

Non-residential Building Materials.—An 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 data on cost of building materials provided by general and trade contractors for a sample of buildings constructed in Canada during the years 1948-50. The methods of constructing the index are explained in DBS Reference Paper No. 43, *Non-Residential Building Materials Price Index, 1935-1952*. Price indexes for twelve principal component material groups have been calculated by months from January 1949; indexes for nine of these are given in Table 3 for 1953 and 1954.

The composite index of non-residential building materials increased from 112.6 in January 1951 to a peak of 124.9 in March 1953. Most of this increase of 12.3 points or 10.9 p.c. took place during 1951, the composite index increasing 9.7 points from January 1951 to December 1951 as compared with only 2.6 during the longer period December 1951 to March 1953. All component groups contributed to the increase during this period.

During the period March 1953 to December 1954 the composite index decreased 4.5 points or 3.6 p.c. Changes were relatively small for most of the groups during this period with the exception of plumbing and heating and other equipment which declined 5.4 p.c., and lumber products which declined 2.8 p.c.

3.—Annual Price Index Numbers of Non-residential Building Materials, 1950-54, and Monthly Indexes, 1953 and 1954

(1949=100)

Year and Month	Composite Index	Principal Components								
		Cement and Concrete Mix	Blocks, Brick and Stone	Lumber and Lumber Products	Lath, Plaster and Insulation	Roofing Materials	Paint and Glass	Plumbing, Heating and Other Equipment	Electrical Equipment and Materials	Steel and Metal Work
1950.....	105.0	103.2	104.3	110.3	98.7	104.7	100.5	103.0	105.8	107.3
1951.....	118.6	111.3	113.0	128.3	107.1	128.9	113.0	115.7	125.4	122.0
1952.....	123.2	117.4	119.7	127.9	109.7	134.5	115.6	121.3	121.7	131.3
1953.....	124.4	120.2	125.9	127.8	110.0	133.6	125.3	119.2	119.6	134.7
1954.....	121.8	120.9	127.0	124.5	109.7	132.8	123.2	115.2	117.6	128.2
1953										
January.....	124.6	120.4	123.0	128.7	110.8	135.1	124.9	121.4	118.6	134.7
February.....	124.7	120.4	123.4	128.8	110.3	135.1	124.9	121.4	118.6	134.7
March.....	124.9	120.4	126.0	128.9	110.3	135.1	124.9	121.2	119.6	134.8
April.....	124.8	119.3	126.0	129.0	110.2	134.9	124.9	121.1	119.9	134.8
May.....	124.7	119.3	126.5	129.1	110.2	134.9	124.9	120.9	118.5	134.7
June.....	124.6	119.3	126.5	128.8	110.2	132.6	124.9	121.1	118.7	134.7
July.....	124.7	120.4	126.5	128.7	110.2	132.6	124.9	120.4	119.6	134.7
August.....	124.5	120.5	126.5	128.2	109.6	132.6	124.9	119.9	119.7	134.7
September.....	123.6	120.5	126.5	126.8	109.6	132.6	125.0	115.8	119.7	134.8
October.....	123.8	120.5	126.5	126.2	109.6	132.6	126.4	115.8	121.1	134.8
November.....	123.7	120.5	126.5	125.7	109.6	132.6	126.4	115.8	120.8	134.8
December.....	123.6	120.9	126.5	124.9	109.6	132.8	126.4	115.8	120.7	134.5
1954										
January.....	123.2	122.1	126.5	124.7	109.8	132.9	126.4	115.8	120.7	133.1
February.....	123.1	122.1	126.5	124.2	109.3	132.8	126.4	115.6	120.4	132.3
March.....	122.9	121.8	126.6	123.7	109.9	132.6	128.1	115.6	120.0	132.3
April.....	122.6	120.5	126.6	123.6	109.9	132.5	128.0	115.0	120.0	132.0
May.....	121.1	120.4	126.6	123.6	109.8	132.4	128.1	114.9	120.0	125.0
June.....	121.2	120.6	126.6	124.2	109.8	132.7	128.2	114.7	120.1	125.0
July.....	121.2	120.6	127.3	125.2	109.8	132.7	128.2	113.9	120.1	125.0
August.....	120.2	120.6	127.3	125.2	109.8	132.7	128.2	113.9	112.1	125.0
September.....	120.4	120.6	127.5	124.8	110.0	133.1	128.3	114.7	112.1	125.2
October.....	120.5	120.6	127.5	124.8	110.4	133.1	128.3	114.7	112.1	125.2
November.....	120.5	120.8	127.5	124.9	110.4	133.1	128.3	114.7	112.1	125.2
December.....	120.4	120.1	127.5	125.3	108.2	133.2	128.4	114.7	112.1	125.2