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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JULY 1959

Prices of consumer goods and services in United States cities rose 0.3 percent between June and July 1959, according to the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Higher prices for all major classes of goods and services contributed to the advance, with food up 0.4 percent, nonfood commodities 0.3 percent, and services 0.3 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for July was 124.9 percent of the 1947-49 average, 0.8 percent higher than in July 1958.

FOOD

Average food prices increased 0.4 percent in July, as sharp advances in prices of eggs more than offset lower prices for fresh fruits and vegetables. The food index, at 119.4, was 1.9 percent lower than its record high reached in July 1958.

Egg prices rose for the first month since September 1958, with an advance of 18 percent (much more than their usual rise between June and July), following reductions in laying flocks. Prices of dairy products were up 0.9 percent as fresh milk prices increased seasonally.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish increased 0.4 percent, largely because of an advance of 2.3 percent in prices of frying chickens. Beef and veal prices rose fractionally, but prices of pork and lamb were lower.

Fruit and vegetable prices decreased 2.8 percent as local supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables became more plentiful. Prices of watermelons fell 33 percent, tomatoes 14 percent, potatoes 9 percent, and onions 7 percent. Higher prices were reported for grapefruit and lettuce. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables were higher than in June, largely because of advances for both canned and frozen orange juice.

Restaurant meal prices advanced 0.5 percent.

HOUSING

A rise of 0.1 percent in the housing index reflected increases in most of its component subgroups. Rents again edged up 0.1 percent. Household operation costs advanced 0.3 percent largely because of higher prices for dry cleaning and laundry services. Prices of home repairs and maintenance were up 0.4 percent, with increases for plumbing equipment and painting and repair services. The gas and electricity and solid fuels and fuel oil groups rose 0.2 and 0.1 percent, respectively. Housefurnishings prices declined 0.1 percent as lower prices for household textiles and some appliances more than offset increases for floor coverings and furniture.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

An advance of 0.8 percent in reading and recreation prices was due primarily to higher movie admission charges and increased prices for sporting goods.

Transportation prices rose 0.3 percent because of higher prices for used cars, increased transit fares in two cities, and higher auto insurance rates. Dealers' selling prices of new cars were down 0.7 percent and gasoline prices were 0.5 percent lower.

Apparel prices were up 0.2 percent, with increases reported for men's and women's shoes, men's dress shirts and work clothing, and women's rayon dresses and nylon hose. Prices were lower for men's slacks and tropical suits and women's cotton street dresses and rayon skirts.

A rise of 0.3 percent in medical care costs reflected higher prices for drugs and prescriptions and increases in fees for professional services.

Personal care costs advanced 0.2 percent with higher prices for toilet goods.

Prices of cigarettes and cigars were higher as taxes were increased in several states.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to July 1959 from--			
	July 1959	June 1959	June 1959	April 1959	July 1958	Year 1959
All items-----	124.9	124.5	0.3	0.8	0.8	110.3
Food-----	119.4	118.9	.4	1.5	- 1.9	153.5
Food at home-----	117.1	116.6	.4	1.6	- 2.8	148.6
Cereals and bakery products-----	134.4	134.2	.1	.2	1.1	135.0
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	112.0	111.6	.4	.4	- 6.0	169.2
Dairy products-----	113.3	112.3	.9	.4	.8	127.5
Fruits and vegetables-----	130.8	134.5	- 2.8	5.8	- .8	182.5
Other foods at home-----	105.7	102.3	3.3	1.0	- 5.5	118.4
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	116.2	115.6	.5	1.2	3.0	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	129.0	128.9	.1	.2	1.0	69.5
Rent-----	139.6	139.5	.1	.2	1.3	61.2
Gas and electricity-----	119.5	119.3	.2	1.1	2.1	13.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	134.0	133.9	.1	- 3.4	1.3	137.6
Housefurnishings-----	104.0	104.1	- .1	.2	0	94.8
Household operation-----	134.3	133.9	.3	.4	2.4	96.3
Apparel-----	107.5	107.3	.2	.5	.7	104.8
Men's and boys'-----	108.3	108.1	.2	.3	- .2	113.2
Women's and girls'-----	98.8	98.8	0	- .1	.2	81.3
Footwear-----	135.2	134.5	.5	2.1	4.2	168.8
Other apparel-----	92.3	91.8	.5	.4	.3	127.3
Transportation-----	146.3	145.9*	.3	.7	4.3	108.4
Private-----	135.2	134.9*	.2	.6	4.6	106.4
Public-----	194.2	192.7	.8	.8	2.5	138.9
Medical care-----	151.0	150.6	.3	.9	4.1	108.0
Personal care-----	131.3	131.1	.2	1.0	1.9	120.3
Reading and recreation-----	119.1	118.1	.8	1.2	2.1	89.0
Other goods and services-----	130.8	129.2	1.2	2.0	2.8	85.3
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	127.9	127.5	.3	.6	2.0	85.1
All items less shelter-----	122.7	122.2	.4	1.0	.9	121.5
Commodities-----	117.0	116.6	.3	.9	.2	126.7
Nondurables-----	118.7	118.2	.4	1.1	- .6	130.9
Food-----	119.4	118.9	.4	1.5	- 1.9	153.5
Nondurables less food-----	118.1	117.8	.3	.5	1.0	101.2
Apparel-----	107.4	107.2	.2	.4	.7	106.1
Apparel less footwear-----	102.5	102.4	.1	.1	0	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	127.3	126.8	.4	.6	1.2	93.2
Durables-----	113.1	112.8	.3	.4	3.0	97.4
New cars-----	137.3	138.3	- .7	- 1.2	5.0	140.9
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	96.1	93.8	2.5	4.7	14.3	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.5	103.3	.2	.2	.4	80.6
Commodities less food-----	115.1	114.7	.3	.5	1.8	93.8
Services-----	145.8	145.4	.3	.7	2.2	81.3
Rent-----	139.6	139.5	.1	.2	1.3	61.2
Services less rent-----	147.5	147.1	.3	.8	2.4	100.7
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	134.6	134.3	.2	.5	2.5	54.7
Transportation services-----	180.9	179.3	.9	1.0	3.4	125.8
Medical care services-----	156.5	156.1	.3	.8	4.8	122.0
Other services 2/-----	131.6	131.4	.2	.8	1.2	125.7
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.801	\$0.803	- .2	- .7	- .7	- 52.4

1/ Not available.

2/ Includes house purchase, interest, taxes, insurance, and upkeep, not shown separately.

and beauty shop services, and movies.

* Revised.

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 --		
	July 1959	April 1959	July 1958	Year 1939	April 1959	July 1958	Year 1939
United States city average	124.9	123.9	123.9	59.4	0.8	0.8	110.3
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	128.3	127.4	127.6	58.6	.7	.5	118.9
Detroit	124.4	123.5	124.3	59.0	.7	.1	110.8
Los Angeles	127.6	126.6	125.7	60.4	.8	1.5	111.3
New York	123.5	122.0	121.1	60.1	1.2	2.0	105.5
Philadelphia	124.2	123.6	123.3	59.2	.5	.7	109.8
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	July 1959	April 1959	July 1958	Year 1939	April 1959	July 1958	Year 1939
Boston	125.6	125.1	125.4	61.0	.4	.2	105.9
Kansas City	126.0	125.5	124.8	61.7	.4	1.0	104.2
Minneapolis	125.4	125.1	124.9	60.7	.2	.4	106.6
Pittsburgh	125.7	124.5	124.7	58.1	1.0	.8	116.4
Portland, Oregon	126.1	125.3	124.7	58.3	.6	1.1	116.3
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	129.6*	129.0	128.0	58.6	.5	1.2	121.2
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
Saranton	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

1/ Rents priced bimonthly.

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

* Revised.

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index—Percent changes from June 1959 to July 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	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	1/0.3	0.3	0.2	0.8	1.2
Chicago	.5	.6	.2	.9	1.0	.1	.3	.9	.2
Detroit	.8	-.6	.6	-.6	4.4	.1	.1	4.8	.1
Los Angeles	.5	-.2	.4	.7	2/-.4	-.1	.1	2.2	6.7
New York	.8	2.0	.1	-.1	.5	.1	.2	.3	1.0
Philadelphia	.2	.5	-.3	.3	.6	0	.1	.9	0

1/ Based on revised index for June, 145.9.

2/ Based on revised index for June, 141.8.

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
 July 1959 Indexes and Percent Changes, April 1959 to July 1959
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in July 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 -----	124.9	125.6	128.3	124.4	126.0	127.6	125.4	123.5	124.2	125.7	126.1
Food -----	119.4	118.9	117.1	118.0	112.9	123.3	119.2	122.4	121.9	120.5	121.6
Food at home -----	117.1	115.7	114.4	115.4	110.1	118.4	116.3	119.6	119.1	118.9	118.4
Cereals and bakery products --	134.4	132.4	130.3	124.6	127.2	146.2	134.2	143.9	137.3	131.7	139.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	112.0	112.8	105.1	107.2	105.4	112.0	107.1	115.6	113.1	111.1	115.3
Dairy products -----	113.3	105.8	116.4	107.5	107.8	111.0	105.6	116.9	118.8	114.4	120.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.8	130.8	126.9	138.5	121.8	130.8	137.6	126.2	132.2	133.1	121.3
Other foods at home -----	105.7	102.9	109.6	105.5	98.6	106.6	112.4	107.7	104.5	114.8	108.0
Housing -----	129.0	134.9	138.6	127.6	126.8	136.6	127.5	126.2	122.0	129.0	127.8
Rent -----	139.6	147.6	165.7	--	141.8	146.9	153.9	--	128.4	132.6	137.8
Gas and electricity -----	119.5	113.2	129.3	118.0	122.7	131.3	135.3	119.2	105.3	139.4	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	134.0	136.6	139.1	126.3	131.8	--	126.2	137.1	124.9	135.1	140.7
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	101.4	102.1	110.6	104.2	102.4	99.4	104.1	107.1	107.9	103.4
Household operation -----	134.3	133.7	136.9	122.6*	137.1	125.4	133.1	133.6	135.4	143.4	128.9
Apparel -----	107.5	103.9	110.3	104.2	104.7	108.9	108.3	106.2	105.6	104.9	112.0
Men's and boys' -----	108.3	104.6	114.0	106.6	107.6	110.9	108.5	108.0	108.8	104.4	113.0
Women's and girls' -----	98.8	95.9	98.8	94.0	96.0	100.0	101.5	96.3	94.7	96.1	101.3
Footwear -----	135.2	129.5	138.6	131.2	128.5	137.0	131.6	135.2	135.6	131.1	144.3
Other apparel -----	92.3	98.4	96.3	85.6	87.8	84.9	94.0	96.0	92.9	99.4	98.8
Transportation -----	146.3*	152.7	155.3	139.8	154.1	141.3*	126.4	146.8	153.7	161.8	141.0
Private -----	135.2*	146.9	137.2	132.5	139.9	137.5*	121.0	128.1	133.6	135.9	134.4
Public -----	194.2	168.8	196.9	179.4	251.4	162.1	166.8	191.4	193.4	237.7	196.8
Medical care -----	151.0	159.4	158.9	158.0	171.0	146.7	193.9	140.2	153.5	158.3	142.4
Personal care -----	131.3	132.6	136.9	134.0	135.9	135.1	138.8	123.5	135.7	127.4	133.9
Reading and recreation -----	119.1	115.5	125.2	120.0	132.9	105.4	124.9	120.2	120.7	111.1	135.9
Other goods and services -----	130.8	127.0	121.3	135.8	125.7	132.7	134.0	133.1	130.0	129.6	129.0
Percent change from April 1959 to July 1959											
All items -----	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.4	0.8	0.2	1.2	0.5	1.0	0.6
Food -----	1.5	1.4	1.6	.7	1.2	.2	.9	2.4	1.4	1.5	2.0
Food at home -----	1.6	1.6	1.7	.6	1.3	-.3	1.1	2.4	1.5	1.7	1.3
Cereals and bakery products --	.2	0	.6	-.5	0	.1	-.2	1.6	-1.0	-.9	-.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.4	.1	.3	-.4	.1	.8	-.5	1.6	-.6	.5	.8
Dairy products -----	.4	-4.6	2.6	-.6	-.1	.1	.8	1.6	2.2	-.1	2.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.8	11.0	4.9	3.5	5.5	-2.2	4.1	4.6	7.0	9.7	1.8
Other foods at home -----	1.0	1.9	.7	1.1	1.4	0	1.9	2.5	1.4	.3	1.6
Housing -----	.2	-.2	-.3	.2	.2	1.0	.4	.2	-.7	.3	-.6
Rent -----	.2	.1	1/	-.4	-.1	1/-	.1	-.1	1/-	.1	.1
Gas and electricity -----	1.1	-.7	0	.6	1.2	.5	0	3.2	1.8	2.2	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-3.4	-4.9	-4.0	-.5	0	-.4	-4.7	-5.5	-9.9	0	-.6
Housefurnishings -----	.2	.2	1.0	.9	.5	.9	0	.2	-1.2	0	-.4
Household operation -----	.4	1.5	0	-.2	.1	1.8	1.2	1.1	.2	.1	-.1
Apparel -----	.5	.7	.8	-.6	-.1	.6	.6	.2	.4	.6	1.1
Men's and boys' -----	.3	-.1	.4	-1.5	0	.2	.1	0	.6	.5	.3
Women's and girls' -----	-.1	.5	.7	-.7	-.9	0	.2	0	-.2	0	.6
Footwear -----	2.1	2.6	2.1	1.5	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.4	1.7	4.0
Other apparel -----	.4	-.3	.7	-.2	-.1	.4	.3	.2	.2	1.4	.6
Transportation -----	.7	-.1	.4	1.1	.5	-.1	-2.8	.5	1.6	2.2	-2.3
Private -----	.6	-.2	.4	-1.4	.5	-.2	-3.2	.6	2.1	3.0	-2.7
Public -----	.8	0	0	14.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care -----	.9	.2	.3	.1	.2	.2	1.0	1.9	.9	.2	.9
Personal care -----	1.0	.5	4.1	.3	-.3	.7	1.1	.6	.6	0	.3
Reading and recreation -----	1.2	1.1	2.3	5.3	-.4	2.1	.2	.1	-1.8	1.3	9.0
Other goods and services -----	2.0	.1	.2	.1	.8	6.9	2.1	2.3	1.3	1.6	1.3

1/ Change from May 1959 to July 1959.

* Indexes for June 1959 revised as follows:

Group	City	Revised index	Group	City	Revised index
Household operation	Detroit	122.7	Private transportation	U. S.	134.9
Transportation	U. S.	145.9		Los Angeles	138.1
	Los Angeles	141.8			

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
July 1959 indexes and percent changes, June 1959 to July 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 ---	119.4	0.4	117.1	0.4	134.4	0.1	112.0	0.4	113.3	0.9	130.2	- 2.8	105.7	3.3
Atlanta -----	117.0	- .1	115.2	- .2	125.3	- .1	113.8	- .2	113.8	0	134.6	- 3.1	99.6	2.4
Baltimore -----	119.4	.7	116.0	.6	128.6	.1	111.2	- .3	117.0	- .1	127.7	0	104.6	3.2
Boston -----	118.9	.4	115.7	.4	132.4	.3	112.8	.1	105.8	- 2.6	130.8	- 1.1	102.9	5.1
Chicago -----	117.1	.6	114.4	.5	130.3	.4	105.1	.2	116.4	2.8	126.9	- 2.9	109.6	2.9
Cincinnati -----	119.9	.5	117.3	.5	133.0	.2	112.1	- .7	112.0	0	133.4	- 2.1	108.0	3.5
Cleveland -----	114.6	0	112.2	.1	128.6	- .5	104.9	- .4	107.0	.3	123.7	- 1.7	107.2	2.9
Detroit -----	118.0	- .6	115.4	- .8	124.6	.2	107.2	- .5	107.5	- .2	138.5	- 5.5	105.5	2.7
Houston -----	114.9	.4	112.8	.5	125.2	- .4	107.1	.7	113.3	.1	126.9	.7	102.1	1.1
Kansas City -----	112.9	- .2	110.1	- .4	127.2	- .1	105.4	- .1	107.8	0	121.8	- 4.2	98.6	2.8
Los Angeles -----	123.3	- .2	118.4	- .4	146.2	0	112.0	0	111.0	.1	130.8	- 3.8	106.6	1.8
Minneapolis -----	119.2	.3	116.3	.3	134.2	- .1	107.1	- .4	105.6	1.0	137.6	- 2.8	112.4	4.3
New York -----	122.4	2.0	119.6	1.9	143.9	- 1.3	115.6	- 1.9	116.9	2.5	126.2	- 1.6	107.7	5.3
Philadelphia -----	121.9	.5	119.1	.6	137.3	.1	113.1	- .1	118.8	2.2	132.2	- 2.6	104.5	3.9
Pittsburgh -----	120.5	- .2	118.9	- .3	131.7	- .3	111.1	.1	114.4	- .1	133.1	- 4.6	114.8	3.4
Portland, Ore. -----	121.6	- .2	118.4	- .1	139.5	- .4	115.3	.8	120.5	.5	121.3	- 3.4	108.0	2.3
St. Louis -----	119.1	- .5	114.2	- .8	124.8	- .2	104.8	- 1.8	106.5	.6	134.0	- 4.5	112.5	2.9
San Francisco -----	122.2	- .7	120.0	- .8	147.1	.1	116.3	- .9	115.5	0	131.1	- 4.9	105.8	2.2
Sarantom -----	117.3	.6	116.2	.4	132.4	- 2.3	111.1	0	110.3	0	132.9	- 1.5	104.0	5.5
Seattle -----	121.4	- .2	119.5	- .3	146.4	- .1	115.4	- .1	117.3	.2	130.1	- 3.1	104.1	1.7
Washington, D.C. -----	120.5	.8	118.2	1.1	131.0	- .1	111.7	1.8	118.6	1.2	130.0	- 2.3	108.1	3.9

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

Food and unit	July 1959	June 1959	Food and unit	July 1959	June 1959
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	54.3	54.4	Peaches * ----- 1b.	18.0	
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	27.0	26.9	Strawberries * ----- pt.		30.2
Corn meal ----- 1b.	13.0	13.0	Grapes, seedless * ----- 1b.	33.1	
Rice, short grain ----- 1b.	19.0	18.9	Watermelons * ----- 1b.	4.7	7.2
Rice, long grain ----- 1b.	21.0	20.9	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	81.2	89.6
Bolled oats ----- 18 oz.	20.4	20.4	Sweetpotatoes ----- 1b.	15.2	14.9
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	25.6	25.5	Onions ----- 1b.	10.2	11.0
Bread, white ----- 1b.	19.8	19.7	Carrots ----- 1b.	14.5	14.4
Soda crackers ----- 1b.	29.2	29.1	Lettuce ----- head	16.3	15.8
Vanilla cookies ----- 7 oz.	24.5	24.5	Celery ----- 1b.	14.5	14.5
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage ----- 1b.	8.7	8.5
Round steak ----- 1b.	108.9	108.1	Tomatoes ----- 1b.	26.0	30.1
Chuck roast ----- 1b.	64.2	64.5	Beans, green ----- 1b.	18.8	19.2
Rib roast ----- 1b.	83.5	82.9	Canned:		
Hamburger ----- 1b.	55.4	55.3	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	51.3	50.3
Veal cutlets ----- 1b.	143.9	143.3	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	36.5	36.5
Fork chops, center cut ----- 1b.	87.9	87.4	Pineapple ----- #2 can	36.2	36.1
Bacon, sliced ----- 1b.	68.4	68.6	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	27.9	27.9
Ham, whole ----- 1b.	62.2	63.1	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	19.7	19.6
Lamb, leg ----- 1b.	76.8	77.4	Peas, green ----- #303 can	20.4	20.5
Frankfurters ----- 1b.	64.0	63.9	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.5	15.5
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	51.1	51.2	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 8 oz.	10.1	10.1
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1b.	42.4	41.4	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	47.5	47.7	Prunes ----- 1b.	40.2	40.1
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1b.	58.2	58.8	Beans ----- 1b.	17.4	17.3
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	61.5	61.4	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	33.3	33.3	Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.6	12.5
Dairy products:			Beans with pork ----- 16-oz. can	15.0	15.0
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	23.8	23.5	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.7	26.6
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.0	24.7	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.5	22.4
Ice cream ----- pt.	29.6	29.7	Coffee ----- 1b. can	77.0	76.9
Butter ----- 1b.	74.1	74.0	Coffee ----- 1b. bag	57.1	57.1
Cheese, American process ----- 1b.	58.5	58.1	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.3	24.1
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.2	15.2	Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	29.4	29.4
Fruits and vegetables:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	88.7	88.2
Frozen:			Margarine, colored ----- 1b.	27.7	27.7
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.0	25.8	Lard ----- 1b.	19.6	19.9
Orange juice concentrate ----- 8 oz.	26.0	25.3	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.8	37.8
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	19.9	19.8	Peanut butter ----- 1b.	55.8	55.7
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.7	22.6	Sugar ----- 6 lb.	57.1	56.9
Fresh:			Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.5	26.4
Apples ----- 1b.	16.4	16.6	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	28.3	28.1
Bananas ----- 1b.	16.6	16.8	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	5.2	5.1
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	68.4	69.6	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	52.5	44.2
Lemons ----- 1b.	17.9	18.1	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.3	9.3
Grapefruit * ----- each	15.0	13.8			

* Priced only in season.

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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