STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Seventh session
Item 6 of the provisional agenda

NATIONAL PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF RETAIL PRICES
AND RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBERS
(including cost of living index numbers)

(Report prepared by the International Labour Office)

1. The Statistical Commission at its Sixth Session in May 1951 in connexion
with its recommendation to give high priority to the subject of: "(e) Methods
for the construction of wholesale price index numbers" added the following
comment:

"In considering methods for the construction of wholesale price
index numbers (e), the Commission expressed the view that an examination
should be made of national practices in this field and in the field of
retail prices and related index numbers (including ‘cost of living index
numbers’), in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation.
If possible, this investigation should be extended to cover also methods
of measuring minimum living standards." (E/1994, E/CN.3/139, 31 May 1951,
paragraph 98)

2. The present document deals with "national practices in the field of retail
prices and related index numbers (including cost of living index numbers)." A
separate note is devoted to the question of "methods of measuring minimum living
standards."

3. Definition of retail prices. In defining retail prices, the definition of
the scope of the system of wholesale price statistics may be taken as a starting
point. In a Report on statistics of wholesale prices prepared for the
Statistical Commission by the Statistical Office of the United Nations
(E/CN.3/144) the following definition of the scope of the system of wholesale
price statistics is given:
"Conceptually the field to be covered comprises all prices in commercial transactions in goods except for prices received by retailers for goods sold to consumers and to service producing industries. Thus it includes direct sales from one producer to another, from producers to retailers and consumers and from retailers to goods producing industries. Prices of raw materials, semi-finished goods and finished goods should be covered. Transactions in titles to existing wealth are excluded as are payments to factors of production."

4. Accepting this definition of the scope of the system of wholesale price statistics, the scope of the present paper may be defined as the prices of all goods and services purchased by ultimate consumers whether from retailers, wholesalers or producers. It will be seen that the prices of goods sold directly by the producer to the ultimate consumer are included in both of these fields since the price received by the producer is identical with that paid by the ultimate consumer. With regard to prices paid for factors of production, such as wages and interest, only the wage rates paid for domestic service would appear to fall within the scope of the present paper. It also covers rents paid by the ultimate consumer.

5. Thus the field of retail prices does not coincide precisely with that of consumer prices. On the one hand, goods purchased in retail outlets for use in production are included in the scope of the system of wholesale price statistics. On the other hand, where consumers buy directly from wholesalers or from producers at wholesale prices, the prices actually paid are consumer prices and should be taken into account and given their due weight in establishing consumer price statistics. However, these divergences are of relatively minor importance. The great bulk of retail prices arise from transactions between retailers and ultimate consumers and the great bulk of the prices paid by ultimate consumers are retail prices. So for the purposes of the present paper retail prices and consumer prices are considered to be synonymous terms and are used interchangeably.

6. Definition of related index numbers (including cost of living index numbers). The phrase "The related index numbers (including cost of living index numbers)" used in the report of the Statistical Commission may be defined
as comprising all index numbers based on retail or consumer prices, and would include index number series covering the whole or part of these price series.

Such indices are called consumer price indices, retail price indices or cost of living indices interchangeably without implying any difference in scope or purpose between the indices designated by these different terms. They cover all categories of consumers' goods and services and are intended to represent the average change in prices of these items paid by the ultimate consumer which has taken place over a period of time.

7. In practice, as between the terms consumer price indices and retail price indices, usage tends to assign the term consumer price index to indices weighted in accordance with consumption patterns, including the sub-classifications: food price index, clothing price index, etc. The term retail price index is, formally, equally applicable to these, but tends to be preferred for index series based on individual items or on special classifications such as furniture, musical instruments, durable and semi-durable consumption goods, etc. entering into consumption¹ as well as for series where the weights are not consumption weights.

The term cost of living index is the popular name for the consumer price index number. In recent years as a result of misunderstandings to which the term cost of living has given rise and owing to the possibility of misinterpreting the index as intended to measure changes in living standards, more and more countries have adopted the term consumer price index to designate what was formerly called cost of living index.

8. No country actually publishes cost of living indices designed to measure changes in both prices and living standards together. Though the study of changes in living standards would represent a field of great interest it falls outside the scope of the present survey.

9. Since the collection of price data is generally carried on in close connexion with the construction of the price index and since the selection of goods to be priced, the retail outlets to be covered, and various problems raised

¹ The term "commodity price indices" is applied by the United States Department of Commerce to series based on prices of commodities sold in retail stores, including, however, sales of goods for use in production.
in connexion with pricing are related to the basis of the index, it will be appropriate to proceed directly to a consideration of national practices in the field of retail or consumer price index numbers and to deal with questions of retail prices in connexion with them.


A short statement of the methods followed in the construction of the index numbers in each country is found in the Supplement (June 1950) to the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and in the statistical section of the International Labour Review, June-November 1948. These summarize the principal elements in the construction of the index numbers, such as number of items priced in the different major groups, formula used, method of calculation, etc., and thus constitute a survey of the national practices in consumer price index series.

Reference should also be made in this connexion to a Report which reviews national practices on Cost of Living Statistics prepared for the consideration of the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians in August 1947.2/ 11. The resolutions on methods of consumer prices or cost of living indices as adopted by the Sixth Conference are given in Appendix I.3/

12. Population groups covered. The great majority of consumer price indices are designed to measure the changes in consumer prices for the "working class" or for wage earners and lower-salaried workers. Some indices show the consumer price trends for the whole population. In many cases indices are constructed for specific categories, e.g. salaried employees or civil servants, or in Far East or African countries for European officials or other well defined

---

2/ Studies and Reports, New Series, No. 7, Part II.
3/ Ibid. Part IV. Other materials of interest are found in an earlier Report on Methods of Compiling Cost of Living Index Numbers, ILO Studies and Reports, Series N, No. 6, and in the Report of the Second International Conference of Labour Statisticians, Studies and Reports, Series N, No. 8, pp. 7-20, 35-37.
groups in the population. The indices are generally constructed for urban areas, sometimes for a particular city, sometimes for cities of a given size group. A national index may be constructed based upon all urban areas or all the larger cities. An index may be compiled for farm or rural populations, those of the United States and Canada being the chief examples.

The price collection must of course be oriented to show the prices paid by the group for which the consumer price index is designed.

13. Weighting patterns. In respect of each population group for which a consumer price index is constructed, a corresponding consumption pattern is obtained. Information as to expenditures or quantities purchased, to be used as weights, is in the great majority of countries derived from family living studies covering the particular groups for which the index is designed. These family living studies give not only the expenditures on the different objects, food, housing, clothing, and the group of miscellaneous items, but also, in many cases, especially for the food groups, the actual quantities of the different items purchased.

In general the weighting pattern of expenditures or quantities consumed reflects the actual consumption or consumption expenditure of the families of different size and composition covered in the family living study.

In some cases, the weighting diagram is set up in terms of the annual consumption of an "index" family of definite size and composition, e.g., a wage earner's family, consisting of husband, wife and two or three children, under 14. This method is followed, for example, in Argentina, Colombia, Hungary, etc.

Where family living studies are not available or where the data on family expenditures are inadequate, an estimated consumption pattern may be used as a weighting diagram. Where an index refers to the entire country, recourse may be had to production figures, export and import data, and retail trade data to obtain an estimate for consumption.

In a few cases the weighting diagram is constructed on the basis of theoretical assumptions regarding an adequate consumption pattern, in place of using statistical data relating to actual consumption.

In principle, the weighting pattern covers all groups of consumption expenditure, and a sample of items is selected for pricing within each group. In principle, the weights for items not priced are allocated to items which are priced in such a way that the price trends of the items priced are representative of that of all items.
In practice, the weighting pattern is applied to the items priced and the validity of the results depends, so far as the choice of weights is concerned, upon how the appropriate weights are determined, how the items priced are selected, and how the weights are allocated to the items priced. (See Appendix II for the weights assigned to major groups of expenditure in different countries.)

Precise and detailed descriptions of the exact methods followed in all the different countries are not available. However, a description of the methods followed in the United States will perhaps suffice, for present purposes; they illustrate the research needed to perfect methods and at the same time suggest very clearly that few countries are in a position to apply other than relatively crude rule-of-thumb methods to these problems.

In the United States, these are described (as of 1950) in the following terms: "The items selected to represent all goods and services purchased, on the basis of the 1934-36 study, were those which were relatively important in family spending, which had distinctive price movements, and which were highly representative of larger groups of related items....

"In order that the items selected for pricing would represent all goods and services bought by moderate-income families, expenditures for the items not priced were combined with those for the selected items. The weight for a priced item includes weights for similar items known to have the same price movement and a proportionate share for the weights for other items in the same consumption groups for which price movements cannot be imputed directly to a specific article."

Retail price indices which relate to groups of commodities use in general a weighting pattern based on the relative importance of the different elements included, which, however, may be based on production or sales data as easily obtained substitutes for consumption data.


a. Prices collected.

According to the definition given above, the prices collected are those actually paid by consumers. In practice, since most prices are collected through retail outlets, list prices are taken so far as these are actually charged, but
customary discounts given to all purchasers and prices in special sales are normally included in the price collection. Though in principle prices paid by the ultimate consumer in purchases made through wholesale outlets are also to be included, in practice it is doubtful that any special efforts are made either to collect such prices or to determine the proportion of purchases which are effected in this way. Special discounts for bulk sales are normally not utilized in price collection since consumers do not usually buy in large quantities.

b. Items priced.

The items priced are a selection to represent the total price movement of all items purchased by consumers in the group for which the index is designed. They include all the individual items which are relatively important: in some countries all items representing as much as one per cent of the total consumer budget are included. Since not all items can be priced, the items which are priced must represent those which are left out and in principle the selection of items for pricing is made in such a way that they constitute a true sample of the price movements of all articles.

The actual numbers of items priced in the different groups are shown in the summaries published in the 1950 Supplement to the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and in the International Labour Review (June - November 1948) and subsequently (see Appendix II). Commonly the number of items priced is much greater for the food group than for any other. In some cases, the coverage of other than food items is extremely limited. Rent may appear with a single quotation.

c. Specifications.

In order to make possible price comparisons as well as to obtain the data in a systematic and uniform manner, detailed descriptions or specifications of the items priced are normally provided for the use of the persons furnishing or collecting the price quotations. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics has perhaps the most detailed set of specifications. The specifications actually used in the different countries have varying degrees of elaboration down to the bare name of the item without either indication of quality or other details.

The importance of the specification depends in part on the variability and variety of the items consumed. Specifications are basic to the usefulness of the price index materials, since upon the observance of identical specifications
4. SOURCES.

Prices are collected from different sources according to the type of commodity or service. Most of the prices are obtained from retail outlets, including different types of stores, such as department stores, specialty stores, mail order houses, etc., which are patronized by the general public. Some prices are also derived from reports of manufacturers or their representatives, government agencies, or independent investigators.

Price data is not usually obtained directly from the consumer, as such data is usually not reliable and the specifications of the items are usually lacking.

The application of sampling techniques to the selection of retail outlets is followed in a few countries, notably the United States. In principle, the selection of the outlets is based on the relative importance of the population group for which the index is designed. The selection of the actual retail outlets canvassed for price data is made, in principle, on the basis of random sampling within each group of outlets.

Each phase of the collection of prices, of course, to be considered separately, e.g., food, clothing, prices, price of miscellaneous items, retail, etc., is followed by the sampling method applied.
e. Methods of price collection.

Prices are collected usually by means of special agents, mailed questionnaires, or in some cases through published price lists. By far the largest reliance is on special agents, who visit the retail outlets selected and collect the prices indicated for these outlets. They are provided with the detailed specifications of the items to be priced, and are given training in the techniques to be followed, including verifying qualities and matching qualities to specifications. They may utilize price lists or printed lists on occasion. The agents, further, must be familiar with the usual pricing and purchasing practices, for example with regard to customer’s discounts, etc. The agent is expected to watch for deviations or changes in the qualities of items priced, and his instructions cover the procedures to be followed when qualities of items are changed or where the items specified cannot be priced. The questionnaire method is used in cases where the descriptions of the items priced, and the details of completing the questionnaires, are clear and do not require any special explanation, or where informants can fairly be expected to fill in and return the data accurately and promptly. In some cases printed price lists can be utilized, e.g. charges for utilities, etc.

The quality of the pricing techniques followed is of primary importance in the validity of the price index. Any comparative appraisal of the quality of pricing techniques in different countries is of course outside the scope of this summary of methods. Much depends upon the training of the agents, their supervision, and the verification procedures that they apply.

15. Formula.

The most commonly used formula in calculating consumer price index numbers is the Laspeyres in which the prices are weighted by the quantities of the base year (or the price ratios weighted by the values of the base year).

The formula is:

\[
\text{(1) } \frac{\sum p_1 q_o}{\sum p_0 q_o} \text{ and (2) } \frac{\sum p_1 (p_o q_0)}{\sum p_0 q_0} \]

where the \(p_1\)'s are the prices of the current year and the \(p_0\)'s the prices of the base year, and the \(q_0\)'s are the quantities of the base year.
The first is termed the weighted aggregative and the second the weighted average of price relatives. These two formulae give identical results.

In practice, the weights as already noted are based usually upon a family living study. The base period for the index series is taken as the year corresponding to the family living study or, under the assumption that the weights of the family living study represent approximately the weights of the base period, a calendar year, or in some cases (United States, Canada) a five-year period, not too far removed from the date of the study.

Though the basic formula is Laspeyres slight technical differences appear in applying it to the various parts of the formula. Thus in the United States for example, formula (1) is applied to food, while formula (2) is utilized for other items using the relatives of the prices of the given year to the preceding year in conjunction with the "cost weights" of the preceding year.

Special adjustments may be made to take care of items which are affected by rationing, or shortages, or to provide substitutions to replace items which have been discontinued or are no longer quoted.

The major exception to the use of the Laspeyres formula in consumer price index numbers is Sweden, where a chain index system with changing weights based upon each year's consumption is utilized. The consumption pattern is obtained by means of special budget enquiries each year.

In one or two countries, a weighted geometric average of price ratios is used instead of the weighted arithmetic average. This is true of the clothing price index for Egypt.

In the case of Belgium, the retail price index is unweighted except as the number and kind of items selected introduce a concealed weighted pattern.

   a. Consumer price indices.

   From the point of view of consumer price indices, items are grouped under food, housing, clothing and miscellaneous. For each of these groups separate index number series may be calculated.

   In some countries, furthermore, additional subdivisions are provided and index number series calculated. Thus, in most countries special index numbers are shown for rent, for fuel or for fuel and light, and in many countries for

\[\text{footnote}{It may be noted that the Laspeyres formula is commonly used in the field of wholesale price indices also.}\]
certain categories under the miscellaneous group, for example, house furnishings, personal care, transportation, medical care, recreation, etc. Differences from country to country appear in the scope of individual series.

The scope of the food index number commonly extends to beverages. In a few cases, food includes tobacco; in some cases tobacco, beverages and certain other items are grouped together into a separate group. (Germany)

With regard to housing a considerable diversity appears. In nearly all countries rent is shown as a separate category, with a separate index series. Fuel and light is also commonly shown as a separate index series. In one or two cases refrigeration (ice, gas or electric refrigeration) is included in the fuel and light category. To cover housing as a whole components for household operation, or household furnishings, or both, may be added, the content of this group showing wide variations. For purposes of international comparability, indices for rent, and for fuel and light are more comparable than that for housing as a group.

With respect to clothing, the principal differences in practice relate to the inclusion or exclusion of laundry services; in some cases this is included under clothing but in others under household operations or miscellaneous. There are of course wide differences in the adequacy of coverage of clothing quotations, with the result that the index may represent the group in a very one-sided fashion.

One problem is the treatment of direct taxes (mostly income taxes), in most countries direct taxes being excluded from the consumer price index computation. If included they are commonly estimated on the basis of the tax to which the index family would be subject under assumptions as to income and to the income tax payable after taking into account the exemptions to which the index family is entitled. Most countries have not included taxes in the index of consumer prices not only because of the difficulties of computation but also because the inclusion of the tax item tends to confuse the interpretation of the figures when considered for the purposes of determining wage adjustments or fiscal policy.
The adequacy of the materials for determining price changes varies very greatly in the different classes. Food price data are relatively good; rent data show on the whole rather small variations over a period; fuel and light data are easily ascertained; the clothing group offers a wide variety of special problems, and in the practice the price data collected for the group of miscellaneous items tend to cover this group rather inadequately. (See Appendix II for the number of price quotations for each of the major groups.)

b. Retail price indices.

Classifications for retail price indices, in contrast with those for consumer price indices, may be made according to criteria related to production or sales, etc., e.g. to provide price indices for groups of selected items such as furniture, electrical equipment, cotton goods, woollen goods, goods sold through different types of retail stores, etc. (See also Appendix III.)

17. Special problems.

Among the interesting and important questions of special interest that require consideration are the problems of black market prices, seasonal price changes and substitutions and quality changes.

a. Black market prices.

The question of the treatment of black market prices in the construction of price indices was during the war and after under conditions of rationing and price control a more important question than now, when black markets in goods have largely disappeared. Logically, such prices should be included as consumption prices to the extent that they represent the prices actually paid in these transactions. In practice, the difficulty of obtaining accurate and acceptable reports of black market prices prevented their inclusion in the consumer price index numbers of most countries which were faced with this problem. Only where the prices, though illegal, were more or less openly quoted was it possible to include them in statistical collections. This practice was followed, for example, by the United States Bureau of Labour Statistics: "illegal" prices openly quoted were utilized, while "black market" prices were considered to be too unreliable for inclusion. Most countries excluded black market prices from consideration in their index. However, in one or two countries, where black markets were well established and the ruling prices could be ascertained,
these black market prices were utilized either in the form of a separate index calculation, or in the form of calculating an average between official and black market prices so as to give the best approximation to effective average prices for the goods in question.

b. Seasonal items.

The treatment of seasonal items offers special difficulties in taking account of the seasonal price variations as well as of the sharp differences in quantities purchased. The items concerned include not only the fresh fruits and vegetables, but also summer and winter clothing, fuel, etc. The importance of seasonality in respect of price varies greatly; the price of coal in the summer is only slightly lower than in winter; the price of summer or winter clothing is usually in the off season not even quoted; the prices of fruits and vegetables are very high in the off season if quoted at all, as compared with those in the height of the season; potato prices show marked changes at the time when the new potatoes come on the market, etc.

The methods followed in dealing with these changes are based on price adjustments, substitutions, or quiescence during the off season. In the case of items which are in fact on the market during the whole year, with not too great variations in price, no special treatment is provided for the seasonal items. Thus, the slightly lower charge for coal in summer is accepted as the price for purposes of the index during the summer, since actually purchases may be made in summer and stored for use in winter. In the United States, most vegetables and fruits, with the advent of refrigerated shipments, have an all-year-round supply so that no special treatment for these seasonal items is necessary. Potato prices during the season of overlap between old and new potatoes supply may be averaged in accordance with the relative importance of old and new potato purchases. Winter and summer clothing is quoted at the current prices during the season, and carried over as a quiescent item during the off season, with an adjustment to take care of price trends during the quiescent period. (United States)

In some cases fruits and vegetables are given special treatment in the index. In Sweden the price of apples, for example, is adjusted so as to minimize fluctuations; the month the new crop comes on the market, the current
price is taken for the index, the next month the average of the current price and
that for the preceding month, and similarly for each month up to the sixth —
the average of the prices for the months since the new crop came in is taken;
after the sixth month the price is continued unchanged until the next season’s
crop is marketed. In Germany, the quotations are for the three most commonly
purchased vegetables in the market each month, the vegetables changing from month
to month during the season. In Israel the method of comparing prices of
vegetables in each month with the corresponding prices in the same month a year
ago is used. In Argentina the fruits included in the index vary with the season.

In general, however, a common way to avoid the difficulties of the seasonal
fluctuations in prices is to omit seasonal items from the index. Thus, in many
countries the list of fruits and vegetables is limited to those items which can
be purchased throughout the year, with the result that any influence of fresh
vegetables in season on the price level is ignored in the index.

c. Substitutions and quality changes.

This topic is one of great importance in relation to the validity of the
price trends shown by the consumer price index. During a period of growing
austerity, for example, price trends based on price movements only without taking
into account changes in quality may give a quite false picture and likewise, in
periods of normal development, the conclusions drawn from the price changes alone
may be vitiated if the improvements introduced into the quality of items are left
out of account.

One method of taking these changes in quality into account is to adjust the
price for changes in quality. The common practice is to ignore small changes
in quality, with the result that the index tends to have a downward bias where
qualities are improving, and an upward bias where goods are being up-graded and
cheaper qualities are being substituted. In one or two countries the prices of
certain items are adjusted to take into account quality changes where these can
be appraised on a factual or experimental basis.

18. Recommendations on these and other points relating to consumer price
statistics, have been made, as already stated, by the Sixth International
Conference of Labour Statisticians meeting in Montreal in August 1947; these are
given in Appendix I. In the preceding paragraphs, however, emphasis has been given
to describing practices rather than developing the recommendations as adopted by
the Conference applicable to these various points.
APPENDIX I

Resolution of the Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, August 1947.

"Resolution concerning Cost-of-Living Statistics"

"The Sixth International Conference of Labour Statisticians,"

"Having been convened by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met at Montreal from 4 to 12 August 1947, and

"Recognizing the importance of an adequate statistical basis for the proper weighting of cost-of-living index numbers, and the need for refining methods and techniques so as to ensure that the indices reflect correctly the movements of actual market prices,

"Adopts, this twelfth day of August 1947, the following Resolution:

"1. (1) The object of cost-of-living index numbers should be to measure the changes over time in retail prices of a given standard of living.

"(2) This in practice means that the index should measure the changes in retail prices of a given consumption pattern.

"2. (1) The pattern of consumption to which any particular index relates should be clearly defined.

"(2) All such index numbers should reflect prices actually charged to consumers.

"3. (1) The purposes which may be served by such indices in the post-war period are the measuring of changes over time in retail prices currently charged consumers for -

"(a) the pre-war consumption level of a given economic group in specified types of communities;

"(b) a post-war consumption level of a given economic group in specified types of communities; or

"(c) a consumption level of a given standard taking account of price induced substitutions and any other substitutions imposed by circumstances, with as close regard to the maintenance of the same standard of adequacy as practicable."
"(2) In cases where a post-war consumption level is adopted, the index may —
"(a) measure the variations in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pattern of consumption in a specific year or period; or
"(b) measure price changes using the current pattern of consumption as a weighting diagram adjusted as necessary to conform to changes in the consumption pattern.

"(3) Where a decision is taken to measure the variations in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pattern of consumption in a specific year, the pattern of consumption should be examined and the weighting diagram adjusted, if necessary, at intervals of not more than ten years to correspond with the changes in the consumption pattern.

"4. In countries where it is decided to introduce a new weighting diagram, consideration should be given to splicing the new indices to the old series dating back as far as possible.

"5. (1) If possible, separate index numbers should be compiled for different economic and social groups, geographical areas and different family types.

"(2) Consideration should be given also to establishing index numbers for economic and social, family and geographical groups other than those covered by the existing indices.

"6. (1) In order that the basis of the index may be commonly understood and that there should be general confidence in its accuracy, a statement should be published in respect of any index describing the items included, the weighting system used, the method of calculation, and the methods and sources used in the collection of prices, including a brief review of the different types of sources covered, the pricing techniques, the weights assigned to each type, and the sampling methods employed in their selection.

"(2) A description should also be given of the group or groups of the population to which the index relates.

"7. (1) The effective administration of the price collecting programme requires the careful selection and training of price collection personnel.
"(2) The use of appropriate methods of price verification such as 'check pricing' in which price quotations are verified by means of duplicate prices obtained by different agents or 'purchase checking' in which actual purchases of the goods priced are made, is recommended.

"8. In a period of price control or rationing, where illegal prices are charged openly to the groups to which the index applies, such prices should be taken into consideration, as well as controlled prices.

"9. (1) Prices charged for stale, damaged, shop-soiled or otherwise imperfect goods should be ignored, but otherwise the index should be based on prices actually charged for cash sales.

"(2) 'Sale' or reduced prices should be taken where they are applied to the bulk of a shop's trade in the specified article and 'cut' prices should be taken rather than 'list' prices where they are in fact charged.

"(3) Discounts should be taken into account if they are automatically given to all customers.

"10. (1) Studies of price changes in different geographical units should be made to determine the number and identity of the geographical units required to be covered for a satisfactory average index for a given group.

"(2) In particular, it may be possible from such studies to effect economies in the number of returns for a given standard of sampling accuracy.

"11. (1) In establishing the weighting diagram for a cost-of-living index for a particular group, individual items priced should be assigned weights corresponding to the consumption expenditures not only on the individual items themselves but also on other articles not priced, in accordance with the principle that the weights for items not priced may be added to the weights for those priced, when the price movements of the latter are representative of the price movements of the former.

"(2) In this manner, all items purchased by the group covered can be represented in the index, although not all are priced.

"12. (1) Every effort should be made to include a suitable representation of fresh, canned, dried, and frozen fruits and vegetables in the list of goods priced.
"(2) If items cannot be priced in every month of the year, or if price differences between different seasons are substantial, it is not advisable to use uncorrected price figures and/or constant weights all through the year.

"(3) Whenever necessary and feasible, account should therefore be taken in the methods adopted of the seasonal factors in consumption and prices.

"(4) Provision should also be made for taking account of seasonal factors in purchases of clothing, fuel and other items showing seasonal variations.

"13. Every effort should be made to include a suitable representation of semi-durable and durable consumer goods in the list of goods priced.

"14. The use of small sample studies of consumer purchases in the intervals between the more comprehensive surveys envisaged in paragraph 3 (3) is recommended in order to provide the basis for discovering significant changes in consumption patterns to indicate the need for revisions in the weighting diagrams.

"15. In order to promote understanding of the nature and uses of indices of retail prices charged a particular group, the term 'cost-of-living index' should be replaced, in appropriate circumstances, by the term 'price-of-living index', 'cost-of-living price index', or 'consumer price index'."
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Non-Food total</th>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Fuel and light</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>All others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algeria (Algiers)</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina (B.A.)</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>21/3</td>
<td>92/3</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia (30 cities)</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgian Congo (Leopoldville)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>20/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium (62 cities)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia (La Paz)</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil (Sao Paulo)</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>34/3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burma (Rangoon)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada (11-33 cities)</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile (Santiago)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia (Bogota)</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>36/3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Includes electricity.  2/ Fuel and soap.  3/ Includes heat and light, barber expenses, cleaning, servant.  4/ Includes light and water.  5/ Food prices collected in 33 cities, other items in 11-33 cities.  6/ Housing, water and light.
APPENDIX II (continued)

I. Number of items priced in principal groups in selected countries (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Non-food total</th>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Fuel and light</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>All others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica (San José)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba (30 cities)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>(food only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus (4 cities)</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark (200 localities)</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>10(^7/)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic (Trujillo city)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland (32 cities)</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France (Paris) (new series)</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Eq. Africa (Brazzaville)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>6(^2/)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany (Fed. Rep.)</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala (Guatemala City)</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii (Honolulu)</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13(^{10/})</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary (Budapest)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16(^{11/})</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iceland (Reykjavik)</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India (Bombay)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7 "Other housing expenditures". 8/ Old series. 9/ Water, kerosene, ice, firewood and soap. 10/ Including cleaning. 11/ Including rent.
## APPENDIX II (continued)

### I. Number of items priced in principal groups in selected countries (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Non-food total</th>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Fuel and light</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>All others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indo-China (Saigon)</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia (Djakarta)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>(food only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran (7 cities)</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq (Baghdad)</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland (120 cities)</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy (62 cities)</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan (28 cities)</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea (8 cities)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon (Beirut)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg (9 cities)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico (Mexico City)</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands (9 municipalities)</td>
<td>515</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand (21 towns)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12/ Coal, laundry soap and candles.
APPENDIX II (continued)

I. Number of items priced in principal groups in selected countries (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Non-food total</th>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Fuel and light</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>All others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua (Monagua)</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19 (food only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway (53 towns)</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>132\textsuperscript{13}/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama (Panama City)</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64 (food only)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay (Asuncion)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru (Lima)</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11\textsuperscript{14}/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines (Manila)</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland (Warsaw)</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal (new series)</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lisbon)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico (6 municipalities)</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45\textsuperscript{14}/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saar (Saarbrucken)</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Rhodesia (6 towns)</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>(11)</td>
<td></td>
<td>49</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain (50 cities)</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24\textsuperscript{16}/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden (95 localities)</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland (34 cities)</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand (Bangkok)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia (Tunis)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey (Istanbul)</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{13}/ Including beverages and tobacco: 23. \textsuperscript{14}/ Including fuel and light. \textsuperscript{15}/ Number of items varies from city to city: figures given are averages. \textsuperscript{16}/ Includes household expenses, 15. \textsuperscript{17}/ Cost of living index.
### APPENDIX II (continued)

#### I. Number of items priced in principal groups in selected countries (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Non-food total</th>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Fuel and light</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>All others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Union of South Africa (9 towns)</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom (200 areas)</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States (34 cities; food: 56 cities&lt;sup&gt;18/&lt;/sup&gt;)</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay (Montevideo)</td>
<td>30&lt;sup&gt;12/&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9&lt;sup&gt;12/&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela (Caracas)</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>&lt;sup&gt;30/&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>18/</sup> Bulletin No. 993, p.2 (1950). <sup>12/</sup> Not including clothing. <sup>30/</sup> Soap, brooms and salt.
### APPENDIX II (continued)

#### II. Percentage weights assigned to the major groups in consumer price indices, in selected countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Heat and light</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>38.66</td>
<td>21.26</td>
<td>4.92</td>
<td>23.04</td>
<td>12.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgian Congo</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>48.45</td>
<td></td>
<td>26.67</td>
<td>12.28</td>
<td>12.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>54.12</td>
<td>15.33</td>
<td>4.41</td>
<td>10.56</td>
<td>15.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceylon</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>65.7</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>49.53</td>
<td>25.38</td>
<td>8.25</td>
<td>10.69</td>
<td>6.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>50.8</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>45.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>39.02</td>
<td>26.44</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>16.19</td>
<td>15.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ In general, the percentage weights are those of the base year, but in some cases they are weights for the current period. 2/ Household expenses. 3/ Includes housing, water and light. 4/ Includes tobacco. 5/ Includes taxes 17.5 per cent. 6/ Includes water and electricity.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Heat and light</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>45.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>22.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>45.4</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>25.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>57.3</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>44.95</td>
<td>6.79</td>
<td>2.60</td>
<td>14.92</td>
<td>30.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>14.7</td>
<td>16.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>15.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>54.0</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>60.3</td>
<td>8.9</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>60.44</td>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>4.46</td>
<td>11.25</td>
<td>19.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>33.0</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>76.02</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11.38</td>
<td>12.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>40.09</td>
<td>15.43</td>
<td>5.85</td>
<td>5.99</td>
<td>32.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>34.22</td>
<td>6.66</td>
<td>3.86</td>
<td>20.31</td>
<td>34.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>43.59</td>
<td>8.51</td>
<td>3.94</td>
<td>16.19</td>
<td>27.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7/ Includes fuel and soap. 8/ Includes tobacco. 9/ Includes cigarettes. 10/ Household expenses.
### APPENDIX II. (continued)

#### II. Percentage weights assigned to the major groups in consumer price indices, in selected countries (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Rent</th>
<th>Heat and light</th>
<th>Clothing</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>63.43</td>
<td>11.96</td>
<td>7.73</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>14.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>61.9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puerto Rico</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>51.9</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern Rhodesia</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>10.0</td>
<td>47.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td>12.4</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>14.2</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union of South Africa</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>25.5</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>40.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>33.9</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>59.68</td>
<td></td>
<td>(14.62)</td>
<td>6.10</td>
<td>22.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Housing expenditures other than rent.
III. Details of rent collection, in selected countries

Australia. 2 items. Weight 21.26 per cent. Prices for rents are obtained from house agents numbering up to 50 in capital cities and up to 10 in provincial towns. Belgium. Rent not included.

Brazil (Sao Paulo). 1 item. Weight 15.33 per cent. The rent index is based on a special study of the rents of 75 houses.

Burma. 1 item. Weight 18.5 per cent. In the case of rent, changes in Rangoon Corporation assessments are determined quarterly for selected areas.

Canada. 3 items. Weight 19 per cent. Rent prices are obtained in May and October of each year by means of questionnaires sent to rental agents.

Ceylon. 1 item. Weight 7.1 per cent. The rent index is based on a sample of 148 working class houses.

Chile. 1 item. Weight 20.0 per cent. The rent index is obtained on the basis of the rental price for 400 dwellings belonging to five types of housing.

Colombia. 1 item. Weight 16.2 per cent: (covering housing, water and light). Rental data are collected from 375 wage earners' dwellings.

Denmark. Weight 7.8 per cent. Data on rent are obtained once a year.

Finland. 1 item. Weight 13.4 per cent. The rent index is estimated on the basis of an apartment of one room and kitchen, with or without central heating, and is obtained once a year on the basis of the rent census; at present new figures for rent are included each time the regulations in the Rent Control Board change.

Guatemala. 1 item. Weight 15.2 per cent. Rent data collected quarterly. India (Bombay). 1 item. Weight 14.6 per cent. Rent prices are obtained from enquiries held at long intervals and figures are continued unchanged from the time of the latest special enquiry.

Iran. 1 item. Weight 12 per cent. The rent index is based on the rents of 5 dwellings in each city.

Ireland. 1 item. Weight 9 per cent. Rent data are collected annually.

Israel. 1 item. Weight 22.4 per cent. Annual collections of rent data.

Italy. 1 item. Weight 24.9 per cent. The rent index is based on prices for a 2 1/2 room apartment; the prices of typical leases on workers' and salaried employees' lodgings are obtained.
Luxembourg. Rent not included.
Mexico. Rent not included.
New Zealand. 6 items for housing. Weight for rent 6.66 per cent; for other
housing 10.09 per cent. Unfurnished accommodation only is taken into account.
Rents of houses and flats are collected twice a year. The index number for
housing includes in addition to rents of houses, changes in costs incurred by
house occupiers (rates, repairs and maintenance) which are compiled annually.
Philippines. 1 item. Weight 11.96 per cent. Group index calculated as
unweighted geometric mean of price relative. Data collected every three to
six months.
Puerto Rico. 1 item. Weight 5.7 per cent. Rent data obtained quarterly from
781 urban tenants.
Sweden. 1 item. Weight 12.4 per cent. Rent is estimated on the basis of
special enquiries.
Switzerland. 1 item. Weight 20 per cent. Prices for rent are collected in
27 towns.
Union of South Africa. 4 items. Weight 25.5 per cent. A rent census is
conducted annually and the results for the 9 urban areas are incorporated in
the index.
United Kingdom. 1 item. Weight 8.8 per cent.
United States. Weight 8.8 per cent. Rents are surveyed in 11 or 12 cities in any
even month, and compared with those for identical units in the previous quarter
after adjustments for any changes in the facilities included in the rentals. The
relative change is based on the sum of the rental rates. This relative is applied
to the previous index to obtain the index for the current data. Thus this resultant
figure is a simple link-relative index. Weighting is implicit in the sample
election. Agents of the Bureau collect rent information, by personal visit once
year, directly from a sample of renting families in each city. For subsequent
quarters the rent collection is done by mail.
Uruguay. 1 item. Weight 14.62 per cent: (including electricity). Rent prices
obtained once a year.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Periodicity of Collection</th>
<th>Date of Collection</th>
<th>Towns Covered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food (excluding seasonal fruits and vegetables)</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>15th of month</td>
<td>Twenty-one towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Every Friday</td>
<td>Ten representative towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing, Houses and flats</td>
<td>Six monthly</td>
<td>February and August</td>
<td>Twenty-one towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and maintenance</td>
<td>Yearly</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and lighting</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>1st of month</td>
<td>Ten representative towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothing and footwear</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>February, May, August, November</td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ditto</td>
<td>Ten representative towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household appliances</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleaning supplies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ten representative towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal requisites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education requisites</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ten representative towns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent medicines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union dues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Four chief centres</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPENDIX III

Note on usage of term "retail price index number", in selected countries

Most countries which use the term "retail price index number", appear to use it in the same sense as the term "consumer price index number" (or "cost-of-living index number") of the present report. For example, Australia uses the term, "retail price index number" to denote its index number of consumer prices weighted by consumption data; New Zealand now uses "Consumers' Price Index Number," formerly the Retail Prices Index Number, and for a short period the Wartime price index.

In a few cases, different usages are found.

1. Germany publishes price index series for cost elements of building construction, including materials costs and wage rates etc., under the heading "consumer prices" (Verbraucherpreise). Under the same heading is published also a price index for production materials for use in agriculture, including such items as artificial fertilizers, fuel, electric current, feeding stuffs, seeds, agriculture machinery and tools, upkeep and new construction of agriculture buildings. These indices would not be within the field of retail prices under the definitions adopted in this report.

2. Sweden publishes two index series, one termed "cost of living index," and the other "general consumer price index": the chief difference being one of weighting. For the former, two series are given, one including and the other excluding taxes, while the latter excludes taxes and has slightly different weighting pattern. Both would fall in the field of consumer price indices as used in this report.

3. The United States Department of Commerce publishes "Commodity Price Index Numbers" based on prices in retail outlets. This series covers some eleven component indexes, one for each major group of retail stores classified by commodities sold: among these are building materials, farm machinery and other non-consumer goods sold through retail stores. The combined index of commodity (retail) prices differs from the consumer price index by the inclusion of these non-consumption items sold at the retail level of marketing and by the use as weights of sales in types of stores classified by principal commodities traded.
Under the definitions adopted in this report, the prices of these non-consumer goods would not fall within the field of retail prices, since they relate to transactions between businesses.

Also in the United States, the index of prices paid by farmers for elements of agricultural production is combined with the consumer index of prices paid by farmers for items of family living into a single index number of "prices paid by farmers" for the purpose of computing price support levels in terms of the "parity formula" - a formula which endeavours to set prices for the goods which farmers sell in terms of rural purchasing power in the 1910-14 base period.

Under the definitions of this report, the index of prices paid by farmers for elements of agricultural production are not within the retail field while the combined index of "prices paid by farmers" is a hybrid designed for a particular purpose prescribed by specific legislation.