

count for about 20 percent of total expenditures for building construction help explain why overall costs did not drop. Another important material in school and hospital construction, lumber, which accounts for 5 to 10 percent of total construction costs had, aside from the early postwar years, relatively stable prices during the whole 20-year period.

TABLE 4.—Construction material price changes, 1947-65 ¹

RAPIDLY RISING PRICES ²		Total percent change 1947-65
Structural steel shapes.....	.....	+143
Wire nails.....	.....	+115
Reinforcing bars.....	.....	+107
Asbestos cement shingles.....	.....	+102
Galvanized sheets.....	.....	+94
Clay sewer pipe.....	.....	+77
Steam and hot water heating equipment.....	.....	+75
ABOVE-AVERAGE PRICE INCREASES ³		
Window glass.....	.....	+72
Portland cement.....	.....	+66
Plaster, base coat.....	.....	+65
Building brick.....	.....	+62
Brass plumbing fittings.....	.....	+62
Millwork.....	.....	+61
Concrete pipe.....	.....	+60
Building wire ⁴.....	.....	+56
Concrete ingredients.....	.....	+54
Selected hardwood lumber.....	.....	+46
Building paper and board.....	.....	+44
Gypsum products ⁴.....	.....	+44
Sand, gravel, and crushed stone (rock products).....	.....	+43
BELOW-AVERAGE PRICE INCREASES ³		
Plumbing fixtures and brass fittings ⁴.....	.....	+41
Gypsum lath.....	.....	+41
Clay tile.....	.....	+40
Gypsum wallboard.....	.....	+38
Insulation board.....	.....	+38
Paint.....	.....	+37
Concrete products ⁴.....	.....	+35
Metal doors, sash and trim.....	.....	+33
Enameled iron fixtures.....	.....	+30
Douglas fir lumber.....	.....	+29
Vitreous china fixtures.....	.....	+25
Concrete building block.....	.....	+25
Plate glass ⁴.....	.....	+24
Heating equipment.....	.....	+17
Prepared asphalt roofing.....	.....	+16
Southern pine lumber.....	.....	+15
Warm air furnaces.....	.....	+11
Asphalt floor tile.....	.....	+9
DECLINING PRICES		
Plywood ⁴.....	.....	-5
Insulation materials.....	.....	-6
Softwood plywood.....	.....	-8
Nonmetallic sheathed cable.....	.....	-8

¹ Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics, Wholesale Price Indexes.

² The prices of these materials advanced more rapidly during the period than average construction costs which were up 73 percent.

³ The average increase for all construction materials was 42 percent.

⁴ This is a group index. Some of the component materials are also given in this table.