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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities declined 0.2 percent between July and August 1958, for the first decrease in two years, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lower food prices were primarily responsible for the decline, although apparel prices also fell. Transportation, housing, medical care, and recreation costs were higher.

The Consumer Price Index for August 1958 was 123.7 (1947-49=100), 2.2 percent higher than a year ago.

**FOOD** Food prices dropped 0.8 percent during the month as lower prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, and poultry more than offset higher prices for eggs, milk, and restaurant meals. The August food index at 120.7 was 2.4 percent higher than a year ago.

Prices of fruits and vegetables dropped 5.3 percent as plentiful supplies of fresh produce continued to reach the market. Prices of fresh vegetables were down 12.2 percent. Potato prices fell 12.3 percent, tomatoes 26.4 percent, celery 16.4 percent, green beans 15.0 percent, lettuce 7.5 percent, onions 7.3 percent, and cabbage 8.7 percent. Prices of carrots and sweet potatoes were higher. Fresh fruit prices dropped 5.7 percent, with watermelons down 21.1 percent, grapes down 20.2 percent, and peaches down 14.0 percent. Banana prices were up 14.6 percent. Processed fruits and vegetables prices were somewhat higher on the average largely because of further increases in prices of canned and frozen orange juice.

Prices of meats fell 0.9 percent, with lower prices for most cuts. All beef prices were down, with chuck roast declining 3.7 percent, round steak 2.1 percent, and hamburger and rib roast 1.5 percent. Pork chops were down in price 2.3 percent and ham 0.4 percent, but bacon was up 1.5 percent. Leg of lamb prices declined 1.3 percent while frankfurters and luncheon meats were slightly higher. Prices of frying chickens dropped 4.8 percent as supplies continued to increase.

Egg prices showed a seasonal increase of 5.7 percent. Milk prices continued up seasonally and coffee prices continued to decline. Prices of restaurant meals rose 0.4 percent.

**APPAREL** Apparel prices declined 0.1 percent, reflecting widespread reductions for men's and boys' sport shirts, men's socks, slacks, shorts, and suits and women's nylon hose. These reductions were partly offset by higher prices for women's rayon dresses, children's and women's shoes and shoe repair services.

**TRANSPORTATION** Private transportation costs were up 0.6 percent, largely because of further advances in prices of used cars and gasoline (up 2.0 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively). Tire prices and auto insurance rates also advanced. Prices of new cars and auto repair services were slightly lower.

**HOUSING** The housing index rose 0.2 percent, reflecting advances in most of its component subgroups. Rents were up 0.2 percent, as increases were reported in most of the cities surveyed. Household operation rose 0.7 percent, chiefly as a result of the increase in postage rates. Seasonal advances in prices of fuel oil, anthracite, and bituminous coal caused a rise of 1.0 percent in the solid fuels and fuel oil subgroup. Gas and electric bills rose 0.4 percent on the average, following

rate increases in several cities. Partially offsetting these advances were decreases of 0.2 percent for home repairs and maintenance and 0.7 percent for housefurnishings, as customary August white sales brought lower prices for household textiles.

OTHER COMMODITIES    The rise of 0.3 percent in medical care reflected higher premiums  
AND SERVICES        for group hospitalization insurance in three small cities, higher fees for professional and hospital services, and increased prices of prescriptions and drugs.

Reading and recreation increased 0.1 percent, due largely to higher prices for television sets.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to August 1958 from --			
	August 1958	July 1958	July 1958	May 1958	August 1957	Year 1939
All items-----	123.7	123.9	- 0.2	0.1	2.2	108.2
Food-----	120.7	121.7	- .8	- .7	2.4	156.3
Food at home-----	119.2	120.5	- 1.1	- 1.1	2.2	153.1
Cereals and bakery products-----	132.9	132.9	0	.1	1.5	132.3
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	117.7	119.2	- 1.3	.9	5.2	182.9
Dairy products-----	113.0	112.4	.5	1.1	1.3	126.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	124.9	131.9	- 5.3	- 9.1	3.0	169.8
Other foods at home-----	112.8	111.8	.9	1.2	- .9	133.1
Food away from (Jan. 1953=100)-----	113.3	112.8	.4	1.0	3.0	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	127.9	127.7	.2	.1	1.8	68.1
Rent-----	138.1	137.8	.2	.4	2.0	59.5
Gas and electricity-----	117.5	117.0	.4	.9	3.7	12.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	133.6	132.3	1.0	1.5	- 1.5	136.9
Housefurnishings-----	103.3	104.0	- .7	- .7	- .6	93.4
Household operation-----	132.1	131.2	.7	.9	3.2	93.1
Apparel-----	106.6	106.7	- .1	- .1	0	103.0
Men's and boys'-----	108.3	108.5	- .2	- .6	- .5	113.2
Women's and girls'-----	98.5	98.6	- .1	.1	- .1	80.7
Footwear-----	130.0	129.7	.2	.2	1.3	158.4
Other apparel-----	91.9	92.0	- .1	- .2	- .1	126.4
Transportation-----	141.0	140.3	.5	1.7	3.8	100.9
Public-----	189.5	189.5	0	1.8	4.9	133.1
Private-----	130.1	129.3	.6	1.6	3.6	98.6
Medical care-----	145.0	144.6	.3	.9	4.6	99.7
Personal care-----	128.9	128.9	0	.3	3.2	116.3
Reading and recreation-----	116.7	116.6	.1	.1	3.6	85.2
Other goods and services-----	127.1	127.2	- .1	- .1	.3	80.0
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	125.6	125.4	.2	.4	2.1	81.8
All items less shelter-----	121.4	121.6	- .2	.1	2.3	119.1
Commodities-----	116.4	116.8	- .3	- .2	1.6	125.6
Nondurables-----	118.8	119.4	- .5	- .3	1.6	131.1
Food-----	120.7	121.7	- .8	- .7	2.4	156.3
Nondurables less food-----	116.9	116.9	0	.3	.8	99.1
Apparel-----	106.5	106.7	- .2	- .2	- .1	104.4
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	125.9	125.8	.1	.6	1.3	91.0
Durables-----	109.9	109.8	.1	.2	1.4	91.8
New cars-----	130.6	130.8	- .2	- .2	3.2	129.1
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	85.8	84.1	2.0	5.5	3.6	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.0	103.1	- .1	- .6	.5	79.8
Commodities less food-----	113.2	113.1	.1	.3	1.0	90.6
Services-----	143.0	142.6	.3	.5	3.4	77.9
Rent-----	138.1	137.8	.2	.4	2.0	59.5
Services less rent-----	144.4	144.1	.2	.4	3.7	96.5
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	132.2	131.3	.7	1.0	3.3	52.0
Transportation services-----	175.0	174.9	.1	.8	5.6	118.5
Medical care services-----	149.8	149.4	.3	1.0	4.8	112.5
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.808	\$0.807	.1	- .1	- 2.2	-52.0

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 —		
	August 1958	May 1958	August 1957	Year 1939	May 1958	August 1957	Year 1939
United States city average	123.7	123.6	121.0	59.4	0.1	2.2	108.2
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	126.9	127.0	124.1	58.6	-.1	2.3	116.6
Detroit	123.7	124.3	123.0	59.0	-.5	.6	109.7
Los Angeles	125.2	125.2	121.2	60.4	0	3.3	107.3
New York	121.1	121.1	118.7	60.1	0	2.0	101.5
Philadelphia	123.4	122.9	121.6	59.2	.4	1.5	108.4
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	August 1958	May 1958	August 1957	Year 1939	May 1958	August 1957	Year 1939
Cleveland	125.1	125.0	122.8	59.2	.1	1.9	111.3
Houston	124.0	123.7	122.1	59.5	.2	1.6	108.4
Scranton	120.4	120.7	117.8	58.5	-.2	2.2	105.8
Seattle	126.3	126.1	123.7	59.2	.2	2.1	113.3
Washington, D. C.	121.2	121.3	119.1	60.4	-.1	1.8	100.7
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	128.0	126.7	122.8	58.6	1.0	4.2	118.4

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 July 1958 to August 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	- 0.8	0.2	- 0.1	0.5	0.3	0	0.1	- 0.1
Chicago	-.5	- 2.1	.3	-.7	.8	0	0.2	-.1	-.1
Detroit	-.5	- 1.9	.1	.2	1.8	.6	.1	- 3.5	-.2
Los Angeles	-.2	-.9	.3	-.6	.4	.1	.2	.1	-.1
New York	0	-.6	.2	.3	.5	.2	-.2	.2	0
Philadelphia	.1	-.3	.2	.7	.7	0	0	0	-.2

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups  
 August 1958 indexes and percent changes, May 1958 to August 1958  
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in August 1958

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	123.7	126.9	125.1	123.7	124.0	125.2	121.1	123.4	120.4	126.3	121.2
Food -----	120.7	117.0	118.2	120.5	117.1	122.7	121.0	124.3	118.6	122.7	122.4
Food at home -----	119.2	114.7	116.4	118.7	115.6	119.0	119.0	122.2	118.5	121.9	120.9
Cereals and bakery products --	132.9	123.5	129.6	125.8	125.8	141.1	137.7	134.2	135.2	146.4	131.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	117.7	110.8	112.5	113.9	112.8	118.1	116.7	118.6	118.6	119.8	117.3
Dairy products -----	113.0	112.2	110.6	111.4	112.6	109.3	116.0	118.7	110.5	115.5	118.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	124.9	117.6	119.0	129.4	123.4	120.2	121.7	133.2	120.2	124.1	127.6
Other foods at home -----	112.8	116.5	115.4	113.5	108.7	113.1	111.7	111.7	110.9	113.9	114.1
Housing -----	127.9	138.1	131.2	127.6	129.8	135.1	124.4	121.0	122.1	128.8	120.1
Rent -----	138.1	---	159.4	147.2	139.3	---	127.6	---	129.6	145.4	127.4
Gas and electricity -----	117.5	128.3	115.4	118.2	116.1	131.5	115.9	103.4	117.7	86.7	124.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	133.6	139.7	136.1	125.7	---	---	138.0	129.1	139.9	137.8	139.0
Housefurnishings -----	103.3	100.9	101.2	107.9	99.1	99.9	103.0	108.6	101.0	102.3	99.0
Household operation -----	132.1	136.1	118.9	122.3	142.3	120.0	131.5	134.9	116.8	137.0	131.4
Apparel -----	106.6	109.4	108.8	103.3	111.0	107.2	105.9	103.8	109.2	108.7	103.5
Men's and boys' -----	108.3	115.1	113.3	108.3	106.6	111.2	107.9	108.9	110.4	111.9	107.0
Women's and girls' -----	98.5	97.6	99.6	92.6	106.4	97.7	96.8	93.0	102.0	100.4	96.7
Footwear -----	130.0	134.1	128.5	126.1	137.7	131.4	131.5	129.1	134.1	132.3	122.8
Other apparel -----	91.9	95.9	94.7	85.0	90.9	84.6	95.9	92.0	91.8	87.3	87.4
Transportation -----	141.0	150.0	136.4	134.3	141.3	137.0	140.1	146.4	141.2	145.6	139.7
Public -----	189.5	195.6	180.5	155.6	188.0	162.1	190.2	188.1	191.3	180.1	158.4
Private -----	130.1	131.7	126.9	130.1	134.6	132.7	120.7	126.5	127.5	134.3	133.6
Medical care -----	145.0	150.6	152.8	152.3	132.2	137.6	131.0	148.6	127.5	148.2	140.2
Personal care -----	128.9	129.9	127.4	134.1	134.6	132.8	122.9	134.5	128.6	133.0	123.7
Reading and recreation -----	116.7	124.3	122.8	113.5	116.7	101.7	118.9	118.8	143.0	118.7	117.6
Other goods and services -----	127.1	121.3	127.5	136.1	128.4	123.9	126.4	128.5	119.6	135.7	136.0
Percent change from May 1958 to August 1958											
All items -----	0.1	- 0.1	0.1	- 0.5	0.2	0	0	0.4	- 0.2	0.2	- 0.1
Food -----	-.7	- 1.3	-.3	- 2.8	-.1	- 1.0	- 0.7	.2	- 1.6	-.1	-.8
Food at home -----	- 1.1	- 1.5	-.4	- 3.1	-.2	- 1.3	- 1.2	0	- 1.7	-.6	- 1.1
Cereals and bakery products --	.1	-.8	-.3	.1	-.6	-.4	0	-.2	0	3.2	-.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.9	1.2	.7	-.3	1.9	2.3	-.3	1.3	.7	2.2	.8
Dairy products -----	1.1	1.0	2.6	2.0	.4	.3	3.5	2.8	0	.1	.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 9.1	-10.2	- 6.4	-15.6	- 3.2	-10.6	- 9.7	- 5.9	-12.7	(1/)	- 7.9
Other foods at home -----	1.2	.2	1.3	-.3	-.7	.9	1.3	1.6	1.9	3.2	1.5
Housing -----	.1	.7	.4	-.4	-.2	.2	.1	.4	.2	-.2	-.4
Rent -----	.4	---	-.3	2/ .1	.1	---	2/ .6	---	.4	.6	.2
Gas and electricity -----	.9	11.9	0	1.0	.1	-.3	-.4	0	0	.1	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.5	4.5	2.9	.5	---	---	1.8	3.0	3.2	0	4.8
Housefurnishings -----	-.7	- 1.5	-.6	-.6	-.9	.2	- 1.2	.1	-.5	-.9	- 1.5
Household operation -----	.9	.7	.7	.7	.6	1.3	.7	2.2	1.0	-.4	.7
Apparel -----	-.1	-.4	-.3	-.2	-.4	-.9	.4	-.7	-.4	-.2	.3
Men's and boys' -----	-.6	-.8	-.3	-.6	- 1.0	- 1.7	0	-.5	-.1	-.3	-.4
Women's and girls' -----	.1	1.2	-.7	.4	-.6	- 1.1	.8	- 1.2	-.7	.1	.8
Footwear -----	.2	.5	.6	1.4	.7	.5	-.2	.3	0	.8	.2
Other apparel -----	-.2	.2	-.4	-.1	-.1	-.7	.4	-.3	0	0	-.2
Transportation -----	1.7	1.0	.4	3.1	2.7	1.9	.7	1.5	.5	2.5	1.2
Public -----	1.8	0	4.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	1.6	1.3	-.4	3.9	3.1	2.2	.9	2.0	.6	2.9	1.4
Medical care -----	.9	0	.1	.7	.3	.4	.2	3.6	1.0	1.1	2.5
Personal care -----	.3	.5	.5	.3	-.4	-.3	1.2	0	-.2	.1	0
Reading and recreation -----	.1	- 1.2	.4	.2	1.0	-.7	1.5	0	4.3	-.8	.1
Other goods and services -----	-.1	-.5	.1	.1	.2	-.1	-.1	-.2	-.1	-.5	-.5

1/ Not available.

2/ Change from June 1958 to August 1958.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups  
 August 1958 Indexes and percent changes, July 1958 to August 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 ---	120.7	- 0.8	119.2	- 1.1	132.9	0	117.7	- 1.3	113.0	0.5	124.9	- 5.3	112.8	0.9
Atlanta -----	118.5	- .5	118.1	- .5	126.6	- .2	120.9	- 1.1	114.1	.3	128.0	- 1.5	105.4	0
Baltimore -----	122.1	- .6	119.7	- .7	128.1	- .2	116.6	- 1.0	117.5	- .1	128.7	- 2.4	112.6	.6
Boston -----	121.2	- .6	119.4	- .7	133.1	1.1	116.7	- 1.5	113.0	2.3	130.1	- 4.3	108.6	.4
Chicago -----	117.0	- 2.1	114.7	- 2.5	123.5	- .3	110.8	- 1.4	112.2	.4	117.6	- 10.8	116.5	.4
Cincinnati -----	123.5	- .6	121.8	- 1.1	132.0	0	120.4	- 1.6	116.2	.1	129.4	- 4.4	116.3	1.1
Cleveland -----	118.2	- .6	116.4	- .7	129.6	- .2	112.5	- 1.0	110.6	2.6	119.0	- 4.3	115.4	.4
Detroit -----	120.5	- 1.9	118.7	- 2.1	125.8	- .2	113.9	- 1.4	111.4	2.1	129.4	- 10.9	113.5	.4
Houston -----	117.1	- .7	115.6	- .6	125.8	- .3	112.8	- 1.1	112.6	- .1	123.4	- 1.4	108.7	- .2
Kansas City -----	113.3	- 1.4	111.1	- 1.5	127.5	- .1	114.3	- 1.1	91.8	- .9	115.5	- 5.9	105.8	.2
Los Angeles -----	122.7	- .9	119.0	- 1.2	141.1	0	118.1	- .1	109.3	- .3	120.2	- 7.6	113.1	1.8
Minneapolis -----	119.4	- .2	118.1	- .5	137.7	2.7	112.1	- .2	104.2	.1	128.0	- 5.7	119.8	.8
New York -----	121.0	- .6	119.0	- .9	137.7	0	116.7	- 1.8	116.0	1.0	121.7	- 4.0	111.7	1.3
Philadelphia -----	124.3	- .3	122.2	- .4	134.2	- .2	118.6	- 1.3	118.7	.3	133.2	- 1.6	111.7	1.5
Pittsburgh -----	121.7	- 1.7	120.7	- 1.9	130.6	- .3	116.8	- 1.7	114.0	- .1	125.2	- 7.5	121.8	- .1
Portland, Oreg. -----	121.5	.1	120.3	- .2	135.7	.1	120.5	- .2	117.2	.2	115.8	- 4.3	117.3	2.1
St. Louis -----	121.3	- 1.5	117.4	- 1.9	124.9	- .4	115.2	- 2.0	103.3	- 1.7	125.7	- 5.1	119.9	- .1
San Francisco -----	122.5	- 1.3	121.0	- 1.5	147.0	0	120.6	- 1.2	113.7	- .2	121.2	- 7.3	113.0	1.2
Scranton -----	118.6	- 1.8	118.5	- 2.0	135.2	0	118.6	- 2.1	110.5	- .1	120.2	- 8.8	110.9	1.1
Seattle -----	122.7	.4	121.9	.1	146.4	3.1	119.8	.3	115.5	.1	124.1	- 5.8	113.9	3.1
Washington, D.C. -----	122.4	- .8	120.9	- 1.1	131.2	- .1	117.3	- 1.2	118.3	- .3	127.6	- 4.6	114.1	1.2

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

Food and unit	Aug. 1958	July 1958	Food and unit	Aug. 1958	July 1958
<b>Cereals and bakery products:</b>	<b>Cents</b>	<b>Cents</b>	<b>Fresh--Continued</b>	<b>Cents</b>	<b>Cents</b>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.0	55.3	Peaches * ----- 1b.	14.6	16.9
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.9	12.8	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.	24.5	30.7
Rice ----- 1b.	18.6	18.4	Watermelons * ----- 1b.	3.4	4.3
Bolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.3	20.3	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	59.1	67.4
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.5	25.5	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	18.8	18.6
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.3	19.2	Onions ----- 1b.	9.4	10.1
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.2	Carrots ----- 1b.	15.2	14.9
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.5	Lettuce ----- head	14.8	16.0
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Celery ----- 1b.	14.3	17.1
Round steak ----- 1b.	104.0	106.3	Cabbage ----- 1b.	7.0	7.6
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	62.7	65.1	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	19.4	26.4
Rib roast ----- 1b.	81.7	83.0	Beans, green ----- 1b.	17.0	20.0
Hamburger ----- 1b.	53.9	54.8	<b>Canned:</b>		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	134.2	133.8	Orange juice ----- 40-oz. can	41.7	39.4
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	94.6	96.9	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	33.9	33.8
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	86.4	85.1	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.8	34.7
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	68.9	69.2	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.3	26.2
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	76.8	77.9	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.7	17.6
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	67.1	66.8	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.1	21.0
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.8	50.4	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	17.6	18.3
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	46.5	48.9	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.1	10.0
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	46.0	46.3	<b>Dried:</b>		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	55.0	54.7	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.4	33.4
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	63.4	63.3	Beans ----- 1b.	19.0	18.8
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	33.1	32.9	<b>Other foods at home:</b>		
<b>Dairy products:</b>			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.6
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.7	23.5	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.1
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.1	24.8	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.1	27.0
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.7	29.6	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.1	22.0
Butter ----- 1b.	73.5	73.5	Coffee ----- 1b. can	89.6	90.6
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.8	57.9	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	73.0	75.0
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.1	15.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.0	24.1
<b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	27.9	27.6
<b>Frozen:</b>			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	93.9	94.6
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.4	26.5	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.1	29.2
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	28.8	28.5	Lard ----- 1b.	22.9	22.6
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.6	19.5	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.9	37.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.2	23.2	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	56.6	55.7
<b>Fresh:</b>			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.9	56.7
Apples ----- 1b.	(1/)	(1/)	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.0	25.9
Bananas ----- 1b.	19.1	18.6	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.8	27.8
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	80.3	80.1	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.2	5.2
Lemons ----- 1b.	17.8	17.9	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	60.9	57.6
Grapefruit * ----- each			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.0	9.0

\* Priced only in season.

1/ Not available.

Labor D.C. - BLS59-711

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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This bulletin (No. 1232) presents the principal features of one hundred pension plans in effect during the winter 1957-58. These features, which are summarized in a form suitable for quick reference, include:

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