

RIALTAS SEALADACH NA HÉIREANN.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS.

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# REPORT

ON THE

## COST OF LIVING

IN

## IRELAND

JUNE, 1922.



Cork



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## P R E F A C E .

It having been represented to the Provisional Government that it was desirable to calculate an official figure indicating in respect of Ireland the change in the cost of living at the present time as compared with the cost of living in 1914, the Provisional Government appointed for the purpose on 10th June, 1922, a Committee comprising representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Economic Affairs and Labour. The Committee reported on the 4th August, 1922, and the result of its enquiries, together with the Committee's detailed explanation of the procedure adopted, are appended hereto.

The conclusions set out in the report represent the closest approximation which is practicable to the average increases in the cost of maintaining, in particular months of the current year as compared with July, 1914, the same standard of living for a family dependent on wage earnings in places with 500 or more inhabitants. The inquiry applied to the whole of Ireland, and its basis is therefore broad enough to be reasonably dependable for any practical purpose to which a calculation as to changes in the cost of living can usefully be applied.

It is proposed to arrange for the calculation at intervals of three months of a cost of living figure on the same basis as that adopted by the Committee for the purpose of this report. September will be the next month for which a figure will be determined.

It is to be observed that the information collected in the course of this inquiry has incidentally revealed relations between the wholesale and the retail prices of several important commodities and between the prices of the same commodity in similar localities which require explanation. This matter is being further examined with a view to determining whether any undue advantage is being taken of the general body of consumers, and, if that be the case, to the adoption of appropriate remedies.

MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,

23rd August, 1922.

# THE COST OF LIVING

IN

## IRELAND.

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### REPORT

*To the Chairman, Provisional Government, Ireland.*

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By minute dated the 10th June last we were appointed by the Government to determine the cost of living in Ireland for the months of March and June, 1922, as compared with the cost of living in July, 1914, on such a basis as would show the average increase in the cost of maintaining the same standard of living for a family dependent on wage earnings. We were asked to complete our calculations not later than July 15th, if possible, but owing to the fact that a considerable proportion of our staff were unable to reach our offices during the recent troubles in Dublin we were given until the 25th to complete our work. The following letter was sent to the Head of the Government on the 26th July :—

“A Chara,—The Report of the Cost of Living Committee is not yet finally drafted, but the main lines of it have been agreed upon. We think, therefore, that we ought to acquaint you at once that our investigations show that the percentage increase in the Cost of Living of Wage Earning Classes in Ireland between July, 1914, and June, 1922, is 85.2 per cent. and the increase between July, 1914 and March, 1922, is 91.4 per cent.

“Sinne, le meas mor,”

The following Report, while bringing out the points essential to a purely Irish cost of living inquiry, can hardly be regarded as exhaustive, in view of the mass of figures collected which could be examined from many different points of view. Had we been able to spend a longer time in digesting these figures we should not have arrived at any different final result as regards the Irish cost of living figure; but we think that many interesting and important facts might be brought out by a further analysis of the figures which we have not had time to undertake, and we suggest, therefore, that the Government should request the Ministry of Economic Affairs to investigate more thoroughly, from the point of view of their general economic significance, the figures collected and compiled.

### **Method of Compiling Cost of Living Figures.**

In every country in which cost of living figures have been obtained the same method, as far as broad lines are concerned, has been followed. The method adopted is to ascertain the average retail prices for a number of representative commodities for the dates to be compared and then to combine these retail prices in a single figure representing the change in retail prices as a whole. This combination is not effected by a plain average, but the individual price changes are "weighted" according to a comparison of the amounts spent on each of the commodities concerned (*e.g.*, a change in the price of a commodity such as bread, must obviously be given more "weight" than a change in the price of such commodities as cheese or soap) and in order to determine the proper "weight" to attach to the retail price changes, representative family budgets are obtained showing the details of the actual expenditure of a large number of households. By combining these budgets it is possible to discover the relationship between the consumption of the various items; for instance, 12s. may be spent on meat for every 5s. 6d. spent on butter, and so on. The retail price changes can then be "weighted" according to the results given by the budgets and the final figure arrived at by combining them on these lines.

### **Stages of our Inquiry.**

Our inquiry can, therefore, be divided into four main stages :

- (A) The collection of retail prices for July, 1914, and March and June, 1922.
  - (B) The collection and analysis of representative family budgets by means of which to determine the "weighting" of the retail price changes.
  - (C) The combination of the retail price changes by means of the "weights" so obtained into one final figure.
  - (D) The results of applying different methods of "weighting."
-



### (A) Collection of Retail Prices.

We found that as regards articles of food much of the information we required had already been collected by the Ministry of Economic Affairs who had obtained returns for July, 1914, and March, 1922, from 420 sources in towns of 500 persons and upwards; and also that retail prices of a certain number of articles of food had been collected in 1914, in Ireland by the Labour Statistics Branch of the Board of Trade.

Our first task was, therefore, to collect returns of the retail prices in June, 1922, of all the commodities selected, and of the corresponding prices in July, 1914, and March, 1922, where these were not already at our disposal.

Forms were accordingly drawn up on which this information could be collected and specimens of these forms are shown in the Appendix to the Report.

#### (1) Food, Clothing, Fuel and Light, and Sundries.

These forms for food, clothing, fuel and light and sundries, were sent out for completion through the channels used by the Ministry for Economic Affairs in its inquiry (viz. :—officials of the Post Office, of the Ministry of Labour, and of the Local Government Board, and in the Six-County area through other sources), and to the same towns as in that inquiry (viz. :— towns with populations of 500 and over). In the case of the larger towns more than one report was asked for, graduating from two returns to twenty returns according to their population as shown in the Census of 1911.

The following table summarises essential particulars regarding the forms :—

Form.	Number of Forms dealt with.	Number of Towns from which received.	Returns collected by
Prices (Food) A	450	250	Post Office, Ministry of Labour, and Local Government Board Officials. Rate Collectors and Town Clerks.
Prices (Food, Fuel and Light and Sundries) B 2	436	220	
Prices (Meat) B 3	434	227	
Prices (Clothing) B 4	436	216	
Rents B 5	91	71	

(2) *Rents*.—The forms for rents were issued through the Local Government Board, and in the Six-County area through other sources, and filled in for the most part by Rate Collectors in the several districts and towns in Ireland. They were asked to state the rents in July, 1914, and in March, and June, 1922, of about 20 houses in their districts showing the number of rooms and the Poor Law Valuation, the latter figures enabling us to ensure that the same classes of houses of wage earners were being compared. Enquiry was also made in connection with the rents of tenements, and due allowance was made for this in the final figures. The rent figures include rates in every case.

(3) *Compilation of prices for individual commodities*.—The next step was to calculate from these returns the average retail prices of the individual commodities selected, and this was done as follows :—

One set of average retail prices was compiled from the returns of the Post Office officials, and another from those of the other officials, and a division of the forms was made on this basis.

The retail prices of food, etc. (on Forms A, B2 and B3), and of clothing (Form B4) were then separately summarised in the two groups, viz.— those received from the Post Office officials and those received from the officials of the other Departments for July, 1914, and March and June, 1922.

#### (4) *Compilation of Rent Returns*.

The rent returns were treated in precisely the same manner, except that there was no division, since the returns were received through the Local Government Board only.

On pages 7 and 8 is the list of average retail prices so compiled :—

## (5). LIST OF PRICES.

THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHEWS RETAIL PRICES IN IRISH TOWNS OF 500 INHABITANTS AND UPWARDS; AS AVERAGED FROM RETURNS COLLECTED BY OFFICERS OF THE POST OFFICE, MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

	Mid July, 1914.		Mid March, 1922.		Mid June, 1922.	
	P.O.	M.L. and L.G.	P.O.	M.L. and L.G.	P.O.	M.L. and L.G.
		X				X
FOOD.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Beef ... .. per lb.	8.0	7.8	13.5	13.4	13.4	13.2
Mutton ... .. "	8.6	8.3	16.0	15.5	16.0	15.5
Pork Chops ... .. "	8.9	9.2	17.5	17.7	20.1	20.0
Pork Sausages ... .. "	8.7	8.6	16.8	16.4	16.3	16.1
Bacon ... .. "	9.2	9.5	19.7	17.9	20.7	19.0
Butter, Irish ... .. "	13.9	12.8	23.9	22.3	23.2	22.6
Creamery.						
Butter, Irish Far- mers. ... .. "	12.6	10.6	24.4	20.0	19.9	18.9
Cheese ... .. "	9.8	9.8	17.8	17.0	17.4	16.8
Margarine 1st grade ... .. "	7.6	7.7	11.7	12.1	11.8	11.2
Margarine, 2nd " ... .. "	6.2	6.1	9.1	9.6	8.8	8.4
Lard ... .. "	7.1	7.3	13.6	11.5	12.0	11.6
Milk, Fresh ... .. per quart	2.5	2.6	6.8	6.4	5.4	4.9
Condensed Milk, per lb. tin	6.8	5.6	13.1	12.8	11.9	11.6
Irish.						
Condensed Milk, Imported. ... .. "	7.2	6.2	13.8	13.4	12.8	11.8
Eggs, 1st Grade ... .. per dozen	9.6	11.2	19.5	19.2	19.0	17.3
Bread ... .. per 2lb. loaf	3.2	3.0	5.8	5.6	5.6	5.6
Flour, household per 14 lb.	19.8	22.1	36.6	33.3	35.7	35.8
Oatmeal ... .. "	21.1	23.7	38.1	41.6	41.1	41.3
Rice ... .. per lb.	2.8	2.7	5.8	5.6	5.5	5.4
Potatoes, old ... .. per 14 lb.	5.5	7.3	12.8	13.7	16.6	16.5
Tea, Best ... .. per lb.	30.3	30.5	44.2	45.4	42.6	42.7
Tea, Cheapest ... .. "	18.1	18.3	31.4	29.1	27.1	26.4
Sugar, white granu- lated. ... .. "	2.2	2.1	5.9	5.8	5.9	6.0
Jam ... .. "	6.6	6.7	16.2	16.3	15.4	15.5
CLOTHING.						
WOMEN'S.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Light Coats ... .. "	28 10	25 7	53 0	47 0	51 8	46 0
Heavy Coats ... .. "	30 10	31 7	58 2	57 11	56 5	56 4
Costumes ... .. "	44 2	41 7	79 9	77 11	77 7	76 4
Blouses ... .. "	5 3	4 8	10 3	9 5	9 9	9 1
Skirts ... .. "	8 1	5 10	14 7	11 2	13 7	10 10
Stockings ... .. "	1 4	1 5	3 0	2 9	2 9	2 8
Combinations ... .. "	5 8	5 0	11 1	10 0	10 8	9 9
Corsets ... .. "	4 2	3 8	8 2	6 10	7 10	6 8
Underskirts ... .. "	4 1	3 2	7 8	5 10	7 4	5 9
Chemises ... .. "	2 5	2 5	4 10	4 6	4 9	4 4
Boots ... .. "	11 2	8 7	22 9	16 0	21 11	15 9



## RETAIL PRICES—continued.

	Mid July, 1914		Mid March, 1922.		Mid June, 1922.	
	P.O.	M.L. and L.G.	P.O.	M.L. and L.G.	P.O.	M. L. and L.G.
<b>CLOTHING—continued.</b>						
<b>GIRLS (OVER 6).</b>	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Coats ... ..	14 1	11 8	25 9	21 0	25 1	20 9
Dresses ... ..	13 11	9 7	27 3	17 7	26 3	17 3
Stockings ... ..	1 4	1 2	2 8	2 2	2 5	2 1
Combinations ... ..	4 5	3 10	8 0	6 9	7 9	6 8
Stays ... ..	2 9	2 5	5 10	4 9	5 6	4 8
Petticoats ... ..	2 7	2 2	4 11	4 1	4 8	4 0
Chemises ... ..	2 1	1 11	3 9	3 3	3 7	3 2
Boots ... ..	8 4	7 9	16 6	14 2	15 10	14 0
<b>MEN'S.</b>						
Overcoats (Readymade) ...	34 3	33 7	69 1	64 3	66 5	63 4
Overcoats (Tailormade) ...	53 6	48 10	100 11	93 3	98 7	91 8
Suits (Readymade)...	31 5	35 0	67 9	70 0	66 2	68 6
Suits (Tailormade)...	58 10	54 5	119 6	113 10	116 4	112 7
Trousers (Readymade) ...	8 6	8 1	17 0	15 5	16 6	15 0
Trousers (Tailormade) ...	15 7	13 9	32 2	29 8	31 7	29 0
Singlets ... ..	3 6	2 8	7 5	5 2	7 0	5 0
Drawers ... ..	3 9	2 10	7 7	5 3	7 2	5 2
Shirts ... ..	3 8	3 1	7 2	6 5	6 11	6 4
Socks ... ..	1 2	1 2	2 5	2 3	2 3	2 2
Boots ... ..	12 5	11 11	24 6	23 3	23 9	22 9
<b>BOYS (OVER 6).</b>						
Overcoats ... ..	16 8	14 11	33 1	29 0	32 1	27 9
Suits ... ..	15 9	15 7	31 7	31 1	30 5	30 0
Shirts ... ..	2 1	2 0	4 2	3 9	3 11	3 8
Stockings ... ..	1 3	1 4	2 6	2 7	2 3	2 6
Boots ... ..	8 9	7 8	16 9	13 11	16 0	13 6
<b>OTHER COMMODITIES.</b>						
	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.	d.
Coal ... per 112 lb.	17.4	17.1	38.9	37.0	37.2	35.0
Turf ... ..	13.7	11.1	29.9	26.2	30.1	25.1
Gas for Lighting per 1,000 c. ft.	50.6	51.5	101.0	98.9	101.0	98.2
Gas for Cooking ... ..	49.1	48.7	101.7	97.1	101.1	96.6
Electricity for per unit	5.3	5.3	10.4	9.7	10.3	9.4
Lighting.						
Electricity for ... ..	3.0	2.4	5.7	5.0	5.7	5.0
Cooking.						
Candles ... per lb.	3.5	3.8	7.1	6.8	6.5	6.3
Paraffin Oil ... per gallon	8.3	8.9	20.4	19.9	19.8	19.9
Soap (Household) per lb.	3.6	3.6	7.8	7.3	7.4	6.9
Pipe Tobacco ... per 2 ozs.	7.0	7.0	17.0	17.0	17.0	17.0
Cigarettes ... per pkt. of 10	3.0	3.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0



THE FOLLOWING TABLE shows Retail Prices in March and June, 1922, in respect of certain Commodities for which corresponding prices in 1914 were not collected.

	Mid-March, 1922.		Mid-June, 1922	
	P.O.	M.L. and L.G.	P.O.	M.L. and L.G.
	d.	d.	d.	d.
Butter (Irish Factory) ... per lb.	21.9	21.1	22.0	20.6
Rice (Rangoon) ... ..	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8
Rice (Java) ... ..	6.1	5.9	5.9	5.6
Jam (Strawberry) ... ..	15.7	15.9	15.2	15.2
Fresh Pork (Shoulders) ... ..	16.8	17.2	17.4	17.4
Fish:—				
Red Herrings ... per doz.	22.1	20.9	22.1	20.1
Fresh Herrings ... ..	26.1	25.3	25.6	23.7
Cod Steak ... per lb.	14.4	14.7	13.8	13.8
Tea (Quality most used by working classes) ... ..	36.1	35.0	33.4	32.1
Cabbage ... .. per head	3.6	3.7	3.4	3.1

The above prices, which were used as far as possible in conjunction with other figures to arrive at the correct increases between July, 1914, and March and June, 1922, in respect of commodities, less specifically described in the returns for 1914 (*e.g.*, Butter, Rice, Jam), will also be of value in the future as an additional basis from which to calculate the change in the cost of living.

#### NOTES ON RETAIL PRICES.

##### (a) Collection of Figures for 1914.

There are obvious difficulties in the collection of figures for 1914 after so long a lapse of time, and the accuracy of these figures may possibly be questioned.

Despite the eight years' interval, however, we believe these prices to be reasonably accurate. The compilers of the returns were asked to get figures in every case from the actual books kept by the shopkeepers; and the food prices collected by us are in substantial agreement with those collected by the Board of Trade in 1914. The latter are, as a matter of fact, slightly *higher* than those collected by us, so that if they were to be used in preference to our figures the resultant percentage increase would be slightly lower than on the figures which we have accepted.

##### (b) Comparison Restricted to Strictly Comparable Articles.

A point to be noted is that in comparing prices at different dates it is essential that articles of different quality should not be compared; milk, for instance, is a simple commodity and is always comparable with milk, but beef is a variable commodity inasmuch as sirloin beef is not strictly comparable with shin beef; consequently special figures showing the relative con-

sumption and average prices of the different parts of beef, mutton and bacon were obtained on Form B3 (see Appendix), and in these cases the prices as returned for each description of meat are separately weighted by the average quantities purchased in order to arrive at the ultimate average prices for "beef," "mutton," etc.

As regards all other articles, it will be seen from the instructions on the forms that pains were taken to explain that prices must only be returned for strictly comparable articles.

(c) *Accuracy of Rent Figures.*

A point likely to give rise to criticism is the low percentage increase shown for rent. This figure is, however, the result of comparing the actual returns sent us by the Town Clerks and Rate Collectors, who gave the actual name of the street and the actual number of each house, and on the closest investigation we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of their figures. The average weekly rents (including rates) appearing from those returns are :—

				Average Weekly Rent (including Rates).
July, 1914	...	...	...	4s. 0d.
March, 1922	...	...	...	5s. 2d.
June, 1922	...	...	...	5s. 2d.

(d) *Comparison of Figures received from Post Office and other Sources.*

It will have been noted from the Table of Retail Prices given above that on the whole there is comparatively little difference between the sets of figures compiled by the Post Office officials and those compiled by the Ministry of Labour and Local Government Board officials, though the Post Office figures tend to give a somewhat higher average increase of prices. This is brought out by the following table of the *ratios* of retail prices for the main groups of commodities for the three dates :—

			Mid-July, 1914.		Mid-March, 1922.		Mid-June, 1922.	
			A	B	A	B	A	B
Food	...	...	52.4	54.6	104.8	102.8	100	100
Clothing	...	...	52.7	52.9	103.0	101.7	100	100
Rent (C)	...	...	78.9	78.9	100.4	100.4	100	100
Fuel and Light	...	...	46.6	48.1	104.8	104.4	100	100
Sundries	...	...	50.5	51.9	103.2	103.1	100	100

The figures A result from the returns from the Post Office.

The figures B result from the returns from other Departments.

The figures C were obtained from only one Department—the Local Government Board.

(In case the meaning of this table is not at once clear, it may be explained that the first line, for instance, means that for 100s. expended on food by the wage-earning households in June, 1922,

exactly the same quantities and exactly the same foods could, according to the Post Office officials' returns, be purchased in March, 1922, for 104.8s., and in July, 1914, for 52.4s. and according to the other returns for 102.8s. and 54.6s. respectively; and so on with the other items).

The near agreement of these figures is a strong proof of their essential accuracy. We ultimately decided to take the average between the two sets of figures as representing the nearest approach to the truth at which we could arrive.

### **(B) The Collection of Household Budgets.**

#### *(1) Representative Budgets.*

The second stage of our enquiry was to obtain representative household budgets, from which to compile the "weights" by which the individual price changes might be combined into a single final figure.

For this purpose a special Form was drafted (Form B6, a copy of which appears in the Appendix) and some 5,000 of these forms were despatched to National School teachers in every school in the country, accompanied by detailed instructions (of which there is a copy in the Appendix) of the method in which they were to be completed.

Notwithstanding the difficulties of the time when these budgets were called for, and the fact that a number of forms were held up and perhaps lost in the post, we were able to use 308 completed budgets of wage-earning households, received from 112 towns. This number was quite sufficient for our purpose. These budgets were excellently filled in, and, apart from the fact that such a number is in itself a fair guarantee of the statistical results obtained, we are satisfied for reasons given below of the substantial accuracy of the budgets.

#### *(2) Wide Scope of Budgets.*

The budgets received were from a very varied class of households, and as will be seen from the following list, embraced the principal industrial occupations. Labourers, Fishermen, Messengers, Servants, Pilots, Barmen, Carpenters, Boatmen, Building Contractors, Motor Boat Drivers, Plasterers, Ship Inspector, Stone Masons, Marine Engineer, Bricklayer, Mill-hands, Yachtsman, Caretakers, Tailors, Post Office Workers, Housekeepers, Tailoresses, Gardeners, Herds, Dress-makers, Shop Assistants, Farm Stewards, Shoemakers, Charwomen, Dairyman, Cottage Industries, Laundresses, Egg Packer, Milliners, Washerwomen, Fowl Plucker, Shirtmaker, Hairdresser, Wool Sorter, Spinners, Smiths, Woodcutters, Embroidery Workers, Fitters, Sawyers, Hosiers, Boiler-makers, Wood-turners, Stitchers, Engineers, Body-makers, Knitters, Plumbers, Golf Caddies, Lace-makers, Machinists, Pointers, Road Engine Drivers, Crane-driver, Paper Maker, Motor Mechanics, Collier, Sextons, Car Drivers, Brass-finisher, Butchers, Carters, Bakers, Dealer, Chauffeur, Millers,



Electrician, Tram Driver, Confectioner, Watchmaker, Railway Workers, Painters and Saddlers, etc.

### (3) *Compilation of Budgets.*

Two methods of compiling the budgets were followed:— A simple addition was made of the particulars of the expenditure on each item separately recorded on each of the budgets. These particulars consisted of the expenditure on food, sundries, and rent for one week in June, 1922; the particulars of yearly expenditure on items of clothing, fuel and light were reduced to a weekly average by dividing by 52, before adding. The resulting totals gave the present average weekly expenditure on each article, and consequently the *proportion* which the expenditure on each article bears to the total expenditure of the average wage-earning household.

A more complex method of compilation was also adopted which should lead to an even more accurate result.

It was found by analysis of the Census figures that the proportion of children under 14 to adults (persons over 14) is approximately as 2 to 5, and an adjustment was made to bring the budgets into conformity with this proportion in order that they might truly represent the actual proportions of the population of the country, the assumption being that the percentage rise in the price of articles mainly consumed by children might be higher or lower than the rise in the prices of articles mainly consumed by persons over 14.

The budgets were accordingly classified into three groups, viz.:—"S" or simple households, consisting of not more than two persons over 14 years, and with one or more children under 14 years; "C" or complex households, consisting of more than two persons over 14 years, and with one or more children under 14 years; and "A" or adult households, in which there were not any persons under 14 years.

It was necessary to multiply the "A" group by 3, in order to bring the proportionate number of adults and children in the budgets with which we were dealing into conformity with the national proportion (5 to 2). The figures for the three groups having been totalled separately, those obtained for the "A" group were weighted accordingly.

It was found, however, that the difference between the "weights" obtained by the first and by the second methods were so small as to be quite negligible, as is shown by the following tables:—

PERCENTAGE INCREASES FROM JULY, 1914, TO MARCH, 1922, AS SHOWN BY THE APPLICATION OF POST OFFICE PRICES.

Budget Grouping.	Food.	Clothing.	* Rent.	Fuel and Light.	Sundries.	Total for all Items.
S+C+A	99·8	97·1	27·3	120·6	104·2	95·5
S+C+3A	99·9	97·3	27·3	124·9	104·1	95·7

\*Figures obtained for Local Government Board only.



PERCENTAGE INCREASES FROM JULY, 1914, TO MARCH, 1922, AS  
SHOWN BY THE APPLICATION OF MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND  
MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRICES.

Budget Grouping.	Food.	Clothing.	* Rent.	Fuel and Light.	Sundries.	Total for all Items.
S+C+A	88.2	91.4	27.3	116.8	97.0	86.9
S+C+3A	88.3	92.0	27.3	117.2	96.9	87.0

\*Figures obtained for Local Government Board only.

It may be mentioned here that if weights are obtained for the "S" group of households only, *i.e.*, for an average of two adults, and 3.5 children, the final increase in the cost of living figures would be 91.2 for March, 1922, and 84.6 for June, 1922, *i.e.*, practically identical with the figures obtained by "weighting" in accordance with all the budgets.

(4) *Table of Weights.*

The following Table shows the actual Irish "weights," representing the proportionate expenditure by the average wage-earning household on the various commodities, as compiled from the budgets received.

The actual Irish weights or proportions of expenditure on each item are as follow :—

Total expenditure		... 100	Food	... 57.05
Beef	...	5.18	Flour	3.70
Mutton	...	2.94	Oatmeal, etc.	.97
Fresh Pork	...	.63	Rice, Sago, etc.	.45
Sausages, Black Puddings, etc.	...	.82	Potatoes	3.16
Bacon, Pigs' Heads, etc.	...	5.23	Other Vegetables	1.33
Fresh Fish	...	.61	Tea	3.80
Cured or Tinned Fish	...	.16	Sugar	3.24
Butter	...	6.91	Jam	1.12
Cheese	...	.26	Other Food	.95
Margarine	...	.18	Meals eaten at Shops, Hotels, etc.	.70
Lard	...	.25		
Fresh Milk	...	4.56		
Condensed Milk	...	.09		
Eggs	...	3.44	Total Food	57.05
Bread	...	6.37		

CLOTHING ... 17.48

Women's :—

Coats	...	.69
Hats	...	.37
Costumes	...	1.09
Blouses, etc.	...	.39
Skirts	...	.21
Stockings	...	.24
Combinations	...	.15
Corsets	...	.19
Underskirts	...	.18
Chemises	...	.19
Boots and Shoes	...	.92
Other Clothing	...	.27

Girl's (over 6) :—

Coats	...	.50
Hats	...	.23
Dresses	...	.69
Stockings	...	.20
Combinations	...	.13
Stays	...	.11
Petticoats	...	.15
Chemises	...	.13
Boots and Shoes	...	.71
Other Clothing	...	.19

## CLOTHING—continued.

Men's :—				Boy's (over 6) :—			
Overcoats	...	...	·83	Overcoats	...	...	·27
Suits	...	...	2·60	Suits	...	...	·83
Hats	...	...	·38	Caps	...	...	·07
Singlets	...	...	·30	Shirts	...	...	·17
Drawers	...	...	·30	Stockings	...	...	·12
Shirts	...	...	·55	Boots and Shoes	...	...	·56
Socks	...	...	·32	Other Clothing	...	...	·13
Boots and Shoes	...	...	1·33	<i>Children (under 6) :—</i>			
Other Clothing	...	...	·34	Clothes, Boots, etc.	...	...	·45
				Total Clothing	...	...	17·48
Rent				...	...	...	5·41
Fuel and Light				...	...	...	7·04
Coal	...	...	3·14	Electricity for Cooking	...	...	—
Turf	...	...	1·79	Candles	...	...	·33
Firewood	...	...	·34	Paraffin Oil	...	...	·67
Gas for Lighting	...	...	·40	Other Fuel and Light	...	...	·05
Gas for Cooking, etc.	...	...	·29				
Electricity for lighting	...	...	·03	Total Fuel and Light	...	...	7·04
Sundries				...	...	...	13·02
Soap	...	...	1·12	Other Sundries	...	...	8·41
Pipe Tobacco	...	...	2·11				
Cigarettes	...	...	1·38	Total Sundries	...	...	13·02
Total Expenditure				...	...	...	100·0

## NOTES ON THE BUDGETS.

(a) *Reliability of Budgets. Tests.*

As a test of the reliability of the budget returns several sets were taken at random and were arranged in two groups having a common factor of approximately equal numbers of persons and equal total income. It was found on addition that the proportion of total expenditure spent on each description of food, clothing, etc., was approximately the same in each family and income group. Thus we treated the first 30 budgets from households with small and large incomes in this manner, dividing them so that each lot of 15 would have about the same number of persons and the same income. The selection was made without any reference whatever to expenditure, and the following were the results :—

## PERCENTAGE EXPENDITURE.

	1st Lot of 15.	2nd Lot of 15.
Food	54.3	53.2
Clothing	20.9	20.3
Rent	6.6	6.7
Fuel and Light	6.7	6.7
Sundries	11.5	13.1
Total	100	100

## NUMBERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD.

Under 4	...	...	8	3
4 to 13	...	...	30	31
14 and over	...	...	57	59
Total, ...			95	93

Total Weekly Incomes ... 1597s. 1543s.

*The Household Budgets in the "S" Group were separately tested and the following results were obtained:—*

			INCOME OF HOUSEHOLD.				
			Under £3	£3	£4	£5	£6 upwards
Proportion of Expenditure under each of the following sub-divisions:—							
Food ...	...	...	61.1	60.4	56.3	48.0	41.4
Clothing ...	...	...	15.7	13.7	19.3	19.4	17.7
Rent ...	...	...	5.3	6.6	5.0	8.8	12.4
Fuel and Light ...	...	...	8.7	7.6	7.3	8.1	9.0
Sundries ...	...	...	9.2	11.7	12.1	15.7	19.5
Total ...	...	...	100	100	100	100	100

This test showed that the budgets we used conformed with common experience, and is, therefore, evidence of their reliability.

(b) *Comparison of English and Irish Weights.*

The weights used in England in compiling the British index figure were compiled from budgets collected as long ago as 1904. These show a pre-war standard of living and the final index figure shows the percentage increase in expenditure necessary to maintain that precise standard of living absolutely unchanged at the present day.

We were not in possession of any Irish figures by which the pre-war standard of living could be accurately measured, and it was accordingly necessary for us to obtain budgets showing the present standard of living. Our final index figure therefore shows the percentage increase in expenditure which would have been necessary to maintain the present standard of living absolutely unchanged from July, 1914, to the present day.

It has been seen that according to the figures compiled by us, 57.1s. out of every 100s. is spent on food in Irish wage-earning class households; 17.5s. on clothing, and so on, and it is of interest to compare these "weights" with the corresponding figures



calculated by the English Ministry of Labour from the "United Kingdom" Budgets of 1904, which relate to the pre-war "United Kingdom" Standard of Living and which are still in use in England.

The following table shows the proportion of each 100s. spent by Wage-Earning Class Households which is spent on (1) Food, (2) Clothing, (3) Rent, (4) Fuel and Light, and (5) Sundries :—

Class of Commodity.	IN IRELAND.		IN "UNITED KINGDOM."	
	In June, 1922, as calculated from the Committee's Budgets.	In July, 1914, as calculated from the previous column by price changes	In July, 1914, as calculated from 1904 Budgets.	In July, 1922, as calculated from 1904 Budgets by price changes.
	A.	B.	C.	D.
(1) Food ...	57.1	56.2	60	58.6
(2) Clothing ...	17.5	17.0	12	15.6
(3) Rent ...	5.4	7.9	16	13.3
(4) Fuel and Light ...	7.0	6.6	8	8.3
(5) Sundries ...	13.0	12.3	4	4.2
Total ...	100.0	100.0	100	100.0

It should be explained that the method of arriving at Columns B and D is as follows :—

The amounts of the various commodities consumed, as shown in the table compiled from the budgets, are left unchanged, but the prices are altered according to the prices ruling at the date under consideration, *i.e.*, Column B shows the proportion of expenditure in 1914 on the various classes of commodities had the 1914 standard been precisely the same as the present day standard.

### (C) Compilation of the Final Figure.

We were now in possession of the retail prices of the individual commodities at the different dates, and of the weights obtained from the summarisation of the household budgets, and these prices and weights for the main groups of articles are set out in the subjoined table :—

—	Mid-July, 1914.		Mid-March, 1922.		Mid-June, 1922.		Irish Weights (see last par.).
	A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.	
Food ...	52.4	54.6	104.8	102.8	100	100	57.1
Clothing ...	52.7	52.9	103.9	101.7	100	100	17.5
Rent (C) ...	78.9	78.9	100.4	100.4	100	100	5.4
Fuel and Light ...	46.6	48.1	104.8	104.4	100	100	7.0
Sundries ...	50.5	51.9	103.2	103.1	100	100	13.0



The figures A result from the returns from the Post Office.

„ B „ „ „ other Departments.

„ C were obtained from only one Department—the Local Government Board.

It now only remained for us to compile the final figure.

This was ascertained by multiplying the ratio prices of the various commodities by the "weights" appropriate to those commodities (*i.e.*, by multiplying the figures in the first six columns of the table above by the figures in the final column).

The following table gives the result so obtained :—

			Mid-July, 1914.		Mid-March, 1922.		Mid-June, 1922.	
			A.	B.	A.	B.	A.	B.
Food ...	...	...	2992.0	3117.7	5984.1	5869.9	5710.0	5710.0
Clothing ...	...	...	922.3	925.7	1818.2	1779.7	1750.0	1750.0
Rent (C) ...	...	...	426.1	426.1	542.2	542.2	540.0	540.0
Fuel and Light ...	...	...	326.2	336.7	730.8	730.8	700.0	700.0
Sundries ...	...	...	657.0	674.7	1341.6	1327.3	1300.0	1300.0
Total ...	...	...	5323.6	5480.9	10416.9	10249.9	10000.0	10000.0

Then, taking the prices in July, 1914, as the standard and representing them by the figure of 100 we get the final percentage table.

			Mid. July, 1914		Mid. March, 1922.		Mid. June, 1922.	
As Per Cent. of July, 1914.			A	B	A	B	A	B
			100	100	195.7	187.0	187.8	182.5

The following table shows the percentage changes so obtained for the main groups of commodities :—

			March 1922 over July 1914.		June 1922 over July 1914.	
			A	B	A	B
Food ...	...	...	99.9	88.3	90.8	83.2
Clothing ...	...	...	97.3	92.0	89.9	88.7
Rent (C) ...	...	...	27.3	27.3	26.8	26.8
Fuel and Light ...	...	...	124.9	117.2	114.6	108.0
Sundries ...	...	...	104.1	96.9	97.8	92.8
ALL ITEMS ...	...	...	95.7	87.0	87.8	82.5

The figures in column marked "A" as before were obtained from the prices collected by Post Office officials, and those marked "B" from prices collected by officials of the Ministry of Labour and Local Government Board.

By taking the mean of "A" and "B" for March and for June, 1922, the final figures showing the increases in the Cost of Living are obtained :—

Mid-March, 1922,  
over July, 1914.

91·4 per cent.

Mid-June, 1922,  
over July, 1914.

85·2 per cent.

**and these are the final figures which we recommend the Government to adopt.**

#### NOTES ON THE COMPILATION.

##### (a) Comparison of Post Office, Ministry of Labour and Local Government Board Figures.

The close similarity between the figures supplied by the various Departments can perhaps be most clearly seen in a different tabular form.

For every 100 shillings spent by wage-earning classes in July, 1914, the following would be the corresponding amounts (as shown by the different returns) which would have to be spent in order to maintain the same standard of living in March and June, 1922.

	Post Office. (a)	Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Local Govt. (b)	Mean of columns (a) and (b). (c)	Deviation of (a) and (b) from the mean.	Deviation as a per- centage of column (c)
March, 1922	195·7	187·0	191·35	4·35	2·3
June, 1922	187·8	182·5	185·15	2·65	1·4

The last column shows that in general the difference between Post Office, Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Local Government was 2·3 per cent. of the mean for prices returned for March, 1922, and 1·4 per cent. of the mean for prices returned for June, 1922—surely a small difference considering the instability of prices.

##### (b) Sundries.

A point of some importance is the following :—

In the British budgets only items of which the price changes could be accurately measured are understood to have been included.

In our Summary all "Sundries" shown in the budgets are included. But as the price change of only about one-third of them could be directly measured it was assumed that the change in the level of the prices of the remaining sundries varied in the same proportion as the change in the other four groups combined.

**(D) Results of Different Weighting.**

Calculations were also made whereby a final figure could be arrived at by different methods, and the following table shows results obtained :—

**PERCENTAGE INCREASES ARISING BY USING BRITISH WEIGHTS.**

DIFFERENT METHODS.	Percentage Increase in Cost of Living in Ireland.	
	July 1914 to March 1922	July 1914 to June 1922.
(a) By applying British Weights in 1914 to the Committee's Irish Prices of all commodities in 1914 and 1922 the percentage increase in the Cost of Living would be ... ..	84.8	80.2
(b) Taking Irish Prices for Food in 1914 as collected by the British Board of Trade, but the Committee's Prices for all other commodities in 1914 and all commodities in 1922 the increase would be ... ..	76.6	71.0
(c) Taking British Prices for food in the "United Kingdom" in 1914, but the Committee's Prices for all other commodities in 1914 and all commodities in 1922 the increase would be ... ..	72.1	67.3
Prices obtained entirely on Irish weights and prices, and recommended for adoption are ... ..	91.4	85.2

As regards this table it should, however, be pointed out that the commodities selected by us are not in all respects identical with those selected by the British authorities and that the application of the weights, although broadly speaking correct, could not be accurate in every detail.

It only remains for us to express our gratitude for all the assistance given to us by the officials of the Departments already mentioned and by the staff assisting in the actual compilation. Our thanks are especially due to Mr. C. J. Barry, of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and to the National School teachers who furnished such excellent budgets.

(Signed) JOHN HOOPER, *Chairman.*

T. K. BEWLEY.

T. MAC SHOLLA *Præsides.*

STANLEY LYON.

4th August, 1922.



## APPENDIX.

### Form A.

#### DIRECTIONS.

1. All prices should be quoted in pence, and should be cash prices at the shop (not delivered).

2. Please note the quantity mentioned in the first column in each case, and let your figures correspond.

3. If actual prices paid for any item are not available—leave space blank. *Do not estimate.*

4. The figures quoted for the month of March, 1922, should be those prevailing on the date on which you fill up the form.

5. In the column headed "Observations," please furnish any particulars concerning the retail prices of food in your district, which, in your opinion are worthy of observation.

6. Fill in on the back page of the form particulars of the sources from which information as to the prices of the commodity has been obtained, for example :—

COMMODITY.	SOURCE.	NATURE.
Butter ...	John Macken, Main Street ...	Large Shop—Day Book
Eggs ...	Personal knowledge ...	Direct Country supply
Eggs ...	Mrs. O'Kane, Dublin Road	Household Pass Book

7. The figures representing the majority of the sales are the figures required. Exceptional prices are of no value.

8. In every case you should check your information, whether given of your knowledge or after investigation by enquiry from more than one source.

## APPENDIX.

Form A—CONTINUED.

RETAIL PRICES OF CERTAIN FOOD COMMODITIES IN.....  
AT UNDERMENTIONED DATES. (City, Town, or District).

[illegible]

## APPENDIX.

## Form A—CONTINUED.

COMMODITY.	1913				1914		1922		Observations.
	Jan.	April	July	Oct.	Feb.	July	Feb.	Mar.	
Milk.									
Fresh                   per quart.....									
Buttermilk           ...    "									
Skim Milk           ...    "									
Tinned Milk.									
Irish (give size of tin)									
Imported           "       "									
Bread       (per 2-lb. Loaf)									
Flour.									
Household per stone									
Household per sack of									
.....stones.									
Best American per sack									
of.....stones.									
Meal.									
Oaten               ... per stone									
Oaten               ... per stone									
Wheaten           ...       "									
Indian             ...       "									
Rice                   ... per lb.									
Potatoes               per stone									
Sugar, White granulated       ... per lb.									
Tea.									
Best quality       ...    "									
Cheapest quality   "       "									
Coffee, Ground       ...    "									
Cocoa.									
Shell               ...    "									
Tinned             ...    "									
Jam, Irish (give name of kind in most demand).									
<hr/>									
Please add any information available as to prices of the following commodities, giving description of each item:—									
Fish               ...    "									
Vegetables       ...    "									
Poultry           ...    "									
Fruit             ...    "									

Signature.....

Date.....



## APPENDIX.

**Form A**—CONTINUED

PARTICULARS OF SOURCES from which information has been obtained :—

COMMODITY.	SOURCE.	NATURE.
Beef		
Mutton		
Bacon		
Fresh Pork		
Sausages		
Lard		
Dripping		
Butter		
Margarine		
Cheese		
Eggs		
Milk		
Tinned Milk		
Bread		
Flour		
Meal		
Rice		
Potatoes		
Sugar		
Tea		
Coffee		
Cocoa		
Jam		
Fish		
Vegetables		
Poultry		
Fruit		

## APPENDIX.

## Form B 1.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING IN SPECIAL FORMS  
FOR RETAIL PRICES.

(1) The necessary inquiries for filling up these forms should be made immediately.

(2) The returns duly completed should be posted so as to reach this Office *not later than Thursday, 22nd June*. Please do your utmost to post them as early as possible.

(3) Get the information from the shops most frequented by the wage-earning classes. Prices representing the kind, quality, etc., on which these classes spend most money are the prices required.

(4) Please note the quantity for which the prices of each commodity are to be quoted.

(5) All prices on Forms B 2 and B 3 should be quoted in pence (but correct to farthings)—thus Sugar 5½d. per lb.

(6) Give actual prices. If you cannot get them leave blanks; do not give estimates or averages. For prices for the dates prior to June, 1922, get the Shopkeepers to look up their books.

(7) All prices should be cash prices at the shop (*not delivered*) they should represent the majority of sales and they should be checked by inquiry from more than one source.

(8) (a) Get prices in all cases from Shopkeepers, giving on each Form the names and full postal addresses of those who supplied the information for that Form.

(b) Give exact descriptions of beef, mutton, etc., where you are asked to do this on the Form.

(9) Give on the space provided on each Form any explanations or observations which you think would be helpful.

## APPENDIX.

## Form B 2.

## RETAIL PRICES OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES

in.....of.....  
 (Parish) (City, Town or District).

[Prices to be correct to the nearest farthing.]

COMMODITY.	Per	Mid-Mar., 1922.	Mid-June, 1922.	COMMODITY.†	Per	Mid-June, 1922.
		d.	d.			d.
Butter, Irish Factory	lb.	.....	.....	Pork Chops ...	lb.	.....
Cheese, Golden Spray *	lb.	.....	.....	Pork Sausages ...	lb.	.....
Condensed Milk, Irish full Cream.	1 lb. tin	.....	.....	Lard ...	lb.	.....
Condensed Milk, Nestle's	1 lb. tin	.....	.....	Butter, Irish Creamery	lb.	.....
Rice, Rangoon ...	lb.	.....	.....	Butter, Irish Farmer's	lb.	.....
„ Java ...	lb.	.....	.....	Margarine, First Grade	lb.	.....
Jam, Strawberry ...	lb.	.....	.....	Margarine, Second Grade.	lb.	.....
Fresh Pork, Shoulders	lb.	.....	.....	Eggs, First Grade	doz.	.....
Fish—Red Herrings ...	doz.	.....	.....	Milk, Fresh ...	Quart	.....
„ —Fresh Herrings	doz.	.....	.....	Bread ...	2lb. loaf	.....
„ —Cod Steak ...	lb.	.....	.....	Flour, Household ...	14 lbs.	.....
Tea (quality most used by working classes).	lb.	.....	.....	Oatmeal ...	14 lbs.	.....
Cabbage ...	head	.....	.....	Potatoes, Old ...	14 lbs.	.....
Soap, Household (bar)	July, 1914.	.....	.....	Sugar, white granulated.	lb.	.....
per lb.	.....	.....	.....	Tea, Best Quality ...	lb.	.....
Candles ...	per lb.	.....	.....	„ Cheapest Quality	lb.	.....
Paraffin Oil	per gall.	.....	.....	OBSERVATIONS.		
Coal	per 112 lbs.	.....	.....			
Turf *	per 112 lbs.	.....	.....			
Gas for lighting * per	.....	.....	.....			
Gas for cooking, per &c. *	.....	.....	.....			
Electricity for per lighting *	.....	.....	.....			
Electricity for per cooking, &c. *	.....	.....	.....			

\* SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS.—(a) *Cheese, Golden Spray*.—If this kind of Cheese is not sold, strike out last two words, insert kind most usually sold to working classes, and give prices. (b) *Turf*.—Note, price is asked for per 112 lbs. State on back of this form how it is sold in your Parish, and give number of sods, creels, etc., to the 112 lbs. (c) *Gas and Electricity*.—Insert the quantity which you are pricing, and state any "observations" (on the front or back of this form) which will help in compiling uniform quotations for the different parts of Ireland.

† NOTE.—Prices for Mid-June, 1922, only are required for these particular commodities.

Date.....

(Signature).....



## APPENDIX.

## Form B 2—CONTINUED.

COMMODITY.	Name and full postal address of Shopkeeper or Firm from whom the information was obtained.	OBSERVATIONS.
(1) Butter ...		
(2) Cheese ...		
(3) Condensed Milk ...		
(4) Margarine ...		
(5) Lard ...		
(6) Sausages ...		
(7) Fresh Pork ...		
(8) Tea ...		
(9) Sugar ...		
(10) Jam ...		
(11) Rice ...		
(12) Oatmeal ...		
(13) Flour ...		
(14) Bread ...		
(15) Eggs ...		
(16) Milk, fresh ...		
(17) Potatoes ...		
(18) Cabbage ...		
(19) Fish ...		
(20) Soap ...		
(21) Candles ...		
(22) Oil ...		
(23) Coal ...		
(24) Turf ...		
(25) Gas ...		
(26) Electricity ...		

## APPENDIX.

## Form B 3.

## RETAIL PRICES OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES

in..... of.....  
(Parish). (City, Town or District).

## PRICES.

Insert under *Beef* the exact description (e.g., "round steak," "stewing beef," "rib steak," "corned brisket," "shoulder," "liver," etc., or whatever is the exact description) of each of the six parts, kinds, etc., on which the *working classes* at present spend most *money*, naming the parts in the order of their importance from this point of view. Please insert prices opposite each description. Similarly, in the case of *Mutton* insert the exact description of the four parts, kinds, etc., in the order of their money importance to the working classes, entering the exact price opposite each. Again, under *Bacon, etc.*, insert the exact description (e.g., "Irish shoulder rashers," "Irish bacon, back piece," "American bacon, shoulder piece," "Pigs' heads," "American Gams," etc., or whatever is the exact description) of each of the six parts, kinds, cuts, etc., of cured pigs on which the *working classes* at present spend most *money*, naming the parts in order of their importance from this point of view. Enter the exact prices opposite each description.

Do not estimate prices. As regards Mid-March, shopkeeper's books should be referred to in each case.

## ESTIMATED WEIGHTS.

On each blank line below insert the same description as you have already inserted on the same line in the lefthand column, then insert below the best estimates of comparative weights which you can get from the shopkeeper.

That is to say, for every 10 *lbs.* of that part, kind, cut, etc., on which the working classes spend most *money*, insert below the approximate *weight* of each of the other descriptions (2), (3), etc., purchased by the working classes.

BEEF, per lb.	Mid-March, 1922.	Mid-June, 1922.	BEEF.	Weights.
(1)			(1)	10 lb.
(2)			(2)	lb.
(3)			(3)	lb.
(4)			(4)	lb.
(5)			(5)	lb.
(6)			(6)	lb.

## APPENDIX.

## Form B 3—CONTINUED.

MUTTON, per lb.	Mid-March, 1922.	Mid-June, 1922.	MUTTON.	Weights.
(1)			(1)	10 lb.
(2)			(2)	lb.
(3)			(3)	lb.
(4)			(4)	lb.
BACON, &c., per lb.			BACON, etc.	
(1)			(1)	10 lb.
(2)			(2)	lb.
(3)			(3)	lb.
(4)			(4)	lb.
(5)			(5)	lb.
(6)			(6)	lb.

The working-class families in this district spend about.....shillings on Mutton for every 10 shillings spent on Beef.

For every 10s. which the working classes spend on butchers' meat (beef and mutton) how much do they spend on bacon and other pig-meat (including sausages) ? .....

Signature..... Date,.....June, 1922.

Source of Information.....

Observations .....



## APPENDIX.

## Form B 4.

## CLOTHING OF WAGE-EARNING CLASSES.

## RETAIL PRICES IN.....

The prices for 1914 must refer to exactly the same type and quality of articles as for 1922, which must be of a description in general demand amongst wage-earning classes in 1922. In all cases of clothing it is the ready-made article that should be priced, except as regards men's suits, men's trousers and men's overcoats, for which two sets of prices, (1) ready-made, (2) tailor-made, should be given.

Articles.	State Material and exact Description.	—	July, 1914.	Mar., 1922.	June, 1922.
			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
(A). Men's.					
Suits (1)	.....	each	.....	.....	.....
" (2)	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Trousers (1)	.....	pair	.....	.....	.....
" (2)	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Overcoats (1)	.....	each	.....	.....	.....
" (2)	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Singlets	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Drawers	.....	pair	.....	.....	.....
Shirts	.....	each	.....	.....	.....
Socks	.....	pair	.....	.....	.....
Boots	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
(B). Boys aged about 12.					
Suits	.....	each	.....	.....	.....
Overcoats	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Shirts	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Stockings	.....	pair	.....	.....	.....
Boots	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
(C). Women's.					
Light Coats	.....	each	.....	.....	.....
Heavy Coats	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Costumes	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Blouses	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Skirts	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Stockings	.....	pair	.....	.....	.....
Combinations	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Corsets	.....	each	.....	.....	.....
Underskirts	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Chemises	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Boots	.....	pair	.....	.....	.....
(D). Girls aged about 12.					
Coats	.....	each	.....	.....	.....
Dresses	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Stockings	.....	pair	.....	.....	.....
Combinations	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Stays	.....	each	.....	.....	.....
Petticoats	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Chemises	.....	"	.....	.....	.....
Boots	.....	pair	.....	.....	.....

## APPENDIX.

## Form B 4—CONTINUED.

(E).—MATERIALS purchased by Wage-earning Classes (same kind and quality at each date).

Materials.	Exact Description, Width, &c.	Per	July, 1914.	Mar., 1922.	June, 1922.
			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Woollen Yarn .....		lb.	.....	.....	.....
Calico ....		yard	.....	.....	.....
Cotton ....		"	.....	.....	.....
Flannel ....		"	.....	.....	.....
Flannelette ....		"	.....	.....	.....
Serge ....		"	.....	.....	.....
Tweed ....		"	.....	.....	.....
Print ....		"	.....	.....	.....

(F).—Names and full postal addresses of shopkeepers, firms, &c., from whom information on this Form B. 4 was obtained.

(G).—Observations.

Signature.....

Date.....

## Form B 5.

Form B 5.

REPRESENTATIVE RENTS PAID BY WAGE-EARNING CLASSES IN.....

### I.—WHOLE HOUSE OCCUPIED BY ONE FAMILY.

1.--The houses referred to below should be representative of wage-earning class dwellings in as many different districts as possible. Houses owned by the Local Authority should be indicated by an asterisk placed after the postal number; such houses should only form their due proportion of the number mentioned below since the Return is required to show the true average change in rents in all wage-earning class houses. *Rents of actual houses should be given: different rents are not to be averaged.*

[illegible]

\* Owned by the Local Authority.

† It is the ANNUAL rent that should be entered; accordingly weekly, monthly or quarterly rents at the above dates should be multiplied by 52, 12 or 4 respectively, and the result entered.



## Form B 5—CONTINUED.

11.—The houses or tenements should be in as many different districts as possible and the particulars should be representative of wage-earning class accommodation in those districts. *Actual rents are to be given : different rents are not to be averaged.*

\* The numbers required are to represent different types of wage-earning class accommodation and, therefore, families should be selected occupying different numbers of rooms so as to properly represent local conditions.

Signature.....

## APPENDIX.

## Form B 6.—Page 1.

## HOUSEHOLD BUDGET.

PARTICULARS for all persons in a household at.....Co.....  
during the seven days ended.....June, 1922.

(NOTE.—Particulars for *each* person should be given, one line being devoted to *each*).

Description (e.g., husband, wife, father, son, niece, servant, lodger, &c.).	Sex (M) Male (F) Female	Age.	Occupation.*	Earnings for the seven days.†
				s. d.
(1) .....				
(2) .....				
(3) .....				
(4) .....				
(5) .....				
(6) .....				
(7) .....				
(8) .....				
(9) .....				
(10) .....				

\* e.g., "Carpenter," "Dock labourer,"  
"domestic duties," "at school," &c.

† If there is a servant, her wages should  
not be included here.

Total earnings (A)

Other receipts ‡

Total income (B)

‡ Receipts of old age or other pensions should be included here and not in  
the column for "earnings" above.

Please state on the following lines particulars of pensions or other receipts :—

Observations with regard to particu-  
lars on this page.

## SUMMARY.

## Number of Persons

No.

Who earned cash (A) ... ..

Who did not earn cash (A) .....

Total number of persons in  
the household ... ..

s. d.

Total income (B) for the  
seven days ... ..

## Number of Persons

No.

Under 4 years... ..

4 years to 13 (inclusive) .....

14 years and over ... ..

Total number of persons in  
the household ... ..

## APPENDIX.

## Form B 6.—Page 2.

QUANTITIES AND COSTS OF ARTICLES CONSUMED DURING THE  
SEVEN DAYS.....JUNE, TO.....JUNE, 1922.

FOOD.	Quan- tity.	s. d.	FUEL AND LIGHT.	Quan- tity.	s. d.
(1) Beef ... ..	lb.		(29) Coal ... ..	ewt.	
(2) Mutton ... ..	lb.		(30) Turf ... ..	"	
(3) Fresh pork ... ..	lb.		(31) Firewood ... ..		
(4) Sausages, black pud- dings, &c.	lb.		(32) Gas ... ..		
(5) Bacon, pigs' heads, &c.	lb.		(33) Electricity ... ..		
			(34) Candles ... ..	lb.	
			(35) Paraffin Oil ... ..	pts.	
			(36) Other Fuel and Light	*	
(6) Total Meat † ...	*	†	(37) Total Fuel & Light (E)	*	
(7) Fresh Fish ... ..	*				
(8) Cured or Tinned Fish	*				
(9) Butter ... ..	lb.		HOUSEHOLD REQUISITES.		
(10) Cheese ... ..	lb.		(38) Soap ... ..		
(11) Margarine ... ..	lb.		(39) Starch, blue, polishes, &c.	*	
(12) Lard ... ..	lb.		(40) Crockery, hardware, &c.	*	
(13) Fresh Milk ... ..	pts.		(41) Other household re- quisites.	*	
(14) Condensed Milk ...	lb.		(42) Total Household Re- quisites (F).	*	
(15) Eggs ... ..	doz.				
(16) Bread ... ..	2 lb. loaves				
(17) Flour ... ..	lb.				
(18) Oatmeal, &c. ... ..	lb.				
(19) Rice, Sago, &c. ...	lb.				
(20) Potatoes ... ..	lb.				
(21) Other Vegetables ...	*		SUNDRIES.		
(22) Tea ... ..	lb.		(43) Pipe tobacco ... ..	oz.	
(23) Sugar ... ..	lb.		(44) Cigarettes... ..	oz.	
(24) Jam ... ..	lb.		(45) Medicines, Ointments, &c.	*	
(25) Other food ... ..	*		(46) Newspapers, &c. ...	*	
(26) Meals eaten at shops, hotels, &c.	*		(47) Train and tram fares, &c.	*	
(27) Total Food (C) ...	*	†	(48) Insurances ... ..	*	
			(49)		
			(50)		
			(51)		
(28) Clothes boots and shoes (D)	*		(52) Total Sundries (G)	*	

\* Cost only is required. † When totting be careful not to add in Meat twice over.

NOTE.—Food purchased for poultry, pigs, &c.; materials for making up garments for sale; implements for producing goods for sale, &c., should not be included above.

(H) RENTS (Including rates).—What is the weekly rent (including rates) of the house or rooms occupied by the household?.....shillings and.....pence.  
Does the family own the house? ..... If the answer is "yes," insert the  
(yes or no).  
equivalent rent and rates.

● Observations on Weekly Costs and on rent:—



## APPENDIX.

## Form B 6.—Page 3.

## COST OF CLOTHING (INCLUDING BOOTS AND SHOES) FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS, JULY, 1921, TO JUNE, 1922, INCLUSIVE.

As it is exceptionally difficult to obtain representative costs of clothing, you are earnestly requested to help the Government by going to the greatest pains to give below the most accurate figures you possibly can for the cost of the clothing (including boots and shoes) used up by the household during the twelve months, July, 1921, to June, 1922, inclusive. Costs of materials purchased for clothing (e.g., cotton for children's dresses) should be included, any costs of making-up should be added. Material purchased for making up articles *for sale* should not be entered. COSTS FOR REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS OF CLOTHING (including boots and shoes) should be included. FOR ARTICLES WHICH USUALLY LAST MORE THAN TWELVE MONTHS include below only the proportionate cost for the twelve months. For instance, if an overcoat is usually bought only once in *three* years, enter below only *one-third* of the price; even if the overcoat was purchased eighteen months ago, *one-third* of the cost should still be stated below. If the exact amount of money spent during the twelve months on, for instance, boys' stockings, cannot be remembered, but if it is known that a pair lasts about *four months*, then include below *three times* the price of the last pair. The lists below are intended for your convenience; some of the articles may not have been used, others more important than some mentioned may have to be included with minor expenditure under "Other Clothing."

For.....Women.		For.....Girls over 6.		For.....Men.		For.....Boys over 6.	
	£ s.		£ s.		£ s.		£ s.
Coats ...		Coats ...		Overcoats ...		Overcoats ...	
Hats ...		Hats ...		Suits ...		Suits ...	
Costumes ...		Dresses ...		Hats ...		Caps ...	
Blouses, &c....		Stockings ...		Singlets ...		Shirts ...	
Skirts ...		Combinations		Drawers ...		Stockings ...	
Stockings ...		Stays ...		Shirts ...		Boots & Shoes	
Combinations		Petticoats ...		Socks ...		Other Clothing	
Corsets ...		Chemises ...		Boots & Shoes		Total ...	
Underskirts		Boots & Shoes		Other Clothing		Per Boy	
Chemises ...		Other Clothing				For.....children under 6.	
Boots & Shoes						Total children's clothes, boots, &c.	£ s.
Other clothing							
Total of above		Total of above		Total of above		Per Child ...	
Per Woman		Per Girl ...		Per Man ...			

(I.) Total cost of Clothing, Boots and Shoes, for the whole household for 12 months, £ : :

OBSERVATIONS on costs of clothing (including Boots and Shoes) :—

## APPENDIX.

## Form B 6.—Page 4.

COST OF FUEL AND LIGHT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS, JULY, 1921,  
TO JUNE, 1922, inclusive.

As the cost of fuel and light is so different in winter and summer, will you please state below, as accurately as possible, the expenditure on fuel and light by the household during the past twelve months, and the corresponding quantities of the items consumed.

	Quantity.	£ s.		Quantity.	£ s.
Coal ... ..	tons.		Electricity for lighting		
Turf ... ..	tons.		Electricity for cooking, &c.		
Firewood ... ..			Candles ... ..	lb.	
Gas for lighting ...			Paraffin Oil ... ..	galls.	
Gas for cooking, &c.			Other fuel and light		

(J). Total expenditure on Fuel and Light for the twelve months ... £

Observations on fuel and light:—

General Observations:—

The figures and observations inserted on these four pages are reliable to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature of Teacher or Assistant.....Rank.....

Address of School.....

Date.....1922.

## APPENDIX.

## Form B 7.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEALING WITH HOUSEHOLD  
BUDGET FORM B 6.

1. Select the household with one or more wage-earners for which you can give the most reliable particulars. You can choose any type of household you think fit, it does not matter whether it be a household even of twenty or even of one, whether comfortably off or poorly off, with many children or with few or no children, with several wage-earners or with only one, with no men, with no women, with a visitor, with a servant, etc., provided the household chosen is one of the wage-earning class. This will ensure that taking the country as a whole the budgets will represent every day conditions and avoid anything exceptional.

2. If you select a household with a plot or garden in which food is produced, or one with fowl or pigs, etc., a note to this effect should be made under "Observations."

3. Make no statement which would identify the household for which you send an account; as a further precaution the individual returns will be treated as strictly confidential—your figures will be used only in totting them with figures in a large number of other budgets in order to arrive at averages, etc.

4. If you live with a wage earner and give the budget of your own house, do not state that the household is your own, but you will of course place the word "teacher" on one line in the occupation column of the first table (a teacher is not necessarily a national school teacher; in any case the budget will be treated as strictly confidential).

5. If you can get accurate particulars for the days of the current week, do so. If not, would you ask the householder to keep an account for the seven days immediately following the receipt of this communication. Post your budget so as to reach here by the 30th June, at latest. Spend all the time you can spare to get the particulars as accurate as possible.

6. Under "Observations" on each page give any remarks that may be helpful, especially explanations of unusually large or small figures. The budgets will be closely scrutinised.

7. Do not stamp the envelope; it will come post free.



## APPENDIX.

## Form B 7—CONTINUED.

## PAGE 1.

8. Give a line to each individual in the household from the oldest to the youngest. In the summary table include as earners any who earn even a few shillings. In case short time or only a few hours were worked this should be stated under "Observations."

## PAGE 2.

9. Get the quantity and cost of the items *consumed* in the week. In most cases it will be accurate enough to state *purchases* during the week, but where there has been an unusually large purchase of food, etc., to last more than one week (or an unusually small purchase owing to a large quantity being in hand at the beginning of the week) give the quantity and cost of the week's consumption. You are, however, definitely instructed to state the *purchases* during the week of such articles as "clothing, boots and shoes," "crockery, hardware," etc., and of all such goods which are intended to last more than one week. If any article (e.g., a suit of clothes, etc.) is purchased on an easy payment system give the total cost—not the amount of the instalment. It is anticipated that a small number of budgets will contain abnormally large figures for "clothing, boots and shoes," etc., and in such cases particulars should be given under the "Observations."

Loads, creels, etc., of turf should be converted to the equivalent weight.

RENT.—The figure required is to include rates. If the household owns the house, this should be stated and the equivalent rent (including rates) should be given. If the household do not occupy a whole house, this should be stated.

10. You will observe that the week's expenditure will not necessarily be the same as the week's income.

## PAGES 3 AND 4

11. The difficulty of giving as accurate figures on pages 3 and 4 as on pages 1 and 2 is recognised, but you are earnestly requested to do the very best you can to give reliable figures. Under "Observations" on the last page give an indication of the degree of accuracy of your figures.

12. Do not send a budget at all unless you are satisfied that the figures are reliable on the whole.

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REPORT

PRINTED BY A. THOM & CO., LTD., DUBLIN.

16498. 500 9. 1922.

THE STATE OF TEXAS,  
COUNTY OF DALLAS.



For Official Use.

# MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

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## REPORT

ON THE

## COST OF LIVING

---

OCTOBER, 1922

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DUBLIN:

PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through Messrs. EASON AND SON, LTD.,  
40 and 41, Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.

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Price Twopence net.

# COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER

MID-OCTOBER, 1922

*Average Percentage Increase since July, 1914 ... 88·8 per cent.*

The Cost of Living Committee were instructed to determine a cost of living figure for mid-September on the same basis as for March and June, 1922, but were unable to collect the necessary data owing to the postal strike. Returns of retail prices were obtained for the earliest practicable subsequent date—the 12th October—from the same sources as in the June enquiry. Separate averages of the retail prices for each commodity were made as on the last occasion, for the groups of towns of different sizes, on a population basis, and the final average retail price for each commodity was obtained by “weighting” the separate averages in accordance with population. These final averages were then “weighted” and combined in the same manner as described in the detailed “Report on Cost of Living in Ireland in June, 1922.”

The results show that from mid-June, 1922, to mid-October, 1922, the usual seasonal advances in the retail prices of butter, milk, and eggs more than counterbalanced the seasonal decrease in the retail prices of meat and potatoes, and the small decreases in clothing, &c. The combined result of the changes increased the cost of living index number from 185·2 in mid-June, 1922, to 188·8 in mid-October, 1922, as compared with 100·0 in July, 1914.

The final average prices of the articles of food are shown in the following Table:—

	Per	AVERAGE PRICES.		Average change in price in Mid-Oct., compared with Mid-June, Increase (+). Decrease (—).
		Mid-June, 1922.	Mid-Oct., 1922.	
Beef—Sirloin ... ..	lb.	s. d. 1 5	s. d. 1 4	s. d. —0 1
Shoulder ... ..	"	1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	—0 1
Corned Briskot ... ..	"	1 0	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Neck ... ..	"	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Liver ' ... ..	"	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	● 7	—0 ● $\frac{1}{4}$
Mutton—Leg ... ..	"	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 1
Neck ... ..	"	1 1	1 0	—0 1
Bacon—Irish Streaky ... ..	"	2 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 0	—0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Irish Shoulder ... ..	"	1 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 6	—0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
American Streaky ... ..	"	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
American Shoulder ... ..	"	1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pig Heads ... ..	"	0 8	0 8	No change.
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ... ..	"	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 ● $\frac{1}{4}$
Pork Sausages ... ..	"	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish—Red Herrings ... ..	doz.	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	—0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fresh Herrings ... ..	"	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cod Steak ... ..	lb.	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	+0 1
Eggs ... ..	doz.	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+1 6
Butter—Irish Creamery ... ..	lb.	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 3
Irish Farmers' ... ..	"	1 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	+0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Margarine—First grade ... ..	"	● 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change.
Second grade ... ..	"	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+● 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese, Golden Spray ... ..	"	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard ... ..	"	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fresh Milk ... ..	quart	0 5	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Condensed Milk ... ..	1-lb. tin	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bread ... ..	2-lb. loaf	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change.
Flour—Household ... ..	4 lbs.	3 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 1●	—0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Oatmeal ... ..	"	3 6	3 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	—0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Rice—Rangoon ... ..	lb.	0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	No change.
Java ... ..	"	0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change.
Potatoes ... ..	14 lbs.	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea—Best ... ..	lb.	3 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cheapest ... ..	"	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 3	+0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sugar ... ..	"	0 6	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Jam—Strawberry ... ..	1-lb. pot	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$

In the food group as a whole, the percentage increase in mid-October, 1922, over July, 1914, was 94·6 per cent., as compared with 87·0 in mid-June, 1922, and 94·1 per cent. in March, 1922. Thus, the average level of food prices in October was about the same as in March of this year.

As regards clothing, notwithstanding the difficulty of obtaining exact representative average prices owing to the great variety in quality, the different classes of goods stocked in different shops,



&c., it is possible to obtain substantially accurate *percentage changes* in prices—the only significant price measurement—by ensuring that the exact same classes of goods are priced for the two dates to be compared. For instance, the average of the prices returned in October for both October and June showed a decrease in Men's Readymade Suits of 2.4 per cent., and the almost similar decrease of 2.1 per cent. in Men's Tailormade Suits. The percentage decrease in the prices of other classes of clothing was somewhat greater, with the result that the percentage change in the prices of clothing as a whole amounted to a decrease of 2.7 per cent. in October, as compared with June.

As there was no fresh legislation from June to October affecting rents, and as alterations in Rates are made in the early part of the year, it was assumed that average rents had not changed in the short interval from June to October. Accordingly, no returns were obtained for October, and it was taken that the percentage change from July, 1914, to October, 1922, was the same as from July, 1914, to June, 1922.

The prices (not the *percentage* changes in prices) of coal varied considerably according to locality and class of coal, from 2s. per cwt. in Arklow to 5s. per cwt. in Tralee; the general average percentage change for fuel showed a slight decrease in October, as compared with June; decreases in the prices of paraffin oil and candles are also noted.

Taking each of the items that enter into the budget of the wage-earning classes and weighting the percentage price changes in accordance with the Budget weights as published in the report for June last, it is found that the nett result is an increase of 3.6 *points* in mid-October over the Index Number for mid-June, 1922. Compared with March of this year, however, the October figure shows a decrease of 2.6 *points*. The following table shows the final result of enquiries into the cost of living in the Country as a whole :—

July, 1914	...	100.0
March, 1922	...	191.4
June, 1922	...	185.2
October, 1922	...	188.8

For Official Use.

# MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

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## REPORT

ON THE

## COST OF LIVING

---

**JANUARY, 1923**

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*Price Twopence net.*

# COST OF LIVING INDEX NUMBER

**MID-JANUARY, 1923**

*Increase from Mid-July, 1914, to Mid-January, 1923, = 90 %*

The following are the Cost of Living figures which have been compiled up to the present for the Irish Free State :—

DATE.	INDEX No.
Mid-July, 1914 ...	100
Mid-March, 1922 ...	191
Mid-June, 1922 ...	185
Mid-October, 1922 ...	189
Mid-January, 1923 ...	190

The general basis on which the figures have been collected and compiled has been explained in the report on the cost of living for mid-June last. In the inquiry into the cost of living in mid-October, 1922, and mid-January, 1923, new returns of retail prices had, of course, to be obtained, but these were combined on the same general basis as the retail prices referring to previous dates.

As will be seen from the above, the cost of living in mid-January was practically the same as in mid-October, the index figure registering the small increase of only *one point*. Small increases in the food and rent groups were barely sufficient to overbalance the small decreases in the clothing, fuel and light, and in the "miscellaneous" groups.



The final average prices of the articles of food are shown in the following Table :—

	Per	AVERAGE PRICES.		Average change in price in Mid-Jan., 1923, compared with Mid-Oct., 1922. Increase (+). Decrease (—).
		Mid-Oct., 1922.	Mid-Jan., 1923.	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ... ..	lb.	1 4	1 4½	+0 0½
Shoulder ... ..	"	1 0½	1 0½	—0 0½
Corned Brisket ... ..	"	0 11½	0 11½	No change.
Neck ... ..	"	0 11	0 10½	—0 0½
Liver ... ..	"	0 7	0 8	+0 1
Mutton—Leg ... ..	"	1 4½	1 5½	+0 1
Neck ... ..	"	1 0	1 0½	+0 0½
Bacon—Irish Streaky ... ..	"	2 0	1 10½	—0 1½
Irish Shoulder ... ..	"	1 6	1 4½	—0 1½
American Streaky ... ..	"	1 4½	1 4	—0 0½
American Shoulder ... ..	"	1 1½	1 0	—0 1½
Pigs' Heads ... ..	"	0 8	0 7½	—0 0½
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ... ..	"	1 5½	1 5½	No change.
Pork Sausages ... ..	"	1 3½	1 3½	No change.
Fish—Red Herrings ... ..	doz.	1 6	1 5½	—0 0½
Fresh Herrings ... ..	"	1 10½	1 10	—0 0½
Cod Steak ... ..	lb.	1 2½	1 3	+0 0½
Eggs ... ..	doz.	2 11½	2 11½	No change.
Butter—Irish Creamery ... ..	lb.	2 1½	2 2	+0 0½
Irish Farmers' ... ..	"	1 10½	1 11	+0 0½
Margarine—First grade ... ..	"	0 11½	0 11½	+0 0½
Second grade ... ..	"	0 8½	0 8½	—0 0½
Cheese—Golden Spray ... ..	"	1 4	1 5½	+0 1½
Lard ... ..	"	1 0½	1 0½	+0 0½
Fresh Milk ... ..	quart	0 5½	0 6½	+0 0½
Condensed Milk ... ..	1-lb. tin	0 11½	0 11½	—0 0½
Bread ... ..	2-lb. loaf	0 5½	0 5½	No change.
Flour—Household ... ..	14 lbs.	2 10	2 9½	—0 0½
Oatmeal ... ..	"	3 5½	3 5½	+0 0½
Rice—Rangoon ... ..	lb.	0 3½	0 3½	No change.
Java ... ..	"	0 5½	0 5½	No change.
Potatoes ... ..	14 lbs.	0 10½	0 10	—0 0½
Tea—Best ... ..	lb.	3 7½	3 8	+0 0½
Cheapest ... ..	"	2 3	2 4½	+0 1½
Sugar ... ..	"	0 6½	0 6½	No change.
Jam—Strawberry ... ..	1-lb. pot	1 2½	1 2½	—0 0½

The seasonal rising tendency in the prices of milk and butter noted as between June and October of course continued from October to January, and these increases, together with the continued rise in the price of tea, were the chief causes which brought about the increase of 1·1 *per cent.* from October to January in the general level of food prices ; the principal counter-balancing causes were the decreases in the prices of bacon and potatoes.

In the clothing group there was a decrease of 2·0 *per cent.* in mid-January as compared with mid-October. The fall in clothing prices was fairly general; the figures show that men's and boys' clothing decrease, but there were slight increases in the average prices of women's coats and costumes. The prices of boots for all classes—men's and boys', women's and girls'—showed a decrease.

In connection with the mid-October cost of living figures, no inquiry was made into changes in rents as between June and October, 1922. It was thought possible that changes might have occurred after the beginning of this year, and investigations were accordingly made by rate collectors in the different parts of the country who were requested to furnish particulars of the rents in January, 1923, for the same places for which they had furnished the actual rents in June of last year. The returns received showed scarcely any change, but taken all round the slight increase of 0·8 *per cent.* in the period from mid-June, 1922, to mid-January, 1923, is noted. The expression "rent" here means "rent *inclusive* of rates."

The fuel and light group showed a decrease of 1·4 *per cent.* in mid-January as compared with mid-October. The prices for coal were practically unchanged, while there were decreases in the prices of paraffin oil and candles. This fuel and light group showed an increase of 102 *per cent.* in mid-January, 1923, compared with July, 1914.

Taking each of the items that enter into the budget of the wage-earning classes, and "weighting" the percentage price changes in accordance with the budget "weights," it is found that the cost of all the items that enter into these budgets increased from mid-July, 1914, to mid-January, 1923, by 90 *per cent.*

For Official Use.

# MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

## REPORT

ON THE

## COST OF LIVING

APRIL, 1923

DUBLIN :

PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through Messrs. EASON & SON, LTD.  
40 and 41 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.



# Cost of Living Index Number.

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**MID-APRIL, 1923.**

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**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-April 1923=81 per cent.**

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The following are the Cost of Living figures which have been compiled up to the present for the Irish Free State :—

DATE	INDEX NO.
Mid-July, 1914	100
Mid-March, 1922	191
Mid-June, 1922	185
Mid-October, 1922	189
Mid-January, 1923	190
Mid-April, 1923	181

The general basis on which the figures have been collected and compiled has been explained in the report on the Cost of Living for mid-June, 1922. In the subsequent enquiries into the cost of living new returns of retail prices had, of course, to be obtained for the several dates mentioned above. These returns were compiled on the same general basis as the retail prices obtained for June of last year.

It will be seen from the above that the index number representing the cost of living in the Irish Free State fell from 190 in mid-January, to 181 in mid-April, a decrease of nine *points* or 4.7 *per cent.*; from mid-June, 1922, to mid-April, 1923, there was a fall of only four *points* or 2.2 *per cent.* The decrease from mid-January, to mid-April was caused almost entirely by a lowering of food prices.

The final average prices of the articles of food are shown in the following table:—

	Per	AVERAGE PRICES.		Average change in price in Mid-April, 1923, compared with Mid-Jan., 1923. Increase (+). Decrease (—).
		Mid-Jan., 1923.	Mid-April, 1923.	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ... ..	lb.	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Shoulder ... ..	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corned Brisket ... ..	"	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change.
Neck ... ..	"	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change.
Liver ... ..	"	0 8	0 8	No change.
Mutton—Leg ... ..	"	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Neck ... ..	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Bacon—Irish Streaky ... ..	"	1 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 1
Irish Shoulder ... ..	"	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3	—0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
American Streaky ... ..	"	1 4	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
American Shoulder ... ..	"	1 0	0 11	—0 1
Pigs' Heads ... ..	"	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change.
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ... ..	"	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork Sausages ... ..	"	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fish—Red Herrings ... ..	doz.	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fresh Herrings ... ..	"	1 10	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cod Steak ... ..	lb.	1 3	1 3	No change.
Eggs ... ..	doz.	2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	—1 8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Butter—Irish Creamery ... ..	lb.	2 2	1 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	—0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Irish Farmers' ... ..	"	1 11	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Margarine—First Grade ... ..	"	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Second Grade ... ..	"	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese—Golden Spray ... ..	"	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard ... ..	"	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0	—0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Fresh Milk ... ..	quart	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Condensed Milk ... ..	1-lb. tin	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change.
Bread ... ..	2-lb. loaf	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Flour—Household ... ..	14 lbs.	2 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	No change.
Oatmeal ... ..	"	3 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 8	+0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Rice—Rangoon ... ..	lb.	0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	No change.
Java ... ..	"	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Potatoes ... ..	14 lbs.	0 10	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	—0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea—Best ... ..	lb.	3 8	3 9	+0 1
Cheapest ... ..	"	2 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sugar ... ..	"	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+0 1
Jam—Strawberry ... ..	1-lb. Pot	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change.

It will be seen from the above Table that prices rose in the case of only nine out of the 36 food items listed; there was a decrease in the price of each article of food except beef, mutton, cheese, tea, sugar and oatmeal. The decreases in the prices of bacon almost made up for the seasonal increase in the prices of beef and mutton, so that the change in the price of meat had little effect in changing

the cost of living figure from January to April. The seasonal fall in the price of butter and milk and the large decrease in the price of eggs are mainly accountable for the fall in the general index number of food prices. The increase in the price of sugar due to the world shortage was the most important factor tending to raise the cost of living figure. Food prices in general in mid-April were 7.7 *per cent.* lower than in mid-January, but only 1.4 *per cent.* lower than in mid-June, 1922. In Great Britain similar changes took place, food prices being 4 *per cent.* lower on 1st April than on 1st January, but only 1.2 *per cent.* lower on 1st June.

As regards changes in the prices of articles other than food there was a fairly general fall in the prices of the various articles of clothing; men's and boys' clothing decreased, but there was a slight increase in the prices of women's and girls' coats. The prices of boots for all classes—men's, boys', women's and girls'—showed that the decreases noted at the January enquiry continued during the ensuing three months. The prices of coal showed an increase; this was simply a reflection of the increases in the prices of coal in Great Britain, where prices increased on account of the greater demand for coal for foreign export. Slight decreases took place in the prices of paraffin oil, candles and soap, and increases in the prices of pipe tobacco and cigarettes.



For Official Use.

# MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

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## REPORT

ON THE

## COST OF LIVING

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**JULY, 1923**

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DUBLIN :  
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through Messrs. EASON & SON, LTD.  
40 and 41 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.

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*Price 2d. Net.*

# Cost of Living Index Number.

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**MID-JULY, 1923.**

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**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-July 1923=80 per cent.**

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The following are the Cost of Living figures which have been compiled up to the present for the Irish Free State :—

DATE	INDEX NO.
Mid-July, 1914 ... ..	100
Mid-March, 1922 ... ..	191
Mid-June, 1922 ... ..	185
Mid-October, 1922 ... ..	189
Mid-January, 1923 ... ..	190
Mid-April, 1923 ... ..	181
Mid-July, 1923 ... ..	180

The general basis on which the figures have been collected and compiled has been explained in the report on the Cost of Living for mid-June, 1922. In the subsequent enquiries into the Cost of Living new returns had, of course, to be obtained for the several dates mentioned above. These returns were compiled on the same general basis as the returns obtained for June of last year.

It will be seen from the above that the index number representing the Cost of Living in the Irish Free State in mid-July, 1923, was practically the same as for mid-April, the index number registering the small decrease of only *one point*, and a fall of *five points* since June, 1922.

The following were the average retail prices of the principal articles of food :—

	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Average change in price in mid- July, 1923, com- pared with mid- April, 1923. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-April	Mid-July	
		1923	1923	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ... ..	lb.	1 4½	1 4½	No change
Shoulder ... ..	"	1 1½	1 1½	No change
Corned Brisket ... ..	"	0 11½	0 11½	No change
Neck ... ..	"	0 10½	0 10	— 0 0½
Liver ... ..	"	0 8	0 7½	— 0 0½
Mutton—Leg ... ..	"	1 6½	1 5½	— 0 0½
Neck ... ..	"	1 1½	1 0½	— 0 0½
Bacon—Irish Streaky ... ..	"	1 9½	1 8½	— 0 0½
Irish Shoulder ... ..	"	1 3	1 2½	— 0 0½
American Streaky ... ..	"	1 3½	1 2½	— 0 0½
American Shoulder ... ..	"	0 11	0 10½	— 0 0½
Pigs' Heads ... ..	"	0 7½	0 6½	— 0 0½
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ... ..	"	1 5	1 4	— 0 1
Pork Sausages ... ..	"	1 3½	1 3	— 0 0½
Fish—Red Herring ... ..	doz.	1 5½	1 7	+ 0 1½
Fresh Herring ... ..	"	1 9½	1 10½	+ 0 0½
Cod Steak ... ..	lb.	1 3	1 3½	+ 0 0½
Eggs ... ..	doz.	1 2½	1 4½	+ 0 1½
Butter—Irish Creamery ... ..	lb.	1 11½	1 7½	— 0 4
Irish Farmers' ... ..	"	1 9½	1 5½	— 0 4
Margarine—First Grade ... ..	"	0 11½	0 10½	— 0 0½
Second Grade ... ..	"	0 8½	0 8½	No change
Cheese—Golden Spray ... ..	"	1 7½	1 6½	— 0 1
Lard ... ..	"	1 0	1 0	No change
Fresh Milk ... ..	quart	0 5½	0 5½	— 0 0½
Condensed Milk ... ..	1lb. tin	0 11½	0 11½	No change
Bread ... ..	2lb. loaf	0 5½	0 5½	No change
Flour—Household ... ..	14 lbs.	2 9½	2 10	+ 0 0½
Oatmeal ... ..	"	3 8	3 6½	— 0 1½
Rice—Rangoon ... ..	lb.	0 3½	0 3½	No change
Java ... ..	"	0 5½	0 5½	No change
Potatoes—Old ... ..	14 lbs.	0 9½	0 10½	+ 0 0½
New ... ..	"	—	2 1½	—
Tea—Best ... ..	lb.	3 9	3 9½	+ 0 0½
Cheapest ... ..	"	2 6½	2 6	— 0 0½
Sugar ... ..	"	0 7½	0 7½	+ 0 0½
Jam—Strawberry ... ..	1lb. pot	1 2½	1 2½	No change

It will be seen from the above Table that prices rose in the case of only eight of the 36 articles listed. Food prices generally showed the following changes :—From June, 1922, to October, 1922, a rise of 5.5 per cent.; from October, 1922, to January, 1923, a rise of 1.1 per cent.; from January, 1923, to April, 1923, a fall of 7.3 per cent.; and from April, 1923, to July, 1923, the slight fall of 0.5 per cent. Food prices show a decrease of 1.9 per cent. since June, 1922.



The fall in clothing prices recorded in previous enquiries has been maintained, and there has been a fall of 2.9 *per cent.* in the period mid-April, 1923 to mid-July, 1923. The preceding changes were :— From June, 1922 to October, 1922, a fall of 1.6 *per cent.*; from October, 1922 to January, 1923, a fall of 2.0 *per cent.*, and from January, 1923 to April, 1923, a fall of 2.5 *per cent.*; the clothing prices have fallen 6.1 *per cent.* from June, 1922 to July, 1923,

In the fuel and light group there were slight decreases in the prices of coal, paraffin oil, and candles, since the enquiry of April, 1923; in all, a fall of 0.3 *per cent.* was recorded from mid-April, 1923 to mid-July, 1923. The change from mid-June, 1922 to mid-July, 1923, was 0.6 *per cent.* decrease.

As rents have been changing so slowly, returns were collected on this subject only at every second Cost of Living Enquiry. From mid-June, 1922 to mid-January, 1923, there was an increase of 0.8 *per cent.*; from mid-January, 1923 to mid-July, 1923, there was a fall of 0.6 *per cent.*: the increase from mid-June, 1922 to mid-July, 1923 was 0.2 *per cent.*

FOR OFFICIAL USE.

# MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

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## REPORT

ON THE

## COST OF LIVING

---

OCTOBER, 1923

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DUBLIN :  
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

---

To be purchased through Messrs. EASON & SON, LTD.  
40 and 41 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.

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*Price 2d. Net.*

# Cost of Living Index Number.

**MID-OCTOBER, 1923.**

**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-Oct. 1923 = 86 per cent.**

The following are the Cost of Living figures which have been compiled up to the present for the Irish Free State :—

DATE	INDEX NO.
Mid-July, 1914 ... ..	100
Mid-March, 1922 ... ..	191
Mid-June, 1922 ... ..	185
Mid-October, 1922 ... ..	189
Mid-January, 1923 ... ..	190
Mid-April, 1923 ... ..	181
Mid-July, 1923 ... ..	180
Mid-October, 1923 ... ..	186

The general basis on which the figures have been collected and compiled has been explained in the report on the Cost of Living for mid-June, 1922. In the subsequent enquiries into the Cost of Living new returns had, of course, to be obtained for the several dates mentioned above. These returns were compiled on the same general basis as the returns obtained for June of last year.

It will be seen from the above that the Index Number representing the Cost of Living in the Irish Free State in mid-October, 1923, was 6 points above the Index Number for mid-July, but was 3 points below the Index Number for this time last year. The increase compared with mid-July was mainly due to an increase in the Food Group principally caused by a rise in the retail prices of Eggs, Milk and Butter. The corresponding figures for Great Britain and Northern



Ireland, as determined by the Ministry of Labour, London, for 1st July (169) and 1st October (175) also show a rise of 6 *points*, almost altogether attributable to a rise in food prices.

The following were the average retail prices of the principal articles of food :—

	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Average change in price in mid-Oct., 1923, compared with mid-July, 1923. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-July	Mid-Oct.	
		1923	1923	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ... ..	lb.	1 4½	1 4½	— 0 0½
Shoulder ... ..	"	1 1½	1 0½	— 0 0½
Corned Brisket ... ..	"	0 11½	0 11	— 0 0½
Neck ... ..	"	0 10	0 9½	— 0 0½
Liver ... ..	"	0 7½	0 7½	— 0 0½
Mutton—Leg ... ..	"	1 5½	1 4½	— 0 1
Neck ... ..	"	1 0½	1 0½	— 0 0½
Bacon—Irish Streaky ... ..	"	1 8½	1 6½	— 0 2
Irish Shoulder ... ..	"	1 2½	1 1	— 0 1½
American Streaky ... ..	"	1 2½	1 3½	+ 0 0½
American Shoulder ... ..	"	0 10½	0 11½	+ 0 1½
Pigs' Heads ... ..	"	0 6½	0 6½	No change
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ... ..	"	1 4	1 3½	— 0 0½
Pork Sausages ... ..	"	1 3	1 2	— 0 1
Fish—Red Herring ... ..	doz.	1 7	1 8½	+ 0 1½
Fresh Herring ... ..	"	1 10½	1 9½	— 0 1
Cod Steak ... ..	lb.	1 3½	1 4½	+ 0 0½
Eggs ... ..	doz.	1 4½	2 5½	+ 1 1
Butter—Irish Creamery ... ..	lb.	1 7½	1 11½	+ 0 3½
Irish Farmers' ... ..	"	1 5½	1 8½	+ 0 3
Margarine—First Grade ... ..	"	0 10½	0 11½	+ 0 0½
Second Grade ... ..	"	0 8½	0 8½	No change
Cheese—Golden Spray ... ..	"	1 6½	1 7	+ 0 0½
Lard ... ..	"	1 0	0 11½	— 0 0½
Fresh Milk ... ..	quart	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 0½
Condensed Milk ... ..	1lb. tin	0 11½	0 11½	No change
Bread ... ..	2lb. loaf	0 5½	0 5½	No change
Flour—Household ... ..	14 lbs.	2 10	2 8½	— 0 1½
Oatmeal ... ..	"	3 2½	3 6	— 0 0½
Rice—Rangoon ... ..	lb.	0 3½	0 4	+ 0 0½
Java ... ..	"	0 5½	0 5½	No change
Potatoes—New ... ..	14 lbs.	2 1½	—	—
Old ... ..	"	0 10½	1 2½	+ 0 4½
Tea—Best ... ..	lb.	3 9½	3 9½	+ 0 0½
Cheapest ... ..	"	2 6	2 7	+ 0 1
Sugar ... ..	"	0 7½	0 7½	— 0 0½
Jam—Strawberry ... ..	1lb. pot	1 2½	1 2½	No change

During the three months from July to October it will be seen from the above Table that prices in the Food Group rose in the case of 14 out of the 36 articles listed. The prices of Meat showed the usual seasonal fall, but the corresponding seasonal increase in the prices of Eggs, Milk and Butter had a greater influence on the Index

Number for food. The Index Numbers for food alone, as compiled at each of the enquiries, were as follows:—

DATE	INDEX NO.
July, 1914	100
March, 1922	191
June, 1922	185
October, 1922	196
January, 1923	198
April, 1923	183
July, 1923	182
October, 1923	190

The fall in clothing prices, which was continuous for each enquiry since June, 1922, was arrested in October. The Index Number for clothing (100 in July, 1914) rose from 173 in July, to 177 in October, 1923. Increases in prices in October as compared with July were registered in 18 out of the 23 articles listed in the Clothing Group. The increases, however, were small and had the effect of increasing the general Cost of Living Index Number by only three-fourths of a point. The changes in this group as recorded were:—From June to October, 1922, a fall of 1.6 *per cent.*; from October, 1922 to January, 1923, a fall of 2.1 *per cent.*; from January to April, 1923, a fall of 2.5 *per cent.*; from April to July, 1923, a fall of 2.9 *per cent.*, and from July to October, 1923, an increase of 2.4 *per cent.*

It was not considered necessary to make a special investigation into changes in rents on the occasion of the Cost of Living enquiry for October, as that item was included in the survey made for July last, and it may be taken for granted that there was no appreciable change in rents since that date. Accordingly, the same Index Number for rents as obtained from the July enquiry has been used for the purposes of calculating the general Cost of Living Index Number.

In the Fuel and Light Group compared with July, October showed a slight decrease, amounting to 0.7 *per cent.* The average prices for paraffin oil and gas were lower, while the prices of candles and coal showed a small increase. An increase in the price of coal usually occurs at this time of the year.

FOR OFFICIAL USE.

SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

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REPORT

ON THE

COST OF LIVING

---

MID-APRIL, 1924

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DUBLIN :

PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through Messrs. EASON & SON, LTD.

40 and 41 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.



# Cost of Living Index Number.

**MID-APRIL, 1924.**

**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-April 1924 = 78 per cent.**

The Cost of Living Index Number has changed comparatively little in Saorstát Éireann since mid-summer, 1922, and in Great Britain since October of the same year, as will be seen from the percentage decreases shown in the third and last columns of figures in the following Table. The decrease in Saorstát Éireann since January, 1923, although small, has been from two to three times as great as the decrease in Great Britain.

Cost of Living Index Number (basis :—July, 1914, = 100).

Month	SAORSTAT EIREANN			GREAT BRITAIN		
	1922-23	1923-24	Decrease %	1922-23	1923-24	Decrease %
July ...	185*	180	2.7	184†	169	8.2†
October ...	189	186	1.6	178	175	1.7
January ...	190	188	1.1	178	177	0.6
April ...	181	178	1.7	174	173	0.6

The following Table shows larger changes when comparisons are made between the Index Numbers from one quarter of the year to the next, owing to seasonal causes affecting changes in prices.

Percentage change in Cost of Living Index Numbers.

Month	SAORSTAT EIREANN			GREAT BRITAIN		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Jan. to April ...	—	-4.7	-5.3	—	-2.2	-2.3
April „ July ...	—	-0.6	—	—	-2.9	—
July „ Oct. ...	+2.2†	+3.3	-3.3†	+3.6	+1.1	—
Oct. „ Jan. ...	+0.5	+1.1	0.0	—	—	—

These figures show that unless the purchasing power of money changes more seriously than it has changed since October, 1922, decreases in the Cost of Living Index Numbers may be expected in the first and second quarters of the year, and increases in the third and fourth quarters.

The above figures show that the Index Number representing

\* This figure refers to June 1922.

† The figure for July 1922 (184) was higher than those for the preceding months (June 180, May 181) and the succeeding months (August 181, September 179).

‡ This figure refers to the period June to October.

the cost of living in the Saorstát fell by ten points from 188 in mid-January to 178 in mid-April. The decrease compared with mid-January was mainly due to a decrease in the food group principally caused by the seasonal fall in the retail prices of eggs and butter.

The following were the average retail prices of the principal articles of food :—

—	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Change in average price in mid-April, 1924, compared with mid-Jan., 1924. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid.-Jan.	Mid-April	
		1924	1924	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ...	lb.	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Shoulder ...	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Corned Brisket ...	"	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Neck ...	"	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Liver ...	"	0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 7	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mutton—Leg ...	"	1 5	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Neck ...	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bacon—Irish Streaky ...	"	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Irish Shoulder ...	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
American Streaky ...	"	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
American Shoulder ...	"	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 1
Pigs' Heads ...	"	0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ...	"	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pork Sausages ...	"	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Fish—Red Herrings ...	doz.	1 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Herrings ...	"	1 11	2 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cod Steak ...	lb.	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Eggs ...	doz.	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Butter—Irish Creamery ...	lb.	2 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 6 $\frac{1}{4}$
Irish Farmers' ...	"	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7	— 0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Margarine—First Grade ...	"	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Second Grade ...	"	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Cheese—Golden Spray ...	"	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Lard ...	"	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Fresh Milk ...	quart	0 6	0 6	No change
Condensed Milk ...	1 lb. tin	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Bread ...	2 lb. loaf	0 5	0 5	No change
Flour—Household ...	14 lbs.	2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Oatmeal ...	"	3 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Rice—Rangoon ...	lb.	0 4	0 4	No change
Java ...	"	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Potatoes ...	14 lbs.	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 2 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tea—Best ...	lb.	3 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	3 10	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cheapest ...	"	2 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 7	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sugar ...	"	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Jam—Strawberry ...	1 lb. pot	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change

During the three months from January to April it will be seen from the above Table that prices in the Food Group rose in the case of 11 and fell in 12 of the 36 articles listed, but as the influence of the expenditure "weights" was considerably greater in the articles which showed a decrease in price a fall of 16 points is noted in the Food Group. The prices of fresh meat showed

the usual seasonal increase, whilst prices of bacon were lower than in mid-January. The seasonal decrease in the price of eggs and butter had a marked influence on the Index Number. The Index Numbers for food alone, as compiled at each of the enquiries, were as follows:—

DATE	INDEX No.	DATE	INDEX No.
July, 1914	100	April, 1923	183
March, 1922	191	July, 1923	182
June, 1922	185	October, 1923	190
October, 1922	196	January, 1924	196
January, 1923	198	April, 1924	180

Increases in prices in April as compared with January were registered in 14 out of the 23 articles listed in the Clothing Group. The increases, however, were small and had the effect of increasing the general Cost of Living Index Numbers by less than half a point. The changes in this group as recorded were:—From June to October, 1922, a fall of 1.6 *per cent.*; from October, 1922, to January, 1923, a fall of 2.1 *per cent.*; from January to April, 1923, a fall of 2.5 *per cent.*; from April to July, 1923, a fall of 2.9 *per cent.*; July to October, 1923, an increase of 2.4 *per cent.*; from October, 1923, to January, 1924, a decrease of 1.9 *per cent.*; and from January to April, 1924, an increase of 0.8 *per cent.*

Compared with January, the Fuel and Light Group in April, 1924, showed a decrease, amounting to 0.3 *per cent.* The average prices for coal and gas were lower, while the price of paraffin oil showed a small increase.

It was not considered necessary to make a special investigation into changes in rents on the occasion of the Cost of Living inquiry for April, 1924, as returns for that item were collected in January last, and it has been taken for granted that there was no appreciable change in rents since that date. Accordingly, the same Index Number for rents as obtained from the January inquiry has been used for the purpose of calculating the general Cost of Living Index Number.



FOR OFFICIAL USE.

# MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

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## REPORT

ON THE

## COST OF LIVING

MID-JANUARY, 1924

DUBLIN :

PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through Messrs. EASON & SON, LTD.  
40 and 41 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.

Price 2d. Net.

# Cost of Living Index Number.

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**MID-JANUARY, 1924.**

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**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-Jan. 1924 = 88 per cent.**

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The following are the Cost of Living figures which have been compiled up to the present for the Irish Free State :—

DATE	INDEX No.
Mid-July, 1914 ... ..	100
Mid-March, 1922 ... ..	191
Mid-June, 1922 ... ..	185
Mid-October, 1922 ... ..	189
Mid-January, 1923 ... ..	190
Mid-April, 1923 ... ..	181
Mid-July, 1923 ... ..	180
Mid-October, 1923 ... ..	186
Mid-January, 1924 ... ..	188

The general basis on which the figures have been collected and compiled has been explained in the report on the Cost of Living for mid-June, 1922. In the subsequent enquiries into the Cost of Living new returns had, of course, to be obtained for the several dates mentioned above. These returns were compiled on the same general basis as the returns obtained for June, 1922.

It will be seen from the above that the Index Number representing the Cost of Living in the Irish Free State in mid-January, 1924, was 2 *points* above the Index Number for mid-October, but was also 2 *points* below the Index Number for this time last year. The increase compared with mid-October was mainly due to an increase in the Food Group, principally caused by a rise in the retail prices of Eggs, Butter, Milk and Potatoes. The corresponding figures for Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as determined by the Ministry of Labour, London, for 1st October, 1923, and 1st January, 1924, which were 175 and 177

respectively, also show a rise of 2 *points*, almost altogether attributable to a rise in food prices.

The following were the average retail prices of the principal articles of food :—

	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Change in average price in mid-Jan., 1924, compared with mid-Oct., 1923. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-Oct.	Mid-Jan.	
		1923	1924	
Beef—Sirloin ... ..	lb.	s. d. 1 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	s. d. 1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Shoulder ... ..	"	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corned Brisket ... ..	"	0 11	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Neck ... ..	"	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Liver ... ..	"	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mutton—Leg ... ..	"	1 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 5	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Neck ... ..	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Bacon—Irish Streaky ... ..	"	1 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Irish Shoulder ... ..	"	1 1	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
American Streaky ... ..	"	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
American Shoulder ... ..	"	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pigs' Heads ... ..	"	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ... ..	"	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 1
Pork Sausages ... ..	"	1 2	1 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish—Red Herrings ... ..	doz.	1 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 1
Fresh Herrings ... ..	"	1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cod Steak ... ..	lb.	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Eggs ... ..	doz.	2 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3
Butter—Irish Creamery ... ..	lb.	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Irish Farmers' ... ..	"	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3
Margarine—First Grade ... ..	"	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Second Grade ... ..	"	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cheese—Golden Spray ... ..	"	1 7	1 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Lard ... ..	"	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	No change
Fresh Milk ... ..	quart	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Condensed Milk ... ..	1 lb. tin	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Bread ... ..	2 lb. loaf	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 5	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Flour—Household ... ..	14 lbs.	2 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Oatmeal ... ..	"	3 6	3 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Rice—Rangoon ... ..	lb.	0 4	0 4	No change
Java ... ..	"	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Potatoes ... ..	14 lbs.	1 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 2
Tea—Best ... ..	lb.	3 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cheapest ... ..	"	2 7	2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Sugar ... ..	"	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Jam—Strawberry ... ..	1 lb. pot	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change

During the three months from October to January it will be seen from the above Table that prices in the Food Group rose in the case of only 10 out of the 36 articles listed, but as the influence of the expenditure "weights" was considerably greater in these 10 articles than in the remaining 26 articles (17 of which showed a decrease and 9 no change) an advance of six points is noted in

the Food Group. The prices of Meat showed the usual seasonal fall, but the corresponding seasonal increase in the prices of Eggs, Milk and Butter had a greater influence on the Index Number for food. The Index Numbers for food alone, as compiled at each of the enquiries, were as follows:—

DATE	INDEX No.
July, 1914	100
March, 1922	191
June, 1922	185
October, 1922	196
January, 1923	198
April, 1923	183
July, 1923	182
October, 1923	190
January, 1924	196

The Index Number for Clothing (100 in July, 1914) fell from 177 in October, 1923, to 174 in January, 1924. Decreases in prices in January as compared with October were registered in 16 out of the 23 articles listed in the Clothing Group. The decreases, however, were small and had the effect of decreasing the general Cost of Living Index Number by only half a point. The changes in this group as recorded were:—From June to October, 1922, a fall of 1.6 *per cent.*; from October, 1922, to January, 1923, a fall of 2.1 *per cent.*; from January to April, 1923, a fall of 2.5 *per cent.*; from April to July, 1923, a fall of 2.9 *per cent.*; July to October, 1923, an increase of 2.4 *per cent.*; and from October, 1923, to January, 1924, a decrease of 1.9 *per cent.*

Compared with October the Fuel and Light Group in January showed a decrease, amounting to 1.8 *per cent.* The average prices for coal and gas were lower, while the price of paraffin oil showed a small increase.

Returns of comparative rents are obtained only at every second Cost of Living Enquiry, and those received for January, 1924, show a slight increase amounting to 0.4 *per cent.* compared with July, 1923. From mid-June, 1922, to mid-January, 1923, there was an increase of 0.8 *per cent.*; from mid-January, 1923, to mid-July, 1923, there was a fall of 0.6 *per cent.* The change between June, 1922, and January, 1924, was 0.6 *per cent.* increase.



FOR OFFICIAL USE.

SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

REPORT

ON THE

COST OF LIVING

MID-JULY, 1924

DUBLIN :  
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through Messrs. EASON & SON, LTD.  
40 and 41 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.

*Price Twopence.*

# Cost of Living Index Number.

**MID-JULY, 1924.**

**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-July 1924 = 83 per cent.**

The following Table shows the Cost of Living Index Numbers in Saorstát Eireann and in Great Britain at quarterly intervals in 1922, 1923 and 1924.

(Basis:—July, 1914 = 100.)

Month*	SAORSTAT EIREANN			GREAT BRITAIN		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
January ...	†	190	188	192	178	177
April ...	191†	181	178	182	174	173
July ...	185§	180	183	184	169	170
October ...	189	186		178	175	

The following Table which shows the percentage Annual Changes calculated from the above figures indicates that the Annual Movements in the Cost of Living have been in the same direction in the two countries since the spring of 1922.

**Percentage Annual Changes in Cost of Living Index Number.**

—		SAORSTAT EIREANN	GREAT BRITAIN	—		SAORSTAT EIREANN	GREAT BRITAIN
1922	1923	%	%	1923	1924	%	%
Jan. to Jan. ...		†	- 7.3	Jan. to Jan. ...		- 1.1	- 0.6
April „ April ...		- 5.2††	- 4.4	April „ April ...		- 1.7	- 0.6
July „ July ...		- 2.7††	- 8.2	July „ July ...		+ 1.7	+ 0.6
Oct. „ Oct. ...		- 1.6	- 1.7				

The following figures, which also have been calculated from the first Table, show that quarterly movements have not invariably been in the same direction in the two countries.

**Percentage Quarterly Changes in Cost of Living Index Number.**

Quarter	SAORSTAT EIREANN			GREAT BRITAIN		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Jan. to April	% †	% - 4.7	% - 5.3	% - 5.2	% - 2.2	% - 2.3
April „ July	- 3.1	- 0.6	+ 2.8	+ 1.1	- 2.9	- 1.7
July „ Oct.	+ 2.2¶	+ 3.3		- 3.3	+ 3.6	
Oct. „ Jan.	+ 0.5	+ 1.1		0.0	+ 1.1	

\* The figures for Saorstát Eireann refer to the middle of the month, those for Great Britain to the first of the month.

† March, 1922.

†† March, 1922, to April, 1923.

|| March to June.

§ June, 1922.

¶¶ June, 1922, to July, 1923

¶ June to October.

The increase in the Cost of Living Index Number for Saorstát Éireann from 178 in mid-April, 1924, to 183 in mid-July, an increase of 5 points or of 2.8 per cent., resulted from an increase of 2.8 per cent. in the retail price of food, 4.2 per cent. in clothing, 2.6 per cent. in fuel and light and 1.6 per cent. in "sundries," and a decrease of 0.2 per cent. in rent. The more important price changes were the increases in the retail prices of eggs, potatoes, butter and bacon, and the decreases in the retail prices of milk, sugar and tea. Boots increased in price by 8.6 per cent., other clothing by 3.1 per cent. The retail price of candles rose by 10 per cent., other articles in the fuel and light group by 2 per cent. The retail price of soap increased by 2.3 per cent., other articles in the "sundries" group by 1.6 per cent.

While the increased prices of eggs, potatoes, butter and bacon tended to raise the Cost of Living by 2.8 per cent. and the increased prices of boots, soap and candles tended to raise it by 0.3 per cent., the decreased prices of tea and sugar tended to lower the Cost of Living by 0.5 per cent. and the decreased price of fresh milk tended to lower it by 0.9 per cent. The resultant of these and other changes in retail prices was, as stated, an increase in the Cost of Living of 2.8 per cent. from mid-April to mid-July.

The following were the average retail prices of the principal articles of food :—

—	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Change in average price in mid-July, 1924, compared with mid-April, 1924. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-April	Mid-July.	
		1924	1924	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ...	lb.	1 3½	1 4	+ 0 0½
Shoulder ...	"	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 0½
Corned Brisket ...	"	0 10½	0 10½	No change
Neck ...	"	0 9½	0 9½	No change
Liver ...	"	0 7	0 7½	+ 0 0½
Mutton—Leg ...	"	1 5½	1 5	— 0 0½
Neck ...	"	1 0½	1 0½	— 0 0½
Bacon—Irish Streaky ...	"	1 4½	1 5½	+ 0 1½
Irish Shoulder ...	"	0 11½	1 0½	+ 0 0½
American Streaky ...	"	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 0½
American Shoulder ...	"	0 9½	0 9½	+ 0 0½
Pigs' Heads ...	"	0 5½	0 5½	+ 0 0½
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ...	"	1 1½	1 2½	+ 0 0½
Pork Sausages ...	"	1 1½	1 1½	— 0 0½
Fish—Red Herrings ...	doz.	1 7½	1 7½	No change
Fresh Herrings ...	"	2 0½	2 1	+ 0 0½
Cod Steak ...	lb.	1 3½	1 3½	No change
Eggs ...	doz.	1 3½	1 9	+ 0 5½
Butter—Irish Creamery ...	lb.	1 8½	1 10½	+ 0 2
Irish Farmers' ...	"	1 7	1 7½	+ 0 0½
Margarine—First Grade ...	"	0 11½	0 11½	No change
Second Grade ...	"	0 8½	0 8½	+ 0 0½
Cheese—Golden Spray ...	"	1 5½	1 6	+ 0 0½
Lard ...	"	0 11½	0 11½	No change
Fresh Milk ...	quart	0 6	0 5	— 0 1
Condensed Milk ...	1 lb. tin	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 0½
Bread ...	2 lb. loaf	0 5	0 5	No change
Flour—Household ...	14 lbs.	2 7½	2 7½	— 0 0½

	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Change in average price in mid-July, 1924, compared with mid-April, 1924 Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-April	Mid-July	
		1924	1924	
Oatmeal ... ..	"	3 5½	3 6	+ 0 ½
Rice—Rangoon ... ..	lb.	0 4	0 4½	+ 0 ½
Java ... ..	"	0 5½	0 5½	No change
Potatoes ... ..	14 lbs.	1 7½	2 0½	+ 0 5½
Tea—Best ... ..	lb.	3 10	3 8½	— 0
Cheapest ... ..	"	2 7	2 6½	— 0 ½
Sugar ... ..	"	0 7½	0 6½	— 0 ½
Jam—Strawberry ... ..	1lb. pot	1 2½	1 2½	+ 0 ½

During the three months from April to July it will be seen from the above Table that prices in the Food Group rose in the case of 20 and fell in 8 of the 36 articles listed. The result was an increase from 180 to 185 in the Index Number for the Food Group from mid-April to mid-July.

The Index Numbers for food alone, as compiled at each of the enquiries, were as follows:—

DATE	INDEX No.	DATE	INDEX No.
July, 1914 ...	100	July, 1923 ...	182
March, 1922 ...	191	October, 1923 ...	190
June, 1922 ...	185	January, 1924 ...	196
October, 1922 ...	196	April, 1924 ...	180
January, 1923 ...	198	July, 1924 ...	185
April, 1923 ...	183		

Increases in prices in July as compared with April were registered in 19 out of 23 articles listed in the Clothing Group. The changes in this group as recorded were:—from March to June, 1922, a fall of 2.2 *per cent.*; from June to October, 1922, a fall of 1.6 *per cent.*; from October, 1922, to January, 1923, a fall of 2.1 *per cent.*; from January to April, 1923, a fall of 2.5 *per cent.*; from April to July, 1923, a fall of 2.9 *per cent.*; July to October, 1923, an increase of 2.4 *per cent.*; from October, 1923, to January, 1924, a decrease of 1.9 *per cent.*; from January to April, 1924, an increase of 0.8 *per cent.*; from April to July an increase of 4.2 *per cent.* From April to July the price of boots increased by 8.6 *per cent.*; other clothing by 3.1 *per cent.*

Returns of comparative rents are obtained only at every second Cost of Living Inquiry. The returns showed an increase of 0.8 *per cent.* from June, 1922, to January, 1923, a fall of 0.6 *per cent.* from January to July, 1923, then an increase of 0.4 *per cent.* to January, 1924, followed by a decrease of 0.2 *per cent.* to July, 1924.



SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

REPORT

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*Price Twopence.*

# Cost of Living Index Number.

**MID-OCTOBER, 1924.**

**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-Oct., 1924 = 93 per cent.**

There has been a marked upward movement in Saorstát Eireann in the average level of retail prices during the six months period April to October, 1924. From mid-April to mid-July there was an increase of 5 *points* in the Cost of Living Index Number, and from mid-July to mid-October there was a further rise of 10 *points* or 5.5 *per cent.* This upward tendency is also revealed in the British Cost of Living Index Number which has registered a rise of 10 *points* as between 1st July and 1st November, 1924.

The following Tables show (1) the Cost of Living Index Numbers, (2) the Percentage Annual Changes, and (3) the Percentage Quarterly Changes in Saorstát Eireann and in Great Britain at quarterly intervals in 1922, 1923 and 1924.

## (1) Cost of Living Index Numbers.

(Basis:—July, 1914=100.)

Month*	SAORSTAT EIREANN			GREAT BRITAIN		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
January ...	†	190	188	192	178	177
April ...	191†	181	178	182	174	173
July ...	185§	180	183	184	169	170
October ...	189	186	193	178	175	176

## (2) Percentage Annual Changes in Cost of Living Index Number.

—		SAORSTAT EIREANN	GREAT BRITAIN	—		SAORSTAT EIREANN	GREAT BRITAIN
1922	1923	%	%	1923	1924	%	%
Jan. to Jan. ...	...	†	- 7.3	Jan. to Jan. ...	...	- 1.1	- 0.6
April, „ April ...	...	- 5.2††	- 4.4	April, „ April ...	...	- 1.7	- 0.6
July, „ July ...	...	- 2.7††	- 8.2	July, „ July ...	...	+ 1.7	+ 0.6
Oct. „ Oct. ...	...	- 1.6	- 1.7	Oct. „ Oct. ...	...	+ 3.8	+ 0.6

## (3) Percentage Quarterly Changes in Cost of Living Index Number.

Quarter	SAORSTAT EIREANN			GREAT BRITAIN		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Jan. to April	% †	% - 4.7	% - 5.3	% - 5.2	% - 2.2	% - 2.3
April, „ July	- 3.1	- 0.6	+ 2.8	+ 1.1	- 2.9	- 1.7
July, „ Oct.	+ 2.2¶	+ 3.3	+ 5.5	- 3.3	+ 3.6	+ 3.5
Oct. „ Jan.	+ 0.5	+ 1.1		0.0	+ 1.1	

\* The figures for Saorstát Eireann refer to the middle of the month, those for Great Britain to the first of the month. † Not available.

‡ March, 1922.

§ June, 1922.

†† March, 1922, to April, 1923.

‡‡ June, 1922, to July, 1923.

|| March to June.

¶ June to October.

There was an increase of 8.2 *per cent.* in the retail price of food, 2.0 *per cent.* in clothing, 1.1 *per cent.* in fuel and light, and 4.1 *per cent.* in " sundries." The more important price changes were the increases in the retail prices of eggs, butter, fresh milk, bread, flour and bacon, and the decrease in the retail price of potatoes. Boots increased in price by 4.3 *per cent.*, other clothing by 1.4 *per cent.* The retail price of candles rose by 4.9 *per cent.*, coal by 1.1 *per cent.*, other articles in the fuel and light group by 0.7 *per cent.* The retail price of soap increased by 0.6 *per cent.*, other articles in the " sundries " group by 4.5 *per cent.*

While the increased prices of eggs, butter, fresh milk, bread, flour and bacon tended to raise the Cost of Living by 5.6 *per cent.*, and the increased prices of boots, soap and candles tended to raise it by 0.2 *per cent.*, the decreased price of potatoes tended to lower the Cost of Living by 1.3 *per cent.* The resultant of these and other changes in retail prices was, as stated, an increase in the Cost of Living of 5.5 *per cent.* from mid-July to mid-October.

During the three months from July to October it will be seen from the Table on the next page that prices in the Food Group rose in the case of 24 and fell in 3 of the 36 articles listed. The result was an increase from 185 to 200 in the Index Number for the Food Group from mid-July to mid-October.

The Index Numbers for Food alone, as compiled at each of the enquiries, were as follows:—

DATE	INDEX No.	DATE	INDEX No.
July, 1914	... 100	July, 1923	... 182
March, 1922	... 191	October, 1923	... 190
June, 1922	... 185	January, 1924	... 196
October, 1922	... 196	April, 1924	... 180
January, 1923	... 198	July, 1924	... 185
April, 1923	... 183	October, 1924	... 200

In the clothing group increases in prices in October as compared with July were registered in 18 out of 23 articles listed. The changes in this group as recorded were:—from March to June, 1922, a fall of 2.2 *per cent.*; from June to October, 1922, a fall of 1.6 *per cent.*; from October, 1922, to January, 1923, a fall of 2.1 *per cent.*; from January to April, 1923, a fall of 2.5 *per cent.*; from April to July, 1923, a fall of 2.9 *per cent.*; July to October, 1923, an increase of 2.4 *per cent.*; from October, 1923, to January, 1924, a decrease of 1.9 *per cent.*; from January to April, 1924, an increase of 0.8 *per cent.*; from April to July an increase of 4.2 *per cent.*; from July to October, 1924, an increase of 2.0 *per cent.* From July to October the price of boots increased by 4.3 *per cent.*; other clothing by 1.4 *per cent.*

The following were the average retail prices of the principal articles of food :—

	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Change in average price in mid-Oct., 1924, compared with mid-July, 1924. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-July.	Mid-Oct.	
		1924	1924	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ...	lb.	1 4	1 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Shoulder ...	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Corned Brisket ...	"	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	● 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Neck ...	"	0 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	● 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	No change
Liver ...	"	0 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	● 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Mutton—Leg ...	"	1 5	1 5	No change
Neck ...	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Bacon—Irish Streaky ...	"	1 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Irish Shoulder ...	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
American Streaky ...	"	1 0 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 2	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
American Shoulder ...	"	● 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	● 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pigs' Heads ...	"	0 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	● 6	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ...	"	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 3	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pork Sausages ...	"	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish—Red Herrings ...	doz.	1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 8	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Herrings ...	"	2 1	2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cod Steak ...	lb.	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 4	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Eggs ...	doz.	1 9	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Butter—Irish Creamery ...	lb.	1 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Irish Farmers' ...	"	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 3 $\frac{3}{4}$
Margarine—First Grade ...	"	0 11 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Second Grade ...	"	0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	No change
Cheese—Golden Spray ...	"	1 6	1 6	No change
Lard ...	"	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 0	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Milk ...	quart	0 5	0 6	+ 0 1
Condensed Milk ...	1 lb. tin	● 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bread ...	2 lb. loaf	0 5	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flour—Household ...	14 lbs.	2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 4
Oatmeal ...	"	3 6	3 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Rice—Rangoon ...	lb.	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 4 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Java ...	"	0 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 6	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Potatoes ...	14 lbs.	2 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	— 0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tea—Best ...	lb.	3 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cheapest ...	"	2 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 7 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 1
Sugar ...	"	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	No change
Jam—Strawberry ...	1 lb. pot	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{3}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$



SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

REPORT

ON THE

COST OF LIVING

MID-JANUARY, 1925

DUBLIN :  
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased through Messrs. EASON & SON, LTD.  
40 and 41 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.

*Price Twopence.*

# Cost of Living Index Number.

**MID-JANUARY, 1925.**

**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-Jan, 1925 = 95 per cent.**

FOLLOWING on the marked upward movement in Saorstát Eireann in the average level of retail prices during the three months period July to October, 1924, a further increase is recorded in the period October, 1924, to January, 1925. From mid-July to mid-October there was an increase of 10 *points* in the Cost of Living Index Number, and from mid-October to mid-January there was a further rise of 2 *points* or 1.0 per cent. This upward tendency, which is seasonal, is also revealed in the British Cost of Living Index Number, which has registered a rise of 10 *points* as between 1st July, 1924, and 1st January, 1925.

The following Tables show (1) the Cost of Living Index Numbers, (2) the Percentage Annual Changes, and (3) the Percentage Quarterly Changes in Saorstát Eireann and in Great Britain at quarterly intervals in 1922, 1923, 1924 and 1925.

## (1) Cost of Living Index Numbers.

(Basis:—July, 1914=100.)

Month*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1 22	1923	1924	1925
January ...	†	190	188	195	192	178	177	180
April ...	191†	181	178		182	174	173	
July ...	185§	180	183		184	169	170	
October ...	189	186	193		178	175	176	

## (2) Percentage Annual Changes in Cost of Living Index Number.

		SAORSTAT EIREANN	GREAT BRITAIN			SAORSTAT EIREANN	GREAT BRITAIN
1922	1923	%	%	1923	1924	%	%
Jan. to Jan. ...		†	- 7.3	Jan. to Jan. ...		- 1.1	- 0.6
April „ April ...		- 5.2††	- 4.4	April „ April ...		- 1.7	- 0.6
July „ July ...		- 2.7††	- 8.2	July „ July ...		+ 1.7	+ 0.6
Oct. „ Oct. ...		- 1.6	- 1.7	Oct. „ Oct. ...		+ 3.8	+ 0.6
				1924	1925		
				Jan. to Jan. ...		+ 3.7	+ 1.7

## (3) Percentage Quarterly Changes in Cost of Living Index Number.

Quarter	SAORSTAT EIREANN			GREAT BRITAIN		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Jan. to April	% †	% - 4.7	% - 5.3	% - 5.2	% - 2.2	% - 2.3
April „ July	- 3.1	- 0.6	+ 2.8	+ 1.1	- 2.9	- 1.7
July „ Oct.	+ 2.2¶	+ 3.3	+ 5.5	- 3.3	+ 3.6	+ 3.5
Oct. „ Jan.	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 1.0	0.0	+ 1.1	+ 2.3

\* The figures for Saorstát Eireann refer to the middle of the month, those for Great Britain to the first of the month. † Not available.

† March, 1922.

§ June, 1922.

†† March, 1922, to April, 1923.

¶¶ June, 1922, to July, 1923.

|| March to June.

¶ June to October.

In January, 1925, as compared with October, 1924, there was an increase of 1.5 *per cent.* in the retail price of food, 2.3 *per cent.* in clothing, and 0.7 *per cent.* in "sundries." On the other hand a decrease is recorded in the fuel and light group of 1.4 *per cent.* and in the rent group of 0.2 *per cent.* The more important price changes were the increases in the retail prices of butter, fresh milk, bread, flour and potatoes, and the decreases in the retail prices of sugar and eggs. Boots increased in price by 2.4 *per cent.*, other clothing by 2.3 *per cent.* The retail price of candles fell by 4.4 *per cent.*, coal by 1.5 *per cent.*, other articles in the fuel and light group by 1.0 *per cent.* The retail price of soap decreased by 1.7 *per cent.*, whereas other articles in the "sundries" group increased by 0.9 *per cent.*

While the increased prices of butter, fresh milk, bread, flour and potatoes tended to raise the Cost of Living by 1.1 *per cent.*, and the increased prices of boots and other clothing tended to raise it by 0.4 *per cent.*, the decreased prices of sugar and eggs tended to lower the Cost of Living by 0.3 *per cent.* The resultant of these and other changes in retail prices was, as stated, an increase in the Cost of Living of 1.0 *per cent.* from mid-October to mid-January.

During the three months from October to January it will be seen from the Table on the next page that prices in the Food Group rose in the case of 18 and fell in 10 of the 36 articles listed. The result was an increase from 200 to 203 in the Index Number for the Food Group from mid-October to mid-January.

The Index Numbers for Food alone, as compiled at each of the enquiries, were as follows:—

DATE	INDEX No.	DATE	INDEX No.
July, 1914	... 100	October, 1923	... 190
March, 1922	... 191	January, 1924	... 196
June, 1922	... 185	April, 1924	... 180
October, 1922	... 196	July, 1924	... 185
January, 1923	... 198	October, 1924	... 200
April, 1923	... 183	January, 1925	... 203
July, 1923	... 182		

In the clothing group increases in prices in January as compared with October were registered in 22 out of 23 articles listed. The changes in this group as recorded were:—from March to June, 1922, a fall of 2.2 *per cent.*; from June to October, 1922, a fall of 1.6 *per cent.*; from October, 1922, to January, 1923, a fall of 2.1 *per cent.*; from January to April, 1923, a fall of 2.5 *per cent.*; from April to July, 1923, a fall of 2.9 *per cent.*; July to October, 1923, an increase of 2.4 *per cent.*; from October, 1923, to January, 1924, a decrease of 1.9 *per cent.*; from January to April, 1924, an increase of 0.8 *per cent.*; from April to July an increase of 4.2 *per cent.*; from July to October, 1924, an increase of 2.0 *per cent.*, and from October, 1924, to January, 1925, an increase of 2.3 *per cent.* From October to January the price of boots increased by 2.4 *per cent.*; other clothing by 2.2 *per cent.*

Returns of comparative rents are obtained only at every second Cost of Living enquiry. The returns showed an increase of 0.8 per cent. from June, 1922, to January, 1923; a fall of 0.6 per cent. from January to July, 1923; an increase of 0.4 per cent. from July, 1923, to January, 1924; then a fall of 0.2 per cent. from January to July, 1924, followed by a fall of 0.2 per cent. from July, 1924, to January, 1925.

The following were the average retail prices of the principal articles of food :—

—	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Change in average price in mid-Jan., 1925, compared with mid-Oct., 1924. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-Oct.	Mid-Jan..	
		1924	1925	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ...	lb.	1 3 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 4	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Shoulder ...	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	No change
Corned Brisket ...	"	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Neck ...	"	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Liver ...	"	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Mutton—Leg ...	"	1 5	1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Neck ...	"	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bacon—Irish Streaky ...	"	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Irish Shoulder ...	"	1 1	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
American Streaky ...	"	1 2	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
American Shoulder ...	"	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pigs' Heads ...	"	0 6	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ...	"	1 3	1 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pork Sausages ...	"	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Fish—Red Herrings ...	doz.	1 8	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Herrings ...	"	2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cod Steak ...	lb.	1 4	1 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Eggs ...	doz.	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Butter—Irish Creamery ...	lb.	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Irish Farmers' ...	"	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Margarine—First Grade ...	"	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Second Grade ...	"	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	No change
Cheese—Golden Spray ...	"	1 6	1 6	No change
Lard ...	"	1 0	1 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Milk ...	quart	0 6	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Condensed Milk ...	1 lb. tin	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Bread ...	2 lb. loaf	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Flour—Household ...	14 lbs.	2 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Oatmeal ...	"	3 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 1
Rice—Rangoon ...	lb.	0 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 4	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Java ...	"	0 6	0 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Potatoes ...	14 lbs.	1 6	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Tea—Best ...	lb.	3 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Cheapest ...	"	2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	+ 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Sugar ...	"	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Jam—Strawberry ...	1 lb. pot	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	— 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$



SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

REPORT

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MID-APRIL, 1925

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PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE

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40 and 41 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin.

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Price Twopence.

# Cost of Living Index Number.

**MID-APRIL, 1925.**

**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-April, 1925 = 88 per cent.**

The following are the Cost of Living Index Numbers for Saorstát Éireann and Great Britain and Northern Ireland :—

(Basis :—July, 1914 = 100.)

Month*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	†	190	188	195	192	178	177	180
April ...	191†	181	178	188	182	174	173	175
July ...	185†	180	183		184	169	170	
October ...	189	186	193		178	175	176	

The above index numbers being mainly dependent on food prices, show regular seasonal changes, decreasing from January to July and increasing from July to January, as will be seen from the next table, which shows the percentage changes in each quarter of the year.

Period*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
Jan. to April ...	% †	% - 4.7	% - 5.3	% - 3.6	% - 5.2	% - 2.2	% - 2.3	% - 2.8
April to July ...	- 3.1†	- 0.6	+ 2.8		+ 1.1	- 2.9	- 1.7	
July to Oct. ...	+ 2.2†	+ 3.3	+ 5.5		- 3.3	+ 3.6	+ 3.5	
Oct. to Jan. ...	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 1.0		0.0	+ 1.1	+ 2.3	

The index numbers for food [alone] were :—

Month*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	†	198	196	203	185	175	175	178
April ...	191†	183	180	191	173	168	167	170
July ...	185†	182	185		180	162	162	
October ...	196	190	200		172	172	172	

These index numbers for cost of living and for food [alone] must not be taken as indicating that retail prices are higher in Saorstát Éireann than in Great Britain; they show only that retail prices have risen more in the former than in the latter country since July, 1914.

The prices of some of the commodities influencing the cost of living index number show no seasonal changes. The retail price of bacon decreased continuously from March, 1922, to April,

\* The figures for Saorstát Éireann refer to the middle of the month, those for Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the first of the month.

† The first two cost of living index numbers compiled for Saorstát Éireann referred to March [not April] and to June [not July], 1922.

1924, and then increased to April, 1925; *bread and flour* fell to July, 1924, and then increased to April, 1925. *Sugar and tea* increased to April, 1924, and then dropped to April, 1925. Retail prices of *boots and other clothing* moved in the other direction, decreasing to April, 1924, and then increasing to April, 1925. *Candles* fell to January, and *soap* to April, 1924, and afterwards increased in price to April, 1925.

The retail prices of other commodities fluctuate more or less violently with the seasons, but the underlying movements due to other causes can be observed either by considering the averages for four consecutive inquiries or by comparing prices at the same date in each year. The latter method is adopted in the following table, which shows that there was a downward trend in *beef* prices to October, 1924, and then a change upwards; in *mutton* an upward movement to October, 1923, then downwards to July, 1924, and then another movement upwards, and so on for the other articles. The table shows that the Saorstát and British cost of living index numbers moved continuously in the same direction—downwards to April, 1924, and then upwards.

Percentage changes in retail prices and in rent (figures in ordinary type represent increases, figures in *italics* decreases):—

	1922-1923			1923-1924				1924-1925	
	Mar. '22 to April '23	June '22 to July '23	Oct. '22 to Oct. '23	Jan. '23 to Jan. '24	April '23 to April '24	July '23 to July '24	Oct. '23 to Oct. '24	Jan. '24 to Jan. '25	April '24 to April '25
Beef ...	5.5	3.9	0.1	4.4	6.4	4.7	3.4	1.9	4.2
Mutton ...	3.0	0.3	3.2	0.8	4.8	2.9	1.4	2.1	12.6
Bacon ...	11.0	19.1	19.4	22.7	22.0	13.3	0.8	8.4	18.6
Eggs ...	22.5	6.4	16.4	8.5	7.3	27.1	9.6	0.7	7.8
Butter ...	3.5	8.7	8.2	3.9	12.4	12.5	13.1	0.9	14.2
Milk ...	7.0	3.6	3.6	5.3	3.1	1.2	8.1	8.7	3.8
Bread ...	4.5	4.6	4.3	5.7	6.0	5.6	6.4	12.4	19.1
Flour ...	6.2	6.2	5.1	6.9	5.8	7.2	10.3	16.9	17.3
Potatoes ...	28.8	8.4	42.6	69.1	96.5	36.4	21.7	10.5	12.8
Sugar ...	24.0	23.5	17.3	16.8	2.5	9.2	8.3	14.5	19.8
Tea ...	2.2	12.1	10.2	6.6	2.0	1.3	1.2	0.6	1.3
Boots ...	9.3	11.9	8.6	8.8	2.1	11.7	15.1	20.4	16.6
Other Clothing ...	7.8	8.0	4.2	3.9	1.5	4.1	2.7	7.0	7.9
Candles ...	22.4	18.5	12.3	9.1	16.3	31.7	35.0	31.1	6.5
Soap ...	10.3	5.5	10.1	7.3	2.9	1.2	2.6	0.6	0.3
Rent ...	*	0.2	*	0.2	*	0.1	*	0.4	*
COST OF LIVING INDEX No. :									
Saorstát Éireann	5.2	2.7	1.6	1.1	1.7	1.7	3.8	3.7	5.6
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	4.4	8.2	1.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.7	1.2

\* Returns of rents are obtained only at every second cost of living inquiry.

The following table shows perhaps more satisfactorily the similarity of the movements of the cost of living in the two countries. The figures represent the *average* cost of living index numbers for each four consecutive dates at which inquiries were made in the Saorstát, and accordingly are influenced by high winter as well as by low summer prices. (The British figures do not represent averages of 12 consecutive monthly index figures, but of the 4 referring to same dates as those for Saorstát Éireann.)



Average index number for 12 months and including :

	1923				1924				1925	
	Jan.	April	July	Oct.	Jan.	April	July	Oct.	Jan.	April
Saorstát Éireann ...	188½	186¼	185	184¼	183½	183	183½	185½	187½	189½
Great Britain and Northern Ireland ...	180½	178½	174½	174	173½	173½	173½	174	174½	175½

From the 12 months ended January, 1923, to the 12 months ended April, 1924, the Saorstát cost of living fell by 3.0 per cent., the British by 3.9 per cent.; but from the latter period to the 12 months ended April, 1925, the Saorstát figure increased by 3.7 per cent., the British by 1.0 per cent.

The following table shows average retail prices in the towns (large and small) of Saorstát Éireann of the principal articles of food :—

—	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Change in average price in mid-April, 1925, compared with mid-January, 1925. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-Jan.	Mid-April	
		1925	1925	
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ...	lb.	1 4	1 4½	+ 0 0½
Shoulder ...	"	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 0½
Corned Brisket ...	"	0 10½	0 10½	No change
Neck ...	"	0 9½	0 10½	+ 0 0½
Liver ...	"	0 7½	0 7½	No change
Mutton—Leg ...	"	1 5½	1 7½	+ 0 2½
Neck ...	"	1 0½	1 2	+ 0
Bacon—Irish Streaky ...	"	1 7½	1 8	+ 0 0½
Irish Shoulder ...	"	1 1½	1 1½	+ 0 0½
American Streaky ...	"	1 1½	1 1½	+ 0 0½
American Shoulder ...	"	0 10½	0 10½	+ 0 0½
Pigs' Heads ...	"	0 6½	0 6½	+ 0 0½
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ...	"	1 3½	1 4	+ 0 0½
Pork Sausages ...	"	1 1½	1 2	+ 0 0½
Fish—Red Herring ...	doz.	1 7½	1 7	— 0 0½
Fresh Herring ...	"	2 1½	2 1	— 0 0½
Cod Steak ...	lb.	1 4½	1 3½	— 0 0½
Eggs ...	doz.	2 8½	1 5	— 1 3½
Butter—Irish Creamery ...	lb.	2 2½	1 11½	— 0 3½
Irish Farmers' ...	"	1 11½	1 10	— 0 1½
Margarine—First Grade ...	"	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 0½
Second Grade ...	"	0 8½	0 8½	No change
Cheese—Golden Spray ...	"	1 6	1 6	No change
Lard ...	"	1 0½	1 0½	+ 0 0½
Fresh Milk ...	quart	0 6½	0 6½	— 0 0½
Condensed Milk ...	1 lb. tin	0 11½	0 11½	+ 0 0½
Bread ...	2 lb. loaf	0 5½	0 6	+ 0 0½
Flour—Household ...	14 lbs.	3 0½	3 1½	+ 0 0½
Oatmeal ...	"	3 8½	3 8½	No change
Rice—Rangoon ...	lb.	0 4	0 4	No change
Java ...	"	0 5½	0 5½	No change
Potatoes ...	14 lbs.	1 6½	1 4½	— 0 1½
Tea—Best ...	lb.	3 9½	3 9	— 0 0½
Cheapest ...	"	2 7½	2 7	— 0 0½
Sugar ...	"	0 6½	0 6	— 0 0½
Jam—Strawberry ...	1 lb. pot	1 2½	1 2½	No change



SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

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*Price Twopence.*

# Cost of Living Index Number.

**MID-JULY, 1925.**

**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-July, 1925 = 88 per cent.**

The following are the Cost of Living Index Numbers for Saorstát Éireann and Great Britain and Northern Ireland :—

(Basis :—July, 1914 = 100.)

Month*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	†	190	188	195	192	178	177	180
April ...	191†	181	178	188	182	174	173	175
July ...	185†	180	183	188	184	169	170	173
October ...	189	186	193		178	175	176	

The above index numbers being mainly dependent on food prices, show regular seasonal changes, decreasing from January to July and increasing from July to January, as will be seen from the next table, which shows the percentage changes in each quarter of the year.

Period*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
Jan. to April ...	0% †	0% - 4.7	0% - 5.3	0% - 3.6	0% - 5.2	0% - 2.2	0% - 2.3	0% - 2.8
April to July ...	- 3.1†	- 0.6	+ 2.8	0.0	+ 1.1	- 2.9	- 1.7	- 1.1
July to Oct. ...	+ 2.2†	+ 3.3	+ 5.5		- 3.3	+ 3.6	+ 3.5	
Oct. to Jan. ...	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 1.0		0.0	+ 1.1	+ 2.3	

The index numbers for food [alone] were :—

Month*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	†	198	196	203	185	175	175	178
April ...	191†	183	180	191	173	168	167	170
July ...	185†	182	185	188	180	162	162	167
October ...	196	190	200		172	172	172	

These index numbers for cost of living and for food [alone] must not be taken as indicating that retail prices are higher in Saorstát Éireann than in Great Britain; they show only that retail prices have risen more in the former than in the latter country since July, 1914.

The prices of some of the commodities influencing the cost of living index number show no seasonal changes. The retail price of *bacon* decreased continuously from March, 1922, to April,

\* The figures for Saorstát Éireann refer to the middle of the month, those for Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the first of the month.

† The first two cost of living index numbers compiled for Saorstát Éireann referred to March [not April] and to June [not July], 1922.

1924, and then increased to July, 1925; *bread* fell to July, 1924, and then increased to July, 1925. *Sugar* and *tea* increased to April, 1924, and then dropped to July, 1925. Retail prices of *boots* and *other clothing* moved in the other direction, decreasing to April, 1924, and then increasing to July, 1925. *Candles* fell to January, and *soap* to April, 1924, and afterwards increased in price.

The retail prices of other commodities fluctuate more or less violently with the seasons, but the underlying movements due to other causes can be observed either by considering the averages for four consecutive inquiries or by comparing prices at the same date in each year. The latter method is adopted in the following table, which shows that there was a downward trend in *beef* prices to October, 1924, and then a change upwards; in *mutton* an upward movement to October, 1923, then downwards to July, 1924, and then another movement upwards, and so on for the other articles. The table shows that the Saorstát and British cost of living index numbers moved continuously in the same direction—downwards to April, 1924, and then upwards.

Percentage changes in retail prices and in rent :—

	1922-5		1923-1924				1924-1925			
	Oct. '22 to Oct. '23	Jan. '23 to Jan. '24	April '23 to April '24	July '23 to July '24	Oct. '23 to Oct. '24	Jan. '24 to Jan. '25	April '24 to April '25	July '24 to July '25		
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Beef	... - 0.1	- 4.4	- 6.4	- 4.7	- 3.4	+ 1.9	+ 4.2	+ 2.0		
Mutton	... + 3.2	- 0.5	- 4.8	- 2.9	+ 1.4	+ 2.1	+ 12.6	+ 7.0		
Bacon	... -19.4	-22.7	-22.0	-13.3	- 0.8	+ 8.4	+18.3	+14.5		
Eggs	... -16.4	- 8.5	+ 7.3	+27.1	+ 9.6	- 0.7	+ 7.8	- 3.2		
Butter	... - 8.2	- 3.9	-12.4	+12.5	+13.1	- 0.9	+14.2	+ 6.6		
Milk	... - 3.6	- 5.3	+ 3.1	- 1.2	+ 8.1	+ 8.7	+ 3.8	+ 0.6		
Bread	... - 4.3	- 5.7	- 6.0	- 5.6	+ 6.4	+12.4	+19.1	+15.7		
Flour	... - 5.1	- 6.9	- 5.8	- 7.2	+10.3	+16.9	+17.3	+14.0		
Potatoes	... +42.6	+69.1	+96.5	+36.4	+21.7	+10.5	-12.8	+ 1.8		
Sugar	... +17.3	+16.8	+ 2.5	- 9.2	- 8.3	-14.5	-10.8	-43.8		
Tea	... +10.2	+ 6.6	+ 2.0	- 1.3	- 1.2	- 0.6	- 1.3	- 6.8		
Boots	... - 8.6	- 8.8	- 2.1	+11.7	+15.1	+20.4	+16.6	+10.4		
Other Clothing	... - 4.2	- 3.9	- 1.5	+ 4.1	+ 2.7	+ 7.0	+ 7.9	+12.0		
Candles	... -12.3	- 9.1	+16.3	+31.7	+35.0	+31.1	+ 6.5	- 4.6		
Soap	... -10.1	- 7.3	- 2.9	+ 1.2	+ 2.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	- 3.2		
Rent	... *	- 0.2	*	+ 0.1	*	- 0.4	*	- 0.2		
COST OF LIVING INDEX NO. :										
Saorstát Éireann	- 1.6	- 1.1	- 1.7	+ 1.7	+ 3.8	+ 3.7	+ 5.6	+ 2.7		
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	- 1.7	- 0.6	- 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 1.7	+ 1.2	+ 1.8		

\* Returns of rents are obtained only at every second cost of living inquiry.

The following table shows perhaps more satisfactorily the similarity of the movements of the cost of living in the two countries. The figures represent the *average* cost of living index numbers for each four consecutive dates at which inquiries were made in the Saorstát, and accordingly are influenced by high winter as well as by low summer prices. (The British figures do not represent averages of 12 consecutive monthly index figures, but of the 4 referring to same dates as those for Saorstát Éireann.)



Average index number for 12 months and including :

	1923				1924				1925		
	Jan.	April	July	Oct.	Jan.	April	July	Oct.	Jan.	April	July
Saorstát Éireann	188½	186½	185	184½	183½	183	183½	185½	187½	189½	191
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	180½	178½	174½	174	173½	173½	173½	174	174½	175½	176

From the 12 months ended January, 1923, to the 12 months ended April, 1924, the Saorstát cost of living fell by 3.0 per cent., the British by 3.9 per cent.; but from the latter period to the 12 months ended July, 1925, the Saorstát figure increased by 4.4 per cent., the British by 1.4 per cent.

The following table shows average retail prices in the towns (large and small) of Saorstát Éireann of the principal articles of food :—

—	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Change in average price in mid-July, 1925, compared with mid-April, 1925. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-April	Mid-July	
		1925	1925	s. d.
Beef—Sirloin ... ..	lb.	s. d. 1 4½	s. d. 1 4½	— 0 0½
Shoulder ... ..	"	1 0½	1 0½	No change
Corned Brisket ... ..	"	0 10½	0 11	+ 0 0½
Neck ... ..	"	0 10½	0 10½	— 0 0½
Liver ... ..	"	0 7½	0 8	+ 0 0½
Mutton—Leg ... ..	"	1 7½	1 6½	— 0 1½
Neck ... ..	"	1 2	1 1½	— 0 0½
Bacon—Irish Streaky ... ..	"	1 8	1 8½	+ 0 0½
Irish Shoulder ... ..	"	1 1½	1 2½	+ 0 0½
American Streaky ... ..	"	1 1½	1 2½	+ 0 1
American Shoulder ... ..	"	0 10½	0 10½	— 0 0½
Pigs' Heads ... ..	"	0 6½	0 6½	No change
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ... ..	"	1 4	1 4½	+ 0 0½
Pork Sausages ... ..	"	1 2	1 1½	— 0 0½
Fish—Red Herring ... ..	doz.	1 7	1 6½	— 0 0½
Fresh Herring ... ..	"	2 1	2 1	No change
Cod Steak ... ..	lb.	1 3½	1 3½	No change
Eggs ... ..	doz.	1 5	1 8½	+ 0 3½
Butter—Irish Creamery ... ..	lb.	1 11½	1 11½	+ 0 0½
Irish Farmers' ... ..	"	1 10	1 9½	— 0 0½
Margarine—First Grade ... ..	"	0 11½	0 11½	No change
Second Grade ... ..	"	0 8½	0 8½	No change
Cheese—Golden Spray ... ..	"	1 6	1 6	No change
Lard ... ..	"	1 0½	1 0½	No change
Fresh Milk ... ..	quart	0 6½	0 5½	— 0 1
Condensed Milk ... ..	1 lb. tin	0 11½	0 11½	No change
Bread ... ..	2 lb. loaf	0 6	0 5½	— 0 0½
Flour—Household ... ..	14 lbs.	3 1½	3 0	— 0 1½
Oatmeal ... ..	"	3 8½	3 8½	— 0 0½
Rice—Rangoon ... ..	lb.	0 4	0 4	No change
Java ... ..	"	0 5½	0 5½	No change
Potatoes ... ..	14 lbs.	1 4½	2 1	+ 0 8½
Tea—Best ... ..	lb.	3 9	3 6½	— 0 2½
Cheapest ... ..	"	2 7	2 3½	— 0 3½
Sugar ... ..	"	0 6	0 3½	— 0 2½
Jam—Strawberry ... ..	1 lb. pot	1 2½	1 2½	— 0 0½



SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY & COMMERCE

REPORT  
ON THE  
COST OF LIVING

MID-OCTOBER, 1925

DUBLIN :  
PUBLISHED BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased through Messrs. EASON & SON, LTD.  
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*Price Twopence.*

# Cost of Living Index Number.

**MID-OCTOBER, 1925.**

**Increase from Mid-July 1914 to Mid-Oct., 1925 = 88 per cent.**

The following are the Cost of Living Index Numbers for Saorstát Éireann and Great Britain and Northern Ireland :—

(Basis :—July, 1914=100.)

Month*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	†	190	188	195	192	178	177	180
April ...	191†	181	178	188	182	174	173	175
July ...	185†	180	183	188	184	169	170	173
October ...	189	186	193	188	178	175	176	176

The above Index Numbers being mainly dependent on food prices, show regular seasonal changes, decreasing from January to July, and increasing from July to January, but Budget influences in 1925, between April and July, which helped to stop the downward trend in July, together with the very low price of potatoes recorded in October, resulted in there being no change in the Index Number for Saorstát Éireann from April to October, 1925. The next table shows the percentage changes in each quarter of the year.

Period*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
Jan. to April ...	% †	% - 4.7	% - 5.3	% - 3.6	% - 5.2	% - 2.2	% - 2.3	% - 2.8
April to July ...	- 3.1†	- 0.6	+ 2.8	0.0	+ 1.1	- 2.9	- 1.7	- 1.1
July to Oct. ...	+ 2.2†	+ 3.3	+ 5.5	0.0	- 3.3	+ 3.6	+ 3.5	+ 1.7
Oct. to Jan. ...	+ 0.5	+ 1.1	+ 1.0		0.0	+ 1.1	+ 2.3	

The index numbers for food (alone) were :—

Month*	SAORSTAT EIREANN				GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND			
	1922	1923	1924	1925	1922	1923	1924	1925
January ...	†	198	196	203	185	175	175	178
April ...	191†	183	180	191	173	168	167	170
July ...	185†	182	185	188	180	162	162	167
October ...	196	190	200	188	172	172	172	172

These index numbers for cost of living and for food (alone) must not be taken as indicating that retail prices are higher in Saorstát Éireann than in Great Britain; they show only that retail prices have risen more in the former than in the latter country since July, 1914.

The prices of some of the commodities influencing the cost of living index number show no seasonal changes. The retail price of *bacon* decreased continuously from March, 1922, to April,

\* The figures for Saorstát Éireann refer to the middle of the month, those for Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the first of the month.

† The first two cost of living index numbers compiled for Saorstát Éireann referred to March [not April] and to June [not July], 1922.

1924, and then increased to October, 1925, *bread* fell to July, 1924, and then increased to April, 1925, since when decreases have been noted. *Sugar* and *Tea* increased to April, 1924, and then dropped to October, 1925. The abolition of the *Tea* duty and the reduction in the *Sugar* duty would account for part of this fall in the period from April to October in this year. Retail prices of *boots* and other clothing moved in the other direction, decreasing to April, 1924, and then increasing to October, 1925.

The retail prices of other commodities fluctuate more or less violently with the seasons, but the underlying movements due to other causes can be observed either by considering the averages for four consecutive inquiries or by comparing prices at the same date in each year. The latter method is adopted in the following table, which shows that there was a downward trend in *beef* prices to October, 1924, and then a change upwards; in *mutton* an upward movement to October, 1923, then downwards to July, 1924, and then another movement upwards, and so on for the other articles. The table shows that the Saorstát and British Cost of Living Index Numbers moved continuously in the same direction—downwards to April, 1924, and then upwards to July, 1925. In October, 1925, the British figure shows no change compared with 12 months previously, while the figure for the Saorstát shows a decrease of 2.6 per cent.

**Percentage changes in retail prices and in rent :—**

	1923-1924				1924-1925			
	Jan. '23 to Jan. '24	April '23 to April '24	July '23 to July '24	Oct. '23 to Oct. '24	Jan. '24 to Jan. '25	April '24 to April '25	July '24 to July '25	Oct. '24 to Oct. '25
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Beef	... - 4.4	- 6.4	- 4.7	- 3.4	+ 1.9	+ 4.2	+ 2.0	+ 3.0
Mutton	... - 0.8	- 4.8	- 2.9	+ 1.4	+ 2.1	+ 12.6	+ 7.0	+ 4.3
Bacon	... -22.7	-22.0	-13.3	- 0.8	+ 8.4	+ 18.0	+ 14.5	+ 11.0
Eggs	... - 8.5	+ 7.3	+ 27.1	+ 9.6	- 0.7	+ 7.8	- 3.2	- 5.2
Butter	... + 3.9	-12.4	+ 12.5	+ 13.1	- 0.9	+ 14.2	+ 6.6	- 2.3
Milk	... - 5.3	+ 3.1	- 1.2	+ 8.1	+ 8.7	+ 3.8	+ 0.6	- 1.2
Bread	... - 5.7	- 6.0	- 5.6	+ 6.4	+ 12.4	+ 19.1	+ 15.7	- 0.2
Flour	... - 6.9	- 5.8	- 7.2	+ 10.3	+ 16.9	+ 17.3	+ 14.0	- 3.5
Potatoes	... + 69.1	+ 96.5	+ 36.4	+ 21.7	+ 10.5	- 12.8	+ 1.8	- 41.5
Sugar	... + 16.8	+ 2.5	- 9.2	- 8.3	- 14.5	- 9.8	- 43.8	- 48.0
Tea	... + 6.6	+ 2.0	- 1.3	- 1.2	- 0.6	- 1.3	- 6.8	- 10.8
Boots	... - 8.8	- 2.1	+ 11.7	+ 15.1	+ 20.4	+ 16.6	+ 10.4	+ 6.8
Other Clothing	... - 3.9	- 1.5	+ 4.1	+ 2.7	+ 7.0	+ 7.9	+ 12.0	+ 11.3
Candles	... - 9.1	+ 16.3	+ 31.7	+ 35.0	+ 31.1	+ 6.5	- 4.6	- 9.6
Soap	... - 7.3	- 2.9	+ 1.2	+ 2.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.3	- 3.2	- 2.9
Rent	... - 0.2	*	+ 0.1	*	- 0.4	*	- 0.2	*
<b>COST OF LIVING INDEX No. :</b>								
Saorstát Éireann	- 1.1	- 1.7	+ 1.7	+ 3.8	+ 3.7	+ 5.6	+ 2.7	- 2.6
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	- 0.6	- 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 0.6	+ 1.7	+ 1.2	+ 1.8	0.0

\* Returns of rents are obtained only at every second cost of living inquiry.

The following table shows perhaps more satisfactorily the similarity of the movements of the cost of living in the two countries. The figures represent the *average* cost of living index numbers for each four consecutive dates at which inquiries were made in the Saorstát, and accordingly are influenced by high winter as well as by low summer prices. (The British figures do not represent averages of 12 consecutive monthly index figures, but of the 4 referring to same dates as those for Saorstát Éireann.)



## Average index number for 12 months and including :

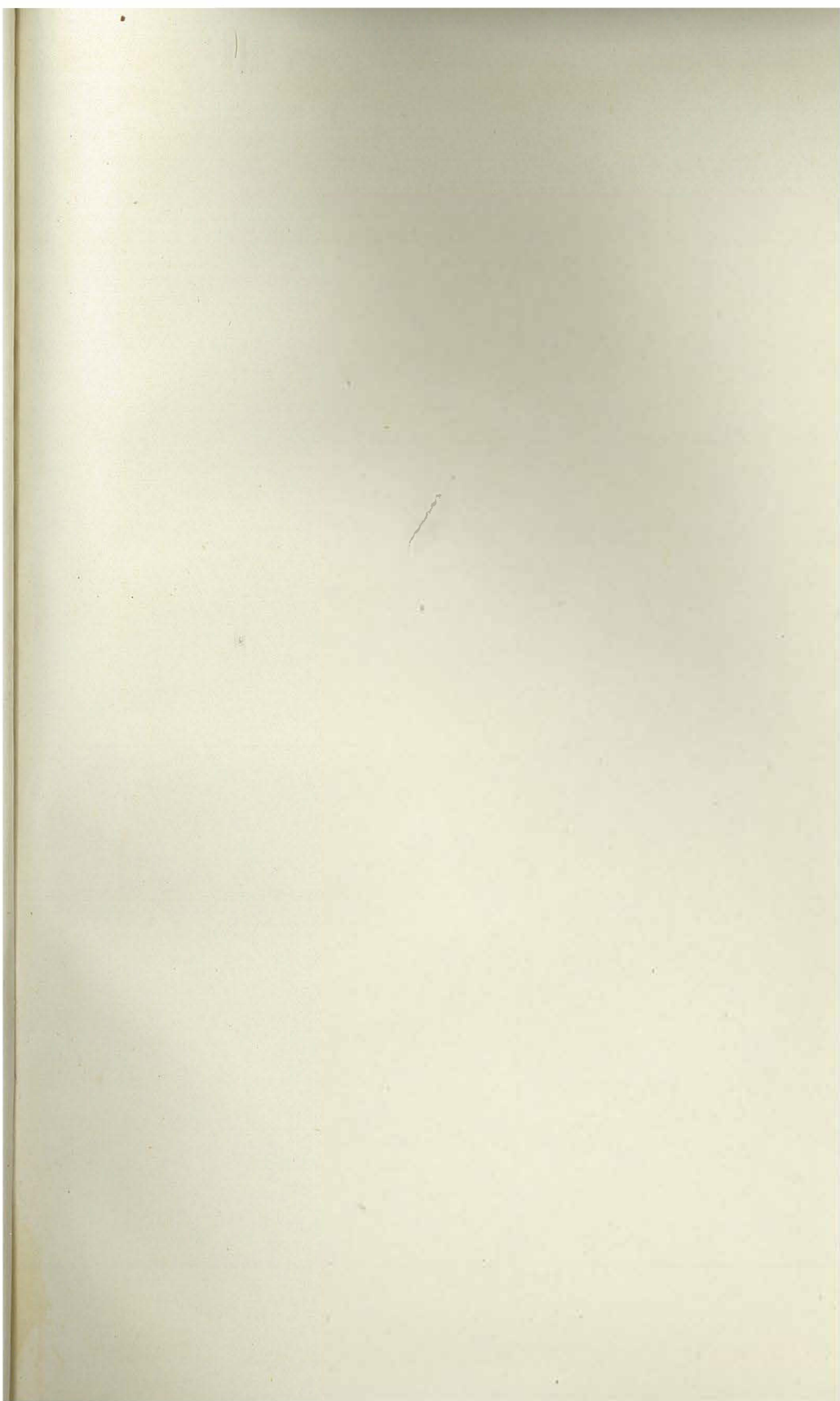
	1923			1924			1925				
	April	July	Oct.	Jan.	April	July	Oct.	Jan.	April	July	Oct.
Saorstát Éireann	186½	185	184½	183¾	183	183¾	185½	187½	189½	191	189¾
Great Britain and Northern Ireland	178½	174¾	174	173¾	173½	173¾	174	174¾	175½	176	176

From the 12 months ended January, 1923, to the 12 months ended April, 1924, the Saorstát cost of living fell by 3.0 per cent., the British by 3.9 per cent.; but from the latter period to the 12 months ended October, 1925, the Saorstát figure increased by 3.7 per cent., the British by 1.4 per cent.

The following table shows average retail prices in the towns (large and small) of Saorstát Éireann of the principal articles of food :—

—	Per	AVERAGE PRICES		Change in average price in mid-Oct., 1925, compared with mid-July, 1925. Increase (+) Decrease (—)
		Mid-July	Mid-Oct.	
		1925	1925	
Beef—Sirloin ... ..	lb.	s. d. 1 4½	s. d. 1 4½	— 0 0½
Shoulder ... ..	"	1 0½	1 0½	No change
Corned Brisket ... ..	"	0 11	0 10½	— 0 0½
Neck ... ..	"	0 10½	0 10½	No change
Liver ... ..	"	0 8	0 7½	— 0 0½
Mutton—Leg ... ..	"	1 6½	1 5½	— 0 0½
Neck ... ..	"	1 1½	1 1½	— 0 0½
Bacon—Irish Streaky ... ..	"	1 8½	1 9½	+ 0 1
Irish Shoulder ... ..	"	1 2½	1 3	+ 0 0½
American Streaky ... ..	"	1 2½	1 3	+ 0 0½
American Shoulder ... ..	"	0 10½	0 11½	+ 0 1
Pigs' Heads ... ..	"	0 6½	0 6½	No change
Fresh Pork—Shoulder ... ..	"	1 4½	1 4½	+ 0 0½
Pork Sausages ... ..	"	1	1 2	+ 0 0½
Fish—Red Herring ... ..	doz.	1 6½	1 7½	+ 0 0½
Fresh Herring ... ..	"	2 1	2 0½	— 0 0½
Cod Steak ... ..	lb.	1 3½	1 3½	+ 0 0½
Eggs ... ..	doz.	1 8½	2 6½	+ 0 10½
Butter—Irish Creamery ... ..	lb.	1 11½	2 2	+ 0 0½
Irish Farmers ... ..	"	1 9½	1 10½	+ 0 1½
Margarine—First Grade ... ..	"	0 11½	0 11½	No change
Second Grade ... ..	"	0 8½	0 8½	No change
Cheese—Golden Spray ... ..	"	1 6	1 6½	+ 0 0½
Lard ... ..	"	1 0½	1 1	+ 0 0½
Fresh Milk ... ..	quart	0 5½	0 6	+ 0 0½
Condensed Milk ... ..	1 lb. tin	0 11½	0 11½	— 0 0½
Bread ... ..	2 lb. loaf	0 5½	0 5½	— 0 0½
Flour—Household ... ..	14 lbs.	3 0	2 10½	— 0 1½
Oatmeal ... ..	"	3 8½	3 7½	— 0 1½
Rice—Rangoon ... ..	lb.	0 4	0 4	No change
Java ... ..	"	0 5½	0 5½	No change
Potatoes ... ..	14 lbs.	2 1	0 10½	— 1 2½
Tea—Best ... ..	lb.	3 6½	3 6½	+ 0 0½
Cheapest ... ..	"	2 3½	2 2½	— 0 0½
Sugar ... ..	"	0 3½	0 3½	— 0 0½
Jam—Strawberry ... ..	1 lb. pot	1 2½	1 2½	No change





from Jan 1726 onwards the reports on the  
Cost of living appeared in the form of Special  
Articles in the Irish Trade Journal at three  
intervals.

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