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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JULY 1956

Consumer prices in United States cities advanced 0.7 percent between June and July 1956, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Although seasonally higher prices of foods were an important factor in the increase, prices of all other major classes of goods and services also advanced.

The Consumer Price Index for July was 117.0 percent of the 1947-49 average; 2.0 percent higher than a year ago.

FOOD

Food prices continued to increase seasonally on the average. Higher average prices for fresh produce, meats, dairy products, eggs, and other foods advanced the food index to 114.8 percent of the 1947-49 level, 2.4 percent higher than July 1955, but still 1.5 percent below the August 1952 peak.

The index for fruits and vegetables increased 2.9 percent from June to July, a much lower rate than that recorded in the two previous months. Higher prices for potatoes and onions, which continued to reflect the effects of the unfavorable spring weather, were partly offset by seasonally lower prices for green beans, tomatoes, lettuce, and other vegetables. Price reductions for watermelons, bananas, and other fruits counteracted some of the effect of continuing price increases for apples and oranges.

Prices of frying chickens were up 5.0 percent and all cuts of beef were moderately higher. Bacon prices advanced 3.3 percent to an average of 58-1/2 cents a pound, but prices of ham, pork chops, and lamb declined.

The average rise of 0.9 percent in prices of dairy products resulted primarily from a seasonal advance of 1.4 percent in fresh milk prices. Egg prices, reflecting the usual summer decrease in production, rose 3.2 percent to an average of 58 cents a dozen.

Coffee at \$1.05 a pound was 3 cents higher than in June, and bread prices at an average of 18 cents for a pound loaf were about 1 percent higher.

HOUSING

The housing index continued upward as residential rents rose 0.5 percent, with increases in all of the 13 large and medium-sized cities surveyed. Lower rents were reported in some small cities. Bituminous coal and anthracite were higher than in June. Higher prices were reported for laundry soap and detergents. Group indexes for housefurnishings and gas and electricity were unchanged.

"OBSERVE NATIONAL CIVIL DEFENSE WEEK, SEPTEMBER 9-15, 1956."

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

The recent advances in consumer prices above the narrow range within which they have fluctuated during the past three years reflect, in addition to greater-than-usual seasonal increases in food prices, a continuation of the long-term upward trend in prices of services. In July, higher rates were reported for group hospitalization insurance, hospital and other medical care, and personal services.

The advance of 0.7 percent in transportation resulted from higher prices for used cars and for gasoline and tires, reflecting increased Federal taxes on the latter two items. New car prices declined slightly.

Apparel prices turned upward for the first time since March 1956. Prices were higher for all types of shoes, men's year-round suits, work trousers, and boys' dungarees. Sale prices were reported for women's cotton dresses and men's tropical suits.

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)					
	July 1956	June 1956	May 1956	July 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	117.0	116.2	115.4	114.7	101.8	59.4
Food ^{1/} -----	114.8	113.2	111.0	112.1	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	113.8	112.1	109.5	111.1	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	125.8	125.2	124.7	124.2	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	99.3	98.0	95.5	103.7	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	108.7	107.7	107.5	104.7	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	135.2	131.4	121.5	121.9	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	112.8	111.1	110.9	109.2	94.1	48.4
Housing ^{2/} -----	121.8	121.4	120.9	119.9	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	133.2	132.5	132.2	130.4	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	111.7	111.7	111.8	110.8	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	128.7	128.4	127.9	123.2	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	102.8	102.8	102.6	103.6	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	123.0	122.6	122.4	119.4	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	105.3	104.8	104.8	103.2	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	107.7	107.5	107.0	105.7	98.1	(4/)
Women's and girls' -----	98.0	97.5	97.9	96.9	93.3	(4/)
Footwear -----	124.2	123.1	122.8	117.5	102.1	(4/)
Other apparel -----	91.4	91.1	91.1	90.5	88.4	(4/)
Transportation -----	127.7	126.8	127.1	125.4	109.9	70.2
Public -----	172.7	172.6	172.5	165.3	117.9	81.3
Private -----	117.6	116.7	117.1	116.0	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	132.7	132.0	131.9	127.9	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	120.1	119.9	119.6	115.5	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	107.7	107.6	108.2	106.3	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	122.2	121.8	121.5	120.3	103.7	70.6
	Percent change to					
	from:					
	June 1956	May 1956	July 1955	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items -----	0.7	1.4	2.0	14.9	97.0	
Food ^{1/} -----	1.4	3.4	2.4	14.2	143.7	
Food at home -----	1.5	3.9	2.4	13.2	141.6	
Cereals and bakery products -----	.5	.9	1.3	22.5	111.9	
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.3	4.0	- 4.2	- 6.4	138.7	
Dairy products -----	.9	1.1	3.8	17.8	118.3	
Fruits and vegetables -----	2.9	11.3	10.9	31.9	192.0	
Other foods at home -----	1.5	1.7	3.3	19.9	133.1	
Housing ^{2/} -----	.3	.7	1.6	16.1	60.1	
Rent -----	.5	.8	2.1	22.5	57.8	
Gas and electricity -----	0	- .1	.8	8.8	6.5	
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.2	.6	4.5	19.6	128.2	
Housefurnishings -----	0	.2	- .8	5.5	92.5	
Household operation -----	.3	.5	3.0	23.5	79.8	
Apparel -----	.5	.5	2.0	9.1	100.6	
Men's and boys' -----	.2	.7	1.9	9.8	(4/)	
Women's and girls' -----	.5	.1	1.1	5.0	(4/)	
Footwear -----	.9	1.1	5.7	21.6	(4/)	
Other apparel -----	.3	.3	1.0	3.4	(4/)	
Transportation -----	.7	.5	1.8	16.2	81.5	
Public -----	.1	.1	4.5	46.5	112.4	
Private -----	.8	.4	1.4	10.3	79.5	
Medical care -----	.5	.6	3.8	25.9	82.8	
Personal care -----	.2	.4	4.0	21.1	101.5	
Reading and recreation -----	.1	- .5	1.3	5.1	71.9	
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	.3	.6	1.6	17.8	73.1	

^{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
(1947-49=100)

City	July 1956	June 1956	July 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	1/ 117.0	116.2	114.7	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly:					
Chicago	120.5	119.5	118.2	102.8	58.6
Detroit	120.2	118.7	116.8	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	118.1	117.4	115.9	101.3	60.4
New York	114.6	113.8	111.9	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	117.9	116.8	115.8	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/					
	July 1956	April 1956	July 1955	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston	117.8	115.2	113.8	101.2	61.0
Kansas City	117.6	116.4	115.9	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis	117.7	115.6	117.5	3/102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh	117.3	115.2	114.0	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon	118.6	116.4	114.7	101.5	58.3
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/					
	June 1956	March 1956	June 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta	118.0	116.8	116.0	4/101.3	58.3
Baltimore	116.6	115.2	115.0	101.6	57.9
Cincinnati	116.3	114.3	113.7	101.2	58.4
St. Louis	117.0	115.7	115.9	101.1	59.3
San Francisco	117.9	116.8	115.3	100.9	58.6
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/					
	May 1956	February 1956	May 1955	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland	117.3	115.7	115.3	100.4	59.2
Houston	116.8	116.6	115.5	103.5	59.5
Scranton	112.1	111.1	111.4	100.2	58.5
Seattle	117.1	116.2	116.8	102.0	59.2
Washington, D.C.	114.4	113.4	113.5	101.6	60.4

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 195.6.

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 June 1956 to July 1956
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
United States city average	0.7	1.4	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.3
Chicago	.8	2.0	.2	.5	1.3	.2	.6	.3	-.3
Detroit	1.3	2.1	1.5	.5	1.4	0	.6	-.6	.2
Los Angeles	.6	.5	.2	.5	2.1	.3	-.3	.6	0
New York	.7	1.2	.8	.4	.5	0	.1	0	.1
Philadelphia	.9	2.5	-.1	.2	1.4	.1	.2	.3	.2

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland Oregon
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	117.0	117.8	120.5	120.2	117.6	118.1	117.7	114.6	117.9	117.3	118.6
Food -----	114.8	114.2	112.8	119.0	111.0	114.8	115.3	114.0	117.5	115.8	116.7
Food at home -----	113.8	112.7	111.4	118.3	109.6	111.6	115.3	112.9	116.2	114.7	116.0
Cereals and bakery products --	125.8	122.9	120.3	119.9	121.2	131.1	126.3	129.8	124.7	125.6	130.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	99.3	99.3	93.0	99.1	94.2	99.0	94.8	100.9	102.6	98.2	101.2
Dairy products -----	108.7	110.0	109.5	109.3	110.8	103.6	110.9	106.0	111.4	107.7	113.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	135.2	134.2	133.7	159.6	127.5	125.1	144.1	128.5	140.0	134.9	131.9
Other foods at home -----	112.8	107.5	119.6	115.2	107.3	110.9	120.7	113.6	113.2	122.4	115.8
Housing -----	121.8	125.5	131.2	125.4	122.8	127.5	121.0	118.1	116.1	120.3	123.4
Rent -----	133.2	132.7	--	--	140.0	--	145.8	120.8	--	125.5	132.0
Gas and electricity -----	111.7	110.3	113.8	113.8	117.4	116.2	124.8	110.2	103.4	127.0	107.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	128.7	130.9	133.2	123.9	116.6	--	124.4	135.8	122.9	120.6	135.7
Housefurnishings -----	102.8	106.1	101.2	106.8	103.9	101.4	97.6	103.1	106.7	105.8	103.2
Household operation -----	123.0	120.8	128.1	116.5	126.8	125.9	122.7	121.6	119.7	122.7	118.5
Apparel -----	105.3	102.8	108.5	102.8	103.7	106.3	106.7	104.2	103.9	103.5	108.1
Men's and boys' -----	107.7	103.9	113.7	110.0	107.4	110.7	108.0	107.2	104.4	105.4	111.1
Women's and girls' -----	98.0	95.8	98.6	92.1	95.8	97.5	101.3	96.1	98.9	95.6	99.8
Footwear -----	124.2	120.6	128.3	119.3	122.6	127.6	121.9	123.4	119.1	121.9	127.2
Other apparel -----	91.4	103.2	95.1	87.3	87.7	83.9	93.1	94.3	92.0	98.9	95.6
Transportation -----	127.7	135.6	133.6	126.4	122.6	128.1	115.4	132.1	135.5	136.3	122.9
Public -----	172.7	166.9	166.5	144.3	187.3	152.9	165.6	187.9	186.7	194.0	164.1
Private -----	117.6	126.3	118.6	122.7	112.6	123.9	109.3	112.1	114.6	115.6	118.0
Medical care -----	132.7	138.8	136.6	142.7	138.3	127.2	149.4	126.7	137.8	135.5	131.4
Personal care -----	120.1	124.0	123.9	128.3	123.7	119.0	124.7	111.6	127.8	119.2	120.3
Reading and recreation -----	107.7	107.9	115.5	107.8	118.0	97.6	117.5	105.6	114.9	104.8	116.2
Other goods and services -----	122.2	119.6	117.4	124.7	122.0	118.2	126.4	121.5	125.2	122.5	121.2
Percent change from April 1956 to July 1956											
All items -----	1.8	2.3	2.0	2.4	1.0	1.5	1.8	2.0	1.6	1.8	1.9
Food -----	4.7	5.8	5.3	6.1	4.8	1.9	2.9	4.7	5.5	4.8	4.1
Food at home -----	5.5	7.0	6.0	7.1	5.7	2.0	3.6	5.6	6.1	5.2	5.1
Cereals and bakery products --	1.0	.7	.4	.4	.7	2.3	-.2	.8	.2	0	3.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	5.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	6.9	4.3	2.9	4.5	6.2	6.4	5.7
Dairy products -----	2.2	3.4	.4	.6	3.4	.6	.4	3.7	3.9	.5	4.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	15.9	21.6	17.4	23.2	14.9	2.1	13.3	16.5	17.4	16.3	9.9
Other foods at home -----	1.8	1.8	2.1	1.5	2.1	.4	1.2	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.5
Housing -----	.8	.6	1.1	2.0	.2	.6	1.7	1.0	-.1	1.3	1.4
Rent -----	1.1	1/2.7	--	--	.8	--	1/1.2	1/1.5	--	0	1/.9
Gas and electricity -----	-.1	2.8	0	-.4	-6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-.8	-.5	-1.3	.1	0	--	1.7	0	-5.6	0	-.1
Housefurnishings -----	.1	.4	-.2	0	.3	-.6	-.7	1.0	-1.7	.6	-1.8
Household operation -----	.7	.6	.9	.7	.5	1.0	.2	.2	1.1	.8	1.7
Apparel -----	.5	.3	0	.2	.4	1.4	1.0	.5	-.3	-.1	-.4
Men's and boys' -----	1.1	.8	.4	.4	.4	1.9	.2	1.2	.5	.2	.4
Women's and girls' -----	-.1	-.3	-.9	-.3	-.6	1.5	1.2	-.2	-1.2	-.6	-1.6
Footwear -----	1.0	2.0	1.4	.7	3.5	.7	2.8	.9	1.3	1.0	.8
Other apparel -----	.3	-.3	0	-.1	.2	.8	.5	.3	0	0	-.2
Transportation -----	1.0	-.5	1.9	1.3	-3.9	3.5	3.3	.5	.4	.2	2.5
Public -----	1.1	.4	.7	1.1	.4	1.4	.9	.6	.4	.8	1.4
Private -----	.9	-.8	2.2	1.2	-4.7	3.8	3.7	.4	.4	.1	2.8
Medical care -----	.8	8.0	.1	.4	.1	.5	.3	.2	.2	.4	1.2
Personal care -----	.5	.8	.1	.5	.2	-.5	.8	.3	.6	.1	.9
Reading and recreation -----	-.5	-.6	-.2	-1.6	3.0	1.0	-.3	.3	0	.7	-1.5
Other goods and services -----	.7	.6	-.1	.4	.3	1.7	.3	.3	-.2	.2	.6

1/ Change from January 1956 to July 1956.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
July 1956 indexes and percent changes, June 1956 to July 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 ---	114.8	1.4	113.8	1.5	125.8	0.5	99.3	1.3	108.7	0.9	135.2	2.9	112.8	1.5
Atlanta -----	113.5	2.0	112.6	2.4	117.7	.5	102.5	2.5	112.2	2.5	137.8	5.9	105.0	1.0
Baltimore -----	115.1	.8	113.1	1.0	121.9	.1	100.1	1.7	109.2	.1	130.3	.3	113.3	1.7
Boston -----	114.2	1.9	112.7	2.3	122.9	.5	99.3	2.1	110.0	4.8	134.2	2.8	107.5	1.5
Chicago -----	112.8	2.0	111.4	2.1	120.3	.2	93.0	1.9	109.5	-1.1	133.7	7.5	119.6	1.1
Cincinnati -----	117.2	1.6	116.5	1.9	124.9	0	101.5	1.9	113.6	0	137.8	4.7	119.1	2.0
Cleveland -----	113.1	1.1	111.9	1.4	122.2	.6	96.3	1.0	104.1	-.2	131.5	2.8	117.1	1.5
Detroit -----	119.0	2.1	118.3	2.5	119.9	.3	99.1	2.1	109.3	.2	159.6	7.3	115.2	1.6
Houston -----	110.4	1.6	108.8	1.3	117.5	.1	93.3	.8	109.0	.2	125.5	4.4	110.9	1.1
Kansas City -----	111.0	.8	109.6	.8	121.2	.4	94.2	.7	110.8	.2	127.5	2.7	107.3	.2
Los Angeles -----	114.8	.5	111.6	.5	131.1	.2	99.0	1.3	103.6	.3	125.1	-1.0	110.9	1.5
Minneapolis -----	115.3	1.1	115.3	1.2	126.3	0	94.8	-.2	110.9	-.1	144.1	5.7	120.7	.6
New York -----	114.0	1.2	112.9	1.2	129.8	.3	100.9	1.3	106.0	2.6	128.5	-.2	113.6	1.9
Philadelphia -----	117.5	2.5	116.2	2.7	124.7	0	102.6	3.2	111.4	3.4	140.0	3.7	113.2	2.2
Pittsburgh -----	115.8	.5	114.7	.3	125.6	.1	98.2	.9	107.7	.4	134.9	-2.9	122.4	2.1
Portland, Oreg. ----	116.7	.5	116.0	.6	130.1	-.1	101.2	1.2	113.6	.2	131.9	-.2	115.8	1.3
St. Louis -----	115.4	1.4	113.9	1.8	120.1	.6	96.7	.5	104.5	2.8	140.7	4.1	121.8	1.4
San Francisco -----	115.3	.7	114.2	.9	131.1	.2	104.9	1.2	105.9	.1	130.0	-.4	110.3	2.6
Scranton -----	113.1	1.0	112.9	1.2	124.3	.4	99.3	.8	105.4	.1	137.4	2.3	110.4	1.8
Seattle -----	115.0	1.2	115.0	1.6	136.8	3.6	99.0	1.0	113.0	.1	133.3	2.2	111.0	1.5
Washington, D.C. ---	115.9	1.5	114.7	1.8	123.0	.6	97.0	1.8	115.5	2.8	136.6	2.7	113.7	1.1

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

Food and unit	July 1956	June 1956	Food and unit	July 1956	June 1956
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh—Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	53.5	53.6	Grapefruit * ----- each		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.6	26.7	Peaches * ----- lb.	17.9	
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.6	12.5	Strawberries * ----- pt.		31.1
Rice ----- 1b.	17.2	17.1	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	29.4	
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	19.3	19.3	Watermelons * ----- lb.	4.8	6.1
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	21.9	21.8	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	115.8	92.3
Bread, white ----- 1b.	18.0	17.8	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	15.4	13.5
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	27.7	27.6	Onions ----- lb.	15.7	12.5
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.0	23.9	Carrots ----- lb.	13.8	13.7
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce ----- head	13.9	16.0
Round steak ----- 1b.	88.0	85.7	Celery ----- lb.	14.5	14.6
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	46.4	46.1	Cabbage ----- lb.	8.0	8.6
Rib roast ----- 1b.	68.8	67.0	Tomatoes ----- lb.	30.0	33.2
Hamburger ----- 1b.	38.4	37.9	Beans, green ----- lb.	21.4	28.0
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	110.4	110.8	Canned:		
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	85.8	86.3	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	38.0	37.1
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	58.6	56.6	Peaches ----- #2½ can	35.2	35.1
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	62.0	62.1	Pineapple ----- #2 can	33.8	33.7
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	71.2	74.7	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.2	26.1
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	51.8	51.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.1	18.1
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	40.4	40.4	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.6	21.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	50.6	48.8	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.1	15.2
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	41.6	41.9	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	9.9	9.9
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	44.8	45.2	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	60.4	60.1	Prunes ----- lb.	36.1	36.1
Tuna fish, canned ----- 8 to 8½ oz.	32.0	32.3	Beans ----- lb.	16.2	16.2
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	22.5	22.2	Vegetable soup ----- 11-oz. can	14.1	14.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.0	23.6	Beans with pork ----- 18-oz. can	14.6	14.6
Ice cream ----- pt.	28.8	28.8	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	26.9	26.9
Butter ----- 1b.	71.9	71.9	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.1	23.1
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.2	57.2	Coffee ----- 1b. can	105.0	101.8
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	14.1	14.0	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.2	23.2
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	32.9	32.6
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	98.6	99.2
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	30.1	30.4	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	29.1	29.2
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	20.0	19.7	Lard ----- lb.	19.7	19.8
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.5	21.4	Salad dressing ----- pt.	35.7	35.6
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.1	23.2	Peanut butter ----- lb.	53.7	53.5
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	52.9	52.9
Apples ----- 1b.	18.5	18.1	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	23.6	23.5
Bananas ----- 1b.	15.3	17.1	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	26.6	26.4
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	65.7	59.9	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	19.0	17.5	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	58.2	56.3
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.5	8.5

* Priced only in season.

Labor - D.C. BLS 57-565

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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