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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST 1957

Prices of goods and services for urban consumers increased 0.2 percent between July and August 1957, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher prices for food and housing were the principal factors in the advance, although all other major groups of goods and services also rose. The Consumer Price Index, at 121.0 percent of the 1947-49 average, registered its 12th consecutive monthly advance, and the August level was 3.6 percent above that of a year ago.

FOOD

Food prices rose 0.4 percent during the month, as declines in prices of fresh produce failed to offset advances for most other classes of foods, particularly pork and eggs. At 117.9, the retail food price index was at a record high in August, 4.2 percent higher than a year ago. Food prices advanced in 34 of the 46 cities surveyed in August.

Prices of all cuts of meat were higher, with bacon up 8.4 percent, ham 3.5 percent, frankfurters 2.8 percent, and round steak, chuck roast, and hamburger about 1½ percent.

Egg prices rose 10.2 percent, to a national average of 59½ cents a dozen. The rise of 0.9 percent in prices of dairy products was due primarily to an increase of 1.4 percent in fresh milk prices. Cereals and bakery products continued to advance in price.

Restaurant meal prices averaged 0.5 percent higher, increasing in 14 of the 20 cities surveyed in August.

Fruit and vegetable prices dropped 4.4 percent, with reductions of 7.9 percent for fresh fruits, 4.8 percent for fresh vegetables, and smaller reductions for canned and dried fruits and vegetables. Prices of frozen fruits and vegetables averaged slightly higher. Increased supplies of fresh produce resulted in price declines of 19.3 percent for tomatoes, 32.1 percent for grapes, 19.4 percent for peaches, 15.7 percent for watermelons, 18.9 percent for onions, and 15.8 percent for celery. Prices of lettuce rose 17.4 percent and higher prices were reported for oranges, bananas, and carrots.

HOUSING

Increases in gas rates, residential rents, and FHA mortgage interest rates caused the rise of 0.2 percent in housing costs. The average rise of 0.9 percent for gas and electricity, the largest increase in any month since October 1948, resulted almost entirely from gas rate increases in several cities. Rents averaged higher in 13 of the 15 cities surveyed in August. Prices of housefurnishings averaged 0.2 percent lower, reflecting August sale prices for household textiles. Household service rates continued their gradual increase, but prices of laundry soap and detergents declined. Seasonal advances in prices of coal were offset by lower prices of fuel oil.

OTHER COMMODITIES  
AND SERVICES

Prices of nonfood commodities were unchanged on the average, as a rise of 0.3 percent in prices of durables was offset by a decline of 0.3 percent for nondurables. Services other than shelter rose 0.4 percent.

The private transportation index, unchanged during the month, reflected the effects of gasoline "price wars" in several cities and lower new car prices, counterbalanced by higher prices for used cars, tires, and automobile insurance. Mixed price movements in both men's and women's apparel resulted in little change (up 0.1 percent) for the group.

Medical and personal care services continued to advance and prices of movie admissions and newspapers were up in a few cities. Prices of radios and television sets rose slightly as new models were introduced.

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)					
	Aug. 1957	July 1957	June 1957	Aug. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	121.0	120.8	120.2	116.8	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	123.0	122.8	122.5	119.0	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	118.7	118.5	117.8	114.5	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	114.3	114.1	113.5	110.3	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	111.5	111.5	111.3	108.1	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	106.8	106.5	106.7	102.6	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	115.9	116.2	115.7	113.1	99.0	58.7
All services and shelter-----	137.8	137.4	137.0	132.9	107.9	80.4
All services less shelter-----	141.1	140.6	139.9	135.7	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to August 1957 from --					
	July 1957	June 1957	Aug. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.2	0.7	3.6	18.9	103.7	
All items less food-----	.2	.4	3.4	19.4	78.0	
All items less shelter-----	.2	.8	3.7	17.9	114.3	
All commodities-----	.2	.7	3.6	14.0	121.5	
All commodities less food-----	0	.2	3.1	12.2	87.7	
Durables-----	.3	.1	4.1	4.3	86.4	
Non-durables-----	.3	.2	2.5	17.1	97.4	
All services and shelter-----	.3	.6	3.7	27.7	71.4	
All services less shelter-----	.4	.9	4.0	31.9	92.0	
	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	Aug. 1957	July 1957	June 1957	Aug. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar--	\$0.83	\$0.83	\$0.83	\$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)					
	August 1957	July 1957	June 1957	August 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	121.0	120.8	120.2	116.8	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	117.9	117.4	116.2	113.1	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	116.6	116.1	114.7	111.8	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	131.0	130.3	130.6	126.3	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	111.9	109.5	106.9	99.9	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	111.5	110.5	110.0	109.2	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.3	126.9	126.8	120.7	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	113.8	111.7	109.5	113.9	94.1	48.4
Food away from home -----	117.9	117.4	116.2	113.1	100.5	47.1
Housing 2/ -----	125.7	125.5	125.5	122.2	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	135.4	135.2	135.0	133.2	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	113.3	112.3	112.3	112.1	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.7	135.9	135.3	129.5	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	103.9	104.1	104.6	102.6	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	128.0	127.9	127.6	123.4	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.6	106.5	106.6	105.5	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.3	108.3	109.1	107.7	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.6	98.6	98.5	98.1	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	128.3	128.1	127.8	124.8	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.0	91.9	91.9	91.5	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	135.9	135.8	135.3	128.5	109.9	70.2
Public -----	180.6	180.2	176.8	172.9	117.9	81.3
Private -----	125.6	125.6	125.4	118.6	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	138.6	138.4	137.9	133.3	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	124.9	124.7	124.2	120.3	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	112.6	112.4	111.8	107.9	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	126.7	126.6	124.6	122.1	103.7	70.6

  

Group	Percent change to August 1957 from:				
	July 1957	June 1957	August 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.2	0.7	3.6	18.9	103.7
Food -----	.4	1.5	4.2	17.3	150.3
Food at home -----	.4	1.7	4.3	16.0	147.6
Cereals and bakery products --	.2	.3	3.7	27.6	129.0
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	2.2	4.7	12.0	5.5	169.0
Dairy products -----	.9	1.4	2.1	20.3	123.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 4.4	- 4.3	.5	18.3	162.0
Other foods at home -----	1.9	3.9	- .1	20.9	135.1
Food away from home -----	.5	.6	4.1	(4/)	(4/)
Housing 2/ -----	.2	.2	2.9	19.8	65.2
Rent -----	.1	.3	1.7	24.6	56.4
Gas and electricity -----	.9	.9	1.1	13.3	8.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- .1	.3	4.8	26.1	140.6
Housefurnishings -----	- .2	- .7	1.3	6.7	94.6
Household operation -----	.1	.3	3.7	28.5	87.1
Apparel -----	.1	0	1.0	10.5	103.0
Men's and boys' -----	0	- .3	1.0	10.9	114.2
Women's and girls' -----	0	.1	.5	5.7	80.9
Footwear -----	.2	.4	2.8	25.7	155.1
Other apparel -----	.1	.1	.5	4.1	126.6
Transportation -----	.1	.4	5.8	23.7	93.6
Public -----	.2	2.1	4.5	53.2	122.1
Private -----	0	.2	5.9	17.8	91.8
Medical care -----	.1	.5	4.0	31.5	90.9
Personal care -----	.2	.6	3.8	25.9	109.6
Reading and recreation -----	.2	.7	4.4	9.9	78.7
Other goods and services 3/ -----	.1	1.7	3.8	22.2	79.5

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	August 1957	July 1957	August 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	1/ 121.0	120.8	116.8	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly 2/					
Chicago	124.1	124.1	120.0	102.8	58.6
Detroit	123.0	123.1	119.6	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	121.2	121.1	117.4	101.3	60.4
New York	118.7	118.4	114.4	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	121.6	121.2	117.9	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 3/					
	August 1957	May 1957	August 1956	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland	122.8	121.7	119.1	100.4	59.2
Houston	122.1	121.1	118.2	103.5	59.5
Saranton	117.8	116.4	113.5	100.2	58.5
Seattle	123.7	122.8	118.8	102.0	59.2
Washington, D. C.	119.1	117.2	115.7	101.6	60.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 3/					
	July 1957	April 1957	July 1956	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston	122.1	120.2	117.8	101.2	61.0
Kansas City	121.7	120.4	117.6	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis	121.6	119.8	117.7	4/ 102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh	120.7	118.8	117.3	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon	122.2	121.6	118.6	101.5	58.3
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	5/ 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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 202.3.

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 July 1957 to August 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	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1
Chicago	0	-.5	.1	0	.5	0	.2	.6	-.1
Detroit	-.1	-.4	-.1	.1	.6	.3	.2	-.3	.7
Los Angeles	.1	1.0	.1	-.4	-1.7	.1	-.1	.2	0
New York	.3	.3	.2	.3	.1	-.2	.5	-.3	.1
Philadelphia	.3	.3	.5	0	.3	.1	.4	.2	.1

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
All items -----	121.0	124.1	122.8	123.0	122.1	121.2	118.7	121.6	117.8	123.7	119.1
Food -----	117.9	115.0	115.9	119.3	115.3	118.9	117.7	121.5	116.1	119.1	120.0
Food at home -----	116.6	113.0	114.2	117.8	113.8	115.6	115.9	119.7	116.2	118.4	118.3
Cereals and bakery products --	131.0	122.6	124.0	124.9	121.4	139.0	135.1	133.2	127.0	140.4	129.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	111.9	105.1	108.2	108.6	107.4	112.9	111.7	114.0	112.7	112.3	111.2
Dairy products -----	111.5	111.1	104.3	111.7	112.0	105.5	112.4	117.0	110.5	118.4	116.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.3	118.5	121.3	130.3	121.7	114.1	116.9	127.2	123.5	117.9	125.0
Other foods at home -----	113.8	118.1	117.2	116.1	112.0	113.6	113.2*	113.2	111.1	113.8	114.6
Housing -----	125.7	135.2	127.7	128.8	129.0	130.1	122.1	120.6	121.5	128.2	118.3
Rent -----	135.4	—	157.4	148.0	138.5	—	123.7	—	127.6	142.5	125.8
Gas and electricity -----	113.3	114.0	115.4	113.1	116.4	118.0	111.0	103.4	117.7	86.6	122.7
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.7	138.7	132.1	129.3	—	—	142.8	131.4	143.0	144.3	141.3
Housefurnishings -----	103.9	100.7	101.7	108.4	99.8	102.3	104.1	108.5	103.3	101.6	99.6
Household operation -----	128.0	132.9	117.0	118.4	136.4	129.5	125.9	127.6	114.8	137.2	126.2
Apparel -----	106.6	109.2	107.9	103.8	109.5	107.2	105.9	106.1	108.2	109.0	104.2
Men's and boys' -----	108.8	116.6	112.7	110.1	107.9	109.8	108.8	107.1	110.1	111.9	107.7
Women's and girls' -----	98.6	97.0	98.8	92.9	102.8	99.6	96.7	99.4	100.5	102.0	97.7
Footwear -----	128.3	131.4	126.2	123.9	136.9	128.8	129.4	126.3	133.1	129.4	122.7
Other apparel -----	92.0	95.6	94.5	86.8	91.3	84.6	95.6	93.6	91.5	87.5	87.8
Transportation -----	135.9	145.3	134.6	132.9	135.6	130.0	137.6	139.5	130.8	135.8	137.9
Public -----	180.6	194.3	170.9	153.9	166.5	154.8	189.0	187.4	190.6	180.1	156.6
Private -----	125.6	126.7	126.3	128.7	130.7	125.8	118.1	118.9	116.7	124.2	131.9
Medical care -----	138.6	141.5	150.7	146.7	129.0	131.0	129.4	140.8	125.4	143.0	131.6
Personal care -----	124.9	126.5	126.1	129.9	133.0	129.2	116.3	130.6	125.9	130.1	120.6
Reading and recreation -----	112.6	116.6	120.5	110.3	113.9	101.1	115.9	116.7	134.6	116.9	113.1
Other goods and services -----	126.7	121.1	127.0	135.7	128.3	123.3	126.2	128.5	119.0	135.9	136.4
	Percent change from May 1957 to August 1957										
All items -----	1.2	1.6	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.3	1.3	1.5	1.2	0.7	1.6
Food -----	2.9	2.7	2.8	2.1	2.8	1.7	3.4	3.3	3.5	1.5	3.5
Food at home -----	3.2	2.8	3.3	2.4	3.5	1.9	3.4	3.6	4.0	1.5	4.3
Cereals and bakery products --	.5	-.2	.3	-.1	.2	3.7	0	.5	.5	1.7	.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	7.9	8.8	7.7	7.2	8.3	7.4	6.2	8.1	8.8	6.5	8.4
Dairy products -----	1.4	.3	.1	3.8	2.8	0	4.0	2.5	.4	.9	.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 1.0	-.6	1.8	- 5.0	.7	- 6.2	.3	.7	3.3	- 8.2	5.9
Other foods at home -----	3.5	1.5	2.6	3.0	2.1	2.3	4.0	3.1	3.7	3.8	3.2
Housing -----	.3	.8	-.6	.2	-.2	.3	0	.9	1.0	-.3	.5
Rent -----	.5	—	.7	1/	.1	.1	—	1/	.4	—	.3
Gas and electricity -----	.9	0	0	.8	.2	0	-.1	0	0	0	1.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.2	1.8	2.2	0	—	—	- 2.1	2.2	6.1	1.2	- 2.3
Housefurnishings -----	-.3	- 1.3	.3	-.6	- 1.6	-.3	-.6	-.5	-.9	- 1.8	.6
Household operation -----	.5	1.6	.3	.5	.4	.4	.3	-.5	.6	.1	.3
Apparel -----	.1	-.3	.2	-.9	-.4	-.4	.1	1.5	-.3	.6	.4
Men's and boys' -----	-.2	-.2	.1	- 1.1	.7	- 1.3	.3	.1	-.8	.4	0
Women's and girls' -----	0	-.3	.3	- 1.3	- 1.2	0	-.2	2.4	0	1.2	.6
Footwear -----	.4	-.2	0	.3	.1	.4	.7	2.2	.1	-.2	-.3
Other apparel -----	0	-.1	.1	-.8	-.1	-.1	.2	.9	-.1	.3	1.3
Transportation -----	.4	4.4	1.9	.6	.9	- 2.5	-.4	- 1.3	- 3.2	- 1.8	1.2
Public -----	2.1	15.9	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	.2	1.8	2.3	-.3	1.1	- 2.9	-.6	- 1.7	- 3.7	- 2.0	1.5
Medical care -----	.9	.1	.9	.3	-.3	.8	.1	.2	.1	2.9	-.1
Personal care -----	1.2	.2	.1	-.3	1.5	.2	1.0	.5	.3	.7	.4
Reading and recreation -----	1.1	.4	.2	-.1	.9	.7	.3	1.0	.1	4.4	4.6
Other goods and services -----	1.9	1.0	1.6	7.4	1.9	1.6	1.2	1.5	1.1	3.0	1.7

\* July 1957 index revised to 112.4.  
 1/ Change from June 1957 to August 1957.

**TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups**  
 August 1957 indexes and percent changes, July 1957 to August 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 ---	117.9	0.4	116.6	0.4	131.0	0.2	111.9	2.2	111.5	0.9	121.3	- 4.4	113.8	1.9
Atlanta -----	115.8	1.0	114.8	1.1	124.0	.2	115.5	2.2	110.3	.1	122.7	- 1.0	105.8	2.5
Baltimore -----	118.4	- .3	115.5	- .3	127.3	.1	112.3	2.7	112.5	- .1	115.2	- 7.8	113.6	1.6
Boston -----	117.5	- .6	115.7	- .7	131.1	0	108.6	1.3	116.1	1.2	119.4	- 8.1	110.0	1.2
Chicago -----	115.0	- .5	113.0	- .6	122.6	- .4	105.1	1.4	111.1	1.4	118.5	- 8.0	118.1	1.7
Cincinnati -----	120.2	- .2	119.1	- .3	131.8	- .1	114.8	2.3	114.7	0	122.1	- 8.2	119.3	2.7
Cleveland -----	115.9	.5	114.2	.5	124.0	.2	108.2	2.2	104.3	- .1	121.3	- 2.3	117.2	1.4
Detroit -----	119.3	- .4	117.8	- .6	124.9	0	108.6	2.4	111.7	2.2	130.3	-10.8	116.1	2.3
Houston -----	115.3	.9	113.8	1.1	121.4	.2	107.4	2.4	112.0	2.6	121.7	- 2.1	112.0	1.4
Kansas City -----	114.3	.2	112.7	.3	126.4	- .2	108.7	1.9	107.9	0	119.1	- 4.3	107.0	2.2
Los Angeles -----	118.9	1.0	115.6	.8	139.0	.2	112.9	2.9	105.5	0	114.1	- 3.1	113.6	1.8
Minneapolis -----	115.6	.2	114.4	.2	129.6	0	104.5	1.9	104.6	- .1	124.7	- 4.7	120.6	2.5
New York -----	117.7	.3	115.9	.4	135.1	0	111.7	1.7	112.4	3.0	116.9	- 3.1	113.2R	.7
Philadelphia -----	121.5	.3	119.7	.3	133.2	.4	114.0	1.7	117.0	.3	127.2	- 1.9	113.2	.4
Pittsburgh -----	118.9	- .3	117.6	- .3	129.3	.2	110.4	1.8	111.9	.1	120.8	- 6.6	123.0	1.4
Portland, Oreg. -----	119.0	.4	117.9	.5	134.7	2.0	115.2	3.3	117.2	0	110.2	- 7.9	118.2	3.2
St. Louis -----	118.1	- .2	115.3	- .3	125.1	.2	109.1	2.3	102.7	0	124.1	- 7.6	120.8	2.2
San Francisco -----	118.2	0	116.9	0	139.9	- .1	114.0	2.0	109.8	0	117.5	- 5.6	112.8	2.4
Scranton -----	116.1	.3	116.2	.4	127.0	.1	112.7	2.7	110.5	0	123.5	- 3.3	111.1	.8
Seattle -----	119.1	.4	118.4	.2	140.4	1.8	112.3	2.5	118.4	0	117.9	- 6.6	113.8	1.9
Washington, D.C. -----	120.0	.5	118.3	.6	129.8	.2	111.2	1.4	116.6	0	125.0	- .3	114.6	1.0

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

Food and unit	August 1957	July 1957	Food and unit	August 1957	July 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.	54.8	54.7	Peaches * ----- lb.	16.1	20.0
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.7	12.7	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	24.7	36.4
Rice ----- lb.	17.5	17.4	Watermelons * ----- lb.	4.4	5.3
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	22.2	22.1	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	58.6	60.3
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	23.2	23.0	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	17.5	18.7
Bread, white ----- lb.	18.9	18.9	Onions ----- lb.	9.3	11.5
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.1	29.1	Carrots ----- lb.	16.0	14.9
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.6	24.6	Lettuce ----- head	21.9	18.7
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Celery ----- lb.	14.2	16.9
Round steak ----- lb.	98.1	96.9	Cabbage ----- lb.	8.4	8.6
Chuck roast ----- lb.	54.0	53.0	Tomatoes ----- lb.	21.7	26.9
Rib roast ----- lb.	76.0	75.4	Beans, green ----- lb.	20.8	23.2
Hamburger ----- lb.	44.3	43.6	<b>Canned:</b>		
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	118.5	117.8	Orange juice ----- 40-oz. can	34.1	34.5
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	92.9	92.7	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.8	34.9
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	87.5	80.7	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.1	34.1
Ham, whole ----- lb.	66.6	64.3	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.0	26.0
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	72.6	72.6	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.1	17.1
Frankfurters ----- lb.	59.3	57.7	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.6	21.7
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	45.5	45.3	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.0	15.0
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	49.7	49.4	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	43.2	42.9	<b>Dried:</b>		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	46.6	45.6	Prunes ----- lb.	33.9	34.2
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	62.5	62.5	Beans ----- lb.	16.1	16.1
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	32.1	32.2	<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.	23.3	22.9	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.7	14.7
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.8	24.5	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.1	27.2
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.5	29.5	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	21.8	22.0
Butter ----- lb.	73.7	73.7	Coffee ----- lb. can	101.5	101.7
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	57.8	57.7	Coffee ----- lb. bag	83.0	83.1
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	14.7	14.7	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.7	23.7
<b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	27.0	2/ 26.9
<b>Frozen:</b>			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	97.6	97.7
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	25.5	25.5	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	29.6	29.6
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	17.7	17.5	Lard ----- lb.	22.9	22.5
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.6	19.6	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.3	37.4
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	24.1	24.1	Peanut butter ----- lb.	53.6	53.6
<b>Fresh:</b>			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.6	55.3
Apples ----- lb.	(1/)	22.8	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.9	24.9
Bananas ----- lb.	18.6	18.0	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.3	27.3
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	61.3	58.2	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- lb.	18.1	17.8	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	59.6	2/ 54.1
Grapefruit * ----- each			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.8	8.8

\* Priced only in season.  
 R July index revised to 112.4.  
 1/ Not available.  
 2/ Revised.

## 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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