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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MAY 1956

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.4 percent between April and May 1956, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. An advance of 1.3 percent in food prices was primarily responsible for the increase. Prices of all other groups of goods and services either advanced or remained at their April levels. The Consumer Price Index for May was 115.4 (1947-49 = 100), 1.1 percent higher than in May 1955, and equivalent to the previous high set in October 1953.

FOOD Food prices showed their sharpest rise for any month since June 1953, bringing the food index to 111.0 (1947-49 = 100). The food index was, however, still 0.1 percent below the level of May 1955, and 4.8 percent lower than the peak of August 1952.

Prices of food purchased in stores rose 1.5 percent, primarily because of higher prices for fresh fruits and vegetables, although prices of all major classes of foods rose. Prices of restaurant meals rose 0.2 percent over the month.

Most fresh fruits and vegetables were higher than in April. The more than usual seasonal advances in fresh fruit and vegetable prices reflected adverse weather conditions and heavy export demand for potatoes. Over the month prices of potatoes were up 19.2 percent, onions 14.4 percent, and green beans 9.0 percent. However, prices of tomatoes fell 16.0 percent, and celery and cabbage were slightly lower. Apple prices advanced seasonally, 9.8 percent; oranges, 8.7 percent; and bananas, 9.4 percent; but prices of fresh strawberries were down 30.3 percent.

Prices of meats and poultry were higher than a month earlier; prices of pork chops rose 5.9 percent, but advances for ham and bacon were smaller; lamb increased 9.1 percent. Round steak prices were 1.9 percent higher and smaller increases were reported for all other cuts of beef and veal and for poultry.

Prices of dairy products rose 1.0 percent, contrary to the usual seasonal decrease. Fresh milk prices increased 1.4 percent as higher prices were allowed under Federal marketing agreements. Butter prices increased 1.5 percent reflecting higher support prices.

The rise of 0.2 percent in prices of cereals and bakery products was due mainly to higher prices for flour and soda crackers.

In the "other foods at home" category, higher prices for hydrogenated shortening, lard, margarine, and coffee offset a reduction of 1.5 percent in egg prices.

HOUSING Residential rents advanced 0.4 percent, with average increases reported in 22 of the 36 cities surveyed. The household operation group index increased 0.2 percent, primarily because of higher water rates in some cities. Prices of anthracite and bituminous coal declined seasonally. Housefurnishings prices were slightly lower, on the average, as May white sale prices and further reductions for appliances were partially offset by advances in prices of dinnerware, ranges, and some furniture items.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES A substantial increase in prices of used cars and the nationwide increase in railroad fares, effective May 1 were the important factors in the transportation group index advance of 0.4 percent. New car prices declined 0.4 percent. Sale prices on tires were reported in many cities.

The medical care index rose 0.2 percent; the personal care and "other goods and services" groups were up 0.1 percent; while apparel and reading and recreation remained at their April levels.

TABLE C: Consumer Price Index -- U.S. and 20 cities, housing and housing subgroups
1955 Annual averages
(1947-49 = 100)

City	Total housing	Rent	Gas and electric city	Solid fuels and fuel oil	House-furnishings	Household operation
U.S. city average--	120.0	130.3	110.7	125.2	104.1	119.1
Atlanta-----	125.1	133.5	118.0	118.4	107.5	130.1
Baltimore-----	116.6	125.9	99.9	124.6	98.2	112.2
Boston-----	120.9	124.8	111.0	126.1	105.3	117.6
Chicago-----	129.9	150.7	109.8	128.1	106.3	122.7
Cincinnati-----	118.0	132.2	119.1	128.5	98.8	124.6
Cleveland-----	122.3	144.2	108.9	123.8	101.8	113.5
Detroit-----	122.3	141.1	110.5	119.7	107.3	112.5
Houston-----	123.1	138.1	106.8	--	100.6	127.3
Kansas City-----	121.5	138.3	120.9	114.2	102.5	124.6
Los Angeles-----	125.7	139.5	115.3	--	105.3	119.3
Minneapolis-----	122.1	141.6	119.1	117.5	101.2	120.1
New York-----	115.7	118.0	109.0	127.4	104.3	119.3
Philadelphia-----	114.3	116.5	102.2	121.0	105.6	114.8
Pittsburgh-----	116.4	124.5	122.2	117.2	103.2	119.7
Portland, Oregon---	119.0	130.4	107.8	130.6	104.9	112.6
St. Louis-----	120.4	136.5	103.8	138.2	102.1	121.3
San Francisco-----	116.5	132.3	135.0	--	104.0	109.9
Scranton-----	115.4	123.9	118.7	128.9	99.6	109.8
Seattle-----	121.3	137.4	88.7	130.0	103.9	114.6
Washington, D.C.---	116.6	123.5	121.3	132.9	103.2	120.1

NOTE: Effective after release of the June 1956 index, the Bureau will discontinue publication of the U. S. and city indexes for all items on the base 1935-39 = 100.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index -- United States city average, all items and commodity groups
Indexes and percent changes for selected dates

Group	Indexes (1947-49=100)					
	May 1956	April 1956	March 1956	May 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	115.4	114.9	114.7	114.2	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	111.0	109.6	109.0	111.1	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	109.5	107.9	107.3	110.0	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	124.7	124.5	124.4	123.8	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	95.5	94.0	92.8	102.1	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	107.5	106.4	106.9	104.0	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.5	116.7	114.8	120.2	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	110.9	110.8	110.7	108.4	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	120.9	120.8	120.7	119.4	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	132.2	131.7	131.6	130.3	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	111.8	111.8	111.7	110.9	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	127.9	129.7	130.6	122.5	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	102.6	102.7	103.1	103.7	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	122.4	122.1	121.6	119.0	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	104.8	104.8	104.8	103.3	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	107.0	106.5	106.6	105.7	98.1	(4/)
Women's and girls' -----	97.9	98.1	98.3	97.3	93.3	(4/)
Footwear -----	122.8	123.0	121.9	117.4	102.1	(4/)
Other apparel -----	91.1	91.1	91.1	90.3	88.4	(4/)
Transportation -----	126.9	126.4	126.7	125.5	109.9	70.2
Public -----	172.5	170.8	170.8	164.9	117.9	81.3
Private -----	116.9	116.5	116.8	116.2	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	131.9	131.6	131.4	127.5	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	119.6	119.5	119.2	113.9	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	108.2	108.2	107.7	106.5	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	121.5	121.4	121.2	119.9	103.7	70.6

Group	Percent change to May 1956 from:				
	April 1956	March 1956	May 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.4	0.6	1.1	13.4	94.3
Food 1/ -----	1.3	1.8	- .1	10.4	135.7
Food at home -----	1.5	2.1	- .5	9.0	132.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	.2	.2	.7	21.4	118.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.6	2.9	- 6.5	-10.0	129.6
Dairy products -----	1.0	.6	3.4	16.5	115.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	4.1	5.8	1.1	18.5	162.4
Other foods at home -----	.1	.2	2.3	17.9	129.1
Housing 2/ -----	.1	.2	1.3	15.3	58.9
Rent -----	.4	.5	1.5	21.6	52.7
Gas and electricity -----	0	.1	.8	8.9	6.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- 1.4	- 2.1	4.4	18.9	126.8
Housefurnishings -----	- .1	- .5	- 1.1	5.3	92.1
Household operation -----	.2	.7	2.9	22.9	78.9
Apparel -----	0	0	1.5	8.6	99.6
Men's and boys' -----	.5	.4	1.2	9.1	(4/)
Women's and girls' -----	- .2	- .4	.6	4.9	(4/)
Footwear -----	- .2	.7	4.6	20.3	(4/)
Other apparel -----	0	0	.9	3.1	(4/)
Transportation -----	.4	.2	1.1	15.5	80.8
Public -----	1.0	1.0	4.6	46.3	112.2
Private -----	.3	.1	.6	9.7	78.5
Medical care -----	.2	.4	3.5	25.1	81.7
Personal care -----	.1	.3	5.0	20.6	100.7
Reading and recreation -----	0	.5	1.6	5.6	71.7
Other goods and services 3/ -----	.1	.2	1.3	17.2	72.1

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	[1947-49=100]					[1935-39=100]
	May 1956	April 1956	May 1955	June 1950	Year 1939	May 1956 ^{1/}
United States city average -----	115.4	114.9	114.2	101.8	59.4	192.9
Cities priced monthly:						
Chicago -----	118.6	118.1	117.2	102.8	58.6	202.0
Detroit -----	118.0	117.4	116.4	102.8	59.0	199.2
Los Angeles -----	116.7	116.3	115.4	101.3	60.4	195.0
New York -----	113.0	112.3	111.8	100.9	60.1	187.0
Philadelphia -----	116.2	116.0	115.5	101.6	59.2	193.4
Cities priced in February, May, August, November ^{2/}	May 1956	February 1956	May 1955	May 1950	Year 1939	May 1956
Cleveland -----	117.3	115.7	115.3	100.4	59.2	199.9
Houston -----	116.8	116.6	115.5	103.5	59.5	197.7
Scranton -----	112.1	111.1	111.4	100.2	58.5	186.3
Seattle -----	117.1	116.2	116.8	102.0	59.2	200.1
Washington, D.C. -----	114.4	113.4	113.5	101.6	60.4	187.8
Cities priced in January, April, July, October ^{2/}	April 1956	January 1956	April 1955	April 1950	Year 1939	April 1956
Boston -----	115.2	114.6	113.4	101.2	61.0	185.5
Kansas City -----	116.4	115.5	115.2	101.4	61.7	187.4
Minneapolis -----	115.6	116.1	117.0	(3/) ^{102.1}	60.7	191.4
Pittsburgh -----	115.2	113.6	113.8	99.9	58.1	195.8
Portland, Oregon -----	116.4	116.3	114.2	101.5	58.3	201.6
Cities priced in March, June, September, December ^{2/}	March 1956	December 1955	March 1955	June 1950	Year 1939	March 1956
Atlanta -----	116.8	117.1	115.3	(4/) ^{101.3}	58.3	198.1
Baltimore -----	115.2	115.8	114.9	101.6	57.9	198.0
Cincinnati -----	114.3	114.2	113.4	101.2	58.4	192.5
St. Louis -----	115.7	116.1	115.6	101.1	59.3	193.1
San Francisco -----	116.8	115.9	115.6	100.9	58.6	199.6

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 April 1956 to May 1956
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
United States city average ---	0.4	1.3	0.1	0	0.4	0.2	0.1	0	0.1
Chicago -----	.4	1.6	.1	- 0.3	.4	0	- .8	- 0.1	.1
Detroit -----	.5	1.5	.2	- .1	.3	.1	- .2	- .1	.2
Los Angeles -----	.3	.3	.2	1.2	.5	.2	0	0	.1
New York -----	.6	1.6	.1	- .2	.3	.2	.1	.1	.1
Philadelphia -----	.2	1.3	- .3	- .6	- .4	0	.5	0	- .5

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 May 1956 indexes and percent changes, February 1956 to May 1956
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in May 1956

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D.C.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	115.4	118.6	117.3	118.0	116.8	116.7	113.0	116.2	112.1	117.1	114.4
Food -----	111.0	108.8	109.2	113.9	107.5	113.0	110.6	112.9	108.3	111.8	112.0
Food at home -----	109.5	107.1	107.3	112.4	105.4	109.6	109.0	111.2	107.3	111.1	109.9
Cereals and bakery products --	124.7	120.0	119.6	119.8	117.6	128.3	129.2	124.6	124.0	131.2	121.9
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	95.5	89.1	93.2	93.5	90.8	96.2	99.1	98.3	93.4	95.9	93.0
Dairy products -----	107.5	110.3	104.2	108.9	108.7	103.0	102.6	107.5	105.2	112.9	112.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.5	117.8	116.7	138.9	111.4	121.8	116.6	125.3	117.2	123.6	122.3
Other foods at home -----	110.9	117.8	114.3	112.8	109.8	110.1	111.1	111.0	108.7	108.6	112.1
Housing -----	120.9	129.9	123.6	123.2	125.8	126.9	117.0	115.9	116.3	122.3	116.6
Rent -----	132.2	—	—	—	—	141.7	—	—	125.0	—	124.2
Gas and electricity -----	111.8	113.8	109.1	114.2	106.5	116.2	110.1	103.4	120.1	88.8	123.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	127.9	131.3	123.7	123.9	—	—	133.8	122.2	121.4	133.5	136.2
Housefurnishings -----	102.6	101.4	100.7	106.9	100.5	101.6	102.3	106.7	98.8	100.8	100.4
Household operation -----	122.4	127.0	115.0	115.9	129.6	124.6	121.4	119.0	109.8	120.8	125.2
Apparel -----	104.8	108.2	105.7	102.5	106.2	106.1	103.5	103.6	106.3	106.6	103.6
Men's and boys' -----	107.0	113.6	108.4	109.7	105.7	109.4	106.2	104.0	108.4	109.4	105.8
Women's and girls' -----	97.9	98.5	98.4	91.9	98.6	98.2	95.8	99.0	99.6	99.5	97.4
Footwear -----	122.8	126.7	122.3	118.7	132.8	126.9	122.1	117.6	126.0	126.3	120.8
Other apparel -----	91.1	94.9	93.4	86.8	90.3	83.8	93.9	91.9	90.5	86.4	91.4
Transportation -----	126.9	131.6	122.8	125.2	124.4	124.4	131.8	134.3	127.1	125.3	129.0
Public -----	172.5	166.5	165.7	144.3	164.2	152.9	187.9	186.7	190.0	178.0	154.9
Private -----	116.9	116.4	113.9	121.4	118.6	119.8	111.8	113.3	112.9	113.6	121.9
Medical care -----	131.9	136.4	145.5	142.4	126.5	126.8	126.7	137.5	121.3	135.3	123.4
Personal care -----	119.6	122.8	123.7	127.4	128.9	119.6	111.4	127.6	123.7	119.6	117.3
Reading and recreation -----	108.2	115.6	114.9	109.5	113.2	96.6	105.2	114.9	121.7	111.0	106.0
Other goods and services -----	121.5	117.6	123.1	124.5	122.5	116.3	121.2	124.9	116.8	128.1	130.8
Percent change from February 1956 to May 1956											
All items -----	0.7	0.3	1.4	1.4	0.2	0.8	0.8	1.3	0.9	0.8	0.9
Food -----	2.0	1.9	2.4	3.2	.7	1.4	1.8	2.4	2.8	1.5	1.9
Food at home -----	2.2	2.3	2.8	3.5	.1	1.3	2.3	2.3	2.7	1.9	1.9
Cereals and bakery products --	.3	.9	.3	.2	.2	.1	.2	.9	3.8	-.2	.1
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	2.0	1.7	2.3	1.7	1.3	1.6	2.9	2.4	2.4	2.6	0
Dairy products -----	.2	2.5	2.0	3.9	-.9	.2	-1.8	-2.4	-2.3	1.6	-.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	7.2	4.6	8.3	11.3	-1.8	5.2	7.6	8.0	8.6	3.2	7.7
Other foods at home -----	1.2	1.6	1.2	1.1	.8	-.5	1.3	2.3	2.3	1.9	2.7
Housing -----	.2	-1.0	.9	.4	.5	.6	.3	1.6	-.1	.8	1.0
Rent -----	.5	—	—	—	—	1/1.4	—	—	1/0	—	1/-.4
Gas and electricity -----	.1	0	0	-.2	-.3	0	0	1.6	.8	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-1.6	-2.6	-4.4	.1	—	—	-1.5	-5.3	-9.4	1.3	-1.9
Housefurnishings -----	.1	0	-.4	-.6	-.2	-.2	.1	1.4	1.3	-.8	1.0
Household operation -----	.8	.2	.5	.8	.6	-.1	.5	1.5	.3	4.1	1.0
Apparel -----	.2	.3	.7	.5	-.7	1.3	-.3	-.1	.1	.4	1.0
Men's and boys' -----	.5	.7	.4	.5	.1	.9	-.3	.5	0	-.1	.2
Women's and girls' -----	-.4	-.7	.8	.1	-1.7	.9	-.7	-1.2	-.3	.5	1.8
Footwear -----	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.5	.8	3.3	.8	1.9	1.4	1.0	.6
Other apparel -----	.1	.1	.3	-.5	-.3	.7	0	.8	-.7	.1	.4
Transportation -----	0	.4	.4	.7	-.8	-.2	.4	-.7	-1.2	.4	-1.1
Public -----	1.2	.7	.8	1.1	1.5	1.4	.6	.4	.4	1.3	1.0
Private -----	-.1	.3	.4	.7	-1.2	-.4	.3	-1.1	-1.5	.3	-1.6
Medical care -----	.8	1.0	5.2	3.6	-.9	.3	.1	1.0	.4	.2	.5
Personal care -----	.6	.3	.7	-.2	.3	.2	0	1.9	1.5	.3	-.2
Reading and recreation -----	.7	.3	-.4	.6	1.0	1.7	.5	1.3	1.0	.5	-.7
Other goods and services -----	.5	.1	2.6	.4	.2	.2	.2	-.2	.2	0	.7

1/ Change from November 1955 to May 1956.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 May 1956 indexes and percent changes, April 1956 to May 1956
 U.S. city average and 20 large cities
 [1947-49=100]

City	Total food		Total food at home		Cereals and bakery products		Meats, poultry, and fish		Dairy products		Fruits and 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 ---	111.0	1.3	109.5	1.5	124.7	0.2	95.5	1.6	107.5	1.0	121.5	4.1	110.9	0.1
Atlanta -----	108.9	1.0	107.3	1.2	118.3	.5	97.3	1.8	108.9	0	118.6	3.9	104.1	.4
Baltimore -----	112.0	.9	109.5	1.1	121.6	.2	96.2	.8	108.9	.1	120.0	4.3	111.1	.4
Boston -----	109.7	1.7	107.1	1.7	122.2	.1	94.2	2.2	105.2	- 1.1	118.5	7.3	105.7	.1
Chicago -----	108.8	1.6	107.1	1.9	120.0	.2	89.1	3.1	110.3	1.1	117.8	3.4	117.8	.6
Cincinnati -----	112.6	1.2	111.4	1.4	124.6	0	95.8	1.5	113.8	2.6	122.3	3.4	116.6	-.3
Cleveland -----	109.2	1.4	107.3	1.6	119.6	.2	93.2	.9	104.2	3.2	116.7	4.9	114.3	-.1
Detroit -----	113.9	1.5	112.4	1.7	119.8	.3	93.5	1.6	108.9	.2	138.9	7.3	112.8	-.6
Houston -----	107.5	.8	105.4	.6	117.6	.4	90.8	.6	108.7	4.4	111.4	- 2.2	109.8	.4
Kansas City -----	107.6	1.6	105.7	1.9	120.5	.2	89.6	1.7	110.6	3.2	115.7	4.2	105.8	.7
Los Angeles -----	113.0	.3	109.6	.2	128.3	.1	96.2	1.4	103.0	0	121.8	-.6	110.1	-.4
Minneapolis -----	112.9	.8	112.4	1.0	126.4	-.1	93.0	1.0	111.9	1.3	130.5	2.6	119.5	.2
New York -----	110.6	1.6	109.0	2.0	129.2	.3	99.1	2.6	102.6	.4	116.6	5.7	111.1	0
Philadelphia -----	112.9	1.3	111.2	1.6	124.6	.1	98.3	1.8	107.5	.3	125.3	5.0	111.0	.4
Pittsburgh -----	111.8	1.2	110.5	1.4	125.6	0	93.6	1.4	107.3	.1	122.0	5.2	120.0	.2
Portland, Oreg. -----	113.5	1.2	112.1	1.5	125.3	-.3	97.3	1.7	112.5	3.0	124.8	4.0	112.6	-.4
St. Louis -----	111.5	.9	109.1	1.0	119.5	0	93.1	1.2	101.5	4.1	125.3	.2	119.6	.3
San Francisco -----	113.2	.4	112.0	.4	130.8	0	101.9	.4	105.7	.1	127.2	1.9	107.1	-.3
Savannah -----	108.3	1.5	107.3	1.1	124.0	.1	93.4	-.1	105.2	.2	117.2	6.6	108.7	.2
Seattle -----	111.8	.2	111.1	.5	131.2	-.2	95.9	1.3	112.9	.3	123.6	.4	108.6	.1
Washington, D.C. -----	112.0	1.8	109.9	1.9	121.9	.3	93.0	2.0	112.1	-.3	122.3	6.6	112.1	.4

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Average retail prices of selected foods
 U.S. city average

Food and unit	May 1956	April 1956	Food and unit	May 1956	April 1956
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	53.4	53.2	Grapefruit * ----- each	11.0	9.7
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.7	26.8	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.5	12.5	Strawberries * ----- pt.	28.8	40.4
Rice ----- lb.	17.1	17.1	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	19.3	19.3	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Corn flake ----- 12 oz.	21.8	21.8	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	79.7	66.9
Bread, white ----- lb.	17.7	17.7	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	12.5	11.9
Soda crackers ----- lb.	27.4	27.1	Onions ----- lb.	9.1	8.0
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	23.9	23.9	Carrots ----- lb.	12.9	12.4
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce ----- head	15.9	15.2
Round steak ----- lb.	84.0	82.4	Celery ----- lb.	13.2	14.1
Chuck roast ----- lb.	45.5	44.4	Cabbage ----- lb.	7.9	8.5
Rib roast ----- lb.	62.7	64.9	Tomatoes ----- lb.	28.4	33.8
Hamburger ----- lb.	37.7	37.6	Beans, green ----- lb.	27.6	25.3
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	110.6	109.6	Canned:		
Fork chops, center cut ----- lb.	77.3	73.0	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	36.8	36.5
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	54.2	53.8	Peaches ----- #24 can	35.0	34.9
Ham, whole ----- lb.	59.4	58.8	Pineapple ----- #3 can	33.6	33.6
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	71.3	65.4	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.1	26.2
Frankfurters ----- lb.	51.5	51.4	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.0	17.9
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	40.4	40.5	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.6	21.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	49.1	48.9	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.2	15.4
Oven perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	41.8	41.8	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 8 oz.	9.8	9.7
Brook, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	45.4	45.3	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	59.7	59.3	Prunes ----- lb.	35.9	35.8
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.8	33.5	Beans ----- lb.	16.1	16.2
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	22.2	21.9	Vegetable soup ----- 11-oz. can	14.0	14.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	23.7	23.4	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.5	14.5
Ice cream ----- pt.	28.7	28.7	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.0	27.0
Butter ----- lb.	71.7	70.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.0	23.0
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	57.2	57.0	Coffee ----- 15. can	100.3	100.1
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	13.8	13.8	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.2	23.2
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	32.5	32.5
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	97.3	94.3
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	30.2	30.2	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	29.3	28.9
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	19.6	19.6	Lard ----- lb.	19.8	18.8
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.3	21.2	Salad dressing ----- pt.	35.3	34.9
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.1	23.3	Peanut butter ----- lb.	53.4	53.4
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	52.6	52.6
Apples ----- lb.	16.6	15.1	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	23.5	23.5
Bananas ----- lb.	16.9	15.5	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	26.4	26.3
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	54.4	50.0	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- lb.	17.6	17.8	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	57.3	58.2
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.5	8.4

* Priced only in season.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures the average changes in prices of goods and services typically bought by city families of wage earners and clerical workers. It is based on prices of about 300 items which were selected so that their price changes would represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage and clerical families; they include all of the important items in family spending. Prices for these items are obtained in 46 cities which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States; they are collected from grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments which wage-earner and clerical-worker families patronize.

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 46 cities. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the 5 largest cities and every 3 months in other cities. Almost all prices are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each city are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in family spending. City data are then combined in the total index with weights based on the 1950 populations of cities they represent. Index numbers are computed on the base 1947-49 = 100.

The national index (the United States city average) includes prices from the 20 large cities for which separate indexes are published in this report, as well as from the following 26 medium-sized and small cities:

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	

Comparisons of city indexes show only that prices in one city changed more or less than in another. The city indexes cannot be used to measure differences in price levels or in living costs between cities.

A description of the index is contained in BLS Bulletin 1140, "The Consumer Price Index: A Layman's Guide," which may be purchased for 20 cents at any Bureau of Labor Statistics regional office (addresses below) or from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. A more technical description of the index appears in BLS Bulletin 1168, "Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series." Reprints of chapter 9, pertaining to the CPI, are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington or at any of its regional offices.

Historical series of index numbers for the United States city average and for 20 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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