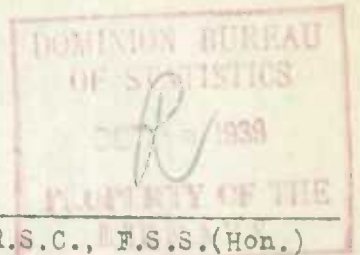


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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA
INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

(Issued October 17, 1939)



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| 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. |

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WEEKLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES, 1938-1939.

Industrial Material Prices, on the base August 1939=100, reacted moderately in the week ending October 13, and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' index fell from 117.1 for the week ending October 6 to 116.4. The Stable group was unchanged at 102.6, but both Manufacturing and Food Materials moved lower. The former declined from 132.8 to 131.5, and the latter receded from 116.6 to 115.0. Wheat, raw rubber and raw silk were slightly higher, but steers, hogs and rosin weakened. Industrial Material Prices, on the base 1926=100, dropped from 76.1 to 75.5.

The General Wholesale Commodity index, however, remained at 78.0. Advances predominated in Wood and Non-Ferrous Metals, while declines were of more weight in Animal Products and Non-Metallic Minerals. Higher quotations obtained for canned goods, eggs, raw wool, British Columbia forest products and silver, while grains were barely firm. Livestock values were off somewhat, and prices for flour and milled products, coffee and potatoes moved narrowly lower.

Canadian Farm Products was unchanged at 63.6. Field Products rose from 51.6 to 51.9 but Animal Products fell from 83.8 to 83.2.

| | : No. of | : 1938 : | | | : 1939 : | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| | | : Price | : Price | : Price | : Price | : Price | : Price |
| | : Series | : Oct. 14: | : Oct. 6: | : Oct. 13: | : Oct. 14: | : Oct. 6 : | : Oct. 13 |
| | | (1926=100) | | | (August 1939=100) | | |
| INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL PRICES | 30 | 64.7 | 76.1 | 75.5 | 100.0 | 117.1 | 116.4 |
| Stable | 12 | 89.4 | 90.7 | 90.7 | 101.1 | 102.6 | 102.6 |
| Sensitive | 18 | 52.2 | 67.7 | 66.9 | 99.3 | 128.1 | 126.7 |
| Manufacturing | 13 | 51.7 | 70.2 | 69.5 | 97.4 | 132.8 | 131.5 |
| Food | 5 | 53.7 | 61.4 | 60.5 | 104.5 | 116.6 | 115.0 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | : No. of | : 1938 : | | : 1939 : | | | |
| | : Price | : Oct. 14: | : Sept. 22: | : Sept. 29: | : Oct. 6 : | : Oct. 13 | |
| | : Series | (1926=100) | | | | | |
| GENERAL WHOLESALE COMMODITY PRICES. | 567 | 74.3 | 77.9 | 77.9 | 78.0 | 78.0 | |
| Chief Component Groups | | | | | | | |
| I. Vegetable Products | 135 | 61.2 | 68.5 | 67.7 | 67.7 | 67.7 | |
| II. Animals and Their Products ... | 76 | 74.9 | 78.5 | 78.6 | 78.5 | 78.3 | |
| III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile | | | | | | | |
| Products | 85 | 66.7 | 69.6 | 70.3 | 71.4 | 71.4 | |
| IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper. | 49 | 77.1 | 81.4 | 81.5 | 81.5 | 81.6 | |
| V. Iron and Its Products | 44 | 98.2 | 98.7 | 99.5 | 99.6 | 99.6 | |
| VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their | | | | | | | |
| Products | 18 | 73.6 | 74.7 | 74.6 | 74.6 | 74.9 | |
| VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and | | | | | | | |
| Their Products | 83 | 86.9 | 84.8 | 84.8 | 84.8 | 84.7 | |
| VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products | 77 | 79.4 | 80.2 | 80.7 | 80.8 | 80.8 | |
| CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS | 70 | 63.9 | 65.4 | 64.5 | 63.6 | 63.6 | |

A NEW BASE PERIOD FOR THE DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS
WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX NUMBER OF INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS

The pronounced fluctuations in commodity markets since the outbreak of war have been in sharp contrast to their quiet behaviour for several months preceding. In order to appreciate the extent of these fluctuations relative to pre-war levels, the Bureau's index number of industrial material prices is to be published on the base August 1939 until further notice. Index numbers on the new base will show the percentage relationship of prices each week to average price levels existing in August 1939, a month in which markets were unusually steady.

Industrial Material wholesale price index numbers on the base 1926=100 will also be published as formerly in order that the behaviour of industrial material prices may be compared directly with the general movements of wholesale prices which have been computed in relation to 1926 averages. Industrial Material prices frequently indicate a change in wholesale price levels some weeks before it is reflected in the Bureau's general wholesale index series.

REVIEW OF WHOLESALE PRICE MOVEMENTS DURING SEPTEMBER 1939

Commodity groups have shown considerable differences in price behaviour since the outbreak of war. One large and important group of items derived from iron and the non-metallic minerals has been affected comparatively little as yet. Price movements in this section are represented by the Bureau's index of Stable Industrial commodities which advanced 2.7 p.c. during September. In another broad group of basic commodities including grains, livestock, textiles, rubber, and non-ferrous metals, price increases have been very sharp, particularly in the first two weeks of September. This was reflected in a rise of 25.1 p.c. for Sensitive Industrial Material prices (foods and manufacturing materials) from September 1 to 15. However, some part of this increase was due to a temporary shortage of raw sugar stocks which has been relieved. The easier sugar situation and weaker grain prices dampened the upward movement in basic commodities during the latter half of the month, and the Sensitive Industrial Material index recorded a net advance of only 24.4 p.c. for September. The Food index dropped back from its mid-September level of 136.3 to 118.8. Manufacturing Materials, on the other hand, continued gradually upward from a mid-month level of 121.1 to 126.6 at the end of September.

WEEKLY INDEX NUMBERS OF INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL PRICES
 (August 1939=100)

| | 1 9 3 9 | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| | Sept.8 | Sept.15 | Sept.22 | Sept.29 | Oct.6 |
| INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL PRICES | 108.6 | 114.8 | 113.0 | 115.2 | 117.1 |
| Stable | 100.0 | 100.9 | 101.7 | 102.7 | 102.6 |
| Sensitive | 114.8 | 125.1 | 121.2 | 124.4 | 128.1 |
| Manufacturing | 110.8 | 121.1 | 121.3 | 126.6 | 132.8 |
| Food | 126.1 | 136.3 | 120.8 | 118.8 | 116.6 |

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