

1937 being 94.5, as compared with 93.6 in 1936. The index number of the price of natural fuel gas declined from 100.0 in 1926 to 92.5 in 1930, rose again to 94.3 in 1932, then declined to 92.3 in 1936 and 1937. 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 1933-37. Again, the business telephone rate has risen from 100.0 in 1926 to 118.5 for 1933-37.

Hospital Charges.—Special investigations on hospital charges are now made annually by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics 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 88 p.c. above those in 1913, then rose slightly in 1936 and 1937. Operating room charges have not increased at the same rate as room charges, being approximately 54 p.c. above those in 1913, while the latter averaged more than 90 p.c. higher. The cost of maintaining patients in hospitals declined more than 11 p.c. between 1930 and 1934, then gradually rose by almost 4 p.c. during the next three years.

The detailed results of this investigation, including the statistics by provinces, are given at pp. 115-119 of the Annual Report on Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-37, issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

16.—Average Daily Hospital Charges in Canada and Index Numbers Thereof (on the 1913 Base), 1913 and 1930-37.

NOTE.—Statistics for 1922-29 are given at p. 328 of the 1938 Year Book.

Item.	1913.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Public wards.....\$	0.99	2.04	2.03	2.03	1.99	1.98	1.98	1.99	2.04
Index numbers.....	100.0	204.5	204.1	204.1	200.6	199.1	199.5	200.1	204.8
Semi-private rooms.....\$	1.57	2.89	2.89	2.85	2.82	2.80	2.79	2.79	2.81
Index numbers.....	100.0	190.4	190.2	188.0	185.8	184.8	183.7	183.9	185.0
Private rooms.....\$	2.68	5.24	5.23	5.11	5.06	5.06	5.01	5.01	5.03
Index numbers.....	100.0	194.9	194.5	190.2	188.1	187.2	186.4	186.4	187.0
Operating room.....\$	5.16	8.36	8.33	8.23	8.14	8.10	8.09	8.04	8.03
Index numbers.....	100.0	160.1	159.7	157.6	156.1	155.1	155.0	154.0	153.9
Costs of maintenance per head.....\$	1.68	3.63	3.58	3.44	3.25	3.22	3.23	3.23	3.33
Index numbers.....	100.0	211.2	207.8	199.9	189.0	187.2	188.0	188.2	193.8

Subsection 2.—The Nutrition and Family Living Expenditures Investigation.*

To examine possibilities for meeting the need for definite information in respect to nutrition and family living expenditures, especially in urban centres, an inter-departmental committee was organized in 1937. On this committee were representatives from the Bureau of Statistics, the Department of Pensions and National Health, the Department of Labour, and the National Research Council. Following recommendations by this committee, Parliament made a vote to the Bureau of Statistics for the purpose in 1938.

At June 15, 1939, the Bureau of Statistics had completed a survey of family living expenditures in the 12 cities of Charlottetown, Saint John, Halifax, Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, London, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, and Vancouver.

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