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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JUNE 1960

The Consumer Price Index increased in June to 126.5 (1947-49 = 100), exceeding the May high by 0.2 percent, the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today.

Price increases for food--chiefly fresh fruits and pork--accounted for almost all of the rise, but food prices advanced somewhat less than usual for June. Gasoline prices recovered sharply from an unusually late spring decline and rents resumed their mild uptrend.

A number of price declines moderated the June increase in the CPI. Prices fell seasonally for some important foods, chiefly fresh vegetables and eggs. In addition, new car prices dropped more than usual for June, prices of appliances decreased for the fifth successive month, and furniture prices also were down.

FOOD Prices for food bought for home use rose 0.6 percent in June--less than usual for the month. Restaurant meals continued their long-term price uptrend. By June, average prices for foods were 1.2 percent higher than a year earlier, chiefly because egg prices were up sharply over the year and prices for fresh fruits were substantially above 1959 levels.

Fresh fruits continued to increase in price from May to June, as they normally do at this time of year, chiefly because of dwindling stocks of apples and reduced supplies of citrus fruits. On the other hand, prices of fresh vegetables decreased seasonally with expanding supplies. There were particularly substantial reductions for tomatoes, green beans, and head lettuce. Prices for fresh fruits and vegetables combined rose 3.5 percent in June. They were 4.2 percent above prices in June 1959--last year's high--entirely because of higher prices for the fruits.

Pork prices have been rising since February reflecting both seasonal declines in production and marketings and a substantially reduced pig crop. Prices for all cuts of pork rose in June. Nevertheless, prices for pork products were still 1.5 percent below a year earlier. In January they were 15 percent below January 1959 prices. Because of cyclically lower marketings of hogs, this year-to-year differential has been declining steadily in 1960.

Prices for beef and veal decreased moderately in June for the second successive month because of larger marketings of fed cattle, which have reached a record high this year. By June, beef prices were 2.8 percent below the recent cyclical peak in July 1959.

Prices for eggs declined seasonally, but were 15.6 percent above the postwar low last June. Poultry prices also went down from May to June. Dairy products remained unchanged in price, and average prices of cereal and bakery products resumed their long-term upward trend.

DURABLE COMMODITIES Prices for durable commodities dropped in June--appliances, furniture, and new cars. Dealers' selling prices of new cars declined 0.9 percent--more than usual for the month. Indications are that dealers' concessions on standard-size cars have been rising more than customary so far in the model year. The sizable price decreases are the result of high production, heavy inventories, and competition from domestic compact cars.

Prices for virtually all household appliances declined in June. Kitchen and laundry equipment prices--especially for refrigerators and washing machines--have been falling since February. Price weakness in the major appliance markets has developed because of declining sales and heavy inventory accumulations. In the case of washing machines, prices were cut also in June in anticipation of the annual introduction of new models.

Prices for table model television sets decreased in June after rising throughout the earlier part of the year. The June downtrend resulted from special sales and also reflected competition from new 1961 lines, especially the 23-inch sets. The number and value of sales for TV sets this year have been well above 1959 levels.

Furniture and bedding prices declined in June also, because of special sales and the introduction of new, lower-priced lines of living room and bedroom suites, sofa-beds, and metal dinette sets. Sales have not held up well recently, and unfilled orders on the books of furniture manufacturers in the first 5 months of 1960 were substantially below those for the same period of 1959.

**NONDURABLE
COMMODITIES** Prices of nondurable commodities other than food rose slightly in June, reflecting chiefly a sharp rebound of gasoline prices from a drop in May, and a return to regular prices for household textiles from prices prevailing during May white sales. Prices for coal and oil for home heating continued their usual summer decline.

Gasoline prices rose 1.5 percent in June in response to the onset of the summer farming and motoring season. The June gasoline index, at 134.6, was 2.7 percent above June 1959 but 1.0 percent below the peak reached last year in October, when the Federal tax increased 1 cent a gallon.

Average apparel prices have been marked by relative stability during the past quarter because of offsetting influences. Prices for men's and boys' clothing have been moderately up and those for women's and girls' apparel have been going down. The increase for men's and boys' wear has resulted chiefly from higher manufacturing costs of men's suits, work trousers, and dungarees. Prices for women's and girls' apparel often decline in the late spring and summer, when retailers reduce stocks in preparation for active fall selling. By June, prices for all apparel items averaged 1.5 percent above a year earlier, the previous June peak.

SERVICES Prices for services continued to rise in June, but the uptrend has been slower during the past several months than at any similar period in recent years. Prices for medical care services increased less in June (0.1 percent) than in any month since March 1959. Special sales in some places reduced average dry-cleaning rates. Also, movie admissions averaged lower because a number of theaters returned to regular prices after the showing of special features.

Rents rose 0.1 percent in June, chiefly because of increases in large and moderate-size cities. They continued to decline in June in the smaller cities.

**COST-OF-LIVING
ADJUSTMENTS** About 600,000 workers will receive wage increases on the basis of the June CPI. Quarterly escalator adjustments will go into effect in several aircraft and electrical equipment companies--2 cents an hour for about 235,000 workers and 1 cent for about 115,000 workers. Under contracts adjusting cost-of-living allowances on a semiannual basis--mostly in the trucking industry--approximately 200,000 workers will receive a raise of 2 cents and 50,000 will receive 1 cent.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to June 1960 from --			
	June 1960	May 1960	May 1960	March 1960	June 1959	Year 1959
All items-----	126.5	126.3	0.2	0.6	1.6	113.0
Food-----	120.3	119.7	.5	2.2	1.2	155.4
Food at home-----	117.7	117.0	.6	2.6	0.9	149.9
Cereals and bakery products-----	136.1	135.6	.4	.4	1.4	137.9
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	110.3	109.7	.5	2.9	- 1.2	165.1
Dairy products-----	115.0	115.0	0	- 1.2	2.4	130.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	136.1	132.9	2.4	8.9	1.2	194.0
Other foods at home-----	104.5	104.9	- .4	1.1	2.2	115.9
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	118.8	118.6	.2	.7	2.8	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	131.3	131.2	.1	0	1.9	72.5
Rent-----	141.6	141.4	.1	.3	1.5	63.5
Gas and electricity-----	124.7	124.7	0	.5	4.5	18.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	132.3	132.9	- .5	- 3.6	- 1.2	134.6
Housefurnishings-----	104.3	104.3	0	- .4	.2	95.3
Household operation-----	137.3	137.2	.1	.3	2.5	100.7
Apparel-----	108.9	108.9	0	.1	1.5	107.4
Men's and boys'-----	109.8	109.7	.1	.8	1.6	116.1
Women's and girls'-----	99.1	99.4	- .3	- .5	.3	81.8
Footwear-----	140.1	139.8	.2	.3	4.2	178.5
Other apparel-----	93.1	93.2	- .1	.1	1.4	129.3
Transportation-----	145.8	145.6	.1	- .5	- .1	107.7
Private-----	134.1	133.9	.1	- .6	- .6	104.7
Public-----	199.7	199.4	.2	.2	3.6	145.6
Medical care-----	156.1	155.9	.1	.7	3.7	115.0
Personal care-----	133.2	133.2	0	.4	1.6	123.5
Reading and recreation-----	121.1	121.4	- .2	.2	2.5	92.2
Other goods and services-----	132.0	131.9	.1	.2	2.2	87.0
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	129.7	129.7	0	0	1.7	87.7
All items less shelter-----	124.0	123.8	.2	.7	1.5	123.8
Commodities-----	117.6	117.3	.3	.8	.9	127.9
Nondurables-----	119.8	119.4	.3	1.3	1.4	133.1
Food-----	120.3	119.7	.5	2.2	1.2	155.4
Nondurables less food-----	119.6	119.4	.2	0	1.5	103.7
Apparel-----	108.7	108.8	- .1	.1	1.4	108.6
Apparel less footwear-----	103.3	103.4	- .1	.1	.9	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	128.7	128.4	.2	- .2	1.5	95.3
Durables-----	111.5	111.9	- .4	- .9	1.2	94.6
New cars-----	136.5	137.8	- .9	- 1.3	1.3	139.5
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	88.4	88.1	.3	- 2.6	5.8	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	103.2	103.5	- .3	- .4	- .1	80.1
Commodities less food-----	115.3	115.3	0	- .3	.5	94.1
Services-----	149.7	149.6	.1	.3	3.0	86.2
Rent-----	141.6	141.4	.1	.3	1.5	63.5
Services less rent-----	151.8	151.7	.1	.3	3.2	106.5
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	138.9	138.8	.1	.4	3.4	59.7
Transportation services-----	184.5	184.3	.1	.3	2.9	130.3
Medical care services-----	162.5	162.4	.1	.7	4.1	130.5
Other services 3/-----	135.1	135.2	- .1	.1	2.8	131.7
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.791	\$0.792	- .1	- .6	- 1.5	- 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 --		
	June 1960	March 1960	June 1959	Year 1939	March 1960	June 1959	Year 1939
United States city average-----	126.5	125.7	124.5	59.4	0.6	1.6	113.0
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	130.1	129.2	127.7	58.6	.7	1.9	122.0
Detroit-----	125.1	123.9	123.4	59.0	1.0	1.4	112.0
Los Angeles-----	129.7	129.3	127.0	60.4	.3	2.1	114.7
New York-----	124.9	124.5	122.5	60.1	.3	2.0	107.8
Philadelphia-----	126.4	126.0	124.0	59.2	.3	1.9	113.5
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	June 1960	March 1960	June 1959	Year 1939	March 1960	June 1959	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	127.1	126.7	125.5	58.3	.3	1.3	118.0
Baltimore-----	128.3	127.7	126.6	57.9	.5	1.3	121.6
Cincinnati-----	124.6	123.6	123.1	58.4	.8	1.2	113.4
St. Louis-----	127.2	126.3	126.3	59.3	.7	0.7	114.5
San Francisco-----	132.4	131.6	129.6	58.6	.6	2.2	125.9
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	May 1960	February 1960	May 1959	Year 1939	February 1960	May 1959	Year 1939
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
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	April 1960	January 1960	April 1959	Year 1939	January 1960	April 1959	Year 1939
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

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 May 1960 to June 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	0.5	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0	- 0.2	0.1
Chicago-----	.4	1.4	.1	- 0.2	.4	0	- 0.1	-.3	- 1.0
Detroit-----	.6	.8	-.1	.3	3.7	.1	.1	-.1	.1
Los Angeles-----	-.1	.2	-.4	-.4	-.1	0	.1	-.2	.4
New York-----	0	0	.2	-.1	-.5	0	-.5	-.4	-.1
Philadelphia-----	0	.7	-.2	-.4	-.4	.4	-.1	- 2.1	0

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	126.5	127.1	128.3	130.1	124.6	125.1	129.7	124.9	126.4	127.2	132.4
Food -----	120.3	117.6	121.2	118.8	121.5	120.0	126.4	121.8	122.6	119.6	124.2
Food at home -----	117.7	115.8	117.3	116.3	118.6	117.5	120.5	118.0	119.5	114.8	121.2
Cereals and bakery products --	136.1	126.0	134.6	131.2	136.0	128.7	148.0	142.6	137.5	124.8	151.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	110.3	114.0	109.3	104.1	112.7	105.4	112.0	112.0	111.8	106.2	116.9
Dairy products -----	115.0	116.4	116.7	120.4	117.5	112.5	113.9	115.2	118.4	104.5	117.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	136.1	134.1	135.2	135.3	134.1	146.7	139.1	131.7	139.2	137.8	137.1
Other foods at home -----	104.5	99.9	104.5	109.8	106.9	105.0	106.2	103.2	102.9	111.4	102.5
Housing -----	131.3	135.4	128.2	140.3	125.9	126.9	138.6	129.4	125.1	128.6	136.4
Rent -----	141.6	141.0	139.2	--	144.1	141.7	--	134.4	--	150.3	154.8
Gas and electricity -----	124.7	136.4	109.8	130.0	133.6	116.2	141.6	120.8	106.7	114.7	150.4
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	132.3	130.6	128.4	136.2	139.1	125.4	--	136.2	117.4	150.2	--
Housefurnishings -----	104.3	109.1	100.5	102.8	-96.7	109.5	104.2	105.1	110.2	103.3	107.4
Household operation -----	137.3	146.6	134.3	138.4	142.1	125.6	128.2	138.1	141.9	142.6	126.6
Apparel -----	108.9	114.6	111.8	112.2	107.8	106.0	110.8	107.9	107.3	108.9	111.2
Men's and boys' -----	109.8	118.2	106.9	116.1	108.6	108.4	113.3	109.1	110.2	109.6	110.1
Women's and girls' -----	99.1	103.7	105.8	99.4	97.9	95.0	101.2	97.0	95.6	100.7	102.3
Footwear -----	140.1	146.2	146.1	144.1	145.0	136.1	141.9	141.2	140.5	136.3	147.2
Other apparel -----	93.1	93.7	99.0	97.7	89.8	85.9	85.1	97.6	94.8	93.9	92.3
Transportation -----	145.8	143.7	160.1	155.2	143.4	140.7	143.2	147.4	154.2	161.2	164.2
Private -----	134.1	135.0	138.8	135.6	131.7	133.5	136.7	128.7	134.2	137.9	151.3
Public -----	199.7	193.8	215.4	205.7	191.4	179.4	186.5	191.4	193.4	237.1	184.8
Medical care -----	156.1	146.6	167.1	168.0	155.4	159.9	151.2	144.0	161.2	170.2	158.7
Personal care -----	133.2	140.7	133.5	137.8	129.1	134.1	134.5	124.6	143.4	138.5	130.8
Reading and recreation -----	121.1	123.0	127.7	125.3	111.8	116.6	102.4	124.6	121.6	100.3	120.2
Other goods and services -----	132.0	133.5	140.6	122.7	131.4	140.0	133.6	133.3	132.4	132.9	133.7
Percent change from March 1960 to June 1960											
All items -----	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.8	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.6
Food -----	2.2	2.3	2.5	3.2	3.1	3.0	1.6	.9	2.2	2.5	1.2
Food at home -----	2.6	2.8	3.0	3.7	3.5	3.5	.9	1.0	2.5	3.1	1.4
Cereals and bakery products --	.4	-.3	1.3	.6	.4	3.1	.5	.4	.9	1.5	-.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.9	5.2	2.3	2.8	4.8	3.2	3.1	-.3	1.8	4.8	4.7
Dairy products -----	-1.2	-.1	-.1	-.1	-.1	-.3	-1.0	-3.8	-2.2	1.1	-2.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	8.9	6.5	11.3	13.4	9.0	9.2	.6	8.8	11.0	6.4	3.2
Other foods at home -----	1.1	1.0	.3	1.8	1.6	1.6	.3	.3	1.1	.3	-.1
Housing -----	0	-.5	0	-.2	.4	-.2	-.1	..	-.3	-.5	.7
Rent -----	.3	.4	.4	--	-.2	1/-1.0	--	1/.7	--	.3	1.0
Gas and electricity -----	.5	2.9	.1	0	3.5	-.6	-.2	.1	0	3.4	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	-3.6	-5.4	-1.7	-2.3	-9.0	-1.7	--	-1.6	-13.4	-6.5	--
Housefurnishings -----	-.4	-1.2	.4	.3	.5	.5	-.4	-.4	.5	-.7	.3
Household operation -----	.3	.5	-.9	-.3	2.7	.5	.4	-.1	.1	2.6	0
Apparel -----	.1	0	.4	-.3	.1	.7	-.5	0	-.5	.3	.9
Men's and boys' -----	.8	.6	.1	.6	.2	.8	.4	.3	.5	.5	.9
Women's and girls' -----	-.5	-.8	-.1	-1.3	0	1.0	-1.4	-.5	-1.2	.2	1.0
Footwear -----	.3	.5	2.4	0	0	.1	.4	.5	-.1	0	.8
Other apparel -----	.1	0	.3	.6	.2	.4	-1.3	.4	-.4	.3	.8
Transportation -----	-.5	-.6	-1.2	-1.0	-1.5	2.9	-1.2	-.7	-1.0	-.1	-.4
Private -----	-.6	-.7	-1.5	-1.3	-1.8	3.5	-1.3	-1.0	-1.3	-.1	-.4
Public -----	.2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care -----	.7	0	.3	.4	.1	.8	1.0	.1	.4	-.1	.7
Personal care -----	.4	.7	.2	.1	-.1	0	-.2	.5	.3	5.2	.3
Reading and recreation -----	.2	-.5	-3.5	-.2	-.4	-3.6	-.2	.8	-2.3	1.4	-.1
Other goods and services -----	.2	-.3	.2	-1.0	.4	.1	.5	0	.1	.7	.1

1/ Change from April 1960 to June 1960.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index — Food and its subgroups
 June 1960 indexes and percent changes, May 1960 to June 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	120.3	0.5	117.7	0.6	136.1	0.4	110.3	0.5	115.0	0	136.1	2.4	104.5	- 0.4
Atlanta	117.6	.7	115.8	1.0	126.0	.6	114.0	1.5	116.4	- 0.1	134.1	2.1	99.9	- .1
Baltimore	121.2	.6	117.3	.5	134.6	1.1	109.3	.6	116.7	0	135.2	4.2	104.5	- 1.0
Boston	119.0	.3	115.6	.3	129.2	- 2.9	110.2	.6	107.7	.3	137.3	3.9	101.5	- 1.6
Chicago	118.8	1.4	116.3	1.5	131.2	.2	104.1	.7	120.4	.2	135.3	7.5	109.8	- .6
Cincinnati	121.5	.9	118.6	1.0	136.0	.1	112.7	2.1	117.5	.1	134.1	2.6	106.9	- .4
Cleveland	117.1	.6	114.4	.8	128.7	.5	106.8	1.6	110.1	0	130.5	1.4	106.8	- .3
Detroit	120.0	.8	117.5	.9	128.7	2.8	105.4	1.5	112.5	-.4	146.7	1.6	105.0	- .8
Houston	114.8	.3	111.6	.5	125.5	-.1	104.6	.5	112.1	- 3.0	126.4	5.1	101.5	0
Kansas City	114.0	1.2	111.4	1.5	130.8	.5	104.5	1.4	111.2	.5	123.9	3.4	99.3	1.1
Los Angeles	126.4	.2	120.5	.4	148.0	.3	112.0	1.4	113.9	.6	139.1	- 0.1	106.2	- .2
Minneapolis	119.3	1.0	116.2	1.1	134.9	.1	104.9	.5	107.5	0	141.8	5.9	110.0	- .5
New York	121.8	0	118.0	-.1	142.6	.4	112.0	- 1.1	115.2	-.3	131.7	2.3	103.2	- 1.1
Philadelphia	122.6	.7	119.5	.8	137.5	.5	111.8	.4	118.4	0	139.2	3.4	102.9	- .1
Pittsburgh	122.1	-.1	120.4	-.2	134.3	.4	110.5	-.4	117.7	-.1	138.8	-.1	114.2	- .7
Portland, Oreg.	121.3	.7	118.5	1.0	140.8	.1	111.9	1.4	121.3	.4	128.0	2.8	106.1	0
St. Louis	119.6	.9	114.8	1.2	124.8	2.0	106.2	.8	104.5	3.1	137.8	1.7	111.4	- .2
San Francisco	124.2	-.1	121.2	-.1	151.2	.1	116.9	1.1	117.1	-.3	137.1	- 1.4	102.5	- .3
Saranton	116.5	.6	114.9	.5	134.5	.2	109.3	1.1	109.9	0	130.9	1.1	101.0	- .3
Seattle	122.6	0	120.1	0	147.6	-.3	113.4	1.0	119.6	-.1	136.4	- .7	102.6	- .6
Washington, D.C.	120.9	.4	118.5	.5	132.4	-.5	108.6	-.4	120.1	-.1	135.5	3.6	107.5	- .4

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

Food and unit	June 1960	May 1960	Food and unit	June 1960	May 1960
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh—Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat 5 lb.	55.7	55.4	Peaches * 1b.		
Biscuit mix 20 oz.	26.9	26.9	Strawberries * pt.	29.1	35.3
Macaroni 16oz.	23.0	23.0	Grapes, seedless * 1b.		
Corn meal 1b.	13.0	13.0	Watermelons * 1b.	7.3	
Rolled oats 18 oz.	22.0	22.0	Potatoes 10 lb.	81.0	83.3
Corn flakes 12 oz.	25.7	25.7	Sweet potatoes 1b.	14.6	13.5
Rice, short grain 1b.	18.6	18.7	Onions 1b.	10.0	10.1
Rice, long grain 1b.	20.6	20.6	Carrots 1b.	14.1	13.0
Bread, white 1b.	20.1	20.0	Lettuce head	14.3	17.1
Soda crackers 1b.	29.0	28.9	Celery 1b.	14.1	13.5
Vanilla cookies 7 oz.	24.3	24.3	Cabbage 1b.	10.9	12.3
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Tomatoes 1b.	33.5	39.0
Round steak 1b.	105.8	105.9	Beans, green 1b.	23.2	27.9
Sirloin steak 1b.	109.7	110.0	Canned:		
Chuck roast 1b.	61.9	63.0	Orange juice 46-oz. can	42.3	42.3
Rib roast 1b.	82.3	82.4	Pineapple juice 46-oz. can	34.4	34.4
Hamburger 1b.	52.6	52.8	Peaches #2 1/2 can	33.5	33.6
Veal outlets 1b.	143.2	143.1	Pineapple #2 can	37.8	37.8
Pork chops, center cut 1b.	86.0	82.3	Fruit cocktail #308 can	27.0	27.0
Pork roast 1b.	61.2	58.3	Corn, cream style #308 can	19.0	19.0
Bacon, sliced 1b.	67.4	66.6	Peas, green #308 can	20.5	20.3
Ham, whole 1b.	61.4	61.3	Tomatoes #308 can	16.2	16.1
Lamb, leg 1b.	77.1	76.2	Tomato juice 46-oz. can	31.9	31.8
Frankfurters 1b.	62.4	62.4	Baby foods 4 1/2 to 8 oz.	10.0	10.0
Luncheon meat, canned 12 oz.	50.5	50.5	Dried:		
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook 1b.	42.7	43.1	Prunes 1b.	39.6	39.5
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen 1b.	47.6	47.5	Beans 1b.	16.7	16.7
Haddock, fillet, frozen 1b.	55.6	55.8	Other foods at home:		
Salmon, pink, canned 16 oz.	65.5	65.5	Tomato soup 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Tuna fish, canned 6 to 8 1/2 oz.	32.7	32.6	Beans with pork 16-oz. can	14.9	14.8
Dairy products:			Pickles, sliced 16 oz.	26.6	26.4
Milk, fresh, (grocery) qt.	24.1	24.1	Catsup, tomato 14 oz.	22.6	22.6
Milk, fresh, (delivered) qt.	25.5	25.5	Potato chips 4 oz.	27.4	27.3
Ice cream 1/2 gal.	87.0	86.9	Coffee 1b. can	75.7	75.8
Butter 1b.	74.2	74.3	Coffee 1b. bag	59.8	59.5
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.	29.9	29.7
Fruits and vegetables:			Shortening, hydrogenated 3 lb.	79.7	80.4
Frozen:			Margarine, colored 1b.	26.7	26.7
Strawberries 10 oz.	26.4	126.5	Lard 1b.	18.5	18.4
Orange juice concentrate 6 oz.	22.1	21.9	Salad dressing pt.	35.9	36.0
Lemonade concentrate 6 oz.	13.5	13.6	Peanut butter 1b.	55.5	55.3
Peas, green 10 oz.	19.8	19.7	Sugar 5 lb.	57.2	57.3
Beans, green 9 oz.	23.1	23.1	Corn syrup 24 oz.	26.6	26.6
Potatoes, french fried 9 oz.	19.7	19.6	Grape jelly 12 oz.	28.6	28.7
Fresh:			Chocolate bar 1 oz.	5.1	5.1
Apples 1b.	21.2	17.9	Eggs, Grade A, large doz.	51.5	52.9
Bananas 1b.	16.0	15.3	Gelatin, flavored 3 to 4 oz.	9.3	9.3
Oranges, size 200 doz.	72.4	69.0			
Lemons 1b.	17.9	18.3			
Grapefruit * each	15.4	14.0			

* 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				

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Introduction of Thirteen New Prescriptions in CPI

Starting in April 1960, prices for 13 new prescriptions were introduced into the Medical Care component of the Consumer Price Index as cities were priced replacing the three former prescriptions. By July 1960, prices for these new prescriptions will be included for all 46 cities. The former prescriptions (which were selected to represent family expenditures for this category as shown by the Bureau's survey of family expenditures in 1950) were for three relatively simple compounds: a non-narcotic APC formulation; a standard cough preparation containing a narcotic; and a buffered penicillin.

The introduction and widespread use of many new drugs since the original list of prescriptions was established made it advisable to revise the list of prescriptions priced to reflect current practices. Since it can reasonably be expected that many of the present volume-selling prescriptions will be replaced by newer compounds, continuity of indexes in the future will best be maintained by classifying prescriptions into therapeutic, end-use categories and publishing a composite prescription index based on the categories shown below:

1. Anti-infectives
2. Sedatives and hypnotics
3. Ataractics
4. Antispasmodics
5. Antiarthritics
6. Cough preparations
7. Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives

Although the effectiveness and the quality of the newer drugs and the compounded prescriptions which result from them is unquestionably superior to those available several years ago, the new items were introduced by "linking," that is, the level of the index is not affected by the differences in prices on the date of introduction. The total weight assigned to prescriptions in each city (averaging 0.4 percent in the U.S. index) will be unchanged but it will be re-distributed among the 7 end-use categories rather than among the 3 former prescriptions.

The end-use categories selected for inclusion in the index were determined from published national data on frequency of purchase of prescriptions in retail drug-stores and with the advice of informed industry and government sources. It is planned to review the list periodically and revise if necessary to maintain continuous end-use indexes closely related to current usage.

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