

Released October 23, 1958

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities were unchanged on the average between August and September 1958, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lower prices for food, personal care, and reading and recreation offset higher prices for apparel, medical care, and transportation.

The September Consumer Price Index remained at 123.7 percent of the 1947-49 average, 2.1 percent higher than in September 1957.

FOOD Food prices dropped 0.3 percent during the month as lower prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, pork, poultry, and coffee more than offset higher prices for eggs, milk, and bread. The September food price index at 120.3 was 2.8 percent higher than a year ago.

Prices of fruits and vegetables declined 3.4 percent. Fresh fruit prices fell 5.9 percent, due primarily to a sharp reduction in prices of apples, as new supplies were harvested. Prices of bananas and grapes were down 10.3 and 9.7 percent respectively. Orange prices advanced 8.7 percent and peaches 3.5 percent. Prices of fresh vegetables fell 5.3 percent in a general decline which was led by decreases of 11.6 percent for white potatoes and 26.4 percent for sweet potatoes. Prices of fresh tomatoes were down 5.9 percent, onions 4.3 percent, and carrots 4.1 percent, but green beans were 13.3 percent higher and lettuce was up 7.5 percent. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables averaged 0.7 percent higher as canned orange juice advanced 5.3 percent, while canned tomatoes declined 4.0 percent.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish declined 1.6 percent on the average. There were reductions of 2.9 percent for pork and 4.5 percent for frying chickens as marketings of hogs increased seasonally and supplies of young chickens reached new highs. Bacon prices fell 3.8 percent, ham 3.7 percent, and pork chops 1.2 percent. All beef cuts showed small price declines (less than 0.5 percent), but veal cutlets and leg of lamb rose slightly. Frankfurter prices were 1.3 percent lower.

Eggs registered a price increase of 13.0 percent, about twice the usual seasonal rise. Coffee prices dropped 3.2 percent to their lowest level since July 1950.

Prices of dairy products increased seasonally, reflecting a 1.3 percent advance for fresh milk and a 1.5 percent advance for butter. Cereals and bakery products rose 0.5 percent, due largely to a rise of 1.0 percent in bread prices. Prices of restaurant meals rose 0.1 percent.

MEDICAL CARE The advance of 0.8 percent in medical care prices was due largely to higher rates for group hospitalization insurance in several cities, but there were also some increases in fees of physicians and dentists and some scattered increases in prices of drugs and prescriptions.

APPAREL Apparel prices rose 0.5 percent. Higher prices were reported for men's topcoats, women's coats and suits, and girls' coats. Among year-round apparel items, there were increases for women's rayon dresses and men's suits, but prices were lower for boys' suits, men's and girls' sweaters, women's rayon skirts, and nylon hose.

TRANSPORTATION Public and private transportation costs each rose 0.2 percent. Higher prices for used cars, tires, and auto repairs were partially offset by reductions in prices of gasoline and 1958 model new cars.

HOUSING The housing index remained at its August level, although most of its component subgroups were higher. These advances were offset by decreases in costs of home ownership, especially mortgage interest rates, which dropped substantially since the last semiannual pricing. Housefurnishings prices rose 0.3 percent as regular prices were reported for some furniture and textile items following August sales. Seasonal advances in prices of coal and fuel oil resulted in a rise of 1.2 percent for the solid fuels and fuel oil group. Higher gas rates in two cities were responsible for the increase of 0.4 percent for gas and electricity. Rent and household operation costs continued to rise, with increases of 0.1 percent each.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES Reading and recreation prices declined 0.1 percent largely because of lower prices for television and radio sets. The decline of 0.2 percent in personal care resulted primarily from price reductions for toiletries, especially shampoo.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to September 1958 from —			
	September 1958	August 1958	August 1958	June 1958	September 1957	Year 1939
All items-----	123.7	123.7	0	0	2.1	108.2
Food-----	120.3	120.7	- 0.3	- 1.1	2.8	155.4
Food at home-----	118.7	119.2	- .4	- 1.4	2.8	152.0
Cereals and bakery products-----	133.5	132.9	.5	.5	1.8	133.4
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	115.8	117.7	- 1.6	- 2.1	5.0	178.4
Dairy products-----	114.1	113.0	1.0	2.1	.9	129.1
Fruits and vegetables-----	120.7	124.9	- 3.4	-10.1	5.1	160.7
Other foods at home-----	115.2	112.8	2.1	3.9	.2	138.0
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	113.4	113.3	.1	.6	2.6	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	127.9	127.9	0	.1	1.3	68.1
Rent-----	138.2	138.1	.1	.4	1.8	59.6
Gas and electricity-----	118.0	117.5	.4	.9	3.8	12.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	135.2	133.6	1.2	2.7	- 1.2	139.7
Housefurnishings-----	103.6	103.3	.3	- .5	- 1.1	94.0
Household operation-----	132.2	132.1	.1	.8	3.0	93.3
Apparel-----	107.1	106.6	.5	.4	- .2	104.0
Men's and boys'-----	108.3	108.3	0	- .5	- .9	113.2
Women's and girls'-----	99.6	98.5	1.1	1.1	- .2	82.8
Footwear-----	130.1	130.0	.1	.2	1.6	158.6
Other apparel-----	92.0	91.9	.1	.1	- .3	126.6
Transportation-----	141.3	141.0	.2	1.7	4.0	101.3
Public-----	189.8	189.5	.2	1.1	4.8	133.5
Private-----	130.4	130.1	.2	1.9	3.9	99.1
Medical care-----	146.1	145.0	.8	1.5	5.1	101.2
Personal care-----	128.7	128.9	- .2	.1	2.9	115.9
Reading and recreation-----	116.6	116.7	- .1	- .1	2.9	85.1
Other goods and services-----	127.1	127.1	0	- .1	.3	80.0
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	125.8	125.6	.2	.5	1.9	82.1
All items less shelter-----	121.5	121.4	.1	.1	2.4	119.3
Commodities-----	116.4	116.4	0	- .2	1.7	125.6
Nondurables-----	118.7	118.8	- .1	- .4	1.7	130.9
Food-----	120.3	120.7	- .3	- 1.1	2.8	155.4
Nondurables less food-----	117.2	116.9	.3	.4	.4	99.7
Apparel-----	107.1	106.5	.6	.4	- .2	105.6
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	126.0	125.9	.1	.5	.8	91.2
Durables-----	110.3	109.9	.4	.6	1.6	92.5
New cars-----	130.1	130.6	- .4	- .5	4.1	128.2
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	88.4	85.8	3.0	8.2	6.0	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.1	103.0	.1	- .3	.1	79.9
Commodities less food-----	113.5	113.2	.3	.5	.8	91.1
Services-----	143.0	143.0	0	.5	3.0	77.9
Rent-----	138.2	138.1	.1	.4	1.8	59.6
Services less rent-----	144.4	144.4	0	.4	3.3	96.5
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	132.4	132.2	.2	.9	3.2	52.2
Transportation services-----	175.4	175.0	.2	.7	5.6	119.0
Medical care services-----	151.2	149.8	.9	1.8	5.5	114.5
Other services 3/-----	129.4	130.1	- .5	- .4	1.8	122.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.808	\$0.808	0	0	- 2.2	-52.0

1/ Not available.

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

3/ Includes house purchase, interest, taxes, insurance, and upkeep services; shoe repairs, television repairs, barber and beauty shop services, and movies.

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 --		
	September 1958	June 1958	September 1957	Year 1939	June 1958	September 1957	Year 1939
United States city average-----	123.7	123.7	121.1	59.4	0	2.1	108.2
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	127.4	127.5	124.3	58.6	- 0.1	2.5	117.4
Detroit-----	123.8	124.2	122.8	59.0	- .3	.8	109.8
Los Angeles-----	125.6	125.1	122.0	60.4	.4	3.0	107.9
New York-----	121.4	121.0	118.3	60.1	.3	2.6	102.0
Philadelphia-----	123.4	123.0	121.9	59.2	.3	1.2	108.4
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	September 1958	June 1958	September 1957	Year 1939	June 1958	September 1957	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	124.6	124.9	122.2	58.3	- .2	2.0	113.7
Baltimore-----	124.8	124.8	121.7	57.9	0	2.5	115.5
Cincinnati-----	122.5	122.7	120.9	58.4	- .2	1.3	109.8
St. Louis-----	125.3	124.5	122.1	59.3	.6	2.6	111.3
San Francisco-----	128.4	128.0	123.5	58.6	.3	4.0	119.1
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

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 August 1958 to September 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	- 0.3	0	0.5	0.2	0.8	- 0.2	- 0.1	0
Chicago-----	0.4	.6	0.2	1.3	.1	.1	- .3	- .4	- 0.1
Detroit-----	.1	- .2	0	.9	.3	0	- .1	- .6	- .3
Los Angeles-----	.3	.5	.1	1.2	.2	0	- .2	.2	0
New York-----	.2	.2	0	.8	0	3.1	- .4	.3	.1
Philadelphia-----	0	- .8	- .3	3.7	.2	0	- .1	- .3	0

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
	Indexes (1947-49=100)										
All items -----	123.7	124.6	124.8	127.4	122.5	123.8	125.6	121.4	123.4	125.3	128.4
Food -----	120.3	118.4	120.3	117.7	122.8	120.3	123.3	121.3	123.3	122.4	123.9
Food at home -----	118.7	118.0	117.5	115.6	121.0	118.6	119.7	119.5	120.9	118.5	122.5
Cereals and bakery products --	133.5	126.5	128.2	123.7	131.8	125.6	141.1	141.8	134.6	124.7	147.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.8	118.2	114.5	109.0	118.2	112.5	114.8	116.7	115.7	113.2	118.8
Dairy products -----	114.1	116.5	117.7	112.6	116.2	112.1	110.8	117.8	118.8	107.3	116.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	120.7	126.0	116.9	119.5	125.9	125.7	125.6	115.9	126.5	127.7	126.0
Other foods at home -----	115.2	108.2	114.1	121.3	119.2	116.8	115.0	115.0	114.6	123.4	115.8
Housing -----	127.9	130.7	124.7	138.4	124.2	127.6	135.3	124.4	120.6	126.2	129.6
Rent -----	138.2	137.8	134.7	164.4	142.6	—	146.4	—	126.5	146.9	145.7
Gas and electricity -----	118.0	126.2	108.2	128.3	121.6	117.8	131.2	115.9	103.4	103.8	145.2
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.2	124.9	129.5	140.8	146.0	125.9	—	138.3	130.8	154.8	—
Housefurnishings -----	103.6	110.3	99.0	100.7	96.3	109.2	100.6	103.0	109.5	104.1	106.2
Household operation -----	132.2	138.3	131.1	136.1	134.9	122.0	119.9	132.1	133.4	136.7	121.6
Apparel -----	107.1	114.0	108.0	110.8	106.9	104.2	108.5	106.7	107.6	106.5	108.1
Men's and boys' -----	108.3	116.0	106.3	114.5	107.7	109.0	112.1	107.9	108.3	107.8	109.3
Women's and girls' -----	99.6	105.7	104.5	101.0	99.4	93.9	99.9	98.2	100.9	99.6	100.3
Footwear -----	130.1	139.7	128.5	134.1	134.8	125.8	132.0	131.5	129.1	126.6	135.2
Other apparel -----	92.0	93.6	92.4	96.6	89.9	86.3	84.8	96.3	94.0	94.3	90.3
Transportation -----	141.3	139.9	152.2	150.1	133.1	134.7	137.3	140.1	146.7	153.3	160.7
Public -----	189.8	188.3	188.0	195.6	190.2	155.6	162.1	190.2	188.1	235.9	182.6
Private -----	130.4	131.5	134.5	131.7	120.8	130.5	133.1	120.7	126.8	129.7	147.9
Medical care -----	146.1	136.8	149.3	150.7	148.9	152.3	137.6	135.0	148.6	159.0	151.3
Personal care -----	128.7	131.6	124.2	129.5	130.8	134.0	132.5	122.4	134.4	129.4	123.4
Reading and recreation -----	116.6	119.6	129.2	123.8	109.6	112.8	101.9	119.2	118.4	96.7	117.4
Other goods and services -----	127.1	132.7	138.5	121.2	123.5	135.7	123.9	126.5	128.5	129.1	124.3
	Percent change from June 1958 to September 1958										
All items -----	0	- 0.2	0	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	0.3
Food -----	- 1.1	- .7	- 1.7	- .9	- 1.0	- 2.3	- .4	- .2	- .5	.2	- .5
Food at home -----	- 1.4	- .7	- 2.2	- .9	- 1.9	- 2.6	- .6	- .3	- .9	.1	- .7
Cereals and bakery products --	.5	- .3	- .3	- .3	- .2	0	0	2.9	.2	- .8	1.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 2.1	- 1.7	- 2.1	- 2.3	- 2.2	- 2.7	- 2.3	- 1.4	- 2.7	- 1.7	- 1.6
Dairy products -----	2.1	2.3	.2	1.4	.2	2.5	.6	5.2	2.9	5.9	2.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	-10.1	- 6.7	-11.2	- 7.9	- 9.7	-15.0	- 4.2	-10.2	- 7.6	- 5.8	- 9.9
Other foods at home -----	3.9	3.3	2.5	5.2	3.8	3.5	3.8	4.5	4.3	4.2	5.6
Housing -----	.1	- .2	.2	.4	- .1	- .2	.2	.1	- .2	0	.3
Rent -----	.4	.4	.1	1/ .1	.7	—	1/ .2	—	1/ 0	.6	1.0
Gas and electricity -----	.9	.2	2.5	4.3	0	.3	- .5	- .3	0	0	2.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	2.7	0	3.1	5.0	7.5	.9	—	2.0	4.3	5.4	—
Housefurnishings -----	- .5	.5	0	- 1.8	.1	.1	1.1	- 1.2	- .1	- .8	.6
Household operation -----	.8	1.1	.8	.7	.8	.5	1.2	1.1	- .7	1.0	.6
Apparel -----	-.4	.3	.3	1.1	1.9	1.2	1.0	1.1	3.0	.5	0
Men's and boys' -----	- .5	0	.4	- 1.3	.8	.1	- .4	.1	- 1.1	- .2	0
Women's and girls' -----	1.1	.3	1.3	3.7	3.8	2.1	2.1	2.4	7.2	1.1	- .4
Footwear -----	.2	1.2	.5	0	.1	1.1	1.0	- .2	.3	.2	1.0
Other apparel -----	.1	.2	- 5.1	.6	1.1	1.4	1.2	.6	1.8	- .4	- .3
Transportation -----	1.7	.4	2.8	.5	.5	2.3	2.5	.8	1.7	3.4	1.8
Public -----	1.1	0	0	0	3.8	0	0	0	0	14.2	0
Private -----	1.9	.5	3.4	.6	0	2.8	2.9	1.0	2.2	.9	2.1
Medical care -----	1.5	0	.6	.1	0	.7	.6	3.2	3.3	.3	.3
Personal care -----	.1	- .1	- .1	- .1	- .1	.1	- .6	.7	- .1	- .2	- .5
Reading and recreation -----	- .1	.2	.9	- 1.6	- .3	- .9	- 1.4	1.4	- .7	.3	.6
Other goods and services -----	- .1	0	1.7	- .2	- .3	- .3	- .1	0	- .2	1.2	- .2

1/ Change from July 1958 to September 1958.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 September 1958 indexes and percent changes, August 1958 to September 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 ---	120.3	- 0.3	118.7	- 0.4	133.5	0.5	115.8	- 1.6	114.1	1.0	120.7	- 3.4	115.2	2.1
Atlanta -----	118.4	- .1	118.0	- .1	126.5	- .1	118.2	- 2.2	116.5	2.1	126.0	- 1.6	108.2	2.7
Baltimore -----	120.3	- 1.5	117.5	- 1.8	128.2	.1	114.5	- 1.8	117.7	.2	116.9	- 9.2	114.1	1.3
Boston -----	120.0	- 1.0	118.1	- 1.1	132.5	- .5	116.6	- .1	113.3	.3	120.5	- 7.4	109.8	1.1
Chicago -----	117.7	.6	115.6	.8	123.7	.2	109.0	- 1.6	112.6	.4	119.5	1.6	121.3	4.1
Cincinnati -----	122.8	- .6	121.0	- .7	131.8	- .2	118.2	- 1.8	116.2	0	125.9	- 2.7	119.2	2.1
Cleveland -----	117.0	- 1.0	115.1	- 1.1	129.9	.2	109.8	- 2.4	110.6	0	113.1	- 5.0	117.5	1.8
Detroit -----	120.3	- .2	118.6	- .1	125.6	- .2	112.5	- 1.2	112.1	.6	125.7	- 2.9	116.8	2.9
Houston -----	117.3	.2	115.8	.2	126.1	.2	112.3	- .4	112.8	.2	122.6	- .6	110.5	1.7
Kansas City -----	113.6	.3	111.5	.4	127.6	.1	111.2	- 2.7	101.1	10.1	111.2	- 3.7	108.4	2.5
Los Angeles -----	123.3	.5	119.7	.6	141.1	0	114.8	- 2.8	110.8	1.4	125.6	4.5	115.0	1.7
Minneapolis -----	118.1	- 1.1	116.6	- 1.3	134.5	- 2.3	110.1	- 1.8	103.8	- .4	121.0	- 5.5	123.4	3.0
New York -----	121.3	.2	119.5	.4	141.8	3.0	116.7	0	117.8	1.6	115.9	- 4.8	115.0	3.0
Philadelphia -----	123.3	- .8	120.9	- 1.1	134.6	.3	115.7	- 2.4	118.8	.1	126.5	- 5.0	114.6	2.6
Pittsburgh -----	121.9	.2	120.8	.1	132.7	1.6	115.0	- 1.5	116.8	2.5	122.4	- 2.2	123.7	1.6
Portland, Oreg. ----	121.6	.1	120.3	0	140.2	3.3	119.5	- .8	117.3	.1	114.3	- 1.3	117.3	0
St. Louis -----	122.4	.9	118.5	.9	124.7	- .2	113.2	- 1.7	107.3	3.9	127.7	1.6	123.4	2.9
San Francisco -----	123.9	1.1	122.5	1.2	147.2	.1	118.8	- 1.5	116.4	2.4	126.0	4.0	115.8	2.5
Saranton -----	118.2	- .3	118.0	- .4	134.9	- .2	116.9	- 1.4	113.3	2.5	113.5	- 5.6	113.8	2.6
Seattle -----	122.5	- .2	121.7	- .2	147.3	.6	118.8	- .8	115.6	.1	121.4	- 2.2	115.6	1.5
Washington, D.C. ---	121.7	- .6	120.0	- .7	131.7	.4	113.6	- 3.2	118.0	- .3	124.2	- 2.7	117.5	3.0

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

Food and unit	Sept. 1958	Aug. 1958	Food and unit	Sept. 1958	Aug. 1958
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.8	55.0	Peaches * ----- 1b.	15.1	14.6
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.9	12.9	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.	22.1	24.5
Rice ----- 1b.	18.6	18.6	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		3.4
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.3	20.3	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	52.2	59.1
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.5	25.5	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	13.8	18.8
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.5	19.3	Onions ----- 1b.	9.0	9.4
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.3	29.2	Carrots ----- 1b.	14.5	15.2
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.5	Lettuce ----- head	15.9	14.8
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	14.2	14.3
Round steak ----- 1b.	103.7	104.0	Cabbage ----- 1b.	7.0	7.0
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	62.4	62.7	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	18.3	19.4
Rib roast ----- 1b.	81.6	81.7	Beans, green ----- 1b.	19.3	17.0
Hamburger ----- 1b.	53.8	53.9	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	135.0	134.2	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	43.8	41.7
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	93.5	94.6	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.2	33.9
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	83.0	86.4	Pineapple ----- #2 can	34.9	34.8
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	66.3	68.9	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.5	26.3
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	77.1	76.8	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	17.8	17.7
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	66.3	67.1	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.1	21.1
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	51.6	50.8	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.7	17.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	44.3	46.5	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.1	10.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	45.7	46.0	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	56.2	55.0	Prunes ----- 1b.	33.6	33.4
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	62.5	63.4	Beans ----- 1b.	19.2	19.0
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	33.2	33.1	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.5
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.0	23.7	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.1
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.3	25.1	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.0	27.1
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.7	29.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.2	22.1
Butter ----- 1b.	74.6	73.5	Coffee ----- 1b. can	87.7	89.6
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.8	57.8	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	69.4	73.0
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.1	15.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.1	24.0
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	28.0	27.9
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	92.8	93.9
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.2	26.4	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.1	29.1
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	28.9	28.8	Lard ----- 1b.	23.1	22.9
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.8	19.6	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.8	37.9
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.3	23.2	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	56.8	56.6
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.9	56.9
Apples ----- 1b.	14.4	(1/)	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.1	26.0
Bananas ----- 1b.	17.1	19.1	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.8	27.8
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	87.2	80.3	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.2	5.2
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.0	17.8	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	68.7	60.9
Grapefruit * ----- each			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.0	9.0

* 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	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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