

# THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1928

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Supplementing "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-1927," published in April, 1928



**INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BOARD, INC.**  
247 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK

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NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BOARD, Inc.  
NEW YORK  
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*April, 1929*

*142*

*Price, 50 cents per copy, paper bound*

## FOREWORD

**I**N continuation of its series of studies of the cost of living in the United States which was begun in 1918, the National Industrial Conference Board issued early in 1928 a comprehensive volume entitled "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-1927." This volume reproduced all the facts in the cost of living which have been ascertained by the Board in its investigations of the cost of living from 1914 to the end of 1927. The volume also contained a discussion of the problems involved in measuring the cost of living and its changes, a special study of the comparative cost of food in different cities, as well as a full account of the methods pursued by the National Industrial Conference Board in the collection and tabulation of data to form its index of changes in the cost of living.

The present analysis is intended as a supplement to last year's publication, and presents the results of the Conference Board's studies for the year 1928. The tables here published continue those in the more comprehensive study of last year, and a note on each table states on which page of the original volume information for the years 1914 through 1927 will be found. A short explanation of the trend of the cost of living for the year, together with the facts necessary to link the year 1928 to the previous series, concludes the statement.

This volume is the result of an investigation conducted by the Conference Board's Research Staff, under the supervision of the Board's Staff Economic Council.

In the preparation of its studies the National Industrial Conference Board avails itself of the experience and judgment of the business executives who compose its membership, and of recognized authorities in special fields, in addition to the scientific knowledge and equipment of its Research Staff. The publications of the Board thus finally represent the result of scientific investigation and broad business experience, and the conclusions expressed therein are those of the Conference Board as a body.

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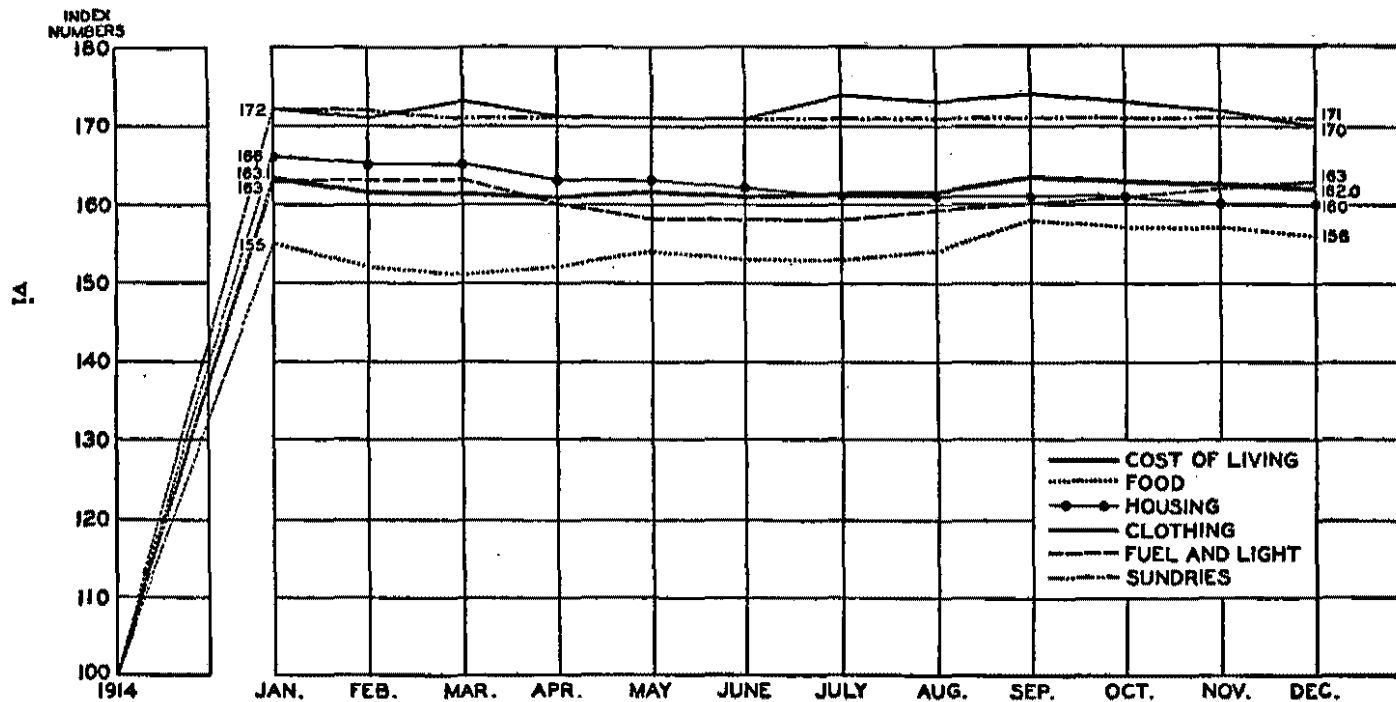
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# CHART 1: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES, JANUARY, 1928 TO DECEMBER, 1928, INCLUSIVE

Base, July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)



## THE COST OF LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1928

**A**N index of the cost of living measures the changes in the retail prices of a group of commodities, supplemented by the cost of certain services and other household expenditures. The index of the National Industrial Conference Board follows the common practice of such indexes throughout the world in being based upon the household needs of the industrial wage earner. In order to arrive at a general level of prices applicable to such expenditure, it is necessary to determine what the wage earner buys, in what quantities he buys and what prices he pays.

The first two steps in the proceeding are preliminary. Budget studies give a good idea of the distribution of the wage earner's expenditure among the principal groups of purchases which serve his daily needs. Within each group they disclose with reasonable accuracy what are the chief items of expenditure, the quantities consumed and how much is spent for each. When the purposes and distribution of expenditure deemed appropriate and customary for a wage earner's family at a given time and place have been determined, the problem of constructing the index number of changes in the cost of living is to ascertain how the total cost of living changes by reason of changes in prices or cost of the various items and their quantities which enter into the standard budget. Since the latter is commonly assumed to remain unchanged, it will be seen that the index of the cost of living is in fact the index of the composite retail prices of a group of commodities and services chosen to represent the typical expenditure of a wage earner's family.

The objects of expenditure and their grouping used in the index of the National Industrial Conference Board are derived in the main from pre-war budget studies and represent the expenditures of wage earners' families as they were in 1914. The index of the cost of living computed on this basis shows how much more a wage earner's family would have to

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spend today in order to live in the same manner as it did in 1914.

It is sometimes argued that, since by reason of the increase in real wages the industrial worker has today a higher scale of living than before the war, the index of the cost of living should be based upon the present expenditures of the wage earning classes. If this could be done the result would be to change somewhat the nature of the comparison. The index of the cost of living would then show how much more the industrial worker has to pay for his living now than would have been necessary in 1914, had he been able at that time to live as he does now. There has recently been a revision of the index of wholesale prices computed by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Without going too far into detail it may be said that the former index was based upon commodity sales in 1919, while the new index is based upon sales of 1923-1925. One result of this revision is that the new wholesale price index shows an advance over pre-war prices which is less than that shown by the former index. Obviously, the reason for such a shift arises from the increased general consumption of individual goods which have had only a moderate advance in price, or the cost of which, as in the case of electric current for light and power purposes, has actually declined.

Until a new investigation of wage earners' budgets, which is urgently needed and for which the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics is pleading, has been made, it will be impossible to determine whether, or in what degree, the shifting of consumption in the families of industrial wage earners may have made the increase in their cost of living actually less than it appears to be under the familiar standards of measurement. But it is certain that if an index could be constructed on the proposed basis, the gap between the old and new method of measurement is not likely to be so large as in the case of wholesale prices. Within the range of income represented by that of wage earners' families now and in 1914, there is not much room for indulgence in these fields of expenditure, largely in the class of luxuries and semi-luxuries, in which the price advance has been more moderate than in the body of goods which serve daily necessities.



Of course the significance of the price level is wholly relative. Whether it is high or low relative to some earlier date would be a matter of utter indifference if incomes changed in exactly the same proportion. Since the price level of the cost of living began to rise above that of 1914, the wage earner has seen his wages advance to even higher levels, so that today his income will purchase considerably more than formerly of the necessities and comforts of life. If, as suggested in a previous paragraph, the method of computation has a tendency to exaggerate slightly the increase of the cost of living over that of 1914, his position is really rather more favorable than appears upon the surface. How much better can not be precisely measured.

There has not been as yet any authoritative determination of the worker's expenditures in recent years. Until such studies may be made, the historian of changes in the cost of living must content himself with the best materials at hand. Though it is recognized that the method may have its imperfections, the following pages are devoted to a study of the changes which may have taken place in 1928 in the prices which the industrial worker must pay in order to live as he did in 1914.

### *The Total Cost of Living*

Table 1 shows for each month of the year 1928 the total cost of living compared with July, 1914, and figures for the principal major groups of expenditure of which the total cost is composed. The same facts are shown graphically in the chart which faces page 1.

For the total cost of living the range of variation during the year was slight. It varied from a minimum of 160.9% of the price level of July, 1914 in the month of June, to a maximum of 163.4% of the July, 1914 price level in the month of September. Although the year started in January with a level comparatively high, the immediately succeeding months showed a slight drop in the level, which with minor interruptions reached its minimum in June. In the second half of the year the highest level was reached in September, and although there was later some diminution, the general level for the second half of the year (162.2) was a trifle higher than that for the first half of the year (161.5).

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**TABLE 1: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE COST OF LIVING IN AVERAGE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, MONTHLY, FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1928, BY SEPARATE BUDGET ITEMS**

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914-1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 8) on page 71 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-1927."

	Food	Housing	Clothing	Fuel and Light	Sundries	Total
January, 1928.....	155	166	172	163	172	163.1
February, 1928.....	152	165	171	163	172	161.5
March, 1928.....	151	165	173	163	171	161.1
April, 1928.....	152	163	171	160	171	160.8
May, 1928.....	154	163	171	158	171	161.5
June, 1928.....	153	162	171	158	171	160.9
July, 1928.....	153	161	174	158	171	161.1
August, 1928.....	154	161	173	159	171	161.4
September, 1928.....	158	161	174	160	171	163.4
October, 1928.....	157	161	173	161	171	162.9
November, 1928.....	157	160	172	162	171	162.6
December, 1928.....	156	160	170	163	171	162.0

When changes in the index are as slight as those noted, they bear witness to a comfortable stability in the wage earner's cost of living. The net changes in the index here noted are the result of an infinite variety of minor causes, some of which have to do with the prices themselves, and some of which result from the manner in which prices are collected and tabulated. In this respect an index of the cost of living is similar to any other instrument of measurement. It is in some degree influenced by the conditions under which it is used, and when the utmost precision of measurement is required, such disturbing influences, unless their effects are removed or discounted, may appreciably affect the resulting measurement. But in the effort to measure economic movements such disturbing conditions can not well be removed. The most that can be done is to concede their presence as a possible cause of variation in results.

Net changes in the aggregate index, the resultant of conflicting changes in the elements which compose it, change in one direction being in part compensated by changes in the other, are necessarily smaller than the changes in the principal groups of expenditure, which may now be considered.

*Food*

Among the various groups of prices and services that go to make up the cost of living, those of food are the most important. The index of food used by the National Industrial Conference Board for the computation of the general cost of living is that issued monthly by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. This Bureau collects monthly the price of forty-three articles of food in 51 of the principal cities of the United States.<sup>1</sup> It obtains a total price in each city by multiplying the price of each article on the list by the quantities commonly consumed, and summing up the results. From these aggregate costs at different dates the measure of the price change for the group is obtained.

A most cursory examination of the table brings out the fact that the general level of food prices throughout the year was lower than that of any other group. The comparatively low level of farm prices, which is the farmer's chief grievance, finds a reflection in a comparatively low level of retail food prices. The divergence between the level of food prices and those of other retail prices is not, however, so great as is the divergence between the levels of farm prices and those of non-agricultural products at wholesale. The reason for this greater divergence lies in the fact that after a given product has left the farm it accumulates value through processes of manufacture and of distribution before it finds its way, ready to be eaten, to the dining table of the consumer. The influences, whatever they may be, which have operated to hold back the increase of farm prices since the depression year 1921, have had no effect upon these other elements of value which enter into the retail prices of food products. None the less, it is clear that the industrial wage earner has to some extent profited by the distress of the farmer.

It will be observed also that the table shows more change from one month to another in the case of the food index than in that of other groups of expenditure. This is clearly understandable. Certain food products have marked seasonal fluctuations in price. This is particularly true of such items

<sup>1</sup> For list of articles priced and cities in which prices are collected, with a full description of methods of combination, see, National Industrial Conference Board, "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-1927," p. 31.

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as butter, eggs, potatoes and other vegetables.<sup>1</sup> It is further to be considered that no articles of retail trade are so sensitive to price changes as those bought in the grocery store and the meat market. In these common necessities of life there is a much finer shading of prices than in other commodities. Prices of most commodities vary in multiples of 5 or 10 cents, while food products often vary in price by one cent or its multiples.

These factors working together produce relatively large variations in retail food prices with a tendency towards a somewhat indistinct seasonal movement. A comparison of monthly prices in the years 1926 and 1927 shows that in August the food index was at its lowest point, and that prices later in the year tended to increase. Between the high point in January and the low point in July, there was in these years a secondary advance occurring in April in 1926, and in June in 1927. The movement of the index in 1928 shows considerable divergence from this model. It was lowest in March, this level was followed by a slight advance until May, repeating, though in less marked degree, the secondary spring upward movement noted in 1926 and 1927. The summer depression of the price level in June and July was less marked than either of the two years immediately preceding, and failed to bring the level below the point noted in March. After July the upward swing of prices, unlike that in the other years, had spent its force in September, and was followed by a slight decline which has continued over into the first months of 1929. By reasons of these ups and downs of the index, a comparison of the level in 1928 with the previous year can be made only on the annual average. It was slightly lower in 1928 than in 1927 and perceptibly lower than in 1926.

### *Housing*

Rents in 1928 were at a higher level compared with July, 1914, than were food prices, and in fact showed an index close to that of the total cost of living. The difference between the highest index in January and the lowest in December is somewhat less than the difference between the highest and

<sup>1</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 77-78.

lowest levels of the food index. On the other hand, unlike the fluctuations in the prices of food, the change in the level of rents during the year 1928 is that of a steady progression downward.

This movement of the index is made up of changes here and there throughout the country. In any given community it is not in the nature of rents to change frequently or to change by such small amounts as are indicated by the rent index. When changes occur in any city they are usually of greater magnitude but they occur at comparatively long intervals. In a few cases the changes may be upward, but the testimony of the figures is that the tendency toward change, which concretely shows itself in one group of communities in one month and in another group of communities in another month, is downward.

It follows from what has been said that one should not expect in any given community a rent movement exactly parallel to the rent movement in the country at large. While there can be no denying of general tendencies revealed by averages, actual rents in any given place are frequently sharply influenced by local conditions. One city is rapidly expanding its population and building has not kept up with the growth of population. Rents rise, new buildings are erected, and soon the upward flight of rents is checked. Perhaps the building boom overreaches itself, housing accommodations become in excess of demand and rents begin to fall. Another city grows slowly in population or even stagnates. Accommodations are relatively plentiful, and in a period of generally rising prices rents do not feel the upward impetus. In a relatively small city the erection of a large manufacturing plant may cause a housing shortage, while the withdrawal of such a concern to another locality may result in empty dwellings and depressed rents.

Table 2 suggests the importance of these considerations and the significance of local conditions in determining the rent level. In a few localities rents are now double or more what they were in 1914. In many others they have not advanced by as much as 50% and in a few the evidence which has been gathered is that they have not advanced at all.

*(Text continued on page 14)*



Charleston, S. C.	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Chattanooga, Tenn.	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50
Chester, Pa.	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120
Chicago, Ill.	81-90	81-90	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Cincinnati, Ohio	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	81-90	81-90
Cleveland, Ohio	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Clifton, N. J.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Clinton, Ia.	81-90	81-90	81-90	71-80	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	51-60
Columbia, S. C.	21-30	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
Columbus, Ohio	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Concord, N. H.	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120
Council Bluffs, Ia.	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10
Covington, Ky.	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90
Dallas, Tex.	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30
Danville, Ill.	30 or less <sup>a</sup>	30 or less <sup>a</sup>	30 or less <sup>a</sup>	30 or less <sup>a</sup>	30 or less <sup>a</sup>	30 or less <sup>a</sup>	30 or less <sup>a</sup>	30 or less <sup>a</sup>	50 or less <sup>a</sup>	50 or less <sup>a</sup>	50 or less <sup>a</sup>	50 or less <sup>a</sup>	50 or less <sup>a</sup>
Davenport, Ia.	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>
Dayton, Ohio	91-100	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	71-80	71-80
Denver, Col.	51-60	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	51-60	51-60
Des Moines, Ia.	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10
Detroit, Mich.	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90
Des Moines, Ia.	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50
Duluth, Minn.	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10
East St. Louis, Ill.	51-60	51-60	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50
Elizabeth, N. J.	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110
Elkhart, Ind.	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50
Elmira, N. Y.	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70
El Paso, Tex.	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
Elyria, Ohio	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Erie, Pa.	101-110	101-110	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	101-110
Evansville, Ind.	141-150	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120
Everett, Wash.	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	11-20
Fall River, Mass.	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Fayetteville, N. C.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Flint, Mich.	81-90	81-90	71-80	71-80	81-90	81-90	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	81-90	81-90	71-80
Fort Wayne, Ind.	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
Forth Worth, Tex.	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10
Gary, Ind.	51-60	51-60	51-60	41-50	41-50	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Geneva, N. Y.	b	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60
Grand Rapids, Mich.	151-160	151-160	151-160	151-160	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	131-140	151-160	161-170	161-170
Great Falls, Mont.	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70

<sup>a</sup>Decrease

<sup>b</sup>No report

TABLE 2: ESTIMATED AVERAGE PERCENTAGES OF INCREASE IN RENTS OF WAGE EARNERS' HOUSES, MONTHLY, FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1928, AS COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914—(Continued)

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914-1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 10) on page 82 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-1927."

Cities	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Hamilton, Ohio	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	b	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	51-60
Harrisburg, Pa.	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50
Hartford, Conn.	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	31-40
Haverhill, Mass.	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>
Hoboken, N. J.	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120
Holyoke, Mass.	81-90	81-90	81-90	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Hoquiam, Wash.	131-140	131-140	131-140	131-140	131-140	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	111-120	111-120	111-120
Houston, Tex.	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10
Huntington, W. Va.	b	b	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	11-20	11-20	11-20
Indianapolis, Ind.	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
Jackson, Mich.	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	111-120	111-120
Jacksonville, Fla.	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Jersey City, N. J.	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100
Johnstown, Pa.	131-140	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120
Kalamazoo, Mich.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Kansas City, Kans.	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	61-70	61-70	61-70
Kansas City, Mo.	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	101-110	91-100	91-100	91-100
Kenosha, Wis.	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	131-140	131-140	131-140	131-140	131-140	131-140	131-140	131-140
Knoxville, Tenn.	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30
Lafayette, Ind.	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130
Lancaster, Pa.	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	41-50	41-50
Lansing, Mich.	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
Lawrence, Mass.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Lincoln, Neb.	1-10	1-10	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	21-30	21-30	11-20	11-20
Little Rock, Ark.	41-50	41-50	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
Los Angeles, Cal.	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	61-70
Louisville, Ky.	91-100	91-100	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90
Lowell, Mass.	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Lynn, Mass.	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Macon, Ga.	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70



Madison, Wis.....	41-50	41-50	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Malden, Mass.....	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Manchester, N. H.....	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30
Massillon, Ohio.....	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	91-100	101-110	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100
Memphis, Tenn.....	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	51-60	51-60	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70
Miles City, Mont.....	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>
Millwaukee, Wis.....	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90
Minneapolis, Minn.....	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Mobile, Ala.....	1-10	1-10	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
Nashville, Tenn.....	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>	20 or less <sup>a</sup>
Newark, N. J.....	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	81-90	71-80	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	71-80
New Bedford, Mass.....	61-70	61-70	51-60	51-60	51-60	21-30	21-30	21-30	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
New Britain, Conn.....	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
New Haven, Conn.....	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
New Orleans, La.....	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50
New York, N. Y.....	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Niagara Falls, N. Y.....	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30
Norfolk, Va.....	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
Oakland, Cal.....	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110
Omaha, Neb.....	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10
Pasadena, Cal.....	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60
Pasaic, N. J.....	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90
Paterson, N. J.....	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130
Pawtucket, R. I.....	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Peoria, Ill.....	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20
Philadelphia, Pa.....	91-100	91-100	91-100	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90
Phoenix, Ariz.....	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	111-120	121-130
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	91-100	91-100	91-100	81-90	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Port Huron, Mich.....	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100	91-100
Portland, Me.....	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50
Portland, Ore.....	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Portsmouth, Va.....	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10
Providence, R. I.....	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60
Pueblo, Col.....	61-70	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70
Quincy, Ill.....	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Racine, Wis.....	81-90	81-90	81-90	101-110	111-120	111-120	81-90	81-90	101-110	91-100	91-100	91-100	71-80
Reading, Pa.....	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	61-70	91-100	91-100	81-90	81-90
Richmond, Ind.....	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Richmond, Va.....	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10

<sup>a</sup>Decrease

<sup>b</sup>No report



Tacoma, Wash.....	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	11-20	11-20	11-20
Tampa, Fla.....	121-130	121-130	121-130	121-130	81-90	<sup>b</sup>	81-90	81-90	<sup>b</sup>	81-90	81-90	81-90
Terre Haute, Ind.....	31-40	31-40	31-40	11-20	11-20	11-20	11-20	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10
Toledo, Ohio.....	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	<sup>b</sup>	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Topeka, Kan.....	41-50	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Trenton, N. J.....	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50
Troy, N. Y.....	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70
Tulsa, Okla.....	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30	21-30
Utica, N. Y.....	71-80	71-80	61-70	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Warren, Ohio.....	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Washington, D. C.....	71-80	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Waterbury, Conn.....	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	21-30	21-30	11-20	11-20	21-30	21-30	21-30
Waterloo, Iowa.....	51-60	51-60	71-80	71-80	81-90	81-90	81-90	91-100	101-110	101-110	101-110	101-110
Waukesha, Wis.....	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	51-60	51-60	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70
Wichita, Kan.....	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	10 or less <sup>a</sup>	1-10
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.....	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80	71-80
Wilmington, Del.....	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60	51-60
Worcester, Mass.....	31-40	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	41-50	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40	31-40
Yonkers, N. Y.....	81-90	81-90	81-90	81-90	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>	<sup>b</sup>
York, Pa.....	31-40	31-40	31-40	21-30	21-30	21-30	11-20	11-20	1-10	1-10	1-10	1-10
Youngstown, Ohio.....	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70	71-80	71-80	61-70	61-70	61-70	61-70

<sup>a</sup>Decrease

<sup>b</sup>No report

## 14 THE COST OF LIVING IN UNITED STATES IN 1928

### *Clothing*

Of all the main groups of expenditure that enter into the wage earner's budget, clothing stands at the highest level with respect to pre-war conditions in July, 1914. It will be remembered that clothing was the first group to feel the upward movement of prices and at the peak in 1920 held the highest place. While it shared with other groups the decline that followed, it came to rest at a higher level than other elements in the cost of living.

Taken as a whole, clothing makes a slower response to the influences which bring about price changes than does, for example, food. Variation from month to month from a minimum price level of 170 in December to a maximum of 174 in July and September was within a narrow range. Nor is there, as was the case with rents, any evidence of any distinct movement in the general level; with no definite trend observable, the index oscillates like a pendulum within very restricted limits.

The prices of individual articles of clothing are shown in Table 3, the indexes based upon them in Table 4.

An examination of the tables shows, as might be expected, much greater variation in the prices and indexes for individual articles than in the general clothing index. Much of the change is due to the seasons and in none of the articles is any conspicuous upward or downward trend to be noted. More striking is the difference of the index levels for the various commodities. At the end of the year these vary from 125 for women's muslin underwear to 260 for women's knit underwear. The wide range of variation is suggestive of a very different alignment of the prices of the various materials and articles of wearing apparel now from that which prevailed in 1914.

Table 5 distinguishes men's and women's clothing and shows index numbers for each. A comparison of January and December shows some decline in men's clothing but none in women's. The two columns of the table show throughout a slightly higher level for men's clothing prices relative to July, 1914, than for the prices of women's clothing.

*(Text continued on page 20)*

**TABLE 3: AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED ARTICLES OF YARD GOODS AND WEARING APPAREL, MONTHLY, FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1928**

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914-1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 11) on page 97 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-1927."

Articles	July, 1914	January, 1928	February, 1928	March, 1928	April, 1928	May, 1928	June, 1928	July, 1928	August, 1928	September, 1928	October, 1928	November, 1928	December, 1928
Wool yard goods													
Serge	\$1.00	\$1.620	\$1.599	\$1.615	\$1.608	\$1.595	\$1.621	\$1.597	\$1.624	\$1.606	\$1.557	\$1.541	\$1.551
Poplin	1.50	2.077	2.049	2.043	2.000	2.030	2.054	2.047	2.067	2.026	1.994	1.995	1.966
Broadcloth	2.00	3.343	3.330	3.337	3.326	3.334	3.406	3.390	3.419	3.408	3.408	3.350	3.394
Cotton yard goods													
Percale	0.07½	0.209	0.208	0.210	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.209	0.205	0.217	0.218	0.214	0.221
Gingham	0.10	0.194	0.192	0.192	0.186	0.184	0.188	0.192	0.188	0.188	0.188	0.185	0.185
Longcloth	0.12½	0.209	0.207	0.208	0.208	0.208	0.216	0.217	0.218	0.222	0.222	0.222	0.223
Fruit of the loom	0.15	0.243	0.242	0.244	0.244	0.243	0.246	0.246	0.246	0.250	0.247	0.246	0.248
Voile	0.25	0.350	0.341	0.342	0.354	0.353	0.360	0.351	0.351	0.347	0.343	0.332	0.333
Hosiery													
Men's	0.15	0.243	0.243	0.241	0.239	0.242	0.242	0.244	0.242	0.250	0.243	0.244	0.241
Women's	0.25	0.416	0.417	0.416	0.411	0.415	0.417	0.425	0.418	0.413	0.400	0.406	0.407
Knit underwear													
Men's union suits	0.50	1.005	0.987	1.010	0.985	0.980	0.988	0.993	0.974	1.006	0.990	0.978	0.991
Women's vests	0.10	0.257	0.268	0.261	0.261	0.268	0.288	0.281	0.272	0.277	0.253	0.249	0.266
Muslin underwear													
Women's combinations	1.00	1.284	1.270	1.285	1.277	1.291	1.325	1.234	1.253	1.254	1.269	1.242	1.235
Suits													
Men's	15.00	24.537	24.253	24.355	24.362	24.287	24.014	24.283	24.184	24.481	24.387	23.778	23.710
Women's	15.00	22.319	21.838	21.949	21.972	21.511	22.386	23.547	22.624	23.412	23.473	23.144	23.093
Coats													
Men's	10.00	21.498	20.869	21.487	21.405	21.248	20.946	20.349	21.095	21.368	21.085	20.888	20.432
Women's	10.00	19.625	18.887	18.972	18.156	17.877	18.212	18.622	18.217	18.445	19.604	19.680	19.944
Shirts and blouses													
Men's work shirts	0.50	0.912	0.921	0.917	0.907	0.892	0.891	0.886	0.881	0.895	0.880	0.878	0.885
Men's work shirts	1.00	1.299	1.329	1.294	1.301	1.284	1.281	1.267	1.272	1.287	1.271	1.285	1.264
Men's negligee shirts	1.00	1.464	1.462	1.487	1.473	1.469	1.469	1.458	1.486	1.475	1.469	1.447	1.431
Women's blouses	1.00	1.592	1.544	1.622	1.600	1.599	1.651	1.647	1.642	1.639	1.557	1.559	1.570
Overalls	0.75	1.502	1.479	1.489	1.481	1.475	1.481	1.475	1.467	1.512	1.497	1.596	1.460
Shoes													
Men's	3.50	5.227	5.352	5.370	5.215	5.277	5.090	5.360	5.355	5.338	5.309	5.318	5.162
Women's	3.00	5.240	5.398	5.466	5.364	5.297	5.188	5.533	5.579	5.431	5.337	5.376	5.291
Gloves													
Men's dogskin	1.25	2.166	2.144	2.136	2.099	2.088	2.114	2.122	2.137	2.065	2.120	2.099	2.029
Women's cape	1.00	2.314	2.239	2.294	2.228	2.223	2.225	2.231	2.123	2.160	2.237	2.272	2.235
Hats													
Men's felt	2.00	3.785	3.691	3.752	3.769	3.781	3.672	3.719	3.747	3.816	3.872	3.860	3.870
Women's velvet	1.50	2.852	2.768	2.616	2.540	2.774	2.818	3.310	3.417	3.272	3.287	3.309	3.067
Women's straw	1.50	2.128	2.023	2.211	2.320	2.572	2.484	2.627	2.236	2.014	1.953	1.953	1.776

TABLE 4: INDEX NUMBERS OF AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF SELECTED YARD GOODS AND WEARING APPAREL, MONTHLY, FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1928

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 12) on page 100 in “The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927.”

Articles	July, 1914	January, 1928	February, 1928	March, 1928	April, 1928	May, 1928	June, 1928	July, 1928	August, 1928	September, 1928	October, 1928	November, 1928	December, 1928
Wool yard goods													
Serge.....	100	162	160	162	161	160	163	161	164	162	157	155	156
Poplin.....	100	139	137	137	134	136	138	138	139	136	134	134	132
Broadcloth.....	100	165	164	164	164	164	168	167	169	168	168	165	167
Cotton yard goods													
Percale.....	100	280	279	282	279	279	279	280	275	291	292	287	297
Gingham.....	100	194	192	192	186	184	188	192	188	188	188	185	185
Longcloth.....	100	167	165	166	166	166	172	173	174	177	177	177	178
Fruit of the loom.....	100	160	159	160	160	159	161	161	161	164	162	161	162
Voile.....	100	143	139	139	144	144	147	143	143	141	139	135	135
Hosiery													
Men's.....	100	164	164	163	162	164	164	165	164	169	164	165	163
Women's.....	100	166	166	166	164	166	167	170	167	165	160	162	162
Knit underwear.....	100	200	196	201	196	195	197	198	194	200	197	195	198
Women's vests.....	100	257	268	261	261	268	288	281	272	277	253	249	260
Muslin underwear.....	100	131	130	132	131	132	135	126	128	128	129	126	125
Women's combinations.....	100	131	130	132	131	132	135	126	128	128	129	126	125
Suits													
Men's.....	100	163	161	162	162	162	160	162	161	163	162	158	158
Women's.....	100	148	145	146	146	143	149	157	151	156	156	154	154
Coats													
Men's.....	100	215	209	215	214	213	210	204	212	215	212	210	205
Women's.....	100	194	187	188	180	177	180	184	180	182	193	194	197
Shirts and blouses													
Men's work shirts.....	100	180	182	181	179	176	176	175	174	177	174	174	175
Men's work shirts.....	100	130	133	130	131	129	129	128	129	131	129	130	128
Men's negligee shirts.....	100	147	147	149	148	148	148	147	150	149	142	146	144
Women's blouses.....	100	161	156	164	162	162	167	167	166	166	158	158	159
Overalls.....	100	199	196	197	196	195	196	195	194	200	198	211	193
Shoes													
Men's.....	100	150	154	154	150	152	147	155	155	154	153	153	149
Women's.....	100	173	178	180	177	175	171	182	183	178	175	176	173
Gloves													
Men's dogskin.....	100	172	170	169	166	165	167	168	169	163	167	167	162
Women's cape.....	100	236	228	233	226	226	226	227	216	220	228	232	228
Hats													
Men's felt.....	100	190	185	188	189	190	184	186	187	190	193	192	193
Women's velvet.....	100	191	185	175	170	186	189	222	219	219	220	222	206
Women's straw.....	100	214	204	223	234	260	251	266	226	204	198	198	180

## THE COST OF LIVING IN UNITED STATES IN 1928 .17

**TABLE 5: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE RETAIL COST OF CLOTHING, BASED ON AVERAGE PRICES, MONTHLY, FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1928, WEIGHTED ACCORDING TO THEIR CONSUMPTION IMPORTANCE**

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 13) on page 106 in the "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927."

Date	Men's Clothing	Women's Clothing	All Clothing
January, 1928 . . . . .	176	168	172
February, 1928 . . . . .	175	166	171
March, 1928 . . . . .	177	168	173
April, 1928 . . . . .	176	166	171
May, 1928 . . . . .	175	166	171
June, 1928 . . . . .	173	169	171
July, 1928 . . . . .	174	173	174
August, 1928 . . . . .	175	170	173
September, 1928 . . . . .	177	171	174
October, 1928 . . . . .	176	169	173
November, 1928 . . . . .	174	169	172
December, 1928 . . . . .	172	168	170

**TABLE 6: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE COST OF COAL, GAS AND ELECTRICITY FOR HOUSEHOLD USE, WEIGHTED ACCORDING TO CONSUMPTION, MONTHLY, FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1928**

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 14) on page 108 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927."

Date	Coal	Gas and Electricity Combined	Coal, Gas and Electricity Combined
January, 1928 . . . . .	184	122	163
February, 1928 . . . . .	184	122	163
March, 1928 . . . . .	184	122	163
April, 1928 . . . . .	179	122	160
May, 1928 . . . . .	176	122	158
June, 1928 . . . . .	176	122	158
July, 1928 . . . . .	177	121	158
August, 1928 . . . . .	178	121	159
September, 1928 . . . . .	180	121	160
October, 1928 . . . . .	182	121	161
November, 1928 . . . . .	183	121	162
December, 1928 . . . . .	184	121	163

18 THE COST OF LIVING IN UNITED STATES IN 1928

TABLE 7: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE RETAIL PRICE OF COAL IN TON LOTS

(National Ind

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914-1927 given in a corresponding

Locality	January, 1928			February, 1928			March, 1928			April, 1928			May, 1928			Anth
	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	
	Stove	Chest- nut		Stove	Chest- nut		Stove	Chest- nut		Stove	Chest- nut		Stove	Chest- nut		
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	212.5	201.9	172.7	212.5	201.9	172.2	212.5	201.9	171.9	206.1	196.2	167.6	203.0	193.5	164.1	203.8
<i>Eastern District</i>	219.5	205.1	178.6	219.5	205.1	177.3	219.5	205.1	176.8	210.1	196.9	173.1	207.6	194.7	171.9	209.3
Albany, N. Y.	275.8	186.7	b	275.8	186.7	b	275.8	186.7	b	265.3	181.3	b	265.3	181.3	b	269.8
Baltimore, Md.	285.8	227.6	111.2	285.8	227.6	111.2	285.8	228.7	111.2	269.5	218.9	106.9	267.9	218.9	106.9	270.8
Bloomfield, N. J.	215.3	200.0	199.1	215.3	200.0	199.1	215.3	200.0	199.1	207.5	192.6	199.1	207.5	192.6	199.1	211.4
Boston, Mass.	254.1	228.5	176.9	254.1	228.5	176.9	254.1	228.5	176.9	242.4	217.8	166.1	242.4	217.8	166.1	242.4
Bridgeport, Conn.	151.5	145.8	177.8	151.5	145.8	177.8	151.5	145.8	177.8	146.5	141.0	177.8	146.5	141.0	177.8	146.5
Buffalo, N. Y.	218.4	191.8	190.5	218.4	191.8	190.5	218.4	191.8	190.5	212.7	186.6	183.3	209.9	184.0	183.3	213.7
Cambridge, Mass.	283.3	283.6	172.1	283.3	283.6	172.1	283.3	283.6	172.1	276.8	177.1	167.1	276.8	177.1	167.1	270.2
Fall River, Mass.	226.0	225.2	211.0	226.0	225.2	211.0	225.1	225.2	211.0	216.1	218.4	211.0	216.1	218.4	211.0	216.1
Lawrence, Mass.	215.2	205.3	210.0	215.2	205.3	199.9	215.2	205.3	199.9	215.2	205.3	190.0	190.7	175.9	190.0	190.7
Lowell, Mass.	232.3	233.0	b	232.3	233.0	b	232.3	233.0	b	205.8	205.5	b	205.8	205.5	b	205.8
Lynn, Mass.	180.6	172.4	231.0	180.6	172.4	231.0	180.6	172.4	231.0	180.6	172.4	231.0	172.5	167.1	209.3	169.7
Manchester, N. H.	191.4	185.7	196.5	191.4	184.4	191.6	191.4	184.4	191.6	177.8	171.1	183.6	175.1	168.5	183.6	177.0
Newark, N. J.	176.3	158.0	b	176.3	158.0	b	176.3	158.0	b	170.0	152.2	b	170.0	152.2	b	173.2
New Britain, Conn.	185.8	191.6	224.2	185.8	191.6	224.2	185.8	191.6	224.2	180.0	179.7	224.2	174.2	179.7	224.2	174.2
New Haven, Conn.	223.9	216.6	177.1	223.9	216.6	177.1	223.9	216.6	177.1	223.9	216.6	177.1	218.3	211.2	172.0	220.3
New York, N. Y.	223.1	217.3	210.7	223.1	217.3	206.3	223.1	217.3	206.3	215.5	206.9	206.3	215.5	206.9	206.3	219.4
Paterson, N. J.	223.3	214.4	184.1	223.3	214.4	184.1	223.3	214.4	184.1	211.0	206.3	184.1	211.0	206.3	184.1	215.0
Philadelphia, Pa.	212.0	195.0	157.2	212.0	195.0	157.2	212.0	195.0	157.2	201.2	186.4	154.5	195.0	182.1	147.7	197.3
Pittsburgh, Pa.	b	130.6	154.2	b	130.6	151.0	b	130.6	151.0	b	130.6	151.0	b	130.6	151.0	b
Portland, Me.	209.9	205.8	212.0	209.9	205.8	212.0	209.9	205.8	212.0	205.1	201.5	188.7	203.9	200.1	188.7	203.9
Providence, R. I.	239.4	222.3	191.2	239.4	222.3	191.2	239.4	221.0	189.5	231.0	216.4	189.5	229.2	215.3	186.8	229.2
Reading, Pa.	289.8	293.2	201.5	289.8	293.2	201.5	289.8	293.2	201.5	275.3	280.6	201.5	275.3	280.6	201.5	277.8
Rochester, N. Y.	238.6	274.6	186.0	238.6	274.6	186.0	238.6	274.6	186.0	230.2	217.2	186.0	230.2	217.2	186.0	233.0
Schenectady, N. Y.	224.0	217.1	208.2	224.0	217.1	208.2	224.0	217.1	208.2	206.5	201.9	208.2	206.5	201.9	208.2	210.2
Springfield, Mass.	211.6	199.7	142.7	211.6	199.7	139.1	211.6	199.7	135.6	202.1	194.1	133.4	192.6	188.5	130.7	192.6
Syracuse, N. Y.	235.5	234.0	b	235.5	234.0	b	235.5	234.0	b	226.1	225.1	b	226.1	225.1	b	230.4
Trenton, N. J.	231.7	198.7	154.9	231.7	198.7	154.9	231.7	198.7	154.9	217.3	188.0	152.3	217.3	188.0	152.3	221.2
Washington, D. C.	210.0	223.7	161.6	210.0	223.7	161.6	210.0	223.7	161.6	201.2	215.9	155.5	201.2	215.9	155.5	204.6
Wilmington, Del.	217.6	201.7	182.6	217.6	201.7	182.6	217.6	201.7	182.6	200.8	188.6	177.9	200.8	188.6	177.9	201.8
<i>Middle Western District</i>	208.9	202.9	178.4	208.9	202.7	178.4	208.9	202.7	177.9	206.8	200.5	173.1	202.9	197.1	163.9	203.9
Chicago, Ill.	284.8	274.7	171.3	284.8	274.7	171.3	284.8	274.7	171.3	284.8	274.7	171.3	268.9	262.1	148.5	273.2
Cincinnati, Ohio	261.4	240.6	165.0	261.4	240.6	165.0	261.4	240.6	165.0	261.4	240.6	144.0	261.4	240.6	144.0	261.4
Cleveland, Ohio	207.3	209.0	201.2	207.3	209.0	197.2	207.3	209.0	197.2	205.7	205.4	191.1	204.5	204.2	185.9	204.5
Columbus, Ohio	b	154.9	178.0	b	154.9	178.0	b	154.9	174.1	b	147.9	156.5	b	147.9	156.5	b
Dayton, Ohio	b	206.0	186.5	b	206.0	186.5	b	206.0	186.5	b	193.8	186.5	b	193.8	186.5	b
Detroit, Mich.	178.4	162.2	233.6	178.4	162.2	233.6	178.4	162.2	233.6	178.4	162.2	233.6	175.5	159.6	230.3	175.5
Duluth, Minn.	273.4	251.4	172.8	273.4	251.4	172.8	273.4	251.4	172.8	271.8	251.4	172.8	267.5	242.9	172.8	271.0
Grand Rapids, Mich.	197.5	184.3	151.8	197.5	184.3	151.8	197.5	184.3	151.8	197.5	184.3	151.8	191.6	178.8	140.1	191.6
Indianapolis, Ind.	119.8	156.7	151.1	119.8	156.7	151.1	119.8	156.7	151.1	118.0	155.6	144.9	116.2	153.3	136.8	116.2
Kansas City, Mo.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Louisville, Ky.	b	229.2	195.1	b	229.2	195.1	b	229.2	195.1	b	223.2	173.8	b	223.2	164.8	b
Milwaukee, Wis.	210.8	179.9	152.5	210.8	179.9	152.5	210.8	179.9	152.5	199.4	171.6	144.0	199.4	171.6	143.6	202.0
Minneapolis, Minn.	203.3	194.2	188.8	203.3	194.2	188.8	203.3	194.2	188.8	203.3	194.2	188.8	201.1	192.8	186.9	203.3
Omaha, Neb.	b	227.9	b	b	225.4	b	b	225.4	b	b	225.4	b	b	225.4	b	b
St. Louis, Mo.	210.3	200.4	253.3	210.3	200.4	253.3	210.3	200.4	253.3	208.0	198.8	253.3	202.4	194.2	238.4	204.0
St. Paul, Minn.	198.1	188.6	173.1	198.1	188.6	173.1	198.1	188.6	173.1	198.1	188.6	173.1	193.7	186.0	171.8	195.8
<i>Pac Western District</i>	177.4	150.8	152.7	177.4	150.8	152.7	177.4	150.8	152.7	176.9	150.8	150.8	150.7	145.7	150.1	174.2
Butte, Mont.	b	b	147.1	b	b	147.1	b	b	147.1	b	b	144.9	b	b	144.9	b
Denver, Colo.	169.4	b	197.8	169.4	b	197.8	169.4	b	197.8	166.7	b	184.3	168.4	b	190.2	169.7
Los Angeles, Cal.	176.2	b	124.8	176.2	b	124.8	176.2	b	124.8	176.2	b	124.8	172.9	b	122.9	172.9
Portland, Ore.	b	b	157.6	b	b	157.6	b	b	157.6	b	b	157.6	b	b	157.6	b
Salt Lake City, Utah.	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0
San Francisco, Cal.	155.7	151.3	141.4	155.7	151.3	141.4	155.7	151.3	141.4	155.7	151.3	141.4	155.7	151.3	141.4	155.7
Seattle, Wash.	b	b	158.2	b	b	158.2	b	b	158.2	b	b	158.2	b	b	158.2	b
<i>Southern District</i>	200.8	195.4	184.9	200.8	195.4	184.9	200.8	195.4	184.9	200.8	195.4	184.9	200.8	195.4	184.9	200.8
Atlanta, Ga.	207.4	208.2	157.2	207.4	208.2	157.2	207.4	208.2	157.2	207.4	208.2	146.5	207.4	208.2	146.5	207.4
Birmingham, Ala.	b	244.4	b	b	244.4	b	b	244.4	b	b	244.4	b	b	244.4	b	b
Charleston, S. C.	188.0	186.2	163.0	188.0	186.2	163.0	188.0	186.2	163.0	188.0	186.2	163.0	188.0	186.2	163.0	188.0
Dallas, Tex.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b
Jacksonville, Fla.	211.4	195.6	186.7	211.4	195.6	186.7	211.4	195.6	186.7	195.5	180.9	160.0	195.5	180.9	160.0	195.5
Little Rock, Ark.	b	b	166.8	b	b	166.8	b	b	166.8	b	b	166.8	b	b	166.8	b
Macon, Ga.	b	226.9	b	b	185.0	b	b	185.0	b	b	185.0	b	b	185.0	b	185.0
Memphis, Tenn.	b	226.9	b	b	226.9	b	b	226.9	b	b	226.9	161.1	b	b	215.6	149.7
New Orleans, La																



# 18 THE COST OF LIVING IN UNITED STATES IN 1928

## TABLE 7: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE RETAIL PRICE OF COAL IN TON LOTS FOR

July,

(National Industrial

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table

Locality	January, 1928			February, 1928			March, 1928			April, 1928			May, 1928			June,		
	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	Anthracite		Bitu- minous Coal	Stove	Chest- nut	
	Stove	Chest- nut		Stove	Chest- nut		Stove	Chest- nut		Stove	Chest- nut		Stove	Chest- nut				Stove
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	<b>212.5</b>	<b>201.9</b>	<b>172.7</b>	<b>212.5</b>	<b>201.9</b>	<b>172.2</b>	<b>212.5</b>	<b>201.9</b>	<b>171.9</b>	<b>206.1</b>	<b>196.2</b>	<b>167.6</b>	<b>203.0</b>	<b>193.5</b>	<b>164.1</b>	<b>203.8</b>	<b>194.5</b>	
<i>Eastern District</i>	<i>219.5</i>	<i>205.1</i>	<i>178.6</i>	<i>219.5</i>	<i>205.1</i>	<i>177.3</i>	<i>219.5</i>	<i>205.1</i>	<i>176.8</i>	<i>210.1</i>	<i>196.9</i>	<i>173.1</i>	<i>207.6</i>	<i>194.7</i>	<i>171.9</i>	<i>209.3</i>	<i>196.5</i>	
Albany, N. Y.	275.8	186.7	b	275.8	186.7	b	275.8	186.7	b	265.3	181.3	b	265.3	181.3	b	269.8	184.6	
Baltimore, Md.	285.8	227.6	111.2	285.8	227.6	111.2	285.8	228.7	111.2	269.5	218.9	106.9	267.9	218.9	106.9	270.8	230.2	
Bloomfield, N. J.	215.3	200.0	199.1	215.3	200.0	199.1	215.3	200.0	199.1	207.5	192.6	199.1	207.5	192.6	199.1	211.4	196.3	
Boston, Mass.	254.1	228.5	176.9	254.1	228.5	176.9	254.1	228.5	176.9	242.4	217.8	166.1	242.4	217.8	166.1	242.4	217.8	
Bridgesport, Conn.	151.5	145.8	177.8	151.5	145.8	177.8	151.5	145.8	177.8	146.5	141.0	177.8	146.5	141.0	177.8	146.5	141.0	
Buffalo, N. Y.	218.4	191.8	190.5	218.4	191.8	190.5	218.4	191.8	190.5	212.7	186.6	183.3	209.9	184.0	183.3	213.7	187.5	
Cambridge, Mass.	283.3	283.6	172.1	283.3	283.6	172.1	283.3	283.6	172.1	276.8	277.1	167.1	270.2	270.4	162.1	270.2	270.4	
Fall River, Mass.	226.0	225.2	211.0	226.0	225.2	211.0	225.1	225.2	211.0	216.1	218.4	211.0	216.1	218.4	211.0	216.1	218.4	
Lawrence, Mass.	215.2	205.3	210.0	215.2	205.3	199.9	215.2	205.3	199.9	215.2	205.3	190.0	190.7	175.9	190.0	190.7	175.9	
Lowell, Mass.	232.3	233.0	b	232.3	233.0	b	232.3	233.0	b	205.8	205.5	b	205.8	205.5	b	205.8	205.5	
Lynn, Mass.	180.6	172.4	231.0	180.6	172.4	231.0	180.6	172.4	231.0	180.6	172.4	231.0	172.5	167.1	209.3	169.7	167.1	
Manchester, N. H.	191.4	187.7	196.5	191.4	184.4	191.6	191.4	184.4	191.6	177.8	171.1	183.6	175.1	168.5	183.6	177.0	170.5	
Newark, N. J.	176.3	158.0	b	176.3	158.0	b	176.3	158.0	b	170.0	152.2	b	170.0	152.2	b	173.2	155.1	
New Britain, Conn.	185.8	191.6	224.2	185.8	191.6	224.2	185.8	191.6	224.2	180.0	179.7	224.2	174.2	179.7	224.2	174.2	179.7	
New Haven, Conn.	221.9	216.6	177.1	221.9	216.6	177.1	221.9	216.6	177.1	223.9	216.6	177.1	218.3	211.2	172.0	220.3	213.1	
New York, N. Y.	223.1	217.3	210.7	223.1	217.3	206.3	223.1	217.3	206.3	215.5	206.9	206.3	215.5	206.9	206.3	219.4	210.6	
Paterson, N. J.	223.1	214.4	184.1	223.1	214.4	184.1	223.1	214.4	184.1	211.0	206.3	184.1	211.0	206.3	184.1	215.0	210.4	
Philadelphia, Pa.	212.0	195.0	157.2	212.0	195.0	157.2	212.0	195.0	157.2	201.2	186.4	154.5	195.0	182.1	147.7	197.3	184.5	
Pittsburgh, Pa.	b	130.6	151.0	b	130.6	151.0	b	130.6	151.0	b	130.6	151.0	b	130.6	151.0	b	147.5	128.2
Portland, Me.	209.9	205.8	212.0	209.9	205.8	212.0	209.9	205.8	212.0	205.1	201.5	188.7	203.9	200.1	188.7	203.9	200.1	
Providence, R. I.	239.4	222.3	191.2	239.4	222.3	191.2	239.4	221.0	189.5	231.0	216.4	189.5	229.2	215.3	186.8	229.2	215.3	
Reading, Pa.	289.8	293.2	201.5	289.8	293.2	201.5	289.8	293.2	201.5	275.3	280.6	201.5	275.3	280.6	201.5	277.8	283.1	
Rochester, N. Y.	238.6	224.6	186.0	238.6	224.6	186.0	238.6	224.6	186.0	230.2	217.2	186.0	230.2	217.2	186.0	233.0	219.8	
Schenectady, N. Y.	224.0	217.1	208.2	224.0	217.1	208.2	224.0	217.1	208.2	206.5	201.9	208.2	206.5	201.9	208.2	210.2	205.7	
Springfield, Mass.	231.6	199.7	142.7	231.6	199.7	139.1	231.6	199.7	135.6	202.1	194.1	133.4	192.6	188.5	130.7	192.6	188.5	
Syracuse, N. Y.	235.5	234.0	b	235.5	234.0	b	235.5	234.0	b	236.1	225.1	b	226.1	225.1	b	230.4	229.6	
Trenton, N. J.	231.7	198.7	154.9	231.7	198.7	154.9	231.7	198.7	154.9	217.3	188.0	152.3	217.3	188.0	152.3	221.2	191.6	
Washington, D. C.	210.0	223.7	161.6	210.0	223.7	161.6	210.0	223.7	161.6	201.2	215.9	155.5	201.2	215.9	155.5	204.6	224.5	
Wilmington, Del.	217.6	201.7	182.6	217.6	201.7	182.6	217.6	201.7	182.6	200.8	188.6	179.9	200.8	188.6	177.7	201.8	189.7	
<i>Middle Western District</i>	<i>208.9</i>	<i>202.9</i>	<i>178.4</i>	<i>208.9</i>	<i>202.9</i>	<i>178.4</i>	<i>208.9</i>	<i>202.9</i>	<i>177.9</i>	<i>206.8</i>	<i>200.5</i>	<i>173.1</i>	<i>202.9</i>	<i>197.1</i>	<i>163.9</i>	<i>203.9</i>	<i>197.9</i>	
Chicago, Ill.	284.8	274.7	171.3	284.8	274.7	171.3	284.8	274.7	171.3	284.8	274.7	171.3	268.9	262.1	148.5	273.2	266.3	
Cincinnati, Ohio	261.4	240.6	165.0	261.4	240.6	165.0	261.4	240.6	165.0	261.4	240.6	165.0	261.4	240.6	165.0	261.4	240.6	
Cleveland, Ohio	207.3	209.0	201.2	207.3	209.0	197.2	207.3	209.0	197.2	205.9	205.4	191.1	204.5	204.6	185.9	204.5	206.4	
Columbus, Ohio	b	154.9	178.0	b	154.9	178.0	b	154.9	174.1	b	147.9	156.5	b	147.9	154.6	b	147.9	
Dayton, Ohio	b	206.0	186.5	b	206.0	186.5	b	206.0	186.5	b	193.8	186.5	b	193.8	186.5	b	193.8	
Detroit, Mich.	178.4	162.2	233.6	178.4	162.2	233.6	178.4	162.2	233.6	178.4	162.2	233.6	175.5	159.6	230.3	175.5	159.6	
Duluth, Minn.	273.4	251.4	172.8	273.4	251.4	172.8	273.4	251.4	172.8	271.6	251.4	172.8	267.5	242.9	172.8	271.0	230.3	
Grand Rapids, Mich.	197.5	184.3	151.8	197.5	184.3	151.8	197.5	184.3	151.8	197.5	184.3	151.8	191.6	178.8	140.1	191.6	178.8	
Indianapolis, Ind.	119.8	156.7	151.1	119.8	156.7	151.1	119.8	156.7	151.1	118.0	155.6	144.9	116.2	136.8	116.2	136.8	116.2	
Kansas City, Mo.	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	b	
Louisville, Ky.	b	229.2	195.1	b	229.2	195.1	b	229.2	195.1	b	223.2	173.8	b	223.2	164.8	b	223.2	
Milwaukee, Wis.	210.8	179.9	152.5	210.8	179.9	152.5	210.8	179.9	152.5	199.4	171.6	144.0	199.4	171.6	143.6	202.0	173.8	
Minneapolis, Minn.	303.3	194.2	188.8	303.3	194.2	188.8	303.3	194.2	188.8	303.3	194.2	188.8	201.1	192.8	186.9	203.3	194.9	
Omaha, Neb.	b	227.9	b	b	225.4	b	b	225.4	b	b	225.4	b	b	225.4	b	b	225.4	
St. Louis, Mo.	210.3	200.4	253.3	210.3	200.4	253.3	210.3	200.4	253.3	208.0	198.8	253.3	202.4	198.2	238.4	204.0	195.8	
St. Paul, Minn.	196.1	188.6	173.1	196.1	188.6	175.5	196.1	188.6	175.5	198.1	188.6	175.5	193.7	186.0	171.8	195.8	188.0	
<i>Far Western District</i>	<i>177.4</i>	<i>150.8</i>	<i>152.7</i>	<i>177.4</i>	<i>150.8</i>	<i>152.7</i>	<i>177.4</i>	<i>150.8</i>	<i>152.7</i>	<i>176.9</i>	<i>150.8</i>	<i>152.7</i>	<i>176.9</i>	<i>150.8</i>	<i>152.7</i>	<i>150.1</i>	<i>174.2</i>	
Butte, Mont.	b	147.1	b	b	147.1	b	b	147.1	b	147.1	b	144.9	b	144.9	b	144.9	b	
Denver, Colo.	169.4	b	197.8	169.4	b	197.8	169.4	b	197.8	166.7	b	184.3	168.4	b	190.2	169.7	b	
Los Angeles, Cal.	176.2	b	124.8	176.2	b	124.8	176.2	b	124.8	176.2	b	124.8	172.9	b	122.9	172.9	b	
Portland, Ore.	b	b	157.6	b	b	157.6	b	b	157.6	b	b	157.6	b	b	157.6	b	b	
Salt Lake City, Utah	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0	156.5	168.7	185.0	156.5	
San Francisco, Cal.	155.7	151.3	141.4	155.7	151.3	141.4	155.7	151.3	141.4	155.7	151.3	141.4	146.8	142.7	133.1	146.8	142.7	
Seattle, Wash.	b	b	158.2	b	b	158.2	b	b	158.2	b	b	158.2	b	b	158.2	b	b	
<i>Southern District</i>	<i>200.8</i>	<i>195.4</i>	<i>184.9</i>	<i>200.8</i>	<i>195.4</i>	<i>184.9</i>	<i>200.8</i>	<i>195.4</i>	<i>184.9</i>	<i>196.6</i>	<i>191.5</i>	<i>174.9</i>	<i>192.7</i>	<i>185.9</i>	<i>171.2</i>	<i>188.1</i>	<i>182.0</i>	
Atlanta, Ga.	207.4	208.2	157.2	207.4	208.2	157.2	207.4	208.2	157.2	207.4	208.2	146.5	207.4	208.2	146.5	207.4	208.2	
Birmingham, Ala.	b	b	244.4															



THE COST OF LIVING IN UNITED STATES IN 1928 19

DOMESTIC USE, IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1928, INCLUSIVE

14 = 100

(reference Board)

a. 16) on page 112 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-1927."

8	July, 1928			August, 1928			September, 1928			October, 1928			November, 1928			December, 1928		
	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal	Anthracite		Bituminous Coal
	Stove	Chest-nut		Stove	Chest-nut		Stove	Chest-nut		Stove	Chest-nut		Stove	Chest-nut		Stove	Chest-nut	
3.0	304.2	194.9	162.8	204.6	195.9	163.1	207.9	199.2	164.6	209.1	200.4	166.6	210.8	201.6	167.8	211.6	202.2	168.3
1.6	209.9	197.3	172.1	210.5	198.7	171.6	214.3	202.5	171.4	215.6	203.7	171.7	217.1	204.5	172.0	223.6	204.9	172.0
6.9	269.8	184.6	169.8	269.8	184.6	169.8	274.4	189.0	174.4	274.4	187.9	176.3	276.3	187.9	176.3	276.3	187.9	176.3
15.7	211.4	220.2	106.9	272.2	225.5	107.2	281.2	229.0	107.2	283.4	231.7	107.2	284.5	232.6	108.8	284.5	232.6	108.8
15.7	211.4	196.3	205.7	211.4	196.3	205.7	215.2	200.0	205.7	215.2	200.0	205.7	215.2	200.0	205.7	215.2	200.0	205.7
15.7	242.4	217.8	186.1	246.3	221.3	166.1	246.3	221.3	166.1	248.3	223.1	169.3	250.8	226.0	169.3	252.1	227.1	171.0
7.8	146.5	141.0	177.8	146.5	141.0	177.8	156.6	150.7	177.8	156.6	150.7	177.8	156.6	150.7	177.8	156.6	150.7	177.8
13.3	213.7	187.5	183.3	212.4	186.4	183.3	216.2	190.1	183.3	217.5	191.4	183.3	219.0	191.4	183.3	217.7	190.1	183.3
12.1	270.2	270.4	157.1	274.5	274.7	157.1	276.7	276.9	157.1	276.7	276.9	157.1	276.7	276.9	157.1	277.9	279.1	167.0
11.0	216.1	218.4	211.0	216.1	218.4	211.0	221.1	226.9	211.0	222.4	228.3	211.0	222.4	228.3	211.0	222.4	228.3	211.0
10.0	190.7	175.9	179.9	190.7	175.9	179.9	196.8	181.7	179.9	202.9	187.5	179.9	202.9	187.5	179.9	202.9	187.5	179.9
9.3	205.8	205.5	209.3	205.8	205.5	209.3	219.2	219.3	209.3	219.2	219.3	209.3	222.8	226.1	209.3	222.8	226.1	209.3
13.6	169.7	167.1	209.3	172.4	167.1	209.3	172.4	167.1	209.3	172.4	167.1	209.3	172.4	167.1	209.3	172.4	167.1	209.3
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182.4	175.0	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6	185.1	178.3	183.6
14.2	173.2	155.1	183.6	182														

## 20 THE COST OF LIVING IN UNITED STATES IN 1928

### TABLE 8: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE COST OF IN SPECIFIED

July,

(National Industrial

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914-1927

"The Cost of Living in the

City	Gas	Electricity	City	Gas	Electricity
<i>United States</i>					
	140	82	East Orange, N. J.	133	90
Akron, Ohio	283	91	East St. Louis, Ill.	130	100
Albany, N. Y.	120	100	Elizabeth, N. J.	133	90
Allentown, Pa.	130	101	El Paso, Tex.	115	81
Allentown, Pa.	150	114	Erie, Pa.	250	95
Atlanta, Ga.	155	116	Evansville, Ind.	142	100
Atlantic City, N. J.	167	88	Fall River, Mass.	144	84
Augusta, Ga.	161	83	Fort Wayne, Ind.	153	63
Baltimore, Md.	106	82	Flint, Mich.	125	89
Bayonne, N. J.	133	90	Fort Worth, Tex.	150	65
Berkeley, Cal.	104	100	Gary, Ind.	100	89
Bethlehem, Pa.	130	101	Grand Rapids, Mich.	110	101
Binghamton, N. Y.	96	67	Harrisburg, Pa.	115	100
Birmingham, Ala.	84	85	Hartford, Conn.	139	99
Boston, Mass.	150	85	Haverhill, Mass.	147	89
Bridgeport, Conn.	145	75	Hoboken, N. J.	133	90
Brockton, Mass.	146	67	Holyoke, Mass.	125	75
Buffalo, N. Y.	65	73	Houston, Tex.	90	b
Cambridge, Mass.	144	80	Huntington, W. Va.	167	133
Camden, N. J.	133	90	Indianapolis, Ind.	173	87
Canton, Ohio	283	94	Jacksonville, Fla.	177	100
Charleston, S. C.	141	100	Jersey City, N. J.	133	90
Chattanooga, Tenn.	158	90	Johnstown, Pa.	317	100
Chester, Pa.	132	82	Kansas City, Kan.	b	100
Chicago, Ill.	128	62	Kansas City, Mo.	137	71
Cincinnati, Ohio	214	82	Knoxville, Tenn.	183	135
Cleveland, Ohio	250	50	Lancaster, Pa.	132	100
Columbus, Ohio	160	100	Lansing, Mich.	156	75
Covington, Ky.	250	100	Lawrence, Mass.	150	77
Dallas, Tex.	214	67	Lincoln, Neb.	100	56
Davenport, Ia.	144	78	Little Rock, Ark.	200	100
Dayton, Ohio	233	94	Long Beach, Cal.	87	80
Denver, Col.	113	84	Los Angeles, Cal.	135	91
Des Moines, Ia.	128	b	Louisville, Ky.	100	100
Detroit, Mich.	100	70	Lowell, Mass.	95	83
Duluth, Minn.	100	75			

<sup>a</sup> These figures are based on the cost of 2,000 cubic feet of gas and 20 kilowatt hours of electricity, taking into account extra charges and discounts.

### *Fuel and Light*

The combined index of fuel and light stood at the end of the year at the same point as at the beginning, 63% over the level of July, 1914 prices. The level sagged, however, in the summer months with the seasonal drop in the prices of coal for domestic use.

This index is a combined one, putting together in the proportion of 2 to 1 an index for fuel and one for lighting. The component parts have very different relations to the price

THE COST OF LIVING IN UNITED STATES IN 1928 21

GAS AND ELECTRICITY FOR DOMESTIC USE,  
CITIES, IN JUNE, 1928<sup>a</sup>

1914=100

Conference Board)

given in a corresponding table (No. 17) on page 121 in  
United States, 1914-1927.<sup>b</sup>

City	Gas	Electricity	City	Gas	Electricity
Lynn, Mass.	160	80	Sacramento, Cal.	121	107
Macon, Ga.	132	100	Saginaw, Mich.	139	89
Manchester, N. H.	128	96	St. Joseph, Mo.	165	70
Memphis, Tenn.	120	80	St. Louis, Mo.	125	67
Milwaukee, Wis.	113	77	St. Paul, Minn.	106	90
Minneapolis, Minn.	118	111	Salt Lake City, Utah	183	90
Mobile, Ala.	176	129	San Antonio, Tex.	80	57
Nashville, Tenn.	176	91	San Diego, Cal.	120	99
Newark, N. J.	133	90	San Francisco, Cal.	111	100
New Bedford, Mass.	150	63	Savannah, Ga.	116	111
New Britain, Conn.	150	85	Schenectady, N. Y.	85	131
New Haven, Conn.	133	75	Scranton, Pa.	161	111
New Orleans, La.	130	92	Seattle, Wash.	200	92
New York, N. Y.	144	74	Sioux City, Ia.	125	78
Niagara Falls, N. Y.	97	90	Somerville, Mass.	147	85
Norfolk, Va.	135	94	South Bend, Ind.	122	80
Oakland, Cal.	104	100	Spokane, Wash.	146	69
Oklahoma City, Okla.	240	86	Springfield, Ill.	125	65
Omaha, Neb.	91	53	Springfield, Mass.	159	50
Pasadena, N. J.	133	90	Springfield, Ohio	200	100
Paterson, N. J.	133	90	Syracuse, N. Y.	119	94
Pawtucket, R. I.	138	100	Tacoma, Wash.	148	90
Peoria, Ill.	120	75	Tampa, Fla.	123	93
Philadelphia, Pa.	100	67	Terre Haute, Ind.	129	78
Pittsburgh, Pa.	218	80	Toledo, Ohio	100	100
Portland, Me.	150	100	Topeka, Kan.	147	74
Portland, Ore.	131	142	Trenton, N. J.	133	90
Portsmouth, Va.	130	94	Troy, N. Y.	125	89
Providence, R. I.	147	90	Tulsa, Okla.	317	80
Racine, Wis.	125	84	Utica, N. Y.	124	85
Reading, Pa.	135	79	Washington, D. C.	118	64
Richmond, Va.	144	94	Waterbury, Conn.	136	85
Rosnoke, Va.	125	100	Wheeling, W. Va.	200	118
Rochester, N. Y.	105	100	Wichita, Kan.	b	68
Rockford, Ill.	147	83	Wilkes-Barre, Pa.	145	100
			Wilmington, Del.	137	90
			Worcester, Mass.	197	78
			Yonkers, N. Y.	150	85
			Youngstown, Ohio	283	96

<sup>b</sup> No report.

level of July, 1914. Some consideration should be given to these separate parts of the group index, the indexes for which are shown in Table 6.

The index for coal is itself a composite of indexes for anthracite and bituminous coal. Table 7, which shows the relative prices of various types and grades of coal compared with July, 1914, shows clearly that anthracite prices are at a higher level than bituminous prices. Anthracite is more or less of a luxury article whose production is well regulated.

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Bituminous coal mining is not in so favorable an economic position. Over-production, actual and potential, tends to keep prices at lower levels. Thus even within the small range of variation noted in Table 7, anthracite at the end of the year was at a slightly higher level than when the year began, while bituminous coal was at a slightly lower level at the end than at the beginning of the year. The combined coal index stood at a level considerably higher than the general cost of living. Moreover, all the seasonal summer slump in the combined index to which attention has been called occurred in coal.

By contrast, the lighting element in the total stood at a point representing an advance of less than one-fourth and only a little more than one-fifth over the July, 1914 level. Here again there is a composite of two elements which have markedly different relations to the price level of July, 1914. Gas has indeed advanced in price, though not so much as any element in the cost of living thus far considered, but electricity costs less today than it did before the war. This is made clear in Table 8, which shows the costs in June, 1928 relative to 1914, of gas and electricity for the quantities consumed by wage earners' families in 1914. In comparatively few of the 144 cities enumerated is the price of gas lower than in 1914, but in only fourteen of them has the cost of electricity risen, while in some it has been cut in half.

Changes in rates for gas and electricity are not made frequently, since all changes must be approved by regulatory commissions. For this reason data in regard to gas and electricity are collected only twice a year, and the index accordingly remains stationary for six months at a time.

### *Sundries*

After food, the group of expenditures classed as "Sundries" occupies the largest place in the wage earner's budget. It is a group made up of numerous small items, the price changes of which are sometimes difficult to discover. This is particularly true of the items which represent services rather than commodities. The manner in which the several items are handled in the computation of the index for the group is fully explained in the volume "The Cost of Living in the

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United States, 1914-1927." It is enough here to present the figures for 1928, which are shown in Table 9.

TABLE 9: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE AVERAGE COST OF ITEMIZED SUNDRIES, MONTHLY, FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1928

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914-1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 18) on page 126 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-1927."

Item	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Carfare.....	147	148	148	148	147	148	149	149	149	150	150	151
Medical care												
Doctors' fees.....	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Drugs.....	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	169	168	168	168
Reading.....	181	181	176	176	176	176	176	176	176	174	174	174
Recreation...	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209	209
Insurance...	168	167	166	165	165	166	165	165	165	167	167	167
Household furnishings												
Church and charity...	182	182	183	183	182	183	183	182	182	182	181	181
Dues.....	168	167	166	165	165	166	165	165	165	167	167	167
Tobacco.....	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143	143
Candy.....	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
Candy.....	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170	170
All items....	172	172	171	171	171	171	171	171	171	171	171	171

The general index for the group changed hardly at all during the year. This stability is ascribable to a variety of causes, chief among which is the fact that in this group one is dealing with certain items which are standardized in price, and certain other items for which a comparatively standard price or cost must be assumed. No one of these items occupies a very large place in the workers' budgets and any errors which might arise from the assumption of uniform cost or from the ascertainment of actual costs at comparatively long intervals would be slight. Among the items subject to a monthly ascertainment of price, such as drugs, house furnishings, tobacco and candy, price fluctuations during 1928 were of slight importance. On the other hand, street car fares moved a little upward in the course of the year.

A comparison of the price levels in this field with the general average is of interest.

Physicians' charges and recreation are the items which

## 24 THE COST OF LIVING IN UNITED STATES IN 1928

have risen to the highest point, while tobacco has changed least with reference to the 1914 level.

Detailed figures in this group of expenditures can be presented only for carfares. Table 10 shows actual rates of fare in June and December, 1928 compared with July, 1914, and the corresponding index numbers.

(Text continued on page 31)

**TABLE 10: RATES AND INDEX NUMBERS OF CARFARE IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914, JUNE AND DECEMBER, 1928**

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 19) on page 128 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927."

Locality	Rate of Fare			Index Nos.	
	July, 1914	June, 1928	Dec., 1928	June, 1928	Dec., 1928
<i>United States</i>				<i>148</i>	<i>151</i>
Akron, Ohio.....	\$0.042	\$0.059	\$0.059	140	140
Alameda, Cal.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Albany, N. Y.....	.050	.077	.077	154	154
Allentown, Pa.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Altoona, Pa.....	.040	.070	.070	175	175
Amsterdam, N. Y.....	.042	.083	.083	198	198
Anderson, Ind.....	.042	.050	.050	119	119
Asheville, N. C.....	.042	.058	.058	138	138
Atlanta, Ga.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Atlantic City, N. J.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Auburn, N. Y.....	..	..	..	..	..
Augusta, Ga.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Aurora, Ill.....	.042	.071	.071	169	169
Austin, Tex.....	.045	.063	.063	140	140
Baltimore, Md.....	.050	.083	.088	166	176
Bangor, Me.....	.050	.100	.100	200	200
Battle Creek, Mich.....	.042	.083	.083	198	198
Bayonne, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Beaumont, Tex.....	.050	.060	.060	120	120
Bellingham, Wash.....	.042	.063	.063	150	150
Berkeley, Cal.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Bethlehem, Pa.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Binghamton, N. Y.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Birmingham, Ala.....	.050	.060	.060	120	120
Bloomington, Ill.....	.042	.075	.083	179	198
Boston, Mass.....	.050	.100	.100	200	200
Bridgeport, Conn.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Brockton, Mass.....	.050	.067	.077	134	154
Brookline, Mass.....	.050	.100	.100	200	200
Buffalo, N. Y.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166



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TABLE 10: RATES AND INDEX NUMBERS OF CARFARE IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914, JUNE AND DECEMBER, 1928—(Continued)

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914-1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 19) on page 128 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914-1927."

Locality	Rate of Fare			Index Nos.	
	July, 1914	June, 1928	Dec., 1928	June, 1928	Dec., 1928
Burte, Mont.....	\$0.050	\$0.063	\$0.063	126	126
Cambridge, Mass.....	.050	.100	.100	200	200
Camden, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Canton, Ohio.....	.042	.058	.058	138	138
Cedar Rapids, Ia.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Charleston, S. C.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Charleston, W. Va.....	.042	.060	.060	143	143
Charlotte, N. C.....	.046	.063	.063	137	137
Chattanooga, Tenn.....	.040	.070	.070	175	175
Chelsea, Mass.....	.050	.071	.071	142	142
Chester, Pa.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Chicago, Ill.....	.050	.075	.085	150	170
Chicopee, Mass.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Cicero, Ill.....	.050	.100	.100	200	200
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Clarksburg, W. Va.....	.045	.063	.063	140	140
Cleveland, Ohio.....	.030	.063	.063	210	210
Clifton, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Colorado Springs, Col.....	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Columbia, S. C.....	..	..	..	..	..
Columbus, Ga.....	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Columbus, Ohio.....	.031	.050	.050	161	161
Council Bluffs, Ia.....	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Covington, Ky.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Cranston, R. I.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Cumberland, Md.....	.050	.060	.060	120	120
Dallas, Tex.....	.046	.060	.060	130	130
Danville, Ill.....	.046	.060	.083	130	180
Davenport, Ia.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Dayton, Ohio.....	.042	.050	.050	119	119
Decatur, Ill.....	.042	.056	.083	133	198
Denver, Col.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Des Moines, Ia.....	.042	.100	.100	238	238
Detroit, Mich.....	.042	.056	.056	133	133
Dubuque, Ia.....	.025	.063	.063	252	252
Duluth, Minn.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
East Chicago, Ind.....	.042	.071	.071	169	169
East Cleveland, Ohio.....	.030	.063	.063	210	210
Easton, Pa.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
East Orange, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100

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TABLE 10: RATES AND INDEX NUMBERS OF CARFARE IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914, JUNE AND DECEMBER, 1928—(Continued)

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 19) on page 128 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927."

Locality	Rate of Fare			Index Nos.	
	July, 1914	June, 1928	Dec., 1928	June, 1928	Dec., 1928
East St. Louis, Ill.	\$.050	\$.080	\$.080	160	160
Elgin, Ill.	.036	.071	.071	197	197
Elizabeth, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Elkhart, Ind.	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Elmira, N. Y.	.050	.070	.070	140	140
El Paso, Tex.	.050	.060	.060	120	120
Erie, Pa.	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Evanston, Ill.	.050	.055	.055	110	110
Evansville, Ind.	.042	.063	.063	150	150
Everett, Mass.	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Everett, Wash.	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Fall River, Mass.	.050	.056	.063	112	126
Fitchburg, Mass.	.050	.100	.100	200	200
Flint, Mich.	.050	.059	.059	118	118
Fort Smith, Ark.	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Fort Wayne, Ind.	.042	.063	.063	150	150
Fort Worth, Tex.	.046	.083	.083	180	180
Fresno, Cal.	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Galveston, Tex.	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Gary, Ind.	.042	.071	.071	169	169
Grand Rapids, Mich.	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Green Bay, Wis.	.042	.063	.083	150	198
Hagerstown, Md.	.050	.060	.060	120	120
Hamilton, Ohio	.042	.050	.050	119	119
Hammond, Ind.	.042	.071	.071	169	169
Hamtramck, Mich.	.042	.056	.056	133	133
Harrisburg, Pa.	.050	.060	.070	120	140
Hartford, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Haverhill, Mass.	.050	.091	.100	182	200
Hazleton, Pa.	.045	.065	.065	144	144
Highland Park, Mich.	.042	.056	.056	133	133
Hoboken, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Holyoke, Mass.	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Houston, Tex.	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Huntington, W. Va.	.050	.060	.060	120	120
Indianapolis, Ind.	.042	.063	.063	150	150
Irrington, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Jackson, Mich.	.042	.083	.083	198	198
Jacksonville, Fla.	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Jamestown, N. Y.	.046	.075	.075	163	163

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TABLE 10: RATES AND INDEX NUMBERS OF CARFARE IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914, JUNE AND DECEMBER, 1928—(Continued)

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 19) on page 128 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927."

Locality	Rate of Fare			Index Nos.	
	July, 1914	June, 1928	Dec., 1928	June, 1928	Dec., 1928
Jersey City, N. J.	\$0.050	\$0.050	\$0.050	100	100
Johnstown, Pa.	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Joliet, Ill.	.050	.100	.100	200	200
Joplin, Mo.	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Kalamazoo, Mich.	.042	.083	.083	198	198
Kansas City, Kan.	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Kansas City, Mo.	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Kearney, N. J.	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Kenosha, Wis.	.050	.058	.058	116	116
Kingston, N. Y.	.050	.080	.080	160	160
Knoxville, Tenn.	.050	.060	.060	120	120
Kokomo, Ind.	.042	.050	.050	119	119
La Crosse, Wis.	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Lakewood, Ohio	.030	.030	.030	100	100
Lancaster, Pa.	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Lansing, Mich.	.050	.071	.071	142	142
Lawrence, Mass.	.050	.067	.071	134	142
Lewiston, Me.	.046	.100	.100	217	217
Lexington, Ky.	.042	.075	.075	179	179
Lima, Ohio	.042	.063	.063	150	150
Lincoln, Neb.	.042	.075	.075	179	179
Little Rock, Ark.	.050	.060	.060	120	120
Long Beach, Cal.	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Lorain, Ohio	.042	.050	.070	119	167
Los Angeles, Cal.	.050	.050	.063	100	126
Louisville, Ky.	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Lowell, Mass.	.050	.071	.077	142	154
Lynchburg, Va.	.042	.050	.063	119	150
Lynn, Mass.	.050	.059	.063	118	126
Macon, Ga.	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Madison, Wis.	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Malden, Mass.	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Manchester, N. H.	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Mansfield, Ohio	.050	.080	.080	160	160
Marion, Ohio	.050	.050	.050	100	100
McKeesport, Pa.	.030	.063	.063	210	210
Medford, Mass.	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Memphis, Tenn.	.045	.070	.070	156	156
Meriden, Conn.	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Miami, Fla.	.050	.050	.050	100	100

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TABLE 10: RATES AND INDEX NUMBERS OF CARFARE IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914, JUNE AND DECEMBER, 1928—(Continued)

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 19) on page 128 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927."

Locality	Rate of Fare			Index Nos.	
	July, 1914	June, 1928	Dec., 1928	June, 1928	Dec., 1928
Milwaukee, Wis.....	\$0.042	\$0.063	\$0.063	150	150
Minneapolis, Minn.....	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Mobile, Ala.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Moline, Ill.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Montclair, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Montgomery, Ala.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Mount Vernon, N. Y.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Muncie, Ind.....	.042	.050	.050	119	119
Muskegon, Ind.....	.040	.075	.075	188	188
Muskogee, Okla.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Nashua, N. H.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Nashville, Tenn.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Newark, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Newark, Ohio.....	.042	.060	.060	143	143
New Bedford, Mass.....	.048	.063	.063	131	131
New Britain, Conn.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
New Brunswick, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Newburgh, N. Y.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
New Castle, Pa.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
New Haven, Conn.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
New London, Conn.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
New Orleans, La.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Newport, Ky.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Newport, R. I.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Newport News, Va.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
New Rochelle, N. Y.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Newton, Mass.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
New York, N. Y.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Niagara Falls, N. Y.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Norfolk, Va.....	.050	.088	.088	176	176
Norristown, Pa.....	.050	.085	.085	170	170
Norwalk, Conn.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Norwich, Conn.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Oakland, Cal.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Oak Park, Ill.....	.050	.100	.100	200	200
Ogden, Utah.....	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Oklahoma City, Okla.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Omaha, Neb.....	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Orange, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Oshkosh, Wis.....	.031	.070	.070	226	226

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TABLE 10: RATES AND INDEX NUMBERS OF CARFARE IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914, JUNE AND DECEMBER, 1928—(Continued)

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 19) on page 128 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927."

Locality	Rate of Fare			Index Nos.	
	July, 1914	June, 1928	Dec., 1928	June, 1928	Dec., 1928
Pasadena, Cal.....	\$0.050	\$0.063	\$0.063	126	126
Passaic, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Paterson, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Pawtucket, R. I.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Pensacola, Fla.....	.048	.075	.075	156	156
Peoria, Ill.....	.042	.083	.083	198	198
Perth Amboy, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Petersburg, Va.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Philadelphia, Pa.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Phoenix, Ariz.....	.048	.050	.050	104	104
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Pittsfield, Mass.....	.050	.060	.060	120	120
Plainfield, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Pontiac, Mich.....	.050	.059	.059	118	118
Port Huron, Mich.....	.050	.059	.059	118	118
Portland, Me.....	.050	.080	.100	160	200
Portland, Ore.....	.045	.075	.075	167	167
Portsmouth, Ohio.....	.038	.067	.067	186	186
Portsmouth, Va.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Poughkeepsie, N. Y.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Providence, R. I.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Pueblo, Col.....	.046	.067	.067	146	146
Quincy, Ill.....	.042	.063	.063	150	150
Quincy, Mass.....	.050	.071	.083	142	166
Racine, Wis.....	.050	.058	.058	116	116
Reading, Pa.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Revere, Mass.....	.050	.071	.071	142	142
Richmond, Ind.....	.042	.050	.050	119	119
Richmond, Va.....	.042	.070	.070	167	167
Roanoke, Va.....	.040	.050	.063	125	158
Rochester, N. Y.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Rockford, Ill.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Rock Island, Ill.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Rome, N. Y.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Sacramento, Cal.....	.050	.050	.063	100	126
Saginaw, Mich.....	.042	.083	.083	198	198
St. Joseph, Mo.....	.042	.067	.067	160	160
St. Louis, Mo.....	.050	.080	.080	160	160
St. Paul, Minn.....	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Salem, Mass.....	.050	.067	.071	134	142

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**TABLE 10: RATES AND INDEX NUMBERS OF CARFARE IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914, JUNE AND DECEMBER, 1928—(Continued)**

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 19) on page 128 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927."

Locality	Rate of Fare			Index Nos.	
	July, 1914	June, 1928	Dec., 1928	June, 1928	Dec., 1928
Salt Lake City, Utah.....	\$0.050	\$0.077	\$0.077	154	154
San Antonio, Tex.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
San Diego, Cal.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
San Francisco, Cal.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
San Jose, Cal.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Savannah, Ga.....	.048	.083	.083	173	173
Schenectady, N. Y.....	.050	.070	.083	140	166
Scranton, Pa.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Seattle, Wash.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Sheboygan, Wis.....	.042	.070	.070	167	167
Shreveport, La.....	.050	.070	.075	140	150
Sioux City, Ia.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Sioux Falls, S. D.....	.050	.067	.067	134	134
Somerville, Mass.....	.050	.100	.100	200	200
South Bend, Ind.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Spokane, Wash.....	.045	.070	.070	156	156
Springfield, Ill.....	.042	.063	.083	150	198
Springfield, Mass.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Springfield, Mo.....	.042	.063	.063	150	150
Springfield, Ohio.....	.040	.063	.063	158	158
Stamford, Conn.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Steubenville, Ohio.....	.042	.050	.050	119	119
Stockton, Cal.....	.050	.060	.063	120	126
Superior, Wis.....	.042	.070	.070	167	167
Syracuse, N. Y.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Tacoma, Wash.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Tampa, Fla.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Taunton, Mass.....	.050	.077	.083	154	166
Terre Haute, Ind.....	.042	.050	.050	119	119
Toledo, Ohio.....	.042	.083	.083	198	198
Topeka, Kan.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Trenton, N. J.....	.050	.080	.080	160	160
Troy, N. Y.....	.050	.077	.077	154	154
Tulsa, Okla.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Utica, N. Y.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Waco, Tex.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126
Waltham, Mass.....	.060	.100	.100	167	167
Warren, Ohio.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166
Washington, D. C.....	.042	.067	.067	160	160
Waterbury, Conn.....	.050	.083	.083	166	166

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**TABLE 10: RATES AND INDEX NUMBERS OF CARFARE IN SPECIFIED CITIES, JULY, 1914, JUNE AND DECEMBER, 1928—(Continued)**

July, 1914 = 100

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 19) on page 128 in "The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927."

Locality	Rate of Fare			Index Nos.	
	July, 1914	June, 1928	Dec., 1928	June, 1928	Dec., 1928
Waterloo, Ia.....	.042	.075	.075	179	179
Watertown, N. Y.....	.040	.071	.071	178	178
West Hoboken, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
West New York, N. J.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
Wheeling, W. Va.....	.042	.050	.050	119	119
Wichita, Kan.....	.042	.056	.056	133	133
Wichita Falls, Tex.....	.050	.055	.055	110	110
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Williamsport, Pa.....	.042	.075	.075	179	179
Wilmington, Del.....	.050	.075	.075	150	150
Wilmington, N. C.....	.042	.075	.075	179	179
Winston-Salem, N. C.....	.046	.063	.063	137	137
Woonsocket, R. I.....	.050	.070	.070	140	140
Worcester, Mass.....	.050	.100	.100	200	200
Yonkers, N. Y.....	.050	.050	.050	100	100
York, Pa.....	.042	.063	.063	150	150
Youngstown, Ohio.....	.040	.083	.083	208	208
Zanesville, Ohio.....	.050	.063	.063	126	126

### *The Purchasing Value of the Dollar*

As prices rise, the dollar becomes less useful; it will serve to acquire a smaller quantity of goods, its purchasing value diminishes; as prices go down, the contrary results ensue, the dollar purchases larger quantities of goods, its purchasing value increases.

The purchasing value of the dollar, in other words, varies inversely with prices. From the standpoint of household consumption the purchasing value of the dollar varies inversely with the cost of living. In recent years the purchasing value of the dollar so conceived has been somewhat less than two-thirds what it was in 1914. Table 11 shows the purchasing value of the dollar in terms of the cost of living during 1928.

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**TABLE 11: PURCHASING VALUE OF A DOLLAR BASED ON CHANGES IN THE COST OF LIVING, MONTHLY, FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1928**

(National Industrial Conference Board)

NOTE.—This table continues the figures for 1914–1927 given in a corresponding table (No. 20) on page 139 in “The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927.”

Date	Value of Dollar Cents
July, 1914.....	100.0
January, 1928.....	61.3
February, 1928.....	61.9
March, 1928.....	62.1
April, 1928.....	62.2
May, 1928.....	61.9
June, 1928.....	62.2
July, 1928.....	62.1
August, 1928.....	62.0
September, 1928.....	61.2
October, 1928.....	61.4
November, 1928.....	61.5
December, 1928.....	61.7

### *Scope of Inquiry*

The indexes here published rest upon figures collected in cities throughout the country. The food prices are those collected by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics for 43 articles in 51 cities throughout the United States. For other items, rent, fuel and clothing, the number of cities reporting and the number of reports received directly by the National Industrial Conference Board at each inquiry from March, 1920 to December, 1928 are shown in Table 12.

It will be noted that the coverage since 1921 has been maintained at about the same level throughout. Until November, 1925, figures were collected on a comprehensive basis three times a year, while since that time the monthly study of the cost of living has been upon this basis. With this change no alteration was introduced into the methods of compilation which would prevent the newer monthly figures from being strictly comparable with the earlier tables.

### *Retrospect*

For a full consideration of the changes which have taken place in the cost of living since 1914, the reader is referred to the volume “The Cost of Living in the United States, 1914–1927.” The present survey is limited to the figures for 1928,



TABLE 12: NUMBER OF REPORTS AND NUMBER OF CITIES REPORTING FOR CERTAIN ITEMS SINCE MARCH, 1920

Date	Housing		Fuel		Clothing	
	Reports	Cities	Reports	Cities	Reports	Cities
1920						
March	355	156	121	44	208	72
July	359	158	115	43	203	75
November	461	167	151	56	166	67
1921						
March	479	165	166	61	200	74
July	467	167	173	62	191	78
November	490	164	179	65	196	77
1922						
March	476	165	179	62	189	70
July	481	168	165	59	186	75
November	471	164	164	60	186	74
1923						
March	470	164	171	63	198	87
July	448	161	171	61	183	78
November	613	181	170	60	170	80
1924						
March	574	178	168	63	194	80
July	568	178	169	63	176	78
November	572	177	169	65	172	78
1925						
March	566	180	165	64	209	93
July	558	179	158	62	203	94
November	549	178	127	53	187	91
1926						
March	486	179	144	61	172	82
July	493	179	163	61	170	81
November	503	179	164	64	167	85
1927						
January	507	177	165	63	159	79
February	500	175	160	63	161	79
March	499	177	167	64	163	81
April	502	177	164	64	164	84
May	509	179	164	63	165	79
June	498	76	152	63	159	83
July	490	178	166	62	154	79
August	499	175	163	61	153	79
September	506	176	163	64	159	79
October	501	176	162	63	157	82
November	504	176	166	63	149	79
December	501	178	164	63	155	79
1928						
January	491	177	165	63	152	80
February	500	179	165	64	152	80
March	504	179	161	62	155	80
April	505	178	162	64	156	81
May	492	178	161	63	150	80
June	505	177	162	63	128	72
July	494	175	158	62	115	70
August	498	177	173	61	123	71
September	493	176	169	63	117	71
October	552	176	210	64	120	71
November	572	178	213	64	115	64
December	560	177	205	64	115	66

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but in commenting upon their significance it has been necessary from time to time to look backward and trace connections between recent events and past developments. A few facts giving at least a general survey of changes in the cost of living may therefore properly conclude this brief study. From 1914 to 1917, mid-year figures are given in Table 13;

TABLE 13: INDEX NUMBERS OF THE COST OF LIVING IN AVERAGE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, 1914 TO 1928, INCLUSIVE, BY SEPARATE BUDGET ITEMS  
(National Industrial Conference Board)

Date	Food	Housing	Clothing	Fuel and Light	Sundries	All Items
July, 1914.....	100	100	100	100	100	100.0
July, 1915.....	100	100	103	102	100	100.5
July, 1916.....	111	101.5	120	104	104	108.7
July, 1917.....	146	105	143	126	117	131.3
1918.....	173	118	185	138	153	158.6
1919.....	186	129	205	144	164	171.6
1920.....	204	158	190	172	187	197.5
1921.....	152	167	166	182	183	164.9
1922.....	142	166	156	178	172	156.2
1923.....	147	175	171	179	173	162.1
1924.....	146	185	171	169	174	163.3
1925.....	161	179	175	167	175	169.3
1926.....	160	176	174	163	174	167.9
1927.....	155	169	171	163	173	163.9
1928.....	154	162	172	161	171	161.9

from 1918 to 1925, inclusive, the annual figures are the average of the calculations made in that period three times a year; while from 1926 onward, the facts reported in each year are the averages of twelve monthly calculations. The table shows a rapid increase which culminated in 1920 with a cost of living nearly double that of July, 1914. This was followed by a considerable drop, which reached its lowest point in 1922. With business recovery the cost of living again advanced, and in 1925 reached a level only a little short of that of 1919. Since then the movement has been gradually downward, and the present level is nearer the post-war minimum in 1922 than any other year in the post-war series.