

Released June 25, 1957

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MAY 1957

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.3 percent between April and May 1957, primarily because of a seasonal advance in food prices, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. In other major groups of goods and services, lower prices for recreation and transportation were offset by increases for housing, medical care, personal care, and "other goods and services." The Consumer Price Index for May 1957 was 119.6 percent of the 1947-49 average, 3.6 percent higher than a year earlier. Consumer prices have declined once in the past 15 months (in August 1956), and in May 1957 reached a record high for the 9th consecutive month.

FOOD

Food prices advanced 0.7 percent between April and May, as prices of fresh produce and meat rose seasonally. The food index in May was 114.6 (1947-49=100), 3.2 percent higher than a year ago, but 1.7 percent below the August 1952 peak. Food prices were higher in 40 of the 46 cities surveyed in May.

Fresh fruit prices rose 4.4 percent, with apple prices increasing 14.4 percent to a national average price of 20 cents a pound. Prices of fresh vegetables advanced 5.8 percent, chiefly because of seasonal increases of 10.8 percent for tomatoes, 24.2 percent for onions, and 2.7 percent for potatoes. Prices of cabbage fell 13.5 percent.

Meat prices rose 2.1 percent, as advances were reported for all cuts of beef, pork, and lamb. Bacon prices were up 4.2 percent, pork chops 2.5 percent, and round steak 2.0 percent.

The increase of 0.2 percent in the price of cereals and bakery products reflected higher prices for bread and flour. Restaurant meal prices edged up 0.1 percent.

Prices of eggs and milk fell seasonally and coffee prices, declining for the sixth consecutive month, were 1.6 percent lower than a month earlier.

HOUSING

The housing index rose 0.1 percent, as increases for rent, household operation, and home maintenance costs more than offset seasonal price reductions for fuels and housefurnishings. The price advance of 0.7 percent for household operation reflected higher water rates in several cities. Higher prices were reported for painting services and roof repairs. In housefurnishings widespread reductions were reported for refrigerators and some household textiles. Anthracite prices dropped 4.4 percent, bituminous coal was down 1.9 percent in price, and fuel oil prices declined 1.1 percent.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

The increase of 0.3 percent in medical care reflected further advances in fees for professional and hospital services and higher prices for prescriptions and drugs. The personal care index reflected higher prices for toilet soap in most cities and some scattered increases for beauty shop services.

Apparel prices remained at their April level, as reductions for women's rayon dresses and nylon hose and girls' cotton dresses offset higher prices for men's wool suits and women's and children's shoes.

The decline of 0.4 percent for recreation resulted primarily from sale prices for sporting goods and toys. There were some advances in prices of newspapers and movie admissions.

Transportation costs as a whole decreased 0.1 percent. New car prices continued to decline as dealers gave larger concessions, and prices of gasoline and motor oil were also lower, but prices of used cars advanced.

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

Group	Indexes (1947-49=100)					
	May 1957	Apr. 1957	Mar. 1957	May 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	119.6	119.3	118.9	115.4	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	122.3	122.3	122.0	117.9	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	117.1	116.9	116.5	113.3	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	112.7	112.5	112.1	109.0	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	111.1	111.5	111.3	107.5	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	106.7	107.3	107.1	102.5	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	115.5	115.7	115.5	112.2	99.0	58.7
All services and shelter-----	136.7	136.2	135.8	131.5	107.9	80.4
All services less shelter-----	139.5	139.0	138.7	134.8	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to May 1957 from --					
		Apr. 1957	Mar. 1957	May 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----		0.3	0.6	3.6	17.5	101.3
All items less food-----		0	.2	3.7	18.7	77.0
All items less shelter-----		.2	.5	3.4	16.3	111.4
All commodities-----		.2	.5	3.4	12.4	118.4
All commodities less food-----		- .4	- .2	3.3	11.8	87.0
Durables-----		- .6	- .4	4.1	4.2	86.2
Non-durables-----		- .2	0	2.9	16.7	96.8
All services and shelter-----		.4	.7	4.0	26.7	70.0
All services less shelter-----		.4	.6	3.5	30.4	89.8
	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	May 1957	Apr. 1957	Mar. 1957	May 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar-----	\$0.84	\$0.84	\$0.84	\$0.87	\$0.98	\$1.68

* To calculate purchasing power of the consumer dollar on any other base, divide the index for the desired base date by the index for the comparison date.

TABLE 2: Consumer Price Index -- United States city average, all items and commodity groups
Indexes and percent changes for selected dates

Group	Indexes (1947-49=100)					
	May 1957	April 1957	March 1957	May 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	119.6	119.3	118.9	115.4	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	114.6	113.8	113.2	111.0	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	113.0	112.1	111.4	109.5	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	130.4	130.1	129.8	124.7	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	103.7	102.0	100.6	95.5	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	110.0	110.5	110.7	107.5	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	122.5	118.7	116.1	121.5	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	109.9	111.0	111.6	110.9	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	125.3	125.2	124.9	120.9	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	134.7	134.5	134.4	132.2	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	112.3	112.4	112.4	111.8	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.4	138.1	139.2	127.9	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.2	105.1	104.9	102.6	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	127.3	126.4	126.2	122.4	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.5	106.5	106.8	104.8	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	109.0	108.8	108.8	107.0	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.6	98.7	99.3	97.9	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	127.8	127.3	127.6	122.8	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.0	92.0	92.2	91.1	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	135.3	135.5	135.1	127.1	109.9	70.2
Public -----	176.8	176.8	175.8	172.5	117.9	81.3
Private -----	125.4	125.5	125.2	117.1	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	137.3	136.9	136.4	131.9	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	123.4	123.3	122.9	119.6	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	111.4	111.8	110.5	108.2	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	124.3	124.2	124.2	121.5	103.7	70.6

	Percent change to May 1957 from:				
	April 1957	March 1957	May 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.3	0.6	3.6	17.5	101.3
Food -----	.7	1.2	3.2	14.0	143.3
Food at home -----	.8	1.4	3.2	12.4	139.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	.2	.5	4.6	27.0	128.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.7	3.1	8.6	- 2.3	149.3
Dairy products -----	-.5	-.6	2.3	19.2	120.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.2	5.5	.8	19.5	164.6
Other foods at home -----	- 1.0	- 1.5	-.9	16.8	127.1
Food away from home -----	.1	.4	3.3	(4/)	(4/)
Housing 2/ -----	.1	.3	3.6	19.4	64.7
Rent -----	.1	.2	1.9	23.9	55.5
Gas and electricity -----	-.1	-.1	.4	9.3	7.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- 2.0	- 2.7	5.9	25.8	140.1
Housefurnishings -----	-.9	-.7	1.6	7.0	95.1
Household operation -----	.7	.9	4.0	27.8	86.1
Apparel -----	0	-.3	1.6	10.4	102.9
Men's and boys' -----	.2	.2	1.9	11.1	114.6
Women's and girls' -----	-.1	-.7	.7	5.7	80.9
Footwear -----	.4	.2	4.1	25.2	154.1
Other apparel -----	0	-.2	1.0	4.1	126.6
Transportation -----	-.1	.1	6.5	23.1	92.7
Public -----	0	.6	2.5	50.0	117.5
Private -----	-.1	.2	7.1	17.6	91.5
Medical care -----	.3	.7	4.1	30.3	89.1
Personal care -----	.1	.4	3.2	24.4	107.0
Reading and recreation -----	-.4	.8	3.0	8.7	76.8
Other goods and services 3/ -----	.1	.1	2.3	19.9	76.1

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

City	May 1957	April 1957	May 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	1/ 119.6	119.3	115.4	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly: 2/					
Chicago	122.2	122.0	118.6	102.8	58.6
Detroit	121.9	121.4	118.0	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	120.8	120.6	116.9	101.3	60.4
New York	117.2	116.9	113.0	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	119.8	119.7	116.2	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 3/	May 1957	February 1957	May 1956	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland	121.7	120.4	117.3	100.4	59.2
Houston	121.1	120.5	116.8	103.5	59.5
Scranton	116.4	115.5	112.1	100.2	58.5
Seattle	122.8	122.2	117.1	102.0	59.2
Washington, D. C.	117.2	117.5	114.4	101.6	60.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 3/	April 1957	January 1957	April 1956	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston	120.2	119.0	115.2	101.2	61.0
Kansas City	120.4	119.8	116.4	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis	119.8	119.4	115.6	4/ 102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh	118.8	118.8	115.2	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon	121.6	120.1	116.4	101.5	58.3
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	5/ 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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 200.0.

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 4: Consumer Price Index — Percent changes from April 1957 to May 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	0.3	0.7	0.1	0	- 0.1	0.3	0.1	- 0.4	0.1
Chicago	.2	.4	.2	0	- .3	.1	0	- .8	- .1
Detroit	.4	.8	.3	0.2	.4	-.2	.2	-.3	.3
Los Angeles	.2	0	.2	.2	.6	0	.1	-.3	.2
New York	.3	.9	-.1	.4	-.1	.7	0	-.6	0
Philadelphia	.1	1.0	-.5	- 1.0 ^a	.1	0	.3	-.7	0

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 May 1957 indexes and percent changes, February 1957 to May 1957
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in May 1957

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 -----	119.6	122.2	121.7	121.9	121.1	120.8	117.2	119.8	116.4	122.8	117.2
Food -----	114.6	112.0	112.7	116.8	112.2	116.9	113.8	117.6	112.2	117.3	115.9
Food at home -----	113.0	109.9	110.6	115.0	110.0	113.5	112.1	115.5	111.7	116.6	113.4
Cereals and bakery products --	130.4	122.9	123.6	125.0	121.2	134.1	135.1	132.5	126.4	138.0	129.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	103.7	96.6	100.5	101.3	99.2	105.1	105.2	105.5	103.6	105.4	102.6
Dairy products -----	110.0	110.8	104.2	107.6	109.0	105.5	108.1	114.1	110.1	117.3	115.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	122.5	119.2	119.2	137.1	120.8	121.7	116.5	126.3	119.5	128.5	118.0
Other foods at home -----	109.9	116.3	114.2	112.7	109.7	111.1	108.8	109.8	107.1	109.6	111.0
Housing -----	125.3	134.1	128.5	128.6	129.3	129.7	122.1	119.5	120.3	128.6	117.7
Rent -----	134.7	160.3	156.3	—	138.3	143.3	—	123.0	127.2	141.3	125.4
Gas and electricity -----	112.3	114.0	115.4	112.2	116.2	118.0	111.1	103.4	117.7	86.6	121.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.4	136.2	129.3	129.3	—	—	145.8	128.6	134.8	142.6	144.7
Housefurnishings -----	104.2	102.0	101.4	109.1	101.4	102.6	104.7	109.1	104.2	103.5	99.0
Household operation -----	127.3	130.8	116.7	117.8	135.8	129.0	125.5	128.2	114.1	137.0	125.8
Apparel -----	106.5	109.5	107.7	104.7	109.9	107.6	105.8	104.5	108.5	108.3	103.8
Men's and boys' -----	109.0	116.8	112.6	111.3	107.1	111.3	108.5	107.0	111.0	111.5	107.7
Women's and girls' -----	98.6	97.3	98.5	94.1	104.0	99.6	96.9	97.1	100.5	100.8	97.1
Footwear -----	127.8	131.7	126.2	123.5	136.8	128.3	128.5	123.6	133.0	129.6	123.1
Other apparel -----	92.0	95.7	94.4	87.5	91.4	84.7	95.4	92.8	91.6	87.2	86.7
Transportation -----	135.3	139.2	132.1	132.1	134.4	133.4	138.2	141.4	135.1	138.3	136.2
Public -----	176.8	167.7	170.9	145.8	166.5	154.8	189.0	187.4	190.6	180.1	156.6
Private -----	125.4	124.5	123.5	129.1	129.3	129.6	118.8	121.0	121.2	126.7	129.9
Medical care -----	137.3	141.3	149.3	146.2	129.4	130.0	129.3	140.5	125.3	139.0	131.7
Personal care -----	123.4	126.2	126.0	130.3	131.0	129.0	115.2	130.0	125.5	129.2	120.1
Reading and recreation -----	111.4	116.1	120.2	110.4	112.9	100.4	115.6	115.5	134.4	112.0	108.1
Other goods and services -----	124.3	119.9	125.0	126.4	125.9	121.4	124.7	126.6	117.7	131.9	134.1
Percent change from February 1957 to May 1957											
All items -----	0.8	0.6	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.4	1.1	0.1	0.8	0.5	- 0.3
Food -----	.9	1.0	.9	.8	.1	0	.8	.9	1.4	1.2	0
Food at home -----	.9	1.0	.9	.7	-.3	.2	.8	.6	1.5	1.7	-.2
Cereals and bakery products --	1.0	.7	1.1	1.4	0	.5	1.7	.9	.7	.3	.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.3	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.3	1.7	1.1	3.2	3.8	.3
Dairy products -----	- 1.0	-.2	- 3.9	- 4.5	- 3.3	.2	- 1.2	- 1.7	1.3	.7	.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.2	5.3	6.2	6.6	.9	-.9	5.1	5.8	6.0	5.3	2.3
Other foods at home -----	- 2.7	- 3.2	- 2.1	- 2.7	- 2.3	- 1.6	- 3.0	- 2.5	- 3.3	- 2.2	- 2.8
Housing -----	.6	.9	2.1	1.0	.6	.6	1.1	-.5	-.3	.2	- 1.3
Rent -----	-.4	1/ 1.1	.6	—	-.4	1/ .2	—	1/ .9	.6	.6	.2
Gas and electricity -----	-.1	.2	.4	-.2	.1	0	.1	0	- 2.0	0	.2
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- 2.8	- 4.7	- 4.6	.3	—	—	- 3.1	- 9.2	- 7.5	0	- 4.6
Housefurnishings -----	-.8	- 1.7	.4	-.3	- 2.3	- 1.6	.2	-.4	1.0	- 1.6	- 1.1
Household operation -----	1.4	1.9	1.6	.4	2.7	.2	.4	1.1	1.7	7.1	0
Apparel -----	.4	.1	.2	.4	1.0	.7	1.1	- 1.8	.6	.5	-.4
Men's and boys' -----	.4	.4	.4	.6	1.0	.5	.7	.4	.6	.5	-.4
Women's and girls' -----	.4	-.3	-.1	.4	1.5	1.1	.8	- 3.9	.3	.7	.6
Footwear -----	.5	.2	.8	.2	-.4	.2	1.4	-.1	1.3	.2	-.1
Other apparel -----	.3	0	.3	-.2	.4	.6	1.1	-.9	.1	.3	- 4.9
Transportation -----	.7	-.1	0	.7	1.7	.7	.4	-.2	-.4	.8	.7
Public -----	.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	.7	-.2	0	.8	1.8	.8	.5	-.3	-.5	.9	.8
Medical care -----	1.3	1.3	1.4	-.2	-.3	.4	.9	1.4	-.1	.7	1.8
Personal care -----	.7	.8	.7	.2	-.4	1.2	.3	1.1	.5	.2	1.2
Reading and recreation -----	1.3	-.2	-.3	.6	- 1.6	.6	6.7	-.7	6.9	- 1.0	.2
Other goods and services -----	.2	.1	.2	.9	1.4	.3	-.1	.3	.3	.8	.7

1/ Change from March 1957 to May 1957.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 May 1957 indexes and percent changes, April 1957 to May 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 ---	114.6	0.7	113.0	0.8	130.4	0.2	103.7	1.7	110.0	- 0.5	122.5	3.2	109.9	- 1.0
Atlanta -----	112.4	.3	111.0	.2	124.7	0	106.1	1.7	113.5	.4	119.0	1.4	102.2	- 2.2
Baltimore -----	116.0	.8	112.8	.9	127.2	0	103.5	.4	112.5	- .1	120.0	6.0	110.4	- .8
Boston -----	113.8	.4	111.3	.2	128.1	- .2	101.8	0	110.9	- 1.2	118.8	3.2	105.8	- .8
Chicago -----	112.0	.4	109.9	.5	122.9	.2	96.6	1.8	110.8	.5	119.2	-.1	116.3	- .6
Cincinnati -----	116.4	.9	114.8	1.0	131.0	- .1	105.5	1.5	114.7	.1	120.7	4.6	114.9	- 1.1
Cleveland -----	112.7	1.3	110.6	1.5	123.6	1.0	100.5	1.9	104.2	- 1.0	119.2	5.3	114.2	- .3
Detroit -----	116.8	.8	115.0	.8	125.0	.4	101.3	1.9	107.6	- 2.0	137.1	3.2	112.7	- .4
Houston -----	112.2	.1	110.0	.2	121.2	0	99.2	1.4	109.0	- .2	120.8	-.4	109.7	- .5
Kansas City -----	110.1	.4	107.8	.5	126.5	0	98.1	1.7	107.7	- .2	114.4	1.2	103.9	- .8
Los Angeles -----	116.9	0	113.5	-.2	134.1	.2	105.1	1.5	105.5	.2	121.7	- 3.0	111.1	- .4
Minneapolis -----	113.1	.4	111.6	.6	129.3	-.7	98.4	1.4	104.8	.2	123.7	2.2	117.3	- .6
New York -----	113.8	.9	112.1	1.0	135.1	.2	105.2	2.0	108.1	-.7	116.5	4.6	108.8	- 1.5
Philadelphia -----	117.6	1.0	115.5	1.2	132.5	.1	105.5	1.8	114.1	.2	126.3	4.2	109.8	- .6
Pittsburgh -----	117.3	2.2	115.6	2.5	129.0	.4	102.8	3.4	111.9	0	127.4	8.1	119.9	.4
Portland, Oreg. -----	117.0	.9	115.1	1.1	131.7	0	105.8	1.8	117.0	.4	120.0	4.0	112.3	- .4
St. Louis -----	115.5	1.1	111.7	1.5	125.3	- .1	100.9	2.6	100.3	0	125.1	4.1	117.5	- .3
San Francisco -----	117.2	-.2	115.7	-.2	140.1	.1	107.9	-.1	109.8	- 3.3	127.0	3.3	108.2	- 1.4
Scranton -----	112.2	1.0	111.7	1.1	126.4	.2	103.6	1.3	110.1	- .2	119.5	6.0	107.1	- 1.4
Seattle -----	117.3	.9	116.6	1.1	138.0	.2	105.4	1.7	117.3	.8	128.5	3.1	109.6	- .4
Washington, D.C. -----	115.9	.6	113.4	.6	129.7	.2	102.6	.8	115.8	.1	118.0	3.1	111.0	- .6

TABLE 7: Consumer Price Index -- Average retail prices of selected foods
 U.S. city average

Food and unit	May 1957	April 1957	Food and unit	May 1957	April 1957
Cereals and bakery products:	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	Fresh--Continued	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.6	54.5	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.9	Strawberries * ----- pt.	27.7	
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.8	12.7	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rice ----- lb.	17.2	17.1	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	22.0	21.9	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	57.3	55.8
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	23.0	23.0	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	16.1	14.4
Bread, white ----- lb.	18.8	18.7	Onions ----- lb.	12.3	9.9
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.0	28.9	Carrots ----- lb.	14.1	12.7
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.7	24.6	Lettuce ----- head	15.4	15.6
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- lb.	15.5	14.7
Round steak ----- lb.	92.6	90.7	Cabbage ----- lb.	9.1	10.6
Chuck roast ----- lb.	52.0	50.9	Tomatoes ----- lb.	40.3	36.3
Rib roast ----- lb.	73.4	71.3	Beans, green ----- lb.	27.1	26.2
Hamburger ----- lb.	40.8	40.0	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	117.2	117.3	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	36.1	36.4
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	85.0	83.1	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.7	34.7
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	71.4	68.5	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.1	34.0
Ham, whole ----- lb.	62.7	61.9	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.0	26.0
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	72.8	71.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.1	17.1
Frankfurters ----- lb.	54.4	53.6	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.5	21.4
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	44.8	44.3	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	14.8	14.8
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	47.1	47.5	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.1	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	42.9	42.8	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	45.7	45.1	Prunes ----- lb.	34.3	34.3
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 18 oz.	62.4	62.2	Beans ----- lb.	16.0	16.0
Tuna fish, canned ----- 8 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.0	31.9	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	22.8	23.1	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.6	14.6
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.4	24.6	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.2	27.1
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.4	29.3	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.3	23.3
Butter ----- lb.	74.0	73.9	Coffee ----- lb. can	102.5	104.4
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	57.4	57.4	Coffee ----- lb. bag	86.1	86.4
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	14.5	14.4	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.6	23.6
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	34.0	33.9
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	99.1	99.4
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.6	27.5	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	30.0	30.2
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	18.1	18.7	Lard ----- lb.	22.6	22.8
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.6	19.6	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.3	37.2
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.7	23.7	Peanut butter ----- lb.	53.6	53.6
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.0	54.9
Apples ----- lb.	20.0	17.5	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.8	24.8
Bananas ----- lb.	16.7	16.2	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.3	27.2
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	54.2	54.8	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- lb.	19.3	19.0	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	48.7	50.4
Grapefruit * ----- each	11.3	11.0	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.8	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	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.

BLS Regional Offices

Atlanta	New York	Chicago	San Francisco	Boston
50 Seventh St., NE	341 Ninth Ave.	105 West Adams St.	630 Sansome St.	18 Oliver St.
Zone 23	Zone 1	Zone 3	Zone 11	Zone 10

LABOR - D. C.

