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Retail Prices of Food

1957-58

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Bulletin No. 1254

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
James P. Mitchell, Secretary
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
Ewan Clague, Commissioner

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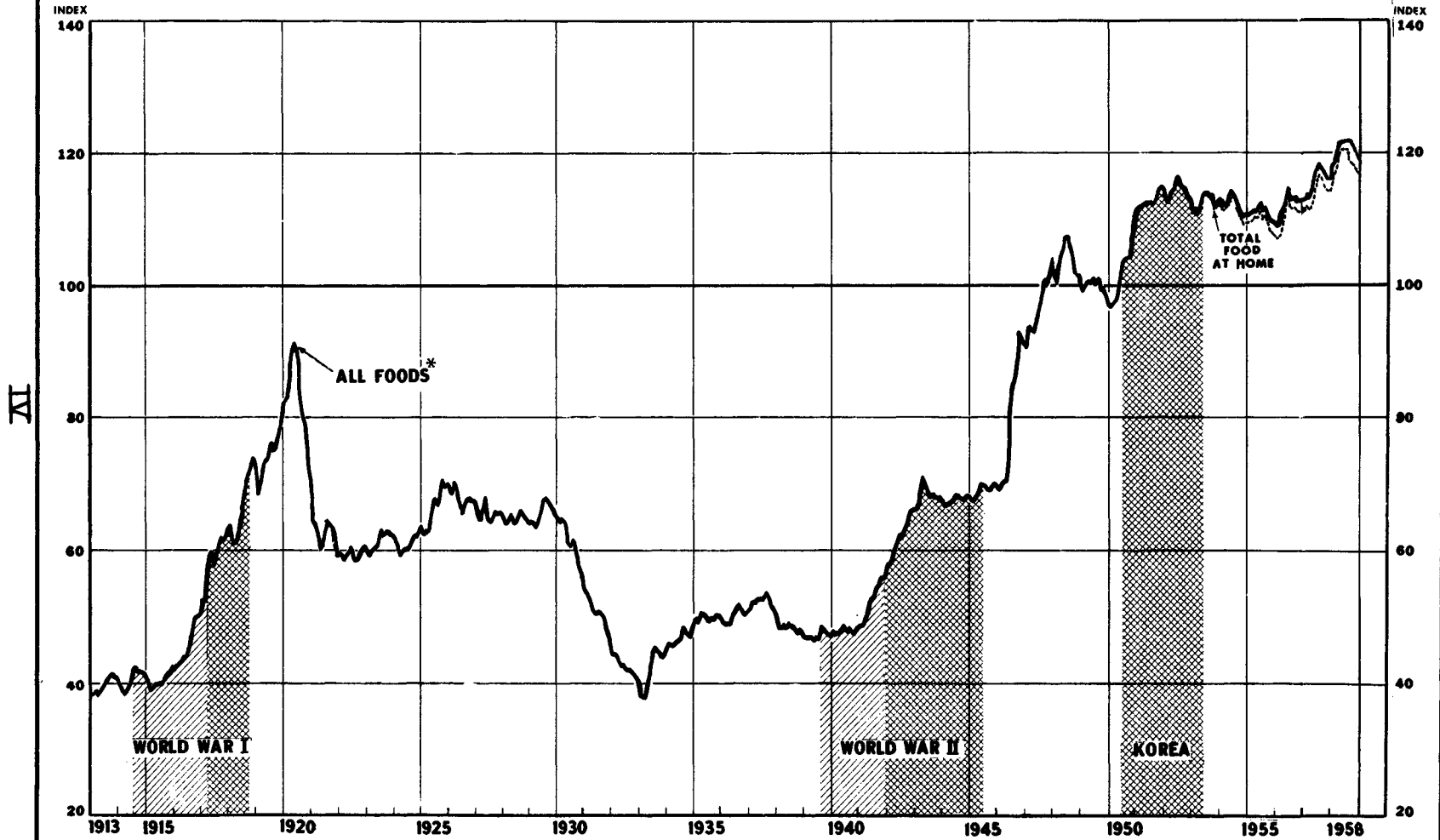
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Chart I.

RETAIL PRICES OF FOODS United States, 1913-58 1947-49=100



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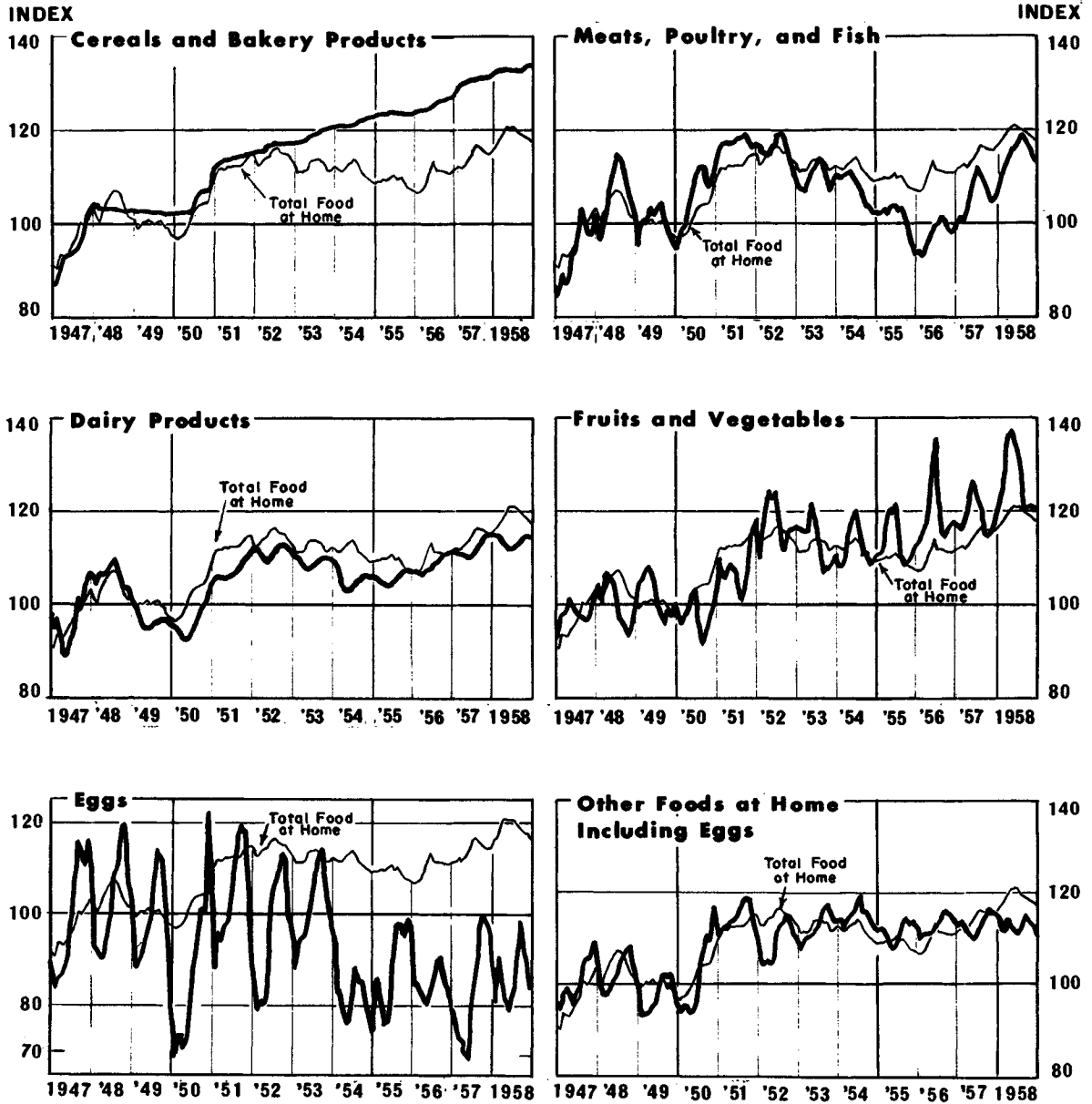
* BEGINNING JANUARY 1953, FOOD INDEX INCLUDES RESTAURANT MEALS AND OTHER FOOD BOUGHT AWAY AND EATEN AWAY FROM HOME.

VI

RETAIL PRICES FOR GROUPS OF FOODS

United States, 1947-58

1947-49=100



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Summary

Retail prices of foods in the U.S. Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index increased 5.1 percent from December 1956 to December 1958, more than double the increase of 2.3 percent in the previous 2-year period. Annual average prices for foods for 1957 and 1958 were the highest since 1952, approximately 15 percent and 20 percent, respectively, above the 1947-49 average. With the exception of the other foods group, which includes eggs, coffee, partially prepared and miscellaneous food items, all major groups contributed to the overall increase.

Starting at the December 1956 level, the total food index followed its usual seasonal pattern during 1957, fluctuating within narrow limits the early part of the year, rising to a high in midyear, and declining in the fall. After October, the index remained virtually unchanged but at a level well above the previous year. In 1958, however, substantial price increases in the first half of the year for most groups caused the index to rise sharply and contraseasonally to an all-time high in July 1958 of 121.7 percent of the 1947-49 average. Following the sharp increase, the index declined slightly in August and continued downward moderately through December 1958, ending the year only 2.5 percent below the July peak.

The total food index reflected an increase from December 1956 through December 1958 of 5.0 percent for food at home and 6.2 percent for food away from home (restaurant meals). It moved very closely in the pattern of the index for food at home, which represents over 80 percent of the index weight. The index for food away from home rose almost continually over the 2-year period. The most important factor in the rise in food at home index was the

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

Group and subgroup	Previous peak August 1952 to July 1958 peak	March 1956 low to July 1958 peak	December 1954 to December 1956	December 1956 to December 1958
Total food-----	+ 4.4	+11.7	+ 2.3	+ 5.1
Food away from home-----	(1/)	+ 8.0	+ 4.1	+ 6.2
Total food at home-----	+ 3.3	+12.3	+ 1.8	+ 5.0
Cereals and bakery products-----	+13.1	+ 6.8	+ 3.3	+ 5.2
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	- .2	+28.4	- 4.1	+15.3
Beef and veal-----	- 5.5	+36.0	- .6	+22.7
Pork-----	+ 9.4	+42.5	- 5.9	+14.4
Poultry-----	-20.6	- 2.2	- 7.4	- 7.6
Fish-----	+ 3.6	+ 7.7	- .8	+10.1
Dairy products-----	+ 1.3	+ 5.1	+ 4.2	+ 2.7
Fruits and vegetables-----	+11.1	+14.9	+ 8.3	+ 2.3
Frozen-----	+17.7	+16.5	+ 1.8	+21.9
Fresh-----	+10.9	+19.9	+11.3	- 1.6
Canned-----	+ 9.0	+ 4.3	+ 4.3	+ 6.2
Dried-----	+21.8	+ 4.5	+ .4	+ 9.3
Other foods at home-----	- 1.1	+ 1.0	+ 2.0	- 3.1
Beverages-----	+ 6.0	- 4.3	+ .3	-15.0
Fats and oils-----	+ 9.6	+ 6.7	+ 2.9	+ .1
Sugar and sweets-----	+11.4	+ 9.8	- 2.0	+ 8.2
Eggs-----	-22.7	- 3.1	+ 9.0	+ .7

1/ Data not available.

1/ Prepared in the Bureau's Prices and Cost of Living Division by Helen O. Molnar.

increase in prices of meats, the result of reduced production of beef and pork throughout 1957 and 1958 with resultant high prices. Other major factors were increased prices for dairy products, bread, frozen fruit (primarily orange concentrate), and sugar. Partly offsetting these increases were decreases for coffee, poultry, and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Percent changes in retail food prices by group and subgroup for significant periods are shown in table 1. Indexes of retail food prices from 1913 to date and for commodity groups and subgroups from 1923 through 1958 are shown in tables 3 and 4. The movement of retail food prices for important groups of commodities from 1947 through 1958 is shown in chart 2.

Changes in Retail Food Prices by Cities

Marked increases in retail food prices were recorded in all 20 large cities where prices are obtained by the Bureau, over the 2-year period, December 1956 to December 1958. Increases in prices for all foods ranged from 3.3 percent in Detroit to 6.8 percent in Los Angeles. Major factors which caused these increases were higher prices for meats, poultry, and fish, with increases ranging from 11.1 percent in Los Angeles to 19.2 percent in Portland, Oreg. Higher prices for cereals and bakery products in all 20 cities also contributed to the overall increase. Prices for dairy products, too, were up in 15 of the 20 cities and fruits and vegetables prices rose in 17 cities. Other foods, however, decreased in all of the 20 large cities, reflecting the sharp reduction in coffee prices.

Table 2. Retail Food Prices -- Percent Changes by City, and by Subgroup, December 1956-December 1958

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-----	+ 5.1	+ 5.0	+ 5.2	+15.3	+ 2.7	+ 2.3	- 3.1
Atlanta-----	+ 4.1	+ 4.4	+ 4.9	+15.9	+ 1.0	+ 0.8	- 3.3
Baltimore-----	+ 3.5	+ 4.4	+ 1.7	+13.6	+ 4.4	+ 3.8	- 3.8
Boston-----	+ 6.3	+ 6.5	+ 5.1	+18.0	+ 1.5	+ 4.7	- 1.6
Chicago-----	+ 4.8	+ 4.5	+ 1.6	+15.6	+ 1.4	+ 2.0	- 3.1
Cincinnati-----	+ 4.8	+ 4.4	+ 5.6	+12.9	+ 1.8	+ 4.7	- 4.8
Cleveland-----	+ 4.1	+ 4.0	+ 6.2	+13.0	+ 1.8	+ 1.4	- 4.7
Detroit-----	+ 3.3	+ 3.1	+ 4.2	+15.4	- 1.0	- 1.2	- 5.2
Houston-----	+ 4.8	+ 5.1	+ 5.3	+18.6	- 0.5	+ 3.1	- 3.9
Kansas City-----	+ 3.7	+ 3.6	+ 3.1	+15.6	- .2	- .7	- 2.9
Los Angeles-----	+ 6.8	+ 6.6	+11.0	+11.1	+ 4.7	+ 9.6	- 1.8
Minneapolis-----	+ 4.9	+ 3.5	+ 4.0	+15.8	- 3.4	+ 2.4	- 4.3
New York-----	+ 5.8	+ 5.3	+ 8.6	+12.8	+ 7.5	+ .1	- 4.0
Philadelphia-----	+ 5.7	+ 5.3	+ 6.8	+13.1	+ 4.5	+ 4.1	- 4.1
Pittsburgh-----	+ 4.4	+ 4.7	+ 5.8	+16.4	+ 2.7	- 1.9	- 3.7
Portland, Oreg.-----	+ 5.3	+ 5.6	+ 7.8	+19.2	+ 3.0	+ .7	- 2.6
St. Louis-----	+ 4.7	+ 4.5	+ 1.7	+16.6	+ 3.0	+ 1.5	- 4.4
San Francisco-----	+ 5.6	+ 5.4	+ 6.6	+12.6	+ 3.2	+ 5.4	- 1.3
Scranton-----	+ 5.5	+ 5.9	+ 8.6	+17.4	+ 4.2	+ 0	- 3.9
Seattle-----	+ 4.9	+ 5.1	+ 7.4	+17.4	- .8	+ 2.9	- 3.5
Washington, D. C.-----	+ 5.5	+ 5.4	+ 3.6	+17.1	+ 1.6	+ 3.0	- 1.7

Trend in Prices of Major Food Subgroups

Meats, Poultry, and Fish. Prices of meats, poultry, and fish rose 15.3 percent from December 1956 to December 1958. Beginning in January 1957, both meats and poultry increased steadily, bringing the index for the group to a 1957 peak in August. The upward movement was principally due to the reduced production of beef, veal, and pork after the record production of both cattle and hogs, which had resulted in abundant meat supplies and resultant low prices in 1956. Following a seasonal decline from August through November 1957, the index registered sharp advances, reaching a high in July 1958 of 119.2 (1947-49=100), only 2.0 percent below the previous peak of August 1952. Thereafter, with prices again decreasing seasonally in most subgroups, the index for the group declined by December 1958 to 113.0 percent of the 1947-49 average.

In the first 3 months of 1957, beef and veal prices continued downward from their 1956 fall peak. However, after March 1957, prices moved upward through September and showed only slight fluctuations in the last few months of the year. Beginning in January 1958, as beef production continued below a year earlier, prices advanced sharply to a peak for the year in June only 8 percent below the high of November 1951. Thereafter, prices did not experience their usual fall decline but showed little change for the balance of 1958 and ended the year considerably above the December 1956 level. The increase in prices over the 2 years was 22.7 percent.

Prices of pork increased more sharply than prices of beef during the early part of 1957, with only a slight interruption in March as ample pork supplies from the 1956 crop reached markets. By August, prices reached a peak only 2.1 percent below the postwar peak of May 1954, as a result of the smallest midsummer storage stocks in 12 years. Seasonally increased marketings of hogs at heavy weights in the early fall caused a drop in pork prices through November. However, with lower than anticipated pork production from the late fall crop of 1957, prices advanced sharply through July 1958, reaching a high 1.3 percent above the 1957 peak and 1.2 percent below the May 1954 postwar peak. The usual leveling off or decrease in prices, which normally occurs in the early spring as a result of heavier marketings from previous fall crops, did not occur in 1958. As fall marketings increased, pork prices declined after August, ending the year at 14.4 percent above the December 1956 level.

Lamb prices generally followed the upward movement of prices of the meats, poultry, and fish group, rising in the first part of each year and leveling off for the balance of the year. Prices over the 2-year period, December 1956 to December 1958, increased 13.6 percent.

Chicken prices fluctuated seasonally over the 2 years, but reached new lows towards the end of each year as production continued to reach new highs. Prices increased from the previous low of December 1956 to a seasonal peak in July and August 1957, dropping back in September through December to levels below 1956. In 1958, prices of chickens again increased through March to levels almost equal to those of June 1957. Prices remained at a high level through July, but thereafter decreased rapidly as new record supplies depressed prices. In December 1958, prices of chickens averaged only 69.0 percent of their 1947-49 average, 7.6 percent below December 1956.

Fruits and Vegetables. Average prices of the total fruit and vegetable index increased 2.3 percent between December 1956 and December 1958. All subgroups advanced over the 2-year period with the exception of fresh fruits and vegetables. As of December 1958, frozen fruits and vegetables had increased 21.9 percent; dried, 9.3 percent; and canned, 6.2 percent, above their December 1956 levels. On the other hand, fresh fruits and vegetables decreased 1.6 percent over the 2-year period.

During 1957, normal seasonal patterns were followed by most fruits and vegetables but with all subgroups showing decreases at the end of the year. In the first half of 1958, however, as a result of below freezing temperatures in mid-December 1957 and again in January 1958 in major producing areas of winter crops of vegetables and citrus fruits, all subgroups registered sharp contraseasonal price advances. Stepped up production of some fruits and vegetables in mid-1958 then brought a substantial decrease in the fresh fruit and vegetable subgroup. However, the upward trend begun in January 1958 for the frozen, canned, and dried fruit and vegetable subgroups continued throughout 1958.

Major factors in the overall decrease in the index for fresh fruits and vegetables were marked declines in prices for fresh vegetables, particularly tomatoes, potatoes, green beans, lettuce, and celery. As a result of increased acreage for 1958 spring and summer crops to make up for lost winter crops, supplies of these vegetables exceeded those of previous years and caused prices to decline by December to levels 2.4 and 5.4 percent below those of December 1957 and December 1956, respectively.

Potato prices, partly influenced by a Government diversion payment program, fluctuated moderately during the first half of 1957, reaching a high 13 percent above the December 1956 price. With the conclusion of the 1956-57 program, prices declined seasonally through October 1957 under pressure of a heavy late spring and summer crop, which was about 22 percent in excess of the 1956 crop. In view of an expected large fall crop, a Government diversion program was again initiated in September 1957 to continue to May 1958. From the low in October, potato prices increased 47.2 percent by April 1958. Approximately one-third of the 1957-58 Florida crop (principal source of new potatoes for early spring consumption) was badly damaged by the December and January frosts. The California winter crop was also about one-third less than in 1957 and storage stocks as of January 1, 1958, were 11 percent less than in January 1957. The sharp increase in potato prices brought to an end the Government diversion program in March 1958 ^{2/}. As the supply situation eased with late spring and early summer crops coming to market, potato prices started downward abruptly, reaching a low in October 11.9 percent below that of October 1957 and ending the year 3.7 percent below the December 1956 level.

Prices for tomatoes declined during the first 2 months of 1957 as a result of a large winter crop as well as substantial imports from Mexico. Thereafter, prices fluctuated sharply with availability of supplies. Highest prices during 1957 occurred in May and lowest prices in September. By December 1957, prices for tomatoes had moved up to within 6 percent of the December 1956 level. As a result of the virtual failure of the 1957-58 Florida crop (principal source of the winter crop of tomatoes), prices rose sharply during the first 4 months of 1958. With the influx of a larger supply of late spring and summer crops, tomato prices dropped 35.6 percent in 1 month -- May to June. The downward movement continued through September, with prices rising again seasonally to a December 1958 level 11.2 percent below December 1956 prices.

Cabbage prices increased over the first few months of 1957 due to low carryover stocks and substantially lower production of winter cabbage in all producing areas. For the next 7 months, prices declined somewhat, but moved up in December to end the year 12.4 percent above the December 1956 level. Drastically reduced carryover stocks as of January 1, 1958, and increased demand, largely because of curtailed supplies of many other fresh vegetables, caused cabbage prices to jump 26 percent in January 1958. Prices continued upward for the next 2 months. However, ample late spring and summer crops resulted in sharp decreases until November when prices began rising. Prices at the end of the year were only

^{2/} Total diversions under the program amounted to 10.8 million hundredweight compared with 11.3 million hundredweight to the same date under the 1956-57 program.

slightly higher than in December 1956.

Prices of green beans fluctuated in a seasonal pattern over the year 1957, with highest prices occurring in March and lowest in September, ending the year 15 percent below December 1956. As a result of severe damage to the winter crop, prices jumped approximately 55 percent from December 1957 to January 1958. With little or no supplies on the markets, prices were not available in February and March. As shipments of late spring crops picked up in April, sharp price decreases followed with lowest prices occurring in August, considerably below 1957 levels. Although prices moved upward in the remaining months, the December 1958 prices averaged 19 percent lower than the December 1956 price.

Lettuce prices followed the same pattern as green beans although changes were not as exaggerated. In 1957, the seasonally low and high prices occurred in March and August, respectively. Prices in the winter of 1957-58 were well below those of a year earlier but increased contraseasonally in the spring of 1958, partly due to shortage of other fresh vegetables. After a sharp decline in midsummer, prices increased irregularly until the end of the year. Average prices at the end of the 2-year period were 12.9 percent lower than at the end of 1956, as a result of ample supplies.

Onion prices during the first half of 1957 exhibited sharp increases, reflecting smaller carryover stocks. After midyear, with ample supplies of late spring onions and the prospect of a large summer production, prices rapidly declined through October. By April 1958, prices were up sharply as a result of greatly reduced winter crops because of adverse growing conditions, and even smaller remaining supplies of carryover stock than a year earlier. Prices dropped in May and continued downward gradually. Due to lower yields in spring and summer crops, prices in October 1958 were approximately 10 percent above the low a year earlier and ended the year 23.6 percent above the December 1956 level.

In contrast to fresh vegetables, fresh fruits increased in price over the 2-year period. A relatively small decline in 1957 was followed by a rise of about 5.5 percent in 1958, due to substantial price increases for oranges and grapefruit, occasioned by severely curtailed supplies the early part of 1958. These increases were partly offset by substantially lower prices in the latter part of 1958 for apples as a result of a large 1958 fall crop. Other fruits, which maintained relatively low levels from December 1956 to December 1958, also reduced the average rise for fresh fruits over this period.

Orange prices fluctuated within narrow limits at relatively low prices the first half of 1957 under pressure of large remaining supplies of the 1956-57 crops. Sluggish demands, especially from processors of canned and frozen orange products, were also an influencing factor. After midyear, prices increased steadily, reaching a peak in October as supplies of California Valencias dwindled. Thereafter, as marketings of the Florida crop increased, prices began a downward trend. It was estimated that the total 1957-58 Florida crop would be the first to reach and pass the 100 million box mark. However, as a result of the mid-December 1957 and January 1958 freezing temperatures, which seriously damaged fruit and trees, a revised estimate indicated that the crop would be the smallest since 1950. With extremely limited supplies, prices increased sharply to an alltime high of 87.3 cents per dozen in October 1958, an increase of 52.1 percent above the December 1957 price. As light shipments of early and midseason oranges started in October, prices turned downward, but with continuing increased demands for fresh market as well as processing, prices ended the year 21.7 percent higher than December 1957 and 23.7 percent higher than December 1956.

Prices of lemons, after a slight increase in January 1957, fluctuated seasonally throughout most of the 2-year period, averaging 7.7 percent lower in December 1958 as compared with the December 1956 prices. Large holdover stocks at the beginning of each year accounted for the drop.

Apple prices, which normally increase seasonally the first half of each year, experienced unusually sharp advances in both early 1957 and early 1958. A 58-percent price increase by June 1957 was caused by light storage stocks at the beginning of the year as well as by strong demands for fresh and processing uses. Although stocks in storage as of January 1958 were much larger than a year earlier, by midyear prices rose to within 1 percent of the June 1957 high, as consumer demands increased because of reduced supplies of citrus stocks. The appearance of new crop apples in the fall of each year was followed by seasonally low prices through November. December 1958 prices averaged 11.5 percent below December 1956, as a result of a large 1958 crop of apples remaining for processing and storage.

Prices of bananas rose 3.1 percent during the 2-year period. In the early part of 1957, prices declined under pressure of ample supplies. Severe storms in Honduras in late May reduced supplies for imports and prices increased sharply. However, as supplies increased, prices took a downward turn, and, at the end of the year, averaged 7.6 percent below those of December 1956. With increased demands for other fruits as a result of the shortage of citrus fruits, prices for bananas rose during January and February 1958 and fluctuated slightly through July. In August, banana prices jumped to an all time high of 19.1 cents per pound. Considerable damage by storms to plantations in Central and South America greatly curtailed supplies for fall and winter consumption. Prices at the end of 1958 averaged 17 cents per pound.

Prices of frozen fruits and vegetables declined during 1957, and at the end of the year averaged 2.7 percent below the December 1956 level. Price movements throughout the year were influenced by lower prices for frozen orange concentrates, peas, and strawberries as a result of heavy packs. Although frozen green beans rose steadily during the year, the increase was offset by decreases for the other items in the frozen fruits and vegetables subgroup. In January 1958, the index rose sharply and continued upward throughout the year, averaging 21.9 percent above the December 1956 level by the year's end. This reflected sharp increases for frozen orange concentrate as prices soared to 28.9 cents per 6-ounce can, compared with a December 1956 price of 19.2 cents and a low of 17.5 cents in mid-1957.

The price movement of canned fruits and vegetables was primarily influenced by canned orange juice. During 1957, prices for other canned fruits and vegetables fluctuated only slightly; whereas, prices for orange juice dropped 13.5 percent because of large supplies on hand. Starting in January 1958, the index began an abrupt upward movement, reflecting increases for orange juice as well as canned tomatoes. Other canned items remained fairly stable throughout 1958. Canned tomatoes rose sharply in the first half of the year and then declined as increased supplies of fresh tomatoes appeared on the markets. On the other hand, orange juice prices continued to rise steadily throughout the year and ended the 2-year period 18 percent higher than the December 1956 price. Although canned tomatoes declined after midyear, the index for canned fruits and vegetables continued to rise for the balance of 1958, reflecting the continued increases for orange juice which reached a high of 46.2 cents per 46-ounce can in December 1958, compared with the December 1956 price of 39.1 cents and a low of 33.8 cents in late 1957.

Dried fruit and vegetable prices averaged higher in 1958 than in 1957, and showed an increase of 9.3 percent above December 1956 levels. Decreased production of dried prunes, 33.0 percent smaller than the 1957 crop, a result of unfavorable weather conditions, brought higher prices and influenced the upward price movement of the dried fruits and vegetables group in 1958.

Cereals and Bakery Products. During 1957 and 1958, cereals and bakery products continued the steady upward trend begun in 1950, increasing 5.2 percent over the 2-year period. All items within this group showed marked increases, reflecting higher processing and distribution costs.

Prices for bread, the major item within this group, rose 7 percent, with advances in 23 of the 24 months during the 2 years. Increases in prices during the period ranged from 0.2 cents to 2.9 cents per pound among the 20 large cities where prices are obtained by the Bureau. Rolled oats rose sharply during the first half of 1957 (12.9 percent), due to higher prices for oats following the smallest crop in 12 years. Thereafter, prices for rolled oats continued to rise steadily, averaging 15.1 percent higher at the end of 1958 than 2 years earlier. Increased processing costs accounted for a rise of 13.9 percent in prices for corn flakes from December 1956 to December 1958. Rice prices also rose steadily during most of the 2-year period as per capita consumption averaged 5.9 pounds, the highest since 1940-41. Among the other cereal and bakery products, crackers increased 4.7 percent; corn meal, 3.4 percent; and flour 2.4 percent during the 24 months; cookies and biscuit mix were up fractionally.

Dairy Products. Prices of dairy products rose 2.7 percent between December 1956 and December 1958, continuing the upward trend begun in 1954. Prices in December 1957 averaged 3 percent higher than a year earlier. The increase occurred mostly during the last 6 months of 1957 and was principally the result of higher prices of fluid milk. December 1958 dairy product prices averaged 0.3 percent lower than those in December 1957.

A moderate seasonal decrease in milk prices through June 1957 was followed by a greater-than-usual seasonal advance to the end of the year. Increased handling costs and drought conditions in some areas contributed to the increases. Prices of milk bought in grocery stores advanced 4.0 percent and those of delivered milk rose 3.9 percent from December 1956 to December 1957. A small decline in milk prices in 1958 brought the average rise over the 2-year period to 3.5 percent.

Butter prices at the end of 1958 averaged 0.5 percent lower than in December 1956, as consumer demand and production continued to decrease each year. In order to support prices, Commodity Credit Corporation purchases were increased slightly. 3/

Prices of cheese increased fractionally (0.5 percent) between December 1956 and December 1958. Purchases were made by the Commodity Credit Corporation in both years in order to stabilize prices. 4/

Ice cream prices increased 2.0 percent during the 2-year period, reflecting increasing production and handling costs.

Other Foods at Home. The other foods at home group, which averaged 3.1 percent lower in price in December 1958 than in December 1956, includes nonalcoholic beverages, fats and oils, sugar and sweets, eggs, and other miscellaneous foods. Increases of 8.2 percent for sugar and sweets, 0.7 percent for eggs, and 0.1 percent for fats and oils were more than offset by a decrease of 15 percent for beverages.

3/ Purchases of butter by CCC under the Agricultural Act of 1949 amounted to 173,500,000 lbs. in 1957, and 183,800,000 lbs. in 1958.

4/ CCC purchases of cheese amounted to 241,000,000 lbs. in 1957, and 80,300,000 lbs. in 1958. Stocks held by CCC were practically zero at the end of 1958.

A substantial drop of 23.7 percent in coffee prices accounted for the decline in beverages and was practically the sole factor in the decrease over the 2 years in the other foods subgroup. Prices of coffee beans fell almost steadily during this period in response to surplus production in Brazil and other Latin American growing areas, despite efforts of the exporting countries to support prices through legal minimum export prices, purchase programs, quota allotments, etc. Increased use of lower priced African coffee in blends accentuated the effects of large surpluses in Latin America. Price declines for coffee beans were reflected in lower retail prices, as coffee in cans dropped from \$1.09 in December 1956 to 85 cents a pound, and coffee in bags fell from 91 cents to 66 cents a pound. Decreases for the two items amounted to 21.7 percent and 27 percent, respectively, over the 2-year period.

Because of lower coffee prices, consumption of tea decreased. However, tea prices rose slightly during 1957 and 1958, reflecting reduced imports as a result of a series of strikes which curtailed shipments from Ceylon. December 1958 tea prices were 2.5 percent higher than in December 1956.

Prices for cola drinks rose steadily over the 2 years, mainly because of higher processing and distributing costs.

Egg prices increased 0.7 percent from December 1956 to December 1958 with usual fluctuations during this period. Heavy production in the first half of 1957 depressed prices to a new low of 47.9 cents per dozen in June, 68.8 percent of the 1947-49 average, the lowest level since January 1955. As production decreased, prices increased more than seasonally (44.8 percent) to a high of 69.5 cents per dozen in October. Prices then declined seasonally through June 1958, except for a sharp rise in March due to adverse weather conditions, but remained at a higher level than the previous year. Seasonally higher prices in late 1957 and early 1958 induced some increase in the production of laying chickens. Heavy culling of old hens and an unusually high proportion of new layers resulted in sharp declines in prices from September to the end of the year. Prices in 1958 ranged from a low of 55.1 cents per dozen in June to a high of 68.7 cents in September.

Fats and oils as a group averaged only fractionally higher in price (0.1 percent) in December 1958 than it did 2 years earlier. Prices of lard, salad dressing, and peanut butter increased, but shortening and margarine prices were lower.

With the reduction in hog slaughter after the 1956 peak, lard prices followed the seasonal pattern of pork production and rose to their highest level in September 1958. Increasing production thereafter resulted in seasonally lower prices through December, but the average for the month was 5.3 percent higher than in December 1956.

Shortening prices decreased over the 2 years with the larger decline occurring in 1958. Prices for margarine increased 0.9 percent in 1957, but decreased sufficiently during 1958 to bring the December 1958 price to 1.4 percent below the December 1956 average. Production of margarine rose to a new high and exceeded that of butter for the first time. Peanut butter prices advanced 5.0 percent during the 24-month period, with the greater part of the increase occurring in 1958. In the last 3 months of 1958, prices declined slightly as the new crop of peanuts came to market.

Sugar and sweets averaged 8.2 percent higher in price in December 1958 than in December 1956. One of the principal causes for this rise was an increase of 14.3 percent for chocolate bars. Prices for this item were relatively stable through March 1958 but a general reduction in the size of bars resulted in a sharp increase in prices from April through June. Thereafter, prices remained at the high level for the balance of the year.

Sugar prices increased 6.2 percent during the 2 years. Reduced world supplies caused prices to climb fairly rapidly during the first half of 1957. After midyear, although sugar marketing quotas and domestic beet acreage were increased, prices continued to move upward, influenced by factors contributing to a greater demand and possible reduction in world supplies. Among these factors were the crop shortage in Puerto Rico caused by drought, reduced production in Hawaii following a 6 months strike of sugar workers during 1958, as well as an estimated decrease in production in Cuba because of internal strife.

Among the other items in this subgroup, corn syrup prices increased 8.1 percent; gelatin dessert, 4.3 percent; and grape jelly, 2.8 percent, during the 2 years.

Table 3. Indexes of Retail Prices of Food in the United States ^{1/}, by Commodity Group, by Year, 1923-58. ^{2/ 3/}
 [1947-49=100 unless otherwise indicated]

Year	Total foods	Foods away from home ^{4/}	Total foods at home	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish ^{5/}	Meats				Chickens	Fish	Dairy products	Fruits and Vegetables					Other Foods at Home								
						Total ^{5/}	Beef and veal	Pork	Leg of lamb				Total ^{6/}	Frozen ^{6/}	Fresh	Canned	Dried	Total ^{7/}	Beverages	Fats and oils	Sugar and sweets	Eggs				
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	---	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	---	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	---	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	---	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	---	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	---	45.3	45.5	54.8	46.1					
1941-----	52.2	---	---	59.2	46.3	46.4	46.6	46.6	43.7	53.0	41.6	58.2	---	50.5	---	49.4	---	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	---	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	---	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	---	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	---	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	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	---	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	---	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	83.1	109.6	86.3
1957-----	115.4	109.3	113.8	130.5	105.2	108.7	102.8	107.3	103.5	78.4	109.9	111.8	---	118.6	---	97.8	---	123.7	---	106.3	111.5	112.9	192.7	86.8	112.8	82.2
1958-----	120.3	112.6	118.8	133.1	115.1	121.0	119.6	114.4	112.3	77.5	117.6	113.5	---	127.1	---	117.9	---	132.6	---	110.8	118.2	112.4	179.1	85.8	117.9	86.5

^{1/} 51-city average January 1923 - February 1943, 56-cities March 1943 - December 1952, 46-cities beginning January 1953.
^{2/} Total food indexes, 1913-22: 1913 - 39.6; 1914 - 40.5; 1915 - 40.0; 1916 - 45.0; 1917 - 57.9; 1918 - 66.5; 1919 - 74.2; 1920 - 83.6; 1921 - 63.5; 1922 - 59.4.
^{3/} Indexes for the years 1923-52 have been computed by converting indexes from 1935-39 base, previously published, to the 1947-49 base. See Retail Prices of Food 1955-56, BLS Bulletin 1217, (table c, p. 37) for conversion factors.
^{4/} January 1953=100. Restaurant meals included in total foods beginning January 1953.
^{5/} Only total meats, poultry, and fish available through 1934. Other meats included in meats, and in meats, poultry, and fish, beginning January 1935.
^{6/} December 1952=100.
^{7/} Partially prepared foods and other miscellaneous foods included in total foods bought to be prepared at home beginning January 1953.

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, Ore.	St. Louis, Mo.	San Francisco, Calif.	Sarantons, Pa.	Seattle, Wash.	Washington, D.C.
Other Foods at Home																					
1957: Average	112.9	105.6	112.9	107.7	118.4	117.8	116.5	115.2	111.7	106.4	113.0	120.2	112.3	112.5	122.3	115.4	120.2	111.4	110.5	111.6	113.9
January	112.7	106.7	113.0	105.3	117.4	115.6	116.6	115.0	112.6	106.4	112.7	119.6	112.2	112.0	122.2	115.8	121.1	112.0	109.8	112.0	113.3
February	113.0	106.1	113.1	106.1	120.1	118.0	116.6	115.8	112.3	106.1	112.9	120.0	112.2	112.6	121.8	117.0	120.8	111.0	110.7	112.1	114.2
March	111.6	104.7	112.1	105.0	118.5	116.9	115.2	114.1	111.7	105.3	112.5	118.4	110.5	111.2	121.1	115.8	119.6	110.1	108.9	111.3	112.7
April	111.0	104.5	111.3	106.6	117.0	116.2	114.6	113.1	110.2	104.7	111.5	118.0	110.5	110.5	119.4	112.7	117.8	109.7	108.6	110.0	111.7
May	109.9	102.2	110.4	105.8	116.3	114.9	114.2	112.7	109.7	103.9	111.1	117.3	108.8	109.8	119.9	112.3	117.5	108.2	107.1	109.6	111.0
June	109.5	101.8	110.0	104.9	115.6	114.3	114.0	112.4	109.3	103.5	110.8	116.0	108.7	109.3	118.5	112.0	117.3	107.9	106.7	109.2	110.3
July	111.7	103.2	111.8	105.7	116.1	116.2	115.6	113.5	110.5	104.7	111.6	117.7	112.4	112.7	121.3	114.5	118.2	110.2	110.2	111.7	113.5
August	113.8	105.8	113.6	110.0	118.1	119.3	117.2	116.1	112.0	107.0	113.6	120.6	113.2	113.2	123.0	118.2	120.8	112.8	111.1	113.8	114.6
September	115.0	107.4	114.1	111.3	119.5	120.1	118.3	117.5	112.7	107.2	113.9	123.4	114.1	114.1	124.6	117.0	122.2	113.2	112.0	113.3	116.0
October	116.2	109.1	115.5	110.8	121.5	120.6	119.6	119.0	112.6	109.4	114.6	125.4	117.0	116.4	126.2	116.5	121.7	112.9	115.6	112.3	117.8
November	115.6	108.3	115.5	109.9	121.5	119.7	118.3	117.2	113.4	109.1	115.1	123.6	115.0	114.4	125.2	116.0	122.4	113.9	113.0	111.3	117.0
December	114.9	107.4	114.3	108.3	119.5	118.7	117.6	115.9	113.7	108.9	115.1	122.9	113.0	113.7	124.2	116.5	123.2	114.6	111.9	112.8	115.2
1958: Average	112.4	105.9	112.3	107.4	117.4	116.1	115.1	113.7	110.1	106.0	112.7	119.4	111.6	111.4	122.0	114.3	119.8	111.7	110.2	110.8	113.9
January	113.1	106.9	112.0	106.6	117.6	116.4	116.2	113.8	112.9	105.8	114.5	119.4	111.5	111.4	122.9	115.5	120.6	112.5	110.2	111.5	113.4
February	111.3	104.9	111.0	106.9	116.3	114.4	113.8	112.5	110.4	104.7	112.4	117.6	110.6	111.0	121.3	111.9	118.6	109.7	109.2	106.3	111.7
March	113.8	108.3	114.5	109.6	119.8	118.4	116.8	115.8	110.8	107.3	111.8	121.7	114.2	113.6	124.9	112.0	121.8	111.4	113.0	109.4	115.4
April	112.4	105.7	113.2	107.9	117.6	116.3	115.9	114.3	110.5	106.4	112.8	119.5	111.8	111.9	121.8	113.5	119.5	110.8	110.7	109.4	114.3
May	111.5	105.1	111.4	106.6	116.3	114.3	113.9	113.3	109.5	105.7	112.1	118.1	110.3	109.9	121.1	114.6	119.1	110.1	108.8	110.4	112.4
June	110.9	104.7	111.3	105.7	115.3	114.8	113.4	112.9	108.7	105.3	110.8	117.9	110.0	109.9	121.3	113.6	118.4	109.7	108.7	108.6	112.7
July	111.8	105.4	111.9	108.2	116.0	115.5	114.9	113.1	108.9	105.6	111.1	118.8	110.3	110.1	121.9	114.9	120.0	111.7	109.7	110.5	112.8
August	112.8	105.4	112.6	108.6	116.5	116.8	115.4	113.5	108.7	105.8	113.1	119.8	111.7	111.7	121.8	117.3	119.9	113.0	110.9	113.9	114.1
September	115.2	108.2	114.1	109.8	121.3	119.2	117.5	116.8	110.5	108.4	115.0	123.4	115.0	114.6	123.7	117.3	123.4	115.8	113.8	115.6	117.5
October	113.2	106.2	112.8	107.9	118.5	117.1	115.1	113.9	110.3	106.2	113.3	120.2	113.3	112.4	122.7	114.1	120.0	112.8	110.5	111.0	115.1
November	112.6	105.5	113.0	106.7	118.5	115.7	115.4	113.5	110.8	106.5	113.4	120.2	112.0	111.5	122.2	112.9	118.7	111.9	110.1	110.0	114.7
December	110.7	103.9	109.9	104.1	115.5	113.9	112.7	110.3	109.3	103.9	111.9	116.3	109.0	108.2	118.4	114.3	117.5	111.2	106.8	110.5	112.3

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

2/ Includes New York, N. Y. -- Northern New Jersey.

3/ 11 months average.

4/ Not available. Fresh fruits and vegetables in short supply because of work stoppage in warehouses.

Table 6. Indexes of Retail Prices of Principal Foods in the United States, by Month, 1957 and 1958—Continued

[1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified]

Article or group	1958												
	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 8/	12/93.6	*	*	*	*	*	*	110.9	88.5	79.9	94.9	(5/)	*
Watermelons 13/	2/75.4	*	*	*	*	*	101.6	69.6	54.9	*	*	*	*
Fresh vegetables:													
Potatoes	118.3	112.6	115.7	138.4	155.9	144.1	128.7	127.4	111.7	98.7	93.3	95.3	97.5
Sweetpotatoes	140.8	134.2	138.3	147.6	152.9	158.4	159.5	165.2	166.6	122.7	111.5	114.0	118.5
Onions	117.7	101.2	105.5	128.7	159.7	132.9	123.0	119.9	111.2	106.4	105.5	107.4	111.1
Carrots	115.7	135.2	123.7	119.3	106.2	108.4	113.9	118.0	119.7	111.8	110.1	108.4	111.0
Lettuce	121.1	118.3	113.0	140.7	135.5	145.8	106.4	111.6	103.2	110.9	126.8	114.2	126.6
Celery 1/	110.7	102.2	108.4	109.7	132.4	147.0	127.1	116.4	97.3	96.5	90.2	98.6	103.1
Cabbage	129.8	151.7	165.5	174.1	160.9	152.3	126.3	111.0	101.3	101.3	101.8	99.5	112.0
Tomatoes 2/	114.2	138.7	145.8	148.6	163.8	157.8	101.7	94.2	69.3	65.2	76.4	99.8	109.0
Beans, green	110.5	171.0	(5/)	(5/)	136.3	125.0	93.9	94.3	80.2	90.9	104.2	104.3	105.3
Canned fruits and vegetables	110.8	106.0	106.5	107.4	108.6	109.5	110.6	111.5	112.4	113.2	114.1	114.6	115.0
Canned fruits:													
Orange juice 2/	126.8	109.4	111.1	111.9	114.4	117.5	121.1	125.5	132.8	139.8	144.3	146.6	147.4
Peaches	109.2	109.3	109.1	109.5	108.4	107.9	107.6	108.0	108.2	109.2	110.2	111.4	112.0
Pineapple	112.4	110.9	111.0	111.4	111.7	111.8	112.1	112.3	112.4	112.9	113.1	114.1	114.7
Fruit cocktail 2/	101.9	100.6	100.8	100.6	100.7	100.8	100.9	101.2	101.4	102.3	103.5	104.7	105.7
Canned vegetables:													
Corn, cream style	105.1	103.6	103.9	103.6	103.7	104.0	103.7	104.1	104.8	105.6	106.8	108.1	109.0
Peas, green	100.1	101.2	100.9	100.6	99.7	99.4	99.5	99.6	100.2	100.1	100.2	100.1	99.9
Tomatoes	115.3	106.3	107.9	112.2	118.2	121.0	124.2	123.7	119.8	115.0	113.3	111.2	110.8
Baby foods 2/	102.4	102.2	102.0	102.2	101.8	101.7	102.2	102.5	102.8	102.9	102.9	102.9	103.1
Dried fruits and vegetables	118.2	112.0	112.3	113.9	116.4	117.3	118.5	119.6	120.4	121.4	121.5	121.9	123.2
Prunes	110.6	136.2	136.1	136.1	137.0	137.2	137.0	137.5	137.8	138.6	144.5	151.9	157.6
Dried beans	95.3	88.5	89.0	91.4	94.8	95.9	97.9	99.3	100.3	101.3	97.9	94.1	92.7
Other foods at home	112.4	113.1	111.3	113.8	112.4	111.5	110.9	111.8	112.8	115.2	113.2	112.6	110.7
Partially prepared foods:													
Soup, tomato 2/	99.8	99.1	100.0	100.1	100.3	100.4	100.3	100.5	99.9	99.3	99.3	99.1	99.2
Beans with pork 2/	106.5	104.9	105.9	106.3	106.6	106.7	106.4	106.5	106.5	106.7	107.3	107.1	106.9
Condiments and sauces:													
Pickles, sweet 2/	100.0	100.1	100.4	100.8	100.6	100.0	99.9	99.8	99.9	99.6	99.5	99.5	99.8
Catsup, tomato 2/	97.5	98.2	97.4	96.3	96.4	96.1	96.4	96.9	97.2	97.9	98.7	98.8	99.3
Beverages, nonalcoholic	179.1	184.8	184.7	183.4	182.5	181.2	180.9	179.9	178.2	174.7	174.1	173.8	171.4
Coffee	166.2	175.2	175.0	172.9	171.6	169.9	168.9	167.3	164.4	159.2	158.4	157.8	153.9
Tea 2/	124.3	123.8	124.0	124.2	124.2	124.2	124.3	124.5	124.4	124.5	124.7	124.4	124.9
Cola drinks 2/	122.2	120.4	120.3	120.7	120.8	120.7	121.7	121.9	123.1	123.8	123.8	124.4	125.2
Fats and oils	85.8	86.3	85.8	86.1	86.2	86.2	85.9	85.8	85.8	85.6	85.5	85.4	85.4
Shortening, hydrogenated	89.7	91.5	90.1	90.5	91.0	90.9	89.9	89.9	89.2	88.2	88.1	88.2	88.4
Margarine	77.0	78.1	77.7	78.0	78.0	77.7	77.3	76.5	76.2	76.3	76.1	76.0	76.2
Lard	83.4	82.6	82.0	82.6	82.6	82.7	83.1	83.3	84.4	85.2	84.7	84.3	83.4
Salad dressing	100.8	100.7	100.8	101.0	100.6	101.0	100.8	100.7	100.9	100.7	100.8	100.8	100.9
Peanut butter 2/	113.2	110.5	110.5	110.9	111.0	111.5	112.5	113.7	115.4	115.9	115.7	115.7	115.4
Sugar and sweets	117.9	113.7	113.6	113.9	117.1	118.4	119.2	119.6	119.8	119.9	120.0	120.0	120.0
Sugar	117.2	115.8	115.6	115.6	115.9	116.2	117.6	118.1	118.4	118.3	118.4	118.3	118.4
Corn syrup 2/	110.2	107.3	107.9	108.7	109.7	110.2	110.5	110.7	110.9	111.3	111.5	111.9	112.1
Grape jelly 2/	116.1	115.4	115.3	115.9	115.9	115.7	115.9	116.2	116.3	116.4	116.8	116.4	116.6
Chocolate bar 2/	110.3	100.5	100.4	100.7	109.6	113.2	113.8	114.2	114.2	114.3	114.4	114.2	114.3
Eggs, grade A, large	86.5	87.6	81.4	90.6	84.5	81.1	78.9	82.5	87.2	98.5	91.4	89.9	81.4
Miscellaneous foods:													
Gelatin, flavored 2/	104.4	103.8	104.1	104.0	104.1	104.3	104.6	104.4	104.4	104.4	104.3	104.7	105.7

1/ January 1953=100.
 2/ December 1952=100.
 3/ Includes ready-to-eat ham beginning November 1958.
 4/ Average for 11 months in 1957; average for 10 months in 1958.
 5/ Not available.
 6/ May 1953=100.
 7/ Average for 7 months.
 8/ July 1953=100.
 9/ Average for 3 months.
 10/ April 1953=100.
 11/ Average for 2 months.
 12/ Average for 5 months in 1957; average for 4 months in 1958.
 13/ June 1953=100.
 14/ Average for 10 months.
 * Priced in season only.

Table 7. Classification of Retail Food Items by Percent Change in Price for Selected Periods, 1957-58

Percent Change from December 1956 to December 1958						
+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
Orange juice concentrate +50.5	Ocean perch, fresh, frozen + 9.9	Rolled oats + 4.6	Beans, green, frozen + 0.9	Peas, frozen - 1.0	Frying chickens - 5.6	Tomatoes, fresh -11.0
Hamburger +39.5	Grapefruit + 9.6	Soda crackers + 4.6	Carrots + .7	Margarine - 1.4	Strawberries, frozen - 7.3	Lettuce -13.0
Haddock, fresh, frozen +27.5	Navy beans + 8.7	Pineapple, canned + 4.4	Eggs + .5	Peas, canned - 1.9	Catsup - 8.3	Cola drinks -14.5
Frankfurters +26.9	Corn syrup + 8.2	Cabbage + 4.1	Vanilla cookies + .4	Potatoes - 3.0		Apples -15.1
Luncheon meat, canned +26.9	Rice + 8.1	Milk, fresh, grocery + 3.9	Biscuit mix 0	Shortening, hydrogenated - 4.6		Beans, green, fresh -18.2
Oranges +23.9	Bread + 7.1	Beans with pork + 3.4	Pickles 0			Coffee, can -21.7
Onions +23.7	Tomatoes, canned + 6.6	Grape jelly + 3.3	Butter - .5			Coffee, bag -27.1
Chuck roast +22.9	Tuna fish, canned + 6.3	Tea + 3.0				
Veal cutlets +21.1	Sugar + 6.2	Bananas + 2.9				
Bacon +18.8	Gelatin + 5.8	Flour + 2.6				
Orange juice, canned +18.2	Corn, canned + 5.7	Corn meal + 2.4				
Round steak +16.7	Lard + 5.6	Milk, fresh, delivered + 2.4				
Chocolate bar +15.6	Peanut butter + 5.6	Celery + 2.0				
Pork chops +14.8	Milk, evaporated + 5.6	Peaches, canned + 2.0				
Lamb, leg +13.7	Sweet potatoes + 5.5	Ice cream + 1.7				
Corn flakes +13.7	Fruit cocktail + 5.4	Tomato soup + 1.6				
Hsa, whole +11.0	Salad dressing + 5.0	Cheese + 1.0				
Rib roast +10.2		Baby foods + 1.0				
Prunes +10.1						

Percent Change from December 1956 to December 1957

Carrots +21.6	Pork chops + 9.8	Milk, fresh, grocery + 4.3	Cheese + 0.9	Peaches, canned - 1.2	Prunes, dried - 5.2	Strawberries, frozen -10.5
Bacon +14.8	Chuck roast + 9.1	Soda crackers + 4.3	Tomato soup + .8	Shortening, hydrogenated - 1.4	Orange juice, canned - 5.2	Apples -11.0
Rolled oats +14.4	Haddock, fresh, frozen + 7.9	Milk, fresh, delivered + 4.0	Pineapple, canned+ .6	Peas, frozen - 3.5	Lemons - 5.4	Coffee, can -12.8
Hamburger +13.8	Round steak + 7.8	Bread + 3.8	Peanut butter + .4	Grapefruit - 3.5	Tomatoes, fresh - 5.8	Orange juice, canned -13.6
Eggs +13.2	Potatoes + 7.6	Sugar + 3.7	Biscuit mix + .4	Catsup - 4.7	Bananas - 8.1	Beans, green, fresh -15.0
Frankfurters +13.2	Corn flakes + 7.5	Rice + 3.5	Pickles + .4		Celery - 8.1	Coffee, bag -15.5
Cabbage +12.2	Beans, green, frozen + 7.5	Rib roast + 3.5	Chocolate bar 0			Cola drinks -17.5
Luncheon meat, canned +11.4	Veal cutlets + 7.0	Milk, evaporated + 3.5	Baby foods 0			Lettuce -27.9
Onions +10.5	Sweet potatoes + 6.3	Gelatin + 3.5	Fruit cocktail 0			
	Lamb, leg + 6.3	Salad dressing + 3.3	Frying chickens - .2			
	Corn, whole + 5.4	Corn syrup + 2.9	Corn, canned - .6			
	Lard + 5.1	Ocean perch, fresh, frozen + 2.8	Peas, canned - .9			
		Navy beans + 2.5				
		Flour + 2.2				
		Vanilla cookies + 2.1				
		Tomatoes, canned + 2.0				
		Ice cream + 1.7				
		Corn meal + 1.6				
		Grape jelly + 1.5				
		Salmon, pink, canned + 1.5				
		Oranges + 1.4				
		Beans with pork + 1.4				
		Tuna fish, canned + 1.3				
		Tea + 1.3				

Percent Change from December 1957 to December 1958

Orange juice, concentrate +58.8	Round steak + 8.3	Fork chops + 4.6	Corn meal + 0.8	Vanilla cookies - 1.6	Frying chickens - 5.4	Coffee, can -10.2
Orange juice, canned +36.7	Lamb, leg + 6.9	Rice + 4.5	Tomato soup + .8	Milk, fresh, delivered - 1.6	Tomatoes, fresh - 5.6	Potatoes -10.6
Hamburger +22.6	Ocean perch, fresh, frozen + 6.9	Tomatoes, canned + 4.5	Lard + .4	Salmon, pink, canned - 1.9	Beans, green, frozen - 6.1	Eggs -11.7
Oranges +22.2	Rib roast + 6.4	Pineapple, " + 3.8	Flour + .4	Margarine - 2.0	Cabbage - 7.2	Coffee, bag -13.7
Lettuce +20.7	Corn, canned + 6.4	Cola drinks + 3.7	Soda crackers + .3	Lemons - 3.1	Rollod oats - 8.5	Carrots -17.2
Haddock, fresh, frozen +18.2	Navy beans + 6.1	Cheese + .2	Biscuit mix - .4	Shortening, hydrogenated - 3.2		
Prunes, dried +16.1	Fruit cocktail + 5.8	Bacon + 3.4	Milk, fresh, grocery - .4	Beans, green, fresh - 3.9		
Chocolate bar +15.6	Peaches, canned + 3.2	Bread + 3.2	Pickles - .7	Apples - 4.6		
Luncheon meat, canned +13.9	Hsa, whole + 5.3	Peas, frozen + 2.6	Sweetpotatoes - .7			
Grapefruit +13.5	Peanut butter + 5.2	Sugar + 2.3	Ice cream 0			
Veal cutlets +13.3	Corn syrup + 5.2	Gelatin + 2.2				
Chuck roast +12.6	Tuna fish, canned + 5.0	Milk, evaporated + 2.0				
Frankfurters +12.0		Beans with pork + 2.0				
Bananas +11.9		Grape jelly + 1.8				
Onions +11.9		Catsup + 1.8				
Celery +11.0		Tea + 1.7				
		Salad dressing + 1.6				
		Baby foods + 1.0				

Table 8. Average Retail Prices of Principal Foods in the United States 1/2, by Month, 1957 and 1958--Continued

[In Cents]

Article or group	1957												
	Average	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Other foods at home:													
Partially prepared foods:													
Soup, tomato-----	12.4	12.3	12.4	12.4	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.3	12.3	12.3	12.3
Beans with pork-----	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.7	14.7	14.7	14.6	14.7	14.8	14.8
Condiments and sauces:													
Pickles, sweet-----	27.2	27.1	27.3	27.2	27.1	27.2	27.3	27.2	27.1	27.1	27.3	27.3	27.1
Catsup, tomato-----	22.5	23.2	23.3	23.3	23.3	23.3	22.2	22.0	21.8	21.7	21.8	22.0	22.1
Beverages, nonalcoholic:													
Coffee-----	101.7	108.2	107.7	106.3	104.4	102.5	102.4	101.7	101.5	99.3	96.2	95.1	95.0
Coffee 3/-----	83.7	90.8	89.9	89.6	86.9	86.1	86.1	83.1	83.0	78.2	76.9	76.9	76.8
Tea bags-----	23.6	23.5	23.5	23.6	23.6	23.6	23.6	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.7	23.6	23.7
Cola drink 27/-----	(28/)	33.3	33.6	33.7	33.9	34.0	34.1	26.9	27.0	27.1	27.2	27.2	27.3
Fats and oils:													
Shortening, hydrogenated-----	98.1	99.1	100.5	100.4	99.4	99.1	98.6	97.7	97.6	96.9	95.8	95.7	96.1
Margarine, colored 10/-----	29.9	30.2	30.5	30.6	30.2	30.0	29.8	29.6	29.6	29.7	29.7	29.6	29.7
Lard-----	22.7	22.1	22.8	22.9	22.8	22.6	22.3	22.5	22.9	23.0	22.9	22.8	22.5
Salad dressing-----	37.2	36.3	36.6	37.1	37.2	37.3	37.2	37.4	37.3	37.4	37.3	37.4	37.3
Peanut butter-----	53.6	53.6	53.5	53.4	53.6	53.6	53.5	53.6	53.6	53.7	53.7	53.8	53.8
Sugar and sweets:													
Sugar-----	55.2	54.3	54.8	54.8	54.9	55.0	55.0	55.3	55.6	55.6	55.5	55.6	55.6
Corn syrup-----	24.8	24.5	24.7	24.7	24.8	24.8	24.9	24.9	24.9	24.9	24.9	25.0	25.0
Grape jelly-----	27.3	26.9	27.0	27.2	27.2	27.3	27.3	27.3	27.3	27.4	27.3	27.4	27.4
Chocolate bar-----	4.5	4.5	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-----	57.3	53.6	53.6	50.5	50.4	48.7	47.9	51.1	59.6	64.9	69.5	68.4	66.6
Miscellaneous foods:													
Gelatin, flavored-----	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9
1958													
Cereals and bakery products:													
Cereals:													
Flour, wheat-----	55.2	55.2	55.3	55.5	55.6	55.7	55.4	55.3	55.0	54.8	54.7	54.8	54.9
Biscuit mix 2/-----	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8
Corn meal 3/-----	12.9	12.8	12.9	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.8	12.9	12.9	13.0	12.9	12.9
Rice, short grain 1/2-----	18.4	18.1	18.1	18.1	18.1	18.3	18.4	18.4	18.6	18.6	18.5	18.5	18.6
Rolled oats 23/-----	20.3	20.2	20.2	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.3	20.4	20.4	20.4
Corn flakes 27/-----	25.4	25.0	25.2	25.3	25.4	25.4	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.6	25.6	25.7
Bakery products:													
Bread-----	19.3	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.1	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.3	19.5	19.6	19.6	19.6
Soda crackers-----	29.2	29.2	29.2	29.2	29.2	29.3	29.2	29.2	29.2	29.3	29.3	29.2	29.3
Vanilla cookies 6/-----	24.5	24.8	24.6	24.7	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.5	24.4
Meats, poultry, and fish:													
Meats:													
Beef and veal:													
Round steak 2/-----	104.2	100.6	101.0	103.1	105.8	105.9	106.2	106.3	104.0	103.7	104.5	104.9	104.9
Chuck roast 7/-----	63.3	59.1	61.1	64.1	65.7	64.8	65.5	65.1	62.7	62.4	62.5	62.6	63.4
Rib roast 2/-----	81.6	80.3	80.2	81.0	82.6	82.9	83.0	83.0	81.7	81.6	80.9	81.1	81.2
Hamburger-----	52.9	47.8	49.0	50.3	53.1	54.0	54.6	54.8	53.9	53.8	54.3	54.4	54.7
Veal cutlets 3/-----	132.8	125.1	129.3	131.2	131.8	133.0	133.9	133.8	134.2	135.0	135.1	135.3	135.9
Pork:													
Pork chops, center cut-----	91.8	87.9	88.6	89.5	91.2	91.3	96.0	96.9	94.6	93.5	92.3	90.7	89.1
Bacon, sliced-----	79.3	75.6	77.2	77.1	79.5	80.4	81.9	85.1	86.4	83.0	78.8	73.9	72.8
Ham, whole 2/-----	30/67.7	66.3	66.5	68.4	68.6	67.9	69.2	69.2	68.9	66.3	65.8	66.4	67.7
Lamb, leg 10/-----	77.4	76.1	78.0	77.5	78.1	77.0	77.6	77.9	76.8	77.1	77.4	77.6	77.3
Other meats:													
Frankfurters-----	64.8	60.3	61.0	62.7	64.0	64.8	66.1	66.8	67.1	66.3	66.1	65.8	66.1
Luncheon meat-----	50.1	47.3	47.4	47.6	48.2	49.1	50.0	50.4	50.8	51.6	52.6	53.1	53.3
Poultry, frying chickens:													
Ready-to-cook 11/-----	46.5	46.2	48.3	49.9	48.1	49.0	49.0	48.9	46.5	44.3	42.9	43.0	42.0
Fish:													
Fresh and frozen:													
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 12/-----	45.6	44.1	44.4	44.7	45.5	45.6	45.8	46.3	46.0	45.7	46.2	46.3	46.6
Haddock, fillet, frozen 13/-----	55.5	50.8	53.0	55.9	56.5	55.9	56.5	56.7	55.0	56.2	56.7	57.8	58.4
Canned:													
Salmon, pink-----	62.8	62.9	63.0	63.1	63.1	63.2	63.2	63.3	63.4	62.5	62.1	61.8	61.6
Tuna fish, chunk 1 1/2/-----	33.1	32.5	32.7	32.8	32.9	32.9	32.9	32.9	33.1	33.2	33.5	33.7	33.8
Dairy products:													
Milk, fresh, (grocery) 15/-----	23.9	24.2	24.2	24.0	23.6	23.3	23.3	23.5	23.7	24.0	24.1	24.2	24.2
Milk, fresh, (delivered) 16/-----	25.3	25.8	25.7	25.6	24.9	24.8	24.8	24.8	25.1	25.3	25.5	25.5	25.4
Ice cream-----	29.7	29.6	29.7	29.6	29.7	29.7	29.6	29.6	29.7	29.7	29.7	29.7	29.6
Butter-----	74.2	74.9	74.9	74.9	73.9	73.6	73.5	73.5	73.5	74.6	74.8	74.4	74.4
Cheese, American process 17/-----	58.0	58.2	58.2	58.3	58.2	58.0	58.1	57.9	57.8	57.8	57.9	57.9	57.9
Milk, evaporated-----	15.1	15.0	15.0	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1
All fruits and vegetables:													
Frozen fruits and vegetables:													
Frozen fruits:													
Strawberries-----	26.4	25.8	26.3	26.6	26.5	26.6	26.5	26.5	26.4	26.2	26.2	26.4	26.6
Orange juice concentrate-----	27.0	22.6	23.7	24.7	25.9	26.3	27.9	28.5	28.8	28.9	28.9	29.0	28.9
Frozen vegetables:													
Peas, green-----	19.6	19.6	19.6	19.5	19.4	19.4	19.5	19.5	19.6	19.8	19.9	19.9	20.0
Beans, green 21/-----	23.0	22.4	22.5	23.0	23.2	23.3	23.2	23.2	23.2	23.3	23.1	23.1	23.0
Fresh fruits and vegetables:													
Fresh fruits:													
Apples-----	30/14.7	13.1	13.5	14.0	15.3	18.1	22.2	(19/)	(19/)	14.4	12.3	11.7	12.4
Bananas-----	17.3	16.9	17.2	16.9	15.9	16.7	16.8	16.6	17.1	17.1	18.3	18.4	17.8
Oranges, size 200-----	76.0	63.2	65.5	68.0	77.8	74.1	76.1	80.1	80.3	87.2	87.3	82.6	69.9
Lemons-----	18.6	19	18.8	19.0	18.8	19.1	18.3	17.9	17.8	18.0	18.3	18.5	18.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Average Retail Prices of Principal Foods in the United States 1/2, by Month, 1957 and 1958--Continued

[In cents]

Article or group	1958												
	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.													
Grapefruit (Nov.-May)-----each	20/12.9	12.3	11.7	11.9	13.1	15.0	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	13.9	12.6
Peaches (July-Sept.)-----pound	21/15.5	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	16.9	14.6	15.1	(#)	(#)	(#)
Strawberries (April-June)-----pint	23/29.4	(#)	(#)	(#)	(19)	32.5	26.2	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)
Grapes, seedless (July-Nov.)-----pound	22/25.9	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	30.7	28.5	22.1	26.3	(19)	(#)
Watermelons (June-Aug.)-----do	21/ 4.7	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)	6.3	4.3	3.4	(#)	(#)	(#)	(#)
Fresh vegetables:													
Potatoes-----10 pounds	62.6	59.6	61.3	73.2	82.5	76.3	68.1	67.4	59.1	52.2	49.4	50.4	51.6
Sweetpotatoes-----pound	15.8	15.0	15.5	16.5	17.1	17.7	17.9	18.4	18.8	13.8	12.6	12.9	13.4
Onions-----do	10.1	8.6	9.0	11.0	13.6	11.3	10.5	10.1	9.4	9.0	8.9	9.1	9.4
Carrots-----do	14.7	17.1	15.7	15.1	13.5	13.8	14.5	14.9	15.2	14.5	13.9	13.7	14.0
Lettuce-----head	17.3	16.9	16.2	20.2	19.4	20.9	15.3	16.0	14.8	15.9	18.1	16.3	18.1
Celery-----pound	16.1	14.7	15.6	15.8	19.0	21.1	18.3	17.1	14.3	14.2	13.2	14.5	15.1
Cabbage-----do	8.9	10.4	11.4	12.0	11.1	10.5	8.7	7.6	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.8	7.7
Tomatoes-----do	32.1	39.1	41.1	41.8	44.1	44.4	28.7	26.4	19.4	18.3	21.4	28.0	30.6
Beans, green-----do	30/23.4	36.2	(19)	(19)	28.8	26.4	19.9	20.0	17.0	19.3	22.1	22.2	22.4
Canned fruits and vegetables:													
Canned fruits:													
Orange juice-----46-oz. can	39.8	34.3	34.9	35.1	35.9	36.9	38.0	39.4	41.7	43.8	45.3	46.0	46.2
Peaches-----No. 2 1/2 can	34.2	34.3	34.2	34.3	34.0	33.8	33.7	33.8	33.9	34.2	34.5	34.9	35.1
Pineapple-----No. 2 can	34.8	34.3	34.3	34.5	34.5	34.6	34.7	34.7	34.8	34.9	35.0	35.3	35.5
Fruit cocktail-----No. 303 can	26.4	26.1	26.1	26.1	26.1	26.1	26.2	26.2	26.3	26.5	26.8	27.1	27.4
Canned vegetables:													
Corn, cream style-----No. 303 can	17.7	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.6	17.7	17.8	18.0	18.2	18.4
Peas, green-----do	21.1	21.3	21.2	21.2	21.0	20.9	20.9	21.0	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.1	21.0
Tomatoes 25/-----do	17.0	15.6	15.8	16.6	17.6	18.0	18.5	18.3	17.6	16.7	16.5	16.2	16.1
Baby foods-----4 1/2-5 ounces	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1	10.1
Dried fruits and vegetables:													
Prunes 26/-----pound	34.1	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.2	33.2	33.2	33.4	33.4	33.6	35.0	36.8	38.2
Dried beans-----do	18.0	16.7	16.8	17.3	17.9	18.2	18.5	18.8	19.0	19.2	18.5	17.8	17.5
Other foods at home:													
Partially prepared foods:													
Soup, tomato-----11-oz. can	12.5	12.4	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.6	12.6	12.6	12.5	12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4
Beans with pork-----16-oz. can	15.1	14.9	15.0	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.2	15.1
Condiments and sauces:													
Pickles, sweet-----7 1/2 ounces	27.0	27.0	27.1	27.2	27.1	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.1	27.0	27.0	27.0	27.0
Catsup, tomato-----4 1/2 ounces	22.1	22.3	22.1	21.8	21.9	21.8	21.9	22.0	22.1	22.2	22.4	22.4	22.5
Beverages, nonalcoholic:													
Coffee-----1-lb. can	90.7	95.3	95.2	93.4	92.8	92.2	91.8	90.6	89.6	87.7	87.2	86.8	85.3
Coffee 3/-----1-lb. bag	73.7	77.9	77.9	77.9	77.2	75.9	75.4	75.0	73.0	69.4	69.1	68.9	66.3
Tea bags-----package of 16	24.0	23.9	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.0	24.1	24.1	24.0	24.1	24.1	24.0	24.1
Cola drink 11/-----carton - 36 ounces	27.7	27.3	27.3	27.3	27.4	27.3	27.6	27.6	27.9	28.0	28.0	28.1	28.3
Fats and oils:													
Shortening, hydrogenated-----3-lb. can	94.4	96.3	94.8	95.2	95.8	95.6	94.6	94.6	93.9	92.8	92.8	92.8	93.0
Margarine, colored 10/-----pound	29.4	29.8	29.7	29.8	29.8	29.7	29.5	29.2	29.1	29.1	29.0	29.0	29.1
Lard-----do	22.6	22.4	22.3	22.4	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.6	22.9	23.1	23.0	22.9	22.6
Salad dressing-----pint	37.8	37.7	37.8	37.8	37.7	37.9	37.8	37.8	37.9	37.8	37.8	37.9	37.9
Peanut butter-----pound	55.5	54.1	54.0	54.3	54.3	54.5	55.1	55.7	56.6	56.8	56.7	56.7	56.6
Sugar and sweets:													
Sugar-----5 pounds	56.3	55.6	55.6	55.5	55.7	55.8	56.5	56.7	56.9	56.9	56.9	56.9	56.9
Corn syrup-----24 ounces	25.8	25.1	25.3	25.5	25.7	25.8	25.9	25.9	26.0	26.1	26.1	26.2	26.3
Grape jelly-----12 ounces	27.8	27.6	27.6	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.8	27.8	27.8	27.9	27.8	27.9
Chocolate bars-----1 ounce	5.0	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.9	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2
Eggs, Grade A, large-----dozen	60.4	61.1	56.8	63.2	59.0	56.6	55.1	57.6	60.9	68.7	63.8	62.7	58.8
Miscellaneous foods:													
Gelatin, flavored-----3-4 ounces	9.0	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.0	9.1

1/ Except as indicated in footnotes, prices are averages for the 46 cities included in the Consumer Price Index. Due to local variations in size and quality, averages may be based on less than 46 cities which reported comparable prices.

2/ 45 cities.

3/ 39 cities.

4/ 31 cities January 1957 through April 1958; 30 cities May through December 1958.

5/ 37 cities.

6/ 42 cities January 1957 through June 1958; 41 cities July through December 1958.

7/ 44 cities January 1957 through June 1958; 43 cities July through December 1958.

8/ 45 cities January 1957 through December 1957; 46 cities January 1958 through June 1958; 45 cities July 1958 through December 1958.

9/ 36 cities January 1957 through June 1958; 35 cities July 1958 through October 1958; 46 cities November and December 1958. Effective November 1958 average price includes ready-to-eat ham.

10/ 44 cities.

11/ 41 cities January 1957 through March 1957; 43 cities April and May 1957; 44 cities June 1957 through June 1958; 45 cities July 1958 through December 1958.

12/ 42 cities.

13/ 35 cities January 1957 through May 1958; 34 cities June through December 1958.

14/ 43 cities.

15/ 41 cities January 1957 through January 1958; 42 cities February and March 1958; 43 cities April and May 1958; 44 cities June through December 1958.

16/ 40 cities January 1957 through August 1957; 41 cities September 1957 through January 1958; 42 cities February and March 1958; 43 cities May through December 1958.

17/ 46 cities January 1957 through August 1958; 45 cities September through November 1958; 44 cities December 1958.

18/ 11-months average.

19/ Insufficient number of quotations to publish average price.

20/ 7-months average.

21/ 3-months average.

22/ 45 cities April and May 1957; 46 cities June 1957.

23/ 2-months average.

24/ 5-months average.

25/ 39 cities January 1957 through June 1957; 36 cities July 1957 through December 1958.

26/ 45 cities April 1958 through December 1958.

27/ Specification changed from 6 bottle carton to 2 volume selling brands, 6 to 12 bottle carton, effective July 1957.

28/ Prices not comparable throughout the year due to changes in the specification.

29/ Published unit changed from 20-ounces to 18-ounces beginning January 1958.

30/ 10-months average.

31/ Specification changed from 10-ounces to 9-ounces beginning January 1958.

32/ 4-months average.

33/ Priced only in season.

APPENDIX
The Retail Food Price Index

A Brief Description of the Retail 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 and clerical-worker families in cities of all sizes in continental United States. 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.

The current retail food price index, which comprised about 29 percent ^{5/} of the weight of items in the Consumer Price Index in December 1958, ^{6/} has been published monthly since January 1953 in its present form but constitutes a continuous series with earlier indexes back to 1913.

Index Base Period

The current index base period is 1947-49 as recommended by the Division of Statistical Standards of the Bureau of the Budget for all Government index series. 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 Retail Prices of Food 1955-56, (BLS Bull. 1217, appendix table C). ^{7/} Indexes for major subgroups are shown from 1923 to date and for all foods from 1913 in summary table 3 of this bulletin.

Collection of Prices

Retail prices of approximately 80 foods are collected by local Bureau representatives in each of the 46 cities included in the Consumer Price Index, during the first 3 days of the week containing the 15th of the month. Prices are obtained from grocers by personal interviews in the place of business. Precise specifications ^{8/} are set up to define the type, quality, and size for each food item priced to insure a meaningful average price and to avoid movement of the index because of shifts in the quality priced from one period to the next. A series of alternate specifications has been developed to allow for city and regional differences in grades, types, etc. Each dealer reports prices on the brand and size within each specification which has been selling in greatest volume in his outlet.

A few major changes in specifications have been required in recent years by developments in marketing. In July 1957, because of the wide variation in prices and bottle sizes for cola drink among brands, the pricing rules were changed to require two brands in

^{5/} See table A 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 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).

^{8/} See Average Retail Prices: Collection and Calculation Techniques and Problems (BLS Bull. 1182, June 1955), pp. 7-13. For a listing of specifications see pp. 33-37 of this bulletin.

each outlet. Beginning January 1956, two new items, bag and can coffee, replaced the single specification for the volume selling type of coffee. Can coffee, which is more generally available, is priced in all stores. Bag coffee, which is important chiefly in chain stores, is priced only in chain stores and independent supermarkets. This change was made following a period of experimental pricing which demonstrated wide price differentials between the two types, as well as differences in the magnitude and timing of price changes. ^{9/}

In recent years, many items offered in retail stores are more nearly ready to serve. In January 1953, "New York dressed" frying chickens (not drawn, head and feet on, feathers removed) were priced in 12 cities and "ready-to-cook" frying chickens (dressed, drawn, eviscerated) in 34 cities. As ready-to-cook chickens gradually replaced the New York dressed type throughout the country, pricing was transferred to the ready-to-cook type in one city after another. By January 1959, it was being priced in all 46 cities. A similar development occurred for smoked ham. In January 1953, "tenderized" ham was priced in 44 cities. However, ready-to-eat ham has become increasingly popular and at the present time it is necessary to price whatever type is available in each store to obtain sufficient quotations.

Several changes in milk pricing have been inaugurated. Until August 1956, agents had been instructed to price the volume selling type of pasteurized milk. At that time, on the basis of a special survey, the specification was more precisely defined in terms of a particular type to be priced in all outlets in a given city. For delivered milk, special attention has been devoted to obtaining accurate information on discounts for deliveries in quantity over a period of time, on delivery charges, and on volume selling size containers for calculation of realistic average prices.

When price substitutions of this sort occur, the new series is introduced by linking so that no difference in price due to specification change is reflected as a price change

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. Conversions to uniform quantity units are made as necessary. The data are then processed 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). ^{10/}

Sample of Cities

Prices are collected in a representative sample of 46 cities, ^{11/} which includes the 12 largest urbanized areas, 9 other large cities, 9 medium-size cities, and 16 small

^{9/} For a more detailed explanation of the revision in coffee prices, see Retail Food Prices by Cities, May 1957.

^{10/} See Retail Prices of Foods 1955-56 (BLS Bull. 1217), appendix, for a more complete description of processing methods, including the system of weights used for averaging prices.

^{11/} For lists of cities in the old and adjusted and revised retail food price indexes, see Retail Prices of Foods 1953-54 (BLS Bull. 1183) pp. 28-30. For an explanation of the method of selecting the sample of cities, see Selection of Cities for Consumer Expenditure Survey, Monthly Labor Review, April 1951 (p. 430).

cities. In addition to the 20 large cities for which separate indexes are published in this report, the following 26 medium-size and small cities are included in the food index and in United States city average prices:

Anna, Ill.	Huntington, W. Va.	Pulaski, Va.
Camden, Ark.	Laconia, N.H.	Ravenna, Ohio
Canton, Ohio	Lodi, Calif.	Rawlins, Wyo.
Charleston, W. Va.	Lynchburg, Va.	San Jose, Calif.
Evansville, Ind.	Madill, Okla.	Sandpoint, Idaho
Garrett, Ind.	Madison, Wis.	Shawnee, Okla.
Glendale, Ariz.	Middlesboro, Ky.	Shenandoah, Iowa
Grand Forks, N.D.	Middletown, Conn.	Youngstown, Ohio
Grand Island, Neb.	Newark, Ohio	

Sample of Stores

The sample of stores in each of the 20 large cities is composed of: (1) All important chainstore systems in the city; and (2) A sample of independent stores equal to the square root of the total number of independent food stores operating in the city when the sample was set up. 12/

To provide a representative sample, independent stores were classified by type of store in terms of commodities handled, annual sales volume, and geographic location within the city.

In the 26 small and medium-size cities added to the index in January 1953, the stores were selected by reference to their importance in family buying as revealed by the Survey of Consumer Expenditures in 1950.

Changes in retailing patterns require adjustments of the sample of stores. In addition to the continual replacement of outlets which go out of business, periodic revisions of the weights are made as new statistics on sales volume become available. Regular biennial revisions of weights used for averaging chain store prices were linked into the index in December 1953, January 1956, and December 1957, using sales volume data reported to the Bureau by the chain stores. 13/ Simultaneously with the December 1953 revision of internal chain store weights, the relative weights for combining chain and independent store prices were revised on the basis of 1948 sales reported in the Bureau of the Census Retail Trade Census. Another revision of these weights was made in January 1956, based on estimates from trade sources. In December 1957, these estimates were adjusted on the basis of the 1954 Census of Retail Trade.

Sample of Food Items

The sample of items in the index includes those items found to be most important in wage-earner and clerical-worker 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. 14/

12/ See Store Samples for Retail Food Prices in (**Monthly Labor Review**, January 1947) also represented as Serial No. R. 1878.

13/ See monthly report Retail Food Prices by Cities, January 1954, February 1956, and special report for December 1957.

14/ 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.

Food Away From Home

Prices of food away from home (restaurant meals), represented by lunches, are obtained by personal interviews with the managers of a representative sample of eating places in the 46 cities. When direct pricing was established in January 1953, monthly pricing was scheduled only for the five largest urbanized areas. Prices were obtained in other large cities and in the medium-size cities every 3 months and in the smallest cities every 4 months. As resources permitted, more frequent pricings have been scheduled. At the present time, the small cities are on a quarterly cycle, and by June 1959, most of the 20 large cities will be on a monthly pricing cycle.

In April 1957, regular publication of a monthly United States index for food away from home (January 1953=100) was initiated. Monthly indexes from January 1953 to April 1957 were published in the April 1957 issue of the regular monthly report, Retail Food Prices by Cities.

Revisions

For a description of the major 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.

Correction Procedure for Published Price Indexes and Prices

The Bureau's retail prices and indexes normally are considered final when issued. Necessary estimates for missing data are made at the time of release. Subsequent corrections of estimates are reflected in the next month's index. Every effort is made to eliminate errors in the computation of the retail food index. However, as errors do arise, the Bureau has set up the following correction procedure:

Prices or Indexes for Individual Items. A correction of less than 1.0 percent in an average price or in an item index will not be made for publication unless the entire index is recalculated.

A correction in an average price and/or in an item index of 1.0 percent or more will be published in the next subsequent release which normally carries the series affected, and normally for as far back as the month in which the incorrect data entered into the index calculation.

Subgroup, Group or All Items Indexes. A correction which would cause a change of not more than one-tenth (0.1) of an index point at any level will not be published although adjustments for the error will be made in current index calculations.

A correction which would cause a change of six-tenths (0.6) or more of an index point at a United States subgroup or a city subgroup or group level will be made in published subgroup and group indexes.

A correction which would cause a change of two-tenths (0.2) or more of an index point in a United States major group or all items index or in all items indexes for the 20 cities for which indexes are published will be made in the index at the group and subgroup levels regardless of the amplitude at the lower levels. A correction of this magnitude, which is extremely rare, would require the consideration by the Bureau of the statistical, economic, and other factors involved, to determine whether the previously published city or United States all items index is to be corrected or an adjustment made in calculating the current index number.

Special Studies

Since 1954, the Bureau, in addition to the collection of retail prices for its own food index, has collected retail prices of specific items in designated cities for the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These data are used primarily in their project for determining prices of selected food items at various marketing stages and are not published.

During 1957, the Bureau continued its study, begun in August 1956, of the effect of weekend prices on the levels of average food prices and on the measurement of price change from month to month. Detailed reports of this investigation were published in several issues of the Bureau's monthly report, Retail Food Prices by Cities,^{15/} The methodology used was described in the October 1956 report.

Another special study was conducted by the Bureau in 1957 for the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for its analysis of the impact of trading stamps on food prices. ^{16/} A brief analysis of this study was published in the Monthly Labor Review. ^{17/}

In July 1958, the Bureau initiated a program for monthly collection of retail prices of selected canned fish items for the Fish and Wildlife Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The data collected provide information on price levels in different cities and are available in monthly published reports. ^{18/}

ELS PUBLICATIONS

Retail food prices collected for the Bureau's index 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).

^{15/} See monthly report, Retail Food Prices by Cities, August, September, and October 1956 issues and January, February, April, July, August, and October 1957 issues.

^{16/} See Trading Stamps and Their Impact on Food Prices (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service, Marketing Research Report No. 295).

^{17/} See Trading Stamps and Their Impact on Food Prices (in Monthly Labor Review, March 1959), p. 276.

^{18/} See Canned Fish Retail Prices (U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service) July-September, October, November, December 1958, etc. Fishery Leaflets 476, 476a, 476b, 476c.

Table A. List of Foods and Relative Importance of Individual Foods and Groups of Foods Included in the Retail Food Price Index, December 1957 and December 1958

Article	Dec. 1957	Dec. 1958	Article	Dec. 1957	Dec. 1958
All foods-----	100.00	100.00	All fruits and vegetables-Con.		
Foods at home -----	83.38	83.35	Fresh fruits and vegetables-Con.		
Cereals and bakery products -----	11.33	11.27	Fresh fruits-Con.		
Cereals:			Grapefruit -----	.23	.25
Flour, wheat -----	1.90	1.86	Peaches -----	.38	.31
Biscuit mix -----	.51	.49	Strawberries -----	.18	.16
Corn meal -----	.15	.15	Grapes -----	.26	.28
Rice -----	.28	.28	Watermelons -----	.37	.27
Rolled oats -----	.29	.29	Fresh vegetables:		
Corn flakes -----	.35	.37	Potatoes -----	1.47	1.29
Bakery products:			Sweetpotatoes -----	.19	.18
Bread -----	5.59	5.64	Onions -----	.29	.32
Soda crackers -----	.55	.54	Carrots -----	.37	.30
Vanilla cookies -----	1.71	1.65	Lettuce -----	.56	.66
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	23.71	24.73	Celery -----	.32	.34
Meats -----	19.04	20.24	Cabbage -----	.14	.13
Beef and veal:			Tomatoes -----	.84	.78
Round steak -----	2.77	2.92	Beans, green -----	.39	.37
Chuck roast -----	1.59	1.75	Canned fruits and vegetables -----	3.92	4.18
Rib roast -----	.53	.55	Canned fruits:		
Hamburger -----	1.60	1.92	Orange juice -----	.71	.94
Veal cutlets -----	.66	.72	Peaches -----	.56	.57
Pork:			Pineapple -----	.34	.35
Pork chops -----	2.89	2.96	Fruit cocktail -----	.28	.29
Bacon, sliced -----	3.03	3.05	Canned vegetables:		
Ham, whole -----	2.19	2.25	Corn -----	.41	.42
Lamb, leg -----	.59	.62	Peas, green -----	.52	.50
Other meats:			Tomatoes -----	.64	.66
Frankfurters -----	2.37	2.58	Baby foods -----	.46	.45
Luncheon meat, canned -----	.82	.92	Dried fruits and vegetables -----	.59	.64
Poultry, frying chickens -----	2.79	2.54	Prunes -----	.29	.33
Fish -----	1.88	1.95	Dried beans -----	.30	.31
Fresh or frozen -----	1.00	1.08	Other foods at home -----	19.68	18.56
Canned:			Partially prepared foods:		
Salmon, pink -----	.35	.33	Tomato soup -----	1.21	1.19
Tuna fish -----	.53	.54	Beans with pork -----	.53	.53
Dairy products -----	13.97	13.63	Condiments and sauces:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) -----	4.43	4.31	Pickles, sweet -----	.78	.76
Milk, fresh, (delivered) -----	4.38	4.27	Catsup, tomato -----	.32	.32
Ice cream -----	1.08	1.06	Beverages, nonalcoholic -----	5.58	5.10
Butter -----	1.51	1.46	Coffee -----	3.79	3.30
Cheese, American process -----	1.62	1.58	Tea -----	.49	.48
Milk, evaporated -----	.95	.95	Cola drinks -----	1.30	1.32
All fruits and vegetables -----	14.69	15.16	Fats and oils -----	3.23	3.13
Frozen fruits and vegetables -----	.85	1.05	Shortening, hydrogenated -----	1.07	1.02
Frozen fruits:			Margarine -----	.80	.76
Strawberries -----	.08	.08	Lard -----	.38	.37
Orange juice concentrate -----	.34	.53	Salad dressing -----	.63	.62
Frozen vegetables:			Peanut butter -----	.35	.36
Peas, green -----	.26	.26	Sugar and sweets -----	3.14	3.24
Beans, green -----	.17	.18	Sugar -----	1.33	1.33
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	9.33	9.29	Corn syrup -----	.44	.45
Fresh fruits:			Grape jelly -----	.48	.47
Apples -----	1.04	1.01	Chocolate bar -----	.89	.99
Bananas -----	.76	.83	Eggs, fresh -----	4.53	3.93
Oranges -----	1.37	1.64	Miscellaneous foods:		
Lemons -----	.17	.16	Gelatin, flavored -----	.36	.36
			Food away from home:		
			Restaurant meals -----	16.62	16.65

Specifications for Food Items Priced in 20 Large Cities, 1957-58

Code	Description	Date of Change	Code	Description	Date of Change
F-101.0	Flour, general all-purpose; 5-pound sack. (If not available, 10-pound sack.)		F-207.0	Chuck roast; blade pot roast cut from upper part of shoulder before rib roast and behind neck; bone-in; U.S. Choice grade; one pound. (Baby beef priced in Houston.)	
F-106.0	Biscuit mix, prepared flour, containing all ingredients except liquid; 20-ounce package.			U.S. Good grade if U.S. Choice is not available. If U.S. Good also not available, U.S. Standard, or U.S. Commercial.	June 1957
F-110.0	Corn meal, white or yellow; best quality; volume selling package up to 24-ounces. (32- to 40-ounce package or bag in Washington; one-pound bulk or 5-pound bag in Atlanta.)			Boston, price only boneless.	July 1958
F-120.0	Rice, polished, fancy, whole, long grain in Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, New York-Northern New Jersey, Portland, Seattle, San Francisco, Washington; fancy, whole, short grain in other large cities; 16-ounce package or nearest size.		F-210.0	Rib roast; roast cut from rib section of forequarter behind chuck, before loin and above plate, 7-inch; bone-in; U.S. Choice grade; one pound. (Baby beef priced in Houston.)	
	Either "regular" or "quick cooking." Philadelphia deleted from short grain and added to long grain list of cities.	July 1958 May 1958		U.S. Good grade if U.S. Choice is not available. If U.S. Good also not available, U.S. Commercial or U.S. Standard.	June 1957
F-126.0	Rolled oats, either "quick cooking" or "regular"; 20-ounce package.		F-215.0	Hamburger, preground beef, containing from 12% to 25% fat or suet; one pound.	
	18-ounce package.	Jan. 1958	F-218.0	Veal outlets, cut from shank half of leg; U.S. Choice grade; one pound.	
	16-20-ounce package.	Nov. 1958		U.S. Good grade cubed veal outlets in Houston only.	Oct. 1958
F-130.0	Corn flakes; prepared (ready-to-eat) breakfast cereal, made from corn, flavored with sugar and salt and processed into flakes; 8-ounce package in Atlanta, Boston, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington; 11-12-ounce packages in other large cities.		F-220.0	Pork chops, cut from center of loins; one pound.	
				No. 1 grade.	Feb. 1957
F-150.0	Bread, pan style, prepared from white flour; volume selling size loaf.		F-224.0	Bacon, sliced and packaged, rind off; Standard Grade A; one-pound package (if not available, two half-pound packages).	
F-160.0	Soda crackers, salted or unsalted; best quality; one-pound package or nearest size.		F-227.0	Ham, whole, skinned, smoked, tenderized, weighing between 10 and 16 pounds. (If whole hams are not available, shank half priced.) Packer's best quality; one pound. Priced in all large cities except those listed for pricing in F-228.0.	
F-170.0	Vanilla cookies, or wafers without any filling or coating; 12-16-ounce bag or box in Atlanta and Cincinnati; 6-10-ounce bag or box in other large cities.			If F-227.0 is not available, F-228.0 is priced.	May 1958
	11-16-ounce bag or box in Atlanta and Cincinnati.	May 1957	F-228.0	Ham, whole, smoked, ready-to-eat, weighing between 10 and 16 pounds, always bearing the description "ready-to-eat," "tender" or "fully cooked." If whole hams are not available, shank half is priced. Packer's best quality, one pound. Priced in Cleveland, Detroit, Minneapolis, and St. Louis.	
F-201.1	Round steak, cut from hind quarter between rump and heel roast or hind shank; top or full cut; bone-in (boneless if bone-in is not available); U.S. Choice grade; one pound. (Baby beef priced in Houston.)			If F-228.0 is not available, F-227.0 is priced.	May 1958
	U.S. Good grade if U.S. Choice is not available. If U.S. Good also not available, U.S. Commercial or U.S. Standard.	June 1957		"Tender" deleted.	Oct. 1958
			F-230.0	Leg of lamb; hind leg of lamb, short cut (includes leg to the hip bone); U.S. Choice grade; one pound.	
			F-240.0	Frankfurters or wieners, skinless (synthetic casing), containing a combination of beef, pork and veal. May be packaged. Best quality; one pound.	

Specifications for Food Items Priced in 20 Large Cities, 1957-58—Continued

Code	Description	Date of Change	Code	Description	Date of Change
F-246.0	Luncheon meat, canned. Contains pork in solid pack. May contain small percentage of beef. Meat is either ground or chopped and spices are added. Ready-to-eat; U.S. inspected; 12-ounce tin.		F-280.0	Haddock, fresh, fillets; good quality; one pound. Priced in Boston.	
F-250.0	Frying chickens, New York dressed (only the feathers removed); tender-meated chicken of either sex, with smooth tender skin, flexible breastbone cartilage and undeveloped leg tendons. Age: approximately 8 to 16 weeks; weighing 2½ to 3 1/3 pounds. Grade A or best quality. Priced in Boston, New York-Northern New Jersey, Philadelphia, and San Francisco.	June 1957 Aug. 1957 Sept. 1958	F-281.0	Sea trout, fresh, dressed. May be spotted, gray (weakfish) or white. Good quality; one pound. Priced in Houston.	
	Priced only in Boston, New York-Northern New Jersey, and Philadelphia. Priced only in New York-Northern New Jersey, and Philadelphia. Priced only in New York-Northern New Jersey.		F-290.0	Salmon, pink, canned, also known as Alaska Pink or Humpback salmon. One pound tall cylindrical can.	
F-251.0	Frying chickens, ready-to-eat (dressed and drawn). Otherwise the description is the same as for F-250.0. Priced in all large cities.		F-294.0	Tuna fish, canned, fancy light meat, packed in oil. Solid pack, 7-ounce can in Baltimore, Boston, and New York-Northern New Jersey. Chunk style, 6-6 1/2-ounce can in all other large cities.	
F-260.0	Ocean perch, prepackaged frozen fillets; also known as rosefish, sea perch, red perch or redbfish. Good merchantable condition. Cellophane package or fixed weight box. One pound. (If one pound is not available, the nearest size in the 12-16-ounce range.) Priced in all large cities except Boston, Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle.	May 1958	F-306.0	Milk, fresh, fluid, pasteurized, homogenized, Vitamin D added, sold in stores. Lowest butterfat content over 3.25 percent. Quart or half-gallon, carton or bottle. Priced in all large cities except Baltimore.	
	Box or fixed weight of one pound. (If one pound is not available, price nearest size box or cellophane package under one pound.)		F-308.0	Milk, fresh, fluid, pasteurized, non-homogenized, without Vitamin D, sold in stores. Lowest butterfat content over 3.25 percent. Quart or half-gallon, carton or bottle. Priced in Baltimore.	
F-261.0	Haddock, prepackaged frozen fillets. Good merchantable condition. Same size and type of package as F-260.0. Priced in all large cities except Boston, Houston, Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle.	May 1958	F-315.0	Milk, fresh, fluid, pasteurized, homogenized, Vitamin D added, delivered to homes. Lowest butterfat content over 3.25 percent. Quart or half-gallon, carton or bottle. Priced in all large cities except Baltimore.	
	Same change in size and type of package as F-260.0.		F-317.0	Milk, fresh, fluid, pasteurized, non-homogenized, without Vitamin D, delivered to homes. Lowest butterfat content over 3.25 percent. Quart or half-gallon, carton or bottle. Priced in Baltimore.	
F-262.0	Cod, prepackage frozen fillets; good merchantable condition; fixed weight box, one pound or nearest size in 12-16-ounce range. Priced in Boston.		F-320.0	Ice cream, pre-packed bulk, vanilla or chocolate flavored; pint. (If bulk not available, brick ice cream).	
F-270.0	Salmon, fresh or frozen, steak or slice; King (chinook) salmon only; good quality; one pound. Priced in Los Angeles, Portland, and Seattle.		F-330.0	Butter, salted, creamery, 92 score (if 92 score not available, 93 score; if 93 score not available, 90 score). Any type of one-pound package.	
F-271.0	Halibut, fresh or frozen, steak or slice; good quality; one pound. Priced in Los Angeles and Portland.		F-340.0	Cheese, American processed, pasteurized, prepared by mixing one or more individual cheddars. May contain added salt, water and coloring. One pound, sliced or sliced, either prepackaged or cut from a larger loaf, or two-pound package. One-half pound package in Boston. One-half pound package in Boston and Atlanta.	Aug. 1958 Dec. 1958
F-272.0	Sole, fresh or frozen fillets; same type packages as F-260.0 for frozen; one pound. Priced in San Francisco and Seattle.		F-380.0	Milk, evaporated, unsweetened; may or may not be irradiated; 14 1/2-ounce can.	

Specifications for Food Items Priced in 20 Large Cities, 1957-58—Continued

Code	Description	Date of Change	Code	Description	Date of Change
F-401.1	Strawberries, frozen, sliced, packed in sugar; Grade A or Fancy; 10-ounce fiber container or nearest available size. Sliced or halves.	Mar. 1958	F-428.0	Watermelons, large, ripe, whole or cut pieces, of uniformly good color and in good merchantable condition; one pound. Priced in June, July, August.	
F-403.0	Orange juice, frozen, 1 to 3 concentration; Grade A or Fancy; 6-ounce can.		F-440.0	Potatoes, white or "Irish", all varieties; U.S. No. 1 grade; volume selling unit. Red skinned white potatoes acceptable.	Oct. 1958
F-410.1	Peas, green, frozen; Grade A or Fancy; 10-ounce fiber container or nearest size.		F-441.0	Sweet potatoes, all varieties; U.S. No. 1 grade; volume selling unit.	
F-413.0	Beans, green, frozen, cut. (If not available, French style); Grade A or Fancy; 10-ounce fiber container or nearest size. 9-ounce container or nearest size. Cut or French style.	Jan. 1958 June 1958	F-444.0	Onions, common yellow, dry, cooking, globe type; all varieties; U.S. No. 1 grade; approximately 2 inches in diameter; one pound.	
F-420.0	Apples, fresh, all-purpose, mature but not overripe; U.S. No. 1 or U.S. Fancy; medium size (163 to 100 to the box); prepackaged or bulk; one pound.		F-447.0	Carrots, bunched or topped, all varieties; U.S. No. 1 grade; one bunch or one pound. Priced in Los Angeles and San Francisco.	
F-421.0	Bananas, yellow; first quality; one pound.		F-448.0	Carrots, topped, all varieties; U.S. No. 1; in cellophane or pliofilm bag; one pound. Priced in all large cities except Los Angeles and San Francisco.	
F-422.0	Oranges; California, Florida or Texas; all varieties; may be seedless; U.S. No. 1 grade; size: 176 to 220 in a standard box; one dozen. Volume selling orange from any State; all varieties; may be seedless. Volume selling orange from any State; all varieties except Temple and King.	May 1958 Aug. 1958	F-450.0	Lettuce, head, all varieties; U.S. No. 1; size 60 if packed by the crate; size 30 if packed by the carton; one head.	
F-423.0	Lemons; all varieties; U.S. No. 1 grade; one pound.		F-452.0	Celery, fresh, green, known as "Pascal celery"; U.S. No. 1; one pound.	
F-424.0	Grapefruit; fresh; the volume selling pink or white; may be seeded or seedless; U.S. No. 1 grade; each. Priced November through May.		F-454.0	Cabbage, Danish, domestic or pointed type, with standard trim; U.S. No. 1; one pound.	
F-425.0	Peaches, freestone, fresh, white or yellow flesh in good merchantable condition, fully ripened having no basic green color. Varieties are usually Kibertas, J.C. Hale, Havens Family and Belle of Georgia. One pound. Priced in July, August, September.		F-456.0	Tomatoes, fresh, firm, glossy, free from deep grooves; U.S. No. 1 or best quality; in cartons or loose; one pound.	
F-426.0	Strawberries, fresh, of good uniform color, with the caps firmly attached to the fruit; of uniformly good quality, and no signs of decay; one-pint basket (if not available, quart basket). Priced in April, May, June.		F-458.0	Beans, fresh, green, snap, string or stringless, all varieties; U.S. No. 1; one pound.	
F-427.0	Grapes, Thompson seedless, pale yellow, green or white thin skinned seedless grapes, in large compact bunches, with the fruit firmly attached to the stems; in good merchantable condition, and no sign of decay; one pound. Priced July through November.		F-460.0	Orange juice, single strength; Grade A or Fancy; 46-ounce can.	
			F-463.0	Peaches, yellow cling, halves, in heavy syrup; Choice grade; No. 2½ can.	
			F-465.1	Pineapple, Hawaiian, sliced, in extra-heavy syrup; Grade A or Fancy; No. 2 can.	
			F-469.1	Fruit cocktail, prepared from peaches, pears, pineapple, seedless grapes and maraschino-type or natural cherries, packed in heavy syrup; Grade A or Fancy; No. 303 can. If No. 303 can is not available, No. 300 can is priced.	July 1958

Specifications for Food Items Priced in 20 Large Cities, 1957-58—Continued

Code	Description	Date of Change	Code	Description	Date of Change
F-470.0	Corn, sugar, cream style, yellow or white; Grade A or Fancy; No. 303 can.		F-511.0	Pickles, cucumber pickles, sliced cross-wise (sometimes called "Bread and Butter Pickles" or "Quickles"); fresh packed green cucumbers, canned with a mildly spiced and sweetened solution. 15-16-ounces (if not available, nearest smaller size).	Dec. 1958
F-473.0	Peas, sweet or sugar; Grade A or Fancy (top quality); any sieve size; No. 303 can.		F-515.0	Catsup, tomato product, sometimes called "ketchup"; Grade A or Fancy; 14-ounce bottle.	
F-475.1	A) Tomatoes, small and large pieces, with a maximum of 50 percent liquid; standard grade (Grade C); No. 303 can. (If not available, No. 2 can). Priced all large cities except Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle. B) No. 2 1/2 can in Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle. Whole or solid pack, with a maximum of 42 percent liquid; extra standard (Grade B or choice). Priced in West Coast cities (see B).	June 1957	F-521.0	Coffee, ground, roasted; air-tight can; one pound.	
F-479.0	Baby foods; strained fruits, vegetables or meat and vegetable mixtures; 4 1/2-5-ounce jar or can. (If not available, the next smaller size.) 4 1/2-5-ounce only.	July 1958	F-522.0	Coffee, whole bean or ground, roasted; cardboard or paper bag; one pound. All large cities except San Francisco and Seattle. Priced only in chain stores and independent supermarkets.	
F-480.0	Prunes, dried; extra large or large (53 or less); carton or cellophane package; one-pound package (if not available, two pounds). May be tenderized.	Mar. 1958	F-524.1	Tea bags, orange pekoe and pekoe, generally known as black tea; package of 16 bags.	
F-490.0	Navy beans, dry, white, packaged or bulk No. 1 choice, hand picked; one-pound package (if not available, nearest package size or bulk). Priced in Boston, Cleveland, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle.		F-526.0	Cola drink, cola-flavored, carbonated beverages, carton of 6 bottles or cans, 6-10-ounces size. Discontinued.	Aug. 1957
F-491.0	Great Northern beans, dry, white, packaged or bulk; No. 1 choice, hand picked; one-pound package (if not available, nearest package size or bulk). Priced in all large cities except those in which F-490.0 is priced.		F-526.1	Cola drink, two brands of cola-flavored, carbonated beverages; carton of 6 or 12 bottles or cans, 6-12-ounce size. Unchilled (if unchilled not available, chilled).	Aug. 1957
F-502.0	Soup, tomato or cream of tomato, condensed; 10 1/2-11-ounce can.		F-530.1	Shortening, processed from hydrogenated vegetable oils; 3-pound container.	Sept. 1957
F-505.0	Beans with pork, canned dried beans with pork, known as "baked beans", packed in tomato sauce. If beans with pork in tomato sauce are not available, New England style beans with pork. Best quality; 15-18-ounce can or jar (if not available, nearest size). 15-18-ounce can or jar only.	July 1958	F-532.0	Margarine, vegetable, colored; one-pound carton. Priced in all large cities except Minneapolis-St. Paul.	
F-510.0	Pickles, small, sweet, cucumber pickles, may be called sweet midget pickles; Grade A or Fancy; 6-12-ounce jar (if not available, the nearest size).		F-533.0	Margarine, uncolored; one-pound carton. Priced in Minneapolis.	
			F-537.0	Lard, pure, steam rendered, open kettle rendered, or leaf; carton or bulk; one pound (if not available, nearest size).	
			F-540.0	Salad dressing, cooked; pint jar.	
			F-545.0	Peanut butter, prepared from U.S. No. 1 peanuts with salt added. May be homogenized and contain hydrogenated peanut oil. 12-16-ounce jar or tumbler (if not available, nearest size). Jar or plain tumbler. (If 12-16-ounce not available, nearest smaller size).	June 1957 July 1958
			F-550.1	Sugar, white granulated cane or beet sugar; paper bag (if not available, carton or cloth bag); 5 pounds.	

Specifications for Food Items Priced in 20 Large Cities, 1957-58—Continued

Code	Description	Date of Change	Code	Description	Date of Change
F-555.0	Corn syrup, golden, containing at least 90 percent corn syrup, may contain up to 10 percent of cane or maple sugar syrup; 24-ounce (net weight) bottle or can (if not available, next smaller size).		F-570.0	Chocolate bar, plain milk chocolate; 1-ounce bar or nearest available size. Nearest available small size.	May 1957
F-560.0	Grape jelly, made from filtered and strained grape juice; Grade A or Fancy; 10-16-ounce jar or tumbler (if not available, nearest size). 10-16-ounce jar or tumbler only.	July 1958	F-580.0	Eggs, strictly fresh, white or brown shell; Grade A, Large; one dozen. Citywide deviation: Grade AA in Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle.	
			F-590.0	Gelatin Dessert, flavored, powder; 3-4-ounce package.	