

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

(Issued January 23, 1938.)

JAN 26 1938
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WEEKLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES, 1937-1938.
(1926=100)

Declines in commodity prices have recently been numerous and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices moved from 83.4 for the week ending January 14th to 83.0 for the week ending January 21st. Changes occurred in all of the eight major groups included in the index, with Animal Products and Non-Metallic Minerals alone showing advances.

Vegetable Products decreased from 88.0 to 87.1. This was exactly the same level as for a year ago. Weakness was noted in grains, milled products, vegetable oils and raw sugar. Trading in grains at Winnipeg continued quiet for the greater part of the week but on Wednesday wheat prices dipped sharply coincidentally with reports of moisture in the south-western United States. Much of this loss was recovered by the end of the week. Animal Products rose from 77.3 to 77.6. Fish, hides, fresh meats and eggs were slightly easier, while higher prices were commanded by livestock, cured meats, milk and butter. Fresh meats sold close to the prices of last January with the index of 78.8 showing a gain of 1.1 over that for the same week of January 1937. Reductions in raw cotton, raw wool, cloth and miscellaneous fibre products depressed the Textile index from 68.9 to 68.6, while Wood Products dropped from 75.5 to 75.1, due to reductions in spruce, hemlock and pulp. Rolling-mill products aided in lowering the index for Iron from 104.1 to 103.9, while general weakness in Non-Ferrous Metals reduced the index for that group from 73.3 to 71.6. This was the lowest point reached since October 1936, and 27.0 points below the high of last March. A slight increase in coal raised the index for Non-Metallic Minerals from 87.0 to 87.1, but Chemicals eased from 80.9 to 80.8, when advances in inorganic chemicals and creosote were outweighed by declines in cream of tartar and paint materials.

Canadian Farm Products moved from 87.2 to 85.6, or 0.2 above the corresponding week of last year. Field Products fell from 90.1 to 87.5 largely because of weakness in grains, while Animal Products rose from 82.4 to 82.5, when strength in livestock and milk proved of greater importance than reductions in hides, eggs and wool.

	No. of Price Series	1937		1938		
		Jan. 15	Dec. 31	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	81.9	83.0	83.5	83.4	83.0
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS						
I. Vegetable Products	135	88.3	86.6	88.3	88.0	87.1
II. Animals and Their Products	76	75.5	77.9	77.6	77.3	77.6
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	71.8	68.9	68.9	68.9	68.6
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	71.6	75.5	75.5	75.5	75.1
V. Iron and Its Products	44	92.0	104.1	104.1	104.1	103.9
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	83.3	71.8	72.1	73.3	71.6
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	85.5	87.0	87.0	87.0	87.1
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	80.8	80.9	80.9	80.9	80.8
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	87.6	85.7	87.3	87.2	85.6

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