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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JANUARY 1960

The Consumer Price Index for January 1960 edged off 0.1 percent for the second successive month, to its lowest level since last September. The index, at 125.4 percent of the 1947-49 average, was 1.3 percent above the January 1959 figure--a slightly smaller over-the-year gain than in the past several months.

Major influences in the December-to-January downtrend were lower prices for apparel (principally for women and girls), new cars, and for food bought for home use--chiefly eggs and almost all meats. The December-to-January price decrease for apparel was the sharpest for the season in about a decade.

Price declines were partly offset by increases for most of the commodities and services associated with housing. Services as a group also continued to rise, moved in January mainly by those services associated with shelter--for example, property taxes and home upkeep.

Compared with a year ago, the January Consumer Price Index reflected the same counterbalancing tendencies it has shown in most recent months, with over-the-year decreases in prices for food (at home) not quite offsetting gains for most other goods and services. The cost of shelter, housing upkeep, and various other services contributed most to the over-the-year increase.

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENTS - The pay envelopes of a little more than 1 million workers, mostly in the manufacture of automobiles and related products, are tied to the January 1960 Consumer Price Index. The automobile workers will have no adjustment in pay on the basis of the January index. The wages of a relatively few workers (about 60,000), in aircraft and farm machinery, will be reduced, in most cases by a cent an hour. A few workers, principally in the trucking industry for whom adjustments are made on a semiannual basis, will receive a cent-an-hour raise.

APPAREL - The larger than usual January decrease in apparel reflects substantial price cuts in end-of-season sales, particularly for women's and girls' outerwear. All types of women's and girls' coats, and women's suits were offered at sharply lower prices. Reductions were reported also for women's wool dresses, girls' wool skirts, men's topcoats and suits, and men's and boys' jackets. Indications are that chiefly because of mild weather in many parts of the country, the clothing business, although good, was slower this fall and winter than had been anticipated, leaving heavy year-end inventories.

Although January apparel prices were 1.4 percent below their peak of October and November 1959, they were at record levels for January--0.8 percent above the previous January high of 1952.

TRANSPORTATION - The 1.4-percent decline in new car prices in January was not unusual for the period, and reflects about the same increase in dealers' concessions this year as last. Gasoline prices also declined, as they frequently do in January.

Prices of used cars remained unchanged from December to January. Older model cars (1955 and earlier makes) held up better in price than more recent models, some of which may be competing in the market with the new compact cars.

FOOD - Food prices declined for the fourth successive month in January. They have been below year-earlier levels since February 1959, reflecting primarily lower prices for meat, because of heavier marketings of meat animals.

The December-January decrease of 0.2 percent in food prices was the first for the period in 3 years. All of the January 1960 reduction was in food for home use, since restaurant meals, which reflect service as well as materials and overhead costs, continued their almost uninterrupted rise of the past 3- $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Lower prices for eggs, and for virtually all cuts of meat (but particularly pork) contributed most to the December-January downtrend in food prices. Egg prices have been responding to seasonal increases in production. The large volume of hog slaughtering, which continued above a year earlier, and close to postwar peak levels, accounted for the declining price of pork and pork products. Beef and lamb also were lower in price because of especially good supplies. Prices for poultry rose over the month, as marketings reflected previous decreases in the number of young chickens raised.

Prices for fresh fruits and vegetables increased as is usual in January. However, gains were especially sharp for tomatoes; adverse weather in late December reduced normally light Florida supplies, and California and Mexico supplies commanded higher prices. Potato prices also were up substantially because of relatively low storage stocks. Prices for frozen and canned fruits continued to decline in January, again chiefly because of heavy production and record stocks of frozen and canned orange juice.

HOUSING - Almost all elements of housing costs rose in January, when the housing component of the Consumer Price Index reached an alltime high. The main thrust was from continuing increases in property taxes, which have been both substantial and widespread, imposed in many cases to pay for new community facilities. In addition, prices were higher for home repairs and maintenance, fuel, appliances, furniture and floor coverings, and for household operation services, such as telephone, laundry, and dry cleaning. Rent edged up again also. Only household textiles declined noticeably in price, because of the January white sales and other clearance and promotional sales.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES - The cost of medical care in January continued its steady uptrend of the past decade, with increases reported in hospital rates, hospitalization insurance, and physicians' fees. Prices decreased for personal-care commodities and services, and, in the reading and recreation group of items, for sporting goods and television sets and repairs.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index—United States city average
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, January 1960
and percent changes from selected dates

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to January 1960 from --			
	January 1960	December 1959	December 1959	October 1959	January 1959	Year 1959
All items-----	125.4	125.5	- 0.1	- 0.1	1.3	111.1
Food-----	117.6	117.8	- .2	- .7	- 1.2	149.7
Food at home-----	114.7	115.0	- .3	- .9	- 2.0	143.5
Cereals and bakery products-----	134.8	134.5	.2	.5	.7	135.7
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	106.4	106.6	- .2	- 2.4	- 6.5	155.8
Dairy products-----	116.5	116.7	- .2	.3	2.1	133.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	125.7	125.5	.2	1.0	3.3	171.5
Other foods at home-----	104.5	105.4	- .9	- 2.3	- 4.9	115.9
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	117.6	117.3	.3	.6	3.2	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	130.7	130.4	.2	.5	2.0	71.7
Rent-----	140.9	140.8	.1	.4	1.5	62.7
Gas and electricity-----	123.2	122.7	.4	1.2	4.2	17.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	139.0	137.3	1.2	2.6	.1	146.5
Housefurnishings-----	104.0	104.2	- .2	- .1	.8	94.8
Household operation-----	135.9	135.5	.3	.4	2.1	98.7
Apparel-----	107.9	109.2	- 1.2	- 1.4	1.1	105.5
Men's and boys'-----	108.8	109.1	- .3	- .1	.7	114.2
Women's and girls'-----	98.0	100.3	- 2.3	- 3.3	- .7	79.8
Footwear-----	139.4	139.7	- .2	.6	6.6	177.1
Other apparel-----	92.2	93.1	- 1.0	- .8	.5	127.1
Transportation-----	148.1	148.7	- .4	- .3	2.8	111.0
Private-----	136.8	137.5	- .5	- .4	2.8	108.9
Public-----	197.2	197.2	0	.7	2.8	142.6
Medical care-----	153.5	153.2	.2	.7	3.7	111.4
Personal care-----	132.7	132.9	- .2	.2	2.6	122.7
Reading and recreation-----	120.3	120.4	- .1	.5	2.8	91.0
Other goods and services-----	131.8	131.7	.1	.2	3.5	86.7
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	129.4	129.5	- .1	.2	2.4	87.3
All items less shelter-----	122.9	123.1	- .2	- .2	1.2	121.8
Commodities-----	116.7	117.1	- .3	- .5	.4	126.2
Nondurables-----	118.1	118.5	- .3	- .6	.3	129.8
Food-----	117.6	117.8	- .2	- .7	- 1.2	149.7
Nondurables less food-----	119.2	119.9	- .6	- .5	2.1	103.1
Apparel-----	107.7	109.1	- 1.3	- 1.5	.9	106.7
Apparel less footwear-----	102.2	103.7	- 1.4	- 1.9	- .1	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	128.9	129.1	- .2	.1	2.8	95.6
Durables-----	113.6	113.8	- .2	0	1.1	98.3
New cars-----	141.3	143.3	- 1.4	- .1	.2	147.9
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	95.2	95.2	0	- .8	6.5	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.4	103.3	.1	.1	.3	80.5
Commodities less food-----	115.9	116.4	- .4	- .3	1.7	95.1
Services-----	148.2	147.8	.3	.6	3.0	84.3
Rent-----	140.9	140.8	.1	.4	1.5	62.7
Services less rent-----	150.1	149.7	.3	.7	3.2	104.2
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	137.2	136.7	.4	.7	3.0	57.7
Transportation services-----	182.7	182.7	0	.3	2.5	128.1
Medical care services-----	159.5	159.2	.2	.7	4.5	126.2
Other services 3/-----	134.1	133.6	.4	.8	3.2	130.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.797	\$0.797	0	0	- 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 --		
	January 1960	October 1959	January 1959	Year 1939	October 1959	January 1959	Year 1939
United States city average	125.4	125.5	123.8	59.4	- 0.1	1.3	111.1
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	128.9	129.3	127.1	58.6	- .3	1.4	120.0
Detroit	123.4	124.9	123.3	59.0	- 1.2	.1	109.2
Los Angeles	129.3	128.5	126.5	60.4	.6	2.2	114.1
New York	124.1	123.7	121.8	60.1	.3	1.9	106.5
Philadelphia	125.5	126.0	123.4	59.2	- .4	1.7	112.0
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	January 1960	October 1959	January 1959	Year 1939	October 1959	January 1959	Year 1939
Boston	126.4	126.7	125.4	61.0	- .2	.8	107.2
Kansas City	127.0	126.9	124.5	61.7	.1	2.0	105.8
Minneapolis	126.2	126.5	125.3	60.7	- .2	.7	107.9
Pittsburgh	126.6	126.8	124.4	58.1	- .2	1.8	117.9
Portland, Oregon	127.5	126.3	124.2	58.3	1.0	2.7	118.7
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	December 1959	September 1959	December 1958	Year 1939	September 1959	December 1958	Year 1939
Atlanta	126.4	126.0	124.4	58.3	.3	1.6	116.8
Baltimore	127.2	127.5	125.5	57.9	- .2	1.4	119.7
Cincinnati	123.8	123.6	122.4	58.4	.2	1.1	112.0
St. Louis	126.6	126.4	125.7	59.3	.2	.7	113.5
San Francisco	131.8	130.8	127.9	58.6	.8	3.0	124.9
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	November 1959	August 1959	November 1958	Year 1939	August 1959	November 1958	Year 1939
Cleveland	126.4	125.8	124.5	59.2	.5	1.5	113.5
Houston	125.4	124.8	124.2	59.5	.5	1.0	110.8
Scranton	121.5	121.2	120.7	58.5	.2	.7	107.7
Seattle	129.2	128.9	126.0	59.2	.2	2.5	118.2
Washington, D. C.	121.7	122.0	121.5	60.4	- .2	.2	101.5

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 December 1959 to January 1960
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	- 0.2	0.2	- 1.2	- 0.4	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.1
Chicago	- .1	.5	- .1	- 1.2	- 1.3	.6	- .4	0	.1
Detroit	- .5	- .4	- .2	- 1.1	- 2.5	0	- .3	- .1	2.9
Los Angeles	.3	1.3	.1	- .3	- .6	.1	0	- .3	.1
New York	- .1	- .2	.4	- 1.1	- .1	.1	- .7	.1	0
Philadelphia	- .8	- .5	.1	- 1.7	- .1	.1	- .3	- 8.8	- .2

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
 January 1960 indexes and percent changes, October 1959 to January 1960
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in January 1960

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 -----	125.4	126.4	128.9	123.4	127.0	129.3	126.2	124.1	125.5	126.6	127.5
Food -----	117.6	117.4	115.2	115.8	111.3	125.2	117.0	120.5	119.5	118.7	121.2
Food at home -----	114.7	113.8	112.3	112.6	107.7	120.7	113.5	116.6	116.1	116.6	118.1
Cereals and bakery products --	134.8	131.5	130.2	124.8	127.5	146.9	134.8	141.8	135.8	132.6	141.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	106.4	107.5	98.7	101.1	99.1	109.2	102.2	110.9	108.7	106.8	109.6
Dairy products -----	116.5	115.1	121.2	111.1	111.8	114.8	108.0	121.4	121.1	117.4	121.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	125.7	124.2	123.5	131.0	115.6	143.0	130.4	119.3	125.1	124.1	125.0
Other foods at home -----	104.5	99.9	108.9	104.3	98.2	107.0	109.6	104.0	101.8	114.4	108.8
Housing -----	130.7	138.0	140.1	127.0	129.6	138.0	128.3	128.8	125.3	130.9	130.2
Rent -----	140.9	152.8	166.3	--	144.5	147.7	155.8	--	129.3	133.6	138.6
Gas and electricity -----	123.2	117.6	130.2	117.3	130.4	141.7	135.3	120.2	106.7	143.2	102.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	139.0	143.5	143.2	128.0	140.6	--	132.2	141.5	135.1	135.1	143.1
Housefurnishings -----	104.0	101.5	102.0	107.7	104.4	103.6	96.9	104.4	108.9	107.9	102.9
Household operation -----	135.9	134.9	138.7	123.4	137.2	125.4	136.7	137.8	141.8	145.8	130.0
Apparel -----	107.9	105.2	112.0	105.7	105.9	111.0	107.0	106.7	105.7	103.7	113.9
Men's and boys' -----	108.8	102.1	114.8	107.8	109.6	112.4	108.6	108.5	109.3	105.0	113.6
Women's and girls' -----	98.0	99.2	100.4	95.0	96.2	102.4	98.7	95.3	93.3	91.8	103.4
Footwear -----	139.4	131.1	142.9	135.6	132.2	141.4	134.6	140.6	139.3	136.4	148.5
Other apparel -----	92.2	100.0	96.4	85.3	87.9	85.4	89.8	96.2	94.1	98.9	99.7
Transportation -----	148.1	149.4	158.2	137.2	155.5	144.8	132.4	149.4	156.2	164.8	147.3
Private -----	136.8	142.8	138.9	129.4	140.7	141.1	125.4	131.0	136.4	139.1	141.2
Public -----	197.2	168.8	205.7	179.4	257.8	164.3	189.6	191.4	193.4	237.7	199.2
Medical care -----	153.5	161.4	160.6	158.0	171.9	149.3	203.0	143.6	159.3	168.6	142.4
Personal care -----	132.7	135.6	137.5	134.3	135.6	135.1	138.1	124.9	143.2	127.6	134.6
Reading and recreation -----	120.3	119.0	125.6	116.7	136.4	102.2	125.5	121.8	123.7	112.6	130.4
Other goods and services -----	131.8	127.0	124.5	139.7	125.1	133.0	134.4	133.4	132.3	132.4	130.4
Percent change from October 1959 to January 1960											
All items -----	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.3	- 1.2	0.1	0.6	- 0.2	0.3	- 0.4	- 0.2	1.0
Food -----	- .7	- 1.8	- .9	- 1.9	- .5	1.0	- .7	.1	- 1.6	- 1.2	.1
Food at home -----	- .9	- 2.2	- 1.0	- 2.2	- 1.0	1.3	- .9	-.3	- 1.9	- 1.4	.1
Cereals and bakery products --	.5	-.4	-.5	-.4	.5	.4	.1	.3	-.8	.5	.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 2.4	- 4.4	- 3.7	- 3.3	- 2.6	- 1.1	- 3.0	-.2	- 1.5	- 2.1	- 2.9
Dairy products -----	.3	-.7	2.4	- 1.5	.4	1.2	-.4	.6	-.7	-.4	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	1.0	- 1.3	1.6	-.2	-.1	7.4	3.1	.2	- 3.8	- 2.7	6.0
Other foods at home -----	- 2.3	- 2.7	- 2.9	- 4.4	- 2.0	- 1.3	- 2.3	- 2.3	- 2.5	- 1.5	- 1.6
Housing -----	.5	1.6	.1	-.5	1.1	.8	.5	.9	.9	1.0	1.6
Rent -----	.4	* 1.5	1/- .2	--	.8	1/- .1	.1	--	1/ 0	.3	.7
Gas and electricity -----	1.2	.7	.2	-.7	6.6	4.7	0	.9	.8	2.2	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	2.6	6.3	1.8	-.2	4.4	--	4.5	4.0	5.1	0	-.1
Housefurnishings -----	-.1	- 1.2	-.4	- 2.4	-.4	-.4	-.5	.5	.4	.3	- 1.0
Household operation -----	.4	.9	.1	.1	.1	0	.4	1.1	1.0	2.0	.8
Apparel -----	- 1.4	- 1.9	- 1.3	- 1.9	- 1.5	.2	- 2.1	-.5	- 2.6	- 2.9	.1
Men's and boys' -----	- .1	- 2.3	-.6	- 1.6	-.7	.2	.8	-.3	.4	-.5	0
Women's and girls' -----	- 3.3	- 2.4	- 2.5	- 3.3	- 4.0	.2	- 5.3	- 2.2	- 5.9	- 6.6	-.8
Footwear -----	-.6	-.1	.3	0	1.1	.4	1.1	1.9	-.4	1.9	2.2
Other apparel -----	-.8	- 1.2	- 1.5	- 2.2	- 1.6	.5	- 3.4	.2	-.5	- 1.5	.1
Transportation -----	-.3	- 1.8	-.1	- 2.7	-.4	.1	-.2	.4	-.3	-.1	.5
Private -----	-.4	- 2.4	- 1.2	- 3.3	-.9	.1	-.2	.5	.4	-.1	.7
Public -----	.7	0	4.5	0	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care -----	.7	.4	.9	0	.4	-.1	-.1	.3	.4	.3	0
Personal care -----	.2	.7	-.4	-.4	-.1	.1	0	-.3	.2	-.2	1.1
Reading and recreation -----	.5	.5	.2	-.3	.5	.3	.1	0	- 1.3	1.7	4.2
Other goods and services -----	.2	.2	0	2.1	-.2	.1	-.3	.1	.1	.9	.5

1/ Change from November 1959 to January 1960.

* Based on revised index for October 1959, 150.6.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index — Food and its subgroups
 January 1960 indexes and percent changes December 1959 to January 1960
 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	- 0.2	114.7	- 0.3	134.8	0.2	106.4	- 0.2	116.5	- 0.2	125.7	0.2	104.5	- 0.9
Atlanta	114.5	.3	111.9	0	125.4	.2	107.0	-.7	113.6	2.7	126.5	-.6	99.5	-.6
Baltimore	116.2	- 1.0	111.9	- 1.2	128.5	.2	105.3	-.8	114.6	- 2.5	118.7	- 2.0	103.2	- 1.3
Boston	117.4	-.8	113.8	- 1.0	131.5	-.7	107.5	- 1.5	115.1	- 1.1	124.2	-.8	99.9	-.7
Chicago	115.2	.5	112.3	.6	130.2	.5	98.7	1.3	121.2	2.0	123.5	.3	108.9	- 1.1
Cincinnati	117.7	-.4	114.5	-.5	132.4	.2	105.8	- 1.3	117.6	-.2	125.3	-.3	106.7	-.6
Cleveland	113.1	-.3	109.8	-.5	129.4	.2	99.6	-.5	110.2	-.6	117.2	-.9	106.6	-.5
Detroit	115.8	-.4	112.6	-.5	124.8	.2	101.1	-.1	111.1	-.7	131.0	-.3	104.3	- 1.7
Houston	113.6	.1	111.1	0	125.8	.4	101.4	.7	113.6	-.3	125.3	-.2	103.1	-.7
Kansas City	111.3	-.1	107.7	-.2	127.5	-.1	99.1	-.4	111.8	0	115.6	.9	98.2	- 1.0
Los Angeles	125.2	1.3	120.7	1.5	146.9	.1	109.2	-.8	114.8	1.1	143.0	6.6	107.0	.8
Minneapolis	117.0	-.3	113.5	-.4	134.8	0	102.2	1.1	108.0	-.9	130.4	.9	109.6	-.7
New York	120.5	-.2	116.6	-.4	141.8	0	110.9	1.9	121.4	-.2	119.3	- 3.6	104.0	- 1.3
Philadelphia	119.5	-.5	116.1	-.7	135.8	.1	108.7	.3	121.1	- 1.4	125.1	-.6	101.8	- 1.9
Pittsburgh	118.7	-.3	116.6	-.4	132.6	.1	106.8	-.4	117.4	-.8	124.1	-.4	114.4	-.5
Portland, Oreg.	121.2	.2	118.1	.2	141.3	.1	109.6	- 1.2	121.3	.1	125.0	2.7	108.8	-.5
St. Louis	116.2	- 1.2	110.6	- 1.6	120.6	.3	100.7	- 2.3	103.5	- 1.3	128.9	- 1.9	110.5	- 1.5
San Francisco	123.6	.4	120.6	.3	151.0	.1	112.4	- 1.1	119.3	.2	134.6	1.6	105.9	1.2
Saranton	113.5	-.4	111.7	-.4	132.8	0	104.7	.3	113.1	-.4	116.4	-.1	101.7	- 1.6
Seattle	121.4	.2	119.0	.3	147.6	.4	110.8	-.7	118.2	-.1	132.1	2.4	105.1	.3
Washington, D.C.	117.3	-.7	114.4	-.7	129.9	- 1.0	105.4	-.5	120.5	-.5	122.2	- 2.3	105.4	- 1.3

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

Food and unit	January 1960	December 1959	Food and unit	January 1960	December 1959
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Cereals and bakery products:			Fresh—Continued		
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	54.6	54.5	Peaches * 1b.		
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	27.0	27.0	Strawberries * pt.		
Corn meal 1b.	13.1	13.0	Grapes, seedless * 1b.		
Rice, short grain 1b.	18.6	18.6	Watermelons * 1b.		
Rice, long grain 1b.	20.6	20.5	Potatoes 10 lb.	65.6	62.1
Rolled oats 18 oz.	21.5	21.1	Sweet potatoes 1b.	12.6	12.2
Corn flakes 12 oz.	25.7	25.7	Onions 1b.	8.9	8.7
Bread, white 1b.	19.8	19.8	Carrots 1b.	14.2	15.2
Soda crackers 1b.	29.0	29.0	Lettuce head	19.0	19.2
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	24.4	24.4	Celery 1b.	15.3	15.4
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage 1b.	11.4	12.1
Round steak 1b.	106.0	106.6	Tomatoes 1b.	39.5	34.3
Chuck roast 1b.	62.7	63.1	Beans, green 1b.	27.7	31.9
Rib roast 1b.	82.0	82.0	Canned:		
Hamburger 1b.	53.2	53.7	Orange juice 48-oz. can	45.5	49.7
Veal cutlets 1b.	141.9	141.3	Peaches #2 can	33.8	33.8
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	78.4	79.1	Pineapple #2 can	37.5	37.2
Bacon, sliced 1b.	57.5	58.5	Fruit cocktail #303 can	26.9	26.9
Ham, whole 1b.	58.6	59.2	Corn, cream style #303 can	19.0	19.0
Lamb, leg 1b.	73.3	73.8	Peas, green #303 can	19.9	19.6
Frankfurters 1b.	61.5	61.9	Tomatoes #303 can	15.1	15.1
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	50.7	50.8	Baby foods 4½ to 6 oz.	10.0	10.1
Frying chickens, ready-to-cock 1b.	42.5	40.9	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	47.5	47.4	Prunes 1b.	39.4	39.5
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	56.6	56.6	Beans 1b.	16.8	16.6
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	64.8	64.3	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned 6 to 6½ oz.	32.2	32.3	Tomato soup 10½ to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.4
Dairy products:			Beans with pork 16-oz. can	14.9	14.9
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	24.7	24.6	Pickles, sliced 15 oz.	26.3	26.3
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	25.9	25.9	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.3	22.3
Ice cream ½ gal.	87.7	87.6	Coffee 1b. can	76.1	76.4
Butter 1b.	75.3	78.5	Coffee 1b. bag	59.6	58.1
Cheese, American process ½ lb.	33.7	33.1	Tea bags pkg. of 16	24.3	24.4
Milk, evaporated 14½-oz. can	15.6	15.5	Cola drink, carton 36 oz.	29.3	29.3
Fruits and vegetables:			Shortening, hydrogenated 3 lb.	83.3	84.8
Frozen:			Margarine, colored 1b.	27.4	27.6
Strawberries 10 oz.	26.6	26.6	Lard 1b.	18.4	18.6
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	23.1	25.1	Salad dressing pt.	36.6	36.8
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.9	19.8	Peanut butter 1b.	55.5	55.7
Beans, green 9 oz.	22.7	22.5	Sugar 5 lb.	57.8	57.9
Fresh:			Corn syrup 24 oz.	26.6	26.5
Apples 1b.	13.6	13.1	Grape jelly 12 oz.	28.5	28.3
Bananas 1b.	17.2	16.4	Chocolate bar 1 oz.	5.1	5.1
Oranges, size 200 doz.	64.4	66.8	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	51.1	53.3
Lemons 1b.	19.5	19.6	Gelatin, flavored 3 to 4 oz.	9.3	9.3
Grapefruit * each	12.2	12.5			

* Priced only in season.

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NOTE: Prices for December 1959 and subsequent dates are not comparable with prices previously published because of a revision in weights for chain and independent stores.

TABLE A: Consumer Price Index -- All items and commodity groups
 1959 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1958 to 1959
 5 cities priced in January 1960
 (1947-49=100)

Group	Boston		Kansas City		Minneapolis		Pittsburgh		Portland, Ore.	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
All items -----	125.8	0.8	125.9	1.5	125.6	1.0	125.5	1.2	125.7	1.0
Food -----	118.7	-.8	112.2	-1.9	118.0	-.5	119.8	-1.6	120.7	0
Food at home -----	115.5	-2.0	109.2	-3.0	114.9	-2.0	118.1	-2.2	118.0	-1.3
Cereals and bakery products --	132.3	.3	127.2	-.3	134.5	-.1	132.4	.7	140.2	2.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	112.8	-1.6	104.4	-6.3	106.5	-2.5	110.5	-3.3	114.4	-2.7
Dairy products -----	112.9	-1.0	109.3	5.2	106.3	1.1	116.3	.3	119.3	1.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.9	-1.8	116.0	-1.6	129.6	-.7	126.3	-.9	119.9	.1
Other foods at home -----	101.9	-5.1	99.4	-6.2	111.9	-6.3	115.3	-5.5	108.7	-4.9
Housing -----	135.5	2.0	127.1	1.4	127.4	.2	128.9	1.8	128.2	.5
Rent -----	148.7	4.1	142.2	.9	154.4	1.2	132.1	1.5	137.7	1.2
Gas and electricity -----	114.8	1.1	122.5	1.2	134.7	5.7	139.0	5.5	102.0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	139.4	3.2	132.0	9.0	128.9	-.5	135.1	2.7	140.9	.7
Housefurnishings -----	101.5	-1.4	103.8	1.3	98.6	.1	107.3	.4	103.7	-2.4
Household operation -----	133.0	3.4	137.0	1.0	134.1	1.0	143.1	3.9	129.3	.5
Apparel -----	104.6	-1.2	105.4	.8	108.1	.2	104.8	-.1	112.1	.6
Men's and boys' -----	104.4	-.3	108.0	.1	108.2	-.8	104.5	0	113.1	-.3
Women's and girls' -----	97.5	-3.1	97.3	.4	101.7	-.3	96.0	-1.6	102.0	-.1
Footwear -----	128.3	3.5	128.2	3.2	130.7	3.7	131.0	3.8	142.2	4.3
Other apparel -----	99.4	-3.0	88.2	.3	93.2	-.5	99.1	-.8	98.8	.7
Transportation -----	152.4	2.3	153.4	5.1	130.2	4.2	161.2	5.9	142.9	4.2
Private -----	146.6	2.9	139.1	5.5	124.4	4.1	135.3	6.6	136.5	4.5
Public -----	168.8	.4	251.9	2.7	174.4	4.6	237.7	3.9	197.6	2.1
Medical care -----	159.7	2.3	170.8	5.0	196.2	7.1	161.2	6.3	141.9	.9
Personal care -----	132.8	2.5	135.3	5.0	137.8	1.1	127.4	1.8	133.4	.8
Reading and recreation -----	116.1	2.4	133.5	3.5	125.0	.4	110.7	1.6	128.0	3.1
Other goods and services -----	126.9	1.0	125.1	-.3	133.1	1.4	129.4	1.5	128.6	1.1

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

Atlanta	New York	Chicago	San Francisco	Boston
1371 Peachtree	341 Ninth Ave.	105 West Adams St.	630 Sansome St.	18 Oliver St.
Street, N. E.	Zone 1	Zone 3	Zone 11	Zone 10
Zone 9				

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