

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. 797-801 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 1936.

(Average prices in 1913=100.)

Month and Year.	Food.	Fuel and Light.	Rent.	Clothing.	Sundries.	All Items. ¹
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
Dec. 1933.....	100	142	129	113	157	123
Dec. 1934.....	103	144	129	115	154	123
Jan. 1935.....	102	144	129	115	155	123
Feb. 1935.....	103	144	129	115	155	124
Mar. 1935.....	104	143	129	113	155	124
April 1935.....	102	143	129	113	155	123
May 1935.....	102	141	131	113	155	123
June 1935.....	103	139	131	113	154	123
July 1935.....	103	139	131	113	154	123
Aug. 1935.....	105	139	131	113	154	124
Sept. 1935.....	105	140	131	113	154	124
Oct. 1935.....	108	140	132	115	154	126
Nov. 1935.....	109	141	132	115	154	126
Dec. 1935.....	111	141	132	115	154	127
Jan. 1936.....	111	142	132	115	154	127
Feb. 1936.....	110	142	132	114	154	126
Mar. 1936.....	111	142	132	114	154	126
April 1936.....	107	142	132	114	154	125
May 1936.....	106	141	133	114	154	125
June 1936.....	106	140	133	114	154	125
July 1936.....	109	140	132	114	154	126
Aug. 1936.....	111	139	133	114	154	127
Sept. 1936.....	113	140	133	114	153	127
Oct. 1936.....	112	140	135	114	153	127
Nov. 1936.....	113	141	135	114	154	128
Dec. 1936.....	114	142	135	115	154	128

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.; 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 2,476,414 or 96.35 p.c. of all wage-earners and the total amount of their earnings was \$2,100,552,700. Of this number 1,947,957 were males and their earnings amounted to \$1,804,942,500 or 85.93 p.c. of the total