

Section 3.—Cost of Living of Wage Earners.

An index number of the cost of living in working men's families has been computed by the Department of Labour since 1913, and is published monthly in the *Labour Gazette*. This index is specifically designed for the purpose of measuring the trends of the cost of living for certain wage-earning classes with a somewhat lower standard of living than that which is measured by the Bureau of Statistics index number of retail prices, shown on page 780 of the present volume. This wage-earner's index number is used extensively in the fixation of "fair wages" on Government contracts and in the settlement of industrial disputes. An abridgement of this index is presented in Table 6.

6.—Changes in the Cost of Living in Canada from 1913 to 1928¹.

(Average prices in 1913=100).

Months and Years.	Food.	Fuel and Light.	Rent.	Clothing.	Sundries.	All items.
Dec. 1914.	108	98	97	103	100	103
Dec. 1915.	111	95	94	115	110	107
Dec. 1916.	138	109	95	136	122	124
Dec. 1917.	167	125	102	158	134	143
Dec. 1918.	186	146	111	185	151	162
Dec. 1919.	201	148	122	210	164	176
Mar. 1920.	218	157	124	251	166	191
June 1920.	231	168	137	251	169	200
Sept. 1920.	217	189	138	232	171	194
Dec. 1920.	202	200	142	332	173	190
Mar. 1921.	180	191	142	183	173	175
June 1921.	152	179	149	193	173	165
Sept. 1921.	161	174	149	177	173	165
Dec. 1921.	160	172	150	177	173	161
Mar. 1922.	144	169	151	165	173	157
June 1922.	139	167	154	165	174	156
Sept. 1922.	240	179	155	162	174	167
Dec. 1922.	142	177	165	162	174	157
Mar. 1923.	147	178	156	163	173	159
June 1923.	139	169	158	163	173	153
Sept. 1923.	142	171	158	164	172	157
Dec. 1923.	146	172	158	164	171	159
Mar. 1924.	144	168	158	160	171	157
June 1924.	134	153	158	160	170	153
Sept. 1924.	140	163	158	159	169	154
Dec. 1924.	144	162	158	159	169	156
Mar. 1925.	146	162	158	160	168	156
June 1925.	142	159	158	160	168	155
Sept. 1925.	147	160	158	159	167	156
Dec. 1925.	157	166	158	159	166	160
Mar. 1926.	156	166	158	157	166	159
June 1926.	151	162	156	157	166	157
Sept. 1926.	149	160	156	157	166	156
Dec. 1926.	152	162	156	157	166	157
Jan. 1927.	165	161	156	157	166	158
Feb. 1927.	153	161	156	157	166	157
Mar. 1927.	151	161	156	157	166	157
April 1927.	147	160	156	154	166	155
May 1927.	147	159	156	154	166	155
June 1927.	148	158	156	154	166	155
July 1927.	149	158	156	154	166	155
Aug. 1927.	149	158	156	154	166	155
Sept. 1927.	148	158	156	155	166	155
Oct. 1927.	150	158	156	155	166	156
Nov. 1927.	151	158	156	155	166	156
Dec. 1927.	152	158	156	155	166	157
Jan. 1928.	162	159	156	155	166	157
Feb. 1928.	150	159	156	155	166	156
Mar. 1928.	149	159	156	155	166	156
April 1928.	148	159	156	157	166	156
May 1928.	147	158	157 ²	157	166	155
June 1928.	146	158	157 ²	157	166	155
July 1928.	147	157	157 ²	157	166	155
Aug. 1928.	151	157	157 ²	157	166	157
Sept. 1928.	152	157	157 ²	157	166	157
Oct. 1928.	154	157	157 ²	157	166	158 ²
Nov. 1928.	154	157	157 ²	157	166	158 ²
Dec. 1928.	154	157	157	157	166	158

¹The figures for "all items" were calculated by giving the following weights to each group: Food 35 p.c.; Fuel 8 p.c.; Rent 18 p.c.; Clothing 18 p.c. and Sundries 20 p.c.

²Revised.