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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR OCTOBER 1956

Consumer prices in United States cities advanced 0.5 percent between September and October 1956, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Consumer Price Index for October, at a record level of 117.7 (1947-49=100), was 2.4 percent higher than a year ago. Food prices remained unchanged on the average, but prices of all other major groups of goods and services advanced. A sharp rise in average prices for automobiles, as some 1957 models were introduced, was the principal factor in the increase.

FOOD

The food index, at 113.1 percent of the 1947-49 average, was unchanged for the third consecutive month, reflecting a balance of divergent seasonal price movements in major classes of foods and of varied price changes among cities. Food prices in October were 2.1 percent higher than a year ago, but 3.0 percent below the August 1952 peak.

Prices of fruits and vegetables declined 0.8 percent on the average, as prices of fresh produce followed seasonal patterns. Price reductions were reported for apples (13 percent), potatoes (10 percent), and onions (16 percent), and higher prices were reported for tomatoes (26 percent), lettuce (13 percent), and green beans (18 percent). Over-the-month changes in prices of other fresh produce and for canned, frozen, and dried fruits and vegetables were small and varied.

Lower prices for pork and poultry offset somewhat higher prices for beef and veal in the meats, poultry, and fish group. Prices of pork chops and ham were about 3 percent lower and poultry prices fell at about the same rate, while chuck roast, rib roast, and hamburger increased from 1 to 2 percent over the month.

The dairy products group advanced less than 1 percent, with higher average prices reported for milk and butter. Prices of eggs and coffee also increased about 1 percent and scattered price increases were reported for bread.

HOUSING

The housing index continued to move upward as prices of fuel, housefurnishings, and household operation advanced. Residential rents remained at their September level; bills for electricity declined slightly on the average.

Higher prices were reported for wool floor coverings, innerspring mattresses, metal dinette sets, and washing machines. Anticipation of the introduction of new models was reflected in lower prices for refrigerators. The increase in household operation resulted from higher rates for such services as laundry, dry cleaning, and domestic help.

OTHER COMMODITIES  
AND SERVICES

The transportation index reflected higher prices for most items of automobile purchase and operation. The increase in new car prices was the result of both higher list prices for 1957 models and lower dealers' discounts than were offered at the end of the 1956 model year. Used car prices also rose substantially and smaller increases were reported for gasoline, tires, and auto repairs. Public transportation was unchanged on the average.

Apparel prices rose 0.3 percent primarily because of higher prices for women's wool coats, suits, and dresses, and girls' wool coats.

Minor increases in other groups of goods and services reflected scattered advances for medical and personal care services. Television sets and repairs were generally higher.

NOTICE:

July 1956 Rent and Housing group indexes for Kansas City have been revised as follows:

| <u>Group</u> | <u>Revised Index</u><br><u>(1947-49=100)</u> |
|--------------|--|
| Rent         | 139.3  |
| Housing      | 122.7  |

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index -- United States city average, all items and commodity groups  
Indexes and percent changes for selected dates

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| Group                                | Indexes (1947-49=100) |                |              |              |           |                  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|
|                                      | October 1956          | September 1956 | August 1956  | October 1955 | June 1950 | Year 1939        |
|                                      | This month            | Last month     | 2 months ago | Last year    | Pre-Korea | Pre-World War II |
| All items -----                      | 117.7                 | 117.1          | 116.8        | 114.9        | 101.8     | 59.4             |
| Food 1/ -----                        | 113.1                 | 113.1          | 113.1        | 110.8        | 100.5     | 47.1             |
| Food at home -----                   | 111.7                 | 111.7          | 111.8        | 109.4        | 100.5     | 47.1             |
| Cereals and bakery products -----    | 126.8                 | 126.6          | 126.3        | 123.9        | 102.7     | 57.2             |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----       | 100.8                 | 101.3          | 99.9         | 100.9        | 106.1     | 41.6             |
| Dairy products -----                 | 110.7                 | 109.8          | 109.2        | 107.5        | 92.3      | 49.8             |
| Fruits and vegetables -----          | 113.9                 | 114.8          | 120.7        | 108.5        | 102.5     | 46.3             |
| Other foods at home -----            | 115.8                 | 115.4          | 113.9        | 113.9        | 94.1      | 48.4             |
| Housing 2/ -----                     | 122.8                 | 122.5          | 122.2        | 120.8        | 104.9     | 76.1             |
| Rent -----                           | 133.4                 | 133.4          | 133.2        | 130.8        | 108.7     | 86.6             |
| Gas and electricity -----            | 112.0                 | 112.2          | 112.1        | 111.2        | 102.7     | 104.9            |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----       | 132.9                 | 130.5          | 129.5        | 126.3        | 107.6     | 56.4             |
| Housefurnishings -----               | 103.6                 | 103.3          | 102.6        | 104.4        | 97.4      | 53.4             |
| Household operation -----            | 124.2                 | 123.7          | 123.4        | 120.1        | 99.6      | 68.4             |
| Apparel -----                        | 106.8                 | 106.5          | 105.5        | 104.6        | 96.5      | 52.5             |
| Men's and boys' -----                | 108.2                 | 108.3          | 107.7        | 106.0        | 98.1      | 50.8             |
| Women's and girls' -----             | 100.1                 | 99.6           | 98.1         | 99.5         | 93.3      | 54.5             |
| Footwear -----                       | 126.2                 | 126.0          | 124.8        | 118.4        | 102.1     | 50.3             |
| Other apparel -----                  | 92.1                  | 92.0           | 91.5         | 91.0         | 88.4      | 40.6             |
| Transportation -----                 | 132.6                 | 128.6          | 128.5        | 126.6        | 109.9     | 70.2             |
| Public -----                         | 173.0                 | 173.0          | 172.9        | 167.1        | 117.9     | 81.3             |
| Private -----                        | 122.9                 | 118.7          | 118.6        | 117.1        | 106.6     | 65.5             |
| Medical care -----                   | 134.1                 | 134.0          | 133.3        | 128.7        | 105.4     | 72.6             |
| Personal care -----                  | 120.8                 | 120.5          | 120.3        | 117.0        | 99.2      | 59.6             |
| Reading and recreation -----         | 108.5                 | 108.4          | 107.9        | 106.7        | 102.5     | 63.0             |
| Other goods and services 3/ -----    | 123.0                 | 122.7          | 122.1        | 120.6        | 103.7     | 70.6             |
| Percent change to October 1956 from: |                       |                |              |              |           |                  |
|                                      | September 1956        | August 1956    | October 1955 | June 1950    | Year 1939 |                  |
| All items -----                      | 0.5                   | 0.8            | 2.4          | 15.6         | 98.1      |                  |
| Food 1/ -----                        | 0                     | 0              | 2.1          | 12.5         | 140.1     |                  |
| Food at home -----                   | 0                     | -.1            | 2.1          | 11.1         | 137.2     |                  |
| Cereals and bakery products -----    | .2                    | .4             | 2.3          | 23.5         | 121.7     |                  |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----       | -.5                   | .9             | -.1          | - 5.0        | 142.3     |                  |
| Dairy products -----                 | .8                    | 1.4            | 3.0          | 19.9         | 122.3     |                  |
| Fruits and vegetables -----          | -.8                   | - 5.6          | 5.0          | 11.1         | 146.0     |                  |
| Other foods at home -----            | .3                    | 1.7            | 1.7          | 23.1         | 139.3     |                  |
| Housing 2/ -----                     | .2                    | .5             | 1.7          | 17.1         | 61.4      |                  |
| Rent -----                           | 0                     | .2             | 2.0          | 22.7         | 54.0      |                  |
| Gas and electricity -----            | -.2                   | -.1            | .7           | 9.1          | 6.8       |                  |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----       | 1.8                   | 2.6            | 5.2          | 23.5         | 135.6     |                  |
| Housefurnishings -----               | .3                    | 1.0            | -.8          | 6.4          | 94.0      |                  |
| Household operation -----            | .4                    | .6             | 3.4          | 24.7         | 81.6      |                  |
| Apparel -----                        | .3                    | 1.2            | 2.1          | 10.7         | 103.4     |                  |
| Men's and boys' -----                | -.1                   | .5             | 2.1          | 10.3         | 113.0     |                  |
| Women's and girls' -----             | .5                    | 2.0            | .6           | 7.3          | 83.7      |                  |
| Footwear -----                       | .2                    | 1.1            | 6.6          | 23.6         | 150.9     |                  |
| Other apparel -----                  | .1                    | .7             | 1.2          | 4.2          | 126.8     |                  |
| Transportation -----                 | 3.1                   | 3.2            | 4.7          | 20.7         | 88.9      |                  |
| Public -----                         | 0                     | .1             | 3.5          | 46.7         | 112.8     |                  |
| Private -----                        | 3.5                   | 3.6            | 5.0          | 15.3         | 87.6      |                  |
| Medical care -----                   | .1                    | .6             | 4.2          | 27.2         | 84.7      |                  |
| Personal care -----                  | .2                    | .4             | 3.2          | 21.8         | 102.7     |                  |
| Reading and recreation -----         | .1                    | .6             | 1.7          | 5.9          | 72.2      |                  |
| Other goods and services 3/ -----    | .2                    | .7             | 2.0          | 18.6         | 74.2      |                  |

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.).

TABLE 2: Consumer Price Index — All items indexes for selected dates  
U.S. city average and 20 large cities  
(1947-49=100)

| City  | October<br>1956   | September<br>1956 | October<br>1955   | June<br>1950  | Year<br>1939 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| United States city average-----                         | 1/ 117.7          | 117.1             | 114.9             | 101.8         | 59.4         |
| Cities priced monthly:                                  |                   |                   |                   |               |              |
| Chicago-----  | 121.1             | 120.3             | 119.0             | 102.8         | 58.6         |
| Detroit-----  | 120.0             | 119.7             | 116.5             | 102.8         | 59.0         |
| Los Angeles-----  | 118.5             | 117.8             | 116.3             | 101.3         | 60.4         |
| New York-----   | 115.7             | 115.1             | 112.4             | 100.9         | 60.1         |
| Philadelphia-----                                       | 118.6             | 118.4             | 115.3             | 101.6         | 59.2         |
| Cities priced in January, April,<br>July, October 2/    | October<br>1956   | July<br>1956      | October<br>1955   | April<br>1950 | Year<br>1939 |
| Boston-----   | 119.3             | 117.8             | 114.5             | 101.2         | 61.0         |
| Kansas City-----  | 118.9             | 117.6             | 116.2             | 101.4         | 61.7         |
| Minneapolis-----  | 117.4             | 117.7             | 116.4             | 3/ 102.1      | 60.7         |
| Pittsburgh-----   | 118.2             | 117.3             | 113.8             | 99.9          | 58.1         |
| Portland, Oregon-----                                   | 119.5             | 118.6             | 116.2             | 101.5         | 58.3         |
| Cities priced in March, June,<br>September, December 2/ | September<br>1956 | June<br>1956      | September<br>1955 | June<br>1950  | Year<br>1939 |
| Atlanta-----  | 118.9             | 118.0             | 117.2             | 4/ 101.3      | 58.3         |
| Baltimore-----  | 117.5             | 116.6             | 115.5             | 101.6         | 57.9         |
| Cincinnati-----   | 117.1             | 116.3             | 113.7             | 101.2         | 58.4         |
| St. Louis-----  | 118.1             | 117.0             | 116.5             | 101.1         | 59.3         |
| San Francisco-----                                      | 119.0             | 117.9             | 115.6             | 100.9         | 58.6         |
| Cities priced in February, May,<br>August, November 2/  | August<br>1956    | May<br>1956       | August<br>1955    | May<br>1950   | Year<br>1939 |
| Cleveland-----  | 119.1             | 117.3             | 116.0             | 100.4         | 59.2         |
| Houston-----  | 118.2             | 116.8             | 115.5             | 103.5         | 59.5         |
| Scranton-----   | 113.5             | 112.1             | 111.5             | 100.2         | 58.5         |
| Seattle-----  | 118.8             | 117.1             | 116.6             | 102.0         | 59.2         |
| Washington, D. C.-----                                  | 115.7             | 114.4             | 113.8             | 101.6         | 60.4         |

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 196.8.

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 September 1956 to October 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----- | 0.5          | 0     | 0.2     | 0.3     | 3.1                 | 0.1             | 0.2              | 0.1                          | 0.2                          |
| Chicago-----                    | .7           | - 0.1 | .2      | .4      | 4.6                 | .9              | .1               | - .1                         | 1.1                          |
| Detroit-----                    | .3           | - .5  | .4      | - .1    | 1.6                 | - .1            | .2               | 1.4                          | .1                           |
| Los Angeles-----                | .6           | .8    | .2      | - .1    | 2.4                 | .2              | .7               | .1                           | .2                           |
| New York-----                   | .5           | .2    | .4      | - .1    | 3.5                 | 0               | 0                | .5                           | .1                           |
| Philadelphia-----               | .2           | .1    | .3      | - .5    | .4                  | 0               | 0                | .3                           | .2                           |

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

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| Group   | U.S.<br>City<br>Average | Boston | Chicago | Detroit | Kansas<br>City | Los<br>Angeles | Minne-<br>apolis | New<br>York | Phila-<br>delphia | Pitts-<br>burgh | Portland,<br>Oregon |
|---|-------------------------|--------|---------|---------|----------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Indexes (1947-49=100)                         |                         |        |         |         |                |                |                  |             |                   |                 |                     |
| All items -----                               | 117.7                   | 119.3  | 121.1   | 120.0   | 118.9          | 118.5          | 117.4            | 115.7       | 118.6             | 118.2           | 119.5               |
| Food -----                                    | 113.1                   | 113.2  | 110.7   | 115.1   | 109.9          | 114.6          | 113.2            | 113.6       | 116.0             | 114.8           | 115.2               |
| Food at home -----                            | 111.7                   | 110.9  | 108.8   | 113.6   | 107.8          | 110.9          | 112.1            | 112.2       | 114.3             | 113.1           | 113.2               |
| Cereals and bakery products --                | 126.8                   | 123.7  | 120.6   | 119.9   | 123.5          | 130.8          | 128.5            | 130.6       | 129.9             | 124.9           | 130.0               |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----                | 100.8                   | 101.0  | 94.7    | 99.0    | 97.4           | 101.0          | 95.7             | 104.0       | 102.3             | 100.1           | 101.0               |
| Dairy products -----                          | 110.7                   | 114.4  | 111.4   | 112.1   | 108.0          | 105.5          | 110.6            | 108.0       | 114.9             | 111.3           | 114.0               |
| Fruits and vegetables -----                   | 113.9                   | 111.5  | 109.6   | 123.6   | 111.0          | 111.8          | 117.6            | 113.4       | 117.2             | 114.4           | 111.6               |
| Other foods at home -----                     | 115.8                   | 110.1  | 122.6   | 118.4   | 108.5          | 114.4          | 123.9            | 116.2       | 116.5             | 125.5           | 118.5               |
| Housing -----                                 | 122.8                   | 127.2  | 132.2   | 126.6   | 122.6          | 128.1          | 120.2            | 119.1       | 118.1             | 120.2           | 124.7               |
| Rent -----                                    | 133.4                   | 133.9  | --      | 145.7   | 139.5          | --             | 146.8            | 121.4       | --                | 126.6           | 133.3               |
| Gas and electricity -----                     | 112.0                   | 110.7  | 113.8   | 112.3   | 121.1          | 116.2          | 124.8            | 110.4       | 103.4             | 127.0           | 107.8               |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----                | 132.9                   | 136.3  | 135.9   | 126.6   | 120.7          | --             | 125.1            | 140.2       | 130.1             | 127.9           | 136.0               |
| Housefurnishings -----                        | 103.6                   | 106.2  | 101.9   | 107.7   | 103.6          | 103.4          | 98.7             | 103.7       | 107.8             | 105.6           | 104.3               |
| Household operation -----                     | 124.2                   | 120.8  | 129.9   | 116.9   | 127.6          | 128.1          | 122.6            | 124.7       | 120.0             | 124.4           | 117.4               |
| Apparel -----                                 | 106.8                   | 105.3  | 110.3   | 104.6   | 105.1          | 107.1          | 108.2            | 106.3       | 107.3             | 104.5           | 110.0               |
| Men's and boys' -----                         | 108.2                   | 104.4  | 114.5   | 110.6   | 107.1          | 111.4          | 108.6            | 107.3       | 105.3             | 106.2           | 112.0               |
| Women's and girls' -----                      | 100.1                   | 100.2  | 100.9   | 94.6    | 98.9           | 98.6           | 103.8            | 99.8        | 104.0             | 96.2            | 102.3               |
| Footwear -----                                | 126.2                   | 120.2  | 130.5   | 122.1   | 121.9          | 127.7          | 122.8            | 124.9       | 122.0             | 124.4           | 130.9               |
| Other apparel -----                           | 92.1                    | 104.4  | 96.2    | 87.5    | 88.4           | 84.3           | 94.0             | 95.5        | 93.9              | 99.0            | 96.1                |
| Transportation -----                          | 132.6                   | 145.3  | 139.9   | 128.5   | 130.9          | 129.3          | 117.9            | 137.7       | 137.5             | 143.5           | 126.9               |
| Public -----                                  | 173.0                   | 166.9  | 166.5   | 144.3   | 187.3          | 152.9          | 165.6            | 187.9       | 186.7             | 194.0           | 164.1               |
| Private -----                                 | 122.9                   | 138.3  | 125.5   | 125.1   | 121.6          | 125.2          | 111.9            | 118.5       | 116.9             | 123.4           | 122.4               |
| Medical care -----                            | 134.1                   | 139.5  | 138.0   | 143.2   | 149.8          | 128.0          | 149.8            | 127.9       | 138.1             | 143.8           | 132.9               |
| Personal care -----                           | 120.8                   | 124.3  | 124.1   | 128.4   | 124.0          | 120.1          | 124.6            | 112.6       | 127.8             | 119.3           | 121.1               |
| Reading and recreation -----                  | 108.5                   | 110.1  | 115.5   | 109.6   | 118.8          | 97.2           | 117.0            | 107.2       | 115.2             | 106.3           | 118.3               |
| Other goods and services -----                | 123.0                   | 121.6  | 119.0   | 124.7   | 122.2          | 120.0          | 127.4            | 123.7       | 125.6             | 122.8           | 121.8               |
| Percent change from July 1956 to October 1956 |                         |        |         |         |                |                |                  |             |                   |                 |                     |
| All items -----                               | 0.6                     | 1.3    | 0.5     | - 0.2   | 1.1            | 0.3            | - 0.3            | 1.0         | 0.6               | 0.8             | 0.8                 |
| Food -----                                    | - 1.5                   | - .9   | - 1.9   | - 3.3   | - 1.0          | - .2           | - 1.8            | - .4        | - 1.3             | - .9            | - 1.3               |
| Food at home -----                            | - 1.8                   | - 1.6  | - 2.3   | - 4.0   | - 1.6          | - .6           | - 2.8            | - .6        | - 1.6             | - 1.4           | - 2.4               |
| Cereals and bakery products --                | .8                      | .7     | .2      | 0       | 1.9            | - .2           | 1.7              | .6          | 4.2               | - .6            | - .1                |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----                | 1.5                     | 1.7    | 1.8     | - .1    | 3.4            | 2.0            | .9               | 3.1         | - .3              | 1.9             | - .2                |
| Dairy products -----                          | 1.8                     | 4.0    | 1.7     | 2.6     | - 2.5          | 1.8            | - .3             | 1.9         | 3.1               | 3.3             | .4                  |
| Fruits and vegetables -----                   | -15.8                   | -16.9  | -18.0   | -22.6   | -12.9          | -10.6          | -18.4            | -11.8       | -16.3             | -15.2           | -15.4               |
| Other foods at home -----                     | 2.7                     | 2.4    | 2.5     | 2.8     | 1.1            | 3.2            | 2.7              | 2.3         | 2.9               | 2.5             | 2.3                 |
| Housing -----                                 | .8                      | 1.4    | .8      | 1.0     | 2/- .1         | .5             | - .7             | .8          | 1.7               | - .1            | 1.1                 |
| Rent -----                                    | .2                      | .9     | --      | 1/ 1.0  | 2/ .1          | --             | .7               | .5          | --                | .9              | 1.0                 |
| Gas and electricity -----                     | .3                      | .4     | 0       | - 1.3   | 3.2            | 0              | 0                | .2          | 0                 | 0               | 0                   |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----                | 3.3                     | 4.1    | 2.0     | 2.2     | 3.5            | --             | .6               | 3.2         | 5.9               | 6.1             | .2                  |
| Housefurnishings -----                        | .8                      | .1     | .7      | .8      | - .3           | 2.0            | 1.1              | .6          | 1.0               | - .2            | 1.1                 |
| Household operation -----                     | 1.0                     | 0      | 1.4     | .3      | .6             | 1.7            | - .1             | 2.5         | .3                | 1.4             | - .9                |
| Apparel -----                                 | 1.4                     | 2.4    | 1.7     | 1.8     | 1.4            | .8             | 1.4              | 2.0         | 3.3               | 1.0             | 1.8                 |
| Men's and boys' -----                         | .5                      | .5     | .7      | .5      | - .3           | .6             | .6               | .1          | .9                | .8              | .8                  |
| Women's and girls' -----                      | 2.1                     | 4.6    | 2.3     | 2.7     | 3.2            | 1.1            | 2.5              | 3.9         | 5.2               | .6              | 2.5                 |
| Footwear -----                                | 1.6                     | - .3   | 1.7     | 2.3     | - .6           | .1             | .7               | 1.2         | 2.4               | 2.1             | 2.9                 |
| Other apparel -----                           | .8                      | 1.2    | 1.2     | .2      | .8             | .5             | 1.0              | 1.3         | 2.1               | .1              | .5                  |
| Transportation -----                          | 3.8                     | 7.2    | 4.7     | 1.7     | 6.8            | .9             | 2.2              | 4.2         | 1.5               | 5.3             | 3.3                 |
| Public -----                                  | .2                      | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0              | 0              | 0                | 0           | 0                 | 0               | 0                   |
| Private -----                                 | 4.5                     | 9.5    | 5.8     | 2.0     | 8.0            | 1.0            | 2.4              | 5.7         | 2.0               | 6.7             | 3.7                 |
| Medical care -----                            | 1.1                     | .5     | 1.0     | .4      | 8.3            | .6             | .3               | .9          | .2                | 6.1             | 1.1                 |
| Personal care -----                           | .6                      | .2     | .2      | .1      | .2             | .9             | - .1             | .9          | 0                 | .1              | .7                  |
| Reading and recreation -----                  | .7                      | 2.0    | 0       | 1.7     | .7             | - .4           | - .4             | 1.5         | .3                | 1.4             | 1.8                 |
| Other goods and services -----                | .7                      | 1.7    | 1.4     | 0       | .2             | 1.5            | .8               | 1.8         | .3                | .2              | .5                  |

1/ Change from April 1956 to October 1956.

2/ Based on revised indexes for July 1956: Rent 139.3 and Housing 122.7.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups  
October 1956 indexes and percent changes, September 1956 to October 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 ---  | 113.1      | 0              | 111.7              | 0              | 126.8                       | 0.2            | 100.8                    | - 0.5          | 110.7          | 0.8            | 113.9                 | - 0.8          | 115.8               | 0.3            |
| Atlanta -----          | 111.7      | - 0.2          | 110.4              | - 0.5          | 117.8                       | .3             | 102.0                    | - 1.4          | 112.6          | 0              | 119.2                 | - 1.9          | 108.1               | 1.0            |
| Baltimore -----        | 114.1      | - .3           | 111.4              | - .4           | 122.0                       | - .2           | 101.5                    | - 1.2          | 109.7          | .3             | 113.3                 | - 1.9          | 116.1               | .6             |
| Boston -----           | 113.2      | - .8           | 110.9              | - .9           | 123.7                       | .2             | 101.0                    | - 2.3          | 114.4          | 2.7            | 111.5                 | - 3.7          | 110.1               | - .7           |
| Chicago -----          | 110.7      | - .1           | 108.8              | - .2           | 120.6                       | 0              | 94.7                     | - .7           | 111.4          | 1.1            | 109.6                 | - 2.0          | 122.6               | 1.0            |
| Cincinnati -----       | 114.6      | - .8           | 112.9              | - .9           | 124.8                       | 0              | 102.0                    | - 1.4          | 114.1          | .2             | 111.0                 | - 3.1          | 122.3               | - .1           |
| Cleveland -----        | 111.7      | - .1           | 110.1              | - .1           | 121.9                       | - .1           | 98.7                     | - 1.6          | 107.6          | 3.1            | 110.0                 | 0              | 120.0               | - .2           |
| Detroit -----          | 115.1      | - .5           | 113.6              | - .7           | 119.9                       | - .2           | 99.0                     | - 1.2          | 112.1          | - .1           | 123.6                 | - .8           | 118.4               | - .6           |
| Houston -----          | 110.3      | .2             | 108.7              | 0              | 120.1                       | 2.1            | 95.6                     | - .6           | 109.4          | - .1           | 114.4                 | - 1.3          | 113.6               | .8             |
| Kansas City -----      | 109.9      | .2             | 107.8              | - .3           | 123.5                       | 2.1            | 97.4                     | .8             | 108.0          | - 2.7          | 111.0                 | - .4           | 108.5               | - .8           |
| Los Angeles -----      | 114.6      | .8             | 110.9              | .6             | 130.8                       | - .2           | 101.0                    | .3             | 105.5          | .1             | 111.8                 | 0              | 114.4               | 2.1            |
| Minneapolis -----      | 113.2      | .9             | 112.1              | .4             | 128.5                       | .1             | 95.7                     | - .6           | 110.6          | .3             | 117.6                 | 1.5            | 123.9               | 1.6            |
| New York -----         | 113.6      | .2             | 112.2              | .3             | 130.6                       | .1             | 104.0                    | - .3           | 108.0          | .8             | 113.4                 | 1.3            | 116.2               | - .4           |
| Philadelphia -----     | 116.0      | .1             | 114.3              | 0              | 129.9                       | - .1           | 102.3                    | - .9           | 114.9          | 2.7            | 117.2                 | - 1.3          | 116.5               | .1             |
| Pittsburgh -----       | 114.8      | - .3           | 113.1              | - .7           | 124.9                       | 0              | 100.1                    | - 1.3          | 111.3          | .4             | 114.4                 | - 2.8          | 125.5               | .6             |
| Portland, Oreg. -----  | 115.2      | .3             | 113.2              | - .5           | 130.0                       | - .1           | 101.0                    | - 2.0          | 114.0          | .1             | 111.6                 | 1.3            | 118.5               | - .9           |
| St. Louis -----        | 114.5      | - .2           | 111.3              | - .2           | 120.9                       | .2             | 98.1                     | 0              | 106.3          | .2             | 116.5                 | - 1.9          | 124.3               | .2             |
| San Francisco -----    | 115.8      | .4             | 114.8              | .6             | 137.7                       | .2             | 104.6                    | - .5           | 112.4          | 1.7            | 117.8                 | 0              | 114.4               | 1.7            |
| Scranton -----         | 110.5      | - .1           | 109.9              | - .2           | 124.4                       | .1             | 99.7                     | - 1.1          | 108.1          | .2             | 110.4                 | .6             | 113.6               | - .4           |
| Seattle -----          | 114.5      | .3             | 114.0              | .4             | 136.6                       | - .1           | 100.9                    | - .6           | 116.0          | 2.6            | 114.1                 | - .9           | 116.0               | 1.0            |
| Washington, D.C. ----- | 113.7      | - 1.1          | 112.0              | - 1.3          | 123.0                       | .2             | 99.3                     | - 1.1          | 115.8          | .2             | 113.0                 | - 5.4          | 116.3               | - .5           |

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

| Food and unit                            | Oct. 1956    | Sept. 1956   | Food and unit                          | Oct. 1956    | Sept. 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.                 | 53.1         | 53.2         | Grapefruit * ----- each                |              |              |
| Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.                 | 26.7         | 26.7         | Peaches * ----- 1b.                    |              | 14.7         |
| Corn meal ----- 1b.                      | 12.6         | 12.6         | Strawberries * ----- pt.               |              |              |
| Rice ----- 1b.                           | 17.2         | 17.2         | Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.           | 20.9         | 19.2         |
| Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.                 | 19.3         | 19.3         | Watermelons * ----- 1b.                |              |              |
| Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.                 | 22.0         | 21.9         | Potatoes ----- 10 lb.                  | 51.7         | 57.7         |
| Bread, white ----- 1b.                   | 18.3         | 18.2         | Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.                | 11.9         | 13.1         |
| Soda crackers ----- 1b.                  | 27.7         | 27.7         | Onions ----- 1b.                       | 7.5          | 9.0          |
| Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.              | 24.2         | 24.2         | Carrots ----- 1b.                      | 13.5         | 14.1         |
| <b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>         |              |              | Lettuce ----- head                     | 17.9         | 15.9         |
| Round steak ----- 1b.                    | 96.6         | 96.9         | Celery ----- 1b.                       | 12.4         | 12.6         |
| Chuck roast ----- 1b.                    | 54.5         | 53.4         | Cabbage ----- 1b.                      | 6.9          | 7.2          |
| Rib roast ----- 1b.                      | 77.0         | 76.2         | Tomatoes ----- 1b.                     | 21.0         | 16.6         |
| Hamburger ----- 1b.                      | 40.0         | 39.4         | Beans, green ----- 1b.                 | 21.6         | 18.2         |
| Veal cutlets ----- 1b.                   | 112.8        | 112.8        | <b>Canned:</b>                         |              |              |
| Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.         | 84.9         | 87.9         | Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can          | 39.5         | 38.8         |
| Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.                  | 61.7         | 60.5         | Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can               | 34.5         | 34.7         |
| Ham, whole ----- 1b.                     | 59.8         | 61.4         | Pineapple ----- #2 can                 | 33.8         | 33.7         |
| Lamb, leg ----- 1b.                      | 69.7         | 70.9         | Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can          | 26.2         | 26.3         |
| Frankfurters ----- 1b.                   | 52.2         | 52.0         | Corn, cream style ----- #303 can       | 17.9         | 18.2         |
| Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.       | 41.1         | 40.4         | Peas, green ----- #303 can             | 21.4         | 21.3         |
| Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b. | 46.0         | 47.0         | Tomatoes ----- #303 can                | 15.1         | 15.0         |
| Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.    | 42.2         | 42.0         | Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.        | 10.0         | 10.0         |
| Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.        | 45.0         | 45.0         | <b>Dried:</b>                          |              |              |
| Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.        | 61.4         | 60.9         | Prunes ----- 1b.                       | 35.6         | 36.2         |
| Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.   | 31.8         | 31.8         | Beans ----- 1b.                        | 16.3         | 16.2         |
| <b>Dairy products:</b>                   |              |              | <b>Other foods at home:</b>            |              |              |
| Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.         | 23.2         | 23.0         | Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can | 12.2         | 12.2         |
| Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.       | 24.7         | 24.5         | Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can       | 14.6         | 14.6         |
| Ice cream ----- pt.                      | 29.0         | 29.0         | Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.         | 26.9         | 27.1         |
| Butter ----- 1b.                         | 73.4         | 72.3         | Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.            | 23.1         | 23.2         |
| Cheese, American process ----- 1b.       | 57.2         | 57.3         | Coffee ----- 1b. can                   | 109.0        | 108.0        |
| Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can    | 14.3         | 14.3         | Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16              | 23.2         | 23.2         |
| <b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>            |              |              | Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.        | 33.0         | 32.9         |
| <b>Frozen:</b>                           |              |              | Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.   | 97.2         | 97.3         |
| Strawberries ----- 10 oz.                | 29.0         | 29.2         | Margarine, colored ----- 1b.           | 29.1         | 29.2         |
| Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.     | 19.8         | 20.1         | Lard ----- 1b.                         | 20.6         | 20.1         |
| Peas, green ----- 10 oz.                 | 20.4         | 21.2         | Salad dressing ----- pt.               | 35.4         | 35.5         |
| Beans, green ----- 10 oz.                | 23.3         | 22.9         | Peanut butter ----- 1b.                | 53.6         | 53.6         |
| <b>Fresh:</b>                            |              |              | Sugar ----- 5 lb.                      | 53.1         | 52.9         |
| Apples ----- 1b.                         | 13.2         | 15.1         | Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.                | 24.1         | 24.0         |
| Bananas ----- 1b.                        | 17.1         | 16.9         | Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.               | 27.0         | 26.7         |
| Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.             | 69.5         | 68.2         | Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.              | 4.5          | 4.5          |
| Lemons ----- 1b.                         | 20.1         | 19.8         | Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.        | 63.3         | 62.7         |
|  |              |              | Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.     | 8.5          | 8.4          |

\* Priced only in season.

### Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average changes in prices of goods and services typically bought by city families of wage earners and clerical workers. It is based on prices of about 300 items which were selected so that their price changes would represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage and clerical families; they include all of the important items in family spending. Prices for these items are obtained in 46 cities which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States; they are collected from grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments which wage-earner and clerical-worker families patronize.

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 46 cities. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the 5 largest cities and every 3 months in other cities. Almost all prices are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each city are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in family spending. City data are then combined in the total index with weights based on the 1950 populations of cities they represent. Index numbers are computed on the base 1947-49 = 100.

The national index (the United States city average) includes prices from the 20 large cities for which separate indexes are published in this report, as well as from the following 26 medium-sized and small cities:

|                         |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 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            |                      |

Comparisons of city indexes show only that prices in one city changed more or less than in another. The city indexes cannot be used to measure differences in price levels or in living costs between cities.

A description of the index is contained in BLS Bulletin 1140, "The Consumer Price Index: A Layman's Guide," which may be purchased for 20 cents at any Bureau of Labor Statistics regional office (addresses below) or from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. A more technical description of the index appears in BLS Bulletin 1168, "Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series." Reprints of chapter 9, pertaining to the CPI, are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington or at any of its regional offices.

Historical series of index numbers for the United States city average and for 20 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.

### BLS Regional Offices

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