

The accompanying table of index numbers (Table 18) shows the relative changes from year to year. A downward movement appeared in most of the groups in 1921 and 1922 since the peak was reached in 1920. The index numbers for 1923 show on the whole a slightly upward trend.

In the building trades there were many instances of decreases of ten cents per hour in 1921 and five cents per hour in 1922, but during 1923 there were some advances. In the metal trades there had been considerable reductions during 1921 and further decreases were made in 1922, while the 1923 wages in these trades showed little change on the whole. For electric railways the index number averaged lower in both 1921 and 1922, but the wage rates were almost stationary in 1923. On steam railways a general cut in wage rates in 1921 was followed in 1922 by decreases for shop employees, maintenance of way workers, freight handlers, clerks and miscellaneous classes, but there were no changes for train crews and few changes for telegraphers. At the end of 1922 and early in 1923 there were partial restorations in some cases in the rates for maintenance of way employees, freight handlers and clerical employees. In coal mining there were decreases in the Vancouver Island mines each year, although there were slight increases in the summer of 1922 over the preceding three-month period, in accordance with the agreement by which quarterly adjustments are made corresponding to changes in the cost of living. In southeastern British Columbia and southern Alberta there were no changes in wage rates down to 1923, although the average earnings of contract miners declined in 1922, to recover partly in 1923. In Nova Scotia rates were reduced substantially early in 1922, but were increased later in the year. In factory labour and in lumbering there were considerable decreases in wages in 1921 and again in 1922, while no general change occurred in 1923.

18.—Index Numbers of Rates of Wages for Various Classes of Labour in Canada, 1901-1923.

1913 = 100.

Years.	Build- ing Trades.	Metal Trades.	Print- ing Trades.	Electric Rail- ways.	Steam Rail- ways.	Coal Mining.	Aver- age. ¹	Com- mon Factory Labour.	Miscel- laneous Factory Trades.	Lum- bering.
1901.....	60.3	68.6	60.0	64.0	70.8	82.8	67.8	-	-	-
1902.....	64.2	70.2	61.6	68.0	73.6	83.8	70.2	-	-	-
1903.....	67.4	73.3	62.6	71.1	76.7	85.3	72.7	-	-	-
1904.....	69.7	75.9	66.1	73.1	78.6	85.1	74.8	-	-	-
1905.....	73.0	78.6	68.5	73.5	78.9	86.3	76.5	-	-	-
1906.....	76.9	79.8	72.2	75.7	80.2	87.4	78.7	-	-	-
1907.....	80.2	82.4	78.4	81.4	85.5	93.6	83.6	-	-	-
1908.....	81.5	84.7	80.5	81.8	86.7	94.8	85.0	-	-	-
1909.....	83.1	86.2	83.4	81.1	86.7	95.1	85.9	-	-	-
1910.....	86.9	88.8	87.8	85.7	91.2	94.2	89.1	-	-	-
1911.....	90.2	91.0	91.6	88.1	96.4	97.5	92.5	94.9	95.4	93.3
1912.....	96.0	95.3	96.0	92.3	98.3	98.3	96.0	98.1	97.1	98.8
1913.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1914.....	100.8	100.5	102.4	101.0	101.7	101.9	101.4	101.0	103.2	94.7
1915.....	101.5	101.5	103.6	97.8	101.7	102.3	101.4	101.0	106.2	89.1
1916.....	102.4	106.9	105.8	102.2	104.9	111.7	105.7	110.4	115.1	109.5
1917.....	109.9	128.0	111.3	114.6	110.1	130.8	117.5	129.2	128.0	130.2
1918.....	125.9	155.2	123.7	142.9	133.2	157.8	139.8	152.3	146.8	150.5
1919.....	148.2	180.1	145.9	163.3	154.2	170.5	160.4	180.2	180.2	169.8
1920.....	180.9	209.4	184.0	194.2	186.6	197.7	192.1	215.3	216.8	202.7
1921.....	170.5	186.8	193.3	192.1	165.3	208.3	186.1	190.6	202.0	152.6
1922.....	162.5	173.7	192.3	184.4	155.1	197.8	176.8	183.0	189.1	158.7
1923.....	166.4	174.0	188.9	186.2	157.4	197.8	178.4	181.7	196.1	170.4

¹Simple average of 6 preceding columns.