

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

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

A check to the downward movement of wholesale prices last week proved to be temporary in character and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics index fell from 83.8 for the week ending February 25 to 83.5 for the week ending March 4. Advances predominated in the Animal group, but Vegetable Products, Textiles and Non-Ferrous Metals all moved lower. Butter prices, which have been rising steadily since the first of the year, experienced a mild reverse, while wheat dropped sharply on Friday due to an improved moisture outlook in the United States and lack of foreign import interest.

Vegetable Products fell from 87.2 to 86.1. Fresh fruit and vegetable oils were firm but grains, milled products, raw rubber and potatoes moved lower. The potato index stood at 28.9 as compared with 82.0 for the first week of March last year. Animal Products rose from 78.4 to 78.7, when increases in livestock, meats, lard and eggs proved of greater weight than recessions in leather and butter. The number of cattle exported so far this year approximated one-third of the number exported in the first nine weeks of 1937, but prices were reasonably well maintained and the livestock index at 76.3 was only 5.6 points below that for the corresponding week of 1937. Weakness in raw cotton and miscellaneous fibre products caused the Textile index to drop from 68.7 to 68.6, while Non-Ferrous Metals fell from 71.5 to 71.2, when copper and zinc moved moderately lower. Wood, Iron, Non-Metallic Minerals and Chemicals remained at 79.5, 103.8, 87.1, and 79.9 respectively.

Canadian Farm Products dropped from 85.2 to 84.3. This compared with 87.1 for a year ago. Field Products declined from 87.6 to 85.9 largely because of reductions in grains and potatoes, while Animal Products rose from 81.1 to 81.6 because of strength in livestock and eggs.

	No. of Price Series	1937 March 5	1938 Feb. 11	1938 Feb. 18	1938 Feb. 25	1938 March 4
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	83.3	83.6	83.6	83.8	83.5
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS						
I. Vegetable Products	135	88.1	87.2	86.7	87.2	86.1
II. Animals and Their Products	76	74.5	77.2	78.2	78.4	78.7
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	73.0	68.6	68.6	68.7	68.6
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	73.9	79.7	79.7	79.5	79.5
V. Iron and Its Products	44	95.4	103.9	103.8	103.8	103.8
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	94.5	70.2	71.3	71.5	71.2
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	85.9	87.1	87.1	87.1	87.1
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	80.0	80.6	79.9	79.9	79.9
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	87.1	85.2	85.0	85.2	84.3

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