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NOTES
ON SOME
PRICES
IN BRITAIN



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PREPARED FOR
THE BRITISH INFORMATION

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N.B. This pamphlet is intended as a very rough and completely unofficial indication of the prices of some commodities and services in Britain. Its limitations are emphasised in the Introduction. It is produced as part of the British Information Services, and is intended to be used for reference purposes. It may be freely used in preparing articles, speeches, broadcasts, etc. No acknowledgment is necessary. **Please note the date of preparation.**

NOTES ON SOME PRICES IN BRITAIN

INTRODUCTION

THE object of this paper is to give people overseas a sort of prices that are paid in Britain for goods and consumption. This latest edition of the paper relates to London in August 1962. As an up-to-date guide to prices, it replaces COI Reference Paper R.5128, *Notes on Some Prices in Britain*, which was related to August 1961.

Part I of the paper consists of a list of prices of goods and services, for the most part being based on first-hand observations made by staff of the Central Office of Information who visited shops, mainly in Central London.

Even as an eye-witness report, the list of prices makes no pretension to be in any way comprehensive or authoritative. No attempt is made to cover a fully representative cross-section of shops and, indeed, goods in the luxury class are expressly excluded. The examples given are simple examples found at a particular date, and while in the case of most goods, including food and fuel, they are probably broadly representative, in other cases, e.g., clothing, a more exhaustive survey would certainly reveal a wider range of prices, reflecting not only differences in the quality and style of goods but a host of factors, including the class of shop patronised and the exclusiveness of the design.

For this reason, examples of clothing prices in chain stores specialising in clothes have been given, as well as examples at the rather higher average prices in London department stores (which may also stock some cheaper goods). Chain store prices have also been given, as well as other prices, for the small household goods, e.g., dusters and kitchen utensils. All chain store prices have been asterisked. It should be noted that slightly different price levels may prevail in other parts of Britain and that foodstuffs are subject to considerable seasonal fluctuations in prices.

Purchase tax—which, with a few exceptions (see p. 14), is not levied on food—is not payable on goods bought by visitors to Britain under the Personal Export Scheme for use outside the country, and visitors can therefore obtain certain goods at prices rather lower than those quoted.

In view of the character of this survey and its predecessors, attempts to establish price trends by comparison of the surveys could easily be misleading. It has not been possible to ensure that exactly the same quality of article was priced on each occasion, and in a number of cases the articles priced on the different occasions have been of different qualities, either because it became known to the compilers that the higher quality is that most commonly bought or simply because the observer could not easily find anything comparable to the article priced on previous occasions.

Some idea of the trend in prices in recent years may be obtained from Tables VI and VIa, in Part II, which give the official Index of Retail Prices.

Part II also gives notes on a number of studies which may help in the assessment of prices, incomes and purchasing power in Britain and contains a number of statistical tables, quoted or calculated from these studies. These notes again lay no claim to be comprehensive. They are intended to help inquirers in their researches. Further information is available in COI reference paper R.5319, *The Standard of Living in Britain*.

PART I. LIST OF PRICES
FOOD, DRINK AND TOBACCO

Item	Description	Quantity	Price
Bread	large loaf (white)	1½ lb.	1s. 1d. — 1s. 4d.
Flour	white, self-raising	3 lb.	1s. 10d.
	white, plain	3 lb.	1s. 10d.
Biscuits	plain	1 lb.	1s. 6d.
	fancy	1 lb.	2s. 4d. upwards
Milk	ordinary	1 pt.	8d.
	TT	1 pt.	9d.
	Jersey	1 pt.	9½d.
Cream		1 gill	1s. 0d. & 2s. 0d.
Eggs	English new laid	1 doz.	4s. 0d. — 5s. 6d.
	imported (standard size)	1 doz.	3s. 0d.
Cheese	English Cheddar	1 lb.	3s. 2d. — 3s. 6d.
	New Zealand Cheddar	1 lb.	2s. 6d.
	Gorgonzola, etc.	1 lb.	4s. 6d. upwards
Butter	Danish	1 lb.	3s. 4d. — 4s. 2d.
	New Zealand	1 lb.	2s. 10d. — 3s. 6d.
Margarine		1 lb.	1s. 9d. — 2s. 3d.
Cooking fat		1 lb.	1s. 6d. — 2s. 4d.
Lard		1 lb.	1s. 2d. — 1s. 6d.
Bacon	best—		
	short back	1 lb.	4s. 0d. — 5s. 0d.
	gammon	1 lb.	5s. 6d. — 5s. 8d.
	cheap—		
	streaky	1 lb.	2s. 6d. — 3s. 6d.
Meat	best—		
	English leg of lamb	1 lb.	4s. 3d. — 5s. 0d.
	sirloin of beef	1 lb.	5s. 6d. — 6s. 6d.
	pork chop	1 lb.	4s. 6d. — 6s. 6d.
	fillet steak	1 lb.	6s. 6d. upwards
	braising steak	1 lb.	4s. 0d. upwards
	cheap—		
	stewing steak	1 lb.	2s. 10d. — 3s. 10d.
	minced beef	1 lb.	2s. 6d. — 3s. 2d.
	New Zealand mutton	1 lb.	2s. 0d. — 3s. 0d.
	sausages—pork	1 lb.	3s. 0d.
	beef	1 lb.	2s. 0d.
Fish	best—		
	sole	1 lb.	4s. 6d. — 6s. 0d.
	plaice	1 lb.	3s. 0d. — 4s. 0d.
	cheap—		
	cod	1 lb.	1s. 10d. — 2s. 8d.
	herrings	1 lb.	10d.
Fruit—e.g.			
apples (dessert)		1 lb.	1s. 6d. — 2s. 6d.
bananas		1 lb.	1s. 0d. — 1s. 6d.
oranges		1 lb.	10d. — 1s. 3d.
strawberries	(in season)	1 lb.	2s. 6d. — 4s. 0d.

continued overleaf

Item	Description	Quantity	Price
Vegetables—e.g.			
potatoes		1 lb.	5d.
carrots		1 lb.	6d. — 1s. 0d.
cabbage		1 lb.	6d.
onions		1 lb.	6d. — 8d.
Jam	plum	1 lb.	1s. 4d.
	good quality— strawberry	1 lb.	1s. 10d. — 2s. 6d.
Salt	cooking	1½ lb.	6d.
	table	1 lb.	5d.
Sugar	brown	1 lb.	1s. 1d.
	granulated	1 lb.	8d.
	lump	1 lb.	11d.
Spaghetti		small tin	6d. — 1s. 0d.
	long	1 lb.	1s. 3d. — 1s. 10d.
Rice		1 lb.	1s. 0d.
Cereals—			
oatmeal (rolled oats)		1 lb.	1s. 0d. — 1s. 2d.
cornflakes		large packet	1s. 6d.
Frozen foods—e.g.			
peas		5 oz.	1s. 0d.
strawberries		10 oz.	3s. 3d.
fish	fillets of plaice	8 oz.	2s. 2d.
Canned foods—e.g.			
peas		1 lb. 3½ oz.	11½d. — 1s. 8d.
peaches		1 lb. 13 oz.	2s. 3d. — 3s. 3d.
stewed steak		15½ oz.	2s. 6d. — 3s. 6d.
luncheon meat		12 oz.	2s. 2d. — 3s. 6d.
Beverages			
tea	cheap	½ lb.	1s. 3d. — 1s. 7d.
	best (Indian)	½ lb.	2s. 2d.
coffee		½ lb. tin	3s. 6d. — 3s. 9d.
	instant	2 oz. tin	2s. 3d. — 2s. 9d.
cocoa		½ lb. tin	2s. 3d.
Alcoholic drinks			
beer (draught)		1 pt.	1s. 6d. — 2s. 2d.
cider		flagon 2 pts.	1s. 10d.
whisky	standard brands	bottle	41s. 6d.
gin	standard brands	bottle	39s. 9d.
wine (table)	Commonwealth	bottle	5s. 0d. upwards
	other	bottle	5s. 6d. upwards
Tobacco	pipe	1 oz.	3s. 11d. — 5s. 9d.
	cigarettes		
	(standard brands)	20	4s. 5d.
	(filter tips)	20	3s. 10d.
	(lower-grade brands)	20	3s. 2d.
Confectionery			
chocolate	standard	2 oz. bar	7d.
chocolate		per lb.	4s. 6d. — 9s. 6d.
miscellaneous		per lb.	2s. 8d. — 6s. 0d.

Schools

Subsidised hot lunches in maintained schools are provided at prices up to 1s.; in cases of hardship no charge is made.

Canteens

Subsidised hot meals at prices ranging from 1s. to 4s. are provided for their employees by a very large number of commercial and industrial concerns.

Restaurants

Tea (cup)	6d.—10d.
Coffee (cup)	7d.—1s. 0d.
Sandwich (ham)	1s. 3d.—2s. 0d.
3-course lunch	at a chain restaurant: 3s. 6d.—6s. 6d. at a medium-price restaurant: 7s. 0d.—12s. 6d.

HOUSING AND OTHER ACCOMMODATION

Dwelling accommodation in Britain as a whole consists mainly of houses, many of them in terraces or semi-detached. Flats (apartments) are more numerous than houses in Scotland; they are common in the inner suburbs of London, and all the larger industrial cities contain large blocks of apartment dwellings. Many of the larger houses have been converted into sets of flats.

Unfurnished Rented Houses and Flats

Rents vary not only with the value of accommodation and the type of neighbourhood but regionally, being generally lower in Scotland and the north of England and higher in London and the south. Rents are also generally lower in rural than in urban areas.

Apart from these general factors, rents in Britain are affected by rent control and housing subsidies. Over one-third of all houses in Great Britain were let unfurnished at controlled rents when the Rent Act, 1957, came into operation on 6th July, 1957. Of these houses (over 5½ million) some 800,000 ceased to be controlled in October 1958 (that is, those with a rateable value, as defined below, of upwards of £40 in London and Scotland and £30 in England and Wales outside London). Other provisions of the Act have the effect of gradually reducing the number of rent-controlled houses. Before the Act was passed nearly three-quarters of the tenants of controlled houses in England and Wales were paying net rents which did not exceed 10s. a week. Limited increases were permitted in the rents of houses remaining subject to control, the actual amount depending on the extent of the landlord's responsibility for repairs and other factors. The four million publicly owned houses are not subject to rent control, but their rents have been kept down by housing subsidies from central and local government funds. Some local authorities operate differential rent schemes whereby the rents charged for their houses may be varied according to the tenant's ability to pay.

In addition to rent, the tenant of an unfurnished house is usually responsible for the payment of rates, a local tax on occupied premises based on the annual rateable value of the property, as determined by periodical survey, multiplied by the rate poundage fixed by the local authority. When the landlord pays the rates he charges the tenant an inclusive rent. Rates normally amount to between a quarter and a half of the actual rent where the rent is not restricted.

In most areas demand for unfurnished rented accommodation has exceeded supply; and the scarcity has tended to raise rents not subject to control. An uncontrolled flat with two bedrooms in a favoured locality in central London, for example, will probably cost from £550 a year upwards (including rates).

The following table gives an indication of the range of rents of local authority houses in England and Wales as a whole.

Weekly Net Rents of Local Authority Houses Charged at 31st March, 1961

Average Net Rents					Range of Net Rents		
	Completed 31.3.45 and before		Completed after 31.3.45			Completed after 31.3.45	
	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest		Lowest	Highest
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		s. d.	s. d.
2-bedroom houses	5 2	32 7	8 6	54 0	2-bedroom houses	—	57 0
3-bedroom houses	8 0	37 10	14 11	60 0	3-bedroom houses	—	108 3

The average net rent of a publicly owned house in Scotland (where one-third of all houses is publicly owned) was 10s. 1d. a week in November 1961.

Houses and Flats for Purchase

In most areas houses and flats for purchase are more plentiful than similar accommodation for letting. However, there has been a steep rise in prices during the last few years, with increases of 30 per cent in the Greater London area since 1957. On average houses and flats in London and the south-east bring double the figure for most northern districts.

Newly built, small, semi-detached houses (which account for over 50 per cent of homes under construction in 1962) cost from £2,200 to £5,000. Modern flats cost from £4,300 upwards in London and a little less in the provinces. Old terrace houses may be priced as low as £1,200, according to locality.

Building societies will usually provide mortgages of up to 85 per cent, or even more, of the value of new property.

Furnished Accommodation

The cost of furnished accommodation in Britain is governed—as in the case of other types of accommodation—by the location. Prices in London and in big cities are higher than elsewhere.

In London conditions are particularly difficult at present, and flats at a reasonable rent are not easily found in central London. A three-roomed flat with kitchen and bath will cost from £6 6s. 0d. up to £12 12s. 0d. a week. Some landlords will not permit children.

Bed-sitting rooms are easier to obtain, but in London the price range is from £2 10s. 0d. to £5 0s. 0d. Rooms with partial board (e.g., breakfast and evening meal) are also becoming difficult to find in central London below £5 5s. 0d. a week, although conditions are easier in the provinces.

Furnished houses will let for about £9 0s. 0d. to £10 0s. 0d. a week in London and rather less elsewhere.

Hotel Accommodation

LONDON

Central and West End	40s. 0d. to 140s. 0d.	per night (bed and breakfast).
Inner London	25s. 0d. to 70s. 0d.	„ „ „ „ „
Suburbs	18s. 6d. to 45s. 0d.	„ „ „ „ „

PROVINCES

First-class	45s. 0d. to 90s. 0d.	„ „ „ „ „
Others	17s. 6d. to 27s. 6d.	„ „ „ „ „

WEEKLY TERMS (full board)

General £6 16s. 0d. to £20 0s. 0d.

Seaside resorts (in season) £8 8s. 0d. to £23 0s. 0d.

FUEL AND LIGHT

Item	Price
Gas—(London area)	Flat rate: 25.35d. (2s. 1½d.) per therm (200 cu. ft. gas) plus a standing charge of 7s. per quarter Domestic two-part rate: 19.44 (1s. 7½d.) per therm plus a standing charge of £1 12. 0. per quarter
Electricity	Domestic rate, two-part tariff with a minimum fixed charge of 18s. 5d. per annum increasing with dimensions of the premises, plus 1½d. for all units consumed
Coal (London)—best	£12. 0. 0. per ton
cheapest	£7. 0. 0. per ton
Coke	£9. 10. 0.—£12. 10. 0. per ton
Paraffin oil (best quality)	2s. 2d. per gallon

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

Item	Description	Price
Bedstead	oak—double	£7.10. 0.—£20. 0. 0.
Mattress	interior-sprung—single	£4.15. 0.
	double	£7. 0. 0.—£15.15. 0.
Divan and mattress	interior-sprung, single, 3 ft.	£19. 0. 0.—£26.12. 0.
Bedroom suite	dressing table and 2 wardrobes	£45. 0. 0.—£90. 0. 0.
Child's cot	wood	£6.10. 0.
Fireside chair	sprung—wooden arms	£5.10. 0.—£16.16. 0.
Settee and 2 easy chairs		£33. 0. 0.—£70. 0. 0.
Dining table		£7. 0. 0.—£12.10. 0.
Dining chair	set of four	£10. 0. 0.—£15. 0. 0.
Kitchen chair		17s. 6d.—£2.10. 0.
Curtain material	cotton-cretonne per yard	7s. 11d.
	chintz " "	12s. 11d.
	cotton and rayon damask " "	8s. 11d.—£1. 5. 0.
	Terylene net " "	5s. 11d.
Carpets	haircord 12 ft. x 9 ft.	£16.17. 6.—£20. 0. 0.
	Indian 12 ft. x 9 ft.	£31. 0. 0.—£45. 0. 0.
	Axminster seamless 12 ft. x 9 ft.	£35.10. 0.—£44. 0. 0.
	tufted wool	£20.14. 0.
Linoleum	cheap—per sq. yd.	8s. 11d.
Vinyl floor tiles—per sq. yd.		17s. 4d.
Kitchen cooker	gas or electric	£24.10. 0.—£55. 0. 0.
		£87. 0. 0.—£100.0. 0.
Sewing machine	(Singer)	£31. 1. 3. upwards
Washing machine	(including wringer)	£35. 0. 0.—£103.0. 0.
Radio set	portable (transistor)	£8.16. 0.—£24. 0. 0.
	table model	£12. 0. 0.—£30.10. 0.
Refrigerator		£35. 0. 0.—£75. 0. 0.

continued overleaf

Item	Description	Price
Television set	(Pye)—13 channel, 23 in. tube, console	£85. 1. 0.
	(Ferguson)—13 channel, 19 in tube, table model	£64. 1. 0.
Electric iron	(Hoover)—steam iron	£4.12. 1.
Vacuum cleaner		£11.14. 0.—£31.10. 0.
Electric fire	fan-heater, thermostat-controlled	£9.13. 6.
Gas fire		£6.15. 0.
Convactor heater		£6. 0. 0.—£12.12. 0.
Slow-burning oil stove		£8. 8. 0.—£11.11. 0.
Pressure cooker	(Prestige)	£5. 9. 6.
Saucepan	enamel medium size	*2s. 0d.
	aluminium " "	*3s. 6d.
	ground base " "	*12s. 6d.
Kettle	aluminium " "	*4s. 3d.
	aluminium " "	9s. 0d.
	electric (Hotpoint) " "	£4.10. 0.
Sweeping brush	bristle	*5s. 0d.—7s. 6d.
Carpet brush	bristle	*2s. 6d.—7s. 11d.
Ironing board		£2.15. 9.—£6.10. 0.
Scrubbing brush		*1s. 6d.
Pail	nylon	4s. 8d.
	galvanised	*4s. 9d.—7s. 11d.
	enamel	*5s. 6d.—9s. 11d.
	plastic	*6s. 6d.—13s. 11d.
Duster		*1s. 0d.
Household soap	packet (2 bars)	1s. 0d.
Detergent	large	1s. 6d.—1s. 9d.
Soap flakes	large	1s. 10d.
Cutlery—		
set of 6 of every-thing	stainless steel knives and EPNS	
	Sheffield plate	£13. 0. 0.
	chromium plate	£5.10. 0.
China—		
Dinner set for 6		*£1.12. 0.
		£4. 9. 9.—£9.10. 0.
Tea set for 6		*£1. 0. 0.
		£2.18. 0.—£5. 0. 0.
Set of 42 pieces	bone china	£13. 0. 0.
Casserole dish	ovenproof	14s. 6d.
Linen—		
Sheets	cotton, plain, single size per pair	£2. 7. 0.
	Egyptian cotton, corded top, single size 80 x 110 inches per pair	£2.14. 0.
Pillow slip	cotton, plain	3s. 6d.
	Egyptian cotton, corded edge	10s. 3d.
Bath towel	medium size, turkish towelling, 30 x 54 inches	8s. 11d.—21s. 0d.
Blanket	single-bed, 70 x 90 in.	
	Witney, all wool, coloured	£3. 7. 6.
	Witney, full weight	£5.19. 6.
Eiderdown	single-bed, rayon or cotton cover	£1.19. 6.
	single-bed, satin cover	£5.15. 0.—£12. 0. 0.
	double-bed	£4.15. 0.

*Chain store

TOILET REQUISITES

Item	Price
Toilet soap—Palmolive	9d. & 1s. 2½d.
Yardley	2s. 6d. — 4s. 3d.
Shampoo (for 1 shampoo)	7d. — 10d.
Toothpaste	1s. 9d. — 3s. 8d.
Night cream	1s. 8d. — 5s. 6d. small size
—Arden	9s. 6d. " "
Foundation—Outdoor Girl	2s. 6d. " "
Arden	9s. 6d. " "
Powder—Outdoor Girl	1s. 6d. " "
Arden	12s. 9d. " "
Lipstick—Pond's	1s. 9d. " "
Revlon	11s. 6d. " "
" refill	4s. 6d.
Rouge—Coty	3s. 6d.
Arden	9s. 6d.

CLOTHING

Item	Material	Price
Women		
Hat	straw	*10s. 11d. £1. 1. 0. upwards
	felt	*13s. 11d. £1. 3. 0. upwards
Overcoat	winter—wool	*£5. 0. 0. £12. 0. 0.—£16. 0. 0.
Suit	wool jersey	*£3.19.11.
	wool worsted	£7.17. 6.—£15.15. 0.
Dress	wool	*£3. 5. 6. £7. 0. 0.—£18. 0. 0.
	cotton	*£1. 9.11. £3. 0. 0.— £8.10. 0.
	rayon	*£2. 0. 0. £5. 5. 0.
	non-iron cotton	£3. 3. 0.— £5. 0. 0.
Raincoat	plastic	14s. 11d.
	cotton poplin	*£4.15. 0.
	gaberdine	£8.19. 6.
Blouse	cotton	*15s. 11d. & 18s. 11d. 19s. 11d. & £2. 2. 0.
	rayon	*19s. 11d. — £1. 2. 6. £2.19.11.
	tricot	*17s. 11d., £2. 0. 0., £4. 4. 0.
Sweater and Cardigan	pure Botany wool, fully fashioned	*£1. 9.11. £3. 0. 0.— £4.10. 0.

*Chain store

Item	Material	Price
Women (contd.)		
Sweater and Cardigan, <i>contd.</i>	pure lambswool	*£2.12. 6. £5.15. 0.— £9. 9. 0.
	orlon	£4. 4. 0.
Skirt	Terylene and wool	*£2. 7. 6. £3. 3. 0. upwards
Shoes	leather	*£2. 9.11. £2. 9.11.— £7. 7. 0.
Stockings	nylon	*3s. 11d.— 8s. 6d. 6s. 11d.—12s. 6d.
Corset	elastic roll-on nylon elastic roll-on	*10s. 6d.—19s. 11d. £1.11. 6.
Brassiere	cotton	*6s. 6d. 10s. 0d.— £2. 2. 0.
Vest	rayon wool	*7s. 11d. £1. 0. 0.— £1.10. 0.
Panties	wool cotton	£1. 4. 6. *2s. 11d. 5s. 11d.
	nylon	*4s. 11d. 6s. 11d.—14s. 11d.
Slip	nylon cotton	*15s. 0d. upwards *22s. 0d.
Pyjamas	winceyette wool rayon	*19s. 11d. £2. 2. 0. *19s. 11d., £1. 4.11., £1. 5. 6. £1. 6.11.
Nightdress	cotton Clydella (wool and cotton mixture) cotton	£2. 7. 6. *£1. 7.11. £1. 9.11.
	nylon	*£1. 7.11.— £2. 5. 0. £1.19.11.—£6. 6. 0.
Housecoat	wool cotton	*£2. 9.11. £4. 4. 0.— £8. 8. 0. *£1.19. 6.— £2. 9. 0. £2. 9.11.— £3.10. 0.
Gloves	leather, wool-lined knitted wool cotton fabric	*17s. 11d. £1. 5. 0., £1. 9.11., £1.12. 6. *3s. 6d. 7s. 6d. *3s. 11d. 6s. 11d.—12s. 11d.
Men		
Working overalls	cotton denim—boiler suit bib and brace coat	£1.11. 0. £1. 1. 0.— £1. 5. 6. £1. 9. 0.
Hat	felt	£1.10 0.— £2.10. 0.

*Chain store

continued overleaf

Item	Material	Price
Men (contd.)		
Cap	cloth	10s. 6d.— £1. 7. 6.
Gloves	leather, wool-lined	*17s. 11d. £1. 1. 9.— £1.15. 0.
	knitted wool	2s. 11d.—5s. 3d.
Winter overcoat	wool	*£8. 0. 0. £15. 0. 0.—£22. 0. 0.
Raincoat	cotton	*£5. 0. 0.
	wool gaberdine	£7.10. 0.—£13.13. 0.
Suit	wool—ready made	£8. 8. 0.—£12.12. 0.
	tailor made	£21. 0. 0.—£45. 0. 0.
Sports jacket	tweed	*£4.15. 0.— £6. 6. 0. £10.10. 0.
Trousers	flannel	*£3. 5. 0.— £5.12. 6. £7. 7. 0.
Shirt	cotton	*£1. 1. 0. £2. 5. 0. £2.10. 0.
	nylon	£2. 5. 0.— £2.17. 6.
	wool—Viyella	*£1. 8.11.— £4. 0. 0.
	Terylene	17s. 11d.— £1.15. 0.
	sports shirt	
Pullover	botany wool	*£2. 0. 0. £3. 3. 0.— £7. 0. 0.
Socks	wool	*4s. 9d. 8s. 6d.
Shoes	leather	*£3. 5. 0. £4. 5. 0.— £7.15. 0.
Vest	cotton	*5s. 6d.—12s. 6d. 17s. 3d.
	wool	*13s. 0d. £1.13. 6.— £1.15. 6.
Pants	cotton	*4s. 6d. 9s. 0d.—18s. 0d.
	wool	*15s. 6d. £1.12. 6.
Pyjamas	cotton	*£1. 5.11. £1.15. 0.— £3. 5. 0.
	winceyette	*19s. 11d.— £2.10. 0.
	union flannel	£2. 7. 0.
Dressing gown	wool	*£3. 6. 6. £3.19. 6.— £6.16. 0.
	rayon	£2. 1. 0. £2.15. 9.— £3. 3. 0.
Tie	rayon	*5s. 11d.
	silk and Terylene	7s. 6d., 15s. 0d.
Children		
Socks	wool	*2s. 11d.
	wool—Viyella	3s. 11d., 4s. 11d.

*Chain store

Item	Material	Price
Children (contd.)		
Shoes	leather	*18s. 6d. £1.15. 0.
Shirt	boy's	*17s. 6d. 23s. 6d.
Coat	wool, girl's	£5.15. 6.—£9. 0. 0.
Raincoat	gaberdine	*£3.10. 0. £4.15. 0.
Dress	drip-dry cotton	*£1. 4.11. £1. 5. 0.—£2. 5. 0.
	wool mixture	*£1. 9. 0.
	" " —Clydella	£2. 9. 6.
Blazer	wool serge	£4. 0. 0.
Cardigan	wool	*14s. 6d.—18s. 0d. £1.10. 6.
Vest	wool	*6s. 11d. 14s. 6d.
Pants	cotton	*2s. 11d. 7s. 6d.
Pyjamas	wool mixture—winceyette	*14s. 11d.—£1. 3. 6. £1. 7. 0.—£1.11. 0.

*Chain store

READING MATTER

National Daily Newspapers	Daily Mail, Daily Express, Daily Telegraph, Daily Herald, Daily Sketch, Daily Mirror	3d.
	The Guardian	4d.
	The Times	5d.
Periodicals	e.g., Woman, Today	6d.
	Spectator, Time and Tide, New Statesman and Nation	9d.—1s. 0d.
	Economist	1s. 6d.
	Geographical Magazine, Country Life	2s. 6d.
	London Magazine	3s. 6d.
Books	Paper backed	2s. 6d.—8s. 6d.
	Cloth backed reproductions (Everyman, etc.)	6s. 0d.—8s. 6d.
	New fiction: novels (cloth-bound)	12s. 6d.—21s. 0d
	Non-fiction	15s. 0d., upwards

TRANSPORT

Rail

Generally speaking, fares on British railways are based upon a mileage rate of 3d. per mile for second class travel up to 200 miles. The basis for distances over 200 miles is slightly lower. (Half rates for children under 14.) First class fares are 50 per cent above second class. Return fares (available for three months) are double single fares. There are also several types of concessionary fares, for example, season tickets, special excursion rates, circular tour tickets, and mid-week reductions. Seat reservations cost 2s. per seat.

London

TUBE AND BUS—3d., 6d., 8d., 11d., 1s., 1s. 6d., etc. 3d., 6d. and 8d. represent approximately 1-, 2- and 3-mile journeys.

Motor Cars

(i) List prices of new saloon cars.

Morris *Mini-Minor* £496 (£360 basic + £136 purchase tax)

Vauxhall *Victor* £702 (£510 basic + £192 purchase tax)

Jaguar 2.4 litre £1,489 (£1,082 basic + £407 purchase tax)

(ii) List prices of used cars (1959 models in good condition).

Ford *Anglia* £385

Hillman *Minx* £425

Rover *105* £835

Petrol (London area)—	Standard	4s. 5d. per gallon.
	Premium	4s. 10½d. per gallon.
	100 octane	5s. 0d. per gallon.

Caravans £240—£450.

Motor Caravans £652—£1,000.

Cycles Adult's £16.10.0—£25.0.0.

Child's £14.14.0.

Child's Perambulator £16—£26.

COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Telephone

LOCAL CALLS (average local area 900 sq. miles): subscribers, 2½d.; call-offices, 4d. STD, 2d. for 3 minutes.

	Full Rate 3 min.	Cheap Rate (6 p.m. to 6 a.m. week- days, and all Sunday)	Subscriber Trunk Dialling 3 min.	STD Cheap Rate
TOLL AND TRUNK CALLS				
Up to 35 miles	1s. 0d.	9d.	1s. 0d.	8d.
From 35 to 50 miles	1s. 9d.	1s. 3d.	1s. 6d.	1s. 0d.
From 50 to 75 miles	2s. 3d.	1s. 6d.	2s. 6d.	1s. 8d.
From 75 to 125 miles	3s. 0d.	2s. 0d.		
Over 125 miles	3s. 6d.	2s. 0d.		

N.B.—An additional 3d. is charged when the call is made from a call-office.

ALARM CALLS—Subscribers, 5d.; call-offices, 6d.

RENTAL CHARGE. Residence lines:

Exclusive £3.10. 0 per quarter.

Shared £3. 0. 0 per quarter.

Letters

Inland: 3d. for 1 oz., 4½d. for 2 oz., then 1½d. for each 2 oz.

Commonwealth: first oz. 3d., then 1½d. for each oz.

Other countries: first oz. 6d., then 4d. for each oz.

Air mail (outside Europe): per ½ oz. 9d., 1s. 3d., 1s. 6d. Air letter forms, 6d.

Postcards

Inland and Commonwealth 2½d.; other countries 4d.

Parcels (Inland)

Not over 2 lb. 2s. 0d.

Maximum 15 lb. 4s. 0d.

Printed Papers (Inland): 2½ oz. 2d., 4 oz. 4d., then 1d. per 2 oz.

Newspapers (Inland): first 6 oz., 3d.

Registration Fees (Inland): 1s. 6d. with £20 limit of compensation, then 1d. for every £20 up to 3s. 1d. for £400.

— (Overseas): 1s. 6d. with £2 18s. limit of compensation.

Recorded Delivery (Inland): 6d. for compensation up to a maximum of £2.
This service is not designed for valuable articles.

ENTERTAINMENTS

Theatre

Stalls and Dress Circle	10s. 6d., 15s. 0d., 18s. 6d., £1 1s. 0d.
Upper Circle	7s. 6d., 8s. 6d.
Gallery	4s. 6d.

Cinema

London, Suburban	2s. 0d.—4s. 6d.
London, West End	4s. 6d.—£1 0. 0.

Football 3s. 0d.—12s. 6d.

Concert 3s. 6d.—£1 5. 0.

Cricket (Lord's, admission to ground) 3s. 0d.

Horse Racing 4s. 0d.—£2 0. 0.

Licences

Car	£15 0. 0.
Radio	£1 0. 0.
Television (with sound radio)	£4 0. 0.
Dog	7s. 6d.

SERVICES

Domestic Help

Charwoman per hour (London area)	3s. 6d.—5s. 0d.
Maid per week (resident)	£4 0. 0.—£5 10. 0.
Cook per week (resident)	£5 0. 0.—£7 10. 0.

Laundry

Sheet	1s. 0d.
Pillow slip	5d.
Shirt	1s. 8d.
Collar	6d.

Dry Cleaning

Suits and coats	6s. 0d.—14s. 0d.
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Shoe Repairs

Sole and heel—women	12s. 0d.
men	15s. 0d.—18s. 6d.

Hairdressing

Shampoo and set	5s. 6d.—18s. 6d.
Barber's haircut (men)	3s. 0d.—5s. 0d.

Purchase Tax

Purchase tax is an *ad valorem* tax on the wholesale value of chargeable goods; it is imposed, in general, at the wholesale stage in the distribution of goods.

The following list indicates, in general terms, the principal kinds of goods which were chargeable with tax at the various rates in June 1962.

Rate of Tax	Goods
10 per cent	Garments (other than fur garments), most footwear, gloves, handkerchiefs, scarves, headgear, narrow fabrics, cushions, pillows, bolsters and mattresses. Most domestic, office and metal furniture. Garden furniture. Most floor coverings. Wallpaper. Domestic hardware, ironmongery, table-ware, kitchen-ware and toilet-ware. Most hand-operated domestic appliances. Cutlery, spoons, forks.
15 per cent	Chocolates, sweets and confectionery, chocolate biscuits, soft drinks (including fruit juices and bottled waters and syrups). Ice cream and ice lollies.
25 per cent	Lighting fittings, bulbs and mantles; hand lamps and hand torches. Lawn mowers and rollers. Clocks and watches of precious metals. Toys. Umbrellas. Certain toilet requisites and preparations. Drugs and medicines. Stationery and office requisites. Bicycles, motor cycles and light tricar. Most fur garments, fur headgear, fur rugs and fur skin. Musical instruments (other than keyboard instruments). Mirrors. Gas and electric space- and water-heating appliances and oil-burning space heaters. Domestic refrigerators, washing machines and vacuum cleaners. Smokers' requisites. Trunks, bags, purses, wallets, etc. Cameras and photographic goods. Jewellery. Ornaments and most fancy goods.
45 per cent	Motor cars. Radio and television sets. Gramophones, records. Perfumery and cosmetics.

Goods which are free of tax include: foodstuffs (with the exceptions mentioned above), fuel, books, young children's garments and footwear, certain household goods, most non-woollen tissues and fabrics, domestic textile articles and soft furnishings; plastic sheeting, cooking stoves, pianos and organs, school satchels, shopping bags, toilet paper and tooth brushes, certain essential or non-proprietary drugs and medicines, invalid carriages and perambulators, office machinery, most industrial and building materials and appliances, most articles (e.g., spirits and tobacco) subject to other indirect taxation.

PART II. STUDIES OF COST OF LIVING AND PURCHASING POWER

(An Annotated Bibliography)

(A) NOTES ON STUDIES RELATING TO BRITAIN

Surveys of Income

Every six months, in the last pay weeks of April and October, the Ministry of Labour conducts a large-scale survey of hours of work and earnings (including piece-rate, shift-rate, and overtime earnings) in manufacturing and some other industries. The latest published survey for October 1961 covered 58,000 undertakings employing just over 7 million workers. Table I gives weekly and hourly earnings in October 1961 in the main groups of industries and services.

The average hourly earnings given in Table I can be compared with the prices given in the body of this paper in order to estimate how long a man must work to purchase certain articles in common consumption [see Table II]. These items can then be compared with those obtained by similar calculations in other countries. Further information on incomes and expenditure, including statistics on salaries, is available in the Ministry of Labour's *Statistics on Incomes, Prices, Employment and Production* published quarterly by H.M. Stationery Office, price 12s. 6d.

Such comparisons, however, are necessarily very rough. There are likely to be differences in the articles compared, as well as in the ways of life and in the social and financial structures of which they form a part. For example, the National Health Service, for the most part without charge, and other social services in Britain narrow the field which the British worker has to cover out of his own earnings. On the other hand, United Kingdom direct taxation tends to fall more heavily than in most other countries on marginal earnings, except in the case of persons with relatively low incomes or having several dependants. For the effect of direct taxation on different levels of income see Table III.

The National Income Blue Book

The annual Blue Book, *National Income and Expenditure, 1961* (HMSO, 6s. 0d.), gives a number of tables relevant to a consideration of purchasing power in the United Kingdom and its distribution and use. Table III is extracted from the Blue Book and the material in Table IV, showing expenditures on different kinds of goods and services at current prices for the years 1954 and 1961, is available in an expanded form in the Blue Book.

The rise of average post-tax income during the last 20 years is mainly the reflection of the rise in prices during that period, but Table III shows a significant levelling of incomes. The proportion of total personal income after tax accounted for by very high incomes is now small.

The Blue Book (and previous National Income Blue Books and White Papers) also gives tables showing expenditure on different types of consumer goods and services at constant prices, thus enabling the price and volume of elements in such expenditure to be distinguished and price and volume indices calculated.

Index of Wage Rates and Index of Retail Prices

These indices are compiled monthly by the Ministry of Labour and published in the *Ministry of Labour Gazette*.

The publication of a new monthly index of wage rates was introduced in February 1957. The index measures the movement from month to month in the level of full-time weekly rates of wages in the principal industries in the United Kingdom, with the level at 30th January, 1956, as 100. The rates of wages used for calculating the index numbers are the minimum, or standard,

rates as fixed by voluntary collective agreements between organisations of employers and workpeople, arbitration awards or statutory orders. The index numbers for the separate industries are combined together for the purpose of producing index numbers for all industry and services, and also for manufacturing industries, weighted on the basis of the aggregate weekly wages bill in each of the selected industries in October 1955. Changes in earnings due to such factors as alterations in working hours or in piece-work earnings due to variations in output are not reflected by the index. An approximate link between the new and the earlier index, to give a broad picture of movements in wage rates since June 1947, can be established by making use of the January 1956 (the base date for the new index) figure of 156.1 so calculated for the previous index. The April 1958 issue of the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* includes an article bringing together in convenient form the series of index numbers designed to measure percentage changes in rates of wages, and in normal hours of labour, in the principal industries and services, covering consecutive periods since 1880.

The index of retail prices measures the change from month to month in the average level of prices of the commodities and services entering into the expenditure of the great majority of households in the United Kingdom. As with most indices of this kind, it is based on the price movements of a large and representative selection of goods and services. The index is a measurement of price changes only and does not reflect changes in expenditure resulting from variations in the nature and quantities of goods purchased from time to time. Accordingly the price comparisons used in compiling the index figures relate in general to a fixed list of items in given quantities.

The items and quantities in the present index, whose base date is January 1956, are based on an inquiry into household expenditure which was carried out in 1953 by the Ministry of Labour and National Service in co-operation with the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance of the Northern Ireland Government and the Social Survey Division of the Central Office of Information. The inquiry covered some 13,000 households in the United Kingdom which are believed to be a representative sample of all households in the United Kingdom. For the purpose of constructing the index, however, one-tenth of the households, consisting of the exceptionally rich and the exceptionally poor, were excluded.

In 1957 a series of annual surveys of family expenditure was started, each based on a survey of a representative sample of 5,000 families. From the results of the latest reports (1958-60) the weighting of the index of retail prices was revised in 1962 and will be revised annually as further results become available. The new reference basis, which is being used alongside the old during 1962, will remain in force for a minimum period of years (probably not less than ten).

About 350 items are used in calculating changes in the index, including television, second-hand cars, and nylon stockings, so that the index is representative of the wide range of modern consumer spending.

Up to January 1956, trends in retail prices were measured by an Interim Index of Retail Prices, which was started in June 1947 on the basis of an expenditure pattern derived from a survey of *working class* expenditure made in 1937-38. The list of items was revised in January 1952 to bring it more into line with the current pattern of expenditure, but, even after this, it only included about 270 items, including several out-of-date items, and gave to expenditure on food a weight which was disproportionately high compared with the actual average expenditure over the country as a whole. Nevertheless, the general index of retail prices, calculated by this method, is held to have given results only slightly different from those that would have been obtained by using more representative items and weights. It is therefore still used, linked with the new index, to give a general indication of retail price trends since mid-1947. For a fuller account

of the index see *Method of Construction and Calculation of the Index of Retail Prices* (HMSO, 2s. 6d.).

Tables V and VI show the movement of the wage rate and retail price indices, which will be seen to have run fairly parallel. Earnings, on the other hand, as measured by the six-monthly survey of the Ministry of Labour, have risen more steeply than either prices or wage rates, mainly owing to overtime and increased productivity of workers paid by results.

Household Expenditure

Full reports of the methods and results of the inquiries into household expenditure, which provided the basis of the Index of Retail Prices, were published in October 1957 (*Inquiry into Household Expenditure 1953/4*, HMSO, 37s. 6d.) and in 1961 (*Family Expenditure Survey Report for 1957-1959*, HMSO, 12s. 6d.). Both of these set out average household expenditure on different kinds of goods and review four groups of households classified by income, size, composition, and regional and social differences.

Levels of Food Consumption

The Statistics Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food prepares in tabulated form analyses of food consumption levels in Great Britain. Detailed figures are published annually in the *Board of Trade Journal*, which is the source of the material in Table VII, normally during July or August. Fuller information is given in the annual report of the National Food Survey Committee (*Domestic Food Consumption and Expenditure*, HMSO).

A National Survey of Personal Incomes and Savings

A series of papers by H. F. Lydall appeared in the *Bulletin of the Oxford University Institute of Statistics*, starting with the November-December 1952 issue. The collected papers, somewhat expanded, were published in 1955 as a book by Basil Blackwell Ltd., at 32s. 6d., under the title *British Incomes and Savings*. They have given, in considerable detail, the results of a sample survey of personal incomes and savings and have included information about capital holdings, incomes and expenditure of different sections of the community—information which is not readily available from other sources. These inquiries are being continued annually and further papers are published, from time to time, in the Bulletin. The most recent, *The Distribution of Personal Wealth in Britain*, by H. F. Lydall and D. G. Tipping, appeared in the issue of February 1961.

Studies of Long-term Trends

Information about consumer buying between 1900 and 1938 can be derived from two studies published in 1954 by the Cambridge University Press: *Consumer Expenditure in the United Kingdom 1910-1919*, by A. R. Prest, and *The Measurement of Consumer Expenditure and Behaviour in the United Kingdom 1920-1938*, by R. Stone. A simple account of the changes in the pattern of spending during this century, based mainly on these two sources, and the most recent survey of household expenditure, is given on pp. 24, 25. It was compiled by the Treasury Information Division and originally published as *Broadsheet on Britain*, No. 55.

Poverty and the Welfare State, by C. B. Rowntree and G. R. Lavers (Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd., 1951, 7s. 6d.), analyses in detail the pattern of expenditure in a particular area—the City of York—calling attention to the reduction of poverty that has taken place during the twentieth century and including the effect of social security benefits in reducing the incidence of poverty.

A sidelight on changes in the standard of living between 1900 and 1950 is given in the report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for 1951. Here the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour and National Service summed up—on the basis of departmental records, of the memories of the older inspectors, and of interviews with managers and workpeople—its impressions of the improvement during the twentieth century of working conditions and in the health and well-being of industrial workers.

Other studies of interest are those of long-term changes in industrial productivity or in net national products at constant prices. Examples of such studies are: 'National Income of the United Kingdom, 1870-1946', an article by A. R. Prest in the *Economic Journal* of March 1948; *Output, Employment and Production in British Manufacturing Industries*, by A. Madison; *Bulletin of the Oxford University Institute of Statistics*, November 1955; and 'Industrial Production in the United Kingdom 1900-1953', by T. S. Ridley, *Economica*, February 1955.

B—TABLES

Table I.—Average Earnings in the Second Pay-Week in October 1961(a)

	Men (21 years and over) (b)		Women (18 years and over, full- time) (c)	
	Average weekly earnings	Average hourly earnings	Average weekly earnings	Average hourly earnings
	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.
Food, drink and tobacco	289 10	71·7	149 4	44·0
Chemicals and allied industries	313 1	80·3	150 3	45·2
Metal manufacture	329 1	85·8	157 0	47·9
Engineering and electrical goods	321 11	81·7	164 8	49·0
Shipbuilding and marine engineering ..	304 4	79·0	153 10	45·9
Vehicles	353 10	94·6	177 11	54·1
Metal goods not elsewhere specified ..	313 1	79·4	149 2	46·0
Textiles	279 5	72·0	152 6	46·3
Leather, leather goods and fur	274 9	70·6	143 2	44·2
Clothing and footwear	272 0	74·7	148 4	46·2
Bricks, pottery, glass, cement, etc. ..	312 5	76·0	145 5	45·0
Timber, furniture, etc.	298 1	76·6	166 2	50·6
Paper, printing and publishing	357 4	91·8	162 5	48·2
Other manufacturing industries	309 11	78·1	147 8	44·5
All manufacturing industries	317 10	81·5	154 3	46·7

Table I (continued)

	Men (21 years and over) (b)		Women (18 years and over, full- time) (c)	
	Average weekly earnings	Average hourly earnings	Average weekly earnings	Average hourly earnings
	s. d.	d.	s. d.	d.
Mining and quarrying (excluding coal) ..	295 2	70·6	156 3	46·3
Construction	305 1	74·1	142 4	43·4
Gas, electricity and water	281 6	70·5	150 6	47·7
Transport and communication (excluding railways, London Transport and British Road Services)	299 3	71·4	218 4	59·7
Certain miscellaneous services(e)	260 6	68·1	133 3	39·7
Public administration(d)	234 7	63·4	161 2	47·5
All the above, including manufacturing industries	306 10	77·7	154 6	46·7

Source: *Ministry of Labour Gazette*, February 1962.

- (a) The averages have been calculated by applying the estimated total numbers of men employed in each industry to the average earnings of the workers covered by the returns received for that industry.
- (b) Men ordinarily employed as part-time workers (for not more than 30 hours a week) have been excluded, the numbers shown in the returns having been insignificant.
- (c) In the calculations of the averages for women, all women ordinarily employed as part-time workers have been excluded.
- (d) So far as national government service is concerned, industrial employees have, where possible, been included in the figures for industries, and only those employees who could not be assigned to these other industries or services have been included under 'Public Administration'.
- (e) Consists of laundries and dry cleaning, motor repairers and garages and repair of boots and shoes.

Table II.—Approximate Working Time Needed to Buy Certain Goods

(Prices divided by average hourly earnings for adult male manual workers)*

Goods	Prices		Time	
	£	s. d.	Hrs.	Mins.
Bread (2 lb. loaf) ...	1	1		10
Butter (1 lb. New Zealand) ...	3	2		28
Tea (1 lb. low grade) ...				52
Beef (1 lb. best sirloin) ...	6	6	1	0
Man's suit (woollen) ...	8	10 0	26	10
Shoes (adult's) ...	3	10 0	10	51
Blouse (woman's) ...	1	1 0	3	12
Kettle (aluminium) ...	8	6	1	18
Fireside chair ...	11	0 0	33	55
Radio set ...	15	0 0	46	39
Washing machine	45	0 0	139	57

*Prices as given in Part I of the paper. Earnings October 1961 as given in the Ministry of Labour's survey (see Table I).

Table III.—Distribution of Personal Income

Range of income after tax		Number of incomes	Income before tax	Income tax and surtax at current rates*	Income after tax	Proportion of income retained after tax
		Thousands	£ million	£ million	£ million	Per cent
1938						
Not under £	Under £					
50	250	..	2,714	5	2,709	99·8
250	500	1,940	670	25	645	96·3
500	750	375	252	27	225	89·3
750	1,000	132	136	21	115	84·6
1,000	2,000	142·2	241	46	195	80·9
2,000	4,000	54·6	207	58·5	148·5	71·7
4,000	6,000	11·6	92	36·2	55·8	60·7
6,000		6·6	151	88·3	62·7	41·5
Total income allocated to ranges .. .. .		..	4,463	307	4,156	93·1
Total personal income ..		..	5,078	..	..	..
1949						
Not under £	Under £					
50	250	12,720	2,143	39	2,088	98·0
250	500	9,940	3,730	201	3,439	94·5
500	750	1,940	1,345	155	1,143	88·3
750	1,000	442	480	105	375	78·1
1,000	2,000	368·4	719	221	498	69·3
2,000	4,000	84·4	472	250	222	47·0
4,000	6,000	5·14	111·2	89·7	21·5	19·3
6,000		0·06	9·8	9·3	0·5	5·1
Total income allocated to ranges		25,500	9,010	1,070	7,787	87·9
Total personal income ..		..	10,559	..	..	..
1960						
Not under £	Under £					
50	250	4,540	1,034	2	1,032	99·8
250	500	7,220	2,888	147	2,741	94·9
500	750	7,670	5,180	391	4,789	92·5
750	1,000	4,470	4,143	335	3,808	91·9
1,000	2,000	2,307	3,383	480	2,903	85·8
2,000	4,000	262	1,096	405	691	63·1
4,000	6,000	28	319	186	133	41·7
6,000 and over		3	114	89	25	21·9
Total		26,500	18,157	2,035	16,122	89·8
Income not included in the classification by ranges		..	2,951	..	..	..
Total personal income ..		..	21,108	..	..	..

Source: Central Statistical Office, *National Income and Expenditure*, 1961.

*The tax rates current in the fiscal years 1938-39, 1949-50 and 1960-61 applied to the income in the calendar years shown.

Table IV.—Personal Expenditure on Consumer Goods and Services in 1956 and 1961 at Current Market Prices

£ million

	1956	1961
Food	4,340	4,989
Alcoholic Drinks—Beer ..	547	618
Other	322	433
Tobacco	935	1,218
Housing	1,106	1,599
Fuel and Light	596	793
Clothing—Footwear	229	299
Other	1,148	1,388
Durable Goods:		
Furniture, etc.	302	386
Radio and Electrical Goods ..	316	384
Cars and Motor Cycles ..	267	516
Other Goods	1,532	2,124
Other Services	2,103	2,555
TOTAL	13,743	17,302

Source: Central Statistical Office.

Table V.—Index of Weekly Wage Rates—All Workers in all Industries and Services

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Monthly Average
1947	—	—	—	—	—	100	100	101	101	102	103	103	—
1948	104	104	105	105	105	106	106	106	106	107	107	107	106
1949	108	108	108	108	108	109	109	109	109	109	109	109	109
1950	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	111	113	114	111
1951	115	116	117	118	118	119	120	120	122	122	126	126	120
1952	127	128	128	129	129	129	129	130	131	131	134	134	130
1953	134	135	135	135	135	135	136	136	137	137	137	138	136
1954	139	139	139	141	142	142	142	142	143	144	144	144	142
1955	146	147	149	152	152	152	153	153	153	153	154	154	151
1956	156.1												
New Series													
(31st January, 1956 = 100)													
1956	100	101	104	105	105	105	106	106	106	106	106	106	105
1957	107	107	108	108	111	111	111	111	112	112	112	112	110
1958	112	113	113	113	113	113	114	114	115	116	116	116	114
1959	116	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	117	118	117
1960	118	118	119	119	120	120	120	120	121	121	121	122	120
1961	124	124	124	124	125	125	125	125	125	126	126	126	125
1962	126	127	127	128	129								

Source: Ministry of Labour Gazette

Table VI.—Index of Retail Prices—All Items
Interim Series (June 1947 = 100)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Monthly Average
1947	—	—	—	—	—	100	101	100	101	101	103	104	—
1948	104	106	106	108	108	110	108	108	108	108	109	109	108
1949	109	109	109	109	111	111	111	111	112	112	112	113	111
1950	113	113	113	114	114	114	114	113	114	115	116	116	114
1951	117	118	119	121	124	125	126	127	128	129	129	130	125
1952	132	133	133	135	135	138	138	137	136	138	138	138	136
1953	138	139	140	141	140	141	141	140	140	140	140	140	140
1954	140	140	141	142	141	142	145	144	143	144	145	145	143
1955	146	146	146	147	147	150	150	149	150	152	154	154	149
1956	153	153	155										
New Series (17th January, 1956 = 100)													
1956	—	100·0	101·3	102·7	102·5	102·4	102·0	102·3	102·1	102·7	103·1	103·4	102·0
1957	104·4	104·3	104·1	104·5	104·6	105·7	106·6	106·4	106·1	107·1	107·7	108·2	105·8
1958	108·1	107·6	108·4	109·6	109·2	110·2	108·5	108·3	108·4	109·4	109·8	110·2	109·0
1959	110·4	110·3	110·3	109·5	109·1	109·3	109·0	109·3	108·7	109·2	110·0	110·2	109·6
1960	109·9	109·9	109·7	110·3	110·3	110·9	111·1	110·4	110·5	111·4	111·9	112·2	110·7
1961	112·3	112·3	112·7	113·3	113·6	114·6	114·6	115·7	115·5	115·7	116·9	117·1	114·5
1962	117·5	117·5	118·1	119·7	120·1								
Third Series (16th January, 1962 = 100)													
1962	100·0	100·1	100·5	101·9	102·2								

Source: Ministry of Labour Gazette.

VIa—Index Table of Retail Prices—Indices for main and sub-groups

	Group and sub-Group Weights	Index Figure for:
		17th April, 1962 Jan 1962 = 100
All items	1,000	101·9
Food		
Total	319	104·1
Bread, flour, cereals, biscuits and cakes ..	47	102
Meat and bacon	74	101
Fish	11	99
Butter, margarine, lard and cooking fat ..	18	99
Milk, cheese and eggs	46	95
Tea, coffee, cocoa, soft drinks, etc. ..	20	99
Sugar, preserves and confectionery ..	31	100
Vegetables, fresh, dried and canned ..	32	143
Fruit, fresh, dried and canned ..	22	101
Other food	18	100
Alcoholic drink	64	100
Tobacco	79	100
Housing	102	103
Fuel and light		
Total	62	100·8
Coal and coke	28	100
Other fuel and light	34	101
Durable household goods		
Total	64	99·8

Table VIa (continued)

	Group Weights	Index Figure for:
		17th April, 1962 Jan. 1962 = 100
Durable household goods (<i>contd.</i>)		
Furniture, floor coverings and soft furnishings ..	29	102
Radio, television and other household appliances ..	27	98
Pottery, glassware and hardware	8	100
Clothing and footwear		
Total	98	100·9
Men's outer clothing	16	102
Men's underclothing	6	100
Women's outer clothing	21	101
Women's underclothing	5	102
Children's clothing	12	100
Other clothing, including hose, haberdashery, millinery and materials	18	100
Footwear	20	101
Transport and vehicles		
Total	92	100·4
Motoring and cycling	59	100
Fares and other transport	33	101
Miscellaneous goods		
Total	64	100·2
Books, newspapers and periodicals	16	101
Medicines, toilet requisites, soap, cleaning materials, matches, etc.	30	100
Stationery, travel and sports goods, toys, photographic and optical goods, etc.	18	101
Services		
Total	56	101·4
Postage and Telephones	6	100
Entertainment	22	101
Other services, including domestic help, hairdressing, boot and shoe repairing, laundering and dry cleaning	28	102

Source: Ministry of Labour Gazette.

Table VII.—Levels of Food Consumption in Great Britain, 1934/38–1961

	1934–38	1958	1959	1960	1961 (Provisional)
Average daily consumption per head (grams)					
Protein—animal	43·5	50·2	50·0	50·5	51·3
vegetable	36·6	34·3	34·7	35·1	34·4
total	80·1	84·5	84·7	85·6	85·7
Fats (from all sources)	130·0	140·4	140·0	141·3	141·3
Total energy value (calories) ..	3,000	3,160	3,140	3,140	3,160

Table VII—(continued)

	Pre-war	1958	1959	1960	1961 (Provi- sional)
Lb. per head per annum					
Dairy products (milk solids) ..	38·4	53·7	53·9	54·7	55·1
Meat (as edible weight) ..	116·5	121·7	120·2	123·8	125·1
Fish (as edible weight) ..	26·2	22·7	22·0	21·4	20·4
Eggs and egg products (shell egg equivalent)	28·3	31·8	32·9	33·3	34·0
Oils and fats (visible) (fat content)	47·1	48·5	49·1	48·7	49·9
Sugar and syrups (sugar content)	108·7	121·9	118·5	118·4	120·9
Potatoes	190·0	212·0	211·4	220·0	221·8
Fruit (fresh equivalent) ..	124·0	112·3	126·3	125·7	118·9
Vegetables (fresh equivalent) ..	120·4	121·8	123·9	130·8	126·3
Grain products	210·1	186·1	183·5	180·9	179·4
Tea	9·3	9·9	9·5	9·6	9·5

Source: Board of Trade Journal.

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