

9.—Index Numbers of Retail Prices, Rents, and Costs of Services, 1929-39, and by Months, 1938, 1939, and January-April, 1940—concluded.

Year and Month.	Food Index.	Fuel Index.	Rent Index.	Clothing Index.	Sundries Index.	Total Index.
<b>1938.</b>						
January.....	78.4	85.5	89.0	73.3	94.1	84.1
February.....	77.9	85.3	89.0	73.3	94.1	83.9
March.....	78.6	85.7	89.0	73.7	94.1	84.3
April.....	78.8	85.6	89.0	73.7	94.1	84.3
May.....	77.7	85.3	90.3	73.7	94.1	84.2
June.....	78.1	84.5	90.3	73.0	94.0	84.1
July.....	78.4	84.3	90.3	73.0	94.0	84.2
August.....	80.7	84.6	90.3	73.0	94.0	84.9
September.....	77.6	84.7	90.3	73.4	94.0	84.1
October.....	77.1	85.1	90.1	73.4	93.9	83.9
November.....	76.6	85.5	90.1	73.4	94.2	83.8
December.....	76.2	85.6	90.1	72.8	94.2	83.6
<b>Averages, 1938.....</b>	<b>78.0</b>	<b>85.1</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>73.3</b>	<b>94.1</b>	<b>84.1</b>
<b>1939.<sup>1</sup></b>						
January.....	75.2	85.7	90.1	72.8	94.2	83.3
February.....	74.5	85.4	90.1	72.8	94.2	83.1
March.....	74.5	85.3	90.1	72.8	94.1	83.1
April.....	74.5	85.1	90.1	72.8	94.2	83.1
May.....	74.6	84.5	90.0	72.8	94.3	83.1
June.....	74.3	84.3	90.0	72.6	94.1	82.9
July.....	75.1	83.9	90.0	72.6	94.1	83.1
August.....	74.9	83.7	90.0	72.6	94.1	83.0
September.....	74.2	83.8	90.0	73.1	94.1	82.9
October.....	79.8	85.1	89.9	73.1	94.4	84.7
November.....	80.5	86.1	89.9	73.1	94.5	85.0
December.....	79.3	86.1	89.9	75.7	95.2	85.3
<b>Averages, 1939.....</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>84.9</b>	<b>90.0</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>83.6</b>
<b>1940.<sup>1</sup></b>						
January.....	78.6	86.4	89.9	75.7	95.2	85.1
February.....	78.6	86.8	89.9	75.7	95.2	85.1
March.....	78.5	86.8	89.9	78.3	95.5	85.7
April.....	78.3	86.8	89.9	78.3	95.5	85.6

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

**Prices of Services.**—Services are a very considerable item in the cost of living of the average family, and special studies are made annually by the Bureau of Statistics covering the most important services that affect the family budget. 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, is published at pp. 801-804 of the 1927-28 Year Book. Detailed information for intervening years regarding such services will be found at pp. 72-83 of the annual report on "Prices and Price Indexes, 1913-38", issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

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 1937 being 94.5, as compared with 93.6 in 1936. A slight decline occurred again in 1938. 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, 1937, and 1938. 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 1933-38. Again, the business telephone rate has risen from 100.0 in 1926 to 119.4 in 1938.

**Hospital Charges.**—Special investigations into hospital charges are made annually by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and the results are given as Dominion averages