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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR OCTOBER 1955

Consumer prices in United States cities averaged the same in October as in September 1955, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Seasonally lower food prices were counterbalanced -- primarily by higher transportation and housing costs, but also by slightly higher prices for medical care and personal care. Apparel, reading and recreation, and the "other goods and services" groups were unchanged, on the average, from their September levels.

The October Consumer Price Index was 114.9 percent of the 1947-49 average, 0.3 percent higher than a year ago, but 0.4 percent below the record high reached in October 1953.

FOOD Family foods cost less in 39 of the 46 cities surveyed in October. At 110.8, the food index was 0.7 percent lower than in September and 0.9 percent below the October 1954 level.

Substantial decreases in prices of meats (down 1.8 percent), poultry (down 7.6 percent), and fresh fruits and vegetables (down 2.6 percent) were primarily responsible for the drop. Smaller declines were reported for eggs, fats and oils, and cereals. Chocolate bar prices were also lower as many stores began selling larger bars at the same price. Costs of restaurant meals continued their persistent advance, rising 0.4 percent; the dairy products group advanced 0.9 percent, with seasonally higher milk prices; and coffee prices rose 2.1 percent, as higher wholesale prices affected the retail level.

The 2.5 percent drop in the meats, poultry, and fish group brought this index to 100.9, less than 1 percent above its 1947-49 average and lower than at any time since April 1950. Poultry prices declined in all but 2 of the 46 cities, showing the effects of increased commercial production of young chickens. Heavy marketings of hogs resulted in a 5.1 percent decrease in prices for pork chops and smaller decreases for hams (down 4.5 percent) and bacon (down 1.1 percent). Beef and veal prices were down slightly.

Fresh fruits accounted for the bulk of the decline in the fruits and vegetables component. Average prices for apples fell from 14 to 12 cents a pound, continuing the decline begun in July. Prices for most other fresh fruits also were lower, except for oranges, which increased 2.5 percent, and grapes, up fractionally. Fresh vegetable prices averaged lower, led by lettuce and sweetpotatoes, for which prices decreased 18.2 percent and 9.9 percent, respectively. Prices of fresh tomatoes advanced 8.6 percent.

HOUSING The index of housing costs rose 0.3 percent between September and October, as residential rents advanced 0.2 percent, and prices of most other housing components also increased. The rise of 0.8 percent in house-furnishings prices reflected a general increase in prices of aluminum saucepans, and some advances for curtains and sheets. However, prices of refrigerators and toasters declined. Anthracite prices advanced 2.4 percent, bituminous coal rose 0.9 percent, and prices of fuel oil were up 0.2 percent from September. Household operation costs rose for the eighth consecutive month, reflecting increases in telephone service rates and dry cleaning prices. Home maintenance and repair costs increased during the month as higher prices were reported for water heaters, kitchen sinks, and sink faucets.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

The advance of 1.0 percent in transportation costs resulted primarily from the introduction of 1956 models of certain makes of automobiles at higher list prices with smaller concessions than those which prevailed at the end of the 1955 season. Prices of used cars declined 1.3 percent during the month and gasoline prices also were slightly lower, as "price wars" in two cities offset slight advances in a few other cities.

Higher rates for group hospitalization insurance in several cities accounted for much of the 0.4 percent increase in the medical care index. A general increase in prices of milk of magnesia was also a contributing factor. Personal care costs rose 0.3 percent, as additional cities reported higher rates for men's haircuts. Higher prices for cigarettes reflected increases in tobacco taxes in two cities.

The apparel index was unchanged on the average, despite small increases in shoe prices and some men's and boys' seasonal clothing.

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

Group	October 1955	September 1955	August 1955	October 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	114.9	114.5	114.5	101.8	59.4
FOOD ^{1/}	110.8	111.6	111.2	111.8	100.5	47.1
Food at home	109.4	110.4	110.0	110.9	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products	123.9	124.0	124.1	122.7	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish	100.9	103.5	102.9	103.9	106.1	41.6
Dairy products	107.5	106.5	105.7	106.7	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables	108.5	110.2	111.3	111.1	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home	113.9	114.1	112.6	115.7	94.1	48.4
HOUSING ^{2/}	120.8	120.4	120.0	119.5	104.9	76.1
Rent	130.8	130.5	130.5	129.0	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity	111.2	111.2	110.8	108.5	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil	126.3	125.2	123.8	123.8	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings	104.4	103.6	103.2	105.6	97.4	53.4
Household operation	120.1	119.8	119.5	117.5	99.6	68.4
APPAREL	104.6	104.6	103.4	104.6	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys'	106.0	105.8	105.5	106.4	98.1	4/
Women's and girls'	99.5	99.5	97.4	99.6	93.3	4/
Footwear	118.4	118.1	117.5	116.7	102.1	4/
Other apparel	91.0	91.0	90.5	91.1	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION	126.6	125.3	125.4	125.0	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE	128.7	128.2	128.0	125.9	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE	117.0	116.6	115.8	113.4	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION	106.7	106.7	106.3	106.9	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	120.6	120.6	120.4	120.1	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO OCTOBER 1955 FROM:

	September 1955	August 1955	October 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS	0	0.3	0.3	12.9	93.4
FOOD ^{1/}	- 0.7	- 0.4	- 0.9	10.2	135.2
Food at home	- 0.9	- 0.5	- 1.4	8.9	132.3
Cereals and bakery products	- 0.1	- 0.2	1.0	20.6	116.5
Meats, poultry and fish	- 2.5	- 1.9	- 2.9	- 4.9	142.5
Dairy products	0.9	1.7	0.7	16.5	115.9
Fruits and vegetables	- 1.5	- 2.5	- 2.3	5.9	134.3
Other foods at home	- 0.2	1.2	- 1.6	21.0	135.3
HOUSING ^{2/}	0.3	0.7	1.1	15.2	58.7
Rent	0.2	0.2	1.4	20.3	51.0
Gas and electricity	0	0.4	2.5	8.3	6.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil	0.9	2.0	2.0	17.4	123.9
Housefurnishings	0.8	1.2	- 1.1	7.2	95.5
Household operation	0.3	0.5	2.1	20.6	75.6
APPAREL	0	1.2	0	8.4	99.2
Men's and boys'	0.2	0.5	- 0.4	8.1	4/
Women's and girls'	0	2.2	- 0.1	6.6	4/
Footwear	0.3	0.7	1.5	16.0	4/
Other apparel	0	0.6	- 0.1	2.9	4/
TRANSPORTATION	1.0	1.0	1.3	15.2	83.7
MEDICAL CARE	0.4	0.5	2.2	22.1	77.3
PERSONAL CARE	0.3	1.0	3.2	17.9	96.3
READING AND RECREATION	0	0.4	- 0.2	4.1	69.4
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES ^{3/}	0	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)
	October 1955	September 1955	October 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	October 1955 <u>1/</u>
U.S. CITY AVERAGE	114.9	114.9	114.5	101.8	59.4	192.1
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago	119.0	118.9	117.1	102.8	58.6	202.7
Detroit	116.5	116.9	116.0	102.8	59.0	196.7
Los Angeles	116.3	116.1	114.8	101.3	60.4	194.3
New York	112.4	112.6	112.6	100.9	60.1	186.0
Philadelphia	115.3	115.2	116.1	101.6	59.2	191.9
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER <u>2/</u>						
Boston	114.5	113.8	113.5	101.2	61.0	184.3
Kansas City	116.2	115.9	115.7	101.4	61.7	187.1
Minneapolis	116.4	117.5	116.9	<u>3/</u> 102.1	60.7	192.8
Pittsburgh	113.8	114.0	114.3	99.9	58.1	193.5
Portland, Oreg.	116.2	114.7	115.2	101.5	58.3	201.3
CITIES PRICED IN MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER <u>2/</u>						
Atlanta	117.2	116.0	116.3	<u>4/</u> 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 <u>2/</u>						
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

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 SEPTEMBER 1955 TO OCTOBER 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	- 0.7	0.3	0	1.0	0.4	0.3	0	0
Chicago	0.1	- 1.3	0.8	0.1	1.3	0.2	0	0.1	0.9
Detroit	- 0.3	- 0.8	- 0.4	- 0.8	0.9	0	0.1	0	0
Los Angeles	0.2	0.3	- 0.1	0	1.1	0.2	0.4	0.3	0
New York	- 0.2	- 1.3	0.9	- 0.1	0.8	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.8	0
Philadelphia	0.1	- 0.9	0.5	- 0.2	1.8	0.1	0	- 0.2	1.4

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland, Oregon
		October 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)									
ALL ITEMS	114.9	114.5	119.0	116.5	116.2	116.3	116.4	112.4	115.3	113.8	116.2
FOOD	110.8	109.9	109.1	112.7	107.1	112.4	112.3	110.5	112.8	111.1	111.9
Food at home	109.4	108.0	107.2	111.2	105.3	109.4	111.5	109.2	111.6	110.3	110.4
Cereals and bakery products	123.9	122.1	118.8	119.2	120.7	127.8	125.9	128.7	123.0	125.0	123.9
Meats, poultry and fish	100.9	98.1	95.3	99.8	96.1	101.7	96.4	101.9	102.3	99.4	102.6
Dairy products	107.5	114.2	106.2	105.5	107.4	103.0	110.9	106.9	111.3	109.4	108.1
Fruits and vegetables	108.5	103.8	108.6	118.0	103.0	107.7	115.2	103.8	113.9	103.4	107.3
Other foods at home	113.9	108.2	119.7	116.5	107.4	113.5	122.7	115.5	113.8	123.4	115.8
HOUSING	120.8	121.8	132.1	122.6	122.0	127.3	121.3	116.3	114.8	116.4	119.6
Rent	130.8	-	-	142.4	138.4	-	-	-	-	125.1	-
Gas and electricity	111.2	112.1	110.3	114.0	122.0	116.2	118.8	108.9	101.8	123.4	107.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil	126.3	126.4	131.6	120.0	116.1	-	118.8	126.6	121.0	119.4	132.1
Housefurnishings	104.4	105.3	107.6	107.9	102.4	104.0	99.7	104.7	105.7	102.1	105.0
Household operation	120.1	117.8	124.0	114.0	125.1	125.0	120.2	119.4	114.0	118.9	114.1
APPAREL	104.6	102.8	108.0	101.3	104.7	104.6	105.4	104.1	105.7	102.2	108.0
Men's and boys'	106.0	103.1	112.2	107.3	107.3	108.2	107.1	105.9	103.4	104.5	110.5
Women's and girls'	99.5	97.9	100.2	92.9	99.5	98.0	101.8	98.4	105.0	95.5	101.8
Footwear	118.4	113.7	123.3	113.3	116.5	120.5	113.4	117.9	112.7	115.7	121.6
Other apparel	91.0	103.6	94.8	86.8	88.0	83.0	92.5	94.1	92.2	97.3	95.6
TRANSPORTATION	126.6	135.9	132.4	122.5	127.1	124.5	111.9	127.8	131.8	135.5	126.0
MEDICAL CARE	128.7	126.3	128.7	132.7	136.5	124.5	148.2	126.5	135.5	131.8	128.8
PERSONAL CARE	117.0	114.4	121.7	126.7	121.3	118.5	122.3	110.6	116.6	115.8	117.9
READING AND RECREATION	106.7	106.6	114.5	109.3	115.0	96.2	117.1	104.2	111.7	98.0	116.5
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	120.6	118.5	117.5	124.4	116.6	116.2	126.2	121.1	125.1	121.9	120.4

Percent Change -- July 1955 to October 1955

ALL ITEMS	0.2	0.6	0.7	- 0.3	0.3	0.3	- 0.9	0.4	- 0.4	- 0.2	1.3
FOOD	- 1.2	- 0.8	- 1.3	- 1.5	- 0.6	0.2	0.2	- 1.0	- 1.2	- 1.1	0.2
Food at home	- 1.5	- 1.5	- 1.7	- 1.9	- 0.8	- 0.3	0.2	- 1.3	- 1.5	- 1.3	- 0.6
Cereals and bakery products	- 0.2	2.5	- 0.4	- 0.4	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.1	0.4	- 0.7
Meats, poultry and fish	- 2.7	- 3.3	- 3.2	- 1.8	- 2.8	- 1.8	- 3.3	- 2.8	- 3.8	- 1.4	- 2.3
Dairy products	2.7	7.3	- 0.2	0.2	3.5	0	6.4	4.1	2.2	2.7	4.7
Fruits and vegetables	-11.0	-14.0	- 9.5	-12.8	- 9.9	- 5.9	- 6.4	-10.0	- 7.8	-13.8	- 9.6
Other foods at home	4.3	2.3	5.1	5.5	5.6	5.6	5.1	3.8	3.3	4.8	4.4
HOUSING	0.8	1.2	1.5	0.7	0.2	0.2	- 1.5	1.2	0.7	0.3	1.2
Rent	0.3	-	-	1/ 1.6	1/ 0.1	-	-	-	-	1/ 0.9	-
Gas and electricity	0.4	0.4	- 0.2	5.2	1.6	0	0	0	- 0.5	- 0.6	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil	2.5	2.2	3.3	2.1	2.6	-	1.5	1.9	5.8	6.1	0.4
Housefurnishings	0.8	- 0.3	1.3	1.0	0.3	- 1.0	- 0.7	1.5	0.8	- 0.3	1.6
Household operation	0.6	0	0	1.6	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	- 0.3	- 0.6	2.1
APPAREL	1.4	1.3	2.9	- 0.9	2.6	0.9	2.2	3.2	2.1	1.0	2.8
Men's and boys'	0.3	- 0.6	1.6	0.2	0.8	0.6	- 0.5	0.2	- 0.9	0	2.6
Women's and girls'	2.7	2.6	4.7	- 2.0	4.4	1.1	5.3	6.4	4.7	2.0	3.8
Footwear	0.8	0.4	1.3	0	1.6	1.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.4
Other apparel	0.6	0.7	1.7	- 0.5	1.6	0.2	1.3	1.6	1.1	0.1	1.6
TRANSPORTATION	1.0	2.6	1.8	0.2	1.3	1.4	- 5.6	0.3	- 4.9	- 1.6	2.9
MEDICAL CARE	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	2.3
PERSONAL CARE	1.3	1.9	5.0	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.6	- 0.2	1.3	- 0.7	- 0.6	0.2
READING AND RECREATION	0.4	- 1.0	0.9	1.0	- 0.5	0	0.3	0	- 1.3	0.3	0.4
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES	0.2	0.1	- 0.3	- 0.3	0.1	0.2	- 0.1	0.1	1.3	1.2	0.2

1/ Change from April 1955 to October 1955.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS
 October 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, September 1955 to October 1955
 U. S. City Average and 20 Large Cities
 (1947-49 = 100)

City	Total Food		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 . .	110.8	- 0.7	109.4	- 0.9	123.9	- 0.1	100.9	- 2.5	107.5	0.9	108.5	- 1.5	113.9	- 0.2
Atlanta	110.1	- 0.9	108.5	- 1.1	116.6	- 0.5	105.3	- 1.7	108.2	- 0.1	111.0	- 1.6	105.4	- 0.8
Baltimore	111.4	- 1.0	109.8	- 1.1	121.7	- 0.2	101.3	- 2.6	109.1	0.1	109.6	- 1.3	113.0	- 0.6
Boston	109.9	- 1.0	108.0	- 1.6	122.1	1.4	98.1	- 3.0	114.2	2.3	103.8	- 6.7	108.2	- 1.1
Chicago	109.1	- 1.3	107.2	- 1.6	118.8	- 0.4	95.3	- 3.6	106.2	0.2	108.6	- 2.8	119.7	- 0.1
Cincinnati	112.1	- 0.3	111.0	- 0.3	124.0	- 0.1	101.9	- 2.7	109.1	2.8	110.0	0.1	118.8	0.1
Cleveland	109.5	- 0.1	108.0	- 0.1	118.9	- 0.4	98.9	- 2.4	104.7	3.2	106.1	1.7	117.2	- 0.4
Detroit	112.7	- 0.8	111.2	- 0.9	119.2	- 0.1	99.3	- 2.4	105.5	0	118.0	- 0.2	116.5	- 0.3
Houston	109.4	- 0.7	108.1	- 0.9	117.8	0	99.6	- 0.9	109.8	0.1	109.6	- 3.2	110.0	- 0.5
Kansas City	107.1	- 0.1	105.3	- 0.4	120.7	- 0.2	96.1	- 2.6	107.4	3.1	103.0	0	107.4	0
Los Angeles	112.4	0.3	109.4	0.1	127.8	- 0.1	101.7	- 0.6	103.0	0	107.7	- 0.2	113.5	1.1
Minneapolis	112.3	- 0.1	111.5	- 0.1	125.9	- 0.1	96.4	- 2.9	110.9	0.1	115.2	3.1	122.7	0.7
New York	111.4	- 1.3	109.2	- 1.5	128.7	- 0.1	101.9	- 3.0	106.9	0.9	103.8	- 3.0	115.5	- 1.2
Philadelphia	112.8	- 0.9	111.6	- 1.2	123.0	0.7	102.3	- 4.0	111.3	2.2	113.9	- 1.4	113.8	- 0.4
Pittsburgh	111.1	- 1.1	110.3	- 1.3	125.0	- 0.1	99.4	- 1.8	109.4	0	103.4	- 4.7	123.4	0.2
Portland, Ore.	111.9	1.1	110.4	0.5	123.9	- 0.1	102.6	- 1.3	108.1	4.7	107.3	- 0.2	115.8	0.4
St. Louis	112.8	- 0.8	110.5	- 1.0	119.0	- 0.1	100.9	- 1.9	109.7	- 0.2	118.0	- 1.3	120.8	- 0.5
San Francisco	112.7	- 0.3	111.8	- 0.2	130.6	- 0.2	105.7	- 1.6	105.3	0.5	112.7	1.3	112.7	- 0.2
Scranton	107.5	- 1.5	107.0	- 1.7	119.2	- 0.3	98.9	- 4.1	107.9	0.1	101.2	- 1.8	111.7	- 0.8
Seattle	111.6	- 0.3	110.9	- 0.4	127.9	- 0.1	102.4	- 1.3	108.1	- 0.2	110.9	0.5	113.3	0
Washington, D.C.	111.3	- 1.2	109.6	- 1.5	122.1	0.1	97.1	- 4.0	112.9	0.1	109.0	- 2.9	114.4	0.2

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

Food and Unit	October 1955	September 1955	Food and Unit	October 1955	September 1955
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	53.4	53.6	Grapefruit * each		
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.1	27.2	Peaches * lb.		15.3
Corn meal 1b.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice 1b.	17.6	17.8	Grapes, seedless * lb.	15.4	15.3
Rolled oats 20 oz.	19.2	19.2	Watermelons * lb.		
Corn flakes 12 oz.	22.0	22.0	Potatoes 10 lb.	44.7	45.0
Bread, white 1b.	17.8	17.7	Sweetpotatoes 1b.	10.8	12.0
Soda crackers 1b.	27.0	27.1	Onions 1b.	8.0	7.9
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.7	23.8	Carrots 1b.	15.1	14.4
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	15.0	18.4
Round steak 1b.	90.5	91.5	Celery 1b.	15.8	16.1
Chuck roast 1b.	49.3	49.2	Cabbage 1b.	7.6	7.3
Rib roast 1b.	69.6	69.9	Tomatoes 1b.	22.8	21.0
Hamburger 1b.	39.3	39.3	Beans, green 1b.	20.8	19.9
Veal cutlets 1b.	110.1	110.5	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	81.0	85.3	Orange juice 48 oz. can	35.0	34.5
Bacon, sliced 1b.	66.5	67.2	Peaches #2 1/2 can	34.9	34.8
Ham, whole 1b.	59.8	62.6	Pineapple #2 can	33.2	33.0
Lamb, leg 1b.	68.1	68.4	Fruit cocktail #303 can	26.7	26.7
Frankfurters 1b.	53.2	53.3	Corn, cream style #303 can	17.2	17.1
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	42.5	42.6	Peas, green #303 can	21.5	21.5
Frying chickens, dressed 1b.	1/	46.4	Tomatoes #303 can	15.1	15.1
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	53.3	57.6	Baby foods 4 1/2-5 oz.	9.7	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	42.2	42.7	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	45.6	45.9	Prunes 1b.	34.6	34.3
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	58.1	56.5	Beans 1b.	17.7	18.1
Tuna fish, canned 6-6 1/2 oz.	35.4	35.3	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.1	14.2
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	22.3	22.1	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	15.0	15.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	23.8	23.4	Pickles, sweet 7 1/2 oz.	27.2	27.2
Ice cream pt.	28.9	28.9	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.7	22.6
Butter 1b.	71.2	71.0	Coffee 1b.	92.3	90.5
Cheese, American process 1b.	57.7	57.7	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	32.4
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:			Shortening, hydrogenated 3 lb.	88.8	90.1
Frozen			Margarine, colored 1b.	28.9	28.9
Strawberries 10 oz.	30.5	30.5	Lard 1b.	20.0	20.0
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	18.9	18.8	Salad dressing pt.	35.3	35.2
Peas, green 10 oz.	21.3	21.0	Peanut butter 1b.	55.6	55.9
Beans, green 10 oz.	24.0	24.1	Sugar 5 lb.	52.0	52.0
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples 1b.	12.3	14.3	Grape jelly 12 oz.	26.3	26.3
Bananas 1b.	17.1	17.2	Chocolate bar 7/8 doz.	4.2	4.6
Oranges, size 200 doz.	60.7	59.2	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	68.2	68.5
Lemons 1b.	17.5	17.8	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.5	8.5

* Priced only in season
 1/ Discontinued

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.

