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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 1960

The Consumer Price Index rose slightly in March, by 0.1 percent, to 125.7 (1947-49=100), the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.

The most important advance in March was in food prices, which showed the first rise in 6 months, largely as a result of seasonal influences. The usual spring uptrend occurred also in prices for apparel and gasoline. These and a number of other small price increases among most groups of commodities and services were almost offset by a stronger-than-usual March decline in prices of used and new cars, and the expected downturn for heating oil.

FOOD Prices for food (for home use) reversed the downtrend that began last October and rose 0.3 percent in March. Restaurant meals continued the gradual price rise of the past several years.

Higher prices for meats (chiefly pork and chicken), and for eggs and fresh fruits accounted for most of the rise in food (at home). Price increases for all cuts of pork reflected a seasonal decline in pork production from the winter peak. Poultry prices were at their highest since August 1958. The 2.8 percent price increase for eggs resulted from lower production and marketings following inclement weather in late February and early March, but egg prices remained well below levels in most months of 1958 and 1959. Declining supplies of oranges and apples primarily contributed to the rise in prices for fresh fruits.

Tempering the increase in other food prices, most important fresh vegetables declined in March, because of plentiful supplies, chiefly of lettuce, tomatoes, cabbage, celery, and onions.

OTHER COMMODITIES AND SERVICES The March drop in used car prices (4.1 percent) was the largest in almost 5 years, so that the March index (90.8 percent of the January 1953 level) fell 7.6 percent below the 7-year high of last September. Price weakness in March doubtless resulted from a combination of influences, including large inventories, slow sales during the winter, and competition from compact cars.

Prices for new cars also declined more than usual in March, as factory-sponsored sales contests and record-high inventories prompted dealers to offer larger concessions.

In contrast, prices of other durable goods were up 0.2 percent. Durable housefurnishings prices rose partly because of the usual return to regular prices following February sales.

Nondurable goods, other than food, also were up a little. Apparel prices, which usually rise in the spring, went up an average of 0.4 percent in March, reflecting chiefly introductions of new spring clothing.

Prices for gasoline also rose in March, but fuel oil declined, as is usual at this time of year.

Services continued their almost uninterrupted rise, but most of the price increases were small in March. In particular, increases were reported for most medical services, laundry and dry cleaning, and water.

COST-OF-LIVING  
ADJUSTMENTS

Railroad workers (upwards of 800,000 employees) are the only major group to receive a wage increase--one cent an hour--on the basis of the March Consumer Price Index. The change comes as a result of a semi-annual adjustment.

Wages of about 225,000 electrical workers and about 95,000 aircraft workers, which are adjusted also on the basis of the March index but at quarterly intervals, will not be changed. About 13,000 workers in a variety of industries, also having quarterly adjustments, will receive a one-cent-an-hour raise.

TABLE A: Revised indexes for specified groups and cities for January and February 1960

| City              | Date      | Revised indexes (1947-49 = 100) |                |                        |                          |                     |           |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
|                   |           | All items                       | Transportation | Private transportation | Other goods and services | Durable commodities | Used cars |
| U.S. city average | Jan. 1960 | --                              | 147.6          | 136.3                  | --                       | 113.3               | 93.4      |
|                   | Feb. 1960 | --                              | 147.5          | 136.0                  | --                       | 113.3               | 94.7      |
| Los Angeles       | Jan. 1960 | 129.1                           | 143.7          | 139.9                  | 132.9                    | --                  | --        |
|                   | Feb. 1960 | 128.8                           | 142.6          | 135.9                  | --                       | --                  | --        |
| Boston            | Jan. 1960 | --                              | 148.5          | 141.8                  | --                       | --                  | --        |
| Kansas City       | Jan. 1960 | --                              | 154.9          | 140.0                  | --                       | --                  | --        |
| Minneapolis       | Jan. 1960 | --                              | 131.8          | 124.8                  | --                       | --                  | --        |
| Portland          | Jan. 1960 | 127.2                           | 145.2          | 138.9                  | --                       | --                  | --        |
| Seattle           | Feb. 1960 | 129.0                           | 146.4          | 134.3                  | 143.1                    | --                  | --        |

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

| Group  | Indexes    |               | Percent change to March 1960 from -- |               |            |           |
|--|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
|  | March 1960 | February 1960 | February 1960                        | December 1959 | March 1959 | Year 1959 |
| All items  | 125.7      | 125.6         | 0.1                                  | 0.2           | 1.6        | 111.6     |
| Food   | 117.7      | 117.4         | .3                                   | - .1          | 0          | 149.9     |
| Food at home   | 114.7      | 114.4         | .3                                   | - .3          | - .7       | 143.5     |
| Cereals and bakery products                              | 135.5      | 135.2         | .2                                   | .7            | 1.0        | 136.9     |
| Meats, poultry, and fish                                 | 107.2      | 106.2         | .9                                   | .6            | - 3.7      | 157.7     |
| Dairy products   | 116.4      | 116.5         | - .1                                 | - .3          | 2.3        | 133.7     |
| Fruits and vegetables                                    | 125.0      | 125.9         | - .7                                 | - .4          | 3.6        | 170.0     |
| Other foods at home                                      | 103.4      | 102.9         | .5                                   | - 1.9         | - 3.6      | 113.6     |
| Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)                      | 118.0      | 117.8         | .2                                   | .6            | 3.2        | (1/)      |
| Housing 2/   | 131.3      | 131.2         | .1                                   | .7            | 2.0        | 72.5      |
| Rent   | 141.2      | 141.0         | .1                                   | .3            | 1.5        | 63.0      |
| Gas and electricity                                      | 124.1      | 124.0         | .1                                   | 1.1           | 4.7        | 18.3      |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil                                 | 137.2      | 139.0         | - 1.3                                | - .1          | - 2.2      | 143.3     |
| Housefurnishings   | 104.7      | 104.3         | .4                                   | .5            | .9         | 96.1      |
| Household operation                                      | 136.9      | 136.3         | .4                                   | 1.0           | 2.4        | 100.1     |
| Apparel  | 108.8      | 108.4         | .4                                   | - .4          | 1.7        | 107.2     |
| Men's and boys'  | 108.9      | 108.7         | .2                                   | - .2          | 1.0        | 114.4     |
| Women's and girls'                                       | 99.6       | 99.3          | .3                                   | - .7          | .6         | 82.8      |
| Footwear   | 139.7      | 138.7         | .7                                   | 0             | 5.8        | 177.7     |
| Other apparel  | 93.0       | 92.8          | .2                                   | - .1          | 1.3        | 129.1     |
| Transportation   | 146.5      | *147.5        | - .7                                 | - 1.5         | 1.1        | 108.7     |
| Private  | 134.9      | *136.0        | - .8                                 | - 1.9         | .7         | 106.0     |
| Public   | 199.4      | 199.3         | .1                                   | 1.1           | 3.9        | 145.3     |
| Medical care   | 155.0      | 154.7         | .2                                   | 1.2           | 3.9        | 113.5     |
| Personal care  | 132.7      | 132.6         | .1                                   | - .2          | 2.3        | 122.7     |
| Reading and recreation                                   | 120.9      | 120.6         | .2                                   | .4            | 3.1        | 91.9      |
| Other goods and services                                 | 131.7      | 131.8         | - .1                                 | 0             | 3.5        | 86.5      |
| Special groups:  |            |               |                                      |               |            |           |
| All items less food                                      | 129.7      | 129.7         | 0                                    | .2            | 2.2        | 87.7      |
| All items less shelter                                   | 123.1      | 123.0         | .1                                   | 0             | 1.4        | 122.2     |
| Commodities  | 116.7      | 116.7         | 0                                    | - .3          | .7         | 126.2     |
| Nondurables  | 118.3      | 118.0         | .3                                   | - .2          | .8         | 130.2     |
| Food   | 117.7      | 117.4         | .3                                   | - .1          | 0          | 149.9     |
| Nondurables less food                                    | 119.6      | 119.4         | .2                                   | - .3          | 1.9        | 103.7     |
| Apparel  | 108.6      | 108.3         | .3                                   | - .5          | 1.6        | 108.4     |
| Apparel less footwear                                    | 103.2      | 103.0         | .2                                   | - .5          | .8         | (1/)      |
| Nondurables less food and apparel                        | 128.9      | 128.8         | .1                                   | - .2          | 2.0        | 95.6      |
| Durables   | 112.5      | *113.3        | - .7                                 | - 1.1         | 0          | 96.3      |
| New cars   | 138.3      | 140.2         | - 1.4                                | - 3.5         | - 1.2      | 142.6     |
| Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)                                | 90.8       | * 94.7        | - 4.1                                | - 4.6         | .2         | (1/)      |
| Durables less cars                                       | 103.6      | 103.4         | .2                                   | .3            | .4         | 80.8      |
| Commodities less food                                    | 115.7      | 116.0         | - .3                                 | - .6          | 1.1        | 94.8      |
| Services   | 149.2      | 148.9         | .2                                   | .9            | 3.3        | 85.6      |
| Rent   | 141.2      | 141.0         | .1                                   | .3            | 1.5        | 63.0      |
| Services less rent                                       | 151.3      | 150.9         | .3                                   | 1.1           | 3.7        | 105.9     |
| Household operation services, gas, and electricity       | 138.3      | 137.8         | .4                                   | 1.2           | 3.4        | 59.0      |
| Transportation services                                  | 183.9      | 183.6         | .2                                   | .7            | 3.1        | 129.6     |
| Medical care services                                    | 161.3      | 160.8         | .3                                   | 1.3           | 4.6        | 128.8     |
| Other services 3/  | 134.9      | 134.7         | .1                                   | 1.0           | 3.6        | 131.4     |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00) | \$0.796    | \$0.796       | 0                                    | - .1          | - 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.  
\* Revised. See table A, page 2.

**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 -- |               |           |
|---|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|---|---------------|-----------|
|   | March 1960            | December 1959 | March 1959    | Year 1939   | December 1959                           | March 1959    | Year 1939 |
| <b>United States city average</b>                           | 125.7                 | 125.5         | 123.7         | <b>59.4</b> | 0.2                                     | 1.6           | 111.6     |
| <b>Cities priced monthly 1/</b>                             |                       |               |               |             |   |               |           |
| Chicago   | 129.2                 | 129.0         | 127.2         | <b>58.6</b> | .2                                      | 1.6           | 120.5     |
| Detroit   | 123.9                 | 124.0         | 123.2         | <b>59.0</b> | -.1                                     | .6            | 110.0     |
| Los Angeles*  | 129.3                 | 128.9         | 126.6         | <b>60.4</b> | .3                                      | 2.1           | 114.1     |
| New York  | 124.5                 | 124.2         | 121.7         | <b>60.1</b> | .2                                      | 2.3           | 107.2     |
| Philadelphia  | 126.0                 | 126.5         | 123.4         | <b>59.2</b> | -.4                                     | 2.1           | 112.8     |
| <b>Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/</b> | March 1960            | December 1959 | March 1959    | Year 1939   | December 1959                           | March 1959    | Year 1939 |
| Atlanta   | 126.7                 | 126.4         | 124.3         | 58.3        | .2                                      | 1.9           | 117.3     |
| Baltimore   | 127.7                 | 127.2         | 126.4         | 57.9        | .4                                      | 1.0           | 120.6     |
| Cincinnati  | 123.6                 | 123.8         | 122.2         | 58.4        | -.2                                     | 1.1           | 111.6     |
| St. Louis   | 126.3                 | 126.6         | 126.0         | 59.3        | -.2                                     | .2            | 113.0     |
| San Francisco   | 131.6                 | 131.8         | 129.0         | 58.6        | -.2                                     | 2.0           | 124.6     |
| <b>Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/</b>  | February 1960         | November 1959 | February 1959 | Year 1939   | November 1959                           | February 1959 | Year 1939 |
| Cleveland   | 126.1                 | 126.4         | 124.8         | 59.2        | -.2                                     | 1.0           | 113.0     |
| Houston   | 125.6                 | 125.4         | 124.1         | 59.5        | .2                                      | 1.2           | 111.1     |
| Scranton  | 121.4                 | 121.5         | 120.3         | 58.5        | -.1                                     | .9            | 107.5     |
| Seattle   | 3/ 129.0              | 129.2         | 126.9         | 59.2        | -.2                                     | 1.7           | 117.9     |
| Washington, D.C.  | 121.9                 | 121.7         | 121.3         | 60.4        | .2                                      | .5            | 101.8     |
| <b>Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/</b>    | 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  | 3/ 127.2              | 126.3         | 124.2         | 58.3        | .7                                      | 2.4           | 118.2     |

1/ Rents priced bimonthly.

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

3/ Revised.

\* See table A, page 2, for revised indexes.

**TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index—Percent changes from February 1960 to March 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 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------|---------|---------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>United States city average</b> | 0.1       | 0.3  | 0.1     | 0.4     | * - 0.7        | 0.2          | 0.1           | 0.2                    | - 0.1                  |
| Chicago                           | .1        | .6   | 0       | .2      | - .8           | 0            | .1            | .1                     | -.2                    |
| Detroit                           | 0         | .7   | .2      | -.3     | - 1.5          | -.1          | .7            | 0                      | 0                      |
| Los Angeles                       | * .4      | .6   | 0       | 0       | * 1.6          | 0            | .1            | 0                      | * .1                   |
| New York                          | .1        | -.1  | .1      | .7      | - .7           | .1           | 0             | 1.0                    | 0                      |
| Philadelphia                      | .4        | .8   | 0       | .9      | -.3            | .8           | -.1           | .6                     | -.1                    |

\* Based on revised indexes. See table A, page 2.

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

| Group  | *U.S. City Average | Atlanta | Balti- more | Chicago | Cincin- nati | Detroit | *Los Angeles | New York | Phila- delphia | St. Louis | San Francisco |
|--|--------------------|---------|-------------|---------|--------------|---------|--------------|----------|----------------|-----------|---------------|
| <b>Indexes (1947-49=100)</b>                           |                    |         |             |         |              |         |              |          |                |           |               |
| All items -----  | 125.7              | 126.7   | 127.7       | 129.2   | 123.6        | 123.9   | 129.3        | 124.5    | 126.0          | 126.3     | 131.6         |
| Food -----   | 117.7              | 115.0   | 118.2       | 115.1   | 117.8        | 116.5   | 124.4        | 120.7    | 120.0          | 116.7     | 122.7         |
| Food at home -----                                     | 114.7              | 112.6   | 113.9       | 112.2   | 114.6        | 113.5   | 119.4        | 116.8    | 116.6          | 111.3     | 119.5         |
| Cereals and bakery products ---                        | 135.5              | 126.4   | 132.9       | 130.4   | 135.4        | 124.8   | 147.3        | 142.0    | 136.3          | 123.0     | 151.3         |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----                         | 107.2              | 108.4   | 106.8       | 101.3   | 107.5        | 102.1   | 108.6        | 112.3    | 109.8          | 101.3     | 111.7         |
| Dairy products -----                                   | 116.4              | 116.3   | 116.8       | 120.3   | 117.4        | 112.8   | 115.0        | 119.7    | 121.1          | 103.4     | 120.4         |
| Fruits and vegetables -----                            | 125.0              | 125.9   | 121.5       | 119.3   | 123.0        | 134.3   | 138.3        | 121.0    | 125.4          | 129.5     | 132.8         |
| Other foods at home -----                              | 103.4              | 98.9    | 104.2       | 107.9   | 105.2        | 103.3   | 105.9        | 102.9    | 101.8          | 111.1     | 102.6         |
| Housing -----  | 131.3              | 136.1   | 128.2       | 140.6   | 125.4        | 127.1   | 138.7        | 129.3    | 125.5          | 129.3     | 135.4         |
| Rent -----   | 141.2              | 140.5   | 138.7       | 167.2   | 143.8        | --      | 148.2        | --       | 129.4          | 149.9     | 153.3         |
| Gas and electricity -----                              | 124.1              | 132.5   | 109.7       | 130.0   | 129.1        | 116.9   | 141.9        | 120.7    | 106.7          | 110.9     | 150.4         |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----                         | 137.2              | 138.0   | 130.6       | 139.4   | 152.9        | 127.6   | --           | 138.4    | 135.6          | 160.7     | --            |
| Housefurnishings -----                                 | 104.7              | 110.4   | 100.1       | 102.5   | 96.2         | 109.0   | 104.6        | 105.5    | 109.7          | 104.0     | 107.1         |
| Household operation -----                              | 136.9              | 145.8   | 135.5       | 138.8   | 138.3        | 125.0   | 127.7        | 138.3    | 141.7          | 139.0     | 126.6         |
| Apparel -----  | 108.8              | 114.6   | 111.3       | 112.5   | 107.7        | 105.3   | 111.4        | 107.9    | 107.8          | 108.6     | 110.2         |
| Men's and boys' -----                                  | 108.9              | 117.5   | 106.8       | 115.4   | 108.4        | 107.5   | 112.8        | 108.8    | 109.6          | 109.1     | 109.1         |
| Women's and girls' -----                               | 99.6               | 104.5   | 105.7       | 100.7   | 97.9         | 94.1    | 102.6        | 97.5     | 96.8           | 100.5     | 101.3         |
| Footwear -----   | 139.7              | 145.5   | 142.7       | 144.1   | 145.0        | 136.0   | 141.4        | 140.5    | 140.7          | 136.3     | 146.1         |
| Other apparel -----                                    | 93.0               | 93.7    | 98.7        | 97.1    | 89.6         | 85.6    | 86.2         | 97.2     | 95.2           | 93.6      | 91.6          |
| Transportation -----                                   | 146.5              | 144.6   | 162.1       | 156.8   | 145.6        | 136.8   | 144.9        | 148.5    | 155.7          | 161.4     | 164.8         |
| Private -----  | 134.9              | 136.0   | 140.9       | 137.4   | 134.1        | 129.0   | 138.5        | 130.0    | 135.9          | 138.1     | 151.9         |
| Public -----   | 199.4              | 193.8   | 215.4       | 205.7   | 191.4        | 179.4   | 186.5        | 191.4    | 193.4          | 237.1     | 184.8         |
| Medical care -----                                     | 155.0              | 146.6   | 166.6       | 167.3   | 155.3        | 158.6   | 149.7        | 143.8    | 160.6          | 170.4     | 157.6         |
| Personal care -----                                    | 132.7              | 139.7   | 133.3       | 137.7   | 129.2        | 134.1   | 134.8        | 124.0    | 143.0          | 131.6     | 130.4         |
| Reading and recreation -----                           | 120.9              | 123.6   | 132.4       | 125.5   | 112.2        | 121.0   | 102.2        | 123.6    | 124.5          | 98.9      | 120.3         |
| Other goods and services -----                         | 131.7              | 133.9   | 140.3       | 124.0   | 130.9        | 139.8   | 133.0        | 133.3    | 132.3          | 132.0     | 133.6         |
| <b>Percent change from December 1959 to March 1960</b> |                    |         |             |         |              |         |              |          |                |           |               |
| All items -----  | 0.2                | 0.2     | 0.4         | 0.2     | - 0.2        | - 0.1   | 0.3          | 0.2      | - 0.4          | - 0.2     | - 0.2         |
| Food -----   | - .1               | .7      | .7          | .4      | - .3         | .2      | .6           | - .1     | - .1           | - .8      | - .3          |
| Food at home -----                                     | - .3               | .6      | .5          | .5      | - .4         | .3      | .4           | - .3     | - .3           | - 1.0     | - .6          |
| Cereals and bakery products ---                        | .7                 | 1.0     | 3.7         | .7      | 2.5          | .2      | .3           | .1       | .5             | 2.3       | .3            |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -----                         | .6                 | .6      | .6          | 4.0     | .3           | 1.1     | - 1.4        | 3.2      | 1.3            | - 1.7     | - 1.7         |
| Dairy products -----                                   | - .3               | 5.2     | - .6        | 1.3     | - .3         | .8      | 1.3          | - 1.6    | - 1.4          | - 1.4     | 1.1           |
| Fruits and vegetables -----                            | - .4               | - 1.1   | .3          | - 3.1   | - 2.1        | 2.2     | 3.1          | - 2.3    | - .3           | - 1.4     | .2            |
| Other foods at home -----                              | - 1.9              | - 1.2   | - .4        | - 2.0   | - 2.0        | - 2.6   | - .3         | - 2.4    | - 1.9          | - 1.0     | - 1.9         |
| Housing -----  | - .7               | .9      | .5          | .3      | .1           | - .1    | .6           | .8       | .2             | .4        | .7            |
| Rent -----   | .3                 | .6      | .4          | 1/ .5   | .1           | --      | 1/ .3        | --       | 1/ .1          | .3        | .6            |
| Gas and electricity -----                              | 1.1                | - .2    | - .4        | - .2    | 0            | - .3    | .1           | .8       | .8             | 0         | 0             |
| Solid fuels and fuel oil -----                         | - .1               | 0       | - 1.5       | - 2.5   | .7           | - .3    | --           | .3       | 3.7            | - .5      | --            |
| Housefurnishings -----                                 | .5                 | 0       | .5          | - .2    | 0            | .6      | .5           | 1.3      | .5             | - .3      | - 1.4         |
| Household operation -----                              | 1.0                | .8      | .6          | 0       | .3           | 1.3     | 1.8          | 1.3      | - .1           | 1.2       | .6            |
| Apparel -----  | - .4               | - .5    | .4          | - .8    | .6           | - 1.5   | .1           | 0        | .3             | .1        | - .1          |
| Men's and boys' -----                                  | - .2               | - .3    | - 1.1       | - .3    | .9           | - .4    | .2           | .2       | .2             | .6        | - .1          |
| Women's and girls' -----                               | - .7               | - 1.2   | 1.0         | - 1.8   | 0            | - 3.5   | 0            | .1       | - .1           | - .4      | - .3          |
| Footwear -----   | 0                  | .1      | 1.6         | .6      | .7           | .4      | - .1         | - .6     | .9             | .4        | - .1          |
| Other apparel -----                                    | - .1               | .3      | - .3        | - .7    | 1.2          | - 1.0   | .2           | .4       | 1.3            | 0         | 0             |
| Transportation -----                                   | - 1.5              | - 2.8   | - .6        | - 2.2   | - 1.8        | - 2.8   | - .5         | - .7     | - .4           | - 1.2     | - 2.8         |
| Private -----  | - 1.9              | - 3.2   | - .6        | - 2.8   | - 2.0        | - 3.4   | - 2.5        | - 1.0    | - .4           | - 1.5     | - 3.2         |
| Public -----   | 1.1                | 0       | 0           | 0       | 0            | 0       | 13.5         | 0        | 0              | 0         | 0             |
| Medical care -----                                     | 1.2                | .5      | .7          | 4.8     | .5           | .4      | .2           | .2       | .9             | - .1      | 1.5           |
| Personal care -----                                    | - .2               | - .4    | - .4        | - .3    | - .7         | - .4    | - .2         | - 1.4    | - .5           | - .1      | .8            |
| Reading and recreation -----                           | .4                 | 1.1     | .2          | - .1    | .6           | 3.6     | - .3         | 1.6      | - 8.3          | .4        | 0             |
| Other goods and services -----                         | 0                  | 0       | 0           | - .3    | - .1         | 2.9     | .1           | - .1     | - .2           | .1        | 0             |

1/ Change from January 1960 to March 1960.  
 \* See table A, page 2, for revised indexes.

**TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index — Food and its subgroups**  
 March 1960 indexes and percent changes, February 1960 to March 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 | 117.7      | 0.3            | 114.7              | 0.3            | 135.5                       | 0.2            | 107.2                    | 0.9            | 116.4          | - 0.1          | 125.0                 | - 0.7          | 103.4               | 0.5            |
| Atlanta           | 115.0      | .8             | 112.6              | .9             | 126.4                       | .4             | 108.4                    | 1.0            | 116.3          | 2.4            | 125.9                 | - .9           | 98.9                | 1.2            |
| Baltimore         | 118.2      | 1.3            | 113.9              | 1.3            | 132.9                       | 3.2            | 106.8                    | 1.0            | 116.8          | - .1           | 121.5                 | 1.2            | 104.2               | 2.2            |
| Boston            | 118.3      | .5             | 114.9              | .7             | 132.6                       | .5             | 108.6                    | 1.0            | 113.0          | - 1.0          | 128.1                 | .3             | 101.4               | 1.9            |
| Chicago           | 115.1      | .6             | 112.2              | .7             | 130.4                       | 1.2            | 101.3                    | 2.0            | 120.3          | - .2           | 119.3                 | - 1.6          | 107.9               | .9             |
| Cincinnati        | 117.8      | 0              | 114.6              | .2             | 135.4                       | 1.4            | 107.5                    | 1.2            | 117.4          | .2             | 123.0                 | - 1.8          | 105.2               | -.2            |
| Cleveland         | 113.4      | .4             | 110.3              | .5             | 128.2                       | - .1           | 101.3                    | .9             | 110.5          | .1             | 118.8                 | .3             | 105.4               | .8             |
| Detroit           | 116.5      | .7             | 113.5              | .9             | 124.8                       | - .1           | 102.1                    | 1.1            | 112.8          | .2             | 134.3                 | 2.1            | 103.3               | .6             |
| Houston           | 113.0      | -.3            | 109.7              | -.5            | 125.8                       | .2             | 100.8                    | .5             | 115.9          | 0              | 118.9                 | - 3.4          | 100.8               | -.2            |
| Kansas City       | 110.7      | .3             | 107.3              | .5             | 128.2                       | .2             | 101.1                    | 1.4            | 108.6          | .1             | 114.6                 | - .1           | 96.5                | .2             |
| Los Angeles       | 124.4      | .6             | 119.4              | .4             | 147.3                       | .3             | 108.6                    | 1.3            | 115.0          | 0              | 138.3                 | .4             | 105.9               | -.1            |
| Minneapolis       | 116.6      | .1             | 113.0              | .1             | 135.0                       | .1             | 102.7                    | 1.3            | 107.6          | - .2           | 128.6                 | - 1.8          | 108.4               | .6             |
| New York          | 120.7      | -.1            | 116.8              | -.2            | 142.0                       | - .1           | 112.3                    | 1.1            | 119.7          | - 1.2          | 121.0                 | - 1.9          | 102.9               | .7             |
| Philadelphia      | 120.0      | .8             | 116.6              | .9             | 136.3                       | - .1           | 109.8                    | 2.5            | 121.1          | .1             | 125.4                 | - .8           | 101.8               | 1.5            |
| Pittsburgh        | 118.4      | -.2            | 116.2              | -.3            | 133.7                       | .2             | 107.2                    | -.2            | 117.9          | .3             | 121.2                 | - 2.0          | 113.0               | .4             |
| Portland, Oreg.   | 120.0      | -.2            | 116.9              | -.2            | 140.9                       | -.4            | 109.2                    | .9             | 121.6          | .2             | 122.8                 | - 1.1          | 106.1               | -.7            |
| St. Louis         | 116.7      | -.7            | 111.3              | -.8            | 123.0                       | - 1.0          | 101.3                    | -.9            | 103.4          | - .3           | 129.5                 | - 2.0          | 111.1               | .1             |
| San Francisco     | 122.7      | .4             | 119.5              | .6             | 151.3                       | .1             | 111.7                    | 0              | 120.4          | 1.3            | 132.8                 | 1.1            | 102.6               | .2             |
| Seranton          | 113.9      | .8             | 112.2              | 1.0            | 133.2                       | .1             | 105.3                    | .8             | 112.8          | .1             | 120.5                 | 3.5            | 100.5               | .7             |
| Seattle           | 120.9      | -.1            | 118.1              | -.2            | 147.9                       | .1             | 109.3                    | 0              | 119.8          | 1.3            | 130.3                 | - .5           | 103.4               | - 1.2          |
| Washington, D.C.  | 117.9      | .6             | 115.0              | .8             | 131.8                       | .8             | 106.1                    | .5             | 119.9          | - .8           | 121.6                 | .7             | 106.7               | 2.5            |

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

| Food and unit                            | March 1960 | February 1960 | Food and unit                        | March 1960 | February 1960 |
|--|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
|  | Cents      | Cents         |                                      | Cents      | Cents         |
| <b>Cereals and bakery products:</b>      |            |               | <b>Fresh—Continued</b>               |            |               |
| Flour, wheat _____ 5 lb.                 | 54.9       | 54.7          | Peaches * _____ 1b.                  |            |               |
| Biscuit mix _____ 20 oz.                 | 26.9       | 27.0          | Strawberries * _____ pt.             |            |               |
| Corn meal _____ 1b.                      | 13.1       | 13.1          | Grapes, seedless * _____ 1b.         |            |               |
| Rice, short grain _____ 1b.              | 18.7       | 18.8          | Watermelons * _____ 1b.              |            |               |
| Rice, long grain _____ 1b.               | 20.5       | 20.5          | Potatoes _____ 10 lb.                | 69.3       | 68.6          |
| Rolled oats _____ 18 oz.                 | 21.9       | 21.7          | Sweet potatoes _____ 1b.             | 12.8       | 12.8          |
| Corn flakes _____ 12 oz.                 | 25.7       | 25.7          | Onions _____ 1b.                     | 8.1        | 8.4           |
| Bread, white _____ 1b.                   | 20.0       | 20.0          | Carrots _____ 1b.                    | 12.7       | 12.9          |
| Soda crackers _____ 1b.                  | 28.9       | 28.9          | Lettuce _____ head                   | 17.7       | 20.1          |
| Vanilla cookies _____ 7 oz.              | 24.4       | 24.4          | Celery _____ 1b.                     | 14.3       | 14.8          |
| <b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>         |            |               | Cabbage _____ 1b.                    | 9.9        | 10.8          |
| Round steak _____ 1b.                    | 105.6      | 105.2         | Tomatoes _____ 1b.                   | 34.1       | 37.4          |
| Chuck roast _____ 1b.                    | 62.6       | 62.6          | Beans, green _____ 1b.               | 32.8       | 33.0          |
| Rib roast _____ 1b.                      | 81.6       | 81.3          | <b>Canned:</b>                       |            |               |
| Hamburger _____ 1b.                      | 52.7       | 52.5          | Orange juice _____ 48-oz. can        | 43.0       | 43.5          |
| Veal cutlets _____ 1b.                   | 144.0      | 143.1         | Peaches _____ #2½ can                | 33.5       | 33.5          |
| Pork chops, center cut _____ 1b.         | 80.8       | 78.2          | Pineapple _____ #2 can               | 37.7       | 37.6          |
| Bacon, sliced _____ 1b.                  | 58.8       | 58.2          | Fruit cocktail _____ #303 can        | 27.0       | 27.0          |
| Ham, whole _____ 1b.                     | 58.8       | 58.2          | Corn, cream style _____ #303 can     | 18.7       | 18.8          |
| Lamb, leg _____ 1b.                      | 73.7       | 72.5          | Peas, green _____ #303 can           | 20.0       | 20.0          |
| Frankfurters _____ 1b.                   | 61.2       | 61.2          | Tomatoes _____ #303 can              | 15.8       | 15.4          |
| Lauchon meat, canned _____ 12 oz.        | 50.4       | 50.3          | Baby foods _____ 4½ to 5 oz.         | 10.0       | 10.0          |
| Frying chickens, ready-to-cook _____ 1b. | 44.2       | 43.2          | <b>Dried:</b>                        |            |               |
| Ocean perch, fillet, frozen _____ 1b.    | 47.4       | 47.6          | Prunes _____ 1b.                     | 39.4       | 39.5          |
| Haddock, fillet, frozen _____ 1b.        | 56.4       | 56.6          | Beans _____ 1b.                      | 16.8       | 16.9          |
| Salmon, pink, canned _____ 16 oz.        | 65.0       | 65.0          | <b>Other foods at home:</b>          |            |               |
| Tuna fish, canned _____ 6 to 6½ oz.      | 32.2       | 32.2          | Tomato soup _____ 10½ to 11-oz. can  | 12.5       | 12.4          |
| <b>Dairy products:</b>                   |            |               | Beans with pork _____ 16-oz. can     | 14.9       | 14.9          |
| Milk, fresh, (grocery) _____ qt.         | 24.7       | 24.7          | Pickles, sliced _____ 15 oz.         | 26.4       | 26.3          |
| Milk, fresh, (delivered) _____ qt.       | 25.9       | 25.9          | Catsup, tomato _____ 14 oz.          | 22.3       | 22.3          |
| Ice cream _____ ½ gal.                   | 87.5       | 87.5          | Coffee _____ 1b. can                 | 75.4       | 75.4          |
| Butter _____ 1b.                         | 74.4       | 74.5          | Coffee _____ 1b. bag                 | 59.6       | 59.6          |
| Cheese, American process _____ ½ lb.     | 33.9       | 33.8          | Tea bags _____ pkg. of 16            | 24.3       | 24.4          |
| Milk, evaporated _____ 14½-oz. can       | 15.7       | 15.7          | Cola drink, carton _____ 38 oz.      | 29.0       | 29.1          |
| <b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>            |            |               | Shortening, hydrogenated _____ 3 lb. | 80.8       | 80.6          |
| <b>Frozen:</b>                           |            |               | Margarine, colored _____ 1b.         | 26.9       | 27.0          |
| Strawberries _____ 10 oz.                | 26.6       | 26.6          | Lard _____ 1b.                       | 18.1       | 18.2          |
| Orange juice concentrate _____ 6 oz.     | 22.4       | 22.6          | Salad dressing _____ pt.             | 35.9       | 36.1          |
| Peas, green _____ 10 oz.                 | 19.9       | 19.9          | Peanut butter _____ 1b.              | 55.3       | 55.4          |
| Beans, green _____ 9 oz.                 | 22.7       | 22.8          | Sugar _____ 5 lb.                    | 57.5       | 57.3          |
| <b>Fresh:</b>                            |            |               | Corn syrup _____ 24 oz.              | 26.6       | 26.6          |
| Apples _____ 1b.                         | 14.7       | 14.1          | Grape jelly _____ 12 oz.             | 28.8       | 28.7          |
| Bananas _____ 1b.                        | 16.2       | 16.5          | Chocolate bar _____ 1 oz.            | 5.1        | 5.1           |
| Oranges, size 200 _____ doz.             | 64.9       | 63.4          | Eggs, Grade A, large _____ doz.      | 49.5       | 48.2          |
| Lemons _____ 1b.                         | 19.0       | 19.1          | Gelatin, flavored _____ 3 to 4 oz.   | 9.3        | 9.3           |
| Grapefruit * _____ each                  | 12.1       | 12.1          |                                      |            |               |

\* 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

|                |                |                    |                 |               |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 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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