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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 1957

Consumer prices in United States cities, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, advanced 0.2 percent between February and March, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Although food prices declined 0.4 percent, this was not enough to offset increases for all other major groups of goods and services. The March Consumer Price Index was 118.9 percent of the 1947-49 average, 3.7 percent higher than a year earlier.

FOOD

The decline of 0.4 percent in food prices between February and March was due mainly to lower prices of eggs and pork. The March food index was 113.2, 3.9 percent higher than a year ago, but 2.9 percent below the August 1952 peak.

Egg prices dropped seasonally (5.9 percent) to a national average of 50 cents a dozen, as reductions were reported in all cities surveyed.

Prices of all cuts of pork were lower, with decreases of 2.3 percent for bacon, 1.7 percent for pork chops, and 1.3 percent for ham. A general drop in beef prices included decreases of 1.2 percent for round steak and 1.8 percent for chuck roast. Prices of fresh and frozen fish were 1.2 percent lower. Poultry prices rose 0.6 percent and canned luncheon meat was up 1.5 percent.

Fruits and vegetables declined 0.3 percent, reflecting lower prices for bananas, lemons, lettuce, potatoes, celery, and onions; prices were higher for apples, tomatoes, green beans, and cabbage.

Coffee prices declined 1.0 percent. Dairy products were 0.4 percent lower as production was up seasonally.

Prices of cereals and bakery products continued their upward trend as bread prices advanced 0.6 percent and smaller increases were reported for most other items in the group.

HOUSING

The housing index rose 0.3 percent as residential rents and household operation advanced 0.1 and 0.5 percent, respectively; there were continued increases in dry cleaning and laundry services as well as higher water rates in several cities. Mortgage interest rates were higher in most cities surveyed and home maintenance costs also advanced. Prices of housefurnishings declined 0.1 percent.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Apparel prices increased 0.7 percent, as spring and summer apparel items reappeared at prices higher than at the end of last summer. Prices of women's nylon hose also advanced following February sales, and some increases were reported for work clothing and sport shirts.

In the private transportation group, prices of used cars rose 3.5 percent, and gasoline and motor oil prices also advanced. Prices of new cars and tires declined slightly.

The medical care index rose 0.7 percent as fees for professional services continued to advance. The increase of 0.2 percent for personal care resulted primarily from scattered increases in barber shop services and toiletries.

The increase of 0.5 percent in the reading and recreation group resulted from higher charges for movie admissions, newspapers, and television sets.

:NOTICE: September and December 1956 Rent and : :Housing group indexes for Cincinnati have been: :revised as follows: :		
:		
: Revised Index (1947-49=100) :		
: Group	: Sept. 1956	: Dec. 1956
:	:	:
: Rent	136.8	138.2
: Housing	121.8	122.6

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

Group	Indexes (1947-49 = 100)					
	Mar. 1957	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Mar. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-WW-II
All items-----	118.9	118.7	118.2	114.7	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	122.0	121.5	121.0	117.7	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	116.5	116.4	115.9	112.5	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	112.1	112.0	111.6	108.2	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	111.3	110.9	110.7	107.6	99.4	59.4
All services and shelter-----	135.8	135.2	134.5	130.9	107.9	80.4
All services less shelter-----	138.7	138.2	137.6	134.0	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to March 1957 from --					
	Feb. 1957	Jan. 1957	Mar. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.2	0.6	3.7	16.8	100.2	
All items less food-----	.4	.8	3.7	18.4	76.6	
All items less shelter-----	.1	.5	3.6	15.7	110.3	
All commodities-----	.1	.4	3.6	11.8	117.2	
All commodities less food-----	.4	.5	3.4	12.0	87.4	
All services and shelter-----	.4	1.0	3.7	25.9	68.9	
All services less shelter-----	.4	.8	3.5	29.6	88.7	

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)					
	March 1957	February 1957	January 1957	March 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	118.9	118.7	118.2	114.7	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	113.2	113.6	112.8	109.0	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	111.4	112.0	111.1	107.3	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	129.8	129.1	128.0	124.4	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	100.6	101.4	99.0	92.8	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	110.7	111.1	111.2	106.9	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.1	116.5	116.9	114.8	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	111.6	113.0	112.7	110.7	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	124.9	124.5	123.8	120.7	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	134.4	134.2	134.2	131.6	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	112.4	112.4	112.3	111.7	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	139.2	139.3	138.9	130.6	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.9	105.0	104.0	103.1	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	126.2	125.6	125.4	121.6	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.8	106.1	106.4	104.8	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.8	108.6	108.4	106.6	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	99.3	98.2	98.9	98.3	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	127.6	127.2	126.7	121.9	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.2	91.7	91.9	91.1	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	135.1	134.4	133.6	126.7	109.9	70.2
Public -----	175.8	175.8	174.9	170.8	117.9	81.3
Private -----	125.2	124.5	123.8	116.8	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	136.4	135.5	135.3	131.4	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	122.9	122.6	122.1	119.2	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	110.5	110.0	109.9	107.7	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	124.2	124.0	123.8	121.2	103.7	70.6

	Percent change to March 1957 from:				
	February 1957	January 1957	March 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.2	0.6	3.7	16.8	100.2
Food 1/ -----	-.4	.4	3.9	12.6	140.3
Food at home -----	-.5	.3	3.8	10.8	136.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	-.5	1.4	4.3	26.4	126.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-.8	1.6	8.4	- 5.2	141.8
Dairy products -----	-.4	-.4	3.6	19.9	122.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	-.3	-.7	1.1	13.3	150.8
Other foods at home -----	- 1.2	- 1.0	.8	18.6	130.6
Housing 2/ -----	.3	.9	3.5	19.1	64.1
Rent -----	.1	.1	2.1	23.6	55.2
Gas and electricity -----	0	.1	.6	9.4	7.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-.1	.2	6.6	29.4	146.8
Housefurnishings -----	-.1	.9	1.7	7.7	96.4
Household operation -----	.5	.6	3.8	26.7	84.5
Apparel -----	.7	.4	1.9	10.7	103.4
Men's and boys' -----	.2	.4	2.1	10.9	114.2
Women's and girls' -----	1.1	.4	1.0	6.4	82.2
Footwear -----	.3	.7	4.7	25.0	153.7
Other apparel -----	.5	.3	1.2	4.3	127.1
Transportation -----	.5	1.1	6.6	22.9	92.5
Public -----	0	.5	2.9	49.1	116.2
Private -----	.6	1.1	7.2	17.4	91.1
Medical care -----	.7	.8	3.8	29.4	87.9
Personal care -----	.2	.7	3.1	23.9	106.2
Reading and recreation -----	.5	.5	2.6	7.8	75.4
Other goods and services 3/ -----	.2	.3	2.5	19.8	75.9

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.).

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

City	March 1957	February 1957	March 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average-----	1/ 118.9	118.7	114.7	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly: 2/					
Chicago-----	121.6	121.5	117.7	102.8	58.6
Detroit-----	121.0	121.0	116.9	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles-----	120.4	120.3	116.1	101.3	60.4
New York-----	116.0	115.9	112.2	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia-----	120.0	119.7	115.8	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 3/	March 1957	December 1956	March 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	120.6	119.5	116.8	4/ 101.3	58.3
Baltimore-----	119.9	119.5	115.2	101.6	57.9
Cincinnati-----	118.1	117.5	114.3	101.2	58.4
St. Louis-----	120.2	119.1	115.7	101.1	59.3
San Francisco-----	122.3	121.6	116.8	100.9	58.6
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 3/	February 1957	November 1956	February 1956	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	120.4	120.0	115.7	100.4	59.2
Houston-----	120.5	119.7	116.6	103.5	59.5
Scranton-----	115.5	114.9	111.1	100.2	58.5
Seattle-----	122.2	120.2	116.2	102.0	59.2
Washington, D.C.-----	117.5	115.9	113.4	101.6	60.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 3/	January 1957	October 1956	January 1956	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston-----	119.0	119.3	114.6	101.2	61.0
Kansas City-----	119.8	118.9	115.5	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis-----	119.4	117.4	116.1	5/ 102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh-----	118.8	118.2	113.6	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon-----	120.1	119.5	116.3	101.5	58.3

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 198.8.

2/ Rents priced bimonthly.

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

4/ May 1950.

5/ June 1950.

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index -- Percent changes from February 1957 to March 1957
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-----	0.2	- 0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.2
Chicago-----	.1	- .6	.4	.2	.5	.1	.6	.5	.1
Detroit-----	0	- .9	.3	.1	.4	0	.1	1.0	.8
Los Angeles-----	.1	- .2	.5	.5	- .1	0	.7	0	.1
New York-----	.1	- .5	.2	1.4	.1	0	.1	.8	.1
Philadelphia-----	.3	- .3	.6	.2	- .1	1.3	.8	- .1	.4

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 March 1957 indexes and percent changes, December 1956 to March 1957
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in March 1957

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 -----	118.9	120.6	119.9	121.6	118.1	121.0	120.4	116.0	120.0	120.2	122.3
Food -----	113.2	111.8	114.9	110.2	114.7	114.9	116.7	112.3	116.2	114.9	116.2
Food at home -----	111.4	110.5	111.5	107.9	112.9	113.1	113.0	110.3	114.2	110.9	114.5
Cereals and bakery products --	129.8	119.9	127.2	122.3	131.1	124.3	133.6	134.6	132.1	125.3	139.6
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	100.6	104.9	102.0	92.5	102.6	97.7	103.1	101.8	103.4	97.5	105.3
Dairy products -----	110.7	113.1	112.5	109.4	114.1	110.5	105.4	109.1	116.0	103.2	113.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.1	117.8	112.7	114.3	112.9	128.0	120.7	109.9	119.1	121.4	118.8
Other foods at home -----	111.6	104.7	112.1	118.5	116.9	114.1	112.5	110.5	111.2	119.6	110.1
Housing -----	124.9	129.3	120.2	133.4	123.1*	127.7	129.5	121.1	120.8	124.0	125.1
Rent -----	134.4	136.1	131.0	158.6	138.4**	—	143.0	—	121.9	141.8	138.9
Gas and electricity -----	112.4	119.4	100.1	114.0	117.1	112.6	118.0	111.2	103.4	103.8	136.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	139.2	127.0	145.4	141.0	141.0	128.9	—	150.5	141.6	152.2	—
Housefurnishings -----	104.9	108.3	100.4	102.9	99.7	110.1	104.5	104.6	110.5	104.6	108.6
Household operation -----	126.2	134.9	119.0	130.8	131.6	117.4	128.8	125.1	127.5	131.7	119.4
Apparel -----	106.8	112.8	105.3	109.6	105.3	104.4	107.4	106.2	106.6	104.8	107.6
Men's and boys' -----	108.8	113.7	104.2	116.5	106.2	110.7	110.7	108.3	106.9	107.4	108.8
Women's and girls' -----	99.3	106.1	99.8	97.9	97.3	93.7	99.8	98.0	101.5	96.3	100.9
Footwear -----	127.6	134.0	127.0	131.5	134.4	123.6	128.0	128.1	123.0	125.4	130.7
Other apparel -----	92.2	93.0	95.8	95.8	88.5	87.8	84.5	95.6	93.7	96.2	90.3
Transportation -----	135.1	135.6	147.3	140.0	129.2	131.7	132.4	137.8	141.6	140.9	151.0
Public -----	175.8	164.3	187.3	167.7	165.0	145.8	154.8	189.0	187.4	189.1	182.6
Private -----	125.2	129.7	129.4	125.5	119.5	128.6	128.5	118.4	121.3	123.1	137.7
Medical care -----	136.4	132.1	144.5	142.3	139.7	146.5	129.5	128.2	140.4	154.4	136.3
Personal care -----	122.9	127.7	120.5	126.0	126.5	130.1	128.4	114.9	129.6	119.8	119.2
Reading and recreation -----	110.5	110.8	121.3	116.9	101.0	110.8	99.8	109.2	116.2	96.7	113.1
Other goods and services -----	124.2	129.1	129.6	119.9	121.9	126.3	121.1	124.9	126.7	124.6	121.2
Percent change from December 1956 to March 1957											
All items -----	0.8	0.9	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.4	1.2	0.9	0.6
Food -----	.3	.6	.1	.4	.7	.2	.6	-.3	.9	.3	-.1
Food at home -----	.2	.6	.5	.3	.7	.4	.4	-.6	.7	.5	-.3
Cereals and bakery products --	1.9	.6	.5	.8	5.0	3.4	1.7	2.7	1.1	2.1	1.0
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	2.7	5.2	2.7	1.9	2.8	2.7	2.6	1.2	2.8	3.1	1.7
Dairy products -----	-.5	.5	0	-1.6	-.1	-2.0	0	-.5	-.1	.8	.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	-1.1	-1.7	.5	.2	-1.2	-.1	-1.1	-3.3	.8	-1.1	-2.1
Other foods at home -----	-2.3	-2.5	-1.8	-.6	-2.3	-2.0	-1.3	-2.7	-1.4	-2.7	-2.3
Housing -----	1.1	.6	0	.5	.4	.5	.6	1.3	2.4	1.3	.8
Rent -----	.1	.4	.9	1/.4	.1	—	1/.3	—	1/1.5	.6	1.2
Gas and electricity -----	.4	0	.1	.2	.3	.9	0	.4	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	2.3	0	5.4	2.5	0	1.3	—	3.2	2.1	3.2	—
Housefurnishings -----	.8	-.5	.2	1.1	.6	.8	.5	.6	2.7	2.1	.1
Household operation -----	1.1	.9	.9	0	0	.1	.5	.3	4.1	2.7	.4
Apparel -----	-.2	.8	-.6	-.4	-.2	.8	.2	.1	-1.1	.2	.7
Men's and boys' -----	.2	.5	.3	1.5	.5	.2	-.7	.4	1.3	-.5	.8
Women's and girls' -----	-1.0	.8	-1.5	-2.2	-1.1	1.2	1.1	-1.0	-3.1	.7	.2
Footwear -----	.9	1.4	.2	.7	.7	1.0	0	2.2	.8	0	1.3
Other apparel -----	0	.3	-.5	-.2	-.2	.6	.1	.1	-.6	0	1.0
Transportation -----	1.5	3.7	1.4	.5	.5	1.3	1.3	.7	.6	1.2	1.5
Public -----	1.0	.7	.4	.7	.7	1.0	1.2	.6	.4	.6	1.1
Private -----	1.5	4.3	1.6	.5	.4	1.3	1.3	.8	.6	1.2	1.6
Medical care -----	1.3	1.9	.3	2.7	1.5	1.7	1.3	.2	1.7	1.3	.3
Personal care -----	.9	.6	.3	1.1	1.4	.9	6.6	.4	1.4	.5	1.1
Reading and recreation -----	1.1	.9	2.0	-.1	.7	.5	2.3	1.6	1.0	2.5	.7
Other goods and services -----	.7	.2	.8	.2	.7	1.3	.4	1.1	.9	.1	1.1

* Revised housing indexes: September 1956, 121.8; December 1956, 122.6.
 ** Revised rent indexes: September 1956, 136.8; December 1956, 138.2.
 1/ Change from January 1957 to March 1957.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 March 1957 indexes and percent changes, February 1957 to March 1957
 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	- 0.4	111.4	- 0.5	129.8	0.5	100.6	- 0.8	110.7	- 0.4	116.1	- 0.3	111.6	- 1.2
Atlanta -----	111.8	- .3	110.5	- .3	119.9	- .1	104.9	- .2	113.1	0	117.8	.1	104.7	- 1.3
Baltimore -----	114.9	- .3	111.5	- .1	127.2	.1	102.0	- .8	112.5	.1	112.7	2.0	112.1	- .9
Boston -----	112.3	- .2	109.7	- .3	128.3	.5	99.4	- .5	113.4	- .4	112.2	.4	105.0	- 1.0
Chicago -----	110.2	- .6	107.9	- .8	122.3	.2	92.5	- 1.6	109.4	- 1.4	114.3	1.0	118.5	- 1.3
Cincinnati -----	114.7	.3	112.9	.2	131.1	3.1	102.6	- .3	114.1	- .1	112.9	.6	116.9	- .9
Cleveland -----	111.2	- .4	109.0	- .5	123.7	1.1	97.7	- .2	105.9	- 2.3	112.4	.2	115.2	- 1.2
Detroit -----	114.9	- .9	113.1	- 1.0	124.3	.8	97.7	- .8	110.5	- 2.0	128.0	- .5	114.1	- 1.5
Houston -----	111.9	- .2	109.6	- .6	121.1	- .1	96.5	- .2	109.2	- 3.1	119.9	.2	111.7	- .5
Kansas City -----	109.4	- .2	107.2	- .2	125.2	.4	96.9	- .5	107.8	- .1	111.6	.5	105.3	- .8
Los Angeles -----	116.7	- .2	113.0	- .3	133.6	.1	103.1	.4	105.4	.1	120.7	- 1.7	112.5	- .4
Minneapolis -----	112.3	- .3	110.8	- .4	130.0	.1	96.4	.3	104.9	.9	120.8	- 1.5	118.4	- 1.3
New York -----	112.3	- .5	110.3	- .8	134.6	1.3	101.8	- 1.5	109.1	- .3	109.9	- .8	110.5	- 1.5
Philadelphia -----	116.2	- .3	114.2	- .5	132.1	.6	103.4	- 1.0	116.0	- .1	119.1	- .3	111.2	- 1.2
Pittsburgh -----	114.6	- .2	112.7	- .2	128.2	.7	98.0	- .5	114.1	0	115.8	0	121.1	- .6
Portland, Oreg. ----	115.4	- .2	113.3	- .2	131.5	.2	100.3	- .8	116.5	2.5	113.9	- .9	115.8	- 1.0
St. Louis -----	114.9	- .6	110.9	- .7	125.3	.3	97.5	- 1.4	103.2	.1	121.4	- .7	119.6	- 1.0
San Francisco -----	116.2	.1	114.5	- .2	139.6	.4	105.3	.6	113.3	0	118.8	- 1.2	110.1	- .8
Scranton -----	110.6	0	110.0	0	126.0	.4	100.3	- .1	109.3	.6	114.3	1.4	108.9	- 1.6
Seattle -----	115.5	- .3	114.3	- .3	137.6	0	101.0	- .5	116.5	0	121.3	- .6	111.3	- .7
Washington, D.C. ----	114.8	- .9	112.2	- 1.2	129.4	.1	100.2	- 2.1	115.7	.1	113.3	- 1.8	112.7	- 1.3

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

Food and unit	March 1957	February 1957	Food and unit	March 1957	February 1957
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.3	54.1	Grapefruit * ----- each	10.9	11.0
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.9	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.7	12.7	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Rice ----- lb.	17.0	17.0	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	21.7	21.4	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	23.0	22.9	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	55.0	56.2
Bread, white ----- lb.	18.7	18.5	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	13.7	13.6
Soda crackers ----- lb.	28.9	28.7	Onions ----- lb.	8.4	8.7
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.6	24.5	Carrots ----- lb.	12.9	13.1
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce ----- head	13.6	16.8
Round steak ----- lb.	87.1	88.1	Celery ----- lb.	15.6	16.7
Chuck roast ----- lb.	48.7	49.7	Cabbage ----- lb.	9.6	8.7
Rib roast ----- lb.	69.6	69.7	Tomatoes ----- lb.	32.7	27.9
Hamburger ----- lb.	39.3	39.1	Beans, green ----- lb.	32.5	31.1
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	116.4	116.8	Canned:		
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	81.4	82.8	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	37.1	37.6
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	67.7	69.4	Peaches ----- #2½ can	34.6	34.6
Ham, whole ----- lb.	61.7	62.7	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.0	33.9
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	67.2	68.2	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.0	26.0
Frankfurters ----- lb.	53.4	53.2	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.2	17.2
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	43.9	43.2	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.4	21.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	48.0	47.6	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	14.9	14.8
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	42.5	42.7	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	45.1	46.1	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 18 oz.	62.4	62.5	Prunes ----- lb.	34.4	34.5
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8½ oz.	32.0	32.0	Beans ----- lb.	16.0	16.0
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.1	23.3	Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.4
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.6	24.7	Beans with pork ----- 18-oz. can	14.6	14.7
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.2	29.0	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	27.2	27.3
Butter ----- lb.	74.1	74.1	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.3	23.3
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	57.5	57.4	Coffee ----- lb. can	106.3	107.7
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	14.3	14.3	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.6	23.5
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	33.7	33.6
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	100.4	100.5
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	28.0	28.3	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	30.6	30.5
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	18.8	18.9	Lard ----- lb.	22.9	22.8
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.9	20.1	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.1	36.6
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.6	23.1	Peanut butter ----- lb.	53.4	53.5
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	54.8	54.8
Apples ----- lb.	15.7	15.4	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.7	24.7
Bananas ----- lb.	16.3	17.0	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.2	27.0
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	54.6	54.7	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- lb.	19.7	21.0	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	50.5	53.6
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.7	8.8

* 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	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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