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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR APRIL 1957

Consumer prices in United States cities advanced 0.3 percent between March and April 1957, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher food prices were chiefly responsible for the advance although prices of most other major groups of consumer goods and services were also higher. Apparel was the only major group to show a decline during the month.

The Consumer Price Index for April 1957 was 119.3 (1947-49=100) - 3.8 percent higher than a year ago.

**FOOD** Higher prices for meats and fresh fruits and vegetables were largely instrumental in the food price rise of 0.5 percent between March and April. The food price index for April was 113.8 (1947-49=100), 3.8 percent higher than a year ago, but still 2.4 percent below the August 1952 peak.

Prices of all cuts of meat rose seasonally during the month. Round steak was up 4 cents a pound to an average of 91 cents; chuck roast prices were up 4.4 percent, prices of pork chops 2.0 percent, and leg of lamb 6.8 percent. Poultry prices declined 1.6 percent with continued large supplies.

Fresh fruit prices rose 4.6 percent with a seasonal advance of 11.5 percent for apples. Prices of fresh vegetables were 3.0 percent higher with tomato prices up 11.1 percent, lettuce 14.8 percent, and onions 17.5 percent; prices of green beans dropped 19.3 percent. Processed fruits and vegetables declined as prices of frozen peas and canned orange juice fell about 2 percent.

Restaurant meal prices were up 0.3 percent.

Cereals and bakery products continued to advance. Dairy products declined slightly in price partly as a result of seasonal decreases in fresh milk prices. Coffee prices were lower for the fifth consecutive month.

**HOUSING** The housing index rose 0.2 percent during April, as most of its components were higher. Rent continued its gradual upward trend with a rise of 0.1 percent. Housefurnishings prices were 0.2 percent higher than in March, due to increased prices of household textiles and some furniture and appliances; however, some appliance prices, such as refrigerators, continued downward. The advance of 0.2 percent for household operation primarily reflected higher prices for laundry soap. Home maintenance and repair costs edged up 0.1 percent. Bills for gas and electricity were unchanged on the average and anthracite prices declined seasonally.

**OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES** Reading and recreation recorded the largest monthly advance in more than 6 years - 1.2 percent - reflecting chiefly higher prices for newspapers in several cities. Prices of television sets and charges for television repair services also were higher.

Private transportation rose 0.2 percent as prices of used cars, gasoline and motor oil, and auto repairs advanced; prices of new cars and tires were down slightly. Public transportation was up 0.6 percent as transit fares were increased in several cities.

The medical care index reflected higher rates for group hospitalization insurance, prescriptions and drugs, hospitals, and professional services. Higher prices for toilet soap were the principal factor in the advance of 0.3 percent for personal care, although barber and beauty shop services also increased.

Apparel prices declined 0.3 percent, principally because of reduced prices for women's rayon dresses and skirts, nylon hose, wool suits, and sport coats.

NOTICE: The following indexes have been revised. No other indexes were affected.			
City	Group	Date	Revised indexes (1947-49=100)
Boston	Transportation	January 1957	142.9
	Private	January 1957	135.3
Kansas City	Housing	January 1957	123.9
	Household operation	January 1957	128.5
Chicago	Medical care	January 1957	139.5
		February 1957	139.5
		March 1957	139.6

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

Group	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)					
	Apr. 1957	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Apr. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 mos. ago	Last year	Pre- Korea	Pre- WW-II
All items-----	119.3	118.9	118.7	114.9	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	122.3	122.0	121.5	117.8	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	116.9	116.5	116.4	112.7	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	112.5	112.1	112.0	108.4	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food--	111.5	111.3	110.9	107.4	99.4	59.4
All services and shelter-----	136.2	135.8	135.2	131.2	107.9	80.4
All services less shelter--	139.0	138.7	138.2	134.5	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to April 1957 from --					
	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Apr. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.3	0.5	3.8	17.2	100.8	
All items less food-----	.2	.7	3.8	18.7	77.0	
All items less shelter-----	.3	.4	3.7	16.1	111.0	
All commodities-----	.4	.4	3.8	12.2	118.0	
All commodities less food--	.2	.5	3.8	12.2	87.7	
All services and shelter-----	.3	.7	3.8	26.2	69.4	
All services less shelter--	.2	.6	3.3	29.9	89.1	

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

Group	Indexes (1947-49=100)					
	April 1957	March 1957	February 1957	April 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	119.3	118.9	118.7	114.9	101.8	59.4
Food <sup>1/</sup> -----	113.8	113.2	113.6	109.6	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	112.1	111.4	112.0	107.9	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	130.1	129.8	129.1	124.5	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	102.0	100.6	101.4	94.0	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	110.5	110.7	111.1	106.4	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	118.7	116.1	116.5	116.7	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	111.0	111.6	113.0	110.8	94.1	48.4
Housing <sup>2/</sup> -----	125.2	124.9	124.5	120.8	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	134.5	134.4	134.2	131.7	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	112.4	112.4	112.4	111.8	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.1	139.2	139.3	129.7	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	105.1	104.9	105.0	102.7	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	126.4	126.2	125.6	122.1	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.5	106.8	106.1	104.8	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.8	108.8	108.6	106.5	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.7	99.3	98.2	98.1	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	127.3	127.6	127.2	123.0	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.0	92.2	91.7	91.1	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	135.5	135.1	134.4	126.4	109.9	70.2
Public -----	176.8	175.8	175.8	170.8	117.9	81.3
Private -----	125.5	125.2	124.5	116.5	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	136.9	136.4	135.5	131.6	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	123.3	122.9	122.6	119.5	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	111.8	110.5	110.0	108.2	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services <sup>3/</sup> -----	124.2	124.2	124.0	121.4	103.7	70.6

  

	Percent change to April 1957 from:				
	March 1957	February 1957	April 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.3	0.5	3.8	17.2	100.8
Food -----	.5	.2	3.8	13.2	141.6
Food at home -----	.6	.1	3.9	11.5	138.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	.2	.8	4.5	26.7	127.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.4	.6	8.5	- 3.9	145.2
Dairy products -----	-.2	-.5	3.9	19.7	121.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	2.2	1.9	1.7	15.8	156.4
Other foods at home -----	-.5	- 1.8	.2	18.0	129.3
*Food away from home -----	.3	.7	3.4	(L/)	(L/)
Housing <sup>2/</sup> -----	.2	.6	3.6	19.4	64.5
Rent -----	.1	.2	2.1	23.7	55.3
Gas and electricity -----	0	0	.5	9.4	7.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-.8	-.9	6.5	28.3	144.9
Housefurnishings -----	.2	.1	2.3	7.9	96.8
Household operation -----	.2	.6	3.5	26.9	84.8
Apparel -----	-.3	.4	1.6	10.4	102.9
Men's and boys' -----	0	.2	2.2	10.9	114.2
Women's and girls' -----	-.6	.5	.6	5.8	81.1
Footwear -----	-.2	.1	3.5	24.7	153.1
Other apparel -----	-.2	.3	1.0	4.1	126.6
Transportation -----	.3	.8	7.2	23.3	93.0
Public -----	.6	.6	3.5	50.0	117.5
Private -----	.2	.8	7.7	17.7	91.6
Medical care -----	.4	1.0	4.0	29.9	88.6
Personal care -----	.3	.6	3.2	24.3	106.9
Reading and recreation -----	1.2	1.6	3.3	9.1	77.5
Other goods and services <sup>3/</sup> -----	0	.2	2.3	19.8	75.9

<sup>1/</sup> Includes restaurant meals not shown separately.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes home purchase and other home-owner costs not shown separately.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and "miscellaneous services" (such as legal services, banking fees, burial services, etc.).

<sup>4/</sup> Not available.

\* Index numbers on the base of January 1953=100 are shown in Table A, page 6A.

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

City	April 1957	March 1957	April 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average-----	1/ 119.3	118.9	114.9	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly: 2/					
Chicago-----	122.0	121.6	118.1	102.8	58.6
Detroit-----	121.4	121.0	117.4	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles-----	120.6	120.4	116.3	101.3	60.4
New York-----	116.9	116.0	112.3	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia-----	119.7	120.0	116.0	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 3/	April 1957	January 1957	April 1956	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston-----	120.2	119.0	115.2	101.2	61.0
Kansas City-----	120.4	119.8	116.4	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis-----	119.8	119.4	115.6	4/ 102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh-----	118.8	118.8	115.2	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon-----	121.6	120.1	116.4	101.5	58.3
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 3/	March 1957	December 1956	March 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	120.6	119.5	116.8	5/ 101.3	58.3
Baltimore-----	119.9	119.5	115.2	101.6	57.9
Cincinnati-----	118.1	117.5	114.3	101.2	58.4
St. Louis-----	120.2	119.1	115.7	101.1	59.3
San Francisco-----	122.3	121.6	116.8	100.9	58.6
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
Saranton-----	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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 199.5.

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 March 1957 to April 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-----	0.3	0.5	0.2	- 0.3	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.2	0
Chicago-----	.3	1.3	.3	- .1	- .3	1/ 1.1	.2	.1	0.1
Detroit-----	.3	.9	.4	.1	- .1	0	0	- .1	- .2
Los Angeles-----	.2	.2	0	0	.2	.4	.4	.9	.1
New York-----	.8	.4	.9	- .8	.4	.2	.3	6.5	- .2
Philadelphia-----	- .2	.2	- .6	- .9	- .2	.1	0	.1	- .1

1/ Based on revised index for March, 139.6.

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups  
 April 1957 indexes and percent changes, January 1957 to April 1957  
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in April 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 -----	119.3	120.2	122.0	121.4	120.4	120.6	119.8	116.9	119.7	118.8	121.6
Food -----	113.8	113.4	111.6	115.9	109.7	116.9	112.6	112.8	116.4	114.8	116.0
Food at home -----	112.1	111.1	109.4	114.1	107.3	113.7	110.9	111.0	114.1	112.8	113.8
Cereals and bakery products --	130.1	128.3	122.6	124.5	126.5	133.8	130.2	134.8	132.4	128.5	131.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	102.0	101.8	94.9	99.4	96.5	103.5	97.0	103.1	103.6	99.4	103.9
Dairy products -----	110.5	112.2	110.3	109.8	107.9	105.3	104.6	108.9	113.9	111.9	116.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	118.7	115.1	119.3	132.8	113.0	125.4	121.0	111.4	121.2	117.8	115.4
Other foods at home -----	111.0	106.6	117.0	113.1	104.7	111.5	118.0	110.5	110.5	119.4	112.7
Housing -----	125.2	129.2	133.8	128.2	124.3	129.5	125.4	122.2	120.1	121.3	127.9
Rent -----	134.5	135.7	—	146.4	139.8	—	148.3	122.4	—	126.8	134.9
Gas and electricity -----	112.4	111.0	114.0	112.6	122.3	118.0	124.8	111.1	103.4	127.9	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.1	146.4	138.2	128.9	120.1	—	130.2	150.0	141.6	131.1	145.4
Housefurnishings -----	105.1	104.2	102.4	109.4	105.1	104.4	99.8	105.7	110.2	105.8	107.7
Household operation -----	126.4	123.2	130.9	117.4	131.6	128.9	124.3	125.2	128.1	129.3	119.4
Apparel -----	106.5	104.5	109.5	104.5	103.9	107.4	107.6	105.4	105.6	105.9	110.8
Men's and boys' -----	108.8	104.7	117.0	111.5	108.7	111.0	109.2	108.1	107.1	108.5	113.3
Women's and girls' -----	98.7	97.8	97.4	93.3	95.7	99.5	102.0	96.8	99.2	97.6	102.5
Footwear -----	127.3	123.7	131.5	123.5	121.9	128.2	123.6	127.5	123.1	124.2	131.6
Other apparel -----	92.0	103.5	95.8	87.8	87.7	84.2	93.7	95.2	93.4	100.5	97.9
Transportation -----	135.5	143.7	139.6	131.6	137.4	132.6	121.2	138.3	141.3	144.3	129.2
Public -----	176.8	167.5	167.7	145.8	214.0	154.8	166.8	189.0	187.4	195.4	176.9
Private -----	125.5	136.1	124.9	128.5	125.8	128.7	115.5	118.9	121.0	124.0	123.5
Medical care -----	136.9	143.4	141.1	146.5	150.2	130.0	152.0	128.4	140.5	144.7	138.1
Personal care -----	123.3	126.0	126.2	130.1	125.1	128.9	126.4	115.2	129.6	121.0	122.6
Reading and recreation -----	111.8	111.8	117.0	110.7	124.3	100.7	120.9	116.3	116.3	105.4	119.4
Other goods and services -----	124.2	123.3	120.0	126.0	123.5	121.2	128.4	124.7	126.6	123.9	123.5
Percent change from January 1957 to April 1957											
All items -----	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.3	1.1	0.8	0	1.2
Food -----	.9	1.2	1.9	1.0	.6	.4	0	.4	.8	- 0.1	.4
Food at home -----	.9	1.4	1.8	1.2	.6	.5	- .4	.5	.4	- .2	.4
Cereals and bakery products --	1.6	1.2	1.8	1.5	2.0	.7	.9	2.6	1.2	.8	1.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	3.0	3.7	2.9	3.4	1.3	2.0	2.5	2.6	1.8	1.0	3.5
Dairy products -----	-.6	- 2.6	-.4	- 2.4	-.1	0	- 3.0	-.6	- 1.8	- 1.5	2.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	1.5	1.9	4.9	4.6	2.2	1.4	- 1.6	-.8	2.0	1.0	- 2.2
Other foods at home -----	- 1.5	1.2	-.3	- 1.7	- 1.6	- 1.1	- 1.3	- 1.5	- 1.3	- 2.3	- 2.7
Housing -----	1.1	.5	1.1	.8	2/ .3	.6	.2	1.7	1.3	.1	1.8
Rent -----	.2	.4	—	* .1	.1	—	.3	* .1	—	.2	.3
Gas and electricity -----	.1	.2	.2	.2	.5	0	0	.1	0	.7	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-.6	.1	- 3.2	.2	- 1.9	—	0	-.3	.1	2.1	2.5
Housefurnishings -----	1.1	-.4	.1	.1	1.2	.5	.6	2.4	1.1	- 1.2	2.4
Household operation -----	.8	.8	1.6	0	2/ 2.4	.3	1.5	.2	3.8	.2	.5
Apparel -----	.1	2.0	.7	.3	- 1.1	.7	0	-.2	-.3	.5	1.0
Men's and boys' -----	.4	1.8	1.7	.9	.1	.8	.3	.2	.8	1.8	.5
Women's and girls' -----	-.2	2.8	0	-.1	- 2.1	.7	-.4	- 1.0	- 1.3	-.2	1.5
Footwear -----	.5	.7	.7	.2	-.2	.2	.6	1.3	0	0	1.1
Other apparel -----	.1	.9	.4	.2	-.8	.8	.2	-.1	.1	.3	.5
Transportation -----	1.4	1/ .6	-.8	.2	1.0	1.7	.3	1.0	-.1	-.8	1.9
Public -----	1.1	.4	.7	1.0	0	-.1	-.1	.6	.4	.7	6.3
Private -----	1.4	1/ .6	- 1.2	0	1.1	2.0	.4	1.1	-.2	- 1.4	1.1
Medical care -----	1.2	2.0	2/ 1.1	1.5	.3	.4	1.1	.2	1.4	.5	1.0
Personal care -----	1.0	.8	1.1	.5	1.1	4.0	.8	.8	1.1	.8	.5
Reading and recreation -----	1.7	3.7	-.2	.2	5.2	1.1	2.3	7.6	.5	-.9	.9
Other goods and services -----	.3	.7	.3	.8	.5	.6	.1	-.2	.8	.8	.7

\* Change from February 1957 to April 1957.

Percent changes are based on the following revised indexes for January 1957:

1/ Boston: transportation, 142.9; private transportation, 135.3.

2/ Chicago: medical care, 139.5; (February and March indexes also revised to 139.5 and 139.6, respectively).

3/ Kansas City: housing, 123.9; household operation, 128.5.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups  
 April 1957 indexes and percent changes, March 1957 to April 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 ---	113.8	0.5	112.1	0.6	130.1	0.2	102.0	1.4	110.5	- 0.2	118.7	2.2	111.0	- 0.5
Atlanta -----	112.1	.3	110.8	.3	124.7	4.0	104.3	- .6	113.1	0	117.4	- .3	104.5	- .2
Baltimore -----	115.1	.2	111.8	.3	127.2	0	103.1	1.1	112.6	.1	113.2	.4	111.3	- .7
Boston -----	113.4	1.0	111.1	1.3	128.3	0	101.8	2.4	112.2	- 1.1	115.1	2.6	106.6	1.5
Chicago -----	111.6	1.3	109.4	1.4	122.6	.2	94.9	2.6	110.3	.8	119.3	4.4	117.0	- 1.3
Cincinnati -----	115.4	.6	113.7	.7	131.1	0	103.9	1.3	114.6	.4	115.4	2.2	116.2	- .6
Cleveland -----	111.2	0	109.0	0	122.4	- 1.1	98.6	.9	105.3	- .6	113.2	.7	114.6	- .5
Detroit -----	115.9	.9	114.1	.9	124.5	.2	99.4	1.7	109.8	- .6	132.8	3.8	113.1	- .7
Houston -----	112.1	.2	109.8	.2	121.2	.1	97.8	1.3	109.2	0	121.3	1.2	110.2	- 1.3
Kansas City -----	109.7	.3	107.3	.1	126.5	1.0	96.5	- .4	107.9	.1	113.0	1.3	104.7	- .6
Los Angeles -----	116.9	.2	113.7	.6	133.8	.1	103.5	.4	105.3	- .1	125.4	3.9	111.5	- .9
Minneapolis -----	112.6	.3	110.9	.1	130.2	.2	97.0	.6	104.6	- .3	121.0	.2	118.0	- .3
New York -----	112.8	.4	111.0	.6	134.8	.1	103.1	1.3	108.9	- .2	111.4	1.4	110.5	0
Philadelphia -----	116.4	.2	114.1	- .1	132.4	.2	103.6	.2	113.9	- 1.8	121.2	1.8	110.5	- .6
Pittsburgh -----	114.8	.2	112.8	.1	128.5	.2	99.4	1.4	111.9	- 1.9	117.8	1.7	119.4	- 1.4
Portland, Oreg. -----	116.0	.5	113.8	.4	131.7	.2	103.9	3.6	116.5	0	115.4	1.3	112.7	- 2.7
St. Louis -----	114.2	- .6	110.1	- .7	125.4	.1	98.3	.8	100.3	- 2.8	120.2	- 1.0	117.8	- 1.5
San Francisco -----	117.4	1.0	115.9	1.2	140.0	.3	108.0	2.6	113.5	.2	122.9	3.5	109.7	- .4
Scranton -----	111.1	.5	110.5	.5	126.2	.2	102.3	2.0	110.3	.9	112.7	- 1.4	108.6	- .3
Seattle -----	116.3	.7	115.3	.9	137.7	.1	103.6	2.6	116.4	- .1	124.6	2.7	110.0	- 1.2
Washington, D.C. -----	115.2	.3	112.7	.4	129.4	0	101.8	1.6	115.7	0	114.4	1.0	111.7	- .9

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

Food and unit	April 1957	March 1957	Food and unit	April 1957	March 1957
<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.	54.5	54.3	Grapefruit * ----- each	17.0	10.9
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.9	26.8	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.7	12.7	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Rice ----- lb.	17.1	17.0	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	21.9	21.7	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	23.0	23.0	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	55.8	55.0
Bread, white ----- lb.	18.7	18.7	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	14.4	13.7
Soda crackers ----- lb.	28.9	28.9	Onions ----- lb.	9.9	8.4
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.6	24.6	Carrots ----- lb.	12.7	12.9
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Lettuce ----- head	15.6	13.6
Round steak ----- lb.	90.7	87.1	Celery ----- lb.	14.7	15.6
Chuck roast ----- lb.	50.9	48.7	Cabbage ----- lb.	10.6	9.6
Rib roast ----- lb.	71.3	69.6	Tomatoes ----- lb.	36.3	32.7
Hamburger ----- lb.	40.0	39.3	Beans, green ----- lb.	26.2	32.5
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	117.3	116.4	<b>Canned:</b>		
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	83.1	81.4	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	36.4	37.1
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	68.5	67.7	Peaches ----- #2½ can	34.7	34.6
Ham, whole ----- lb.	61.9	61.7	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.0	34.0
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	71.7	67.2	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.0	26.0
Frankfurters ----- lb.	53.6	53.4	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.1	17.2
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	44.3	43.9	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.4	21.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	47.5	48.0	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	14.8	14.9
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	42.8	42.5	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	45.1	45.1	<b>Dried:</b>		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 18 oz.	62.4	62.4	Prunes ----- lb.	34.3	34.4
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6½ oz.	31.9	32.0	Beans ----- lb.	16.0	16.0
<b>Dairy products:</b>			<b>Other foods at home:</b>		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.1	23.1	Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.4
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.6	24.6	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.6	14.6
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.3	29.2	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	27.1	27.2
Butter ----- lb.	73.9	74.1	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.3	23.3
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	57.4	57.5	Coffee ----- lb. can	104.4	106.3
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	14.4	14.3	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.6	23.6
<b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	33.9	33.7
<b>Frozen:</b>			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	99.4	100.4
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.5	28.0	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	30.2	30.6
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	18.7	18.8	Lard ----- lb.	22.8	22.9
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.6	19.9	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.2	37.1
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.7	23.6	Peanut butter ----- lb.	53.6	53.4
<b>Fresh:</b>			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	54.9	54.8
Apples ----- lb.	17.5	15.7	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.8	24.7
Bananas ----- lb.	16.2	16.3	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.2	27.2
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	54.8	54.6	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- lb.	19.0	19.7	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	50.4	50.5
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.8	8.7

\* Priced only in season.

**TABLE A: Consumer Price Index—United States city average  
Food away from home indexes, January 1953 to April 1957 <sup>1/</sup>**  
(January 1953=100)

Month	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
January	100.0	101.6	102.8	104.1	107.3
February	100.0	101.8	102.8	104.1	107.6
March	100.1	101.9	102.9	104.4	108.1
April	100.0	102.0	103.0	104.8	108.4
May	100.2	102.2	103.2	105.0	
June	100.2	102.3	102.9	104.9	
July	100.4	102.6	103.3	105.3	
August	100.4	102.5	103.5	105.7	
September	101.0	102.7	103.6	106.0	
October	101.4	102.6	104.0	106.5	
November	101.3	102.5	104.0	106.8	
December	101.7	102.8	104.3	107.0	
<b>Average</b>	100.6	102.3	103.4	105.4	

<sup>1/</sup> This is a new series published here for the first time. Percent changes from selected dates will be published regularly in Table 1 of this report. Indexes for subsequent dates will appear in the monthly report, "Retail Food Prices by Cities" and the quarterly report, "Price Indexes for Selected Items and Groups."

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	Fulaski, 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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