Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.1 percent between February and March 1956, the first advance since November 1955, the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Prices averaged higher over the month for all major categories of family spending except housing and transportation. Housing costs remained at their February level and transportation declined. The Consumer Price Index for March was 114.7 (1947-49 = 100), 0.3 percent higher than in March 1955.

**FOOD**

Retail food prices rose 0.2 percent from February to March, following a 5-month decline. At 109.0, the food index was 1.6 percent below its March 1955 level, primarily because the meats, poultry, and fish component was almost 10 percent lower.

Price advances for fresh vegetables led the increase, supplemented by higher prices for coffee, fats and oils, and restaurant meals. These increases were largely offset by lower costs of fresh meats, milk, and fresh fruits.

Curtailed supplies, following the early freeze in Florida, and some seasonal influences resulted in 4.6 percent higher prices, on the average, for fresh vegetables. Prices of tomatoes were up 29.3 percent, potatoes, 4.3 percent, and lettuce 7.3 percent; however, green bean prices dropped 19.6 percent. Average prices for coffee in cans rose more than 3 cents a pound (from 96.2 to 99.4 cents), and coffee in bags cost 4.1 percent more, reflecting increases in wholesale prices of roasted coffee prior to mid-March. A 2.3 percent increase in prices of shortening led the 1 percent rise in the fats and oils category.

Most meat prices declined as supplies continued ample: beef and veal products dropped 1.7 percent; pork products, 1.2 percent (although ham was 2.2 percent higher); poultry, 0.5 percent; and lamb, 1 percent. The 0.5 percent decrease in milk prices and the 0.8 percent drop in prices of fresh fruits were due chiefly to seasonal adjustments; bananas were down 3.9 percent and oranges, 0.7 percent. Canned and frozen orange juice prices rose, 1.2 and 1.8 percent, respectively.

**HOUSING**

The housing index remained at its February level of 120.7 percent of the 1947-49 average. Prices of housefurnishings advanced 0.6 percent, reflecting higher prices for living room and bedroom suites, dinette sets, curtains, and towels, which were partially offset by reductions in prices of vacuum cleaners, toasters, and other household appliances. The rise of 0.2 percent in household operation costs reflected higher rates for water and an increase in domestic service rates in Philadelphia. Residential rents edged up 0.1 percent. These increases were counterbalanced by reported moderate declines in costs of home-ownership.

**OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES**

Tax changes and increases in rates for services, which typically change in only a few cities in any given month, were important factors in the advances of several group indexes. The change in the Ohio tax on cigarettes accounted for a large part of the 0.2 percent rise in the "other goods and services" component from February to March. The new Pennsylvania sales tax affected most groups of commodities (excluding food and apparel items principally). Higher group hospitalization rates in Detroit contributed substantially to the 0.4 percent increase in medical care costs; the increase in prices of men's haircuts in San Francisco played a similar role in the 0.3 percent rise in the personal care index. Most of the 0.2 percent rise in the reading and recreation group stemmed from higher movie prices in several cities.
The 0.2 percent advance in the apparel index resulted primarily from higher prices for shoes, although prices of some items of men's and boys' clothing also rose. Transportation costs dropped 0.2 percent as used car prices fell 2.3 percent, but streetcar and bus fares were increased in Baltimore and Minneapolis.

### TABLE A: Consumer Price Index — U.S. and 20 cities, all items and major groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1955 Annual averages (1947-49 = 100)</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Trans-</th>
<th>and</th>
<th>goods</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Apparel</th>
<th>Recreation</th>
<th>Care</th>
<th>Care</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. city average</td>
<td>114.5</td>
<td>110.9</td>
<td>120.0</td>
<td>103.7</td>
<td>126.4</td>
<td>128.0</td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td>106.6</td>
<td>120.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>116.3</td>
<td>110.2</td>
<td>125.1</td>
<td>109.6</td>
<td>123.6</td>
<td>124.9</td>
<td>118.4</td>
<td>108.1</td>
<td>121.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>115.2</td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>116.6</td>
<td>102.5</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>134.7</td>
<td>109.4</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>122.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>113.8</td>
<td>109.5</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td>102.1</td>
<td>134.2</td>
<td>125.4</td>
<td>113.4</td>
<td>107.2</td>
<td>118.5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>109.1</td>
<td>129.9</td>
<td>105.8</td>
<td>131.3</td>
<td>129.1</td>
<td>117.6</td>
<td>113.5</td>
<td>117.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>113.7</td>
<td>112.0</td>
<td>118.0</td>
<td>103.5</td>
<td>122.6</td>
<td>129.0</td>
<td>113.3</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>116.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>108.9</td>
<td>122.3</td>
<td>103.8</td>
<td>120.3</td>
<td>135.6</td>
<td>118.0</td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td>119.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>116.5</td>
<td>113.2</td>
<td>122.3</td>
<td>102.0</td>
<td>122.2</td>
<td>132.9</td>
<td>123.6</td>
<td>108.5</td>
<td>124.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>115.9</td>
<td>109.9</td>
<td>123.1</td>
<td>106.5</td>
<td>123.4</td>
<td>143.2</td>
<td>121.8</td>
<td>109.3</td>
<td>119.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>115.7</td>
<td>106.8</td>
<td>121.5</td>
<td>103.0</td>
<td>125.3</td>
<td>136.3</td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>115.1</td>
<td>117.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>111.8</td>
<td>125.7</td>
<td>103.9</td>
<td>124.7</td>
<td>123.3</td>
<td>117.8</td>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>116.8</td>
<td>111.6</td>
<td>122.1</td>
<td>104.2</td>
<td>116.8</td>
<td>147.0</td>
<td>119.7</td>
<td>117.0</td>
<td>125.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>112.2</td>
<td>110.8</td>
<td>115.7</td>
<td>102.4</td>
<td>128.9</td>
<td>125.9</td>
<td>109.4</td>
<td>104.4</td>
<td>121.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>115.5</td>
<td>113.0</td>
<td>114.3</td>
<td>104.9</td>
<td>136.3</td>
<td>135.1</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>112.6</td>
<td>123.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>113.8</td>
<td>111.2</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>102.1</td>
<td>136.9</td>
<td>129.7</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>98.4</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, Oregon</td>
<td>115.1</td>
<td>110.6</td>
<td>119.0</td>
<td>106.5</td>
<td>123.9</td>
<td>126.9</td>
<td>114.7</td>
<td>115.9</td>
<td>119.6</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>116.0</td>
<td>112.3</td>
<td>120.4</td>
<td>103.8</td>
<td>133.3</td>
<td>140.1</td>
<td>116.5</td>
<td>92.1</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>112.9</td>
<td>116.5</td>
<td>103.5</td>
<td>139.5</td>
<td>124.4</td>
<td>110.9</td>
<td>106.8</td>
<td>116.1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scranton</td>
<td>111.4</td>
<td>108.3</td>
<td>115.4</td>
<td>106.0</td>
<td>126.5</td>
<td>120.0</td>
<td>119.1</td>
<td>119.5</td>
<td>115.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>116.7</td>
<td>112.1</td>
<td>121.3</td>
<td>106.3</td>
<td>127.7</td>
<td>132.9</td>
<td>117.6</td>
<td>108.6</td>
<td>127.7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D. C.</td>
<td>113.6</td>
<td>111.2</td>
<td>116.6</td>
<td>101.5</td>
<td>129.5</td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>112.6</td>
<td>105.4</td>
<td>130.0</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ The U. S. average is based on the 46 cities included in the index during 1955. These figures are weighted averages of indexes available for given months and published in regular monthly reports of the index.

**NOTE:** Effective after release of the June 1956 index, the Bureau will discontinue publication of the U. S. and city indexes for all items on the base 1935-39 = 100.
### Table 1: Consumer Price Index — United States city average, all items and commodity groups

Indexes and percent changes for selected dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indexes (1947-49=100)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All items</strong></td>
<td>114.7</td>
<td>114.6</td>
<td>114.6</td>
<td>114.3</td>
<td>101.8</td>
<td>59.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food 1/</strong></td>
<td>109.0</td>
<td>108.8</td>
<td>109.2</td>
<td>110.8</td>
<td>100.5</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food at home</strong></td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>107.1</td>
<td>107.5</td>
<td>109.7</td>
<td>100.5</td>
<td>47.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cereals and bakery products</strong></td>
<td>124.4</td>
<td>124.3</td>
<td>123.9</td>
<td>123.9</td>
<td>102.3</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meats, poultry, and fish</strong></td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>93.6</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>102.3</td>
<td>106.1</td>
<td>41.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dairy products</strong></td>
<td>106.9</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>105.4</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>49.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fruits and vegetables</strong></td>
<td>114.8</td>
<td>113.3</td>
<td>112.6</td>
<td>112.0</td>
<td>102.5</td>
<td>46.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other foods at home</strong></td>
<td>110.7</td>
<td>109.6</td>
<td>112.8</td>
<td>111.9</td>
<td>94.1</td>
<td>48.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing 2/</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rent</strong></td>
<td>131.6</td>
<td>131.5</td>
<td>131.4</td>
<td>130.0</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td>86.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gas and electricity</strong></td>
<td>117.7</td>
<td>117.7</td>
<td>117.7</td>
<td>110.3</td>
<td>102.7</td>
<td>104.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Solid fuels and fuel oil</strong></td>
<td>130.6</td>
<td>130.0</td>
<td>129.5</td>
<td>126.2</td>
<td>107.6</td>
<td>56.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housefurnishings</strong></td>
<td>103.1</td>
<td>102.5</td>
<td>102.0</td>
<td>104.6</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>53.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household operation</strong></td>
<td>121.6</td>
<td>121.4</td>
<td>121.2</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>99.6</td>
<td>68.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apparel</strong></td>
<td>104.8</td>
<td>104.6</td>
<td>104.1</td>
<td>103.2</td>
<td>96.5</td>
<td>58.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men's and boys'</strong></td>
<td>106.6</td>
<td>106.5</td>
<td>106.0</td>
<td>105.6</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>(*/1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's and girls'</strong></td>
<td>98.3</td>
<td>98.3</td>
<td>97.9</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>(*/1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Footwear</strong></td>
<td>121.9</td>
<td>121.3</td>
<td>120.2</td>
<td>119.0</td>
<td>108.0</td>
<td>(*/1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other apparel</strong></td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>91.0</td>
<td>90.7</td>
<td>90.4</td>
<td>88.8</td>
<td>(*/1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation</strong></td>
<td>126.7</td>
<td>126.9</td>
<td>126.8</td>
<td>127.3</td>
<td>109.9</td>
<td>(*/1)70.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public</strong></td>
<td>170.8</td>
<td>170.5</td>
<td>170.7</td>
<td>164.6</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>81.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private</strong></td>
<td>116.8</td>
<td>117.0</td>
<td>117.0</td>
<td>118.2</td>
<td>106.6</td>
<td>68.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical care</strong></td>
<td>131.4</td>
<td>130.9</td>
<td>130.7</td>
<td>127.0</td>
<td>105.4</td>
<td>76.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal care</strong></td>
<td>119.2</td>
<td>118.9</td>
<td>118.5</td>
<td>113.5</td>
<td>99.2</td>
<td>59.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading and recreation</strong></td>
<td>107.7</td>
<td>107.5</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>106.6</td>
<td>102.5</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other goods and services 3/</strong></td>
<td>121.2</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td>120.8</td>
<td>119.8</td>
<td>103.7</td>
<td>70.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Percent change to March 1956 from:          |            |               |              |            |           |           |
| **All items**                              |            |               |              |            |           |           |
| Food 1/                                    | .2         | -.2           | -1.6         | 8.5        | 131.4     |           |
| Food at home                               | .2         | -.2           | -2.2         | 6.8        | 127.8     |           |
| Cereals and bakery products                | .1         | .4            | .4           | 21.1       | 117.5     |           |
| Meat, poultry, and fish                    | -.9        | -.5           | -9.3         | -12.5      | 123.1     |           |
| Dairy products                             | -.4        | -.4           | 1.4          | 15.8       | 114.7     |           |
| Fruits and vegetables                      | 1.3        | 2.0           | 2.5          | 12.0       | 127.9     |           |
| Other foods at home                        | 1.0        | -1.9          | -1.1         | 17.6       | 128.7     |           |
| Housing 2/                                 |            |               |              |            |           |           |
| Rent                                      | .1         | .2            | 1.2          | 21.1       | 52.0      |           |
| Gas and electricity                        | .0         | .0            | 1.3          | 8.8        | 6.5       |           |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil                   | .5         | .8            | 3.5          | 21.4       | 131.6     |           |
| Housefurnishings                           | .6         | .1            | -1.4         | 5.9        | 93.1      |           |
| Household operation                        | .2         | .3            | 3.1          | 22.1       | 77.8      |           |
| Apparel                                   | .2         | .2            | 1.6          | 8.6        | 99.5      |           |
| Men's and boys'                           | .1         | .6            | .9           | 8.7        | (*/1)     |            |
| Women's and girls'                         | .0         | .4            | .9           | 5.4        | (*/1)     |            |
| Footwear                                  | .5         | 1.2           | 4.5          | 19.4       | (*/1)     |            |
| Other apparel                              | .1         | .4            | 3.1          | 3.1        | (*/1)     |            |
| Transportation                             | -.2        | -.1           | -.5          | 15.3       | 80.5      |           |
| Public                                    | .2         | .3            | 3.8          | 44.9       | 110.1     |           |
| Private                                   | -.2        | -.2           | 1.2          | 9.6        | 78.3      |           |
| Medical care                               | .4         | .5            | 3.5          | 24.7       | 81.0      |           |
| Personal care                              | .3         | .6            | 5.0          | 20.2       | 130.0     |           |
| Reading and recreation                     | .2         | .4            | 1.0          | 5.1        | 71.7      |           |
| Other goods and services 3/                | .2         | .3            | 1.2          | 16.9       | 71.7      |           |

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.
5/ Corrected.

Digitized for FRASER
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
### TABLE 2: Consumer Price Index -- All items indexes for selected dates
U.S. city average and 20 large cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>March 1956</th>
<th>February 1956</th>
<th>March 1955</th>
<th>June 1950</th>
<th>Year 1959</th>
<th>March 1956</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States city average</td>
<td>114.7</td>
<td>114.6</td>
<td>114.3</td>
<td>101.8</td>
<td>59.4</td>
<td>191.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities priced monthly:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>117.7</td>
<td>118.3</td>
<td>117.0</td>
<td>102.8</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>200.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>116.9</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>116.3</td>
<td>102.8</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>197.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>116.1</td>
<td>115.8</td>
<td>115.1</td>
<td>101.3</td>
<td>60.4</td>
<td>194.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>112.2</td>
<td>112.1</td>
<td>112.4</td>
<td>100.9</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>185.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>115.8</td>
<td>114.7</td>
<td>115.8</td>
<td>101.6</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>192.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>116.8</td>
<td>117.1</td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td>101.3</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>198.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>115.2</td>
<td>115.8</td>
<td>114.9</td>
<td>101.6</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>198.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>114.3</td>
<td>114.2</td>
<td>113.4</td>
<td>101.2</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>192.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>115.7</td>
<td>116.1</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>101.1</td>
<td>59.3</td>
<td>193.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>116.8</td>
<td>115.9</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>100.9</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>199.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>115.7</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>114.9</td>
<td>100.4</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>197.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>116.6</td>
<td>116.7</td>
<td>115.7</td>
<td>103.5</td>
<td>59.5</td>
<td>197.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scranton</td>
<td>111.1</td>
<td>110.0</td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>102.0</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>198.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>117.2</td>
<td>116.3</td>
<td>102.0</td>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>198.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D. C.</td>
<td>113.4</td>
<td>113.7</td>
<td>113.2</td>
<td>101.6</td>
<td>60.4</td>
<td>186.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>114.6</td>
<td>114.5</td>
<td>113.0</td>
<td>101.2</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>184.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>115.5</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td>101.6</td>
<td>61.7</td>
<td>185.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>116.1</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>116.5</td>
<td>102.1</td>
<td>60.7</td>
<td>192.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>113.6</td>
<td>113.8</td>
<td>113.8</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>193.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, Oregon</td>
<td>116.3</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>114.6</td>
<td>101.5</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>201.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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/ May 1956; formerly priced February, May, August, November.
4/ June 1956; formerly priced March, June, September, December.

### TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index -- Percent changes from February 1956 to March 1956
U.S. city average and five cities priced monthly
All items and commodity groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>All items</th>
<th>Food</th>
<th>Housing</th>
<th>Apparel</th>
<th>Transportation</th>
<th>Medical care</th>
<th>Personal care</th>
<th>Reading and recreation</th>
<th>Other goods &amp; services</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States city average</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>-1.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group</td>
<td>U.S. City Average</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All items</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>114.7</td>
<td>116.9</td>
<td>115.2</td>
<td>117.7</td>
<td>114.3</td>
<td>116.9</td>
<td>116.1</td>
<td>112.2</td>
<td>115.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food at home</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>105.6</td>
<td>107.1</td>
<td>104.1</td>
<td>108.0</td>
<td>109.1</td>
<td>106.6</td>
<td>106.9</td>
<td>102.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereals and bakery products</td>
<td>124.4</td>
<td>118.9</td>
<td>121.3</td>
<td>119.0</td>
<td>123.2</td>
<td>119.2</td>
<td>123.5</td>
<td>129.1</td>
<td>124.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meats, poultry, and fish</td>
<td>92.8</td>
<td>94.3</td>
<td>93.7</td>
<td>88.2</td>
<td>93.1</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>93.3</td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>95.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy products</td>
<td>106.9</td>
<td>107.0</td>
<td>108.9</td>
<td>107.6</td>
<td>110.3</td>
<td>124.7</td>
<td>122.9</td>
<td>124.3</td>
<td>107.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>114.8</td>
<td>114.7</td>
<td>112.7</td>
<td>110.3</td>
<td>110.9</td>
<td>127.6</td>
<td>118.6</td>
<td>107.5</td>
<td>118.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other foods at home</td>
<td>110.7</td>
<td>102.8</td>
<td>110.7</td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>116.1</td>
<td>112.2</td>
<td>119.9</td>
<td>111.3</td>
<td>110.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent</td>
<td>120.7</td>
<td>126.2</td>
<td>126.2</td>
<td>129.7</td>
<td>129.7</td>
<td>122.8</td>
<td>126.5</td>
<td>116.9</td>
<td>115.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas and electricity</td>
<td>131.6</td>
<td>135.0</td>
<td>126.5</td>
<td>153.9</td>
<td>126.7</td>
<td>127.7</td>
<td>142.7</td>
<td>118.1</td>
<td>101.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid fuels and fuel oil</td>
<td>130.6</td>
<td>123.3</td>
<td>130.7</td>
<td>136.9</td>
<td>123.5</td>
<td>126.5</td>
<td>127.7</td>
<td>142.9</td>
<td>130.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household furnishings</td>
<td>133.1</td>
<td>107.6</td>
<td>97.3</td>
<td>124.9</td>
<td>132.6</td>
<td>134.1</td>
<td>136.2</td>
<td>128.1</td>
<td>136.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household operation</td>
<td>121.6</td>
<td>131.7</td>
<td>115.2</td>
<td>126.7</td>
<td>127.4</td>
<td>115.2</td>
<td>128.3</td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>118.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparel</td>
<td>104.8</td>
<td>110.7</td>
<td>103.7</td>
<td>128.5</td>
<td>105.3</td>
<td>103.3</td>
<td>125.0</td>
<td>139.7</td>
<td>104.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparel, women's and boys'</td>
<td>103.6</td>
<td>111.5</td>
<td>102.6</td>
<td>118.9</td>
<td>104.6</td>
<td>109.5</td>
<td>125.0</td>
<td>106.5</td>
<td>109.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's and girls'</td>
<td>98.3</td>
<td>105.0</td>
<td>99.5</td>
<td>103.0</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>91.8</td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>96.3</td>
<td>100.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footwear</td>
<td>121.9</td>
<td>128.7</td>
<td>121.1</td>
<td>126.4</td>
<td>129.2</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>125.4</td>
<td>120.8</td>
<td>117.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other apparel</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>91.5</td>
<td>94.9</td>
<td>95.1</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>87.3</td>
<td>83.3</td>
<td>93.9</td>
<td>92.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>126.7</td>
<td>124.5</td>
<td>136.8</td>
<td>130.6</td>
<td>121.1</td>
<td>124.2</td>
<td>125.4</td>
<td>131.0</td>
<td>136.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>170.8</td>
<td>153.6</td>
<td>185.8</td>
<td>165.3</td>
<td>162.8</td>
<td>142.7</td>
<td>150.8</td>
<td>186.7</td>
<td>186.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>116.8</td>
<td>118.7</td>
<td>118.3</td>
<td>115.5</td>
<td>115.1</td>
<td>120.4</td>
<td>121.2</td>
<td>111.1</td>
<td>115.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical care</td>
<td>131.4</td>
<td>128.8</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>135.4</td>
<td>127.2</td>
<td>124.4</td>
<td>126.4</td>
<td>126.6</td>
<td>137.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal care</td>
<td>119.2</td>
<td>124.7</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>122.5</td>
<td>118.1</td>
<td>112.6</td>
<td>119.6</td>
<td>111.2</td>
<td>127.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading and recreation</td>
<td>107.7</td>
<td>110.0</td>
<td>117.1</td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td>100.7</td>
<td>109.2</td>
<td>95.8</td>
<td>104.3</td>
<td>116.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other goods and services</td>
<td>121.2</td>
<td>112.8</td>
<td>123.5</td>
<td>117.5</td>
<td>118.4</td>
<td>121.1</td>
<td>116.1</td>
<td>121.1</td>
<td>125.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent change from December 1955 to March 1956

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percent change from December 1955 to March 1956</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All items</td>
<td>0.0 - 0.3 - 0.5 - 0.7 - 0.1 - 0.2 - 0.2 - 0.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Food                                 | -0.5 - -0.4 - -0.2 - -0.7 - -0.3 - -0.2 |...

1/ Change from September 1955 to March 1956.
### Table 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
March 1956 indexes and percent changes, February 1956 to March 1956
U.S. city average and 20 large cities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>March 1956 Index Percent Change</th>
<th>February 1956 Index Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>U.S. city average</td>
<td>107.0 0.2</td>
<td>107.3 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>107.9 0.0</td>
<td>105.6 -3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>110.2 0.3</td>
<td>121.1 -4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>109.2 0.5</td>
<td>119.0 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>106.3 -5.4</td>
<td>119.0 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>109.6 0.1</td>
<td>124.2 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>106.6 0.0</td>
<td>119.0 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>111.0 0.5</td>
<td>119.0 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>106.1 -6.2</td>
<td>119.0 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>104.9 2.2</td>
<td>108.2 0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>111.5 1.1</td>
<td>121.6 -4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>111.2 0.0</td>
<td>110.4 0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>108.8 0.2</td>
<td>121.9 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>111.1 0.7</td>
<td>121.9 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>109.8 0.5</td>
<td>121.9 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, Ore.</td>
<td>110.8 0.5</td>
<td>121.9 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>110.9 0.9</td>
<td>121.9 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>112.1 0.4</td>
<td>121.9 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scranton</td>
<td>106.1 -7.2</td>
<td>121.9 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>110.9 0.6</td>
<td>121.9 -6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
<td>110.0 1.1</td>
<td>121.9 -6.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 6: Consumer Price Index -- Average retail prices of selected foods
U.S. city average

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food and unit</th>
<th>March 1956</th>
<th>February 1956</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cereals and bakery products:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour, wheat —— lb.</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>53.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread, milk —— 20 qt.</td>
<td>26.8</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn meal —— lb.</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>12.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice —— lb.</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolled oats —— 20 oz.</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn flakes —— 12 oz.</td>
<td>21.8</td>
<td>21.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread, white —— lb.</td>
<td>17.7</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soda crackers —— 7 oz.</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanilla cookies —— 10 oz.</td>
<td>23.8</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meats, poultry, and fish:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round steak —— lb.</td>
<td>81.3</td>
<td>83.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuck roast —— lb.</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>45.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rib roast —— lb.</td>
<td>64.6</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamberger —— lb.</td>
<td>37.5</td>
<td>37.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veal cutlets —— 11 lb.</td>
<td>110.1</td>
<td>112.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pork chops, center cut —— lb.</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>69.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacon, sliced —— lb.</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>53.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ham, whole —— lb.</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>55.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb, leg —— lb.</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>64.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frankfurters —— lb.</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>51.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luncheon meat, canned —— 12 oz.</td>
<td>40.7</td>
<td>40.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frying chickens, ready-to-cook —— 50 lb.</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>50.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ocean perch, fillet, frozen —— lb.</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haddock, fillet, frozen —— lb.</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>46.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmon, pink, canned —— 15 oz.</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>58.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuna fish, canned —— 6 to 98 oz.</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dairy products:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk, fresh, [grocery] —— qt.</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk, fresh, [delivered] —— lb.</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>23.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice cream —— pt.</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>28.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butter —— lb.</td>
<td>70.8</td>
<td>70.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheese, American process —— lb.</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>57.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk, evaporated —— 16 oz. can</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fruits and vegetables:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberries —— 10 oz.</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>30.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange juice concentrate —— oz.</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pears, green —— 10 oz.</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>21.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans, green —— lb.</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fruits:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apples —— lb.</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bananas —— lb.</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oranges, size 200 —— oz.</td>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>50.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemons —— lb.</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>18.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Priced only in season.*

**Notes:**
- *Priced only in season.*
- March 1956 indexes and percent changes, February 1956 to March 1956.
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
- Camden, Arkansas
- Canton, Ohio
- Charleston, W. Virginia
- Evansville, Indiana
- Garrett, Indiana
- Glendale, Arizona
- Grand Forks, N. Dakota
- Grand Island, Nebraska
- Huntington, W. Virginia
- Laconia, New Hampshire
- Lodi, California
- Lynchburg, Virginia
- Madison, Wisconsin
- Middlesboro, Kentucky
- Middletown, Connecticut
- Newark, Ohio
- Pulaski, Virginia
- Ravenna, Ohio
- Rawlins, Wyoming
- San Jose, California
- Sandpoint, Idaho
- Shawnee, Oklahoma
- Shenandoah, Iowa
- Youngstown, 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 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.