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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST 1955

Consumer prices in United States cities declined 0.2 percent between July and August 1955, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Seasonally lower food prices were mainly responsible for the decrease, although housefurnishings prices also declined. Prices of all other major groups of consumer goods and services either advanced slightly or remained at their July levels.

The Consumer Price Index for August 1955 was 114.5 (1947-49 = 100), 0.4 percent lower than in August 1954.

FOOD Family food budgets cost less in 41 of the 46 cities surveyed in August. At 111.2 percent of the 1947-49 average, the food index was 0.8 percent lower than in July and 2.4 percent below the August 1954 level.

Substantial decreases in prices of fresh fruits (down 14.9 percent) and fresh vegetables (down 11.5 percent) were primarily responsible for the drop. A decline in the cost of meat was also a contributing factor. On the other hand, prices of eggs jumped 14.1 percent; dairy products were up 1 percent; costs of restaurant meals, poultry, frozen fruits and vegetables, canned and dried fruits, and fats and oils increased slightly.

Apple prices, which reached a near record high of 20.6 cents a pound in July, fell to 16 cents in August. Peaches and grapes cost substantially less than at the July beginning-of-season levels, as additional supplies reached the market; watermelon prices fell to less than 4 cents a pound -- the lowest average price in the last 3 years. Potato and fresh tomato prices were lower in 44 of the 46 cities, as ample supplies exercised a depressing influence on the market. Prices of fresh oranges and both canned and frozen orange juice continued to rise and green beans and lettuce prices rose generally.

A continued general decline in prices of pork chops was reported, as 44 cities showed decreases. Pork products were 2.4 percent lower than in July. Beef roasts and most other cuts of fresh meats cost somewhat less, although round steak prices again advanced slightly. Poultry prices were 1 percent higher. Seasonal increases in milk prices in several cities caused the index for dairy products to rise.

Although egg prices usually go up at this time of year, this month's increase was considerably more than the customary July to August increase. Peanut butter prices edged up to 55.6 cents a pound, a new high.

HOUSING The index of housing costs as a group increased 0.1 percent between July and August. Residential rents rose by 0.1 percent, and costs of home repairs and maintenance advanced, reflecting higher prices for water heaters, kitchen sinks, and sink faucets. Higher prices were reported for bituminous coal and fuel oil. Prices of laundry soap and detergents were higher than in July. However, traditional August white sales resulted in generally lower prices for sheets and towels; sale prices were also reported for electric refrigerators and other electrical appliances, as well as furniture in some cities.

OTHER COMMODITIES  
AND SERVICES

Apparel prices rose 0.2 percent during the month. Prices were generally higher for women's rayon dresses and some scattered increases were reported for rayon skirts, girdles, and footwear. Prices of men's suits and slacks and women's nylon slips declined slightly between July and August.

The rise of 0.3 percent in costs of personal care resulted primarily from higher prices for men's haircuts in several cities. Prices of home permanent wave refill kits and shaving cream also went up, while lower prices were reported for cleansing tissues.

In transportation, prices were higher for gasoline and transit fares were increased in certain cities. However, further concessions were made by new-car dealers and rates for automobile insurance were reduced in certain areas. In consequence, the transportation index as a whole remained at its July level.

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

Group	August 1955	July 1955	June 1955	August 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 . . . . .	114.5	114.7	114.4	115.0	101.8	59.4
FOOD <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	111.2	112.1	111.3	113.9	100.5	47.1
Food at home . . . . .	110.0	111.1	110.3	113.3	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products . . . . .	124.1	124.2	124.0	122.3	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish . . . . .	102.9	103.7	103.8	107.6	106.1	41.6
Dairy products . . . . .	105.7	104.7	104.1	105.1	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables . . . . .	111.3	121.9	119.5	114.7	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home . . . . .	112.6	109.2	107.7	119.6	94.1	48.4
HOUSING <sup>2/</sup> . . . . .	120.0	119.9	119.7	119.2	104.9	76.1
Rent . . . . .	130.5	130.4	130.4	128.6	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity . . . . .	110.8	110.8	110.7	107.8	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil . . . . .	123.8	123.2	122.7	121.9	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings . . . . .	103.2	103.6	103.8	105.4	97.4	53.4
Household operation . . . . .	119.5	119.4	119.2	117.3	99.6	68.4
APPAREL . . . . .	103.4	103.2	103.2	103.7	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' . . . . .	105.5	105.7	105.6	106.4	88.1	4/
Women's and girls' . . . . .	97.4	96.9	97.2	97.7	93.3	4/
Footwear . . . . .	117.6	117.5	117.4	116.9	102.1	4/
Other apparel . . . . .	90.5	90.5	90.1	90.7	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION . . . . .	125.4	125.4	125.8	126.6	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE . . . . .	128.0	127.9	127.6	125.5	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE . . . . .	115.8	115.5	114.7	113.4	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION . . . . .	106.3	106.3	106.2	106.6	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <sup>3/</sup> . . . . .	120.4	120.3	119.9	120.2	103.7	70.6

	PERCENT CHANGE TO AUGUST 1955 FROM:				
	July 1955	June 1955	August 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS . . . . .	- 0.2	0.1	- 0.4	12.5	92.8
FOOD <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	- 0.8	- 0.1	- 2.4	10.6	136.1
Food at home . . . . .	- 1.0	- 0.3	- 2.9	9.5	133.5
Cereals and bakery products . . . . .	- 0.1	0.1	1.5	20.8	117.0
Meats, poultry and fish . . . . .	- 0.8	- 0.9	- 4.4	- 3.0	117.4
Dairy products . . . . .	1.0	1.5	0.6	14.5	112.2
Fruits and vegetables . . . . .	- 8.7	- 6.9	- 3.0	8.6	140.4
Other foods at home . . . . .	3.1	4.5	- 5.9	19.7	132.6
HOUSING <sup>2/</sup> . . . . .	0.1	0.3	0.7	14.4	57.7
Rent . . . . .	0.1	0.1	1.5	20.1	50.7
Gas and electricity . . . . .	0	0.1	2.8	7.9	5.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil . . . . .	0.5	0.9	1.6	15.1	119.5
Housefurnishings . . . . .	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 2.1	6.0	93.3
Household operation . . . . .	0.1	0.3	1.9	20.0	74.7
APPAREL . . . . .	0.2	0.2	- 0.3	7.2	97.0
Men's and boys' . . . . .	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.8	7.5	4/
Women's and girls' . . . . .	0.5	0.2	- 0.3	4.4	4/
Footwear . . . . .	0.1	0.2	0.6	15.2	4/
Other apparel . . . . .	0	0.4	- 0.2	2.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION . . . . .	0	- 0.3	- 0.9	14.1	82.0
MEDICAL CARE . . . . .	0.1	0.3	2.0	21.4	76.3
PERSONAL CARE . . . . .	0.3	1.0	2.1	16.7	94.3
READING AND RECREATION . . . . .	0	0.1	- 0.3	3.7	68.7
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <sup>3/</sup> . . . . .	0.1	0.4	0.2	16.1	70.5

<sup>1/</sup> Includes restaurant meals not shown separately.  
<sup>2/</sup> Includes home purchase and other home-owner costs not shown separately.  
<sup>3/</sup> Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and "miscellaneous services" (such as legal services, banking fees, burial services, etc.).  
<sup>4/</sup> 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)
	August 1955	July 1955	August 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	August 1955 <u>1/</u>
U.S. CITY AVERAGE . . . . .	114.5	114.7	115.0	101.8	59.4	191.4
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago . . . . .	118.5	118.2	117.7	102.8	58.6	201.8
Detroit . . . . .	116.5	116.8	116.8	102.8	59.0	196.7
Los Angeles . . . . .	115.5	115.9	115.1	101.3	60.4	193.0
New York . . . . .	111.9	111.9	113.0	100.9	60.1	185.2
Philadelphia . . . . .	115.8	115.8	116.2	101.6	59.2	192.7
CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER <u>2/</u>						
	August 1955	May 1955	August 1954	May 1950		August 1955
Cleveland . . . . .	116.0	115.3	115.3	100.4	59.2	197.7
Houston . . . . .	115.5	115.5	116.5	103.5	59.5	195.5
Scranton . . . . .	111.5	111.4	112.4	100.2	58.5	185.3
Seattle . . . . .	116.6	116.8	116.2	102.0	59.2	199.3
Washington, D. C. . . . .	113.8	113.5	114.1	101.6	60.4	186.9
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER <u>2/</u>						
	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	<u>3/</u> 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 <u>2/</u>						
	June 1955	March 1955	June 1954	June 1950		June 1955
Atlanta . . . . .	116.0	115.3	117.6	<u>4/</u> 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

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 JULY 1955 TO AUGUST 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 . . . . .	- 0.2	- 0.8	0.1	0.2	0	0.1	0.3	0	0.1
Chicago . . . . .	0.3	0	0.5	0.6	0.4	0	0.3	0.3	- 0.1
Detroit . . . . .	- 0.3	- 0.8	0.4	- 0.4	- 1.3	0.1	- 0.1	0.6	- 0.2
Los Angeles . . . . .	- 0.3	- 1.3	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1	0	- 0.2	0.2	0.1
New York . . . . .	0	- 0.2	0.1	0.3	- 0.5	0	- 0.1	- 0.5	0
Philadelphia . . . . .	0	- 0.1	0.1	0.8	- 0.2	0	- 0.1	0	0

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D.C.
August 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)											
ALL ITEMS . . . . .	114.5	118.5	116.0	116.5	115.5	115.5	111.9	115.8	111.5	116.6	113.8
FOOD . . . . .	111.2	110.5	109.6	113.5	110.1	110.7	111.4	114.1	109.1	112.2	111.7
Food at home . . . . .	110.0	109.0	108.1	112.1	109.0	107.5	110.4	113.1	108.8	111.6	110.1
Cereals and bakery products . . . . .	124.1	119.6	119.4	119.7	118.2	128.0	129.0	123.0	119.4	127.7	121.9
Meats, poultry and fish . . . . .	102.9	97.0	100.1	101.6	101.9	102.1	104.8	105.6	101.5	104.1	100.5
Dairy products . . . . .	105.7	109.5	102.2	105.7	109.6	102.9	105.1	108.7	105.1	108.2	109.4
Fruits and vegetables . . . . .	111.3	114.2	108.5	121.9	112.9	102.7	104.9	117.8	108.2	114.2	110.4
Other foods at home . . . . .	112.6	117.9	115.7	114.6	108.5	109.1	117.0	114.6	113.4	111.8	113.5
HOUSING . . . . .	120.0	130.9	122.9	122.3	122.8	127.2	115.0	114.1	115.2	121.5	116.8
Rent . . . . .	130.5	-	144.6	-	137.6	-	-	116.5	-	137.7	-
Gas and electricity . . . . .	110.8	110.5	109.1	108.4	106.8	116.2	108.6	102.3	119.4	88.8	123.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil . . . . .	123.8	129.0	122.4	118.8	-	-	125.5	115.6	125.0	131.0	132.0
Housefurnishings . . . . .	103.2	105.8	100.5	106.4	99.7	104.0	103.1	104.2	99.4	103.7	101.6
Household operation . . . . .	119.5	124.1	114.2	113.4	127.0	124.6	119.3	114.2	109.9	114.5	121.1
APPAREL . . . . .	103.4	105.6	103.4	101.8	105.7	103.6	101.2	104.3	106.4	106.7	101.6
Men's and boys' . . . . .	105.5	110.6	108.0	107.0	102.2	106.3	105.9	104.1	107.2	109.1	105.1
Women's and girls' . . . . .	97.4	96.7	95.5	94.0	101.4	97.4	93.0	101.8	101.6	101.0	95.4
Footwear . . . . .	117.6	121.8	116.8	113.4	126.7	119.6	117.0	112.3	121.4	122.2	115.4
Other apparel . . . . .	90.5	93.6	92.4	87.0	90.2	82.8	92.6	91.7	91.3	87.2	90.3
TRANSPORTATION . . . . .	125.4	130.5	119.5	120.7	121.5	122.7	126.8	138.3	123.8	126.1	129.1
MEDICAL CARE . . . . .	128.0	128.5	136.8	132.7	125.1	124.3	126.2	135.1	119.8	131.4	118.4
PERSONAL CARE . . . . .	115.8	116.3	121.3	126.7	119.8	117.6	109.1	117.3	121.9	117.9	111.4
READING AND RECREATION . . . . .	106.3	113.8	115.4	108.9	117.4	96.4	103.7	113.2	120.5	107.9	106.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES . . . . .	120.4	118.1	119.6	124.6	118.9	116.1	121.0	123.5	115.1	128.2	130.1

Percent Change -- May 1955 to August 1955

ALL ITEMS . . . . .	0.3	1.1	0.6	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	- 0.2	0.3
FOOD . . . . .	0.1	1.2	0	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 1.2	0.8	1.1	0.5	- 0.9	0.4
Food at home . . . . .	0	1.2	- 0.5	- 1.0	- 0.5	- 1.9	1.0	1.3	0.4	- 0.6	0.4
Cereals and bakery products . . . . .	0.2	0.7	- 0.6	- 0.2	0.1	0.1	0.8	1.7	1.7	- 0.1	- 0.1
Meats, poultry and fish . . . . .	0.8	0.1	- 0.7	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.7	- 0.5	2.5	1.2
Dairy products . . . . .	1.6	5.9	5.9	- 0.1	0.9	0	3.4	2.5	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1
Fruits and vegetables . . . . .	- 7.4	- 3.7	- 9.1	- 11.2	- 5.3	- 11.5	- 7.5	- 5.3	- 7.5	- 9.9	- 6.2
Other foods at home . . . . .	3.9	3.5	3.0	4.2	0.3	0.9	6.8	6.1	7.4	2.7	5.1
HOUSING . . . . .	0.5	1.5	0.7	0.4	0.7	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.2	- 0.1
Rent . . . . .	0.2	-	1/ 1.5	-	1/ - 0.9	-	-	1/ 0.2	-	1/ 0.7	-
Gas and electricity . . . . .	- 0.1	0	0	- 0.3	0	0	- 0.4	0	0	0	1.2
Solid fuels and fuel oil . . . . .	1.1	2.2	1.7	- 0.2	-	-	1.3	2.2	3.1	0.2	2.6
Housefurnishings . . . . .	- 0.5	0.3	- 2.0	- 1.1	0.5	- 1.7	- 0.5	- 0.8	- 0.5	- 1.0	- 3.6
Household operation . . . . .	0.4	2.5	0.4	1.2	0	0.1	0	- 0.1	0	0	1.4
APPAREL . . . . .	0.1	1.3	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 1.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	0.2	0.1	1.2	0.5
Men's and boys' . . . . .	- 0.2	0.9	- 0.5	0.2	- 3.1	- 1.0	0.2	- 0.2	0	0.3	0.4
Women's and girls' . . . . .	0.1	2.0	- 0.6	- 0.4	- 0.1	0	- 0.6	0.2	0.2	1.9	0.6
Footwear . . . . .	0.2	0.5	- 0.2	0.1	- 1.6	1.4	0.2	0.7	0.2	1.0	0.2
Other apparel . . . . .	0.2	1.1	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.6	0.5	- 0.3	0.7	- 0.5	1.5	0.2
TRANSPORTATION . . . . .	- 0.1	0.2	1.4	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 1.0	- 1.6	- 0.3	- 2.8	- 0.6	0.4
MEDICAL CARE . . . . .	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	2.4	0.1	0	0.1	0.5	0
PERSONAL CARE . . . . .	1.7	1.2	5.8	6.2	0.2	0.3	0.6	- 0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5
READING AND RECREATION . . . . .	- 0.2	0.6	1.0	1.1	0.5	- 0.5	- 1.0	0.2	1.7	- 1.0	0.7
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES . . . . .	0.4	0	1.3	- 0.2	- 0.3	1.3	0	0.1	0	- 0.2	0.2

1/ Change from February 1955 to August 1955.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS  
August 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, July 1955 to August 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	- 0.8	110.0	- 1.0	124.1	- 0.1	102.9	- 0.8	105.7	1.0	111.3	- 8.7	112.6	3.1
Atlanta . . . . .	110.6	- 0.2	109.0	- 0.3	117.8	- 0.1	105.7	- 1.7	108.2	0.2	112.7	- 2.6	105.1	2.6
Baltimore . . . . .	113.3	1.1	112.0	1.3	121.9	0	103.8	- 0.8	109.1	0.7	118.9	2.7	112.5	3.7
Boston . . . . .	110.3	- 0.5	109.0	- 0.5	119.6	0.4	100.2	- 1.2	107.7	1.2	111.2	- 7.9	110.4	4.3
Chicago . . . . .	110.5	0	109.0	0	119.6	0.3	97.0	- 1.4	109.5	2.9	114.2	- 4.8	117.9	3.5
Cincinnati . . . . .	111.5	- 2.0	110.4	- 2.3	124.1	- 0.4	102.9	- 2.4	106.2	- 0.2	108.9	-11.8	117.6	2.8
Cleveland . . . . .	109.6	- 0.1	108.1	- 0.6	119.4	- 0.3	100.1	- 1.0	102.2	6.3	108.5	- 8.9	115.7	2.3
Detroit . . . . .	113.5	- 0.8	112.1	- 1.1	119.7	0	101.6	0	105.7	0.4	121.9	- 9.9	114.6	3.8
Houston . . . . .	110.1	- 0.5	109.0	- 0.5	118.2	0	101.9	- 0.3	109.6	0.9	112.9	- 4.7	108.5	1.4
Kansas City . . . . .	105.8	- 1.8	104.0	- 2.1	120.9	0.1	97.5	- 1.4	94.8	- 8.7	105.8	- 7.4	106.0	4.2
Los Angeles . . . . .	110.7	- 1.3	107.5	- 2.0	128.0	0.1	102.1	- 1.4	102.9	- 0.1	102.7	-10.3	109.1	1.5
Minneapolis . . . . .	111.4	- 0.6	110.5	- 0.7	126.1	- 0.1	99.1	- 0.6	105.9	1.6	112.6	- 8.5	120.2	3.0
New York . . . . .	111.4	- 0.2	110.4	- 0.2	129.0	0.1	104.8	0	105.1	2.3	104.9	- 9.0	117.0	5.1
Philadelphia . . . . .	114.1	- 0.1	113.1	- 0.2	123.0	0.1	105.6	- 0.7	108.7	- 0.1	117.8	- 4.7	114.6	4.0
Pittsburgh . . . . .	111.8	- 0.4	111.1	- 0.5	125.1	0.5	100.5	- 0.3	106.6	0.1	110.9	- 7.6	121.6	3.2
Portland, Ore. . . . .	110.4	- 1.2	109.5	- 1.4	123.5	- 1.0	103.1	- 1.8	102.7	- 0.5	110.7	- 6.7	113.3	2.2
St. Louis . . . . .	112.5	- 0.8	110.2	- 1.1	118.8	0.1	102.8	- 0.9	95.5	0.4	120.4	- 6.4	118.8	1.7
San Francisco . . . . .	111.9	- 1.5	111.0	- 1.9	130.9	0	106.7	- 0.9	105.0	0	109.5	-10.8	110.7	2.2
Scranton . . . . .	109.1	- 1.0	108.8	- 1.4	119.4	- 0.1	101.5	- 1.9	105.1	0.1	108.2	-10.0	113.4	4.5
Seattle . . . . .	112.2	- 1.1	111.6	- 0.8	127.7	- 0.1	104.1	0.2	108.2	- 0.4	114.2	- 7.5	111.8	2.6
Washington, D.C. . . . .	111.7	- 0.3	110.1	- 0.4	121.9	0	100.5	- 0.7	109.4	0.1	110.4	- 6.0	113.5	3.8

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

Food and Unit	August 1955	July 1955	Food and Unit	August 1955	July 1955
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	53.8	53.9	Grapefruit * each		
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.2	27.4	Peaches * lb.	18.3	30.9
Corn meal 1b.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice 1b.	18.1	18.0	Grapes, seedless * lb.	20.3	29.5
Rolled oats 20 oz.	19.2	19.2	Watermelons * 1b.	3.8	4.7
Corn flakes 12 oz.	21.9	21.9	Potatoes 10 lb.	48.5	59.5
Bread, white 1b.	17.7	17.8	Sweetpotatoes 1b.	14.4	16.3
Soda crackers 1b.	27.0	26.9	Onions 1b.	7.8	8.6
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.8	23.8	Carrots 1b.	13.1	13.2
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	17.4	15.9
Round steak 1b.	90.6	89.9	Celery 1b.	14.1	14.8
Chuck roast 1b.	48.3	49.1	Cabbage 1b.	6.9	7.0
Rib roast 1b.	69.5	70.4	Tomatoes 1b.	17.9	28.1
Hamburger 1b.	39.3	39.4	Beans, green 1b.	18.6	15.1
Veal cutlets 1b.	109.0	109.4	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	81.4	87.1	Orange juice 46 oz. can	34.0	33.5
Bacon, sliced 1b.	67.3	67.4	Peaches #2 ½ can	34.4	34.0
Ham, whole 1b.	62.9	63.0	Pineapple #2 can	32.9	32.9
Lamb, leg 1b.	68.0	68.8	Fruit cocktail #303 can	26.6	26.5
Frankfurters 1b.	53.1	52.9	Corn, cream style #303 can	15.9	16.8
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	42.7	43.0	Peas, green #303 can	21.5	21.5
Frying chickens, dressed 1b.	47.6	47.1	Tomatoes #303 can	15.2	15.3
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	57.9	57.5	Baby foods 4 ½-5 oz.	9.7	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	42.8	42.6	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	46.3	46.2	Prunes 1b.	34.1	33.9
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	55.6	55.4	Beans 1b.	18.4	18.3
Tuna fish, canned 1/6-6 ½ oz.	35.3	35.4	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.2	14.1
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	22.0	21.6	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	15.0	15.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	23.0	22.7	Pickles, sweet 7 ½ oz.	27.3	27.4
Ice cream pt.	29.0	29.0	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.6	22.5
Butter 1b.	70.5	70.2	Coffee 1b.	89.0	89.1
Cheese, American process 1b.	57.9	57.8	Tea bags 2/ pkg. of 16	24.2	24.2
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 3/ 3 lb.	89.9	89.0
Frozen			Margarine, colored 1b.	28.9	28.8
Strawberries 10 oz.	30.4	30.6	Lard 1b.	20.2	20.5
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	18.7	18.3	Salad dressing pt.	35.4	35.3
Peas, green 10 oz.	20.6	19.7	Peanut butter 1b.	55.6	55.1
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.1	24.0	Sugar 5 lb.	51.9	51.9
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples 1b.	16.0	20.6	Grape jelly 12 oz.	26.1	25.9
Bananas 1b.	17.2	17.3	Chocolate bar 7/8 oz.	4.6	4.6
Oranges, size 200 doz.	57.6	55.6	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	65.3	57.3
Lemons 1b.	17.5	17.4	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.6	8.6

\* Priced only in season  
1/ Formerly 7 oz.  
2/ Formerly 1/4 lb.  
3/ Formerly 1 lb.

LS56-769

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.

