

If they had advanced by the same amount as food, that is by 47·4 p.c., the December, 1946, cost-of-living index would have been 41·5 p.c. above the pre-war level instead of 26·1 p.c.

Cost of Living in 1946.—The official monthly cost-of-living index advanced 7·0 points during 1946 to 127·1. This increase was almost as large as the 1941 advance of 7·8 points which preceded the establishment of general price ceilings in December of that year. Price control during the intervening period kept the over-all increase down to 5·1 points. The movement in 1946 reflected the reaction in retail price levels to a post-war policy of price decontrol and subsidy removal. Although food prices showed the sharpest increases, clothing and home furnishings also advanced substantially, and all group indexes contributed in some measure to the change recorded. Changes in the different budget groups during 1946 were as follows:—

<i>Item</i>	<i>December, 1945</i>	<i>December, 1946</i>	<i>Point change</i>
Food.....	134·3	146·4	+12·1
Fuel.....	107·1	109·2	+ 2·1
Rent.....	112·3	113·4	+ 1·1
Clothing.....	122·5	131·2	+ 8·7
Home furnishings.....	119·5	129·4	+ 9·9
Miscellaneous.....	109·6	114·1	+ 4·5
TOTAL INDEX.....	120·1	127·1	+ 7·0

3.—Annual Index Numbers of Living Costs, 1935-46, and Monthly Index Numbers, 1946 and 1947

(1935-39=100)

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1913-34 will be found at p. 863 of the 1946 Year Book.

Year and Month	Food Index	Rent Index	Fuel and Lighting Index	Clothing Index	Home Furnishings and Services Index	Miscellaneous Index	Total Index
1935.....	94·6	94·0	100·9	97·6	95·4	98·7	96·2
1936.....	97·8	96·1	101·5	99·3	97·2	99·1	98·1
1937.....	103·2	99·7	98·9	101·4	101·5	100·1	101·2
1938.....	103·8	103·1	97·7	100·9	102·4	101·2	102·2
1939.....	100·6	103·8	101·2	100·7	101·4	101·4	101·5
1940.....	105·6	106·3	107·1	109·2	107·2	102·3	105·6
1941.....	116·1	109·4	110·3	116·1	113·8	105·1	111·7
1942.....	127·2	111·3	112·8	120·0	117·9	107·1	117·0
1943.....	130·7	111·5	112·9	120·5	118·0	108·0	118·4
1944.....	131·3	111·9	110·6	121·5	118·4	108·9	118·9
1945.....	133·0	112·1	107·0	122·1	119·0	109·4	119·5
1946.....	140·4	112·7	107·4	126·3	124·5	112·6	123·6
1946							
January.....	132·8	112·3	107·1	122·6	119·5	110·9	119·9
February.....	132·5	112·3	107·1	122·7	120·1	110·9	119·9
March.....	133·1	112·3	107·2	123·1	120·4	110·9	120·1
April.....	135·1	112·3	107·2	123·2	120·7	111·0	120·8
May.....	137·7	112·6	107·2	123·7	122·1	111·5	122·0
June.....	142·1	112·6	107·2	124·3	122·4	112·1	123·6
July.....	144·2	112·6	107·2	126·4	125·1	113·7	125·1
August.....	144·7	112·6	107·2	127·6	127·0	113·8	125·6
September.....	143·2	112·6	107·2	129·6	123·4	113·9	125·5
October.....	146·5	113·4	107·3	130·2	128·8	113·9	126·8
November.....	146·6	113·4	108·6	131·1	129·2	114·1	127·1
December.....	146·4	113·4	109·2	131·2	129·4	114·1	127·1
1947							
January.....	145·5	113·4	109·0	131·5	129·8	114·7	127·0
February.....	147·0	113·4	109·1	131·9	130·9	115·5	127·8
March.....	148·7	113·4	109·1	133·1	133·6	116·0	128·9
April.....	151·6	113·4	109·1	136·9	137·2	116·3	130·6
May.....	154·9	115·4	116·2	140·0	138·6	116·8	133·1
June.....	157·7	117·8	116·7	142·4	139·8	117·1	134·9