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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - MAY 1954

Consumer prices in U.S. cities advanced 0.3 percent between April and May, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The increase, which halted the downward movement of the last three months, mainly resulted from advances of 0.8 percent in food prices and 0.3 percent for housing. Other groups of goods and services were substantially unchanged during the month.

The all items index for May was 115.0 percent of the 1947-49 average, 0.9 percent higher than a year ago, and 13.0 percent above the June 1950 level. On a 1935-39 base, the May index was 192.3.

FOOD The rise of 0.8 percent in food prices, the largest monthly increase since June 1953, brought the food index for May to 113.3 (1947-49 = 100). This was 1.1 percent higher than a year ago and 12.7 percent above the level of June 1950. Food prices averaged higher in 45 of the 46 cities surveyed.

Fresh vegetable prices rose sharply during the month. Supplies of some vegetables were curtailed by cold weather. Prices of tomatoes and lettuce were up almost 20 percent; onions, 18 percent; and potatoes, 11 percent. Prices of green beans were nearly 6 percent lower than a month ago. Oranges and apples rose about 5 percent between April and May, and strawberry prices dropped 20 percent. Prices of frozen orange juice concentrate advanced 11 percent, and canned orange juice rose slightly, bringing to an end the downward movement in prices which began last fall as a result of the large Florida orange crop.

Coffee prices continued upward during May, to reach an average of \$1.18 a pound.

Prices of most meats advanced during the month, reflecting recent increases at wholesale. Round steak and pork chops were up almost 2 percent; ham, 1½ percent; and bacon, 1 percent. Poultry prices declined about 3½ percent between April and May, as young chickens continued in abundant supply.

Egg prices, reflecting heavy production, dropped for the seventh consecutive month, from an average of 79.5 cents a dozen last October to 53.8 cents a dozen in May. A reduction in the size of chocolate candy bars resulted in a price increase of 2 percent.

Prices of all dairy products except ice cream showed further declines, reflecting seasonal decreases and continued effects of the reduction in support prices on April 1.

HOUSING

Average increases of 0.1 percent were reported for residential rent and gas and electricity between April and May. Prices of laundry soap and detergents continued to rise. Anthracite prices dropped $5\frac{1}{2}$ percent, while bituminous coal and fuel oil were down about 2 percent. Substantial reductions in prices of sheets and some other household goods were reported in May sales. The rise in the housing index between April and May, however, was due mainly to the introduction at this time of changes which occurred during the past year in rates for mortgage interest, real estate taxes, and fire insurance on homes.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Price changes in other groups during May were relatively small. A few stores reported small increases for men's business shirts and undershirts, while some shoe stores marked down children's shoes for special sales. Some physicians and dentists raised their fees, and hospital services advanced slightly. Personal care services were up, as were toilet soap and cleansing tissues. Prices of television sets decreased as new models came on the market at lower prices.

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TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- U.S. CITY AVERAGE ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUPS
Indexes and Percent Changes for Selected Dates
INDEXES (1947-49 = 100)

| GROUP | May 1954 | April 1954 | March 1954 | May 1953 | June 1950 | Year 1939 |
|--|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|
| | This Month | Last Month | 2 Months Ago | Last Year | Pre-Korea | Pre-World War II |
| ALL ITEMS ----- | 115.0 | 114.6 | 114.8 | 114.0 | 101.8 | 59.4 |
| FOOD ^{1/} ----- | 113.3 | 112.4 | 112.1 | 112.1 | 100.5 | 47.1 |
| Food at home ----- | 112.8 | 111.8 | 111.4 | 111.7 | 100.5 | 47.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products ----- | 121.3 | 121.1 | 121.2 | 118.4 | 102.7 | 57.2 |
| Meats, poultry and fish ----- | 111.0 | 110.5 | 109.5 | 109.2 | 106.1 | 41.6 |
| Dairy products ----- | 103.5 | 104.6 | 108.0 | 107.8 | 92.3 | 49.8 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | 114.6 | 110.0 | 107.8 | 115.2 | 102.5 | 46.3 |
| Other foods at home ----- | 114.5 | 113.6 | 112.3 | 110.3 | 94.1 | 48.4 |
| HOUSING ^{2/} ----- | 118.9 | 118.5 | 119.0 | 117.1 | 104.9 | 76.1 |
| Rent ----- | 128.3 | 128.2 | 128.0 | 123.0 | 108.7 | 86.6 |
| Gas and electricity ----- | 107.7 | 107.6 | 107.6 | 106.6 | 102.7 | 104.9 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | 120.9 | 123.9 | 125.8 | 121.8 | 107.6 | 56.4 |
| Housefurnishings ----- | 105.9 | 106.1 | 107.2 | 107.6 | 97.4 | 53.4 |
| Household operation ----- | 117.2 | 116.9 | 117.5 | 114.7 | 99.6 | 68.4 |
| APPAREL ----- | 104.2 | 104.1 | 104.3 | 104.7 | 96.5 | 52.5 |
| Men's and boys' ----- | 107.3 | 107.1 | 107.2 | 107.4 | 98.1 | 4/ |
| Women's and girls' ----- | 98.5 | 98.4 | 99.0 | 99.4 | 93.3 | 4/ |
| Footwear ----- | 115.9 | 116.1 | 116.1 | 115.1 | 102.1 | 4/ |
| Other apparel ----- | 90.9 | 90.4 | 90.0 | 92.5 | 88.4 | 4/ |
| TRANSPORTATION ----- | 129.1 | 129.1 | 129.0 | 129.4 | 109.9 | 68.9 |
| MEDICAL CARE ----- | 125.1 | 124.9 | 124.4 | 120.7 | 105.4 | 72.6 |
| PERSONAL CARE ----- | 113.0 | 112.9 | 114.1 | 112.8 | 99.2 | 59.6 |
| READING AND RECREATION ----- | 106.4 | 106.5 | 108.2 | 108.0 | 102.5 | 63.0 |
| OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/} ----- | 120.1 | 120.2 | 120.1 | 118.0 | 103.7 | 70.6 |

PERCENT CHANGE TO MAY 1954 FROM:

| | April 1954 | March 1954 | May 1953 | June 1950 | Year 1939 |
|--|------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| ALL ITEMS ----- | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.9 | 13.0 | 93.6 |
| FOOD ^{1/} ----- | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 12.7 | 140.6 |
| Food at home ----- | 0.9 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 12.2 | 139.5 |
| Cereals and bakery products ----- | 0.2 | 0.1 | 2.4 | 18.1 | 112.1 |
| Meats, poultry and fish ----- | 0.5 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 4.6 | 166.8 |
| Dairy products ----- | - 1.1 | - 4.2 | - 4.0 | 12.1 | 107.8 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | 4.2 | 6.3 | - 0.5 | 11.8 | 147.5 |
| Other foods at home ----- | 0.8 | 2.0 | 3.8 | 21.7 | 136.6 |
| HOUSING ^{2/} ----- | 0.3 | - 0.1 | 1.5 | 13.3 | 56.2 |
| Rent ----- | 0.1 | 0.2 | 4.3 | 18.0 | 48.2 |
| Gas and electricity ----- | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.0 | 4.9 | 2.7 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | - 2.4 | - 3.9 | - 0.7 | 12.4 | 114.4 |
| Housefurnishings ----- | - 0.2 | - 1.2 | - 1.6 | 8.7 | 98.3 |
| Household operation ----- | 0.3 | - 0.3 | 2.2 | 17.7 | 71.3 |
| APPAREL ----- | 0.1 | - 0.1 | - 0.5 | 8.0 | 98.5 |
| Men's and boys' ----- | 0.2 | 0.1 | - 0.1 | 9.4 | 4/ |
| Women's and girls' ----- | 0.1 | - 0.5 | - 0.9 | 5.6 | 4/ |
| Footwear ----- | - 0.2 | - 0.2 | 0.7 | 13.5 | 4/ |
| Other apparel ----- | 0.6 | 1.0 | - 1.7 | 2.8 | 4/ |
| TRANSPORTATION ----- | 0 | 0.1 | - 0.2 | 17.5 | 87.4 |
| MEDICAL CARE ----- | 0.2 | 0.6 | 3.6 | 18.7 | 72.3 |
| PERSONAL CARE ----- | 0.1 | - 1.0 | 0.2 | 13.9 | 89.6 |
| READING AND RECREATION ----- | - 0.1 | - 1.7 | - 1.5 | 3.8 | 68.9 |
| OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/} ----- | - 0.1 | 0 | 1.8 | 15.8 | 70.1 |

^{1/} Includes restaurant meals not shown separately.

^{2/} Includes home purchase and other home-owner costs not shown separately.

^{3/} Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and "miscellaneous services" (such as legal services, banking fees, burial services, etc.).

^{4/} Not available.

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- ALL ITEMS INDEXES FOR SELECTED DATES
U.S. CITY AVERAGE AND 20 LARGE CITIES

| City | (1947 - 49 = 100) | | | | (1935-39 = 100) |
|--|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| | May 1954 | May 1953 | June 1950 | Year 1939 | May 1954 ^{1/} |
| U.S. CITY AVERAGE ----- | 115.0 | 114.0 | 101.8 | 59.4 | 192.3 |
| CITIES PRICED MONTHLY: | | | | | |
| Chicago ----- | 117.3 | 114.6 | 102.8 | 58.6 | 199.8 |
| Detroit ----- | 116.9 | 115.8 | 102.8 | 59.0 | 197.3 |
| Los Angeles ----- | 115.9 | 115.3 | 101.3 | 60.4 | 193.7 |
| New York ----- | 112.9 | 111.4 | 100.9 | 60.1 | 186.8 |
| Philadelphia ----- | 115.3 | 113.8 | 101.6 | 59.2 | 191.9 |
| CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER ^{2/} | | | | | |
| | May 1954 | May 1953 | May 1950 | | May 1954 |
| Cleveland ----- | 115.3 | 113.7 | 100.4 | 59.2 | 196.5 |
| Houston ----- | 116.7 | 116.8 | 103.5 | 59.5 | 197.6 |
| Scranton ----- | 112.3 | 112.0 | 100.2 | 58.5 | 186.6 |
| Seattle ----- | 116.3 | 116.2 | 102.0 | 59.2 | 192.8 |
| Washington, D. C. ----- | 113.7 | 113.5 | 101.6 | 60.4 | 186.7 |
| CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER ^{2/} | | | | | |
| | April 1954 | April 1953 | April 1950 | | April 1954 |
| Boston ----- | 112.9 | 111.7 | 101.2 | 61.0 | 181.8 |
| Kansas City ----- | 115.5 | 114.3 | 101.4 | 61.7 | 186.0 |
| Minneapolis ----- | 116.3 | 115.1 | 102.1 ^{3/} | 60.7 | 192.6 |
| Pittsburgh ----- | 114.5 | 112.8 | 99.9 | 58.1 | 194.6 |
| Portland, Ore. ----- | 114.8 | 115.4 | 101.5 | 58.3 | 198.8 |
| CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER ^{2/} | | | | | |
| | March 1954 | March 1953 | June 1950 | | March 1954 |
| Atlanta ----- | 117.0 | 116.7 | 101.3 ^{4/} | 58.3 | 198.4 |
| Baltimore ----- | 114.8 | 114.2 | 101.6 | 57.9 | 197.3 |
| Cincinnati ----- | 114.2 | 112.6 | 101.2 | 58.4 | 192.3 |
| St. Louis ----- | 116.9 | 114.7 | 101.1 | 59.3 | 195.1 |
| San Francisco ----- | 116.5 | 115.5 | 100.9 | 58.6 | 199.1 |

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

^{2/} Foods, fuels, rents, and a few other items priced monthly; other commodities and services priced quarterly.

^{3/} June 1950; formerly priced March, June, September, December.

^{4/} May 1950; formerly priced February, May, August, November.

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- PERCENT CHANGES FROM APRIL 1954 TO MAY 1954
U.S. City 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. CITY AVERAGE ----- | 0.3 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.2 | 0.1 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 |
| Chicago ----- | 0.7 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0 | 1.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 |
| Detroit ----- | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0.1 | 1.3 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 |
| Los Angeles -- | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.5 | - 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.6 | - 1.3 | 0 |
| New York ----- | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.2 | - 0.1 | 0.3 | 0 | - 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.2 |
| Philadelphia - | 0.2 | 1.1 | - 0.1 | - 0.6 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.1 | - 0.1 | 0 |

TABLE 4. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUPS
 May 1954 Indexes and Percent Changes, February 1954 to May 1954
 U.S. City Average and 10 Cities Priced in May 1954

| GROUP | U.S. CITY AVERAGE | Chicago | Cleveland | Detroit | Houston | Los Angeles | New York | Philadelphia | Scranton | Seattle | Washington, D. C. |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|---------|---------|-------------|----------|--------------|----------|---------|-------------------|
| May 1954 Indexes (1947-49 = 100) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ALL ITEMS ----- | 115.0 | 117.3 | 115.3 | 116.9 | 116.7 | 115.9 | 112.9 | 115.3 | 112.3 | 116.3 | 113.7 |
| FOOD ----- | 113.3 | 111.7 | 111.4 | 116.2 | 112.2 | 113.4 | 111.8 | 115.6 | 112.8 | 113.1 | 112.9 |
| Food at home ----- | 112.8 | 111.0 | 110.8 | 115.4 | 111.4 | 112.3 | 111.4 | 114.8 | 112.8 | 113.1 | 112.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products - | 121.3 | 116.8 | 116.3 | 117.8 | 118.4 | 122.5 | 125.2 | 120.8 | 119.5 | 121.9 | 120.7 |
| Meats, poultry and fish ----- | 111.0 | 106.4 | 108.6 | 109.8 | 107.9 | 110.7 | 110.5 | 113.4 | 111.2 | 110.6 | 107.2 |
| Dairy products ----- | 103.5 | 102.1 | 97.4 | 104.1 | 106.7 | 103.2 | 100.6 | 105.3 | 105.6 | 103.5 | 110.8 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | 114.6 | 112.7 | 110.3 | 125.0 | 111.0 | 115.4 | 108.8 | 116.6 | 112.7 | 120.6 | 110.1 |
| Other foods at home ----- | 114.5 | 121.4 | 118.8 | 117.2 | 113.8 | 111.0 | 115.9 | 115.9 | 113.8 | 111.3 | 113.3 |
| HOUSING ----- | 118.9 | 126.1 | 119.4 | 122.1 | 123.8 | 123.9 | 115.2 | 113.4 | 114.7 | 119.4 | 116.8 |
| Rent ----- | 128.3 | - | - | - | - | 138.5 | - | - | 123.0 | - | 123.0 |
| Gas and electricity ----- | 107.7 | 106.3 | 106.8 | 110.3 | 106.5 | 109.5 | 108.7 | 102.3 | 112.2 | 88.5 | 118.1 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | 120.9 | 122.9 | 120.5 | 118.8 | - | - | 122.1 | 112.4 | 125.7 | 127.3 | 125.5 |
| Housefurnishings ----- | 105.9 | 107.3 | 102.8 | 109.5 | 101.2 | 107.6 | 106.1 | 107.9 | 100.7 | 106.2 | 107.2 |
| Household operation ----- | 117.2 | 120.6 | 110.6 | 110.0 | 128.5 | 106.8 | 118.9 | 113.7 | 109.6 | 112.3 | 114.8 |
| APPAREL ----- | 104.2 | 108.1 | 104.6 | 102.6 | 106.7 | 103.7 | 103.9 | 105.1 | 106.1 | 106.1 | 102.5 |
| Men's and boys' ----- | 107.3 | 114.1 | 109.2 | 109.3 | 106.8 | 109.4 | 106.7 | 104.9 | 108.0 | 109.2 | 105.5 |
| Women's and girls' ----- | 98.5 | 101.1 | 97.1 | 94.3 | 100.7 | 97.0 | 98.2 | 103.3 | 100.8 | 101.2 | 97.0 |
| Footwear ----- | 115.9 | 117.5 | 116.8 | 112.6 | 127.2 | 114.0 | 115.4 | 110.8 | 120.3 | 117.3 | 115.2 |
| Other apparel ----- | 90.9 | 94.1 | 93.4 | 87.4 | 89.2 | 82.5 | 94.1 | 92.6 | 92.3 | 86.7 | 90.8 |
| TRANSPORTATION ----- | 129.1 | 133.7 | 122.7 | 120.8 | 125.2 | 127.4 | 134.5 | 137.3 | 124.0 | 129.8 | 127.1 |
| MEDICAL CARE ----- | 125.1 | 122.8 | 129.5 | 124.1 | 119.6 | 122.6 | 123.9 | 123.7 | 119.7 | 131.0 | 117.2 |
| PERSONAL CARE ----- | 113.0 | 113.2 | 114.6 | 119.3 | 119.3 | 117.3 | 107.4 | 117.1 | 112.5 | 110.4 | 111.4 |
| READING AND RECREATION ----- | 106.4 | 107.5 | 114.0 | 111.0 | 111.0 | 99.2 | 104.8 | 110.0 | 115.4 | 107.7 | 105.3 |
| OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ----- | 120.1 | 119.0 | 119.9 | 125.0 | 119.5 | 115.2 | 121.5 | 123.4 | 116.1 | 127.1 | 127.0 |

Percent Change -- February 1954 to May 1954

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| ALL ITEMS ----- | 0 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.4 | - 0.2 | - 0.6 | 0.1 | 0.1 | - 0.8 | 0.1 | - 0.4 |
| FOOD ----- | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 1.3 | - 0.6 | - 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.9 | 1.8 |
| Food at home ----- | 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.6 | - 0.5 | - 0.7 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 1.6 |
| Cereals and bakery products - | 0 | - 0.4 | - 1.8 | - 0.2 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | - 0.4 | - 0.6 | 0.3 | - 0.1 | 2.2 |
| Meats, poultry and fish ----- | 1.2 | 1.4 | 1.9 | 1.1 | - 0.1 | - 0.3 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 0.5 | 1.9 |
| Dairy products ----- | 5.0 | - 5.6 | - 7.2 | - 4.1 | - 3.6 | - 2.1 | - 6.7 | - 5.2 | - 6.3 | - 2.3 | - 2.9 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | 6.1 | 6.4 | 8.1 | 9.4 | 0.1 | 2.3 | 7.5 | 6.1 | 6.7 | 5.9 | 5.5 |
| Other foods at home ----- | 0.4 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 0.3 | - 3.1 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 0.9 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| HOUSING ----- | 0 | 1.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.2 | - 0.3 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | - 1.5 | 0.9 | - 0.8 |
| Rent ----- | 0.3 | - | - | - | - | 1/ 0.9 | - | - | 1/ 0.9 | - | 1/ 0.2 |
| Gas and electricity ----- | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0 | - 0.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | 4.2 | - 1.3 | - 3.1 | - 0.5 | - | - | - 8.5 | - 9.4 | - 10.2 | 0 | - 5.9 |
| Housefurnishings ----- | 1.2 | - 1.8 | - 1.2 | - 0.5 | - 1.0 | - 0.9 | - 0.9 | - 1.6 | - 1.6 | 0.1 | - 0.9 |
| Household operation ----- | 0.1 | - 0.3 | - 0.7 | 0.1 | - 0.4 | - 1.5 | - 0.3 | 0.1 | 1.9 | 0.7 | 0.1 |
| APPAREL ----- | 0.5 | 0 | - 0.1 | - 0.5 | 0.2 | - 0.5 | - 1.0 | - 0.9 | - 0.3 | 0.1 | - 0.9 |
| Men's and boys' ----- | 0.1 | 0.5 | 0.3 | - 0.4 | 0.8 | - 0.2 | 0.1 | - 0.4 | 0.6 | - 0.4 | - 0.1 |
| Women's and girls' ----- | 1.0 | - 0.4 | - 0.8 | - 0.8 | 0 | - 0.9 | - 2.0 | - 1.6 | - 1.1 | 0.3 | - 2.1 |
| Footwear ----- | 0.2 | 0 | 0.1 | - 0.7 | - 0.2 | - 0.4 | 0 | 0 | - 0.2 | - 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Other apparel ----- | 0.6 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 0.6 | - 0.1 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 0.6 |
| TRANSPORTATION ----- | - 0.2 | 0.7 | - 0.3 | - 0.7 | - 0.2 | - 0.8 | - 0.4 | 0.1 | - 3.4 | - 2.3 | - 0.8 |
| MEDICAL CARE ----- | 0.8 | 0 | 0.2 | 1.5 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 0.6 | - 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 0.1 |
| PERSONAL CARE ----- | - 0.8 | - 0.9 | - 0.3 | - 0.5 | - 0.8 | - 0.5 | - 1.1 | - 0.1 | - 0.4 | - 0.8 | - 0.9 |
| READING AND RECREATION ----- | - 1.5 | - 0.5 | - 2.8 | 0.5 | - 0.9 | - 2.4 | - 2.6 | - 0.5 | - 2.0 | - 3.0 | - 4.7 |
| OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ----- | - 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.5 | - 0.2 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 |

1/ Change from November 1953 to May 1954.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 May 1954 Indexes and Percent Changes, April 1954 to May 1954
 U. S. City Average and 20 Large Cities
 (1947-49 = 100)

| City | Total Food | | 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. CITY AVERAGE | 113.3 | 0.8 | 112.8 | 0.9 | 121.3 | 0.2 | 111.0 | 0.5 | 103.5 | - 1.1 | 114.6 | 4.2 | 114.5 | 0.8 |
| Atlanta ----- | 114.1 | 1.2 | 113.5 | 1.4 | 116.0 | - 0.1 | 118.4 | 0.4 | 108.1 | - 0.2 | 112.9 | 6.7 | 108.4 | 1.0 |
| Baltimore ----- | 114.9 | 0.9 | 114.2 | 1.0 | 121.7 | - 0.2 | 113.7 | 0.6 | 107.2 | - 0.6 | 112.6 | 2.2 | 114.8 | 2.3 |
| Boston ----- | 110.1 | 0.7 | 109.2 | 1.0 | 119.3 | 0.1 | 106.7 | 0.7 | 102.9 | - 1.3 | 107.8 | 4.5 | 108.7 | 1.1 |
| Chicago ----- | 111.7 | 1.2 | 111.0 | 1.1 | 116.8 | - 0.3 | 106.4 | 0.6 | 102.1 | - 2.2 | 112.7 | 6.7 | 121.4 | 1.1 |
| Cincinnati ----- | 114.8 | 1.0 | 114.4 | 1.1 | 118.6 | 0.2 | 115.7 | 0.2 | 103.5 | - 0.1 | 111.7 | 5.5 | 120.4 | 0.8 |
| Cleveland ----- | 111.4 | 1.1 | 110.8 | 1.3 | 116.3 | - 0.3 | 108.6 | 0.9 | 97.4 | - 0.3 | 110.3 | 4.9 | 118.8 | 1.0 |
| Detroit ----- | 116.2 | 0.1 | 115.4 | 0.2 | 117.8 | 0 | 109.8 | 0 | 104.1 | - 1.7 | 125.0 | 1.0 | 117.2 | 1.0 |
| Houston ----- | 112.2 | 0.1 | 111.4 | 0.4 | 118.4 | - 0.1 | 107.8 | 0.7 | 106.7 | - 2.3 | 111.0 | 0 | 113.8 | 1.8 |
| Kansas City ----- | 108.6 | - 0.4 | 107.9 | - 0.5 | 120.3 | 0 | 107.2 | - 0.5 | 96.6 | - 3.1 | 105.1 | 0.1 | 109.7 | 0.5 |
| Los Angeles ----- | 113.4 | 0.3 | 112.3 | 0.4 | 122.5 | 0 | 110.7 | 1.0 | 103.2 | 0 | 115.4 | 1.6 | 111.0 | - 0.6 |
| Minneapolis ----- | 112.7 | 0.5 | 112.7 | 0.7 | 124.6 | - 0.1 | 104.2 | 0.4 | 101.8 | - 0.6 | 123.1 | 2.4 | 119.5 | 1.3 |
| New York ----- | 111.8 | 0.7 | 111.4 | 0.7 | 125.2 | 0 | 110.5 | 0.1 | 100.6 | - 1.2 | 108.8 | 5.2 | 115.9 | 0.3 |
| Philadelphia ----- | 115.6 | 1.1 | 114.8 | 1.2 | 120.8 | 0 | 113.4 | 0.9 | 105.3 | - 0.2 | 116.6 | 6.0 | 115.9 | 0.1 |
| Pittsburgh ----- | 114.8 | 1.3 | 114.3 | 1.5 | 122.5 | 1.2 | 108.1 | 1.0 | 107.2 | 0.1 | 114.3 | 6.1 | 124.1 | 0.6 |
| Portland, Ore. ---- | 112.9 | 0.6 | 112.9 | 0.8 | 115.4 | - 0.2 | 114.8 | 0.7 | 106.9 | - 0.2 | 114.1 | 2.8 | 112.6 | 0.5 |
| St. Louis ----- | 115.8 | 0.8 | 114.4 | 1.0 | 116.5 | 0 | 112.1 | 1.5 | 96.8 | 0.1 | 122.1 | 2.1 | 123.0 | 0.6 |
| San Francisco ----- | 114.7 | 0.7 | 114.1 | 0.9 | 127.5 | 0 | 110.7 | 0.3 | 105.7 | 0.2 | 121.1 | 1.9 | 111.2 | 1.7 |
| Scranton ----- | 112.8 | 0.9 | 112.8 | 1.3 | 119.5 | 0.1 | 111.2 | 1.1 | 105.6 | - 1.3 | 112.7 | 8.1 | 113.8 | - 0.3 |
| Seattle ----- | 113.1 | 0.4 | 113.1 | 0.5 | 121.9 | - 0.1 | 110.6 | - 0.1 | 103.5 | - 0.4 | 120.6 | 4.3 | 111.3 | - 0.5 |
| Washington, D.C. -- | 112.9 | 1.7 | 112.1 | 1.5 | 120.7 | 1.8 | 107.2 | 1.5 | 110.8 | - 1.0 | 110.1 | 3.8 | 113.3 | 1.6 |

TABLE 6. RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR MAY AND APRIL 1954
 U.S. City Average

| Food and Unit | May 1954 | April 1954 | Food and Unit | May 1954 | April 1954 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|------------|-------------------------------|----------|------------|
| CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS: | (Cents) | (Cents) | Fresh (continued) | (Cents) | (Cents) |
| Flour, wheat 5 lb. | 53.7 | 53.8 | Oranges, size 200 doz. | 52.6 | 50.1 |
| Biscuit mix 20 oz. | 27.5 | 27.5 | Lemons lb. | 18.4 | 18.0 |
| Corn meal lb. | 12.5 | 12.5 | Strawberries pt. | 31.0 | 38.7 |
| Rice lb. | 19.7 | 19.7 | Potatoes 15 lb. | 74.3 | 66.9 |
| Rolled oats 20 oz. | 18.5 | 18.5 | Sweetpotatoes lb. | 14.6 | 13.4 |
| Corn flakes 12 oz. | 21.9 | 21.8 | Onions lb. | 7.8 | 6.6 |
| Bread, white lb. | 17.0 | 17.0 | Carrots lb. | 13.4 | 12.4 |
| Soda crackers lb. | 27.1 | 27.1 | Lettuce head | 18.1 | 15.1 |
| Vanilla cookies 7 oz. | 23.6 | 23.6 | Celery lb. | 12.7 | 12.6 |
| MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH: | | | Cabbage lb. | 7.6 | 7.4 |
| Round steak lb. | 89.9 | 88.3 | Tomatoes lb. | 34.1 | 28.6 |
| Chuck roast lb. | 51.7 | 51.2 | Beans, green lb. | 23.8 | 25.2 |
| Rib roast lb. | 70.0 | 69.1 | Canned | | |
| Hamburger lb. | 40.9 | 40.7 | Orange juice 46 oz. can | 33.0 | 32.8 |
| Veal cutlets lb. | 110.9 | 110.9 | Peaches #2 1/2 can | 32.8 | 32.9 |
| Pork chops, center cut lb. | 90.3 | 88.5 | Pineapple #2 1/2 can | 38.7 | 38.6 |
| Bacon, sliced lb. | 89.5 | 88.4 | Fruit cocktail #2 1/2 can | 41.1 | 41.1 |
| Ham, whole lb. | 73.9 | 72.8 | Corn, cream style #303 can | 18.2 | 18.4 |
| Lamb, leg lb. | 74.4 | 74.1 | Peas, green #303 can | 21.3 | 21.3 |
| Frankfurters lb. | 55.9 | 56.0 | Tomatoes #2 can | 17.3 | 17.2 |
| Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz. | 52.2 | 51.7 | Baby foods 4 1/2-5 oz. | 9.8 | 9.8 |
| Frying chickens, dressed lb. | 43.5 | 45.4 | Dried | | |
| Frying chickens, ready-to-cook lb. | 53.1 | 54.6 | Prunes lb. | 30.3 | 30.0 |
| Ocean perch, fillet, frozen lb. | 44.3 | 44.0 | Navy beans lb. | 17.4 | 17.3 |
| Haddock, fillet, frozen lb. | 49.6 | 49.8 | OTHER FOODS AT HOME: | | |
| Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz. | 52.3 | 51.2 | Vegetable soup 11 oz. can | 14.3 | 14.3 |
| Tuna fish, canned 7 oz. | 39.6 | 39.3 | Beans with pork 16 oz. can | 14.5 | 14.4 |
| DAIRY PRODUCTS: | | | Gherkins, sweet 7 1/2 oz. | 29.8 | 30.1 |
| Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt. | 21.2 | 21.5 | Catsup, tomato 14 oz. | 22.3 | 22.2 |
| Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt. | 22.2 | 22.5 | Coffee lb. | 118.0 | 113.6 |
| Ice cream pt. | 29.6 | 29.6 | Tea 1/4 lb. | 33.9 | 33.4 |
| Butter lb. | 69.6 | 70.0 | Cola drink carton of 6, 6 oz. | 31.9 | 31.1 |
| Cheese, American process lb. | 57.3 | 57.7 | Shortening, hydrogenated lb. | 34.7 | 34.5 |
| Milk, evaporated 14 1/2 oz. can | 13.9 | 14.0 | Margarine, colored lb. | 29.8 | 29.5 |
| FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: | | | Lard lb. | 28.0 | 26.7 |
| Frozen | | | Salad dressing pt. | 35.8 | 35.8 |
| Strawberries 12 oz. | 36.8 | 36.7 | Peanut butter lb. | 49.0 | 49.1 |
| Orange juice concentrate 6 oz. | 18.5 | 16.7 | Sugar 5 lb. | 52.7 | 52.5 |
| Peas, green 10 oz. | 19.4 | 19.2 | Corn syrup 24 oz. | 23.6 | 23.6 |
| Beans, green 10 oz. | 24.5 | 24.5 | Grape jelly 12 oz. | 25.3 | 25.1 |
| Fresh | | | Chocolate bar 1 oz. | 4.6 | 4.5 |
| Apples lb. | 16.8 | 15.9 | Eggs, Grade A, large doz. | 53.8 | 55.5 |
| Bananas lb. | 16.0 | 16.3 | Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz. | 8.5 | 8.5 |

The Consumer Price Index measures the average change in prices of goods and services customarily purchased by city wage-earner and clerical-worker families. Index numbers are presented on the base 1947-49 = 100, and show the average increase or decrease in prices from the 1947-49 average. For the convenience of users, indexes are also calculated on the base 1935-39 = 100.

About 300 items are priced for the index to estimate the average change in prices of a fixed quantity of goods and services from one period to the next. Among these are all the important items that wage and clerical workers buy, and they are selected so that their average price change will be representative of the price changes on all items. Prices are collected in 46 cities which are representative of all cities in the United States.

Foods, fuels, rents, and a few other items are priced every month in each city. Prices of most other goods and services are obtained every month in the 5 largest cities, every 3 months in 16 other large cities and in 9 medium-sized cities, and every 4 months in 16 small cities. In each city, prices are reported by representative retail stores and service establishments patronized by wage and clerical worker families.

Indexes are calculated for all cities combined (the U.S. city average) and for each of the 20 largest cities. No separate index numbers are calculated for the following 26 medium-sized and small cities which are included in the U.S. average:

| | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Anna, Illinois | Huntington, W. Virginia | Pulaski, Virginia |
| Camden, Arkansas | Iaconia, 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 | |

In the calculation, price changes on individual items are weighted by their importance in wage-earner and clerical-worker family spending. City data are combined by weighting with 1950 population data to arrive at the U.S. city average.

Comparison of city indexes shows only that prices in one city changed more or less than in another. City indexes do not measure differences in price level between cities.

A detailed description of the index containing lists of items priced, their weights, cities included, and an explanation of the index calculation, its uses and limitations, is available in Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 1140 - "The Consumer Price Index - A Layman's Guide," for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Price 20 cents.

A more technical description of the Consumer Price Index is available upon request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.

Historical series of index numbers for the U.S. city average and 20 individual large cities are available upon request. These series include index numbers for All Items, Food, Apparel, and Rent for periods from 1913 to date; and for other groups of goods and services from 1947 to date.

