



## DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Labour and Prices Division

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## PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS, APRIL, 1952.

(1935-39=100)

The Dominion composite price index of commodities and services used by farmers, including farm family living costs, advanced 0.7 percent from 228.3 in January 1952 to 229.8 in April. At this level, the index stood at 4.8 percent above the figure of a year ago. The index, exclusive of living costs, gained 2.8 percent between January and April to reach 243.2; 4.0 percent over the same month of 1951.

Seasonal advances in farm wages, notably in western Canada, mainly accounted for the advances in the composite indexes. The all Canada wage index increased 10.7 percent from 410.3 in January to 454.2 in April. During the same interval, the Western series moved up 26.7 percent to 484.6 while the Eastern series recorded a rise of only 0.7 percent to 432.8.

The index for farm operating equipment and materials receded 0.6 percent to 216.9 between January and April. Decreases occurred for seed prices which dropped 7.9 percent to 232.8 and feed, 2.3 percent to 236.6. On the other hand fertilizer prices advanced 7.3 percent to 185.8 due largely to higher quotations in Eastern Canada while binder twine registered an increase of 2.8 percent to 460.7. Price changes for other sub-groups were small.

Farm family living costs declined 2.9 percent to 209.6 in April from a peak of 215.8 in January, 1952. The index is still 6.3 percent above the April, 1951 level of 197.1. Markedly lower prices for clothing and food coupled with a small decrease in household equipment more than offset price increases for fuel, health maintenance and miscellaneous items. Clothing and food indexes for all Canada fell 6.6 percent and 4.5 percent respectively between January and April 1952, while fuel increased 4.0 percent, health maintenance 2.6 percent, and miscellaneous items 1.4 percent. Differences in index movements between Eastern and Western Canada series were negligible.

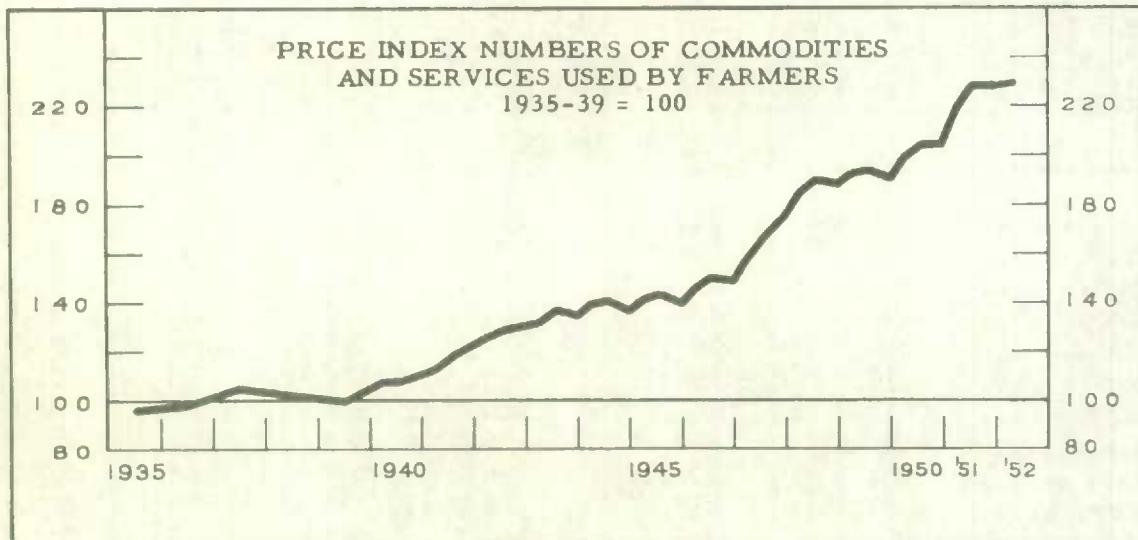


TABLE 1. - PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY  
FARMERS AND FARM FAMILY LIVING COSTS  
(1935-39=100)

|                      | Composite Index<br>Exclusive of Living Costs<br>(a) | Equipment and Materials | Taxes and Interest Rates | Farm Wages | Farm Family Living Costs | Composite Index Inclusive of Living Costs<br>(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 - January ..... | 199.6   | 184.4                   | 144.3                    | 324.8      | 175.3                    | 189.9  |
| April .....          | 213.0   | 191.0                   | 144.3                    | 380.1      | 176.7                    | 198.5  |
| August .....         | 218.6   | 194.3                   | 144.3                    | 401.2      | 180.7                    | 203.4  |
| 1951 - January ..... | 218.4 (r)   | 201.0                   | 151.8 (r)                | 365.9      | 184.1                    | 204.7 (r)  |
| April .....          | 233.9 (r)   | 209.4                   | 151.8 (r)                | 426.5      | 197.1                    | 219.2 (r)  |
| August .....         | 237.8 (r)   | 207.5                   | 151.8 (r)                | 457.3      | 214.7                    | 228.6 (r)  |
| 1952 - January ..... | 236.6 (r)   | 218.1                   | 151.8 (r)                | 410.3      | 215.8                    | 228.3  |
| April .....          | 243.2   | 216.9                   | 151.8                    | 454.2      | 209.6                    | 229.8  |
| 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 - January ..... | 204.7   | 186.8                   | 131.2                    | 331.4      | 173.5                    | 192.2  |
| April .....          | 216.4   | 194.5                   | 131.2                    | 367.3      | 174.4                    | 199.6  |
| August .....         | 220.4   | 196.1                   | 131.2                    | 382.3      | 178.3                    | 203.6  |
| 1951 - January ..... | 225.1 (r)   | 200.5                   | 142.0 (r)                | 382.0      | 181.7                    | 207.7  |
| April .....          | 237.3 (r)   | 210.2                   | 142.0 (r)                | 413.7      | 195.1                    | 220.4 (r)  |
| August .....         | 241.4 (r)   | 208.0                   | 142.0 (r)                | 441.5      | 212.8                    | 230.0 (r)  |
| 1952 - January ..... | 245.9 (r)   | 219.1                   | 142.0 (r)                | 430.0      | 213.9                    | 233.1 (r)  |
| April .....          | 245.9   | 218.2                   | 142.0                    | 432.8      | 207.9                    | 230.7  |
| 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 - January ..... | 194.5   | 182.1                   | 155.4                    | 315.4      | 177.2                    | 187.6  |
| April .....          | 209.6   | 187.7                   | 155.4                    | 398.4      | 178.9                    | 197.3  |
| August .....         | 216.8   | 192.5                   | 155.4                    | 428.0      | 183.1                    | 203.3  |
| 1951 - January ..... | 211.8 (r)   | 201.4                   | 160.2 (r)                | 342.9      | 186.4                    | 201.6 (r)  |
| April .....          | 230.5 (r)   | 208.6                   | 160.2 (r)                | 444.8      | 199.1                    | 217.9  |
| August .....         | 234.3 (r)   | 207.0                   | 160.2 (r)                | 479.7      | 216.6                    | 227.2 (r)  |
| 1952 - January ..... | 227.4 (r)   | 217.3                   | 160.2 (r)                | 382.4      | 217.8                    | 223.6 (r)  |
| April .....          | 240.5   | 215.7                   | 160.2                    | 484.6      | 211.2                    | 228.8  |

(r) Revised

(a) 1952 indexes are subject to revision, since tax and interest rate figures are preliminary.

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

|                    | Farm<br>Machin-<br>ery | Build-<br>ing<br>Mater-<br>ials | Gaso-<br>line,<br>Oil,<br>Grease | Feed  | Fer-<br>tilizer | Binder<br>Twine | Seed  | Hard-<br>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 - January ... | 164.2                  | 238.2                           | 143.9                            | 215.1 | 146.6           | 304.7           | 212.6 | 165.8         |
| April .....        | 164.6                  | 246.9                           | 145.1                            | 228.2 | 146.7           | 298.0           | 246.7 | 168.0         |
| August ....        | 166.4                  | 279.9                           | 146.4                            | 232.7 | 147.7           | 298.0           | 225.4 | 170.9         |
| 1951 - January ... | 183.8                  | 288.0                           | 145.6                            | 226.0 | 152.8           | 298.0           | 247.9 | 174.3         |
| April .....        | 187.4                  | 298.4                           | 146.6                            | 234.0 | 157.6           | 364.6           | 265.0 | 185.5         |
| August ....        | 189.2                  | 301.8                           | 149.2                            | 224.6 | 168.3           | 364.6           | 223.3 | 202.6         |
| 1952 - January ... | 195.6                  | 303.2                           | 149.8                            | 242.1 | 173.1           | 448.3           | 252.8 | 204.4         |
| April .....        | 196.5                  | 302.7                           | 150.2                            | 236.6 | 185.8           | 460.7           | 232.8 | 205.3         |
| 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 - January ... | 163.1                  | 223.2                           | 157.7                            | 213.5 | 148.6           | 304.7           | 208.1 | 163.5         |
| April .....        | 163.2                  | 225.8                           | 159.6                            | 226.6 | 148.6           | 298.0           | 245.1 | 167.0         |
| August ....        | 164.5                  | 244.5                           | 160.2                            | 232.3 | 148.6           | 298.0           | 215.7 | 169.5         |
| 1951 - January ... | 182.7                  | 257.9                           | 162.4                            | 223.1 | 153.1           | 298.0           | 235.8 | 172.9         |
| April .....        | 186.3                  | 268.5                           | 164.9                            | 231.3 | 158.4           | 364.6           | 266.1 | 185.3         |
| August ....        | 186.5                  | 274.5                           | 170.4                            | 220.9 | 169.0           | 364.6           | 226.7 | 198.3         |
| 1952 - January ... | 193.6                  | 275.4                           | 170.8                            | 239.2 | 174.3           | 448.3           | 257.8 | 200.4         |
| April .....        | 194.1                  | 275.1                           | 171.1                            | 233.3 | 188.2           | 460.7           | 242.2 | 201.0         |
| 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 - January ... | 164.6                  | 254.1                           | 136.0                            | 220.9 | 127.7           | 304.7           | 216.4 | 168.4         |
| April .....        | 165.2                  | 269.2                           | 136.7                            | 234.0 | 128.6           | 298.0           | 248.0 | 169.1         |
| August ....        | 167.1                  | 317.2                           | 138.5                            | 234.0 | 139.3           | 298.0           | 233.5 | 172.5         |
| 1951 - January ... | 184.2                  | 319.8                           | 136.0                            | 236.6 | 150.3           | 298.0           | 258.1 | 175.8         |
| April .....        | 187.9                  | 330.0                           | 136.1                            | 243.8 | 150.3           | 364.6           | 264.1 | 185.8         |
| August ....        | 190.2                  | 330.6                           | 137.0                            | 237.9 | 161.8           | 364.6           | 220.5 | 207.4         |
| 1952 - January ... | 196.4                  | 332.5                           | 137.8                            | 252.6 | 161.8           | 448.3           | 248.7 | 208.8         |
| April .....        | 197.4                  | 331.7                           | 138.2                            | 248.3 | 162.5           | 460.7           | 224.9 | 210.1         |

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

|                    | Composite Index | Food  | Clothing | Fuel  | Household Equipment | Health Maintenance | Miscellaneous |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------|----------|-------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 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 - January ... | 175.3           | 202.3 | 193.3    | 166.5 | 186.7               | 147.2              | 115.9         |
| April .....        | 176.7           | 207.1 | 192.4    | 167.3 | 188.0               | 147.2              | 116.2         |
| August ....        | 180.7           | 220.2 | 193.3    | 168.7 | 189.0               | 147.2              | 118.1         |
| 1951 - January ... | 184.1           | 228.5 | 193.3    | 172.9 | 189.0               | 156.3              | 119.0         |
| April .....        | 197.1           | 243.9 | 216.7    | 177.7 | 204.9               | 158.2              | 119.7         |
| August ....        | 214.7           | 252.4 | 256.8    | 178.9 | 230.8               | 162.9              | 122.0         |
| 1952 - January ... | 215.8           | 250.8 | 256.8    | 186.5 | 230.8               | 171.7              | 123.1         |
| April .....        | 209.6           | 239.6 | 239.8    | 194.0 | 229.3               | 176.2              | 124.8         |
| 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 - January ... | 173.5           | 205.8 | 194.0    | 148.8 | 178.0               | 147.2              | 116.3         |
| April .....        | 174.4           | 210.1 | 192.3    | 150.2 | 178.8               | 147.2              | 116.6         |
| August ....        | 178.3           | 222.7 | 193.5    | 152.4 | 179.9               | 147.2              | 118.5         |
| 1951 - January ... | 181.7           | 231.0 | 193.5    | 157.4 | 179.9               | 156.2              | 119.6         |
| April .....        | 195.1           | 248.6 | 217.1    | 163.9 | 193.6               | 158.1              | 120.1         |
| August ....        | 212.8           | 257.4 | 256.1    | 165.8 | 219.8               | 162.9              | 122.4         |
| 1952 - January ... | 213.9           | 255.9 | 256.1    | 172.1 | 219.8               | 171.7              | 123.6         |
| April .....        | 207.9           | 244.5 | 239.3    | 180.1 | 219.1               | 176.2              | 125.5         |
| 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 - January ... | 177.2           | 198.7 | 192.6    | 184.2 | 195.3               | 147.2              | 115.6         |
| April .....        | 178.9           | 204.2 | 192.5    | 184.4 | 197.2               | 147.2              | 115.8         |
| August ....        | 183.1           | 217.7 | 193.2    | 184.9 | 198.1               | 147.2              | 117.6         |
| 1951 - January ... | 186.4           | 226.0 | 193.2    | 188.5 | 198.1               | 156.3              | 118.5         |
| April .....        | 199.1           | 239.1 | 216.4    | 191.4 | 216.2               | 158.2              | 119.2         |
| August ....        | 216.6           | 247.4 | 257.6    | 192.0 | 241.8               | 162.9              | 121.5         |
| 1952 - January ... | 217.8           | 245.7 | 257.6    | 200.9 | 241.8               | 171.7              | 122.6         |
| April .....        | 211.2           | 234.6 | 240.3    | 208.0 | 239.5               | 176.2              | 124.2         |

Footnote: An historical record of the series contained in this bulletin, together with a statement of construction method and weighting detail, is available in PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS, 1913-1948. It may be obtained, upon request, from the Prices Section, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.