

15.—Prices of Natural Fuel Gas for Domestic Consumption in Specified Cities in Canada, 1913-1926.

Net Price per 1,000 cu. ft. (exclusive of meter rent or other service charge).

Provinces and Cities.	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
New Brunswick— Moncton.....	.38	.38	.38	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50	.50
Ontario— Brantford.....	.30	.30	.30	.80	.80	.80	.80	.80	.80	.80	.80
Cbatham.....	.25	.25	.25	—	—	—	—	—	—	.45	.50
Hamilton.....	.40	.40	.40	.45	.45	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75	1.00
Niagara Falls.....	.40	.40	.40	.65	1.07*	1.11*	1.11*	1.11*	1.11*	.65	.65
St. Catharines.....	.70	.70	.70	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75	.75
Welland.....	.28	.28	.38	.40	.50	.50	.70	.65	.65	1.00	1.00
Windsor.....	.30	.30	.30	.30	.30	.40	.50	.50	.50	.55	.55
Sarnia.....	.30	—	—	.30	.40	.40	.50	.50	.50	.80	.80
Woodstock.....	.35	.35	.45	.40	.40	.75	.75	.75	.75	.80	.80
Medicine Hat.....	.135	.13	.13	.20	.25	.25	.25	.25	.225	.225	.238
Calgary.....	.30	.35	.35	.35	.35	.35	.48	.48	.48	.48	.43

*Range of prices for both natural and manufactured gas.

3.—Index Numbers of Domestic Electric Light Rates.¹

The index numbers in Table 16 are based on charges for domestic lighting and for electricity used for operating electric appliances, such as irons, toasters, percolators, grills, heaters, vacuum cleaners, stoves, etc., when such electricity is sold at the same rate as the lighting current. Since a very large proportion of the electricity used domestically for other than lighting purposes is charged at the same rate and on the same basis as that for lighting, the resulting index numbers are sufficiently representative to show the trend of rates for electricity used for general domestic purposes. The index numbers, however, do not indicate the trend of electricity prices as a whole, because the data on which they are based do not include the prices paid for power and commercial lighting. In most large stations the consumption of electric energy for power purposes is by far the greater part of the total output and current is sold for power purposes at relatively much lower rates than lighting current. It is often the large consumption for power purposes which makes possible the relatively low rate charged for lighting current.

The method of computing the index numbers was as follows:—in the first place monthly bills were computed for each municipality for the years 1913, 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926; the 1913 bill in each case was then used as a base and represented by 100; the amounts of the bills for 1923, 1924, 1925 and 1926 were divided by the amount of the 1913 bill and multiplied by 100, the result being the respective index numbers for these years. A weighted index number was then constructed for each province and for the Dominion, by weighting each municipal index number with the number of customers in the municipality concerned. The result is to give price changes in large cities where the greater part of the electricity is consumed an influence in the calculation of the index in proportion to their importance. Further details are given on pp. 160-161 of the Bureau's Prices Report for 1926.

¹ Computed by the Bureau's Transportation Branch in collaboration with the Prices Division.