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CANADA
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

CANADIAN FARM
FAMILY LIVING COSTS
1939

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

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FARM FAMILY LIVING COSTS, 1939.

Farm family living costs averaged lower in 1939 than in 1938, although food prices mounted appreciably in the final quarter. On the base 1926=100, spring and fall indexes for 1939 were 82.2 and 81.9 respectively, as compared with a 1938 index of 84.0. A monthly index of retail prices for foods purchased by farm families remained between limits of 71.0 and 72.3 between January and September. By December, however, it had risen to 77.9.

Farm family cost of living indexes of 82.2 and 81.9 in the spring and fall of 1939 compared closely with corresponding urban cost of living indexes of 83.1 and 83.0, but were materially above comparable wholesale price indexes of 65.5 and 58.4 for Canadian Farm Products.

Regional indexes of 81.7 and 81.5 for farm living costs in Western Canada differed by less than 1.0 from Eastern Canada regional indexes of 82.6 and 82.2 for the spring and fall periods of 1939. The regional comparison was close for indexes of all the principal living budget groups except fuel. Fuel price indexes were affected by the different kinds of fuel typical of Eastern and Western areas.

Movements in retail prices of staple foods purchased by farm families were unusually narrow during the first three quarters of 1939. From September to November, advances were general, although moderate declines were recorded for December. The net rise for the year approximated 9 p.c. The September-November rise in Eastern Canada was slightly sharper than in the West, although the November food index of 79.6 for the West was still above the corresponding Eastern index of 78.4. A comparable index of urban retail food prices for November was 80.5.

Rising prices for basic textiles and leather came too late to influence fall clothing prices. Indexes of 74.2 for the East and 73.0 for the West were lower than for the preceding two years. So also was an urban clothing index of 72.6.

Fuel price indexes for the fall of 1939 were also low in comparison with those for 1938 and 1937 in Eastern Canada, but the Western index moved slightly higher. The declining tendency in Western fuel prices during the past fifteen years has been more marked than in the East as indicated by the Western fall index of 76.7 and one of 82.7 for the East. The corresponding urban index was 83.7.

Retail prices of household furnishings and supplies moved slightly lower in 1939. Fall indexes of 93.0 for the East and 93.9 for the West compared with corresponding 1938 indexes of 94.1 for both East and West.

Table 1. - Index Numbers of Canadian Farm Living Costs and Related Series, 1913-1939. (1926=100)

Year	Canadian Farm Living Costs -			Canadian Urban Living Costs	Wholesale Prices of Canadian Farm Products
	Eastern Canada	Western Canada	Dominion Average		
1913	63.7	69.4	66.0	65.4	64.1
1920	143.9	145.4	144.5	124.2	160.6
1926	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927	99.0	99.5	99.2	98.4	102.1
1928	97.9	98.4	98.1	98.9	100.7
1929	97.9	96.4	97.5	99.9	100.8
1930	94.7	93.7	94.3	99.2	82.3
1931	86.4	86.3	86.4	89.6	56.3
1932	81.0	80.9	81.0	81.3	48.1
1933	79.5	79.3	79.4	77.5	51.0
1934	81.1	80.5	80.9	78.6	59.0
1935	81.4	80.8	81.2	79.1	63.5
1936	81.7	80.9	81.4	80.8	69.4
1937	84.9	84.0	84.5	83.1	87.1
1938	84.5	83.7	84.0	84.0	73.6
1939 Spring	82.6	81.7	82.2	83.1	65.5
1939 Fall	82.2	81.5	81.9	83.0	58.4

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

Report of Special Agent in Charge, [Name], dated [Date], at [Location].
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Table 2. - Index Numbers of Canadian Retail Food Prices, 1913-1939.
(1926=100)

Year	Food Retail Price Index Numbers -			Dominion Urban Retail Food Price Index
	Eastern Canada Farm Families	Western Canada Farm Families	Dominion Average for Farm Families	
1913	68.5	75.6	71.3	66.2
1920	163.0	160.3	161.9	141.1
1926	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927	99.6	101.7	100.4	98.1
1928	99.7	102.0	100.6	98.6
1929	101.0	100.2	100.7	101.0
1930	95.2	93.8	94.6	98.6
1931	75.0	74.6	74.8	77.3
1932	64.7	66.6	65.5	64.3
1933	65.9	69.2	67.2	63.7
1934	70.6	73.0	71.6	69.4
1935	70.9	73.1	71.8	70.4
1936	71.0	73.6	72.0	73.4
1937	78.1	81.0	79.3	77.3
1938	77.0	79.0	77.8	78.0
1939 January	70.3	73.0	71.4	75.2
February	71.7	73.1	72.3	74.5
March	71.0	73.2	71.9	74.5
April	71.0	72.8	71.7	74.5
May	70.5	72.8	71.4	74.6
June	70.5	72.1	71.1	74.3
July	70.2	72.1	71.0	75.1
August	70.6	72.1	71.2	74.9
September	70.2	72.5	71.1	74.2
October	77.6	78.5	78.0	79.8
November	78.4	79.5	78.8	80.5
December	77.4	78.6	77.9	

Table 3. - Index Numbers of Canadian Retail Clothing Prices, 1913-1939.
(1926=100)

Year	Retail Price Indexes of Clothing for -			Dominion Urban Clothing Index
	Eastern Canada Farm Families	Western Canada Farm Families	Dominion Average for Farm Families	
1913	64.9	62.2	63.8	63.3
1920	157.1	167.3	161.2	153.2
1926	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927	97.0	96.7	96.9	97.5
1928	93.0	93.2	93.1	97.4
1929	91.7	89.6	90.9	96.9
1930	86.8	87.5	87.1	93.9
1931	79.4	81.4	80.2	82.2
1932	74.1	75.4	74.6	72.3
1933	71.2	70.4	70.9	67.1
1934	72.1	71.9	72.0	69.7
1935	72.4	70.9	71.8	69.9
1936	73.0	70.9	72.2	70.5
1937	75.9	74.2	75.2	72.7
1938	75.5	73.1	74.5	73.3
1939 Spring	74.5	72.9	73.9	72.8
Fall	74.2	73.0	73.7	72.6

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Table 4. - Index Numbers of Canadian Retail Fuel Prices, 1913-1939.
(1926=100)

Year	Fuel Retail Price Index Numbers -			Dominion Urban Fuel Index
	Eastern Canada Farm Families	Western Canada Farm Families	Dominion Average for Farm Families	
1913	52.2	80.2	63.4	65.8
1920	112.2	122.2	116.2	102.6
1926	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927	99.3	98.4	98.9	97.9
1928	99.1	97.9	98.6	96.9
1929	98.4	93.3	96.4	96.4
1930	96.8	90.6	94.3	95.7
1931	95.6	88.0	92.6	94.2
1932	92.2	81.7	88.0	91.4
1933	86.2	76.8	82.4	87.7
1934	86.2	76.3	82.2	87.7
1935	84.9	76.7	81.6	86.8
1936	83.9	75.8	80.7	86.4
1937	83.5	75.5	80.3	84.9
1938	83.3	76.4	80.5	85.2
1939 Spring	83.5	77.0	80.9	85.1
Fall	82.7	76.7	80.3	83.7

Table 5. - Index Numbers of Canadian Farm Household Equipment Retail Prices, 1913-1939.
(1926=100)

Year	Eastern Canada	Western Canada	Dominion Average
1913	65.1	63.0	64.3
1920	139.7	136.1	138.3
1926	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927	96.7	98.8	97.5
1928	97.2	97.5	97.3
1929	97.5	96.4	97.1
1930	96.1	96.0	96.1
1931	91.3	92.8	91.9
1932	90.9	91.5	91.1
1933	87.4	88.6	87.9
1934	89.4	90.4	89.8
1935	88.9	90.9	89.7
1936	90.9	91.7	91.2
1937	96.3	95.3	95.9
1938	94.1	94.1	94.1
1939 Spring	94.0	94.2	94.1
Fall	93.0	93.9	93.4

Table 6. - Index Numbers of Canadian Farm Family Health Maintenance Costs, 1913-1938.
(1926=100)

Year	Eastern Canada	Western Canada	Dominion Average
1913	56.0	59.1	57.2
1920	83.8	89.8	86.2
1926	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927	100.0	99.7	99.9
1928	101.6	100.4	101.1
1929	102.3	100.6	101.6
1930	101.6	99.8	100.9
1931	99.4	97.3	98.6
1932	94.4	91.8	93.4
1933	91.6	89.1	90.6
1934	90.5	87.3	89.2
1935	91.8	88.6	90.5
1936	92.0	88.5	90.6
1937	92.6	88.8	91.1
1938	93.0	89.0	91.4
1939 ^x			

^x Indexes computed annually. Data not yet available.

Table 7. - Index Numbers of Miscellaneous Farm Living Costs, 1926-1938
(1926-100)

Year	Eastern Canada	Western Canada	Dominion Average
1926	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927	100.8	100.7	100.8
1928	99.2	99.1	99.2
1929	99.1	99.0	99.1
1930	98.9	98.9	98.9
1931	99.1	98.9	99.0
1932	97.0	96.8	96.9
1933	96.8	96.6	96.7
1934	96.5	96.3	96.4
1935	97.6	97.6	97.6
1936	98.1	98.1	98.1
1937	98.0	98.1	98.0
1938	99.0	98.7	98.9
1939x			

x Indexes computed annually. Data not yet available.

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Province	Year	Value	Value
Alberta	1980	100	100
Alberta	1981	100	100
Alberta	1982	100	100
Alberta	1983	100	100
Alberta	1984	100	100
Alberta	1985	100	100
Alberta	1986	100	100
Alberta	1987	100	100
Alberta	1988	100	100
Alberta	1989	100	100
Alberta	1990	100	100
Alberta	1991	100	100
Alberta	1992	100	100
Alberta	1993	100	100
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Alberta	2023	100	100
Alberta	2024	100	100
Alberta	2025	100	100
Alberta	2026	100	100
Alberta	2027	100	100
Alberta	2028	100	100
Alberta	2029	100	100
Alberta	2030	100	100