

**33.—Index Numbers of the Cost of Living in Canada, based upon weighted Retail Prices, 1910-1924—concluded.**

(Average Prices, 1913=100.)

Dates.	Food.	Fuel.	Rent.	Clothing.	Sundries.	Total.
March, 1920.....	218	173	120	260	185	191
June, 1920.....	231	186	133	260	190	201
September, 1920.....	217	285	136	260	190	199
December, 1920.....	202	218	139	235	190	192
March, 1921.....	180	208	139	195	188	177
June, 1921.....	152	197	143	173	181	163
September, 1921.....	161	189	145	167	170	162
December, 1921.....	150	186	145	153	166	156
March, 1922.....	144	181	145	155	164	153
June, 1922.....	139	179	146	155	164	151
September, 1922.....	140	190	147	155	164	153
December, 1922.....	142	187	146	155	164	153
March, 1923.....	147	190	147	155	164	155
June, 1923.....	139	182	147	155	164	152
September, 1923.....	142	183	147	155	164	153
December, 1923.....	146	185	146	155	164	154
March, 1924.....	144	181	146	155	164	153
June, 1924.....	133	176	146	155	164	149
September, 1924.....	140	176	147	155	164	151
December, 1924.....	144	175	146	155	164	152

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics, in addition to collecting and compiling wholesale prices, also collects the retail prices of over 80 commodities in some sixty cities in Canada. These are averaged by the Bureau with certain prices received through correspondents of the Labour Department, and are then handed over to the latter for insertion in the "Labour Gazette." The Labour Department also compiles a family budget from this material, together with data on fuel, lighting and rents collected by its own correspondents. The Bureau has made use of this material to obtain the tables which follow; the index numbers which they contain are the result of a special compilation made by the Bureau.

Table 34 shows the prices from 1915 to 1923 of the items which were included in the family budget and the index numbers of groups. The index numbers are weighted with the quantities used by the Department of Labour in computing their monthly family budget. Table 35 gives the group indexes by provinces.

An examination of the tables reveals the course of the budget, consisting of food, fuel, lighting and rents, over the period shown. The Dominion index for 1915 indicates a slight fall from 1914. From that year until 1920 the upward movement proceeds with only an occasional check. Early in 1919 there was a slight fall, but it was quickly succeeded by a steady rise to July, 1920, which was the peak month in retail prices (May, 1920, being the peak month in wholesale prices). The index then stood at 190.8 as compared with 100 in 1913. It fell to 152.8 in July, 1921, then rose slightly for some months, but afterwards began to decline again, reaching 152.4 in December, 1921.

In 1922 the cost of living declined still further, reaching 145.8 in May, but after that month rose again until an index of 148.7 was attained in December. The average for the year was 148.9. The tendency in 1923 was toward slightly higher levels. In March the index was 152.2; by July it had dropped to 146.4; and by December it had risen to 150.4. The average for the year was 149.4.