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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR NOVEMBER 1960

The Consumer Price Index rose by 0.1 percent between October and November to 127.4 (1947-49 = 100), according to the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The advance resulted from a 0.2 percent rise in food prices, which usually drop between October and November, and from an 0.1 percent increase in prices for services.

Food prices underwent the first October to November rise since 1951. The index for all foods at 121.1 was 2.7 percent above the corresponding figure for last year, but still somewhat below the postwar high of 121.7 reached in July 1958. Prices for food increased this November primarily because seasonal increases for fresh vegetables outweighed moderate price declines for eggs and meats, which usually drop in price much more sharply in November. Higher movie prices and increases in hospitalization insurance premiums largely accounted for the price rise for services. Among commodities other than food, a sharp increase in prices for gasoline was about offset by a continued decline in prices for used cars.

OVER-THE-YEAR
CHANGES

The November 1960 Consumer Price Index, at a new high, was 1.4 percent above the level of a year earlier. Higher food prices accounted for somewhat more than half of the overall increase. However, higher prices for shelter--home purchase, real estate taxes, insurance, and solid fuels--also contributed materially to the rise. The transportation index, mainly because of lower automobile prices, was the only major index group to show a decrease over the year. Durable goods, in general, have been declining in price, and by November were 3.0 percent below a year earlier. Prices of nondurable goods (excluding food), however, averaged 1.1 percent higher over the year. Thus, prices for all nonfood commodities together (as distinguished from services) had risen only 0.9 percent from the level of a year before, compared with the 2.5-percent increase for services and 2.7-percent rise for foods.

FOOD

The rise of 6.3 percent from October to November for fresh vegetables was primarily due to sharp increases in prices for lettuce, snap beans, and tomatoes. Lettuce prices rose by nearly 15 percent, reflecting lower available supplies than a year earlier. The increases of about 17 percent for snap beans and 12 percent for tomatoes were seasonal with both items in short supply until the southern winter crop is harvested. Prices for these two items were substantially below the level of last year. A sharp decline of approximately 25 percent in the prices for grapefruit was mainly responsible for a decrease in the price of fresh fruits over the month. Banana prices fell almost 6 percent as imports were running well ahead of a year before.

Prices for dairy products averaged 0.4 percent higher, led by a general increase in the price of cheese. Prices for candy bars declined because of an increase in size of bar, which was made possible by lower prices of cocoa beans, a principal ingredient. Egg prices averaged 0.9 percent lower over the month, significantly less than the 2.3 percent average decline recorded for this period since 1955. Moreover, November 1960 prices were about 25 percent higher than those reported in November 1959 as production continued at levels well below those of a year earlier.

Meat prices were down an average of 0.3 percent, the smallest decline over the month in more than a decade and a half. Prices of most cuts of pork and beef decreased moderately. However, prices rose for a few important cuts of meat, such as chuck roast and ham. Although production was larger than a year earlier, prices of young chickens increased 0.9 percent.

TRANSPORTATION

The index for private transportation rose by 0.2 percent, despite a decline of almost 3 percent in dealers' selling prices of used cars. Sizable increases in gasoline prices reflected primarily a return to more normal levels as price wars in several cities terminated. Prices of new cars (standard and compact) advanced 0.6 percent. Counting both this increase and the October rise of 4.5 percent, the index for new cars had risen much less this year during the period of new model introduction than in the previous 2 years, because of larger price concessions than usual on new model cars. Moreover, although list prices were about the same for 1960 and 1961 models, average prices (less concessions) in November were 3.6 percent below a year earlier. New car inventories totaled almost 1 million by December 1--close to a record for the period.

READING AND RECREATION

Prices for reading and recreation have risen both over the month (0.5 percent) and over the year (2.1 percent) primarily because of higher average prices for movie admissions and newspapers. Movie admissions have increased both because of increased charges for children's tickets and the prevalence of special features. Newspaper prices, which by November averaged 3.3 percent higher than last year, have been affected by increased publishing as well as distribution costs. Average prices for most other items in the reading and recreation category--toys, sporting goods, television sets, and radios--changed little in November but have declined over the year.

MEDICAL CARE

An increase in hospitalization insurance rates was mainly responsible for the rise in average prices for medical care in November. Changes in other elements of medical care costs were relatively insignificant. Another small decrease for prescriptions and drugs occurred in November, however. Prices for prescriptions have been on a gradual decline since June, and by November were 1.1 percent below a year earlier.

HOUSING

The housing component of the CPI declined in November for the first time since May, primarily because of lower home ownership costs--chiefly the purchase price of new houses and mortgage interest. A decline in price of petroleum fuels was unusual for the season, but it was outweighed by seasonal increases for solid fuels.

APPAREL AND OTHER GROUPS

A decrease in apparel prices (0.3 percent) was the first October-to-November downturn since 1952. The decline was chiefly for women's suits, for which special sales were featured earlier than usual in the season because of large stocks on hand due to relatively slack demand during the mild fall. In addition there were scattered price reductions for some men's and boys' apparel, such as jackets, and for children's shoes.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT

Cost-of-living increases are scheduled for about 225,000 workers on the basis of the national Consumers Price Index for November, with about equal numbers of workers receiving quarterly and semiannual adjustments.

The majority of workers, chiefly employees in the meat packing industry and the aircraft and missile industry, are slated to receive a 2 cent increase in hourly rates. One cent increases are scheduled for employees of a major aircraft company as well as for employees of a variety of smaller metal working establishments. However, about 10,000 metal workers will receive increases of 3 cents per hour.

An additional 25,000 workers employed in Los Angeles County retail food stores are scheduled to receive cost of living increases, generally 8 cents per hour, based on changes in the Los Angeles CPI since November 1958.

INTRODUCTION OF COMPACT CARS INTO THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

At the beginning of the 1961 model year, price movements of four compact cars--Corvair, Falcon, Rambler, and Valiant--were added to the item sample to represent passenger cars in the Consumer Price Index. This was done city by city beginning with the November 1960 index. Introduction was made by "linking," i.e., the level of the index was not affected by the difference in price level between the three standard size cars formerly priced--Chevrolet, Ford, and Plymouth--and the compact cars being introduced. Beginning with the date of introduction in each city, price movements of all seven makes are combined to represent the movement of passenger cars.

The total weight assigned to automobiles in the index for each city was left unchanged but was divided proportionately between standard size domestic cars of all makes, and all other passenger cars--domestic compacts and all foreign cars--on the basis of estimated dollar sales for the third quarter of 1960. This resulted in relative weights of 72 percent for standard size cars and 28 percent for compact cars. Within these categories, weights were distributed to the seven priced makes in proportion to their estimated dollar sales. There was no direct assignment of weights of unpriced to priced makes.

In the regular index procedure, price movements of both old and new models (e.g., 1960 and 1961 models) are averaged for the index with appropriate relative sales volume weights during the period of transition from one model year to the next. A proportion of the index weight of automobiles, therefore, will be assigned to compacts city by city as the transfer to 1961 models is completed. The total weight reassignment will be completed with the January 1961 index.

The relative importance of the seven makes of priced cars will be reviewed next year and the distribution of the index weight for new cars among the 7 priced makes revised again if necessary.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index—United States city average
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, November 1960
and percent changes from selected dates

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to November 1960 from --			
	November 1960	October 1960	October 1960	August 1960	November 1959	Year 1959
All items	127.4	127.3	0.1	0.6	1.4	114.5
Food	121.1	120.9	.2	.8	2.7	157.1
Food at home	118.4	118.2	.2	.9	2.9	151.4
Cereals and bakery products	138.6	138.5	.1	.7	3.3	142.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	109.9	110.0	- .1	- 1.3	1.9	164.2
Dairy products	118.9	118.4	.4	2.0	2.5	138.8
Fruits and vegetables	126.2	124.8	1.1	- .9	2.3	172.6
Other foods at home	111.6	112.0	- .4	4.8	4.9	130.6
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)	119.6	119.4	.2	.4	2.0	(1/)
Housing 2/	132.1	132.2	- .1	.5	1.3	73.6
Rent	142.7	142.5	.1	.6	1.6	64.8
Gas and electricity	125.7	125.7	0	.6	3.3	19.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil	136.3	136.1	.1	2.2	0.3	141.7
Housefurnishings	104.0	104.0	0	.5	- .4	94.8
Household operation	138.3	138.1	.1	.5	2.1	102.2
Apparel	110.7	111.0	- .3	1.3	1.2	110.9
Men's and boys'	112.0	112.2	- .2	1.4	2.7	120.5
Women's and girls'	101.4	101.8	- .4	1.7	.5	86.1
Footwear	140.3	140.5	- .1	.3	.8	178.9
Other apparel	94.1	93.9	.2	1.1	.9	131.8
Transportation	146.5	146.1	.3	.2	- 1.7	108.7
Private	134.4	134.1	.2	0	- 2.5	105.2
Public	204.3	202.6	.8	1.8	4.2	151.3
Medical care	157.9	157.3	.4	.8	3.2	117.5
Personal care	133.9	134.0	- .1	.1	.9	124.7
Reading and recreation	122.5	121.9	.5	.5	2.1	94.4
Other goods and services	132.7	132.7	0	.2	.8	88.0
Special groups:						
All items less food	130.8	130.7	.1	.5	1.0	89.3
All items less shelter	125.0	124.8	.2	.7	1.5	125.6
Commodities	118.3	118.2	.1	.6	.9	129.3
Nondurables	120.9	120.7	.2	.8	1.9	135.2
Food	121.1	120.9	.2	.8	2.7	157.1
Nondurables less food	121.1	120.9	.2	.8	1.1	106.3
Apparel	110.6	110.8	- .2	1.3	1.2	112.3
Apparel less footwear	105.4	105.7	- .3	1.5	1.3	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel	130.0	129.5	.4	.5	.9	97.3
Durables	110.7	110.9	- .2	- .3	- 3.0	93.2
New cars	139.1	138.3	.6	2.7	- 3.6	144.0
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)	81.7	84.1	- 2.9	- 6.4	-14.3	(1/)
Durables less cars	102.8	102.8	0	- .2	- .6	79.4
Commodities less food	115.9	115.9	0	.3	- .5	95.1
Services	151.3	151.2	.1	.7	2.5	88.2
Rent	142.7	142.5	.1	.6	1.6	64.8
Services less rent	153.6	153.4	.1	.7	2.7	109.0
Household operation services, gas, and electricity	140.1	140.1	0	.6	2.8	61.0
Transportation services	187.0	186.3	.4	1.0	2.6	133.5
Medical care services	165.1	164.3	.5	1.1	4.0	134.2
Other services 3/	136.7	136.8	- .1	.5	2.2	134.5
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)	\$0.785	\$0.786	- .1	- .6	- 1.4	-53.4

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 --		
	November 1960	August 1960	November 1959	Year 1939	August 1960	November 1959	Year 1939
United States city average-----	127.4	126.6	125.6	59.4	0.6	1.4	114.5
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	130.5	130.3	129.1	58.6	.2	1.1	122.7
Detroit-----	125.7	125.6	124.1	59.0	.1	1.3	113.1
Los Angeles-----	130.6	129.2	128.8	60.4	1.1	1.4	116.2
New York-----	126.5	125.3	124.1	60.1	1.0	1.9	110.5
Philadelphia-----	127.9	126.8	126.2	59.2	.9	1.3	116.0
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	November 1960	August 1960	November 1959	Year 1939	August 1960	November 1959	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	127.9	127.4	126.4	59.2	.4	1.2	116.0
Houston-----	126.4	126.1	125.4	59.5	.2	0.8	112.4
Seranton-----	123.9	121.8	121.5	58.5	1.7	2.0	111.8
Seattle-----	130.5	129.8	129.2	59.2	.5	1.0	120.4
Washington, D. C.-----	123.8	123.2	121.7	60.4	.5	1.7	105.0
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	October 1960	July 1960	October 1959	Year 1939	July 1960	October 1959	Year 1939
Boston-----	129.1	128.7	126.7	61.0	.3	1.9	111.6
Kansas City-----	128.2	127.9	126.9	61.7	.2	1.0	107.8
Minneapolis-----	128.5	127.5	126.5	60.7	.8	1.6	111.7
Pittsburgh-----	129.0	128.9	126.8	58.1	.1	1.7	122.0
Portland, Oregon-----	127.2	127.5	126.3	58.3	-.2	.7	118.2
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	September 1960	June 1960	September 1959	Year 1939	June 1960	September 1959	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	127.9	127.1	126.0	58.3	.6	1.5	119.4
Baltimore-----	128.7	128.3	127.5	57.9	.3	.9	122.3
Cincinnati-----	124.8	124.6	123.6	58.4	.2	1.0	113.7
St. Louis-----	127.4	127.2	126.4	59.3	.2	.8	114.8
San Francisco-----	133.0	132.4	130.8	58.6	.5	1.7	127.0

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 October 1960 to November 1960
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-----	0.1	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.3	0.3	0.4	- 0.1	0.5	0
Chicago-----	-.2	.1	-.1	-.1	-.6	0	.1	.1	- 0.4
Detroit-----	0	-.2	-.1	-.2	.1	.2	.3	0	0
Los Angeles-----	.2	.2	.3	0	.2	0	.1	1.2	-.1
New York-----	.3	.3	.2	-.1	.2	2.9	- 1.1	.9	0
Philadelphia-----	.2	-.1	.4	.3	.5	-.1	-.1	-.1	0

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
 November 1960 indexes and percent changes, August 1960 to November 1960
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washing- ton, D.C.	Indexes (1947-49=100)										
All items -----	127.4	130.5	127.9	125.7	126.4	130.6	126.5	127.9	123.9	130.5	123.8											
Food -----	121.1	118.7	117.1	119.4	116.5	127.3	123.6	123.9	117.0	123.4	121.2											
Food at home -----	118.4	116.1	114.3	116.9	113.6	121.5	120.1	120.4	115.4	120.8	118.8											
Cereals and bakery products --	138.6	131.9	132.7	129.0	128.7	153.1	148.2	139.7	136.5	150.5	138.9											
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	109.9	104.0	104.7	104.9	103.2	108.4	111.2	110.2	110.0	112.3	107.7											
Dairy products -----	118.9	122.8	110.0	118.7	116.2	116.2	122.6	124.8	113.6	120.5	122.1											
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.2	121.5	123.1	128.5	127.1	140.0	124.4	127.8	114.9	132.4	121.2											
Other foods at home -----	111.6	117.9	112.8	111.3	106.6	110.0	111.4	111.6	109.6	107.5	115.7											
Housing -----	132.1	140.9	131.5	127.2	132.0	139.6	131.1	126.1	125.8	134.6	122.0											
Rent -----	142.7	168.1	161.4	--	138.3	150.0	--	130.9	134.2	151.6	133.7											
Gas and electricity -----	125.7	130.0	124.1	117.0	134.2	147.8	122.1	106.7	124.9	86.7	136.8											
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	136.3	143.6	143.5	127.3	--	--	139.2	124.5	139.1	139.2	134.9											
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	101.7	99.4	109.3	99.6	102.7	106.4	111.3	99.3	103.7	99.9											
Household operation -----	138.3	139.5	125.8	125.5	145.0	128.1	139.2	143.5	122.1	138.8	135.0											
Apparel -----	110.7	113.9	110.2	108.0	112.7	112.0	109.8	112.5	115.0	113.5	106.2											
Men's and boys' -----	112.0	118.1	115.5	110.4	109.8	115.2	112.9	112.7	114.8	116.2	111.0											
Women's and girls' -----	101.4	101.2	98.9	97.8	105.9	102.3	98.4	104.0	107.2	103.6	96.8											
Footwear -----	140.3	145.4	134.5	136.4	146.4	141.5	141.5	141.2	145.9	144.4	131.2											
Other apparel -----	94.1	97.8	96.8	86.7	90.8	86.0	98.5	97.6	95.1	91.3	91.1											
Transportation -----	146.5	156.8	143.4	139.6	145.7	142.9	147.4	156.0	145.3	149.7	146.0											
Private -----	134.4	137.2	134.3	132.0	138.2	136.2	128.5	133.3	131.6	137.6	137.1											
Public -----	204.3	206.9	183.4	180.6	199.1	187.2	192.4	207.9	192.7	190.7	180.9											
Medical care -----	157.9	168.5	173.6	163.1	138.9	154.3	148.0	161.6	133.3	158.4	155.7											
Personal care -----	133.9	138.2	134.9	141.2	142.3	135.2	123.7	144.5	144.6	142.4	131.9											
Reading and recreation -----	122.5	125.3	131.6	119.5	119.3	104.2	127.8	122.1	170.4	119.1	124.5											
Other goods and services -----	132.7	122.3	136.6	140.1	137.6	135.2	133.5	132.6	123.9	143.4	138.3											
Percent change from August 1960 to November 1960																						
All items -----	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.7	0.5	0.5											
Food -----	.8	.3	.3	-.5	.6	1.4	0.9	.7	1.9	.2	.9											
Food at home -----	.9	.3	.4	-.4	.8	1.8	1.1	.6	2.3	.3	1.0											
Cereals and bakery products --	.7	.5	1.1	.2	.4	3.2	.3	.3	1.3	1.6	2.1											
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 1.3	-.7	- 1.9	- 1.4	- 2.2	- 2.6	- 1.2	- 2.4	1.3	- 2.7	- 1.0											
Dairy products -----	2.0	.9	-.1	2.9	1.1	2.0	3.0	3.5	3.4	.5	.4											
Fruits and vegetables -----	-.9	- 5.0	.1	- 7.8	.6	4.9	-.5	- 1.5	0	1.7	.2											
Other foods at home -----	4.8	5.8	3.5	4.7	5.1	3.5	5.0	4.7	5.2	2.2	4.0											
Housing -----	.5	.2	.5	.4	.6	1.2	.9	.4	1.1	1.0	.3											
Rent -----	.6	1/ .2	0	--	0	1/ 0.1	--	1/ 0	0.5	.5	.6											
Gas and electricity -----	.6	0	0	.6	-.1	4.4	.2	0	3.0	0	0											
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	2.2	4.8	2.8	.8	--	--	2.1	2.8	4.6	.4	2.0											
Housefurnishings -----	.5	.3	.5	1.3	0	.1	1.1	1.6	1.7	.3	.1											
Household operation -----	.5	.2	.1	-.2	.1	-.1	1.0	-.1	0	.6	.1											
Apparel -----	1.3	.4	0	1.8	-.4	1.1	1.7	4.3	1.9	1.6	.3											
Men's and boys' -----	1.4	.9	.4	.7	-.6	2.4	2.7	1.4	1.2	1.1	.8											
Women's and girls' -----	1.7	-.7	-.3	3.7	-.7	.8	1.4	8.1	3.1	3.0	.2											
Footwear -----	.3	1.7	-.3	-.3	.7	-.1	.4	.4	-.3	- 1.0	-.3											
Other apparel -----	1.1	-.1	0	.9	-.1	.1	1.5	2.6	1.0	1.9	-.1											
Transportation -----	.2	.3	1.1	- 1.0	-.7	.4	.3	1.6	.3	.9	-.2											
Private -----	0	.1	1.1	- 1.3	-.9	.4	.2	-.1	.2	1.0	-.4											
Public -----	1.8	.6	.8	.7	.1	.4	.5	7.5	.4	.6	1.0											
Medical care -----	.8	1.1	-.2	.4	.3	1.1	2.8	.2	-.3	-.6	.9											
Personal care -----	.1	.1	-.1	0	.6	.7	0	.3	0	-.4	0											
Reading and recreation -----	.5	0	.5	-.3	-.4	1.5	1.1	- 1.1	9.2	- 1.3	1.7											
Other goods and services -----	.2	-.2	-.5	-.1	-.2	1.0	.1	-.1	.2	.1	.2											

1/ Change from September 1960 to November 1960.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 November 1960 indexes and percent changes, October 1960 to November 1960
 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 ---	121.1	0.2	118.4	0.2	138.6	0.1	109.9	- 0.1	118.9	0.4	126.2	1.1	111.6	- 0.4
Atlanta -----	118.7	0	117.1	- .1	126.1	0	113.9	- .3	118.1	.8	129.7	- 0.8	106.6	- .5
Baltimore -----	120.7	- .2	116.6	- .3	135.7	.1	109.9	- .8	116.8	.2	117.6	- 1.9	112.2	.4
Boston -----	120.5	.2	117.4	.3	135.5	.5	112.5	1.9	115.9	.2	123.4	0	107.1	- 1.5
Chicago -----	118.7	.1	116.1	- .1	131.9	- .2	104.0	0	122.8	.3	121.5	.3	117.9	0
Cincinnati -----	121.9	- .6	119.2	- .5	137.1	.6	112.7	- .6	118.6	.4	125.7	- 1.5	114.4	- 1.0
Cleveland -----	117.1	.1	114.3	.1	132.7	.2	104.7	- 1.5	110.0	.3	123.1	3.6	112.8	- .8
Detroit -----	119.4	- .2	116.9	- .1	129.0	.4	104.9	- .3	118.7	.6	128.5	- .2	111.3	- .6
Houston -----	116.5	.3	113.6	.5	128.7	.5	103.2	- .1	116.2	.6	127.1	2.0	106.6	.2
Kansas City -----	114.5	.5	111.6	.6	133.8	1.4	102.1	- .5	112.6	.8	116.9	1.0	106.0	1.1
Los Angeles -----	127.3	.2	121.5	.3	153.1	.2	108.4	- .6	116.2	.2	140.0	2.0	110.0	.2
Minneapolis -----	119.2	- .4	116.1	- .4	134.7	.1	103.9	- .4	110.2	.3	130.8	- 1.1	117.2	- .8
New York -----	123.6	.3	120.1	.3	148.2	- .1	111.2	- .1	122.6	.2	124.4	2.7	111.4	- .7
Philadelphia -----	123.9	- .1	120.4	- .2	139.7	- .3	110.2	- .7	124.8	.5	127.8	- 1.6	111.6	- .4
Pittsburgh -----	122.4	- .2	120.7	- .2	137.8	- .4	110.7	- .5	120.6	.2	123.0	.1	122.8	- .3
Portland, Oreg. ----	121.4	.1	118.7	.3	141.4	.1	109.4	- .3	124.8	1.3	124.0	2.6	110.0	- 1.4
St. Louis -----	120.7	.4	116.0	.6	126.0	0	106.0	1.0	110.6	3.7	130.3	- .2	117.7	- .9
San Francisco -----	125.5	.4	122.5	.5	152.6	.1	114.9	- 1.6	121.7	.8	136.5	4.7	106.9	- .4
Scranton -----	117.0	0	115.4	0	136.5	.6	110.0	.5	113.6	.2	114.9	- .3	109.6	- .9
Seattle -----	123.4	.1	120.8	.2	150.5	.1	112.3	- .6	120.5	.3	132.4	1.5	107.5	- .1
Washington, D.C. ----	121.2	- .3	118.8	- .4	138.9	.3	107.7	- .4	122.1	- .2	121.2	- 1.2	115.7	- .4

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

Food and unit	November 1960	October 1960	Food and unit	November 1960	October 1960
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Cereals and bakery products:			Fresh--Continued		
Flour, wheat -----5 lb.	55.9	55.7	Grapefruit * ----- each	14.3	18.9
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.9	26.8	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Macaroni ----- 16 oz.	23.1	23.1	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	13.1	13.1	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.	24.8	24.0
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	22.2	22.1	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.9	25.9	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	66.8	64.4
Rice, short grain ----- 1b.	18.5	18.6	Sweet potatoes ----- 1b.	13.1	12.8
Rice, long grain ----- 1b.	20.5	20.6	Onions ----- 1b.	8.6	8.6
Bread, white ----- 1b.	20.8	20.8	Carrots ----- 1b.	14.3	14.3
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.0	28.9	Lettuce ----- head	18.9	16.5
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.4	24.5	Celery ----- 1b.	13.3	13.4
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage ----- 1b.	7.9	7.8
Round steak ----- 1b.	103.8	104.9	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	24.5	22.0
Sirloin steak ----- 1b.	107.6	107.4	Beans, green ----- 1b.	25.2	21.6
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	60.1	59.3	Canned:		
Rib roast ----- 1b.	81.1	81.3	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	42.8	42.5
Hamburger ----- 1b.	51.3	51.6	Pineapple juice ----- 46 oz. can	32.3	32.5
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	137.9	140.6	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	33.6	33.5
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	90.2	91.1	Pineapple ----- #2 can	38.3	38.1
Pork roast ----- 1b.	65.1	65.4	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	27.0	27.0
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	68.2	68.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	19.7	19.5
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	61.2	61.0	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.5	21.4
Lamb, leg ----- 10.	72.8	73.1	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.0	16.0
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	63.0	62.7	Tomato juice ----- 46 oz. can	32.5	32.1
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.4	50.2	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.5	10.5
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	41.4	41.0	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	47.2	47.4	Prunes ----- 1b.	40.2	39.8
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	55.3	55.2	Beans ----- 1b.	16.5	16.5
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	68.5	67.5	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.6	32.5	Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.4
Dairy products:			Beans, with pork ----- 15-oz. can	14.9	14.8
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	25.1	25.0	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.5	26.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	26.4	26.4	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.7	22.7
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	86.6	86.4	Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	27.2	27.2
Butter ----- 1b.	76.5	76.1	Coffee ----- 1b. can	74.6	74.5
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	35.7	34.8	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	59.2	59.0
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.8	15.8	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.5	24.5
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	30.2	30.2
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	84.1	82.8
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.2	26.9	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	27.0	26.9
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	23.0	22.7	Lard ----- 1b.	20.0	19.7
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.3	13.3	Salad dressing ----- pt.	36.0	35.9
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.5	20.2	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	55.5	55.5
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.1	23.0	Sugar ----- 5 lb.	59.4	59.4
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.7	19.7	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.7	26.7
Fresh:			Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	28.9	28.9
Apples ----- 1b.	14.1	13.9	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.7	5.0
Bananas ----- 1b.	15.5	16.4	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	69.3	69.9
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	87.1	87.5	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.2	9.3
Lemons ----- 1b.	21.3	20.6			

* Priced only in season.

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

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1371 Peachtree	341 Ninth Ave.	105 West Adams St.	630 Sansome St.	18 Oliver St.
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Zone 9				

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