

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

MAY 1953

Consumer Price Index Rises 0.3 Percent Between
 April and May as Prices for Nearly All
 Major Groups Increase

: This report presents the Consumer Price Index for :
 : May 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. :
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Retail prices of goods and services purchased by families of urban wage and clerical workers averaged 0.3 percent higher in May than in April 1953, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. All major groups advanced slightly with the exception of the Transportation group which showed no change. The largest increases between April and May were in the Food and the Medical Care indexes which rose 0.5 and 0.4 percent, respectively.

The composite index for May was 114.0 (1947-49 = 100). This was 0.9 percent higher than May 1952 and 12.0 percent above June 1950. Converted to a 1935-39 = 100 base, the revised index was 190.6.

FOOD The U.S. Food index increased 0.5 percent from April to May as average retail food prices rose in 37 of the 46 cities surveyed. The index for May was 112.1 (1947-49 = 100), 1.9 percent below the May index of last year, but 11.5 percent above the June 1950 level. A rise of about 7 percent in pork prices dominated the food price increases during the month.

The increase in pork prices offset the continuing decline in the prices of beef and veal (down about 1 percent), and chiefly accounted for the rise of 2.2 percent in the Meats, Poultry and Fish index. This is the first increase for this subgroup since last August. Lamb prices were up about 4½ percent, on the average, due primarily to sharp increases in a few cities. Poultry prices were down slightly, while prices for fish showed no change.

The Dairy Products index continued its decline with a 1.1 percent decrease over the month as milk prices fell in several large cities as well as in a number of medium sized and small cities.

Changes in other food subgroup indexes were relatively minor. The Cereals and Bakery Products index rose 0.3 percent with price increases recorded for vanilla cookies, soda crackers, and rice. The Fruits and Vegetables index was up 0.2 percent reflecting the effects of increases in fresh fruit prices, although prices of fresh vegetables declined. The index of "Other Foods at Home" declined 0.1 percent as higher prices were reported for fats and oils, while coffee prices turned down following the increase of the previous month. Restaurant meal prices rose slightly.

Preliminary estimates, based on 8 cities, show an increase of 0.3 percent in retail prices of food between May 15 and May 25. These estimates do not include restaurant meal prices.

HOUSING The Housing index for May was 117.1, an increase of 0.1 percent above April. The largest rise over the month was for Residential Rents which advanced 0.7 percent. The Household Operation index was up 0.3 percent between April and May with increases in a few cities for dry cleaning and laundry services. Gas and electricity bills averaged 0.1 percent higher than last month. A decrease of 1.5 percent occurred for Solid Fuels and Fuel Oil as seasonally lower prices were reported in a number of cities for coal and fuel oil. The Housefurnishings index was 0.2 percent below last month reflecting in part lower prices for household textiles.

APPAREL The Apparel index advanced slightly (0.1 percent) over the month. Prices were higher, on the average, in most cities for footwear and men's and boys' apparel. Women's and girls' apparel showed little change.

OTHER GROUPS The Medical Care index rose 0.4 percent due to increases in some cities for group hospitalization, medical and dental fees, and hospital rates. Personal Care costs advanced 0.3 percent over the month with higher prices reported for beauty shop services. Prices for Reading and Recreation and Other Goods and Services increased 0.1 percent. The Transportation index remained unchanged from April. Increases reported for auto repairs, gasoline, and railroad fares in the Interstate Commerce Commission Western District were offset by generally lower prices for used cars.

GENERAL PRICE SITUATION

There has been no pronounced general trend in prices in recent months. The period has been one of adjustment in particular industries, with upward or downward movements, beginning in primary markets. On the average, the over-all price indexes are little changed from a few months ago, either at wholesale or retail.

Despite the generally high level of incomes and of economic activity, consumer resistance to higher prices has been reported in a number of fields. Trade reports indicate some slowdown in the sale of houses; dealers have also been reporting sales resistance for some important consumer durables. Some outright price reductions or concessions have recently been observed in these fields.

On the whole, several cost increases -- such as in the steel and petroleum industries -- have occurred too recently to judge the effects on prices of finished consumer goods. However, some manufacturers, such as the major automobile producers, have already announced that they are planning to absorb these higher costs. Earlier cost increases in primary markets and wage rate advances, following the end of price and wage controls, are gradually showing up in the retail prices of a number of services and commodities.

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 May 1953 Old Series indexes will be available about the end of June.

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

GROUP	May 1953	April 1953	March 1953	May 1952	June 1950	Year 1939
	This Month	Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year	Pre-Korea	World War II
<u>INDEXES (1947-49 = 100)</u>						
ALL ITEMS	114.0	113.7	113.6	113.0	101.8	59.4
FOOD ^{2/}	112.1	111.5	111.7	114.3	100.5	47.1
Food at home	111.7	111.1	111.3	114.3	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	118.4	118.0	117.7	117.2	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	109.2	106.8	107.4	114.5	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	107.8	109.0	110.3	109.3	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	115.2	115.0	115.5	124.3	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	110.3	110.4	109.1	104.4	94.1	6/
HOUSING ^{3/}	117.1	117.0	116.8	114.0	104.9	6/
Rent	123.0	122.1	121.7	117.4	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	106.6	106.5	106.5	104.1	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	121.8	123.6	124.4	115.6	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	107.6	107.8	108.0	108.3	97.4	53.4
Household operation	114.7	114.3	114.0	111.2	99.6	6/
APPAREL ^{4/}	104.7	104.6	104.7	105.8	96.5	52.5
TRANSPORTATION	129.4	129.4	129.3	125.1	109.9	6/
MEDICAL CARE	120.7	120.2	119.5	116.1	105.4	6/
PERSONAL CARE	112.8	112.5	112.4	111.6	99.2	6/
READING AND RECREATION	108.0	107.9	107.7	106.2	102.5	6/
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{5/}	118.0	117.9	117.5	115.8	103.7	6/

PERCENT CHANGE TO MAY 1953 FROM:

	April 1953	March 1953	May 1952	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0.3	0.4	0.9	12.0	91.9
FOOD ^{2/}	0.5	0.4	- 1.9	11.5	138.0
Food at home	0.5	0.4	- 2.3	11.1	137.2
Cereals and bakery products	0.3	0.6	1.0	15.3	107.0
Meats, poultry and fish	2.2	1.7	- 4.6	2.9	162.5
Dairy products	- 1.1	- 2.3	- 1.4	16.8	116.5
Fruits and vegetables	0.2	- 0.3	- 7.3	12.4	148.8
Other foods at home	- 0.1	1.1	5.7	17.2	127.9 ^{7/}
HOUSING ^{3/}	0.1	0.3	2.7	11.6	53.9 ^{7/}
Rent	0.7	1.1	4.8	13.2	42.0
Gas and electricity	0.1	0.1	2.4	3.8	1.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil	- 1.5	- 2.1	5.4	13.2	116.0
Housefurnishings	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.6	10.5	101.5
Household operation	0.3	0.6	3.1	15.2	67.7 ^{7/}
APPAREL ^{4/}	0.1	0	- 1.0	8.5	99.4
TRANSPORTATION	0	0.1	3.4	17.7	87.8 ^{7/}
MEDICAL CARE	0.4	1.0	4.0	14.5	66.3 ^{7/}
PERSONAL CARE	0.3	0.4	1.1	13.7	89.3 ^{7/}
READING AND RECREATION	0.1	0.3	1.7	5.4	71.4 ^{7/}
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{5/}	0.1	0.4	1.9	13.8	67.1 ^{7/}

^{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)
	May 1953	April 1953	March 1953	May 1952	June 1950	May 1953 ^{2/}
U.S. AVERAGE ^{3/}	114.0	113.7	113.6	113.0	101.8	190.6
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	114.6	114.2	113.8	114.3	102.8	195.2
Detroit	115.8	115.2	115.2	113.6	102.8	195.5
Los Angeles	115.3	115.6	115.4	114.5	101.3	192.7
New York	111.4	111.7	111.2	110.7	100.9	184.4
Philadelphia	113.8	113.7	114.1	113.2	101.6	189.4
CITIES PRICED IN JAN., APR., JULY, OCT. ^{4/}						
				April 1952	April 1950	April 1953
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/}						
				March 1952	June 1950	March 1953
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/}						
				May 1952	May 1950	May 1953
Cleveland	113.7			113.1	100.4	193.7
Houston	116.8			114.8	103.5	197.7
Scranton	112.0			112.1	100.2	186.1
Seattle	116.2			114.6	102.0	198.6
Washington, D.C.	113.5			112.6	101.6	186.4

^{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 APRIL 1953 TO MAY 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	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1
Chicago	0.4	0.5	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.2	- 0.2	0.6	0.2
Detroit	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.3	0	3.9	- 0.1	- 0.4	0.1
Los Angeles	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.2	0.1	- 0.3	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.5	- 0.2
New York	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.1	0	- 0.2	0.6	- 0.7	- 0.2
Philadelphia	0.1	0.4	- 0.2	0.2	0.3	- 0.3	0.2	0	0

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

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

City	All Items	Total Food 2/	Housing						Apparel 4/	Transportation	Medical Care	Personal Care	Reading & Recreation	Other Goods & Services 5/
			Total 3/	Rent	Gas & Electricity	Solid Fuels & Fuel Oil	House-furnishings	Household Operation						
May 1953 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)														
U.S. AVERAGE	114.0	112.1	117.1	123.0	106.6	121.8	107.6	114.7	104.7	129.4	120.7	112.8	108.0	118.0
Chicago	114.6	110.8	120.0		100.0	119.8	108.7	118.6	106.4	133.5	119.8	114.3	109.8	112.3
Cleveland	113.7	109.2	117.7		106.8	119.4	105.0	112.5	105.4	123.3	119.8	113.8	114.0	116.7
Detroit	115.8	115.0	118.7		109.2	117.0	110.5	106.3	103.3	125.7	121.3	119.3	110.6	122.9
Houston	116.8	111.9	123.2		106.5		105.2	119.6	107.0	126.7	118.4	119.5	114.5	119.4
Los Angeles	115.3	112.2	123.3	135.1	109.5		111.6	107.6	103.6	126.8	119.8	117.8	104.0	113.9
New York	111.4	110.3	114.3		108.0	125.6	107.9	118.6	104.9	127.3	120.5	106.7	106.4	118.2
Philadelphia	113.8	113.3	112.4		101.8	118.9	109.5	112.5	104.2	133.5	119.7	116.5	112.5	121.8
Scranton	112.0	111.5	114.2	118.8	111.9	129.9	101.7	105.8	106.5	129.3	114.1	112.1	118.2	115.3
Seattle	116.2	112.0	119.0		99.0	127.0	108.5	110.3	106.9	133.4	125.0	111.4	110.4	125.9
Washington, D.C.	113.5	110.8	116.2	118.6	114.9	126.6	108.9	113.0	103.8	127.3	117.5	111.4	112.9	125.1
Percent Change -- February 1953 to May 1953														
U.S. AVERAGE	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.2	0.5	- 1.2	- 0.4	1.1	0.1	0.2	1.2	0.3	0.5	1.9
Chicago	0.6	1.1	0.3		0	- 1.8	0.5	0.9	0.3	- 0.7	2.3	- 0.3	0.5	1.7
Cleveland	1.1	1.2	1.6		4.0	- 0.5	0.3	4.6	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.1	- 0.4	1.9
Detroit	0.6	1.1	0		- 0.6	- 0.3	0	- 1.3	0.5	- 0.2	3.9	0.1	0.1	1.9
Houston	0.6	0.3	1.0		0		1.4	1.2	- 0.4	0	1.0	0.1	2.2	2.1
Los Angeles	0.3	- 0.2	0.9	6/ 1.8	0.7		0.9	1.0	- 0.8	0.9	1.1	0	- 0.5	2.1
New York	0.3	- 0.5	1.5		0	- 3.5	- 1.0	1.5	- 0.5	0	- 0.2	0.7	- 0.5	1.5
Philadelphia	0.1	0.1	- 0.4		0	- 5.2	- 1.6	1.2	- 0.4	0.5	0.1	0.3	2.1	1.2
Scranton	- 0.2	0.5	- 1.0	6/ 0.9	0	- 6.3	- 1.3	0.7	0.1	- 0.5	0	0	0	1.0
Seattle	1.4	1.1	1.3		0.8	11.7	0.5	1.4	- 0.2	2.7	1.2	0.1	2.4	1.6
Washington, D.C.	0.4	0.6	- 0.1	6/ 0.3	0	- 4.2	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.5	0.2	0.8	- 0.2	2.1	2.5

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

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1/ -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 May 1953 Indexes and Percent Changes, April 1953 to May 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	112.1	0.5	111.7	0.5	118.4	0.3	109.2	2.2	107.8	- 1.1	115.2	0.2	110.3	- 0.1
Atlanta	112.8	1.0	112.6	1.2	115.9	0.4	115.2	3.0	111.6	- 2.4	116.7	2.1	104.6	1.0
Baltimore	112.2	- 0.1	111.7	- 0.2	117.1	0.3	110.0	0.9	112.4	- 0.1	112.4	- 2.3	108.3	- 0.2
Boston	108.8	0.4	107.9	0.4	117.3	0.4	103.5	2.0	106.1	- 0.7	108.2	- 0.3	106.1	- 0.1
Chicago	110.8	0.5	110.5	0.7	115.2	0.7	104.7	2.4	108.6	- 0.1	113.5	- 0.2	116.8	- 0.3
Cincinnati	114.1	0.9	113.9	1.1	117.6	- 0.1	113.2	3.6	109.1	- 0.2	114.9	0	115.4	- 0.2
Cleveland	109.2	0.6	108.6	0.6	115.0	0.2	106.0	1.7	99.3	- 3.4	110.8	2.5	112.0	0.4
Detroit	115.0	0.9	114.9	1.0	116.3	0.5	108.2	2.2	109.7	- 0.5	127.6	1.9	112.1	0
Houston	111.9	0	111.1	- 0.3	114.9	0.2	107.6	3.0	108.1	- 4.3	115.4	- 3.3	111.1	0.6
Kansas City	110.2	0.8	109.6	1.0	117.2	0.1	107.6	3.7	106.0	- 0.5	110.2	- 0.5	108.1	0.5
Los Angeles	112.2	- 0.5	111.4	- 0.6	117.7	0.3	109.5	- 0.3	109.5	- 0.1	109.7	- 2.6	111.3	- 0.2
Minneapolis	112.7	0.6	113.0	0.8	119.6	0.2	105.3	1.9	108.5	- 0.3	122.7	1.4	116.6	0
New York	110.3	0.5	109.8	0.4	122.6	0.2	108.2	2.3	102.2	- 2.5	111.8	2.2	109.2	- 1.3
Philadelphia	113.3	0.4	112.9	0.4	118.6	0.1	110.2	2.2	109.7	- 0.2	116.0	- 0.5	110.1	- 0.7
Pittsburgh	112.5	0.6	112.3	0.7	119.3	0.2	105.6	2.7	110.2	- 0.2	113.2	- 0.6	118.1	0.1
Portland, Ore.	113.4	0.4	113.4	0.4	114.7	0.6	114.8	1.5	110.0	- 0.1	114.0	- 0.3	112.8	0.1
St. Louis	112.9	1.2	112.5	1.4	113.2	0.4	111.3	3.0	100.6	- 0.2	117.7	1.1	118.0	0.9
San Francisco	113.9	0.2	113.7	0.2	123.7	0.3	109.5	0.7	110.3	0	122.1	0	108.9	- 0.1
Scranton	111.5	0.5	110.8	0.2	116.3	0.2	107.6	0.7	107.9	0	112.5	0.3	110.2	- 0.2
Seattle	112.0	0.3	111.9	0.4	119.3	0.5	107.8	2.3	108.6	- 0.8	118.2	- 1.0	109.2	0.1
Washington, D.C.	110.8	0.5	110.1	0.3	115.7	1.3	105.4	0.8	113.2	- 0.2	109.7	- 0.7	108.7	0.4

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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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington 25, D. C.

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"OLD SERIES" CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX, MAY 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 :
:escalator clauses under collective agreements. The June :
:Index (issued at the end of July) will be the last of the :
:"Old Series." The Revised Index only on both 1935-39 = :
:100 and the official 1947-49 = 100 base period will be :
:issued thereafter. :
:
: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 May 1953 was 188.8 (1935-39=100), an increase of 0.3 percent from April, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Over the February to May quarter, the index rose 0.1 percent. This increase reflects advances in residential rents and miscellaneous goods and services. The rise over the month resulted primarily from higher prices for food and a continued increase in residential rents.

OLD SERIES CONSUMERS' PRICE INDEX FOR MODERATE-INCOME FAMILIES 1/
 U.S. AVERAGE AND 17 CITIES BY GROUPS
 MAY 15, 1953
 (1935-39 = 100)

CITY	ALL ITEMS	FOOD	APPAREL	RENT	FUEL, ELEC. & REFRIGERATION		HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS	MISCELLANEOUS
					TOTAL	GAS & ELEC.		
U. S. AVERAGE	188.8	222.0	202.0	139.9	151.6	100.7	206.4	179.6
Birmingham, Ala.	195.4	219.0	211.3	192.9	137.8	79.3	195.0	175.6
Boston, Mass.	177.5	205.5	186.2		138.3	118.4	195.9	171.4
Chicago, Ill.	193.5	224.6	206.4		139.9	83.5	193.4	180.6
Cincinnati, Ohio	191.3	227.8	203.7		159.4	110.5	195.3	181.4
Cleveland, Ohio	192.8	227.4	202.5		162.2	110.3	186.5	179.7
Detroit, Mich.	196.7	225.6	199.3		165.1	93.2	217.8	197.7
Houston, Texas	193.3	231.5	214.7		196.2	91.5	198.6	181.8
Los Angeles, Calif.	189.4	224.4	193.3	155.9	108.4	100.6	205.7	178.2
Milwaukee, Wisc.	196.9	226.9	198.9	178.4	158.6	102.2	224.4	173.2
New Orleans, La.	190.1	232.0	209.6	142.1	115.3	76.2	206.8	158.8
New York, N. Y.	182.7	219.4	205.5		150.3	105.9	194.3	177.7
Norfolk, Va.	191.3	229.5	190.7	141.4	165.0	98.5	202.1	177.6
Philadelphia, Pa.	187.3	218.7	197.4		154.9	104.2	211.6	179.7
Pittsburgh, Pa.	191.7	226.9	226.9		159.7	114.0	206.6	174.8
Scranton, Pa.	185.3	217.2	213.6	126.9	173.9	105.4	178.1	164.5
Seattle, Wash.	195.4	229.3	199.7		140.7	91.2	206.5	191.3
Washington, D. C.	185.5	222.0	228.6	118.0	161.6	112.5	220.1	183.3

PERCENT CHANGE FROM FEBRUARY 15, 1953

U. S. AVERAGE	0.1	-0.5	0.1	1.1	-1.6	0.3	0	1.1
Birmingham, Ala.	0.3	1.0	-0.4	1.0	-5.8	0	-0.2	0.5
Boston, Mass.	-0.8	-1.9	-0.4		-2.9	-0.2	0.3	1.7
Chicago, Ill.	0.1	-0.1	0.7		-1.8	0	-0.3	0.5
Cincinnati, Ohio	0.6	0.6	0.3		-1.2	1.7	0.4	0.4
Cleveland, Ohio	0.9	0.8	0.4		0.9	3.3	0.3	1.0
Detroit, Mich.	0.4	0	0.5		0.2	-0.4	0.3	0.6
Houston, Texas	0.1	-1.3	-0.3		0	0	0.4	1.3
Los Angeles, Calif.	0	-1.9	0.7	2/ 1.8	1.3	0	0.6	1.7
Milwaukee, Wisc.	1.2	1.6	0.3	1.7	0.2	3.1	0.9	1.0
New Orleans, La.	-0.4	-1.7	1.0	1.7	0.9	2.6	-0.8	0.6
New York, N. Y.	-0.3	-1.2	-0.5		-3.5	0	-1.3	0.6
Norfolk, Va.	0.9	1.3	-0.3	0.2	0	0	0	2.1
Philadelphia, Pa.	-0.3	-0.8	0.5		-3.2	0	-1.1	1.2
Pittsburgh, Pa.	0.2	0	-1.6		0.3	0	-1.0	0.7
Scranton, Pa.	-0.5	-1.0	-0.1	2/ 0.9	-3.9	0	0.2	0.8
Seattle, Wash.	1.2	0.1	-0.5		3.8	1.9	0.9	2.7
Washington, D. C.	0.1	-0.5	1.2	2/ 0.3	-2.8	0	-0.5	1.0

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 November 1952.

Labor - D. C.