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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JULY 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities increased 0.2 percent between June and July 1958, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher prices for transportation, food, and medical care accounted for the advance. Prices of housing and recreation declined slightly.

The July Consumer Price Index was 123.9 percent of the 1947-49 average, 2.6 percent higher than in July 1957.

TRANSPORTATION The advance of 1.0 percent in transportation costs, both private and public, was the largest factor in the price rise in July. Gasoline prices rose 2.2 percent as price wars ended in several cities. Prices of used cars increased 2.9 percent, but new car prices were unchanged on the average. Transit fares advanced 1.1 percent, because of increases in five cities.

FOOD Food prices were up 0.1 percent during the month, as higher prices of pork, eggs, and milk more than offset price reductions for fresh fruits and vegetables. The July food price index, at 121.7, was 3.7 percent higher than in July 1957.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish averaged 0.8 percent higher. Pork prices rose 2.0 percent, with increases of 3.6 percent for bacon, 1.1 percent for chops, and 0.9 percent for ham. Prices of beef and veal were down 0.2 percent, with fractional declines for all items except hamburger. Poultry prices declined 0.5 percent.

Prices of fruits and vegetables dropped 1.8 percent, primarily because of more plentiful supplies of fresh produce. Fresh fruit prices fell 4.1 percent, with a sharp reduction for watermelons. (Peaches, priced for the first time this season, were substantially lower than last season). Prices of bananas and lemons were slightly lower, but orange prices rose seasonally. Fresh vegetable prices were down 1.8 percent, as tomato prices fell 7.4 percent, celery 8.4 percent, cabbage 12.1 percent, and potatoes 1.0 percent. Prices of lettuce, carrots, and sweetpotatoes were higher. Processed fruits and vegetables were higher on the average, largely because of further increases in prices of both frozen and canned orange juice.

Prices of eggs and fresh milk rose seasonally but coffee prices continued to decline. Restaurant meal prices were up 0.1 percent.

MEDICAL CARE The medical care index was up 0.5 percent, primarily because of substantial increases in rates for group hospitalization insurance in Minneapolis, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh. Hospital room rates and fees for dentists' and physicians' services also advanced. Prices of prescriptions and drugs declined slightly.

HOUSING The decline of 0.1 percent in housing was the result of lower prices for home repairs and maintenance and housefurnishings, which more than offset advances in other housing subgroups. Prices of home maintenance dropped 0.6 percent, with reductions in prices of water heaters and paint; prices of painting services, however, were higher. Housefurnishings prices declined 0.1 percent with lower prices for sheets, as some retailers began their white sales in July. Floor coverings prices also declined slightly, as did prices of vacuum cleaners and refrigerators.

Rents continued their upward movement, with an increase of 0.1 percent. Increases of 0.8 percent in prices of both anthracite and bituminous coal raised the solid fuels and fuel oil index 0.5 percent. Slightly higher gas bills resulted in an increase of 0.1 percent in the gas and electricity subgroup. The rise of 0.1 percent in household operation was largely due to higher rates for telephone service in one city, although laundry and dry cleaning services were also higher. Prices of laundry soap and detergents declined.

OTHER COMMODITIES The rise of 0.2 percent in personal care reflected scattered increases
AND SERVICES for barber and beauty shop services, and some toiletries. Prices of
toilet soap and cleansing tissues were lower.

Apparel prices averaged unchanged for the third consecutive month, as sale prices for men's summer suits, trousers, and shoes, and boys' sport shirts offset advances in prices of men's regular weight suits and girls' cotton dresses.

The reading and recreation group declined 0.1 percent as price reductions for sporting goods and radios more than offset higher prices for television sets and repair services, movie admissions, and newspapers.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index—United States city average
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, July 1958,
and percent changes from selected dates

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to July 1958 from —			
	July 1958	June 1958	June 1958	April 1958	July 1957	Year 1939
All items	123.9	123.7	0.2	0.3	2.6	108.6
Food	121.7	121.6	.1	.1	3.7	158.4
Food at home	120.5	120.4	.1	0	3.8	155.8
Cereals and bakery products	132.9	132.9	0	.2	1.6	132.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	119.2	118.3	.8	2.8	8.9	186.5
Dairy products	112.4	111.7	.6	-.1	1.7	125.7
Fruits and vegetables	131.9	134.3	- 1.8	- 3.4	3.9	184.9
Other food at home	111.8	110.9	.8	-.5	.1	131.0
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)	112.8	112.7	.1	.7	3.0	(1/)
Housing ^{2/}	127.7	127.8	-.1	0	1.8	67.8
Rent	137.8	137.7	.1	.4	1.9	59.1
Gas and electricity	117.0	116.9	.1	.9	4.2	11.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil	132.3	131.7	.5	- 1.4	- 2.6	134.6
Housefurnishings	104.0	104.1	-.1	0	-.1	94.8
Household operation	131.2	131.1	.1	.2	2.6	91.8
Apparel	106.7	106.7	0	0	.2	103.2
Men's and boys'	108.5	108.8	-.3	-.5	-.3	113.6
Women's and girls'	98.6	98.5	.1	.4	0	80.9
Footwear	129.7	129.8	-.1	-.1	1.2	157.9
Other apparel	92.0	91.9	.1	.1	.1	126.6
Transportation	140.3	138.9	1.0	1.4	3.3	99.9
Public	189.5	187.7	1.0	1.8	5.2	133.1
Private	129.3	128.0	1.0	1.3	2.9	97.4
Medical care	144.6	143.9	.5	1.3	4.5	99.2
Personal care	128.9	128.6	.2	.3	3.4	116.3
Reading and recreation	116.6	116.7	-.1	-.3	3.7	85.1
Other goods and services	127.2	127.2	0	0	.5	80.2
Special groups:						
All items less food	125.4	125.2	.2	.3	2.1	81.5
All items less shelter	121.6	121.4	.2	.3	2.6	119.5
Commodities	116.8	116.6	.2	.2	2.1	126.4
Nondurables	119.4	119.2	.2	.2	2.3	132.3
Food	121.7	121.6	.1	.1	3.7	158.4
Nondurables less food	116.9	116.7	.2	.3	.5	99.1
Apparel	106.7	106.7	0	.1	.2	104.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	125.8	125.4	.3	.5	.8	90.9
Durables	109.8	109.6	.2	.2	1.5	91.6
New cars	130.8	130.8	0	-.5	3.1	129.5
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)	84.1	81.7	2.9	5.0	3.2	(1/)
Durables less cars	103.1	103.4	-.3	-.4	.7	79.9
Commodities less food	113.1	112.9	.2	.3	.8	90.4
Services	142.6	142.3	.2	.4	3.4	77.4
Rent	137.8	137.7	.1	.4	1.9	59.1
Services less rent	144.1	143.8	.2	.4	3.7	96.1
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)	\$0.807	\$0.808	-.1	-.4	- 2.5	-52.1

1/ Not available.

2/ Includes house purchase, taxes, insurance, and upkeep, not shown separately.

TABLE 2: Consumer Price Index--All items indexes and percent changes, selected dates
U.S. city average and 20 large cities

City	Indexes (1947-49=100)				Percent change to current month from --		
	July 1958	April 1958	July 1957	Year 1939	April 1958	July 1957	Year 1939
United States city average-----	123.9	123.5	120.8	59.4	0.3	2.6	108.6
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	127.6	127.0	124.1	58.6	.5	2.8	117.7
Detroit-----	124.3	124.4	123.1	59.0	-.1	1.0	110.7
Los Angeles-----	125.4	125.6	121.1	60.4	-.2	3.6	107.6
New York-----	121.1	121.2	118.4	60.1	-.1	2.3	101.5
Philadelphia-----	123.3	122.9	121.2	59.2	.3	1.7	108.3
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	July 1958	April 1958	July 1957	Year 1939	April 1958	July 1957	Year 1939
Boston-----	125.4	124.5	122.1	61.0	.7	2.7	105.6
Kansas City-----	124.8	123.7	121.7	61.7	.9	2.5	102.3
Minneapolis-----	124.9	124.1	121.6	60.7	.6	2.7	105.8
Pittsburgh-----	124.7	123.8	120.7	58.1	.7	3.3	114.6
Portland, Oregon-----	124.7	125.0	122.2	58.3	-.2	2.0	113.9
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	June 1958	March 1958	June 1957	Year 1939	March 1958	June 1957	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	124.9	124.9	121.2	58.3	0	3.1	114.2
Baltimore-----	124.8	124.1	121.2	57.9	.6	3.0	115.5
Cincinnati-----	122.7	122.3	119.7	58.4	.3	2.5	110.1
St. Louis-----	124.5	124.5	121.3	59.3	0	2.6	109.9
San Francisco-----	126.0	126.7	122.8	58.6	1.0	4.2	118.4
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	May 1958	February 1958	May 1957	Year 1939	February 1958	May 1957	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	125.0	124.5	121.7	59.2	.4	2.7	111.1
Houston-----	123.7	122.3	121.1	59.5	1.1	2.1	107.9
Scranton-----	120.7	119.1	116.4	58.5	1.3	3.7	106.3
Seattle-----	126.1	125.0	122.8	59.2	.9	2.7	113.0
Washington, D. C.-----	121.3	120.3	117.2	60.4	.8	3.5	100.8

1/ Rents priced bimonthly.

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

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index -- Percent changes from June 1958 to July 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-----	0.2	0.1	- 0.1	0	1.0	0.5	0.2	- 0.1	0
Chicago-----	.1	.6	-.1	0.5	-.3	0	.1	- 1.1	- 0.1
Detroit-----	.1	-.2	-.2	.1	.2	.1	0	3.3	.2
Los Angeles-----	.2	0	-.2	.5	1.9	.4	-.5	- 1.6	0
New York-----	.1	.1	-.1	.1	.3	0	1.3	.9	-.1
Philadelphia-----	.2	.6	-.2	- 1.3	.8	3.3	0	-.3	0

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 July 1958 indexes and percent changes, April 1958 to July 1958
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in July 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 -----	123.9	125.4	127.6	124.3	124.8	125.4	124.9	121.1	123.3	124.7	124.7
Food -----	121.7	121.9	119.5	122.8	114.9	123.8	119.6	121.7	124.7	123.8	121.4
Food at home -----	120.5	120.3	117.6	121.3	112.8	120.4	118.7	120.1	122.7	123.1	120.6
Cereals and bakery products --	132.9	131.6	123.9	125.6	127.6	141.1	134.1	137.7	134.5	131.0	135.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	119.2	118.5	112.4	115.5	115.6	118.2	112.3	118.8	120.2	118.8	120.8
Dairy products -----	112.4	110.5	111.8	109.1	92.6	109.6	104.1	114.8	118.3	114.1	117.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	131.9	136.0	131.9	145.2	122.8	130.1	135.8	126.8	135.4	135.3	121.0
Other foods at home -----	111.8	108.2	116.0	113.1	105.6	111.1	118.8	110.3	110.1	121.9	114.9
Housing -----	127.7	132.7	137.7	127.5	125.6	134.7	127.6	124.2	120.7	126.9	127.6
Rent -----	137.8	142.4	164.2	—	141.1	146.1	152.9	—	126.5	130.5	135.7
Gas and electricity -----	117.0	114.7	123.3	117.9	120.9	131.5	127.6	116.2	103.4	130.6	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	132.3	132.3	135.1	125.8	120.1	—	128.8	135.6	126.8	131.1	139.9
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	102.7	102.1	106.7	102.6	99.6	98.8	104.0	108.7	106.7	106.0
Household operation -----	131.2	127.6	135.0	121.4	136.3	118.5	132.9	130.6	134.2	137.1	128.2
Apparel -----	106.7	106.0	110.2	103.1	104.0	107.9	107.8	105.6	103.1	104.3	111.4
Men's and boys' -----	108.5	104.6	115.3	108.8	107.9	112.8	109.0	107.4	109.1	102.9	113.4
Women's and girls' -----	98.6	101.0	99.0	92.4	95.7	98.3	101.9	96.4	91.7	97.1	101.8
Footwear -----	129.7	124.1	134.3	124.4	124.2	130.9	125.8	131.4	128.8	126.2	137.0
Other apparel -----	92.0	102.0	96.3	84.9	87.6	85.1	93.6	95.8	91.6	99.5	98.3
Transportation -----	140.3	149.0	148.8	131.9	148.5	136.5	*124.9	139.4	145.4	152.3	138.1
Public -----	189.5	168.1	195.6	155.6	251.4	162.1	166.8	190.2	188.1	236.1	196.8
Private -----	129.3	142.6	130.3	127.3	133.8	132.1	*119.5	119.9	125.4	125.7	131.2
Medical care -----	144.6	156.6	150.6	151.4	169.7	137.4	189.6	130.8	148.6	154.1	140.4
Personal care -----	128.9	129.8	129.7	133.9	129.1	132.6	136.6	123.1	134.5	125.1	132.8
Reading and recreation -----	116.6	113.4	124.4	117.6	127.4	101.6	124.7	118.7	118.8	108.3	123.4
Other goods and services -----	127.2	125.1	121.4	136.4	125.4	124.0	131.2	126.4	128.7	127.6	127.2
Percent change from April 1958 to July 1958											
All items -----	0.3	0.7	0.5	- 0.1	0.9	- 0.2	0.6	- 0.1	0.3	0.7	- 0.2
Food -----	.1	1.2	.9	- .2	-.5	- 1.1	-.3	-.3	1.1	.9	.2
Food at home -----	0	1.1	.9	- .2	- 1.1	- 1.6	-.3	-.3	1.1	1.2	.2
Cereals and bakery products --	.2	.5	-.4	0	0	-.1	-.1	0	.5	.2	.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.8	3.8	3.8	2.1	2.9	1.5	2.7	1.9	3.2	4.1	3.2
Dairy products -----	-.1	- 3.0	.6	- 1.0	- 6.2	1.0	-.6	.7	2.3	-.3	0
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 3.4	1.9	- 1.1	- 2.3	- 4.8	- 8.5	- 4.3	- 3.9	0	-.7	- 5.6
Other foods at home -----	-.5	.3	- 1.4	- 1.0	-.8	- 1.5	-.6	- 1.3	- 1.6	.1	1.2
Housing -----	0	.6	.4	- 1.2	-.1	-.1	.3	0	-.4	.2	- 1.0
Rent -----	.4	.6	1/.1	—	0	1/.3	.7	—	1/.7	.5	-.1
Gas and electricity -----	.9	2.4	7.5	.9	.4	-.6	0	2.4	0	.3	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- 1.4	.2	-.7	- 3.3	0	—	-.8	- 1.1	- 9.6	0	0
Housefurnishings -----	0	-.3	-.3	-.7	-.6	- 1.1	.9	-.1	-.4	-.8	- 1.9
Household operation -----	.2	.3	-.1	0	.3	- 2.4	.1	0	1.7	.1	.2
Apparel -----	0	.7	1.2	-.2	-.7	-.2	-.3	-.2	-.6	-.9	-.3
Men's and boys' -----	-.5	.4	-.9	-.6	-.5	-.5	-.6	- 1.0	1.9	- 2.5	-.7
Women's and girls' -----	.4	1.5	3.1	.3	- 1.0	-.4	-.1	.3	- 2.7	-.6	-.6
Footwear -----	-.1	.1	.4	-.2	-.2	.8	.2	-.4	.1	0	1.0
Other apparel -----	.1	- 1.4	.9	-.2	-.3	.5	-.1	.1	-.4	-.7	-.2
Transportation -----	1.4	-.3	.4	.8	4.6	1.9	2.2	.1	.3	2.4	.9
Public -----	1.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8.0	0
Private -----	1.3	-.4	.5	1.0	5.5	2.2	2.6	.1	.5	.6	.9
Medical care -----	1.3	1.2	.1	.3	10.9	.5	8.7	.5	3.6	4.5	0
Personal care -----	.3	.3	.4	.1	.7	-.4	.1	1.3	0	.3	.5
Reading and recreation -----	-.3	1.0	- 1.3	3.6	- 2.8	- 1.9	0	.5	-.7	0	-.7
Other goods and services -----	0	.1	-.5	.4	-.4	0	0	.1	0	.2	-.2

1/ Change from May 1958 to July 1958.
 * Indexes for April and January revised, as follows:

Index	April	January
Transportation	122.2	124.0
Private	116.5	118.5

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 July 1958 indexes and percent changes, June 1958 to July 1958
 U.S. city average and 20 large cities
 [1947=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 ---	121.7	0.1	120.5	0.1	132.9	0	119.2	0.8	112.4	0.6	131.9	- 1.8	111.8	0.8
Atlanta -----	119.1	-.1	118.7	-.1	126.9	0	122.3	1.7	113.8	-.1	129.9	- 3.8	105.4	.7
Baltimore -----	122.8	.3	120.6	.4	128.3	-.2	117.8	.7	117.6	.1	131.9	.2	111.9	.5
Boston -----	121.9	1.3	120.3	1.4	131.6	.1	118.5	1.6	110.5	2.2	136.0	.6	108.2	2.4
Chicago -----	119.5	.6	117.6	.8	123.9	-.2	112.4	.7	111.8	.6	131.9	1.7	116.0	.6
Cincinnati -----	124.3	.2	123.1	-.2	132.0	0	122.3	1.2	116.1	.1	135.3	- 3.0	115.5	.6
Cleveland, Oreg. -----	118.9	.4	117.2	.5	129.8	.2	113.6	.3	107.8	-.1	124.4	-.4	114.9	1.3
Detroit -----	122.8	-.2	121.3	-.4	125.6	0	115.5	-.1	109.1	-.3	145.2	- 1.8	113.1	.2
Houston -----	117.9	-.7	116.3	.7	126.2	-.1	114.0	1.9	112.7	.3	125.1	.6	108.9	.2
Kansas City -----	114.9	-.7	112.8	- 1.2	127.6	0	115.6	.8	112.6	- 8.9	122.8	- 1.4	105.6	.3
Los Angeles -----	123.8	0	120.4	0	141.1	0	118.2	.6	109.6	-.5	130.1	- .8	111.1	.3
Minneapolis -----	119.6	.1	118.7	.2	134.1	-.2	112.3	.8	104.1	.1	135.8	- 1.0	118.8	.8
New York -----	121.7	.1	120.1	.3	137.7	-.1	118.8	.3	114.8	2.5	126.8	- 1.7	110.3	.3
Philadelphia -----	124.7	.6	122.7	.6	134.5	.1	120.2	1.1	118.3	2.4	135.4	- 1.1	110.1	.2
Pittsburgh -----	123.8	0	123.1	.2	131.0	-.1	118.8	1.5	114.1	.1	135.3	- 2.3	121.9	.5
Portland, Oreg. -----	121.4	-.6	120.6	-.3	135.6	.1	120.8	-.1	117.0	0	121.0	- 3.7	114.9	1.1
St. Louis -----	123.2	.8	119.7	1.1	125.4	-.2	117.6	2.2	105.1	3.8	132.4	- 2.4	120.0	1.4
San Francisco -----	124.1	-.3	122.9	-.4	146.9	1.0	122.1	1.2	113.9	-.1	130.8	- 6.4	111.7	1.8
Scranton -----	120.8	-.1	120.9	-.1	135.2	.4	121.2	.8	110.6	0	131.8	- 3.0	109.7	.9
Seattle -----	122.2	.2	121.8	.2	142.0	-.1	119.5	.2	115.4	0	131.7	- 1.1	110.5	1.7
Washington, D.C. -----	123.4	.5	122.2	.6	131.3	0	118.7	.8	118.6	.7	133.7	1.0	112.8	.1

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index -- Average retail prices of selected foods
 U.S. city average

Food and unit	July 1958	June 1958	Food and unit	July 1958	June 1958
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.3	55.4	Peaches * ----- lb.	16.9	
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		26.2
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.8	12.8	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	30.7	
Rice ----- lb.	18.4	18.4	Watermelons * ----- lb.	4.3	6.3
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.3	20.3	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	67.4	68.1
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.5	25.5	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	18.6	17.9
Bread, white ----- lb.	19.2	19.2	Onions ----- lb.	10.1	10.5
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.2	29.2	Carrots ----- lb.	14.9	14.5
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.5	Lettuce ----- head	16.0	15.3
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- lb.	17.1	18.3
Round steak ----- lb.	106.3	106.2	Cabbage ----- lb.	7.6	8.7
Chuck roast ----- lb.	65.1	65.5	Tomatoes ----- lb.	26.4	28.7
Rib roast ----- lb.	83.0	83.0	Beans, green ----- lb.	20.0	19.9
Hamburger ----- lb.	54.8	54.6	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	133.8	133.9	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	39.4	38.0
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	96.9	96.0	Peaches ----- #2½ can	33.8	33.7
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	85.1	81.9	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.7	34.7
Ham, whole ----- lb.	69.2	69.1	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.2	26.2
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	77.9	77.6	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.6	17.5
Frankfurters ----- lb.	66.8	66.1	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.0	20.9
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.4	50.0	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	18.3	18.5
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	48.9	49.0	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 8 oz.	10.0	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	46.3	45.8	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	54.7	55.0	Prunes ----- lb.	33.4	33.2
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	63.3	63.2	Beans ----- lb.	18.8	18.5
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6½ oz.	32.9	32.9	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.6	12.6
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.5	23.3	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.1
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.8	24.8	Pickles, sweet ----- 7½ oz.	27.0	27.0
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.6	29.6	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.0	21.9
Butter ----- lb.	73.5	73.5	Coffee ----- lb. can	90.6	91.8
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	57.9	58.1	Coffee ----- lb. bag	75.0	75.4
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	15.1	15.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.1	24.0
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	27.6	27.6
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	94.6	94.6
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.5	26.5	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	29.2	29.5
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	28.5	27.9	Lard ----- lb.	22.6	22.6
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.5	19.5	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.8	37.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.2	23.2	Peanut butter ----- lb.	55.7	55.1
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.7	56.5
Apples ----- lb. (1/)		22.2	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	25.9	25.9
Bananas ----- lb.	16.6	16.8	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.8	27.7
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	80.1	76.1	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.2	5.1
Lemons ----- lb.	17.9	18.3	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	57.6	55.1
Grapefruit * ----- each			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.0	9.0

* Priced only in season.
 1/ Not available.

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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	Fulaski, 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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