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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR APRIL 1956

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.2 percent between March and April 1956, chiefly because of an advance of 0.6 percent in food prices, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices of most other classes of goods and services also increased during the month. Transportation costs declined and apparel prices remained at their March level. The Consumer Price Index for April was 114.9 (1947-49=100), 0.6 percent higher than in April 1955.

**FOOD** The rise of 0.6 percent in retail food prices followed the usual seasonal pattern and brought the index to 109.6 in April. This was 1.4 percent below its April 1955 level. Food purchased for home consumption rose 0.6 percent over the month, and restaurant meal prices advanced 0.4 percent.

Four of the five major components of the food at home index advanced, with substantial increases in prices of the meats, poultry, and fish group (up 1.3 percent) and fruits and vegetables (up 1.7 percent). The dairy products group declined 0.5 percent, largely because of continued seasonal declines in prices of fresh milk.

Prices of pork chops, ham, and bacon increased 8.4 percent, 2.8 percent, and 1.9 percent, respectively, reflecting reduced supplies, accompanied by small advances in most other meats. Poultry (down 2 percent) and canned tuna (down 1.9 percent) partially offset the rise in prices of meats.

A 4.1 percent increase in fresh fruit prices was the primary factor in the higher fruits and vegetables index, although costs of fresh vegetables advanced only 1.1 percent. Fresh strawberries returned to the market at prices substantially above their June 1955 level, and apple prices rose 8.6 percent. White potatoes were up 16.7 percent, with the bulk of this increase offset by a decline of 19.9 percent in fresh tomato prices, as supplies increased seasonally.

Both the cereals and bakery products and "other food at home" categories advanced 0.1 percent. A drop of 1.9 percent in egg prices almost counterbalanced advances for shortening and margarine, which increased 4.1 percent and 2.6 percent, respectively, and smaller price increases for canned coffee, cola drinks, and sugar.

**HOUSING** Housing costs rose 0.1 percent between March and April, as higher household operation costs and slightly higher rents were partially offset by reduced prices for housefurnishings and fuels.

**OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES** Reading and recreation costs rose 0.5 percent, as higher movie admissions for "special features" were reported in several cities. Prices of television sets were up slightly.

Medical care costs continued upward, reflecting increased fees for professional services. Higher prices for men's haircuts and toilet goods resulted in an increase of 0.3 percent in personal care.

Apparel prices remained at their March level. Footwear prices advanced for the tenth consecutive month, but these increases were offset by reductions in men's and boys' and women's and girls' apparel.

The transportation index declined 0.2 percent, chiefly because of larger concessions on new car prices. Used car prices rose slightly.

TABLE B: Consumer Price Index -- U.S. and 20 cities, food and food subgroups  
1955 Annual averages  
(1947-49 = 100) 1/

| City                   | : Total : food | : Total : food at home | : Cereals :& bakery : products | : Meats, : poultry, : Dairy : products | : Fruits :& vege- : tables | : Other : foods at home |       |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------|
| U.S. city average----- | 110.9          | 109.7                  | 123.9                          | 101.6                                  | 105.9                      | 113.5                   | 111.5 |
| Atlanta-----           | 110.2          | 108.5                  | 117.4                          | 105.0                                  | 108.3                      | 113.1                   | 104.0 |
| Baltimore-----         | 111.7          | 110.1                  | 121.9                          | 102.4                                  | 108.6                      | 112.4                   | 111.2 |
| Boston-----            | 109.5          | 107.9                  | 120.0                          | 99.3                                   | 109.3                      | 109.7                   | 106.6 |
| Chicago-----           | 109.1          | 107.5                  | 119.1                          | 96.1                                   | 105.9                      | 112.4                   | 116.9 |
| Cincinnati-----        | 112.0          | 110.9                  | 124.5                          | 102.4                                  | 107.8                      | 112.6                   | 116.6 |
| Cleveland-----         | 108.9          | 107.5                  | 119.8                          | 99.0                                   | 100.8                      | 109.1                   | 115.1 |
| Detroit-----           | 113.2          | 111.8                  | 119.6                          | 100.1                                  | 105.2                      | 125.9                   | 113.1 |
| Houston-----           | 109.9          | 108.7                  | 118.2                          | 99.4                                   | 109.1                      | 114.6                   | 109.5 |
| Kansas City-----       | 106.8          | 105.1                  | 120.7                          | 96.5                                   | 105.3                      | 106.4                   | 104.9 |
| Los Angeles-----       | 111.8          | 109.3                  | 127.9                          | 101.2                                  | 103.0                      | 112.6                   | 110.1 |
| Minneapolis-----       | 111.6          | 110.8                  | 125.9                          | 97.5                                   | 105.8                      | 118.6                   | 119.7 |
| New York-----          | 110.8          | 109.7                  | 128.5                          | 103.9                                  | 104.7                      | 107.5                   | 113.3 |
| Philadelphia-----      | 113.0          | 111.8                  | 121.8                          | 104.4                                  | 109.1                      | 116.4                   | 112.0 |
| Pittsburgh-----        | 111.2          | 110.5                  | 124.6                          | 98.7                                   | 108.4                      | 111.1                   | 120.2 |
| Portland, Oregon-----  | 110.6          | 109.8                  | 124.2                          | 102.2                                  | 104.4                      | 113.9                   | 111.5 |
| St. Louis-----         | 112.3          | 110.0                  | 118.9                          | 101.0                                  | 95.8                       | 121.3                   | 119.3 |
| San Francisco-----     | 112.9          | 112.0                  | 130.7                          | 105.9                                  | 105.0                      | 117.1                   | 110.3 |
| Scranton-----          | 108.3          | 108.0                  | 118.9                          | 100.5                                  | 106.6                      | 108.5                   | 109.9 |
| Seattle-----           | 112.1          | 111.4                  | 127.7                          | 101.7                                  | 108.3                      | 119.0                   | 110.6 |
| Washington, D.C.-----  | 111.2          | 109.6                  | 122.1                          | 99.2                                   | 111.0                      | 111.1                   | 111.7 |

1/ The U.S. average is based on the 46 cities included in the index during 1955. These figures are simple averages of the indexes for the 12 months, 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

| Group                             | Indexes (1947-49=100) |            |               |            |           |                  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------|---------------|------------|-----------|------------------|
|                                   | April 1956            | March 1956 | February 1956 | April 1955 | June 1950 | Year 1939        |
|                                   | This month            | Last month | 2 months ago  | Last year  | Pre-Korea | Pre-World War II |
| All items -----                   | 114.9                 | 114.7      | 114.6         | 114.2      | 101.8     | 59.4             |
| Food 1/ -----                     | 109.6                 | 109.0      | 108.8         | 111.2      | 100.5     | 47.1             |
| Food at home -----                | 107.9                 | 107.3      | 107.1         | 110.1      | 100.5     | 47.1             |
| Cereals and bakery products ----- | 124.5                 | 124.4      | 124.3         | 123.9      | 102.7     | 57.2             |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----    | 94.0                  | 92.8       | 93.6          | 103.0      | 106.1     | 41.6             |
| Dairy products -----              | 106.4                 | 106.9      | 107.3         | 104.6      | 92.3      | 48.8             |
| Fruits and vegetables -----       | 116.7                 | 114.8      | 113.3         | 117.5      | 102.5     | 46.3             |
| Other foods at home -----         | 110.8                 | 110.7      | 109.6         | 109.4      | 94.1      | 43.4             |
| Housing 2/ -----                  | 120.8                 | 120.7      | 120.7         | 119.5      | 104.9     | 70.1             |
| Rent -----                        | 131.7                 | 131.6      | 131.5         | 129.9      | 108.7     | 80.1             |
| Gas and electricity -----         | 111.8                 | 111.7      | 111.7         | 110.3      | 102.7     | 104.9            |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----    | 129.7                 | 130.6      | 130.0         | 125.7      | 107.6     | 56.4             |
| Housefurnishings -----            | 102.7                 | 103.1      | 102.5         | 104.5      | 97.4      | 53.4             |
| Household operation -----         | 122.1                 | 121.6      | 121.4         | 118.1      | 99.6      | 68.4             |
| Apparel -----                     | 104.8                 | 104.8      | 104.6         | 103.1      | 96.5      | 52.5             |
| Men's and boys -----              | 106.5                 | 106.6      | 106.5         | 105.5      | 98.1      | (4/)             |
| Women's and girls' -----          | 98.1                  | 98.3       | 98.3          | 97.1       | 93.3      | (4/)             |
| Footwear -----                    | 123.0                 | 121.9      | 121.3         | 116.9      | 102.1     | (4/)             |
| Other apparel -----               | 91.1                  | 91.1       | 91.0          | 90.2       | 88.4      | (4/)             |
| Transportation -----              | 126.4                 | 126.7      | 126.9         | 125.3      | 109.9     | 70.2             |
| Public -----                      | 170.8                 | 170.8      | 170.5         | 164.8      | 117.9     | 81.3             |
| Private -----                     | 116.5                 | 116.8      | 117.0         | 116.0      | 106.6     | 65.5             |
| Medical care -----                | 131.6                 | 131.4      | 130.9         | 127.3      | 105.4     | 72.6             |
| Personal care -----               | 119.5                 | 119.2      | 118.9         | 113.7      | 99.2      | 59.6             |
| Reading and recreation -----      | 108.2                 | 107.7      | 107.5         | 106.6      | 102.5     | 63.0             |
| Other goods and services 3/ ----- | 121.4                 | 121.2      | 120.9         | 119.8      | 103.7     | 70.6             |

  

|                                   | Percent change to April 1956 from: |               |            |           |           |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                   | March 1956                         | February 1956 | April 1955 | June 1950 | Year 1939 |
| All items -----                   | 0.2                                | 0.3           | 0.6        | 12.9      | 93.4      |
| Food 1/ -----                     | .6                                 | .7            | - 1.4      | 9.1       | 132.7     |
| Food at home -----                | .6                                 | .7            | - 2.0      | 7.4       | 129.1     |
| Cereals and bakery products ----- | .1                                 | .2            | .5         | 21.2      | 117.7     |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----    | 1.3                                | .4            | - 8.7      | -11.4     | 126.0     |
| Dairy products -----              | - .5                               | - .8          | 1.7        | 15.3      | 113.7     |
| Fruits and vegetables -----       | 1.7                                | 3.0           | - .7       | 13.9      | 152.1     |
| Other foods at home -----         | .1                                 | 1.1           | 1.3        | 17.7      | 128.9     |
| Housing 2/ -----                  | .1                                 | .1            | 1.1        | 15.2      | 58.7      |
| Rent -----                        | .1                                 | .2            | 1.4        | 21.2      | 52.1      |
| Gas and electricity -----         | .1                                 | .1            | 1.4        | 8.9       | 6.6       |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----    | - .7                               | - .2          | 3.2        | 20.5      | 130.0     |
| Housefurnishings -----            | - .4                               | .2            | - 1.7      | 5.4       | 92.3      |
| Household operation -----         | .4                                 | .6            | 3.4        | 22.6      | 78.5      |
| Apparel -----                     | 0                                  | .2            | 1.6        | 8.6       | 99.6      |
| Men's and boys' -----             | - .1                               | 0             | .9         | 8.6       | (4/)      |
| Women's and girls' -----          | - .2                               | - .2          | 1.0        | 5.1       | (4/)      |
| Footwear -----                    | .9                                 | 1.4           | 5.2        | 20.5      | (4/)      |
| Other apparel -----               | 0                                  | .1            | 1.0        | 3.1       | (4/)      |
| Transportation -----              | - .2                               | - .4          | .9         | 13.0      | 80.1      |
| Public -----                      | 0                                  | .2            | 3.6        | 44.9      | 110.1     |
| Private -----                     | - .3                               | - .4          | .4         | 9.3       | 77.9      |
| Medical care -----                | .2                                 | .5            | 3.4        | 24.9      | 81.3      |
| Personal care -----               | .3                                 | .5            | 5.1        | 20.5      | 100.5     |
| Reading and recreation -----      | .5                                 | .7            | 1.5        | 5.6       | 71.7      |
| Other goods and services 3/ ----- | .2                                 | .4            | 1.3        | 17.1      | 72.0      |

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]               |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
|  | April<br>1956 | March<br>1956 | April<br>1955 | June<br>1950           | Year<br>1939 | April<br>1956 <sup>1/</sup> |
| United States city average -----                                   | 114.9         | 114.7         | 114.2         | 101.8                  | 59.4         | 192.1                       |
| Cities priced monthly:   |               |               |               |                        |              |                             |
| Chicago -----  | 118.1         | 117.7         | 116.9         | 102.8                  | 58.6         | 201.1                       |
| Detroit -----  | 117.4         | 116.9         | 116.2         | 102.8                  | 59.0         | 198.2                       |
| Los Angeles -----  | 116.3         | 116.1         | 114.5         | 101.3                  | 60.4         | 194.3                       |
| New York -----   | 112.3         | 112.2         | 112.3         | 100.9                  | 60.1         | 185.9                       |
| Philadelphia -----   | 116.0         | 115.8         | 115.8         | 101.6                  | 59.2         | 193.0                       |
| Cities priced in January, April,<br>July, October <sup>2/</sup>    |               |               |               |                        |              |                             |
| Boston -----   | 115.2         | 114.6         | 113.4         | 101.2                  | 61.0         | 185.5                       |
| Kansas City -----  | 116.4         | 115.5         | 115.2         | 101.4                  | 61.7         | 187.4                       |
| Minneapolis -----  | 115.6         | 116.1         | 117.0         | ( <sup>3/</sup> )102.1 | 60.7         | 191.4                       |
| Pittsburgh -----   | 115.2         | 113.6         | 113.8         | 99.9                   | 58.1         | 195.8                       |
| Portland, Oregon -----   | 116.4         | 116.3         | 114.2         | 101.5                  | 58.3         | 201.6                       |
| Cities priced in March, June,<br>September, December <sup>2/</sup> |               |               |               |                        |              |                             |
| Atlanta -----  | 116.8         | 117.1         | 115.3         | ( <sup>4/</sup> )101.3 | 58.3         | 198.1                       |
| Baltimore -----  | 115.2         | 115.8         | 114.9         | 101.6                  | 57.9         | 198.0                       |
| Cincinnati -----   | 114.3         | 114.2         | 113.4         | 101.2                  | 58.4         | 192.5                       |
| St. Louis -----  | 115.7         | 116.1         | 115.6         | 101.1                  | 59.3         | 193.1                       |
| San Francisco -----  | 116.8         | 115.9         | 115.6         | 100.9                  | 58.6         | 199.6                       |
| Cities priced in February, May,<br>August, November <sup>2/</sup>  |               |               |               |                        |              |                             |
| Cleveland -----  | 115.7         | 116.2         | 114.9         | 100.4                  | 59.2         | 197.2                       |
| Houston -----  | 116.6         | 116.7         | 115.7         | 103.5                  | 59.5         | 197.4                       |
| Scranton -----   | 111.1         | 110.9         | 111.7         | 100.2                  | 58.5         | 184.6                       |
| Seattle -----  | 116.2         | 117.4         | 116.3         | 102.0                  | 59.2         | 198.6                       |
| Washington, D. C. -----  | 113.4         | 113.7         | 113.2         | 101.6                  | 60.4         | 186.2                       |

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

<sup>2/</sup> Foods, fuels, rents, and a few other items priced monthly; other commodities and services priced quarterly.

<sup>3/</sup> June 1950; formerly priced March, June, September, December.

<sup>4/</sup> May 1950; formerly priced February, May, August, November.

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

| City                           | All<br>items | Food | Housing | Apparel | Trans-<br>portation | Medical<br>care | Personal<br>care | Reading<br>and<br>recreation | Other<br>goods &<br>services |
|--------------------------------|--------------|------|---------|---------|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| United States city average --- | 0.2          | 0.6  | 0.1     | 0       | - 0.2               | 0.2             | 0.3              | 0.5                          | 0.2                          |
| Chicago -----                  | .3           | .8   | .1      | 0       | .4                  | .7              | 1.1              | .3                           | 0                            |
| Detroit -----                  | .4           | 1.1  | .2      | 0.3     | .5                  | .1              | .1               | .4                           | .1                           |
| Los Angeles -----              | .2           | 1.1  | .2      | - .2    | - 1.3               | .2              | 0                | .8                           | .1                           |
| New York -----                 | .1           | .1   | 0       | 0       | .3                  | .1              | .1               | 1.0                          | 0                            |
| Philadelphia -----             | .2           | .3   | .3      | .1      | -.8                 | 0               | -.2              | 0                            | 0                            |

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups  
 April 1956 indexes and percent changes, January 1956 to April 1956  
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in April 1956

| Group  | U.S.<br>City<br>Average | Boston | Chicago | Detroit | Kansas<br>City | Los<br>Angeles | Minnea-<br>polis | New<br>York | Phila-<br>delphia | Pitts-<br>burgh | Portland,<br>Oregon |
|--|-------------------------|--------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
|  | Indexes (1947-49=100)   |        |         |         |                |                |                  |             |                   |                 |                     |
| All items -----                                | 114.9                   | 115.2  | 118.1   | 117.4   | 116.4          | 116.3          | 115.6            | 112.3       | 116.0             | 115.2           | 116.4               |
| Food -----                                     | 109.6                   | 107.9  | 107.1   | 112.2   | 105.9          | 112.7          | 112.0            | 108.9       | 111.4             | 110.5           | 112.1               |
| Food at home -----                             | 107.9                   | 105.3  | 105.1   | 110.5   | 103.7          | 109.4          | 111.3            | 106.9       | 109.5             | 109.0           | 110.4               |
| Cereals and bakery products --                 | 124.5                   | 122.1  | 119.8   | 119.4   | 120.3          | 128.2          | 126.5            | 128.8       | 124.5             | 125.6           | 125.7               |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----                 | 94.0                    | 92.2   | 86.4    | 92.0    | 88.1           | 94.9           | 92.1             | 96.6        | 96.6              | 92.3            | 95.7                |
| Dairy products -----                           | 106.4                   | 106.4  | 109.1   | 108.7   | 107.2          | 103.0          | 110.5            | 102.2       | 107.2             | 107.2           | 109.2               |
| Fruits and vegetables -----                    | 116.7                   | 110.4  | 113.9   | 129.5   | 111.0          | 122.5          | 127.2            | 110.3       | 119.3             | 116.0           | 120.0               |
| Other foods at home -----                      | 110.8                   | 105.6  | 117.1   | 113.5   | 105.1          | 110.5          | 119.3            | 111.1       | 110.6             | 119.8           | 113.0               |
| Housing -----                                  | 120.8                   | 124.7  | 129.8   | 123.0   | 122.6          | 126.7          | 119.0            | 116.9       | 116.2             | 118.8           | 121.7               |
| Rent -----                                     | 131.7                   | —      | —       | 144.2   | 138.9          | —              | —                | —           | —                 | 125.5           | —                   |
| Gas and electricity -----                      | 111.8                   | 107.3  | 113.8   | 114.3   | 124.9          | 116.2          | 124.8            | 110.2       | 103.4             | 127.0           | 107.8               |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----                 | 129.7                   | 131.5  | 135.0   | 123.8   | 116.6          | —              | 122.3            | 135.8       | 130.2             | 120.6           | 135.8               |
| Housefurnishings -----                         | 102.7                   | 105.7  | 101.4   | 106.8   | 103.6          | 102.0          | 98.3             | 102.1       | 108.5             | 105.2           | 105.1               |
| Household operation -----                      | 122.1                   | 120.1  | 127.0   | 115.7   | 126.2          | 124.6          | 122.5            | 121.4       | 118.4             | 121.7           | 116.5               |
| Apparel -----                                  | 104.8                   | 102.5  | 108.5   | 102.6   | 103.3          | 104.8          | 105.6            | 103.7       | 104.2             | 103.6           | 108.5               |
| Men's and boys' -----                          | 106.5                   | 103.1  | 113.2   | 109.6   | 107.0          | 108.6          | 107.8            | 105.9       | 103.9             | 105.2           | 110.7               |
| Women's and girls' -----                       | 98.1                    | 96.1   | 99.5    | 92.4    | 96.4           | 96.1           | 100.1            | 96.3        | 100.1             | 96.2            | 101.4               |
| Footwear -----                                 | 123.0                   | 118.2  | 126.5   | 118.5   | 118.5          | 126.7          | 118.6            | 122.3       | 117.6             | 120.7           | 126.2               |
| Other apparel -----                            | 91.1                    | 103.5  | 95.1    | 87.4    | 87.5           | 83.2           | 92.6             | 94.0        | 92.0              | 98.9            | 95.8                |
| Transportation -----                           | 126.4                   | 136.3  | 131.1   | 124.8   | 127.6          | 123.8          | 111.7            | 131.4       | 134.9             | 136.0           | 119.9               |
| Public -----                                   | 170.8                   | 166.3  | 165.3   | 142.7   | 186.6          | 150.8          | 164.2            | 186.7       | 186.0             | 192.5           | 161.9               |
| Private -----                                  | 116.5                   | 127.3  | 116.0   | 121.2   | 118.1          | 119.4          | 105.4            | 111.6       | 114.1             | 115.5           | 114.8               |
| Medical care -----                             | 131.6                   | 128.5  | 136.4   | 142.2   | 138.1          | 126.6          | 149.0            | 126.5       | 137.5             | 135.0           | 129.8               |
| Personal care -----                            | 119.5                   | 123.0  | 123.8   | 127.7   | 123.5          | 119.6          | 123.7            | 111.3       | 127.0             | 119.1           | 119.2               |
| Reading and recreation -----                   | 108.2                   | 108.5  | 115.7   | 109.6   | 114.6          | 96.6           | 117.9            | 105.3       | 114.9             | 104.1           | 118.0               |
| Other goods and services -----                 | 121.4                   | 118.9  | 117.5   | 124.2   | 121.6          | 116.2          | 126.0            | 121.1       | 125.5             | 122.2           | 120.5               |
| Percent change from January 1956 to April 1956 |                         |        |         |         |                |                |                  |             |                   |                 |                     |
| All items -----                                | 0.3                     | 0.5    | 0       | 0.9     | 0.8            | 0.3            | - 0.4            | 0.2         | 1.2               | 1.4             | 0.1                 |
| Food -----                                     | .4                      | - .5   | 0.6     | 1.4     | 1.0            | 1.1            | .7               | - .2        | .8                | 1.0             | 1.7                 |
| Food at home -----                             | .4                      | - .5   | .7      | 1.6     | .8             | 1.0            | .8               | - .4        | .5                | .6              | 1.4                 |
| Cereals and bakery products --                 | .5                      | 0      | .8      | .3      | 0              | .2             | .9               | .1          | 1.1               | .6              | .9                  |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----                 | .8                      | - 1.7  | - .7    | .5      | 1.4            | .3             | 1.1              | 0           | 1.7               | 1.9             | 2.5                 |
| Dairy products -----                           | - .8                    | - 2.3  | 1.4     | 3.4     | - .3           | .3             | - .2             | - 2.3       | - 2.6             | - 2.1           | .6                  |
| Fruits and vegetables -----                    | 3.6                     | 3.6    | 4.9     | 4.8     | 2.5            | 7.2            | 5.2              | 2.7         | 3.7               | 5.6             | 4.0                 |
| Other foods at home -----                      | - 1.8                   | - 1.1  | - 1.1   | - .4    | - .2           | - 2.0          | - 2.1            | - 2.1       | - 1.6             | - 1.7           | - .4                |
| Housing -----                                  | .2                      | 1.1    | - .9    | .6      | .7             | .3             | - 1.2            | .3          | 2.0               | 1.3             | .6                  |
| Rent -----                                     | .2                      | —      | —       | (1/).3  | (1/).4         | —              | —                | —           | —                 | (1/).3          | —                   |
| Gas and electricity -----                      | .1                      | .2     | .2      | - .2    | 0              | 0              | 0                | .1          | 1.6               | 1.6             | 0                   |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----                 | .2                      | 0      | .1      | 0       | 0              | —              | 1.1              | 2.3         | 1.8               | 1.0             | 2.8                 |
| Housefurnishings -----                         | .7                      | - .5   | - .6    | .3      | 1.4            | .9             | - 1.5            | - .5        | 4.1               | 3.2             | .9                  |
| Household operation -----                      | .7                      | 1.0    | 1.5     | .9      | .4             | - .4           | .2               | .6          | .9                | .7              | 2.1                 |
| Apparel -----                                  | .7                      | 1.3    | .5      | 1.0     | - .3           | .6             | .2               | .8          | 1.3               | .6              | - .3                |
| Men's and boys' -----                          | .5                      | 2.0    | .7      | .8      | .4             | 1.0            | .7               | - .3        | 1.2               | .7              | .4                  |
| Women's and girls' -----                       | .2                      | .4     | .2      | 1.0     | - .8           | - 1.2          | - .8             | .9          | .7                | .1              | - 1.3               |
| Footwear -----                                 | 2.2                     | 3.0    | .7      | 2.2     | .1             | 4.0            | 2.2              | 2.2         | 3.0               | 1.5             | 1.4                 |
| Other apparel -----                            | .4                      | .9     | .3      | .6      | 0              | .8             | .1               | .5          | 1.4               | .7              | - .1                |
| Transportation -----                           | - .3                    | .3     | .2      | .2      | 2.2            | - 1.3          | - 1.8            | .8          | - .7              | 1.9             | - 4.0               |
| Public -----                                   | .3                      | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0              | 0              | 2.2              | 0           | 0                 | 4.4             | 0                   |
| Private -----                                  | - .4                    | .4     | .3      | .2      | 2.5            | - 1.5          | - 2.4            | 1.1         | - .9              | 1.1             | - 4.7               |
| Medical care -----                             | .7                      | .1     | 1.0     | 3.5     | 1.2            | .2             | .1               | - .2        | 1.0               | 2.6             | .7                  |
| Personal care -----                            | .8                      | 1.6    | 1.2     | .4      | .8             | .7             | .5               | - .1        | 1.6               | 2.0             | .1                  |
| Reading and recreation -----                   | .8                      | 1.3    | .6      | .6      | - .5           | .2             | - .2             | .6          | 1.4               | 3.8             | - .9                |
| Other goods and services -----                 | .5                      | 0      | 0       | .2      | .4             | 0              | - .1             | .1          | .2                | .2              | 0                   |

1/ Change from October 1955 to April 1956.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups  
 April 1956 indexes and percent changes, March 1956 to April 1956  
 U.S. city average and 20 large cities  
 [1947-49=100]

| City                  | Total food |                | Total food at home |                | Cereals and bakery products |                | Meats, poultry, and fish |                | Dairy products |                | Fruits and 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 --- | 109.6      | 0.6            | 107.9              | 0.6            | 124.5                       | 0.1            | 94.0                     | 1.3            | 106.4          | - 0.5          | 116.7                 | 1.7            | 110.8               | 0.1            |
| Atlanta -----         | 107.8      | .1             | 106.0              | .4             | 117.7                       | - 1.0          | 95.6                     | 1.4            | 108.9          | - .1           | 114.2                 | .4             | 103.7               | .9             |
| Baltimore -----       | 111.0      | .7             | 108.3              | .8             | 121.3                       | 0              | 95.4                     | 1.8            | 108.8          | - .1           | 115.0                 | 2.0            | 110.7               | 0              |
| Boston -----          | 107.9      | .3             | 105.3              | .4             | 122.1                       | 0              | 92.2                     | 1.2            | 106.4          | - 1.1          | 110.4                 | 1.4            | 105.6               | .1             |
| Chicago -----         | 107.1      | .8             | 105.1              | 1.0            | 119.8                       | .7             | 86.4                     | .2             | 109.1          | 1.4            | 113.9                 | 3.3            | 117.1               | 0              |
| Cincinnati -----      | 111.3      | 1.6            | 109.9              | 1.8            | 121.6                       | .3             | 94.4                     | 1.4            | 110.9          | 0              | 118.3                 | 6.7            | 116.9               | .7             |
| Cleveland -----       | 107.7      | 1.0            | 105.6              | 1.1            | 119.4                       | - .3           | 92.4                     | 3.0            | 101.0          | - .7           | 111.2                 | 1.7            | 114.4               | .4             |
| Detroit -----         | 112.2      | 1.1            | 110.5              | 1.3            | 119.4                       | .2             | 92.0                     | .9             | 108.7          | 3.8            | 129.5                 | 1.5            | 113.5               | .6             |
| Houston -----         | 106.6      | .5             | 104.8              | .3             | 117.1                       | - .4           | 90.3                     | 1.2            | 104.1          | - .2           | 113.9                 | 0              | 109.4               | .1             |
| Kansas City -----     | 105.9      | 1.0            | 103.7              | .8             | 120.3                       | - .2           | 88.1                     | 1.0            | 107.2          | - .1           | 111.0                 | 2.2            | 105.1               | .3             |
| Los Angeles -----     | 112.7      | 1.1            | 109.4              | 1.1            | 128.2                       | - .2           | 94.9                     | 1.2            | 103.0          | .1             | 122.5                 | 3.3            | 110.5               | .5             |
| Minneapolis -----     | 112.0      | .7             | 111.3              | .8             | 126.5                       | .6             | 92.1                     | 1.1            | 110.5          | - .2           | 127.2                 | 2.7            | 119.3               | - .2           |
| New York -----        | 108.9      | .1             | 106.9              | 0              | 128.8                       | - .2           | 96.6                     | 1.0            | 102.2          | - 2.0          | 110.3                 | .7             | 111.1               | - .2           |
| Philadelphia -----    | 111.4      | .3             | 109.5              | .3             | 124.5                       | .5             | 96.6                     | 1.4            | 107.2          | - 2.3          | 119.3                 | .5             | 110.6               | .5             |
| Pittsburgh -----      | 110.5      | .6             | 109.0              | .2             | 125.6                       | .1             | 92.3                     | 1.2            | 107.2          | - 2.5          | 116.0                 | 1.7            | 119.8               | .2             |
| Portland, Oreg. ----  | 112.1      | 1.2            | 110.4              | .7             | 125.7                       | .6             | 95.7                     | 3.1            | 109.2          | .3             | 120.0                 | .8             | 113.0               | - 1.0          |
| St. Louis -----       | 110.5      | - .2           | 108.0              | - .2           | 119.5                       | .1             | 92.0                     | .2             | 97.5           | - 2.7          | 125.0                 | 2.0            | 119.3               | - 1.0          |
| San Francisco -----   | 112.8      | .6             | 111.5              | .7             | 130.8                       | .2             | 101.5                    | 1.5            | 105.6          | - .1           | 124.8                 | 2.7            | 107.4               | - .8           |
| Scranton -----        | 106.7      | .6             | 106.1              | .8             | 123.9                       | 4.0            | 93.5                     | 2.6            | 105.0          | - 2.4          | 109.9                 | - 1.1          | 108.5               | .4             |
| Seattle -----         | 111.6      | .6             | 110.6              | .7             | 131.4                       | - .1           | 94.7                     | 1.7            | 112.6          | 1.4            | 123.1                 | .7             | 108.5               | - .2           |
| Washington, D.C. ---  | 110.0      | 0              | 107.9              | 0              | 121.5                       | - .1           | 91.2                     | .7             | 112.4          | - .8           | 114.7                 | .2             | 111.6               | - .2           |

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

| Food and unit                            | April 1956   | March 1956   | Food and unit                        | April 1956   | March 1956   |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Cereals and bakery products:</b>      | <b>Cents</b> | <b>Cents</b> | <b>Fresh—Continued</b>               | <b>Cents</b> | <b>Cents</b> |
| Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.                 | 53.2         | 53.1         | Grapefruit * ----- each              | 9.7          | 9.5          |
| Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.                 | 26.8         | 26.8         | Strawberries * ----- lb.             | 40.4         |              |
| Corn meal ----- 1b.                      | 12.5         | 12.5         | Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.         |              |              |
| Rice ----- 1b.                           | 17.1         | 17.2         | Watermelons * ----- 1b.              |              |              |
| Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.                 | 19.3         | 19.2         | Potatoes ----- 10 lb.                | 66.9         | 57.3         |
| Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.                 | 21.8         | 21.8         | Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.              | 11.9         | 11.9         |
| Bread, white ----- 1b.                   | 17.7         | 17.7         | Onions ----- 1b.                     | 8.0          | 7.8          |
| Soda crackers ----- 1b.                  | 27.1         | 27.6         | Carrots ----- 1b.                    | 12.4         | 13.0         |
| Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.              | 23.9         | 23.8         | Lettuce ----- head                   | 15.2         | 14.7         |
| <b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>         |              |              | Celery ----- 1b.                     | 14.1         | 13.2         |
| Round steak ----- 1b.                    | 82.4         | 81.3         | Cabbage ----- 1b.                    | 8.5          | 7.9          |
| Chuck roast ----- 1b.                    | 44.4         | 44.2         | Tomatoes ----- 1b.                   | 33.8         | 42.2         |
| Rib roast ----- 1b.                      | 64.9         | 64.6         | Beans, green ----- 1b.               | 25.3         | 26.4         |
| Hamburger ----- 1b.                      | 37.6         | 37.5         | <b>Canned:</b>                       |              |              |
| Veal cutlets ----- 1b.                   | 109.6        | 110.1        | Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can        | 36.5         | 36.0         |
| Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.         | 73.0         | 67.3         | Peaches ----- #2½ can                | 34.9         | 34.8         |
| Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.                  | 53.8         | 52.8         | Pineapple ----- #2 can               | 33.6         | 33.5         |
| Ham, whole ----- 1b.                     | 58.8         | 57.1         | Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can        | 26.2         | 26.2         |
| Lamb, leg ----- 1b.                      | 65.4         | 63.8         | Corn, cream style ----- #303 can     | 17.9         | 17.9         |
| Frankfurters ----- 1b.                   | 51.4         | 51.4         | Peas, green ----- #303 can           | 21.6         | 21.6         |
| Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.       | 40.5         | 40.7         | Tomatoes ----- #303 can              | 15.4         | 15.3         |
| Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b. | 48.9         | 50.0         | Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.         | 9.7          | 9.7          |
| Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.    | 41.8         | 41.8         | <b>Dried:</b>                        |              |              |
| Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.        | 45.3         | 46.0         | Prunes ----- 1b.                     | 35.8         | 35.6         |
| Salmon, pink, canned ----- 18 oz.        | 59.3         | 59.0         | Beans ----- 1b.                      | 16.2         | 16.3         |
| Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6½ oz.      | 33.5         | 34.2         | <b>Other foods at home:</b>          |              |              |
| <b>Dairy products:</b>                   |              |              | Vegetable soup ----- 11-oz. can      | 14.0         | 14.0         |
| Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.         | 21.9         | 22.1         | Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can     | 14.5         | 14.6         |
| Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.       | 23.4         | 23.5         | Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.          | 27.0         | 26.9         |
| Ice cream ----- pt.                      | 28.7         | 28.7         | Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.          | 23.0         | 22.9         |
| Butter ----- 1b.                         | 70.7         | 70.8         | Coffee ----- 1b. can                 | 100.1        | 99.4         |
| Cheese, American process ----- 1b.       | 57.0         | 57.1         | Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16            | 23.2         | 23.2         |
| Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can       | 13.8         | 13.8         | Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.      | 32.5         | 32.3         |
| <b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>            |              |              | Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb. | 94.3         | 90.6         |
| <b>Frozen:</b>                           |              |              | Margarine, colored ----- 1b.         | 28.9         | 28.2         |
| Strawberries ----- 10 oz.                | 30.2         | 30.2         | Lard ----- 1b.                       | 18.8         | 18.7         |
| Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.     | 19.6         | 19.8         | Salad dressing ----- pt.             | 34.9         | 34.7         |
| Peas, green ----- 10 oz.                 | 21.2         | 21.1         | Peanut butter ----- 1b.              | 53.4         | 53.6         |
| Beans, green ----- 10 oz.                | 23.3         | 23.4         | Sugar ----- 5 lb.                    | 52.6         | 52.4         |
| <b>Fresh:</b>                            |              |              | Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.              | 23.5         | 23.5         |
| Apples ----- 1b.                         | 15.1         | 13.9         | Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.             | 26.3         | 26.2         |
| Bananas ----- 1b.                        | 15.5         | 16.6         | Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.            | 4.5          | 4.5          |
| Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.             | 50.0         | 49.8         | Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.      | 58.2         | 59.3         |
| Lemons ----- 1b.                         | 17.8         | 17.8         | Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.   | 8.4          | 8.4          |

\* Priced only in season.

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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