

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

(Issued May 3, 1938.)

Dominion Statistician:	R.H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S.(Hon.)
Chief, Internal Trade Branch:	Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.
Prices Statistician:	H.F. Greenway, M.A.

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

A further weakening in commodity prices was apparent in the week ending April 29 and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics index of wholesale prices fell to 81.5 from 82.4 for the week ending April 22. Five of the eight groups included in the index moved lower and three were unchanged. Cash prices for wheat dropped sharply and livestock, butter, raw cotton and copper sold off as well, while Canadian Farm Products touched the lowest point since December 1936.

Vegetable Products declined from 83.8 to 81.6, due largely to recessions in grains, milled products, raw rubber and potatoes. Trading on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange was dull with export requirements small and the grain index decreased from 88.7 to 83.9. This was 9.0 points below the level in the corresponding week of last year. Changes in the Animal group were more mixed but the index moved from 79.0 to 78.0 when reductions in livestock, milk and butter outweighed increases in cured meats, eggs and cheese. Butter prices, which have been declining during the month, averaged 30.6 cents as against the year's peak of 36.9 cents for the week of April 2. Lower quotations for raw cotton carried the Textile index from 67.8 to 67.7, while Non-Ferrous Metals fell from 70.9 to 70.2 because of weakness in the more important base metals. The copper index at 72.0 compared with 96.0 for the final week in April of last year, while the index for tin moved to 62.4 from 86.4 in the same period. Non-Metallic Minerals eased from 86.7 to 86.6 as coal prices weakened, but Wood, Iron and Chemicals remained unchanged at 78.2, 102.5 and 80.4 respectively.

Canadian Farm Products receded from 82.5 to 79.9. Field Products declined from 83.3 to 79.1 when reductions in grains and potatoes proved of more importance than an increase in hay. Animal Products continued at 81.2 as strength in eggs was offset by weakness in livestock and milk.

	No. of Price Series	1938				
		1937 April 30	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	85.1	83.3	83.0	82.4	81.5
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT						
MATERIALS						
I. Vegetable Products	135	88.8	85.7	85.1	83.8	81.6
II. Animals and Their Products	76	77.2	79.9	80.0	79.0	78.0
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	73.5	67.8	67.8	67.8	67.7
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	78.3	79.1	78.9	78.2	78.2
V. Iron and Its Products	44	104.2	103.4	102.5	102.5	102.5
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	84.9	70.2	71.0	70.9	70.2
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	85.5	86.9	86.7	86.7	86.6
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	82.4	80.6	80.4	80.4	80.4
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	88.1	84.0	83.6	82.5	79.9

STATISTICS CANADA LIBRARY
BIBLIOTHÈQUE STATISTIQUE CANADA



1010777343