

9.—Index Numbers of Retail Prices, Rents, and Costs of Services (on the 1926 Base), 1926-38 and by Months, 1937, 1938, and January-April, 1939—concluded.

Year and Month.	Food Index.	Fuel Index.	Rent Index.	Clothing Index.	Sundries Index.	Total Index
<b>1937.</b>						
January.....	75.2	85.8	84.9	71.6	92.8	81.8
February.....	75.6	85.8	84.9	71.6	92.9	81.9
March.....	75.7	85.8	84.9	72.6	93.1	82.2
April.....	76.3	85.8	84.9	72.6	93.1	82.4
May.....	76.6	85.3	87.3	72.6	93.2	82.9
June.....	76.4	83.4	87.3	72.9	93.5	82.9
July.....	77.2	83.2	87.3	72.9	93.5	83.1
August.....	79.1	83.9	87.3	72.9	93.6	83.7
September.....	78.3	83.9	87.3	73.3	93.7	83.6
October.....	78.9	84.6	89.0	73.3	93.7	84.2
November.....	78.8	85.1	89.0	73.3	93.7	84.2
December.....	79.1	85.5	89.0	73.3	93.7	84.3
<b>1937 Averages.....</b>	<b>77.2</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>86.9</b>	<b>72.7</b>	<b>93.4</b>	<b>83.1</b>
<b>1938.<sup>1</sup></b>						
January.....	78.4	85.6	89.0	73.3	93.7	84.0
February.....	77.9	85.4	89.0	73.3	93.7	83.9
March.....	78.6	85.7	89.0	73.7	93.7	84.2
April.....	78.8	85.7	89.0	73.7	93.7	84.2
May.....	77.7	85.3	90.3	73.7	93.7	84.1
June.....	78.1	84.5	90.3	73.0	93.6	84.0
July.....	78.4	84.4	90.3	73.0	93.6	84.1
August.....	80.7	84.6	90.3	73.0	93.6	84.8
September.....	77.6	84.8	90.3	73.4	93.6	84.0
October.....	77.1	85.1	90.1	73.4	93.6	83.8
November.....	76.6	85.5	90.1	73.4	93.6	83.7
December.....	76.2	85.7	90.1	72.8	93.6	83.5
<b>1938 Averages.....</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>85.2</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>93.6</b>	<b>84.6</b>
<b>1939.<sup>1</sup></b>						
January.....	75.2	85.7	90.1	72.8	93.5	83.1
February.....	74.5	85.5	90.1	72.8	93.5	82.9
March.....	74.5	85.4	90.1	72.8	93.4	82.9
April.....	74.5	85.2	90.1	72.8	93.5	82.9

<sup>1</sup> Subject to revision.

The tables formerly published in the Year Book, which showed the prices of a family budget of staple foods, fuel, rent, etc., and annual index numbers of the cost of living, on the 1913 base, by provinces, have been omitted from this edition, due to pressure upon Year Book space. Annual figures on this base will be found in the Bureau's report "Prices and Price Indexes", while monthly ones are published in the *Labour Gazette*, and, in part, in the monthly bulletin on prices and price indexes.

It will be noticed that the general index described above takes within its orbit costs of services as well as retail prices of commodities. Services are in fact a very considerable item in the cost of living of the average family, and special studies have been made from time to time by the Bureau of Statistics covering the most important services which affect the family budget.

Thus, information with regard to street-car fares, rates for manufactured and natural fuel gas for domestic consumption (which is mostly a service charge), and domestic electric light and telephone charges, was published at pp. 801-804 of the 1927-28 Year Book. Detailed information for intervening years regarding such services will be found at pp. 114-125 of the Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-37, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

**Prices of Services.**—This later information indicates that the prices of manufactured fuel gas, after showing a downward tendency between 1926 and 1936, reversed direction and recorded a moderate rise, the Dominion index number for