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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JUNE 1957

Consumer prices in United States cities advanced 0.5 percent between May and June 1957, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Although seasonally higher food prices were the principal factor in the rise, prices averaged higher in all major groups of goods and services except transportation. At 120.2 percent of the 1947-49 average, the Consumer Price Index in June reached a record high for the 10th consecutive month, and was 3.4 percent higher than in June 1956.

FOOD Food prices rose 1.4 percent between May and June, due largely to advances in prices of fresh fruits and pork. The June food index was 116.2 (1947-49=100), 2.7 percent higher than a year ago, but 0.3 percent below the August 1952 peak.

Prices of fresh fruits increased more than the usual seasonal advance during the month, as apples rose 13.7 percent and banana prices advanced 8.5 percent. Prices of lemons declined. Fresh vegetable prices declined 1.2 percent, due primarily to reductions of 15.6 percent for tomatoes and 22.0 percent for green beans. Prices of lettuce advanced 16.6 percent and potatoes were up 2.8 percent. Prices of canned and frozen orange juice declined.

Higher prices were reported for all cuts of meats and frying chickens. The U. S. average price of pork chops rose from 85 to 93 cents a pound and bacon was up from 71 to 75 cents a pound. Prices of frankfurters rose 3.7 percent and hamburger 3.3 percent. Fish prices averaged slightly lower.

Prices of food away from home rose 0.7 percent on the average as higher prices for restaurant meals were reported in 16 of the 22 cities surveyed in June.

Egg prices declined 1.6 percent and prices of catsup were down 4.8 percent on the average. Cereals and bakery products continued to rise slightly and dairy products remained at their level of a month earlier.

HOUSING The advance of 0.2 percent for housing resulted from increases of 0.4 percent in prices of housefurnishings, 0.2 percent for residential rents, and 0.2 percent for household operation. Gas and electric bills were unchanged on the average while coal and fuel oil prices averaged slightly lower than in May. The rise in housefurnishings was primarily the result of higher prices for household textiles following May sales. The household operation index reflected the continued upward movement of rates for laundry and dry cleaning services. Costs of home maintenance and repairs averaged higher as prices of paint and painting services advanced.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES The medical care index rose 0.4 percent as rates for group hospitalization insurance advanced in a few cities; there were also further increases in fees for professional services and in prices of prescriptions and drugs.

The increase of 0.4 percent in the reading and recreation group was primarily the result of higher prices for newspapers in several cities.

In personal care prices were higher for men's haircuts and there were scattered advances for toiletries.

Apparel prices edged up 0.1 percent as higher prices were reported for men's suits and shoes. Women's and girls' apparel prices averaged slightly lower, with seasonal reductions in prices of rayon dresses.

The transportation index remained at its May level as larger dealer concessions for new cars and seasonal reductions in prices of tires were offset by higher prices for used cars, gasoline and motor oil, and auto repair services.

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)					
	June 1957	May 1957	April 1957	June 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	120.2	119.6	119.3	116.2	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	122.5	122.3	122.3	118.1	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	117.8	117.1	116.9	114.1	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	113.5	112.7	112.5	110.0	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	111.3	111.1	111.5	107.4	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	106.7	106.7	107.3	102.0	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	115.7	115.5	115.7	112.3	99.0	58.7
All services and shelter-----	137.0	136.7	136.2	131.9	107.9	80.4
All services less shelter-----	139.9	139.5	139.0	134.9	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to June 1957 from --					
	May 1957	April 1957	June 1956	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.5	0.8	3.4	18.1	102.4	
All items less food-----	.2	.2	3.7	18.9	77.3	
All items less shelter-----	.6	.8	3.2	17.0	112.6	
All commodities-----	.7	.9	3.2	13.2	120.0	
All commodities less food-----	.2	-.2	3.6	12.0	87.4	
Durables-----	0	-.6	4.6	4.2	86.2	
Non-durables-----	.2	0	3.0	16.9	97.1	
All services and shelter-----	.2	.6	3.9	27.0	70.4	
All services less shelter-----	.3	.6	3.7	30.7	90.3	
	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	June 1957	May 1957	April 1957	June 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar-----	\$0.83	\$0.84	\$0.84	\$0.86	\$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)					
	June 1957	May 1957	April 1957	June 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	120.2	119.6	119.3	116.2	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	116.2	114.6	113.8	113.2	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	114.7	113.0	112.1	112.1	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	130.6	130.4	130.1	125.2	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	106.9	103.7	102.0	98.0	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	110.0	110.0	110.5	107.7	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.8	122.5	118.7	131.4	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	109.5	109.9	111.0	111.1	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	125.5	125.3	125.2	121.4	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	135.0	134.7	134.5	132.5	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	112.3	112.3	112.4	111.7	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.3	135.4	138.1	128.4	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.6	104.2	105.1	102.8	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	127.6	127.3	126.4	122.6	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.6	106.5	106.5	104.8	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	109.1	109.0	108.8	107.5	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.5	98.6	98.7	97.5	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	127.8	127.8	127.3	123.1	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	91.9	92.0	92.0	91.1	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	135.3	135.3	135.5	126.8	109.9	70.2
Public -----	176.8	176.8	176.8	172.6	117.9	81.3
Private -----	125.4	125.4	125.5	116.7	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	137.9	137.3	136.9	132.0	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	124.2	123.4	123.3	119.9	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	111.8	111.4	111.8	107.6	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	124.6	124.3	124.2	121.8	103.7	70.6

  

Group	Percent change to June 1957 from:				
	May 1957	April 1957	June 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.5	0.8	3.4	18.1	102.4
Food -----	1.4	2.1	2.7	15.6	146.7
Food at home -----	1.5	2.3	2.3	14.1	143.5
Cereals and bakery products --	.2	.4	4.3	27.2	128.3
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	3.1	4.8	9.1	.8	157.0
Dairy products -----	0	-.5	2.1	19.2	120.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.5	6.8	- 3.5	23.7	173.9
Other foods at home -----	-.4	- 1.4	- 1.4	16.4	126.2
Food away from home -----	.7	.8	4.2	(b/)	(b/)
Housing 2/ -----	.2	.2	3.4	19.6	64.9
Rent -----	.2	.4	1.9	24.2	55.9
Gas and electricity -----	0	-.1	.5	9.3	7.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-.1	- 2.0	5.4	25.7	139.9
Housefurnishings -----	.4	-.5	1.8	7.4	95.9
Household operation -----	.2	.9	4.1	28.1	86.5
Apparel -----	.1	.1	1.7	10.5	103.0
Men's and boys' -----	.1	.3	1.5	11.2	114.8
Women's and girls' -----	-.1	-.2	1.0	5.6	80.7
Footwear -----	0	.4	3.8	25.2	154.1
Other apparel -----	-.1	-.1	.9	4.0	126.4
Transportation -----	0	-.1	6.7	23.1	92.7
Public -----	0	0	2.4	50.0	117.5
Private -----	0	-.1	7.5	17.6	91.5
Medical care -----	.4	.7	4.5	30.8	89.9
Personal care -----	.6	.7	3.6	25.2	108.4
Reading and recreation -----	.4	0	3.9	9.1	77.5
Other goods and services 3/ -----	.2	.3	2.3	20.2	76.5

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.).

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	June 1957	May 1957	June 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average-----	1/ 120.2	119.6	116.2	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly: 2/					
Chicago-----	122.9	122.2	119.5	102.8	58.6
Detroit-----	122.5	121.9	118.7	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles-----	121.0	120.3	117.4	101.3	60.4
New York-----	117.9	117.2	113.3	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia-----	120.1	119.8	116.8	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 3/	June 1957	March 1957	June 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	121.2	120.6	118.0	4/ 101.3	58.3
Baltimore-----	121.2	119.9	116.6	101.6	57.9
Cincinnati-----	119.7	118.1	116.3	101.2	58.4
St. Louis-----	121.3	120.2	117.0	101.1	59.3
San Francisco-----	122.8	122.3	117.9	100.9	58.6
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-----	119.3	119.4	115.6	5/ 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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 201.0.

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 4: Consumer Price Index -- Percent changes from May 1957 to June 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-----	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.1	0	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.2
Chicago-----	.6	1.4	.5	- .2	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit-----	.5	1.8	0	- .5	0.2	.1	.1	.1	.2
Los Angeles-----	.2	.7	.2	- .2	- .5	.2	.1	0	- .2
New York-----	.6	1.6	0	.1	.1	.2	.3	-.3	.6
Philadelphia-----	.3	.9	.4	- .1	- 1.2	.1	.2	.1	.1

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups  
 June 1957 indexes and percent changes, March 1957 to June 1957  
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in June 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 -----	120.2	121.2	121.2	122.9	119.7	122.5	121.0	117.9	120.1	121.3	122.8
Food -----	116.2	113.7	117.5	113.6	118.8	118.9	117.7	115.6	118.6	116.7	118.2
Food at home -----	114.7	112.4	114.4	111.6	117.5	117.3	114.6	113.6	116.6	113.6	116.8
Cereals and bakery products --	130.6	124.3	127.1	123.0	131.5	124.9	137.1	135.2	132.6	125.1	140.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	106.9	109.2	107.5	100.6	110.2	104.8	106.8	107.4	108.9	104.3	109.8
Dairy products -----	110.0	113.2	112.6	107.8	114.8	107.7	105.8	108.3	113.6	100.0	109.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.8	123.1	122.3	125.2	128.0	144.3	123.2	120.9	127.6	131.0	130.8
Other foods at home -----	109.5	101.8	110.0	115.6	114.3	112.4	110.8	108.7	109.3	117.3	107.9
Housing -----	125.5	129.5	121.5	134.8	123.3	128.6	129.9	122.1	120.0	124.6	124.9
Rent -----	135.0	136.2	131.4	—	139.6	147.8	—	123.2	—	141.9	139.2
Gas and electricity -----	112.3	119.4	100.3	114.0	117.5	112.4	118.0	111.1	103.4	103.8	136.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.3	121.5	139.6	136.8	131.2	129.3	—	143.9	128.1	143.2	—
Housefurnishings -----	104.6	109.3	101.1	101.8	99.1	109.3	103.1	105.0	110.0	103.9	107.2
Household operation -----	127.6	134.8	121.6	132.3	132.1	117.9	129.4	125.5	128.1	131.6	119.5
Apparel -----	106.6	112.3	105.2	109.3	105.0	104.2	107.4	105.9	104.4	104.3	107.3
Men's and boys' -----	109.1	113.4	105.2	117.0	106.3	111.2	111.0	108.9	106.9	107.2	109.2
Women's and girls' -----	98.5	105.2	99.0	97.0	96.7	92.9	99.6	96.8	96.8	95.5	100.0
Footwear -----	127.8	135.0	127.0	131.3	134.4	123.5	128.3	128.6	123.8	126.0	130.6
Other apparel -----	91.9	92.8	95.3	95.7	88.3	87.6	83.9	95.6	92.7	95.0	90.3
Transportation -----	135.3	133.8	146.7	139.2	129.9	132.3	132.7	138.4	139.7	143.0	149.8
Public -----	176.8	164.3	187.3	167.7	165.0	145.8	154.8	189.0	187.4	189.1	182.6
Private -----	125.4	127.7	128.8	124.5	120.2	129.3	128.8	119.1	119.2	125.5	136.5
Medical care -----	137.9	132.3	144.8	141.3	140.1	146.3	130.3	129.5	140.7	154.4	137.2
Personal care -----	124.2	128.2	119.1	126.2	127.1	130.4	129.1	115.5	130.2	127.3	119.5
Reading and recreation -----	111.8	112.1	124.5	116.1	106.3	110.5	100.4	115.3	115.6	96.1	114.1
Other goods and services -----	124.6	129.6	129.9	119.9	121.7	126.7	121.2	125.4	126.7	125.0	121.2
Percent change from March 1957 to June 1957											
All items -----	1.1	0.5	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.2	0.5	1.6	0.1	0.9	0.4
Food -----	2.7	1.7	2.3	3.1	3.6	3.5	.9	2.9	2.1	1.6	1.7
Food at home -----	3.0	1.7	2.6	3.4	4.1	3.7	1.4	3.0	2.1	2.4	2.0
Cereals and bakery products --	.6	3.7	-.1	.6	.3	.5	2.6	.4	.4	-.2	.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	6.3	4.1	5.4	8.8	7.4	7.3	3.6	5.5	5.3	7.0	4.3
Dairy products -----	-.6	.1	.1	-1.5	.6	-2.5	.4	-.7	-2.1	-3.1	-3.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	9.2	4.5	8.5	9.5	13.4	12.7	2.1	10.0	7.1	7.9	10.1
Other foods at home -----	-1.9	-2.8	-1.9	-2.4	-2.2	-1.5	-1.5	-1.6	-1.7	-1.9	-2.0
Housing -----	.5	.2	1.1	1.0	.2	.7	.3	.8	-.7	.5	-.2
Rent -----	.4	.1	.3	—	.9	1/ 1.0	—	.7	—	.1	.2
Gas and electricity -----	-.1	0	.2	0	.3	-.2	0	.1	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-2.8	-4.3	-4.0	-3.0	-7.0	.3	—	-4.4	-9.5	-5.9	—
Housefurnishings -----	-.3	.9	.7	-1.1	-.6	-.7	-1.3	.4	-.5	-.7	-1.3
Household operation -----	1.1	-.1	2.2	1.1	.4	.4	.5	.3	.5	-.1	.1
Apparel -----	-.2	-.4	-.1	-.3	-.3	-.2	0	-.3	-2.1	-.5	-.3
Men's and boys' -----	.3	-.3	1.0	.4	.1	.5	.3	.6	0	-.2	.4
Women's and girls' -----	-.8	-.8	-.8	-.9	-.6	-.9	-.2	-1.2	-4.6	-.8	-.9
Footwear -----	.2	.7	0	-.2	0	-.1	.2	.4	.7	.5	-.1
Other apparel -----	-.3	-.2	-.5	-.1	-.2	-.2	-.7	0	-1.1	-1.2	0
Transportation -----	.1	-1.3	-.4	-.6	.5	.5	.2	.4	-1.3	1.5	-.8
Public -----	.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	.2	-1.5	-.5	-.8	.6	.5	.2	.6	-1.7	1.9	-.9
Medical care -----	1.1	.2	.2	1.2	.3	-.1	.6	1.0	.2	0	.7
Personal care -----	1.1	.4	-1.2	.2	.5	.2	.5	.5	.5	6.3	.3
Reading and recreation -----	1.2	1.2	2.6	-.7	5.2	-.3	.6	5.6	-.5	-.6	.9
Other goods and services -----	.3	.4	.2	0	-.2	.3	.1	.4	0	.3	0

1/ Change from April 1957 to June 1957.

**TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups**  
**June 1957 indexes and percent changes, May 1957 to June 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 ---	116.2	1.4	114.7	1.5	130.6	0.2	106.9	3.1	110.0	0	126.8	3.5	109.5	- 0.4
Atlanta -----	113.7	1.2	112.4	1.3	124.3	- .3	109.2	2.9	113.2	-0.3	123.2	3.4	101.8	- .4
Baltimore -----	117.5	1.3	114.4	1.4	127.1	- .1	107.5	3.9	112.6	.1	122.3	1.9	110.0	- .4
Boston -----	115.3	1.3	113.0	1.5	128.4	.2	104.9	3.0	112.1	1.1	123.4	3.9	104.9	- .9
Chicago -----	113.6	1.4	111.6	1.5	123.0	.1	100.6	4.1	107.8	-2.7	125.2	5.0	115.6	- .6
Cincinnati -----	118.8	2.1	117.5	2.4	131.5	.4	110.2	4.5	114.8	.1	128.0	6.0	114.3	- .5
Cleveland -----	114.6	1.7	112.7	1.9	123.8	.2	103.3	2.8	104.4	.2	126.1	5.8	114.0	- .2
Detroit -----	118.9	1.8	117.3	2.0	124.9	- .1	104.8	3.5	107.7	.1	114.3	5.3	112.4	- .3
Houston -----	113.3	1.0	111.2	1.1	121.5	.2	101.6	2.4	109.3	.3	123.3	2.1	109.3	- .4
Kansas City -----	112.9	2.5	111.1	3.1	126.6	.1	102.8	4.8	107.7	0	125.3	9.5	103.5	- .4
Los Angeles -----	117.7	.7	114.6	1.0	137.1	2.2	106.8	1.6	105.8	.3	123.2	1.2	110.8	- .3
Minneapolis -----	114.5	1.2	113.3	1.5	129.5	.2	101.0	2.6	105.1	.3	130.2	5.3	116.0	- 1.1
New York -----	115.6	1.6	113.6	1.3	135.2	.1	107.4	2.1	108.3	.2	120.9	3.8	108.7	- .1
Philadelphia -----	118.6	.9	116.6	1.0	132.6	.1	108.9	3.2	113.6	- .4	127.6	1.0	109.3	- .5
Pittsburgh -----	117.9	.5	116.3	.6	128.0	- .8	106.2	3.3	111.7	- .2	127.7	.2	118.5	- 1.2
Portland, Oreg. -----	117.5	.4	115.7	.5	132.1	.3	108.1	2.2	117.2	.2	119.5	- .4	112.0	- .3
St. Louis -----	116.7	1.0	113.6	1.7	125.1	- .2	104.3	3.4	100.0	- .3	131.0	4.7	117.3	- .2
San Francisco -----	118.2	.9	116.8	1.0	120.1	0	109.8	1.8	109.8	0	130.8	3.0	107.9	- .3
Scranton -----	114.2	1.8	114.0	2.1	127.0	.5	108.2	4.4	110.1	0	125.3	4.9	106.7	- .4
Seattle -----	117.7	.3	117.1	.4	137.9	- .1	108.3	2.8	118.3	.9	126.1	-1.9	109.2	- .4
Washington, D.C. -----	117.5	1.4	115.3	1.7	129.7	0	106.3	3.6	116.5	.6	122.8	4.1	110.3	- .6

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

Food and unit	June 1957	May 1957	Food and unit	June 1957	May 1957
<b>Cereals and bakery products:</b>	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	<b>Fresh--Continued</b>	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.7	54.6	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.	27.2	27.7
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.8	12.8	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rice ----- 1b.	17.2	17.2	Watermelons * ----- 1b.	6.4	
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	22.0	22.0	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	59.0	57.3
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	23.0	23.0	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	17.4	16.1
Bread, white ----- 1b.	18.8	18.8	Onions ----- 1b.	13.0	12.3
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.1	29.0	Carrots ----- 1b.	14.7	14.1
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.7	24.7	Lettuce ----- head	18.0	15.4
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Celery ----- 1b.	16.2	15.5
Round steak ----- 1b.	94.0	92.6	Cabbage ----- 1b.	8.7	9.1
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	52.2	52.0	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	34.0	40.3
Rib roast ----- 1b.	74.4	73.4	Beans, green ----- 1b.	20.8	27.1
Hamburger ----- 1b.	42.2	40.8	<b>Canned:</b>		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	118.6	117.2	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	35.5	36.1
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	92.7	85.0	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.8	34.7
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	74.9	71.4	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.1	34.1
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	63.6	62.7	Fruit cocktail ----- #308 can	26.0	26.0
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	73.9	72.8	Corn, cream style ----- #308 can	17.1	17.1
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	56.4	54.4	Peas, green ----- #308 can	21.6	21.5
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	45.2	44.8	Tomatoes ----- #308 can	14.9	14.8
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook -- 1b.	48.5	47.1	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.0	10.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	42.7	42.9	<b>Dried:</b>		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	45.3	45.7	Prunes ----- 1b.	34.4	34.3
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	62.4	62.4	Beans ----- 1b.	16.0	16.0
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	32.1	32.0	<b>Other foods at home:</b>		
<b>Dairy products:</b>			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	22.7	22.8	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.7	14.6
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.4	24.4	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.3	27.2
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.5	29.4	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.2	23.3
Butter ----- 1b.	73.8	74.0	Coffee ----- 1b. can	102.4	102.5
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.6	57.4	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	86.1	86.1
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	14.6	14.5	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.6	23.6
<b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	34.1	34.0
<b>Frozen:</b>			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	98.6	99.1
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	25.7	26.6	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.8	30.0
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	17.6	18.1	Lard ----- 1b.	22.3	22.6
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.6	19.6	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.2	37.3
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.9	23.7	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	53.5	53.6
<b>Fresh:</b>			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.0	55.0
Apples ----- 1b.	22.8	20.0	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.9	24.8
Bananas ----- 1b.	18.1	16.7	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.3	27.3
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	55.6	54.2	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.2	19.3	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	47.9	48.7
Grapefruit* ----- each		11.3	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.8	8.8

\* Priced only in season.

## Brief Explanation of the CPI

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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	Iaonia, 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	Middleboro, 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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