

**Residential Building Materials.**—In March 1949, a series of index numbers of residential building material prices (basis: 1935-39 = 100) was established to meet the need for a more precise measurement of material components of residential construction. A description of the index together with a record back to 1926 is given in DBS bulletin, *Price Index Numbers of Residential Building Materials 1926 to 1948*.

The slow decline in residential building material prices which commenced in the final quarter of 1951 continued through the following three years. This change is illustrated by the composite index which, after touching a post-war peak of 290·8 in September and October 1951, subsequently dropped to 283·3 in December 1952. By March 1953, a slight recovery to 284·7 had taken place, but the index dropped again to reach 278·7 by December 1954. Among the various components, lower prices were most apparent in lumber products, electrical equipment, and plumbing and heating equipment, but other groups continued to exert a firmer price tone.

**2.—Annual Price Index Numbers of Residential Building Materials, 1945-54, and Monthly Indexes, 1953 and 1954**

(1935-39=100)

Year and Month	Composite Index	Principal Components								
		Cement, Sand and Gravel	Brick, Tile and Stone	Lumber and Lumber Products	Lath, Plaster and Insulation	Roofing Material	Paint and Glass	Plumbing and Heating Equipment	Electrical Equipment and Fixtures	Other Materials
1945.....	148·3	102·1	116·4	191·3	104·8	135·5	142·2	122·2	111·4	118·0
1946.....	154·5	102·0	121·0	202·1	104·2	146·2	144·2	127·2	116·9	126·4
1947.....	180·4	109·7	133·4	242·0	107·3	172·3	169·6	145·2	147·4	143·0
1948.....	217·5	122·3	143·1	305·8	116·7	201·6	183·1	168·3	169·8	162·3
1949.....	228·0	127·0	151·0	322·1	118·1	190·5	179·6	180·2	173·4	174·7
1950.....	242·7	131·3	163·8	349·2	116·7	235·4	174·8	183·2	184·5	181·1
1951.....	286·2	140·9	180·7	425·0	126·3	235·8	197·8	210·4	213·3	212·7
1952.....	284·8	149·5	195·3	415·7	128·5	217·7	194·9	215·6	212·0	226·3
1953.....	282·6	151·8	205·8	410·6	128·5	218·6	203·8	209·0	211·4	229·5
1954.....	277·5	151·3	207·4	400·5	128·8	233·4	208·9	202·8	207·7	226·6
<b>1953</b>										
January.....	283·6	152·1	199·5	412·2	129·1	217·0	202·7	213·1	211·0	228·8
February.....	283·9	152·1	199·5	412·8	129·1	217·0	202·2	213·1	211·0	228·8
March.....	284·7	152·1	205·7	413·9	129·1	217·0	202·2	211·7	217·9	228·8
April.....	284·3	151·6	205·7	413·3	129·1	216·9	201·8	211·7	217·9	228·8
May.....	284·3	151·6	207·4	413·5	129·1	216·9	202·7	212·1	209·7	228·8
June.....	284·1	151·6	207·4	413·2	128·9	219·7	202·7	211·3	209·7	228·8
July.....	284·0	151·6	207·4	412·8	128·9	219·7	203·9	211·3	209·7	228·8
August.....	283·7	151·7	207·4	412·6	127·7	219·7	204·4	210·5	210·0	228·8
September.....	280·9	151·7	207·4	409·0	127·7	219·7	205·2	203·4	210·0	230·4
October.....	280·2	151·7	207·4	406·7	127·7	219·7	205·7	203·4	214·6	231·0
November.....	279·2	151·7	207·4	405·0	127·7	219·7	205·7	203·4	208·2	231·0
December.....	278·2	152·5	207·4	402·6	127·7	219·7	206·5	203·5	207·3	231·0
<b>1954</b>										
January.....	277·3	153·5	207·4	400·7	127·7	219·8	206·5	203·5	207·3	227·5
February.....	276·7	153·5	207·4	398·9	127·7	226·2	206·5	203·5	206·2	227·2
March.....	275·9	152·5	207·4	397·3	129·2	226·2	206·5	203·3	203·7	227·2
April.....	276·1	151·7	207·4	397·3	129·2	226·1	205·2	203·8	209·2	227·2
May.....	275·9	151·1	207·4	397·4	129·2	226·1	206·9	202·2	209·2	227·2
June.....	277·4	151·1	207·4	400·4	129·2	229·3	208·2	202·1	209·9	227·8
July.....	278·2	151·1	207·4	402·4	129·2	235·8	209·5	200·9	209·9	227·8
August.....	278·0	151·1	207·4	402·5	129·2	235·8	210·8	200·9	205·6	224·7
September.....	278·6	151·1	207·4	402·5	129·2	242·2	210·8	203·0	205·6	225·5
October.....	278·6	151·1	207·4	402·5	129·2	242·2	211·2	203·0	205·6	225·5
November.....	278·4	151·1	207·4	401·9	129·2	242·2	211·7	203·0	205·6	225·5
December.....	278·7	149·1	207·4	403·3	126·9	245·5	212·5	203·0	205·6	225·5