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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JUNE 1959

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.4 percent between May and June 1959, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Seasonally higher (1.0 percent) food prices were largely responsible for the advance, although prices of all major groups of goods and services except apparel were fractionally higher. Apparel prices remained at their May level. Prices of commodities other than food rose 0.2 percent, with nondurables up 0.3 percent and durables 0.1 percent. Service rates were 0.1 percent higher.

The June Consumer Price Index, at 124.5 percent of the 1947-49 average, was at a new record high, 0.6 percent higher than in June 1958.

FOOD Average food prices increased 1.0 percent in June because of sharp advances in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly potatoes. The food index, at 118.9, was still 2.2 percent lower than a year ago, and 2.3 percent below the July 1958 peak.

Fruit and vegetable prices rose 7.1 percent over the month, with fresh fruits and vegetables up 10.9 percent.

Potato prices jumped 42 percent, reflecting dwindling supplies of last year's crop and limited shipments of the new crop. Prices of celery, lettuce, sweet potatoes, and carrots also advanced, but green beans, onions, and tomatoes were down 32, 23, and 12 percent, respectively, as local supplies began to appear in the markets. Among fresh fruits, prices of apples, oranges, and grapefruit advanced, but lemons and bananas were slightly lower. Watermelon prices were substantially higher than at the end of last season and 15 percent above their June 1958 level. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables were higher than in May, largely because of advances for both canned and frozen orange juice.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish showed no change on the average, as reductions in prices of frying chickens, chuck roast, and bacon offset higher prices for pork chops, ham, and round steak.

Egg prices, decreasing for the ninth consecutive month as supplies continued plentiful, dropped 1.9 percent, to a level 20 percent below that of a year ago. Coffee prices, declining for the 17th consecutive month, were down 0.8 percent from May and 19 percent from a year ago. Dairy products again declined 0.3 percent as milk prices were seasonally lower. Cereals and bakery products dropped 0.2 percent on the average as flour prices declined 0.9 percent.

Prices of restaurant meals advanced 0.3 percent.

HOUSING A rise of 0.1 percent in housing costs reflected increases in prices of housefurnishings, gas and electricity, rent, and household operation. Prices of fuel oil and home repairs and maintenance were lower. The advance of 0.4 percent in prices of housefurnishings resulted largely from increases

in prices of household textiles, following May sales, as well as higher prices for soft surface floor coverings. Some increases in furniture prices were also reported, but appliances showed little change on the average. The gas and electricity index rose 0.5 percent, because of an average advance of 0.7 percent for electricity and 0.4 percent for gas. Rent edged up another 0.1 percent as moderate increases were reported in most cities surveyed. The rise of 0.1 percent in household operation costs was almost entirely the result of higher prices for laundry soaps and detergents.

The solid fuels and fuel oil group index dropped 1.0 percent, as prices of petroleum fuels were reduced 2.5 percent. Home repair and maintenance costs declined 0.3 percent, as mid-season sales brought lower prices for plumbing and heating equipment, lumber, and paint. Costs of repair services were higher.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Transportation prices were up 0.2 percent, as used car prices advanced 1.6 percent and gasoline was up 0.8 percent, largely influenced by an increase of two cents a gallon in gasoline taxes in Ohio. Dealers' selling prices of new cars declined 0.4 percent.

Reading and recreation costs increased 0.3 percent mainly because of higher movie admission charges. Newspaper prices advanced in several cities, while prices of television sets declined prior to the introduction of new models.

A rise of 0.3 percent for medical care reflected higher prices for drugs, professional services, and for surgical insurance. Personal care costs rose 0.3 percent, chiefly because of increased charges for men's haircuts in several cities. Cigarette prices advanced as taxes were increased in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington.

Apparel prices were unchanged on the average as higher prices for footwear offset reductions for women's rayon dresses, lingerie, and nylon hose, and scattered declines for men's and boys' apparel.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to June 1959 from--			
	June 1959	May 1959	May 1959	March 1959	June 1958	Year 1939
All items-----	124.5	124.0	0.4	0.6	0.6	109.6
Food-----	118.9	117.7	1.0	1.0	- 2.2	152.4
Food at home-----	116.6	115.2	1.2	1.0	- 3.2	147.6
Cereals and bakery products-----	134.2	134.5	- .2	.1	1.0	134.6
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	111.6	111.6	0	.3	- 5.7	168.3
Dairy products-----	112.3	112.6	- .3	- 1.3	.5	125.5
Fruits and vegetables-----	134.5	125.6	7.1	11.4	.1	190.5
Other foods at home-----	102.3	102.8	- .5	- 4.7	- 7.8	111.4
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	115.6	115.2	.3	1.1	2.6	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	128.9	128.8	.1	.2	.9	69.4
Rent-----	139.5	139.3	.1	.3	1.3	61.1
Gas and electricity-----	119.3	118.7	.5	.7	2.1	13.7
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	133.9	135.3	- 1.0	- 4.6	1.7	137.4
Housefurnishings-----	104.1	103.7	.4	.3	0	94.9
Household operation-----	133.9	133.8	.1	.1	2.1	95.8
Apparel-----	107.3	107.3	0	.3	.6	104.4
Men's and boys'-----	108.1	108.2	- .1	.3	- .6	112.8
Women's and girls'-----	98.8	99.0	- .2	- .2	.3	81.3
Footwear-----	134.5	133.5	.7	1.9	3.6	167.4
Other apparel-----	91.8	92.1	- .3	0	- .1	126.1
Transportation-----	145.7	145.4	.2	.6	4.9	107.5
Private-----	134.8	134.5	.2	.6	5.3	105.8
Public-----	192.7	192.7	0	.4	2.7	137.0
Medical care-----	150.6	150.2	.3	.9	4.4	107.4
Personal care-----	131.1	130.7	.3	1.1	1.9	120.0
Reading and recreation-----	118.1	117.8	.3	.7	1.2	87.5
Other goods and services-----	129.2	128.4	.6	1.5	1.6	83.0
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	127.5	127.3	.2	.5	1.8	84.5
All items less shelter-----	122.2	121.6	.5	.7	.7	120.6
Commodities-----	116.6	115.9	.6	.6	0	126.0
Nondurables-----	118.2	117.4	.7	.7	- .8	130.0
Food-----	118.9	117.7	1.0	1.0	- 2.2	152.4
Nondurables less food-----	117.8	117.5	.3	.3	.9	100.7
Apparel-----	107.2	107.2	0	.3	.5	105.8
Apparel less footwear-----	102.4	102.6	.2	0	- .1	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	126.8	126.3	.4	.3	1.1	92.4
Durables-----	112.8	112.7	.1	.3	2.9	96.9
New cars-----	138.3	138.9	- .4	- 1.2	5.7	142.6
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	93.8	92.3	1.6	3.5	14.8	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.3	103.4	- .1	.1	- .1	80.3
Commodities less food-----	114.7	114.5	.2	.3	1.6	93.1
Services-----	145.4	145.2	.1	.7	2.2	80.8
Rent-----	139.5	139.3	.1	.3	1.3	61.1
Services less rent-----	147.1	146.9	.1	.8	2.3	100.1
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	134.3	134.1	.1	.4	2.4	54.4
Transportation services-----	179.3	179.7	- .2	.5	2.9	123.8
Medical care services-----	156.1	155.8	.2	1.2	5.1	121.4
Other services 2/-----	131.4	131.2	.2	.9	1.2	125.4
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.803	\$0.806	- .4	- .6	- .6	- 52.3

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 --		
	June 1959	March 1959	June 1958	Year 1939	March 1959	June 1958	Year 1939
United States city average	124.5	123.7	123.7	59.4	0.6	0.6	109.6
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	127.7	127.2	127.5	58.6	.4	.2	117.9
Detroit	123.4	123.2	124.2	59.0	.2	.6	109.2
Los Angeles	127.0	126.6	125.5	60.4	.3	1.2	110.3
New York	122.5	121.7	121.0	60.1	.7	1.2	103.8
Philadelphia	124.0	123.4	123.0	59.2	.5	.8	109.5
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	June 1959	March 1959	June 1958	Year 1939	March 1959	June 1958	Year 1939
Atlanta	125.5	124.3	124.9	58.3	1.0	.5	115.3
Baltimore	126.6	126.4	124.8	57.9	.2	1.4	118.7
Cincinnati	123.1	122.2	122.7	58.4	.7	.3	110.8
St. Louis	126.3	126.0	124.5	59.3	.2	1.4	113.0
San Francisco	129.4	129.0	128.0	58.6	.3	1.1	120.8
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	May 1959	February 1959	May 1958	Year 1939	February 1959	May 1958	Year 1939
Cleveland	125.3	124.8	125.0	59.2	.4	.2	111.7
Houston	124.1	124.1	123.7	59.5	0	.3	108.6
Scranton	120.0	120.3	120.7	58.5	-.2	-.6	105.1
Seattle	127.9	126.9	126.1	59.2	.8	1.4	116.0
Washington, D. C.	121.8	121.3	121.3	60.4	.4	.4	101.7
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	April 1959	January 1959	April 1958	Year 1939	January 1959	April 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

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 May 1959 to June 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	0.4	1.0	0.1	0	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.6
Chicago	.2	1.0	-.3	-.5	-.3	.1	.2	1.4	.1
Detroit	0	1.5	-.2	-.1	-2.8	.1	0	.4	0
Los Angeles	.2	.6	.2	-.6	-.8	.3	.6	1.0	.2
New York	.3	.7	.1	.3	.1	.1	.2	-.1	.1
Philadelphia	.6	1.7	-.1	.4	.1	.9	.3	-.3	1.6

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

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 -----	124.5	125.5	126.6	127.7	123.1	123.4	127.0	122.5	124.0	126.3	129.4
Food -----	118.9	117.1	118.6	116.4	119.3	118.7	123.6	120.0	121.3	119.7	123.0
Food at home -----	116.6	115.4	115.3	113.8	116.7	116.3	118.9	117.4	118.4	115.1	121.0
Cereals and bakery products --	134.2	125.4	128.5	129.8	132.8	124.4	146.2	142.1	137.5	125.0	147.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	111.6	114.0	111.5	104.9	111.3	107.7	112.0	113.5	113.2	106.7	117.4
Dairy products -----	112.3	113.8	117.1	113.2	112.0	107.7	110.9	114.0	116.2	105.9	115.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	134.5	138.9	127.7	130.7	136.2	146.6	136.0	128.3	135.7	140.3	137.9
Other foods at home -----	102.3	97.3	101.4	106.5	104.3	102.7	104.7	102.3	100.6	109.3	103.5
Housing -----	128.9	132.2	127.2	138.3	124.2	126.9	136.1	126.1	122.4	127.3	131.7
Rent -----	139.5	139.2	137.5	—	143.3	144.2	—	130.1	—	148.1	149.1
Gas and electricity -----	119.3	126.2	109.8	129.3	125.8	117.8	131.1	119.2	105.3	106.2	145.2
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	133.9	128.7	130.9	137.0	139.8	126.8	—	137.0	124.9	152.8	—
Housefurnishings -----	104.1	110.6	99.5	101.6	96.0	109.9	102.3	104.3	108.3	106.1	108.2
Household operation -----	133.9	137.9	134.5	136.9	135.6	120.6	124.0	132.5	135.8	137.2	122.0
Apparel -----	107.3	113.1	109.1	109.3	106.9	104.8	108.1	106.3	105.3	106.3	108.8
Men's and boys' -----	108.1	115.5	107.2	113.4	107.4	108.2	110.0	108.1	108.2	108.1	108.9
Women's and girls' -----	98.8	104.2	103.8	97.6	97.7	94.3	99.8	96.3	94.7	98.6	100.1
Footwear -----	134.5	140.1	133.0	137.0	141.7	130.7	135.8	135.2	134.6	130.7	141.1
Other apparel -----	91.8	93.1	97.8	95.6	89.2	85.1	83.5	96.0	92.7	90.6	90.8
Transportation -----	145.7	143.3	159.7	153.8	142.9	133.9	140.9	146.0	152.8	161.8	163.7
Private -----	134.8	134.6	138.3	135.7	131.2	129.3	137.1	127.1	132.6	138.6	151.0
Public -----	192.7	193.8	215.4	196.9	191.4	157.3	162.1	191.4	193.4	237.1	182.6
Medical care -----	150.6	144.3	158.6	158.8	154.1	157.9	146.9	140.1	153.5	167.3	154.7
Personal care -----	131.1	134.4	131.7	136.5	129.5	133.9	135.0	132.2	135.6	130.7	124.1
Reading and recreation -----	118.1	121.5	129.1	124.1	110.4	114.5	103.1	119.8	119.6	98.8	118.3
Other goods and services -----	129.2	133.8	140.2	121.0	129.8	135.7	124.4	131.8	130.0	132.0	124.4
Percent change from March 1959 to June 1959											
All items -----	0.6	1.0	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.3
Food -----	1.0	1.9	1.2	.9	1.3	1.5	.2	.6	.7	.8	.2
Food at home -----	1.0	1.8	1.2	1.0	1.5	1.6	-.3	.4	.7	1.0	.1
Cereals and bakery products --	.1	-.3	.2	.2	-.5	-.3	.1	-.2	-.9	.2	-.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.3	.9	.6	.6	1.2	.7	1.1	1.1	.7	-.1	1.4
Dairy products -----	- 1.3	-.2	-.1	-.1	-.4	-.6	.1	3.1	- 1.9	.1	- 1.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	11.4	14.0	12.4	9.7	13.4	13.1	1.9	13.2	11.1	10.5	4.8
Other foods at home -----	- 4.7	- 3.5	- 4.8	- 4.8	- 5.2	- 4.1	- 4.2	- 5.0	- 4.8	- 4.4	- 4.5
Housing -----	.2	.5	-.6	-.2	-.4	-.2	.5	.3	0	-.2	.5
Rent -----	.3	.3	.9	—	.1	1/-.3	—	1/-.2	—	.3	.6
Gas and electricity -----	.7	0	.4	0	2.1	.5	.3	3.1	1.8	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- 4.6	- 4.0	- 8.3	- 5.5	- 8.0	-.1	—	7.1	-10.7	- 5.8	—
Housefurnishings -----	.3	-.5	-.3	.5	-.4	.7	.2	-.1	.6	.4	1.2
Household operation -----	.1	0	.2	1.8	.1	- 1.9	.4	0	1.5	.2	-.1
Apparel -----	.3	-.3	.1	-.4	-.1	.1	-.1	.2	0	-.3	.6
Men's and boys' -----	.3	-.1	0	1.2	.1	0	-.5	.4	-.2	.3	.1
Women's and girls' -----	-.2	-.5	0	- 1.3	- 1.2	-.4	0	-.3	-.5	- 1.1	0
Footwear -----	1.9	.4	.8	.7	2.5	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.3	2.1	2.4
Other apparel -----	0	-.1	.2	-.2	-.1	-.1	- 1.3	.1	0	- 2.2	.4
Transportation -----	.6	- 1.1	.2	-.6	1.0	- 2.0	0	.7	1.3	-.1	- 1.1
Private -----	.6	- 1.7	.2	-.7	1.2	- 2.4	0	.8	1.6	0	- 1.3
Public -----	.4	2.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care -----	.9	4.5	.9	1.9	1.9	.1	.6	1.9	.9	.3	1.2
Personal care -----	1.1	1.3	4.5	4.8	-.2	.2	1.0	.2	.7	.2	.5
Reading and recreation -----	.7	2.4	- 1.8	1.1	0	1.8	.4	-.1	-.2	.7	2.1
Other goods and services -----	1.5	.8	0	0	5.1	.1	.3	3.9	1.3	-.2	0

1/ Change from April 1959 to June 1959.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
June 1959 indexes and percent changes, May 1959 to June 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 ---	118.9	1.0	116.6	1.2	134.2	- 0.2	111.6	0	112.3	- 0.3	134.5	7.1	102.3	- 0.5
Atlanta -----	117.1	1.3	115.4	1.4	125.4	- .5	114.0	0.2	113.8	0	138.9	8.8	97.3	- .6
Baltimore -----	118.6	1.4	115.3	1.5	128.5	- .2	111.5	1.1	117.1	0	127.7	6.2	101.4	.3
Boston -----	118.4	.8	115.2	.9	132.0	- .2	112.7	.2	108.6	- .8	132.2	7.7	97.9	- 1.7
Chicago -----	116.4	1.0	113.8	1.2	129.8	- .2	104.9	.3	113.2	- .1	130.7	7.0	106.5	- .9
Cincinnati -----	119.3	1.4	116.7	1.7	132.8	- .4	111.3	.6	112.0	0	136.2	8.4	104.3	- .5
Cleveland -----	114.6	.4	112.1	.4	129.2	.2	105.3	.4	106.7	- 3.2	125.9	6.1	104.2	- .6
Detroit -----	118.7	1.5	116.3	1.7	124.4	- .2	107.7	- .3	107.7	.1	146.6	9.2	102.7	0
Houston -----	114.4	- .2	112.2	0	125.7	.2	106.4	- .5	113.2	0	126.0	1.5	101.0	- .6
Kansas City -----	113.1	1.4	110.5	1.7	127.3	- .1	105.5	- .8	107.8	- .1	127.2	10.5	95.9	0
Los Angeles -----	123.6	.6	118.9	.6	146.2	0	112.0	- .1	110.9	- .2	136.0	3.7	104.7	- .8
Minneapolis -----	118.8	1.1	115.9	1.4	134.3	- .2	107.5	- .1	104.6	- .1	141.5	9.2	107.8	- 1.1
New York -----	120.0	.7	117.4	.9	142.1	- .3	113.5	- .8	114.0	0	128.3	6.1	102.3	- .2
Philadelphia -----	121.3	1.7	118.4	1.9	137.5	- .5	113.2	1.3	116.2	0	135.7	9.2	100.6	- .2
Pittsburgh -----	120.8	1.2	119.2	1.4	132.1	- .4	111.0	.1	114.5	.1	139.5	7.9	111.0	- .4
Portland, Oreg. -----	121.8	1.5	118.3	.5	140.1	- .2	114.4	.3	119.9	2.3	125.6	1.8	105.6	- .5
St. Louis -----	119.7	.8	115.1	1.1	125.0	- .2	106.7	.9	105.9	.2	140.3	4.9	109.3	- .8
San Francisco -----	123.0	.6	121.0	.8	147.0	0	117.4	.5	115.5	.1	137.9	3.4	103.5	- .1
Scranton -----	116.6	1.6	115.7	1.6	135.5	- .3	111.1	- .7	110.3	- .1	134.9	11.2	98.6	- .4
Seattle -----	121.6	.7	119.8	.8	146.5	- .2	115.5	1.1	117.1	- .2	134.3	3.1	102.4	- .1
Washington, D.C. -----	119.5	.8	116.9	.9	131.1	- .8	109.7	- .7	117.2	- .3	133.1	7.9	104.0	- .6

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

Food and unit	June 1959	May 1959	Food and unit	June 1959	May 1959
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh—Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.4	54.9	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	26.9	26.9	Strawberries * ----- pt.	30.2	29.8
Corn meal ----- 1b.	13.0	13.0	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rice, short grain ----- 1b.	18.9	18.6	Watermelons * ----- lb.	7.2	
Rice, long grain ----- 1b.	20.9	20.9	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	89.6	63.1
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.4	20.4	Sweetpotatoes ----- lb.	14.9	14.2
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.5	25.6	Onions ----- lb.	11.0	14.2
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.7	19.7	Carrots ----- lb.	14.4	14.1
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.1	29.2	Lettuce ----- head	15.8	14.6
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.5	Celery ----- lb.	14.5	13.1
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage ----- lb.	8.5	9.1
Round steak ----- 1b.	108.1	107.7	Tomatoes ----- lb.	30.1	34.4
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	64.5	65.7	Beans, green ----- lb.	19.2	28.0
Rib roast ----- 1b.	82.9	83.1	Canned:		
Hamburger ----- 1b.	55.3	55.3	Orange juice ----- 48-oz. can	50.3	49.0
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	143.3	143.0	Peaches ----- #2½ can	36.5	36.3
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	87.4	85.5	Pineapple ----- #2 can	36.1	36.1
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	68.6	68.8	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	27.9	27.9
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	63.1	62.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	19.6	19.5
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	77.4	76.5	Peas, green ----- #303 can	20.5	20.7
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	63.9	64.2	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.5	15.7
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	51.2	51.3	Baby foods ----- 4½ to 5 oz.	10.1	10.1
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	41.4	42.1	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	47.7	47.5	Prunes ----- lb.	40.1	40.0
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	58.8	59.2	Beans ----- lb.	17.3	17.3
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	61.4	61.2	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8½ oz.	33.3	33.4	Tomato soup ----- 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Dairy products:			Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.0	15.1
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.5	23.6	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.6	26.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	24.7	24.8	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.4	22.6
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.7	29.7	Coffee ----- lb. can	76.9	77.2
Butter ----- 1b.	74.0	74.1	Coffee ----- lb. bag	57.1	57.9
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	58.1	58.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.1	24.2
Milk, evaporated ----- 14½-oz. can	15.2	15.2	Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	29.4	29.4
Fruits and vegetables:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	88.2	88.0
Frozen:			Margarine, colored ----- lb.	27.7	27.8
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	25.8	25.7	Lard ----- lb.	19.9	20.1
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	25.3	24.7	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.8	37.8
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.8	19.8	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	55.7	55.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.6	22.7	Sugar ----- 5 lb.	56.9	56.6
Fresh:			Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.4	26.4
Apples ----- 1b.	16.6	15.4	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	28.1	28.2
Bananas ----- 1b.	16.8	17.0	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.1	5.1
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	69.6	65.2	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	44.2	45.0
Lemons ----- 1b.	18.1	18.4	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.3	9.3
Grapefruit * ----- each	13.8	12.3			

* Priced only in season.

Labor D. C.

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.

