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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR FEBRUARY 1961

Prices of consumer goods and services in United States cities rose by 0.1 percent in February to 127.5 (1947-49=100), erasing the decline recorded in January, according to the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nearly every major group participated in the advance, with increases for medical care, reading and recreation, food, and apparel contributing most to the overall gain in prices. No major group registered a decline, but both the transportation and the other goods and services groups remained unchanged, reflecting offsetting price movements for major items within each group. The February index was 1.5 percent above a year earlier and matched the record level reported for December 1960.

Higher average prices for used cars, fresh fruits, household textiles, hospitalization and surgical insurance, and movie admissions were among the items which exerted the strongest influence on the upward movement of the index over the month. Price decreases were noted for eggs, gasoline, services associated with home ownership, new cars, and household durables.

MEDICAL CARE The 0.6 percent increase in average prices for medical care resulted primarily from higher rates for hospitalization insurance and surgical insurance. However, professional fees and hospital room rates also advanced. Lower average prices for prescriptions and drugs marked a continuation of the gradual decline which began last June. The February index for medical care, at 159.4, was 3.0 percent above levels of a year ago.

FOOD Higher average prices for fresh fruits, processed fruits and vegetables, and poultry combined with further increases for restaurant meals to effect a slight rise of 0.1 percent in average food prices. However, these increases were almost nullified by lower egg prices. The index for all foods, at 121.4, was 3.4 percent above a year earlier and close to the postwar high of 121.7 reached in July 1958.

Retail prices of all fruits and vegetables averaged 0.9 percent higher than in January. Substantial increases for fresh oranges, frozen orange juice concentrate, canned orange juice, and apples contributed materially to the overall rise in the group index, with increases for these items attributable either to seasonal influences or to limited supplies. Fresh vegetable prices averaged lower primarily because of significant declines for lettuce and tomatoes.

A 0.2 percent increase in average prices of meats, poultry, and fish in February stemmed from higher prices for chickens and fish, which overcame a slight decline in prices of meats--chiefly pork products. Demand for chickens was reportedly strong and consequently prices advanced, although supplies were above a year earlier levels. Cereals and bakery products also rose by 0.2 percent with higher prices for bread, the most important item in the group, accounting for nearly all of the increase.

Seasonal increases in egg production resulted in a substantial reduction in average egg prices. Production however, continued at levels well below a year earlier and prices in February were about 26 percent above February 1960. Dairy product prices were down from January due almost entirely to seasonal reductions in fresh milk prices.

READING AND RECREATION The reading and recreation index rose by 0.4 percent in February, following a slight decline in January, to reach a new high. A rise of 1.1 percent in the cost of movie admissions, was due to reported

increased operating costs in a number of cities and the showing of special features in several cities. Higher newspaper prices also contributed to the increase. Over the year, prices for reading and recreation have risen by 1.7 percent reflecting higher average prices for movie admissions (6.4 percent) and newspapers (4.0 percent). On the other hand, prices of every other priced item except television repairs decreased.

APPAREL Apparel prices, which have shown a general upward movement since the latter part of 1958, except for seasonal clearance sales, rose by 0.2 percent in February. Seasonal advances for women's spring suits and girls' dresses were mainly responsible for the apparel increase. These increases were partly offset by scattered lower prices for other items of women's wear and a small decline in average prices for men's and boys' apparel.

HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND OTHER GROUPS The small advance of 0.1 percent in the housing group resulted from nearly offsetting price movements for major sectors. Prices of non-durable household goods rose by 2.8 percent over the month as prices of household textiles returned to regular prices following the termination of the January "white sales." Prices of solid and petroleum fuels rose by 1.2 percent over the period. Rents also continued to move up with two-thirds of the cities showing moderate increases; however, lower prices were reported for major elements of home ownership costs. Prices of furniture, appliances, and other household durables declined by 0.4 percent, the largest monthly decline for household durables since March 1958. Prices of nearly all items in this category showed decreases as widespread special sales, competitive markdowns, and other price concessions were in evidence.

The transportation group remained stable from January to February as higher prices for used cars and public transportation counterbalanced lower prices for gasoline and new cars. The strength in used car prices, up 4.0 percent, was due in large part to some improvement in demand for used cars and a reported decline in inventories to approximately normal levels for this time of year. Lower gasoline prices were largely attributable to increasing inventories, with the most significant reductions occurring in the Midwest, Southwest, and Pacific areas. In a few places there was a recovery from prior price-war levels. The 0.8 percent drop in new car prices was about normal for the month. Retail selling prices of both new and used cars included in the index remained below year-ago levels.

OVER-THE-YEAR CHANGES Every major group, except transportation, participated in the 1.5 percent average advance from the February 1960 level; however, a 3.4 percent gain in retail food prices, chiefly higher average prices for pork and eggs, accounted for more than 60 percent of the overall rise. In addition, higher shelter costs contributed significantly to the advance. Lower car prices were responsible for nearly the entire decline of 0.9 percent in the transportation index. The only additional decreases of real significance were those registered by household durables and sporting goods.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS Cost-of-living escalator allowances for about 120,000 workers, mainly employees of aircraft-missile firms and various other metal working enterprises, are subject to review on the basis of the February national Consumer Price Index. However, since the February index of 127.5 was only 0.1 percent higher than the level reached 3 months earlier, only about 30,000 workers will receive an increase, virtually all amounting to 1 cent an hour, on a quarterly basis.

On the basis of the Los Angeles index of 131.4 for February, an additional 10,000 employees of retail food stores in southern California will receive increases amounting to 9 cents an hour for all employees except box boys, who are to receive 4½ cents an hour. These increases, the first in a series of semiannual adjustments, were determined by the change in the city index since November 1958.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index--United States city average
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, February 1961
and percent changes from selected dates

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to February 1961 from --			
	February 1961	January 1961	January 1961	November 1960	February 1960	Year 1959
All items-----	127.5	127.4	0.1	0.1	1.5	114.6
Food-----	121.4	121.3	.1	.2	3.4	157.7
Food at home-----	118.6	118.5	.1	.2	3.7	151.8
Cereals and bakery products-----	139.4	139.1	.2	.6	3.1	143.7
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	111.8	111.6	.2	1.7	5.3	168.8
Dairy products-----	119.0	119.1	-.1	.1	2.1	139.0
Fruits and vegetables-----	127.2	126.1	.9	.8	1.0	174.7
Other foods at home-----	108.5	109.5	-.9	-2.8	5.4	124.2
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	120.3	120.0	.2	.6	2.1	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	132.4	132.3	.1	.2	0.9	74.0
Rent-----	143.1	142.9	.1	.3	1.5	65.2
Gas and electricity-----	125.9	125.9	0	.2	1.5	20.0
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	141.3	139.6	1.2	3.7	1.7	150.5
Housefurnishings-----	103.7	103.6	.1	-.3	-.6	94.2
Household operation-----	138.3	138.3	0	0	1.5	102.2
Apparel-----	109.6	109.4	.2	-1.0	1.1	108.8
Men's and boys'-----	111.3	111.4	-.1	-.6	2.4	119.1
Women's and girls'-----	99.5	99.1	.4	-1.9	.2	82.6
Footwear-----	140.9	140.3	.4	.4	1.6	180.1
Other apparel-----	92.9	93.0	-.1	-1.3	.1	128.8
Transportation-----	146.2	146.2	0	-.2	-.9	108.3
Private-----	133.9	134.0	-.1	-.4	-1.5	104.4
Public-----	205.7	205.5	.1	1.4	3.9	153.0
Medical care-----	159.4	158.5	.6	.9	3.0	119.6
Personal care-----	133.8	133.7	.1	-.1	.9	124.5
Reading and recreation-----	122.7	122.2	.4	.2	1.7	94.8
Other goods and services-----	132.6	132.6	0	-.1	.6	87.8
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	130.8	130.6	.2	0	.8	89.3
All items less shelter-----	125.0	124.8	.2	0	1.6	125.6
Commodities-----	118.1	118.0	.1	-.2	1.2	128.9
Nondurables-----	120.8	120.7	.1	-.1	2.4	135.0
Food-----	121.4	121.3	.1	.2	3.4	157.7
Nondurables less food-----	120.6	120.5	.1	-.4	1.0	105.5
Apparel-----	109.4	109.2	.2	-1.1	1.0	110.0
Apparel less footwear-----	104.0	103.9	.1	-1.3	1.0	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	130.1	130.0	.1	.1	1.0	97.4
Durables-----	110.3	110.2	.1	-.4	-2.6	92.5
New cars-----	137.9	139.0	-.8	-.9	-1.6	141.9
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	84.1	80.9	4.0	2.9	-11.2	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	102.1	102.4	-.3	-.7	-1.3	78.2
Commodities less food-----	115.5	115.4	.1	-.3	-.4	94.4
Services-----	151.9	151.7	.1	.4	2.0	88.9
Rent-----	143.1	142.9	.1	.3	1.5	65.2
Services less rent-----	154.2	154.0	.1	.4	2.2	109.8
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	140.2	140.1	.1	.1	1.7	61.1
Transportation services-----	187.7	187.6	.1	.4	2.2	134.3
Medical care services-----	167.1	165.9	.7	1.2	3.9	137.0
Other services 2/-----	137.1	137.2	-.1	.3	1.8	135.2
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.784	\$0.785	-.1	-.1	-1.5	-53.4

1/ Not available.

2/ Includes house purchase, interest, taxes, insurance, and upkeep, not shown separately.

3/ Includes house purchase, interest, taxes, insurance, and upkeep services; shoe repairs, television repairs, barber and beauty shop services, and movies.

TABLE 2: Consumer Price Index—All items indexes and percent changes, selected dates
U.S. city average and 20 large cities

City	Indexes (1947-49=100)				Percent change to current month from --		
	February 1961	November 1960	February 1960	Year 1939	November 1960	February 1960	Year 1939
United States city average-----	127.5	127.4	125.6	59.4	0.1	1.5	114.6
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	130.5	130.5	129.1	58.6	0	1.1	122.7
Detroit-----	126.4	125.7	123.9	59.0	.6	2.0	114.2
Los Angeles-----	131.4	130.6	128.8	60.4	.6	2.0	117.5
New York-----	126.2	126.5	124.4	60.1	-.2	1.4	110.0
Philadelphia-----	127.9	127.9	125.5	59.2	0	1.9	116.0
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	February 1961	November 1960	February 1960	Year 1939	November 1960	February 1960	Year 1939
Cleveland-----	128.3	127.9	126.1	59.2	.3	1.7	116.7
Houston-----	125.1	126.4	125.6	59.5	- 1.0	- 0.4	110.3
Scranton-----	123.5	123.9	121.4	58.5	-.3	1.7	111.1
Seattle-----	130.8	130.5	129.0	59.2	.2	1.4	120.9
Washington, D.C.-----	124.5	123.8	121.9	60.4	.6	2.1	106.1
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	January 1961	October 1960	January 1960	Year 1939	October 1960	January 1960	Year 1939
Boston-----	129.3	129.1	126.4	61.0	.2	2.3	112.0
Kansas City-----	127.6	128.2	127.0	61.7	-.5	.5	106.8
Minneapolis-----	127.8	128.5	126.2	60.7	-.5	1.3	110.5
Pittsburgh-----	129.2	129.0	126.6	58.1	.2	2.1	122.4
Portland, Oregon-----	128.8	127.2	127.2	58.3	1.3	1.3	120.9
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	December 1960	September 1960	December 1959	Year 1939	September 1960	December 1959	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	127.7	127.9	126.4	58.3	-.2	1.0	119.0
Baltimore-----	129.3	128.7	127.2	57.9	.5	1.7	123.3
Cincinnati-----	125.0	124.8	123.8	58.4	.2	1.0	114.0
St. Louis-----	127.9	127.4	126.6	59.3	.4	1.0	115.7
San Francisco-----	133.9	133.0	131.8	58.6	.7	1.6	128.5

1/ Rents priced bimonthly.

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

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index--Percent changes from January 1961 to February 1961
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	0.1	0.1	0.2	0	0.6	0.1	0.4	0
Chicago-----	.1	.1	0	.3	- 0.5	0	.1	1.6	0
Detroit-----	.1	.3	-.4	.4	-.5	.2	.6	1.2	0.1
Los Angeles-----	.2	-.2	.6	.6	-.1	0	.4	-.2	0
New York-----	.1	.1	.2	-.1	-.3	.2	0	.2	-.6
Philadelphia-----	.1	.2	-.1	-.3	.4	-.1	.5	0	.2

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
 February 1961 indexes and percent changes, November 1960 to February 1961
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in

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 -----	127.5	130.5	128.3	126.4	125.1	131.4	126.2	127.9	123.5	130.8	124.5
Food -----	121.4	119.3	116.9	121.3	116.3	128.2	122.8	123.8	117.7	124.7	121.1
Food at home -----	118.6	116.8	113.9	118.4	113.2	122.7	119.0	120.2	116.2	122.1	118.5
Cereals and bakery products --	139.4	132.6	132.6	131.0	128.7	152.7	149.0	139.0	134.8	150.3	139.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	111.8	107.4	106.7	107.3	104.8	111.7	112.8	113.6	111.8	114.0	109.8
Dairy products -----	119.0	123.7	109.9	120.2	116.7	116.9	120.9	122.4	114.2	125.5	122.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.2	123.7	121.6	135.0	123.7	141.2	120.9	127.5	122.4	135.5	119.2
Other foods at home -----	108.5	112.8	109.4	107.9	104.8	109.4	107.8	108.1	105.9	105.2	112.6
Housing -----	132.4	140.9	131.6	127.3	131.9	140.3	131.8	127.1	126.3	135.0	124.0
Rent -----	143.1	--	161.7	141.0	138.1	--	136.8	--	134.6	152.0	133.9
Gas and electricity -----	125.9	129.6	124.1	122.3	134.3	147.8	121.7	106.7	124.9	86.7	136.8
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	141.3	146.0	146.5	128.5	--	--	149.6	138.4	141.1	139.2	146.9
Housefurnishings -----	103.7	101.8	98.7	2/108.6	99.5	102.1	107.0	109.5	99.1	103.1	99.7
Household operation -----	138.3	138.4	125.9	126.1	145.1	128.4	139.0	147.9	123.6	139.8	139.5
Apparel -----	109.6	112.5	110.4	109.0	112.1	112.2	108.8	109.4	114.2	112.9	105.8
Men's and boys' -----	111.3	116.9	114.6	111.6	109.6	115.3	112.3	112.0	114.9	116.5	110.9
Women's and girls' -----	99.5	98.8	99.7	98.5	105.6	103.0	96.2	99.1	106.0	102.5	96.1
Footwear -----	140.9	146.7	135.4	137.4	143.6	141.6	144.3	139.0	145.2	144.6	131.2
Other apparel -----	92.9	97.3	96.2	87.8	90.0	84.6	97.3	95.6	94.7	89.1	90.8
Transportation -----	146.2	154.1	143.6	138.2	137.6	146.4	146.3	156.4	144.1	149.3	144.6
Private -----	133.9	134.6	134.8	130.6	129.5	136.8	127.6	133.1	130.5	137.3	135.9
Public -----	205.7	205.0	181.8	179.1	198.3	214.1	191.0	211.6	191.3	189.4	178.3
Medical care -----	159.4	170.3	185.3	163.6	138.8	153.0	148.4	162.3	134.6	158.3	157.9
Personal care -----	133.8	138.3	134.7	141.9	142.1	136.0	123.4	144.3	144.0	141.7	132.1
Reading and recreation -----	122.7	126.3	131.1	120.4	118.1	103.2	127.0	121.2	157.1	117.9	126.5
Other goods and services -----	132.6	122.4	136.6	141.9	136.8	133.9	132.4	132.8	123.9	144.6	138.0
Percent change from November 1960 to February 1961											
All items -----	0.1	0	0.3	0.6	- 1.0	0.6	- 0.2	0	- 0.3	0.2	0.6
Food -----	.2	0.5	- .2	1.6	- 0.2	.7	- .6	- 0.1	.6	1.1	- .1
Food at home -----	.2	.6	- .3	1.3	- .4	1.0	- .9	- .2	.7	1.1	- .3
Cereals and bakery products --	.6	.5	- .1	1.6	0	-.3	.5	- .5	- 1.2	- .1	.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.7	3.3	1.9	2.3	1.6	3.0	1.4	3.1	1.6	1.5	1.9
Dairy products -----	.1	.7	- .1	1.3	.4	.6	- 1.4	- 1.9	.5	4.1	.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	.8	1.8	- 1.2	5.1	- 2.7	.9	- 2.8	- .2	6.5	2.3	- 1.7
Other foods at home -----	- 2.8	- 4.3	- 3.0	- 3.1	- 1.7	-.5	- 3.2	- 3.1	- 3.4	- 2.1	- 2.7
Housing -----	.2	0	.1	.1	- .1	.5	.5	.8	.4	.3	1.6
Rent -----	.3	--	.2	1/ .1	- .1	--	1/ .4	--	.3	.3	.1
Gas and electricity -----	.2	- .3	0	4.5	.1	0	-.3	0	0	0	0
Solid fuels and fuel oil -----	3.7	1.7	2.1	.9	--	--	7.5	11.2	1.4	0	8.9
Housefurnishings -----	-.3	.1	-.7	-.6	-.1	-.6	-.6	- 1.6	-.2	-.6	-.2
Household operation -----	0	-.8	.1	.5	.1	.2	-.1	3.1	1.2	.7	3.3
Apparel -----	- 1.0	- 1.2	.2	.9	-.5	.2	-.9	- 2.8	-.7	-.5	-.4
Men's and boys' -----	-.6	- 1.0	-.8	1.1	-.2	.1	-.5	-.6	.1	.3	-.1
Women's and girls' -----	- 1.9	- 2.4	.8	.7	-.3	.7	- 2.2	- 4.7	- 1.1	- 1.1	-.7
Footwear -----	.4	.9	.7	.7	- 1.9	.1	2.0	- 1.6	-.5	.1	0
Other apparel -----	- 1.3	-.5	-.6	1.3	-.9	- 1.6	- 1.2	- 2.0	-.4	- 2.4	-.3
Transportation -----	-.2	- 1.7	.1	- 1.0	- 5.6	2.4	-.7	.3	-.8	-.3	- 1.0
Private -----	-.4	- 1.9	.4	- 1.1	- 6.3	.4	-.7	-.2	-.8	-.2	-.9
Public -----	1.4	0	0	0	0	14.8	0	2.2	0	.3	0
Medical care -----	.9	1.1	6.7	.3	-.1	.1	.3	.4	1.0	-.1	1.4
Personal care -----	-.1	.1	-.1	.5	-.1	.6	-.2	-.1	-.4	-.5	.2
Reading and recreation -----	.2	.8	-.4	.8	- 1.0	- 1.0	-.6	-.7	- 7.8	- 1.0	1.6
Other goods and services -----	-.1	.1	0	1.3	-.6	- 1.0	-.8	.2	0	.8	-.2

1/ Change from December 1960 to February 1961.
 2/ Revised indexes--Dec. 1960 = 109.2, Jan. 1961 = 109.5.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
February 1961 indexes and percent changes, January 1961 to February 1961
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 ---	121.4	0.1	118.6	0.1	139.4	0.2	111.8	0.2	119.0	- 0.1	127.2	0.9	108.5	- 0.9
Atlanta -----	117.9	- .2	116.1	- .2	126.9	.4	116.0	.2	117.7	0	125.3	- .9	103.1	- .5
Baltimore -----	120.9	- .1	116.5	- .3	134.9	- .3	111.5	.2	117.6	.2	119.6	- .7	108.8	- .8
Boston -----	121.0	.4	117.5	.4	135.4	.1	111.9	.1	115.6	.2	128.7	1.8	104.6	.2
Chicago -----	119.3	.1	116.8	.2	132.6	.2	107.4	1.0	123.7	.2	123.7	- .2	112.8	- 1.1
Cincinnati -----	122.1	- .2	119.4	- .2	139.6	- .4	114.3	.5	119.1	.3	126.9	- .5	110.4	- 1.3
Cleveland -----	116.9	.1	113.9	.1	132.6	.1	106.7	.9	109.9	- .1	121.6	- .1	109.4	- .8
Detroit -----	121.3	.3	118.4	.2	131.0	.2	107.3	.2	120.2	- .2	135.0	1.7	107.9	- .7
Houston -----	116.3	.1	113.2	0	128.7	0	104.8	1.4	116.7	.3	123.7	- 1.4	104.8	- .9
Kansas City -----	113.9	- .6	110.8	- 1.0	135.1	- .3	104.5	0	107.0	- 5.1	118.1	- .3	101.9	- .1
Los Angeles -----	128.2	- .2	122.7	- .2	152.7	- .3	111.7	.2	116.9	.2	141.2	- .1	109.4	- .8
Minneapolis -----	119.2	- .2	115.8	- .3	135.1	0	105.2	.1	110.6	0	132.4	- .8	112.3	- .5
New York -----	122.8	.1	119.0	0	149.0	.3	112.8	- .4	120.9	0	120.9	.9	107.8	- .7
Philadelphia -----	123.8	.2	120.2	.3	139.0	.2	113.6	1.0	122.4	.1	127.5	1.2	108.1	- 1.3
Pittsburgh -----	123.2	.2	121.6	.2	139.6	.6	113.4	.4	121.0	- .1	125.9	.5	119.4	- .4
Portland, Oreg. -----	122.0	- .3	118.5	- .4	141.7	.1	109.1	.3	124.9	- .2	123.2	- .8	109.4	- 1.7
St. Louis -----	121.3	0	116.3	- .3	126.0	0	107.9	.7	110.8	0	133.5	- 1.2	113.9	- .9
San Francisco -----	126.5	.3	123.4	.4	152.6	0	115.5	- .5	123.9	0	138.6	3.7	106.7	- .7
Scranton -----	117.7	.5	116.2	.7	134.8	- .4	111.8	1.3	114.2	.1	122.4	4.1	105.9	- 1.6
Seattle -----	124.7	.2	122.1	.2	150.3	0	114.0	- .6	125.5	.2	135.5	2.9	105.2	- .8
Washington, D.C. -----	121.1	- .2	118.5	- .3	139.1	.1	109.8	.2	122.7	.1	119.2	- 1.2	112.6	- .5

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

Food and unit	February 1961	January 1961	Food and unit	February 1961	January 1961
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Cereals and bakery products:			Fresh--Continued		
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	56.1	56.1	Grapefruit * ----- each	12.6	12.5
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	27.0	27.0	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Macaroni ----- 16 oz.	23.3	23.3	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- lb.	13.1	13.1	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 13 oz.	22.3	22.3	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	26.0	26.0	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	65.5	66.1
Rice, short grain ----- lb.	18.5	18.5	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	15.2	14.5
Rice, long grain ----- lb.	20.6	20.5	Onions ----- lb.	9.8	8.6
Bread, white ----- lb.	20.9	20.8	Carrots ----- lb.	16.0	16.1
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.1	29.1	Lettuce ----- head	16.3	18.1
Sandwich cookies 1/ ----- lb.	51.6	51.4	Celery ----- lb.	13.5	13.2
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage ----- lb.	9.4	9.1
Round steak ----- lb.	106.2	105.6	Tomatoes ----- lb.	29.9	31.5
Sirloin steak ----- lb.	109.1	109.9	Beans, green ----- lb.	28.5	28.5
Chuck roast ----- lb.	62.7	63.1	Canned:		
Rib roast ----- lb.	82.7	83.4	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	47.4	45.0
Hamburger ----- lb.	52.6	52.4	Pineapple juice ----- 46 oz. can	32.7	32.3
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	145.1	143.1	Peaches ----- #2 3/4 can	33.6	33.6
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	87.7	89.5	Pineapple ----- #2 can	38.5	38.2
Pork roast ----- lb.	63.3	64.6	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.8	26.9
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	70.8	69.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	20.3	20.1
Ham, whole ----- lb.	62.8	63.2	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.8	21.7
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	71.8	72.4	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.3	16.1
Frankfurters ----- lb.	63.3	63.2	Tomato juice ----- 46 oz. can	32.8	32.6
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.4	50.6	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.7	10.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	42.4	41.6	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	47.2	46.6	Prunes ----- lb.	41.2	40.9
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	56.1	55.8	Beans ----- lb.	16.8	16.8
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	72.0	70.8	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.3	32.4	Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.4
Dairy products:			Beans, with pork ----- 15-oz. can	14.9	14.9
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.8	24.9	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.5	26.4
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	26.2	26.3	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.8	22.8
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	87.0	86.9	Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	27.4	27.3
Butter ----- lb.	76.6	76.5	Coffee ----- 1 lb. can	74.6	74.3
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	37.1	36.9	Coffee ----- 1 lb. bag	59.3	59.0
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.8	15.8	Tea bags ----- pkgs. of 16	24.5	24.5
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	30.6	30.2
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	85.2	85.3
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.1	27.1	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	27.4	27.2
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	25.2	23.3	Lard ----- lb.	20.3	20.1
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.3	13.5	Salad dressing ----- pt.	36.0	36.0
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.0	21.0	Peanut butter ----- lb.	55.7	55.5
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.1	23.1	Sugar ----- 5 lb.	59.4	59.4
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.7	19.9	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.9	26.8
Fresh:			Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	29.0	29.1
Apples ----- lb.	15.7	15.2	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Bananas ----- lb.	15.8	16.1	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	60.6	64.0
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	73.5	70.4	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.4	9.3
Lemons ----- lb.	21.2	21.9			

* Priced only in season.
1/ Replaces vanilla cookies.

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TABLE A: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
 1960 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1959 to 1960
 5 cities priced in February 1961
 (1947-49 = 100)

Group	Cleveland		Houston		Scranton		Seattle		Washington, D.C.	
	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change	Index	Percent change
All items-----	127.1	1.2	125.8	1.0	122.3	1.2	129.8	1.2	123.0	1.1
Food-----	115.8	1.5	115.0	0.3	115.5	0.1	122.7	1.6	120.0	0.8
Food at home-----	112.9	1.2	111.9	- .5	113.8	- .5	120.0	1.0	117.4	.9
Cereals and bakery products--	130.3	1.1	127.0	1.3	134.5	.3	148.6	1.5	134.8	2.5
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	104.5	0.6	103.2	- 2.4	108.2	- 1.9	112.5	- 1.2	107.6	- 2.2
Dairy products-----	110.0	.2	114.8	1.2	111.8	- .3	120.0	2.6	121.3	2.5
Fruits and vegetables-----	122.4	4.3	124.9	- .1	119.7	- .3	132.7	4.3	124.6	1.2
Other foods at home-----	108.7	.4	103.0	- .9	104.3	.8	105.3	0.2	110.2	2.3
Housing-----	131.2	.6	132.3	1.1	124.7	.9	133.8	.8	121.7	.7
Rent-----	161.0	.8	138.5	- .3	133.3	1.1	151.0	1.5	132.5	2.2
Gas and electricity-----	124.0	6.9	134.1	9.0	122.5	2.2	86.7	0	136.3	1.9
Solid fuels and fuel oil-----	142.3	1.4	--	--	137.0	- 4.1	139.4	- 1.8	135.9	- 3.5
Housefurnishings-----	99.5	- 1.0	101.7	.5	98.9	- 1.1	103.7	- .8	99.7	- .1
Household operation-----	125.8	1.1	145.0	1.8	121.3	3.1	137.6	- .9	134.6	1.3
Apparel-----	110.1	.5	112.4	- .1	112.9	2.3	112.2	2.4	105.6	.6
Men's and boys'-----	114.5	.8	109.1	2.5	113.3	2.6	114.6	2.0	109.2	.8
Women's and girls'-----	99.4	- .8	105.8	- 2.8	104.4	1.7	101.8	1.9	96.5	- .1
Footwear-----	134.7	2.8	145.7	3.0	145.3	4.1	145.5	4.2	131.8	1.7
Other apparel-----	96.2	1.2	90.7	.1	94.2	.7	89.6	2.8	90.8	1.0
Transportation-----	142.6	.7	144.0	- .1	146.2	.4	148.6	- 1.1	146.1	.8
Private-----	133.7	.8	136.4	- .9	132.6	.4	136.5	- 1.8	137.7	.2
Public-----	180.7	- .7	198.1	4.5	190.8	- .6	187.6	3.4	175.4	1.7
Medical care-----	172.9	3.2	138.1	2.4	133.5	2.3	158.4	4.8	154.5	3.5
Personal care-----	131.7	2.8	141.3	2.5	144.5	3.6	142.6	2.3	131.3	4.0
Reading and recreation-----	131.0	1.3	119.1	1.2	159.0	6.6	120.0	.7	122.3	2.2
Other goods and services-----	136.0	3.1	137.5	4.7	123.7	2.7	143.3	2.4	137.3	.7

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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

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