

Released May 22, 1959

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR APRIL 1959

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.2 percent between March and April 1959, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices were higher for transportation, medical care, recreation, and personal care, due largely to advances in service rates. Commodity prices were unchanged on the average, despite a slight decline in food prices. The Consumer Price Index, up 0.3 percent over the year, returned to the record high level of 123.9 (1947-49=100) reached in July and November 1958.

TRANSPORTATION A rise of 0.3 percent in transportation prices reflected increases of 0.3 percent in both private and public transportation. Prices of gasoline, tires, and auto insurance were higher. A decline of 0.7 percent in dealers' selling prices of new cars was offset by a greater than seasonal advance of 1.3 percent in used car prices. Transit fares were up in one city.

FOOD Average food prices dropped 0.1 percent in April, continuing a 9-month decline which was interrupted only in January. Sharp reductions in egg prices and seasonally lower prices of milk were almost offset by seasonal advances in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables. The food index at 117.6 was 3.3 percent lower than a year ago and 3.4 percent below the July 1958 peak.

Egg prices, decreasing for the seventh consecutive month, dropped 11.1 percent, much more than their usual seasonal decline. Dairy products decreased 0.8 percent as fresh milk prices were down seasonally.

Fruit and vegetable prices rose 2.4 percent over the month, with prices of fresh fruits and vegetables up 3.7 percent. Fresh fruit prices advanced 5.3 percent as apples rose 7.5 percent and strawberries, priced for the first time this year, were substantially higher than at the end of last season. Orange prices also rose seasonally (1.6 percent), but bananas dropped 3.5 percent. Fresh vegetable prices were up 2.0 percent, in part due to unfavorable March weather in Florida and Texas, with green beans up 10.4 percent, onions 7.6 percent, and potatoes 5.5 percent. However, with ample supplies from California, lettuce, cabbage, and celery declined 7.1, 4.8, and 4.7 percent, respectively. Prices of canned fruits and vegetables rose 0.4 percent largely because of higher prices for canned orange juice.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish increased 0.2 percent over the month. Meat prices rose 0.5 percent, mainly because of a 1.2 percent increase in prices of pork products, reversing an 8-month downward trend. Pork chop prices advanced 2.9 percent, and bacon was up 1.4 percent. However, ham prices continued to drop (0.9 percent). Among other meats, rib roast, veal cutlet, round steak, and leg of lamb prices all advanced. Chuck roast, hamburger, canned luncheon meat, and frankfurter prices were lower. Prices of frying chickens declined 2.1 percent, due to plentiful supplies.

Coffee prices fell 1.3 percent, continuing their decline of more than a year, but cola drinks increased 0.9 percent.

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

Restaurant meal prices rose 0.4 percent.

HOUSING

Housing costs were unchanged on the average as seasonal reductions in prices of solid fuels and fuel oil offset higher rents and home repair and maintenance costs. Prices of fuel oil dropped 1.4 percent, coal 0.9 percent, and gas bills 0.4 percent. Rents continued their upward movement, with a rise of 0.1 percent. An increase of 0.3 percent in home repair and maintenance costs reflected higher prices for both labor and materials. Housefurnishings prices were unchanged as lower prices for household textiles offset increases in prices of durable housefurnishings, including rugs, bedding, and some appliances. Household operation costs were up 0.1 percent; higher laundry and dry cleaning service rates more than offset lower prices of laundry soaps and detergents.

**OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES**

The medical care index advanced 0.3 percent with increased hospitalization insurance premiums and higher fees for services of dentists, physicians, and hospitals.

Higher taxes on cigarettes were effective in New York.

Reading and recreation prices averaged 0.3 percent higher mainly because of increased movie admission charges. Prices of television and radio sets were lower.

The advance of 0.2 percent in personal care was the result of scattered increases in prices of barber and beauty shop services and some toiletries.

Apparel prices remained at their March level as higher prices for men's tropical suits and work gloves, women's cotton dresses, and men's, women's, and children's shoes offset reductions in prices of women's spring coats, wool suits, and nylon hose.

**TABLE A: Revised indexes for all items and medical care
June 1958 to March 1959**

(1947-49=100)

Date	U.S. city average	Los Angeles	
	Medical care	All items	Medical care
1958: Average	144.6	125.4	140.9
June	144.2	125.5	143.8
July	145.0	125.7	144.3
August	145.3	125.5	144.5
September	146.5	126.0	144.6
October	147.1	125.9	145.8
November	147.4	126.5	145.8
December	147.6	126.5	145.8
1959: January	148.0	126.5	146.1
February	149.0	126.7	146.1
March	149.2	126.6	146.0

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to April 1959 from —			
	April 1959	March 1959	March 1959	January 1959	April 1958	Year 1959
All items	123.9	123.7	0.2	0.1	0.3	108.6
Food	117.6	117.7	- .1	- 1.2	- 3.3	149.7
Food at home	115.3	115.5	- .2	- 1.5	- 4.3	144.8
Cereals and bakery products	134.1	134.1	0	.1	1.1	134.4
Meats, poultry, and fish	111.5	111.3	.2	- 2.0	- 3.8	168.0
Dairy products	112.9	113.8	- .8	- 1.1	.4	126.7
Fruits and vegetables	123.6	120.7	2.4	1.6	- 9.5	167.0
Other foods at home	104.7	107.3	- 2.4	- 4.7	- 6.9	116.3
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)	114.8	114.3	.4	.7	2.5	(1/)
Housing 2/	128.7	128.7	0	.4	.8	69.1
Rent	139.3	139.1	.1	.4	1.5	60.9
Gas and electricity	118.2	118.5	- .3	0	1.9	12.7
Solid fuels and fuel oil	138.7	140.3	- 1.1	- .1	3.4	145.9
Household operation	103.8	103.8	0	.6	- .2	94.4
Household operation	133.8	133.7	.1	.5	2.2	95.6
Apparel	107.0	107.0	0	.3	.3	103.8
Men's and boys'	108.0	107.8	.2	0	- 1.0	112.6
Women's and girls'	98.9	99.0	- .1	.2	.7	81.5
Footwear	132.4	132.0	.3	1.2	2.0	163.2
Other apparel	91.9	91.8	.1	.2	0	126.4
Transportation	145.3	144.9	.3	.8	5.1	107.0
Private	134.4	134.0	.3	1.0	5.3	105.2
Public	192.6	192.0	.3	.4	3.5	136.9
Medical care	149.6	*149.2	.3	1.1	4.8	106.1
Personal care	130.0	129.7	.2	.5	1.2	118.1
Reading and recreation	117.7	117.3	.3	.6	.6	86.8
Other goods and services	128.2	127.3	.7	.7	.8	81.6
Special groups:						
All items less food	127.1	126.9	.2	.6	1.7	83.9
All items less shelter	121.5	121.4	.1	0	.2	119.3
Commodities	115.9	115.9	0	- .3	- .6	124.6
Nondurables	117.4	117.4	0	- .3	- 1.5	128.4
Food	117.6	117.7	- .1	- 1.2	- 3.3	149.7
Nondurables less food	117.5	117.4	.1	.7	.8	100.2
Apparel	107.0	106.9	.1	.3	.4	105.4
Nondurables less food and apparel	126.6	126.4	.2	1.0	1.1	92.1
Durables	112.6	112.5	.1	.2	2.7	96.5
New cars	139.0	140.0	- .7	- 1.4	5.7	143.9
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)	91.8	90.6	1.3	2.7	14.6	(1/)
Durables less cars	103.3	103.2	.1	.2	- .2	80.3
Commodities less food	114.5	114.4	.1	.4	1.5	92.8
Services	144.8	144.4	.3	.6	1.9	80.1
Rent	139.3	139.1	.1	.4	1.5	60.9
Services less rent	146.4	145.9	.3	.7	2.0	99.2
Household operation services, gas, and electricity	133.9	133.8	.1	.5	2.4	53.9
Transportation services	179.1	178.4	.4	.5	3.2	123.6
Medical care services	155.2	154.2	.6	1.6	5.4	120.1
Other services 3/	130.6	130.2	.3	.5	.4	124.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)	\$0.807	\$0.808	- .1	- .1	- .4	-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.

* Revised. See Table A for revised indexes from June 1958 forward.

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 --		
	Apr. 1959	Jan. 1959	Apr. 1958	Year 1939	Jan. 1959	Apr. 1958	Year 1939
United States city average-----	123.9	123.8	123.5	59.4	0.1	0.3	108.6
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	127.4	127.1	127.0	58.6	.2	.3	117.4
Detroit-----	123.5	123.3	124.4	59.0	.2	-.7	109.3
Los Angeles-----	*126.6	126.5	125.6	60.4	.1	.8	109.6
New York-----	122.0	121.8	121.2	60.1	.2	.7	103.0
Philadelphia-----	123.6	123.4	122.9	59.2	.2	.6	108.8
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	Apr. 1959	Jan. 1959	Apr. 1958	Year 1939	Jan. 1959	Apr. 1958	Year 1939
Boston-----	125.1	125.4	124.5	61.0	-.2	.5	105.1
Kansas City-----	125.5	124.5	123.7	61.7	.8	1.5	103.4
Minneapolis-----	125.1	125.3	124.1	60.7	-.2	.8	106.1
Pittsburgh-----	124.5	124.4	123.8	58.1	.1	.6	114.3
Portland, Oregon-----	125.3	124.2	125.0	58.3	.9	.2	114.9
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	Mar. 1959	Dec. 1958	Mar. 1958	Year 1939	Dec. 1958	Mar. 1958	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	124.3	124.4	124.9	58.3	-.1	-.5	113.2
Baltimore-----	126.4	125.5	124.1	57.9	.7	1.9	118.3
Cincinnati-----	122.2	122.4	122.3	58.4	-.2	-.1	109.2
St. Louis-----	126.0	125.7	124.5	59.3	.2	1.2	112.5
San Francisco-----	129.0	127.9	126.7	58.6	.9	1.8	120.1
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	Feb. 1959	Nov. 1958	Feb. 1958	Year 1939	Nov. 1958	Feb. 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
Saranton-----	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

1/ Rents priced bimonthly.

2/ Foods, fuels, and a few other items priced monthly; rents and other commodities and services priced quarterly.

* See Table A for revised indexes from June 1958 forward.

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index—Percent changes from March 1959 to April 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--	0.2	- 0.1	0	0	0.3	*0.3	0.2	0.3	0.7
Chicago-----	.2	-.2	0.3	- 0.3	0	1.7	1.0	-.3	.1
Detroit-----	.2	.2	.1	.1	1.2	0	0	1.3	.1
Los Angeles-----	* 0	-.2	-.1	.1	.4	*.3	.4	.5	.1
New York-----	.2	-.2	.2	-.1	.8	.1	-.2	.2	2.5
Philadelphia-----	.2	-.2	.3	-.1	.3	.1	.2	2.6	0

* Based on revised indexes for March. See Table A for revised indexes from June 1958 forward.

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minne- apolis	New York	Phila- delphia	Pitts- burgh	Portland, Oregon
	Indexes (1947-49=100)										
All items -----	123.9	125.1	127.4	123.5	125.5	126.6	125.1	122.0	123.6	124.5	125.3
Food -----	117.6	117.3	115.2	117.2	111.6	123.1	118.1	119.5	120.2	118.7	119.2
Food at home -----	115.3	113.9	112.5	114.7	108.7	118.7	115.0	116.8	117.3	116.9	116.9
Cereals and bakery products --	134.1	132.4	129.5	125.2	127.2	146.1	134.5	141.6	138.7	132.9	140.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	111.5	112.7	104.8	107.6	105.3	111.1	107.6	113.8	113.8	110.6	114.4
Dairy products -----	112.9	110.9	113.4	108.1	107.9	110.9	104.8	115.1	116.2	114.5	117.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.6	117.8	121.0	133.8	115.5	133.7	132.2	120.6	123.5	121.3	119.2
Other foods at home -----	104.7	101.0	108.8	104.4	97.2	106.6	110.3	105.1	103.1	114.4	106.3
Housing -----	128.7	135.2	139.0	127.3	126.6	135.2	127.0	125.9	122.8	128.6	128.6
Rent -----	139.3	147.5	—	144.7	141.6	—	154.0	129.9	—	131.1	137.6
Gas and electricity -----	118.2	114.0	129.3	117.3	121.3	130.7	135.3	115.5	103.4	136.4	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	138.7	143.7	144.9	126.9	131.8	—	132.4	145.1	138.7	135.1	141.5
Housefurnishings -----	103.8	101.2	101.1	109.6	103.7	101.5	99.4	103.9	108.4	107.9	103.8
Household operation -----	133.8	131.7	136.9	122.9	136.9	123.2	131.5	132.2	135.1	143.3	129.0
Apparel -----	107.0	103.2	109.4	104.8	104.8	108.3	107.7	106.0	105.2	104.3	110.8
Men's and boys' -----	108.0	104.7	113.5	108.2	107.6	110.7	108.4	108.0	108.2	103.9	112.7
Women's and girls' -----	98.9	95.4	98.1	94.7	96.9	100.0	101.3	96.3	94.9	96.1	100.7
Footwear -----	132.4	126.2	135.8	129.2	126.4	133.7	128.4	133.2	133.7	128.9	138.7
Other apparel -----	91.9	98.7	95.6	85.8	87.9	84.6	93.7	95.8	92.7	98.0	98.2
Transportation -----	145.3	152.9	154.7	138.3	153.4	141.5	130.0	146.1	151.3	158.3	144.3
Private -----	134.4	147.2	136.6	134.4	139.2	137.8	125.0	127.3	130.9	132.0	138.1
Public -----	192.6	168.8	196.9	157.3	251.4	162.1	166.8	191.4	193.4	237.7	196.8
Medical care -----	149.6	159.1	158.5	157.8	170.6	146.4	191.9	137.6	152.2	158.0	141.1
Personal care -----	130.0	132.0	131.5	133.6	136.3	134.1	137.3	122.8	134.9	127.4	133.5
Reading and recreation -----	117.7	114.2	122.4	114.0	133.4	103.2	124.7	120.1	122.9	109.7	124.7
Other goods and services -----	128.2	126.9	121.1	135.7	124.7	124.1	131.2	130.1	128.3	127.6	127.4
Percent change from January 1959 to April 1959											
All items -----	0.1	- 0.2	0.2	0.2	0.8	* 0.1	- 0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.9
Food -----	- 1.2	- 1.2	- .4	- 1.2	- 1.6	- .8	- .2	- 1.0	- 1.2	- 1.6	- 1.4
Food at home -----	- 1.5	- 1.8	- .6	- 1.5	- 2.1	- 1.3	- .4	- 1.5	- 1.6	- 2.1	- 2.1
Cereals and bakery products --	.1	- .1	5.0	- .1	- .2	.8	0	- .6	- .5	- .2	0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 2.0	- 2.3	- .8	- 1.3	- 3.2	- 3.6	- .9	- 2.1	- 1.6	- 2.7	- 3.4
Dairy products -----	- 1.1	- 4.1	.5	- 3.0	- .2	.8	.1	- 2.6	- 2.3	- 2.2	- .1
Fruits and vegetables -----	1.6	.3	.7	3.2	1.7	1.4	5.8	1.8	1.6	- .5	- .7
Other foods at home -----	- 4.7	- 1.8	- 5.3	- 5.3	- 6.2	- 3.9	- 5.2	- 3.1	- 4.7	- 3.7	- 4.1
Housing -----	.4	.1	.5	.8	.8	- .1	- .2	.6	.8	1.1	1.2
Rent -----	.4	.2	—	1/- .3	.3	—	.5	1/ .5	—	.3	.4
Gas and electricity -----	0	0	.5	.3	.7	0	6.0	- .1	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- .1	- .8	.2	0	4.7	—	1.6	- .2	.5	0	3.7
Housefurnishings -----	.6	.8	.8	1.7	1.9	.5	.6	.4	.5	2.8	0
Household operation -----	.5	- .3	2.1	2.5	- .1	.1	- 2.5	- .2	1.1	1.3	- .9
Apparel -----	.3	- .1	- .6	.1	.6	.1	.7	.3	1.0	1.3	0
Men's and boys' -----	0	.1	- .2	- .6	.4	- .1	.1	.1	.1	.2	0
Women's and girls' -----	.2	- .7	- 1.8	- .1	.6	0	1.1	0	.7	2.1	- .5
Footwear -----	1.2	1.9	.9	1.3	1.3	1.1	.9	1.2	2.8	1.4	1.7
Other apparel -----	.2	0	- .4	1.2	.2	0	.5	.1	.8	- .7	0
Transportation -----	.8	- .1	- .1	1.1	4.2	1.7	- .8	1.0	.1	.5	6.0
Private -----	1.0	- .1	- .1	1.3	5.1	2.0	- .9	1.4	- .5	.6	7.0
Public -----	.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.4	0	0
Medical care -----	* 1.1	.3	4.3	3.1	.5	* .2	- .2	1.5	1.9	1.2	0
Personal care -----	.5	1.5	1.7	0	3.2	.8	.7	- .4	- .1	.6	.8
Reading and recreation -----	.6	- .6	- .6	- .7	2.8	1.0	0	.1	2.4	- .9	.4
Other goods and services -----	.7	.1	- .2	.1	0	.1	0	2.5	- .2	0	.1

* Based on revised indexes for January. See Table A for revised indexes from June 1958 forward.
 1/ Change from February 1959 to April 1959.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 April 1959 indexes and percent changes, March 1959 to April 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 ---	117.6	- 0.1	115.3	- 0.2	134.1	0	111.5	0.2	112.9	- 0.8	123.6	2.4	104.7	- 2.4
Atlanta -----	115.7	.7	114.1	.6	125.5	- 0.2	114.5	1.3	113.8	- .2	125.7	3.2	99.7	- 1.1
Baltimore -----	117.3	.1	113.9	0	128.6	.2	111.8	.9	116.9	- .3	116.6	2.6	103.4	- 2.9
Boston -----	117.3	- .8	113.9	- 1.0	132.4	.2	112.7	- .6	110.9	- 4.1	117.8	.5	101.0	- 1.3
Chicago -----	115.2	- .2	112.5	- .2	129.5	- .1	104.8	.5	113.4	.1	121.0	1.6	108.8	- 2.8
Cincinnati -----	118.1	.3	115.4	.3	133.4	- .1	110.6	.5	112.4	- .1	124.1	3.3	108.0	- 1.8
Cleveland -----	114.3	- .1	111.8	- .1	128.9	- .3	105.6	1.2	110.3	- .1	115.4	.9	108.0	- 2.1
Detroit -----	117.2	.2	114.7	.2	125.2	- .3	107.6	.6	108.1	- .3	133.8	3.2	104.4	- 2.5
Houston -----	114.7	- .8	112.7	- 1.0	125.7	- .1	106.7	- .9	113.5	- .2	125.8	.8	102.4	- 3.6
Kansas City -----	111.6	0	108.7	- .1	127.2	0	105.3	.6	107.9	- .1	115.5	2.4	97.2	- 3.4
Los Angeles -----	123.1	- .2	118.7	- .4	146.1	.1	111.1	.3	110.9	.1	133.7	.2	106.6	- 2.5
Minneapolis -----	118.1	(1/)	115.0	(1/)	134.5	(1/)	107.6	(1/)	104.8	(1/)	132.2	(1/)	110.3	(1/)
New York -----	119.5	.2	116.8	- .1	141.6	- .6	113.8	- .9	115.1	- 2.2	120.6	6.4	105.1	- 2.4
Philadelphia -----	120.2	- .2	117.3	- .3	138.7	0	113.8	1.2	116.2	- 1.9	123.5	1.1	103.1	- 2.5
Pittsburgh -----	118.7	- .1	116.9	- .4	132.9	- .1	110.6	.1	114.5	- 2.3	121.3	2.4	114.4	- 2.1
Portland, Oreg. -----	119.2	- .2	116.9	- .4	140.4	- .1	114.4	- .4	117.3	0	119.2	.3	106.3	- 1.4
St. Louis -----	118.7	0	114.0	0	124.5	- .2	106.4	- .4	105.6	- .2	132.1	4.0	111.5	- 2.4
San Francisco -----	122.2	- .5	120.1	- .7	147.2	- .1	116.2	.3	115.4	- 1.3	132.3	.5	105.3	- 2.9
Scranton -----	114.4	- .3	113.7	- .4	135.9	- .1	112.6	1.1	110.5	- 2.4	115.1	1.6	101.4	- 2.8
Seattle -----	120.2	.5	118.4	.4	146.7	.8	113.7	1.2	116.0	- .5	128.4	1.6	103.7	- 1.7
Washington, D.C. -----	118.5	- .3	115.8	- .4	132.2	.2	112.2	- .4	117.5	- .2	119.2	1.4	105.6	- 2.3

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

Food and unit	Apr. 1959	Mar. 1959	Food and unit	Apr. 1959	Mar. 1959
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.9	54.9	Peaches * ----- 1b.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.8	26.8	Strawberries * ----- pt.	34.7	
Corn meal ----- 1b.	12.9	12.9	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.		
Rice ----- 1b.	18.5	18.5	Watermelons * ----- 1b.		
Rolls, oats ----- 18 oz.	20.4	20.4	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	55.8	52.8
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.6	25.6	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	14.1	14.2
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.6	19.6	Onions ----- 1b.	16.9	15.7
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.3	Carrots ----- 1b.	14.1	14.3
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.4	24.4	Lettuce ----- head	15.5	16.7
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- 1b.	12.3	12.9
Round steak ----- 1b.	107.7	107.2	Cabbage ----- 1b.	8.9	9.4
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	64.8	65.2	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	32.3	32.1
Rib roast ----- 1b.	82.9	82.1	Beans, green ----- 1b.	29.8	27.0
Hamburger ----- 1b.	55.0	55.2	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	141.5	140.6	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	47.9	47.4
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	84.0	81.7	Peaches ----- #2 can	36.4	36.2
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	68.4	67.5	Pineapple ----- #2 can	36.1	36.0
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	63.1	63.7	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	27.9	27.8
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	75.2	73.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	19.4	19.1
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	64.8	64.9	Peas, green ----- #303 can	20.8	20.8
Loaf, meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	51.5	51.8	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.6	15.8
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	42.7	43.6	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 8 oz.	10.1	10.1
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	47.9	47.7	Dried:		
Reddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	60.6	59.7	Prunes ----- 1b.	39.9	39.7
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	61.1	60.9	Beans ----- 1b.	17.3	17.2
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 oz.	33.5	33.5	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.6	12.5
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.7	24.0	Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.1	15.1
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.9	25.2	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.6	26.5
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.7	29.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.7	22.7
Butter ----- 1b.	74.4	74.3	Coffee ----- 1b. can	78.1	79.5
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	58.0	58.0	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	61.5	61.9
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.2	15.2	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.1	24.2
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	29.4	29.2
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	88.8	89.4
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.1	26.1	Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	28.0	28.3
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	24.8	24.9	Lard ----- 1b.	20.4	20.7
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.0	20.0	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.9	37.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.8	22.8	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	55.9	55.9
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.7	56.9
Apples ----- 1b.	14.9	13.8	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.4	26.4
Bananas ----- 1b.	16.3	16.9	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	28.3	28.1
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	62.1	61.1	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.1	5.2
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.7	18.9	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	48.0	54.1
Grapefruit * ----- each	11.8	11.6	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.2	9.2

* Priced only in season.
 1/ Not available.

Labor D.C. - BLS-8-0332

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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LABOR - D. C.

OCCUPATIONAL WAGE SURVEYS

(BLS Bulletins 1240-1 through 11)

The U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has released 11 of this year's occupational wage surveys for major labor markets. Reports for 9 additional areas are in process. The studies were conducted during the winter 1958-59. The individual bulletins provide earnings information on about 60 jobs selected from several categories: Office clerical, professional and technical, maintenance and powerplant, and custodial and material movement.

In addition to areawide averages and distributions of workers by earnings classes for each job, information is provided wherever possible by major industry division, including manufacturing, public utilities, finance, trade, and services.

Also presented for all areas except Denver, Memphis, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Newark-Jersey City, and St. Louis are data for paid holidays; paid vacations; scheduled weekly hours; health, insurance, and pension plans; minimum entrance rates; and shift differential practices.

The areas covered, survey date, bulletin number, and price are as follows:

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