

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 Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number of wholesale prices for the week ending April 15 at 83.0 was 0.3 below the preceding week and equalled the lowest levels reached since the new year. Declines were widespread although Animal Products and Non-Ferrous Metals moved against the general trend.

The Vegetable Products index for the week under review was 85.1 against 85.7 the previous week. Chief contributors to this decline were the grain, and milled products sub-groups. No.1 and 2 Northern wheat averaged 4 and 3 cents per bushel lower respectively, while No.3 was up from \$1.173 to \$1.190 per bushel. Among the coarse grains, flax alone showed consistent strength. Flour was generally weaker and bran and shorts at Montreal moved down. Most vegetable oils also were easier. Far Eastern grades of raw rubber showed considerable strength, while irregularity featured potatoes, coffee, and miscellaneous vegetable products.

Substantially higher prices for cattle on all markets and for hogs at Winnipeg helped raise the Animal Products index from 79.9 to 80.0. Beef, veal and fresh lamb too were higher while pork moved down. The decline in butter prices at Montreal and Toronto amounted to about 1/2 cent per pound and slightly easier tones were evident for fish, leather, cheese, and lard. In the Textile group, wool cloth was quoted lower and just balanced gains for raw cotton and silk and for silk fabrics, so that the index remained at 67.8. Wood declined from 79.1 to 78.9 as spruce lath was cheaper. Iron and Its Products had the largest move of any group when the index fell from 103.4 to 102.5. This was brought about by lower prices for steel sheets, tin plate and steel scrap. Non-Ferrous Metals moved up 0.8 to 71.0 on strength in copper, lead, and zinc. A seasonal decline in coal prices at Montreal and lower quotations on window glass eased the Non-Metallic Minerals index from 86.9 to 86.7 while acetylene, oxygen and castor oil were down sufficiently to drop the Chemical index from 80.6 to 80.4 despite a rise for benzol.

Canadian Farm Products receded from 84.0 to 83.6. This came about through a decline from 85.7 to 84.9 for the Field Products group and a rise from 81.1 to 81.4 for Animal Farm Products.

	: No. of :	: 1937 :		: 1938		
		: Price :	: April :	: Mar. :	: Apr. :	: Apr. :
	: Series :	: 16 :	: 25 :	: 1 :	: 8 :	: 15 :
	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total Index 567 Commodities .....	567	86.0	83.0	83.3	83.3	83.0
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS						
I. Vegetable Products .....	135	91.5	84.3	85.8	85.7	85.1
II. Animals and Their Products .....	76	77.1	79.8	79.8	79.9	80.0
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products .....	85	73.6	68.3	67.8	67.8	67.8
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper .....	49	77.5	79.1	79.1	79.1	78.9
V. Iron and Its Products .....	44	104.2	103.3	103.4	103.4	102.5
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products .....	18	88.9	71.4	70.4	70.2	71.0
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products .....	83	85.5	86.9	86.9	86.9	86.7
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products .....	77	81.4	80.5	80.5	80.6	80.4
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS .....	70	91.8	82.3	84.2	84.0	83.6

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