

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR FEBRUARY 1960

Consumer prices in United States cities in February reversed a 2-month ~~down~~ trend, edging up by 0.2 percent, the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The February Consumer Price Index, at 125.6 (1947-49 = 100), matched the alltime high reached last November.

The cost of services--particularly those associated with housing and medical care--provided the main upward thrust, and in February made the largest advance in almost 2 years (0.5 percent). In addition to this strong uptrend, the index was boosted by the seasonal introduction of spring apparel prices after January's extensive clearance sales, and resumption of regular prices for textile housefurnishings following the white sales. These increases more than offset a sharp reduction for gasoline, and a further decline for food--the fifth in succession--to the lowest level since December 1957.

HOUSING

Mortgage interest rates, which have risen persistently for the past 18 months, contributed appreciably to the rise in the cost of housing. The February index for mortgage interest was 8 percent above a year ago and 9 percent higher than its recession low point of September 1958. Household operation costs which advanced in February included postage, reflecting the recent increase in parcel post rates, and gas. Rate increases for gas were reported in several cities, including Houston and Minneapolis.

Rents continued their long but moderate uptrend, responding chiefly to increasing maintenance costs and property taxes. In spite of rising costs, rents in a few places have been declining, notably in Detroit, where rents have edged off almost continuously since the beginning of 1958. Uncertain economic conditions have been cited as a reason, and have been associated with some rise in vacancies.

MEDICAL CARE

The 0.8 percent gain in the cost of medical care in February was the largest in almost a year and a half, chiefly because of substantially higher premiums for health insurance in several cities, including Chicago and Seattle.

FOOD

The February index for food (for home use), at 114.4, was 1.5 percent lower than a year ago, 2.4 percent less than 2 years ago, and 5.1 percent below the 1958 record high. Restaurant meals, which contain service components, continued to trend upward.

The January-February decrease in food prices was accounted for chiefly by lower prices for eggs, but, in addition, there were declines for some fruits and vegetables, most meats, and for fats and oils. Egg prices reflected further seasonal increases in production. Prices for tomatoes fell in spite of bad weather, because substantial imports from Mexico and Cuba increased supplies. Prices for bananas and citrus fruits also were down because of large supplies.

Prices of all cuts of beef declined as did those for some kinds of pork, chiefly because of heavy slaughtering in January. A decline for fats and oils resulted from heavy supplies of both animal fats and vegetable oil raw materials. Shortening prices dropped to their lowest level since May 1950.

On the other hand, adverse weather brought about higher prices for green beans and lettuce. Potato prices went up, on account of smaller storage stocks and the effects of the Florida freeze in January on the winter crop.

COMMODITIES

The average for nondurable commodities (excluding food) rose slightly, almost entirely because prices for women's and girls' apparel and household textiles were up. Most other kinds of nondurables showed price declines. The substantial reduction in gasoline prices (1.4 percent) resulted from heavy supplies, burdened storage facilities, and reduced consumption during unusually severe weather.

Durable goods prices did not change on the average. Among the durables, price increases for used cars were offset by lower prices for new cars. The latter decline was normal for February, when purchasing is relatively slow and inventories rise in preparation for the spring selling season. Inventories this February were at very high levels, following near-record production after settlement of the steel strike. Lower prices for durable housefurnishings, reflecting February furniture and bedding sales and a more competitive market for appliances, were offset by higher prices for replacement plumbing and heating equipment.

OVER-THE-YEAR CHANGES

The February 1960 Consumer Price Index was 1.5 percent above the level of February 1959. This was a somewhat larger over-the-year gain than for most months since December 1958. This February, with the important exception of food, almost all commodities and all of the services were up compared to a year ago. The costs of buying, owning, and maintaining a house and an automobile, and charges for medical care continued to account for a major part of the rise over the previous year.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

Of the relatively small number of workers covered by contracts tying wages to the February Consumer Price Index (143,000), only about 1,000, who receive their adjustments on an annual basis, will have a pay adjustment (a 3-cent-an-hour increase for employees of companies affiliated with the Los Angeles Warehousemen's Association). Wages for most of the other 142,000 workers are reviewed quarterly and went up in November, when the index was at the same level.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to February 1960 from --			
	February 1960	January 1960	January 1960	November 1959	February 1959	Year 1959
All items-----	125.6	125.4	0.2	0	1.5	111.4
Food-----	117.4	117.6	- .2	- .4	- .7	149.3
Food at home-----	114.4	114.7	- .3	- .6	- 1.5	142.9
Cereals and bakery products-----	135.2	134.8	.3	.7	1.0	136.4
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	106.2	106.4	- .2	- 1.6	- 5.7	155.3
Dairy products-----	116.5	116.5	0	.4	2.2	133.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	125.9	125.7	.2	2.0	3.9	171.9
Other foods at home-----	102.9	104.5	- 1.5	- 3.3	- 4.8	112.6
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	117.8	117.6	.2	.5	3.2	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	131.2	130.7	.4	.6	2.1	72.4
Rent-----	141.0	140.9	.1	.4	1.4	62.8
Gas and electricity-----	124.0	123.2	.6	1.9	4.6	18.2
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	139.0	139.0	0	2.3	- .7	146.5
Housefurnishings-----	104.3	104.0	.3	- .1	.5	95.3
Household operation-----	136.3	135.9	.3	.7	2.4	99.3
Apparel-----	108.4	107.9	.5	- .9	1.6	106.5
Men's and boys'-----	108.7	108.8	- .1	- .4	.8	114.0
Women's and girls'-----	99.3	98.0	1.3	- 1.6	.5	82.2
Footwear-----	138.7	139.4	- .5	- .4	5.6	175.7
Other apparel-----	92.8	92.2	.7	- .5	1.2	128.6
Transportation-----	147.9	148.1	- .1	- .7	2.5	110.7
Private-----	136.4	136.8	- .3	- 1.1	2.3	108.2
Public-----	199.3	197.2	1.1	1.7	3.9	145.1
Medical care-----	154.7	153.5	.8	1.1	3.8	113.1
Personal care-----	132.6	132.7	- .1	- .1	2.2	122.5
Reading and recreation-----	120.6	120.3	.2	.5	3.0	91.4
Other goods and services-----	131.8	131.8	0	.2	3.5	86.7
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	129.7	129.4	.2	.2	2.4	87.7
All items less shelter-----	123.0	122.9	.1	- .1	1.3	122.0
Commodities-----	116.7	116.7	0	- .4	.6	126.2
Nondurables-----	118.0	118.1	- .1	- .5	.3	129.6
Food-----	117.4	117.6	- .2	- .4	- .7	149.3
Nondurables less food-----	119.4	119.2	.2	- .3	2.0	103.4
Apparel-----	108.3	107.7	.6	- .9	1.5	107.9
Apparel less footwear-----	103.0	102.2	.8	- 1.0	.8	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	128.8	128.9	- .1	- .1	2.1	95.4
Durables-----	113.6	113.6	0	- .4	1.2	98.3
New cars-----	140.2	141.3	- .8	- 2.8	.1	146.0
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	96.5	95.2	1.4	1.3	8.2	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.4	103.4	0	0	.2	80.5
Commodities less food-----	116.0	115.9	.1	- .4	1.6	95.3
Services-----	148.9	148.2	.5	.9	3.3	85.2
Rent-----	141.0	140.9	.1	.4	1.4	62.8
Services less rent-----	150.9	150.1	.5	.9	3.6	105.3
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	137.8	137.2	.4	1.1	3.4	58.4
Transportation services-----	183.6	182.7	.5	.8	3.0	129.2
Medical care services-----	160.8	159.5	.8	1.3	4.4	128.1
Other services 3/-----	134.7	134.1	.4	.7	3.6	131.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.796	\$0.797	- .1	0	- 1.5	- 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 --		
	February 1960	November 1959	February 1959	Year 1939	November 1959	February 1959	Year 1939
United States city average-----	125.6	125.6	123.7	59.4	0	1.5	111.4
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	129.1	129.1	127.1	58.6	0	1.6	120.3
Detroit-----	123.9	124.1	123.3	59.0	- 0.2	0.5	110.0
Los Angeles-----	128.9	128.8	126.7	60.4	0.1	1.7	113.4
New York-----	124.4	124.1	121.7	60.1	0.2	2.2	107.0
Philadelphia-----	125.5	126.2	123.3	59.2	- 0.6	1.8	112.0
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	February 1960	November 1959	February 1959	Year 1939	November 1959	February 1959	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	126.1	126.4	124.8	59.2	- 0.2	1.0	113.0
Houston-----	125.6	125.4	124.1	59.5	0.2	1.2	111.1
Scranton-----	121.4	121.5	120.3	58.5	- 0.1	0.9	107.5
Seattle-----	129.2	129.2	126.9	59.2	0	1.8	118.2
Washington, D.C.-----	121.9	121.7	121.3	60.4	0.2	0.5	101.8
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	- 0.2	0.8	107.2
Kansas City-----	127.0	126.9	124.5	61.7	0.1	2.0	105.8
Minneapolis-----	126.2	126.5	125.3	60.7	- 0.2	0.7	107.9
Pittsburgh-----	126.6	126.8	124.4	58.1	- 0.2	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	0.3	1.6	116.8
Baltimore-----	127.2	127.5	125.5	57.9	- 0.2	1.4	119.7
Cincinnati-----	123.8	123.6	122.4	58.4	0.2	1.1	112.0
St. Louis-----	126.6	126.4	125.7	59.3	0.2	0.7	113.5
San Francisco-----	131.8	130.8	127.9	58.6	0.8	3.0	124.9

1/ Rents priced bimonthly.

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

**TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index--Percent changes from January 1960 to February 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--	0.2	- 0.2	0.4	0.5	- 0.1	0.8	- 0.1	0.2	0
Chicago-----	0.2	- 0.7	0.4	0.3	- 0.1	4.2	0.1	- 0.2	- 0.2
Detroit-----	0.4	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.1	1.2	0.5	- 0.8	3.7	0.1
Los Angeles-----	- 0.3	- 1.2	0.5	0.4	- 0.8	0.3	- 0.3	0	- 0.1
New York-----	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1	- 0.7	0.5	- 0.1
Philadelphia-----	0	- 0.3	0.2	1.0	- 0.1	0	0	0	0.1

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

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Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleve- land	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washing- ton, D.C.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	125.6	129.1	126.1	123.9	125.6	128.9	124.4	125.5	121.4	129.2	121.9
Food -----	117.4	114.4	112.9	115.7	113.3	123.7	120.8	119.1	113.0	121.0	117.2
Food at home -----	114.4	111.4	109.7	112.5	110.2	118.9	117.0	115.6	111.1	118.3	114.1
Cereals and bakery products --	135.2	128.8	128.3	124.9	125.6	146.8	142.1	136.4	133.1	147.7	130.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	106.2	99.3	100.4	101.0	100.3	107.2	111.1	107.1	104.5	109.3	105.6
Dairy products -----	116.5	120.6	110.4	112.6	115.9	115.0	121.1	121.0	112.7	118.3	120.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	125.9	121.3	118.4	131.5	123.1	137.7	123.3	126.4	116.4	131.0	120.8
Other foods at home -----	102.9	106.9	104.6	102.7	101.0	106.0	102.2	100.3	99.8	104.7	104.1
Housing -----	131.2	140.6	131.4	126.9	133.1	138.7	129.2	125.5	124.9	133.8	121.5
Rent -----	141.0	--	160.5	143.3	139.0	--	133.0	--	132.4	150.6	131.4
Gas and electricity -----	124.0	130.1	124.1	116.8	133.9	141.7	120.9	106.7	121.3	86.7	135.3
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	139.0	143.3	144.7	128.0	--	--	141.8	136.6	146.4	141.9	143.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.3	102.4	100.4	108.0	103.6	104.2	104.8	109.6	100.8	103.9	99.2
Household operation -----	136.3	138.7	125.8	124.2	145.4	126.4	138.1	141.4	118.9	138.3	133.5
Apparel -----	108.4	112.3	110.2	105.6	110.6	111.4	107.1	106.8	110.9	111.8	104.9
Men's and boys' -----	108.7	114.8	113.6	107.4	106.6	112.6	108.5	109.4	112.0	113.2	108.9
Women's and girls' -----	99.3	101.2	100.6	95.1	103.8	102.8	96.3	95.5	102.0	102.0	95.4
Footwear -----	138.7	142.6	134.3	135.4	146.0	141.4	139.7	138.7	142.5	145.7	131.7
Other apparel -----	92.8	96.5	95.4	85.9	90.2	86.2	96.8	94.8	93.4	88.2	89.8
Transportation -----	147.9	158.1	142.8	138.9	147.2	143.6	149.5	156.1	147.9	148.5	146.2
Private -----	136.4	138.8	133.9	131.4	139.9	137.1	131.2	136.2	134.4	136.4	138.8
Public -----	199.3	205.7	181.9	179.4	198.9	186.5	191.4	193.4	191.9	189.6	172.4
Medical care -----	154.7	167.3	169.7	158.8	136.6	149.7	143.7	159.3	133.5	158.0	153.7
Personal care -----	132.6	137.6	127.9	133.2	140.6	134.7	124.0	143.2	144.6	142.4	129.9
Reading and recreation -----	120.6	125.4	130.2	121.0	118.4	102.2	122.4	123.7	154.6	119.6	120.1
Other goods and services -----	131.8	124.2	135.1	139.8	137.2	132.9	133.3	132.4	123.6	143.2	136.5
Percent change from November 1959 to February 1960											
All items -----	0	0	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	- 0.6	- 0.1	0	0.2
Food -----	- 0.4	- 0.8	- 0.2	- 1.0	- 0.5	0.1	0.1	- 1.2	- 1.1	0.2	- 0.7
Food at home -----	- 0.6	- 1.0	- 0.5	- 1.1	- 1.1	0.1	0.1	- 1.6	- 1.3	0	- 0.9
Cereals and bakery products --	0.7	- 0.7	- 0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.1	- 0.4	0.7	0.8	- 0.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 1.6	- 0.9	0.1	- 2.0	- 2.0	- 2.4	0.3	- 2.2	- 0.9	- 2.7	- 0.5
Dairy products -----	0.4	1.8	- 0.1	0.7	2.1	1.3	0.2	- 0.9	- 0.6	- 0.1	2.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	2.0	0.2	1.9	1.5	- 1.3	3.1	3.5	1.2	- 0.2	4.5	- 0.7
Other foods at home -----	- 3.3	- 4.2	- 3.8	- 4.5	- 2.8	- 0.8	- 3.7	- 4.6	- 4.5	- 0.9	- 3.9
Housing -----	0.6	0.4	0.2	- 0.4	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	- 0.1	- 0.3	0.9
Rent -----	0.4	--	0.2	1/- 0.2	0.5	--	1/ 0.3	--	0.1	0	0.5
Gas and electricity -----	1.9	0.1	6.9	0.1	1.1	4.9	1.3	0.8	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	2.3	1.8	1.7	0.3	--	--	3.8	6.2	0	- 0.6	5.1
Housefurnishings -----	- 0.1	- 0.1	- 0.4	- 1.2	1.9	- 0.2	0.4	0.6	0.2	- 1.3	- 0.8
Household operation -----	0.7	- 0.1	0.6	0.7	2.0	0.7	1.2	0.6	0.3	- 0.6	0.2
Apparel -----	- 0.9	- 1.1	0.1	- 1.2	- 2.0	0.2	- 0.6	- 1.5	0.7	0.2	- 0.8
Men's and boys' -----	- 0.4	- 0.9	- 0.5	- 0.6	- 1.1	0	- 0.1	0.4	1.2	- 0.5	0
Women's and girls' -----	- 1.6	- 1.3	1.0	- 2.3	- 3.4	0.3	- 1.6	- 3.5	1.3	0.4	- 1.3
Footwear -----	- 0.4	- 0.6	- 0.5	0	0.5	0	0.4	- 0.6	- 0.7	0.5	- 1.1
Other apparel -----	- 0.5	- 1.4	0	- 0.7	- 0.7	0.2	0	0.3	- 0.5	0	- 0.3
Transportation -----	- 0.7	- 0.9	- 1.3	- 0.8	1.0	- 1.4	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.4	- 0.9	- 0.3
Private -----	- 1.1	- 2.2	- 1.5	- 1.0	0.4	- 3.5	0	- 0.2	0.4	- 1.4	- 0.4
Public -----	1.7	4.5	0	0	4.4	13.5	0	0	0	3.9	0
Medical care -----	1.1	5.1	- 0.2	0.5	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.2	2.6	2.2
Personal care -----	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.1	- 0.9	0.3	- 0.1	- 1.4	- 0.2	- 0.1	0.6	2.2
Reading and recreation -----	0.5	- 0.2	- 1.2	3.5	- 0.6	- 0.1	0.5	- 5.9	0.7	- 0.3	- 0.2
Other goods and services -----	0.2	- 0.1	0	2.9	- 0.1	0	- 0.1	0.1	1.7	0.1	0.1

1/ Change from December 1959 to February 1960.

* January 1960 index revised to 124.1.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index — Food and its subgroups
February 1960 indexes and percent changes, January 1960 to February 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	117.4	- 0.2	114.4	- 0.3	135.2	0.3	106.2	- 0.2	116.5	0	125.9	0.2	102.9	- 1.5
Atlanta	114.1	- .3	111.6	- .3	125.9	.4	107.3	.3	113.6	0	127.1	.5	97.7	- 1.8
Baltimore	116.7	.4	112.4	.4	128.8	.2	105.7	.4	116.9	2.0	120.1	1.2	102.0	- 1.2
Boston	117.7	.3	114.1	.3	132.0	.4	107.5	0	114.1	- .9	127.7	2.8	99.5	- .4
Chicago	114.4	- .7	111.4	- .8	128.8	- 1.1	99.3	.6	120.6	- .5	121.3	- 1.8	106.9	- 1.8
Cincinnati	117.8	.1	114.4	- .1	133.5	.8	106.2	.4	117.2	- .3	125.2	- .1	105.4	- 1.2
Cleveland	112.9	- .2	109.7	- .1	128.3	- .9	100.4	.8	110.4	.2	118.4	1.0	104.6	- 1.9
Detroit	115.7	- .1	112.5	- .1	124.9	- .1	101.0	- .1	112.6	1.4	131.5	.4	102.7	- 1.5
Houston	113.3	- .3	110.2	- .8	125.6	- .2	100.3	- 1.1	115.9	2.0	123.1	- 1.8	101.0	- 2.0
Kansas City	110.4	- .8	106.8	- .8	128.0	.4	99.7	.6	108.5	- 3.0	114.7	- .8	96.3	- 1.9
Los Angeles	123.7	- 1.2	118.9	- 1.5	146.8	- .1	107.2	- 1.8	115.0	.2	137.7	- 3.7	106.0	- .9
Minneapolis	116.5	- .4	112.9	- .5	134.9	.1	101.4	- .8	107.8	- .2	131.0	.5	107.7	- 1.7
New York	120.8	.2	117.0	.3	142.1	.2	111.1	.2	121.1	- .2	123.3	3.4	102.2	- 1.7
Philadelphia	119.1	- .3	115.6	- .4	136.4	.4	107.1	- 1.5	121.0	- .1	126.4	1.0	100.3	- 1.5
Pittsburgh	118.6	- .1	116.5	- .1	133.4	.6	107.4	.6	117.6	.2	123.7	- .3	112.6	- 1.6
Portland, Oreg.	120.2	- .8	117.1	- .8	141.4	.1	108.2	- 1.3	121.3	0	124.2	- .6	106.9	- 1.7
St. Louis	117.5	1.1	112.2	1.4	124.2	3.0	102.2	1.5	103.7	.2	132.1	2.5	111.0	.5
San Francisco	122.2	- 1.1	118.8	- 1.5	151.1	.1	111.7	- .6	118.9	- .3	131.3	- 2.5	102.4	- 3.3
Scranton	113.0	- .4	111.1	- .5	133.1	.2	104.5	- .2	112.7	- .4	116.4	0	99.8	- 1.9
Seattle	121.0	- .3	118.3	- .6	147.7	.1	109.3	- 1.4	118.3	.1	131.0	- .8	104.7	- .4
Washington, D.C.	117.2	- .1	114.1	- .3	130.7	.6	105.6	.2	120.9	.3	120.8	- 1.1	104.1	- 1.2

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

Food and unit	February 1960	January 1960	Food and unit	February 1960	January 1960
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Cereals and bakery products:			Fresh—Continued		
Flour, wheat	5 lb. 54.7	54.6	Peaches *	1 lb. 68.6	65.6
Biscuit mix	20 oz. 27.0	27.0	Strawberries *	pt. 12.8	12.6
Corn meal	1 lb. 13.1	13.1	Grapes, seedless *	1 lb. 8.4	8.9
Rice, short grain	1 lb. 18.8	18.6	Watermelons *	1 lb. 12.9	14.2
Rice, long grain	1 lb. 20.5	20.6	Potatoes	10 lb. 20.1	19.0
Rolled oats	18 oz. 21.7	21.5	Sweet potatoes	1 lb. 14.8	15.3
Corn flakes	12 oz. 25.7	25.7	Onions	1 lb. 10.8	11.4
Bread, white	1 lb. 20.0	19.8	Carrots	1 lb. 37.4	39.5
Soda crackers	1 lb. 28.9	29.0	Beans, green	1 lb. 33.0	27.7
Vanilla cookies	7 oz. 24.4	24.4	Canned:		
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Orange juice	48-oz. can 43.5	45.5
Round steak	1 lb. 105.2	106.0	Peaches	#2 can 33.5	33.8
Chuck roast	1 lb. 62.6	62.7	Pineapple	#2 can 37.6	37.5
Rib roast	1 lb. 81.3	82.0	Fruit cocktail	#303 can 27.0	26.9
Hamburger	1 lb. 52.5	53.2	Corn, cream style	#303 can 18.8	19.0
Veal outlets	1 lb. 143.1	141.9	Peas, green	#303 can 20.0	19.9
Pork chops, center cut	1 lb. 78.2	78.4	Tomatoes	#303 can 15.4	15.1
Bacon, sliced	1 lb. 58.2	57.5	Baby foods	4½ to 5 oz. 10.0	10.0
Ham, whole	1 lb. 58.2	58.6	Dried:		
Lamb, leg	1 lb. 72.5	73.3	Prunes	1 lb. 39.5	39.4
Frankfurters	1 lb. 61.2	61.5	Beans	1 lb. 16.9	16.8
Luncheon meat, canned	12 oz. 50.3	50.7	Other foods at home:		
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook	1 lb. 43.2	42.5	Tomato soup	10½ to 11-oz. can 12.4	12.4
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen	1 lb. 47.6	47.5	Beans with pork	16-oz. can 14.9	14.9
Haddock, fillet, frozen	1 lb. 56.6	56.6	Pickles, sliced	15 oz. 26.3	26.3
Salmon, pink, canned	16 oz. 65.0	64.8	Catsup, tomato	14 oz. 22.3	22.3
Tuna fish, canned	5 to 6½ oz. 32.2	32.2	Coffee	1 lb. can 75.4	76.1
Dairy products:			Coffee	1 lb. bag 59.6	59.6
Milk, fresh, (grocery)	qt. 24.7	24.7	Tea bags	pkg. of 16 24.4	24.3
Milk, fresh, (delivered)	qt. 25.9	25.9	Cola drink, carton	36 oz. 29.1	29.3
Ice cream	½ gal. 87.5	87.7	Shortening, hydrogenated	3 lb. 80.6	83.3
Butter	1 lb. 74.5	75.3	Margarine, colored	1 lb. 27.0	27.4
Cheese, American process	½ lb. 33.8	33.7	Lard	1 lb. 18.2	18.4
Milk, evaporated	14½-oz. can 15.7	15.6	Salad dressing	pt. 36.1	36.6
Fruits and vegetables:			Peanut butter	1 lb. 55.4	55.5
Frozen:			Sugar	5 lb. 57.3	57.8
Strawberries	10 oz. 26.6	26.6	Corn syrup	24 oz. 26.6	26.6
Orange juice concentrate	6 oz. 22.6	23.1	Grape jelly	12 oz. 28.7	28.5
Peas, green	10 oz. 19.9	19.9	Chocolate bar	1 oz. 5.1	5.1
Beans, green	9 oz. 22.8	22.7	Eggs, Grade A, large	doz. 48.2	51.1
Fresh:			Gelatin, flavored	3 to 4 oz. 9.3	9.3
Apples	1 lb. 14.1	13.6			
Bananas	1 lb. 16.5	17.2			
Oranges, size 200	doz. 63.4	64.4			
Lemons	1 lb. 19.1	19.5			
Grapefruit *	each 12.1	12.2			

* Priced only in season.

Labor D.C.

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

Group	Cleveland		Houston		Scranton		Seattle		Washington, D. C.	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
All items -----	125.6	0.6	124.6	0.8	120.8	0.5	128.2	1.9	121.7	0.5
Food -----	114.1	- 2.6	114.7	- 2.0	115.4	- 2.5	120.8	- .4	119.0	- 2.1
Food at home -----	111.6	- 3.3	112.5	- 2.6	114.4	- 3.4	118.8	- 1.5	116.4	- 3.0
Cereals and bakery products --	128.9	- .6	125.4	- .7	134.1	- .7	146.4	1.7	131.5	- .2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	103.9	- 5.5	105.7	- 4.7	110.3	- 5.2	113.9	- 1.7	110.0	- 4.0
Dairy products -----	109.8	.2	113.4	.8	112.1	- .2	117.0	.4	118.3	- .3
Fruits and vegetables -----	117.4	- 1.3	125.0	.6	120.0	- 2.4	127.2	- .3	123.1	- 2.9
Other foods at home -----	108.3	- 5.9	103.9	- 5.6	103.5	- 6.1	105.1	- 5.1	107.7	- 5.4
Housing -----	130.4	- .2	130.8	.6	123.6	1.0	132.8	2.7	120.9	.6
Rent -----	159.8	0	138.9	- .2	131.8	1.7	148.8	2.5	129.6	1.9
Gas and electricity -----	116.0	.5	123.0	5.9	119.9	1.9	86.7	.1	133.7	5.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	140.4	2.2	--	--	142.8	.8	141.9	2.5	140.8	1.4
Housefurnishings -----	100.5	- 1.4	101.2	1.1	100.0	- 1.6	104.5	.9	99.8	- .3
Household operation -----	124.4	4.9	142.5	.4	117.7	1.2	138.8	.9	132.9	2.1
Apparel -----	109.6	.6	112.5	1.0	110.4	1.0	109.6	1.1	105.0	1.5
Men's and boys' -----	113.6	.2	106.4	- .4	110.4	.1	112.4	.4	108.3	.7
Women's and girls' -----	100.2	.4	108.8	1.5	102.7	.4	99.9	- .1	96.6	.5
Footwear -----	131.0	2.3	141.5	3.1	139.6	4.0	139.7	6.0	129.6	5.5
Other apparel -----	95.1	.2	90.6	- .4	93.5	1.9	87.2	0	89.9	1.9
Transportation -----	141.6	3.7	144.1	4.9	145.6	3.2	150.3	4.9	145.0	3.3
Private -----	132.6	3.8	137.6	5.6	132.1	3.7	139.0	5.4	137.4	2.7
Public -----	181.9	3.1	189.5	.8	191.9	.3	181.4	.7	172.4	6.5
Medical care -----	167.6	9.5	134.9	1.9	130.5	2.9	151.1	2.5	149.3	6.5
Personal care -----	128.1	.4	137.9	2.2	139.5	8.1	139.4	4.9	126.3	1.9
Reading and recreation -----	129.3	4.3	117.7	1.3	149.1	6.3	119.2	- .1	119.7	1.2
Other goods and services -----	131.9	3.5	131.3	2.3	120.4	.7	140.0	3.0	136.3	- .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.

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