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

MARCH 1965

The index of farm prices of agricultural products reached 251.3 in March and compares with the revised figure of 250.8 for February. Prices were higher for poultry products but lower for potatoes. The index has been revised for the period August 1963 to July 1964 to include the recently announced final payment of 9.8 cents per bushel made on the marketings of the 1963 oats crop in Western Canada.

Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products(1) (1935-39=100)

	Monthly index			Annual index		
	Mar.(2) 1965	Feb.(2) 1965	Mar. 1964	1964(3)	1963	1962
Prince Edward Island ..	296.8	305.8	181.8	241.7	213.2	196.7
Nova Scotia	253.0	255.2	219.8	231.6	232.8	231.0
New Brunswick	295.1	301.4	210.5	244.8	222.2	215.0
Quebec	290.0	292.2	273.9	277.8	274.6	275.9
Ontario	278.0	280.1	268.5	269.6	273.4	273.8
Manitoba	229.3	225.1	266.4	248.2	268.1	278.3
Saskatchewan	207.8	204.0	260.4	237.4	258.1	265.2
Alberta	228.1	226.2	277.7	256.9	277.6	283.2
British Columbia	286.4	284.7	271.2	271.3	278.2	284.6
Canada	251.3	250.8	266.0	258.0	268.4	272.0

(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.

Farm Finance Section, Agriculture Division

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In comparing current index numbers with those prior to August 1964, the following points should be considered. Prices of all western grains used in the construction of the index prior to August 1, 1964 are final prices. From August 1, 1964 to date the western grain prices used in the index are initial prices only for wheat, oats and barley. Any subsequent participation payments 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 indexes 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

For the period August 1964 to date the initial prices to western producers at Fort William - Port Arthur are on the basis of \$1.50 per bushel for No. 1 Northern wheat, 60 cents per bushel for No. 2 C.W. oats, and 96 cents per bushel for No. 3 C.W. six-row barley. 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 Canadian Wheat 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 the farmers at the farm level. Subsidies, bonuses and premiums which can be attributed to specific products are all included in the prices, whereas storage, transportation, processing and handling charges which are not actually received by farmers are excluded. Deficiency payments made under the provisions of the present prices support program are not included because the index at the present time purports to measure changes in market prices. In reporting prices to the Bureau each month, price correspondents are asked to report the average prices prevailing in their neighbourhood, taking into account the various grades of each commodity marketed. Thus, average prices reported by these correspondents may differ from month to month as a result of changes in price, changes in quality marketed or a combination of both. In effect, this index is not a measure of pure price change but a measure of the change in returns to farmers per unit of product marketed.

The prices of wheat, oats, barley and flaxseed contain all Canadian Wheat Board payments announced to date, including the recently announced final payment of 9.8 cents per bushel made on the marketings of the 1963 oats crop. 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 variations of the prices has been made. The index is based on 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 and up-to-date data become available. This accounts for any changes between the indexes published in earlier reports and those appearing in the current publication.

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.
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	296.1	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	234.6	240.1	208.7	235.1	258.8	250.5	227.0	208.5	224.0	256.9
1957	234.2	197.0	212.4	219.4	264.9	255.6	222.3	201.6	223.4	260.2
1958	245.5	203.3	216.6	227.0	274.8	266.6	236.5	214.5	236.2	263.1
1959	247.4	234.4	227.1	239.5	272.8	264.4	240.5	218.7	239.5	265.4
1960	250.0	265.2	237.8	264.7	273.7	264.4	241.1	224.6	238.9	271.4
1961	261.2	198.3	225.2	220.4	274.3	265.3	261.9	251.3	265.8	276.1
1962	272.0	196.7	231.0	215.0	275.9	273.8	278.3	265.2	283.2	284.6
1963 August	273.6	219.0	238.2	231.0	277.0	276.1	274.6	263.8	286.1	288.7
September ..	273.3	205.1	225.3	217.1	276.2	278.5	272.7	265.0	288.0	273.3
October	268.5	176.7	224.6	207.9	273.4	273.5	267.8	262.5	280.4	271.7
November ...	266.0	186.3	216.9	209.5	269.9	272.0	263.5	259.4	277.6	271.1
December ...	265.2	193.9	217.5	212.4	271.6	271.2	262.0	258.2	275.0	270.0
AVERAGE	268.4	213.2	232.8	222.2	274.6	273.4	268.1	258.1	277.6	278.2
1964 January	264.1	201.8	220.6	214.6	275.8	266.4	261.3	258.5	273.8	267.9
February ...	265.5	187.9	218.3	211.7	275.1	269.8	263.3	259.0	275.5	269.4
March	266.0	181.8	219.8	210.5	273.9	268.5	266.4	260.4	277.7	271.2
April	266.2	212.5	223.2	223.6	271.3	267.9	265.0	260.5	277.9	273.9
May	267.9	265.7	230.8	252.5	271.7	269.4	264.7	260.0	278.1	272.9
June	274.1	357.9	248.3	329.9	283.4	274.3	266.0	259.5	280.1	273.2
July	272.2	320.2	250.2	296.3	281.8	272.7	263.1	259.8	279.6	276.9
August	248.9	277.7	238.3	241.7	282.9	271.9	228.9	212.5	235.9	274.5
September ..	245.9	192.6	227.9	218.8	279.1	272.0	230.2	210.2	233.7	268.7
October	241.0	215.7	232.7	226.2	277.8	265.4	223.9	204.6	225.7	268.1
November ...	240.9	226.2	231.8	241.2	278.8	267.8	223.4	201.8	221.7	269.4
December ...	243.1	260.4	237.2	270.3	282.4	269.7	222.0	202.0	222.6	269.9
AVERAGE	258.0	241.7	231.6	244.8	277.8	269.6	248.2	237.4	256.9	271.3
1965 January	244.7	300.2	240.2	287.5	284.8	271.2	223.5	202.6	221.0	273.1
February ...	250.8	305.8	255.2	301.4	292.2	280.1	225.1	204.0	226.2	284.7
March	251.3	296.8	253.0	295.1	290.0	278.0	229.3	207.8	228.1	286.4

(1) Excludes Newfoundland.

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