

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

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Dominion Statistician: R. H. Coats, B.A., F.S.S., (Hon.), F.R.S.C.  
Chief, Internal Trade Branch: Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.

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INDEX NUMBERS OF IMPORT AND EXPORT VALUATIONS, 1929.

The index number of commodities entering into Canada's International Trade, i.e., the combined index of export and import valuations moved downward in 1929, being 130.8 as compared with 133.0 in 1928. (On the basis average export and import values in 1913=100). The index for average export values declined from 137.6 to 137.3 and average import values from 127.3 to 122.9.

It will be seen that the price relationship between commodities the Dominion has to sell and those which have to be purchased from abroad were even more favorable in 1929 than in 1928. In the latter year the export index was 137.6 and the import index 127.3. In the former year it was 137.3 against 122.9. Thus while on the average prices of foreign goods purchased by the Dominion were four to five points lower, prices realized for our exports fell less than 1 point. Though the lower index numbers for imports may be partly explained by change in grade of goods imported it is due in the main to change in price rather than the change in grade.

Changes in Group Index Numbers

The chief changes in group index numbers for exports were in the Fibre and Textiles group which fell from 143.7 to 126.0; Wood, Wood Products and Paper which fell from 156.4 to 153.9; Non-ferrous Metals group which rose from 121.1 to 126.6; and the Non-metallic Minerals group which rose from 172.8 to 177.0. In the vegetable products group the predominating influence was wheat the price for which averaged \$1.18 $\frac{3}{4}$  in 1928 and \$1.18 $\frac{1}{4}$  in 1929. In the Animal Products group lower average prices for cattle, lobsters, leather and cheese were counterbalanced by higher average prices for codfish, salmon, beef, bacon and hams, cream, butter and condensed milk. Lower prices for raw wool explains the lower index for the Fibre and Textile group. In the Wood, Wood Products and Paper group the fall in the average price of newsprint from \$3.20 to \$2.96 per cwt. was the chief influence in depressing the index number. Higher average prices for copper, lead and nickel were responsible for the higher index number in the Non-ferrous Metals group. Nickel averaged 23.29¢ per lb. in 1929 as compared with 22.42¢ in 1928, the rise probably being due mainly to the greater proportion of refined as against cruder forms. In the Non-Metallic Minerals group both coal and asbestos averaged higher.

Five group index numbers for imports were lower and three higher. Vegetable Products fell from 144.4 to 130.6, due mainly to lower average prices for sugar, tea and rubber. Animals and their Products declined from 119.2 to 94.9 due to lower prices for hides and skins. Fibres and Textiles were 147.1 in 1929 as compared with 153.8 in 1928 because of generally lower levels for commodities in this group. Non-metallic Minerals fell from 124.8 to 123.6 due to lower prices for coal. Chemicals and Allied Products fell from 138.6 to 134.3. Wood, Wood Products and Paper rose from 142.1 in 1928 to 150.9 in 1929 due in the main to higher prices for hardwoods. Iron and its Products rose from 93.6 to 95.7 imports in this group averaging higher in general. Non-ferrous Metals rose from 103.7 to 115.4 due to higher levels for Aluminum and Copper Products.

INDEX NUMBERS OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, CALENDAR YEARS 1924-1929

(1913=100)

EXPORTS

	Number of Items	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Vegetables and Their Products.....	14	133.1	155.2	150.9	143.5	132.1	131.1
Animals and Their Products.....	11	136.3	155.1	148.0	160.3	155.7	155.7
Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products.	2	161.1	165.8	140.3	126.7	143.7	126.0
Wood, Wood Products and Paper.....	8	173.3	167.9	162.4	158.5	156.4	153.9
Iron and Its Products.....	4	88.3	83.8	82.9	92.0	81.0	82.9
Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products.	6	123.3	132.9	129.4	120.0	121.1	126.6
Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	2	181.1	169.9	172.8	173.3	172.8	177.0
Chemicals and Allied Products.....	3	109.0	109.6	107.6	97.0	87.4	85.5
Total Exports.....	50	139.6	151.7	147.0	144.0	137.6	137.3

IMPORTS

Vegetables and Their Products.....	15	167.2	154.8	149.6	153.3	144.4	130.6
Animals and Their Products.....	3	78.9	93.6	86.9	95.0	119.2	94.9
Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products.	15	181.7	184.0	158.0	143.7	153.8	147.1
Wood, Wood Products and Paper.....	3	167.0	175.6	164.7	141.7	142.1	150.9
Iron and Its Products.....	11	107.4	98.6	95.0	95.0	93.6	95.7
Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products.	3	92.0	100.6	107.4	106.7	103.7	115.4
Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	7	145.4	143.9	141.7	130.1	124.8	123.6
Chemicals and Allied Products.....	3	146.9	140.3	148.7	148.2	138.6	134.3
Total Imports.....	60	142.0	139.6	131.7	127.0	127.3	122.9
Combined Index.....		140.7	146.3	140.1	136.3	133.0	130.8

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