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## HOSPITAL RATES

and

## MAINTENANCE COSTS

in

CANADA

1913 - 1934

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND COMMERCE  
DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS - CANADA  
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Dominion Statistician:	R. H. Coats, LL.D., F.R.S.C., F.S.S. (Hon.)
Chief, Internal Trade Branch	Herbert Marshall, B.A., F.S.S.
Prices Statistician:	H. F. Greenway, M.A.

RATES AND INDEX NUMBERS OF HOSPITAL CHARGES

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics estimates that hospital rates in 1934 averaged 0.7 per cent lower than in 1933, but 3.7 per cent above the 1926 level, which has been taken as a basis of general comparison. These calculations are based upon returns from 232 hospitals in all parts of Canada. The 0.7 decline in hospital rates during 1934 may be contrasted with an advance in living costs of 1.3 per cent. The general cost of living in Canada for 1934 was 78.7 (1926=100) as compared with 103.7 for hospital charges. In the tables which follow, weighted index numbers and average costs are shown for each province, and for the Dominion as a whole, covering public ward, semi-private ward, and private room rates, operating room fees and maintenance costs per patient per day. Index numbers are related to average costs in 1913 as well as in 1926.

Only very minor changes were apparent in 1934 rate indexes, and these were all downward. The greatest decrease in rates was for public wards, the index for which fell from 109.5 to 108.7 (1926=100), or 0.7 per cent. Private room rates moved down from 99.8 to 99.3, and semi-private room rates from 100.3 to 99.8, a decrease of 0.5 per cent in each case. Operating room charges were 99.0 in 1934 as compared with 99.6 for the previous year, an approximate decline of 0.6 per cent. An index measuring the daily maintenance cost per patient fell from 95.6 to 92.7, which was slightly greater than the average decline in room rates.

Average charges for public wards throughout the Dominion are estimated to have fallen from \$1.99 to \$1.98. The greatest decrease in provincial figures was for Saskatchewan where the rate receded from \$2.24 to \$2.20. Other provinces showing lower rates were Quebec, Ontario, Alberta, and British Columbia. No change was recorded by the Maritimes or by Manitoba.

An average of semi-private room rates changed from \$2.82 in 1933 to \$2.80 in 1934, due to decreases in provincial averages for Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The range of provincial averages was marked by Ontario at \$2.10 and Alberta and British Columbia at \$3.34 each.

Private room rates averaged \$5.03 in 1934 for Canada as against \$5.06 in 1933. The decrease was accounted for by declines in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta. An advance was noted for Saskatchewan, while rates for Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia were unchanged. Provincial averages ranged between \$3.82 for New Brunswick and \$6.06 for Quebec.

An average of operating room charges fell from \$8.14 to \$8.10, owing to decreases made by institutions in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. Rates for the provinces varied from \$6.34 for Alberta to \$9.59 for Quebec.

The average cost of maintenance per patient per day as indicated by the returns received declined from \$3.25 in 1933 to \$3.22 in 1934. In 1913 the figure was \$1.68. Nova Scotia, Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta contributed to the 1934 reduction, while Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and British Columbia showed higher rates. In giving this figure all institutions have been asked to include basic costs such as food, medical supplies, professional care, light, heat, etc., and also supplementary costs including insurance, interest, depreciation, etc. Owing to differing accounting methods these figures cannot be considered strictly comparable as between institutions or even provinces, but it is believed that they measure cost trends accurately.















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