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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JANUARY 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.6 percent between December 1957 and January 1958, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Sharp increases for fresh fruits and vegetables, following adverse weather conditions, and substantial advances for meats, largely due to a reduced volume of livestock marketing, were primarily responsible for the rise. Prices of all major groups of goods and services except apparel and transportation were higher.

The January Consumer Price Index was 122.3 percent of the 1947-49 average, 3.5 percent higher than a year ago.

FOOD

Food prices increased 1.8 percent between December 1957 and January 1958 as freezing weather and excessive rains in some major producing areas resulted in sharp advances in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables. Prices of meats, poultry, and fish also increased markedly. The January food index at 118.2 was 4.8 percent higher than a year ago and 0.3 percent above the previous high for August 1957.

Fruit and vegetable prices advanced 7.0 percent during the month, as fresh vegetables rose 13.3 percent and fresh fruits were up 6.5 percent. Prices of all fresh vegetables rose, led by advances of 54.8 percent for green beans, 20.2 percent for tomatoes, 13.0 percent for lettuce, 3.0 percent for potatoes, and 26.0 percent for cabbage. Among fresh fruits, prices of oranges were up 10.2 percent, bananas 5.6 percent, apples 2.9 percent, and grapefruit 11.3 percent. Frozen fruits and vegetables advanced 10.1 percent in price, mainly because of a 24.4 percent increase for frozen orange juice. Canned fruits and vegetables also registered a general advance, led by an increase of 1.3 percent for orange juice.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish increased an average of 4.0 percent with most items affected. Bacon and hamburger were 7.1 percent higher, chicken 3.8 percent, round steak 3.7 percent, and pork chops 3.2 percent. There were also substantial increases for ham, chuck roast, rib roast, and leg of lamb.

Egg prices were down 8.3 percent in a continuing seasonal decline. Dairy products as a group showed no change as small declines in fluid milk in a few cities were offset by small increases for milk products. A rise of 0.7 percent in coffee prices ended a continuous 13-month decline. Cereals and bakery products advanced 0.5 percent led by increases of 0.7 percent for bread and 2.4 percent for corn flakes. Prices of restaurant meals advanced 0.1 percent.

HOUSING

Housing costs were up 0.1 percent as lower housefurnishings prices were more than offset by advances for all other component subgroups. Rents continued their upward trend with an increase of 0.1 percent. Gas and electric bills averaged 1.2 percent higher as increases were reported in several cities. The household operation and solid fuels and fuel oil groups were each up 0.1 percent. Prices of housefurnishings dropped 0.7 percent, largely as a result of January sales for household textiles, vacuum cleaners, washing machines, toasters, and some furniture items.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

The reading and recreation index rose 1.7 percent, with higher prices for sporting goods and a few reports of higher movie admissions and newspaper prices.

The rise of 0.6 percent in medical care resulted from scattered reports of advances in fees for professional services and hospital rates. Group hospitalization insurance premiums also rose in a few cities. Higher prices for face cream, toothpaste, and services of barber and beauty shops resulted in an advance of 0.6 percent for personal care.

Apparel prices fell 0.7 percent, with widespread seasonal and other sales for women's and girls' coats, women's rayon dresses, women's wool and rayon suits, men's topcoats, men's and boys' jackets, and cotton yard goods.

The transportation index declined 0.1 percent as dealers' selling prices of new automobiles dropped 1.6 percent and used car prices also were lower; automobile insurance rates and prices of gasoline were higher.

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)					
	Jan. 1958	Dec. 1957	Nov. 1957	Jan. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	122.3	121.6	121.6	118.2	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	124.7	124.5	124.6	121.0	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	120.0	119.2	119.2	115.9	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	115.4	114.7	114.7	111.9	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	113.5	113.6	113.8	111.2	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	110.5	110.3	110.9	108.2	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	117.0	117.3	117.4	114.7	99.0	58.7
All services-----	140.5	140.0	139.8	135.0	107.9	80.4
All services less rent-----	141.7	141.1	140.9	135.6	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to January 1958 from--					
		Dec. 1957	Nov. 1957	Jan. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----		0.6	0.6	3.5	20.1	105.9
All items less food-----		.2	.1	3.1	21.1	80.5
All items less shelter-----		.7	.7	3.5	19.2	116.6
All commodities-----		.6	.6	3.1	15.1	123.6
All commodities less food-----		- .1	- .3	2.1	14.2	91.1
Durables-----		.2	- .4	2.1	7.9	92.8
Non-durables-----		- .3	- .3	2.0	18.2	99.3
All services-----		.4	.5	4.1	30.2	74.8
All services less rent-----		.4	.6	4.5	32.4	92.8
	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	Jan. 1958	Dec. 1957	Nov. 1957	Jan. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar-----	\$0.82	\$0.82	\$0.82	\$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)					
	January 1958	December 1957	November 1957	January 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	122.3	121.6	121.6	118.2	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	118.2	116.1	116.0	112.8	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	116.7	114.3	114.1	111.1	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	132.5	131.8	131.6	128.0	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	110.2	106.0	104.6	99.0	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	114.6	114.6	114.5	111.2	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.9	113.9	114.6	116.9	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	113.1	114.9	115.6	112.7	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	127.1	127.0	126.8	123.8	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	136.8	136.7	136.3	134.2	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	115.7	114.3	114.3	112.3	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.4	138.3	138.0	138.9	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.2	104.9	104.5	104.0	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	129.7	129.6	129.4	125.4	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.9	107.6	107.9	106.4	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	109.0	109.5	109.4	108.4	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.8	100.1	100.8	98.9	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	129.3	129.1	129.0	126.7	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	91.9	92.3	92.6	91.9	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	138.7	138.9	140.0	133.6	109.9	70.2
Public -----	182.4	182.4	182.8	174.9	117.9	81.3
Private -----	128.4	128.6	129.7	123.8	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	141.7	140.8	140.3	135.3	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	127.8	127.0	126.7	122.1	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	116.6	114.6	114.4	109.9	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	127.0	126.8	126.8	123.8	103.7	70.6
	Percent change to January 1958 from:					
		December 1957	November 1957	January 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----		0.6	0.6	3.5	20.1	105.9
Food -----		1.8	1.9	4.8	17.6	151.0
Food at home -----		2.1	2.3	5.0	16.1	147.8
Cereals and bakery products --		.5	.7	3.5	29.0	131.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----		4.0	5.4	11.3	3.9	164.9
Dairy products -----		0	.1	3.1	24.2	130.1
Fruits and vegetables -----		7.0	6.4	4.3	18.9	163.3
Other foods at home -----		- 1.6	- 2.2	.4	20.2	133.7
Food away from home -----		.1	.2	3.5	(4/)	(4/)
Housing 2/ -----		.1	.2	2.7	21.2	67.0
Rent -----		.1	.4	1.9	25.9	58.0
Gas and electricity -----		1.2	1.2	3.0	12.7	10.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----		.1	.3	- .4	28.6	145.4
Housefurnishings -----		- .7	- .3	.2	7.0	95.1
Household operation -----		.1	.2	3.4	30.2	89.6
Apparel -----		- .7	- .9	.5	10.8	103.6
Men's and boys' -----		- .5	- .4	.6	11.1	114.6
Women's and girls' -----		- 1.3	- 2.0	- .1	5.9	81.3
Footwear -----		.2	.2	2.1	26.6	157.1
Other apparel -----		- .4	- .8	0	4.0	126.4
Transportation -----		- .1	- .9	3.8	26.2	97.6
Public -----		0	- .2	4.3	54.7	124.4
Private -----		- .2	- 1.0	3.7	20.5	96.0
Medical care -----		.6	1.0	4.7	34.4	95.2
Personal care -----		.6	.9	4.7	28.8	114.4
Reading and recreation -----		1.7	1.9	6.1	13.8	85.1
Other goods and services 3/ -----		.2	.2	2.6	22.5	79.9

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	January 1958	December 1957	January 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	122.3	121.6	118.2	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly ^{1/}					
Chicago	126.1	125.6	121.0	102.8	58.6
Detroit	123.7	123.3	120.5	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	123.7	122.9	119.6	101.3	60.4
New York	120.0	118.7	115.6	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	122.2	122.1	118.8	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in January, April, July, October ^{2/}	January 1958	October 1957	January 1957	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston	123.4	122.0	119.0	101.2	61.0
Kansas City	122.4	121.8	119.8	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis	123.2	122.2	119.4	^{3/} 102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh	122.6	121.1	118.8	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon	123.3	121.9	120.1	101.5	58.3
Cities priced in March, June, September, December ^{2/}	December 1957	September 1957	December 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
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 ^{2/}	November 1957	August 1957	November 1956	May 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

^{1/} Rents priced bimonthly.

^{2/} Foods, fuels, and a few other items priced monthly; rents and other commodities and services priced quarterly.

^{3/} June 1950.

^{4/} May 1950.

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index — Percent changes from December 1957 to January 1958
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	0.6	1.8	0.1	- 0.7	- 0.1	0.6	0.6	1.7	0.2
Chicago	.4	1.4	- .1	- 1.0	.3	2.2	.5	- 1.0	- .2
Detroit	.3	2.0	- .3	- 1.1	- 1.2	.1	1.1	2.6	.1
Los Angeles	.7	1.3	.4	- .6	- .3	1.6	.5	1.9	.1
New York	1.1	2.4	.6	- .3	0	.2	1.2	1.2	.2
Philadelphia	.1	2.0	- .6	- 2.7	- 1.5	0	.2	.9	0

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 January 1958 indexes and percent changes, October 1957 to January 1958
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in January 1958

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 -----	122.3	123.4	126.1	123.7	122.4	123.7	123.2	120.0	122.2	122.6	123.3
Food -----	118.2	117.1	115.5	119.7	113.8	121.0	116.9	118.6	121.2	119.8	118.9
Food at home -----	116.7	115.2	113.3	117.7	111.8	117.7	115.7	116.8	118.9	118.6	117.5
Cereals and bakery products --	132.5	131.1	125.5	125.8	127.4	140.0	134.2	137.4	134.0	130.4	135.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	110.2	108.9	102.7	107.1	108.0	111.3	104.9	110.7	112.2	109.8	112.2
Dairy products -----	114.6	117.9	113.0	113.5	111.6	110.2	107.7	116.5	119.8	117.1	117.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.9	118.4	121.4	133.5	113.0	122.3	126.6	120.0	124.6	121.4	115.7
Other foods at home -----	113.1	106.6	117.6	113.8	105.8	114.5	119.4	111.5	111.4	122.9	115.5
Housing -----	127.1	132.3	136.2	128.6	123.7	134.0	126.7	123.7	121.9	125.2	127.2
Rent -----	136.8	140.6	162.3	—	140.1	145.1	151.6	—	124.7	129.2	136.1
Gas and electricity -----	115.7	112.2	114.6	112.1	120.3	132.1	124.8	113.5	103.4	129.5	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.4	139.0	139.9	129.6	120.1	—	131.3	145.7	142.5	131.1	149.3
Housefurnishings -----	104.2	103.8	102.6	108.8	100.7	101.1	98.6	104.9	110.1	107.1	106.5
Household operation -----	129.7	125.5	133.4	119.2	131.5	122.6	128.6	130.3	130.0	135.6	127.6
Apparel -----	106.9	105.5	109.5	102.9	103.6	108.1	108.3	106.7	103.8	106.1	111.3
Men's and boys' -----	109.0	104.2	115.9	109.2	106.4	112.7	109.6	108.7	106.8	106.1	114.6
Women's and girls' -----	98.8	99.0	98.3	92.1	96.0	99.3	102.6	97.8	95.0	98.9	101.7
Footwear -----	129.3	127.4	131.0	123.3	123.8	129.5	125.6	131.6	127.5	126.0	135.7
Other apparel -----	91.9	103.5	95.9	84.5	87.3	84.7	94.0	96.1	91.4	100.5	96.9
Transportation -----	138.7	147.0	151.1	134.8	140.8	131.1	125.0	139.6	142.2	149.4	133.4
Public -----	182.4	167.5	194.3	153.9	214.0	154.8	166.8	189.0	187.4	217.1	176.9
Private -----	128.4	140.2	133.1	130.9	129.4	127.0	119.6	120.4	122.0	125.9	128.2
Medical care -----	141.7	154.4	150.3	151.2	152.8	134.0	171.6	129.9	142.8	147.2	140.0
Personal care -----	127.8	129.0	128.9	133.5	128.2	132.1	135.8	120.6	132.6	124.7	131.7
Reading and recreation -----	116.6	113.3	125.7	113.6	131.1	106.4	123.0	119.6	120.0	109.0	123.4
Other goods and services -----	127.0	125.0	121.3	135.8	126.5	123.8	131.5	126.4	128.6	127.1	127.1
Percent change from October 1957 to January 1958											
All items -----	1.0	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.4	0.2	1.2	1.1
Food -----	1.5	.4	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.2	1.8	.7	2.0	1.7
Food at home -----	1.7	.4	1.5	1.1	1.7	1.9	1.3	2.2	.7	2.3	1.9
Cereals and bakery products --	.8	1.0	.3	.7	.6	-.3	3.2	1.3	.8	.9	.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	3.7	3.8	3.7	2.6	5.3	2.4	4.0	3.7	3.0	4.4	3.9
Dairy products -----	.4	-2.3	.4	1.2	-.1	.5	-1.4	.7	-.2	2.5	-.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	6.5	2.7	5.9	6.4	5.6	6.8	6.7	10.5	3.7	6.8	6.6
Other foods at home -----	-2.7	-3.8	-3.2	-4.4	3.3	-.1	-4.8	-4.7	-4.3	-2.6	-.9
Housing -----	.4	1.8	.1	-.1	-.6	1.3	-.6	1.3	-.2	.9	.5
Rent -----	.6	1.4	1/ .2	—	0	1/ .3	.9	—	1/ 0	.8	0
Gas and electricity -----	1.7	.6	0	-.3	-2.0	10.5	0	2.2	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	.6	.3	.1	.1	0	—	0	1.3	3.0	0	.2
Housefurnishings -----	-.6	-.9	.2	.2	-1.2	-3.0	-1.2	-.3	-.9	-.9	-.1
Household operation -----	.8	-.2	.4	.1	.5	2.3	.2	3.2	.7	.3	.1
Apparel -----	-.7	-.4	-1.6	-1.0	-2.0	-.4	.1	-.3	-4.1	-1.1	-.5
Men's and boys' -----	-.4	-.3	-.3	-.9	-1.5	-.4	-.1	-.1	-.5	-1.8	0
Women's and girls' -----	-1.8	-1.4	-3.3	-1.3	-3.2	-1.0	.1	-1.0	-7.9	-1.3	-1.1
Footwear -----	.8	3.0	-.4	-.3	.7	.8	.6	1.5	.6	.5	.6
Other apparel -----	-.6	-.9	-.9	-2.1	-1.2	.1	0	-.1	-3.4	-.9	-1.6
Transportation -----	2.1	.9	5.4	2.7	1.4	-.3	5.4	2.0	1.9	2.7	3.3
Public -----	.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	2.4	1.2	6.8	3.2	1.6	-.4	6.1	2.6	2.6	3.5	3.8
Medical care -----	1.4	3.6	2.5	3.1	.3	2.3	.9	.4	1.4	.3	.4
Personal care -----	1.3	1.1	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.8	.7	2.6	.9	.8	1.2
Reading and recreation -----	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	4.7	5.3	1.7	2.7	2.7	3.0	2.5
Other goods and services -----	.2	.2	.1	.1	.1	.2	-.1	.2	.2	.2	.2

1/ Change from November 1957 to January 1958.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 January 1958 indexes and percent changes, December 1957 to January 1958
 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 ----	118.2	1.8	116.7	2.1	132.5	0.5	110.2	4.0	114.6	0	121.9	7.0	113.1	- 1.6
Atlanta -----	116.2	2.3	115.3	2.8	125.9	.5	112.9	3.9	114.4	2.8	123.6	7.9	106.9	- .5
Baltimore -----	118.8	1.2	115.6	1.5	127.6	.2	108.9	2.9	117.4	.2	119.4	6.6	112.0	- 2.0
Boston -----	117.1	1.6	115.2	2.0	131.1	.4	108.9	3.6	117.9	- 2.2	118.4	10.6	106.6	- 1.6
Chicago -----	115.5	1.4	113.3	1.7	125.5	.8	102.7	3.3	113.0	.3	121.4	5.5	117.6	- 1.6
Cincinnati -----	119.8	1.9	118.2	2.2	132.3	.1	112.0	4.9	117.9	.3	122.7	6.6	116.4	- 1.9
Cleveland -----	115.6	1.9	113.8	2.2	129.6	.5	105.8	4.0	110.8	.5	115.3	7.1	116.2	- 1.2
Detroit -----	119.7	2.0	117.7	2.2	125.8	.6	107.1	4.0	113.5	.4	133.5	7.2	113.8	- 1.8
Houston -----	116.3	2.5	114.8	3.1	126.5	4.5	107.3	6.0	113.0	.1	121.7	5.5	112.9	- .7
Kansas City -----	113.8	1.2	111.8	1.5	127.4	.4	108.0	4.4	111.6	.1	113.0	4.4	105.8	- 2.8
Los Angeles -----	121.0	1.3	117.7	1.6	140.0	.1	111.3	3.2	110.2	.1	122.3	4.6	114.5	- .5
Minneapolis -----	116.9	1.6	115.7	1.8	134.2	2.8	104.9	4.7	107.7	- .2	126.6	4.4	119.4	- 2.8
New York -----	118.6	2.4	116.8	2.8	137.4	.5	110.7	3.4	116.5	- .8	120.0	13.1	111.5	- 1.3
Philadelphia -----	121.2	2.0	118.9	2.2	134.0	.4	112.2	3.4	119.8	- .1	124.6	9.9	111.4	- 2.0
Pittsburgh -----	119.8	2.5	118.6	2.9	130.4	.6	109.8	4.2	117.1	2.4	121.4	8.8	122.9	- 1.0
Portland, Oreg. -----	118.9	1.2	117.5	1.3	135.7	.2	112.2	5.1	117.2	- .2	115.7	1.2	115.5	- .9
St. Louis -----	118.9	1.2	115.1	1.5	125.5	.7	107.2	4.1	103.3	0	126.0	4.1	120.6	- 2.1
San Francisco -----	121.2	1.4	119.4	1.8	140.9	.1	114.7	5.3	116.8	.2	123.3	3.9	112.5	- 1.8
Scranton -----	116.0	2.7	115.8	3.0	134.6	2.4	110.3	3.4	113.7	.4	117.4	12.9	110.2	- 1.5
Seattle -----	118.6	1.1	118.0	1.5	141.2	.1	109.6	3.3	118.5	0	122.8	4.2	111.5	- 1.2
Washington, D.C. -----	119.7	2.5	117.7	3.1	130.9	1.0	110.4	4.8	119.5	.2	121.5	11.7	113.4	- 1.6

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

Food and unit	January 1958	December 1957	Food and unit	January 1958	December 1957
Cereals and bakery products:	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	Fresh--Continued	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.2	54.9	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.8	12.8	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rice ----- 1b.	18.1	17.9	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats 1/ ----- 18 oz.	20.2	20.2	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	59.6	57.8
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.0	24.3	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	15.0	13.5
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.1	19.0	Onions ----- 1b.	8.6	8.4
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.2	Carrots ----- 1b.	17.1	16.8
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.8	24.7	Lettuce ----- head	16.9	15.0
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	14.7	13.4
Round steak ----- 1b.	100.6	97.2	Cabbage ----- 1b.	10.4	8.3
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	59.1	56.6	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	39.1	32.5
Rib roast ----- 1b.	80.3	76.5	Beans, green ----- 1b.	36.2	23.4
Hamburger ----- 1b.	47.8	44.6	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	125.1	119.5	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	34.3	33.9
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	87.9	85.2	Peaches ----- #2 can	34.3	34.0
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	75.6	70.5	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.3	34.2
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	66.3	64.4	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.1	26.0
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	76.1	72.4	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.5	17.3
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	60.3	59.2	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.3	21.3
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	47.3	46.8	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.6	15.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	46.2	44.5	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	44.1	43.3	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	50.8	49.2	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.0	33.0
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	62.9	62.9	Beans ----- 1b.	16.7	16.5
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	32.5	32.3	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.2	24.3	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.9	14.8
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.8	25.8	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.0	26.9
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.6	29.5	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.3	22.1
Butter ----- 1b.	74.9	74.9	Coffee ----- 1b. can	95.3	95.2
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	58.2	58.1	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	77.9	76.7
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.0	14.8	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	23.9	23.8
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	27.3	27.2
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	96.3	96.0
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	25.8	25.5	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.8	29.8
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	22.6	18.2	Lard ----- 1b.	22.4	22.6
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.6	19.5	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.7	37.4
Beans, green 2/ ----- 9 oz.	22.4	22.2	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	54.1	53.9
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.6	55.5
Apples ----- 1b.	13.1	12.7	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	25.1	25.1
Bananas ----- 1b.	16.9	16.0	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.6	27.5
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	63.2	57.3	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	19.3	19.5	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	61.1	66.7
Grapefruit * ----- each	12.3	11.1	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.9	8.9

* Priced only in season.
 1/ Formerly 20 oz.
 2/ Formerly 10 oz.

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NOTE: Prices for December 1957 and subsequent dates are not comparable with prices previously published because of a revision in weights for chain and independent stores. See "Retail Food Prices by Cities, January 1958," for a description of the revision.

TABLE A: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 1957 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1956 to 1957
 5 cities priced in January 1958

Group	Boston		Kansas City		Minneapolis		Pittsburgh		Portland, Ore.	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
Indexes (1947-49=100)										
All items -----	121.2	3.5	121.1	3.1	121.1	3.5	120.2	3.2	121.7	3.1
Food -----	115.0	3.6	111.5	3.1	114.2	1.4	116.8	3.4	117.0	2.8
Food at home -----	112.8	3.9	109.4	3.0	112.8	.8	115.2	3.1	115.2	2.5
Cereals and bakery products --	129.3	5.0	126.1	3.9	129.8	2.2	128.7	2.7	133.0	3.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	103.6	7.2	101.5	10.1	99.6	6.3	103.8	8.1	106.6	8.6
Dairy products -----	115.7	5.0	108.3	-.6	106.1	-4.0	113.2	3.4	116.5	3.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.2	.5	113.6	-.4	123.1	-2.0	118.6	-1.1	114.4	-4.3
Other foods at home -----	107.7	.8	106.4	-.2	120.2	-.6	122.3	.3	115.4	-.1
Housing -----	129.6	3.2	124.2	1.3	126.3	4.7	122.7	2.7	126.7	2.9
Rent -----	137.0	3.6	139.9	.5	149.3	2.5	127.7	1.5	135.4	2.4
Gas and electricity -----	111.2	1.9	121.0	-.7	124.8	0	128.2	1.4	102.0	-4.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	142.2	7.2	120.8	2.2	130.8	5.5	130.4	6.4	146.7	8.2
Housefurnishings -----	104.2	-1.6	103.7	.2	99.3	.7	106.8	1.6	106.4	2.0
Household operation -----	123.9	2.9	130.6	2.9	125.6	2.5	131.4	6.7	122.7	4.9
Apparel -----	104.4	1.3	104.4	.4	107.6	.8	106.0	2.1	111.0	1.9
Men's and boys' -----	104.0	.7	108.3	1.0	109.4	1.3	108.0	2.4	113.8	2.3
Women's and girls' -----	97.9	1.0	96.8	-.3	101.7	.1	97.9	1.8	102.2	.8
Footwear -----	123.9	4.0	122.3	1.3	124.1	3.1	124.8	2.4	132.5	3.8
Other apparel -----	103.4	0	87.9	.1	93.7	.6	100.6	1.7	97.9	2.0
Transportation -----	144.6	4.0	138.0	8.3	120.8	4.8	145.1	4.9	129.7	4.8
Public -----	167.4	.5	214.0	13.1	166.8	1.4	202.4	5.4	175.1	7.2
Private -----	137.2	5.1	126.4	7.5	115.1	5.4	123.7	4.7	124.3	4.5
Medical care -----	145.6	8.0	151.0	6.5	162.1	8.5	145.4	5.7	138.6	5.5
Personal care -----	126.6	2.6	125.6	1.7	129.2	4.0	122.1	2.7	126.9	5.6
Reading and recreation -----	110.6	1.9	123.9	6.0	120.4	2.4	106.0	1.5	119.6	1.5
Other goods and services -----	124.1	3.4	125.0	2.5	130.2	2.8	125.2	2.3	125.4	3.5

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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