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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR NOVEMBER 1955

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.1 percent between October and November 1955, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. A further decline in food prices was not enough to offset higher prices for other major categories of family spending. The largest increases were for transportation, medical care, and housing.

The November Consumer Price Index was 115.0 percent of the 1947-49 average, 0.3 percent higher than a year ago and 0.3 percent below the October 1953 peak.

FOOD

The retail food price index, at 109.8, was at its lowest point since December 1950, 0.9 percent lower than in October, and 1.2 percent below the November 1954 level. Forty-four of the 46 cities surveyed reported lower food prices.

The chief factor in the decrease during the last month was a decline of nearly 8 percent for pork. In addition, prices were lower for all other cuts of meat, poultry (down 3.3 percent), fresh fruits (down 3.2 percent), and eggs (down 2.7 percent). Fresh vegetable prices rose 5 percent on the average, and the dairy products group rose 0.3 percent, primarily because of several increases in milk prices.

The index for meats, poultry, and fish fell below the 1947-49 average for the first time since April 1950. As a result of the heavy runs of hogs to market, pork chop prices fell in all 46 cities from an average of 81 cents a pound in October to 73 cents in November, a decrease of 9.9 percent. Bacon prices dropped 8.4 percent and ham 4.8 percent. Of the beef and veal items, round steak showed the greatest decrease, 2.6 percent; chuck roast averaged 1.4 percent lower, and smaller drops were reported for other cuts. Ready-to-cook poultry prices fell 3.9 percent. Supplies continued large and promised to remain ample into the new year.

Retail prices of all fruits and vegetables combined increased slightly from October to November. An 11.8 percent decrease in oranges, reflecting marketing of the Florida crop, led the decline in fresh fruit prices, followed by smaller decreases in prices of bananas and apples. These declines were partially offset by sharp rises in prices of grapes (up 20.4 percent) and grapefruit (up 10.4 percent). Fresh vegetable prices jumped 5 percent over the month, as tomato prices, which began to rise seasonally in September, increased 21.9 percent, and white potato prices rose 5.5 percent, their first increase since the downward trend started in June.

The index for other foods at home dropped 0.7 percent. There was a 2.7 percent decrease in egg prices, reflecting heavy production. Chocolate bar prices were cut 4 percent with the return of larger size bars in many stores. Coffee prices increased in 41 cities, by an average of 0.7 percent. Restaurant meal prices were unchanged from their October level.

HOUSING

The rise of 0.1 percent in housing costs between October and November reflected increases in residential rents, housefurnishings, household operation, gas bills, and anthracite coal. However, residential rents were only 0.1 percent higher than in October. Prices for home repair and maintenance items also rose during the month. Household operation costs were up 0.3 percent, with higher rates for laundry and dry cleaning services and some housefurnishings such as sheets, drapery fabrics, sewing machines, living room suites, and aluminum saucepans. Lower prices were reported for refrigerators, toasters, vacuum cleaners, dinnerware, and wool rugs.

OTHER COMMODITIES  
AND SERVICES

New car prices rose again in November, by 6.9 percent, as the changeover to 1956 models was completed. As in October, the new models carried higher price tags and lower dealer concessions than the last of the 1955 models. Prices of used cars and gasoline were lower than in October.

Higher rates for group hospitalization insurance in 3 cities were largely responsible for the rise of 0.9 percent in the medical care index, although fees for professional services continued upward during the month. The advance of 0.4 percent in costs of personal care reflected increases in costs of men's haircuts in 4 cities.

Reading and recreation costs were up 0.1 percent from October, as prices of toys and television sets advanced.

Apparel prices increased 0.1 percent as higher shoe prices more than offset the effect of lowered prices of some items of women's and girls' apparel.

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

Group	November 1955	October 1955	September 1955	November 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 . . . . .	115.0	114.9	114.9	114.6	101.8	59.4
FOOD <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	109.8	110.8	111.6	111.1	100.5	47.1
Food at home . . . . .	108.2	109.4	110.4	110.1	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products . . . . .	123.9	123.9	124.0	123.1	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry and fish . . . . .	97.1	100.9	103.5	103.5	106.1	41.6
Dairy products . . . . .	107.8	107.5	106.5	106.6	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables . . . . .	109.0	108.5	110.2	109.6	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home . . . . .	113.1	113.9	114.1	113.7	94.1	48.4
HOUSING <sup>2/</sup> . . . . .	120.9	120.8	120.4	119.5	104.9	76.1
Rent . . . . .	130.9	130.8	130.5	129.2	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity . . . . .	111.5	111.2	111.2	108.7	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil . . . . .	126.7	126.3	125.2	124.2	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings . . . . .	104.5	104.4	103.6	105.4	97.4	53.4
Household operation . . . . .	120.5	120.1	119.8	117.8	99.6	68.4
APPAREL . . . . .	104.7	104.6	104.6	104.6	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' . . . . .	106.0	106.0	105.8	106.5	98.1	4/
Women's and girls' . . . . .	99.3	99.5	99.5	99.5	93.3	4/
Footwear . . . . .	119.2	118.4	118.1	117.0	102.1	4/
Other apparel . . . . .	91.0	91.0	91.0	91.2	88.4	4/
TRANSPORTATION . . . . .	128.5	126.6	125.3	127.6	109.9	68.9
MEDICAL CARE . . . . .	129.8	128.7	128.2	126.1	105.4	72.6
PERSONAL CARE . . . . .	117.5	117.0	116.6	113.8	99.2	59.6
READING AND RECREATION . . . . .	106.8	106.7	106.7	106.8	102.5	63.0
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <sup>3/</sup> . . . . .	120.6	120.6	120.6	120.0	103.7	70.6

PERCENT CHANGE TO NOVEMBER 1955 FROM:

	October 1955	September 1955	November 1954	June 1950	Year 1939
ALL ITEMS . . . . .	0.1	0.1	0.3	13.0	93.6
FOOD <sup>1/</sup> . . . . .	- 0.9	- 1.6	- 1.2	9.3	133.1
Food at home . . . . .	- 1.1	- 2.0	- 1.7	7.7	129.7
Cereals and bakery products . . . . .	0	- 0.1	0.6	20.6	116.6
Meats, poultry and fish . . . . .	- 3.8	- 6.2	- 6.2	- 8.5	133.4
Dairy products . . . . .	0.3	1.2	1.1	16.8	116.5
Fruits and vegetables . . . . .	0.5	- 1.1	- 0.5	6.3	135.4
Other foods at home . . . . .	- 0.7	- 0.9	- 0.5	20.2	133.7
HOUSING <sup>2/</sup> . . . . .	0.1	0.4	1.2	15.3	58.9
Rent . . . . .	0.1	0.3	1.3	20.4	51.2
Gas and electricity . . . . .	0.3	0.3	2.6	8.6	6.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil . . . . .	0.3	1.2	2.0	17.8	124.6
Housefurnishings . . . . .	0.1	0.9	- 0.9	7.3	95.7
Household operation . . . . .	0.3	0.6	2.3	21.0	76.2
APPAREL . . . . .	0.1	0.1	0.1	8.5	99.4
Men's and boys' . . . . .	0	0.2	- 0.5	8.1	4/
Women's and girls' . . . . .	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.2	6.4	4/
Footwear . . . . .	0.7	0.9	1.9	16.7	4/
Other apparel . . . . .	0	0	- 0.2	2.9	4/
TRANSPORTATION . . . . .	1.5	2.6	0.7	16.9	86.5
MEDICAL CARE . . . . .	0.9	1.2	2.9	23.1	78.8
PERSONAL CARE . . . . .	0.4	0.8	3.3	18.4	97.1
READING AND RECREATION . . . . .	0.1	0.1	0	4.2	69.5
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES <sup>3/</sup> . . . . .	0	0	0.5	16.3	70.8

<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)
	November 1955	October 1955	November 1954	June 1950	Year 1939	November 1955 <u>1/</u>
U.S. CITY AVERAGE . . . . .	115.0	114.9	114.6	101.8	59.4	192.3
CITIES PRICED MONTHLY:						
Chicago . . . . .	119.1	119.0	117.6	102.8	58.6	202.8
Detroit . . . . .	116.8	116.5	116.9	102.8	59.0	197.2
Los Angeles . . . . .	116.3	116.3	115.0	101.3	60.4	194.3
New York . . . . .	112.5	112.4	112.7	100.9	60.1	186.2
Philadelphia . . . . .	115.0	115.3	115.9	101.6	59.2	191.4
CITIES PRICED IN FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, NOVEMBER <u>2/</u>						
	November 1955	August 1955	November 1954	May 1950		November 1955
Cleveland . . . . .	116.2	116.0	115.3	100.4	59.2	198.0
Houston . . . . .	116.7	115.5	116.7	103.5	59.5	197.6
Scranton . . . . .	110.9	111.5	112.3	100.2	58.5	184.3
Seattle . . . . .	117.4	116.6	115.7	102.0	59.2	200.6
Washington, D. C. . . . .	113.7	113.8	113.5	101.6	60.4	186.7
CITIES PRICED IN JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, OCTOBER <u>2/</u>						
	October 1955	July 1955	October 1954	April 1950		October 1955
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>						
	September 1955	June 1955	September 1954	June 1950		September 1955
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

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 OCTOBER 1955 TO NOVEMBER 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 . . . . .	0.1	- 0.9	0.1	0.1	1.5	0.9	0.4	0.1	0
Chicago . . . . .	0.1	- 1.2	0.2	0.7	0.7	4.0	0.2	0.1	- 0.2
Detroit . . . . .	0.3	- 0.7	0.2	0.3	2.0	3.5	- 0.2	- 0.5	- 0.3
Los Angeles . . . . .	0	- 0.9	- 0.3	- 0.4	2.2	0	- 0.3	0.1	0
New York . . . . .	0.1	- 0.5	0.2	0.1	2.6	0	0.4	0.2	0
Philadelphia . . . . .	- 0.3	- 1.2	- 0.6	0.3	2.8	0	0.3	0.1	- 0.1

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

Group	U.S. CITY AVERAGE	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D.C.
<u>November 1955 Indexes (1947-49 = 100)</u>											
ALL ITEMS . . . . .	115.0	119.1	116.2	116.8	116.7	116.3	112.5	115.0	110.9	117.4	113.7
FOOD . . . . .	109.8	107.8	107.4	111.9	108.1	111.4	109.9	111.4	106.0	110.9	109.9
Food at home . . . . .	108.2	105.9	105.6	110.4	106.9	108.3	108.4	110.1	105.1	109.9	107.8
Cereals and bakery products . . . . .	123.9	119.0	119.1	119.1	117.8	127.9	128.7	122.8	118.8	127.4	121.7
Meats, poultry and fish . . . . .	97.1	91.8	93.5	96.0	95.0	97.6	99.5	98.6	94.2	99.5	94.2
Dairy products . . . . .	107.8	105.5	104.5	105.5	109.7	102.9	107.3	112.8	107.5	109.9	112.8
Fruits and vegetables . . . . .	109.0	109.0	103.3	122.1	110.8	111.7	104.1	110.4	100.0	113.1	105.7
Other foods at home . . . . .	113.1	119.3	116.5	115.5	110.2	111.1	114.6	113.6	111.2	110.1	113.5
HOUSING . . . . .	120.9	132.3	123.3	122.8	124.5	126.9	116.5	114.1	116.0	121.9	116.4
Rent . . . . .	130.9	-	-	-	-	139.8	-	-	125.0	-	123.7
Gas and electricity . . . . .	111.5	110.3	109.1	114.2	106.7	116.2	109.8	101.8	119.1	88.8	122.7
Solid fuels and fuel oil . . . . .	126.7	131.3	126.1	121.4	-	-	126.6	122.1	132.2	131.8	133.5
Housefurnishings . . . . .	104.5	107.9	101.4	108.3	102.2	104.6	104.6	105.8	98.7	103.8	100.6
Household operation . . . . .	120.5	124.1	114.4	114.0	127.8	125.1	119.5	117.2	109.7	115.3	122.9
APPAREL . . . . .	104.7	108.8	104.4	101.6	106.7	104.2	104.2	106.0	105.7	107.1	102.1
Men's and boys' . . . . .	106.0	112.4	107.7	107.3	103.5	107.9	105.9	103.2	107.7	109.3	105.1
Women's and girls' . . . . .	99.3	101.2	97.3	93.0	101.5	97.0	98.4	105.5	99.8	101.2	95.6
Footwear . . . . .	119.2	124.6	118.8	114.4	130.7	121.1	118.3	113.0	123.0	124.0	117.9
Other apparel . . . . .	91.0	95.2	92.8	86.9	90.6	82.7	94.2	92.4	91.0	87.3	90.5
TRANSPORTATION . . . . .	128.5	133.3	124.4	125.0	126.2	127.2	131.1	135.5	126.0	129.8	131.4
MEDICAL CARE . . . . .	129.8	133.9	138.1	137.3	127.4	124.5	126.5	135.5	120.7	139.2	122.6
PERSONAL CARE . . . . .	117.5	121.9	121.6	126.4	128.2	118.2	111.0	117.0	121.6	118.8	116.6
READING AND RECREATION . . . . .	106.8	114.5	114.8	108.8	110.1	96.3	104.4	111.8	120.7	109.9	105.8
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES . . . . .	120.6	117.6	119.9	124.0	122.3	116.2	121.1	125.0	116.4	128.3	130.1

Percent Change -- August 1955 to November 1955

ALL ITEMS . . . . .	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.0	0.7	0.5	- 0.7	- 0.5	0.7	- 0.1
FOOD . . . . .	- 1.3	- 2.4	- 2.0	- 1.4	- 1.8	0.6	- 1.3	- 2.4	- 2.8	- 1.2	- 1.6
Food at home . . . . .	- 1.6	- 2.8	- 2.3	- 1.5	- 1.9	0.7	- 1.8	- 2.7	- 3.4	- 1.5	- 2.1
Cereals and bakery products . . . . .	- 0.2	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.2	- 0.5	- 0.2	- 0.2
Meats, poultry and fish . . . . .	- 5.6	- 5.4	- 6.6	- 5.5	- 6.8	- 4.4	- 5.1	- 6.6	- 7.2	- 4.4	- 6.3
Dairy products . . . . .	2.0	- 3.7	2.3	- 0.2	0.1	0	2.1	3.8	2.3	1.6	3.1
Fruits and vegetables . . . . .	- 2.1	- 4.6	- 4.8	0.2	- 1.9	8.8	- 0.8	- 6.3	- 7.6	- 1.0	- 4.3
Other foods at home . . . . .	0.4	1.2	0.7	0.8	1.6	1.8	- 2.1	- 0.9	- 1.9	- 1.5	0
HOUSING . . . . .	0.8	1.1	0.3	0.4	1.4	- 0.2	1.3	0	0.7	0.3	- 0.3
Rent . . . . .	0.3	-	-	-	-	1/0.4	-	-	1/1.4	-	1/0.2
Gas and electricity . . . . .	0.5	- 0.2	0	5.4	- 0.1	0	1.1	- 0.5	- 0.3	0	- 0.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil . . . . .	2.3	1.8	3.0	2.2	-	-	0.9	5.6	5.8	0.6	1.1
Housefurnishings . . . . .	1.3	2.0	0.9	1.8	2.5	0.6	1.5	1.5	- 0.7	0.1	- 1.0
Household operation . . . . .	0.8	0	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.4	0.2	2.5	- 0.2	0.7	1.5
APPAREL . . . . .	1.3	3.0	1.0	- 0.2	0.9	0.6	3.0	1.6	- 0.7	0.4	0.5
Men's and boys' . . . . .	0.5	1.6	- 0.3	0.3	1.3	1.5	0	- 0.9	0.5	0.2	0
Women's and girls' . . . . .	2.0	4.7	1.9	- 1.1	0.1	- 0.4	5.8	3.6	- 1.8	0.2	0.2
Footwear . . . . .	1.4	2.3	1.7	0.9	3.2	1.3	1.1	0.6	1.3	1.5	2.2
Other apparel . . . . .	0.6	1.7	0.4	- 0.1	0.4	- 0.1	1.7	0.8	- 0.3	0.1	0.2
TRANSPORTATION . . . . .	2.5	2.1	4.1	3.6	3.9	3.7	3.4	- 2.0	1.8	2.9	1.8
MEDICAL CARE . . . . .	1.4	4.2	1.0	3.5	1.8	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	5.9	3.5
PERSONAL CARE . . . . .	1.5	4.8	0.2	- 0.2	7.0	0.5	1.7	- 0.3	- 0.2	0.8	4.7
READING AND RECREATION . . . . .	0.5	0.7	- 0.5	- 0.1	1.3	- 0.1	0.7	- 1.2	0.2	1.9	- 0.2
OTHER GOODS AND SERVICES . . . . .	0.2	- 0.4	0.3	- 0.5	2.9	0.1	0.1	1.2	1.1	0.1	0

1/ Change from May 1955 to November 1955.

TABLE 5. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX -- FOOD AND ITS SUBGROUPS  
November 1955 Indexes and Percent Changes, October 1955 to November 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 . .	109.8	- 0.9	108.2	- 1.1	123.9	0	97.1	- 3.8	107.8	0.3	109.0	0.5	113.1	- 0.7
Atlanta . . . . .	108.1	- 1.8	106.2	- 2.1	116.2	- 0.3	99.1	- 5.9	108.2	0	107.1	- 3.5	105.9	0.5
Baltimore . . . . .	110.3	- 1.0	108.4	- 1.3	121.6	- 0.1	97.2	- 4.0	108.9	- 0.2	109.0	- 0.5	113.0	0
Boston . . . . .	109.2	- 0.6	107.1	- 0.8	122.2	0.1	95.2	- 3.0	114.1	- 0.1	104.7	0.9	107.9	- 0.3
Chicago . . . . .	107.8	- 1.2	105.9	- 1.2	119.0	0.2	91.8	- 3.7	105.5	- 0.7	109.0	0.4	119.3	- 0.3
Cincinnati . . . . .	110.3	- 1.6	109.0	- 1.8	123.3	- 0.6	96.8	- 5.0	109.8	0.6	109.3	- 0.6	117.8	- 0.8
Cleveland . . . . .	107.4	- 1.9	105.6	- 2.2	119.1	0.2	93.5	- 5.5	104.5	- 0.2	103.3	- 2.6	116.5	- 0.6
Detroit . . . . .	111.9	- 0.7	110.4	- 0.7	119.1	- 0.1	96.0	- 3.8	105.5	0	122.1	3.5	115.5	- 0.9
Houston . . . . .	108.1	- 1.2	106.9	- 1.1	117.8	0	95.0	- 4.6	109.7	- 0.1	110.8	1.1	110.2	0.2
Kansas City . . . . .	105.5	- 1.5	103.4	- 1.8	120.5	- 0.2	90.5	- 5.8	107.3	- 0.1	104.2	1.2	106.1	- 1.2
Los Angeles . . . . .	111.4	- 0.9	108.3	- 1.0	127.9	0.1	97.6	- 4.0	102.9	- 0.1	111.7	3.7	111.1	- 2.1
Minneapolis . . . . .	111.6	- 0.6	110.6	- 0.8	125.5	- 0.3	93.8	- 2.7	110.6	- 0.3	117.3	1.8	121.4	- 1.1
New York . . . . .	109.9	- 0.5	108.4	- 0.7	128.7	0	99.5	- 2.4	107.3	0.4	104.1	0.3	114.6	- 0.8
Philadelphia . . . . .	111.4	- 1.2	110.1	- 1.3	122.8	- 0.2	98.6	- 3.6	112.8	1.3	110.4	- 3.1	113.6	- 0.2
Pittsburgh . . . . .	109.8	- 1.2	108.9	- 1.3	125.0	0	94.4	- 5.0	109.3	- 0.1	105.8	2.3	122.5	- 0.7
Portland, Ore. . . . .	111.2	- 0.6	109.6	- 0.7	124.1	0.2	99.5	- 3.0	108.5	0.4	111.5	3.9	112.7	- 2.7
St. Louis . . . . .	111.5	- 1.2	108.9	- 1.4	119.1	0.1	95.8	- 5.1	100.6	- 0.1	117.5	- 0.4	121.4	0.5
San Francisco . . . . .	111.9	- 0.7	110.7	- 1.0	130.7	0.1	102.8	- 2.7	105.4	0.1	115.2	2.2	109.9	- 2.5
Scranton . . . . .	106.0	- 1.4	105.1	- 1.8	118.8	- 0.3	94.2	- 4.8	107.5	- 0.4	100.0	- 1.2	111.2	- 0.4
Seattle . . . . .	110.9	- 0.6	109.9	- 0.9	127.4	- 0.4	99.5	- 2.8	109.9	1.7	113.1	2.0	110.1	- 2.8
Washington, D.C. . . . .	109.9	- 1.3	107.8	- 1.6	121.7	- 0.3	94.2	- 3.0	112.8	- 0.1	105.7	- 3.0	113.5	- 0.8

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

Food and Unit	November 1955	October 1955	Food and Unit	November 1955	October 1955
CEREALS AND BAKERY PRODUCTS:	(Cents)	(Cents)	Fresh (continued)	(Cents)	(Cents)
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	53.4	53.4	Grapefruit * each	10.6	
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.1	27.1	Peaches * lb.		
Corn meal lb.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * pt.		
Rice lb.	17.5	17.6	Grapes, seedless * lb.	18.6	15.4
Rolled oats 20 oz.	19.3	19.2	Watermelons * lb.		
Corn flakes 12 oz.	22.0	22.0	Potatoes 10 lb.	47.1	44.7
Bread, white lb.	17.8	17.8	Sweetpotatoes lb.	10.9	10.8
Soda crackers lb.	26.9	27.0	Onions lb.	8.2	8.0
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	23.7	23.7	Carrots lb.	14.9	15.1
MEATS, POULTRY AND FISH:			Lettuce head	15.0	15.0
Round steak lb.	88.1	90.5	Celery lb.	14.8	15.8
Chuck roast lb.	48.6	49.3	Cabbage lb.	8.0	7.6
Rib roast lb.	68.7	69.6	Tomatoes lb.	27.8	22.8
Hamburger lb.	39.0	39.3	Beans, green lb.	21.4	20.8
Veal cutlets lb.	109.0	110.1	Canned		
Pork chops, center cut lb.	73.2	81.0	Orange juice 46 oz. can	35.4	35.0
Bacon, sliced lb.	60.9	66.5	Peaches #2 1/2 can	34.9	34.9
Ham, whole lb.	56.9	59.8	Pineapple #2 can	33.3	33.2
Lamb, leg lb.	67.2	68.1	Fruit cocktail #303 can	26.6	26.7
Frankfurters lb.	52.9	53.2	Corn, cream style #303 can	17.6	17.2
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	42.4	42.5	Peas, green #303 can	21.6	21.5
Frying chickens, dressed 1/ lb.	51.2	53.3	Tomatoes #303 can	15.2	15.1
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook lb.	42.4	42.2	Baby foods 4 1/2-5 oz.	9.7	9.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen lb.	42.4	42.2	Dried		
Haddock, fillet, frozen lb.	45.5	45.6	Prunes lb.	34.9	34.6
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	58.4	58.1	Beans lb.	17.4	17.7
Tuna fish, canned 6-6 1/2 oz.	35.3	35.4	OTHER FOODS AT HOME:		
DAIRY PRODUCTS:			Vegetable soup 11 oz. can	14.1	14.1
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	22.4	22.3	Beans with pork 16 oz. can	14.8	15.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	23.9	23.8	Pickles, sweet 7 1/2 oz.	27.3	27.2
Ice cream pt.	28.8	28.9	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.9	22.7
Butter lb.	71.0	71.2	Coffee lb.	93.0	92.3
Cheese, American process lb.	57.8	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.	88.9	88.8
Frozen			Margarine, colored lb.	28.8	28.9
Strawberries 10 oz.	30.7	30.5	Lard lb.	19.9	20.0
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	18.9	18.9	Salad dressing pt.	35.2	35.3
Peas, green 10 oz.	21.4	21.3	Peanut butter lb.	55.2	55.6
Beans, green 10 oz.	23.8	24.0	Sugar 5 lb.	52.3	52.0
Fresh			Corn syrup 24 oz.	23.7	23.7
Apples lb.	12.2	12.3	Grape jelly 12 oz.	26.2	26.3
Bananas lb.	16.9	17.1	Chocolate bar 2/ 1 oz.	4.7	4.8
Oranges, size 200 doz.	53.6	60.7	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	66.4	68.2
Lemons lb.	18.0	17.5	Gelatin, flavored 3-4 oz.	8.5	8.5

\* Priced only in season  
1/ Discontinued  
2/ Formerly 7/8 oz.

## 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.



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