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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - JULY 1955

Consumer prices of goods and services in United States cities rose 0.3 percent between June and July 1955, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. As in June, seasonally higher food prices were mainly responsible for the increase, although continued small increases in rates for services were also a factor. Costs of housing, personal care, medical care, the other goods and services category, and reading and recreation advanced during the month. Transportation costs were lower than in June and apparel prices were unchanged on the average.

The Consumer Price Index for July 1955 was 114.7 percent of the 1947-49 average, 0.4 percent lower than a year ago. Among the index components now at their highest levels are residential rents, household operation, medical care, and personal care. These categories are more strongly influenced by changes in costs of services than other index groups.

FOOD

The food index rose 0.7 percent to 112.1, but remained 2.2 percent lower than in July 1954. Substantial seasonal increases in prices of fresh fruits and eggs, with lesser advances in dairy products, restaurant meals, pork products, processed fruits and vegetables, fats and oils, and bakery products caused the increase over the month. Lower prices were reported for fresh vegetables, poultry, some cuts of beef, lamb, and watermelons. The family food budget cost more in 36 cities, but slightly less in the other 10.

Prices of fresh fruits rose 9.4 percent, following their 8.7 percent increase from May to June. Fresh peaches returned to the 1955 market at an average price of 30.9 cents per pound compared with 18.9 cents last July, reflecting the severe damage to this year's crop in the Southern states from the March freeze. Grapes also appeared in the market at higher prices than at the end of last season. Prices of apples were up 8.9 percent. Oranges continued to increase (up 5.2 percent), as they usually do in the Summer. Watermelon prices declined 27.0 percent from the first of season price in June, as lower prices were reported in 43 of the 46 cities. Fresh vegetable prices declined 5.1 percent, led by potatoes (down 17.4 percent), reflecting abundant supplies, with all 46 cities reporting decreases. Green beans (down 17.1 percent) and cabbage (down 13.3 percent) were both reported selling at lower prices in all but 2 or 3 cities. Lettuce prices, down last month, rose 18.9 percent, because of crop damage caused by hot, dry weather; costs of fresh tomatoes and celery advanced slightly.

Egg prices rose seasonally in 43 cities, averaging 6.5 percent higher than in June. Small price increases contributing to the 1.4 percent rise in the "other food purchased for consumption at home" category were reported for shortening, margarine, peanut butter, and canned pork and beans. Scattered increases in prices of bread and milk caused the advances in the indexes of cereals and bakery products (up 0.2 percent) and dairy products (up 0.6 percent).

The meats, poultry, and fish group declined fractionally (0.1 percent), and is now 5.5 percent below its July 1954 level. Substantial decreases in July prices of pork chops (down 3.0 percent) and to a lesser extent in poultry (down 1.1 percent) reversed their price movement from May to June. Chuck roast prices also declined. In contrast, prices of processed pork (bacon and ham) rose almost enough to offset these decreases.

HOUSING

The housing index rose 0.2 percent between June and July, although residential rents held at their June level. Prices of anthracite coal and fuel oil advanced during the month. Laundry service charges showed a small increase, but sale prices for dry cleaning were reported in some cities. The slight decline (0.2 percent) in housefurnishings prices resulted principally from widespread reductions for electric refrigerators. A number of sale prices in retail stores were also reported for vacuum cleaners, washing machines, sewing machines, and both living room and bedroom furniture.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Prices for men's haircuts were reported as much as 20 percent higher in several cities, and prices of home permanent wave refill kits advanced in most cities priced in July. Physicians', surgeons', dentists' fees, and hospital rates rose in a number of cities.

The 0.1 percent increase in reading and recreation costs represents the net effect of higher motion picture admissions for special features and lower prices for television sets and sporting goods.

Prices of new automobiles continued downward as dealers granted larger concessions, and used car prices also declined during the month. Reduced automobile insurance rates were reported, but gasoline prices were higher than in June.

The apparel index was unchanged as price declines for nylon slips and hose were counterbalanced by some increases in men's and boys' apparel and footwear.

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

Group	July 1955	June 1955	May 1955	July 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	114.7	114.4	114.2	115.2	101.8	59.4
FOOD ^{1/}	112.1	111.3	111.1	114.6	100.5	47.1
Food at home	111.1	110.3	110.0	114.2	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	124.2	124.0	123.8	121.6	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	103.7	103.8	102.1	109.7	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	104.7	104.1	104.0	104.3	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	121.9	119.5	120.2	120.1	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	109.2	107.7	108.4	117.3	94.1	48.4
HOUSING ^{2/}	119.9	119.7	119.4	119.0	104.9	76.1
Rent	130.4	130.4	130.3	128.5	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	110.8	110.7	110.9	107.8	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	123.2	122.7	122.5	121.1	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	103.6	103.8	103.7	105.7	97.4	53.4
Household operation	119.4	119.2	119.0	117.2	99.6	68.4
APPAREL	103.2	103.2	103.3	104.0	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys'	105.7	105.6	105.7	106.6	98.1	^{4/}
Women's and girls'	96.9	97.2	97.3	98.2	93.3	^{4/}
Footwear	117.5	117.4	117.4	116.5	102.1	^{4/}
Other apparel	90.5	90.1	90.3	90.8	88.4	^{4/}
TRANSPORTATION	125.4	125.8	125.5	126.7	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE	127.9	127.6	127.5	125.2	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE	115.5	114.7	113.9	113.3	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.3	106.2	106.5	107.0	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	120.3	119.9	119.9	120.3	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO JULY 1955 FROM:

	June 1955	May 1955	July 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0.3	0.4	- 0.4	12.7	93.1
FOOD ^{1/}	0.7	0.9	- 2.2	11.5	138.0
Food at home	0.7	1.0	- 2.7	10.5	135.9
Cereals and bakery products	0.2	0.3	2.1	20.9	117.1
Meats, poultry and fish	- 0.1	1.6	- 5.5	- 2.3	149.3
Dairy products	0.6	0.7	0.4	13.4	110.2
Fruits and vegetables	2.0	1.4	1.5	18.9	163.3
Other foods at home	1.4	0.7	- 6.9	16.0	125.6
HOUSING ^{2/}	0.2	0.4	0.8	14.3	57.6
Rent	0	0.1	1.5	20.0	50.6
Gas and electricity	0.1	- 0.1	2.8	7.9	5.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil	0.4	0.6	1.7	14.5	118.4
Housefurnishings	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 2.0	6.4	94.0
Household operation	0.2	0.3	1.9	19.9	74.6
APPAREL	0	- 0.1	- 0.8	6.9	96.6
Men's and boys'	0.1	0	- 0.8	7.7	^{4/}
Women's and girls'	- 0.3	- 0.4	- 1.3	3.9	^{4/}
Footwear	0.1	0.1	0.9	15.1	^{4/}
Other apparel	0.4	0.2	- 0.3	2.4	^{4/}
TRANSPORTATION	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 1.0	14.1	82.0
MEDICAL CARE	0.2	0.3	2.2	21.3	76.2
PERSONAL CARE	0.7	1.4	1.9	16.4	93.8
READING AND RECREATION	0.1	- 0.2	- 0.7	3.7	68.7
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	0.3	0.3	0	16.0	70.4

^{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)
	July 1955	June 1955	July 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	July 1955 ^{1/}
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	114.7	114.4	115.2	101.8	59.4	191.8
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	118.2	117.4	118.0	102.8	58.6	201.3
Detroit	116.8	116.7	117.5	102.8	59.0	197.2
Los Angeles	115.9	115.3	114.9	101.3	60.4	193.7
New York	111.9	111.8	113.3	100.9	60.1	185.2
Philadelphia	115.8	115.5	116.3	101.6	59.2	192.7
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER ^{2/}						
	July 1955	April 1955	July 1954	April 1950		July 1955
Boston	113.8	113.4	113.8	101.2	61.0	183.2
Kansas City	115.9	115.2	115.6	101.4	61.7	186.6
Minneapolis	117.5	117.0	117.3	^{3/} 102.1	60.7	194.6
Pittsburgh	114.0	113.8	115.4	99.9	58.1	193.8
Portland, Oreg.	114.7	114.2	115.5	101.5	58.3	198.7
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER ^{2/}						
	June 1955	March 1955	June 1954	June 1950		June 1955
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/}						
	May 1955	February 1955	May 1954	May 1950		May 1955
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
Scranton	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

^{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 JUNE 1955 TO JULY 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	0.3	0.7	0.2	0	- 0.3	0.2	0.7	0.1	0.3
Chicago	0.7	1.2	0.5	1.0	- 0.3	0	0.6	0.8	0.8
Detroit	0.1	0.4	- 0.2	0.2	- 0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	0
Los Angeles	0.5	0.7	0.4	0.3	0.1	2.3	0.3	- 2.1	1.0
New York	0.1	0.7	0	- 0.3	- 0.9	0.1	0.3	- 0.9	0
Philadelphia	0.3	1.0	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.4	0	0.1	0.5	0.1

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland, Oreg.
July 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)											
ALL ITEMS	114.7	113.8	118.2	116.8	115.9	115.9	117.5	111.9	115.8	114.0	114.7
FOOD	112.1	110.8	110.5	114.4	107.7	112.2	112.1	111.6	114.2	112.3	111.7
Food at home	111.1	109.6	109.0	113.3	106.2	109.7	111.3	110.6	113.3	111.7	111.1
Cereals and bakery products	124.2	119.1	119.3	119.7	120.8	127.9	126.2	128.9	122.9	124.5	124.8
Meats, poultry and fish	103.7	101.4	98.4	101.6	98.9	103.6	99.7	104.8	106.3	100.8	105.0
Dairy products	104.7	106.4	106.4	105.3	103.8	103.0	104.2	102.7	108.8	106.5	103.2
Fruits and vegetables	121.9	120.7	120.0	135.3	114.3	114.5	123.1	115.3	123.6	120.0	118.7
Other foods at home	109.2	105.8	113.9	110.4	101.7	107.5	116.7	111.3	110.2	117.8	110.9
HOUSING	119.9	120.4	130.2	121.8	121.8	127.0	123.2	114.9	114.0	116.1	118.2
Rent	130.4	124.1	-	-	-	-	141.4	117.8	-	-	130.8
Gas and electricity	110.8	111.7	110.5	108.4	120.1	116.2	118.8	108.9	102.3	124.2	107.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil	123.2	123.7	127.4	117.5	113.2	-	117.1	124.2	114.4	112.5	131.6
Housefurnishings	103.6	105.6	106.2	106.8	102.1	105.1	100.4	103.2	104.9	102.4	103.3
Household operation	119.4	117.8	124.0	112.2	124.9	124.6	120.0	119.3	114.3	119.6	111.7
APPAREL	103.2	101.5	105.0	102.2	102.0	103.7	103.1	100.9	103.5	101.2	105.1
Men's and boys'	105.7	103.7	110.4	107.1	106.4	107.6	107.6	105.7	104.3	104.5	107.7
Women's and girls'	96.9	95.4	95.7	94.8	95.3	96.9	96.7	92.5	100.3	93.6	98.1
Footwear	117.5	113.2	121.7	113.3	114.7	118.6	112.8	117.0	111.8	114.9	119.9
Other apparel	90.5	102.9	93.2	87.2	86.6	82.8	91.3	92.6	91.2	97.2	94.1
TRANSPORTATION	125.4	132.5	130.0	122.3	125.5	122.8	118.6	127.4	138.6	137.7	122.4
MEDICAL CARE	127.9	125.0	128.5	132.6	136.4	124.3	148.0	126.2	135.1	131.6	125.9
PERSONAL CARE	115.5	112.3	115.9	126.8	121.4	117.8	122.5	109.2	117.4	116.5	117.7
READING AND RECREATION	106.3	107.7	113.5	108.2	115.6	96.2	116.8	104.2	113.2	97.7	116.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	120.3	118.5	118.2	124.8	116.5	116.0	126.3	121.0	123.5	120.4	120.1

Percent Change -- April 1955 to July 1955

ALL ITEMS	0.4	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.6	1.2	0.4	- 0.4	0	0.2	0.4
FOOD	0.8	1.7	1.4	1.0	0.7	- 0.7	0.5	0	0.7	0.7	1.5
Food at home	0.9	2.0	1.3	1.3	0.7	- 0.9	0.5	- 0.1	0.9	0.9	1.4
Cereals and bakery products	0.2	0	0.3	- 0.4	0	0	0.1	0.5	1.6	0	0.4
Meats, poultry and fish	0.7	0.8	1.2	0.9	0.2	1.5	1.0	- 1.7	- 0.7	1.5	2.8
Dairy products	0.1	1.0	0.9	3.1	- 0.7	0.1	1.3	- 1.3	2.4	- 0.4	- 0.3
Fruits and vegetables	3.7	7.8	5.2	2.8	5.8	- 5.8	0	3.5	3.1	3.8	1.0
Other foods at home	- 0.2	0.7	- 0.7	- 0.2	- 1.4	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.2	- 0.5	- 0.5	1.5
HOUSING	0.3	0	1.6	- 0.1	0.4	3.4	0.3	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.1	- 0.1
Rent	0.4	<u>1/</u> 1.1	-	-	-	-	<u>1/</u> 1.0	<u>1/</u> 0	-	-	<u>1/</u> 0.9
Gas and electricity	0.5	0	0	- 0.3	1.8	2.3	0	- 0.1	0	3.1	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil	- 2.0	- 3.4	1.0	- 2.0	0	-	- 0.1	- 4.6	- 9.9	- 5.3	2.1
Housefurnishings	- 0.9	0.1	0.1	- 0.7	- 0.2	- 1.8	- 2.0	- 1.8	- 0.7	- 2.7	- 2.8
Household operation	1.1	0.5	2.4	0.1	0.1	15.1	- 0.2	0.2	0	0.3	- 0.5
APPAREL	0.1	- 1.1	1.0	0.3	- 0.3	0.3	- 0.4	- 0.5	- 1.0	- 1.5	- 0.8
Men's and boys'	0.2	0.2	0.7	0.6	0.5	0	0.1	0.1	0.2	- 0.4	- 1.5
Women's and girls'	- 0.2	- 2.2	1.2	0.1	- 1.0	0.4	- 0.9	- 1.5	- 2.1	- 2.6	- 0.8
Footwear	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.5	0	0.9	0.3	- 0.7	0
Other apparel	0.3	- 0.7	0.8	0.1	- 0.2	0.6	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 0.9	- 1.0	- 0.5
TRANSPORTATION	0.1	- 1.1	0.3	1.2	1.6	0.4	0.9	- 1.5	1.1	0	- 0.5
MEDICAL CARE	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	2.4	0.9	0.6	0	3.3	- 0.5
PERSONAL CARE	1.6	0.6	0.5	6.1	4.5	0.4	5.9	0.7	- 0.3	0	7.1
READING AND RECREATION	- 0.3	0.6	0.4	- 0.6	0.9	- 1.1	- 0.6	- 0.7	0.7	- 0.9	1.2
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	- 0.4	1.5	0.6	0	0	0	1.4

1/ Change from January 1955 to July 1955.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 July 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, June 1955 to July 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 . .	112.1	0.7	111.1	0.7	124.2	0.2	103.7	- 0.1	104.7	0.6	121.9	2.0	109.2	1.4
Atlanta	110.8	- 0.2	109.3	- 0.3	117.9	- 0.4	107.5	- 0.1	108.0	- 0.1	115.7	- 2.5	102.4	1.1
Baltimore	112.1	- 0.1	110.6	- 0.1	121.9	0	104.6	0.4	108.3	0.2	115.8	- 2.4	108.5	1.0
Boston	110.8	1.2	109.6	1.5	119.1	0	101.4	0.2	106.4	1.1	120.7	4.1	105.8	1.8
Chicago	110.5	1.2	109.0	1.3	119.3	0.5	98.4	0.2	106.4	1.7	120.0	3.4	113.9	1.0
Cincinnati	113.8	0.8	113.0	0.9	124.6	- 0.1	105.4	0.2	106.4	0	123.5	2.7	114.4	1.6
Cleveland	109.7	0.4	108.8	0.5	119.8	- 0.2	101.1	- 1.0	96.1	- 0.4	119.1	2.2	113.1	1.9
Detroit	114.4	0.4	113.3	0.4	119.7	- 0.2	101.6	- 0.7	105.3	- 0.3	135.3	1.8	110.4	1.5
Houston	110.7	0.5	109.5	0.6	118.2	0.1	102.2	0.1	108.6	0.1	118.5	1.5	107.0	0.1
Kansas City	107.7	0.3	106.2	0.3	120.8	0.1	98.9	- 0.9	103.8	- 0.6	114.3	2.8	101.7	0.4
Los Angeles	112.2	0.7	109.7	0.5	127.9	0	103.6	0.9	103.0	- 0.2	114.5	1.0	107.5	0.5
Minneapolis	112.1	0.4	111.3	0.3	126.2	0.1	99.7	- 0.3	104.2	1.7	123.1	- 2.0	116.7	2.0
New York	111.6	0.7	110.6	0.8	128.9	0.2	104.8	- 1.0	102.7	1.2	115.3	3.3	111.3	1.6
Philadelphia	114.2	1.0	113.3	1.3	122.9	2.5	106.3	- 0.4	108.8	2.5	123.5	0.4	110.2	2.3
Pittsburgh	112.3	- 0.2	111.7	- 0.3	124.5	0.2	100.8	- 0.7	106.5	- 0.2	120.0	- 1.7	117.8	1.4
Portland, Ore.	111.7	0.9	111.1	0.6	124.8	0	105.0	1.4	103.2	- 0.1	118.7	- 1.2	110.9	1.8
St. Louis	113.4	0.9	111.4	1.2	118.7	0.2	103.7	0.1	95.1	4.4	128.5	1.5	116.8	1.0
San Francisco	113.6	0.2	113.1	0.2	130.9	0	107.7	0.9	105.0	0.1	122.7	- 0.5	108.3	- 0.1
Scranton	110.2	1.2	110.3	1.4	119.5	- 0.1	103.5	- 0.4	105.0	0	120.2	5.2	108.5	2.9
Seattle	113.4	0.4	112.5	0.4	127.8	0	103.9	1.8	108.6	0.4	123.4	- 1.4	109.0	0.3
Washington, D.C.	112.0	0.6	110.5	0.7	121.9	0	101.2	- 0.5	109.3	0.2	117.5	2.4	109.3	1.5

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

Food and Unit	July 1955	June 1955	Food and Unit	July 1955	June 1955
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:			Fresh (continued)		
Flour, wheat	5 lb. 53.9	(Cents) 53.9	Grapefruit *	each	(Cents)
Biscuit mix	20 oz. 27.4	(Cents) 27.4	Peaches *	1b.	30.9
Corn meal	1b. 12.6	12.6	Strawberries *	pt.	29.1
Rice	1b. 18.0	17.9	Grapes, seedless *	1b.	29.5
Rolled oats	20 oz. 19.2	19.2	Watermelons *	1b.	4.7 6.4
Corn flakes	12 oz. 21.9	21.9	Potatoes	10 lb.	59.5 71.7
Bread, white	1b. 17.8	17.7	Sweetpotatoes	1b.	16.3 16.0
Soda crackers	1b. 26.9	27.0	Onions	1b.	8.6 8.5
Vanilla cookies	7 oz. 23.8	23.8	Carrots	1b.	13.2 13.0
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Canned		
Round steak	1b. 89.9	90.1	Lettuce	head	15.9 13.4
Chuck roast	1b. 49.1	49.8	Celery	1b.	14.8 13.9
Rib roast	1b. 70.4	70.8	Cabbage	1b.	7.0 8.0
Hamburger	1b. 39.4	39.4	Tomatoes	1b.	28.1 26.9
Veal cutlets	1b. 109.4	109.5	Beans, green	1b.	15.1 18.3
Pork chops, center cut	1b. 87.1	89.8	Orange juice	46 oz. can	33.5 33.4
Bacon, sliced	1b. 67.4	65.7	Peaches	#2 1/2 can	34.0 33.9
Ham, whole	1b. 63.0	61.9	Pineapple	#2 can	32.9 32.8
Lamb, leg	1b. 68.8	69.5	Fruit cocktail	#303 can	26.5 26.4
Frankfurters	1b. 52.9	52.8	Corn, cream style	#303 can	16.8 16.9
Luncheon meat, canned	12 oz. 43.0	43.4	Peas, green	#303 can	21.5 21.5
Frying chickens, dressed	1b. 47.1	46.6	Tomatoes	#303 can	15.3 15.3
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook	1b. 57.5	58.6	Baby foods	4 1/2-5 oz.	9.7 9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen	1b. 42.6	42.5	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen	1b. 46.2	46.6	Prunes	1b.	33.9 33.7
Salmon, pink, canned	16 oz. 55.4	55.5	Beans 1/	1b.	18.3 18.2
Tuna fish, canned	7 oz. 37.5	37.5	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup	11 oz. can	14.1 14.1
Milk, fresh, (grocery)	qt. 21.6	21.4	Beans with pork	16 oz. can	15.0 14.9
Milk, fresh, (delivered)	qt. 22.7	22.5	Pickles, sweet	7 1/2 oz.	27.4 28.0
Ice cream	pt. 29.0	29.0	Catsup, tomato	14 oz.	22.5 22.4
Butter	1b. 70.2	70.4	Coffee	1b.	89.1 89.0
Cheese, American process	1b. 57.8	57.8	Tea	1b.	40.3 40.3
Milk, evaporated	14 1/2 oz. can 13.7	13.7	Cola drink	carton of 6, 6 oz.	32.5 32.4
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated	1b.	34.6 34.4
Frozen			Margarine, colored	1b.	28.8 28.6
Strawberries	10 oz. 30.6	30.7	Lard	1b.	20.5 20.8
Orange juice concentrate	6 oz. 18.3	18.1	Salad dressing	pt.	35.3 35.3
Peas, green	10 oz. 19.7	19.6	Peanut butter	1b.	55.1 54.4
Beans, green	10 oz. 24.0	24.2	Sugar	5 lb.	51.9 52.0
Fresh			Corn syrup	24 oz.	23.7 23.7
Apples	1b. 20.6	18.8	Grape jelly	12 oz.	25.9 26.0
Bananas	1b. 17.3	17.0	Chocolate bar	7/8 oz.	4.6 4.6
Oranges, size 200	doz. 55.6	52.9	Eggs, Grade A, large	4oz.	57.3 53.6
Lemons	1b. 17.4	17.5	Gelatin, flavored	3-4 oz.	8.6 8.6

* Priced only in season
 1/Formerly published as navy beans.

LS56-0482

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.

