

Released September 21, 1956

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington 25, D. C.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST 1956

The level of consumer prices in United States cities declined 0.2 percent between July and August 1956, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sharp seasonal decreases in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables from record high levels of July offset higher prices for other foods and major groups of goods and services.

The Consumer Price Index for August was 116.8 percent of the 1947-49 average, 2.0 percent above a year ago.

FOOD

Food prices dropped 1.5 percent on the average as a result of the sharp reductions in prices of fresh produce. Prices of all other classes of foods advanced over the month. The August food index, at 113.1, was 1.7 percent higher than a year earlier but 3.0 percent below the August 1952 peak.

Fruit and vegetable prices were lower in all of the 46 cities surveyed. Average decreases ranged from 3.2 to 16.8 percent.

Prices of fresh vegetables decreased 21.9 percent on the average as supplies became more plentiful. Potato prices dropped 33 percent from their record high levels of July and by mid-August were selling at an average of 78 cents for 10 pounds. Prices of tomatoes declined 28 percent, green beans 20 percent, and onions 14 percent. Fresh fruit prices averaged 9.2 percent lower than in July as substantial seasonal reductions were reported for apples, grapes, watermelons, peaches, and other fruits.

Increases in prices of beef, veal, and some pork cuts advanced the meat index 1.5 percent. Round steak, at an average of 92 cents a pound, was up 4.8 percent; chuck roast rose 6.5 percent, to an average of 49 cents a pound; and bacon prices increased 1.6 percent, but pork chop prices declined 0.7 percent. Prices of poultry were down 3.9 percent, reflecting increased supplies of young chickens.

Small seasonal advances were recorded for all dairy products. Eggs rose 3.7 percent to an average of 60 cents a dozen, and coffee advanced to \$1.06 for a pound can. Higher bread prices reported in many cities advanced the cereals and bakery products index by 0.4 percent.

HOUSING

The housing index advanced 0.3 percent from July to August. Prices of anthracite and bituminous coal were up 1.6 and 0.9 percent, respectively, and gas bills rose somewhat less than 1 percent. Housefurnishings prices declined on the average as textile items were reduced for the usual August white sales, and lower prices of household appliances were reported. The index of residential rents remained at its July level.

**OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES**

A greater than usual seasonal increase in prices of used cars was the principal factor in the rise of 0.6 percent for transportation. New car prices also advanced, and higher prices of gasoline and motor oil were reported.

Apparel prices, up 0.2 percent over the month, were still 3.5 percent below their September 1951 peak. Most of the increase in the apparel group during August was due primarily to continued advances in prices of footwear.

Medical care and other consumer services continued their long-term upward trend.

Labor D.C. BLS57-844

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)					
	August 1956	July 1956	June 1956	August 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	116.8	117.0	116.2	114.5	101.8	59.4
Food ^{1/} -----	113.1	114.8	113.2	111.2	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	111.8	113.8	112.1	110.0	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	126.3	125.8	125.2	124.1	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	99.9	99.3	98.0	102.9	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	109.2	108.7	107.7	105.7	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	120.7	135.2	131.4	111.3	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	113.9	112.8	111.1	112.6	94.1	48.4
Housing ^{2/} -----	122.2	121.8	121.4	120.0	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	133.2	133.2	132.5	130.5	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	112.1	111.7	111.7	110.8	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	129.5	128.7	128.4	123.8	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	102.6	102.8	102.8	103.2	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	123.4	123.0	122.6	119.5	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	105.5	105.3	104.8	103.4	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	107.7	107.7	107.5	105.5	98.1	(4/)
Women's and girls' -----	98.1	98.0	97.5	97.4	93.3	(4/)
Footwear -----	124.8	124.2	123.1	117.6	102.1	(4/)
Other apparel -----	91.5	91.4	91.1	90.5	88.4	(4/)
Transportation -----	128.5	127.7	126.8	125.4	109.9	70.2
Public -----	172.9	172.7	172.6	166.9	117.9	81.3
Private -----	118.6	117.6	116.7	115.9	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	133.3	132.7	132.0	128.0	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	120.3	120.1	119.9	115.8	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	107.9	107.7	107.6	106.3	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	122.1	122.2	121.8	120.4	103.7	70.6

Group	Percent change to August 1956 from:				
	July 1956	June 1956	August 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	- 0.2	0.5	2.0	14.7	96.6
Food ^{1/} -----	- 1.5	- .1	1.7	12.5	140.1
Food at home -----	- 1.8	- .3	1.6	11.2	137.4
Cereals and bakery products --	.4	.9	1.8	23.0	120.8
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	.6	1.9	- 2.9	- 5.8	140.1
Dairy products -----	.5	1.4	3.3	18.3	119.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	-10.7	- 8.1	8.4	17.8	160.7
Other foods at home -----	1.0	2.5	1.2	21.0	135.3
Housing ^{2/} -----	.3	.7	1.8	16.5	60.6
Rent -----	0	.5	2.1	22.5	53.8
Gas and electricity -----	.4	.4	1.2	9.2	6.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.6	.9	4.6	20.4	129.6
Housefurnishings -----	- .2	- .2	- .6	5.3	92.1
Household operation -----	.3	.7	3.3	23.9	80.4
Apparel -----	.2	.7	2.0	9.3	101.0
Men's and boys' -----	0	.2	2.1	9.8	(4/)
Women's and girls' -----	.1	.6	.7	5.1	(4/)
Footwear -----	.5	1.4	6.1	22.2	(4/)
Other apparel -----	.1	.4	1.1	3.5	(4/)
Transportation -----	.6	1.3	2.5	16.9	83.0
Public -----	.1	.2	3.6	46.6	112.7
Private -----	.9	1.6	2.3	11.3	81.1
Medical care -----	.5	1.0	4.1	26.5	83.6
Personal care -----	.2	.3	3.9	21.3	101.8
Reading and recreation -----	.2	.3	1.5	5.3	71.3
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	- .1	.2	1.4	17.7	72.9

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	August 1956	July 1956	August 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	1/ 116.8	117.0	114.5	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly:					
Chicago	120.0	120.5	118.5	102.8	58.6
Detroit	119.6	120.2	116.5	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	117.4	118.1	115.5	101.3	60.4
New York	114.4	114.6	111.9	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	117.9	117.9	115.8	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/					
Cleveland	119.1	117.3	116.0	100.4	59.2
Houston	118.2	116.8	115.5	103.5	59.5
Scranton	113.5	112.1	111.5	100.2	58.5
Seattle	118.8	117.1	116.6	102.0	59.2
Washington, D. C.	115.7	114.4	113.8	101.6	60.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/					
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/					
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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 195.3.

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 July 1956 to August 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	- 0.2	- 1.5	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	- 0.1
Chicago	- .4	- 1.7	0	.6	.2	0	- .1	- .2	0
Detroit	- .5	- 2.9	.4	.9	.3	.4	- .3	- .6	- .1
Los Angeles	- .6	- 1.2	.2	- .8	- 1.5	.1	.3	- .1	.2
New York	- .2	- 1.2	.2	- .1	1.1	.9	0	.8	- .1
Philadelphia	0	- 1.4	.9	.2	1.3	.1	0	.3	0

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 August 1956 indexes and percent changes, May 1956 to August 1956
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in August 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 -----	116.8	120.0	119.1	119.6	118.2	117.4	114.4	117.9	113.5	118.8	115.7
Food -----	113.1	110.9	111.6	115.6	110.2	113.4	112.6	115.9	110.5	114.9	113.7
Food at home -----	111.8	109.1	109.9	114.3	108.9	109.9	110.9	114.4	110.0	114.4	112.0
Cereals and bakery products --	126.3	120.7	122.2	120.0	117.6	131.1	130.3	129.9	124.4	136.8	122.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	99.9	93.2	97.2	98.1	94.5	99.9	101.8	103.2	99.7	100.4	97.1
Dairy products -----	109.2	110.2	104.3	110.7	109.1	103.5	106.8	111.4	105.2	113.0	115.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	120.7	118.5	116.9	132.8	121.5	113.3	113.7	123.5	118.0	122.9	120.5
Other foods at home -----	113.9	120.0	118.5	117.3	112.2	111.8	114.2	114.0	111.0	114.1	114.3
Housing -----	122.2	131.2	125.1	125.9	126.3	127.7	118.3	117.2	117.9	123.2	117.9
Rent -----	133.2	---	152.0	---	139.0	---	---	118.4	125.6	139.2	124.7
Gas and electricity -----	112.1	113.8	114.9	113.5	106.8	116.2	110.3	103.4	120.1	88.8	123.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	129.5	134.2	126.7	123.9	---	---	136.2	124.9	130.6	133.9	138.3
Housefurnishings -----	102.6	100.8	101.2	107.0	102.1	102.6	102.6	107.0	99.3	100.0	99.1
Household operation -----	123.4	128.1	116.1	116.6	129.6	127.0	123.2	119.9	111.0	124.1	125.6
Apparel -----	105.5	109.2	106.8	103.7	108.1	105.4	104.1	104.1	106.7	107.2	103.8
Men's and boys' -----	107.7	114.1	111.2	110.5	107.6	109.1	107.4	104.4	108.6	110.3	107.1
Women's and girls' -----	98.1	99.3	97.9	93.3	100.4	96.8	95.9	99.0	99.4	99.5	96.8
Footwear -----	124.8	129.3	124.8	120.9	135.7	127.4	123.4	120.3	129.8	128.5	121.9
Other apparel -----	91.5	95.6	94.0	87.4	90.9	83.5	94.4	92.0	91.0	86.7	91.4
Transportation -----	128.5	133.9	125.7	126.8	126.2	126.2	133.6	137.2	128.3	128.9	130.3
Public -----	172.9	166.5	169.6	144.3	164.2	152.9	187.9	186.7	190.0	178.0	154.9
Private -----	118.6	119.0	116.5	123.2	120.6	121.8	113.9	116.5	114.2	117.3	123.4
Medical care -----	133.3	136.6	146.2	143.3	127.9	127.3	127.9	138.0	122.9	137.2	127.8
Personal care -----	120.3	123.8	123.3	127.9	130.0	119.3	111.6	127.8	123.7	123.8	117.4
Reading and recreation -----	107.9	115.3	117.7	108.5	112.3	97.5	106.4	115.2	119.4	110.1	107.1
Other goods and services -----	122.1	117.4	124.1	124.6	123.1	118.4	121.4	125.2	117.2	128.3	131.1
Percent change from May 1956 to August 1956											
All items -----	1.2	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.2	0.4	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.1
Food -----	1.9	1.9	2.2	1.5	2.5	.4	1.8	2.7	2.0	2.8	1.5
Food at home -----	2.1	1.9	2.4	1.7	3.3	.3	1.7	2.9	2.5	3.0	1.9
Cereals and bakery products --	1.3	.6	2.2	.2	0	2.2	.9	4.3	.3	4.3	.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	4.6	4.6	4.3	4.9	4.1	3.8	2.7	5.0	6.7	4.7	4.4
Dairy products -----	1.6	-.1	.1	1.7	.4	.5	4.1	3.6	0	.1	2.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	-.7	.6	.2	-4.4	9.1	-7.0	-2.5	-1.4	.7	-.6	-1.5
Other foods at home -----	2.7	1.9	3.7	4.0	2.2	1.5	2.8	2.7	2.1	5.1	2.0
Housing -----	1.1	1.0	1.2	2.2	.4	.6	1.1	1.1	1.4	.7	1.1
Rent -----	.8	---	3.2	---	1.7	---	---	.9	.5	1.7	.4
Gas and electricity -----	.3	0	5.3	-.6	.3	0	.2	0	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.3	2.2	2.4	0	---	---	1.8	2.2	7.6	.3	1.5
Housefurnishings -----	0	-.6	.5	.1	1.6	1.0	.3	.3	.5	-.8	-1.3
Household operation -----	.8	.9	1.0	.6	0	1.9	1.5	.8	1.1	2.7	.3
Apparel -----	.7	.9	1.0	1.2	1.8	-.7	.6	.5	.4	.6	.2
Men's and boys' -----	.7	.4	2.6	.7	1.8	-.3	1.1	.4	.2	.8	1.2
Women's and girls' -----	.2	.8	-.5	1.5	1.8	-1.4	.1	0	-.2	0	-.6
Footwear -----	1.6	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.2	.4	1.1	2.3	3.0	1.7	.9
Other apparel -----	.4	.7	.6	.7	.7	-.4	.5	.1	.6	.3	0
Transportation -----	1.1	1.7	2.4	1.3	1.4	.5	1.4	2.2	.9	2.9	1.0
Public -----	.2	0	2.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	1.3	2.2	2.3	1.5	1.7	.5	1.9	2.8	1.2	3.3	1.2
Medical care -----	1.1	.1	.5	.6	1.1	.4	.9	.4	1.3	1.4	3.6
Personal care -----	.6	.8	-.3	.4	.9	-.3	.2	.2	0	3.5	.1
Reading and recreation -----	-.3	-.3	2.4	-.9	-.8	.9	1.1	.3	-1.9	-.8	1.0
Other goods and services -----	.5	-.2	.8	.1	.5	1.8	.2	.2	.3	.2	.2

1/ Change from February 1956 to August 1956.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
August 1956 indexes and percent changes, July 1956 to August 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 ---	113.1	- 1.5	111.8	- 1.8	126.3	0.4	99.9	0.6	109.2	0.5	120.7	-10.7	113.9	1.0
Atlanta -----	112.1	- 1.2	111.2	- 1.2	117.6	- .1	103.0	.5	112.7	.4	125.5	- 9.9	106.0	1.0
Baltimore -----	114.1	- .9	111.9	- 1.1	121.8	- .1	101.0	.9	109.2	0	121.4	- 6.8	113.6	.3
Boston -----	112.8	- 1.2	110.9	- 1.6	123.6	.6	100.5	1.2	111.4	1.3	118.7	-11.5	108.1	.6
Chicago -----	110.9	- 1.7	109.1	- 2.1	120.7	.3	93.2	.2	110.2	.6	118.5	-11.4	120.0	.3
Cincinnati -----	114.7	- 2.1	113.7	- 2.4	124.6	- .2	101.3	- .2	113.7	.1	119.7	-13.1	123.8	1.4
Cleveland -----	111.6	- 1.3	109.9	- 1.8	122.2	0	97.2	.9	104.3	.2	116.9	-11.1	118.5	1.2
Detroit -----	115.6	- 2.9	114.3	- 3.4	120.0	.1	98.1	- 1.0	110.7	1.3	132.8	-16.8	117.3	1.8
Houston -----	110.2	- .2	108.9	.1	117.6	.1	94.5	1.3	109.1	.1	121.5	- 3.2	112.2	1.2
Kansas City -----	109.9	- 1.0	108.3	- 1.2	121.1	- .1	95.9	1.8	111.2	.4	115.5	- 9.4	108.0	.7
Los Angeles -----	113.4	- 1.2	109.9	- 1.5	131.1	0	99.9	.9	103.5	- .1	113.3	- 9.4	111.3	.8
Minneapolis -----	113.0	- 2.0	112.5	- 2.4	126.3	0	95.3	.5	111.4	.5	125.1	-13.2	121.2	.4
New York -----	112.6	- 1.2	110.9	- 1.8	130.3	.4	101.8	.9	106.3	.8	113.7	-11.5	114.2	.5
Philadelphia -----	115.9	- 1.4	114.4	- 1.5	129.9	4.2	103.2	.6	111.4	0	123.5	-11.8	114.0	.7
Pittsburgh -----	114.5	- 1.1	113.1	- 1.4	125.1	- .4	99.2	1.0	107.6	- .1	123.6	- 8.4	122.8	.3
Portland, Oreg. -----	115.6	- .9	114.7	- 1.1	130.1	0	102.5	1.3	113.7	.1	117.0	-11.3	119.3	3.0
St. Louis -----	113.3	- 1.8	111.4	- 2.2	120.3	.2	97.1	.4	104.8	.3	124.4	-11.6	121.9	.1
San Francisco -----	114.7	- .5	113.4	- .7	137.4	4.8	104.8	- .1	106.1	.2	119.6	- 8.0	111.9	1.5
Scranton -----	110.5	- 2.3	110.0	- 2.6	124.4	.1	99.7	.4	105.2	- .2	118.0	-14.1	111.0	.5
Seattle -----	114.9	- .1	114.4	- .5	136.8	0	100.4	1.4	113.0	0	122.9	- 7.8	114.1	2.8
Washington, D.C. ----	113.7	- 1.9	112.0	- 2.4	122.5	- .4	97.1	.1	115.3	- .2	120.5	-11.8	114.3	.5

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

Food and unit	August 1956	July 1956	Food and unit	August 1956	July 1956
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh—Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	53.4	53.5	Grapefruit * ----- each		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.6	26.6	Peaches * ----- lb.	14.4	17.9
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Rice ----- 1b.	17.2	17.2	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	21.2	29.4
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	19.3	19.3	Watermelons * ----- lb.	3.9	4.8
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	21.9	21.9	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	77.6	115.8
Bread, white ----- 1b.	18.1	18.0	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	15.2	15.4
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	27.7	27.7	Onions ----- lb.	13.5	15.7
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.2	24.0	Carrots ----- lb.	13.8	13.8
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce ----- head	14.7	13.9
Round steak ----- 1b.	92.1	88.0	Celery ----- lb.	13.5	14.5
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	49.4	46.4	Cabbage ----- lb.	7.4	8.0
Rib roast ----- 1b.	71.2	68.8	Tomatoes ----- lb.	21.6	30.0
Hamburger ----- 1b.	38.8	38.4	Beans, green ----- lb.	17.2	21.4
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	111.1	110.4	Canned:		
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	85.2	85.8	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	38.6	38.0
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	59.5	58.6	Peaches ----- #2½ can	34.9	35.2
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	62.1	62.0	Pineapple ----- #2 can	33.7	33.8
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	70.3	71.2	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.2	26.2
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	51.7	51.8	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.2	18.1
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	40.4	40.4	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.4	21.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	48.5	50.6	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.2	15.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	41.8	41.6	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	10.0	9.9
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	45.1	44.8	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	60.7	60.4	Prunes ----- 1b.	36.2	36.1
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8½ oz.	31.9	32.0	Beans ----- 1b.	16.2	16.2
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) 1/ ----- qt.	22.7	22.6	Tomato soup 2/ ----- 10½-11-oz. can	12.4	12.4
Milk, fresh, (delivered) 1/ ----- qt.	24.3	24.2	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.6	14.6
Ice cream ----- pt.	28.9	28.8	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	27.0	26.9
Butter ----- 1b.	72.0	71.9	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.2	23.1
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.4	57.2	Coffee ----- 1b. can	105.9	105.0
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	14.2	14.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.2	23.2
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	32.9	32.9
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	98.3	98.6
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	29.5	30.1	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.2	29.1
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	20.1	20.0	Lard ----- 1b.	19.9	19.7
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.4	21.5	Salad dressing ----- pt.	35.7	35.7
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.0	23.1	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	53.6	53.7
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	52.9	52.9
Apples ----- 1b.	16.1	18.5	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	23.8	23.6
Bananas ----- 1b.	16.6	16.3	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	26.6	26.6
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	64.2	65.7	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.7	19.0	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	60.4	58.2
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.5	8.5

* Priced only in season.
1/ Includes only homogenized, vitamin D milk.
2/ Formerly vegetable soup.

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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OCCUPATIONAL WAGE SURVEYS

(BLS Bulletins 1188-1 through 18)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has released the last of this year's occupational wage surveys for major labor markets. The studies cover 18 areas and were conducted during the winter 1955-56. The individual bulletins provide earnings information on about 60 jobs selected from several categories: 'Office clerical, professional and technical, maintenance and powerplant, and custodial and material movement.

In addition to areawide averages and distributions of workers by earnings classes for each job, information is provided wherever possible by major industry division, including manufacturing, public utilities, finance, trade, and services.

Also presented are data for paid holidays; paid vacations; scheduled weekly hours; health, insurance, and pension plans; minimum entrance rates; and shift differential practices.

The areas covered, survey date, bulletin number, and price are as follows:

			Cents
Atlanta	April 1956	1188-18	25
Chicago	April 1956	1188-15	25
Dallas	October 1955	1188-1	30
Denver	December 1955	1188-6	25
Detroit	October 1955	1188-2	25
Lawrence.....	February 1956.....	1188-11	25
Los Angeles-Long Beach	March 1956.....	1188-13	25
Memphis.....	February 1956	1188-12	25
Milwaukee	November 1955	1188-3	25
Minneapolis-St. Paul	December 1955	1188-8	25
New Orleans.....	November 1955	1188-5	25
New York City.....	April 1956	1188-17	25
Newark-Jersey City.....	December 1955	1188-10	20
Philadelphia.....	November 1955	1188-4	25
Portland, Oreg.	April 1956	1188-16	25
Providence	March 1956	1188-14	25
St. Louis	February 1956	1188-9	25
San Francisco-Oakland.....	January 1956	1188-7	25

Send orders (accompanied by check or money order) to the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., or to any of the following U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics regional offices:

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