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Published by Authority of Hon. H.H. Stevens, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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

(Issued April 29th, 1931)

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.

INDEX NUMBERS OF IMPORT AND EXPORT VALUATIONS, 1930.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of commodities entering into Canadian international trade, i.e., the combined index of import and export valuations, again moved downward from 130.6 in 1929 to 116.3 in 1930. This was the sharpest reduction since 1922 when the number dropped from 162.8 to 136.5. Average export values declined from 136.9 in 1929 to 117.2 in 1930, and corresponding import values fell somewhat less sharply from 122.9 to 115.1. All indexes quoted are on the base 1913=100.

Despite the large drop registered by the index for exports, it will be seen that as compared with the base year 1913, export valuations still averaged slightly higher than those for imports, although this advantage has been greatly reduced since 1929. In that year the exports' index was 14 points higher than the number for imports while in 1930 this margin was reduced to 2.1 points. On the basis of net change during the year, therefore, the movement of prices was apparently unfavourable from the domestic point of view.

Changes in Group Index Numbers

All of the eight export group indexes declined in 1930. The greatest drop occurred in the Textiles and Textile Products section, which fell from 126.0 to 89.4, due for the most part to reduced quotations for raw wool. Vegetable Products followed next, moving down from 130.1 to 99.9, influenced largely by major recessions in grain prices. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products dropped from 126.6 to 109.4, reflecting declines in all the items listed, viz., copper, silver, aluminium, lead, zinc, and nickel. Animals and Their Products were 145.9 in 1930 as against 155.7 in 1929, average export prices being lower for almost all the chief commodities included, with the exception of cured hams and bacon. The Wood, Wood Products and Paper index fell from 153.9 to 142.2, lumber and newsprint being responsible for the change. Iron and Its Products registered a small drop from 82.9 to 80.5, and Chemicals and Allied Products were 83.7 as compared with 85.5. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products declined from 177.0 to 164.0, a sharp reduction in asbestos prices more than offsetting a higher average for coal exports.

Among the import group indexes, the same five which declined last year, were again lower in 1930, while the other three continued to advance. Vegetable Products fell from 130.6 to 117.0, influenced principally by downward revisions in prices for sugar, coffee, and rubber. Animals and Animal Products dropped to 75.1 from 94.9, due chiefly to lower hide prices. Textiles and Textile Products declined from 147.1 to 123.0, raw materials and finished products of nearly all descriptions averaging less. Wood, Wood Products and Paper fell from 150.9 to 144.8, because of reduced hardwood valuations. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products were 117.2 in 1930 as against 123.6 in 1929, quotations for imported coal and petroleum averaging lower. The greatest advance was registered by the Chemicals and Allied Products group which mounted from 134.3 to 154.5. Iron and Its Products rose from 95.7 to 99.4, due mostly to higher averages for autos and their parts. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products rose from 115.4 to 133.4 because of increases in alumina.

INDEX NUMBERS OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, CALENDAR YEARS, 1924-1930

(1913 = 100)

EXPORTS

	Number of Items	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930
Vegetable Products	14	133.1	155.2	150.9	143.5	132.1	130.1	99.9
Animals and Their Products	11	136.3	155.1	148.0	160.3	155.7	155.7	145.9
Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products ..	2	161.1	165.8	140.3	126.7	143.7	126.0	89.4
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	8	173.3	167.9	162.4	158.5	156.4	153.9	142.2
Iron and Its Products	4	88.3	83.8	82.9	92.0	81.0	82.9	80.5
Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products ..	6	123.3	132.9	129.4	120.0	121.1	126.6	109.4
Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	2	181.1	169.9	172.8	173.3	172.8	177.0	164.0
Chemicals and Allied Products	3	109.0	109.6	107.6	97.0	87.4	85.5	83.7
Total Exports	50	139.6	151.7	147.0	144.0	137.6	136.9	117.2

IMPORTS

Vegetable Products	15	167.2	154.8	149.6	153.3	144.4	130.6	117.0
Animals and Their Products	3	78.9	93.6	86.9	95.0	119.2	94.9	75.1
Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products ..	15	181.7	184.0	158.0	143.7	153.8	147.1	123.0
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	3	167.0	175.6	164.7	141.7	142.1	150.9	144.8
Iron and Its Products	11	107.4	98.6	95.0	95.0	93.6	95.7	99.4
Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products ..	3	92.0	100.6	107.4	106.7	103.7	115.4	133.4
Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	7	145.4	143.9	141.7	130.1	124.8	123.6	117.2
Chemicals and Allied Products	3	146.9	140.3	148.7	148.2	138.6	134.3	154.5
Total Imports	60	142.0	139.6	131.7	127.0	127.3	122.9	115.1
Combined Index		140.7	146.3	140.1	136.3	133.0	130.6	116.3

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