

3.—Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in Canada and other Countries, 1939 and December, 1945 and 1947-49

NOTE.—Base: 1937=100 except for France, where 1938=100 and Mexico, where 1939=100. For India the base was changed after 1946 to September, 1938–August, 1939=100.

(SOURCE: *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics of the United Nations*)

Country	1939	Month of December—			
		1945	1947	1948	1949
Australia.....	100	139	159	182	203
Canada	89	123	170	189	185
Chile.....	93	201	315	350	403
Czechoslovakia.....	113	207	316	335	..
Denmark.....	99	171	203	221	227
Finland.....	98	498	828	905	933
France.....	105	469	1,217	1,971	2,002
India.....	95	233	314	384	381
Mexico (Mexico City).....	100	183	243	268	293
Netherlands.....	97	200	258	269	283
New Zealand.....	105	158	176	178	182
Norway.....	100	163	175	180	184
Peru (Lima).....	105	218	363	427	597
Portugal (Lisbon).....	98	230	227	242	238
Sweden.....	101	167	180	190	192
Switzerland.....	100	193	209	208	192
Union of South Africa.....	101	157	175	184	194
United Kingdom.....	95	156	187	203	222
United States.....	89	124	189	188	175

Subsection 2.—Cost-of-Living Index

Purpose and Interpretation.—The Dominion Bureau of Statistics cost-of-living index measures the influence of changes in retail prices of goods and services upon the cost of a representative urban wage-earner family budget.

The index budget was calculated from annual purchases reported by a group of 1,439 typical wage-earner families in the cities of Charlottetown, P.E.I., Halifax, N.S., Saint John, N.B., Quebec, Que., Montreal, Que., Ottawa, Ont., Toronto, Ont., London, Ont., Winnipeg, Man., Saskatoon, Sask., Edmonton, Alta., and Vancouver, B.C. These expenditures covered the year ended September, 1938.

The families surveyed averaged 4.6 persons and the majority had two or three children. Family earnings in many cases were supplemented by minor sources of income; total incomes for these families were heavily concentrated between \$1,200 and \$1,600. They ranged, however, from as low as \$600 up to about \$2,800 per annum. There were, approximately, two tenant families to every one home-owning