

PRODUCTION AND PRICES ⁽¹⁾

Cost of Living and Retail Prices

IN the great majority of countries included in the survey of retail prices and cost of living the latest figures available show no significant change during the last few months. In the United States, Belgium, United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy, and India the changes as shown by the cost of living indexes are only a few points up or down, while the same is true for the following countries for which index numbers of foodstuffs only are available: South Africa, Canada, Australia, Norway, New Zealand, and the Netherlands. The recent distinct advance in the level of wholesale prices which was commented upon in recent numbers of this *Review* has scarcely shown itself in the level of retail prices.

Certain countries, however, call for special mention. In Finland the rise in the cost of living is to a considerable extent due to the rise in rents. The rents restriction legislation in Finland has recently been repealed ⁽²⁾, and, as a consequence, the rent index number has considerably risen. In Austria the movement during September was similar to that in the previous month, namely, a doubling of prices within the month. The index number now stands at a little over one million as compared with 100 in July 1914. In Germany the rise in prices has gone on at an increasing rate. The figures for September show an increase of about 70 per cent. on the previous month as compared with about 45 per cent. from July to August. Even at its present level the figures of cost of living only show a rise of about half the level reached by wholesale prices.

Czechoslovakia is the only country which registers a substantial fall, prices having fallen by 10 per cent. in the one month from July to August. This is due to the fact that the krone has risen to more than three times its value of a year ago; the export industries have been seriously affected. An adaptation of home prices to the external value of the krone is an imperative necessity and a Government Proclamation has been issued asking for the co-operation of all classes in a general effort to bring down prices.

The usual tables corresponding to those published in previous numbers of the *Review* are given below. A brief account of the different methods of compilation of index numbers employed by the different countries was given in the July number of the *Review*. The Ministry of Economic Affairs in Ireland has published a report on the cost of living increase in Ireland for March and June 1922, prepared by a committee appointed by the Provisional Government, and has notified its intention of publishing similar results at intervals of three months — September being the next month for which a figure will be

⁽¹⁾ For the sake of convenience and of comparison between the two editions of the *Review*, the French alphabetical order of countries has been adopted in this and the following sections.

⁽²⁾ See INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE: *Industrial and Labour Information*, No. 4, 20 Oct. 1922.

determined. When figures in a continuous series are available, they will be incorporated in Table 1 below. A note on the method of investigation adopted by the committee is appended.

Ireland : *The Report on the Cost of Living published by the Ministry of Economic Affairs.*

A committee of representatives of the four Irish Ministries, appointed by the Provisional Government of Ireland, has reported on the average increase in the cost of living in Ireland for March and June 1922, as compared with July 1914. The main result of the calculation is an estimate of an increase of 91.4 per cent. for the middle of March and 85.2 per cent. for the middle of June, compared with 86 per cent. for 1 March, 82 per cent. for 1 April, 80 per cent. for 1 June and 84 per cent. for 1 July in the British Ministry of Labour's index number.

The committee collected returns of retail prices in June 1922 of the principal commodities consumed by the wage-earning classes, and utilised the information already collected by the Ministry of Economic Affairs for July 1914 and March 1922, supplementing it by independent enquiry where deficiencies existed. These retail prices, as well as information as regards rents, were obtained on forms which were sent to all towns in Ireland with a population of 500 and above. The committee also collected family budgets of wage-earning households in June 1922.

Average retail prices and average rents were calculated, and the price-ratios based on these averages were then combined in accordance with the relative importance of the various items, as determined by a study of the budgets. While, therefore, in the index of the Ministry of Labour in Great Britain, price-ratios are applied to weights proportional to expenditure in 1914, the committee has applied price-ratios to the actual expenditure in 1922. However, in spite of dissimilarity in method, the results obtained are not very dissimilar.

For tables see p. 758 et seq.

INDEX NUMBERS WITH PRE-WAR BASE PERIOD
(Base shifted to July 1914 = 100 as far as possible)

TABLE I. COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS

Date	South Africa (9 towns)	Germany		Australia (6 towns)	Austria (Vienna)	Belgium (59 towns)	Canada (60 towns)	Denmark (100 towns)	United States		Finland (21 towns)
		(71 towns)	(Berlin)						(32 L.)	(Mass.)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
July											
1914	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400
1915	103	*	*	408	*	*	404	416	405	400	*
1916	106	*	*	416	*	*	419	436	418	408	*
1917	114	*	*	413	*	*	443	455	442	427	*
1918	148	*	*	418	*	*	464	482	474	452	*
1919	126	*	*	429	*	*	479	241	177	168	*
1920	159	935	1425	453	*	455	492	262	247	198	931
1921	133	1124	1125	449	*	379	461	237	180	158	1214
1921											
Mar.	447	4028	4035	458	*	441	477	*	*	163	4104
June	436	1048	1080	449	*	384	463	237	*	156	4128
Sept.	430	1212	1212	443	*	386	465	*	477	157	4278
Dec.	424	4746	4934	438	53300	393	461	242	474	156	4172
1922	(a)										
Jan.	439	4825	4903	*	66900	387	*	*	*	—	4124
Feb.	438	2209	2177	*	77000	380	*	*	*	154	4120
Mar.	436	2639	2740	435	77800	371	—	*	167	152	4107
Apr.	437	3436(a)	3177	*	87200	367	*	*	*	152	4109
May	437	3803	3455	*	109300	365	*	*	*	152	4111
June	435	4147	4149	—	187100	366	—	199	167	152	4137
July	*	5392	6122	—	264500	366	—	*	*	153	4142
Aug.	*	7765	40271	—	593200	366	—	*	*	152	4159
Sept.	—	13319	—	—	1430600	371	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE II. FOOD INDEX NUMBERS

Date	South Africa (9 towns)	Germany		Australia (30 towns)	Austria (Vienna)	Belgium (61 towns)	Bulgaria (4 towns) (b)	Canada (60 towns)	Denmark (100 towns)	Spain (Madrid) (b)	United States		Finland (21 towns)
		(71 towns)	(Berlin)								(51 towns)	(Mass.)	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)
July													
1914	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	400	100	400	100	400
1915	407	*	*	134	*	*	*	405	428	106	98	97	*
1916	416	*	*	130	*	*	*	414	446	117	409	109	*
1917	428	*	*	426	*	*	*	437	466	121	443	438	*
1918	434	*	*	134	*	*	*	475	487	158	164	460	*
1919	439	*	*	447	*	*	*	486	242	174	486	476	*
1920	497	*	1377	494	*	459	4694	227	253	190	215	240	1013
1921	439	1491	1544	461	*	410	4612	154	236	184	445	435	1323
1921													
Mar.	460	1352	1316	481	*	434	1506	172	*	188	153	441	4169
June	444	1370	1449	465	*	419	1666	148	236	181	141	429	4188
Sept.	433	1614	1653	454	*	423	1896	155	*	187	150	435	1404
Dec.	425	2337	2544	443	57900	438	2187	149	197	481	147	435	4230
1922													
Jan.	421	2463	2622	442	74800	417	2259	143	*	179	439	—	4151
Feb.	419	3020	3051	440	87100	399	2365	142	*	179	439	431	4145
Mar.	419	3602	3580	441	90400	382	2379	438	*	181	436	429	4124
Apr.	421	4356	4255	443	104300	378	2455	438	*	190	436	431	4127
May	420	4680	4531	447	137400	379	2632	437	*	488	436	430	4132
June	418	5419	4755	446	242100	384	2379	438	184	181	438	430	4139
July	446	6836	7143	448	328200	381	—	441	*	—	439	433	4144
Aug.	446	9746	11132	449	722400	377	—	439	*	—	436	432	4165
Sept.	—	15417	—	—	1353100	336	—	—	*	—	—	—	—

(a) New series.

(b) These index numbers include, in addition to foodstuffs, certain fuel and light commodities.

The sign * signifies "no figures published".
The sign — signifies "figures not available".

INDEX NUMBERS WITH PRE-WAR BASE PERIOD
(Base shifted to July 1914 = 100 as far as possible)

TABLE I (cont.). COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS

France (Paris)	India (Bombay)	Italy (Rome) (Milan)		Norway (11 towns)	New Zealand (35 towns)	Nether- lands (Amsterdam)	Poland (Warsaw)	United Kingdom (630 towns)	Sweden (49 towns)	Date
(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	July 1914
*	*	99	*	117	107	*	*	125	*	1915
*	*	116	*	146	111	*	*	148	139	1916
*	*	146	*	190	149	142	*	180	166	1917
*	*	197	286	253	127	183	*	203	219	1918
238	*	205	280	275	132	195	*	208	257	1919
344	489	343	441	302	149	217	*	255	270	1920
307	177	387	494	302	157	208	25709	222	236	1921
						(a)				1921
338	160	384	568	304	160	210	17974	233	249	Mar.
307	173	390	506	302	157	208	20270	219	236	June
295	185	400	520	296	156	199	39817	210	231	Sept.
297	179	423	539	283	149	190	46740	192	216	Dec.
										1922
*	173	430	523	*	*	*	46883	188	*	Jan.
*	165	426	522	*	*	*	48085	186	*	Feb.
291	165	415	503	266	145	192	52358	182	195	Mar.
*	162	420	490	*	*	*	58627	181	*	Apr.
*	163	—	492	*	*	*	63914	180	*	May
302	163	425	488	255	144	187	68407	184	190	June
*	165	—	488	—	*	*	78798	181	*	July
*	164	—	491	—	*	*	90823	179	*	Aug.
—	165	—	—	249	—	—	—	178	190	Sept.

TABLE II (cont.). FOOD INDEX NUMBERS

France (Paris)	(330 L.) (b)	India (Bombay)	Italy (Rome) (Milan)		Norway (11 towns)	New Zealand (35 towns)	Nether- lands (Amsterdam)	Poland (Warsaw)	United Kingdom (630 towns)	Sweden (49 towns)	Switzer- land (23 towns)	Czecho- slovakia (b)	Date
(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	July 1914
120	123	*	95	*	123	112	114	*	132	124	119	*	1915
129	142	*	111	151	153	119	117	*	161	136	141	*	1916
183	184	*	137	210	203	127	146	*	204	171	179	*	1917
206	244	*	203	321	271	139	175	*	210	265	222	*	1918
261	289	*	206	304	290	144	196	*	209	312	250	*	1919
373	388	*	318	445	319	167	210	*	262	288	239	*	1920
306	363	174	402	506	295	164	180	45655	226	230	207	1551	1921
													1921
358	429	154	386	582	299	169	193	32883	238	247	218	1489	Mar.
312	363	169	409	523	290	166	180	35393	220	231	213	1520	June
329	350	183	430	545	290	161	179	60728	210	228	198	1515	Sept.
323	349	176	458	567	268	150	150	71659	185	202	187	1556	Dec.
													1922
349	*	169	469	558	257	147	148	73598	179	189	176	1467	Jan.
307	*	160	463	562	245	145	149	75157	177	188	173	1461	Feb.
294	323	161	446	525	238	141	143	81269	173	184	162	1444	Mar.
304	*	157	455	499	234	144	137	91865	172	181	153	1445	Apr.
317	*	158	—	503	230	145	136	101458	170	177	152	1444	May
307	315	158	454	494	227	143	137	—	180	178	153	1475	June
297	*	160	—	492	233	144	140	—	175	179	153	1430	July
289	*	159	—	498	232	141	—	—	172	180	152	1290	Aug.
291	312	161	—	—	223	139	—	—	172	180	—	1105	Sept.

(a) New series.

(b) These index numbers include, in addition to foodstuffs, certain fuel and light commodities.

The sign * signifies "no figures published."

The sign — signifies "figures not available."

INDEX NUMBERS WITH PRE-WAR BASE PERIOD
(Base shifted to July 1914 = 100 as far as possible)

TABLE III. CLOTHING INDEX NUMBERS

Date	South Africa (9 towns)	Germany		Austria (Vienna)	Canada (60 towns)	Denmark (400 towns)	United States	
		(71 towns)	(Berlin)				(32 towns)	(Mass.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
July 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
» 1915	*	*	*	*	125	110	105	105
» 1916	*	*	*	*	143	160	120	119
» 1917	*	*	*	*	167	190	149	143
» 1918	*	*	*	*	198	260	205	198
» 1919	*	*	*	*	234	310	215	232
» 1920	*	*	1316	*	260	355	288	276
» 1921	*	*	1077	*	173	248	223	189
Mar. 1921	*	*	1077	*	195	*	*	204
June »	*	*	1077	*	173	248	223	194
Sept. »	*	*	1197	*	173	*	192	184
Dec. »	172	*	2188	117400	173	225	184	183
Mar. 1922	167	4829	3335	142800	—	*	176	174
June »	164	6519	5982	271200	—	217	172	174
Sept. »	—	26000	—	1915900	—	*	—	—

TABLE IV. HEATING AND LIGHTING INDEX NUMBERS

Date	South Africa (9 towns)	Germany		Austria (Vienna)	Canada (60 towns)	Denmark (100 towns)	Spain (Madrid)	United States	
		(71 towns)	(Berlin)					(32 t.)	(Mass.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
July 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
» 1915	100	*	*	*	97	130	108	101	99
» 1916	111	*	*	*	99	175	130	108	104
» 1917	115	*	*	*	126	220	125	124	118
» 1918	128	*	*	*	148	275	157	148	136
» 1919	131	*	*	*	156	292	174	146	150
» 1920	155	*	1158	*	193	563	180	172	177
» 1921	*	*	1316	*	193	401	196	182	181
Mar. 1921	176	*	1211	*	208	*	200	*	193
June »	*	1279	1316	*	196	401	197	182	181
Sept. »	*	1410	1368	*	190	*	194	181	180
Dec. »	*	1999	2158	50800	186	333	193	181	186
Mar. 1922	*	2965	3263	86000	183	*	192	176	179
June »	*	4822	5053	167000	180	301	190	174	177
Sept. »	—	—	—	1265800	—	*	—	—	—

TABLE V. RENT INDEX NUMBERS

Date	South Africa (9 towns)	Germany		Australia (6 towns)	Austria (Vienna)	Canada (60 towns)	Denmark (100 t.)	United States	
		(71 towns)	(Berlin)					(32 towns)	(Mass.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
July 1914	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
» 1915	97	*	*	94	*	85	100	102	101
» 1916	96	*	*	94	*	84	102	102	102
» 1917	97	*	*	95	*	90	105	100	100
» 1918	105	*	*	99	*	100	108	109	105
» 1919	110	*	*	105	*	109	113	114	112
» 1920	116	*	164	115	*	132	130	135	135
» 1921	*	*	182	121	*	142	141	159	154
Mar. 1921	116	*	164	120	*	138	*	*	148
June »	*	209	164	121	*	141	141	159	154
Sept. »	*	218	182	123	*	143	*	160	156
Dec. »	*	225	182	124	400	143	141	161	156
Mar. 1922	*	250	200	126	1400	145	*	160	157
June »	*	313	255	—	2100	144	155	161	157
Sept. »	—	—	—	—	3300	—	—	—	—

The sign * signifies "no figures published".
The sign — signifies "figures not available".

INDEX NUMBERS WITH PRE-WAR BASE PERIOD
(Base shifted to July 1914 = 100 as far as possible)

TABLE III (cont.). CLOTHING INDEX NUMBERS

Finland (31 towns)	France (Paris)	India (Bombay)	Italy		Norway (34 towns)	United Kingdom (97 towns)	Sweden (49 towns)	Date	
(10)	(11)	(12)	(Rome)	(Milan)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	July	1914
*	*	*	—	*	107	125	*	»	1915
*	*	*	—	*	157	155	160	»	1916
*	*	*	—	*	205	200	210	»	1917
*	*	*	261	284	304	310	235	»	1918
*	296	*	—	221	388	360	310	»	1919
1049	485	299	466	651	336	430	390	»	1920
1038	353	263	495	512	292	280	270	»	1921
1031	398	239	576	696	308	325	295	Mar.	1921
1032	353	263	495	532	292	290	270	June	»
1090	318	268	444	534	280	265	250	Sept.	»
1107	318	261	—	563	271	250	240	Dec.	»
1098	312	253	—	596	260	240	225	Mar.	1922
1099	315	260	—	621	249	240	210	June	»
—	—	—	—	—	242	—	205	Sept.	»

TABLE IV (cont.). HEATING AND LIGHTING INDEX NUMBERS

Finland (31 towns)	France (Paris)	India (Bombay)	Italy		Norway (34 towns)	New Zealand (4 towns)	United Kingdom (30 towns)	Sweden (49 towns)	Switzerland (23 towns)	Date	
(11)	(12)	(13)	(Rome)	(Milan)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	July	1914
*	*	*	—	*	134	102	*	115	115	»	1915
*	*	*	—	*	204	108	*	157	129	»	1916
*	*	*	—	*	348	123	*	218	182	»	1917
*	*	*	160	220	476	136	*	293	302	»	1918
*	164	*	—	220	316	145	*	295	372	»	1919
1232	296	151	178	611	477	177	230	386	387	»	1920
1265	308	176	—	899	366	199	250	220	220	»	1921
1252	319	176	279	1054	388	194	240	316	357	Mar.	1921
1270	308	177	246	899	366	199	260	264	220	June	»
1250	307	176	—	899	337	200	238	231	221	Sept.	»
1249	306	174	—	828	311	195	225	207	218	Dec.	»
1231	302	167	—	530	289	191	215	196	212	Mar.	1922
1261	287	167	—	515	263	185	190	188	203	June	»
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	183	—	Sept.	»

TABLE V (cont.). RENT INDEX NUMBERS

Finland (31 towns)	France (Paris)	India (Bombay)	Italy		Norway (31 towns)	New Zealand (25 towns)	United Kingdom (25 towns)	Sweden (49 towns)	Date	
(11)	(12)	(13)	(Rome)	(Milan)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	July	1914
*	*	*	—	*	103	101	*	*	»	1915
*	*	*	—	*	106	100	*	108	»	1916
*	*	*	—	*	109	102	*	112	»	1917
*	*	*	100	100	110	104	*	112	»	1918
*	100	*	100	100	123	107	*	120	»	1919
335	100	165	100	108	147	116	118	130	»	1920
553	110	165	157	139	161	121	152	155	»	1921
418	100	165	143	139	161	121	144	155	Mar.	1921
535	110	165	157	139	161	121	145	155	June	»
596	121	165	157	139	166	129	152	163	Sept.	»
603	133	165	—	184	166	129	155	163	Dec.	»
603	140	165	—	184	168	132	155	163	Mar.	1922
754	160	165	—	208	168	132	153	163	June	»
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	163	Sept.	»

The sign * signifies "no figures published".
The sign — signifies "figures not available".

INDEX NUMBERS WITH POST-WAR BASE PERIOD
(Base shifted to December 1920 = 100 as far as possible)

TABLE VI. COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBERS

Date	Austria	Italy		Netherlands		Poland	
	Vienna	Milan	Florence	The Hague	Amsterdam	Lodz	Posen
Dec. 1920	100(a)	100	100	100	100	100(a)	100
Mar. 1921	120	108	106	95	95	98	122
June »	146	100	100	95	94	96	185
Sept. »	*	101	99	94	90	216	645
Dec. »	831	103	107	92	86	227	908
Jan. 1922	*	99	105	*	*	233	886
Feb. »	*	99	104	*	*	257	951
Mar. »	*	96	103	93	87	277	1093
Apr. »	*	94	101	*	*	295	1200
May »	*	95	102	*	*	326	1254
June »	*	95	101	88	84	—	—
July »	*	96	101	*	*	—	—
Aug. »	*	97	102	*	*	—	—
Sept. »	*	—	103	—	—	—	—

TABLE VII. FOOD INDEX NUMBERS

Date	Austria	Italy		Netherlands		Poland	Switzerland
	Vienna	Milan	Florence	The Hague	Amsterdam	(35 towns)	(33 towns)
Dec. 1920	100(a)	100	100	100	100	100(a)	100(a)
Mar. 1921	122	112	110	98	95	126	97
June »	150	108	104	102	96	146	91
Sept. »	215	108	103	99	88	254	89
Dec. »	942	111	115	96	84	323	82
Jan. 1922	1142	109	111	*	*	318	81
Feb. »	1428	107	109	*	*	333	76
Mar. »	1457	102	108	99	85	369	74
Apr. »	1619	98	105	*	*	418	70
May »	2028	99	106	*	*	448	67
June »	3431	98	105	90	80	—	67
July »	4830	101	106	*	*	—	69
Aug. »	11000	102	106	*	*	—	66
Sept. »	—	—	109	—	—	—	—

TABLE VIII. INDEX NUMBERS FOR OTHER GROUPS

Date	Clothing					Heating and lighting					Rent				
	Austria		Italy		Netherlands	Austria		Italy		Netherlands	Austria		Italy		Netherlands
	Vienna	Milan	Florence	The Hague	Amsterdam	Vienna	Milan	Florence	The Hague	Amsterdam	Vienna	Milan	Florence	The Hague	Amsterdam
Dec. 1920	100(a)	100	100	100	100	100(a)	100	100	100	100	100(a)	100	100	100	100
Mar. 1921	115	89	100	79	86	128	118	106	96	97	98	100	100	101	101
June »	138	68	79	73	79	136	101	88	83	87	84	188	100	100	111
Sept. »	287	68	79	71	77	273	101	88	88	86	80	313	100	110	113
Dec. »	333	73	78	72	74	266	93	94	84	75	75	313	100	110	114
Mar. 1922	*	76	79	69	70	*	58	93	82	75	73	*	132	109	116
June »	*	79	78	69	69	*	58	93	73	75	69	*	149	109	119
Sept. »	—	—	78	—	—	*	—	79	—	—	—	*	—	109	—

The sign * signifies « no figures published ».
The sign — signifies « figures not available ».
(a) Base : Beginning of 1921=100.