

Published by Authority of the Hon. W. D. Euler,
Minister of Trade and Commerce

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

(Issued February 27, 1940)

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Price \$1.00 per year

WEEKLY INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES, 1939-1940

Recessions offset advances in Industrial Material prices during the week ending February 23, and the Dominion Bureau of Statistics' index, on the base August 1939=100, remained at 123.4. A reduction in steel sheets was sufficient to lower the Stable index from 112.0 to 111.9, while the Sensitive index rose from 131.6 to 131.7, due to strength in Food Materials. This group advanced from 137.6 to 137.7, as an increase in wheat outpointed recessions in oats and steers. The Manufacturing Materials group was unchanged at 129.4, when buoyancy in rosin, raw silk and copper was counteracted by weakness in rubber and tin.

The index for General Wholesale Commodity prices advanced from 82.5 to 82.9. During the preceding eight weeks, fluctuations were comparatively narrow and the index had remained within the limits of 82.1 and 82.5 while industrial materials were edging upward. In Vegetable Products, Animals, Textiles, Wood and Non-Ferrous Metals, advances were predominant, but the Iron, Non-Metallic Minerals and Chemical groups were unchanged. Higher quotations were noted for wheat, milk, several cotton fabrics and copper, while raw rubber, livestock, butter and tin were among those commodities to move lower.

Canadian Farm Products rose from 69.9 to 71.2. Compared with 65.1 for the corresponding week of last year, this indicated an increase of slightly over 9 p.c. Grains were mainly responsible for raising the index of Field Products from 61.0 to 62.9, while Animal Products advanced from 84.9 to 85.2, as increases in milk and eggs outweighed declines in livestock and hides.

	: No. of	: 1939 :		: 1940 :			
		: Price	: Series	: Price	: Series	: Price	: Series
		: Feb. :	: Feb. :	: Feb. :	: Feb. :	: Feb. :	: Feb. :
		: 24 :	: 16 :	: 23 :	: 24 :	: 16 :	: 23 :
		(1926=100)		(August 1939=100)			
INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL PRICES	30	64.5	79.1	79.1	99.2	123.4	123.4
Stable	12	87.8	99.1	98.9	99.3	112.0	111.9
Sensitive	18	52.6	69.5	69.6	99.2	131.6	131.7
Manufacturing	13	50.8	68.4	68.4	95.7	129.4	129.4
Food	5	57.4	72.4	72.5	109.1	137.6	137.7

	: No. of	: 1939 :		: 1940 :			
		: Price	: Series	: Price	: Series	: Price	: Series
		: Feb. :	: Feb. :	: Feb. :	: Feb. :	: Feb. :	: Feb. :
		: 24 :	: 2 :	: 9 :	: 16 :	: 23 :	
		(1926=100)					
GENERAL WHOLESALE COMMODITY PRICES	567	73.3	82.2	82.2	82.5	82.9	
Chief Component Groups							
I. Vegetable Products	135	60.5	72.8	72.9	73.6	74.5	
II. Animals and Their Products	76	74.1	79.7	79.8	80.0	80.1	
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	65.9	81.8	81.8	81.6	82.7	
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper ...	49	76.1	86.5	86.4	86.4	86.5	
V. Iron and Its Products	44	97.4	102.6	103.0	102.6	102.6	
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	18	69.6	75.8	75.3	75.4	76.4	
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	83	85.7	87.1	87.1	87.2	87.2	
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products ...	77	78.3	85.7	85.7	87.1	87.1	
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	65.1	69.4	69.5	69.9	71.2	

