

In the Bureau's index, 1926 is taken as the base year and is represented by 100 to bring it into conformity with other series of index numbers shown in this chapter. A description of the system of weighting of individual items, sub-groups and groups, and of the method of construction of this index number was given at pp. 812-818 of the 1931 Year Book. The Labour Department uses 1913 as 100 for both cost of living and wages index numbers. As will be seen from Table 7, the general cost of living index moved up from 77.7 in 1933 to 78.9 in 1934, following a steady decline from 1929 to 1933. Higher prices for foods and clothing were chiefly responsible for the advance. Rents declined from 85.1 to 80.1. The monthly index for living costs fluctuated during 1934 between 78.2 and 79.9, the December figure standing at 79.0. January and December group indexes were as follows: foods 67.7 and 69.3; fuel 87.4 and 88.4; rent 80.4 and 80.3; clothing 69.2 and 71.0; sundries 92.7 and 92.6.

### 7.—Index Numbers of Retail Prices, Rents and Costs of Services, 1913-34.

(1926=100.)

Year.	Food Index.	Fuel Index.	Rent Index.	Clothing Index.	Sundries Index.	Total Index.
1913.....	66.2	65.8	64.1	63.3	66.2	65.4
1914.....	68.9	64.5	62.2	63.9	66.2	66.0
1915.....	69.5	63.2	60.3	69.6	66.9	67.3
1916.....	77.5	64.5	60.9	79.7	70.2	72.5
1917.....	100.0	71.7	65.4	93.7	76.8	85.6
1918.....	114.6	78.9	69.2	109.5	86.1	97.4
1919.....	122.5	86.2	75.6	125.9	95.4	107.2
1920.....	141.1	102.6	86.5	153.2	104.0	124.2
1921.....	107.9	109.2	94.2	124.7	106.0	109.2
1922.....	91.4	104.6	98.1	105.7	106.0	100.0
1923.....	92.1	104.6	100.6	104.4	105.3	100.0
1924.....	90.7	102.0	101.3	101.9	103.3	98.0
1925.....	94.7	100.0	101.3	101.9	101.3	99.3
1926.....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1927.....	98.0	97.9	98.8	97.5	99.1	98.4
1928.....	98.6	96.9	101.2	97.4	98.8	98.9
1929.....	101.0	96.4	103.3	96.9	99.0	99.9
1930.....	98.6	95.7	105.9	93.9	99.4	99.2
1931.....	77.3	94.2	103.0	82.2	97.4	89.6
1932.....	64.3	91.4 <sup>2</sup>	94.7	72.8	94.6 <sup>2</sup>	81.4 <sup>2</sup>
1933.....	63.7	87.7	85.1	67.9	92.7	77.7
1934 <sup>1</sup> .....	69.4	87.8	80.1	70.5	92.7	78.9

<sup>1</sup>Subject to revision. <sup>2</sup>Revised since the publication of the 1933 Year Book.