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PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS

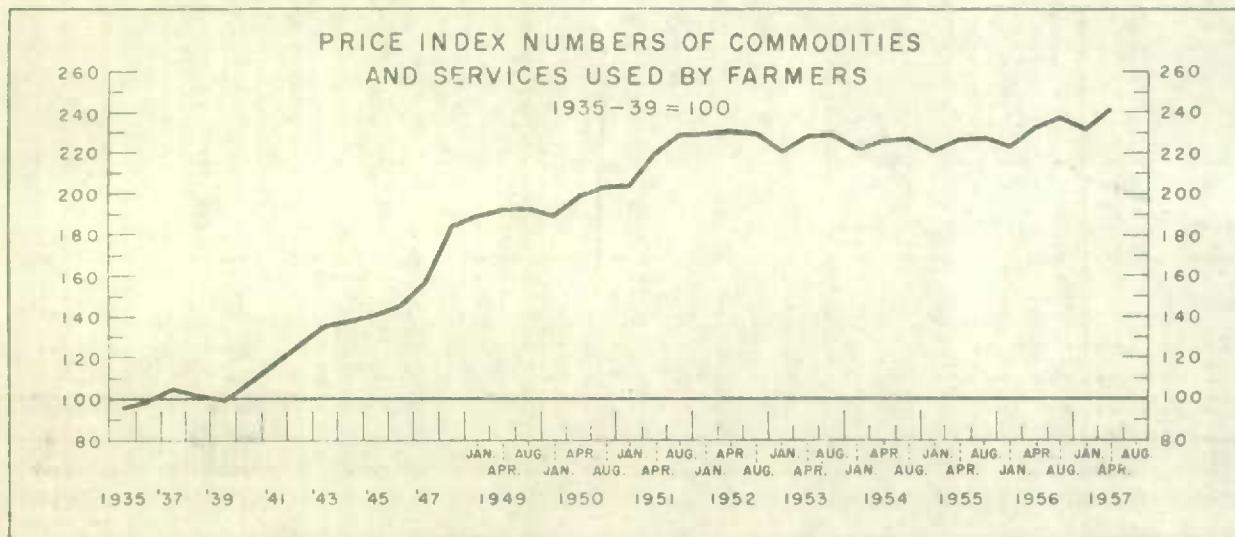
APRIL, 1957 (1935-39 = 100)

Seasonally higher farm wage rates, particularly in the West, combined with a 2.3 per cent increase in the index of Farm Family Living, to advance the All Canada Composite Price Index of Commodities and Services Used by Farmers from 231.7 in January to 240.6 in April for a rise of 3.8 per cent. Over the period April 1956 - April 1957, an identical percentage increase was recorded. Exclusive of Farm Family Living the Composite Index rose 4.7 per cent, from 247.0 to 258.6 between January and April and 3.2 per cent over the comparable figure of a year ago.

Farm Wage Rates climbed 15.4 per cent to a new index peak of 523.9 in April from 453.8 in January. Regional changes showed the Western series up 33.6 per cent to 559.9 while the Eastern series added 4.3 per cent to 498.6. The yearly change viz: April to April, amounted to 8 per cent for both series.

Farm Equipment and Materials prices moved slightly lower from an index level of 212.3 for January to 212.0 for April. Decreases of 6.4 per cent for Seed and 1.6 per cent for Feed more than neutralized increases of 2.2 per cent for Hardware; 1.8 per cent for Compounded Fertilizer; 1.6 per cent for Gasoline, Oil and Grease; 0.5 per cent for Building Materials and 0.3 per cent for Farm Machinery. Apart from declines of 18.7 and 14.2 per cent for Binder Twine and Seed and no change for Feed, all sub-group indexes were above a year ago. Advances ranged from 1.7 per cent for Compounded Fertilizer to 7.0 per cent for both Farm Machinery and Hardware.

The All Canada Farm Family Living component at 213.5 in April, registered an advance of 2.3 per cent over the January figure of 208.6 and 4.7 per cent over the April 1956 index of 204.0. Higher doctors' and dentists' fees together with increases in hospital rates were reflected in the Health and Maintenance sub-group which advanced 4.8 per cent to 219.0. The Household and Equipment index moved up 3.2 per cent, Food and Clothing, each 2.3 per cent and Fuel 1.0 per cent. Regionally index movements were similar except for Fuel where an increase occurred in the Western series and a decrease in the East.



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Prepared in Prices Section, Labour and Prices Division

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

	Composite Index Exclusive of Living Component (a)	Equipment and Materials (a)	Taxes and Interest Rates (a)	Farm Wage Rates (a)	Farm Family Living (a)	Composite Index Inclusive of Living Component (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
1955	238.3	204.6	177.2	439.7	203.8	224.5
1956	247.6	208.8	184.7	470.3	204.5	230.3
1954 - April	239.3	204.1	174.6	450.8	204.2	225.3
1955 - April	240.8	204.7	177.2	454.2	203.8	226.0
1956 - January	236.3	206.0	184.7	413.4	203.2	223.1
- April	250.6	209.6	184.7	485.1	204.0	231.9
- August	255.9	210.7	184.7	512.5	206.2	236.0
1957 - January	247.0	212.3	184.7	453.8	208.6	231.7
- April	258.6	212.0	184.7	523.9	213.5	240.6
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
1955	241.9	204.7	168.4	429.0	201.6	225.8
1956	251.9	207.3	178.8	461.4	201.9	231.9
1954 - April	238.5	203.5	164.5	419.2	201.5	223.7
1955 - April	243.1	205.3	168.4	433.4	201.7	226.6
1956 - January	243.4	204.5	178.8	427.0	200.8	226.4
- April	252.3	208.0	178.8	461.6	201.3	231.9
- August	259.9	209.5	178.8	495.6	203.7	237.4
1957 - January	257.3	210.8	178.8	478.2	206.2	236.9
- April	261.3	210.8	178.8	498.6	211.0	241.2
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
1955	234.7	204.5	184.8	454.8	206.1	223.2
1956	243.3	210.1	189.8	483.0	207.0	228.8
1954 - April	240.2	204.7	183.2	495.7	206.9	226.9
1955 - April	238.5	204.1	184.8	483.8	205.9	225.4
1956 - January	229.3	207.4	189.8	394.0	205.7	219.9
- April	248.9	211.1	189.8	518.4	206.6	232.0
- August	251.8	211.8	189.8	536.6	208.7	234.6
1957 - January	236.8	213.7	189.8	419.2	211.0	226.5
- April	256.0	213.2	189.8	559.9	216.0	240.0

(a) 1957 indexes are subject to revision, since tax and interest rate figures are preliminary.

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

	Farm Machinery	Build- ing Mater- ials	Gaso- line, Oil, Grease	Feed	Com- pounded Ferti- lizer	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
1955	198.8	308.8	151.7	214.7	181.2	250.8	199.1	200.2
1956	209.4	316.6	152.5	206.4	180.8	268.4	205.5	209.9
1954 - April	197.8	306.2	153.7	207.5	182.7	335.1	179.1	202.6
1955 - April	198.1	307.2	151.7	217.8	181.5	241.0	201.0	199.8
1956 - January ...	209.4	312.7	152.4	202.9	181.1	253.8	198.4	202.7
- April	209.2	315.8	152.3	207.6	180.9	275.0	212.6	209.2
- August	209.7	321.2	152.8	208.7	180.5	276.3	205.4	217.9
1957 - January ...	223.1	321.9	153.2	210.9	180.7	223.7	194.8	219.1
- April	223.8	323.5	155.7	207.6	184.0	223.7	182.4	223.9
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
1955	196.0	281.1	172.6	212.0	182.3	250.8	191.4	193.5
1956	208.2	291.0	173.6	203.7	182.0	268.4	203.1	201.7
1954 - April	194.2	278.2	174.6	207.5	183.2	335.1	176.4	197.8
1955 - April	195.1	279.0	172.7	215.5	182.3	241.0	192.5	193.3
1956 - January ...	207.2	286.5	173.4	200.5	182.3	253.8	196.3	196.4
- April	207.7	290.6	173.1	205.4	182.1	275.0	207.5	200.7
- August	209.7	296.0	174.3	205.1	181.7	276.3	205.6	208.0
1957 - January ...	224.0	296.6	174.9	207.7	182.0	223.7	192.0	209.1
- April	224.6	299.2	177.5	204.8	185.7	223.7	182.2	213.7
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
1955	199.9	338.0	139.7	224.4	170.5	250.8	205.5	207.7
1956	209.9	343.5	140.4	216.3	169.5	268.4	207.4	219.2
1954 - April	199.2	335.7	141.7	207.6	177.4	335.1	181.3	208.0
1955 - April	199.3	337.0	139.7	226.1	173.6	241.0	208.1	207.1
1956 - January ...	210.3	340.4	140.3	211.6	169.5	253.8	200.1	209.8
- April	209.8	342.4	140.4	215.7	169.5	275.0	216.9	218.7
- August ...	209.7	347.8	140.4	221.6	169.5	276.3	205.3	229.0
1957 - January ...	222.7	348.6	140.8	222.2	167.7	223.7	197.1	230.4
- April	223.5	349.2	143.1	217.6	167.7	223.7	182.6	235.3

**TABLE 3. - PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES
USED IN FARM FAMILY LIVING
(1935-39 = 100)**

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Composite Index	Food	Clothing	Fuel	Household Equipment	Health Maintenance	Miscellaneous
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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
1955	203.8	220.4	227.0	198.5	229.4	197.9	124.8
1956	204.5	218.2	227.5	200.3	231.7	204.9	124.3
1954 - April	204.2	223.0	226.8	198.4	230.7	193.4	124.6
1955 - April	203.8	219.8	227.4	199.2	229.2	198.4	124.8
1956 - January ...	203.2	216.8	227.2	199.8	229.0	200.8	124.6
- April	204.0	216.1	227.1	199.9	232.0	205.9	124.2
- August	206.2	221.6	228.2	201.1	234.2	208.0	124.2
1957 - January ...	208.6	229.2	228.2	206.4	234.2	209.0	124.4
- April	213.5	234.4	233.4	208.4	241.8	219.0	124.2

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
1955	201.6	221.1	226.1	180.4	222.0	197.9	125.6
1956	201.9	217.5	226.3	183.0	224.2	204.9	125.2
1954 - April	201.5	223.2	226.6	180.8	220.9	193.4	125.4
1955 - April	201.7	220.9	226.3	181.8	222.0	198.3	125.6
1956 - January ...	200.8	216.5	225.8	182.3	222.0	200.7	125.5
- April	201.3	215.1	226.0	182.4	224.3	205.9	125.0
- August ...	203.7	221.0	227.2	184.2	226.4	208.0	125.1
1957 - January ...	206.2	229.4	227.2	190.1	226.4	209.0	125.3
- April	211.0	234.9	232.4	190.0	233.0	218.9	125.1

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
1955	206.1	219.6	227.9	216.6	236.7	198.0	123.9
1956	207.0	218.7	228.7	217.6	239.2	204.9	123.5
1954 - April	206.9	222.9	227.1	216.0	240.5	193.4	123.8
1955 - April	205.9	218.6	228.4	216.5	236.4	198.4	123.9
1956 - January ...	205.7	217.0	228.6	217.3	235.9	200.8	123.7
- April	206.6	217.1	228.2	217.4	239.8	205.9	123.3
- August	208.7	222.1	229.3	218.0	241.9	208.0	123.4
1957 - January ...	211.0	229.1	229.3	222.8	241.9	209.1	123.6
- April	216.0	233.9	234.5	226.8	250.5	219.0	123.4