

4.—Values of Building Permits Issued by 35 Cities in the calendar years 1910-34 and Index Numbers of the Construction Industries.

Year.	Value.	Average Index Numbers of—		
		Wholesale Prices of Building Materials.	Wages in the Building Trades.	Employment as Reported by Employers in the Construction Industries.
	\$	(1913=100.)		(1926=100.)
1910.....	100,357,546	-	86.9	-
1911.....	138,170,390	-	90.2	-
1912.....	185,233,449	-	96.0	-
1913.....	153,662,842	100.0	100.0	-
1914.....	96,780,981	93.8	100.8	-
1915.....	33,566,749	90.3	101.5	-
1916.....	39,724,466	103.8	102.4	-
1917.....	33,936,426	130.7	109.9	-
1918.....	36,838,270	150.5	125.9	-
1919.....	77,113,413	175.0	148.2	-
1920.....	100,679,839	214.9	180.9	-
1921.....	94,508,164	183.2	170.5	71.1
1922.....	122,655,581	162.2	162.5	76.7
1923.....	111,174,325	167.0	166.4	80.9
1924.....	105,070,284	159.1	169.1	80.3
1925.....	101,021,798	153.5	170.4	84.9
1926.....	131,048,721	149.2	172.1	100.0
1927.....	154,904,047	143.4	179.3	109.0
1928.....	187,269,237	145.3	185.6	118.8
1929.....	211,228,814	147.7	197.5	129.7
1930.....	151,324,214	135.5	203.2	129.8
1931.....	101,647,955	122.2	195.7	131.4
1932.....	38,370,313	115.2	178.2	86.0
1933.....	19,883,793	116.8	158.0	74.6
1934.....	24,696,180	123.1	154.8	109.3

The index numbers of wages and wholesale prices of materials in Table 4 show the fluctuations in building costs over the period 1910-34. During 1934 the wages index declined by 2 p.c. as compared with 1933, but there was a moderate increase in the index of wholesale costs of building materials. As already stated on p. 514, the general decline in the cost of building in the past few years has probably been much more than is indicated by these index numbers.

The increase in the volume of employment afforded in the construction industries during 1934, as compared with 1932 and 1933, is mainly due to the important program of public works undertaken as an unemployment relief measure, although there was also greater activity in general building work, as reflected in the higher value of contracts awarded and of building permits issued.