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

(Issued March 29, 1938.)

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

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices for the week ending March 25 again declined fractionally from 83.1 to 83.0. This compared with 86.3 for the corresponding week of last year, and indicated a drop of nearly 5½ per cent. from the peak reached in July 1937.

The only group to move contrary to the general index was Animal Products, despite numerous declines which included shoes, calves, eggs and cheese. However, gains for steers, hogs and lambs added to substantially higher prices for meats of all kinds and moderate increases for butter at Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg brought the group index up from 79.2 to 79.8. Vegetable products too showed an uneven undertone with oats and Ontario wheat the only grains to move upward. Flour was down at Toronto and up at Winnipeg while potatoes likewise showed irregularity. Hay and green coffee were stronger but the downward movement was reinforced by losses for oranges and lemons, and a large number of miscellaneous items including most of the vegetable oils. With the exception of these two groups there were few gains of consequence. The Textile index dropped from 68.5 to 68.3 due to losses for raw silk and wool and to downward revisions in wool yarn and knit goods prices. Wood eased from 79.3 to 79.1 as groundwood pulp and hemlock lumber were lower. Tinsplate and range boilers were the chief causes of the decline in Iron and Its Products while copper, lead and zinc lost most of last week's gains to bring Non-Ferrous Metals down to 71.4. A drop in gasoline at Halifax was just sufficient to move the Non-Metallic Mineral Products index from 87.0 to 86.9. In the Chemical group, calcium carbide was quoted higher and balanced declines in acetylene and oxygen.

Canadian Farm Products were unchanged at 82.3 as Field Products dropped from 82.8 to 82.5 and Animal Products moved up from 81.5 to 82.0.

| | No. of Series | 1937 | | 1938 | | |
|--|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | | Mar. | Mar. | Mar. | Mar. | Mar. |
| | 26 | 4 | 11 | 18 | 25 | |
| Total Index 567 Commodities | 567 | 86.3 | 83.5 | 83.2 | 83.1 | 83.0 |
| INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS | | | | | | |
| I. Vegetable Products | 135 | 92.5 | 86.1 | 85.0 | 84.6 | 84.3 |
| II. Animals and Their Products | 76 | 75.4 | 78.7 | 79.0 | 79.2 | 79.8 |
| III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products | 85 | 73.6 | 68.6 | 68.6 | 68.5 | 68.3 |
| IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper | 49 | 77.1 | 79.5 | 79.4 | 79.3 | 79.1 |
| V. Iron and Its Products | 44 | 102.6 | 103.8 | 103.7 | 103.7 | 103.3 |
| VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products | 18 | 97.4 | 71.2 | 70.9 | 71.9 | 71.4 |
| VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products | 83 | 85.4 | 87.1 | 87.1 | 87.0 | 86.9 |
| VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products | 77 | 81.5 | 79.9 | 80.5 | 80.4 | 80.4 |
| CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS | 70 | 92.1 | 84.3 | 82.8 | 82.3 | 82.3 |

