



Student worksheet 3: Prices (Group 2)

Fill in your answers, observations and conclusions

Sources	Tasks and questions	Answers, observations and conclusions
<p>Table 4: Index numbers of all commodities by groups, 1890 to 1916, <i>Canada Year Book 1916/1917</i>, page 501.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at the "All Commodities" column at the bottom of the table. Calculate the percentage increase in the general level of prices from 1890 to 1905 and from 1906 to 1916. 2. What do you observe about the rates of increase in the two periods? Speculate on the causes for this change. 3. What was the rate of change from 1890 to 1916? 	
<p>Table 9: Index numbers of a family budget of staple foods, fuel, lighting and rent, in Canada, by provinces, 1920 to 1927, <i>Canada Year Book 1927/1928</i>, page 794.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at the "Grand Total" column for the province in which you live (or another if yours is not listed). Calculate the percentage change in prices between 1920 and 1927. Did prices increase or decrease? Explain why. 	
<p>Table 5: Total number of wage earners and average yearly earnings, census years 1911 and 1921, in cities of 30,000 population or over, <i>Canada Year Book 1927/1928</i>, page 777.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose the city nearest to where you live. Compare the change in wages between 1911 and 1921 for both males and females. Calculate the percentage change for each. What do you observe? 2. Compare these with the statistics of a city in a different province. 	

<p>Table 7: Index numbers of retail prices, rents and costs of services (on the 1926 base), 1913 to 1936, <i>Canada Year Book 1937</i>, page 798.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at the "Total Index" column and describe the changes in the index from 1913 to 1936. 2. By how much did the cost of living rise from 1913 to 1930? 3. By how much did the cost of living decline from 1931 to 1936? 4. What conclusions can you draw from your observations? 	
<p>Table 4: Index numbers of living costs in eight cities of Canada, alternate months, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1945, 1946 and 1947, <i>Canada Year Book 1947</i>, page 930.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine the column for the city nearest you. 2. By how much did the cost of living (prices) increase from June 1940 to June 1945, and from June 1945 to June 1947? Were the rates for the two periods significantly different? If so, why? 	
<p>Table 7: Consumer Price Indexes for regional cities 1950 to 1957 and by month 1956 and 1957, <i>Canada Year Book 1957/1958</i>, page 1082.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In which Canadian city did the cost of living increase the most from 1950 to 1957? The least? 2. From the index numbers for the city nearest you, calculate the percentage change in the costs of living from 1950 to 1957. 	

Table 6: Consumer Price Index numbers, 1939 to 1966, *Canada Year Book 1967*, page 944.

1. By what percentage did prices increase from 1939 to 1966?
2. Are there any years during the period from 1939 to 1966 where prices actually dropped? Can you give an explanation for these drops?
3. Can you identify years where prices took a significant jump? Speculate why.