

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)

The recession in commodity markets other than wheat showed signs of slackening in the week ending April 8 as the Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices remained at 83.3. Substantial purchases of wheat by British millers gave strength to world markets and Canadian prices averaged the same as for the previous week. Flour at Toronto moved up and cottonseed oil regained last week's losses. The Vegetable Products index declined from 85.8 to 85.7 however, when rye and flax lost nearly 5 cents per bushel and barley too was weaker. Raw rubber and raw sugar also contributed to the recession in this group as did potatoes at Montreal and Vancouver and hay at Toronto.

Animal Products rose from 79.8 to 79.9. General strength in livestock prices, other than hogs at Winnipeg, and higher prices for fresh meat and for ham in the cured meat section were the main sustaining factors. Substantial losses were recorded by hides and skins of all grades and butter at Montreal and Toronto receded from the high levels of recent weeks. Cheese too was lower and seasonally larger receipts caused eggs to decline. A rally in raw silk prices in the early part of the week was just sufficient to balance minor declines for raw cotton and wool and the Textile index remained at 67.8. Non-ferrous metals continued to be generally easier and lower prices were quoted for tin, lead, zinc and silver. Electrolytic copper alone moved upward as this group index dropped from 70.4 to 70.2. Upward revisions in certain paint material prices were just sufficient to move the chemical index from 80.5 to 80.6. Wood Products, Iron and Its Products and Non-Metallic Minerals were all unchanged at 79.1, 103.4 and 86.9 respectively.

Canadian Farm Products declined from 84.2 to 84.0. Field Products dropped from 86.0 to 85.7 due to losses for coarse grains, potatoes and hay. The Animal subgroup was steady at 81.1 when a balance occurred between the rise in livestock prices and the fall in hides, eggs and wool.

	No. of Series	1937		1938		
		Apr.	Mar.	Mar.	Apr.	Apr.
		9	:18	:25	:1	:8
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	86.7	83.1	83.0	83.3	83.3
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS						
I. Vegetable Products	135	94.4	84.6	84.3	85.8	85.7
II. Animals and Their Products	76	76.7	79.2	79.8	79.8	79.9
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	73.7	68.5	68.3	67.8	67.8
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	77.1	79.3	79.1	79.1	79.1
V. Iron and Its Products	44	102.4	103.7	103.3	103.4	103.4
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	91.5	71.9	71.4	70.4	70.2
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	85.4	87.0	86.9	86.9	86.9
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	81.5	80.6	80.5	80.5	80.6
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	94.8	82.3	82.3	84.2	84.0

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