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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR APRIL 1955

The Consumer Price Index declined 0.1 percent between March and April to a level of 114.2 percent of the 1947-49 average, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. It was the first change in the index since December 1954.

A substantial reduction of 1.6 percent in transportation costs, along with slightly lower costs for housing and apparel, was chiefly responsible for the slight decline. In contrast, average food prices rose 0.4 percent and medical care and personal care costs, 0.2 percent.

FOOD

Food prices rose to about the level of last November, but were 1.1 percent lower than a year ago. Of the 46 cities surveyed for the April index, total food costs increased in 32, decreased in 11, and showed no change in 3. The major changes from March 1955 consisted of substantially higher prices for potatoes, poultry, pork chops, and apples, and sizeable decreases in costs of eggs, milk, and coffee. In comparison with April 1954, food purchased for home consumption was down 1.5 percent, while costs of restaurant meals increased.

Although most fresh fruits and vegetables usually become more expensive at this time of year, the 4.9 percent increase in the fruits and vegetables index over last month also reflects the extensive crop damage in the South and Southeast caused by freezing weather in late March. The greatest impact was on potato prices, which were about 30 percent higher than in March and nearly 60 percent higher than in April 1954. Other fresh fruits and vegetables showing substantial price increases were cabbage (20.5 percent), onions (14.9 percent), apples (7.0 percent), green beans (7.0 percent), and oranges (3.5 percent). Lower prices were recorded for tomatoes (5.6 percent), celery (3.9 percent), and carrots (2.3 percent). Fresh strawberries were back in season in many cities at prices higher than at the end of last season. Costs of frozen, canned, and dried fruits and vegetables also increased fractionally.

Poultry prices rose at a reduced rate but reached their highest point since January 1953. Price changes for meats other than poultry were small. Nearly all dairy products were lower in price. Egg prices moved down in all but one of the 46 cities. At an average of 54.9 cents a dozen, the price was 8.8 percent lower than in March. Coffee prices were down almost 2 percent from March, to a level almost 20 percent lower than a year ago.

HOUSING

The housing index decreased 0.1 percent between March and April. Lower prices for coal and housefurnishings, together with a small average decline in residential rents, exceeded the rise in costs of household operation. The current decrease in the rent index is the first since 1942.

Increases in dry cleaning charges and laundry soap prices caused most of the rise in household operation costs.

OTHER COMMODITIES The decline in the transportation index resulted primarily from
AND SERVICES further price decreases for new and used cars. Widespread and
 somewhat larger concessions offered by new car dealers have produced
a price decline on the 1955 model automobiles. Gasoline and tire prices rose slightly.

Average apparel prices fell slightly over the month. Post-Easter sales and new lower price lines for many articles of apparel accounted for the decline. Sale prices were reported in many cities for women's coats and suits, nylon slips, and for men's cotton sport shirts. Some increases were noted in prices for women's cotton dresses.

Costs of medical care were slightly higher (0.2 percent) over the month, as physicians' fees and prescription prices were raised in a number of cities and group hospitalization premiums increased in one. Personal care costs also rose 0.2 percent.

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

Group	April 1955	March 1955	February 1955	April 1954	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	114.2	114.3	114.3	111.6	101.8	59.4
FOOD ^{1/}	111.2	110.8	110.8	112.4	100.5	47.1
Food at home	110.1	109.7	109.6	111.8	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	123.9	123.9	123.8	121.1	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	103.0	102.3	102.5	110.5	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	104.6	105.4	106.1	104.6	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	117.5	112.0	110.7	110.0	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	109.4	111.9	112.1	113.6	94.1	48.4
HOUSING ^{2/}	119.5	119.6	119.6	118.5	104.9	76.1
Rent	129.9	130.0	129.7	128.2	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	110.3	110.3	109.9	107.6	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	125.7	126.2	126.2	123.9	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	104.5	104.6	104.8	106.1	97.4	53.4
Household operation	118.1	117.9	117.7	116.9	99.6	68.4
APPAREL	103.1	103.2	103.4	104.1	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys'	105.5	105.6	105.6	107.1	98.1	4/
Women's and girls'	97.1	97.4	97.7	98.4	93.3	4/
Footwear	116.9	116.7	116.6	116.1	102.1	4/
Other apparel	90.2	90.4	90.6	90.4	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION	125.3	127.3	127.4	129.1	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE	127.3	127.0	126.8	124.9	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE	113.7	113.5	113.5	112.9	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.6	106.6	106.4	106.5	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	119.8	119.8	119.8	120.2	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO APRIL 1955 FROM:

	March 1955	February 1955	April 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.3	12.2	92.3
FOOD ^{1/}	0.4	0.4	- 1.1	10.6	136.1
Food at home	0.4	0.5	- 1.5	9.6	133.8
Cereals and bakery products	0	0.1	2.3	20.6	116.6
Meats, poultry and fish	0.7	0.5	- 6.8	- 2.9	147.6
Dairy products	- 0.8	- 1.4	0	13.3	110.0
Fruits and vegetables	4.9	6.1	6.8	14.6	153.8
Other foods at home	- 2.2	- 2.4	- 3.7	16.3	126.0
HOUSING ^{2/}	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.8	13.9	57.0
Rent	- 0.1	0.2	1.3	19.5	50.0
Gas and electricity	0	0.4	2.5	7.4	5.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil	- 0.4	- 0.4	1.5	16.8	122.9
Housefurnishings	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 1.5	7.3	95.7
Household operation	0.2	0.3	1.0	18.6	72.7
APPAREL	- 0.1	- 0.3	- 1.0	6.8	96.4
Men's and boys'	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 1.5	7.5	4/
Women's and girls'	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 1.3	4.1	4/
Footwear	0.2	0.3	0.7	14.5	4/
Other apparel	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.2	2.0	4/
TRANSPORTATION	- 1.6	- 1.6	- 2.9	14.0	81.9
MEDICAL CARE	0.2	0.4	1.9	20.8	75.3
PERSONAL CARE	0.2	0.2	0.7	14.6	90.8
READING AND RECREATION	0	0.2	0.1	4.0	69.2
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	0	0	- 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)
	April 1955	March 1955	April 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	April 1955 ^{1/}
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	114.2	114.3	114.6	101.8	59.4	190.9
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	116.9	117.0	116.5	102.8	58.6	199.1
Detroit	116.2	116.3	116.7	102.8	59.0	196.1
Los Angeles	114.5	115.1	115.7	101.3	60.4	191.3
New York	112.3	112.4	112.5	100.9	60.1	185.9
Philadelphia	115.8	115.8	115.1	101.6	59.2	192.7
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER ^{2/}						
	April 1955	January 1955	April 1954	April 1950		April 1955
Boston	113.4	113.0	112.9	101.2	61.0	182.6
Kansas City	115.2	115.3	115.5	101.4	61.7	185.5
Minneapolis	117.0	116.5	116.3	^{3/} 102.1	60.7	193.8
Pittsburgh	113.8	113.8	114.5	99.9	58.1	193.5
Portland, Oreg.	114.2	114.6	114.8	101.5	58.3	197.8
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
Saranton	111.7	112.3	113.2	100.2	58.5	185.6
Seattle	116.3	115.7	116.2	102.0	59.2	196.8
Washington, D. C.	113.2	113.5	114.1	101.6	60.4	185.9

^{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 MARCH 1955 TO APRIL 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	- 0.1	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 1.6	0.2	0.2	0	0
Chicago	- 0.1	0.6	- 0.1	- 0.8	- 2.6	0.4	0	0	0
Detroit	- 0.1	0.3	- 0.3	- 0.6	- 0.4	0.1	- 0.2	0.8	0
Los Angeles	- 0.5	0.9	0	0	- 4.2	- 1.1	- 0.1	0.1	- 0.2
New York	- 0.1	0.5	- 0.9	- 0.7	- 0.5	0.3	0.1	0.3	0
Philadelphia	0	0.1	0	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.1	0	0

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland, Oreg.
April 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)											
ALL ITEMS	114.2	113.4	116.9	116.2	115.2	114.5	117.0	112.3	115.8	113.8	114.2
FOOD	111.2	109.0	109.0	113.3	107.0	113.0	111.5	111.6	113.4	111.5	110.0
Food at home	110.1	107.5	107.6	111.9	105.5	110.7	110.8	110.7	112.3	110.7	109.6
Cereals and bakery products	123.9	119.1	118.9	120.2	120.8	127.9	126.1	128.2	121.0	124.5	124.3
Meats, poultry and fish	103.0	100.6	97.2	100.7	98.7	102.1	98.7	106.6	107.0	99.3	102.1
Dairy products	104.6	105.3	105.5	102.1	104.5	102.9	102.9	104.1	106.3	106.9	103.5
Fruits and vegetables	117.5	112.0	114.1	131.6	108.0	121.6	123.1	111.4	119.9	115.6	117.5
Other foods at home	109.4	105.1	114.7	110.6	103.1	108.1	117.2	111.5	110.8	118.4	109.3
HOUSING	119.5	120.4	128.2	121.9	121.3	122.8	122.8	115.3	114.9	116.2	118.3
Rent	129.9	-	-	140.1	138.3	-	-	-	-	124.0	-
Gas and electricity	110.3	111.7	110.5	108.7	118.0	113.6	118.8	109.0	102.3	120.5	107.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil	125.7	128.1	126.2	119.9	113.2	-	117.2	130.2	126.9	118.8	128.9
Housefurnishings	104.5	105.5	106.1	107.6	102.3	107.0	102.4	105.1	105.6	105.2	106.3
Household operation	118.1	117.2	121.1	112.1	124.8	108.3	120.2	119.1	114.3	120.0	112.3
APPAREL	103.1	102.6	104.0	101.9	102.3	103.4	103.5	101.4	104.5	102.7	106.0
Men's and boys'	105.5	103.5	109.6	106.5	105.9	107.6	107.5	105.6	104.1	104.9	109.3
Women's and girls'	97.1	97.5	94.6	94.7	96.3	96.5	97.6	93.9	102.5	96.1	98.9
Footwear	116.9	112.5	120.8	113.0	114.2	118.0	112.8	115.9	111.5	115.7	119.9
Other apparel	90.2	103.6	92.5	87.1	86.8	82.3	91.6	92.9	92.0	98.2	94.6
TRANSPORTATION	125.3	134.0	129.6	120.8	123.5	122.3	117.5	129.4	137.1	137.7	123.0
MEDICAL CARE	127.3	124.5	128.0	132.4	136.2	121.4	146.7	125.4	135.1	127.4	126.5
PERSONAL CARE	113.7	111.6	115.3	119.5	116.2	117.3	115.7	108.4	117.8	116.5	109.9
READING AND RECREATION	106.6	107.1	113.1	108.8	114.6	97.3	117.5	104.9	112.4	98.6	114.6
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	119.8	118.4	118.1	124.7	117.0	114.3	125.6	121.0	123.5	120.4	118.5

Percent Change -- January 1955 to April 1955

ALL ITEMS	- 0.1	0.4	- 0.1	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.8	0.4	0	0.3	0	- 0.3
FOOD	0.5	0.7	0.3	0.5	0.1	1.6	1.2	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5
Food at home	0.6	0.9	0.5	0.4	0.3	1.2	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.5	0.7
Cereals and bakery products	0.4	0	1.7	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	- 0.2
Meats, poultry and fish	0.6	1.0	- 0.6	- 0.3	1.2	0.3	1.3	1.7	0.5	0.8	- 1.8
Dairy products	- 1.7	- 4.2	0.2	- 4.0	- 3.6	- 0.7	0.2	- 1.9	- 2.9	- 2.8	1.0
Fruits and vegetables	6.2	6.7	4.4	8.3	5.2	8.0	7.0	5.1	7.7	7.7	6.3
Other foods at home	- 1.7	1.2	- 1.7	- 1.3	- 1.5	- 1.0	- 1.5	- 0.7	- 1.0	- 1.7	0
HOUSING	- 0.1	0.3	0.1	- 0.2	0.5	- 2.1	1.2	- 0.9	0.9	- 0.5	- 0.9
Rent	0.3	-	-	1/ 0.9	1/ 0.9	-	-	-	-	1/ 0.1	-
Gas and electricity	0.8	0	4.0	- 0.4	0.1	0	7.1	0.6	0	1.4	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil	- 0.3	0	0	0	0	-	0.6	- 0.4	0	0	0.7
Housefurnishings	- 0.1	1.2	0	0.2	- 1.2	1.4	- 1.2	- 0.7	- 0.8	1.3	0.9
Household operation	0.3	0.4	0	1.7	1.9	0.2	0.8	0	- 0.3	0	0.5
APPAREL	- 0.2	0.9	- 0.1	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 0.8	- 0.9	0.6	0
Men's and boys'	0	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 1.7	- 0.2	0.7	- 0.7	0.2	- 0.6	1.6	- 1.0
Women's and girls'	- 0.5	2.0	0.1	- 0.4	- 0.7	- 0.9	- 1.7	- 1.6	- 1.5	0.1	1.1
Footwear	0.2	- 0.3	0.6	0.3	0	- 0.4	- 0.9	0	0.1	0.2	- 0.6
Other apparel	- 0.3	0.4	- 0.1	0.5	- 0.2	- 0.7	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.9	0.4	0
TRANSPORTATION	- 1.8	0.1	- 3.1	- 1.2	- 1.8	- 3.2	- 3.4	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.6
MEDICAL CARE	0.6	0	0.5	3.7	0.1	- 1.1	2.4	0.6	1.1	0.7	1.0
PERSONAL CARE	0	- 0.6	- 0.2	0.3	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.2	0	0.3	- 0.3	- 0.6
READING AND RECREATION	- 0.3	- 0.3	1.2	0.2	- 0.5	0.5	1.6	0.6	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 0.8
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	- 0.1	0	0	0	- 0.1	0	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.2	0	- 0.1

1/ Change from October 1954 to April 1955.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 April 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, March 1955 to April 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 . .	111.2	0.4	110.1	0.4	123.9	0	103.0	0.7	104.6	- 0.8	117.5	4.9	109.4	- 2.2
Atlanta	110.8	0.7	109.1	0.8	117.9	0	107.0	1.6	108.0	- 0.4	117.2	6.5	101.5	- 2.3
Baltimore	111.6	- 0.1	110.1	- 0.2	121.9	- 0.1	103.3	- 0.4	108.2	- 0.1	114.6	4.2	108.9	- 2.9
Boston	109.0	0	107.5	- 0.1	119.1	0	100.6	0.6	105.3	- 2.5	112.0	3.9	105.1	- 2.0
Chicago	109.0	0.6	107.6	0.9	118.9	- 0.3	97.2	1.9	105.5	0	114.1	5.2	114.7	- 2.2
Cincinnati	112.5	0.7	111.6	0.8	126.4	1.0	103.9	1.1	106.4	- 0.1	115.6	5.6	115.3	- 2.2
Cleveland	108.1	- 0.5	106.8	- 0.6	120.5	0.1	98.8	- 0.9	96.7	- 2.9	111.0	4.8	113.4	- 2.6
Detroit	113.3	0.3	111.9	0.3	120.2	0.2	100.7	0.6	102.1	- 0.7	131.6	5.4	110.6	- 3.2
Houston	111.1	0.4	110.0	0.5	118.7	- 0.1	101.2	0.4	108.7	- 0.1	119.8	2.7	109.3	- 0.3
Kansas City	107.0	0.1	105.5	0.3	120.8	0.1	98.7	1.9	104.5	- 3.2	108.0	4.9	103.1	- 2.3
Los Angeles	113.0	0.9	110.7	0.5	127.9	0.1	102.1	0.5	102.9	0	121.6	5.2	108.1	- 2.8
Minneapolis	111.5	0.2	110.8	0.1	126.1	0.2	98.7	1.2	102.9	- 0.2	123.1	4.1	117.2	- 3.9
New York	111.6	0.5	110.7	0.6	128.2	0	106.6	0.2	104.1	- 0.1	111.4	5.7	111.5	- 1.6
Philadelphia	113.4	0.1	112.3	0.2	121.0	0	107.0	0.7	106.3	- 2.7	119.9	4.9	110.8	- 1.8
Pittsburgh	111.5	0.5	110.7	0.5	124.5	0.1	99.3	1.0	106.9	- 2.6	115.6	7.5	118.4	- 2.1
Portland, Ore.	110.0	0.3	109.6	0.6	124.3	0.1	102.1	0.5	103.5	0	117.5	2.7	109.3	- 0.1
St. Louis	112.5	0.6	110.1	0.8	118.9	0	102.5	1.2	90.3	- 1.3	125.9	6.2	118.3	- 2.1
San Francisco	113.5	0.4	112.8	0.4	130.9	0.2	107.4	1.1	104.6	- 0.3	121.8	3.0	108.4	- 1.8
Scranton	109.0	0.3	108.9	0.3	118.6	0	102.0	1.1	105.1	- 2.4	115.2	6.2	108.2	- 2.6
Seattle	111.9	- 0.4	111.3	- 0.5	127.3	- 0.2	100.5	- 1.2	108.2	0	124.2	1.8	108.2	- 2.1
Washington, D.C.	111.5	0.5	110.2	0.6	122.2	- 0.1	100.5	0.4	110.1	- 0.8	115.2	6.9	110.0	- 1.9

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

Food and Unit	April 1955	March 1955	Food and Unit	April 1955	March 1955
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	54.1	51.1	Grapefruit * each	9.9	9.5
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.4	27.4	Peaches * lb.		
Corn meal lb.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.	35.8	
Rice lb.	17.8	17.8	Grapes, seedless * lb.		
Rolled oats 20 oz.	19.0	19.0	Watermelons * lb.		
Corn flakes 12 oz.	22.0	22.0	Potatoes 10 lb.	70.6	54.5
Bread, white lb.	17.7	17.7	Sweetpotatoes lb.	15.4	15.1
Soda crackers lb.	27.0	27.0	Onions lb.	8.5	7.4
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.8	23.8	Carrots lb.	12.7	13.0
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce lb.	17.6	17.4
Round steak lb.	90.8	91.0	Celery lb.	14.9	15.5
Chuck roast lb.	51.6	52.1	Cabbage lb.	9.4	7.8
Rib roast lb.	71.6	71.5	Tomatoes lb.	32.3	34.2
Hamburger lb.	39.9	39.7	Beans, green lb.	24.4	22.8
Veal cutlets lb.	110.1	110.5	Canned		
chops, center cut lb.	77.8	74.3	Orange juice 46 oz. can	32.8	32.7
Bacon, sliced lb.	65.9	66.7	Peaches #2 1/2 can	33.5	33.4
Ham, whole lb.	58.9	59.4	Pineapple #2 can	2/32.8	39.0
Lamb, leg lb.	68.7	68.1	Fruit cocktail #303 can	3/26.5	40.7
Frankfurters lb.	53.3	53.4	Corn, cream style #303 can	17.0	17.0
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	44.3	45.4	Peas, green #303 can	21.5	21.4
Frying chickens, dressed lb.	50.3	48.9	Tomatoes #303 can	15.1	15.0
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook lb.	61.7	59.4	Baby foods 4 1/2-5 oz.	9.7	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen lb.	42.9	42.7	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen lb.	47.3	47.5	Prunes lb.	32.9	32.7
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	54.9	54.6	Navy beans lb.	18.9	18.8
Tuna fish, canned 7 oz.	37.7	37.9	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.1	14.2
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	21.6	21.8	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	14.9	14.8
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	22.6	22.9	Pickles, sweet 1/7 1/2 oz.	28.2	28.2
Ice cream pt.	29.1	29.2	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.3	22.3
Butter lb.	70.8	71.0	Coffee lb.	92.5	94.2
Cheese, American process lb.	57.6	57.8	Tea 1/2 lb.	41.1	40.2
Milk, evaporated 14 1/2 oz. can	13.7	13.7	Cola drink carton of 6, 6 oz.	32.6	32.5
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated lb.	35.0	35.2
Frozen			Margarine, colored lb.	29.1	29.2
Strawberries 10 oz.	30.6	30.8	Lard lb.	20.8	21.1
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	17.9	17.7	Salad dressing pt.	35.4	35.5
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.6	19.5	Peanut butter lb.	54.3	53.4
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.2	24.2	Sugar 5 lb.	52.1	52.2
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples lb.	15.3	14.3	Grape jelly 12 oz.	25.9	25.9
Bananas lb.	17.0	17.0	Chocolate bar 7/8 oz.	4.6	4.6
Oranges, size 200 doz.	49.9	48.2	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	54.9	60.2
Lemons lb.	18.3	18.1	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.5	8.6

* Priced only in season
 1/ Formerly published as sweet gherkins.
 2/ Pricing shifted to #2 can in April; comparable price for March, 32.8 cents.
 3/ Pricing shifted to #303 can in April; comparable price for March, 26.5 cents.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

7

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.

