

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

APRIL 1953

Consumer Price Index Rises 0.1 Percent Between
March and April as Prices for Most Major
Groups Show Small Advances

: This report presents the Consumer Price Index for :
: April 1953 for the average of U.S. cities and for :
: individual cities. The measurement of price change :
: from January 1953 forward is based on the revised :
: index structure. Information about the index re- :
: vision is given in the February 1953 Monthly Labor :
: Review or is available upon request. :

Retail prices of goods and services bought by families of urban wage and clerical workers averaged 0.1 percent higher between March and April 1953, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Slight decreases occurred in the indexes for Food and Apparel while other major groups rose 0.3 percent or less, with the exception of the Medical Care group which rose 0.6 percent.

The index for April was 113.7 (1947-49 = 100), 0.7 percent higher than a year ago and 11.7 percent above June 1950. Converted to a 1935-39 = 100 base, the revised index was 190.1.

FOOD The U.S. Food index resumed its decline from the August peak, following the slight increase of last month, with a decrease of 0.2 percent from March to April. The April index was 111.5 (1947-49 = 100), 2.1 percent below a year ago but 10.9 percent above June 1950. Retail food prices, on the average, were lower in the majority of the large cities surveyed, but higher in most of the medium-sized and small cities largely because of differences in the magnitude of price changes for dairy products and fruits and vegetables.

Changes in all food subgroup indexes were fairly small. The largest decrease among the published subgroups was 1.2 percent in the Dairy Products index with fresh milk prices undergoing sizeable reductions in a number of large cities. Butter prices were also generally lower. There was, however, a 1.2 percent rise in the index of "Other Foods at Home," resulting from increases chiefly in the prices of coffee, eggs, and fats and oils. The Meats, Poultry and Fish index, which has declined steadily since last August, continued this trend because of lower beef prices and was 0.6 percent below last month and 10.6 percent below the peak of 119.4 (1947-49 = 100) reached in August 1952. Beef and veal prices declined generally (about 2 percent on the average) and poultry prices were substantially lower in a few cities (about 1 percent on the average for all cities). Prices of pork and lamb were approximately 1 percent higher over the month.

The Fruits and Vegetables index fell 0.4 percent as an average decrease of about 4 percent in fresh vegetable prices more than offset price increases of a little over 2 percent for fresh fruits. Generally, lower prices were reported for lettuce, onions, potatoes, and carrots.

Bread prices rose in Chicago and Washington, D. C., accounting for much of the rise of 0.3 percent in the Cereals and Bakery Products index. Restaurant meal prices averaged slightly lower in April.

Retail food prices showed a 0.9 percent increase between April 13 and April 27, 1953, according to preliminary estimates based on 6 cities. Restaurant meals are not included in these estimates.

HOUSING The Housing index for April was 117.0, up 0.2 percent above last month. An increase of 0.3 percent over the month was reported for residential rents and other shelter expenses. The Household Operation index also advanced 0.3 percent as increases were reported in a few cities for dry cleaning, laundry, and domestic services. The largest decline from March was for Solid Fuels and Fuel Oil which dropped 0.6 percent. The Housefurnishings index for April was 0.2 percent below March with lower prices reported for washing machines, electric refrigerators and toilet tissue.

APPAREL The Apparel index declined slightly (0.1 percent) over the month. Decreases reported for women's and girls' apparel, especially in the large cities, accounted for most of the group decline. Seasonal clearance prices for women's wool suits and lightweight coats and lower prices for rayon suits and nylon hose were largely responsible for the decline in women's and girls' apparel. Prices for men's and boys' apparel were unchanged, on the average, while the cost of footwear advanced slightly.

OTHER GROUPS The Medical Care index rose 0.6 percent, primarily as the result of increases for group hospitalization rates in a few cities. The Other Goods and Services index advanced 0.3 percent over the month as higher prices were again reported for cigarettes. Transportation and Personal Care costs increased 0.1 percent. Increases were reported for a few items in these groups such as auto repairs, gasoline, and beauty shop services. The Reading and Recreation Group index rose 0.2 percent, reflecting scattered increases for movie admissions and television repairs.

OLD SERIES: The Bureau has resumed compilation of the Old Series Index, as directed by the President on January 30. It is expected that the April 1953 Old Series indexes will be available about the end of May.

TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1/ -- U.S. AVERAGE ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUPS
Indexes and Percent Changes for Selected Dates

GROUP	April 1953	March 1953	February 1953	April 1952	June 1950	Year 1939
	This Month	Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
<u>INDEXES (1947-49 = 100)</u>						
ALL ITEMS	113.7	113.6	113.4	112.9	101.8	59.4
FOOD <u>2/</u>	111.5	111.7	111.5	113.9	100.5	47.1
Food at home	111.1	111.3	111.1	113.9	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	118.0	117.7	117.6	115.6	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	106.8	107.4	107.7	114.8	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	109.0	110.3	110.7	110.4	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	115.0	115.5	115.9	121.1	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	110.4	109.1	107.3	105.0	94.1	<u>6/</u>
HOUSING <u>3/</u>	117.0	116.8	116.6	114.0	104.9	<u>6/</u>
Rent	122.1	121.7	121.5	116.9	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	106.5	106.5	106.1	103.9	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	123.6	124.4	123.3	117.3	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	107.8	108.0	108.0	108.7	97.4	53.4
Household operation	114.3	114.0	113.5	111.0	99.6	<u>6/</u>
APPAREL <u>4/</u>	104.6	104.7	104.6	106.0	96.5	52.5
TRANSPORTATION	129.4	129.3	129.1	124.8	109.9	<u>6/</u>
MEDICAL CARE	120.2	119.5	119.3	115.9	105.4	<u>6/</u>
PERSONAL CARE	112.5	112.4	112.5	111.3	99.2	<u>6/</u>
READING AND RECREATION	107.9	107.7	107.5	106.2	102.5	<u>6/</u>
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <u>5/</u>	117.9	117.5	115.8	115.2	103.7	<u>6/</u>

PERCENT CHANGE TO APRIL 1953 FROM:

	March 1953	February 1953	April 1952	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0.1	0.3	0.7	11.7	91.4
FOOD <u>2/</u>	- 0.2	0	- 2.1	10.9	136.7
Food at home	- 0.2	0	- 2.5	10.5	135.9
Cereals and bakery products	0.3	0.3	2.1	14.9	106.3
Meats, poultry and fish	- 0.6	- 0.8	- 7.0	0.7	156.7
Dairy products	- 1.2	- 1.5	- 1.3	18.1	118.9
Fruits and vegetables	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 5.0	12.2	148.4
Other food at home	1.2	2.9	5.1	17.3	128.1 <u>7/</u>
HOUSING <u>3/</u>	0.2	0.3	2.6	11.5	53.7 <u>7/</u>
Rent	0.3	0.5	4.4	12.3	41.0
Gas and electricity	0	0.4	2.5	3.7	1.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil	- 0.6	0.2	5.4	14.9	119.1
Housefurnishings	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.8	10.7	101.9
Household operation	0.3	0.7	3.0	14.8	67.1 <u>7/</u>
APPAREL <u>4/</u>	- 0.1	0	- 1.3	8.4	99.2
TRANSPORTATION	0.1	0.2	3.7	17.7	87.8 <u>7/</u>
MEDICAL CARE	0.6	0.8	3.7	14.0	65.6 <u>7/</u>
PERSONAL CARE	0.1	0	1.1	13.4	88.8 <u>7/</u>
READING AND RECREATION	0.2	0.4	1.6	5.3	71.3 <u>7/</u>
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <u>5/</u>	0.3	1.8	2.3	13.7	67.0 <u>7/</u>

1/ See General Explanation at end of tables.

2/ Includes "Food away from home" for which indexes will be available later in 1953.

3/ Includes "Other shelter" for which indexes will be available later in 1953.

4/ Indexes for subgroups of apparel will be available later in 1953.

5/ Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and "miscellaneous services" (such as legal services, banking fees, burial services, etc.).

6/ Not available. Indexes for 1939 will be published when calculations are completed.

7/ Approximate.

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ^{1/} -- ALL ITEMS INDEXES FOR SELECTED DATES
U.S. Average and 20 Large Cities

City	(1947 - 49 = 100)					(1935-39 = 100)
	April 1953	March 1953	February 1953	April 1952	June 1950	April 1953 ^{2/}
U.S. AVERAGE ^{3/}	113.7	113.6	113.4	112.9	101.8	190.1
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	114.2	113.8	113.9	113.4	102.8	194.5
Detroit	115.2	115.2	115.1	113.6	102.8	194.5
Los Angeles	115.6	115.4	114.9	114.6	101.3	193.2
New York	111.1	111.2	111.1	110.9	100.9	183.9
Philadelphia	113.7	114.1	113.7	113.1	101.6	189.2
CITIES PRICED IN JAN., APR., JULY, OCT. ^{4/}						
Boston	111.7			111.1	101.2	179.8
Kansas City	114.3			113.9	101.4	184.0
Minneapolis	115.1			113.5 ^{5/}	102.1 ^{5/}	190.6
Pittsburgh	112.8			112.3	99.9	191.8
Portland, Ore.	115.4			114.7	101.5	199.9
CITIES PRICED IN MAR., JUNE, SEPT., DEC. ^{4/}						
Atlanta		116.7		115.1 ^{6/}	101.3 ^{6/}	197.9
Baltimore		114.2		112.3	101.6	196.3
Cincinnati		112.6		111.3	101.2	189.6
St. Louis		114.7		114.0	101.1	191.4
San Francisco		115.5		113.0	100.9	197.4
CITIES PRICED IN FEB., MAY, AUG., NOV. ^{4/}						
Cleveland			112.5	112.6	100.4	191.7
Houston			116.1	114.8	103.5	196.6
Scranton			112.2	110.8	100.2	186.5
Seattle			114.6	114.3	102.0	195.9
Washington, D.C.			113.0	112.0	101.6	185.5

^{1/} See General Explanation at end of tables.

^{2/} These are the same indexes shown in columns 1, 2 or 3, converted to a base of 1935-39 = 100.

^{3/} The U.S. Average is based on prices collected in 46 cities. In addition to the 20 cities listed individually, 26 cities are included in the national average. Indexes are not calculated for these 26 cities.

^{4/} Foods, fuels, rents and a few other items priced monthly; other commodities and services priced quarterly.

^{5/} March 1952 and June 1950; formerly priced March, June, September, December.

^{6/} February 1952 and May 1950; formerly priced February, May, August, November.

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ^{1/} -- PERCENT CHANGES FROM MARCH 1953 TO APRIL 1953
U.S. Average and Five Cities Priced Monthly
All Items and Commodity Groups

City	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Trans- portation	Medical Care	Personal Care	Reading & Recreation	Other Goods & Services
U.S. AVERAGE	0.1	- 0.2	0.2	- 0.1	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.3
Chicago	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.2	- 0.1	2.4	0	- 0.1	0.8
Detroit	0	0.2	0	0.1	0.1	0	0.3	0.1	0
Los Angeles	0.2	- 0.4	0.8	- 0.5	- 0.2	1.2	- 0.1	0	0.4
New York	- 0.1	- 0.6	0.5	- 0.7	- 0.1	0	0.2	0.2	0.3
Philadelphia	- 0.4	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 1.0	0.2	0.1	- 0.1	0.2	- 0.2

See footnotes on table 1 and General Explanation at end of tables.

TABLE 4. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1/ -- ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUPS
 April 1953 Indexes and Percent Changes, January 1953 to April 1953
 U.S. Average and 10 Cities Priced in April

City	All Items	Total Food	Housing						Apparel	Transportation	Medical Care	Personal Care	Reading & Recreation	Other Goods & Services
			Total	Rent	Gas & Electricity	Solid Fuels & Fuel Oil	House-furnishings	Household Operation						
U.S. AVERAGE	113.7	111.5	117.0	122.1	106.5	123.6	107.8	114.3	104.6	129.4	120.2	112.5	107.9	117.9
Boston	111.7	108.4	115.6		105.4	124.7	107.7	107.6	103.8	135.6	123.4	111.8	106.2	116.2
Chicago	114.2	110.2	119.4		100.0	122.0	107.7	117.6	106.5	133.8	119.6	114.5	109.1	112.1
Detroit	115.2	114.0	118.6	127.3	109.7	117.4	110.4	106.3	103.0	125.7	116.8	119.4	111.0	122.8
Kansas City	114.3	109.3	117.0	124.8	104.4	112.6	107.6	120.3	105.1	130.0	119.3	114.7	110.0	119.3
Los Angeles	115.6	112.8	123.5		109.5	111.4	107.5	103.5	105.1	127.2	119.7	117.9	104.5	114.1
Minneapolis	115.1	112.0	116.8		110.0	115.1	107.4	116.8	105.4	121.8	136.4	117.0	116.7	122.9
New York	111.1	109.8	113.6		108.1	130.2	109.0	118.6	104.8	127.3	120.7	106.1	107.1	118.4
Philadelphia	113.7	112.9	112.6		101.8	125.4	110.1	111.3	104.0	133.1	120.1	116.3	112.5	121.8
Pittsburgh	112.8	111.8	114.3	116.1	113.5	120.6	105.8	117.5	104.1	139.0	121.1	106.1	97.2	118.8
Portland, Ore.	115.4	112.9	119.6		118.6	123.2	110.9	111.2	104.0	127.6	118.0	111.7	115.3	117.5

April 1953 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)

Percent Change -- January 1953 to April 1953

U.S. AVERAGE	- 0.2	- 1.4	0.5	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.8	0	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	1.7
Boston	- 0.4	- 2.6	0.7		- 0.1	0	1.2	0	1.0	1.0	0.1	1.3	- 0.2	1.0
Chicago	0	- 0.9	0.3		0	0	0.7	0.1	0.5	- 0.5	2.1	0.2	0.3	1.4
Detroit	- 0.4	- 1.6	0	6/ 8.0	- 0.1	0	0.5	- 1.3	0.3	- 0.3	0.1	0.3	0	1.7
Kansas City	0	- 0.8	0.5	6/ 3.2	1.8	- 0.5	1.3	1.8	- 0.9	- 0.5	0.2	- 0.2	0.5	3.3
Los Angeles	0.2	- 1.1	1.1		0.7		0.6	0.9	- 1.1	1.1	1.0	0	- 0.4	2.1
Minneapolis	0.6	- 1.7	0.8		3.5	1.2	1.6	4.3	0.1	0.9	9.0	- 0.3	2.6	1.4
New York	- 0.5	- 2.3	0.9		0.1	0	0.2	1.5	- 0.9	- 0.4	- 0.5	0.2	- 0.3	1.5
Philadelphia	- 0.5	- 2.3	- 0.1		0	0	0	0.2	0.1	- 0.2	0.5	0	1.7	1.1
Pittsburgh	0.2	- 1.1	0.5	6/ 1.5	- 0.2	0.2	- 0.4	1.0	0.7	- 0.3	3.7	0.6	- 1.2	1.5
Portland, Ore.	0.7	0.3	1.3		0	10.4	1.6	0.4	- 0.3	1.0	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.7	2.7

1/ through 5/, see footnotes on table 1 and General Explanation at end of tables.
 6/ Change from October 1952 to April 1953.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1/ -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 April 1953 Indexes and Percent Changes, March 1953 to April 1953
 U.S. Average and 20 Large Cities
 (1947-49 = 100)

City	Total Food 2/		Total Food at Home		Cereals & Bakery Products		Meats, Poultry & Fish		Dairy Products		Fruits & Vegetables		Other Foods at Home	
	Index	Percent Change	Index	Percent Change	Index	Percent Change	Index	Percent Change	Index	Percent Change	Index	Percent Change	Index	Percent Change
U.S. AVERAGE	111.5	- 0.2	111.1	- 0.2	118.0	0.3	106.8	- 0.6	109.0	- 1.2	115.0	- 0.4	110.4	1.2
Atlanta	111.7	- 0.5	111.3	- 0.6	115.4	0.1	111.8	- 0.9	114.4	- 0.4	114.3	- 2.7	103.6	0.5
Baltimore	112.3	0.5	111.9	0.6	116.7	0.2	109.0	0.6	112.5	0	115.1	0.7	108.5	1.0
Boston	108.4	- 1.1	107.5	- 1.5	116.8	- 0.1	101.5	- 1.8	106.9	- 2.0	108.5	- 4.7	106.2	1.0
Chicago	110.2	0.5	109.7	0.4	114.4	1.2	102.2	0.3	108.7	- 0.4	113.7	- 0.6	117.2	1.5
Cincinnati	113.1	0.4	112.7	0.4	117.7	0.2	109.3	0.3	109.3	- 0.6	114.9	0.6	115.6	1.0
Cleveland	108.5	- 0.3	108.0	0.4	114.8	0.4	104.2	0.3	102.8	- 2.9	108.1	- 1.5	111.5	0.7
Detroit	114.0	0.2	113.8	0.4	115.7	0.1	105.9	0	110.3	- 0.8	125.2	0.9	112.1	1.4
Houston	111.9	0	111.4	0	114.7	0.1	104.5	- 0.9	113.0	0.4	119.3	0.6	110.4	0.7
Kansas City	109.3	- 0.2	108.5	- 0.4	117.1	0.1	103.8	- 1.4	106.5	- 0.4	110.7	- 0.9	107.6	0.9
Los Angeles	112.8	- 0.4	112.1	- 0.6	117.4	0.1	109.8	- 0.5	109.6	- 2.9	112.6	- 0.4	111.5	0.4
Minneapolis	112.0	- 0.5	112.1	- 0.1	119.4	0.2	103.3	0	108.8	- 0.4	121.0	- 0.7	116.6	0.4
New York	109.8	- 0.6	109.4	- 0.5	122.3	0.6	105.8	- 1.0	104.8	- 0.3	109.4	- 2.5	110.6	1.2
Philadelphia	112.9	- 0.5	112.4	- 0.6	118.5	0.4	107.8	- 1.0	109.9	- 3.7	116.6	- 0.8	110.9	1.8
Pittsburgh	111.8	- 0.4	111.5	- 0.4	119.1	- 0.3	102.8	- 0.7	110.4	- 2.3	113.9	- 0.8	118.0	1.5
Portland, Ore.	112.9	0.4	112.9	0.4	114.0	0.3	113.1	- 0.4	110.1	- 0.3	114.4	0.3	112.7	1.8
St. Louis	111.6	- 0.7	111.0	- 0.9	112.8	- 0.2	108.1	0.2	100.8	- 6.0	116.4	- 1.8	117.0	1.5
San Francisco	113.7	1.0	113.5	1.2	123.3	0.4	108.7	- 0.1	110.3	- 1.4	122.1	5.4	109.0	1.8
Scranton	110.9	- 0.4	110.6	- 0.4	116.1	0.3	106.8	0.2	107.9	- 2.9	112.2	- 1.1	110.4	1.3
Seattle	111.7	0	111.4	0	118.7	0.1	105.4	- 0.7	109.5	- 0.3	119.4	- 0.9	109.1	1.9
Washington, D.C.	110.2	0.2	109.8	0.3	114.2	1.9	104.6	0.3	113.4	- 0.3	110.5	- 1.8	108.3	0.9

See footnotes on table 1 and General Explanation at end of tables.

The Consumer Price Index (revised January 1953) measures the average change in prices of goods and services purchased by city wage-earner and clerical-worker families. The goods and services included in the index "market basket" are those required to maintain the level of living characteristic of such families in 1952. The quantities and qualities of the items in the "market basket" remain the same between consecutive pricing periods, so that the index measures the effect of price change only on the cost of living of these families.

The indexes are presented on a base of 1947-49=100. The index numbers thus show the average increase or decrease in prices from the 1947-49 average. (For convenience of users, these indexes are also shown on the base 1935-39=100. Note that they are calculated using the new samples, items and weights). The city indexes do not indicate whether it costs more to live in one city than in another. Comparisons of city indexes show only whether prices have risen more or less in one city than another since the base period.

The Bureau has been compiling the Consumer Price Index for nearly 40 years. At four different times it has been necessary to bring the "market basket" of goods and services up to date and to modernize the samples and methods of calculation. The indexes in this report are revised as of January 1953. The "market basket" is based on extensive surveys of postwar expenditure patterns of city families, and reflects changes that have occurred since prewar in the amounts, kinds and qualities of things people buy, as well as new things that were not part of our pattern of living a few years ago.

About 300 items are priced to estimate the average change in prices of all items in the "market basket." Among these items are all the important goods and services that wage and clerical workers buy. Prices are collected at regular intervals, and the successive prices are compared to determine price changes. The items priced are described by detailed specifications to insure that as far as possible, the same quality is priced each time, and that differences in reported prices are measures of price change only. Prices are obtained in a sample of 46 cities representative of all cities in the U.S., including the 12 largest urban areas with populations over 1 million, 9 other large cities, 9 medium-sized cities, and 16 small cities. In each city, prices are reported by stores of various kinds and by service establishments and individuals (such as physicians and dentists) from whom wage and clerical workers buy goods and services.

Foods, fuels, rents, and a few other items are priced monthly in all cities. Prices of most other goods and services are obtained on a regular rotating pricing cycle--monthly in the 5 largest cities, every 3 months in 25 large and medium-sized cities, and every 4 months in the 16 smallest cities. In any given month, goods and services other than foods, fuels and rents are priced in 17 or 18 cities out of the 46. Price collection extends over 3 or 4 weeks, centered on the 15th of the month. Prices for a few items (e.g., auto insurance, railroad fares) are computed from published sources.

Food. Food prices are collected monthly from chain and representative independent food stores in all 46 cities, during the first 3 days of the week which includes the 15th of the month. Prices for restaurant meals are based on menus collected on the regular pricing cycle for each city as described above.

Rent. Rents are obtained each month by mail from tenants of representative samples of dwellings in each of the 46 cities, and once every 2 years by personal visit, when local samples of dwellings are also reviewed. The rent index measures changes in rent from one period to another for the same rented dwellings, with the same facilities, furnishings and services.

Other Shelter. Materials and services for house maintenance and repair are priced on the regular city pricing cycle. Prices of houses, fire insurance rates, mortgage interest and taxes, which change only occasionally, are obtained annually or biennially, and changes estimated between pricing dates. Sales prices of houses are obtained from records of mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration.

Fuels, including Gas and Electricity. Prices prevailing on the 15th of the month are collected monthly by mail from fuel dealers and utility companies in 46 cities.

All Goods and Services other than Foods, Fuels and Rents. Prices are collected in person, on the city cycle described above, from samples of representative department stores, apparel and shoe stores, housefurnishings and appliance dealers, barber shops, beauty shops, doctors, hospitals, moving picture theaters, etc. Prices for such items as newspapers, street car and bus fares, and telephone service are collected by mail. Prices of used cars are obtained from car dealers through a trade association.

Price changes for all items in each city are combined in accordance with their importance in the "market basket" for that city to obtain an average price change for that city. Price changes for the 46 cities are combined for the U.S. with the use of 1950 population data. Each city is given an importance or weight proportionate to the wage-earner and clerical-worker population it represents in the index. The 12 largest cities, each weighted by its own population, when combined have about two-fifths of the total weight in the national index. Each of the 3 other city-size groups has about one-fifth of the total weight; i.e., the 9 other large cities, the 9 medium-sized cities, and the 16 small cities. City indexes are compiled for the 20 largest of the 46 cities priced for the national average. The remaining 26 cities in which prices are collected are:

Anna, Illinois	Huntington, W. Virginia	Pulaski, Virginia
Camden, Arkansas	Laconia, New Hampshire	Ravenna, Ohio
Canton, Ohio	Lodi, California	Rawlins, Wyoming
Charleston, W. Virginia	Lynchburg, Virginia	San Jose, California
Evansville, Indiana	Madill, Oklahoma	Sandpoint, Idaho
Garrett, Indiana	Madison, Wisconsin	Shawnee, Oklahoma
Glendale, Arizona	Middlesboro, Kentucky	Shenandoah, Iowa
Grand Forks, N. Dakota	Middletown, Connecticut	Youngstown, Ohio
Grand Island, Nebraska	Newark, Ohio	

The present index, as described above, has been linked (spliced) to the "interim adjusted" Consumer Price Index for 34 cities, issued through December 1952, to form a continuous series back to 1913. ^{1/}

For detailed descriptions of the Consumer Price Index, its uses and limitations, see the following:

"The Consumer Price Index," A Short Description of the Index as Revised, 1953.

"The Revised Consumers' 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."

Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 1039: "Interim Adjustment of the Consumers' Price Index."

January 1951 Report: "Consumers' Price Index and Retail Food Prices."

December 1952 Report: "Consumers' Price Index and Retail Food Prices."

Monthly Labor Review articles:

The Revised Consumer Price Index (February 1953).

Adjusted Consumers' Price Index: Relative Importance of Items (June 1951).

Interim Adjustment of Consumers' Price Index (April 1951).

Selection of Cities for Consumer Expenditure Survey-1950 (April 1951).

Revision of the Consumers' Price Index (July 1950).

^{1/} See December 1952 report, "Consumers' Price Index and Retail Food Prices." Tables of rebased "interim adjusted" indexes for the U. S. and for 20 cities are available upon request.

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"OLD SERIES" CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX, APRIL 1953

:"Old Series" Consumers' Price Indexes are being compiled :
:for the months January-June 1953, at the direction of the :
:President and the Secretary of Labor, to facilitate :
:orderly transition to use of the Revised Index in wage es- :
:calator clauses under collective agreements. The Bureau :
:of Labor Statistics has no authorization or appropriation :
:to continue the "Old Series" beyond the June Index (issued :
:at the end of July). The Revised Index only will be :
:issued thereafter, on the 1935-39 = 100 base as well as on :
:the official 1947-49 = 100 base period. :
:
:For a description of the Revised Index, see "The Consumer :
:Price Index - A Short Description of the Index as Revised, :
:1953." For discussion of the arithmetic problems of :
:transition from the "Old Series" to the Revised for wage :
:contract purposes, see "The Revised Consumers' 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." :

The "Old Series" Consumers' Price Index for April 1953 was 188.3 (1935-39 = 100), a decline of 0.3 percent from March, the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Over the quarter, January to April, the index fell 1.1 percent. The decrease over both the month and the quarter reflects the continued decline in food prices.

OLD SERIES CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX FOR MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES 1/

U.S. Average and 19 Cities by Groups

April 15, 1953

(1955-59 = 100)

City	All Items	Food	Apparel	Rent	Fuel, Elec. & Refrigeration : Total	Gas & Elec.	House-furnish-ings	Miscellaneous
U.S. AVERAGE	188.3	221.1	201.8	139.0	153.9	100.6	206.5	179.2
Birmingham, Ala.	195.3	217.8	211.5		140.5	79.2	195.0	175.3
Boston, Mass.	177.4	204.2	186.7		173.3	118.5	195.8	170.8
Buffalo, N.Y.	187.3	217.1	200.2	133.7	167.6	110.0	214.9	183.1
Chicago, Ill.	192.9	223.3	206.4		142.5	83.5	192.1	180.3
Cincinnati, Ohio	190.2	225.4	204.0		162.4	109.8	195.0	181.3
Denver, Colo.	189.1	223.4	205.8	153.0	120.5	69.6	234.1	174.4
Detroit, Mich.	196.0	224.5	198.9	156.2	164.7	93.5	216.9	197.3
Houston, Texas	192.6	233.5	214.8		106.2	91.5	198.5	180.9
Indianapolis, Ind.	192.5	222.5	195.3	148.9	165.1	80.9	197.7	187.0
Kansas City, Mo.	181.8	206.1	193.9	143.4	138.3	72.5	190.6	183.6
Los Angeles, Calif.	190.8	227.6	193.3		107.0	100.6	205.9	178.2
Manchester, N.H.	184.7	205.9	188.7	134.0	174.3	109.7	223.6	171.2
Minneapolis, Minn.	188.0	213.9	206.0		148.8	84.9	192.5	185.1
New York, N.Y.	181.7	218.4	203.1		153.7	105.9	197.1	177.6
Philadelphia, Pa.	187.4	218.6	196.3		159.4	104.2	212.5	178.8
Pittsburgh, Pa.	191.1	225.6	227.9	135.1	159.6	114.0	207.1	174.9
Portland, Oreg.	198.2	241.7	198.4		147.1	102.8	206.3	193.1
Richmond, Va.	181.5	211.7	202.4	139.5	153.1	103.2	214.5	184.2
Savannah, Ga.	197.7	232.8	205.8	155.2	170.1	126.8	212.2	180.9

Percent Change from January 15, 1953

U.S. AVERAGE	- 1.1	- 3.3	0.3	0.6	- 0.1	0.4	0.2	1.0
Birmingham, Ala.	- 1.0	- 2.7	0		- 4.0	0	0	- 0.1
Boston, Mass.	- 1.9	- 5.1	0.2		0	0	0.7	1.5
Chicago, Ill.	- 1.0	- 2.7	0.1		0	0	0.1	0.4
Cincinnati, Ohio	- 0.7	- 2.8	1.3		1.8	4.7	0.2	0.4
Detroit, Mich.	- 0.9	- 2.9	0.4	2/8.0	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.5	0.4
Houston, Texas	- 0.7	- 3.2	0		0	0	- 0.2	0.8
Kansas City, Mo.	- 0.3	- 2.9	0.2	2/3.2	0.9	1.1	1.7	1.0
Los Angeles, Calif.	- 0.3	- 2.8	0.5		0	0	0.4	1.7
Minneapolis, Minn.	- 0.5	- 3.0	- 0.2		2.0	1.8	1.5	1.8
New York, N.Y.	- 1.7	- 3.6	- 0.8		- 1.3	0	0.4	0.6
Philadelphia, Pa.	- 1.5	- 3.7	0.8		- 0.4	0	0	0.7
Pittsburgh, Pa.	- 0.8	- 2.6	- 0.2	2/1.5	0.2	- 0.1	- 1.0	0.7
Portland, Oreg.	0.7	- 0.1	- 0.5		1.4	0	1.9	1.6

Percent Change from October 15, 1952

Buffalo, N.Y.	- 1.7	- 6.7	1.1	1.3	5.4	0	2.0	1.2
Denver, Colo.	- 0.2	- 4.4	0.6	9.8	0.8	0	0.1	1.5
Indianapolis, Ind.	- 1.2	- 4.7	0.3	1.3	1.2	0	0.5	1.0
Manchester, N.H.	- 3.4	- 9.6	- 1.2	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.5	4.1
Richmond, Va.	- 1.4	- 4.8	0.1	1.0	2.5	4.5	- 1.9	1.1
Savannah, Ga.	- 1.6	- 5.2	- 0.5	4.4	- 1.3	- 4.9	- 1.1	2.0

1/ For details on the reinstatement of the "Old Series" indexes see "Memorandum to Users of the Consumer Price Index, February 3, 1953".

2/ Change from October 1952.