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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR FEBRUARY 1957

Consumer prices in United States cities advanced 0.4 percent between January and February, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, reaching a new high. Higher prices of food and housing accounted for most of the increase, although advances were recorded for all other major groups of goods and services except apparel. The Consumer Price Index for February was 118.7 (1947-49=100), 3.6 percent higher than a year ago.

FOOD Food prices advanced 0.7 percent on the average, the largest monthly increase since last July. Higher prices for pork and poultry were the principal factors in the rise during the month. The February food index at 113.6 was 4.4 percent higher than a year earlier, but still 2.6 percent below the August 1952 peak.

Prices of all cuts of pork were up as hog marketings declined seasonally from levels which were well below those of 1956. Bacon prices rose 7.7 percent to an average of 69 cents a pound with higher quotations reported in all 46 cities surveyed. Pork chops advanced 3.8 percent to an average of 83 cents a pound. Beef and veal prices were unchanged on the average, with reductions for rib roast and round steak offsetting higher prices for other cuts. Prices of frying chickens were 5.3 percent higher than in January.

All items except rice in the cereals and bakery products group advanced in price. Bread prices increased to a national average of 18½ cents a pound loaf.

Fresh vegetables declined 2.0 percent on the average; prices of tomatoes and lettuce decreased by 12.7 percent and 9.1 percent respectively; prices of green beans rose 13.5 percent and onions were up 12.0 percent. Prices of fresh fruits averaged 1.3 percent higher over the month with apples up 4.3 percent and oranges 0.9 percent. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables declined, due largely to lower prices for canned and frozen orange juice.

Slightly lower prices were reported for fresh milk, butter, ice cream, and coffee. Prices were higher for shortening, margarine, sugar, soft drinks, and canned soup.

HOUSING The housing index rose 0.6 percent over the month. Rent was unchanged on the average. The increase of 1.0 percent in prices of housefurnishings was the largest advance in this group since February 1951; household textiles returned to regular prices following January sales and higher prices were reported for some new models of appliances, wool rugs, and some furniture. The cost of home maintenance continued upward, with higher prices for water heaters, sink faucets, paint, and some repair services.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES The cost of operating an automobile rose in February as gasoline and motor oil prices increased; auto insurance rates advanced sharply in several states; and prices of tires and repair services were higher. However, purchase prices of both new and used cars declined. The advance in public transportation costs reflected increased railroad fares in eastern and southern states.

The personal care index was up 0.4 percent as men's haircuts continued to advance in some cities, and higher prices were recorded for toilet goods.

The only major group of goods and services to show a decrease was apparel. Prices were lower for women's nylon hose and rayon dresses, men's topcoats, and boys' shirts; prices of men's suits and women's spring coats were higher.

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

Group	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)					
	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Dec. 1956	Feb. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre- Korea	Pre-World War II
All items-----	118.7	118.2	118.0	114.6	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	121.5	121.0	120.8	117.6	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	116.4	115.9	115.7	112.2	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	112.0	111.6	111.5	108.0	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	110.9	110.7	110.6	107.4	99.4	59.4
All services and shelter-----	135.2	134.5	134.0	130.9	107.9	80.4
All services less shelter-----	138.2	137.6	136.9	133.7	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to February 1957 from --					
	Jan. 1957	Dec. 1956	Feb. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.4	0.6	3.6	16.6	99.8	
All items less food-----	.4	.6	3.3	18.0	75.8	
All items less shelter-----	.4	.6	3.7	15.6	110.1	
All commodities-----	.4	.4	3.7	11.7	117.1	
All commodities less food-----	.2	.3	3.3	11.6	86.7	
All services and shelter-----	.5	.9	3.3	25.3	68.2	
All services less shelter-----	.4	.9	3.4	29.2	88.0	

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)					
	February 1957	January 1957	December 1956	February 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	118.7	118.2	118.0	114.6	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	113.6	112.8	112.9	108.8	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	112.0	111.1	111.2	107.1	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	129.1	128.0	127.4	124.3	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	101.4	99.0	98.0	93.6	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	111.1	111.2	111.3	107.3	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.5	116.9	117.4	113.3	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	113.0	112.7	114.2	109.6	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	124.5	123.8	123.5	120.7	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	134.2	134.2	134.2	131.5	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	112.4	112.3	112.0	111.7	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	139.3	138.9	136.1	130.0	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	105.0	104.0	104.1	102.5	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	125.6	125.4	124.8	121.4	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.1	106.4	107.0	104.6	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.6	108.4	108.6	106.5	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.2	98.9	100.3	98.3	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	127.2	126.7	126.4	121.3	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	91.7	91.9	92.2	91.0	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	134.4	133.6	133.1	126.9	109.9	70.2
Public -----	175.8	174.9	174.1	170.5	117.9	81.3
Private -----	124.5	123.8	123.3	117.0	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	135.5	135.3	134.7	130.9	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	122.6	122.1	121.8	118.9	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	110.0	109.9	109.3	107.5	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	124.0	123.8	123.3	120.9	103.7	70.6

Group	Percent change to February 1957 from:				
	January 1957	December 1956	February 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.4	0.6	3.6	16.6	99.8
Food 1/ -----	.7	.6	4.4	13.0	141.2
Food at home -----	.8	.7	4.6	11.4	137.8
Cereals and bakery products --	.9	1.3	3.9	25.7	125.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.4	3.5	8.3	- 4.4	143.8
Dairy products -----	.1	.2	3.5	20.4	123.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	.3	.8	2.8	13.7	151.6
Other foods at home -----	.3	1.1	3.1	20.1	133.5
Housing 2/ -----	.6	.8	3.1	18.7	63.6
Rent -----	0	0	2.1	23.5	55.0
Gas and electricity -----	.1	.4	.6	9.4	7.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.3	2.4	7.2	29.5	147.0
Housefurnishings -----	1.0	.9	2.4	7.8	96.6
Household operation -----	.2	.6	3.5	26.1	83.6
Apparel -----	.3	.8	1.4	9.9	102.1
Men's and boys' -----	.2	0	2.0	10.7	113.8
Women's and girls' -----	.7	2.1	.1	5.3	80.2
Footwear -----	.4	.6	4.9	24.6	152.9
Other apparel -----	.2	.5	.8	3.7	125.9
Transportation -----	.6	1.0	5.9	22.3	91.5
Public -----	.5	1.0	3.1	49.1	116.2
Private -----	.6	1.0	6.4	16.8	90.1
Medical care -----	.1	.6	3.5	28.6	86.6
Personal care -----	.4	.7	3.1	23.6	105.7
Reading and recreation -----	.1	.6	2.3	7.3	74.6
Other goods and services 3/ -----	.2	.6	2.6	19.6	75.6

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	February 1957	January 1957	February 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average-----	1/ 118.7	118.2	114.6	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly: 2/					
Chicago-----	121.5	121.0	118.3	102.8	58.6
Detroit-----	121.0	120.5	116.4	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles-----	120.3	119.6	115.8	101.3	60.4
New York-----	115.9	115.6	112.1	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia-----	119.7	118.8	114.7	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 3/					
	February 1957	November 1956	February 1956	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	120.4	120.0	115.7	100.4	59.2
Houston-----	120.5	119.7	116.6	103.5	59.5
Scranton-----	115.5	114.9	111.1	100.2	58.5
Seattle-----	122.2	120.2	116.2	102.0	59.2
Washington, D.C.-----	117.5	115.9	113.4	101.6	60.4
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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 198.5.

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 January 1957 to February 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-----	0.4	0.7	0.6	- 0.3	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.2
Chicago-----	.4	1.3	.4	.6	- 1.0	0	.3	-.8	.1
Detroit-----	.4	1.0	.1	.1	-.2	1.5	.5	-.7	.2
Los Angeles-----	.6	.4	.2	.2	1.6	0	2.8	.2	.4
New York-----	.3	.5	.6	-.9	.6	.1	.4	.2	-.1
Philadelphia-----	.8	.9	1.3	.5	.1	0	.3	.5	.5

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	118.7	121.5	120.4	121.0	120.5	120.3	115.9	119.7	115.5	122.2	117.5
Food -----	113.6	110.9	111.7	115.9	112.1	116.9	112.9	116.5	110.6	115.9	115.9
Food at home -----	112.0	108.8	109.6	114.2	110.3	113.3	111.2	114.8	110.0	114.7	113.6
Cereals and bakery products --	129.1	122.1	122.3	123.3	121.2	133.4	132.9	131.3	125.5	137.6	129.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	101.4	94.0	97.9	98.5	96.7	102.7	103.4	104.4	100.4	101.5	102.3
Dairy products -----	111.1	111.0	108.4	112.7	112.7	105.3	109.4	116.1	108.7	116.5	115.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.5	113.2	112.2	128.6	119.7	122.8	110.8	119.4	112.7	122.0	115.4
Other foods at home -----	113.0	120.1	116.6	115.8	112.3	112.9	112.2	112.6	110.7	112.1	114.2
Housing -----	124.5	132.9	125.9	127.3	128.5	128.9	120.8	120.1	120.7	128.3	119.2
Rent -----	134.2	—	155.3	146.3	138.9	—	122.3	—	126.4	140.5	125.1
Gas and electricity -----	112.4	113.8	114.9	112.4	116.1	118.0	110.0	103.4	120.1	86.6	120.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	139.3	142.9	135.6	128.9	—	—	150.5	141.6	145.8	142.6	151.7
Housefurnishings -----	105.0	103.8	101.0	109.4	103.8	104.3	104.5	109.5	103.2	105.2	100.1
Household operation -----	125.6	128.3	114.9	117.3	132.2	128.7	125.0	126.8	112.2	127.9	125.8
Apparel -----	106.1	109.4	107.5	104.3	108.8	106.9	104.7	106.4	107.9	107.8	104.2
Men's and boys' -----	108.6	116.3	112.1	110.6	106.0	110.8	107.7	106.6	110.3	110.9	108.1
Women's and girls' -----	98.2	97.6	98.6	93.7	102.5	98.5	96.1	101.0	100.2	100.1	96.5
Footwear -----	127.2	131.5	125.2	123.3	137.3	128.0	126.7	123.7	131.3	129.4	123.2
Other apparel -----	91.7	95.7	94.1	87.7	91.0	84.2	94.4	93.6	91.5	86.9	91.2
Transportation -----	134.4	139.3	132.1	131.2	132.2	132.5	137.7	141.7	135.7	137.2	135.3
Public -----	175.8	167.7	170.9	145.8	166.5	154.8	189.0	187.4	190.6	180.1	156.6
Private -----	124.5	124.7	123.5	128.1	127.0	128.6	118.2	121.4	121.8	125.6	128.9
Medical care -----	135.5	142.2	147.2	146.5	129.3	129.5	128.2	138.6	125.4	138.1	129.4
Personal care -----	122.6	125.2	125.1	130.0	131.5	127.5	114.8	128.6	124.9	128.9	118.7
Reading and recreation -----	110.0	116.3	120.6	109.7	114.7	99.8	108.3	116.3	125.7	113.1	107.9
Other goods and services -----	124.0	119.8	124.8	125.3	124.2	121.0	124.8	126.2	117.3	130.9	133.2
Percent change from November 1956 to February 1957											
All items -----	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.7	1.0	0.3	1.3	0.5	1.7	1.4
Food -----	.6	.5	.7	0	1.4	1.1	-.4	1.5	.3	.7	2.7
Food at home -----	.6	.3	.6	0	1.5	1.3	-.4	1.6	.4	.8	2.6
Cereals and bakery products --	1.7	1.3	.4	3.5	1.3	1.7	1.4	.5	.6	1.0	5.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.6	2.4	1.6	.3	3.8	2.7	.2	4.5	3.0	2.7	5.6
Dairy products -----	0	-.9	.2	0	.4	-.2	-.1	1.3	.2	.3	-.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	.6	-.9	4.3	-.5	2.7	3.5	-.4	3.0	.7	1.9	4.3
Other foods at home -----	- 1.9	- 1.2	- 2.3	- 2.0	- 1.1	- 1.1	- 2.8	- 2.3	- 2.7	- 1.7	- 1.4
Housing -----	1.2	.5	-.2	.3	.6	.3	1.2	2.5	1.2	2.9	1.5
Rent -----	.3	—	1.4	1/ .2	.3	—	1/ .3	—	.5	.4	.3
Gas and electricity -----	.5	0	0	.7	9.0	1.5	.2	0	0	0	- 1.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	3.7	3.9	1.3	1.3	—	—	5.3	5.4	6.9	6.4	6.2
Housefurnishings -----	1.2	2.1	-.1	1.0	.1	.3	.6	2.1	1.2	2.1	.7
Household operation -----	.9	- 1.2	- 1.2	0	0	.5	.2	5.7	-.1	.3	.2
Apparel -----	-.8	-.5	-.2	-.1	- 1.2	-.1	- 1.4	- 1.1	- 1.6	-.4	.5
Men's and boys' -----	.2	1.5	.3	0	- 1.2	-.6	.2	1.0	.5	0	.7
Women's and girls' -----	- 2.2	- 2.5	-.8	-.6	- 1.9	.3	- 3.3	- 3.3	- 3.4	- 1.0	0
Footwear -----	.8	.8	.3	1.0	1.1	0	1.3	1.4	-.2	.3	1.4
Other apparel -----	-.4	-.3	-.1	0	-.7	-.1	- 1.2	-.6	-.9	-.2	.2
Transportation -----	.9	-.4	1.0	.8	1.8	1.5	.7	.8	0	2.8	.1
Public -----	1.4	.7	.8	1.0	1.4	1.2	.6	.4	.3	1.2	1.1
Private -----	.8	-.6	1.1	.8	1.8	1.6	.6	.9	-.1	3.0	-.2
Medical care -----	.7	2.7	.7	1.9	.9	1.2	.2	.4	.1	1.1	1.0
Personal care -----	1.0	.8	1.0	.9	1.3	6.1	.4	.6	.6	.6	.4
Reading and recreation -----	.9	.7	.8	0	- 2.0	2.7	.9	1.0	3.8	-.5	-.4
Other goods and services -----	.6	.1	.4	.4	.2	.7	1.0	.6	.1	1.7	.8

1/ Change from December 1956 to February 1957.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
February 1957 indexes and percent changes, January 1957 to February 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 ---	113.6	0.7	112.0	0.8	129.1	0.9	101.4	2.4	111.1	- 0.1	116.5	- 0.3	113.0	0.3
Atlanta -----	112.1	.8	110.8	.8	120.0	.8	104.7	2.7	113.1	.3	117.7	.7	106.1	-.6
Baltimore -----	115.3	.3	111.6	.5	127.1	.2	102.8	2.0	112.4	-.1	110.5	-.7	113.1	.1
Boston -----	112.5	.4	110.0	.4	127.7	.7	99.9	1.7	113.8	- 1.2	111.8	- 1.0	106.1	.8
Chicago -----	110.9	1.3	108.8	1.2	122.1	1.4	94.0	2.0	111.0	.3	113.2	-.4	120.1	2.3
Cincinnati -----	114.4	.5	112.7	.6	127.2	2.2	102.9	2.0	114.2	0	112.2	-.5	118.0	-.5
Cleveland -----	111.7	.6	109.6	.5	122.3	.2	97.9	2.2	108.4	0	112.2	-.8	116.6	0
Detroit -----	115.9	1.0	114.2	1.2	123.3	.6	98.5	2.5	112.7	.2	128.6	1.3	115.8	.7
Houston -----	112.1	.2	110.3	.2	121.2	.2	96.7	1.2	112.7	0	119.7	-.3	112.3	-.3
Kansas City -----	109.6	.6	107.4	.7	124.7	.6	97.4	2.2	107.9	-.1	111.0	.4	106.1	-.3
Los Angeles -----	116.9	.4	113.3	.2	133.4	.4	102.7	1.2	105.3	0	122.8	-.7	112.9	.2
Minneapolis -----	112.6	0	111.2	-.1	129.9	.7	96.1	1.6	104.0	- 3.5	122.7	-.2	120.0	.3
New York -----	112.9	.5	111.2	.7	132.9	1.1	103.4	2.9	109.4	-.2	110.8	- 1.3	112.2	0
Philadelphia -----	116.5	.9	114.8	1.0	131.3	.4	104.4	2.6	116.1	.1	119.4	.5	112.6	.5
Pittsburgh -----	114.8	-.1	112.9	-.1	127.3	-.2	98.5	.1	114.1	.4	115.8	-.7	121.8	-.3
Portland, Oreg. -----	115.6	.1	113.5	.1	131.2	.9	101.1	.7	113.7	-.2	114.9	- 2.6	117.0	1.0
St. Louis -----	115.6	.5	111.7	.6	124.9	1.1	98.9	1.9	103.1	.3	122.2	-.5	120.8	-.2
San Francisco -----	116.1	-.2	114.7	-.2	139.0	.1	104.7	.4	113.3	0	120.3	-.2	111.0	-.9
Scranton -----	110.6	.7	110.0	.9	125.5	0	100.4	1.4	108.7	.1	112.7	2.3	110.7	.8
Seattle -----	115.9	.4	114.7	.5	137.6	.4	101.5	2.4	116.5	-.1	122.0	-.8	112.1	.1
Washington, D.C. -----	115.9	1.9	113.6	1.6	129.3	.3	102.3	3.5	115.6	-.3	115.4	2.1	114.2	.8

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

Food and unit	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Food and unit	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957
Cereals and bakery products:	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	Fresh—Continued	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.1	53.8	Grapefruit * ----- each	11.0	11.4
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.9	26.8	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.7	12.6	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Rice ----- 1b.	17.0	17.2	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	21.4	20.9	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	22.9	22.7	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	56.2	56.4
Bread, white ----- 1b.	18.5	18.4	Sweet potatoes ----- 1b.	13.6	13.2
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	28.7	27.6	Onions ----- 1b.	8.7	7.7
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.3	Carrots ----- 1b.	13.1	14.0
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce ----- head	16.8	18.5
Round steak ----- 1b.	88.1	88.7	Celery ----- 1b.	16.7	17.0
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	49.7	49.0	Cabbage ----- 1b.	8.7	8.3
Rib roast ----- 1b.	69.7	72.3	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	27.9	31.9
Hamburger ----- 1b.	39.1	39.0	Beans, green ----- 1b.	31.1	27.4
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	116.8	114.7	Canned:		
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	82.8	79.7	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	37.6	38.4
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	69.4	64.4	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.6	34.4
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	62.7	62.0	Pineapple ----- #2 can	33.9	34.0
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	68.2	67.7	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.0	25.9
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	53.2	52.5	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.2	17.2
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	43.2	42.5	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.4	21.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	47.6	45.4	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	14.8	14.9
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	42.7	42.2	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	46.1	46.0	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	62.5	62.2	Prunes ----- 1b.	34.5	34.6
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.0	31.9	Beans ----- 1b.	16.0	16.1
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.3	23.3	Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.3
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.7	24.8	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.7	14.7
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.0	29.1	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.3	27.1
Butter ----- 1b.	74.1	74.3	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.3	23.2
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.4	57.3	Coffee ----- 1b. can	107.7	108.2
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	14.3	14.3	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.5	23.5
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	33.6	33.3
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	100.5	99.1
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	28.3	28.6	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	30.5	30.2
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	18.9	19.2	Lard ----- 1b.	22.8	22.1
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.1	20.1	Salad dressing ----- pt.	36.6	36.3
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.1	22.8	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	53.5	53.6
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	54.8	54.3
Apples ----- 1b.	15.4	14.7	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.7	24.5
Bananas ----- 1b.	17.0	17.2	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.0	26.9
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	54.7	54.2	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	21.0	21.0	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	53.6	53.6
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.8	8.7

* 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 February 1957

Group	Cleveland		Houston		Scranton		Seattle		Washington, D.C.	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
	Indexes (1947-49=100)									
All items -----	118.0	2.1	117.8	1.6	112.9	1.3	118.1	1.2	114.9	1.1
Food -----	109.9	.9	108.8	- 1.0	109.1	.7	113.2	1.0	112.6	1.3
Food at home -----	108.1	.6	107.2	- 1.4	108.5	.5	112.4	.9	110.7	1.0
Cereals and bakery products --	120.9	.9	118.1	- .1	123.1	3.5	133.8	4.8	122.7	.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	94.8	- 4.2	92.3	- 7.1	96.1	- 4.4	97.3	- 4.3	95.2	- 4.0
Dairy products -----	104.6	3.8	108.9	- .2	106.9	.3	113.3	4.6	114.2	2.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	113.8	4.3	116.7	1.8	115.7	6.6	122.3	2.8	118.7	6.8
Other foods at home -----	116.7	1.4	111.2	1.6	110.4	.5	111.4	.7	113.4	1.5
Housing -----	124.4	1.7	126.3	2.6	117.5	1.8	123.0	1.4	116.9	.3
Rent -----	150.6	4.4	138.5	.3	125.4	1.2	139.0	1.2	124.4	.7
Gas and electricity -----	111.5	2.4	106.9	.1	119.8	.9	88.4	- .3	123.1	1.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	129.1	4.3	---	---	131.7	2.2	133.8	2.9	139.4	4.9
Housefurnishings -----	101.0	- .8	101.8	1.2	99.4	- .2	101.4	- 2.4	99.6	- 3.5
Household operation -----	115.4	1.7	130.0	2.1	110.7	.8	122.1	6.5	125.1	4.2
Apparel -----	106.3	2.4	107.8	1.2	107.2	1.1	107.1	.8	103.4	1.9
Men's and boys' -----	109.8	1.7	106.5	2.3	108.8	1.4	110.0	.8	106.5	1.4
Women's and girls' -----	98.3	2.2	100.9	- .3	100.6	- .2	99.8	- .7	96.6	1.5
Footwear -----	123.2	4.8	134.0	4.2	127.9	5.3	127.2	4.7	121.1	4.6
Other apparel -----	93.7	1.1	90.8	.2	91.2	- .2	86.6	- .2	91.2	1.0
Transportation -----	125.5	4.3	126.5	2.5	129.9	2.7	128.3	.5	131.2	1.3
Public -----	167.4	8.3	163.6	1.2	189.8	.3	177.5	6.5	154.5	4.0
Private -----	116.6	3.5	121.0	2.7	115.8	3.1	116.7	- .3	124.6	.8
Medical care -----	144.1	6.3	127.7	2.7	122.6	2.2	136.1	2.4	125.5	5.1
Personal care -----	123.4	4.6	129.3	6.2	123.4	3.6	122.7	4.3	117.6	4.4
Reading and recreation -----	116.9	1.4	113.6	3.9	120.8	1.1	111.3	2.5	107.0	1.5
Other goods and services -----	122.9	3.1	123.0	2.7	116.9	1.0	128.3	.5	131.0	.8

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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