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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.7 percent between February and March 1958, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The largest monthly advance since July 1956 was principally the result of higher prices of foods. The March Consumer Price Index reached a new high, 123.3 percent of the 1947-49 average and 3.7 percent above the level of March 1957.

FOOD Higher prices for fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, and eggs were largely responsible for a rise of 1.8 percent in food prices between February and March. The March food price index at 120.8 percent of the 1947-49 average was 6.7 percent above a year ago.

Fruit and vegetable prices were up 5.1 percent on the average. Fresh vegetables were higher by 12.0 percent as adverse growing conditions since December continued to affect total supplies. Potato prices rose 19.6 percent, lettuce 24.5 percent, onions 22.0 percent, and all other fresh vegetables priced also showed substantial increases except carrots which declined 3.6 percent. Fresh fruit prices were up 2.2 percent on the average, with oranges and apples registering seasonal increases of 3.9 and 3.6 percent, respectively, while bananas dropped 2.0 percent. Canned fruits and vegetables rose 0.8 percent with small price increases for canned fruits and a 4.0 percent rise in tomatoes more than offsetting slight decreases for peas and corn.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish increased 2.1 percent on the average with almost all priced items higher. Chicken was up 4.8 percent, chuck roast 4.7 percent, ham 3.1 percent, frankfurters 2.7 percent, round steak 2.0 percent, and pork chops 1.1 percent. There were slight decreases for bacon and leg of lamb. Fresh and frozen fish prices were up 2.7 percent on the average.

Egg prices increased 11.3 percent from a national average price of 56.8 cents per dozen to 63.2 cents. Coffee prices fell 1.2 percent. Prices of dairy products declined 0.3 percent, with seasonal reductions for fresh milk. The rise of 0.1 percent for cereals and bakery products was due mainly to increases in prices of flour and corn flakes. Prices of restaurant meals rose 0.4 percent.

HOUSING The housing index was up 0.2 percent, as increases in rents, home-owner costs, and household operation more than offset price reductions of 1.0 percent in housefurnishings and seasonally lower fuel prices. The rise of 0.1 percent in rent was about half the average monthly rate of increase during the past year. The increase of 0.6 percent in household operation resulted primarily from the introduction of annual changes in water rates, although there were some scattered advances for laundry, dry cleaning, and telephone services. Much of the price decline for housefurnishings resulted from substantial reductions for small appliances, following abandonment of fair trade policies by some major manufacturers. Prices were also lower for some larger appliances and rugs. Gas and electric bills were unchanged on the average, but prices of fuel oil declined seasonally.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES The reading and recreation index was up 0.3 percent, as higher movie admission charges for special features were reported in several cities. Prices of radios and television sets were lower.

The rise of 0.3 percent in medical care resulted from higher prices for prescriptions and drugs and for hospital and professional services. Much of the increase in personal care was the result of increases in prices of cosmetics, although toilet soap, cleansing tissues, and beauty shop services were also higher.

The private transportation index edged up 0.1 percent, largely because of higher prices for gasoline, following the termination of price wars in several cities. Prices of new and used cars declined 0.5 and 0.4 percent, respectively. Higher transit fares caused a rise of 0.3 percent in public transportation.

Apparel prices were unchanged on the average as scattered slight advances for women's wear were offset by small reductions for men's, boys', and infants' clothing.

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)					
	Mar. 1958	Feb. 1958	Jan. 1958	Mar. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	123.3	122.5	122.3	118.9	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	125.0	124.8	124.7	122.0	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	121.0	120.2	120.0	116.5	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	116.4	115.5	115.4	112.4	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	113.1	113.2	113.5	111.9	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	109.6	110.3	110.5	108.6	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	116.9	116.7	117.0	115.6	99.0	58.7
All services-----	141.7	141.0	140.5	136.3	107.9	80.4
All services less rent-----	143.1	142.3	141.7	137.1	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to March 1958 from --					
	Feb. 1958	Jan. 1958	Mar. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.7	0.8	3.7	21.1	107.6	
All items less food-----	.2	.2	2.5	21.4	80.9	
All items less shelter-----	.7	.8	3.9	20.2	118.4	
All commodities-----	.8	.9	3.6	16.1	125.6	
All commodities less food-----	- .1	- .4	1.1	13.8	90.4	
Durables-----	- .6	- .8	.9	7.0	91.3	
Non-durables-----	.2	- .1	1.1	18.1	99.1	
All services-----	.5	.9	4.0	31.3	76.2	
All services less rent-----	.6	1.0	4.4	33.7	94.7	
	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	Mar. 1958	Feb. 1958	Jan. 1958	Mar. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar-----	\$0.81	\$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)					
	March 1958	February 1958	January 1958	March 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	123.3	122.5	122.3	118.9	101.8	59.4
Food ^{1/} -----	120.8	118.7	118.2	113.2	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	119.6	117.2	116.7	111.4	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	132.7	132.6	132.5	129.8	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	114.4	112.0	110.2	100.6	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	114.1	114.5	114.6	110.7	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.7	124.4	121.9	116.1	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	113.8	111.3	113.1	111.6	94.1	48.4
Housing ^{2/} -----	127.5	127.3	127.1	124.9	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	137.1	137.0	136.8	134.4	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	115.9	115.9	115.7	112.4	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	136.7	137.2	138.4	139.2	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	103.9	104.9	104.2	104.9	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	130.7	129.9	129.7	126.2	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.8	106.8	106.9	106.8	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.9	109.0	109.0	108.8	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.8	98.6	98.8	99.3	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	129.5	129.5	129.3	127.6	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	91.9	92.0	91.9	92.2	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	138.7	138.5	138.7	135.1	109.9	70.2
Public -----	185.9	185.4	182.4	175.8	117.9	81.3
Private -----	128.0	127.9	128.4	125.2	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	142.3	141.9	141.7	136.4	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	128.3	128.0	127.8	122.9	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	117.0	116.6	116.6	110.5	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	127.2	127.0	127.0	124.2	103.7	70.6

Group	Percent change to March 1958 from:				
	February 1958	January 1958	March 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.7	0.8	3.7	21.1	107.6
Food -----	1.8	2.2	6.7	20.2	156.5
Food at home -----	2.0	2.5	7.4	19.0	153.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	.1	.2	2.2	29.2	132.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.1	3.8	13.7	7.8	175.0
Dairy products -----	-.3	-.4	3.1	23.6	129.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.1	7.2	12.6	27.5	182.3
Other foods at home -----	2.2	.6	2.0	20.9	135.1
Food away from home -----	.4	.6	3.4	(4/)	(4/)
Housing ^{2/} -----	.2	.3	2.1	21.5	67.5
Rent -----	.1	.2	2.0	26.1	58.3
Gas and electricity -----	0	.2	3.1	12.9	10.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-.4	-1.2	-1.8	27.0	142.4
Housefurnishings -----	-1.0	-.3	-1.0	6.7	94.6
Household operation -----	.6	.8	3.6	31.2	91.1
Apparel -----	0	-.1	0	10.7	103.4
Men's and boys' -----	-.1	-.1	-.1	11.0	114.4
Women's and girls' -----	.2	0	-.5	5.9	81.3
Footwear -----	0	.2	1.5	26.8	157.5
Other apparel -----	-.1	0	-.3	4.0	126.4
Transportation -----	.1	0	2.7	26.2	97.6
Public -----	.3	1.9	5.7	57.7	128.7
Private -----	.1	-.3	2.2	20.1	95.4
Medical care -----	.3	.4	4.3	35.0	96.0
Personal care -----	.2	.4	4.4	29.3	115.3
Reading and recreation -----	.3	.3	5.9	14.1	85.7
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	.2	.2	2.4	22.7	80.2

^{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	March 1958	February 1958	March 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	123.3	122.5	118.9	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly 1/					
Chicago	126.8	126.2	121.6	102.8	58.6
Detroit	124.2	123.7	121.0	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	125.0	124.1	120.4	101.3	60.4
New York	121.2	120.3	116.0	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	123.1	122.3	120.0	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/					
	March 1958	December 1957	March 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
Atlanta	124.9	122.4	120.6	3/ 101.3	58.3
Baltimore	124.1	122.1	119.9	101.6	57.9
Cincinnati	122.3	120.8	118.1	101.2	58.4
St. Louis	124.5	122.5	120.2	101.1	59.3
San Francisco	126.7	124.8	122.3	100.9	58.6
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/					
	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 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	4/ 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

1/ Rents priced bimonthly.
 2/ Foods, fuels, and a few other items priced monthly; rents and other commodities and services priced quarterly.
 3/ May 1950.
 4/ June 1950.

**TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index — Percent changes from February 1958 to March 1958
U.S. city average and five cities priced monthly
All items and commodity groups**

City	All items	Food	Housing	Apparel	Transportation	Medical care	Personal care	Reading and recreation	Other goods & services
United States city average	0.7	1.8	0.2	0	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
Chicago	.5	1.5	.1	0	-.7	0	0	.1	.6
Detroit	.4	1.7	-.3	0.3	.1	.1	.1	0	.1
Los Angeles	.7	1.6	.6	-.5	.1	0	.1	3.1	-.1
New York	.7	2.4	-.2	.1	-.1	.1	.3	-.9	.2
Philadelphia	.7	1.4	-.1	.4	2.3	.3	1.3	-.2	.1

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

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 -----	123.3	124.9	124.1	126.8	122.3	124.2	125.0	121.2	123.1	124.5	126.7
Food -----	120.8	119.3	121.5	117.9	122.6	122.2	123.3	122.0	123.4	121.8	122.9
Food at home -----	119.6	119.1	118.8	115.9	121.2	120.6	120.1	120.5	121.3	118.5	121.6
Cereals and bakery products --	132.7	126.8	128.4	124.4	132.0	125.7	140.4	137.7	134.1	125.5	141.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	114.4	117.4	112.7	107.7	115.6	110.9	115.3	115.5	115.7	111.4	119.0
Dairy products -----	114.1	114.2	117.4	111.4	117.6	111.7	110.1	115.2	119.8	103.0	116.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.7	136.1	127.3	127.0	131.4	142.8	132.0	129.9	129.3	136.7	130.2
Other foods at home -----	113.8	108.3	114.5	119.8	118.4	115.8	111.8	114.2	113.6	121.8	111.4
Housing -----	127.5	130.2	122.8	137.0	124.4	128.9	134.7	124.0	121.8	126.6	128.4
Rent -----	137.1	137.1	134.0	162.5	141.5	—	145.5	—	125.6	145.1	143.6
Gas and electricity -----	115.9	119.6	101.5	114.7	122.4	117.0	132.3	113.5	103.4	103.8	141.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	136.7	130.7	128.7	139.9	145.9	130.1	—	142.1	141.0	155.7	—
Housefurnishings -----	103.9	109.5	100.7	102.8	96.4	108.6	100.9	104.2	110.0	105.1	107.1
Household operation -----	130.7	136.1	130.0	135.0	133.8	119.4	122.6	130.5	132.0	134.7	120.9
Apparel -----	106.8	114.5	107.7	109.3	106.0	103.0	108.3	106.8	104.3	106.5	108.3
Men's and boys' -----	108.9	116.6	106.2	116.0	107.3	109.1	113.6	108.2	107.1	108.6	109.1
Women's and girls' -----	98.8	106.4	103.2	97.5	97.8	92.0	98.8	98.2	95.6	98.8	101.2
Footwear -----	129.5	139.2	127.7	132.0	134.5	124.2	129.7	131.7	127.1	126.4	133.8
Other apparel -----	91.9	93.8	96.9	95.8	89.8	85.3	85.1	95.7	92.2	96.9	90.6
Transportation -----	138.7	139.8	149.7	148.4	132.4	131.6	133.0	138.8	144.6	147.5	155.7
Public -----	185.9	188.3	188.0	195.6	183.3	155.6	162.1	190.2	188.1	206.5	182.6
Private -----	128.0	131.3	131.9	129.9	120.8	126.8	128.3	119.3	124.5	127.7	142.6
Medical care -----	142.3	135.9	146.4	150.3	148.9	150.9	134.0	130.1	143.2	158.1	142.9
Personal care -----	128.3	129.9	123.7	128.9	129.8	133.7	132.6	121.3	134.1	128.9	123.8
Reading and recreation -----	117.0	122.6	130.1	125.1	109.6	113.8	109.7	118.5	119.7	97.9	117.3
Other goods and services -----	127.2	132.5	136.4	122.0	124.2	135.9	123.8	126.5	128.7	127.0	124.4
Percent change from December 1957 to March 1958											
All items -----	1.4	2.0	1.6	1.0	1.2	0.7	1.7	2.1	0.8	1.6	1.5
Food -----	4.0	5.0	3.5	3.5	4.3	4.1	3.2	5.4	3.9	3.7	2.8
Food at home -----	4.6	6.1	4.3	4.0	4.8	4.7	3.7	6.1	4.3	4.5	3.7
Cereals and bakery products --	.7	1.2	.8	-.1	-.2	.6	.4	.7	.4	.7	.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	7.9	8.0	6.5	8.4	8.2	7.7	7.0	7.8	6.6	8.2	9.3
Dairy products -----	-.4	2.6	.2	-1.2	.1	-1.2	0	-1.9	-.1	-.3	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	14.7	18.8	13.7	10.3	14.2	14.7	12.9	22.4	14.0	13.0	9.7
Other foods at home -----	-1.0	.8	.2	.3	-.3	-.1	-2.9	1.1	-.1	-1.1	-2.8
Housing -----	.4	.2	.5	.4	0	-.1	1.0	.8	-.7	.8	.8
Rent -----	.3	.3	1.0	1/.1	.1	—	1/.3	—	1/.7	.3	1.5
Gas and electricity -----	1.4	0	.1	.1	-.6	4.1	1.3	2.3	0	0	1.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-1.2	0	-4.4	0	0	.3	—	-2.3	-1.1	1.3	—
Housefurnishings -----	-1.0	-.7	-.3	-.5	-2.0	-.7	-3.1	-.7	-1.1	.1	-.1
Household operation -----	.8	0	2.4	1.4	.1	.2	0	1.8	.9	2.0	.2
Apparel -----	-.7	.6	.7	-1.2	.3	-1.0	-.4	-.2	-2.2	.7	.1
Men's and boys' -----	-.5	1.4	.1	-.2	-1.1	-1.3	.4	-.6	-.1	0	-.3
Women's and girls' -----	-1.3	-.2	1.3	-2.6	1.5	-1.4	-1.5	-.3	-4.6	1.5	.3
Footwear -----	.3	1.3	.3	0	.1	.7	.6	.6	0	-.5	.1
Other apparel -----	-.4	.5	.2	.2	.1	-.6	-.2	-.6	-1.7	.2	0
Transportation -----	-.1	.6	-.7	-1.5	-.9	-3.6	1.1	-.6	.2	1.0	2.2
Public -----	1.9	0	.4	.7	.7	1.1	4.7	.6	.4	.6	0
Private -----	-.5	.7	-.9	-2.1	-1.2	-4.6	.7	-.9	.2	1.0	2.4
Medical care -----	1.1	2.0	1.0	2.2	.1	-.1	1.6	.3	.3	1.2	1.3
Personal care -----	1.0	.6	2.1	.5	.2	1.3	.9	1.8	1.4	.5	1.3
Reading and recreation -----	2.1	5.1	3.0	-1.5	2.3	2.8	5.1	.3	.7	1.5	1.2
Other goods and services -----	.3	.3	3.6	.4	.4	.1	.1	.3	.1	.2	.6

1/ Change from January 1958 to March 1958.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 March 1958 indexes and percent changes, February 1958 to March 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 ---	120.8	1.8	119.6	2.0	132.7	0.1	114.4	2.1	114.1	- 0.3	130.7	5.1	113.8	2.2
Atlanta -----	119.3	2.2	119.1	2.7	126.8	.2	117.4	2.8	114.2	- .1	136.1	6.0	108.3	3.2
Baltimore -----	121.5	1.8	118.8	2.1	128.4	.1	112.7	1.3	117.4	- .1	127.3	5.5	114.5	3.2
Boston -----	120.0	1.9	118.5	2.2	131.3	.3	113.2	1.7	116.6	- 1.1	127.1	7.1	109.6	2.5
Chicago -----	117.9	1.5	115.9	1.8	124.4	- .4	107.7	2.6	111.4	- 1.0	127.0	3.1	119.8	3.0
Cincinnati -----	122.6	2.2	121.2	2.2	132.0	- .2	115.6	2.2	117.6	- .1	131.4	4.7	118.4	3.5
Cleveland -----	118.1	1.8	116.5	2.0	130.1	- .4	109.5	2.2	110.7	0	122.9	3.8	116.8	2.6
Detroit -----	122.2	1.7	120.6	2.0	125.7	- .1	110.9	2.0	111.7	- 1.4	142.8	5.4	115.8	2.9
Houston -----	117.0	.6	115.5	.7	126.3	- .3	110.2	.9	112.4	- .3	124.7	2.7	110.8	.4
Kansas City -----	116.1	1.4	114.6	1.7	127.7	- .1	111.1	1.2	111.6	- .1	121.5	4.7	107.3	2.5
Los Angeles -----	123.3	1.6	120.1	1.6	140.4	- .4	115.3	2.2	110.1	0	132.0	5.3	111.8	- .5
Minneapolis -----	119.1	1.2	118.4	1.5	134.6	- .1	107.8	.5	105.7	- 1.9	136.3	5.3	121.7	3.5
New York -----	122.0	2.4	120.5	2.6	137.7	- .4	115.5	2.6	115.2	- 1.2	129.9	7.2	114.2	3.3
Philadelphia -----	123.4	1.4	121.3	1.6	134.1	- .3	115.7	1.8	119.8	- .1	129.3	3.2	113.6	2.3
Pittsburgh -----	122.4	1.7	121.6	1.9	131.0	- .1	113.4	2.0	117.4	- .2	129.4	3.7	124.9	3.0
Portland, Oreg. -----	119.2	.8	118.2	1.0	135.2	- .1	115.6	1.9	117.2	- .1	120.2	3.0	112.0	- .1
St. Louis -----	121.8	2.0	118.5	2.5	125.5	- .1	111.4	3.0	103.0	- .1	136.7	4.9	121.8	2.7
San Francisco -----	122.9	1.3	121.6	1.7	141.0	0	119.0	2.5	116.9	.3	130.2	3.3	111.4	1.5
Saranton -----	119.0	2.1	119.3	2.3	134.6	- .3	114.9	1.7	113.7	0	126.2	7.0	113.0	3.5
Seattle -----	120.3	1.2	119.9	1.4	141.8	- .1	113.8	2.2	118.7	.2	129.4	2.7	109.4	1.0
Washington, D.C. -----	122.9	2.4	121.6	3.0	132.9	1.0	115.0	3.3	119.9	.3	130.9	5.6	115.4	3.3

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

Food and unit	March 1958	February 1958	Food and unit	March 1958	February 1958
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 8 lb.	55.5	55.3	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.8	12.9	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rice ----- 1b.	18.1	18.1	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.3	20.2	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	73.2	61.3
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.3	25.2	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	16.5	15.5
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.1	19.1	Onions ----- 1b.	11.0	9.0
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.2	Carrots ----- 1b.	15.1	15.7
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.7	24.6	Lettuce ----- head	20.2	16.2
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	15.8	15.6
Round steak ----- 1b.	103.1	101.0	Cabbage ----- 1b.	12.0	11.4
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	64.1	61.1	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	41.8	41.1
Rib roast ----- 1b.	81.0	80.2	Beans, green ----- 1b.	(1/)	(1/)
Hamburger ----- 1b.	50.3	49.0	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	131.2	129.3	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	35.1	34.9
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	89.5	88.6	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.3	34.2
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	77.1	77.2	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.5	34.3
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	68.4	66.5	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.1	26.1
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	77.5	78.0	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.5	17.5
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	62.7	61.0	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.2	21.2
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	47.6	47.4	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.6	15.8
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	49.9	48.3	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 8 oz.	10.0	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	44.7	44.4	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	55.9	53.0	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.0	33.0
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	63.1	63.0	Beans ----- 1b.	17.3	16.8
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.8	32.7	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.0	24.2	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.6	25.7	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.2	27.1
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.6	29.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	21.8	22.1
Butter ----- 1b.	74.9	74.9	Coffee ----- 1b. can	93.4	95.2
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	58.3	58.2	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	77.9	77.9
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.1	15.0	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.0	24.0
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	27.3	27.3
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	95.2	94.8
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.6	26.3	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.8	29.7
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	24.7	23.7	Lard ----- 1b.	22.4	22.3
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.5	19.6	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.8	37.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.0	22.5	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	54.3	54.0
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.5	55.6
Apples ----- 1b.	14.0	13.5	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	25.5	25.3
Bananas ----- 1b.	16.9	17.2	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.7	27.6
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	68.0	65.5	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	19.0	18.8	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	63.2	56.8
Grapefruit * ----- each	11.9	11.7	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.9	8.9

* Priced only in season.
 1/Not available.

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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