

The decline in residential building material prices that commenced in the final quarter of 1951 continued through 1952 and the first ten months of 1953. 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 282.3 in February 1953. By June, a slight recovery to 284.1 had taken place, but the index dropped again to 280.4 in October. Among the various components, lower prices were most apparent in lumber products with other groups continuing to exert a firmer price tone.

**2.—Annual Price Index Numbers of Residential Building Materials, 1943-52, and Monthly Indexes, 1952 and 1953**

(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
1943.....	139.1	101.2	113.1	171.3	104.8	130.1	149.4	120.0	110.3	117.9
1944.....	146.6	101.8	114.9	188.4	104.8	136.0	146.6	120.0	110.3	117.9
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
<b>1952</b>										
January.....	288.0	148.3	183.2	424.7	126.7	210.9	197.5	217.3	218.8	222.1
February.....	287.9	148.9	183.2	423.6	126.7	223.0	200.5	217.3	215.9	222.1
March.....	286.8	148.9	192.5	420.9	126.7	220.0	199.7	216.6	211.6	221.6
April.....	284.9	148.1	192.5	415.8	129.1	216.9	198.5	216.9	208.4	227.4
May.....	283.9	148.1	198.8	413.4	129.1	213.9	193.7	216.2	208.4	227.4
June.....	283.5	148.1	198.8	413.4	129.1	210.9	194.2	215.1	206.6	227.4
July.....	283.8	148.3	198.8	413.1	129.1	216.9	192.4	215.2	212.9	227.4
August.....	284.1	150.1	198.8	413.1	129.1	223.0	192.4	215.2	212.6	227.4
September.....	284.0	151.1	198.8	413.1	129.1	220.0	192.4	215.2	212.2	227.4
October.....	283.8	151.1	198.8	412.5	129.1	220.0	192.4	215.2	212.2	227.4
November.....	283.4	151.1	199.5	412.4	129.1	220.0	190.2	213.3	212.2	228.8
December.....	283.3	151.9	199.5	411.9	129.1	217.0	195.0	213.1	212.1	228.8
<b>1953</b>										
January.....	283.7	152.1	199.5	412.9	129.1	217.0	195.8	213.1	211.0	228.8
February.....	282.3	152.1	199.5	409.5	129.1	217.0	195.4	213.1	211.0	228.8
March.....	283.4	152.1	205.7	411.5	129.1	217.0	195.4	211.7	217.9	228.8
April.....	283.6	151.6	205.7	410.3	129.1	216.9	195.0	215.5	217.9	228.8
May.....	282.8	151.6	207.4	410.4	129.1	216.9	195.8	212.1	209.7	228.8
June.....	284.1	151.6	207.4	413.1	129.1	220.0	202.7	211.3	209.7	228.8
July.....	283.9	151.6	207.4	412.8	128.9	219.7	203.9	211.3	209.7	228.8
August.....	283.6	151.7	207.4	412.6	127.7	219.7	204.4	210.5	210.0	228.8
September.....	281.0	151.7	207.4	409.1	127.7	219.7	205.2	203.4	210.0	230.4
October.....	280.4	151.7	207.4	406.6	127.7	219.7	205.7	203.4	222.1	231.0

**Non-residential Building Materials.**—A new index has been prepared to measure the price change of materials used in non-residential building construction. The index has been constructed on the base 1949=100, using weights obtained from