

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

JUNE 1953

Consumer Price Index Advances 0.4 Percent  
 Between May and June as Food Prices  
 Rise 1.4 Percent

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: This report presents the Consumer Price Index for :  
 : June 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 revi- :  
 : sion is given in the February 1953 Monthly Labor :  
 : Review or is available upon request. :

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Retail prices of goods and services bought by urban families of wage earners and clerical workers rose 0.4 percent between May and June 1953, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Chiefly responsible for the increase was a rise of 1.4 percent in retail food prices. In addition, Housing, Medical Care and Other Goods and Services increased fractionally; Apparel, Personal Care, and Reading and Recreation showed slight declines; and Transportation was unchanged on the average during the month.

The U.S. All Items index for June was 114.5 (1947-49 = 100), 0.2 percent above the previous high level of August and November 1952, 1.0 percent higher than June 1952, and 12.5 percent above the level of June 1950. Converted to a base of 1935-39 = 100, the revised index for June was 191.4.

**FOOD** The increase of 1.4 percent in the Food index from May to June canceled most of the decline that took place earlier this year and returned the index nearly to the level of last December. The June index was 113.7 (1947-49 = 100), still 0.8 percent below a year ago, but 13.1 percent higher than in June 1950. Retail food prices rose, on the average, in all but 2 of the 46 cities surveyed. Increases of 2 percent or more were reported in 7 of the 20 large cities. Except for dairy products, all food subgroup indexes advanced; the sharpest rise (5.6 percent) occurred in the Fruits and Vegetables index.

Prices of fresh fruits and fresh vegetables averaged about 8 percent and 10 percent higher, respectively, than a month ago, reflecting general advances for apples, oranges, celery, cabbage, tomatoes, green beans, and carrots. Potato prices averaged slightly lower than a month ago.

The Meats, Poultry, and Fish index rose 1.9 percent as pork prices climbed about 6 percent on the average, during the month. Beef and veal prices rose slightly for the first time since last September. Average prices of lamb were up about 4 percent, while poultry prices were down about 2½ percent. Fish prices showed a slight average decline.

The rise of 0.4 percent in the Cereals and Bakery Products index resulted chiefly from increases in prices of bread and other bakery products in several cities. Generally higher egg prices largely accounted for the rise of 0.5 percent in the index of

"Other Foods at Home." Coffee prices were lower. The Dairy Products index declined 0.3 percent as milk prices decreased in a few cities. Restaurant meal prices were unchanged, on the average.

Between June 15 and June 29 retail food prices in 8 cities showed little change on the average, according to preliminary estimates. The increases in prices of fresh fruits, pork, and eggs, were largely offset by decreases in fresh vegetables, poultry, and meats other than pork. Restaurant meal prices are not included in these estimates.

HOUSING The Housing composite index rose 0.3 percent between May and June, led by an advance of 0.6 percent for Household Operation, reflecting higher rates for telephone service. Dry cleaning and laundry services also increased. A number of items of home repair also were higher. Housefurnishings increased 0.4 percent as merchandise reduced for May sales was returned to regular price lines. A substantial rise in residential rents in Cincinnati, following decontrol in May, was a significant factor in the increase of 0.2 percent in the Rent index between May and June. The Gas and Electricity index declined 0.2 percent with lower cost of electricity for consumers in Portland, Oregon, more than offsetting higher gas rates in St. Louis. Prices of Solid Fuels and Fuel Oil were unchanged on the average during the month.

APPAREL The Apparel index continued at about the level reached 6 months ago, declining fractionally (0.1 percent) between May and June. Prices of Apparel for all family members averaged slightly lower, except for footwear prices, which showed a slight rise.

OTHER GROUPS The Medical Care index increased 0.3 percent during the month as higher prices were reported for drugs and dental services. Other Goods and Services rose 0.2 percent, reflecting higher prices for cigarettes and beer in several cities. The Personal Care index declined 0.2 percent. Prices were lower for toilet soap while costs of beauty shop services increased. Admission charges for motion pictures were higher. There were price reductions for toys, radios and television sets and the index for Reading and Recreation decreased 0.2 percent. The Transportation index remained at the level of a month ago, as prices for used cars moved downward offsetting increases for automobile repairs and gasoline.

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OLD SERIES: Calculation of the Old Series Index, which was resumed for a period of 6 months by direction of the President, will be discontinued after issuance of the indexes for June 1953. It is expected that the final release will be available about the end of July.

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

GROUP	June 1953	May 1953	April 1953	June 1952	June 1950	Year 1939
	This Month	Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
<b>INDEXES (1947-49 = 100)</b>						
ALL ITEMS	114.5	114.0	113.7	113.4	101.8	59.4
FOOD <sup>2/</sup>	113.7	112.1	111.5	114.6	100.5	47.1
Food at home	113.7	111.7	111.1	114.6	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	118.9	118.4	118.0	116.9	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	111.3	109.2	106.8	116.5	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	107.5	107.8	109.0	108.9	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	121.7	115.2	115.0	122.4	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	110.9	110.3	110.4	105.2	94.1	<u>6/</u>
HOUSING <sup>3/</sup>	117.4	117.1	117.0	114.0	104.9	<u>6/</u>
Rent	123.3	123.0	122.1	117.6	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	106.4	106.6	106.5	104.3	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	121.8	121.8	123.6	115.8	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	108.0	107.6	107.8	107.7	97.4	53.4
Household operation	115.4	114.7	114.3	111.2	99.6	<u>6/</u>
APPAREL <sup>4/</sup>	104.6	104.7	104.6	105.6	96.5	52.5
TRANSPORTATION	129.4	129.4	129.4	126.3	109.9	<u>6/</u>
MEDICAL CARE	121.1	120.7	120.2	117.8	105.4	<u>6/</u>
PERSONAL CARE	112.6	112.8	112.5	111.7	99.2	<u>6/</u>
READING AND RECREATION	107.8	108.0	107.9	106.8	102.5	<u>6/</u>
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <sup>5/</sup>	118.2	118.0	117.9	115.7	103.7	<u>6/</u>

**PERCENT CHANGE TO JUNE 1953 FROM:**

	May 1953	April 1953	June 1952	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0.4	0.7	1.0	12.5	92.8
FOOD <sup>2/</sup>	1.4	2.0	- 0.8	13.1	141.4
Food at home	1.8	2.3	- 0.8	13.1	141.4
Cereals and bakery products	0.4	0.8	1.7	15.8	107.9
Meats, poultry and fish	1.9	4.2	- 4.5	4.9	167.5
Dairy products	- 0.3	- 1.4	- 1.3	16.5	115.9
Fruits and vegetables	5.6	5.8	- 0.6	18.7	162.9
Other foods at home	0.5	0.5	5.4	17.9	129.1 <u>7/</u>
HOUSING <sup>3/</sup>	0.3	0.3	3.0	11.9	54.3 <u>7/</u>
Rent	0.2	1.0	4.8	13.4	42.4
Gas and electricity	- 0.2	- 0.1	2.0	3.6	1.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil	0	- 1.5	5.2	13.2	116.0
Housefurnishings	0.4	0.2	0.3	10.9	102.2
Household operation	0.6	1.0	3.8	15.9	68.7 <u>7/</u>
APPAREL <sup>4/</sup>	- 0.1	0	- 0.9	8.4	99.2
TRANSPORTATION	0	0	2.5	17.7	87.8 <u>7/</u>
MEDICAL CARE	0.3	0.7	2.8	14.9	66.8 <u>7/</u>
PERSONAL CARE	- 0.2	0.1	0.8	13.5	88.9 <u>7/</u>
READING AND RECREATION	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.9	5.2	71.1 <u>7/</u>
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <sup>5/</sup>	0.2	0.3	2.2	14.0	67.4 <u>7/</u>

<sup>1/</sup> See General Explanation at end of tables.

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>7/</sup> Approximate.

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>1/</sup> -- ALL ITEMS INDEXES FOR SELECTED DATES  
U.S. Average and 20 Large Cities

City	(1947-49 = 100)					(1935-39 = 100)
	June 1953	May 1953	April 1953	June 1952	June 1950	June 1953 <sup>2/</sup>
U.S. AVERAGE <sup>3/</sup>	114.5	114.0	113.7	113.4	101.8	191.4
<b>CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:</b>						
Chicago	115.3	114.6	114.2	114.9	102.8	196.4
Detroit	116.6	115.8	115.2	113.9	102.8	196.8
Los Angeles	115.4	115.3	115.6	114.8	101.3	192.8
New York	112.0	111.4	111.1	110.9	100.9	185.4
Philadelphia	114.6	113.8	113.7	113.6	101.6	190.7
<b>CITIES PRICED IN JAN., APR., JULY, OCT. <sup>4/</sup></b>						
Boston			111.7	111.1	101.2	179.8
Kansas City			114.3	113.9	101.4	184.0
Minneapolis			115.1	113.5 <sup>5/</sup>	102.1 <sup>5/</sup>	190.6
Pittsburgh			112.8	112.3	99.9	191.8
Portland, Ore.			115.4	114.7	101.5	199.9
<b>CITIES PRICED IN MAR., JUNE, SEPT., DEC. <sup>4/</sup></b>						
Atlanta	117.1			114.6 <sup>6/</sup>	101.3 <sup>6/</sup>	198.6
Baltimore	115.1			113.0	101.6	197.9
Cincinnati	114.5			112.9	101.2	192.8
St. Louis	115.8			115.5	101.1	193.3
San Francisco	116.1			114.9	100.9	198.4
<b>CITIES PRICED IN FEB., MAY, AUG., NOV. <sup>4/</sup></b>						
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

<sup>1/</sup> See General Explanation at end of tables.

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

<sup>3/</sup> 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.

<sup>4/</sup> Foods, fuels, rents and a few other items priced monthly; other commodities and services priced quarterly.

<sup>5/</sup> March 1952 and June 1950; formerly priced March, June, September, December.

<sup>6/</sup> May 1952 and May 1950; formerly priced February, May, August, November.

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX <sup>1/</sup> -- PERCENT CHANGES FROM MAY 1953 TO JUNE 1953  
U.S. Average and Five Cities Priced Monthly  
All Items and Commodity Groups

City	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical Care	Personal Care	Reading & Recreation	Other Goods & Services
U.S. AVERAGE	0.4	1.4	0.3	- 0.1	0	0.3	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.2
Chicago	0.6	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	- 0.1	0.1	0.5
Detroit	0.7	1.5	0.3	0.2	1.0	0	0.2	0.2	0.7
Los Angeles	0.1	0.1	0.2	- 0.4	0	0.1	- 0.3	- 0.3	0
New York	0.5	1.5	0.1	- 0.1	0.2	0	0	- 0.3	0.1
Philadelphia	0.7	2.2	0.2	- 0.1	0	0.5	- 0.3	- 0.3	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  
June 1953 Indexes and Percent Changes, March 1953 to June 1953  
U.S. Average and 10 Cities Priced in June

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 Operations						
	2/	3/	3/					4/					5/	
June 1953 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)														
U.S. AVERAGE	114.5	113.7	117.4	123.3	106.4	121.8	108.0	115.4	104.6	129.4	121.1	112.6	107.8	118.2
Atlanta	117.1	114.5	122.7		108.6	112.2	112.7	127.1	110.3	129.2	118.9	115.2	111.1	117.6
Baltimore	115.1	114.6	113.3		97.3	122.1	103.4	109.2	104.2	138.8	132.0	107.9	119.3	118.9
Chicago	115.3	112.4	120.3		100.0	119.8	109.7	118.6	106.8	133.8	120.0	114.2	109.9	112.9
Cincinnati	114.5	116.9	115.0	123.4	113.1	118.5	104.4	115.7	104.8	130.0	121.5	108.8	99.1	116.0
Detroit	116.6	116.7	119.0		108.4	117.0	110.8	106.6	103.5	126.9	121.3	119.5	110.8	123.7
Los Angeles	115.4	112.3	123.5		109.5		111.0	107.6	103.2	126.8	119.9	117.5	103.7	113.9
New York	112.0	112.0	114.4		107.9	125.8	108.3	118.6	104.8	127.5	120.5	106.7	106.1	118.3
Philadelphia	114.6	115.8	112.6		101.8	118.2	109.9	113.2	104.1	133.5	120.3	116.2	112.2	122.0
St. Louis	115.8	115.0	115.7	117.1	100.1	127.9	109.1	116.7	104.6	136.9	133.1	109.8	100.1	116.1
San Francisco	116.1	114.1	117.0	122.1	130.1		109.7	109.0	103.6	142.0	121.0	112.9	105.1	115.4
Percent Change -- March 1953 to June 1953														
U.S. AVERAGE	0.8	1.8	0.5	1.3	- 0.1	- 2.1	0	1.2	- 0.1	0.1	1.3	0.2	0.1	0.6
Atlanta	0.3	2.0	- 0.5		- 0.5	- 6.1	0.6	1.0	- 0.7	- 1.0	0.8	- 0.2	0.6	0.7
Baltimore	0.8	2.6	- 0.4		- 0.5	- 3.6	0.2	0.1	1.4	0.6	- 0.1	2.1	0.3	0.6
Chicago	1.3	2.5	0.8		0	- 1.8	1.6	0.9	0.5	- 0.1	2.7	- 0.3	0.6	1.5
Cincinnati	1.7	3.7	1.9	6/ 6.9	0.5	- 3.3	0.5	3.5	0.1	- 0.5	0.2	0	- 0.3	2.1
Detroit	1.2	2.5	0.3		- 1.3	- 0.3	0.2	0.4	0.6	1.0	3.9	0.3	- 0.1	0.7
Los Angeles	0	- 0.8	0.8		0.7		- 0.1	0.8	- 0.8	- 0.5	1.4	- 0.4	- 0.8	0.3
New York	0.7	1.4	1.2		- 0.1	- 3.4	- 0.7	0	- 0.7	0.1	- 0.2	0.8	- 0.7	0.3
Philadelphia	0.4	2.0	- 0.4		0	- 5.7	- 1.3	1.9	- 1.0	0.5	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1	0
St. Louis	1.0	2.3	1.0	6/ 0.3	4.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	- 0.2	0.5	- 0.2	- 0.6	0.6
San Francisco	0.5	1.3	0.8	6/ 1.6	0		0.5	0.6	- 1.6	- 0.8	0.8	- 0.1	0.8	0.7

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

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX 1/ -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS  
June 1953 Indexes and Percent Changes, May 1953 to June 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	113.7	1.4	113.7	1.8	118.9	0.4	111.3	1.9	107.5	- 0.3	121.7	5.6	110.9	0.5
Atlanta	114.5	1.5	114.4	1.6	116.1	0.2	116.7	1.3	111.3	- 0.3	125.5	7.5	104.5	- 0.1
Baltimore	114.6	2.1	114.5	2.5	117.4	0.3	112.8	2.5	112.5	0.1	122.5	9.0	108.9	0.6
Boston	111.2	2.2	110.9	2.8	117.1	0.2	105.8	2.2	105.9	- 0.2	120.1	11.0	107.2	1.0
Chicago	112.4	1.4	112.3	1.6	114.4	- 0.7	106.9	2.1	108.3	- 0.3	120.0	5.7	117.2	0.3
Cincinnati	116.9	2.5	117.0	2.7	117.7	0.1	116.9	3.3	109.2	0.1	124.9	8.7	116.3	0.8
Cleveland	110.5	1.2	110.1	1.4	114.9	- 0.1	108.0	1.9	99.5	0.2	115.9	4.6	111.8	- 0.2
Detroit	116.7	1.5	116.8	1.7	116.5	0.2	110.6	2.2	109.7	0	134.3	5.3	112.1	0
Houston	112.6	0.6	111.9	0.7	115.9	0.9	108.2	0.6	107.7	- 0.4	118.8	2.9	111.1	0
Kansas City	110.7	0.5	110.2	0.5	117.8	0.5	107.6	0	103.0	- 2.8	115.8	5.1	108.2	0.1
Los Angeles	112.3	0.1	111.5	0.1	118.3	0.5	111.1	1.5	109.3	- 0.2	106.9	- 2.6	111.7	0.4
Minneapolis	112.6	- 0.1	112.8	- 0.2	119.8	0.2	105.3	0	105.2	- 3.0	124.6	1.5	117.1	0.4
New York	112.0	1.5	111.8	1.8	123.0	0.3	109.0	0.7	102.2	0	119.0	6.4	111.1	1.7
Philadelphia	115.8	2.2	115.8	2.6	119.0	0.3	111.9	1.5	109.6	- 0.1	128.7	10.9	111.1	0.9
Pittsburgh	114.8	2.0	115.0	2.4	119.5	0.2	107.9	2.2	110.1	- 0.1	124.9	10.3	118.5	0.3
Portland, Ore.	114.0	0.5	114.1	0.6	115.1	0.3	117.6	2.4	109.7	- 0.3	111.9	- 1.8	114.1	1.2
St. Louis	115.0	1.9	114.8	2.0	113.5	0.3	113.5	2.0	100.5	- 0.1	127.8	8.6	117.3	- 0.6
San Francisco	114.1	0.2	114.6	0.8	127.6	3.2	112.0	2.3	110.2	- 0.1	120.7	- 1.1	108.6	- 0.3
Scranton	113.7	2.0	113.4	2.3	116.9	0.5	111.1	3.3	107.5	- 0.4	120.8	7.4	110.9	0.6
Seattle	113.2	1.1	113.3	1.3	119.7	0.3	111.8	3.7	107.2	- 1.3	121.1	2.5	108.9	- 0.3
Washington, D.C.	113.1	2.1	112.9	2.5	115.6	- 0.1	108.0	2.5	113.9	0.6	119.6	9.0	109.4	0.6

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. <sup>1/</sup>

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 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).

<sup>1/</sup> 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.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
Martin P. Durkin, Secretary

Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Washington 25, D. C.

FOR RELEASE: Friday, July 24, 1953  
2:00 P.M., E.D.T.

EXECUTIVE 3-2420  
Moffatt - Ext. 532

"Old Series" Consumers' Price Index, June 1953

"Old Series" Consumers' Price Indexes have been 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 Bureau of Labor Statistics has no authorization or appropriation to continue the "Old Series" beyond the June Index issued in this release. The Revised Index only will be issued hereafter, on the 1935-39 = 100 base as well as on the official 1947-49 = 100 base period.

This will be the last report for the "old series" index.

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 June 1953 was 190.9 (1935-39 = 100), an increase of 1.1 percent from May, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. There was also an increase of 1.1 percent over the March-June quarter, which, for both periods, reflected 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 18 CITIES BY GROUPS

JUNE 15, 1953

(1935-39 = 100)

City	All Items	Food	Apparel	Rent	Total	Fuel, Elec. & Refrigeration Gas & Elec.	House-furnishings	Miscellaneous
U. S. AVERAGE	190.9	227.4	202.2	140.3	151.8	100.8	206.4	179.9
Atlanta, Ga.	197.7	232.0	215.8		161.0	87.5	216.7	189.9
Baltimore, Md.	194.6	242.1	197.3		157.0	112.6	211.1	181.0
Birmingham, Ala.	196.6	222.1	211.3		137.8	79.3	195.7	175.5
Boston, Mass.	180.6	213.5	186.2		168.0	118.5	194.2	172.0
Chicago, Ill.	195.7	229.3	209.2		139.9	83.5	196.2	181.1
Cincinnati, Ohio	195.0	235.8	203.5	136.7	160.3	110.6	195.0	181.4
Detroit, Mich.	200.4	235.4	199.6		164.8	92.7	218.4	199.1
Houston, Texas	193.4	232.1	212.6		106.2	91.4	196.7	182.6
Jacksonville, Fla.	198.2	231.4	193.6	166.9	155.7	86.6	202.4	188.8
Los Angeles, Calif.	188.7	222.3	192.8		107.8	100.6	204.4	178.4
Memphis, Tenn.	190.8	236.9	216.6	146.0	154.0	81.8	184.3	162.2
Mobile, Ala.	185.6	220.6	203.4	*152.5	135.2	84.6	179.1	164.4
New York, N.Y.	185.4	226.1	205.5		150.3	105.8	195.3	177.9
Philadelphia, Pa.	190.5	226.7	197.4		155.2	104.2	212.2	179.9
Pittsburgh, Pa.	194.6	234.9	227.4		159.7	114.0	205.4	175.0
Portland, Me.	181.9	205.7	203.9	135.1	165.5	114.5	203.9	174.3
St. Louis, Mo.	192.9	240.3	203.5	134.2	158.3	90.8	183.5	173.2
San Francisco, Calif.	199.1	241.8	196.4	137.4	106.4	94.2	176.3	200.5

PERCENT CHANGE FROM MARCH 15, 1953

U.S. AVERAGE	1.1	2.0	0.2	1.2	-1.5	0.2		0.6
Atlanta, Ga.	1.4	3.7	0.1		-2.5	-0.2	1.1	-0.3
Baltimore, Md.	1.4	3.1	0.4		-2.7	-0.4	-0.1	-0.3
Birmingham, Ala.	0.7	2.4	-0.1		-5.8	0	0.1	0.2
Boston, Mass.	0.8	2.3	-0.2		-3.1	0.1	-0.7	0.5
Chicago, Ill.	1.7	2.8	1.9		-1.8	0	1.5	0.8
Cincinnati, Ohio	2.5	4.2	0.3	2/6.9	-1.3	0.7	0	0
Detroit, Mich.	2.1	4.6	0.5		0	-1.0	0.6	0.8
Houston, Texas	-0.3	-1.4	-0.7		0	-0.1	-1.2	1.4
Jacksonville, Fla.	1.3	2.5	0.1	1.0	2.4	0	1.6	-0.1
Los Angeles, Calif.	-1.4	-3.8	0.1		0.7	0	-0.3	0.5
Memphis, Tenn.	1.5	2.8	0.8	0	3.1	0	0.1	0.2
Mobile, Ala.	-0.9	-2.7	0.2	0	0	-0.1	-0.1	1.0
New York, N. Y.	1.5	2.6	-0.2		-2.2	-0.1	-0.8	0.2
Philadelphia, Pa.	1.0	2.6	-0.3		-3.1	0	-0.8	0.7
Pittsburgh, Pa.	1.5	2.9	-0.5		0.1	0	-1.2	0.3
Portland, Me.	0.2	0.8	0	0.7	-3.2	0.2	-0.4	0.5
St. Louis, Mo.	1.3	2.3	0.6	2/0.3	1.1	2.7	0	0.2
San Francisco, Calif.	0.9	1.2	-0.1	2/1.6	0	0	0.3	1.0

1/ For details on the reinstitution of the "old series" indexes see "Memorandum to Users of the Consumer Price Index, February 3, 1953."

2/ Change from December 1952.

Labor - D. C.

\* March corrected from 152.6 to 152.5