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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - SEPTEMBER 1954

Consumer prices in American cities averaged 0.3 percent lower in September than in August 1954, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. A decrease of 1.3 percent in food prices was mainly responsible for the decline, although costs of transportation and reading and recreation also went down. Prices of apparel, housefurnishings, medical care, residential rents, fuel, and personal care advanced during the month.

The Consumer Price Index for September 1954 was 114.7 (1947-49=100), 0.4 percent lower than a year ago, but 12.7 percent above the June 1950 level. On the 1935-39 base, the September index was 191.8.

FOOD The food price index in September was 112.4. The decline of 1.3 percent during the month was the largest change in any month since November 1953. Food prices in September averaged 1.2 percent lower than a year ago, 3.6 percent below the record high level of August 1952, but 11.8 percent higher than in June 1950.

The largest single factor in the decline in food prices between August and September was coffee, which had risen steadily in price since December 1953. Decreasing from an August average of \$1.233 per pound to \$1.116 in mid-September, coffee was 9½ percent lower than a month ago, but still 22 percent higher than last December. September coffee prices were lower in all 46 cities in the index, with reductions of from 3 to 13 percent from August.

Decreases in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables also were important in the food index decline during the month, as more plentiful local supplies reached the market. Largest decreases were for potatoes (down 11½ percent), apples (down 13½ percent), and tomatoes (down almost 20 percent). Prices of sweetpotatoes, grapes, onions, celery, and green beans also were lower than in August. Orange prices continued to rise during September, as the California crop was short and the Florida crop had not yet reached the market. Since March of this year, orange prices have advanced almost 50 percent, to their highest level since 1920.

Record production brought egg prices down during the month, although an increase is usual in September. Continued large supplies of pork contributed to price reductions of 4 percent for ham and 2 percent for bacon. Prices of chuck roast and round steak were higher.

Fresh milk prices rose 1 percent between August and September, as is usual at this time of year.

HOUSING The housing index, which includes household furnishings and maintenance, as well as rents, rose 0.3 percent between August and September, reflecting higher prices for sheets (after August sales), rugs, and some furniture and appliances. Rents continued upwards, advancing 0.2 percent during the month. Prices of coal and fuel oil advanced seasonally. Some home maintenance items also were higher than in August. However, prices of bedroom suites, refrigerators, and sewing machines declined in a number of large cities.

APPAREL Women's and girls' fall and winter apparel returned to the market at prices higher than those at the end of the previous season. The largest increases were for women's plain and fur-trimmed coats and rayon dresses. Lower prices of women's moderately-priced fur coats reflect the reduction in Federal excise taxes. Prices of women's year-round apparel advanced during the month as higher prices were reported for rayon dresses and lingerie, following the August sales. Higher prices for men's suits were offset by reductions in prices of work clothing. Men's fall and winter clothing returned to the market at about the level prevailing at the end of the previous season. Prices of footwear declined between August and September, returning to their July level.

OTHER COMMODITIES

AND SERVICES New car prices again declined, as dealers continued to make price concessions of various types. Prices of tires were lower than in August. Gasoline prices advanced in some cities, although there were price wars in others.

Most of the increase in medical care was due to higher rates for group hospitalization in a few cities. The personal care index rise reflected wide-spread advances in prices of toilet soap.

Substantial reductions in prices of television sets were almost offset by higher motion picture theatre admission charges.

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

Group	September 1954	August 1954	July 1954	September 1953	June 1950	Year 1939
	This Month	Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
<u>INDEXES (1947-49 = 100)</u>						
ALL ITEMS -----	114.7	115.0	115.2	115.2	101.8	59.4
FOOD 1/ -----	112.4	113.9	114.6	113.8	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	111.6	113.3	114.2	113.5	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	122.6	122.3	121.6	120.3	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish -----	106.7	107.6	109.7	113.5	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	105.8	105.1	104.3	109.6	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	110.5	114.7	120.1	106.6	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	116.0	119.6	117.3	116.7	94.1	48.4
HOUSING 2/ -----	119.5	119.2	119.0	118.4	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	128.8	128.6	128.5	126.0	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	107.9	107.8	107.8	106.9	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	122.4	121.9	121.1	124.6	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	106.0	105.4	105.7	108.1	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	117.4	117.3	117.2	116.0	99.6	68.4
APPAREL -----	104.3	103.7	104.0	105.3	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	106.4	106.4	106.6	107.5	98.1	4/
Women's and girls' -----	99.0	97.7	98.2	100.5	93.3	4/
Footwear -----	116.5	116.9	116.5	115.3	102.1	4/
Other apparel -----	90.9	90.7	90.8	92.5	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	126.4	126.6	126.7	130.7	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE -----	125.7	125.5	125.2	122.6	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE -----	113.5	113.4	113.3	112.9	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION -----	106.5	106.6	107.0	107.8	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/ -----	120.1	120.2	120.3	118.5	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO SEPTEMBER 1954 FROM:

	August 1954	July 1954	September 1953	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS -----	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.4	12.7	93.1
FOOD 1/ -----	- 1.3	- 1.9	- 1.2	11.8	138.6
Food at home -----	- 1.5	- 2.3	- 1.7	11.0	136.9
Cereals and bakery products --	0.2	0.8	1.9	19.4	114.3
Meats, poultry and fish -----	- 0.8	- 2.7	- 6.0	0.6	156.5
Dairy products -----	0.7	1.4	- 3.5	14.6	112.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 3.7	- 8.0	3.7	7.8	138.7
Other foods at home -----	- 3.0	- 1.1	- 0.6	23.3	139.7
HOUSING 2/ -----	0.3	0.4	0.9	13.9	57.0
Rent -----	0.2	0.2	2.2	18.5	48.7
Gas and electricity -----	0.1	0.1	0.9	5.1	2.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	0.4	1.1	- 1.8	13.8	117.0
Housefurnishings -----	0.6	0.3	- 1.9	8.8	98.5
Household operation -----	0.1	0.2	1.2	17.9	71.6
APPAREL -----	0.6	0.3	- 0.9	8.1	98.7
Men's and boys' -----	0	- 0.2	- 1.0	8.5	4/
Women's and girls' -----	1.3	0.8	- 1.5	6.1	4/
Footwear -----	- 0.3	0	1.0	14.1	4/
Other apparel -----	0.2	0.1	- 1.7	2.8	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 3.3	15.0	83.5
MEDICAL CARE -----	0.2	0.4	2.5	19.3	73.1
PERSONAL CARE -----	0.1	0.2	0.5	14.4	90.4
READING AND RECREATION -----	- 0.1	- 0.5	- 1.2	3.9	69.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/ -----	- 0.1	- 0.2	1.4	15.8	70.1

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)
	September 1954	September 1953	June 1950	Year 1939	September 1954 <u>1/</u>
U.S. CITY AVERAGE -----	114.7	115.2	101.8	59.4	191.8
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:					
Chicago -----	117.4	116.6	102.8	58.6	199.9
Detroit -----	116.2	116.9	102.8	59.0	196.1
Los Angeles -----	115.4	116.2	101.3	60.4	192.8
New York -----	112.7	113.2	100.9	60.1	186.5
Philadelphia -----	116.2	115.2	101.6	59.2	193.4
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER <u>2/</u>	September 1954	September 1953	June 1950		September 1954
Atlanta	116.3	117.6	101.3 <u>3/</u>	58.3	197.2
Baltimore	115.2	115.0	101.6	57.9	198.0
Cincinnati	114.3	115.3	101.2	58.4	192.5
St. Louis	115.7	117.1	101.1	59.3	193.1
San Francisco	116.2	116.9	100.9	58.6	198.6
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	186.8
Seattle	116.2	116.8	102.0	59.2	198.6
Washington, D.C.	114.1	114.2	101.6	60.4	187.4
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	183.2
Kansas City	115.6	115.3	101.4	61.7	186.1
Minneapolis	117.3	115.6	102.1 <u>4/</u>	60.7	194.2
Pittsburgh	115.4	113.8	99.9	58.1	196.2
Portland, Oregon	115.5	115.5	101.5	58.3	200.0

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/ May 1950; formerly priced February, May, August, November.

4/ June 1950; formerly priced March, June, September, December.

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- PERCENT CHANGES FROM AUGUST 1954 TO SEPTEMBER 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 -----	- 0.3	- 1.3	0.3	0.6	- 0.2	0.2	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1
Chicago -----	- 0.3	- 1.5	0.6	0	- 0.2	0.1	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.3
Detroit -----	- 0.5	- 1.9	0	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.1	0.3	- 0.1
Los Angeles -----	0.3	0	0	1.2	0.7	0	0.3	- 0.5	- 0.3
New York -----	- 0.3	- 1.1	0.3	1.1	0.5	0	0.1	- 0.8	- 0.2
Philadelphia -----	0	- 1.7	0.4	0.7	0.1	5.8	0	1.6	0

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
September 1954 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)											
ALL ITEMS -----	114.7	116.3	115.2	117.4	114.3	116.2	115.4	112.7	116.2	115.7	116.2
FOOD -----	112.4	113.3	114.2	110.2	114.3	114.2	112.3	111.8	115.2	115.4	114.1
Food at home -----	111.6	112.4	113.3	109.2	113.8	113.0	110.7	111.2	114.3	114.0	113.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	122.6	116.9	121.9	116.6	121.1	117.9	126.9	125.2	120.7	118.8	131.0
Meats, poultry and fish -----	106.7	111.8	108.8	101.7	108.6	105.8	107.1	107.5	108.6	106.6	109.1
Dairy products -----	105.8	108.1	108.9	103.6	107.5	103.1	102.8	106.0	108.3	101.6	105.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	110.5	118.9	111.9	109.6	112.0	117.1	107.9	107.2	117.8	118.3	109.8
Other foods at home -----	116.0	107.8	116.5	121.5	123.0	118.7	112.8	116.3	117.3	127.2	117.5
HOUSING -----	119.5	124.1	114.4	127.9	117.0	122.6	124.7	115.8	114.3	119.7	117.5
Rent -----	128.8	131.3	124.7	145.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gas and electricity -----	107.9	111.3	99.6	106.3	115.2	108.1	109.5	108.2	102.3	103.8	130.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	122.4	117.7	121.1	123.0	123.1	119.0	-	123.0	117.3	136.8	-
Housefurnishings -----	106.0	109.6	99.1	108.5	101.5	109.0	107.7	106.0	109.4	102.7	104.8
Household operation -----	117.4	129.4	111.1	121.1	119.7	110.2	108.1	118.9	113.8	119.0	109.0
APPAREL -----	104.3	110.3	103.1	106.9	104.1	102.9	104.8	104.4	106.3	103.9	103.1
Men's and boys' -----	106.4	112.1	101.4	111.4	104.9	108.3	109.0	105.9	104.6	108.0	105.5
Women's and girls' -----	99.0	105.3	100.1	99.7	99.7	95.6	98.7	99.6	105.6	96.2	98.7
Footwear -----	116.5	122.5	116.8	119.8	122.0	113.0	117.7	115.3	111.1	118.7	115.1
Other apparel -----	90.9	92.0	95.1	94.1	87.0	87.6	82.7	94.3	93.2	96.0	87.8
TRANSPORTATION -----	126.4	120.0	135.3	133.1	127.2	118.0	123.1	129.7	137.3	125.1	140.2
MEDICAL CARE -----	125.7	121.1	133.4	122.7	124.8	126.8	122.9	124.0	132.3	136.1	123.4
PERSONAL CARE -----	113.5	115.5	107.4	115.1	109.3	119.1	117.5	107.7	117.2	113.8	111.8
READING AND RECREATION -----	106.5	108.6	117.9	110.6	98.3	109.2	99.1	104.5	113.7	93.3	106.1
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES -----	120.1	118.1	123.1	118.2	117.9	124.7	114.5	121.3	123.5	113.8	115.8

Percent Change -- June 1954 to September 1954

ALL ITEMS -----	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 0.3	0.1	0.1	- 0.8	- 0.3	- 0.2	0.3	- 1.4	- 0.5
FOOD -----	- 1.2	- 1.2	- 1.6	- 1.3	- 0.5	- 2.8	- 0.7	0.2	- 1.1	- 1.0	- 1.0
Food at home -----	- 1.5	- 1.3	- 2.0	- 1.5	- 0.8	- 3.2	- 1.1	0.1	- 1.4	- 1.1	- 1.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	1.1	1.3	0.2	- 0.3	2.2	0	3.7	0.2	- 0.7	2.0	2.6
Meats, poultry and fish -----	- 4.0	- 5.2	- 5.4	- 4.2	- 4.4	- 3.6	- 3.6	- 2.3	- 4.3	- 4.7	- 2.3
Dairy products -----	2.8	0	1.6	3.0	3.8	- 0.2	- 0.1	5.7	2.8	5.2	0.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 5.6	0.8	- 5.3	- 3.6	- 4.0	- 11.5	- 3.3	- 0.7	- 3.8	- 5.8	- 8.8
Other foods at home -----	0.7	- 0.3	1.5	0.2	2.1	0.3	0.6	0	1.1	1.8	3.3
HOUSING -----	0.5	0	0.4	1.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.1	0
Rent -----	0.4	1/0.6	1/ 0.8	1/4.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gas and electricity -----	0.3	- 0.1	2.2	0	- 0.3	- 0.6	0	- 0.5	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.2	4.8	0	0.1	4.3	0.2	-	0.7	3.4	2.9	-
Housefurnishings -----	0.2	- 0.4	- 0.7	1.1	- 0.5	- 0.5	0.8	- 0.2	0.6	- 3.7	- 0.3
Household operation -----	0.2	0	1.6	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
APPAREL -----	0.1	- 1.1	0.9	- 1.1	1.5	- 0.1	0.6	0.5	1.1	- 0.8	- 0.1
Men's and boys' -----	- 0.6	- 1.7	- 0.3	- 2.1	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 1.5	- 0.1
Women's and girls' -----	0.5	- 1.0	2.1	- 1.4	3.6	0.2	1.5	1.5	2.2	- 0.5	- 0.3
Footwear -----	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.2	2.0	- 0.3	0.4	0.7	- 1.1	0	- 0.2	0.8
Other apparel -----	- 0.1	- 0.8	0.4	- 0.7	0.9	0.7	- 0.2	0.2	0.6	0	0
TRANSPORTATION -----	- 1.9	- 5.8	- 1.8	- 0.8	0.5	- 1.3	- 2.1	- 3.6	0.1	- 8.1	- 1.9
MEDICAL CARE -----	0.5	0.4	0.1	- 0.1	0	2.2	0.2	0.1	5.8	1.0	0.1
PERSONAL CARE -----	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.5	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9	0.5	0.2
READING AND RECREATION -----	0.1	- 1.3	2.1	2.9	- 1.1	- 1.6	- 0.7	- 0.8	1.5	- 2.5	0.5
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES -----	0	- 0.3	0	- 0.4	0.1	- 0.2	- 0.6	- 0.2	0	- 1.6	- 0.4

1/ Change from March 1954 to September 1954.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
September 1954 Indexes and Percent Changes, August 1954 to September 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	- 1.3	111.6	- 1.5	122.6	0.2	106.7	- 0.8	105.8	0.7	110.5	- 3.7	116.0	- 3.0
Atlanta -----	113.3	- 1.3	112.4	- 1.5	116.9	0.1	111.8	- 2.1	108.1	- 0.2	118.9	- 0.3	107.8	- 3.0
Baltimore -----	114.2	- 1.4	113.3	- 1.8	121.9	0	108.8	- 1.6	108.9	0.1	111.9	- 5.1	116.5	- 1.7
Boston -----	110.3	- 1.0	109.2	- 1.3	119.3	0.1	104.1	- 0.4	108.2	2.6	107.2	- 4.5	108.6	- 3.6
Chicago -----	110.2	- 1.5	109.2	- 1.8	116.6	- 0.3	101.7	- 0.3	103.6	- 0.4	109.6	- 4.2	121.5	- 3.6
Cincinnati -----	114.3	- 1.0	113.8	- 1.4	121.1	0.4	108.6	- 1.2	107.5	- 0.3	112.0	- 2.3	123.0	- 2.7
Cleveland -----	110.8	- 0.9	110.1	- 1.1	120.3	1.5	104.4	0.2	103.1	3.0	104.8	- 6.0	119.9	- 2.7
Detroit -----	114.2	- 1.9	113.0	- 2.1	117.9	- 0.1	105.8	- 0.9	103.1	- 0.3	117.1	- 5.2	118.7	- 3.4
Houston -----	111.5	- 0.7	110.6	- 0.8	117.4	- 0.3	103.7	- 1.0	106.0	2.5	115.4	- 0.1	113.7	- 3.2
Kansas City -----	108.9	- 1.5	108.3	- 1.8	120.4	0.1	101.6	- 1.2	108.1	4.3	106.3	- 5.0	109.9	- 4.9
Los Angeles -----	112.3	0	110.7	- 0.1	126.9	- 0.1	107.1	- 0.8	102.8	0	107.9	3.2	112.8	- 1.5
Minneapolis -----	112.2	- 1.1	111.6	- 1.3	125.0	- 0.1	100.7	- 0.2	102.2	0.3	115.2	- 4.6	125.0	- 2.3
New York -----	111.8	- 1.1	111.2	- 1.4	125.2	0	107.5	- 0.3	106.0	0.8	107.2	- 3.3	116.3	- 3.8
Philadelphia -----	115.2	- 1.7	114.3	- 2.0	120.7	- 0.2	108.6	- 1.5	108.3	0.3	117.8	- 5.3	117.3	- 2.8
Pittsburgh -----	113.4	- 0.7	112.9	- 0.8	124.2	1.0	102.6	- 0.8	109.7	2.5	110.3	- 3.9	125.5	- 2.2
Portland, Ore. -----	112.1	- 1.2	111.9	- 1.5	124.3	0	109.9	- 0.9	104.8	- 0.2	104.9	- 3.8	117.2	- 2.2
St. Louis -----	115.4	- 1.4	114.0	- 1.5	118.8	- 0.3	106.6	- 2.1	101.6	2.6	118.3	- 3.1	127.2	- 2.5
San Francisco -----	114.1	- 0.2	113.5	- 0.3	131.0	0	109.1	0.3	105.4	0.1	109.8	- 1.0	117.5	- 0.3
Scranton -----	110.7	- 1.2	110.6	- 1.5	118.4	- 0.2	106.2	- 1.8	107.8	2.8	106.7	- 3.5	113.9	- 3.6
Seattle -----	111.7	- 1.0	111.4	- 1.2	126.2	0	107.1	- 0.4	102.8	0	108.9	- 2.9	115.4	- 2.0
Washington, D.C. -----	112.1	- 2.1	110.8	- 2.6	120.1	- 1.2	103.7	- 1.4	112.0	0.1	106.7	- 6.7	114.4	- 3.1

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

Food and Unit	Sept. 1954	Aug. 1954	Food and Unit	Sept. 1954	Aug. 1954
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	53.4	53.4	Grapefruit * each		
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.5	27.6	Peaches * lb.	14.3	13.7
Corn meal 1b.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice 1b.	19.3	19.5	Grapes, seedless * lb.	19.9	22.4
Rolled oats 20 oz.	18.6	18.5	Watermelons * lb.		4.3
Corn flakes 12 oz.	21.9	21.9	Potatoes 15 lb.	82.7	93.5
Bread, white 1b.	17.4	17.4	Sweetpotatoes lb.	12.4	14.6
Soda crackers 1b.	27.2	27.2	Onions lb.	7.6	8.1
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.7	23.7	Carrots lb.	13.5	13.4
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	14.4	13.8
Round steak 1b.	91.9	91.1	Celery lb.	12.5	13.1
Chuck roast 1b.	50.6	49.1	Cabbage lb.	6.1	6.5
Rib roast 1b.	70.2	69.2	Tomatoes lb.	16.5	20.5
Hamburger 1b.	40.3	40.5	Beans, green lb.	17.2	18.0
Veal cutlets 1b.	107.5	106.7	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	87.2	87.8	Orange juice 46 oz. can	36.3	36.4
Bacon, sliced 1b.	76.5	78.1	Peaches #2 ½ can	32.6	32.7
Ham, whole 1b.	68.0	70.7	Pineapple #2 ½ can	38.7	38.7
Lamb, leg 1b.	69.6	69.5	Fruit cocktail #2 ½ can	41.0	40.9
Frankfurters 1b.	55.1	55.3	Corn, cream style #303 can	18.1	18.2
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	49.5	50.1	Peas, green #303 can	21.4	21.3
Frying chickens, dressed 1b.	43.8	44.1	Tomatoes #2 can	17.4	17.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	54.9	56.1	Baby foods 4 ½-5 oz.	9.8	9.8
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	44.2	44.1	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	49.6	49.9	Prunes lb.	31.3	31.3
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	52.5	52.2	Navy beans lb.	17.8	17.8
Tuna fish, canned 7 oz.	38.9	39.1	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.3	14.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	22.1	21.9	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	14.5	14.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	23.1	22.8	Gherkins, sweet 7 ½ oz.	29.5	29.6
Ice cream pt.	29.6	29.6	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.3	22.4
Butter 1b.	69.3	69.2	Coffee 1b.	111.6	123.3
Cheese, American process 1b.	56.8	56.7	Tea ½ lb.	34.6	34.5
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 1b.	35.8	35.7
Frozen			Margarine, colored 1b.	30.2	30.4
Strawberries 12 oz.	36.5	36.5	Lard 1b.	26.9	26.5
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	19.0	19.3	Salad dressing pt.	36.4	36.3
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.3	19.3	Peanut butter 1b.	49.3	49.4
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.4	24.4	Sugar 5 lb.	52.7	52.7
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples 1b.	14.3	16.5	Grape jelly 12 oz.	25.9	25.6
Bananas 1b.	16.5	16.1	Chocolate bar 1 oz.	4.9	4.8
Oranges, size 200 doz.	68.9	67.7	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	59.6	61.7
Lemons 1b.	17.4	17.5	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.5	8.6

* 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.

