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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1959

Prices of consumer goods and services in United States cities rose 0.3 percent between August and September 1959, according to the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices were higher for all major groups of goods and services except transportation. Food prices rose 0.3 percent, nondurable commodities other than food 0.6 percent, and services 0.4 percent; prices of durable commodities remained at their August levels.

The September Consumer Price Index was at a new record high, 125.2 percent of the 1947-49 average and 1.2 percent higher than in September 1958.

HOUSING

Housing costs rose 0.3 percent during the month, with increases in all component subgroups. The gas and electricity and solid fuels and fuel oil subgroups advanced 1.2 and 0.8 percent, respectively, with higher rates for gas and seasonal advances in coal prices. Housefurnishings were up 0.4 percent primarily because prices of several household textiles returned to regular levels following August white sales. Prices were also higher for bedroom suites and toasters, but prices of washing machines and refrigerators were reduced prior to the introduction of new models. A rise of 0.4 percent in household operation costs was largely the result of higher rates for domestic service in several cities and further increases in prices of laundry and dry cleaning services. Prices of home repair and maintenance advanced 0.3 percent, with increases for most items. Rent continued its upward trend, with a rise of 0.1 percent.

FOOD

Average food prices were up 0.3 percent in September, as seasonal advances in prices of eggs, dairy products, and meats more than offset a less-than-seasonal drop in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables. The food index, at 118.7, was 1.3 percent lower than a year ago and 2.5 percent below the July 1958 peak.

Egg prices, although rising 7 percent during the month as seasonally lower supplies were further curtailed because of prolonged hot weather, averaged more than 10 cents a dozen lower than a year earlier. Prices of dairy products were up seasonally (1.2 percent) as fresh milk and butter prices increased 1.4 and 3.2 percent, respectively.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish increased 0.5 percent largely because of an advance of 4 percent in pork chop prices. Ham prices rose slightly, but bacon was lower. Beef prices were up 0.1 percent as an increase in round steak prices was almost offset by a decline for chuck roast. Poultry prices rose 0.3 percent.

Prices of cereals and bakery products increased 0.1 percent.

Fruit and vegetable prices decreased 1.2 percent as larger supplies of apples, potatoes, and sweet potatoes became available. Prices of sweet potatoes fell 18 percent, potatoes 13 percent, apples 11 percent, onions 7 percent, and grapes 6 percent. Lettuce prices rose 31 percent because of

adverse weather conditions; peach prices showed an end-of-season increase of 15 percent as supplies were limited; and prices of green beans and celery were seasonally higher.

Restaurant meal prices advanced 0.2 percent.

APPAREL

Apparel prices rose 0.9 percent, partly due to the reintroduction of fall and winter items at regular prices following end-of-season sales last winter. Higher prices were reported for women's and girls' coats, women's suits, wool dresses, and nylon hose and for men's topcoats and slacks. Footwear prices were up 0.4 percent, as men's and women's shoes continued to advance.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

An advance of 0.5 percent in medical care reflected higher hospitalization insurance rates in New York and Minneapolis. Prices were also higher for other medical services and for prescriptions and drugs.

Reading and recreation costs were up 0.4 percent because of increases in movie admission charges and higher prices for television sets as new models were introduced.

The personal care group index increased 0.3 percent, due almost entirely to higher prices for men's haircuts.

Transportation, down 0.2 percent, was the only major group of goods and services which did not increase. Declines of 1.0 percent in dealers selling prices of new cars and 0.8 percent in gasoline prices more than offset an advance of 1.1 percent in prices of used cars.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index—United States city average
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, September 1959
and percent changes from selected dates

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to September 1959 from --			
	September 1959	August 1959	August 1959	June 1959	September 1958	Year 1959
All items-----	125.2	124.8	0.3	0.6	1.2	110.8
Food-----	118.7	118.3	.3	- .2	- 1.3	152.0
Food at home-----	116.2	115.7	.4	- .3	- 2.1	146.7
Cereals and bakery products-----	134.1	134.0	.1	- .1	.4	134.4
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	110.4	109.9	.5	- 1.1	- 4.7	165.4
Dairy products-----	115.5	114.1	1.2	2.8	1.2	131.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	124.1	125.6	- 1.2	- 7.7	2.8	168.0
Other foods at home-----	107.6	106.2	1.3	5.2	- 6.6	122.3
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	116.8	116.6	.2	1.0	3.0	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	129.7	129.3	.3	.6	1.4	70.4
Rent-----	140.0	139.8	.1	.4	1.3	61.7
Gas and electricity-----	121.6	120.1	1.2	1.9	3.1	15.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	135.0	133.9	.8	.8	- .1	139.4
Housefurnishings-----	104.0	103.6	.4	- .1	.4	94.8
Household operation-----	135.2	134.6	.4	1.0	2.3	97.7
Apparel-----	109.0	108.0	.9	1.6	1.8	107.6
Men's and boys'-----	109.2	108.8	.4	1.0	.8	115.0
Women's and girls'-----	100.5	98.8	1.7	1.7	.9	84.4
Footwear-----	137.9	137.3	.4	2.5	6.0	174.2
Other apparel-----	92.9	92.5	.4	1.2	1.0	128.8
Transportation-----	146.4	146.7	- .2	.3	3.6	108.5
Private-----	135.3	135.5	- .1	.3	3.8	106.6
Public-----	194.9	194.9	0	1.1	2.7	139.7
Medical care-----	152.2	151.4	.5	1.1	3.9	109.6
Personal care-----	132.1	131.7	.3	.8	2.6	121.6
Reading and recreation-----	119.6	119.1	.4	1.3	2.6	89.8
Other goods and services-----	131.5	131.1	.3	1.8	3.5	86.3
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	128.7	128.2	.4	.9	2.3	86.3
All items less shelter-----	122.9	122.4	.4	.6	1.2	121.8
Commodities-----	117.0	116.6	.3	.3	.5	126.7
Nondurables-----	118.8	118.3	.4	.5	.1	131.1
Food-----	118.7	118.3	.3	- .2	- 1.3	152.0
Nondurables less food-----	119.3	118.6	.6	1.3	1.8	103.2
Apparel-----	108.9	107.9	.9	1.6	1.7	109.0
Apparel less footwear-----	103.8	102.7	1.1	1.4	.9	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	128.2	127.8	.3	1.1	1.7	94.5
Durables-----	112.8	112.8	0	0	2.3	76.9
New cars-----	135.1	136.5	- 1.0	- 2.3	3.8	37.0
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	98.3	97.2	1.1	4.8	11.2	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.1	103.0	.1	- .2	0	79.9
Commodities less food-----	115.7	115.3	.3	.9	1.9	94.8
Services-----	146.9	146.3	.4	1.0	2.7	82.7
Rent-----	140.0	139.8	.1	.4	1.3	61.7
Services less rent-----	148.7	148.1	.4	1.1	3.0	102.3
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	136.2	135.1	.8	1.4	2.9	56.6
Transportation services-----	181.7	181.3	.2	1.3	3.6	126.8
Medical care services-----	157.9	157.0	.6	1.2	4.4	124.0
Other services 3/-----	132.6	132.2	.3	.9	2.5	127.4
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.799	\$0.801	- .2	- .5	- 1.1	- 52.6

1/ Not available.

2/ Includes house purchase, interest, taxes, insurance, and upkeep, not shown separately.

3/ Includes house purchase, interest, taxes, insurance, and upkeep services; shoe repairs, television repairs, barber and beauty shop services, and movies.

TABLE 2: Consumer Price Index—All items indexes and percent changes, selected dates
U.S. city average and 20 large cities

City	Indexes (1947-49=100)				Percent change to current month from --		
	September 1959	June 1959	September 1958	Year 1939	June 1959	September 1958	Year 1939
United States city average-----	125.2	124.5	123.7	59.4	0.6	1.2	110.8
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	129.2	127.7	127.4	58.6	1.2	1.4	120.5
Detroit-----	124.8	123.4	123.8	59.0	1.1	.8	111.5
Los Angeles-----	127.8	127.0	126.0	60.4	.6	1.4	111.6
New York-----	123.5	122.5	121.4	60.1	.8	1.7	105.5
Philadelphia-----	125.8	124.0	123.4	59.2	1.5	1.9	112.5
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	September 1959	June 1959	September 1958	Year 1939	June 1959	September 1958	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	126.0	125.5	124.6	58.3	.4	1.1	116.1
Baltimore-----	127.5	126.6	124.8	57.9	.7	2.2	120.2
Cincinnati-----	123.6	123.1	122.5	58.4	.4	.9	111.6
St. Louis-----	126.4	126.3	125.3	59.3	.1	.9	113.2
San Francisco-----	130.8	129.6	128.4	58.6	.9	1.9	123.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	August 1959	May 1959	August 1958	Year 1939	May 1959	August 1958	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	125.8	125.3	125.1	59.2	.4	.6	112.5
Houston-----	124.8	124.1	124.0	59.5	.6	.6	109.7
Scranton-----	121.2	120.0	120.4	58.5	1.0	.7	107.2
Seattle-----	128.9	127.9	126.3	59.2	.8	2.1	117.7
Washington, D. C.-----	122.0	121.8	121.2	60.4	.2	.7	102.0
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	July 1959	April 1959	July 1958	Year 1939	April 1959	July 1958	Year 1939
Boston-----	125.6	125.1	125.4	61.0	.4	.2	105.9
Kansas City-----	126.0	125.5	124.8	61.7	.4	1.0	104.2
Minneapolis-----	125.4	125.1	124.9	60.7	.2	.4	106.6
Pittsburgh-----	125.7	124.5	124.7	58.1	1.0	.8	116.4
Portland, Oregon-----	126.1	125.3	124.7	58.3	.6	1.1	116.3

1/ Rents priced bimonthly.

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

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index—Percent changes from August 1959 to September 1959
U.S. city average and five cities priced monthly
All items and commodity groups

City	All items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical care	Personal care	Reading and recreation	Other goods & services
United States city average-----	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9	- 0.2	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.3
Chicago-----	.7	.6	.9	2.1	- .2	0	.1	1.0	0
Detroit-----	.9	1.1	.3	1.9	1.4	.1	.7	1.1	.8
Los Angeles-----	.2	.8	- .1	1.8	- .8	0	- .4	.2	0
New York-----	.4	.8	.1	.2	- .1	2.4	.1	- .3	0
Philadelphia-----	1.1	.9	1.4	2.4	- .1	.1	.4	2.6	1.8

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
September 1959 indexes and percent changes, June 1959 to September 1959
U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in September 1959

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Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	* San Francisco
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	125.2	126.0	127.5	129.2	123.6	124.8	127.8	123.5	125.8	126.4	130.8
Food -----	118.7	116.5	118.8	116.8	119.2	118.1	123.7	120.9	122.0	118.7	122.8
Food at home -----	116.2	114.8	115.1	114.1	116.5	115.2	119.0	117.6	119.1	113.8	120.4
Cereals and bakery products --	134.1	124.8	128.1	129.8	132.3	125.2	146.1	142.2	137.2	122.2	147.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	110.4	112.9	110.0	104.3	111.6	106.9	110.6	112.0	112.6	105.3	114.8
Dairy products -----	115.5	111.6	116.9	118.4	112.1	112.4	113.4	119.2	119.5	107.3	118.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	124.1	132.1	122.1	121.2	127.5	127.0	132.0	119.2	128.7	128.1	130.5
Other foods at home -----	107.6	102.0	106.9	112.6	110.1	108.9	108.0	108.8	107.0	114.9	107.2
Housing -----	129.7	132.6	128.2	140.0	125.6	127.7	136.6	127.1	123.9	128.7	133.4
Rent -----	140.0	139.3	137.6	166.0	144.0	--	147.4	--	128.8	148.2	150.8
Gas and electricity -----	121.6	126.2	110.0	129.3	129.3	119.3	135.3	119.0	105.9	110.9	150.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.0	128.7	129.1	140.6	147.6	126.8	--	136.0	128.6	157.3	--
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	109.9	98.8	102.4	96.2	110.1	102.7	104.1	108.4	104.1	108.4
Household operation -----	135.2	143.8	134.8	138.3	137.6	123.1	125.4	136.5	140.4	137.1	123.8
Apparel -----	109.0	114.5	111.4	113.4	107.4	107.1	110.2	106.9	108.3	108.2	110.1
Men's and boys' -----	109.2	116.3	107.9	115.5	107.8	109.9	111.8	108.5	108.9	108.5	109.0
Women's and girls' -----	100.5	105.3	105.7	103.1	98.0	96.7	101.9	96.5	98.9	100.6	101.7
Footwear -----	137.9	144.3	140.5	141.6	143.8	134.8	138.7	137.6	138.8	134.8	144.3
Other apparel -----	92.9	93.7	99.2	97.8	89.4	86.8	85.1	96.3	94.4	93.4	91.4
Transportation -----	146.4	145.8	161.3	155.2	142.1	141.0	141.7	147.1	154.7	159.7	166.9
Private -----	135.3	137.2	140.0	137.2	130.3	133.8	137.6	128.5	134.7	136.3	154.1
Public -----	194.9	193.8	215.4	196.9	191.4	179.4	164.3	191.4	193.4	237.1	184.8
Medical care -----	152.2	144.6	158.8	159.0	154.5	158.1	146.7	143.2	158.6	169.3	155.0
Personal care -----	132.1	140.3	133.8	138.1	129.6	135.1	134.2	123.9	136.3	130.9	128.7
Reading and recreation -----	119.6	121.7	130.9	125.8	111.5	116.8	101.9	120.7	125.9	98.3	117.8
Other goods and services -----	131.5	133.8	140.3	124.5	130.9	136.8	132.8	133.0	132.3	132.0	133.1
Percent change from June 1959 to September 1959											
All items -----	0.6	0.4	0.7	1.2	0.4	1.1	0.6	0.8	1.5	0.1	0.9
Food -----	.2	.5	.2	.3	.1	.5	.1	.8	.6	.8	.2
Food at home -----	.3	.5	.2	.3	.2	.9	.1	.2	.6	1.1	.5
Cereals and bakery products --	.1	.5	.3	0	.4	.6	.1	.1	.2	2.2	.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.1	1.0	1.3	.6	.3	.7	1.2	1.3	.5	1.3	2.2
Dairy products -----	2.8	1.9	.2	4.6	.1	4.4	2.3	4.6	2.8	1.3	2.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	7.7	4.9	4.4	7.3	6.4	13.4	2.9	7.1	5.2	8.7	5.4
Other foods at home -----	5.2	4.8	5.4	5.7	5.6	6.0	3.2	6.4	6.4	5.1	3.6
Housing -----	.6	.3	.8	1.2	1.1	.6	.4	.8	1.2	1.1	1.3
Rent -----	.4	.1	.1	1/2	.5	--	1/3	--	1/3	.1	1.1
Gas and electricity -----	1.9	0	.2	0	2.8	1.3	3.2	.2	.6	4.4	3.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.8	0	1.4	2.6	5.6	0	--	.7	3.0	2.9	--
Housefurnishings -----	.1	.6	.7	.8	.2	.4	.4	.2	.1	1.9	.2
Household operation -----	1.0	4.3	.2	1.0	1.5	.3	1.1	3.0	3.4	.1	1.5
Apparel -----	1.6	1.2	2.1	3.8	.5	2.2	1.9	.6	2.8	1.8	1.2
Men's and boys' -----	1.0	.7	.7	1.9	.4	1.6	1.6	.4	.6	.4	.1
Women's and girls' -----	1.7	1.1	1.8	5.6	.3	2.5	2.1	.2	4.4	2.0	1.6
Footwear -----	2.5	3.0	5.6	3.4	1.5	3.1	2.1	1.8	3.1	3.1	2.3
Other apparel -----	1.2	.6	1.4	2.3	.2	2.0	1.9	.3	1.8	3.1	.7
Transportation -----	.3	1.7	1.0	.9	.6	5.3	.1	.8	1.2	1.3	1.2
Private -----	.3	1.9	1.2	1.1	.7	3.5	.4	1.1	1.6	1.7	1.1
Public -----	1.1	0	0	0	0	14.0	1.4	0	0	0	1.2
Medical care -----	1.1	.2	.1	.1	.3	.1	.1	2.2	3.3	1.2	.2
Personal care -----	.8	4.4	1.6	1.2	.1	.9	.6	.6	.5	.2	3.7
Reading and recreation -----	1.3	.2	1.4	1.4	1.0	1.4	1.2	.8	5.3	.5	.4
Other goods and services -----	1.8	0	.1	2.9	.8	.8	6.8	.9	1.8	0	7.0

* Indexes for June 1959 for San Francisco revised as follows:

All items, 129.6

Transportation, 165.0

Private transportation, 152.4

1/ Change from July 1959 to September 1959.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index — Food and its subgroups
September 1959 indexes and percent changes, August 1959 to September 1959
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 —	118.7	0.3	116.2	0.4	134.1	0.1	110.4	0.5	115.5	1.2	124.1	- 1.2	107.6	1.3
Atlanta —	116.5	.1	114.8	.3	124.8	-.2	112.9	.2	111.6	- 1.9	132.1	.2	102.0	2.0
Baltimore —	118.8	.4	115.1	.4	128.1	-.5	110.0	-.4	116.9	.2	122.1	.6	106.9	2.0
Boston —	119.8	.7	116.8	1.0	132.2	-.1	113.3	.7	115.9	6.6	124.1	- 3.2	104.3	1.0
Chicago —	116.8	.6	114.1	.7	129.8	-.2	104.3	.6	118.4	.8	121.2	-.9	112.6	2.6
Cincinnati —	119.2	.8	116.5	1.0	132.3	-.6	111.6	1.8	112.1	0	127.5	1.0	110.1	1.9
Cleveland —	114.2	.4	111.8	.6	128.9	.5	103.9	1.6	110.3	.4	116.9	- 1.9	109.5	2.0
Detroit —	118.1	1.1	115.2	1.1	125.2	.6	106.9	1.2	112.4	1.6	127.0	- 1.6	108.9	2.9
Houston —	114.1	.3	111.6	-.4	124.9	-.2	104.4	-.7	113.8	.2	123.6	- 1.0	102.9	-.2
Kansas City —	112.6	.2	109.6	.2	126.9	-.1	104.1	.2	111.2	.5	114.8	- 1.6	101.2	1.9
Los Angeles —	123.7	.8	119.0	1.0	146.1	0	110.6	-.3	113.4	1.8	132.0	3.9	108.0	.1
Minneapolis —	118.0	.4	114.7	.4	134.3	.1	106.5	.5	108.2	1.9	123.5	- 2.8	114.2	2.1
New York —	120.9	.8	117.6	.9	142.2	.3	112.0	1.3	119.2	1.4	119.2	-.7	108.8	1.9
Philadelphia —	122.0	.9	119.1	1.0	137.2	1.6	112.6	.8	119.5	.8	128.7	.1	107.0	1.7
Pittsburgh —	120.7	1.0	118.9	1.0	131.9	.1	111.0	1.0	117.8	2.8	126.6	- 1.2	117.2	2.2
Portland, Oreg. —	121.2	0	117.8	-.1	139.9	.3	114.0	-.2	120.9	.3	115.1	- 1.9	110.4	.5
St. Louis —	118.7	.8	113.8	1.0	122.2	- 1.8	105.3	1.5	107.3	.9	128.1	-.5	114.9	2.9
San Francisco —	122.8	.7	120.4	.7	147.2	0	114.8	-.9	118.8	2.8	130.5	3.4	107.2	-.8
Scranton —	116.4	1.1	115.0	1.1	132.3	.2	110.4	1.6	113.5	2.9	119.4	- 1.5	106.7	2.1
Seattle —	120.8	0	118.5	0	146.6	.1	114.9	.3	118.1	.5	121.3	- 1.4	105.9	.1
Washington, D.C. —	119.5	.5	117.0	.6	130.8	-.2	108.9	.5	118.6	0	125.4	.6	110.1	1.5

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

Food and unit	September 1959	August 1959	Food and unit	September 1959	August 1959
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh—Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat — 5 lb.	53.9	54.1	Peaches * — lb.	17.7	15.5
Biscuit mix — 20 oz.	27.0	27.0	Strawberries * — pt.		
Corn meal — lb.	13.0	13.0	Grapes, seedless * — lb.	21.9	23.2
Rice, short grain — lb.	18.9	19.0	Watermelons * — lb.		4.0
Rice, long grain — lb.	20.9	20.8	Potatoes — 10 lb.	58.5	67.6
Rolled oats — 18 oz.	20.4	20.4	Sweet potatoes — lb.	12.9	15.8
Corn flakes — 12 oz.	25.6	25.6	Onions — lb.	9.2	9.9
Bread, white — lb.	19.7	19.7	Carrots — lb.	13.9	14.5
Soda crackers — lb.	29.1	29.1	Lettuce — head	22.7	17.4
Vanilla cookies — 7 oz.	24.4	24.5	Celery — lb.	14.5	13.4
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage — lb.	8.4	8.3
Round steak — lb.	107.8	107.0	Tomatoes — lb.	21.1	22.0
Chuck roast — lb.	62.1	62.7	Beans, green — lb.	21.2	19.4
Rib roast — lb.	83.0	82.5	Canned:		
Hamburger — lb.	54.6	54.7	Orange juice — 46-oz. can	52.1	51.9
Veal cutlets — lb.	143.4	142.9	Peaches — #2½ can	34.6	35.6
Pork chops, center cut — lb.	89.0	85.4	Pineapple — #2 can	36.6	36.4
Bacon, sliced — lb.	65.9	66.6	Fruit cocktail — #303 can	27.3	27.7
Ham, whole — lb.	60.5	60.1	Corn, cream style — #303 can	19.3	19.6
Lamb, leg — lb.	74.8	74.9	Peas, green — #303 can	20.0	20.4
Frankfurters — lb.	63.5	63.5	Tomatoes — #303 can	15.2	15.4
Luncheon meat, canned — 12 oz.	50.9	51.0	Baby foods — 4½ to 5 oz.	10.1	10.1
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook — lb.	41.7	41.5	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen — lb.	47.3	47.2	Prunes — lb.	40.2	40.2
Haddock, fillet, frozen — lb.	57.1	57.9	Beans — lb.	17.2	17.3
Salmon, pink, canned — 16 oz.	62.3	61.7	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned — 6 to 6½ oz.	32.6	33.2	Tomato soup — 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.5
Dairy products:			Beans with pork — 16-oz. can	15.0	15.0
Milk, fresh, (grocery) — qt.	24.4	24.1	Pickles, sliced — 15 oz.	26.4	26.4
Milk, fresh, (delivered) — qt.	25.6	25.3	Catsup, tomato — 14 oz.	22.4	22.3
Ice cream — pt.	29.7	29.7	Coffee — lb. can	76.6	76.8
Butter — lb.	76.6	74.3	Coffee — lb. bag	56.9	57.0
Cheese, American process — lb.	58.2	58.2	Tea bags — pkg. of 16	24.3	24.3
Milk, evaporated — 14½-oz. can	15.2	15.2	Cola drink, carton — 36 oz.	29.5	29.4
Fruits and vegetables:			Shortening, hydrogenated — 3 lb.	83.2	88.9
Frozen:			Margarine, colored — lb.	27.7	27.7
Strawberries — 10 oz.	26.3	26.2	Lard — lb.	19.1	19.3
Orange juice concentrate — 6 oz.	26.4	26.3	Salad dressing — pt.	37.6	37.7
Peas, green — 10 oz.	19.8	19.9	Peanut butter — lb.	55.5	55.5
Beans, green — 9 oz.	22.7	22.7	Sugar — 5 lb.	57.5	57.3
Fresh:			Corn syrup — 24 oz.	26.5	26.5
Apples — lb.	14.1	15.8	Grape jelly — 12 oz.	28.3	28.3
Bananas — lb.	17.2	16.8	Chocolate bar — 1 oz.	5.1	5.1
Oranges, size 200 — doz.	69.8	69.9	Eggs, Grade A, large — doz.	58.3	54.3
Lemons — lb.	19.3	17.9	Gelatin, flavored — 3 to 4 oz.	9.2	9.3
Grapefruit * — each	16.5	16.5			

* Priced only in season.

Labor D.C.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average changes in prices of goods and services usually 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. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain local transit fares, public utility rates, newspaper prices, fuel prices, and certain other items which change in price infrequently. Prices of most other goods and services 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 and historical tables of index numbers for the United States city average and for 20 large cities are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington or any of its regional offices (addresses below). The historical tables 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 1935 to date.

BLS Regional Offices

Atlanta	New York	Chicago	San Francisco	Boston
1371 Peachtree	341 Ninth Ave.	105 West Adams St.	630 Sansome St.	18 Oliver St.
Street, N. E.	Zone 1	Zone 3	Zone 11	Zone 10
Zone 9				

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