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PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS

JANUARY, 1953 (1935-39 = 100)

The Dominion composite retail price index of commodities and services used by farmers, including family living costs, dropped 3.9 per cent from 228.9 in August to 219.9 in January. The August-January decrease conforms to the pattern usually shown by this series reflecting mainly the mid-winter drop in farm wage-rates below their summer levels. However, the latest decrease is substantially larger than has been shown over the same months for the past 10 years, and over the full year January 1952 - January 1953, the index decreased 4.2 per cent. The composite index, exclusive of living costs, showed a decline of 5.6 per cent to 231.7 and 2.9 per cent over the comparable figure a year ago. The living cost component declined less than one per cent over the five months under review, but registered a drop of 6.3 per cent during the year.

The index for farm wage-rates, reflecting the usual seasonal decline, fell 13.5 per cent from 471.9 in August to 408.0 in January. Compared with January 1952, however, the index is practically unchanged. Eastern wage rates declined 7.6 per cent to 413.4 between August and January, while for the West a drop of 21.0 per cent to 400.4 occurred.

The preliminary tax and interest rate figure for 1952 was revised to 161.4 reflecting a change in the Eastern index to 152.4 and in the Western index to 169.0.

Farm operating equipment and materials receded 2.3 per cent to 207.7 between August and January. A price decrease of 21.8 per cent to 360.2 was registered for binder twine, followed by seed, down 6.5 per cent to 209.2 and fertilizer 1.5 per cent to 182.2. Other August-January changes in this section were fractional.

Both the Eastern and Western farm family living cost indexes followed similar patterns, and approximated the decrease from 204.1 to 202.2 shown by the Canada series. A decline of 3.8 per cent in foods was mainly responsible for the drop in the total index. Among other group changes, fuel registered an advance of 1.7 per cent to 198.2 while minor increases also occurred for health maintenance costs and miscellaneous items.

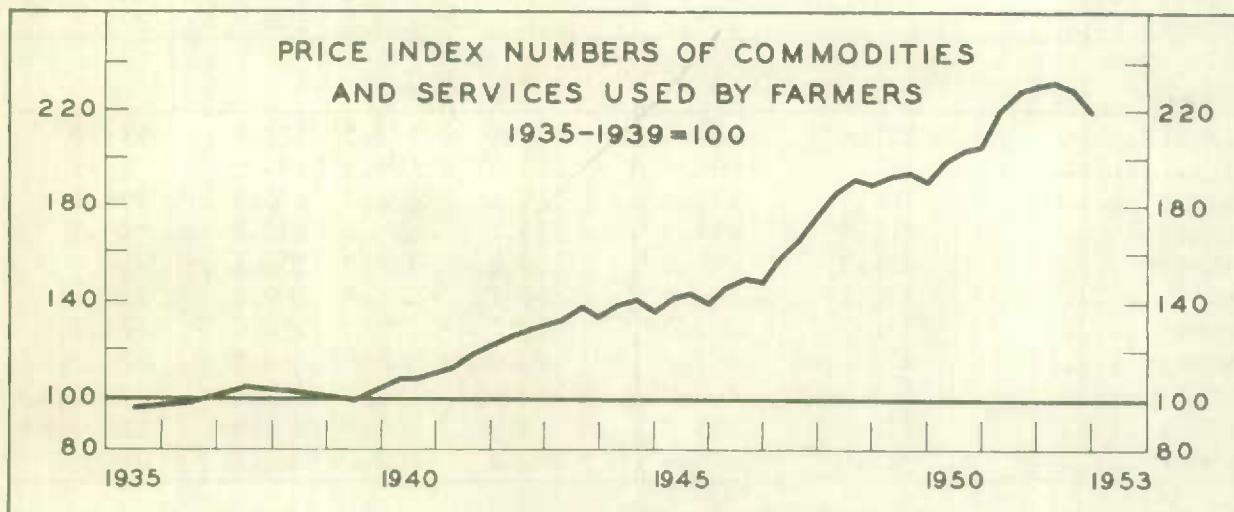


TABLE 1. - PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY
 FARMERS AND FARM FAMILY LIVING COSTS
 (1935-39=100)

	Composite Index Exclusive of Living Costs (a)	Equipment and Materials	Taxes and Interest Rates	Farm Wages	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 - January	218.4	201.0	151.8	365.9	184.1	204.7
April	233.9	209.4	151.8	426.5	197.1	219.2
August	237.8	207.5	151.8	457.3	214.7	228.6
1952 - January	238.6(R)	218.1	161.4(R)	410.3	215.8	229.5(R)
April	245.2(R)	216.9	161.4(R)	454.2	209.6	230.9(R)
August	245.4(R)	212.5	161.4(R)	471.9	204.1	228.9(R)
1953 - January	231.7	207.7	161.4	408.0	202.2	219.9
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 - January	225.1	200.5	142.0	382.0	181.7	207.7
April	237.3	210.2	142.0	413.7	195.1	220.4
August	241.4	208.0	142.0	441.5	212.8	230.0
1952 - January	247.9(R)	219.1	152.4(R)	430.0	213.9	234.3(R)
April	247.9(R)	218.2	152.4(R)	432.8	207.9	231.9(R)
August	246.8(R)	211.7	152.4(R)	447.4	202.7	229.2(R)
1953 - January	238.4	208.9	152.4	413.4	200.5	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 - January	211.8	201.4	160.2	342.9	186.4	201.6
April	230.5	208.6	160.2	444.8	199.1	217.9
August	234.3	207.0	160.2	479.7	216.6	227.2
1952 - January	229.4(R)	217.3	169.0(R)	382.4	217.8	224.7(R)
April	242.5(R)	215.7	169.0(R)	484.6	211.2	230.0(R)
August	243.9(R)	213.2	169.0(R)	506.8	205.5	228.6(R)
1953 - January	225.0	206.5	169.0	400.4	204.0	216.6

(a) 1952 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 Machin- ery	Build- ing Mater- ials	Gaso- line, Oil, Grease	Feed	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 - 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
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
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 - 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
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
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 - 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
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	206.9	209.5



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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 - 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
August	204.1	228.8	227.4	194.8	230.2	179.2	124.4
1953 - January	202.2	220.2	227.4	198.2	230.2	179.3	124.5
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 - 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
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
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 - 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	240.2	208.0	239.5	176.2	124.2
August	205.5	225.0	226.8	208.7	239.6	179.2	123.7
1953 - January	204.0	217.9	226.8	212.6	239.6	179.3	123.8