U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABCR<br>Bureau of Labor Statistics<br>Washington 25, D. C.

## CONSUNER PRICE INDEX - NOVEMBER 1954

Consumer prices in American cities averaged 0.1 percent higher in November than in October 1954, after declining in the preceding three months, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher new car prices for 1955 models were an important factor in this increase, as former liberal price concessions on 1954 models were discontinued by dealers. Rent, fuel, medical care, personal care, and household operation costs also advanced over the month. Declines occurred in prices of food, housefurnishings, and reading and recreation. Apparel prices were unchanged on the average.

The Consumer Price Index for November 1954 was 114.6 (1947-49 $=100$ ), 0.3 percent less than November 1953, but 12.5 percent higher than June 1950: Since June 1953, the index has exhibited marked stability, varying between 114.5 and 115.4 percent of the 1947-49 average.

FOOD Retail food prices fell 0.6 percent between mid-October and mid-November 1954, continuing the decline which began last August. The food index in November was 111.1 (1947-49 = 100), its lowest point since January 1951, with meats, poultry, and fish prices down to pre-Korea levels. Food costs averaged lower in 41 of the 46 cities surveyed. Price decreases for oranges, coffee, bacon, and eggs contributed most substantially to the reduction from the October food index level.

Orange prices declined nearly 24 percent on the average, and more than 40 percent in some cities, as supplies of Florida and California oranges became more plentiful. Canned and frozen orange juice prices also were lower in most cities. In response to seasonal changes in supply, lettuce prices decreased, while prices of tomatoes were up more than 25 percent and green beans advanced over 30 percent.

Coffee prices fell 4.5 percent further over the month as all 46 cities reported decreases. At an average price of $\$ 1.05$ per pound in November, coffee prices were about 15 percent below the record high of last August. Egg prices fell 2.7 percent between October and November, and are now about 20 percent belom the levels of one year ago, reflecting the continued effect of the record 1954 production. Most fats and oils margarine, lard, vegetable shortening, and salad dressing - declined between 1 and 4 percent in price as the result of large supplies of raw materials.

Pork prices continued their seasonal downard movement of recent months, with bacon lower in all cities (down 5 percent on the average). Prices of choice grades of beef cuts priced for the index increased for the third consecutive month, reflecting strength in primary markets. Poultry prices recovered somewhat from the low level of the previous month.

Bread prices were raised in a number of cities to cover higher costs and there were some further seasonal increases for milk, but competitive price reductions were reported in several areas for both of these important foods.

HOUSING
The housing index remained at the same level for the third successive month. Rents again increased fractionally ( 0.2 percent) over the month although some decreases were reported, especially in the smaller citiss. The rent index nas risen l. 3 percent in the first 11 months of 1954 compared with 5.5 percent in the first 11 months of 1953. Konthly gas and electric bills, and coal and fuel oil prices were higher in a number of cities. Household operation costs moved upward slightly with scattered increases in laundry, dry cleaning, and ice prices.

Housefurnishings continued their downard trend as lower retail prices were reported for refrigerators, stoves, vacuum cleaners, and toasters. Some of the lower prices resulted from retailers taking mark-downs to meet the competition from discount houses; others reflected in part reduced prices from manufacturers to dealers. In addition, some sale prices on current models were reported in anticipation of the introduction of the 1955 lines. Two large appliance manufacturers discontinued their policy of sugeesting retail selling prices for many items, permitting distributors to establish retail prices based on local conditions. Textile housefurnishings were generally higher as dealers restored original prices folloring sales.

OTYER COMMODITIES and SERVICES

The transportation index rise of 2.1 percent was the primary influence in reversing the recent downmard trend of the Consumer Price Index. New 1955 automobiles came on the market at slightly higher list prices, but the bulk of the increased cost to consumers resulted from dealers generally discontinuing or reducing price concessions such as were given during the last few months on 1954 models. Increased tire prices and auto maintenance costs also were reported, but used car prices declined.

The apparel index was unchanged following the usual seasonal rise during the earlier months of the Fall. Nev lower price lines on many articles of women's apparel replaced previously stocked items. In men's and boys' apparel, jackets and work clothing vere lower and tailored clothing higher in some cities. Men's rubbers were higher in price in most of the cities surveyed in November, as manufacturers' prices advanced, following higher raw material costs and recent wage increases.

Personal care costs averaped 0.4 percent hicher as scattered increases were reported in the prices of some toilet goods and fees for barter and beauty shop sorvices.

Higher hospital rates in four cities and increases in physicians' fees in several cities, because of higher overhead costs, causəd a further advance ( 0.2 percent) in the medical care index.

Reading and recreation costs declined 0.1 percent, as new model television sets at lower prices were substituted for older models in many stores.

| Group | November 2954 | October $1954$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { September } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { November } \\ 1953 \end{gathered}$ | June <br> 1.950 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Year } \\ & 1939 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | This Month | Last Month | 2 Monthe Ago | Last Year | Pre-Korea | PreWorld War II |
|  | INDEXES $(1947-49=100)$ |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 114.0 | 114.5 | 114.7 | 115.0 | 101.3 | 59.4 |
|  | 111.1 | 111.8 | 112.4 | 112.0 | 100.5 | 47.1 |
|  | 110.1 | 110.9 | 111.6 | 111.4 | 100.5 | 47.1 |
|  | 123.1 | 122.7 | 122.6 | 120.6 | 102.7 | 57.2 |
|  | 103.5 | 103.9 | 106.7 | 107.0 | 106.1 | 41.6 |
|  | 100.6 | 106.7 | 105.8 | 110.5 | 92.3 | 49.8 |
|  | 109.6 | 111.1 | 110.5 | 107.4 | 102.5 | 46.3 |
|  | 113.7 | 115.7 | 116.0 | 114.8 | 94.1 | 48.4 |
| HOUSING 2/ . . . . . . . . . . | 11.9 .5 | 119.5 | 119.5 | 118.9 | 104.9 | 76.1 |
| Rent . . . | 129.2 | 129.0 | 128.8 | 127.3 | 108.7 | 86.6 |
| Ges and electricity . ..... | 108.7 | 108.5 | 107.9 | 107.3 | 102.7 | 104.9 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oll . . . . | 124.2 | 123.8 | 122.4 | 125.9 | 107.6 | 56.4 |
| Eousefurnishings . . . . . . . | 105.4 | 105.6 | 106.0 | 108.3 | 97.4 | 53.4 |
| Household operation . . . . . . . | 117.8 | 117.6 | 11.7 .4 | 116.9 | 99.5 | 68.4 |
| AFDAREL. . . . . . . . . . . . | 104.6 | 104.6 | 104.3 | 105.5 | 96.5 | 52.5 |
| Men's and boys'......... | 106.5 | 106.4 | 106.4 | 107.8 | 98.1 | 4/4 |
| Women's and girls' . . . . . | 99.5 | 99.6 | 99.0 | 100.7 | 93.3 | $4 /$ |
| Footwear . . . . . . . . . . | 117.0 | 116.7 | 116.5 | 116.2 | 102.1 | 5/ |
| Other apparel . . . . . . . . . | 91.2 | 91.1 | 90.9 | 91.3 | 88.4 | F/ |
| TRANS FORTATION | 127.6 | 125.0 | 126.4 | 130.1 | 109.9 | 68.9 |
| medical care . . . . . . . . . | 126.1 | 125.9 | 125.7 | 123.3 | 105.4 | 72.6 |
| PERSONAL CARE . . . . . . . . . | 113.8 | 113.4 | 113.5 | 113.4 | 99.2 | 59.6 |
| GEADDING AND RECREATION . . . | 106.8 | 106.9 | 106.5 | 108.9 | 102.5 | 63.0 |
| OLHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/... | 120.0 | 120.1 | 120.1 | 120.2 | 203.7 | 70.5 |
| PERCENT CHENGE TO NOVEMEER 1924 FRGM: |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ALL ITEMS . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { October } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | September $1954$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { November } \\ & 1953 \end{aligned}$ | June 1953 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Year } \\ & \text { Z939 } \end{aligned}$ |
|  |  | 0.1 | -0.1 | - 0.3 | 12.6 | 92.9 |
| r000 $1 / \ldots . . . . . . .$. | -•••• | - 0.6 | - 1.2 | - 0.8 | 10.5 | 135.9 |
| Food at home . . | - • . . | - 0.7 | - 1.3 | - 1.2 | 9.6 | 133.8 |
| Cereais and bakery products | . . . . | 0.3 | 0.4 | 2.1 | 19.9 | 115.2 |
| Meat, s , poultry and fish . . . | $\cdots \cdot$. | - 0.4 | - 3.0 | - 3.3 | - 2.5 | 148.8 |
| Deiry products . . . . . . | . . . ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | - 0.1 | 0.8 | - 3.5 | 15.5 | 114.1 |
| Fruits and vegetables . . . . | - | - 1.4 | - 0.8 | 2.0 | 6.9 | 136.7 |
| Other foons at home . . . . . | . . . . . | - 1.7 | - 2.0 | - 1.0 | 20.8 | 134.9 |
| housing $2 / \ldots \ldots$ | $\cdots \cdots \cdot \cdots$ | 0 | 0 | 0.5 | 13.9 | 57.0 |
| Fent . . . . . . | -•••• | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.5 | 18.9 | 49.2 |
| Gas and electricity . . . . | . . . . | 0.2 | 0.7 | 1.3 | 5.8 | 3.6 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil. . | . . . . | 0.3 | 1.5 | - 1.4 | 15.4 | 120.2 |
| Housefurnishirgs . . . . . . . | - • $\cdot$ | - 0.2 | - 0.6 | - 2.7 | 8.2 | 97.4 |
| Household operation . . . . . . | . . . . | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.8 | 18.3 | 72.2 |
| APPAREL • • • • • • • • | - | 0 | 0.3 | - 0.9 | 8.4 | 99.2 |
| Men's and boys' . . . . . | -•••• | 0.1 | 0.1 | - 1.2 | 8.6 |  |
| Women's and girls' ...... | -• | -0.1 | 0.5 | -1.2 | 6.6 | $4 /$ |
| Footwear . . . . . . . . . . | $\cdots \cdots$ | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 14.6 | $4 /$ |
| Other apparel . . . . . . . . . | . . . . | 0.1 | 0.3 | - 0.1 | 3.2 | $4 /$ |
| TRANSPORTATION . . . . . | - • • | 2.1 | 0.9 | - 1.9 | 16.1 | 85.2 |
| MEDICAL CARE . . . . . . | -••• | 0.2 | 0.3 | 2.3 | 19.5 | 73.7 |
| FERSONAL CARE . . . . . . . . . | . . . . | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 14.7 | 90.9 |
| READING AND RECREATION **. . . | . . . . | - 0.1 | 0.3 | - 1.9 | 4.2 | 69.5 |
| OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES $3 / \ldots$ | . . . . . | - 0.1 | - 0.1 | - 0.2 | 15.7 | 70.0 |

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 serrices, etc.).
4 Not aysilsole.

| City | (1947-49 = 100 ) |  |  |  |  | $(1935-39=100)$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { November } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | October 1954 | November $1953$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 1950 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Year } \\ & 1939 \end{aligned}$ | November 1954 $\underline{1}$ |
| U.S. CITY AVERAGE . | 114.6 | 114.5 | 115.0 | 101.8 | 59.4 | 191.6 |
| Chicago | 117.6 | 117.1 | 116.4 | 102.8 | 58.6 | 200.3 |
| Detroit . . | 116.9 | 116.0 | 116.7 | 102.8 | 59.0 | 197.3 |
| Los Angeles | 115.0 | 114.8 | 116.1 | 101.3 | 60.4 | 192.2 |
| New York . - | 112.7 | 112.6 | 112.9 | 100.9 | 60.1 | 186.5 |
| Philadelphia. | 115.9 | 116.1 | 114.7 | 101.6 | 59.2 | 192.9 |
| CITIES PRICED In FEBRUARY, MAT, ADGUST, NOTEMBER 2/ | $\begin{gathered} \text { November } \\ 1954 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { August } \\ 1954 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { November } \\ 1953 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { May } \\ 1950 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { November } \\ 125 \mathrm{~h} \end{gathered}$ |
| Cleveland | 115.3 | 115.3 | 115.5 | 100.4 | 59.2 | 196.5 |
| Houston .............................. | 116.7 | 116.5 | 117.3 | 103.5 | 59.5 | 197.6 |
| Scranton ............................. | 112.3 | 112.4 | 113.4 | 100.2 | 58.5 | 186.6 |
| Seattle ............................. | 115.7 | 116.2 | 116.4 | 102.0 | 59.2 | 197.7 |
| Washington, D. C. .................. | 113.5 | 114.1 | 114.3 | 101.6 | 60.4 | 186.4 |
| CITIES FRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER 2/ | October 1954 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { October } \\ & 1953 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} \text { April } \\ \hline 1950 \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { October } \\ 195 \mathrm{~L} \end{gathered}$ |
| Boston .............................. | 113.5 | 113.8 | 113.8 | 101.2 | 61.0 | 182.7 |
| Kansas City ......................... | 115.7 | 115.6 | 115.7 | 101.4 | 61.7 | 186.3 |
| Minneapolis ........................ | 116.9 | 117.3 | 116.6 | 102.1 3/ | 60.7 | 193.6 |
| Pittsburgh .......................... | 114.3 | 115.4 | 114.7 | 99.9 | 58.1 | 194.3 |
| Portland, Oreg. .................... | 115.2 | 115.5 | 116.1 | 101.5 | 58.3 | 199.5 |
| CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER 2/ | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 1954 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 1953 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 1950 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 1954 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| Atlanta ............................. | 116.3 | 117.6 | 117.6 | $101.34 /$ | 58.3 | 197.2 |
| Baltimore ........................... | 115.2 | 115.5 | 115.0 | 101.6 | 57.9 | 198.0 |
| Cincinnati .......................... | 114.3 | 114.2 | 115.3 | 101.2 | 58.4 | 192.5 |
| St. Louis | 215.7 | 117.4 | 117.1 | 101.1 | 59.3 | 193.1 |
| San Francisco ....................... | 116.2 | 116.8 | 116.9 | 100.9 | 58.6 | 198.6 |

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

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FERCENT CHANGES FROM OCTOBER 1954 TO NOVEMBER 1954 U.S. City Average and Five Cities Priced Monthly All Items and Commodity Groups

| Civy | All <br> Items | Food | Housing | Apparel | Transportation | Medical Care | Personal Care | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Reading } \\ & \text { and } \\ & \text { Recreation } \end{aligned}$ | Other <br>  <br> Services |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| U.S. CITY AVERAGE | 0.1 | - 0.6 | 0 | 0 | 2.1 | 0.2 | 0.4 | - 0.1 | - 0.1 |
| Chicago | 0.4 | - 0.4 | 0.1 | 0 | 4.9 | 0 | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0 |
| Detroit . | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.1 | -0.3 | 6.1 | 0.6 | -0.1 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| Los Angeles | 0.2 | - 1.0 | -0.2 | - 0.1 | 4.6 | 0 | -0.3 | - 2.0 | 0.3 |
| New York . . | 0.1 | - 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.3 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 0.7 | - 0.4 | 0 |
| Philadeiphis. | - 0.2 | - 1.0 | 0.2 | 0 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.3 | - 0.6 | 0 |


| Group | $\begin{array}{c\|} \hline \text { U.S. } \\ \text { CITY } \\ \text { AVERAGE } \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Chicago | Cleve- <br> land | Detroit | Houston | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Los } \\ & \text { Angeles } \end{aligned}$ | New <br> York | $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \text { Phila- } \\ \text { delphia } \end{array}$ | Scrantod | Seattle | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Washing- } \\ & \text { ton } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| November 1954 Indexes ( $1947-49=100$ ) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ALL ITENS | 114.6 | 217.6 | 115.3 | 116.9 | 116.7 | 115.0 | 112.7 | 115.9 | 112.3 | 115.7 | 113.5 |
| FOOD | 111.1 | 109.6 | 109.7 | 113.9 | 110.3 | 110.9 | 111.0 | 113.4 | 109.8 | 110.6 | 110.1 |
| Food at hone | 110.1 | 108.5 | 108.6 | 212.6 | 109.4 | 109.0 | 110.5 | 112.4 | 109.7 | 110.2 | 108.7 |
| Cereals and bakery products . . . . . . | 123.1 | 116.5 | 120.3 | 117.7 | 118.2 | 127.1 | 127.3 | 120.8 | 118.7 | 126.9 | 120.7 |
| Meats, poultry and IIsh . . . . . . . | 103.5 | 99.4 | 100.5 | 103.1 | 99.8 | 103.1 | 105.1 | 105.3 | 103.8 | 103.5 | 98.7 |
| Deiry products . . | 106.6 | 105.6 | 103.3 | 106.3 | 108.9 | 103.3 | 107.2 | 112.3 | 108.2 | 105.9 | 111.2 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 109.6 | 110.9 | 106.7 | 121.7 | 114.2 | 106.5 | 105.3 | 111.1 | 108.2 | 111.7 | 103.5 |
| Other foods at home. | 113.7 | 119.2 | 117.6 | 115.4 | 112.4 | 111.4 | 115.8 | 115.4 | 112.1 | 110.6 | 114.4 |
| HOUSING | 119.5 | 128.3 | 120.3 | 122.4 | 124. 8 | 124.0 | 116.0 | 114.5 | 115.7 | 119.7 | 117.2 |
| Rent • . . . . . . . . . . . - | 129.2 | - | - | - | - | 139.6 | - | - | 123.0 |  | 123.0 |
| Gas and electricity | 108.7 | 106.2 | 106.8 | 109.2 | 106.6 | 109.5 | 108.2 | 102.3 | 112.2 | 88.5 | 114.3 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil | 124. 2 | 123.4 | 123.5 | 119.3 | - |  | 126.0 | 121.3 | 133.2 | 127.3 | 130.3 |
| Housefurnishings - | 105.4 | 108.4 | 103.0 | 109.0 | 102.4 | 106.9 | 105.0 | 109.3 | 101.0 | 105.6 | 106.9 |
| Household operation | 117.8 | 121.1 | 110.9 | 110.3 | 130.6 | 108.1 | 119.4 | 114.7 | 110.0 | 114.2 | 117.0 |
| APPAREL . | 104.6 | 106.6 | 104.1 | 102.4 | 106.9 | 104.7 | 104.4 | 106.4 | 105.7 | 105.8 | 102.3 |
| Men's and boys' . . | 106.5 | 111.3 | 107.9 | 108.3 | 106.2 | 108.3 | 105.8 | 104.8 | 107.8 | 108.7 | 105.4 |
| Women's and girls' | 99.5 | 98.8 | 96.8 | 94.5 | 100.9 | 98.6 | 99.4 | 105.8 | 100.2 | 100.4 | 96.8 |
| Footwear . . . | 117.0 | 120.1 | 118.0 | 113.0 | 127.6 | 118.5 | 116.1 | 111.2 | 120.0 | 118.6 | 114.7 |
| Other apparel . . . . | 91.2 | 93.9 | 93.0 | 87.3 | 90.9 | 83.0 | 94.5 | 93.3 | 92.1 | 86.6 | 90.5 |
| TRANSPORTATION | 127.6 | 134.1 | 122.0 | 125.3 | 125.8 | 126.3 | 131.4 | 138.8 | 132.0 | 128.9 | 129.4 |
| MEDICAL CARE | 126.1 | 126.1 | 130.8 | 127.6 | 119.9 | 122.9 | 124.6 | 132.5 | 119.6 | 130.2 | 118.6 |
| PERSONAL CARE . . . | 113.8 | 115.4 | 114.7 | 119.0 | 119.7 | 117.1 | 108.4 | 117.6 | 112.0 | 117.6 | 111.0 |
| READING AKD RECREATION | 106.8 | 111.0 | 118.0 | 110.4 | 111.6 | 97.3 | 104.5 | 113.1 | 117.3 | 109.3 | 104.6 |
| OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES | 120.0 | 118.2 | 119.4 | 124.8 | 119.1 | 114.3 | 121.3 | 123.9 | 116.1 | 126.0 | 129.9 |

Percent Change - August 1954 to November 1954

| ALL ITEMS | -0.3 | - 0.1 | 0 | 0.1 | 0.2 | -0.1 | - 0.3 | - 0.3 | - 0.1 | - 0.4 | $-0.5$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| FOOD | - 2.5 | -2.1 | - 1.9 | - 2.1 | - 1.8 | - 1.2 | - 1.9 | - 3.2 | -2.1 | - 2.0 | - 3.8 |
| Food at home | - 2.8 | - 2.4 | - 2.4 | - 2.4 | - 1.9 | - 1.6 | - 2.0 | - 3.6 | -2.3 | - 2.2 | - 4.4 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 0.7 | -0.3 | 1.5 | -0.3 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 1.7 | - 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.6 | - 0.7 |
| Meats, poultry and Pisk | - 3.8 | - 2.5 | - 3.6 | - 3.5 | - 4.8 | - 4.5 | - 2.5 | - 4.5 | - 4.1 | - 3.7 | - 6.2 |
| Dairy products | 1.4 | 1.5 | - 3.2 | 2.8 | 5.3 | 0.5 | 1.9 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 3.0 | - 0.6 |
| Fruits and vegetables | - 4.4 | - 3.1 | -4.3 | - 1.5 | - 1.1 | 1.8 | - 5.0 | -10.7 | - 2.2 | - 0.4 | - 9.5 |
| Other foods at home. | - 4.9 | - 5.5 | - 4.5 | - 6.1 | - 4.3 | - 2.7 | - 4.2 | - 4.4 | - 5.2 | - 6.1 | - 3.1 |
| HOUSING | 0.3 | 0.9 | 0.2 | - 0.2 | 0.6 | - 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| Rent | 0.5 | - | - | - | - | 2/0.8 | - | - | $1 / 0$ | - | 1/0 |
| Gas and electricity . | 0.8 | - 0.1 | 0 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0 | - 0.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | $=1.4$ |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil | 1.9 | 0.4 | 1.3 | 0.3 |  | - | 2.9 | 3.6 | 2.2 | 0 | 2.4 |
| House furnishings | 0 | 1.6 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 0.8 | - 0.3 | - 0.6 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 0.5 | - 0.2 |
| Household operation | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 1.7 | 0 |
| APPAREL . | 0.9 | - 0.3 | - 0.2 | - 0.2 | - 0.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 0.8 | 0 | -0.3 | 0.6 |
| Men's and boys'. - | 0.1 | - 1.3 | - 0.6 | -0.9 | -0.5 | - 0.2 | 0 | 0.6 | 0.7 | -0.1 | 0.5 |
| Women's and girls' | 1.8 | 0.1 | -0.2 | 0.4 | - 0.2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 1.1 | -0.3 | - 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Footwear . | 0.1 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0 | 0.3 | 0.9 | -0.7 | 0.1 | - 0.7 | 0.1 | - 0.6 |
| Other apparel. . | 0.6 | -0.1 | 0.3 | - 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0 | -0.1 | 0.1 |
| TRANSPORTATION | 0.8 | 0.5 | 3.6 | 6.1 | 2.2 | 3.3 | 1.9 | 1.2 | 5.3 | 0.3 | 3.4 |
| MEDICAL CARE | 0.5 | 2.9 | 1.0 | 0.5 | , | . | 0.5 | 6.0 | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.3 |
| personal care . | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | -0.1 | 0.7 | 0.3 | -0.1 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| READING AND RECREATION | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 2.9 | - 2.3 | -0.8 | 1.1 | 0.7 | - 0.4 | -0.3 |
| OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES | - 0.2 | -0.3 | -0.6 | , | 0 | -0.4 | -0.2 | 0.3 | 0 | -0.6 | -0.5 |

1/ Change from Msy 1954 to Nowember 1954 .
$(1947-49=100)$

| C1ty | Total Food |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { Food at Home } \end{gathered}$ |  | Cereals <br> Bakery Products |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mests, Poultry } \\ & \& \text { Fish } \end{aligned}$ |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Dalry } \\ & \text { Products } \end{aligned}$ |  | Fruits \& Vegetables |  | other |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Index | $\begin{gathered} \text { Parcent } \\ \text { Change } \end{gathered}$ | Index | Percent change | Index | Percent Change | Index | $\begin{gathered} \text { 'ercent } \\ \text { Change } \end{gathered}$ | Index | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Percent } \\ & \text { Change } \end{aligned}$ | Index | Percent Change | Index | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Change } \end{gathered}$ |
| U.S. CITY AVERAGE | 111.1 | - 0.6 | 110.1 | - 0.7 | 123.1 | 0.3 | 103.5 | -0.4 | 106.6 | -0.1 | 209.6 | - 1.4 | 113.7 | - 1.7 |
| Atlanta | 110.5 | - 0.9 | 109.0 | - 1.2 | 116.5 | - 0.7 | 106.6 | - 1.0 | 1.08 .0 | - 0.2 | 111.3 | $-1.3$ | 105.8 | - 1.9 |
| Bastimore | 112.4 | - 0.4 | 111.1 | - 0.6 | 122.4 | 0.2 | 105.8 | -0.2 | 108.8 | -0.1 | 106.5 | - 1.8 | 114.9 | - 1.0 |
| Boston | 108.9 | - 1.2 | 107.3 | -1.5 | 119.1 | 0.1 | 100.4 | -0.3 | 110.0 | 0 | 105.0 | - 4.6 | 105.8 | - 2.8 |
| Cideago | 109.6 | - 0.4 | 108.5 | -0.3 | 116.5 | 0 | 79.4 | 1.1 | 105.6 | 12.1 | 110.9 | - 0.2 | 119.2 | -2.5 |
| Cincinnats. | 113.0 | - 2.0 | 112.3 | - 1.1 | 124.5 | 0.5 | 100.2 | 0.3 | 111.? | 2.3 | 106.6 | - 5.6 | 119.4 | -2.7 |
| Cleveland | 109.7 | - 0.7 | 108.6 | - 1.0 | 120.3 | -0.7 | 100.5 | -0.9 | 103.3 | -0.4 | 106.7 | 0 | 117.6 | - 2.3 |
| Detroit | 113.9 | 0.1 | 112.6 | 0.1 | 117.? | -0.3 | 103.1 | 0 | 106.3 | 2.5 | 121.7 | 1.9 | 115.4 | - 2.7 |
| Houstion | 110.3 | - 1.2 | 109.4 | - 1.2 | 118.2 | 0.4 | 99.8 | - 3.6 | $10 \%$ ? | 2.4 | 124.2 | - 1.5 | 112.4 | - 1.3 |
| Kansas City | 107.9 | -0.6 | 106.8 | - 0.7 | 120.0 | -0.2 | 99.8 | 0.2 | 108. 3 | - 0.2 | 105.7 | - 0.5 | 106.6 | - 2.4 |
| Los Angeles | 110.9 | - 1.0 | 109.0 | - 1.2 | 127.1 | 0.2 | 103.1 | - 2.5 | 103.3 | 0.2 | 3.66 .5 | $-0.3$ | 111.4 | - 1.7 |
| Minneapolis | 110.8 | -0.9 | 110.3 | - 1.0 | 125.1 | 0.1 | 08.4 | -0.6 | 102.4 | -0.2 | 115.5 | $-0.5$ | 121.8 | - 3.1 |
| New York. | 111.0 | - 0.3 | 110.5 | - 0.3 | 127.3 | 1.5 | 105.1 | 1.0 | 107.2 | - 0.2 | 105.3 | $-3.2$ | 115.8 | -0.7 |
| Philadelphia | 113.4 | - 1.0 | 112.4 | - 1.0 | 120.8 | 0.2 | 105.3 | 0.8 | 112.3 | 0.8 | 111.3 | - 6.1 | 115.4 | - 2.5 |
| Pittsburgh | 111.8 | - 1.1 | 121.1 | - 1.3 | 124.4 | 0 | 99.7 | -0.7 | 110.0 | 0.1 | 107.6 | - 3.3 | 123.2 | - 2.14 |
| Portland, Ore. | 109.8 | - 1.6 | 108.9 | - 2.0 | 124.5 | 0.1 | 105.4 | - 2.3 | 102.4 | - 2.8 | 107.4 | 0.5 | 110.2 | - 3.3 |
| St. Louls. | 113.5 | -1.5 | 111.6 | - 1.8 | 218.6 | -0.3 | 103.6 | -0.5 | 99.9 | - 4.9 | 118.1 | - 1.1 | 122.6 | - 2.8 |
| San Francisco | 112.6 | - 1.0 | 111.7 | -1.2 | 130.3 | - 0.5 | 106.8 | - 1.3 | $1 \mathrm{Cl}_{1.4}$ | -0.9 | 111.6 | 0.6 | 112.3 | -2.9 |
| Scranton. | 109.8 | - 0.1 | 109.7 | 0 | 118.7 | 0.5 | 103.8 | 1.7 | 108.2 | $-0.5$ | 108.2 | $-0.2$ | 112.1 | - 1.7 |
| Seattle . | 110.6 | - 0.7 | 110.2 | -0.7 | 126.9 | 0.7 | 103.5 | -1.3 | 105.8 |  | 111.7 | 0.3 | 110.6 | - 2.3 |
| Washington, D.C. | 110.1 | - 1.2 | 108.7 | - 1.1 | 120.7 | 0.4 | 96.7 | -1.2 | 111.2 | -0.4 | 103.5 | - 3.1 | 114. 4 | - 1.0 |

TABEE 6. EETAR FOOD PRICES FOR NOVEVEER 1954 AND OCTOBER 1954
Un. City Averace

| Food enj Unit | $\begin{gathered} \text { November } \\ 1954 \end{gathered}$ | October 1954 | Food and Unit, | $\begin{gathered} \text { November } \\ 1954 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { October } \\ & 1954 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| CEREALS AND EAKERY PRODUCTS: | (Cents) | (Cents) | Fresh (continued) | (Cents) | (Cents) |
| Flour, wheat 5 lb . | 53.8 | 53.6 | GrapePruit * each |  |  |
| Biscuit mix 20 oz . | 27.4 | 27.4 | Peaches * 1b. |  |  |
| Corn meal 1 lb . | 12.6 | 12.6 | Strawberries * pt. |  |  |
| Fice 1 b . | $1 / 17.5$ | 19.0 | Grapes, seedless * ib. | 23.1 | 22.0 |
| Rolled oats 20 oz | -18.5 | 38.6 | Watermelons * 1 lb . |  |  |
| Corn flakes 12 oz . | 22.0 | 21.9 | Fotatoes 15 lb . | 78.2 | 76.5 |
| Bread, white 1 lb . | 17.5 | 27.4 | Sweetrotatoes ib. | 1.1 .4 | 11.4 |
| Soda crackers 1 lb . | 27.2 | 27.2 | Onions | 7.6 | 7.3 |
| Vanills conkies 7 oz . | 23.8 | 23.7 | Carrots 1 l . | 13.9 | 14.0 |
| MEATS, PCULTRY AND FISİ: |  |  | Lettuce head | 17.3 | 18.5 |
| Round steak lb. | 92.4 | 22.0 | Celery 1b. | 13.5 | 12.8 |
| Chuck roast ib. | 53.0 | 51.3 | Cabbage ib. | 6.5 | 6.0 |
| Fib roast ib. | 71.8 | 70.3 | Tomatces 1b. | 24.9 | 19.9 |
| Hamburger ib. | 40.0 | 40.2 | Beans, green ib. | 25.1 | 18.9 |
| Veal cutlets $\quad 1 \mathrm{l}$. | 108.4 | 107.9 | Canned |  |  |
| Pork chops, center cut ${ }^{\text {lb }}$. | 81.2 | 80.2 | Orange juice $46 \mathrm{oz.can}$ | 35.7 | 36.3 |
| Bacon, sliced ib. | 71.4 | 75.2 | Peaches \#2 can | 32.7 | 32.5 |
| Ham, whole 16. | 63.7 | 64.6 | Pineapple $\quad$ \#2 2 can | 38.7 | 38.7 |
| Lamb, leg ib. | 69.9 | 69.1 | Fruit cocktail | 41.0 | 40.9 |
| Frankfurters 1b. | 54.4 | 54.7 | Corn, eream style $\quad 4303$ can | 17.7 | 18.0 |
| Luncheon meat, canned 12 na . | 48.8 | 49.1 | Peas, green \#303 can | 21.5 | 21.4 |
| Frying chiciens, dressed ib. | 41.4 | 40.5 | Tomatces \#30a can | 14.7 | 14.7 |
| Frying chickens, ready-to-cook is. | 51.5 | 51.3 | Baby foods $\quad 4 \frac{12-5020}{}$ | 9.7 | 9.8 |
| Oceain perch, fillet, frozen lb | 43.4 | ${ }_{4}{ }_{4} .3$ | Dried |  |  |
| Haddock, fillet, frozen lb. | 48.9 | 49.6 | Prunes ib. | 31.9 | 31.5 |
| Salmon, pinis, canned 16 mz . | 53.3 | 52.7 | Navy beans 1 lb . | 17.9 | 17.8 |
| Tune fish, canned 7 oz . | 38.5 | 38.8 | OTHER FOODS AT HOME: |  |  |
| DAIRY PROLHCTS: |  |  | Vegetable soup 11 oz can | 14.3 | 14.3 |
| Milk, fresh, (grocery) at. | 22.2 | 22.3 | Beans with pork 16 oz . can | 14.5 | 14.5 |
| Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt. | 23.3 | 23.3 | Gherkins, sweet $7 \frac{1}{2} \mathrm{oz}$. | 29.5 | 29.4 |
| Ice cream pt. | 29.4 | 29.6 | Catsup, tomato 1400. | 22.2 | 22.2 |
| Butter 1 lb . | 71.4 | 71.5 | Coffee lb. | 105.1 | 110.0 |
| Cheese, American process ib. | 56.8 | 56.8 | Tea 4 lb . | 35.4 | 34.8 |
| Milk, evaporated $\quad 4$ itoz. can | 13.7 | 13.8 | Cola drink carton of 6, 6 oz . | 32.4 | 32.4 |
| FVUITS AND VEGETABLES: Frozen |  |  | Shortening, hydrogenated ib. | 35.4 | 35.9 |
| Frozen Strawberries arame. |  |  | Margarine, colored 1 lb . | 29.1 | 30.1 |
| Strawberries $10 \mathrm{oz}$. | 30.6 | 30.6 | Lard 16. | 25.3 | 25.9 |
| Orange juice concentrate $\quad 8 \mathrm{oz}$. | 18.4 | 19.0 | Salad dressing pt. | 35.8 | 36.3 |
| Peas, green $10 \mathrm{oz}$. | 19.3 | 19.2 | Peanat butter 16 | 49.7 | 49.3 |
| Eeans, green 10 oz . | 24.0 | 24.2 | Sugar 5 lb . | 52.3 | 52.4 |
| Fresh |  |  | Corr syrup 24 oz . | 23.7 | 23.7 |
| Apples ib. | 13.1. | 12.9 | Grape jelly 12 oz. | 25.9 | 25.9 |
| Banenas 16. | 17.4 | 16.8 | Chocolate bar 107. | 5.2 | 5.1 |
| Orames. size 200 diz. | 52.5 | 68.9 | Eggs, Grade A, large doz. | 58.1 | 59.7 |
| lerons bi. | 18.8 | 18.5 | Gelatin, flavored 3-4 az. | 8.5 | 8.5 |

* Priced only in season.

1/Price for Novenber excludes long grain rice in 13 cities; comparable october price 17.6.

The Consumer Price Index measures the average change in prices of goods and services customarily purchased by city wage-earner and clericalwworker families. Index numbers are presented on the base $1947-49=100$, and show the average increase or decrease in prices from che 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. Anong these are all the important items that wage and clerical workers buy, and they are selected so that their average price change wili 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 eecn 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 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Camden, Arkansas | Laconia, New Hampshire |
| Canton, Ohio | Lodi, California |
| Charleston, W. Virginia | Lynchburg, Virginia |
| Evansville, Indiana | Madill, Oklahoma |
| Garrett, Indiana | Madison, Wisconsin |
| Glendale, Arizona | Middlesboro, Kentucky |
| Grand Forks, N. Dakota | Middletown, Connecticut |
| Grand Island, Nebraska | Newark, Ohio |

Pulaski, Virginia
Ravenna, Ohio
Rawlins, Wyoming
San Jose, California
Sandpoint, Idaho
Shawnee, Oklahoma
Shenandoah, Iowa
Youngstown, 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 citles 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.

