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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - OCTOBER 1954

Consumer prices in American cities decreased 0.2 percent between September and October 1954, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The Consumer Price Index for October 1954 was 114.5 (1947-49=100), 0.8 percent lower than the all-time peak reached in October 1953.

The October figure marked the third successive month of decline for the overall index, but major index components showed varying movements. Apparel prices, which reached their post-Korean high in September 1951, were the first to start down, although a slight rise was noted in October. The food price trend has been down generally since the Fall of 1952, although some seasonal increases have occurred from month to month. Transportation prices and costs for reading and recreation were lower than in October a year ago. Other elements of living costs, notably rent and medical care, have continued to advance slowly.

Food prices, off 0.5 percent from the preceding month, were primarily responsible for the 0.2 percent decline from the September 1954 index level. Transportation and housefurnishings costs went down over the month, but apparel, reading and recreation, coal and fuel oils, gas and electricity, medical care, and residential rents showed fractional advances.

FOOD The October food index was 111.8 (1947-49=100), 1.6 percent lower than a year ago, 4.1 percent below the record high of August 1952, but 11.2 percent above the June 1950 level. Prices were lower in almost all of the 46 cities priced, with 11 cities showing decreases of more than 1 percent. The most important contributing influence was the plentiful supply of pork and poultry throughout the country. The index for meats, poultry, and fish decreased in all 46 index cities and amounted to more than 2 percent in about three-fourths of them.

Pork prices dropped in every city, mostly by 3 to 7 percent, reaching the lowest levels for this year. Pork chops were down 7 cents per pound; ham, 3 cents; bacon, over 1 cent. The price decreases for poultry were larger than for pork. Frying chickens were selling at 40.5 cents per pound on the average, compared to 46.8 cents in October last year.

Prices of fresh fruits were somewhat lower and fresh vegetables considerably higher, on the average, than in September, resulting in a net increase of nearly 1 percent for fresh produce combined. Apple prices, which were responsible for the decrease in fresh fruits, dropped in all but 7 cities, reflecting bumper crops. In New England cities, apple prices rose substantially, probably due to damage to local apple crops by the hurricanes.

Advances for lettuce, tomatoes, and green beans outweighed seasonal decreases for potatoes. Prices of lettuce rose in most cities by 20 percent or more. Price changes for tomatoes varied from decreases in several cities to increases of over 100 percent in 3 others.

Coffee prices showed a further slight decline of $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent, but were still 20 percent higher than at the end of 1953.

Prices of fresh milk continued the seasonal increase begun in July, and there were small increases in butter prices in all 46 cities in the index.

HOUSING The housing index, which includes rent, fuels, utilities, household furnishings, and household operation, remained at 119.5, the level of a month ago. Prices were lower for electrical appliances, household textiles, and some articles of furniture, but increases were reported for gas, coal, and fuel oil. Rents also rose 0.2 percent on the average during October and are now 1.7 percent higher than a year earlier. However, scattered rent decreases were reported.

The large decrease in prices for some household equipment, such as refrigerators, vacuum cleaners, toasters, and stoves, resulted from efforts by major department and other long-established types of retail stores to meet competition of discount houses. In addition to the introduction of lower price lines by manufacturers, intended to permit retailers to quote lower prices, dealers mentioned competitive markdowns and numerous sales as typical of their efforts to meet competition.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES Apparel prices showed a further slight rise in October. Higher prices were reported for women's and girls' fall and winter apparel in cities in which these articles were priced in October for the first time this season.

Men's work clothing and sport shirt prices again went down, reflecting the effect at the retail level of lower mill prices earlier this year. Lower hosiery and lingerie prices were attributed to large production in these lines.

The decline of 1.1 percent in transportation costs reflected further concessions by new car dealers, preparatory to introduction of 1955 models. Prices of used cars, tires, gasoline, and auto repairs also declined in a number of cities during October.

Reading and recreation costs rose, as movie admission charges and newspaper prices increased in a few cities.

The slight rise in medical care costs resulted from scattered increases in prices of drugs and medicines, fees for services of physicians and surgeons, and hospital charges.

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

Group	October 1954	September 1954	August 1954	October 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 -----	114.5	114.7	115.0	115.4	101.8	59.4
FOOD 1/ -----	111.8	112.4	113.9	113.6	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	110.9	111.6	113.3	113.3	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	122.7	122.6	122.3	120.4	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish -----	103.9	106.7	107.6	111.1	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	106.7	105.8	105.1	110.1	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	111.1	110.5	114.7	107.7	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	115.7	116.0	119.6	117.4	94.1	48.4
HOUSING 2/ -----	119.5	119.5	119.2	118.7	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	129.0	128.8	128.6	126.8	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	108.5	107.9	107.8	107.0	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	123.8	123.4	121.9	125.7	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	105.6	106.0	105.4	108.1	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	117.6	117.4	117.3	116.6	99.6	68.4
APPAREL -----	104.6	104.3	103.7	105.5	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	106.4	106.4	106.4	107.6	98.1	4/
Women's and girls' -----	99.6	99.0	97.7	100.8	93.3	4/
Footwear -----	116.7	116.5	116.9	115.8	102.1	4/
Other apparel -----	91.1	90.9	90.7	92.3	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	125.0	126.4	126.6	130.7	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE -----	125.9	125.7	125.5	122.8	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE -----	113.4	113.5	113.4	113.2	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION -----	106.9	106.5	106.6	108.6	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/ -----	120.1	120.1	120.2	119.7	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO OCTOBER 1954 FROM:

	September 1954	August 1954	October 1953	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS -----	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.8	12.5	92.8
FOOD 1/ -----	- 0.5	- 1.8	- 1.6	11.2	137.4
Food at home -----	- 0.6	- 2.1	- 2.1	10.3	135.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	0.1	0.3	1.9	19.5	114.5
Meats, poultry and fish -----	- 2.6	- 3.4	- 6.5	- 2.1	149.8
Dairy products -----	0.9	1.5	- 3.1	15.6	114.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	0.5	- 3.1	3.2	8.4	140.0
Other foods at home -----	- 0.3	- 3.3	- 1.4	23.0	139.0
HOUSING 2/ -----	0	0.3	0.7	13.9	57.0
Rent -----	0.2	0.3	1.7	18.7	49.0
Gas and electricity -----	0.6	0.6	1.4	5.6	3.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.1	1.6	- 1.5	15.1	119.5
Housefurnishings -----	- 0.4	0.2	- 2.3	8.4	97.8
Household operation -----	0.2	0.3	0.9	18.1	71.9
APPAREL -----	0.3	0.9	- 0.9	8.4	99.2
Men's and boys' -----	0	0	- 1.1	8.5	4/
Women's and girls' -----	0.6	1.9	- 1.2	6.8	4/
Footwear -----	0.2	- 0.2	0.8	14.3	4/
Other apparel -----	0.2	0.4	- 1.3	3.1	4/
TRANSPORTATION -----	- 1.1	- 1.3	- 4.4	13.7	81.4
MEDICAL CARE -----	0.2	0.3	2.5	19.4	73.4
PERSONAL CARE -----	- 0.1	0	0.2	14.3	90.3
READING AND RECREATION -----	0.4	0.3	- 1.6	4.3	69.7
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/ -----	0	- 0.1	0.3	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)
	October 1954	October 1953	June 1950	Year 1939	October 1954 <u>1/</u>
U.S. CITY AVERAGE -----	114.5	115.4	101.8	59.4	191.4
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:					
Chicago -----	117.1	117.1	102.8	58.6	199.4
Detroit -----	116.0	117.2	102.8	59.0	195.8
Los Angeles -----	114.8	116.3	101.3	60.4	191.8
New York -----	112.6	113.3	100.9	60.1	186.4
Philadelphia -----	116.1	115.3	101.6	59.2	193.2
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER <u>2/</u>					
	October 1954	October 1953	April 1950		October 1954
Boston -----	113.5	113.8	101.2	61.0	182.7
Kansas City -----	115.7	115.7	101.4	61.7	186.3
Minneapolis -----	116.9	116.6	102.1 <u>3/</u>	60.7	193.6
Pittsburgh -----	114.3	114.7	99.9	58.1	194.3
Portland, Oreg. -----	115.2	116.1	101.5	58.3	199.5
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>4/</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

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 SEPTEMBER 1954 TO OCTOBER 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	- 0.5	0	0.3	- 1.1	0.2	- 0.1	0.4	0
Chicago -----	- 0.3	- 0.2	0.2	- 0.3	- 4.0	2.8	- 0.1	- 0.1	0
Detroit -----	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.1	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles -----	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.3	0	- 1.9	0	0	0.2	- 0.4
New York -----	- 0.1	- 0.4	0.1	- 0.3	0.1	0.1	- 0.1	0.4	0
Philadelphia -----	- 0.1	- 0.6	0	0.1	0.1	0	0	0.1	0.3

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland, Oregon
October 1954 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)											
ALL ITEMS -----	114.5	113.5	117.1	116.0	115.7	114.8	116.9	112.6	116.1	114.3	115.2
FOOD -----	111.8	110.2	110.0	113.8	108.5	112.0	111.8	111.3	114.5	113.0	111.6
Food at home -----	110.9	108.9	108.8	112.5	107.5	110.3	111.4	110.8	113.5	112.6	111.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	122.7	119.0	116.5	118.0	120.2	126.8	125.0	125.4	120.5	124.4	124.4
Meats, poultry and fish -----	103.9	100.7	98.3	103.1	99.6	105.8	99.0	104.1	104.5	100.4	107.9
Dairy products -----	106.7	110.0	105.5	103.7	108.5	103.1	102.6	107.4	111.4	109.9	105.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	111.1	110.1	111.1	119.4	106.2	106.8	116.1	108.8	118.3	111.3	106.9
Other foods at home -----	115.7	108.9	122.4	118.6	109.2	113.3	125.7	116.6	117.1	126.2	114.6
HOUSING -----	119.5	119.6	128.2	122.3	120.6	124.3	122.1	115.9	114.3	117.0	120.1
Rent -----	129.0	-	-	138.9	137.0	-	-	-	-	123.9	-
Gas and electricity -----	108.5	108.4	106.3	108.8	118.0	109.5	110.0	108.2	102.3	118.8	107.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	123.8	124.6	123.0	119.3	112.1	-	113.9	125.6	120.0	119.7	128.0
Housefurnishings -----	105.6	104.8	108.4	108.8	104.5	107.0	106.6	105.5	109.4	105.1	108.0
Household operation -----	117.6	116.7	121.1	110.2	122.5	108.1	121.1	118.9	113.8	120.0	112.0
APPAREL -----	104.6	104.2	106.6	102.7	104.6	104.8	106.0	104.1	106.4	103.7	107.5
Men's and boys' -----	106.4	103.8	111.3	108.5	107.1	108.5	108.5	105.3	104.8	106.3	111.2
Women's and girls' -----	99.6	100.2	99.1	95.3	100.1	98.8	101.9	99.3	105.7	96.5	100.4
Footwear -----	116.7	112.8	119.8	112.4	114.2	118.9	113.9	115.4	111.1	118.4	120.6
Other apparel -----	91.1	104.9	93.6	87.5	88.0	82.7	92.8	94.4	93.3	98.7	95.4
TRANSPORTATION -----	125.0	132.8	127.8	118.1	124.0	120.8	118.4	129.8	137.4	134.2	121.6
MEDICAL CARE -----	125.9	124.3	126.1	126.8	136.0	122.9	142.0	124.1	132.3	126.1	122.8
PERSONAL CARE -----	113.4	111.8	115.0	119.1	116.6	117.5	115.9	107.6	117.2	116.6	110.5
READING AND RECREATION -----	106.9	105.2	110.5	109.2	115.2	99.3	116.6	104.9	113.8	98.3	116.1
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES -----	120.1	118.5	118.2	124.7	117.3	114.0	125.6	121.3	123.9	120.5	118.7

Percent Change -- July 1954 to October 1954

ALL ITEMS -----	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 1.3	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.2	- 1.0	- 0.3
FOOD -----	- 2.4	- 2.4	- 2.3	- 4.0	- 1.3	- 0.3	- 1.5	- 2.0	- 2.7	- 2.2	- 2.2
Food at home -----	- 2.9	- 3.0	- 2.9	- 4.5	- 1.8	- 0.5	- 1.6	- 2.3	- 3.2	- 2.4	- 2.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	0.9	- 0.3	- 0.3	0.2	- 0.1	3.6	- 0.3	0.2	- 0.3	1.6	4.3
Meats, poultry and fish -----	- 5.3	- 5.9	- 5.9	- 5.9	- 4.5	- 2.7	- 3.4	- 5.1	- 7.4	- 5.8	- 5.8
Dairy products -----	2.3	5.5	2.2	0.6	12.4	0.2	4.1	3.1	3.1	2.9	0.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 7.5	- 8.6	- 6.5	-12.8	- 8.4	0	- 7.7	- 4.7	- 6.3	- 9.1	- 7.2
Other foods at home -----	- 1.4	- 2.3	- 0.4	- 1.4	- 2.2	- 0.6	1.0	- 2.0	- 0.9	0.7	- 2.4
HOUSING -----	0.4	1.4	1.0	0.1	1.3	- 0.1	0.6	0.3	0.5	- 0.1	0.2
Rent -----	0.4	-	-	1/0.6	1/2.6	-	-	-	-	1/0.9	-
Gas and electricity -----	0.6	- 0.4	0	0.4	13.1	0	0	- 0.3	0	1.6	2.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	2.2	4.8	0.1	0.5	- 0.4	-	0	2.6	5.0	- 2.6	0.3
Housefurnishings -----	- 0.1	0.2	0.9	- 0.3	- 1.0	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.4	0.6	- 0.2	- 0.3
Household operation -----	0.3	2.8	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.8	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.3
APPAREL -----	0.6	2.4	- 1.2	- 0.2	1.0	0.9	0.3	0.6	1.0	0	2.8
Men's and boys' -----	- 0.2	0.1	- 1.5	- 0.6	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.5	- 0.8	0.4	- 0.5	1.4
Women's and girls' -----	1.4	4.3	- 2.1	0.3	2.1	2.3	0.9	2.0	1.6	0.3	5.2
Footwear -----	0.2	0.5	1.5	- 0.5	0	1.2	0	- 1.0	0.4	0.3	- 0.3
Other apparel -----	0.3	1.5	- 1.2	- 0.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.6	- 0.2	1.6
TRANSPORTATION -----	- 1.3	- 3.2	- 4.4	- 1.3	- 1.1	- 0.2	- 2.5	0.4	0.4	- 2.4	- 0.6
MEDICAL CARE -----	0.6	0.1	2.9	2.0	0	0	- 0.7	0.2	5.8	- 1.5	0.4
PERSONAL CARE -----	0.1	- 0.2	0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0	0.1	0.4	0
READING AND RECREATION -----	- 0.1	1.7	- 0.3	- 1.7	0.3	- 0.2	2.0	- 2.0	1.4	0.6	1.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES -----	- 0.2	0	- 0.5	- 0.2	0	- 0.7	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.1

1/ Change from April 1954 to October 1954.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 October 1954 Indexes and Percent Changes, September 1954 to October 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 -----	111.8	- 0.5	110.9	- 0.6	122.7	0.1	103.9	- 2.6	106.7	0.9	111.1	0.5	115.7	- 0.3
Atlanta -----	111.5	- 1.6	110.3	- 1.9	117.3	0.3	107.7	- 3.7	108.2	0.1	112.8	- 5.1	107.9	0.1
Baltimore -----	112.9	- 1.1	111.8	- 1.3	122.2	0.2	105.9	- 2.7	108.9	0	108.4	- 3.1	116.1	- 0.3
Boston -----	110.2	- 0.1	108.9	- 0.3	119.0	- 0.3	100.7	- 3.3	110.0	1.7	110.1	2.7	108.9	0.3
Chicago -----	110.0	- 0.2	108.8	- 0.4	116.5	- 0.1	98.3	- 3.3	105.5	1.8	111.1	1.4	122.4	0.7
Cincinnati -----	114.1	- 0.2	113.5	- 0.3	123.9	2.3	105.9	- 2.5	108.7	1.1	112.9	0.8	122.7	- 0.2
Cleveland -----	110.5	- 0.3	109.7	- 0.4	120.4	0.1	101.4	- 2.9	103.7	0.6	106.7	1.8	120.4	0.4
Detroit -----	113.8	- 0.4	112.5	- 0.4	118.0	0.1	103.1	- 2.6	103.7	0.6	119.4	2.0	118.6	- 0.1
Houston -----	111.6	0.1	110.7	0.1	117.7	0.3	103.5	- 0.2	106.3	0.3	115.9	0.4	113.9	0.2
Kansas City -----	108.5	- 0.4	107.5	- 0.7	120.2	0.2	99.6	- 2.0	108.5	0.4	106.2	- 0.1	109.2	- 0.6
Los Angeles -----	112.0	- 0.3	110.3	- 0.4	126.8	- 0.1	105.8	- 1.2	103.1	0.3	106.8	- 1.0	113.3	0.4
Minneapolis -----	111.8	- 0.4	111.4	- 0.2	125.0	0	99.0	- 1.7	102.6	0.4	116.1	0.8	125.7	0.6
New York -----	111.3	- 0.4	110.8	- 0.4	125.4	0.2	104.1	- 3.2	107.4	1.3	108.8	1.5	116.6	0.3
Philadelphia -----	114.5	- 0.6	113.5	- 0.7	120.5	- 0.2	104.5	- 3.8	111.4	2.9	118.3	0.4	117.1	- 0.2
Pittsburgh -----	113.0	- 0.4	112.6	- 0.3	124.4	0.2	100.4	- 2.1	109.9	0.2	111.3	0.9	126.2	0.6
Portland, Ore. -----	111.6	- 0.4	111.1	- 0.7	124.4	0.1	107.9	- 1.8	105.3	0.5	106.9	1.9	114.6	- 2.2
St. Louis -----	115.2	- 0.2	113.6	- 0.4	118.9	0.1	104.1	- 2.3	105.1	3.4	119.4	0.9	126.1	- 0.9
San Francisco -----	113.7	- 0.4	113.0	- 0.4	131.0	0	108.2	- 0.8	105.3	- 0.1	110.9	1.0	115.6	- 1.6
Scranton -----	109.9	- 0.7	109.7	- 0.8	118.1	- 0.3	102.1	- 3.9	108.7	0.8	108.4	1.6	114.0	0.1
Seattle -----	111.4	- 0.3	111.0	- 0.4	126.0	- 0.2	104.9	- 2.1	105.9	3.0	110.8	1.7	113.2	- 1.9
Washington, D.C. -----	111.4	- 0.6	109.9	- 0.8	120.2	0.1	99.9	- 3.7	111.7	- 0.3	106.8	0.1	115.6	1.0

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

Food and Unit	Oct. 1954	Sept. 1954	Food and Unit	Oct. 1954	Sept. 1954
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	53.6	53.4	Grapefruit * each		
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.4	27.5	Peaches * lb.		14.3
Corn meal lb.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice lb.	19.0	19.3	Grapes, seedless * lb.	22.0	19.9
Rolled oats 20 oz.	18.6	18.6	Watermelons * lb.		
Corn flakes 12 oz.	21.9	21.9	Potatoes 15 lb.	76.5	82.7
Bread, white lb.	17.4	17.4	Sweetpotatoes lb.	11.4	12.4
Soda crackers lb.	27.2	27.2	Onions lb.	7.3	7.6
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.7	23.7	Carrots lb.	14.0	13.5
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	18.6	14.4
Round steak lb.	92.0	91.9	Celery lb.	12.8	12.5
Chuck roast lb.	51.3	50.6	Cabbage lb.	6.0	6.1
Rib roast lb.	70.3	70.2	Tomatoes lb.	19.9	16.5
Hamburger lb.	40.2	40.3	Beans, green lb.	18.9	17.2
Veal cutlets lb.	107.9	107.5	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut lb.	80.2	87.2	Orange juice 46 oz. can	36.3	36.3
Bacon, sliced lb.	75.2	76.5	Peaches #2 ½ can	32.5	32.6
Ham, whole lb.	64.6	68.0	Pineapple #2 ½ can	38.7	38.7
Lamb, leg lb.	69.1	69.6	Fruit cocktail #2 ½ can	40.9	41.0
Frankfurters lb.	54.7	55.1	Corn, cream style #303 can	18.0	18.1
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	49.1	49.5	Peas, green #303 can	21.4	21.4
Frying chickens, dressed lb.	40.5	43.8	Tomatoes #2 can 2/	14.7	17.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook lb.	51.3	54.9	Baby foods 4 ½-5 oz.	9.8	9.8
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen lb.	44.3	44.2	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen lb.	49.6	49.6	Prunes lb.	31.5	31.3
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	52.7	52.5	Navy beans lb.	17.8	17.8
Tuna fish, canned 7 oz.	38.8	38.9	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.3	14.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	22.3	22.1	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	14.5	14.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	23.3	23.1	Gherkins, sweet 7 ½ oz.	29.4	29.5
Ice cream pt.	29.6	29.6	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.2	22.3
Butter lb.	71.5	69.3	Coffee lb.	110.0	111.6
Cheese, American process lb.	56.8	56.8	Tea ¼ lb.	34.8	34.6
Milk, evaporated 14 ½ oz. can	13.8	13.8	Cola drink carton of 6, 6 oz.	32.4	32.3
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated lb.	35.9	35.8
Frozen			Margarine, colored lb.	30.1	30.2
Strawberries 12 oz. 1/	30.6	36.5	Lard lb.	25.9	26.9
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	19.0	19.0	Salad dressing pt.	36.3	36.4
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.2	19.3	Peanut butter lb.	49.3	49.3
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.2	24.4	Sugar 5 lb.	52.4	52.7
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples lb.	12.9	14.3	Grape jelly 12 oz.	25.9	25.9
Bananas lb.	16.8	16.5	Chocolate bar 1 oz.	5.1	4.9
Oranges, size 200 doz.	68.9	68.9	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	59.7	59.6
Lemons lb.	18.5	17.4	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.5	8.5

* Priced only in season

1/ Pricing shifted to 10 oz. package in October; comparable price for September, 30.6 cents.

2/ Pricing shifted to #303 can in October; comparable price for September, 14.6 cents.

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.

