

5.—Index Numbers of Domestic Service Rates, 1939-44

(1935-39=100)

Item	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Domestic rates of fuel gas.....	101.9	106.7	104.1	105.1	105.1	105.1
Domestic electric-light rates.....	103.3	103.5	103.0	102.8	97.7	94.4
Domestic telephone rates.....	100.6	101.9	103.3	103.3	103.3	103.3
Street-car fares.....	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.0
Hospital-room rates.....	102.7	102.7	104.3	106.0	111.0	116.0

Section 3.—Index Numbers of Security Prices

Security prices have long been utilized in statistical measurements related to economic phenomena. They are generally sensitive to changing business conditions, although this valuable characteristic is sometimes overshadowed by the fact that their movements may be influenced greatly by speculative interest very remotely associated with underlying economic conditions. Thus in 1928 and 1929, common-stock prices advanced far beyond levels indicated by business profits and prospects. Security-price trends have also been at variance with other business indexes during the War of 1914-18 and the present war.

The behaviour of Canadian common-stock prices since 1914 has been quite different from that of commodity prices. During the War of 1914-18 there was no advance in security markets paralleling the pronounced inflation in commodity values. Between 1926 and 1929, however, when commodity prices were declining gradually, common stocks more than doubled in price. Both sets of prices recorded sharp declines between 1929 and 1933, and both showed recovery until 1937. During the present war, common-stock prices moved predominantly downward until the middle of 1942.

Investors Index Numbers of Common Stocks, 1944.—Common-stock prices in 1944 record an unsteady recovery following the very sharp decline in the latter half of 1943. The Investors December, 1944, index of 86.6 was slightly below the mid-summer peak of 87.5 for July, but well above the December, 1943, index of 80.5. Gains in utilities were better maintained than those for industrials. Bank stocks showed practically no reaction from the mid-summer peak, and the December index of 88.1 was the highest in 1944.

6.—Investors Index Numbers of Common Stocks, by Months, 1944

(1935-39=100)

Month	Grand Total	Types of Stocks										
		Banks, Total	Industrials									
			Indus- tri- als, Total	Ma- chinery and Equip- ment	Pulp and Paper	Milling	Oils	Tex- tiles and Cloth- ing	Food and Allied Pro- ducts	Bever- ages	Build- ing Ma- terials	Indus- trial Mines
January....	81.5	78.7	76.5	108.7	111.2	94.6	75.0	119.7	88.9	142.3	86.1	65.3
February....	82.0	79.1	76.3	108.7	114.8	96.1	74.0	122.4	93.1	141.4	86.5	64.7
March.....	81.5	79.3	76.1	108.9	116.9	97.6	72.2	121.5	93.8	152.8	88.4	64.5
April.....	79.3	78.4	74.1	106.6	109.0	96.5	70.0	118.3	93.0	149.2	87.3	62.8
May.....	79.9	78.0	74.8	107.0	112.3	96.4	70.4	118.8	92.8	152.1	86.6	64.1
June.....	83.7	78.1	78.9	113.0	118.5	97.3	73.4	122.5	94.6	150.9	93.3	70.2