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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR NOVEMBER 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.2 percent between October and November 1958 according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Most groups of goods and services advanced in price, with transportation showing the largest increase, due to higher prices for 1959 model automobiles. Prices of food and gasoline were lower.

The Consumer Price Index in November regained the previous peak of 123.9 (1947-49=100) reached in July. The November index was 1.9 percent higher than a year ago.

TRANSPORTATION Prices of transportation items were up 1.3 percent, led by a rise of 6.4 percent in dealers' selling prices of new cars as more 1959 models became available. Prices of tires also advanced. Gasoline prices dropped 2.2 percent, with substantial reductions in several cities. Public transportation costs rose 0.4 percent, as fare increases were granted several eastern railroads, and transit fares advanced in Baltimore.

FOOD Food prices were down 0.3 percent in November, their fourth consecutive monthly decline, with seasonal reductions in prices of pork, fresh fruits, and eggs. The November food index at 119.4 was 2.9 percent higher than a year ago but 1.9 percent below the July 1958 peak.

Average prices of meats, poultry, and fish as a group dropped 1.0 percent due largely to reductions for all cuts of pork. Most other items of the group showed modest increases. Bacon prices were down 6.2 percent, pork chops 1.7 percent, and ham 0.4 percent. Frankfurters were also down (0.5 percent) but all cuts of beef, leg of lamb, and canned luncheon meat were higher. Poultry and fish prices increased slightly on the average.

The "other foods at home" group declined 0.5 percent as the prices of eggs dropped 1.7 percent and coffee prices were down 0.4 percent in a continuing decline.

A net increase of 0.1 percent for fruits and vegetables resulted from widely divergent price movements among individual items. Fresh fruit prices fell 3.2 percent due principally to seasonal decreases of 5.4 percent for oranges and 4.6 percent for apples. These decreases were almost offset by a 4.0 percent increase in average prices of fresh vegetables as tomatoes advanced 30.6 percent, celery 9.3 percent, and potatoes 2.1 percent. However, lettuce prices declined 9.9 percent. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables advanced, largely because of higher prices for canned orange juice and dried prunes; prices of canned tomatoes and dried beans were lower.

Cereals and bakery products increased 0.1 percent, while dairy products were unchanged on the average.

Prices of restaurant meals were up 0.4 percent, resuming their upward movement after a decline in October.

APPAREL Prices of apparel were up 0.4 percent, as higher prices were reported for women's rayon dresses, blouses, wool coats, and shoes; men's suits, topcoats, and sport shirts; and shoe repairs. Prices were lower for women's wool suits and children's shoes.

HOUSING The housing index rose 0.1 percent, with increases in most of its component subgroups. Rent was up 0.1 percent as advances were reported in most of the cities surveyed. Household operation costs were 0.2 percent higher, due largely to increases in wages of domestic service workers and scattered advances for laundry and dry cleaning services. Prices of anthracite rose 0.5 percent and bituminous coal 0.2 percent, but fuel oil prices declined 0.2 percent and gas and electric bills were unchanged on the average. Repair and maintenance costs fell slightly. The increase of 0.1 percent in housefurnishings prices resulted from higher prices of kitchenware, wool rugs, sheets, towels, and toasters, which more than offset reductions for vacuum cleaners and ranges.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES Reading and recreation costs rose 0.3 percent as prices of movie admissions and newspapers advanced. Prices of television sets and radios also rose slightly with introduction of new models.

Medical and personal care each increased 0.2 percent with higher fees for medical and hospital services, prescriptions and drugs, barber and beauty shop services, and toilet goods.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to November 1958 from --			
	November 1958	October 1958	October 1958	August 1958	November 1957	Year 1939
All items-----	123.9	123.7	0.2	0.2	1.9	108.6
Food-----	119.4	119.7	- .3	- 1.1	2.9	153.5
Food at home-----	117.6	118.0	- .3	- 1.3	3.1	149.7
Cereals and bakery products-----	134.0	133.9	.1	.8	1.8	134.3
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	113.5	114.6	- 1.0	- 3.6	8.5	172.8
Dairy products-----	114.5	114.5	0	1.3	0	129.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	121.1	121.0	.1	- 3.0	5.7	161.6
Other foods at home-----	112.6	113.2	- .5	- .2	- 2.6	132.6
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	113.7	113.3	.4	.4	2.5	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	128.0	127.9	.1	.1	.9	68.2
Rent-----	138.4	138.3	.1	.2	1.5	59.8
Gas and electricity-----	118.1	118.1	0	.5	3.3	12.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	135.8	135.6	.1	1.6	- 1.6	140.8
Housefurnishings-----	103.5	103.4	.1	.2	- 1.0	93.2
Household operation-----	132.6	132.4	.2	.4	2.5	93.9
Apparel-----	107.7	107.3	.4	1.0	- .2	105.1
Men's and boys'-----	108.5	107.9	.6	.2	- .8	113.6
Women's and girls'-----	100.6	100.2	.4	2.1	- .2	84.6
Footwear-----	130.3	130.1	.2	.2	1.0	159.0
Other apparel-----	92.3	91.8	.5	.4	- .3	127.3
Transportation-----	144.5	142.7	1.3	2.5	3.2	105.8
Private-----	133.6	131.8	1.4	2.7	3.0	104.0
Public-----	191.1	190.4	.4	.8	4.5	135.1
Medical care-----	147.0	146.7	.2	1.4	4.8	102.5
Personal care-----	129.1	128.8	.2	.2	1.9	116.6
Reading and recreation-----	117.0	116.6	.3	.3	2.3	85.7
Other goods and services-----	127.3	127.2	.1	.2	.4	80.3
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	126.5	126.0	.4	.7	1.5	83.1
All items less shelter-----	121.7	121.5	.2	.2	2.1	119.7
Commodities-----	116.6	116.4	.2	.2	1.7	126.0
Nondurables-----	118.2	118.4	- .2	- .5	1.5	130.0
Food-----	119.4	119.7	- .3	- 1.1	2.9	153.5
Nondurables less food-----	117.1	117.2	- .1	.2	- .3	99.5
Apparel-----	107.7	107.2	.5	1.1	- .2	106.7
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	125.5	125.9	- .3	- .3	- .1	90.4
Durables-----	112.8	111.2	1.4	2.6	1.7	96.9
New cars-----	144.2	135.5	6.4	10.4	4.2	153.0
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	88.8	88.7	.1	3.5	6.3	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.1	103.0	.1	.1	.2	79.9
Commodities less food-----	114.5	113.9	.5	1.1	.6	92.8
Services-----	143.4	143.1	.2	.3	2.6	78.4
Rent-----	138.4	138.3	.1	.2	1.5	59.8
Services less rent-----	144.8	144.5	.2	.3	2.8	97.0
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	132.8	132.6	.2	.5	2.9	52.6
Transportation services-----	176.0	175.6	.2	.6	5.3	119.7
Medical care services-----	152.0	151.8	.1	1.5	5.0	115.6
Other services 3/-----	129.8	129.4	.3	- .2	1.3	122.6
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.807	\$0.808	- .1	- .1	- 1.8	-52.1

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 --		
	November 1958	August 1958	November 1957	Year 1939	August 1958	November 1957	Year 1939
United States city average-----	123.9	123.7	121.6	59.4	0.2	1.9	108.6
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	127.4	126.9	125.6	58.6	.4	1.4	117.4
Detroit-----	123.4	123.7	123.5	59.0	-.2	-.1	109.2
Los Angeles-----	126.1	125.2	122.9	60.4	.7	2.6	108.8
New York-----	121.7	121.1	118.6	60.1	.5	2.6	102.5
Philadelphia-----	123.5	123.4	122.1	59.2	.1	1.1	108.6
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/							
Cleveland-----	124.5	125.1	123.3	59.2	-.5	1.0	110.3
Houston-----	124.2	124.0	122.4	59.5	.2	1.5	108.7
Scranton-----	120.7	120.4	117.8	58.5	.2	2.5	106.3
Seattle-----	126.0	126.3	123.9	59.2	-.2	1.7	112.8
Washington, D. C.-----	121.5	121.2	119.4	60.4	.2	1.8	101.2
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/							
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/							
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

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 October 1958 to November 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	- 0.3	0.1	0.4	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1
Chicago-----	.1	-.3	.2	.4	.7	0	-.1	.2	.1
Detroit-----	.1	.3	-.2	.1	.5	.5	-.1	0	.1
Los Angeles-----	.4	1.1	-.2	.1	1.0	0	-.1	.8	.1
New York-----	.2	-.1	.1	.4	2.0	.2	-.1	0	-.1
Philadelphia-----	.2	-.5	.4	.1	2.5	0	.1	0	0

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
November 1958 indexes and percent changes, August 1958 to November 1958

U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in November 1958

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleve- land	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
	Indexes (1947-49=100)										
All items -----	123.9	127.4	124.5	123.4	124.2	126.1	121.7	123.5	120.7	126.0	121.5
Food -----	119.4	116.3	116.1	119.6	116.5	124.3	121.0	122.3	117.1	120.8	119.8
Food at home -----	117.6	113.9	113.9	117.5	114.9	120.4	119.0	120.0	116.8	119.7	117.7
Cereals and bakery products --	134.0	123.4	129.0	125.2	126.2	145.9	142.4	139.0	135.5	147.0	132.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.5	105.9	108.5	110.5	109.9	112.1	114.9	114.7	115.2	114.4	113.0
Dairy products -----	114.5	112.7	110.2	111.9	111.7	110.7	119.2	121.4	113.2	115.5	118.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.1	119.1	112.6	128.7	122.0	132.9	118.1	121.3	114.1	126.0	114.9
Other foods at home -----	112.6	118.5	115.4	113.5	110.8	113.4	112.0	111.5	110.1	110.0	114.7
Housing -----	128.0	138.8	130.0	126.7	129.8	135.2	124.7	121.3	122.5	129.8	120.4
Rent -----	138.4	165.1	159.9	—	139.4	146.6	—	127.2	130.9	146.4	127.8
Gas and electricity -----	118.1	128.7	115.4	117.0	116.1	130.6	115.7	103.4	117.7	86.7	130.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.8	141.6	139.0	126.0	—	—	138.4	132.2	143.1	137.9	140.7
Housefurnishings -----	103.5	101.5	101.5	108.8	99.9	100.6	102.9	109.0	100.6	102.9	100.7
Household operation -----	132.6	136.2	119.1	120.0	142.2	120.2	132.3	133.7	116.9	138.0	131.7
Apparel -----	107.7	110.9	108.9	104.6	111.6	108.5	106.7	107.3	109.5	107.9	103.6
Men's and boys' -----	108.5	114.0	113.3	108.4	106.2	111.7	108.2	108.2	110.3	111.3	107.8
Women's and girls' -----	100.6	101.4	99.6	95.0	108.0	100.1	98.0	100.1	102.6	99.1	96.0
Footwear -----	130.3	134.1	129.0	126.1	137.7	132.2	131.7	129.6	134.3	133.0	123.3
Other apparel -----	92.3	96.4	94.7	86.4	91.1	84.7	96.1	93.7	91.9	87.0	89.1
Transportation -----	144.5	153.8	138.5	135.0	142.8	138.5	143.7	149.9	147.4	144.6	145.5
Private -----	133.6	135.8	129.3	130.8	136.2	134.3	124.6	130.2	133.9	133.3	137.9
Public -----	191.1	195.6	180.5	155.6	188.0	162.1	191.4	188.9	191.9	180.1	172.4
Medical care -----	147.0	151.5	153.5	153.0	133.5	138.9	135.3	148.6	127.6	148.8	147.3
Personal care -----	129.1	129.6	128.5	134.0	135.4	133.1	122.2	134.4	130.5	133.6	125.0
Reading and recreation -----	117.0	123.7	125.0	113.6	116.7	102.6	119.3	118.5	144.3	119.0	117.6
Other goods and services -----	127.3	121.4	127.4	135.7	128.9	124.0	126.7	128.5	119.6	135.3	136.3
Percent change from August 1958 to November 1958											
All items -----	0.2	0.4	- 0.5	- 0.2	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.2	- 0.2	0.2
Food -----	- 1.1	- .6	- 1.8	- .7	- .5	1.3	0	- 1.6	- 1.3	- 1.5	- 2.1
Food at home -----	- 1.3	- .7	- 2.1	- 1.0	- .6	1.2	0	- 1.8	- 1.4	- 1.8	- 2.6
Cereals and bakery products --	.8	- .1	- .5	- .5	.3	3.4	3.4	3.6	.2	.4	.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 3.6	- 4.4	- 3.6	- 3.0	- 2.6	- 5.1	- 1.5	- 3.3	- 2.9	- 4.5	- 3.7
Dairy products -----	1.3	.4	- .4	.4	- .8	1.3	2.8	2.3	2.4	0	.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 3.0	1.3	- 5.4	- .5	- 1.1	10.6	- 3.0	- 8.9	- 5.1	1.5	-10.0
Other foods at home -----	- .2	1.7	0	0	1.9	.3	.3	- .2	- .7	- 3.4	.5
Housing -----	.1	.5	- .9	- .7	0	.1	.2	.2	.3	.8	.2
Rent -----	.2	1/ .4	.3	—	.1	1/ .1	—	1/ .6	1.0	.7	.3
Gas and electricity -----	.5	.3	0	- 1.0	0	- .7	- .2	0	0	0	4.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.6	1.4	2.1	.2	—	—	.3	2.4	2.3	.1	1.2
Housefurnishings -----	.2	.6	.3	.8	.8	.7	- .1	.4	- .4	.6	1.7
Household operation -----	.4	.1	.2	- 1.9	- .1	.2	.6	- .9	.1	.7	.2
Apparel -----	1.0	1.4	.1	1.3	.5	1.2	.8	3.4	.3	- .7	.1
Men's and boys' -----	.2	- 1.0	0	.1	- .4	.4	.3	- .6	- .1	- .5	.7
Women's and girls' -----	2.1	3.9	0	2.6	1.5	2.5	1.2	7.6	.6	- 1.3	- .7
Footwear -----	.2	0	.4	0	0	.6	.2	.4	.1	.5	.4
Other apparel -----	.4	.5	0	1.6	.2	.1	.2	1.8	.1	- .3	1.9
Transportation -----	2.5	2.5	1.5	.5	1.1	1.1	2.6	2.4	4.4	- .7	4.2
Private -----	2.7	3.1	1.9	.5	1.2	1.2	3.2	2.9	5.0	- .7	3.2
Public -----	.8	0	0	0	0	0	.6	.4	.3	0	8.8
Medical care -----	1.4	.6	.5	.5	1.0	.9	3.3	0	.1	.4	5.1
Personal care -----	.2	- .2	.9	- .1	.6	.2	- .6	- .1	1.5	.5	1.1
Reading and recreation -----	.3	- .5	1.8	.1	0	.9	.3	- .3	.9	.3	0
Other goods and services -----	.2	.1	- .1	- .3	.4	.1	.2	0	0	- .3	.2

1/ Change from September 1958 to November 1958.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
November 1958 indexes and percent changes, October 1958 to November 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 ---	119.4	- 0.3	117.6	- 0.3	134.0	0.1	113.5	- 1.0	114.5	0	121.1	0.1	112.6	- 0.5
Atlanta -----	116.5	- .9	115.7	- 1.0	125.5	- .3	116.4	- .7	113.7	- 2.2	123.0	- 1.4	105.5	- .7
Baltimore -----	119.5	- .6	116.6	- .7	128.4	0	112.9	- 1.5	117.5	0	116.2	- 1.5	113.0	.2
Boston -----	119.2	- .6	116.7	- 1.0	132.5	.1	114.7	- .7	115.2	- .1	118.3	- 3.1	106.7	- 1.1
Chicago -----	116.3	- .3	113.9	- .3	123.4	- .2	105.9	- .9	112.7	0	119.1	- .7	118.5	0
Cincinnati -----	120.3	- 1.3	118.1	- 1.4	131.9	0	113.0	- 2.9	116.2	0	122.5	- 1.4	115.7	- 1.2
Cleveland -----	116.1	0	113.9	.1	129.0	- .4	108.5	- .5	110.2	- .3	112.6	1.4	115.4	.3
Detroit -----	119.6	.3	117.5	.2	125.2	- .1	110.5	- .4	111.9	- .2	128.7	2.3	113.5	- .4
Houston -----	116.5	- .3	114.9	- .2	126.2	.3	109.9	- .9	111.7	- .9	122.0	.2	110.8	.5
Kansas City -----	113.8	.2	111.6	.1	127.5	- .1	109.1	- .5	108.0	0	112.0	1.2	106.5	.3
Los Angeles -----	124.3	1.1	120.4	.9	145.9	.1	112.1	- .4	110.7	- .1	132.9	5.1	113.4	.1
Minneapolis -----	117.7	- .1	116.0	- .1	134.5	.1	107.9	- 1.0	104.9	- .1	124.5	1.1	120.2	0
New York -----	121.0	- .1	119.0	- .3	142.4	- .1	114.9	- .9	119.2	1.2	118.1	- .2	112.0	- 1.1
Philadelphia -----	122.3	- .5	120.0	- .6	139.0	.4	114.7	- 1.0	121.4	- .2	121.3	- 3.8	111.5	- .8
Pittsburgh -----	120.6	- .8	119.4	- .8	133.1	.3	113.1	- .9	117.1	- .1	118.8	- 3.1	122.2	- .4
Portland, Oreg. -----	120.8	.2	119.4	.2	140.2	0	117.7	- .5	117.3	- .3	118.2	3.6	112.9	- 1.1
St. Louis -----	120.2	- .2	115.8	- .3	124.8	.1	110.4	- .2	105.4	- .5	125.0	.1	118.7	- 1.1
San Francisco -----	123.8	.7	122.4	.9	147.2	.1	117.0	.3	116.7	.3	133.2	4.6	111.9	- .8
Scranton -----	117.1	- .3	116.8	- .3	135.5	0	115.2	- .3	113.2	- .1	114.1	- 1.4	110.1	- .4
Seattle -----	120.8	0	119.7	.1	147.0	.1	114.4	- 1.3	115.5	0	126.0	3.9	110.0	- .9
Washington, D.C. -----	119.8	- 1.1	117.7	- 1.4	132.3	0	113.0	- .4	118.4	- .5	114.9	- 6.4	114.7	- .3

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

Food and unit	November 1958	October 1958	Food and unit	November 1958	October 1958
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.8	54.7	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.9	13.0	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.	(1/)	26.3
Rice ----- 1b.	18.5	18.5	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.4	20.4	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	50.4	49.4
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.6	25.6	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	12.9	12.6
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.6	19.6	Onions ----- 1b.	9.1	8.9
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.3	Carrots ----- 1b.	13.7	13.9
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.5	Lettuce ----- head	16.3	18.1
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	14.5	13.2
Round steak ----- 1b.	104.9	104.5	Cabbage ----- 1b.	6.8	7.0
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	62.6	62.5	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	28.0	21.4
Rib roast ----- 1b.	81.1	80.9	Beans, green ----- 1b.	22.2	22.1
Hamburger ----- 1b.	54.4	54.3	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	135.3	135.1	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	46.0	45.3
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	90.7	92.3	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	34.9	34.5
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	73.9	78.8	Pineapple ----- #2 can	35.3	35.0
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	66.4	66.6	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	27.1	26.8
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	77.6	77.4	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.2	18.0
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	65.8	66.1	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.1	21.1
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	53.1	52.6	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.2	16.5
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	43.0	42.9	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.1	10.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	46.3	46.2	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	57.8	56.7	Prunes ----- 1b.	36.8	35.0
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	61.8	62.1	Beans ----- 1b.	17.8	18.5
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	33.7	33.5	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.4
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.2	24.1	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.2	15.2
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.5	25.5	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.0	27.0
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.7	29.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.4	22.4
Butter ----- 1b.	74.4	74.8	Coffee ----- 1b. can	86.8	87.2
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.9	57.9	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	68.9	69.1
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.1	15.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.0	24.1
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	28.1	28.0
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	92.8	92.8
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.4	26.2	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.0	29.0
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	29.0	28.9	Lard ----- 1b.	22.9	23.0
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.9	19.9	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.9	37.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.1	23.1	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	56.7	56.7
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.9	56.9
Apples ----- 1b.	11.7	12.3	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.2	26.1
Bananas ----- 1b.	18.4	18.3	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.8	27.9
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	82.6	87.3	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.2	5.2
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.5	18.3	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	62.7	63.8
Grapefruit * ----- each	13.9		Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.0	8.9

* Priced only in season.
1/ Not available.

Labor D.C. - BLS58-0332

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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