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INTERNAL TRADE BRANCH

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DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS REVISED INDEXES OF WHOLESALE PRICES

The official Canadian Index Number of Wholesale Prices computed by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has now been revised and calculated with the year 1926 as base. The number of price series included has been increased from 236 to 502, some of the latter being composite prices as, for example, milk, which consists of the weighted average of 15 prices collected at representative centres all over the Dominion. New statistical materials have made possible refinements and extensions of the weighting system previously used which adds to the accuracy of the index numbers, particularly those of groups and sub-groups. A detailed explanation of the methods now used in computing the index and the reasons for their adoption follow:

Base Year

Since the nations of the world and along with them their currency systems Have arrived, or are in the process of arriving, at a condition which may be called post-war normalcy, comparisons with pre-war years become less important and interesting and the need arises of placing index numbers upon some post-war base which will serve as a suitable background for future movements. This constitutes the first reason for changing the base of the index number. A second important reason lies in the necessity of a periodical revision of index numbers so as to take account of current changes in the kind, quality and weighting of the commodities used in its computation. Ten years ago the maker of index numbers did not have to consider artificial silk but to-day this commodity must be given an important place in the textile group. Again, such commodities as newsprint paper, copper, wheat, etc., must be given a greater weight in a Canadian index based on current conditions than in one based on 1913 conditions. So many changes take place in the production, consumption and exchange of commodities in a decade that a periodical revision of index numbers based upon them is a necessity.

It is preferable that a base period should, if practicable, consist of an average of several years but the abnormal conditions which prevailed during and after the war furnish insurperable obstacles in the present instance to a base of this character. Prior to 1925 the disparity between farm prices and the prices of manufactured goods were an abnormal factor in the prices situation. In Canada this was rectified in 1925. That year, however, owing largely to the marked rise in grain prices the index for which rose from 143.9 in 1924 to 180.3 in 1925, developed a price level which was unusually high for the period. It was finally decided to take as base the year 1926, the price level for which was about halfway between that for 1925 and 1927. This is in effect practically equivalent to an average of the three years 1925, 1926 and 1927. The Bureau was also influenced in its choice of 1926 as base by the fact that the index numbers computed by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics are on the 1926 base and it was desirable, owing to the close interrelation of price movements in the two countries, to construct the index numbers on similar principles for comparative purposes.

Number of Price Series Included

The new index numbers for all commodities show pretty much the same movement as the old series. It was, however, mainly for the purpose of improvements in groups and sub-groups that the number of price series included in the index was increased from 236 to 502. By this large increase in the number of items included it was possible to make many groups much more comprehensive and representative. Building and Construction materials, for example, are now represented by a larger range of commodities as well as by a more geographically complete series of prices. The number of price series in this group was increased from 32 to 90. Similar improvements have been made in a great many other groups and sub-groups. Chemicals and Allied Products now include 73 price series as compared with 13 in the old index. Non-metallic Minerals and Their Products are represented by 73 price series in the new index and 16 in the old. These changes in the number of price series have added greatly to the usefulness of the index numbers as regards groups and sub-groups which furnish what may be called subsidiary index numbers for special purposes.

Formula

Actual calculations of the index number were made according to the same formula as before. This formula, which produces the aggregative index, is now used for the purpose of calculating many of the most important index numbers and for a comparison of three or more periods on a fixed base has the support of many eminent index number makers. It is expressed as follows: $\frac{\sum P_1 Q_o}{P_o Q_o}$

Weighting

Weighting, of course, must conform to the formula used but many variations are possible within the system. Quantity exchanged is the basis of the Bureau's weight, that is to say, production and import figures are used to arrive at a weight, but as regards production, only quantities actually marketed are considered. In arriving at the weight for any commodity duplication is avoided by making deductions, where possible, when the commodity is included again in another form, as for example, in the case of wheat and flour. An improvement in weighting has been made by working out a threefold system, viz., weights for individual commodities, sub-groups and finally groups of commodities. In the first place the commodities in each sub-group are weighted in such a manner as to arrive at the most accurate index for that sub-group. Such weights, however, will not do for a main group which may include another sub-group containing the same commodity in a different form. For this reason the sub-group index numbers are again weighted by sub-group weights (values worked into percentages). Another reason for the sub-group weights is the fact that in each sub-group only representative commodities are included. In order to give each sub-group sufficient weight in arriving at a group index it must be weighted by a figure which represents as far as possible the total value of all commodities which might be included in the sub-group. Finally, group index numbers are weighted in arriving at the index number for all commodities so as to ensure that no group index will wield a disproportionate influence upon the final result. The group weights are the estimated total importance in exchange of all commodities which can be classified in that particular group. An example will make this clear:

Grains are a sub-group of the main group Vegetables and Their Products. Its weights are as follows:

	Weight for individual commodity or price series	Sub-group Weight
Barley #3 C.W. x 40) " #4 C. 4 x 30) " Feed x 30)	Average price x 45,000,000 bushels	
Barley, good malting	3,000,000 bushels	
Corn Am. Yellow #2) " " " #3)	Average price x 12,000,000 bushels	
Flax No. 1 N.W.C. x 70) " " 2 " " " x 15) " " 3 " " " x 15)	Average price x 6,000,000 bushels	
Oats No. 2 C.W. x 20%) " No. 3 " " x 25%) " No. 1 Feed(Western) x 30%) " No. 2 Feed (Western) x 25%)	Average price x 50,000,000 bushels	
Oats, Ontario	10,000,000 bushels	
Peas No.2 White Ontario	2,000,000 bushels	
Rye No. 2 C.W. 70%) " No. 3 " " 10%) " Rejected 20%)	Average price x 7,000,000 bushels	
" No. 2 Ontario	2,000,000 bushels	
Wheat No.1 Man. Northern 35%) " No.2 " " 25%) " No.3 " " 40%)	Average price x 350,000,000 bushels	
Wheat No.2 Ontario	20,000,000 bushels	$325,000,000 or 35.38%

The index number for the above sub-group is weighted by the aggregate value of all grains marketed less the value of grains shown elsewhere in the form of other commodities such as flour, rolled oats, linseed oil, etc.. For this sub-group the weight is $325,000,000 or 35.38% of the total value of the whole Vegetable Products group.

Quantities and values used for weights are, in the main, for the year 1926, but where weights for that year were not deemed to be representative, conditions in other years were considered. Sometimes an average of several representative years was taken. There was no attempt made to rigidly adhere to one hard and fast rule of weighting. In many cases modifications were made with the object of adopting the weights likely to obtain the most satisfactory results. A perusal of the statement of weights will reveal the various devices used in this connection. Final group weights are as follows:

Vegetables and Their Products	30
Animals and Their Products	16
Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	9
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	15
Iron and Its Products	12
Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	6
Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	9
Chemicals and Allied Products	3
	100

Classification of Commodities

These new index numbers will shortly be issued in the same three classifications as the old index, viz., Component Materials, Purpose and Origin. Only the component material classification is yet completed, consequently no index numbers according to the Purpose and Origin classification will be published in the current monthly bulletin.

Price Series Included in the New and Old Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices

	New	Old
Vegetables and Their Products	124	67
Animals and Their Products	74	50
Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	60	28
Wood, Wood Products and Paper	44	21
Iron and Its Products	39	26
Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	15	15
Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	73	16
Chemicals and Allied Products	73	13
	502	236

WHOLESALE PRICES JANUARY, 1929

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics revised index number of wholesale prices on the base 1926 = 100 showed no change in January as compared with December, being 94.5 in both months. While there were important price changes in different groups, upward and downward movements tended to counterbalance each other. Of the eight main groups, three were higher, two lower and three practically stationary. 99 price quotations were higher and 63 lower, the declines being of greater extent. 340 quotations were unchanged.

The Vegetable Products group rose from 86.5 to 87.4 higher levels for grains, apples, potatoes, rubber, glucose and naval stores more than offsetting lower levels for bread, mill feed, chocolate and hay. Animals and Their Products fell from 108.6 to 106.4, declines in eggs, cured meats, cheese, lard, hides, leather, boots and shoes more than offsetting higher prices for livestock, fresh meats, fish, fowl and butter. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products rose slightly, being 93.2 as compared with 93.1 in December. Jute, hemp and sisal advanced in price while raw silk and rayon yarns declined. Iron and Its Products advanced from 93.0 to 93.3 due chiefly to advances in wire and in some lines of hardware. Wood, Wood Products and Paper fell from 98.5 to 97.9 chiefly because of declines in pine lath, wood pulp and in some lines of Maritime spruce and British Columbia

cedar. Non-Ferrous Metals rose from 92.3 to 93.6, higher prices for copper and lead more than offsetting lower prices for silver, tin and spelter. Non-Metallic Minerals were stationary at 94.4, advances in lime, sand and gravel in some localities being offset by declines in western domestic coal. Chemicals and Allied Products were 94.4 as compared with 94.3 last month, the advance being due mainly to higher levels for copper sulphate and some fertilizers.

RESUME OF IMPORTANT PRICE CHANGES.- Grain prices moved to higher levels during January. No.1 Manitoba Northern cash wheat, Fort William and Port Arthur basis, averaged $1.21 as compared with $1.17 in December. The low price for the month was $1.13 5/8 on the 5th, after which a gradual strengthening to the month's high of $1.26 on the 26th occurred. The better export movement of Canadian wheat, owing to heavy European and Oriental purchases was the chief cause of the upturn but several factors--such as the rapid disappearance of bread grains in Europe, the possibility of reduced yields next season in North America owing to insufficient snow covering, prospects of a smaller acreage of winter wheat in the United States and reports of adverse crop conditions in the Argentine and Australia--contributed to the growth of bullish sentiment.

Coarse grains followed the wheat trend. The monthly average price of No.3 C.W. barley at Winnipeg rose from 66½¢ to 72 4/5¢ per bushel. No.2 C.W. oats rose from 58¢ to 68¢, No.2 C.W. rye from $1.01½ to $1.03 and flax No.1 N.W.C. from $1.90¾ to $1.92. Corn was very strong due mainly to reports of marked deterioration in the Argentine crop owing to drought. American yellow No.2 corn at Toronto rose from 98¾¢ to $1.07.

Flour moved in sympathy with wheat, No.1 patent, Manitoba, at Toronto advancing from $7.20 to $7.23 per 2-98's jute bags. Oat products continued strong, millers still finding it difficult to secure good milling oats. Oatmeal at Toronto, rose from $4.02 to $4.13 per bag and rolled oats from $3.65 to $3.95. Bread was lowered one cent to 9¢ per 24oz. loaf at Toronto due, it is stated, to keen competition.

The sugar market continued dull, buyers apparently awaiting Cuban developments. With the practical certainty that there will be no restriction, however, and as crop prospects are good, the tendency is towards easy markets. 96° centrifugal at New York declined from $2.18¾ to $2.03 1/8 per cwt. The market for refined was quiet with prices unchanged.

Potatoes, in most localities, showed a tendency to strengthen slightly. Nova Scotia potatoes at Halifax rose from 85¢ to 90¢ per 90 lb. bag, Canada A potatoes at St.John from 84¢ to 85¢ per cwt. and Manitoba potatoes at Winnipeg from $1.09 to $1.28 per cwt.

Rubber prices moved upward due to continued good demand and partly to speculative trading. Ceylon, ribbed smoked sheets, New York advanced from 17.9¢ to 20.2¢ per lb. and upriver fine Para from 19½¢ to 21[illegible]¢.

Cattle markets lacked stability, being very sensitive in relation to volume. Good steers at Toronto declined from $10.03 to $9.93, demand being insufficient to absorb the heavy supplies. At Winnipeg supplies were lighter and good steers averaged $8.73 as compared with $8.25 in December. Calves were firm because of small supplies coupled with keen United States demand. Good veal calves at Toronto rose from $14.90 to $16.10 and at Winnipeg from $11.55 to $13.08. The hog market was firmer under lighter supplies and the influence of the United States market. Thick smooth w.o.c. hogs at Toronto rose from $9.71 to $10.31 and at Winnipeg from $8.80 to $9.24. Lambs were also firmer on good demand. Good handy weights at Toronto advanced from $12.00 to $14.21 and at Winnipeg from $11.86 to $12.27.

Fresh meats were stationary or slightly higher. Good steer beef at Toronto rose from 17¢ to 18¢ and at Winnipeg from 16½¢ to 18¢. Choice lamb at Toronto averaged 22½¢ as compared with 21½¢ last month. Pork, dressed carcass at Toronto rose from 15½¢ to 17¢ and at Winnipeg from 16¢ to 17¢. Smoked meats continued quiet. Smoked, standard, light bacon at Toronto fell from 26¢ to 24¢ and at Montreal from 32¢ to 30¢. Smoked standard light ham at Toronto declined from 26¢ to 25¢ and at Montreal from 29¢ to 27¢.

Hide prices fell sharply, partly due to a belated response to seasonal influences which usually cause a greater decline in December than occurred this year but affected also by the weak undertone of leather markets. Beef hides, country cured, flat 1 and 2 fell from 14½¢ - 15¢ [illegible] Toronto and packer hides, native

steers from 21 - 22½¢ to 17 - 19½¢. Calf skins also weakened rapidly, city cured 1 and 2 averaging 20¢ - 21¢ as compared with 23¢ - 24¢ in December. Harness leather at Toronto fell from 55¢ to 53¢ and gun-metal calf from 47¢ to 45¢.

Sockeye salmon was firmer, the scarcity owing to last season's small pack gradually causing higher prices. The price per case at Montreal advanced from $19.00 - $19.80 to $19.00 to $20.00. Salt spring mackerel f.o.b. Maritime points rose from $13.00 to $14.00 per barrel.

Milk prices were for the most part stationary but small declines were recorded in a few cities. At Toronto, the price to producers declined from $2.30 to $2.20 per 8 gal. can and at Regina from 28½¢ to 27¾¢ per gallon. Butter and cheese markets were quiet. Canadian old large cheese at Montreal fell from 30¢ to 28¢ and large coloured new cheese at Toronto from 24¢ to 23¢.

Eggs prices showed drastic declines. Stocks accumulated rapidly owing to heavy production induced by the mild weather while consumption, although stimulated by the low prices prevailing, did not increase sufficiently to absorb the increased receipts. Ontario egg production is reported as 30 to 50% heavier than last year, while that of the prairies is stated to constitute a record for winter production. As a result prices fell almost to spring levels. Fresh extras at Montreal declined from 65¾¢ to 47⅓¢ per dozen, at Toronto from 66¼¢ to 46¾¢, at Winnipeg from 56 1/8¢ to 44⅓¢, at Calgary from 52½¢ to 40¢ and at Vancouver from 45 7/8¢ to 33½¢. Owing to the low prices for fresh, it was increasingly difficult to move storage supplies even at cut prices. Storage firsts at Montreal fell from 40 3/8¢ to 32¢, at Toronto from 38¢ to 28¢ and at Winnipeg from 40 5/8¢ to 31¢.

Textile price changes were few. Cotton fluctuated within narrow limits showing the usual January quietness with mills waiting for developments in the consuming capacity of the country. The Census Bureau's report on ginnings, figures of which were above expectations had a depressing influence also the continued absence of aggressive speculative trading. Continued firm export demand prevented further declines. Upland middling spot cotton at New York averaged 20¼¢ as compared with 20⅓¢ last month.

Raw jute on good actual and prospective demand was firm, the price of 1st marks advancing from $8.95 to $9.05. Manila hemp "I" 12½% fair current New York rose from 11⅔¢ to 13¢ per lb.

Buyers' resistance to existing levels brought a slight lowering of silk prices. Raw silk, grand double extra, New York basis declined from $5.55 to $5.40 per lb. and "extra" from $5.05 to $5.00. Rayon yarn 150 deniers "A" quality in skins was reduced from $1.35 to $1.10 per lb.

Non-ferrous metals were, for the most part, firm. The copper price movement overshadowed all others, electrolytic domestic copper f.o.b. Montreal advancing from $17.66¼¢ to $18.42⅓¢, this being the highest level since 1923. Copper products reflected this firmness, copper sheet, base, f.o.b. Montreal rising from 29¢ to 30¢ per lb., solid bare copper wire from 20¾¢ to 21½¢ and brass sheets at Toronto from 22 1/8¢ to 22 7/8¢. Lead was also firmer following the steady market situation in London and New York. Domestic lead f.o.b. Montreal advanced from $6.27¾¢ to $6.43 per 100 lbs. Tin was irregular, on the whole declining slightly. Tin ingots straits at Toronto were 51¾¢ as compared with 52¢ in December. Zinc (spelter) failed to hold all of its last month's gain owing to a recession in demand. Prices declined from $7.30 to $7.29 per 100 lbs. f.o.b. Montreal. Silver averaged 57¢ per oz. at New York as compared with 57 1/3¢ in December.

Iron and steel markets continued firm but with few price changes. Some lines of hardware and wire advanced.

Chemical wood-pulp prices were slightly easier although the quiet condition of the market is believed to be more or less temporary. Pulp sulphite, unbleached news grade f.o.b. mill ranged from $48.00 - $53.00 as compared with $50.00 - $53.00 last month.

Advancing copper prices were reflected in a rise in copper sulphate, crystals, C.I.F. ocean port from $5.85 to $6.20 per 100 lbs. The fertilizer market, with spring demand developing, showed strength. Sulphate of Ammonia, Ontario 20% W.S.N. advanced from $50.00 to $65.00 per ton and nitrate of soda Ontario 15.5% W.S.N. from $57.00 to $65.00. Other price changes were relatively unimportant.

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIAL

1926 = 100

	No. of Price Series	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926
Total Index 502 Price Series	502	64.0	65.5	70.4	84.3	114.3	127.4	133.9	155.9	110.0	97.3	98.0	99.4	102.6	100.0
I. Vegetable Products	124	58.1	64.8	75.6	87.0	124.5	127.9	136.1	167.0	103.5	86.2	83.7	89.2	100.6	100.0
II. Animals & Their Products	74	70.9	72.6	74.0	85.0	110.4	127.1	140.8	145.1	109.6	96.0	95.0	91.8	100.3	100.0
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	60	58.2	56.9	58.3	77.6	114.6	157.1	163.8	176.6	96.0	101.7	116.9	117.9	112.5	100.0
IV. Wood, Wood Products & Paper	44	63.9	60.3	56.5	64.0	79.8	89.1	109.6	154.4	129.4	106.3	113.0	105.9	101.6	100.0
V. Iron and Its Products	39	68.9	67.3	73.9	104.6	151.8	156.7	139.1	168.4	128.0	104.6	115.8	111.0	104.5	100.0
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	15	98.4	94.7	106.9	135.1	143.9	141.9	133.5	135.5	97.0	97.3	95.3	94.8	103.9	100.0
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	73	56.8	53.7	52.7	58.0	71.6	82.3	93.0	112.2	116.6	107.0	104.4	104.1	100.3	100.0
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	73	63.4	65.3	68.1	78.0	98.1	118.7	117.5	141.5	117.0	105.4	104.4	102.5	99.6	100.0

1926

	No. of Price Series	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
Total Index 502 Price Series	502	103.0	102.1	101.3	101.2	100.2	100.2	100.2	99.1	98.5	98.1	97.6	97.9	100.0
I. Vegetable Products	124	105.1	102.7	99.9	103.8	102.6	100.6	100.8	98.6	96.2	96.9	96.3	95.0	100.0
II. Animals & Their Products	74	102.5	101.9	103.8	100.7	98.0	101.6	99.9	97.9	98.8	98.3	97.3	100.1	100.0
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	60	104.3	103.6	103.1	100.7	100.1	99.7	100.1	99.7	99.5	96.6	96.5	96.2	100.0
IV. Wood, Wood Products & Paper	44	100.6	100.7	100.4	100.3	100.2	100.1	100.6	100.1	100.2	98.9	98.8	99.0	100.0
V. Iron and Its Products	39	100.8	100.8	100.6	100.7	100.4	100.0	99.5	99.3	99.4	99.7	99.3	99.3	100.0
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	15	106.5	105.5	103.4	98.5	97.3	98.5	99.9	100.5	99.6	98.0	96.8	95.6	100.0
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	73	100.6	101.3	101.7	98.7	98.5	99.0	99.1	99.2	99.2	99.2	99.4	103.1	100.0
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	73	100.9	101.1	99.9	99.4	99.7	100.0	100.4	99.7	100.3	99.7	99.5	99.3	100.0

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THEIR CHIEF COMPONENT MATERIAL

1926 = 100

1927

	No. of Price Series	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
Total Index 502 Price Series	502	97.8	97.6	97.3	97.5	98.5	98.9	98.6	98.3	97.1	97.2	96.9	97.3	97.7
I. Vegetable Products	124	94.6	95.7	96.0	96.8	101.8	104.7	104.1	102.1	97.6	96.6	96.0	95.1	98.3
II. Animals and Their Products	74	101.5	100.0	100.8	102.1	101.2	99.7	98.7	100.4	102.8	103.9	104.3	107.6	101.9
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	60	95.4	94.7	93.0	92.4	92.5	92.5	92.2	92.7	93.1	95.5	95.1	95.2	93.7
IV. Wood, Wood Products & Paper	44	99.1	98.4	98.5	98.1	97.9	97.9	98.8	98.8	98.7	98.6	98.5	98.6	98.5
V. Iron and Its Products	39	98.3	97.4	97.5	97.3	96.7	96.6	96.5	96.3	95.6	94.9	94.1	94.1	96.2
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	15	94.3	94.0	94.5	92.6	90.9	90.3	89.7	90.2	89.0	88.2	88.6	90.6	91.1
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	73	103.0	102.8	99.2	98.6	96.8	94.6	94.4	94.5	93.6	95.5	95.2	95.2	97.0
VIII. Chemical and Allied Products	73	98.9	99.3	99.2	98.1	98.5	98.5	98.5	99.5	97.9	97.7	97.3	97.4	98.3

1928

	No. of Price Series	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
Total Index 502 Price Series	502	96.9	96.8	97.7	98.3	97.9	97.1	96.2	95.4	95.5	95.4	94.9	94.5	96.5
I. Vegetable Products	124	95.2	95.4	98.1	101.6	101.5	96.6	92.8	88.6	87.1	88.2	87.5	86.5	93.2
II. Animals and Their Products	74	106.9	105.6	107.0	104.3	102.4	107.0	109.1	112.0	114.5	112.2	110.8	109.1	108.5
III. Fibres, Textiles and Textile Products	60	94.5	94.3	93.3	93.5	93.7	93.9	94.2	93.8	93.9	92.9	92.2	93.2	94.3
IV. Wood, Wood Products & Paper	44	98.4	98.5	98.8	98.9	99.0	99.1	98.2	98.6	99.0	98.5	98.6	98.3	98.7
V. Iron and Its Products	39	93.7	94.1	94.1	94.0	94.0	92.7	92.7	92.5	92.6	92.5	92.8	93.0	93.2
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	15	89.9	88.8	88.6	88.7	89.9	90.2	89.5	89.7	89.7	90.5	91.2	92.3	89.9
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	73	93.8	94.2	94.0	93.5	92.1	92.3	92.3	93.1	93.4	93.6	93.8	94.4	93.5
VIII. Chemical and Allied Products	73	96.9	96.2	96.1	95.4	95.4	95.2	95.2	95.1	94.6	94.6	94.3	94.3	95.3

INDEX NUMBERS OF COMMODITIES

(Classified According to Chief Component Material)
1926 = 100

	Commodities	No. of Price Series	Year 1927	Year 1928	Jan. 1928	Dec. 1928	Jan. 1929
	Total Index	502	97.7	96.5	96.9	94.5	94.5
1.	Vegetable Products	124	98.3	93.2	95.2	86.5	87.4
	Fruits	15	121.6	131.7	125.2	118.2	121.4
	Fresh, Domestic	3	154.3	177.3	165.8	159.0	166.1
	Fresh, Foreign	4	105.0	111.3	103.7	94.8	96.5
	Dried	5	97.1	90.4	94.8	84.2	83.8
	Canned	3	97.9	97.6	97.9	100.1	100.1
	Grains	23	100.9	93.8	97.0	83.2	86.4
	Flour and Milled Products	9	97.6	95.1	95.7	90.1	89.3
	Bakery Products	2	100.7	100.2	100.2	100.2	97.3
	Vegetable Oils	6	97.1	91.6	96.7	88.2	88.5
	Rubber and Its Products	6	80.4	74.5	78.1	69.8	69.9
	Sugar and Its Products & Glucose	5	105.2	96.5	101.4	90.2	90.3
	Tea, Coffee, Cocoa & Spices	13	103.3	100.6	103.1	99.2	98.7
	Tobacco	8	86.2	86.2x	86.2x	83.3x	83.3x
	Vegetables						
	Potatoes	7	68.7	50.1	52.5	39.2	40.9
	Onions	2	129.3	154.6	119.0	164.4	172.3
	Turnips, Carrots & Parsnips	3	120.4	99.1	99.2	92.0	96.5
	Canned Vegetables	3	101.0	99.6	101.4	95.8	95.8
	Miscellaneous	22	95.3	90.2	90.7	95.6	95.5
11.	Animals and Their Products	74	101.9	108.5	106.9	109.1	106.4
	Fishery Products	16	100.2	100.4	98.0	107.8	107.8
	Furs	9	127.6	137.0	149.5	125.3	125.3
	Hides and Skins	5	137.8	180.3	195.5	158.6	139.9
	Leather, Unmanufactured	5	104.5	125.5	124.1	122.7	121.1
	Boots and Shoes	3	103.3	113.3	104.3	113.9	111.5
	Live Stock	4	102.5	123.0	121.3	115.7	118.9
	Meats & Poultry	10	95.9	106.0	101.2	101.0	102.6
	Milk & Its Products	12	103.6	106.4	107.8	111.1	110.1
	Fats	5	88.8	94.7	95.1	95.1	91.9
	Eggs	5	108.6	104.0	101.2	116.7	85.6
111.	Fibres, Textiles, & Textile Products	60	93.7	94.3	94.5	93.2	93.2
	Cotton, raw	2	100.2	114.5	109.5	117.0	115.6
	Cotton Yarn and Thread	2	97.3	99.3	100.2	100.2	100.2
	Cotton Fabrics	17	92.7	94.5	97.2	91.3	91.3
	Knit Goods	1	94.4	94.4	94.4	94.4	94.4
	Sash Cord	1	96.4	106.2	101.3	113.0	113.0
	Flax, Hemp & Jute Products	8	96.3	90.7	95.2	89.7	90.2
	Silk, raw	3	86.7	78.4	79.8	81.9	81.1
	" thread and yarn	2	92.4	83.2	86.5	82.0	82.0
	" hosiery	2	100.0	98.6	98.6	98.6	98.6
	" fabrics	4	85.2	78.5	79.6	81.6	81.6
	Artificial Silk and Products	2	91.2	91.1	91.1	91.1	79.5
	Wool, raw	3	84.4	110.7	93.1	110.3	110.3
	" yarns	4	97.1	99.8	90.7	96.2	96.2
	" Hosiery and knit goods	2	103.7	105.3	103.7	106.5	112.9
	" Blankets	1	94.9	103.6	100.0	107.1	107.1
	" Cloth	4	95.5	97.3	95.4	98.1	97.6
	Carpets	2	98.0	92.4	92.4	92.4	92.4

x Subject to revision.

Commodities	No. of Price Series	Year 1927	Year 1928	Jan. 1928	Dec. 1928	Jan. 1929
IV. Wood, Wood Products and Paper	44	98.5	98.7	98.4	98.3	97.9
Newsprint Paper	2	100.1	98.1	100.2	96.0	96.0
Lumber and Timber	27	97.5	102.3	98.2	104.2	103.4
Pulp	3	96.0	92.6	93.2	92.6	92.6
Furniture	11	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Matches	1	67.2	73.1	73.1	73.1	73.1
V. Iron and Its Products	39	96.2	93.2	93.7	93.0	93.3
Pig Iron and Steel Billets	4	93.4	90.8	90.6	91.8	91.8
Rolling Mill Products	10	98.5	96.2	96.6	96.1	96.0
Pipe (Cast Iron & Steel)	2	93.3	90.1	89.7	91.0	91.0
Hardware	14	96.2	93.5	94.2	92.5	93.3
Wire	3	92.1	87.1	87.3	87.4	89.3
Scrap	5	93.1	85.8	89.6	82.3	82.3
Miscellaneous	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
VI. Non-Ferrous Metals and Their Products	15	91.1	89.9	89.9	92.3	93.6
Aluminium	1	95.3	89.5	89.8	88.7	88.7
Antimony	1	75.8	59.1	62.6	58.2	57.6
Brass, Copper and Their Products	5	94.0	104.5	99.8	112.9	117.5
Lead and Its Products	2	82.6	78.2	78.6	76.5	78.3
Nickel Ingots	1	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5
Silver	1	90.9	93.6	92.2	92.5	92.0
Tin Ingots	1	98.2	79.2	88.9	77.7	77.3
Zinc and Its Products	2	87.4	80.9	80.5	82.8	82.6
Solder	1	98.2	79.8	88.2	77.2	77.2
VII. Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products	73	97.0	93.5	93.8	94.4	94.4
Bricks	8	103.1	103.9	104.2	103.1	103.1
Pottery	2	98.2	97.3	97.3	97.3	97.3
Coal	11	101.8	95.0	96.5	96.2	96.1
Coke	6	95.2	95.6	95.6	95.6	95.6
Coal Tar	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Glass - Window	2	85.6	83.0	80.4	96.4	96.4
Plate	3	82.0	67.6	72.0	66.7	66.7
Glass ware	1	97.5	82.4	82.4	82.4	82.4
Petroleum Products	6	90.3	86.2	86.1	87.5	87.5
Salt	4	105.1	101.7	105.4	96.1	96.1
Sulphur	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Plaster	3	103.4	105.9	105.9	105.9	105.9
Lime	4	98.9	99.4	99.1	99.3	99.4
Cement	1	94.0	98.7	93.9	100.3	100.3
Sand and Gravel	8	99.6	100.2	100.2	100.2	101.7
Crushed Stone	3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Building Stone	3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Asbestos	6	100.5	107.5	107.5	107.5	107.5
VIII. Chemicals and Allied Products	73	98.3	95.3	96.9	94.3	94.4
Inorganic Chemicals	22	97.3	89.9	92.5	89.1	89.0
Organic Chemicals	7	96.9	82.5	91.8	76.5	76.5
Coal Tar Products	2	101.0	110.7	110.7	110.7	110.7
Dyeing & Tanning Materials	10	96.8	97.3	97.6	96.7	97.3
Paint Materials	9	95.9	92.6	94.5	92.7	92.6
Drugs & Pharmaceutical Chemicals	10	102.3	107.0	105.4	104.5	104.5
Fertilizers	10	99.9	93.3	97.1	92.8	96.7
Industrial Gases	2	100.0	99.5	100.0	97.1	97.1
Soap	1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

INDEX NUMBERS OF CANADIAN RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING

(Based on a family expenditure of about $2500 per annum)

The index numbers of Retail Prices Rents and Costs of Services hitherto calculated on the 1913 base have been revised and recalculated on the basis 1926=100. This is in accordance with the general policy of the Bureau in revising the basis of index number calculations. These index numbers are so constructed as to show the trend of the cost of living for an average middle class family, with an expenditure of about $2500 per annum. In revising the data sixteen items were added to the clothing group. Rental data was changed to include apartments and flats as well as houses, and higher grades of dwellings than formerly were included. Owing to the increasing use of coke, it was added to the fuel and lighting group. Miscellaneous items were increased from 71 to 130, the additions including dishes, furniture, hardware, insurance, books and education, dentists' services, cost of motor operation and supplies. In all, the index includes 245 separate items or groups of items as compared with 161 in the old index. Prior to 1926 only figures on the old list of items are available but these have been recalculated to the 1926 base.

It will be seen from the accompanying table that the general index shows a slight rise in 1928 as compared with 1927, being 98.5 in 1927 and 99.1 in 1928. Foods and Rents were higher, Clothing and Miscellaneous items practically unchanged on the average, and Fuel and Lighting lower.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES, RENTS AND COSTS OF SERVICES IN CANADA, JANUARY, 1929.

The weighted index number or retail prices rents and costs of services (1926=100) was 99.6 in January as compared with 99.7 in December.

The index for foods fell from 100.5 to 100.2 chiefly because of seasonal declines in egg prices. Fresh eggs fell from 64¢ to 60¢ per dozen, while the cooking and storage variety were 50¾¢ and 48½¢, respectively, for December and January.

Index numbers for other groups were unchanged.

OLD INDEX NUMBERS OF CANADIAN RETAIL PRICES - 1913=100 CHANGED TO NEW BASE 1926=100

Year	Total Index	Food Index	Fuel Index	Rent Index	Clothing Index	Sundries Index
1914	66.0	68.9	64.5	62.2	63.9	66.2
1915	67.3	69.5	63.2	60.3	69.6	66.9
1916	72.5	77.5	64.5	60.9	79.7	70.2
1917	85.6	100.0	71.7	65.4	93.7	76.8
1918	97.4	114.6	78.9	69.2	109.5	86.1
1919	107.2	122.5	86.2	75.6	125.9	95.4
1920	124.2	141.1	102.6	86.5	153.2	104.0
1921	109.2	107.9	109.2	94.2	124.7	106.0
1922	100.0	91.4	104.6	98.1	105.7	106.0
1923	100.0	92.1	104.6	100.6	104.4	105.3
1924	98.0	90.7	102.0	101.3	101.9	103.3
1925	99.3	94.7	100.0	101.3	101.9	101.3
1926	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

INDEX NUMBERS OF RETAIL PRICES RENTS AND COSTS OF SERVICES IN CANADA BY MONTHS, 1926-1928 AND JANUARY, 1929.

	Final Index	Food	Clothing	Rentals	Fuel and Light	Miscellaneous
1926						
January	101.0	102.6	100.6	100.0	102.5	100.0
February	100.8	101.9	100.6	100.0	101.5	100.0
March	100.8	102.0	100.6	100.0	101.9	100.0
April	100.4	100.7	100.6	100.0	100.7	100.0
May	100.3	100.5	100.6	100.0	100.9	100.0
June	99.9	99.6	100.6	100.0	98.9	100.0
July	100.1	100.1	100.6	100.0	98.6	100.0
August	99.9	100.4	99.5	100.0	98.6	100.0
September	99.2	97.7	99.5	100.0	99.2	100.0
October	99.1	97.6	99.5	100.0	99.1	100.0
November	99.4	98.4	99.5	100.0	99.5	100.0
December	99.8	99.7	99.5	100.0	99.6	100.0
1926 =	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1927						
January	99.6	101.1	97.9	98.8	99.2	99.7
February	99.3	100.0	97.9	98.8	99.3	99.7
March	98.8	98.6	97.9	98.8	99.1	99.7
April	98.0	96.5	97.1	98.8	98.3	99.6
May	97.9	96.6	97.1	98.8	97.0	99.6
June	98.4	97.5	97.1	98.8	96.5	99.6
July	98.4	98.0	97.5	98.8	96.7	99.5
August	98.3	97.7	97.5	98.8	96.7	99.5
September	98.0	96.8	97.5	98.8	97.0	99.5
October	98.4	97.7	97.5	98.8	97.7	99.5
November	98.6	98.5	97.4	98.8	97.8	99.5
December	99.0	99.9	97.4	98.8	97.8	99.5
1927 =	98.5	98.1	97.5	98.8	97.8	99.6
1928						
January	99.6	100.4	97.2	101.2	97.4	99.6
February	99.2	99.1	97.2	101.2	97.5	99.6
March	98.8	97.7	97.2	101.2	97.5	99.6
April	98.7	97.5	97.2	101.2	97.3	99.6
May	98.4	96.4	97.3	101.2	96.7	99.6
June	98.2	95.9	97.3	101.2	96.0	99.6
July	98.4	96.6	97.3	101.2	96.0	99.6
August	99.2	98.9	97.6	101.2	96.3	99.6
September	99.2	99.2	97.6	101.2	96.4	99.6
October	99.9	101.1	97.6	101.2	97.1	99.6
November	99.7	100.7	97.6	101.2	97.2	99.6
December	99.7	100.5	97.6	101.2	97.2	99.6
1928 =	99.1	98.6	97.4	101.2	96.9	99.6
1929						
January	99.6	100.2	97.6	101.2	97.2	99.6