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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JUNE 1956

Consumer prices in United States cities, advancing 0.7 percent above the May level, reached a new high in June, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. An average increase of 2.0 percent in food prices, partly seasonal, was primarily responsible for the rise. Continued small advances for housing, medical and personal care, and "other goods and services" also contributed to the increase. Apparel prices were unchanged on the average and prices of transportation and reading and recreation items declined.

The Consumer Price Index for June, at 116.2 percent of the 1947-49 average, was 1.6 percent higher than a year earlier.

FOOD

The advance in food prices, the largest monthly increase since January 1951, brought the food index for June to 113.2, 1.7 percent higher than a year ago, but still 2.9 percent below the August 1952 peak. Food prices increased in all of the 46 cities surveyed.

Prices averaged higher for 65 of the 78 food items priced, with fresh fruits and vegetables and pork accounting for most of the increase. The average price of potatoes rose from 80 cents to 92 cents for a 10-pound bag, reflecting unfavorable growing conditions along the East Coast. Tomatoes at 33 cents a pound averaged 5 cents higher than in May, and onions at 12.5 cents a pound were at their highest level since March 1953. Oranges averaged 60 cents a dozen in June, up 5½ cents over the month. Apples were 9.2 percent above their May price.

Decreased supplies brought greater than usual seasonal increases in prices of pork. Chops averaged 9 cents a pound higher than in May and ham and bacon prices rose about 2½ cents a pound. Beef and veal prices also increased during the month, but were still 4 percent lower than a year ago. Coffee prices increased 1.7 percent.

Prices of frying chickens declined 1.7 percent, and egg prices decreased contraseasonally by the same amount.

HOUSING

The rise in the housing index reflected increases in all of its components except gas and electricity. Residential rents continued to advance slightly, with average increases reported in 21 of the 35 cities surveyed in June. Housefurnishings prices increased 0.2 percent, as some textile items returned to regular prices following May sales, and prices of furniture rose slightly. Lower prices were recorded for ranges and refrigerators. The advance in the household operation group reflected generally higher prices for laundry soap and detergents and continued increases for laundry and dry cleaning services. Solid fuels and fuel oil rose 0.4 percent on the average.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Prices of commodities other than foods were relatively stable. Apparel prices were unchanged on the average for the third successive month, higher prices for men's and boys' wear and footwear offsetting further reductions in prices of women's and girls' apparel. New and used car prices were down about 1 percent, and small price changes were reported for tires, gasoline, and motor oil. Prices of sporting goods and toys averaged 1.5 percent lower.

On the other hand, higher rates were reported for hospital and other medical care, barber and beauty shop services, auto repairs, and other consumer services generally.

NOTICE: As a result of an incorrect price reported for new automobiles in Los Angeles, it has been necessary to make the following revisions of indexes published for May 1956:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Revised Index</u>	
	<u>Los Angeles</u>	<u>U.S. Average</u>
	<u>(1947-49=100)</u>	
All Items	116.9	*
Transportation	125.6	127.1
Private Transportation	121.2	117.1
	<u>(1935-39=100)</u>	
All Items	195.3	*

* No change.

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)					
	June 1956	May 1956	April 1956	June 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	116.2	115.4	114.9	114.4	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	113.2	111.0	109.6	111.3	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	112.1	109.5	107.9	110.3	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	125.2	124.7	124.5	124.0	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	98.0	95.5	94.0	103.8	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	107.7	107.5	106.4	104.1	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	131.4	121.5	116.7	119.5	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	111.1	110.9	110.8	107.7	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	121.4	120.9	120.8	119.7	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	132.5	132.2	131.7	130.4	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	111.7	111.8	111.8	110.7	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	128.4	127.9	129.7	122.7	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	102.8	102.6	102.7	103.8	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	122.6	122.4	122.1	119.2	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	104.8	104.8	104.8	103.2	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	107.5	107.0	106.5	105.6	98.1	(k/)
Women's and girls' -----	97.5	97.9	98.1	97.2	93.3	(k/)
Footwear -----	123.1	122.8	123.0	117.4	102.1	(k/)
Other apparel -----	91.1	91.1	91.1	90.1	88.4	(k/)
Transportation -----	126.8	R/ 127.1	126.4	125.8	109.9	70.2
Public -----	172.6	172.5	170.8	165.1	117.9	81.3
Private -----	116.7	R/ 117.1	116.5	116.5	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	132.0	131.9	131.6	127.6	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	119.9	119.6	119.5	114.7	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	107.6	108.2	108.2	106.2	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	121.8	121.5	121.4	119.9	103.7	70.6

Group	Percent change to June 1956 from:				
	May 1956	April 1956	June 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.7	1.1	1.6	14.1	95.6
Food 1/ -----	2.0	3.3	1.7	12.6	140.3
Food at home -----	2.4	3.9	1.6	11.5	138.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	.4	.6	1.0	21.9	118.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.6	4.3	- 5.6	- 7.6	135.6
Dairy products -----	.2	1.2	3.5	16.7	116.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	8.1	12.6	10.0	28.2	183.8
Other foods at home -----	.2	.3	3.2	18.1	129.5
Housing 2/ -----	.4	.5	1.4	15.7	59.5
Rent -----	.2	.6	1.6	21.9	53.0
Gas and electricity -----	- .1	- .1	.9	8.8	6.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.4	- 1.0	4.6	19.3	127.7
Housefurnishings -----	.2	.1	- 1.0	5.5	92.5
Household operation -----	.2	.4	2.9	23.1	79.2
Apparel -----	0	0	1.6	8.6	99.6
Men's and boys' -----	.5	.9	1.8	9.6	(k/)
Women's and girls' -----	- .4	- .6	.3	4.5	(k/)
Footwear -----	.2	.1	4.9	20.6	(k/)
Other apparel -----	0	0	1.1	3.1	(k/)
Transportation -----	- .2	.3	.8	15.4	80.6
Public -----	.1	1.1	4.5	46.4	112.3
Private -----	- .3	.2	.2	9.5	78.2
Medical care -----	.1	.3	3.4	25.2	81.8
Personal care -----	.3	.3	4.5	20.9	101.2
Reading and recreation -----	- .6	- .6	1.3	5.0	70.8
Other goods and services 3/ -----	.2	.3	1.6	17.5	72.5

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.).
 k/ Not available.
 R/ Revised.

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]
	June 1956	May 1956	June 1955	June 1950	Year 1939	June 1956 ^{1/}
United States city average -----	116.2	115.4	114.4	101.8	59.4	194.3
Cities priced monthly:						
Chicago -----	119.5	118.6	117.4	102.8	58.6	203.5
Detroit -----	118.7	118.0	116.7	102.8	59.0	200.4
Los Angeles -----	117.4	R/ 116.9	115.3	101.3	60.4	196.2
New York -----	113.8	113.0	111.8	100.9	60.1	188.3
Philadelphia -----	116.8	116.2	115.5	101.6	59.2	194.4
Cities priced in March, June, September, December ^{2/} :						
Atlanta -----	118.0	116.8	116.0	^{3/} 101.3	58.3	200.1
Baltimore -----	116.6	115.2	115.0	101.6	57.9	200.4
Cincinnati -----	116.3	114.3	113.7	101.2	58.4	195.8
St. Louis -----	117.0	115.7	115.9	101.1	59.3	195.3
San Francisco -----	117.9	116.8	115.3	100.9	58.6	201.5
Cities priced in February, May, August, November ^{2/} :						
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/} :						
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	^{4/} 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

^{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/} May 1950; formerly priced February, May, August, November.

^{4/} June 1950; formerly priced March, June, September, December.

R/ Revised.

NOTE: This is the final publication of city indexes on the base of 1935-39 = 100. The U. S. index will be published until further notice.

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index -- Percent changes from May 1956 to June 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 ---	0.7	2.0	0.4	0	- 0.2	0.1	0.3	- 0.6	0.2
Chicago -----	.8	1.7	.8	- 0.2	.2	-.1	.3	-.4	.1
Detroit -----	.6	2.3	.3	-.2	-.4	.2	.1	-.9	-.1
Los Angeles -----	.4	1.1	.2	-.3	-.1	0	-.2	.4	1.6
New York -----	.7	1.9	.2	.3	-.2	0	.1	.4	.2
Philadelphia -----	.5	1.5	.3	.1	-.5	.1	0	-.3	.1

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
	Indexes (1947-49=100)										
All items -----	116.2	118.0	116.6	119.5	116.3	118.7	117.4	113.8	116.8	117.0	117.9
Food -----	113.2	111.3	114.2	110.6	115.3	116.5	114.2	112.7	114.6	113.8	114.5
Food at home -----	112.1	110.0	112.0	109.1	114.3	115.4	111.0	111.6	113.2	111.9	113.2
Cereals and bakery products --	125.2	118.3	121.8	120.1	124.9	119.6	130.9	129.4	124.7	119.4	130.8
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	98.0	100.0	98.4	91.3	99.6	97.1	97.7	99.6	99.4	96.2	103.7
Dairy products -----	107.7	109.5	109.1	110.7	113.6	109.1	103.3	103.3	107.7	101.7	105.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	131.4	130.1	129.9	124.4	131.6	148.7	126.3	128.7	135.0	135.1	130.5
Other foods at home -----	111.1	104.0	111.4	118.3	116.8	113.4	109.3	111.5	110.8	120.1	107.5
Housing -----	121.4	126.6	115.9	130.9	120.7	123.6	127.2	117.2	116.2	120.9	120.6
Rent -----	132.5	---	---	---	135.5	---	---	---	---	139.3	135.0
Gas and electricity -----	111.7	119.4	99.9	113.8	118.0	114.0	116.2	110.0	103.4	103.8	136.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	128.4	117.9	129.6	132.3	130.3	123.9	---	135.5	121.5	136.8	---
Housefurnishings -----	102.8	107.8	96.8	101.3	97.8	106.9	101.3	102.7	107.9	100.9	105.0
Household operation -----	122.6	132.6	117.1	127.3	130.1	116.2	125.2	121.4	119.3	125.9	110.8
Apparel -----	104.8	110.7	104.7	108.0	104.2	102.3	105.8	103.8	103.7	104.3	105.4
Men's and boys' -----	107.5	112.4	103.8	113.7	104.0	110.1	109.9	107.2	104.1	107.1	106.8
Women's and girls' -----	97.5	104.0	100.0	97.9	97.8	91.1	97.5	95.7	98.8	96.1	99.7
Footwear -----	123.1	130.1	123.2	127.0	130.4	118.8	127.0	122.9	118.1	123.8	124.6
Other apparel -----	91.1	92.2	95.3	94.8	88.1	87.3	83.0	94.1	91.9	95.8	88.8
Transportation -----	126.8	124.3	137.4	131.9	122.2	124.7	125.5	131.5	133.6	133.8	140.0
Public -----	172.6	154.8	186.6	166.5	163.9	144.3	152.9	187.9	186.7	187.9	180.6
Private -----	116.7	118.3	118.8	116.7	112.2	120.7	121.1	111.5	112.5	115.7	126.4
Medical care -----	132.0	130.0	142.2	136.3	137.3	142.7	126.8	126.7	137.6	140.7	128.3
Personal care -----	119.9	125.0	116.5	123.2	119.4	127.5	119.4	111.5	127.6	118.7	116.5
Reading and recreation -----	107.6	109.4	116.9	115.1	99.7	108.5	97.0	105.6	114.6	90.2	105.4
Other goods and services -----	121.8	126.2	123.9	117.7	120.9	124.4	118.2	121.4	125.0	122.0	118.2
Percent change from March 1956 to June 1956											
All items -----	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.5	1.7	1.5	1.1	1.4	0.9	1.1	0.9
Food -----	3.9	3.2	3.6	4.0	5.2	5.0	2.4	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.1
Food at home -----	4.5	4.2	4.3	4.8	5.8	5.8	2.6	4.4	3.7	3.4	2.3
Cereals and bakery products --	.6	-.5	.4	.9	.6	.3	1.9	.2	.6	0	.2
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	5.6	6.0	5.0	5.9	7.0	6.5	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.8	3.7
Dairy products -----	.7	.5	.2	2.9	2.4	4.2	.4	-1.0	1.8	1.5	.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	14.5	13.4	15.3	12.8	18.7	16.5	6.5	17.5	13.7	10.3	7.4
Other foods at home -----	.4	1.2	.6	1.0	.6	.5	-.5	.2	.6	-.3	-.7
Housing -----	.6	.3	-.4	.9	.5	.7	.6	.3	.3	.7	1.1
Rent -----	.7	---	---	---	1/1.8	---	---	---	---	1/ .9	1/1.0
Gas and electricity -----	0	0	0	0	-.3	-.3	0	-.3	1.6	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-1.7	-4.4	-.5	-1.9	-3.5	.1	-.2	-.2	-8.7	-4.7	---
Housefurnishings -----	-.3	.2	-.7	-.6	.4	-.2	-.6	0	-.8	-1.3	.7
Household operation -----	.8	.7	1.6	.5	.5	.9	.3	.5	.8	.2	-.1
Apparel -----	0	0	1.0	-.5	-1.0	0	.8	.1	-.4	.3	.1
Men's and boys' -----	.8	.8	1.2	.8	-.6	.5	1.3	.7	.2	1.2	.8
Women's and girls' -----	-.8	-1.0	.5	-2.4	-2.2	-.8	.5	-.6	-1.3	-.3	-.7
Footwear -----	1.0	1.1	1.7	1.9	.9	.8	1.3	1.7	.8	.7	1.1
Other apparel -----	0	.8	.4	-.3	-.6	0	-.4	.2	-.1	.2	-.3
Transportation -----	.1	-.2	.4	1.0	.9	.4	.1	.4	-1.8	1.2	.5
Public -----	1.1	.8	.4	.7	.7	1.1	1.4	.6	.4	2.9	1.2
Private -----	-.1	-.3	.4	1.0	1.0	.2	-.1	.4	-2.4	.8	.4
Medical care -----	.5	.9	4.2	.7	.1	.2	.3	.1	.1	.2	.1
Personal care -----	.6	.2	.1	.6	1.1	-.1	-.2	.3	.3	0	.1
Reading and recreation -----	-.1	-.5	-.2	-.2	-1.0	-.6	1.3	1.2	-.3	-1.5	-2.0
Other goods and services -----	.5	.3	.3	.2	2.1	.2	1.8	.2	-.4	.1	.6

1/ Change from December 1955 to June 1956.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
June 1956 indexes and percent changes, May 1956 to June 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 ---	113.2	2.0	112.1	2.4	125.2	0.4	98.0	2.6	107.7	0.2	131.4	8.1	111.1	0.2
Atlanta -----	111.3	2.2	110.0	2.5	118.3	0	100.0	2.8	109.5	.6	130.1	9.7	104.0	-.1
Baltimore -----	114.2	2.0	112.0	2.3	121.8	.2	98.4	2.3	109.1	.2	129.9	8.3	111.4	.3
Boston -----	112.1	2.2	110.2	2.9	122.3	.1	97.3	3.3	105.0	-.2	130.6	10.2	105.9	.2
Chicago -----	110.6	1.7	109.1	1.9	120.1	.1	91.3	2.5	110.7	.4	124.4	5.6	118.3	.4
Cincinnati -----	115.3	2.4	114.3	2.6	124.9	.2	99.6	4.0	113.6	-.2	131.6	7.6	116.8	.2
Cleveland -----	111.9	2.5	110.4	2.9	121.5	1.6	95.3	2.3	104.3	.1	127.9	9.6	115.4	1.0
Detroit -----	116.5	2.3	115.4	2.7	119.6	-.2	97.1	3.9	109.1	.2	148.7	7.1	113.4	.5
Houston -----	108.7	1.1	107.4	1.9	117.4	-.2	92.6	2.0	108.8	.1	120.2	7.9	109.7	-.1
Kansas City -----	110.1	2.3	108.7	2.8	120.7	.2	93.5	4.4	110.6	0	124.2	7.3	107.1	1.2
Los Angeles -----	114.2	1.1	111.0	1.3	130.9	2.0	97.7	1.6	103.3	.3	126.3	3.7	109.3	-.7
Minneapolis -----	114.1	1.1	113.9	1.3	126.3	-.1	95.0	2.2	111.0	-.8	136.3	4.4	120.0	.4
New York -----	112.7	1.9	111.6	2.4	129.4	.2	99.6	.5	103.3	.7	128.7	10.4	111.5	.4
Philadelphia -----	114.6	1.5	113.2	1.8	124.7	.1	91.3	1.1	107.7	.2	135.0	7.7	110.8	-.2
Pittsburgh -----	115.2	3.0	114.4	3.5	125.5	-.1	97.3	4.0	107.3	0	139.0	13.9	119.9	-.1
Portland, Oreg. -----	116.1	2.3	115.3	2.9	130.2	3.9	100.0	2.8	113.4	.8	132.2	5.9	114.3	1.5
St. Louis -----	113.8	2.1	111.9	2.6	119.4	-.1	96.2	3.3	101.7	.2	135.1	7.8	120.1	.4
San Francisco -----	114.5	1.1	113.2	1.1	130.8	0	103.7	1.8	105.8	.1	130.5	2.6	107.5	.4
Scranton -----	112.0	3.4	111.6	4.0	123.8	-.2	98.5	5.5	105.3	.1	134.3	14.6	108.5	-.2
Seattle -----	113.6	1.6	113.2	1.9	132.0	.6	98.0	2.2	112.9	0	130.4	5.5	109.4	.7
Washington, D.C. -----	114.2	2.0	112.7	2.5	122.3	.3	95.3	2.5	112.3	.2	133.0	8.7	112.5	.4

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

Food and unit	June 1956	May 1956	Food and unit	June 1956	May 1956
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh—Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	53.6	53.4	Grapefruit * ----- each		11.0
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.7	26.7	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.5	12.5	Strawberries * ----- pt.	31.1	28.8
Rice ----- lb.	17.1	17.1	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	19.3	19.3	Watermelons * ----- lb.	6.1	
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	21.8	21.8	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	92.3	79.7
Bread, white ----- lb.	17.8	17.7	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	13.5	12.5
Soda crackers ----- lb.	27.6	27.4	Onions ----- lb.	12.5	9.1
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	23.9	23.9	Carrots ----- lb.	13.7	12.9
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce ----- head	16.0	15.9
Round steak ----- lb.	85.7	84.0	Celery ----- lb.	14.6	13.2
Chuck roast ----- lb.	46.1	45.5	Cabbage ----- lb.	8.6	7.9
Rib roast ----- lb.	67.0	65.7	Tomatoes ----- lb.	33.2	28.4
Hamburger ----- lb.	37.9	37.7	Beans, green ----- lb.	28.0	27.6
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	110.8	110.6	Canned:		
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	86.3	77.3	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	37.1	36.8
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	56.6	54.2	Peaches ----- #2½ can	35.1	35.0
Ham, whole ----- lb.	62.1	59.4	Pineapple ----- #2 can	33.7	33.6
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	74.7	71.3	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.1	26.1
Frankfurters ----- lb.	51.7	51.5	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.1	18.0
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	40.4	40.4	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.6	21.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	48.8	49.1	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.2	15.2
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	41.9	41.8	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	9.9	9.8
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	45.2	45.4	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	60.1	59.7	Prunes ----- lb.	36.1	35.9
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6½ oz.	32.3	32.8	Beans ----- lb.	16.2	16.1
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	22.2	22.2	Vegetable soup ----- 11-oz. can	14.0	14.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	23.7	23.7	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.6	14.5
Ice cream ----- pt.	28.8	28.7	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	26.9	27.0
Butter ----- lb.	71.9	71.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.1	23.0
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	57.2	57.2	Coffee ----- lb. can	101.8	100.3
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	14.0	13.8	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 18	23.2	23.2
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	32.6	32.5
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	99.2	97.3
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	30.4	30.2	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	29.2	29.3
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	19.7	19.6	Lard ----- lb.	19.8	19.8
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.4	21.3	Salad dressing ----- pt.	35.6	35.3
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.2	23.1	Peanut butter ----- lb.	53.5	53.4
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	52.9	52.6
Apples ----- lb.	18.1	16.6	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	23.5	23.5
Bananas ----- lb.	17.1	16.9	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	26.4	26.4
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	59.9	54.4	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- lb.	17.5	17.6	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	56.3	57.3
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.5	8.5

* 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	Fulaski, 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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