

Index Numbers of Building Materials Prices.—Price movements of materials entering into building construction are currently measured by two special-purpose series: price index numbers of residential building materials and price index numbers of non-residential building materials, for which the base years are 1935-39 and 1949, respectively. Details of weighting and construction and historical series may be found in the special bulletins prepared at the time the indexes were first published.* More recently the composite indexes have been calculated on an annual basis back to 1913; current indexes are published monthly in *DBS Bulletin Prices and Price Indexes* (Catalogue No. 62-002).

The indexes of prices of building materials fluctuated in a narrow range over the year 1961 to close at slightly lower levels. The residential building materials price index (1935-39 = 100) at 292.4 in December 1961 was down from 293.8 a year earlier. The non-residential building materials price index (1949 = 100) in the same period moved down from 132.3 to 131.2.

* *Price Index Numbers of Residential Building Materials, 1935-48* (Catalogue No. 62-505) and *Price Index Numbers of Non-residential Building Materials, 1935-52* (Catalogue No. 62-506). Revised item list and weighting for the electrical component of the residential building materials index, effective July 1960, is available on request.

2.—Annual Price Index Numbers of Residential Building Materials 1952-61, and Monthly Indexes 1960 to Mid-1962

(1935-39=100)

Year and Month	Composite Index (1949=100) ¹	Composite Index	Principal Components								
			Cement, Sand and Gravel	Brick, Tile and Stone	Lumber and its Products	Lath, Plaster and Insulation	Roofing Material	Paint and Glass	Plumbing and Heating Equipment	Electrical Equipment and Fixtures	Other Materials
GROUP WEIGHT AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL.....	7.6	5.0	42.6	11.3	2.9	3.2	18.6	3.8	5.0
1952.....	124.9	284.8	149.5	195.3	415.7	128.5	217.7	194.9	215.6	212.0	226.3
1953.....	123.9	282.6	151.8	205.8	410.6	128.5	218.6	203.8	209.0	211.4	229.5
1954.....	121.7	277.5	151.3	207.4	400.5	128.8	233.4	208.9	202.8	207.7	226.6
1955.....	124.3	283.4	149.4	209.5	409.4	125.3	244.5	219.7	207.2	229.2	230.3
1956.....	128.5	292.9	149.7	218.8	420.2	130.8	259.6	226.9	217.9	243.7	243.7
1957.....	128.4	292.8	153.6	223.8	415.2	136.9	253.3	225.4	227.6	209.2	253.8
1958.....	127.3	290.2	156.8	224.6	409.8	139.8	235.4	226.6	229.8	186.9	254.0
1959.....	130.0	296.3	153.8	227.8	421.1	140.9	239.3	229.3	231.6	201.6	256.9
1960.....	129.2	294.5	154.6	228.3	415.9	142.4	214.5	230.5	235.2	198.2	262.3
1961.....	128.3	292.5	153.0	218.9	412.3	144.8	204.0	235.6	236.1	194.2	261.8
1960											
January.....	129.6	295.5	154.7	228.3	419.3	139.8	213.8	230.0	234.5	199.7	261.8
February.....	129.6	295.4	154.7	228.3	418.7	140.2	217.6	230.0	234.5	199.5	261.8
March.....	129.6	295.6	154.7	229.7	419.0	140.2	217.6	230.0	234.5	199.5	261.8
April.....	129.8	295.9	154.7	229.7	419.9	140.2	214.4	230.0	234.5	199.8	261.8
May.....	129.6	295.4	154.1	229.7	418.7	140.2	208.5	230.0	236.0	198.4	261.8
June.....	129.6	295.4	154.1	229.7	417.7	143.5	212.3	230.0	235.6	198.8	262.3
July.....	129.5	295.2	155.0	229.7	417.3	143.5	212.3	230.0	235.6	195.9	262.3
August.....	128.7	293.5	155.0	229.7	413.6	142.7	212.3	230.0	235.6	197.3	262.3
September.....	128.6	293.2	155.0	229.7	412.6	142.7	212.3	230.0	235.5	198.0	262.6
October.....	128.1	292.1	154.3	229.0	409.9	143.1	217.3	230.0	235.5	197.7	262.8
November.....	128.5	292.9	154.3	229.0	410.6	146.8	219.5	230.0	235.5	197.7	263.1
December.....	128.9	293.8	154.3	229.0	413.0	145.6	215.6	235.6	235.5	195.7	263.1

For footnote, see end of table, p. 926.