	283.5	308.6	304.8	260.9	261.3
Ontario	279.4	293.4	323.2	315.2	265.1	257.8
Manitoba	226.4	231.8	294.6	295.2	274.4	262.8
Saskatchewan	206.8	209.9	257.2	258.9	251.5	248.8
Alberta	228.2	231.7	296.8	299.7	276.1	265.6
British Columbia	289.1	293.8	309.9	288.1	244.3	245.1
CANADA 1/	250.5	259.7	295.7	292.6	260.8	255.4

1/ Excludes Newfoundland.

2/ Based on initial prices only for wheat, oats and barley in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

3/ Based on initial plus interim payments for wheat in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

4/ Based on initial plus interim payments for wheat in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta for the period August to December inclusive.

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For the period August 1951 to July 1952, prairie producer prices for wheat are initial plus interim payments amounting to \$1.60 per bushel for No. 1 Northern basis in store Fort William-Port Arthur. Since the beginning of the crop year 1952-53 producer prices for wheat, oats and barley have been initial prices only, amounting to \$1.40 for No. 1 Northern Wheat, 65 cents for No. 2 C. W. oats and 96 cents for 3 C. W. six-row barley in store at the Lakehead. In addition to the 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 during the crop year August 1, 1952 to July 31, 1953. Any participation payments made on these grains at a later date will be added to the prices currently used in the price index and the index revised upward accordingly.

Most of the price information used in compiling the index is obtained from reports furnished monthly by volunteer farm correspondents throughout Canada. 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 prices of wheat, oats, barley and flax contain all equalization, adjusting and final payments including the recently announced final payments of 18.5 cents on oats and 14.7 cents on barley. All payments of this kind are included in the year in which earned, not in the year in which paid.

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. An historical series of index numbers of farm prices of agricultural products is carried in the Quarterly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics.