

Released February 20, 1959

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JANUARY 1959

Consumer prices in United States cities edged up 0.1 percent between December 1958 and January 1959, according to the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lower prices for apparel, housefurnishings, and transportation did not quite offset advances in prices of food, medical and personal care, and recreation.

The January Consumer Price Index was 123.8 percent of the 1947-49 average, 1.2 percent higher than in January 1958.

FOOD Food prices rose 0.3 percent in January, following a five-month decline. Increases in prices of fresh vegetables, beef, veal, and poultry were only partially offset by decreases for fresh fruits, pork, coffee, eggs, and milk. The food index, at 119.0, was 0.7 percent higher than a year ago, but was 2.2 percent below the July 1958 peak.

Average prices of meats, poultry, and fish as a group rose 0.7 percent, largely as a result of increases for beef, veal, and poultry. Beef and veal prices continued the upward movement of the past four months, with round steak up 1.8 percent and hamburger 1.6 percent. Prices of frying chickens, after almost 2 years of steady decline, increased 4.5 percent over the month. Pork prices were 0.6 percent lower, as bacon prices fell 1.0 percent and other cuts decreased moderately with increased marketings of hogs. Leg of lamb prices declined 2.4 percent.

Fruit and vegetable prices increased 1.3 percent, on the average, the net effect of widely divergent movements. Fresh vegetable prices rose 8.4 percent, with green beans up 34.0 percent, cabbage 32.9 percent, tomatoes 15.2 percent, onions 14.0 percent, and potatoes 4.9 percent. Supplies of these vegetables, normally low in January, were affected by adverse weather conditions. Lettuce prices declined 8.1 percent with ample supplies. Fresh fruit prices were down 3.2 percent as supplies of some items increased. Prices of oranges fell 8.2 percent and bananas 3.5 percent, but apple prices increased 3.7 percent. Frozen orange juice prices declined 5.3 percent, but most other processed fruits and vegetables were higher in price.

Coffee prices fell 2.4 percent, marking the twelfth month of continuous decline, a drop of 14.3 percent since January 1958. Egg prices continued their decline with a 1.3 percent drop which was less than the usual seasonal decline.

Dairy products declined 0.2 percent, as fresh milk prices were down 0.4 percent and ice cream prices fell 0.3 percent.

Prices of cereals and bakery products decreased 0.1 percent.

Prices of restaurant meals increased 0.4 percent, resuming their upward movement after a decline in December.

HOUSING Housing costs were unchanged on the whole, largely because lower housefurnishings prices offset seasonal advances in prices of fuels. Rents were up 0.1 percent and household operation costs advanced 0.2 percent. Housefurnishings prices declined 0.4 percent as traditional January white sales brought reductions for household textiles, particularly sheets and towels, which more than offset some increases for furniture, bedding, and appliances.

APPAREL Apparel prices dropped 0.7 percent, primarily the result of seasonal reductions for fall and winter apparel. Prices were lower for women's and girls' coats, women's wool and rayon suits, men's topcoats, suits, and slacks, and men's and boys' jackets. Footwear prices advanced 0.3 percent.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES Transportation costs were 0.1 percent lower as dealers' selling prices for new cars declined 1.8 percent and more than offset substantial increases in rates for auto insurance.

Personal care was up 0.3 percent, largely because of higher prices for men's haircuts in several cities, and some scattered advances for cosmetics.

A rise of 0.2 percent in costs of medical care was due to scattered reports of higher fees for professional and hospital services.

The increase of 0.1 percent in reading and recreation was the result of higher movie admission charges which more than offset reductions in sporting goods prices.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index—United States city average
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, January 1959
and percent changes from selected dates

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to January 1959 from --			
	January 1959	December 1958	December 1958	October 1958	January 1958	Year 1939
All items-----	123.8	123.7	0.1	0.1	1.2	108.4
Food-----	119.0	118.7	.3	-.6	.7	152.7
Food at home-----	117.1	116.8	.3	-.8	.3	148.6
Cereals and bakery products-----	133.9	134.0	-.1	0	1.1	134.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	113.8	113.0	.7	-.7	3.3	173.6
Dairy products-----	114.1	114.3	-.2	-.3	-.4	129.1
Fruits and vegetables-----	121.7	120.1	1.3	.6	-.2	162.9
Other foods at home-----	109.9	110.7	-.7	-2.9	-2.8	127.1
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	114.0	113.6	.4	.6	2.6	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	128.2	128.2	0	.2	.9	68.5
Rent-----	138.8	138.7	.1	.4	1.5	60.3
Gas and electricity-----	118.2	118.2	0	.1	2.2	12.7
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	138.9	137.0	1.4	2.4	.4	146.3
Housefurnishings-----	103.2	103.6	-.4	-.2	-1.0	93.3
Household operation-----	133.1	132.8	.2	.5	2.6	94.6
Apparel-----	106.7	107.5	-.7	-.6	-.2	103.2
Men's and boys'-----	108.0	108.4	-.4	.1	-.9	112.6
Women's and girls'-----	98.7	100.2	-1.5	-1.5	-.1	81.1
Footwear-----	130.8	130.4	.3	.5	1.2	160.0
Other apparel-----	91.7	92.3	-.7	-.1	-.2	125.9
Transportation-----	144.1	144.3	-.1	1.0	3.9	105.3
Private-----	133.1	133.3	-.2	1.0	3.7	103.2
Public-----	191.8	191.8	0	.7	5.2	135.9
Medical care-----	147.6	147.3	.2	.6	4.2	103.3
Personal care-----	129.4	129.0	.3	.5	1.3	117.1
Reading and recreation-----	117.0	116.9	.1	.3	.3	85.7
Other goods and services-----	127.3	127.3	0	.1	.2	80.3
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	126.4	126.5	-.1	.3	1.4	82.9
All items less shelter-----	121.5	121.5	0	0	1.2	119.3
Commodities-----	116.2	116.3	-.1	-.2	.7	125.2
Nondurables-----	117.8	117.8	0	-.5	.3	129.2
Food-----	119.0	118.7	.3	-.6	.7	152.7
Nondurables less food-----	116.7	117.0	-.3	-.4	-.3	98.8
Apparel-----	106.7	107.5	-.7	-.5	-.1	104.8
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	125.4	125.4	0	-.4	-.3	90.3
Durables-----	112.4	112.9	-.4	1.1	1.7	96.2
New cars-----	141.0	143.6	-1.8	4.1	5.9	147.4
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	89.4	89.6	-.2	.8	11.5	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.1	103.2	-.1	.1	-.9	79.9
Commodities less food-----	114.0	114.4	-.3	.1	.4	91.9
Services-----	143.9	143.5	.3	.6	2.4	79.0
Rent-----	138.8	138.7	.1	.4	1.5	60.3
Services less rent-----	145.4	145.0	.3	.6	2.6	97.8
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	133.2	133.0	.2	.5	2.7	53.1
Transportation services-----	178.2	176.2	1.1	1.5	5.4	122.5
Medical care services-----	152.7	152.4	.2	.6	4.5	116.6
Other services 3/-----	129.9	129.8	.1	.4	1.1	122.8
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.808	\$0.808	0	0	-1.2	-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 --		
	January 1959	October 1958	January 1958	Year 1939	October 1958	January 1958	Year 1939
United States city average	123.8	123.7	122.3	59.4	0.1	1.2	108.4
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	127.1	127.3	126.1	58.6	-.2	.8	116.9
Detroit	123.3	123.3	123.7	59.0	0	-.3	109.0
Los Angeles	126.2	125.6	123.7	60.4	.5	2.0	108.9
New York	121.8	121.5	120.0	60.1	.2	1.5	102.7
Philadelphia	123.4	123.3	122.2	59.2	.1	1.0	108.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	January 1959	October 1958	January 1958	Year 1939	October 1958	January 1958	Year 1939
Boston	125.4	125.4	123.4	61.0	0	1.6	105.6
Kansas City	124.5	124.9	122.4	61.7	-.3	1.7	101.8
Minneapolis	125.3	124.5	123.2	60.7	.6	1.7	106.4
Pittsburgh	124.4	124.5	122.6	58.1	-.1	1.5	114.1
Portland, Oregon	124.2	124.5	123.3	58.3	-.2	.7	113.0
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

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 December 1958 to January 1959
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	0.1	0.3	0	- 0.7	- 0.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0
Chicago	.1	.5	- 0.3	.2	-.2	.3	-.2	-.4	0
Detroit	0	.1	-.2	-.1	.4	0	-.1	.3	0
Los Angeles	0	.2	-.3	-.1	.3	.2	0	-.3	0
New York	.4	1.3	.1	-.8	-.1	.2	1.0	.4	- 0.1
Philadelphia	-.1	-.1	.2	- 2.7	.5	.2	.1	1.2	0

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index—All items and commodity groups
 January 1959 indexes and percent changes, October 1958 to January 1959
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in January 1959

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 -----	123.8	125.4	127.1	123.3	124.5	126.2	125.3	121.8	123.4	124.4	124.2
Food -----	119.0	118.7	115.7	118.6	113.4	124.1	118.3	120.7	121.7	120.6	120.9
Food at home -----	117.1	116.0	113.2	116.4	111.0	120.3	115.5	118.6	119.2	119.4	119.4
Cereals and bakery products --	133.9	132.5	123.3	125.3	127.5	144.9	134.5	142.4	139.4	133.2	140.4
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	113.8	115.4	105.6	109.0	108.8	115.2	108.6	116.2	115.6	113.7	118.4
Dairy products -----	114.1	115.7	112.8	111.5	108.1	110.0	104.7	118.2	118.9	117.1	117.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.7	117.4	120.2	129.6	113.6	131.9	125.0	118.5	121.5	121.9	120.1
Other foods at home -----	109.9	102.9	114.9	110.3	103.6	110.9	116.3	108.5	108.2	118.8	110.9
Housing -----	128.2	135.0	138.3	126.3	125.6	135.4	127.2	125.1	121.8	127.2	127.1
Rent -----	138.8	147.2	164.9	--	141.2	146.3	153.3	--	127.5	130.7	137.0
Gas and electricity -----	118.2	114.0	128.7	117.0	120.5	130.7	127.6	115.6	103.4	136.4	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.9	144.8	144.6	126.9	125.9	--	130.3	145.4	138.0	135.1	136.5
Housefurnishings -----	103.2	100.4	100.3	107.8	101.8	101.0	98.8	103.5	107.9	105.0	103.8
Household operation -----	133.1	132.1	134.1	119.9	137.1	123.1	134.9	132.5	133.6	141.4	130.2
Apparel -----	106.7	103.3	110.1	104.7	104.2	108.2	107.0	105.7	104.2	103.0	110.8
Men's and boys' -----	108.0	104.6	113.7	108.9	107.2	110.8	108.3	107.9	108.1	103.7	112.7
Women's and girls' -----	98.7	96.1	99.9	94.8	96.3	100.0	100.2	96.3	94.2	94.1	101.2
Footwear -----	130.8	123.9	134.6	127.5	124.8	132.3	127.2	131.6	130.0	127.1	136.4
Other apparel -----	91.7	98.7	96.0	84.8	87.7	84.6	93.2	95.7	92.0	98.7	98.2
Transportation -----	144.1	153.0	154.9	136.8	147.2	139.2	131.1	144.6	151.1	157.5	136.1
Private -----	133.1	147.3	136.8	132.7	132.4	135.1	126.1	125.6	131.6	131.2	129.1
Public -----	191.8	168.8	196.9	157.3	251.4	162.1	166.8	191.4	188.9	237.7	196.8
Medical care -----	147.6	158.7	151.9	153.1	169.8	139.2	192.2	135.6	149.4	156.1	141.1
Personal care -----	129.4	130.0	129.3	133.6	132.1	133.1	136.4	123.3	135.0	126.7	132.5
Reading and recreation -----	117.0	114.9	123.2	114.8	129.8	102.2	124.7	120.0	120.0	110.7	124.2
Other goods and services -----	127.3	126.8	121.3	135.6	124.7	124.0	131.2	126.9	128.6	127.6	127.3
Percent change from October 1958 to January 1959											
All items -----	0.1	0	- 0.2	0	- 0.3	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.1	- 0.1	- 0.2
Food -----	-.6	- 1.0	-.9	- 0.6	-.2	.9	-.4	-.3	- 1.0	-.8	.3
Food at home -----	-.8	- 1.6	- 1.0	-.8	-.4	.8	-.5	-.7	- 1.2	-.8	.2
Cereals and bakery products --	0	.1	-.2	0	-.1	-.6	-.1	-.1	.6	.4	.1
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	-.7	-.1	- 1.2	- 1.7	-.8	2.4	-.4	.3	1.8	-.4	.1
Dairy products -----	-.3	.3	.1	- 1.5	.1	-.7	-.3	.3	- 2.3	-.1	-.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	.6	- 3.8	.3	3.0	2.6	4.4	1.5	.2	- 3.6	-.6	5.3
Other foods at home -----	- 2.9	- 4.6	- 3.0	- 3.2	- 2.4	- 2.1	- 3.2	- 4.2	- 3.7	- 3.2	- 2.8
Housing -----	.2	1.0	-.1	-.6	0	-.1	.2	.4	.8	.2	.2
Rent -----	.4	1.9	1/-.1	--	-.1	1/-.2	.1	--	1/-.2	.2	.6
Gas and electricity -----	.1	-.3	0	-.2	-.8	-.4	0	-.3	0	.1	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	2.4	6.4	2.1	.8	2.4	--	1.2	5.1	5.5	2.4	- 1.1
Housefurnishings -----	-.2	- 2.6	-.9	- 1.6	-.8	-.1	.3	.9	-.7	- 1.6	- 1.6
Household operation -----	.5	0	- 1.5	-.2	-.1	2.6	0	.2	0	1.6	.2
Apparel -----	-.6	- 4.1	-.4	.2	- 1.7	-.2	-.9	-.6	- 2.8	- 2.0	-.4
Men's and boys' -----	.1	-.9	-.6	.2	- 1.3	-.9	-.4	1.5	-.2	-.4	.5
Women's and girls' -----	- 1.5	- 7.3	-.3	0	- 3.0	0	- 2.1	- 2.2	- 5.8	- 4.1	- 1.5
Footwear -----	.5	0	.1	1.4	.6	.1	.7	.3	.6	.7	0
Other apparel -----	-.1	- 3.9	-.4	- 1.9	- 1.0	.4	-.5	.3	- 1.8	- 1.2	-.1
Transportation -----	1.0	3.1	1.4	1.9	- 2.3	1.5	4.0	2.6	3.4	1.3	- 2.4
Private -----	1.0	3.9	1.6	2.1	- 2.8	1.7	4.4	3.3	4.2	1.5	- 2.8
Public -----	.7	.4	.7	1.1	0	0	0	.6	.4	.7	0
Medical care -----	.6	1.0	.3	.5	0	.2	.9	.4	.5	.7	-.1
Personal care -----	.5	.2	-.3	-.4	2.6	.1	0	.8	.5	.8	.1
Reading and recreation -----	.3	.9	-.2	1.1	2.2	.4	-.2	.6	1.3	.8	-.6
Other goods and services -----	.1	-.2	0	0	-.1	.1	.1	.1	.1	0	.2

1/ Change from November 1958 to January 1959.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
January 1959 indexes and percent changes, December 1958 to January 1959
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 ---	119.0	0.3	117.1	0.3	133.9	-0.1	113.8	0.7	114.1	-0.2	121.7	1.3	109.9	-0.7
Atlanta -----	116.2	.4	115.1	.4	125.0	0	115.9	.3	114.0	.4	124.2	2.9	103.2	-.7
Baltimore -----	118.8	0	115.9	0	128.7	0	113.0	.2	117.2	-.2	116.8	.3	109.3	-.5
Boston -----	118.7	-.2	116.0	-.3	132.5	-.2	115.4	.8	115.7	-2.1	117.4	.3	102.9	-1.2
Chicago -----	115.7	.5	113.2	.7	123.3	.1	105.6	.6	112.8	0	120.2	3.3	114.9	-.5
Cincinnati -----	120.2	.7	117.9	.8	133.5	1.3	112.4	-.3	116.4	.2	124.0	3.6	114.1	.2
Cleveland -----	115.1	-.2	112.9	-.1	129.2	0	107.3	-.7	110.4	.2	112.3	.7	112.7	0
Detroit -----	118.6	.1	116.4	.2	125.3	0	109.0	-.6	111.5	-.2	129.6	2.4	110.3	0
Houston -----	116.4	-.3	114.8	-.3	126.0	-.2	109.5	-1.1	111.7	-.1	124.7	0	109.2	-.1
Kansas City -----	113.4	.2	111.0	0	127.5	-.1	108.8	.4	108.1	.1	113.6	-.1	103.6	-.3
Los Angeles -----	124.1	.2	120.3	.3	144.9	-.6	115.2	3.1	110.0	-.4	131.9	-1.4	110.9	-.9
Minneapolis -----	118.3	.4	115.5	.4	134.5	.1	108.6	.6	104.7	-.1	125.0	1.0	116.3	0
New York -----	120.7	1.3	118.6	1.5	142.4	0	116.2	2.4	118.2	.3	118.5	4.1	108.5	-.5
Philadelphia -----	121.7	-.1	119.2	-.2	139.4	-.1	115.6	1.6	118.9	-2.0	121.5	-1.3	108.2	0
Pittsburgh -----	120.6	.8	119.4	1.0	133.2	.8	113.7	.3	117.1	.2	121.9	4.7	118.8	.3
Portland, Oreg. -----	120.9	-.5	119.4	-.4	140.4	.1	118.4	1.0	117.4	-.1	120.1	.4	110.9	-3.0
St. Louis -----	120.2	.3	115.8	.3	125.0	.2	110.0	-.3	105.5	0	127.4	2.2	117.4	-.1
San Francisco -----	123.0	.2	121.4	.2	147.3	0	117.9	1.2	116.8	0	129.6	1.3	109.6	-1.4
Scranton -----	116.4	.3	116.0	.3	135.6	0	114.6	-.1	113.4	0	113.8	1.3	107.4	.6
Seattle -----	121.1	-.1	119.8	-.2	146.1	-.5	114.9	.2	115.4	-.1	129.0	1.5	108.1	-2.2
Washington, D.C. -----	120.1	.7	118.0	.8	132.2	-.1	115.2	1.9	118.4	.4	118.4	2.7	110.9	-1.2

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

Food and unit	Jan. 1959	Dec. 1958	Food and unit	Jan. 1959	Dec. 1958
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh—Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.0	54.9	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.9	12.9	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rice ----- 1b.	18.7	18.6	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.4	20.4	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	54.3	51.6
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.7	25.7	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	13.9	13.4
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.6	19.6	Onions ----- 1b.	10.8	9.4
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.3	Carrots ----- 1b.	14.7	14.0
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.4	24.4	Lettuce ----- head	16.7	18.1
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	15.1	15.1
Round steak ----- 1b.	106.7	104.8	Cabbage ----- 1b.	10.2	7.7
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	64.3	63.4	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	35.3	30.6
Rib roast ----- 1b.	82.5	81.2	Beans, green ----- 1b.	29.9	22.4
Hamburger ----- 1b.	55.6	54.7	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	139.1	135.9	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	46.7	46.2
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	88.8	89.1	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	35.6	35.1
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	72.1	72.8	Pineapple ----- #2 can	35.7	35.5
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	67.5	67.7	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	27.6	27.4
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	75.5	77.3	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.6	18.4
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	65.7	66.1	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.0	21.0
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	53.0	53.3	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.9	16.1
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	42.9	42.0	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.1	10.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	47.6	46.6	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	59.7	58.4	Prunes ----- 1b.	38.9	38.2
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	61.4	61.6	Beans ----- 1b.	17.2	17.5
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	33.7	33.8	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.4
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.0	24.2	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.1
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.3	25.4	Pickles, cucumber 1/ ----- 15 oz.	26.7	26.6
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.5	29.6	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.6	22.5
Butter ----- 1b.	74.7	74.4	Coffee ----- 1b. can	83.7	85.3
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	58.2	57.9	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	64.0	66.3
Milk, evaporated ----- 144-oz. can	15.1	15.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.2	24.1
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	28.3	28.3
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	92.3	93.0
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.4	26.6	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	28.9	29.1
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	27.4	28.9	Lard ----- 1b.	22.1	22.6
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.1	20.0	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.8	37.9
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.9	23.0	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	56.1	56.6
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.9	56.9
Apples ----- 1b.	12.8	12.4	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.3	26.3
Bananas ----- 1b.	17.2	17.8	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	28.1	27.9
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	64.3	69.9	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.2	5.2
Lemons ----- 1b.	19.5	18.8	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	58.1	58.8
Grapefruit * ----- each	12.4	12.6	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.1	9.1

* Priced only in season.

1/ New specification; prices not comparable with previous series.

Labor D.C. - BLS58-0332

TABLE A: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 1958 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1957 to 1958
 5 cities priced in January 1959
 (1947-49=100)

Group	Boston		Kansas City		Minneapolis		Pittsburgh		Portland, Ore.	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
All items -----	124.8	3.0	124.1	2.5	124.3	2.6	124.0	3.2	124.4	2.2
Food -----	119.7	4.1	114.4	2.6	118.6	3.9	121.8	4.3	120.7	3.2
Food at home -----	117.9	4.5	112.6	2.9	117.3	4.0	120.7	4.8	119.6	3.8
Cereals and bakery products --	131.9	2.0	127.6	1.2	134.7	3.8	131.5	2.2	137.1	3.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	114.6	10.6	111.4	9.8	109.2	9.6	114.3	10.1	117.6	10.3
Dairy products -----	114.0	- 1.5	103.9	-4.1	105.1	- .9	115.9	2.4	117.2	.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.2	8.6	117.9	3.8	130.5	6.0	127.5	7.5	119.8	4.7
Other foods at home -----	107.4	- .3	106.0	- .4	119.4	- .7	122.0	- .2	114.3	- 1.0
Housing -----	132.9	2.5	125.3	.9	127.2	.7	126.6	3.2	127.6	.7
Rent -----	142.8	4.2	141.0	.8	152.5	2.1	130.1	1.9	136.0	.4
Gas and electricity -----	113.5	2.1	121.0	0	127.4	2.1	131.7	2.7	102.0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.1	- 5.0	121.1	.2	129.6	- .9	131.6	.9	139.9	- 4.6
Housefurnishings -----	102.9	- 1.2	102.5	-1.2	98.5	- .8	106.9	.1	106.3	- .1
Household operation -----	128.6	3.8	135.7	3.9	132.8	5.7	137.7	4.8	128.6	4.8
Apparel -----	105.9	1.4	104.6	.2	107.9	.3	104.9	-1.0	111.4	.4
Men's and boys' -----	104.7	.7	107.9	- .4	109.1	- .3	104.5	-3.2	113.4	- .4
Women's and girls' -----	100.6	2.8	96.9	.1	102.0	.3	97.6	- .3	102.1	- .1
Footwear -----	124.0	.1	124.2	1.6	126.0	1.5	126.2	1.1	136.3	2.9
Other apparel -----	102.5	- .9	87.9	0	93.7	0	99.9	- .7	98.1	.2
Transportation -----	149.0	3.0	146.0	5.8	124.9	3.4	152.2	4.9	137.2	5.8
Private -----	142.5	3.9	131.8	4.3	119.5	3.8	126.9	2.6	130.6	5.1
Public -----	168.1	.4	245.2	14.6	166.8	0	228.7	13.0	193.5	10.5
Medical care -----	156.1	7.2	162.7	7.7	183.2	13.0	151.7	4.3	140.6	1.4
Personal care -----	129.6	2.4	128.9	2.6	136.3	5.5	125.2	2.5	132.3	4.3
Reading and recreation -----	113.4	2.5	129.0	4.1	124.5	3.4	109.0	2.8	124.1	3.8
Other goods and services -----	125.7	1.3	125.5	.4	131.2	.8	127.5	1.8	127.2	1.4

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average changes in prices of goods and services usually bought by city families of wage earners and clerical workers. It is based on prices of about 300 items which were selected so that their price changes would represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage and clerical families; they include all of the important items in family spending. Prices for these items are obtained in 46 cities which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States; they are collected from grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments which wage-earner and clerical-worker families patronize.

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 46 cities. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the 5 largest cities and every 3 months in other cities. Almost all prices are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each city are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in family spending. City data are then combined in the total index with weights based on the 1950 populations of cities they represent. Index numbers are computed on the base 1947-49=100.

The national index (the United States city average) includes prices from the 20 large cities for which separate indexes are published in this report, as well as from the following 26 medium-sized and small cities:

Anna, Illinois	Huntington, W. Virginia	Pulaski, Virginia
Camden, Arkansas	Laconia, New Hampshire	Ravenna, Ohio
Canton, Ohio	Lodi, California	Rawlins, Wyoming
Charleston, W. Virginia	Lynchburg, Virginia	San Jose, California
Evansville, Indiana	Madill, Oklahoma	Sandpoint, Idaho
Garrett, Indiana	Madison, Wisconsin	Shawnee, Oklahoma
Glendale, Arizona	Middlesboro, Kentucky	Shenandoah, Iowa
Grand Forks, N. Dakota	Middletown, Connecticut	Youngstown, Ohio
Grand Island, Nebraska	Newark, Ohio	

Comparisons of city indexes show only that prices in one city changed more or less than in another. The city indexes cannot be used to measure differences in price levels or in living costs between cities.

A description of the index is contained in BLS Bulletin 1140, "The Consumer Price Index: A Layman's Guide," which may be purchased for 20 cents at any Bureau of Labor Statistics regional office (addresses below) or from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. A more technical description of the index appears in BLS Bulletin 1168, "Techniques of Preparing Major BLS Statistical Series." Reprints of chapter 9, pertaining to the CPI, are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington or at any of its regional offices.

Historical series of index numbers for the United States city average and for 20 large cities are available upon request. These series include index numbers for All Items, Food, Apparel, and Rent for periods from 1913 to date; and for other groups of goods and services from 1935 to date.

BLS Regional Offices

Atlanta	New York	Chicago	San Francisco	Boston
1371 Peachtree	341 Ninth Ave.	105 West Adams St.	630 Sansome St.	18 Oliver St.
Street, N. E.	Zone 1	Zone 3	Zone 11	Zone 10
Zone 9				

LABOR - D. C.