

NUMBER OF 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
Total.....	502	236

The Movement of Prices in 1929.—During 1929, the general level of prices continued to move lower, marking the fourth consecutive year that the annual index number of wholesale prices has declined. The 1929 index for 502 commodities on the base 1926=100 was 95.6 as compared with 96.4 in 1928. Taking average prices in 1913 as the basis of calculation, the index fell from 149.7 in 1928 to 149.3.

The January index of 93.9 (1926=100) was the lowest since October of 1916, when the same number occurred. After a short seasonal advance, however, a new low point of 93.4 was reached in May and June. Then followed a second short movement upward, due in part to the influence which poor crop prospects exerted upon grain prices. In the final months of the year, the trend was again downward with the December index at 96.

Four of the main groups averaged higher for the year, one remained unchanged, and three declined, when compared with 1928. Animals and Their Products advanced from 108.1 to 108.9 principally because of higher meat prices. Non-ferrous Metals and Their Products rose sharply from 92.0, to 99.2, due chiefly to marked increases in copper prices. Iron and Its Products was slightly stronger, advancing from 93.2 to 93.7, and Non-Metallic Minerals and Their Products likewise rose fractionally from 92.5 to 92.9. Chemicals and Allied Products remained stationary at 95.3. Vegetables and Vegetable Products declined from 93.0 to 91.6. Textiles and Textile Products fell from 94.5 to 91.3, a new post-war low, and Wood, Wood Products and Paper also moved down from 98.7 to 93.9.

The general price index numbers on the new base are given by months from 1921 to 1929 in Table 2, while price index numbers on the new base are given by groups on the chief component material classification for the years from 1914 to 1929, and for the months of 1927 to 1929 in Table 3. Index numbers on the purpose and origin classifications are presented in Tables 4, 5 and 6 respectively.

2.—Weighted General Price Index Numbers, by Months, 1921-1929.

(1926=100.)

Months.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
January.....	128.4	97.1	97.0	100.4	106.0	103.0	97.8	96.9	94.0
February.....	122.3	98.3	97.1	100.4	105.4	102.1	97.6	96.8	95.0
March.....	119.1	98.3	98.3	98.8	103.5	101.3	97.3	97.7	95.6
April.....	114.9	98.4	102.4	96.7	100.2	101.2	97.3	98.3	94.5
May.....	109.2	98.5	100.4	96.4	101.7	100.2	98.3	97.9	93.4
June.....	105.3	97.8	99.6	97.5	101.5	100.1	98.7	96.9	93.5
July.....	104.8	98.7	98.3	98.5	101.2	100.1	98.5	96.0	97.2
August.....	106.0	97.1	98.3	100.4	101.7	99.1	98.3	95.3	98.3
September.....	103.5	94.4	99.0	98.5	100.0	98.5	97.1	95.4	97.7
October.....	99.6	94.8	98.0	100.5	99.9	98.1	97.2	95.2	96.8
November.....	98.3	97.2	98.1	101.0	103.2	97.7	96.9	94.9	95.7
December.....	96.4	98.0	98.3	103.0	104.7	97.9	97.2	94.6	96.1
Yearly Average.....	110.0	97.3	98.0	99.4	102.6	100.0	97.7	96.4	95.6