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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 1961

The Consumer Price Index remained unchanged in March at 127.5 (1947-49=100), as lower average prices for commodities offset higher service rates, the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The index continued to reflect the over-all stability which has characterized consumer prices since last October. Most changes where they did occur between February and March were relatively small. The more important declines were for food and transportation, especially used cars. Advances were recorded for housing and reading and recreation, primarily higher movie admissions. Compared with a year earlier, average retail prices have advanced 1.4 percent and remained at the record highs of February 1961 and December 1960.

FOOD Lower prices for eggs, fresh vegetables, and dairy products combined with a contraseasonal decline in prices of meats, were largely responsible for the 0.2 percent decrease in the total food index. However, the index for all foods, at 121.2, was 3.0 percent higher than a year earlier. Further seasonal increases in egg production were reflected in a decline of nearly 5 percent in average egg prices, with decreases reported in nearly all cities. Egg prices, however, were approximately 17 percent above year ago levels, reflecting the results of substantial reductions in laying flocks during 1960.

Meat prices declined an average of 0.4 percent as prices of practically all cuts of beef and pork decreased moderately. The drop in prices was attributed in part to more plentiful supplies, particularly of pork products. Meat prices were still about 5 percent above comparable levels of a year ago, largely due to substantial increases in prices of pork products.

Nearly all dairy products, led by American processed cheese, declined over the period, primarily in response to seasonal influences.

The index of prices for fruits and vegetables rose by 0.5 percent over the period, with small but widespread advances for most items except fresh vegetables. Frozen fruits and vegetables, with an increase of 1.2 percent, registered the greatest gain, principally because of a significant increase in prices of frozen orange concentrate, reportedly due to light production. Fresh fruit prices advanced, mainly reflecting higher prices for apples. Fresh vegetable prices declined on the average, led by a 10 percent decrease in prices of lettuce.

Retail prices of fats and oils rose by 1.9 percent, as all items within this group showed increases, continuing the advance begun in October 1960. Strong export demand and increased government purchases have been important factors contributing to higher prices for edible fats and oils.

HOUSING The small advance of 0.1 percent in the housing index was due largely to increases in home purchase costs, housefurnishings, and household operation. Nearly all of the remaining elements of housing were unchanged over the period, including residential rents, gas and electricity, and solid and petroleum fuels. The increase in retail prices of housefurnishings was due to higher prices of household textiles and other nondurable housefurnishings. Average prices of household durable goods were unchanged. In the household operation index, higher water rates more than offset a decline for soaps and detergents.

TRANSPORTATION A decline of 0.3 percent in transportation prices resulted primarily from lower prices for used cars and gasoline. The decline in dealers' selling prices of used cars followed a sharp advance in February. Gasoline prices

showed mixed movements throughout the country, with the net effect being a decrease of 0.5 percent. Prices in Midwest cities, particularly Kansas City, Houston, and St. Louis, returned to regular price levels with the termination of price wars. On the West Coast, however, price wars in such cities as Portland, Seattle, and Los Angeles resulted in sharp reductions in gasoline prices. The weakness in West Coast prices was ascribed to seasonally higher inventories, storage limitations and intensified competition.

READING AND RECREATION;  
APPAREL AND  
OTHER GROUPS            A 0.6 percent rise in the reading and recreation index stemmed almost entirely from higher charges for movie admissions in several cities as other components within this group registered only minor changes.

Seasonal influences, including the early Easter this year, were primary factors in a rise in apparel prices over the period. Price advances for women's and girls' apparel accounted for much of the overall increase as average prices for shoes and "other" apparel declined.

Scattered increases in fees for professional services and hospital room rates accounted for nearly all of the 0.1 percent increase in medical care costs. Over the year, the medical care index has advanced by 3.0 percent, with increased fees for professional services and higher hospitalization insurance rates leading the rise.

COST-OF-LIVING  
ADJUSTMENT            Earnings of about 150,000 workers, including employees of some major aircraft and missile companies, are subject to review on the basis of the March Consumer Price Index. However, none of these workers will receive an adjustment in earnings, either on a monthly or quarterly basis, since the March Consumer Price Index at 127.5 remained unchanged from February 1961 and December 1960 levels.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to March 1961 from --			
	March 1961	February 1961	February 1961	December 1960	March 1960	Year 1959
All items-----	127.5	127.5	0	0	1.4	114.6
Food-----	121.2	121.4	- 0.2	- 0.2	3.0	157.3
Food at home-----	118.3	118.6	- .3	- .3	3.1	151.2
Cereals and bakery products-----	139.6	139.4	.1	.4	3.0	144.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	111.4	111.8	- .4	.8	3.9	167.8
Dairy products-----	118.5	119.0	- .4	- .7	1.8	138.0
Fruits and vegetables-----	127.8	127.2	.5	1.2	2.2	176.0
Other foods at home-----	107.6	108.5	- .8	- 3.6	4.1	122.3
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	120.6	120.3	.2	.6	2.2	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	132.5	132.4	.1	.2	0.9	74.1
Rent-----	143.1	143.1	0	.2	1.3	65.2
Gas and electricity-----	125.9	125.9	0	.2	1.5	20.0
Solid and petroleum fuels 4/-----	141.3	141.3	0	3.1	3.0	150.5
Housefurnishings-----	103.9	103.7	.2	0	- .8	94.6
Household operation-----	138.5	138.3	.1	.1	1.2	102.5
Apparel-----	109.8	109.6	.2	- .7	.9	109.1
Men's and boys'-----	111.4	111.3	.1	- .5	2.3	119.3
Women's and girls'-----	99.9	99.5	.4	- 1.2	.3	83.3
Footwear-----	140.9	140.9	0	.1	.9	180.1
Other apparel-----	92.6	92.9	- .3	- 1.5	- .4	128.1
Transportation-----	145.7	146.2	- .3	- .5	- .5	107.5
Private-----	133.4	133.9	- .4	- .8	- 1.1	103.7
Public-----	205.7	205.7	0	1.4	3.9	153.0
Medical care-----	159.6	159.4	.1	1.0	3.0	119.8
Personal care-----	133.6	133.8	- .1	- .1	.7	124.2
Reading and recreation-----	123.4	122.7	.6	.9	2.1	95.9
Other goods and services-----	132.6	132.6	0	- .1	.7	87.8
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	130.9	130.8	.1	.1	.9	89.4
All items less shelter-----	125.0	125.0	0	0	1.5	125.6
Commodities-----	118.0	118.1	- .1	- .3	1.1	128.7
Nondurables-----	120.7	120.8	- .1	- .2	2.0	134.8
Food-----	121.2	121.4	- .2	- .2	3.0	157.3
Nondurables less food-----	120.7	120.6	.1	- .2	.9	105.6
Apparel-----	109.6	109.4	.2	- .8	.9	110.4
Apparel less footwear-----	104.2	104.0	.2	- 1.0	1.0	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	130.0	130.1	- .1	0	.9	97.3
Durables-----	109.9	110.3	- .4	- .8	- 2.3	91.8
New cars-----	138.1	137.9	.1	- .6	- .1	142.3
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	82.1	84.1	- 2.4	- 1.1	- 9.6	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	102.0	102.1	- .1	- .8	- 1.5	78.0
Commodities less food-----	115.4	115.5	- .1	- .4	- .3	94.3
Services-----	152.2	151.9	.2	.5	2.0	89.3
Rent-----	143.1	143.1	0	.2	1.3	65.2
Services less rent-----	154.6	154.2	.3	.7	2.2	110.3
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	140.4	140.2	.1	.3	1.5	61.4
Transportation services-----	188.2	187.7	.3	.7	2.3	135.0
Medical care services-----	167.3	167.1	.1	1.2	3.7	137.3
Other services 3/-----	137.6	137.1	.4	.6	2.0	136.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.784	\$0.784	0	0	- 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.

4/ Change in designation only; otherwise this series identical with CPI subgroup previously designated as "Solid fuels and fuel oil."

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 1961	December 1960	March 1960	Year 1939	December 1960	March 1960	Year 1939
United States city average-----	127.5	127.5	125.7	59.4	0	1.4	114.6
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	130.2	130.6	129.2	58.6	- 0.3	0.8	122.2
Detroit-----	125.8	125.8	123.9	59.0	0	1.5	113.2
Los Angeles-----	130.9	131.0	129.3	60.4	- .1	1.2	116.7
New York-----	126.1	126.3	124.5	60.1	- .2	1.3	109.8
Philadelphia-----	127.7	128.0	126.0	59.2	- .2	1.3	115.7
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	March 1961	December 1960	March 1960	Year 1939	December 1960	March 1960	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	127.7	127.7	126.7	58.3	0	.8	119.0
Baltimore-----	129.5	129.3	127.7	57.9	.2	1.4	123.7
Cincinnati-----	124.8	125.0	123.6	58.4	- .2	1.0	113.7
St. Louis-----	128.9	127.9	126.3	59.3	.8	2.1	117.4
San Francisco-----	133.8	133.9	131.6	58.6	- .1	1.7	128.3
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	- .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	129.9
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

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 February 1961 to March 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	- 0.2	0.1	0.2	- 0.3	0.1	- 0.1	0.6	0
Chicago-----	- 0.2	- .5	.1	.2	- 1.0	0	- .4	.1	0.2
Detroit-----	- .5	- .2	- .3	- .5	- 2.0	.1	.1	- 1.1	- .2
Los Angeles-----	- .4	- .1	0	0	- 2.7	0	- .4	0	- .4
New York-----	- .1	- .2	0	- .2	.3	.1	- .4	.1	0
Philadelphia-----	- .2	- .4	- .2	.6	.1	.2	.1	- .2	- .1

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

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 -----	127.5	127.7	129.5	130.2	124.8	125.8	130.9	126.1	127.7	128.9	133.8
Food -----	121.2	117.4	121.0	118.7	121.5	121.1	128.1	122.5	123.3	121.4	126.6
Food at home -----	118.3	115.6	116.5	116.1	118.6	118.2	122.3	118.6	119.5	116.0	123.6
Cereals and bakery products --	139.6	126.6	135.3	132.5	139.2	130.4	153.3	149.1	138.9	126.0	152.7
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	111.4	115.5	112.1	106.2	113.5	106.8	110.4	112.4	112.7	107.8	115.5
Dairy products -----	118.5	117.1	117.5	121.3	117.8	119.7	116.6	120.0	121.8	110.8	123.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.8	124.4	119.8	124.6	127.1	135.4	143.9	122.7	128.4	132.1	141.6
Other foods at home -----	107.6	102.6	107.5	112.9	109.0	108.0	107.6	105.7	106.6	113.8	105.6
Housing -----	132.5	136.1	129.7	141.0	126.1	126.9	140.3	131.8	126.9	129.4	137.5
Rent -----	143.1	141.5	140.1	168.3	144.5	--	151.0	--	131.4	150.8	158.1
Gas and electricity -----	125.9	135.8	110.2	129.7	136.7	122.4	148.0	121.8	106.7	114.7	152.3
Solid and petroleum fuels <sup>3/</sup> ----	141.3	139.8	140.7	145.5	152.6	128.5	--	149.6	138.3	162.5	--
Housefurnishings -----	103.9	107.8	100.1	101.9	94.9	109.1	101.8	107.4	109.8	103.9	105.3
Household operation -----	138.5	148.8	136.6	138.2	143.1	123.9	128.9	138.8	148.0	141.9	130.2
Apparel -----	109.8	115.6	114.3	112.7	107.6	108.5	112.2	108.6	110.1	111.0	111.6
Men's and boys' -----	111.4	120.8	109.0	116.6	110.2	111.5	115.3	112.5	112.0	111.9	110.8
Women's and girls' -----	99.9	104.5	109.3	99.5	96.2	97.5	103.0	95.8	100.3	102.9	102.7
Footwear -----	140.9	148.2	146.5	146.3	145.6	137.7	141.6	144.3	139.6	138.0	148.3
Other apparel -----	92.6	90.4	100.1	97.4	89.1	87.5	84.6	96.1	96.0	96.3	91.7
Transportation -----	145.7	144.1	160.3	152.5	142.8	135.5	142.5	146.8	156.6	163.4	164.9
Private -----	133.4	134.3	136.5	132.7	131.0	127.5	132.5	128.2	133.3	138.0	152.1
Public -----	205.7	202.1	231.5	205.0	191.2	179.1	214.1	191.0	211.6	252.5	184.8
Medical care -----	159.6	145.6	175.8	170.3	<sup>2/</sup> 161.0	163.7	153.0	148.5	162.7	172.5	161.2
Personal care -----	133.6	139.8	132.8	137.8	129.7	142.0	135.4	122.9	144.5	139.2	132.3
Reading and recreation -----	123.4	127.8	132.6	126.4	111.1	119.1	103.2	127.1	121.0	106.1	120.4
Other goods and services -----	132.6	133.6	140.0	122.7	131.3	141.6	133.4	132.4	132.7	132.4	135.0
Percent change from December 1960 to March 1961											
All items -----	0	0	0.2	- 0.3	- 0.2	0	- 0.1	- 0.2	- 0.2	0.8	- 0.1
Food -----	- 0.2	- 0.7	- .2	- .3	- .6	0.8	0	- .2	- .5	- .3	.3
Food at home -----	- .3	- .8	- .6	- .4	- .8	.7	- .1	- .5	- .7	- 1.1	.2
Cereals and bakery products --	.4	.2	- .1	.3	0	.5	.4	.3	.2	0	0
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	.8	1.4	.6	.7	.4	1.1	.7	1.4	1.5	.7	.4
Dairy products -----	- .7	- .8	.5	- 1.4	- .8	.2	- 2.3	- 2.6	- .1	.2	.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	1.2	- .7	.4	2.0	.2	3.8	1.5	1.4	1.3	- 1.9	4.2
Other foods at home -----	- 3.6	- 3.9	- 3.9	- 3.4	- 3.6	- 2.1	- 3.0	- 4.0	- 4.0	- 4.0	- 3.3
Housing -----	.2	0	.2	.1	- .2	- .5	.6	.4	.2	.2	.1
Rent -----	.2	.4	- .1	<sup>1/</sup> .2	- .3	--	<sup>1/</sup> .1	--	<sup>1/</sup> .2	0	.7
Gas and electricity -----	.2	- .1	- .1	- .2	0	.6	.1	0	0	0	0
Solid and petroleum fuels <sup>3/</sup> ----	3.1	0	7.1	1.3	1.0	.9	--	5.5	10.4	.7	--
Housefurnishings -----	0	- .3	- .3	.2	- 1.1	- .1	- .8	1.0	- 1.2	0	- 1.2
Household operation -----	.1	- .3	1.3	- 1.0	- .1	- 1.4	.8	- .4	.8	- .4	.2
Apparel -----	- .7	- .6	1.0	- 1.2	.1	.5	.1	- 1.2	- 1.6	.5	- .2
Men's and boys' -----	- .5	0	- .3	- 1.3	- .2	1.0	0	- .4	- .8	.5	- .1
Women's and girls' -----	- 1.2	- .6	2.2	- 2.3	.5	- .1	.5	- 2.3	- 2.2	1.0	0
Footwear -----	.1	- .1	.2	.6	0	1.0	.1	.9	- 1.1	0	.1
Other apparel -----	- 1.5	- 3.3	.4	- .8	- 1.2	.8	- 1.6	- 2.5	- 1.2	- .8	- .8
Transportation -----	- .5	2.1	.7	- 2.1	- .1	- 1.7	- 1.3	- .6	.3	4.7	- .8
Private -----	- .8	2.5	- .9	- 2.8	- .2	- 2.1	- 3.9	- .7	- .4	4.1	- .9
Public -----	1.4	0	7.5	0	0	0	14.8	0	2.2	5.7	0
Medical care -----	1.0	.1	.7	.9	.4	.5	.1	.3	.2	.7	.4
Personal care -----	- .1	.1	- .2	- .1	- .2	1.1	.3	- .6	.6	- .3	0
Reading and recreation -----	.9	.7	- .9	.9	- .7	- .3	- 1.0	0	- .9	4.3	- 1.1
Other goods and services -----	- .1	- .1	- .6	0	.2	1.1	- .3	- .8	.1	0	- .1

<sup>1/</sup> Change from January 1961 to March 1961.

<sup>2/</sup> Revised indexes: Dec. 1960 = 160.3; 1960 annual average = 156.4.

<sup>3/</sup> Change in designation only; otherwise this series identical with CPI subgroup previously designated as "Solid fuels and fuel oil."

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups  
 March 1961 indexes and percent changes, February 1961 to March 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 ---	121.2	- 0.2	118.3	- 0.3	139.6	0.1	111.4	- 0.4	118.5	- 0.4	127.8	0.5	107.6	- 0.8
Atlanta -----	117.4	- .4	115.6	- .4	126.6	- .2	115.5	- .4	117.1	- .5	124.4	- .7	102.6	- .5
Baltimore -----	121.0	.1	116.5	0	135.3	.3	112.1	.5	117.5	- .1	119.8	.2	107.5	- 1.2
Boston -----	120.3	- .6	116.5	- .9	136.0	.4	111.0	- .8	112.9	- 2.3	127.6	- .9	104.1	- .5
Chicago -----	118.7	- .5	116.1	- .6	132.5	- .1	106.2	- 1.1	121.3	- 1.9	124.6	.7	112.9	.1
Cincinnati -----	121.5	- .5	118.6	- .7	139.2	- .3	113.5	- .7	117.8	- 1.1	127.1	.2	109.0	- 1.3
Cleveland -----	115.9	- .9	112.6	- 1.1	131.9	- .5	105.9	- .7	107.2	- 2.5	120.4	- 1.0	108.4	- .9
Detroit -----	121.1	- .2	118.2	- .2	130.4	- .5	106.8	- .5	119.7	- .4	135.4	.3	108.0	.1
Houston -----	116.0	- .3	112.6	- .5	128.9	.2	104.1	- .7	115.4	- 1.1	123.3	- .3	104.4	- .4
Kansas City -----	115.5	1.4	112.5	1.5	135.7	.4	104.9	.4	116.5	8.9	119.0	.8	101.0	- .9
Los Angeles -----	128.1	- .1	122.3	- .3	153.3	.4	110.4	- 1.2	116.6	- .3	143.9	1.9	107.6	- 1.6
Minneapolis -----	119.0	- .2	115.5	- .3	134.9	- .1	105.0	- .2	110.2	- .4	131.7	- .5	112.0	- .3
New York -----	122.5	- .2	118.6	- .3	149.1	.1	112.4	- .4	120.0	- .7	122.7	1.5	105.7	- 1.9
Philadelphia -----	123.3	- .4	119.5	- .6	138.9	- .1	112.7	- .8	121.8	- .5	128.4	.7	106.6	- 1.4
Pittsburgh -----	122.6	- .5	120.8	- .7	139.7	.1	112.9	- .4	120.9	- .1	123.4	- 2.0	118.6	- .7
Portland, Oreg. -----	122.7	.6	118.9	.3	141.6	- .1	110.5	1.3	125.1	.2	125.0	1.5	108.4	- .9
St. Louis -----	121.4	.1	116.0	- .3	126.0	0	107.8	- .1	110.8	0	132.1	- 1.0	113.8	- .1
San Francisco -----	126.6	.1	123.6	.2	152.7	.1	115.5	0	123.5	- .3	141.6	2.2	105.6	- 1.0
Scranton -----	117.7	0	116.3	.1	136.5	1.3	111.2	- .5	114.1	- .1	124.3	1.6	104.7	- 1.1
Seattle -----	124.7	0	122.0	- .1	150.4	.1	113.9	- .1	125.0	- .4	136.6	.8	104.7	- .5
Washington, D.C. -----	121.3	.2	118.3	- .2	139.4	.2	110.4	.5	122.6	- .1	120.8	1.3	110.0	- 2.3

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

Food and unit	March 1961 Cents	February 1961 Cents	Food and unit	March 1961 Cents	February 1961 Cents
Cereals and bakery products:			Fresh--Continued		
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	56.3	56.1	Grapefruit * ----- each	12.2	12.6
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	27.1	27.0	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Macaroni ----- 15 oz.	23.2	23.3	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- lb.	13.2	13.1	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 13 oz.	22.4	22.3	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	26.1	26.0	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	65.0	65.5
Rice, short grain ----- lb.	18.5	18.5	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	15.9	15.2
Rice, long grain ----- lb.	20.6	20.6	Onions ----- lb.	9.7	9.8
Bread, white ----- lb.	20.9	20.9	Carrots ----- lb.	15.5	16.0
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.1	29.1	Lettuce ----- head	14.6	16.3
Sandwich cookies ----- lb.	51.7	51.6	Celery ----- lb.	12.8	13.5
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage ----- lb.	9.1	9.4
Round steak ----- lb.	105.7	106.2	Tomatoes ----- lb.	30.5	29.9
Sirloin steak ----- lb.	108.0	109.1	Beans, green ----- lb.	27.3	28.5
Chuck roast ----- lb.	62.3	62.7	Canned:		
Rib roast ----- lb.	82.2	82.7	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	49.1	47.4
Hamburger ----- lb.	52.3	52.6	Pineapple juice ----- 46-oz. can	32.8	32.7
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	144.2	145.1	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	33.6	33.6
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	86.8	87.7	Pineapple ----- #2 can	38.5	38.5
Pork roast ----- lb.	62.8	63.3	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.8	26.8
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	70.5	70.8	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	20.5	20.3
Ham, whole ----- lb.	62.7	62.8	Peas, green ----- #303 can	21.8	21.8
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	72.3	71.8	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.2	16.3
Frankfurters ----- lb.	63.2	63.3	Tomato juice ----- 46-oz. can	33.1	32.8
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.3	50.4	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.6	10.7
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	42.5	42.4	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	47.0	47.2	Prunes ----- lb.	41.3	41.2
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	55.6	56.1	Beans ----- lb.	16.9	16.8
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	72.8	72.0	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.2	32.3	Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Dairy products:			Beans, with pork ----- 15-oz. can	14.9	14.9
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.7	24.8	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.5	26.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	26.2	26.2	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.8	22.8
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	86.4	87.0	Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	27.4	27.4
Butter ----- lb.	76.3	76.6	Coffee ----- lb. can	74.4	74.6
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	36.4	37.1	Coffee ----- lb. bag	58.8	59.3
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.9	15.8	Tea bags ----- pkgs. of 16	24.4	24.5
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	30.4	30.6
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	86.8	85.2
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.1	27.1	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	27.9	27.4
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	25.8	25.2	Lard ----- lb.	21.3	20.3
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.5	13.3	Salad dressing ----- pt.	36.5	36.0
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.1	21.0	Peanut butter ----- lb.	55.8	55.7
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.2	23.1	Sugar ----- 5 lb.	59.4	59.4
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.6	19.7	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	26.9	26.9
Fresh:			Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	29.1	29.0
Apples ----- lb.	16.6	15.7	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Bananas ----- lb.	16.0	15.8	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	57.8	60.6
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	74.9	73.5	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.4	9.4
Lemons ----- lb.	20.9	21.2			

\* Priced only in season.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average changes in prices of goods and services usually bought by city families of wage earners and clerical workers. It is based on prices of about 300 items which were selected so that their price changes would represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage and clerical families; they include all of the important items in family spending. Prices for these items are obtained in 46 cities which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States; they are collected from grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments which wage-earner and clerical-worker families patronize.

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 46 cities. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the 5 largest cities and every 3 months in other cities. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain local transit fares, public utility rates, newspaper prices, fuel prices, and certain other items which change in price infrequently. Prices of most other goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each city are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in family spending. City data are then combined in the total index with weights based on the 1950 populations of cities they represent. Index numbers are computed on the base 1947-49 = 100.

The national index (the United States city average) includes prices from the 20 large cities for which separate indexes are published in this report, as well as from the following 26 medium-sized and small cities:

Anna, Illinois	Huntington, W. Virginia	Pulaski, Virginia
Camden, Arkansas	Laconia, New Hampshire	Ravenna, Ohio
Canton, Ohio	Lodi, California	Rawlins, Wyoming
Charleston, W. Virginia	Lynchburg, Virginia	San Jose, California
Evansville, Indiana	Madill, Oklahoma	Sandpoint, Idaho
Garrett, Indiana	Madison, Wisconsin	Shawnee, Oklahoma
Glendale, Arizona	Middlesboro, Kentucky	Shenandoah, Iowa
Grand Forks, N. Dakota	Middletown, Connecticut	Youngstown, Ohio
Grand Island, Nebraska	Newark, Ohio	

Comparisons of city indexes show only that prices in one city changed more or less than in another. The city indexes cannot be used to measure differences in price levels or in living costs between cities.

A description of the index and historical tables of index numbers for the United States city average and for 20 large cities are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington or any of its regional offices (addresses below). The historical tables include index numbers for All Items, Food, Apparel, and Rent for periods from 1913 to date; and for other groups of goods and services from 1935 to date.

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