

Released May 25, 1961

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington 25, D. C.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR APRIL 1961

The Consumer Price Index, at 127.5 (1947-49=100), was unchanged for the second consecutive month marking a further extension of the over-all stability which it has shown since last October, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. The stability of consumer prices between March and April was the result of mixed price movements, with prices for some major items increasing while others declined. The most important decreases were for gasoline, some costs of home purchase, women's apparel, and new cars. Significant advances were recorded for used cars, movie admissions, and medical care services. The Consumer Price Index remained at the record level first reached in December 1960 and was 1.0 percent above a year earlier.

HOUSING Lower costs of home ownership largely accounted for the 0.2 percent decline in the housing index, although there also were small declines for most of the other major components of this index. Lower mortgage interest rates reflected the decrease in maximum permissible rates for FHA insured mortgages and the increasing availability of mortgage funds for conventional loans. Seasonal declines were recorded for coal and petroleum fuels and there was a small decrease in average gas bills. Lower average prices of housefurnishings resulted from reductions in household textiles, particularly sheets.

APPAREL Average prices of apparel declined by 0.3 percent as sharp seasonal reductions for women's wool coats and suits were only partially offset by higher prices for men's and boys' apparel, which were primarily the result of the introduction of new spring and summer lines. The decline in women's and girls' apparel (0.8 percent) was the sharpest decrease registered for this period since 1949.

FOOD The stability in retail food prices was mainly attributable to the net effect of higher prices for fresh fruits and vegetables and fats and oils and lower prices for eggs, meats, poultry, and dairy products. The index for food at 121.2 (1947-49=100) was 1.4 percent above year ago levels.

Average prices of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables rose by 2.8 percent, led by a seasonal increase of nearly 6 percent in fresh fruit prices. Fresh strawberries coming on the market at the beginning of the season in April were priced sharply above levels prevailing at the end of the 1960 season. Prices of oranges and apples also rose as market supplies diminished seasonally. Partially counterbalancing these increases were lower prices for fruits in season, grapefruit, bananas, and lemons. Fresh vegetable prices averaged 2.5 percent higher over the period with higher prices reported for nearly all items. Tomato prices increased by about 10 percent as unfavorable weather delayed harvests in major producing areas.

Eggs declined seasonally and prices dropped below year earlier levels for the first time this year. Price decreases occurred in nearly all cities with a substantial majority of the cities reporting decreases of more than 5 percent.

Lower prices for meats and poultry resulted in the first decrease in the meats, poultry and fish index between March and April since 1953. Meat prices declined by 0.7 percent with price declines registered for nearly all beef and pork products. Production of beef continued to run above a year ago. Poultry prices declined by nearly 3 percent as marketings of ready-to-cook chickens were at new record levels and most cities reported decreases ranging up to 14 percent. Seasonal adjustments in milk prices in a number of cities resulted in an average decline of 0.5 percent for dairy products over the period. Among edible fats and oils, all items except peanut butter were higher in price, reflecting earlier increases in prices of raw materials.

Hydrogenated shortening showed the largest increase (2.6 percent), with margarine up 2.3 percent and lard up 2.2 percent.

**TRANSPORTATION,
MEDICAL CARE, AND
OTHER GROUPS**

While transportation costs were almost unchanged on the average, significant price changes took place for several transportation items. Specifically, there was a strong upward movement in used car prices and a sharp reduction in gasoline prices. In spite of a record increase of nearly 7 percent in April, used car prices were still 11 percent below their most recent high just prior to large scale introduction of compact cars in September 1959. The strength in used car prices resulted from strong consumer demand in recent months.

Gasoline prices declined by approximately 4 percent over the period, despite gasoline tax increases in at least two states. Seasonally heavy inventories and widespread price wars were the primary factors underlying the weakness in gasoline prices.

Dealers' selling prices of new cars declined by 0.4 percent as new car sales and production lagged below comparable 1959-60 levels.

Higher transit fares in a few cities were largely responsible for the 0.5 percent increase in public transportation costs.

The cost of medical care rose slightly, with higher hospitalization and surgical insurance rates accounting for nearly all of the increase. An 0.6 percent increase in the reading and recreation group resulted largely from an advance of 1.3 percent in movie admission charges.

**COST-OF-LIVING
ADJUSTMENT**

Cost-of-living allowances for about 1 million workers will remain unchanged as a result of an April 1961 Consumer Price Index of 127.5. Most of these workers are employed in automobile and related parts industries and by some agricultural implement companies. However, about 56,000 employees of two aircraft and missile firms will receive a 3 cents an hour increase in wage rates, representing their first adjustment since last year. Increases of 1 cent an hour are also scheduled for about 25,000 Allis-Chalmers workers.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to April 1961 from --			
	April 1961	March 1961	March 1961	January 1961	April 1960	Year 1959
All items-----	127.5	127.5	0	0.1	1.0	114.6
Food-----	121.2	121.2	0	- .1	1.4	157.3
Food at home-----	118.3	118.3	0	- .2	1.4	151.2
Cereals and bakery products-----	139.7	139.6	0.1	.4	2.9	144.2
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	110.5	111.4	- .8	- 1.0	1.1	165.6
Dairy products-----	117.9	118.5	- .5	- 1.0	2.3	136.7
Fruits and vegetables-----	131.4	127.8	2.8	4.2	1.2	183.8
Other foods at home-----	106.4	107.6	- 1.1	- 2.8	0.3	119.8
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	120.8	120.6	.2	.7	1.9	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	132.3	132.5	- .2	0	.7	73.9
Rent-----	143.3	143.1	.1	.3	1.3	65.5
Gas and electricity-----	125.8	125.9	- .1	- .1	1.1	19.9
Solid and petroleum fuels 4/-----	139.9	141.3	- 1.0	.2	2.6	148.0
Housefurnishings-----	103.8	103.9	- .1	.2	.9	94.4
Household operation-----	138.7	138.5	.1	.3	1.2	102.8
Apparel-----	109.5	109.8	- .3	.1	.6	108.6
Men's and boys'-----	111.7	111.4	.3	.3	2.0	119.9
Women's and girls'-----	99.1	99.9	- .8	0	-.5	81.8
Footwear-----	140.8	140.9	- .1	.4	.7	179.9
Other apparel-----	92.8	92.6	.2	- .2	-.1	128.6
Transportation-----	145.8	145.7	.1	- .3	-.2	107.7
Private-----	133.4	133.4	0	- .4	-.7	103.7
Public-----	206.5	205.7	.4	.5	4.3	154.0
Medical care-----	159.9	159.6	.2	.9	2.8	120.2
Personal care-----	133.8	133.6	.1	.1	.7	124.5
Reading and recreation-----	124.1	123.4	.6	1.6	2.5	97.0
Other goods and services-----	132.6	132.6	0	0	.5	87.8
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	130.8	130.9	- .1	.2	.8	89.3
All items less shelter-----	125.0	125.0	0	.2	1.1	125.6
Commodities-----	117.9	118.0	- .1	- .1	.4	128.5
Nondurables-----	120.4	120.7	- .2	-.2	.8	134.2
Food-----	121.2	121.2	0	- .1	1.4	157.3
Nondurables less food-----	120.0	120.7	- .6	- .4	.3	104.4
Apparel-----	109.4	109.6	- .2	.2	.6	110.0
Apparel less footwear-----	104.0	104.2	- .2	.1	.6	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	129.0	130.0	- .8	-.8	0	95.8
Durables-----	110.7	109.9	.7	.5	- 1.2	93.2
New cars-----	137.5	138.1	- .4	- 1.1	-.7	141.2
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	87.7	82.1	6.8	8.4	-.7	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	101.9	102.0	- .1	-.5	- 1.6	77.8
Commodities less food-----	115.2	115.4	- .2	-.2	-.3	93.9
Services-----	152.3	152.2	.1	.4	1.9	89.4
Rent-----	143.3	143.1	.1	.3	1.3	65.5
Services less rent-----	154.7	154.6	.1	.5	2.1	110.5
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	140.5	140.4	.1	.3	1.4	61.5
Transportation services-----	188.5	188.2	.2	.5	2.3	135.3
Medical care services-----	167.7	167.3	.2	1.1	3.6	137.9
Other services 3/-----	137.5	137.6	- .1	.2	1.9	135.8
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.784	\$0.784	0	- .1	- 1.0	-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 —		
	April 1961	January 1961	April 1960	Year 1939	January 1961	April 1960	Year 1939
United States city average-----	127.5	127.4	126.2	59.4	0.1	1.0	114.6
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	130.1	130.4	129.5	58.6	- .2	0.5	122.0
Detroit-----	125.6	126.3	124.2	59.0	- .6	1.1	112.9
Los Angeles-----	131.1	131.2	130.1	60.4	- .1	.8	117.1
New York-----	125.8	126.1	124.7	60.1	- .2	.9	109.3
Philadelphia-----	128.0	127.8	126.4	59.2	.2	1.3	116.2
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	April 1961	January 1961	April 1960	Year 1939	January 1961	April 1960	Year 1939
Boston-----	130.0	129.3	128.3	61.0	.5	1.3	113.1
Kansas City-----	129.5	127.6	126.6	61.7	1.5	2.3	109.9
Minneapolis-----	129.0	127.8	127.1	60.7	.9	1.5	112.5
Pittsburgh-----	129.2	129.2	127.9	58.1	0	1.0	122.4
Portland, Oregon-----	128.3	126.8	127.5	58.3	- .4	.6	120.1
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	120.9
Washington, D. C.-----	124.5	123.8	121.9	60.4	.6	2.1	106.1

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 March 1961 to April 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	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	0
Chicago-----	- 0.1	0.1	- .3	- .2	.5	- .1	.4	- 2.1	0.2
Detroit-----	- .2	.2	- .2	0	- 1.3	- .2	.1	0	- .1
Los Angeles-----	- .2	.2	- .4	- .7	.1	0	.7	.8	- .1
New York-----	- .2	- .7	- .1	- .4	.5	.1	0	.2	- .1
Philadelphia-----	.2	- .2	- .2	- .6	1.7	1.5	0	3.5	.5

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index—All items and commodity groups
 April 1961 indexes and percent changes, January 1961 to April 1961
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in April 1961

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minnea- polis	New York	Phila- delphia	Pitts- burgh	Portland Oregon
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	127.5	130.0	130.1	125.6	129.5	131.1	129.0	125.8	128.0	129.2	128.3
Food -----	121.2	120.5	118.8	121.3	115.3	128.3	118.6	121.6	123.0	122.4	123.7
Food at home -----	118.3	116.6	116.2	118.5	112.2	122.6	115.1	117.5	119.1	120.7	120.3
Cereals and bakery products --	139.7	137.2	132.5	130.4	135.5	153.8	134.5	149.0	138.8	140.2	141.5
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	110.5	110.7	105.1	105.6	102.1	110.0	105.0	111.0	111.3	111.7	111.1
Dairy products -----	117.9	112.2	121.9	119.1	116.5	115.6	109.7	117.4	120.3	117.9	124.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	131.4	129.9	128.9	141.4	122.5	147.5	134.0	122.9	131.4	130.1	131.7
Other foods at home -----	106.4	103.1	110.8	107.2	100.9	106.9	109.1	104.6	105.7	116.7	109.3
Housing -----	132.3	143.2	140.6	126.7	130.8	140.8	130.9	131.7	126.6	132.4	133.0
Rent -----	143.3	159.5	--	140.8	145.2	--	159.1	137.2	--	136.2	139.7
Gas and electricity -----	125.8	118.8	130.0	122.3	130.0	148.0	136.4	121.7	106.7	144.7	104.6
Solid and petroleum fuels 2/----	139.9	147.8	143.4	128.5	140.6	--	132.3	146.9	137.1	135.1	140.8
Housefurnishings -----	103.8	102.6	101.2	108.9	103.4	102.3	96.4	107.4	109.4	107.7	102.1
Household operation -----	138.7	137.8	138.4	125.4	143.0	129.2	134.9	139.3	147.9	152.2	134.5
Apparel -----	109.5	106.8	112.5	108.5	107.9	111.4	105.9	108.2	109.4	105.3	115.6
Men's and boys' -----	111.7	107.0	116.9	111.3	112.7	115.1	111.3	112.7	112.2	107.5	117.5
Women's and girls' -----	99.1	98.5	99.2	97.8	98.1	101.5	94.8	94.7	98.9	93.1	104.1
Footwear -----	140.8	134.7	146.3	137.4	133.3	141.6	133.6	144.6	139.6	137.6	149.2
Other apparel -----	92.8	100.5	96.2	87.5	88.4	84.4	88.3	96.8	95.6	100.0	100.6
Transportation -----	145.8	150.0	153.3	133.7	154.2	142.6	134.1	147.6	159.2	165.8	134.3
Private -----	133.4	143.6	133.7	125.4	139.3	132.6	126.5	129.1	136.2	137.0	126.9
Public -----	206.5	169.1	205.0	179.1	258.1	214.1	198.2	191.0	211.6	256.0	199.0
Medical care -----	159.9	166.8	170.2	163.4	181.2	153.0	219.6	148.7	165.2	175.9	153.2
Personal care -----	133.8	136.5	138.4	142.1	133.6	136.3	137.3	122.9	144.5	128.4	135.1
Reading and recreation -----	124.1	128.2	123.7	119.1	145.5	104.0	139.7	127.3	125.2	118.0	130.7
Other goods and services -----	132.6	127.6	123.0	141.5	125.5	133.5	133.4	132.3	133.4	132.6	130.6
Percent change from January 1961 to April 1961											
All items -----	0.1	0.5	- 0.2	- 0.6	1.5	- 0.1	0.9	- 0.2	0.2	0	- 0.4
Food -----	.1	0	-.3	.3	0.6	-.1	-.7	-.9	-.4	- 0.5	1.1
Food at home -----	-.2	-.3	-.3	.3	.3	-.2	-.9	- 1.3	-.6	-.6	1.1
Cereals and bakery products --	.4	1.5	.1	-.2	0	.5	-.4	.3	.1	1.0	-.1
Meats, poultry, and fish ----	- 1.0	- 1.0	- 1.1	- 1.4	- 2.3	- 1.3	- 1.1	- 1.9	- 1.1	- 1.2	- 2.1
Dairy products -----	- 1.0	- 2.8	- 1.3	- 1.1	3.3	-.9	-.8	- 2.9	- 1.6	- 2.6	-.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	4.2	2.8	4.0	6.5	3.5	4.3	.4	2.6	4.3	3.8	6.0
Other foods at home -----	- 2.8	- 1.2	- 2.8	- 1.4	- 1.1	- 3.1	- 3.4	- 3.7	- 3.5	- 2.7	- 1.8
Housing -----	0	.7	-.2	-.9	1.0	.9	.8	.1	-.5	-.5	-.2
Rent -----	.3	.4	--	1/-1	.2	--	.3	1/.3	--	.4	.1
Gas and electricity -----	-.1	.1	0	0	- 1.6	.1	0	-.2	0	-.3	0
Solid and petroleum fuels 2/----	.2	.1	-.1	-.1	0	--	0	.6	2.8	0	0
Housefurnishings -----	.2	-.5	.7	-.5	1.7	1.0	.5	.7	-.5	.3	1.0
Household operation -----	.3	1.0	-.9	-.6	2.1	.8	-.1	.1	-.1	.5	1.4
Apparel -----	.1	-.7	.3	-.1	.8	-.1	-.5	-.6	-.3	.5	0
Men's and boys' -----	.3	.8	0	-.2	0	.7	1.1	0	-.1	.7	-.2
Women's and girls' -----	0	- 1.8	.6	-.5	1.8	-.4	- 2.0	- 1.9	-.7	-.6	-.4
Footwear -----	-.4	-.1	.8	1.2	0	0	-.3	1.0	-.4	-.4	.9
Other apparel -----	-.2	-.9	-.9	-.1	.6	- 1.2	.3	-.6	-.2	.3	0
Transportation -----	-.3	1.4	- 1.0	- 3.7	2.8	- 2.5	1.4	.5	2.2	1.2	- 6.1
Private -----	-.4	1.8	- 1.3	- 4.6	3.3	- 2.9	1.6	.7	2.2	1.5	- 7.0
Public -----	.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2.2	0	0
Medical care -----	.9	.2	-.1	.1	3.8	0	4.1	.4	1.7	2.6	1.0
Personal care -----	.1	.7	.1	.7	- 1.5	.6	1.4	-.4	.6	-.4	.8
Reading and recreation -----	1.6	3.8	-.5	.1	4.5	.6	6.2	.5	3.3	-.8	3.1
Other goods and services -----	0	.1	.5	-.2	.1	-.3	-.1	-.7	.6	0	0

1/ Change from February 1961 to April 1961.

2/ 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
 April 1961 indexes and percent changes, March 1961 to April 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	118.3	0	139.7	0.1	110.5	- 0.8	117.9	- 0.5	131.4	2.8	106.4	- 1.1
Atlanta -----	117.0	- 0.3	115.1	- 0.4	126.9	.2	113.1	- 2.1	117.2	.1	125.8	1.1	102.4	- 0.2
Baltimore -----	121.2	.2	116.7	.2	136.3	.7	111.3	- .7	117.5	0	123.3	2.9	106.3	- 1.1
Boston -----	120.5	.2	116.6	.1	137.2	.9	110.7	- .3	112.2	- .6	129.9	1.8	103.1	- 1.0
Chicago -----	118.8	.1	116.2	.1	132.5	0	105.1	- 1.0	121.9	.5	128.9	3.5	110.8	- 1.9
Cincinnati -----	121.7	.2	118.9	.3	139.1	- .1	113.6	- .1	118.2	.3	128.1	0.8	109.1	.1
Cleveland -----	116.3	.3	113.3	.6	131.7	- .2	105.5	- .4	110.7	- 3.3	123.5	2.6	106.9	- 1.4
Detroit -----	121.3	.2	118.5	.3	130.4	0	105.6	- 1.1	119.1	- .5	141.4	4.4	107.2	- .7
Houston -----	116.7	.6	113.5	.8	129.0	- .1	104.6	.5	116.1	- .6	128.5	4.2	103.3	- 1.1
Kansas City -----	115.3	- .2	112.2	- .3	135.5	- .1	102.1	- 2.7	116.5	0	122.5	2.9	100.9	- .1
Los Angeles -----	128.3	.2	122.6	.2	153.8	.3	110.0	- .4	115.6	- .9	147.5	2.5	106.9	- .7
Minneapolis -----	118.6	- .3	115.1	- .3	134.5	- .3	105.0	0	109.7	- .5	134.0	1.7	109.1	- 2.6
New York -----	121.6	- .7	117.5	- .9	149.0	- .1	111.0	- 1.2	117.4	- 2.2	122.9	.2	104.6	- 1.0
Philadelphia -----	123.0	- .2	119.1	- .3	138.8	- .1	111.3	- 1.2	120.3	- 1.2	131.4	2.3	105.7	- .8
Pittsburgh -----	122.4	- .2	120.7	- .1	140.2	.4	111.7	- 1.1	117.9	- 2.5	130.1	5.4	116.7	- 1.6
Portland, Oreg. -----	123.7	.8	120.3	1.2	141.5	- .1	111.1	.5	124.4	- .6	131.7	5.4	109.3	.8
St. Louis -----	121.7	.2	116.2	.2	125.8	- .2	106.9	- .8	110.5	- .3	139.0	5.2	111.2	- 2.3
San Francisco -----	126.2	- .3	123.0	- .5	152.6	- .1	115.9	.3	119.9	- 2.9	143.3	1.2	104.1	- 1.4
Scranton -----	116.9	- .7	115.3	- .9	137.2	.5	109.5	- 1.5	111.6	- 2.2	127.4	2.5	102.3	- 2.3
Seattle -----	125.4	.6	122.9	.7	150.6	.1	114.4	.4	125.2	- .2	140.7	3.0	104.7	0
Washington, D.C. -----	121.4	.1	118.4	.1	139.5	- .1	109.6	- .7	122.2	- .3	123.1	1.9	109.9	- .1

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

Food and unit	April 1961	March 1961	Food and unit	April 1961	March 1961
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Cereals and bakery products:			Fresh--Continued		
Flour, wheat -----5 lb.	56.4	56.3	Grapefruit *----- each	11.9	12.2
Biscuit mix -----20 oz.	27.1	27.1	Peaches *----- lb.		
Macaroni -----16 oz.	23.2	23.2	Strawberries *----- pt.	39.7	
Corn meal -----1 lb.	13.2	13.2	Grapes, seedless *----- lb.		
Rolled oats -----13 oz.	22.4	22.4	Watermelons *----- lb.		
Corn flakes -----12 oz.	26.0	26.1	Potatoes -----10 lb.	65.7	65.0
Rice, short grain ----- lb.	18.5	18.5	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	16.2	15.9
Rice, long grain ----- lb.	20.5	20.6	Onions ----- lb.	9.8	9.7
Bread, white ----- lb.	20.9	20.9	Carrots ----- lb.	16.5	15.5
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.1	29.1	Lettuce ----- head	15.2	14.6
Sandwich cookies ----- lb.	51.9	51.7	Celery ----- lb.	12.6	12.8
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage ----- lb.	9.2	9.1
Round steak ----- lb.	104.9	105.7	Tomatoes ----- lb.	33.6	30.5
Sirloin steak ----- lb.	107.3	108.0	Beans, green ----- lb.	25.6	27.3
Chuck roast ----- lb.	61.6	62.3	Canned:		
Rib roast ----- lb.	81.9	82.2	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	49.2	49.1
Hamburger ----- lb.	52.0	52.3	Pineapple juice ----- 46 oz. can	33.1	32.8
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	144.2	144.2	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	33.6	33.6
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	87.0	86.8	Pineapple ----- #2 can	38.4	38.5
Pork roast ----- lb.	62.5	62.8	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.8	26.8
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	69.8	70.5	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	20.6	20.5
Ham, whole ----- lb.	61.7	62.7	Peas, green ----- #303 can	22.0	21.8
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	71.4	72.3	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.1	16.2
Frankfurters ----- lb.	63.3	63.2	Tomato juice ----- 46 oz. can	33.2	33.1
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.5	50.3	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.6	10.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	41.4	42.5	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	47.0	47.0	Prunes ----- lb.	41.5	41.3
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	55.0	55.6	Beans ----- lb.	16.7	16.9
Salmon, pink, canned -----16 oz.	73.5	72.8	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.5	32.2	Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Dairy products:			Beans, with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.9	14.9
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.4	24.7	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.6	26.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	26.0	26.2	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.9	22.8
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	86.6	86.4	Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	27.3	27.4
Butter ----- lb.	76.4	76.3	Coffee ----- lb. can	74.7	74.4
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	36.4	36.4	Coffee ----- lb. bag	59.2	58.8
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.9	15.9	Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.4	24.4
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	30.4	30.4
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	89.2	86.8
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.0	27.1	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	28.5	27.9
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	25.9	25.8	Lard ----- lb.	21.7	21.3
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.7	13.5	Salad dressing ----- pt.	36.7	36.5
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.2	21.1	Peanut butter ----- lb.	55.8	55.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.1	23.2	Sugar ----- 5 lb.	59.3	59.4
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.7	19.6	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	27.0	26.9
Fresh:			Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	29.2	29.1
Apples ----- lb.	17.5	16.6	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Bananas ----- lb.	15.3	16.0	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	53.6	57.8
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	79.8	74.9	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.4	9.4
Lemons ----- lb.	20.3	20.9			

* 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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