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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR APRIL 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.2 percent between March and April 1958, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. A seasonal advance in food prices, particularly fresh produce, was largely responsible for the increase, although housing, medical care, and personal care were also higher. Transportation and apparel prices declined.

The April Consumer Price Index was 123.5 (1947-49=100), 3.5 percent higher than in April 1957.

FOOD

The increase of 0.7 percent in prices of food between March and April was the result of substantial price increases in the fruits and vegetables and meats, poultry, and fish groups, which more than offset decreases in the "other foods at home" and dairy products groups. The April food price index at 121.6 percent of the 1947-49 average was 6.9 percent above a year ago.

The increase of 4.5 percent in prices of fruits and vegetables represented the joint effect of seasonal influences plus a continuation of the effects of prior adverse growing conditions. Fresh fruit prices were up 9.4 percent over the month, with advances of 14.4, 9.4, and 10.4 percent for oranges, apples, and grapefruit, respectively, while banana prices dropped 6.2 percent. Fresh vegetable prices rose 2.9 percent on the average as potato prices advanced 12.6 percent, tomatoes 10.2 percent, onions 24.1 percent, and celery 20.7 percent. Green beans returned to the market at prices substantially lower than when they were last available. Carrots and lettuce declined 11.0 and 3.7 percent, respectively. Increases in prices of canned tomatoes and canned and frozen orange juice more than offset modest decreases for canned peaches and peas.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish advanced 1.3 percent on the average with higher prices for most meats only partially offset by a 4.1 percent decrease for chicken. Bacon rose 3.2 percent in price, hamburger 5.6 percent, chuck roast 2.7 percent, round steak 2.6 percent, and frankfurters, rib roast, and pork chops about 2 percent each. Fish prices were up 0.4 percent on the average.

Egg prices dropped 6.7 percent to a national average price of 59 cents per dozen. Coffee prices were down 0.8 percent. Prices of dairy products declined 1.4 percent with fresh milk down about 2.0 percent seasonally and butter down 1.4 percent. Cereal and bakery product prices were unchanged on the average. Prices of restaurant meals rose 0.2 percent.

HOUSING

The housing index advanced 0.2 percent, as most of its component subgroups rose. Rent, gas and electricity, and housefurnishings were up 0.1 percent each, while household operation costs rose 0.2 percent. Home-ownership costs also were higher, due largely to the increase in interest rates on VA-insured mortgages. The decline of 1.8 percent in prices of solid fuels and fuel oil resulted from seasonal reductions of 4.3 percent for anthracite and 2.4 percent for fuel oil.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

The rise of 0.3 percent in costs of medical care reflected higher rates for professional services, hospital room rates, and prescriptions. Group hospitalization premiums showed no change. The personal care index was up 0.2 percent, largely because of higher prices for toiletries, particularly face cream.

The transportation index declined 0.3 percent as gasoline prices dropped 1.1 percent to their lowest level in 16 months. Dealers' prices of new cars fell 0.7 percent, and tires 0.9 percent. Used car prices rose 0.9 percent and there were small advances for auto insurance and local transit fares.

Apparel prices declined 0.1 percent as reductions due to clearance sales for women's coats, suits, and rayon dresses more than offset higher prices for men's slacks and suits and men's and women's shoes.

The reading and recreation index showed no change. Lower prices for television and radio sets were offset by increased rates for TV repairs and newspapers.

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)					
	Apr. 1958	Mar. 1958	Feb. 1958	Apr. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	123.5	123.3	122.5	119.3	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	125.0	125.0	124.8	122.3	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	121.2	121.0	120.2	116.9	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	116.6	116.4	115.5	112.8	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	112.8	113.1	113.2	112.1	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	109.6	109.6	110.3	108.8	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	116.6	116.9	116.7	115.8	99.0	58.7
All services-----	142.1	141.7	141.0	136.7	107.9	80.4
All services less rent-----	143.5	143.1	142.3	137.6	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to April 1958 from --					
	Mar. 1958	Feb. 1958	Apr. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.2	0.8	3.5	21.3	107.9	
All items less food-----	0	.2	2.2	21.4	80.9	
All items less shelter-----	.2	.8	3.7	20.4	118.8	
All commodities-----	.2	1.0	3.4	16.3	126.0	
All commodities less food-----	-.3	-.4	.6	13.5	89.9	
Durables-----	0	-.6	.7	7.0	91.3	
Non-durables-----	-.3	-.1	.7	17.8	98.6	
All services-----	.3	.8	4.0	31.7	76.7	
All services less rent-----	.3	.8	4.3	34.1	95.2	
	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	Apr. 1958	Mar. 1958	Feb. 1958	Apr. 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar--	\$0.81	\$0.81	\$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)					
	April 1958	March 1958	February 1958	April 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	123.5	123.3	122.5	119.3	101.8	59.4
Food ^{1/} -----	121.6	120.8	118.7	113.8	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	120.5	119.6	117.2	112.1	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	132.7	132.7	132.6	130.1	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.9	114.4	112.0	102.0	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	112.5	114.1	114.5	110.5	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	136.6	130.7	124.4	118.7	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	112.4	113.8	111.3	111.0	94.1	48.4
Food away from home -----						
Housing ^{2/} -----	127.7	127.5	127.3	125.2	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	137.3	137.1	137.0	134.5	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	116.0	115.9	115.9	112.4	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	134.2	136.7	137.2	138.1	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	103.9	104.9	105.1	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	130.9	130.7	129.9	126.4	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.7	106.8	106.8	106.5	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	109.1	108.9	109.0	108.8	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.2	98.8	98.6	98.7	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	129.8	129.5	129.5	127.3	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	91.9	91.9	92.0	92.0	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	138.3	138.7	138.5	135.5	109.9	70.2
Public -----	186.1	185.9	185.4	176.8	117.9	81.3
Private -----	127.6	128.0	127.9	125.5	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	142.7	142.3	141.9	136.9	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	128.5	128.3	128.0	123.3	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	117.0	117.0	116.6	111.8	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	127.2	127.2	127.0	124.2	103.7	70.6

Group	Percent change to April 1958 from:				
	March 1958	February 1958	April 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items -----	0.2	0.8	3.5	21.3	107.9
Food -----	.7	2.4	6.9	21.0	158.2
Food at home -----	.8	2.8	7.5	19.9	155.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	0	.1	2.0	29.2	132.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.3	3.5	13.6	9.2	178.6
Dairy products -----	- 1.4	- 1.7	1.8	21.9	125.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	4.5	9.8	15.1	33.3	195.0
Other foods at home -----	- 1.2	1.0	1.3	19.4	132.2
Food away from home -----	.2	.6	3.3	(4/)	(4/)
Housing ^{2/} -----	.2	.3	2.0	21.7	67.8
Rent -----	.1	.2	2.1	26.3	58.5
Gas and electricity -----	.1	.1	3.2	13.0	10.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- 1.8	- 2.2	- 2.8	24.7	137.9
Housefurnishings -----	.1	- .9	- 1.0	6.8	94.8
Household operation -----	.2	.8	3.6	31.4	91.4
Apparel -----	- .1	- .1	.2	10.6	103.2
Men's and boys' -----	.2	.1	.3	11.2	114.8
Women's and girls' -----	- .6	- .4	- .5	5.3	80.2
Footwear -----	.2	.2	2.0	27.1	158.1
Other apparel -----	0	- .1	- .1	4.0	126.4
Transportation -----	- .3	- .1	2.1	25.8	97.0
Public -----	.1	.4	5.3	57.8	128.9
Private -----	- .3	- .2	1.7	19.7	94.8
Medical care -----	.3	.6	4.2	35.4	96.6
Personal care -----	.2	.4	4.2	29.5	115.6
Reading and recreation -----	0	.3	4.7	14.1	85.7
Other goods and services ^{3/} -----	0	.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	April 1958	March 1958	April 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	123.5	123.3	119.3	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly ^{1/}					
Chicago	127.0	126.8	122.0	102.8	58.6
Detroit	124.4	124.2	121.4	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	125.6	125.0	120.6	101.3	60.4
New York	121.2	121.2	116.9	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	122.9	123.1	119.7	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in January, April, July, October ^{2/}	April 1958	January 1958	April 1957	April 1950	Year 1939
Boston	124.5	123.4	120.2	101.2	61.0
Kansas City	123.7	122.4	120.4	101.4	61.7
Minneapolis	124.1	123.2	119.8	^{3/} 102.1	60.7
Pittsburgh	123.8	122.6	118.8	99.9	58.1
Portland, Oregon	125.0	123.3	121.6	101.5	58.3
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	^{4/} 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

^{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 March 1958 to April 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	0.7	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.3	0.3	0.2	0	0
Chicago	.2	.4	.1	- .4	- .1	.1	.2	0.8	0
Detroit	.2	.7	0	.3	- .6	.1	0	-.3	0
Los Angeles	.5	1.5	.2	-.2	.7	2.0	.4	- 5.6	0.2
New York	0	.1	.2	-.9	.4	0	.2	-.3	-.2
Philadelphia	-.2	0	-.5	-.6	.2	.2	.3	^{1/} -.5	0

^{1/} Based on revised index for March, 120.2.

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minne- apolis	New York	Phila- delphia	Pitts- burgh	Portland, Oregon
	Indexes (1947-49=100)										
All items -----	123.5	124.5	127.0	124.4	123.7	125.6	124.1	121.2	122.9	123.8	125.0
Food -----	121.6	120.4	118.4	123.1	115.5	125.2	120.0	122.1	123.4	122.7	121.2
Food at home -----	120.5	119.0	116.5	121.6	114.1	122.3	119.1	120.5	121.4	121.7	120.4
Cereals and bakery products --	132.7	131.0	124.4	125.6	127.6	141.3	134.3	137.7	133.8	130.7	135.3
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	115.9	114.2	108.3	113.1	112.3	116.4	109.3	116.6	116.5	114.1	117.0
Dairy products -----	112.5	113.9	111.1	110.2	98.7	108.5	104.7	114.0	115.6	114.5	117.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	136.6	133.5	132.0	148.6	129.0	142.2	141.9	132.0	135.4	136.2	128.2
Other foods at home -----	112.4	107.9	117.6	114.3	106.4	112.8	119.5	111.8	111.9	121.8	113.5
Housing -----	127.7	131.9	137.1	128.9	125.7	135.0	127.2	124.2	121.2	126.6	128.9
Rent -----	137.3	141.5	—	147.8	141.1	—	151.8	126.2	—	129.9	135.8
Gas and electricity -----	116.0	112.0	114.7	116.9	120.4	132.3	127.6	113.5	103.4	130.2	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	134.2	132.0	136.0	130.1	120.1	—	129.8	137.1	140.3	131.1	139.9
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	103.0	102.4	109.5	103.2	100.7	97.9	104.1	109.1	107.6	108.0
Household operation -----	130.9	127.2	135.1	121.4	135.9	121.4	132.8	130.6	132.0	137.0	128.0
Apparel -----	106.7	105.3	108.9	103.3	104.7	108.1	108.1	105.8	103.7	105.3	111.7
Men's and boys' -----	109.1	104.2	116.3	109.5	108.4	113.4	109.7	108.5	107.1	105.5	114.2
Women's and girls' -----	98.2	99.5	96.0	92.1	96.7	98.7	102.0	96.1	94.2	97.7	102.4
Footwear -----	129.8	124.0	133.7	124.7	124.5	129.8	125.6	131.9	128.7	126.2	135.7
Other apparel -----	91.9	103.5	95.4	85.1	87.9	84.7	93.7	95.7	92.0	100.2	98.5
Transportation -----	138.3	149.5	148.2	130.8	142.0	133.9	123.2	139.3	144.9	148.8	136.9
Public -----	186.1	168.1	195.6	155.6	251.4	162.1	166.8	190.2	188.1	218.7	196.8
Private -----	127.6	143.2	129.7	126.0	126.8	129.2	117.6	119.8	124.8	124.9	130.0
Medical care -----	142.7	154.8	150.5	151.0	153.0	136.7	174.4	130.1	143.5	147.4	140.4
Personal care -----	128.5	129.4	129.2	133.7	128.2	133.1	136.4	121.5	134.5	124.7	132.1
Reading and recreation -----	117.0	112.3	126.1	113.5	131.1	103.6	124.7	118.1	119.6	108.3	124.3
Other goods and services -----	127.2	125.0	122.0	135.9	125.9	124.0	131.2	126.3	128.7	127.4	127.5
	Percent change from January 1958 to April 1958										
All items -----	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.6	1.1	1.5	0.7	1.0	0.6	1.0	1.4
Food -----	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.8	1.5	3.5	2.7	3.0	1.8	2.4	1.9
Food at home -----	3.3	3.3	2.8	3.3	2.1	3.9	2.9	3.2	2.1	2.6	2.5
Cereals and bakery products --	.2	-.1	-.9	-.2	.2	.9	.1	.2	-.1	.2	-.3
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	5.2	4.9	5.5	5.6	4.0	4.6	4.2	5.3	3.8	3.4	4.3
Dairy products -----	-1.8	-3.4	-1.7	-2.9	-11.6	-1.5	-2.8	-2.1	-3.5	-2.2	-.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	12.1	12.8	8.7	11.3	14.2	16.3	12.1	10.0	8.7	12.2	10.8
Other foods at home -----	-.6	1.2	0	.4	.6	-1.5	.1	.3	.4	-.9	-1.7
Housing -----	.5	-.3	.7	.2	1/1.5	.7	.4	.4	-.6	1.1	1.3
Rent -----	.4	.6	—	* 0	.7	—	.1	* .4	—	.5	-.2
Gas and electricity -----	.3	-.2	.1	4.3	.1	.2	2.2	0	0	.5	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-3.0	-5.0	-2.8	.4	0	—	-1.1	-5.9	-1.5	0	-6.3
Housefurnishings -----	-.2	-.8	-.2	.6	1/1.9	-.4	-.7	-.8	-.9	.5	1.4
Household operation -----	.9	1.4	1.3	1.8	3.3	-1.0	3.3	.2	1.5	1.0	.3
Apparel -----	-.2	2/ .3	-.5	.4	1.1	0	-.2	-.8	-.1	-.8	.4
Men's and boys' -----	.1	0	.3	.3	1.9	.6	.1	-.2	.3	-.6	-.3
Women's and girls' -----	-.6	.5	-2.3	0	.7	-.6	-.6	-1.7	-.8	-1.2	.7
Footwear -----	.4	2/-.2	2.1	1.1	.6	.2	0	.2	.9	.2	0
Other apparel -----	0	0	-.5	.7	.7	0	-.3	-.4	.7	-.3	1.7
Transportation -----	-.3	1.7	-1.9	-3.0	.9	2.1	-1.4	-.2	1.9	-.4	2.6
Public -----	2.0	.4	.7	1.1	17.5	4.7	0	.6	.4	.7	11.2
Private -----	-.6	2.1	-2.6	-3.7	-2.0	1.7	-1.7	-.5	2.3	-.8	1.4
Medical care -----	.7	.3	.1	-.1	.1	2.0	1.6	.2	.5	.1	.3
Personal care -----	.5	.3	.2	.1	0	.8	.4	.7	1.4	0	.3
Reading and recreation -----	.3	-.9	.3	-.1	0	-2.6	1.4	-1.3	-.3	-.6	.7
Other goods and services -----	.2	0	.6	.1	-.5	.2	-.2	-.1	.1	.2	.3

* Change from February 1958 to April 1958.

Percent changes are based on the following revised indexes for January 1958:

1/ Kansas City: housing, 123.9; housefurnishings, 101.3.

2/ Boston: apparel, 105.0; footwear, 124.3.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 April 1958 indexes and percent changes, March 1958 to April 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 ---	121.6	0.7	120.5	0.8	132.7	0	115.9	1.3	112.5	- 1.4	136.6	4.5	112.4	- 1.2
Atlanta -----	119.4	.1	119.2	.1	126.3	- 0.4	119.3	1.6	113.9	- .3	137.7	1.2	105.7	- 2.4
Baltimore -----	122.5	.8	120.0	1.0	128.4	0	115.2	2.2	117.3	- .1	132.0	3.7	113.2	- 1.1
Boston -----	120.4	.3	119.0	.4	131.0	- .2	114.2	.9	113.9	- 2.3	133.5	5.0	107.9	- 1.6
Chicago -----	118.4	.4	116.5	.5	124.4	0	108.3	.6	111.1	- .3	132.0	3.9	117.6	- 1.8
Cincinnati -----	123.3	.6	122.0	.7	132.5	.4	117.2	1.4	116.0	- 1.4	136.7	4.0	116.3	- 1.8
Cleveland -----	118.5	.3	117.0	.4	130.1	0	110.9	1.3	107.7	- 2.7	127.3	3.6	115.9	- .8
Detroit -----	123.1	.7	121.6	.8	125.6	- .1	113.1	2.0	110.2	- 1.3	148.6	4.1	114.3	- 1.3
Houston -----	118.2	1.0	116.8	1.1	126.6	.2	110.7	.5	112.6	.2	131.7	5.6	110.5	- .3
Kansas City -----	115.5	-.5	114.1	-.4	127.6	-.1	112.3	1.1	98.7	-11.6	129.0	6.2	106.4	- .8
Los Angeles -----	125.2	1.5	122.3	1.8	141.3	.6	116.4	1.0	108.5	- 1.5	142.2	7.7	112.8	.9
Minneapolis -----	120.0	.8	119.1	.6	134.3	- .2	109.3	1.4	104.7	- .9	141.9	4.1	119.5	- 1.8
New York -----	122.1	.1	120.5	0	137.7	0	116.6	1.0	114.0	- 1.0	132.0	1.6	111.8	- 2.1
Philadelphia -----	123.4	0	121.4	.1	133.8	- .2	116.5	.7	115.6	- 3.5	135.4	4.7	111.9	- 1.5
Pittsburgh -----	122.7	.2	121.7	.1	130.7	- .2	114.1	.6	114.5	- 2.5	136.2	5.3	121.8	- 2.5
Portland, Oreg. ----	121.2	1.7	120.4	1.9	135.3	.1	117.0	1.2	117.0	- .2	128.2	6.7	113.5	1.3
St. Louis -----	122.1	.2	118.9	.3	125.5	0	113.2	1.6	101.6	- 1.4	140.3	2.6	119.5	- 1.9
San Francisco -----	124.1	1.0	123.1	1.2	141.0	0	120.4	1.2	113.9	- 2.6	139.9	7.5	110.8	- .5
Scranton -----	119.7	.6	120.1	.7	135.3	.5	116.8	1.7	110.8	- 2.6	133.4	5.7	110.7	- 2.0
Seattle -----	122.5	1.8	122.6	2.3	142.0	.1	116.7	2.5	118.5	- .2	140.1	8.3	109.4	0
Washington, D.C. ---	123.2	.2	122.0	.3	132.1	-.6	115.5	.4	118.0	- 1.6	136.2	4.0	114.3	- 1.0

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

Food and unit	April 1958	March 1958	Food and unit	April 1958	March 1958
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.6	55.5	Peaches * ----- 1b.	(1/)	
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.8	12.8	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rice ----- 1b.	18.1	18.1	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.3	20.3	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	82.5	73.2
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.4	25.3	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	17.1	16.5
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.1	19.1	Onions ----- 1b.	13.6	11.0
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.2	Carrots ----- 1b.	13.5	15.1
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.7	Lettuce ----- head	19.4	20.2
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	19.0	15.8
Round steak ----- 1b.	105.8	103.1	Cabbage ----- 1b.	11.1	12.0
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	65.7	64.1	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	46.1	41.8
Rib roast ----- 1b.	82.6	81.0	Beans, green ----- 1b.	28.8	(1/)
Hamburger ----- 1b.	53.1	50.3	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	131.8	131.2	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	35.9	35.1
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	91.2	89.5	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.0	34.3
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	79.5	77.1	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.5	34.5
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	68.6	68.4	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.1	26.1
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	78.1	77.5	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.5	17.5
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	64.0	62.7	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.0	21.2
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	48.2	47.6	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	17.6	16.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	48.1	49.9	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	45.5	44.7	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	56.5	55.9	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.2	33.0
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	63.1	63.1	Beans ----- 1b.	17.9	17.3
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.9	32.8	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.6	24.0	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.1
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.9	25.6	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.1	27.2
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.7	29.6	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	21.9	21.8
Butter ----- 1b.	73.9	74.9	Coffee ----- 1b. can	92.8	93.4
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	58.2	58.3	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	77.2	77.9
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.1	15.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.0	24.0
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	27.4	27.3
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	95.8	95.2
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.5	26.6	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.8	29.8
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	25.9	24.7	Lard ----- 1b.	22.4	22.4
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.4	19.5	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.7	37.3
Beans, green ----- 10 oz.	23.2	23.0	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	54.3	54.3
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.7	55.5
Apples ----- 1b.	15.3	14.0	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	25.7	25.5
Bananas ----- 1b.	15.9	16.9	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.7	27.7
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	77.8	68.0	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.9	4.5
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.3	19.0	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	59.0	63.2
Grapefruit * ----- each	13.1	11.9	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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