

were the chief contributors to the increase. Higher prices for fir and cedar between December 1958 and February 1959 caused the wood products group to rise sharply and it held steady for the remainder of the year to stand at 303.4 in December, an increase of 1.6 p.c. over the corresponding month a year earlier. The non-ferrous metals group increased by 1.8 p.c. during the year from 172.7 to 175.8, mainly on the strength of higher prices for copper and its products and for zinc and its products. The vegetable products group fluctuated mildly during the year to arrive at 200.3 in December, an increase of 1.2 p.c. over the December 1958 index of 197.9. Slight advances in the textile products group in the first six months of 1959 were partially offset by lower prices in the second half of the year, restricting the index to an over-all increase of less than 1.0 p.c. between December 1958 and December 1959. Negligible changes occurred in the iron products group during the course of 1959.

From early 1959, sporadic increases occurred in the animal products group until September, when the index dropped sharply from 258.6 to 247.4 at the year's end. Lower prices for hides and skins, leather, livestock, fresh and cured meats, and eggs contributed substantially to the downward movement in this index which was lower by 3.0 p.c. in December 1959 than at the end of 1958. The non-metallic minerals group, reacting to lower prices for coal and petroleum products, declined between March and June, but remained fairly stable throughout the remainder of the year to stand at 185.7 in December, 1.6 p.c. lower than the previous December's index of 188.8.

1.—Annual Index Numbers of Wholesale Price Groups 1950-59, and Monthly Indexes 1958 to Mid-1960

NOTE.—Canadian farm products indexes subsequent to July 1959 are subject to revision; other indexes are final to the end of 1959.

(1935-39=100)

Year and Month	General Wholesale Index	Raw and Partly Manufactured Goods	Fully and Chiefly Manufactured Goods	Industrial Materials	Canadian Farm Products ¹		
					Field	Animal	Total
1950.....	211.2	212.8	211.0	244.6	191.9	281.4	236.7
1951.....	240.2	237.9	242.4	296.1	200.4	336.9	268.6
1952.....	226.0	218.7	230.7	252.6	223.0	277.5	250.2
1953.....	220.7	207.0	228.8	232.3	179.4	263.8	221.6
1954.....	217.0	204.8	224.2	223.7	170.9	256.2	213.6
1955.....	218.9	209.7	224.5	236.0	180.1	245.1	212.6
1956.....	225.6	215.8	231.5	248.2	181.6	246.9	214.2
1957.....	227.4	209.4	237.9	240.3	169.2	258.0	213.6
1958.....	227.8	209.3	238.3	229.8	171.4	274.5	222.9
1959 ^p	230.6	210.9	241.6	240.2	170.7	271.6	221.2
1958							
January.....	227.0	207.8	237.9	231.8	171.0	259.6	215.3
February.....	227.8	209.3	238.2	231.7	173.0	268.4	220.7
March.....	228.3	210.6	238.3	230.7	181.7	272.9	227.3
April.....	228.1	209.9	238.6	227.9	178.9	279.9	229.4
May.....	228.3	210.6	238.5	226.7	171.2	288.3	229.8
June.....	227.6	209.4	238.0	227.3	169.1	286.4	227.7
July.....	227.3	208.7	237.8	229.4	172.6	279.3	226.0
August.....	227.0	207.5	238.0	229.1	168.8	275.2	222.0
September.....	227.4	207.8	238.4	228.3	167.4	266.9	217.2
October.....	227.2	207.8	238.1	228.2	166.5	269.3	217.9
November.....	228.8	211.4	238.7	233.1	167.5	269.1	218.3
December.....	229.3	211.3	239.4	233.8	168.8	278.7	223.7

For footnote, see end of table, p. 980.