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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR FEBRUARY 1959

Consumer prices in United States cities declined 0.1 percent between January and February 1959, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Lower food prices more than offset higher prices for most other groups of goods and services. Prices of nonfood commodities rose 0.2 percent, with nondurables less food up 0.3 percent and durables down 0.2 percent. Service rates were 0.2 percent higher.

The Consumer Price Index in February 1959 was 123.7 (1947-49=100), 1.0 percent higher than a year earlier.

FOOD

Average food prices dropped 0.7 percent in February resuming a decline which was interrupted in January after five consecutive months. Lower prices of pork, eggs, and coffee were largely responsible for the decrease, although all major classes of food at home were also lower. The food index at 118.2 was 0.4 percent lower than a year ago and 2.9 percent below the July 1958 peak.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish were 1.1 percent lower over the month mainly because of a 4.0 percent drop in prices of pork products. This was the 7th consecutive month in which pork prices have declined, in response to unusually large supplies. Pork chops were down 4.4 percent, ham 3.9 percent, and bacon 3.7 percent. Leg of lamb, canned luncheon meat, and frankfurter prices were also lower. However, prices of frying chickens rose 1.4 percent and most cuts of beef and veal were higher.

The 4.0 percent drop in egg prices was less than their usual decline in February. Prices of coffee fell 3.5 percent and fats and oils declined 1.4 percent, with reductions in prices of shortening.

Fruit and vegetable prices decreased 0.4 percent on the average, largely because of lower prices for fresh and frozen fruits. Oranges were down 4.7 percent and frozen orange juice concentrate 7.2 percent. Prices of grapefruit and bananas also declined, but apple prices were higher. Fresh vegetable prices were up 0.8 percent as lettuce advanced 17.2 percent, onions 8.9 percent, and green beans 3.7 percent. Tomato and celery prices declined 8.7 and 8.6 percent, respectively. Prices of canned and dried fruits and vegetables advanced slightly.

The dairy products and cereals and bakery products group indexes each declined 0.1 percent, while prices of restaurant meals rose 0.1 percent.

HOUSING

The housing index rose 0.2 percent, with advances in all of its component subgroups except household operation. Housefurnishings prices were 0.6 percent higher, largely because household textiles returned to regular prices following January sales; prices of some appliances (washing machines and refrigerators) also advanced with introduction of new models. Solid fuels and fuel oil prices increased 0.8 percent as prices of anthracite and fuel oil were higher. Gas bills were higher in several cities, but electricity rates were unchanged on the average. Rents edged up 0.1 percent.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Medical care costs advanced 0.7 percent, mainly because of increases in rates for hospitalization insurance in several cities. There were also increases in fees for physicians' and dentists' services.

The advance of 0.1 percent in transportation costs was primarily the result of a rise of 1.7 percent in gasoline prices, as "price wars" ended in several cities. New car prices were down 0.7 percent and used cars 0.2 percent.

Personal care prices were up 0.3 percent with increases for toilet goods, particularly face powder and toilet soap, and scattered higher prices for barber and beauty shop services.

A rise of 0.1 percent for reading and recreation was primarily the result of higher prices for television sets, radios, and movie admissions.

Apparel prices were unchanged on the average as reductions in prices of men's suits, topcoats, and slacks, and boys' suits were offset by increases for shoes and women's and girls' apparel.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to February 1959 from —			
	February 1959	January 1959	January 1959	November 1958	February 1958	Year 1939
All items	123.7	123.8	- 0.1	- 0.2	1.0	108.2
Food	118.2	119.0	- .7	- 1.0	- .4	151.0
Food at home	116.1	117.1	- .9	- 1.3	- .9	146.5
Cereals and bakery products	133.8	133.9	- .1	- .1	- .9	133.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	112.6	113.8	- 1.1	- .8	.5	170.7
Dairy products	114.0	114.1	- .1	- .4	- .4	128.9
Fruits and vegetables	121.2	121.7	- .4	.1	- 2.6	161.8
Other foods at home	108.1	109.9	- 1.6	- 4.0	- 2.9	123.3
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)	114.1	114.0	.1	.4	2.5	(1/)
Housing 2/	128.5	128.2	.2	.4	.9	68.9
Rent	139.0	138.8	.1	.4	1.5	60.5
Gas and electricity	118.5	118.2	.3	.3	2.2	13.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil	140.0	138.9	.8	3.1	2.0	148.2
Housefurnishings	103.8	103.2	.6	.3	- 1.0	94.4
Household operation	133.1	133.1	0	.4	2.5	94.6
Apparel	106.7	106.7	0	- .9	- .1	103.2
Men's and boys'	107.8	108.0	- .2	- .6	- 1.1	112.2
Women's and girls'	98.8	98.7	.1	- 1.8	.2	81.3
Footwear	131.3	130.8	.4	.8	1.4	161.0
Other apparel	91.7	91.7	0	- .7	- .3	125.9
Transportation	144.3	144.1	.1	- .1	4.2	105.6
Private	133.3	133.1	.2	- .2	4.2	103.5
Public	191.8	191.8	0	.4	3.5	135.9
Medical care	148.6	147.6	.7	1.1	4.7	104.7
Personal care	129.8	129.4	.3	.5	1.4	117.8
Reading and recreation	117.1	117.0	.1	.1	.4	85.9
Other goods and services	127.4	127.3	.1	.1	.3	80.5
Special groups:						
All items less food	126.7	126.4	.2	.2	1.5	83.4
All items less shelter	121.4	121.5	- .1	- .2	1.0	119.1
Commodities	116.0	116.2	- .2	- .5	.4	124.8
Nondurables	117.6	117.8	- .2	- .5	0	128.8
Food	118.2	119.0	- .7	- 1.0	- .4	151.0
Nondurables less food	117.1	116.7	.3	0	.3	99.5
Apparel	106.7	106.7	0	- .9	- .1	104.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	126.1	125.4	.6	.5	.6	91.4
Durables	112.2	112.4	- .2	- .5	1.7	95.8
New cars	140.0	141.0	- .7	- 2.9	5.2	145.6
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)	89.2	89.4	- .2	.5	11.9	(1/)
Durables less cars	103.2	103.1	.1	.1	- 1.1	80.1
Commodities less food	114.2	114.0	.2	- .3	.9	92.3
Services	144.2	143.9	.2	.6	2.3	79.4
Rent	139.0	138.8	.1	.4	1.5	60.5
Services less rent	145.7	145.4	.2	.6	2.4	98.2
Household operation services, gas, and electricity	133.3	133.2	.1	.4	2.6	53.2
Transportation services	178.2	178.2	0	1.2	3.0	122.5
Medical care services	154.0	152.7	.9	1.3	5.2	118.4
Other services 3/	130.0	129.9	.1	.2	1.2	123.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)	\$0.808	\$0.808	0	.1	- 1.0	-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 --		
	February 1959	November 1958	February 1958	Year 1939	November 1958	February 1958	Year 1939
United States city average-----	123.7	123.9	122.5	59.4	- 0.2	1.0	108.2
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	127.1	127.4	126.2	58.6	- .2	.7	116.9
Detroit-----	123.3	123.4	123.7	59.0	- .1	- .3	109.0
Los Angeles-----	126.3	126.1	124.1	60.4	.2	1.8	109.1
New York-----	121.7	121.7	120.3	60.1	0	1.2	102.5
Philadelphia-----	123.3	123.5	122.3	59.2	- .2	.8	108.3
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	February 1959	November 1958	February 1958	Year 1939	November 1958	February 1958	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	124.8	124.5	124.5	59.2	.2	.2	110.8
Houston-----	124.1	124.2	122.3	59.5	- .1	1.5	108.6
Scranton-----	120.3	120.7	119.1	58.5	- .3	1.0	105.6
Seattle-----	126.9	126.0	125.0	59.2	.7	1.5	114.4
Washington, D.C.-----	121.3	121.5	120.3	60.4	- .2	.8	100.8
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

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 January 1959 to February 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	- 0.7	0.2	0	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.1
Chicago-----	0	- .4	.2	- 0.2	- .4	2.6	.5	0	- .1
Detroit-----	0	- .8	.4	- .1	- .8	3.4	.2	- 1.0	0
Los Angeles-----	.1	- .2	.1	- .1	1.2	0	.1	0	0
New York-----	- .1	- .7	.3	.2	- .1	1.3	- .3	.1	0
Philadelphia-----	- .1	- .7	.3	.6	- .7	.1	.6	0	- .1

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

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 -----	123.7	127.1	124.8	123.3	124.1	126.3	121.7	123.3	120.3	126.9	121.3
Food -----	118.2	115.2	114.3	117.7	116.0	123.8	119.9	120.8	115.8	119.9	118.8
Food at home -----	116.1	112.6	111.9	115.2	114.2	119.8	117.6	118.1	115.3	118.3	116.3
Cereals and bakery products --	133.8	123.1	129.2	125.1	126.1	145.9	142.5	138.8	135.6	145.5	132.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	112.6	105.2	106.1	108.1	108.5	112.9	115.1	113.9	113.6	113.5	112.6
Dairy products -----	114.0	112.8	110.3	109.0	113.7	110.5	118.0	119.0	113.3	115.4	117.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.2	119.6	111.4	129.8	124.8	132.7	117.8	121.3	115.7	126.2	116.5
Other foods at home -----	108.1	113.3	110.8	108.4	106.8	110.1	106.2	106.2	104.6	106.0	108.9
Housing -----	128.5	138.6	130.2	126.8	129.8	135.5	125.5	122.2	123.3	131.9	120.9
Rent -----	139.0	—	159.7	145.1	139.6	—	129.2	—	131.1	147.6	128.4
Gas and electricity -----	118.5	129.1	116.1	116.7	116.6	130.7	115.6	103.4	117.7	86.7	130.6
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	140.0	144.9	141.7	126.9	—	—	147.8	139.9	147.2	138.5	149.6
Housefurnishings -----	103.8	100.8	101.6	109.5	99.5	102.1	104.0	108.4	100.7	104.6	99.9
Household operation -----	133.1	134.1	122.4	120.9	142.4	123.5	132.4	133.7	117.0	138.8	131.6
Apparel -----	106.7	109.9	109.1	104.6	112.5	108.1	105.9	104.8	110.1	107.6	103.8
Men's and boys' -----	107.8	113.2	113.3	108.2	104.6	110.8	108.2	108.1	110.1	111.1	107.8
Women's and girls' -----	98.8	99.8	100.3	94.7	110.9	99.6	96.5	94.7	103.4	98.3	95.6
Footwear -----	131.3	134.8	128.1	128.3	138.6	133.1	131.9	132.1	135.9	134.6	126.1
Other apparel -----	91.7	95.9	94.8	85.4	88.9	84.5	95.8	92.4	92.1	86.1	89.3
Transportation -----	144.3	154.3	139.6	135.7	142.0	140.9	144.4	150.1	144.0	148.4	143.9
Private -----	133.3	136.2	130.3	131.3	135.4	137.0	125.4	130.5	130.4	137.1	136.1
Public -----	191.8	196.9	181.9	157.3	188.0	162.1	191.4	188.9	191.9	180.1	172.4
Medical care -----	148.6	155.8	166.1	158.3	133.6	139.2	137.3	149.5	127.8	149.4	148.1
Personal care -----	129.8	130.0	*128.2	133.9	136.3	133.2	122.9	135.8	132.9	133.4	125.3
Reading and recreation -----	117.1	123.2	125.0	113.7	116.7	102.2	120.1	120.0	144.0	118.5	117.6
Other goods and services -----	127.4	121.2	127.5	135.6	129.2	124.0	126.9	128.5	119.5	135.8	136.2
Percent change from November 1958 to February 1959											
All items -----	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.2	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.2	0	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.7	- 0.2
Food -----	- 1.0	- .9	- 1.6	- 1.6	- .4	- .4	- 0.9	- 1.2	- 1.1	- .7	- .8
Food at home -----	- 1.3	- 1.1	- 1.8	- 2.0	- .6	- .5	- 1.2	- 1.6	- 1.3	- 1.2	- 1.2
Cereals and bakery products --	- .1	- .2	.2	- .1	- .1	0	.1	- .1	.1	- 1.0	- .2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- .8	- .7	- 2.2	- 2.2	- 1.3	.7	.2	- .7	- 1.4	- .8	- .4
Dairy products -----	- .4	.1	.1	- 2.6	1.8	- .2	- 1.0	- 2.0	.1	- .1	- .7
Fruits and vegetables -----	.1	.4	- 1.1	.9	2.3	- .2	- .3	0	1.4	.2	1.4
Other foods at home -----	- 4.0	- 4.4	- 4.0	- 4.5	- 3.6	- 2.9	- 5.2	- 4.8	- 5.0	- 3.6	- 5.1
Housing -----	.4	- .1	.2	.1	0	.2	.6	.7	.7	1.6	.4
Rent -----	.4	—	- .1	1/- .1	.1	—	1/ .5	—	.2	.8	.5
Gas and electricity -----	.3	.3	.6	- .3	.4	.1	- .1	0	0	0	.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	3.1	2.3	1.9	.7	—	—	6.8	5.8	2.9	.4	6.3
Housefurnishings -----	.3	- .7	.1	.6	- .4	1.5	1.1	- .6	.1	1.7	- .8
Household operation -----	.4	- 1.5	2.8	.8	.1	2.7	.1	0	.1	.6	- .1
Apparel -----	- .9	- .9	.2	0	.8	- .4	- .7	- 2.3	.5	- .3	.2
Men's and boys' -----	- .6	- .7	0	- .2	- 1.5	- .8	0	- .1	- .2	- .2	0
Women's and girls' -----	- 1.8	- 1.6	.7	- .3	2.7	- .5	- 1.5	- 5.4	.8	- .8	- .4
Footwear -----	.8	- .5	- .7	1.7	.7	.7	.2	1.9	1.2	1.2	2.3
Other apparel -----	- .7	- .5	- .1	- 1.2	- 2.4	- .2	- .3	- 1.4	.2	- 1.0	.2
Transportation -----	- .1	.3	.8	.5	- .6	1.7	.5	.1	- 2.3	2.6	- 1.1
Private -----	- .2	.3	.8	.4	- .6	2.0	.6	.2	- 2.6	2.9	- 1.3
Public -----	.4	.7	.8	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care -----	1.1	2.8	8.2	3.5	.1	.2	1.5	.6	.2	- .4	.5
Personal care -----	.5	.3	.3	- .1	.7	.1	.6	1.0	1.8	- .1	.2
Reading and recreation -----	.1	- .4	0	.1	0	- .4	.7	1.3	- .2	- .4	0
Other goods and services -----	.1	- .2	.1	- .1	.2	0	.2	0	- .1	.4	- .1

* Previous indexes revised, as follows: November 1958, 127.8; August 1958, 126.7.
1/ Change from December 1958 to February 1959.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 February 1959 indexes and percent changes, January 1959 to February 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 ---	118.2	- 0.7	116.1	- 0.9	133.8	- 0.1	112.6	- 1.1	114.0	- 0.1	121.2	- 0.4	108.1	- 1.6
Atlanta -----	115.5	- .6	113.9	- 1.0	125.2	.2	113.8	- 1.8	113.7	- .3	121.6	- 2.1	102.5	- .7
Baltimore -----	117.4	- 1.2	114.1	- 1.6	128.3	-.3	110.9	- 1.9	117.1	- .1	114.3	- 2.1	107.0	- 2.1
Boston -----	118.8	.1	115.9	-.1	132.8	.2	114.9	-.4	115.7	0	119.1	1.4	102.2	-.7
Chicago -----	115.2	-.4	112.6	-.5	123.1	-.2	105.2	-.4	112.8	0	119.6	-.5	113.3	- 1.4
Cincinnati -----	119.1	-.9	116.5	- 1.2	133.8	.2	111.1	- 1.2	116.4	0	121.6	- 1.9	111.3	- 2.5
Cleveland -----	114.3	-.7	111.9	-.9	129.2	0	106.1	- 1.1	110.3	- .1	111.4	-.8	110.8	- 1.7
Detroit -----	117.7	-.8	115.2	- 1.0	125.1	-.2	108.1	-.8	109.0	- 2.2	129.8	.2	108.4	- 1.7
Houston -----	116.0	-.3	114.2	-.5	126.1	.1	108.5	-.9	113.7	1.8	124.8	.1	106.8	- 2.2
Kansas City -----	112.1	- 1.1	109.5	- 1.4	127.4	-.1	106.2	- 2.4	107.9	-.2	112.1	- 1.3	101.9	- 1.6
Los Angeles -----	123.8	-.2	119.8	-.4	145.9	.7	112.9	- 2.0	110.5	.5	132.7	.6	110.1	-.7
Minneapolis -----	117.7	-.5	114.7	-.7	134.3	-.1	107.4	- 1.1	104.7	0	125.9	.7	114.2	- 1.8
New York -----	119.9	-.7	117.6	-.8	142.5	.1	115.1	-.9	118.0	-.2	117.8	-.6	106.2	- 2.1
Philadelphia -----	120.8	-.7	118.1	-.9	138.8	-.4	113.9	- 1.5	119.0	.1	121.3	-.2	106.2	- 1.8
Pittsburgh -----	119.8	-.7	118.5	-.8	133.1	-.1	112.5	- 1.1	117.2	.1	120.4	- 1.2	117.5	- 1.1
Portland, Oreg. -----	120.3	-.5	118.4	-.8	140.3	-.1	116.4	- 1.7	117.3	- .1	119.3	-.7	109.8	- 1.0
St. Louis -----	119.2	-.8	114.7	-.9	125.0	0	108.0	- 1.8	105.6	.1	127.3	-.1	115.2	- 1.9
San Francisco -----	122.7	-.2	121.1	-.2	147.2	-.1	117.0	-.8	116.9	.1	130.0	.3	109.0	-.5
Scranton -----	115.8	-.5	115.3	-.6	135.6	0	113.6	-.9	113.3	- .1	115.7	1.7	104.6	- 2.6
Seattle -----	119.9	- 1.0	118.3	- 1.3	145.5	-.4	113.5	- 1.2	115.4	0	126.2	- 2.2	106.0	- 1.9
Washington, D.C. -----	118.8	- 1.1	116.3	- 1.4	132.1	-.1	112.6	- 2.3	117.6	-.7	116.5	- 1.6	108.9	- 1.8

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

Food and unit	Feb. 1959	Jan. 1959	Food and unit	Feb. 1959	Jan. 1959
Cereals and bakery products:	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	Fresh--Continued	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.8	55.0	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- lb.	12.9	12.9	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rice ----- lb.	18.5	18.7	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.4	20.4	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	54.5	54.3
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.6	25.7	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	14.0	13.9
Bread, white ----- lb.	19.5	19.6	Onions ----- lb.	11.7	10.8
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.2	29.2	Carrots ----- lb.	14.4	14.7
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.4	24.4	Lettuce ----- head	13.5	16.7
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- lb.	13.8	15.1
Round steak ----- lb.	107.1	106.7	Cabbage ----- lb.	9.9	10.2
Chuck roast ----- lb.	65.5	64.3	Tomatoes ----- lb.	32.2	35.3
Rib roast ----- lb.	82.4	82.5	Beans, green ----- lb.	31.0	29.9
Hamburger ----- lb.	55.7	55.6	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	142.5	139.1	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	47.2	46.7
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	84.8	88.3	Peaches ----- #2½ can	35.9	35.6
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	69.4	72.1	Pineapple ----- #2 can	35.8	35.7
Ham, whole ----- lb.	64.9	67.5	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	27.7	27.6
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	73.9	75.5	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	18.9	18.6
Frankfurters ----- lb.	65.3	65.7	Peas, green ----- #303 can	20.8	21.0
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	52.0	53.0	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.8	15.9
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook -- lb.	43.5	42.9	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	10.1	10.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	47.7	47.6	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	60.2	59.7	Prunes ----- lb.	39.3	38.9
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 18 oz.	61.0	61.4	Beans ----- lb.	17.2	17.2
Tuna fish, canned ----- 8 to 8½ oz.	33.6	33.7	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.4
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.1	24.0	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.1
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.2	25.3	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.5	26.7
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.6	29.5	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.6	22.6
Butter ----- lb.	74.5	74.7	Coffee ----- lb. can	80.5	83.7
Cheese, American process ----- lb.	58.2	58.2	Coffee ----- lb. bag	62.3	64.0
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	15.2	15.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.1	24.2
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	28.3	28.3
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	90.0	92.3
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.2	26.4	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	28.8	28.9
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	25.4	27.4	Lard ----- lb.	21.3	22.1
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.9	20.1	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.8	37.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.9	22.9	Peanut butter ----- lb.	56.0	56.1
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.7	56.9
Apples ----- lb.	13.2	12.8	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.4	26.3
Bananas ----- lb.	17.1	17.2	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	28.1	28.1
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	61.3	64.3	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.2	5.2
Lemons ----- lb.	19.1	19.5	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	55.8	58.1
Grapefruit * ----- each	11.8	12.4	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.2	9.1

* Priced only in season.

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

Group	Cleveland		Houston		Scranton		Seattle		Washington, D.C.	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
All items -----	124.8	2.2	123.6	1.7	120.2	2.8	125.8	2.2	121.1	2.4
Food -----	117.2	3.4	117.0	3.4	118.4	5.1	121.3	3.6	121.6	4.0
Food at home -----	115.4	3.6	115.5	4.0	118.4	5.4	120.6	3.9	120.0	4.7
Cereals and bakery products --	129.7	3.6	126.3	4.2	135.1	6.1	143.9	3.6	131.8	1.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	110.0	8.4	110.9	10.2	116.3	10.7	115.9	9.4	114.6	9.6
Dairy products -----	109.6	2.7	112.5	1.3	112.3	1.2	116.5	- 1.0	118.6	1.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	118.9	3.1	124.2	3.8	123.0	7.9	127.6	5.5	126.8	8.8
Other foods at home -----	115.1	- 1.2	110.1	- 1.4	110.2	- .3	110.8	- .7	113.9	0
Housing -----	130.6	2.1	130.0	.5	122.4	1.1	129.3	.7	120.2	1.1
Rent -----	159.8	1.8	139.2	.4	129.6	1.8	145.2	2.3	127.2	1.3
Gas and electricity -----	115.4	.1	116.1	- .1	117.7	- .7	86.6	0	126.3	3.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	137.4	2.5	---	---	141.7	- .6	138.4	- 3.4	138.9	- 4.7
Housefurnishings -----	101.9	- .1	100.1	- 1.3	101.6	- 1.9	103.6	2.0	100.1	.2
Household operation -----	118.6	1.9	141.9	4.2	116.3	1.7	137.5	2.0	130.2	3.2
Apparel -----	108.9	.8	111.4	1.4	109.3	.7	108.4	- .1	103.4	- .5
Men's and boys' -----	113.4	.6	106.8	- .5	110.3	- .2	111.9	.2	107.5	- .3
Women's and girls' -----	99.8	.7	107.2	3.2	102.3	1.3	100.0	- 1.0	96.1	- .8
Footwear -----	128.1	1.5	137.2	.1	134.2	1.1	131.8	1.8	122.8	- .1
Other apparel -----	94.9	.4	91.0	- .2	91.8	.2	87.2	0	88.2	- .5
Transportation -----	136.6	1.8	137.4	1.8	141.1	4.0	143.3	3.8	140.3	1.9
Private -----	127.7	1.5	130.3	.6	127.4	4.6	131.9	4.3	133.8	1.7
Public -----	176.4	3.2	188.0	9.4	191.4	.4	180.1	0	161.9	3.4
Medical care -----	153.1	2.4	132.4	2.3	126.8	1.1	147.4	4.6	140.2	6.6
Personal care -----	127.6	1.1	134.9	2.0	129.1	2.5	132.9	2.4	124.0	2.9
Reading and recreation -----	124.0	2.8	116.2	2.1	140.2	5.9	119.3	3.6	118.3	7.1
Other goods and services -----	127.4	1.1	128.4	1.4	119.6	1.1	135.9	1.7	136.4	1.0

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.

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