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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - FEBRUARY 1955

The Consumer Price Index remained unchanged in February 1955 at 114.3 percent of the 1947-49 average for the third consecutive month, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The index was down 0.6 percent from a year ago and, during the year, its range has been less than one index point.

FOOD For the second consecutive month average retail food prices rose slightly (0.2 percent), but the rise was not general among all cities or among all foods. Food costs averaged higher in 27 cities, lower in 17, and were unchanged in 2 of the 46 cities. Major influences on the average change were the substantially higher prices of eggs and poultry and considerably lower prices of coffee, bacon, and ham. However, slight increases were reported for all important groups of food purchased for consumption at home except dairy products. Prices of restaurant meals were virtually unchanged over the month.

The 14.3 percent increase in the price of eggs, unusual for February, reflected lower production, and followed several months of sharp declines, which brought egg prices in January to the lowest January level since 1950. The 6.7 percent rise in poultry prices continued last month's sudden upturn, which reflected the continued decrease in marketings from smaller numbers of young chicks raised. Pork prices again declined with the pressure of larger supplies. Reductions in prices of bacon and ham were reported in most cities, although prices of pork chops were unchanged on the average.

Consumers in all 46 cities benefited from sharp reductions in coffee prices, with decreases ranging from 2.0 to 12.8 percent and averaging 8.3 percent, following Brazil's boosting of subsidies to exporters and lower wholesale prices in United States markets. The average city price of coffee in mid-February was 97 cents per pound compared with the peak of \$1.23 last August. Tea prices again advanced. Retail prices of fruits and vegetables increased slightly. Prices of frozen orange concentrate and canned orange juice, as well as oranges, dropped consistently throughout the Nation. Prices of apples were higher and prices of potatoes, sweetpotatoes, celery, and tomatoes also increased, while prices of carrots, lettuce, and green beans went down from mid-January to mid-February. The index for cereals and bakery products continued to advance, rising 0.3 percent between January and February, largely because of higher bread prices. Competitive price cutting for milk was reported in some cities.

HOUSING The housing index was unchanged from January at 119.6, as lower home-ownership costs balanced small increases in residential rents and prices of house-furnishings, gas and electricity, coal and fuel oil.

Residential rents continued their slow rise (up 0.2 percent from January), but are only 1.4 percent higher than in February 1954, compared with an advance of 5.3 percent from February 1953 to February 1954. Housefurnishings also edged up 0.2 percent from January, with rises in furniture prices and household textiles following the January sales. Lower prices were reported for electrical appliances.

OTHER COMMODITIES Apparel prices were up fractionally (0.1 percent) between January
AND SERVICES and February. The reinstatement of regular prices for men's suits
 in some cities, following January sales, accounted for part of
this increase. Prices of women's and girls' clothing and hosiery were little changed.

Transportation costs averaged lower than in January, as used car prices declined and dealers in more cities reported new or increased concessions on new cars. Gasoline prices increased in a few cities. Reading and recreation costs showed an overall decline of 0.5 percent, primarily because of sale prices for toys and sporting equipment. The cost of medical care increased slightly (0.2 percent), chiefly as the result of large increases in group hospitalization premiums in two large cities.

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

Group	February 1955	January 1955	December 1954	February 1954	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	114.3	114.3	114.3	115.0	101.8	59.4
FOOD 1/	110.8	110.6	110.4	112.6	100.5	47.1
Food at home	109.6	109.4	109.2	112.0	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	123.8	123.4	123.3	121.3	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	102.5	102.4	102.2	109.7	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	106.1	106.4	106.8	109.0	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	110.7	110.6	108.4	108.0	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	112.1	111.3	112.0	114.0	94.1	48.4
HOUSING 2/	119.6	119.6	119.7	118.9	104.9	76.1
Rent	129.7	129.5	129.4	127.9	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	109.9	109.4	109.1	107.5	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	126.2	126.1	125.5	126.2	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	104.8	104.6	105.4	107.2	97.4	53.4
Household operation	117.7	117.7	117.7	117.3	99.6	68.4
APPAREL	103.4	103.3	104.3	104.7	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys'	105.6	105.5	106.5	107.4	98.1	4/
Women's and girls'	97.7	97.6	99.0	99.5	93.3	4/
Footwear	116.6	116.7	116.9	116.1	102.1	4/
Other apparel	90.6	90.5	91.1	90.4	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION	127.4	127.6	127.3	129.4	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE	126.8	126.5	126.3	124.1	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE	113.5	113.7	113.6	113.9	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.4	106.9	106.6	108.0	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/	119.8	119.9	119.9	120.2	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO FEBRUARY 1955 FROM:

	January 1955	December 1954	February 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0	0	- 0.6	12.3	92.4
FOOD 1/	0.2	0.4	- 1.6	10.2	135.2
Food at home	0.2	0.4	- 2.1	9.1	132.7
Cereals and bakery products	0.3	0.4	2.1	20.5	116.4
Meats, poultry and fish	0.1	0.3	- 6.6	- 3.4	146.4
Dairy products	- 0.3	- 0.7	- 2.7	15.0	113.1
Fruits and vegetables	0.1	2.1	2.5	8.0	139.1
Other foods at home	0.7	0.1	- 1.7	19.1	131.6
HOUSING 2/	0	- 0.1	0.6	14.0	57.2
Rent	0.2	0.2	1.4	19.3	49.8
Gas and electricity	0.5	0.7	2.2	7.0	4.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil	0.1	0.6	0	17.3	123.8
Housefurnishings	0.2	- 0.6	- 2.2	7.6	96.3
Household operation	0	0	0.3	18.2	72.1
APPAREL	0.1	- 0.9	- 1.2	7.2	97.0
Men's and boys'	0.1	- 0.8	- 1.7	7.6	4/
Women's and girls'	0.1	- 1.3	- 1.8	4.7	4/
Footwear	- 0.1	- 0.3	0.4	14.2	4/
Other apparel	0.1	- 0.5	0.2	2.5	4/
TRANSPORTATION	- 0.2	0.1	- 1.5	15.9	84.9
MEDICAL CARE	0.2	0.4	2.2	20.3	74.7
PERSONAL CARE	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.4	14.4	90.4
READING AND RECREATION	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 1.5	3.8	68.9
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.3	15.5	69.7

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	(1947-49 = 100)					(1935-39 = 100)
	February 1955	January 1955	February 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	February 1955 ^{1/}
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	114.3	114.3	115.0	101.8	59.4	191.1
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	117.1	117.0	116.7	102.8	58.6	199.4
Detroit	116.3	116.0	116.4	102.8	59.0	196.3
Los Angeles	114.7	115.4	116.6	101.3	60.4	191.7
New York	112.5	112.3	112.8	100.9	60.1	186.2
Philadelphia	115.7	115.4	115.2	101.6	59.2	192.5
CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER ^{2/}						
	February 1955	November 1954	February 1954	May 1950		February 1955
Cleveland	114.9	115.3	115.2	101.1	59.2	195.8
Houston	115.7	116.7	116.9	103.5	59.5	195.9
Scranton	111.7	112.3	113.2	100.2	58.5	185.6
Seattle	116.3	115.7	116.2	102.0	59.2	198.8
Washington, D. C.	113.2	113.5	114.1	101.6	60.4	185.9
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER ^{2/}						
	January 1955	October 1954	January 1954	April 1950		January 1955
Boston	113.0	113.5	112.7	101.2	61.0	181.9
Kansas City	115.3	115.7	115.0	101.4	61.7	185.6
Minneapolis	116.5	116.9	116.6	102.1 ^{3/}	60.7	192.9
Pittsburgh	113.8	114.3	114.4	99.9	58.1	193.5
Portland, Oreg.	114.6	115.2	115.4	101.5	58.3	198.5
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER ^{2/}						
	December 1954	September 1954	December 1953	June 1950		December 1954
Atlanta	115.7	116.3	117.1	101.3 ^{4/}	58.3	196.2
Baltimore	114.8	115.2	114.5	101.6	57.9	197.3
Cincinnati	113.3	114.3	114.6	101.2	58.4	190.8
St. Louis	115.4	115.7	116.9	101.1	59.3	192.6
San Francisco	115.7	116.2	116.9	100.9	58.6	197.7

^{1/} These are the same indexes shown in column 1, converted to a base of 1935-39 = 100.

^{2/} Foods, fuels, rents, and a few other items priced monthly; other commodities and services priced quarterly.

^{3/} June 1950; formerly priced March, June, September, December.

^{4/} May 1950; formerly priced February, May, August, November.

TABLE 3. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- PERCENT CHANGES FROM JANUARY 1955 TO FEBRUARY 1955
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	0.2	0	0.1	- 0.2	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.5	- 0.1
Chicago	0.1	0	0.2	0.6	- 0.7	0	- 0.2	1.3	- 0.3
Detroit	0.3	0.5	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.7	3.6	0.2	- 0.6	0
Los Angeles	- 0.6	- 0.1	- 2.2	0.2	0	0	0.4	0.8	- 0.2
New York	0.2	0.5	- 0.1	- 0.3	0	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.1
Philadelphia	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3	0	0.3	- 0.4	0.1

TABLE 4. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- ALL ITEMS AND COMMODITY GROUPS
February 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, November 1954 to February 1955
U.S. City Average and 10 Cities Priced in February 1955

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
February 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)											
ALL ITEMS	114.3	117.1	114.9	116.3	115.7	114.7	112.5	115.7	111.7	116.3	113.2
FOOD	110.8	108.7	108.8	113.3	110.2	111.1	111.1	113.2	108.7	112.1	110.9
Food at home	109.6	107.3	107.7	112.0	108.9	109.4	110.2	112.1	108.6	111.4	109.5
Cereals and bakery products	123.8	120.7	120.6	120.0	118.7	127.8	128.3	121.0	118.5	127.4	122.5
Meats, poultry and fish	102.5	96.9	99.7	101.3	99.7	101.1	106.2	106.4	102.0	101.9	100.1
Dairy products	106.1	105.3	103.0	106.9	108.7	103.0	106.1	109.2	108.0	106.2	110.9
Fruits and vegetables	110.7	108.4	105.7	122.2	113.1	111.6	105.1	113.6	107.4	119.4	108.5
Other foods at home	112.1	117.6	115.2	113.2	111.1	111.4	113.2	112.9	110.3	111.7	111.9
HOUSING	119.6	128.3	121.2	122.2	123.0	122.7	116.3	114.4	115.9	120.6	116.4
Rent	129.7	-	142.5	-	138.9	-	-	116.3	-	136.7	-
Gas and electricity	109.9	106.2	109.1	109.0	106.8	113.6	108.6	102.3	119.4	88.5	118.2
Solid fuels and fuel oil	126.2	126.2	124.1	119.9	-	-	130.7	126.9	133.2	127.6	134.7
Housefurnishings	104.8	106.6	102.7	107.2	101.3	107.0	105.5	107.0	100.3	103.5	105.2
Household operation	117.7	121.0	111.8	110.4	127.0	108.2	119.0	114.6	109.9	114.2	116.9
APPAREL	103.4	104.7	103.6	102.5	106.3	103.9	101.9	105.6	105.4	106.2	101.2
Men's and boys'	105.6	110.3	107.8	108.0	104.9	108.2	105.5	104.6	106.8	109.4	105.2
Women's and girls'	97.7	95.6	95.9	95.1	100.3	97.0	95.0	104.3	100.2	100.8	94.8
Footwear	116.6	120.4	117.6	112.7	128.4	118.0	115.8	111.4	120.4	118.6	114.7
Other apparel	90.6	92.9	92.7	87.4	90.7	83.0	93.2	92.8	91.5	86.8	90.1
TRANSPORTATION	127.4	132.8	119.5	121.4	123.7	126.3	130.1	137.9	128.2	128.5	129.0
MEDICAL CARE	126.8	127.4	131.0	132.3	120.0	122.8	125.0	133.6	119.6	130.6	118.2
PERSONAL CARE	113.5	115.3	114.5	119.4	119.6	118.1	108.3	117.8	111.5	116.0	111.3
READING AND RECREATION	106.4	113.2	116.4	107.9	109.7	97.6	104.1	112.8	118.5	107.4	104.3
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	119.8	117.7	119.1	124.7	118.8	114.1	121.0	123.9	116.1	125.9	129.8

Percent Change -- November 1954 to February 1955

ALL ITEMS	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.5	0.5	- 0.3
FOOD	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 0.1	0.2	0.1	- 0.2	- 1.0	1.4	0.7
Food at home	- 0.5	- 1.1	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 0.5	0.4	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 1.0	1.1	0.7
Cereals and bakery products	0.6	3.6	0.2	2.0	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.2	- 0.2	0.4	1.5
Meats, poultry and fish	- 1.0	- 2.5	- 0.8	- 1.7	- 0.1	- 1.9	1.0	1.0	- 1.7	- 1.5	1.4
Dairy products	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.3	0.6	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 1.0	- 2.8	- 0.2	0.3	- 0.3
Fruits and vegetables	1.0	- 2.3	- 0.9	0.4	- 1.0	4.8	- 0.2	2.3	- 0.7	6.9	4.8
Other foods at home	- 1.4	- 1.3	- 2.0	- 1.9	- 1.2	0	- 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.6	1.0	- 2.2
HOUSING	0.1	0	0.7	- 0.2	- 1.4	- 1.0	0.3	- 0.1	0.2	0.8	- 0.7
Rent	0.4	-	1/0.6	-	1/0	-	-	1/0.7	-	1/1.1	-
Gas and electricity	1.1	0	2.2	- 0.2	0.2	3.7	0.4	0	6.4	0	3.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil	1.6	2.3	0.5	0.5	-	-	3.7	4.6	0	0.2	3.4
Housefurnishings	- 0.6	- 1.7	- 0.3	- 1.7	- 1.1	0.1	0.5	- 2.1	- 0.7	- 2.0	- 1.6
Household operation	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.8	0.1	- 2.8	0.1	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.1	0	- 0.1
APPAREL	- 1.1	- 1.8	- 0.5	0.1	- 0.6	- 0.8	- 2.4	- 0.8	- 0.3	0.4	- 1.1
Men's and boys'	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.9	0.6	- 0.2
Women's and girls'	- 1.8	- 3.2	- 0.9	0.6	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 4.4	- 1.4	0	0.4	- 2.1
Footwear	- 0.3	0.2	- 0.3	- 0.3	0.6	- 0.4	- 0.3	0.2	0.3	0	0
Other apparel	- 0.7	- 1.1	- 0.3	0.1	- 0.2	0	- 1.4	- 0.5	- 0.7	0.2	- 0.4
TRANSPORTATION	- 0.2	- 1.0	- 2.0	- 3.1	- 1.7	0	- 1.0	- 0.6	- 2.9	- 0.3	- 0.3
MEDICAL CARE	0.6	1.0	0.2	3.7	0.1	- 0.1	0.3	0.8	0	0.3	- 0.3
PERSONAL CARE	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.3	- 0.1	0.9	- 0.1	0.2	- 0.4	- 1.4	0.3
READING AND RECREATION	- 0.4	2.0	- 1.4	- 2.3	- 1.7	0.3	- 0.4	- 0.3	1.0	- 1.7	- 0.3
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.2	0	0	- 0.1	- 0.1

1/ Change from August 1954 to February 1955.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
February 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, January 1955 to February 1955
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 . . .	110.8	0.2	109.6	0.2	123.8	0.3	102.5	0.1	106.1	- 0.3	110.7	0.1	112.1	0.7
Atlanta	110.1	- 0.1	108.3	- 0.2	117.7	0.1	106.3	0.5	108.4	0.1	108.9	- 3.1	104.1	0.9
Baltimore	111.7	0.1	110.3	0.1	122.2	0.2	104.2	- 0.4	108.5	- 0.4	108.7	0.6	112.2	0.5
Boston	109.4	1.1	107.9	1.3	119.0	- 0.1	100.6	1.0	110.7	0.7	107.5	2.4	106.2	2.2
Chicago	108.7	0	107.3	0.2	120.7	3.3	96.9	- 0.9	105.3	0	108.4	- 0.8	117.6	0.8
Cincinnati	111.9	0.2	111.1	0.3	124.8	- 0.1	103.9	0.2	110.3	- 0.2	106.9	- 0.3	117.4	0.8
Cleveland	108.8	- 0.2	107.7	- 0.1	120.6	0.2	99.7	- 0.2	103.0	- 0.2	105.7	0.5	115.2	- 0.6
Detroit	113.3	0.5	112.0	0.5	120.0	0.3	101.3	0.3	106.9	0.5	122.2	0.6	113.2	1.0
Houston	110.2	0.7	108.9	0.5	118.7	0.2	99.7	2.2	108.7	0.1	113.1	0	111.1	- 0.6
Kansas City	107.3	0.4	105.7	0.5	120.6	- 0.1	97.0	- 0.5	108.6	0.2	103.4	0.7	106.6	1.8
Los Angeles	111.1	- 0.1	109.4	0	127.8	0.1	101.1	- 0.7	103.0	- 0.6	111.6	- 0.9	111.4	2.0
Minneapolis	111.1	0.8	110.5	1.0	125.8	0.1	98.3	0.9	102.4	- 0.3	116.6	1.4	121.5	2.1
New York	111.1	0.5	110.2	0.5	128.3	0.8	106.2	1.3	106.1	0	105.1	- 0.8	113.2	0.8
Philadelphia	113.2	0.4	112.1	0.5	121.0	0.2	106.4	- 0.1	109.2	- 0.3	113.6	2.1	112.9	0.9
Pittsburgh	111.0	0	110.1	0	124.5	0.2	98.6	0.1	109.7	- 0.3	108.5	1.1	119.3	- 0.9
Portland, Ore.	109.2	- 0.3	108.4	- 0.4	123.9	- 0.5	102.1	- 1.8	102.5	0	111.7	1.1	109.3	0
St. Louis	111.7	- 0.4	109.4	- 0.5	118.8	0.1	102.2	0	93.9	- 4.5	117.4	0.3	119.5	0.2
San Francisco	113.0	0.6	112.1	0.8	130.2	- 0.2	105.7	- 0.3	105.0	0.2	115.6	1.3	112.3	2.5
Scranton	108.7	0.4	108.6	0.6	118.5	- 0.5	102.0	0.2	108.0	0	107.4	2.8	110.3	0.5
Seattle	112.1	0.8	111.4	0.5	127.4	0	101.9	- 0.6	106.2	0.3	119.4	1.0	111.7	1.6
Washington, D.C.	110.9	- 0.1	109.5	- 0.3	122.5	0	100.1	- 1.3	110.9	- 0.2	108.5	0.4	111.9	0.5

TABLE 6. RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR FEBRUARY 1955 AND JANUARY 1955
U.S. City Average

Food and Unit	February 1955	January 1955	Food and Unit	February 1955	January 1955
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	54.1	54.1	Grapefruit * each	9.6	9.8
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.4	27.4	Peaches * lb.		
Corn meal lb.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice lb.	17.6	17.6	Grapes, seedless * lb.		
Rolled oats 20 oz.	18.9	18.7	Watermelons * lb.		
Corn flakes 12 oz.	22.0	22.0	Potatoes 10 lb.	54.0	52.6
Bread, white lb.	17.7	17.6	Sweetpotatoes lb.	14.4	13.4
Soda crackers lb.	27.0	27.2	Onions lb.	7.7	7.8
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.8	23.8	Carrots lb.	13.2	14.2
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	17.0	17.4
Round steak lb.	92.1	92.8	Celery lb.	15.1	14.4
Chuck roast lb.	52.6	52.6	Cabbage lb.	8.7	9.0
Rib roast lb.	72.4	73.2	Tomatoes lb.	30.5	29.8
Hamburger lb.	39.7	40.1	Beans, green lb.	27.4	28.3
Veal cutlets lb.	113.0	109.4	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut lb.	75.7	75.7	Orange juice 46 oz. can	33.1	34.3
Bacon, sliced lb.	69.0	70.6	Peaches #2 ½ can	33.2	33.1
Ham, whole lb.	61.3	62.8	Pineapple #2 ½ can	38.9	38.9
Lamb, leg lb.	68.6	68.6	Fruit cocktail #2 ½ can	40.9	40.8
Frankfurters lb.	53.4	53.8	Corn, cream style #303 can	17.2	17.4
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	46.3	48.1	Peas, green #303 can	21.5	21.5
Frying chickens, dressed lb.	46.3	42.8	Tomatoes #303 can	14.9	14.9
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook lb.	54.6	51.6	Baby foods 4 ½-5 oz.	9.7	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen lb.	43.4	43.5	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen lb.	48.1	48.0	Prunes lb.	32.5	32.2
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	54.2	53.9	Navy beans lb.	18.6	18.4
Tuna fish, canned 7 oz.	38.0	38.2	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.2	14.2
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	22.1	22.2	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	14.8	14.7
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	23.2	23.2	Pickles, sweet 1/ 7 ½ oz.	28.3	28.4
Ice cream pt.	29.2	29.2	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.2	22.3
Butter lb.	71.2	71.6	Coffee lb.	97.0	105.8
Cheese, American process lb.	57.8	56.8	Tea ½ lb.	38.9	37.1
Milk, evaporated 14 ½ oz. can	13.7	13.7	Cola drink carton of 6, 6 oz.	32.5	32.5
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated lb.	35.3	35.3
Frozen			Margarine, colored lb.	29.3	29.4
Strawberries 10 oz.	30.7	30.6	Lard lb.	21.9	23.1
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	17.6	18.3	Salad dressing pt.	35.4	35.5
Peas, green 16 oz.	19.4	19.5	Peanut butter lb.	52.6	51.1
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.2	24.3	Sugar 5 lb.	52.3	52.3
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples lb.	14.2	13.7	Grape jelly 12 oz.	25.8	25.9
Bananas lb.	16.8	16.7	Chocolate bar 7/8 oz.	4.6	4.6
Oranges, size 200 doz.	44.6	45.5	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	59.0	51.6
Lemons lb.	18.5	18.7	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.6	8.6

* Priced only in season.

1/ Formerly published as sweet gherkins.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

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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.

