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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 1955

The Consumer Price Index, at 114.3 percent of the 1947-49 average, remained unchanged in March for the fourth consecutive month, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Although there have been periods of extended price stability in earlier years, this is the first time in many years that the index has remained unchanged for as long as four months.

The current stability of average prices is further emphasized by the lack of important change over the month among the major categories of urban consumer spending. Average prices for food, total housing costs, and personal care expenditures were unchanged. Rents and costs of household operation, medical care, and reading and recreation edged up 0.2 percent, and gas costs rose 0.4 percent. Apparel and house-furnishings prices decreased 0.2 percent, and transportation costs declined 0.1 percent.

FOOD In none of the 46 cities surveyed for the index did the cost of the family food budget change by as much as 1 percent, and in 34 cities the difference was less than 0.5 percent.

The stability of prices for food at home represents the net effect of price increases for poultry, fresh fruits and vegetables, and eggs, and price decreases for most meats, coffee, and dairy products. Poultry prices continued to rise, advancing 7.6 percent between February and March, as smaller numbers of young chickens appeared in the market. Other meat prices declined over the month, with pork contributing most to the decline. Bacon, off 3.3 percent, and ham, down 3.1 percent, were lower in price in 44 cities. Prices of veal cutlets, round steak, rib and chuck roast, and canned luncheon meat were all lower on the average, with decreases occurring in a majority of the cities surveyed. The decline in dairy products resulted mainly from price decreases for milk in 21 cities.

Tomatoes, up 12 percent in price, were more expensive in nearly all cities. Among other fresh vegetables, higher prices were exhibited in most cities for celery, lettuce, and both sweet and white potatoes. Prices were lower for green beans (down 16.8 percent), cabbage (down 10.3 percent), onions and carrots. Fresh orange prices advanced 8 percent, but canned orange juice fell slightly. The March pricing preceded the major freeze over large growing areas late in the month.

Coffee prices again moved downward (2.9 percent), averaging 94 cents a pound.

Egg prices advanced 2 percent. At 60 cents a dozen, eggs were four percent higher this March than in March 1954, when the sharp price decline of last year began. Prices of food away from home advanced fractionally.

HOUSING The housing index in March was 119.6 for the third consecutive month. Continued advances in residential rents, increased costs of household operation, and higher gas bills were balanced by a decline in housefurnishings prices.

The majority of rental units reported no change from February to March, although the changes that did occur included more increases than decreases. However, during the first quarter of 1955, more cities reported rent decreases than in the last quarter of 1954. Housefurnishings prices resumed their downward trend, temporarily interrupted in February. Some household appliances and furniture, notably refrigerators, stoves, toasters, and dinette sets, declined in price in the face of

sharp competition. On the other hand, some price increases for other types of furniture occurred, reflecting increased costs of lumber and fabric coverings used in their construction.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES Apparel prices decreased 0.2 percent over the month, with lower prices for girls' cotton dresses, women's rayon blouses, and men's and boys' cotton apparel, such as business shirts and work clothing.

Transportation costs were little changed (down 0.1 percent) as decreases in new and used car prices and automobile insurance were almost counterbalanced by higher prices for gasoline and for public transportation in three cities. Larger price concessions on new cars were reported by dealers in some cities surveyed for the first time this year. Automobile insurance rates were reduced widely in the small and medium sized cities.

Medical care costs again rose fractionally (0.2 percent). Higher movie admission charges, particularly to those attending showings of special features, caused the 0.2 percent increase in reading and recreation costs, despite fairly general small decreases in prices of television and radio sets.

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

Group	March 1955	February 1955	January 1955	March 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	114.8	101.8	59.4
FOOD <u>1/</u>	110.8	110.8	110.6	112.1	100.5	47.1
Food at home	109.7	109.6	109.4	111.4	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	123.9	123.8	123.4	121.2	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	102.3	102.5	102.4	109.5	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	105.4	106.1	106.4	108.0	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	112.0	110.7	110.6	107.8	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	111.9	112.1	111.3	112.3	94.1	48.4
HOUSING <u>2/</u>	119.6	119.6	119.6	119.0	104.9	76.1
Rent	130.0	129.7	129.5	128.0	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	110.3	109.9	109.4	107.6	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	126.2	126.2	126.1	125.8	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	104.6	104.8	104.6	107.2	97.4	53.4
Household operation	117.9	117.7	117.7	117.5	99.6	68.4
APPAREL	103.2	103.4	103.3	104.3	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys'	105.6	105.6	105.5	107.2	98.1	4/
Women's and girls'	97.4	97.7	97.6	99.0	93.3	4/
Footwear	116.7	116.6	116.7	116.1	102.1	4/
Other apparel	90.4	90.6	90.5	90.0	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION	127.3	127.4	127.6	129.0	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE	127.0	126.8	126.5	124.4	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE	113.5	113.5	113.7	114.1	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.6	106.4	106.9	108.2	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <u>3/</u>	119.8	119.8	119.9	120.1	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO MARCH 1955 FROM:

	February 1955	January 1955	March 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0	0	- 0.4	12.3	92.4
FOOD <u>1/</u>	0	0.2	- 1.2	10.2	135.2
Food at home	0.1	0.3	- 1.5	9.2	132.9
Cereals and bakery products	0.1	0.4	2.2	20.6	116.6
Meats, poultry and fish	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 6.6	- 3.6	145.9
Dairy products	- 0.7	- 0.9	- 2.4	14.2	111.6
Fruits and vegetables	1.2	1.3	3.9	9.3	141.9
Other foods at home	- 0.2	0.5	- 0.4	18.9	131.2
HOUSING <u>2/</u>	0	0	0.5	14.0	57.2
Rent	0.2	0.4	1.6	19.6	50.1
Gas and electricity	0.4	0.8	2.5	7.4	5.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil	0	0.1	0.3	17.3	123.8
Housefurnishings	- 0.2	0	- 2.4	7.4	95.9
Household operation	0.2	0.2	0.3	18.4	72.4
APPAREL	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 1.1	6.9	96.6
Men's and boys'	0	0.1	- 1.5	7.6	4/
Women's and girls'	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 1.6	4.4	4/
Footwear	0.1	0	0.5	14.3	4/
Other apparel	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.4	2.3	4/
TRANSPORTATION	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 1.3	15.8	84.8
MEDICAL CARE	0.2	0.4	2.1	20.5	74.9
PERSONAL CARE	0	- 0.2	- 0.5	14.4	90.4
READING AND RECREATION	0.2	- 0.3	- 1.5	4.0	69.2
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <u>3/</u>	0	- 0.1	- 0.2	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	(1 9 4 7 - 4 9 = 1 0 0)					(1935-39 = 100)
	March 1955	February 1955	March 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	March 1955 ^{1/}
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	114.3	114.3	114.8	101.8	59.4	191.1
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	117.0	117.1	116.7	102.8	58.6	199.3
Detroit	116.3	116.3	116.5	102.8	59.0	196.3
Los Angeles	115.1	114.7	116.2	101.3	60.4	192.3
New York	112.4	112.5	112.4	100.9	60.1	186.0
Philadelphia	115.8	115.7	114.9	101.6	59.2	192.7
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER ^{2/}						
	March 1955	December 1954	March 1954	June 1950		March 1955
Atlanta	115.3	115.7	117.0	^{4/} 101.3	58.3	195.5
Baltimore	114.9	114.8	114.8	101.6	57.9	197.5
Cincinnati	113.4	113.3	114.2	101.2	58.4	191.0
St. Louis	115.6	115.4	116.9	101.1	59.3	192.9
San Francisco	115.6	115.7	116.5	100.9	58.6	197.6
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	100.4	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	198.6
Washington, D. C.	113.2	113.5	114.1	101.6	60.1	185.9
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER ^{2/}						
	January 1955	October 1954	January 1954	Apr. 1 1950		January 1955
Boston	113.0	113.5	112.7	101.2	61.7	181.9
Kansas City	115.3	115.7	115.0	101.4	61.7	185.6
Minneapolis	116.5	116.9	116.6	^{3/} 102.1	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

^{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 FEBRUARY 1955 TO MARCH 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	0	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.2	0	0.2	0
Chicago	- 0.1	- 0.4	0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0	- 0.1	0.3
Detroit	0	- 0.3	0.1	0	- 0.1	0	0.3	0	0
Los Angeles	0.3	0.8	0.1	- 0.5	1.0	0	- 0.6	- 0.4	0.4
New York	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.1	0.2	0	0	0	0.5	0
Philadelphia	0.1	0.1	0.4	- 0.9	- 0.4	1.3	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.3

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
March 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)											
ALL ITEMS	114.3	115.3	114.9	117.0	113.4	116.3	115.1	112.4	115.8	115.6	115.6
FOOD	110.8	110.0	111.7	108.3	111.7	113.0	112.0	111.0	113.3	111.8	113.1
Food at home	109.7	108.2	110.3	106.6	110.7	111.6	110.2	110.0	112.1	109.2	112.3
Cereals and bakery products	123.9	117.9	122.0	119.2	125.1	120.0	127.8	128.2	121.0	118.9	130.7
Meats, poultry and fish	102.3	105.3	103.7	95.4	102.8	100.1	101.6	106.4	106.3	101.3	106.2
Dairy products	105.4	108.4	108.3	105.5	106.5	102.8	102.9	104.2	109.2	91.5	104.9
Fruits and vegetables	112.0	110.0	110.0	108.5	109.5	124.9	115.6	105.4	114.3	118.5	118.2
Other foods at home	111.9	103.9	112.1	117.3	117.9	114.3	111.2	113.3	112.8	120.8	110.4
HOUSING	119.6	123.9	115.9	128.3	117.3	122.3	122.8	116.4	114.9	119.4	115.9
Rent	130.0	132.3	125.0	149.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gas and electricity	110.3	113.3	100.1	110.5	118.7	108.9	113.6	108.8	102.3	103.8	132.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil	126.2	119.5	127.2	126.2	127.2	119.9	-	130.7	126.9	139.6	-
Housefurnishings	104.6	107.4	98.5	106.7	100.1	106.5	107.0	105.1	106.5	101.7	103.9
Household operation	117.9	128.5	110.9	121.1	122.3	111.8	108.3	119.1	114.3	119.4	109.3
APPAREL	103.2	108.4	102.7	104.8	103.4	102.5	103.4	102.1	104.6	104.1	103.1
Men's and boys'	105.6	110.9	101.2	110.0	103.8	107.4	108.0	106.1	103.8	107.6	104.9
Women's and girls'	97.4	102.2	99.5	96.0	98.8	95.6	96.2	94.9	103.0	96.7	98.7
Footwear	116.7	123.2	116.7	120.5	123.0	112.7	118.0	115.8	111.0	119.0	116.3
Other apparel	90.4	91.0	94.4	92.9	86.2	87.4	82.7	93.3	92.2	96.0	87.8
TRANSPORTATION	127.3	123.6	136.8	133.0	123.8	121.3	127.6	130.1	137.3	134.8	140.8
MEDICAL CARE	127.0	122.8	134.4	127.5	127.4	132.3	122.8	125.0	135.4	140.3	123.5
PERSONAL CARE	113.5	114.7	107.6	115.3	109.0	119.7	117.4	108.3	117.7	113.5	110.9
READING AND RECREATION	105.6	107.2	115.7	113.1	101.0	107.9	97.2	104.6	112.4	92.7	108.7
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	119.8	118.0	122.6	118.1	116.1	124.7	114.5	121.0	123.5	115.0	115.2

Percent Change -- December 1954 to March 1955

ALL ITEMS	0	- 0.3	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	- 0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	- 0.1
FOOD	0.4	0	0.3	0.1	- 0.3	0	1.2	0.8	0.6	- 0.4	1.2
Food at home	0.5	- 0.1	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.1	1.5	0.9	0.7	- 0.8	1.4
Cereals and bakery products	0.5	0.8	- 0.2	2.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.2	0.1	0.3
Meats, poultry and fish	0.1	0.4	- 0.7	- 2.2	- 1.4	- 2.1	- 0.4	2.9	1.7	- 1.0	0.3
Dairy products	- 1.3	0.1	- 0.7	0	- 4.3	- 3.5	- 0.4	- 2.6	- 2.9	- 6.8	0.2
Fruits and vegetables	3.3	- 0.1	4.3	1.2	3.4	4.7	8.0	1.7	3.7	2.4	7.1
Other foods at home	- 0.1	- 1.1	- 0.4	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1
HOUSING	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.7	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 1.8	0.3	0.3	- 0.4	- 1.6
Rent	0.5	1/ 0.8	1/ 0.2	1/ 2.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gas and electricity	1.1	0	0.1	4.0	- 0.7	- 0.1	0	0.6	0	0	1.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil	0.6	0	0	1.3	0	0.5	-	0.7	2.8	0.6	-
Housefurnishings	- 0.8	- 1.7	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 0.9	- 2.3	0.3	0.1	- 2.6	0.4	- 1.2
Household operation	0.2	- 0.1	- 1.5	0	1.8	1.4	0.2	0	- 0.3	- 0.3	0.4
APPAREL	- 1.1	- 1.7	0.2	- 1.3	0.2	0.1	- 1.2	- 1.5	- 1.1	0.4	1.2
Men's and boys'	- 0.8	- 1.1	- 0.2	- 1.2	- 0.2	- 0.8	- 0.4	0.2	- 1.0	- 0.2	- 0.4
Women's and girls'	- 1.6	- 2.8	0.6	- 2.0	0.7	1.1	- 2.3	- 3.2	- 1.5	1.0	2.5
Footwear	- 0.2	0	- 0.3	0.3	0.7	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.1	0.8
Other apparel	- 0.8	- 1.1	0	- 0.7	- 1.0	0.1	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 0.8	0.2	0.7
TRANSPORTATION	0	- 1.7	- 1.5	- 0.1	0.2	- 1.1	0.9	- 0.5	- 0.4	3.2	- 0.4
MEDICAL CARE	0.6	1.0	0.7	1.1	0.9	3.7	- 0.1	0.3	1.3	0.3	- 0.2
PERSONAL CARE	- 0.1	- 0.7	0.1	0.1	0	0.5	0.3	0	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.7
READING AND RECREATION	0	0.8	- 1.2	2.2	1.7	- 0.6	0.3	0.4	- 0.5	- 0.7	1.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	- 0.1	0	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	0	0.2	0	- 0.3	1.2	- 0.3

1/ Change from September 1954 to March 1955

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 March 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, February 1955 to March 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	109.7	0.1	123.9	0.1	102.3	- 0.2	105.4	- 0.7	112.0	1.2	111.9	- 0.2
Atlanta	110.0	- 0.1	108.2	- 0.1	117.9	0.2	105.3	- 0.9	108.4	0	110.0	1.0	103.9	- 0.2
Baltimore	111.7	0	110.3	0	122.0	- 0.2	103.7	- 0.5	108.3	- 0.2	110.0	1.2	112.1	- 0.1
Boston	109.0	- 0.4	107.6	- 0.3	119.1	0.1	100.0	- 0.6	108.0	- 2.4	107.8	0.3	107.2	0.9
Chicago	108.3	- 0.4	106.6	- 0.7	119.2	- 1.2	95.4	- 1.5	105.5	0.2	108.5	0.1	117.3	- 0.3
Cincinnati	111.7	- 0.2	110.7	- 0.4	125.1	0.2	102.8	- 1.1	106.5	- 3.4	109.5	2.4	117.9	0.4
Cleveland	108.6	- 0.2	107.4	- 0.3	120.4	- 0.2	99.7	0	99.6	- 3.3	105.9	0.2	116.4	1.0
Detroit	113.0	- 0.3	111.6	- 0.4	120.0	0	100.1	- 1.2	102.8	- 3.8	124.9	2.2	114.3	1.0
Houston	110.7	0.5	109.5	0.6	118.8	0.1	100.8	1.1	108.8	0.1	116.6	3.1	109.6	- 1.4
Kansas City	106.9	- 0.4	105.2	- 0.5	120.7	0.1	96.9	- 0.1	108.0	- 0.6	103.0	- 0.4	105.5	- 1.0
Los Angeles	112.0	0.8	110.2	0.7	127.8	0	101.6	0.5	102.9	- 0.1	115.6	3.6	111.2	- 0.2
Minneapolis	111.3	0.2	110.7	0.2	125.9	0.1	97.5	- 0.8	103.1	0.7	118.3	1.5	121.9	0.3
New York	111.0	- 0.1	110.0	- 0.2	128.2	- 0.1	106.4	0.2	104.2	- 1.8	105.4	0.3	113.3	0.1
Philadelphia	113.3	0.1	112.1	0	121.0	0	106.3	- 0.1	109.2	0	114.3	0.6	112.8	- 0.1
Pittsburgh	111.0	0	110.1	0	124.4	- 0.1	98.3	- 0.3	109.7	0	107.5	- 0.9	120.9	1.3
Portland, Ore.	109.7	0.5	109.0	0.6	124.2	0.2	101.6	- 0.5	103.5	1.0	114.4	2.4	109.4	0.1
St. Louis	111.8	0.1	109.2	- 0.2	118.9	0.1	101.3	- 0.9	91.5	- 2.6	118.5	0.9	120.8	1.1
San Francisco	113.1	0.1	112.3	0.2	130.7	0.4	106.2	0.5	104.9	- 0.1	118.2	2.2	110.4	- 1.7
Scranton	108.7	0	108.6	0	118.6	0.1	100.9	- 1.1	107.7	- 0.3	108.5	1.0	111.1	0.7
Seattle	112.4	0.3	111.9	0.4	127.5	0.1	101.7	- 0.2	108.2	1.9	122.0	2.2	110.5	- 1.1
Washington, D.C.	110.9	0	109.5	0	122.3	- 0.2	100.1	0	111.0	0.1	107.8	- 0.6	112.1	0.2

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

Food and Unit	March 1955	February 1955	Food and Unit	March 1955	February 1955
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	54.1	54.1	Grapefruit * each	9.5	9.6
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.4	27.4	Peaches * lb.		
Corn meal 1b.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice 1b.	17.8	17.6	Grapes, seedless * lb.		
Rolled oats 20 oz.	19.0	18.9	Watermelons * lb.		
Corn flakes 12 oz.	22.0	22.0	Potatoes 10 lb.	54.5	54.0
Bread, white 1b.	17.7	17.7	Sweetpotatoes lb.	15.1	14.4
Soda crackers 1b.	27.0	27.0	Onions lb.	7.4	7.7
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.8	23.8	Carrots lb.	13.0	13.2
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	17.4	17.0
Round steak 1b.	91.0	92.1	Celery lb.	15.5	15.1
Chuck roast 1b.	52.1	52.6	Cabbage lb.	7.8	8.7
Rib roast 1b.	71.5	72.4	Tomatoes lb.	34.2	30.5
Hamburger 1b.	39.7	39.7	Beans, green lb.	22.8	27.4
Veal cutlets 1b.	110.5	113.0	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	74.3	75.7	Orange juice 46 oz. can	32.7	33.1
Bacon, sliced 1b.	66.7	69.0	Peaches #2 1/2 can	33.4	33.2
Ham, whole 1b.	59.4	61.3	Pineapple #2 1/2 can	39.0	38.9
Lamb, leg 1b.	68.1	68.6	Fruit cocktail #2 1/2 can	40.7	40.9
Frankfurters 1b.	53.4	53.4	Corn, cream style #303 can	17.0	17.2
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	45.4	46.3	Peas, green #303 can	21.4	21.5
Frying chickens, dressed 1b.	48.9	46.3	Tomatoes #303 can	15.0	14.9
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	59.4	54.6	Baby foods 4 1/2-5 oz.	9.7	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	42.7	43.4	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	47.5	48.1	Prunes lb.	32.7	32.5
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	54.6	54.2	Navy beans lb.	18.8	18.6
Tuna fish, canned 7 oz.	37.9	38.0	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.2	14.2
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	21.8	22.1	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	14.8	14.8
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	22.9	23.2	Pickles, sweet 1/7 1/2 oz.	28.2	28.3
Ice cream pt.	29.2	29.2	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.3	22.2
Butter 1b.	71.0	71.2	Coffee lb.	94.2	97.0
Cheese, American process 1b.	57.8	57.8	Tea 1/2 lb.	40.2	38.9
Milk, evaporated 14 1/2 oz. can	13.7	13.7	Cola drink carton of 6, 6 oz.	32.5	32.5
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated lb.	35.2	35.3
Frozen			Margarine, colored lb.	29.2	29.3
Strawberries 10 oz.	30.8	30.7	Lard lb.	21.1	21.9
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	17.7	17.6	Salad dressing pt.	35.5	35.4
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.5	19.4	Peanut butter lb.	53.4	52.6
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.2	24.2	Sugar 5 lb.	52.2	52.3
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples 1b.	14.3	14.2	Grape jelly 12 oz.	25.9	25.8
Bananas 1b.	17.0	16.8	Chocolate bar 7/8 oz.	4.6	4.6
Oranges, size 200 doz.	48.2	44.6	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	60.2	59.0
Lemons 1b.	18.1	18.5	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

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.

