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INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

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WEEKLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES, 1936-1937
(1926=100)

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, rose from 82.3 for the week ending February 12 to 83.0 for the week ending February 19. Advances were shown in all groups with the exception of Vegetable and Animal Products in which decreases predominated to a small degree. A feature of the week was the activity in non-ferrous metals, their sharp rise being attributed mainly to a revival of speculative interest based upon the re-armament outlook.

Vegetable Products eased from 89.2 to 89.1. The grain index shaded slightly as wheat closed lower for the week and milled products, raw rubber and potatoes were down also. Cocoa products have been working lower since their rapid appreciation in the closing weeks of last year, and this week saw a further drop of 9.2 points in the group index. Coffee, on the contrary, rose 12.6 points on a nervous market and vegetable oils, dried fruits and sugar were higher, as well. Animal Products fell from 75.1 to 74.6. Livestock prices were unchanged and leather, boots and shoes, fresh meats and milk products moved up, but were overbalanced by decreases in hides, cured meats, fats and eggs. The Textile index rose 0.9 in spite of lower quotations for raw cotton and raw wool. Increases in cotton fabrics, silk fabrics and hosiery raised the index for this group from 71.9 to 72.8. Pine, spruce and hardwoods advanced the index for Wood from 72.7 to 73.5 while Iron rose from 92.1 to 94.2 because of strength in pig iron, rolling-mill products and scrap. A serious scarcity in scrap iron and steel is reported and the index for this sub-group has risen 12.6 points in the past month. A jump of 7.8 points in the copper and 9.1 points in the zinc indexes featured the Non-Ferrous group and together with lesser strength in antimony, tin and lead moved the index from 84.4 to 89.0. Non-Metallic Minerals responding to advances in plate glass and petroleum products changed from 85.4 to 85.9, while increases in soaps moved the index for Chemicals from 79.4 to 79.9.

Canadian Farm Products rose from 87.7 to 87.9. Field Products, influenced largely by easiness in grains and potatoes, declined from 91.4 to 91.3, while Animal Products climbed from 81.5 to 82.2 when strength in milk products proved of more importance than decreases in eggs, hides and wool.

| | : No. of : Price : Series | : 1936 : 1937 | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| | | : Feb. : Jan. : Feb. : Feb. : Feb. | | | | |
| | | : 21 | : 29 | : 5 | : 12 | : 19 |
| Total Index 567 Commodities | 567 | 72.6 | 81.6 | 82.0 | 82.3 | 83.0 |
| INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS - | | | | | | |
| I. Vegetable Products | 135 | 66.3 | 87.1 | 87.8 | 89.2 | 89.1 |
| (grains, fruits, etc.) | | | | | | |
| II. Animals and Their Products | 76 | 72.5 | 75.4 | 75.4 | 75.1 | 74.6 |
| III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products | 85 | 69.4 | 71.9 | 71.9 | 71.9 | 72.8 |
| IV. Wood, Wood Products & Paper | 49 | 67.8 | 72.3 | 72.7 | 72.7 | 73.5 |
| V. Iron and Its Products | 44 | 87.3 | 92.1 | 92.1 | 92.1 | 94.2 |
| VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products | 18 | 69.0 | 82.5 | 83.5 | 84.4 | 89.0 |
| VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products | 83 | 85.9 | 85.4 | 85.4 | 85.4 | 85.9 |
| VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products | 77 | 77.2 | 80.7 | 79.5 | 79.4 | 79.9 |
| CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS | 70 | 66.4 | 84.9 | 85.8 | 87.7 | 87.9 |

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