

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

NOVEMBER 1953

Consumer Price Index Declines 0.3 Percent
Between October and November as Food
Prices Drop 1.4 Percent

: This report presents the Consumer Price Index for :
: November 1953 for the average of U.S. cities and :
: for individual cities. The measure 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 bought by the nation's urban wage earners and clerical workers turned downward by 0.3 percent in November 1953, interrupting the gradual rise of the past eight months, the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Food prices, declining for the third consecutive month, dropped 1.4 percent over the month and were mainly responsible for the decrease in the All Items Index. Transportation costs were 0.5 percent lower than in October, and Apparel prices were unchanged on the average. All other groups of items rose during the month: Housing, 0.2 percent; Medical Care, 0.4 percent; Personal Care, 0.2 percent; Reading and Recreation, 0.3 percent; and Other Goods and Services, 0.4 percent.

The index for All Items for November 1953 was 115.0 percent of the 1947-49 average, 0.6 percent higher than a year ago and 13.0 percent above the level of June 1950. Converted to a base of 1935-39 = 100, the November 1953 index was 192.3.

FOOD The U.S. Food index fell 1.4 percent between October and November as average decreases in retail food prices were reported in all but one of the 46 cities surveyed. This was the largest monthly decline in food prices since last February when, as now, prices of meats and eggs dropped considerably. The November index was 112.0 (1947-49 = 100), 2.6 percent below a year ago, but 11.4 percent above the June 1950 index.

An average decrease of over 7 percent in pork prices (bacon declining about 11 percent) was accompanied by smaller price reductions in beef and veal (about 2½ percent), lamb (about 1½ percent), other meats (over 1 percent) and poultry (nearly 2 percent). Hog marketings reached a seasonal peak, and cattle marketings surpassed all previous records. Fish prices were slightly lower. These combined to produce the sharpest monthly decline (3.7 percent) in the Meats, Poultry and Fish index since February 1949.

The decrease of 2.2 percent in the index of Other Foods at Home was caused primarily by lower egg prices in nearly all cities. Between October and November, eggs dropped more than 8 percent in price, marking the end of the previous seasonal advance. Lard prices also decreased while margarine prices rose in most cities.

Fruit and Vegetable prices decreased 0.3 percent, on the average, but group changes and changes in the prices of individual items varied considerably from city to city. The average of fresh fruit prices was down slightly. Fresh vegetables averaged a bit

higher in price. Increases in fresh produce prices were most frequently reported for apples, green beans and tomatoes, the latter rising substantially. Prices of lettuce and oranges were generally lower. Canned fruits and vegetables decreased 0.4 percent.

Increases in milk prices in New York and St. Louis along with small advances in butter prices in many cities accounted for most of the 0.4 percent rise in the Dairy Products index over the month. Prices for Cereals and Bakery Products were up 0.2 percent on the average. Restaurant meal prices were down 0.1 percent.

HOUSING The rise of 0.2 percent in the Housing index was due in large measure to continued rent increases, following the end of Federal rent control on July 31, combined with smaller advances for other subgroups. Rents rose 0.4 percent between October and November. An increase in telephone rates in Houston was the chief factor in the rise of 0.3 percent for Household Operation. Prices of laundry soap were generally lower.

The Housefurnishings index was up 0.2 percent, but both higher and lower prices were reported for a number of items. Among items with higher prices were bedroom suites and sheets, which generally returned to regular prices following sales. Gas and Electricity was 0.3 percent higher than in October, as gas rates were advanced in several cities. Solid Fuels and Fuel Oil prices rose 0.2 percent during the month.

APPAREL Prices of Apparel remained at the October level and there were no significant movements among the subgroups. Among individual items prices of men's shirts and topcoats, women's shoes and boys' jackets were higher in a number of cities while in others decreases were reported for women's fur coats and rayon blouses, and diapers.

OTHER GROUPS Transportation costs declined 0.5 percent between October and November, primarily as the result of further decreases in prices of used cars. Prices of gasoline were lower in a few cities and auto repairs advanced slightly.

Medical Care costs rose 0.4 percent as additional increases in rates were reported for hospital and professional services.

Personal Care costs increased 0.2 percent, with scattered reports of higher prices of toilet soap and other items.

Reading and Recreation was 0.3 percent higher than in October, as additional motion picture theatres showed "special" attractions at increased rates. Prices of sporting goods were lower. Price changes for television sets were mixed, with some stores reporting lower prices for 1953 models and other stores reporting higher prices for some new models.

Other Goods and Services rose 0.4 percent during the month, as beer prices continued to advance.

:NOTE: For the convenience of users who have contractual :
:arrangements with indexes on the base of 1935-39 = 100, :
:the Bureau will continue to publish, on the 1935-39 base, :
:during 1954 the all-items indexes as revised January 1953 :
:for the U.S. and each of the 20 cities. :

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

GROUP	November 1953	October 1953	September 1953	November 1952	June 1950	Year 1939
	This Month	Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year	Pre-Korea	World War II
INDEXES (1947-49 = 100)						
ALL ITEMS	115.0	115.4	115.2	114.3	101.8	59.4
FOOD ^{2/}	112.0	113.6	113.8	115.0	100.5	47.1
Food at home	111.4	113.3	113.5	115.0	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	120.6	120.4	120.3	117.5	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	107.0	111.1	113.5	114.3	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	110.5	110.1	109.6	113.3	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	107.4	107.7	106.6	115.9	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	114.8	117.4	116.7	114.3	94.1	6/
HOUSING ^{3/}	118.9	118.7	118.4	115.7	104.9	6/
Rent	127.3	126.8	126.0	119.5	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	107.3	107.0	106.9	105.4	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	125.9	125.7	124.6	121.6	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	108.3	108.1	108.1	108.0	97.4	53.4
Household operation	116.9	116.6	116.0	113.3	99.6	6/
APPAREL ^{4/}	105.5	105.5	105.3	105.2	96.5	52.5
TRANSPORTATION	130.1	130.7	130.7	128.9	109.9	6/
MEDICAL CARE	123.3	122.8	122.6	118.9	105.4	6/
PERSONAL CARE	113.4	113.2	112.9	112.4	99.2	6/
READING AND RECREATION	109.9	108.6	107.8	107.4	102.5	6/
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{5/}	120.2	119.7	118.5	115.8	103.7	6/

PERCENT CHANGE TO NOVEMBER 1953 FROM:

	October 1953	September 1953	November 1952	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	- 0.3	- 0.2	0.6	13.0	93.6
FOOD ^{2/}	- 1.4	- 1.6	- 2.6	11.4	137.8
Food at home	- 1.7	- 1.9	- 3.1	10.8	136.5
Cereals and bakery products	0.2	0.2	2.6	17.4	110.8
Meats, poultry and fish	- 3.7	- 5.7	- 6.4	0.8	157.2
Dairy products	0.4	0.3	- 2.5	19.7	121.9
Fruits and vegetables	- 0.3	0.8	- 7.3	4.8	132.0
Other foods at home	- 2.2	- 1.6	0.4	22.0	137.2 ^{7/}
HOUSING ^{3/}	0.2	0.4	2.8	13.3	56.2 ^{7/}
Rent	0.4	1.0	6.5	17.1	47.0
Gas and electricity	0.3	0.4	1.8	4.5	2.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil	0.2	1.0	3.5	17.0	123.2
Housefurnishings	0.2	0.2	0.3	11.2	102.8
Household operation	0.3	0.8	3.2	17.4	70.9 ^{7/}
APPAREL ^{4/}	0	0.2	0.3	9.3	101.0
TRANSPORTATION	- 0.5	- 0.5	0.9	16.4	88.8 ^{7/}
MEDICAL CARE	0.4	0.6	3.7	17.0	69.8 ^{7/}
PERSONAL CARE	0.2	0.4	0.9	14.3	90.3 ^{7/}
READING AND RECREATION	0.3	1.0	1.4	6.2	72.9 ^{7/}
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{5/}	0.4	1.4	3.8	15.9	70.3 ^{7/}

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

^{2/} Includes "Food away from home".

^{3/} Includes "Other shelter"; estimates for rent, home purchase, and other home owner costs are reflected monthly in total housing and all items.

^{4/} Indexes for subgroups of apparel not yet available.

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

^{6/} Not available.

^{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)
	November 1953	October 1953	September 1953	November 1952	June 1950	November 1953 ^{2/}
U.S. AVERAGE ^{3/}	115.0	115.4	115.2	114.3	101.8	192.3
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	116.4	117.1	116.6	115.1	102.8	198.2
Detroit	116.7	117.2	116.9	115.3	102.8	197.0
Los Angeles	116.1	116.3	116.2	115.1	101.3	194.0
New York	112.9	113.3	113.2	112.9	100.9	186.8
Philadelphia	114.7	115.3	115.2	114.7	101.6	190.9
CITIES PRICED IN JAN., APR., JULY, OCT. ^{4/}						
				October 1952	April 1950	October 1953
Boston		113.8		113.4	101.2	183.2
Kansas City		115.7		115.2	101.4	186.3
Minneapolis		116.6		114.8 ^{5/}	102.1 ^{5/}	193.1
Pittsburgh		114.7		113.4	99.9	195.0
Portland, Ore.		116.1		115.0	101.5	201.1
CITIES PRICED IN MAR., JUNE, SEPT., DEC. ^{4/}						
				September 1952	June 1950	September 1953
Atlanta			117.6	117.0 ^{6/}	101.3 ^{6/}	199.4
Baltimore			115.0	115.0	101.6	197.7
Cincinnati			115.3	113.2	101.2	194.2
St. Louis			117.1	115.5	101.1	195.4
San Francisco			116.9	114.5	100.9	199.8
CITIES PRICED IN FEB., MAY, AUG., NOV. ^{4/}						
				November 1952	May 1950	November 1953
Cleveland	115.5			113.6	100.4	196.8
Houston	117.3			116.0	103.5	198.6
Scranton	113.4			113.1	100.2	188.5
Seattle	116.4			115.6	102.0	198.9
Washington, D. C.	114.3			113.8	101.6	187.7

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

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

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

City	All Items	Food ^{2/}	Housing ^{3/}	Apparel ^{4/}	Trans- portation	Medical Care	Personal Care	Reading & Recreation	Other Goods & Services ^{5/}
U.S. AVERAGE	- 0.3	- 1.4	0.2	0	- 0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4
Chicago	- 0.6	- 2.1	0.2	0	- 0.4	0.2	0.3	- 1.4	2.0
Detroit	- 0.4	- 1.5	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.5	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.5
Los Angeles	- 0.2	- 1.0	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.1	0	- 0.8	0.2
New York	- 0.4	- 1.3	0.1	0	- 0.5	1.7	0.3	2.0	- 0.1
Philadelphia	- 0.5	- 1.5	- 0.1	0.4	- 0.5	0	0.6	- 0.4	0.5

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

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

City	All Items	Total Food 2/	Housing					Apparel 4/	Transportation	Medical Care	Personal Care	Reading & Recreation	Other Goods & Services 5/	
			Total 3/	Rent	Cas & Elec- tricity	Solid Fuels & Fuel Oil	House- fur- nish- ings							House hold Opera- tion
November 1953 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)														
U.S. AVERAGE	115.0	112.0	118.9	127.3	107.3	125.9	108.3	116.9	105.5	130.1	123.3	113.4	108.9	120.2
Chicago	116.4	110.4	124.2		99.9	123.9	110.2	120.7	108.4	132.8	122.7	114.0	109.3	119.2
Cleveland	115.5	110.5	119.4		106.8	123.8	105.6	110.8	105.0	124.0	127.6	114.5	119.5	120.0
Detroit	116.7	114.4	121.1		110.1	119.2	111.0	106.9	103.4	126.2	122.0	119.9	112.8	125.2
Houston	117.3	111.9	124.1		106.5		103.8	128.9	108.1	126.9	119.2	120.1	114.9	119.4
Los Angeles	116.1	112.7	124.7	137.3	109.5		110.3	108.1	104.0	127.5	121.1	117.9	103.0	114.8
New York	112.9	110.7	115.5		108.9	131.8	107.7	119.2	105.9	133.5	123.4	107.7	109.2	121.0
Philadelphia	114.7	114.1	113.3		102.3	124.3	110.2	113.1	106.9	135.4	120.4	116.8	110.8	122.9
Scranton	113.4	111.6	116.3	121.9	112.2	139.9	103.3	107.8	106.8	130.4	119.5	112.7	125.4	115.5
Seattle	116.4	110.8	118.9		99.0	127.0	107.9	111.5	107.3	132.6	129.5	111.1	115.2	127.2
Washington, D.C.	114.3	110.6	118.3	122.7	118.1	134.0	110.3	114.4	103.8	128.4	117.9	111.6	111.4	127.2

Percent Change -- August 1953 to November 1953

U.S. AVERAGE	0	-1.8	0.8	1.8	0.4	1.6	0.8	0.9	1.2	-0.4	1.2	0.6	1.2	1.5
Chicago	0.1	-1.7	0.9		0	1.1	0.7	0.4	1.1	-1.1	1.2	-0.2	-1.9	5.6
Cleveland	0.3	-1.5	1.0		0	2.3	0.6	0.4	0.1	-0.9	0.7	0.6	5.1	3.0
Detroit	-0.2	-2.0	0.8		0.9	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	-1.1	0.4	0.5	2.9	1.3
Houston	0.4	-0.8	1.3		0		0	7.1	1.4	-0.2	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.1
Los Angeles	0.3	-0.5	0.8	6/ 1.6	0		0.5	0.4	1.1	-0.5	0.7	0.3	0.9	1.0
New York	0.2	-1.2	0.5		0.1	2.3	0.6	0.3	1.6	-0.5	1.5	0.8	2.8	1.7
Philadelphia	-0.2	-2.1	0.3		0.5	2.1	0.6	-0.1	3.1	0.4	0.1	0.4	1.7	0.7
Scranton	0.2	-1.8	0.9	6/ 2.6	0.3	1.9	1.8	1.0	0.1	0.2	3.9	0.7	6.6	0.1
Seattle	-0.3	-2.5	0		0	0	0.3	1.2	-0.3	-0.5	3.2	-0.1	2.2	1.0
Washington, D.C.	0.1	-2.4	1.6	6/ 3.5	0.9	2.9	1.6	1.1	-0.2	-0.3	0.2	0.2	2.0	1.1

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

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

	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	112.0	-1.4	111.4	-1.7	120.6	0.2	107.0	-3.7	110.5	0.4	107.4	-0.3	114.8	-2.2
Atlanta	112.1	-2.2	111.6	-2.6	115.0	-0.4	112.8	-4.3	110.7	0.5	110.4	-3.9	108.1	-2.8
Baltimore	113.1	-0.8	112.4	-0.9	120.7	3.5	109.7	-2.9	111.9	0	108.2	0	113.0	-1.8
Boston	110.0	-1.4	108.7	-1.6	119.1	0.2	103.9	-4.9	111.6	0.3	103.4	2.6	107.2	-2.6
Chicago	110.4	-2.1	109.6	-2.4	117.2	0.4	101.4	-4.6	110.3	-0.2	106.4	-1.3	120.9	-3.4
Cincinnati	114.6	-1.5	114.3	-1.8	120.0	0.5	110.5	-3.7	112.4	0.4	110.9	0.1	120.6	-3.1
Cleveland	110.5	-0.9	109.7	-1.5	116.9	0	103.7	-3.2	108.3	0.3	104.6	-0.1	117.6	-2.2
Detroit	114.4	-1.5	113.6	-1.4	118.0	-0.2	107.6	-2.7	109.7	0.1	115.5	1.2	115.0	-3.4
Houston	111.9	-0.4	111.0	-1.2	115.0	0	106.4	-4.1	110.7	0.3	109.7	0.9	114.2	-0.3
Kansas City	110.2	-0.8	109.9	-0.9	120.3	0.1	104.3	-2.8	108.5	0.2	107.7	2.2	111.7	-2.2
Los Angeles	112.7	-1.0	111.3	-1.3	122.2	-0.1	107.6	-3.4	108.6	0	105.5	1.9	114.6	-2.6
Minneapolis	111.9	-1.3	111.3	-1.7	122.4	0.1	99.9	-3.8	107.0	0.4	116.7	1.0	121.0	-3.3
New York	110.7	-1.3	110.4	-1.4	125.0	-0.2	107.8	-2.8	109.4	1.2	101.5	-2.0	114.0	-1.8
Philadelphia	114.1	-1.5	113.4	-1.7	121.2	0.2	106.5	-4.1	114.2	0.2	110.6	-0.6	114.0	-2.0
Pittsburgh	113.5	-1.3	113.2	-1.5	119.4	0.1	104.2	-4.1	112.4	0.1	111.1	0.4	124.2	-1.7
Portland, Ore.	111.5	-1.8	111.0	-2.2	116.9	-0.7	109.5	-4.1	109.1	-0.3	104.2	-0.3	115.3	-3.4
St. Louis	114.5	-0.9	113.7	-1.0	115.3	0.3	106.8	-4.2	109.4	3.0	117.6	1.5	122.5	-2.0
San Francisco	112.8	-1.4	112.4	-1.7	127.1	-0.2	106.9	-3.5	110.2	0.2	112.1	0.6	112.5	-2.8
Scranton	111.6	-1.5	111.3	-1.5	119.0	0.5	106.0	-4.5	112.8	0.2	105.1	1.4	113.9	-2.2
Seattle	110.8	-1.1	110.5	-1.2	122.1	-0.2	105.6	-3.6	106.9	0	109.2	2.4	112.2	-2.1
Washington, D.C.	110.6	-1.2	109.8	-1.5	115.3	0.3	104.9	-3.0	114.3	-0.1	104.2	-1.1	111.7	-1.8

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

GENERAL EXPLANATION

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.

