

Throughout the period since 1949, significant variations in movement took place in the major components of the consumer price index. Some of the trends, by groups, are examined below.

*Food.*—Following a fairly steady period in the first half of 1950, foods started a rapid and continuous climb to a peak of 122.5 in November-December of 1951, a level not equalled again up to mid-1957. Fairly sharp declines throughout the first half of 1952 brought the index back to around 116 and it held remarkably steady at about that level, except for seasonal changes, until early 1956 when it dropped to 109.1 in March. However, by May it had risen to 109.3 and recorded a steady advance to 121.9 in September 1957 but dropped again to 118.8 by the end of the year.

*Non-food.*—This group also climbed to a peak in the latter half of 1951, but to a somewhat lower level of about 116. It then experienced a long but very gradual decline to reach a low point of 110 in mid-1955. Subsequently it developed a steady, gradual trend upwards, standing at about 115 in December 1957.

*Services (excluding shelter).*—Unlike both food and non-food commodity groupings which reflected considerable price adjustments to lower levels following the Korean war peak of late 1951, services experienced an uninterrupted rise throughout the entire period 1949 to the end of 1957, showing toward the end of that period a distinct tendency to increase at an even more rapid rate. As of December 1957 services recorded the largest over-all increase since 1949 of all groups discussed here.

*Shelter.*—This component, which covers rents only, rose steadily from 1949 to December 1957. However, though continuing to rise throughout the period, there was a flattening in the rate of increase after late 1955.

5.—Annual Consumer Price Index 1950-57 and Monthly Indexes 1956 and 1957

(1949=100)

Year and Month	Food	Household Operation	Shelter	Clothing	Other Commodities and Services	Composite Index
<b>GROUP WEIGHT AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL.....</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>14.8</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1950.....	102.6	102.4	106.2	99.7	103.1	102.9
1951.....	117.0	113.1	114.4	109.8	111.5	113.7
1952.....	116.8	116.2	120.2	111.8	116.0	116.5
1953.....	112.6	117.0	123.6	110.1	115.8	115.5
1954.....	112.2	117.4	126.5	109.4	117.4	116.2
1955.....	112.1	116.4	129.4	108.0	118.1	116.4
1956.....	113.4	117.1	132.5	108.6	120.9	118.1
1957.....	118.6	119.6	134.9	108.5	126.1	121.9
<b>1956</b>						
January.....	111.5	116.5	131.3	108.6	119.0	116.8
February.....	109.9	116.7	131.5	108.6	119.3	116.4
March.....	109.1	116.8	131.6	108.7	119.9	116.4
April.....	109.7	116.6	131.9	108.7	120.1	116.6
May.....	109.3	116.5	132.1	108.8	120.5	116.6
June.....	112.5	116.7	132.6	108.6	120.6	117.8
July.....	114.4	116.7	132.7	108.6	121.1	118.5
August.....	115.9	116.8	133.0	108.4	121.3	119.1
September.....	115.5	117.1	133.1	108.4	121.4	119.0
October.....	117.4	117.7	133.3	108.5	121.6	119.8
November.....	117.9	118.1	133.4	108.4	122.8	120.3
December.....	117.5	118.6	133.5	108.6	122.9	120.4