

well as an administrative body in that, among other activities, it undertakes to measure changes in the cost of living each month. Its report¹ published in February, 1920 contained a series of index numbers showing the relation of prices by months since 1910¹ to average prices in the year 1913, which was adopted as the normal or base period. Six annual reports have been published,² and special memoranda are issued each month, so that a complete index series by months is available.

In 1918 and 1919, in order to satisfy the requirements of the National War Labor Board for further information on the cost of living, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics made another investigation of the cost of living in the United States. This included many of the localities in which the cost of living of shipyard workers had previously been investigated, but was in some ways far more representative than the earlier studies. Retail prices were collected in 31 of these localities for June and December, 1919, and for June, 1920;³ in 32 localities for December, 1920, May, September and December, 1921, March, June, September and December of 1922, 1923, 1924, and for June and December, 1925. From these, index numbers of the cost of living have been computed for each locality separately, and they have also formed the basis for the computation of an index of the cost of living for the country as a whole, with average prices in 1913 as a base. These numbers are published regularly in the *Monthly Labor Review*.

In addition to these two indexes for the country as a whole and one for the important industrial state of Massachusetts, a number of local indexes of the cost of living have been computed. Of these, the only official one is that compiled by the Industrial Commission of Colorado for the city of Denver. In Rochester, N. Y., New Bedford, Mass., and

¹ An earlier report on the cost of living in Massachusetts was issued in 1910. Massachusetts, Commission on the Cost of Living, Report, Boston, May, 1910. The later figures make possible estimates of changes in the cost of living in Massachusetts since 1901. See, for example, National Industrial Conference Board, Research Report No. 41, "Family Budgets of American Wage Earners," New York, 1921, pp. 65-66; also, Table 5 (p. 89) in the present volume.

² Report of the Commission on the Necessaries of Life, *op. cit.*, 1920; *ibid.*, 1921; *ibid.*, 1922; *ibid.*, 1923; *ibid.*, 1924; *ibid.*, 1925.

³ Washington, D. C., was added in December, 1920.