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CHAS. P. NEILL, Commissioner

RETAIL PRICES

1890 TO 1911

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RETAIL PRICES AND COST OF LIVING SERIES  
No. 1: PART I



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**Retail Prices, 1890 to 1911—Part II:**

TABLE I.—Retail prices of the principal articles of food every second month, 1907 to 1910, and every month during 1911, by cities and by firms.

TABLE II.—Relative retail prices of the principal articles of food, 1890 to 1911, by geographical divisions.

TABLE III.—Retail prices of coal, for household use, on the 15th of January, April, July, and October, 1907 to 1911, by cities and by firms.

TABLE IV.—Relative retail prices of coal, for household use, 1907 to 1911, by cities.

TABLE V.—Net price per thousand cubic feet of gas, for household use, on the 15th of April, 1907 to 1911, by cities and by companies.

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# BULLETIN OF THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR.

NO. 105: PART I.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

AUGUST 23, 1912.

## RETAIL PRICES, 1890 TO 1911.

### PART I.

#### INTRODUCTION.

This report presents for each of 39 of the most important industrial cities in the various sections of the United States the retail prices of the principal articles of food, the retail prices of anthracite and bituminous coal for household use, and the net price of gas for household use. The prices of food are quoted for the 15th of every second month for 1907 to 1910, inclusive, and for the 15th of every month during 1911. The price of coal is quoted on the 15th of January, April, July, and October, 1907 to 1911, inclusive. The price of gas is quoted on the 15th of April, 1907 to 1911, inclusive.

This report also summarizes data published by the Bureau of Labor in the Eighteenth Annual Report and in Bulletins 59, 65, 71, and 77, and thus presents a comparison of retail prices of food during the 22 years, 1890 to 1911, inclusive.

Data for this report were secured from more than 650 retail merchants, from 168 coal dealers, and from 61 gas companies. Those from whom information was requested have spared no pains to assist the Bureau in every way, and in planning for issuing current reports on retail prices the readiness with which retail merchants, bakery officials, and others have responded to the Bureau's request for prompt reports on the 15th of each month or quarter has far surpassed all expectations.

This report will be followed within a very short time by a report covering prices during the first six months of 1912, and then it is the purpose of the Bureau to publish a current price report every two months.

The Bureau at the present time is in receipt of monthly reports of prices of the principal articles of food from approximately 675 retail merchants; of monthly reports of bread weights from 140 bakeries;

of quarterly reports of coal prices from 165 coal dealers; and of gas prices as requested from 60 gas companies in the 39 cities included in the study.

The cities included in this report are important industrial cities representing 32 States. In a general way the cities selected were those having the largest population in each section of the country, but in addition two smaller cities were included, Fall River, which is a textile center in Massachusetts, and Scranton, which is situated in the anthracite coal section of Pennsylvania. Within the 39 cities live one-fifth of the total number of people, two-fifths of the urban population, and approximately one-third of the total number engaged in gainful occupations (not including those in agricultural pursuits) in continental United States.

The grade of articles of food quoted is that sold in each city in stores patronized largely by families of American, English, Irish, German, and Scandinavian wage earners. The Bureau has not attempted to quote prices for an article of identical grade throughout the 39 cities. For almost every article this would be absolutely impossible, as the grade varies not only from city to city but also from firm to firm within the same city, and the grade even varies to some extent from month to month within the same store. Stores which vary in a marked degree from day to day or month to month the grade of articles handled have not been included, but in every store there is necessarily some variation in grade.

This report is published in two parts. Part I contains a summary of the whole report, and Part II contains all general tables showing actual price quotations for the years 1907 to 1911, inclusive, city by city, for the principal articles of food, for coal, and for gas.

#### FOOD.

Retail prices of food were higher in 1910 than in any other year of the 22-year period, 1890 to 1911, inclusive. Prices in 1911 were only about 1 per cent lower than in 1910, but were higher than in any year from 1890 to 1909, inclusive.

Fifteen articles of food enter into the relative prices in this report and these 15 articles represent approximately two-thirds of the expenditure for food by the average workingman's family. All of these 15 articles advanced in price during the period from 1907 to 1911, and the per cent of advance varied from 3.1 per cent for butter to 28.5 per cent for Irish potatoes.

Three of the 15 articles advanced in price more than 20 per cent and 11 of the 15 advanced more than 10 per cent. The table which follows compares for each article the average price in 1911 with the average price in 1907.

PER CENT OF INCREASE IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD: AVERAGE PRICE IN 1911 COMPARED WITH AVERAGE PRICE IN 1907, BY ARTICLES.

Article.	Per cent of increase in price.
Butter, creamery.....	3.1
Wheat flour.....	8.2
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	8.7
Lard, pure.....	8.8
Corn meal.....	10.3
Milk, fresh.....	11.6
Sugar, granulated.....	12.6
Ribroast.....	12.7
Hens.....	15.5
Sirloin steak.....	15.6
Round steak.....	18.8
Ham, smoked.....	19.0
Pork chops.....	20.9
Bacon, smoked.....	25.0
Potatoes, Irish.....	28.5

The next table compares for each of the 15 articles the average price in 1911 with the average price for the 10-year period, 1890 to 1899. Sugar made the least change with an advance of 11.1 per cent, and bacon made the greatest change, with an advance of 97.2 per cent. Seven of the 15 articles advanced in price more than 50 per cent, and 14 of the 15 advanced more than 25 per cent.

PER CENT OF INCREASE IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD: AVERAGE PRICE IN 1911 COMPARED WITH AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE 10-YEAR PERIOD, 1890 TO 1899, BY ARTICLES.

Article.	Per cent of increase in price.
Sugar, granulated.....	11.1
Wheat flour.....	27.9
Butter, creamery.....	31.3
Milk, fresh.....	32.7
Sirloin steak.....	34.9
Ribroast.....	38.6
Lard, pure.....	45.3
Corn meal.....	47.2
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	50.2
Hens.....	51.6
Round steak.....	52.6
Ham, smoked.....	55.9
Potatoes, Irish.....	57.0
Pork chops.....	70.3
Bacon, smoked.....	97.2

The next table compares for each of the 15 articles the price in December, 1911, with the average price for the 10-year period, 1890 to 1899. Sugar, with an advance of 18.2 per cent, showed the least change and fresh eggs, with an advance of 107.3 per cent the greatest change.

PER CENT OF INCREASE IN THE RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD: PRICE IN DECEMBER, 1911, COMPARED WITH AVERAGE PRICE FOR THE 10-YEAR PERIOD, 1890 TO 1899, BY ARTICLES.

Article.	Per cent of increase in price.
Sugar, granulated.....	18.2
Wheat flour.....	29.5
Sirloin steak.....	32.8
Milk, fresh.....	35.0
Ribroast.....	37.4
Lard, pure.....	41.3
Hens.....	42.9
Round steak.....	49.6
Ham, smoked.....	50.9
Corn meal.....	51.9
Pork chops.....	55.4
Potatoes, Irish.....	59.0
Butter, creamery.....	59.5
Bacon, smoked.....	87.8
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	107.3

The next table compares for each of the 15 articles the average price in 1911 with the average price in each of the preceding 21 years, 1890 to 1910, inclusive. By way of explanation, the column of this table which relates to sirloin steak, for example, shows that the average price of sirloin steak in 1911 was 35.9 per cent higher than in 1890, 35.3 per cent higher than in 1891, 35.4 per cent higher than in 1892, etc. The column which relates to strictly fresh eggs shows that the average price of this article in 1911 was 49.8 per cent higher than in 1890, 66.3 per cent higher than in 1896, 5.1 per cent lower than in 1910, etc.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE IN RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL  
OF THE 21 PRECEDING

Price in 1911—	Sirloin steak.	Round steak.	Rib- roast.	Pork chops.	Bacon, smoked.
Higher than in 1890.....	<i>Per cent.</i> 35.9	<i>Per cent.</i> 56.4	<i>Per cent.</i> 40.4	<i>Per cent.</i> 76.5	<i>Per cent.</i> 104.4
Lower than in 1890.....					
Higher than in 1891.....	35.3	55.7	39.2	72.4	102.9
Lower than in 1891.....					
Higher than in 1892.....	35.4	55.7	39.2	68.4	97.4
Lower than in 1892.....					
Higher than in 1893.....	35.7	54.9	40.9	62.2	81.1
Lower than in 1893.....					
Higher than in 1894.....	37.5	56.7	41.6	68.8	92.4
Lower than in 1894.....					
Higher than in 1895.....	36.7	55.4	41.6	70.8	99.8
Lower than in 1895.....					
Higher than in 1896.....	36.5	51.8	39.4	74.1	104.8
Lower than in 1896.....					
Higher than in 1897.....	35.4	49.9	38.5	74.7	103.3
Lower than in 1897.....					
Higher than in 1898.....	32.1	48.4	35.6	70.8	96.8
Lower than in 1898.....					
Higher than in 1899.....	29.2	42.6	30.6	65.0	91.6
Lower than in 1899.....					
Higher than in 1900.....	26.0	39.0	26.8	56.4	78.8
Lower than in 1900.....					
Higher than in 1901.....	23.3	33.9	23.0	43.1	62.6
Lower than in 1901.....					
Higher than in 1902.....	17.7	24.8	16.9	33.3	45.1
Lower than in 1902.....					
Higher than in 1903.....	22.0	30.7	18.5	35.1	40.5
Lower than in 1903.....					
Higher than in 1904.....	21.5	26.3	18.5	38.3	42.2
Lower than in 1904.....					
Higher than in 1905.....	22.0	27.2	19.3	36.2	41.6
Lower than in 1905.....					
Higher than in 1906.....	18.1	22.7	15.0	25.3	31.0
Lower than in 1906.....					
Higher than in 1907.....	15.6	18.8	12.7	20.9	25.0
Lower than in 1907.....					
Higher than in 1908.....	12.5	12.6	9.4	17.8	20.8
Lower than in 1908.....					
Higher than in 1909.....	7.0	8.5	4.8	7.3	11.8
Lower than in 1909.....					
Higher than in 1910.....	.7	1.8	.7		
Lower than in 1910.....				4.5	3.5

The next table compares for the each of principal articles of food, the retail price in 1911 with the price in 1910 within each of the 39 cities and also within each geographical division. The table shows, for example, that in Boston, Mass., sirloin steak was 0.5 per cent higher in 1911 than in 1910, round steak was 6.2 per cent higher in 1911 than in 1910, ribroast was 4.2 per cent higher in 1911

ARTICLES OF FOOD: AVERAGE FOR 1911 COMPARED WITH THE AVERAGE FOR EACH YEARS, BY ARTICLES.

Ham, smoked.	Lard, pure.	Hens.	Wheat flour.	Corn meal.	Eggs, strictly fresh.	Butter, creamery.	Potatoes, Irish.	Sugar, granulated.	Milk, fresh.
<i>Per cent.</i> 58.6	<i>Per cent.</i> 47.5	<i>Per cent.</i> 47.5	<i>Per cent.</i> 16.1	<i>Per cent.</i> 45.3	<i>Per cent.</i> 49.8	<i>Per cent.</i> 32.4	<i>Per cent.</i> 44.0	<i>Per cent.</i> 8.0	<i>Per cent.</i> 32.2
56.7	45.3	44.7	13.8	32.0	42.2	24.2	34.1	7.8	32.0
53.6	39.2	45.5	23.0	36.7	42.6	22.9	64.6	14.7	32.0
45.6	21.9	45.3	34.5	41.5	42.4	20.9	40.4	8.3	32.0
53.3	36.6	54.4	44.8	41.0	54.2	28.7	54.2	16.7	32.3
57.6	45.6	55.8	42.7	45.7	52.0	34.8	73.3	21.0	33.5
61.6	57.8	57.8	35.8	58.6	66.3	41.0	99.2	15.5	32.6
58.3	63.3	64.2	22.2	61.4	59.8	40.1	69.7	17.8	32.7
60.4	55.4	56.6	19.6	53.4	53.4	37.1	51.1	11.4	33.0
55.1	49.6	46.6	34.9	58.4	47.8	34.5	58.9	11.5	34.3
45.8	38.5	52.2	35.2	54.0	51.6	29.7	69.2	6.9	32.7
40.3	21.5	44.4	34.8	36.8	39.5	27.5	37.7	8.8	30.9
29.3	7.2	33.5	33.8	18.8	25.8	19.6	34.5	19.7	27.5
27.7	15.3	27.1	25.3	20.6	20.1	19.1	36.9	18.6	23.6
30.6	24.9	25.7	8.1	19.8	14.6	21.5	31.9	10.7	23.6
30.6	25.5	22.7	7.8	19.2	14.4	17.9	43.6	9.1	22.8
22.0	14.1	18.4	18.1	18.2	11.9	11.0	37.0	14.3	20.6
19.0	8.8	15.5	8.2	10.3	8.7	3.1	28.5	12.6	11.6
16.5	8.2	12.4	.6	3.2	5.2	2.7	21.0	9.7	7.7
9.7	3.5	4.0	7.4	1.0	2.9	2.2	17.7	11.1	5.2
2.2	16.0	2.2	5.9	.5	5.1	6.1	31.4	8.4	.8

than in 1910, etc. The table also presents a comparison of the changes in prices of each of the articles city by city—thus, for example, sirloin steak in Boston, Mass., was 0.5 per cent higher in 1911 than in 1910; in Buffalo, N. Y., it was 0.8 per cent higher; in Fall River, Mass., it was 4.4 per cent higher; in Manchester, N. H., it was 0.7 per cent lower, etc.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE IN RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD: AVERAGE PRICE IN 1911 COMPARED WITH AVERAGE PRICE IN 1910, BY CITIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS.

City and geographical division.	Sirloin steak: Price in 1911—		Round steak: Price in 1911—		Ribroast: Price in 1911—		Pork chops: Price in 1911—	
	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.
<b>North Atlantic division:</b>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Boston, Mass.....	0.5		6.2		4.2		5.4	
Buffalo, N. Y.....	.8		.9			6.3		5.0
Fall River, Mass.....	4.4		4.9			.9		.5
Manchester, N. H.....		0.7	3.3			.2		5.1
Newark, N. J.....	.5		3.1		1.9			3.6
New Haven, Conn.....		.2		2.2	.1			3.4
New York, N. Y.....	1.1		.3			.6		5.4
Philadelphia, Pa.....	.3			.3	1.2			8.5
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	1.4		1.3		1.8		1.3	
Providence, R. I.....		1.1	1.4		2.0			.3
Scranton, Pa.....		1.0	4.9		1.5			9.4
<b>South Atlantic division:</b>								
Atlanta, Ga.....		5.4		.4		1.3		1.0
Baltimore, Md.....		1.9		2.4		1.5		13.3
Charleston, S. C.....	.8		1.5			3.9		3.0
Jacksonville, Fla.....		1.8		1.6	2.2			13.4
Richmond, Va.....	.6		.6		2.0			11.5
Washington, D. C.....		2.3	.5			3.4		11.6
<b>North Central division:</b>								
Chicago, Ill.....		1.1		1.3		1.6		5.9
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	.1		2.0			1.5		6.8
Cleveland, Ohio.....	2.1			3.1		4.5		17.8
Detroit, Mich.....	4.5		2.3		2.8		.8	
Indianapolis, Ind.....	2.3		1.4		.2			5.6
Kansas City, Mo.....	5.7		3.5			.4		10.8
Milwaukee, Wis.....	2.4		2.7		4.6			7.8
Minneapolis, Minn.....	3.2		6.7			.2		5.1
Omaha, Nebr.....		.4		2.3		1.7		5.8
St. Louis, Mo.....		1.9		2.6		4.7		3.2
<b>South Central division:</b>								
Birmingham, Ala.....		.8	1.2		2.3			7.5
Dallas, Tex.....	4.3		2.0		1.2		1.5	
Little Rock, Ark.....	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )	4.5		3.0			1.4
Louisville, Ky.....	.8		4.9			1.9		6.4
Memphis, Tenn.....	.1		1.7		5.5		3.2	
New Orleans, La.....		3.5		4.9		1.4	.7	
<b>Western division:</b>								
Denver, Colo.....	.9		.3		.5			5.2
Los Angeles, Cal.....	4.8		4.9		3.0		3.8	
Portland, Oreg.....		1.4	3.8		7.5		.3	
Salt Lake City, Utah.....	.3		2.2		.2			4.7
San Francisco, Cal.....	6.5		9.8		6.2		1.0	
Seattle, Wash.....	1.4		7.8		.5			3.5
North Atlantic division..	.5		2.2		1.0			3.2
South Atlantic division..		1.7		.3		1.0		9.0
North Central division..	1.7		.9			.7		6.8
South Central division..	.1		1.6		1.5			1.7
Western division.....	2.1		4.8		3.0			1.4
United States.....	.7		1.8		.7			4.5

<sup>1</sup> No change.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE IN RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD: AVERAGE PRICE IN 1911 COMPARED WITH AVERAGE PRICE IN 1910, BY CITIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS—Continued.

City and geographical division.	Bacon, smoked: Price in 1911—		Ham, smoked: Price in 1911—		Lard, pure: Price in 1911—		Hens: Price in 1911—	
	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.
North Atlantic division:	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Boston, Mass.		4.0	4.2			15.1	0.6	
Buffalo, N. Y.		3.8		0.1		22.0		4.7
Fall River, Mass.		3.4		4		28.5	1.9	
Manchester, N. H.		6.2		4.1		9.8	1.3	
Newark, N. J.		1.4	2.9			13.4	5.5	
New Haven, Conn.		2.8		4.0		17.4	1.4	
New York, N. Y.		8.3		4.7		13.3		.4
Philadelphia, Pa.		9.0	2.7			18.0		3.2
Pittsburgh, Pa.	3.7		7.0			17.1		3.0
Providence, R. I.		4.3		6.4		20.2	3.1	
Scranton, Pa.		3.9		3.1		19.4		1.7
South Atlantic division:								
Atlanta, Ga.	.7			4.2		16.0	2.2	
Baltimore, Md.		12.5		2.9		12.6		4.5
Charleston, S. C.		11.3		10.4		21.8		2.3
Jacksonville, Fla.		1.5		8.2		20.3		2.8
Richmond, Va.		11.6		6.1		12.6		9.7
Washington, D. C.		11.0		4.1		23.7		3.5
North Central division:								
Chicago, Ill.	.5			1.3		9.3		3.6
Cincinnati, Ohio.		5.0		4.2		19.0		8.0
Cleveland, Ohio.		13.2		12.2		20.9		9.5
Detroit, Mich.		1.1		8		15.4	1.5	
Indianapolis, Ind.		11.5		3		20.1		6.3
Kansas City, Mo.		7.8		3.9		14.7		10.0
Milwaukee, Wis.		2.9		6		17.6	6.5	
Minneapolis, Minn.		5.1		2.5		14.5		6.1
Omaha, Nebr.		8.0		6.0		12.2		10.5
St. Louis, Mo.		.9		3.2		14.7		3.4
South Central division:								
Birmingham, Ala.	3.6			.2		16.3		8.2
Dallas, Tex.	1.4		7.4		0.1		7.5	
Little Rock, Ark.		.6	2.6			7.6		.3
Louisville, Ky.		.6		6.1		19.6		8.6
Memphis, Tenn.	1.9			8		14.3	3.8	
New Orleans, La.		.8		6.7		21.8		4.8
Western division:								
Denver, Colo.		.6	3.2			21.7		7.7
Los Angeles, Cal.	1.7		.5			2.3	4.0	
Portland, Oreg.	4.0			3.3		9.4	3.8	
Salt Lake City, Utah.	3.5		4.2			11.0		3.7
San Francisco, Cal.		.3		4.6		22.5	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )
Seattle, Wash.		4.8		3.9		17.0		.1
North Atlantic division.		4.0		.5		17.7	.1	
South Atlantic division.		7.9		6.0		17.8		3.4
North Central division.		5.5		3.5		15.9		4.9
South Central division.		.8		.7		13.3		1.7
Western division.		.6		.6		14.0		.7
United States.		3.5		2.2		16.0		2.2

<sup>1</sup> No data.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE IN RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD: AVERAGE PRICE IN 1911 COMPARED WITH AVERAGE PRICE IN 1910, BY CITIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS—Continued.

City and geographical division.	Wheat flour: Price in 1911—		Corn meal: Price in 1911—		Eggs, strictly fresh: Price in 1911—		Butter, cream- ery: Price in 1911—	
	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.
North Atlantic division:	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Boston, Mass.....		2.4	10.9			1.5		3.9
Buffalo, N. Y.....		5.0	5.1		2.8			9.3
Fall River, Mass.....		5.2		3.4		2.8		12.6
Manchester, N. H.....		1.3	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )		4.1		4.6
Newark, N. J.....		2.4	4.2		5.8			8.1
New Haven, Conn.....		6.1		2.7		1.7		7.4
New York, N. Y.....		2.7		1.6		8.9		9.7
Philadelphia, Pa.....		5.7	2.6			9.1		5.1
Pittsburgh, Pa.....		4.1	1.8			2.4		1.3
Providence, R. I.....		3.6		.2		.9		6.3
Scranton, Pa.....		2.3	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )		6.1		10.2
South Atlantic division:								
Atlanta, Ga.....		6.2		4.6		6.5		10.4
Baltimore, Md.....		5.2		1.3		11.4		4.3
Charleston, S. C.....		5.4	2.3			11.7		2.3
Jacksonville, Fla.....		10.7	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )		2.8		4.2
Richmond, Va.....		4.7		2.5		9.4		6.4
Washington, D. C.....		3.2		6.3		10.8		4.8
North Central division:								
Chicago, Ill.....		.7	.5			3.9		2.6
Cincinnati, Ohio.....		2.8		.8		10.1		6.1
Cleveland, Ohio.....		3.9		.6		10.7		9.3
Detroit, Mich.....		2.2	1.5			9.3		9.1
Indianapolis, Ind.....		4.7		1.8		5.2		9.8
Kansas City, Mo.....		3.4		1.5		5.8	0.8	
Milwaukee, Wis.....		4.2	5.5		( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )		10.9
Minneapolis, Minn.....		9.6	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )		11.1		8.7
Omaha, Nebr.....		7.4	1.2			9.6		7.1
St. Louis, Mo.....		8.8		7.1		9.1		.9
South Central division:								
Birmingham, Ala.....		9.6		5.6		6.2		5.9
Dallas, Tex.....		3.2		1.2	( <sup>1</sup> )	( <sup>1</sup> )		2.3
Little Rock, Ark.....		5.4	3.0		6.9			1.1
Louisville, Ky.....		6.3		2.3		7.0	.4	
Memphis, Tenn.....		7.9	2.5			3.1		2.6
New Orleans, La.....		7.5	3.0			6.9		9.4
Western division:								
Denver, Colo.....		6.1		3.9	1.0			4.0
Los Angeles, Cal.....		7.8		2.7		3.2		10.7
Portland, Oreg.....		13.2		7.5		5.5		7.2
Salt Lake City, Utah.....		18.4	.4		3.3			3.4
San Francisco, Cal.....		10.1	7.3		7.0		9.9	
Seattle, Wash.....		12.0		12.3		4.7		8.2
North Atlantic division.....		3.7	1.5			2.4		7.1
South Atlantic division.....		5.4		2.0		9.9		5.4
North Central division.....		4.8		.3		8.3		6.3
South Central division.....		6.6		.1		2.7		3.5
Western division.....		11.2		3.1		2.7		7.3
United States.....		5.9		.5		5.1		6.1

<sup>1</sup> No change.<sup>2</sup> No data.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE IN RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD: AVERAGE PRICE IN 1911 COMPARED WITH AVERAGE PRICE IN 1910, BY CITIES AND GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS—Concluded.

City and geographical divisions.	Potatoes, Irish: Price in 1911—		Sugar, granulated: Price in 1911—		Milk, fresh: Price in 1911—	
	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.	Higher than in 1910.	Lower than in 1910.
<b>North Atlantic division:</b>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>	<i>Per cent.</i>
Boston, Mass.....	12.8		6.0			1.2
Buffalo, N. Y.....	44.4		8.8		(1)	(1)
Fall River, Mass.....	24.3		6.2		.5	
Manchester, N. H.....	21.4		9.3		(1)	(1)
Newark, N. J.....	(2)	(2)	8.8		5.5	
New Haven, Conn.....	19.8		10.5		2.6	
New York, N. Y.....	(2)	(2)	10.3		3.7	
Philadelphia, Pa.....	25.5		8.4		(1)	(1)
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	16.1		11.4		.5	
Providence, R. I.....	28.3		13.2		2.2	
Scranton, Pa.....	39.8		10.4		.5	
<b>South Atlantic division:</b>						
Atlanta, Ga.....	32.3		8.5		6.5	
Baltimore, Md.....	31.5		7.7			.4
Charleston, S. C.....	31.5		8.2			.8
Jacksonville, Fla.....	28.1		9.5		4.0	
Richmond, Va.....	39.3		9.6		(1)	(1)
Washington, D. C.....	35.6		7.1		1.7	
<b>North Central division:</b>						
Chicago, Ill.....	36.5		13.9		2.3	
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	35.9		7.7		(1)	(1)
Cleveland, Ohio.....	34.7		8.0		.4	
Detroit, Mich.....	42.5		11.0		1.6	
Indianapolis, Ind.....	36.7		12.5		(1)	(1)
Kansas City, Mo.....	35.2		5.0		.6	
Milwaukee, Wis.....	32.3		8.2		.6	
Minneapolis, Minn.....	30.4		3.9			10.9
Omaha, Nebr.....	21.6		8.4		.9	
St. Louis, Mo.....	47.8		9.9			1.7
<b>South Central division:</b>						
Birmingham, Ala.....	23.0		7.0		1.6	
Dallas, Tex.....	34.2		9.3		(1)	(1)
Little Rock, Ark.....	32.9		13.0		1.6	
Louisville, Ky.....	27.9		11.8		.2	
Memphis, Tenn.....	39.3		28.7		(1)	(1)
New Orleans, La.....	29.8		8.2			.6
<b>Western division:</b>						
Denver, Colo.....	43.5		9.5		1.3	
Los Angeles, Cal.....	33.8			3.0	4.2	
Portland, Oreg.....	16.0			1.0	4.4	
Salt Lake City, Utah.....	29.9		2.6		1.0	
San Francisco, Cal.....	18.3		.1			1.4
Seattle, Wash.....	47.2			2.0		1.5
North Atlantic division.....	25.8		9.3		1.3	
South Atlantic division.....	33.1		8.4		2.1	
North Central division.....	35.4		8.8			.6
South Central division.....	31.1		13.0		.5	
Western division.....	31.5		1.0		1.3	
United States.....	31.4		8.4		.8	

<sup>1</sup> No change.

<sup>2</sup> No data.

In order that the course of prices of each of the various articles through a series of years may be studied, relative prices have been computed for each of the 15 articles included in this investigation. These relative prices have also been combined so that the course of prices as a whole may be seen.

A relative price, or index number, as it is technically called, of any article is the per cent which the price of that article at any certain date is of the price of the same article at a date or period which has been selected as the base or standard. The value of the relative price is that it enables the reader to follow more readily the course of prices of a single article and when these relative prices, or index numbers, are combined, also to follow the course of prices of groups of articles. The base selected for the compilation of retail prices of food is the average price for the 10-year period, 1890 to 1899. This base period is the same as was used by the Bureau in previous reports on retail prices of food (Eighteenth Annual Report and Bulletins 59, 65, 71, and 77); in reports on wholesale prices (Bulletins 39, 45, 51, 57, 63, 69, 75, 81, 87, 93, and 99); and in reports on wages and hours of labor (Nineteenth Annual Report and Bulletins 59, 65, 71, and 77). The average for the 10-year period is used as the base for the reason that because of unusual conditions which may prevail in any one year an average price for a number of years more nearly represents normal conditions than does the price for a single year,

The next table shows for each of the five geographical divisions and for the United States as a whole the relative retail prices of food for each year from 1890 to 1911 and also for each month of 1911. In the first section of the table is shown for each of the five geographical divisions and for the United States as a whole the simple average of the relative prices of the 15 articles. In computing the relative prices shown in the second section of the table for each of the five geographical divisions and for the United States, the relative price for each of the 15 articles was weighted according to average consumption in workingmen's families in the particular division or in the United States as a whole. The 15 articles represent approximately two-thirds of the expenditure for food in the average workingman's family according to the Eighteenth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Labor. The proportion of total expenditures represented by the 15 articles in each geographical division and in the United States as a whole, as shown by the Eighteenth Annual Report, was as follows:

	Per cent.
North Atlantic division.....	64.11
South Atlantic division.....	66.43
North Central division.....	63.10
South Central division.....	67.95
Western division.....	57.79
United States.....	<u>63.97</u>

The table of simple and weighted relatives follows:

RELATIVE RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD, SIMPLE AND WEIGHTED AVERAGES, BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS, 1890 TO 1911.

[Average price for 1890-1899=100.0. The relative prices shown in this report for 1890 to 1907 do not exactly agree with those shown in Bulletin 77 for the reason that a smaller number of cities and a smaller number of articles are included.]

Year or month.	Simple average of the relative prices of 15 principal articles, shown in detail on pages 21 and 22.						Relative prices weighted according to the average consumption of the various articles of food in workingmen's families, shown in detail for each geographical division on page 33.					
	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	West-ern division.	United States.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	West-ern division.	United States.
1890.....	101.7	100.4	102.0	100.6	106.0	102.0	101.9	100.6	101.7	100.9	105.2	101.9
1891.....	102.7	101.8	104.5	103.2	107.6	103.6	102.1	101.6	104.4	102.8	106.9	103.4
1892.....	101.7	101.2	101.8	99.9	104.0	101.7	101.8	101.2	101.9	100.1	103.4	101.6
1893.....	104.8	102.5	106.4	104.2	103.0	104.6	104.4	102.7	106.2	104.2	102.1	104.1
1894.....	99.4	99.5	100.0	100.3	98.1	99.5	99.2	99.6	99.6	100.4	98.0	99.2
1895.....	97.2	98.2	97.0	97.8	96.0	97.2	97.2	97.8	97.1	97.9	95.6	97.1
1896.....	95.7	97.1	93.9	95.4	94.1	94.9	95.9	97.3	94.0	95.7	94.2	95.2
1897.....	97.3	97.3	95.8	96.6	94.6	96.4	97.4	97.4	96.1	96.9	94.9	96.7
1898.....	100.3	99.7	99.3	100.4	96.7	99.4	100.2	99.7	99.5	99.9	98.0	99.7
1899.....	99.7	102.3	99.4	101.8	100.3	100.6	100.0	102.0	99.6	101.3	101.8	100.8
1900.....	103.0	104.7	102.5	102.2	100.7	102.9	103.0	104.4	102.5	103.1	102.2	103.0
1901.....	108.9	110.3	110.6	110.5	104.6	109.5	108.0	109.7	109.5	109.7	104.9	108.5
1902.....	116.2	116.7	117.4	119.3	111.9	116.8	114.0	115.6	115.4	118.7	110.1	114.6
1903.....	116.3	115.6	117.3	121.4	112.4	116.9	113.7	114.6	115.5	120.3	109.9	114.7
1904.....	117.6	115.8	118.1	122.2	114.8	118.3	115.5	114.9	116.2	121.1	111.1	116.2
1905.....	116.8	116.3	118.1	122.4	115.4	118.3	115.0	115.7	116.3	121.3	111.8	116.4
1906.....	121.4	120.8	122.3	125.8	118.9	122.4	119.1	120.0	120.6	125.0	115.0	120.3
1907.....	126.4	126.4	127.3	131.7	125.5	128.0	123.9	125.9	126.0	130.9	121.8	125.9
1908.....	129.2	131.0	133.1	138.8	128.4	132.5	126.5	129.8	131.5	137.5	123.9	130.1
1909.....	134.7	139.2	141.4	148.3	137.4	140.3	131.2	137.8	139.1	147.1	131.3	137.2
1910.....	140.3	149.8	149.7	157.8	146.3	148.5	135.2	148.4	147.0	156.7	138.8	144.1
1911.....	139.3	145.2	146.9	158.6	145.9	146.9	134.9	142.9	144.4	157.0	139.1	143.0
<b>1911.</b>												
January.....	139.8	148.2	148.7	160.7	148.1	148.2	135.8	147.7	147.0	159.5	142.6	145.0
February.....	136.2	143.4	144.3	157.1	144.4	144.5	131.3	142.0	141.4	155.6	139.3	140.4
March.....	134.1	140.9	141.9	153.8	143.6	142.1	128.8	139.1	138.8	152.3	137.1	137.6
April.....	131.8	138.8	140.7	153.5	142.3	140.6	125.8	136.2	136.5	151.5	134.0	135.3
May.....	132.3	138.8	141.0	152.8	143.4	140.9	126.1	135.9	136.7	150.6	134.8	135.4
June.....	136.4	141.8	145.9	156.7	145.4	144.8	130.3	138.0	141.5	154.1	136.3	139.2
July.....	141.7	148.0	150.4	160.5	147.5	149.4	135.7	142.9	146.2	157.8	138.5	143.7
August.....	142.7	148.9	149.6	161.4	145.4	149.4	137.3	145.0	146.5	159.1	138.1	144.5
September.....	143.4	150.2	150.2	160.9	145.1	149.8	138.7	147.2	148.0	159.3	138.7	145.7
October.....	143.7	148.7	148.0	159.6	147.0	149.1	140.2	147.1	147.1	158.5	141.6	146.2
November.....	144.3	148.1	149.4	160.4	149.2	149.8	142.8	147.6	149.4	159.7	144.8	148.3
December.....	144.6	148.4	151.4	163.1	147.5	150.6	144.2	148.5	152.2	162.9	144.0	150.0

The last column of the above table shows that the relative price—computed by giving to each of the articles its weight according to average consumption in workingmen's families—in 1890 was 101.9 per cent of the average price for the 10-year period 1890 to 1899. In 1891 prices advanced to 103.4; in 1892 there was a slight decline to 101.6; in 1893 an advance to 104.1. After this there was a gradual decline until the lowest price (95.2) in the 22 years covered by this report was reached in 1896. From that time each year showed an advance until the highest yearly price (144.1) in the 22 years was reached in 1910. The price (143.0) in 1911 showed a slight decline from 1910, but was higher than in any year from 1890 to 1909.

The column of the above table which gives for the United States the relative price computed as a simple average of the 15 principal articles of food shows that the course of the simple average is exactly the same as the course of the weighted, but the simple relative goes lower during the period of low prices and higher during the period of high prices.

The lowest relative price (both simple and weighted averages) was reached in each of the geographical divisions in the United States as a whole in 1896. The highest price (both simple and weighted averages) was reached in the South Central division in 1911; for the Western division the simple average of the relative price was highest in 1910 and the weighted average was highest in 1911. In the North Atlantic, South Atlantic, and North Central divisions, and in the United States as a whole the relative price (both simple and weighted averages) was highest in 1910.

The next table compares for each of the geographical divisions and for the United States as a whole the average price in 1911 with the average price in each of the preceding 21 years, 1890 to 1910, inclusive. Comparisons are made both of the simple averages and of the relatives weighted according to average consumption in workingmen's families. The last column shows that food prices (when the prices for the various articles are weighted according to average consumption in workingmen's families) in 1911 were 40.3 per cent higher than in 1890, 38.3 per cent higher than in 1891, 50.2 per cent higher than in 1896, and 0.8 per cent lower than in 1910.

PER CENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE IN RETAIL PRICES OF ALL ARTICLES OF FOOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE SHOWN IN THIS REPORT: AVERAGE FOR 1911 COMPARED WITH THE AVERAGE FOR EACH OF THE 21 PRECEDING YEARS, BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS.

Price in 1911—	Simple average of the relative prices of 15 principal articles, shown in detail on pages 21 and 22.					
	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.	United States.
Higher than in 1890.....	37.0	44.6	44.0	57.7	37.6	44.0
Lower than in 1890.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1891.....	35.6	42.6	40.6	53.7	35.6	41.8
Lower than in 1891.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1892.....	37.0	43.5	44.3	58.8	40.3	44.4
Lower than in 1892.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1893.....	32.9	41.7	38.1	52.2	41.7	40.4
Lower than in 1893.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1894.....	40.1	45.9	46.9	58.1	48.7	47.6
Lower than in 1894.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1895.....	43.3	47.9	51.4	62.2	52.0	51.1
Lower than in 1895.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1896.....	45.6	49.5	56.4	66.2	55.0	54.8
Lower than in 1896.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1897.....	43.2	49.2	53.3	64.2	54.2	52.4
Lower than in 1897.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1898.....	38.9	45.6	47.9	58.0	50.9	47.8
Lower than in 1898.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1899.....	39.7	41.9	47.8	55.8	45.5	46.0
Lower than in 1899.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1900.....	35.2	38.7	43.3	55.2	44.9	42.8
Lower than in 1900.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1901.....	27.9	31.6	32.8	43.5	39.5	34.2
Lower than in 1901.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1902.....	19.9	24.4	25.1	32.9	30.4	25.8
Lower than in 1902.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1903.....	19.8	25.6	25.2	30.6	29.8	25.7
Lower than in 1903.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1904.....	18.5	25.4	24.4	29.8	27.1	24.2
Lower than in 1904.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1905.....	19.3	24.8	24.4	29.6	26.4	24.2
Lower than in 1905.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1906.....	14.7	20.2	20.1	26.1	22.7	20.1
Lower than in 1906.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1907.....	10.2	14.9	15.4	20.4	16.3	14.8
Lower than in 1907.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1908.....	7.8	10.8	10.4	14.3	13.6	10.9
Lower than in 1908.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1909.....	3.4	4.3	3.9	6.9	6.2	4.7
Lower than in 1909.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Higher than in 1910.....	.....	.....	.....	0.5	.....	.....
Lower than in 1910.....	0.7	3.1	1.9	.....	0.3	1.1

PER CENT OF INCREASE OR DECREASE IN RETAIL PRICES OF ALL ARTICLES OF FOOD FOR WHICH DATA ARE SHOWN IN THIS REPORT: AVERAGE FOR 1911 COMPARED WITH THE AVERAGE FOR EACH OF THE 21 PRECEDING YEARS, BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS—Concluded.

Price in 1911—	Relative prices weighted according to the average consumption of the various articles of food in workmen's families, shown in detail for each geographical division on page 33.					
	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.	United States.
Higher than in 1890.....	32.4	42.0	42.0	55.6	32.2	40.3
Lower than in 1890.....						
Higher than in 1891.....	32.1	40.6	38.3	52.7	36.1	38.3
Lower than in 1891.....						
Higher than in 1892.....	32.5	41.2	41.7	56.8	34.5	40.7
Lower than in 1892.....						
Higher than in 1893.....	29.2	39.1	36.0	50.7	36.2	37.4
Lower than in 1893.....						
Higher than in 1894.....	36.0	43.5	45.0	56.4	41.9	44.2
Lower than in 1894.....						
Higher than in 1895.....	38.8	46.1	48.7	60.4	45.5	47.3
Lower than in 1895.....						
Higher than in 1896.....	40.7	46.9	53.6	64.1	47.7	50.2
Lower than in 1896.....						
Higher than in 1897.....	38.5	46.7	50.3	62.0	46.6	47.9
Lower than in 1897.....						
Higher than in 1898.....	34.6	43.3	45.1	57.2	41.9	43.4
Lower than in 1898.....						
Higher than in 1899.....	34.9	40.1	45.9	55.0	36.6	41.9
Lower than in 1899.....						
Higher than in 1900.....	31.0	36.9	40.9	52.3	36.1	38.8
Lower than in 1900.....						
Higher than in 1901.....	24.9	30.3	31.9	43.1	32.6	31.8
Lower than in 1901.....						
Higher than in 1902.....	18.3	23.6	25.1	32.3	26.3	24.8
Lower than in 1902.....						
Higher than in 1903.....	18.6	24.7	25.0	30.5	26.6	24.7
Lower than in 1903.....						
Higher than in 1904.....	16.8	24.4	24.3	29.6	25.2	23.1
Lower than in 1904.....						
Higher than in 1905.....	17.3	23.5	24.2	29.4	24.4	22.9
Lower than in 1905.....						
Higher than in 1906.....	13.3	19.1	19.7	25.6	21.0	18.9
Lower than in 1906.....						
Higher than in 1907.....	8.9	13.5	14.6	19.9	14.2	13.6
Lower than in 1907.....						
Higher than in 1908.....	6.6	10.1	9.8	14.2	12.3	9.9
Lower than in 1908.....						
Higher than in 1909.....	2.8	3.7	3.8	6.7	5.9	4.2
Lower than in 1909.....						
Higher than in 1910.....				0.2	0.2	
Lower than in 1910.....	0.2	3.7	1.8			0.8

The relative retail prices in the United States, considered as a whole, of each of the 15 principal articles of food for the 22 years, 1890 to 1911, are presented in the table which follows. General Table II, in Part II of this Bulletin, shows similar data for each of the five geographical divisions. This table shows yearly prices for 1890 to 1911 and also prices each month during 1911.

RELATIVE RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES, 1890 TO 1911, BY ARTICLES.

[Average price for 1890-1899=100.0.]

Year or month.	Sirloin steak.	Round steak.	Rib-roast.	Pork chops.	Bacon, smoked.	Ham, smoked.	Lard, pure.	Hens.
1890.....	99.3	97.6	98.7	96.5	96.5	98.3	98.5	102.8
1891.....	99.7	98.0	99.6	98.8	97.2	99.5	100.0	104.8
1892.....	99.6	98.0	99.6	101.1	99.9	101.5	104.4	104.2
1893.....	99.4	98.5	98.4	105.0	108.9	107.1	119.2	104.3
1894.....	98.1	97.4	97.9	100.9	102.5	101.7	106.4	98.2
1895.....	98.7	98.2	97.9	99.7	98.7	98.9	99.8	97.3
1896.....	98.5	100.5	99.4	97.8	96.3	96.5	92.1	96.1
1897.....	99.6	101.8	100.1	97.5	97.0	98.5	89.0	92.3
1898.....	102.1	102.8	102.2	99.7	100.2	97.2	93.5	96.8
1899.....	104.4	107.0	106.1	103.2	102.9	100.5	97.1	103.4
1900.....	107.1	109.8	109.3	108.9	110.3	106.9	104.9	99.6
1901.....	109.4	114.0	112.7	119.0	121.3	111.1	119.6	105.0
1902.....	114.6	122.3	118.6	127.8	135.9	120.6	135.6	113.6
1903.....	110.6	116.8	117.0	126.1	140.4	122.1	126.0	119.3
1904.....	111.0	120.8	117.0	123.1	138.5	119.4	116.3	120.6
1905.....	110.6	120.0	116.2	125.0	139.3	119.4	115.8	123.6
1906.....	114.2	124.4	120.5	135.9	150.5	127.8	127.3	128.0
1907.....	116.7	128.4	123.0	140.9	157.7	131.0	133.5	131.3
1908.....	119.9	135.5	126.7	144.6	163.2	133.8	134.3	134.9
1909.....	126.1	140.6	132.2	153.7	176.4	142.1	150.5	145.7
1910.....	134.0	149.9	137.7	178.3	204.4	159.4	172.9	155.0
1911.....	134.9	152.6	138.6	170.3	197.2	153.9	145.3	151.6
<b>1911.</b>								
January.....	134.0	150.9	137.8	170.5	203.5	155.4	161.1	154.7
February.....	133.7	151.1	138.0	168.4	201.1	154.8	158.5	155.5
March.....	134.3	152.5	138.7	167.6	198.6	153.8	151.4	156.9
April.....	134.3	153.0	139.8	167.4	196.5	153.4	145.2	153.7
May.....	135.8	154.2	140.0	166.8	196.9	154.3	140.9	156.1
June.....	136.2	155.1	139.4	167.3	196.8	157.0	139.5	152.3
July.....	136.8	154.6	138.4	171.0	199.3	160.5	138.6	151.9
August.....	137.3	154.7	138.9	180.7	200.1	162.3	139.8	150.1
September.....	135.8	153.2	138.8	183.4	199.4	159.8	142.6	149.4
October.....	133.9	151.7	137.9	179.1	193.2	157.4	142.5	147.3
November.....	133.0	149.8	137.2	160.8	190.7	153.1	142.6	143.2
December.....	132.8	149.6	137.4	155.4	187.8	150.9	141.3	142.9

## RELATIVE RETAIL PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES, 1890 TO 1911, BY ARTICLES—Concluded.

[Average price for 1890-1899=100.0.]

Year or month.	Wheat flour.	Corn meal.	Eggs, strictly fresh.	Butter, creamery.	Potatoes, Irish.	Sugar, granulated.	Milk, fresh.
1890.....	110.2	101.3	100.3	99.2	109.0	120.8	100.4
1891.....	112.4	111.5	105.6	105.7	117.1	103.1	100.5
1892.....	104.0	107.7	105.3	106.8	95.4	96.9	100.5
1893.....	95.1	104.0	105.5	108.6	111.8	102.6	100.5
1894.....	88.3	104.4	97.4	102.0	101.8	95.2	100.3
1895.....	89.6	101.0	98.8	97.4	90.6	91.8	99.4
1896.....	94.2	92.8	90.3	93.1	78.8	96.2	100.1
1897.....	104.7	91.2	94.0	93.7	92.5	94.3	100.0
1898.....	106.9	92.9	97.9	95.8	103.9	99.7	99.8
1899.....	94.8	92.9	101.6	97.6	98.8	99.6	98.8
1900.....	94.6	95.6	99.1	101.2	92.8	103.9	100.0
1901.....	94.9	107.6	107.7	103.0	114.0	102.1	101.4
1902.....	95.6	123.9	119.4	109.8	116.7	92.8	104.1
1903.....	102.1	122.1	125.1	110.2	114.7	93.7	107.4
1904.....	118.3	122.9	131.1	108.1	119.0	100.4	107.4
1905.....	118.6	123.5	131.3	111.4	109.3	101.8	108.1
1906.....	108.3	124.5	134.2	118.3	114.6	97.2	110.0
1907.....	118.2	133.5	138.2	127.3	122.2	98.7	118.9
1908.....	127.1	142.6	142.8	127.9	129.8	101.3	123.2
1909.....	138.1	145.7	154.7	134.3	133.4	100.0	126.2
1910.....	135.9	147.9	158.2	139.9	119.5	102.5	131.6
1911.....	127.9	147.2	150.2	131.3	157.0	111.1	132.7
<b>1911.</b>							
January.....	130.3	144.6	185.1	140.7	119.2	99.9	135.1
February.....	129.2	144.6	145.9	133.1	119.0	98.9	135.2
March.....	127.5	143.7	123.6	128.1	121.2	99.5	134.2
April.....	126.2	144.5	112.9	117.8	126.5	99.9	132.3
May.....	125.9	145.1	110.4	114.8	142.5	100.9	129.6
June.....	125.8	145.2	112.8	115.6	196.9	102.4	129.8
July.....	125.8	146.9	122.1	119.4	240.1	105.3	129.9
August.....	126.7	148.7	133.0	126.2	197.6	115.0	130.5
September.....	127.6	149.5	146.7	131.0	167.8	130.2	131.5
October.....	129.5	151.2	163.4	138.9	144.1	132.2	133.8
November.....	130.2	152.3	196.2	149.7	149.0	124.9	134.9
December.....	129.5	151.9	207.3	159.5	159.0	118.2	135.0

In the above table, as in the preceding table of relative prices, the average price for the 10-year period, 1890 to 1899, is the base or 100.0. The figures in the column for sirloin steak, for example, indicate that if the price of sirloin steak for the 10-year period, 1890 to 1899, be considered 100.0, the price in 1890 was 99.3, or 0.7 per cent below the average for 1890 to 1899; the price in 1911 was 134.9, or 34.9 per cent above the average for 1890 to 1899, etc.

The table which follows shows for the United States the lowest and the highest yearly relative price of each of the 15 principal articles of food during the 22 years, 1890 to 1911, and the year in which the lowest and the highest yearly price was reached.

LOWEST AND HIGHEST YEARLY RELATIVE PRICES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES, 1890 TO 1911, BY ARTICLES.

[Average price for 1890-1899=100.0]

Article.	Lowest.		Highest.	
	Year.	Relative price.	Year.	Relative price.
Sirloin steak.....	1894	98.1	1911	134.9
Round steak.....	1894	97.4	1911	152.6
Ribroast.....	{1894 1895}	{97.9	1911	138.6
Pork chops.....	1890	96.5	1910	178.3
Bacon, smoked.....	1896	96.3	1910	204.4
Ham, smoked.....	1896	96.5	1910	159.4
Lard, pure.....	1897	89.0	1910	172.9
Hens.....	1897	92.3	1910	155.0
Wheat flour.....	1894	88.3	1909	138.1
Corn meal.....	1897	91.2	1910	147.9
Eggs, strictly fresh.....	1896	90.3	1910	158.2
Butter, creamery.....	1896	93.1	1910	139.9
Potatoes, Irish.....	1896	78.8	1911	157.0
Sugar, granulated.....	1895	91.8	1890	120.8
Milk, fresh.....	1899	98.8	1911	132.7

Of the 15 articles for which prices are shown the lowest yearly relative price during the 22 years was reached by one in 1890, three in 1894, one in 1894 and 1895 (the price being the same for the two years), one in 1895, five in 1896, three in 1897, and one in 1899. The highest yearly relative price was reached by one in 1890, one in 1909, eight in 1910, and five in 1911.

Certain of the articles included in this report are related in such a way as to make a comparison of the course of prices of such articles interesting. The group designated in the table which follows as "cattle products" includes sirloin steak, round steak, and ribroast; the group designated as "dairy products" includes fresh milk and

creamery butter; and the group designated as "hog products" includes pork chops, smoked bacon, smoked ham, and pure lard.

RELATIVE RETAIL PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES OF CERTAIN GROUPS OF RELATED ARTICLES OF FOOD, 1890 TO 1911.

[Average price for 1890-1899=100.0.]

Year or month.	Cattle products.			Dairy products.		Hog products.			
	Sirloin steak.	Round steak.	Rib-roast.	Milk, fresh.	Butter, creamery.	Pork chops.	Bacon, smoked.	Ham, smoked.	Lard, pure.
1890.....	99.3	97.6	98.7	100.4	99.2	96.5	96.5	98.3	98.5
1891.....	99.7	98.0	99.6	100.5	105.7	98.8	97.2	99.5	100.0
1892.....	99.6	98.0	99.6	100.5	106.8	101.1	99.9	101.5	104.4
1893.....	99.4	98.5	98.4	100.5	108.6	105.0	108.9	107.1	119.2
1894.....	98.1	97.4	97.9	100.3	102.0	100.9	102.5	101.7	106.4
1895.....	98.7	98.2	97.9	99.4	97.4	99.7	98.7	98.9	99.8
1896.....	98.8	100.5	99.4	100.1	93.1	97.8	96.3	96.5	92.1
1897.....	99.6	101.8	100.1	100.0	93.7	97.5	97.0	98.5	89.0
1898.....	102.1	102.8	102.2	99.8	95.8	99.7	100.2	97.2	93.5
1899.....	104.4	107.0	106.1	98.8	97.6	103.2	102.9	100.5	97.1
1900.....	107.1	109.8	109.3	100.0	101.2	108.9	110.3	106.9	104.9
1901.....	109.4	114.0	112.7	101.4	103.0	119.0	121.3	111.1	119.6
1902.....	114.6	122.3	118.6	104.1	109.8	127.8	135.9	120.6	135.6
1903.....	110.6	116.8	117.0	107.4	110.2	126.1	140.4	122.1	126.0
1904.....	111.0	120.8	117.0	107.4	108.1	123.1	138.5	119.4	116.3
1905.....	110.6	120.0	116.2	108.1	111.4	125.0	139.3	119.4	115.8
1906.....	114.2	124.4	120.5	110.0	118.3	135.9	150.5	127.8	127.3
1907.....	116.7	128.4	123.0	118.9	127.3	140.9	157.7	131.0	133.5
1908.....	119.9	135.5	126.7	123.2	127.9	144.6	163.2	133.8	134.3
1909.....	126.1	140.6	132.2	126.2	134.3	158.7	176.4	142.1	150.5
1910.....	134.0	149.9	137.7	131.6	139.9	178.3	204.4	159.4	172.9
1911.....	134.9	152.6	138.6	132.7	131.3	170.3	197.2	155.9	145.3
<b>1911.</b>									
January.....	134.0	150.9	137.8	135.1	140.7	170.5	203.5	155.4	161.1
February.....	133.7	151.1	138.0	135.2	133.1	168.4	201.1	154.8	158.5
March.....	134.3	152.5	138.7	134.2	128.1	167.6	198.6	153.8	151.4
April.....	134.3	153.0	139.8	132.3	117.8	167.4	196.5	153.4	145.2
May.....	135.8	154.2	140.0	129.6	114.8	166.8	196.9	154.3	140.9
June.....	136.2	155.1	139.4	129.8	115.6	167.3	196.8	157.0	139.5
July.....	136.8	154.6	138.4	129.9	119.4	171.0	199.3	160.5	138.6
August.....	137.3	154.7	138.9	130.5	126.2	180.7	200.1	162.3	139.8
September.....	135.8	153.2	138.8	131.5	131.0	183.4	199.4	159.8	142.6
October.....	133.9	151.7	137.9	133.8	138.9	179.1	193.2	157.4	142.5
November.....	133.0	149.8	137.2	134.9	149.7	160.8	190.7	153.1	142.6
December.....	132.8	149.6	137.4	135.0	159.5	155.4	187.8	150.9	141.3

The price of each of the three articles shown under "cattle products" was higher in 1891 than in 1890; the price of sirloin steak lower and the price of both round steak and ribroast the same in 1892 as in 1891; the prices of sirloin steak and ribroast lower and of round steak higher in 1893 than in 1892; the prices of all three lower in 1894 than in 1893; the prices of sirloin steak and round steak higher and of ribroast the same in 1895 as in 1894; in each year from 1896 to 1902, inclusive, the prices of each of the three articles advanced; in 1903 all three declined; in 1904 sirloin steak and round steak advanced and ribroast remained the same as in 1903; in 1905 all declined; in each year from 1906 to 1911, inclusive, the price of each of the three articles advanced.

## BREAD WEIGHTS.

The price of a loaf of bread as a rule is practically fixed by custom, the 5-cent loaf being by far the most commonly sold, the 10-cent loaf predominating in a few localities, and sharing the popularity of the 5-cent loaf in others. The baker, therefore, varies the weight of the loaf as the price of the materials used rises or falls.

In recent years a noteworthy change has taken place in bakery methods. The small plant, using in the main hand processes and frequently selling chiefly at retail, is being rapidly replaced by the large modern bakery using machine methods of production and more or less closely restricted to a wholesale business. The brand name has become an important factor, and the change of names and formulas is more or less frequent.

It was found impossible, in most cases, to get satisfactory information as to the weight of the loaf of bread prior to 1911. It therefore became necessary to omit the data for bread from the general table for 1907-1911, and no relative prices for bread were computed for that period. More satisfactory information as to bread weights is, however, now being received monthly from the chief baking establishments of the 39 cities covered by this report and will be printed currently with the future retail price reports of the Bureau.

In a few cities satisfactory information was secured for the period 1907 to 1911, and the data from two of them, designated below as City A and City B, are presented in the following tables. Both of these cities represent a high development of the bakery business by modern factory methods. All graham, rye, special, and restaurant breads are excluded, except as noted for one firm, and no "French" breads were reported. The tables include only wheat breads, retailed by grocers to a regular family trade.

It is to be noted that the bread weights shown in these tables are the scaling weights, i. e., the weight of the loaf before it is baked. While it would be highly desirable to present the weight of the loaf as actually purchased by the consumer, the complications involved in the relation of the scaled weight to the weight of the bread when it passes over the retailer's counter were found to be such that it was impossible to do so. The loss of weight in baking varies with the formula, with the style of loaf, and with the temperature of the oven. A further element of uncertainty affecting weights enters before the consumer actually gets the loaf. The weight of course varies with the time intervening between the removal of the loaf from the oven and its final distribution to the consumer, the loss by evaporation also being partly determined by the conditions under which the bread is kept and by the state of the atmosphere.

The customary loss in baking is variously estimated by bakers, but it may be said that a loaf scaled at 18 ounces will, when cold, if handled under ordinary conditions, weigh not far from 16 ounces, and a

loaf scaled at 16 ounces will, when baked and cooled, weigh about 14½ ounces. As noted above, however, the range of loss varies widely. The tables below are believed to represent fairly typical conditions during the years covered.

BREAD WEIGHTS: SCALING WEIGHT (WEIGHT OF DOUGH BEFORE BAKING), IN OUNCES, OF WHEAT BREAD IN TWO CITIES EVERY SECOND MONTH, 1907 TO 1910, AND EVERY MONTH DURING 1911, BY FIRMS.

[The weights quoted are for the 15th of each month for which data are shown.]

Year and month.	City A.					City B.			
	Firm No. I.	Firm No. II.	Firm No. III.	Firm No. IV.		Firm No. I.		Firm No. II.	
	Brands A, B, and C—5-cent loaf.	Average of all brands—5-cent loaf.	Average of all brands <sup>1</sup> —5-cent loaf.	Brand A—5-cent loaf.	Brands B and C—5-cent loaf.	Brand A—5-cent loaf.	Brand B—5-cent loaf.	Brand A—5-cent loaf.	Brand B—5-cent loaf.
<b>1907.</b>	<i>Ounces.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>	<i>Ounces.</i>
January.....	17½	19½	21	22½	21	16½	16	18	16
March.....	17½	19½	21	22½	21	16	16	18	16
May.....	17½	19½	20	22	21	16	16	18	16
July.....	17½	19½	19	21	19½	16	16	18	16
September.....	17½	19½	19	20	18	16	16	18	16
November.....	17½	19½	19	19	18	16	16	17	16
<b>1908.</b>									
January.....	17½	18½	18	19	17½	15	15½	17	16
March.....	17½	18½	18	19	17½	15	15½	17	15
May.....	17½	18½	18	19	17½	15	15	16	15
July.....	17½	18½	18	19	17½	15	15	16	15
September.....	17½	18½	18	19	17½	15	15	16	15
November.....	17½	18½	18	19	17½	15	15	16	15
<b>1909.</b>									
January.....	17½	17½	18	18½	17½	15½	15	16	14
March.....	17½	17½	18	19	17½	15	14½	16	14
May.....	17½	17½	17	18½	17½	15	14½	15½	14
July.....	17½	17½	16½	18	17½	15	14½	15½	14
September.....	17½	17	16½	18	17½	15	15	15½	14
November.....	17½	17	17	18	17½	15	15	15½	14
<b>1910.</b>									
January.....	17½	17	16½	18½	17	16	15	15	14
March.....	20	17	17	18	17	15	14½	15	14
May.....	20	17	17	18½	17½	15	15	15	14
July.....	18	17	17	18	17	15	15	16	14
September.....	17½	17½	16½	17½	17	15	15	16	15
November.....	17½	17½	16½	18	17½	15	15	16	15
<b>1911.</b>									
January.....	17½	17½	16½	18½	17	16	15	16	15½
February.....	17½	17½	17	18½	17	16	15	16	15½
March.....	17½	17½	17½	19	17½	16	15½	16	15½
April.....	17½	17½	18	19	17½	16	15½	16	15½
May.....	17½	17½	18	19	17½	16	16	17	16
June.....	17½	17½	19	19	17½	16	16	17	16
July.....	17½	17½	19	19	17½	16	16	17	16
August.....	17½	17½	19	19	17½	16	16	16	16
September.....	17½	17½	19	19	17½	16	16	16	16
October.....	17½	17½	19	19	17½	16	16	16	16
November.....	17½	17½	19	19	17½	16	16	16	16
December.....	17½	17½	18	19	17½	16	16	16	16

## COAL.

Retail prices of coal for household use were slightly higher in 1911 than in 1907. Average annual prices computed from a simple average of quotations on January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15, show that Pennsylvania anthracite white ash, stove size, in ton lots, as reported from 29 cities, was 0.9 per cent higher in 1911 than in 1907. Pennsylvania anthracite white ash, chestnut size, in ton lots, as reported from 28 cities, was 2.5 per cent higher in 1911 than in 1907. Bituminous coal in ton lots, as reported from 31 cities, was 1.0 per cent higher in 1911 than in 1907.

A comparison of prices on January 15, 1911, with prices on January 15, 1907, shows a somewhat greater change in price. White ash stove advanced 1.6 per cent, white ash chestnut advanced 2.8 per cent, and bituminous advanced 3.9 per cent.

Coal prices have never before been included in the retail price reports of the Bureau of Labor, and therefore no summary for the period for which food prices are summarized in this report is possible.

The table which follows shows the relative prices of coal in each of the five geographical divisions and in the United States as a whole, each year from 1907 to 1911. The first section of the table compares the average price for each year, 1908 to 1911, inclusive, with the average price for 1907. The second section compares the midwinter price on January 15 of each year, 1908 to 1911, inclusive, with the price on January 15, 1907.

RELATIVE RETAIL PRICES OF COAL IN TON LOTS FOR HOUSEHOLD USE, 1907 TO 1911, BY CITIES AND BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS.

Average price for 1907=100.0.

Geographical division.	Pennsylvania anthracite white ash.								Bituminous.			
	Stove.				Chestnut.				1908	1909	1910	1911
	1908	1909	1910	1911	1908	1909	1910	1911				
North Atlantic...	100.7	101.0	100.1	100.6	100.7	101.0	100.2	102.6	98.9	96.5	97.2	97.4
South Atlantic...	102.3	101.3	101.4	102.9	102.4	101.4	101.7	104.4	100.3	101.3	101.5	105.8
North Central...	99.7	99.6	100.5	100.6	99.7	99.6	100.6	102.4	99.8	97.9	102.6	102.5
South Central...	100.6	100.9	101.0	101.1	100.3	99.7	100.5	101.1	99.9	96.0	99.4	98.7
Western.....	99.4	99.4	99.4	96.7	.....	.....	.....	.....	101.8	100.2	101.2	101.8
United States.	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.9	100.5	100.4	100.6	102.5	100.0	98.1	100.5	101.0

Price on January 15, 1907=100.0.

North Atlantic...	103.0	103.0	103.5	102.3	103.0	102.9	103.5	102.8	98.0	97.7	99.0
South Atlantic...	103.2	103.2	100.9	103.2	103.7	103.7	101.1	103.9	101.9	102.5	106.7
North Central...	100.2	100.0	101.1	100.8	100.1	100.0	101.2	102.3	101.0	99.1	101.0
South Central...	100.7	101.3	101.5	101.5	100.7	100.3	102.0	101.5	102.1	98.0	101.8
Western.....	98.8	98.8	98.8	96.1	.....	.....	.....	.....	108.5	107.6	106.2
United States.	101.6	101.6	101.9	101.6	101.8	101.6	102.1	102.8	102.9	100.5	101.4

In the above table the relatives for each geographical division were computed simply by dividing the sum of the relatives for the several cities for which coal prices were quoted by the number of cities included. The United States relatives were computed by dividing the sum of relatives for all cities included in this report by the number of such cities.

General Table III, in Part II of this Bulletin shows actual prices of coal from 1907 to 1911, and General Table IV shows relative prices for each city on ton lots of Pennsylvania anthracite white ash, stove size; Pennsylvania anthracite white ash, chestnut size; and bituminous. No relative prices were computed for the few quotations for Colorado anthracite and other kinds of coal. Nor were relative prices computed for Pennsylvania anthracite or bituminous sold in half-ton lots and in bushel lots. The price of half-ton lots generally follows the price of ton lots, but the bushel price (for small lots) generally remains the same year after year without any reduction during the summer months, as is customary in most cities for sales of ton or half-ton lots. Emphasis is placed upon the fact that the coal prices quoted are for coal for household use and do not include contracts for large quantities which are usually made at a considerably lower price.

#### GAS.

Net prices of manufactured gas for household use are included in this report for 37 cities, natural gas for 5 cities, and mixed manufactured and natural gas for 1 city. Net price data are shown throughout the five years 1907 to 1911, inclusive, for manufactured gas in 35 cities. In those 35 cities the prices on April 15, 1911, compared with the price on April 15, 1907, show an advance in one city, no change in 20 cities, and a reduction in 14 cities (including Detroit and Washington, in each of which cities the price quoted by one company was unchanged, and not including New York, in which city the price quoted by one company was reduced).

Natural gas prices are quoted throughout the five-year period for five cities, and the price was unchanged in all cities excepting Pittsburgh, where the prices charged by four companies were advanced and the price charged by one company reduced.

Gas prices have never before been included in the retail price reports of the Bureau of Labor, and therefore no summary for the period for which food prices are summarized in this report is possible.

The net prices per 1,000 cubic feet charged for manufactured gas, for household lighting purposes, on April 15, 1911, were as follows:

#### SIXTY CENTS.

Indianapolis, Ind.

#### SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS.

Los Angeles, Cal. (1 company).

**EIGHTY CENTS.**

Boston, Mass. (1 company).	Los Angeles, Cal. (1 company).
Cleveland, Ohio.	Milwaukee, Wis.
Detroit, Mich.	New York, N. Y. (8 companies).
Fall River, Mass.	St. Louis, Mo.

**EIGHTY-FIVE CENTS.**

Boston, Mass. (1 company).	Minneapolis, Minn.
Chicago, Ill.	Washington, D. C. (1 company).

**NINETY CENTS.**

Baltimore, Md.	Providence, R. I.
Boston, Mass. (1 company).	Richmond, Va.
Denver, Colo.	

**NINETY-FIVE CENTS.**

New Haven, Conn.	Scranton, Pa.
Portland, Oreg.	

**ONE DOLLAR.**

Atlanta, Ga.	New York, N. Y. (2 companies).
Birmingham, Ala.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Buffalo, N. Y.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Louisville, Ky.	Seattle, Wash.
Memphis, Tenn.	Washington, D. C. (1 company).
Newark, N. J.	

**ONE DOLLAR AND TEN CENTS.**

Manchester, N. H.

**ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTEEN CENTS.**

New Orleans, La.	Omaha, Nebr.
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**ONE DOLLAR AND TWENTY CENTS.**

Charleston, S. C.

**ONE DOLLAR AND TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.**

Jacksonville, Fla.	Little Rock, Ark.
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**ONE DOLLAR AND THIRTY CENTS.**

Salt Lake City, Utah.

The net prices charged per 1,000 cubic feet for natural gas, for household use, on April 15, 1911, were as follows:

**TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.**

Kansas City, Mo.

## TWENTY-SEVEN AND ONE-HALF CENTS.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

## THIRTY CENTS.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Cleveland, Ohio.

Cincinnati, Ohio.

The net price charged for the mixed manufactured and natural gas used in Louisville, Ky., was 65 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

## COST OF LIVING.

As stated in several places in the preceding pages, the weighted relative prices for food given in this report were computed from the relative prices of the several articles and the consumption of the several articles in workingmen's families as set forth in the Eighteenth Annual Report of this Bureau.

In preparing the Eighteenth Annual Report data relative to expenditures were obtained in detail from 2,567 families, including 13,643 persons. Certain of the summary tables from that report are here reproduced because of their interest, and more especially because they are used in preparing several of the tables in this report.

The table which follows shows, by geographical divisions, the total number of families reporting expenditures in detail, average size of family and average income, average expenditure for all purposes, and average expenditure for food per family for the year 1901:

NUMBER OF FAMILIES, AVERAGE SIZE OF FAMILY, AVERAGE INCOME PER FAMILY, AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER FAMILY FOR ALL PURPOSES, AND AVERAGE EXPENDITURE PER FAMILY FOR FOOD, BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS, 1901.

[From Eighteenth Annual Report of the United States Commissioner of Labor, p. 647.]

Geographical division.	Families.	Average size of family.	Average income per family.	Average expenditure per family for all purposes.	Average expenditure per family for food.
North Atlantic.....	1,415	5.25	\$834.83	\$778.04	\$338.10
South Atlantic.....	219	5.30	762.78	700.62	298.64
North Central.....	721	5.46	842.60	785.95	321.60
South Central.....	122	5.65	715.46	690.11	292.68
Western.....	90	4.69	891.82	751.46	308.53
United States.....	2,567	5.31	827.19	768.54	326.90

The table which follows shows, for the 2,567 families reporting expenditures in detail, the average amount per family expended in one year for each of the principal items entering into the cost of living, and also the per cent which the amount expended for each item is of the total family expenditure:

AVERAGE EXPENDITURE OF 2,567 WORKINGMEN'S FAMILIES FOR EACH OF THE PRINCIPAL ITEMS ENTERING INTO COST OF LIVING AND PER CENT OF AVERAGE TOTAL EXPENDITURE, 1901.

[From Eighteenth Annual Report of the United States Commissioner of Labor, p. 648.]

Item of expenditure.	Expenditure based on all families.	
	Average.	Per cent of total expenditure.
Food.....	\$326.90	42.54
Rent.....	99.49	12.95
Mortgage:		
Principal.....	1 8.15	1.06
Interest.....	2 3.98	.52
Fuel.....	32.23	4.19
Lighting.....	8.15	1.06
Clothing:		
Husband.....	33.73	4.39
Wife.....	26.03	3.39
Children.....	48.08	6.26
Taxes.....	5.79	.75
Insurance:		
Property.....	1.53	.20
Life.....	19.44	2.53
Organizations:		
Labor.....	3.87	.50
Other.....	5.18	.67
Religious purposes.....	7.62	.99
Charity.....	2.39	.31
Furniture and utensils.....	26.31	3.42
Books and newspapers.....	8.35	1.09
Amusements and vacations.....	12.28	1.60
Intoxicating liquors.....	12.44	1.62
Tobacco.....	10.93	1.42
Sickness and death.....	20.54	2.67
Other purposes.....	45.13	5.87
Total.....	768.54	100.00

<sup>1</sup> Including interest paid by 13 families.

<sup>2</sup> Not including interest paid by 13 families, included in principal.

The following table shows for each of the geographical divisions and for the United States the average quantity per family of certain principal articles of food consumed in one year. These averages are based on the families from which detailed statements were secured in each geographical division.

AVERAGE QUANTITY PER WORKINGMAN'S FAMILY OF CERTAIN PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD CONSUMED IN 1901, BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS.

[From Eighteenth Annual Report of the United States Commissioner of Labor, p. 648.]

Article.	Unit.	North Atlantic division, 1,415 families.	South Atlantic division, 219 families.	North Central division, 721 families.	South Central division, 122 families.	Western division, 90 families.	United States, 2,567 families.
Fresh beef.....	Pounds.	352.2	306.8	363.5	317.4	348.4	349.7
Salt beef.....	do.	75.3	9.4	21.3	3.5	3.8	48.6
Fresh hog products.....	do.	103.4	85.3	152.6	128.1	28.4	114.2
Salt hog products.....	do.	95.2	222.0	87.3	248.7	76.6	110.5
Other meat.....	do.	98.1	28.1	68.8	11.2	37.8	77.7
Poultry.....	do.	67.2	73.6	71.3	53.0	53.5	67.7
Fish.....	do.	98.9	66.1	56.5	39.5	57.5	79.9
Eggs.....	Dozens.	85.8	90.6	88.3	85.0	39.8	85.2
Milk.....	Quarts.	396.3	191.9	348.2	220.8	324.4	354.5
Butter.....	Pounds.	118.9	102.1	124.0	88.9	108.9	117.1
Cheese.....	do.	15.9	15.2	17.4	18.9	3.8	16.0
Lard.....	do.	73.8	119.5	89.1	143.3	48.5	84.4
Tea.....	do.	12.9	8.2	8.5	4.9	5.6	10.6
Coffee.....	do.	38.5	60.7	57.5	71.4	25.2	46.8
Sugar.....	do.	282.8	240.4	253.1	245.8	267.2	268.5
Molasses.....	Gallons.	3.2	4.6	3.4	6.2	4.0	3.6
Flour and meal.....	Pounds.	624.0	851.8	718.2	979.5	452.3	680.8
Bread.....	Loaves.	310.2	197.0	165.6	199.8	255.2	252.7
Rice.....	Pounds.	22.2	49.1	21.8	47.2	10.3	25.1
Potatoes.....	Bushels.	13.8	11.1	18.3	13.3	10.3	14.7

Another table shows the average cost per family of the principal articles of food consumed in one year. These averages are based on the families from which detailed statements were secured in each of the geographical divisions.

AVERAGE COST PER WORKINGMAN'S FAMILY OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD CONSUMED IN 1901, BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS.

[From Eighteenth Annual Report of the United States Commissioner of Labor, p. 649.]

Article.	North Atlantic division, 1,415 families.	South Atlantic division, 219 families.	North Central division, 721 families.	South Central division, 122 families.	Western division, 90 families.	United States, 2,567 families.
Fresh beef.....	\$54.27	\$41.08	\$46.06	\$37.84	\$54.13	\$50.05
Salt beef.....	8.18	1.13	2.20	.33	.66	5.26
Fresh hog products.....	12.83	10.48	18.39	15.60	4.04	14.02
Salt hog products.....	12.19	26.79	11.25	28.09	11.06	13.89
Other meat.....	12.26	3.86	8.68	1.40	5.35	9.78
Poultry.....	10.18	8.44	9.34	5.93	7.15	9.49
Fish.....	10.06	5.21	5.67	3.95	6.90	8.01
Eggs.....	18.44	15.55	15.24	13.20	11.01	16.79
Milk.....	24.29	13.02	19.67	12.25	20.46	21.32
Butter.....	29.77	25.76	28.48	21.74	31.81	28.76
Cheese.....	2.55	2.65	2.87	3.36	.69	2.62
Lard.....	8.15	12.72	10.34	14.31	5.44	9.35
Tea.....	6.33	4.40	4.22	2.69	3.43	5.30
Coffee.....	9.70	10.58	12.91	12.22	8.06	10.74
Sugar.....	16.67	14.15	14.63	15.70	14.49	15.76
Molasses.....	1.51	2.01	1.53	2.93	3.28	1.69
Flour and meal.....	16.24	21.10	16.47	22.68	8.85	16.76
Bread.....	15.41	9.34	8.11	9.55	11.93	12.44
Rice.....	1.94	2.77	1.92	3.70	.91	2.05
Potatoes.....	13.77	9.29	13.01	11.54	9.84	12.93
Other vegetables.....	16.08	20.75	22.03	16.62	35.41	18.85
Fruit.....	15.31	15.22	17.15	11.52	40.53	16.52
Vinegar, pickles, and condiments.....	4.06	3.21	4.80	4.41	1.49	4.12
Other food.....	17.91	19.13	26.63	21.12	11.61	20.40
Total.....	388.10	298.64	321.60	292.68	308.53	326.90

From the table just shown another table has been computed, showing the relative importance, as measured by the average family expenditure, of the principal articles of food consumed in one year. For the purpose of computing the relative importance of the various articles, the total value of food consumed is considered equal to 10,000. The table follows:

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE IN WORKINGMEN'S FAMILIES OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF FOOD CONSUMED IN 1901, BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS.

[From Eighteenth Annual Report of the United States Commissioner of Labor, p. 650. Total value of food consumed=10,000.]

Article.	North Atlantic division, 1,415 families.	South Atlantic division, 219 families.	North Central division, 721 families.	South Central division, 122. families.	Western division, 90 families.	United States, 2,567 families.
Fresh beef.....	1,605	1,375	1,432	1,293	1,754	1,531
Salt beef.....	242	38	68	11	21	161
Fresh hog products.....	379	351	572	533	131	429
Salt hog products.....	361	897	350	900	359	425
Other meat.....	363	129	270	48	173	299
Poultry.....	301	283	290	203	232	290
Fish.....	298	174	176	135	224	245
Eggs.....	545	521	474	451	357	514
Milk.....	718	436	612	418	663	652
Butter.....	881	863	886	743	1,031	880
Cheese.....	75	89	89	115	22	80
Lard.....	241	426	322	489	176	286
Tea.....	187	147	131	92	111	162
Coffee.....	287	354	401	417	261	328
Sugar.....	493	474	455	536	470	482
Molasses.....	45	67	48	100	106	52
Flour and meal.....	480	706	512	775	287	513
Bread.....	456	313	252	326	387	381
Rice.....	57	93	60	126	30	63
Potatoes.....	407	311	405	394	319	395
Other vegetables.....	476	695	685	568	1,148	577
Fruit.....	453	510	533	394	1,314	505
Vinegar, pickles, and condiments.....	120	107	149	151	48	126
Other food.....	530	641	828	722	376	624
Total.....	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000

The relative prices or index numbers weighted according to family consumption shown in the preceding pages were computed by the use of this table, the several articles being given the weight or importance shown in the table.

Certain groupings of the articles for which retail prices were secured are necessary in order to bring them within the classification reported in the family budgets.

Fresh beef is represented by the three articles—sirloin steak, round steak, and ribroast; salt hog products by the two articles—smoked bacon and smoked ham; flour and meal by wheat flour and corn meal, but in obtaining an average index number to be used in weighting by relative importance wheat flour is given twice the importance of corn meal.

The list which follows includes the 15 articles for which retail prices were secured and shows the groupings for the purpose of weighting:

Fresh beef:	Eggs, strictly fresh.
Sirloin steak.	Milk, fresh.
Round steak.	Butter, creamery.
Ribroast.	Lard, pure.
Fresh hog products:	Sugar, granulated.
Pork chops.	Flour and meal:
Salt pork products:	Wheat flour (weight of 2)
Bacon, smoked.	Corn meal.
Ham, smoked.	Potatoes, Irish.
Poultry:	
Hens.	

The figures showing the relative importance of the various articles of food are based on the family consumption for 1901. There is no doubt that the relative importance of articles varied slightly from year to year, but no figures are available covering the 22 years; therefore the relative consumption of the various articles of food is, in this study, considered the same for each of the years.

The method of computing the series of relative prices, weighted according to family consumption, for each of the geographical divisions, and for the United States considered as a whole, can best be explained by illustrating the process.

The following table is for the United States for the year 1911:

ILLUSTRATION OF THE METHOD OF COMPUTING THE RELATIVE RETAIL PRICE OF FOOD IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 1911, THE VARIOUS ARTICLES BEING WEIGHTED ACCORDING TO AVERAGE CONSUMPTION IN 2,567 WORKINGMEN'S FAMILIES.

Article.	Relative importance.	Relative price.	Result.
Fresh beef.....	1,531	142.0	217,402.0
Fresh hog products.....	429	170.3	73,058.7
Salt hog products.....	425	176.6	75,055.0
Poultry.....	290	151.6	43,964.0
Eggs.....	514	150.2	77,202.8
Milk.....	652	132.7	86,520.4
Butter.....	880	131.3	115,544.0
Lard.....	286	145.3	41,555.8
Sugar.....	482	111.1	53,550.2
Flour and meal.....	513	134.3	68,895.9
Potatoes.....	395	157.0	62,015.0
Total.....	6,397	143.0	914,763.8

The number indicating the relative importance of fresh beef, 1,531, is drawn from the table on page 33 and denotes that for every \$100 spent by the 2,567 wage-earning families for food \$15.31 was spent for fresh beef. The relative price, 142.0, entered for fresh

beef, is a simple average of the relative prices of sirloin steak, round steak, and ribroast. The number entered in the "result" column, 217,402, is simply the product of the relative price, 142.0, multiplied by the relative importance, 1,531, of fresh beef.

Each of the other articles is taken up in the same way as fresh beef, the relative price as shown in General Table II, in Part II of this Bulletin, being multiplied by the relative importance of the article as shown in the table on page 33.

The grand total of the numbers indicating relative importance was 6,397, and the sum of the results obtained by multiplying the relative price of each of the various articles considered by its relative importance was 914,763.8. The sum of the results divided by 6,397 gives 143.0, the relative price of food for the United States in 1911, when the various articles are weighted according to the reported consumption in 2,567 workingmen's families. In the present report it was not possible to collect retail prices for all of the articles which enter into the family budget, but, as indicated above, the relative importance of the 15 articles for which prices are shown is 6,397 out of a total of 10,000 (see p. 33) and they therefore represent 63.97 per cent of food expenditures in the average workingman's family.

The weighted relative price for the United States for each of the years from 1890 to 1910 was found in the same way as has been explained for 1911.

The same method was employed in computing the weighted relative prices for each of the five geographical divisions as for the United States. The relative importance of the various articles, or classes of articles, in the different geographical divisions is shown in the table on page 33.

The significance of the changes in the retail prices of food can best be understood if taken in connection with the data relative to total family food expenditures as shown in the Eighteenth Annual Report. If it be assumed that the expenditure for each of the various articles bore the same relation to the total expenditure for food in each of the other years of the 22-year period covered by this investigation as in 1901, the average cost for food per family in 1911 in the North Atlantic division was \$422 against \$300 in 1896, the year of lowest prices, and against \$423 in 1910. The cost in 1911 was \$122 more than in 1896 and \$1 less than in 1910.

The table which follows shows by geographical divisions the approximate average cost of a year's food supply for an average workingman's family at average prices of each year from 1890 to 1911.

This table is based on the average food cost per family in 1901 as reported by the families investigated in each geographical division, and the course of relative retail prices of food in each geographical division weighted according to family consumption in that division.

In each of the geographical divisions, it is considered in this table that the expenditure for each of the various articles bore the same relation to the total expenditure for food in each of the other years of the 22-year period covered by this investigation as in 1901.

APPROXIMATE COST OF A YEAR'S FOOD SUPPLY FOR AN AVERAGE WORKINGMAN'S FAMILY, AT AVERAGE PRICES OF EACH YEAR, 1890 TO 1911, BY GEOGRAPHICAL DIVISIONS.

[Based on the average food cost per family in 1901 and the course of retail prices of food as indicated by the relative prices weighted according to family consumption. The average food cost in 1901 was \$338.10 for 1,415 families in the North Atlantic division, \$298.64 for 219 families in the South Atlantic division, \$321.60 for 721 families in the North Central division, \$292.68 for 122 families in the South Central division, and \$308.53 for 90 families in the Western division. Cents are not shown in entering the approximate amounts in this table.]

Year.	North Atlantic division.	South Atlantic division.	North Central division.	South Central division.	Western division.
1890.....	\$319	\$274	\$299	\$269	\$309
1891.....	320	277	307	274	314
1892.....	319	276	299	267	304
1893.....	327	280	312	278	300
1894.....	311	271	293	268	288
1895.....	304	266	285	261	281
1896.....	300	265	276	255	277
1897.....	305	265	282	259	279
1898.....	314	271	292	267	288
1899.....	313	278	293	270	299
1900.....	322	284	301	275	301
1901.....	338	299	322	293	309
1902.....	357	315	339	317	324
1903.....	356	312	339	321	323
1904.....	362	313	341	323	327
1905.....	360	315	342	324	329
1906.....	373	327	354	334	338
1907.....	388	343	370	349	358
1908.....	396	353	386	367	364
1909.....	411	375	409	392	386
1910.....	423	404	432	418	408
1911.....	422	389	424	419	409

#### EXPLANATION OF SCOPE AND METHOD.

This report presents for each of 39 of the most important industrial cities in the various sections of the United States, the retail prices of the principal articles of food, the retail prices of anthracite and bituminous coal, and the net price of gas for household use.

#### FOOD.

The present report gives the result of an investigation of retail prices of the principal articles of food in 39 cities in the United States for the years 1907 to 1911. Summaries are also presented covering the 22-year period from 1890 to 1911, inclusive. Previous investigations of retail prices have been made and published by the Bureau of Labor as follows: Eighteenth Annual Report, covering 1890 to 1903; Bulletin No. 59 (July, 1905), covering 1904; Bulletin No. 65 (July, 1906), covering 1905; Bulletin No. 71 (July, 1907), covering 1906; Bulletin No. 77 (July, 1908), covering 1907.

The cities included are important industrial cities representing 32 States. In a general way the cities selected were those having the largest population in each section of the country, but in addition two smaller cities were included—Fall River, Mass., which is a textile center, and Scranton, Pa., which is situated in the anthracite coal section of that State. Within the 39 cities live one-fifth of the total number of people, two-fifths of the urban population, and approximately one-third of the total number engaged in gainful occupations (not including those in agricultural pursuits) in continental United States.

The cities included and the number of retail firms from which price quotations were secured are as follows:

NUMBER OF FIRMS QUOTING RETAIL PRICES OF FOOD IN EACH CITY DURING EACH YEAR, 1907 TO 1911.

City.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	City.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
Atlanta, Ga.....	12	12	12	15	15	Milwaukee, Wis.....	11	11	11	18	18
Baltimore, Md.....	14	14	14	22	21	Minneapolis, Minn.....	9	9	9	15	15
Birmingham, Ala.....	11	11	11	16	18	Newark, N. J.....	14	14	14	15	15
Boston, Mass.....	10	10	10	16	16	New Haven, Conn.....	8	8	8	9	9
Buffalo, N. Y.....	12	12	12	19	19	New Orleans, La.....	17	17	17	20	23
Charleston, S. C.....	14	14	14	20	20	New York, N. Y.....	28	28	28	35	35
Chicago, Ill.....	19	19	19	23	23	Omaha, Nebr.....	9	9	9	14	12
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	13	13	13	17	17	Philadelphia, Pa.....	19	19	19	24	24
Cleveland, Ohio.....	13	13	13	20	20	Pittsburgh, Pa.....	13	13	13	17	18
Dallas, Tex.....	10	10	10	14	14	Portland, Ore.....	12	12	11	17	16
Denver, Colo.....	8	8	7	13	13	Providence, R. I.....	10	10	10	11	11
Detroit, Mich.....	8	8	8	17	17	Richmond, Va.....	10	10	10	16	17
Fall River, Mass.....	13	13	13	18	19	St. Louis, Mo.....	8	8	8	12	12
Indianapolis, Ind.....	10	10	10	15	15	Salt Lake City, Utah.....	10	10	10	14	13
Jacksonville, Fla.....	10	10	10	13	14	San Francisco, Cal.....	9	9	9	18	21
Kansas City, Mo.....	12	12	11	15	14	Scranton, Pa.....	13	13	13	16	16
Little Rock, Ark.....	12	12	12	16	18	Seattle, Wash.....	9	9	9	17	15
Los Angeles, Cal.....	9	9	9	15	15	Washington, D. C.....	8	8	8	13	13
Louisville, Ky.....	11	11	11	14	14						
Manchester, N. H.....	9	9	9	13	13	Total.....	457	457	454	645	651
Memphis, Tenn.....	10	10	10	13	13						

The retail dealers selected were those selling largely to the families of American, English, Irish, German, and Scandinavian wage earners. A comparatively few "down town" stores are included, but the neighborhood stores predominate. So called "cut-rate" stores are not included. "Chain stores" (a number of stores in one city owned or controlled by one firm) are not included except in a very few cities where such stores are so numerous that they form a very important factor in the city's trade. The stores selected, with a very few exceptions, deliver all purchases when requested.

This investigation was begun in the summer of 1911, and all data were secured by personal visits of agents of the Bureau for the period from January, 1907, to the time of the visit. At the same time that data were secured for the past period, the agents of the Bureau arranged for the retail merchant to send to the Bureau on a form supplied by the Bureau a statement of prices of the various commodities on or about the 15th of each succeeding month. Return

visits were made during the early part of 1912, whenever inquiries concerning the monthly price quotations were necessary.

For each of the years 1907 to 1910 quotations were secured of prices on or about the 15th of January, March, May, July, September, and November. For 1911, quotations were secured of prices on or about the 15th of each month. The quotations in all cases were for as nearly the 15th of the month as practicable.

The present report includes quotations from a larger number of firms for each article in each of the cities for which data were secured than do former retail price reports of the Bureau, but as the number of cities included is considerably less than in the report published in Bulletin No. 77, the total number of firms is also less. Comparatively few retail firms preserve records for any considerable period, and therefore it was extremely difficult to secure price quotations for the earlier years of the period covered by this report. The number of firms from which data were secured was materially increased beginning with January, 1910.

The total number of firms from which price quotations were secured was 457 in 1907, 457 in 1908, 454 in 1909, 645 in 1910, and 651 in 1911.

The number of firms quoting prices for each of the articles included in this report is shown for each of the five years in the table which follows:

NUMBER OF FIRMS QUOTING RETAIL PRICES FOR EACH ARTICLE OF FOOD DURING EACH YEAR, 1907 TO 1911.

Article.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	Article.	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
Sirloin steak.....	125	126	125	210	204	Hens.....	109	109	109	183	189
Round steak.....	125	126	125	210	206	Wheat flour.....	129	130	129	212	210
Ribroast.....	121	122	121	205	201	Corn meal.....	129	129	129	202	200
Pork chops.....	118	119	118	204	200	Eggs, strictly fresh	132	133	132	213	209
Bacon, smoked.....	123	124	123	208	205	Butter, creamery...	137	138	137	225	222
Ham, smoked.....	129	130	129	215	211	Potatoes, Irish.....	120	122	120	198	196
Lard.....	129	130	129	207	202	Sugar, granulated...	130	131	130	204	201
Leg of lamb, year-						Milk, fresh.....	146	146	146	202	209
ling.....	118	120	120	201	198						

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES INCLUDED.

The grade of articles quoted is that sold in each city in stores patronized largely by the families of American, English, Irish, German, and Scandinavian wage earners.

The Bureau has not attempted to quote prices for an article of identical grade throughout the 39 cities. For almost every article this would be absolutely impossible as the grade varies not only from city to city but also from firm to firm within the same city, and the grade even varies to some extent from month to month within the same store. Stores which vary in a marked degree from day to day or month to month the grade of articles handled have not been

included, but in every store there is necessarily some variation in grade. This variation is usually more marked in fresh meat and eggs than in other articles.

Brief descriptions of each of the articles and necessary explanations concerning each are here presented.

*Fresh beef.*

In the present report prices are quoted for three cuts of beef, as follows: Sirloin steak, round steak, and ribroast. Beginning with January, 1912, quotations have also been secured for chuck roast and those prices will be included in the forthcoming report covering January to June, 1912.

Methods of cutting beef vary considerably in different cities and to some extent this affects retail prices.

The majority of the firms that furnished quotations for cuts of meat quoted in this report buy "straight cattle" or carcass beef, that is, whole carcass separated into sides (halves) as distinguished from special cuts, such as loins, ribs, or rounds. A side or half consists of a hind quarter and a forequarter. In separating a side or half into quarters no ribs are cut to the hind quarter in some cities, while in other cities the side is cut leaving 1, 2, 3, or 4 ribs on the hind quarter. These ribs are sold either as roast or porterhouse steak. If sold as steak the rib is usually removed before weighing.

The hind quarter is separated into "loin" and "round" either by cutting from the top of the hip near the end of the backbone through the rump to the hip joint and then through to the front of the leg above the stifle joint or by cutting from the leg at the stifle joint along the leg bone to the hip joint and then through the rump to the top of the hip at or near the tail bone. The second method gives a larger loin and a smaller round than does the first method.

The loin of beef is cut into steaks. The cuts commonly known as "sirloin" steak for which prices are quoted in most cities are cut parallel to the full cut surface of the thick or butt end of the loin, and include all cuts of the loin with any part of the hip bone in them. The other cuts of the loin, or those from the small or thin end, are commonly known as "porterhouse" steak in most cities.

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.

The round of beef is separated at the hip joint into the rump and the round. The rump has part of the hip bone in it and is called rump, bullion, or butchers' roast.

The round has the leg bone in it. The great majority of the prices quoted for round steak are for “whole” round, that is, for a cut that includes the top round, bottom round, and bone. Quotations from a few firms are for “top round, bone out,” or “top round, bone in.” Top round is cut from the inside of the leg or round and extends about half through the round to the leg bone, and to the tissue or membrane which marks the natural division between the inside and outside of the leg. The inside is tender while the outside is muscular and more or less tough. Some firms cut the top round to include the leg bone and a small part of the bottom round. Firms that sell top round usually sell the bottom or outside for pot roast or Hamburg steak.

In many cities no bone or fat is trimmed from either sirloin or round steaks before weighing, while in others some bone and fat or all bone and fat are cut off before steaks are weighed.

Forequarters include ribs, chucks, plates, and shanks. The shank is removed by cutting through the shoulder joint or by sawing through the leg bone below the shoulder joint. The plate is separated from the ribs and chuck by cutting through the ribs on a line beginning about the middle of the rib next to the hind quarter and running parallel to the backbone to the point where the shank is removed. If the line or cut be nearer the backbone the ribs are short, more desirable, and higher priced.

“Ribs” are usually separated from chucks by cutting across the backbone between the fifth and sixth ribs, counting from the front backwards. “Ribs” usually include about eight ribs, two of which have part of the shoulder blade in them.

The prices quoted for ribroast are for cuts of ribs that do not have any part of the shoulder blade in them. Some firms in some cities cut ribroast short and trim off part of the chine bone before weighing.

Chucks extend from the point where ribs and chucks are separated to the neck.

Plates include the forequarter flank or navel and the brisket. The flank or the navel extends from about the eighth rib to the hind-quarter flank, and the brisket extends from about the eighth to the first rib and includes all the breast bone.

All quotations for fresh beef in this report are on the basis of one pound, but of course in many, if not most, cases the usual sale is in quantities of more than one pound.

As stated elsewhere, the grade of beef quoted is not identical throughout the 39 cities, nor is the grade identical in a store throughout the period for which prices are quoted, but 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 were those patronized largely by the families of American, English, Irish, German, and Scandinavian wage earners.

*Pork chops.*

The quotations are for loin chops, with the exception of a very few for rib chops.

Prices are quoted on the pound basis, but many of the sales are for quantities larger than 1 pound.

*Bacon.*

Prices are reported by each dealer on the best grade of smoked bacon that he sells in any considerable quantity to families of wage earners.

No fancy bacon ready sliced in glass jars or other small packages is quoted.

The prices quoted are in most cases for bacon sliced when sold, but in a few cities some of the dealers sell relatively little sliced bacon and therefore have quoted bacon by the piece and have reported the usual range of weight of such pieces.

Prices are quoted on the pound basis, but many sales are of quantities larger than a pound.

*Ham.*

Prices are reported by each dealer on the best grade of smoked ham that he sells in any considerable quantity to families of wage earners.

The prices quoted are in most cases for ham sliced when sold, but in a few cities some of the dealers sell relatively little sliced ham and therefore have quoted whole hams and have reported the usual range of weight of such hams.

Some of the firms that sell sliced ham cut only four or five slices from the middle of the ham and sell the ends without slicing. On the other hand, some dealers slice practically all the ham and in such cases the prices quoted are for the best slices from the middle of the ham.

Prices are quoted on the pound basis, but in many, if not most, cases the usual quantity sold is greater than 1 pound.

*Lard.*

All quotations are for "pure" lard with the exception of a few for "pure leaf." No "compound" lard is quoted. The great majority of quotations are for "tub" lard (lard sold in bulk). Some quotations,

however, are for lard in pails weighing either 3 or 5 pounds and known to the trade in some localities as No. 3 and No. 5. Tub lard is quoted by the pound. In many cases tub lard is customarily sold in quantities of 2 or more pounds, and in all such cases the price quoted in this report is reduced to the pound basis. Where lard is sold by the pail, the price is quoted per pail, gross weight, as it was not possible readily to determine the net weight of the lard.

*Leg of lamb, yearling.*

The prices quoted in this report are for the article generally known to the trade as "yearling." The age of the sheep ("yearling") varies from approximately 9 to 18 months. Owing to the fact that, in some firms, the age varies considerably with different seasons of the year, no "relative" prices are computed for this article in the report of the Bureau.

*Hens.*

Prices are quoted for "hens" at least a year old, such as are usually sold for roasting or stewing. In some localities, the term used for these hens is either "fowls" or "stewing chickens."

The quotations are in most cases for "dressed" hens, although a few dealers reported prices for "live" hens. Dressed hens are described as "drawn" or "not drawn." In a few cities hens are sold "full dressed," that is, drawn and with head and feet off.

Throughout all cities reporting, except San Francisco, the basis of sale is 1 pound. In San Francisco hens are sold wholesale in 1 dozen lots and classified under the terms "small," "large," and "extra." Retailers while following this classification seldom weigh the hens, but sell by the fowl and base the price charged on size and appearance, while at the same time having in mind a rough estimate of the value per pound. No prices for San Francisco were quoted for January, 1907, to September, 1911, inclusive, because of a lack of a basis of sale due to the conditions here described.

*Wheat flour.*

Flour is quoted by the eighth-barrel bag for about 30 of the cities, by the eighth-barrel bag with a few firms quoting fourth-barrel bags in a few cities, by the fourth-barrel bag with an occasional firm quoting half-barrel bags for some of the Pacific coast cities, by the 20-pound bag by one firm in Indianapolis, and by the sixteenth-barrel bag from an occasional firm in one or two of the eastern cities. The weight of the various size bags varies slightly in different localities; the half-barrel bag weighs from 96 to 98 pounds, the fourth-barrel bag from 48 to 49 pounds and the eighth-barrel bag from 23 to 24½ pounds. These weights are in some instances net and in others gross. Great quantities of flour are sold in sixteenth and in thirty-second-barrel

bags, particularly in the eastern cities, but the eighth-barrel bag is a very popular size in most of the cities for which prices were secured, and for ready comparison that size has been quoted where possible.

In a few of the cities the price of flour is "protected"; that is, the flour manufacturer fixes a minimum selling price for the retailer.

The quotations from each firm are for a definite brand, or brands of equivalent grade, throughout the period for which prices are quoted.

*Corn meal.*

The corn meal for which prices are given is bulk or bag meal, and not fancy meal in cartons or packages. The color of the meal handled varies, generally speaking, according to the locality, yellow being sold as a rule in cities of the North, white in southern cities, and both white and yellow in Denver, Salt Lake City, and the cities on the Pacific coast.

The price of corn meal is quoted in this report on a 1-pound basis. These figures have been derived from the price charged by the dealer for the quantity of corn meal most in demand among his customers and represent a great variety of units of sale. In New England and other northern cities the amounts sold are usually small, being as a rule from 2 to 5 pounds, the 5 cents' worth, or the 10 cents' worth. In most southern cities sales of 10 pounds or more predominate, while in the cities of the far west reports on any other unit than 10 pounds are exceptional.

*Eggs.*

Prices of eggs are reported from grocery stores with the exception of a few instances in which quotations have been secured from dairy firms. The prices quoted are for "strictly fresh" eggs of the highest grade handled by the firm on the date of each quotation, excluding fancy eggs, or eggs selected for size and color. Many of the firms represented in this study carry both fresh and storage eggs whenever both are on the market, and some firms at certain seasons do not carry any "strictly fresh" eggs. The trade terms used to describe the eggs for which quotations are given vary with the locality. On the Atlantic coast, for example, common descriptive terms are "near-by," "State," "eastern," and "western"; in the Middle West, "near-by" and "country"; in certain southern cities, "near-by" and "Tennessee"; and on the Pacific coast, "ranch" and "eastern fresh."

Some quotations for storage eggs were secured for the period 1907 to 1911, but the number was insufficient for the purpose of this report. A much larger number of quotations on storage eggs is being secured for 1912 for inclusion in the forthcoming report for January to June,

1912.

All prices in the table are quoted on the dozen, and in most cities included in this study the dozen is the only unit of sale of importance. In New York City, however, purchases by the 25 cents' worth are common, and in the Pacific coast cities two dozen becomes at times the prevailing unit of sale, owing to the fact that it is a common practice to make a special rate on this quantity (as, for example, 65 cents per 2 dozen when the price is 35 cents per dozen). In such cases the price as quoted on the most usual unit of sale has been reduced to the rate per dozen.

#### *Butter.*

The quotations for butter represent the grade of butter known on the market as "creamy extra." No dairy butter nor brands designated as specials or fancy have been included.

Creamy extras are sold in bulk, otherwise known as "tub" butter, or in bricks generally termed "print" butter. When print butter is put up in cartons it is often termed "package" butter.

Seventeen cities report prices for print butter only, 19 tub and print, and 3 tub butter only. Prices for butter in practically all cities west of the Mississippi included in this report, except St. Louis and Omaha, are for print butter, and in most cases this print butter is put up in cartons.

The demands for print or tub butter seem to rest on local preferences. In some cities the price is the same for both; in others print butter is quoted at 1 or at 2 cents higher than tub.

In some of the Pacific coast cities butter is usually sold in 2-pound prints, locally known as "squares." Prices for San Francisco and Portland are shown in this report on the 2-pound basis; prices for all other cities are on the 1-pound basis. In Seattle butter is reported both in 2-pound prints and in 1-pound prints, and in that city all quotations have been reduced to the 1-pound basis.

#### *Potatoes.*

All quotations for potatoes are for the article known in many localities as "Irish" potatoes, which signifies the "white" potato in contradistinction to the "sweet." The extensive variety of Irish potatoes on the market and the fact that retailers do not confine their buying to one variety have made it impracticable to quote varieties or grades.

New potatoes have been quoted only when they form the bulk of the sales. This is usually when new potatoes grown in the locality are plentiful, as the price of new potatoes shipped from a distance is generally prohibitive to the mass of trade in the stores reporting.

The peck, or a fractional part of a peck, is the unit of sale for practically all eastern cities except New York and Newark. All quota-

tions for the eastern cities in this report are on the basis of one peck. In the West potatoes are sold by weight, using the 100-pound lot as a basis. In the western cities reporting there is a demand during the summer for smaller quantities than the 100-pound lot, which results in sales of 25 cents', 50 cents', and one dollar's worth.

No retail prices for Irish potatoes have been tabulated for either New York or Newark owing to the fact that the unit of sale generally reported in each city—that is, the quart and the one-half peck, respectively—does not appear to be based on a definite weight or measure. For example, in New York the amount sold for a quart varies from store to store from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 or more pounds, while within the same store the number of pounds of new potatoes sold for a quart is generally less than the number of pounds of old potatoes sold for a quart.

#### *Sugar.*

All quotations are for granulated sugar and are on a pound basis. These prices per pound in most cases have been derived from prices as reported by the dealers on the quantities most in demand. Such quantities vary in the cities represented. The common units of sale in most cities are 25-cent, 50-cent, and \$1 lots. In certain cities, notably New York and Philadelphia, small quantities are reported as the usual units of sale. In New York, Brooklyn, and Newark  $3\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, and in Philadelphia 2 pounds, are as a rule the quantities most in demand among the customers of the dealers reporting.

#### *Milk.*

All quotations are by the quart and are for milk regularly delivered to customers.

In connection with each quotation is a statement as to whether the milk is sold bottled or is sold "loose;" that is, dipped from the can.

All quotations are from dairies, either the original producer or a milk dealer, and none are from grocers.

In the forthcoming report for 1912 prices, milk will be designated as "pasteurized" or "raw," but in the present report it was not possible to indicate this in a large number of cases, and therefore none of the quotations carry such designation.

The method of sale is in some cases by the quart, and a bill is rendered monthly for the amount actually served; in other cases a certain number of tickets, each exchangeable for 1 quart of milk, is sold for \$1, usually with a slight gain to the consumer; thus, if milk is 9 cents per quart, 12 tickets may be sold for \$1. Some of the dairies in the Pacific coast cities charge a definite sum monthly for a quart of milk each day, the price being the same for each calendar month.

## COAL.

This report gives prices of coal on the 15th of January, April, July, and October of each year from 1907 to 1911, inclusive. Coal prices have never before been included in the retail price reports of the Bureau of Labor, and therefore no summary for the period for which food prices are summarized in this report is possible.

The prices shown are those quoted by the retail trade for household use. The table of prices shows Pennsylvania anthracite white ash coal both in stove size and in chestnut size; bituminous coal, of several kinds; and in a few cities other varieties, such as Colorado, Welsh, and Australian. Prices are quoted for sales in "ton lots," "in half-ton lots," and "in lots of less than one-fourth ton." The prices were quoted by coal dealers who kindly supplied the information at the request of the Bureau of Labor. In some cities practically all sales for household use were of anthracite coal, and in other cities of bituminous coal. The coal dealers in each city were asked to quote prices on the kind of bituminous coal usually sold for household use. The prices quoted are for coal delivered to customers, but do not include charges for storing in cellar or coal bin except when noted.

The 35 cities for which coal prices are quoted are cities for which retail prices of food are shown in this report. Prices of food are also shown for four additional cities—Atlanta, Ga.; Charleston, S. C.; Portland, Oreg.; and Scranton, Pa. The cities included and the number of firms from which price quotations for coal were secured are as follows:

NUMBER OF FIRMS QUOTING RETAIL PRICES OF COAL, BY CITIES.

City.	Total number of firms reporting coal prices.	Number reporting prices of anthracite coal.	Number reporting prices of bituminous coal.	City.	Total number of firms reporting coal prices.	Number reporting prices of anthracite coal.	Number reporting prices of bituminous coal.
Baltimore, Md.....	4	4	1	Milwaukee, Wis.....	6	6	6
Birmingham, Ala.....	4	.....	4	Minneapolis, Minn.....	7	7	7
Boston, Mass.....	8	8	6	Newark, N. J.....	7	7	.....
Buffalo, N. Y.....	2	2	.....	New Haven, Conn.....	7	7	6
Chicago, Ill.....	3	3	3	New Orleans, La.....	4	4	4
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	6	4	6	New York, N. Y.....	9	9	4
Cleveland, Ohio.....	6	4	6	Omaha, Nebr.....	4	4	4
Dallas, Tex.....	4	2	4	Philadelphia, Pa.....	10	10	2
Denver, Colo.....	5	1 2	5	Pittsburgh, Pa.....	5	3	5
Detroit, Mich.....	5	5	4	Providence, R. I.....	3	3	1
Fall River, Mass.....	3	3	2	Richmond, Va.....	4	4	3
Indianapolis, Ind.....	6	6	6	St. Louis, Mo.....	4	4	4
Jacksonville, Fla.....	2	2	2	Salt Lake City, Utah.....	4	1 2	4
Kansas City, Mo.....	4	3	4	San Francisco, Cal.....	5	2	5
Little Rock, Ark.....	1	.....	1	Seattle, Wash.....	2	1	2
Los Angeles, Cal.....	3	2	3	Washington, D. C.....	9	9	7
Louisville, Ky.....	5	3	5				
Manchester, N. H.....	2	2	.....	Total.....	168	142	130
Memphis, Tenn.....	5	5	4				

1 Colorado anthracite.

GAS.

This report gives prices of gas for household use on the 15th of April of each year from 1907 to 1911, inclusive. Gas prices have never before been included in the retail price reports of the Bureau of Labor, and therefore no summary for the period for which food prices are summarized in this report is possible.

The prices quoted are the net rates charged for gas for household use as distinguished from use by manufacturing plants and industrial establishments. The prices are the same for gas for illuminating, cooking, and heating purposes, except as noted in the table. Prices are in most cases for manufactured gas, but natural gas has also been quoted where that is in general use. The data were furnished by the gas companies who kindly responded to the Bureau's request for this information.

The 38 cities for which prices of gas are quoted are cities for which retail prices of food are shown in this report. Prices of food are also shown for one additional city—Dallas, Tex. The cities included and the kind of gas quoted are as follows:

NUMBER OF COMPANIES QUOTING PRICES OF GAS, BY CITIES.

City.	Total number of companies reporting gas prices.	Number reporting prices of manufactured gas.	Number reporting prices of natural gas.	Number reporting prices of manufactured and natural gas mixed.	City.	Total number of companies reporting gas prices.	Number reporting prices of manufactured gas.	Number reporting prices of natural gas.	Number reporting prices of manufactured and natural gas mixed.
Atlanta, Ga.....	1	1			Milwaukee, Wis.....	1	1		
Baltimore, Md.....	1	1			Minneapolis, Minn.....	1	1		
Birmingham, Ala.....	1	1			Newark, N. J.....	1	1		
Boston, Mass.....	3	3			New Haven, Conn.....	1	1		
Buffalo, N. Y.....	2	1	1		New Orleans, La.....	1	1		
Charleston, S. C.....	1	1			New York, N. Y.....	10	10		
Chicago, Ill.....	1	1			Omaha, Nebr.....	1	1		
Cincinnati, Ohio.....	11	1	1		Philadelphia, Pa.....	2	2		
Cleveland, Ohio.....	11	1	1		Pittsburgh, Pa.....	7	2	5	
Denver, Colo.....	1	1			Portland, Oreg.....	1	1		
Detroit, Mich.....	2	2			Providence, R. I.....	1	1		
Fall River, Mass.....	1	1			Richmond, Va.....	1	1		
Indianapolis, Ind.....	2	2			St. Louis, Mo.....	1	1		
Jacksonville, Fla.....	1	1			Salt Lake City, Utah.....	1	1		
Kansas City, Mo.....	1		1		San Francisco, Cal.....	1	1		
Little Rock, Ark.....	1	1			Scranton, Pa.....	1	1		
Los Angeles, Cal.....	2	2			Seattle, Wash.....	1	1		
Louisville, Ky.....	2	1		1	Washington, D. C.....	2	2		
Manchester, N. H.....	1	1							
Memphis, Tenn.....	1	1							
					Total.....	62	54	9	1

<sup>1</sup> Company distributes both manufactured and natural gas.  
<sup>2</sup> Two companies distribute both manufactured and natural gas.

Part II of this report contains five general tables, as follows:

*Table I.*—Retail prices of the principal articles of food every second month, 1907 to 1910, and every month during 1911, by cities and by firms.

*Table II.*—Relative retail prices of the principal articles of food, 1890 to 1911, by geographical divisions.

*Table III.*—Retail prices of coal, for household use, on the 15th of January, April, July, and October, 1907 to 1911, by cities and by firms.

*Table IV.*—Relative retail prices of coal, for household use, 1907 to 1911, by cities.

*Table V.*—Net price per 1,000 cubic feet of gas, for household use, on the 15th of April, 1907 to 1911, by cities and by companies.