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WEEKLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES, 1939-1940

With advances offsetting recessions, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' index of General Wholesale Commodity Prices on the base 1926=100, was unchanged at 84.2 for the week ending December 27. Price movements, generally, were narrow. Of the eight major groups included in the index, Animal Products, Textiles and Iron edged higher, while Vegetable Products and Wood declined. Some of the more important commodities to show increases were grains, vegetable oils, livestock, butter, cheese and boiler plate, while lower quotations ruled for cocoa butter, green coffee beans, hides, fresh meats and eggs. A noteworthy event of the week was the establishment of maximum wholesale prices for butter at levels obtaining on December 12.

The Bureau's index of Industrial Material Prices, on the base August 1939=100, fell from 122.3 for the week ending December 20 to 121.9 for the week ending December 27. The Stable Materials group remained at 117.8, but the Sensitive price group receded from 125.3 to 124.7, as a decline in Manufacturing Materials outweighed an increase in Food Materials. The former decreased from 123.9 to 122.8, influenced largely by lower quotations for raw rubber and beef hides, while Food Materials rose from 129.0 to 129.6, supported by wheat, oats and hogs.

Canadian Farm Products eased from 67.0 to 66.9. Field Products moved from 52.3 to 52.4, as modest advances occurred in grains and onions, while Animal Products dropped from 91.6 to 91.3, when reductions in hides and eggs outpointed increases in livestock and milk.

Percentage Changes in Principal Commodities Between the Weeks of December 20 and 27.

Increases: butter 3.5, vegetable oils 1.8, steers 0.9, hogs 0.5, cheese 0.4, oats 0.3, wheat 0.1.

Decreases: cocoa products 7.7, green coffee beans 5.3, eggs 3.8, hides 2.0, fresh meats 0.5, raw rubber 0.4.

	No. of Price Series	1939 Dec. 29	1940 Dec. 20	1940 Dec. 27	1939 Dec. 29	1940 Dec. 20	1940 Dec. 27
		(1926=100)			(August 1939=100)		
INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL PRICES	30	79.2	78.9	78.7	122.1	122.3	121.9
Stable	12	94.9	104.2	104.2	107.3	117.8	117.8
Sensitive	18	70.5	66.2	65.9	133.5	125.3	124.7
Manufacturing	13	70.0	65.5	64.9	132.4	123.9	122.8
Food	5	71.8	67.9	68.2	136.5	129.0	129.6

	No. of Price Series	1939 Dec. 29	1940 Dec. 6	1940 Dec. 13	1940 Dec. 20	1940 Dec. 27
		(1926=100)				
GENERAL WHOLESALE COMMODITY PRICES	567	82.2	84.1	84.3	84.2	84.2
Chief Component Groups						
I. Vegetable Products	135	72.9	70.7	70.9	70.7	70.6
II. Animals and Their Products	76	80.2	82.8	83.8	83.9	84.1
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	82.4	84.1	84.1	84.3	84.4
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	85.2	91.7	91.6	91.6	91.5
V. Iron and Its Products	44	102.7	106.1	106.1	106.1	106.2
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	76.2	77.7	77.7	77.7	77.7
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	86.7	90.8	90.8	90.8	90.8
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	77	86.9	90.1	90.2	90.3	90.3
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	70.2	67.2	67.4	67.0	66.9