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PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS

APRIL, 1953 (1935-39 = 100)

The Dominion composite retail price index of commodities and services used by farmers, rose 2.7 per cent from 220.1 in January to 226.1 in April, due mainly to the usual seasonal advance in farm wage rates, notably in Western Canada. The index, however, is 2.1 per cent below the April 1952 figure of 230.9. The composite index, exclusive of living costs, registered an increase of 4.1 per cent to 241.3 between January and April but showed a decrease of 1.6 per cent, from 245.2, over the past twelve months.

The all Canada farm wage rates index advanced 13.6 per cent from 408.0 for January to 463.5 for April. During the same interval the Western series moved up 26.2 per cent to 505.4 while the Eastern series recorded a rise of 5.0 per cent to 434.0.

The index of farm operating equipment increased slightly between January and April to 208.2 but is below the comparable figure for April 1952 of 216.9. Among group changes increases were noted for machinery and building materials for both Eastern and Western Canada, while higher prices were recorded for fertilizer and petroleum products in Western Canada. Seed and feed prices moved down between January and April while changes in hardware were fractional and binder twine remained steady.

Farm family living costs, at 203.4 for April, were 0.4 per cent above January but 3.0 per cent below the April 1952 level. Movements for eastern and western series were similar, the index for the former series recording a rise of 0.4 per cent to 201.4 while the latter was up 0.3 per cent to 205.4. In both instances, higher costs for health maintenance, household equipment, clothing, and fuel were responsible for the change. Food and miscellaneous items indexes were slightly lower.

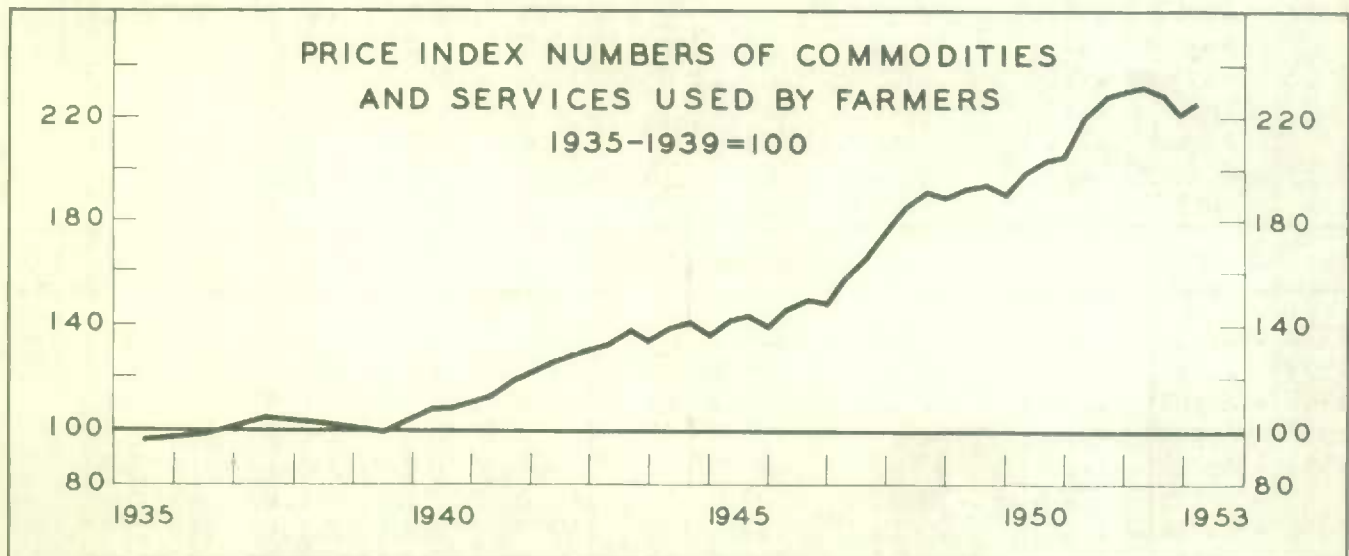


TABLE 1. - PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES AND SERVICES USED BY FARMERS AND FARM FAMILY LIVING COSTS (1935-39 = 100)

	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 - 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	218.1	161.4	410.3	215.8	229.5
April	245.2	216.9	161.4	454.2	209.6	230.9
August	245.4	212.5	161.4	471.9	204.5(R)	229.0(R)
1953 - January	231.7	207.7	161.4	408.0	202.6(R)	220.1(R)
April	241.3	208.2	161.4	463.5	203.4	226.1
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 - 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	219.1	152.4	430.0	213.9	234.3
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	238.4	208.9	152.4	413.4	200.5	223.2
April	242.1	208.4	152.4	434.0	201.4	225.8
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 - 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	217.3	169.0	382.4	217.8	224.7
April	242.5	215.7	169.0	484.6	211.2	230.0
August	243.9	213.2	169.0	506.8	206.3(R)	228.9(R)
1953 - January	225.0	206.5	169.0	400.4	204.8(R)	216.9(R)
April	240.5	208.1	169.0	505.4	205.4	226.4

(a) 1953 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	Gas- 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 - 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
April	198.0	308.5	149.3	217.4	182.0	360.2	203.3	202.3
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 - August	164.5	244.5	160.2	232.3	148.6	298.0	215.7	169.5
1951 - 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
April	195.2	278.8	169.4	216.6	183.6	360.2	204.9	197.5
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 - 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	207.0(R)	209.5
April	199.1	339.8	137.7	220.4	166.9	360.2	201.9	207.6

(R) - Revised

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 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 - 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	204.5(R)	228.8	229.0(R)	194.8	230.2	179.2	124.4
1953 - January ...	202.6(R)	220.2	229.0(R)	198.2	230.2	179.3	124.5
April	203.4	219.9	230.0	198.7	232.1	183.0	123.9
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 - 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
April	201.4	222.2	229.3	184.2	222.8	183.0	124.6
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 - 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	206.3(R)	225.0	230.1(R)	208.7	239.6	179.2	123.7
1953 - January ...	204.8(R)	217.9	230.1(R)	212.6	239.6	179.3	123.8
April	205.4	217.6	230.7	213.2	241.4	183.0	123.2

(R) - Revised.