

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
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 83.8 to 85.2 during the week ending March 19th. This is the sharpest rise in any week so far this year. Commodity markets generally were strong and increases were shown by all but two of the eight groups comprising the index. The long continued advance in Non-Ferrous Metals was checked but the index for Iron shot up 6.3 points to well above the 1926 level. Vegetable Products, Animals, Textiles, Wood and Chemicals moved up also.

Vegetable Products mounted from 88.6 to 90.1. Raw sugar and potatoes declined but fresh fruits, milled products, vegetable oils and raw rubber moved higher. The rapid depletion in world supplies of grain overshadowed news of favourable growing conditions in the south-western United States and firmer prices were the rule. The grain index rose to 96.0, the highest it has been since December, 1929. Animal Products advanced from 75.0 to 75.5. Eggs were easier but leather goods, meats and milk products made gains. The index for hides rose to 122.8 and boots and shoes advanced also. Strength in raw silk, raw cotton, cotton fabrics and fibre products increased the index for Textiles from 73.3 to 73.6 while buoyancy in spruce, fir and cedar advanced the index for Wood Products from 74.2 to 75.2. The Iron index rose from 95.6 to 101.9 and showed an increase of 13.5 points since the middle of December when the current advance began. Pig iron, rolling-mill products, hardware and wire were among the more important sub-groups to register gains. Reactions occurred in the more active base metals and the index for Non-Ferrous Metals fell from 98.6 to 97.2 while lower quotations for coal caused a decline in Non-Metallic Minerals from 85.9 to 85.4. Strength in paint materials and drugs raised the index for Chemicals from 80.1 to 81.5.

Canadian Farm Products advanced from 88.4 to 89.8. Grains were mainly responsible for increasing Field Products from 90.9 to 92.9 while the Animal Section rose from 84.2 to 84.6 when strength in hides and milk proved of more importance than declines in poultry, eggs and wool.

	No. of:	1937				
		Price :				
		March:	Feb.:	Mar.:	Mar.:	Mar.:
	Series:	20	26	5	12	19
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	72.4	83.0	83.3	83.8	85.2
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS-						
I. Vegetable Products	135	66.8	87.4	88.1	88.6	90.1
(grains, fruits, etc.)						
II. Animals and Their Products	76	70.4	74.6	74.5	75.0	75.5
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	69.7	72.8	73.0	73.3	73.6
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	67.9	73.9	73.9	74.2	75.2
V. Iron and Its Products	44	87.3	95.4	95.4	95.6	101.9
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	69.3	93.1	94.5	98.6	97.2
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	85.9	85.9	85.9	85.9	85.4
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	77.3	79.9	80.0	80.1	81.5
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	65.7	86.2	87.1	88.4	89.8

