

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Published by Authority of the Rt. Hon. C. D. Howe, Minister of Trade and Commerce



Memorandum

1955 No. 12

Price: \$1.00 per year

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, DECEMBER 1955 1/-

(1935-39 = 100)

The index of farm prices of agricultural products is estimated at 219.5 for the month of December. This is slightly below the revised estimate of 220.1 for November. Lower prices for live stock, and poultry and eggs more than offset higher prices for dairy products, potatoes and some of the grains.

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

	Monthly Index			Annual Index		
	Dec 2/ 1955	Nov. 2/ 1955	Dec 3/ 1954	4/ 1955	5/ 1954	1953
Prince Edward Island	161.1	157.0	215.9	221.8	196.8	191.5
Nova Scotia	202.0	201.2	227.3	225.3	230.2	234.8
New Brunswick	184.2	186.5	218.1	226.1	211.8	213.2
Quebec	254.4	251.1	260.7	262.2	264.0	272.1
Ontario	241.3	243.7	247.1	249.5	252.8	263.8
Manitoba	209.9	209.4	205.9	211.3	222.7	245.3
Saskatchewan	190.8	190.9	176.8	183.8	201.2	228.7
Alberta	200.7	202.1	202.5	206.0	226.0	247.8
British Columbia	254.3	256.1	242.6	254.2	251.1	265.7
CANADA 1/	219.5	220.1	220.3	224.5	233.6	250.4

1/ Excludes Newfoundland.

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

3/ Based on initial price only for wheat in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

4/ For Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the index is based on the initial price only for wheat for the period January to July inclusive, and on initial prices only for wheat, oats and barley for the period August to December inclusive.

5/ For Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the index is based on the initial price only for wheat for the period August to December inclusive.

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Prepared in Research Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION.

In comparing current index numbers with those prior to August 1954 the following points should be considered. Prices for western grains used in the construction of the index prior to August 1, 1954 were final prices. On the other hand, only initial prices have been available for wheat for the period August 1, 1954 to date and for oats and barley for the period August 1, 1955 to date. Any subsequent participation payments made on the 1954 crop of wheat and the 1955 crops of wheat, oats and barley will be added to the prices currently used and the index revised upward accordingly. An increase of 10 cents per bushel in the prices of western wheat, oats or barley would result in upward revisions in the indices for each of the Prairie Provinces and Canada approximately as follows, in points:

	<u>Manitoba</u>	<u>Saskatchewan</u>	<u>Alberta</u>	<u>Canada</u>
Wheat	6.2	9.3	8.1	4.0
Oats	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.5
Barley	2.3	0.5	0.4	0.4

During the period August 1954 to date the initial prices to western producers for wheat have amounted to \$1.40 per bushel for No. 1 Northern, basis Fort William - Port Arthur. Since the first of August 1955, initial producer prices at the Lakehead for oats have been 65 cents per bushel for No. 2 C.W. and for barley 96 cents per bushel for No. 3 C.W. six-row. 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. 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 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 flaxseed contain all Canadian Wheat Board payments including the final payment of 6.4 cents per bushel for the 1953 wheat crop and the recently announced final payments of 5.4 and 5.8 cents per bushel made on the 1954 crops of oats and barley respectively. 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 revisions 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	103.7	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	103.5
1941	110.2	105.2	117.1	115.5	127.4	120.2	103.7	93.8	102.8	114.4
1942	133.1	156.2	144.1	160.4	153.4	147.0	122.2	110.5	121.7	140.4
1943	157.8	190.3	169.1	181.4	172.6	165.0	151.3	139.9	149.9	175.8
1944	172.4	172.7	173.3	171.9	171.7	169.1	173.1	171.4	176.9	179.5
1945	185.7	196.7	180.8	195.3	179.5	174.6	188.4	192.6	196.2	187.8
1946	204.1	194.2	191.2	207.7	196.9	187.9	209.4	217.3	219.9	199.2
1947	215.8	180.1	184.9	199.6	213.7	202.1	225.9	226.1	231.9	207.1
1948	255.8	236.6	214.1	250.3	265.6	258.6	259.6	247.1	262.9	240.2
1949	255.4	204.1	210.5	220.5	261.3	257.8	262.8	248.8	265.6	245.1
1950	260.8	189.6	206.5	216.8	260.9	265.1	274.4	251.5	276.2	244.3
1951	296.8	236.4	243.2	250.8	305.6	315.0	301.6	268.7	308.0	287.1
1952	274.4	351.6	275.1	344.5	290.2	286.2	266.8	245.9	265.3	291.4
1953	250.4	191.5	234.8	213.2	272.1	263.8	245.3	228.7	247.8	265.7
1954	July	241.1	186.6	235.3	210.2	269.3	258.4	233.3	212.3	236.0
	August	232.6	232.6	245.3	240.6	260.8	252.3	219.2	196.5	220.6
	September	227.9	229.9	218.8	227.1	257.8	248.2	215.5	193.1	217.0
	October	220.4	199.2	225.2	217.3	253.5	244.5	206.8	181.5	205.6
	November	219.8	223.4	229.8	229.0	257.8	245.8	204.7	176.3	201.9
	December	220.3	215.9	227.3	218.1	260.7	247.1	205.9	176.8	202.5
	AVERAGE	233.6	196.8	230.2	211.8	264.0	252.8	222.7	201.2	226.0
1955	January	221.3	214.6	225.8	218.9	261.9	246.3	209.2	177.5	203.7
	February	222.5	227.0	226.2	221.7	262.7	246.2	211.8	179.0	206.4
	March	221.3	224.5	228.3	226.0	263.5	245.4	208.3	178.0	202.7
	April	228.2	363.9	255.9	315.5	267.5	253.0	209.0	177.6	205.0
	May	229.2	302.1	261.0	291.3	271.2	254.1	211.5	180.6	206.0
	June	229.7	244.2	245.2	262.4	271.8	256.4	214.6	181.7	208.9
	July	229.6	242.3	233.7	247.3	268.3	257.0	214.5	183.2	210.3
	August	226.0	202.3	217.1	201.4	263.1	254.6	212.5	183.0	209.3
	September	226.3	170.5	205.1	181.0	260.2	251.2	214.0	193.3	212.0
	October	220.7	151.3	202.5	176.6	251.3	245.2	211.2	189.9	205.1
	November	220.1	157.0	201.2	186.5	251.1	243.7	209.4	190.9	202.1
	December	219.5	161.1	202.0	184.2	254.4	241.3	209.9	190.8	200.7
	AVERAGE	224.5	221.8	225.3	226.1	262.2	249.5	211.3	183.8	206.0

1/ Excludes Newfoundland

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