

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Frances Perkins, *Secretary*

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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A. F. Hinrichs, *Acting Commissioner*



Cost of Living in 1941

Prepared by

COST OF LIVING DIVISION

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Letter of Transmittal

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS,
Washington, D. C., May 10, 1942.

The SECRETARY OF LABOR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on the cost of living of wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 1941. This report was prepared in the Cost of Living Division, Faith M. Williams, Chief, and the Retail Price Division, Ethel D. Hoover, Chief, and was under the immediate supervision of Frances R. Rice.

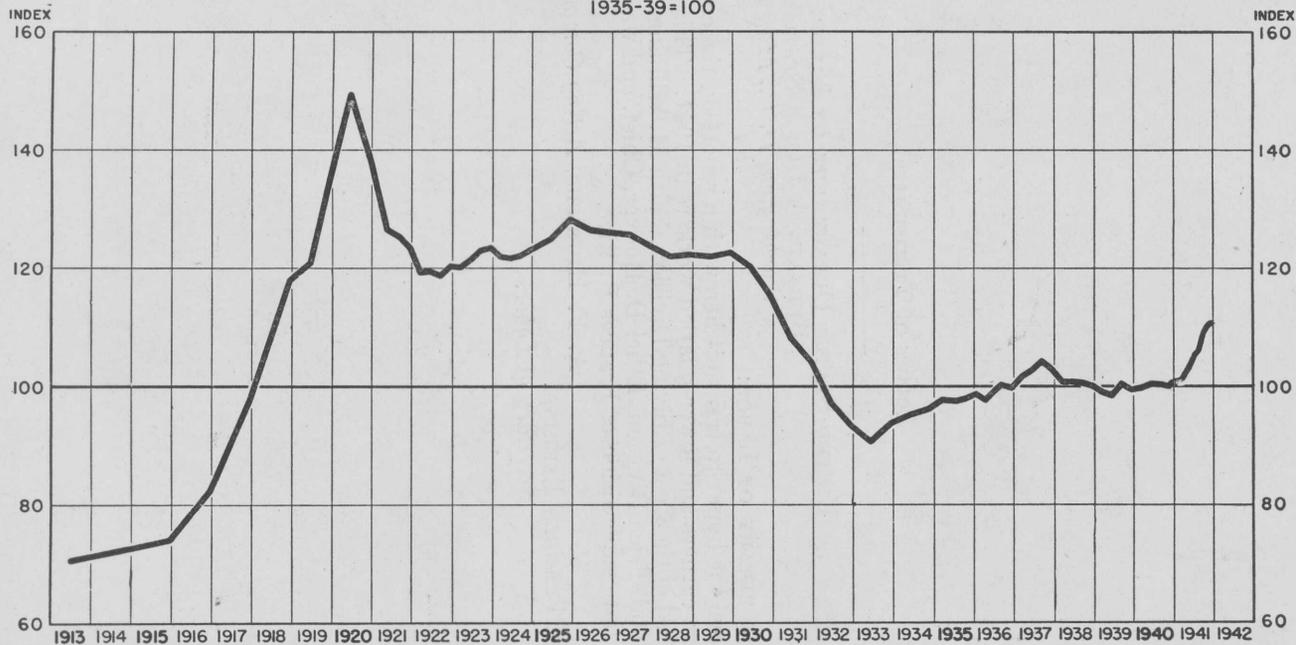
A. F. HINRICHS, *Acting Commissioner.*

HON. FRANCES PERKINS,
Secretary of Labor.

COST OF GOODS PURCHASED BY WAGE EARNERS AND LOWER-SALARIED WORKERS

ALL ITEMS-AVERAGE FOR LARGE CITIES

1935-39=100



Bulletin No. 710 of the

United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

Cost of Living in 1941

Living Costs in Large Cities

Changes in Living Costs in Large Cities Since the Beginning of World War II

Living costs in this country advanced 12 percent from the time war began on the European continent in the fall of 1939 up to mid-December 1941. With the first news of the invasion of Poland, retail prices for many of our foods rose sharply, but by the end of 1939 they had subsided to an average only a fraction higher than the pre-war levels. Until early in 1941, the rise in living costs was relatively small, but since that time it has been rapid, though not as rapid as in the comparable period in World War I. Between August 1939 and December 1941, living costs rose 12 percent, while in the comparable period in the last war, the advance was 14.5 percent.

During the present war, food costs have gone up more than costs for other major groups of family purchases. In December 1941, \$1.21 was required to buy the same amount of food that a dollar would buy in August 1939. The increase in housefurnishings costs comes next. In December 1941, housefurnishings which cost \$1 in August 1939 were \$1.16. The family clothing bill required almost 15 cents more per dollar. Although rentals had increased greatly in areas especially affected by defense activities, the average rental bill for dwellings in which families of city wage earners and clerical workers live showed a smaller rise than other costs. On the average, they had increased less than 4 percent since the fall of 1939.

The effect of higher consumer prices on the spending of moderate-income families varied considerably from city to city. By the end of 1941, living costs in 5 of the 34 large cities surveyed by the Bureau—Norfolk, Jacksonville, Birmingham, Indianapolis, and Buffalo—were higher than in August 1939 by 15 percent or more. Each of these cities have played a large part in the armament program of this country. From all of these cities have come complaints of the scarcity of dwelling units available for rent and a sharp rise in rentals the family must pay.

The higher price levels increased living costs in New York less than in any of the other cities included in the cost-of-living surveys, the rise amounting to less than 10 percent.

Table 1 shows the percentage change in living costs in each of 34 cities since the depression low of June 1933, since the beginning of World War II, and over the year 1941.

TABLE 1.—Percentage change in cost of all goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers, for specified periods, average large cities

City	Percentage change from—		
	June 1933 to Dec. 15, 1941	Aug. 15, 1939, to Dec. 15, 1941	Dec. 15, 1940, to Dec. 15, 1941
Average: 34 large cities.....	+21.7	+12.1	+9.7
New England:			
Boston.....	+16.2	+11.4	+9.2
Manchester.....	(1)	+13.2	+10.4
Portland, Maine.....	+15.5	+11.9	+10.6
Middle Atlantic:			
Buffalo.....	+24.8	+15.0	+11.4
New York.....	+16.0	+9.8	+7.7
Philadelphia.....	+19.3	+11.2	+9.8
Pittsburgh.....	+23.1	+12.6	+9.6
Scranton.....	+16.5	+12.8	+9.0
East North Central:			
Chicago.....	+22.5	+12.1	+9.5
Cincinnati.....	+21.7	+13.4	+10.7
Cleveland.....	+27.2	+13.3	+11.1
Detroit.....	+35.0	+14.4	+11.7
Indianapolis.....	+25.7	+15.6	+11.1
Milwaukee.....	(1)	+12.8	+10.4
West North Central:			
Kansas City.....	+17.4	+10.2	+10.2
Minneapolis.....	+24.8	+11.0	+8.3
St. Louis.....	+21.9	+12.7	+9.5
South Atlantic:			
Atlanta.....	+21.7	+12.9	+10.6
Baltimore.....	+24.1	+13.9	+11.8
Jacksonville.....	+27.3	+16.0	+12.3
Norfolk.....	+28.0	+17.9	+14.5
Richmond.....	+20.9	+12.3	+10.4
Savannah.....	+24.5	+14.7	+12.2
Washington, D. C.....	+18.3	+11.3	+10.0
East South Central:			
Birmingham.....	+29.0	+15.6	+11.8
Memphis.....	+23.3	+13.6	+11.2
Mobile.....	+29.2	+18.1	+16.2
West South Central:			
Houston.....	+25.9	+10.6	+9.0
New Orleans.....	+26.7	+13.8	+11.9
Mountain: Denver.....	+21.7	+11.0	+9.2
Pacific:			
Los Angeles.....	+24.0	+11.7	+9.9
Portland, Oreg.....	+28.3	+13.6	+11.7
San Francisco.....	+20.1	+12.1	+9.5
Seattle.....	+24.0	+14.4	+12.5

¹ Data not available.

Indexes of Cost of Living in Large Cities

On the recommendation of the Central Statistical Board, the Bureau of Labor Statistics data on changes in cost of living in large cities have been computed on a base of the average of the years 1935-39 as 100. The tables that follow show the cost-of-living indexes on that base. Persons wishing to put the index on some other base may do so by dividing each index by the index for the period to be used for a base and multiplying by 100. If an average for a group of years is to be used for a base, each index will be divided by the average index for those years.

The indexes presented in this report and the methods followed in their construction are described in some detail in an article appearing in the Monthly Labor Review, August 1940, and published as a separate, Serial No. R. 1156, which is available upon request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. A more detailed description of the cost-of-living indexes and the relative importance of goods and services in family expenditures used as a basis for computing the cost-of-living

indexes for each city, may be obtained from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 699, "Changes in Cost of Living in Large Cities, 1913-41."¹ Bulletin No. 699 also contains a complete series of the indexes by major groups of commodities for each of the 34 cities from the earliest date they have been prepared through June 15, 1941, based on an average of costs during 1935-39 as 100.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics' cost-of-living indexes show changes in costs from time to time. A comparison of the level of the indexes for given cities shows the extent to which living costs in these cities differ from the average in each city in 1935-39. Thus, the index of the cost of all items as of December 15, 1941, was 116.4 in Mobile and 108.2 in Boston. A comparison of these two indexes indicates that on December 15, 1941, living costs in Mobile were 16.4 percent higher than the average for the years 1935-39, but that in Boston, costs on this date were 8.2 percent higher than they were in that city in 1935-39. This comparison does not indicate that costs on December 15, 1941, were 7.6 percent higher in Mobile than in Boston.

In order to secure figures showing a comparison of actual living costs in dollars as between cities, expenditures serving as the weights for items priced in the different cities and the goods and services priced would have to be representative of identical or at least equivalent levels of living. Differences between the average costs from which the Bureau of Labor Statistics indexes are computed in different cities are due to differences in standards and in purchasing habits in those cities as well as to varying prices for goods of given grades. Differences between the indexes of costs from time to time in the various cities at any particular date are due entirely to differences in the percentage change in living costs in each city.²

Table 2 gives indexes of changes in living costs in 34 large cities by groups of items for all pricing periods in 1941. This table supplements and brings up to date table 14 in the March 15, 1940, pamphlet, Serial No. R. 1156, "The Bureau of Labor Statistics' New Index of Cost of Living," and table 5 in the December 15, 1940, pamphlet, Serial No. R. 1254, "Changes in Cost of Living." This table, together with the tables of indexes given in the Bureau's Bulletin No. 699, form a complete series for each city. For those who are primarily interested in changes in total living costs only and over a longer period of time, table 3 has been included and presents total living-cost indexes for each of the cities from March 15, 1935, to December 15, 1941. Table 4 contains a complete series of the indexes by groups of items for the large cities combined since 1913.

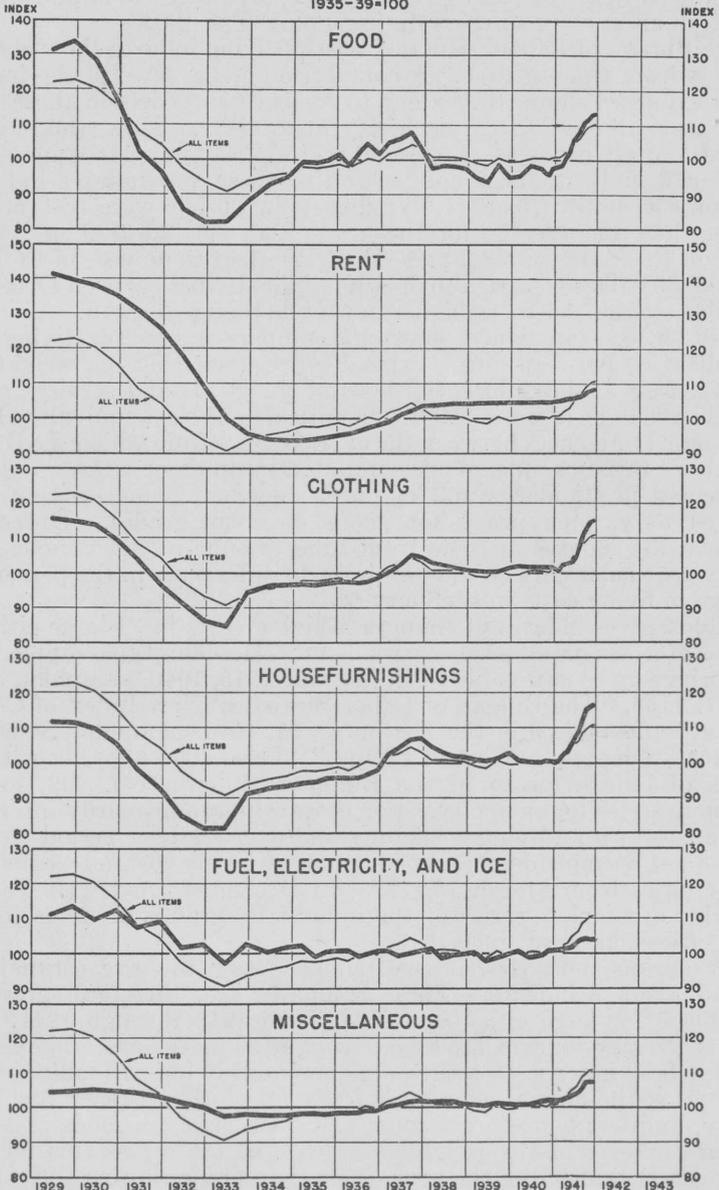
For various purposes, it is often necessary to have estimates of annual average indexes. These estimates are, therefore, presented in table 5 for large cities combined, from 1913 through 1941. The annual average indexes have been computed as follows: The annual average food index is an average of the monthly indexes falling within each year; the annual average indexes for clothing; rent; fuel, electricity, and ice; housefurnishings; and miscellaneous goods and services are indexes of the weighted average of the aggregates for each pricing period affecting the year, the weights representing the relative importance of each pricing period. When these goods were priced only twice a year, in June and again in December, it is evident that

¹ For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. Price, 15 cents.

² See Serial No. R. 1476: What is the Cost-of-Living Index? Available on request.

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AVERAGE FOR LARGE CITIES**

1935=39=100



prices in December of the previous year were more indicative of prices in the next month, January, even though it fell in a new year, than were the prices of the succeeding June. Therefore, costs in December of the preceding year and in June and December of the given year are all considered in arriving at an average cost for the year. The relative importance of each of these costs is expressed for December of the previous year by $2\frac{1}{2}$, for June of the given year by 6, and for December of the given year by $3\frac{1}{2}$. Weights for years in which pricing was done at other intervals will be furnished on request.

TABLE 2.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 1941, by groups of items, in each of 34 large cities

[Average 1935-39=100]

Date	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
Atlanta:							
1941—Jan. 15	(1)	94.3	(1)	(1)	102.9	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15	(1)	95.8	(1)	(1)	102.9	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15	100.5	96.7	103.5	104.5	103.0	99.4	100.9
Apr. 15	(1)	99.7	(1)	(1)	103.0	(1)	(1)
May 15	(1)	99.0	(1)	(1)	99.1	(1)	(1)
June 15	103.3	103.4	104.7	104.8	100.2	104.0	102.6
July 15	(1)	105.2	(1)	(1)	102.2	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15	(1)	107.0	(1)	(1)	104.3	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15	107.6	110.0	114.1	105.1	105.3	110.6	104.3
Oct. 15	(1)	112.2	(1)	(1)	107.6	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15	(1)	111.1	(1)	(1)	107.9	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15	110.6	111.1	119.6	106.2	107.9	116.6	108.8
Average	104.6	103.8	109.1	105.0	103.9	106.2	103.5
Baltimore:							
1941—Jan. 15	100.9	97.9	101.2	105.7	100.8	102.2	101.4
Feb. 15	101.1	98.3	101.5	105.7	100.8	102.5	101.4
Mar. 15	101.5	99.1	101.7	105.9	100.6	104.2	101.4
Apr. 15	102.6	101.5	101.9	107.1	100.7	104.3	101.6
May 15	103.8	103.7	103.3	107.6	100.4	104.6	102.1
June 15	105.9	108.7	103.5	108.4	99.9	106.1	102.8
July 15	106.4	108.6	104.8	109.0	101.8	108.1	103.2
Aug. 15	107.4	109.6	106.7	109.6	103.4	110.6	103.5
Sept. 15	109.5	113.1	109.2	110.9	103.4	115.5	104.2
Oct. 15	110.4	113.6	110.6	111.1	103.4	118.6	105.8
Nov. 15	111.3	114.3	112.6	112.2	103.5	121.3	106.4
Dec. 15	112.4	116.1	114.6	112.3	103.5	122.9	106.7
Average	106.1	107.0	106.0	108.8	101.9	110.1	103.4
Birmingham:							
1941—Jan. 15	101.3	96.0	101.3	117.3	94.0	99.3	101.3
Feb. 15	101.3	95.6	100.7	117.7	94.0	99.8	101.3
Mar. 15	101.6	95.3	102.9	117.9	93.9	100.5	101.3
Apr. 15	102.4	97.0	103.5	118.6	93.9	101.2	101.7
May 15	103.0	97.7	103.9	118.9	94.1	101.8	102.2
June 15	105.5	103.0	105.5	119.3	95.5	103.4	103.8
July 15	107.0	105.2	107.7	120.6	95.4	105.8	104.2
Aug. 15	108.2	106.8	110.5	121.4	97.5	107.5	104.7
Sept. 15	109.9	109.0	114.7	122.1	97.9	110.5	105.5
Oct. 15	111.8	109.7	117.0	126.0	98.9	112.6	107.5
Nov. 15	113.5	112.6	119.2	127.0	99.9	114.6	108.2
Dec. 15	113.9	112.0	120.9	129.1	100.0	116.1	108.4
Average	106.6	103.3	109.0	121.3	96.3	106.1	104.2
Boston:							
1941—Jan. 15	99.1	95.2	99.2	100.5	107.3	97.7	100.9
Feb. 15	99.4	96.2	99.2	100.5	106.7	98.0	101.0
Mar. 15	99.5	96.1	101.7	100.7	104.9	98.7	101.3
Apr. 15	100.6	98.3	101.9	100.7	106.6	99.1	101.4
May 15	101.2	99.5	102.2	100.7	107.1	99.7	101.9
June 15	102.5	102.6	102.7	100.8	106.8	102.7	102.3
July 15	103.8	104.7	104.1	101.0	108.0	105.3	102.9
Aug. 15	105.2	107.3	105.5	101.2	109.2	106.6	103.2
Sept. 15	106.4	108.4	110.0	101.6	110.1	111.1	103.9
Oct. 15	107.1	108.5	111.1	102.6	110.4	113.0	104.8
Nov. 15	108.6	111.5	112.3	103.5	110.4	113.4	105.2
Dec. 15	108.2	110.1	112.5	103.7	110.4	114.2	105.3
Average	103.5	103.2	105.2	101.5	108.2	105.0	102.8

¹ Monthly data not available.

TABLE 2.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 1941, by groups of items, in each of 34 large cities—Continued

Date	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
Buffalo:							
1941—Jan. 15	102.1	100.2	100.1	107.1	99.8	99.6	103.0
Feb. 15	102.2	100.3	100.2	107.1	99.8	99.6	103.1
Mar. 15	102.8	100.8	102.1	107.5	99.8	102.8	103.3
Apr. 15	104.1	103.2	102.3	109.3	99.7	103.5	103.8
May 15	105.5	106.0	102.6	109.9	99.7	104.1	105.1
June 15	107.3	110.1	103.1	109.9	99.8	107.5	105.7
July 15	108.0	110.8	104.5	110.6	101.2	109.9	106.0
Aug. 15	108.7	111.8	106.0	110.6	101.9	111.2	106.2
Sept. 15	110.9	114.1	110.8	112.7	102.4	114.6	107.7
Oct. 15	112.1	114.4	112.1	112.9	103.0	117.5	110.2
Nov. 15	112.9	115.2	114.5	113.9	103.2	119.4	110.6
Dec. 15	113.3	115.4	115.0	114.3	103.2	120.3	111.0
Average	107.5	108.5	106.1	110.5	101.1	109.2	106.3
Chicago:							
1941—Jan. 15	101.3	98.2	98.5	108.9	100.5	102.0	101.0
Feb. 15	101.3	97.9	98.9	109.1	100.5	102.7	100.9
Mar. 15	101.5	98.4	100.0	109.1	100.5	103.5	100.8
Apr. 15	102.5	100.5	100.5	109.3	100.3	104.0	101.1
May 15	103.2	101.9	100.8	110.3	100.3	104.9	101.2
June 15	104.8	105.8	101.4	110.3	100.4	106.0	101.6
July 15	105.1	107.5	101.7	110.5	101.6	106.4	103.4
Aug. 15	106.8	108.1	104.5	110.7	102.5	108.4	103.6
Sept. 15	109.5	114.0	108.5	111.0	102.6	110.1	104.2
Oct. 15	110.2	113.5	109.7	112.1	103.1	113.1	105.9
Nov. 15	111.0	114.8	111.0	112.3	103.3	113.7	106.3
Dec. 15	110.6	113.2	112.2	112.4	103.3	114.9	106.5
Average	105.7	106.1	104.0	110.5	101.6	107.5	103.0
Cincinnati:							
1941—Jan. 15	99.7	96.5	102.0	102.3	99.4	100.3	101.3
Feb. 15	99.7	96.5	102.1	102.3	99.4	100.8	101.2
Mar. 15	100.5	97.6	104.4	102.5	99.4	101.8	101.4
Apr. 15	101.6	100.1	104.6	102.7	99.4	103.2	101.7
May 15	102.0	100.9	104.4	102.8	98.4	104.6	102.0
June 15	103.9	104.8	104.6	102.8	99.8	107.3	103.3
July 15	104.5	104.8	106.2	103.0	102.4	110.6	103.5
Aug. 15	106.4	109.0	107.7	103.0	103.7	111.6	103.9
Sept. 15	108.1	110.0	113.4	103.0	103.9	118.7	105.2
Oct. 15	109.8	112.6	114.8	103.4	102.5	121.6	107.2
Nov. 15	110.6	114.3	115.2	103.6	102.6	122.2	107.4
Dec. 15	110.3	112.7	116.2	104.0	102.6	123.8	107.6
Average	104.8	105.0	108.0	103.0	101.1	110.5	103.8
Cleveland:							
1941—Jan. 15	102.1	99.2	101.5	108.1	108.9	101.2	100.5
Feb. 15	102.2	99.3	101.3	108.4	108.9	102.3	100.5
Mar. 15	102.9	100.3	102.1	109.0	108.9	104.2	100.7
Apr. 15	103.6	102.1	102.3	109.3	108.9	104.4	100.9
May 15	104.3	103.4	102.5	110.0	109.1	106.5	101.1
June 15	106.2	107.8	102.9	110.2	109.2	108.6	102.3
July 15	107.1	108.7	106.2	110.2	110.6	110.8	102.4
Aug. 15	109.0	112.1	110.1	110.8	111.8	112.5	102.8
Sept. 15	110.9	114.1	114.3	112.9	112.0	115.3	103.8
Oct. 15	111.7	114.0	115.9	113.2	112.0	116.7	105.8
Nov. 15	112.9	116.4	117.1	113.6	112.0	117.9	106.5
Dec. 15	113.3	115.0	118.8	116.4	112.0	120.0	106.7
Average	107.2	107.7	107.9	111.0	110.4	110.0	102.8
Denver:							
1941—Jan. 15	99.8	94.8	99.3	106.7	98.4	101.3	101.6
Feb. 15	99.5	94.4	99.3	106.8	97.4	102.0	101.3
Mar. 15	99.9	95.1	100.1	106.7	97.4	103.2	101.4
Apr. 15	101.1	98.6	100.1	106.7	97.4	103.9	101.5
May 15	101.6	99.5	100.3	106.7	97.4	104.6	101.9
June 15	102.9	103.0	100.6	106.6	97.4	106.0	102.4
July 15	103.9	104.2	101.7	106.7	97.4	107.9	103.5
Aug. 15	104.9	106.0	104.4	106.9	97.4	108.8	103.9
Sept. 15	106.0	107.3	108.1	107.1	97.4	109.9	104.5
Oct. 15	108.3	109.9	110.9	108.3	98.2	113.4	107.0
Nov. 15	109.7	113.2	111.9	108.4	98.2	115.2	107.4
Dec. 15	109.4	111.9	112.9	108.4	98.2	115.9	107.5
Average	103.9	103.2	104.1	107.2	97.7	107.7	103.7
Detroit:							
1941—Jan. 15	101.1	97.0	101.0	108.5	97.9	99.6	101.9
Feb. 15	101.3	97.2	101.0	108.7	98.3	99.6	102.0
Mar. 15	102.1	98.4	102.6	109.1	98.3	102.7	102.2
Apr. 15	103.4	101.3	102.7	109.7	98.3	103.2	103.2

TABLE 2.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 1941, by groups of items, in each of 34 large cities—Continued

Date	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
Detroit—Continued.							
1941—May 15	103.5	100.7	102.8	110.0	99.8	103.6	103.2
June 15	106.4	107.0	103.2	111.3	101.9	106.4	104.6
July 15	107.1	107.2	105.2	112.1	102.5	108.9	105.1
Aug. 15	107.5	107.1	106.5	112.4	104.2	110.3	105.2
Sept. 15	109.6	108.9	110.7	114.7	104.8	112.0	107.2
Oct. 15	111.8	111.1	113.6	116.7	105.3	114.9	109.7
Nov. 15	112.5	112.0	115.6	116.9	105.4	116.4	109.9
Dec. 15	112.7	111.4	116.6	117.6	106.3	117.2	110.1
Average	106.6	104.9	106.8	112.3	101.9	107.9	105.4
Houston:							
1941—Jan. 15	101.9	102.6	98.2	107.6	93.2	104.8	100.6
Feb. 15	101.9	102.1	100.0	107.6	93.2	105.0	100.4
Mar. 15	102.3	102.1	103.4	107.1	93.2	105.8	100.6
Apr. 15	103.2	104.2	103.5	107.1	93.1	106.8	101.3
May 15	103.5	105.0	103.6	107.1	93.1	107.6	101.3
June 15	104.0	106.4	103.9	106.9	93.1	109.1	101.3
July 15	105.0	108.7	105.5	106.9	93.1	111.2	101.4
Aug. 15	105.8	109.5	108.7	106.9	93.2	112.7	101.8
Sept. 15	107.9	113.1	112.5	106.9	93.5	114.3	103.1
Oct. 15	110.1	116.6	114.9	106.8	93.6	116.6	105.7
Nov. 15	111.2	118.6	117.0	107.0	93.7	118.0	106.2
Dec. 15	111.4	117.9	118.5	107.4	93.9	118.8	106.5
Average	105.7	108.9	107.5	107.1	93.3	110.9	102.5
Indianapolis:							
1941—Jan. 15	(1)	98.2	(1)	(1)	100.1	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15	(1)	97.9	(1)	(1)	100.1	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15	102.2	98.8	103.0	111.8	100.1	102.0	101.4
Apr. 15	(1)	101.1	(1)	(1)	100.1	(1)	(1)
May 15	(1)	103.5	(1)	(1)	99.9	(1)	(1)
June 15	105.6	106.5	103.8	114.2	100.0	107.9	102.3
July 15	(1)	106.9	(1)	(1)	101.3	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15	(1)	108.5	(1)	(1)	102.4	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15	109.7	111.3	113.2	116.0	103.0	115.1	104.4
Oct. 15	(1)	112.6	(1)	(1)	102.9	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15	(1)	114.9	(1)	(1)	102.9	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15	113.3	115.2	118.1	118.3	103.1	120.4	108.4
Average	106.7	106.3	108.2	114.5	101.3	109.6	103.6
Jacksonville:							
1941—Jan. 15	(1)	98.8	(1)	(1)	98.0	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15	(1)	99.2	(1)	(1)	98.0	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15	102.4	99.0	101.9	109.5	98.4	100.7	103.9
Apr. 15	(1)	101.7	(1)	(1)	98.4	(1)	(1)
May 15	(1)	103.1	(1)	(1)	97.6	(1)	(1)
June 15	106.1	107.6	102.9	111.6	98.1	104.1	105.0
July 15	(1)	111.4	(1)	(1)	98.5	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15	(1)	113.6	(1)	(1)	98.7	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15	110.6	114.6	110.5	113.1	106.8	109.5	106.5
Oct. 15	(1)	117.5	(1)	(1)	107.1	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15	(1)	119.2	(1)	(1)	107.3	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15	114.3	117.3	117.7	116.0	107.7	117.7	110.1
Average	107.4	108.6	106.9	111.8	101.2	106.7	105.8
Kansas City:							
1941—Jan. 15	98.3	92.4	101.2	102.9	100.7	98.8	99.9
Feb. 15	98.6	93.6	100.9	103.0	100.7	99.0	100.0
Mar. 15	99.2	94.8	102.3	103.1	100.8	99.9	100.1
Apr. 15	100.2	97.4	103.1	103.2	100.8	100.2	100.4
May 15	100.4	97.9	103.1	103.3	100.8	100.5	100.3
June 15	101.8	101.3	103.5	103.3	101.0	103.2	101.1
July 15	102.2	101.2	104.4	104.1	101.2	105.1	101.3
Aug. 15	103.2	101.8	107.1	104.6	102.6	106.0	102.3
Sept. 15	105.4	107.3	109.6	104.6	102.7	107.2	103.0
Oct. 15	107.1	107.1	111.9	106.8	102.7	110.7	106.0
Nov. 15	108.3	109.6	112.9	107.5	102.7	112.0	106.7
Dec. 15	108.7	109.7	113.7	107.5	102.8	112.6	107.3
Average	102.8	101.2	106.1	104.5	101.6	104.7	102.4
Los Angeles:							
1941—Jan. 15	102.8	101.8	103.4	106.5	95.5	101.0	102.9
Feb. 15	101.8	99.0	102.8	106.9	94.3	101.4	102.8
Mar. 15	102.5	100.8	103.6	106.4	94.3	102.6	102.9
Apr. 15	103.2	102.7	103.8	106.4	94.3	103.5	103.0
May 15	104.3	105.2	104.0	106.4	94.3	103.7	103.9
June 15	105.6	107.7	105.7	106.6	94.2	105.1	104.5

¹ Monthly data not available.

TABLE 2.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 1941, by groups of items, in each of 34 large cities—Continued

Date	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
Los Angeles—Continued.							
1941—July 15.....	105.7	107.2	106.8	106.6	94.2	106.9	104.7
Aug. 15.....	106.6	109.3	108.4	106.6	94.2	108.3	104.7
Sept. 15.....	108.1	111.9	111.6	106.6	94.2	110.5	105.4
Oct. 15.....	109.8	112.4	114.5	108.1	94.2	113.8	107.9
Nov. 15.....	111.1	115.4	115.4	108.5	94.2	114.5	108.3
Dec. 15.....	112.3	118.6	116.6	108.5	94.2	115.3	108.6
Average.....	106.2	107.7	108.0	107.0	94.3	107.2	105.0
Manchester:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	96.6	(1)	(1)	105.2	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	96.7	(1)	(1)	104.3	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	100.1	97.2	101.1	103.3	102.1	99.6	101.7
Apr. 15.....	(1)	99.5	(1)	(1)	104.4	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	101.3	(1)	(1)	104.9	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	104.4	104.6	101.8	104.1	105.6	101.9	105.5
July 15.....	(1)	107.1	(1)	(1)	105.7	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	108.4	(1)	(1)	107.7	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	103.9	110.4	110.0	104.9	110.2	109.5	107.4
Oct. 15.....	(1)	110.9	(1)	(1)	111.2	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	112.8	(1)	(1)	111.5	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	110.7	111.7	114.3	106.9	111.7	113.7	109.8
Average.....	105.2	104.8	105.7	104.5	107.0	105.0	105.4
Memphis:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	94.2	(1)	(1)	94.1	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	94.8	(1)	(1)	94.1	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	100.2	95.7	102.7	107.9	94.7	101.6	101.2
Apr. 15.....	(1)	98.2	(1)	(1)	94.7	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	99.8	(1)	(1)	94.7	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	103.5	103.3	103.5	109.7	94.7	105.3	102.6
July 15.....	(1)	105.7	(1)	(1)	95.4	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	106.4	(1)	(1)	95.8	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	108.3	110.6	112.6	111.6	99.6	114.1	103.8
Oct. 15.....	(1)	111.3	(1)	(1)	99.7	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	112.3	(1)	(1)	99.7	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	111.1	113.1	119.4	113.6	99.7	120.8	105.6
Average.....	104.7	103.8	108.1	110.1	96.4	108.9	102.9
Milwaukee:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	95.9	(1)	(1)	99.9	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	95.4	(1)	(1)	99.9	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	99.5	96.3	99.3	102.7	99.9	101.3	101.0
Apr. 15.....	(1)	99.2	(1)	(1)	99.9	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	101.1	(1)	(1)	99.9	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	103.6	106.5	99.9	103.1	100.6	105.7	102.4
July 15.....	(1)	106.8	(1)	(1)	100.8	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	107.1	(1)	(1)	102.5	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	106.8	109.2	108.6	105.1	102.5	114.0	104.0
Oct. 15.....	(1)	109.2	(1)	(1)	103.8	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	111.3	(1)	(1)	103.8	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	109.4	110.5	113.1	106.8	103.8	121.5	107.7
Average.....	103.9	104.0	104.1	104.1	101.4	108.8	103.2
Minneapolis:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	101.5	99.0	100.2	108.0	96.8	101.4	102.1
Feb. 15.....	101.9	100.5	100.0	108.0	96.6	101.4	102.2
Mar. 15.....	102.1	100.2	102.0	108.1	96.4	103.4	102.3
Apr. 15.....	102.7	101.5	102.1	108.3	96.4	104.2	102.4
May 15.....	103.9	103.1	102.3	108.3	95.8	105.5	104.7
June 15.....	105.6	107.4	103.5	108.3	96.0	107.9	105.3
July 15.....	106.3	108.2	105.1	108.4	97.2	109.2	105.6
Aug. 15.....	107.3	110.0	106.7	108.6	98.2	110.7	106.0
Sept. 15.....	109.0	112.0	111.6	108.6	98.6	114.3	107.3
Oct. 15.....	110.1	112.5	113.3	108.8	99.0	116.3	109.5
Nov. 15.....	110.7	112.9	114.4	108.9	98.8	116.9	110.7
Dec. 15.....	110.7	111.9	115.4	109.0	98.8	118.8	111.0
Average.....	106.0	106.6	106.4	108.4	97.4	109.2	105.8
Mobile:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	97.9	(1)	(1)	96.4	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	98.2	(1)	(1)	96.4	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	101.7	99.8	100.7	111.8	97.0	102.7	100.9
Apr. 15.....	(1)	102.9	(1)	(1)	97.0	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	104.2	(1)	(1)	97.0	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	105.1	106.6	102.4	112.8	96.3	105.5	103.0

¹ Monthly data not available.

TABLE 2.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 1941, by groups of items, in each of 34 large cities—Continued

Date	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
Mobile—Continued.							
1941—July 15.....	(1)	110.4	(1)	(1)	96.3	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	112.3	(1)	(1)	97.0	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	110.7	116.0	112.8	114.3	99.3	111.4	105.2
Oct. 15.....	(1)	118.9	(1)	(1)	101.2	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	120.2	(1)	(1)	101.3	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	116.4	120.7	119.0	130.4	101.7	115.7	108.0
Average.....	107.2	109.0	107.2	115.7	98.1	107.7	103.6
New Orleans:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	101.9	(1)	(1)	97.5	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	102.0	(1)	(1)	97.5	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	102.4	102.9	103.2	104.1	96.4	105.7	101.4
Apr. 15.....	(1)	105.9	(1)	(1)	96.5	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	105.2	(1)	(1)	97.3	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	105.6	108.6	104.3	104.3	98.8	110.2	103.5
July 15.....	(1)	112.0	(1)	(1)	98.8	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	114.7	(1)	(1)	98.8	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	110.9	117.4	114.4	104.7	98.9	117.0	105.3
Oct. 15.....	(1)	118.8	(1)	(1)	99.1	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	118.7	(1)	(1)	100.0	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	113.5	119.9	119.1	105.5	100.1	122.7	108.1
Average.....	107.1	110.7	108.9	104.5	98.3	112.4	104.0
New York:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	101.1	99.5	100.5	102.7	100.8	95.6	103.0
Feb. 15.....	101.3	100.4	99.5	102.7	100.7	96.0	103.2
Mar. 15.....	101.5	99.8	101.6	102.7	103.5	96.6	103.3
Apr. 15.....	102.3	101.6	102.1	102.7	103.5	96.8	103.4
May 15.....	102.6	102.3	102.8	102.7	103.3	97.6	103.4
June 15.....	104.5	106.7	103.1	102.8	103.4	100.1	103.9
July 15.....	104.8	107.0	104.6	102.7	103.4	102.7	104.0
Aug. 15.....	105.5	107.8	106.3	102.8	103.8	103.8	104.4
Sept. 15.....	106.8	109.8	109.7	102.9	104.1	106.9	105.0
Oct. 15.....	108.0	111.4	111.1	102.9	104.1	109.7	106.6
Nov. 15.....	108.7	113.1	110.7	102.9	103.3	110.0	107.1
Dec. 15.....	108.7	112.5	111.3	103.0	103.3	111.2	107.5
Average.....	104.7	106.0	105.3	102.8	103.1	102.2	104.6
Norfolk:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	95.8	(1)	(1)	99.7	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	99.5	(1)	(1)	99.7	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	102.6	100.6	104.5	107.5	99.7	101.8	102.6
Apr. 15.....	(1)	102.1	(1)	(1)	108.8	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	102.1	(1)	(1)	108.8	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	106.4	107.0	105.3	109.6	108.8	104.7	103.9
July 15.....	(1)	108.4	(1)	(1)	108.8	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	110.8	(1)	(1)	111.0	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	110.9	113.1	114.5	111.6	111.1	113.1	106.0
Oct. 15.....	(1)	115.2	(1)	(1)	113.3	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	116.7	(1)	(1)	113.3	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	115.3	117.6	118.1	118.4	113.3	119.3	109.3
Average.....	107.5	107.4	109.4	110.7	108.0	108.2	104.9
Philadelphia:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	99.3	95.0	100.6	103.6	99.7	101.4	101.7
Feb. 15.....	99.2	94.9	100.1	103.6	99.7	101.6	101.7
Mar. 15.....	99.6	95.2	101.6	103.9	99.7	102.4	101.7
Apr. 15.....	100.5	97.0	101.9	104.4	100.1	103.1	102.0
May 15.....	101.7	100.1	102.3	104.5	100.2	103.4	102.3
June 15.....	103.3	103.3	103.3	104.5	100.5	105.0	103.1
July 15.....	103.7	103.3	104.4	104.7	101.5	107.2	103.2
Aug. 15.....	104.7	104.7	106.3	105.1	103.0	108.4	103.6
Sept. 15.....	106.7	107.5	110.5	105.3	103.1	111.9	105.1
Oct. 15.....	108.0	109.0	111.6	105.3	103.3	112.6	107.4
Nov. 15.....	108.3	108.7	113.7	105.6	103.3	114.5	107.6
Dec. 15.....	108.8	109.8	114.0	105.6	103.3	115.0	107.8
Average.....	103.6	102.4	105.9	104.7	101.5	107.2	103.9
Pittsburgh:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	101.2	98.0	101.9	105.7	103.8	102.2	100.9
Feb. 15.....	100.8	97.5	100.4	105.7	103.8	102.1	100.9
Mar. 15.....	101.4	98.5	102.2	105.8	104.0	102.7	100.7
Apr. 15.....	102.3	101.1	102.4	105.8	104.0	104.3	100.3
May 15.....	103.4	103.6	102.4	106.3	104.0	104.8	101.0
June 15.....	105.2	107.3	102.6	106.7	104.5	106.2	102.2
July 15.....	106.2	108.7	104.6	106.8	105.8	108.9	102.9

1 Monthly data not available.

TABLE 2.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 1941, by groups of items, in each of 34 large cities—Continued

Date	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
Pittsburgh—Continued.							
1941—Jan. 15.....	106.8	109.0	107.3	106.8	105.9	111.0	103.2
Sept. 15.....	108.7	111.9	111.4	106.9	107.1	113.9	104.0
Oct. 15.....	109.4	111.8	114.3	106.9	107.0	115.5	105.5
Nov. 15.....	110.2	112.9	116.5	106.9	106.8	116.6	106.2
Dec. 15.....	110.8	113.7	117.9	107.0	106.7	117.8	106.7
Average.....	105.5	106.2	107.0	106.5	105.3	108.8	102.9
Portland, Maine:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	95.3	(1)	(1)	102.7	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	96.0	(1)	(1)	101.9	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	98.8	95.9	100.4	100.7	99.6	99.0	100.1
Apr. 15.....	(1)	98.6	(1)	(1)	101.6	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	100.7	(1)	(1)	102.7	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	102.8	104.2	100.7	100.7	102.6	101.6	103.7
July 15.....	(1)	106.3	(1)	(1)	103.2	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	107.9	(1)	(1)	104.1	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	106.2	109.2	107.4	101.2	105.1	107.8	105.4
Oct. 15.....	(1)	109.3	(1)	(1)	106.1	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	111.2	(1)	(1)	106.4	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	108.7	110.7	111.4	103.0	106.3	114.5	108.8
Average.....	103.3	103.8	104.0	101.2	103.5	104.5	103.7
Portland, Oreg.:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	101.7	(1)	(1)	94.8	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	101.6	(1)	(1)	94.8	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	102.7	102.8	102.9	107.2	94.8	101.5	102.4
Apr. 15.....	(1)	105.5	(1)	(1)	94.7	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	106.8	(1)	(1)	95.1	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	106.2	110.2	103.9	108.8	95.3	105.8	104.3
July 15.....	(1)	111.5	(1)	(1)	96.1	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	114.3	(1)	(1)	96.8	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	111.0	119.9	110.1	110.5	98.2	109.5	105.5
Oct. 15.....	(1)	120.3	(1)	(1)	99.9	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	121.7	(1)	(1)	100.8	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	113.7	121.3	113.0	112.6	102.9	115.7	108.7
Average.....	107.3	111.5	106.6	109.3	97.0	106.9	104.7
Richmond:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	93.7	(1)	(1)	100.7	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	94.7	(1)	(1)	100.8	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	100.0	94.9	103.9	103.2	100.8	105.3	101.2
Apr. 15.....	(1)	97.9	(1)	(1)	100.8	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	97.8	(1)	(1)	99.7	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	103.0	102.9	104.7	103.3	99.8	109.1	102.2
July 15.....	(1)	105.1	(1)	(1)	101.2	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	107.5	(1)	(1)	101.2	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	107.4	109.9	113.5	103.7	103.2	117.0	104.1
Oct. 15.....	(1)	112.3	(1)	(1)	103.2	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	111.8	(1)	(1)	103.2	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	110.1	112.6	119.4	103.8	104.3	122.1	106.8
Average.....	104.2	103.4	109.0	103.4	101.6	111.9	103.1
St. Louis:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	100.9	99.2	101.2	101.6	103.1	95.9	102.6
Feb. 15.....	100.8	99.3	101.4	101.6	103.1	96.3	102.2
Mar. 15.....	101.1	99.5	103.1	101.5	102.8	97.7	102.3
Apr. 15.....	101.9	101.4	103.2	101.5	102.8	98.3	102.7
May 15.....	102.1	102.4	103.6	101.6	102.7	99.0	101.9
June 15.....	104.1	107.2	104.2	101.7	102.5	99.8	102.9
July 15.....	104.6	108.5	105.6	101.8	103.9	102.1	101.9
Aug. 15.....	105.1	109.4	107.2	101.8	105.2	102.8	101.6
Sept. 15.....	107.8	114.5	110.5	102.4	105.8	105.3	102.9
Oct. 15.....	108.7	114.6	112.4	102.4	106.0	108.0	104.8
Nov. 15.....	109.8	117.0	114.0	103.2	106.1	109.8	104.7
Dec. 15.....	110.6	117.5	116.7	104.2	106.2	111.5	104.9
Average.....	104.8	107.5	106.9	102.1	104.2	102.2	103.0
San Francisco:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	102.1	99.6	103.0	103.9	91.6	101.0	104.9
Feb. 15.....	102.2	99.6	103.0	104.1	91.6	101.3	105.0
Mar. 15.....	102.4	100.6	103.1	103.9	91.6	102.3	104.8
Apr. 15.....	103.5	103.5	103.3	104.0	91.6	102.7	104.9
May 15.....	104.2	104.9	103.7	104.0	91.6	103.4	105.5
June 15.....	105.4	107.1	105.2	104.0	91.6	105.5	105.9

1 Monthly data not available.

TABLE 2.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 1941, by groups of items, in each of 34 large cities—Continued

Date	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
San Francisco—Continued.							
1941—July 15.....	105.7	107.2	106.3	104.0	91.6	107.2	106.2
Aug. 15.....	106.3	108.3	107.2	104.1	91.6	108.5	106.4
Sept. 15.....	107.8	111.0	109.5	104.5	91.8	111.3	107.0
Oct. 15.....	109.4	112.6	111.5	104.8	91.9	113.0	109.3
Nov. 15.....	110.6	114.4	113.6	105.0	92.8	115.0	110.0
Dec. 15.....	111.3	115.4	115.0	105.3	92.9	115.8	110.4
Average.....	105.9	107.0	107.0	104.3	91.8	107.3	106.7
Savannah:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	101.4	100.5	100.7	105.0	96.9	104.6	101.4
Feb. 15.....	100.9	100.0	98.7	105.0	96.9	103.9	101.1
Mar. 15.....	101.6	100.7	102.2	105.4	96.9	103.3	101.2
Apr. 15.....	102.5	103.0	102.3	105.8	96.9	103.9	101.6
May 15.....	103.3	104.7	102.7	106.1	96.9	104.1	101.9
June 15.....	105.0	108.9	103.1	106.2	96.9	105.4	102.4
July 15.....	107.4	113.5	105.4	106.6	99.1	106.9	103.3
Aug. 15.....	108.3	114.8	107.8	106.6	99.5	108.7	103.8
Sept. 15.....	110.5	116.4	113.7	108.0	100.6	111.6	105.6
Oct. 15.....	112.8	118.3	115.8	112.5	100.6	114.7	108.0
Nov. 15.....	113.4	118.6	117.7	112.7	101.2	116.3	108.5
Dec. 15.....	113.9	118.1	119.2	113.6	101.8	118.0	109.2
Average.....	106.8	109.8	107.4	107.8	98.7	108.4	104.0
Scranton:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	97.5	(1)	(1)	96.3	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	97.7	(1)	(1)	96.3	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	99.1	97.6	102.1	98.4	96.3	100.8	101.2
Apr. 15.....	(1)	100.4	(1)	(1)	96.3	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	102.9	(1)	(1)	96.1	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	102.8	105.2	104.9	98.3	96.7	106.9	102.5
July 15.....	(1)	106.8	(1)	(1)	97.5	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	108.8	(1)	(1)	98.6	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	106.7	110.3	112.7	98.4	99.5	113.6	105.1
Oct. 15.....	(1)	109.8	(1)	(1)	99.5	(1)	(1)
Nov. 15.....	(1)	109.5	(1)	(1)	99.5	(1)	(1)
Dec. 15.....	108.3	111.8	118.2	98.3	99.5	119.1	106.1
Average.....	103.3	104.9	108.1	98.3	97.7	108.4	103.3
Seattle:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	102.2	101.0	103.1	107.0	94.9	97.6	103.1
Feb. 15.....	102.5	101.0	103.2	108.4	94.9	98.0	103.2
Mar. 15.....	103.0	102.4	103.8	108.1	95.0	98.5	103.2
Apr. 15.....	104.1	104.7	103.9	109.0	94.9	99.3	103.8
May 15.....	106.0	108.0	105.3	110.4	95.7	100.5	104.7
June 15.....	107.2	109.7	106.6	110.8	95.9	102.0	106.1
July 15.....	107.4	109.3	107.8	111.3	95.7	103.4	106.3
Aug. 15.....	108.7	112.2	109.1	111.4	95.8	105.7	106.7
Sept. 15.....	111.5	117.0	112.3	114.1	97.6	108.9	107.6
Oct. 15.....	112.9	118.1	114.0	114.8	98.5	113.0	109.3
Nov. 15.....	113.4	118.9	114.9	115.0	98.6	113.7	109.5
Dec. 15.....	114.7	120.6	116.2	117.9	99.4	114.4	109.7
Average.....	107.8	110.2	108.4	111.5	96.4	104.6	106.1
Washington, D. C.:							
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	97.7	(1)	(1)	99.3	(1)	(1)
Feb. 15.....	(1)	98.8	(1)	(1)	99.2	(1)	(1)
Mar. 15.....	100.9	99.3	103.5	100.3	99.9	107.5	100.9
Apr. 15.....	(1)	100.7	(1)	(1)	98.9	(1)	(1)
May 15.....	(1)	102.8	(1)	(1)	99.3	(1)	(1)
June 15.....	103.2	104.8	104.8	100.3	99.0	111.5	102.6
July 15.....	(1)	105.7	(1)	(1)	99.9	(1)	(1)
Aug. 15.....	(1)	107.4	(1)	(1)	100.8	(1)	(1)
Sept. 15.....	106.7	110.5	113.7	100.9	101.1	117.9	104.2
Oct. 15.....	108.4	111.9	117.0	101.2	101.7	121.4	106.4
Nov. 15.....	108.6	111.4	118.0	101.3	101.7	121.9	105.9
Dec. 15.....	109.7	113.4	120.4	101.3	101.6	124.5	107.6
Average.....	104.3	105.4	109.3	100.6	100.1	113.9	103.3

1 Monthly data not available.

TABLE 3.—Indexes of cost of all goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in each of 34 large cities, Mar. 15, 1935, through Dec. 15, 1941

[Average 1935-39=100]

Date	New England			Middle Atlantic					East North Central					West North Central			
	Boston	Man- chester	Port- land, Maine	Buffalo	New York	Phila- delphia	Pitts- burgh	Scrant- on	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Cleve- land	Detroit	Indian- apolis	Mil- waukee ^a	Kansas City	Minne- apolis	St. Louis
1935—Mar. 15	100.3	99.1	100.0	96.9	98.9	98.0	96.9	99.8	97.1	98.6	96.9	94.2	97.1	97.4	98.0	96.4	98.0
July 15	99.0	99.2	100.7	97.7	98.3	98.2	97.4	99.9	97.3	98.5	97.0	94.9	97.4	97.4	97.3	96.1	98.3
Oct. 15	99.2	98.9	100.1	97.2	98.7	99.0	98.3	100.3	97.2	99.0	97.4	95.5	98.4	98.1	98.0	96.8	98.2
1936—Jan. 15	100.1	99.8	100.5	98.0	99.9	100.1	98.7	101.4	97.7	99.6	97.2	96.5	98.9	98.5	98.7	98.0	99.4
Apr. 15	99.6	99.3	99.9	98.1	98.6	99.2	97.5	99.4	96.9	98.2	96.8	96.4	97.9	98.1	97.6	96.9	98.3
July 15	100.8	100.8	101.3	100.0	99.5	100.2	100.0	101.4	98.7	100.6	98.6	99.2	98.8	99.6	99.3	98.1	99.8
Sept. 15	100.3	100.4	101.1	100.0	100.4	101.0	101.2	102.5	100.5	101.7	100.0	100.1	100.2	101.2	100.7	100.1	101.3
Dec. 15	99.3	99.7	100.5	99.9	99.5	100.8	100.0	101.8	99.5	99.9	98.4	99.5	100.0	100.4	99.9	99.9	99.7
1937—Mar. 15	101.5	102.1	102.0	101.7	101.3	102.2	101.8	102.1	101.3	102.7	100.5	102.7	101.9	102.4	101.7	101.6	101.8
June 15	102.6	103.2	103.6	103.9	101.4	102.7	103.6	102.9	103.6	103.1	102.8	105.3	103.4	104.3	102.9	102.7	103.0
Sept. 15	104.8	103.5	103.5	104.5	103.9	104.0	105.2	103.8	105.6	104.4	104.3	106.1	104.4	105.1	103.8	104.2	104.1
Dec. 15	102.2	101.6	101.8	103.6	102.8	101.6	102.5	101.2	103.3	102.9	102.9	106.4	103.5	103.5	102.6	103.4	102.7
1938—Mar. 15	99.8	100.1	99.3	101.3	99.6	100.2	100.8	99.7	101.1	100.6	101.1	104.2	101.5	101.7	100.9	101.5	100.7
June 15	99.8	100.3	99.2	100.6	99.7	100.6	101.2	99.6	102.2	100.5	101.8	103.0	101.1	101.6	100.8	101.8	100.4
Sept. 15	99.8	99.6	99.4	100.1	100.3	100.1	101.1	97.7	102.1	100.3	101.9	101.5	101.0	100.3	100.3	101.4	100.7
Dec. 15	98.8	98.8	97.8	100.4	100.2	99.4	100.3	97.9	100.8	99.1	101.4	100.7	100.0	99.6	99.7	100.9	99.5
1939—Mar. 15	98.1	98.0	96.6	99.3	99.2	98.2	97.8	96.9	99.4	98.2	101.0	99.8	99.3	98.3	99.1	100.2	99.0
June 15	97.4	97.9	96.4	98.6	98.2	98.0	98.4	96.4	98.9	97.3	100.8	99.1	98.4	97.5	99.0	100.1	97.8
Sept. 15	99.3	100.4	99.0	101.1	101.3	99.6	100.1	98.7	100.7	99.4	101.7	100.2	99.7	99.1	100.6	101.2	100.4
Dec. 15	97.9	99.0	97.6	99.7	100.1	98.6	98.8	97.4	99.8	98.2	100.9	99.8	99.6	98.1	99.3	101.1	99.1
1940—Mar. 15	99.2	100.1	97.8	100.5	101.2	98.3	99.1	98.4	99.7	98.4	100.7	99.9	99.6	98.0	98.3	100.7	99.0
June 15	100.0	100.5	98.9	101.2	101.6	99.2	100.6	98.7	101.4	98.8	101.5	100.9	100.2	99.5	98.6	100.8	99.5
Sept. 15	99.4	100.4	98.5	101.2	101.0	98.7	100.7	98.6	100.9	99.9	102.2	100.5	100.7	98.8	97.8	100.9	99.8
Oct. 15	98.8	(1)	(1)	100.9	100.2	98.7	100.5	(1)	100.9	99.1	101.5	100.6	(1)	(1)	98.0	101.0	100.0
Nov. 15	98.5	(1)	(1)	100.9	100.4	98.8	100.6	(1)	100.5	99.1	101.2	100.4	(1)	(1)	98.3	101.1	99.7
Dec. 15	99.1	100.3	98.3	101.7	100.9	99.1	101.1	99.4	101.0	99.6	102.0	100.9	102.0	99.1	98.6	102.2	101.0
1941—Jan. 15	99.1	(1)	(1)	102.1	101.1	99.3	101.2	(1)	101.3	99.7	102.1	101.1	(1)	(1)	98.3	101.5	100.9
Feb. 15	99.4	(1)	(1)	102.2	101.3	99.2	100.8	(1)	101.3	99.7	102.2	101.3	(1)	(1)	98.6	101.9	100.8
Mar. 15	99.5	100.1	98.8	102.8	101.5	99.6	101.4	99.1	101.5	100.5	102.9	102.1	102.2	99.5	99.2	102.1	101.1
Apr. 15	100.6	(1)	(1)	104.1	102.3	100.5	102.3	(1)	102.5	101.6	103.6	103.4	(1)	(1)	100.2	102.7	101.9
May 15	101.2	(1)	(1)	105.5	102.6	101.7	103.4	(1)	102.2	102.0	104.3	103.5	(1)	(1)	100.4	103.9	102.1
June 15	102.5	104.4	102.8	107.3	104.5	103.3	105.2	102.8	104.8	103.9	106.2	106.4	105.6	103.6	101.8	105.6	104.1
July 15	103.8	(1)	(1)	108.0	104.8	103.7	106.2	(1)	106.1	104.5	107.1	107.1	(1)	(1)	102.2	106.3	104.6
Aug. 15	105.2	(1)	(1)	108.7	105.5	104.7	106.8	(1)	106.8	106.4	109.0	107.5	(1)	(1)	103.2	107.3	105.1
Sept. 15	106.4	108.9	106.2	110.9	106.8	106.7	108.7	106.7	109.5	108.1	110.9	109.6	109.7	103.8	105.4	109.0	107.8
Oct. 15	107.1	(1)	(1)	112.1	108.0	108.0	109.4	(1)	110.2	109.8	111.7	111.8	(1)	(1)	107.1	110.1	108.7
Nov. 15	108.6	(1)	(1)	112.9	108.7	108.3	110.2	(1)	111.0	110.6	112.9	112.5	(1)	(1)	108.3	110.7	109.8
Dec. 15	108.2	110.7	108.7	113.3	108.7	108.8	110.8	108.3	110.6	110.3	113.3	112.7	113.3	109.4	108.7	110.7	110.6

Date	South Atlantic							East South Central			West South Central		Mountain	Pacific			
	Atlanta	Balti- more	Jack- son- ville	Norfolk	Rich- mond	Savan- nah	Wash- ington, D. C.	Bir- ming- ham	Mem- phis	Mobile	Hous- ton	New Orleans	Denver	Los Angeles	Port- land, Oreg.	San Fran- cisco	Seattle
1935—Mar. 15.....	97.5	98.1	97.9	99.5	98.2	98.6	98.6	96.0	98.5	98.6	97.6	99.4	97.2	98.2	96.4	99.4	97.4
July 15.....	97.6	98.4	98.9	98.9	98.3	98.5	98.7	97.0	97.7	98.4	96.5	98.4	96.8	95.4	95.5	97.5	95.7
Oct. 15.....	99.8	98.9	99.2	100.1	99.7	100.0	99.4	98.3	97.6	98.9	97.0	98.9	97.2	95.1	95.7	97.8	95.9
1936—Jan. 15.....	100.3	99.8	100.0	101.1	99.9	100.2	99.9	98.0	98.7	98.7	97.8	99.3	97.9	96.6	96.8	98.4	97.8
Apr. 15.....	98.3	99.1	98.0	99.0	98.3	98.5	98.6	95.1	98.4	97.5	96.7	97.3	97.1	95.7	96.2	97.0	96.5
July 15.....	99.9	99.7	100.1	100.0	99.8	100.1	99.8	99.0	99.7	99.6	98.5	99.7	99.6	97.2	98.2	97.9	97.7
Sept. 15.....	101.1	100.6	100.2	100.9	101.5	100.3	100.5	100.2	100.7	99.5	99.5	100.4	100.5	99.6	99.3	98.7	99.0
Dec. 15.....	100.9	99.7	100.7	101.2	102.0	100.2	100.4	100.9	101.0	99.0	99.6	100.5	99.9	99.4	99.4	98.8	99.5
1937—Mar. 15.....	102.2	101.4	102.4	102.1	102.0	101.7	101.9	103.2	102.7	102.5	101.6	102.4	102.8	103.4	102.0	101.1	102.0
June 15.....	102.8	101.7	102.8	102.2	101.6	102.1	102.4	104.0	102.9	103.3	101.5	101.5	103.5	102.9	103.0	101.5	102.2
Sept. 15.....	104.3	102.9	103.4	102.9	103.6	103.0	103.3	104.9	103.3	103.5	103.0	103.0	105.1	104.2	104.7	102.9	103.7
Dec. 15.....	102.6	101.9	102.7	101.8	102.0	101.9	102.2	104.1	102.5	102.0	103.0	101.6	103.3	103.2	103.2	103.0	103.2
1938—Mar. 15.....	100.1	100.3	100.4	100.1	100.6	100.3	100.1	101.5	100.4	100.8	101.7	100.4	101.0	101.5	102.7	101.2	102.2
June 15.....	99.2	100.3	100.2	99.0	99.2	99.8	100.1	100.7	100.1	100.6	101.2	99.1	101.0	101.8	101.7	101.4	101.2
Sept. 15.....	100.0	100.1	100.2	99.0	100.0	99.4	100.1	101.2	100.4	100.3	101.5	100.3	100.2	101.8	101.6	101.7	101.1
Dec. 15.....	100.0	100.0	99.1	99.0	99.8	99.5	99.7	100.4	99.5	99.6	101.4	99.9	99.9	102.6	101.7	101.4	101.2
1939—Mar. 15.....	98.8	99.6	98.4	98.4	98.6	98.7	98.9	99.1	98.5	99.4	100.0	99.4	99.2	101.2	100.7	100.3	100.9
June 15.....	98.0	99.2	98.2	97.3	97.4	98.7	98.5	98.2	98.1	98.8	100.1	98.7	99.2	100.3	100.5	99.2	100.8
Sept. 15.....	100.1	100.5	100.1	99.5	99.9	100.6	100.3	100.4	101.0	101.6	102.0	99.7	99.7	101.9	102.1	101.0	102.6
Dec. 15.....	98.7	98.9	99.3	98.5	98.8	99.7	98.9	99.5	98.9	99.7	101.3	100.4	99.7	100.4	100.9	100.2	100.9
1940—Mar. 15.....	99.5	99.7	98.9	97.7	98.4	100.0	99.6	99.3	98.5	99.1	100.8	100.9	98.7	100.7	99.7	99.8	101.6
June 15.....	98.5	100.2	100.2	98.5	98.5	100.8	100.1	99.1	98.4	99.2	100.7	101.1	99.7	100.8	100.7	100.1	101.7
Sept. 15.....	99.4	100.0	101.0	99.0	99.3	101.0	100.0	100.3	98.8	98.8	101.1	102.2	98.9	101.2	101.5	100.8	101.7
Oct. 15.....	(1)	99.8	(1)	(1)	(1)	101.1	(1)	100.6	(1)	(1)	101.7	(1)	99.1	101.4	(1)	101.4	101.5
Nov. 15.....	(1)	99.8	(1)	(1)	(1)	100.8	(1)	100.5	(1)	(1)	101.8	(1)	99.0	101.9	(1)	101.6	101.6
Dec. 15.....	100.0	100.5	101.8	100.7	99.7	101.5	99.7	101.9	99.9	100.2	102.2	101.4	100.2	102.2	101.8	101.6	102.0
1941—Jan. 15.....	(1)	100.9	(1)	(1)	(1)	101.4	(1)	101.3	(1)	(1)	101.9	(1)	99.8	102.8	(1)	102.1	102.2
Feb. 15.....	(1)	101.1	(1)	(1)	(1)	100.9	(1)	101.3	(1)	(1)	101.9	(1)	99.5	101.8	(1)	102.2	102.5
Mar. 15.....	100.5	101.5	102.4	102.6	100.0	101.6	100.9	101.6	100.2	101.7	102.3	102.4	99.9	102.5	102.7	102.4	103.0
Apr. 15.....	(1)	102.6	(1)	(1)	(1)	102.5	(1)	102.4	(1)	(1)	103.2	(1)	101.1	103.2	(1)	103.5	104.1
May 15.....	(1)	103.8	(1)	(1)	(1)	103.3	(1)	103.0	(1)	(1)	103.5	(1)	101.6	104.4	(1)	104.2	103.0
June 15.....	103.3	105.9	106.1	106.4	103.0	105.0	103.2	105.5	103.5	105.1	104.0	105.6	102.9	105.6	106.2	105.4	107.2
July 15.....	(1)	106.4	(1)	(1)	(1)	107.4	(1)	107.0	(1)	(1)	105.0	(1)	103.9	105.7	(1)	105.7	107.4
Aug. 15.....	(1)	107.4	(1)	(1)	(1)	108.3	(1)	108.2	(1)	(1)	105.8	(1)	104.9	106.6	(1)	106.3	108.7
Sept. 15.....	107.6	109.5	110.6	110.9	107.4	110.5	106.7	109.9	108.3	110.7	107.9	110.9	106.0	108.1	111.0	107.8	111.5
Oct. 15.....	(1)	110.4	(1)	(1)	(1)	112.8	108.4	111.8	(1)	(1)	110.1	(1)	108.3	109.8	(1)	109.4	112.9
Nov. 15.....	(1)	111.3	(1)	(1)	(1)	113.4	108.6	113.5	(1)	(1)	111.2	(1)	109.7	111.1	(1)	110.6	113.4
Dec. 15.....	110.6	112.4	114.3	115.3	110.1	113.9	109.7	113.9	111.1	116.4	111.4	113.5	109.4	112.3	113.7	111.3	114.7

• Estimated Mar. 15, 1935, through Dec. 15, 1938.

¹ Data not available.

TABLE 4.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in large cities combined, 1913 through Dec. 15, 1941, by groups of items

[Average 1935-39=100]

Date	All items	Food ¹	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
1913—Average.....	70.7	79.9	69.3	92.2	61.9	59.1	50.9
1914—December.....	72.6	83.9	70.0	92.2	62.5	61.5	52.4
1915—December.....	74.0	83.9	72.5	93.6	62.5	65.4	54.6
1916—December.....	82.4	100.6	83.2	94.3	67.1	75.5	57.6
1917—December.....	97.8	125.4	103.3	92.3	76.8	89.0	71.5
1918—December.....	118.0	149.6	147.9	97.1	90.4	121.2	83.1
1919—June.....	121.0	148.5	160.1	101.0	89.3	128.8	85.5
December.....	135.3	160.0	198.4	109.6	94.8	152.3	94.3
1920—June.....	149.4	185.0	209.7	119.1	104.8	169.7	100.7
December.....	138.3	146.4	187.8	131.4	119.0	164.4	104.7
1921—May.....	126.6	121.2	161.5	139.2	112.9	141.6	104.7
September.....	125.3	129.2	139.5	140.0	112.7	127.8	104.0
December.....	123.6	126.1	133.4	142.3	113.8	124.4	103.5
1922—March.....	119.3	118.3	127.3	142.0	110.5	117.7	101.8
June.....	119.5	121.0	124.9	142.5	110.0	115.5	100.7
September.....	118.7	118.1	123.5	142.8	115.8	115.7	100.7
December.....	120.4	122.4	123.6	143.8	117.3	119.3	100.4
1923—March.....	120.2	119.7	125.4	144.5	116.5	124.7	100.5
June.....	121.6	123.7	125.7	146.0	113.2	127.4	100.5
September.....	123.1	126.6	126.7	147.4	114.5	127.5	101.1
December.....	123.5	126.0	126.7	149.6	116.0	127.4	101.5
1924—March.....	122.0	121.3	126.3	150.4	114.7	126.5	101.2
June.....	121.8	121.5	125.1	152.0	112.0	123.1	101.3
September.....	122.2	123.1	123.8	152.2	113.5	122.1	101.3
December.....	123.2	125.9	123.0	152.6	114.2	122.7	101.7
1925—June.....	124.9	131.9	122.6	152.2	112.4	121.3	102.3
December.....	128.2	140.6	121.8	152.0	121.3	121.1	102.6
1926—June.....	126.4	137.8	120.7	150.6	114.7	118.6	102.5
December.....	126.1	136.8	119.6	150.0	118.6	117.3	102.8
1927—June.....	125.7	137.5	118.5	148.4	114.1	115.7	103.1
December.....	123.8	132.5	116.9	146.9	115.4	115.2	103.6
1928—June.....	122.1	129.7	116.7	144.8	112.0	112.8	103.6
December.....	122.4	130.6	116.0	143.3	114.3	112.1	104.3
1929—June.....	122.1	131.3	115.4	141.4	111.1	111.7	104.5
December.....	122.8	133.8	114.7	139.9	113.6	111.3	104.9
1930—June.....	120.3	128.1	113.8	138.0	109.9	109.9	105.2
December.....	115.3	116.5	109.4	135.1	112.4	105.4	104.9
1931—June.....	108.2	102.1	103.5	130.9	107.3	98.1	104.3
December.....	104.2	96.5	96.3	125.8	109.1	92.6	103.3
1932—June.....	97.4	85.7	91.1	117.8	101.6	84.8	101.8
December.....	93.5	82.0	86.2	109.0	102.5	81.3	100.2
1933—June.....	90.8	82.2	84.8	100.1	97.2	81.5	97.8
December.....	93.9	88.1	84.4	95.8	102.9	91.1	98.1
1934—June.....	95.3	93.0	96.6	94.0	100.3	92.9	97.9
Nov. 15.....	96.2	95.4	96.5	93.9	101.8	93.6	97.8
1935—Mar. 15.....	97.8	99.7	96.8	93.8	102.1	94.2	98.1
July 15.....	97.6	99.4	96.7	94.1	99.0	94.5	98.2
Oct. 15.....	98.0	100.0	96.9	94.6	100.5	95.7	97.9
1936—Jan. 15.....	98.8	101.5	97.3	95.1	100.8	95.8	98.2
Apr. 15.....	97.8	98.4	97.4	95.5	100.8	95.7	98.4
July 15.....	99.4	102.6	97.2	96.5	99.1	95.9	98.7
Sept. 15.....	100.4	104.8	97.5	97.1	99.9	96.6	99.0
Dec. 15.....	99.8	101.6	99.0	98.1	100.5	97.9	99.1
1937—Mar. 15.....	101.8	105.0	100.9	98.9	100.8	102.6	100.2
June 15.....	102.8	106.0	102.5	101.0	99.2	104.3	100.9
Sept. 15.....	104.3	107.9	105.1	102.1	100.0	106.7	101.7
Dec. 15.....	103.0	102.7	104.8	103.7	100.7	107.0	102.0

¹ Covers 51 cities since June 1920.

TABLE 4.—*Indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in large cities combined, 1913 through Dec. 15, 1941, by groups of items—Continued*

[Average 1935-39=100]

Date	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
1938—Mar. 15.....	100.9	97.5	102.9	103.9	101.2	104.7	101.6
June 15.....	100.9	98.2	102.2	104.2	98.6	103.1	101.8
Sept. 15.....	100.7	98.1	101.4	104.2	99.3	101.9	101.6
Dec. 15.....	100.2	97.2	100.9	104.3	100.0	101.7	101.0
1939—Mar. 15.....	99.1	94.6	100.4	104.3	100.1	100.9	100.5
June 15.....	98.6	93.6	100.3	104.3	97.5	100.6	100.4
Sept. 15.....	100.6	98.4	100.3	104.4	98.6	101.1	101.1
Dec. 15.....	99.6	94.9	101.3	104.4	99.9	102.7	100.9
1940—Mar. 15.....	99.8	95.6	102.0	104.5	100.6	100.5	100.8
June 15.....	100.5	98.3	101.7	104.6	98.6	100.1	100.6
Sept. 15.....	100.4	97.2	101.6	104.7	99.3	100.3	101.4
Oct. 15.....	100.2	96.2	101.6	104.7	99.9	100.4	101.6
Nov. 15.....	100.1	95.9	101.6	104.7	100.3	100.6	101.7
Dec. 15.....	100.7	97.3	101.6	104.9	100.7	100.4	101.8
1941—Jan. 15.....	100.8	97.8	100.7	105.0	100.8	100.1	101.9
Feb. 15.....	100.8	97.9	100.4	105.1	100.6	100.4	101.9
Mar. 15.....	101.2	98.4	102.1	105.1	100.7	101.6	101.9
Apr. 15.....	102.2	100.6	102.4	105.4	101.0	102.4	102.2
May 15.....	102.9	102.1	102.8	105.7	101.1	103.2	102.5
June 15.....	104.6	105.9	103.3	105.8	101.4	105.3	103.3
July 15.....	105.3	106.7	104.8	106.1	102.3	107.4	103.7
Aug. 15.....	106.2	108.0	106.9	106.3	103.2	108.9	104.0
Sept. 15.....	108.1	110.7	110.8	106.8	103.7	112.0	105.0
Oct. 15.....	109.3	111.6	112.6	107.5	104.0	114.4	106.9
Nov. 15.....	110.2	113.1	113.8	107.8	104.0	115.6	107.4
Dec. 15.....	110.5	113.1	114.8	108.2	104.1	116.8	107.7

TABLE 5.—*Estimated¹ annual average indexes of cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in large cities combined, 1913-41*

[Average 1935-39=100]

Year	All items	Food ²	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
1913.....	70.7	79.9	69.3	92.2	61.9	59.1	50.9
1914.....	71.8	81.8	69.8	92.2	62.3	60.7	51.9
1915.....	72.5	80.9	71.4	92.9	62.5	63.6	53.6
1916.....	77.9	90.8	78.3	94.0	65.0	70.9	56.3
1917.....	91.6	116.9	94.1	93.2	72.4	82.8	65.1
1918.....	107.5	134.4	127.5	94.9	84.2	106.4	77.8
1919.....	123.8	149.8	168.7	102.7	91.1	134.1	87.6
1920.....	143.3	168.8	201.0	120.7	106.9	164.6	100.5
1921.....	127.7	128.3	154.8	138.6	114.0	138.5	104.3
1922.....	119.7	119.9	125.6	142.7	113.1	117.5	101.2
1923.....	121.9	124.0	125.9	146.4	115.2	126.1	100.8
1924.....	122.2	122.8	124.9	151.6	113.7	124.0	101.4
1925.....	125.4	132.9	122.4	152.2	115.4	121.5	102.2
1926.....	126.4	137.4	120.6	150.7	117.2	118.8	102.6
1927.....	124.0	132.3	118.3	148.3	115.4	115.9	103.2
1928.....	122.6	130.8	116.5	144.8	113.4	113.1	103.8
1929.....	122.5	132.5	115.3	141.4	112.5	111.7	104.6
1930.....	119.4	126.0	112.7	137.5	111.4	108.9	105.1
1931.....	108.7	103.9	102.6	130.3	108.9	98.0	104.1
1932.....	97.6	86.5	90.8	116.9	103.4	85.4	101.7
1933.....	92.4	84.1	87.9	100.7	100.0	84.2	98.4
1934.....	95.7	93.7	96.1	94.4	101.4	92.8	97.9
1935.....	98.1	100.4	96.8	94.2	100.7	94.8	98.1
1936.....	99.1	101.3	97.6	96.4	100.2	96.3	98.7
1937.....	102.7	105.3	102.8	100.9	100.2	104.3	101.0
1938.....	100.8	97.8	102.2	104.1	99.9	103.3	101.5
1939.....	99.4	95.2	100.5	104.3	99.0	101.3	100.7
1940.....	100.2	96.6	101.7	104.6	99.7	100.5	101.1
1941.....	105.2	105.5	106.5	105.9	102.5	108.2	104.0

¹ For explanation of method used, see text above.² Covers 51 cities since June 1920.

Changes in Food Costs in 17 Additional Cities

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has prepared monthly indexes of the retail costs of food for 51 cities from 1923 to date. These indexes for the year 1941 for 34 of these cities are given in table 2 as a part of the series of indexes showing changes in total living costs. The 1941 monthly food-cost indexes for the additional 17 cities are presented in table 6. Indexes for earlier periods are available upon request.

TABLE 6.—Indexes of the cost of all foods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 17 cities, by months in 1941

[Average 1935-39=100]

City	Average for the year 1941	1941											
		Jan. 14	Feb. 18	Mar. 18	Apr. 15	May 13	June 17	July 15	Aug. 12	Sept. 16	Oct. 14	Nov. 18	Dec. 16
Bridgeport.....	104.9	96.5	96.4	96.8	100.6	102.3	106.6	107.6	108.4	110.1	109.9	111.5	111.9
Butte.....	105.0	98.7	98.4	98.3	101.3	103.8	106.1	106.8	107.4	108.8	109.6	110.9	110.4
Charleston, S. C.....	104.7	95.9	95.9	96.1	98.2	100.0	103.5	107.6	107.9	111.0	112.6	113.1	115.1
Columbus, Ohio.....	102.2	93.4	93.2	94.0	96.9	98.6	102.9	104.5	104.4	107.6	109.2	110.4	111.1
Dallas.....	101.0	92.6	92.1	93.5	95.7	96.4	97.7	100.9	103.8	106.3	110.0	111.7	111.0
Fall River.....	104.9	97.5	98.4	98.4	100.4	102.2	106.0	107.5	107.1	109.5	110.1	111.7	110.5
Little Rock.....	104.3	95.6	95.6	95.6	98.4	100.1	101.9	104.9	108.2	109.9	111.3	114.4	115.5
Louisville.....	105.2	95.5	95.8	96.2	99.7	101.4	107.2	107.9	107.8	110.9	111.6	114.1	113.7
Newark.....	105.7	98.8	100.2	99.2	101.9	102.7	106.9	106.1	108.0	109.4	111.2	111.9	112.1
New Haven.....	103.9	95.7	96.1	96.3	99.8	101.4	105.8	105.9	107.2	108.5	108.3	110.5	111.1
Omaha.....	103.7	97.9	97.3	97.4	100.4	101.9	104.6	103.4	105.7	108.2	108.0	109.4	110.5
Peoria.....	108.2	99.0	99.4	100.3	103.5	104.0	108.2	110.2	111.0	115.2	114.7	116.1	116.7
Providence.....	104.6	96.3	97.3	97.0	99.2	101.1	104.5	107.0	108.9	110.8	110.9	112.1	110.2
Rochester.....	106.9	99.9	99.8	100.1	103.1	105.0	108.6	109.7	110.2	111.1	111.1	112.1	112.2
St. Paul.....	104.1	98.6	98.6	98.0	99.6	101.5	104.3	103.9	104.7	108.2	109.3	111.4	111.5
Salt Lake City.....	106.1	97.5	97.8	98.4	101.0	103.5	107.2	106.7	106.9	109.1	113.9	115.7	115.4
Springfield, Ill.....	105.6	96.2	96.5	97.0	100.3	100.8	105.6	106.7	107.4	111.9	112.8	115.7	115.8

Changes in Costs, on Average in Large Cities, of Specified Groups of Goods and Services

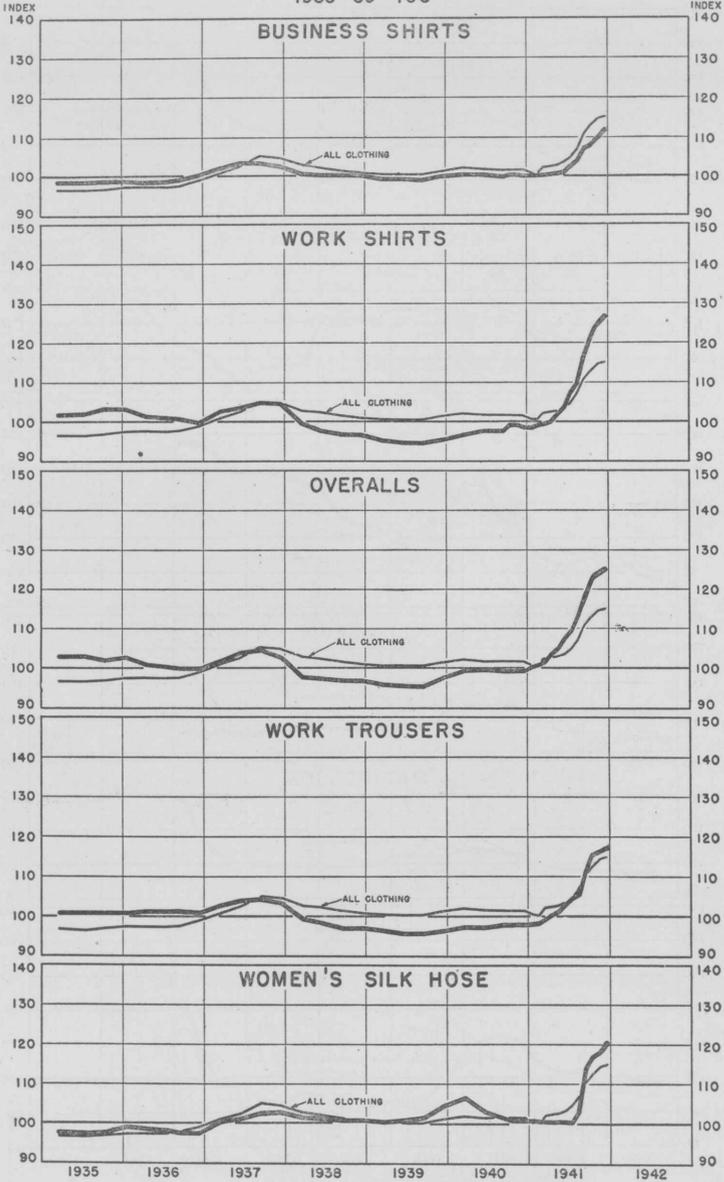
Cost of Food

Food prices were low in August 1939, relative to prices of other consumer goods, and the increases which have occurred in the prices of many food articles have been extreme.

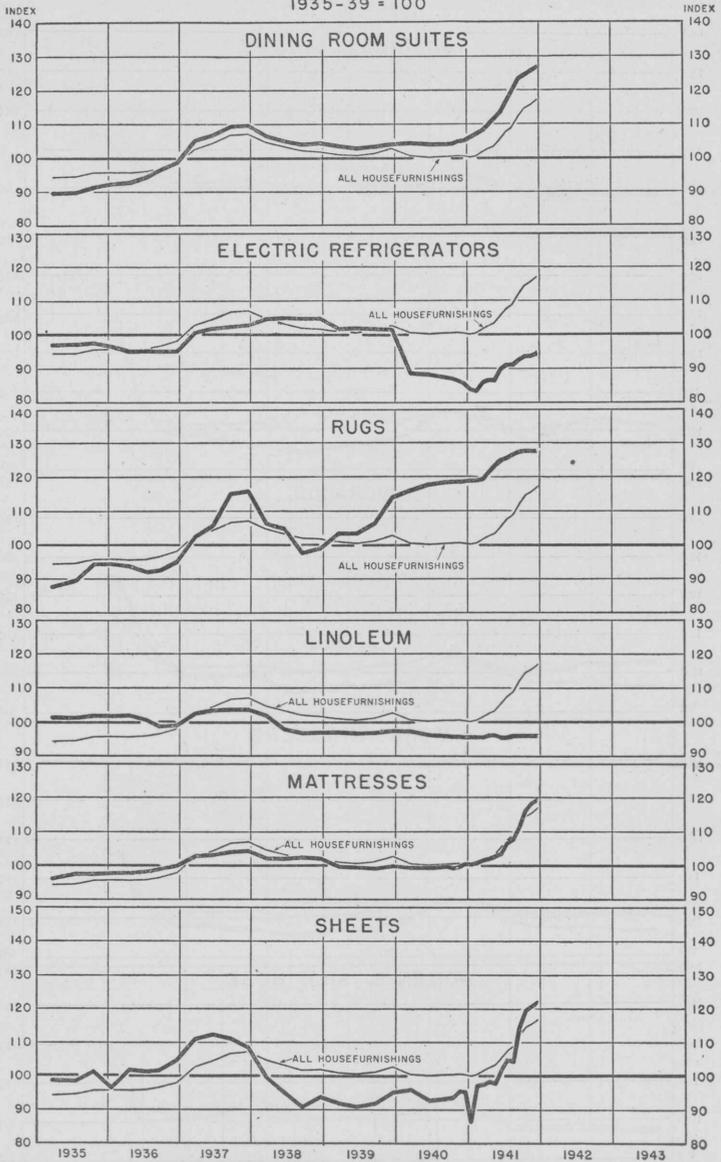
Until mid-March 1941, the average rise in food costs was slow. After that date, however, retail food prices began to advance rapidly and they have continued to increase since that time. Retail prices of eggs, salt pork, lard, butter, cheese, evaporated milk, and wheat flour were from 31 to 52 percent higher in December 1941 than in August 1939. The advance in fresh milk prices over the period was about 25 percent.

Government buying and the rise in consumer incomes as a result of defense activities were the most important factors producing higher food prices. Purchases for the Army and Navy and for export under the Lease-Lend Act, Government loans on certain basic farm commodities, and speculative activity, were responsible for large price increases for pork, dairy, and wheat products. Government purchases were also responsible, in large part, for price increases of 56 percent for canned salmon and 46 percent for navy beans. Increases

**AVERAGE PRICES PAID FOR
SPECIFIED ARTICLES OF CLOTHING
BY WAGE EARNERS AND LOWER SALARIED WORKERS
1935 - 39 = 100**



AVERAGE PRICES PAID FOR SPECIFIED HOUSEFURNISHINGS BY WAGE EARNERS AND LOWER-SALARIED WORKERS
1935-39 = 100



ranging from 17 to 26 percent for canned tomatoes, corn, and peaches also reflected Government buying.

Shortages in shipping facilities have been responsible for advances in prices of sugar, bananas, coffee, and tea which were from 15 to 22 percent higher at the end of 1941 than in the summer of 1939. The average family's bill for fresh fruits and vegetables was 20 percent higher at the end of last year than in the summer when war broke out in Europe. Seasonal differences in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables between the late summer and the winter are reflected in differences in prices of apples, green beans, carrots, lettuce, and onions between August 1939 and December 1941. The advances for these foods ranged from 28 to 58 percent.

If no consideration were given to the foods which have moved up only slightly, or have, in fact, remained stationary or even declined in price, a discussion of extreme increases in food prices during World War II would lead one to expect a very much greater increase in average food costs than has actually taken place. A few foods affected by large crops, decline in export demand, and seasonal declines in price, were cheaper in December 1941 than in the month before the outbreak of war in Europe. In the total cost of fresh fruits and vegetables to the average family, the large increases described above were to some extent counterbalanced by lower prices for oranges and sweetpotatoes and by the practically unchanged level of the cost of spinach. Cereal and bakery products were, on the average, only 10 percent higher and meat costs 16 percent higher than in August 1939. The percent of change in the cost of each of the food items included in the Bureau's cost-of-living index, between August 15, 1939, and December 15, 1941, is shown in table 7.

TABLE 7.—Percentage change from August 15, 1939, to December 15, 1941, in cost of each food included in cost-of-living index, average 51 cities

Article	Percentage change	Article	Percentage change
All foods.....	+21.0	Coffee.....	+20.4
Eggs.....	+52.3	Beef: Chuck roast.....	+19.9
Dried fruits and vegetables.....	+31.0	Sugar.....	+19.7
Dairy products.....	+29.4	Oleomargarine.....	+19.5
Fats and oils.....	+28.4	Bacon, sliced.....	+18.6
Beverages.....	+20.2	Corn, canned.....	+17.9
Sugar.....	+19.7	Shortening in other containers.....	+17.2
Fresh fruits and vegetables.....	+19.6	Tomatoes, canned.....	+16.6
Meats.....	+16.1	Potatoes.....	+16.3
Canned fruits and vegetables.....	+16.0	Ham, whole.....	+16.2
Cereals and bakery products.....	+9.7	Veal cutlets.....	+15.0
Green beans.....	+57.8	Tea.....	+14.6
Carrots, bunch.....	+56.8	Corn meal.....	+11.7
Salmon, pink.....	+56.3	Peanut butter.....	+11.6
Shortening in cartons.....	+54.0	Pork chops.....	+11.6
Lard.....	+53.7	Lamb: Leg.....	+10.8
Eggs.....	+52.3	Bread, white.....	+10.6
Navy beans.....	+46.4	Beef:	
Lettuce, head.....	+45.3	Round steak.....	+10.1
Onions.....	+41.5	Rib roast.....	+9.8
Cheese.....	+39.6	Bread, whole-wheat.....	+8.2
Butter.....	+37.5	Pineapple, canned.....	+6.8
Flour, wheat.....	+37.4	Peas, canned.....	+5.3
Salt pork.....	+31.0	Bread, rye.....	+4.7
Milk, evaporated.....	+30.8	Lamb: Rib chops.....	+4.1
Apples.....	+27.7	Roasting chickens.....	+4.0
Peaches, canned.....	+26.4	Soda crackers.....	+3.1
Milk, fresh, grocery.....	+25.2	Cabbage.....	+2.6
Fish, fresh, frozen.....	+24.4	Corn flakes.....	+1.1
Milk, fresh, delivered.....	+23.7	Spinach.....	+1
Bananas.....	+22.3	Macaroni.....	-1
Prunes.....	+21.0	Oranges.....	-4.9
		Sweetpotatoes.....	-18.8

Cost of Housefurnishings

The cost of housefurnishings customarily purchased by wage earners and clerical workers in large cities was 15.5 percent higher on December 15, 1941, than on September 15, 1939, and 18.4 percent higher on February 15, 1942, than in the fall of 1939. Prices of housefurnishings, in general, did not rise so rapidly in the period September 1939 to December 1941 as in the period from July 1914 to November 1916, in large part because of ceilings established by the Office of Price Administration on prices of metals used in the production of household equipment and because of warnings to many of the industries producing such equipment. Until late in 1941, no ceilings were placed on most of the raw materials which go into wooden and upholstered furniture, and the Bureau's figures show that prices for medium and inexpensive living-room, dining-room, and bedroom suites were 28 percent higher in December 1941 than in September 1939. On the other hand, prices of bedsprings, sewing machines, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, electric and gas refrigerators, gas stoves, and radios were, on the average, only 8 percent higher. Prices of electric refrigerators and electric-light bulbs were lowered in 1940, and by December 1941 they had not returned to the level of 1939; however, linoleum and felt-base floor coverings were about at that level.

Blankets, towels, and sheets reflected large purchases by the Army and Navy, as well as increased civilian purchases, and prices for this group were 25 percent higher in December 1941.

TABLE 8.—Percentage change from September 15, 1939, to December 15, 1941, in cost of all housefurnishings included in cost-of-living index

Article	Percentage change	Article	Percentage change
Living-room suites.....	+33.6	Blankets.....	+16.4
Sheets.....	+32.4	Bedsprings.....	+14.0
Bedroom suites.....	+24.7	Brooms.....	+12.3
Dining-room suites.....	+22.8	Sewing machines.....	+6.4
Towels.....	+22.0	Ice refrigerators.....	+6.2
Studio couches.....	+20.6	Vacuum cleaners.....	+5.4
Stoves.....	+20.4	Gas refrigerators.....	+4.6
Mattresses.....	+20.3	Glassware.....	+2.7
Rugs, wool.....	+19.3	Felt-base floor covering.....	+ .8
Washing machines.....	+17.9	Linoleum.....	(¹)
Curtains.....	+17.7	Electric refrigerators.....	-7.2
Radios.....	+17.0	Light bulbs.....	-14.8
Dinnerware.....	+16.9		

¹ No change.

Clothing Costs

In mid-December the moderate-income family's clothing bill was about 15 percent higher than it was at the outbreak of war and in mid-February, it was about 18 percent higher. Prices of men's work clothing rose by one-third and women's percale dresses by nearly one-half. These articles have felt the full effect of the diversion of cotton-loom capacity to supply the needs of rapidly expanding armed forces. Price advances for other cotton products designed for civilian consumption, however, have been less extreme.

Mill consumption of wool in the United States in 1941 was almost twice as much as the average for the preceding 10 years because of Army needs and increased civilian purchases. Men's wool suits have

increased 15 percent, but the increases in the retail prices for other garments made of wool have been less.

Shoe prices changed very little until the early fall of 1941 but have increased rapidly 15 and 20 percent above the level of prices in 1939.

The following table shows the changes from September 1939 to December 1941 in prices paid by wage earners and lower-salaried workers for some of the more important clothing that compose the clothing cost-of-living index.

TABLE 9.—Percentage change from September 15, 1939, to December 15, 1941, in cost of specified articles of clothing included in cost-of-living index

Article	Percentage change	Article	Percentage change
Men's clothing:		Women's clothing:	
Work shirts.....	+34.1	Percale dresses.....	+45.6
Overalls.....	+31.5	Percale yard goods.....	+31.2
Work trousers.....	+22.6	Slips.....	+22.8
Work shoes.....	+19.6	Silk hose.....	+18.6
Undershirts.....	+18.5	Panties.....	+14.6
Street shoes.....	+16.6	Children's shoes.....	+14.1
Wool suits.....	+15.3	Rayon dresses.....	+13.5
Hats.....	+14.9	Wool dresses.....	+12.4
Union suits.....	+13.0	Fur-trimmed coats.....	+12.0
Business shirts.....	+12.7	Girdles.....	+9.4
Top coats.....	+10.1	Hats.....	+7.5
Overcoats.....	+10.1	Shoes.....	+7.3
Sweaters.....	+6.4	Plain coats.....	+7.0
Neckties.....	(¹)	Shoe repairs.....	+5.7
		Dry cleaning.....	+4.5

¹ No change.

Rental Charges

Increases in rents charged to moderate-income families in large cities averaged 3.6 percent from September 15, 1939, to December 15, 1941, and 4.0 percent to February 15, 1942.

TABLE 10.—Percentage change in total rental bill of wage earners and clerical workers in large cities, September 1939 to December 1941

City	Percentage change	City	Percentage change	City	Percentage change
Average: Large cities.....	+3.6	Cleveland.....	+8.1	Atlanta.....	+2.2
Mobile.....	+25.5	Buffalo.....	+7.9	Pittsburgh.....	+1.9
Norfolk.....	+16.4	Manchester.....	+5.9	San Francisco.....	+1.8
Birmingham.....	+16.0	Portland, Oreg.....	+5.4	Cincinnati.....	+1.7
Jacksonville.....	+13.1	Kansas City.....	+4.8	Denver.....	+1.7
Seattle.....	+10.4	Milwaukee.....	+4.0	Minneapolis.....	+1.3
Savannah.....	+9.2	Chicago.....	+3.7	Washington.....	+1.2
Detroit.....	+9.1	Boston.....	+3.5	Richmond.....	+1.1
Indianapolis.....	+9.1	New Orleans.....	+2.9	Houston.....	+0.7
Baltimore.....	+8.8	St. Louis.....	+2.8	Los Angeles.....	+0.6
Memphis.....	+8.7	Philadelphia.....	+2.7	New York.....	+0.6
		Portland, Maine.....	+2.3	Scranton.....	+0.1

As shown by table 10, the rate of change, up to the end of 1941, has varied greatly from city to city. In cities where production for defense purposes has drawn many new workers from other areas, the advances have ranged from 5 to 25 percent depending on the availability of homes to house low and moderate-income families in 1940, and the amount of residential building in the low-rent brackets since that time. The most extreme changes have occurred in the South—

in Mobile, Norfolk, Birmingham, and Jacksonville—where rents in the fall of 1939 were from two-fifths to one-third lower than in the mid-twenties. In most cities, the Bureau's figures show larger-than-average increases for homes renting for less than \$30, because the demand among the defense workers has generally been greatest at this level.

Fuel, Electricity, and Ice

Costs for this group of goods were 5.6 percent higher in December 1941 than in September 1939 and 5.9 percent higher in February 1942.

Coal prices have advanced sharply since the outbreak of war. The increasing shortage of available tankers has caused fuel-oil prices to go up, particularly for cities on the Atlantic seaboard. On the average, coal prices had increased over 14 percent and fuel-oil prices nearly 13 percent between September 1939 and December 1941. On the other hand, electricity rates were 2.0 percent lower and gas rates 1.5 percent lower, as indicated in the accompanying statement:

	Percentage change		Percentage change
Coke.....	+21.8	Briquets.....	(¹)
Coal, bituminous.....	+14.8	Wood.....	(¹)
Coal, anthracite.....	+14.1	Kerosene.....	-1.3
Fuel oil.....	+12.7	Gas.....	-1.5
Ice.....	+4.6	Electricity.....	-2.0

¹ No change.

Cost of Miscellaneous Goods and Services

Average costs for miscellaneous goods and services had not risen so much as food, clothing, and housefurnishing costs on December 15, 1941. In December, the index for this group was 6.5 percent higher than in September 1939, and on February 15, 1942, 8.2 percent higher.

Table 11 covers goods and services which make up 60 percent of the miscellaneous index. It shows that goods and services covering more than half of this index rose in price less than 6.5 percent, dropped, or remained stationary between September 1939 and December 1941. Thus, railroad fares were lower by 8.5 percent, and cigars by 0.3 percent. Although there were increases in some cities, on the average streetcar fares remained almost stationary. Motor-oil prices rose only 1.9 percent; medical care, on the average, 1.5 percent; and household paper, 3.1 percent. The price of newspapers increased 2.5 percent on the average.

TABLE 11.—Percentage change from September 15, 1939, to December 15, 1941, in cost of specified miscellaneous articles and services included in cost-of-living index

Article	Percent- age change	Article	Percent- age change
Automobiles.....	+18.8	Tires and tubes.....	+4.0
Laundry soap.....	+10.0	Household paper.....	+3.1
Movies, adult.....	+9.5	Newspapers.....	+2.5
Laundry service.....	+8.3	Motor oil.....	+1.9
Haircut, men's.....	+7.1	Medical services.....	+1.5
Toilet soap.....	+6.7	Streetcar and bus fares.....	+ .7
Tooth paste.....	+6.3	Postal service.....	(¹)
Telephone service.....	+6.0	Castor oil.....	-1.7
Cigarettes.....	+5.7	Railroad fares.....	-8.5
Gasoline.....	+5.6		

¹ No change.

Cost of Living in Five Emergency Cities

Living costs rose, on the average, 14.5 percent between January 1941 and January 1942 in five cities especially affected by war activities, for which the Bureau of Labor Statistics has been making cost-of-living surveys. The areas included in this survey are Bridgeport, Conn., Corpus Christi, Tex., Gadsden, Ala., South Bend, Ind., and San Diego, Calif. Of these five cities the largest rise over the year was reported from Gadsden, where total living costs advanced by 17.4 percent. The smallest increase was that of 14.5 percent for Corpus Christi.

These recent changes brought the average increase in living costs in these five cities to 16 percent of the average in October 1939, as compared with an increase of 11.7 percent, on the average, in large cities throughout the country.

In all five defense areas included in this survey there has been a shortage of dwellings to house the new defense workers still coming to these centers. Some public-housing projects have been completed in these cities and others are under way. There are striking differences among the five cities in the movement of average rental costs. Rents in Corpus Christi rose only 1.4 percent over the year, but the increase in San Diego was 12.0 percent.

TABLE 12.—Percentage change in the cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 5 emergency cities from Oct. 15, 1939, to successive pricing periods to Jan. 15, 1942

City and date	Percentage increase or decrease over Oct. 15, 1939, in the cost of—						
	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
<i>Bridgeport, Conn.</i>							
1940—June 15.....	+1.0	+2.7	(¹)	+0.5	+2.6	-0.6	-0.9
Oct. 15.....	+7	-5	(¹)	+2.9	+3.4	+1	+4
1941—Jan. 15.....	+1.3	+7	-1.2	+3.9	+3.9	+8	+8
July 15.....	+7.8	+12.3	+1.8	+7.3	+4.9	+7.1	+5.3
Oct. 15.....	+12.2	+14.5	+15.4	+9.8	+7.1	+16.2	+10.9
1942—Jan. 15.....	+14.8	+19.9	+16.0	+10.4	+7.4	+20.3	+12.4
<i>Corpus Christi, Tex.</i>							
1940—June 15.....	-2.4	-6.6	+1.3	+1.2	-9	-2.8	-1.4
Oct. 15.....	-3	-1.5	+1.2	+1.9	-9	-2.5	-2
1941—Jan. 15.....	+8	+6	+4	+4.6	-9	-2.5	+2
July 15.....	+5.7	+10.7	+3.4	+5.9	-9	+2.4	+3.2
Oct. 15.....	+11.3	+16.8	+14.4	+6.0	-9	+7.8	+9.6
1942—Jan. 15.....	+14.5	+22.2	+19.1	+6.1	-9	+13.4	+11.5
<i>Gadsden, Ala.</i>							
1940—June 15.....	-1.7	-5.0	+1.2	+9	-2.2	-2.9	-8
Oct. 15.....	+2	-5	+1.1	+1.3	+1.9	-2.2	(¹)
1941—Jan. 15.....	+1.3	+2.4	+1.1	+2.0	+1.9	-2.0	+5
July 15.....	+6.3	+11.6	+4.3	+4.2	+5.2	+5.6	+3.9
Oct. 15.....	+12.9	+20.1	+14.2	+5.9	+8.4	+13.6	+10.3
1942—Jan. 15.....	+17.4	+25.5	+19.2	+10.1	+11.8	+16.7	+14.5
<i>San Diego, Calif.</i>							
1940—June 15.....	-8	-2	(¹)	(¹)	-1.8	-1.3	-2.0
Oct. 15.....	+1	-3	-2	+1.0	-1.8	-1.2	+4
1941—Jan. 15.....	+1.0	+3	-4	+4.8	-4.3	-6	+9
July 15.....	+6.5	+12.5	+8	+10.9	-8.1	+3.9	+2.8
Oct. 15.....	+11.9	+20.9	+7.6	+14.3	-8.1	+12.4	+6.3
1942—Jan. 15.....	+16.7	+29.5	+12.9	+17.4	-8.1	+19.2	+8.4
<i>South Bend, Ind.</i>							
1940—June 15.....	+3	+3	+4	+4.0	-5.3	-1.9	-1
Oct. 15.....	+2.2	+1.7	+3	+7.3	-2.1	-1.5	+1.9
1941—Jan. 15.....	+2.2	+1.6	-9	+7.9	-1.9	-7	+1.8
July 15.....	+8.3	+15.2	+1.0	+10.4	+4	+5.7	+4.5
Oct. 15.....	+12.8	+19.3	+11.8	+12.1	+1.5	+12.3	+9.5
1942—Jan. 15.....	+16.8	+27.9	+14.7	+14.1	+1.9	+16.5	+10.8

¹ No change.

Estimated Changes From October 1939 to January 1942 in Cost of Living in Five Cities in Which Partial Price Collections Are Made

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has made estimates of changes in total cost of living for moderate-income families in 5 cities in which there has been special interest and for which prices were already being collected for the food, fuel, and rent groups of family expenditures. The estimates have been made by combining price data on food, fuel, and rents in each city with data on average changes in prices for clothing, housefurnishings, and miscellaneous goods and services in the 34 other large cities located throughout the country. Changes in prices of food, fuel, and rental costs are likely to vary considerably from city to city, while prices of clothing, housefurnishings, and most of the miscellaneous goods and services have been following similar trends throughout the country.

Table 13 shows the estimated percentage change in the cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in these five cities from October 15, 1939, to successive pricing periods to 1942.

During the coming months the Bureau of Labor Statistics will release similar estimates for Knoxville, Tenn., Little Rock, Ark., New Haven, Conn., Peoria, Ill., and Rochester, N. Y.

TABLE 13.—Estimated percentage change in cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in special cities from Oct. 15, 1939, to successive pricing periods to 1942

City and pricing period	Percentage increase or decrease over Oct. 15, 1939, in the cost of—			
	All items	Food	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice
<i>Charleston, S. C.</i>				
1940—June.....	-0.8	-2.7	+0.5	+1.1
October.....	-4	-2.5	+5	+1.1
November.....	-6	-3.5	+5	+1.0
December.....	-1	-2.2	+6	+2.0
1941—February.....	-3	-2.6	+1.0	+2.0
May.....	+1.6	+1.5	+1.2	+2.0
August.....	+5.4	+9.5	+2.0	+3.7
October.....	+8.9	+14.3	+3.2	+4.7
November.....	+9.6	+14.8	+4.1	+5.7
1942—February.....	+13.6	+20.6	+12.2	+5.7
<i>Dallas, Tex.</i>				
1940—June.....	-1.4	-4.8	+1	-1
October.....	-5	-2.8	(¹)	+1
1941—January.....	-7	-3.3	+1	+2
April.....	+7	-1	+2	+2
July.....	+3.3	+5.3	+7	+2
October.....	+8.4	+14.9	+1.1	+2
1942—January.....	+10.3	+17.6	+1.9	+5
<i>Louisville, Ky.</i>				
1940—October.....	-2	-1.7	+4	+1.9
1941—April.....	+2.5	+3.3	+4.5	+2.1
July.....	+6.9	+11.8	+8.0	+3.5
August.....	(²)	+11.7	(²)	+4.6
September.....	(²)	+14.9	(²)	+4.8
October.....	+10.8	+15.7	+10.8	+4.8
November.....	(²)	+18.2	(²)	+4.8
December.....	+12.2	+17.8	+11.5	+4.8
1942—January.....	+13.6	+21.0	+11.7	+4.8

¹No change.

²Data not available.

TABLE 13.—Estimated percentage change in cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in special cities from Oct. 15, 1939, to successive pricing periods to 1942—Continued

City and pricing period	Percentage increase or decrease over Oct. 15, 1939, in the cost of—			
	All items	Food	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice
<i>Newark, N. J.</i>				
1940—June.....	+1.4	+3.7	+0.2	+0.7
October.....	+3	+1	+4	+1.7
November.....	+2	-3	+5	+2.1
December.....	+7	+8	+5	+2.5
1941—January.....	+8	+1.4	+5	+2.5
April.....	+2.3	+4.6	+1.0	+2.1
July.....	+4.8	+8.9	+2.3	+3.8
October.....	+8.7	+14.2	+4.7	+5.4
1942—January.....	+11.2	+19.1	+5.5	+5.4
<i>Wichita, Kans.</i>				
1940—June.....	+6	+2.0	+6	-1
October.....	-1	-2.7	+1.4	+3.3
November.....	+1	-2.4	+1.6	+3.3
1941—January.....	+5	-8	+1.7	+3.3
February.....	+3	-1.5	+1.9	+3.3
May.....	+3.2	+5.9	+2.6	+3.3
July.....	+5.6	+9.6	+5.6	+3.3
October.....	+9.9	+13.2	+12.1	+5.9
1942—January.....	+13.3	+19.6	+15.4	+5.9

Changes in Cost of Living in Newport News to December 1941

According to a special study, made in view of the particular interest in an area especially affected by war activity, living costs in Newport News were found to be 16.0 percent higher in December 1941 than in September 1940.

The rise in living costs over the period of a year and a quarter in Newport News has been somewhat greater than the average increase for the large cities of the country and slightly less than for Norfolk. In general, the cities where living costs have shown the greatest rise are those that have been involved most directly in the war effort. In both Newport News and Norfolk, increased employment and higher earnings in the shipyards have brought increased patronage to local stores, and greater demand on available housing.

Food.—The 24.5-percent rise in retail food costs between September 1940 and December 1941 in Newport News, which compares with the average advance in the large cities of 16.4 percent and in Norfolk of 23.5 percent, was due to a general rise in prices of all foods. Prices of meats, dairy products, eggs, and most fruits and vegetables showed greater increases in Newport News and Norfolk than in the large cities as a group. Over the last quarter, food costs rose 3.2 percent in Newport News as compared with 2.2 percent in the large cities combined and 4.0 percent in Norfolk.

Clothing.—As in other large cities throughout the country, the sharpest advance in clothing prices noted over the period of a year and a quarter was in men's work clothing, particularly overalls, work shirts, work trousers, and work shoes. Prices of woolen wearing apparel for men and women, and women's silk hose also rose substantially. From September 1940 to December 1941, the total increase in clothing

costs in Newport News was 14.8 percent, as compared with 13.0 percent in other large cities and 14.9 in Norfolk. In the last quarter, clothing costs in Newport News rose 2.5 percent.

Rent.—Rents in Newport News moved upward steadily at all rent levels, advancing almost 10 percent over the 15-month period. Of this rise, 1.3 percent occurred in the last quarter. In Norfolk, rent increased 15.1 percent over the 15-month period and 6.1 percent between September and December 1941. This compares with an average rise of only 3.3 percent over the year and a quarter, and 1.3 percent in the last 3 months in total rental costs to wage-earners in the large cities throughout the country.

Fuel, electricity, and ice.—No change occurred in fuel costs over the quarter ending in December 1941, as compared with a seasonal increase of 2.8 percent over the corresponding quarter of 1940.

Housefurnishings.—Prices of housefurnishing goods were 15.7 percent higher in December 1941 than 15 months earlier. In large American cities as a whole, the average increase was 16.5 percent and in Norfolk 19.3 percent. Prices of towels, sheets, radios, and suites of furniture such as bedroom, living-room, and dining-room suites advanced considerably. From September to December 1941, costs of housefurnishings increased 3.7 percent in Newport News, while in large cities they rose 4.3 percent and in Norfolk, 5.5 percent.

Miscellaneous.—The cost of miscellaneous goods and services increased 4.2 percent between September and December 1941 and were then 12.5 percent above their level in September 1940. The sharp advances during this period were due in part to higher prices for services and to the defense tax imposed on October 1, 1941, affecting particularly automobiles, tires, tubes, movies, telephone and railroad rates, and toilet goods.

TABLE 14.—Percentage change in the cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in Newport News, Va., from September 1940 to December 1941.

Date	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	Housefurnishings	Miscellaneous
September 1940 to December 1941.....	+16.0	+24.5	+14.8	+9.7	+7.5	+15.7	+12.5
September 1940 to December 1940.....	+1.3	+2.3	(¹)	+1.2	+2.8	+1	+4
December 1940 to March 1941.....	+1.8	+3.9	+1.5	+2.0	(¹)	-.3	+3
March 1941 to June 1941.....	+4.6	+7.8	+2.1	+2.3	(¹)	+2.7	+4.9
June 1941 to September 1941.....	+4.5	+5.2	+8.1	+2.6	+4.5	+8.9	+2.3
September 1941 to December 1941.....	+3.0	+3.2	+2.5	+1.3	+1	+3.7	+4.2

¹ No change.

Changes in Cost of Living in 11 Small Cities to December 1941

Average living costs in the 11 small cities rose 10.8 percent between December 15, 1940, and December 15, 1941, as compared with 9.7 percent in the large cities. The rise brought the level of living costs in the small cities to a point 13.7 percent above June 1939.

The advances have differed considerably from city to city according to the industrial character of the community. In general, the small cities where living costs have shown the greatest rise are those that

nave been involved most directly in the war effort. Increases over the 2½-year period ranged from 11.0 percent in Bloomington, Ind., to 16.5 percent in Chester, S. C. The comparatively large rise in the cost of living in Chester is explained by the presence of nearby military encampments, which brought increased patronage to local stores, and by higher earnings in the textile mills. Prices in Clinton, Iowa, Battle Creek, Mich., and Lebanon, Pa., have also been affected by increased consumer incomes, and the purchases by men at nearby army camps have influenced the trend in Battle Creek and Lebanon.

The survey of 11 small cities has been made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics at the request of the Office of Price Administration in order to supplement the Bureau's survey in larger cities. This survey in the small cities is being extended at the present time to 9 additional cities, and will hereafter cover 20 typical communities ranging in population from 5,000 to 50,000.

Table 15 gives the percentage change in the cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 11 small cities from June 15, 1939, to successive pricing periods to December 15, 1941.

TABLE 15.—Percentage change in the cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 11 small cities from June 15, 1939, to successive pricing periods to Dec. 15, 1941

City and date	Percentage increase or decrease over June 15, 1939, in the cost of—						
	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
<i>Battle Creek, Mich.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+0.9	+1.4	+0.1	+0.1	+3.5	(1)	+0.5
1940—June 15.....	+1.6	+3.9	+3	-1	+3.9	-3.1	+1.1
Dec. 15.....	+3.9	+6.5	+4	+2.3	+6.6	-3.6	+4.1
1941—Mar. 15.....	+5.1	+8.4	+7	+4.8	+6.6	-2.7	+4.4
June 15.....	+8.9	+15.8	+2.2	+5.7	+6.6	-3	+8.3
Sept. 15.....	+13.3	+22.1	+11.8	+7.2	+12.6	+5.1	+10.4
Dec. 15.....	+15.7	+23.4	+15.9	+7.4	+12.8	+11.1	+14.7
<i>Bloomington, Ind.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+1.1	+2.5	+3	+5	+1.9	-5	+3
1940—June 15.....	+1.0	+3.4	+8	+6	+3	-4.6	-1
Dec. 15.....	+2.3	+7.2	+4	+4	-9	-5.0	+9
1941—Mar. 15.....	+2.7	+8.3	+8	+4	-2.0	-4.9	+1.1
June 15.....	+5.8	+16.2	+2.2	+4	-2.0	-2.4	+2.2
Sept. 15.....	+8.2	+20.6	+6.4	+5	-4	+2.5	+3.2
Dec. 15.....	+11.0	+24.2	+11.9	+3	+2	+7.3	+6.1
<i>Chester, S. C.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+3.5	+6.5	+1	+7.7	+3.3	+1.0	+7
1940—June 15.....	+1.5	+1.1	+1.1	+12.1	(1)	-1.9	-1.3
Dec. 15.....	+3.7	+5.2	+1.4	+12.1	+3.3	-1.3	+6
1941—Mar. 15.....	+5.7	+11.1	+1.5	+12.2	+3.2	+1.5	+1.1
June 15.....	+8.1	+16.5	+3.8	+12.3	+3.2	+3.2	+2.3
Sept. 15.....	+13.0	+25.4	+15.6	+13.0	+5.0	+10.5	+3.4
Dec. 15.....	+16.5	+31.2	+17.8	+13.8	+6.1	+13.6	+7.0
<i>Clarksburg, W. Va.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	-2	-6	+1	-1	(1)	-6	+1
1940—June 15.....	+3	+1.3	+2	-2	-9	-8	+1
Dec. 15.....	+2.2	+5.1	+3	(1)	+7	+3	+1.8
1941—Mar. 15.....	+3.0	+7.3	+3	(1)	+7	+5	+2.1
June 15.....	+6.5	+16.6	+1.4	+2	-1.4	+4.9	+3.7
Sept. 15.....	+9.6	+19.9	+11.6	+4	-1.4	+11.7	+5.9
Dec. 15.....	+12.8	+24.6	+15.9	+9	-1.4	+15.8	+9.5

1 No change.

TABLE 15.—Percentage change in the cost of goods purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers in 11 small cities from June 15, 1939, to successive pricing periods to Dec. 15, 1941—Continued

City and date	Percentage increase or decrease over June 15, 1939, in the cost of—						
	All items	Food	Clothing	Rent	Fuel, electricity, and ice	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
<i>Clinton, Iowa</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+1.3	+1.8	+0.1	(¹)	+5.7	+0.7	+0.8
1940—June 15.....	+2.0	+3.7	+3	+1.3	+3.6	-1.6	+1.2
Dec. 15.....	+4.7	+8.9	+3	+3.4	+5.7	-1.8	+3.1
1941—Mar. 15.....	+5.8	+11.0	+3	+5.4	+7.1	-1.5	+3.3
June 15.....	+10.3	+20.5	+1.2	+9.1	+6.5	+1.4	+6.0
Sept. 15.....	+12.8	+22.4	+11.0	+9.9	+10.0	+7.8	+6.8
Dec. 15.....	+15.9	+25.9	+13.4	+10.6	+10.0	+10.0	+12.0
<i>Globe, Ariz.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+1.8	+7.1	+3	(¹)	-2.2	-.2	-.1
1940—June 15.....	-.2	+2.0	+3	+2	-7.3	-3.6	-7
Dec. 15.....	+2.3	+9.1	+5	+2	-7.6	-3.8	+1.2
1941—Mar. 15.....	+2.1	+8.2	+9	+3	-7.6	-3.8	+1.3
June 15.....	+6.4	+19.5	+1.6	+2.0	-2.6	+2	+2.4
Sept. 15.....	+9.8	+25.8	+10.0	+2.4	-2.6	+7.6	+3.2
Dec. 15.....	+13.5	+30.8	+13.2	+3.4	-2.6	+12.7	+7.8
<i>Lebanon, Pa.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+1.0	+2.1	+3	+6	+1	-.2	+7
1940—June 15.....	+1.0	+2.8	+2	+1.2	-.8	-3.0	+4
Dec. 15.....	+2.4	+4.8	+9	+1.6	+1.3	-2.4	+2.1
1941—Mar. 15.....	+3.2	+5.8	+2.1	+2.0	+1.3	-1.3	+2.9
June 15.....	+7.4	+16.6	+3.0	+2.0	+2.8	+2.1	+4.3
Sept. 15.....	+11.6	+22.9	+11.1	+3.0	+5.4	+8.2	+6.6
Dec. 15.....	+14.6	+26.0	+15.3	+4.0	+5.4	+15.5	+10.5
<i>Mattoon, Ill.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+7	+1.6	(¹)	(¹)	+4.6	-.2	-.5
1940—June 15.....	+1.4	+4.1	+3	+1	+2.1	-.4	-.2
Dec. 15.....	+2.5	+6.0	+4	-.1	+2.7	-.6	+1.6
1941—Mar. 15.....	+2.7	+5.9	+9	+3	+2.3	+6	+1.7
June 15.....	+5.3	+12.8	+1.9	(¹)	+2.1	+2.9	+3.0
Sept. 15.....	+9.9	+21.3	+6.4	+6	+5.0	+7.7	+6.5
Dec. 15.....	+13.0	+24.1	+12.3	+1.2	+3.1	+15.1	+11.0
<i>Oswego, N. Y.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+6	+1.4	+2	+2	-.4	+1	+4
1940—June 15.....	+7	+2.3	+1.0	+1.1	-1.9	-3.3	-.1
Dec. 15.....	+1.8	+3.9	+9	+1.3	-.1	-3.2	+1.4
1941—Mar. 15.....	+2.1	+5.1	+1.6	+1.1	-.1	-3.7	+1.2
June 15.....	+6.4	+14.9	+2.3	+1.8	+3	-.8	+3.6
Sept. 15.....	+10.0	+20.0	+11.6	+2.0	+2.7	+7.6	+5.2
Dec. 15.....	+12.5	+22.8	+16.3	+2.2	+1.5	+13.0	+8.3
<i>Vineland, N. J.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+7	+1.3	+1	-.3	+3.1	+3	(¹)
1940—June 15.....	+7	+2.2	+5	-.3	+1	-2.7	+3
Dec. 15.....	+1.1	+1.9	+5	-.2	+1.9	-2.1	+1.4
1941—Mar. 15.....	+2.2	+3.9	+8	+2	+1.9	+4	+2.3
June 15.....	+5.8	+11.6	+2.8	+5	-.5	+6.9	+4.9
Sept. 15.....	+10.3	+17.5	+15.0	+1.7	+2.9	+14.4	+6.6
Dec. 15.....	+12.7	+19.6	+18.6	+2.0	+3.4	+18.3	+10.1
<i>Walla Walla, Wash.</i>							
1939—Dec. 15.....	+6	+1.7	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	+5	+3
1940—June 15.....	+9	+4.2	(¹)	(¹)	-.3	-2.1	-.3
Dec. 15.....	+1.7	+4.3	+1	-.2	-.3	-1.5	+1.7
1941—Mar. 15.....	+2.9	+8.2	+2	-.1	-.6	-.6	+2.0
June 15.....	+5.3	+14.3	+1.5	(¹)	-3.4	+2.1	+3.4
Sept. 15.....	+9.6	+22.9	+10.7	(¹)	-3.7	+11.0	+4.7
Dec. 15.....	+12.7	+25.5	+13.1	+1	+4.1	+13.0	+8.9

¹No change.

Data similar to the foregoing for nine other small cities³ are being currently prepared and will be released during the coming months.

³Falls City, Nebr., Goldsboro, N. C., Jonesboro, Ark., Oconto, Wis., Stillwater, Okla., Torrington Conn., Vicksburg, Miss., Watertown, S. Dak., and Zanesville, Ohio.

Changes in Living Costs of Federal Employees in Washington, D. C., from December 1940 to December 1941

Living costs of Federal employees and their families in Washington, D. C., increased 8.6 percent during the year 1941. This was slightly less than the 10-percent increase shown by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' indexes of living costs for wage earners and lower-salaried workers in Washington between December 1940 and December 1941.

The general price rise was most sharply felt by families of custodial employees for whom food requires a larger portion of the family income than that spent by Federal employees with higher earnings. Food prices have been rising faster than prices of other goods. For custodial employees, the average rise in all costs was 9.6 percent. Living costs of employees living as single individuals showed the second largest advance, 9.2 percent, while the increase for families of employees in the CAF and professional services were 8.5 and 8.4 percent respectively.

The special study on which these figures are based is conducted annually in Washington by the Bureau of Labor Statistics by pricing, in representative stores, a list of the most important goods bought by Federal employees and their families. This list of expenditures and their relative importance in budgets of Federal workers in Washington were determined by a study made in the fall of 1933 of the expenditures of 336 families of Federal employees and 123 single individuals.

Food.—Prices for nearly all types of food in the family market basket rose over the year, with the largest increases reported for fresh fruits and vegetables, pork, lard, coffee, and sugar.

For custodial employees for whom food costs represented 34.3 percent of total expenditures for living, there was a 16.9 percent rise in these costs. The 16 percent rise in food costs for professional employees as a group was considerably less important since foods constitute only 24.9 percent of their total expenditures.

Clothing.—Clothing costs for all Federal employees averaged 16.7 percent higher in December 1941 than in December 1940. As in the rest of the country, prices of cotton work clothing rose most rapidly.

Housing.—Housing costs for Federal employees were 1.3 percent higher, on the average, at the end of the year. For employees living as single individuals, who largely rent furnished rooms, the increase in housing costs was much above the average, almost 4 percent higher than a year earlier. Of the employees living in family groups, it was again the custodial employees who experienced the sharpest rise. The increase of 1.5 percent in housing costs for that group compares with an increase of only 0.9 percent for other employees with basic salaries of less than \$2,500 and 0.7 percent for employees with basic salaries over \$2,500.

Household operation.—The rise in the cost of household operation for all types of Federal employees was due to increases of approximately 5 percent in coal prices, of 5 to 7 percent in laundry service, and of 6 percent in telephone rates (the latter as a result of the defense excise tax as of October 1, 1941). The 10- to 15-percent increase in the cost of domestic service was less significant in the family budget of the custodial group than for other groups of Federal em-

ployees; on the other hand, the average rise of nearly 20 percent in the prices of cleaning supplies was more important in the spending of custodial families.

Furnishings and equipment.—On the average, costs of furnishings and equipment increased about 16 percent. As in the rest of the country, prices of suites of furniture, sheets, and towels advanced rapidly.

Transportation.—The average rise of more than 11 percent in transportation costs reflects the higher cost of buying, maintaining, and operating automobiles at the end of 1941 than in December 1940. In the transportation costs of families of custodial employees and employees living as single individuals, automobiles are less important than the expenditure for streetcar and bus fares. Since no increase occurred in 1941 in the cost of public transportation, the advance in total transportation costs for these two groups was less than for other Federal employees.

Personal care.—Rising costs of barber- and beauty-shop services and of toilet articles increased the cost of personal care nearly 10 percent, on the average, for all Federal employees in Washington. According to reports to the Bureau, the cost of haircuts in barber shops patronized by Negroes rose about 30 percent in 1941, while the cost of haircuts for men in barber shops with white patronage increased about 20 percent, and the price of women's haircuts remained unchanged.

Recreation.—Higher admission prices to movies contributed to the advance of 3.1 percent in the average costs of recreation of various kinds.

TABLE 16.—Percentage change in cost of goods purchased by Federal employees in Washington, D. C., Dec. 15, 1940, to Dec. 15, 1941

Item	All employees	Employees living in family groups			Employees living as single individuals
		Custodial employees with basic salaries of less than \$2,500	Other employees with basic salaries of less than \$2,500	Other employees with basic salaries of \$2,500 and over	
All items.....	+8.6	+9.6	+8.5	+8.4	+9.2
Food.....	+16.2	+16.9	+16.2	+16.0	+16.3
Clothing.....	+16.7	+17.8	+16.7	+16.3	+16.4
Housing.....	+1.3	+1.5	+ .9	+ .7	+3.8
Household operation.....	+5.7	+4.2	+5.2	+6.3	+6.5
Furnishings and equipment.....	+15.9	+16.3	+15.9	+15.8	+14.3
Transportation.....	+11.1	+7.7	+11.8	+12.7	+6.1
Personal care.....	+9.8	+14.2	+9.3	+10.1	+8.6
Medical care.....	+ .2	+ .5	+ .2	+ .2	+ .1
Recreation.....	+3.1	+4.2	+3.1	+2.9	+3.0
Formal education.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Life insurance.....	+1.9	+2.0	+1.9	+2.0	+1.9
Retirement fund.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)

¹ No change.

TABLE 17.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by Federal employees in Washington, D. C., January 1928 through Dec. 15, 1941

[Average 1935-39=100]

ALL EMPLOYEES

Group	January 1928	March 1933	December 1933	June 1934	Nov. 15, 1934	Mar. 15, 1935	July 15, 1935	Oct. 15, 1935	Jan. 15, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936	Dec. 15, 1936	Dec. 15, 1937	Dec. 15, 1938	Dec. 15, 1939	Dec. 15, 1940	Dec. 15, 1941
All items.....	112.1	92.7	95.3	96.9	97.9	98.8	98.4	98.9	99.2	98.4	99.9	102.0	100.3	99.6	100.7	109.4
Food.....	123.7	87.6	90.0	93.4	97.2	101.3	101.4	102.0	101.9	98.7	101.0	102.9	97.5	95.3	98.6	114.6
Clothing.....	114.0	76.4	95.1	96.5	96.5	94.8	94.5	94.6	95.3	95.1	99.9	105.3	101.7	102.6	103.2	120.4
Housing.....	109.8	100.5	96.5	96.9	97.5	97.5	97.7	98.0	98.5	98.8	100.1	101.5	101.1	100.7	100.8	102.1
Household operation.....	116.2	101.3	102.2	100.5	102.3	100.9	98.1	100.6	100.5	99.6	99.8	100.5	100.3	98.8	99.0	104.6
Furnishings and equipment.....	101.9	72.7	89.0	93.1	93.0	92.9	93.0	94.2	95.4	95.8	99.7	105.5	101.8	104.6	105.9	122.7
Transportation.....	108.2	94.9	95.9	99.8	98.1	98.7	98.5	98.0	99.3	100.0	96.1	102.0	102.9	100.4	97.1	107.9
Personal care.....	117.4	105.5	104.0	100.1	97.3	97.0	96.8	96.3	95.5	95.4	103.8	101.6	100.7	101.0	100.4	110.2
Medical care.....	103.2	99.1	99.0	99.1	100.0	100.4	100.2	100.1	99.7	99.7	99.9	99.9	100.0	100.4	100.5	100.7
Recreation.....	105.9	96.6	97.6	100.2	98.0	97.5	97.0	97.0	97.1	97.1	97.7	97.9	104.2	105.0	109.2	112.6
Formal education.....	91.1	98.2	98.5	98.5	98.6	98.6	98.8	98.9	98.9	98.9	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6
Life insurance.....	92.5	97.4	97.6	98.2	98.2	98.7	99.3	99.3	100.2	99.8	100.4	99.2	100.9	101.1	102.8	104.8
Retirement fund.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

EMPLOYEES LIVING IN FAMILY GROUPS

Group	Custodial employees with basic salaries of less than \$2,500															
	Jan. 1928	Mar. 1933	Dec. 1933	June 1934	Nov. 15, 1934	Mar. 15, 1935	July 15, 1935	Oct. 15, 1935	Jan. 15, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936	Dec. 15, 1936	Dec. 15, 1937	Dec. 15, 1938	Dec. 15, 1939	Dec. 15, 1940	Dec. 15, 1941
All items.....	114.7	90.4	95.0	96.3	98.2	100.1	99.8	100.7	100.3	98.7	100.2	101.7	99.2	98.3	99.5	109.1
Food.....	125.8	81.6	87.6	91.1	96.5	103.1	103.0	104.8	103.6	98.9	102.1	102.6	95.7	93.3	95.7	111.9
Clothing.....	110.9	72.6	94.3	98.2	97.4	96.5	96.2	96.4	96.8	96.4	99.6	103.5	101.4	102.4	103.0	121.3
Housing.....	113.0	102.2	99.5	98.8	98.5	98.5	99.3	99.3	99.3	99.4	99.5	101.0	100.7	100.3	101.0	102.5
Household operation.....	117.5	102.8	103.9	101.2	103.7	102.5	97.5	100.8	100.6	100.2	99.9	100.1	100.2	98.0	98.5	102.6
Furnishings and equipment.....	102.0	71.5	89.1	93.1	92.9	92.8	93.0	94.2	95.7	96.2	99.9	105.7	101.2	104.4	105.9	123.2
Transportation.....	98.1	91.3	93.0	95.0	95.6	97.7	97.4	96.3	97.2	97.7	96.0	103.0	103.7	102.3	100.8	108.6
Personal care.....	123.4	113.6	114.9	106.9	102.0	101.3	101.0	100.3	99.1	99.3	100.0	100.4	98.3	102.2	102.9	117.5
Medical care.....	102.1	100.5	100.0	100.2	100.5	100.5	100.4	100.3	99.5	99.6	99.7	99.7	100.3	100.4	100.4	100.9
Recreation.....	102.5	95.7	97.2	100.3	99.6	98.5	98.2	98.1	98.2	98.2	98.4	100.0	102.7	103.0	107.7	112.2
Formal education.....	90.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Life insurance.....	92.5	97.4	97.6	98.1	98.1	98.7	99.3	99.3	100.2	99.8	100.4	99.2	100.9	101.1	102.7	104.8
Retirement fund.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

TABLE 17.—Indexes of cost of goods purchased by Federal employees in Washington, D. C., January 1928 through Dec. 15, 1941—Con.

EMPLOYEES LIVING IN FAMILY GROUPS—Continued

[Average 1935-39=100]

Group	Janu- ary 1928	March 1933	Decem- ber 1933	June 1934	Nov. 15, 1934	Mar. 15, 1935	July 15, 1935	Oct. 15, 1935	Jan. 15, 1936	Apr. 15, 1936	Dec. 15, 1936	Dec. 15, 1937	Dec. 15, 1938	Dec. 15, 1939	Dec. 15, 1940	Dec. 15, 1941
Other employees with basic salaries of less than \$2,500																
All items-----	112.1	92.0	95.0	96.7	97.6	98.5	98.5	98.8	99.1	98.2	100.0	102.2	100.4	99.7	100.6	109.2
Food-----	124.5	85.5	89.1	94.0	97.0	101.7	102.8	102.6	102.1	98.5	101.1	102.9	97.1	94.7	98.1	114.0
Clothing-----	113.7	75.8	94.6	96.1	96.3	94.3	94.0	94.1	94.8	94.7	100.1	105.6	101.9	102.8	103.4	120.7
Housing-----	108.9	100.2	96.3	96.4	96.9	97.1	97.2	97.6	98.4	98.7	100.2	101.6	101.3	100.9	100.8	101.7
Household operation-----	115.7	100.9	101.9	100.1	101.9	100.5	97.8	100.0	99.9	99.2	99.6	101.0	100.5	99.1	99.2	104.4
Furnishings and equipment-----	102.4	73.2	89.4	93.3	93.2	93.1	93.2	94.3	95.6	96.0	99.7	105.4	101.7	104.2	105.4	122.2
Transportation-----	107.8	93.3	94.8	98.9	97.5	98.1	97.8	97.3	98.7	99.5	96.1	102.4	103.2	100.8	97.6	109.1
Personal care-----	118.2	105.7	103.7	99.5	96.8	96.5	96.3	95.8	95.0	94.9	104.2	101.7	101.1	101.0	100.3	109.6
Medical care-----	103.1	98.6	98.8	99.0	100.0	100.4	100.2	100.1	99.7	99.7	99.9	99.9	100.0	100.3	100.4	100.6
Recreation-----	106.5	96.8	98.0	100.2	98.3	97.7	97.2	97.2	97.3	97.3	97.9	100.2	103.7	104.5	108.8	112.2
Formal education-----	90.5	97.8	98.3	98.3	98.4	98.4	98.7	98.8	98.8	98.8	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.7	100.7
Life insurance-----	92.5	97.4	97.6	98.1	98.1	98.7	99.3	99.3	100.2	99.8	100.4	99.2	100.9	101.1	102.8	104.8
Retirement fund-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Other employees with basic salaries of \$2,500 and over																
All items-----	112.0	91.8	95.0	96.4	97.9	98.7	98.0	98.8	99.3	98.3	99.9	102.2	100.4	99.7	100.6	109.1
Food-----	125.7	85.4	88.8	91.4	97.3	101.5	99.9	101.5	102.4	98.5	101.1	103.5	97.3	95.0	98.4	114.1
Clothing-----	113.5	76.4	95.2	96.6	96.7	95.1	94.8	94.9	95.5	95.4	99.8	105.3	101.5	102.4	103.2	120.0
Housing-----	108.3	99.1	95.4	96.3	97.2	97.2	97.5	97.7	98.3	98.6	100.2	101.8	101.2	100.5	100.3	101.0
Household operation-----	117.7	101.0	101.8	100.2	102.2	100.8	98.0	101.0	100.9	99.7	99.8	100.3	100.3	98.8	99.1	105.3
Furnishings and equipment-----	101.9	72.7	88.8	93.0	92.9	92.8	92.9	94.1	95.3	95.6	99.6	105.5	101.9	104.8	106.0	122.8
Transportation-----	110.4	93.2	95.3	100.1	97.3	97.9	97.8	97.3	98.9	99.5	96.6	102.7	102.8	100.5	96.9	109.2
Personal care-----	114.9	104.1	103.1	99.4	96.5	96.2	96.0	95.5	94.6	94.6	104.6	101.8	101.2	101.2	100.9	111.1
Medical care-----	104.0	99.5	99.1	99.2	100.1	100.4	100.2	100.1	99.7	99.7	99.9	99.9	99.9	100.5	100.6	100.8
Recreation-----	106.4	95.4	96.4	99.6	97.4	97.0	96.4	96.4	96.5	96.5	97.2	99.7	105.2	106.1	110.0	113.2
Formal education-----	92.1	98.6	98.6	98.6	98.7	98.7	98.8	98.8	98.8	98.8	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6
Life insurance-----	92.5	97.4	97.6	98.1	98.1	98.7	99.3	99.3	100.2	99.8	100.3	99.2	100.9	101.1	102.7	104.8
Retirement fund-----	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

EMPLOYEES LIVING AS SINGLE INDIVIDUALS

All items.....	111.1	98.1	97.9	98.4	98.7	98.8	98.8	98.8	98.9	98.9	99.4	101.3	100.7	100.3	101.8	111.2
Food.....	116.5	100.8	96.0	96.8	97.7	99.1	99.3	99.5	99.5	99.4	100.1	101.9	99.8	98.6	102.1	118.7
Clothing.....	116.9	79.4	96.5	96.4	95.4	94.6	94.3	94.3	95.3	95.3	100.0	105.3	101.7	102.6	102.9	119.8
Housing.....	114.5	103.8	98.2	98.3	99.5	99.4	99.4	99.3	98.6	98.9	99.6	100.9	100.6	100.6	102.1	106.0
Household operation.....	109.2	103.4	103.9	103.7	103.6	101.6	101.5	101.9	101.9	100.9	101.0	99.0	98.6	98.1	98.0	104.4
Furnishings and equipment.....	97.8	68.7	86.0	90.7	91.2	91.4	91.6	93.3	94.5	95.3	99.4	105.8	102.0	107.1	110.0	125.7
Transportation.....	107.4	105.7	101.6	103.4	102.8	103.1	102.9	102.6	103.3	103.6	94.5	98.8	101.9	98.1	94.5	100.3
Personal care.....	117.0	104.3	101.7	99.8	98.0	97.7	97.6	97.2	96.5	96.5	103.3	101.4	100.3	100.3	99.2	107.7
Medical care.....	102.2	98.4	98.7	98.7	99.9	100.2	100.0	99.9	99.6	99.6	100.0	100.0	100.1	100.4	100.4	100.5
Recreation.....	105.3	98.0	98.8	100.9	97.8	97.5	97.1	97.1	97.2	97.2	97.7	99.9	104.1	104.9	109.1	112.4
Formal education.....	90.4	97.8	98.3	98.3	98.4	98.4	98.7	98.8	98.8	98.8	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6	100.6
Life insurance.....	92.5	97.4	97.6	98.2	98.2	98.7	99.3	99.3	100.2	99.8	100.4	99.2	100.9	101.1	102.8	104.8
Retirement fund.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

City Coverage

The cities in which the Bureau of Labor Statistics collects data on changes in living costs are listed below. The data available for these cities show changes in the cost of all goods and services purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried workers. Where figures are released quarterly only, the name of the city is followed by (Q); where monthly, by (M).

For some cities in which prices are not obtained for all the goods included in the Bureau's regular indexes, estimates of changes in living costs are computed on the basis of food, fuel, and rental costs. The names of these cities are followed by (*). For other cities, estimates are now available until such time as pricing for all important articles of family spending is begun. The names of these cities are followed by (**).

TABLE 18.—*Cities for which prices are obtained for Bureau of Labor Statistics cost-of-living index*

State	City	State	City
Alabama.....	Birmingham (M). Gadsden (Q). Mobile (Q). Globe (Q).	Nebraska.....	Falls City (Q). ¹ Omaha (Q). ^{**1}
Arizona.....	Jonesboro (Q). ¹	Nevada.....	Las Vegas (Q). ¹
Arkansas.....	Little Rock (Q). ^{*1}	New Hampshire.....	Manchester (Q).
California.....	Los Angeles (M). San Diego (Q). San Francisco (M). San Francisco suburbs (Q). ¹	New Jersey.....	Newark (Q). ^{**} Vineland (Q). Buffalo (M).
Colorado.....	Denver (M).	New York.....	New York (M). Oswego (Q). Rochester (Q). ^{*1} Goldsboro (Q). ¹
Connecticut.....	Bridgeport (Q). New Haven (Q). ^{*1} Torrington (Q). ¹	North Carolina.....	Cincinnati (M). Cleveland (M). Zanesville (Q). ¹ Stillwater (Q). ¹
District of Columbia.....	Washington (M).	Oklahoma.....	Portland (Q). Lebanon (Q). ¹
Florida.....	Jacksonville (Q).	Oregon.....	Philadelphia (M). Pittsburgh (M). Seranton (Q). Charleston (Q). ^{**} Chester (Q). ¹
Georgia.....	Atlanta (Q). Savannah (M).	Pennsylvania.....	Watertown (Q). ¹ Knoxville (Q). ^{*1} Memphis (Q).
Illinois.....	Chicago (M). Mattoon (Q). Peoria (Q). ^{1*}	Texas.....	Corpus Christi (Q). Dallas (Q). [*] Houston (M).
Indiana.....	Bloomington (Q). Indianapolis (Q). South Bend (Q). Clinton (Q).	Virginia.....	Newport News (Q). Norfolk (Q). Richmond (Q). Seattle (M).
Iowa.....	Wichita (Q). ^{**}	Washington.....	Walla Walla (Q). ¹ Clarksburg (Q). Milwaukee (Q). Oconto (Q). ¹
Kansas.....	Louisville (Q). [*]	West Virginia.....	
Kentucky.....	New Orleans (Q).	Wisconsin.....	
Louisiana.....	Portland (Q).		
Maine.....	Baltimore (M).		
Maryland.....	Boston (M).		
Massachusetts.....	Battle Creek (Q).		
Michigan.....	Detroit (M). Minneapolis (M). Vicksburg (Q). ¹		
Minnesota.....	St. Louis (M).		
Mississippi.....			
Missouri.....			

¹ Data available in 1942.

Estimated Intercity Differences in Cost of Living, December 15, 1941

To compare the cost of living in different cities of the country, a standard budget was established by the Works Progress Administration in order to measure the cost of approximately the same level of living, and to avoid differences due entirely to variations in income

and in local habits and customs. The figures presented in the attached tables give a comparison based upon this standard budget, at a "maintenance" level for 33 cities.

This is not an official budget of the Department of Labor, nor does it represent a recommended standard of living. This budget was prepared and its cost in each of 59 cities in March 1935 was computed by the Division of Social Research of the Works Progress Administration. Since 1939, the figures have been kept up to date by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For this purpose, the Bureau has utilized its regularly reported changes in retail prices in various cities to estimate changes in the cost of this standard budget each quarter. Comparisons of the cost of such a budget can yield only approximate figures on differences in living costs between cities.

The family budget devised by the Works Progress Administration in 1935 is made up of a list of goods and services and the quantities which they estimated were needed by a 4-person family of an unskilled manual worker living at the "maintenance level." The maintenance level is described as above the "minimum of subsistence level" or "emergency level" of relief budgets, but below the standard of the skilled worker. It is stated that it does not "approach the content of what may be considered a satisfactory American standard of living."

The hypothetical family for which the budget was prepared is made up, according to the Works Progress Administration, of a moderately active man who wears overalls at work, his wife, a boy age 13, and a girl age 8. No household help is employed. The family lives in a four- or five-room house or apartment with an indoor bath and toilet; has gas, electricity, and a small radio; uses ice for refrigeration; and has no automobile. They read a daily newspaper and go to the movies once a week. Their food is an "adequate diet at minimum cost." They pay for their own medical care. No savings other than life insurance are provided.

An identical list of goods and services was priced in each of the 59 cities for which the study was made in 1935, with certain adjustments in fuel, ice, and transportation to take account of climatic and other local conditions. The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor cooperated with the Division of Social Research of the Works Progress Administration in obtaining prices necessary to compute the original cost of the budget in 1935. Details of this study and a description of the goods and services included in the budget⁴ can be found in the report, "Intercity Differences in Costs of Living in March 1935, 59 Cities," Research Monograph XII, a copy of which may be obtained from the Division of Research, Work Projects Administration, Washington, D. C.

The budget has never been completely repriced since 1935. In December 1938,⁵ the budget was in part priced again in almost all of the cities and the food cost budget was entirely recomputed in terms of the "adequate diet at minimum cost" of the United States Bureau of Home Economics (a somewhat more varied diet than that originally used in the "maintenance" budget). At each quarter the food cost is recomputed in this manner; for other parts of the budget, the current

⁴ The report also includes details of a more restricted budget at an "emergency" level. That budget has not been kept up to date by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

⁵ In connection with a study of "Differences in Living Costs in Northern and Southern Cities" made at the request of the Wage and Hour Division. The July 1939 Monthly Labor Review carries an article describing the survey.

cost is estimated by assuming the same changes as recorded in the Bureau's regular indexes of changes in living costs from time to time.⁶ These indexes are based on a budget composed of different qualities of goods and having different relative importance in the total budget than the Works Progress Administration "maintenance" budget. Because of these differences, the cost figures resulting from application of the cost-of-living indexes to the "maintenance" budget are merely approximations to the actual current cost of that budget.

In view of the changes in buying habits, particularly during the last 2 years, the "maintenance" budget as defined in 1935 is not entirely applicable to present conditions. The figures are presented, however, for the convenience of those who find them useful, and in the absence of any better measure of comparison of living costs between cities.

Table 19 shows the estimated dollar cost of the "maintenance" budget in 33 large cities as of December 15, 1941. Table 20 presents these data as indexes on a base of the cost in Washington, D. C., at that date as 100.

TABLE 19.—Estimated¹ cost of living for a four-person manual worker's family at maintenance level, as defined by the Works Progress Administration,² in 33 large cities as of Dec. 15, 1941

City	Total	Food	Clothing	Housing	Fuel and light	Furniture, furnishings, household equipment	Miscellaneous
Atlanta.....	\$1,473.79	\$550.58	\$187.96	\$290.44	\$94.00	\$35.73	\$315.08
Baltimore.....	1,482.37	557.33	188.19	268.33	106.08	42.94	319.50
Birmingham.....	1,457.88	551.75	202.68	261.17	74.65	37.19	330.44
Boston.....	1,560.56	553.02	189.55	268.69	143.88	37.85	367.57
Buffalo.....	1,470.05	548.59	192.37	259.08	113.17	38.64	318.20
Chicago.....	1,608.45	568.30	179.64	301.16	132.77	36.88	389.70
Cincinnati.....	1,487.07	546.11	198.67	273.14	98.25	42.95	327.95
Cleveland.....	1,509.54	546.84	206.13	307.39	115.72	39.25	354.21
Denver.....	1,429.43	530.03	184.69	241.72	113.14	37.29	322.56
Detroit.....	1,607.00	541.74	193.34	334.03	122.34	37.03	378.52
Houston.....	1,435.67	533.02	184.81	246.34	86.31	39.58	345.61
Indianapolis.....	1,464.12	540.50	183.92	260.50	99.45	38.86	340.89
Jacksonville.....	1,487.79	574.54	172.89	245.49	111.66	38.31	344.90
Kansas City.....	1,385.72	527.79	192.15	218.56	108.32	37.41	301.49
Los Angeles.....	1,471.57	535.19	191.60	246.92	71.07	40.03	386.76
Manchester.....	1,491.43	571.39	174.46	198.89	166.77	36.73	343.19
Memphis.....	1,458.99	526.07	201.69	282.41	85.92	41.58	321.32
Milwaukee.....	1,541.57	538.32	161.70	300.20	127.97	37.25	376.13
Minneapolis.....	1,543.24	541.03	186.14	308.42	140.24	37.12	350.29
Mobile.....	1,373.58	557.23	183.91	219.60	82.29	38.27	292.28
New Orleans.....	1,427.30	562.77	189.41	211.85	73.53	43.60	346.14
New York.....	1,628.15	599.74	182.53	310.42	121.41	38.75	375.39
Norfolk.....	1,540.36	578.61	195.85	285.32	110.88	40.33	329.37
Philadelphia.....	1,466.51	549.21	190.55	262.36	105.80	37.54	321.05
Pittsburgh.....	1,522.54	562.81	192.92	290.77	93.37	39.19	343.48
Portland, Maine.....	1,483.98	562.56	181.18	206.19	156.16	37.82	340.07
Portland, Oreg.....	1,485.31	571.94	176.20	202.10	142.60	39.07	353.40
Richmond.....	1,473.94	533.31	192.80	254.64	108.21	40.51	344.47
St. Louis.....	1,539.85	575.39	184.90	291.05	114.13	41.28	333.10
San Francisco.....	1,600.27	571.63	192.62	290.14	86.06	42.29	417.53
Seranton.....	1,504.74	562.50	186.84	266.04	98.26	38.39	352.71
Seattle.....	1,547.66	587.13	192.83	216.29	126.58	40.75	384.08
Washington, D. C.....	1,633.16	562.52	201.60	355.26	117.50	42.72	353.56

¹ See explanation of method given on pp. 34-36.

² See the Works Progress Administration publication, "Intercity Differences in Costs of Living in March 1935, 59 Cities," Research Monograph XII, for the items included in the maintenance budget.

⁶ The Bureau's indexes of changes in living costs from time to time measure changes in the cost of a budget representing actual family expenditures of a cross section of employed wage earners and clerical workers in each of 34 cities. Since these budgets are different in each city, depending on incomes, local habits, etc., indexes based on them cannot be used to compare living costs between cities.

TABLE 20.—Estimated¹ indexes of cost of living for a four-person manual-worker's family at maintenance level, as defined by the Works Progress Administration,² in 33 large cities, as of Dec. 15, 1941, on a base of the cost in Washington, D. C., as of that date as 100

City	Total	Food	Clothing	Housing	Fuel and light	Furniture, furnishings, household equipment	Miscellaneous
Atlanta.....	90.2	97.9	93.2	81.8	80.0	83.6	89.1
Baltimore.....	90.8	99.1	93.3	75.5	90.3	100.5	90.4
Birmingham.....	89.3	98.1	100.5	73.5	63.5	87.1	93.5
Boston.....	95.6	98.3	94.0	75.6	122.5	88.6	104.0
Buffalo.....	90.0	97.5	95.4	72.9	96.3	90.4	90.0
Chicago.....	98.5	101.0	89.1	84.8	113.0	86.3	110.2
Cincinnati.....	91.1	97.1	98.5	76.9	83.6	100.5	92.8
Cleveland.....	96.1	97.2	102.2	86.5	98.5	91.9	100.2
Denver.....	87.5	94.2	91.6	68.0	96.3	87.3	91.2
Detroit.....	98.4	96.3	95.9	94.0	104.1	86.7	107.1
Houston.....	87.9	94.8	91.7	69.3	73.5	92.6	97.8
Indianapolis.....	89.6	96.1	91.2	73.3	84.6	91.0	96.4
Jacksonville.....	91.1	102.1	85.8	69.1	95.0	89.7	97.6
Kansas City.....	84.8	93.8	95.3	61.5	92.2	87.6	85.3
Los Angeles.....	90.1	95.1	95.0	69.5	60.5	93.7	109.4
Manchester.....	91.3	101.6	86.5	56.0	141.9	86.0	97.1
Memphis.....	89.3	93.5	100.0	79.5	73.1	97.3	90.9
Milwaukee.....	94.4	95.7	80.2	84.5	108.9	87.2	106.4
Minneapolis.....	94.5	96.2	92.3	86.8	119.4	86.9	93.4
Mobile.....	84.1	99.1	91.2	61.8	70.0	89.6	82.7
New Orleans.....	87.4	100.0	94.0	59.6	62.6	102.1	97.9
New York.....	99.7	106.6	90.5	87.4	103.3	90.7	106.1
Norfolk.....	94.3	102.9	97.1	80.3	94.4	94.4	93.2
Philadelphia.....	89.8	97.6	94.5	73.9	90.0	87.9	90.8
Pittsburgh.....	93.2	100.1	95.7	81.8	79.5	91.7	97.1
Portland, Maine.....	90.9	100.0	89.9	58.0	132.9	88.5	96.2
Portland, Ore.....	90.9	101.7	87.4	56.9	121.4	91.5	100.0
Richmond.....	90.3	94.8	95.6	71.7	92.1	94.8	97.4
St. Louis.....	94.3	102.3	91.7	81.9	97.1	96.6	94.2
San Francisco.....	98.0	101.6	95.5	81.7	73.2	99.0	118.1
Seranton.....	92.1	100.0	92.7	74.9	83.6	89.9	99.8
Seattle.....	94.8	104.4	95.6	60.9	107.7	95.4	108.6
Washington, D. C.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹ See explanation of method given on pp. 34-36.

² See the Works Progress Administration publication, "Intercity Differences in Costs of Living in March 1935, 59 Cities," Research Monograph XII, for the items included in the maintenance budget.

Cost of Living in Foreign Countries ⁷

The principal index numbers of the cost of living (official and unofficial), published in different countries, are given in table 21. These data have been compiled by the International Labour Office from figures published or communicated by the statistical authorities of the various countries. In a few cases statistics compiled by unofficial persons have been used. Most of the series given in the form of index numbers have been computed by the International Labour Office on the base of 1929 as 100. In the case of series not dating back to that year, the index numbers have been computed on the base of the year nearest to 1929, and shown in italics. The following explanation of the foreign cost-of-living indexes has been excerpted from the January 1942 issue of the International Labour Review, pages 104 and 106:

⁷ Data in table 21 taken from International Labour Review, January, April, and July, 1942.

There are many differences in the methods of compilation of these statistics in different countries, the more important of which are indicated as far as possible in the table headings. Account of these must be taken in interpreting the figures, but, on the whole, the statistics give a reliable picture of fluctuations in time, and it is between these that international comparisons can most usefully be made.

The object of cost-of-living index numbers is to show the fluctuations in the purchasing power of money or in average retail prices, calculated with reference to the expenditure necessary to maintain a given standard of living or type of consumption; they are usually compiled by weighting the prices, absolute or relative, of a certain number of articles of common consumption according to their relative importance. Average prices are recorded regularly (in a more or less large number of towns in each country), and the weights are based either on the results of family budget enquiries, on theoretical budgets, or on estimates of the total consumption of, or total expenditure on, the items in question in the whole country during a given period.

As a result of the many variations which are found in the methods of computing cost-of-living index numbers (for example, in regard to geographical scope, the groups of expenditure represented in the general index and the items included in each group, etc.), the indices are far from being equally reliable and representative of price movement. In any case the indices can be used only to measure fluctuations in time of the cost of living in a given country, and not to compare the levels of the cost of living in different countries at any given time.

The series of index numbers in the table [reprinted in table 21 of this bulletin] have been recalculated for the most part by the International Labour Office on the uniform base of 1929 as 100. This change of base has been effected by dividing the index for each date by the corresponding index for 1929 (annual average) and multiplying the quotient by 100. This procedure may perhaps give rise to some slight inaccuracies, owing to the methods by which many of the indices are compiled, but these errors are at most very slight, except when the fluctuations of the indices reach a certain amplitude.

The headings of the table show the original base period of the indices, the main groups of expenditure covered in the general indices—food, heating and lighting, clothing, rent, and miscellaneous—and the number of towns in which prices are recorded (in some cases this number varies according to the expenditure group).

Data for several foreign countries have been deleted from the table as presented in the *International Labour Review*, because cost-of-living statistics have not been available for recent dates.

TABLE 21.—Indexes of cost of living for specified periods for the United States and certain foreign countries¹

[Series recalculated by International Labour Office on base 1929=100: ^aa=food; ^bb=heating and lighting; ^cc=clothing; ^dd=rent; ^ee=miscellaneous]

Country	Africa			America									Asia									
	Egypt	Southern Rhodesia	Union of South Africa	Canada	United States, B.L.S.	Argentina	Chile	Colombia	Costa Rica	Mexico	Peru	Uruguay	Burma	China	India		Netherlands Indies	Iran	Japan			
Town or number of localities	Cairo	6	9	69	34-51	Buenos Aires	Santiago	Bogotá	San José	Mexico	Lima	Montevideo	Rangoon	Shanghai	Bombay	Ahmedabad	Batavia	7	24	To-kyo		
Original base (=100)	Jan. 1913-July 1914	1914	1938	1935-39	1935-39	Oct. 1933	Mar. 1928	Feb. 1937	1936	1934	1913	1929	1931	1936	July 1933-June 1934	August 1926-July 1927	Jan. 1929	Mar. 21, 1936-Mar. 20, 1937	July 1937	July 1914		
Composition of the index	a-e	a, b, d	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-c	a-e ³	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-d	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-c, e		
1930	98	100	98	99	97	101	99	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	96	100	(⁴)	115	(⁴)	90	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	86	
1931	91	96	94	90	89	87	98	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	90	100	100	112	(⁴)	77	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	75	
1932	87	92	90	81	80	78	104	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	86	99	98	106	(⁴)	78	62	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	75	
1933	83	87	87	78	75	83	130	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	83	93	90	95	(⁴)	74	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	80	
1934	84	86	89	79	78	78	130	(⁴)	(⁴)	100	85	93	87	95	100	73	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	82	
1935	86	85	88	79	80	83	132	(⁴)	(⁴)	108	86	96	89	97	100	73	52	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	84	
1936	86	85	88	81	81	91	144	(⁴)	100	114	90	96	88	103	101	73	49	100	(⁴)	(⁴)	88	
1937	85	88	91	83	84	93	162	100	106	139	96	98	89	122	106	78	52	115	100	96	95	
1938	87	90	94	84	82	92	169	113	107	153	97	98	88	157	106	73	53	131	110	110	110	
1939	87	90	94	84	81	93	171	118	108	155	96	103	86	209	106	75	53	140	120	123	123	
1940	98	92	97	87	82	95	193	115	105	157	104	108	95	451	112	81	55	155	143	143	143	
1941			102	92	86	98	222	113	108	184	112	107					61					
1941-January	103	92	98	89		94	198	111	105	158	107	109	100	615	117	81	59		145	143	143	
February	105	92	99	89	82	92	200	112	105	159	108	108	99	620	119	81	59	177		143	143	
March	107	92	100	89	83	94	206	114	104	153	111	108		700	119	81	59		146	144	144	
April	109	93	101	90	83	95	211	116	105	157	109	108		755	121	84	60		147	143	143	
May	109	93	101	91	84	96	218	115	107	153	110	108	103	826	122	85	60		148	145	145	
June	114		102	92	85	97	220	115	108	160	111	109	107	781	122	86	60		148	145	145	
July	119	96	103	93	86	99	224	112	109	160	110	105	113	824	126	91	60		148	145	145	
August	122	97	102	94	87	100	227	113	110	161	112	105	111	912	131	95	61		148	144	144	
September	126	97	102	95	88	100	237	111	110	164	115	106	107	988	129	95	62		148	144	144	
October		98	103	96	89	102	241	112	111	176	116	106		1,032	125	95	63			145	145	
November		98	104	95	90	104	240	113	113	177	117	106			126	97	63			145	145	
December		98	104	95	90	104	242	113	114	179	120	107				65					143	143
1942-January		99	106	95	91	102	245			177	122	107									148	148
February		100	107	95	92	103	250	114		176	124	110									148	148

TABLE 21.—Indexes of cost of living for specified periods for the United States and certain foreign countries—Continued

[Series recalculated by International Labour Office on base 1929=100: ²a=food; b=heating and lighting; c=clothing; d=rent; e=miscellaneous]

Country	Asia—Continued		Europe														Oceania			
	Palestine	Turkey	Germany ¹⁰	Bulgaria	Denmark	Finland	Great Britain and N. Ireland	Hungary	Ireland	Iceland	Norway	Netherlands	Portugal	Sweden	Switzerland	Yugoslavia		Australia	New Zealand	
Town or number of localities	3	Istanbul	72	12-67	Whole country	36	24-509	Budapest	105	Reykjavik	31	Amsterdam	Whole country	49	34	Belgrade	3 (Croat. and Slav.)	30	4-25	
Original base (=100)	Jan. 1922	June 1, 1914	1913-14	1914	1935	1935	July 1914	1913	July 1914	Jan.-Mar. 1939	July 1914	Oct. 1923-Sept. 1924	June 1914	1935	June 1914	1926	July 1914	1923-27	1926-30	
Composition of the index	a, b, e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-d	a-e	a-e	a-e	a-e	a, b, e	a-e	a-d	a-c, e	a-e	a-e	a-e	
1930	89	92	16	92	96	92	96	91	97	(4)	97	96	95	97	98	92	92	95	98	
1931	80	87	88	80	⁵ 90	85	90	86	91	(4)	92	90	84	94	93	87	85	85	90	
1932	82	85	78	74	90	84	88	83	89	(4)	90	84	83	⁵ 92	86	81	77	81	84	
1933	79	76	77	68	92	82	85	77	86	(4)	89	83	83	91	81	79	66	78	79	
1934	80	75	79	64	96	80	86	76	87	(4)	89	83	83	91	80	75	61	80	81	
1935	79	69	80	60	99	81	87	78	89	(4)	91	81	84	92	80	74	60	81	83	
1936	84	70	81	57	101	81	90	82	91	(4)	93	79	86	93	81	74	61	83	86	
1937	88	71	81	58	104	⁵ 86	94	87	97	(4)	100	82	89	95	85	78	65	85	92	
1938	⁸⁰ 80	⁹ 86	82	60	106	87	95	88	98	(4)	103	83	86	98	85	87	69	87	95	
1939	82	87	71	82	62	109	90	96	87	101	100	105	83	81	99	86	90	70	89	
1940	99	100	78	84	68	139	⁶ 107	113	94	117	128	122	92	85	111	94	117	93	103	
1941		93	86		157	126	121	111	128	160			96	131	108			98	107	
1941—January	116	113	85	85	74	(4)	118	120	101	(4)	146	136	102	91	(4)	101	147	105	(4)	105
February	116	111	87	86	⁶ 77	(4)	122	120	101	124	148	138	102	91	(4)	101	150	107	¹¹ 97	105
March	118	115	90	86	⁶ 78	152	123	121	102	(4)	150	139		92	129	102		110	(4)	105
April	119	116	90	86	⁶ 79	(4)	123	122	105	(4)	150	140		93	(4)	105		113	(4)	106
May	120	117	90	87	80	(4)	123	122	105	125	153	141	¹² 107	92	(4)	106		117	¹¹ 97	106
June	128	123	92	87	⁶ 80	152	⁶ 124	121	106	(4)	155	143	¹² 107	93	129	109		121	(4)	106
July	130	126	93	88	⁶ 81	(4)	⁶ 126	121	⁶ 115	(4)	157	144	¹² 110	95	(4)	110		126	(4)	106
August	136	127	94	88	83	(4)	⁶ 129	121	115	130	167	145		97	(4)	110		125	¹¹ 98	107

1941—September	146	132	97	87	84	159	⁶ 130	121	119	(⁴)	<i>166</i>	146	99	130	111	130	(⁴)	108
October			98	86	87	(⁴)	130	122	120	(⁴)	<i>172</i>	147	101	(⁴)	113		(⁴)	108
November			100	86	94	(⁴)	133	123	120	135	<i>175</i>	148	104	(⁴)	114		¹¹ 100	109
December			103	86	100	160	133	122	121	(⁴)	<i>177</i>	148	107	134	114		(⁴)	109
1942—January				87		(⁴)	137	122	124	(⁴)	<i>183</i>	149	107	(⁴)	116		(⁴)	109
February				88		(⁴)		122		135	<i>183</i>			(⁴)	117		¹¹ 102	

¹ From International Labour Review, April 1942, pp. 466-471.

² Except for series in italics, which use a year subsequent to 1929 as a base.

³ Up to September 1933 excluded heating.

⁴ No indexes computed.

⁵ New or revised series this year.

⁶ Revised figure.

⁷ Average calculated for a period of less than 1 year.

⁸ New series priced in Arab markets.

⁹ New series priced in Jewish markets.

¹⁰ Territory before 1938.

¹¹ Quarterly averages.

¹² Trend since May 1940 based on trend of official prices in the whole country.

