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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MAY 1960

The Consumer Price Index increased slightly in May to 126.3 (1947-49 = 100), exceeding the April high by 0.1 percent, the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. In May, as in April, the index was 1.9 percent higher than in the same months a year ago.

The small rise in May was largely for foods, but the services also contributed to the increase. Some foods, however, and a wide range of other commodities declined in price, thus moderating the overall uptrend.

Among the declines were those for new and used cars, tires, and gasoline, so that the index for private transportation, which has been on a steady downtrend since December, edged below year-earlier levels for the first time in about 4 years. The housing component of the CPI declined in May for the first time since July 1958, because of price decreases for many of the commodities used in home furnishing and upkeep. For example, prices for appliances weakened further last month; white sales brought the prices of home textiles down; and heating fuels were down seasonally.

FOOD The 0.3-percent rise in the prices of store-bought food in May was a much more moderate rise than in April, but it brought these prices to 1.6 percent above May 1959 levels. Prices of restaurant meals continued up, but at a slower pace (0.1 percent) than at any time so far this year.

Food prices moved diversely in May. Increases were reported chiefly for ham and bacon and fresh fruits and vegetables. Prices went down for eggs, beef, poultry, and milk. The increases for ham and bacon and fresh fruits were primarily seasonal, reflecting declining supplies. The sharp rise for a number of fresh vegetables, however, stemmed from the late winter weather and heavy spring rains, which delayed and reduced early spring harvests. Prices went up most for cabbage, onions, and celery.

Egg prices dropped 5.3 percent influenced by an unusual increase in egg production. This recent increase in egg production was a recovery from low production earlier in the year, which resulted from the late winter weather. Among the meats, prices for pork chops and beef declined, although prices of ham, bacon, and lamb rose. Poultry prices also went down in May. Prices for dairy products decreased seasonally. Although such fruits as apples and grapefruit rose sharply in price because of seasonally short supplies, strawberries came in more plentifully, as is usual in May, and their prices fell.

PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION Almost all elements in the index for private transportation went down in May, including prices for new and used cars, tires, and gasoline. Gasoline prices dropped the most (0.8 percent), chiefly because of heavy inventories in midcontinent. Nevertheless, gasoline prices this May were still well above a year earlier (1.9 percent), largely because of the 1-cent increase in the Federal tax imposed last October.

Dealers' selling prices of new cars declined 0.4 percent in May, and were 4.5 percent below the high of last November. These decreases, over the month and from the beginning phase of the 1960 model year, were about as usual for these periods. The price decline for used cars, which began last October, persisted into May, although used car prices usually pick up in May. The 0.2 percent decrease last month,

however, was substantially less than the slump in March and April. Inventories of used cars are high for this time of year, when attractive price concessions are ordinarily available on new cars. By May, used car prices had dropped almost 7 percent since February, and were 4.6 percent below a year earlier. Prices for tires declined 1.8 percent from April to May because of sales. Tire prices have ranged between 8 and 12 percent below year-ago levels since last August.

#### HOUSING

Most elements of housing cost and upkeep declined or remained about the same in price between April and May. The most significant exception was in gas rates, which rose primarily in response to increased pipeline costs of gas to the utility companies. In contrast, other heating fuels declined seasonally in price, and prices for housefurnishings went down, chiefly because of traditional May white sales for sheets, as well as promotional sales of appliances and the introduction of new appliance models at lower prices. Prices of appliances have been decreasing since the winter because sales have not been up to expectations. Although sales of the larger appliances depend in large part on the replacement and home remodeling market, they are affected also by new housing activity, which has shown a relatively slow spring upturn. Rents, which have been rising slowly but almost continuously for some time, showed no change in May for the first time in a year. In recent months rents have been declining in the smaller cities.

#### SERVICES

Prices for most services continued up in May. The 0.3-percent uptrend in prices for medical care was influenced mainly by a rise for physicians' house and office visits, and for hospitalization insurance. The index for medical care stood at 155.9 (1947-49 = 100) in May and was 3.8 percent above May 1959. Public transportation rates, at 199.4 percent of the 1947-49 average, were unchanged for the second successive month.

#### COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

Cost-of-living pay increases based on the May CPI will go into effect for upwards of 200,000 workers employed principally in the aircraft and meatpacking industries. The semiannual wage adjustment in the meatpacking industry will amount to 2 cents. Quarterly cost-of-living adjustments in the aircraft industry will amount to 1 or 2 cents. The remaining groups of workers affected--numbering about 40,000--are employed in a variety of other industries, including segments of metalworking, chemicals, and trucking.

#### INTRODUCTION OF NINE NEW ITEMS IN CPI

Conforming to the Bureau's continuing policy for improvement of the Consumer Price Index as a means of measuring price changes, nine new items--eight foods and a liquid detergent--were introduced in the CPI in May 1960. United States average prices for the eight foods for April and May 1960 are shown in table 6 of this report. Liquid detergent is included in the household operation subgroup.

In all cases, weights for the new items were obtained by redistributing the weight of the items which have represented the relatively small and homogeneous commodity classes to which they belong. In this way, the level of living represented by the index market basket has been maintained unchanged while the sample of items for pricing has been expanded.

Three of the items--frozen lemonade concentrate, frozen french fried potatoes, and liquid detergent--have become important since the 1950 Consumer Expenditure Survey which provides the basis for the present index weights. The relative importances of each of the three items within their respective commodity classes, therefore, were determined from the latest available national data. The appropriate percents

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to May 1960 from --			
	May 1960	April 1960	April 1960	February 1960	May 1959	Year 1939
All items-----	126.3	126.2	0.1	0.6	1.9	112.6
Food-----	119.7	119.5	.2	2.0	1.7	154.1
Food at home-----	117.0	116.7	.3	2.3	1.6	148.4
Cereals and bakery products-----	135.6	135.8	-.1	.3	.8	137.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	109.7	109.3	.4	3.3	- 1.7	163.7
Dairy products-----	115.0	115.3	-.3	- 1.3	2.1	130.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	132.9	129.9	2.3	5.6	5.8	187.0
Other foods at home-----	104.9	106.1	- 1.1	1.9	2.0	116.7
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	118.6	118.5	.1	.7	3.0	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	131.2	131.4	-.2	0	1.9	72.4
Rent-----	141.4	141.4	0	.3	1.5	63.3
Gas and electricity-----	124.7	124.4	.2	.6	5.1	18.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	132.9	136.3	- 2.5	- 4.4	- 1.8	135.6
Housefurnishings-----	104.3	104.7	-.4	0	.6	95.3
Household operation-----	137.2	137.0	.1	.7	2.5	100.6
Apparel-----	108.9	108.9	0	.5	1.5	107.4
Men's and boys'-----	109.7	109.5	.2	.9	1.4	115.9
Women's and girls'-----	99.4	99.6	-.2	.1	.4	82.4
Footwear-----	139.8	139.8	0	.8	4.7	177.9
Other apparel-----	93.2	92.9	.3	.4	1.2	129.6
Transportation-----	145.6	146.1	-.3	- 1.3	.1	107.4
Private-----	133.9	134.4	-.4	- 1.5	-.4	104.4
Public-----	199.4	199.4	0	.1	3.5	145.3
Medical care-----	155.9	155.5	.3	.8	3.8	114.7
Personal care-----	133.2	132.9	.2	.5	1.9	123.5
Reading and recreation-----	121.4	121.1	.2	.7	3.1	92.7
Other goods and services-----	131.9	131.9	0	.1	2.7	86.8
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	129.7	129.8	-.1	0	1.9	87.7
All items less shelter-----	123.8	123.7	.1	.7	1.8	123.5
Commodities-----	117.3	117.4	-.1	.5	1.2	127.3
Nondurables-----	119.4	119.4	0	1.2	1.7	132.3
Food-----	119.7	119.5	.2	2.0	1.7	154.1
Nondurables less food-----	119.4	119.7	-.3	0	1.6	103.4
Apparel-----	108.8	108.8	0	.5	1.5	108.8
Apparel less footwear-----	103.4	103.4	0	.4	.8	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	128.4	129.0	-.5	-.3	1.7	94.8
Durables-----	111.9	112.1	-.2	- 1.2	-.7	95.3
New cars-----	137.8	138.4	-.4	- 1.7	-.8	141.8
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	88.1	88.3	-.2	- 7.0	- 4.6	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.5	103.6	-.1	.1	.1	80.6
Commodities less food-----	115.3	115.6	-.3	-.6	.7	94.1
Services-----	149.6	149.4	.1	.5	3.0	86.1
Rent-----	141.4	141.4	0	.3	1.5	63.3
Services less rent-----	151.7	151.5	.1	.5	3.3	106.4
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	138.8	138.5	.2	.7	3.5	59.5
Transportation services-----	184.3	184.2	.1	.4	2.6	130.1
Medical care services-----	162.4	161.9	.3	1.0	4.2	130.4
Other services 3/-----	135.2	135.0	.1	.4	3.0	131.9
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.792	\$0.792	0	-.5	- 1.7	-53.0

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 --		
	May 1960	February 1960	May 1959	Year 1939	February 1960	May 1959	Year 1939
United States city average	126.3	125.6	124.0	59.4	0.6	1.9	112.6
<b>Cities priced monthly 1/</b>							
Chicago	129.6	129.1	127.4	58.6	.4	1.7	121.2
Detroit	124.3	123.9	123.4	59.0	.3	.7	110.7
Los Angeles	129.8	128.8	126.8	60.4	.8	2.4	114.9
New York	124.9	124.4	122.1	60.1	.4	2.3	107.8
Philadelphia	126.4	125.5	123.2	59.2	.7	2.6	113.5
<b>Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/</b>							
Cleveland	127.1	126.1	125.3	59.2	.8	1.4	114.7
Houston	125.1	125.6	124.1	59.5	-.4	.8	110.3
Scranton	122.1	121.4	120.0	58.5	.6	1.8	108.7
Seattle	129.7	129.0	127.9	59.2	.5	1.4	119.1
Washington, D.C.	123.1	121.9	121.8	60.4	1.0	1.1	103.8
<b>Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/</b>							
Boston	128.3	126.4	125.1	61.0	1.5	2.6	110.3
Kansas City	126.6	127.0	125.5	61.7	-.3	.9	105.2
Minneapolis	127.1	126.2	125.1	60.7	.7	1.6	109.4
Pittsburgh	127.9	126.6	124.5	58.1	1.0	2.7	120.1
Portland, Oregon	127.5	127.2	125.3	58.3	.2	1.8	118.7
<b>Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/</b>							
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

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 April 1960 to May 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	0	- 0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0
Chicago	.1	.4	0	- 0.3	-.6	0	-.1	-.1	0
Detroit	.1	-.1	-.2	.5	.7	.8	-.3	.1	0
Los Angeles	-.2	-.6	.2	-.2	-.8	0	-.1	0	0
New York	.2	.3	-.2	-.1	.1	.1	.4	.7	0.1
Philadelphia	0	.4	-.5	0	-.1	0	.4	0	0

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	126.3	129.6	127.1	124.3	125.1	129.8	124.9	126.4	122.1	129.7	123.1
Food -----	119.7	117.2	116.4	119.0	114.4	126.1	121.8	121.7	115.8	122.6	120.4
Food at home -----	117.0	114.6	113.5	116.4	111.1	120.0	118.1	118.5	114.3	120.1	117.9
Cereals and bakery products --	135.6	131.0	128.1	125.2	125.6	147.6	142.1	136.8	134.2	148.1	133.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	109.7	103.4	105.1	103.8	104.1	110.5	113.2	111.3	108.1	112.3	109.0
Dairy products -----	115.0	120.2	110.1	113.0	115.6	113.2	115.5	118.4	109.9	119.7	120.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	132.9	125.9	128.7	144.4	120.3	139.2	128.7	134.6	129.5	137.3	130.8
Other foods at home -----	104.9	110.5	107.1	105.8	101.5	106.4	104.4	103.0	101.3	103.2	107.9
Housing -----	131.2	140.1	131.0	127.0	133.0	139.1	129.2	125.4	123.7	133.3	121.8
Rent -----	141.4	166.8	160.8	--	138.6	148.9	--	129.3	133.1	151.0	132.0
Gas and electricity -----	124.7	130.0	124.1	116.4	133.9	141.6	120.6	106.7	121.3	86.7	136.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	132.9	136.4	136.6	125.4	--	--	136.5	123.5	129.3	138.6	132.0
Housefurnishings -----	104.3	102.3	99.5	109.3	104.1	104.6	105.0	110.2	98.1	103.7	100.0
Household operation -----	137.2	138.5	125.8	125.6	145.1	129.1	137.9	141.8	122.1	135.2	134.5
Apparel -----	108.9	112.4	109.8	105.7	112.8	111.2	108.0	107.7	113.1	111.8	105.3
Men's and boys' -----	109.7	115.9	114.1	108.3	109.6	113.3	109.1	110.2	112.9	114.1	106.9
Women's and girls' -----	99.4	100.1	99.1	94.4	106.5	102.0	97.3	96.4	104.6	101.2	97.0
Footwear -----	139.8	143.8	134.9	135.9	145.1	141.3	140.7	140.5	146.3	146.3	132.4
Other apparel -----	93.2	97.8	95.8	85.8	90.8	86.1	97.3	95.1	94.2	89.6	91.0
Transportation -----	145.6	154.6	142.3	135.7	137.2	143.4	148.1	154.8	146.8	149.6	145.9
Private -----	133.9	134.9	133.3	127.7	128.9	136.8	129.6	134.8	133.3	137.5	137.3
Public -----	199.4	205.7	181.9	179.4	198.9	186.5	191.4	193.4	191.9	189.6	179.1
Medical care -----	135.9	168.0	173.1	159.8	138.5	151.2	144.0	160.6	133.6	158.1	154.2
Personal care -----	133.2	137.9	128.8	133.9	140.7	134.3	125.2	143.6	144.2	142.8	131.7
Reading and recreation -----	121.4	125.7	131.0	116.7	119.0	102.6	125.1	124.2	156.0	120.5	121.9
Other goods and services -----	131.9	124.0	135.2	139.9	137.5	133.1	133.4	132.4	123.7	143.2	136.4
Percent change from February 1960 to May 1960											
All items -----	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.3	- 0.4	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.5	1.0
Food -----	2.0	2.4	3.1	2.9	1.0	1.9	.8	2.2	2.5	1.3	2.7
Food at home -----	2.3	2.9	3.5	3.5	.8	.9	.9	2.5	2.9	1.5	3.3
Cereals and bakery products --	.3	1.7	-.2	.2	0	.5	0	.3	.8	.3	1.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	3.3	4.1	4.7	2.8	3.8	3.1	1.9	3.9	3.4	2.7	3.2
Dairy products -----	- 1.3	-.3	-.3	.4	-.3	- 1.6	- 4.6	- 2.1	- 2.5	1.2	-.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.6	3.8	8.7	9.8	- 2.3	1.1	4.4	6.5	11.3	4.8	8.3
Other foods at home -----	1.9	3.4	2.4	3.0	.5	.4	2.2	2.7	1.5	- 1.4	3.7
Housing -----	0	-.4	-.3	.1	-.1	.3	0	-.1	- 1.0	-.4	.2
Rent -----	.3	1/- .2	.2	--	-.3	1/ .5	--	1/- .1	.5	.3	.5
Gas and electricity -----	.6	-.1	0	-.3	0	-.1	-.2	0	0	0	1.1
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	- 4.4	- 4.8	- 5.6	- 2.0	--	--	- 3.7	- 9.6	- 11.7	- 2.3	- 7.9
Housefurnishings -----	0	-.1	-.9	1.2	.5	.4	.2	.5	- 2.7	-.2	.8
Household operation -----	.7	-.1	0	1.1	-.2	2.1	-.1	.3	2.7	- 2.2	.7
Apparel -----	.5	.1	-.4	.1	2.0	-.2	.8	.8	2.0	0	.4
Men's and boys' -----	.9	1.0	.4	.8	2.8	.6	.6	.7	.8	.8	- 1.8
Women's and girls' -----	-.1	- 1.1	- 1.5	-.7	2.6	-.8	1.0	.9	2.5	-.8	1.7
Footwear -----	.8	.8	.4	.4	-.6	-.1	.7	1.3	2.7	.4	.5
Other apparel -----	.4	1.3	.4	-.1	.7	-.1	.5	.3	.9	1.6	1.3
Transportation -----	- 1.3	- 2.2	-.4	- 2.3	- 6.8	.6	-.9	-.8	-.7	2.2	-.2
Private -----	- 1.5	- 2.8	-.4	- 2.8	- 7.9	.7	- 1.2	- 1.0	-.8	2.4	- 1.1
Public -----	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.9
Medical care -----	.8	.4	2.0	.6	1.4	1.0	.2	.8	.1	.1	.3
Personal care -----	.5	.2	.7	.5	.1	-.3	1.0	.3	-.3	.3	1.4
Reading and recreation -----	.7	.2	.6	- 3.6	.5	.4	2.2	.4	.9	.8	1.5
Other goods and services -----	.1	-.2	.1	.1	.2	.2	.1	0	.1	.1	-.1

1/ Change from March 1960 to May 1960.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index — Food and its subgroups  
 May 1960 indexes and percent changes, April 1960 to May 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	119.7	0.2	117.0	0.3	135.6	- 0.1	109.7	0.4	115.0	- 0.3	132.9	2.3	104.9	- 1.1
Atlanta	116.8	0	114.7	.1	125.2	-.9	112.3	.4	116.5	.2	131.3	2.7	100.0	- 1.5
Baltimore	120.5	.7	116.7	1.0	133.1	-.2	110.0	1.3	116.7	.1	129.7	5.3	105.6	- 1.6
Boston	118.6	-.5	115.3	-.4	133.1	-.2	109.5	.5	107.4	-.2	132.1	-.3	103.1	- 2.1
Chicago	117.2	.4	114.6	.5	131.0	.4	103.4	.2	120.2	-.1	125.9	1.6	110.5	.6
Cincinnati	120.4	0	117.4	-.1	135.9	-.1	110.4	-.3	117.4	.1	130.7	2.1	107.3	- 1.4
Cleveland	116.4	.5	113.5	.4	128.1	-.3	105.1	.5	110.1	-.1	128.7	3.0	107.1	-.9
Detroit	119.0	-.1	116.4	0	125.2	.1	103.8	- 1.0	113.0	0	144.4	1.9	105.8	-.8
Houston	114.4	-.3	111.1	-.4	125.6	-.4	104.1	.9	115.6	-.2	120.3	-.3	101.5	0
Kansas City	112.7	.3	109.8	.5	130.2	.6	103.1	0	110.7	2.1	119.8	1.2	98.2	-.9
Los Angeles	126.1	-.6	120.0	.8	147.6	.2	110.5	-.4	113.2	-.4	139.2	- 3.3	106.4	.2
Minneapolis	118.1	-.4	114.9	-.5	134.8	-.1	104.4	.1	107.5	-.1	133.9	-.9	110.6	- 2.0
New York	121.8	.3	118.1	.4	142.1	-.1	113.2	.4	115.5	- 1.5	128.7	5.1	104.4	- 2.3
Philadelphia	121.7	.4	118.5	.4	136.8	-.1	111.3	.7	118.4	.3	134.6	3.6	103.0	- 2.4
Pittsburgh	122.2	1.0	120.7	1.3	137.7	-.1	110.9	1.5	117.8	-.2	139.0	4.8	115.0	-.4
Portland, Oreg.	120.4	-.7	117.3	-.8	140.7	-.4	110.4	-.7	120.8	-.6	124.5	- 1.4	106.1	-.5
St. Louis	118.5	.4	113.4	.5	122.4	-.6	105.4	.5	101.4	.4	135.5	1.9	111.6	-.2
San Francisco	124.3	-.2	121.3	-.2	151.1	-.6	115.6	.1	117.5	-.3	139.1	.3	102.8	- 1.4
Scranton	115.8	.3	114.3	.4	134.2	-.1	108.1	.4	109.9	.3	129.5	4.9	101.3	- 3.2
Seattle	122.6	-.2	120.1	-.2	148.1	-.1	112.3	.2	119.7	-.1	137.3	.5	103.2	- 1.4
Washington, D.C.	120.4	.8	117.9	.9	133.0	.1	109.0	2.4	120.2	-.3	130.8	3.6	107.9	- 2.0

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

Food and unit	May 1960	April 1960	Food and unit	May 1960	April 1960
<b>Cereals and bakery products:</b>	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	<b>Fresh—Continued</b>	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	55.4	55.3	Peaches * 1b.		
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	26.9	26.9	Strawberries * pt.	35.3	38.5
Macaroni 16 oz.	23.0	22.9	Grapes, seedless * 1b.		
Corn meal 1b.	13.0	13.0	Watermelons * 1b.		
Rolled oats 18 oz.	22.0	21.9	Potatoes 10 lb.	83.3	80.0
Corn flakes 12 oz.	25.7	25.7	Sweet potatoes 1b.	13.5	12.8
Rice, short grain 1b.	18.7	18.7	Onions 1b.	10.1	9.1
Rice, long grain 1b.	20.6	20.6	Carrots 1b.	13.0	12.5
Bread, white 1b.	20.0	20.1	Lettuce head	17.1	17.1
Soda crackers 1b.	28.9	28.9	Celery 1b.	13.5	12.6
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	24.3	24.3	Cabbage 1b.	12.3	9.8
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Tomatoes 1b.	39.0	39.4
Round steak 1b.	105.9	107.7	Beans, green 1b.	27.9	27.3
Sirloin steak 1b.	110.0	109.3	<b>Canned:</b>		
Chuck roast 1b.	63.0	64.0	Orange juice 46-oz. can	42.3	42.8
Rib roast 1b.	82.4	81.1	Pineapple juice 46-oz. can	34.4	34.2
Hamburger 1b.	52.8	53.2	Peaches #2 1/2 can	33.6	33.6
Veal cutlets 1b.	143.1	143.1	Pineapple #2 can	37.8	37.7
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	82.3	84.1	Fruit cocktail #303 can	27.0	26.9
Pork roast 1b.	58.3	59.1	Corn, cream style #303 can	19.0	18.9
Bacon, sliced 1b.	66.6	63.9	Peas, green #303 can	20.3	20.1
Ham, whole 1b.	61.3	58.1	Tomatoes #303 can	16.1	15.9
Lamb, leg 1b.	76.2	75.0	Tomato juice 46 oz. can	31.8	31.5
Frankfurters 1b.	62.4	62.4	Baby foods 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.0	10.0
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	50.5	50.3	<b>Dried:</b>		
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	43.1	44.0	Prunes 1b.	39.5	39.5
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	47.5	47.5	Beans 1b.	16.7	16.8
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	55.8	56.0	<b>Other foods at home:</b>		
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	65.5	65.2	Tomato soup 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Tuna fish, canned 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.6	32.5	Beans with pork 18-oz. can	14.8	14.9
<b>Dairy products:</b>			Pickles, sliced 15 oz.	26.4	26.4
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	24.1	24.3	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.6	22.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	25.5	25.6	Potato chips 4 oz.	27.3	27.3
Ice cream 1/2 gal.	86.9	86.9	Coffee 1b. can	75.8	75.6
Butter 1b.	74.3	74.1	Coffee 1b. bag	59.5	59.6
Cheese, American process 1/2 lb.	33.9	33.9	Tea bags pkg. of 16	24.4	24.4
Milk, evaporated 14 1/2-oz. can	15.7	15.7	Cola drink, carton 36 oz.	29.7	29.5
<b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>			Shortening, hydrogenated 3 lb.	80.4	81.4
<b>Frozen:</b>			Margarine, colored 1b.	26.7	26.9
Strawberries 10 oz.	26.5	26.4	Lard 1b.	18.4	18.3
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	21.9	22.2	Salad dressing pt.	36.0	36.0
Lemonade concentrate 6 oz.	13.6	13.9	Peanut butter 1b.	55.3	55.3
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.7	19.8	Sugar 5 lb.	57.3	57.4
Beans, green 9 oz.	23.1	22.8	Corn syrup 24 oz.	26.6	26.6
Potatoes, french fried 9 oz.	19.6	19.6	Grape jelly 12 oz.	28.7	28.8
<b>Fresh:</b>			Chocolate bar 1 oz.	5.1	5.1
Apples 1b.	17.9	16.1	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	52.9	55.8
Bananas 1b.	15.3	15.3	Gelatin, flavored 3 to 4 oz.	9.3	9.2
Oranges, size 200 doz.	69.0	69.0			
Lemons 1b.	18.3	18.4			
Grapefruit * each	14.0	12.5			

\* Priced only in season.

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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				

for these 3 items were applied to the current index weights in each city for the respective commodity classes.

Weights for the other six items were obtained from the 1950 Consumer Expenditure Survey and applied to the current index weights for each city in the same way, except for three cities not surveyed in 1950. For these three cities--Washington, Detroit, and Houston--relative importances of the new items were obtained from averages of cities in the same region surveyed in 1950.

For all nine items, the price change from April to May was reflected in the CPI in all 46 cities by linking in April. Indexes for the 8 food items (April 1960=100) are shown in the May issue of Retail Food Prices by Cities. Liquid detergent will be included in the quarterly index for laundry soap and detergents published in our quarterly report, "Price Indexes for Selected Items and Groups," which will be continued on the 1947-49 base.

The following table indicates for each of the new items the commodity or commodities in the present index to which the weights of the new items had formerly been assigned and the basis for the redistribution of weights:

Group	Commodity class	New items	Present CPI items to which weight was formerly allocated	Basis for redistribution of commodity class weight
<b>Food</b>				
Cereals	Macaroni	Flour	1950 CES <u>1</u> /	
Beef	Sirloin steak	Round steak	1950 CES <u>1</u> /	
Pork	Pork loin roast	Pork chops	1950 CES <u>1</u> /	
Canned Fruits & Vegetables	Pineapple juice	Orange juice	1950 CES <u>1</u> /	
	Tomato juice	Tomatoes	1950 CES <u>1</u> /	
Frozen fruits & Juices	Frozen lemonade concentrate	Frozen orange juice concentrate	1956-1957 Pack Statistics, National Association of Frozen Food Packers.	
Frozen Vegetables	Frozen French fried potatoes	Peas Beans, green	1958 Pack Statistics, National Association of Frozen Food Packers.	
Other Food at home	Potato chips	Soup, tomato Beans with pork Sweet pickles Tomato catsup	1950 CES <u>1</u> /	
<b>Household Operation</b>				
Laundry Soap & Cleaning Supplies	Detergent, liquid	Laundry Soap--granules or powder Detergent granulated or powdered	1958 Sales, American Soap & Glycerine Producers	

1/ Except for Washington, Houston and Detroit.

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## OCCUPATIONAL WAGE SURVEYS

(BLS Bulletins 1265-1 through 1265-30)

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has released 30 of this year's occupational wage surveys for major labor markets. Reports for 31 additional areas are in process. The studies were conducted during the winter 1959-60. The individual bulletins provide earnings information on about 60 jobs selected from several categories: Office clerical, professional and technical, maintenance and powerplant, and custodial and material movement.

In addition to areawide averages and distributions of workers by earnings classes for each job, information is provided wherever possible by major industry division, including manufacturing, public utilities, finance, trade, and services.

Also presented for all areas except Baltimore, Buffalo, Cleveland, Dallas, Detroit, and Seattle are data for paid holidays; paid vacations; scheduled weekly hours; health, insurance, and pension plans; minimum entrance rates; and shift differential practices.

The areas covered, survey date, bulletin number, and price are as follows:

			Cents
Baltimore	September 1959	1265-7	15
Boston	October 1959	1265-8	25
Buffalo	October 1959	1265-4	20
Canton	December 1959	1265-10	25
Cleveland	September 1959	1265-1	20
Dallas	October 1959	1265-3	20
Dayton	December 1959	1265-9	25
Denver	December 1959	1265-11	25
Des Moines	February 1960	1265-30	25
Detroit	January 1960	1265-25	20
Fort Worth	November 1959	1265-13	25
Indianapolis	January 1960	1265-22	25
Jackson, Miss.	February 1960	1265-26	25
Jacksonville	December 1959	1265-14	25
Kansas City	January 1960	1265-23	25
Memphis	January 1960	1265-19	25
Miami	December 1959	1265-6	20
Minneapolis—St. Paul	January 1960	1265-21	25
Newark and Jersey City	February 1960	1265-28	25
Philadelphia	November 1959	1265-16	25
Pittsburgh	December 1959	1265-20	25
Portland, Maine	November 1959	1265-12	20
Richmond	February 1960	1265-24	25
St. Louis	October 1959	1265-5	25
San Bernardino—Riverside—Ontario	November 1959	1265-15	25
San Francisco—Oakland	January 1960	1265-17	25
Seattle	August 1959	1265-2	25
Sioux Falls	February 1960	1265-29	20
Washington, D. C.	December 1959	1265-18	25
York	February 1960	1265-27	25

Send orders (accompanied by check or money order) to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C., or to any of the following U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics regional sales offices:

Boston	New York	Atlanta	Chicago	San Francisco
18 Oliver Street	341 Ninth Avenue	1371 Peachtree Street, NE.	105 West Adams Street	680 Sansome Street

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