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**INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM LIVING COSTS, 1913-1938**

**AND**

**FARM LIVING EXPENDITURES, 1934**



OTTAWA  
1939

Price 25 cents



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PREFACE

An annual record of Canadian farm family living costs from 1913 to 1938 is presented on the following pages. It is planned subsequently to compute farm living cost indexes twice each year, and a complementary series of price indexes for farm operating requirements is to be added. The farm cost of living index was prepared in the Bureau's Internal Trade Branch of which Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S., is Chief. It was constructed under the direction of H. F. Greenway, M.A., Prices Statistician. The data relating to family expenditures were collected and compiled in co-operation with the Agricultural Branch of the Bureau.

*R. W. Coats.*

DOMINION STATISTICIAN.



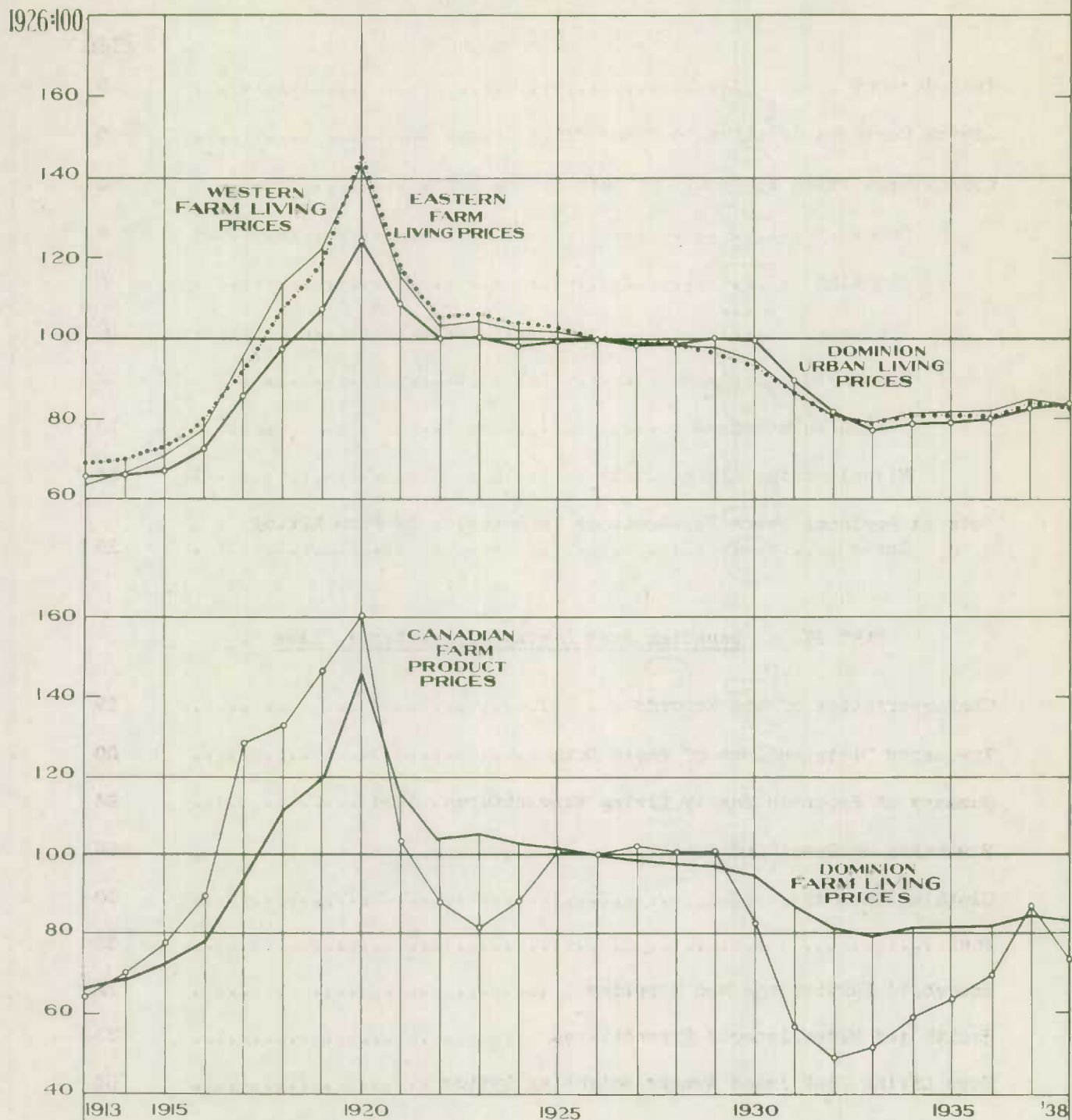
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# **INDEX NUMBERS OF PRICES, 1913 TO 1938** **RETAIL PRICES OF FARM LIVING REQUIREMENTS, DOMINION** **URBAN LIVING PRICES, WHOLESALE PRICES OF** **CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS**



## INDEX NUMBERS OF CANADIAN FARM LIVING COSTS, 1913-1938

### INTRODUCTORY

Farm purchases may be divided broadly into two groups, the first composed of living requirements, and the second including a broad range of items needed for farm operation. The index numbers presented in this bulletin trace the movement of Canadian farm living costs since 1913, and will be followed by a parallel index showing fluctuations in farm operating costs. The two series will be combined to form an index number of farm purchases to be computed at semi-annual intervals. A fixed weight arithmetic aggregative index related to the base year 1926 will facilitate comparison with other series such as the index of Canadian urban living costs and the index of wholesale prices of Canadian Farm Products. It will also be comparable with the Bureau's index of actual farm prices for farm products now in process of computation. Besides a composite index for Canada, two regional living cost indexes have been established, one based upon price and consumption data for eastern Canada and a second upon corresponding data for western Canada. These are constructed from comparable regional group indexes for foods, fuel, clothing, household equipment, health and miscellaneous items. All weighting material was obtained from a special survey of purchases for 2,669 farms in 1934. Data from the survey relating to living costs are presented in the second section of this bulletin which includes lists of the items and weights employed in constructing the farm cost of living index.

### FARM LIVING COSTS IN RELATION TO OTHER PRICE GROUPS

The movement of farm living costs in eastern and western Canada since 1913 has been almost parallel, particularly in the post-war years. The eastern index was slightly the more sensitive during the war period and again in the years of depression following 1929. This difference, however, appears to be of minor significance as may be observed from Chart 1. Starting from 63.7 and 69.4 in 1913, the respective indexes for eastern and western Canada reached post-war peaks of 143.9 and 145.4 in 1920. From then until 1938 these two series were never more than 2 points apart. They steadied at 103.7 and 105.9 in 1922 after a sharp recession in the two preceding years. Then followed a long decline extending to 1933 when eastern and western averages were 79.5 and 79.3 respectively. The 1938 index for eastern Canada was 84.3, and that for western Canada 83.2.

Although urban living costs showed the same general trends as farm living costs, the rise for the former was less marked during the war years. This was due principally to the influence of the rental index in the urban series, and to a lesser extent to the sharper advance in the farm food index. Stability in rents and services likewise held the urban series almost constant from 1923 to 1930 while farm living costs were declining. Both indexes reached a depression low in 1933, but the subsequent rise was slightly more pronounced for farm than for urban living costs. Relationships between these two series may be observed in Chart 1 and Table 1.

The parallel was much less exact when farm living costs and wholesale prices of farm products were compared. An index for the latter, starting from a slightly lower level in 1913, reached a peak of 160.6 in 1920, which was 10 per cent above the farm living cost series. The subsequent decline combined with the large harvests of 1923 to depress wholesale farm product prices over 20 p.c. more than the relative level of living costs after the prolonged deflationary reaction which terminated in that year. Recovery in 1924 and 1925 in farm product prices brought the two series into an alignment which was not seriously altered again until 1930. In the general price recession which



extended from the latter part of 1929 to the spring months of 1933, farm product wholesale prices suffered an increasing disadvantage in terms of living costs which at one time exceeded 40 per cent. It was not until 1937 that this disadvantage was completely removed and replaced temporarily by a minor relative advantage.

Table 1. - Index Numbers of Canadian Farm Living Costs and Related Series, 1913-1938  
(1926=100)

Year	Canadian Farm Living Costs -			Canadian Urban Living Costs	Wholesale Prices of Canadian Farm Products
	Eastern	Western	Dominion Average		
1913 .....	53.7	69.4	66.0	65.4	64.1
1914 .....	66.6	70.5	68.2	66.0	70.2
1915 .....	71.1	73.5	72.1	67.3	77.9
1916 .....	77.6	78.5	78.0	72.5	89.8
1917 .....	95.6	92.4	94.3	85.6	128.5
1918 .....	113.4	107.7	111.1	97.4	132.6
1919 .....	121.6	118.3	120.3	107.2	146.7
1920 .....	143.9	145.4	144.5	124.2	160.6
1921 .....	115.4	117.5	116.2	109.2	103.7
1922 .....	103.7	105.9	104.6	100.0	88.0
1923 .....	104.6	106.0	105.2	100.0	81.5
1924 .....	102.4	103.9	103.0	98.0	88.1
1925 .....	101.9	102.7	102.2	99.3	101.0
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* .....	84.3	83.2	83.9	84.0	73.6

\* Subject to revision.

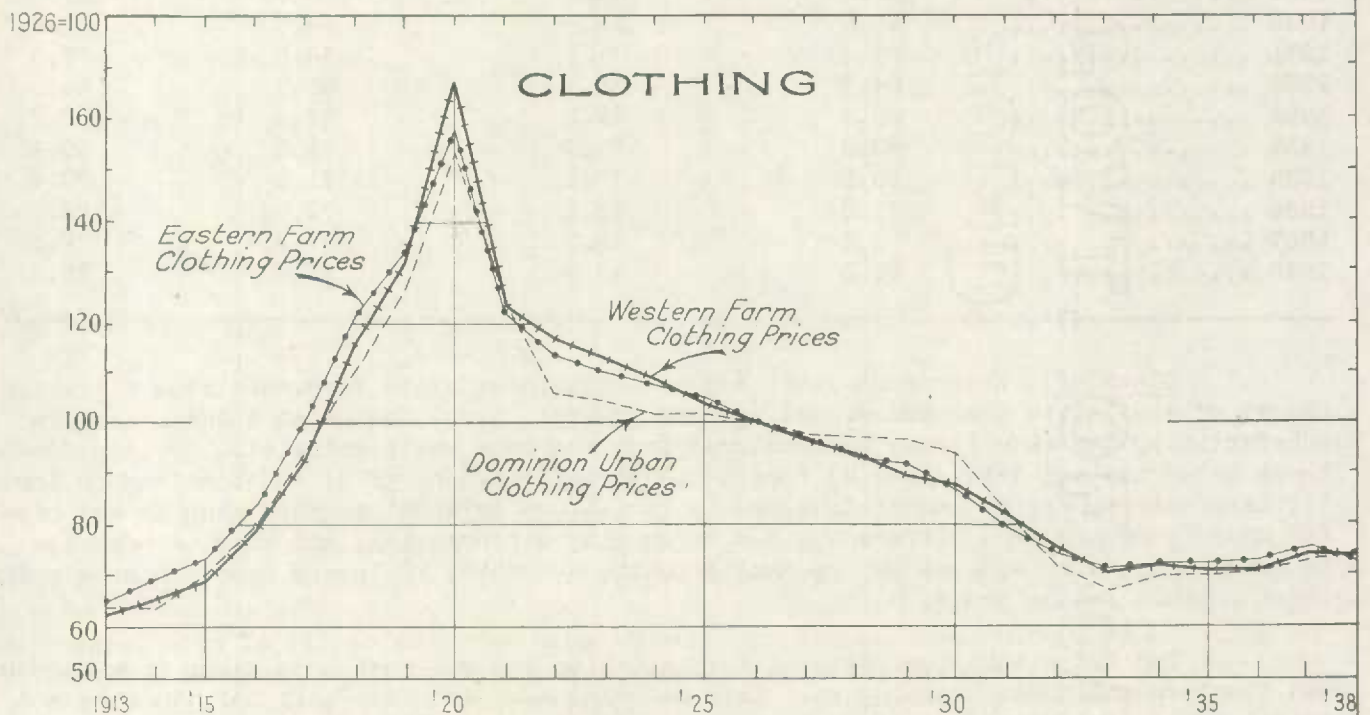
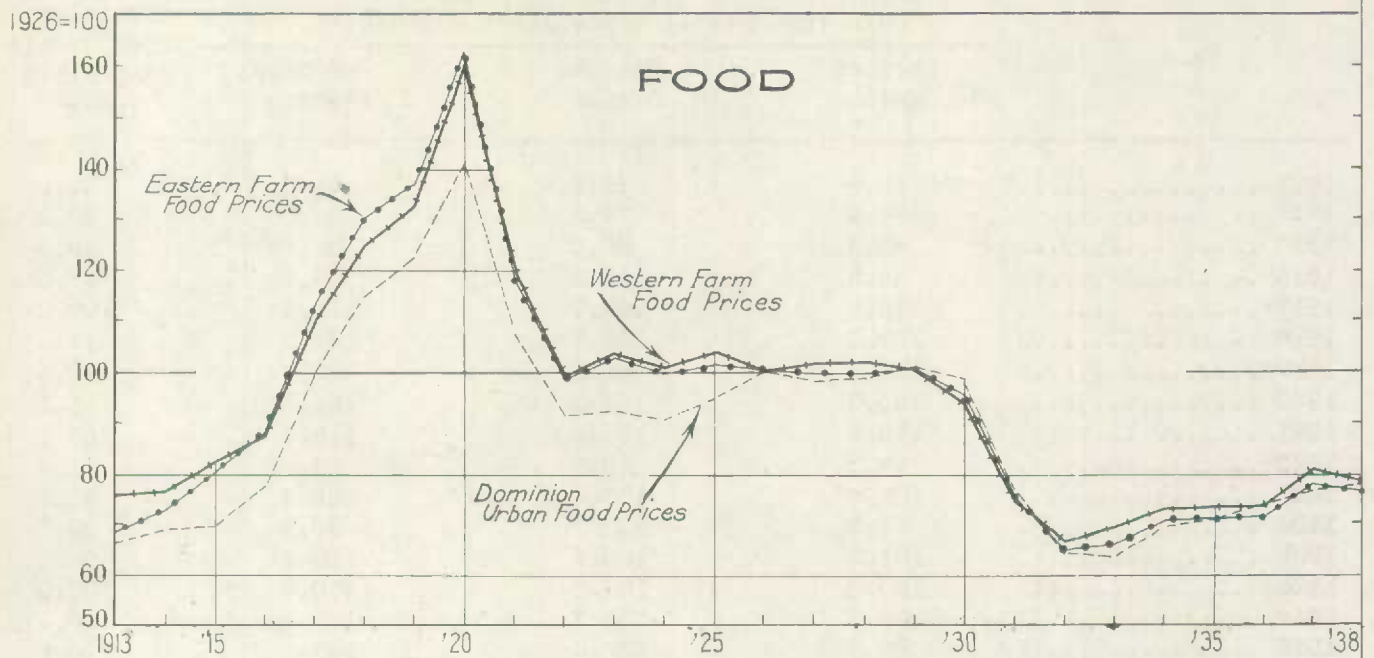
#### CONSTITUENT PRICE MOVEMENTS OF FARM LIVING COSTS

Foods: The eastern and western regional food indexes moved together almost as closely as the general living cost indexes. A slightly greater degree of sensitivity on the part of the eastern series was apparent in the war years and again during the depression, but since 1926 the two series have never differed by more than 5 per cent. Variations between farm and urban food price indexes were frequently of much larger proportions, due to differences in weighting and to the list of items included. Disparities were particularly marked during the post-war inflationary period when the sharpest increases in food prices appeared in basic necessities such as flour and sugar. These commodities were of greater importance in the farm than in the urban food budget, and



# RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM LIVING REQUIREMENTS, 1913-38 FOOD AND CLOTHING

(WITH COMPARATIVE URBAN INDEXES)



they rose in price much faster than some of the unprocessed foods supplied from the farm. The latter were extremely important in urban budgets. Since 1926 farm and urban food prices have shown greater similarity of movement, the only noteworthy difference being a relatively sharper rise in the urban index since 1933, due mainly to the influence of pronounced increases in farm product foods. (See Chart 2 and Table 2).

Table 2. - Index Numbers of Canadian Retail Food Prices, 1913-1938  
(1926=100)

Year	Farm Food Retail Price Index Numbers -			Dominion Urban Retail Food Price Index
	Eastern Canada	Western Canada	Dominion Average	
1913 .....	68.5	75.6	71.3	66.2
1914 .....	72.4	76.4	74.0	68.9
1915 .....	80.3	82.6	81.2	69.5
1916 .....	87.5	87.3	87.4	77.5
1917 .....	112.9	109.7	111.6	100.0
1918 .....	130.2	124.7	128.0	114.6
1919 .....	136.9	132.1	135.0	122.5
1920 .....	163.0	160.3	161.9	141.1
1921 .....	118.4	119.6	118.9	107.9
1922 .....	98.3	99.0	98.6	91.4
1923 .....	102.7	103.3	102.9	92.1
1924 .....	99.3	100.9	99.9	90.7
1925 .....	101.5	103.7	102.4	94.7
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

Clothing: Records of rural and urban clothing price movements show a greater degree of similarity than corresponding food groups. Rural and urban budgets contain substantially the same items, manufactured from the same basic materials. Prices for these materials are determined by international markets, and price fluctuations of domestic manufactures appear less influenced by variations in local markets than is the case for many foods. Budget differences due to quality differentials and varying emphasis on certain types of apparel may be considerable, but their influence upon clothing price index numbers is not great.

The price data for regional farm clothing indexes have been taken from Toronto and Winnipeg mail order catalogues. This material has been carefully scrutinized, and price series for individual items have been checked and tested before being accepted.

Erratic series were at once discarded, and index numbers for others were examined in relation to corresponding indexes for items of the same basic material. Regional comparisons also were made for individual series to check trend movements and the amplitude of price fluctuations. It is believed that by this procedure significant changes in the quality of goods from year to year have been eliminated, and that reliable records of clothing price trends have been obtained.

Eastern and western farm clothing price indexes have moved closely together since 1913, with the latter showing slightly wider fluctuations. Both series moved sharply higher from 1913 to 1920, the eastern series from 64.9 to 157.1 and the western series from 62.2 to 167.3. From then until 1933 there was an almost unbroken decline, quite precipitate in 1921 and 1922, and subsequently more gradual. At the 1933 low point, the eastern and western clothing indexes were 71.2 and 70.4 respectively. Since then a minor recovery carried them to 75.9 and 74.2 for 1937 and this was followed by a moderate decline in 1938. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics urban index of clothing prices mounted from 63.3 in 1913 to 153.2 in 1920, which was 5 per cent lower than the peak level for the combined farm clothing price index. The urban series declined faster than the farm counterpart in 1921 and 1922, but receded more slowly from then until 1929. Subsequently it has been more sensitive, reaching a depression low of 67.1 in 1933 as compared with 70.9 for the farm index, and rising slightly faster in the next four years to 73.3 in 1938 as against 74.5 for the farm index. These differences have been related in large part to the relatively greater importance of woollen products in the farm clothing group. This was particularly noticeable in the years from 1921 to 1926, when woollens declined fairly steadily while cottons advanced in 1922 and 1923 before commencing a long-term decline.

Table 3.- Index Numbers of Canadian Retail Clothing Prices, 1913-1938  
(1926=100)

Year	Retail Price Indexes of Farm Clothing -			Dominion Urban Clothing Index
	Eastern Canada	Western Canada	Dominion Average	
1913 .....	64.9	62.2	63.8	63.3
1914 .....	69.3	65.2	67.7	63.9
1915 .....	73.1	68.7	71.3	69.6
1916 .....	83.5	78.1	81.3	79.7
1917 .....	100.8	92.6	97.5	93.7
1918 .....	121.1	115.1	118.7	109.5
1919 .....	133.2	131.9	132.7	125.9
1920 .....	157.1	167.3	161.2	153.2
1921 .....	121.5	123.3	122.2	124.7
1922 .....	113.0	117.4	114.8	105.7
1923 .....	109.4	112.9	110.8	104.4
1924 .....	107.9	108.9	108.3	101.9
1925 .....	104.6	103.6	104.2	101.9
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



Fuel: The movement of fuel prices offers a considerable contrast from that of other budget groups. Markets are more limited than for most commodities due to the high cost of transporting the bulky fuels, coal, coke, and wood. Market areas for gas and electricity are also relatively narrow, although the latter is now being relayed considerable distances. Stable conditions of supply and high proportions of labour and service costs provide other unusual price features. Farm fuel budgets differ considerably from urban budgets in the relative amounts of wood and coal contained. Wood is generally much more important in the farm than in the urban budget, and since it is relatively plentiful in most farm areas, actual fuel expenditure on farms is typically less than in city areas. Electricity which is an item in nearly all urban budgets, has not yet come into general use upon Canadian farms and is not included in the farm cost of living index. Gas, of course, is almost entirely an urban fuel. Coal oil which is used extensively as a rural lighting fuel has little place in urban expenditures.

Differences between eastern and western farm fuel price indexes were due mainly to the greater importance of coal and coke in the western series relative to wood which was the major item of fuel in the east. No pronounced advance in fuel prices occurred until 1917. Starting from 52.2 and 80.2 respectively in 1913 the eastern and western fuel series moved to 53.3 and 74.2 in 1916. The post-war peak was 113.0 in 1921 for the east and 122.2 in 1920 for the west. Subsequent reaction was much more gradual than in other budget groups and continued until 1938, when the eastern index was 83.3 and the western 76.4. The urban fuel index has remained within a few points of the eastern farm series since 1921. It moved from 65.8 in 1913 to 63.2 in 1915 and then up to 109.2 in 1921. Since then it has moved down to 85.2 in 1938.

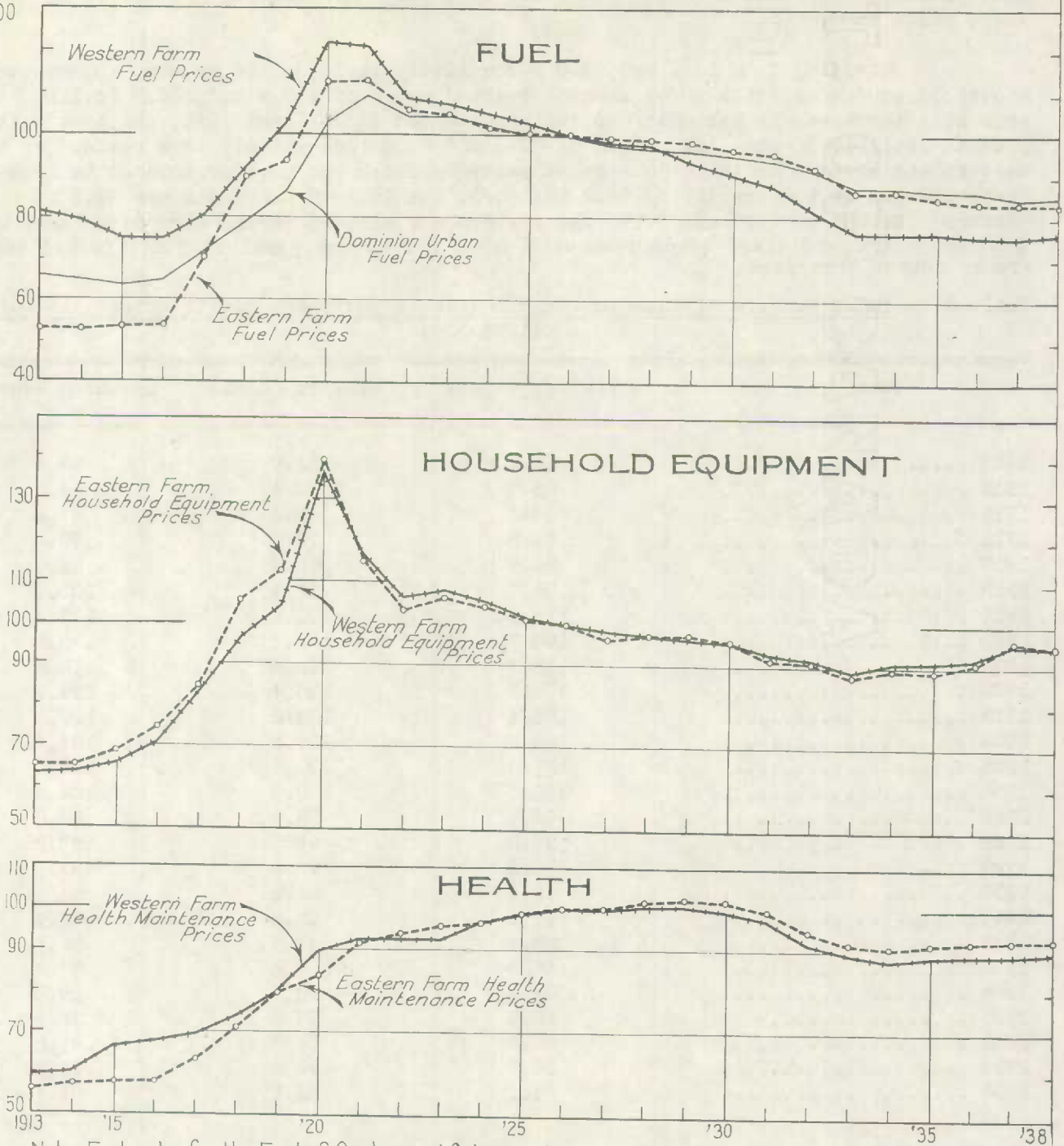
As in the case of foods, it has been necessary to use urban price averages for fuels. In view of their extremely stable nature, it is believed that this procedure would make less difference to an index of farm fuel prices than it would for foods.

Table 4. - Index Numbers of Canadian Retail Fuel Prices, 1913-1938  
(1926=100)

Year	Farm Fuel Retail Price Index Numbers -			Dominion Urban Fuel Index
	Eastern Canada	Western Canada	Dominion Average	
1913 .....	52.2	80.2	63.4	65.8
1914 .....	52.1	78.9	62.8	64.5
1915 .....	53.0	74.2	61.5	63.2
1916 .....	53.3	74.2	61.7	64.5
1917 .....	69.8	80.0	73.9	71.7
1918 .....	89.8	91.7	90.6	78.9
1919 .....	93.7	102.8	97.3	86.2
1920 .....	112.2	122.2	116.2	102.6
1921 .....	113.0	120.7	116.1	109.2
1922 .....	105.9	108.8	107.1	104.6
1923 .....	104.9	107.2	105.8	104.6
1924 .....	101.5	105.0	102.9	102.0
1925 .....	100.2	102.8	101.2	100.0
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

# RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS OF FARM LIVING REQUIREMENTS, 1913-38 FUEL, HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT, HEALTH (WITH COMPARATIVE URBAN INDEXES)

1926=100



Note: Fuel index for the East of Quebec and Ontario only.  
" " " " West of Man. Sask. and Alta.

Household Equipment: The household equipment group is composed of a wide range of items including furniture, hardware, bedding and linens, cleaning supplies and pharmaceuticals. Price series have been chosen from Toronto and Winnipeg mail order catalogues after the same careful testing to which clothing price series were subjected. The similarity of eastern and western indexes was again quite marked, and their behaviour was generally similar to that for indexes of foods and clothes. The narrow price movements of hardware utensils reduced the amplitude of group index fluctuations to a smaller range than those for foods and clothing, particularly in the years since 1930.

Starting from 65.1 and 63.0 respectively in 1913, the eastern and western household equipment price index numbers reached peaks of 139.7 and 136.1 in 1920. Subsequently there was an unbroken decline, pronounced in 1921 and 1922, and then quite gradual until 1933, when low points of 87.4 and 88.6 respectively were reached by the eastern and western series. Subsequent recovery which was most pronounced in 1937 moved these indexes up temporarily to 96.3 and 95.3, but in 1938 the index was 94.1 in both regions. Except in 1918 and 1919, the eastern and western series were never more than 4 points apart. No exact comparison with urban prices was possible for this and later group indexes presented.

Table 5. - Index Numbers of Canadian Farm Household Equipment Retail Prices, 1913-1938  
(1926=100)

Year	Eastern Canada	Western Canada	Dominion Average
1913 .....	65.1	63.0	64.3
1914 .....	65.3	63.4	64.5
1915 .....	68.6	65.6	67.4
1916 .....	74.6	70.5	73.0
1917 .....	84.9	82.7	84.0
1918 .....	105.8	96.4	102.0
1919 .....	112.5	104.2	109.2
1920 .....	139.7	136.1	138.3
1921 .....	115.3	116.6	115.8
1922 .....	103.3	106.4	104.5
1923 .....	106.4	108.2	107.1
1924 .....	104.2	105.5	104.7
1925 .....	101.0	101.7	101.3
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



Health Maintenance: Due to the lack of other data from 1913 to 1926, the health maintenance index for that period is based entirely upon hospital rates. From then on it was possible to obtain an adequate record of changes in some of the standard fees for medical and dental doctors. Hospital rates rose steadily from 1913 to 1930, and the movement was gradual and comparable as between eastern and western areas. Undoubtedly the quality of service rendered to patients improved materially during this period, but it has been impossible to make any evaluation of this improvement. From 1930 to 1936, hospital rates recorded a minor recession as did medical doctors' fees also. Those for dentists fell more sharply, being chiefly responsible for the decline in health maintenance indexes from 1930 to 1934. Minor increases since that time have been due mainly to revisions in medical fees for visits and consultations.

The eastern and western health maintenance indexes mounted from 56.0 and 59.1 respectively in 1913 to 102.3 and 100.6 in 1929. In the next five years they receded to 90.5 and 87.3, but by 1937 had moved moderately upward to 92.6 and 88.8.

Table 6.- Index Numbers of Canadian Farm Family Health Maintenance Costs, 1913-1937\*  
(1926=100)

Year	Eastern Canada	Western Canada	Dominion Average
1913 .....	56.0	59.1	57.2
1914 .....	57.2	60.0	58.3
1915 .....	57.9	66.1	61.2
1916 .....	59.0	67.5	62.4
1917 .....	63.3	69.2	65.7
1918 .....	71.0	73.5	72.0
1919 .....	79.6	79.9	79.7
1920 .....	83.8	89.8	86.2
1921 .....	91.7	92.6	92.1
1922 .....	94.0	92.2	93.3
1923 .....	95.8	92.5	94.5
1924 .....	96.3	96.8	96.5
1925 .....	98.8	98.6	98.7
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

\* Annual data for 1938 indexes not available at time of publication.

Miscellaneous Living Costs: In addition to the items entering into the groups presented above, there are many residual living expenditures which form a considerable proportion of total farm living costs. It is not possible to obtain records for a significant number of these items as far back as 1913, but from 1926 onward records for life insurance, newspapers and periodicals, tobacco and telephone rates have been combined into a miscellaneous group for which indexes are presented below. Despite their heterogeneous composition, variations in costs of these items are not greatly dissimilar. They are all commodities or services which fluctuate very little, and as may be observed from the following table, showed only a minor reaction to depressionary influences between 1929 and 1933. Actually the low point for this group came in 1934 when the eastern index was 96.5 and that for western Canada 96.3. Corresponding 1937 indexes were 98.0 and 98.1.

Table 7. - Index Numbers of Miscellaneous Farm Living Costs, 1926-1937\*  
(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

\* Annual data for 1938 not available at time of publication.



NOTE ON REGIONAL PRICE FLUCTUATIONS IN RELATION TO FARM LIVING COSTS

The scattered position of Canada's agricultural areas, and differences in climate, living customs, and access to retail distributing centres all tend to create an attitude of doubt towards any single price index purporting to measure the general change in price movements for Canada as a whole. Under such circumstances there is a definite possibility that regional differences in price trends may make any general Canadian index unsuitable for use in studying the price problems of a particular area. For this reason, considerable attention was given during the construction of the foregoing index series to regional differences in price movements and in consumption habits, to decide how many regional farm cost of living indexes are needed to represent Canadian farm areas. These differences proved surprisingly small as the foregoing eastern and western regional indexes demonstrate. It has been considered advisable to maintain regional series, however, for the information they reveal concerning the nature of the country's price structure, although it is doubtful whether the differences in these indexes between 1913 and 1938 are significant statistically.

In interpreting the meaning of these regional indexes it should be kept constantly in mind that they have been based upon prices throughout the past twenty-five years for goods of as nearly a fixed standard of quality as possible. Undoubtedly, there have been considerable changes in regional living standards since 1913 which an index of this type does not reflect. The fact that eastern and western price indexes have shown the same movements throughout the period should not be interpreted as a reflection of comparable economic conditions. Price changes are only one of several factors including income and custom which contribute to existing standards of living.

Before it was decided to construct eastern and western farm cost of living indexes, experiments were made with provincial data on prices and consumption. If important regional differences in price movements were to be found, it was considered that they might reasonably be sought among items of the food budget. Local market conditions probably affect food price levels more than those of any other budget group, and accordingly experimental provincial price indexes were made for foods to decide upon the need of regional detail in farm cost of living records. One set of weights was used for the four western provinces, and another for the three eastern provinces covered in the test. The resultant indexes for the period 1913-1938 are presented in Table 9. Differences between the highest and lowest constituent indexes in any of these years never exceeded 6 per cent for the eastern group and 7 per cent for the western group. From 1926 to 1937 ranges of difference seldom were more than 3 per cent. In view of this marked degree of comparability, price representation in the east was limited to Quebec and Ontario, and in the west to Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The close uniformity of provincial indexes also seemed to warrant the use of averages of urban food prices in these compilations. No historical record of small town prices was available, and the establishment of an adequate current record from a representative number of places of that type would be a laborious and costly undertaking. This appeared unnecessary when provincial urban indexes revealed such similarity of pattern. If provincial differences were small, it is reasonable to suppose that trend differences between small and large distributing points might be even less within a given province. The 50 odd urban centres in the five provinces mentioned above include most of the major distributing points in Canada and are sufficiently well distributed to give a fair representation of marketing areas. Local differences in farm produce prices were considered of little consequence since these foods form a small proportion of farm food purchases.

A comparison of relationships between Canadian and United States price index numbers of farm and urban foods is significant in this connection since comparable price series in Canada and the United States have long shown close similarity of movements.



The United States Department of Agriculture price index of farm foods is based upon returns from small centres supplying prices of farm requirements directly, while index numbers of food prices are computed by the National Industrial Conference Board from United States Bureau of Labor retail urban prices. For test purposes annual farm food indexes for the United States were divided by corresponding annual price index numbers of urban food requirements. The resultant series showed the percentage of difference (plus or minus) between the two sets of indexes when related to a common base year 1926. A similar series was computed for Canada using the farm food price index described above and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics urban food price series. Comparison of these two sets of ratios show significant parallels and contrasts.

Table 8. - Percentage Relationship of Retail Price Index Numbers of Foods Purchased  
by Farmers and Urban Dwellers, 1914-1935  
(Farm Food Indexes divided by Corresponding Urban Food Indexes)

Year	Canada	United States	Difference
1914 .....	+ 7	+ 11	4
1915 .....	+ 17	+ 14	3
1916 .....	+ 13	+ 17	4
1917 .....	+ 12	+ 9	3
1918 .....	+ 12	+ 4	8
1919 .....	+ 10	+ 16	6
1920 .....	+ 15	+ 5	10
1921 .....	+ 10	- 5	15
1922 .....	+ 8	+ 3	5
1923 .....	+ 12	+ 6	6
1924 .....	+ 10	+ 5	5
1925 .....	+ 8	+ 5	3
1926 .....	0	0	0
1927 .....	+ 2	+ 1	1
1928 .....	+ 2	+ 3	1
1929 .....	0	- 2	2
1930 .....	- 4	- 3	1
1931 .....	- 3	- 7	4
1932 .....	+ 2	- 9	11
1933 .....	+ 5	- 1	6
1934 .....	+ 3	+ 1	2
1935 .....	+ 2	+ 1	1

Plus signs in the above table indicate that farm price indexes were higher than corresponding urban indexes, and conversely minus signs point to urban indexes higher than their farm counterparts relative to the base year 1926. Differences between the two sets of ratios were quite marked during the post-war inflationary period and again during the depression years centring around 1932. Special factors related to abnormal economic conditions undoubtedly contributed to this disparity. It seems significant, however, that during the war years and again during 1934 and 1935, both periods considerably removed from the base year 1926, that these ratios showed a close degree of uniformity. Only in four years from 1914 to 1935 did the Canadian series of ratios differ by more than 6 per cent from the corresponding United States series. It is a reasonable inference, therefore, that relationships between urban retail food prices and retail food prices in smaller rural distributing points customarily show movements which are closely similar.

Returning to the question of the effect of provincial price differences upon regional food retail price index numbers, the following table is presented showing separate farm food price index numbers for seven provinces. As noted earlier, two sets of weights were used in compiling these series, one for Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario using eastern consumption averages, and a second set for Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia using western consumption averages.

Table 9. - Test Index Numbers of Retail Prices for Foods Farmers' Buy, 1913-1938  
(1926=100)

Year	Eastern Group				Western Group				
	N.S.	Que.	Ont.	Eastern Average	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.	Western Average
1913 .....	65.4	69.5	67.5	67.8	72.9	75.9	77.0	78.1	75.8
1914 .....	70.0	73.3	71.4	71.8	73.9	78.3	75.3	78.5	76.5
1915 .....	77.4	80.2	80.2	79.6	79.6	83.9	82.8	84.7	82.8
1916 .....	82.9	88.3	86.7	86.5	84.2	88.5	87.7	86.9	87.3
1917 .....	109.4	111.9	113.6	112.0	106.9	109.5	112.0	107.7	109.6
1918 .....	126.4	131.3	129.1	129.4	122.2	126.2	124.3	121.4	124.5
1919 .....	134.9	137.3	136.3	136.4	132.1	133.6	130.1	128.1	131.8
1920 .....	158.8	163.7	162.3	162.1	162.5	159.6	160.0	158.7	160.2
1921 .....	116.9	120.0	117.0	118.1	118.8	119.6	120.1	120.1	119.6
1922 .....	96.9	99.9	96.8	98.0	98.8	98.8	99.5	100.2	99.1
1923 .....	102.4	104.3	101.1	102.6	104.5	103.8	101.9	102.9	103.3
1924 .....	99.4	100.3	98.4	99.3	101.3	100.8	100.9	99.3	100.8
1925 .....	102.0	102.6	100.4	101.6	103.3	103.7	104.0	102.7	103.6
1926 .....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927 .....	99.4	100.0	99.3	99.7	101.0	102.2	101.5	102.5	101.8
1928 .....	98.4	99.0	100.4	99.4	100.0	102.9	102.0	102.5	102.0
1929 .....	100.4	100.8	101.2	100.9	99.3	100.7	100.2	99.3	100.2
1930 .....	96.0	95.6	94.9	95.4	93.0	94.1	93.7	93.6	93.7
1931 .....	77.4	75.7	74.3	75.5	75.6	74.6	73.8	76.4	74.7
1932 .....	66.2	64.8	64.5	65.0	67.5	66.5	66.2	67.0	66.6
1933 .....	66.1	65.9	65.9	65.9	70.4	69.0	68.6	68.8	69.1
1934 .....	69.3	70.2	70.9	70.3	74.0	73.1	72.3	72.7	73.0
1935 .....	69.3	70.7	71.0	70.5	74.0	73.2	72.4	73.0	73.1
1936 .....	70.0	71.2	70.8	70.8	74.6	72.3	72.8	74.4	73.4
1937 .....	77.3	77.7	78.4	78.1	82.2	80.4	81.2	82.3	81.0
1938 .....	77.2	78.1	76.4	77.2	80.0	78.8	78.2	81.0	79.0

It may be noted that the dispersion of provincial indexes around corresponding regional indexes was reduced greatly in the post-war years and that it was greater in western than in eastern Canada. As noted above, in neither area did the range of dispersion exceed 7 per cent, while for the 24 years from 1913 to 1938 it averaged 2.8 per cent for the eastern provinces and 3.5 for those in the west.

So far attention has been devoted to differences in food price index numbers which might be caused from variability in price behaviour. However, close comparability in this respect does not rule out the possibility of significant variation in regional price series due to different habits of consumption. As a check upon the importance of consumption differences, separate indexes for five provinces were computed for 1916

and 1931, using provincial consumption averages derived from the 1934 farm expenditure survey. The greatest degree of index dispersion during the war and post-war periods due to price occurred in these two years.

A comparison of indexes based upon regional and upon provincial consumption averages for 1916 and 1931 is shown below.

Table 10. - Test Index Numbers of Farm Food Purchases, 1916 and 1931  
(1926=100)

	1 9 1 6		1 9 3 1	
	Provincial Weights	Regional Weights	Provincial Weights	Regional Weights
Nova Scotia .....	80.9	82.9	76.5	77.4
Quebec .....	87.9	88.3	74.8	75.7
Ontario .....	87.1	86.7	75.4	74.3
Manitoba .....	86.2	84.2	76.2	75.6
Saskatchewan .....	84.4	88.5	73.9	74.6
Alberta .....	86.8	87.7	75.0	73.8
British Columbia .....	85.3	86.9	76.3	76.4

The greatest difference in 1916 due to weights amounted to less than 3 per cent and in 1931 no difference exceeded 1.5 per cent. It may be observed also that provincial weights did not increase materially the range of dispersion in provincial indexes during these years.



CANADIAN FARM LIVING EXPENDITURES, 1934

The construction of a Canadian series of price index numbers of farm purchases has been seriously retarded by the lack of detailed expenditure records of a comparable nature for the different farming areas of Canada. Since this material was considered indispensable to an accurately weighted index, a special canvass of farm expenditures of Dominion Bureau of Statistics crop correspondents was made for the calendar year 1934. Useful records collected through the mail from 2,669 correspondents were tabulated upon a regional basis to reveal the influence of geography and types of farming upon goods purchased.

Compilations based upon the 2,669 records do not constitute a complete farm expenditure survey. The schedule used was designed specifically to provide index number weights. It included much detail not required for farm expenditure analysis, and omitted other facts of considerable significance for this purpose. Apart from its use in providing price index number weights, however, this material is of value for regional comparisons. Although approximate in character, it represents the first effort to provide a basis of cross-sectional study of the expenditures for Canadian farms in the principal agricultural areas. The comparatively large number of records secured and the consistency of frequency distributions yielded by the data, appear sufficient to ensure a significant series of averages.

Table 11. - Distribution and Composition of Farm Families in the Survey

Area	Number of Families	Average Number of Persons per Family	Average Number of Adults per Family	Average Number of Children under 18 Years
Maritime Provinces...	153	5.8	3.7	2.1
Quebec .....	384	8.4	4.6	3.8
Ontario .....	512	5.0	3.4	1.6
Manitoba .....	458	6.0	3.6	2.4
Saskatchewan .....	639	5.7	3.5	2.2
Alberta .....	523	5.3	3.3	2.0

These averages are moderately higher than corresponding data from the 1931 census.

Family expenditure estimates cover items purchased for cash or upon credit. It is estimated that the recorded amount of such purchases would comprise about 90 per cent of all ordinary farm family living expenditures. In addition to goods purchased, these families used considerable amounts of food and fuel furnished from the farm. Most of the milk, eggs and vegetables consumed by farm families are home produced, and hence do not appear in budget expenses. Such items were not listed upon the expenditure schedule. Neither were many relatively small cash items including organization and church dues, amusement costs, gifts, etc., for which no price index numbers were to be computed. For foods and clothing, estimates of total expenditure were obtained in addition to detail regarding staple items.

Since farm income in 1934 was below average, further estimates were obtained covering purchases of clothing and other more durable goods in a "normal" year in order

to obtain a general idea of the magnitude of expenditure reductions in times of depression. These figures are referred to in later paragraphs, although it is realized that the concept of normality may be subject to widely differing interpretations. The year 1928 was suggested on the schedule for reference in giving these estimates, and where estimated "normal" averages were materially above those for 1934, adjustments in the latter were made for weighting purposes.

### Frequency Distributions of Basic Data

Examples of the different types of frequency distributions presented by farm family expenditures are contained in the following tables. Besides providing a basis of assessing the value of averages computed from these data they reveal clear-cut differences in 1934 expenditures between necessities and other kinds of goods. Amounts reported for food expenditures form fairly normal distributions with the commonest annual outlay falling between \$100 and \$150 per family. It is evident from these figures that a high proportion of food consumption was provided by home-grown produce. This conclusion is supported by variations between frequency distributions for basic foods not produced at home, such as sugar; and others which in many cases were supplied wholly or partially by home production, such as flour. In some areas much flour is ground at local grist mills from the farmer's own wheat and the grinding is paid for by additional wheat given to the miller. Sugar frequencies approximated a normal distribution while those for flour were more scattered. This was particularly true in areas where grist mills are most common. Frequencies have been converted to percentage form to equalize differences in reports received. It will be noted that the number of cases differs somewhat in each table. Differences for food and clothing represent cases where no estimate of total expenditures for these groups was made. For furniture and doctors' fees, presumably the difference is made up of a considerable number of families making no expenditure of this sort, although a few families may have failed to remember small amounts expended, more particularly for house furnishings.

Table 12. - Percentage Frequency Distributions of Family Food Expenditures, 1934

Interval	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
\$	(Percentage of Cases in Specified Ranges)					
1 - 50 .....	6	10	3	8	5	5
51 -100 .....	37	30	24	32	23	24
101 -150 .....	21	26	33	33	32	28
151 -200 .....	17	12	20	14	18	20
201 -250 .....	11	12	10	6	9	9
251 -300 .....	4	5	5	4	5	7
301 -350 .....	2	3	3	1	3	4
351 + .....	2	2	2	2	5	3
Total .....	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. of Cases ....	126	325	384	372	639	542



Table 13. - Frequency Distribution of Farm Family Flour and Sugar Purchases, 1934

Interval (pounds)	Maritimes		Quebec		Ontario		Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
	Flour	Sugar	Flour	Sugar	Flour	Sugar	Flour	Sugar	Flour	Sugar	Flour	Sugar
(Number of Families Reporting)												
- 100 .....		6	5	6	5	2	3	5	1	6	4	6
101- 200 .....	1	31	10	22	12	16	3	16	3	19	5	22
201- 300 .....	9	31	9	26	14	26	4	25	3	28	6	32
301- 400 .....	6	17	6	16	9	22	5	24	2	15	5	14
401- 500 .....	5	8	7	14	6	19	6	17	5	12	5	11
501- 600 .....	11	5	7	8	9	7	8	7	5	11	10	8
601- 700 .....	10	1	3	3	4	3	4	1	4	4	5	3
701- 800 .....	7	1	6	2	9	3	9	2	7	4	7	3
801-1000 .....	9	-	9	3	11	2	16	3	19	1	16	1
1001-1200 .....	19	-	13	-	11	-	14	-	20	-	19	-
1201-1400 .....	4	-	3	-	3	-	6	-	6	-	5	-
1401-2000 .....	16	-	12	-	7	-	16	-	20	-	10	-
2000+ .....	3	-	10	-	-	-	6	-	5	-	3	-
No. of Cases ...	125	151	326	393	328	348	399	426	487	639	407	586

Clothing expenditure frequencies showed a marked degree of concentration between \$50 and \$100 per family, although a considerable number of families spent between \$100 and \$300 for clothing. In Saskatchewan where farm incomes were most sharply reduced during the depression, more than 50 per cent of reporting correspondents indicated family clothing expenditures of not more than \$100.

Table 14. - Percentage Frequency Distributions of Family Clothing Expenditures, 1934

Interval	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
\$	(Percentage of Cases in Specified Ranges)					
1 - 50 .....	24	24	19	18	22	18
51 -100 .....	30	23	33	32	32	29
101 -150 .....	24	24	18	22	22	20
151 -200 .....	11	12	17	13	9	14
201 -250 .....	1	7	7	6	7	7
251 -300 .....	4	4	3	4	4	5
300 + .....	6	6	3	5	4	7
Total .....	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. of Cases .....	115	326	376	360	639	505

For more durable goods such as furniture expenditure concentration points were still lower than for foods and clothing, and many families reported no outlay at all under such headings.



Table 15. - Percentage Frequency Distributions of Family Expenditure on Furniture and Furnishings, 1934

Interval	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
\$	(Percentage of Cases in Specified Ranges)					
1 - 20 .....	55	60	55	64	67	52
21 - 40 .....	12	17	23	15	15	15
41 - 60 .....	12	9	11	11	6	8
61 - 80 .....	5	6	2	6	3	6
81 -100 .....	9	1	6	3	3	8
101 + .....	7	7	3	1	6	11
Total .....	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. of Cases ....	58	158	237	191	292	260

Frequency distributions for doctors fees provided another example of pronounced concentration at very low levels with approximately half of the returns showing no expenditure under this heading. Of those making such outlay, more than one-third showed expenditures of \$10 or less. The same type of distribution appeared in hospital bills with approximately 10 per cent of returns showing hospital expenditures.

Table 16. - Percentage Frequency Distributions of Family Expenditure on Doctors' Fees, 1934

Interval	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
\$	(Percentage of Cases in Specified Ranges)					
1 - 10 .....	47.6	38.9	37.4	37.3	38.1	33.5
11 - 20 .....	21.9	29.4	18.9	14.8	16.3	15.1
21 - 30 .....	7.6	13.9	14.5	14.1	12.9	13.0
31 - 40 .....	5.7	2.6	6.7	6.9	8.6	7.0
41 - 50 .....	5.7	5.6	7.7	10.0	6.1	6.8
51 - 75 .....	2.9	3.3	3.7	5.5	3.3	6.5
76 -100 .....	1.9	2.3	4.4	2.8	3.8	4.9
101 + .....	6.7	4.0	6.7	8.6	10.9	13.2
Total .....	100	100	100	100	100	100
No. of Cases .....	105	303	297	290	394	370

Summary of Reported Family Living Expenditures, 1934

A regional summary of the principal farm living expenditures is given in the following table:-

Table 17. - Principal Family Average Living Expenditures, 1934

Area	Average No. of Persons per Family	Food	Fuel	Cloth- ing	House- hold Furnish- ings	Health	Miscell- aneous	Total
		\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Maritimes .....	5.8	138	29	123	47	43	127	507
Quebec .....	8.4	139	37	128	44	41	109	498
Ontario .....	5.0	155	65	122	52	47	107	548
Manitoba .....	6.0	133	58	129	48	45	104	517
Saskatchewan ..	5.7	159	100	119	47	46	103	574
Alberta .....	5.3	163	61	141	66	67	113	611

Percentage Distribution of Principal Family Living Expenditures

Maritimes .....	27.2	5.7	24.3	9.3	8.5	25.0	100.0
Quebec .....	27.9	7.4	25.7	8.8	8.2	22.0	100.0
Ontario .....	28.3	11.9	22.2	9.5	8.6	19.5	100.0
Manitoba .....	25.7	11.2	25.0	9.3	8.7	20.1	100.0
Saskatchewan ..	27.7	17.4	20.7	8.2	8.0	18.0	100.0
Alberta .....	26.7	10.0	23.0	10.8	11.0	18.5	100.0

These averages have been used to compute group weights for price index numbers of farm living purchases. Inferences from them regarding living standards are limited by variations in amounts of foods and fuels provided from the farm and by the possibility of bias due to the fact that crop correspondents are not necessarily typical farmers. However, certain points of similarity and difference appear worthy of notice. Averages for health maintenance are exceptionally consistent apart from that for Alberta, and differences in household furnishings averages were also very slight. High fuel expenditures in Saskatchewan were reasonable in view of the limited wood resources of southern areas in that province. Wide variability in food expenditures was undoubtedly related to proportions of foods furnished from farms.

Total living costs showed a definite tendency to rise as the number of persons per household increased, but at a much less than proportionate rate. Living costs for six-person households were usually about double those for two-person households. The steadiest rate of increase in expenditures as the household became larger occurred for foods. From Ontario west, provincial average food expenditures for two-person households ranged from 71 per cent to 74 per cent of averages for all families. The corresponding range for four-person averages was from 91 per cent to 96 per cent, and for six-person families from 112 per cent to 127 per cent. Quebec figures at corresponding person levels were somewhat lower due to the larger average number of persons per household. In no other group was such consistency observable. Fuel expenditures showed an extremely

## REGIONAL AVERAGE EXPENDITURES FOR FARM FAMILY LIVING, 1934

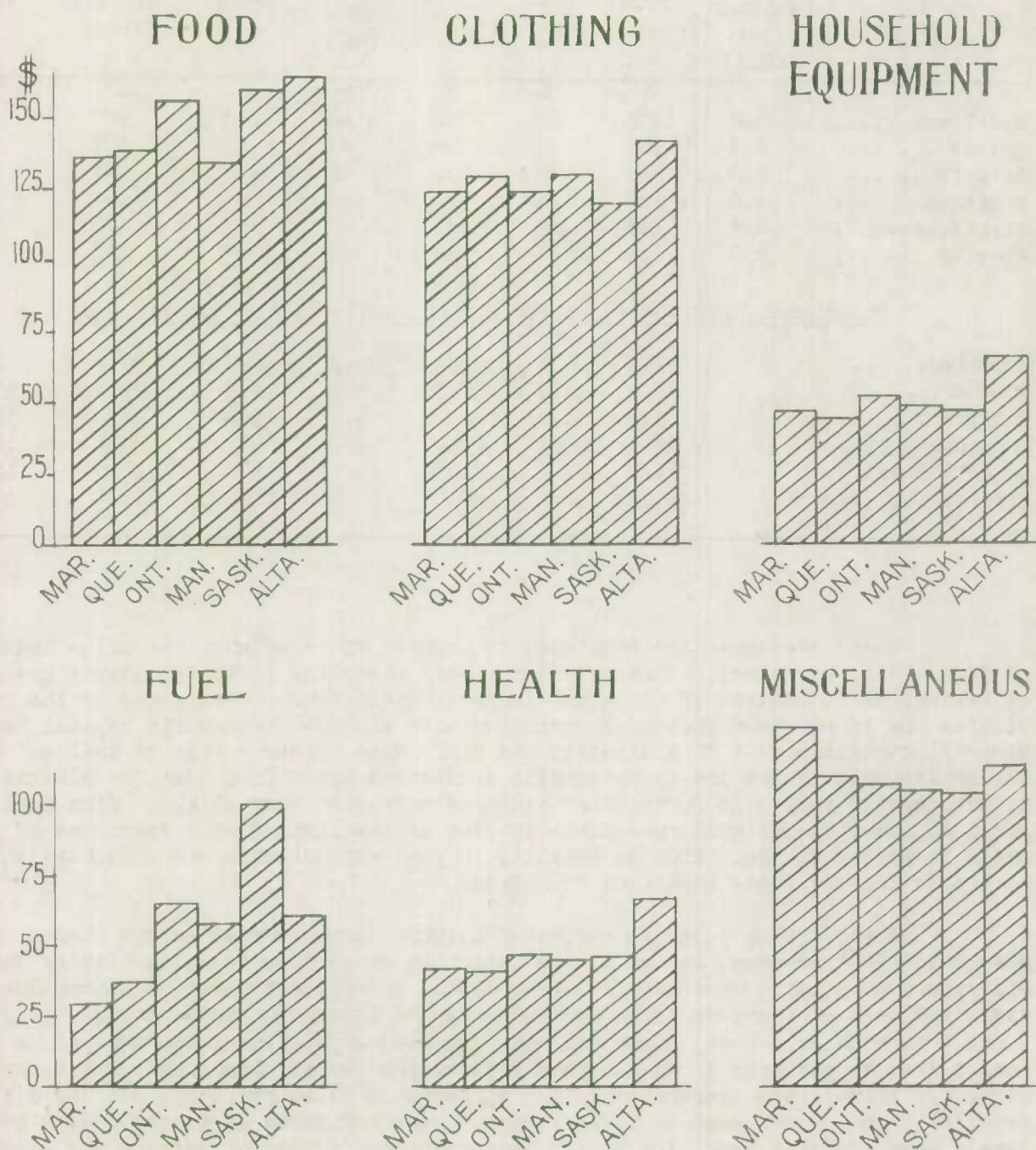




Table 18. - Average Expenditure for Farm Living Requirements, 1934--According to Number of Equivalent Adults per Family

Eastern Canada

Equiv- alent Adults per House- hold	Maritime Provinces						Quebec						Ontario					
	Food	Fuel	Cloth- ing	House- hold	Health	Mis- cell- an- eous	Food	Fuel	Cloth- ing	House- hold	Health	Mis- cell- an- eous	Food	Fuel	Cloth- ing	House- hold	Health	Mis- cell- an- eous
				Equip- ment and Sup- plies		Equip- ment and Sup- plies				Equip- ment and Sup- plies								
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1 .....	52	5	39	10	4	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	43	39	17	7	44
2 .....	96	11	61	50	10	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	70	84	47	17	66
3 .....	107	18	70	28	75	101	89	56	76	40	18	56	131	59	86	48	38	77
4 .....	144	37	151	61	54	144	114	31	83	45	35	120	145	65	124	47	60	133
5 .....	142	36	113	38	21	120	120	37	106	42	53	89	162	63	121	45	55	114
6 .....	149	29	118	53	31	115	130	31	126	39	46	95	197	65	166	64	58	137
Over 6 ..	170	31	203	66	55	175	158	37	128	47	43	132	211	82	203	77	42	146
Average..	138	29	123	47	43	127	139	37	128	44	41	109	155	65	122	52	47	107

Western Canada

	Manitoba					Saskatchewan					Alberta							
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1 .....	93	30	35	23	3	42	72	50	31	16	20	26	87	21	35	21	2	19
2 .....	99	41	67	32	19	62	113	56	58	33	22	53	118	55	72	39	29	51
3 .....	107	60	71	36	28	58	115	88	72	36	44	78	141	52	102	51	45	92
4 .....	127	57	103	44	43	96	145	92	102	39	38	91	155	63	137	69	68	96
5 .....	136	59	124	50	62	137	146	92	113	46	43	125	159	72	159	66	64	124
6 .....	149	51	165	58	46	125	201	93	153	87	50	112	196	63	205	89	97	161
Over 6 ..	155	67	198	61	49	117	223	157	191	67	69	128	236	76	259	88	108	195
Average..	133	58	129	48	45	104	159	100	119	47	46	103	163	61	141	66	67	113

erratic progression as persons per household mounted. Those for clothing and house furnishings moved sharply upward in the lower person groups, and then more gradually in the higher groups. There was a greater degree of scatter about clothing and furnishings averages than was true of foods. In order to improve comparability of records for families with varying numbers of children and adults, the consumption of each child under 18 years was considered equal to 0.6 of the consumption of one adult. This estimate was made after a consideration of available consumption scales based upon requirements of a normal adult male.

#### Purchases of Specified Foods

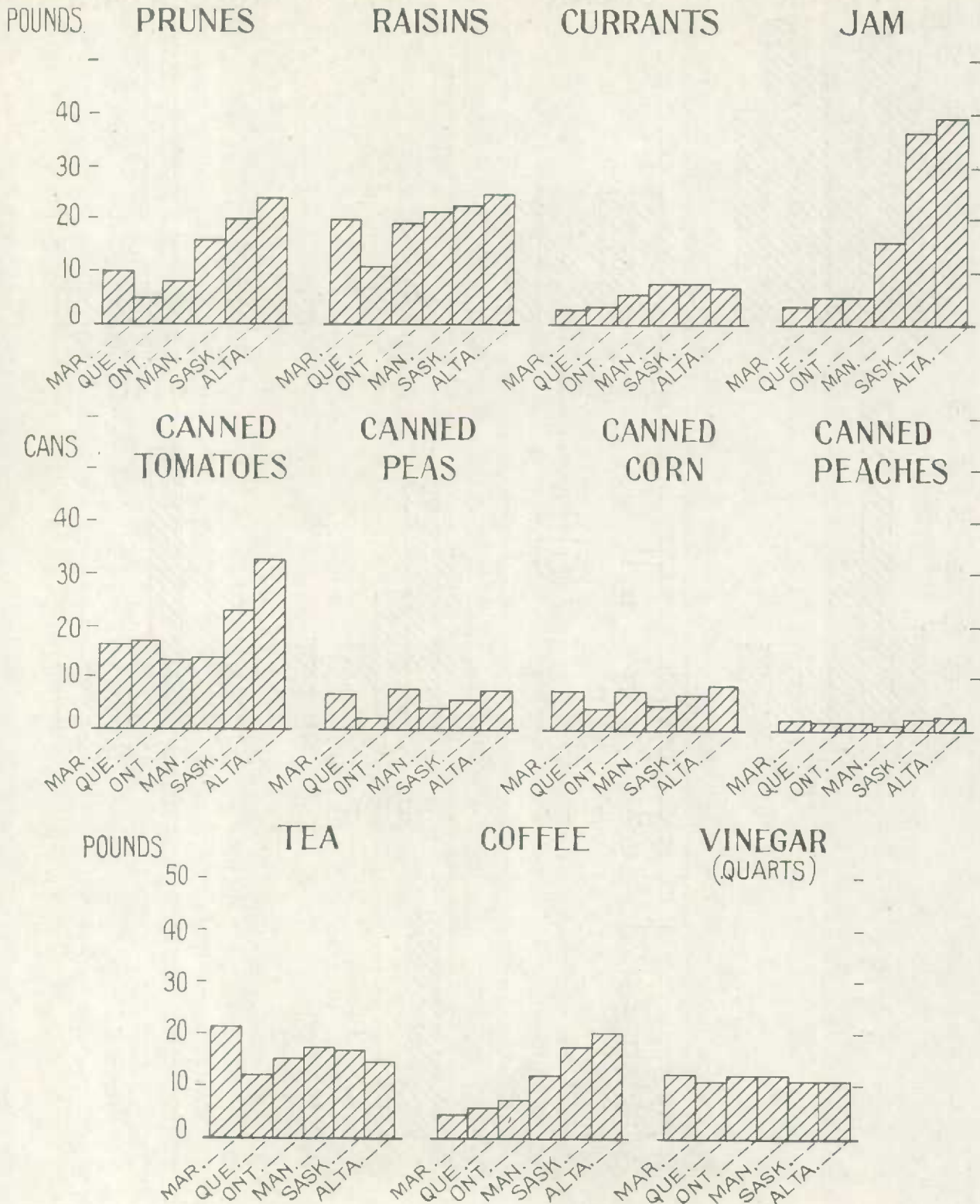
Separate records were obtained for 22 principal farm food purchases upon which to base consumption weights for the food price index described in the preceding section. Purchases of these foods are calculated to be approximately 60 per cent of the retail value of a complete food budget. The list of items contains several important omissions, including milk, eggs, and fresh vegetables which are very largely supplied from home production. Both purchases and home production were obtained for certain other foods including meats, butter, cheese, and flour, but purchase estimates only were utilized in computing index weights. Provincial averages of quantities purchased were fairly consistent with the exception of beef, flour, and eastern figures for pork, all items for which there was considerable variation in amounts furnished from the farm. For the majority of foods Prairie Province averages centred around one level and those for eastern Canada and British Columbia around another. Although British Columbia data were insufficient to provide reliable averages, there was evidence that consumption in that province corresponded more closely to consumption in eastern Canada, than to that of the Prairie Provinces. Certain provincial averages showed exceptional features, as may be observed from Chart 5. Quebec purchases of pork and rice were relatively high, but low for rolled oats. Ontario cheese purchases were the highest per family in any province. Western figures for jam, prunes, and canned tomatoes were much above those in the east, but approximately the same for other canned fruits and vegetables.

Provincial averages for 1934 foods purchased and furnished from the farm are shown in Table 20. Eastern figures for meats show a decided margin over western purchases, but large quantities of meats were furnished from farms upon the prairies. Western purchases of flour and rolled oats were somewhat higher than eastern averages, but otherwise regional variations appeared of little consequence.

Table 19. - Value Relationships Between Foods Furnished and Purchased, 1934

Item	Maritimes		Quebec		Ontario	
	Furnished	Purchased	Furnished	Purchased	Furnished	Purchased
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Meats .....	77.2	22.8	78.5	21.5	72.0	28.0
Butter and cheese...	82.9	17.1	74.0	26.0	64.0	36.0
Flour .....	26.0	74.0	23.4	76.6	21.0	79.0
Canned goods .....	2.3	97.7	69.6	30.4	21.0	79.0
Sugar .....	-	100.0	5.3	94.7	-	100.0
Tea and coffee .....	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0
Miscellaneous .....	-	100.0	0.4	99.6	1.0	99.0
Total .....	57.3	42.7	58.6	41.4	51.5	48.5

# REGIONAL AVERAGE QUANTITIES OF FOODS PURCHASED PER FARM FAMILY, 1934





# REGIONAL AVERAGE QUANTITIES OF FOODS PURCHASED PER FARM FAMILY, 1934

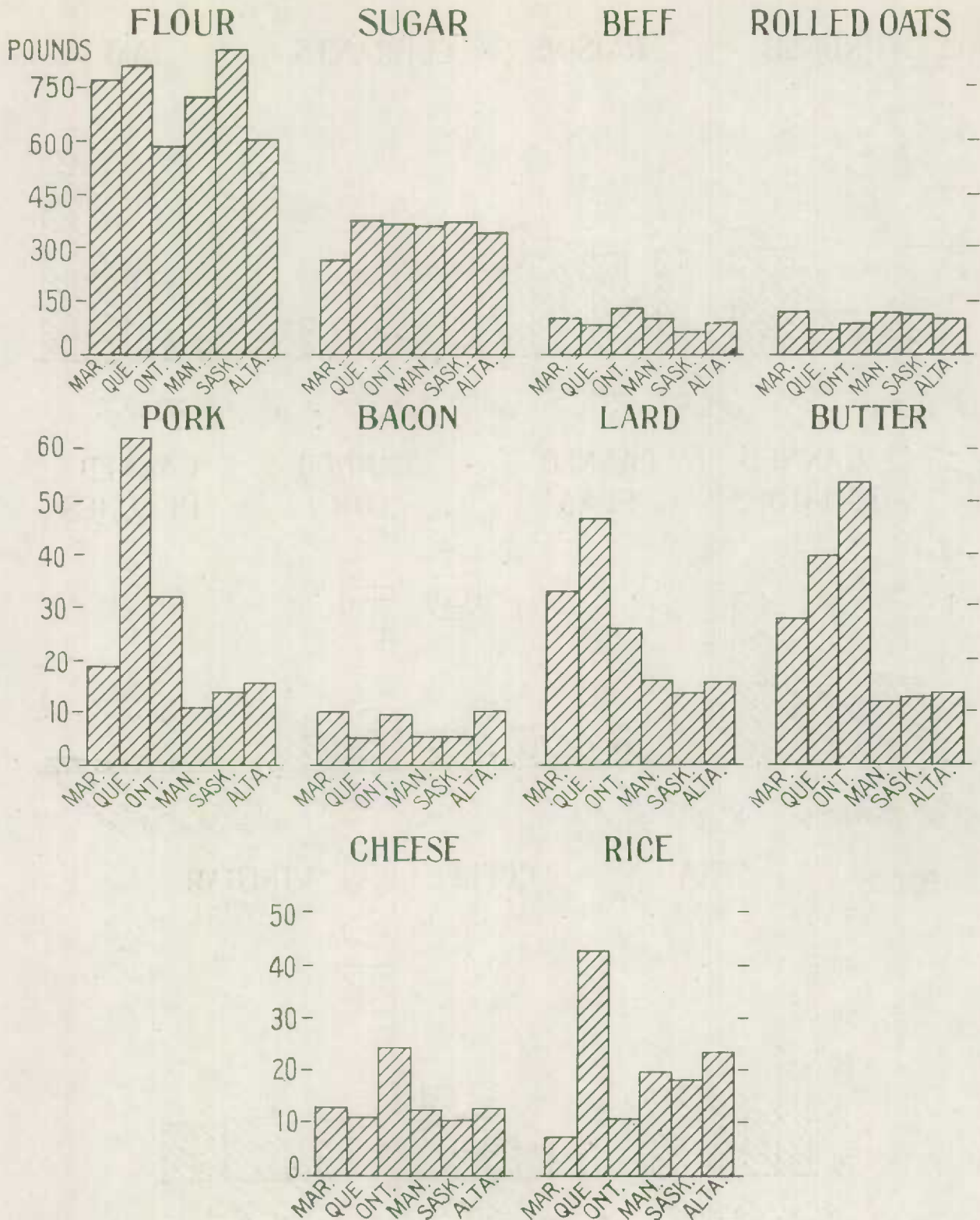


Table 19. - Cont'd

Item	Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
	Furnished	Purchased	Furnished	Purchased	Furnished	Purchased
	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.
Meats .....	86.5	13.5	90.9	9.1	87.0	13.0
Butter and cheese ..	89.3	10.7	90.5	9.5	89.0	11.0
Flour .....	39.7	60.3	26.9	73.1	43.0	57.0
Canned goods .....	29.0	71.0	6.3	93.7	10.0	90.0
Sugar .....	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0
Tea and coffee .....	-	100.0	-	100.0	-	100.0
Miscellaneous .....	0.6	99.4	0.2	99.8	1.0	99.0
Total .....	65.5	34.5	63.0	37.0	64.0	36.0

Table 20. - Average Consumption of Specified Food Items, Furnished from the Farm and Purchased, 1934

Item	Unit of Consumption	Maritimes		Quebec		Ontario	
		Furnished	Purchased	Furnished	Purchased	Furnished	Purchased
Beef .....	pound	276	101	272	77	192	125
Pork .....	"	199	19	337	62	222	32
Bacon .....	"	14	10	10	5	21	10
Lard .....	"	17	33	35	47	25	26
Butter .....	"	173	28	138	40	128	54
Cheese .....	"	6	13	4	11	4	24
Flour .....	"	273	775	249	818	159	587
Rollled oats..	"	-	116	-	63	-	85
Rice .....	"	-	7	-	43	-	10
Canned tomatoes ...	can	-	16	26	17	4	13
Canned peas..	"	1	7	2	2	1	8
Canned corn..	"	-	7	9	4	1	7
Canned peaches .....	"	-	2	-	1	-	1
Jam .....	pound	-	3	26	5	3	5
Prunes .....	"	1	10	-	5	-	8
Raisins .....	"	-	20	-	11	-	19
Currants .....	"	-	3	-	3	-	5
Sugar .....	"	-	259	21	374	-	365
Coffee .....	"	-	5	-	6	-	8
Tea .....	"	-	21	-	12	-	15
Vinegar .....	quart	-	13	-	11	1	12

Table 20. - Continued

Item	Unit of Con- sump- tion	Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
		Furnished	Purchased	Furnished	Purchased	Furnished	Purchased
Beef .....	pound	419	97	464	59	451	83
Pork .....	"	218	11	266	14	247	15
Bacon .....	"	58	5	73	5	66	10
Lard .....	"	33	16	42	14	42	16
Butter .....	"	191	12	205	13	181	13
Cheese .....	"	8	13	10	10	10	13
Flour .....	"	478	726	318	861	458	608
Rolled oats .....	"	-	112	-	110	-	98
Rice .....	"	-	20	-	18	-	24
Canned tomatoes..	can	3	14	1	23	1	33
Canned peas .....	"	3	4	1	6	2	7
Canned corn .....	"	2	5	1	7	1	8
Canned peaches ..	"	-	1	-	2	-	2
Jam .....	pound	8	16	3	37	7	39
Prunes .....	"	-	16	-	20	-	24
Raisins .....	"	-	21	-	23	-	25
Currants .....	"	-	8	-	8	-	7
Sugar .....	"	-	361	-	372	-	339
Coffee .....	"	-	12	-	18	-	21
Tea .....	"	-	17	-	17	-	15
Vinegar .....	quart	-	12	-	11	-	11

#### Clothing Purchases

Variability from province to province in quantities of clothing items purchased in 1934 was much less than for foods. Separate estimates for purchases of 26 items of men's and women's clothing were obtained and in addition, corresponding estimates of "normal" year purchases. Correspondents also reported total expenditures for all clothing in 1934. Regional differences in clothing averages for 1934 appeared closely related to the size of family and to economic conditions. Prairie province averages were frequently lower than those for Ontario for items such as suits and overcoats, but higher for overalls, socks, etc. Western averages for women's clothing were generally lower than those for eastern provinces.

The most pronounced differences between eastern and western returns appeared in comparisons of 1934 and "normal" year averages. The former for Quebec were nearly always moderately lower than the estimated "normal", but for Ontario, 1934 figures in many instances were greater than "normal". For the Prairie Provinces "normal" purchases almost invariably exceeded those for 1934 by considerable amounts. In Saskatchewan they were frequently double the 1934 figures.



Table 21. - Average Quantities of Clothing Purchased in 1934 and in a "Normal" Year (1)

Item	Maritimes		Quebec		Ontario	
	1934	"Normal"	1934	"Normal"	1934	"Normal"
<b>Men's Clothing</b>	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
Overcoats .....	0.6	1.0	0.9	1.5	0.5	0.8
Suits .....	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.7	0.8	1.0
Sweaters .....	1.8	1.9	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.2
Overalls .....	3.0	2.4	3.1	3.4	3.5	3.0
Socks, pairs .....	6.0	5.4	4.6	4.9	7.6	6.8
Underwear .....	3.9	3.4	4.3	4.8	3.4	2.9
Pyjamas .....	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.7
Shirts .....	5.6	4.8	5.4	6.8	5.8	5.1
Mitts, pairs .....	3.2	2.8	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.2
Caps .....	1.3	1.9	2.1	2.6	1.5	1.5
Boots, pairs .....	4.1	3.3	5.3	5.6	3.4	3.0
<b>Women's Clothing</b>						
Topcoats .....	0.7	1.1	1.1	1.5	0.7	1.0
House dresses .....	3.2	3.0	4.0	4.4	3.3	3.2
Sweaters .....	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.0
Skirts .....	1.6	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.2	2.4
Hats .....	1.9	1.9	2.5	3.0	1.9	1.9
Stockings, pairs .....	6.4	5.8	6.2	6.9	6.8	6.2
Pyjamas .....	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.1
Vests .....	2.8	2.7	3.5	4.0	2.5	2.6
Bloomers .....	4.0	3.4	4.3	4.7	3.7	3.5
Slips .....	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.8	2.1	2.1
Aprons .....	3.3	3.0	5.1	5.4	3.6	3.4
Gloves, pairs .....	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.6	1.7	1.8
Shoes, pairs .....	3.7	3.3	4.0	4.5	3.3	3.2
Overshoes, pairs .....	1.2	1.0	0.1	0.2	1.7	1.0
Piece goods, yards ...	19.4	19.7	17.0	18.7	27.0	26.6
Item	Manitoba		Saskatchewan		Alberta	
<b>Men's Clothing</b>						
Overcoats .....	0.6	1.2	0.4	1.5	0.5	1.2
Suits .....	0.7	1.3	0.5	1.7	0.7	1.4
Sweaters .....	1.5	2.0	1.3	2.4	1.4	0.3
Overalls .....	4.6	4.8	4.9	6.0	5.0	5.2
Socks, pairs .....	9.2	9.9	9.9	12.8	11.0	11.7
Underwear .....	4.2	4.9	4.4	6.3	4.6	5.4
Pyjamas .....	0.7	1.1	0.6	1.5	0.9	1.4
Shirts .....	6.1	6.7	6.1	8.3	6.5	7.4
Mitts, pairs .....	4.2	4.3	3.5	4.5	3.6	3.9
Caps .....	2.1	2.6	2.0	3.3	2.0	2.6
Boots, pairs .....	4.1	4.6	4.3	5.7	4.2	4.8
<b>Women's Clothing</b>						
Topcoats .....	0.6	1.2	0.5	1.6	0.7	1.3
House dresses .....	3.7	4.5	4.2	6.3	4.1	5.2
Sweaters .....	0.9	1.4	0.8	2.0	0.9	1.5
Skirts .....	1.3	1.8	1.1	2.1	1.2	1.8
Hats .....	1.6	2.2	1.3	2.8	1.5	2.2
Stockings, pairs .....	7.4	8.4	7.1	10.2	7.9	9.3
Pyjamas .....	1.1	1.5	1.1	2.1	1.1	1.5
Vests .....	2.6	3.1	2.5	4.1	2.7	3.4
Bloomers .....	4.4	4.9	4.4	6.5	4.6	5.4
Slips .....	2.1	2.6	1.9	3.4	2.1	2.7
Aprons .....	3.3	3.9	3.0	4.9	3.4	4.2
Gloves, pairs .....	1.7	2.2	1.5	2.9	1.7	2.4
Shoes, pairs .....	3.6	4.0	3.8	5.4	3.7	4.3
Overshoes, pairs .....	1.3	1.7	1.4	2.3	1.3	1.8
Piece goods, yards ...	21.5	25.5	22.1	35.9	23.9	28.7

(1) See footnote Table 3.

Fuel

The value of purchases of farm fuels is affected greatly by the occurrence of wood lots. Quebec schedules showed practically all heating needs supplied by wood cut from the farm. Saskatchewan farms, on the other extreme, were able to provide relatively small quantities of wood which had to be supplemented by considerable purchases of wood and coal. Western fuel bills under such circumstances were naturally much higher than those for the eastern provinces. Although reports on electricity costs were obtained, electricity was not considered as typical of fuel consumption and has not been included in the farm living cost index. Percentages of farms reporting expenditure on electricity were as follows: Maritimes 22, Quebec 40, Ontario 24, Manitoba 11, Saskatchewan 10, Alberta 17. In 1931 the census of agriculture showed percentages of farms with electric light or gas which were considerably lower than these. They were: Canada 10, Prince Edward Island 4, Nova Scotia 10, New Brunswick 7, Quebec 14, Ontario 17, Manitoba 4, Saskatchewan 3, Alberta 3, and British Columbia 25. Considerable purchases of kerosene indicated the continuing prevalence of the kerosene lamp for illumination.

Table 22. - Average Family Fuel Consumption, 1934

Item	Unit of Measure- ment	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskat- chewan	Alberta
Wood cut from farm ...	cord	17.0	34.4	17.7	14.3	6.0	10.0
Wood bought .....	"	1.0	2.1	3.2	4.2	4.3	2.0
Coal bought .....	ton	0.8	0.2	1.0	1.5	7.0	6.0
Kerosene .....	gallon	25.1	14.4	24.5	30.4	28.8	25.0

Household Furnishings and Supplies

The estimated value of purchases in 1934 and a "normal" year were reported for furniture and furnishings, hardware, bedding and linens, drug store preparations and cleaning supplies. No detail was requested, and individual commodity weights in the foregoing price index numbers for these groups have been estimated. Regional variations in 1934 family expenditures under this heading were comparatively small. Provincial averages were close to \$50 per family, with the exception of Alberta, for which averages for furniture and hardware were slightly higher.

Table 23. - Provincial Average Expenditures on Household Furnishings and Supplies, 1934

Item	Maritimes	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
Textile Furnishings...	\$ 7	\$ 5	\$ 8	\$ 8	\$ 7	\$ 8
Furniture .....	17	12	15	11	10	21
Household hardware ...	9	12	14	13	14	19
Drugs and sundries ...	7	9	8	8	8	9
Cleaning supplies ....	7	6	7	8	8	9
Total Household Equip- ment and Supplies ....	47	44	52	48	47	66

Health and Miscellaneous Expenditures

Expenditure estimates grouped under this heading included doctors' and dentists' fees, hospital bills, life insurance premiums, newspapers and magazines, educational expenses, tobacco, and telephone bills. The combined expenditures on health maintenance averaged close to \$45 per family, except in Alberta for which it was \$67. Insurance expenditures averaged approximately \$50 per family in all provinces. The only other item of comparable importance was educational expenses. Exclusive of taxes devoted to educational systems, provincial cash expenditure estimate averages under this heading ranged from \$27 to \$43 per family.

Table 24. - Average Expenditure on Health and Miscellaneous Living Requirements, 1934

Item	Maritime	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<u>Health</u>						
Doctors' fees .....	20	20	27	24	25	35
Dentists' fees .....	9	7	11	12	10	13
Hospital bills .....	14	14	9	9	11	19
Total Health .....	43	41	47	45	46	67
<u>Miscellaneous</u>						
Life insurance .....	56	44	53	52	50	51
Newspapers and Magazines .....	8	7	9	7	6	8
Educational Expenses .....	40	43	27	27	30	34
Tobacco .....	11	9	7	9	8	11
Telephone .....	12	6	12	9	9	9
Total Miscellaneous	127	109	108	104	103	113



FARM LIVING COST PRICE INDEX NUMBER WEIGHTING SYSTEMRegional Weights (based upon the number of farms in specified areas)

	<u>Province</u>	<u>Region</u>
Eastern Canada .....		60
Quebec .....	23	
Ontario .....	24	
Western Canada .....		40
Manitoba .....	8	
Saskatchewan .....	17	
Alberta .....	12	

Family Budget Weights (based upon 1934 survey of Canadian Farm Living Expenditures)

<u>Groups and Items</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Weights for Individual Items</u>		<u>Group Weights</u>	
		<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>
<u>Foods -</u>				29	27
Beef, fresh .....	pound	104	72		
Pork, fresh .....	"	41	14		
Bacon .....	"	8	7		
Lard .....	"	35	15		
Butter .....	"	45	14		
Cheese .....	"	18	12		
Flour .....	"	699	734		
Rolled oats .....	"	81	106		
Rice .....	"	22	21		
Canned tomatoes...	can - 2 1/2's	15	24		
"    peas .....	" - 2's	5	6		
"    corn .....	" - 2's	6	7		
"    peaches ...	" - 2's	1	2		
Jam, raspberry ...	pound	5	31		
Prunes .....	"	7	20		
Raisins .....	"	16	23		
Currants .....	"	4	7		
Sugar .....	"	353	357		
Coffee .....	"	6	17		
Tea .....	"	15	16		
Vinegar .....	quart	12	11		
Salt .....	pound	35*	35*		

\* Estimated.

Clothing

24

22

Men's Wear -

Boots, leather,			
work .....	pair	3.0	3.0
Gum rubbers .....	"	1.0	1.0
Socks, wool, work	"	4.0	7.0
Socks, cashmere..	"	2.0	3.0
Mitts, horsehide.	"	4.0	4.0
Shirts, flannel..	one	2.0	2.0

Family Budget Weights - Continued

<u>Groups and Items</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Weights for Individual Items</u>		<u>Group Weights</u>	
		<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>
<u>Clothing - Cont'd</u>					
<u>Men's Wear -</u>					
Shirts, drill .....	one	4.0	5.0		
Sweaters, wool .....	"	1.3	1.5		
Pyjamas .....	pair	0.6	1.0		
Undershirts .....	one	1.0	1.0		
Underdrawers .....	"	1.0	1.0		
Combinations .....	"	2.0	3.0		
Mackinaw coats .....	"	0.5	0.5		
Overalls .....	"	3.0	5.0		
Suits .....	"	1.0	1.0		
Overcoats .....	"	0.5	0.5		
Breeches .....	"	1.0	1.0		
Trousers, cotton ...	"	2.0	2.0		
<u>Women's Wear -</u>					
Shoes .....	pair	4.0	4.0		
Rubbers .....	"	1.0	1.0		
Overshoes .....	"	0.5	1.0		
Stockings, cashmere.	"	4.5	6.0		
Stockings, silk ....	"	2.0	2.0		
Gloves, woollen ....	"	2.0	2.0		
Coats .....	one	1.0	1.0		
Sweaters .....	"	1.0	1.0		
House dresses .....	"	3.0	3.0		
Aprons, print .....	"	4.0	4.0		
Slips, cotton .....	"	2.0	2.0		
Bloomers, cotton,					
fleece lined .....	"	2.0	3.0		
Bloomers, rayon ....	"	2.0	2.0		
Vests, wool .....	"	1.5	1.5		
Vests, rayon .....	"	1.5	1.5		
Nightgown .....	"	1.0	1.0		
Dress, wool .....	"	0.5	0.5		
Dress, silk .....	"	0.5	0.5		
<u>Materials, Yarns and</u>					
<u>Threads -</u>					
Gingham .....	yard	6	7		
Flannelette .....	"	5	6		
Dress goods, wool ..	"	5	6		
Dress goods, silk ..	"	4	4		
Cretonne .....	"	2	2		
Yarn, Scotch finger-					
ing .....	pound	2	2		
Yarn .....	ball	5	5		
Spools of thread ...	one	8	8		
<u>Fuel -</u>					
Wood .....	cord	2.6	3.2	10	14
Coal .....	ton	0.6	4.0		
Coke .....	ton	0.1	0.7		
Kerosene .....	gallon	16.72	20.16		

Anthracite coal used in Quebec and Ontario; Bituminous in Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia.

Household Equipment and Supplies\*

<u>Groups and Items</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Weights for Individual Items</u>		<u>Sub-group Weight</u>	<u>Group Weights</u>	
		<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>		<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>
<u>Household Equipment</u>				75	8	9
<u>Textiles -</u>				20		
Blankets .....	pair	0.5	0.5			
Sheets .....	"	1.0	1.0			
Bath towels .....	"	2.0	2.0			
Table cloth .....	one	0.2	0.2			
Table napkins ....	dozen	0.1	0.1			
Mattress .....	one	0.2	0.2			
Window shades ....	"	1.0	1.0			
<u>Furnishings -</u>				50		
Book case .....	one	0.05	0.05			
Desk .....	"	0.05	0.05			
Couch .....	"	0.1	0.1			
Library table ....	"	0.05	0.05			
Living room chair.	"	0.1	0.1			
Bedstead .....	"	0.07	0.07			
Springs .....	"	0.1	0.1			
Chiffoniers .....	"	0.05	0.05			
(until 1926)						
Dresser .....	"	0.05	0.05			
Buffet .....	"	0.05	0.05			
Table, dining ....	"	0.05	0.05			
Chairs, dining ...	half dozen	0.07	0.4 (each)			
Cupboard, kitchen.	one	0.04	0.04			
Chairs, kitchen ..	half dozen	0.1	0.6 (each)			
Table, kitchen ...	one	0.07	0.07			
Sewing machine ...	"	0.05	0.05			
Linoleum .....	yard	1.0	1.0			
<u>Hardware -</u>				30		
Cullender .....	one	0.1	0.1			
(until 1926)						
Dish pan .....	"	0.1	0.1			
Double boiler ....	"	0.1	0.1			
Preserving kettle.	"	0.2	0.2			
Sad irons .....	set of 3 irons	0.05	0.05			
	and stand					
Frying pan .....	one	0.2	0.2			
Tea kettle .....	"	0.2	0.2			
Tea pot .....	"	0.2	0.2			
Wash boiler .....	"	0.2	0.2			
Washing machine ..	"	0.07	0.07			
Water bucket .....	"	0.5	0.5			
Butcher knife ....	"	0.2	0.2			
Paring knife .....	"	1.0	1.0			
Stove .....	"	0.05	0.05			
Oil lamp, glass						
stand .....	"	0.2	0.2			



Household Equipment and Supplies\*

Groups and Items	Unit	Weights for Individual Items		Sub-group Weight	Group Weights	
		East	West		East	West
<u>Household Equipment</u>						
<u>Hardware - Cont'd</u>						
Clothes line .....	50 ft.length	1.0	1.0			
Mop .....	one	0.2	0.2			
Rolling pin .....	"	0.1	0.1			
Floor enamel .....	gallon	0.2	0.2			
<u>Drugs, Sundries and Cleaning Supplies</u>						
<u>Drugs and Sundries -</u>				50		
Dodds Kidney Pills	box	1.0	1.0			
Cuticura ointment.	"	2.0	2.0			
Olive oil .....	8-10 oz.bottle	1.0	1.0			
Castor oil .....	8 oz. "	2.0	2.0			
Epsom salts .....	pound	1.0	1.0			
Hydrogen peroxide.	16 oz.bottle	0.5	0.5			
Boracic acid powder .....	pound	1.0	0.6			
Tincture of iodine	2 oz.bottle	2.0	2.0			
Hot water bottle..	one	0.2	0.2			
Listerine .....	14 oz.bottle	1.0	1.0			
Tooth brush .....	one	2.5	2.5			
Tooth paste .....	tube	7.0	7.0			
Shaving stick ....	one	2.0	2.0			
<u>Cleaning Supplies -</u>				50		
Soap, castile ....	dozen cakes	6	6			
Bon Ami .....	cake	1	1			
Old Dutch Cleanser	can	3	3			
Lux .....	package	6	6			
Laundry soap ....	dozen	3	3			
<u>Health -</u>						
Doctor's fees ....		54	53			
Dentist's fees ...		21	22			
Hospital bills ...		25	25			
<u>Miscellaneous -</u>						
Life Insurance ...		65	67			
Newspapers and magazines .....		5	4			
Books .....		6	5			
Tobacco .....		11	12			
Telephone .....		13	12			
Total .....						
				100	100	

\* Textiles, Furnishings and Household Hardware indexes weighted 20, 50 and 30 respectively, and combined into a separate index of Household Equipment. The Drugs and Sundries indexes and Cleaning Supplies indexes are weighted 50 each and combined into a Drugs, Sundries and Cleaning Supplies index. The Household Equipment indexes and Drugs, Sundries, and Cleaning Supplies Indexes are then weighted 75 and 25 respectively, and combined into Household Equipment and Supplies indexes. Sub-group weights are the same for eastern and western series.

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