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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR NOVEMBER 1957

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.4 percent between October and November, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher prices for 1958 model automobiles were largely responsible for the increase, although prices were higher for most major groups of goods and services. Food was the only major group in which prices were lower.

The November Consumer Price Index was 121.6 (1947-49=100), 3.2 percent higher than a year ago.

FOOD

A drop of 0.3 percent in food prices reflected seasonal declines in prices of pork, fresh fruits, and eggs. This was the third consecutive month in which food prices have fallen. The November food price index at 116.0 percent of the 1947-49 average was 2.7 percent above a year ago but 1.6 percent below the August 1957 peak.

Average prices of meats, poultry, and fish dropped 1.6 percent, with reductions for most cuts of meat and poultry. Bacon prices fell 7.4 percent, pork chops 3.0 percent, and frankfurters 0.9 percent. Prices of chickens dropped 0.9 percent on the average. Beef and veal prices were down 0.3 percent, led by declines of 0.7 percent for both round steak and rib roast.

Fresh fruit prices fell 2.1 percent on the average with oranges down 6.1 percent and bananas down 4.3 percent. Fresh vegetables were up 2.7 percent as sharp seasonal price increases in tomatoes (14.2 percent) and green beans (8.5 percent) more than offset moderate decreases for some other items of the group. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables showed little change in general, and fruits and vegetables as a whole averaged 0.1 percent higher.

Egg prices declined seasonally, 1.5 percent. Prices of dairy products advanced 0.3 percent, with seasonal increases in fresh milk more than offsetting moderate declines in other items in this group.

Coffee prices dropped 0.7 percent, their 12th consecutive monthly decrease. Cereal and bakery products increased 0.2 percent, with all items advancing moderately except flour which declined slightly. Restaurant meals advanced 0.3 percent.

HOUSING

The rise of 0.2 percent in housing was the result of price advances in all of its component subgroups except housefurnishings. Rents advanced 0.2 percent, with increases reported in 14 of the 16 cities surveyed in November. Household operation costs rose 0.5 percent as rates for telephone and domestic service continued upward and prices of laundry soaps and detergents also increased. Prices of gas, electricity, and coal were higher than in October. Prices of housefurnishings declined 0.3 percent as 1957 models of appliances were reduced prior to the introduction of 1958 models.

OTHER COMMODITIES  
AND SERVICES

Most of the advance in consumer prices in November was due to the introduction of 1958 model automobiles at higher list prices and with lower dealer discounts. Prices of new cars to consumers averaged 11.5 percent higher than in October. Gasoline prices also advanced, but prices of used cars declined. Higher transit fares in several cities resulted in a rise of 0.7 percent in the public transportation index.

The reading and recreation index rose 0.9 percent as theatres in several cities charged higher admissions for special features and prices of newspapers rose slightly.

The advance of 0.4 percent in costs of medical care reflected increased charges for hospital services and higher prices for prescriptions and drugs. Personal care was up 0.4 percent because of higher prices for toilet soap, toothpaste, and beauty shop services.

The rise of 0.2 percent in apparel resulted chiefly from increases in prices of women's wool coats and rayon dresses, men's wool suits and topcoats, and shoes.

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)					
	Nov. 1957	Oct. 1957	Sept. 1957	Nov. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	121.6	121.1	121.1	117.8	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	124.6	123.7	123.4	120.5	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	119.2	118.6	118.7	115.6	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	114.7	114.3	114.5	111.8	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	113.8	112.8	112.6	111.0	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	110.9	108.6	108.6	107.9	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	117.4	117.0	116.7	114.6	99.0	58.7
All services-----	139.8	139.2	138.8	133.9	107.9	80.4
All services less rent-----	140.9	140.3	139.8	134.4	107.0	73.5

  

Group	Percent change to November 1957 from --				
	Oct. 1957	Sept. 1957	Nov. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	0.4	0.4	3.2	19.4	104.7
All items less food-----	.7	1.0	3.4	21.0	80.3
All items less shelter-----	.5	.4	3.1	18.4	115.2
All commodities-----	.3	.2	2.6	14.4	122.3
All commodities less food-----	.9	1.1	2.5	14.5	91.6
Durables-----	2.1	2.1	2.8	8.3	93.5
Non-durables-----	.3	.6	2.4	18.6	100.0
All services-----	.4	.7	4.4	29.6	73.9
All services less rent-----	.4	.8	4.8	31.7	91.7

  

Group	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	Nov. 1957	Oct. 1957	Sept. 1957	Nov. 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar-----	\$0.82	\$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)					
	November 1957	October 1957	September 1957	November 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	121.6	121.1	121.1	117.8	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	116.0	116.4	117.0	112.9	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	114.1	114.7	115.5	111.3	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	131.6	131.4	131.2	127.0	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	104.6	106.3	110.3	98.8	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	114.5	114.2	113.1	111.1	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.6	114.5	114.8	115.8	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	115.6	116.2	115.0	115.2	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	126.8	126.6	126.3	123.0	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	136.3	136.0	135.7	133.8	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	114.3	113.8	113.7	111.8	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.0	137.6	136.8	134.3	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.5	104.8	104.8	103.8	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	129.4	128.7	128.3	124.5	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	107.9	107.7	107.3	107.0	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	109.4	109.4	109.3	108.4	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	100.8	100.6	99.8	100.4	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	129.0	128.3	128.1	126.2	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.6	92.5	92.3	92.1	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	140.0	135.8	135.9	133.2	109.9	70.2
Public -----	182.8	181.6	181.1	173.4	117.9	81.3
Private -----	129.7	125.4	125.5	123.5	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	140.3	139.7	139.0	134.5	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	126.7	126.2	125.1	121.4	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	114.4	113.4	113.3	109.0	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	126.8	126.8	126.7	123.2	103.7	70.6
	Percent change to November 1957 from:					
	October 1957	September 1957	November 1956	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items -----	0.4	0.4	3.2	19.4	104.7	
Food -----	.3	.9	2.7	15.4	146.3	
Food at home -----	.5	1.2	2.5	13.5	142.3	
Cereals and bakery products --	.2	.3	3.6	28.1	130.1	
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	1.6	5.2	5.9	1.4	151.4	
Dairy products -----	.3	1.2	3.1	24.1	129.9	
Fruits and vegetables -----	.1	.2	1.0	11.8	147.5	
Other foods at home -----	.5	.5	.3	22.8	138.8	
Food away from home -----	.3	.4	3.8	(4/)	(4/)	
Housing 2/ -----	.2	.4	3.1	20.9	66.6	
Rent -----	.2	.4	1.9	25.4	57.4	
Gas and electricity -----	.4	.5	2.2	11.3	9.0	
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.3	.9	2.8	28.3	144.7	
Housefurnishings -----	.3	.3	.7	7.3	95.7	
Household operation -----	.5	.9	3.9	29.9	89.2	
Apparel -----	.2	.6	.8	11.8	105.5	
Men's and boys' -----	0	.1	.9	11.5	115.4	
Women's and girls' -----	.2	1.0	.4	8.0	85.0	
Footwear -----	.5	.7	2.2	26.3	156.5	
Other apparel -----	.1	.3	.5	4.8	128.1	
Transportation -----	3.1	3.0	5.1	27.4	99.4	
Public -----	.7	.9	5.4	55.0	124.8	
Private -----	3.4	3.3	5.0	21.7	98.0	
Medical care -----	.4	.9	4.3	33.1	93.3	
Personal care -----	.4	1.3	4.4	27.7	112.6	
Reading and recreation -----	.9	1.0	5.0	11.6	81.6	
Other goods and services 3/ -----	0	.1	2.9	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 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	November 1957	October 1957	November 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average-----	1/ 121.6	121.1	117.8	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly 2/					
Chicago-----	125.6	124.7	121.0	102.8	58.6
Detroit-----	123.5	122.7	120.6	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles-----	122.9	122.2	119.1	101.3	60.4
New York-----	118.6	118.4	115.6	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia-----	122.1	122.0	118.2	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 3/	November 1957	August 1957	November 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	123.3	122.8	120.0	100.4	59.2
Houston-----	122.4	122.1	119.7	103.5	59.5
Saranton-----	117.8	117.8	114.9	100.2	58.5
Seattle-----	123.9	123.7	120.2	102.0	59.2
Washington, D.C.-----	119.4	119.1	115.9	101.6	60.4
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

1/ This index on the base of 1935-39=100 is 203.3.

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 October 1957 to November 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-----	0.4	- 0.3	0.2	0.2	3.1	0.4	0.4	0.9	0
Chicago-----	.7	.1	.2	.4	4.0	.1	.2	4.2	0.2
Detroit-----	.7	- 1.0	0	.3	4.8	3.0	.3	3.2	.1
Los Angeles-----	.6	-.2	.8	.1	1.1	.2	.3	3.5	.1
New York-----	.2	-.4	.2	.2	2.5	.2	1.0	.1	0
Philadelphia-----	.1	- 1.2	-.1	0	3.9	0	.5	1.7	.2

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups  
 November 1957 indexes and percent changes, August 1957 to November 1957  
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in November 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 -----	121.6	125.6	123.3	123.5	122.4	122.9	118.6	122.1	117.8	123.9	119.4
Food -----	116.0	114.1	113.7	117.1	112.6	118.8	116.0	119.0	112.2	116.4	116.8
Food at home -----	114.1	111.7	111.6	115.0	110.2	115.2	113.7	116.6	111.5	115.3	114.2
Cereals and bakery products --	131.6	124.5	129.1	125.2	121.0	140.1	135.9	132.9	131.3	140.9	129.6
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	104.6	98.7	100.5	101.2	98.9	106.9	105.6	107.4	102.9	104.4	103.5
Dairy products -----	114.5	112.7	110.2	111.9	112.4	109.9	117.4	119.9	113.4	118.5	119.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	114.6	116.1	110.7	125.9	113.8	114.8	107.6	116.9	104.0	116.9	109.7
Other foods at home -----	115.6	121.5	118.3	117.2	113.4	115.1	115.0	114.4	113.0	111.3	117.0
Housing -----	126.8	136.4	129.4	128.7	130.3	133.4	122.4	122.1	122.0	128.9	120.5
Rent -----	136.3	162.0	159.2	—	139.1	144.7	—	124.7	128.0	143.3	126.1
Gas and electricity -----	114.3	114.6	115.4	112.2	116.2	130.6	110.9	103.4	117.7	86.6	122.7
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.0	139.9	136.3	128.6	—	—	145.4	138.3	146.1	144.4	142.7
Housefurnishings -----	104.5	102.6	103.8	109.0	100.5	103.7	104.9	110.4	103.8	103.3	100.8
Household operation -----	129.4	133.1	116.9	119.1	140.4	122.8	128.2	129.2	115.9	137.3	127.1
Apparel -----	107.9	110.9	109.0	104.2	111.3	108.6	107.2	108.2	109.5	108.7	103.6
Men's and boys' -----	109.4	116.2	113.5	110.2	108.4	112.9	108.7	107.2	110.6	112.5	107.8
Women's and girls' -----	100.8	100.7	100.3	94.0	106.1	100.4	99.0	103.1	102.5	100.9	96.3
Footwear -----	129.0	131.7	127.0	123.7	137.6	128.7	130.9	127.0	133.9	129.7	122.8
Other apparel -----	92.6	96.6	95.1	85.8	91.0	85.2	96.4	94.6	91.9	87.3	88.7
Transportation -----	140.0	149.1	138.3	137.6	139.0	133.0	140.3	144.9	141.8	141.2	141.6
Public -----	182.8	194.3	170.9	153.9	188.0	154.8	189.0	187.4	190.6	180.1	156.6
Private -----	129.7	130.9	130.4	134.1	132.1	129.1	121.2	124.9	128.2	129.8	136.2
Medical care -----	140.3	146.8	150.8	151.1	129.2	131.2	129.7	140.8	125.5	143.6	133.1
Personal care -----	126.7	127.9	127.6	132.5	133.4	130.2	118.8	132.1	127.2	131.0	122.4
Reading and recreation -----	114.4	127.3	120.9	114.0	113.4	104.5	116.5	118.9	135.1	118.0	118.2
Other goods and services -----	126.8	121.5	127.2	135.8	128.1	123.6	126.1	128.6	119.3	136.0	136.5
Percent change from August 1957 to November 1957											
All items -----	0.5	1.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	1.4	- 0.1	0.4	0	0.2	0.3
Food -----	- 1.6	- .8	- 1.9	- 1.8	- 2.3	- .1	- 1.4	- 2.1	- 3.4	- 2.3	- 2.7
Food at home -----	- 2.1	- 1.2	- 2.3	- 2.4	- 3.2	- .3	- 1.9	- 2.6	- 4.0	- 2.6	- 3.5
Cereals and bakery products --	.5	1.5	4.1	.2	-.3	.8	.6	-.2	3.4	.4	-.2
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	- 6.5	- 6.1	- 7.1	- 6.8	- 7.9	- 5.3	- 5.5	- 5.8	- 8.7	- 7.0	- 6.9
Dairy products -----	2.7	1.4	5.7	.2	.4	4.2	4.4	2.5	2.6	.1	2.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 5.5	- 2.0	- 8.7	- 3.4	- 6.5	.6	- 8.0	- 8.1	-15.8	-.8	-12.2
Other foods at home -----	1.6	2.9	.9	.9	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.7	- 2.2	2.1
Housing -----	.9	.9	1.3	-.1	1.0	2.5	.2	1.2	.4	.5	1.9
Rent -----	.7	1/ .6	1.1	—	.4	1/ .3	—	1/ .7	.3	.6	.2
Gas and electricity -----	.9	.5	0	-.8	-.2	10.7	-.1	0	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.7	.9	3.2	-.5	—	—	1.8	5.3	2.2	.1	1.0
Housefurnishings -----	.6	1.9	2.1	.6	.7	1.4	.8	1.8	.5	1.7	1.2
Household operation -----	1.1	.2	-.1	.6	2.9	5.2	1.8	1.3	1.0	.1	.7
Apparel -----	1.2	1.6	1.0	.4	1.6	1.3	1.2	2.0	1.2	-.3	-.6
Men's and boys' -----	.6	-.3	.7	.1	.5	2.8	-.1	.1	.5	.5	.1
Women's and girls' -----	2.2	3.8	1.5	1.2	3.2	.8	2.4	3.7	2.0	- 1.1	- 1.4
Footwear -----	.5	.2	.6	-.2	.5	-.1	1.2	.6	.6	.2	.1
Other apparel -----	.7	1.0	.6	- 1.2	-.3	.7	.8	1.1	.4	-.2	1.0
Transportation -----	3.0	2.6	2.7	3.5	2.5	2.3	2.0	3.9	8.4	4.0	2.7
Public -----	1.2	0	0	0	12.9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	3.3	3.3	3.2	4.2	1.1	2.6	2.6	5.0	9.9	4.5	3.3
Medical care -----	1.2	3.7	.1	3.0	.2	.2	.2	0	.1	.4	1.1
Personal care -----	1.4	1.1	1.2	2.0	.3	.8	2.1	1.1	1.0	.7	1.5
Reading and recreation -----	1.6	9.2	.3	3.4	-.4	3.4	.5	1.9	.4	.9	-.8
Other goods and services -----	.1	.3	.2	.1	-.2	.2	-.1	.1	.3	.1	.1

1/ Change from September 1957 to November 1957.

**TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups**  
 November 1957 indexes and percent changes, October 1957 to November 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 ---	116.0	- 0.3	114.1	- 0.5	131.6	0.2	104.6	- 1.6	114.5	0.3	114.6	0.1	115.6	- 0.5
Atlanta -----	113.2	- .7	111.7	- 1.1	124.7	.4	106.3	- .5	111.1	- 2.1	114.5	- 3.1	108.3	- .7
Baltimore -----	117.1	- .6	113.7	- .7	127.3	.1	105.4	- 1.5	114.8	.3	112.5	- 1.8	115.5	0
Boston -----	115.8	- .7	113.6	- 1.0	130.6	.6	103.6	- 1.2	120.6	- .1	112.1	- 2.8	109.9	- .8
Chicago -----	114.1	- .1	111.7	- .1	124.5	- .5	98.7	- .3	112.7	.2	116.1	1.3	121.5	0
Cincinnati -----	117.3	- 1.1	115.6	- 1.3	131.8	.1	105.2	- 2.3	117.6	- .1	115.8	- 2.9	119.7	- .7
Cleveland -----	113.7	- .6	111.6	- .7	129.1	.1	100.5	- 1.7	110.2	2.4	110.7	- 1.8	118.3	- 1.1
Detroit -----	117.1	- 1.0	115.0	- 1.2	125.2	.2	101.2	- 3.1	111.9	- .3	125.9	.3	117.2	- 1.5
Houston -----	112.6	- .9	110.2	- 1.2	121.0	- .2	98.9	- 2.7	112.4	- .1	113.8	- 3.5	113.4	.7
Kansas City -----	112.3	.1	110.0	.1	126.7	.1	101.5	- 1.1	111.4	- .3	110.1	2.9	109.1	- .3
Los Angeles -----	118.8	- .2	115.2	- .3	140.1	- .2	106.9	- 1.7	109.9	.3	114.8	.3	115.1	.4
Minneapolis -----	115.0	- .4	113.6	- .5	130.1	.1	99.6	- 1.3	107.8	- 1.3	121.2	- 2.1	123.6	- 1.4
New York -----	116.0	- .4	113.7	- .5	135.9	.2	105.6	- 1.0	117.4	1.5	107.6	- .9	115.0	- 1.7
Philadelphia -----	119.0	- 1.2	116.6	- 1.3	132.9	- .1	107.4	- 1.4	119.9	- .1	116.9	- 2.7	114.4	- 1.7
Pittsburgh -----	116.8	- .6	115.1	- .7	129.5	.2	104.0	- 1.1	114.2	0	112.2	- 1.3	125.2	- .8
Portland, Oreg. -----	116.8	- .1	115.2	- .1	129.4	.3	106.4	- 1.5	117.3	0	111.0	2.3	116.0	- .4
St. Louis -----	116.2	- .1	112.5	- .1	124.1	- .2	99.8	- 1.4	105.6	0	121.1	.6	122.4	.6
San Francisco -----	118.5	.1	116.6	.1	140.7	.1	107.3	- 1.4	116.6	.2	118.6	1.2	113.9	.9
Scranton -----	112.2	- 1.1	111.5	- 1.5	131.3	3.3	102.9	- 2.4	113.4	- .2	104.0	- 4.2	113.0	- 2.2
Seattle -----	116.4	- .5	115.3	- .5	140.9	.3	104.4	- 2.8	118.5	- .3	116.9	2.7	111.3	- .9
Washington, D.C. -----	116.8	- .9	114.2	- 1.4	129.6	.5	103.5	- 1.7	119.3	- .1	109.7	- 4.6	117.0	- .7

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

Food and unit	November 1957	October 1957	Food and unit	November 1957	October 1957
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
<b>Cereals and bakery products:</b>			<b>Fresh--Continued</b>		
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.7	54.9	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.8	12.8	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.	23.2	21.8
Rice ----- 1b.	17.8	17.6	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats ----- 20 oz.	22.2	22.2	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	56.5	55.9
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	23.6	23.2	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	12.3	12.7
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.0	19.0	Onions ----- 1b.	8.2	8.1
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.0	Carrots ----- 1b.	16.7	16.0
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.8	24.8	Lettuce ----- head	18.4	19.1
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Celery ----- 1b.	13.3	13.5
Round steak ----- 1b.	95.6	96.3	Cabbage ----- 1b.	7.9	7.9
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	54.3	54.3	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	26.7	23.4
Rib roast ----- 1b.	75.0	75.5	Beans, green ----- 1b.	23.9	22.0
Hamburger ----- 1b.	43.8	43.6	<b>Canned:</b>		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	118.3	118.5	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	33.8	33.9
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	85.4	88.0	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.4	34.7
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	69.8	75.5	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.2	34.2
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	61.5	61.7	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.0	26.0
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	71.7	71.9	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.3	17.3
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	59.0	59.6	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.4	21.4
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	46.5	46.0	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.3	15.2
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	43.6	44.3	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	43.6	43.1	<b>Dried:</b>		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	48.4	47.2	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.0	33.1
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	62.8	62.6	Beans ----- 1b.	16.3	16.3
Tuna fish, canned ----- 8 to 8 1/2 oz.	32.1	32.1	<b>Other foods at home:</b>		
<b>Dairy products:</b>			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.3	12.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.3	24.1	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.8	14.7
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.8	25.7	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.3	27.3
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.5	29.6	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.0	21.8
Butter ----- 1b.	75.0	75.4	Coffee ----- 1b. can	95.1	96.2
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.8	57.8	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	76.9	76.9
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	14.7	14.7	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.6	23.7
<b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	27.2	27.2
<b>Frozen:</b>			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	95.7	95.8
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	25.7	25.7	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.6	29.7
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	18.3	18.2	Lard ----- 1b.	22.8	22.9
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.6	19.6	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.4	37.3
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	24.5	24.4	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	53.8	53.7
<b>Fresh:</b>			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.6	55.5
Apples ----- 1b.	12.3	12.3	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	25.0	24.9
Bananas ----- 1b.	17.6	18.4	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.4	27.3
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	61.1	65.1	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	19.3	17.8	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	68.4	69.5
Grapefruit * ----- each	11.4		Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.9	8.9

\* 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.

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