

Each monthly figure is a percentage which compares the present dollar cost of the index budget with the cost of the same budget in a reference period. The Bureau's reference period now is the five-year interval 1935 to 1939, and the average cost of the index budget for this period is represented by 100. The comparable cost at Dec. 1, 1949, was 161.5 of its base-period cost. This figure of 161.5 becomes the cost-of-living index for Dec. 1, 1949.

Cost-of-Living Index, January, 1948 - December, 1949. — During 1948 retail prices of consumer goods and services continued to advance, and the official cost-of-living index rose 12.9 points or nearly 9 p.c. This substantial rise was considerably less than the 15 p.c. increase experienced during 1947. Actually, the index did not rise steadily for the full twelve months. The high for the year of 159.6 was reached in October and again in November. December saw a decline of 0.7 points, being the first decrease of any consequence since September, 1945.

3.—Annual Index Numbers of Living Costs, 1939-49, and Monthly Index Numbers, 1948 and 1949

(1935-39=100)

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1913-34 will be found at p. 863 of the 1946 Year Book; those for 1935-38 will be found at pp. 954-955 of the 1948-49 edition.

Year and Month	Food Index	Rent Index	Fuel and Light Index	Clothing Index	Home Furnishings and Services Index	Miscellaneous Index	Total Index
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
1947.....	159.5	116.7	115.9	143.9	141.6	117.0	135.5
1948.....	195.5	120.7	124.8	174.4	162.6	123.4	155.0
1949.....	203.0	123.0	131.1	183.1	167.6	128.8	160.8
1948							
January.....	182.2	119.9	120.4	161.2	158.4	122.6	148.3
February.....	186.1	119.9	120.1	165.1	159.9	122.8	150.1
March.....	185.9	119.9	121.0	169.9	161.2	122.8	150.8
April.....	186.8	119.9	121.3	172.9	161.9	122.9	151.6
May.....	191.2	120.9	122.7	173.6	161.9	122.9	153.3
June.....	193.9	120.9	124.3	174.8	162.0	122.7	154.3
July.....	201.3	120.9	124.5	175.4	162.8	123.1	156.9
August.....	202.6	120.9	127.7	175.9	161.4	123.4	157.5
September.....	203.9	121.0	128.5	179.9	164.2	124.4	158.9
October.....	205.4	121.0	128.8	181.0	165.1	124.4	159.6
November.....	204.7	121.0	129.0	181.5	166.0	124.6	159.6
December.....	202.0	121.7	129.1	181.5	166.2	124.6	158.9
1949							
January.....	202.2	121.7	130.0	181.9	167.0	126.6	159.6
February.....	200.4	121.7	130.8	181.8	167.8	128.1	159.5
March.....	199.1	121.7	131.0	182.7	167.9	128.1	159.2
April.....	198.5	122.4	131.0	183.2	168.0	128.4	159.3
May.....	199.5	122.4	129.1	183.3	168.1	128.4	159.5
June.....	202.9	122.4	128.7	183.3	167.7	128.4	160.5
July.....	207.2	123.4	129.1	183.3	167.5	128.5	162.1
August.....	209.2	123.4	129.5	183.2	167.4	128.9	162.8
September.....	207.0	123.9	130.1	183.5	167.4	128.9	162.3
October.....	205.0	123.9	134.1	184.1	167.2	130.2	162.2
November.....	203.3	123.9	135.1	183.7	167.4	130.2	161.7
December.....	201.9	125.0	135.2	183.7	167.1	130.5	161.5