

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 pp. 869-873 of the present volume. The former wage-earners index is used extensively in negotiations as to wage rates and in the settlement of industrial disputes. An abridgment of this index is presented in Table 4.

4.—Changes in the Cost of Living in Canada from 1914 to 1934.¹

(Average prices in 1913=100.)

Month and Year.	Food.	Fuel and Light.	Rent.	Clothing.	Sundries.	All Items.
Dec. 1914.....	108	98	97	103	100	103
Dec. 1915.....	111	96	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
Dec. 1920.....	202	200	142	232	173	190
Dec. 1921.....	150	172	150	177	173	161
Dec. 1922.....	142	177	155	162	174	157
Dec. 1923.....	146	172	158	164	171	159
Dec. 1924.....	144	162	158	159	169	156
Dec. 1925.....	157	166	158	159	166	160
Dec. 1926.....	152	162	156	157	166	157
Dec. 1927.....	152	158	156	155	166	157
Dec. 1928.....	154	157	157	157	166	158
Dec. 1929.....	161	157	158	156	166	160
Dec. 1930.....	138	156	160	148	165	151
Dec. 1931.....	107	152	158	127	163	135
Dec. 1932.....	96	145	141	114	161	125
Mar. 1933.....	91	145	141	112	160	122
June 1933.....	93	142	131	107	160	120
Sept. 1933.....	99	141	131	113	156	122
Dec. 1933.....	100	142	129	113	157	123
Jan. 1934.....	102	142	129	113	157	123
Feb. 1934.....	104	142	129	113	157	124
Mar. 1934.....	109	143	129	113	156	126
April 1934.....	106	143	129	113	156	125
May 1934.....	103	142	128	113	156	123
June 1934.....	101	141	128	113	156	122
July 1934.....	101	141	128	113	155	122
Aug. 1934.....	102	141	128	113	155	123
Sept. 1934.....	102	142	128	117	155	123
Oct. 1934.....	103	142	128	117	155	124
Nov. 1934.....	103	143	129	117	154	124
Dec. 1934.....	103	144	129	115	154	123

¹ The figures for "all items" were calculated by giving the following weights to each group: Food 35 p.c.; Fuel 8 p.c.; Rent 18½ p.c.; Clothing 18½ p.c.; and Sundries 20 p.c.

Section 4.—Earnings in the Census Year, 1931.

The total number of wage earners in Canada reporting earnings for the census year ended June 1, 1931, was 2,477,038 or 96.53 p.c. of all wage-earners and the total amount of their earnings was \$2,102,877,400. Of this number 1,948,500 were males and their earnings amounted to \$1,806,633,400 or 85.91 p.c. of the total earnings. Females reporting earnings numbered 528,538 and the total amount of their earnings was \$296,244,000 or 14.09 p.c. of total earnings. The total weeks worked by wage-earners reporting earnings was 104,947,274. The number of weeks worked by the males was 80,322,382 or 76.54 p.c. of the total for both sexes, and the total for the females was 24,624,892 weeks or 23.46 p.c. of the grand total. A table showing earnings and weeks worked by wage-earners in the various industrial groups appeared at pp. 798-799 of the 1933 Year Book.