

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 rose from 83.0 to 83.3 for the week ending April 1. Exceptional strength in contract grades of wheat and in flour prices moved the Vegetable Products index from 84.3 to 85.8 despite numerous declines by other items in the group. These increases were sufficient to over-balance losses in Textiles and Non-ferrous Metals. No.1 Northern wheat advanced from \$1.38 5/8 per bushel on March 26 to \$1.52 3/4 on the 29th and then slumped to \$1.46 1/8. No.1 Durum on the other hand was quoted at 90 1/8 cents on Saturday, at 86 7/8 cents on Tuesday and at 87 1/4 cents per bushel on Friday, April 1. Flour prices were up 20 cents per barrel at Toronto and 10 cents at Winnipeg. Hay and bananas were also stronger. Declines, however, were much more common than advances as coarse grains other than barley dropped sharply and raw rubber broke sharply to reach new lows since late in 1935. Oranges, lemons, cottonseed oil, raw sugar, potatoes, rosin and turpentine also were lower.

In the Animal Products group hogs were higher while cattle moved down. Fresh meats of all kinds continued upward and cheese showed strength at Montreal. A slight downward revision occurred in raw fur prices while hides and skins were easier. Eggs continued their seasonal movement to lower levels. For the third consecutive week raw cotton, silk, and wool were all lower, and combined with decreases in cotton fabric prices to reduce the Textile index from 68.3 to 67.8. Wood Products remained unchanged at 79.1 as a slight decline in spruce lumber was not enough to affect the index, but fractionally higher prices for iron boiler plate caused Iron and Its Products to rise from 103.3 to 103.4. General weakness in nearly all non-ferrous metals moved that index from 71.4 to 70.4. The remaining two groups, namely, Non-Metallic Minerals and Chemicals were unchanged.

Wheat, hay and hogs were the only Farm Products items to move upward as the index mounted from 82.3 to 84.2. Field Products rose from 82.5 to 86.0 while the Animal group was down from 82.0 to 81.1.

	No. of Series	1937					1938	
		Apr.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Apr.		
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	86.9	83.2	83.1	83.0	83.3		
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS								
I. Vegetable Products	135	94.6	85.0	84.6	84.3	85.8		
II. Animals and Their Products	76	75.7	79.0	79.2	79.8	79.8		
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	73.8	68.6	68.5	68.3	67.8		
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	77.1	79.4	79.3	79.1	79.1		
V. Iron and Its Products	44	102.4	103.7	103.7	103.3	103.4		
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	95.6	70.9	71.9	71.4	70.4		
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	85.4	87.1	87.0	86.9	86.9		
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	81.5	80.7	80.6	80.5	80.5		
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	95.1	82.8	82.3	82.3	84.2		

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