

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR DECEMBER 1957

Consumer prices in United States cities were unchanged on the average between November and December, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lower prices for transportation (principally new and used automobiles) and apparel offset slight advances in other major groups of goods and services. The December Consumer Price Index at 121.6 (1947-49=100) was 3.1 percent higher than a year earlier.

FOOD Food prices increased slightly (0.1 percent), following a 3-months' seasonal decline, as higher prices of meats more than offset lower prices of fresh fruits and eggs. The December food index at 116.1 was 2.8 percent above a year ago but 1.5 percent below the August 1957 peak.

Average prices of meats, poultry, and fish, which ordinarily decline in December, were up 1.3 percent, with most items showing increases. Ham prices increased 4.5 percent, chuck roast 3.7 percent, chicken 1.5 percent, and round steak 1.3 percent.

Prices of fresh fruits fell 3.3 percent on the average, with bananas down 9.5 percent and oranges down 6.5 percent seasonally, while apples were up 6.0 percent. Fresh vegetable prices rose 1.7 percent, showing sharply contrasting movements, with tomatoes in a seasonal rise of 21.3 percent and lettuce down 18.6 percent. Most other vegetable prices were higher. Food prices were obtained on December 9, 10, and 11, one week earlier than usual. Prices shown in this report, therefore, do not reflect any changes resulting from the freeze in Florida on December 12-13. Prices of canned fruits and vegetables declined 0.2 percent, led by a drop of 1.3 percent for canned peaches.

Egg prices were down 2.7 percent in a seasonal drop. Coffee prices declined 0.2 percent, their 13th consecutive monthly decrease. Cereals and bakery products increased 0.2 percent, mainly because of a 3.2 percent rise for corn flakes; dairy products rose 0.1 percent. Restaurant meal prices advanced 0.1 percent.

HOUSING The housing index rose 0.2 percent as most of its component sub-groups were higher. Rent advanced 0.3 percent. Home maintenance and repair costs declined 0.1 percent, due largely to lower prices for water heaters. Housefurnishings prices were up 0.4 percent, with higher prices for new models and some old models of appliances, particularly in the case of refrigerators, washing machines, and sewing machines. Rugs, textiles, and kitchenware also rose in price. The increase of 0.2 percent in household operation costs reflected further advances in laundry and domestic service rates. Prices of solid fuels and fuel oil rose 0.2 percent as both anthracite and bituminous coal prices were higher; gas and electric bills were unchanged on the average.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES Transportation costs declined 0.8 percent, due largely to reductions of 2.3 percent in dealers' selling prices of new cars (reflecting larger discounts) and a 1.4 percent decline for used cars; prices of gasoline and tires also declined, but rates for auto insurance and repair services were higher. Public transportation declined 0.2 percent, the first decrease in 5 years, as transit fares were reduced substantially in one city.

Apparel prices were down 0.3 percent primarily because of widespread reductions in prices of women's wear, as coats, suits, and other items went on sale. Prices of men's and boys' apparel and footwear advanced slightly (0.1 percent).

The rise of 0.4 percent in the medical care index was due largely to a general increase in prices of aspirin, although some advances were reported for prescriptions, and fees for professional services continued to advance. Higher prices for toothpaste and some other toilet goods caused the personal care index to rise 0.2 percent.

Reading and recreation rose 0.2 percent as higher prices for television sets and newspapers more than offset reductions for movie admissions.

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) | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | Dec. 1957 | Nov. 1957 | Oct. 1957 | Dec. 1956 | June 1950 | Year 1939 |
| All items----- | 121.6 | 121.6 | 121.1 | 118.0 | 101.8 | 59.4 |
| All items less food----- | 124.5 | 124.6 | 123.7 | 120.8 | 103.0 | 69.1 |
| All items less shelter----- | 119.2 | 119.2 | 118.6 | 115.7 | 100.7 | 55.4 |
| All commodities----- | 114.7 | 114.7 | 114.3 | 111.8 | 100.3 | 51.6 |
| All commodities less food----- | 113.6 | 113.8 | 112.8 | 111.1 | 99.4 | 59.4 |
| Durables----- | 110.3 | 110.9 | 108.6 | 108.0 | 102.4 | 57.3 |
| Non-durables----- | 117.3 | 117.4 | 117.0 | 114.7 | 99.0 | 58.7 |
| All services----- | 140.0 | 139.8 | 139.2 | 134.4 | 107.9 | 80.4 |
| All services less rent----- | 141.1 | 140.9 | 140.3 | 134.9 | 107.0 | 73.5 |
| | Percent change to December 1957 from -- | | | | | |
| | | Nov. 1957 | Oct. 1957 | Dec. 1956 | June 1950 | Year 1939 |
| All items----- | | 0 | 0.4 | 3.1 | 19.4 | 104.7 |
| All items less food----- | | - 0.1 | .6 | 3.1 | 20.9 | 80.2 |
| All items less shelter----- | | 0 | .5 | 3.0 | 18.4 | 115.2 |
| All commodities----- | | 0 | .3 | 2.6 | 14.4 | 122.3 |
| All commodities less food----- | | - .2 | .7 | 2.3 | 14.3 | 91.2 |
| Durables----- | | - .5 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 7.7 | 92.5 |
| Non-durables----- | | - .1 | .3 | 2.3 | 18.5 | 99.8 |
| All services----- | | .1 | .6 | 4.2 | 29.7 | 74.1 |
| All services less rent----- | | .1 | .6 | 4.6 | 31.9 | 92.0 |
| | (1947-49=\$1.00)* | | | | | |
| | Dec. 1957 | Nov. 1957 | Oct. 1957 | Dec. 1956 | June 1950 | Year 1939 |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar----- | \$0.82 | \$0.82 | \$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) | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|
| | December 1957 | November 1957 | October 1957 | December 1956 | June 1950 | Year 1939 |
| | This month | Last month | 2 months ago | Last year | Pre-Korea | Pre-World War II |
| All items ----- | 121.6 | 121.6 | 121.1 | 118.0 | 101.8 | 59.4 |
| Food 1/ ----- | 116.1 | 116.0 | 116.4 | 112.9 | 100.5 | 47.1 |
| Food at home ----- | 114.3 | 114.1 | 114.7 | 111.2 | 100.5 | 47.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products ----- | 131.8 | 131.6 | 131.4 | 127.4 | 102.7 | 57.2 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ----- | 106.0 | 104.6 | 106.3 | 98.0 | 106.1 | 41.6 |
| Dairy products ----- | 114.6 | 114.5 | 114.2 | 111.3 | 92.3 | 49.8 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | 113.9 | 114.6 | 114.5 | 117.4 | 102.5 | 46.3 |
| Other foods at home ----- | 114.9 | 115.6 | 116.2 | 114.2 | 94.1 | 48.4 |
| Housing 2/ ----- | 127.0 | 126.8 | 126.6 | 123.5 | 104.9 | 76.1 |
| Rent ----- | 136.7 | 136.3 | 136.0 | 134.2 | 108.7 | 86.6 |
| Gas and electricity ----- | 114.3 | 114.3 | 113.8 | 112.0 | 102.7 | 104.9 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | 138.3 | 138.0 | 137.6 | 136.1 | 107.6 | 56.4 |
| Housefurnishings ----- | 104.9 | 104.5 | 104.8 | 104.1 | 97.4 | 53.4 |
| Household operation ----- | 129.6 | 129.4 | 128.7 | 124.8 | 99.6 | 68.4 |
| Apparel ----- | 107.6 | 107.9 | 107.7 | 107.0 | 96.5 | 52.5 |
| Men's and boys' ----- | 109.5 | 109.4 | 109.4 | 108.6 | 98.1 | 50.8 |
| Women's and girls' ----- | 100.1 | 100.8 | 100.6 | 100.3 | 93.3 | 54.5 |
| Footwear ----- | 129.1 | 129.0 | 128.3 | 126.4 | 102.1 | 50.3 |
| Other apparel ----- | 92.3 | 92.6 | 92.5 | 92.2 | 88.4 | 40.6 |
| Transportation ----- | 138.9 | 140.0 | 135.8 | 133.1 | 109.9 | 70.2 |
| Public ----- | 182.4 | 182.8 | 181.6 | 174.1 | 117.9 | 81.3 |
| Private ----- | 128.6 | 129.7 | 125.4 | 123.3 | 106.6 | 65.5 |
| Medical care ----- | 140.8 | 140.3 | 139.7 | 134.7 | 105.4 | 72.6 |
| Personal care ----- | 127.0 | 126.7 | 126.2 | 121.8 | 99.2 | 59.6 |
| Reading and recreation ----- | 114.6 | 114.4 | 113.4 | 109.3 | 102.5 | 63.0 |
| Other goods and services 3/ ----- | 126.8 | 126.8 | 126.8 | 123.3 | 103.7 | 70.6 |
| Percent change to December 1957 from: | | | | | | |
| | November 1957 | October 1957 | December 1956 | June 1950 | Year 1939 | |
| All items ----- | 0 | 0.4 | 3.1 | 19.4 | 104.7 | |
| Food ----- | 0.1 | -.3 | 2.8 | 15.5 | 146.5 | |
| Food at home ----- | .2 | -.3 | 2.8 | 13.7 | 142.7 | |
| Cereals and bakery products ----- | .2 | -.3 | 3.5 | 28.3 | 130.4 | |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ----- | 1.3 | -.3 | 8.2 | -.1 | 154.8 | |
| Dairy products ----- | .1 | .4 | 3.0 | 24.2 | 130.1 | |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | -.6 | -.5 | -3.0 | 11.1 | 146.0 | |
| Other foods at home ----- | -.6 | -1.1 | .6 | 22.1 | 137.4 | |
| Food away from home ----- | .1 | .4 | 3.7 | (4/) | (4/) | |
| Housing 2/ ----- | .2 | .3 | 2.8 | 21.1 | 66.9 | |
| Rent ----- | .3 | .5 | 1.9 | 25.8 | 57.9 | |
| Gas and electricity ----- | 0 | .4 | 2.1 | 11.3 | 9.0 | |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | .2 | .5 | 1.6 | 28.5 | 145.2 | |
| Housefurnishings ----- | .4 | .1 | .8 | 7.7 | 96.4 | |
| Household operation ----- | .2 | .7 | 3.8 | 30.1 | 89.5 | |
| Apparel ----- | -.3 | -.1 | .6 | 11.5 | 105.0 | |
| Men's and boys' ----- | .1 | .1 | .8 | 11.6 | 115.6 | |
| Women's and girls' ----- | -.7 | -.5 | -.2 | 7.3 | 83.7 | |
| Footwear ----- | .1 | .6 | 2.1 | 26.4 | 156.7 | |
| Other apparel ----- | -.3 | -.2 | .1 | 4.4 | 127.3 | |
| Transportation ----- | -.8 | 2.3 | 4.4 | 26.4 | 97.9 | |
| Public ----- | -.2 | .4 | 4.8 | 54.7 | 124.4 | |
| Private ----- | -.8 | 2.6 | 4.3 | 20.6 | 96.3 | |
| Medical care ----- | .4 | .8 | 4.5 | 33.6 | 93.9 | |
| Personal care ----- | .2 | .6 | 4.3 | 28.0 | 113.1 | |
| Reading and recreation ----- | .2 | 1.1 | 4.8 | 11.8 | 81.9 | |
| Other goods and services 3/ ----- | 0 | 0 | 2.8 | 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 | December 1957 | November 1957 | December 1956 | June 1950 | Year 1939 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| United States city average----- | 1/ 121.6 | 121.6 | 118.0 | 101.8 | 59.4 |
| Cities priced monthly 2/ | | | | | |
| Chicago----- | 125.6 | 125.6 | 121.0 | 102.8 | 58.6 |
| Detroit----- | 123.3 | 123.5 | 120.2 | 102.8 | 59.0 |
| Los Angeles----- | 122.9 | 122.9 | 119.4 | 101.3 | 60.4 |
| New York----- | 118.7 | 118.6 | 115.5 | 100.9 | 60.1 |
| Philadelphia----- | 122.1 | 122.1 | 118.6 | 101.6 | 59.2 |
| Cities priced in March, June, September, December 3/ | | | | | |
| Atlanta----- | 122.4 | 122.2 | 119.5 | 4/ 101.3 | 58.3 |
| Baltimore----- | 122.1 | 121.7 | 119.5 | 101.6 | 57.9 |
| Cincinnati----- | 120.8 | 120.9 | 117.5 | 101.2 | 58.4 |
| St. Louis----- | 122.5 | 122.1 | 119.1 | 101.1 | 59.3 |
| San Francisco----- | 124.8 | 123.5 | 121.6 | 100.9 | 58.6 |
| Cities priced in February, May, August, November 3/ | | | | | |
| Cleveland----- | 123.3 | 122.8 | 120.0 | 100.4 | 59.2 |
| Houston----- | 122.4 | 122.1 | 119.7 | 103.5 | 59.5 |
| Scranton----- | 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/ | | | | | |
| 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 | 5/ 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 |

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/ May 1950.

5/ June 1950.

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index — Percent changes from November 1957 to December 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 | 0.1 | 0.2 | - 0.3 | - 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0 |
| Chicago----- | 0 | - .2 | 0 | - .3 | 1.1 | .1 | .2 | - .2 | 0 |
| Detroit----- | - 0.2 | .3 | .2 | - .2 | - .8 | 0 | - .4 | - 2.9 | - 0.1 |
| Los Angeles----- | 0 | .6 | 0 | .1 | - 1.1 | .5 | .9 | - .1 | .1 |
| New York----- | .1 | - .2 | .5 | - .2 | - .5 | 0 | .3 | 1.5 | 0 |
| Philadelphia----- | 0 | - .2 | .4 | - 1.4 | - .4 | 1.4 | .2 | 0 | 0 |

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 December 1957 indexes and percent changes, September 1957 to December 1957
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in December 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 ----- | 121.6 | 122.4 | 122.1 | 125.6 | 120.8 | 123.3 | 122.9 | 118.7 | 122.1 | 122.5 | 124.8 |
| Food ----- | 116.1 | 113.6 | 117.4 | 113.9 | 117.6 | 117.4 | 119.5 | 115.8 | 118.8 | 117.5 | 119.5 |
| Food at home ----- | 114.3 | 112.2 | 113.9 | 111.4 | 115.7 | 115.2 | 115.8 | 113.6 | 116.3 | 113.4 | 117.3 |
| Cereals and bakery products -- | 131.8 | 125.3 | 127.4 | 124.5 | 132.2 | 125.0 | 139.9 | 136.7 | 133.5 | 124.6 | 140.8 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ----- | 106.0 | 108.7 | 105.8 | 99.4 | 106.8 | 103.0 | 107.8 | 107.1 | 108.5 | 103.0 | 108.9 |
| Dairy products ----- | 114.6 | 111.3 | 117.2 | 112.7 | 117.5 | 113.1 | 110.1 | 117.4 | 119.9 | 103.3 | 116.6 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | 113.9 | 114.6 | 112.0 | 115.1 | 115.1 | 124.5 | 116.9 | 106.1 | 113.4 | 121.0 | 118.7 |
| Other foods at home ----- | 114.9 | 107.4 | 114.3 | 119.5 | 118.7 | 115.9 | 115.1 | 113.0 | 113.7 | 123.2 | 114.6 |
| Housing ----- | 127.0 | 130.0 | 122.2 | 136.4 | 124.4 | 129.0 | 133.4 | 123.0 | 122.6 | 125.6 | 127.4 |
| Rent ----- | 136.7 | 136.7 | 132.7 | — | 141.3 | 149.0 | — | 125.2 | — | 144.6 | 141.5 |
| Gas and electricity ----- | 114.3 | 119.6 | 101.4 | 114.6 | 123.2 | 112.4 | 130.6 | 111.0 | 103.4 | 103.8 | 139.3 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | 138.3 | 130.7 | 134.6 | 139.9 | 145.9 | 129.7 | — | 145.4 | 142.5 | 153.7 | — |
| Housefurnishings ----- | 104.9 | 110.3 | 101.0 | 103.3 | 98.4 | 109.4 | 104.1 | 104.9 | 111.2 | 105.0 | 107.2 |
| Household operation ----- | 129.6 | 136.1 | 127.0 | 133.2 | 133.6 | 119.2 | 122.6 | 128.2 | 130.8 | 132.1 | 120.6 |
| Apparel ----- | 107.6 | 113.8 | 107.0 | 110.6 | 105.7 | 104.0 | 108.7 | 107.0 | 106.7 | 105.8 | 108.2 |
| Men's and boys' ----- | 109.5 | 115.0 | 106.1 | 116.2 | 108.5 | 110.5 | 113.1 | 108.8 | 107.2 | 108.6 | 109.4 |
| Women's and girls' ----- | 100.1 | 106.6 | 101.9 | 100.1 | 96.4 | 93.3 | 100.3 | 98.5 | 100.2 | 97.3 | 100.9 |
| Footwear ----- | 129.1 | 137.4 | 127.3 | 132.0 | 134.3 | 123.3 | 128.9 | 130.9 | 127.1 | 127.0 | 133.6 |
| Other apparel ----- | 92.3 | 93.3 | 96.7 | 95.6 | 89.7 | 85.8 | 85.3 | 96.3 | 93.8 | 96.7 | 90.6 |
| Transportation ----- | 138.9 | 139.0 | 150.7 | 150.7 | 133.6 | 136.5 | 131.5 | 139.6 | 144.3 | 146.1 | 152.4 |
| Public ----- | 182.4 | 188.3 | 187.3 | 194.3 | 182.1 | 153.9 | 154.8 | 189.0 | 187.4 | 205.3 | 182.6 |
| Private ----- | 128.6 | 130.4 | 133.1 | 132.7 | 122.3 | 132.9 | 127.4 | 120.4 | 124.3 | 126.4 | 139.2 |
| Medical care ----- | 140.8 | 133.2 | 145.0 | 147.0 | 148.8 | 151.1 | 131.9 | 129.7 | 142.8 | 156.2 | 141.0 |
| Personal care ----- | 127.0 | 129.1 | 121.1 | 128.2 | 129.5 | 132.0 | 131.4 | 119.2 | 132.3 | 128.2 | 122.2 |
| Reading and recreation ----- | 114.6 | 116.7 | 126.3 | 127.0 | 107.1 | 110.7 | 104.4 | 118.2 | 118.9 | 96.5 | 115.9 |
| Other goods and services ----- | 126.8 | 132.1 | 131.7 | 121.5 | 123.7 | 135.7 | 123.7 | 126.1 | 128.6 | 126.8 | 123.7 |
| Percent change from September 1957 to December 1957 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items ----- | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.0 | - 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 1.1 |
| Food ----- | -.8 | - 1.6 | -.6 | -.1 | - 1.8 | - 1.1 | .1 | -.7 | - 1.6 | -.3 | .1 |
| Food at home ----- | - 1.0 | - 2.0 | -.9 | -.4 | - 2.2 | - 1.5 | -.5 | -.5 | - 1.9 | - 1.0 | -.3 |
| Cereals and bakery products -- | .5 | .9 | .3 | 1.1 | .3 | .2 | .1 | 1.1 | .4 | 0 | .5 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ----- | - 3.9 | - 3.1 | - 4.2 | - 3.3 | - 5.3 | - 4.7 | - 5.0 | - 2.5 | - 3.5 | - 3.2 | - 3.3 |
| Dairy products ----- | 1.3 | - 2.0 | 4.7 | .9 | 2.5 | .8 | .6 | 2.5 | 2.1 | - 2.1 | .1 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | -.8 | - 5.1 | - 2.7 | 1.5 | - 4.0 | .2 | 3.5 | - 1.2 | - 7.0 | .6 | 1.3 |
| Other foods at home ----- | -.1 | 0 | .2 | 0 | - 1.2 | - 1.4 | 1.1 | - 1.0 | -.4 | .8 | 1.2 |
| Housing ----- | .6 | -.2 | .9 | .2 | .2 | .3 | 1.8 | .8 | .7 | .5 | 1.7 |
| Rent ----- | .7 | .3 | .7 | — | .4 | 1/ 0 | — | 1/ .6 | — | 1.1 | 1.1 |
| Gas and electricity ----- | .5 | .2 | 0 | 0 | .3 | -.7 | 10.7 | -.1 | 0 | 0 | 2.2 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | 1.1 | 7.6 | 0 | .1 | 4.2 | .2 | — | .9 | 6.3 | 2.5 | — |
| Housefurnishings ----- | .1 | .4 | .3 | 1.0 | -.1 | .5 | .3 | -.2 | .8 | .4 | 1.4 |
| Household operation ----- | 1.0 | .2 | 4.4 | .2 | .3 | .3 | - 5.5 | 1.7 | 2.3 | .5 | .6 |
| Apparel ----- | .3 | 0 | - 1.2 | -.8 | - 1.5 | -.3 | .1 | .3 | - 1.0 | .5 | .7 |
| Men's and boys' ----- | .2 | .4 | -.1 | 0 | .1 | .1 | .4 | .1 | .1 | .3 | .7 |
| Women's and girls' ----- | .3 | -.4 | - 2.7 | - 1.9 | - 3.4 | -.3 | -.1 | 0 | - 2.4 | .7 | .3 |
| Footwear ----- | .8 | .9 | .8 | .4 | -.1 | -.5 | -.2 | 1.3 | .9 | .6 | 1.8 |
| Other apparel ----- | 0 | 0 | -.7 | - 1.3 | -.8 | - 1.4 | .6 | .2 | -.7 | .2 | .3 |
| Transportation ----- | 2.2 | 5.1 | 2.0 | 4.9 | .9 | 3.6 | 0 | 1.8 | 3.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| Public ----- | .7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Private ----- | 2.5 | 6.0 | 2.5 | 6.2 | 1.1 | 4.4 | -.1 | 2.4 | 4.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| Medical care ----- | 1.3 | .2 | .1 | 3.7 | 6.0 | 3.0 | .7 | .2 | 1.4 | .8 | 2.3 |
| Personal care ----- | 1.5 | .7 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.4 | 1.3 | .4 | 1.8 |
| Reading and recreation ----- | 1.1 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 6.3 | .1 | -.7 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 1.6 | -.4 | 2.5 |
| Other goods and services ----- | .1 | .1 | .1 | .2 | .2 | 0 | .2 | 0 | 0 | .3 | -.3 |

1/ Change from October 1957 to December 1957.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 December 1957 indexes and percent changes, November 1957 to December 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 --- | 116.1 | 0.1 | 114.3 | 0.2 | 131.8 | 0.2 | 106.0 | 1.3 | 114.6 | 0.1 | 113.9 | - 0.6 | 114.9 | - 0.6 |
| Atlanta ----- | 113.6 | .4 | 112.2 | .4 | 125.3 | .5 | 108.7 | 2.3 | 111.3 | .2 | 114.6 | .1 | 107.4 | -.8 |
| Baltimore ----- | 117.4 | .3 | 113.9 | .2 | 127.4 | .1 | 105.8 | .4 | 117.2 | 2.1 | 112.0 | -.4 | 114.3 | - 1.0 |
| Boston ----- | 115.3 | -.4 | 112.9 | -.6 | 130.6 | 0 | 105.1 | 1.4 | 120.6 | 0 | 107.1 | - 4.5 | 108.3 | - 1.5 |
| Chicago ----- | 113.9 | -.2 | 111.4 | -.3 | 124.5 | 0 | 99.4 | .7 | 112.7 | 0 | 115.1 | -.9 | 119.5 | - 1.6 |
| Cincinnati ----- | 117.6 | .3 | 115.7 | .1 | 132.2 | .3 | 106.8 | 1.5 | 117.5 | -.1 | 115.1 | -.6 | 118.7 | -.8 |
| Cleveland ----- | 113.5 | -.2 | 111.4 | -.2 | 129.0 | -.1 | 101.7 | 1.2 | 110.3 | .1 | 107.7 | - 2.7 | 117.6 | -.6 |
| Detroit ----- | 117.4 | .3 | 115.2 | .2 | 125.0 | -.2 | 103.0 | 1.8 | 113.1 | 1.1 | 124.5 | - 1.1 | 115.9 | - 1.1 |
| Houston ----- | 113.5 | .8 | 111.3 | 1.0 | 121.0 | 0 | 101.2 | 2.3 | 112.9 | .4 | 115.4 | 1.4 | 113.7 | .3 |
| Kansas City ----- | 112.5 | .2 | 110.2 | .2 | 126.9 | .2 | 103.4 | 1.9 | 111.5 | .1 | 108.2 | - 1.7 | 108.9 | -.2 |
| Los Angeles ----- | 119.5 | .6 | 115.8 | .5 | 139.9 | -.1 | 107.8 | .8 | 110.1 | .2 | 116.9 | 1.8 | 115.1 | 0 |
| Minneapolis ----- | 115.1 | .1 | 113.7 | .1 | 130.6 | .4 | 100.2 | .6 | 107.9 | .1 | 121.3 | .1 | 122.9 | -.6 |
| New York ----- | 115.8 | -.2 | 113.6 | -.1 | 136.7 | .6 | 107.1 | 1.4 | 117.4 | 0 | 106.1 | - 1.4 | 113.0 | - 1.7 |
| Philadelphia ----- | 118.8 | -.2 | 116.3 | -.3 | 133.5 | .5 | 108.5 | 1.0 | 119.9 | 0 | 113.4 | - 3.0 | 113.7 | -.6 |
| Pittsburgh ----- | 116.9 | .1 | 115.3 | .2 | 129.6 | .1 | 105.4 | 1.3 | 114.4 | .2 | 111.6 | - .5 | 124.2 | -.8 |
| Portland, Oreg. ---- | 117.5 | .6 | 116.0 | .7 | 135.4 | 0 | 106.8 | .4 | 117.4 | .1 | 114.3 | 3.0 | 116.5 | .4 |
| St. Louis ----- | 117.5 | 1.1 | 113.4 | .8 | 124.6 | .4 | 103.0 | 3.2 | 103.3 | - 2.2 | 121.0 | -.1 | 123.2 | .7 |
| San Francisco ----- | 119.5 | .8 | 117.3 | .6 | 140.8 | .1 | 108.9 | 1.5 | 116.6 | 0 | 118.7 | .1 | 114.6 | .6 |
| Scranton ----- | 113.0 | .7 | 112.4 | .8 | 131.4 | .1 | 106.7 | 3.7 | 113.3 | -.1 | 104.0 | 0 | 111.9 | - 1.0 |
| Seattle ----- | 117.3 | .8 | 116.3 | .9 | 141.1 | .1 | 106.1 | 1.6 | 118.5 | 0 | 117.8 | .8 | 112.8 | 1.3 |
| Washington, D.C. ---- | 116.8 | 0 | 114.2 | 0 | 129.6 | 0 | 105.3 | 1.7 | 119.3 | 0 | 108.8 | -.8 | 115.2 | - 1.5 |

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

| Food and unit | December 1957 | November 1957 | Food and unit | December 1957 | November 1957 |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Cereals and bakery products: | Cents: | Cents | Fresh--Continued | Cents | Cents |
| Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb. | 54.7 | 54.7 | Peaches * ----- 1b. | | |
| Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz. | 26.9 | 26.8 | Strawberries * ----- pt. | | |
| Corn meal ----- 1b. | 12.8 | 12.8 | Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b. | | 23.2 |
| Rice ----- 1b. | 17.3 | 17.8 | Watermelons * ----- 1b. | | |
| Rolled oats ----- 20 oz. | 22.3 | 22.2 | Potatoes ----- 10 lb. | 57.7 | 56.5 |
| Corn flakes ----- 12 oz. | 24.3 | 23.6 | Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b. | 13.5 | 12.3 |
| Bread, white ----- 1b. | 19.0 | 19.0 | Onions ----- 1b. | 8.4 | 8.2 |
| Soda crackers ----- 1b. | 29.2 | 29.2 | Carrots ----- 1b. | 16.9 | 16.7 |
| Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz. | 24.8 | 24.8 | Lettuce ----- head | 15.0 | 18.4 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish: | | | Celery ----- 1b. | 13.6 | 13.3 |
| Round steak ----- 1b. | 96.9 | 95.6 | Cabbage ----- 1b. | 8.3 | 7.9 |
| Chuck roast ----- 1b. | 56.3 | 54.3 | Tomatoes ----- 1b. | 32.4 | 26.7 |
| Rib roast ----- 1b. | 76.3 | 75.0 | Beans, green ----- 1b. | 23.3 | 23.9 |
| Hamburger ----- 1b. | 44.6 | 43.8 | Canned: | | |
| Veal cutlets ----- 1b. | 120.0 | 118.3 | Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can | 33.8 | 33.8 |
| Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b. | 85.2 | 85.4 | Peaches ----- #2½ can | 34.0 | 34.4 |
| Bacon, sliced ----- 1b. | 70.4 | 69.8 | Pineapple ----- #2 can | 34.2 | 34.2 |
| Ham, whole ----- 1b. | 64.3 | 61.5 | Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can | 26.0 | 26.0 |
| Lamb, leg ----- 1b. | 72.3 | 71.7 | Corn, cream style ----- #303 can | 17.3 | 17.3 |
| Frankfurters ----- 1b. | 59.0 | 59.0 | Peas, green ----- #303 can | 21.2 | 21.4 |
| Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz. | 46.8 | 46.5 | Tomatoes ----- #303 can | 15.4 | 15.3 |
| Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b. | 44.4 | 43.6 | Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz. | 10.0 | 10.0 |
| Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b. | 43.6 | 43.6 | Dried: | | |
| Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b. | 49.4 | 48.4 | Prunes ----- 1b. | 32.9 | 33.0 |
| Salmon, pink, canned ----- 18 oz. | 62.8 | 62.8 | Beans ----- 1b. | 16.5 | 16.3 |
| Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8½ oz. | 32.2 | 32.1 | Other foods at home: | | |
| Dairy products: | | | Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can | 12.3 | 12.3 |
| Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt. | 24.3 | 24.3 | Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can | 14.8 | 14.8 |
| Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt. | 25.8 | 25.8 | Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz. | 27.1 | 27.3 |
| Ice cream ----- pt. | 29.6 | 29.5 | Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz. | 22.1 | 22.0 |
| Butter ----- 1b. | 74.9 | 75.0 | Coffee ----- 1b. can | 95.0 | 95.1 |
| Cheese, American process ----- 1b. | 57.8 | 57.8 | Coffee ----- 1b. bag | 76.8 | 76.9 |
| Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can | 14.8 | 14.7 | Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16 | 23.7 | 23.6 |
| Fruits and vegetables: | | | Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz. | 27.3 | 27.2 |
| Frozen: | | | Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb. | 96.1 | 95.7 |
| Strawberries ----- 10 oz. | 25.7 | 25.7 | Margarine, colored ----- 1b. | 29.7 | 29.6 |
| Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz. | 18.2 | 18.3 | Lard ----- 1b. | 22.5 | 22.8 |
| Peas, green ----- 10 oz. | 19.5 | 19.6 | Salad dressing ----- pt. | 37.3 | 37.4 |
| Beans, green ----- 10 oz. | 24.5 | 24.5 | Peanut butter ----- 1b. | 53.8 | 53.8 |
| Fresh: | | | Sugar ----- 5 lb. | 55.6 | 55.6 |
| Apples ----- 1b. | 13.0 | 12.3 | Corn syrup ----- 24 oz. | 25.0 | 25.0 |
| Bananas ----- 1b. | 15.9 | 17.6 | Grape jelly ----- 12 oz. | 27.4 | 27.4 |
| Oranges, size 200 ----- doz. | 57.2 | 61.1 | Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz. | 4.5 | 4.5 |
| Lemons ----- 1b. | 19.4 | 19.3 | Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz. | 66.6 | 68.4 |
| Grapefruit * ----- each | 11.1 | 11.4 | Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz. | 8.9 | 8.9 |

* Priced only in season.

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TABLE A: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 1957 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1956 to 1957
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in December 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* | 121.4 | 121.0 | 123.3 | 119.6 | 122.2 | 121.2 | 117.6 | 120.8 | 121.2 | 123.1 |
| Food ----- | 115.4 | 113.3 | 116.8 | 112.9 | 117.3 | 117.3 | 117.9 | 115.0 | 118.5 | 116.3 | 117.8 |
| Food at home ----- | 113.8 | 112.1 | 113.5 | 110.7 | 115.7 | 115.5 | 114.5 | 113.0 | 116.5 | 112.7 | 116.2 |
| Cereals and bakery products -- | 130.5 | 123.2 | 127.2 | 123.0 | 130.6 | 124.5 | 136.9 | 134.8 | 132.5 | 124.8 | 140.0 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ----- | 105.2 | 107.8 | 105.8 | 98.3 | 107.1 | 102.4 | 106.9 | 106.0 | 107.6 | 101.9 | 108.6 |
| Dairy products ----- | 111.8 | 112.4 | 113.2 | 110.9 | 115.3 | 110.9 | 106.9 | 111.7 | 116.7 | 102.9 | 113.2 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | 118.6 | 118.9 | 115.4 | 117.6 | 118.9 | 131.2 | 119.0 | 112.4 | 121.8 | 123.7 | 121.2 |
| Other foods at home ----- | 112.9 | 105.6 | 112.9 | 118.4 | 117.8 | 115.2 | 113.0 | 112.3 | 112.5 | 120.2 | 111.4 |
| Housing ----- | 125.6 | 129.6 | 121.1 | 134.7 | 123.6 | 128.4 | 130.5 | 121.8 | 120.7 | 124.5 | 125.4 |
| Rent ----- | 135.2 | 136.2 | 131.5 | --- | 139.8 | 147.6 | --- | 123.4 | --- | 142.5 | 139.5 |
| Gas and electricity ----- | 113.0 | 119.4 | 100.6 | 114.2 | 119.5 | 112.6 | 120.2 | 111.0 | 103.4 | 103.8 | 136.8 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | 137.4 | 125.6 | 139.2 | 139.5 | 137.5 | 129.2 | --- | 146.4 | 136.4 | 150.0 | --- |
| Housefurnishings ----- | 104.6 | 109.3 | 100.7 | 102.3 | 99.0 | 109.2 | 103.6 | 104.7 | 109.9 | 104.3 | 107.3 |
| Household operation ----- | 127.5 | 135.2 | 121.5 | 131.6 | 132.5 | 118.2 | 127.3 | 126.0 | 127.9 | 131.4 | 119.7 |
| Apparel ----- | 106.9 | 113.0 | 106.4 | 109.9 | 105.8 | 104.2 | 107.7 | 106.1 | 106.4 | 105.0 | 107.5 |
| Men's and boys' ----- | 109.0 | 114.0 | 105.2 | 116.4 | 107.1 | 110.6 | 111.5 | 108.5 | 107.0 | 107.8 | 108.9 |
| Women's and girls' ----- | 99.2 | 106.1 | 101.3 | 98.6 | 97.7 | 93.4 | 99.7 | 97.5 | 100.4 | 96.3 | 100.6 |
| Footwear ----- | 127.9 | 135.2 | 126.9 | 131.5 | 134.3 | 123.6 | 128.4 | 128.7 | 124.8 | 126.0 | 131.1 |
| Other apparel ----- | 92.1 | 93.1 | 96.3 | 95.9 | 89.1 | 87.0 | 84.5 | 95.6 | 93.7 | 96.1 | 90.3 |
| Transportation ----- | 136.0 | 134.5 | 147.7 | 142.9 | 130.9 | 132.7 | 132.0 | 138.0 | 141.2 | 143.0 | 150.7 |
| Public ----- | 178.8 | 174.2 | 187.2 | 180.9 | 172.0 | 149.0 | 154.8 | 188.9 | 187.3 | 195.8 | 182.4 |
| Private ----- | 125.8 | 127.2 | 129.8 | 126.4 | 120.5 | 129.3 | 128.0 | 118.6 | 120.8 | 124.5 | 137.4 |
| Medical care ----- | 138.0 | 132.3 | 144.7 | 142.3 | 141.3 | 147.1 | 130.5 | 129.1 | 140.5 | 154.7 | 137.7 |
| Personal care ----- | 124.4 | 128.1 | 119.9 | 126.5 | 127.3 | 130.5 | 128.8 | 116.2 | 130.3 | 125.0 | 119.9 |
| Reading and recreation ----- | 112.2 | 112.8 | 123.7 | 119.0 | 104.8 | 110.8 | 101.2 | 114.4 | 116.7 | 96.4 | 113.8 |
| Other goods and services ----- | 125.5 | 130.4 | 130.4 | 120.6 | 122.5 | 130.7 | 122.3 | 125.5 | 127.5 | 125.5 | 122.2 |
| Percent change from 1956 to 1957 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items ----- | 3.4 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 4.0 |
| Food ----- | 3.3 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 3.9 | 3.1 | 4.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 |
| Food at home ----- | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 2.9 |
| Cereals and bakery products -- | 3.9 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 2.4 | 4.9 | 4.0 | 5.4 | 3.9 | 4.6 | 3.9 | 4.7 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ----- | 8.3 | 8.8 | 7.8 | 8.6 | 9.1 | 7.1 | 9.3 | 6.1 | 8.2 | 7.7 | 5.6 |
| Dairy products ----- | 2.9 | 1.5 | 3.5 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 5.7 | 5.0 | .2 | 4.9 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----- | -.3 | -1.2 | -1.6 | 1.6 | .8 | -1.1 | .4 | -1.8 | -.1 | -.6 | -1.1 |
| Other foods at home ----- | .1 | .3 | .1 | -.6 | -.8 | 0 | 1.2 | -.8 | -.1 | -1.0 | .9 |
| Housing ----- | 3.2 | 2.0 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 2.1 | 3.0 | 2.4 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 3.8 |
| Rent ----- | 1.9 | .8 | 2.6 | --- | 2.9 | 1.9 | --- | 2.4 | --- | 2.2 | 3.1 |
| Gas and electricity ----- | 1.1 | 0 | .7 | .4 | 1.4 | -.8 | 3.3 | .6 | .4 | 0 | .4 |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil ----- | 5.1 | 2.8 | 5.8 | 3.6 | 1.9 | 3.7 | --- | 6.7 | 6.2 | 5.3 | --- |
| Housefurnishings ----- | 1.6 | 1.1 | 2.8 | .7 | .8 | 1.8 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 1.7 |
| Household operation ----- | 3.7 | 1.9 | 4.2 | 2.8 | 1.8 | 1.7 | .9 | 2.9 | 7.2 | 3.8 | 6.6 |
| Apparel ----- | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.4 | .9 | .8 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.2 | .7 | 1.7 |
| Men's and boys' ----- | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 2.0 | .5 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.5 | .8 | 2.1 |
| Women's and girls' ----- | .5 | .9 | .6 | -.9 | -1.0 | .8 | 2.0 | .3 | -.7 | .1 | .5 |
| Footwear ----- | 3.2 | 3.9 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.6 | 3.3 | 1.6 | 4.6 | 5.0 | 1.7 | 4.6 |
| Other apparel ----- | .8 | 1.0 | .8 | .5 | .7 | -.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.3 | .3 | 1.5 |
| Transportation ----- | 5.7 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.6 | 6.0 | 5.0 | 4.1 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 6.4 | 6.4 |
| Public ----- | 3.8 | 10.3 | 1.2 | 8.9 | 5.2 | 3.6 | 1.7 | .7 | .4 | 5.2 | 1.4 |
| Private ----- | 5.9 | 5.6 | 7.4 | 6.2 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.3 | 6.7 | 7.2 |
| Medical care ----- | 4.1 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 4.2 | 2.8 | 3.5 | 2.7 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 8.0 | 5.0 |
| Personal care ----- | 3.7 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 2.4 | 6.3 | 2.0 | 7.7 | 3.7 | 2.4 | 5.1 | 3.2 |
| Reading and recreation ----- | 3.8 | 2.8 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 4.7 | 1.7 | 4.5 | 8.0 | 1.7 | 4.9 | 5.8 |
| Other goods and services ----- | 2.9 | 3.1 | 4.1 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 5.1 | 3.6 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 2.4 | 3.3 |

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

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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