

Issued October 21, 1955

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington 25, D. C.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1955

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.3 percent between August and September 1955, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Seasonally higher prices for food and apparel and higher housing costs were principally responsible for the advance, although prices for all major groups of consumer goods and services except transportation increased during the month.

The Consumer Price Index for September 1955 was 114.9 percent of the 1947-49 average, 0.2 percent higher than a year ago. This was the highest level reached by the index since August 1954 and the first month since July 1954 that the index has been higher than the corresponding month of the previous year.

FOOD The retail food price index was 111.6, 0.4 percent higher than in August, but 0.7 percent lower than in September 1954 and 4.3 percent below its August 1952 peak.

The effect of the usual seasonal influences making for higher food prices in September was somewhat augmented by the effects of damage to fresh vegetable crops in major producing areas. There were seasonal increases in prices of eggs and milk, accompanied by advances in costs of fresh meat (especially pork chops), fresh vegetables, and coffee. These increases were partially offset by a seasonal decline of 5.4 percent in fresh fruit prices, and a 1.3 percent drop in poultry prices.

The rise of 4.8 percent in egg prices from August to September is not unusual, but the 19.5 percent increase from July to September is larger than has occurred in recent years. Primarily as a result of the milk price increases, the dairy products group rose 0.8 percent, its fourth consecutive monthly advance. Coffee prices rose in 42 of the 46 cities surveyed, in response to higher costs at wholesale.

Fruit and vegetable prices declined 1.0 percent on the average. Most fresh fruit prices were lower -- apples by 10.8 percent; peaches, 16.3 percent; and grapes, 24.4 percent. Orange prices rose seasonally and frozen and canned orange juice prices also edged up. Most fresh vegetable prices rose although potatoes dropped 7.2 percent and sweetpotatoes 16.5 percent. Fresh tomato prices increased 17.1 percent from the seasonal low in August -- reached a month earlier than usual. Other fresh vegetables affected by crop damage were celery (up 14.2 percent) and lettuce (up 5.6 percent).

An increase of 4.8 percent in the price of pork chops, which followed 2 months of falling prices, led the price rise for meats, poultry, and fish as a group. Prices for veal and beef, other than hamburger, also advanced, but poultry prices declined. Cereal prices were slightly lower primarily as a result of lower prices for flour and rice. Prices of food eaten away from home continued to edge up fractionally.

HOUSING

Residential rents were unchanged on the average, but all other elements of the housing index advanced between August and September. Higher prices were reported for certain housefurnishings -- sheets, following the traditional white sales in August; living room suites, sofa beds, and blankets. However, prices of electric refrigerators and toasters were lower. This month's increase of 1.1 percent in solid fuels and fuel oil prices was the largest August-to-September change since 1950. The rise of 0.3 percent in costs of household operation reflected continued advances in prices of dry cleaning and laundry services, and higher rates for domestic service. Higher bills for gas and electricity were reported in a number of cities. Homeowners' repair and maintenance costs rose during the month, reflecting higher prices for water heaters, kitchen sinks, painting, floor refinishing, and roof repairs.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Apparel prices rose 1.2 percent between August and September, as fall and winter clothing returned to the market at levels substantially higher than last spring's end-of-season sale prices, particularly for women's and girls' coats. Prices of men's and boys' fall and winter clothing rose slightly. Among apparel items priced throughout the year, higher prices were reported for women's rayon dresses and blouses, girls' dresses, men's wool suits and slacks, men's street shoes, and women's play shoes. Decreases were reported generally for women's nylon slippers and girls' orlon sweaters.

Higher prices for sporting goods were reported following summer sales.

The personal care index continued to advance, as prices of men's haircuts were raised in several additional cities. Lower prices for toilet soap and cleansing tissues were offset by increases in prices of other toiletries.

The advance of 0.2 percent in costs of medical care reflected continued increases in fees for professional services and a rise in group hospitalization rates in one city.

Higher prices for cigarettes, due in part to increased local taxes, and increases in beverage prices resulted in a rise of 0.2 percent for the "other goods and services" category.

The transportation index declined 0.1 percent, as further concessions were reported by new car dealers, and automobile insurance rates were lower in a number of additional cities. Prices of gasoline, auto repair services, and tires were somewhat higher.

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

Group	September 1955	August 1955	July 1955	September 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	114.9	114.5	114.7	114.7	101.8	59.4
FOOD 1/	111.6	111.2	112.1	112.4	100.5	47.1
Food at home	110.4	110.0	111.1	111.6	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	124.0	124.1	124.2	122.6	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	103.5	102.9	103.7	106.7	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	106.5	105.7	104.7	105.8	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	110.2	111.3	121.9	110.5	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	114.1	112.6	109.2	116.0	94.1	48.4
HOUSING 2/	120.4	120.0	119.9	119.5	104.9	76.1
Rent	130.5	130.5	130.4	128.8	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	111.2	110.8	110.8	107.9	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	125.2	123.8	123.2	122.4	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	103.6	103.2	103.6	106.0	97.4	53.4
Household operation	119.8	119.5	119.4	117.4	99.6	68.4
APPAREL	104.6	103.4	103.2	104.3	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys'	105.8	105.5	105.7	106.4	98.1	4/
Women's and girls'	99.5	97.4	96.9	99.0	93.3	4/
Footwear	118.1	117.6	117.5	116.5	102.1	4/
Other apparel	91.0	90.5	90.5	90.9	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION	125.3	125.4	125.4	126.4	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE	128.2	128.0	127.9	125.7	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE	116.6	115.8	115.5	113.5	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.7	106.3	106.3	106.5	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/	120.6	120.4	120.3	120.1	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO SEPTEMBER 1955 FROM:

	August 1955	July 1955	September 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0.3	0.2	0.2	12.9	93.4
FOOD 1/	0.4	- 0.4	- 0.7	11.0	136.9
Food at home	0.4	- 0.6	- 1.1	9.9	134.4
Cereals and bakery products	- 0.1	- 0.2	1.1	20.7	116.8
Meats, poultry and fish	0.6	- 0.2	- 3.0	- 2.5	148.8
Dairy products	0.8	1.7	0.7	15.4	113.9
Fruits and vegetables	- 1.0	- 9.6	- 0.3	7.5	138.0
Other foods at home	1.3	4.5	- 1.6	21.3	135.7
HOUSING 2/	0.3	0.4	0.8	14.8	58.2
Rent	0	0.1	1.3	20.1	50.7
Gas and electricity	0.4	0.4	3.1	8.3	6.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil	1.1	1.6	2.3	16.4	122.0
Housefurnishings	0.4	0	- 2.3	6.4	94.0
Household operation	0.3	0.3	2.0	20.3	75.1
APPAREL	1.2	1.4	0.3	8.4	99.2
Men's and boys'	0.3	0.1	- 0.6	7.8	4/
Women's and girls'	2.2	2.7	0.5	6.6	4/
Footwear	0.4	0.5	1.4	15.7	4/
Other apparel	0.6	0.6	0.1	2.9	4/
TRANSPORTATION	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.9	14.0	81.9
MEDICAL CARE	0.2	0.2	2.0	21.6	76.6
PERSONAL CARE	0.7	1.0	2.7	17.5	95.6
READING AND RECREATION	0.4	0.4	0.2	4.1	69.4
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES 3/	0.2	0.2	0.4	16.3	70.8

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)
	September 1955	August 1955	September 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	September 1955 ^{1/}
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	114.9	114.5	114.7	101.8	59.4	192.1
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	118.9	118.5	117.4	102.8	58.6	202.5
Detroit	116.9	116.5	116.2	102.8	59.0	197.3
Los Angeles	116.1	115.5	115.4	101.3	60.4	194.0
New York	112.6	111.9	112.7	100.9	60.1	186.4
Philadelphia	115.2	115.8	116.2	101.6	59.2	191.7
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER ^{2/}						
	September 1955	June 1955	September 1954	June 1950		September 1955
Atlanta	117.2	116.0	116.3	^{4/} 101.3	58.3	198.8
Baltimore	115.5	115.0	115.2	101.6	57.9	198.5
Cincinnati	113.7	113.7	114.3	101.2	58.4	191.5
St. Louis	116.5	115.9	115.7	101.1	59.3	194.4
San Francisco	115.6	115.3	116.2	100.9	58.6	197.6
CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER ^{2/}						
	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 ^{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

^{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 AUGUST 1955 TO SEPTEMBER 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	0.3	0.4	0.3	1.2	- 0.1	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.2
Chicago	0.3	0	0.1	2.2	0.2	0	4.6	0.5	- 1.1
Detroit	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.6	0	- 0.1	0.4	- 0.2
Los Angeles	0.5	1.3	0.2	1.0	0.4	0	0.3	- 0.5	0.1
New York	0.6	0.4	0.3	3.0	0	0	1.5	1.3	0.1
Philadelphia	- 0.5	- 0.3	0.1	1.5	- 6.4	0.2	- 0.6	- 1.1	- 0.1

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicagoc	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
<u>September 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)</u>											
ALL ITEMS	114.9	117.2	115.5	118.9	113.7	116.9	116.1	112.6	115.2	116.5	115.6
FOOD	111.6	111.1	112.5	110.5	112.4	113.6	112.1	111.9	113.8	113.7	113.0
Food at home	110.4	109.7	111.0	108.9	111.3	112.2	109.3	110.9	112.9	111.6	112.0
Cereals and bakery products	124.0	117.2	121.9	119.3	124.1	119.3	127.9	128.8	122.1	119.1	130.8
Meats, poultry and fish	103.5	107.1	104.0	98.9	104.7	102.3	102.3	105.0	106.6	102.9	107.4
Dairy products	106.5	108.3	109.0	106.0	106.1	105.5	103.0	105.9	108.9	100.9	104.8
Fruits and vegetables	110.2	112.8	111.0	111.7	109.9	118.2	107.9	107.0	115.5	119.5	111.3
Other foods at home	114.1	106.3	113.7	119.8	118.7	116.9	112.3	116.9	114.3	121.4	112.9
HOUSING	120.4	125.9	116.9	131.0	118.4	123.1	127.4	115.3	114.2	121.1	116.4
Rent	130.5	134.5	126.7	151.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gas and electricity	111.2	119.6	99.7	110.5	119.4	114.0	116.2	108.9	102.3	103.8	136.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil	125.2	123.3	122.6	128.8	129.3	119.4	-	125.9	118.1	139.9	-
Housefurnishings	103.6	106.9	98.2	106.4	97.4	107.4	104.8	103.2	104.2	103.2	103.4
Household operation	119.8	131.1	111.9	124.1	127.5	113.8	124.8	119.5	114.0	123.5	110.6
APPAREL	104.6	110.5	102.3	107.9	103.9	102.1	104.6	104.2	105.9	103.9	104.3
Men's and boys'	105.8	111.4	100.9	111.9	103.7	107.3	107.8	106.0	103.4	106.1	104.9
Women's and girls'	99.5	105.5	98.6	100.1	98.8	94.5	98.2	98.6	105.5	97.0	99.9
Footwear	118.1	124.9	117.8	123.3	125.5	113.4	120.3	117.4	112.3	119.7	120.6
Other apparel	91.0	91.9	94.2	94.8	87.9	87.2	83.3	94.1	92.3	95.8	88.7
TRANSPORTATION	125.3	122.0	135.6	130.7	120.5	121.4	123.2	126.8	129.5	131.0	138.4
MEDICAL CARE	128.2	127.6	134.6	128.5	127.5	132.7	124.3	126.2	135.4	140.0	125.4
PERSONAL CARE	116.6	122.5	109.5	121.7	115.9	126.6	118.0	110.7	116.6	118.2	110.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.7	109.4	115.8	114.4	99.5	109.3	95.9	105.0	111.9	91.7	106.4
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	120.6	125.0	123.3	116.8	116.2	124.4	116.2	121.1	123.4	117.1	117.3

Percent Change -- June 1955 to September 1955

ALL ITEMS	0.4	1.0	0.4	1.3	0	0.2	0.7	0.7	- 0.3	0.5	0.3
FOOD	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.2	- 0.4	- 0.3	0.6	1.0	0.6	1.2	- 0.4
Food at home	0.1	0.1	0.3	1.2	- 0.6	- 0.5	0.1	1.1	0.9	1.4	- 0.8
Cereals and bakery products	0	- 1.0	0	0.5	- 0.5	- 0.5	0	0.1	1.8	0.5	- 0.1
Meats, poultry and fish	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.2	0.7	- 0.5	0	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 0.1	- 0.7	0.7
Dairy products	2.3	0.2	0.8	1.3	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	4.3	2.6	10.8	- 0.1
Fruits and vegetables	- 7.8	- 5.0	- 6.4	- 3.7	- 8.6	- 11.1	- 4.9	- 4.1	- 6.2	- 5.7	- 9.9
Other foods at home	5.9	4.9	5.9	6.2	5.4	7.4	5.0	6.7	6.1	4.9	4.2
HOUSING	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.3	0	1.5	0.1
Rent	0.1	1/ 1.7	1/ 1.4	1/ 1.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gas and electricity	0.5	- 1.2	- 0.2	0	0.3	5.1	0	- 0.2	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil	2.0	9.8	0.7	1.7	3.1	0.5	-	1.6	4.4	5.3	-
Housefurnishings	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.5	0.7	- 1.4	- 0.5	- 0.9	- 0.2	- 1.4	1.7	- 1.1
Household operation	0.5	0.7	0	1.5	3.9	1.5	0.2	0.2	- 0.3	3.8	0.8
APPAREL	1.4	1.0	- 0.2	3.8	0.9	0.1	1.2	3.0	1.9	0.4	1.1
Men's and boys'	0.2	0.3	- 0.5	2.2	0.3	0.5	0.9	0	- 0.9	- 0.6	0.6
Women's and girls'	2.4	1.5	- 0.3	5.9	1.2	- 0.1	0.9	5.9	4.2	1.0	1.3
Footwear	0.6	0.7	0.7	1.7	1.5	0.1	1.9	0.5	0.7	0	1.8
Other apparel	1.0	0.5	0	2.5	0.6	0.1	1.8	1.7	0.9	0.2	1.0
TRANSPORTATION	- 0.4	- 1.7	- 1.0	0.2	- 2.2	- 1.0	0.4	- 1.4	- 6.9	- 2.8	0.4
MEDICAL CARE	0.5	3.8	0.1	0	- 0.1	0.2	2.3	0.1	0.2	0	1.3
PERSONAL CARE	1.7	6.3	0.5	5.6	1.8	0.2	0.5	1.7	- 0.6	0.8	- 0.3
READING AND RECREATION	0.5	2.2	1.2	1.6	- 0.6	1.2	- 2.4	- 0.1	- 0.6	- 0.4	0.2
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	0.6	4.9	0.6	- 0.4	- 0.3	- 0.3	1.2	0.1	0	0.3	2.0

1/ Change from March 1955 to September 1955.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
September 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, August 1955 to September 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 . .	111.6	0.4	110.4	0.4	124.0	- 0.1	103.5	0.6	106.5	0.8	110.2	- 1.0	114.1	1.3
Atlanta	111.1	0.5	109.7	0.6	117.2	- 0.5	107.1	1.3	108.3	0.1	112.8	0.1	106.3	1.1
Baltimore	112.5	- 0.7	111.0	- 0.9	121.9	0	104.0	0.2	109.0	- 0.1	111.0	- 6.6	113.7	1.1
Boston	111.0	0.6	109.8	0.7	120.4	0.7	101.1	0.9	111.6	3.6	111.3	0.1	109.4	- 0.9
Chicago	110.5	0	108.9	- 0.1	119.3	- 0.3	98.9	2.0	106.0	- 3.2	111.7	- 2.2	119.8	1.6
Cincinnati	112.4	0.8	111.3	0.8	124.1	0	104.7	1.7	106.1	- 0.1	109.9	0.9	118.7	0.9
Cleveland	109.6	0	108.1	0	119.4	0	101.3	1.2	101.5	- 0.7	104.3	- 3.9	117.7	1.7
Detroit	113.6	0.1	112.2	0.1	119.3	- 0.3	102.3	0.7	105.5	- 0.2	118.2	- 3.0	116.9	2.0
Houston	110.2	0.1	109.1	0.1	117.8	- 0.3	100.5	- 1.4	109.7	0.1	113.2	0.3	110.5	1.8
Kansas City	107.2	1.3	105.7	1.6	120.9	0	98.7	1.2	104.2	9.9	103.0	- 2.6	107.4	1.3
Los Angeles	112.1	1.3	109.3	1.7	127.9	- 0.1	102.3	0.2	103.0	0.1	107.9	5.1	112.3	2.9
Minneapolis	112.4	0.9	111.6	1.0	126.0	- 0.1	99.3	0.2	110.8	4.6	111.7	- 0.8	121.8	1.3
New York	111.9	0.4	110.9	0.5	128.8	- 0.2	105.0	0.2	105.9	0.8	107.0	2.0	116.9	- 0.1
Philadelphia	113.8	- 0.3	112.9	- 0.2	122.1	- 0.7	106.6	0.9	108.9	0.2	115.5	- 2.0	114.3	- 0.3
Pittsburgh	112.3	0.4	111.7	0.5	125.1	0	101.2	0.7	109.4	2.6	108.5	- 2.2	123.2	1.3
Portland, Ore.	110.7	0.3	109.9	0.4	124.0	0.4	103.9	0.8	103.2	0.5	107.5	- 2.9	115.3	1.8
St. Louis	113.7	1.1	111.6	1.3	119.1	0.3	102.9	0.1	100.9	5.7	119.5	- 0.7	121.4	2.2
San Francisco	113.0	1.0	112.0	0.9	130.8	- 0.1	107.4	0.7	104.8	- 0.2	111.3	1.6	112.9	2.0
Scranton	109.1	0	108.8	0	119.6	0.2	103.1	1.6	107.8	2.6	103.1	- 4.7	112.6	- 0.7
Seattle	111.9	- 0.3	111.3	- 0.3	128.0	0.2	103.8	- 0.3	108.3	0.1	110.3	- 3.4	113.3	1.3
Washington, D.C.	112.7	0.9	111.3	1.1	122.0	0.1	101.1	0.6	112.8	3.1	112.2	1.6	114.2	0.6

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

Food and Unit	September 1955	August 1955	Food and Unit	September 1955	August 1955
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	53.6	53.8	Grapefruit * each		
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.2	27.2	Peaches * lb.	15.3	18.3
Corn meal 1b.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice 1b.	17.8	18.1	Grapes, seedless * lb.	15.3	20.3
Rolled oats 20 oz.	19.2	19.2	Watermelons * lb.		3.8
Corn flakes 12 oz.	22.0	21.9	Potatoes 10 lb.	45.0	48.5
Bread, white 1b.	17.7	17.7	Sweetpotatoes lb.	12.0	14.4
Soda crackers 1b.	27.1	27.0	Onions 1b.	7.9	7.8
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.8	23.8	Carrots 1b.	14.4	13.1
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	18.4	17.4
Round steak 1b.	91.5	90.6	Celery 1b.	16.1	14.1
Chuck roast 1b.	49.2	48.3	Cabbage 1b.	7.3	6.9
Rib roast 1b.	69.9	69.5	Tomatoes 1b.	21.0	17.9
Hamburger 1b.	39.3	39.3	Beans, green 1b.	19.9	18.6
Veal cutlets 1b.	110.5	109.0	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	85.3	81.4	Orange juice 48 oz. can	34.5	34.0
Bacon, sliced 1b.	67.2	67.3	Peaches #2 1/2 can	34.8	34.4
Ham, whole 1b.	62.6	62.9	Pineapple #2 can	33.0	32.9
Lamb, leg 1b.	68.4	68.0	Fruit cocktail #303 can	26.7	26.6
Frankfurters 1b.	53.3	53.1	Corn, cream style #303 can	17.1	16.9
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	42.6	42.7	Peas, green #303 can	21.5	21.5
Frying chickens, dressed 1b.	46.4	47.6	Tomatoes #303 can	15.1	15.2
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	57.6	57.9	Baby foods 4 1/2-5 oz.	9.7	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	42.7	42.8	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	45.9	45.3	Prunes 1b.	34.3	34.1
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	56.5	55.6	Beans 1b.	18.1	18.4
Tuna fish, canned 6-6 1/2 oz.	35.3	35.3	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.2	14.2
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	22.1	22.0	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	15.0	15.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	23.4	23.0	Pickles, sweet 7 1/2 oz.	27.2	27.3
Ice cream pt.	28.9	29.0	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.6	22.6
Butter 1b.	71.0	70.5	Coffee 1b.	90.5	89.0
Cheese, American process 1b.	57.7	57.9	Tea bags Pkg. of 16	24.2	24.2
Milk, evaporated 14 1/2 oz. can	13.7	13.7	Cola drink, carton 36 oz.	32.4	32.5
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated 3 lb.	90.1	89.9
Frozen			Margarine, colored 1b.	28.9	28.9
Strawberries 10 oz.	30.5	30.4	Lard 1b.	20.0	20.2
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	18.8	18.7	Salad dressing pt.	35.2	35.4
Peas, green 10 oz.	21.0	20.6	Peanut butter 1b.	55.9	55.6
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.1	24.1	Sugar 5 lb.	52.0	51.9
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples 1b.	14.3	16.0	Grape jelly 12 oz.	26.3	26.1
Bananas 1b.	17.2	17.2	Chocolate bar 7/8 oz.	4.6	4.6
Oranges, size 200 doz.	59.2	57.6	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	68.5	65.3
Lemons 1b.	17.8	17.5	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.5	8.6

* Priced only in season

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.

