

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR NOVEMBER 1956

The Consumer Price Index for United States cities increased 0.1 percent between October and November 1956 to reach a new high at 117.8 percent of the 1947-49 average, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Seasonal reductions in food prices were offset by further advances in all other major groups of goods and services. The November index was 2.4 percent above a year ago.

FOOD

The decline of 0.2 percent in the food index reflected seasonal changes in prices of major food groups. The food index for November was 112.9 (1947-49=100), 2.8 percent higher than a year ago, but 3.2 percent below the August 1952 peak.

Prices of all cuts of pork, beef, and veal decreased seasonally during the month, with reductions of 6.7 percent for pork chops, 3.3 percent for round steak, and 1.6 percent for bacon; poultry prices declined 2.1 percent. Prices of lamb, frankfurters, and canned luncheon meat rose slightly.

Fruit and vegetable prices increased 1.7 percent on the average. Prices of lettuce rose 33.8 percent, tomatoes 26.3 percent, and green beans and celery 8.6 percent. Orange prices dropped 13.8 percent as the new Florida crop became available, but prices of other fresh fruits advanced. Prices of canned, dried, and frozen fruits and vegetables declined moderately.

The dairy products index increase of 0.4 percent reflected seasonal advances in prices of fresh milk and small price increases for butter and ice cream. Egg prices decreased seasonally.

Cereals and bakery products rose 0.2 percent, with small increases reported for most items in the group.

HOUSING

The rise of 0.2 percent in the housing index resulted from increases in all its components except gas and electricity. Residential rents advanced 0.3 percent. Solid fuels and fuel oil prices increased 1.1 percent on the average, advancing well above the record high levels of recent months. Higher rates for dry cleaning and laundry services were mainly responsible for the increase in the cost of household operation, although prices of laundry soaps and detergents also advanced. Housefurnishings prices increased 0.2 percent, as price advances were reported for living room suites, dinette sets, wool rugs, mattresses, washing machines, and household paper; prices of some appliances were lower.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

New automobile prices advanced an additional 1.8 percent following the large price increase recorded in October. Higher prices for 1957 model cars, reported for the first time by some dealers, were offset in part by larger dealers' discounts on 1957 cars offered in the second month of the model year. Gasoline prices averaged lower during the month.

The reading and recreation index rose 0.5 percent, due chiefly to higher rates for movie admissions and to price increases for television sets. Prices of newspapers also advanced in a few cities.

Higher prices were recorded for toiletries and beauty shop services. The medical care index reflected continued advances in fees for professional services and for prescriptions and drugs.

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

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Group	Indexes (1947-49=100)					
	November 1956	October 1956	September 1956	November 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	117.8	117.7	117.1	115.0	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	112.9	113.1	113.1	109.8	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	111.3	111.7	111.7	108.2	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	127.0	126.8	126.6	123.9	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	98.8	100.8	101.3	97.1	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	111.1	110.7	109.8	107.8	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	115.8	113.9	114.8	109.0	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	115.2	115.8	115.4	113.1	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	123.0	122.8	122.5	120.9	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	133.8	133.4	133.4	130.9	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	111.8	112.0	112.2	111.5	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	134.3	132.9	130.5	126.7	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	103.8	103.6	103.3	104.5	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	124.5	124.2	123.7	120.5	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	107.0	106.8	106.5	104.7	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.4	108.2	108.3	106.0	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	100.4	100.1	99.6	99.3	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	126.2	126.2	126.0	119.2	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.1	92.1	92.0	91.0	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	133.2	132.6	128.6	128.5	109.9	70.2
Public -----	173.4	173.0	173.0	167.8	117.9	81.3
Private -----	123.5	122.9	118.7	119.1	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	134.5	134.1	134.0	129.8	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	121.4	120.8	120.5	117.5	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	109.0	108.5	108.4	106.8	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	123.2	123.0	122.7	120.6	103.7	70.6
Percent change to November 1956 from:						
	October 1956	September 1956	November 1955	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items -----	0.1	0.6	2.4	15.7	98.3	
Food 1/ -----	- .2	- .2	2.8	12.3	139.7	
Food at home -----	- .4	- .4	2.9	10.7	136.3	
Cereals and bakery products -----	.2	.3	2.5	23.7	122.0	
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 2.0	- 2.5	1.8	- 6.9	137.5	
Dairy products -----	.4	1.2	3.1	20.4	123.1	
Fruits and vegetables -----	1.7	.9	6.2	13.0	150.1	
Other foods at home -----	- .5	- .2	1.9	22.4	138.0	
Housing 2/ -----	.2	.4	1.7	17.3	61.6	
Rent -----	.3	.3	2.2	23.1	54.5	
Gas and electricity -----	- .2	- .4	.3	8.9	6.6	
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.1	2.9	6.0	24.8	138.1	
Housefurnishings -----	.2	.5	.7	6.6	94.4	
Household operation -----	.2	.6	3.3	25.0	82.0	
Apparel -----	.2	.5	2.2	10.9	103.8	
Men's and boys' -----	.2	.1	2.3	10.5	113.4	
Women's and girls' -----	.3	.8	1.1	7.6	84.2	
Footwear -----	0	.2	5.9	23.6	150.9	
Other apparel -----	0	.1	1.2	4.2	126.8	
Transportation -----	.5	3.6	3.7	21.2	89.7	
Public -----	.2	.2	3.3	47.1	113.3	
Private -----	.5	4.0	3.7	15.9	88.5	
Medical care -----	.3	.4	3.6	27.6	85.3	
Personal care -----	.5	.7	3.3	22.4	103.7	
Reading and recreation -----	.5	.6	2.1	6.3	73.0	
Other goods and services 3/ -----	.2	.4	2.2	18.8	74.5	

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.).

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

City	November 1956	October 1956	November 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average—	1/ 117.8	117.7	115.0	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly: 2/					
Chicago—	121.0	121.1	119.1	102.8	58.6
Detroit—	120.6	120.0	116.8	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles—	119.1	118.5	116.3	101.3	60.4
New York—	115.6	115.7	112.5	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia—	118.2	118.6	115.0	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 3/	November 1956	August 1956	November 1955	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland—	120.0	119.1	116.2	100.4	59.2
Houston—	119.7	118.2	116.7	103.5	59.5
Scranton—	114.9	113.5	110.9	100.2	58.5
Seattle—	120.2	118.8	117.4	102.0	59.2
Washington, D. C.—	115.9	115.7	113.7	101.6	60.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 3/	October 1956	July 1956	October 1955	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston—	119.3	117.8	114.5	101.2	61.0
Kansas City—	118.9	117.6	116.2	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis—	117.4	117.7	116.4	102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh—	118.2	117.3	113.8	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon—	119.5	118.6	116.2	101.5	58.3
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 3/	September 1956	June 1956	September 1955	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta—	118.9	118.0	117.2	5/ 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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 197.0.

2/ Rents priced bimonthly.

3/ Foods, fuels, and a few other items priced monthly; rents and other commodities and services priced quarterly.

4/ June 1950.

5/ May 1950.

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index — Percent changes from October 1956 to November 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—	0.1	- 0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.2
Chicago—	- .1	- .3	0	- .4	- .1	.4	.1	0	.6
Detroit—	.5	.7	.2	- .2	1.3	.4	.4	.1	.1
Los Angeles—	.5	.9	.3	- .1	.9	0	.1	0	.1
New York—	- .1	- .3	.3	- .1	- .7	.1	1.5	.1	- .1
Philadelphia—	- .3	- 1.0	- .8	.3	2.3	0	0	- .1	- .1

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

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Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleve- land	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washing- ton, D.C.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	117.8	121.0	120.0	120.6	119.7	119.1	115.6	118.2	114.9	120.2	115.9
Food -----	112.9	110.4	110.9	115.9	110.6	115.6	113.3	114.8	110.3	115.1	112.8
Food at home -----	111.3	108.5	108.9	114.2	108.7	111.9	111.7	113.0	109.6	113.8	110.7
Cereals and bakery products --	127.0	120.5	121.8	119.1	119.7	131.2	131.1	130.6	124.7	136.3	123.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	98.8	91.8	96.4	98.2	93.2	100.0	103.2	99.9	97.5	98.8	96.9
Dairy products -----	111.1	112.0	108.2	112.7	112.2	105.5	109.5	114.6	108.5	116.2	115.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	115.8	114.2	107.6	129.3	116.5	118.6	111.2	115.9	111.9	119.7	110.6
Other foods at home -----	115.2	121.5	119.4	118.2	113.6	114.2	115.4	115.2	113.8	114.0	115.8
Housing -----	123.0	132.2	126.2	126.9	127.7	128.5	119.4	117.2	119.3	124.7	117.4
Rent -----	133.8	158.2	153.2	--	138.5	142.6	--	119.3	125.8	139.9	124.7
Gas and electricity -----	111.8	113.8	114.9	111.6	106.5	116.2	110.8	103.4	120.1	86.6	123.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	134.3	137.5	133.9	127.2	--	--	142.9	134.4	136.4	134.0	142.9
Housefurnishings -----	103.8	101.7	101.1	108.3	103.7	104.0	103.9	107.3	102.0	103.0	99.4
Household operation -----	124.5	129.9	116.3	117.3	132.2	128.1	124.7	120.0	112.3	127.5	125.6
Apparel -----	107.0	109.9	107.7	104.4	110.1	107.0	106.2	107.6	109.6	108.2	103.7
Men's and boys' -----	108.4	114.6	111.8	110.6	107.3	111.5	107.5	105.5	109.7	110.9	107.3
Women's and girls' -----	100.4	100.1	99.4	94.3	104.5	98.2	99.4	104.5	103.7	101.1	96.5
Footwear -----	126.2	130.5	124.8	122.1	135.8	128.0	125.1	122.0	131.6	129.0	121.5
Other apparel -----	92.1	96.0	94.2	87.7	91.6	84.3	95.5	94.2	92.3	87.1	91.0
Transportation -----	133.2	139.8	130.8	130.2	129.9	130.5	136.8	140.6	135.7	133.4	135.2
Public -----	173.4	166.5	169.6	144.3	164.2	152.9	187.9	186.7	190.0	178.0	154.9
Private -----	123.5	125.4	122.2	127.1	124.7	126.6	117.5	120.3	121.9	121.9	129.1
Medical care -----	134.5	138.5	146.2	143.8	128.6	128.0	128.0	138.1	125.3	136.6	128.1
Personal care -----	121.4	124.2	123.9	128.9	129.8	120.2	114.3	127.8	124.1	128.1	118.2
Reading and recreation -----	109.0	115.5	119.5	109.7	117.1	97.2	107.3	115.1	121.1	113.7	108.3
Other goods and services -----	123.2	119.7	124.3	124.8	123.9	120.1	123.6	125.5	117.2	128.7	132.2
Percent change from August 1956 to November 1956											
All items -----	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.3	1.4	1.0	0.3	1.2	1.2	0.2
Food -----	.2	.5	.6	.3	.4	1.9	.6	.9	.2	.2	.8
Food at home -----	.4	.5	.9	.1	.2	1.8	.7	1.2	.4	.5	1.2
Cereals and bakery products --	.6	.2	.3	.8	1.8	.1	.6	.5	.2	.4	.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.1	1.5	.8	.1	1.4	.1	1.4	3.2	2.2	1.6	.2
Dairy products -----	1.7	1.6	3.7	1.8	2.8	1.9	2.5	2.9	3.1	2.8	.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	4.1	3.6	8.0	2.6	4.1	4.7	2.2	6.2	5.2	2.6	8.2
Other foods at home -----	1.1	1.2	.8	.8	1.2	2.1	1.1	1.1	2.5	.1	1.3
Housing -----	.7	.8	.9	.8	1.1	.6	.9	0	1.2	1.2	.4
Rent -----	.5	1/ .3	.8	--	.4	2/ .6	--	.8	.2	.5	0
Gas and electricity -----	.3	0	0	1.7	.3	0	.5	0	0	2.5	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	3.7	2.5	5.7	2.7	--	--	4.9	7.6	4.4	.1	3.3
Housefurnishings -----	1.2	.9	.1	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.3	.3	2.7	3.0	.3
Household operation -----	.9	1.4	.2	.6	2.0	.9	1.2	.1	1.2	2.7	0
Apparel -----	1.4	.6	.8	.7	1.9	1.5	2.0	3.4	2.7	.9	.1
Men's and boys' -----	.6	.4	.5	.1	.3	2.2	.1	1.1	1.0	.5	.2
Women's and girls' -----	2.3	.8	1.5	1.1	4.1	1.4	3.6	5.6	4.3	1.6	.3
Footwear -----	1.1	.9	0	1.0	.1	.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	.4	.3
Other apparel -----	.7	.4	.2	.3	.8	1.0	1.2	2.4	1.4	.5	.4
Transportation -----	3.7	4.4	4.1	2.7	2.9	3.4	2.4	2.5	5.8	3.5	3.8
Public -----	.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	4.1	5.4	4.9	3.2	3.4	3.9	3.2	3.3	6.7	3.9	4.6
Medical care -----	.9	1.4	0	.3	.5	.5	.1	.1	2.0	.4	.2
Personal care -----	.9	.3	.5	.8	.2	.8	2.4	0	.3	3.5	.7
Reading and recreation -----	1.0	.2	1.6	1.1	4.3	.3	.8	.1	1.4	3.3	1.1
Other goods and services -----	.9	2.0	.2	.2	.6	1.4	1.8	.2	0	.3	.8

1/ Change from September 1956 to November 1956.

2/ Change from May 1956 to November 1956.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 November 1956 Indexes and percent changes, October 1956 to November 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 ---	112.9	- 0.2	111.3	- 0.4	127.0	0.2	98.8	- 2.0	111.1	0.4	115.8	1.7	115.2	- 0.5
Atlanta -----	110.4	- 1.2	108.9	- 1.4	117.9	.1	99.5	- 2.5	112.1	- .4	115.9	- 2.8	107.6	- .5
Baltimore -----	113.9	- .2	111.2	- .2	126.9	4.0	99.4	- 2.1	109.9	.2	113.4	.1	115.2	- .8
Boston -----	111.9	- 1.1	109.3	- 1.4	124.1	.3	97.3	- 3.7	116.3	1.7	111.6	.1	107.0	- 2.8
Chicago -----	110.4	- .3	108.5	- .3	120.5	- .1	91.8	- 3.1	112.0	.5	114.2	4.2	121.5	- .9
Cincinnati -----	114.4	- .2	112.7	- .2	124.7	- .1	100.8	- 1.2	114.2	.1	112.9	1.7	121.7	- .5
Cleveland -----	110.9	- .7	108.9	- 1.1	121.8	- .1	96.4	- 2.3	108.2	.6	107.5	- 2.2	119.4	- .5
Detroit -----	115.9	.7	114.2	.5	119.1	- .7	98.2	- .8	112.7	.5	129.3	4.6	118.2	- .2
Houston -----	110.6	.3	108.7	0	119.7	- .3	93.2	- 2.5	112.2	2.6	116.5	1.8	113.5	0
Kansas City -----	109.5	- .4	107.4	- .4	123.8	.2	94.4	- 3.1	108.3	.3	113.5	2.3	108.4	- .1
Los Angeles -----	115.6	.9	111.9	.9	131.2	.3	100.0	- 1.0	105.5	0	118.6	6.1	114.2	- .2
Minneapolis -----	112.9	- .3	111.8	- .3	128.9	.3	94.0	- 1.8	108.6	- 1.8	121.6	3.4	123.2	- .6
New York -----	113.3	- .3	111.7	- .4	131.1	.4	103.2	- .8	109.5	1.4	111.2	- 1.9	115.4	- .7
Philadelphia -----	114.8	- 1.0	113.0	- 1.1	130.6	.5	99.9	- 2.3	114.6	- .3	115.9	- 1.1	115.2	- 1.1
Pittsburgh -----	115.0	.2	113.3	.2	125.4	.4	98.7	- 1.4	111.7	.4	119.2	3.3	124.7	- .6
Portland, Oreg. -----	115.0	- .2	113.0	- .2	130.3	.2	99.1	- 1.9	113.8	- .2	115.5	3.5	117.0	- 1.3
St. Louis -----	114.2	- .3	110.9	- .4	121.0	.1	95.8	- 2.3	106.3	0	120.5	3.5	123.1	- 1.0
San Francisco -----	115.7	- .1	114.6	- .2	137.9	.1	102.5	- 2.0	113.2	.7	120.0	1.9	114.0	- .3
Scranton -----	110.3	- .2	109.6	- .3	124.7	.2	97.5	- 2.2	108.5	.4	111.9	1.4	113.8	.2
Seattle -----	115.1	.5	113.8	- .2	136.3	- .2	98.8	- 2.1	115.2	.2	119.7	4.9	114.0	- 1.7
Washington, D.C. ----	112.8	- .8	110.7	- 1.2	123.0	0	96.9	- 2.4	115.9	.1	110.6	- 2.1	115.8	- .4

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

Food and unit	Nov. 1956	Oct. 1956	Food and unit	Nov. 1956	Oct. 1956
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	53.3	53.1	Grapefruit * ----- each	12.2	
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.7	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.6	12.6	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Rice ----- 1b.	17.2	17.2	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	22.7	20.9
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	19.4	19.3	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	22.2	22.0	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	52.7	51.7
Bread, white ----- 1b.	18.3	18.3	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	11.8	11.9
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	27.9	27.7	Onions ----- lb.	7.1	7.5
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.2	24.2	Carrots ----- lb.	13.8	13.5
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce ----- head	24.0	17.9
Round steak ----- 1b.	93.5	96.6	Celery ----- lb.	13.4	12.4
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	53.4	54.5	Cabbage ----- lb.	6.7	6.9
Rib roast ----- 1b.	75.8	77.0	Tomatoes ----- lb.	26.5	21.0
Hamburger ----- 1b.	39.5	40.0	Beans, green ----- lb.	23.4	21.6
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	112.3	112.8	Canned:		
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	79.3	84.9	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	39.5	39.5
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	60.6	61.7	Peaches ----- #2½ can	34.5	34.5
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	59.4	59.8	Pineapple ----- #2 can	33.8	33.8
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	70.4	69.7	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.1	26.2
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	52.2	52.2	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.7	17.9
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	41.5	41.1	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.4	21.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	44.9	46.0	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.2	15.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	42.3	42.2	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	45.1	45.0	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	61.7	61.4	Prunes ----- 1b.	35.0	35.6
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8½ oz.	31.6	31.8	Beans ----- 1b.	16.2	16.3
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.3	23.2	Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.2	12.2
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.8	24.7	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.5	14.6
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.1	29.0	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	26.9	26.9
Butter ----- 1b.	74.5	73.4	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.2	23.1
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.2	57.2	Coffee ----- 1b. can	109.3	109.0
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	14.3	14.3	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.2	23.2
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	33.0	33.0
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	97.1	97.2
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	28.7	29.0	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.2	29.1
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	19.5	19.8	Lard ----- 1b.	20.8	20.6
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.3	20.4	Salad dressing ----- pt.	35.8	35.4
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	22.7	23.3	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	53.6	53.6
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	53.3	53.1
Apples ----- 1b.	13.4	13.2	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.2	24.1
Bananas ----- 1b.	17.4	17.1	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.1	27.0
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	59.9	69.5	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	20.4	20.1	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	61.2	63.3
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.6	8.5

* Priced only in season.

Labor - D.C. BLS 57-1775

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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LABOR - D. C.

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