

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MAY 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.1 percent between April and May 1958, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher medical care and transportation prices were largely responsible for the moderate advance, as average prices of food and apparel were unchanged and reading and recreation declined. Services advanced 0.1 percent, while commodity prices (including food) were unchanged, with a slight increase in prices of durables offsetting lower prices for non-durables.

The May Consumer Price Index was 123.6 percent of the 1947-49 average, 3.3 percent higher than in May 1957.

FOOD

Food prices were unchanged on the average between April and May after advancing during the past 5 months. Higher prices for meats, poultry, and fresh fruits were offset by price reductions for fresh vegetables, eggs, and fresh milk. The May food price index at 121.6 percent of the 1947-49 average was 6.1 percent above a year ago.

The increase of 0.5 percent in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables was the net effect of widely divergent movements, with fruits generally up and vegetables generally down. Fresh fruit prices were up 4.7 percent on the average with apples up 18.3 percent, grapefruit 14.4 percent, and bananas 5.6 percent. Prices of oranges were down 4.8 percent. Fresh vegetable prices dropped 3.5 percent, as favorable growing conditions resulted in more plentiful supplies. Prices of potatoes, onions, and tomatoes declined for the first time this year, 7.6, 16.8, and 3.7 percent, respectively, while lettuce was up 7.6 percent and celery 11.0 percent. Prices of frozen fruits and vegetables increased 0.6 percent, due mainly to a 1.2 percent price increase in orange juice concentrate; canned fruits and vegetables were up 0.8 percent largely because of increases of 2.7 percent for orange juice and 2.4 percent for tomatoes.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish increased 0.6 percent on the average. Chicken prices advanced 2.0 percent and smaller increases were reported for bacon, hamburger, frankfurters, and canned luncheon meat. Chuck roast, ham, and leg of lamb were lower in price on the average.

Egg prices decreased 4.0 percent and coffee was down 1.0 percent while the price per ounce of chocolate bars rose 3.3 percent. Prices of dairy products decreased 0.6 percent with a continuing seasonal decline of 0.8 percent in prices of fresh milk. Prices of restaurant meals advanced 0.2 percent.

HOUSING

The rise of 0.1 percent in the housing index reflected increases of 0.1 percent for rent, 0.3 percent for home repairs and maintenance, and 0.4 percent for gas and electricity. Prices of the solid fuels and fuel oil group dropped 1.9 percent principally because of seasonal reductions in coal prices. House-furnishings prices were unchanged on the average as customary May white sale prices for sheets, towels, and curtains and lower prices for floor coverings were offset by increases in prices of dinnerware and some furniture items.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Medical care costs rose 0.7 percent, mainly because of increases in premiums for two group hospitalization plans affecting four cities. Rates for professional and hospital services also were higher.

The average price increase of 0.3 percent in transportation reflected higher prices for gasoline, following termination of price wars in several cities, and for used cars; prices of new cars and tires were lower.

The reading and recreation group declined 0.3 percent, primarily because of lower movie admission charges and prices of television sets and radios. Newspaper prices advanced in two small cities and TV repair services were slightly higher.

Apparel prices were unchanged on the average. Prices were somewhat lower for men's sport shirts, underwear, work gloves, and street shoes. Higher prices were reported for women's cotton and rayon dresses and shoes.

Personal care and "other goods and services" remained at their April levels.

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)					
	May 1958	April 1958	March 1958	May 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
All items-----	123.6	123.5	123.3	119.6	101.8	59.4
All items less food-----	125.1	125.0	125.0	122.3	103.0	69.1
All items less shelter-----	121.3	121.2	121.0	117.1	100.7	55.4
All commodities-----	116.6	116.6	116.4	113.0	100.3	51.6
All commodities less food-----	112.9	112.8	113.1	111.8	99.4	59.4
Durables-----	109.7	109.6	109.6	108.3	102.4	57.3
Non-durables-----	116.5	116.6	116.9	115.6	99.0	58.7
All services-----	142.3	142.1	141.7	137.2	107.9	80.4
All services less rent-----	143.8	143.5	143.1	138.1	107.0	73.5
	Percent change to May 1958 from --					
	April 1958	March 1958	May 1957	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items-----	0.1	0.2	3.3	21.4	108.1	
All items less food-----	.1	.1	2.3	21.5	81.0	
All items less shelter-----	.1	.2	3.6	20.5	119.0	
All commodities-----	0	.2	3.2	16.3	126.0	
All commodities less food-----	.1	-.2	1.0	13.6	90.1	
Durables-----	.1	.1	1.3	7.1	91.4	
Non-durables-----	-.1	-.3	.8	17.7	98.5	
All services-----	.1	.4	3.7	31.9	77.0	
All services less rent-----	.2	.5	4.1	34.4	95.6	
	(1947-49=\$1.00)*					
	May 1958	April 1958	March 1958	May 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar-----	\$0.81	\$0.81	\$0.81	\$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)					
	May 1958	April 1958	March 1958	May 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
	This month	Last month	2 months ago	Last year	Pre-Korea	Pre-World War II
All items -----	123.6	123.5	123.3	119.6	101.8	59.4
Food 1/ -----	121.6	121.6	120.8	114.6	100.5	47.1
Food at home -----	120.5	120.5	119.6	113.0	100.5	47.1
Cereals and bakery products --	132.8	132.7	132.7	130.4	102.7	57.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	116.6	115.9	114.4	103.7	106.1	41.6
Dairy products -----	111.8	112.5	114.1	110.0	92.3	49.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	137.4	136.6	130.7	122.5	102.5	46.3
Other foods at home -----	111.5	112.4	113.8	109.9	94.1	48.4
Housing 2/ -----	127.8	127.7	127.5	125.3	104.9	76.1
Rent -----	137.5	137.3	137.1	134.7	108.7	86.6
Gas and electricity -----	116.5	116.0	115.9	112.3	102.7	104.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	131.6	134.2	136.7	135.4	107.6	56.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	104.0	103.9	104.2	97.4	53.4
Household operation -----	130.9	130.9	130.7	127.3	99.6	68.4
Apparel -----	106.7	106.7	106.8	106.5	96.5	52.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.9	109.1	108.9	109.0	98.1	50.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.4	98.2	98.8	98.6	93.3	54.5
Footwear -----	129.7	129.8	129.5	127.8	102.1	50.3
Other apparel -----	92.1	91.9	91.9	92.0	88.4	40.6
Transportation -----	138.7	138.3	138.7	135.3	109.9	70.2
Public -----	186.1	186.1	185.9	176.8	117.9	81.3
Private -----	128.0	127.6	128.0	125.4	106.6	65.5
Medical care -----	143.7	142.7	142.3	137.3	105.4	72.6
Personal care -----	128.5	128.5	128.3	123.4	99.2	59.6
Reading and recreation -----	116.6	117.0	117.0	111.4	102.5	63.0
Other goods and services 3/ -----	127.2	127.2	127.2	124.3	103.7	70.6
	Percent change to May 1958 from:					
	April 1958	March 1958	May 1957	June 1950	Year 1939	
All items -----	0.1	0.2	3.3	21.4	108.1	
Food -----	0	.7	6.1	21.0	158.2	
Food at home -----	0	.8	6.6	19.9	155.8	
Cereals and bakery products --	.1	.1	1.8	29.3	132.2	
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.6	1.9	12.4	9.9	180.3	
Dairy products -----	-.6	-2.0	1.6	21.1	124.5	
Fruits and vegetables -----	.6	5.1	12.2	34.0	196.8	
Other foods at home -----	-.8	-2.0	1.5	18.5	130.4	
Food away from home -----	.2	.4	3.4	(w)	(w)	
Housing 2/ -----	.1	.2	2.0	21.8	67.9	
Rent -----	.1	.3	2.1	26.5	58.8	
Gas and electricity -----	.4	.5	3.7	13.4	11.1	
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-1.9	-3.7	-2.8	22.3	133.3	
Housefurnishings -----	0	.1	-.2	6.8	94.8	
Household operation -----	0	.2	2.8	31.4	91.4	
Apparel -----	0	-.1	.2	10.6	103.2	
Men's and boys' -----	-.2	0	-.1	11.0	114.4	
Women's and girls' -----	.2	-.4	-.2	5.5	80.6	
Footwear -----	-.1	.2	1.5	27.0	157.9	
Other apparel -----	.2	.2	.1	4.2	126.8	
Transportation -----	.3	0	2.5	26.2	97.6	
Public -----	0	.1	5.3	57.8	128.9	
Private -----	.3	0	2.1	20.1	95.4	
Medical care -----	.7	1.0	4.7	36.3	97.9	
Personal care -----	0	.2	4.1	29.5	115.6	
Reading and recreation -----	-.3	-.3	4.7	13.8	85.1	
Other goods and services 3/ -----	0	0	2.3	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	May 1958	April 1958	May 1957	June 1950	Year 1939
United States city average	123.6	123.5	119.6	101.8	59.4
Cities priced monthly ^{1/}					
Chicago	127.0	127.0	122.2	102.8	58.6
Detroit	124.3	124.4	121.9	102.8	59.0
Los Angeles	125.2	125.6	120.8	101.3	60.4
New York	121.1	121.2	117.2	100.9	60.1
Philadelphia	122.9	122.9	119.8	101.6	59.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November ^{2/}	May 1958	February 1958	May 1957	May 1950	Year 1939
Cleveland	125.0	124.5	121.7	100.4	59.2
Houston	123.7	122.3	121.1	103.5	59.5
Seranton	120.7	119.1	116.4	100.2	58.5
Seattle	126.1	125.0	122.8	102.0	59.2
Washington, D. C.	121.3	120.3	117.2	101.6	60.4
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

^{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 April 1958 to May 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	0.1	0	0.1	0	0.3	0.7	0	- 0.3	0
Chicago	0	0.1	.1	0.1	.2	.1	0.1	- .2	- 0.1
Detroit	- .1	.7	^{1/} - .8	- .2	- .5	.1	0	- .2	0
Los Angeles	- .3	- 1.0	^{2/} 0	.1	- .4	.2	.1	- 1.2	0
New York	- .1	- .2	.1	- .3	- .1	.5	0	- .8	.2
Philadelphia	0	.5	- .6	.8	- .5	0	0	- .7	0

^{1/} Based on revised index for April 1958, 129.1.

^{2/} Based on revised index for April 1958, 134.8.

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	123.6	127.0	125.0	124.3	123.7	125.2	121.1	122.9	120.7	126.1	121.3
Food -----	121.6	118.5	118.6	124.0	117.2	124.0	121.9	124.0	120.5	122.8	123.4
Food at home -----	120.5	116.5	116.9	122.5	115.8	120.6	120.5	122.2	120.6	122.6	122.2
Cereals and bakery products --	132.8	124.5	130.0	125.7	126.6	141.6	137.7	134.5	135.2	141.9	132.2
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	116.6	109.5	111.7	114.3	110.7	115.5	117.0	117.1	117.8	117.2	116.4
Dairy products -----	111.8	111.1	107.8	109.2	112.2	109.0	112.1	115.5	110.5	115.4	117.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	137.4	131.0	127.2	153.4	127.5	134.5	134.7	141.5	137.7	(1/)	138.5
Other foods at home -----	111.5	116.3	113.9	113.8	109.5	112.1	110.3	109.9	108.8	110.4	112.4
Housing -----	127.8	137.2	130.7	128.1	130.1	134.8	124.3	120.5	121.9	129.1	120.6
Rent -----	137.5	164.1	159.9	---	139.1	145.7	---	125.6	129.1	144.6	127.1
Gas and electricity -----	116.5	114.7	115.4	117.0	116.0	131.9	116.4	103.4	117.7	86.6	124.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	131.6	133.7	132.3	125.1	---	---	135.6	125.4	135.6	137.8	132.6
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	102.4	101.8	108.5	100.0	99.7	104.2	108.5	101.5	103.2	100.5
Household operation -----	130.9	135.1	118.1	121.5	141.5	118.5	130.6	132.0	115.7	137.5	130.5
Apparel -----	106.7	109.0	109.1	103.1	111.4	108.2	105.5	104.5	109.6	108.5	103.2
Men's and boys' -----	108.9	116.0	113.6	109.0	107.7	113.1	107.9	109.5	110.5	112.2	107.4
Women's and girls' -----	98.4	96.4	100.3	92.2	107.0	98.8	96.0	94.1	102.7	100.3	95.9
Footwear -----	129.7	133.4	127.7	124.4	136.7	130.7	131.7	128.7	134.1	131.2	122.5
Other apparel -----	92.1	95.7	95.1	85.1	91.0	85.2	95.5	92.3	91.8	87.3	87.6
Transportation -----	138.7	148.5	135.8	130.2	137.6	134.4	139.1	144.2	140.5	142.0	138.1
Public -----	186.1	195.6	172.3	155.6	188.0	162.1	190.2	188.1	191.3	180.1	158.4
Private -----	128.0	130.0	127.4	125.2	130.5	129.8	119.6	124.0	126.8	130.5	131.8
Medical care -----	143.7	150.6	152.7	151.2	131.8	137.0	130.8	143.5	126.2	146.6	136.8
Personal care -----	128.5	129.3	126.8	133.7	135.1	133.2	121.5	134.5	128.9	132.9	123.7
Reading and recreation -----	116.6	125.8	122.3	113.3	115.6	102.4	117.2	118.8	137.1	119.6	117.5
Other goods and services -----	127.2	121.9	127.4	135.9	128.2	124.0	126.5	128.7	119.7	136.4	136.7
Percent change from February 1958 to May 1958											
All items -----	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.5	1.3	0.9	0.8
Food -----	2.4	2.0	2.2	3.2	.8	2.1	2.4	1.9	3.3	3.3	2.8
Food at home -----	2.8	2.3	2.4	3.6	1.0	2.0	2.6	2.3	3.4	3.6	3.5
Cereals and bakery products --	.2	-.3	.3	-.1	-.1	1.3	.4	.6	.1	.2	.5
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	4.1	4.3	4.3	5.2	1.4	2.4	3.9	3.0	4.2	5.2	4.6
Dairy products -----	-2.4	-1.2	-2.6	-3.6	-.4	-1.0	-3.9	-3.7	-2.8	-2.6	-1.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	10.5	6.3	7.4	13.2	5.0	7.3	11.1	12.9	16.8	(2/)	11.8
Other foods at home -----	.2	0	.1	1.2	-.8	-.3	-.3	-1.0	-.4	1.9	.6
Housing -----	.4	.2	0	-.9	-.2	.7	0	-1.1	-1.1	-.3	.9
Rent -----	.4	3/ 1.0	0	---	.1	3/ .1	---	3/ 0	.2	0	.3
Gas and electricity -----	.5	0	0	0	.1	-.2	2.6	0	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-4.1	-4.4	-4.8	-3.8	---	---	-5.8	-11.7	-7.6	-.2	-6.6
Housefurnishings -----	-.9	-1.3	-1.4	-1.2	-1.5	-2.3	-1.0	-2.3	-1.7	-2.5	.2
Household operation -----	.8	1.3	.1	1.8	0	-3.3	.2	1.6	-.2	0	2.6
Apparel -----	-.1	-.3	.2	.4	0	-.6	-1.1	.6	.6	0	.2
Men's and boys' -----	-.1	.1	0	0	.8	-.4	-.6	2.2	.5	0	.3
Women's and girls' -----	-.2	-1.3	.5	.7	-.4	-1.4	-1.8	-.9	.9	0	.1
Footwear -----	.2	1.4	.2	.3	.2	.9	-.3	1.3	-.1	.5	.1
Other apparel -----	.1	-.1	.1	.1	0	-.2	-.6	.4	.3	0	-1.1
Transportation -----	.1	-.6	.4	-1.0	8.4	1.1	.1	2.0	4.2	.9	.1
Public -----	.4	0	0	0	0	4.7	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	.1	-.8	.5	-1.2	9.8	.6	.1	2.6	4.9	1.0	.2
Medical care -----	1.3	.2	.2	.3	-.3	2.2	.6	.5	.2	.4	.1
Personal care -----	.4	.3	-1.8	.1	.3	.5	.5	1.6	.5	.4	.1
Reading and recreation -----	0	.6	-3.3	-.4	-.2	-3.8	-2.0	-1.0	.4	-.6	-3.2
Other goods and services -----	.2	.5	.1	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.3	.1	.1

1/ Insufficient price quotations. Fresh fruits and vegetables in short supply because of work stoppage in warehouses.
 2/ Not available.
 3/ Change from March 1958 to May 1958.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 May 1958 indexes and percent changes, April 1958 to May 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	120.5	0	132.8	0.1	116.6	0.6	111.8	- 0.6	137.4	0.6	111.5	- 0.8
Atlanta -----	119.5	0.1	119.2	0	127.1	.6	119.5	.2	113.7	- .2	138.6	.7	105.1	- .6
Baltimore -----	122.7	.2	120.2	0.2	128.6	.2	115.7	.4	117.3	0	134.5	1.9	111.4	- 1.6
Boston -----	120.2	-.2	118.3	-.6	131.5	.4	114.1	-.1	108.1	- 5.1	136.9	2.5	106.6	- 1.2
Chicago -----	118.5	.1	116.5	0	124.5	.1	109.5	1.1	111.1	0	131.0	-.8	116.3	- 1.1
Cincinnati -----	123.3	0	122.0	0	132.0	-.4	118.3	.9	115.9	- .1	137.7	.7	114.3	- 1.7
Cleveland -----	118.6	.1	116.9	-.1	130.0	-.1	111.7	.7	107.8	- .1	127.2	-.1	113.9	- 1.7
Detroit -----	124.0	.7	122.5	.7	125.7	.1	114.3	1.1	109.2	- .9	153.4	3.2	113.8	-.4
Houston -----	117.2	-.8	115.8	-.9	126.6	0	110.7	0	112.2	- .4	127.5	- 3.2	109.5	-.9
Kansas City -----	115.2	-.3	113.7	-.4	127.6	0	112.7	-.4	101.8	3.1	124.6	- 3.4	105.7	-.7
Los Angeles -----	124.0	- 1.0	120.6	- 1.4	141.6	.2	115.5	-.8	109.0	1/ .1	134.5	- 5.4	112.1	- .6
Minneapolis -----	119.6	-.3	118.6	-.4	134.5	.1	110.6	1.2	104.5	- .2	138.7	- 2.3	118.1	- 1.2
New York -----	121.9	-.2	120.5	0	137.7	0	117.0	.3	112.1	- 1.7	134.7	2.0	110.3	- 1.3
Philadelphia -----	124.0	.5	122.2	.7	134.5	.5	117.1	.5	115.5	- .1	141.5	4.5	109.9	- 1.8
Pittsburgh -----	123.2	.4	122.2	.4	131.3	.5	114.6	.4	114.1	- .3	138.9	2.0	121.1	- .6
Portland, Oreg. ----	121.7	.4	121.0	.5	135.7	.3	118.2	1.0	117.0	0	127.9	-.2	114.6	1.0
St. Louis -----	122.3	.2	119.1	-.2	125.8	.2	113.6	-.4	101.4	- .2	141.2	.6	119.1	- .3
San Francisco -----	123.5	-.5	122.4	-.6	141.0	0	119.6	-.7	113.8	- .1	138.1	- 1.3	110.1	-.6
Scranton -----	120.5	.7	120.6	.4	135.2	-.1	117.8	.9	110.5	- .3	137.7	3.2	108.3	- 1.7
Seattle -----	122.8	.2	122.6	0	141.9	- .1	117.2	.4	115.4	- 2.6	(2/)	(3/)	110.4	.9
Washington, D.C. ---	123.4	.2	122.2	.2	132.2	.1	116.4	.8	117.8	- .2	138.5	1.7	112.4	- 1.7

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

Food and unit	May 1958	April 1958	Food and unit	May 1958	April 1958
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.7	55.6	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.	32.5	(3/)
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.8	12.8	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rice ----- 1b.	18.3	18.1	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Bolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.3	20.3	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	76.3	82.5
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.4	25.4	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	17.7	17.1
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.2	19.1	Onions ----- 1b.	11.3	13.6
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.3	29.2	Carrots ----- 1b.	13.8	13.5
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.5	Lettuce ----- head	20.9	19.4
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	21.1	19.0
Round steak ----- 1b.	105.9	105.8	Cabbage ----- 1b.	10.5	11.1
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	64.8	65.7	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	44.4	46.1
Rib roast ----- 1b.	82.9	82.6	Beans, green ----- 1b.	26.4	28.8
Hamburger ----- 1b.	54.0	53.1	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	133.0	131.8	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	36.9	35.9
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	91.3	91.2	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	33.8	34.0
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	80.4	79.5	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.6	34.5
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	67.9	68.6	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.1	26.1
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	77.0	78.1	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.5	17.5
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	64.8	64.0	Peas, green ----- #303 can	20.9	21.0
Lancheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	49.1	48.2	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	18.0	17.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	49.0	48.1	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 6 oz.	10.0	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	45.6	45.5	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	55.9	56.5	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.2	33.2
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	63.2	63.1	Beans ----- 1b.	18.2	17.9
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	32.9	32.9	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.6	12.5
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.3	23.6	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.1
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.8	24.9	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.0	27.1
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.7	29.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	21.8	21.9
Butter ----- 1b.	73.6	73.9	Coffee ----- 1b. can	92.2	92.8
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	58.0	58.2	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	75.9	77.2
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.	27.3	27.4
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	95.6	95.8
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.6	26.5	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.7	29.8
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	26.3	25.9	Lard ----- 1b.	22.5	22.4
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.4	19.4	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.9	37.7
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.3	23.2	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	54.5	54.3
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	55.8	55.7
Apples ----- 1b.	18.1	15.3	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	25.8	25.7
Bananas ----- 1b.	16.7	15.9	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.7	27.7
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	74.1	77.8	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.1	4.9
Lemons ----- 1b.	19.1	18.8	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	56.6	59.0
Grapefruit * ----- each	15.0	13.1	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.0	8.9

1/ Based on revised index for April, 108.9.

2/ Insufficient price quotations. Fresh fruits and vegetables in short supply because of work stoppage in warehouses.

3/ Not available.

* Priced only in season.

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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