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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - APRIL 1954

Consumer prices in U.S. cities declined 0.2 percent between March and April, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Reductions in Federal excise taxes, which became effective April 1, resulted in average reductions in groups of goods and services including Housefurnishings, Household Operation, Personal Care, and Recreation. Continued increases in Rent, Medical Care, and other personal services, and a moderate advance in average food prices, offset much of the tax reduction.

The All Items index for April was 114.6 (1947-49 = 100), 0.7 percent below the October 1953 peak, but 0.8 percent higher than a year ago and 12.6 percent above the June 1950 level. On a 1935-39 base, the index for April was 191.6.

FOOD The total food index rose 0.3 percent over the month, to 112.4 (1947-49 = 100). This was 0.8 percent above April of last year but 3.6 percent under the August 1952 peak. Prices of some fresh fruits and vegetables rose sharply, with oranges up almost 9 percent, apples up around 5 percent, and fresh strawberries considerably higher than at the end of last season. Potato prices increased nearly 4 percent, onions nearly 12 percent, and lettuce about 7 percent. Average prices of pork, lamb, poultry, and fish were higher but beef and veal prices declined slightly. The price of coffee rose to an average of nearly \$1.14 a pound, up 8 percent for the month and over 24 percent since last December. Butter dropped 11 percent in price during the month, reflecting lower Government support prices, and was selling at a nation-wide average of 70¢ a pound, lowest since May 1947. Egg prices continued down in most cities, averaging 4.1 percent lower than a month ago. Restaurant meals were slightly higher.

HOUSING Rents continued their slow advance of recent months although isolated decreases were reported in some of the smaller cities. The total rise in rent since last July, when Federal controls were removed from cities still under control, has been about 3.6 percent, of which only 0.5 percent has occurred in the four months since December 1953.

Most of the manufacturers' excise tax reductions on refrigerators, stoves, toasters, and other household appliances were passed on to customers, resulting in average price reductions of about 3 percent at retail. The Housefurnishings index in April was at its lowest level in over 3 years. Seasonally lower prices on coal and fuel oil were reported in some cities. Charges for laundry and dry cleaning services were higher, and prices of detergents, and laundry and toilet soap advanced, reflecting higher costs for fats and oils. Telephone rates decreased nearly 4 percent as a result of reduced Federal excise taxes.

APPAREL

Apparel prices decreased on the average for the fifth consecutive month.

Prices of work clothing continued lower and prices of women's handbags were reduced by tax cuts. Although price changes were small, there were reports that consumers were being offered wider choices in cotton dresses and many other items of clothing, with improved workmanship, quality of fabric, and styling. Prices of men's light weight suits were higher than at the close of the previous season.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

In the Transportation group, some local transit fare increases and a sharp rise in gasoline prices following a price war were reported.

Used car prices continued to fall throughout the country, and lower excise taxes reduced railroad fares by 4 percent. Scattered reports indicated that some dealers offered liberal trade-in allowances on new car purchases.

Increased movie admissions were reported from many sections of the country, offsetting most of the excise tax reduction. Medical fees continued to advance.

Lower prices for sporting goods and toiletries reflected tax cuts. Face powder and face cream prices were about 8 1/2 percent lower. With dealer inventories still high, sales on television and radio sets continued in some cities.

TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- U.S. CITY AVERAGE ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUPS
Indexes and Percent Changes for Selected Dates
INDEXES (1947-49 = 100)

GROUP	April 1954	March 1954	February 1954	April 1953	June 1950	Year 1939
	This Month	Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
ALL ITEMS -----	114.6	114.8	115.0	113.7	101.8	59.4
FOOD <u>1/</u> -----	112.4	112.1	112.6	111.5	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	111.8	111.4	112.0	111.1	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	121.1	121.2	121.3	118.0	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish -----	110.5	109.5	109.7	106.8	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	104.6	108.0	109.0	109.0	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	110.0	107.8	108.0	115.0	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	113.6	112.3	114.0	110.4	94.1	48.4
HOUSING <u>2/</u> -----	118.5	119.0	118.9	117.0	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	128.2	128.0	127.9	122.1	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	107.6	107.6	107.5	106.5	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	123.9	125.8	126.2	123.6	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	106.1	107.2	107.2	107.8	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	116.9	117.5	117.3	114.3	99.6	68.4
APPAREL -----	104.1	104.3	104.7	104.6	96.5	52.5
Women's and girls' -----	98.4	99.0	99.5	99.4	93.3	4/
Men's and boys' -----	107.1	107.2	107.4	107.3	98.1	4/
Footwear -----	116.1	116.1	116.1	114.8	102.1	4/
Other apparel -----	90.4	90.0	90.4	92.1	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	129.1	129.0	129.4	129.4	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE -----	124.9	124.4	124.1	120.2	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE -----	112.9	114.1	113.9	112.5	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION -----	106.5	108.2	108.0	107.9	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <u>3/</u> -----	120.2	120.1	120.2	117.9	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO APRIL 1954 FROM:

	March 1954	February 1954	April 1953	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS -----	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.8	12.6	92.9
FOOD <u>1/</u> -----	0.3	- 0.2	0.8	11.8	138.6
Food at home -----	0.4	- 0.2	0.6	11.2	137.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	- 0.1	- 0.2	2.6	17.9	111.7
Meats, poultry and fish -----	0.9	0.7	3.5	4.1	165.6
Dairy products -----	- 3.1	- 4.0	- 4.0	13.3	110.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	2.0	1.9	- 4.3	7.3	137.6
Other foods at home -----	1.2	- 0.4	2.9	20.7	134.7
HOUSING <u>2/</u> -----	- 0.4	- 0.3	1.3	13.0	55.7
Rent -----	0.2	0.2	5.0	17.9	48.0
Gas and electricity -----	0	0.1	1.0	4.8	2.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- 1.5	- 1.8	0.2	15.1	119.7
Housefurnishings -----	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 1.6	8.9	98.7
Household operation -----	- 0.5	- 0.3	2.3	17.4	70.9
APPAREL -----	- 0.2	- 0.6	- 0.5	7.9	98.3
Women's and girls' -----	- 0.6	- 1.1	- 1.0	5.5	4/
Men's and boys' -----	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.2	9.2	4/
Footwear -----	0	0	1.1	13.7	4/
Other apparel -----	0.4	0	- 1.8	2.3	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	0.1	- 0.2	- 0.2	17.5	87.4
MEDICAL CARE -----	0.4	0.6	3.9	18.5	72.0
PERSONAL CARE -----	- 1.1	- 0.9	0.4	13.8	89.4
READING AND RECREATION -----	- 1.6	- 1.4	- 1.3	3.9	69.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <u>3/</u> -----	0.1	0	2.0	15.9	70.3

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.)

4/ Not available.

TABLE 2. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- ALL ITEMS INDEXES FOR SELECTED DATES
U.S. CITY AVERAGE AND 20 LARGE CITIES

City	(1 9 4 7 - 4 9 = 1 0 0)				(1935-39 = 100)
	April 1954	April 1953	June 1950	Year 1939	April 1954 ^{1/}
U.S. CITY AVERAGE -----	114.6	113.7	101.8	59.4	191.6
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:					
Chicago -----	116.5	114.2	102.8	58.6	198.4
Detroit -----	116.7	115.2	102.8	59.0	197.0
Los Angeles -----	115.7	115.6	101.3	60.4	193.3
New York -----	112.5	111.1	100.9	60.1	186.2
Philadelphia -----	115.1	113.7	101.6	59.2	191.5
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL JULY, OCTOBER ^{2/}					
	April 1954	April 1953	April 1950		April 1954
Boston -----	112.9	111.7	101.2	61.0	181.8
Kansas City -----	115.5	114.3	101.4	61.7	186.0
Minneapolis -----	116.3	115.1	102.1 ^{3/}	60.7	192.6
Pittsburgh -----	114.5	112.8	99.9	58.1	194.6
Portland, Ore. -----	114.8	115.4	101.5	58.3	198.8
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER ^{2/}					
	March 1954	March 1953	June 1950		March 1954
Atlanta -----	117.0	116.7	101.3 ^{4/}	58.3	198.4
Baltimore -----	114.8	114.2	101.6	57.9	197.3
Cincinnati -----	114.2	112.6	101.2	58.4	192.3
St. Louis -----	116.9	114.7	101.1	59.3	195.1
San Francisco -----	116.5	115.5	100.9	58.6	199.1
CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER ^{2/}					
	February 1954	February 1953	May 1950		February 1954
Cleveland -----	115.2	112.5	100.4	59.2	196.3
Houston -----	116.9	116.1	103.5	59.5	197.9
Scranton -----	113.2	112.2	100.2	58.5	188.1
Seattle -----	116.2	114.6	102.0	59.2	198.6
Washington, D. C. -----	114.1	113.0	101.6	60.4	187.4

^{1/} These are the same indexes shown in column 1, converted to a base of 1935-39 = 100.

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

^{3/} June 1950; formerly priced March, June, September, December.

^{4/} May 1950; formerly priced February, May, August, November.

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- PERCENT CHANGES FROM MARCH 1954 TO APRIL 1954
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 & Recreation	Other Goods & Services
U.S. CITY AVERAGE -----	- 0.2	0.3	- 0.4	- 0.2	0.1	0.4	- 1.1	- 1.6	0.1
Chicago -----	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.2	0	- 1.3	- 0.4	- 0.1
Detroit -----	0.2	1.2	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.4	0.2	- 0.8	- 0.7	0.1
Los Angeles -	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 0.3	1.0	- 1.1	- 1.5	0
New York ----	0.1	1.0	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.4	0.6	- 1.0	- 1.6	0.2
Philadelphia-	0.2	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1	0	- 0.8	- 0.6	0.6

TABLE 4. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUPS
 April 1954 Indexes and Percent Changes, January 1954 to April 1954
 U.S. City Average and 10 Cities Priced in April 1954

City	All Items	Total Food	Housing						Apparel	Transportation	Medical Care	Personal Care	Reading & Recreation	Other Goods & Services
			Total	Rent	Gas & Electricity	Solid Fuels & Fuel Oil	House-furnishings	Household Operations						
April 1954 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)														
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	114.6	112.4	118.5	128.2	107.6	123.9	106.1	116.9	104.1	129.1	124.9	112.9	106.5	120.2
Boston -----	112.9	109.3	117.5		108.9	122.6	104.1	113.1	101.1	140.9	124.4	112.3	104.7	118.5
Chicago -----	116.5	110.4	124.9		106.2	124.0	107.5	120.5	108.1	132.4	122.8	113.2	107.5	118.8
Detroit -----	116.7	116.1	122.1	138.1	110.3	119.4	110.1	109.9	102.6	120.7	122.5	119.1	111.0	125.0
Kansas City ----	115.5	109.0	118.3	133.5	105.2	113.2	106.4	120.9	103.8	129.8	135.4	115.6	113.4	117.5
Los Angeles ----	115.7	113.1	123.3		109.5	-	107.5	107.4	103.8	127.3	122.5	116.6	100.5	115.2
Minneapolis ----	116.3	112.1	119.8		110.0	114.8	106.3	121.0	105.5	120.9	141.9	115.7	114.1	125.1
New York -----	112.5	111.0	115.0		108.7	129.4	106.6	118.6	104.0	134.1	123.9	107.5	104.1	121.3
Philadelphia ---	115.1	114.3	113.5		102.3	123.2	109.1	113.4	105.7	137.2	123.7	117.0	110.1	123.4
Pittsburgh ----	114.5	113.3	116.5	122.8	116.7	123.2	104.6	119.8	103.4	138.6	127.8	116.5	96.8	120.5
Portland, Ore. -	114.8	112.2	119.4		105.2	127.6	108.9	111.6	104.6	124.6	121.4	110.6	111.3	118.7

Percent Change -- January 1954 to April 1954

U.S. CITY AVERAGE	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 0.3	0.3	0.5	- 1.4	- 1.0	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 1.1	1.0	- 0.7	- 2.0	- 0.1
Boston -----	0.2	- 0.5	- 0.1		0.1	- 1.5	- 2.2	0.8	0.5	4.0	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 2.4	0.4
Chicago -----	- 0.2	- 0.9	0.5		6.3	- 0.4	- 1.3	- 0.4	0.3	- 1.0	0	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 0.2
Detroit -----	- 0.3	0.8	0.4	1/ 3.2	- 0.4	0	0.6	0.8	- 0.4	- 3.8	0.3	- 0.6	- 1.0	- 0.2
Kansas City ----	0.4	- 0.8	- 0.6	1/ 1.5	2.1	0	- 1.2	0	- 0.9	3.1	12.7	- 0.6	- 2.9	- 0.1
Los Angeles ----	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 1.0		0	-	- 1.6	- 0.6	0	- 1.4	1.2	- 1.3	- 2.9	- 1.1
Minneapolis ----	- 0.3	- 0.7	0.1		0	0	- 0.4	4.9	- 0.6	- 0.8	2.2	- 0.9	- 1.4	- 0.2
New York -----	- 0.4	0.1	- 0.3		- 0.1	- 1.9	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 0.8	- 1.1	0.2	- 0.7	- 4.1	0.1
Philadelphia ---	- 0.2	- 0.9	0.1		0	- 0.5	- 0.4	0	- 0.5	0.8	0.3	- 0.2	- 0.4	0.4
Pittsburgh ----	0.1	- 0.1	0.1	1/ 1.2	0	0	- 0.9	- 0.1	- 1.0	- 0.6	5.4	2.8	- 2.9	0
Portland, Ore. -	- 0.5	- 0.8	0.5		0	0.2	1.3	- 1.3	- 0.8	- 1.0	0.3	- 1.0	- 5.0	- 0.6

1/ Change from October 1953 to April 1954.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 April 1954 Indexes and Percent Changes, March 1954 to April 1954
 U.S. City Average and 20 Large Cities
 (1947-49 = 100)

City	Total Food		Total Food at Home		Cereals & Bakery Products		Meats, Poultry & Fish		Dairy Products		Fruits & 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	112.4	0.3	111.8	0.4	121.1	- 0.1	110.5	0.9	104.6	- 3.1	110.0	2.0	113.6
Atlanta -----	112.8	0.5	111.9	0.6	116.1	0.1	117.9	1.2	108.3	- 1.1	105.8	0.3	107.3	1.5
Baltimore ----	113.9	0.3	113.1	0.4	122.0	0.3	113.0	0.7	107.8	- 3.7	110.2	2.5	112.2	1.1
Boston -----	109.3	0	108.1	0.2	119.2	0.1	106.0	0.5	104.3	- 3.9	103.2	2.2	107.5	1.6
Chicago -----	110.4	- 0.3	109.8	0.1	117.2	0.2	105.8	0.7	104.4	- 2.5	105.6	0.2	120.1	0.9
Cincinnati ----	113.7	- 0.4	113.2	- 0.4	118.4	0	115.5	0.7	103.6	- 7.0	105.9	1.1	119.4	1.1
Cleveland ----	110.2	- 0.1	109.4	0	116.6	- 1.7	107.6	1.9	97.7	- 6.8	105.1	1.7	117.6	1.2
Detroit -----	116.1	1.2	115.2	1.3	117.8	0	109.8	1.0	105.9	- 2.0	123.8	6.4	116.0	1.0
Houston -----	112.1	- 0.5	111.0	- 0.6	118.5	0.2	107.0	- 1.2	109.2	- 0.7	111.0	0.3	111.8	- 0.8
Kansas City ----	109.0	0.6	108.4	0.6	120.3	- 0.1	107.7	1.0	99.7	- 1.5	105.0	2.0	109.2	0.6
Los Angeles ----	113.1	- 0.3	111.8	- 0.3	122.5	- 0.1	109.6	- 0.7	103.2	- 2.0	113.6	0.7	111.7	0.5
Minneapolis ----	112.1	- 0.3	111.9	- 0.2	124.7	- 0.2	103.8	- 0.5	102.4	- 2.2	120.2	2.5	118.0	- 0.2
New York -----	111.0	1.0	110.6	1.2	125.2	0.1	110.4	2.6	101.8	- 4.3	103.4	2.6	115.6	3.1
Philadelphia ---	114.3	0.5	113.4	0.7	120.8	0.2	112.4	1.7	105.5	- 4.8	110.0	1.2	115.8	3.1
Pittsburgh ----	113.3	0.1	112.6	- 0.2	121.1	- 0.5	107.0	1.4	107.1	- 4.5	107.7	0.5	123.4	0.9
Portland, Ore. -	112.2	- 0.4	112.0	- 0.5	115.6	- 0.5	114.0	0.4	107.1	- 1.8	111.0	0.9	112.0	- 1.4
St. Louis -----	114.9	0	113.3	0	116.5	0	110.4	0	96.7	- 4.8	119.6	3.7	122.3	0.3
San Francisco --	113.9	0.6	113.1	0.7	127.5	0.1	110.4	0.9	105.5	- 1.2	118.8	2.4	109.3	0.8
Scranton -----	111.8	0.5	111.3	0.5	119.4	0	110.0	0.5	107.0	- 2.2	104.3	1.8	114.1	2.5
Seattle -----	112.6	0.4	112.5	0.4	122.0	- 0.2	110.5	0.3	103.9	- 1.7	115.6	2.3	111.9	0.9
Washington, D.C.	111.0	0.6	110.4	0.8	118.6	0.2	105.6	1.1	111.9	- 1.7	106.1	1.9	111.5	1.5

TABLE 6. RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR APRIL AND MARCH 1954
U.S. CITY AVERAGE

Food and Unit	April 1954	March 1954	Food and Unit	April 1954	March 1954		
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:			Fresh (continued)				
	(Cents)	(Cents)		(Cents)	(Cents)		
Flour, wheat	5 lb.	53.8	53.6	Strawberries*	pt.	38.7	----
Biscuit mix	20 oz.	27.5	27.7	Grapes, seedless*	lb.	----	----
Corn meal	lb.	12.5	12.5	Watermelons*	lb.	----	----
Rice	lb.	19.7	19.7	Potatoes	15 lb.	66.9	64.5
Rolled oats	20 oz.	18.5	18.5	Sweetpotatoes	lb.	13.4	13.1
Corn flakes	12 oz.	21.8	21.8	Onions	lb.	6.6	5.9
Bread, white	lb.	17.0	17.0	Carrots	lb.	12.4	11.8
Soda crackers	lb.	27.1	27.1	Lettuce	head	15.1	14.1
Vanilla cookies	7 oz.	23.6	23.3	Celery	lb.	12.6	13.6
				Cabbage	lb.	7.4	7.4
MEATS, POULTRY, AND FISH:				Tomatoes	lb.	28.6	30.6
Beef and veal				Beans, green	lb.	25.2	26.6
Round steak	lb.	88.3	88.4	Canned			
Chuck roast	lb.	51.2	51.0	Orange juice	46 oz. can	32.8	33.4
Rib roast	lb.	69.1	69.6	Peaches	#2 1/2 can	32.9	32.9
Hamburger	lb.	40.7	40.9	Pineapple	#2 1/2 can	38.6	38.7
Veal cutlets	lb.	110.9	112.1	Fruit cocktail	#2 1/2 can	41.1	41.1
Pork				Corn, cream style	#303 can	18.4	18.6
Pork chops, center cut	lb.	88.5	85.7	Peas, green	#303 can	21.3	21.3
Bacon, sliced	lb.	88.4	88.0	Tomatoes	#2 can	17.2	17.3
Ham, whole	lb.	72.8	72.2	Baby foods	4 1/2-5 oz.	9.8	9.8
Lamb, leg	lb.	74.1	70.7	Dried			
Other meats				Prunes	lb.	30.0	29.8
Frankfurters	lb.	56.0	56.1	Navy beans	lb.	17.3	17.3
Luncheon meat, canned	12 oz.	51.7	51.4	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:			
Poultry: Frying chickens				Partially prepared foods			
Dressed	lb.	45.4	43.9	Vegetable soup	11 oz. can	14.3	14.3
Ready-to-cook	lb.	54.6	54.5	Beans with pork	16 oz. can	14.4	14.3
Fish				Condiments and sauces			
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen	lb.	44.0	43.6	Gherkins, sweet	7 1/2 oz.	30.1	30.1
Haddock, fillet, frozen	lb.	49.8	50.0	Catsup, tomato	14 oz.	22.2	22.2
Salmon, pink, canned	16 oz.	51.2	51.3	Beverages			
Tuna fish, canned	7 oz.	39.3	39.2	Coffee	lb.	113.6	105.2
DAIRY PRODUCTS:				Tea	1/4 lb.	33.4	33.2
Milk, fresh, (grocery)	qt.	21.5	21.9	Cola drink carton of 6,6 oz.		31.1	30.9
Milk, fresh, (delivered)	qt.	22.5	23.3	Fats and oils			
Ice cream	pt.	29.6	29.7	Shortening, hydrogenated	lb.	34.5	34.5
Butter	lb.	70.0	78.4	Margarine, colored	lb.	29.5	29.7
Cheese, American process	lb.	57.7	58.9	Lard	lb.	26.7	25.6
Milk, evaporated 14 1/2 oz. can		14.0	14.3	Salad dressing	pt.	35.8	35.8
				Peanut butter	lb.	49.1	49.2
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:				Sugar and sweets			
Frozen				Sugar	5 lb.	52.5	52.6
Strawberries	12 oz.	36.7	36.9	Corn syrup	24 oz.	23.6	23.6
Orange juice concentrate	6 oz.	16.7	17.0	Grape jelly	12 oz.	25.1	25.0
Peas, green	10 oz.	19.2	19.4	Chocolate bar	1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Beans, green	10 oz.	24.5	24.5	Eggs, Grade A, large	doz.	55.5	57.9
Fresh				Miscellaneous foods			
Apples	lb.	15.9	15.1	Gelatin, flavored	3-4 oz.	8.5	8.6
Bananas	lb.	16.3	16.7				
Oranges, size 200	doz.	50.1	46.1				
Lemons	lb.	18.0	18.3				
Grapefruit*	each	9.6	9.9				
Peaches*	lb.	----	----				

* Priced only in season.

The Consumer Price Index measures the average change in prices of goods and services customarily purchased by city wage-earner and clerical-worker families. Index numbers are presented on the base 1947-49 = 100, and show the average increase or decrease in prices from the 1947-49 average. For the convenience of users, indexes are also calculated on the base 1935-39 = 100.

About 300 items are priced for the index to estimate the average change in prices of a fixed quantity of goods and services from one period to the next. Among these are all the important items that wage and clerical workers buy, and they are selected so that their average price change will be representative of the price changes on all items. Prices are collected in 46 cities which are representative of all cities in the United States.

Foods, fuels, rents, and a few other items are priced every month in each city. Prices of most other goods and services are obtained every month in the 5 largest cities, every 3 months in 16 other large cities and in 9 medium-sized cities, and every 4 months in 16 small cities. In each city, prices are reported by representative retail stores and service establishments patronized by wage and clerical worker families.

Indexes are calculated for all cities combined (the U.S. city average) and for each of the 20 largest cities. No separate index numbers are calculated for the following 26 medium-sized and small cities which are included in the U.S. average:

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	

In the calculation, price changes on individual items are weighted by their importance in wage-earner and clerical-worker family spending. City data are combined by weighting with 1950 population data to arrive at the U.S. city average.

Comparison of city indexes shows only that prices in one city changed more or less than in another. City indexes do not measure differences in price level between cities.

A detailed description of the index containing lists of items priced, their weights, cities included, and an explanation of the index calculation, its uses and limitations, is available in Bureau of Labor Statistics Bulletin No. 1140 - "The Consumer Price Index - A Layman's Guide," for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, United States Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Price 20 cents.

A more technical description of the Consumer Price Index is available upon request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.

Historical series of index numbers for the U.S. city average and 20 individual 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.

