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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH



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

The downward movement in wholesale commodity prices was checked during the week ending May 27 and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics index number remained unchanged at 80.3. Animal products alone showed an advance, while recessions occurred in Textiles and Non-Ferrous Metals. Clearances of Canadian wheat were unusually large, but prices were influenced to a greater extent by improved crop prospects and a drop of approximately 5 cents per bushel occurred in the better grades of Northern wheat. Raw cotton, copper and butter were lower also, while livestock, fresh meats and eggs advanced. Potato prices rose sharply in all districts.

After seven weeks of steady decline the fall in Vegetable Products halted and the index remained at 79.0. The more important reductions were in grains, vegetable oils, raw rubber and cocoa, but these were offset by increases in coffee and potatoes. The rise in potato prices was widespread and the index ~~mounted~~ from 29.2 to 38.9, at which point it was still considerably below the corresponding level of last year (60.1). Animal Products moved forward from 77.7 to 78.1 when strength in livestock, fresh meats and eggs outweighed reductions in fish, hides and butter. Egg receipts were slightly lower while exports were in good volume. Weakness in raw cotton and raw silk moved the index for Textiles from 67.7 to 67.5, while Non-Ferrous Metals dropped from 68.0 to 66.7 as copper, lead and zinc declined. Wood, Iron, Non-Metallic Minerals and Chemicals were unchanged at 77.1, 101.5, 87.1 and 80.4 respectively.

Canadian Farm Products slipped from 77.5 to 77.3. Field Products fell from 74.8 to 73.9, when declines in grains and hay proved of more importance than an advance in potatoes. Animal Products rose from 82.1 to 82.9 when a reduction in hides failed to offset increases in livestock and eggs.

	: No. of : : Price : : Series :	: 1937 :		1938			
		May	April	May	May	May	May
		28	29	6	13	20	27
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	85.1	81.5	81.0	80.8	80.3	80.3
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT							
MATERIALS							
I. Vegetable Products	135	88.6	81.6	80.2	79.8	79.0	79.0
II. Animals and Their Products	76	76.9	78.0	77.6	77.7	77.7	78.1
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	73.5	67.7	67.7	67.7	67.7	67.5
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	78.5	78.2	78.0	78.0	77.1	77.1
V. Iron and Its Products	44	103.8	102.5	102.5	102.4	101.5	101.5
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	85.5	70.2	69.9	69.6	68.0	66.7
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	86.6	86.6	86.6	86.6	87.1	87.1
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	81.9	80.4	80.4	80.4	80.4	80.4
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	87.7	79.9	78.5	78.1	77.5	77.3

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