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## INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

(1961 = 100)

MARCH 1971

This year, as in the preceding five years, the March index number of farm prices of agricultural products has dropped slightly below the figure registered in February. The March index of 110.5 is only 0.9 percentage points below the revised February index. The decrease is the result of small drops in livestock and potato indexes.

## Index Numbers of Farm Prices of Agricultural Products(1)

(1961 = 100)

	Monthly Index			Annual Index		
	Mar.(2) 1971	Feb.(2) 1971	Mar. 1970	1970(3)	1969	1968
Prince Edward Island ..	117.0	121.3	147.5	146.2	122.4	123.2
Nova Scotia .....	117.9	119.4	127.3	123.6	122.6	114.0
New Brunswick .....	119.6	121.0	140.1	135.8	116.8	116.9
Quebec .....	123.7	124.0	132.6	129.0	131.1	126.0
Ontario .....	125.8	127.8	132.8	128.8	130.6	124.0
Manitoba .....	96.1	96.1	101.9	98.8	102.7	105.2
Saskatchewan .....	88.9	89.2	91.8	89.9	93.4	99.1
Alberta .....	105.2	105.7	110.5	106.3	110.9	109.6
British Columbia .....	122.8	123.0	124.2	122.4	124.6	118.7
Canada .....	110.5	111.4	116.6	113.3	115.8	114.0

(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.

Agriculture Division,  
Farm Finance SectionMay 1971  
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In comparing current index numbers with those prior to August 1970, the following points should be considered. Prices of all Western grains used in the construction of the index prior to August 1, 1970 are final prices. From August 1, 1970 to date the Western grain prices used in the index are initial prices 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 .....	2.2	3.9	1.9	1.4
Oats .....	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2
Barley .....	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.3

For the period August 1970 to date, the initial prices to Western producers at Thunder Bay were on the basis of \$1.50 per bushel for No. 1 Northern wheat, 60 cents per bushel for No. 2 C.W. oats, and 1.01 cents per bushel for No. 3 C.W. six-row barley. The 10 cents per bushel increase in the initial price of barley, which went into effect March 1, 1971, will apply to the 1970-71 crop year retroactive August 1, 1970. 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. 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. All payments of this kind are included in the year in which earned, not in the year in which paid. Final payments have been made on oats and barley at the rate of 9.7 cents and 2.6 cents per bushel respectively for the crop year 1969-70.

This index was first published in August 1946 on a time and weight base of 1935-39=100. In September 1969 it was republished on a weight base of 1960-62=100 and a time base of 1961=100. In each case the Laspeyre's formula was used in its preparation. Thus the resultant index expressed the current farm prices as a percentage of prices prevailing in the base period. For the years 1935 to 1956 inclusive, the index was based upon the prices of those products which accounted for about 90 per cent of total cash receipts received by farmers from the sale of farm products during the five-year base period 1935-39. For the period 1957 to date, the index is based upon those products which accounted for about 95 per cent of total cash receipts during the new weight base period of 1960-62. No adjustments for seasonal variations of the prices has been made. 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)  
(1961 = 100)

	Canada	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
1960 .....	96.1	128.3	100.0	120.8	100.8	100.3	92.8	89.0	91.8	99.7
1961 .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1962 .....	104.3	100.2	101.8	97.8	100.9	102.6	105.6	105.8	108.2	103.0
1963 .....	102.9	106.9	101.2	101.8	100.3	102.6	102.6	103.0	105.4	102.6
1964 .....	101.3	118.9	98.3	111.6	101.4	100.5	99.8	101.7	102.0	99.1
1965 .....	107.8	153.7	107.4	139.1	111.9	110.1	103.9	101.6	106.0	108.4
1966 .....	117.0	134.0	113.9	122.5	125.2	122.0	110.9	108.1	115.9	115.1
1967 .....	116.0	115.0	110.9	111.4	125.2	123.0	109.5	106.9	113.9	111.6
1968 .....	114.0	123.2	114.0	116.9	126.0	124.0	105.2	99.1	109.6	118.7
1969 - January ..	112.8	117.4	117.9	113.3	129.6	126.2	100.1	92.1	106.9	124.1
February	113.1	115.0	117.3	113.1	130.2	125.7	100.8	92.3	107.8	125.0
March ....	112.8	115.1	117.4	109.9	129.3	125.2	100.4	92.2	108.5	125.1
April ....	113.9	114.5	117.4	110.0	128.0	126.3	102.9	94.1	110.0	125.6
May .....	117.5	123.0	119.5	114.8	130.9	128.9	104.3	97.3	117.6	127.5
June .....	120.2	120.5	122.6	114.9	131.9	135.5	107.8	97.9	118.4	128.4
July .....	119.9	122.5	122.2	118.8	131.1	135.7	106.5	98.2	117.0	128.0
August ...	117.7	142.4	126.0	125.9	133.3	135.8	102.5	92.1	110.9	127.1
September	116.3	120.4	128.5	116.1	131.9	133.1	102.8	92.5	110.7	121.6
October ..	115.2	122.9	128.4	118.2	131.9	132.3	102.6	90.9	108.3	119.9
November	114.5	126.3	126.4	123.5	131.4	131.7	101.0	90.3	106.7	121.3
December	115.1	129.0	127.8	123.6	133.5	131.4	101.0	90.4	108.2	122.2
AVERAGE	115.8	122.4	122.6	116.8	131.1	130.6	102.7	93.4	110.9	124.6
1970 - January ..	115.4	135.1	128.0	135.7	131.5	132.2	100.4	90.8	108.4	123.3
February	116.7	143.5	129.2	138.7	133.3	131.7	102.2	91.8	111.7	125.1
March ....	116.6	147.5	127.3	140.1	132.6	132.8	101.9	91.8	110.5	124.2
April ....	115.8	148.5	124.8	137.1	132.9	132.2	100.2	91.3	108.6	122.8
May .....	115.3	166.7	123.6	148.1	130.6	131.6	99.5	90.9	108.0	122.6
June .....	114.5	170.6	123.9	151.1	128.6	130.3	99.8	90.5	107.0	122.2
July .....	113.3	167.3	123.1	153.7	127.0	129.1	98.7	89.7	105.4	122.3
August ...	111.6	164.6	120.9	141.9	127.2	126.8	96.7	89.0	102.8	121.6
September	110.4	132.0	118.2	117.6	126.1	125.1	96.7	88.6	103.6	120.4
October ..	108.9	125.1	121.1	119.4	123.5	123.3	95.9	87.7	102.0	120.4
November	110.3	126.5	122.2	122.4	126.2	125.0	96.3	87.9	103.7	122.0
December	110.9	127.4	120.9	123.6	129.0	124.9	96.8	88.6	103.9	122.4
AVERAGE	113.3	146.2	123.6	135.8	129.0	128.8	98.8	89.9	106.3	122.4
1971 - January ..	109.4	128.9	120.1	120.2	122.8	123.4	94.8	88.2	103.8	123.0
February	111.4	121.3	119.4	121.0	124.0	127.8	96.1	89.2	105.7	123.0
March ....	110.5	117.0	117.9	119.6	123.7	125.8	96.1	88.9	105.2	122.8

(1) Excludes Newfoundland.

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