

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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Cost of Clothing for
Moderate-Income Families
1935-44



Bulletin No. 789

[Reprinted from the Monthly Labor Review, July 1944, with additional data]

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Letter of Transmittal

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR,
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS,
Washington, D. C., August 4, 1944.

The SECRETARY OF LABOR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report on the cost of clothing for moderate-income families, 1935-44. This report was prepared by Emil D. Schell and Laura Mae Webb in the Bureau's Prices and Cost of Living Branch, Aryness Joy Wickens, Chief.

A. F. HINRICHS, *Acting Commissioner.*

HON. FRANCES PERKINS,
Secretary of Labor.

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Bulletin No. 789 of the

United States Bureau of Labor Statistics

[Reprinted from the MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW, July 1944, with additional data]

Cost of Clothing for Moderate-Income Families, 1935-44

Variations in Clothing Costs

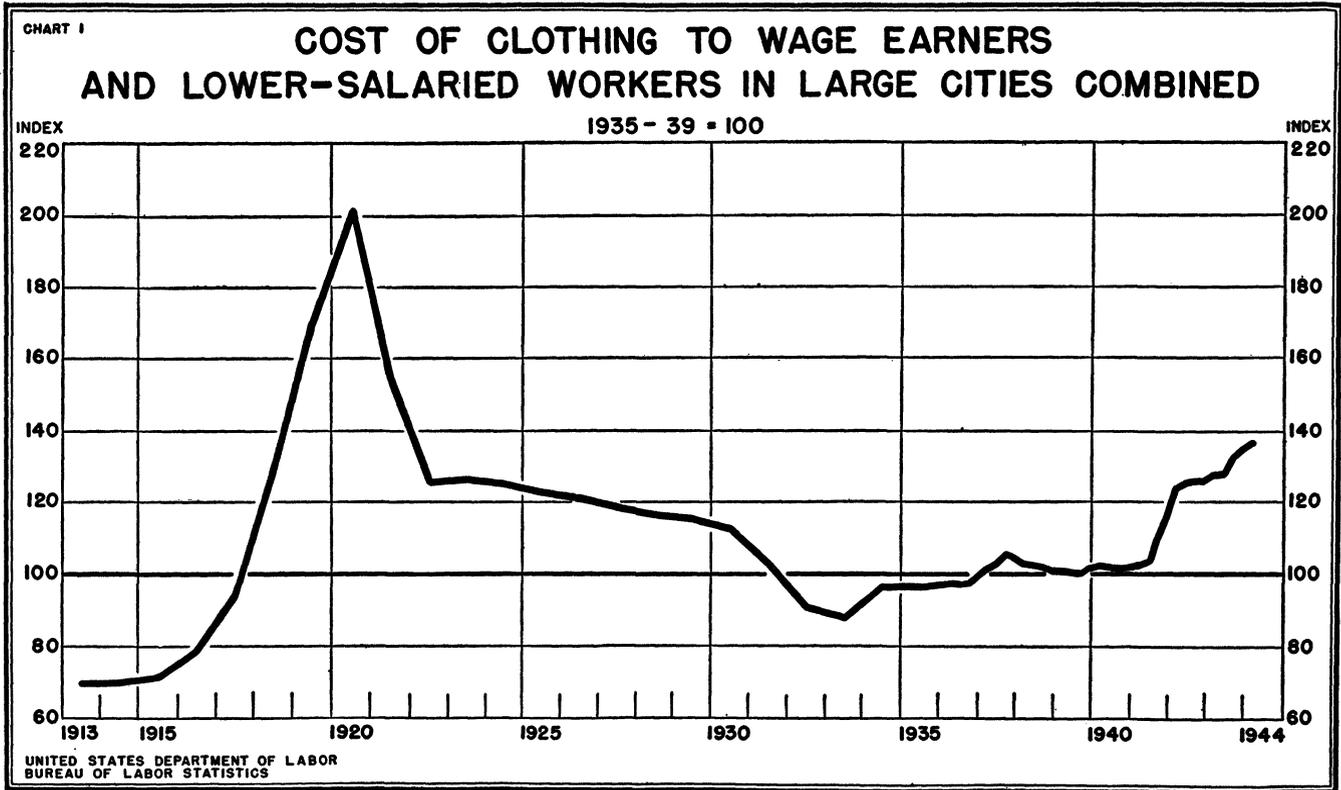
The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics has measured changes in the cost of clothing to city wage earners and clerical workers since 1913. As shown in chart 1, a surprising amount of variation in clothing costs has been crowded into a period of a little more than two decades. Clothing which cost \$100 in 1913 had more than tripled in cost at the peak of the post-war inflation, reaching \$303 in 1920. At the depth of the depression in the early thirties the cost had not returned to the 1913 level—but had dropped to \$122. By April 1944 the relative cost had risen to \$198, 36 percent above the level of August 1939, the month before war broke out in Europe. It would be of interest to analyze these sweeping changes in terms of price movements of individual clothing articles, but data of this kind were not available until 1935.

When the Bureau's new cost-of-living index was developed in the mid-1930's, the work was planned to permit the preparation of separate indexes for each item priced for the clothing index, for the large cities combined. Thus it is possible to bring into focus during this recent period the price movements of the separate articles of wearing apparel which are included in the summary figure on changes in clothing costs.¹ Before examining this detailed picture, the general changes in clothing prices since March 1935 may be reviewed.

The period covered by these item indexes extends for the most part from March 1935 to March 1944. During the first 5 years of this period, clothing prices were comparatively stable except for the year 1937, when employment and business conditions improved and a substantial price advance occurred. In the fall of 1939, with the outbreak of hostilities in Europe, the clothing index again began to rise, but the average increase was so small as to seem negligible in comparison with the advance in 1937. Only in retrospect did it become apparent that this date marked the beginning of the upward trend in prices which is now being experienced.

By the first 2 months of 1941, the index had almost returned to the level for the year 1939, calculated on the basis of prices in March, June, September, and December. This drop was due to the sales of winter clothing, usually held in January and February. After these sales were over, prices of all wearing apparel began to follow a sharply rising path. The rapid advance persisted from February 1941 until the operation of the General Maximum Price Regulation in May 1942; during this period clothing costs rose 25.7 percent.

¹ The phrases "changes in clothing costs" and "price changes" are used in this article according to the definitions employed in the preparation of the Bureau's clothing indexes.



That Governmental efforts to control clothing costs have not been entirely successful is indicated by the continued upward movement of the index even after the promulgation of the General Maximum Price Regulation which fixed ceilings at the maximum price of March 1942. Analysis of the causes for the recent rise in the clothing index shows, however, that nearly all of the recent advance is caused by the disappearance of lower price lines. The fact that price controls were partially successful, even with this gap, is shown in some measure by a comparison with the rise during the last war. Four years and 7 months after the start of the first World War, clothing costs had increased 117.7 percent. In the same length of time during the present war the rise was 36.3 percent.

Problems and Methods of Measurement

The transfer of clothing production from the home to the factory was almost completed before any of the major industrial countries had undertaken the measurement of changes in clothing costs to low- and moderate-income families. This transfer considerably complicated the task of the statistician working in this field. Factory production of clothing, particularly of women's clothing, has been accompanied by annual style changes which make it difficult to follow prices of clothing of equivalent quality from one year to the next. The task was further complicated in the early 20's by the development of synthetic fibers which gradually replaced silk, wool, and cotton to some degree. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' survey of the clothing expenditures of wage earners and clerical workers at the end of the last war showed that only a very small part of the money spent by this group for clothing went to buy yard goods. As a result, when the Bureau began in 1918 to collect clothing prices at retail and to prepare indexes of clothing costs as far back as 1913, a very large proportion of the articles of clothing priced for the index consisted of ready-to-wear clothing.

If the Bureau had followed the precedent of the clothing-cost index then being computed in the United Kingdom, it would have resolved the dilemma in another way. Aside from men's wool suits and overcoats, men's shoes and boots, knitted underwear, and cotton and woolen stockings, the United Kingdom index does not include any ready-to-wear clothing, but it does include prices of woolen material for women's outer wear, percale prints, flannelette, calico, cotton shirting, zephyr, satin, drill, galatea, and longcloth. The British Ministry of Labor is thus in a better position than the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to follow changes in the cost of clothing of identical quality, because quality changes are more readily evaluated for textiles than for finished wearing apparel. The British method, however, leaves entirely out of account the changes in the cost of garment production as it is transferred to the ultimate consumer.

The prices on which the Bureau's indexes of clothing costs are now based represent, as far as possible, the qualities purchased by wage earners and clerical workers in large cities in 1934-36. When a particular item begins to disappear from the market, it is replaced in the Bureau's index by the price series for the article which has taken its place. For example, when it became difficult to buy overcoats made entirely of new wool, overcoats made in part of reworked wool were

introduced to take the place of the "all-wool" series. At present, there are no quantitative measures of the gain or loss in utility to the consumer that may accompany such a forced change in consumption. When the new goods introduced are at a lower price level and there is reason to believe, as in this case, that they may not wear so long, the new series is linked into the index so that no drop is shown.

When the Bureau's agents report that a storekeeper no longer stocks a given quality of merchandise or carries it only in odd lots or sizes, so that only articles of higher quality and higher price are available, the indexes reflect this change. Half of the increase from the price of the lower quality to the price of the higher quality is used in computing the index. This procedure is followed when the substitute quality was available in the earlier period, on the assumption that some workers had previously purchased it and their particular costs, therefore, were not increased when the lower quality disappeared. If the higher-quality substitute article was not available in the previous pricing period, the entire increase in price is reflected in the index.

If goods previously priced for the index have disappeared, and lower qualities come onto the market at a higher price, the indexes show the full amount of the price difference as an increase in costs. Naturally, the consumer experiences an even greater advance in actual costs, since this procedure does not reflect the increase resulting from losses in durability or in other desirable features of wearing apparel. Statistical measures of the serviceability of clothing are not available which could be used with price changes. If the lower quality is sold at a lower cost, the change is "linked in" so that the index is not permitted to drop on this account.

When a dealer reports that the current volume seller is an article of higher price than that most frequently bought in the previous month, but that he still has a plentiful supply of the lower-priced article, this shift in consumer preference is not reflected in these indexes as an increase in costs.

Other methods could be adopted for measuring changes in the price situation and indexes useful for different purposes could be obtained. For example, indexes could be computed which would measure changes in the cost of clothing to all American consumers. According to the Study of Spending and Saving in Wartime the clothing expenditures of families of employed wage earners and clerical workers in large cities represented only 23 percent of total clothing expenditures for the United States. Expenditures by families of wage earners and clerical workers in small cities, by farm and village families, by other moderate-income families, by lower- and higher-income families, and by single individuals, amounted to 77 percent of the total.

An index of changes in clothing costs to all American consumers would be weighted by dollar values of total retail sales. An index weighted in this way might be calculated to show changes in the cost of clothing of the same quality, as far as it is possible to do so, or it might be calculated to show changes in the cost of the types of clothing sold in the greatest volume at different periods of time. Such an index based on prices of the current volume sellers would move differently from the Bureau's present index of clothing costs, because of the difference in the relative importance of each item in the two indexes and because, in periods of rising income, qualities of the current volume

sellers rise, and in periods of declining income, qualities of current volume sellers are lowered. This type of index would be useful in measuring time-to-time changes in the quantity of goods sold if it were applied to changes in the total volume of retail sales.

Composition of the Clothing Index

A list of the 47 articles and services included in the summary figure of clothing costs is given in table 1. This table also shows the relative importance in the September 1939 index of these clothing and service items. It is important to distinguish between the relative importance of a particular item in the clothing index, and its relative importance in average family expenditures. Collection of prices for every garment purchased by consumers in order to produce an index showing changes in total clothing costs would be an uneconomical and impossible procedure. For this reason, a list of the more important articles was chosen to represent all clothing purchases. In order to maintain the proper balance in the index, the expenditures for those items that are not priced are allocated to the priced items of similar fabric or construction. For example, the movement of price changes in handkerchiefs, which are not priced for the index, is reflected in the index by the average movement of all cotton goods that are priced, and the expenditure for handkerchiefs has been distributed proportionately among all cotton items in the index.

A minimum of four prices for each quality of each article in the index is requested in each of 33 large cities. In New York the minimum number is five. The agents may need to visit as many as eight stores to fill this quota. If the eight stores do not yield four or more quotations, whatever number is obtained is used in computing the index. Since visits to eight stores reveal fairly well those articles for which there are prevailing shortages, calling at additional stores is unlikely to add a sufficient number of quotations to justify the additional expense in collection. Thus, for some garments, fewer than four quotations have been used in many cities during the war period because of the scarcity of supplies. The use of limited numbers of quotations has been most pronounced in the case of work clothing. On the other hand, more than the required number of quotations are often reported by the field representatives and all of those reported are used. For some clothing articles, more prices are used in making up the index, because several qualities of the article are priced. For example, two qualities of men's wool overcoats are used. On a few items, such as neckties, prices are obtained for only a single quality. This is an insufficient number of prices to yield a reliable average of the monthly price change for a single item in a particular city, but is large enough to yield an accurate measure of monthly price changes for total clothing costs within each city or for a single item in the large cities combined.

Indexes of changes in costs of different qualities of clothing are not available because of procedures used in computing the indexes when shifts occur in the qualities of the articles available on the market, as explained above.

At the time of the outbreak of war in September 1939, the Bureau collected clothing prices on March 15, June 15, September 15, and

December 15 in 34 large cities. Foresceing the need for more frequent reports on the cost of living during wartime, Federal defense agencies furnished funds to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to enable it to make monthly collections in 20 cities beginning with September 15, 1940. Washington, D. C., was added to this list of cities in September 1941. For reasons of economy, a shorter list of articles was priced at the intraquarterly months; thus, the clothing index is estimated on the basis of the shorter list of items in 21 cities each intraquarterly month. At the quarterly dates the indexes for the two previous months are revised according to the price movement of the complete list of clothing articles in the 34 cities.

It will be noted from the list of articles priced and their relative importance in the index (table 1), that garments made primarily of wool account for about a third of the clothing expenditures of the urban worker's family. Approximately a fifth goes for cotton clothing, and a little less than a fifth for silk and rayon clothing and for footwear. Miscellaneous garments and services for clothing upkeep each take about 6 percent of the total clothing outlay.

TABLE 1.—Relative Importance of Clothing Items Priced for Cost-of-Living Index in Large Cities

Item	Percentage distribution of costs, Sept. 15, 1939	Item	Percentage distribution of costs, Sept. 15, 1939
All clothing items.....	100.0	Cotton clothing—Continued.	
Wool clothing.....	32.3	Women's—	
Men's—		Dresses, street.....	2.0
Overcoats.....	2.8	House dresses.....	2.0
Topcoats.....	1.3	Nightgowns.....	1.0
Suits, heavy weight.....	10.5	Percale yard goods.....	1.0
Suits, light weight.....	.8	Silk and rayon clothing.....	18.3
Trousers.....	1.3	Men's socks.....	1.0
Jackets.....	1.1	Women's—	
Sweaters.....	1.9	Dresses.....	6.7
Women's—		Panties.....	1.7
Coats, heavy, fur-trimmed.....	3.8	Slips.....	1.4
Coats, heavy, plain.....	2.0	Hose.....	6.8
Coats, light, plain.....	1.9	Yard goods.....	.7
Skirts.....	1.8	Footwear.....	17.8
Dresses.....	1.0	Men's—	
Hats.....	1.6	Shoes, street.....	4.5
Girls' coats.....	.5	Shoes, work.....	1.1
Cotton clothing.....	19.3	Rubbers.....	1.0
Men's—		Women's shoes.....	7.4
Suits and trousers.....	.3	Children's shoes.....	3.8
Trousers, work.....	.6	Other garments.....	6.5
Overalls.....	1.0	Men's—	
Shirts, work.....	1.2	Hats, fur-felt.....	1.3
Shirts, business.....	3.2	Hats, straw.....	.3
Pajamas.....	1.1	Neckties.....	1.2
Shirts.....	.6	Women's—	
Undershirts.....	1.3	Coats, fur.....	1.2
Union suits.....	1.3	Gloves, leather.....	1.0
Socks.....	2.7	Girdles.....	1.5
		Services.....	5.8
		Dry cleaning.....	3.6
		Shoe repairs.....	2.2

Changes in Costs of Individual Clothing Articles

The spread in the cost changes of the individual clothing items between September 15, 1939, and March 15, 1944 (table 2), illustrates the striking differences in the various retail price adjustments to changing economic conditions. The changes ranged from an increase

of 2 percent in men's neckties to more than 105 percent for women's cotton house dresses, the latter figure being about 3 times the average change in the total clothing-cost index. Total clothing costs rose 36.3 percent during this period, with 27 items showing a greater-than-average rise in costs and 20 showing a less-than-average advance. It may be observed that a purchaser encounters a less-severe price rise in buying a new fur coat (up 42 percent) than does the housewife in replacing a necessary percale house dress. All the items of women's cotton wearing apparel in the index show greater increases than the average of total clothing costs since 1939.

TABLE 2.—Percent of Change in Cost of Clothing Items Priced for Cost-of-Living Index in Large Cities, September 15, 1939, to March 15, 1944

[Items listed in order of size of percentage change]

Item	Percent of increase, Sept. 15, 1939—Mar. 15, 1944	Item	Percent of increase, Sept. 15, 1939—Mar. 15, 1944
House dresses, cotton	105.9	Suits, men's, wool, heavyweight	37.3
Pajamas, men's, cotton	69.2	Shirts, business	37.1
Nightgowns, women's, cotton	68.9	Socks, men's, rayon	36.7
Shorts, men's, cotton	68.7	Union suits, cotton	34.3
Shirts, cotton, work	62.7	Suits, men's, wool, lightweight	34.1
Girdles	60.0	Hats, women's, felt	33.6
Overalls, cotton	56.4	Shoes, men's, street	32.9
Cotton yard goods, percale	54.3	Jackets, men's, wool	32.5
Coats, women's, wool, lightweight	54.2	Panties, rayon	32.0
Undershirts, cotton	51.0	Dresses, rayon	31.6
Coats, girls', wool	47.7	Shoes, children's	31.2
Shoes, men's, work	47.5	Coats, women's, wool, heavy, plain	30.0
Rayon yard goods	46.3	Coats, women's, wool, fur-trimmed	29.2
Dresses, cotton, street	45.1	Topcoats, men's, wool	27.9
Fur coats, women's	43.2	Sweaters, men's, wool	27.8
Trousers, cotton, work	42.9	Hose, women's	26.6
Skirts, wool	41.9	Socks, men's, cotton	26.3
Shoe repairs	39.8	Overcoats, men's, wool	24.2
Dresses, rayon	39.4	Gloves, women's, leather	21.8
Hats, men's, fur-felt	39.4	Shoes, women's	19.9
Rubbers, men's	39.0	Dry cleaning	12.3
Slips, rayon	38.1	Hats, men's, straw	11.7
Suits and trousers, cotton	38.0	Neckties, men's	2.5
Trousers, wool	37.8		

1 Percent of change, March 1939—March 1944.

2 Percent of change, September 1939—December 1943.

3 Percent of change, June 1939—March 1944.

4 Percent of change, June 1939—June 1943.

5 Percent of change, September 1939—January 1944.

6 Percent of change, September 1939—February 1944.

When percentage changes between September 15, 1939, and March 15, 1944, are multiplied by their relative importance as given in table 1, an interesting shift in ranking is obtained. The resulting figures (table 3) indicate the contribution of each item to the 36.3-percent increase in total clothing costs, whereas table 2 showed only the percentage change in the cost of each item without taking into account whether or not it was among the more important items in the clothing budget. The difference between the sum of these products, 36.1 percent, and the 36.3-percent change in total clothing costs shown by the Bureau's index was caused by the rounding of figures and the revision of the population weights made in March 1943 which had a slight effect on the cost weights.

TABLE 3.—Contribution of Changes in Cost of Individual Items to Change in Total Clothing Costs in Large Cities Between September 1939 and March 1944

[Items listed in order of size of contribution]

Item	Percent of increase, September 1939–March 1944, weighted by relative importance in budget	Item	Percent of increase, September 1939–March 1944, weighted by relative importance in budget
All items.....	36.11	Overalls, cotton.....	0.56
Suits, men's, wool, heavyweight.....	3.92	Cotton yard goods, percale.....	.54
Dresses, rayon.....	2.64	Hats, women's, felt.....	.54
House dresses, cotton.....	2.12	Panties, rayon.....	.54
Hose, women's.....	1.81	Sweaters, men's, wool.....	1.53
Shoes, men's, street.....	1.48	Slips, rayon.....	.53
Shoes, women's.....	1.47	Shoes, men's, work.....	.52
Shoes, children's.....	1.19	Fur coats, women's.....	1.52
Shirts, business.....	1.19	Hats, men's, fur-felt.....	.51
Coats, women's, wool, fur-trimmed.....	1.11	Trousers, wool.....	.49
Coats, women's, wool, lightweight.....	1.03	Union suits, cotton.....	1.45
Dresses, cotton, street.....	1.90	Dry cleaning.....	.44
Girdles.....	.90	Shorts, men's, cotton.....	.41
Shoe repairs.....	.88	Rubbers, men's.....	1.39
Pajamas, men's, cotton.....	.76	Socks, men's, rayon.....	.37
Skirts, wool.....	.75	Jackets, men's, wool.....	1.36
Shirts, cotton, work.....	.75	Topcoats, men's, wool.....	.36
Socks, men's, cotton.....	.71	Dresses, wool.....	1.32
Nightgowns, women's, cotton.....	.69	Rayon yard goods.....	.32
Overcoats, men's, wool.....	1.68	Suits, men's, wool, lightweight.....	1.27
Undershirts, cotton.....	.66	Trousers, cotton, work.....	.26
Coats, women's, wool, heavy, plain.....	1.60	Coats, girls', wool.....	1.24
		Gloves, women's, leather.....	.22
		Suits and trousers, cotton.....	1.11
		Hats, men's, straw.....	1.04
		Neckties, men's.....	.03

¹ Percent of change, September 1939–January 1944.

² Percent of change, March 1939–March 1944.

³ Percent of change, June 1939–March 1944.

⁴ Percent of change, September 1939–February 1944.

⁵ Percent of change, September 1939–December 1943.

⁶ Percent of change, June 1939–June 1943.

A number of articles which have advanced in price to a considerable extent since 1939, as shown in table 2, appear in a lower position in table 3 because other articles, showing less spectacular increases, represent a larger portion of the total family outlay for clothing purchases and therefore have a greater influence on its cost. For example, men's cotton shorts dropped from fourth place in table 2 to thirty-fourth place in table 3, rayon yard goods from thirteenth to fortieth, and men's cotton work trousers from sixteenth to forty-second on the list. By contrast, women's shoes, women's hose, children's shoes, and women's heavy fur-trimmed coats rose by more than 25 places in table 3, illustrating the greater effect of their more moderate rise on the change in total clothing costs.

The largest single contribution to the rise in the cost of the average clothing budget on which the index computations are based has been that of men's heavyweight wool suits. The large effect of this item on total clothing costs is due to its importance in the family clothing budget. Women's rayon dresses have had a larger influence on the upward movement of the index than cotton house dresses, which rank third in table 3. All types of leather footwear rank fairly high when considered from the viewpoint of their influence on the increased cost of family clothing. The total contribution to the 36-percent rise in all clothing costs, from September 15, 1939, to March 15, 1944, of any

group of articles may be obtained by adding the figures given for the articles in table 3.

Group Indexes

To measure increases in different types of clothing articles, composite cost indexes of the broad groups of items in the clothing index have been prepared. In the preparation of these indexes, items not in season are carried at the level at which they were sold at the close of the previous season. When an article reappears on the market in the following season the entire change, as compared with the closing price of the previous season, is taken as an increase during the month of reappearance. This procedure is logical since it reflects cost changes at the time they are felt by the purchaser, and is also supported by a more practical consideration. Any method of assuming a given price movement for out-of-season articles will go awry at times because of shifting market conditions and thus will lead either to extensive revisions or to the showing of monthly changes contrary to the trend of prices of articles available throughout the year.

Woolen clothing.—Retail prices of woolen clothing showed substantial advances in the last half of 1941. Consumption, which had already reached new heights because of increased incomes, was undoubtedly further stimulated by the doubt whether accumulated stocks would be sufficient, with reduced imports, to meet military requirements under the new Selective Service Program. In January 1942, after the entry of the United States into the war, measures were adopted limiting the consumption and prices of wool at wholesale. On May 18, 1942, the effective date of the General Maximum Price Regulation, price ceilings were established at the retail level. Despite the fact that prices of woolen cloth have remained substantially unchanged since 1943, the cost of woolen clothing at retail has continued to advance. Analysis of the increases in costs of woolen clothing during recent months shows the cause to be the continually dwindling supply of lower price and quality lines previously available. Several other countries have met this problem during the present war by instituting special measures to maintain the supplies of these goods, as a supplement to effective price control.

Cotton clothing.—Retail prices of cotton clothing have shown the largest advance of all components of the clothing index. In 1939 the Government had embarked on a comprehensive program to solve the problem of a recurrent surplus of raw cotton. Since prices of cotton were above the world price, payments on exported cotton were made by the Government to stimulate sales to foreign countries. In addition, loans were granted to cotton growers which enabled them to sell their cotton to the Government, with the privilege of repurchase if the prices reached a level sufficiently profitable for them to redeem it after the costs of storage and carrying charges on the loans were considered. As late as May 1940, a program was initiated for the sale of stamps to families on relief, to enable them to buy cotton clothing in regular outlets at reduced prices, the difference being paid by the Federal Government. This program was discontinued at varying times in different sections of the country but was not completely halted until June 1942. A similar program was in use for farmers growing cotton. If they reduced their cotton acreage below

the quotas set by the Government and planted the land to other crops, they received stamp allotments for purchasing finished cotton garments. As in the case of wool, there was no basic increase in prices of cotton textiles (denims, printed cloth, and sheeting) during 1943, and the continued price advance of garments purchased by moderate-income families has been almost entirely a result of the unavailability of lower price lines. The problem of producing a sufficient amount of finished cotton textiles to supply both military and civilian needs has been intensified by an acute shortage of manpower in the mills.

Silk and rayon clothing.—Prior to the war, silk and rayon articles were of approximately the same importance in the clothing-cost index. Between June 1939 and September 1942, the index of the cost of silk and rayon clothing rose 26.2 percent, compared to advances of 24.0 percent for woolen goods and 35.0 percent for cotton articles. Commencing in September 1942, silk clothing articles were replaced in the index mostly with rayon products, because silk imports were cut off and the existing supplies were reserved for military use. Thus, rayon costume slips were substituted in the index for silk slips, and rayon hose and cotton anklets for silk stockings.

From September 1942 to March 1944, the silk and rayon index (now consisting wholly of rayon goods) advanced more slowly than the indexes of the cost of cotton and woolen articles—5.2 percent, as contrasted with increases of 11.4 and 9.0 percent, respectively.

Footwear.—The index of retail prices of footwear increased 28.4 percent from June 1939 to March 1944. This group is represented in the index by men's street and work shoes, rubbers, and women's and children's shoes. Prices of men's work shoes showed the greatest increase (48.0 percent) and women's shoes the smallest increase (20 percent).

Deterioration in both materials and workmanship has been reported widely by the trade. This indirect increase in cost is not reflected in the cost-of-living index. In recent months there has been a decided trend in the purchase of higher-priced lines, caused partly by increased incomes and partly by the desire on the part of the consumer to make his shoes last until the next ration stamp becomes valid. According to the trade reports, this situation has created a sluggish market for the lowest price lines, and many of these lines have consequently been dropped from retail shelves.

Other garments.—Of the six clothing articles included in this group, women's girdles have shown the largest advance in cost, and have chiefly caused the rapid rise in the group as a whole. A 10-percent tax on fur coats, which are also included in this group, became effective October 1941. This tax was increased to 20 percent on April 1, 1944, but the latter increase will not be reflected in the index until fur and fur-trimmed coats are priced in the fall season.

Services.—Shoe-repair and dry-cleaning costs showed a more gradual advance than the wearing-apparel groups, and thus far have risen less, taken together, than any of the other clothing groups. In recent months manpower shortages, which have been severe in the lower-paid service trades, have diminished this gap. Many of the increases reported for shoe repairs have been ascribed by dealers to higher prices of materials.

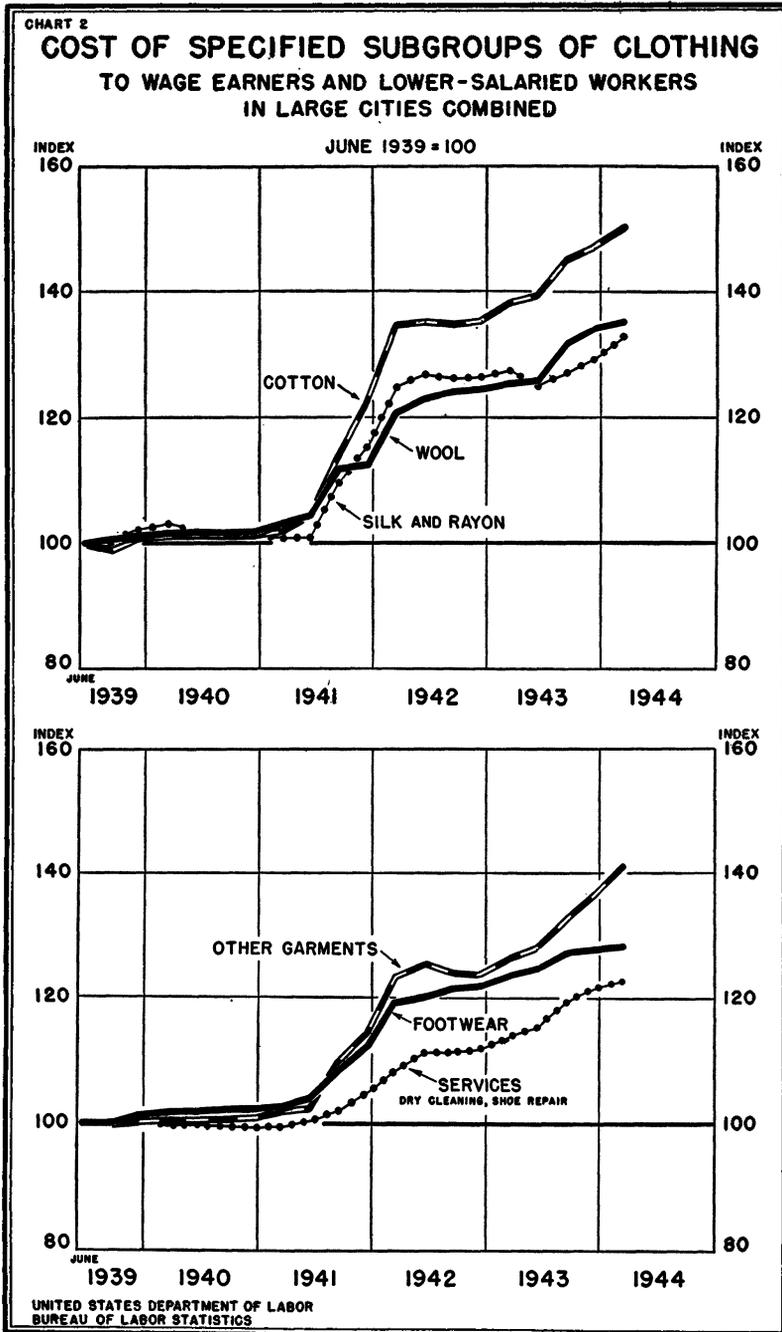


TABLE 4.—Indexes of Cost of Specified Subgroups of Clothing to Wage Earners and Lower-Salaried Workers in Large Cities, June 1939–March 1944

Month	Indexes (June 1939=100) of cost of—					
	Woolen clothing	Cotton clothing	Silk and rayon clothing	Footwear	Other garments	Services (dry cleaning, shoe repairs)
1939: June.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
September.....	100.4	99.0	100.3	100.0	99.9	100.3
December.....	100.9	100.8	102.0	101.2	100.1	100.2
1940: March.....	101.6	101.1	102.8	102.0	100.3	99.8
June.....	101.6	101.1	101.6	102.0	100.2	99.7
September.....	101.5	101.0	101.0	102.1	100.6	99.6
December.....	101.7	101.2	101.0	102.1	100.7	99.4
1941: March.....	102.8	101.7	100.7	102.6	101.8	99.4
June.....	104.3	104.0	100.7	103.9	102.1	100.2
September.....	111.9	113.9	109.7	108.5	109.8	101.7
December.....	112.5	122.4	115.3	112.0	114.2	104.9
1942: March.....	120.6	134.7	124.9	119.2	123.3	108.2
June.....	122.9	135.3	126.7	120.1	125.3	111.2
September.....	124.0	135.0	126.2	121.5	123.8	111.3
December.....	124.2	135.4	126.3	121.7	123.5	111.8
1943: March.....	125.4	138.1	127.6	123.5	126.1	113.5
June.....	125.7	139.4	124.9	124.6	127.7	115.2
September.....	131.8	145.0	127.0	127.1	132.6	119.4
December.....	134.1	147.0	129.3	127.8	136.6	121.3
1944: March.....	135.2	150.4	132.7	128.4	141.0	122.5

Relative Increases in Costs of Men's and Women's Clothing

Indexes, giving the changes in the cost of men's clothing and in women's clothing separately, are presented in table 5. The cost of children's shoes was divided equally between the two groups in computing the indexes. Services were divided on the basis of the article priced for cleaning or repair. It is of interest to note how slight the differences between these two indexes have been. In the period from June 1939 to March 1944, the index of men's clothing costs has frequently been higher than the index of women's clothing costs, but the differences have been slight.

TABLE 5.—Indexes of Cost of Men's and Women's Clothing to Wage Earners and Lower-Salaried Workers' Families in Large Cities

Date	Indexes (June 1939 =100) of cost of—		Date	Indexes (June 1939 =100) of cost of—	
	Men's clothing	Women's clothing		Men's clothing	Women's clothing
1939: June.....	100.0	100.0	1942: March.....	124.5	122.3
September.....	100.0	99.9	June.....	126.2	123.9
December.....	101.0	101.1	September.....	126.8	124.1
1940: March.....	101.7	101.6	December.....	127.2	124.1
June.....	101.7	101.1	1943: March.....	128.6	126.1
September.....	101.7	100.9	June.....	129.5	125.7
December.....	101.9	100.8	September.....	132.4	131.6
1941: March.....	102.9	101.0	December.....	134.4	133.7
June.....	104.6	101.7	1944: March.....	135.4	136.9
September.....	110.9	110.3			
December.....	114.0	115.1			

Specifications for the Collection of Retail Prices

Descriptions (or specifications, as they are termed by the Bureau) of each of the commodities in the index are supplied to the Bureau's field representatives, to insure, as far as possible, the pricing of approximately the same quality in different stores and in different cities.

Prior to the war, the qualities specified for inclusion in the index were determined by the qualities purchased by wage earners and lower-salaried clerical workers in 1934-36. It was always necessary to make some revisions in the specifications used for pricing from time to time, as styles or consumer preferences changed. In such cases, the quality specified for the new article was as nearly as possible the same as for the discontinued one.

Under war conditions, however, Government regulations and the lack of availability of some materials have necessitated many changes in the qualities and kinds of consumer goods purchased. Accordingly, the Bureau has provided its field representatives with supplementary specifications describing the articles being produced currently in addition to those manufactured prior to the war. For example, large quantities of combed yarns are allocated to military orders and additional quantities are voluntarily sold by manufacturers for military and Lend-Lease orders because of the higher price ceilings allowed by OPA on yarns sold for these purposes. As a result, the Bureau's supplementary specifications designate carded yarns in the fabrics for many garments in addition to the combed yarns in the regular specifications.

Representatives of the Bureau are instructed to price the types described in the original specifications as long as they are available in the retail stores, and are also instructed to return to the use of the original specifications as soon as such goods are again available, if they have found it necessary to use the supplementary specifications for one or more pricing periods. The extent to which the supplementary specifications have been used varies by commodity and by city. In war centers, where the population has increased substantially, agents have used the supplementary specifications more frequently than in those cities in which there is not such a rapid turnover in stocks. For example, in December 1943, 82 percent of the quotations on men's inexpensive-quality percale pajamas were priced by the supplementary specifications, while only 23 percent of the quotations on men's inexpensive-quality undershirts were on the supplementary specifications.

HOW SPECIFICATIONS ARE DEVELOPED

The specifications used by the Bureau for the collection of retail prices are based on detailed information, obtained periodically from representative manufacturers in the major producing areas. More frequent check-up is necessary at the present time because of Government allocations of scarce materials and the many changes in the types of clothing and shoes produced.

The following example illustrates the kind of information on which new specifications are based. In the spring of 1943, the Bureau's representatives reported they were unable to obtain the requested minimum number of prices on work clothing in many cities. Consequently, detailed descriptions of overalls, work pants, and work shirts currently being produced were obtained from manufacturers having plants throughout the United States. Table 6 shows a portion of the detail obtained from 29 manufacturers of work shirts (brand name, wholesale price, estimated retail price, and other identifying information have been omitted).

TABLE 6.—*Specification Details Obtained From Manufacturers of Work Shirts, April 1943*

Name of fabric	Width of fabric (inches)	Weight of fabric (number of yards per pound)	Thread count per square inch	Finish of fabric	Type of dye	Yardage per dozen	Neckband size on which yardage is based
Jean	36	2.85	96 x 64	Sanforized	Vat	30	14 -17
Jean	36	2.85	(1)	do	do	28½	14 -17
Jean	36	2.85	96 x 64	do	do	29½	14 -17½
Jean	36	2.85	(1)	do	do	29½	14½-17½
Jean	36	2.85	101 x 66	do	do	28	14 -17
Jean	36	2.85	(1)	do	do	26-28	14 -17
Jean	36	2.85	96 x 60	do	do	30	14 -17
Jean	36	2.85	96 x 64	do	do	30	14 -18½
Jean	36	2.85	96 x 64	do	do	30	14 -20
Jean	36	2.85	96 x 64	Mill shrunk	do	28	14 -17
Jean	36	2.85	(1)	Freshrunk	do	29½	14 -17
Jean	36	2.85	(1)	Sanforized	do	29½	14½-17½
Jean	36	2.85	96 x 64	do	do	30	14 -19
Jean	36	2.85	(1)	Unshrunk	do	29½	14½-17½
Jean	36	2.85	96 x 64	Sanforized	do	29½	14 -19
Jean	36	(1)	(1)	do	do	(1)	14 -17
Chambray	36	3.90	(1)	Unshrunk	do	29½	14 -17
Chambray	36	3.90	68 x 52	do	Commercial	30	14 -17
Chambray	36	3.90	68 x 52	do	(1)	28½	14½-17
Chambray	36	3.90	(1)	do	do	29½	14 -20
Chambray	36	3.90	(1)	Sanforized	Commercial	29½-31	14 -18
Chambray	36	3.90	68 x 52	do	Indigo	29½	14½-17
Chambray	36	3.50	(1)	do	Commercial	29	14 -17
Chambray	36	3.55	68 x 56	do	Indigo	30	14 -18
Covert	36	2.81	(1)	do	(1)	29½-30	14½-17
Covert	36	2.85	48 x 44	do	Commercial	29½	14 -17
Covert	36	2.90	(1)	do	Sulphur	29½	14 -17
Covert	36	3.20	(1)	(1)	Vat	30	14 -17½
Covert	36	3.20	(1)	Unshrunk	Commercial	30	14 -17
		<i>Ounces per yard</i>					
Twill	36	(1)	(1)	Sanforized	Vat	29-30	14 -17
Twill	36	8.20	(1)	do	do	31	14 -17
Twill	36	6.00	(1)	do	do	30	14½-17
Twill	36	8.20	(1)	do	do	29½	14 -18
Twill	36	6.00	(1)	do	do	28	14 -17

¹ Not known by manufacturer.

Previously, prices had been collected on two qualities of chambray work shirts and one quality of covert. The information obtained from the manufacturers indicated that some modifications were necessary in the description of the chambray and the covert shirts priced. Jean shirts were being produced in much greater volume than before and were therefore included in the kinds of work shirts priced for the cost-of-living index.

On the basis of the data, the following specification was developed for jean work shirts:

Shirt, work, cotton

Fabric: Jean, 2.85 yds./lb., Sanforized.

Construction and styling: Full sized; well made; careful seaming; pockets without flaps; 28-30 yds./doz. based on 36" fabric and neckband size scale 14-17.

Specify whether with or without union label.

*Government Regulations Affecting Quality of Clothing and Shoes
Priced for Cost-of-Living Index*

The Government orders which resulted, either directly or indirectly, in changes in specifications for clothing and shoes priced for the cost-of-living index are discussed below.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS WHICH REQUIRED CHANGES IN CONSTRUCTION OF
CIVILIAN APPAREL**

Limitation Orders on Leather

Early in 1942, all of the better qualities of leathers of specified thicknesses, ordinarily used in the production of outer and inner soles for civilian footwear, were limited to military use.² These better qualities included all of the vegetable-tanned outersole leather of 8½ to 11 iron thickness in the medium and better grades, as well as first-quality leathers ranging in thickness from 5½ to 7 iron.

As a result of the limitations on the use of these leathers for civilian goods, the Bureau issued the first supplementary shoe specifications in September 1942 for all of the qualities included in the cost-of-living index. In general, these specifications permitted the pricing of shoes with soles of lower quality and reduced thickness. Even for shoes of higher qualities than are ordinarily priced for the index, the better qualities of leather formerly used were not available. Composition soles for men's work shoes and inexpensive dress shoes, priced under supplementary specifications, were reported to be quite durable. Some better-quality leathers, reserved for military use but rejected for reasons which frequently did not affect the durability of the leather, have been utilized by manufacturers for several types of men's shoes priced for the index. Such leathers were included in the supplementary specifications, and it is believed that shoes made with soles of Army reject leather may represent somewhat better quality shoes than those priced by the use of the Bureau's regular specifications.

In addition to a reduction in the quality and thickness of sole leathers, the types of leathers specified for uppers were expanded to include additional qualities in the supplementary specifications. Women's dress type shoes included additional styles, as well as fabric uppers, thus reflecting a fashion trend which had become important even before limitations were placed on the use of leather.

In June 1943, the second set of supplementary specifications was written for 9 of the shoes included in the index. These specifications represented relatively few changes from the first supplementary

² Conservation Order M-80, originally issued March 12, 1942. This order was revoked and superseded by M-310, but these provisions were retained.

specifications issued in September 1942 and were necessitated by revisions in Government regulations, such as elimination of middle soles for all except work shoes, etc.

Limitations on Use of Natural Rubber

In the spring of 1942, production of rubber yarns and elastic threads for civilian use was prohibited.³ To insure that the supply of elastic fabrics already produced, which was available to the civilian trade, would be used in the production of the maximum number of garments, WPB issued an order⁴ limiting the quantity of elastic fabric to be used in a single foundation garment. Consequently, supplementary specifications were written for girdles in September 1942, reducing the amount of elastic yarn required in the garments priced.

The prohibition against the further production of elastic yarn from natural rubber for civilian use necessitated the issuance by the Bureau of supplementary specifications for certain qualities of women's panties, to permit the pricing of garments with drawstring waists. Similarly, men's shorts were changed to the tie sides in place of elastic inserts at the waist.

As a result of the prohibition against the use of new crude rubber in footwear, "reclaimed rubber" was designated in the second set of supplementary shoe specifications.

Style-Simplification Orders

During 1942, WPB issued a series of orders limiting the amount of fabric for work clothing and the measurements for several other types of clothing in order to conserve fabrics without standardizing patterns.

Men's and boys' wear.—For men's and boys' woolen outerwear certain maximum measurements were stipulated in relation to size. The sweep of topcoats and overcoats and the lap on double-breasted models were limited.⁵ Two-trouser suits, vests with double-breasted suits, belted-model coats, pleats and cuffs on trousers, and patch pockets were prohibited. Later amendments permitted the use of real or simulated cuffs on trousers if the specified measurements were long enough to permit them, and the regulation was extended to all fabrics used in men's and boys' clothing, with the exception of garments made of nonwool summer-weight cloths, with a weight of 3 yards per pound or less. No changes in Bureau specifications resulted from the order other than removal of the reference to the width of trouser bottoms in the specifications for separate semidress trousers. For men's suits, specifications used by the Bureau had already applied to three-piece, single-breasted models, and the sweep of the garment was not designated. Thus, for those consumers who had been buying four-piece suits prior to this regulation, the difference in price for the extra pair of trousers when bought with the suit and when bought separately was not reflected in the cost-of-living index.

In November 1942, a simplification order was issued on men's and boys' shirts and pajamas.⁶ For shirts, lengths were limited, bi-swing or box-pleated backs and pleated fronts, and other pleats requiring

³ WPB Conservation Order M-124, issued March 25, 1942.

⁴ WPB Limitation Order L-90, L-90a, issued April 23, 1942.

⁵ WPB Conservation Order M-73a, issued March 2, 1942. This order was revoked October 26, 1942. All limitations on men's and boys' clothing were combined in Limitation Order L-224, issued October 26, 1942.

⁶ WPB Limitation Order L-169, issued November 23, 1942.

the excessive use of cloth, were prohibited. Savings of fabrics resulting from these simplifications were reflected in the Bureau's specifications for shirts and pajamas by a reduction in yardage requirements.

The men's work-clothing simplification order⁷ specified the maximum and minimum yardages which could be used in various types of garments and prohibited certain construction features which WPB believes do not affect the durability of the garments. For general-purpose work clothing the number of pockets was limited, triple stitching was prohibited, and the number of buttons, buckles, bartacks, and reinforcements which could be used for each type of garment was designated. Because of this order, the Bureau's supplementary specifications include reduced yardage for men's work clothing and double stitching, rather than triple stitching, was specified for overalls.

Women's clothing.—WPB issued orders relating to women's dresses,⁸ slips, and gowns,⁹ which limited certain measurements and prohibited designated styles requiring the use of excessive yardages. These orders did not necessitate changes in any of the Bureau's specifications, since the styles and types of measurements limited by the simplification orders were not designated in the Bureau's specifications.

Hosiery Order

In order to conserve the supplies of yarns used in the production of men's, women's, and children's hose, and to assure the use of these yarns in the production of durable hose, WPB specified the sizes of yarn to be used in the production of designated types of women's rayon hose, prohibited the use of reinforced soles in cotton socks, and limited the number of styles and colors which might be produced.¹⁰ As a result of this order, the Bureau's specifications for women's rayon hose had to be changed slightly, and the requirement that double soles be a feature of the women's cotton anklets had to be deleted.

Limitation Order on Designated Types of Cotton Goods

Early in 1943, WPB issued an order which froze some looms to the production of a limited number of types and constructions of cotton goods.¹¹ The proportion of these kinds going to military use and to civilian use was also specified. For example, to provide a substitute to the civilian trade for 80 x 80 print cloth (limited entirely to military use), manufacturers were required to standardize production of civilian print cloths into slightly lower-count, lighter-weight fabrics. Those looms allocated to civilian production, which were formerly producing print cloth of 80 x 80, 68 x 72, and 64 x 60 thread counts, were permitted to produce only 68 x 64 and 64 x 56 constructions, in order to increase the output of these looms to the maximum.

As a result of this order, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reduced the count of the fabrics specified for women's house dresses and men's shirts, pajamas, and shorts from 68 x 72 and 64 x 60 to 68 x 64 and 64 x 56.

⁷ WPB Limitation Order L-121, issued August 8, 1942.

⁸ WPB Limitation Order L-85, issued April 8, 1942.

⁹ WPB Limitation Order L-116, issued May 10, 1942.

¹⁰ WPB Limitation Order L-274, issued April 2, 1943.

¹¹ WPB Limitation Order L-99a, issued May 6, 1943.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS WHICH CAUSED, BUT DID NOT REQUIRE, CHANGES
IN SPECIFICATIONS**

Wool-Allocation Order

Early in January 1942, WPB placed sharp restrictions upon the use of wool for civilian purposes.¹² Subsequent amendments to the order through the third quarter of 1942 limited still further the quantity available for civilian use. In the latter part of 1942 and in 1943, the restrictions were relaxed considerably as record-breaking stocks of apparel wool were accumulated in this country following an improvement in the ocean-transportation situation.

As a result of the order limiting the use of wool, fabric manufacturers turned to the use of blends of rayon, cotton, and wool to a greater extent than formerly so as to produce a larger volume of goods from their limited stocks of wool. Consequently, the Bureau supplemented its specifications for men's overcoats, topcoats, suits, separate trousers, and jackets, women's coats, and girls' medium-quality coats so as to secure prices for garments of blended fabrics when the all-wool articles were not available. Specifications for women's dresses and inexpensive-quality skirts and for girls' inexpensive-quality coats had previously specified blended fabrics, but the supplementary specifications included larger quantities of cotton and rayon in the blend.

As restrictions on the use of wool for civilian purposes were relaxed, agents found many retailers stocking all-wool garments, and by the spring of 1944 prices were no longer available for garments of blended fabrics in most cities.

Allocation of Raw-Silk Stocks to Military Use

Raw-silk stocks held in the United States were frozen for military use following the cessation of commercial relations with Japan in 1941; and manufacturers of civilian goods were permitted to use only those stocks which had been partly processed or "thrown." Large supplies of silk hose continued to be produced for several months, and were on the retail market for a much longer period, but the Bureau initiated the pricing of rayon hose as a result of the gradual disappearance of silk hose. Specifications for rayon hose were provided for the field representatives in September 1942, and silk-hosiery specifications were deleted in January 1943. The Bureau's original rayon hose specifications represented the qualities then being produced in greatest volume. These specifications were revised in September 1943 to conform to the standards set by WPB Order L-274.

Allocation of Combed Cotton Yarn

In the second quarter of 1942, WPB issued an order requiring manufacturers to set aside for military orders 40 percent of the medium and 65 percent of the coarse combed cotton yarns produced, provided military orders on hand required this large a volume of combed yarn.¹³ In order that a large portion of combed yarns not allocated in this manner would nevertheless be used for other military and Lend-Lease orders, OPA in May 1943 granted permission for the

¹² WPB Conservation Order M-73, issued January 3, 1942.

¹³ WPB Conservation Order M-155, issued May 23, 1942.

War and Navy Departments, the U. S. Maritime Commission, and Lend-Lease to pay a premium above the ceiling allowed for civilian products. Thus, a large portion of combed yarns was allocated to military orders, while producers preferred for the most part to sell the remainder for other military or Lend-Lease orders because of the higher prices received. Therefore, supplementary specifications were prepared for men's knit undershirts and women's cotton nightgowns, to permit the pricing of garments made from carded yarns instead of the combed yarns which had been required formerly.

*Specification Changes for Apparel and Shoes, September 1942 to September 1943*¹⁴

In table 7 are shown the apparel and shoe items for which specifications were revised or supplemented between September 1942 and September 1943, and the reasons for making these changes. A few specifications for which no revisions were made during this period are also priced for the index.

The dates on which supplementary specifications were issued do not necessarily indicate the dates on which they were introduced into the index since, as explained earlier in this report, many quotations are still obtained on the qualities priced in 1941 and early 1942, and the shift to the use of supplementary specifications is made only when the former type of merchandise is no longer available.

¹⁴ Additional changes in specifications were made effective June 1944.

TABLE 7.—Changes in Clothing and Shoe Specifications Priced for Cost-of-Living Index, September 1942–September 1943

Commodity	Specifi- cation number	Added	De- leted	Supplemented			Reason for and nature of change	
				9/42	6/43	9/43		
<i>Men's clothing</i>								
Overcoat, medium quality.....	M-011			X		X	Because of wool allocation order (M-73) manufacturers increased use of other fibers with wool. Agents found it impossible to price all-wool garments in some stores, so first supplemental specifications reduced wool content required. As wool restrictions were relaxed, manufacturers again used all-wool fabrics in medium- and better-quality suits. The second supplemental specifications for suits required all wool, but fabric was of lighter weight than original specification, in accordance with goods currently manufactured.	
Overcoat, inexpensive quality.....	M-012			X		X		
Topcoat, medium quality.....	M-021			X				
Topcoat, inexpensive quality.....	M-022			X				
Topcoat, very inexpensive quality.....	M-023			X				
Suit, wool, medium quality.....	M-031			X	X			
Suit, wool, inexpensive quality.....	M-033			X	X			
Suit, wool, medium quality.....	M-035			X	X			
Suit, wool, inexpensive quality.....	M-037			X				
Suit, wool, medium quality.....	M-041				X			
Suit, wool, inexpensive quality.....	M-043				X			
Trousers, wool, medium quality.....	M-051			X	X			
Trousers, wool, inexpensive quality.....	M-052			X	X			
Jacket, wool, melton cloth.....	M-061			X				Retailers formerly obtained most of their separate trousers from suit manufacturers. Many suit manufacturers formerly produced 4-piece suits, but some retailers purchased only 3-piece suits. These "extra" trousers were sold to retailers having a demand for separate trousers. When WPB order (M-73a) prohibited sale of 2-trouser suit, separate trousers were no longer available from these manufacturers. They were then produced chiefly by work-clothing manufacturers, who used blended fabrics primarily. Since many stores did not carry all-wool trousers for this reason, supplemental specifications were issued for blended fabrics. Melton cloth typically includes reprocessed and reused wool. Specification reworded in agreement with Federal Trade Commission requirements on wool labeling, effective July 15, 1941.
Trousers, work, khaki drill.....	M-072				X			
Trousers, work, covert.....	M-073				X			
Trousers, work, cottonade.....	M-077				X			
Trousers, work, whipcord.....	M-079		6/43					
Trousers, work, whipcord.....	M-080b	6/43	6/43					
Trousers, work, whipcord.....	M-081		6/43					
Overalls, 8 oz./yd., denim.....	M-091		6/43		X			
Overalls, 8 oz./yd., denim.....	M-092		6/43					
Overalls, 2.20 yd./lb., denim.....	M-093b	6/43	6/43					
Overalls, 2.20 yd./lb., denim.....	M-094		6/43					
Shirt, work, 3.50 yd./lb., chambray.....	M-100b	6/43						
Shirt, work, 3.90 yd./lb., chambray.....	M-101				X			
Shirt, work, 3.90 yd./lb., chambray.....	M-102		6/43					
Shirt, work, 3.90 yd./lb., covert.....	M-103		6/43					
Shirt, work, 3.90 yd./lb., covert.....	M-104b	6/43						
Shirt, work, 2.85 yd./lb., jean.....	M-105b	6/43						
							Yardage requirements were reduced as a result of savings required by work-clothing simplification order (L-181).	

Shirt, business, broadcloth.....	M-111	} (1)		X	
Shirt, business, broadcloth.....	M-112				
Shirt, business, percale.....	M-114			X	
Pajamas, broadcloth.....	M-122			X	
Pajamas, percale.....	M-123			X	
Shorts, broadcloth.....	M-131			X	
Shorts, percale.....	M-132		X		
Undershirt, knit, medium quality.....	M-141		X		
Undershirt, knit, inexpensive quality.....	M-142		X		
Union suit, medium quality.....	M-151		X		
Union suit, inexpensive quality.....	M-152		X		
Sweater, wool, pull-over style.....	M-161		X		
Sweater, wool, coat style.....	M-162		X		
Hat, felt, medium quality.....	M-181		X		
Hat, felt, inexpensive quality.....	M-182		X		
Hat, straw, medium quality.....	M-183			X	
Hat, straw, inexpensive quality.....	M-184			X	
Necktie.....	M-191		X	X	
<i>Women's clothing</i>					
Coat, fur trimmed, inexpensive quality.....	W-012		X		
Coat, fur trimmed, very inexpensive quality.....	W-013		X	X	
Coat, untrimmed, sport, very inexpensive quality.....	W-023		X		
Coat, untrimmed, sport, extremely inexpensive quality.....	W-024		X		
Coat, fur.....	W-035			X	
Skirt, wool, medium quality.....	W-041		X		
Skirt, wool, inexpensive quality.....	W-042		X		
Dress, wool, medium quality.....	W-051		X		
Dress, wool, inexpensive quality.....	W-052		X		
Dress, wool, very inexpensive quality.....	W-053		X		
Dress, rayon, medium quality.....	W-061			X	
Dress, rayon, inexpensive quality.....	W-062			X	
Dress, rayon, medium quality.....	W-066			X	
Dress, rayon, inexpensive quality.....	W-067			X	
House dress, percale.....	W-082			X	

¹ M-112 combined with M-111 as M-111B, 6/43.

Yardage requirements were reduced as a result of savings required by shirt and pajama simplification order (L-169). Because of the shortage of cotton fabrics, manufacturers were using lower-count fabrics in pajamas and inexpensive shirts, and the second supplementals designated lower fabric counts.

Yardage requirements were reduced as a result of savings required of manufacturers. The fabric count was reduced for the cheaper quality, as agents found counts formerly specified no longer available.

Because of allocation of a large volume of combed yarn to military use, manufacturers used carded yarns to a greater extent in civilian goods. In order to obtain price series, agents had to price carded yarns.

Consumer preference has demanded lighter-weight union suits in recent years. Quotations were necessarily obtained on these, and specifications were revised in recognition of this.

Few manufacturers used all-wool yarns as a result of wool-allocation order. Supplemental specifications were required in order to price blends.

Because of shortage of fur felts (mostly imported), practically all manufacturers are blending casein fiber with fur felt. In order to obtain price series on fur-felt hats, the blends had to be priced.

Former specifications were for stiff straw type. This had lost its popularity and, because of the war, these straws were not available from the Orient. Because prices necessarily were being obtained on soft straws, supplemental specifications for these were issued.

First specification designated silk, which had to be supplemented when available supply of silk was limited to military orders. First supplemental permitted pricing of either nylon or rayon, but nylon was later limited to military use. Second supplemental designated rayon only.

Because of limitation on civilian use of wool (M-73) manufacturers increased use of other fibers in coat fabrics. In many cities prices on all-wool coats were not available, so supplemental specifications designating blended fabrics were written. Second supplemental specification for W-013 reduced amount of rayon and cotton which could be used in blend when restrictions on use of wool were relaxed.

Because of increased popularity of striped coney dyes, specification was expanded to include these. Supplemental specification limited types of pelts used to better qualities.

Because of limitations on civilian use of wool, agents were unable to find all-wool garments in many stores. Supplemental specifications permit pricing of blended fabrics.

Weight of rayon fabric reduced and types of fabrics expanded as a result of style trend.

Weight of fabric reduced as a result of style trend; solid colors, in addition to black, included.

Because of shortage of 68 x 72 percales, agents found it necessary to price 64 x 60 in many stores. The first supplemental specification provided for this. As a result of WPB Order (L-99) these dresses are now made of standardized constructions 68 x 64 and 64 x 56.

TABLE 7.—Changes in Clothing and Shoe Specifications Priced for Cost-of-Living Index, September 1942–September 1943—Continued

Commodity	Specification number	Added	Deleted	Supplemented			Reason for and nature of change
				9/42	6/43	9/43	
<i>Women's clothing—Continued</i>							
House dress, chambray, voile, etc.....	W-085				X		Because of increased popularity of poplins, broadcloths, seersuckers, and chambrays, supplemental specification included these as well as voiles, batistes, and dimities previously specified.
Slip, rayon, crepe.....	W-093			X	X		Changed from silk and rayon to all-rayon as result of limitation on use of silk; type of fabric changed, at least in part, as result of consumer demand.
Slip, rayon, crepe.....	W-094				X		Thread count increased, and double top in front added.
Slip, rayon, satin.....	W-096				X		Thread count reduced as type of fabric was changed by manufacturers to conserve limited supplies of rayon.
Nightgown, cotton, batiste.....	W-101				X		Carded, rather than combed, yarns are accepted in supplemental specification, because of allocation of most combed yarns to military purposes. Agents were unable to find fabric construction previously specified, so a somewhat lower construction was designated.
Panty, rayon.....	W-111				X		Because cheaper-type rayon knit previously priced was not stocked in a number of stores, a better quality was specified.
Girdle, woven.....	W-121			X			Because of limitation on amount of elastic yarns permitted for each garment by Government regulation, supplemental specifications were provided for new types of garments produced.
Girdle, knit.....	W-126			X			
Hose, rayon, 100d./45g.....	W-131a		6/43				Deleted, because 100-denier yarns are no longer representative of 45-gage constructions.
Hose, rayon, 100 d./45g.....	W-132a		6/43				
Hose, rayon, 100 d./42g.....	W-134a		6/43				Revised to conform with WPB order (L-274). Accordingly, requirements for welt yarns in W-135a and 136a were changed from 150 denier to 100 denier and the reference to tun-stop top deleted. W-138b designated rayon rather than cotton welt; a second 100-denier, 42-gage hose was added.
Hose, rayon, 75d./45g.....	W-135a				X		
Hose, rayon, 75d./45g.....	W-136a				X		Requirement that yarns be mercerized was added and terminology designating construction changed. The requirement that double sole be used was deleted as a result of Government order (L-274.)
Hose, rayon, 100d./42g.....	W-137b		6/43				
Hose, rayon, 100d./42g.....	W-138b ^a		6/43				Addition of 6 percent casein fiber to wool felt was permitted as a result of changes made by many manufacturers.
Hose, rayon, 100d./42g.....	W-140a				X		
Anklets, cotton, 200-220-needle.....	W-140a				X		A better-cut glove was required, but somewhat cheaper seams permitted.
Hat, felt.....	W-143			X			
Gloves, leather.....	W-152			X			
<i>Girls' clothing</i>							
Coats, medium quality.....	G-011					X	The minimum required wool content was reduced as a result of wool-allocation order.
Coats, inexpensive quality.....	G-012					X	

Shoes

Men's street, medium quality.....	S-012			X	X	
Men's street, inexpensive quality.....	S-013			X	X	
Men's street, very inexpensive quality.....	S-014			X	X	
Men's work, medium quality.....	S-021			X	X	
Men's work, inexpensive quality.....	S-022			X	X	
Men's rubbers.....	S-032				X	
Women's oxford, medium quality.....	S-042			X		
Women's pump, medium quality.....	S-052			X	X	
Women's pump, inexpensive quality.....	S-053			X	X	
Women's pump, very inexpensive quality.....	S-054			X	X	
Children's oxford, medium quality.....	S-061			X		
Children's oxford, inexpensive quality.....	S-062			X		
Children's oxford, very inexpensive quality.....	S-063			X		

* W-134a revised and renumbered.

Modified requirements in September 1942 as to weight and quality of leather outsole as a result of Government allocation of leather. Composition outsole permitted for S-014, S-021, and S-022. Second modification made in order to substitute reclaimed rubber in place of new rubber heels and omit requirement of middle sole from street shoes. Both changes resulted from Government regulation. Composition added for outsoles of S-013. Changed from new to reclaimed rubber as a result of Government regulation. Construction was broadened to include cement welt, which was proving increasingly popular for this type of shoe.

Modified requirements in September 1942 as to weight and quality of outsole, as a result of Government allocation of leather; broadened types of uppers to include gabardines. Revisions in June 1943 increased styles which could be priced and made minor revisions as to types of leather used in the various parts.

Weights of outsoles reduced somewhat, as manufacturers utilized many of better types formerly used in children's shoes for production of adults' shoes, as a result of allocation to armed forces. Revision in specifications became necessary as agents reported (and manufacturers confirmed them) that heavier qualities formerly specified were no longer used in children's shoes.

Appendix

The following table gives indexes of the cost of the individual items of clothing priced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for its clothing index, as of specified dates, 1935-44.

Indexes of Cost of Clothing Items Priced for Cost-of-Living Index in Large Cities

[Indexes are presented for all dates between March 1935 and March 1944 for which prices have been collected for each of the items]

Date	Indexes (average, 1935-39=100) of cost of—													
	Wool clothing													
	Men's							Women's						
	Overcoats	Topcoats	Suits, heavy- weight	Suits, light- weight	Trousers	Jackets	Sweaters	Coats			Skirts	Dresses	Hats	Girls' coats
Heavy, fur-trim								Heavy, plain	Light, plain					
<i>1935</i>			94.4		94.6	96.7			94.7	96.2		99.6	89.3	
Mar. 15			94.4	95.1	94.6	96.7						99.2	89.3	
July 15	93.3	94.9	94.5		94.6	96.7	97.6	93.4	93.4		96.6	96.7	99.2	89.3
Oct. 15														
<i>1936</i>			94.9		94.6	97.2	98.3				96.9		99.6	89.3
Jan. 15	93.5		95.3	95.1	95.5	97.2				96.6	96.9		100.0	89.3
Apr. 15			95.3	95.1	95.5	97.2							99.6	89.3
July 15			96.6		96.4	97.2	98.3	96.7	96.6		98.2	98.6	99.6	89.3
Sept. 15	93.7	97.7	97.8		97.3	100.6	99.2				99.5		99.6	101.1
Dec. 15	102.7													
<i>1937</i>			101.4		101.7	102.3				103.4	102.1		101.4	103.4
Mar. 15			103.7	104.3	103.5	104.6							102.5	105.8
June 15	109.1	105.6	107.5		107.1	106.8	104.9	106.8	106.7		106.0	103.9	102.5	108.1
Sept. 15	106.7		108.7		108.9	104.0	103.0				104.7		100.7	108.1
Dec. 15														
<i>1938</i>			105.9		106.1	102.3				104.0	103.4		99.2	108.1
Mar. 15			104.8	105.0	104.8	101.8							98.5	105.8
June 15	103.6	100.5	102.7		102.6	100.6	100.2	101.2	101.7		101.5	100.3	99.2	105.8
Sept. 15	102.4		101.4		101.7	100.1	101.4				100.8		100.0	107.0
Dec. 15														
<i>1939</i>			100.5		100.8	99.5				100.3	99.8		99.6	107.0
Mar. 15			100.4	97.9	100.8	99.5							99.6	107.0
June 15	102.4	101.1	100.6		100.8	100.1	100.5	101.7	101.6		100.2	100.3	99.7	107.0
Sept. 15	103.6		101.2		101.2	101.2	100.8				100.8		99.8	107.0
Dec. 15														

1940												
Mar. 15			102.3		101.7					100.6		99.8
June 15			102.2	102.2	101.7							99.8
Sept. 15	104.0	102.4	102.4		101.7	101.8	101.4	101.8	101.6	100.8	101.3	99.7
Oct. 15	103.4		102.4		101.7	101.8				101.1		99.7
Nov. 15	104.0		102.4		101.7	101.8				101.1		99.7
Dec. 15	105.3	103.3	102.5		102.1	101.8	101.7	101.3	101.1	101.1	100.9	99.8
1941												
Jan. 15	100.7	99.2	101.0				101.4	90.4	93.6			100.0
Feb. 15	100.7	99.2	102.1				101.4	83.0	87.4			100.0
Mar. 15			103.9	104.3						101.9	101.1	100.0
Apr. 15			104.2									100.0
May 15			105.0									100.0
June 15			105.6	105.8	106.1							100.0
July 15			106.7									101.4
Aug. 15			109.1									101.8
Sept. 15	111.7	110.8	114.9		112.8	106.3	105.2	115.0	112.1	108.0	112.1	105.8
Oct. 15	112.1	111.8	115.5				106.6	118.4	111.8			106.5
Nov. 15	111.9	110.8	115.8				106.2	117.3	110.3			106.1
Dec. 15	112.6	111.3	116.0		115.9	109.1	107.2	113.9	108.7		110.8	107.2
1942												
Jan. 15	108.9	109.0	116.4				108.2	105.8	102.5			107.6
Feb. 15	108.9	109.9	120.8				111.9	104.6	102.2			106.7
Mar. 15			120.1		126.7					117.8	122.6	112.0
Apr. 15			123.4									118.4
May 15			122.4									118.4
June 15			131.8	124.2	128.9							118.0
July 15			131.8									117.7
Aug. 15			131.5									117.7
Sept. 15	119.2	124.3	131.9		128.9	118.6	119.0	121.4	115.4	126.2	115.2	118.0
Oct. 15	120.3	124.3	132.1				119.0	120.9	116.1			118.0
Nov. 15	120.3	124.3	132.0				119.0	121.2	116.1			118.0
Dec. 15	122.4	124.3	132.2		129.3	117.5	119.0	119.7	114.2	126.5	115.2	118.0
1943												
Jan. 15	123.2	123.4	131.3				119.3	116.6	114.5			119.1
Feb. 15	120.7	122.9	131.9				119.3	115.3	113.3			119.1
Mar. 15		124.7	133.4		133.3					135.6	129.7	120.6
Apr. 15		125.6	133.9									121.0
May 15		125.6	133.9									121.4
June 15			134.0	131.3	133.3							121.8
July 15			134.3									121.8
Aug. 15			134.5									123.6
Sept. 15	127.4	126.5	135.1		135.9	124.8	123.1	132.5	135.2	136.4	126.4	127.3
Oct. 15	129.0	127.9	135.7				124.7	134.2	135.8			128.0
Nov. 15	129.0	127.9	135.9				125.0	134.5	135.8			128.0
Dec. 15	128.8	129.3	137.3		137.2	132.6	127.2	134.8	136.4	139.6	132.0	128.4
1944												
Jan. 15	127.2	129.3	136.7				127.8	131.4	132.1			131.7
Feb. 15	127.2	128.8	136.8				128.4					132.8
Mar. 15		129.3	138.1		138.9					154.7	142.2	133.2

Indexes of Cost of Clothing Items Priced for Cost-of-Living Index in Large Cities—Continued

Date	Cotton clothing													
	Men's									Women's			Yard goods	
	Suits and trousers	Trousers, work	Overalls	Shirts, work	Shirts, business	Pajamas	Shorts	Under-shirts	Union suits	Socks	Dresses, street	House dresses	Night-gowns	Percale
<i>1935</i>														
Mar. 15		100.8	102.8	101.8	98.5	98.1	100.8	101.2		98.0		99.4	97.6	101.6
July 15	98.1	100.8	102.9	101.8	98.5	98.1	100.8	101.2		98.0	100.2	99.0	97.6	101.0
Oct. 15		100.8	101.9	103.1	98.9	98.7	100.8	101.8	98.7	97.8		99.2	97.6	101.6
<i>1936</i>														
Jan. 15		100.8	102.6	103.1	98.9	98.1	99.8	101.1	99.6	97.8		99.6	97.6	101.6
Apr. 15		101.1	100.8	101.2	98.6	99.2	99.8	100.9		97.8		99.6	98.7	101.0
July 15	100.1	101.2	100.1	100.9	98.7	98.7	98.8	100.1		97.8	99.8	99.3	97.6	99.8
Sept. 15		101.2	99.9	100.6	99.1	98.7	98.8	99.7	99.6	97.8		99.3	97.0	100.4
Dec. 15		101.0	99.8	99.7	100.0	99.2	98.8	99.7	100.9	97.4		99.5	98.2	100.4
<i>1937</i>														
Mar. 15		102.8	101.7	102.4	102.0	100.9	100.8	101.0		97.4		101.0	99.3	105.1
June 15	102.0	104.0	103.8	103.5	103.4	102.6	104.6	103.7		98.7	100.6	101.5	100.5	106.4
Sept. 15		104.4	104.6	104.9	103.3	103.2	103.6	103.8	106.2	104.7		103.5	102.9	107.5
Dec. 15		103.6	102.8	104.5	102.6	103.2	102.7	103.4	101.4	105.1		102.9	102.9	105.1
<i>1938</i>														
Mar. 15		99.4	97.8	99.6	100.7	100.9	99.8	99.1		102.0		100.6	102.9	98.7
June 15	100.1	98.2	97.1	97.6	100.2	100.4	98.8	98.0		101.7	100.1	100.3	102.3	95.6
Sept. 15		97.0	96.9	96.7	100.2	100.4	98.8	97.9	97.8	101.7		100.0	101.7	98.2
Dec. 15		97.1	96.9	96.7	100.1	100.4	98.8	97.9	98.6	101.7		100.0	101.7	95.1
<i>1939</i>														
Mar. 15		96.4	95.9	95.1	99.3	99.8	97.8	96.7		101.3		100.0	101.7	95.1
June 15	98.1	95.9	95.3	94.7	99.2	99.8	97.8	96.7		101.3	99.4	99.8	101.1	95.1
Sept. 15		95.7	95.2	94.6	99.0	99.8	97.8	96.6	98.7	101.3		94.8	101.1	95.1
Dec. 15		96.4	97.5	95.3	99.9	101.5	98.8	97.2	99.6	101.3		100.6	101.7	95.6
<i>1940</i>														
Mar. 15		97.1	99.3	96.8	100.2	101.5	99.8	97.3		101.5		100.0	102.9	96.2
June 15	102.1	97.3	99.6	97.4	100.2	101.5	97.8	96.8		101.5	99.4	99.9	103.5	98.2
Sept. 15		97.9	99.2	97.7	99.8	100.9	97.8	96.6	100.0	101.7		100.0	103.5	98.2
Oct. 15		97.9	99.2	99.1	100.2			96.8		102.0		100.2	103.5	96.2
Nov. 15		98.1	99.3	99.1	100.2			96.8		102.0		100.1	103.5	96.2
Dec. 15		98.0	99.2	98.5	100.0	101.5	98.8	96.7	99.6	101.7		100.3	104.0	96.2

<i>1941</i>					
Jan. 15	-----	98.1	100.1	98.3	100.0
Feb. 15	-----	98.3	100.7	99.0	100.0
Mar. 15	-----	99.4	101.4	99.4	100.1
Apr. 15	-----	100.4	103.6	99.9	100.3
May 15	-----	101.2	104.8	101.8	100.5
June 15	-----	104.0	103.1	107.5	100.8
July 15	-----	104.8	109.7	107.5	102.3
Aug. 15	-----	105.8	113.6	109.8	103.8
Sept. 15	-----	111.1	118.6	116.5	107.0
Oct. 15	-----	114.7	121.4	120.7	108.4
Nov. 15	-----	116.5	123.6	124.1	110.3
Dec. 15	-----	117.4	125.3	126.9	111.6
<i>1942</i>					
Jan. 15	-----	120.0	129.6	130.2	117.4
Feb. 15	-----	124.5	135.3	136.8	120.6
Mar. 15	-----	129.1	138.0	140.6	124.5
Apr. 15	-----	132.6	142.4	144.4	127.0
May 15	-----	131.7	141.4	143.9	125.6
June 15	-----	117.8	140.2	143.0	125.6
July 15	-----	130.8	140.2	143.0	125.6
Aug. 15	-----	130.8	140.2	143.0	125.4
Sept. 15	-----	130.8	140.2	142.5	125.4
Oct. 15	-----	130.8	140.2	142.5	125.4
Nov. 15	-----	130.8	140.2	142.5	126.1
Dec. 15	-----	131.6	140.2	143.0	126.3
<i>1943</i>					
Jan. 15	-----	131.6	140.2	143.0	126.5
Feb. 15	-----	131.6	140.2	143.5	126.7
Mar. 15	-----	134.2	141.3	145.8	127.4
Apr. 15	-----	134.2	141.3	146.3	127.8
May 15	-----	134.2	141.3	146.8	128.2
June 15	-----	135.4	141.3	147.8	128.2
July 15	-----	135.1	145.6	150.6	130.6
Aug. 15	-----	135.1	145.6	150.6	132.3
Sept. 15	-----	135.1	146.1	150.6	133.0
Oct. 15	-----	135.1	146.7	152.5	133.2
Nov. 15	-----	135.1	146.7	152.5	133.4
Dec. 15	-----	136.0	147.3	152.9	133.9
<i>1944</i>					
Jan. 15	-----	136.8	147.9	153.4	134.3
Feb. 15	-----	136.8	147.9	153.4	135.2
Mar. 15	-----	136.8	148.9	153.9	135.7

		96.8		101.7		99.5		
		96.8		102.0		99.5		
102.6	99.8	97.2		101.7		100.4	105.3	97.4
		97.2		102.0		100.4		
		97.2		102.0		100.7		
107.6	99.8	98.1		102.0	100.0	102.7	107.1	105.7
		100.7		102.8		107.3		
		106.1		103.7		111.6		
119.4	109.6	109.7	108.5	106.9		119.7	110.0	117.7
		110.5		108.2		128.8		
		112.8		109.5		134.6		
126.0	119.4	114.5	111.5	109.9		138.0	117.2	124.7
		117.2		112.0		143.8		
		127.9		114.6		145.5		
143.8	132.7	129.7		120.0	109.8	149.3	137.4	143.7
		132.8		122.0		154.7		
		131.4		121.3		155.0		
146.1	133.7	131.9		121.3	119.4	154.5	141.0	145.5
		131.9		121.7		154.5		
		131.9		121.7		153.6		
147.2	134.6	132.8	127.9	122.0	119.4	154.7	140.3	145.5
		133.3		122.0		154.7		
		133.3		121.7		154.7		
148.3	134.6	133.3	128.8	121.7		154.7	140.3	145.5
		133.7		122.1		156.1		
		134.0		122.5		156.1		
153.9	139.3	136.2		122.9	125.4	159.3	146.9	146.1
		136.2		123.1		160.5		
		136.6		123.1		160.8		
156.1	148.8	136.6		123.1	128.0	161.4	149.3	146.1
		138.3		123.5		172.0		
		139.6		124.2		176.5		
162.8	152.6	140.4	130.7	124.9	129.5	185.7	161.3	146.1
		142.6		124.9		188.3		
		142.9		124.9		188.3		
165.0	162.1	143.8	132.6	127.0		189.7	165.4	146.1
		144.7		126.7		191.4		
		145.6		127.9		192.0		
168.9	165.0	145.9		127.9	144.2	195.2	170.8	146.7

Indexes of Cost of Clothing Items Priced for Cost-of-Living Index in Large Cities—Con.

Date	Silk and rayon clothing					Footwear					
	Men's socks	Women's				Yard goods	Men's			Women's shoes	Children's shoes
		Dresses	Panties	Slips	Hose ¹		Shoes, street	Shoes, work	Rubbers		
1935											
Mar. 15.....	97.6	98.8	100.3	97.4	97.6	99.1	93.7	94.4	99.2	96.4	95.8
July 15.....	97.6	98.6	100.2	97.4	97.2	99.1	93.9	94.8	99.2	96.4	95.9
Oct. 15.....	97.6	98.8	99.8	97.5	97.7	100.9	94.5	95.3	99.2	96.8	95.9
1936											
Jan. 15.....	97.6	98.9	99.6	97.5	99.0	100.9	96.1	96.8	99.8	96.9	96.5
Apr. 15.....	95.2	99.1	99.4	97.5	98.5	100.9	97.5	97.2	99.8	97.2	97.0
July 15.....	95.2	98.7	99.2	97.6	98.1	100.9	97.5	97.2	99.8	97.2	96.5
Sept. 15.....	95.2	98.9	99.2	97.7	97.5	100.9	97.5	97.4	99.8	98.0	96.4
Dec. 15.....	94.7	98.7	99.4	98.0	97.5	100.9	97.5	97.4	99.8	98.2	96.7
1937											
Mar. 15.....	95.2	101.1	99.3	100.6	100.1	103.5	99.1	98.7	100.4	99.6	97.9
June 15.....	95.8	102.0	100.1	101.1	101.1	104.4	102.5	102.2	102.3	101.7	101.3
Sept. 15.....	104.2	103.7	102.0	101.7	102.6	104.4	106.1	105.4	104.7	106.7	105.4
Dec. 15.....	104.8	102.5	102.5	101.8	102.9	104.4	106.7	106.2	100.4	105.2	106.1
1938											
Mar. 15.....	104.2	100.1	101.5	101.7	101.6	100.9	105.0	104.7	98.6	103.7	104.3
June 15.....	103.5	99.8	101.1	101.7	101.2	100.0	103.9	104.1	97.9	102.6	103.0
Sept. 15.....	103.5	99.8	100.9	101.7	100.9	97.4	102.3	101.7	97.9	101.5	101.9
Dec. 15.....	103.5	100.4	100.9	101.7	100.9	95.6	102.1	101.7	100.4	101.2	102.0
1939											
Mar. 15.....	104.2	100.2	99.5	101.4	100.4	93.9	101.5	101.4	99.8	100.8	102.2
June 15.....	104.2	100.1	98.3	101.3	100.9	94.8	101.5	101.5	99.8	100.7	102.1
Sept. 15.....	104.2	100.4	97.8	102.0	101.4	95.6	101.6	101.6	100.4	100.8	102.1
Dec. 15.....	104.2	100.4	97.8	103.9	104.8	104.4	103.1	104.1	101.7	101.1	103.6
1940											
Mar. 15.....	104.2	100.5	98.2	105.2	106.7	107.9	105.3	105.8	-----	101.1	104.7
June 15.....	104.2	100.5	98.1	106.8	103.0	105.2	105.6	105.3	-----	101.2	104.6
Sept. 15.....	103.5	100.5	98.2	107.1	101.3	105.2	105.9	104.9	-----	101.2	104.6
Oct. 15.....	104.2	100.5	98.2	107.1	100.9	-----	106.0	105.2	-----	101.2	104.9
Nov. 15.....	104.2	100.4	98.2	107.1	100.9	-----	106.0	105.2	-----	101.1	104.7
Dec. 15.....	103.5	100.5	98.2	107.7	100.9	106.1	105.9	105.2	102.3	101.1	104.8
1941											
Jan. 15.....	103.5	100.5	98.2	107.3	100.9	-----	105.9	105.3	-----	100.9	104.9
Feb. 15.....	103.5	100.5	98.2	107.3	100.6	-----	105.8	105.4	-----	101.2	105.1
Mar. 15.....	103.5	100.3	97.9	107.6	100.7	105.2	106.6	105.4	-----	101.1	105.5
Apr. 15.....	104.2	100.3	97.9	107.6	100.6	-----	107.0	106.0	-----	101.1	105.8
May 15.....	104.2	100.3	97.9	108.5	100.6	-----	107.6	107.1	-----	101.3	106.0
June 15.....	103.5	100.5	97.9	108.5	100.4	106.1	109.3	108.7	-----	101.5	106.6
July 15.....	103.5	101.4	98.7	111.9	100.4	-----	110.5	110.4	-----	102.2	107.8
Aug. 15.....	104.8	103.0	99.4	114.8	103.2	-----	112.9	112.1	-----	102.9	109.3
Sept. 15.....	107.2	106.2	103.5	119.9	114.1	120.0	115.6	116.5	103.5	105.2	111.8
Oct. 15.....	109.5	107.8	107.0	121.5	116.9	-----	116.5	118.7	-----	105.5	113.2
Nov. 15.....	113.6	109.9	110.4	123.2	118.5	-----	117.4	119.8	-----	106.3	114.6
Dec. 15.....	114.9	112.5	112.1	125.3	120.3	126.1	118.5	121.5	107.2	108.2	116.5
1942											
Jan. 15.....	117.3	115.0	115.5	128.7	121.3	-----	121.5	124.3	-----	110.1	119.0
Feb. 15.....	120.8	119.5	117.6	130.3	123.2	-----	125.1	128.7	-----	112.0	121.9
Mar. 15.....	125.6	124.8	119.1	132.4	127.9	130.4	128.8	132.1	-----	113.9	124.3
Apr. 15.....	129.2	125.2	123.2	134.1	131.7	-----	130.9	136.4	-----	115.3	126.9
May 15.....	129.2	126.0	122.8	133.7	131.5	-----	130.2	134.2	-----	115.6	126.0
June 15.....	129.2	126.2	121.1	133.7	130.0	133.9	129.9	133.7	-----	114.8	125.4
July 15.....	129.2	126.2	121.1	133.7	130.0	-----	130.1	134.2	-----	114.7	125.5
Aug. 15.....	129.2	126.1	121.1	133.7	130.0	-----	130.1	134.2	-----	114.8	125.4
Sept. 15.....	129.2	126.3	121.1	134.1	130.0	134.8	130.2	133.7	131.8	114.8	125.1
Oct. 15.....	129.2	126.3	121.1	134.1	130.0	-----	130.2	133.7	-----	114.8	125.7
Nov. 15.....	129.2	126.2	121.1	134.1	130.1	-----	130.3	133.7	-----	114.8	125.7
Dec. 15.....	128.5	126.3	121.5	133.7	130.0	135.6	130.3	133.7	133.0	114.8	125.5

¹ Before Sept. 15, 1942, indexes were based on prices of silk hose. Subsequent indexes are based on prices of rayon hose and cotton anklets.

Indexes of Cost of Clothing Items Priced for Cost-of-Living Index in Large Cities—Con.

Date	Silk and rayon clothing					Footwear					
	Men's Socks	Women's				Yard Goods	Men's			Women's shoes	Children's shoes
		Dresses	Panties	Slips	Hose ¹		Shoes, street	Shoes, work	Rubbers		
1943											
Jan. 15.	129.2	126.7	121.8	134.1	130.2	-----	131.1	134.2	-----	115.2	125.8
Feb. 15.	129.8	127.2	121.8	134.1	130.2	-----	131.5	134.7	-----	115.5	126.0
Mar. 15.	131.6	128.4	122.1	136.3	130.6	135.6	132.4	135.8	-----	116.6	127.4
Apr. 15.	132.2	128.5	122.1	136.7	129.9	-----	132.8	137.0	-----	117.2	127.4
May 15.	132.2	128.6	122.8	136.7	127.0	-----	132.9	137.5	-----	117.3	127.6
June 15.	132.8	128.7	122.8	137.5	122.0	135.6	133.6	139.1	-----	117.5	128.9
July 15.	133.4	129.3	122.8	137.5	123.9	-----	133.7	140.7	-----	118.9	129.2
Aug. 15.	133.4	129.8	122.8	137.5	124.0	-----	133.8	142.3	-----	119.1	130.8
Sept. 15.	135.8	131.5	123.1	139.0	124.0	136.5	134.2	145.1	138.9	120.0	131.7
Oct. 15.	136.5	132.2	124.8	139.0	124.2	-----	134.3	147.2	-----	120.1	132.3
Nov. 15.	136.5	132.9	125.1	139.0	124.2	-----	134.6	147.2	-----	120.2	132.5
Dec. 15.	137.6	135.8	127.4	140.1	124.5	137.3	134.9	147.2	139.6	120.4	132.8
1944											
Jan. 15.	139.4	136.8	127.7	140.5	124.9	-----	134.9	147.2	-----	120.6	133.0
Feb. 15.	141.8	137.6	128.4	140.5	126.9	-----	134.9	148.8	-----	120.7	133.2
Mar. 15.	142.4	140.0	129.1	140.9	128.4	139.9	135.0	149.9	-----	120.9	134.0

Date	Other garments						Services	
	Men's			Women's			Dry cleaning	Shoe repairs
	Hats, fur-felt	Hats, straw	Neckties	Coats, fur	Gloves, leather	Girdles		
1935								
Mar. 15.	-----	-----	100.1	-----	97.8	100.4	100.7	96.5
July 15.	-----	99.3	100.1	-----	97.8	100.4	100.4	97.0
Oct. 15.	98.0	-----	100.1	93.7	97.8	100.0	98.6	96.8
1936								
Jan. 15.	-----	-----	99.6	94.2	98.4	100.0	98.3	97.2
Apr. 15.	-----	99.3	100.1	-----	98.4	100.0	97.8	97.6
July 15.	-----	99.3	100.1	-----	97.8	99.6	97.3	97.2
Sept. 15.	99.7	-----	100.6	95.2	98.4	99.6	97.3	97.1
Dec. 15.	-----	-----	100.6	103.5	98.4	99.6	97.3	98.3
1937								
Mar. 15.	-----	-----	100.6	-----	100.3	99.6	98.6	99.6
June 15.	-----	99.3	100.6	-----	101.5	99.6	99.3	102.4
Sept. 15.	102.5	-----	100.6	111.5	104.7	99.6	101.4	102.8
Dec. 15.	-----	-----	100.6	111.0	103.4	100.0	101.8	103.1
1938								
Mar. 15.	-----	-----	100.6	-----	102.2	100.0	101.3	103.0
June 15.	-----	99.3	99.1	-----	101.5	100.0	101.3	103.0
Sept. 15.	100.3	-----	99.1	106.8	100.3	100.0	101.3	102.5
Dec. 15.	-----	-----	99.6	97.0	100.9	100.0	100.8	101.5
1939								
Mar. 15.	-----	-----	99.6	-----	100.3	100.0	100.9	101.7
June 15.	-----	99.3	99.6	-----	100.3	100.0	100.9	101.5
Sept. 15.	99.7	-----	99.1	95.6	100.3	100.0	101.4	101.4
Dec. 15.	-----	-----	99.1	95.2	100.9	100.0	101.3	101.6
1940								
Mar. 15.	-----	-----	99.1	-----	-----	100.0	100.4	101.6
June 15.	-----	99.3	99.1	-----	-----	99.6	100.3	101.6
Sept. 15.	100.7	-----	99.1	96.5	102.2	99.6	100.1	101.6
Oct. 15.	-----	-----	-----	96.5	102.2	99.2	99.7	101.7
Nov. 15.	-----	-----	-----	96.0	102.2	99.2	99.7	101.8
Dec. 15.	101.3	-----	99.1	96.0	102.2	100.0	99.9	101.6
1941								
Jan. 15.	101.8	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	99.9	101.9
Feb. 15.	103.2	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	99.9	102.2
Mar. 15.	105.1	-----	98.6	-----	-----	100.0	99.7	101.8

¹ Before Sept. 15, 1942, indexes were based on prices of silk hose. Subsequent indexes are based on prices of rayon hose and cotton anklets.

Indexes of Cost of Clothing Items Priced for Cost-of-Living Index in Large Cities—Con.

Date	Other garments						Services	
	Men's			Women's			Dry cleaning	Shoe repairs
	Hats, fur-felt	Hats, straw	Neckties	Coats, fur	Gloves, leather	Girdles		
<i>1941</i>								
Apr. 15	106.0						99.9	101.8
May 15	106.5						99.7	102.0
June 15		99.3	98.6			100.0	100.6	102.6
July 15							100.9	103.5
Aug. 15							101.2	103.7
Sept. 15	112.3		98.6	112.4	106.5	105.1	102.4	104.5
Oct. 15	113.2				108.4		102.9	105.3
Nov. 15	114.1				108.4		104.4	106.4
Dec. 15	114.6		98.6	121.7	108.1	109.4	106.0	107.2
<i>1942</i>								
Jan. 15	116.4				111.5		106.5	110.3
Feb. 15	121.7				114.1		112.7	112.7
Mar. 15	126.6		100.1			119.6	107.2	114.0
Apr. 15	129.8						108.7	117.6
May 15	128.9						109.7	117.3
June 15		103.3	100.1			121.6	109.8	117.8
July 15							109.2	118.1
Aug. 15							109.2	118.4
Sept. 15	126.6		100.1	127.3	116.5	122.0	109.3	118.9
Oct. 15	127.1				116.5		109.3	119.7
Nov. 15	127.1				116.5		109.2	119.7
Dec. 15	127.1		100.1	125.9	116.5	122.0	109.2	120.0
<i>1943</i>								
Jan. 15	128.0				116.5		109.2	120.5
Feb. 15	128.0				117.2		109.7	120.8
Mar. 15	128.9		100.1		116.5	120.6	109.4	124.1
Apr. 15	130.3				116.5		109.4	125.4
May 15	130.3				116.5		109.4	128.9
June 15		110.9	100.1			132.4	109.6	129.1
July 15							110.6	131.1
Aug. 15							111.1	133.0
Sept. 15	132.1		101.1	133.5	117.2	142.4	111.4	136.9
Oct. 15	133.0				117.2		112.4	139.6
Nov. 15	133.5				117.2		112.4	139.9
Dec. 15	134.4		101.6	136.9	117.8	151.2	112.7	139.9
<i>1944</i>								
Jan. 15	134.9				117.8	153.2	113.7	141.0
Feb. 15	137.2				119.7	157.2	113.9	141.3
Mar. 15	139.0		101.6		122.2	160.0	113.9	141.8