

Retail Prices of Food

1955-56

INDEXES AND AVERAGE PRICES



Bulletin No. 1217

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
James P. Mitchell, Secretary

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
Ewan Clague, Commissioner

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Chart 1.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOODS

United States, 1913-56

1947-49=100



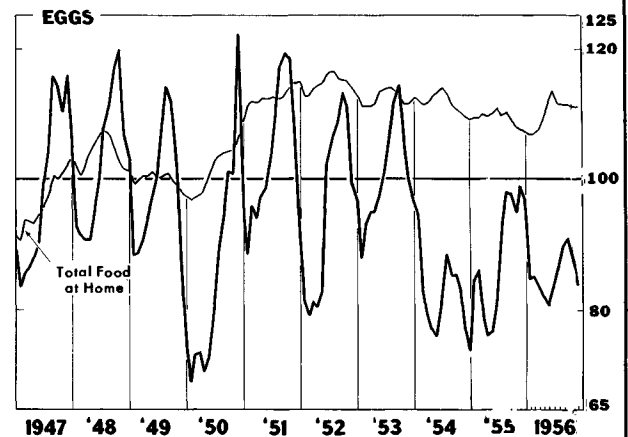
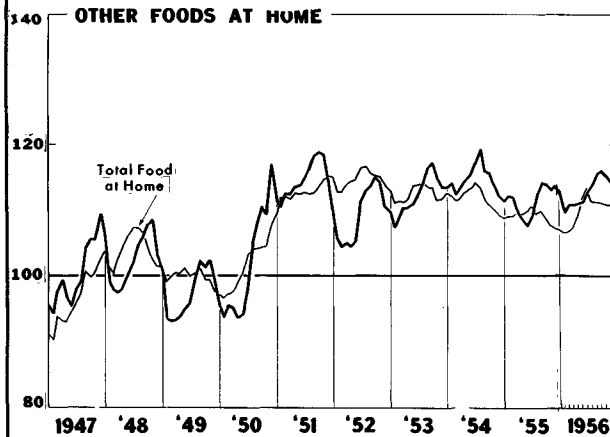
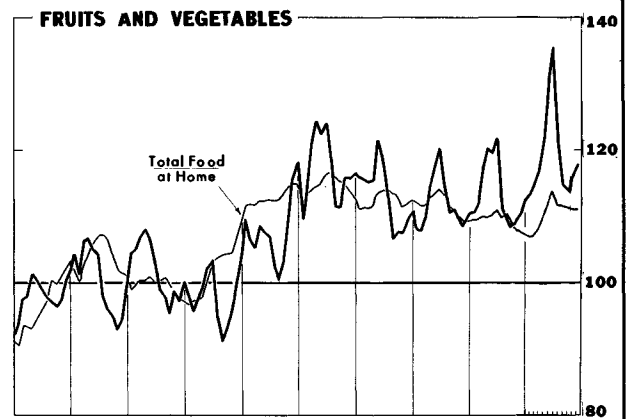
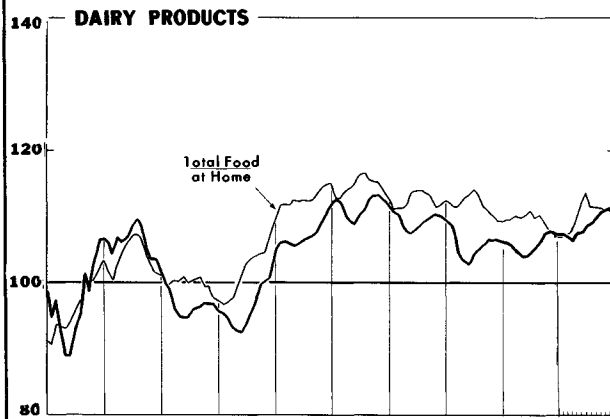
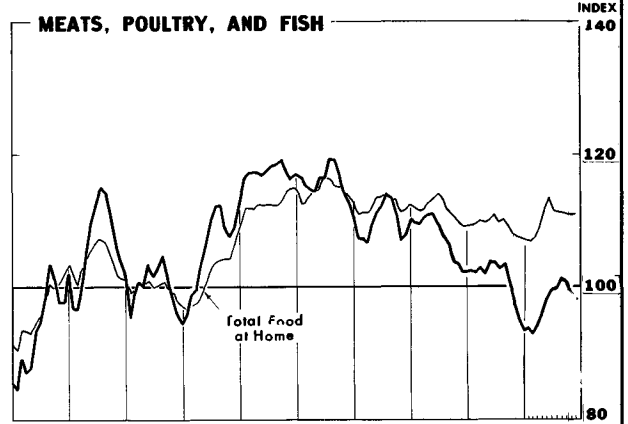
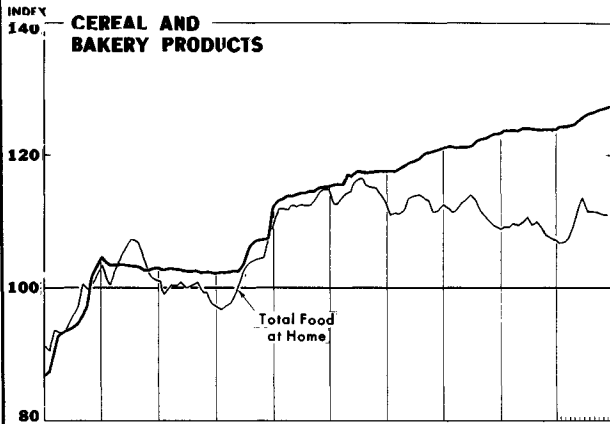
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* Beginning Jan. 1953, food index includes restaurant meals and other food bought away and eaten away from home.

Chart 2.

RETAIL PRICES FOR GROUPS OF FOODS United States, 1947-56

1947 - 49 = 100



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Retail Prices of Food, 1955 and 1956*/

Summary

As measured by the retail food price index computed by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, retail prices of food in the United States increased 2.3 percent on the average over the 2 years between December 1954 and December 1956. All major food subgroups except meats, poultry, and fish shared in the increase. Food prices, which had been declining from the post-Korean high of August 1952, began to rise in the early months of 1956. A general increase occurred which carried through July, followed by some decrease to the end of the year. (See charts 1 and 2.)

Although food prices registered an increase over the 2 years, the annual average prices were the lowest since 1950, approximately 11 percent and 12 percent above the 1947-49 average.

Prices of foods experienced the usual seasonal movements over the period with a tendency to reach the low point for the year at the beginning of the year and the high point at midyear. Fluctuations from month to month were within the range of $\frac{1}{2}$ percent and -1.5 percent, with decreases of greater importance than increases in 1955 and increases predominating in 1956. Starting from the lowest level since the August 1952 peak, the food index rose generally to the year's high in July 1955 and decreased thereafter through the remainder of the year to a new low in February 1956. Monthly increases March through July, with substantial ones in May, June, and July, raised the index to the highest level for the 2 years in July 1956. Following a sharp decrease in August, the index continued virtually unchanged for the remainder of the year. These movements of the all foods index reflected record supplies of beef, particularly in the fall and winter months of both years, and large supplies

*/ Prepared in the Bureau's Prices and Cost of Living Division by Maynard C. Heins.

Table 1.—Percent Changes in Retail Food Prices in the United States for Selected Periods

Group and subgroup	Aug. 15, 1952	Dec. 15, 1954	Dec. 15, 1955	Dec. 15, 1954
	peak to	to	to	to
	Dec. 15, 1956	Dec. 15, 1955	Dec. 15, 1956	Dec. 15, 1956
Total food-----	- 3.2	- 0.8	+ 3.1	+ 2.3
Food away from home-----	-----	+ 1.5	+ 2.6	+ 4.1
Total food at home-----	- 4.6	- 1.2	+ 3.1	+ 1.8
Cereals and bakery products-----	+ 8.4	+ 0.5	+ 2.8	+ 3.3
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	-17.9	- 7.4	+ 3.6	- 4.1
Beef and veal-----	-23.8	- 4.9	+ 4.6	- .6
Pork-----	-13.3	-15.3	+11.0	- 5.9
Poultry-----	-27.3	+ .9	- 8.2	- 7.4
Fish-----	- 4.1	- .5	- .3	- 1.0
Dairy products-----	+ .3	+ .8	+ 3.3	+ 4.2
Fruits and vegetables-----	- 1.1	+ 2.1	+ 6.1	+ 8.3
Frozen-----	- 2.3	+ 3.5	- 1.7	+ 1.8
Fresh-----	- 4.3	+ 1.9	+ 9.2	+11.3
Canned-----	+ 5.9	+ 2.0	+ 2.3	+ 4.3
Dried-----	+14.8	+ 3.0	- 2.5	+ .4
Other foods at home-----	+ 1.0	+ 1.5	+ .4	+ 2.0
Beverages-----	+18.8	- 8.5	+ 9.7	+ .3
Fats and oils-----	+ 8.9	- 3.1	+ 6.2	+ 2.9
Sugar and sweets-----	+ 3.3	- 3.9	+ 1.9	- 2.0
Eggs-----	-21.5	+28.3	+15.1	+ 9.0

of hogs in the fall and early winter of 1956, as well as record production of milk and increasing production of eggs. On the other hand, unfavorable weather and growing conditions for some major fruits and vegetables in both years contributed to the sizable increases in the index during the spring and early summer months.

Prices of food away from home (restaurant meals) moved independently of prices of food for use at home in 1955 and 1956. Prices of food away from home advanced month by month with a limited number of exceptions when prices were unchanged or experienced small decreases. The total advance in restaurant meals over the 2 years amounted to 4.1 percent.

Changes in Retail Food Prices by City

Retail food prices advanced in all 20 large cities over the period December 1954--December 1956, in contrast to the decreases in the preceding 2 years. Increases ranged from 1.0 percent in Atlanta to 5.2 percent in Portland, Oreg. The smallest increases generally occurred in southern and midwestern cities while the largest were experienced on the Pacific Coast. Increases were noted in all 20 cities for food at home; cereals and bakery products, fruits and vegetables, and other foods, and for dairy products except for Kansas City where a fractional decrease occurred. Prices of meats, poultry, and fish decreased in all 20 cities.

Table 2.—Retail Food Prices—Percent Changes by City, and by Subgroup, December 1954–December 1956

City	Total food	Food at home	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Other foods at home
United States-----	+ 2.3	+ 1.8	+ 3.3	- 4.1	+ 4.2	+ 8.3	+ 2.0
Atlanta-----	+ 1.0	+ 1.4	+ 1.9	- 5.0	+ 3.9	+ 8.8	+ 2.2
Baltimore-----	+ 3.1	+ .9	+ 3.5	- 4.9	+ 3.1	+ 6.3	+ 1.4
Ecston-----	+ 3.1	+ 2.3	+ 6.0	- 2.2	+ 4.6	+ 5.3	+ 2.0
Chicago-----	+ 1.5	+ .8	+ 3.9	- 6.9	+ 5.4	+ 6.4	+ 2.2
Cincinnati-----	+ 1.7	+ .9	+ .1	- 4.3	+ 2.6	+ 7.9	+ 1.9
Cleveland-----	+ 1.7	+ .9	+ 1.0	- 4.2	+ 4.6	+ 5.9	+ 1.8
Detroit-----	+ 1.5	+ .9	+ .3	- 6.9	+ 5.9	+ 7.4	+ 2.9
Houston-----	+ 1.5	+ .7	+ 1.4	- 5.5	+ 3.4	+ 7.0	+ 1.2
Kansas City-----	+ 2.0	+ 1.3	+ 2.9	- 4.2	- .3	+10.2	+ 1.3
Los Angeles-----	+ 4.8	+ 3.7	+ 3.1	- 1.5	+ 2.0	+14.1	+ 3.2
Minneapolis-----	+ 2.2	+ 1.8	+ 3.0	- 4.7	+ 5.4	+ 5.8	+ 3.4
New York-----	+ 2.3	+ 1.8	+ 3.0	- 2.7	+ 2.5	+ 9.7	+ .6
Philadelphia-----	+ 2.3	+ 1.9	+ 8.2	- 3.7	+ 3.2	+ 7.3	+ .4
Pittsburgh-----	+ 3.4	+ 2.6	+ .3	- 1.3	+ 3.5	+12.4	+ 1.7
Portland, Oreg.-----	+ 5.2	+ 4.3	+ 4.6	- 5.2	+11.3	+ 8.9	+ 6.3
St. Louis-----	+ 2.0	+ .3	+ 3.3	- 7.5	+ 4.3	+ 6.1	+ 1.9
San Francisco-----	+ 4.0	+ 3.8	+ 6.1	- 2.3	+ 8.1	+10.0	+ 2.2
Scranton-----	+ 1.8	+ 1.3	+ 5.3	- 4.5	+ .5	+10.1	+ 1.2
Seattle-----	+ 4.2	+ 3.4	+ 7.3	- 4.9	+ 9.9	+ 7.4	+ 4.2
Washington, D.C.-----	+ 3.1	+ 2.8	+ 5.7	- 1.7	+ 4.7	+ 6.5	+ 2.1

Monthly Fluctuations

For 5 successive months at the end of 1954, the index for all foods had declined. This decline was followed by small advances in January and February 1955, as prices of fresh fruits and vegetables and chickens increased, and meat prices continued to decrease. March was characterized by small movements in component series which left the index unchanged. An increase in April, due primarily to higher fruit and vegetable prices, was followed by small changes in May and June and a sharp increase in July to the high point of the year as prices of fruits and vegetables reached the year's high. A sharp drop as large as the July increase occurred in August as increasing supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly tomatoes and potatoes, came on the market. A temporary upturn followed in September, when meat prices increased. Thereafter, food prices decreased each month through February 1956, as prices for meats declined--particularly in the late months of 1955 with near record marketings of cattle--and fruit and vegetable prices were seasonally lower. Lower egg prices also contributed to the decline, particularly in February. These successive decreases, which brought the all foods index to the lowest point for the 2 years in February 1956, were followed by monthly increases through July. Recovery of meat prices from the lows at the beginning of the year, sharply higher fruit and vegetable prices induced by cold weather in this country and in Europe, increased exports, high prices for potatoes as supplies ran short and the new crop was delayed, all contributed to the increases in the index for all foods. Arrival of new-crop fruits and vegetables in quantity caused a sharp decrease in the index in August, after which a period of practically no change extended to the end of the year.

Monthly percent changes for all foods in 1955 and 1956 were as follows:

	<u>Percent change</u>	
	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
December-January-----	$\nearrow 0.2$	-0.3
January-February-----	$\nearrow .2$	$-.4$
February-March-----	0	$\nearrow .2$
March-April-----	$\nearrow .4$	$\nearrow .6$
April-May-----	$-.1$	$\nearrow 1.3$
May-June-----	$\nearrow .2$	$\nearrow 2.0$
June-July-----	$\nearrow .7$	$\nearrow 1.4$
July-August-----	$-.8$	-1.5
August-September-----	$\nearrow .4$	0
September-October-----	$-.7$	0
October-November-----	$-.9$	$-.2$
November-December-----	$-.3$	0

Trend in Prices of Major Food Subgroups

Meats, poultry, and fish.--Average prices for meats, poultry, and fish continued to decline through 1955 to a low point in March 1956, 92.8 percent of the 1947-49 average. Increases over the following 6 months brought the index to 101.3, the highest point in 1956. Seasonally lower prices, as meat supplies reached a peak, lowered the index in December to a level 4.1 percent below the index in December 1954. Annual average indexes for meats, poultry, and fish in 1955 and 1956 were the lowest since 1949.

Decreases in the meats, poultry, and fish index in the 2 years were due mainly to lower prices for beef and poultry. Meat production reached new record levels in 1956 as the peak in the current cattle cycle was passed. Numbers of cattle attained a cyclical peak in January 1956 and declined somewhat over the year. The reduction in numbers in the Great

Plains region, particularly in the Southwest, through increased slaughter in the latter half of 1956 raised total and per capita meat supplies to a new high for the year. Increasing production of chickens over the 2 years brought prices to new lows by the end of 1956.

The movements of prices of beef and veal, pork, and poultry are depicted on chart 3. Price levels for the three series tended toward similar levels with respect to 1947-49 in early 1955. There were some decreases in prices of beef and veal and pork. There was a sharp rise in prices of chickens following reductions in production and marketings due to the low prices of late 1954. Seasonally higher prices for pork in the spring and summer of 1955 were followed by sharp reductions in the later months of the year as pork production ran well above a year earlier. Prices turned upward in February 1956 and continued to advance sharply through May and more slowly through September. Prices declined seasonally thereafter to December.

Prices of chickens turned downward for 1 month in May 1955, after which they leveled off over the summer months. A sharp drop in prices occurred in the late months of the year as record supplies came to market. Fluctuating prices at or near the level of December 1955 followed through June 1956. Higher prices in July, when meat supplies were at a seasonal low, were followed by substantial decreases for the remaining months of the year as production reached successive new highs.

Beef prices followed a declining trend over the year in 1955, reacting to the increasing supply from the record numbers of cattle. The marketing of record numbers of heavy, high quality cattle in late 1955 and the first months of 1956 carried prices downward through March. Prices recovered with equal rapidity and increased to the highest levels of the 2-year period in October. Reduced marketings of heavy beef and good demand were sufficient to extend the price rise into the period of heavy fall marketing of lower grade cattle. In November and December 1956, the heavy flow of cattle from the drought areas, plus a large supply of fed cattle from the Midwest feed lots, was sufficient to cause sharp decreases in beef and veal prices.

Prices of lamb fluctuated over the 2 years and finished the period at 0.4 percent below prices in December 1954.

Fish prices fluctuated little from month to month, and December 1956 prices averaged 0.8 percent below December 1954. Fresh and frozen fish prices declined 1.1 percent, while canned salmon increased 16.1 percent in response to reduced supplies, and canned tuna was 8.9 percent lower over the 2-year period.

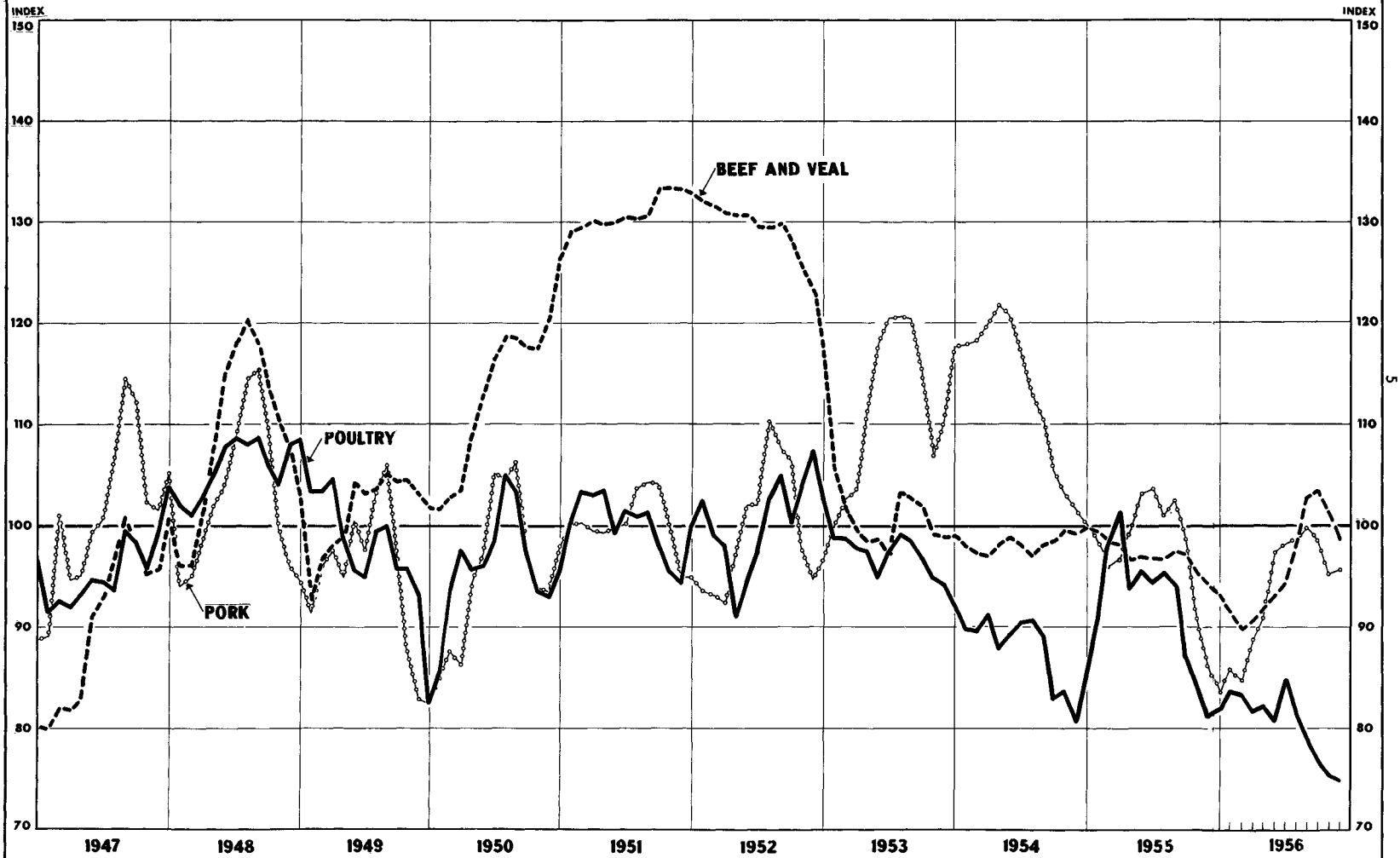
Dairy products.--Prices of dairy products increased 4.2 percent between December 1954 and December 1956, although milk production set new records in both years. Strong demand, increased support prices for butter, and government action in 1956 to increase fluid milk prices over the summer months were contributing factors.

Butter prices averaged 2.1 percent lower in 1955 than in 1954, fluctuating between 88.5 and 90.1 percent of the 1947-49 average. Increases in price after April 1956--when the support price for butter was raised by 1.75 to 2.00 cents per pound--which continued through the end of the year, accounted for a rise of 4.1 percent in the price of butter over the 2 years. Commodity Credit Corporation stocks of butter were reduced to zero during March 1956 and such purchases as were made during the remainder of the year were immediately disposed of, so that there were no government-owned stocks of butter overhanging the market in any of the last 4 months of the year, and stocks in other months were very small. 1/

1/ Purchases of butter by CCC under the Agricultural Act of 1949 were: 1955--162,300,000 pounds, 1956--164,700,000 pounds.

Chart 3.

RETAIL PRICES FOR SUBGROUPS OF MEAT AND POULTRY, 1947-56 1947-49=100



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Milk prices declined seasonally in 1955 from January through May, the low point for the year, and increased thereafter through November. A minor decline in December was followed by seasonal declines through April 1956. Producers' pressure for higher prices resulted in a milk strike in the Detroit area, which was settled with the granting of increased prices in April. Increases also were granted in other milk marketing agreement areas in April and May, producing a contraseasonal rise of 1.5 percent in milk sold in stores and 1.4 percent for milk delivered to homes in May. The general increases were maintained in June and seasonal increases were added thereafter to the end of the year, in spite of record production of milk.

Prices of cheese increased about 1.5 percent in early 1955 and fluctuated within a very narrow range thereafter. By December 1956, cheese prices were 2.0 percent higher than in December 1954. ^{2/}

Ice cream prices fluctuated very little in 1955 and 1956 and were 0.2 percent higher at the end of the period than at the beginning.

Fruits and vegetables.--Prices of fruits and vegetables rose 8.3 percent between December 1954 and December 1956, with the normal seasonal swings somewhat exaggerated and distorted by unusual weather developments and by special supply situations for potatoes. All subgroups of fruits and vegetables increased in price over the 2 years. Changes from December 1954 to December 1955 were relatively small; most of the increases occurred in 1956.

Seasonal increases in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables during the first half of 1955 were larger than usual because of sharp advances in prices of potatoes when the spring crop in Alabama was lost and production in other areas was delayed by cold weather. The March freeze also practically destroyed the peach crop in the southeastern part of the country. Potato prices jumped 50 percent between March and May 1955, and decreases thereafter through July were insufficient to offset higher prices for other fruits and vegetables. As a result, the fresh fruit and vegetable index in July 1955 was at the highest level since July 1952 with one exception. Sharp decreases in prices of potatoes, peaches and tomatoes in August reversed the situation and reduced the index below the March level. Potato prices continued to decrease seasonally through October. In view of the large crop of fall potatoes, a government diversion payment program was initiated in August and continued into 1956. ^{3/} By February 1956, prices of potatoes had risen to levels above a year earlier. A freeze in Florida and extensive damage by cold weather in Europe became factors in the increase. Continued exports of potatoes in the ensuing months, plus the usual seasonal upswing in prices, and rain and cold weather in late spring which delayed domestic production of new potatoes, added further upward pressure to potato prices. By June, old supplies were exhausted and new potatoes were moving directly from the field to market at prices 28 percent above the high prices of a year earlier. In July 1956, further increases, as the new crop continued to flow directly into consumption, raised prices of potatoes to the highest levels since the Bureau of Labor Statistics' records began in 1913. Following the appearance of the summer crop in volume in late July and August, potato prices decreased sharply but remained above corresponding months in 1955. With the arrival of the fall crop, about 11 percent above that for 1955, ^{4/} prices eased further to a minimum for the year, about 15 percent above October 1955, and then advanced seasonally thereafter. Prices in December 1956 were 3.2 percent higher than in December 1954.

^{2/} CCC purchases to support cheese prices at the wholesale level were made throughout the 2 years: 1955--150,000,000 pounds; 1956--188,000,000 pounds.

^{3/} In all, 10,575,000 hundredweight of potatoes were diverted under this program.

^{4/} A diversion payment program was announced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture on September 21. Diversions to December 31, 1956, amounted to 9,866,000 hundredweight.

Sweet potato prices followed somewhat the pattern for white potatoes. Highest prices occurred in midsummer and lowest prices in October and November of each year. Prices averaged higher in the first half of 1955 than in 1956 and lower in the second half of the year. A relatively large crop was harvested in 1955. The change in prices from December 1954 to December 1956 was an increase of 3.1 percent.

Onion prices were higher in the first half of 1956 than in 1955, partly as a result of lower stocks at the beginning of the year. Smaller production than in 1955 resulted in higher prices in the last half of the year. Lower stocks at the beginning of 1956 and smaller midyear production were accompanied by higher prices in the early part of the year and a shortage with very high prices through the summer. Larger production of late summer onions reduced prices in November 1956 to the lowest point for the 2 years. Onion prices averaged 11.5 percent higher in 1955, and 31.6 percent higher in 1956 than in 1954.

Carrot prices averaged about the same in 1955 and 1956 as in 1954. Monthly price movements were somewhat different in the 2 years as supplies varied. Prices decreased 2.9 percent from December 1954 to December 1956.

Lettuce averaged 7.4 percent higher in price in 1955 and 8 percent higher in 1956 than in 1954. Prices ended the 2-year period more than 45 percent higher than in December 1954 because of a temporary shortage of California supplies, which caused sharp increases in October and November of 1956.

Celery prices rose in the spring of 1955, as unfavorable weather curtailed supplies. Improved growing conditions and large supplies in the summer reduced prices somewhat, but smaller production in the later months of the year again brought higher prices. Generally larger production in 1956, with more even distribution of harvests, brought lower prices, but somewhat above those for 1954.

Low carryover stocks of cabbage at the beginning of 1955 were followed by high prices in the early months of the year. Poor growing conditions extended the period of high prices through midyear, and light production and low stocks at the end of the year and at the beginning of 1956 caused relatively high prices through the middle of 1956. Prices dropped at the end of the year to levels 4.9 percent below those of 1954 as good growing weather provided ample supplies.

Prices of tomatoes were generally higher in 1955 than in 1954. They were at relatively low levels in the summer and fall as favorable growing weather produced large crops. Winter crops in 1956 were damaged by cold weather in January and prices were high, particularly in March when an increase of 29 percent occurred in 1 month. The spring crop, which was sufficient to reduce prices in April and May, was curtailed somewhat by drought, leading to higher prices in June. Prices dropped thereafter to low levels as generally heavy production of the main summer crop followed after midyear. A drastic cut occurred in the late fall crop as compared with that of 1955 and prices were 17.4 percent higher in December 1956 than in December 1954.

Green beans averaged a little lower in price in 1955 than in 1954 but increased to 11.5 percent over the 1954 average in 1956 and finished the year some 23.8 percent above prices in December 1954. Adverse growing conditions in the first half of 1956, particularly the period of cold weather early in the year, brought reduced production and higher prices. Sharp price decreases followed after midyear as more favorable growing conditions produced larger supplies. Prices rose sharply thereafter in October, November, and December, as supplies were reduced by cold weather in Florida.

Oranges averaged lower in price in 1955 and higher in 1956 than in 1954. Starting at relatively low levels in January 1955, prices increased generally to a peak in October, the end of the California Valencia orange season, and decreased in November as Florida oranges came on the market in quantity from a crop of about the same size as in 1954-55.

Prices declined in January 1956 and fluctuated around the same level through April, the end of the main Florida season, and increased irregularly thereafter until the opening of the new Florida season in November. Exports were made to Europe in the spring to replace production losses due to cold winter weather in Spain. Arrival of the new Florida orange crop in November was followed by price decreases to the end of the year. Prices in December 1956 were 18.2 percent above December 1954.

Prices for fresh oranges were affected to some extent by the greater amounts of fresh juice being shipped from Florida over the 2 years, which, with canned and concentrated juice, reduced the supplies available for fresh shipment. Prices of frozen orange juice concentrate moved somewhat similarly to those for fresh fruit, although with smaller swings. Canned orange juice decreased in price through March 1955 but increased steadily thereafter through November 1956, ending the period 12.2 percent higher than in December 1954.

Prices of lemons fluctuated seasonally within narrow limits over most of the 2 years and increased over the last half of 1956, averaging 10.4 percent higher in December 1956 than in December 1954.

Retail prices of apples increased steadily after the peak production month of October 1954 to a seasonal peak in July 1955. The rise in the late spring and early summer was unusually sharp for apples because of the destruction of the southeastern peach crop by the freeze in March. Appearance of new crop apples in July and August was followed by lower prices through the seasonal production peak in October and into November. Prices increased seasonally thereafter through July 1956 and then decreased through October. By December 1956 they were 8.0 percent higher than in December 1954. However, average prices for 1955 and 1956 were 1.4 percent and 1.1 percent lower, respectively, than in 1954.

Prices of bananas were little changed in 1955 and 1956 as compared with 1954. Supplies varied seasonally and prices were generally increasing over the later months of 1956 following some wind damage to the crop after midyear. December 1956 prices were 3.4 percent higher than prices in December 1954.

Frozen fruit and vegetable prices averaged only slightly higher in 1955 than in 1954 but were 4.0 percent higher in 1956, finishing the period up 1.8 percent from December 1954. Prices of frozen strawberries averaged lower in both 1955 and 1956 following record production in each year. The decrease from December 1954 to December 1956 was 6.5 percent.

Orange juice concentrate decreased in price over the first months of 1955 as production rose, and increased thereafter into the new packing season as prices for oranges for juice were raised to obtain fruit for processing. Somewhat lower prices for oranges were accompanied by decreases in concentrate prices in the closing months of 1956 to a level 5.2 percent above December 1954.

Prices for frozen green peas, which increased in the late months of 1955 and the early months of 1956 and turned downward as the record production of 1956 came on the market, increased 4.9 percent over the 2 years. Changes in prices of frozen green beans were gradual over the 2 years, resulting in a decrease of 5.2 percent by December 1956 as production increased to a new high.

Cereals and bakery products.--The rise in prices for cereals and bakery products, begun in 1950, continued with only a minor pause in the last half of 1955. The increase for the 2 years amounted to 3.3 percent. Bread prices, the major cause of the increase, either advanced each month from the month before, or showed no change in price, in all months but one, for a net rise of 5.5 percent.

Among other cereals and bakery products, soda crackers increased 3.2 percent; vanilla cookies, 2.4 percent; rolled oats, 5.1 percent; corn flakes, 3.6 percent; and corn meal, 0.4 percent. Flour prices decreased 1.0 percent by December 1955, but increased

again to 0.2 percent above the December 1954 price by the end of 1956. Biscuit mix prices averaged just under 1954 levels in 1955 and decreased 1.0 percent in price by the end of 1956. Prices for rice declined 1.8 percent between December 1954 and December 1956. A Government purchase program for rice tended to maintain stable prices over the 2 years.

Other foods at home.--This group, which includes partially prepared foods, condiments and sauces, nonalcoholic beverages, fats and oils, sugar and sweets, eggs, and miscellaneous foods, averaged 2.0 percent higher in price in December 1956 than in December 1954. Increases of 2.9 percent for fats and oils, 9.0 percent for eggs, and 0.3 percent for beverages accounted for the advance. A 2.0-percent decrease in prices of sugar and sweets was the only decrease of any importance. Coffee prices declined 1.3 percent while tea increased 10.2 percent and cola drink, 3.0 percent.

Coffee prices dropped 8.3 percent in February 1955 and by smaller amounts over the following months through July, continuing the decreases from the alltime high average price of \$1.23 per pound in August 1954. Prices fell from \$1.06 per pound in January 1955 to \$0.89 per pound in June and August. These reductions in price came following more favorable crop reports and were strengthened by consumer resistance to the high prices preceding the decline. The February decrease came after Brazil raised export subsidies for green coffee. Increases in price in the late summer, when reports of frost in Brazil and the threat of a dock strike in New York occurred, were succeeded by 3 months of lower prices as prospects of a larger world supply appeared. Beginning in February 1956, however, coffee prices started a new series of monthly increases which continued through November. Doubts as to the size of the Brazilian crop, and a developing shortage in good quality mild coffees, which were damaged by heavy rains, were followed by new threats of a dock strike in New York. Price increases at retail were held down somewhat by greater use of cheaper African coffees in coffees sold in paper bags. As a result of price rises in 1956, the reduction in coffee prices from December 1954, which amounted to 12.9 percent to the end of 1955, amounted to a decrease of only 1.3 percent to December 1956.

Tea prices, which had been increasing since April 1954 as coffee reached its highest levels, turned downward in May 1955 and declined slightly in price until October 1956. Lower coffee prices and larger production of tea contributed to the decline.

Fats and oils increased in price an average of 2.9 percent during 1955 and 1956. A general reduction in prices of fats and oils except for peanut butter during 1955, including a decrease of nearly one-fifth in the price of lard, was followed by higher prices in 1956 for all items except peanut butter.

Lard prices, which had reached a peak in May 1954, decreased 13.7 percent in the first 3 months of 1955 as supplies were increased by heavy slaughter of hogs, and drifted lower during the remainder of the year. A further buildup of supplies in early 1956 brought prices to a low for the 2 years in March. Improved demand and higher exports through the remainder of the year, particularly in the late months when the international situation became tense, resulted in rising prices; but at the end of the period, prices were 11.1 percent under December 1954.

Shortening, margarine, and salad dressing decreased slightly in price during the year 1955 in response to ample supplies of vegetable oils, and increased in 1956 as larger proportions of the supply went to the export market. Peanut butter prices, under the influence of a reduced crop in 1954, increased 11.2 percent between December 1954 and September 1955 when a new crop of peanuts became available. After an initial decrease by January 1956 to 8 percent above December 1954, prices hovered around that figure to the end of the year.

Sugar and sweets averaged 2.0 percent lower in price in December 1956 than in December 1954. Prices for sugar increased 3.0 percent in 1955 and 1956. Sugar prices were stable over the year 1955 and advanced appreciably only after the end of the first quarter

of 1956 as increased consumption in the United States pressed on the quota for the year, and finally required additions to the quota. A change in the weight of chocolate bars in 1954 had resulted in an increase of 16 percent in the prices of candy bars in the last half of 1954. Higher prices for cocoa beans forced the change in weight. Chocolate bars were returned to the former weight in the later months of 1955, when cocoa prices were reduced following receipt of new crop beans. Prices then returned approximately to the level preceding the increase. Prices for corn syrup rose gradually over the 2 years to levels 2.9 percent above December 1954. Grape jelly prices increased 6.2 percent.

Egg prices increased 9.0 percent between December 1954 and December 1956, but experienced some unusual fluctuations which resulted in annual average prices only 3.3 percent higher in 1955 and only 2.7 percent higher in 1956 than in 1954. Average prices at retail ranged from a low of 52 cents per dozen in January 1955 to a high of 69 cents per dozen in December 1955. Heavy production of eggs in the last half of 1954, which eliminated the usual seasonal rise in late summer and early fall, continued into 1955 and caused the lowest price of the period in January. Some reaction to the extremely low prices of late 1954 and the cold weather in January and February followed, with higher prices in February and March, after which some seasonal decline occurred through May 1955. Prices experienced a more normal seasonal increase over the period of hot weather in the summer and the period of small supplies of large eggs in early fall. The usual seasonal decline was delayed by an increase in prices in December when supplies of large eggs were light. Seasonal decreases in egg prices were small from February through May 1956, as supplies ran somewhat lighter than in 1955. Seasonal advances in prices of eggs in the summer and fall of 1956 were followed by very heavy production and lower prices toward the end of the year.

Table 3.—Indexes of Retail Prices of Food in the United States, by Year, 1913-56, and by Month, January 1955 to December 1956

[1947-49=100]

Year	Total food	Year	Total food	Year	Total food ^{1/}	Year and month	Total food ^{1/}	Year and month	Total food ^{1/}
By year						By month			
1913-----	39.6	1928-----	64.8	1943-----	68.3	1955		1956	
1914-----	40.5	1929-----	65.6	1944-----	67.4	January-----	110.6	January-----	109.2
1915-----	40.0	1930-----	62.4	1945-----	68.9	February-----	110.8	February-----	108.8
1916-----	45.0	1931-----	51.4	1946-----	79.0	March-----	110.8	March-----	109.0
1917-----	57.9	1932-----	42.8	1947-----	95.9	April-----	111.2	April-----	109.6
1918-----	66.5	1933-----	41.6	1948-----	104.1	May-----	111.1	May-----	111.0
1919-----	74.2	1934-----	46.4	1949-----	100.0	June-----	111.3	June-----	113.2
1920-----	83.6	1935-----	49.7	1950-----	101.2	July-----	112.1	July-----	114.8
1921-----	63.5	1936-----	50.1	1951-----	112.6	August-----	111.2	August-----	113.1
1922-----	59.4	1937-----	52.1	1952-----	114.6	September-----	111.6	September-----	113.1
1923-----	61.4	1938-----	48.4	1953-----	112.8	October-----	110.8	October-----	113.1
1924-----	60.8	1939-----	47.1	1954-----	112.6	November-----	109.8	November-----	112.9
1925-----	65.8	1940-----	47.8	1955-----	110.9	December-----	109.5	December-----	112.9
1926-----	68.0	1941-----	52.2	1956-----	111.7				
1927-----	65.5	1942-----	61.3						

^{1/} Beginning January 1953, the food index includes restaurant meals and other food bought and eaten away from home.

Table 4.—Indexes of Retail Prices of Food in the United States ^{1/}, by Commodity Group, by Year, 1923-56, and Month, 1955-56

[1947-49=100 unless otherwise indicated]

Year and month	Total foods	Foods away from home ^{2/}	Total foods at home	Cereals and bakery products	Meats poultry, and fish ^{3/}	Meats				Chick-ens	Fish	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables					Other foods at home				
						Total ^{3/}	Beef and veal	Pork	Leg of lamb				Total	Frozen ^{4/}	Fresh	Canned	Dried	Total ^{5/}	Bever-ages	Fats and oils	Sugar and sweets	Eggs
By Year, 1923-56 ^{6/}																						
1923-----	61.4	---	---	63.8	43.6	---	---	---	---	---	---	67.2	83.0	---	82.3	78.5	71.3	---	64.4	69.9	99.2	66.8
1924-----	60.8	---	---	64.9	44.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	64.4	78.1	---	77.1	76.9	64.9	---	72.3	74.3	90.0	68.3
1925-----	65.8	---	---	70.2	47.9	---	---	---	---	---	---	66.5	90.6	---	91.7	83.2	64.7	---	83.4	82.6	70.5	74.3
1926-----	68.0	---	---	70.0	50.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	66.1	103.2	---	107.3	77.3	62.0	---	83.4	80.3	67.9	69.6
1927-----	65.5	---	---	68.5	49.9	---	---	---	---	---	---	67.9	90.0	---	92.2	76.0	59.3	---	80.0	73.6	71.9	65.4
1928-----	64.8	---	---	66.6	53.0	---	---	---	---	---	---	68.2	79.0	---	78.9	75.8	62.6	---	80.9	71.1	69.6	67.4
1929-----	65.6	---	---	65.1	54.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	68.0	82.8	---	82.3	78.2	69.5	---	80.7	70.5	64.6	70.6
1930-----	62.4	---	---	63.1	51.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	62.8	86.9	---	88.1	74.6	64.5	---	70.2	66.0	60.7	59.6
1931-----	51.4	---	---	55.3	43.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	53.4	61.6	---	61.0	65.0	48.3	---	61.0	53.2	56.1	47.0
1932-----	42.8	---	---	50.0	34.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	44.1	50.7	---	50.2	57.3	37.1	---	55.1	39.4	50.7	40.4
1933-----	41.6	---	---	51.2	29.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	43.0	55.7	---	56.4	55.3	35.9	---	50.1	36.8	53.3	38.3
1934-----	46.4	---	---	59.5	34.0	---	---	---	---	---	---	47.2	58.3	---	58.0	65.3	41.1	---	52.7	42.3	55.4	43.5
1935-----	49.7	---	---	61.6	43.0	43.9	41.5	48.7	39.5	49.6	32.8	50.6	48.8	---	46.8	66.8	41.0	---	50.9	61.1	57.0	51.2
1936-----	50.1	---	---	60.9	42.6	43.0	39.8	48.1	41.4	52.5	32.9	52.8	51.3	---	50.4	63.5	39.3	---	48.7	57.0	56.3	50.7
1937-----	52.1	---	---	62.5	45.5	46.4	44.8	49.6	43.1	54.5	33.7	54.7	52.8	---	51.5	64.9	47.2	---	50.7	58.6	57.2	49.7
1938-----	48.4	---	---	60.4	42.6	42.7	41.5	44.8	40.1	54.3	33.8	51.7	45.6	---	43.7	61.3	37.9	---	47.8	51.8	55.4	49.3
1939-----	47.1	---	---	57.2	41.6	42.1	42.5	41.4	40.8	48.7	33.7	49.8	46.3	---	45.1	58.1	37.9	---	46.8	48.6	56.9	44.7
1940-----	47.8	---	---	58.6	41.2	41.2	43.2	37.8	40.8	49.2	36.9	52.6	47.3	---	46.1	58.1	40.9	---	45.3	45.5	54.8	46.1
1941-----	52.2	---	---	59.2	46.3	46.4	46.6	43.7	43.7	53.0	41.6	58.2	50.5	---	49.4	61.6	43.4	---	49.7	52.1	60.2	55.1
1942-----	61.3	---	---	63.6	54.2	53.4	52.0	56.1	50.8	63.7	54.4	65.1	64.1	---	63.0	76.5	55.4	---	59.8	66.3	71.5	67.0
1943-----	68.3	---	---	65.1	57.6	54.2	52.4	55.8	56.1	75.9	69.0	69.9	82.7	---	84.4	82.1	64.6	---	61.1	69.9	71.9	79.5
1944-----	67.4	---	---	65.6	55.9	51.4	49.9	52.2	55.1	78.4	69.3	69.4	82.4	---	84.0	81.4	66.9	---	60.9	68.3	71.5	75.6
1945-----	68.9	---	---	65.9	56.5	51.5	49.8	52.4	55.7	80.2	72.5	69.5	86.7	---	89.2	81.9	68.4	---	61.1	68.7	71.5	80.7
1946-----	79.0	---	---	75.6	69.4	65.8	63.3	69.0	67.1	90.3	78.9	85.7	89.3	---	90.4	88.6	77.4	---	63.4	84.3	81.4	82.9
1947-----	95.9	---	---	94.0	93.5	93.6	89.8	100.5	90.2	95.1	90.6	96.7	97.6	---	95.5	104.5	107.2	100.1	91.5	109.4	101.8	98.6
1948-----	104.1	---	---	103.4	106.1	106.4	108.7	103.6	101.1	105.5	104.5	106.3	100.5	---	100.7	99.4	100.4	102.5	100.4	108.3	98.4	102.5
1949-----	100.0	---	---	102.7	100.5	100.0	101.5	95.9	103.1	99.4	104.9	96.9	101.9	---	103.7	96.2	92.5	97.5	108.1	82.2	99.8	98.8
1950-----	101.2	---	---	104.5	104.9	105.5	111.7	94.6	107.3	95.2	103.0	95.9	97.6	---	97.7	91.8	92.9	101.2	153.0	79.9	101.8	85.3
1951-----	112.6	---	---	114.0	117.2	119.5	130.5	100.4	120.2	99.7	117.6	107.0	106.7	111.7	105.9	104.3	101.6	114.6	168.7	93.5	105.5	103.8
1952-----	114.6	---	---	116.8	116.2	118.4	129.5	99.3	118.1	100.1	114.6	111.5	117.2	102.8	123.2	103.0	97.9	109.3	169.8	79.3	106.4	94.8
1953-----	112.8	100.6	112.5	119.1	109.9	110.6	102.1	110.5	104.3	97.6	110.3	109.6	113.5	101.2	116.1	105.0	104.0	112.2	174.5	79.6	107.6	100.4
1954-----	112.6	102.3	111.9	121.9	108.0	110.0	98.3	113.9	102.5	88.1	110.8	106.1	111.9	99.1	113.9	104.0	108.1	114.8	207.3	83.9	109.8	84.0
1955-----	110.9	103.4	109.7	123.9	101.6	101.2	97.2	98.1	98.2	91.7	108.6	105.9	113.5	99.5	116.0	104.0	116.3	111.5	185.6	81.3	112.2	86.8
1956-----	111.7	105.4	110.2	125.6	97.1	97.9	95.7	93.1	99.8	80.4	108.5	108.7	119.0	103.1	122.8	107.9	114.6	112.8	194.0	93.1	109.6	86.3

1955	By Month, 1955-56 7/																					
January-----	110.6	102.8	109.4	123.4	102.4	103.7	99.7	100.1	98.9	85.1	109.3	106.4	110.6	98.5	111.8	103.6	113.2	111.3	202.2	82.5	113.3	73.9
February-----	110.8	102.8	109.6	123.8	102.5	102.6	99.4	98.5	98.8	90.8	109.2	106.1	110.7	96.8	112.4	102.8	114.4	112.1	190.7	82.1	113.3	84.6
March-----	110.8	102.9	109.7	123.9	102.3	100.9	98.4	95.8	98.2	97.8	108.5	105.4	112.0	97.4	114.5	102.6	115.5	111.9	187.3	81.8	113.3	86.3
April-----	111.2	103.0	110.1	123.9	103.0	101.1	98.1	96.6	99.0	101.3	108.6	104.6	117.5	97.8	123.2	102.8	115.9	109.4	185.5	81.6	113.2	78.7
May-----	111.1	103.2	110.0	123.8	102.1	101.4	96.5	99.3	97.2	93.9	108.5	104.0	120.2	97.9	127.5	103.0	116.4	108.4	184.9	80.9	113.2	76.2
June-----	111.3	102.9	110.3	124.0	103.8	103.3	96.8	103.1	100.2	95.5	108.0	104.1	119.5	98.1	126.1	103.4	117.1	107.7	180.1	80.7	113.0	76.9
July-----	112.1	103.3	111.1	124.2	103.7	103.4	96.7	103.6	98.9	94.4	108.2	104.7	121.9	98.6	129.6	103.7	117.6	109.2	180.3	81.1	113.0	81.9
August-----	111.2	103.5	110.0	124.1	102.9	102.1	96.5	101.0	97.9	95.3	108.2	105.7	111.3	100.9	112.2	104.1	118.4	112.6	180.3	81.5	113.0	93.4
September-----	111.6	103.6	110.4	124.0	103.5	103.2	97.4	102.5	98.4	94.1	108.3	106.5	110.2	101.7	109.9	104.7	118.0	114.1	182.1	81.3	113.0	97.9
October-----	110.8	104.0	109.4	123.9	100.9	101.4	97.0	98.9	98.2	86.9	108.4	107.5	108.5	102.1	107.1	105.1	117.0	113.9	184.7	80.8	110.2	97.6
November-----	109.8	104.0	108.2	123.9	97.1	97.1	95.3	91.1	96.8	84.0	108.6	107.8	109.0	102.3	107.6	105.8	116.3	113.1	185.7	80.6	109.1	94.9
December-----	109.5	104.3	107.9	123.9	94.6	94.3	94.3	86.1	95.4	81.4	109.2	107.7	110.7	102.1	110.3	105.9	115.6	113.7	183.8	80.3	108.8	98.7
1956																						
January-----	109.2	104.1	107.5	123.9	93.3	92.5	93.1	83.5	93.1	81.9	109.6	107.3	112.6	102.3	113.3	106.1	114.7	112.8	182.9	79.6	108.8	96.8
February-----	108.8	104.1	107.1	124.3	93.6	92.7	91.5	85.7	93.5	83.7	108.8	107.3	113.3	102.9	114.1	106.5	114.7	109.6	183.3	79.6	108.8	84.9
March-----	109.0	104.4	107.3	124.4	92.8	91.6	89.9	84.7	92.6	83.3	109.2	106.9	114.8	103.9	116.3	106.9	114.5	110.7	188.0	80.4	108.9	85.1
April-----	109.6	104.8	107.9	124.5	94.0	93.6	90.5	85.5	94.9	81.6	108.5	106.4	116.7	103.6	119.3	107.3	111.5	110.8	188.9	82.2	109.0	83.5
May-----	111.0	105.0	109.5	124.7	95.5	95.5	91.8	90.9	103.5	82.1	108.4	107.5	121.5	103.5	126.8	107.6	114.6	110.9	189.3	83.9	109.0	82.2
June-----	113.2	104.9	112.1	125.2	98.0	99.1	93.1	97.4	108.5	80.7	108.0	107.7	131.4	104.1	142.5	108.0	114.9	111.1	191.7	84.6	109.3	80.8
July-----	114.8	105.3	113.8	125.8	99.3	99.8	94.4	98.2	103.5	84.7	107.6	108.7	135.2	104.7	148.4	108.6	115.4	112.8	196.9	84.4	109.6	83.4
August-----	113.1	105.7	111.8	126.3	99.9	101.3	98.0	98.6	102.2	81.4	108.0	109.2	120.7	104.5	124.9	108.8	115.4	113.9	197.8	84.4	109.7	86.5
September-----	113.1	106.0	111.7	126.6	101.3	103.8	102.7	99.8	103.0	78.7	108.1	109.8	114.8	104.1	115.5	108.7	115.3	115.4	201.5	84.2	109.9	89.9
October-----	113.1	106.5	111.7	126.8	100.8	103.5	103.5	98.5	101.4	76.7	108.3	110.7	113.9	102.5	114.1	108.9	114.6	115.8	202.3	84.2	110.3	90.7
November-----	112.9	106.8	111.3	127.0	98.8	101.3	101.2	95.2	102.3	75.1	108.3	111.1	115.8	101.1	117.4	109.8	113.6	115.2	202.8	84.6	110.6	87.7
December-----	112.9	107.0	111.2	127.4	98.0	100.3	98.6	95.6	98.9	74.7	108.9	111.2	117.4	100.4	120.4	108.3	112.7	114.2	201.6	85.3	110.9	83.3

1/ 51-city average January 1923 - February 1943, 56-cities March 1943 - December 1952, 46 cities beginning January 1953. For a more complete description see appendix, page
2/ January 1953=100. Restaurant meals included in total foods beginning January 1953.
3/ Only total meats, poultry, and fish available through 1934. Other meats included in meats, and in meats, poultry, and fish beginning January 1953.
4/ December 1952 = 100.0.
5/ Partially prepared foods and other miscellaneous foods included in total foods bought to be prepared at home beginning January 1953.
6/ Indexes for the years 1923-52 have been computed by converting indexes from the 1935-39 base, previously published, to the 1947-49 base. (See table C, p.37.)
for conversion factors.
7/ Indexes by month 1947-54 may be found in Retail Prices of Food, 1953-54, ELS Bull. 1183, (table 4, pp. 12-14).

Year and month	United States ^{1/}	Atlanta, Ga.	Baltimore, Md.	Boston, Mass.	Chicago, Ill.	Cincinnati, Ohio	Cleveland, Ohio	Detroit, Mich.	Houston, Texas	Kansas City, Mo.	Los Angeles, Calif.	Minneapolis, Minn.	New York, N.Y. ^{2/}	Philadelphia, Pa.	Pittsburgh, Pa.	Portland, Oreg.	St. Louis, Mo.	San Francisco, Calif.	Scranton, Pa.	Seattle, Wash.	Washington, D.C.
Other Foods at Home																					
1955: Average	111.5	104.0	111.2	106.6	116.9	116.6	115.1	113.1	109.5	104.9	110.1	119.7	113.3	112.0	120.2	111.5	119.3	110.3	109.9	110.6	111.7
January	111.3	103.2	111.6	103.9	116.7	116.5	115.9	112.1	111.8	104.7	109.2	119.0	112.3	111.9	120.4	109.3	119.3	109.6	109.7	109.9	111.3
February	112.1	104.1	112.2	106.2	117.6	117.4	115.2	113.2	111.1	106.6	111.4	121.5	113.2	112.9	119.3	109.3	119.5	112.3	110.3	111.7	111.9
March	111.9	103.9	112.1	107.2	117.3	117.9	116.4	114.3	109.6	105.5	111.2	121.9	113.3	112.8	120.9	109.4	120.8	110.4	111.1	110.5	112.1
April	109.4	101.5	108.9	105.1	114.7	115.3	113.4	110.6	109.3	103.1	108.1	117.2	111.5	110.8	118.4	109.3	118.3	108.4	108.2	108.2	110.0
May	108.4	101.5	107.7	104.0	113.9	113.7	112.3	110.0	108.2	102.2	108.1	116.2	109.5	108.0	116.7	108.9	117.2	108.4	105.6	108.9	118.0
June	107.7	101.3	107.4	103.9	112.8	112.6	111.0	108.8	108.9	101.3	107.0	114.4	109.6	107.7	116.2	108.9	115.7	108.4	105.4	108.7	107.7
July	109.2	102.4	108.5	105.8	113.9	114.4	113.1	110.4	107.0	101.7	107.5	116.7	111.3	110.2	117.8	110.9	116.8	108.3	108.5	109.0	109.3
August	112.6	105.1	112.5	110.4	117.9	117.6	115.7	114.6	108.5	106.0	109.1	120.2	117.0	114.6	121.6	113.3	118.8	110.7	113.4	111.8	113.5
September	114.1	106.3	113.7	109.4	119.8	118.7	117.7	116.9	110.5	107.4	112.3	121.8	116.9	114.3	123.2	115.3	121.4	112.9	112.6	113.3	114.2
October	113.9	105.4	113.0	108.2	119.7	118.8	117.2	116.5	110.0	107.4	113.5	122.7	115.5	113.8	123.4	115.8	120.8	112.7	111.7	113.3	114.4
November	113.1	105.9	113.0	107.9	119.3	117.8	116.5	115.5	110.2	106.1	111.1	121.4	114.6	113.6	122.5	112.7	121.4	109.9	111.2	110.1	113.5
December	113.7	106.9	113.2	107.1	119.7	119.0	116.8	114.8	111.1	107.2	112.6	123.0	114.6	113.1	122.4	115.4	121.9	112.0	111.1	112.0	114.1
1956: Average	112.8	105.3	112.8	106.8	119.1	118.8	116.7	115.2	111.2	106.6	111.7	120.9	113.2	112.6	121.9	115.5	121.4	110.4	110.4	111.4	113.4
January	112.8	105.5	111.9	106.8	118.4	118.0	115.8	113.9	111.0	105.3	112.7	121.8	113.5	112.4	121.9	113.4	121.2	111.5	110.6	110.7	112.9
February	109.6	102.4	109.4	103.2	116.0	114.7	113.0	111.6	108.9	102.8	110.7	118.2	109.7	108.5	118.7	111.4	118.5	107.0	106.3	106.6	109.1
March	110.7	102.8	110.7	105.5	117.1	116.1	114.0	112.8	109.3	104.8	109.9	119.5	111.3	110.1	119.6	114.1	120.5	108.3	108.1	108.7	111.8
April	110.8	103.7	110.7	105.6	117.1	116.9	114.4	113.5	109.4	105.1	110.5	119.3	111.1	110.6	119.8	113.0	119.3	107.4	108.5	108.5	111.6
May	110.9	104.1	111.1	105.7	117.8	116.6	114.3	112.8	109.8	105.8	110.1	119.5	111.1	111.0	120.0	112.6	119.6	107.1	108.7	108.6	112.1
June	111.1	104.0	111.4	105.9	118.3	116.8	115.4	113.4	109.7	107.1	109.3	120.0	111.5	110.8	119.9	114.3	120.1	107.5	108.5	109.4	112.5
July	112.8	105.0	113.3	107.5	119.6	119.1	117.1	115.2	110.9	107.3	110.9	120.7	113.6	113.2	122.4	115.8	121.8	110.3	110.4	111.0	113.7
August	113.9	106.0	113.6	108.1	120.0	120.8	118.5	117.3	112.2	108.0	111.8	121.2	114.2	114.0	122.8	119.3	121.9	111.9	111.0	114.1	114.3
September	115.4	107.0	115.4	110.9	121.4	122.4	120.2	119.1	112.7	109.4	112.0	121.9	116.7	116.4	124.8	119.6	124.0	112.5	114.0	114.9	116.9
October	115.8	108.1	116.1	110.1	122.6	122.3	120.0	118.4	113.6	108.5	114.4	123.9	116.2	116.5	125.5	118.5	124.3	114.4	113.6	116.0	116.3
November	115.2	107.6	115.2	107.0	121.5	121.7	119.4	118.2	113.6	108.4	114.2	123.2	115.4	115.2	124.7	117.0	123.1	114.0	113.8	114.0	115.8
December	114.2	107.4	114.2	105.8	119.2	119.6	118.2	116.4	113.7	107.0	114.0	121.5	113.6	112.8	123.0	117.3	122.9	112.7	111.1	114.5	114.3

^{1/} 46-city average, including 26 cities not shown separately.

^{2/} Includes New York, N. Y.—Northern New Jersey.

^{3/} Indexes for all foods by month, 1957-54 appear in Retail Prices of Foods, 1953-54, BLS Bull. 1183 (table 6, pp. 16-17).

Fresh vegetables:																			
Potatoes	44.5	43.0	42.3	62.1	84.3	85.7	91.2	87.4	94.0	104.3	101.7	85.4	93.5	140.0	102.2	99.3	107.2	127.8	
Sweet potatoes	46.1	46.5	46.8	50.4	98.7	93.3	87.8	100.4	94.9	102.2	115.4	92.6	107.6	163.4	118.8	121.1	123.1	114.9	
Onions	44.7	53.5	60.3	70.5	90.2	83.4	81.9	81.4	87.0	125.3	87.7	80.4	93.6	134.1	111.0	85.4	95.2	112.4	
Carrots	47.3	49.7	52.3	67.7	80.0	79.4	79.1	81.2	97.1	108.6	94.3	90.2	112.2	108.5	108.0	108.4	108.8	109.1	
Lettuce	56.0	56.7	62.8	78.4	91.8	79.8	84.8	80.5	93.7	94.1	112.2	95.2	110.8	105.2	105.2	105.9	113.7	114.4	
Celery 18/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	99.2	90.2	98.9	92.7	
Cabbage	54.0	50.7	62.7	65.1	104.6	76.6	88.0	86.7	106.5	96.0	97.5	87.5	127.3	140.5	105.1	99.1	119.9	114.5	
Tomatoes 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	99.2	94.7	98.5	105.4	
Beans, green	45.3	50.5	57.9	64.7	80.3	84.5	91.4	91.6	102.2	101.0	96.8	101.6	105.7	112.5	113.1	107.2	105.1	119.5	
Canned fruits and vegetables	58.1	58.1	61.6	76.5	82.1	81.4	81.9	88.6	104.5	99.4	96.2	91.8	104.3	103.0	105.0	104.0	104.0	107.9	
Canned fruits:																			
Orange juice 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	107.3	110.5	107.4	120.0
Peaches	56.6	57.2	62.7	79.6	87.6	90.1	90.4	93.1	101.6	99.9	98.4	91.2	107.3	107.8	107.6	104.0	108.0	111.0	
Pineapple	57.4	57.8	59.2	74.6	78.7	77.0	76.5	77.1	91.1	101.1	107.7	103.6	106.0	104.9	104.8	104.9	106.1	108.8	
Fruit cocktail 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	100.2	101.7	101.3	100.8	
Canned vegetables:																			
Corn, cream style 19/	58.4	58.7	63.5	72.5	75.9	76.0	76.9	80.6	95.8	102.9	101.3	92.6	106.7	112.7	113.4	108.1	101.5	106.8	
Peas, green 20/	77.2	77.9	79.1	90.6	93.1	90.3	90.3	93.7	102.9	99.2	97.9	98.7	101.1	97.8	101.1	101.1	101.8	102.1	
Tomatoes	49.4	48.9	52.5	69.5	75.7	74.7	75.5	88.3	113.4	97.1	89.5	86.8	111.2	103.8	102.0	99.4	103.0	104.1	
Baby foods 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	99.7	99.2	98.6	100.9	
Dried fruits and vegetables:																			
Prunes	37.9	40.9	43.4	55.4	56.5	66.9	68.4	77.4	107.2	100.4	92.5	92.9	101.6	97.9	104.0	108.1	116.3	114.6	
Dried beans 21/	42.4	45.9	47.0	61.3	73.1	75.2	76.4	83.1	107.4	92.4	100.2	106.6	119.3	113.9	120.6	126.5	138.4	147.2	
Other foods at home 22/	32.7	34.9	39.3	48.6	54.0	56.4	58.1	70.2	106.9	110.5	82.6	77.1	83.2	80.6	85.7	88.5	93.7	85.7	
Partially prepared foods:																			
Soup, vegetable 2/ 23/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	99.8	99.6	98.7	98.3
Beans with pork 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	100.0	100.9	103.9	103.0	
Condiments and sauces:																			
Pickles, sweet 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	101.5	102.0	99.4	98.8
Catsup, tomato 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	97.8	97.2	98.1	101.6
Beverages, non-alcoholic:																			
Coffee 24/	46.8	45.3	49.7	59.8	61.1	60.9	61.1	68.4	91.5	100.4	108.1	153.0	168.7	169.8	174.5	207.3	185.6	194.0	
Tea 2/ 25/	46.0	43.9	48.8	59.0	59.7	59.4	59.6	67.3	91.5	100.4	108.0	154.8	169.1	169.2	173.5	215.2	180.7	192.0	
Cola drinks 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	100.2	104.7	122.5	121.2	
Fats and oils	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	103.5	109.7	111.9	113.0	
Shortening, hydrogenated 26/	48.6	45.5	52.1	66.3	69.9	68.3	68.7	84.3	109.4	108.3	82.2	79.9	93.5	79.3	79.6	83.9	81.3	83.1	
Margarine, colored	47.3	45.1	48.5	60.2	60.7	60.2	60.4	70.1	108.0	107.0	85.0	80.0	95.5	81.5	82.8	85.5	84.7	90.5	
Lard	45.7	44.6	48.2	62.8	64.5	64.3	64.2	75.3	108.5	109.9	81.6	80.1	97.7	76.3	76.7	77.4	75.0	75.6	
Salad dressing 27/	40.4	34.9	47.0	63.7	69.9	68.7	69.5	97.9	117.6	110.7	71.7	71.6	92.5	69.1	72.7	95.0	76.0	73.1	
Peanut butter 2/	63.6	61.1	63.9	73.9	74.5	74.5	74.7	80.9	101.9	104.9	93.3	92.1	102.9	92.8	91.4	94.4	92.8	94.3	
Sugar and sweets	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	99.9	100.1	110.4	110.0	
Sugar	56.9	54.8	60.2	71.5	71.9	71.5	71.5	81.4	101.8	98.4	99.8	101.8	105.5	106.4	107.6	109.8	112.2	109.6	
Corn syrup 2/	56.6	54.4	59.9	71.2	70.8	70.4	70.4	80.5	101.9	98.4	99.8	102.2	106.2	108.2	109.3	108.8	108.0	109.8	
Grape jelly 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	100.2	100.7	100.9	101.5	
Chocolate bars 2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	101.4	105.0	107.8	111.4	
Eggs, grade A, large	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	99.9	105.4	112.6	100.0	
Miscellaneous foods:																			
Gelatin, flavored 2/	44.7	46.1	55.1	67.0	79.5	75.6	80.7	82.9	98.6	102.5	98.8	85.3	103.8	94.8	100.4	84.0	86.8	86.3	

- 1/ Restaurant meals included in all foods beginning January 1953.
- 2/ December 1952=100.
- 3/ Average for 6 months.
- 4/ Average for 11 months.
- 5/ Vanilla cookies replaced pound cake in October 1939.
- 6/ Other meats included in Meats, and Meats, poultry and fish, beginning January 1953.
- 7/ Frying chickens replaced roasting chickens in April 1949.
- 8/ Specification revised to chunk style tuna in 42 cities and continued as solid pack tuna in 4 cities, beginning August 1955; chunk style in 43 cities and solid pack in 3 cities, beginning November 1955.
- 9/ Specification revised to include Vitamin D milk and milk in half-gallon containers, beginning November 1950.
- 10/ Milk specifications revised to standard specification by city, beginning August 1956.
- 11/ American process cheese replaced number 1 mild cheddar cheese in July 1949.
- 12/ May 1953=100. 1953 average for 8 months.
- 13/ January 1953=100. 1953 and 1954 averages for 4 months, 1955 and 1956 averages for 7 months.
- 14/ July 1953=100. 1953-56 averages for 3 months.

- 15/ April 1953=100. 1953-56 averages for 3 months.
- 16/ July 1953=100. 1953 average for 3 months, 1954 and 1955 averages for 5 months, 1956 average for 4 months.
- 17/ June 1953=100. 1953-56 averages for 3 months.
- 18/ January 1953=100.
- 19/ Cream style corn replaced cream style and whole kernel corn in April 1939.
- 20/ No. 303 can fancy grade replaced No. 2 can standard grade peas in April 1950.
- 21/ Navy beans through June 1955. Specification revised to include Great Northern Beans beginning July 1955. Published as dried beans beginning August 1955.
- 22/ Partially prepared foods and miscellaneous foods were added to the list of foods bought to be prepared at home in January 1953.
- 23/ Tomato soup replaced vegetable soup in August 1956.
- 24/ Specification revised to include prices for tinned coffee in 211 stores and coffee in bags in chain stores and supermarkets only, beginning January 1956.
- 25/ Tea bags replaced loose tea in August 1955.
- 26/ Published as shortening in other containers prior to August 1947.
- 27/ Salad dressing replaced mayonnaise in January 1950.
- */ Priced only in season.

Table 7. —Indexes of Retail Prices of Principal Foods in the United States, by Month, 1955 and 1956—Continued

[1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified]

Article or group	1956												
	Average	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
All fruits and vegetables—Con.													
Fresh fruits and vegetables—Con.													
Fresh fruits—Con.													
Grapes, seedless 6/-----	2/ 80.9	*	*	*	*	*	*	104.9	75.6	68.4	74.5	*	*
Watermelons 10/-----	1/ 79.5	*	*	*	*	*	99.0	77.1	62.4	*	*	*	*
Fresh vegetables:													
Potatoes -----	127.8	98.3	103.7	108.2	126.3	150.6	174.4	218.6	146.4	108.9	97.6	99.4	101.2
Sweetpotatoes -----	114.9	106.3	105.7	107.2	106.9	112.5	121.8	138.4	136.1	117.6	106.9	105.5	113.4
Onions -----	112.4	97.4	93.5	92.0	94.2	107.8	148.2	186.4	159.6	106.0	89.2	84.6	89.9
Carrots -----	108.1	124.0	110.8	102.4	97.8	101.8	107.9	108.5	108.8	110.9	106.2	108.3	109.4
Lettuce -----	111.4	95.1	96.2	103.2	106.4	111.1	112.0	96.9	102.8	111.0	125.4	167.8	145.4
Celery 4/-----	92.7	89.7	89.8	90.1	96.7	90.6	99.6	99.6	92.8	86.0	84.7	92.0	101.3
Cabbage -----	114.5	140.4	119.9	115.6	124.3	115.9	125.6	116.3	107.4	104.1	100.3	97.1	107.1
Tomatoes 1/-----	105.4	120.0	116.9	151.1	121.1	101.7	118.8	106.9	77.2	59.2	74.8	94.5	122.8
Beans, green -----	119.5	149.9	157.3	126.4	121.4	132.3	134.0	101.5	81.4	86.3	102.1	110.9	130.0
Canned fruits and vegetables -----	107.9	106.1	106.5	106.9	107.3	107.6	108.0	108.6	108.8	108.7	108.9	108.8	108.3
Canned fruits:													
Orange juice 1/-----	120.0	111.7	113.5	114.9	116.6	117.5	118.6	121.4	123.4	124.2	126.4	126.4	124.9
Peaches -----	111.0	111.2	111.2	110.9	111.3	111.6	111.8	112.1	111.1	110.5	110.1	109.9	109.7
Pineapple -----	108.8	107.8	107.9	108.3	108.7	108.7	109.1	109.1	108.9	109.0	109.1	109.3	109.8
Fruit cocktail 1/-----	100.8	101.5	101.0	100.7	100.7	100.6	100.5	100.8	100.9	101.1	101.0	100.7	100.2
Canned vegetables:													
Corn, cream style -----	106.8	106.0	106.4	106.8	106.7	107.3	107.8	108.1	108.4	108.4	106.9	105.3	103.6
Peas, green -----	102.1	102.5	102.6	102.6	102.5	102.5	102.3	102.5	101.8	101.4	101.5	101.5	101.8
Tomatoes -----	104.1	103.6	104.5	104.7	105.2	104.3	104.5	104.0	104.2	103.6	103.5	103.9	103.3
Baby foods 1/-----	100.9	98.7	99.0	99.1	99.2	100.5	101.4	101.8	101.9	102.1	102.2	102.3	102.2
Dried fruits and vegetables -----	114.6	114.7	114.7	114.5	114.5	114.6	114.9	115.4	115.4	115.3	114.6	113.6	112.7
Prunes -----	147.2	144.5	146.0	146.7	147.6	148.1	148.6	149.5	149.7	149.9	147.5	145.0	143.6
Dried beans -----	85.7	87.6	86.6	85.9	85.3	85.2	85.3	85.5	85.5	85.3	85.7	85.6	85.1
Other foods at home -----	112.8	112.8	109.6	110.7	110.8	110.9	111.1	112.8	113.9	115.4	115.8	115.2	114.2
Partially prepared foods:													
Soup, vegetable 1/ 12/-----	98.3	98.7	98.6	98.6	98.6	98.5	98.6	98.7	99.0	97.7	97.3	97.6	97.8
Beans with pork 1/-----	103.0	103.2	103.0	103.1	102.2	102.5	103.3	103.4	103.2	103.2	102.8	102.4	103.2
Condiments and sauces:													
Pickles, sweet 1/-----	98.8	99.1	98.7	98.6	98.8	98.7	98.4	98.5	99.0	99.4	98.6	98.5	99.0
Catsup, tomato 1/-----	101.6	100.0	100.3	101.0	101.4	101.5	101.9	102.0	102.2	102.4	102.1	102.3	102.4
Beverages, nonalcoholic -----	194.0	182.9	183.3	188.0	188.9	189.3	191.7	196.9	197.8	201.5	202.8	202.8	201.6
Coffee 15/-----	192.0	176.9	178.1	184.6	185.4	185.9	189.1	195.8	196.9	202.1	203.7	203.7	201.8
Tea 1/-----	121.2	123.4	120.6	120.7	121.1	120.8	120.7	120.8	121.0	121.0	120.9	121.1	121.9
Cola drinks 1/-----	113.0	111.4	111.4	111.6	112.3	112.4	112.7	113.6	113.8	113.9	114.2	114.2	114.3
Fats and oils -----	83.1	79.6	79.6	80.4	82.2	83.9	84.6	84.4	84.4	84.2	84.2	84.6	85.3
Shortening, hydrogenated -----	90.5	84.0	84.1	86.0	89.5	92.4	94.2	93.6	93.3	92.4	92.2	92.2	92.6
Margarine -----	75.6	72.8	73.1	73.7	75.6	76.5	76.2	76.2	76.4	76.4	76.2	76.6	77.3
Lard -----	73.1	59.8	69.2	69.1	69.8	73.2	73.5	72.9	73.6	74.4	75.9	76.9	79.2
Salad dressing -----	94.3	92.2	92.2	92.5	93.1	94.1	94.9	95.5	95.4	94.8	94.6	95.6	96.4
Peanut butter 1/-----	110.0	110.6	110.0	110.1	109.7	109.7	109.8	110.1	109.9	109.9	110.0	109.9	109.9
Sugar and sweets -----	109.6	108.8	108.8	108.9	109.0	109.0	109.3	109.6	109.7	109.9	110.3	110.6	110.9
Sugar -----	109.8	108.8	109.0	109.0	109.3	109.3	109.8	110.0	110.0	110.0	110.2	110.7	111.5
Corn syrup 1/-----	101.5	100.7	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.5	100.6	100.9	101.5	102.5	103.1	103.4	103.7
Grape jelly 1/-----	111.4	109.2	109.5	110.0	110.5	110.8	110.7	111.6	111.6	112.2	113.4	113.8	113.4
Chocolate bar 1/-----	100.0	100.4	100.1	100.0	99.9	99.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	99.9	100.1	100.0	100.0
Eggs, grade A, large -----	86.3	96.8	84.9	85.1	83.5	82.2	80.8	83.4	86.5	89.9	90.7	87.7	83.8
Miscellaneous foods:													
Gelatin, flavored 1/-----	99.3	99.1	99.0	98.9	98.1	99.0	99.2	99.3	99.4	98.8	99.0	100.6	101.3

1/ December 1952=100.
 2/ Specification revised to chunk style tuna in 42 cities and continued as solid pack tuna in 4 cities, beginning August 1955; chunk style in 43 cities and solid pack in 3 cities, beginning November 1955.
 3/ May 1953=100.
 4/ January 1953=100.
 5/ Average for 7 months.
 6/ July 1953=100.
 7/ Average for 3 months.
 8/ April 1953=100.
 9/ Average for 5 months in 1955; average for 4 months in 1956.
 10/ June 1953=100.
 11/ Specification revised to include Great Northern beans in addition to navy beans, beginning July 1955.
 12/ Tomato soup replaced vegetable soup in August 1956.
 13/ Tea bags replaced loose tea in August 1955.
 14/ Milk specification changed to standard specification by city, beginning August 1956.
 15/ Specification revised to include prices for timed coffee in all stores and coffee in bags in chain stores and super markets only, beginning January 1956.
 * Priced in season only.

Table 8.—Classification of Retail Food Items by Percent Change in Price for Selected Periods, 1955-56

Percent Change From December 1954 to December 1956						
+ 10.0% and over	+ 5.0% to + 9.9%	+ 1.0% to + 4.9%	+ 0.9% to - 0.9%	- 1.0% to - 4.9%	- 5.0% to - 9.9%	- 10.0% and over
Lettuce + 45.7	Eggs + 9.0	Peas, frozen + 4.9	Peas, canned + 0.5	Biscuit mix - 1.0	Beans, green - 5.2	Lard - 11.1
Beans, green fresh + 23.8	Prunes, dried + 8.9	Milk, fresh, grocery + 4.8	Corn meal + .4	Fish, fresh, frozen - 1.1	Strawberries, frozen - 6.5	Bacon - 12.8
Oranges + 18.2	Apples + 8.0	Milk, evaporated + 4.8	Ice cream + .2	Chuck roast - 1.1	Dried beans - 6.9	Chocolate bar - 13.7
Tomatoes, fresh + 17.4	Shortening, hydrogenated + 7.7	Pineapple, canned + 4.6	Flour + .2	Coffee - 1.3	Frying chickens - 7.4	
Salmon, pink, canned + 16.1	Peanut butter + 7.6	Veal outlets + 4.4	Corn, canned + .2	Fruit cocktail, canned - 1.4	Tuna fish, canned - 8.9	
Celery + 12.3	Milk, fresh, delivered + 5.6	Butter + 4.1	Lamb, leg - .4	Scup - 1.6		
Orange juice, canned + 12.2	Bread + 5.5	Baby foods + 3.9	Onions - .7	Round steak - 1.7		
Lemons + 10.4	Catsup + 5.3	Corn flakes + 3.6		Hamburger - 1.7		
Tea + 10.2	Orange juice, concentrate + 5.2	Bananas + 3.4		Rice - 1.8		
	Peaches, canned + 5.2	Rib roast + 3.3		Pickles - 2.6		
	Rolled oats + 5.1	Soda crackers + 3.2		Carrots - 2.9		
		Potatoes + 3.2		Frankfurters - 3.0		
		Salad dressing + 3.1		Ham, whole - 4.8		
		Sweetpotatoes + 3.1		Cabbage - 4.9		
		Cola drinks + 3.0				
		Sugar + 3.0				
		Corn syrup + 2.9				
		Tomatoes, canned + 2.9				
		Gelatin + 2.6				
		Vanilla cookies + 2.4				
		Cheese + 2.0				
		Margarine + 1.8				
		Beans with pork + 1.7				
		Pork chops + 1.2				

Percent Change From December 1954 to December 1955

Eggs + 28.3	Salmon, pink, canned + 9.5	Rolled oats + 3.8	Frying chickens + 0.9	Flour - 1.0	Round steak - 5.3	Ham, whole - 12.8
Cabbage + 20.5	Prunes, dried + 9.2	Tomatoes, canned + 3.3	Milk, fresh, grocery + .7	Corn meal - 1.2	Tomatoes - 5.4	Pork chops - 12.9
Lettuce + 18.7	Peanut butter + 9.2	Catsup + 3.0	Milk, evaporated + .7	Strawberries, frozen - 1.2	Apples - 5.5	Coffee - 12.9
Carrots + 18.1	Onions + 8.6	Lemons + 2.8	Cola drinks + .6	Salad dressing - 1.2	Sweetpotatoes - 7.2	Chocolate bar - 12.9
Oranges + 11.6	Celery + 8.0	Orange juice, concentrate + 2.5	Orange juice, canned + .4	Potatoes - 7.5	Potatoes - 7.5	Luncheon meat, canned - 13.5
Tea + 11.6	Peaches, canned + 6.3	Pineapple, canned + 2.4	Baby foods + .4	Chuck roast - 8.9	Ice cream - 1.4	Bacon - 19.1
Peas, frozen + 10.2		Milk, fresh, delivered + 2.3	Gelatin + .4	Butter - 1.4	Beans, fresh, frozen - 2.0	Lard - 19.2
		Grape jelly + 2.1	Sugar + .3	Tuna fish, canned - 2.2	Corn flakes + .2	
		Beans with pork + 1.7	Corn flakes + .2	Pickles - 2.3	Fruit cocktail, canned + .1	
		Corn, canned + 1.6	Fruit cocktail, canned + .1	Shortening, hydrogenated - 2.3	Vanilla cookies - .1	
		Bread + 1.5	Vanilla cookies - .1	Bananas - 2.4	Rice - .2	
		Cheese + 1.3	Corn syrup + .2	Dried beans - 2.4	Corn syrup + .2	
		Veal outlets + 1.1	Soda crackers - .4	Margarine - 2.5	Fish, fresh, frozen - 2.6	
		Peas, canned + 1.1	Soup - .5	Fish, fresh, frozen - 2.6	Hamburger - 2.8	
			Beans, green, frozen - .7	Frankfurters - 3.2	Lamb, leg - 3.9	
			Biscuit mix - .9	Rib roast - 4.0		

Percent Change From December 1955 to December 1956

Beans, green fresh + 24.6	Ham, whole + 9.1	Margarine + 4.5	Luncheon meat, canned + 0.8	Peaches, canned - 1.1	Strawberries, frozen - 5.4	Eggs - 15.1
Tomatoes, fresh + 24.2	Chuck roast + 8.6	Salad dressing + 4.3	Cheese + .6	Soup - 1.1	Carrots - 17.8	Carrots - 17.8
Lettuce + 22.7	Bacon + 7.7	Milk, fresh, grocery + 4.1	Frankfurters + .1	Tea - 1.2	Cabbage - 21.1	Cabbage - 21.1
Pork chops + 16.2	Rib roast + 7.6	Milk, evaporated + 4.1	Beans with pork + .0	Corn, canned - 1.4		
Apples + 14.2	Lemons + 7.4	Celery + 4.0	Biscuit mix - .1	Peanut butter - 1.4		
Grapefruit, fresh + 13.7	Salmon, pink, canned + 6.0	Grape jelly + 4.0	Prunes, dried - .3	Fruit cocktail, canned - 1.5		
Coffee + 13.3	Oranges + 6.0	Bread + 3.9	Pickles - .3	Rice - 1.6		
Orange juice, canned + 11.8	Bananas + 5.9	Round steak + 3.8	Tomatoes, canned - .4	Beans, green, frozen - 3.3		
Potatoes + 11.6	Butter + 5.6	Lamb, leg + 3.7	Peas, canned - .6	Dried beans - 4.6		
Sweetpotatoes + 11.1		Soda crackers + 3.6	Chocolate bar - .9	Peas, frozen - 4.8		
Shortening, hydrogenated + 10.2		Corn flakes + 3.4				
Lard + 10.0		Baby foods + 3.4				
		Veal outlets + 3.2				
		Milk, fresh, delivered + 3.2				
		Corn syrup + 3.1				
		Sugar + 2.7				
		Orange juice, concentrate + 2.6				
		Vanilla cookies + 2.5				
		Catsup + 2.3				
		Cola drinks + 2.3				
		Gelatin + 2.2				
		Pineapple, canned + 2.1				
		Ice cream + 1.6				
		Corn meal + 1.5				
		Fish, fresh, frozen + 1.5				
		Flour + 1.2				
		Rolled oats + 1.2				
		Hamburger + 1.1				

Table 9.—Average Retail Prices of Principal Foods in the United States ^{1/2} by Month, 1955 and 1956—Continued

[In cents]

Article or group	1955												
	Average	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Other foods at home:													
Partially prepared foods:													
Soup, vegetable-----11-oz. can	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.1	14.2	14.2	14.1	14.1	14.2
Beans with pork-----15-oz. can	14.9	14.7	14.8	14.8	14.9	14.8	14.9	15.0	15.0	15.0	15.0	14.8	14.8
Condiments and sauces:													
Pickles, sweet-----7 1/2 ounces	27.7	28.4	28.3	28.2	28.2	28.1	28.0	27.4	27.3	27.2	27.2	27.3	27.3
Catsup, tomato-----14 ounces	22.5	22.4	22.2	22.3	22.3	22.4	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.6	22.7	22.9	23.0
Beverages, nonalcoholic:													
Coffee-----1 pound	93.0	105.8	97.0	94.2	92.5	92.2	89.0	89.1	89.0	90.5	92.3	93.0	91.6
Tea-----1/4 pound	11/39.8	37.1	36.9	40.2	41.1	40.8	40.3	---	---	---	---	---	---
Tea bags-----package of 16	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2
Cola drink-----carton - 36 ounces	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.5	32.6	32.5	32.4	32.5	32.5	32.4	32.4	32.4	32.4
Fats and oils:													
Shortening, hydrogenated-----1-lb. can	11/34.9	35.3	35.3	35.2	35.0	34.4	34.4	34.6	---	---	---	---	---
Shortening, hydrogenated-----3-lb. can	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	89.9	90.1	88.8	88.9	88.7
Margarine, colored 9/-----1 pound	28.9	29.4	29.3	29.2	29.1	28.8	28.6	28.8	28.9	28.9	28.9	28.8	28.5
Lard-----do	20.8	23.1	21.9	21.1	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.5	20.2	20.0	20.0	19.9	19.7
Salad dressing-----pint	35.3	35.5	35.4	35.5	35.4	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.4	35.2	35.3	35.2	35.2
Peanut butter-----1 pound	54.4	51.1	52.6	53.4	54.3	54.4	54.4	55.1	55.6	55.9	55.6	55.2	54.9
Sugar and sweets:													
Sugar-----5 pounds	52.1	52.3	52.3	52.2	52.1	52.1	52.0	51.9	51.9	52.0	52.0	52.3	52.4
Corn syrup-----24 ounces	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.6
Grape jelly-----12 ounces	26.1	25.9	25.8	25.9	25.9	26.0	26.0	25.9	26.1	26.3	26.3	26.2	26.3
Chocolate bar 2 1/2-----1 ounce	5.2	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.8	4.7	4.6
Eggs, Grade A, large-----dozen	60.6	51.6	59.0	60.2	54.9	53.2	53.6	57.3	65.3	68.5	68.2	66.4	69.0
Miscellaneous foods:													
Gelatin, flavored-----3-4 ounces	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.5	8.5	8.6	8.6
1956													
Cereals and bakery products:													
Cereals:													
Flour, wheat-----5 pounds	53.3	53.5	53.0	53.1	53.2	53.4	53.6	53.5	53.4	53.2	53.1	53.3	53.5
Biscuit mix 2/-----20 ounces	26.8	27.1	26.9	26.8	26.8	26.7	26.7	26.6	26.6	26.7	26.7	26.8	26.8
Corn meal 3/-----1 pound	12.6	12.6	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.6
Rice, short grain 4/-----do	17.2	17.3	17.2	17.2	17.1	17.1	17.1	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2	17.2
Roll'd oats-----20 ounces	19.3	19.3	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.3	19.4	19.5
Corn flakes 5/-----12 ounces	22.0	22.0	21.8	21.8	21.8	21.8	21.8	21.9	21.9	21.9	22.0	22.2	22.6
Bakery products:													
Bread-----1 pound	17.9	17.8	17.6	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.8	18.0	18.1	18.2	18.3	18.3	18.3
Soda crackers-----do	27.6	26.9	27.5	27.6	27.1	27.4	27.6	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.9	28.0
Vanilla cookies 6/-----7 ounces	24.0	23.7	23.8	23.8	23.9	23.9	23.9	24.0	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.2	24.3
Meats, poultry, and fish:													
Meats:													
Beef and veal:													
Round steak 2/-----1 pound	88.2	85.5	83.0	81.3	82.4	84.0	85.7	88.0	92.1	96.9	96.6	93.5	89.9
Chuck roast 8/-----do	48.4	46.7	45.0	44.2	44.4	45.5	46.1	46.4	49.4	53.4	54.5	53.4	51.6
Rib roast 2/-----do	25/70.1	67.4	65.9	64.6	64.9	65.7	67.0	68.8	71.2	76.2	77.0	75.8	73.7
Hamburger-----do	38.5	38.5	37.8	37.5	37.6	37.7	37.9	38.4	38.8	39.4	40.0	39.5	39.2
Veal cutlets 2/-----do	25/111.2	110.4	112.4	110.1	109.6	110.6	110.8	110.4	111.1	112.8	112.8	112.3	112.2
Pork:													
Pork chops-----do	78.2	65.1	69.2	67.3	73.0	77.3	86.3	85.8	85.2	87.9	84.9	79.3	77.6
Bacon, sliced-----do	57.3	55.0	53.9	52.8	53.8	54.2	56.6	58.6	59.5	60.5	61.7	60.6	61.3
Ham, whole 26/-----do	17/	55.1	55.9	57.1	58.8	59.4	62.1	62.0	61.4	61.4	59.8	59.1	61.3
Lamb, leg 9/-----do	63.7	64.6	64.4	63.8	65.4	71.3	74.7	71.2	70.3	70.9	69.7	70.4	68.0
Other meats:													
Frankfurters-----do	51.8	52.2	51.3	51.4	51.4	51.5	51.7	51.8	51.7	52.0	52.2	52.2	52.1
Luncheon meat-----12-oz. can	40.8	41.5	40.7	40.7	40.5	40.5	40.4	40.4	40.4	40.4	41.1	41.5	42.0
Poultry, frying chickens:													
Ready-to-cook 27/-----1 pound	17/	50.0	50.3	50.0	48.9	49.1	48.8	50.6	48.5	47.0	46.0	44.9	44.5
Fish:													
Fresh and frozen:													
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 6/-----do	42.0	42.6	41.8	41.8	41.8	41.8	41.9	41.6	41.8	42.0	42.2	42.3	42.4
Haddock, fillet, frozen 28/-----do	45.4	46.6	46.3	46.0	45.3	45.4	45.2	44.8	45.1	45.0	45.0	45.1	45.8
Canned:													
Salmon, pink-----16-oz. can	60.3	59.2	58.9	59.0	59.2	59.7	60.1	60.4	60.7	60.9	61.4	61.7	61.9
Tuna fish, chunk 29/-----6-6 1/2 oz. can	32.7	34.3	34.0	34.2	33.5	32.8	32.3	32.0	31.9	31.8	31.8	31.6	31.8
Dairy products:													
Milk, fresh, (grocery) 30/-----quart	25/22.6	22.3	22.2	22.1	21.9	22.2	22.2	22.5	22.7	23.0	23.2	23.3	23.3
Milk, fresh, (delivered) 31/-----do	25/24.2	23.7	23.6	23.5	23.4	23.7	23.6	24.0	24.3	24.5	24.7	24.8	24.8
Ice cream-----pint	28.9	28.8	28.8	28.7	28.7	28.7	28.8	28.8	28.9	29.0	29.0	29.1	29.1
Butter-----1 pound	72.1	71.1	70.8	70.8	70.7	71.7	71.9	71.9	72.0	72.3	73.4	74.5	74.8
Cheese, American process-----do	57.2	57.7	57.0	57.1	57.0	57.2	57.2	57.2	57.4	57.3	57.2	57.2	57.3
Milk, evaporated-----1 1/2-oz. can	14.0	13.9	13.8	13.8	13.8	13.8	14.0	14.1	14.2	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3
All fruits and vegetables:													
Frozen fruits and vegetables:													
Frozen fruits:													
Strawberries-----10 ounces	29.7	30.6	30.2	30.2	30.2	30.2	30.4	30.1	29.5	29.2	29.0	28.7	28.7
Orange juice concentrate-----6 ounces	19.6	19.0	19.4	19.8	19.6	19.6	19.7	20.0	20.1	20.1	19.8	19.5	19.2
Frozen vegetables:													
Peas, green-----10 ounces	21.0	21.4	21.0	21.1	21.2	21.3	21.4	21.5	21.4	21.2	20.4	20.3	20.2
Beans, green-----10 ounces	23.1	23.7	23.4	23.4	23.3	23.1	23.2	23.1	23.0	22.9	23.3	22.7	22.8
Fresh fruits and vegetables:													
Fresh fruits:													
Apples-----1 pound	15.1	13.4	13.7	13.9	15.1	16.6	18.1	18.5	16.1	15.1	13.2	13.4	14.6
Bananas-----do	16.8	16.8	17.2	16.6	15.5	16.9	17.1	16.3	16.6	16.9	17.1	17.4	17.3
Oranges, size 200-----dozen	25/58.3	50.4	50.1	49.8	50.0	54.4	59.9	65.7	64.2	68.2	69.5	59.9	56.4
Lemons-----dozen	18.9	19.4	18.4	17.8	17.8	17.6	17.5	19.0	18.7	19.8	20.1	20.4	20.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9.—Average Retail Prices of Principal Foods in the United States ¹/₁, by Month, 1955 and 1956—Continued

[In cents]

Articles or group	Average	1956											
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
All fruits and vegetables—Con.													
Fresh fruits and vegetables—Con.													
Fresh fruits—Con.													
Crapefruit (Nov.-May)-----cask	<u>11/</u> 10.5	9.9	9.6	9.5	9.7	11.0	*	*	*	*	*	12.2	11.5
Peaches (July-Sept.)-----pound	<u>11/</u> 15.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	17.9	14.4	14.7	*	*	*
Strawberries (April-June) ^{32/} -----pint	17/	*	*	*	40.4	28.8	31.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Grapes, seedless (July-Nov.)-----pound	22.7	*	*	*	*	*	*	29.4	21.2	19.2	20.9	<u>33/</u>	*
Watermelons (July-Aug.)-----do	<u>11/</u> 4.9	*	*	*	*	*	6.1	4.8	3.9	*	*	*	*
Fresh vegetables:													
Potatoes-----10 pounds	67.7	51.9	54.8	57.3	66.9	79.7	92.3	115.8	77.6	57.7	51.7	52.7	53.6
Sweet potatoes-----pound	12.8	11.9	11.8	11.9	11.9	12.5	13.5	15.4	15.2	13.1	11.9	11.8	12.7
Onions-----do	9.5	8.3	7.9	7.8	8.0	9.1	12.5	15.7	13.5	9.0	7.5	7.1	7.6
Carrots-----do	13.7	15.9	14.1	13.0	12.4	12.9	13.7	13.8	13.8	14.1	13.5	13.8	13.9
Lettuce-----head	16.4	13.7	13.7	14.7	15.2	15.9	16.0	13.9	14.7	15.9	17.9	24.0	20.3
Celery-----pound	13.5	13.5	13.1	13.2	14.1	13.2	14.6	14.5	13.5	12.6	12.4	13.4	14.8
Cabbage-----do	7.2	9.7	8.2	7.9	8.5	7.9	8.6	8.0	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.7	7.4
Tomatoes-----do	29.5	33.4	32.6	42.2	33.8	28.4	33.2	39.0	21.6	15.6	21.0	26.5	34.4
Beans, green-----do	<u>25/</u> 25.2	31.3	32.8	26.4	25.3	27.6	28.0	21.4	17.2	18.2	21.6	23.4	27.4
Canned fruits and vegetables:													
Canned fruits:													
Orange juice-----4 1/2-oz. can	37.5	35.3	35.5	36.0	36.5	36.8	37.1	38.0	38.6	38.8	39.5	39.5	39.1
Peaches-----No. 2 1/2 can	34.8	35.1	34.9	34.8	34.9	35.0	35.1	35.2	34.9	34.7	34.5	34.5	34.4
Pineapple-----No. 2 can	33.7	33.5	33.4	33.5	33.6	33.6	33.7	33.8	33.7	33.7	33.8	33.8	34.0
Fruit cocktail-----No. 303 can	26.2	26.6	26.2	26.2	26.2	26.1	26.1	26.2	26.2	26.3	26.2	26.1	26.0
Canned vegetables:													
Corn, cream style-----No. 303 can	17.9	17.9	17.2	17.9	17.9	18.0	18.1	18.1	18.2	18.2	17.9	17.7	17.4
Peas, green-----do	21.5	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.6	21.4	21.3	21.4	21.4	21.4
Tomatoes ^{3/} -----do	15.2	15.2	15.2	15.3	15.4	15.2	15.2	15.1	15.2	15.0	15.1	15.2	15.1
Baby foods-----4 1/2-5 ounces	9.9	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.8	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Dried fruits and vegetables:													
Prunes-----pound	35.7	35.2	35.5	35.6	35.8	35.9	36.1	36.1	36.2	36.2	35.6	35.0	34.7
Dried beans-----do	16.3	16.7	16.4	16.3	16.2	16.1	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.2	16.3	16.2	16.1
Other foods at home:													
Partially prepared foods:													
Soup, vegetable ^{3 1/2/} -----11-oz. can	17/	14.1	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	14.1	---	---	---	---	---
Soup, tomato ^{3 1/2/} -----11-oz. can	<u>17/</u>	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	12.4	12.2	12.2	12.2	12.2
Beans with pork-----16-oz. can	18.6	14.8	14.6	14.6	14.5	14.5	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.5	14.6
Condiments and sauces:													
Pickles, sweet-----7 1/2 ounces	27.0	27.3	26.9	26.9	27.0	27.0	26.9	26.9	27.0	27.1	26.9	26.9	27.0
Ketchup, tomato-----14 ounces	23.0	22.9	22.7	22.9	23.0	23.0	23.1	23.1	23.2	23.2	23.1	23.2	23.2
Beverages, nonalcoholic:													
Coffee ^{35/} -----1-lb. can	<u>25/</u> 103.4	96.2	96.2	99.4	100.1	100.3	101.8	105.0	105.9	108.0	109.0	109.3	108.9
Tea bags-----package of 16	23.3	21.3	23.1	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.1
Cola drink-----carton - 36 oz.	32.7	32.3	32.3	32.3	32.5	32.5	32.6	32.9	32.7	32.9	33.0	33.0	33.1
Fats and oils:													
Shortening, hydrogenated-----3-lb. can	95.4	88.7	88.6	70.6	94.3	97.3	99.2	98.6	98.3	97.3	97.2	97.1	97.5
Margarine, colored ^{2/} -----pound	28.9	28.2	28.0	28.2	28.9	29.3	29.2	29.1	29.2	29.2	29.1	29.2	29.5
Lard-----do	19.8	19.0	18.7	18.7	18.8	19.8	19.8	19.7	19.9	20.1	20.6	20.8	21.4
Salad dressing-----pint	35.3	35.1	34.6	34.7	34.9	35.3	35.6	35.7	35.7	35.5	35.4	35.8	36.1
Peanut butter-----pound	53.6	54.5	53.6	53.6	53.4	53.4	53.5	53.7	53.6	53.6	53.6	53.6	53.6
Sugar and sweets:													
Sugar-----5 pounds	52.8	52.5	52.4	52.4	52.6	52.6	52.9	52.9	52.9	52.9	53.1	53.3	53.6
Corn syrup-----24 ounces	23.8	23.7	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.6	23.8	24.0	24.1	24.2	24.3
Grape jelly-----12 ounces	26.5	26.3	26.1	26.2	26.3	26.4	26.4	26.6	26.6	26.7	27.0	27.1	27.0
Chocolate bar-----1 ounce	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Eggs, Grade A, large-----dozen	60.2	67.7	59.2	59.3	58.2	57.3	56.3	58.2	60.4	62.7	63.3	61.2	58.5
Miscellaneous foods:													
Gelatin, flavored-----3-4 ounces	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.4	8.4	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.6

¹/₁ Except as indicated in footnotes prices are averages for the 46 cities included in the Consumer Price Index. (See appendix, table A for a list of the cities and the population weights used in combining the city average prices). Due to local variations in size and quality, averages may be based on less than 46 cities which reported comparable prices.

- ²/₁₅ 45 cities.
- ³/₃₉ 39 cities.
- ⁴/₃₃ 33 cities January through October 1955; 31 cities November 1955 through December 1956.
- ⁵/₃₇ 37 cities.
- ⁶/₄₂ 42 cities.
- ⁷/₄₅ 45 cities January through June; 46 cities July through August; 45 cities September through December.
- ⁸/₄₄ 44 cities January through June; 45 cities July and August 1955; 44 cities September 1955 through December 1956.
- ⁹/₄₄ 44 cities.
- ¹⁰/₈ 8 cities.
- ¹¹/₁₁ Average of months shown.
- ¹²/₁₂ Publication of averages discontinued beginning October.
- ¹³/₃₇ 37 cities January through September; 39 cities October through December.
- ¹⁴/₁₄ Average for 9 months. Prices not comparable for all months of the year.
- ¹⁵/₃₆ 36 cities January through May; 35 cities June through December.
- ¹⁶/₁₆ Specification changed from solid pack to chunk style tuna in 42 cities August through October, 43 cities November and December.
- ¹⁷/₁₇ Average not computed; prices not comparable throughout the year.
- ¹⁸/₄₅ 45 cities January through November; 46 cities in December.
- ¹⁹/₁₉ Specification changed from No. 2 1/2 can to No. 2 can beginning April 1955.
- ²⁰/₂₀ No. 2 1/2 can.
- ²¹/₂₁ Specification changed from No. 2 1/2 can to No. 303 can beginning April 1955.
- ²²/₄₀ 40 cities January through July; 39 cities August through December.
- ²³/₂₃ Published as navy beans prior to June 1955.
- ²⁴/₂₄ Prices for January through October were published for 7/8 oz. bar; November and December for a 1 oz. bar. Monthly and average prices shown here are for bars converted to 1 oz. size.
- ²⁵/₂₅ Partly estimated.
- ²⁶/₄₄ 44 cities January; 43 cities February and March; 42 cities April, May and June; 41 cities July and August; 36 cities September through December.
- ²⁷/₃₉ 39 cities January through August; 40 cities September and October; 41 cities November and December.
- ²⁸/₃₅ 35 cities.
- ²⁹/₄₃ 43 cities.
- ³⁰/₃₀ Specification changed from volume selling grade and type to homogenized, Vitamin D milk in 41 cities beginning in August. 46 cities January through July; 41 cities August through December.
- ³¹/₃₁ Specification changed from volume selling grade and type to homogenized, Vitamin D milk beginning in August. 46 cities January through July; 40 cities August through December.
- ³²/₂₅ 25 cities April; 42 cities May and June.
- ³³/₃₃ Insufficient number of prices.
- ³⁴/₃₄ Specification changed from vegetable soup to tomato soup beginning August 1956.
- ³⁵/₃₅ Specification changed from cans, bags or glass jars to cans only January 1956. Comparable price, December 1955, 96.8.
- * Priced only in season.

Table 10.—Annual Average Retail Prices of Principal Foods by City, 1955 and 1956
[In cents]

Article	Atlanta, Ga.		Baltimore, Md.		Boston, Mass.		Chicago, Ill.		Cincinnati, Ohio		Cleveland, Ohio		Detroit, Mich.		Houston, Texas		Kansas City, Mo.		Los Angeles, Calif.	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
Cereals and bakery products:																				
Cereals:																				
Flour, wheat-----5 pounds	54.2	54.7	54.4	53.6	51.3	50.9	51.4	1/50.7	54.5	53.0	54.6	52.9	52.5	2/50.9	53.6	52.8	49.0	47.9	55.7	55.7
Biscuit mix-----20 ounces	27.3	26.4	27.6	27.1	27.4	27.0	27.1	1/26.5	27.5	26.5	27.7	27.2	27.9	2/27.9	26.7	26.3	27.7	26.6	26.8	26.8
Corn meal-----pound	7.2	7.1	12.2	12.4	11.9	12.1	12.4	1/12.4	12.7	12.7	12.5	12.3	12.5	2/12.5	11.8	11.9	12.2	12.2	12.3	12.8
Rice, short grain-----do	19.0	17.6	17.7	17.5	1/18.8	---	16.0	1/15.0	20.3	20.1	17.7	17.4	17.7	2/17.3	---	---	17.1	16.1	---	---
Rice, long grain-----do	---	---	---	---	---	20.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	17.3	16.8	---	---	---	---
Rolled oats-----20 ounces	19.1	19.0	18.7	19.1	18.5	18.7	18.7	1/18.3	19.3	19.2	19.0	19.2	19.4	2/19.6	19.1	19.3	18.1	17.8	19.8	19.9
Corn flakes-----3 ounces	15.9	15.3	---	---	16.0	15.3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	16.4	16.6	16.0	16.1	16.3	16.5
Corn flakes-----12 ounces	---	---	22.3	22.1	---	---	21.4	1/21.5	22.0	22.0	22.2	22.1	22.3	2/22.1	---	---	---	---	---	---
Bakery products:																				
Bread-----pound	17.5	17.4	17.1	17.3	16.9	17.4	16.7	1/17.0	16.4	16.2	17.4	17.8	17.2	2/17.1	14.5	14.7	17.1	16.9	19.3	19.7
Soda crackers-----do	26.7	28.7	26.9	27.2	28.3	28.4	27.0	1/27.3	27.0	27.6	27.2	28.6	27.7	2/27.9	27.2	27.3	26.5	27.2	26.0	28.2
Vanilla cookies-----7 ounces	---	---	23.7	23.9	23.7	23.8	25.9	1/26.6	---	---	24.2	23.8	24.3	2/24.2	24.0	24.0	23.3	23.4	24.3	24.5
Vanilla cookies-----12 ounces	34.8	35.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	32.9	33.7	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Meats, poultry, and fish:																				
Meats:																				
Beef and veal:																				
Round steak-----pound	92.1	89.0	97.8	96.7	106.1	104.6	79.7	1/76.5	87.5	86.2	85.5	82.2	38.7	2/36.9	(3/)	4/83.1	93.1	80.9	87.2	86.9
Chuck roast-----do	51.8	50.1	49.4	49.2	49.1	48.0	47.8	1/45.4	53.1	50.5	52.6	48.9	50.6	2/49.4	(3/)	5/48.7	48.2	45.2	52.4	51.3
Rib roast-----do	75.6	76.8	71.2	71.1	65.1	64.8	69.1	1/68.0	72.0	71.1	80.4	78.3	70.6	2/70.5	(3/)	5/72.6	74.4	72.7	80.0	80.3
Hamburger-----do	35.7	34.9	49.0	48.2	40.5	41.1	39.0	1/38.4	39.4	39.2	37.6	38.1	39.7	2/39.0	42.4	39.7	39.4	39.4	38.3	37.3
Veal outlets-----do	95.6	98.0	127.7	129.2	103.9	102.7	103.4	1/102.9	110.6	112.8	110.5	110.2	111.7	2/113.0	91.7	79.1	97.9	100.1	107.6	109.3
Pork:																				
Pork chops-----do	73.1	70.1	78.6	77.6	76.8	78.4	80.9	1/79.6	80.7	79.3	83.1	82.1	85.2	2/85.4	75.2	73.0	77.3	77.5	89.9	89.5
Bacon, sliced-----do	65.9	58.7	65.9	58.3	65.7	56.5	64.4	1/55.5	68.7	60.5	65.5	57.5	67.0	2/59.3	66.7	57.0	61.5	51.8	70.0	62.4
Ham, whole, tenderized-----do	59.8	58.1	62.4	61.1	64.3	62.9	58.4	1/58.9	62.7	61.0	---	---	62.2	(7/)	64.8	60.3	58.3	57.4	61.3	60.7
Ham, whole, ready-to-eat-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	6/64.4	63.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lamb, leg-----do	74.4	76.0	70.6	71.3	68.9	69.5	65.2	1/66.6	83.5	83.4	72.8	73.0	73.2	2/73.2	2/80.2	(3/)	83.4	(3/)	67.9	69.5
Other meats:																				
Frankfurters-----do	49.5	47.8	53.6	52.5	54.9	53.3	51.8	1/50.6	57.4	55.9	55.0	54.8	50.0	2/48.9	53.9	52.7	50.3	48.4	52.3	49.9
Luncheon meat-----12-oz. can	43.8	44.4	45.8	44.2	6/42.2	40.0	44.1	1/40.3	45.6	41.9	45.6	42.8	45.4	2/42.5	43.7	40.6	41.8	38.5	42.7	40.1
Poultry, frying chickens:																				
Dressed-----pound	---	---	6/46.5	---	6/48.3	40.0	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Ready-to-cook-----do	50.1	42.7	---	49.4	---	---	6/55.4	1/44.0	55.7	49.1	6/57.3	47.5	6/57.3	2/45.8	8/52.8	8/45.6	54.3	46.7	65.8	57.6
Fish:																				
Fresh or frozen:																				
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen-----do	38.1	36.7	44.8	44.4	---	---	42.5	1/40.2	43.4	42.4	43.4	42.8	44.8	2/44.0	44.9	42.8	39.7	39.4	---	---
Haddock, fillet, frozen-----do	49.9	45.5	46.1	45.6	---	---	45.6	1/43.8	45.4	44.5	45.7	45.6	47.8	2/46.1	---	---	44.1	44.0	---	---
Cod, fillet, frozen-----do	---	---	---	---	2/40.6	40.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Salmon, fresh or frozen-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	82.9	90.2
Haddock, fillet, fresh-----do	---	---	---	---	46.0	44.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Sea trout, fresh-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	53.0	53.6	---	---	---	---
Halibut, fresh or frozen-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	61.1	68.9
Sole, fillet, fresh or frozen-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Canned:																				
Salmon, pink-----16-oz. can	57.2	57.8	54.3	57.9	6/53.7	(3/)	55.7	1/60.1	56.5	61.7	56.0	59.8	58.3	2/62.9	54.7	60.3	54.7	57.7	56.7	59.7
Tuna fish, solid pack 7/-----7-oz. can	10/38.7	---	39.8	38.0	6/32.8	31.3	10/38.8	---	10/42.9	---	10/37.6	---	10/39.6	---	10/39.8	---	10/40.1	---	10/37.6	---
Tuna fish, chunk style 9/-----6-oz. can	---	30.3	---	---	---	---	1/31.9	---	---	34.6	---	---	---	2/33.0	---	32.9	---	31.6	---	31.6
Dairy products:																				
Milk, fresh, (grocery) 1/-----quart	25.7	12/26.5	23.6	13/23.7	24.3	12/24.6	21.1	1/21.7	22.4	12/23.5	18.7	12/19.5	20.9	2/22.4	23.0	12/22.8	19.5	12/20.5	20.0	12/20.2
Milk, fresh, (delivered) 1/-----do	25.5	12/26.5	23.7	13/24.1	26.8	12/26.4	26.2	1/27.8	23.5	12/25.6	20.4	12/21.5	22.4	2/24.1	25.7	12/25.5	21.5	12/22.7	21.5	12/21.7
Ice cream-----pint	25.8	26.6	36.5	35.2	32.5	30.4	27.5	1/27.6	28.1	28.0	30.6	30.2	34.1	2/32.3	28.6	29.3	27.7	27.1	25.2	25.7
Butter-----pound	75.9	76.3	74.1	74.8	71.1	72.5	70.3	1/72.0	70.8	72.0	71.6	73.0	70.8	2/71.2	75.1	77.3	69.4	71.3	70.3	71.6
Cheese, American process-----do	---	(3/)	61.8	62.0	(3/)	(3/)	58.0	1/58.0	59.9	58.2	56.5	57.9	(3/)	2/55.5	61.2	61.1	54.7	52.9	57.6	56.9
Milk, evaporated-----1 1/2-oz. can	13.0	13.6	13.9	14.3	13.8	14.0	13.8	1/14.3	13.9	14.2	14.3	14.5	13.9	2/14.2	13.6	14.0	13.3	13.4	13.5	13.7
All fruits and vegetables:																				
Frozen fruits and vegetables:																				
Frozen fruits:																				
Strawberries-----10 ounces	28.8	25.8	33.7	2/32.8	30.2	29.0	30.3	1/27.8	30.1	29.1	31.3	30.7	32.7	2/31.7	29.6	29.5	28.7	27.1	28.4	27.5
Orange juice concentrate-----6 ounces	19.1	21.2	19.3	21.4	17.5	18.8	17.4	1/19.0	18.0	19.2	18.8	20.6	19.6	2/20.9	17.5	18.1	16.6	18.1	18.4	20.7
Frozen vegetables:																				
Peas, green-----10 ounces	20.6	21.5	22.0	22.9	19.3	20.4	19.5	1/20.0	19.8	21.2	20.2	21.9	21.5	2/22.5	19.5	20.9	19.1	19.5	19.1	20.4
Beans, green-----do	23.8	22.5	25.4	24.6	23.7	22.7	24.2	1/22.6	24.0	23.8	25.1	23.9	26.8	2/25.5	23.6	22.9	23.5	22.7	21.6	22.1
Fresh fruits and vegetables:																				
Fresh fruits:																				
Apples-----pound	2/15.9	16.2	2/14.3	1/14.7	13.0	14.0	16.4	(3/)	14.2	13.7	2/15.3	1/15.3	15.4	2/15.6	20.6	19.3	2/15.4	2/15.6	15.8	15.6
Bananas-----do	14.6	14.6	15.3	14.9	16.3	16.2	19.0	1/18.6	17.7	16.9	17.6	17.3	18.6	2/18.5	15.1	15.2	16.7	17.2	17.5	17.6
Oranges, size 200-----dozen	38.8	45.8	44.6	49.3	50.0	54.6	54.9	1/58.5	41.9	47.3	52.8	56.7	64.1	2/71.0	54.5	59.9	57.8	65.2	44.6	46.8
Lemons-----pound	16.1	16.6	17.8	18.4	18.7	19.5	18.9	1/18.9	16.5	18.0	19.1	20.2	19.9	2/20.6	17.7	18.4	17.6	18.6	16.0	17.3
Grapefruit (Nov.-May)-----each	10/ 6.6	15/ 7.5	10/ 8.6	10/ 9.0	10/10.2	10/10.8	10/ 9.6	15/10.0	10/ 9.7	10/10.4	10/10.4	10/10.6	10/11.0	15/11.7	10/ 9.5	10/ 9.9	10/ 9.4	10/ 9.5	10/ 9.7	10/10.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 10.—Annual Average Retail Prices of Principal Foods by City, 1955 and 1956—Continued
/In cents/

Article	Atlanta, Ga.		Baltimore, Md.		Boston, Mass.		Chicago, Ill.		Cincinnati, Ohio		Cleveland, Ohio		Detroit, Mich.		Houston, Texas		Kansas City, Mo.		Los Angeles, Calif.	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
Peaches (July-Sept.).....pound	17/16.9	18/14.9	17/15.3	18/14.8	18/22.2	18/15.6	18/24.4	18/17.9	18/23.0	18/25.0	18/23.1	18/16.1	18/24.1	18/18.1	18/26.4	18/20.5	18/21.1	18/16.7	18/18.5	18/16.1
Strawberries (April-June).....pint	(3/)	(3/)	17/30.0	18/36.9	17/29.7	17/34.7	18/33.2	18/34.3	17/24.1	18/26.6	17/25.9	18/31.8	18/33.7	18/30.2	18/37.7	17/34.0	18/34.1	18/32.4	18/34.0	18/30.3
Grapes, seedless (July-Nov.).....pound	15/20.1	15/19.9	(3/)	19/22.5	19/24.0	19/23.7	15/23.1	15/24.3	15/24.5	19/23.2	19/23.7	15/24.1	19/25.3	19/26.5	19/22.4	19/21.1	19/21.5	19/22.5	15/15.7	15/17.1
Watermelons (June-Aug.).....do	18/ 2.9	18/ 2.8	18/ 4.3	18/ 3.9	18/ 6.2	18/ 6.6	18/ 5.5	18/ 5.2	18/ 4.4	18/ 4.1	18/ 5.1	18/ 5.2	18/ 5.5	18/ 5.5	17/ 3.3	18/ 3.4	18/ 4.4	18/ 4.6	18/ 5.4	18/ 5.1
Fresh vegetables:																				
Potatoes.....10 pounds	52.1	65.7	59.7	69.8	56.1	64.4	65.8	1/78.0	61.4	75.5	61.6	72.0	61.3	2/76.1	82.0	92.6	55.8	72.8	70.0	85.0
Sweet potatoes.....pound	2/12.1	10.6	11.4	2/10.6	(3/)	(3/)	14.5	1/12.4	13.3	11.5	14.1	12.9	15.7	2/13.3	12.7	10.2	13.8	12.7	13.9	19.6
Onions.....do	7.8	8.9	8.4	9.6	8.3	9.6	8.3	1/ 9.6	9.1	10.4	8.7	10.1	9.3	2/11.3	9.0	9.8	8.3	10.1	6.5	8.2
Carrots.....do	14.2	13.6	15.4	15.3	15.2	14.5	13.9	1/13.2	15.8	16.1	15.5	14.9	15.0	2/14.8	13.7	13.6	14.1	13.6	9.2	9.5
Lettuce.....head	15.4	15.5	17.7	16.9	18.7	18.5	16.3	1/16.7	18.1	18.5	17.6	17.2	18.4	2/18.5	15.2	16.1	16.0	15.9	12.7	12.6
Celery.....pound	13.1	11.6	2/17.4	16.2	16.7	15.4	16.7	2/14.2	11.3	(3/)	14.5	1/14.7	16.2	2/13.6	16.8	15.1	14.2	13.7	10.5	10.1
Cabbage.....do	7.0	6.3	8.5	7.3	9.0	8.0	8.5	1/ 7.7	9.6	10.0	8.9	8.7	9.2	2/ 8.8	7.3	7.2	7.6	7.6	7.2	6.4
Tomatoes.....do	24.2	26.8	22.4	23.7	25.3	27.3	31.5	1/31.5	29.6	31.3	33.6	35.6	30.9	2/34.3	26.3	27.5	25.2	28.8	27.3	27.2
Beans, green.....do	17.6	22.7	19.4	21.6	23.1	2/25.5	23.9	1/26.1	19.4	23.4	2/23.0	27.5	25.0	2/27.8	22.9	25.5	22.1	25.7	29.5	2/32.0
Canned fruits and vegetables:																				
Canned fruits:																				
Orange juice.....16-oz. can	29.4	33.6	33.0	36.4	33.0	35.5	32.9	1/36.7	33.3	36.5	34.9	37.3	35.9	2/41.3	34.3	37.8	34.3	37.3	39.6	44.7
Peaches.....No. 2 can	34.2	34.9	33.8	34.8	34.4	35.0	34.7	1/35.2	34.3	34.9	35.5	35.8	35.1	2/36.3	34.4	35.1	33.3	33.8	31.0	32.3
Pineapple.....No. 2 can	6/32.4	33.1	6/31.9	32.4	6/31.8	31.9	6/33.1	1/34.0	6/33.3	34.1	6/34.4	34.3	6/34.8	2/34.9	6/31.9	33.0	6/32.4	32.7	6/32.0	32.8
Fruit cocktail.....No. 303 can	5/26.3	25.9	5/26.3	26.6	5/27.2	26.5	5/27.2	1/27.1	6/26.9	26.6	6/28.1	27.1	5/27.8	2/27.0	5/26.3	26.5	5/26.6	26.3	5/24.6	24.3
Canned vegetables:																				
Corn, cream style.....do	16.8	17.9	18.1	18.4	17.1	17.5	16.6	1/17.5	17.7	17.8	17.2	17.7	17.3	2/18.0	18.6	18.4	16.4	17.2	17.2	18.2
Peas, green.....do	23.0	23.0	21.9	22.1	22.6	22.2	20.7	1/20.6	22.0	22.6	22.5	21.7	21.9	2/21.6	22.2	21.9	20.5	20.1	21.5	21.5
Tomatoes.....do	13.3	13.7	15.8	15.4	15.2	15.2	15.5	1/14.5	15.3	15.6	15.9	16.6	15.3	2/15.0	13.4	13.4	14.9	14.7	20/19.6	20/23.3
Baby foods.....1 1/2-5 ounces	10.1	10.1	2/10.5	10.6	10.1	10.1	9.9	1/10.0	10.3	10.5	10.3	10.6	10.5	2/10.4	9.0	9.1	9.0	9.2	8.6	9.2
Dried fruits and vegetables:																				
Prunes.....pound	34.7	36.0	32.5	34.5	32.9	34.0	34.1	1/35.2	33.2	35.9	35.5	36.9	36.2	2/38.3	35.0	36.4	33.4	36.3	31.5	33.6
Dried beans.....do	10/16.2	15.2	21/18.2	17.3	19.3	18.4	21/18.4	1/17.4	10/17.6	16.2	19.4	17.5	10/17.7	2/16.5	20.3	16.9	16.0	14.3	19.3	16.3
Other foods at home:																				
Partially prepared foods:																				
Soup, vegetable 22/.....11-oz. can	14.3	(3/)	14.2	(3/)	14.4	(3/)	14.1	(3/)	14.3	(3/)	14.4	(3/)	14.1	(3/)	14.1	(3/)	13.5	(3/)	13.9	(3/)
Beans with pork.....16-oz. can	14.9	14.6	14.5	14.6	16.3	15.9	14.9	1/14.9	15.1	14.7	15.1	15.0	15.3	2/14.6	14.5	14.0	13.7	13.7	15.3	15.5
Condiments and sauces:																				
Pickles, sweet.....7 1/2 ounces	27.5	27.2	32.0	31.6	28.7	28.4	25.0	1/25.2	23.5	24.8	27.0	26.6	25.3	2/26.1	32.2	32.3	23.7	24.4	28.7	28.1
Catsup, tomato.....14 ounces	22.3	23.0	23.1	23.7	23.0	23.1	21.8	1/22.8	21.4	22.0	23.5	24.1	26.4	2/25.7	21.5	22.2	24.5	24.1	19.0	21.3
Beverages, nonalcoholic:																				
Coffee 23/.....pound	90.7	---	97.2	---	94.9	---	93.0	---	93.9	---	94.1	---	91.7	---	92.0	---	91.9	---	92.5	---
Coffee 23/.....1-lb. can	---	103.9	---	107.1	---	104.5	---	1/104.3	---	103.8	---	104.9	---	2/103.2	---	102.7	---	101.2	---	99.6
Tea 24/.....1/2 pound	10/38.6	---	10/39.7	---	10/39.8	---	10/39.8	---	10/38.5	---	10/39.7	---	10/42.1	---	10/37.4	---	10/41.5	---	10/41.5	---
Tea bags 24/.....package of 16	---	23.8	---	23.7	---	21.0	---	1/23.0	---	23.9	---	23.4	---	2/24.2	---	23.5	---	23.7	---	24.8
Cola drink.....carton- 36 ounces	24.5	25.0	30.7	30.6	25.0	25.0	32.0	1/32.1	29.8	31.5	34.9	34.2	34.1	2/37.2	23.2	23.5	24.4	25.0	45.0	45.0
Fats and oils:																				
Shortening, hydrogenated 25/.....1-lb. can	10/34.4	---	10/35.4	---	10/35.0	---	10/35.2	---	10/35.1	---	10/35.8	---	10/35.2	---	10/34.2	---	10/34.4	---	10/33.7	---
Shortening, hydrogenated 25/.....3-lb. can	---	95.8	---	95.6	---	97.0	---	1/96.3	---	95.3	---	96.5	---	2/95.8	---	93.8	---	94.3	---	96.5
Margarine, colored.....pound	24.7	25.1	30.7	31.8	28.1	27.6	28.6	1/29.0	28.6	28.8	28.7	29.6	27.9	2/25.3	29.6	30.4	26.7	25.7	29.2	27.4
Lard.....do	20.1	19.3	19.6	19.0	21.1	20.0	19.8	1/19.0	21.6	20.3	23.7	22.5	20.2	2/19.3	21.6	20.4	18.3	18.0	22.9	21.5
Salad dressing.....pint	33.7	32.8	35.8	36.2	35.1	34.4	33.1	1/34.0	37.9	38.2	34.7	35.1	37.7	2/37.0	35.7	36.0	34.2	33.9	34.4	35.1
Peanut butter.....pound	53.5	53.2	53.4	55.7	52.4	51.3	53.4	1/52.3	53.7	53.4	54.1	52.7	56.9	2/55.0	50.6	50.4	54.0	51.3	55.8	55.4
Sugar and sweets:																				
Sugar.....5 pounds	49.0	50.5	50.9	51.8	50.8	52.5	52.5	1/54.1	52.9	52.9	55.3	55.0	53.6	2/54.0	48.9	49.0	52.0	53.3	51.6	52.4
Corn syrup.....12 ounces	24.1	24.4	24.8	24.7	24.4	24.5	21.1	1/21.1	22.1	22.3	24.2	24.0	23.5	2/23.5	24.4	24.5	21.1	21.2	24.1	24.2
Grape jelly.....24 ounces	24.6	25.4	22.2	23.3	25.5	24.6	25.5	1/25.7	27.5	27.5	27.0	27.3	28.0	2/27.3	27.9	28.6	27.0	26.5	25.8	26.0
Chocolate bar.....1 ounce	5.0	4.5	5.4	4.9	5.1	4.6	5.1	1/4.5	5.3	4.6	5.3	4.7	5.3	1/4.6	5.0	4.5	5.0	4.4	4.5	5.0
Eggs, Grade A, large.....dozen	61.0	60.7	65.4	64.9	68.2	66.0	59.6	1/59.9	60.5	59.3	64.6	63.4	62.3	2/52.7	62.8	61.0	55.4	54.6	57.5	56.5
Miscellaneous foods:																				
Gelatin, flavored.....3-4 ounces	8.4	8.3	8.8	8.8	8.4	8.1	8.4	1/8.5	8.9	8.8	8.3	8.7	8.7	2/8.6	8.3	8.8	8.0	8.0	3.6	8.6

Table 10.—Annual Average Retail Prices of Principal Foods by City, 1955 and 1956--Continued
/In cents/

Article	Minneapolis Minn. 26/		New York, 27/ N.Y.		Philadelphia, Pa.		Pittsburgh, Pa.		Portland, Oreg.		St. Louis Mo.		San Francisco, Calif.		Scranton, Pa.		Seattle, Wash.		Washington, D.C.		
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	
Cereals and bakery products:																					
Cereals:																					
Flour, wheat-----5 pounds	56.2	56.1	53.0	51.4	53.1	52.9	53.4	52.0	55.4	58.0	53.2	53.3	2/58.9	59.6	51.8	50.9	56.6	56.2	54.9	52.9	
Biscuit mix-----20 ounces	27.9	28.0	27.1	26.4	26.8	26.3	27.0	26.2	26.0	25.0	27.3	27.5	2/27.7	27.6	26.8	26.3	26.9	26.7	27.3	25.8	
Corn meal-----pound	12.5	12.7	12.0	11.9	11.7	11.5	12.4	12.4	14.1	14.0	12.5	12.5	2/13.4	13.4	11.7	11.9	13.8	14.0	10.7	10.5	
Rice, short grain-----do	18.5	18.4	19.7	19.7	18.3	17.9	18.1	17.9	---	---	---	---	---	---	17.4	16.7	---	---	1/19.1	---	
Rice, long grain-----do	---	---	19.7	19.0	---	---	---	---	24.2	23.5	---	---	2/21.4	23.8	---	---	24.2	23.6	---	20.3	
Rolled oats-----20 ounces	19.5	19.8	18.5	18.5	19.3	18.4	18.8	19.0	20.1	21.2	18.7	19.0	2/20.7	20.8	18.9	18.6	20.7	21.3	18.8	18.8	
Corn flakes-----8 ounces	---	---	16.1	15.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	16.4	
Corn flakes-----12 ounces	22.2	22.5	---	---	21.2	21.2	22.1	22.3	21.9	22.5	21.5	21.6	2/22.6	22.6	21.8	21.2	22.0	21.7	---	---	
Bakery products:																					
Bread-----pound	17.2	17.2	19.1	18.8	18.7	19.7	18.3	17.8	19.4	20.1	17.5	17.6	2/20.8	21.5	17.2	18.2	18.5	20.4	16.5	16.3	
Soda crackers-----do	27.3	28.5	27.3	26.8	27.8	27.9	28.6	29.4	26.6	28.8	26.7	26.0	2/27.8	28.5	26.5	26.6	27.0	27.9	26.5	26.2	
Vanilla cookies-----7 ounces	23.7	24.3	23.2	23.8	22.6	22.6	24.3	24.4	25.1	25.3	23.4	23.5	2/24.7	24.3	23.3	24.1	24.4	24.2	23.7	24.2	
Vanilla cookies-----12 ounces	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Meats, poultry, and fish:																					
Meats:																					
Beef and veal:																					
Round steak-----pound	84.5	80.9	96.5	94.7	105.4	104.2	90.8	87.6	87.7	84.0	90.7	89.6	96.4	95.4	93.5	90.7	94.0	91.0	94.8	96.3	
Chuck roast-----do	56.0	54.9	49.1	48.3	50.3	48.8	55.6	51.9	51.4	46.9	49.3	47.6	49.6	47.6	51.1	50.4	51.2	1/48.5	48.0	45.8	
Rib roast-----do	72.2	70.8	70.2	69.6	76.8	75.3	72.6	72.5	73.7	72.6	67.1	66.2	73.2	79.6	69.9	68.3	74.8	73.1	73.9	73.7	
Hamburger-----do	37.6	38.1	40.4	37.8	43.0	41.9	40.3	38.6	42.7	41.6	41.1	39.6	38.1	35.6	38.2	38.5	42.7	41.9	---	---	
Veal outlets-----do	101.8	102.6	124.6	126.0	136.3	137.8	115.2	114.2	96.0	1/99.4	107.1	106.8	115.3	114.0	105.3	111.5	110.3	111.1	123.1	129.6	
Pork:																					
Pork chops-----do	78.3	77.0	80.8	78.1	84.4	83.3	86.2	82.5	80.5	78.9	80.7	77.0	92.4	91.9	79.8	79.7	82.6	80.8	78.4	78.3	
Bacon, sliced-----do	66.5	57.9	71.1	61.0	71.7	63.2	64.2	55.3	67.7	59.4	64.2	55.0	76.7	66.7	66.2	58.3	69.1	1/60.4	66.4	58.0	
Ham, whole, tenderized-----do	58.3	(7/)	62.1	60.1	62.1	60.5	60.1	58.6	59.5	58.5	---	---	66.9	12/67.0	58.5	58.5	61.5	1/61.3	61.8	60.7	
Ham, whole, ready-to-eat-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Lamb, leg-----do	71.4	72.8	63.9	64.4	70.0	69.3	71.6	72.2	72.6	71.6	76.5	74.8	71.1	12/73.2	65.9	65.8	69.4	70.8	71.3	72.3	
Other meats:																					
Frankfurters-----do	50.6	49.9	58.8	56.7	52.5	51.8	53.5	51.8	49.2	49.5	52.9	50.2	56.9	54.4	54.4	52.3	55.8	53.4	51.1	49.4	
Luncheon meat-----12-oz. can	6/42.6	41.2	45.4	41.9	42.1	38.4	45.4	41.7	6/40.4	40.5	45.6	39.8	6/46.1	43.6	43.8	40.6	43.6	40.5	42.4	38.7	
Poultry, frying chickens:																					
Dressed-----pound	---	---	6/46.1	---	6/46.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	59.2	54.6	6/43.9	44.6	---	6/65.4	60.7	6/56.6	
Ready-to-cook-----do	57.1	50.2	---	(3/)	---	(3/)	54.6	46.9	63.9	55.9	6/56.0	46.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	45.0	
Fish:																					
Fresh or frozen:																					
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen-----do	44.4	43.3	43.4	42.4	40.3	39.6	40.2	39.3	---	---	43.7	43.2	52.2	51.3	41.2	41.1	---	---	41.4	40.6	
Haddock, fillet, frozen-----do	52.2	53.1	48.2	46.3	43.8	42.4	42.0	42.1	---	---	47.5	47.2	---	45.5	44.8	---	---	---	42.9	42.1	
Cod, fillet, frozen-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	(3/)	(3/)	---	---	---	---	---	---	78.1	81.5	---	---	
Salmon, fresh or frozen-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Haddock, fillet, fresh-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Sea trout, fresh-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Halibut, fresh or frozen-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	(3/)	(3/)	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	
Sole, fillet, fresh or frozen-----do	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1/66.0	12/67.6	---	---	21/60.7	61.4	---	---	
Canned:																					
Salmon, pink-----16-oz. can	6/58.0	62.1	55.8	59.6	54.4	57.7	56.2	59.5	6/51.1	60.5	57.3	59.4	(3/)	60.6	2/54.6	59.3	53.5	1/58.9	55.2	58.1	
Tuna fish, solid pack 2/-----7-oz. can	(3/)	---	34.0	33.2	10/38.6	---	10/40.7	---	(3/)	---	10/40.3	(3/)	---	---	7/36.7	---	13/33.7	---	10/38.5	---	
Tuna fish, chunk style 2/-----6-6 1/2-oz. can	---	33.9	---	---	---	31.4	---	33.3	---	30.8	---	33.4	---	34.7	---	31.1	---	1/31.2	---	30.6	
Dairy products:																					
Milk, fresh, (grocery) 11/-----quart	17.7	12/19.1	23.9	12/24.1	23.6	12/25.9	24.1	12/25.0	20.1	12/21.5	13.6	12/20.7	2/20.5	21.1	24.8	12/25.6	20.6	12/22.0	22.4	12/23.9	
Milk, fresh, (delivered) 11/-----do	19.2	12/20.6	26.4	12/26.5	24.6	12/25.3	25.3	12/25.7	21.6	12/23.7	20.1	12/22.8	2/21.5	14/22.3	25.9	12/26.1	21.7	12/23.1	24.6	12/26.5	
Ice cream-----pint	26.6	28.1	31.2	30.4	27.8	27.4	31.7	31.6	27.4	29.9	28.3	2/29.5	29.7	2/29.7	29.2	35.0	30.4	34.6	34.3	32.8	
Butter-----pound	66.7	68.6	72.2	72.5	71.4	72.4	73.4	74.8	69.7	71.5	73.6	75.9	75.3	63.7	70.0	70.4	70.4	72.0	73.6	74.5	
Cheese, American process-----do	58.2	58.5	59.4	59.4	60.5	60.0	59.2	58.3	57.8	58.7	58.4	57.3	2/60.8	61.5	55.5	54.4	59.7	50.2	58.4	58.2	
Milk, evaporated-----14 1/2-oz. can	14.5	15.0	14.0	14.1	13.8	14.0	14.0	14.2	12.9	13.8	13.2	13.6	2/14.3	14.6	13.4	13.7	13.7	14.0	14.2	14.5	
All fruits and vegetables:																					
Frozen fruits and vegetables:																					
Frozen fruits:																					
Strawberries-----10 ounces	29.2	28.9	30.7	29.4	30.6	29.4	31.4	30.3	27.4	26.7	33.0	32.4	2/33.2	33.2	28.7	27.4	28.7	27.7	31.1	29.6	
Orange juice concentrate-----6 ounces	18.8	20.2	18.1	19.0	17.0	18.8	19.5	20.0	18.6	20.9	18.7	20.2	2/19.5	21.5	17.3	18.7	19.6	20.3	13.6	20.1	
Frozen vegetables:																					
Peas, green-----10 ounces	20.0	21.0	20.1	19.9	19.3	20.1	20.9	21.1	19.4	20.7	20.6	22.2	2/21.6	22.7	19.2	20.0	19.3	20.6	19.9	20.7	
Beans, green-----10 ounces	25.4	25.2	23.7	22.4	23.5	22.4	26.2	24.2	22.2	20.6	25.1	24.4	2/23.7	24.0	24.2	23.2	23.4	22.1	24.0	22.4	
Fresh fruits and vegetables:																					
Fresh fruits:																					
Apples-----pound	17.7	2/17.2	1/14.0	1/15.7	2/15.8	1/15.2	12.6	13.6	15.8	15.0	16.7	15.3	2/14.2	14.9	11.5	2/12.4	16.5	16.3	2/15.6	16.9	
Bananas-----do	20.3	20.0	15.5	15.6	15.6	15.1	17.3	17.0	19.8	19.5	18.2	18.2	2/18.7	19.0	15.4	14.9	19.6	19.3	16.4	16.2	
Oranges, size 200-----dozen	59.5	65.4	53.8	62.0	47.4	52.2	49.0	57.4	63.4	67.1	58.0	2/53.0	59.7	45.1	46.2	63.6	1/69.2	45.7	52.4		
Lemons-----pound	19.0	19.7	18.7	19.7	18.6	18.9	17.0	18.1	18.9	19.2	17.3	13.6	2/18.0	19.4	18.0	18.4	15.6	13.9	19.3	20.0	
Grapefruit (Nov.-May)-----each	10/ 9.4	10/10.4	10/10.6	10/10.9	10/10.2	10/10.5	10/ 9.7	10/10.0	10/14.4	10/16.1	10/ 9.8	10/10.6	15/12.4	10/13.3	10/ 8.7	10/ 9.1	10/15.5	10/16.2	10/ 8.2	10/ 8.7	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 10.—Annual Average Retail Prices of Principal Foods by City, 1955 and 1956--Continued
/In cents/

Article	Minneapolis, Minn. 26/		New York, 27/ N.Y.		Philadelphia, Pa.		Pittsburgh, Pa.		Portland, Oreg.		St. Louis, Mo.		San Francisco, Calif.		Scranton, Pa.		Seattle, Wash.		Washington, D.C.		
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	
Peaches (July-Sept.)-----pound	18/22.7	18/20.1	18/21.7	18/14.1	13/21.4	18/16.2	18/21.2	18/14.5	18/22.8	18/18.4	18/25.3	18/15.5	18/20.1	18/16.3	18/21.5	18/12.6	18/25.0	18/21.7	18/20.3	18/14.3	18/14.3
Strawberries (April-June)-----pint	17/29.5	18/36.5	18/35.3	18/39.7	18/37.5	18/37.1	18/33.5	17/33.0	17/33.0	18/30.9	18/27.4	18/38.1	17/32.3	(3/)	17/28.2	17/34.1	17/31.9	18/37.9	18/45.2	18/45.2	
Grapes, seedless (July-Nov.)-----pound	19/25.1	19/24.1	19/25.9	19/25.8	19/26.7	19/26.3	19/22.9	19/22.9	19/20.4	19/19.9	19/23.2	19/21.3	15/18.6	15/17.9	18/18.4	19/22.0	19/21.4	19/21.0	18/24.6	19/24.0	
Watermelons (June-Aug.)-----do	18/ 6.7	18/ 6.6	18/ 6.0	18/ 5.9	18/ 5.1	18/ 5.2	18/ 5.3	18/ 4.9	18/ 6.3	18/ 5.8	18/ 4.1	18/ 4.3	17/ 7.5	18/ 5.8	18/ 4.5	18/ 4.9	18/ 7.3	18/ 6.6	18/ 4.9	18/ 5.0	
Fresh vegetables:																					
Potatoes-----10 pounds	51.6	61.3	51.0	59.7	59.2	63.8	59.0	70.0	59.4	70.5	55.8	76.6	2/55.4	75.2	49.3	50.8	60.2	67.1	58.8	73.3	
Sweetpotatoes-----pound	(3/)	1/13.8	2/12.1	11.7	12.3	11.9	13.9	12.9	(3/)	(3/)	14.2	12.0	(3/)	(3/)	11.1	2/ 9.9	1/17.4	(3/)	13.2	12.5	
Onions-----do	9.0	10.7	7.2	8.2	8.6	9.9	8.4	10.5	7.9	8.5	8.8	10.4	2/ 7.5	9.2	7.2	8.1	7.9	9.2	3.0	9.9	
Carrots-----do	15.0	15.2	14.3	13.8	15.0	14.3	14.9	15.2	(3/)	14.1	15.6	14.7	2/ 9.7	9.7	13.0	13.0	(3/)	1/34.0	14.8	14.8	
Lettuce-----head	18.4	18.4	17.3	17.5	18.7	18.2	18.1	17.6	15.4	15.2	17.8	2/13.7	24.4	16.1	16.2	14.4	14.0	18.7	18.0	18.0	
Celery-----pound	16.0	(3/)	15.2	14.1	15.6	13.4	(3/)	21.4	14.1	13.3	14.5	14.2	2/11.7	11.2	2/15.3	12.2	13.0	12.2	15.1	14.6	
Cabbage-----do	3.6	5.1	8.1	7.0	9.0	7.7	9.3	9.2	9.1	7.3	9.4	9.2	2/ 7.9	7.8	7.7	6.4	9.6	9.4	5.4	6.9	
Tomatoes-----do	25.6	25.4	27.3	29.5	27.1	29.0	27.6	21.5	31.6	32.8	27.0	28.6	2/29.7	29.2	24.7	29.1	35.5	1/33.1	25.4	28.9	
Beans, green-----do	28.4	(3/)	21.9	25.7	23.0	26.6	23.0	27.6	(3/)	23.6	27.0	27.0	1/30.3	1/31.5	21.3	24.3	2/24.8	(2/)	(3/)	20.4	2/23.4
Canned fruits and vegetables:																					
Canned fruits:																					
Orange juice-----46-oz. can	35.6	39.8	32.6	35.6	33.2	36.9	32.7	36.0	35.7	42.4	33.1	36.1	2/39.9	42.1	32.0	35.4	36.9	40.1	32.0	36.3	
Peaches-----No. 2½ can	34.1	35.3	35.0	34.8	32.9	33.7	35.2	36.3	31.3	32.6	34.5	35.2	2/31.5	32.6	35.5	36.3	33.4	34.0	33.4	33.5	
Pineapple-----No. 2 can	6/34.4	35.0	6/32.6	32.8	6/32.0	33.0	6/32.8	33.4	1/31.8	33.2	6/34.5	34.7	1/32.4	33.3	6/33.3	33.7	1/31.2	31.2	6/32.1	32.0	
Fruit cocktail-----No. 303 can	5/27.2	27.4	5/26.7	26.2	5/26.7	26.2	5/26.8	26.5	1/25.7	26.2	5/27.5	27.3	1/24.7	24.5	5/27.2	26.9	1/25.2	25.4	6/26.0	25.5	
Canned vegetables:																					
Corn, cream style-----do	16.4	17.9	17.5	17.7	17.0	17.9	17.1	17.6	17.6	18.4	16.8	17.9	2/28.1	19.0	17.4	17.7	16.8	17.7	17.4	18.0	
Peas, green-----do	21.4	21.6	21.3	21.3	21.2	21.1	21.3	21.5	20.2	20.4	21.3	21.2	2/21.9	21.8	20.9	20.5	21.1	21.5	20.9	20.6	
Tomatoes-----do	16.5	17.0	15.2	15.2	15.8	16.6	14.9	15.3	20/22.7	20/23.8	16.0	16.1	28/21.6	20/21.7	14.5	14.7	20/22.9	20/23.7	11.0	13.6	
Baby foods-----4½-5 ounces	9.8	10.1	2/10.2	10.1	2/ 9.9	9.9	10.4	10.5	8.5	9.3	9.5	9.4	2/ 9.3	9.7	2/ 9.8	9.7	1/ 8.9	9.1	2/10.1	9.9	
Dried fruits and vegetables:																					
Prunes-----pound	35.5	37.9	32.1	33.5	33.4	35.1	34.4	36.3	33.5	35.4	33.8	36.4	2/32.2	35.2	32.1	35.4	32.4	35.3	32.7	34.5	
Dried beans-----do	21/19.3	17.2	18.7	16.9	10/18.9	16.8	17.3	16.0	21.6	18.6	10/16.8	15.0	2/20.6	19.6	14.4	17.9	10/18.5	(3/)	10/17.6	15.8	
Other foods at home:																					
Partially prepared foods:																					
Soup, vegetable 22/-----11-oz. can	14.3	(3/)	14.1	(2/)	13.5	14.2	(3/)	14.0	14.0	(3/)	14.0	(3/)	2/14.3	(3/)	14.1	(3/)	13.9	(3/)	13.8	(3/)	
Beans with pork-----16-oz. can	16.1	15.4	14.6	14.7	14.7	15.8	15.5	13.8	14.8	14.9	14.3	2/14.7	14.9	14.1	13.7	15.3	15.7	14.5	13.6	13.6	
Condiments and sauces:																					
Pickles, sweet-----7½ ounces	25.3	25.8	30.3	29.0	25.2	25.4	27.9	27.9	26.6	26.8	28.4	28.4	2/29.8	27.3	28.8	27.7	25.0	1/24.6	29.2	29.6	
Catsup, tomato-----14 ounces	24.2	24.7	22.6	22.5	21.7	22.6	24.4	24.3	21.8	22.2	22.8	2/19.3	20.1	23.3	23.6	25.2	1/24.4	23.0	23.1		
Beverages, nonalcoholic:																					
Coffee 23/-----pound	96.9	---	94.5	---	91.5	88.4	---	92.6	---	93.1	---	---	2/99.3	---	87.4	---	97.7	---	96.6	---	
Coffee 23/-----1-lb. can	---	103.3	---	106.1	---	106.9	---	105.7	---	103.5	---	104.2	---	103.9	---	105.3	---	102.5	---	107.2	
Tea 24/-----½ pound	10/43.6	---	10/38.5	---	10/42.5	---	10/39.9	---	10/40.9	---	10/42.4	---	(3/)	---	10/38.9	---	10/40.2	---	10/43.0	---	
Tea bags 24/-----package of 16	---	25.0	---	22.1	---	23.8	---	23.1	---	23.3	---	24.6	---	24.2	---	22.1	---	1/24.4	---	23.6	
Cola drink-----carton - 36 ounces	37.9	38.3	37.5	37.6	31.9	27.3	39.2	38.9	34.8	35.1	2/35.1	(3/)	2/33.1	36.1	32.0	31.5	32.0	34.1	30.4	30.6	
Fats and oils:																					
Shortening, hydrogenated 25/-----1-lb. can	10/35.3	---	10/34.9	---	10/34.2	---	10/34.3	---	10/35.2	---	10/35.1	---	(3/)	---	10/33.9	---	10/34.4	---	10/34.9	---	
Shortening, hydrogenated 25/-----3-lb. can	---	95.2	---	95.0	---	95.8	---	96.8	---	93.8	---	94.2	---	100.1	---	94.4	---	1/92.4	---	96.4	
Margarine, colored-----pound	29/42.9	29/44.0	31.3	30.7	28.7	28.0	29.7	28.8	28.8	29.1	27.8	28.0	2/31.6	30.3	29.2	28.7	31.1	29.0	29.8	30.1	
Lard-----do	20.1	19.1	21.9	20.4	20.2	19.1	20.8	19.4	25.7	22.8	19.9	18.0	2/26.1	24.5	19.3	19.1	25.4	23.5	19.6	18.8	
Salad dressing-----pint	35.2	35.3	35.9	34.5	35.2	34.7	36.5	36.1	36.8	38.7	36.2	36.4	2/37.9	38.5	32.8	33.7	37.0	1/37.0	35.4	34.7	
Peanut butter-----pound	52.8	51.5	52.3	50.9	52.4	53.4	52.3	55.7	56.6	55.5	57.7	2/56.5	56.1	53.4	53.8	57.4	54.8	57.4	55.5	56.3	
Sugar and sweets:																					
Sugar-----5 pounds	55.6	56.8	49.7	50.3	49.3	50.4	52.9	53.1	55.3	58.7	52.9	54.5	2/51.8	52.7	51.7	52.1	54.2	55.8	50.3	50.3	
Corn syrup-----24 ounces	22.7	23.1	24.9	24.7	23.8	23.6	24.0	24.2	25.1	25.5	21.3	21.9	2/25.1	25.1	24.5	24.7	25.2	25.6	25.0	23.9	
Grape jelly-----12 ounces	30.0	30.1	23.0	22.8	22.7	24.2	27.9	28.0	26.9	28.0	29.0	28.9	2/29.5	30.2	23.3	23.4	26.0	26.7	23.0	23.2	
Chocolate bar-----1 ounce	5.1	4.7	5.2	4.5	5.1	4.5	5.1	4.5	4.8	4.3	5.1	4.6	2/ 5.3	4.8	5.1	4.4	5.1	4.5	5.2	4.5	
Eggs, Grade A, large-----dozen	54.0	53.5	69.6	67.6	68.4	66.8	69.0	66.9	30/63.4	30/63.1	58.0	58.3	31/63.4	30/61.0	63.9	63.2	30/65.5	30/64.8	67.6	66.7	
Miscellaneous foods:																					
Gelatin, flavored-----3-4 ounces	8.8	8.9	8.4	8.2	8.5	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.4	8.9	8.7	8.6	2/ 8.8	8.8	8.1	8.2	8.8	8.6	8.9	8.6	

1/ Average for 10 months. 2/ Average for 11 months. 16/ Average for 6 months. 17/ Average for 2 months. 18/ Average for 3 months.
 3/ Not available; insufficient reports during the year. 19/ Average for 4 months. 20/ No. 2½ can. 21/ Average for 8 months.
 4/ Includes U.S. Choice and U.S. Good baby beef. 22/ Specification changed from vegetable soup to tomato soup beginning August 1956.
 5/ Includes U.S. Choice and U.S. Good baby beef. Average for 11 months. 23/ Prices for coffee in cans, bags or glass jars through December 1955. Prices for coffee in cans only beginning January 1956.
 6/ Average for 9 months. 24/ Specification changed from loose tea to tea bags August 1955.
 7/ Not available. Specification changed from tenderized to ready-to-eat ham beginning with September 1956.
 8/ Frying chickens with feet on through August 1956; feet removed beginning with September 1956.
 9/ Specification changed from solid pack to chunk style tuna beginning August 1955.
 10/ Average for 7 months. 25/ Specification changed from 1-lb. can to 3-lb. can beginning August 1955.
 11/ Beginning with August 1956, specification changed from volume selling grade and type to Homogenized vitamin D milk for all cities except Baltimore.
 12/ Partly estimated. 13/ Cream top, without added vitamin D. Average for 10 months.
 14/ Includes delivery charge, May through December.
 15/ Average for 5 months. 26/ Minneapolis-St. Paul. 27/ New York-Northeastern New Jersey.
 28/ No. 2½ can. Average for 11 months. 29/ Uncolored margarine.
 30/ Grade AA large. 31/ Grade AA large. Average for 11 months.

Appendix

The Retail Food Price Index

A Brief Description of the Retail Food Price Index

The retail food price index, a component of the Consumer Price Index, measures average changes from time to time in retail prices of a fixed list of foods of constant quantity and quality, bought by moderate-income wage earner families in cities of all sizes. This conforms with the general purpose of the Consumer Price Index to measure changes over time in the purchase price of a fixed list of goods and services. The index is not designed to measure how much more it costs to live in one city than in another.

Retail food prices were first collected in 1903, when the Bureau's representatives obtained prices for the years 1890 through 1903 from grocers' records. At that time, 30 foods were priced in 171 representative cities in 33 States. Since then, changes in the lists of foods and in the number of cities have been made, with the number of foods varying between 16 and 87 and the number of cities between 39 and 171. The base period, collection and computation methods, and techniques have also changed from time to time.

The revised retail food price index, which comprised about 29 percent ^{5/} of the weight of items in the CPI in December 1956, ^{6/} has been published monthly since January 1953.

Collection of Prices

The Bureau collects retail prices of approximately 80 foods in each of the 46 cities included in the retail food price index, during the first 3 days of the week containing the 15th of the month. Local Bureau representatives obtain the prices from grocers through personal interviews in the place of business. The representatives are provided with a description (specification) of the quality for which price quotations are desired. Within the range of each specification, they are instructed to secure a price for the type, brand, etc., sold in greatest volume in each store at the time of institution of pricing and to continue to price the same item so long as it is sold in quantity. Specifications are defined precisely enough to insure a meaningful average price and to avoid movement in the index because of shifts in the quality priced from one period to the next. They are detailed, but represent a compromise between the technical and the nontechnical. They define the quality level as rigidly as is consistent with the practicability of collecting retail price data. This consideration leads to the necessity for a range of qualities in each specification rather than for a single point in the quality scale. ^{7/} A series of alternate specifications has been developed to provide an adequate number of quotations and to allow for city and regional differences in grades, types, package sizes, etc.

Processing

Each month, the Bureau's field representatives send the price reports to the Washington office, where the schedules are edited for conformance to the required specifications and conversions to uniform quantity units are made as necessary. The data are then proc-

^{5/} See table B for the relative importance of individual foods in the retail food price index.

^{6/} See Consumer Prices in the United States, 1949-52, BLS Bull. 1165; The Revised Consumer Price Index, Outline of Main Features of the Revised Index--December 1952 (mimeographed); and The Consumer Price Index--A Layman's Guide, BLS Bull. 1140.

^{7/} See Average Retail Prices: Collection and Calculation Techniques and Problems, BLS Bull. 1182, June 1955 (pp. 7-13).

essed by machine tabulation.

The retail food price index is a fixed-base-weighted-aggregate index. Weighting factors are used to maintain appropriate relationships: (1) among chain stores (outlet weights), (2) between chain and independent stores (chain-independent ratio), (3) among foods in each city (consumption weights), and (4) among cities (population weights).

Average prices for each food in each city are computed separately for chain and independent stores. Weighting factors (called outlet weights) based on annual volume sales of reporters are used in calculating average prices for chain stores within each city. A simple average of independent store prices is obtained, since the sample was selected to be a self-weighting sample. Chain and independent average prices for a city are combined by the use of the chain-independent ratios to obtain average prices for the city. These chain-independent ratios are based on the percentage of total food sales in the city made by chains and independent stores. In the small cities, comparable samples of reporting outlets are used in the index calculation. In effect, only those outlets for which prices for the preceding and the current month are available are used in the computation of the monthly percent changes.

Consumption weights (or family expenditure weights) for each city are applied to the monthly price changes for the individual foods to give them their correct proportions in the city's group and all foods indexes. Until the interim adjustment of the index in 1950, when 1947-49 data were available, these weights were based on consumer expenditure data obtained in 1934-36. A further revision of these weights was made in the revised index beginning January 1953, based on the consumer expenditure survey of 1950. 8/

City population weights are employed in obtaining U.S. average prices and indexes for all cities combined. These weights are based on the population of the metropolitan area containing the city in which prices are collected and that of cities of like characteristics represented by the sample cities. Adjustments in these population weights were made in February 1943 in accordance with Census Bureau estimates of changes in population from April 1940 to May 1942, based on the registration for the sugar-ration books; again in 1950 for the 56 cities surveyed, using the 1950 Decennial Census data; and in January 1953, when the number of cities was reduced from 56 to the current 46 cities, in accordance with the 1950 Census. Relative population weights currently in use appear in table A.

Relative Importance

The relative importance of the individual foods in the overall index is computed and released by the Bureau once each year. These relative importance figures are percentage distributions of the value weights of the individual foods in the index as of a given date. The values for each current month are obtained by multiplying the previous month's value weights by the price changes over the month. Thus, the relative importance figures are not weights in themselves; they change from time to time as prices for the various foods change at different rates, although the physical quantity weights implicit in them remain constant. Table B presents the list of foods included in the index, and the relative importance (percentage) of each in the all foods index for 46 cities combined for December 1955 and December 1956. 9/

Index Base Period

The index base period was changed for the revised index from 1935-39 to 1947-49 on advice of the American Statistical Association and the Division of Statistical Standards of

8/ See Selection of Cities for Consumer Expenditures Survey, 1950, Monthly Labor Review, April 1951 (p. 430); and Family Income, Expenditures, and Savings, BLS Bull. 1097 (Revised), 1950. June 1953.

9/ See Retail Prices of Food 1951 and 1952, BLS Bull. 1141, Appendix, for relative importances before the revision of January 1953.

the United States Bureau of the Budget. These were relatively normal postwar years when price controls were not in effect on most commodities. Conversion factors for converting former food price indexes to the current base period are given in appendix table C. 10/ Indexes for major subgroups are shown from 1923 to date in summary table 4.

Sample of Cities

The sample of cities was changed in January 1953 from 56 large cities to 46 cities selected to represent the 3,000 towns, cities, and suburbs of the United States ranging in population from small cities of 2,500 people to New York City. 11/ The revised sample includes the 12 largest cities, 9 other large cities, 9 medium-size cities, and 16 small cities.

Food Away from Home

Prices of food away from home (restaurant meals) were included for the first time in the revised retail food index. Formerly restaurant meals were estimated to have the same price movement as food bought to be consumed at home.

Sample of Food Items

The sample of items priced in food stores was increased to about 80 items by adding 22 foods and dropping 3 foods, beginning in January 1953. Seasonal foods available only for short periods of the year were included for the first time.

The sample of items in the index includes those items found to be most important in wage earners' family budgets as shown by comprehensive consumer expenditure surveys. The selection of the index items also takes into account similarity of price changes, since it is impossible for the Bureau to collect prices for all of the many foods purchased by families. Price movements of foods not included in the monthly surveys are imputed to those of other foods or food groups showing similar price trends, by means of allocation of weights. 12/

Selection of Store Sample

In selecting the sample of independent stores for food price reports, the Bureau has taken into account type of store in terms of food handled, size of store as measured by sales volume, and geographic location within the city. All important chainstore systems are included in the sample for each city. Revisions in store samples are made from time to time, to maintain the accuracy of the food price index. The latest complete sample revision for the large cities contained in the index was made between September 1945 and June 1946. 13/ At that time, the size of the sample of independent stores in each city was changed so as to be equal to the square root of the total number of independent food stores operating in the city. This relationship was employed since the proportion of stores necessary to obtain stable average prices is higher for a small city than for a large metropolitan area.

All independent stores in each of the large cities previously included in the

10/ See also the Revised Consumer's Price Index - A Summary of Changes in the Index and Suggestions for Transition from the "Interim Adjusted" and "Old Series" Indexes to the Revised Index December 1952 (mimeographed).

11/ For lists of cities in the old and adjusted and revised retail food price indexes, see Retail Prices of Food 1953-54, BLS Bull. 1183 (pp. 28-30).

12/ For lists of foods included in the old and adjusted and revised retail food price indexes, see Retail Prices of Food, 1953-54, BLS Bull. 1183 (pp. 30-32).

13/ See Store Samples for Retail Food Prices, Monthly Labor Review, January 1947; also reprinted as Serial No. R. 1878.

index were classified according to type of commodities handled--combination stores (groceries and meats), groceries only, meats only, produce markets, etc. The listing for each store type was further classified by annual sales volume: under \$50,000; \$50,000 and under \$250,000; and \$250,000 and over. Stores were further distributed within city areas and a random selection was then made within each area to fulfill the sample requirements. The result was a self-weighting sample of independent stores based on current distribution of total independent store sales in each city.

Inclusion of small cities in the revised index beginning in January 1953 required some revision in the method of selecting the sample of independent stores for food price reports. As random sampling methods could not be applied effectively in these small cities, the stores were selected by reference to their importance in the buying pattern as revealed by the consumer expenditure surveys.

Outlet Weights

Beginning in February 1956, weighting factors used in each city in combining chain store average prices with independent store average prices were revised. Pending the availability of 1954 Census of Business data, the adjustment was based on estimates from trade sources. It was believed to be a conservative estimate of the relative increase in chainstore sales which had actually taken place.

Weighting factors used in combining prices of individual chainstore organizations also were revised at that time. This was a regular biennial revision based upon 1954 sales volumes reported by each chain. As part of the revision, a number of large independent supermarkets were transferred to the chainstore category with appropriate weights, since for the most part they operate like, and are competitive with, chains. These revisions were linked into the calculation of the Consumer Price Index so as not to affect the movement of the index from January to February. 14/

Revisions

For a description of the revisions of the retail food price indexes and references describing the revisions in greater detail, see Retail Prices of Food 1953-54, BLS Bull. 1183, Appendix; and Retail Prices of Food, 1951 and 1952, BLS Bull. 1141, Appendix.

Publications

Retail food prices are issued regularly as follows:

1. Consumer Price Index (monthly, multilithed).
2. Retail Food Prices by Cities (monthly, multilithed).
3. Retail Food Prices by Cities - Annual Averages (annually, multilithed).
4. Monthly Labor Review (monthly).
5. Retail Prices of Food (bulletins annually or biennially).

14/ For details see Retail Food Prices by Cities, February 1956, p.14 (multilithed).

Table A.--Relative Population Weights ^{1/} Used in Computing Retail Food Prices and Indexes for 46 Cities Combined Beginning January 1953

City ^{2/}	Weight	City ^{2/}	Weight	City ^{2/}	Weight
	Percent	Population 240,000-1,000,000:	Percent	Population 30,000-240,000-Con.	Percent
46 cities combined	100.0	Atlanta, Ga. -----	2.36	Newark, Ohio -----	2.20
		Cincinnati, Ohio -----	2.35	San Jose, Calif. -----	2.37
Population over 1,000,000:		Houston, Texas -----	2.36		20.01
Baltimore, Md. -----	1.17	Kansas City, Mo. -----	2.35	Population under 30,000:	
Boston, Mass. -----	1.73	Minneapolis-		Anna, Ill. -----	1.21
Chicago, Ill. -----	5.17	St. Paul, Minn. -----	2.33	Camden, Ark. -----	1.41
Cleveland, Ohio -----	1.57	Portland, Oreg. -----	2.36	Garrett, Ind. -----	1.31
Detroit, Mich. -----	2.99	Scranton, Pa. -----	2.33	Glendale, Ariz. -----	1.41
Los Angeles, Calif. -----	4.43	Seattle, Wash. -----	2.35	Grand Forks, N. Dak. -----	1.14
New York, N. Y.-		Youngstown, Ohio -----	2.33	Grand Island, Neb. -----	1.31
Northeastern New Jersey ----	12.56		21.12	Laconia, N. H. -----	1.14
Philadelphia, Pa.-		Population 30,000-240,000:		Lodi, Calif. -----	1.41
Camden, N. J. -----	2.81	Canton, Ohio -----	2.10	Madill, Okla. -----	1.41
Pittsburgh, Pa. -----	1.59	Charleston, W. Va. -----	2.20	Middlesboro, Ky. -----	1.21
St. Louis, Mo. -----	1.52	Evansville, Ind. -----	2.37	Pulaski, Va. -----	1.21
San Francisco, Calif. -----	1.69	Huntington, W. Va.-		Ravenna, Ohio -----	1.31
Washington, D. C. -----	1.36	Ashland, Ky. -----	2.20	Rawlins, Wyo. -----	1.14
	38.59	Lynchburg, Va. -----	2.37	Sandpoint, Idaho -----	1.14
		Madison, Wis. -----	2.10	Shawnee, Okla. -----	1.21
		Middletown, Conn. -----	2.10	Shenandoah, Iowa -----	1.31
					20.28

^{1/} Total weight, according to 1950 Census of sample city and all others represented in the index by the sample city.

^{2/} Urbanized area (Census definition).

Table B.—List of Foods and Relative Importance of Individual Foods and Groups of Foods Included in the Retail Food Price Index, December 1955 and December 1956

Article	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1956	Article	Dec. 1955	Dec. 1956
All foods -----	100.00	100.00	All fruits and vegetables-Con.		
Foods at home -----	83.44	83.50	Fresh fruits and vegetables-Con.		
Cereals and bakery products -----	11.30	11.27	Fresh fruits-Con.		
Cereals:			Grapefruit -----	0.22	0.24
Flour, wheat -----	1.95	1.91	Peaches -----	.37	.34
Biscuit mix -----	.53	.52	Strawberries -----	.22	.23
Corn meal -----	.15	.15	Grapes -----	.26	.27
Rice -----	.29	.28	Watermelons -----	.35	.37
Pollid oats -----	.27	.26	Fresh vegetables:		
Corn flakes -----	.34	.34	Potatoes -----	1.30	1.42
Bakery products:			Sweetpotatoes -----	.17	.18
Bread -----	5.50	5.54	Onions -----	.30	.27
Soda crackers -----	.54	.55	Carrots -----	.39	.31
Vanilla cookies -----	1.73	1.72	Lettuce -----	.67	.80
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	22.43	22.56	Celery -----	.35	.36
Meats -----	17.26	17.79	Cabbage -----	.17	.13
Beef and veal:			Tomatoes -----	.77	.92
Round steak -----	2.62	2.64	Beans, green -----	.39	.48
Chuck roast -----	1.42	1.49	Canned fruits and vegetables -----	4.14	4.14
Rib roast -----	.50	.52	Canned fruits:		
Hamburger -----	1.47	1.44	Orange juice -----	.78	.84
Veal cutlets -----	.63	.63	Peaches -----	.61	.58
Pork:			Pineapple -----	.35	.35
Pork chops -----	2.41	2.71	Fruit cocktail -----	.30	.29
Bacon, sliced -----	2.61	2.73	Canned vegetables:		
Ham, whole -----	2.03	2.15	Corn -----	.44	.42
Lamb, leg -----	.57	.57	Peas, green -----	.56	.54
Other meats:			Tomatoes -----	.67	.65
Frankfurters -----	2.22	2.15	Baby foods -----	.47	.47
Luncheon meat, canned -----	.78	.76	Dried fruits and vegetables -----	.65	.61
Poultry, frying chickens -----	3.24	2.90	Prunes -----	.32	.31
Fish -----	1.93	1.87	Dried beans -----	.33	.30
Fresh or frozen -----	1.00	.98	Other foods at home -----	20.63	20.12
Canned:			Partially prepared foods:		
Salmon, pink -----	.34	.35	Vegetable soup -----	1.29	1.24
Tuna fish -----	.59	.54	Beans with pork -----	.55	.53
Dairy products -----	13.92	13.96	Condiments and sauces:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) -----	4.33	4.38	Pickles, sweet -----	.82	.79
Milk, fresh, (delivered) -----	4.34	4.34	Catsup, tomato -----	.35	.35
Ice cream -----	1.11	1.09	Beverages, nonalcoholic -----	5.92	6.31
Butter -----	1.51	1.55	Coffee -----	4.12	4.54
Cheese, American process -----	1.70	1.66	Tea -----	.52	.50
Milk, evaporated -----	.93	.94	Cola drinks -----	1.28	1.27
All fruits and vegetables -----	15.14	15.59	Fats and oils -----	3.20	3.29
Frozen fruits and vegetables -----	.96	.91	Shortening, hydrogenated -----	1.05	1.12
Frozen fruits:			Margarine -----	.80	.81
Strawberries -----	.10	.09	Lard -----	.35	.37
Orange juice concentrate -----	.38	.37	Salad dressing -----	.62	.63
Frozen vegetables:			Peanut butter -----	.38	.36
Peas, green -----	.30	.28	Sugar and sweets -----	3.18	3.15
Beans, green -----	.18	.17	Sugar -----	1.32	1.32
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	9.35	9.93	Corn syrup -----	.44	.44
Fresh fruits:			Grape jelly -----	.48	.48
Apples -----	1.08	1.20	Chocolate bar -----	.94	.91
Bananas -----	.82	.84	Eggs, fresh -----	4.97	4.10
Oranges -----	1.35	1.39	Miscellaneous foods:		
Lemons -----	.17	.18	Gelatin, flavored -----	.37	.36
			Food away from home:		
			Restaurant meals -----	16.56	16.50

Table C.—Conversion Factors for Conversion of Retail Price Indexes for Individual Items and Groups of Items from the Previous Base Period to the Base Period Currently Used

Article or group	Previous base period	Base period currently used	Conversion factor		Previous base period	Base period currently used	Conversion factor
All foods -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4950495	All fruits and vegetables-Con.			
Foods at home -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4950495	Fresh fruits and vegetables-Con.			
Cereals and bakery products ---	1935-39	1947-49	.6049607	Fresh fruits-Con.			
Cereals:				Grapefruit -----	---	Jan. '53	---
Flour, wheat -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5339028	Peaches -----	---	July '53	---
Biscuit mix -----	---	Dec. '52	---	Strawberries -----	---	Apr. '53	---
Corn meal -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5117707	Grapes, seedless -----	---	July '53	---
Rice -----	July '47	1947-49	.9057971	Watermelons -----	---	June '53	---
Rolled oats -----	Feb. '43	1947-49	.6872852	Fresh vegetables:			
Corn flakes -----	1935-39	1947-49	.6042296	Potatoes -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4472272
Bakery products:				Sweetpotatoes -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4710316
Bread, white -----	1935-39	1947-49	.6333122	Onions -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4894763
Soda crackers -----	---	Dec. '52	---	Carrots -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4828585
Vanilla cookies -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5390836	Lettuce -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5681818
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4304778	Celery -----	---	Jan. '53	---
Meats -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4361099	Cabbage -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5571031
Beef and veal -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4205214	Tomatoes -----	Oct. '49	Dec. '52	.5417118
Round steak -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4030633	Beans, green -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5091650
Chuck roast -----	1935-39	1947-49	.3927730	Canned fruits and vegetables ---	1935-39	1947-49	.6289308
Rib roast -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4246284	Canned fruits:			
Hamburger -----	Feb. '43	1947-49	.6131208	Orange juice -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Veal cutlets -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4278990	Peaches -----	1935-39	1947-49	.6119951
Pork -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4655493	Pineapple -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5952381
Pork chops, center cut ---	1935-39	1947-49	.4418913	Fruit cocktail -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Bacon, sliced -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5167959	Canned vegetables:			
Ham, whole -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4434590	Corn, cream style -----	1935-39	1947-49	.6493506
Lamb, leg -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4096682	Peas, green -----	1935-39	1947-49	.8576329
Other meats:				Tomatoes -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5296610
Frankfurters -----	Dec. '50	Dec. '52	.9881423	Baby foods -----	Dec. '50	Dec. '52	.9813543
Luncheon meat, canned ---	---	Dec. '52	---	Dried fruits and vegetables ---	1935-39	1947-49	.4066694
Poultry, frying chicken -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5192108	Prunes -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4405286
Fish -----	1935-39	1947-49	.3340013	Dried beans -----	1935-39	1947-49	.3694126
Fresh and frozen -----	1938-39	1947-49	.3895598	Other foods at home -----	---	1947-49	---
Canned:				Partially prepared foods:			
Salmon, pink -----	1938-39	1947-49	.2553626	Vegetable soup -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Tuna fish -----	---	Dec. '52	---	Beans with pork -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Dairy products -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5192108	Condiments and sauces:			
Milk, fresh, (grocery) -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5720824	Pickles, sweet -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ---	1935-39	1947-49	.5865103	Catsup, tomato -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Ice cream -----	Dec. '50	Dec. '52	.9469697	Beverages, nonalcoholic -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4897160
Butter -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4553734	Coffee -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4904365
Cheese, American process ---	1935-39	1947-49	.4228330	Tea -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Milk, evaporated -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5227392	Cole drinks -----	Dec. '50	Dec. '52	.8873114
All fruits and vegetables -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4897160	Fats and oils -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5540166
Frozen fruits and vegetables-	Dec. '50	Dec. '52	1.132503	Shortening, hydrogenated ---	1935-39	1947-49	.5045409
Frozen fruits:				Margarine -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4833253
Strawberries -----	Dec. '50	Dec. '52	1.153403	Lard -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5583473
Orange juice concentrate-	Dec. '50	Dec. '52	1.280410	Salad dressing -----	1935-39	1947-49	.6414368
Frozen vegetables:				Peanut butter -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Peas, green -----	Dec. '50	Dec. '52	1.076426	Sugar and sweets -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5656109
Beans, green -----	---	Dec. '52	---	Sugar -----	1935-39	1947-49	.5627462
Fresh fruits and vegetables -	1935-39	1947-49	.4741584	Corn syrup -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Fresh fruits:				Grape jelly -----	Dec. '50	Dec. '52	1.014199
Apples -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4205214	Chocolate bar -----	---	Dec. '52	---
Bananas -----	1935-39	1947-49	.3803728	Eggs, fresh -----	1935-39	1947-49	.4911591
Oranges, size 200 -----	1935-39	1947-49	.6067961	Miscellaneous foods:			
Lemons -----	---	May '53	---	Gelatin, flavored -----	---	Dec. '52	---

NOTE: Indexes published prior to December 1952 on the previous base period may be converted to the base period currently used and shown in this publication by multiplying by the conversion factor in the last column. The factor is computed by dividing 100 by the average index for the new base period on the previous base.

1/ Indexes for all foods and food at home are identical prior to December 1952; only food at home priced prior to December 1952; food away from home added beginning January 1953.