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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1956

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.3 percent between August and September 1956, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices were higher for all major groups of goods and services except food, which remained at the August level. The Consumer Price Index for September was 117.1 (1947-49=100), 0.1 percent above its previous peak of July 1956, and 1.9 percent higher than a year ago.

FOOD

Prices of major classes of foods in general reflected usual seasonal movements. Greater than average seasonal declines in prices of fresh vegetables offset advances in prices of other classes of food. The September food index at 113.1 (1947-49=100) was 1.3 percent above a year ago but 3.0 percent below the August 1952 peak.

Fresh vegetable prices averaged 16.3 percent lower. Potatoes fell 26 percent to an average of 58 cents for 10 pounds, compared with \$1.16 in July. Prices of most other fresh vegetables also were lower, with onions down 34 percent, tomatoes 23 percent, and sweetpotatoes 14 percent; but prices of lettuce and green beans advanced. Fresh fruit prices increased 0.4 percent as higher prices for oranges, bananas, and lemons offset reductions in prices of apples and grapes.

The rise of 1.4 percent in the meats, poultry, and fish group reflected higher prices for all cuts of meat except ham, while poultry prices declined. Round steak prices rose 5.1 percent to an average of 97 cents a pound, chuck roast was up 8.0 percent, pork chops 3.1 percent, and bacon 1.7 percent. Prices of frying chickens decreased 3.3 percent.

Egg prices rose 3.9 percent and coffee was up 2.6 percent. Dairy products advanced 0.5 percent, due mostly to increases in prices of fresh milk. The rise of 0.2 percent in cereals and bakery products resulted from slight advances in prices of bread.

HOUSING

The advance of 0.2 percent in the housing index was the result of a general increase in all its components. Rents averaged higher in most of the cities surveyed in September. Prices of household textiles advanced as regular prices were again in effect following customary August white sales, and increases were reported for many items of furniture and housewares. New models of some major household appliances were introduced at higher prices, while prices of other items were reduced in anticipation of model changes. The household operation index responded to the continued upward trend in prices for laundry and dry cleaning services and for laundry soaps and detergents. Prices of most home maintenance and repair items were higher than a month ago. Bituminous coal prices rose seasonally.

APPAREL

The increase in apparel prices between August and September reflected advances in prices of fall and winter clothing from their seasonal lows of last winter. Women's and girls' coats were substantially higher and men's topcoats also advanced. Higher prices were reported for men's year round suits, trousers, and work clothing, and women's rayon dresses. The footwear index continued to advance. Apparel prices in September were still 2.6 percent below their September 1951 peak, but were at their highest level since February 1952.

OTHER COMMODITIES  
AND SERVICES Higher rates for group hospitalization insurance and increases in hospital rates were the main factors in the advance of 0.5 percent for medical care.

The reading and recreation group rose 0.5 percent, due mainly to higher prices for toys and sporting goods. Prices of television sets advanced as most new models were introduced with higher price tags.

The transportation group index was up 0.1 percent. Reductions in prices of new 1956 model automobiles were offset by higher prices for used cars, tires, and auto repair services.

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)					
	September 1956	August 1956	July 1956	September 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	117.1	116.8	117.0	114.9	101.8	59.4
Food <sup>1/</sup> -----	113.1	113.1	114.8	111.6	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	111.7	111.8	113.8	110.4	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	126.6	126.3	125.8	124.0	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	101.3	99.9	99.3	103.5	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	109.8	109.2	108.7	106.5	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.8	120.7	135.2	110.2	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	115.4	113.9	112.8	114.1	94.1	48.4
Housing <sup>2/</sup> -----	122.5	122.2	121.8	120.4	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	133.4	133.2	133.2	130.5	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	112.2	112.1	111.7	111.2	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	130.5	129.5	128.7	125.2	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	103.3	102.6	102.8	103.6	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	123.7	123.4	123.0	119.8	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.5	105.5	105.3	104.6	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.3	107.7	107.7	105.8	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	99.6	98.1	98.0	99.5	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	126.0	124.8	124.2	118.1	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.0	91.5	91.4	91.0	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	128.6	128.5	127.7	125.3	109.9	70.2
Public -----	173.0	172.9	172.7	166.9	117.9	81.3
Private -----	118.7	118.6	117.6	115.8	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	134.0	133.3	132.7	128.2	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	120.5	120.3	120.1	116.6	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	108.4	107.9	107.7	106.7	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services <sup>3/</sup> -----	122.7	122.1	122.2	120.6	103.7	70.6

  

	Percent change to September 1956 from:				
	August 1956	July 1956	September 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.3	0.1	1.9	15.0	97.1
Food <sup>1/</sup> -----	0	- 1.5	1.3	12.5	140.1
Food at home -----	- .1	- 1.8	1.2	11.1	137.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	.2	.6	2.1	23.3	121.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.4	2.0	- 2.1	- 4.5	143.5
Dairy products -----	.5	1.0	3.1	19.0	120.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 4.9	-15.1	4.2	12.0	147.9
Other foods at home -----	1.3	2.3	1.1	22.6	138.4
Housing <sup>2/</sup> -----	.2	.6	1.7	16.8	61.0
Rent -----	.2	.2	2.2	22.7	54.0
Gas and electricity -----	.1	.4	.9	9.3	7.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.8	1.4	4.2	21.3	131.4
Housefurnishings -----	.7	.5	- .3	6.1	93.4
Household operation -----	.2	.6	3.3	24.2	80.8
Apparel -----	.9	1.1	1.8	10.4	102.9
Men's and boys' -----	.6	.6	2.4	10.4	113.2
Women's and girls' -----	1.5	1.6	.1	6.8	82.8
Footwear -----	1.0	1.4	6.7	23.4	150.5
Other apparel -----	.5	.7	1.1	4.1	126.6
Transportation -----	.1	.7	2.6	17.0	83.2
Public -----	.1	.2	3.7	46.7	112.8
Private -----	.1	.9	2.5	11.4	81.2
Medical care -----	.5	1.0	4.5	27.1	84.6
Personal care -----	.2	.3	3.3	21.5	102.2
Reading and recreation -----	.5	.6	1.6	5.8	72.1
Other goods and services <sup>3/</sup> -----	.5	.4	1.7	18.3	73.8

<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.).

TABLE 2: Consumer Price Index -- All items indexes for selected dates  
U.S. city average and 20 large cities  
(1947-49=100)

City	September 1956	August 1956	September 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average-----	1/ 117.1	116.8	114.9	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly:					
Chicago-----	120.3	120.0	118.9	102.8	58.6
Detroit-----	119.7	119.6	116.9	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles-----	117.8	117.4	116.1	101.3	60.4
New York-----	115.1	114.4	112.6	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia-----	118.4	117.9	115.2	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/					
Atlanta-----	118.9	118.0	117.2	3/ 101.3	58.3
Baltimore-----	117.5	116.6	115.5	101.6	57.9
Cincinnati-----	117.1	116.3	113.7	101.2	58.4
St. Louis-----	118.1	117.0	116.5	101.1	59.3
San Francisco-----	119.0	117.9	115.6	100.9	58.6
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	4/ 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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 195.8.

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.

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index -- Percent changes from August 1956 to September 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-----	0.3	0	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.5
Chicago-----	.2	- 0.1	.5	.6	- .1	.1	.2	.3	.3
Detroit-----	.1	.1	.2	1.0	- .2	0	.2	- .4	0
Los Angeles-----	.3	.3	.2	1.7	.1	.3	0	- .4	1.2
New York-----	.6	.7	.3	2.2	- .4	0	.9	.3	1.8
Philadelphia-----	.4	0	.5	3.6	- .2	.1	0	- .3	.1

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups  
 September 1956 indexes and percent changes, June 1956 to September 1956  
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in September 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 -----	117.1	118.9	117.5	120.3	117.1	119.7	117.8	115.1	118.4	118.1	119.0
Food -----	113.1	111.9	114.5	110.8	115.5	115.7	113.7	113.4	115.9	114.7	115.3
Food at home -----	111.7	110.9	111.9	109.0	113.9	114.4	110.2	111.9	114.3	111.5	114.1
Cereals and bakery products --	126.6	117.5	122.2	120.6	124.8	120.2	131.0	130.5	130.0	120.6	137.4
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	101.3	103.5	102.7	95.4	103.4	100.2	100.7	104.3	103.2	98.1	105.1
Dairy products -----	109.8	112.6	109.4	110.2	113.9	112.2	105.4	107.1	111.9	106.1	110.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.8	121.5	115.5	111.8	114.5	124.6	111.8	112.0	118.7	118.8	117.8
Other foods at home -----	115.4	107.0	115.4	121.4	122.4	119.1	112.0	116.7	116.4	124.0	112.5
Housing -----	122.5	127.0	116.1	131.9	121.7	126.1	127.9	118.6	117.8	122.0	121.4
Rent -----	133.4	135.2	129.3	157.7	136.5	---	---	---	---	140.2	135.8
Gas and electricity -----	112.2	119.4	100.0	113.8	116.6	113.1	116.2	110.3	103.4	103.8	136.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	130.5	120.1	130.0	135.3	136.0	123.9	---	136.2	126.2	144.5	---
Housefurnishings -----	103.3	108.2	98.2	102.3	98.0	107.1	103.0	103.2	107.8	101.1	105.8
Household operation -----	123.7	133.6	117.2	129.3	130.5	117.1	127.7	123.3	120.0	127.5	111.4
Apparel -----	106.5	112.4	106.5	109.9	105.7	104.7	107.2	106.4	107.8	104.7	105.9
Men's and boys' -----	108.3	113.0	103.7	114.1	106.4	110.8	111.5	107.5	105.8	107.3	107.0
Women's and girls' -----	99.6	106.6	103.1	100.8	98.6	94.9	98.7	99.8	104.7	96.5	99.8
Footwear -----	126.0	131.2	125.7	129.3	132.5	121.3	127.7	125.2	121.8	124.6	127.0
Other apparel -----	92.0	93.0	96.3	96.0	88.8	87.8	84.4	95.6	94.0	96.0	89.0
Transportation -----	128.6	128.9	140.0	133.8	124.2	126.5	126.3	133.0	136.9	134.3	141.1
Public -----	173.0	163.1	186.6	166.5	163.9	144.3	152.9	187.9	186.7	187.9	180.6
Private -----	118.7	122.5	121.7	118.8	114.3	122.8	121.9	113.2	116.2	116.3	127.6
Medical care -----	134.0	129.2	143.0	136.8	137.5	143.3	127.7	127.9	138.1	143.6	135.5
Personal care -----	120.5	125.5	116.6	124.0	119.3	128.2	119.3	112.6	127.8	119.1	116.5
Reading and recreation -----	108.4	109.7	120.2	115.6	100.2	108.1	97.1	106.7	114.9	92.6	107.5
Other goods and services -----	122.7	126.3	126.9	117.7	121.3	124.6	119.8	123.6	125.3	124.3	118.4
	Percent change from June 1956 to September 1956										
All items -----	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.3	1.1	1.4	0.9	0.9
Food -----	-.1	.5	.3	.2	.2	-.7	-.4	.6	1.1	.8	.7
Food at home -----	-.4	.8	-.1	-.1	-.3	-.9	-.7	.3	1.0	-.4	.8
Cereals and bakery products --	1.1	-.7	.3	.4	-.1	.5	.1	.9	4.3	1.0	5.0
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	3.4	3.5	4.4	4.5	3.8	3.2	3.1	4.7	3.8	2.0	1.4
Dairy products -----	1.9	2.8	.3	-.5	.3	2.8	2.0	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	-12.6	-6.6	-11.1	-10.1	-13.0	-16.2	-11.5	-13.0	-12.1	-12.1	-9.7
Other foods at home -----	3.9	2.9	3.6	2.6	4.8	5.0	2.5	4.7	5.1	3.2	4.7
Housing -----	.9	.3	.2	.8	.8	2.0	.6	1.2	1.4	.9	.7
Rent -----	.7	1/ .1	1/ 2.0	1/ 2.5	.7	---	---	---	---	.6	.6
Gas and electricity -----	.4	0	.1	0	- 1.2	-.8	0	.3	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.6	1.9	.3	2.3	4.4	0	---	.5	3.9	5.6	---
Housefurnishings -----	.5	.4	1.4	1.0	1.0	.2	1.7	.5	-.1	.2	.8
Household operation -----	.9	.8	.1	1.6	.3	.8	2.0	1.6	.6	1.3	.5
Apparel -----	1.6	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.4	2.3	1.3	2.5	4.0	.4	.5
Men's and boys' -----	.7	.5	-.1	.4	2.3	.6	1.5	.3	1.6	.2	.2
Women's and girls' -----	2.2	2.5	3.1	3.0	.8	4.2	1.2	4.3	6.0	.4	.1
Footwear -----	2.4	.8	2.0	1.8	1.6	2.1	.6	1.9	3.1	.6	1.9
Other apparel -----	1.0	.9	1.0	1.3	.8	.6	1.7	1.6	2.3	.2	.2
Transportation -----	1.4	3.7	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.4	.6	1.1	2.5	.4	.8
Public -----	.2	5.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	1.7	3.6	2.4	1.8	1.9	1.7	.7	1.5	3.3	.5	.9
Medical care -----	1.5	-.6	.6	.4	.1	.4	.7	.9	.4	2.1	5.6
Personal care -----	.5	.4	.1	.6	-.1	.5	-.1	1.0	.2	.3	0
Reading and recreation -----	.7	.3	2.8	.4	.5	-.4	.1	1.0	.3	2.7	2.0
Other goods and services -----	.7	.1	2.4	0	.3	.2	1.4	1.8	.2	1.9	.2

1/ Change from March 1956 to September 1956.

**TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups**  
 September 1956 indexes and percent changes, August 1956 to September 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	0	111.7	- 0.1	126.6	0.2	101.3	1.4	109.8	0.5	114.8	- 4.9	115.4	1.3
Atlanta -----	111.9	-.2	110.9	-.3	117.5	-.1	103.5	.5	112.6	-.1	121.5	- 3.2	107.0	.9
Baltimore -----	114.5	.4	111.9	0	122.2	.3	102.7	1.7	109.4	.2	115.5	- 4.9	115.4	1.6
Boston -----	114.1	1.2	111.9	.9	123.4	-.2	103.4	2.9	111.4	0	115.8	- 2.4	110.9	2.6
Chicago -----	110.8	-.1	109.0	-.1	120.6	-.1	95.4	2.4	110.2	0	111.8	- 5.7	121.4	1.2
Cincinnati -----	115.5	.7	113.9	.2	124.8	.2	103.4	2.1	113.9	.2	114.5	- 4.3	122.4	1.3
Cleveland -----	111.8	.2	110.2	.3	122.0	-.2	100.3	3.2	104.4	.1	110.0	- 5.9	120.2	1.4
Detroit -----	115.7	.1	114.4	.1	120.2	.2	100.2	2.1	112.2	1.4	124.6	- 6.2	119.1	1.5
Houston -----	110.1	-.1	108.7	-.2	117.6	0	96.2	1.8	109.5	.4	115.9	- 4.6	112.7	.4
Kansas City -----	109.7	-.2	108.1	-.2	121.0	-.1	96.6	.7	111.0	-.2	111.4	- 3.5	109.4	1.3
Los Angeles -----	113.7	.3	110.2	.3	131.0	-.1	100.7	.8	105.4	1.6	111.8	- 1.3	112.0	.2
Minneapolis -----	112.2	-.7	111.6	-.8	128.4	1.7	96.3	1.0	110.3	- 1.0	115.9	- 7.4	121.9	.6
New York -----	113.4	.7	111.9	.9	130.5	.2	104.3	2.5	107.1	.3	112.0	- 1.5	116.7	2.2
Philadelphia -----	115.9	0	114.3	-.1	130.0	.1	103.2	0	111.9	.4	118.7	- 3.9	116.4	2.1
Pittsburgh -----	115.1	.5	113.9	.7	124.9	-.2	101.4	2.2	110.9	3.1	117.7	- 4.8	124.8	1.6
Portland, Oreg. -----	114.9	-.6	113.8	-.8	130.1	0	103.1	.6	113.9	.2	110.2	- 5.8	119.6	.3
St. Louis -----	114.7	1.2	111.5	.1	120.6	.2	98.1	1.0	106.1	1.2	118.8	- 4.5	124.0	1.7
San Francisco -----	115.3	.5	114.1	.6	137.4	0	105.1	.3	110.5	4.1	117.8	- 1.5	112.5	.5
Scranton -----	110.6	.1	110.1	.1	124.3	-.1	100.8	1.1	107.9	2.6	109.7	- 7.0	114.0	2.7
Seattle -----	114.2	-.6	113.6	-.7	136.7	-.1	101.5	1.1	113.1	.1	115.1	- 6.3	114.9	.7
Washington, D.C. -----	115.0	1.1	113.5	1.3	122.7	.2	100.4	3.4	115.6	.3	119.4	- .9	116.9	2.3

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

Food and unit	Sept. 1956	Aug. 1956	Food and unit	Sept. 1956	Aug. 1956
<b>Cereals and bakery products:</b>	<b>Cents</b>	<b>Cents</b>	<b>Fresh--Continued</b>	<b>Cents</b>	<b>Cents</b>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	53.2	53.4	Grapefruit * ----- each		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.7	26.6	Peaches * ----- lb.	14.7	14.4
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Rice ----- lb.	17.2	17.2	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	19.2	21.2
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	19.3	19.3	Watermelons * ----- lb.		3.9
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	21.9	21.9	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	57.7	77.6
Bread, white ----- lb.	18.2	18.1	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	13.1	15.2
Soda crackers ----- lb.	27.7	27.7	Onions ----- lb.	9.0	13.5
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.2	24.2	Carrots ----- lb.	14.1	13.8
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Lettuce ----- head	15.9	14.7
Round steak ----- lb.	96.9	92.1	Celery ----- lb.	12.6	13.5
Chuck roast ----- lb.	53.4	49.4	Cabbage ----- lb.	7.2	7.4
Rib roast ----- lb.	76.2	71.2	Tomatoes ----- lb.	16.6	21.6
Hamburger ----- lb.	39.4	38.8	Beans, green ----- lb.	18.2	17.2
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	112.8	111.1	<b>Canned:</b>		
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	87.9	85.2	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	38.8	38.6
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	60.5	59.5	Peaches ----- #2½ can	34.7	34.9
Ham, whole ----- lb.	61.4	62.4	Pineapple ----- #2 can	33.7	33.7
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	70.9	70.3	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.3	26.2
Frankfurters ----- lb.	52.0	51.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.2	18.2
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	40.4	40.4	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.3	21.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	47.0	48.5	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.0	15.2
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	42.0	41.8	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	45.0	45.1	<b>Dried:</b>		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	60.9	60.7	Prunes ----- lb.	36.2	36.2
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6½ oz.	31.8	31.9	Beans ----- lb.	16.2	16.2
<b>Dairy products:</b>			<b>Other foods at home:</b>		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.0	22.7	Tomato soup ----- 11-oz. can	12.2	12.4
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.5	24.3	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.6	14.6
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.0	28.9	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	27.1	27.0
Butter ----- lb.	72.3	72.0	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.2	23.2
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	57.3	57.4	Coffee ----- lb. can	108.0	105.9
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	14.3	14.2	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.2	23.2
<b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	32.9	32.9
<b>Frozen:</b>			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	97.3	98.3
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	29.2	29.5	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	29.2	29.2
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	20.1	20.1	Lard ----- lb.	20.1	19.9
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.2	21.4	Salad dressing ----- pt.	35.5	35.7
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	22.9	23.0	Peanut butter ----- lb.	53.6	53.6
<b>Fresh:</b>			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	52.9	52.9
Apples ----- lb.	15.1	16.1	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.0	23.8
Bananas ----- lb.	16.9	16.6	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	26.7	26.6
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	68.2	64.2	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- lb.	19.8	18.7	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	62.7	60.4
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.4	8.5

\* Priced only in season.

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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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