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PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS

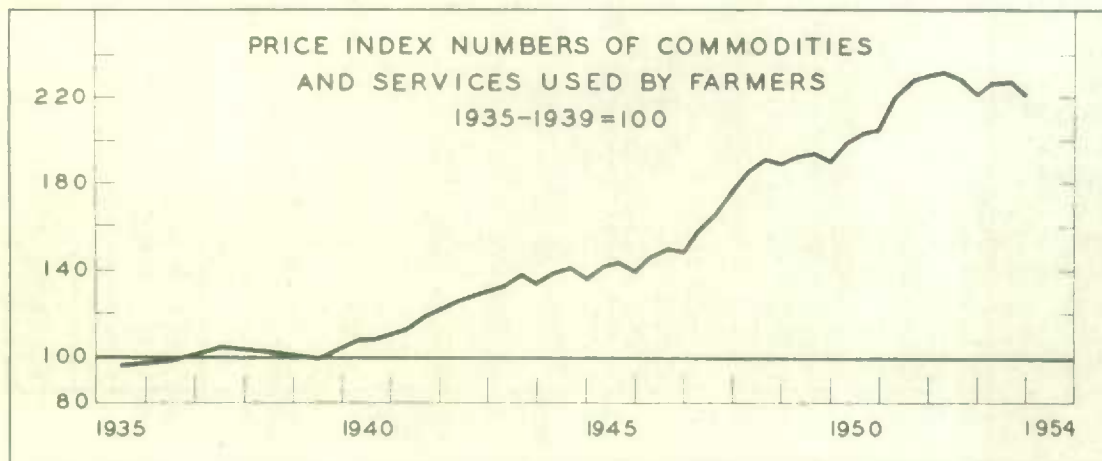
JANUARY, 1954 (1935-39 = 100)

The Dominion composite price index of commodities and services used by farmers, inclusive of farm family living costs, registered a decline of 3.3 per cent to 220.6 between August 1953 and January 1954. This decrease was mainly attributable to the usual seasonal recession in wage rates. The January index stands at 0.1 per cent below the corresponding January 1953 figure of 220.9. The composite index, exclusive of living costs, dropped 5.1 per cent to 231.1 between August and January, while a decline of 0.9 per cent occurred over the year ending January 1954.

Wage rates showed a marked decline as the All Canada index fell 13.9 per cent to 409.5 between August and January. Regional differences were notable, the Eastern index declining 6.2 per cent to 419.2 while the Western series recorded a drop of 23.4 per cent.

The equipment and materials component moved down 1.1 per cent from 206.3 to 204.0 between August and January, with identical percentage changes occurring for both regions. Lower prices for seed and feed were primarily responsible for the decline, although minor decreases also occurred for building materials, gasoline, oil and grease and farm machinery. On the other hand compounded fertilizer rose 0.8 per cent to 183.5 due almost entirely to higher quotations in the Western Canada series while binder twine was unchanged.

Farm family living costs changed from 204.9 in August to 204.8 in January. At this level the index stood 1.1 per cent above the January 1953 index of 202.6. A decrease of 0.8 per cent in food overbalanced advances of 1.1 per cent for fuel, 0.9 per cent for health and maintenance and 0.3 per cent for miscellaneous items. Clothing and household equipment which are computed only twice a year, in April and August, were nominally unchanged.



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TABLE 1. - PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS AND FARM FAMILY LIVING COSTS
(1935-39 = 100)

| | Composite Index Exclusive of Living Costs (a) | Equipment and Materials | Taxes and Interest Rates (a) | Farm Wage Rates | Farm Family Living Costs | Composite Index Inclusive of Living Costs (a) |
|----------------------|--|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| ALL CANADA | | | | | | |
| 1926 | 130.6 | 119.9 | 135.5 | 164.5 | 121.1 | 126.8 |
| 1939 | 99.3 | 95.7 | 101.1 | 110.3 | 99.5 | 99.4 |
| 1949 - August | 206.5 | 180.2 | 138.7 | 388.1 | 174.5 | 193.7 |
| 1950 - August | 218.6 | 194.3 | 144.3 | 401.2 | 180.7 | 203.4 |
| 1951 - August | 237.8 | 207.5 | 151.8 | 457.3 | 214.7 | 228.6 |
| 1952 - April | 245.2 | 216.9 | 161.4 | 454.2 | 209.6 | 230.9 |
| August | 245.4 | 212.5 | 161.4 | 471.9 | 204.5 | 229.0 |
| 1953 - January | 233.1(r) | 207.7 | 168.2(r) | 408.0 | 202.6 | 220.9(r) |
| April | 242.7(r) | 208.2 | 168.2(r) | 463.5 | 203.4 | 227.0(r) |
| August | 243.6(r) | 206.3 | 168.2(r) | 475.8 | 204.9 | 228.1(r) |
| 1954 - January | 231.1 | 204.0 | 168.2 | 409.5 | 204.8 | 220.6 |
| EASTERN CANADA | | | | | | |
| 1926 | 129.5 | 122.8 | 128.4 | 151.1 | 120.2 | 125.8 |
| 1939 | 98.7 | 94.8 | 99.2 | 110.6 | 99.5 | 99.0 |
| 1949 - August | 210.2 | 183.0 | 126.1 | 376.4 | 172.6 | 195.2 |
| 1950 - August | 220.4 | 196.1 | 131.2 | 382.3 | 178.3 | 203.6 |
| 1951 - August | 241.4 | 208.0 | 142.0 | 441.5 | 212.8 | 230.0 |
| 1952 - April | 247.9 | 218.2 | 152.4 | 432.8 | 207.9 | 231.9 |
| August | 246.8 | 211.7 | 152.4 | 447.4 | 202.7 | 229.2 |
| 1953 - January | 239.6(r) | 208.9 | 158.7(r) | 413.4 | 200.5 | 224.0(r) |
| April | 243.3(r) | 208.4 | 158.7(r) | 434.0 | 201.4 | 226.5(r) |
| August | 244.0(r) | 205.2 | 158.7(r) | 447.1 | 202.4 | 227.3(r) |
| 1954 - January | 237.1 | 202.9 | 158.7 | 419.2 | 202.5 | 223.2 |
| WESTERN CANADA | | | | | | |
| 1926 | 131.8 | 117.1 | 141.6 | 183.5 | 121.9 | 127.8 |
| 1939 | 99.8 | 96.6 | 102.7 | 109.9 | 99.5 | 99.7 |
| 1949 - August | 202.7 | 177.5 | 149.4 | 404.7 | 176.3 | 192.1 |
| 1950 - August | 216.8 | 192.5 | 155.4 | 428.0 | 183.1 | 203.3 |
| 1951 - August | 234.3 | 207.0 | 160.2 | 479.7 | 216.6 | 227.2 |
| 1952 - April | 242.5 | 215.7 | 169.0 | 484.6 | 211.2 | 230.0 |
| August | 243.9 | 213.2 | 169.0 | 506.8 | 206.3 | 228.9 |
| 1953 - January | 226.6(r) | 206.5 | 176.3(r) | 400.4 | 204.8 | 217.9(r) |
| April | 242.1(r) | 208.1 | 176.3(r) | 505.4 | 205.3 | 227.4(r) |
| August | 243.2(r) | 207.3 | 176.3(r) | 516.6 | 207.4 | 228.9(r) |
| 1954 - January | 225.1 | 205.1 | 176.3 | 395.8 | 207.2 | 217.9 |

(a) 1954 indexes are subject to revision, since tax and interest rate figures are preliminary.

(r) revised.

TABLE 2. - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS OF EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS USED BY FARMERS
(1935-39 = 100)

| | Farm Mach- ery | Build- ing Mater- ials | Gas- line, Oil, Grease | Feed | Com- pounded Fer- tilizer | Binder Twine | Seed | Hard- ware |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|
| ALL CANADA | | | | | | | | |
| 1926 | 97.6 | 114.0 | 127.7 | 136.4 | 129.4 | 184.6 | 130.2 | 104.0 |
| 1939 | 103.6 | 108.1 | 96.2 | 80.5 | 100.2 | 93.8 | 79.4 | 101.6 |
| 1949 - August | 158.6 | 236.5 | 139.4 | 211.3 | 141.3 | 304.7 | 204.8 | 165.8 |
| 1950 - August | 166.4 | 279.9 | 146.4 | 232.7 | 147.7 | 298.0 | 225.4 | 170.9 |
| 1951 - August | 189.2 | 301.8 | 149.2 | 224.6 | 168.3 | 364.6 | 223.3 | 202.6 |
| 1952 - April | 196.5 | 302.7 | 150.2 | 236.6 | 185.8 | 460.7 | 232.8 | 205.3 |
| August | 194.0 | 303.9 | 149.6 | 221.1 | 184.9 | 460.7 | 223.7 | 202.7 |
| 1953 - January ... | 194.0 | 305.3 | 148.4 | 219.7 | 182.2 | 360.2 | 209.2 | 203.0 |
| April | 198.0 | 308.5 | 149.3 | 217.4 | 182.0 | 360.2 | 203.3 | 202.3 |
| August | 198.0 | 309.7 | 153.4 | 210.1 | 182.0 | 335.1 | 194.3 | 202.7 |
| 1954 - January ... | 197.8 | 307.1 | 152.7 | 204.1 | 183.5 | 335.1 | 185.1 | 202.8 |
| EASTERN CANADA | | | | | | | | |
| 1926 | 97.0 | 114.0 | 136.6 | 134.9 | 129.4 | 184.6 | 121.4 | 101.9 |
| 1939 | 104.3 | 108.1 | 100.1 | 81.0 | 100.1 | 93.8 | 82.4 | 102.1 |
| 1949 - August | 158.2 | 223.6 | 153.5 | 209.3 | 143.0 | 304.7 | 200.3 | 163.3 |
| 1950 - August | 164.5 | 244.5 | 160.2 | 232.3 | 148.6 | 298.0 | 215.7 | 169.5 |
| 1951 - August | 186.5 | 274.5 | 170.4 | 220.9 | 169.0 | 364.6 | 226.7 | 198.3 |
| 1952 - April | 194.1 | 275.1 | 171.1 | 233.3 | 188.2 | 460.7 | 242.2 | 201.0 |
| August | 191.8 | 276.4 | 170.7 | 218.1 | 187.0 | 460.7 | 226.0 | 197.0 |
| 1953 - January ... | 191.9 | 276.9 | 169.7 | 218.7 | 184.0 | 360.2 | 211.9 | 197.2 |
| April | 195.2 | 278.8 | 169.4 | 216.6 | 183.6 | 360.2 | 204.9 | 197.5 |
| August | 195.2 | 279.3 | 173.8 | 208.9 | 183.6 | 335.1 | 189.1 | 198.2 |
| 1954 - January ... | 194.1 | 279.4 | 173.7 | 203.2 | 184.1 | 335.1 | 182.2 | 198.1 |
| WESTERN CANADA | | | | | | | | |
| 1926 | 97.8 | 114.0 | 122.6 | 141.6 | 129.4 | 184.6 | 137.5 | 106.3 |
| 1939 | 103.3 | 108.1 | 93.9 | 78.7 | 101.3 | 93.8 | 76.9 | 101.0 |
| 1949 - August | 158.7 | 250.1 | 131.3 | 218.6 | 125.3 | 304.7 | 208.6 | 168.6 |
| 1950 - August | 167.1 | 317.2 | 138.5 | 234.0 | 139.3 | 298.0 | 233.5 | 172.5 |
| 1951 - August | 190.2 | 330.6 | 137.0 | 237.9 | 161.8 | 364.6 | 220.5 | 207.4 |
| 1952 - April | 197.4 | 331.7 | 138.2 | 248.3 | 162.5 | 460.7 | 224.9 | 210.1 |
| August | 194.9 | 332.9 | 137.5 | 231.8 | 164.9 | 460.7 | 221.7 | 209.2 |
| 1953 - January ... | 194.8 | 335.2 | 136.1 | 223.4 | 165.0 | 360.2 | 207.0 | 209.5 |
| April | 199.1 | 339.8 | 137.7 | 220.4 | 166.9 | 360.2 | 201.9 | 207.6 |
| August | 199.1 | 341.7 | 141.6 | 214.6 | 166.9 | 335.1 | 198.7 | 207.8 |
| 1954 - January ... | 199.2 | 336.2 | 140.6 | 207.2 | 177.4 | 335.1 | 187.6 | 208.1 |

TABLE 3. - GROUP INDEX NUMBERS OF CANADIAN FARM FAMILY LIVING COSTS
(1935-39 = 100)

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| | Composite Index | Food | Clothing | Fuel | Household Equipment | Health Main- tenance | Miscel- laneous |
|----------------------|--------------------|-------|----------|-------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| ALL CANADA | | | | | | | |
| 1926 | 121.1 | 134.0 | 136.5 | 125.3 | 107.7 | 95.8 | 102.3 |
| 1939 | 99.5 | 96.0 | 100.7 | 99.5 | 101.1 | 100.9 | 100.5 |
| 1949 - August | 174.5 | 200.9 | 193.3 | 163.8 | 186.6 | 144.2 | 115.5 |
| 1950 - August | 180.7 | 220.2 | 193.3 | 168.7 | 189.0 | 147.2 | 118.1 |
| 1951 - August | 214.7 | 252.4 | 256.8 | 178.9 | 230.8 | 162.9 | 122.0 |
| 1952 - April | 209.6 | 239.6 | 239.8 | 194.0 | 229.3 | 176.2 | 124.8 |
| August | 204.5 | 228.8 | 229.0 | 194.8 | 230.2 | 179.2 | 124.4 |
| 1953 - January | 202.6 | 220.2 | 229.0 | 198.2 | 230.2 | 179.3 | 124.5 |
| April | 203.4 | 219.9 | 230.0 | 198.7 | 232.1 | 183.0 | 123.9 |
| August | 204.9 | 223.2 | 231.8 | 199.2 | 230.8 | 186.7 | 124.2 |
| 1954 - January | 204.8 | 221.4 | 231.8 | 201.4 | 230.8 | 188.4 | 124.6 |
| EASTERN CANADA | | | | | | | |
| 1926 | 120.2 | 136.1 | 134.8 | 119.5 | 108.0 | 95.8 | 102.3 |
| 1939 | 99.5 | 96.3 | 100.2 | 98.9 | 100.9 | 100.8 | 100.6 |
| 1949 - August | 172.6 | 204.5 | 194.0 | 145.3 | 178.0 | 144.2 | 115.8 |
| 1950 - August | 178.3 | 222.7 | 193.5 | 152.4 | 179.9 | 147.2 | 118.5 |
| 1951 - August | 212.8 | 257.4 | 256.1 | 165.8 | 219.8 | 162.9 | 122.4 |
| 1952 - April | 207.9 | 244.5 | 239.3 | 180.1 | 219.1 | 176.2 | 125.5 |
| August | 202.7 | 232.7 | 228.0 | 181.0 | 220.7 | 179.2 | 125.0 |
| 1953 - January | 200.5 | 222.6 | 228.0 | 183.7 | 220.7 | 179.3 | 125.2 |
| April | 201.4 | 222.2 | 229.3 | 184.2 | 222.8 | 183.0 | 124.6 |
| August | 202.4 | 225.0 | 231.0 | 182.2 | 220.9 | 186.7 | 124.9 |
| 1954 - January | 202.5 | 223.4 | 231.0 | 184.8 | 220.9 | 188.4 | 125.4 |
| WESTERN CANADA | | | | | | | |
| 1926 | 121.9 | 131.9 | 138.1 | 131.2 | 107.4 | 95.8 | 102.4 |
| 1939 | 99.5 | 95.7 | 101.1 | 100.2 | 101.2 | 100.9 | 100.5 |
| 1949 - August | 176.3 | 197.2 | 192.6 | 182.3 | 195.2 | 144.2 | 115.1 |
| 1950 - August | 183.1 | 217.7 | 193.2 | 184.9 | 198.1 | 147.2 | 117.6 |
| 1951 - August | 216.6 | 247.4 | 257.6 | 192.0 | 241.8 | 162.9 | 121.5 |
| 1952 - April | 211.2 | 234.6 | 240.2 | 208.0 | 239.5 | 176.2 | 124.2 |
| August | 206.3 | 225.0 | 230.1 | 208.7 | 239.6 | 179.2 | 123.7 |
| 1953 - January | 204.8 | 217.9 | 230.1 | 212.6 | 239.6 | 179.3 | 123.8 |
| April | 205.3 | 217.6 | 230.2 | 213.2 | 241.4 | 183.0 | 123.2 |
| August | 207.4 | 221.5 | 232.5 | 216.2 | 240.8 | 186.7 | 123.4 |
| 1954 - January | 207.2 | 219.4 | 232.5 | 217.9 | 240.8 | 188.4 | 123.8 |