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THE COST OF LIVING IN THE
UNITED STATES, 1914-1926
WITH SUPPLEMENT FOR 1926

STUDIES OF THE COST OF LIVING

PUBLISHED BY THE

**NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE
BOARD, INC.**

247 Park Avenue, New York

**Family Budgets of American Wage
Earners: A Critical Analysis.....\$1.50**
**Wartime Changes in the Cost of Liv-
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THE UNITED STATES, 1914-26

WITH SUPPLEMENT FOR 1926



NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE BOARD, INC.

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FOREWORD

THE continued interest in measuring the cost of living makes it desirable to survey and sum up from time to time the available statistical data with respect to changes in the retail price level. Such a survey, however, requires a clear and accurate understanding of the purpose and method of cost of living measurements. In probably no other field of statistical inquiry is knowledge of the basis and general nature of the calculations so essential to prevent misinterpretation and confusion.

In several successive investigations the National Industrial Conference Board has sought to determine the facts with respect to changes in the cost of living of American wage earners. In addition to ten studies of the minimum cost of living in separate localities, the Conference Board has published seventeen reports on changes in the cost of living since 1914, based on continuing investigations, as well as an exhaustive analysis of "Family Budgets of American Wage Earners."

In 1925, a volume on "The Cost of Living in the United States" was issued to afford an analysis and comparison of the more important series of index numbers of the cost of living in the United States, in order that the character and basis of these measures of variations from time to time, and from place to place, might be better understood and their intelligent use facilitated. This volume also presented a survey of changes in the cost of living for the United States as a whole since 1914, summing up the outstanding results of the Conference Board's investigations in this field. The interest in this study was so great that the edition has now been completely exhausted. It has, therefore, seemed advisable, in view of the continuing demand for this information, to issue the present volume as a thorough revision of "The Cost of Living in the United States." The comparative analyses of the important cost of living indices have been retained, with

such changes and additions as seemed necessary to clarify the explanation. In addition, the figures themselves have been revised to include all significant data available at the beginning of 1926.

Taken in conjunction with the Board's study of "Family Budgets of American Wage Earners," the present volume affords a comprehensive review of existing cost of living data in this country and should prove a valuable guide in understanding and evaluating the significance of this important part of modern economic knowledge.

This volume is the result of an investigation conducted by Miss M. L. Stecker and assistants, of 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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*Supplementing "The Cost of Living in the United
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