

I.—WHOLESALE PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics issues monthly in a press letter, entitled "Prices and Price Indexes", the official index number of wholesale prices in Canada. This index, while constructed with a view to giving continuity with that issued from 1910 to 1917 by the Department of Labour, has been improved by the adoption of several ideas developed in the science of index number-making since the old index was first computed, and by the substitution of new commodities or price series for those which have ceased to be representative as a result of the passage of time. A description of the method used in making this index number will be found on pp. 712-714 of the 1924 edition of the Canada Year Book.

Historical Review of Canadian Prices.—The index numbers of wholesale prices for the eight recognized chief groups of commodities, classified according to their chief component materials, are shown for each year from 1890 to 1927 in Table 1; these index numbers are unweighted prior to 1913 and are weighted in the later years. The general trend of wholesale prices throughout the period is also shown in the accompanying diagram on page 787. On this diagram may be noted the dip in wholesale prices from 1890 to 1897 and the subsequent rise in prices until 1907, the dip in 1908 and 1909 followed by another slow rise up to 1914, when the war caused a sharp ascent up to 1920 to nearly two and a half times the 1913 base level. Thereafter we have the great dip of 1921 and 1922, the rise to 1925 and the slow decline in 1926.

1.—Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Canada, (Chief Component Material Classification), 1890-1927.

(1890-1913, Unweighted; 1913-1927, Weighted. 1913=100.)

Groups.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Vegetable products (grains, fruits, etc.).....	99.8	101.5	89.6	86.3	80.2	82.5	74.6	74.4	79.7
Animals and their products.....	62.5	61.3	60.7	64.4	59.0	57.6	54.6	56.5	59.3
Fibres, textiles and textile products.....	93.1	87.0	84.9	83.8	78.6	76.8	77.6	77.4	77.8
Wood, wood products and paper.....	70.8	70.8	71.5	71.3	71.4	70.1	67.9	67.5	65.8
Iron and its products.....	124.9	118.5	114.0	112.3	106.6	100.0	95.0	91.2	91.3
Non-ferrous metals and their products.....	112.0	102.0	92.1	85.8	74.5	72.0	72.5	72.3	76.0
Non-metallic minerals and their products.....	106.0	103.5	102.6	101.4	98.1	96.2	95.6	94.3	95.2
Chemicals and allied products.....	99.4	100.5	95.8	94.7	94.6	93.0	93.1	90.7	90.4
Total.....	83.6	81.4	86.2	85.2	89.6	79.6	76.9	75.6	77.8

Groups.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Vegetable products (grains, fruits, etc.).....	81.7	84.9	86.1	90.1	89.4	91.2	90.2	97.3	136.2
Animals and their products.....	62.0	65.1	66.1	68.4	69.0	68.0	71.9	73.3	78.0
Fibres, textiles and textile products.....	81.1	86.1	81.5	81.3	83.1	86.1	88.9	93.5	96.2
Wood, wood products and paper.....	67.0	76.0	75.4	77.6	80.1	83.4	84.2	87.6	91.0
Iron and its products.....	103.7	115.9	104.8	103.1	103.1	99.5	99.0	101.6	105.9
Non-ferrous metals and their products.....	93.1	98.6	94.3	82.1	82.6	81.3	91.0	111.8	115.1
Non-metallic minerals and their products.....	97.4	91.5	91.8	93.5	100.3	94.6	92.1	93.2	92.8
Chemicals and allied products.....	88.2	95.5	93.3	95.9	96.4	97.8	96.4	96.6	97.7
Total.....	81.4	85.8	84.5	86.2	86.9	87.8	87.8	92.6	96.2