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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR OCTOBER 1959

Consumer prices in United States cities rose 0.2 percent between September and October 1959, according to the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Increases were recorded for transportation and all other major groups of goods and services except food, which declined 0.3 percent. Among the nonfood items, durable commodities were up 0.7 percent, nondurables 0.4 percent, and services 0.3 percent. The October Consumer Price Index was 125.5 (1947-49 = 100), 1.5 percent higher than in October 1958.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation prices advanced 1.4 percent between September and October, reflecting higher dealers' selling prices for 1960 model automobiles; gasoline prices rose 2.8 percent because of the increase of 1 cent a gallon in the Federal excise tax. Prices of used cars dropped 2.3 percent. Public transportation rose 0.5 percent, with higher transit fares in two cities.

HOUSING

Housing costs rose 0.3 percent, with rents, solid fuels and fuel oil, and all other classes of housing costs higher. The increase in rents, reflecting higher rates in 13 of the 15 cities surveyed this month, was the largest monthly change since December 1957. A slight increase in housefurnishings prices was mainly the result of higher prices for soft-surface floor coverings. Price declines for laundry soaps and detergents were more than offset by scattered increases in rates for dry cleaning and domestic services.

FOOD

The decline of 0.3 percent in food prices reflected lower prices for pork, eggs, fresh fruits, and poultry. The food index, at 118.4, was 1.1 percent lower than a year ago and 2.7 percent below the July 1958 peak.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish decreased 1.3 percent as larger seasonal supplies resulted in a decline of 2.9 percent in pork prices. Bacon prices were down 4.2 percent, pork chops 2.6 percent, and ham 1.6 percent. Average beef and veal prices remained steady, as slightly lower prices for round steak, rib roast, hamburger, and veal cutlets offset an increase in chuck roast. Poultry prices fell seasonally.

Egg prices declined 2.8 percent as supplies increased.

Prices of dairy products were up 0.5 percent, largely because of seasonally higher prices for fresh milk.

A rise of 0.3 percent in prices of fruits and vegetables was the result of an increase of 4.2 percent in fresh vegetable prices and a decrease of 1.8 percent for fresh fruits, accompanied by slightly lower prices for most processed fruits and vegetables. Fresh tomato prices increased 28 percent as local supplies diminished; cabbage prices were up 12 percent, grapes 11 percent, bananas 9 percent, and carrots 4 percent; celery, lettuce, and orange prices were also higher. Grapefruit and apple prices declined 20 percent and 12 percent, respectively, as larger supplies were available; sweet potato prices were down 7 percent, and onions 6 percent.

Restaurant meal prices advanced 0.1 percent.

OTHER COMMODITIES
AND SERVICES

Apparel prices rose 0.4 percent, as there were further seasonal advances in prices of women's wool dresses, coats, suits, and rayon dresses; prices of footwear also advanced.

An advance of 0.2 percent in medical care resulted from higher rates for professional and hospital services. The personal care index was 0.3 percent higher as prices of men's haircuts rose in several cities, although prices of some toiletries (toothpaste and toilet soap) were lower.

Reading and recreation costs were up 0.1 percent, largely because of higher prices for television sets and newspapers.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to October 1959 from --			
	October 1959	September 1959	September 1959	July 1959	October 1958	Year 1939
All items	125.5	125.2	0.2	0.5	1.5	111.3
Food	118.4	118.7	- .3	- .8	- 1.1	151.4
Food at home	115.8	116.2	- .3	- 1.1	- 1.9	145.9
Cereals and bakery products	134.1	134.1	0	- .2	.1	134.4
Meats, poultry, and fish	109.0	110.4	- 1.3	- 2.7	- 4.9	162.0
Dairy products	116.1	115.5	.5	2.5	1.4	133.1
Fruits and vegetables	124.5	124.1	.3	- 4.8	2.9	168.9
Other foods at home	107.0	107.6	-.6	1.2	- 5.5	121.1
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)	116.9	116.8	.1	.6	3.2	(1/)
Housing 2/	130.1	129.7	.3	.9	1.7	71.0
Rent	140.4	140.0	.3	.6	1.5	62.1
Gas and electricity	121.7	121.6	.1	1.8	3.0	16.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil	135.5	135.0	.4	1.1	- .1	140.2
Housefurnishings	104.1	104.0	.1	.1	.7	94.9
Household operation	135.3	135.2	.1	.7	2.2	97.8
Apparel	109.4	109.0	.4	1.8	2.0	108.4
Men's and boys'	108.9	109.2	-.3	.6	.9	114.4
Women's and girls'	101.3	100.5	.8	2.5	1.1	85.9
Footwear	138.5	137.9	.4	2.4	6.5	175.3
Other apparel	92.9	92.9	0	.7	1.2	128.8
Transportation	148.5	146.4	1.4	1.5	4.1	111.5
Private	137.4	135.3	1.6	1.6	4.2	109.8
Public	195.9	194.9	.5	.9	2.9	141.0
Medical care	152.5	152.2	.2	1.0	3.7	110.1
Personal care	132.5	132.1	.3	.9	2.9	122.3
Reading and recreation	119.7	119.6	.1	.5	2.7	90.0
Other goods and services	131.6	131.5	.1	.6	3.5	86.4
Special groups:						
All items less food	129.2	128.7	.4	1.0	2.5	87.0
All items less shelter	123.2	122.9	.2	.4	1.4	122.4
Commodities	117.3	117.0	.3	.3	.8	127.3
Nondurables	118.8	118.8	0	.1	.3	131.1
Food	118.4	118.7	-.3	-.8	- 1.1	151.4
Nondurables less food	119.8	119.3	.4	1.4	2.2	104.1
Apparel	109.3	108.9	.4	1.8	2.0	109.8
Apparel less footwear	104.2	103.8	.4	1.7	1.1	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel	128.8	128.2	.5	1.2	2.3	95.4
Durables	113.6	112.8	.7	.4	2.2	98.3
New cars	141.4	135.1	4.7	3.0	4.4	148.1
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)	96.0	98.3	- 2.3	-.1	8.2	(1/)
Durables less cars	103.3	103.1	.2	-.2	.3	80.3
Commodities less food	116.3	115.7	.5	1.0	2.1	95.8
Services	147.3	146.9	.3	1.0	2.9	83.2
Rent	140.4	140.0	.3	.6	1.5	62.1
Services less rent	149.1	148.7	.3	1.1	3.2	102.9
Household operation services, gas, and electricity	136.3	136.2	.1	1.3	2.8	56.7
Transportation services	182.1	181.7	.2	.7	3.7	127.3
Medical care services	158.4	157.9	.3	1.2	4.3	124.7
Other services 3/	133.1	132.6	.4	1.1	2.9	128.3
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)	\$0.797	\$0.799	-.3	-.5	- 1.4	-52.7

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 --		
	October 1959	July 1959	October 1958	Year 1939	July 1959	October 1958	Year 1939
United States city average	125.5	124.9	123.7	59.4	0.5	1.5	111.3
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	129.3	128.3	127.3	58.6	.8	1.6	120.6
Detroit	124.9	124.4	123.3	59.0	.4	1.3	111.7
Los Angeles	128.5	127.6	125.9	60.4	.7	2.1	112.7
New York	123.7	123.5	121.5	60.1	.2	1.8	105.8
Philadelphia	126.0	124.2	123.3	59.2	1.4	2.2	112.8
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	October 1959	July 1959	October 1958	Year 1939	July 1959	October 1958	Year 1939
Boston	126.7	125.6	125.4	61.0	.9	1.0	107.7
Kansas City	126.9	126.0	124.9	61.7	.7	1.6	105.7
Minneapolis	126.5	125.4	124.5	60.7	.9	1.6	108.4
Pittsburgh	126.8	125.7	124.5	58.1	.9	1.8	118.2
Portland, Oregon	126.3	126.1	124.5	58.3	.2	1.4	116.6
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	September 1959	June 1959	September 1958	Year 1939	June 1959	September 1958	Year 1939
Atlanta	126.0	125.5	124.6	58.3	.4	1.1	116.1
Baltimore	127.5	126.6	124.8	57.9	.7	2.2	120.2
Cincinnati	123.6	123.1	122.5	58.4	.4	.9	111.6
St. Louis	126.4	126.3	125.3	59.3	.1	.9	113.2
San Francisco	130.8	129.6	128.4	58.6	.9	1.9	123.2
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

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 September 1959 to October 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	- 0.3	0.3	0.4	1.4	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1
Chicago	.1	- .5	0	.1	2.0	.1	0	-.3	0
Detroit	.1	0	0	.7	0	-.1	-.2	.3	0
Los Angeles	.5	.2	.2	.5	2.1	1.8	.6	0	.1
New York	.2	-.4	.4	.3	1.2	-.1	1.1	.9	.2
Philadelphia	.2	-.5	.2	.2	.6	.1	4.8	-.5	-.1

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland Oreg.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	125.5	126.7	129.3	124.9	126.9	128.5	126.5	123.7	126.0	126.8	126.3
Food -----	118.4	119.6	116.2	118.1	111.9	124.0	117.8	120.4	121.4	120.1	121.1
Food at home -----	115.8	116.4	113.4	115.1	108.8	119.2	114.5	117.0	118.4	118.3	118.0
Cereals and bakery products --	134.1	132.0	129.6	125.3	126.9	146.3	134.6	141.4	136.9	131.9	140.0
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	109.0	112.4	102.5	104.5	101.7	110.4	105.4	111.1	110.4	109.1	112.9
Dairy products -----	116.1	115.9	118.4	112.8	111.3	113.4	108.4	120.7	121.9	117.9	120.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	124.5	125.8	121.5	130.8	115.7	133.1	126.5	119.1	130.0	127.5	117.9
Other foods at home -----	107.0	102.7	112.2	109.1	100.2	108.4	112.2	106.5	104.4	116.2	110.6
Housing -----	130.1	135.8	140.0	127.7	128.2	136.9	127.7	127.6	124.2	129.6	128.1
Rent -----	140.4	149.1	--	143.9	143.3	--	155.7	131.7	--	133.2	137.7
Gas and electricity -----	121.7	116.8	130.0	118.1	122.3	135.3	135.3	119.1	105.9	140.1	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	135.5	135.0	140.6	128.3	134.7	--	126.5	136.0	128.5	135.1	143.2
Housefurnishings -----	104.1	102.7	102.4	110.3	104.8	104.0	97.4	103.9	108.5	107.6	103.9
Household operation -----	135.3	133.7	138.6	123.3	137.0	125.4	136.2	136.3	140.4	142.9	129.0
Apparel -----	109.4	107.2	113.5	107.8	107.5	110.8	109.3	107.2	108.5	106.8	113.8
Men's and boys' -----	108.9	104.5	115.5	109.5	108.8	112.2	107.7	108.2	108.9	105.5	113.6
Women's and girls' -----	101.3	101.6	103.0	98.2	100.2	102.2	104.2	97.4	99.1	98.3	104.2
Footwear -----	138.5	131.2	142.5	135.6	130.7	140.9	133.2	138.0	139.9	133.9	145.3
Other apparel -----	92.9	101.2	97.9	87.2	89.3	85.0	93.0	96.0	94.6	100.4	99.6
Transportation -----	148.5	152.2	158.3	141.0	156.1	144.7	132.7	148.8	155.7	164.9	146.5
Private -----	137.4	146.3	140.6	133.8	142.0	141.0	125.7	130.3	135.8	139.3	140.2
Public -----	195.9	168.8	196.9	179.4	251.4	164.3	189.6	191.4	193.4	237.7	199.2
Medical care -----	152.5	160.7	159.2	158.0	171.2	149.4	203.2	143.1	158.7	168.1	142.4
Personal care -----	132.5	134.6	138.1	134.8	135.7	135.0	138.1	125.3	142.9	127.9	133.2
Reading and recreation -----	119.7	118.4	125.4	117.1	135.7	101.9	125.4	121.8	125.3	110.7	125.1
Other goods and services -----	131.6	126.7	124.5	136.8	125.3	132.9	134.8	133.3	132.2	131.2	129.8
Percent change from July 1959 to October 1959											
All items -----	0.5	0.9	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.2	1.4	0.9	0.2
Food -----	.8	.6	-.8	.1	-.9	.6	-1.2	-1.6	-.4	-.3	-.4
Food at home -----	-1.1	.6	-.9	-.3	-1.2	.7	-1.5	-2.2	-.6	-.5	-.3
Cereals and bakery products --	-.2	-.3	-.5	-.6	-.2	.1	-.3	-1.7	-.3	-.2	-.4
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	-2.7	-.4	-2.5	-2.5	-3.5	-1.4	-1.6	-3.9	-2.4	-1.8	-2.1
Dairy products -----	2.5	9.5	1.7	4.9	3.2	2.2	2.7	3.3	2.6	3.1	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	-4.8	-3.8	-4.3	-5.6	-5.0	1.8	-8.1	-5.6	-1.7	-4.2	-2.8
Other foods at home -----	1.2	-.2	2.4	3.4	1.6	1.7	-.2	-1.1	-.1	1.2	2.4
Housing -----	.9	.7	1.0	.1	1.1	.2	.2	1.1	1.8	.5	.2
Rent -----	.6	1.0	--	1/-.2	1.1	--	1.2	1/-.5	--	.5	-.1
Gas and electricity -----	1.8	3.2	.5	.1	-.3	3.0	0	-.1	.6	.5	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	1.1	-1.2	1.1	1.6	2.2	--	.2	-.8	2.9	0	1.8
Housefurnishings -----	.1	1.3	.3	-.3	.6	1.6	-2.0	-.2	1.3	-.3	.5
Household operation -----	.7	0	1.2	.6	-.1	0	2.3	2.0	3.7	-.3	.1
Apparel -----	1.8	3.2	2.9	3.5	2.7	1.7	-.9	.9	2.7	1.8	1.6
Men's and boys' -----	.6	-.1	1.3	2.7	1.1	1.2	-.7	.2	.1	1.1	.5
Women's and girls' -----	2.5	5.9	4.3	4.5	4.4	2.2	2.7	1.1	4.6	2.3	2.9
Footwear -----	2.4	1.3	2.8	3.4	1.7	2.8	1.2	2.1	3.2	2.1	.7
Other apparel -----	.7	2.8	1.7	1.9	1.7	.1	-1.1	0	1.8	1.0	.8
Transportation -----	1.5	-.3	1.9	.9	1.3	2.4	5.0	1.4	1.3	1.9	3.9
Private -----	1.6	-.4	2.5	1.0	1.5	2.5	3.9	1.7	1.6	2.5	4.3
Public -----	.9	0	0	0	0	1.4	13.7	0	0	0	1.2
Medical care -----	1.0	.8	.2	0	.1	1.8	4.8	2.1	3.4	6.2	0
Personal care -----	.9	1.5	.9	.6	-.1	-.1	-.5	1.5	5.3	.4	-.5
Reading and recreation -----	.5	2.5	.2	-3.0	2.1	-3.3	.4	1.3	3.8	-.4	-7.9
Other goods and services -----	.6	-.2	2.6	.7	-.3	.2	.6	.2	1.7	1.2	.6

1/ Change from August 1959 to October 1959.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index — Food and its subgroups
 October 1959 indexes and percent changes, September 1959 to October 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	118.4	- 0.3	115.8	- 0.3	134.1	0	109.0	- 1.3	116.1	0.5	124.5	0.3	107.0	- 0.6
Atlanta	115.3	- 1.0	113.5	- 1.1	124.7	- .1	110.5	- 2.1	112.2	.5	129.5	- 2.0	101.1	- .9
Baltimore	118.1	- .6	114.3	- .7	128.4	.2	107.7	- 2.1	117.0	.1	121.9	- .2	106.5	- .4
Boston	119.6	- .2	116.4	- .3	132.0	- .2	112.4	- .8	115.9	0	125.8	1.4	102.7	- 1.5
Chicago	116.2	- .5	113.4	- .6	129.6	- .2	102.5	- 1.7	118.4	0	121.5	.2	112.2	- .4
Cincinnati	119.0	- .2	116.3	- .2	132.3	0	110.1	- 1.3	115.7	3.2	126.9	- .5	109.0	- 1.0
Cleveland	113.5	- .6	110.9	- .8	128.7	- .2	101.5	- 2.3	110.4	.1	116.6	- .3	109.1	- .4
Detroit	118.1	0	115.1	- .1	125.3	- .1	104.5	- 2.2	112.8	.4	130.8	3.0	109.1	.2
Houston	114.1	0	111.5	- .1	124.6	- .2	102.8	- 1.5	113.7	- .1	124.6	.8	103.9	1.0
Kansas City	111.9	- .6	108.8	- .7	126.9	0	101.7	- 2.3	111.3	.1	115.7	.8	100.2	- 1.0
Los Angeles	124.0	.2	119.2	.2	146.3	.1	110.4	- .2	113.4	0	133.1	.8	108.4	.4
Minneapolis	117.8	- .2	114.5	- .2	134.6	.2	105.4	- 1.0	108.4	.2	126.5	2.4	112.2	- 1.8
New York	120.4	- .4	117.0	- .5	141.4	- .6	111.1	- .8	120.7	1.3	119.1	- .1	106.5	- 2.1
Philadelphia	121.4	- .5	118.4	- .6	136.9	- .2	110.4	- 2.0	121.9	2.0	130.0	1.0	104.4	- 2.4
Pittsburgh	120.1	- .5	118.3	- .5	131.9	0	109.1	- 1.7	117.9	.1	127.5	.7	116.2	- .9
Portland, Oreg.	121.1	- .1	118.0	.2	140.0	.1	112.9	- 1.0	120.9	0	117.9	2.4	110.6	.2
St. Louis	118.3	- .3	113.2	- .5	123.0	.7	103.5	- 1.7	107.3	0	129.2	.9	113.7	- 1.0
San Francisco	122.9	.1	120.4	0	149.5	1.6	114.6	- .2	118.9	.1	128.8	- 1.3	107.6	.4
Scranton	115.3	- .9	113.8	- 1.0	132.3	0	108.7	- 1.5	113.3	- .2	119.3	- .1	103.8	- 2.7
Seattle	121.1	- .2	118.7	.2	146.7	.1	113.9	- .9	118.3	.2	123.4	1.7	106.5	.6
Washington, D.C.	118.5	- .8	115.8	- 1.0	130.9	- .1	106.3	- 2.4	118.5	- .1	125.4	0	108.4	- 1.5

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

Food and unit	October 1959	September 1959	Food and unit	October 1959	September 1959
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Cereals and bakery products:			Fresh—Continued		
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	53.8	53.9	Peaches * 1b.		17.7
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.0	27.0	Strawberries * 1b.		
Corn meal 1b.	13.0	13.0	Grapes, seedless * 1b.	24.2	21.9
Rice, short grain 1b.	18.7	18.9	Watermelons * 1b.		
Rice, long grain 1b.	20.8	20.9	Potatoes 10 lb.	58.3	58.5
Rolled oats 18 oz.	20.4	20.4	Sweet potatoes 1b.	12.0	12.9
Corn flakes 12 oz.	25.7	25.6	Onions 1b.	8.6	9.2
Bread, white 1b.	19.8	19.7	Carrots 1b.	14.6	13.9
Soda crackers 1b.	29.0	29.1	Lettuce head	23.4	22.7
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	24.4	24.4	Celery 1b.	15.0	14.5
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage 1b.	9.4	8.4
Round steak 1b.	106.5	107.8	Tomatoes 1b.	27.0	21.1
Chuck roast 1b.	63.6	62.1	Beans, green 1b.	21.5	21.2
Rib roast 1b.	82.9	83.0	Canned:		
Hamburger 1b.	54.6	54.6	Orange juice 46-oz. can	51.8	52.1
Veal outlets 1b.	142.5	143.4	Peaches #2 1/2 can	34.3	34.6
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	86.6	89.0	Pineapple #2 can	36.8	36.6
Bacon, sliced 1b.	63.1	65.9	Fruit cocktail #303 can	27.0	27.3
Ham, whole 1b.	59.6	60.5	Corn, cream style #303 can	19.2	19.3
Lamb, leg 1b.	74.7	74.8	Peas, green #303 can	19.7	20.0
Frankfurters 1b.	63.3	63.5	Tomatoes #303 can	15.2	15.2
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	50.8	50.9	Baby foods 4 1/2 to 6 oz.	10.1	10.1
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	40.6	41.7	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	47.0	47.3	Prunes 1b.	40.1	40.2
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	56.6	57.1	Beans 1b.	17.0	17.2
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	63.3	62.3	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	32.1	32.6	Tomato soup 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.4
Dairy products:			Beans with pork 16-oz. can	15.0	15.0
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	24.5	24.4	Pickles, sliced 15 oz.	26.4	26.4
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	25.8	25.6	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.4	22.4
Ice cream pt.	29.7	29.7	Coffee 1b. can	76.7	76.6
Butter 1b.	76.8	76.6	Coffee 1b. bag	58.0	56.9
Cheese, American process 1b.	58.3	58.2	Tea bags pkg. of 16	24.3	24.3
Milk, evaporated 14 1/2-oz. can	15.2	15.2	Cola drink, carton 8 1/2 oz.	29.6	29.5
Fruits and vegetables:			Shortening, hydrogenated 3 lb.	86.0	88.2
Frozen:			Margarine, colored 1b.	27.8	27.7
Strawberries 10 oz.	26.5	26.3	Lard 1b.	18.9	19.1
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	26.4	26.4	Salad dressing pt.	37.2	37.6
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.9	19.8	Peanut butter 1b.	55.4	55.5
Beans, green 8 oz.	22.4	22.7	Sugar 5 lb.	57.7	57.5
Fresh:			Corn syrup 24 oz.	26.5	26.5
Apples 1b.	12.4	14.1	Grape jelly 12 oz.	28.3	28.3
Bananas 1b.	18.8	17.2	Chocolate bar 1 oz.	5.1	5.1
Oranges, size 200 doz.	70.5	69.8	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	56.7	58.3
Lemons 1b.	19.5	19.3	Gelatin, flavored 3 to 4 oz.	9.3	9.2
Grapefruit * each	13.2	16.5			

* 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. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain local transit fares, public utility rates, newspaper prices, fuel prices, and certain other items which change in price infrequently. Prices of most other goods and services 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 and historical tables of index numbers for the United States city average and for 20 large cities are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington or any of its regional offices (addresses below). The historical tables 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.

BLS Regional Offices

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1371 Peachtree	341 Ninth Ave.	105 West Adams St.	630 Sansome St.	18 Oliver St.
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