

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

OTTAWA - CANADA

Published by Authority of the Hon. Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce



Memorandum

1957 No. 12

Price: \$1.00 per year

 INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, DECEMBER 1957 1/-
 (1935-39=100)

The downward movement of the index of farm prices of agricultural products, in evidence since last August, was reversed in December. From a revised estimate of 219.7 for November, it moved up to 224.9 a month later. Higher prices for certain grains, livestock, dairy products and potatoes in some provinces more than offset lower prices for eggs. Compared with December 1956, the current index is lower by only one point; lower prices for livestock and potatoes were nearly offset by higher prices for grains, dairy products and eggs.

INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

(1935-39 = 100)

	Monthly Index			Annual Index		
	Dec. 2/ 1957	Nov. 2/ 1957	Dec. 2/ 1956	1957 2/ 1956 3/	1956 3/	1955
Prince Edward Island	179.9	178.4	214.0	197.0	239.9	220.6
Nova Scotia	205.1	204.1	218.6	213.3	208.7	220.0
New Brunswick	212.7	211.1	224.1	219.4	235.1	226.0
Quebec	263.9	253.7	266.2	263.8	258.7	261.7
Ontario	251.9	247.2	256.0	254.5	250.6	249.2
Manitoba	209.4	204.1	206.6	209.7	221.6	225.6
Saskatchewan	187.8	182.7	180.0	184.0	201.5	203.5
Alberta	204.7	199.7	204.9	208.0	217.6	223.2
British Columbia	259.4	258.2	268.9	263.3	256.7	248.5
CANADA 1/	224.9	219.7	225.9	226.2	231.4	232.7

1/ Excludes Newfoundland.

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

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

Prepared in Farm Finance Section, AGRICULTURE DIVISION.

5504-502-127

In comparing current index numbers with those prior to August 1956, the following points should be considered. Western grain prices used in the construction of the index prior to August 1, 1956 are final prices. Since August 1, 1956, only initial prices are available for wheat, oats and barley. Any subsequent participation payments made on the 1956 and 1957 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 1956 to July 1957 the initial prices to western producers at Fort William - Port Arthur were on the basis of \$1.40 per bushel for No. 1 Northern wheat, 65 cents per bushel for No. 2 C.W. oats, and 96 cents per bushel for No. 3 C.W. six-row barley. Commencing in August 1957 the initial price of No. 2 C.W. oats was reduced to 60 cents per bushel; initial prices for wheat and barley remained unchanged. 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 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 flaxseed contain all Canadian Wheat Board payments announced to date including the final payment of 11.9 cents per bushel on the 1955 crop of wheat. 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 of 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	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	103.5
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	236.8	196.1	230.2	211.8	264.3	252.8	227.5	208.7	232.4	249.6
1955	232.7	220.6	220.0	226.0	261.7	249.2	225.6	203.5	223.2	248.5
1956 August	232.1	278.5	209.9	259.8	260.8	258.1	217.6	194.1	213.9	253.8
September	229.9	190.4	213.1	208.2	259.2	257.8	216.4	191.8	213.7	270.4
October	228.2	188.4	217.9	201.4	260.3	260.3	209.0	184.0	210.4	277.3
November	226.0	203.6	216.8	222.5	262.4	258.9	205.5	180.1	204.8	269.5
December	225.9	214.0	218.6	224.1	266.2	256.0	206.6	180.0	204.9	268.9
AVERAGE	231.4	239.9	208.7	235.1	258.7	250.6	221.6	201.5	217.6	256.7
1957 January	227.9	231.0	222.3	245.0	266.9	257.0	209.5	180.7	207.3	271.1
February	228.3	204.7	219.1	223.5	267.9	259.0	209.7	181.8	209.1	270.1
March	225.2	207.3	218.8	221.1	264.2	253.2	209.2	181.2	205.6	268.2
April	224.8	204.2	218.7	224.4	261.1	253.5	208.3	181.4	206.4	262.5
May	224.9	204.4	218.4	229.5	260.3	252.6	209.2	182.3	207.0	259.5
June	226.8	192.7	217.2	208.6	264.6	253.5	211.8	184.8	211.6	260.6
July	230.0	182.0	213.4	214.0	269.2	262.4	211.0	184.5	213.2	259.8
August	230.3	209.7	211.7	222.4	268.8	259.0	214.0	186.0	214.4	263.1
September	228.4	189.4	205.6	212.8	264.7	256.1	211.8	188.4	211.9	265.6
October	223.1	180.8	205.7	207.8	260.2	248.6	208.0	185.8	205.6	261.1
November	219.7	178.4	204.1	211.1	253.7	247.2	204.1	182.7	199.7	258.2
December	224.9	179.9	205.1	212.7	263.9	251.9	209.4	187.8	204.7	259.4
AVERAGE	226.2	197.0	213.3	219.4	263.8	254.5	209.7	184.0	208.0	263.3

1/ Excludes Newfoundland.

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