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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - JUNE 1955

Consumer prices in U.S. cities rose 0.2 percent between May and June 1955, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The increase was due principally to a seasonal rise in food prices and to small increases in a number of other elements in the family budget. The Consumer Price Index in June moved up to 114.4 (1947-49 = 100). This was the first monthly change of more than 0.1 percent since last December. The index has fluctuated between 114.2 and 115.2 since November 1953.

Prices were higher than a month earlier for food, housing, transportation, personal care, and medical care. Reading and recreation costs and apparel prices declined during the month.

FOOD

At 111.3, the food index was 0.2 percent higher than in May.

Increases were reported for pork, poultry, fresh fruits, eggs, beef and veal, lamb, and cereals and bakery products. Dairy products also increased slightly. In contrast, decreased costs to consumers were reported for fresh vegetables, restaurant meals, coffee, and tea. The food index showed increases in 26 cities and decreases in 17, while 3 large cities showed no change.

Retail prices of meats, poultry, and fish as a group rose 1.7 percent from May to June. In response to the sharp curtailment of hog marketings in late May and early June, prices for pork increased more than usual. Pork chops were up 8.4 percent on the average throughout the country; ham prices also increased by 2.5 percent and bacon edged up slightly. Despite the continued large supply of young chickens, poultry prices increased 1.7 percent, following the substantial decline in May.

As a group, prices of fruits and vegetables decreased 0.6 percent, with fresh vegetables down an average of 10.7 percent. Fresh fruit prices rose 8.7 percent chiefly because of higher prices for apples, grapefruit, and watermelons. White potato prices declined to 71.7 cents per 10-pound bag, from an average price of 80.9 cents in May - the high for the year. This decline was quite general throughout the country. Retail prices of green beans, fresh tomatoes, lettuce, and cabbage also reflected considerable seasonal price declines ranging from 11 to 27 percent.

Coffee and tea prices declined, with the U.S. average price of coffee down to 89 cents per pound, the first month since July 1953 in which it has been less than 90 cents. Egg prices edged up, as warm weather reduced production; and there were scattered increases in prices of bread and milk. Lower prices for restaurant meals were reported in some cities.

HOUSING

The housing index rose 0.3 percent between May and June, as residential rents edged up 0.1 percent and costs of home maintenance and repairs and some furnishings were higher. Sheets and a few other housefurnishings items returned to regular prices after May sales, but price reductions were reported for vacuum cleaners, bedroom furniture, living room suites, and rugs. Dry cleaning prices advanced in several cities, but prices of laundry soap and detergents were slightly lower than in May. Higher prices for anthracite and bituminous coal were announced, but there were reductions in gas bills in a few cities.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

The transportation index advanced 0.2 percent during the month, as used car prices rose seasonally and gasoline prices also increased. Automobile insurance rates were reduced in a number of cities and prices of tires declined slightly.

The rise of 0.7 percent in the personal care index during the month (the largest monthly change since April 1954 when Federal excise taxes were reduced) resulted primarily from higher prices for men's haircuts in several cities. Medical care costs continued upward in June, with higher rates for hospital and professional services.

The decline of 0.3 percent for reading and recreation was mainly due to sale prices for sporting goods and toys, although prices of television sets and radios also declined. Motion picture admission charges advanced, with some operators reporting higher prices for special features, while others returned to regular prices after temporary increases for special attractions.

Apparel prices declined 0.1 percent during the month, with slight decreases for women's rayon dresses and nylon hose and a few items of men's and boys' apparel.

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

Group	June 1955	May 1955	April 1955	June 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	114.4	114.2	114.2	115.1	101.8	59.4
FOOD ^{1/}	111.3	111.1	111.2	113.8	100.5	47.1
Food at home	110.3	110.0	110.1	113.3	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	124.0	123.8	123.9	121.3	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	103.8	102.1	103.0	111.1	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	104.1	104.0	104.6	102.9	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	119.5	120.2	117.5	117.1	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	107.7	108.4	109.4	115.2	94.1	48.4
HOUSING ^{2/}	119.7	119.4	119.5	118.9	104.9	76.1
Rent	130.4	130.3	129.9	128.3	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	110.7	110.9	110.3	107.6	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	122.7	122.5	125.7	120.9	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	103.8	103.7	104.5	105.8	97.4	53.4
Household operation	119.2	119.0	118.1	117.2	99.6	68.4
APPAREL	103.2	103.3	103.1	104.2	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys'	105.6	105.7	105.5	107.0	98.1	4/
Women's and girls'	97.2	97.3	97.1	98.5	93.3	4/
Footwear	117.4	117.4	116.9	116.3	102.1	4/
Other apparel	90.1	90.3	90.2	91.0	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION	125.8	125.5	125.3	128.9	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE	127.6	127.5	127.3	125.1	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE	114.7	113.9	113.7	112.7	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.2	106.5	106.6	106.4	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	119.9	119.9	119.8	120.1	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO JUNE 1955 FROM:

	May 1955	April 1955	June 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0.2	0.2	- 0.6	12.4	92.6
FOOD ^{1/}	0.2	0.1	- 2.2	10.7	136.3
Food at home	0.3	0.2	- 2.6	9.8	134.2
Cereals and bakery products	0.2	0.1	2.2	20.7	116.8
Meats, poultry and fish	1.7	0.8	- 6.6	- 2.2	119.5
Dairy products	0.1	- 0.5	1.2	12.8	109.0
Fruits and vegetables	- 0.6	1.7	2.0	16.6	158.1
Other foods at home	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 6.5	14.5	122.5
HOUSING ^{2/}	0.3	0.2	0.7	14.1	57.3
Rent	0.1	0.4	1.6	20.0	50.6
Gas and electricity	- 0.2	0.4	2.9	7.8	5.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil	0.2	- 2.4	1.5	14.0	117.6
Housefurnishings	0.1	- 0.7	- 1.9	6.6	94.4
Household operation	0.2	0.9	1.7	19.7	74.3
APPAREL	- 0.1	0.1	- 1.0	6.9	96.6
Men's and boys'	- 0.1	0.1	- 1.3	7.6	4/
Women's and girls'	- 0.1	0.1	- 1.3	4.2	4/
Footwear	0	0.4	0.9	15.0	4/
Other apparel	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 1.0	1.9	4/
TRANSPORTATION	0.2	0.4	- 2.4	14.5	82.6
MEDICAL CARE	0.1	0.2	2.0	21.1	75.8
PERSONAL CARE	0.7	0.9	1.8	15.6	92.4
READING AND RECREATION	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 0.2	3.6	68.6
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	0	0.1	- 0.2	15.6	69.8

^{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)
	June 1955	May 1955	June 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	June 1955 ^{1/}
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	114.4	114.2	115.1	101.8	59.4	191.3
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	117.4	117.2	117.3	102.8	58.6	199.9
Detroit	116.7	116.4	117.1	102.8	59.0	197.0
Los Angeles	115.3	115.4	115.7	101.3	60.4	192.7
New York	111.8	111.8	112.9	100.9	60.1	185.0
Philadelphia	115.5	115.5	115.9	101.6	59.2	192.2
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER ^{2/}						
Atlanta	116.0	115.3	117.6	^{4/} 101.3	58.3	196.7
Baltimore	115.0	114.9	115.5	101.6	57.9	197.7
Cincinnati	113.7	113.4	114.2	101.2	58.4	191.5
St. Louis	115.9	115.6	117.4	101.1	59.3	193.4
San Francisco	115.3	115.6	116.8	100.9	58.6	197.0
CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER ^{2/}						
Cleveland	115.3	114.9	115.3	100.4	59.2	196.5
Houston	115.5	115.7	116.7	103.5	59.5	195.5
Soranton	111.4	111.7	112.3	100.2	58.5	185.1
Seattle	116.8	116.3	116.3	102.0	59.2	199.6
Washington, D. C.	113.5	113.2	113.7	101.6	60.4	186.4
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER ^{2/}						
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

^{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 MAY 1955 TO JUNE 1955
U.S. City Average and Five Cities Priced Monthly
All Items and Commodity Groups

City	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical Care	Personal Care	Reading and Recreation	Other Goods & Services
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	0.2	0.2	0.3	- 0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7	- 0.3	0
Chicago	0.2	0	0.4	- 0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	- 0.4	- 0.7
Detroit	0.3	- 0.4	0.2	0.1	1.4	0	5.9	0.3	0
Los Angeles	- 0.1	- 0.6	0.8	- 0.3	- 1.0	0.1	0.2	1.4	0.2
New York	0	0.3	0	- 0.2	- 0.2	0	0.4	0.4	0
Philadelphia	0	0.2	0.2	- 0.2	0.3	0	- 0.3	- 0.4	0

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicag o	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
<u>June 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)</u>											
ALL ITEMS	114.4	116.0	115.0	117.4	113.7	116.7	115.3	111.8	115.5	115.9	115.3
FOOD	111.3	111.0	112.2	109.2	112.9	113.9	111.4	110.8	113.1	112.4	113.4
Food at home	110.3	109.6	110.7	107.6	112.0	112.8	109.2	109.7	111.9	110.1	112.9
Cereals and bakery products	124.0	118.4	121.9	118.7	124.7	119.9	127.9	128.7	119.9	118.5	130.9
Meats, poultry and fish	103.8	107.6	104.2	98.2	105.2	102.3	102.7	105.9	106.7	103.6	106.7
Dairy products	104.1	108.1	108.1	104.6	106.4	105.6	103.2	101.5	106.1	91.1	104.9
Fruits and vegetables	119.5	118.7	118.6	116.0	120.2	132.9	113.4	111.6	123.1	126.7	123.5
Other foods at home	107.7	101.3	107.4	112.8	112.6	108.8	107.0	109.6	107.7	115.7	108.4
HOUSING	119.7	124.4	115.8	129.5	117.4	122.0	126.5	114.9	114.2	119.3	116.3
Rent	130.4	-	-	-	131.9	-	-	-	-	136.0	132.1
Gas and electricity	110.7	121.0	99.9	110.5	119.0	108.5	116.2	109.1	102.3	103.8	136.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil	122.7	112.3	121.7	126.6	125.4	118.8	-	123.9	113.1	132.9	-
Housefurnishings	103.8	107.0	97.7	105.7	98.8	107.9	105.7	103.4	105.7	101.5	104.6
Household operation	119.2	130.2	111.9	122.3	122.7	112.0	124.6	119.3	114.3	119.0	109.7
APPAREL	103.2	109.4	102.5	104.0	103.0	102.0	103.4	101.2	103.9	103.5	103.2
Men's and boys'	105.6	111.1	101.4	109.5	103.4	106.8	106.8	106.0	104.3	106.7	104.3
Women's and girls'	97.2	103.9	98.9	94.5	97.6	94.6	97.3	93.1	101.2	96.0	98.6
Footwear	117.4	124.0	117.0	121.2	123.7	113.3	118.0	116.8	111.5	119.7	118.5
Other apparel	90.1	91.4	94.2	92.5	87.4	87.1	81.8	92.5	91.5	95.6	87.8
TRANSPORTATION	125.8	124.1	137.0	130.4	123.2	122.6	122.7	128.6	139.1	134.8	137.9
MEDICAL CARE	127.6	122.9	134.4	128.5	127.6	132.5	121.5	126.1	135.1	140.0	123.8
PERSONAL CARE	114.7	115.2	109.0	115.2	113.9	126.3	117.4	108.9	117.3	117.3	110.9
READING AND RECREATION	106.2	107.0	114.4	112.6	100.1	108.0	98.3	105.1	112.6	92.1	106.2
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	119.9	119.2	122.6	117.3	116.6	124.8	114.8	121.0	123.4	116.7	115.0

Percent Change -- March 1955 to June 1955

ALL ITEMS	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	- 0.5	- 0.3	0.3	- 0.3
FOOD	0.5	0.9	0.4	0.8	1.1	0.8	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.5	0.3
Food at home	0.5	1.3	0.4	0.9	1.2	1.1	- 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.2	0.8	0.5
Cereals and bakery products	0.1	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.1	0.1	0.4	- 0.9	- 0.3	0.2
Meats, poultry and fish	1.5	2.2	0.5	2.9	2.3	2.2	1.1	- 0.5	0.4	2.3	0.5
Dairy products	- 1.2	- 0.3	- 0.2	- 0.9	- 0.1	2.7	0.3	- 2.6	- 2.8	- 0.4	0
Fruits and vegetables	6.7	7.9	7.8	6.9	9.8	6.4	- 1.9	5.9	7.7	6.9	4.5
Other foods at home	- 3.8	- 2.5	- 4.2	- 3.8	- 4.5	- 4.8	- 3.8	- 3.3	- 4.5	- 4.2	- 1.8
HOUSING	0.1	0.4	- 0.1	0.9	0.1	- 0.2	3.0	- 1.3	- 0.6	- 0.1	0.3
Rent	0.3	-	-	-	<u>1/</u> 0.2	-	-	-	-	<u>1/</u> 0.4	<u>1/</u> 1.0
Gas and electricity	0.4	6.8	- 0.2	0	0.3	- 0.4	2.3	0.3	0	0	2.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	- 2.8	- 6.0	- 4.3	0.3	- 1.4	- 0.9	-	- 5.2	- 10.9	- 4.8	-
Housefurnishings	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 1.3	1.3	- 1.2	- 1.6	- 0.8	- 0.2	0.7
Household operation	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.0	0.3	0.2	15.1	0.2	0	- 0.3	0.4
APPAREL	0	0.9	- 0.2	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 0.5	0	- 0.9	- 0.7	- 0.6	0.1
Men's and boys'	0	0.2	0.2	- 0.5	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 1.1	- 0.1	0.5	- 0.8	- 0.6
Women's and girls'	- 0.2	1.7	- 0.6	- 1.6	- 1.2	- 1.0	1.1	- 1.9	- 1.7	- 0.7	- 0.1
Footwear	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.5	0	0.9	0.5	0.6	1.9
Other apparel	- 0.3	0.4	- 0.2	- 0.4	1.4	- 0.3	- 1.1	- 0.9	- 0.8	- 0.4	0
TRANSPORTATION	- 1.2	0.4	0.1	- 2.0	- 0.5	1.1	- 3.8	- 1.2	1.3	0	- 2.1
MEDICAL CARE	0.5	0.1	0	0.8	0.2	0.2	- 1.1	0.9	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.2
PERSONAL CARE	1.1	0.4	1.3	- 0.1	4.5	5.5	0	0.6	- 0.3	3.3	0
READING AND RECREATION	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 1.1	- 0.4	- 0.9	0.1	1.1	0.5	0.2	- 0.6	- 2.3
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	0.1	1.0	0	- 0.7	0.4	0.1	0.3	0	- 0.1	1.5	- 0.2

1/ Change from December 1954 to June 1955.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
June 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, May 1955 to June 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 . .	111.3	0.2	110.3	0.3	124.0	0.2	103.8	1.7	104.1	0.1	119.5	- 0.6	107.7	- 0.5
Atlanta	111.0	- 0.1	109.6	0.1	118.4	0.7	107.6	1.5	108.1	- 0.7	118.7	- 1.6	101.3	- 0.2
Baltimore	112.2	0.8	110.7	0.9	121.9	0	104.2	2.5	108.1	0	118.6	1.5	107.4	- 0.3
Boston	109.5	0.6	108.0	0.7	119.1	- 0.1	101.2	1.5	105.2	1.1	115.9	1.2	103.9	- 0.1
Chicago	109.2	0	107.6	- 0.1	118.7	- 0.1	98.2	1.3	104.6	1.2	116.0	- 2.2	112.8	- 1.0
Cincinnati	112.9	0.4	112.0	0.4	124.7	- 0.2	105.2	1.4	106.4	0	120.2	1.2	112.6	- 1.0
Cleveland	109.3	- 0.3	108.3	- 0.3	120.1	0	102.1	1.3	96.5	0	116.5	- 2.3	111.0	- 1.2
Detroit	113.9	- 0.4	112.8	- 0.4	119.9	- 0.1	102.3	2.0	105.6	- 0.2	132.9	- 3.1	108.8	- 1.1
Houston	110.2	- 0.5	108.9	- 0.6	118.1	0	101.5	0.2	108.5	- 0.1	116.8	- 2.0	106.9	- 1.2
Kansas City	107.4	0.3	105.9	0.4	120.7	- 0.2	99.8	1.3	104.4	0	111.2	1.2	101.3	- 0.9
Los Angeles	111.4	- 0.6	109.2	- 0.4	127.9	0	102.7	0.9	103.2	0.3	113.4	- 2.2	107.0	- 1.0
Minneapolis	111.7	0.3	111.0	0.4	126.1	0.1	100.0	1.9	102.5	- 0.1	125.6	0.5	114.4	- 1.5
New York	110.8	0.3	109.7	0.4	128.7	0.5	105.9	1.8	101.5	- 0.1	111.6	- 1.6	109.6	0.1
Philadelphia	113.1	0.2	111.9	0.2	119.9	- 0.8	106.7	1.7	106.1	0.1	123.1	- 1.0	107.7	- 0.3
Pittsburgh	112.5	1.1	112.0	1.4	124.3	0.3	101.5	2.7	106.7	- 0.1	122.1	3.3	116.2	- 0.4
Portland, Ore.	110.7	0.5	110.4	0.6	124.8	0.6	103.5	1.5	103.3	0.4	120.1	0.9	108.9	0
St. Louis	112.4	- 0.1	110.1	0	118.5	- 0.3	103.6	1.3	91.1	- 0.2	126.7	- 0.4	115.7	- 1.3
San Francisco	113.4	0	112.9	0.3	130.9	0	106.7	0	104.9	0	123.5	1.3	108.4	0
Scranton	108.9	0.3	108.8	0.4	119.6	1.9	103.9	1.9	105.0	0.1	114.3	- 2.3	105.4	- 0.2
Seattle	113.0	- 0.2	112.1	- 0.2	127.8	0	102.1	0.5	108.2	- 0.2	125.2	- 1.2	108.7	- 0.2
Washington, D.C.	111.3	0	109.7	0	121.9	- 0.1	101.7	2.4	109.1	- 0.4	114.7	- 2.5	107.7	- 0.3

TABLE 6. RETAIL FOOD PRICES FOR JUNE 1955 AND MAY 1955
U.S. City Average

Food and Unit	June 1955	May 1955	Food and Unit	June 1955	May 1955
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	53.9	53.9	Grapefruit * each		10.4
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.4	27.4	Peaches * 1b.		
Corn meal 1b.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.	29.1	29.7
Rice 1b.	17.9	17.8	Grapes, seedless * 1b.		
Rolled oats 20 oz.	19.2	19.1	Watermelons * 1b.	6.4	
Corn flakes 12 oz.	21.9	22.0	Potatoes 10 lb.	71.7	80.9
Bread, white 1b.	17.7	17.7	Sweetpotatoes 1b.	16.0	15.9
Soda crackers 1b.	27.0	27.1	Onions 1b.	8.5	8.5
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.8	23.8	Carrots 1b.	13.0	12.5
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	13.4	15.2
Round steak 1b.	90.1	89.2	Celery 1b.	13.9	14.3
Chuck roast 1b.	49.8	49.8	Cabbage 1b.	8.0	10.5
Rib roast 1b.	70.8	70.7	Tomatoes 1b.	26.9	30.2
Hamburger 1b.	39.4	39.6	Beans, green 1b.	18.3	25.1
Veal cutlets 1b.	109.5	109.5	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	89.8	82.9	Orange juice 46 oz. can	33.4	33.0
Bacon, sliced 1b.	65.7	65.5	Peaches #2 1/2 can	33.9	33.7
Ham, whole 1b.	61.9	60.4	Pineapple #2 can	32.8	32.8
Lamb, leg 1b.	69.5	67.4	Fruit cocktail #303 can	26.4	26.4
Frankfurters 1b.	52.8	53.0	Corn, cream style #303 can	16.9	16.9
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	43.4	43.7	Peas, green #303 can	21.5	21.5
Frying chickens, dressed 1b.	46.6	46.0	Tomatoes #303 can	15.3	15.2
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	58.6	57.5	Baby foods 4 1/2-5 oz.	9.7	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	42.5	43.0	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	46.6	47.0	Prunes 1b.	33.7	33.4
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	55.5	55.3	Navy beans 1b.	18.8	18.8
Tuna fish, canned 7 oz.	37.5	37.6	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.1	14.1
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	21.4	21.4	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	14.9	14.8
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	22.5	22.5	Pickles, sweet 1/7 1/2 oz.	28.0	28.1
Ice cream pt.	29.0	29.1	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.4	22.4
Butter 1b.	70.4	70.4	Coffee 1b.	89.0	92.2
Cheese, American process 1b.	57.8	57.7	Tea 1/2 lb.	40.3	40.8
Milk, evaporated 14 1/2 oz. can	13.7	13.7	Cola drink carton of 6, 6 oz.	32.4	32.5
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated 1b.	34.4	34.4
Frozen			Margarine, colored 1b.	28.6	28.8
Strawberries 10 oz.	30.7	30.8	Lard 1b.	20.8	21.0
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	18.1	18.0	Salad dressing pt.	35.3	35.3
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.6	19.6	Peanut butter 1b.	54.4	54.4
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.2	24.2	Sugar 5 lb.	52.0	52.1
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples 1b.	18.8	17.2	Grape jelly 12 oz.	26.0	26.0
Bananas 1b.	17.0	16.9	Chocolate bar 7/8 oz.	4.6	4.6
Oranges, size 200 doz.	52.9	52.2	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	53.6	53.2
Lemons 1b.	17.5	18.0	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.6	8.5

* Priced only in season.
1/ Formerly published as sweet gherkins.

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.

