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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR DECEMBER 1958

Consumer prices in United States cities declined 0.2 percent between November and December 1958, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Although lower food prices were largely responsible for the decrease, prices were also lower for transportation, apparel, recreation, and personal care. The December Consumer Price Index was 123.7 percent of the 1947-49 average, 1.7 percent higher than a year earlier.

FOOD

Food prices were down 0.6 percent in December, their fifth consecutive monthly decrease, with reductions in prices of fresh fruits, eggs, poultry, and coffee. The December food index, at 118.7, was 2.2 percent higher than a year ago but was 2.5 percent below the July 1958 peak.

Egg prices continued their seasonal decline with a 6.1 percent drop. In addition, a fall of 2.5 percent marked the eleventh month of continuous decline in coffee prices - a drop of 12.2 percent since January 1958.

Fruit and vegetable prices declined 0.8 percent--the net effect of widely divergent movements. Fresh fruit prices were down 6.9 percent as supplies increased. Prices of oranges fell 15.4 percent, grapefruit 9.1 percent, and bananas 3.0 percent. Apple prices were up 5.9 percent. Fresh vegetable prices rose 5.2 percent with cabbage up 12.6 percent, lettuce 10.9 percent, tomatoes 9.2 percent, celery 4.6 percent, onions 3.4 percent, and potatoes 2.3 percent. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables were slightly higher mainly because of an advance of 3.8 percent in dried prune prices and smaller increases for most canned fruits.

Average prices of meats, poultry, and fish were down 0.4 percent as a result of price reductions for poultry and pork. Frying chicken prices dropped 3.8 percent, pork chops 1.8 percent, and bacon 1.6 percent. However, prices of whole ham increased 2.0 percent. Beef and veal prices rose slightly as prices of chuck roast increased 1.1 percent, and hamburger 0.4 percent. Frankfurters advanced 0.5 percent.

Dairy products declined 0.2 percent largely due to a 0.3 percent drop in prices of fresh milk.

Prices of cereals and bakery products were unchanged on the average.

Prices of restaurant meals were down 0.1 percent.

HOUSING

The housing index increased 0.2 percent as all of its component subgroups advanced. Prices of fuel oil rose 2.2 percent, and bituminous and anthracite coal prices and gas bills were slightly higher. Rent continued upward with a rise of 0.2 percent. An increase of 0.2 percent in household operation was due largely to higher rates for domestic service in several cities. Housefurnishings prices were 0.1 percent higher, as price increases for bedroom furniture, kitchenware, carpeting, and household textiles more than offset lower prices for some appliances. Home maintenance and repair costs were up 0.1 percent.

**OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES**

Private transportation costs declined 0.2 percent, due largely to lower prices for gasoline and new automobiles. Prices of used cars advanced. Fare increases for additional eastern railroads were principally responsible for an increase of 0.4 percent in public transportation costs.

Apparel prices were down 0.2 percent primarily because of seasonal reductions in prices of women's and girls' wool coats and women's suits and dresses.

Medical care costs continued to rise (0.2 percent) with higher fees for services of physicians and dentists and for group hospitalization insurance; prices of prescriptions declined slightly. Personal care was 0.1 percent lower, due mainly to reduced prices for some toiletries.

Lower movie admission charges more than offset higher prices for television sets and radios and brought the reading and recreation index down 0.1 percent.

TABLE A: Consumer Price Index—United States city average: Special group indexes, 1958 annual averages and percent changes from 1957
(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	1958 Average	
	Index	Percent change from 1957
All items -----	123.5	2.7
All items less food -----	125.5	2.2
All items less shelter -----	121.2	2.9
Commodities -----	116.3	2.4
Nondurables -----	118.6	2.7
Food -----	120.3	4.2
Nondurables less food -----	116.9	.7
Apparel -----	106.9	0
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	125.6	1.1
Durables -----	110.5	1.6
New cars -----	133.9	3.2
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100) -----	84.0	3.7
Durables less cars -----	103.4	.7
Commodities less food -----	113.4	1.0
Services -----	142.4	3.4
Rent -----	137.7	1.8
Services less rent -----	143.8	3.8
Household operation, gas and electricity -----	131.4	3.1
Transportation -----	174.1	6.2
Medical care -----	149.2	4.9
Other services -----	129.6	2.9
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00) -----	\$0.810	-2.6

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to December 1958 from --			
	December 1955	November 1956	November 1958	September 1958	December 1957	Year 1959
All items-----	123.7	123.9	- 0.2	0	1.7	108.2
Food-----	118.7	119.4	- .6	- 1.3	2.2	152.0
Food at home-----	116.8	117.6	- .7	- 1.6	2.2	148.0
Cereals and bakery products-----	134.0	134.0	0	.4	1.7	134.3
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	113.0	113.5	- .4	- 2.4	6.6	171.6
Dairy products-----	114.3	114.5	- .2	- .2	- .3	129.5
Fruits and vegetables-----	120.1	121.3	- .8	- .5	5.4	159.4
Other foods at home-----	110.7	112.6	- 1.7	- 3.9	- 3.7	128.7
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	113.6	113.7	- .1	.2	2.3	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	128.2	128.0	.2	.2	.9	68.5
Rent-----	138.7	138.4	.2	.4	1.5	60.2
Gas and electricity-----	118.2	119.1	.1	.2	3.4	12.7
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	137.0	135.8	.9	1.3	- .9	142.9
Housefurnishings-----	103.6	103.5	.1	0	- 1.2	94.0
Household operation-----	132.8	132.6	.2	.5	2.5	94.2
Apparel-----	107.5	107.7	- .2	.4	- .1	104.8
Men's and boys'-----	108.4	108.5	- .1	.1	- 1.0	113.4
Women's and girls'-----	100.2	100.6	- .4	.6	.1	83.9
Footwear-----	130.4	130.3	.1	.2	1.0	159.2
Other apparel-----	92.3	92.3	0	.3	0	127.3
Transportation-----	144.3	144.5	- .1	2.1	3.9	105.6
Private-----	133.3	133.6	- .2	2.2	3.7	103.5
Public-----	191.8	191.1	.4	1.1	5.2	135.9
Medical care-----	147.3	147.0	.2	.8	4.6	102.9
Personal care-----	129.0	129.1	- .1	.2	1.6	116.4
Reading and recreation-----	116.9	117.0	- .1	.3	2.0	85.6
Other goods and services-----	127.3	127.3	0	.2	.4	80.3
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	126.5	126.5	0	0.6	1.6	83.1
All items less shelter-----	121.5	121.7	- .2	0	1.9	119.3
Commodities-----	116.3	116.6	- .3	- .1	1.4	125.4
Nondurables-----	117.8	118.2	- .3	- .8	1.2	129.2
Food-----	118.7	119.4	- .6	- 1.3	2.2	152.0
Nondurables less food-----	117.0	117.1	- .1	- .2	- .3	99.3
Apparel-----	107.5	107.7	- .2	.4	- .1	106.3
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	125.4	125.5	- .1	- .5	- .3	90.3
Durables-----	112.9	112.8	.1	2.4	2.4	97.0
New cars-----	143.6	144.2	- .4	10.4	6.2	151.9
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	89.6	88.8	.9	1.4	8.9	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.2	103.1	.1	.1	0	80.1
Commodities less food-----	114.4	114.5	- .1	.8	.7	92.6
Services-----	143.5	143.4	.1	.3	2.5	78.5
Rent-----	138.7	138.4	.2	.4	1.5	60.2
Services less rent-----	145.0	144.8	.1	.4	2.8	97.3
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	133.0	132.8	.2	.5	2.9	52.9
Transportation services-----	176.2	176.0	.1	.5	5.1	120.0
Medical care services-----	152.4	152.0	.3	.8	5.1	116.2
Other services 3/-----	129.8	129.8	0	.3	1.2	122.6
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.808	\$0.807	.1	0	- 1.7	-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 --		
	December 1958	September 1958	December 1957	Year 1939	September 1958	December 1957	Year 1939
United States city average-----	123.7	123.7	121.6	59.4	0	1.7	108.2
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	127.0	127.4	125.6	58.6	- 0.3	1.1	116.7
Detroit-----	123.3	123.8	123.3	59.0	- .4	0	109.0
Los Angeles-----	126.2	125.6	122.9	60.4	.5	2.7	108.9
New York-----	121.3	121.4	118.7	60.1	- .1	2.2	101.8
Philadelphia-----	123.5	123.4	122.1	59.2	.1	1.1	108.6
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	December 1958	September 1958	December 1957	Year 1939	September 1958	December 1957	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	124.4	124.6	122.4	58.3	- .2	1.6	113.4
Baltimore-----	125.5	124.8	122.1	57.9	.6	2.8	116.8
Cincinnati-----	122.4	122.5	120.8	58.4	- .1	1.3	109.6
St. Louis-----	125.7	125.3	122.5	59.3	.3	2.6	112.0
San Francisco-----	127.9	128.4	124.8	58.6	- .4	2.5	118.3
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	November 1958	August 1958	November 1957	Year 1939	August 1958	November 1957	Year 1939
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/	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

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 November 1958 to December 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	- 0.6	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1	0
Chicago-----	- .3	- 1.0	- .1	- .9	.9	0	0	0	- 0.1
Detroit-----	- .1	- .9	- .1	.2	1.0	.1	- .2	.8	- .1
Los Angeles-----	.1	- .3	.4	- .2	.2	0	0	- .1	0
New York-----	- .3	- 1.6	.2	- .1	.7	0	- .1	.2	.2
Philadelphia-----	0	- .4	.2	- .2	.3	.3	.3	.1	.1

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Baltimore	Chicago	Cincinnati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	123.7	124.4	125.5	127.0	122.4	123.3	126.2	121.3	123.5	125.7	127.9
Food -----	118.7	115.7	118.8	115.1	119.4	118.5	123.9	119.1	121.8	119.9	122.8
Food at home -----	116.8	114.6	115.9	112.4	117.0	116.2	120.0	116.9	119.4	115.4	121.1
Cereals and bakery products --	134.0	125.0	128.7	123.2	131.8	125.3	145.8	142.4	139.5	124.8	147.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.0	115.6	112.8	105.0	112.7	109.7	111.7	113.5	113.8	110.3	116.5
Dairy products -----	114.3	113.6	117.4	112.8	116.2	111.7	110.4	117.9	121.3	105.5	116.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	120.1	120.7	116.4	116.4	119.7	126.6	133.8	113.8	123.1	124.6	127.9
Other foods at home -----	110.7	103.9	109.9	115.5	113.9	110.3	111.9	109.0	108.2	117.5	111.2
Housing -----	128.2	131.5	125.9	138.7	124.4	126.6	135.8	125.0	121.5	126.8	130.1
Rent -----	138.7	138.6	135.8	-	142.8	145.3	-	128.5	-	147.1	147.0
Gas and electricity -----	118.2	126.2	108.4	128.7	122.3	117.1	130.6	115.6	103.4	106.2	145.2
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	137.0	134.1	135.4	141.7	151.9	125.7	-	141.4	134.9	159.2	-
Housefurnishings -----	103.6	110.2	98.7	101.2	96.1	108.8	101.8	103.2	108.6	104.2	106.1
Household operation -----	132.8	139.0	131.5	136.3	134.9	120.1	123.1	132.4	133.7	137.0	122.0
Apparel -----	107.5	113.8	106.3	109.9	107.1	104.8	109.3	106.6	107.1	106.5	108.1
Men's and boys' -----	108.4	116.2	106.3	113.7	107.7	108.9	111.2	108.2	108.2	107.9	109.3
Women's and girls' -----	100.2	105.5	100.8	99.6	99.3	95.2	100.0	97.9	99.8	99.8	100.0
Footwear -----	130.4	138.3	128.7	134.1	136.5	126.1	132.2	131.7	129.6	126.7	136.5
Other apparel -----	92.3	93.4	92.9	95.9	90.1	86.5	84.6	96.1	93.7	92.6	90.3
Transportation -----	144.3	144.5	159.5	155.2	139.3	136.3	138.8	144.7	150.3	159.9	158.2
Private -----	133.3	136.6	138.1	137.1	127.9	132.1	134.7	125.8	130.7	136.5	145.2
Public -----	191.8	189.3	215.4	196.9	191.4	157.3	162.1	191.4	189.9	237.1	182.6
Medical care -----	147.3	138.0	156.3	151.5	152.3	153.1	138.9	135.3	149.1	166.5	151.9
Personal care -----	129.0	131.0	124.5	129.6	130.7	133.7	133.1	122.1	134.8	129.0	123.5
Reading and recreation -----	116.9	118.7	128.9	123.7	109.7	114.5	102.5	119.5	113.6	96.2	116.6
Other goods and services -----	127.3	132.7	138.6	121.3	123.6	135.6	124.0	127.0	128.6	132.2	124.2
Percent change from September 1958 to December 1958											
All items -----	0	-.2	0.6	-0.3	-0.1	-0.4	0.5	-0.1	0.1	0.3	-0.4
Food -----	-1.3	-2.3	-1.2	-2.2	-2.8	-1.5	.5	-1.8	-1.2	-2.0	-.9
Food at home -----	-1.6	-2.9	-1.4	-2.8	-3.3	-2.0	.3	-2.2	-1.2	-2.6	-1.1
Cereals and bakery products --	.4	-1.2	.4	-.4	0	-.2	3.3	.4	3.6	.1	.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-2.4	-2.2	-1.5	-3.7	-4.7	-2.5	-2.7	-2.7	-1.6	-2.6	-1.9
Dairy products -----	.2	-2.5	-.3	-.2	0	-.4	-.4	.1	2.1	-1.7	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	-.5	-4.2	-.4	-2.6	-4.9	.7	6.5	-1.8	-2.7	-2.4	1.5
Other foods at home -----	-3.9	-4.0	-3.7	-4.8	-4.4	-5.6	-2.7	-5.2	-5.6	-4.8	-4.0
Housing -----	.2	.6	1.0	.2	.2	-.8	.4	.5	.7	.5	.4
Rent -----	.4	.6	.8	-.1	-.1	-.7*	-	-.5*	-	.1	.9
Gas and electricity -----	.2	0	.2	.3	.6	-.6	-.5	-.3	0	2.3	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.3	7.4	4.6	.6	4.0	-.2	-	2.2	3.1	2.8	-
Housefurnishings -----	0	-.1	-.3	.5	-.2	-.4	1.2	.2	-.8	.1	-.1
Household operation -----	.5	.5	.3	.1	0	-1.6	2.7	.2	.2	.2	.3
Apparel -----	.4	-.2	-1.6	-.8	.2	-.6	-.2	-.1	-.5	0	0
Men's and boys' -----	.1	.2	0	-.7	0	-.1	-.8	-.3	-.1	.1	0
Women's and girls' -----	.6	-.2	-3.5	-1.4	-.1	1.4	.1	-.3	-1.1	.2	-.3
Footwear -----	.2	-1.0	.2	0	1.3	.2	.2	.2	.4	.1	1.0
Other apparel -----	.3	-.2	.5	-.7	.2	.2	-.2	-.2	-.3	-1.8	0
Transportation -----	2.1	3.3	4.8	3.4	5.0	1.2	1.1	3.3	2.5	4.3	-1.6
Private -----	2.2	3.9	2.7	4.1	5.9	1.2	1.2	4.2	3.1	5.2	-1.8
Public -----	1.1	0	14.6	.7	.6	1.1	0	.6	.4	.5	0
Medical care -----	.8	.9	4.7	.5	2.3	.5	.9	.2	.3	4.7	.4
Personal care -----	.2	-.5	.2	.1	-.1	-.2	.5	-.2	.3	-.3	.1
Reading and recreation -----	.3	-.8	-.2	-.1	.1	1.5	.6	.3	.2	-.5	-.7
Other goods and services -----	.2	0	.1	.1	.1	-.1	.1	.4	.1	2.4	-.1

* Change from October 1958 to December 1958.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
December 1958 indexes and percent changes, November 1958 to December 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 ---	118.7	-0.6	116.8	-0.7	134.0	0	113.0	-0.4	114.3	-0.2	120.1	-0.8	110.7	-1.7
Atlanta -----	115.7	- .7	114.6	-1.0	125.0	- .4	115.6	- .7	113.6	- .1	120.7	-1.9	103.9	-1.5
Baltimore -----	118.8	- .6	115.9	- .6	128.7	.2	112.8	- .1	117.4	- .1	116.4	.2	109.9	-2.7
Boston -----	118.9	- .3	116.4	- .3	132.8	.2	114.5	- .2	118.2	2.6	117.0	-1.1	104.1	-2.4
Chicago -----	115.1	-1.0	112.4	-1.3	123.2	- .2	105.0	- .8	112.8	.1	116.4	-2.3	115.5	-2.5
Cincinnati -----	119.4	- .7	117.0	- .9	131.8	- .1	112.7	- .3	116.2	0	119.7	-2.3	113.9	-3.6
Cleveland -----	115.3	- .7	113.0	- .8	129.2	.2	108.1	- .4	110.2	0	111.5	-1.0	112.7	-2.3
Detroit -----	118.5	- .9	116.2	-1.1	125.3	.1	109.7	- .7	111.7	- .2	126.6	-1.6	110.3	-2.8
Houston -----	116.7	.2	115.2	.3	126.2	0	110.7	.7	111.8	.1	124.7	2.2	109.3	-1.4
Kansas City -----	113.2	- .5	111.0	- .5	127.6	- .1	108.4	- .6	103.0	0	113.7	1.5	103.9	-2.4
Los Angeles -----	123.9	- .3	120.0	- .3	145.8	- .1	111.7	- .4	110.4	- .3	133.8	.7	111.9	-1.3
Minneapolis -----	117.8	- .1	115.0	- .9	134.4	- .1	107.9	0	104.8	- .1	123.8	- .6	116.3	-3.2
New York -----	119.1	-1.6	116.9	-1.8	142.4	0	113.5	-1.2	117.9	-1.1	113.8	-3.6	109.0	-2.7
Philadelphia -----	121.8	- .4	119.4	- .5	139.5	.4	113.8	- .8	121.3	- .1	123.1	1.5	108.2	-3.0
Pittsburgh -----	119.6	- .8	118.2	-1.0	132.2	- .7	113.4	.3	116.9	- .2	116.4	-2.0	118.4	-3.1
Portland, Oreg. -----	121.5	.6	119.9	.4	140.3	.1	117.2	- .4	117.5	.2	119.6	1.2	111.3	1.2
St. Louis -----	119.9	- .2	115.4	- .3	124.8	0	110.3	- .1	105.5	.1	124.6	- .3	117.5	-1.0
San Francisco -----	122.8	- .8	121.1	-1.1	147.3	- .1	116.5	- .4	116.8	.1	127.9	-4.0	111.2	- .6
Scranton -----	116.1	- .9	115.6	-1.0	135.6	- .1	114.7	- .4	113.4	.2	112.3	-1.6	106.8	-3.0
Seattle -----	121.2	- .3	120.1	.3	146.8	- .1	114.7	.3	115.5	0	127.1	.9	110.5	.5
Washington, D.C. -----	119.3	- .4	117.1	- .5	132.3	0	113.0	0	117.9	- .4	115.3	.3	112.3	-2.1

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

Food and unit	Dec. 1958	Nov. 1958	Food and unit	Dec. 1958	Nov. 1958
Cereals and bakery products:	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	Fresh—Continued	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.9	54.8	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		(1/)
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.9	12.9	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rice ----- 1b.	18.6	18.5	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.4	20.4	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	51.6	50.4
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.7	25.6	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	13.4	12.9
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.6	19.6	Onions ----- 1b.	9.4	9.1
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.3	29.2	Carrots ----- 1b.	14.0	13.7
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.4	24.5	Lettuce ----- head	18.1	16.3
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	15.1	14.5
Round steak ----- 1b.	104.9	104.9	Cabbage ----- 1b.	7.7	6.8
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	63.4	62.6	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	30.6	28.0
Rib roast ----- 1b.	81.2	81.1	Beans, green ----- 1b.	22.4	22.2
Hamburger ----- 1b.	54.7	54.4	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	135.9	135.3	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	46.2	46.0
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	89.1	90.7	Peaches ----- #24 can	35.1	34.9
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	72.8	73.9	Pineapple ----- #2 can	35.5	35.5
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	67.7	66.4	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	27.4	27.1
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	77.3	77.6	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.4	18.2
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	66.1	65.8	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.0	21.1
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	53.3	53.1	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.1	16.2
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	42.0	43.0	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 8 oz.	10.1	10.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	46.6	46.3	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	58.4	57.8	Prunes ----- 1b.	38.2	36.8
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	61.6	61.8	Beans ----- 1b.	17.5	17.8
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	33.8	33.7	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	24.2	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.2
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.4	25.5	Pickles, sweet ----- 7 1/2 oz.	27.0	27.0
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.6	29.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.5	22.4
Butter ----- 1b.	74.4	74.4	Coffee ----- 1b. can	85.3	86.3
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	57.9	57.9	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	66.3	68.9
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.	28.3	28.1
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	93.0	92.8
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.6	26.4	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	29.1	29.0
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	28.9	29.0	Lard ----- 1b.	22.6	22.9
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.0	19.9	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.9	37.9
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.0	23.1	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	56.6	56.7
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.9	56.9
Apples ----- 1b.	12.4	11.7	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.3	26.2
Bananas ----- 1b.	17.8	18.4	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	27.9	27.8
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	69.9	82.6	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.2	5.2
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.8	18.5	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	58.8	62.7
Grapefruit * ----- each	12.6	13.9	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.1	9.0

* Priced only in season.
1/Not available.

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TABLE B: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
 1958 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1957 to 1958
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in December 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 -----	123.5	124.5	124.5	127.0	122.3	123.9	125.2	121.1	123.1	124.7	127.5
Food -----	120.3	118.0	120.9	117.3	122.1	121.1	123.3	120.9	123.1	121.2	123.1
Food at home -----	118.8	117.5	118.2	115.1	120.5	119.3	119.8	119.1	120.9	117.4	121.7
Cereals and bakery products --	133.1	126.3	128.3	124.1	132.0	125.6	142.1	139.2	135.4	125.2	144.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.1	117.9	114.2	107.9	116.7	111.9	114.7	115.6	115.9	112.2	118.5
Dairy products -----	113.5	114.4	117.5	112.1	116.5	111.3	110.0	115.8	118.9	103.9	115.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.1	129.3	124.5	124.1	129.2	136.9	129.7	123.5	129.9	130.9	130.3
Other foods at home -----	112.4	105.9	112.3	117.4	116.1	113.7	112.7	111.6	111.4	119.8	111.7
Housing -----	127.7	130.7	124.1	137.7	124.3	127.9	134.9	124.3	121.2	126.4	129.1
Rent -----	137.7	137.5	134.5	---	142.0	147.1	---	127.0	---	146.1	144.7
Gas and electricity -----	117.0	124.0	105.4	121.9	122.1	116.9	131.6	115.2	103.4	104.2	142.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	134.9	129.2	129.4	138.7	143.5	127.1	---	139.2	133.4	153.6	---
Housefurnishings -----	103.9	110.0	99.5	102.0	96.4	108.9	100.6	103.8	109.3	104.6	106.6
Household operation -----	131.4	137.3	130.3	135.2	134.2	120.7	120.7	131.2	132.8	135.5	121.2
Apparel -----	107.0	114.0	107.5	109.8	106.1	103.5	108.1	106.2	105.1	106.3	108.2
Men's and boys' -----	108.6	116.1	106.2	115.3	107.4	108.9	112.5	108.0	108.2	108.1	109.3
Women's and girls' -----	99.1	105.8	103.0	98.5	97.8	93.0	99.1	97.3	96.1	99.0	100.6
Footwear -----	129.8	138.8	128.1	133.4	134.9	124.9	130.9	131.6	128.6	126.5	134.6
Other apparel -----	92.0	93.5	95.2	96.0	89.6	85.5	84.8	95.9	92.6	95.0	90.5
Transportation -----	140.5	140.4	151.6	150.5	133.9	133.1	135.4	140.3	145.5	151.1	157.6
Private -----	129.7	132.1	133.2	132.2	122.1	128.6	131.0	121.0	125.5	129.8	144.6
Public -----	188.0	188.3	192.5	195.6	186.3	155.6	160.9	190.3	188.2	218.9	182.6
Medical care -----	144.4	136.5	149.2	150.8	149.5	151.7	136.8	132.0	146.0	159.7	148.3
Personal care -----	128.6	130.9	123.9	129.4	130.5	133.8	132.8	121.9	134.1	129.2	123.6
Reading and recreation -----	116.7	119.9	128.8	124.7	109.5	114.0	103.7	118.8	119.1	96.8	116.9
Other goods and services -----	127.2	132.6	136.9	121.5	123.8	135.9	123.9	126.5	128.6	128.5	124.3
Percent change from 1957 to 1958											
All items -----	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.0	2.3	1.4	3.3	3.0	1.9	2.9	3.6
Food -----	4.2	4.1	3.5	3.9	4.1	3.2	4.5	5.1	3.9	4.2	4.5
Food at home -----	4.4	4.8	4.1	4.0	4.1	3.3	4.6	5.4	3.8	4.2	4.7
Cereals and bakery products --	2.0	2.5	.9	.9	1.1	.9	3.8	3.3	2.2	.3	3.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	9.4	9.4	7.9	9.8	9.0	9.3	7.3	9.1	7.7	10.1	9.1
Dairy products -----	1.5	1.8	3.8	1.1	1.0	.4	2.9	3.7	1.9	1.0	2.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	7.2	8.7	7.9	5.5	8.7	4.3	9.0	9.9	6.7	5.8	7.5
Other foods at home -----	-.4	.3	-.5	-.8	-1.4	-1.3	-.3	-.6	-1.0	-.3	.3
Housing -----	1.7	.8	2.5	2.2	.6	-.4	3.4	2.1	.4	1.5	3.0
Rent -----	1.8	1.0	2.3	---	1.6	-.3	---	2.9	---	2.5	3.7
Gas and electricity -----	3.5	3.9	4.8	6.7	2.2	3.8	9.5	3.8	0	.4	4.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-1.8	2.9	-7.0	-.6	4.4	-1.6	---	-4.9	-2.2	2.4	---
Housefurnishings -----	-.7	.6	-1.2	-.3	-2.6	-.3	-2.9	-.9	-.5	.3	-.7
Household operation -----	3.1	1.6	7.2	2.7	1.3	2.1	-5.2	4.1	3.8	3.1	1.3
Apparel -----	.1	.9	1.0	-.1	.3	-.7	.4	.1	-1.2	1.2	.7
Men's and boys' -----	-.4	1.8	1.0	-.9	.3	-1.5	.9	-.5	1.1	.3	.4
Women's and girls' -----	-.1	-.3	1.7	-.1	.1	-.4	-.6	-.2	-4.3	2.8	0
Footwear -----	1.5	2.7	.9	1.4	.4	1.1	1.9	2.3	3.0	.4	2.7
Other apparel -----	-.1	.4	-1.1	.1	.6	-1.7	.4	.3	-1.2	-1.1	.2
Transportation -----	3.3	4.4	2.6	5.3	2.3	.3	2.6	1.7	3.0	5.7	4.6
Private -----	3.1	3.9	2.6	4.6	1.3	-.5	2.3	2.0	3.9	4.3	5.2
Public -----	5.1	8.1	2.8	8.1	8.3	4.4	3.9	.7	.5	11.8	.1
Medical care -----	4.6	3.2	3.1	6.0	5.8	3.1	4.8	2.2	3.9	3.2	7.7
Personal care -----	3.4	2.2	3.3	2.3	2.5	2.5	3.1	4.9	2.9	3.4	3.1
Reading and recreation -----	4.0	6.3	4.1	4.8	4.5	2.9	2.5	3.8	2.1	.4	2.7
Other goods and services -----	1.4	1.7	5.0	.7	1.1	4.0	1.3	.8	.9	2.4	1.7

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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