

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

(Aer)

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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, advanced from 85.2 for the week ending March 19 to 86.3 for the week ending March 26. Increases occurred in Vegetable Products, Wood, Iron and Non-Ferrous Metals while Animal Products was the only group to show a reduction. Manitoba No. 1 Northern wheat closed over 9 cents per bushel above the previous week and the index for grains topped the 1926 level. Copper continued to mount and British Columbia lumber made further substantial gains.

Vegetable Products rose from 90.1 to 92.5. Potatoes declined for the sixth successive week and scattered reductions were noted for canned fruits, but fresh fruits, grains, milled products, raw rubber and sugar showed increases. Available wheat supplies are being rapidly depleted under insistent European demand and the possibility of an export curtailment by one or more of the wheat exporting countries is receiving serious attention. Livestock prices were moderately higher and fresh meats and fats were firm, but decreases in fish and eggs exerted a predominant influence upon the index for Animal Products which declined from 75.5 to 75.4. Softness in raw cotton and raw silk was not of sufficient importance to move the index for Textiles which remained at 73.6, but Wood Products increased from 75.2 to 77.1 because of strength in spruce, British Columbia fir and cedar. The rapid increase in prices of Pacific forest products has been a feature of the Wood group. The index for British Columbia fir rose to 113.7, a gain of 21.3 points since the first of the year, while the index for British Columbia cedar climbed to 118.7 for a gain of 30.5 points in the same period. Higher prices for pipe moved the index for Iron from 101.9 to 102.6, and Non-Ferrous Metals mounted from 97.2 to 97.4 when increases in copper, tin and zinc proved of greater consequence than declines in silver and lead. The copper index showed a rise of 59.2 points since the beginning of December, having moved from 73.8 to 113.0. No changes took place in Non-Metallic Minerals or Chemicals, which remained at 85.4 and 81.5 respectively.

Canadian Farm Products increased from 89.8 to 92.1. Field Products moved from 92.9 to 96.4 largely because of strength in grains, while Animal Products rose from 84.6 to 84.8 when a gain in livestock proved of more consequence than a decline in eggs.

	: No. of :	: 1936 :		: 1937 :		
		: Price :		Mar. :	Mar. :	Mar. :
		27 :	5 :	12 :	19 :	26 :
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	72.2	83.3	83.8	85.2	86.3
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED						
ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS -						
I. Vegetable Products	135	66.4	88.1	88.6	90.1	92.5
(grains, fruits, etc.)						
II. Animals and Their Products	76	69.4	74.5	75.0	75.5	75.4
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile						
Products	85	69.7	73.0	73.3	73.6	73.6
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	67.9	73.9	74.2	75.2	77.1
V. Iron and Its Products	44	87.3	95.4	95.6	101.9	102.6
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their						
Products	18	69.3	94.5	98.6	97.2	97.4
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their						
Products	83	85.9	85.9	85.9	85.4	85.4
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	77.2	80.0	80.1	81.5	81.5
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	64.6	87.1	88.4	89.8	92.1

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