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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR OCTOBER 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities were unchanged on the average between September and October as lower food prices offset advances in most other groups of goods and services, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.

The October Consumer Price Index remained at 123.7 percent of the 1947-49 average, 2.1 percent higher than a year ago. This was the second consecutive month since the August decrease that the index has remained stable.

FOOD Food prices dropped 0.5 percent during the month largely because of lower prices of eggs, pork, poultry, and apples. This third successive monthly decline brought the October food price index to 119.7, 1.6 percent below the July 1958 peak, but 2.8 percent higher than in October 1957.

Egg prices, beginning their seasonal decline a month earlier than usual, fell 7.2 percent, and coffee prices continued downward with a decrease of 0.5 percent.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish averaged 1.0 percent lower. All cuts of pork declined, with bacon prices down 5.1 percent, pork chops 1.3 percent, and ham 0.8 percent. Prices of frying chickens dropped 3.4 percent, to bring the poultry index to its lowest level since December 1942. Beef, veal, and lamb prices were generally higher as most cuts rose moderately.

Prices of dairy products advanced 0.4 percent, mainly because of higher prices of fresh milk. An increase of 0.3 percent in cereals and bakery products reflected higher bread prices in several cities. A rise of 0.2 percent in prices of fruits and vegetables concealed widely divergent movements among individual items. Fresh fruit prices fell 1.5 percent (with apples down 14.9 percent), offsetting an advance of 2.2 percent in fresh vegetable prices, due principally to increases of 14.3 percent for lettuce, 17.2 percent for tomatoes, and 14.6 percent for green beans. However, prices of potatoes were down 5.5 percent. Canned fruits and vegetables were up 0.8 percent as an increase for orange juice more than offset a decrease for tomatoes.

Prices of restaurant meals were 0.1 percent lower, the first decline since June 1956.

TRANSPORTATION The index for the transportation group advanced 1.0 percent. New car prices rose 4.2 percent as higher prices of incoming 1959 models outweighed slight declines in dealers' selling prices of 1958 models. Prices of used cars and tires also advanced, but gasoline prices declined in a number of cities.

MEDICAL CARE Medical care costs were 0.4 percent higher. Group hospitalization insurance premiums advanced in some cities and fees for professional services were higher. Prices of prescriptions also increased slightly.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES Apparel prices increased 0.2 percent, as higher prices for women's and girls' wear more than offset reductions in prices of men's and boys' clothing. Prices of footwear were unchanged on the average.

The increase of 0.1 percent in personal care was largely due to scattered advances in prices of barber and beauty shop services.

Housing costs were unchanged on the average as lower prices for housefurnishings and decreases in homeowner costs offset advances in other components. Rents rose 0.1 percent and gas bills were 0.2 percent higher. Bituminous coal prices rose 0.5 percent and anthracite 0.6 percent, but prices of fuel oil declined slightly. The increase of 0.2 percent in household operation reflected higher prices for laundry and dry cleaning services and for laundry soaps and detergents. Housefurnishings prices declined 0.2 percent, as reductions in prices of major appliances and bedroom and dining room furniture more than offset higher prices for such items as sheets, toasters, and kitchenware.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to October 1958 from —			
	October 1958	September 1958	September 1958	July 1958	October 1957	Year 1939
All items-----	123.7	123.7	0	- 0.2	2.1	108.2
Food-----	119.7	120.3	- 0.5	- 1.6	2.8	154.1
Food at home-----	118.0	118.7	- .6	- 2.1	2.9	150.5
Cereals and bakery products-----	33.9	33.5	.3	.8	1.9	134.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	114.6	115.8	- 1.0	- 3.9	7.8	175.5
Dairy products-----	114.5	114.1	.4	1.9	.3	129.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	121.0	120.7	.2	- 8.3	5.7	161.3
Other foods at home-----	113.2	115.2	- 1.7	1.3	- 2.6	133.9
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	113.3	113.4	- .1	.4	2.4	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	127.9	127.9	0	.2	1.0	68.1
Rent-----	138.3	138.2	.1	.4	1.7	59.7
Gas and electricity-----	118.1	118.0	.1	.9	3.8	12.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	135.6	135.2	.3	2.5	- 1.5	140.4
Housefurnishings-----	103.4	103.6	- .2	- .6	- 1.3	93.6
Household operation-----	132.4	132.2	.2	.9	2.9	93.6
Apparel-----	107.3	107.1	.2	.6	- .4	104.4
Men's and boys'-----	107.9	108.3	- .4	- .6	- 1.4	112.4
Women's and girls'-----	100.2	99.6	.6	1.6	- .4	83.9
Footwear-----	130.1	130.1	0	.3	1.4	158.6
Other apparel-----	91.8	92.0	- .2	- .2	- .8	126.1
Transportation-----	142.7	141.3	1.0	1.7	5.1	103.3
Public-----	190.4	189.8	.3	.5	4.8	134.2
Private-----	131.8	130.4	1.1	1.9	5.1	101.2
Medical care-----	146.7	146.1	.4	1.5	5.0	102.1
Personal care-----	128.8	128.7	.1	- .1	2.1	116.1
Reading and recreation-----	116.6	116.6	0	0	2.8	85.1
Other goods and services-----	127.2	127.1	.1	0	.3	80.2
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	126.0	125.8	.2	.5	1.9	82.3
All items less shelter-----	121.5	121.5	0	- .1	2.4	119.3
Commodities-----	116.4	116.4	0	- .3	1.8	125.6
Nondurables-----	118.4	118.7	- .3	- .8	1.6	130.4
Food-----	119.7	120.3	- .5	- 1.6	2.8	154.1
Nondurables less food-----	117.2	117.2	0	.3	.2	99.7
Apparel-----	107.2	107.1	.1	.5	- .6	105.8
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	125.9	126.0	- .1	.1	.6	91.0
Durables-----	111.2	110.3	.8	1.3	2.4	94.1
New cars-----	135.5	130.1	4.2	3.6	9.2	137.7
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	88.7	88.4	.3	5.5	5.7	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.0	103.1	- .1	- .1	- .1	79.8
Commodities less food-----	113.9	113.5	.4	.7	1.0	91.8
Services-----	143.1	143.0	.1	.4	2.8	78.0
Rent-----	138.3	138.2	.1	.4	1.7	59.7
Services less rent-----	144.5	144.4	.1	.3	3.0	96.6
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	132.6	132.4	.2	1.0	3.3	52.4
Transportation services-----	175.6	175.4	.1	.4	5.5	119.2
Medical care services-----	151.8	151.2	.4	1.6	5.3	115.3
Other services 3/-----	129.4	129.4	0	- .5	1.4	122.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$.808	\$.808	0	.1	- 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 --		
	October 1958	July 1958	October 1957	Year 1939	July 1958	October 1957	Year 1939
United States city average-----	123.7	123.9	121.1	59.4	- 0.2	2.1	108.2
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	127.3	127.6	124.7	58.6	- .2	2.1	117.2
Detroit-----	123.3	124.3	122.7	59.0	- .8	.5	109.0
Los Angeles-----	125.6	125.4	122.2	60.4	.2	2.8	107.9
New York-----	121.5	121.1	118.4	60.1	.3	2.6	102.2
Philadelphia-----	123.3	123.3	122.0	59.2	0	1.1	108.3
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	October 1958	July 1958	October 1957	Year 1939	July 1958	October 1957	Year 1939
Boston-----	125.4	125.4	122.0	61.0	0	2.8	105.6
Kansas City-----	124.9	124.8	121.8	61.7	.1	2.5	102.4
Minneapolis-----	124.5	124.9	122.2	60.7	- .3	1.9	105.1
Pittsburgh-----	124.5	124.7	121.1	58.1	- .2	2.8	114.3
Portland, Oregon-----	124.5	124.7	121.9	58.3	- .2	2.1	113.6
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
Saranton-----	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

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 September 1958 to October 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	- 0.5	0	0.2	1.0	0.4	0.1	0	0.1
Chicago-----	- 0.1	- .8	0.1	- .3	1.8	.5	.2	- 0.3	.1
Detroit-----	- .4	- .8	- .5	- .3	- .3	0	.1	.7	- .1
Los Angeles-----	0	- .2	.1	- .1	- .1	.9	.4	- .1	0
New York-----	.1	- .2	.2	- .4	.6	0	- .1	.1	.2
Philadelphia-----	- .1	- .3	.2	- .4	- .3	0	- .1	.1	0

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland, Oregon
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	123.7	125.4	127.3	123.3	124.9	125.6	124.5	121.5	123.3	124.5	124.5
Food -----	119.7	119.9	116.7	119.3	113.6	123.0	117.8	121.1	122.9	121.6	120.5
Food at home -----	118.0	117.9	114.3	117.3	111.5	119.3	116.1	119.4	120.7	120.4	119.2
Cereals and bakery products --	133.9	132.4	123.6	125.3	127.6	145.8	134.4	142.5	138.5	132.7	140.2
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	114.6	115.5	106.9	110.9	109.7	112.5	109.0	115.9	113.6	114.1	118.3
Dairy products -----	114.5	115.3	112.7	112.1	108.0	110.8	105.0	117.8	121.7	117.2	117.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.0	122.1	119.9	125.8	110.7	126.4	123.1	118.3	126.1	122.6	114.1
Other foods at home -----	113.2	107.9	118.5	113.9	106.2	113.3	120.2	113.3	112.4	122.7	114.1
Housing -----	127.9	133.7	138.5	127.0	125.6	135.5	127.0	124.6	120.8	126.9	126.9
Rent -----	138.3	144.4	—	146.3	141.3	—	153.2	127.9	—	130.5	136.2
Gas and electricity -----	118.1	114.4	128.7	117.2	121.5	131.2	127.6	115.9	103.4	136.3	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.6	136.1	141.6	125.9	123.0	—	128.8	138.3	130.8	131.9	138.0
Housefurnishings -----	103.4	103.1	101.2	109.6	102.6	101.1	98.5	102.6	108.7	106.7	105.5
Household operation -----	132.4	132.1	136.2	120.1	137.2	120.0	134.9	132.3	133.6	139.2	129.9
Apparel -----	107.3	107.7	110.5	104.5	106.0	108.4	108.0	106.3	107.2	105.1	111.2
Men's and boys' -----	107.9	105.6	114.4	108.7	108.6	111.8	108.7	106.3	108.3	104.1	112.1
Women's and girls' -----	100.2	103.7	100.2	94.8	99.3	100.0	102.4	98.5	100.0	98.1	102.7
Footwear -----	130.1	123.9	134.4	125.8	124.0	132.2	126.3	131.2	129.2	126.2	136.4
Other apparel -----	91.8	102.7	96.4	86.4	88.6	84.3	93.7	95.4	93.7	99.9	98.3
Transportation -----	142.7	148.4	152.8	134.3	150.7	137.1	126.1	140.9	146.2	155.5	139.5
Public -----	190.4	168.1	195.6	155.6	251.4	162.1	166.8	190.2	188.1	236.1	196.8
Private -----	131.8	141.8	134.7	130.0	136.2	132.8	120.8	121.6	126.3	129.3	132.8
Medical care -----	146.7	157.1	151.5	152.3	169.8	138.9	190.4	135.0	148.6	155.0	141.2
Personal care -----	128.3	129.3	129.7	134.2	128.3	133.0	136.4	122.3	134.3	125.7	132.4
Reading and recreation -----	116.6	113.9	123.4	113.6	127.0	101.8	124.9	119.3	118.5	109.8	124.9
Other goods and services -----	127.2	127.0	121.3	135.6	124.8	123.9	131.1	126.8	128.5	127.6	127.1
Percent change from July 1958 to October 1958											
All items -----	- 0.2	0	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.1	0.2	- 0.3	0.3	0	- 0.2	- 0.2
Food -----	- 1.6	- 1.6	- 2.3	- 2.9	- 1.1	- .6	- 1.5	- .5	- 1.4	- 1.8	- .7
Food at home -----	- 2.1	- 2.0	- 2.8	- 3.3	- 1.2	- .9	- 2.2	- .6	- 1.6	- 2.2	- 1.2
Cereals and bakery products --	.8	.6	- .2	- .2	0	3.3	.2	3.5	3.0	1.3	3.4
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	- 3.9	- 2.5	- 4.9	- 4.0	- 5.1	- 4.8	- 2.9	- 2.4	- 5.5	- 4.0	- 2.1
Dairy products -----	1.9	4.3	.8	2.7	16.6	1.1	.9	2.6	2.9	2.7	.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 8.3	-10.2	- 9.1	-13.4	- 9.9	- 2.8	- 9.4	- 6.7	- 6.9	- 9.4	- 5.7
Other foods at home -----	1.3	- .3	2.2	.7	.6	2.0	1.2	2.7	2.1	.7	- .7
Housing -----	.2	.8	.6	-.4	0	.6	-.5	.3	.1	0	-.5
Rent -----	.4	1.4	—	-.6*	.1	—	.2	-.2*	—	0	.4
Gas and electricity -----	.9	-.3	4.4	-.6	.5	-.2	0	-.3	0	4.4	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	2.5	2.9	4.8	.1	2.4	—	0	2.0	3.2	.6	- 1.4
Housefurnishings -----	-.6	.4	-.9	.8	0	1.5	-.3	- 1.3	0	0	-.5
Household operation -----	.9	3.5	.9	- 1.1	.7	1.3	1.5	1.3	-.4	1.5	1.3
Apparel -----	.6	1.6	-.3	1.4	1.9	.5	.2	.7	4.0	.8	-.2
Men's and boys' -----	-.6	1.0	-.3	-.1	.6	-.9	-.3	- 1.0	-.7	1.2	- 1.1
Women's and girls' -----	1.6	2.7	1.2	2.6	3.8	1.7	.5	2.2	9.1	1.0	.9
Footwear -----	.3	-.2	.1	1.1	-.2	1.0	.4	-.2	.3	0	-.4
Other apparel -----	-.2	.7	.1	1.8	1.1	-.9	.1	-.4	2.3	.4	0
Transportation -----	1.7	-.4	2.7	1.8	1.5	.4	1.0	1.1	.6	2.1	1.0
Public -----	.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Private -----	1.9	-.6	3.4	2.1	1.8	.5	1.1	1.4	.7	2.9	1.2
Medical care -----	1.5	.3	.6	.6	.1	1.1	.4	3.2	0	.6	.6
Personal care -----	-.1	0	0	.2	-.2	.3	-.1	-.6	-.1	.5	-.3
Reading and recreation -----	0	.4	-.8	- 3.4	-.3	.2	.2	.5	-.3	1.4	1.2
Other goods and services -----	0	1.5	-.1	-.6	-.5	-.1	-.1	.3	-.2	0	-.1

* Change from August 1958 to October 1958.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 October 1958 indexes and percent changes, September 1958 to October 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 ---	119.7	- 0.5	118.0	- 0.6	133.9	0.3	114.6	- 1.0	114.5	0.4	121.0	0.2	113.2	- 1.7
Atlanta -----	117.6	- .7	116.9	- .9	125.9	- .5	117.2	- .8	116.2	- .3	124.8	- 1.0	106.2	- 1.8
Baltimore -----	120.2	- .1	117.4	- .1	128.4	.2	114.6	.1	117.5	- .2	118.0	.9	112.8	- 1.1
Boston -----	119.9	- .1	117.9	- .2	132.4	- .1	115.5	- .9	115.3	1.8	122.1	1.3	107.9	- 1.7
Chicago -----	116.7	- .8	114.3	- 1.1	123.6	- .1	106.9	- 1.9	112.7	.1	119.9	.3	118.5	- 2.3
Cincinnati -----	121.9	- .7	119.8	- 1.0	131.9	- .1	116.4	- 1.5	116.2	0	124.2	- 1.4	117.1	- 1.8
Cleveland -----	116.1	- .8	113.8	- 1.1	129.5	- .3	109.0	- .7	110.5	- .1	111.1	- 1.8	115.1	- 2.0
Detroit -----	119.3	- .8	117.3	- 1.1	125.3	- .2	110.9	- 1.4	112.1	0	125.8	.1	113.9	- 2.5
Houston -----	116.8	- .4	115.1	- .6	125.8	- .2	110.9	- 1.2	112.7	- .1	121.7	- .7	110.3	- .2
Kansas City -----	113.6	0	111.5	0	127.6	0	109.7	- 1.3	108.0	6.8	110.7	- .4	106.2	- 2.0
Los Angeles -----	123.0	- .2	119.3	- .3	145.8	3.3	112.5	- 2.0	110.8	0	126.4	- .6	113.3	- 1.5
Minneapolis -----	117.8	- .3	116.1	- .4	134.4	- .1	109.0	- 1.0	105.0	1.2	123.1	1.7	120.2	- 2.6
New York -----	121.1	- .2	119.4	- .1	142.5	.5	115.9	- .7	117.8	0	118.3	2.1	113.3	- 1.5
Philadelphia -----	122.9	- .3	120.7	- .2	138.5	2.9	113.6	- 1.8	121.7	2.4	126.1	- .3	112.4	- 1.9
Pittsburgh -----	121.6	- .2	120.4	- .3	132.7	0	114.1	- .8	117.2	.3	122.6	- .2	122.7	- .8
Portland, Oreg. -----	120.5	- .9	119.2	- .9	140.2	0	118.3	- 1.0	117.6	.3	114.1	- .2	114.1	- 2.7
St. Louis -----	120.5	- 1.6	116.2	- 1.9	124.7	0	110.6	- 2.3	105.9	- 1.3	124.9	- 2.2	120.0	- 2.8
San Francisco -----	122.9	- .8	121.3	- 1.0	147.1	- .1	116.6	- 1.9	116.4	0	127.3	1.0	112.8	- 2.6
Seranton -----	117.5	- .6	117.2	- .7	135.5	.4	115.6	- 1.1	113.3	0	115.7	1.9	110.5	- 2.9
Seattle -----	120.8	- 1.4	119.6	- 1.7	146.9	- .3	115.9	- 2.4	115.5	- .1	121.3	- .1	111.0	- 4.0
Washington, D.C. -----	121.1	- .5	119.4	- .5	132.3	.5	113.5	- .1	119.0	.8	122.8	- 1.1	115.1	- 2.0

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

Food and unit	Oct. 1958	Sept. 1958	Food and unit	Oct. 1958	Sept. 1958
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh -- Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.7	54.8	Peaches * ----- lb.		15.1
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	13.0	12.9	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	26.3	22.1
Rice ----- 1b.	18.5	18.6	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.4	20.3	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	49.4	52.2
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.6	25.5	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	12.6	13.8
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.6	19.5	Onions ----- 1b.	8.9	9.0
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.3	29.3	Carrots ----- 1b.	13.9	14.5
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.5	Lettuce ----- head	18.1	15.9
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	13.2	14.2
Round steak ----- 1b.	104.5	103.7	Cabbage ----- 1b.	7.0	7.0
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	62.5	62.4	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	21.4	18.3
Rib roast ----- 1b.	80.9	81.6	Beans, green ----- 1b.	22.1	19.3
Hamburger ----- 1b.	54.3	53.8	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	135.1	135.0	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	45.3	43.8
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	92.3	93.5	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.5	34.2
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	78.8	83.0	Pineapple ----- #2 can	35.0	34.9
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	65.8	66.3	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.8	26.5
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	77.4	77.1	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.0	17.8
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	66.1	66.3	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.1	21.1
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	52.6	51.6	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.5	16.7
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	42.9	44.3	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.1	10.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	46.2	45.7	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	56.7	56.2	Prunes ----- 1b.	35.0	33.6
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	62.1	62.5	Beans ----- 1b.	18.5	19.2
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	33.5	33.2	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.4
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.1	24.0	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.2	15.1
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.5	25.3	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.0	27.0
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.7	29.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.4	22.2
Butter ----- 1b.	74.8	74.6	Coffee ----- 1b. can	87.2	87.7
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.9	57.8	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	69.1	69.4
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.1	15.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.1	24.1
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	28.0	28.0
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	92.8	92.8
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.2	26.2	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.0	29.1
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	28.9	28.9	Lard ----- 1b.	23.0	23.1
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.9	19.8	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.8	37.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.1	23.3	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	56.7	56.8
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.9	56.9
Apples ----- 1b.	12.3	14.4	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.1	26.1
Bananas ----- 1b.	18.3	17.1	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.9	27.8
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	87.3	87.2	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.2	5.2
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.3	18.0	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	63.8	68.7
Grapefruit * ----- each			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	8.9	9.0

* 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	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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