

13.—Weighted Index Numbers of Seventeen Mining Stocks, 1928-1929.

(1926=100.)

Years and Months.	Gold.	Gold-Copper.	Silver and Miscellaneous.	Total Index.
No. of Stocks.	11	2	4	17
1928.				
January.....	132.5	144.2	122.4	134.0
February.....	121.0	125.8	105.5	121.4
March.....	121.7	123.7	103.1	121.5
April.....	117.5	110.6	97.0	115.6
May.....	115.7	136.9	95.2	118.1
June.....	113.1	197.7	90.1	125.6
July.....	101.7	293.0	84.8	131.9
August.....	92.0	291.2	78.4	123.6
September.....	91.6	283.6	77.2	121.9
October.....	84.3	268.3	66.4	113.0
November.....	82.0	300.8	68.6	116.5
December.....	76.8	315.0	72.2	115.1
1929.				
January.....	85.4	334.7	80.0	125.7
February.....	84.4	323.6	85.3	123.7
March.....	84.7	301.4	82.5	120.3
April.....	82.9	267.2	75.4	112.7
May.....	77.4	272.4	72.7	108.9
June.....	72.1	267.5	69.8	103.9
July.....	73.2	298.2	69.4	109.6
August.....	74.1	325.9	70.5	114.8
September.....	63.6	317.0	65.3	104.8
October.....	59.3	247.8	59.8	90.1
November.....	54.2	185.0	55.0	75.7
December.....	54.3	178.1	51.3	74.5

Section 4.—Prices of Services.

A study of the prices of services sheds considerable light on the cost of living, as such services are a considerable item in the average family budget. Information with regard to the trend of street car fares, of rates for manufactured and natural fuel gas, of domestic electric light rates and of telephone charges was published at pages 801 to 804 of the 1927-28 Year Book. Later information shows that the prices of manufactured fuel gas have shown a downward tendency, the Dominion index number for 1928 being 98.2, as compared with 100.0 in 1926. The index number of the price of natural fuel gas also declined from 100.0 in 1926 to 92.0 in 1928. On the other hand, telephone rates have shown a distinct increase, the Dominion index number for domestic telephone rates having risen from 100.0 in 1926 to 107.2 in 1928. Again, the business telephone rate has risen from 100 in 1926 to 118.3 in 1928. Additional information and details by provinces will be found at pages 254-265 of the Bureau of Statistics' Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-1928.

Hospital Charges.—In view of discussions of the increased cost entailed by illness and hospital treatment, a special investigation on hospital charges has recently been made and the results are given as Dominion averages in the following table. In general, this shows that hospital charges have increased approximately 90 p.c. since 1913, except for operating room charges, which have increased only about 60 p.c. At the same time, the cost of maintaining patients in hospitals has increased by over 100 p.c. Since the general cost of living in Canada has increased only from