

Prices of Services.—Service costs comprise approximately 19 p.c. of the family expenditure budget used in compiling the Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index numbers. Trends in rates for some of the more important of these services since 1941 are shown in Table 4.

4.—Index Numbers of Domestic Service Rates, 1941-47

(1935-39=100)

Item	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Domestic rates of fuel gas. . . .	104.1	105.1	105.1	105.1	105.1	105.1	103.6
Domestic electric-light rates.	103.0	102.8	97.7	94.3	90.9	91.6	89.5
Domestic telephone rates.....	103.3	103.3	103.3	103.3	103.3	103.3	103.3
Street-car fares.....	100.1	100.1	100.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.3
Hospital-room rates.....	104.3	106.0	111.0	116.0	124.1	133.2	146.7

Section 2.—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 First and Second World Wars.

Investors Price Index Numbers of Common Stocks, 1947.—After the sharp decline in common-stock prices during the second half of 1946, markets were comparatively steady throughout 1947. A secondary decline in the spring and early summer months failed to develop to serious proportions and market averages later regained positions occupied early in the year. The behaviour of different market groups during 1947 is outlined in Table 5.

5.—Investors Index Numbers of Common Stocks, by Months, 1947

(1935-39=100)

Month	Grand Total	Types of Stocks										
		Banks, Total	Industrials									
			Indus-trials, Total	Ma-chinery and Equip-ment	Pulp and Paper	Milling	Oils	Tex-tiles and Cloth-ing	Food and Allied Prod-ucts	Bever-ages	Build-ing Ma-terials	Indus-trial Mines
January	106.2	133.1	99.2	179.9	253.7	124.9	63.0	182.9	124.0	303.5	142.0	93.3
February	109.4	133.4	102.4	184.9	264.3	125.3	68.6	190.6	129.8	302.5	145.3	93.6
March	106.4	130.6	99.2	180.5	257.6	123.1	65.8	185.9	129.3	291.9	140.2	90.2
April	104.8	130.1	97.7	180.9	242.3	122.8	64.4	180.1	128.6	281.6	136.8	90.3
May	104.4	130.7	97.6	180.3	234.7	120.2	66.9	177.0	127.5	279.5	136.4	88.5
June	105.3	129.2	98.6	177.1	244.5	119.7	67.9	178.0	126.7	289.3	135.8	89.3
July	107.4	129.0	100.6	183.4	261.0	119.3	68.8	179.7	127.3	307.2	136.6	89.7
August	105.5	129.4	98.8	182.1	255.4	117.8	66.6	178.8	126.9	303.1	135.0	88.0
September	104.1	128.6	97.2	178.7	258.6	117.2	64.2	176.2	124.4	304.0	132.9	86.8
October	105.5	126.8	99.0	185.4	275.4	118.1	63.5	180.3	121.7	320.0	133.9	89.5
November	107.3	135.0	101.0	188.0	281.9	119.0	65.1	191.1	121.1	324.0	138.2	91.4
December	106.2	133.6	100.3	190.2	271.4	116.2	65.8	188.6	121.8	321.0	136.1	89.6