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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - JULY 1954

Consumer prices in U. S. cities in July 1954 were 0.1 percent higher than in June, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The principal factor in the rise during the month was an advance of 0.7 percent in food prices, although most of this advance was offset by average decreases of 1.7 percent in transportation and 0.2 percent in apparel prices. Indexes for housing, medical care, personal care, and reading and recreation also rose slightly during the month.

The Consumer Price Index for July was 115.2 (1947-49 = 100). It was 0.4 percent higher than a year ago and 13.2 percent above the level of June 1950. The July index on a 1935-39 = 100 base was 192.6.

FOOD The rise of 0.7 percent in food prices brought the food index to 114.6 percent of the 1947-49 average, 0.7 percent higher than a year ago, and 14.0 percent above the June 1950 level. Higher food prices were reported in all but 9 Western cities.

The advance in food prices mainly resulted from higher prices in Central and Eastern cities for some fresh fruits and vegetables in short supply, and seasonal increases for milk and eggs. Average prices of oranges rose 10 percent; potatoes, 8 percent; tomatoes, 7-1/2 percent; and green beans, 22-1/2 percent. Egg prices advanced 7 percent on the average. Fresh milk prices rose more than 2 percent, offsetting some of the decrease in the dairy product group reported since reductions in price supports became effective April 1, 1954.

The rise in coffee prices continued up to mid-July, with increases reported in most cities. The average price for coffee in July was \$1.23 per pound. In the latter part of July some weakness appeared in wholesale coffee markets.

Reduced prices were reported for all pork items; bacon dropped 6 percent; ham, 2 percent; and chops, 1 percent. Poultry prices advanced seasonally about 1 percent over the month.

HOUSING Residential rents rose 0.2 percent on the average, although some lower rents were reported in a few cities. Coal prices advanced somewhat from recent seasonal lows. The average decline of 0.1 percent in prices of housefurnishings resulted partly from reported sale prices for household textiles, appliances, and some furniture items.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Lower prices of new automobiles reflected substantial reductions from list prices reported by dealers. Gasoline prices continued to decline on the average.

Apparel prices were generally lower as sales were reported for a number of items, including men's and boys' sport shirts, men's summer suits, women's and girls' cotton dresses, and nylon hose. Prices of women's and children's shoes advanced slightly.

The price of cigarettes rose during the month, due largely to higher local sales taxes in some cities.

TABLE 1. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- U.S. CITY AVERAGE ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUPS
Indexes and Percent Changes for Selected Dates

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Group	July 1954	June 1954	May 1954	July 1953	June 1950	Year 1939
	This Month	Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year	Pre-Korea	Pre- World War II
	INDEXES (1947-49 = 100)					
ALL ITEMS -----	115.2	115.1	115.0	114.7	101.8	59.4
FOOD 1/ -----	114.6	113.8	113.3	113.8	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	114.2	113.3	112.8	113.8	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	121.6	121.3	121.3	119.1	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish -----	109.7	111.1	111.0	112.0	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	104.3	102.9	103.5	108.3	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	120.1	117.1	114.6	118.2	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	117.3	115.2	114.5	112.3	94.1	48.4
HOUSING 2/ -----	119.0	118.9	118.9	117.8	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	128.5	128.3	128.3	123.8	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	107.8	107.6	107.7	106.4	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	121.1	120.9	120.9	123.7	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	105.7	105.8	105.9	108.1	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	117.2	117.2	117.2	115.7	99.6	68.4
APPAREL -----	104.0	104.2	104.2	104.4	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	106.6	107.0	107.3	107.4	98.1	4/
Women's and girls' -----	98.2	98.5	98.5	98.9	93.3	4/
Footwear -----	116.5	116.3	115.9	115.0	102.1	4/
Other apparel -----	90.8	91.0	90.9	92.2	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	126.7	128.9	129.1	129.7	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE -----	125.2	125.1	125.1	121.5	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE -----	113.3	112.7	113.0	112.6	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION -----	107.0	106.4	106.4	107.4	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/ -----	120.3	120.1	120.1	118.3	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO JULY 1954 FROM:

	June 1954	May 1954	July 1953	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS -----	0.1	0.2	0.4	13.2	93.9
FOOD 1/ -----	0.7	1.1	0.7	14.0	143.3
Food at home -----	0.8	1.2	0.4	13.6	142.5
Cereals and bakery products --	0.2	0.2	2.1	18.4	112.6
Meats, poultry and fish -----	-1.3	-1.2	-2.1	3.4	163.7
Dairy products -----	1.4	0.8	-3.7	13.0	109.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	2.6	4.8	1.6	17.2	159.4
Other foods at home -----	1.8	2.4	4.5	24.7	142.4
HOUSING 2/ -----	0.1	0.1	1.0	13.4	56.4
Rent -----	0.2	0.2	3.8	18.2	48.4
Gas and electricity -----	0.2	0.1	1.3	5.0	2.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	0.2	0.2	-2.1	12.5	114.7
Housefurnishings -----	-0.1	-0.2	-2.2	8.5	97.9
Household operation -----	0	0	1.3	17.7	71.3
APPAREL -----	-0.2	-0.2	-0.4	7.8	98.1
Men's and boys' -----	-0.4	-0.7	-0.7	8.7	4/
Women's and girls' -----	-0.3	-0.3	-0.7	5.3	4/
Footwear -----	0.2	0.5	1.3	14.1	4/
Other apparel -----	-0.2	-0.1	-1.5	2.7	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	-1.7	-1.9	-2.3	15.3	83.9
MEDICAL CARE -----	0.1	0.1	3.0	18.8	72.5
PERSONAL CARE -----	0.5	0.3	0.6	14.2	90.1
READING AND RECREATION -----	0.6	0.6	-0.4	4.4	69.8
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/ -----	0.2	0.2	1.7	16.0	70.4

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)
	July 1954	July 1953	June 1950	Year 1939	July 1954 <u>1/</u>
U.S. CITY AVERAGE -----	115.2	114.7	101.8	59.4	192.6
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:					
Chicago -----	118.0	115.7	102.8	58.6	201.0
Detroit -----	117.5	116.9	102.8	59.0	198.3
Los Angeles -----	114.9	115.8	101.3	60.4	192.0
New York -----	113.3	112.1	100.9	60.1	187.5
Philadelphia -----	116.3	114.7	101.6	59.2	193.5
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER <u>2/</u>	July 1954	July 1953	April 1950		July 1954
Boston	113.8	113.1	101.2	61.0	183.2
Kansas City	115.6	115.3	101.4	61.7	186.1
Minneapolis	117.3	115.6	102.1 <u>3/</u>	60.7	194.2
Pittsburgh	115.4	113.8	99.9	58.1	196.2
Portland, Ore.	115.5	115.5	101.5	58.3	200.0
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER <u>2/</u>	June 1954	June 1953	June 1950		June 1954
Atlanta	117.6	117.1	101.3 <u>4/</u>	58.3	199.4
Baltimore	115.5	115.1	101.6	57.9	198.5
Cincinnati	114.2	114.5	101.2	58.4	192.3
St. Louis	117.4	115.8	101.1	59.3	195.9
San Francisco	116.8	116.1	100.9	58.6	199.6
CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER <u>2/</u>	May 1954	May 1953	May 1950		May 1954
Cleveland	115.3	113.7	100.4	59.2	196.5
Houston	116.7	116.8	103.5	59.5	197.6
Scranton	112.3	112.0	100.2	58.5	186.6
Seattle	116.3	116.2	102.0	59.2	198.8
Washington, D. C.	113.7	113.5	101.6	60.4	186.7

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 JUNE 1954 TO JULY 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 and Recreation	Other Goods & Services
U.S. CITY AVERAGE -----	0.1	0.7	0.1	-0.2	-1.7	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.2
Chicago -----	0.6	0.9	0.6	-0.2	-0.4	-0.2	1.4	3.1	0.1
Detroit -----	0.3	0.9	0.1	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0	0.1	0.1
Los Angeles -----	-0.7	-0.7	0.2	-0.3	-3.8	0.2	0.2	-0.3	-0.3
New York -----	0.4	1.8	0.1	-0.4	-3.9	0	0.6	1.6	0
Philadelphia -----	0.3	1.0	0	0.2	-0.2	0	0.8	0.2	0

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

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Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minnea- polis	New York	Phila- delphia	Pitts- burgh	Portland, Ore.
July 1954 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)											
ALL ITEMS -----	115.2	113.8	118.0	117.5	115.6	114.9	117.3	113.3	116.3	115.4	115.5
FOOD -----	114.6	112.9	112.6	118.5	109.9	112.3	113.5	113.6	117.7	115.6	114.1
Food at home -----	114.2	112.3	112.0	117.8	109.5	110.8	113.2	113.4	117.2	115.4	114.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	121.6	119.4	116.9	117.8	120.3	122.4	125.4	125.1	120.9	122.4	119.3
Meats, poultry and fish -----	109.7	107.0	104.5	109.6	104.3	108.7	102.5	109.7	112.8	106.6	114.6
Dairy products -----	104.3	104.3	103.2	103.1	96.5	102.9	98.6	104.2	108.1	106.8	104.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	120.1	120.5	118.8	136.9	115.9	106.8	125.8	114.2	126.2	122.5	115.2
Other foods at home -----	117.3	111.5	122.9	120.3	111.7	114.0	124.5	119.0	118.2	125.3	117.4
HOUSING -----	119.0	117.9	126.9	122.2	119.1	124.4	121.4	115.5	113.7	117.1	119.9
Rent -----	128.5	122.0	---	---	---	---	139.9	116.8	---	---	129.2
Gas and electricity -----	107.8	108.8	106.3	108.4	104.3	109.5	110.0	108.5	102.3	116.9	105.2
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	121.1	118.9	122.9	118.7	112.6	---	113.9	122.4	114.3	122.9	127.6
Housefurnishings -----	105.7	104.6	107.4	109.1	105.6	107.1	106.7	105.9	108.8	105.3	108.3
Household operation -----	117.2	113.5	120.8	110.1	122.3	107.2	121.0	118.9	113.7	120.0	111.7
APPAREL -----	104.0	101.8	107.9	102.9	103.6	103.9	105.7	103.5	105.3	103.7	104.6
Men's and boys' -----	106.6	103.7	113.0	109.2	107.4	109.2	109.0	106.2	104.4	106.8	109.7
Women's and girls' -----	98.2	96.1	101.2	95.0	98.0	96.6	101.0	97.4	104.0	96.2	95.4
Footwear -----	115.5	112.2	118.0	113.0	114.2	117.5	113.9	116.6	110.7	118.0	121.0
Other apparel -----	90.8	103.3	94.7	87.6	87.5	82.5	92.7	93.8	92.7	98.9	93.9
TRANSPORTATION -----	126.7	137.2	133.7	119.7	125.4	121.0	121.4	129.3	136.9	137.5	122.3
MEDICAL CARE -----	125.2	124.2	122.6	124.3	136.0	122.9	143.0	123.9	125.0	128.0	122.3
PERSONAL CARE -----	113.3	112.0	115.0	118.8	116.2	117.1	115.9	107.6	117.1	116.1	110.5
READING AND RECREATION -----	107.0	103.4	110.8	111.1	114.8	99.5	114.3	107.0	112.2	97.7	115.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES -----	120.3	118.5	118.8	125.0	117.3	114.8	125.9	121.5	123.5	120.6	118.8

Percent Change -- April 1954 to July 1954

ALL ITEMS -----	0.5	0.8	1.3	0.7	0.1	-0.7	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.8	0.6
FOOD -----	2.0	3.3	2.0	2.1	0.8	-0.7	1.2	2.3	3.0	2.0	1.7
Food at home -----	2.1	3.9	2.0	2.3	1.0	-0.9	1.2	2.5	3.4	2.5	2.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	0.4	0.2	-0.3	0	0	-0.1	0.6	-0.1	0.1	1.1	3.2
Meats, poultry and fish -----	-0.7	0.9	-1.2	-0.2	-3.2	-0.8	-1.3	-0.6	0.4	-0.4	0.5
Dairy products -----	-0.3	0	-1.1	-2.6	-3.2	-0.3	-3.7	2.4	2.5	-0.3	-2.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	9.2	16.8	12.5	10.6	10.4	-6.0	4.7	10.4	14.7	13.7	3.8
Other foods at home -----	3.3	3.7	2.3	3.7	2.3	2.1	5.5	2.9	2.1	1.5	4.8
HOUSING -----	0.4	0.3	1.6	0.1	0.7	0.9	1.3	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.4
Rent -----	0.2	1/1.5	---	---	---	---	1/2.5	1/1.1	---	---	1/0.5
Gas and electricity -----	0.2	-0.1	0.1	-1.7	-0.9	0	0	-0.2	0	0.2	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-2.3	-3.0	-0.9	-0.6	-0.5	---	-0.8	-5.4	-7.2	-0.2	0
Housefurnishings -----	-0.4	0.5	-0.1	-0.9	-0.8	-0.4	0.4	-0.7	-0.3	0.7	-0.6
Household operation -----	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.2	-0.2	0	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
APPAREL -----	-0.1	0.7	-0.2	0.3	-0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.5	-0.4	0.3	0
Men's and boys' -----	-0.5	0.5	-0.9	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	-0.4	-0.3	-0.9	-0.3	-0.5
Women's and girls' -----	-0.2	0.8	0	0.5	0	-0.3	0.6	-1.1	-0.2	-0.4	0.1
Footwear -----	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.4	-0.4	2.2	0.2	1.0	-0.1	2.7	9.9
Other apparel -----	0.4	1.3	1.2	0.9	-0.1	0.4	1.0	0	0.1	0.6	0.3
TRANSPORTATION -----	-1.9	-2.6	1.0	-0.8	-3.4	-4.9	0.4	-3.6	-0.2	-0.8	-1.8
MEDICAL CARE -----	0.2	-0.2	-0.2	1.5	0.4	0.3	0.8	0	1.1	0.2	0.7
PERSONAL CARE -----	0.4	-0.3	1.6	-0.3	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	-0.3	-0.1
READING AND RECREATION -----	0.5	-1.2	3.1	0.1	1.2	-1.0	0.2	2.8	1.9	0.9	3.3
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES -----	0.1	0	0	0	-0.2	-0.3	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1

1/ Change from January 1954 to July 1954

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
July 1954 INDEXES AND PERCENT CHANGES, June 1954 to July 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 -----	114.6	0.7	114.2	0.8	121.6	0.2	109.7	-1.3	104.3	1.4	120.1	2.6	117.3	1.8
Atlanta -----	115.3	0.5	114.7	0.7	116.9	1.3	116.8	-0.9	108.0	-0.1	121.6	3.1	109.3	1.1
Baltimore -----	116.6	0.5	116.3	0.6	121.8	0.1	113.0	-1.7	108.4	1.1	121.3	2.6	117.5	2.4
Boston -----	112.9	1.9	112.3	2.2	119.4	-0.1	107.0	-0.3	104.3	1.4	120.5	9.3	111.5	2.0
Chicago -----	112.6	0.9	112.0	1.0	116.9	-0.1	104.5	-1.6	103.2	2.6	118.8	4.5	122.9	1.3
Cincinnati -----	116.1	1.0	116.1	1.2	118.8	0.3	113.1	-0.4	103.4	-0.2	123.0	5.4	122.8	1.9
Cleveland -----	113.2	0.7	112.8	0.8	117.4	0.8	107.7	-1.1	97.2	-0.2	119.9	4.4	121.0	1.3
Detroit -----	118.5	0.9	117.8	0.9	117.8	-0.1	109.6	-0.2	103.1	-0.2	136.9	3.5	120.3	1.6
Houston -----	112.8	0.6	112.1	0.7	118.2	-0.3	105.7	-1.3	103.4	-0.5	119.4	5.5	115.9	1.1
Kansas City -----	109.9	0.5	109.5	0.6	120.3	-0.1	104.3	-2.6	96.5	5.3	115.9	1.1	111.7	1.5
Los Angeles -----	112.3	-0.7	110.8	-1.0	122.4	0	108.7	-2.2	102.9	0	106.8	-4.3	114.0	1.7
Minneapolis -----	113.5	0.4	113.2	0.1	125.4	0	102.5	-1.1	98.6	-0.1	125.8	0.3	124.5	1.5
New York -----	113.6	1.8	113.4	2.1	125.1	0.1	109.7	-0.3	104.2	3.9	114.2	5.7	119.0	2.3
Philadelphia -----	117.7	1.0	117.2	1.1	120.9	-0.6	112.8	-0.6	108.1	2.7	126.2	3.1	118.2	1.9
Pittsburgh -----	115.6	0.1	115.4	0.3	122.4	-0.1	106.6	-1.3	106.8	-0.2	122.5	3.3	125.3	0.6
Portland, Ore. -----	114.1	-0.2	114.3	-0.3	119.3	0	114.6	-0.8	104.6	-0.3	115.2	-4.2	117.4	3.2
St. Louis -----	117.0	0.3	115.8	0.4	119.2	2.3	109.2	-2.3	99.4	2.9	127.8	1.8	125.8	0.6
San Francisco -----	115.2	-0.1	114.8	-0.1	130.2	2.0	109.9	-1.6	105.4	0.1	113.7	-5.6	119.0	4.7
Scranton -----	114.0	0.6	114.2	0.3	118.9	0	110.7	-0.6	105.3	0	119.0	2.6	116.8	2.3
Seattle -----	113.2	-0.1	113.2	-0.1	121.5	0	109.8	-1.7	102.8	-0.3	117.1	-2.5	115.7	3.5
Washington, D.C. -----	113.8	0.4	113.2	0.4	120.9	0.2	105.6	-1.9	110.2	0.3	117.4	3.5	115.1	1.3

TABLE 6. RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR JULY 1954 AND JUNE 1954
U.S. City Average

Food and Unit		July 1954	June 1954	Food and Unit		July 1954	June 1954
		(Cents)	(Cents)			(Cents)	(Cents)
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS				Fresh (continued)			
Flour, wheat	5 lb.	53.5	53.6	Grapefruit *	each		
Biscuit mix	20 oz.	27.6	27.4	Peaches *	lb.	18.9	
Corn meal	lb.	12.7	12.5	Strawberries *	pt.		32.8
Rice	lb.	19.6	19.6	Grapes, seedless *	lb.	32.7	
Rolled oats	20 oz.	18.5	18.5	Watermelons *	lb.	4.3	4.8
Corn flakes	12 oz.	21.9	21.9	Potatoes	15 lb.	102.7	94.4
Bread, white	lb.	17.1	17.0	Sweetpotatoes	lb.	17.6	16.1
Soda crackers	lb.	27.2	27.2	Onions	lb.	8.2	8.4
Vanilla cookies	7 oz.	23.6	23.6	Carrots	lb.	13.9	14.4
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:				Lettuce	head	12.8	13.8
Round steak	lb.	91.4	91.0	Celery	lb.	14.5	14.5
Chuck roast	lb.	50.3	51.8	Cabbage	lb.	6.5	6.6
Rib roast	lb.	70.0	70.1	Tomatoes	lb.	26.1	24.3
Hamburger	lb.	41.0	41.1	Beans, green	lb.	21.7	17.7
Veal cutlets	lb.	108.2	110.5	Canned			
Pork chops, center cut	lb.	92.0	92.7	Orange juice	46 oz. can	35.7	34.7
Bacon, sliced	lb.	81.6	86.7	Peaches	#2 ½ can	32.8	32.8
Ham, whole	lb.	71.5	72.9	Pineapple	#2 ½ can	38.6	38.8
Lamb, leg	lb.	72.9	73.6	Fruit cocktail	#2 ½ can	40.9	41.1
Frankfurters	lb.	56.0	56.1	Corn, cream style	#303 can	18.2	18.2
Luncheon meat, canned	12 oz.	51.6	52.2	Peas, green	#303 can	21.4	21.4
Frying chickens, dressed	lb.	44.1	44.0	Tomatoes	#2 can	17.5	17.3
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook	lb.	55.7	54.1	Baby foods	4 ½-5 oz.	9.7	9.8
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen	lb.	44.2	44.5	Dried			
Haddock, fillet, frozen	lb.	49.7	49.6	Prunes	lb.	30.9	30.6
Salmon, pink, canned	16 oz.	52.0	51.7	Navy beans	lb.	17.9	17.7
Tuna fish, canned	7 oz.	39.7	39.7	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:			
DAIRY PRODUCTS:				Vegetable soup	11 oz. can	14.3	14.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery)	qt.	21.6	21.1	Beans with pork	16 oz. can	14.5	14.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered)	qt.	22.6	22.1	Gherkins, sweet	7 ½ oz.	29.7	30.0
Ice cream	pt.	29.5	29.5	Catsup, tomato	14 oz.	22.4	22.3
Butter	lb.	69.2	69.3	Coffee	lb.	123.0	120.9
Cheese, American process	lb.	56.7	56.9	Tea	½ lb.	34.4	34.2
Milk, evaporated	14 ½ oz. can	13.8	13.9	Cola drink	carton of 6, 6 oz.	32.3	32.2
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:				Shortening, hydrogenated	lb.	35.5	35.2
Frozen				Margarine, colored	lb.	30.3	30.1
Strawberries	12 oz.	36.5	36.5	Lard	lb.	26.3	27.1
Orange juice concentrate	6 oz.	19.5	19.3	Salad dressing	pt.	36.1	35.9
Peas, green	10 oz.	19.2	19.4	Peanut butter	lb.	49.3	49.1
Beans, green	10 oz.	24.5	24.5	Sugar	5 lb.	52.7	52.7
Fresh				Corn syrup	24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples	lb.	18.1	18.5	Grape jelly	12 oz.	25.5	25.3
Bananas	lb.	17.9	18.0	Chocolate bar	1 oz.	4.8	4.7
Oranges, size 200	doz.	60.2	54.8	Eggs, Grade A, large	doz.	56.9	53.0
Lemons	lb.	18.0	17.6	Gelatin, flavored	3-4 oz.	8.5	8.5

* 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.

