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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST 1959

Prices of consumer goods and services in United States cities declined 0.1 percent between July and August according to the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. A drop of 0.9 percent in food prices was responsible for the decrease, as prices of all other items averaged 0.2 percent higher: nonfood commodities were up 0.2 percent and services 0.3 percent.

The August Consumer Price Index was 124.8 percent of the 1947-49 average, 0.9 percent higher than a year earlier.

FOOD Average food prices decreased 0.9 percent as prices of fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, and poultry declined. The August food index, at 118.3, was 2.0 percent lower than a year ago, and 2.8 percent below the July 1958 peak.

Fruit and vegetable prices decreased 4.0 percent as local supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables continued plentiful. Prices of grapes fell 30 percent, potatoes 17 percent, watermelons 16 percent, tomatoes 15 percent, and peaches 14 percent. Celery, onion, and apple prices also decreased, but prices of grapefruit and oranges were higher.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish decreased 1.9 percent. Pork prices decreased 3.0 percent as pork chops, bacon, and ham all declined. Beef prices were lower as round steak, chuck roast, rib roast, and hamburger prices decreased. Prices of frying chickens were down 2.0 percent.

Cereals and bakery products decreased 0.3 percent as bread prices were down 0.4 percent.

Prices of dairy products rose 0.7 percent as fresh milk prices increased seasonally. Egg prices increased 3.2 percent.

Restaurant meal prices advanced 0.3 percent.

HOUSING Housing costs advanced 0.2 percent as rents increased 0.1 percent, gas and electric bills averaged 0.5 percent higher, and household operation costs rose 0.2 percent, with higher rates for domestic and laundry services more than offsetting lower prices for laundry soaps and detergents. Interest rates for both VA-insured and conventional mortgages also advanced. Housefurnishings prices were 0.4 percent lower, reflecting traditional August sale prices for household textiles and furniture; prices of kitchenware and some appliances also declined, but soft-surface floor coverings continued to advance. Prices of fuel oil dropped seasonally, but solid fuels were higher.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES Apparel prices rose 0.5 percent, largely because of higher prices for shoes and men's apparel, particularly shirts, suits, slacks, and work clothing.

Transportation prices were 0.3 percent higher, due largely to increases of 2.1 percent for gasoline and 1.1 percent for used cars. Dealers' selling prices of new cars were down 0.6 percent and tire prices were substantially lower. Railroad fares advanced in most western cities.

An advance of 0.3 percent in medical care costs was due primarily to higher rates for hospitalization insurance. The personal care index was up 0.3 percent, as men's haircuts and beauty shop services were higher.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to August 1959 from--			
	August 1959	July 1959	July 1959	May 1959	August 1958	Year 1939
All items-----	124.8	124.9	- 0.1	0.6	0.9	110.1
Food-----	118.3	119.4	- .9	.5	- 2.0	151.2
Food at home-----	115.7	117.1	- 1.2	.4	- 2.9	145.6
Cereals and bakery products-----	134.0	134.4	- .3	- .4	.8	134.3
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	109.9	112.0	- 1.9	- 1.5	- 6.6	164.2
Dairy products-----	114.1	113.3	.7	1.3	1.0	129.1
Fruits and vegetables-----	125.6	130.8	- 4.0	0	.6	171.3
Other foods at home-----	106.2	105.7	.5	3.3	- 5.9	119.4
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	116.6	116.2	.3	1.2	2.9	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	129.3	129.0	.2	.4	1.1	69.9
Rent-----	139.8	139.6	.1	.4	1.2	61.4
Gas and electricity-----	120.1	119.5	.5	1.2	2.2	14.5
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	133.9	134.0	- .1	- 1.0	.2	137.4
Housefurnishings-----	103.6	104.0	- .4	- .1	.3	94.0
Household operation-----	134.6	134.3	.2	.6	1.9	96.8
Apparel-----	108.0	107.5	.5	.7	1.3	105.7
Men's and boys'-----	108.8	108.3	.5	.6	.5	114.2
Women's and girls'-----	98.8	98.8	0	- .2	.3	81.3
Footwear-----	137.3	135.2	1.6	2.8	5.6	173.0
Other apparel-----	92.5	92.3	.2	.4	.7	127.8
Transportation-----	146.7	146.3	.3	.9	4.0	109.0
Private-----	135.5	135.2	.2	.7	4.2	106.9
Public-----	194.9	194.2	.4	1.1	2.8	139.7
Medical care-----	151.4	151.0	.3	.8	4.2	108.5
Personal care-----	131.7	131.3	.3	.8	2.2	121.0
Reading and recreation-----	119.1	119.1	0	1.1	2.1	89.0
Other goods and services-----	131.1	130.8	.2	2.1	3.1	85.7
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	128.2	127.9	.2	.7	2.1	85.5
All items less shelter-----	122.4	122.7	- .2	.7	.8	120.9
Commodities-----	116.6	117.0	- .3	.6	.2	126.0
Nondurables-----	118.3	118.7	- .3	.8	- .4	130.2
Food-----	118.3	119.4	- .9	.5	- 2.0	151.2
Nondurables less food-----	118.6	118.1	.4	.9	1.5	102.0
Apparel-----	107.9	107.4	.5	.7	1.3	107.1
Apparel less footwear-----	102.7	102.5	.2	.1	.4	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	127.8	127.3	.4	1.2	1.5	93.9
Durables-----	112.8	113.1	- .3	.1	2.6	96.9
New cars-----	136.5	137.3	- .6	- 1.7	4.5	139.5
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	97.2	96.1	1.1	5.3	13.3	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.0	103.5	- .5	- .4	0	79.8
Commodities less food-----	115.3	115.1	.2	.7	1.9	94.1
Services-----	146.3	145.8	.3	.8	2.3	82.0
Rent-----	139.8	139.6	.1	.4	1.2	61.4
Services less rent-----	148.1	147.5	.4	.8	2.6	101.5
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	135.1	134.6	.4	.7	2.2	55.3
Transportation services-----	181.3	180.9	.2	.9	3.6	126.3
Medical care services-----	157.0	156.5	.3	.8	4.8	122.7
Other services 3/-----	132.2	131.6	.5	.8	1.6	126.8
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.801	\$0.801	0	- .6	- .9	-52.4

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 change, selected dates
U.S. city average and 20 large cities**

City	Indexes (1947-49=100)				Percent change to current month from --		
	August 1959	May 1959	August 1958	Year 1939	May 1959	August 1958	Year 1939
United States city average	124.8	124.0	123.7	59.4	0.6	0.9	110.1
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	128.3	127.4	126.9	58.6	.7	1.1	118.9
Detroit	123.7	123.4	123.7	59.0	.2	0	109.7
Los Angeles	127.5	126.8	125.5	60.4	.6	1.6	111.1
New York	123.0	122.1	121.1	60.1	.7	1.6	104.7
Philadelphia	124.4	123.2	123.4	59.2	1.0	.8	110.1
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	August 1959	May 1959	August 1958	Year 1939	May 1959	August 1958	Year 1939
Cleveland	125.8	125.3	125.1	59.2	.4	.6	112.5
Houston	124.8	124.1	124.0	59.5	.6	.6	109.7
Scranton	121.2	120.0	120.4	58.5	1.0	.7	107.2
Seattle	128.9	127.9	126.3	59.2	.8	2.1	117.7
Washington, D. C.	122.0	121.8	121.2	60.4	.2	.7	102.0
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

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 July 1959 to August 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	- 0.9	0.2	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0.2
Chicago	0	- .9	.1	.7	.1	.1	.7	- 0.6	2.6
Detroit	- .6	- 1.0	- .2	.9	- .6	0	.1	1/- 4.3	- .1
Los Angeles	- .1	- .5	.1	- .6	1.1	0	- .3	- 3.5	.1
New York	- .4	- 2.0	.6	.5	.3	- .3	.2	.7	- .1
Philadelphia	.2	- .8	.2	.2	.7	3.3	0	1.7	0

1/ Based on revised index for July 1959, 120.7; June 1959 index revised to 115.2.

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	124.8	128.3	125.8	123.7	124.8	127.5	123.0	124.4	121.2	128.9	122.0
Food -----	118.3	116.1	113.8	116.8	114.4	122.7	120.0	120.9	115.1	120.8	118.9
Food at home -----	115.7	113.3	111.1	113.9	112.1	117.8	116.5	117.9	113.7	118.5	116.3
Cereals and bakery products --	134.0	130.1	128.3	124.4	125.1	146.1	141.8	135.1	132.1	146.5	131.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	109.9	103.7	102.3	105.6	105.1	110.9	110.6	111.7	108.7	114.5	108.4
Dairy products -----	114.1	117.5	109.9	110.6	113.6	111.4	117.6	118.6	110.3	117.5	118.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	125.6	122.3	119.2	129.0	124.8	127.1	120.0	128.6	121.2	123.0	124.6
Other foods at home -----	106.2	109.8	107.4	105.8	103.1	107.9	106.8	105.2	104.5	105.8	108.5
Housing -----	129.3	138.8	130.1	127.3	131.4	136.8	127.0	122.2	123.4	132.4	121.2
Rent -----	139.8	--	159.4	144.2	138.2	--	131.0	--	132.4	149.1	129.8
Gas and electricity -----	120.1	129.3	116.1	118.2	124.8	135.3	119.1	105.3	120.7	86.7	135.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	133.9	138.8	138.4	125.5	--	--	136.0	124.3	140.8	142.8	135.9
Housefurnishings -----	103.6	101.7	99.6	109.4	102.3	102.3	104.0	106.9	98.6	103.4	99.4
Household operation -----	134.6	136.8	125.4	122.7	142.5	125.4	136.4	135.3	117.5	139.0	133.7
Apparel -----	108.0	111.1	109.7	105.1	113.0	108.3	106.7	105.8	111.5	110.1	105.6
Men's and boys' -----	108.8	114.4	113.6	108.4	107.0	110.5	108.6	108.7	110.5	112.7	108.5
Women's and girls' -----	98.8	99.2	100.4	94.4	109.1	98.9	96.1	94.4	104.1	100.3	97.3
Footwear -----	137.3	141.3	131.2	132.2	142.2	137.8	137.5	138.3	141.6	141.2	131.2
Other apparel -----	92.5	96.7	95.2	85.5	91.0	84.6	96.2	92.9	94.4	87.5	90.3
Transportation -----	146.7	155.5	142.6	139.0	144.7	142.8	147.2	154.8	145.9	154.8	145.6
Private -----	135.5	137.4	133.7	131.5	138.0	138.9	128.5	134.9	132.4	143.5	138.0
Public -----	194.9	196.9	181.9	179.4	190.6	164.3	191.4	193.4	191.9	182.4	172.4
Medical care -----	151.4	159.0	168.1	158.0	135.3	146.7	139.8	158.5	132.9	151.3	148.5
Personal care -----	131.7	137.9	128.1	134.2	137.8	134.7	123.8	135.7	144.2	141.3	126.8
Reading and recreation -----	119.1	124.5	130.5	115.5*	118.3	101.7	121.1	122.7	153.0	118.9	120.0
Other goods and services -----	131.1	124.5	135.0	135.7	129.2	132.8	133.0	130.0	121.0	143.3	136.4
Percent change from May 1959 to August 1959											
All items -----	0.6	0.7	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.2
Food -----	.5	.8	-.3	-.1	-.2	-.2	.7	1.3	.3	.1	.3
Food at home -----	.4	.7	-.4	-.3	-.1	-.3	.1	1.5	-.2	-.3	.4
Cereals and bakery products --	-.4	0	-.5	-.2	-.3	-.1	-.5	-2.2	-2.8	-.2	-.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-1.5	-.9	-3.2	-2.2	-1.7	-1.1	-3.3	-.1	-2.9	-.3	-1.9
Dairy products -----	1.3	3.7	-.3	2.8	.4	.3	3.2	2.1	-.1	.2	.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	0	.1	.4	-3.9	.6	-3.1	-.7	3.5	-.1	-5.5	1.1
Other foods at home -----	3.3	2.1	2.5	3.0	1.5	2.3	4.2	4.4	5.6	3.2	3.7
Housing -----	.4	.1	0	.1	1.1	-.7	.8	-.2	.4	-.5	0
Rent -----	.4	--	-.3	1/ 0	-.9	--	1/ .7	--	.8	.7	.5
Gas and electricity -----	1.2	0	0	.6	7.0	3.2	3.1	0	0	0	.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-1.0	-.7	2.4	-1.1	--	--	-3.1	-1.6	2.8	.1	-2.4
Housefurnishings -----	-.1	1.0	-.4	-.6	1.0	.6	-.1	-1.1	-1.4	-1.4	-.7
Household operation -----	.6	.1	.2	-.2	.1	1.7	3.1	-.5	-.1	.3	.6
Apparel -----	.7	1.1	.1	.2	.8	-.4	.7	.9	1.4	1.0	.8
Men's and boys' -----	.6	.9	.1	.2	.9	-.2	.5	.6	.4	.7	.4
Women's and girls' -----	-.2	.2	-.2	-.6	.7	-1.5	0	-.1	1.5	.8	.5
Footwear -----	2.8	3.4	1.1	2.1	1.5	1.8	2.4	3.2	2.8	2.3	2.3
Other apparel -----	.4	.8	0	.1	-.4	-.2	.4	.4	.7	.7	.6
Transportation -----	.9	.8	2.1	.9	.6	.6	.9	1.4	.7	4.0	1.3
Private -----	.7	1.0	2.5	-1.7	.4	.5	1.2	1.9	.8	4.4	1.5
Public -----	1.1	0	0	14.0	1.4	1.4	0	0	0	1.3	0
Medical care -----	.8	.3	.5	.1	-.1	.1	-.1	4.1	3.9	1.1	-.9
Personal care -----	.8	1.2	.1	.2	.3	.4	.7	.4	5.6	-.1	.7
Reading and recreation -----	1.1	1.7	.3	1.2	1.5	-.4	1.0	2.3	4.9	-.3	-.8
Other goods and services -----	2.1	3.0	3.8	0	-.1	6.9	1.0	1.6	1.2	3.8	.1

1/ Change from June 1959 to August 1959.
 * June 1959 index revised to 115.2; July 1959 index revised to 120.7.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index — Food and its subgroups
 August 1959 indexes and percent changes, July 1959 to August 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	118.3	- 0.9	115.7	- 1.2	134.0	- 0.3	109.9	- 1.9	114.1	0.7	125.6	- 4.0	106.2	0.5
Atlanta	116.4	- .5	114.5	- .6	125.0	- .2	112.7	- 1.0	113.8	0	131.9	- 2.0	100.0	.4
Baltimore	118.3	- .9	114.6	- 1.2	128.7	.1	110.4	- .7	116.7	.3	121.4	- 4.9	104.8	.2
Boston	119.0	.1	115.7	0	132.3	- .1	112.5	- .3	108.7	2.7	128.2	- 2.0	103.3	.4
Chicago	116.1	- .9	113.3	- 1.0	130.1	- .2	103.7	- 1.3	117.5	.9	122.3	- 3.6	109.8	.2
Cincinnati	118.2	- 1.4	115.3	- 1.7	133.1	.1	109.6	- 2.2	112.1	.1	126.2	- 5.4	108.1	.1
Cleveland	113.8	- .7	111.1	- 1.0	128.3	- .2	102.3	- 2.5	109.9	2.7	119.2	- 3.6	107.4	.2
Detroit	116.8	- 1.0	113.9	- 1.3	124.4	- .2	105.6	- 1.5	110.6	2.9	129.0	- 6.9	105.8	.3
Houston	114.4	- .4	112.1	- .6	125.1	- .1	105.1	- 1.9	113.6	.3	124.8	- 1.7	103.1	1.0
Kansas City	112.4	- .4	109.4	- .6	127.0	- .2	103.9	- 1.4	110.7	2.7	116.7	- 4.2	99.3	.7
Los Angeles	122.7	- .5	117.8	- .5	146.1	- .1	110.9	- 1.0	111.4	.4	127.1	- 2.8	107.9	1.2
Minneapolis	117.5	- 1.4	114.2	- 1.8	134.2	0	106.0	- 1.0	106.2	.6	127.0	- 7.7	111.8	-.5
New York	120.0	- 2.0	116.5	- 2.6	141.8	- 1.5	110.6	- 4.3	117.6	.6	120.0	- 4.9	106.8	-.8
Philadelphia	120.9	- .8	117.9	- 1.0	135.1	- 1.6	111.7	- 1.2	118.6	- .2	128.6	- 2.7	105.2	.7
Pittsburgh	119.5	- .8	117.7	- 1.0	131.8	.1	109.9	- 1.1	114.6	.2	128.1	- 3.8	114.7	-.1
Portland, Oreg.	121.2	- .3	117.9	- .4	139.5	0	114.2	- 1.0	120.5	0	117.3	- 3.3	109.9	1.8
St. Louis	117.8	- 1.1	112.7	- 1.3	124.5	- .2	103.7	- 1.0	106.3	-.2	128.7	- 4.0	111.7	-.7
San Francisco	122.0	- .2	119.6	- .3	147.2	.1	115.8	- .4	115.6	.1	126.2	- 3.7	108.1	2.2
Seranton	115.1	- 1.9	113.7	- 2.2	132.1	- .2	108.7	- 2.2	110.3	0	121.2	- 8.8	104.5	.5
Seattle	120.8	- .5	118.5	- .8	146.5	.1	114.5	- .8	117.5	.2	123.0	- 5.5	105.8	1.6
Washington, D.C.	118.9	- 1.3	116.3	- 1.6	131.0	0	108.4	- 3.0	118.6	0	124.6	- 4.2	108.5	.4

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

Food and unit	August 1959		July 1959		Food and unit	August 1959		July 1959	
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Cereals and bakery products:					Fresh—Continued				
Flour, wheat _____ 5 lb.	54.1	54.3			Peaches * _____ 1b.	15.5	18.0		
Biscuit mix _____ 20 oz.	27.0	27.0			Strawberries * _____ pt.				
Corn meal _____ 1b.	13.0	13.0			Grapes, seedless * _____ 1b.	23.2	33.1		
Rice, short grain _____ 1b.	19.0	19.0			Watermelons * _____ 1b.	4.0	4.7		
Rice, long grain _____ 1b.	20.8	21.0			Potatoes _____ 10 lb.	67.6	81.2		
Rolled oats _____ 18 oz.	20.4	20.4			Sweet potatoes _____ 1b.	15.8	15.2		
Corn flakes _____ 12 oz.	25.6	25.6			Onions _____ 1b.	9.9	10.2		
Bread, white _____ 1b.	19.7	19.8			Carrots _____ 1b.	14.5	14.5		
Soda crackers _____ 1b.	29.1	29.2			Lettuce _____ head	17.4	16.3		
Vanilla cookies _____ 7 oz.	24.5	24.5			Celery _____ 1b.	13.4	14.5		
Meats, poultry, and fish:					Cabbage _____ 1b.	8.3	8.7		
Round steak _____ 1b.	107.0	108.9			Tomatoes _____ 1b.	22.0	26.0		
Chuck roast _____ 1b.	62.7	64.2			Beans, green _____ 1b.	19.4	18.8		
Rib roast _____ 1b.	82.5	83.5			Canned:				
Hamburger _____ 1b.	54.7	55.4			Orange juice _____ 46-oz. can	51.9	51.3		
Veal cutlets _____ 1b.	142.9	143.9			Peaches _____ #2½ can	35.6	36.5		
Pork chops, center cut _____ 1b.	85.4	87.9			Pineapple _____ #2 can	36.4	36.2		
Bacon, sliced _____ 1b.	66.6	68.4			Fruit cocktail _____ #303 can	27.7	27.9		
Ham, whole _____ 1b.	60.1	62.2			Corn, cream style _____ #303 can	19.6	19.7		
Lamb, leg _____ 1b.	74.9	76.8			Peas, green _____ #303 can	20.4	20.4		
Frankfurters _____ 1b.	63.5	64.0			Tomatoes _____ #303 can	15.4	15.5		
Luncheon meat, canned _____ 12 oz.	51.0	51.1			Baby foods _____ 4½ to 5 oz.	10.1	10.1		
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook _____ 1b.	41.5	42.4			Dried:				
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen _____ 1b.	47.2	47.5			Prunes _____ 1b.	40.2	40.2		
Haddock, fillet, frozen _____ 1b.	57.9	58.2			Beans _____ 1b.	17.3	17.4		
Salmon, pink, canned _____ 16 oz.	61.7	61.5			Other foods at home:				
Tuna fish, canned _____ 6 to 6½ oz.	33.2	33.3			Tomato soup _____ 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.6		
Dairy products:					Beans with pork _____ 18-oz. can	15.0	15.0		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) _____ qt.	24.1	23.8			Fickles, sliced _____ 15 oz.	26.4	26.7		
Milk, fresh, (delivered) _____ qt.	25.3	25.0			Catsup, tomato _____ 14 oz.	22.3	22.5		
Ice cream _____ pt.	29.7	29.6			Coffee _____ 1b. can	76.8	77.0		
Butter _____ 1b.	74.3	74.1			Coffee _____ 1b. bag	57.0	57.1		
Cheese, American process _____ 1b.	58.2	58.5			Tea bags _____ pkg. of 16	24.3	24.3		
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.	88.9	88.7		
Frozen:					Margarine, colored _____ 1b.	27.7	27.7		
Strawberries _____ 10 oz.	26.2	26.0			Lard _____ 1b.	19.3	19.6		
Orange juice concentrate _____ 6 oz.	26.3	26.0			Salad dressing _____ pt.	37.7	37.8		
Peas, green _____ 10 oz.	19.9	19.9			Peanut butter _____ 1b.	55.5	55.8		
Beans, green _____ 9 oz.	22.7	22.7			Sugar _____ 5 lb.	57.3	57.1		
Fresh:					Corn syrup _____ 24 oz.	26.5	26.5		
Apples _____ 1b.	15.8	16.4			Grape jelly _____ 12 oz.	28.3	28.3		
Bananas _____ 1b.	16.8	16.6			Chocolate bar _____ 1 oz.	5.1	5.2		
Oranges, size 200 _____ doz.	69.9	68.4			Eggs, Grade A, large _____ doz.	54.3	52.5		
Lemons _____ 1b.	17.9	17.9			Gelatin, flavored _____ 3 to 4 oz.	9.3	9.3		
Grapefruit * _____ each	16.5	15.0							

* 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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