

On the other hand, telephone rates have shown a distinct increase, the Dominion index number of domestic telephone rates having risen from 100.0 in 1926 to 107.2 in 1931. Again, the business telephone rate has risen from 100.0 in 1926 to 118.2 in 1931. Additional information and details by provinces will be found on pp. 192-201 of the Bureau of Statistics' Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-30.

**Hospital Charges.**—In view of discussions of the increased cost entailed by illness and hospital treatment, special investigations on hospital charges are now made annually and the results are given as Dominion averages in the following table. In general, this shows that hospital charges have increased over 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 about 111 p.c. Since the general cost of living in Canada had increased only from 50 to 60 p.c. prior to recent declines, it may be inferred that patients in hospitals have an improved standard of living and of comfort as compared with the conditions before the War.

The detailed results of this investigation, including the statistics by provinces, are to be found on pp. 203-206 of the Bureau of Statistics' Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-29.

#### 14.—Average Daily Hospital Charges in Canada and Index Numbers thereof, 1913 and 1917-31.

(1913=100 for Index Numbers.)

Item.	1913.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Public ward..... \$	0.99	1.19	1.32	1.47	1.54	1.67	1.71
Index number.....	100.0	119.4	134.8	149.7	156.0	170.5	176.6
Semi-private rooms..... \$	1.57	1.79	2.03	2.27	2.44	2.63	2.69
Index number.....	100.0	114.7	130.9	145.8	156.3	168.6	173.1
Private rooms..... \$	2.68	3.00	3.23	3.68	4.05	4.45	4.49
Index number.....	100.0	111.8	120.8	138.2	151.4	167.4	169.1
Operating room..... \$	5.16	5.53	5.94	6.71	7.00	7.15	7.24
Index number.....	100.0	107.4	115.4	130.8	137.0	140.1	141.8
Cost of maintenance per head..... \$	1.68	2.14	2.47	2.72	3.08	3.22	3.12
Index number.....	100.0	128.8	148.8	163.7	187.2	195.6	189.7

  

Item.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
Public ward..... \$	1.73	1.77	1.78	1.83	1.86	1.96	2.03	2.04	2.03
Index number.....	180.9	182.8	184.4	184.4	186.1	197.9	203.9	204.4	204.1
Semi-private rooms..... \$	2.73	2.74	2.84	2.82	2.83	2.85	2.87	2.89	2.89
Index number.....	175.6	176.1	182.2	185.2	186.3	187.8	189.1	190.4	190.2
Private rooms..... \$	4.52	4.58	4.92	5.07	5.14	5.25	5.23	5.24	5.23
Index number.....	170.3	172.3	185.9	188.5	191.1	195.3	194.5	194.9	194.5
Operating room..... \$	7.64	7.87	7.97	8.17	8.31	8.36	8.37	8.36	8.33
Index number.....	148.9	153.0	155.1	159.7	159.1	160.1	160.3	160.1	159.7
Cost of maintenance per head..... \$	3.17	3.25	3.26	3.48	3.45	3.49	3.62	3.63	3.58
Index number.....	192.5	197.1	198.3	201.9	199.7	202.3	210.4	211.2	207.8

### Section 5.—Index Numbers of Interest Rates.

Few economic statistics are of more significance than the net rates of interest paid on absolutely the safest securities, such as government bonds maturing on a fixed and definite date. Other interest rates naturally grade upward from the rates which the safest of possible borrowers has to pay, and from the fluctuations of that price an idea may be obtained as to the relation between the supply of, and the demand for, funds for investment.