

Subsection 2.—The Index Number on the 1926 Base.

There was a net advance during 1939 of 11.5 p.c. in the general index while component groups showed the following percentage increases: vegetable products 19.2, animal products 11.5, textiles 23.3, wood products 11.7, iron and its products 4.0, non-ferrous metals 5.3, non-metallic minerals 0.2, and chemicals 9.5. Net price increases for the year for individual commodities were, with few exceptions, less than 25 p.c. Increases exceeding this amount, however, were recorded for raw silk, wool, grains, rubber, leather, groundwood pulp, and tin.

2.—Monthly Weighted Index Numbers of General Wholesale Prices, 1929-39.

(1926=100.)

Month.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
January.....	94.0	95.3	75.9	69.5	63.8	70.7	71.4	72.9	81.9	83.8	73.2
February.....	95.0	93.9	75.5	68.9	63.5	72.1	71.8	72.5	82.9	83.6	73.1
March.....	95.6	91.8	74.5	69.0	64.3	72.1	71.9	72.4	85.4	83.1	73.2
April.....	94.5	91.2	73.9	68.2	65.3	71.3	72.5	72.2	86.2	82.3	73.4
May.....	93.4	89.7	72.5	67.4	66.7	71.1	72.2	71.9	85.3	80.3	73.7
June.....	93.4	87.7	71.8	66.4	67.5	72.0	71.4	72.3	84.6	80.1	73.3
July.....	97.2	85.3	71.3	66.5	70.5	72.0	71.4	74.3	87.6	78.6	72.6
August.....	98.4	83.7	70.5	66.7	69.5	72.2	71.7	76.1	85.6	76.0	72.4
September.....	97.8	82.1	69.7	65.9	68.9	71.9	72.4	76.4	85.0	74.5	78.3
October.....	96.8	81.0	69.9	65.0	67.9	71.3	73.1	77.1	84.7	74.1	79.5
November.....	95.7	79.5	70.7	64.7	68.9	71.1	72.7	77.2	83.1	73.5	80.4
December.....	96.0	77.7	70.4	64.0	69.0	71.1	72.7	79.6	82.7	73.3	81.7
Yearly Averages...	95.6	86.6	72.1	66.7	67.1	71.6	72.1	74.6	84.6	78.6	75.3

Canadian Farm Products Prices.—Movements in the Canadian farm products index of wholesale prices were somewhat narrower during 1939 than for commodity wholesale prices in general. This was due in part to the use of minimum prices established by the Canadian Wheat Board when market prices of wheat were below the Board's minimum levels. The composite index for Canadian farm products advanced from 64.8 in January to 65.5 in April and then receded to 58.4 in August. The subsequent rise in prices did not cancel summer declines until December, when the index reached 69.1. Throughout 1939 the animal products section held at levels substantially higher than those of the field product section. Annual averages for these two groups were 81.4 and 54.3, respectively, in 1939.

Industrial Materials Prices.—The Dominion Bureau of Statistics inaugurated in 1938 a new series of index numbers, consisting of 30 basic industrial materials. It is computed from an unweighted geometric average with 1926 prices equal to 100. The 30 commodities are divided into 2 main groups of 18 sensitive manufacturing materials and 12 stable price series. The 18 sensitive commodities are, in turn, separated into 2 sub-groups of 13 sensitive manufacturing materials and 5 food products.