

Issued February 25, 1955

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - JANUARY 1955

The Consumer Price Index was unchanged from December 1954 to January 1955, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Small increases in prices of food, rent, fuel, transportation, medical and personal care, and reading and recreation were balanced by decreased costs of apparel and housefurnishings.

The Consumer Price Index for January 1955 was 114.3 (1947-49 = 100), 0.8 percent less than a year ago, and 1.0 percent below the record high level of October 1953.

FOOD The slight rise of 0.2 percent in average retail prices of food between December and January was attributable principally to higher prices of fresh vegetables and poultry. These price increases, reversing the previous month's price movement, were almost counterbalanced in the family food budget by lower prices for eggs, pork, oranges, and milk. The January increase in average food prices was by no means uniform throughout the country. Increases occurred in 27 cities, and decreases in 19 of the 46 cities in the index.

Fresh vegetable prices advanced 7.5 percent. Lettuce, up 21 percent, and green beans, up 30 percent, reflected the effects of unfavorable weather in the major growing areas. Consumers in most of the 46 cities also paid more for celery, cabbage, sweet-potatoes, and white potatoes. Although large price increases were reported for fresh tomatoes in Western cities, price decreases were the rule elsewhere.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish were about the same in January as in December, on the average. Prices of frying chickens jumped 5.5 percent, in response to last autumn's reduction in starts of chicks. Pork prices were down 1.4 percent from December to January as larger hog production, encouraged by the favorable prices of late 1953 and early 1954, continued to exert pressure on the market. Lard prices also declined 5.7 percent, with production 25 percent above a year ago. Most cuts of beef advanced slightly in price between December and January.

Egg prices averaged less than 52 cents a dozen, a decline of 3.7 percent from the unusually low level prevailing in December. Coffee prices advanced slightly in 31 cities between December and January. The January index does not reflect the wave of reductions in retail coffee prices during early February, following Brazil's increase in bonus payments to exporters, stimulating price reductions. Fresh fluid milk decreased in price in several cities, most of them in the Northeast. Butter prices were lower in 32 cities. Cereals and bakery products prices continued to inch upward.

HOUSING The slight decline in housing costs over the month reflected lowered prices on housefurnishings, chiefly the result of January "white sales" and furniture sales. Discount house competition continued to induce other types of retailers to reduce prices of such items as refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, and toasters. The 0.8 percent decline from December to January in housefurnishings follows a 1.7 percent decrease during 1954. Higher costs for heating gas, fuel oil, and coal were reported in several cities. Residential rents averaged slightly higher.

OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES As usual, apparel prices declined in January. Most of the items of heavy outerwear, such as men's and boys' coats and jackets, and women's and girls' coats, were reported at sales prices as merchants continued efforts to clear their stocks of winter merchandise.

The rise in transportation costs reflects in part higher new automobile prices for those cities in which prices for 1955 models were collected for the first time in January.

Increased movie admission charges for special features in several cities brought up reading and recreation costs. Higher charges by physicians and surgeons accounted for most of the increase in medical care. Personal care costs were slightly higher as prices of toilet soap rose.

ANNUAL AVERAGE INDEXES The following table presents a comparison of 1952, 1953, and 1954 annual average index numbers for all cities combined. Annual average indexes for the 20 cities for which local Consumer Price Indexes are published will be available upon request later in the year.

Group	Indexes (1947-49=100)			Percent Change	
	1954	1953	1952	1953 to 1954	1952 to 1954
ALL ITEMS	114.8	114.4	113.5	0.3	1.1
FOOD	112.6	112.8	114.6	- 0.2	- 1.7
Cereals and Bakery Products	121.9	119.1	116.8	2.4	4.4
Meats, Poultry, and Fish	108.0	109.9	116.2	- 1.7	- 7.1
Dairy Products	106.1	109.6	111.5	- 3.2	- 4.8
Fruits and Vegetables	111.9	113.5	117.2	- 1.4	- 4.5
Other Foods at Home	114.8	112.2	109.3	2.3	5.0
HOUSING	119.1	117.7	114.6	1.2	3.9
Rent	128.5	124.1	117.9	3.5	9.0
Gas and Electricity	107.9	106.6	104.5	1.2	3.3
Solid Fuels and Fuel Oil	123.5	123.9	118.7	- 0.3	4.0
Housefurnishings	106.1	107.9	108.5	- 1.7	- 2.2
Household Operation	117.4	115.3	111.8	1.8	5.0
APPAREL	104.3	104.8	105.8	- 0.5	- 1.4
Men's and Boys'	106.8	107.4	108.2	- 0.6	- 1.3
Women's and Girls'	98.9	99.7	100.9	- 0.8	- 2.0
Footwear	116.4	115.2	115.3	1.0	1.0
Other Apparel	90.7	92.1	92.1	- 1.5	- 1.5
TRANSPORTATION	128.0	129.7	126.2	- 1.3	1.4
MEDICAL CARE	125.2	121.3	117.2	3.2	6.8
PERSONAL CARE	113.4	112.8	111.8	0.5	1.4
READING AND RECREATION	107.0	108.0	107.0	- 0.9	0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	120.1	118.2	115.4	1.6	4.1

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

Group	January 1955	December 1954	November 1954	January 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
	This Month	Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
<u>INDEXES (1947-49 =100)</u>						
ALL ITEMS	114.3	114.3	114.6	115.2	101.8	59.4
FOOD ^{1/}	110.6	110.4	111.1	113.1	100.5	47.1
Food at home	109.4	109.2	110.1	112.6	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	123.4	123.3	123.1	121.2	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	102.4	102.2	103.5	110.2	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	106.4	106.8	106.6	109.7	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	110.6	108.4	109.6	110.8	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	111.3	112.0	113.7	113.5	94.1	48.4
HOUSING ^{2/}	119.6	119.7	119.5	118.8	104.9	76.1
Rent	129.5	129.4	129.2	127.8	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	109.4	109.1	108.7	107.1	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	126.1	125.5	124.2	125.7	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	104.6	105.4	105.4	107.2	97.4	53.4
Household operation	117.7	117.7	117.8	117.2	99.6	68.4
APPAREL	103.3	104.3	104.6	104.9	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys'	105.5	106.5	106.5	107.4	98.1	4/
Women's and girls'	97.6	99.0	99.5	99.8	93.3	4/
Footwear	116.7	116.9	117.0	116.2	102.1	4/
Other apparel	90.5	91.1	91.2	90.4	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION	127.6	127.3	127.6	130.5	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE	126.5	126.3	126.1	123.7	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE	113.7	113.6	113.8	113.7	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.9	106.6	106.8	108.7	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	119.9	119.9	120.0	120.3	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO JANUARY 1955 FROM:

	December 1954	November 1954	January 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0	- 0.3	- 0.8	12.3	92.4
FOOD ^{1/}	0.2	- 0.5	- 2.2	10.0	134.8
Food at home	0.2	- 0.6	- 2.8	8.9	132.3
Cereals and bakery products	0.1	0.2	1.8	20.2	115.7
Meats, poultry and fish	0.2	- 1.1	- 7.1	- 3.5	146.2
Dairy products	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 3.0	15.3	113.7
Fruits and vegetables	2.0	0.9	- 0.2	7.9	138.9
Other foods at home	- 0.6	- 2.1	- 1.9	18.3	130.0
HOUSING ^{2/}	- 0.1	0.1	0.7	14.0	57.2
Rent	0.1	0.2	1.3	19.1	49.5
Gas and electricity	0.3	0.6	2.1	6.5	4.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil	0.5	1.5	0.3	17.2	123.6
Housefurnishings	- 0.8	- 0.8	- 2.4	7.4	95.9
Household operation	0	- 0.1	0.4	18.2	72.1
APPAREL	- 1.0	- 1.2	- 1.5	7.0	96.8
Men's and boys'	- 0.9	- 0.9	- 1.8	7.5	4/
Women's and girls'	- 1.4	- 1.9	- 2.2	4.6	4/
Footwear	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.4	14.3	4/
Other apparel	- 0.7	- 0.8	0.1	2.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION	0.2	0	- 2.2	16.1	85.2
MEDICAL CARE	0.2	0.3	2.3	20.0	74.2
PERSONAL CARE	0.1	- 0.1	0	14.6	90.8
READING AND RECREATION	0.3	0.1	- 1.7	4.3	69.7
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	0	- 0.1	- 0.3	15.6	69.8

^{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	(1 9 4 7 - 4 9 = 1 0 0)					(1935-39 = 100)
	January 1955	December 1954	January 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	January 1955 ^{1/}
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	114.3	114.3	115.2	101.8	59.4	191.1
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	117.0	117.0	116.7	102.8	58.6	199.3
Detroit	116.0	116.2	117.0	102.8	59.0	195.8
Los Angeles	115.4	115.3	116.8	101.3	60.4	192.8
New York	112.3	112.2	113.0	100.9	60.1	185.9
Philadelphia	115.4	115.6	115.3	101.6	59.2	192.0
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER ^{2/}						
	January 1955	October 1954	January 1954	April 1950		January 1955
Boston	113.0	113.5	112.7	101.2	61.0	181.9
Kansas City	115.3	115.7	115.0	101.4	61.7	185.6
Minneapolis	116.5	116.9	116.6	102.1 ^{3/}	60.7	192.9
Pittsburgh	113.8	114.3	114.4	99.9	58.1	193.5
Portland, Oreg.	114.6	115.2	115.4	101.5	58.3	198.5
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER ^{2/}						
	December 1954	September 1954	December 1953	June 1950		December 1954
Atlanta	115.7	116.3	117.1	101.3 ^{4/}	58.3	196.2
Baltimore	114.8	115.2	114.5	101.6	57.9	197.3
Cincinnati	113.3	114.3	114.6	101.2	58.4	190.8
St. Louis	115.4	115.7	116.9	101.1	59.3	192.6
San Francisco	115.7	116.2	116.9	100.9	58.6	197.7
CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER ^{2/}						
	November 1954	August 1954	November 1953	May 1950		November 1954
Cleveland	115.3	115.3	115.5	100.4	59.2	196.5
Houston	116.7	116.5	117.3	103.5	59.5	197.6
Scranton	112.3	112.4	113.4	100.2	58.5	186.6
Seattle	115.7	116.2	116.4	102.0	59.2	197.7
Washington, D. C.	113.5	114.1	114.3	101.6	60.4	186.4

^{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 DECEMBER 1954 TO JANUARY 1955
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 and Recreation	Other Goods & Services
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	0	0.2	- 0.1	- 1.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0
Chicago	0	0.5	- 0.3	- 2.0	0.5	1.0	0.3	1.0	- 0.1
Detroit	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.2	0.2	- 0.3	0.1	0.1	0	0
Los Angeles	0.1	0.5	0.2	- 1.0	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.4	- 0.1	0
New York	0.1	0.5	0.3	- 1.4	- 0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Philadelphia	- 0.2	0.1	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.3	- 0.1

TABLE 4. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUPS
 January 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, October 1954 to January 1955
 U.S. City Average and 10 Cities Priced in January 1955

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland, Oreg.
January 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)											
ALL ITEMS	114.3	113.0	117.0	116.0	115.3	115.4	116.5	112.3	115.4	113.8	114.6
FOOD	110.6	108.2	108.7	112.7	106.9	111.2	110.2	110.6	112.7	111.0	109.5
Food at home	109.4	106.5	107.1	111.4	105.2	109.4	109.4	109.6	111.5	110.1	108.8
Cereals and bakery products	123.4	119.1	116.9	119.6	120.7	127.7	125.7	127.3	120.8	124.3	124.5
Meats, poultry and fish	102.4	99.6	97.8	101.0	97.5	101.8	97.4	104.8	106.5	98.5	104.0
Dairy products	106.4	109.9	105.3	106.4	108.4	103.6	102.7	106.1	109.5	110.0	102.5
Fruits and vegetables	110.6	105.0	109.3	121.5	102.7	112.6	115.0	106.0	111.3	107.3	110.5
Other foods at home	111.3	103.9	116.7	112.1	104.7	109.2	119.0	112.3	111.9	120.4	109.3
HOUSING	119.6	120.0	128.1	122.1	120.7	125.4	121.3	116.4	113.9	116.8	119.4
Rent	129.5	122.8	-	-	-	-	140.0	117.8	-	-	129.6
Gas and electricity	109.4	111.7	106.2	109.1	117.9	113.6	110.9	108.3	102.3	118.8	107.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil	126.1	128.1	126.2	119.9	113.2	-	116.5	130.7	126.9	118.8	128.0
Housefurnishings	104.6	104.3	106.1	107.4	103.5	105.5	103.6	105.8	106.5	103.9	105.4
Household operation	117.7	116.7	121.1	110.2	122.5	108.1	119.2	119.1	114.7	120.0	111.7
APPAREL	103.3	101.7	104.1	102.6	102.7	103.7	104.7	102.2	105.5	102.1	106.0
Men's and boys'	105.5	103.9	110.3	108.3	106.1	106.9	108.3	105.4	104.7	103.2	110.4
Women's and girls'	97.6	95.6	94.5	95.1	97.0	97.4	99.3	95.4	104.1	96.0	97.8
Footwear	116.7	112.8	120.1	112.7	114.2	118.5	113.8	115.9	111.4	115.5	120.6
Other apparel	90.5	103.2	92.6	86.7	87.0	82.9	92.2	93.3	92.8	97.8	94.6
TRANSPORTATION	127.6	133.8	133.8	122.3	125.8	126.3	121.6	130.1	137.5	138.0	123.7
MEDICAL CARE	126.5	124.5	127.4	127.7	136.0	122.8	143.3	124.7	133.6	126.5	125.2
PERSONAL CARE	113.7	112.3	115.5	119.2	116.5	117.6	115.9	108.4	117.5	116.9	110.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.9	107.4	111.8	108.6	115.2	96.8	115.7	104.3	113.3	99.1	115.5
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	119.9	118.4	118.1	124.7	117.1	114.3	125.5	121.1	123.8	120.4	118.6

Percent Change -- October 1954 to January 1955

ALL ITEMS	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.1	0	- 0.3	0.5	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.5
FOOD	- 1.1	- 1.8	- 1.2	- 1.0	- 1.5	- 0.7	- 1.4	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 1.8	- 1.9
Food at home	- 1.4	- 2.2	- 1.6	- 1.0	- 2.1	- 0.8	- 1.8	- 1.1	- 1.8	- 2.2	- 2.1
Cereals and bakery products	0.6	0.1	0.3	1.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	1.5	0.2	- 0.1	0.1
Meats, poultry and fish	- 1.4	- 1.1	- 0.5	2.0	- 2.1	- 3.8	- 1.6	0.7	1.9	- 1.9	- 3.6
Dairy products	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	2.6	- 0.1	0.5	0.1	- 1.2	- 1.7	0.1	- 2.7
Fruits and vegetables	- 0.5	- 4.6	- 1.6	1.8	- 3.3	5.4	- 0.9	- 2.6	- 5.9	- 3.6	3.4
Other foods at home	- 3.8	- 4.6	- 4.7	- 5.5	- 4.1	- 3.6	- 5.3	- 3.7	- 4.4	- 4.6	- 4.6
HOUSING	0.1	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.1	0.9	- 0.7	0.4	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.6
Rent	0.4	1/0.7	-	-	-	-	1/0.1	1/0.9	-	-	1/0.3
Gas and electricity	0.8	3.0	- 0.1	0.3	- 0.1	3.7	0.8	0.1	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil	1.9	2.8	2.6	0.5	1.0	-	2.3	4.1	5.8	- 0.8	0
Housefurnishings	- 0.9	- 0.5	- 2.1	- 1.3	- 1.0	- 1.4	- 2.8	0.3	- 2.7	- 1.1	- 2.4
Household operation	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	- 1.6	0.2	0.8	0	- 0.3
APPAREL	- 1.2	- 2.4	- 2.3	- 0.1	- 1.8	- 1.0	- 1.2	- 1.8	- 0.8	- 1.5	- 1.4
Men's and boys'	- 0.8	0.1	- 0.9	- 0.2	- 0.9	- 1.5	- 0.2	0.1	- 0.1	- 2.9	- 0.7
Women's and girls'	- 2.0	- 4.6	- 4.6	- 0.2	- 3.1	- 1.4	- 2.6	- 3.9	- 1.5	- 0.5	- 2.6
Footwear	0	0	0.3	0.3	0	- 0.3	- 0.1	0.4	0.3	- 2.4	0
Other apparel	- 0.7	1.6	- 1.1	- 0.9	- 1.1	0.2	- 0.6	- 1.2	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 0.8
TRANSPORTATION	2.1	0.8	4.7	3.6	1.5	4.6	2.7	0.2	0.1	2.8	1.7
MEDICAL CARE	0.5	0.2	1.0	0.7	0	- 0.1	0.9	0.5	1.0	0.3	2.0
PERSONAL CARE	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	- 0.1	0.1	0	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.1
READING AND RECREATION	0	2.1	1.2	- 0.5	0	- 2.5	- 0.8	- 0.6	- 0.4	0.8	- 0.5
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1	0	- 0.2	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1

1/ Change from July 1954 to January 1955.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
January 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, December 1954 to January 1955
U. S. City Average and 20 Large Cities
(1947-49 = 100)

City	Total Food		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. CITY AVERAGE . .	110.6	0.2	109.4	0.2	123.4	0.1	102.4	0.2	106.4	- 0.4	110.6	2.0	111.3	- 0.6
Atlanta	110.2	0.2	108.5	0.2	117.6	0.5	105.8	0.9	108.3	0	112.4	2.1	103.2	- 1.8
Baltimore	111.6	0.2	110.2	0.2	122.0	- 0.2	104.6	0.2	108.9	- 0.2	108.0	2.4	111.6	- 0.9
Boston	108.2	- 0.3	106.5	- 0.3	119.1	0	99.6	0.4	109.9	- 1.3	105.0	- 1.1	103.9	0.2
Chicago	108.7	0.5	107.1	0.4	116.9	0.2	97.8	0.3	105.3	- 0.2	109.3	2.0	116.7	0.1
Cincinnati	111.7	- 0.3	110.8	- 0.3	124.9	0.2	103.7	- 0.6	110.5	- 0.7	107.2	1.2	116.5	- 0.8
Cleveland	109.0	0.1	107.8	0.1	120.4	- 0.1	99.9	0	103.2	- 0.3	105.2	1.3	115.9	- 0.2
Detroit	112.7	- 0.3	111.4	- 0.3	119.6	- 0.2	101.0	- 1.2	106.4	- 0.1	121.5	1.8	112.1	- 0.9
Houston	109.4	- 0.4	108.4	- 0.4	118.5	0.3	97.6	- 1.1	108.6	- 0.1	113.1	0.1	111.8	- 0.4
Kansas City	106.9	- 0.2	105.2	- 0.5	120.7	0.3	97.5	- 0.4	108.4	- 0.1	102.7	- 1.2	104.7	- 0.9
Los Angeles	111.2	0.5	109.4	0.7	127.7	0.2	101.8	- 0.2	103.6	0.3	112.6	5.2	109.2	- 1.2
Minneapolis	110.2	0.3	109.4	0.3	125.7	0.2	97.4	- 0.4	102.7	- 0.2	115.0	0.6	119.0	1.3
New York	110.6	0.5	109.6	0.6	127.3	0	104.8	1.4	106.1	- 0.8	106.0	2.3	112.3	- 0.5
Philadelphia	112.7	0.1	111.5	0.2	120.8	0.1	106.5	1.9	109.5	- 2.7	111.3	1.0	111.9	- 0.4
Pittsburgh	111.0	0.2	110.1	0.1	124.3	- 0.2	98.5	- 0.2	110.0	0	107.3	1.7	120.4	- 0.4
Portland, Ore.	109.5	- 0.2	108.8	0	124.5	0.1	104.0	0.3	102.5	0	110.5	1.3	109.3	- 1.0
St. Louis	112.2	- 0.1	110.0	- 0.1	118.7	- 0.1	102.2	- 0.1	98.3	0.1	117.0	1.1	119.3	- 1.1
San Francisco	112.3	0.4	111.2	0.5	130.5	0.2	106.0	0.1	104.8	0.1	114.1	3.4	109.6	- 0.6
Scranton	108.3	0.2	108.0	0.2	119.1	0.4	101.8	- 0.5	108.0	- 0.3	104.5	2.5	109.7	- 0.1
Seattle	111.2	0.4	110.9	0.4	127.4	0	102.5	- 0.2	105.9	0	118.2	2.8	109.9	0
Washington, D.C.	111.0	1.2	109.8	1.6	122.5	1.4	101.4	3.3	111.1	0.3	108.1	2.9	111.3	- 0.5

TABLE 6. RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR JANUARY 1955 AND DECEMBER 1954
U.S. City Average

Food and Unit	January 1955	December 1954	Food and Unit	January 1955	December 1954
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:			Fresh (continued)		
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	(Cents) 54.1	(Cents) 54.0	Grapefruit * each	9.8	
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.4	27.4	Peaches * lb.		
Corn meal 1b.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice 1b.	17.6	17.6	Grapes, seedless * lb.		
Rolled oats 20 oz.	18.7	18.6	Watermelons * lb.		
Corn flakes 12 oz.	22.0	22.0	Potatoes 10 lb.	1/ 52.6	78.1
Bread, white 1b.	17.6	17.6	Sweetpotatoes lb.	13.4	12.4
Soda crackers 1b.	27.2	27.2	Onions lb.	7.8	7.7
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.8	23.8	Carrots lb.	14.2	14.2
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	17.4	14.4
Round steak 1b.	92.8	92.3	Celery lb.	14.4	13.5
Chuck roast 1b.	52.6	52.7	Cabbage lb.	9.0	7.8
Rib roast 1b.	73.2	72.1	Tomatoes lb.	29.8	29.1
Hamburger 1b.	40.1	40.0	Beans, green lb.	28.3	21.8
Veal cutlets 1b.	109.4	107.9	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	75.7	77.2	Orange juice 46 oz. can	34.3	35.2
Bacon, sliced 1b.	70.6	71.3	Peaches #2 1/2 can	33.1	32.9
Ham, whole 1b.	62.8	64.1	Pineapple #2 1/2 can	38.9	38.7
Lamb, leg 1b.	68.6	68.9	Fruit cocktail #2 1/2 can	40.8	41.0
Frankfurters 1b.	53.8	54.1	Corn, cream style #303 can	17.4	17.5
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	48.1	48.7	Peas, green #303 can	21.5	21.4
Frying chickens, dressed 1b.	42.8	39.9	Tomatoes #303 can	14.9	14.8
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	51.6	49.6	Baby foods 4 1/2-5 oz.	9.7	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	43.5	43.7	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	48.0	48.3	Prunes lb.	32.2	32.1
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	53.9	53.8	Navy beans lb.	18.4	18.2
Tuna fish, canned 7 oz.	38.2	38.3	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.2	14.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	22.2	22.3	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	14.7	14.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	23.2	23.4	Gherkins, sweet 7 1/2 oz.	28.4	29.2
Ice cream pt.	29.2	29.2	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.3	22.3
Butter 1b.	71.6	72.2	Coffee lb.	105.8	105.3
Cheese, American process 1b.	56.8	56.8	Tea 1 lb.	37.1	36.1
Milk, evaporated 14 1/2 oz. can	13.7	13.7	Cola drink carton of 6, 6 oz.	32.5	32.2
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated lb.	35.3	35.4
Frozen			Margarine, colored lb.	29.4	29.3
Strawberries 10 oz.	30.6	30.7	Lard lb.	23.1	24.5
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	18.3	18.5	Salad dressing pt.	35.5	35.6
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.5	19.4	Peanut butter lb.	51.1	50.4
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.3	24.2	Sugar 5 lb.	52.3	52.3
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples 1b.	13.7	13.5	Grape jelly 12 oz.	25.9	25.9
Bananas 1b.	16.7	16.8	Chocolate bar 7/8 oz.	2/ 4.6	5.3
Oranges, size 200 doz.	45.5	48.2	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	51.6	53.6
Lemons 1b.	18.7	18.5	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.6	8.5

* Priced only in season

1/ Formerly published 15 lbs., comparable price for December for 10 lbs. is 51.5.

2/ Formerly published 1 oz., comparable price for December for 7/8 oz. bar is 4.6.

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	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	

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.

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