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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JANUARY 1957

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.2 percent between December 1956 and January 1957, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lower prices for food and apparel were more than offset by increased prices for all other major groups of goods and services. This was the fifth consecutive month in which the Consumer Price Index advanced to a new high level. The January index was 118.2 percent of the 1947-49 average and 3.1 percent higher than a year ago.

FOOD

The January food index declined fractionally to 112.8 (1947-49=100), 3.3 percent higher than a year ago, but still 3.3 percent below the August 1952 peak.

An average decrease of 8.1 percent in egg prices reflected increased supplies in all cities. Prices of fruits and vegetables averaged 0.4 percent lower, principally because of seasonally reduced prices for oranges (down 3.7 percent), lettuce (down 11.2 percent), and tomatoes (down 7.4 percent). Prices of frozen, canned, and dried fruits and vegetables also declined. Partially offsetting these reductions were price advances of 5.0 percent for potatoes, 15.7 percent for celery, 2.3 percent for apples, and 12.4 percent for cabbage.

A rise of 1.0 percent in the meats, poultry, and fish group, the first increase since September 1956, resulted chiefly because of an advance of 3.0 percent in pork prices. Bacon advanced 5.0 percent, pork chops 2.6 percent, and ham 1.2 percent. Beef and lamb prices were lower in January, but most other items in the group advanced.

The price of bread increased in 16 of the 46 cities surveyed.

HOUSING

Residential rents averaged unchanged over the month and house-furnishings prices declined 0.1 percent as January white sales of household textiles more than offset higher prices of floor coverings and new models of some appliances. All other housing components increased. Coal and fuel oil prices were higher in most cities surveyed, advancing 2.1 percent on the average, and gas bills also rose slightly. Higher rates for telephone service were reported and there were continued increases in the prices of laundry and dry cleaning.

APPAREL

The decrease of 0.6 percent in apparel prices reflected end-of-season clearance sales of fall and winter clothing. Women's wool coats were substantially lower and smaller reductions were reported for women's wool suits and dresses and rayon skirts, and girls' coats. Prices were also lower for men's wool trousers and men's and boys' rayon jackets. Prices of men's business shirts and boys' suits advanced.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Higher automobile insurance rates and higher prices for used cars and gasoline more than offset reductions in prices of new automobiles. Railroad fares were increased in the Western states.

The medical care index rose 0.4 percent as costs of hospital services advanced and there were scattered reports of higher fees for other professional medical services.

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

Group	Indexes (1947-49=100)					
	January 1957	December 1956	November 1956	January 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items-----	118.2	118.0	117.8	114.6	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	121.0	120.8	120.5	117.4	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	115.9	115.7	115.6	112.2	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	111.6	111.5	111.5	108.0	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	110.7	110.6	110.5	107.1	99.4	(1/)
All services and shelter-----	134.5	134.0	133.5	130.8	107.9	80.4
All services less shelter-----	137.6	136.9	136.5	133.4	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to January 1957 from --					
	December 1956	November 1956	January 1956	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.2	0.3	3.1	16.1	99.0	
All items less food-----	.2	.4	3.1	17.5	75.1	
All items less shelter-----	.2	.3	3.3	15.1	109.2	
All commodities-----	.1	.1	3.3	11.3	116.3	
All commodities less food-----	.1	.2	3.4	11.4	(1/)	
All services and shelter-----	.4	.7	2.8	24.7	67.3	
All services less shelter-----	.5	.8	3.1	28.6	87.2	

1/ Not available.

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)					
	January 1957	December 1956	November 1956	January 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	118.2	118.0	117.8	114.6	101.8	59.4
Food ^{1/} -----	112.8	112.9	112.9	109.2	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	111.1	111.2	111.3	107.5	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	128.0	127.4	127.0	123.9	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	99.0	98.0	98.8	93.3	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	111.2	111.3	111.1	107.3	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.9	117.4	115.8	112.6	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	112.7	114.2	115.2	112.8	94.1	48.4
Housing ^{2/} -----	123.8	123.5	123.0	120.6	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	134.2	134.2	133.8	131.4	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	112.3	112.0	111.8	111.7	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.9	136.1	134.3	129.5	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	104.1	103.8	102.0	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	125.4	124.8	124.5	121.2	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.4	107.0	107.0	104.1	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.4	108.6	108.4	106.0	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.9	100.3	100.4	97.9	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	126.7	126.4	126.2	120.4	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	91.9	92.2	92.1	90.7	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	133.6	133.1	133.2	126.8	109.9	70.2
Public -----	174.9	174.1	173.4	170.3	117.9	81.3
Private -----	123.8	123.3	123.5	117.0	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	135.3	134.7	134.5	130.7	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	122.1	121.8	121.4	118.5	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	109.9	109.3	109.0	107.3	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	123.8	123.3	123.2	120.8	103.7	70.6

Group	Percent change to January 1957 from:				
	December 1956	November 1956	January 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.2	0.3	3.1	16.1	99.0
Food ^{1/} -----	- .1	- .1	3.3	12.2	139.5
Food at home -----	- .1	- .2	3.3	10.5	135.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	.5	.8	3.3	24.6	123.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.0	.2	6.1	- 6.7	138.0
Dairy products -----	- .1	.1	3.6	20.5	123.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	- .4	.9	3.8	14.0	152.5
Other foods at home -----	- 1.3	- 2.2	- .1	19.8	132.9
Housing ^{2/} -----	.2	.7	2.7	18.0	62.7
Rent -----	0	.3	2.1	23.5	55.0
Gas and electricity -----	.3	.4	.5	9.3	7.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	2.1	3.4	7.3	29.1	146.3
Housefurnishings -----	- .1	.2	2.0	6.8	94.8
Household operation -----	.5	.7	3.5	25.9	83.3
Apparel -----	- .6	- .6	2.2	10.3	102.7
Men's and boys' -----	- .2	0	2.3	10.5	113.4
Women's and girls' -----	- 1.4	- 1.5	1.0	6.0	81.5
Footwear -----	.2	.4	5.2	24.1	151.9
Other apparel -----	- .3	- .2	1.3	4.0	126.4
Transportation -----	.4	.3	5.4	21.6	90.3
Public -----	.5	.9	2.7	48.3	115.1
Private -----	.4	.2	5.8	16.1	89.0
Medical care -----	.4	.6	3.5	28.4	86.4
Personal care -----	.2	.6	3.0	23.1	104.9
Reading and recreation -----	.5	.8	2.4	7.2	74.4
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	.4	.5	2.5	19.4	75.4

^{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	January 1957	December 1956	January 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average-----	1/ 118.2	118.0	114.6	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly: 2/					
Chicago-----	121.0	121.0	118.1	102.8	58.6
Detroit-----	120.5	120.2	116.3	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles-----	119.6	119.4	116.0	101.3	60.4
New York-----	115.6	115.5	112.1	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia-----	118.8	118.6	114.6	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 3/					
	January 1957	October 1956	January 1956	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston-----	119.0	119.3	114.6	101.2	61.0
Kansas City-----	119.8	118.9	115.5	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis-----	119.4	117.4	116.1	4/ 102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh-----	118.8	118.2	113.6	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon-----	120.1	119.5	116.3	101.5	58.3
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 3/					
	December 1956	September 1956	December 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	119.5	118.9	117.1	5/ 101.3	58.3
Baltimore-----	119.5	117.5	115.8	101.6	57.9
Cincinnati-----	117.5	117.1	114.2	101.2	58.4
St. Louis-----	119.1	118.1	116.1	101.1	59.3
San Francisco-----	121.6	119.0	115.9	100.9	58.6
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 3/					
	November 1956	August 1956	November 1955	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	120.0	119.1	116.2	100.4	59.2
Houston-----	119.7	118.2	116.7	103.5	59.5
Scranton-----	114.9	113.5	110.9	100.2	58.5
Seattle-----	120.2	118.8	117.4	102.0	59.2
Washington, D.C.-----	115.9	115.7	113.7	101.6	60.4

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 197.6.

2/ Rents priced bimonthly.

3/ Foods, fuels, and a few other items priced monthly; rents and other commodities and services priced quarterly.

4/ June 1950.

5/ May 1950.

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index -- Percent changes from December 1956 to January 1957
U.S. city average and five cities priced monthly
All items and commodity groups

City	All items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Trans- portation	Medical care	Personal care	Reading and recreation	Other goods & services
United States city average-----	0.2	- 0.1	0.2	- 0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.4
Chicago-----	0	- .3	- .2	- 1.2	1.0	2.6	.2	.2	0
Detroit-----	.2	0	.1	.6	1.1	.2	.3	.3	.2
Los Angeles-----	.2	.3	0	- .5	- .2	1.3	3.0	2.0	- .1
New York-----	.1	- .3	.4	- .5	.1	.1	- .1	.6	1.1
Philadelphia-----	.2	.3	.5	- 1.8	.5	.4	.3	.6	0

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 January 1957 indexes and percent changes, October 1956 to January 1957
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in January 1957

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland, Oregon
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	118.2	119.0	121.0	120.5	119.8	119.6	119.4	115.6	118.8	118.8	120.1
Food -----	112.8	112.1	109.5	114.7	109.0	116.4	112.6	112.3	115.5	114.9	115.5
Food at home -----	111.1	109.6	107.5	112.8	106.7	113.1	111.3	110.4	113.7	113.0	113.4
Cereals and bakery products --	128.0	126.8	120.4	122.6	124.0	132.9	129.0	131.4	130.8	127.5	130.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	99.0	98.2	92.2	96.1	95.3	101.5	94.6	100.5	101.8	98.4	100.4
Dairy products -----	111.2	115.2	110.7	112.5	108.0	105.3	107.8	109.6	116.0	113.6	113.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.9	112.9	113.7	127.0	110.6	123.7	123.0	112.3	118.8	116.6	118.0
Other foods at home -----	112.7	105.3	117.4	115.0	106.4	112.7	119.6	112.2	112.0	122.2	115.8
Housing -----	123.8	128.6	132.4	127.2	124.2	128.7	125.1	120.1	118.6	121.2	125.6
Rent -----	134.2	135.1	157.9	---	139.7	142.6	147.8	---	120.1	126.6	134.5
Gas and electricity -----	112.3	110.8	113.8	112.4	121.7	118.0	124.8	111.0	103.4	127.0	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.9	146.3	142.7	128.6	122.4	---	130.2	150.5	141.5	128.4	141.8
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	104.6	102.3	109.3	103.9	103.9	99.2	103.2	109.0	107.1	105.2
Household operation -----	125.4	122.2	128.9	117.4	130.1	128.5	122.5	125.0	123.4	129.0	118.8
Apparel -----	106.4	102.5	108.7	104.2	105.1	106.7	107.6	105.6	105.9	105.4	109.7
Men's and boys' -----	108.4	102.8	115.1	110.5	108.6	110.1	108.9	107.9	106.2	106.6	112.7
Women's and girls' -----	98.9	95.1	97.4	93.4	97.8	98.8	102.4	97.8	100.5	97.8	101.0
Footwear -----	126.7	122.9	130.6	123.3	122.2	128.0	122.9	125.9	123.1	124.2	130.2
Other apparel -----	91.9	102.6	95.4	87.6	88.4	83.5	93.5	95.3	93.3	100.2	97.4
Transportation -----	133.6	144.4	140.7	131.4	136.1	130.4	120.8	136.9	141.5	145.5	126.8
Public -----	174.9	166.9	166.5	144.3	214.0	155.0	166.9	187.9	186.7	194.0	166.4
Private -----	123.8	137.1	126.4	128.5	124.4	126.2	115.0	117.6	121.3	125.7	122.1
Medical care -----	135.3	140.6	142.2	144.3	149.8	129.5	150.3	128.1	138.6	144.0	136.7
Personal care -----	122.1	125.0	124.8	129.4	123.8	124.0	125.4	114.3	128.2	120.0	122.0
Reading and recreation -----	109.9	107.8	117.2	110.5	118.2	99.6	118.2	108.1	115.7	106.4	118.3
Other goods and services -----	123.8	122.5	119.7	125.0	122.9	120.5	128.3	124.9	125.6	122.9	122.7
Percent change from October 1956 to January 1957											
All items -----	0.4	- 0.3	- 0.1	0.4	0.8	0.9	1.7	- 0.1	0.2	0.5	0.5
Food -----	-.3	- 1.0	- 1.1	-.3	-.8	1.6	-.5	- 1.1	-.4	.1	.3
Food at home -----	-.5	- 1.2	- 1.2	-.7	- 1.0	2.0	-.7	- 1.6	-.5	-.1	.2
Cereals and bakery products --	.9	2.5	-.2	2.3	.4	1.6	.4	.6	.7	2.1	0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 1.8	- 2.8	- 2.6	- 2.9	- 2.2	.5	- 1.1	- 3.4	-.5	- 1.7	-.6
Dairy products -----	.5	.7	-.6	.4	0	-.2	- 2.5	1.5	1.0	2.1	-.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	2.6	1.3	3.7	2.8	-.4	10.6	4.6	- 1.0	1.4	1.9	5.7
Other foods at home -----	- 2.7	- 4.4	- 4.2	- 2.9	- 1.9	- 1.5	- 3.5	- 3.4	- 3.9	- 2.6	- 2.3
Housing -----	.8	1.1	.2	.5	1.3	.5	4.1	.8	.4	.8	.7
Rent -----	.6	.9	1/- .2	---	.1	1/ 0	.7	---	1/ .7	0	.9
Gas and electricity -----	.3	.1	0	.1	.5	1.5	0	.5	0	0	- 5.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	4.5	7.3	5.0	1.6	1.4	---	4.1	7.3	8.8	.4	4.3
Housefurnishings -----	.4	- 1.5	.4	1.5	.3	.5	.5	-.5	1.1	1.4	.9
Household operation -----	1.0	1.2	-.8	.4	2.0	.3	-.1	.2	2.8	3.7	1.2
Apparel -----	-.4	- 2.7	- 1.5	-.4	0	-.4	-.6	-.7	- 1.3	.9	-.3
Men's and boys' -----	-.2	- 1.5	.5	-.1	1.4	- 1.2	.3	.6	.9	.4	.6
Women's and girls' -----	- 1.2	- 5.1	- 3.5	- 1.3	- 1.1	.2	- 1.3	- 2.0	- 3.4	1.7	- 1.3
Footwear -----	.4	2.2	.1	1.0	.2	.2	.1	.8	.9	-.2	-.5
Other apparel -----	-.2	- 1.7	-.8	.1	0	-.9	-.5	-.2	-.6	1.2	1.4
Transportation -----	.8	- 6	.6	2.3	4.0	.9	2.5	-.6	2.9	1.4	-.1
Public -----	1.1	0	0	0	14.3	1.4	.8	0	0	0	1.4
Private -----	.7	-.9	.7	2.7	2.3	.8	2.8	-.8	3.8	1.9	-.2
Medical care -----	.9	.8	3.0	.8	0	1.2	.3	.2	.4	.1	2.9
Personal care -----	1.1	.6	.6	.8	-.2	3.2	.6	1.5	.3	.6	.7
Reading and recreation -----	1.3	- 2.1	1.5	.8	-.5	2.5	1.0	.8	.4	.1	0
Other goods and services -----	.7	.7	.6	.2	.6	.4	.7	1.0	0	.1	.7

1/ Change from November 1956 to January 1957.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
January 1957 indexes and percent changes, December 1956 to January 1957
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 ---	112.8	- 0.1	111.1	- 0.1	128.0	0.5	99.0	1.0	111.2	- 0.1	116.9	- 0.4	112.7	- 1.3
Atlanta -----	111.2	.1	109.9	.1	119.0	.2	101.9	2.2	112.8	.3	116.9	- 2.4	106.7	- .7
Baltimore -----	114.9	.1	111.1	.1	126.9	.2	100.8	1.5	112.5	0	111.3	- .7	113.0	- 1.1
Boston -----	112.1	.2	109.6	.3	126.8	.4	98.2	1.2	115.2	- 1.1	112.9	1.0	105.3	- .5
Chicago -----	109.5	- .3	107.5	- .1	120.4	- .7	92.2	1.5	110.7	- .4	113.7	- .4	117.4	- 1.5
Cincinnati -----	113.8	- .1	112.0	- .1	124.5	- .2	100.9	1.1	114.2	0	112.8	- 1.3	118.6	- .8
Cleveland -----	111.0	.2	109.1	.4	122.1	.3	95.8	.1	108.4	.1	113.1	2.8	116.6	- 1.4
Detroit -----	114.7	0	112.8	.1	122.6	2.0	96.1	1.1	112.5	- .3	127.0	- .9	115.0	- 1.2
Houston -----	111.9	.4	110.1	.5	120.9	.9	95.6	2.5	112.7	- .3	120.1	- .7	112.6	- 1.0
Kansas City -----	109.0	- .2	106.7	- .4	124.0	.2	95.3	1.6	108.0	- .2	110.6	- 3.4	106.4	- .6
Los Angeles -----	116.4	.3	113.1	.4	132.9	1.1	101.5	1.0	105.3	- .1	123.7	1.3	112.7	- 1.1
Minneapolis -----	112.6	.3	111.3	.2	129.0	- .2	94.6	1.5	107.8	- .6	123.0	1.7	119.6	- 1.6
New York -----	112.3	- .3	110.4	- .5	131.4	.2	100.5	- .1	109.6	- .1	112.3	- 1.2	112.2	- 1.2
Philadelphia -----	115.5	.3	113.7	.3	130.8	.2	101.8	1.2	116.0	- .1	118.8	.5	112.0	- .7
Pittsburgh -----	114.9	.3	113.0	.1	127.5	2.0	98.4	1.0	113.6	- .2	116.6	- 1.7	122.2	- .7
Portland, Oreg. -----	115.5	.1	113.4	- .1	130.0	- .1	100.4	2.1	113.9	- .2	118.0	- .7	115.8	- 1.3
St. Louis -----	115.0	.4	111.0	.5	123.6	.7	97.1	2.6	102.8	.4	122.8	0	121.1	- 1.5
San Francisco -----	116.3	0	114.9	0	138.9	.5	104.3	.8	113.3	.1	120.5	- .7	112.0	- .6
Scranton -----	109.3	- .2	109.0	- .2	125.5	.5	99.0	1.3	108.6	- .2	110.2	- 1.9	109.8	- 1.2
Seattle -----	115.4	- .1	114.1	- .2	137.1	.3	99.1	1.4	116.6	.2	123.0	- .4	112.0	- 2.2
Washington, D.C. -----	113.7	.5	111.8	.6	128.9	.9	98.8	2.4	115.9	- .1	113.0	1.0	113.3	- .9

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

Food and unit	Jan. 1957	Dec. 1956	Food and unit	Jan. 1957	Dec. 1956
Cereals and bakery products:	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	Fresh—Continued	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	53.8	53.5	Grapefruit * ----- each	11.4	11.5
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Rice ----- lb.	17.2	17.2	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	20.9	19.5	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	22.7	22.6	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	56.4	53.6
Bread, white ----- lb.	18.4	18.3	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	13.2	12.7
Soda crackers ----- lb.	27.6	28.0	Onions ----- lb.	7.7	7.6
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.3	24.3	Carrots ----- lb.	14.0	13.9
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce ----- head	18.5	20.8
Round steak ----- lb.	88.7	89.9	Celery ----- lb.	17.0	14.8
Chuck roast ----- lb.	49.0	51.6	Cabbage ----- lb.	8.3	7.4
Rib roast ----- lb.	72.3	73.7	Tomatoes ----- lb.	31.9	34.4
Hamburger ----- lb.	39.0	39.2	Beans, green ----- lb.	27.4	27.4
Veal outlets ----- lb.	114.7	112.2	Canned:		
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	79.7	77.6	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	38.4	39.1
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	64.4	61.3	Peaches ----- #3½ can	34.4	34.4
Ham, whole ----- lb.	62.0	61.0	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.0	34.0
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	67.7	68.0	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	25.9	26.0
Frankfurters ----- lb.	52.5	52.1	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.2	17.4
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	42.5	42.0	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.4	21.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	45.4	44.5	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	14.9	15.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	42.2	42.4	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	46.0	45.8	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	62.2	61.9	Prunes ----- lb.	34.6	34.7
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8½ oz.	31.9	31.8	Beans ----- lb.	16.1	16.1
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.3	23.3	Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.3	12.2
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.8	24.8	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.7	14.6
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.1	29.1	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	27.1	27.0
Butter ----- lb.	74.3	74.8	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.2	23.2
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	57.3	57.3	Coffee ----- lb. can	108.2	108.9
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	14.3	14.3	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 18	23.5	23.4
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	33.3	33.1
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	99.1	97.5
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	28.6	28.7	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	30.2	29.5
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	19.2	19.2	Lard ----- lb.	22.1	21.4
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.1	20.2	Salad dressing ----- pt.	36.3	36.1
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	22.8	22.8	Peanut butter ----- lb.	53.6	53.6
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	54.3	53.6
Apples ----- lb.	14.7	14.6	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.5	24.3
Bananas ----- lb.	17.2	17.3	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	26.9	27.0
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	54.2	56.4	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- lb.	21.0	20.5	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	53.6	58.5
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.7	8.6

* Priced only in season.

TABLE A: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 1956 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1955 to 1956
 5 cities priced in January 1957

Group	Boston		Kansas City		Minneapolis		Pittsburgh		Portland, Ore.	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
	Indexes (1947-49=100)									
All items -----	117.1	2.9	117.5	1.6	117.0	0.2	116.5	2.4	118.0	2.5
Food -----	111.0	1.4	108.1	1.2	112.6	.9	113.0	1.6	113.8	2.9
Food at home -----	108.6	.6	106.2	1.0	111.9	1.0	111.7	1.1	112.4	2.4
Cereals and bakery products --	123.1	2.6	121.4	.6	127.0	.9	125.3	.6	128.1	3.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	96.6	- 2.7	92.2	- 4.5	93.7	- 3.9	96.0	- 2.7	98.2	- 3.9
Dairy products -----	110.2	.8	109.0	3.5	110.5	4.4	109.5	1.0	112.1	7.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	115.6	5.4	114.1	7.2	125.6	5.9	119.9	7.9	119.5	4.9
Other foods at home -----	106.8	.2	106.6	1.6	120.9	1.0	121.9	1.4	115.5	3.6
Housing -----	125.6	3.9	122.6	.9	120.6	- 1.2	119.5	2.7	123.1	3.4
Rent -----	132.2	5.9	139.2	.7	145.7	2.9	125.8	1.0	132.2	1.4
Gas and electricity -----	109.1	- 1.7	121.8	.7	124.2	4.8	126.4	3.4	106.8	- .9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	132.7	5.2	118.2	3.5	124.0	5.5	122.5	4.5	135.6	3.8
Housefurnishings -----	105.9	.6	103.5	1.0	98.6	- 2.6	105.1	1.8	104.3	- .6
Household operation -----	120.4	2.4	126.9	1.8	122.5	2.0	123.1	2.8	117.0	3.9
Apparel -----	103.1	1.0	104.0	1.0	106.7	2.4	103.8	1.7	108.9	2.3
Men's and boys' -----	103.2	0	107.2	.7	108.0	.5	105.5	1.1	111.2	1.6
Women's and girls' -----	96.9	.3	97.1	.1	101.6	2.6	96.2	.9	101.4	1.8
Footwear -----	119.1	5.2	120.7	4.8	120.4	6.2	121.9	5.4	127.7	5.7
Other apparel -----	103.4	.1	87.8	.8	93.1	1.3	98.9	1.2	96.0	1.3
Transportation -----	139.0	3.6	127.4	1.6	115.3	- 1.3	138.2	1.0	123.8	- .1
Public -----	166.6	3.5	189.2	9.4	164.5	2.4	192.0	5.6	163.4	.9
Private -----	130.5	3.7	117.6	.3	109.2	- 1.8	118.1	- .1	119.0	- .2
Medical care -----	134.8	7.5	141.8	4.0	149.4	1.6	137.5	6.0	131.4	3.5
Personal care -----	123.4	8.8	123.5	3.5	124.2	3.8	118.9	2.1	120.2	4.8
Reading and recreation -----	108.5	1.2	116.9	1.6	117.6	.5	104.4	6.1	117.8	1.6
Other goods and services -----	120.0	1.3	121.9	4.1	126.7	.6	122.4	1.2	121.2	1.3

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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.

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