

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington 25, D. C.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - AUGUST 1954

Consumer prices in U.S. cities decreased 0.2 percent between July and August 1954, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The decrease resulted mainly from lower food prices, although prices of apparel, housefurnishings, reading and recreation, new cars, and gasoline also decreased. Rents, fuel, some local transportation rates, medical care, and personal care rose slightly during the month.

The Consumer Price Index for August was 115.0 percent of the 1947-49 average, the same as a year ago, but 13.0 percent above the level of June 1950. The August index on a 1935-39 base was 192.3.

FOOD The decline of 0.6 percent in food prices between July and August followed a 4-months' rise totaling 2.2 percent. The August food index was 113.9 (1947-49 =100), 0.2 percent lower than a year ago, but 13.3 percent above the level of June 1950.

Chiefly responsible for the decline during the month were substantial decreases in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables and of meats. Prices of most fresh vegetables declined during August. Tomato prices fell 21 percent; sweet potatoes and green beans dropped 17 percent; celery, almost 10 percent; and potatoes, 9 percent. Prices of all fresh fruits (except oranges) were lower than in July, with decreases of 30 percent for grapes, 27 percent for peaches, 9-1/2 percent for bananas, and 9 percent for apples. Orange prices rose 12-1/2 percent during the month, reflecting the short California crop.

Price decreases were reported for every cut of meat priced for the index, reflecting the effects of increased marketing of livestock. Bacon, pork chops, and leg of lamb were about 4-1/2 percent lower than in July; chuck roast declined 2-1/2 percent; rib roast, veal cutlets, hamburger, and frankfurters, about 1-1/2 percent; and ham prices were 1 percent lower than a month ago.

Prices of eggs and fresh milk advanced seasonally. Bread prices were 1-1/2 percent higher than in July. There was a slight increase in the U.S. average price of coffee, but decreases were reported in about half the cities in the index.

HOUSING Residential rents continued their slight upward trend, with an average rise of 0.1 percent between July and August. Prices of some home maintenance items advanced during the month, and coal and fuel oil prices rose seasonally. Sale prices of furniture and household textiles were reported in a number of cities. Prices for major household appliances were lowered in many cities to meet competition.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Lower prices were reported for women's nylon hose and lingerie. Men's suits were reduced in some cities and prices of work gloves were lower. Prices of children's shoes advanced during the month.

In the transportation group, price reductions for new automobiles, tires, and gasoline were offset by increased prices for auto repairs and higher streetcar and bus fares in several cities.

Prices were lower for television sets, radios, and toys, while motion picture theatre admission charges were raised in some cities. Higher fees were reported for physicians' services and group hospitalization.

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

Group	August 1954	July 1954	June 1954	August 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 -----	115.0	115.2	115.1	115.0	101.8	59.4
FOOD 1/ -----	113.9	114.6	113.8	114.1	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	113.3	114.2	113.3	114.1	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	122.3	121.6	121.3	119.5	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish -----	107.6	109.7	111.1	114.1	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	105.1	104.3	102.9	109.1	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.7	120.1	117.1	112.7	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	119.6	117.3	115.2	114.4	94.1	48.4
HOUSING 2/ -----	119.2	119.0	118.9	118.0	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	128.6	123.5	128.3	125.1	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	107.8	107.8	107.6	106.9	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	121.9	121.1	120.9	123.9	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	105.4	105.7	105.8	107.4	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	117.3	117.2	117.2	115.8	99.6	68.4
APPAREL -----	103.7	104.0	104.2	104.3	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	106.4	106.6	107.0	107.3	98.1	4/
Women's and girls' -----	97.7	98.2	98.5	98.7	93.3	4/
Footwear -----	116.9	116.5	116.3	115.0	102.1	4/
Other apparel -----	90.7	90.8	91.0	92.0	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	126.6	126.7	128.9	130.6	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE -----	125.5	125.2	125.1	121.8	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE -----	113.4	113.3	112.7	112.7	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION -----	106.6	107.0	106.4	107.6	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/ -----	120.2	120.3	120.1	118.4	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO AUGUST 1954 FROM:

	July 1954	June 1954	August 1953	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS -----	-0.2	-0.1	0	13.0	93.6
FOOD 1/ -----	-0.6	0.1	-0.2	13.3	141.3
Food at home -----	-0.8	0	-0.7	12.7	140.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	0.6	0.8	2.3	19.1	113.8
Meats, poultry and fish -----	-1.9	-3.2	-5.7	1.4	158.7
Dairy products -----	0.8	2.1	-3.7	13.9	111.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	-4.5	-2.0	1.8	11.9	147.7
Other foods at home -----	2.0	3.8	4.5	27.1	147.1
HOUSING 2/ -----	0.2	0.3	1.0	13.6	56.6
Rent -----	0.1	0.2	2.8	18.3	48.5
Gas and electricity -----	0	0.2	0.8	5.0	2.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	0.7	0.8	-1.6	13.3	116.1
Housefurnishings -----	-0.3	-0.4	-1.9	8.2	97.4
Household operation -----	0.1	0.1	1.3	17.8	71.5
APPAREL -----	-0.3	-0.5	-0.6	7.5	97.5
Men's and boys' -----	-0.2	-0.6	-0.8	8.5	4/
Women's and girls' -----	-0.5	-0.8	-1.0	4.7	4/
Footwear -----	0.3	0.5	1.7	14.5	4/
Other apparel -----	-0.1	-0.3	-1.4	2.6	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	-0.1	-1.8	-3.1	15.2	83.7
MEDICAL CARE -----	0.2	0.3	3.0	19.1	72.9
PERSONAL CARE -----	0.1	0.6	0.6	14.3	90.3
READING AND RECREATION -----	-0.4	0.2	-0.9	4.0	69.2
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/ -----	-0.1	0.1	1.5	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)
	August 1954	August 1953	June 1950	Year 1939	August 1954 <u>1/</u>
U.S. CITY AVERAGE -----	115.0	115.0	101.8	59.4	192.3
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:					
Chicago -----	117.7	116.3	102.8	58.6	200.4
Detroit -----	116.8	116.9	102.8	59.0	197.2
Los Angeles -----	115.1	115.8	101.3	60.4	192.3
New York -----	113.0	112.7	100.9	60.1	197.0
Philadelphia -----	116.2	114.9	101.6	59.2	193.4
CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER <u>2/</u>	August 1954	August 1953	May 1950		August 1954
Cleveland -----	115.3	115.1	100.4	59.2	196.5
Houston -----	116.5	116.8	103.5	59.5	197.2
Scranton -----	112.4	113.2	100.2	58.5	196.8
Seattle -----	116.2	116.8	102.0	59.2	197.6
Washington, D.C. -----	114.1	114.2	101.6	60.4	197.4
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	193.2
Kansas City -----	115.6	115.3	101.4	61.7	196.1
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

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 JULY 1954 TO AUGUST 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 -----	-0.2	-0.6	0.2	-0.3	-0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.4	-0.1
Chicago -----	-0.3	-0.6	0.2	-0.9	-0.2	0	-0.3	-0.1	-0.2
Detroit -----	-0.6	-1.8	0.3	-0.3	-1.3	2.2	0.2	-2.0	-0.2
Los Angeles -----	0.2	0	0.2	-0.3	1.1	0	0.1	0.1	0
New York -----	-0.3	-0.4	0	-0.2	-0.2	0.1	0	-1.6	0
Philadelphia -----	-0.1	-0.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0	0.1	-0.3	0

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D.C.
		August 1954 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									
ALL ITEMS -----	115.0	117.7	115.3	116.8	116.5	115.1	113.0	116.2	112.4	116.2	114.1
FOOD -----	113.9	111.9	111.8	116.4	112.3	112.3	113.1	117.2	112.1	112.8	114.5
Food at home -----	113.3	111.2	111.3	115.4	111.5	110.8	112.8	116.6	112.3	112.7	113.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	122.3	116.9	118.5	118.0	117.7	127.0	125.2	120.9	118.6	126.2	121.5
Meats, poultry and fish -----	107.6	102.0	104.2	106.8	104.8	108.0	107.8	110.3	108.2	107.5	105.2
Dairy products -----	105.1	104.0	100.1	103.4	103.4	102.8	105.2	108.0	104.9	102.8	111.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.7	114.4	111.5	123.5	115.5	104.6	110.9	124.4	110.6	112.1	114.4
Other foods at home -----	119.6	126.1	123.2	122.9	117.5	114.5	120.9	120.7	118.2	117.8	118.1
HOUSING -----	119.2	127.1	120.1	122.6	124.1	124.7	115.5	113.9	115.2	119.4	117.0
Rent -----	128.6	--	141.6	--	138.9	--	--	115.5	--	135.2	--
Gas and electricity -----	107.8	106.3	106.8	108.3	106.5	109.5	108.4	102.3	112.2	88.5	115.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	121.9	122.9	121.9	119.0	--	--	122.5	117.1	130.3	127.3	127.3
Housefurnishings -----	105.4	106.7	101.9	108.6	101.6	107.2	105.6	108.1	99.6	105.1	107.1
Household operation -----	117.3	120.9	110.9	110.2	129.4	107.8	118.9	113.8	109.6	112.3	117.0
APPAREL -----	103.7	106.9	104.3	102.6	107.0	103.6	103.3	105.6	105.7	106.1	101.7
Men's and boys' -----	106.4	112.8	108.5	109.3	106.7	108.5	105.8	104.2	107.1	108.8	104.9
Women's and girls' -----	97.7	98.7	97.0	94.1	101.1	96.4	97.2	104.6	100.5	100.9	95.8
Footwear -----	116.9	119.3	117.6	113.0	127.2	117.5	116.9	111.1	120.8	118.5	115.4
Other apparel -----	90.7	94.0	92.7	87.4	90.4	82.5	93.8	92.9	92.1	86.7	90.4
TRANSPORTATION -----	126.6	133.4	117.8	118.1	123.1	122.3	129.0	137.1	125.4	128.5	125.2
MEDICAL CARE -----	125.5	122.6	129.5	127.0	119.9	122.9	124.0	125.0	119.5	129.4	118.3
PERSONAL CARE -----	113.4	114.6	114.7	119.0	119.5	117.2	107.6	117.2	112.1	117.5	111.1
READING AND RECREATION -----	106.6	110.7	116.8	108.9	108.5	99.6	105.3	111.9	116.5	109.7	104.9
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES -----	120.2	118.6	120.1	124.8	119.1	114.8	121.5	123.5	116.1	126.7	130.5

Percent Change -- May 1954 to August 1954

ALL ITEMS -----	0	0.3	0	-0.1	-0.2	-0.7	0.1	0.8	0.1	-0.1	0.4
FOOD -----	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	-1.0	1.2	1.4	-0.6	-0.3	1.4
Food at home -----	0.4	0.2	0.5	0	0.1	-1.3	1.3	1.6	-0.4	-0.4	1.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	0.8	0.1	1.9	0.2	-0.6	3.7	0	0.1	-0.8	3.5	0.7
Meats, poultry and fish -----	-3.1	-4.1	-4.1	-2.7	-2.8	-2.4	-2.4	-2.7	-2.7	-2.8	-1.9
Dairy products -----	1.5	1.9	2.8	-0.7	-3.1	-0.4	4.6	2.6	-0.7	-0.7	1.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	0.1	1.5	1.1	-1.2	4.1	-9.4	1.9	6.7	-1.9	-7.0	3.9
Other foods at home -----	4.5	3.9	3.7	4.9	3.3	3.2	4.3	4.1	3.9	5.8	4.2
HOUSING -----	0.3	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4	0	0.2
Rent -----	0.2	--	1/2.0	--	1/0.4	--	--	1/0.9	--	1/0.3	--
Gas and electricity -----	0.1	0	0	-1.8	0	0	-0.3	0	0	0	-1.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	0.8	0	1.2	0.2	--	--	0.3	4.2	3.7	0	1.4
Housefurnishings -----	-0.5	-0.6	-0.9	-0.8	0.4	-0.4	-0.5	0.2	-1.1	-1.0	-0.1
Household operation -----	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.7	0.9	0	0.1	0	0	1.9
APPAREL -----	-0.5	-1.1	-0.3	0	0.3	-0.1	-0.6	0.5	-0.4	0	-0.8
Men's and boys' -----	-0.8	-1.1	-0.6	0	-0.1	-0.8	-0.8	-0.7	-0.8	-0.4	-0.6
Women's and girls' -----	-0.8	-2.4	-0.1	-0.2	0.4	-0.6	-1.0	1.3	-0.3	-0.3	-1.2
Footwear -----	0.9	1.5	0.7	0.4	0	3.1	1.3	0.3	0.4	1.0	0.2
Other apparel -----	-0.2	-0.1	-0.7	0	1.3	0	-0.3	0.3	-0.2	0	-0.4
TRANSPORTATION -----	-1.9	-0.2	-4.0	-2.2	-1.7	-4.0	-4.1	-0.1	1.1	-1.0	-1.5
MEDICAL CARE -----	0.3	-0.2	0	2.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	1.1	-0.2	-1.2	0.9
PERSONAL CARE -----	0.4	1.2	0.1	-0.3	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.1	-0.4	6.4	-0.3
READING AND RECREATION -----	0.2	3.0	2.5	-1.9	-2.3	0.4	0.5	1.7	1.0	1.9	-0.4
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES -----	0.1	-0.3	0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.3	0	0.1	0	-0.3	2.8

1/ Change from February 1954 to August 1954.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 August 1954 INDEXES AND PERCENT CHANGES, July 1954 to August 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 -----	113.9	-0.6	113.3	-0.8	122.3	0.6	107.6	-1.9	105.1	0.8	114.7	-4.5	119.6	2.0
Atlanta -----	114.8	-0.4	114.1	-0.5	116.8	-0.1	114.2	-2.2	108.3	0.3	119.3	-1.9	111.1	1.6
Baltimore -----	115.8	-0.7	115.4	-0.8	121.9	0.1	110.6	-2.1	108.8	0.4	117.9	-2.8	118.5	0.9
Boston -----	111.4	-1.3	110.6	-1.5	119.2	-0.2	104.5	-2.3	105.5	1.2	112.2	-6.9	112.6	1.0
Chicago -----	111.9	-0.6	111.2	-0.7	116.9	0	102.0	-2.4	104.0	0.8	114.4	-3.7	126.1	2.6
Cincinnati -----	115.5	-0.5	115.4	-0.6	120.6	1.5	109.9	-2.8	107.8	4.3	114.6	-6.8	126.4	2.9
Cleveland -----	111.8	-1.2	111.3	-1.3	118.5	0.9	104.2	-3.2	100.1	3.0	111.5	-7.0	123.2	1.8
Detroit -----	116.4	-1.8	115.4	-2.0	118.0	0.2	106.8	-2.6	103.4	0.3	123.5	-9.8	122.9	2.2
Houston -----	112.3	-0.4	111.5	-0.5	117.7	-0.4	104.8	-0.9	103.4	0	115.5	-3.3	117.5	1.4
Kansas City -----	110.6	0.6	110.3	0.7	120.3	0	102.8	-1.4	103.6	7.4	111.9	-3.5	115.6	3.5
Los Angeles -----	112.3	0	110.8	0	127.0	3.8	108.0	-0.6	102.8	-0.1	104.6	-2.1	114.5	0.4
Minneapolis -----	113.4	-0.1	113.1	-0.1	125.1	-0.2	100.9	-1.6	101.9	3.3	120.7	-4.1	127.9	2.7
New York -----	113.1	-0.4	112.8	-0.5	125.2	0.1	107.8	-1.7	105.2	1.0	110.9	-2.9	120.9	1.6
Philadelphia -----	117.2	-0.4	116.6	-0.5	120.9	0	110.3	-2.2	108.0	-0.1	124.4	-1.4	120.7	2.1
Pittsburgh -----	114.2	-1.2	113.8	-1.4	123.0	0.5	103.4	-3.0	107.0	0.2	114.8	-6.3	128.3	2.4
Portland, Ore. -----	113.5	-0.5	113.6	-0.6	124.3	4.2	110.9	-3.2	105.0	0.4	109.0	-5.4	119.8	2.0
St. Louis -----	117.0	0	115.7	-0.1	119.1	-0.1	108.9	-0.3	99.0	-0.4	122.1	-4.5	130.4	3.7
San Francisco -----	114.3	-0.8	113.8	-0.9	131.0	0.6	108.8	-1.0	105.3	-0.1	110.9	-2.5	117.9	-0.9
Scranton -----	112.1	-1.7	112.3	-1.7	118.6	-0.3	108.2	-2.3	104.9	-0.4	110.6	-7.1	118.2	1.2
Seattle -----	112.8	-0.4	112.7	-0.4	126.2	3.9	107.5	-2.1	102.8	0	112.1	-4.3	117.8	1.8
Washington, D.C. -----	114.5	0.6	113.7	0.4	121.5	0.5	105.2	-0.4	111.9	1.5	114.4	-2.6	118.1	2.6

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

Food and Unit	August 1954	July 1954	Food and Unit	August 1954	July 1954
	(Cents)	(Cents)		(Cents)	(Cents)
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS			Fresh (continued)		
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	53.4	53.5	Grapefruit * each		
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.6	27.6	Peaches * lb.	13.7	18.9
Corn meal 1 lb.	12.6	12.7	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice 1 lb.	19.5	19.6	Grapes, seedless * lb.	22.4	32.7
Rolled oats 20 oz.	18.5	18.5	Watermelons * lb.	4.3	4.3
Corn flakes 12 oz.	21.9	21.9	Potatoes 15 lb.	93.5	102.7
Bread, white 1 lb.	17.4	17.1	Sweetpotatoes lb.	14.6	17.6
Soda crackers 1 lb.	27.2	27.2	Onions lb.	8.1	8.2
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.7	23.6	Carrots lb.	13.4	13.9
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	13.8	12.8
Round steak 1 lb.	91.1	91.4	Celery lb.	13.1	14.5
Chuck roast 1 lb.	49.1	50.3	Cabbage lb.	6.5	6.5
Rib roast 1 lb.	69.2	70.0	Tomatoes lb.	20.5	26.1
Hamburger 1 lb.	40.5	41.0	Beans, green lb.	18.0	21.7
Veal cutlets 1 lb.	106.7	108.2	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut 1 lb.	87.8	92.0	Orange juice 46 oz. can	36.4	35.7
Bacon, sliced 1 lb.	78.1	81.6	Peaches #2 ½ can	32.7	32.8
Ham, whole 1 lb.	70.7	71.5	Pineapple #2 ½ can	38.7	38.6
Lamb, leg 1 lb.	69.5	72.9	Fruit cocktail #2 ½ can	40.9	40.9
Frankfurters 1 lb.	55.3	56.0	Corn, cream style #303 can	18.2	18.2
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	50.1	51.6	Peas, green #303 can	21.3	21.4
Frying chickens, dressed 1 lb.	44.1	44.1	Tomatoes #2 can	17.4	17.5
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1 lb.	56.1	55.7	Baby foods 4 ½-5 oz.	9.8	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1 lb.	44.1	44.2	Dried	31.3	30.9
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1 lb.	49.9	49.7	Prunes lb.	17.8	17.9
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	52.2	52.0	Navy beans lb.		
Tuna fish, canned 7 oz.	39.1	39.7	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.3	14.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	21.9	21.6	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	14.5	14.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	22.8	22.6	Gherkins, sweet 7 ½ oz.	29.6	29.7
Ice cream pt.	29.6	29.5	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.4	22.4
Butter 1 lb.	69.2	69.2	Coffee lb.	123.3	123.0
Cheese, American process 1 lb.	56.7	56.7	Tea ½ lb.	34.5	34.4
Milk, evaporated 14 ½ oz. can	13.8	13.8	Cola drink carton of 6, 6 oz.	32.3	32.3
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated lb.	35.7	35.5
Frozen			Margarine, colored lb.	30.4	30.3
Strawberries 12 oz.	36.5	36.5	Lard lb.	26.5	26.3
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	19.3	19.5	Salad dressing pt.	36.3	36.1
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.3	19.2	Peanut butter lb.	49.4	49.3
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.4	24.5	Sugar 5 lb.	52.7	52.7
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples 1 lb.	16.5	18.1	Grape jelly 12 oz.	25.6	25.5
Bananas 1 lb.	16.1	17.9	Chocolate bar 1 oz.	4.8	4.8
Oranges, size 200 doz.	67.7	60.2	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	61.7	56.9
Lemons 1 lb.	17.5	18.0	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.6	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.

COMMUNITY WAGE SURVEYS - WINTER 1953-54

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has released the third of a 3-part bulletin covering community wage surveys conducted since September 1953. This bulletin covers 6 of the 17 areas in which surveys were made during the period, winter 1953-54.

BLS Bulletin No. 1157-3 entitled "Wages and Related Practices - Major Labor Markets, 1953-54 - Part III" is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The price is 70 cents a copy.

The areas included and their survey dates are as follows:

Atlanta, March 1954
Boston, March 1954
Chicago, March 1954
Los Angeles, March 1954
Milwaukee, April 1954
New York City, February 1954

As in earlier studies made in these and other areas, the bulletin provides earnings information for some 60 jobs selected from the following occupational categories: Office clerical, professional and technical, maintenance and powerplant, and custodial and material movement. In addition to area-wide averages and distributions of workers by earnings classes for each job, information is provided, wherever possible, by major industry division.

Summaries for each area, separately for plant and office workers, cover: Scheduled weekly hours; paid holidays; paid vacations; health, insurance, and pension plans; overtime pay provisions; rate of pay for holiday work; and wage structure characteristics and labor-management agreements. Shift differentials in manufacturing are also included.

Part I of this bulletin was released in May 1954 and included the following areas: Dallas, Detroit, Minneapolis-St. Paul, New Orleans, Philadelphia, and Portland, Oreg.

Part II of this bulletin was released in July 1954 and included the following areas: Denver, Memphis, Newark-Jersey City, St. Louis, and San Francisco-Oakland.

Parts I and II are available only from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The price is 60 cents each.

For the convenience of people in the New York City area, bulletins can also be purchased from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 341 Ninth Avenue, New York, New York.

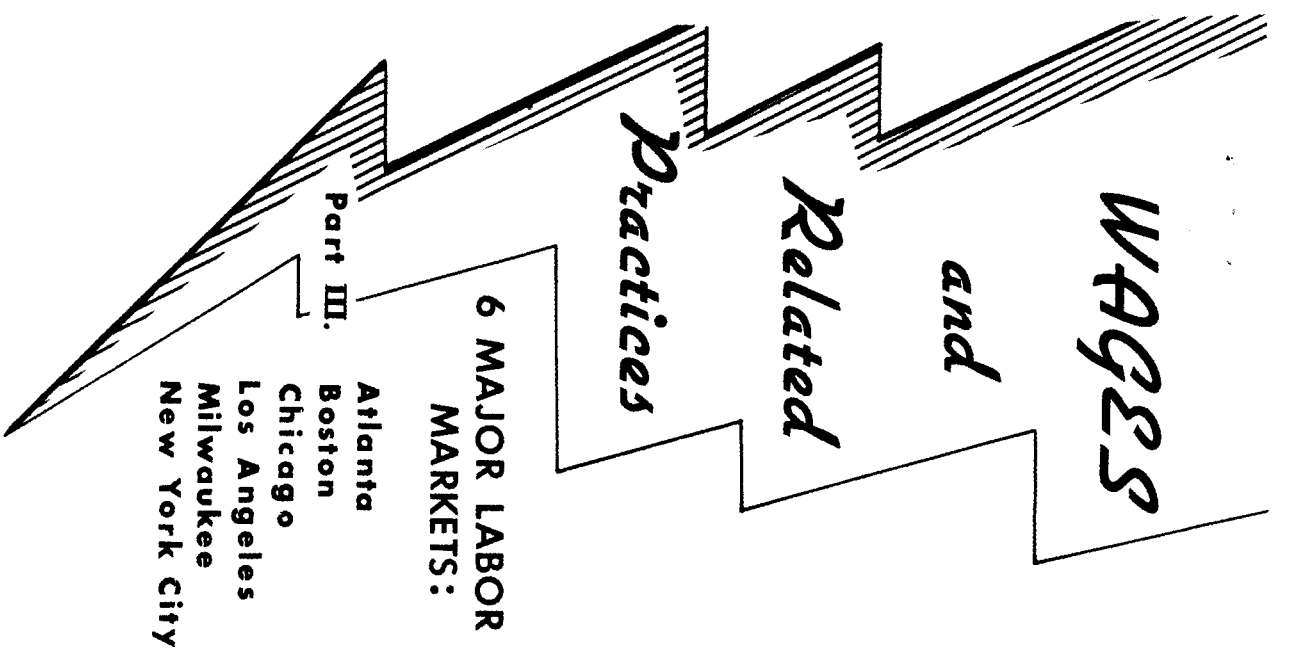
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