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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)

Price changes in wholesale commodities were mixed in the week ending August 19. Recessions outweighed advances, and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics index fell to 75.8 from 76.6 for the week ending August 12. Of the eight major groups included in the index, Textiles, Wood, Iron and Non-Metallic Minerals moved higher while Vegetables, Non-Ferrous Metals and Chemicals declined. Animal Products were unchanged.

Vegetable Products dropped from 69.1 to 66.1. Price revisions in this group were almost entirely downward and the commodities affected included grains, flour, bread, rubber, raw coffee, potatoes and hay. The grain index dipped from 57.5 to 53.9 which compared with 90.4 for the corresponding week of last year. Animal Products remained at 76.2. Small increases in fish, hides, shoes, livestock, fresh meats and eggs were offset by reductions in butter and cured meats. Textiles rose from 67.0 to 67.1 as advances in raw cotton and raw wool proved of more importance than a decrease in raw silk, while Wood Products mounted from 76.6 to 77.3 on higher prices for British Columbia lumber. Strength in scrap iron provided the necessary impetus to raise the Iron index from 97.7 to 98.0, but Non-Ferrous Metals fell from 70.3 to 69.4 because of declines in aluminium copper and zinc. Higher quotations for certain classes of imported coal were largely responsible for increasing the index for Non-Metallic Minerals from 86.6 to 86.7. Chemicals eased from 79.4 to 79.3 as an increase in industrial gases failed to offset reductions in paint materials, formaldehyde and castor oil.

Canadian Farm Products decreased from 64.8 to 63.8. Field Products fell from 56.1 to 54.0 largely because of reductions in grains, potatoes and hay, while Animal Products advanced from 79.3 to 80.1 on strength in livestock, hides, eggs and wool.

	No. of Price Series	1937 Aug. 20	1938 July 29	1938 Aug. 5	1938 Aug. 12	1938 Aug. 19
Total Index 567 Commodities	567	85.3	78.0	77.2	76.6	75.8
INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIALS						
I. Vegetable Products	135	86.9	72.8	70.5	69.1	66.1
II. Animals and Their Products	76	80.9	78.1	77.6	76.2	76.2
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	73.8	67.2	67.1	67.0	67.1
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	77.6	76.3	76.6	76.6	77.3
V. Iron and Its Products	44	104.8	97.8	97.8	97.7	98.0
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	85.8	70.8	70.7	70.3	69.4
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	87.0	86.7	86.6	86.6	86.7
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	81.7	79.3	79.4	79.4	79.3
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	83.7	69.8	66.7	64.8	63.8