Published by Authority of the Hon. W.D. Euler, M.P.,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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

(Issued April 14, 1937)

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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, fell from 86.9 for the week ending April 2 to 86.7 for the week ending April 9. This was the first decline in nine weeks, commodity markets reacting to persistent rumours, repeatedly denied from official sources, of an intention on the part of the United States Government to lower the price of gold. International non-ferrous metal markets in particular, showed decided declines after passing the crest of abnormal advances late in March.

Vegetable Products dropped from 94.6 to 94.4. Grains averaged fractionally higher for the week although, after a strong opening, wheat declined sharply, reflecting a lull in European interest as well as favourable crop conditions throughout the United States winter wheat belt. Milled products, raw sugar and canned vegetables were buoyant but vegetable oils, raw rubber and potatoes displayed easier tendencies. Animal Products rose from 75.7 to 76.7. Livestock markets were not as strong as for the previous week but higher quotations were reported for hides, meats, milk products and eggs. The index for livestock was 93.6 as compared with 71.7 for the corresponding week of last year, while the index for fresh meats at 85.7 showed a gain of over 20 p.c. in the same period. Textiles shaded from 73.8 to 73.7 when a reduction in raw cotton outweighed increases in raw silk, raw wool and miscellaneous fibres. Non-Ferrous Metals plunged from 95.6 to 91.5 as general weakness appeared throughout the list. The most severe decline was experienced by lead which dropped 8.3 points, or approximately 10 p.c., but zinc and copper followed closely with losses of 7.9 and 5.7 points. No changes of importance occurred in Wood, Iron, Non-Metallic Minerals or Chemicals which remained at 77.1, 102.4, 85.4 and 81.5 respectively.

Canadian Farm Products declined from 95.1 to 94.8. Field Products fell from 100.5 to 100.1 largely because of lower prices for potatoes and hay, while Animal Products remained at 86.0 when strength in hides, eggs and wool offset a reduction in livestock.

	No. of Price Series	1936 April 10	1937 Mar. 19	Mar. 26	Apr. 2	Apr. 9
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	72.0	85.2	86.3	86.9	86.7
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS						
I. Vegetable Products ..... (grains, fruits, etc.)	135	65.6	90.1	92.5	94.6	94.4
II. Animals and Their Products	76	69.7	75.5	75.4	75.7	76.7
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	69.7	73.6	73.6	73.8	73.7
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	67.9	75.2	77.1	77.1	77.1
V. Iron and Its Products	44	87.3	101.9	102.6	102.4	102.4
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	69.1	97.2	97.4	95.6	91.5
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	85.9	85.4	85.4	85.4	85.4
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	77.2	81.5	81.5	81.5	81.5
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	64.5	89.8	92.1	95.1	94.8