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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR FEBRUARY 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.2 percent between January and February 1958, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. On the average, prices were higher for food, housing, medical care, and personal care, but transportation and apparel prices were slightly lower. The Consumer Price Index for February was 122.5 (1947-49=100), 3.2 percent higher than a year earlier.

**FOOD** The increase of 0.4 percent in prices of food between January and February was caused mainly by higher prices for meats, poultry, and fresh produce. The February food price index, at 118.7 percent of the 1947-49 average, was 4.5 percent above a year ago.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish increased an average of 1.6 percent, with nearly all items affected. Chicken prices were 3.5 percent higher, bacon 2.1 percent, chuck roast 3.4 percent, and hamburger 2.4 percent. There were also substantial increases for frankfurters and most types of fish. Ham and pork chops experienced small increases (0.2 and 0.7 percent, respectively) and rib roast prices dropped slightly.

Fruit and vegetable prices rose 2.1 percent on the average, as fresh vegetables increased 3.0 percent and fresh fruits 2.3 percent in mixed movements. Most fresh vegetables were substantially higher, with tomatoes, celery, and cabbage up 5.1, 6.1, and 9.1 percent, respectively. However, carrot prices dropped 8.5 percent and lettuce was down 4.5 percent. Among fresh fruits, increases of 3.6 percent for oranges and 3.1 percent for apples were partially offset by decreases for grapefruit and lemons. Frozen fruits and vegetables were up 2.5 percent, due mainly to a 4.9 percent increase in prices of orange juice. Canned fruits and vegetables registered a price advance of 0.5 percent, with orange juice and tomatoes up 1.6 and 1.5 percent, respectively.

Egg prices were down 7.1 percent in a continuing seasonal decline. Dairy products declined 0.1 percent, with fresh milk prices down in a few cities and evaporated milk prices slightly higher. Prices of restaurant meals increased 0.2 percent.

**HOUSING** The housing index advanced 0.2 percent as most of its component subgroups were higher. Rents were up 0.1 percent, although decreases were reported in several cities. Housefurnishings prices rose 0.7 percent as household textiles returned to regular prices following January sales, and prices of some furniture and floor coverings advanced. Costs of home repairs and maintenance rose 0.4 percent, largely because of higher prices for water heaters and sink faucets. The increase of 0.2 percent in the index for household operation resulted from further advances in prices of laundry and dry cleaning services and higher telephone rates in some cities. Gas bills were higher in February, with rate increases in two cities, but prices of fuel oil declined.

**OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES** There was a decline of 0.1 percent in transportation prices. Gasoline prices dropped 2.7 percent as a result of price wars in several cities. Automobile insurance rates rose substantially, transit fares increased in three cities, and railroad fares advanced in the Northeast.

Apparel prices declined 0.1 percent while medical care and personal care were up 0.1 and 0.2 percent, respectively.

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)					
	Feb. 1958	Jan. 1958	Dec. 1957	Feb. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	122.5	122.3	121.6	118.7	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	124.8	124.7	124.5	121.5	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	120.2	120.0	119.2	116.4	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	115.5	115.4	114.7	112.3	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	113.2	113.5	113.6	111.4	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	110.3	110.5	110.3	108.3	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	116.7	117.0	117.3	115.0	99.0	58.7
All services-----	141.0	140.5	140.0	135.7	107.9	80.4
All services less rent-----	142.3	141.7	141.1	136.5	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to February 1958 from--					
		Jan. 1958	Dec. 1957	Feb. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----		0.2	0.7	3.2	20.3	106.2
All items less food-----		.1	.2	2.7	21.2	80.6
All items less shelter-----		.2	.8	3.3	19.4	117.0
All commodities-----		.1	.7	2.8	15.2	123.8
All commodities less food-----		- .3	- .4	1.6	13.9	90.6
Durables-----		- .2	0	1.8	7.7	92.5
Non-durables-----		- .3	- .5	1.5	17.9	98.8
All services-----		.4	.7	3.9	30.7	75.4
All services less rent-----		.4	.9	4.2	33.0	93.6
	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	Feb. 1958	Jan. 1958	Dec. 1957	Feb. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar---	\$0.82	\$0.82	\$0.82	\$0.84	\$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)					
	February 1958	January 1958	December 1957	February 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	122.5	122.3	121.6	118.7	101.8	59.4
Food <sup>1/</sup> -----	118.7	118.2	116.1	113.6	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	117.2	116.7	114.3	112.0	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	132.6	132.5	131.8	129.1	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	112.0	110.2	106.0	101.4	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	114.5	114.6	114.6	111.1	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	124.4	121.9	113.9	116.5	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	111.3	113.1	114.9	113.0	94.1	48.4
Housing <sup>2/</sup> -----	127.3	127.1	127.0	124.5	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	137.0	136.8	136.7	134.2	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	115.9	115.7	114.3	112.4	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	137.2	138.4	138.3	139.3	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.9	104.2	104.9	105.0	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	129.9	129.7	129.6	125.6	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.8	106.9	107.6	106.1	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	109.0	109.0	109.5	108.6	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.6	98.8	100.1	98.2	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	129.5	129.3	129.1	127.2	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.0	91.9	92.3	91.7	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	138.5	138.7	138.9	134.4	109.9	70.2
Public -----	185.4	182.4	182.4	175.8	117.9	81.3
Private -----	127.9	128.4	128.6	124.5	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	141.9	141.7	140.8	135.5	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	128.0	127.8	127.0	122.6	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	116.6	116.6	114.6	110.0	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services <sup>3/</sup> -----	127.0	127.0	126.8	124.0	103.7	70.6

  

Group	Percent change to February 1958 from:				
	January 1958	December 1957	February 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.2	0.7	3.2	20.3	106.2
Food -----	.4	2.2	4.5	18.1	152.0
Food at home -----	.4	2.5	4.6	16.6	148.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	.1	.6	2.7	29.1	131.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.6	5.7	10.5	5.6	169.2
Dairy products -----	-.1	-.1	3.1	24.1	129.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	2.1	9.2	6.8	21.4	168.7
Other foods at home -----	-1.6	-3.1	-1.5	18.3	130.0
Food away from home -----	.2	.3	3.4	(4/)	(4/)
Housing <sup>2/</sup> -----	.2	.2	2.2	21.4	67.3
Rent -----	.1	.2	2.1	26.0	58.2
Gas and electricity -----	.2	1.4	3.1	12.9	10.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-.9	-.8	-1.5	27.5	143.3
Housefurnishings -----	.7	0	-.1	7.7	96.4
Household operation -----	.2	.2	3.4	30.4	89.9
Apparel -----	-.1	-.7	.7	10.7	103.4
Men's and boys' -----	0	-.5	.4	11.1	114.6
Women's and girls' -----	-.2	-1.5	.4	5.7	80.9
Footwear -----	.2	.3	1.8	26.8	157.5
Other apparel -----	.1	-.3	.3	4.1	126.6
Transportation -----	-.1	-.3	3.1	26.0	97.3
Public -----	1.6	1.6	5.5	57.3	128.0
Private -----	-.4	-.5	2.7	20.0	95.3
Medical care -----	.1	.8	4.7	34.6	95.5
Personal care -----	.2	.8	4.4	29.0	114.8
Reading and recreation -----	0	1.7	6.0	13.8	85.1
Other goods and services <sup>3/</sup> -----	0	.2	2.4	22.5	79.9

<sup>1/</sup> Includes restaurant meals not shown separately.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes home purchase and other home-owner costs not shown separately.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and "miscellaneous services" (such as legal services, banking fees, burial services, etc.).

<sup>4/</sup> 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	February 1958	January 1958	February 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	122.5	122.3	118.7	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly <sup>1/</sup>					
Chicago	126.2	126.1	121.5	102.8	58.6
Detroit	123.7	123.7	121.0	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	124.1	123.7	120.3	101.3	60.4
New York	120.3	120.0	115.9	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	122.3	122.2	119.7	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November <sup>2/</sup>					
	February 1958	November 1957	February 1957	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland	124.5	123.3	120.4	100.4	59.2
Houston	122.3	122.4	120.5	103.5	59.5
Scranton	119.1	117.8	115.5	100.2	58.5
Seattle	125.0	123.9	122.2	102.0	59.2
Washington, D.C.	120.3	119.4	117.5	101.6	60.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October <sup>2/</sup>					
	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	<sup>2/</sup> 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 <sup>2/</sup>					
	December 1957	September 1957	December 1956	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta	122.4	122.2	119.5	<sup>4/</sup> 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

<sup>1/</sup> Rents priced bimonthly.

<sup>2/</sup> Foods, fuels, and a few other items priced monthly; rents and other commodities and services priced quarterly.

<sup>3/</sup> June 1950.

<sup>4/</sup> May 1950.

**TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index — Percent changes from January 1958 to February 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	0.2	0.4	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.1	0.2	0	0
Chicago	.1	.6	.5	- .2	- 1.1	0	0	- 0.6	0
Detroit	0	.4	.5	- .2	- 2.4	- .3	0	.2	0
Los Angeles	.3	.3	- .1	.6	1.4	0	.3	0	0.1
New York	.2	.4	.5	0	- .4	.1	.2	0	- .2
Philadelphia	.1	.4	0	.1	- .6	0	- .2	0	0

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Soranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	122.5	126.2	124.5	123.7	122.3	124.1	120.3	122.3	119.1	125.0	120.3
Food -----	118.7	116.2	116.0	120.2	116.3	121.4	119.1	121.7	116.6	118.9	120.0
Food at home -----	117.2	113.9	114.2	118.2	114.7	118.2	117.5	119.4	116.6	118.3	118.1
Cereals and bakery products --	132.6	124.9	129.6	125.8	126.7	139.8	137.2	133.7	135.0	141.6	131.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	112.0	105.0	107.1	108.7	109.2	112.8	112.6	113.7	113.0	111.4	111.3
Dairy products -----	114.5	112.5	110.7	113.3	112.7	110.1	116.6	119.9	113.7	118.5	119.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	124.4	123.2	118.4	135.5	121.4	125.4	121.2	125.3	117.9	126.0	123.9
Other foods at home -----	111.3	116.3	113.8	112.5	110.4	112.4	110.6	111.0	109.2	108.3	111.7
Housing -----	127.3	136.9	130.7	129.3	130.4	133.9	124.3	121.9	123.3	129.5	119.5
Rent -----	137.0	—	159.9	147.8	139.0	—	125.7	—	128.8	144.6	126.7
Gas and electricity -----	115.9	114.7	115.4	117.0	115.9	132.1	113.5	103.4	117.7	86.6	124.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	137.2	139.9	139.0	130.1	—	—	143.9	142.0	146.8	138.1	142.0
Housefurnishings -----	104.9	103.8	103.2	109.8	101.5	102.0	105.2	111.0	103.3	105.9	100.3
Household operation -----	129.9	133.4	118.0	119.3	141.5	122.6	130.4	129.9	115.9	137.5	127.2
Apparel -----	106.8	109.3	108.9	102.7	111.4	108.8	106.7	103.9	108.9	108.5	103.4
Men's and boys' -----	109.0	115.9	113.6	109.0	106.8	113.5	108.6	107.1	109.9	112.2	107.7
Women's and girls' -----	98.6	97.7	99.8	91.6	107.4	100.2	97.8	95.0	101.8	100.3	96.0
Footwear -----	129.5	131.5	127.5	124.0	136.4	129.5	132.1	127.0	134.2	130.6	122.4
Other apparel -----	92.0	95.8	95.0	85.0	91.0	85.4	96.1	91.9	91.5	87.3	88.6
Transportation -----	138.5	149.4	135.2	131.5	126.9	132.9	139.0	141.4	134.9	140.7	137.9
Public -----	185.4	195.6	172.3	155.6	188.0	154.8	190.2	188.1	191.3	180.1	158.4
Private -----	127.9	131.0	126.8	126.7	118.8	129.0	119.5	120.9	120.9	129.2	131.6
Medical care -----	141.9	150.3	152.4	150.8	132.2	134.0	130.0	142.8	125.9	146.0	136.9
Personal care -----	128.0	128.9	129.1	133.5	134.7	132.5	120.9	132.4	128.3	132.4	123.8
Reading and recreation -----	116.6	125.0	126.5	113.8	115.8	106.4	119.6	120.0	136.6	120.3	121.4
Other goods and services -----	127.0	121.3	127.3	135.8	128.1	123.9	126.2	128.6	119.4	136.2	136.5
Percent change from November 1957 to February 1958											
All items -----	0.7	0.5	1.0	0.2	- 0.1	1.0	1.4	0.2	1.1	0.9	0.8
Food -----	2.3	1.8	2.0	2.6	3.3	2.2	2.7	2.3	3.9	2.1	2.7
Food at home -----	2.7	2.0	2.3	2.8	4.1	2.6	3.3	2.4	4.6	2.6	3.4
Cereals and bakery products --	.8	.3	.4	.5	4.7	-.2	1.0	.6	2.8	.5	1.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	7.1	6.4	6.6	7.4	10.4	5.5	6.6	5.9	9.8	6.7	7.5
Dairy products -----	0	-.2	.5	1.3	.3	.2	-.7	0	.3	0	.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	8.6	6.1	7.0	7.6	6.7	9.2	12.6	7.2	13.4	7.8	12.9
Other foods at home -----	- 3.7	- 4.3	- 3.8	- 4.0	- 2.6	- 2.3	- 3.8	- 3.0	- 3.4	- 2.7	- 4.5
Housing -----	.4	.4	1.0	.5	.1	.4	1.6	-.2	1.1	.5	-.8
Rent -----	.5	—	.4	-.8*	-.1	—	.4*	—	.6	.9	.5
Gas and electricity -----	1.4	.1	0	4.3	-.3	1.1	2.3	0	0	0	1.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-.6	0	2.0	1.2	—	—	- 1.0	2.7	.5	- 4.4	-.5
Housefurnishings -----	.4	1.2	-.6	.7	1.0	- 1.6	.3	.5	-.5	2.5	-.5
Household operation -----	.4	.2	.9	.2	.8	-.2	1.7	.5	0	.1	.1
Apparel -----	- 1.0	- 1.4	-.1	- 1.4	.1	.2	-.5	- 4.0	-.5	-.2	-.2
Men's and boys' -----	-.4	-.3	.1	- 1.1	- 1.5	.5	-.1	-.1	-.6	-.3	-.1
Women's and girls' -----	- 2.2	- 3.0	-.5	- 2.6	1.2	-.2	- 1.2	- 7.9	-.7	-.6	-.3
Footwear -----	.4	-.2	.4	.2	-.9	.6	.9	0	.2	.7	-.3
Other apparel -----	-.6	-.8	-.1	-.9	0	.2	-.3	- 2.9	-.4	0	-.1
Transportation -----	- 1.1	.2	- 2.2	- 4.4	- 8.7	-.1	-.9	- 2.4	- 4.9	-.4	- 2.6
Public -----	1.4	.7	.8	1.1	0	0	.6	.4	.4	0	1.1
Private -----	- 1.4	.1	- 2.8	- 5.5	- 10.1	-.1	- 1.4	- 3.2	- 5.7	-.5	- 3.4
Medical care -----	1.1	2.4	1.1	-.2	2.3	2.1	.2	1.4	.3	1.7	2.9
Personal care -----	1.0	.8	1.2	.8	1.0	1.8	1.8	.2	.9	1.1	1.1
Reading and recreation -----	1.9	- 1.8	4.6	-.2	2.1	1.8	2.7	.9	1.1	1.9	8.2
Other goods and services -----	.2	-.2	.1	0	0	.2	.1	0	.1	.1	0

\* Change from December 1957 to February 1958.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups  
February 1958 indexes and percent changes, January 1958 to February 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 ---	118.7	0.4	117.2	0.4	132.6	0.1	112.0	1.6	114.5	- 0.1	124.4	2.1	111.3	- 1.6
Atlanta -----	116.7	.4	116.0	.6	126.5	.5	114.2	1.2	114.3	- .1	128.4	3.9	104.9	- 1.9
Baltimore -----	119.4	.5	116.3	.6	128.3	.5	111.3	2.2	117.3	- .1	120.7	1.1	111.0	- .9
Boston -----	117.8	.6	116.0	.7	130.9	-.2	111.3	2.2	117.9	0	118.7	.3	106.9	.3
Chicago -----	116.2	.6	113.9	.5	124.9	-.5	105.0	2.2	112.5	- .4	123.2	1.5	116.3	- 1.1
Cincinnati -----	120.0	.2	118.6	.3	132.2	-.1	113.1	1.0	117.5	- .3	125.5	2.3	114.4	- 1.7
Cleveland -----	116.0	.3	114.2	.4	129.6	0	107.1	1.2	110.7	- .1	118.4	2.7	113.8	- 2.1
Detroit -----	120.2	.4	118.2	.4	125.8	0	108.7	1.5	113.3	- .2	135.5	1.5	112.5	- 1.1
Houston -----	116.3	0	114.7	-.1	126.7	.2	109.2	1.8	112.7	- .3	121.4	-.2	110.4	- 2.2
Kansas City -----	114.5	.6	112.7	.8	127.8	.3	109.8	1.7	111.7	- .1	116.1	2.7	104.7	- 1.0
Los Angeles -----	121.4	.3	118.2	.4	139.8	-.1	112.8	1.3	110.1	- .1	125.4	2.5	112.4	- 1.8
Minneapolis -----	117.7	.7	116.6	.8	134.5	.2	107.3	2.3	107.7	0	129.4	2.2	117.6	- 1.5
New York -----	119.1	.4	117.5	.6	137.2	-.1	112.6	1.7	116.6	.1	121.2	1.0	110.6	- .8
Philadelphia -----	121.7	.4	119.4	.4	133.7	-.2	113.7	1.3	119.9	.1	125.3	.6	111.0	- .4
Pittsburgh -----	120.4	.5	119.3	.6	130.9	.4	111.2	1.3	117.2	.1	124.8	2.8	121.3	- 1.3
Portland, Oreg. ----	118.2	-.6	117.0	-.4	135.1	-.4	113.5	1.2	117.1	- .1	116.7	.9	111.9	- 3.1
St. Louis -----	119.4	.4	115.6	.4	125.6	.1	108.2	.9	103.1	- .2	130.3	3.4	118.6	- 1.7
San Francisco -----	121.3	.1	119.6	.2	141.0	.1	116.1	1.2	116.5	- .3	126.1	2.3	109.7	- 2.5
Scranton -----	116.6	.5	116.6	.7	135.0	.3	113.0	2.4	113.7	0	117.9	.4	109.2	- .9
Seattle -----	118.9	.3	118.3	.3	141.6	.3	111.4	1.6	118.5	0	126.0	2.6	108.3	- 2.9
Washington, D.C. ----	120.0	.3	118.1	.3	131.6	.5	111.3	.8	119.5	0	123.9	2.0	111.7	- 1.5

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

Food and unit	February 1958	January 1958	Food and unit	February 1958	January 1958
<b>Cereals and bakery products:</b>	<b>Cents</b>	<b>Cents</b>	<b>Fresh—Continued</b>	<b>Cents</b>	<b>Cents</b>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.3	55.2	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.9	12.8	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rice ----- 1b.	18.1	18.1	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.2	20.2	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	61.3	59.6
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.2	25.0	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	15.5	15.0
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.1	19.1	Onions ----- 1b.	9.0	8.6
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.2	Carrots ----- 1b.	15.7	17.1
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.6	24.8	Lettuce ----- head	16.2	16.9
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Celery ----- 1b.	15.6	14.7
Round steak ----- 1b.	101.0	100.6	Cabbage ----- 1b.	11.4	10.4
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	61.1	59.1	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	41.1	39.1
Rib roast ----- 1b.	80.2	80.3	Beans, green ----- 1b.	(1/)	36.2
Hamburger ----- 1b.	49.0	47.8	<b>Canned:</b>		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	129.3	125.1	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	34.9	34.3
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	88.6	87.9	Peaches ----- #2½ can	34.2	34.2
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	77.2	75.6	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.3	34.3
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	66.5	66.3	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.1	26.1
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	78.0	76.1	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.5	17.5
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	61.0	60.3	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.2	21.3
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	47.4	47.3	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.8	15.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook -- 1b.	48.3	46.2	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 6 oz.	10.0	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	44.4	44.1	<b>Dried:</b>		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	53.0	50.8	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.0	33.0
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 18 oz.	63.0	62.9	Beans ----- 1b.	16.8	16.7
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6½ oz.	32.7	32.5	<b>Other foods at home:</b>		
<b>Dairy products:</b>			Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.4
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.2	24.2	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.0	14.9
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.7	25.8	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	27.1	27.0
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.7	29.6	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.1	22.3
Butter ----- 1b.	74.9	74.9	Coffee ----- 1b. can	95.2	95.3
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	58.2	58.2	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	77.9	77.9
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	15.0	15.0	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.0	23.9
<b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	27.3	27.3
<b>Frozen:</b>			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	94.8	96.3
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.3	25.8	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.7	29.8
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	23.7	22.6	Lard ----- 1b.	22.3	22.4
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.6	19.6	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.8	37.7
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.5	22.4	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	54.0	54.1
<b>Fresh:</b>			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.6	55.6
Apples ----- 1b.	13.5	13.1	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	25.3	25.1
Bananas ----- 1b.	17.2	16.9	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.6	27.6
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	65.5	63.2	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.8	19.3	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	56.8	61.1
Grapefruit * ----- each	11.7	12.3	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.9	8.9

\* Priced only in season.  
1/ Not available.

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

Group	Cleveland		Houston		Scranton		Seattle		Washington, D.C.	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
Indexes (1947-49=100)										
All items -----	122.1	3.5	121.5	3.1	116.9	3.5	123.1	4.2	118.3	3.0
Food -----	113.4	3.2	113.1	4.0	112.7	3.3	117.1	3.4	116.9	3.8
Food at home -----	111.4	3.1	111.1	3.6	112.3	3.5	116.1	3.3	114.6	3.5
Cereals and bakery products --	125.2	3.6	121.2	2.6	127.3	3.4	138.9	3.8	129.4	5.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	101.5	7.1	100.6	9.0	105.1	9.4	105.9	8.8	104.6	9.9
Dairy products -----	106.7	2.0	111.1	2.0	111.0	3.8	117.7	3.9	116.9	2.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	115.3	1.3	119.6	2.5	114.0	- 1.5	120.9	- 1.1	116.5	- 1.9
Other foods at home -----	116.5	- .2	111.7	.4	110.5	.1	111.6	.2	113.9	.4
Housing -----	127.9	2.8	129.3	2.4	121.1	3.1	128.4	4.4	118.9	1.7
Rent -----	157.0	4.2	138.7	.1	127.3	1.5	141.9	2.1	125.6	1.0
Gas and electricity -----	115.3	3.4	116.2	8.7	118.5	- 1.1	86.6	- 2.0	121.6	- 1.2
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	134.1	3.9	---	---	142.5	8.2	143.2	7.0	145.8	4.6
Housefurnishings -----	102.0	1.0	101.4	- .4	103.6	4.2	103.4	2.0	99.9	.3
Household operation -----	116.4	.9	136.2	4.8	114.3	3.3	134.8	10.4	126.2	.9
Apparel -----	108.0	1.6	109.9	1.9	108.5	1.2	108.5	1.3	103.9	.5
Men's and boys' -----	112.7	2.6	107.3	.8	110.5	1.6	111.7	1.5	107.8	1.2
Women's and girls' -----	99.1	.8	103.9	3.0	101.0	.4	101.0	1.2	96.9	.3
Footwear -----	126.2	2.4	137.1	2.3	132.8	3.8	129.5	1.8	122.9	1.5
Other apparel -----	94.5	.9	91.2	.4	91.6	.4	87.2	.7	88.6	- 2.9
Transportation -----	134.2	6.9	135.0	6.7	135.7	4.5	138.0	7.6	137.7	5.0
Public -----	170.9	2.1	171.8	5.0	190.6	.4	180.1	1.5	156.6	1.4
Private -----	125.8	7.9	129.5	7.0	121.8	5.2	126.5	8.4	131.6	5.6
Medical care -----	149.5	3.7	129.4	1.3	125.4	2.3	140.9	3.5	131.5	4.8
Personal care -----	126.2	2.3	132.2	2.2	125.9	2.0	129.8	5.8	120.5	2.5
Reading and recreation -----	120.6	3.2	113.8	.2	132.4	9.6	115.1	3.4	110.5	3.3
Other goods and services -----	126.0	2.5	126.6	2.9	118.3	1.2	133.6	4.1	135.0	3.1

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	Iaconia, 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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