

PRICES AND COST OF LIVING.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES.

PRICES IN DETAIL, DECEMBER, 1917.

The increase in the retail price of food, as a whole, in December, 1917, over November, 1917, was 1 per cent. Of the 27 articles for which prices are received by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 8 articles decreased in price, 3 remained the same, and 16 increased as compared with the prices for November.

Onions show the greatest decrease, or 14 per cent; bread decreased 5 per cent; potatoes 3 per cent; pork chops, flour, and prunes 2 per cent each. Sugar and beans each show a decrease of 1 per cent. Eggs show the greatest increase, or 9 per cent. Butter and hens each increased in price 3 per cent. Rice, milk, lard, and chuck roast each show an increase of 2 per cent.

The following table shows the course of prices in the United States in November and December, 1917:

AVERAGE MONEY RETAIL PRICES AND RELATIVE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD ON NOV. 15 AND DEC. 15, 1917.

[The relative price shows the per cent that the average price on the 15th of each month was of the average price for the year 1916.]

Article.	Unit.	Average money price.		Relative price.	
		Nov. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1917.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1917.
Sirloin steak.....	Pound.....	\$0.317	\$0.320	116	117
Round steak.....	do.....	.296	.300	121	122
Rib roast.....	do.....	.250	.253	118	119
Chuck roast.....	do.....	.212	.215	123	125
Plate beef.....	do.....	.163	.164	127	128
Pork chops.....	do.....	.345	.338	152	149
Bacon.....	do.....	.482	.487	168	170
Ham.....	do.....	.426	.435	145	148
Lard.....	do.....	.326	.333	186	190
Hens.....	do.....	.295	.304	125	129
Salmon, canned.....	do.....	.287	.290	142	144
Eggs.....	Dozen.....	.581	.634	155	169
Butter.....	Pound.....	.528	.543	134	138
Cheese.....	do.....	.346	.345	134	134
Milk.....	Quart.....	.128	.131	141	144
Bread.....	16-oz. loaf ¹.....	.088	.083	135	128
Flour.....	Pound.....	.068	.067	155	152
Corn meal.....	do.....	.071	.071	209	209
Rice.....	do.....	.114	.116	125	127
Potatoes.....	do.....	.032	.031	119	115
Onions.....	do.....	.058	.050	118	102
Beans, navy.....	do.....	.181	.188	172	171
Prunes.....	do.....	.166	.161	121	122
Raisins, seeded.....	do.....	.148	.150	115	116
Sugar.....	do.....	.075	.071	119	118
Coffee.....	do.....	.302	.303	101	101
Tea.....	do.....	.617	.621	113	114
All articles combined.....				136	138

¹ 16 ounces, weight of dough.

In the year from December 15, 1916, to December 15, 1917, prices of food as a whole advanced 24 per cent. Potatoes and onions are the only articles that show a decline. Potatoes decreased in price 10 per cent and onions 12 per cent. The article showing the greatest increase is corn meal, which was 80 per cent higher in December, 1917, than in December, 1916. In this year, bacon increased 63 per cent; pork chops, 52 per cent; beans, 32 per cent; milk and ham, 31 per cent, each; lard, 28 per cent; rice, 27 per cent; hens, 26 per cent; flour, 23 per cent; eggs and bread, 20 per cent, each.

Food as a whole was 52 per cent higher on December 15, 1917, than on December 15, 1913, and 50 per cent higher than on either December 15, 1914, or December 15, 1915. During this four-year period, corn meal advanced 127 per cent; lard, 111 per cent; flour, 108 per cent; bacon, 83 per cent; sugar, 76 per cent; pork chops and potatoes, 67 per cent, each; ham, 64 per cent; milk, 44 per cent; butter, 37 per cent; and eggs, 33 per cent. No article declined in price.

A table showing the average and relative retail prices in December of each year from 1913 to 1917 follows:

AVERAGE MONEY RETAIL PRICES AND RELATIVE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD ON DEC. 15 OF EACH YEAR, 1913 TO 1917, INCLUSIVE.

[The relative price shows the per cent that the average price on December 15 of each year was of the average price for the year 1916.]

Article.	Unit.	Average money price Dec. 15—					Relative price Dec. 15—				
		1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Sirloin steak.....	Pound.....	\$0.251	\$0.257	\$0.251	\$0.268	\$0.320	92	94	92	98	117
Round steak.....	do.....	.225	.230	.225	.240	.300	92	94	92	98	122
Rib roast.....	do.....	.193	.199	.197	.210	.253	94	94	93	99	119
Chuck roast.....	do.....	.165	.160	.169	.169	.215	96	93	98	125	
Plate beef.....	do.....	.125	.119	.128	.161	.....	98	93	100	128	
Pork chops.....	do.....	.202	.195	.184	.222	.338	89	86	81	98	149
Bacon.....	do.....	.267	.278	.273	.298	.487	93	97	95	104	170
Ham.....	do.....	.265	.268	.270	.332	.435	90	91	92	113	148
Lard.....	do.....	.158	.154	.145	.259	.333	90	88	83	148	190
Hens.....	do.....	.208	.201	.203	.241	.304	88	85	86	102	129
Salmon, canned.....	do.....	.....	.....	.198	.212	.290	.....	.....	98	105	144
Eggs.....	Dozen.....	.476	.476	.465	.529	.634	127	127	124	141	169
Butter.....	Pound.....	.398	.394	.386	.449	.543	101	100	98	114	138
Cheese.....	do.....	.....	.....	.237	.310	.345	.....	.....	92	120	134
Milk.....	Quart.....	.091	.090	.089	.100	.131	100	99	98	110	144
Bread.....	16-oz. loaf ¹	.....	.058	.062	.070	.083	.....	89	95	107	128
Flour.....	Pound.....	.032	.037	.037	.055	.067	73	84	85	124	152
Corn meal.....	do.....	.031	.032	.032	.039	.071	92	95	95	116	209
Rice.....	do.....	.....	.....	.090	.091	.116	.....	.....	99	100	127
Potatoes.....	do.....	.019	.015	.019	.035	.031	69	54	69	128	115
Onions.....	do.....	.....	.....	.035	.037	.050	.....	.....	71	116	102
Beans, navy.....	do.....	.....	.....	.089	.143	.188	.....	.....	81	130	171
Prunes.....	do.....	.....	.....	.133	.138	.164	.....	.....	99	103	122
Raisins, seeded.....	do.....	.....	.....	.125	.139	.150	.....	.....	97	108	116
Sugar.....	do.....	.054	.060	.067	.083	.094	67	75	84	104	118
Coffee.....	do.....	.....	.....	.299	.299	.303	.....	.....	100	100	101
Tea.....	do.....	.....	.....	.546	.546	.621	.....	.....	100	100	114
All articles combined.							91	92	92	111	138

¹ 16 ounces, weight of dough.

The two tables which follow give average retail prices for 29 articles in 45 cities.

For 16 cities, average prices are shown for December 15, 1913, December 15, 1916, and for November 15 and December 15, 1917. No

prices are given for meats in Atlanta, Ga., as less than 80 per cent of the butchers of that city sent in their reports for December, 1917, to the bureau.

For 29 cities, average prices are given for December 15, 1917. No prices are given for groceries in Charleston, S. C., since less than 80 per cent of the grocers of that city sent in their reports to the bureau.

It is manifestly unfair to attempt any comparison of prices between cities widely separated or between localities where qualities and market conditions vary greatly. For no article is it possible to quote prices on an identical grade throughout the 44 cities, as the grade varies not only from city to city but also from firm to firm within the same city and from month to month within the same store. Stores which vary in a marked degree the grade of articles handled from day to day or from month to month have not been included, but in every store there is necessarily some variation in grade. Methods of cutting beef differ considerably in different cities, and to some extent this affects retail prices. Emphasis should be placed upon the fact that, according to the method of cutting followed in Boston, Mass., Manchester, N. H., Philadelphia, Pa., and Providence, R. I., no cut corresponds to the cut known as sirloin in other cities. In these four cities the cut known as sirloin corresponds to the cut described above as porterhouse, and in this report the quotations of prices for the cities just named are for the cut known locally as sirloin. The cut commonly known as sirloin is sold in Fall River, Mass., under the name of "rump" steak, and in this report the prices quoted for that city are for the article known locally as "rump" steak. While the grade of beef quoted is not identical throughout the 44 cities, nor is the grade always identical in a store throughout the period for which prices are quoted, the article quoted is the best grade of meat on sale at the date of each quotation in the store selected, and the stores selected are those patronized largely by the families of American, English, Irish, German, and Scandinavian wage earners.

Below are given a few "remarks" taken from bakery reports of December 15. On many of the slips the note was made that the changes in weights and prices were due to the recent Government regulation.

Owing to the new formula now in use, our retail price has been reduced 1 cent per loaf this month.

Our change in weight complies with the rules of the Food Administration, the price to conform with ingredients.

Weights are changed to conform with Government regulation. Prices are the same per pound. Scaling weight is increased because of reduction of sugar

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD FOR 16 SELECTED CITIES FOR DEC. 15, 1913, 1916, AND 1917, AND NOV. 15, 1917—Continued.

Article.	Unit.	Denver, Colo.				Detroit, Mich.				Milwaukee, Wis.			
		Dec. 15, 1913.		1917		Dec. 15, 1913.		1917		Dec. 15, 1913.		1917	
		Dec. 15, 1913.	Dec. 15, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1913.	Dec. 15, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1913.	Dec. 15, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1917.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.	\$0.229	\$0.230	\$0.282	\$0.283	\$0.218	\$0.260	\$0.204	\$0.206	\$0.234	\$0.215	\$0.280	\$0.287
Round steak.....	Lb.	.207	.190	.262	.262	.204	.224	.268	.268	.216	.214	.269	.275
Rib roast.....	Lb.	.167	.184	.220	.223	.202	.218	.235	.237	.188	.191	.222	.233
Chuck roast.....	Lb.	.150	.160	.197	.197	.151	.162	.193	.193	.161	.169	.205	.216
Plate beef.....	Lb.	.105	.138	.139	.....	.121	.151	.151	.....	.121	.152	.158	.....
Pork chops.....	Lb.	.200	.209	.346	.339	.182	.204	.326	.318	.174	.206	.316	.301
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.	.280	.325	.509	.509	.223	.253	.458	.456	.274	.297	.475	.488
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.	.300	.338	.468	.467	.....	.290	.420	.430	.278	.309	.430	.441
Lard.....	Lb.	.161	.223	.344	.345	.170	.207	.333	.336	.169	.218	.324	.334
Lamb.....	Lb.	.156	.191	.298	.286	.160	.212	.286	.260	.185	.227	.298	.291
Hens.....	Lb.	.199	.211	.278	.281	.186	.242	.293	.298	.172	.215	.238	.259
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.	.....	.185	.269	.275	.....	.200	.293	.292	.....	.219	.278	.274
Eggs, strictl. fresh.....	Doz.	.471	.510	.528	.564	.433	.54	.582	.634	.400	.484	.483	.579
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.	.360	.367	.444	.438	.335	.374	.411	.436	.330	.373	.414	.416
Butter.....	Lb.	.379	.440	.485	.533	.389	.428	.565	.559	.388	.456	.498	.531
Cheese.....	Lb.	.....	.320	.351	.359	.....	.308	.342	.339	.....	.317	.344	.338
Milk.....	Qt.	.083	.083	.120	.120	.090	.100	.120	.110	.070	.080	.110	.110
Bread.....	16-oz.	.....	.075	.089	.086	.....	.071	.082	.075	.....	.075	.088	.086
Flour.....	Lb.	.026	.044	.057	.055	.031	.052	.066	.064	.030	.050	.064	.062
Corn meal.....	Lb.	.025	.034	.061	.061	.028	.038	.083	.084	.032	.017	.077	.076
Rice.....	Lb.	.....	.093	.116	.114	.....	.085	.118	.117	.....	.095	.115	.116
Potatoes.....	Lb.	.016	.031	.029	.025	.016	.034	.027	.027	.017	.035	.028	.027
Onions.....	Lb.	.....	.048	.049	.049	.....	.054	.055	.053	.....	.055	.048	.048
Beans, navy.....	Lb.	.....	.115	.186	.184	.....	.144	.191	.185	.....	.145	.195	.194
Prunes.....	Lb.	.....	.135	.182	.170	.....	.120	.164	.160	.....	.150	.158	.159
Raisins.....	Lb.	.....	.138	.143	.142	.....	.124	.136	.139	.....	.142	.147	.148
Sugar.....	Lb.	.052	.085	.089	.088	.051	.081	.088	.086	.055	.081	.088	.087
Coffee.....	Lb.	.....	.300	.300	.295	.....	.280	.299	.293	.....	.283	.270	.265
Tea.....	Lb.	.....	.510	.577	.576	.....	.430	.576	.549	.....	.540	.586	.586

Article.	Unit.	New York, N. Y.		Philadelphia, Pa.		Pittsburgh, Pa.							
		Dec. 15, 1913.	Dec. 15, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1913.	Dec. 15, 1916.	Nov. 15, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1917.				
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.	\$0.257	\$0.277	\$0.326	\$0.335	\$0.300	\$0.322	\$0.374	\$0.382	\$0.270	\$0.280	\$0.345	\$0.344
Round steak.....	Lb.	.253	.269	.335	.342	.260	.278	.344	.370	.228	.243	.318	.315
Rib roast.....	Lb.	.213	.228	.279	.285	.248	.232	.283	.288	.218	.223	.265	.265
Chuck roast.....	Lb.	.158	.166	.218	.222	.178	.192	.237	.249	.167	.173	.231	.232
Plate beef.....	Lb.	.....	.159	.209	.218	.....	.130	.169	.176	.....	.121	.168	.169
Pork chops.....	Lb.	.184	.230	.339	.345	.206	.243	.356	.354	.208	.229	.250	.348
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.	.255	.268	.459	.461	.250	.299	.469	.466	.288	.317	.494	.502
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.	1.195	1.230	1.309	1.325	.291	.357	.482	.486	.250	.352	.456	.461
Lard.....	Lb.	.161	.218	.331	.337	.152	.217	.330	.338	.156	.213	.331	.341
Lamb.....	Lb.	.154	.195	.265	.277	.188	.243	.311	.306	.207	.257	.342	.344
Hens.....	Lb.	.207	.253	.295	.307	.226	.280	.322	.323	.248	.295	.338	.357
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.	.....	.244	.340	.346	.....	.189	.263	.261	.....	.211	.299	.311
Eggs, strictl. fresh.....	Doz.	.543	.586	.647	.731	.483	.558	.593	.663	.492	.516	.553	.644
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.	.367	.403	.440	.471	.347	.398	.434	.449	.351	.408	.453	.451
Butter.....	Lb.	.411	.448	.516	.548	.466	.502	.567	.593	.420	.476	.528	.569
Cheese.....	Lb.	.....	.292	.338	.346	.....	.314	.357	.370	.....	.321	.351	.349
Milk.....	Qt.	.090	.099	.140	.140	.080	.088	.122	.122	.092	.103	.127	.127
Bread.....	16-oz.†	.....	.072	.088	.078	.....	.057	.078	.076	.....	.068	.090	.081
Flour.....	Lb.	.032	.055	.077	.076	.031	.037	.072	.073	.032	.055	.070	.070
Corn meal.....	Lb.	.034	.049	.083	.085	.028	.038	.072	.071	.030	.043	.087	.090
Rice.....	Lb.	.....	.094	.119	.117	.....	.097	.123	.123	.....	.091	.112	.121
Potatoes.....	Lb.	.024	.038	.036	.038	.023	.040	.038	.036	.019	.039	.033	.031
Onions.....	Lb.	.....	.065	.060	.058	.....	.063	.054	.056	.....	.064	.053	.049
Beans, navy.....	Lb.	.....	.151	.187	.186	.....	.141	.184	.187	.....	.149	.195	.200
Prunes.....	Lb.	.....	.139	.169	.174	.....	.141	.167	.166	.....	.136	.172	.172
Raisins.....	Lb.	.....	.131	.147	.151	.....	.131	.133	.135	.....	.143	.146	.148
Sugar.....	Lb.	.049	.084	.100	.099	.050	.077	.096	.097	.055	.088	.105	.097
Coffee.....	Lb.	.....	.262	.261	.275	.....	.285	.279	.279	.....	.271	.298	.297
Tea.....	Lb.	.....	.445	.532	.515	.....	.536	.585	.571	.....	.575	.715	.720

† Whole.

† Loaf; 16 ounces, weight of dough.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD FOR 16 SELECTED CITIES FOR DEC. 15, 1913, 1916, AND 1917, AND NOV. 15, 1917—Concluded.

Article.	Unit.	St. Louis, Mo.				San Francisco, Cal.			
		Dec. 15, 1913.	Dec. 15, 1916.	1917		Dec. 15, 1913.	Dec. 15, 1916.	1917	
				Nov. 15.	Dec. 15.			Nov. 15.	Dec. 15.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.	\$0.296	\$0.256	\$0.296	\$0.299	\$0.210	\$0.207	\$0.240	\$0.238
Round steak.....	Lb.	.236	.240	.289	.289	.200	.197	.236	.236
Rib roast.....	Lb.	.195	.203	.249	.252	.217	.208	.234	.227
Chuck roast.....	Lb.	.159	.164	.205	.204	.150	.146	.167	.168
Plate beef.....	Lb.	.128	.167	.167	.168	.....	.134	.162	.163
Pork chops.....	Lb.	.178	.194	.301	.291	.242	.243	.363	.362
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.	.250	.270	.480	.477	.344	.347	.537	.532
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.	.273	.288	.456	.451	.340	.400	.488	.486
Lard.....	Lb.	.127	.190	.315	.296	.180	.223	.322	.334
Lamb.....	Lb.	.183	.229	.295	.294	.166	.217	.289	.281
Hens.....	Lb.	.173	.206	.318	.265	.245	.275	.334	.349
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.	.187	.285	.287	.287	.....	.179	.250	.252
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz.	.408	.450	.471	.584	.533	.475	.638	.596
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.	.288	.400	.393	.428	.417	.375	.451	.441
Butter.....	Lb.	.396	.465	.522	.559	.386	.413	.501	.538
Cheese.....	Lb.	.311	.311	.353	.351	.....	.250	.324	.329
Milk.....	Qt.	.088	.097	.130	.130	.100	.100	.121	.121
Bread.....	16-oz. l.	.....	.069	.092	.088	.....	.062	.083	.085
Flour.....	Lb.	.029	.044	.061	.061	.034	.051	.061	.062
Corn meal.....	Lb.	.026	.034	.064	.062	.035	.044	.074	.070
Rice.....	Lb.	.....	.086	.112	.111	.....	.084	.108	.112
Potatoes.....	Lb.	.017	.033	.031	.030	.019	.030	.031	.029
Onions.....	Lb.	.....	.054	.044	.045	.....	.046	.034	.030
Beans, navy.....	Lb.	.....	.144	.187	.183	.....	.138	.174	.163
Prunes.....	Lb.	.....	.138	.170	.166	.....	.124	.147	.139
Raisins.....	Lb.	.....	.160	.168	.167	.....	.127	.132	.137
Sugar.....	Lb.	.051	.075	.088	.086	.051	.078	.081	.081
Coffee.....	Lb.	.....	.242	.281	.280	.....	.317	.305	.301
Tea.....	Lb.	.....	.543	.626	.636	.....	.517	.539	.539
Seattle, Wash.									
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.	\$0.236	\$0.220	\$0.267	\$0.267	\$0.265	\$0.260	\$0.360	\$0.363
Round steak.....	Lb.	.206	.200	.253	.253	.226	.230	.332	.345
Rib roast.....	Lb.	.200	.186	.221	.221	.210	.213	.277	.285
Chuck roast.....	Lb.	.156	.140	.183	.183	.173	.180	.237	.249
Plate beef.....	Lb.	.....	.109	.154	.155	.....	.136	.184	.185
Pork chops.....	Lb.	.240	.226	.396	.383	.199	.230	.370	.370
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.	.330	.320	.522	.524	.249	.278	.492	.496
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.	.300	.310	.434	.443	.210	.325	.432	.468
Lard.....	Lb.	.169	.211	.307	.320	.150	.210	.325	.335
Lamb.....	Lb.	.180	.200	.296	.301	.194	.245	.337	.351
Hens.....	Lb.	.246	.223	.283	.294	.220	.244	.311	.329
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.	.....	.196	.288	.288	.....	.175	.269	.285
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz.	.542	.456	.666	.605	.421	.550	.645	.679
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.	.370	.370	.488	.484	.350	.398	.453	.492
Butter.....	Lb.	.438	.447	.542	.549	.423	.470	.534	.570
Cheese.....	Lb.	.....	.275	.308	.305	.....	.290	.354	.356
Milk.....	Qt.	.098	.098	.120	.125	.090	.100	.140	.140
Bread.....	16-oz. l.	.....	.073	.092	.087	.....	.074	.090	.075
Flour.....	Lb.	.029	.045	.059	.058	.058	.056	.073	.072
Corn meal.....	Lb.	.033	.039	.074	.073	.026	.030	.067	.069
Rice.....	Lb.	.....	.084	.111	.108	.....	.091	.121	.123
Potatoes.....	Lb.	.015	.024	.022	.020	.018	.032	.033	.033
Onions.....	Lb.	.....	.047	.045	.042	.....	.054	.052	.048
Beans, navy.....	Lb.	.....	.139	.187	.183	.....	.138	.201	.199
Prunes.....	Lb.	.....	.133	.144	.....	.....	.150	.177	.175
Raisins.....	Lb.	.....	.134	.151	.145	.....	.123	.150	.149
Sugar.....	Lb.	.061	.084	.088	.088	.050	.081	.096	.097
Coffee.....	Lb.	.....	.326	.311	.310	.....	.293	.286	.285
Tea.....	Lb.	.....	.500	.554	.548	.....	.515	.630	.612
Washington, D. C.									

¹ Loaf; 16 ounces, weight of dough.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD FOR 29 CITIES
ON DEC. 15, 1917—Concluded.

Article.	Unit.	Average retail prices, Dec.15, 1917.			
		Oma- ha, Nebr.	Port- land, Oreg.	Provi- dence, R. I.	Rich- mond, Va.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.....	\$0.300	\$0.253	\$0.519	\$0.326
Round steak.....	Lb.....	.282	.240	.414	.304
Rib roast.....	Lb.....	.221	.230	.332	.256
Chuck roast.....	Lb.....	.200	.181	.295	.228
Plate beef.....	Lb.....	.150	.145	.....	.190
Pork chops.....	Lb.....	.305	.311	.358	.359
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.....	.485	.523	.470	.484
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.....	.444	.468	.511	.367
Lard.....	Lb.....	.343	.345	.345	.340
Lamb.....	Lb.....	.292	.272	.346	.306
Hens.....	Lb.....	.249	.268	.352	.296
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.....	.281	.346	.290	.238
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz.....	.563	.614	.723	.550
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.....	.435	.491	.445	.468
Butter.....	Lb.....	.516	.555	.538	.575
Cheese.....	Lb.....	.349	.310	.336	.355
Milk.....	Qt.....	.123	.127	.130	.140
Bread.....	16-oz. ²	.087	.078	.083	.087
Flour.....	Lb.....	.060	.057	.070	.071
Corn meal.....	Lb.....	.066	.072	.076	.061
Rice.....	Lb.....	.108	.113	.116	.116
Potatoes.....	Lb.....	.029	.022	.033	.037
Onions.....	Lb.....	.046	.043	.050	.060
Beans, navy.....	Lb.....	.177	.158	.185	.207
Prunes.....	Lb.....	.168	.132	.173	.151
Raisins.....	Lb.....	.156	.137	.145	.149
Sugar.....	Lb.....	.092	.089	.101	.100
Coffee.....	Lb.....	.312	.310	.339	.282
Tea.....	Lb.....	.596	.565	.573	.691

Article.	Unit.	Average retail prices, Dec. 15, 1917.				
		Roches- ter, N. Y.	St. Paul, Minn.	Salt Lake City, Utah.	Scrant- on, Pa.	Spring- field, Ill.
Sirloin steak.....	Lb.....	\$0.302	\$0.273	\$0.272	\$0.334	\$0.308
Round steak.....	Lb.....	.283	.239	.254	.299	.303
Rib roast.....	Lb.....	.249	.227	.235	.270	.237
Chuck roast.....	Lb.....	.235	.188	.197	.224	.219
Plate beef.....	Lb.....	.177	.138	.155	.166	.181
Pork chops.....	Lb.....	.346	.304	.358	.350	.330
Bacon, sliced.....	Lb.....	.447	.481	.507	.473	.494
Ham, sliced.....	Lb.....	.426	.438	.436	.440	.444
Lard.....	Lb.....	.343	.321	.358	.335	.340
Lamb.....	Lb.....	.291	.245	.290	.326	.320
Hens.....	Lb.....	.332	.233	.306	.345	.230
Salmon, canned.....	Lb.....	.293	.294	.295	.293	.280
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	Doz.....	.738	.499	.618	.700	.558
Eggs, storage.....	Doz.....	.427	.405	.490	.440	.442
Butter.....	Lb.....	.527	.504	.542	.516	.570
Cheese.....	Lb.....	.341	.332	.339	.329	.381
Milk.....	Qt.....	.125	.100	.104	.130	.125
Bread.....	16-oz. ²	.074	.084	.099	.085	.093
Flour.....	Lb.....	.067	.060	.054	.072	.066
Corn meal.....	Lb.....	.081	.066	.074	.....	.071
Rice.....	Lb.....	.123	.116	.105	.119	.125
Potatoes.....	Lb.....	.027	.025	.020	.030	.028
Onions.....	Lb.....	.049	.040	.045	.060	.048
Beans, navy.....	Lb.....	.202	.197	.190	.189	.203
Prunes.....	Lb.....	.176	.167	.152	.164	.172
Raisins.....	Lb.....	.148	.145	.143	.147	.173
Sugar.....	Lb.....	.101	.092	.093	.101	.090
Coffee.....	Lb.....	.295	.319	.350	.315	.295
Tea.....	Lb.....	.505	.531	.634	.581	.686

¹ Whole.² Loaf; 16 ounces weight of dough.

RELATIVE PRICES. 1907 TO DECEMBER, 1917.

To afford an opportunity to compare average yearly retail prices of food back over a period of years, index numbers, computed from data collected by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, are given in the table following. In this table the average price for 1913 is taken as the basis, or 100. These index numbers are simply percentages in which comparison is made with the average price in 1913. Interpreted in dollars, the food that cost \$1 in 1913 cost \$1.46 in 1917, while the same food cost but \$0.82 in 1907, \$0.84 in 1908, etc.

The increase in the retail price of food in 1917 over 1916 was 29 per cent. Comparing 1917 with 1907, there is an advance in the index number from 82 to 146, an increase of 64 points, which number, 64, is 78 per cent of 82, making the increase 78 per cent.

Prices for chuck roast, plate boiling beef, and bread were secured first in 1914; and those for cheese, rice, beans, coffee, tea, salmon, onions, prunes, and raisins in 1915. Relative numbers for these articles, therefore, can not be computed on the 1913 base.

Beginning with 1914, chuck roast, plate boiling beef, and bread, and beginning with 1915, cheese, rice, coffee, and tea, have been included in the index numbers for all articles combined, weighted according to amount of consumption. As the bureau has no figures of the family consumption of beans, salmon, onions, prunes, and raisins, these articles have never been included in the weighted index tables.

The effect of the war on food prices can be followed in this table from year to year and from month to month.

RELATIVE RETAIL PRICES, PER CENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES, 1907, TO DECEMBER, 1917, BY ARTICLES.

[Average price for 1913=100.]

Year and month.	Relative prices.													All articles combined.		
	Round steak.	Rib roast.	Pork chops.	Bacon.	Ham.	Lard.	Hens.	Eggs.	Butter.	Milk.	Flour.	Corn meal.	Potatoes.	Sugar.	Relative price.	Per cent of increase or decrease in each year or month as compared with—
	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	1913.	
1907.....	71	70	74	74	76	81	81	84	85	87	95	88	105	105	82	18
1908.....	73	78	76	77	78	80	83	86	86	90	102	92	108	108	84	16
1909.....	77	81	83	83	82	90	89	93	90	91	109	94	107	107	89	11
1910.....	80	85	92	95	91	104	94	98	94	95	108	95	101	109	93	7
1911.....	81	85	85	91	89	84	91	93	88	96	102	94	111	111	98	5
1912.....	81	89	91	91	91	89	93	99	98	97	115	102	132	115	98	2
1913.....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0
1914.....	102	103	106	102	102	99	102	102	94	100	104	105	108	108	102	2
1915.....	101	103	101	106	100	97	93	99	93	99	126	108	89	120	101	1
1916.....	108	110	107	106	109	111	111	109	103	102	135	113	155	146	114	3
1917.....	124	130	152	152	142	175	134	139	127	125	211	192	253	169	146	23
1913: Av. for year.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	0
January.....	94	92	95	89	94	83	97	95	108	107	100	99	91	106	98	1
February.....	94	93	96	95	94	88	91	108	100	100	100	98	90	100	97	0
March.....	97	98	103	97	97	99	100	77	108	100	100	98	88	99	97	3
April.....	101	99	101	99	100	100	104	73	106	100	100	98	87	98	97	1
May.....	101	100	101	100	99	100	104	76	94	99	101	98	91	97	98	2
June.....	102	102	99	101	102	100	103	81	91	92	101	98	104	100	100	0
July.....	104	104	102	103	104	101	102	87	91	99	101	98	110	102	101	1
August.....	104	104	102	105	105	102	101	96	92	99	100	100	109	102	101	1
September.....	103	104	101	108	104	102	101	109	98	100	100	102	106	101	104	2
October.....	101	107	103	103	102	111	100	121	100	101	99	103	106	101	104	2
November.....	100	102	101	100	101	100	97	144	101	102	99	104	107	99	105	5
December.....	99	100	97	99	99	100	98	138	104	102	99	104	106	98	104	1
1914: Av. for year.	102	105	102	102	102	99	102	102	102	100	104	105	108	108	102	2
January.....	96	102	100	98	98	100	100	126	104	102	98	104	108	95	104	0
February.....	99	100	98	98	93	99	104	100	103	102	99	103	108	94	101	3
March.....	100	101	100	99	99	99	105	90	92	101	99	103	107	93	99	2
April.....	100	102	103	99	99	99	108	74	86	100	99	103	105	91	97	2

1915: Av. for year.	101	103	97	99	106	77	85	100	99	103	112	91	98	2	+1
January.....	100	101	98	101	103	82	88	100	99	103	122	93	99	-1	+1
February.....	100	100	97	97	103	96	89	100	98	103	132	93	99	-2	+3
March.....	99	99	95	94	105	96	94	100	100	105	153	95	102	+7	+5
April.....	99	100	94	98	108	107	94	100	102	109	165	107	107	+7	+0
May.....	101	103	98	97	113	107	98	100	101	109	165	107	105	+5	-2
June.....	103	105	98	92	106	103	105	100	111	109	89	105	105	+5	+0
July.....	105	107	100	100	104	102	103	101	112	109	83	113	105	+5	+0
August.....	104	106	100	100	103	101	103	101	113	107	84	110	105	+5	+0
September.....	104	106	100	97	104	103	103	101	113	107	84	110	105	+5	+0
October.....	103	104	102	100	102	117	95	100	113	107	97	119	104	+4	+1
November.....	101	102	101	100	100	133	95	100	113	107	106	124	105	+4	+1
December.....	99	101	100	100	92	135	101	100	114	107	106	124	105	+5	+1
1916: Av. for year.	108	110	109	111	111	109	103	102	135	113	155	146	114	+14	+2
January.....	101	102	101	109	111	123	100	100	120	107	136	123	107	+7	+2
February.....	101	102	102	110	112	104	99	100	125	108	141	125	106	+6	+1
March.....	101	104	103	113	115	107	105	100	120	107	140	137	107	+6	+2
April.....	106	108	107	116	119	111	79	108	99	108	138	145	109	+9	+0
May.....	109	112	109	105	118	127	82	97	99	119	108	140	109	+9	+0
June.....	113	117	113	119	130	114	87	95	99	117	108	167	108	+12	+3
July.....	113	116	111	107	120	113	93	93	100	116	108	134	111	+11	+1
August.....	112	111	116	108	121	113	105	95	101	134	110	141	113	+13	+2
September.....	111	115	110	123	141	113	120	102	102	148	113	151	141	+18	+3
October.....	108	118	110	123	147	114	142	109	105	155	117	165	141	+21	+4
November.....	106	111	111	123	162	112	149	114	109	174	126	157	129	+26	+4
December.....	106	106	110	123	164	112	154	118	112	167	131	158	151	+20	+0
1917: Av. for year.	124	130	142	142	175	134	139	125	211	192	253	169	146	+46	+4
January.....	109	111	110	114	136	134	118	112	171	192	225	168	128	+28	+4
February.....	113	117	114	125	147	138	122	112	171	192	240	148	133	+33	+4
March.....	116	119	118	123	151	141	127	112	174	197	247	160	133	+33	+0
April.....	125	139	146	136	167	136	121	114	206	178	339	175	145	+45	+9
May.....	127	133	146	155	176	136	116	122	216	182	352	182	151	+51	+1
June.....	129	135	148	158	185	146	119	123	230	195	365	170	152	+52	+4
July.....	129	137	150	147	174	131	122	120	220	219	246	166	146	+46	+4
August.....	130	138	151	160	183	142	125	125	223	219	266	181	149	+49	+2
September.....	131	133	151	164	188	142	125	125	223	222	272	179	153	+53	+3
October.....	130	138	148	159	197	146	125	125	214	242	178	177	157	+57	+3
November.....	121	133	143	159	207	138	125	125	208	245	183	174	155	+55	+1
December.....	126	134	151	161	211	143	142	147	205	245	178	172	157	+57	+1

WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES.

PRICE CHANGES FOR IMPORTANT COMMODITIES SINCE JULY, 1914.

Figures compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show the wholesale prices of food and other commodities for a date just prior to the outbreak of the European war, and subsequent dates indicating the movement of prices as affected by the war. During the latter half of 1917 many of these commodities had more than doubled and others were three times as much as in July, 1914. Among the articles showing the largest increases were hogs; bacon; lard; sheep; mutton; butter; eggs; wheat flour; corn; corn meal; cotton, woolen, and leather goods; coke; coal (bituminous); pig iron; steel billets; tinplate; lead; crude petroleum; and gasoline. Many of these commodities, however, declined in price during the closing months of the year, due largely to Government regulation.

A comparison of wholesale prices of important commodities in representative markets since July, 1914, is contained in the two tables which follow. The average money prices for the specified month are shown in the first table. The relative prices in the second table are based on the actual prices, the prices for July, 1914, being taken as 100.

WHOLESALE PRICES, JULY, 1915 AND 1916, AND JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1917, COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914.

Actual Money Prices.

Article.	Unit.	July.			1917							
		1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
FOODSTUFFS.												
<i>(a) Animal.</i>												
Cattle, good to choice steers.	100 lbs.	\$ 9.219	\$ 9.213	\$ 9.985	\$ 10.530	\$ 12.310	\$ 12.560	\$ 13.175	\$ 14.088	\$ 14.675	\$ 14.388	\$ 13.235
Beef, fresh, good native steers.	Lb.....	.135	.132	.141	.138	.160	.164	.171	.190	.190	.190	.185
Beef, salt, extra mess...	Bbl....	17.250	17.500	18.250	23.250	26.250	30.500	29.500	29.500	30.700	31.500	31.500
Hogs, heavy.....	100 lbs.	8.769	7.281	9.825	10.955	15.795	15.460	17.331	18.325	17.590	17.456	16.850
Bacon, short clear sides.	Lb.....	.141	.111	.157	.165	.218	.248	.263	.280	.321	.319	.314
Hams, smoked, loose...	Lb.....	.177	.161	.190	.195	.240	.240	.241	.268	.286	.290	.302
Lard, prime, contract...	Lb.....	.102	.081	.131	.161	.213	.201	.227	.242	.247	.279	.254
Pork, salt, mess.....	Bbl....	23.625	18.500	27.167	32.250	39.000	42.250	44.438	46.938	48.300	49.000	52.750
Sheep, ewes.....	100 lbs.	4.538	5.469	6.545	9.260	11.715	8.600	8.906	10.063	10.525	10.188	10.325
Mutton, dressed.....	Lb.....	.095	.109	.131	.137	.165	.145	.157	.180	.191	.178	.188
Butter, creamery, extra.	Lb.....	.270	.261	.276	.380	.428	.376	.400	.425	.431	.442	.481
Eggs, fresh, firsts.....	Doz....	.187	.169	.223	.411	.319	.318	.339	.374	.372	.432	.484
Milk.....	Qt.....	.030	.030	.031	.051	.049	.050	.060	.060	.072	.077	.072
<i>(b) Vegetable.</i>												
Wheat, No. 1 northern..	Bu.....	0.897	1.390	1.170	1.917	2.381	2.582	2.788	2.221	2.170	2.170	2.170
Wheat flour, standard patent.	Bbl....	4.594	7.031	6.100	9.215	11.619	12.750	13.069	11.263	10.500	10.225	10.131
Corn, No. 2, mixed.....	Bu.....	.710	.783	.808	.982	1.397	2.041	1.921	2.071	1.968	2.056	1.709
Corn meal, fine yellow.	100 lbs.	1.425	1.725	1.900	2.650	3.100	4.000	5.175	4.950	4.900	4.900	4.750
Oats, standard, in store.	Bu.....	.369	.529	.405	.557	.652	.764	.596	.588	.591	.661	.756
Rye, No. 2.....	Bu.....	.618	1.036	.966	1.448	1.854	2.226	1.818	1.854	1.811	1.785	1.822
Rye flour, pure, medium straight.	Bbl....	2.975	5.388	5.150	7.380	9.400	11.620	9.738	9.294	9.625	9.625	9.663
Barley, fair to good malting.	Bu.....	.533	.743	.746	1.180	1.335	1.391	1.303	1.323	1.306	1.281	1.473
Rice, Honduras, head..	Lb.....	.054	.049	.046	.048	.049	.071	.072	.070	.077	.078	.079
Potatoes, white.....	Bu.....	1.206	.444	.863	1.795	2.669	2.375	1.458	1.094	1.188	1.136	1.088
Sugar, granulated.....	Lb.....	.042	.058	.075	.066	.082	.075	.082	.082	.082	.082	.080

WHOLESALE PRICES, JULY, 1915 AND 1916, AND JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1917, COMPARED WITH JULY, 1914—Continued.

Actual Money Prices—Concluded.

Article.	Unit.	July.			1917							
		1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
TEXTILES AND LEATHER GOODS.												
Cotton, upland, mid- dling.	Lb.....	\$.131	\$.092	\$.130	\$.176	\$.203	\$.261	\$.259	\$.227	\$.281	\$.299	\$.306
Cotton yarn, carded, 10/1.	Lb.....	.215	.160	.253	.340	.360	.450	.440	.420	.420	.470	.495
Sheeting, brown, Pep- perell.	Yd.....	.070	.060	.078	.110	.120	.140	.140	.140	.145	.155	.165
Bleached muslin, Lonsdale.	Yd.....	.085	.075	.088	.110	.113	.160	.160	.170	.170	.170	.180
Wool, fine fleeces, scoured.	Lb.....	.575	.652	.761	1.000	1.152	1.478	1.630	1.690	1.652	1.652	1.696
Worsted yarn, 2-32's...	Lb.....	.650	.850	1.100	1.250	1.300	1.600	1.650	1.700	1.800	1.900	2.000
Clay worsted suitings, 16-oz.	Yd.....	1.328	1.508	2.000	2.125	2.675	3.250	3.650	3.650	3.650	3.800	4.022
Storm serge, all-wool, 50-in.	Yd.....	.505	.539	.760	.907	.907	1.176	1.250	1.250	1.250	1.250	1.250
Hides, packers', heavy native steers.	Lb.....	.194	.258	.270	.335	.305	.330	.320	.330	.338	.353	.350
Leather, chrome calf....	Sq. ft....	.275	.280	.460	.705	.595	.540	.540	.505	.540	.560	.560
Leather, sole, oak.....	Lb.....	.475	.495	.635	.835	.835	.815	.830	.80	.830	.840	.840
Shoes, men's, Good- year welt, vici calf, blucher.	Pair....	3.150	3.250	3.750	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750	4.750
Shoes, women's Good- year welt, gun metal, button.	Pair....	2.260	2.350	2.750	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500
MINERAL AND METAL PRODUCTS.												
Coal, anthracite, chest- nut.	2,240 lbs	5.241	5.200	5.507	5.739	5.236	5.933	6.011	6.218	6.232	6.242	6.585
Coal, bituminous, run of mine.	2,000 lbs	2.200	2.200	2.200	4.500	5.000	5.000	4.430	3.300	3.300	3.750	3.750
Coke, furnace, prompt shipment.	2,000 lbs	2.000	1.750	2.750	9.500	7.500	15.000	10.000	11.750	6.000	6.000	6.000
Copper, electrolytic.....	Lb.....	.134	.199	.265	.295	.340	.318	.297	.253	.235	.235	2.350
Copper wire, bare, No. 8.	Lb.....	.148	.210	.325	.368	.368	.338	.318	.298	.298	.288	.278
Pig iron, Bessemer.....	Ton ¹	14.900	14.950	21.950	35.950	42.200	57.450	54.750	48.025	37.250	37.250	37.250
Steel billets.....	Ton ¹	19.000	21.380	41.000	63.000	73.750	100.000	86.000	66.250	49.375	47.500	47.500
Tin plate, domestic coke.	100 lbs.	3.350	3.175	5.875	7.000	8.000	12.000	12.000	12.000	.....	7.750	7.750
Pig tin.....	Lb.....	.311	.391	.389	.430	.543	.620	.639	.610	.605	.660	.870
Pig lead.....	Lb.....	.039	.058	.069	.075	.094	.114	.109	.104	.080	.051	.065
Spelter.....	Lb.....	.051	.220	.113	.098	.108	.093	.088	.083	.084	.080	.080
Petroleum, crude.....	Bbl.....	1.750	1.350	2.600	2.850	3.050	3.100	3.100	3.500	3.500	3.500	3.500
Petroleum, refined, water-white.	Gal....	.120	.120	.120	.120	.120	.120	.120	.130	.130	.130	.140
Gasoline, motor.....	Gal....	.140	.120	.240	.220	.240	.240	.240	.240	.240	.240	2.400

¹2,240 pounds.

INDEX NUMBERS, BY GROUPS OF COMMODITIES, 1913 TO 1917.

The great increase that has taken place in the wholesale prices of important commodities in the United States since 1913, the year preceding the outbreak of war in Europe, is shown by information collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor. This increase has been particularly great among farm products, foods, clothing, metal products, and drugs and chemicals. During 1914 the prices of most commodities increased between January and September, but declined rapidly in the closing months of the year, due to the prevailing business stagnation brought about by the war. Among articles classed as fuel and lighting, metals and metal products, and lumber and building materials prices declined throughout the year.

In 1915 a reaction occurred and prices again advanced, reaching high levels late in the year. Since January, 1916, the rise in wholesale prices has been unprecedented. The bureau's weighted index number, based on 292 separate articles or price series, stood at 181 in December, 1917, as compared with 110 in January, 1916, and 100 as the average for the 12 months of 1913. In the same period, January, 1916, to December, 1917, the index number of farm products increased from 108 to 204, that of food articles from 114 to 185, and that of cloths and clothing from 110 to 206. These facts are clearly brought out in the table which follows:

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES, BY GROUPS OF COMMODITIES AND BY YEARS AND MONTHS, 1913 TO 1917.

[1913=100.]

Year and month.	Farm products.	Food, etc.	Cloths and clothing.	Fuel and lighting.	Metals and metal products.	Lumber and building materials.	Drugs and chemicals.	House furnishing goods.	Miscellaneous.	All commodities.
1913: Av. for year..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
January.....	97	99	100	99	107	100	101	100	100	99
February.....	97	98	101	102	105	101	100	100	100	100
March.....	98	97	101	102	102	101	100	100	99	99
April.....	87	96	100	99	102	101	100	100	99	98
May.....	93	95	100	99	102	101	100	100	99	98
June.....	100	99	99	100	100	101	99	100	100	100
July.....	101	101	100	100	98	101	99	100	102	101
August.....	101	104	100	100	99	99	99	100	101	101
September.....	104	105	100	100	99	99	100	100	101	102
October.....	103	102	100	100	99	98	100	100	100	101
November.....	101	105	100	99	96	98	101	100	100	101
December.....	100	101	99	96	92	98	101	100	99	99
1914: Av. for year..	103	103	98	92	87	97	103	103	97	99
January.....	101	102	99	99	92	98	101	103	98	100
February.....	102	100	99	99	92	99	101	103	98	99
March.....	102	97	100	99	92	99	101	103	99	99
April.....	103	95	100	98	91	99	101	103	99	98
May.....	104	96	100	93	87	98	101	103	99	98
June.....	104	100	100	90	86	98	101	103	98	98
July.....	104	103	100	90	85	97	101	103	97	99
August.....	109	112	100	89	85	97	100	103	97	102
September.....	108	116	99	87	86	96	106	103	98	103
October.....	103	107	98	87	83	96	109	103	95	99
November.....	101	106	97	87	81	95	108	103	95	98
December.....	99	105	97	87	83	94	107	103	96	97
1915: Av. for year..	105	104	100	87	97	94	113	101	98	100
January.....	102	106	96	86	83	94	106	101	98	98
February.....	105	108	97	86	87	95	104	101	97	100
March.....	105	104	97	86	89	94	103	101	97	99
April.....	107	105	98	84	91	94	102	101	97	99
May.....	109	105	98	83	96	94	102	101	96	100
June.....	105	102	98	83	100	93	104	101	96	99
July.....	108	104	99	84	102	94	107	101	96	101
August.....	108	103	99	85	100	93	109	101	96	100
September.....	103	100	100	88	100	93	114	101	96	98
October.....	105	104	103	90	100	93	121	101	99	101
November.....	102	108	105	93	104	95	141	101	100	102
December.....	103	111	107	96	114	97	146	101	103	105
1916: Av. for year..	122	126	127	115	148	101	143	110	120	123
January.....	108	114	110	102	126	99	140	105	107	110
February.....	109	114	114	102	132	100	144	105	106	111
March.....	111	115	117	104	141	101	147	105	109	114
April.....	114	117	119	105	147	102	150	109	111	116
May.....	116	119	122	104	151	102	153	109	114	118
June.....	116	119	123	105	149	101	150	109	121	118
July.....	118	121	126	105	145	98	143	111	122	119
August.....	126	128	128	107	145	100	132	111	123	123
September.....	131	134	131	110	148	106	132	111	126	127
October.....	136	140	137	128	151	101	135	114	132	133
November.....	145	150	146	150	160	103	142	115	135	143
December.....	141	146	155	163	185	105	143	115	136	146
1917: Av. for year..	188	177	181	169	208	124	185	155	153	175
January.....	147	150	161	170	183	106	144	128	137	150
February.....	150	160	162	178	190	108	146	129	133	155
March.....	162	161	163	181	199	111	151	129	140	160
April.....	180	182	169	178	208	114	155	151	144	171
May.....	196	191	173	187	217	117	164	151	147	181
June.....	196	187	179	193	239	127	165	162	152	184
July.....	198	180	187	183	257	132	185	165	150	185
August.....	204	180	193	159	249	133	198	165	155	184
September.....	203	178	193	155	228	134	203	165	154	182
October.....	207	183	194	143	182	134	242	165	162	180
November.....	211	184	202	151	173	135	232	175	164	182
December.....	204	185	206	153	173	135	230	175	164	181

COMPARISON OF PRICE CHANGES, WHOLESALE AND RETAIL, IN THE UNITED STATES.

Figures compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics furnish a comparison of wholesale and retail price changes among a number of important food articles since 1913. In collecting data for the comparison it was found that in some instances slight differences of grade or quality existed between the articles for which wholesale prices were obtainable and those for which retail prices could be secured. It was found impracticable, also, in most instances to obtain both kinds of quotations for the same date. The retail prices shown are uniformly those prevailing on the 15th of the month, while the wholesale prices are for a variable date, usually several days in advance of the 15th. For these reasons exact comparison of retail with wholesale prices can not be made. The figures are believed to be of interest, however, in showing price variations in the retail as compared with the wholesale markets.

In the following table the wholesale price is in each case the mean of the high and the low quotations on the date selected as published in leading trade journals, while the retail price is the average of all prices reported directly to the bureau by retailers for the article and city in question. The initials W. and R. are used to designate wholesale and retail prices, respectively.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES OF IMPORTANT FOOD ARTICLES IN SELECTED CITIES.

[The initials W=wholesale; R=retail.]

Article and city.	Unit.	1913: Average for year.	July.			1917.					
			1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Beef:											
Steer loin ends (hips), Chic. W.	Lb.	\$0.168	\$0.175	\$0.160	\$0.205	\$0.200	\$0.200	\$0.190	\$0.235	\$0.235	\$0.325
Sirloin steak, Chicago. R.	Lb.	.232	.260	.258	.281	.265	.293	.302	.306	.297	.392
Beef:											
Steer rounds, No. 2, Chic. W.	Lb.	.131	.145	.143	.145	.120	.155	.170	.190	.180	.170
Round steak, Chicago. R.	Lb.	.202	.233	.228	.241	.227	.258	.266	.273	.265	.260
Beef:											
Steer ribs, No. 2, Chicago. W.	Lb.	.157	.165	.145	.175	.160	.210	.200	.230	.190	.200
Rib roast, Chicago. R.	Lb.	.195	.212	.213	.229	.223	.241	.246	.247	.245	.242
Beef:											
No. 2 loins, New York. W.	Lb.	.158	.183	.170	.200	.180	.190	.190	.275	.220	.220
Sirloin steak, New York. R.	Lb.	.259	.274	.282	.294	.284	.318	.337	.356	.326	.335
Beef:											
No. 2 rounds, New York. W.	Lb.	.121	.135	.135	.145	.130	.170	.175	.190	.183	.180
Round steak, New York. R.	Lb.	.249	.270	.271	.289	.275	.315	.337	.360	.335	.342
Beef:											
No. 2 ribs, New York. W.	Lb.	.151	.165	.160	.180	.160	.200	.190	.275	.225	.225
Rib roast, New York. R.	Lb.	.218	.225	.227	.243	.238	.270	.279	.298	.279	.285
Pork:											
Loins, Chicago. W.	Lb.	.149	.165	.150	.165	.165	.240	.250	.339	.250	.245
Chops, Chicago. R.	Lb.	.190	.204	.201	.217	.227	.285	.292	.358	.312	.298
Pork:											
Loins, Western, New York. W.	Lb.	.152	.163	.153	.165	.170	.235	.235	.300	.260	.270
Chops, New York. R.	Lb.	.217	.230	.217	.239	.248	.319	.326	.399	.339	.345
Bacon:											
Short clear sides, Chicago. W.	Lb.	.127	.139	.113	.159	.158	.218	.247	.318	.316	.321
Sliced, Chicago. R.	Lb.	.204	.318	.315	.328	.316	.395	.439	.475	.497	.492

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES OF IMPORTANT FOOD ARTICLES IN SELECTED CITIES—Concluded.

Article and city.	Unit.	1913: Average for year.	July.			1917						
			1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Ham:												
Smoked, Chicago..... W.	Lb..	\$0.166	\$0.175	\$0.163	\$0.190	\$0.188	\$0.243	\$0.243	\$0.283	\$0.283	\$0.303	\$0.303
Smoked, sliced, Chicago..... R.	Lb..	.266	.338	.328	.349	.333	.382	.414	.439	.445	.429	.429
Lard:												
Prime contract, New York... W.	Lb..	.110	.104	.080	.133	.159	.215	.201	.216	.280	.261	.261
Pure, tub, New York..... R.	Lb..	.160	.156	.151	.168	.213	.263	.274	.313	.331	.33	.33
Lamb:												
Dressed, round, Chicago..... W.	Lb..	.149	.170	.190	.190	.200	.220	.260	.270	.230	.240	.240
Leg of, yearling, Chicago..... R.	Lb..	.198	.219	.208	.231	.232	.263	.287	.314	.282	.286	.286
Poultry:												
Dressed fowls, New York... W.	Lb..	.182	.188	.175	.215	.220	.265	.248	.285	.235	.250	.250
Dressed hens, New York..... R.	Lb..	.214	.220	.219	.256	.261	.293	.287	.323	.295	.307	.307
Butter:												
Creamery, extra, Chicago.... W.	Lb..	.310	.265	.265	.275	.370	.410	.375	.435	.438	.475	.475
Creamery, extra, Chicago.... R.	Lb..	.362	.312	.322	.335	.438	.484	.432	.487	.492	.530	.530
Butter:												
Creamery, extra, New York... W.	Lb..	.323	.280	.270	.285	.395	.459	.395	.443	.445	.493	.493
Creamery, extra, New York.... R.	Lb..	.382	.328	.336	.346	.460	.513	.453	.515	.516	.518	.518
Butter:												
Creamery, extra, San Fran. W.	Lb..	.317	.245	.265	.255	.355	.390	.385	.460	.435	.450	.450
Creamery, extra, San Fran. R.	Lb..	.388	.329	.338	.333	.425	.452	.455	.545	.501	.538	.538
Cheese:												
Whole milk, Chicago..... W.	Lb..	.142	.133	.145	.145	.218	.223	.216	.246	.228	.221	.221
Full cream, Chicago..... R.	Lb..	.229	.229	.242	.321	.321	.323	.339	.368	.374	.366	.366
Cheese:												
Whole milk, State, N. Y. W.	Lb..	.154	.144	.146	.151	.220	.245	.238	.255	.225	.228	.228
Full cream, American, N. Y. R.	Lb..	.229	.229	.228	.301	.335	.328	.340	.338	.338	.346	.346
Cheese:												
Fancy, San Francisco..... W.	Lb..	.159	.125	.115	.135	.180	.215	.200	.220	.230	.230	.230
Full cream, San Francisco... R.	Lb..	.200	.200	.229	.242	.297	.297	.316	.326	.324	.329	.329
Milk:												
Fresh, Chicago..... W.	Qt..	.038	.036	.037	.037	.045	.054	.047	.074	.070	.070	.070
Fresh, bottled, Chicago..... R.	Qt..	.080	.080	.080	.081	.100	.100	.100	.129	.119	.119	.119
Milk:												
Fresh, New York..... W.	Qt..	.035	.030	.030	.031	.051	.049	.050	.072	.077	.072	.072
Fresh, bottled, New York... R.	Qt..	.030	.030	.030	.030	.100	.109	.114	.138	.140	.140	.140
Milk:												
Fresh, San Francisco..... W.	Qt..	.039	.039	.038	.038	.038	.038	.043	.059	.059	.059	.059
Fresh, bottled, San Fran.... R.	Qt..	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.100	.121	.121	.121	.121
Eggs:												
Fresh, firsts, Chicago..... W.	Doz.	.226	.188	.168	.218	.485	.305	.310	.370	.415	.485	.485
Strictly fresh, Chicago..... R.	Doz.	.292	.261	.248	.296	.525	.376	.406	.469	.495	.588	.588
Eggs:												
Fresh, firsts, New York.... W.	Doz.	.249	.215	.200	.241	.505	.330	.350	.400	.470	.555	.555
Strictly fresh, New York.... R.	Doz.	.397	.333	.326	.372	.667	.424	.477	.627	.647	.731	.731
Eggs:												
Fresh, San Francisco..... W.	Doz.	.268	.230	.220	.240	.380	.280	.320	.435	.520	.450	.450
Strictly fresh, San Francisco R.	Doz.	.373	.338	.310	.333	.480	.374	.392	.608	.638	.596	.596
Flour:												
Winter patent, Kansas City. W.	Bbl.	4.012	3.550	6.225	4.750	8.950	11.450	11.150	10.500	10.500	10.000	10.000
Aristos, Kansas City..... R.	Bbl.	5.923	5.733	7.800	6.700	10.600	13.689	13.680	13.066	12.760	12.150	12.150
Flour:												
Standard patent, Minn..... W.	Bbl.	4.584	4.500	7.025	6.050	9.450	11.025	12.000	10.550	10.200	10.150	10.150
Pillsbury's Best, Minn.... R.	Bbl.	5.600	5.800	8.200	7.000	10.800	13.200	13.424	11.984	11.456	11.300	11.300
Flour:												
Fancy patent, St. Louis.... W.	Bbl.	4.181	3.700	5.800	4.925	8.675	11.375	11.375	11.250	11.100	10.525	10.525
Gold Medal, St. Louis..... R.	Bbl.	6.077	6.000	8.187	6.933	10.587	12.853	13.200	13.100	12.267	12.300	12.300
Meal, corn:												
Fine, yellow, New York.... W.	Lb..	.014	.014	.017	.019	.027	.031	.010	.049	.049	.048	.048
Fine, yellow, New York.... R.	Lb..	.034	.034	.035	.042	.051	.057	.070	.082	.083	.085	.085
Beans:												
Medium, choice, N. Y. W.	Lb..	.040	.040	.058	.098	.108	.130	.154	.138	.149	.141	.141
Navy, white, New York.... R.	Lb..	.081	.081	.113	.149	.162	.188	.185	.187	.187	.186	.186
Potatoes:												
White, good to choice, Chic. W.	Bu..	.614	1.450	.400	.975	1.750	2.800	2.625	1.135	1.950	1.080	1.080
White, Chicago..... R.	Bu..	.900	1.640	.700	1.856	2.370	3.455	2.975	1.660	1.623	1.562	1.562
Rice:												
Head, New Orleans..... W.	Lb..	.050	.054	.049	.046	.048	.049	.071	.077	.078	.079	.079
Head, New Orleans..... R.	Lb..	.075	.074	.074	.074	.088	.101	.100	.101	.101	.108	.108
Sugar:												
Granulated, New York.... W.	Lb..	.043	.042	.059	.075	.066	.081	.074	.082	.082	.080	.080
Granulated, New York.... R.	Lb..	.049	.046	.063	.079	.074	.087	.084	.097	.100	.099	.099

Relative wholesale and retail prices, expressed as percentages of the average money prices for 1913, are contained in the table which follows. A few articles included in the preceding table are omitted from this one, owing to lack of satisfactory data for 1913. It will be seen from the table that since the beginning of the present year the retail prices of most of the commodities included in the exhibit have fluctuated at a relatively lower level, as compared with their 1913 base, than have the wholesale prices. This is particularly noticeable in the case of bacon, lard, dressed lamb, butter, milk, eggs, flour, corn meal, and potatoes. Comparing December prices with the average for 1913, it is seen that only 2 articles of the 28 included in the table show a larger per cent of increase in the retail than in the wholesale price. These are dressed poultry and granulated sugar at New York. In most of the other months of 1917 the retail prices of these articles were relatively lower than were the wholesale prices.

RELATIVE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES OF IMPORTANT FOOD ARTICLES IN SELECTED CITIES (AVERAGE FOR 1913=100).

[The initials W=wholesale; R=retail.]

Article and city.	1913: Average for year.	July.			1917					
		1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Beef:										
Steer loin ends (hips), Chicago...W..	100	104	95	122	119	119	113	140	140	140
Sirloin steak, Chicago.....R..	100	112	111	121	114	126	130	132	128	126
Beef:										
Steer rounds, No. 2, Chicago....W..	100	111	109	111	92	118	130	145	137	130
Round steak, Chicago.....R..	100	115	113	119	112	127	132	135	131	129
Beef:										
Steer ribs, No. 2, Chicago.....W..	100	105	92	111	102	134	127	146	121	127
Rib roast, Chicago.....R..	100	109	109	117	114	124	126	127	126	124
Beef:										
No. 2 loins, city, New York....W..	100	116	108	127	114	120	120	174	139	139
Sirloin steak, New York.....R..	100	106	109	114	110	123	130	137	126	129
Beef:										
No. 2 rounds, city, New York...W..	100	112	112	120	107	140	145	157	151	149
Round steak, New York.....R..	100	108	109	116	110	127	135	145	135	137
Beef:										
No. 2 ribs, city, New York....W..	100	109	106	119	106	132	126	182	149	149
Rib roast, New York.....R..	100	103	104	111	109	124	128	137	128	131
Pork:										
Loins, Chicago.....W..	100	111	101	111	111	161	168	221	168	164
Chops, Chicago.....R..	100	107	106	114	119	150	154	188	164	157
Pork:										
Loins, western, New York....W..	100	107	101	109	112	155	155	197	171	178
Chops, New York.....R..	100	106	100	110	114	147	150	184	156	159
Bacon:										
Short, clear sides, Chicago....W..	100	109	89	125	124	172	194	250	249	253
Sliced, Chicago.....R..	100	108	107	112	107	134	149	162	160	167
Hams:										
Smoked, Chicago.....W..	100	105	98	114	113	146	146	170	170	183
Smoked, sliced, Chicago.....R..	100	127	123	131	125	144	156	165	167	161
Lard:										
Prime, contract, New York....W..	100	95	73	121	145	195	183	224	225	237
Pure, tub, New York.....R..	100	98	94	105	133	164	171	196	207	211
Lamb:										
Dressed, round, Chicago.....W..	100	114	128	128	134	148	174	181	154	161
Leg of, yearling, Chicago.....R..	100	111	105	117	117	133	145	159	142	144
Poultry:										
Dressed fowls, New York.....W..	100	103	96	118	121	116	136	157	129	137
Dressed hens, New York.....R..	100	103	102	120	122	137	131	151	138	143
Butter:										
Creamery, extra, Chicago.....W..	100	85	85	89	119	142	121	140	141	153
Creamery, extra, Chicago.....R..	100	86	89	93	121	134	119	135	136	146

RELATIVE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL PRICES OF IMPORTANT FOOD ARTICLES IN
SELECTED CITIES (AVERAGE FOR 1913=100)—Concluded.

Article and city.	1913: Average for year.	July.			1917					
		1914	1915	1916	Jan.	Apr.	July.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Butter:										
Creamery, extra, New York.....W..	100	87	84	88	122	139	122	137	138	153
Creamery, extra, New York.....R..	100	86	88	91	120	134	119	135	135	143
Butter:										
Creamery, extra, San Francisco.W..	100	77	84	80	112	123	121	145	137	142
Creamery, extra, San Francisco.R..	100	85	87	86	110	116	117	140	129	139
Milk:										
Fresh, Chicago.....W..	100	95	97	95	118	142	124	195	184	184
Fresh, bottled, delivered, Chicago.R..	100	100	100	101	125	125	125	161	149	149
Milk:										
Fresh, New York.....W..	100	86	86	89	146	140	143	206	220	206
Fresh, bottled, delivered, N. Y..R..	100	100	100	100	111	121	127	153	156	156
Milk:										
Fresh, San Francisco.....W..	100	100	97	97	97	97	110	151	151	151
Fresh, bottled, San Francisco....R..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	121	121	121
Eggs:										
Fresh, firsts, Chicago.....W..	100	83	74	96	215	135	137	164	184	215
Strictly fresh, Chicago.....R..	100	89	85	101	180	129	139	161	170	201
Eggs:										
Fresh, firsts, New York.....W..	100	86	80	97	203	133	141	161	189	223
Strictly fresh, New York.....R..	100	89	82	94	168	107	120	158	163	184
Eggs:										
Fresh, San Francisco.....W..	100	86	82	90	142	105	119	162	194	168
Strictly fresh, San Francisco....R..	100	91	83	89	129	100	105	163	171	160
Flour:										
Winter patent, Kansas City....W..	100	89	155	118	223	285	278	262	262	249
Aristos, Kansas City.....R..	100	97	132	113	179	231	231	221	215	205
Flour:										
Standard patent, Minneapolis..W..	100	98	153	132	206	241	262	230	223	221
Pillsbury's Best, Minneapolis...R..	100	104	146	125	193	236	240	214	205	202
Flour:										
Fancy patent, St. Louis.....W..	100	88	139	118	207	272	272	269	265	252
Gold Medal, St. Louis.....R..	100	99	135	114	174	212	217	216	202	202
Meal, corn:										
Fine, yellow, New York.....W..	100	100	121	136	193	221	286	350	350	343
Fine, yellow, New York.....R..	100	100	103	124	150	168	206	241	244	250
Potatoes:										
White, good to choice, Chicago..W..	100	236	65	159	285	456	428	185	191	176
White, Chicago.....R..	100	182	78	151	263	384	331	184	180	174
Sugar:										
Granulated, New York.....W..	100	98	137	174	153	188	172	191	191	186
Granulated, New York.....R..	100	94	129	161	151	178	171	198	204	202

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