

13.—Weighted Index Numbers of Prices of Mining Stocks (on the 1926 Base), by Months, January, 1936, to April, 1938.

Year and Month.	Gold.	Base Metal.	Total.	Year and Month.	Gold.	Base Metal.	Total.
1936.				1937—con.			
January.....	124·8	214·8	142·4	March.....	133·0	340·5	172·6
February.....	130·2	230·4	149·8	April.....	120·0	288·0	154·1
March.....	122·7	232·2	144·2	May.....	111·3	269·3	142·1
April.....	122·8	241·1	145·8	June.....	105·9	255·0	134·7
May.....	128·9	239·2	150·3	July.....	109·2	278·9	141·8
June.....	134·4	246·0	156·1	August.....	112·5	287·4	146·2
July.....	134·4	254·1	157·6	September.....	103·5	224·5	127·6
August.....	132·6	264·0	158·1	October.....	104·3	192·4	121·6
September.....	131·2	267·1	157·6	November.....	113·8	192·4	129·4
October.....	126·4	289·4	158·2	December.....	115·5	213·1	134·3
November.....	131·8	312·5	167·0	1938.			
December.....	131·3	317·8	167·7	January.....	121·0	241·7	144·1
1937.				February.....	124·3	246·9	147·7
January.....	137·5	329·6	174·6	March.....	111·4	225·3	134·9
February.....	139·4	344·8	177·2	April.....	110·5	229·5	133·9

Section 4.—Prices of Services.

A study of the prices of services sheds considerable light on the cost of living, as such services are a considerable item in the average family budget. Information with regard to the trend of street-car fares, of rates for manufactured and natural fuel-gas, of domestic electric-light rates and of telephone charges was published at pp. 801-804 of the 1927-28 Year Book. Later information shows that the prices of manufactured fuel-gas have shown a downward tendency, the Dominion index number for 1936 being 93·0, as compared with 100·0 in 1926. The index number of the price of natural fuel-gas also declined from 100·0 in 1926 to 92·5 in 1930, rose again to 94·3 in 1932, then declined to 92·6 in 1936.

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 107·4 for 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1936. Again, the business telephone rate has risen from 100·0 in 1926 to 118·5 for 1933, 1934, 1935, and 1936.

Additional information and details by provinces regarding the prices of services will be found at pp. 119-130 of the Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-36, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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 in 1930 were 94 p.c. above the 1913 level. From 1930 to 1935 rates gradually declined to less than 89 p.c. above those in 1913, then rose slightly in 1936. Operating room charges have not increased at the same rate as room charges, being only 54 p.c. above those in 1913, while the latter averaged almost 90 p.c. higher. The cost of maintaining patients in hospitals declined more than 11 p.c. between 1930 and 1936.

The detailed results of this investigation, including the statistics by provinces, are to be found at pp. 120-124 of the Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-36, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.