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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, 1940-1941

After a pause in the week ending March 28, the Bureau's index of wholesale prices, on the base 1926=100, continued to advance, rising from 86.0 to 86.5 for the week ending April 4. This was 1.2 below the peak of 87.7 established in the week ending July 16, 1937, and 14.6 above the low of 71.9 for the week of August 18, 1939. A substantial increase in Vegetable Products was accompanied by more moderate strength in Textiles and Chemicals, while Animal Products moved slightly lower. Among the more important commodities to sell higher were grains, sugar, potatoes, flour and milled products, raw cotton, raw silk and cheese, whereas decreases occurred in steers, hogs, meats, butter, lard and eggs.

Industrial Material prices showed very little change, moving from 127.6 to 127.7 (August 1939=100). An advance in crude oil raised the Stable price series from 119.5 to 119.6, but the Sensitive price series, comprising Manufacturing and Food Materials, remained at 133.4. Manufacturing Materials were unchanged at 131.9, as declines in rosin and tin ingots offset increases in raw cotton and raw silk, while Food Materials rose from 137.0 to 137.4, when advances in wheat and oats outweighed reductions in steers and hogs.

Canadian Farm Products increased from 69.1 to 69.2. Field Products rose from 55.8 to 56.1, as advances in grains, potatoes and onions proved of more importance than a drop in hay. Animal Products fell from 91.4 to 91.2, because of weakness in livestock and eggs.

Percentage Changes in Principal Commodities Between  
the Weeks of March 28 and April 4.

Increases: sugar and its products 14.2, raw cotton 2.2, potatoes 2.1, cheese 2.1, raw silk 1.3, oats 1.5, flour and milled products 0.6, wheat 0.3.

Decreases: lard 0.8, butter 0.7, eggs 0.7, cured meats 0.7, fresh meats 0.2, steers 0.2, hogs 0.2.

	No. of	1940	1941	1940	1941		
	Price	April	Mar.	April	April		
	Series	5	28	4	5		
		(1926=100)		(August 1939=100)			
INDUSTRIAL MATERIAL PRICES	30	78.8	82.8	82.8	122.0	127.6	127.7
Stable	12	98.9	106.0	106.1	111.9	119.5	119.6
Sensitive	18	68.3	70.2	70.2	129.3	133.4	133.4
Manufacturing	13	67.2	69.5	69.5	127.1	131.9	131.9
Food	5	71.0	72.1	72.3	134.9	137.0	137.4

	No. of	1940	1941	1940	1941	
	Price	April	Mar.	Mar.	April	
	Series	5	14	21	28	
		(1926=100)				
GENERAL WHOLESALE COMMODITY PRICES	567	83.2	85.7	86.0	86.0	86.5
Chief Component Groups						
I. Vegetable Products	135	75.4	73.4	73.9	74.0	75.7
II. Animals and Their Products	76	78.9	85.2	85.6	85.2	85.1
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	85	83.8	84.7	85.2	85.3	85.5
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	49	87.2	92.4	92.6	92.4	92.4
V. Iron and Its Products	44	102.5	107.3	107.3	107.5	107.5
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	87.3	91.5	91.5	91.5	91.5
VIII. Chemicals & Allied Products	77	85.6	92.1	93.4	93.3	93.4
CANADIAN FARM PRODUCTS	70	71.5	69.1	69.4	69.1	69.2

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