

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR OCTOBER 1957

Consumer prices in United States cities were unchanged on the average between September and October 1957, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. This was the first month since August 1956 in which consumer prices have not advanced. Lower food prices were offset by price advances for other nondurable commodities and for services, while durable goods prices were unchanged. The Consumer Price Index for October was 121.1 (1947-49=100), 2.9 percent higher than a year ago.

FOOD

Food prices dropped 0.5 percent between September and October, as plentiful supplies of meat and fresh fruits continued to reach the markets. The declines represented a continuation of the seasonal decreases begun in September. The October food price index at 116.4 percent of the 1947-49 average, was 1.3 percent below the August 1957 peak, but 2.9 percent higher than a year ago.

Average prices of meats, poultry, and fish dropped 3.6 percent with lower prices for most cuts of meat and poultry. Bacon prices fell 11.7 percent, ham 3.8 percent, and pork chops 3.0 percent. Prices of frying chickens dropped 6.0 percent. Beef and veal prices were down 1.3 percent on the average, led by a decline of 1.7 percent in prices of round steak.

Prices of fresh fruits fell 2.9 percent on the average, primarily because of a continuing decline in the price of apples, 15.3 percent during the month. Prices of bananas, oranges, and grapes rose slightly. Fresh vegetable prices were up 2.4 percent, as sharp increases for tomatoes, green beans, and lettuce more than offset moderate decreases for most other items in the group. Prices for processed fruits and vegetables showed little change in general and the decline for fruits and vegetables as a whole averaged 0.3 percent.

Egg prices advanced seasonally (7.1 percent) to a national average of 70 cents a dozen. Prices of dairy products increased chiefly as a result of increases for fresh milk in 15 cities. Coffee prices continued to decline, dropping 2.6 percent during the month. Prices of restaurant meals advanced slightly.

HOUSING

The housing group index rose 0.2 percent, as increases were reported for all its component subgroups except housefurnishings. Residential rents continued to climb, with an average advance of 0.2 percent. Prices of coal rose seasonally and bills for gas and electricity were up slightly. Most of the increase of 0.3 percent for household operation was because of generally higher prices for laundry soaps and detergents, although laundry, dry cleaning, and domestic service rates also advanced. Housefurnishings prices were unchanged on the average, as higher prices for kitchenware were offset by reductions in prices of some appliances. Costs of home repairs and maintenance declined 0.1 percent, the first month since January 1957 in which they have not advanced.

OTHER COMMODITIES  
AND SERVICES

Apparel prices rose 0.4 percent, traceable to an advance of 0.8 percent in prices of women's and girls' clothing, especially wool coats, suits, skirts, and rayon dresses. Higher shoe repair prices reflected increased costs of materials and labor.

The rise of 0.5 percent in medical care was influenced by higher fees for professional services and group hospitalization insurance. A general advance in prices of toothpaste, together with higher prices for toilet soap and personal care services, resulted in an increase of 0.9 percent in the personal care index.

The reading and recreation group index was up 0.1 percent, as higher prices were reported in several cities for television sets, television repairs, and newspapers; prices of sporting goods were lower.

Transportation costs declined 0.1 percent, reflecting further reductions in dealers' prices of new automobiles prior to the introduction of 1958 models, and lower prices for gasoline. Prices of used cars, tires, auto repairs, auto insurance, and transit fares 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)					
	Oct. 1957	Sept. 1957	Aug. 1957	Oct. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	121.1	121.1	121.0	117.7	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	123.7	123.4	123.0	120.2	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	118.6	118.7	118.7	115.5	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	114.3	114.5	114.6	111.7	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	112.8	112.6	112.1	110.6	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	108.6	108.6	108.4	107.4	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	117.0	116.7	116.0	114.3	99.0	58.7
All services-----	139.2	138.8	138.3	133.7	107.9	80.4
All services less rent-----	140.3	139.8	139.3	134.2	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to October 1957 from--					
		Sept. 1957	Aug. 1957	Oct. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----		0	0.1	2.9	19.0	103.9
All items less food-----		0.2	.6	2.9	20.1	79.0
All items less shelter-----		-.1	-.1	2.7	17.8	114.1
All commodities-----		-.2	-.3	2.3	14.0	121.5
All commodities less food-----		.2	.6	2.0	13.5	89.9
Durables-----		0	.2	1.1	6.1	89.5
Non-durables-----		.3	.9	2.4	18.2	99.3
All services-----		.3	.7	4.1	29.0	73.1
All services less rent-----		.4	.7	4.5	31.1	90.9
	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	Oct. 1957	Sept. 1957	Aug. 1957	Oct. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar-----	\$0.83	\$0.83	\$0.83	\$0.85	\$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)					
	October 1957	September 1957	August 1957	October 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	121.1	121.1	121.0	117.7	101.8	59.4
Food <sup>1/</sup> -----	116.4	117.0	117.9	113.1	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	114.7	115.5	116.6	111.7	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	131.4	131.2	131.0	126.8	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	106.3	110.3	111.9	100.8	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	114.2	113.1	111.5	110.7	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.5	114.8	121.3	113.9	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	116.2	115.0	113.8	115.8	94.1	48.4
Housing <sup>2/</sup> -----	126.6	126.3	125.7	122.8	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	136.0	135.7	135.4	133.4	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	113.8	113.7	113.3	112.0	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	137.6	136.8	135.7	132.9	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.8	104.8	103.9	103.6	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	128.7	128.3	128.0	124.2	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	107.7	107.3	106.6	106.8	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	109.4	109.3	108.8	108.2	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	100.6	99.8	98.6	100.1	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	128.3	128.1	128.3	126.2	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.5	92.3	92.0	92.1	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	135.8	135.9	135.9	132.6	109.9	70.2
Public -----	181.6	181.1	180.6	173.0	117.9	81.3
Private -----	125.4	125.5	125.6	122.9	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	139.7	139.0	138.6	134.1	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	126.2	125.1	124.9	120.8	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	113.4	113.3	112.6	108.5	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services <sup>3/</sup> -----	126.8	126.7	126.7	123.0	103.7	70.6

  

	Percent change to October 1957 from:				
	September 1957	August 1957	October 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0	0.1	2.9	19.0	103.9
Food -----	- 0.5	- 1.3	2.9	15.8	147.1
Food at home -----	- .7	- 1.6	2.7	14.1	143.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	.2	.3	3.6	27.9	129.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 3.6	- 5.0	5.5	.2	155.5
Dairy products -----	1.0	2.4	3.2	23.7	129.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	- .3	- 5.6	.5	11.7	147.3
Other foods at home -----	1.0	2.1	.3	23.5	140.1
Food away from home -----	.1	.5	3.8	(4/)	(4/)
Housing <sup>2/</sup> -----	.2	.7	3.1	20.7	66.4
Rent -----	.2	.4	1.9	25.1	57.0
Gas and electricity -----	.1	.4	1.6	10.8	8.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.6	1.4	3.5	27.9	144.0
Housefurnishings -----	0	.9	1.2	7.6	96.3
Household operation -----	.3	.5	3.6	29.2	88.2
Apparel -----	.4	1.0	.8	11.6	105.1
Men's and boys' -----	.1	.6	1.1	11.5	115.4
Women's and girls' -----	.8	2.0	.5	7.8	84.6
Footwear -----	.2	0	1.7	25.7	155.1
Other apparel -----	.2	.5	.4	4.6	127.8
Transportation -----	- .1	- .1	2.4	23.6	93.4
Public -----	.3	.6	5.0	54.0	123.4
Private -----	- .1	- .2	2.0	17.6	91.5
Medical care -----	.5	.8	4.2	32.5	92.4
Personal care -----	.9	1.0	4.5	27.2	111.7
Reading and recreation -----	.1	.7	4.5	10.6	80.0
Other goods and services <sup>3/</sup> -----	.1	.1	3.1	22.3	79.6

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 fees, 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	October 1957	September 1957	October 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average-----	1/ 121.1	121.1	117.7	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly 2/					
Chicago-----	124.7	124.3	121.1	102.8	58.6
Detroit-----	122.7	122.8	120.0	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles-----	122.2	122.0	118.5	101.3	60.4
New York-----	118.4	118.3	115.7	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia-----	122.0	121.9	118.6	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 3/	October 1957	July 1957	October 1956	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston-----	122.0	122.1	119.3	101.2	61.0
Kansas City-----	121.8	121.7	118.9	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis-----	122.2	121.6	117.4	4/ 102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh-----	121.1	120.7	118.2	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon-----	121.9	122.2	119.5	101.5	58.3
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 3/	September 1957	June 1957	September 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	122.2	121.2	118.9	5/ 101.3	58.3
Baltimore-----	121.7	121.2	117.5	101.6	57.9
Cincinnati-----	120.9	119.7	117.1	101.2	58.4
St. Louis-----	122.1	121.3	118.1	101.1	59.3
San Francisco-----	123.5	122.8	119.0	100.9	58.6
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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 202.5.

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 September 1957 to October 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	- 0.5	0.2	0.4	- 0.1	0.5	0.9	0.1	0.1
Chicago-----	0.3	0	0	- .2	- .2	3.5	.6	2.3	0
Detroit-----	- .1	- .3	.1	- .4	- .3	0	1.9	- .9	- .1
Los Angeles-----	.2	- .3	1.0	- .1	0	0	.7	- 1.1	0
New York-----	.1	- .1	.1	.3	- .1	0	1.0	.2	0
Philadelphia-----	.1	- .2	.4	.4	- .2	0	.6	- .1	- .2

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland, Oregon
	Indexes (1947-49=100)										
All items -----	121.1	122.0	124.7	122.7	121.8	122.2	122.2	118.4	122.0	121.1	121.9
Food -----	116.4	116.6	114.0	118.3	112.2	119.0	115.5	116.5	120.4	117.5	116.9
Food at home -----	114.7	114.7	111.6	116.4	109.9	115.5	114.2	114.3	118.1	115.9	115.3
Cereals and bakery products --	131.4	129.8	125.1	124.9	126.6	140.4	130.0	135.6	133.0	129.3	135.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	106.3	104.9	99.0	104.4	102.6	108.7	100.9	106.7	108.9	105.2	108.0
Dairy products -----	114.2	120.7	112.5	112.2	111.7	109.6	109.2	115.7	120.0	114.2	117.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.5	115.3	114.6	125.5	107.0	114.5	118.7	108.6	120.1	113.7	108.5
Other foods at home -----	116.2	110.8	121.5	119.0	109.4	114.6	125.4	117.0	116.4	126.2	116.5
Housing -----	126.6	129.9	136.1	128.7	124.4	132.3	127.5	122.1	122.2	124.1	126.6
Rent -----	136.0	138.7	---	149.0	140.1	---	150.2	124.4	---	128.2	136.1
Gas and electricity -----	113.8	111.5	114.6	112.4	122.8	119.5	124.8	111.1	103.4	129.5	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	137.6	138.6	139.7	129.5	120.1	---	131.3	143.8	138.3	131.1	149.0
Housefurnishings -----	104.8	104.7	102.4	108.6	101.9	104.2	99.8	105.2	111.1	108.1	106.6
Household operation -----	128.7	125.7	132.9	119.1	130.8	119.8	128.4	126.2	129.1	135.2	127.5
Apparel -----	107.7	105.9	111.3	103.9	105.7	108.5	108.2	107.0	108.2	107.3	111.9
Men's and boys' -----	109.4	104.5	116.2	110.2	108.0	113.1	109.7	108.6	107.3	108.0	114.6
Women's and girls' -----	100.6	100.4	101.7	93.3	99.2	100.3	102.5	98.8	103.1	100.2	102.8
Footwear -----	128.3	123.7	131.5	123.7	123.0	128.5	124.8	129.6	126.7	125.4	134.9
Other apparel -----	92.5	104.4	96.8	86.3	88.4	84.6	94.0	96.2	94.6	101.4	98.5
Transportation -----	135.8	145.7	143.4	131.3	138.8	131.5	118.6	136.9	139.5	145.5	129.2
Public -----	181.6	167.5	194.3	153.9	214.0	154.8	166.8	189.0	187.4	217.1	176.9
Private -----	125.4	138.6	124.6	126.9	127.3	127.5	112.7	117.3	118.9	121.6	123.5
Medical care -----	139.7	149.0	146.7	146.7	152.4	131.0	170.1	129.4	140.8	146.8	139.5
Personal care -----	126.2	127.6	127.6	132.1	126.5	129.8	134.8	117.6	131.4	123.7	130.1
Reading and recreation -----	113.4	110.2	122.2	110.5	125.2	101.0	121.0	116.4	116.9	105.8	120.4
Other goods and services -----	126.8	124.8	121.2	135.6	126.4	123.5	131.6	126.1	128.4	126.8	126.9
	Percent change from July 1957 to October 1957										
All items -----	0.2	- 0.1	0.5	- 0.3	0.1	0.9	0.5	0	0.7	0.3	- 0.2
Food -----	-.9	- 1.4	- 1.4	- 1.3	- 1.7	1.1	.1	- 0.7	-.6	- 1.4	- 1.4
Food at home -----	- 1.2	- 1.5	- 1.8	- 1.8	- 2.2	.7	0	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 1.8	- 1.7
Cereals and bakery products --	.5	- 1.0	1.6	0	0	1.2	.3	-.4	.2	.2	2.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 2.9	- 2.1	- 4.4	- 1.6	- 3.8	-.9	- 1.7	- 2.8	- 2.9	- 3.0	- 3.1
Dairy products -----	3.3	5.2	2.6	2.7	3.5	3.9	4.3	6.0	2.8	2.1	.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 9.8	-11.2	-11.0	-14.0	-14.0	- 2.7	- 9.3	-10.0	- 7.4	-12.1	- 9.3
Other foods at home -----	4.0	1.9	4.7	4.8	4.5	2.7	6.5	3.4	3.3	4.0	1.7
Housing -----	.9	.2	.7	-.2	.2	1.8	.8	.2	1.8	1.1	-.4
Rent -----	.6	1.5	---	1/ .7	.3	---	---	1/ .6	---	0	.4
Gas and electricity -----	1.3	.5	.5	-.7	3.3	1.3	0	.2	0	1.5	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.3	- 3.1	1.0	.2	0	---	0	-.6	6.5	0	0
Housefurnishings -----	.7	1.1	1.1	-.3	- 2.9	1.4	1.4	1.1	2.0	1.7	.9
Household operation -----	.6	1.7	.2	.9	.2	- 7.5	2.7	.2	.8	4.2	4.5
Apparel -----	1.1	2.0	1.9	.2	2.1	.8	1.3	1.3	2.0	1.9	.8
Men's and boys' -----	.6	.8	-.5	.4	-.5	1.7	.3	.1	-.1	- 1.1	.6
Women's and girls' -----	2.0	3.6	5.0	.4	4.5	.8	2.7	2.4	3.2	4.6	.4
Footwear -----	.2	0	.1	-.2	1.1	0	.6	.2	2.2	.5	2.5
Other apparel -----	.7	1.4	1.3	-.6	1.1	-.1	.8	.7	1.1	1.2	.5
Transportation -----	0	.8	-.8	-.6	.5	-.6	- 2.3	-.4	.3	1.3	- 1.7
Public -----	.8	0	5.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	11.1	0
Private -----	-.2	.9	- 1.0	- 1.7	.6	-.6	- 2.6	-.5	.3	- 1.5	- 2.0
Medical care -----	.9	.3	3.7	.3	1.3	.1	.7	-.2	.1	1.2	.4
Personal care -----	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.9	.9	.4	6.4	1.6	1.0	1.3	.2
Reading and recreation -----	.9	-.5	5.4	-.1	1.1	.1	.9	.2	.3	.1	1.5
Other goods and services -----	.2	-.2	0	.7	.2	.2	.2	0	0	.8	0

1/ Change from August 1957 to October 1957.

**TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups**  
 October 1957 indexes and percent changes, September 1957 to October 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 ---	116.4	- 0.5	114.7	- 0.7	131.4	0.2	106.3	- 3.6	114.2	1.0	114.5	- 0.3	116.2	1.0
Atlanta -----	114.0	- 1.2	112.9	- 1.4	124.2	0	106.8	- 4.8	113.5	- .1	118.2	- 2.2	109.1	1.6
Baltimore -----	117.8	- .3	114.5	- .3	127.2	.2	107.0	- 3.1	114.4	2.2	114.6	- .4	115.5	1.2
Boston -----	116.6	- .7	114.7	- .8	129.8	- 1.1	104.9	- 3.1	120.7	2.5	115.3	- .5	110.8	- .4
Chicago -----	114.0	0	111.6	- .2	125.1	1.5	99.0	- 3.7	112.5	.7	114.6	1.1	121.5	1.7
Cincinnati -----	118.6	- .9	117.1	- 1.0	131.7	- .1	107.7	- 4.5	117.5	2.5	119.3	- .5	120.6	.4
Cleveland -----	114.4	- .5	112.4	- .6	129.0	- .1	102.2	- 3.7	107.6	.2	112.7	1.4	119.6	1.1
Detroit -----	118.3	- .3	116.4	- .5	124.9	.1	104.4	- 3.4	112.2	0	125.5	1.0	119.0	1.3
Houston -----	113.6	- 1.0	111.5	- 1.2	121.3	- .1	101.6	- 4.0	112.3	0	117.9	.5	112.6	- .1
Kansas City -----	112.2	.3	109.9	.1	126.6	0	102.6	- 5.3	111.7	9.5	107.0	- 1.4	109.4	2.1
Los Angeles -----	119.0	- .3	115.5	- .8	140.4	.5	108.7	- 4.2	109.6	.2	114.5	1.3	114.6	.6
Minneapolis -----	115.5	0	114.2	- .2	130.0	- .1	100.9	- 2.5	109.2	1.7	118.7	- .3	125.4	1.6
New York -----	116.5	- .1	114.3	.1	135.6	.3	106.7	- 2.8	115.7	1.0	108.6	1.1	117.0	2.5
Philadelphia -----	120.4	- .2	118.1	- .3	133.0	0	108.9	- 3.1	120.0	2.2	120.1	- 1.5	116.4	2.0
Pittsburgh -----	117.5	- .7	115.9	- .9	129.3	0	105.2	- 3.5	114.2	.1	113.7	- 1.0	126.2	1.3
Portland, Oreg. ----	116.9	- .7	115.3	- .9	135.0	.2	108.0	- 3.7	117.3	.1	108.5	1.1	116.5	- .4
St. Louis -----	116.3	- 1.3	112.6	- 1.7	124.3	- .2	101.2	- 4.9	105.6	.1	120.4	.1	121.7	- .4
San Francisco -----	118.4	- .8	116.5	- 1.0	140.5	.3	108.8	- 3.4	116.4	- .1	117.2	0	112.9	- .3
Scranton -----	113.5	.1	113.2	.1	127.1	0	105.4	- 4.0	113.6	.2	108.6	3.1	115.6	3.2
Seattle -----	117.0	- .9	115.9	- 1.1	140.5	- .1	107.4	- 3.8	118.8	.1	113.8	1.1	112.3	- .9
Washington, D.C. ---	117.9	- .3	115.8	- .4	128.9	0	105.3	- 3.0	119.4	2.4	115.0	- 1.8	117.8	1.6

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

Food and unit	October 1957	September 1957	Food and unit	October 1957	September 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.	54.9	54.8	Peaches * ----- 1b.		17.3
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.8	12.8	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.	21.8	21.1
Rice ----- 1b.	17.6	17.6	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	22.2	22.1	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	55.9	56.1
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	23.2	23.2	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	12.7	13.3
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.0	18.9	Onions ----- 1b.	8.1	8.2
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.0	29.1	Carrots ----- 1b.	16.0	16.7
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.8	24.7	Lettuce ----- head	19.1	18.3
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Celery ----- 1b.	13.5	14.4
Round steak ----- 1b.	96.3	98.0	Cabbage ----- 1b.	7.9	8.4
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	54.3	55.1	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	23.4	19.9
Rib roast ----- 1b.	75.5	76.6	Beans, green ----- 1b.	22.0	19.7
Hamburger ----- 1b.	43.6	44.1	<b>Canned:</b>		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	118.5	119.1	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	33.9	33.8
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	88.0	90.8	Peaches ----- #2½ can	34.7	34.7
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	75.5	85.4	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.2	34.2
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	61.7	64.3	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.0	26.0
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	71.9	72.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.3	17.1
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	59.6	59.8	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.4	21.5
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	46.0	45.7	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.2	15.1
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	44.3	47.2	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	10.0	10.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	43.1	42.9	<b>Dried:</b>		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	47.2	46.6	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.1	33.3
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 18 oz.	62.6	62.5	Beans ----- 1b.	16.3	16.3
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8½ oz.	32.1	32.1	<b>Other foods at home:</b>		
<b>Dairy products:</b>			Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.3	12.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.1	23.8	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.7	14.6
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.7	25.3	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	27.3	27.1
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.6	29.6	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	21.8	21.7
Butter ----- 1b.	75.4	74.6	Coffee ----- 1b. can	96.2	99.3
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.8	57.8	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	76.9	78.2
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-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.	27.2	27.1
<b>Frozen:</b>			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	95.8	96.9
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	25.7	25.7	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.7	29.7
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	18.2	18.0	Lard ----- 1b.	22.9	23.0
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.6	19.7	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.3	37.4
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	24.4	24.0	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	53.7	53.7
<b>Fresh:</b>			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.5	55.6
Apples ----- 1b.	12.3	14.5	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	24.9	24.9
Bananas ----- 1b.	18.4	17.3	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.3	27.4
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	65.1	63.9	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	17.8	18.0	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	69.5	64.9
Grapefruit * ----- each			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.9	8.8

\* Priced only in season.

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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 1947 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.

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