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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MAY 1961

The Consumer Price Index declined by 0.1 percent between April and May to 127.4 (1947-49=100), according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. During the past 8 months, the index has been relatively stable with fluctuations between 127.3 to 127.5. Lower average food prices, particularly meats and poultry, were largely responsible for the decrease as nonfood components registered a small overall advance of 0.2 percent, led by continued increases for services and higher prices for used cars and gasoline. Compared with a year earlier, average retail prices of consumer goods and services have advanced 0.9 percent and remain within 0.1 percent of the record level of 127.5 first reached in December 1960 and again in February, March, and April of 1961.

FOOD An 0.4 percent decline in average retail food prices stemmed primarily from a contraseasonal drop in retail prices of fresh meats combined with sharp reductions for poultry; however, lower prices for eggs, fresh milk, and some fresh fruits and fresh vegetables also contributed significantly to the downward movement between April and May. The most important increases were seasonal advances for apples and some fresh vegetables together with higher average prices for fats and oils. The May index for all foods, at 120.7 (1947-49=100), was 0.8 percent above year earlier levels, with the main advances for restaurant meals (which incorporate service as well as product and overhead costs), bakery products, dairy products, and fats and oils.

Meat prices were lower for the fourth consecutive month reflecting ample market supplies and the sharp competition of poultry prices which were at their lowest postwar level, approximately 31 percent below average prices prevailing in 1947. Prices were down for nearly all beef, pork, and lamb products, marking the fourth successive monthly decrease in pork prices and the third successive monthly decline in beef prices this year. Compared with a year ago prices of meats are unchanged while poultry has decreased by about 10 percent.

A 3.3 percent decrease in egg prices was attributable to seasonally higher production levels and the delay in heavy purchases for commercial storage in anticipation of higher production levels in the fall. Egg prices were supported somewhat by continuing heavy Government purchase of dried eggs for relief distribution.

Average prices for dairy products were lower, marking a continuation of the downtrend in evidence since December 1960. The current decline was due almost entirely to seasonally lower prices for fresh milk.

Seasonal influences resulted in an increase of 1.1 percent in retail prices of fresh fruits and vegetables. As the supply of apples in storage dwindled, retail prices rose by about 11 percent, more than offsetting decreases in prices of citrus fruits, bananas, and strawberries. Strawberry prices dropped about 20 percent as supplies increased towards their seasonal peak. Except for a decrease of 3.3 percent in prices of frozen orange juice concentrate, price movements for processed fruits and vegetables were relatively minor.

Prices of fats and oils increased by 1.3 percent over the month as all items except lard advanced. Higher prices for shortening contributed most to the overall rise; the decline in lard prices was attributable to sizable production and decreased exports.

HOUSING The slight decrease (0.1 percent) in the housing index was due mainly to continued seasonal reductions in average prices of solid and petroleum fuels and to lower prices for household textiles featured in May "White

Sales." Relatively unimportant price fluctuations were recorded for other important housing components. First mortgage rates were lower in most cities while rents continued to move up gradually.

TRANSPORTATION A rise in used car prices and higher gasoline prices caused the transportation index to advance by 0.5 percent in May. Used car prices continued the recovery which began in February, advancing 2.1 percent. This greater than seasonal rise brought the index above the previous year's level for the first time since March 1960. The strengthening in the used car market was widespread and was attributable to a shortage of desirable used cars. Dealers' selling prices of new standard and compact cars in the popular price lines averaged 0.3 percent lower as some dealers granted larger concessions. New car inventories, though well below the all-time high reached last summer, were still substantial. Sharp recoveries in a few cities raised May gasoline prices 1.1 percent above April levels. However, in many cities in the Midwest and on the Pacific coast gasoline prices declined due, in part, to continuing price wars.

MEDICAL CARE AND OTHER GROUPS An 0.3 percent increase in medical care stemmed mainly from widespread increases in fees for professional services and higher hospitalization insurance rates.

Prices of tobacco products rose by 0.7 percent over the month as 3 states increased their taxes on cigarettes. These increases accounted for most of the advance in the other goods and services group.

The reading and recreation group declined by 0.2 percent, reflecting competitive price reductions for television and radio sets and lower movie admissions.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT Approximately 310,000 employees have cost-of-living adjustments tied to the U.S. Consumer Price Index for May 1961 of 127.4 (1947-49=100). About 123,000 workers, including 54,000 employees of major aluminum firms, 44,000 employees of metal container manufacturers, and 25,000 employees of two aircraft companies, are scheduled to receive increases ranging from 2 to 3 cents an hour, which reflect the rise in the CPI from May 1960. On the basis of the quarterly change, about 23,000 employees of various metalworking companies will receive 1 cent an hour reductions and allowances for most of the remaining 164,000 workers will not be changed.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to May 1961 from --			
	May 1961	April 1961	April 1961	February 1961	May 1960	Year 1959
All items-----	127.4	127.5	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.9	114.5
Food-----	120.7	121.2	- .4	- .6	.8	156.3
Food at home-----	117.7	118.3	- .5	- .8	.6	149.9
Cereals and bakery products-----	139.7	139.7	0	.2	3.0	144.2
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	108.7	110.5	- 1.6	- 2.8	-.9	161.3
Dairy products-----	117.5	117.9	- .3	- 1.3	2.2	135.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	132.2	131.4	.6	3.9	-.5	185.5
Other foods at home-----	105.8	106.4	-.6	- 2.5	.9	118.6
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	120.9	120.8	.1	.5	1.9	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	132.2	132.3	- .1	- .2	.8	73.7
Rent-----	143.4	143.3	.1	.2	1.4	65.6
Gas and electricity-----	126.2	125.8	.3	.2	1.2	20.3
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	136.5	139.9	- 2.4	- 3.4	2.7	142.0
Housefurnishings-----	103.5	103.8	- .3	- .2	-.8	93.8
Household operation-----	138.7	138.7	0	.3	1.1	102.8
Apparel-----	109.6	109.5	.1	0	.6	108.8
Men's and boys'-----	111.7	111.7	0	.4	1.8	119.9
Women's and girls'-----	99.3	99.1	.2	-.2	-.1	82.2
Footwear-----	140.8	140.8	0	-.1	.7	179.9
Other apparel-----	92.8	92.8	0	-.1	-.4	128.6
Transportation-----	146.6	145.8	.5	.3	.7	108.8
Private-----	134.2	133.4	.6	.2	.2	104.9
Public-----	206.5	206.5	0	.4	4.3	154.0
Medical care-----	160.4	159.9	.3	.6	2.9	120.9
Personal care-----	133.8	133.8	0	0	.5	124.5
Reading and recreation-----	123.9	124.1	-.2	1.0	2.1	96.7
Other goods and services-----	133.1	132.6	.4	.4	.9	88.5
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	131.0	130.8	.2	.2	1.0	89.6
All items less shelter-----	124.9	125.0	-.1	-.1	.9	125.5
Commodities-----	117.7	117.9	-.2	-.3	.3	128.1
Nondurables-----	120.2	120.4	-.2	-.5	.7	133.9
Food-----	120.7	121.2	-.4	-.6	.8	156.3
Nondurables less food-----	120.0	120.0	0	-.5	.5	104.4
Apparel-----	109.4	109.4	0	0	.6	110.0
Apparel less footwear-----	104.0	104.0	0	0	.6	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	129.0	129.0	0	-.8	.5	95.8
Durables-----	110.8	110.7	.1	.5	- 1.0	93.4
New cars-----	137.1	137.5	-.3	-.6	-.5	140.5
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	89.5	87.7	2.1	6.4	1.6	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	101.8	101.9	-.1	-.3	- 1.6	77.7
Commodities less food-----	115.3	115.2	.1	-.2	0	94.1
Services-----	152.5	152.3	.1	.4	1.9	89.7
Rent-----	143.4	143.3	.1	.2	1.4	65.6
Services less rent-----	154.9	154.7	.1	.5	2.1	110.7
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	140.7	140.5	.1	.4	1.4	61.7
Transportation services-----	188.8	188.5	.2	.6	2.4	135.7
Medical care services-----	168.2	167.7	.3	.7	3.6	138.6
Other services 3/-----	137.6	137.5	.1	.4	1.8	136.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.785	\$0.784	.1	.1	-.9	-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 --		
	May 1961	February 1961	May 1960	Year 1939	February 1961	May 1960	Year 1939
United States city average	127.4	127.5	126.3	59.4	- 0.1	0.9	114.5
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	129.9	130.5	129.6	58.6	- .5	.2	121.7
Detroit	125.6	126.4	124.3	59.0	- .6	1.0	112.9
Los Angeles	131.0	131.4	129.8	60.4	- .3	.9	116.9
New York	125.6	126.2	124.9	60.1	- .5	.6	109.0
Philadelphia	127.9	127.9	126.4	59.2	0	1.2	116.0
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	May 1961	February 1961	May 1960	Year 1939	February 1961	May 1960	Year 1939
Cleveland	127.9	128.3	127.1	59.2	- .3	.6	116.0
Houston	126.1	125.1	125.1	59.5	.8	.8	111.9
Scranton	124.1	123.5	122.1	58.5	.5	1.6	112.1
Seattle	131.7	130.8	129.7	59.2	.7	1.5	122.5
Washington, D.C.	124.3	124.5	123.1	60.4	- .2	1.0	105.8
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	128.8	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

1/ Rents priced bimonthly.

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

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index—Percent changes from April 1961 to May 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	- 0.4	- 0.1	0.1	0.5	0.3	0	- 0.2	0.4
Chicago	- .2	- .2	- .3	- .3	.1	.1	- 0.4	- .5	.6
Detroit	0	- .2	- .3	- .1	1.6	.2	- .6	0	0
Los Angeles	- .1	- .6	- .1	.4	1.0	.1	- .3	- .5	- .1
New York	- .2	- .5	- .2	- .3	.3	.9	.2	.5	0
Philadelphia	- .1	- .3	- .1	- .4	.3	2.9	0	- 2.3	0

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
 May 1961 indexes and percent changes, February 1961 to May 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 -----	127.4	129.9	127.9	125.6	126.1	131.0	125.6	127.9	124.1	131.7	124.3
Food -----	120.7	118.6	115.7	121.1	116.1	127.5	121.0	122.6	116.7	125.4	120.7
Food at home -----	117.7	115.9	112.5	118.2	112.8	121.5	116.7	118.8	115.0	122.8	117.5
Cereals and bakery products ---	139.7	133.0	131.8	130.5	129.0	153.9	148.8	139.3	137.2	151.5	139.5
Meats, poultry, and fish ---	108.7	103.8	102.8	103.6	103.8	108.2	108.3	109.8	108.8	115.3	106.8
Dairy products -----	117.5	122.7	110.9	119.7	116.1	115.7	116.0	120.4	111.4	125.1	122.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	132.2	128.7	124.2	144.1	125.4	143.9	125.7	131.8	127.1	138.9	123.7
Other foods at home -----	105.8	110.6	106.8	106.4	103.4	106.9	104.0	105.6	102.3	104.0	109.2
Housing -----	132.2	140.2	130.8	126.3	131.5	140.6	131.5	126.5	125.5	135.2	122.8
Rent -----	143.4	168.7	161.9	--	137.8	151.5	--	131.8	134.9	152.5	134.4
Gas and electricity -----	126.2	130.0	124.1	122.7	133.9	148.0	122.0	106.7	124.9	86.7	136.8
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	136.5	140.9	139.0	128.2	--	--	141.7	130.0	133.1	139.2	138.6
Housefurnishings -----	103.5	100.7	98.9	108.1	100.6	101.7	107.3	109.0	98.9	102.0	99.2
Household operation -----	138.7	138.2	125.6	125.3	145.9	129.0	139.3	148.1	123.6	141.6	139.7
Apparel -----	109.6	112.2	111.0	108.4	112.2	111.8	107.9	109.0	114.4	112.8	106.4
Men's and boys' -----	111.7	116.7	115.6	111.3	110.0	115.1	112.5	111.7	114.8	116.6	110.9
Women's and girls' -----	99.3	98.9	99.7	97.6	105.1	102.5	94.2	98.2	106.4	102.7	97.1
Footwear -----	140.8	145.7	137.5	137.4	144.9	141.6	144.6	139.6	145.2	142.9	131.5
Other apparel -----	92.8	95.7	97.0	87.4	90.2	84.2	96.6	95.4	94.9	89.0	91.1
Transportation -----	146.6	153.4	144.1	135.8	145.8	144.0	148.1	159.6	147.3	151.9	146.5
Private -----	134.2	133.8	135.4	127.8	138.5	134.1	129.6	136.7	133.9	140.0	138.1
Public -----	206.5	205.0	181.8	179.1	198.3	214.1	191.0	211.6	191.3	189.4	178.3
Medical care -----	160.4	170.4	185.7	163.7	140.2	153.2	150.1	170.0	136.8	159.0	159.2
Personal care -----	133.8	137.9	134.4	141.3	142.3	135.9	123.1	144.5	143.7	141.2	132.4
Reading and recreation -----	123.9	123.1	132.6	119.1	118.7	103.5	128.0	122.3	174.6	117.7	127.0
Other goods and services -----	133.1	123.7	136.4	141.5	137.6	133.4	132.3	133.4	123.9	151.0	137.4
Percent change from February 1961 to May 1961											
All items -----	- 0.1	- 0.5	- 0.3	- 0.6	0.8	- 0.3	- 0.5	0	0.5	0.7	- 0.2
Food -----	- .6	- .6	- 1.0	- .2	- .2	- .5	- 1.5	- 1.0	- .8	.6	- .3
Food at home -----	- .8	- .8	- 1.2	- .2	- .4	- 1.0	- 1.9	- 1.2	- 1.0	.6	- .8
Cereals and bakery products ---	.2	.3	- .6	- .4	.2	.8	- .1	0.2	1.8	.8	.3
Meats, poultry, and fish ---	- 2.8	- 3.4	- 3.7	- 3.4	- 1.0	- 3.1	- 4.0	- 3.3	- 2.7	1.1	- 2.7
Dairy products -----	- 1.3	- .8	.9	- .4	- .5	- 1.0	- 4.1	- 1.6	- 2.5	- .3	- .3
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.9	4.0	2.1	6.7	1.4	1.9	4.0	3.4	3.8	2.5	3.8
Other foods at home -----	- 2.5	- 2.0	- 2.4	- 1.4	- 1.3	- 2.3	- 3.5	- 2.3	- 3.4	- 1.1	- 3.0
Housing -----	- .2	- .5	- .6	- .8	- .3	.2	- .2	- .5	- .6	.1	- 1.0
Rent -----	.2	<u>1/</u> .2	.1	--	- .2	<u>1/</u> .3	--	<u>1/</u> .3	.2	.3	.4
Gas and electricity -----	.2	.3	0	.3	- .3	.1	.2	0	0	0	0
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	- 3.4	- 3.5	- 5.1	- .2	--	--	- 5.3	- 6.1	- 5.7	0	- 5.7
Housefurnishings -----	- .2	- 1.1	.2	- .5	1.1	- .4	.3	- .5	- .2	- 1.1	- .5
Household operation -----	.3	- .1	- .2	- .6	.6	.5	.2	.1	0	1.3	.1
Apparel -----	0	- .3	.5	- .6	.1	- .4	- .8	- .4	.2	- .1	.6
Men's and boys' -----	.4	- .2	.9	- .3	.4	- .2	.2	- .3	- .1	.1	0
Women's and girls' -----	- .2	.1	0	- .9	- .5	- .5	- 2.1	- .9	.4	.2	1.0
Footwear -----	- .1	- .7	1.6	0	.9	0	.2	.4	0	- 1.2	.2
Other apparel -----	- .1	- 1.6	.8	- .5	.2	- .5	- .7	- .2	.2	- .1	.3
Transportation -----	.3	- .5	.3	- 1.7	6.0	- 1.6	1.2	2.0	2.2	1.7	1.3
Private -----	.2	- .6	.4	- 2.1	6.9	- 2.0	1.6	2.7	2.6	2.0	1.6
Public -----	.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care -----	.6	.1	.2	.1	1.0	.1	1.1	4.7	1.6	.4	.8
Personal care -----	0	- .3	- .2	- .4	.1	- .1	- .2	.1	- .2	- .4	.2
Reading and recreation -----	1.0	- 2.5	1.1	- 1.1	.5	.3	.8	.9	11.1	- .2	.4
Other goods and services -----	.4	1.1	- .1	- .3	.6	- .4	- .1	.5	0	4.4	- .4

1/ Change from March 1961 to May 1961.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
 May 1961 indexes and percent changes, April 1961 to May 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 ---	120.7	- 0.4	117.7	- 0.5	139.7	0	108.7	- 1.6	117.5	- 0.3	132.2	0.6	105.8	- 0.6
Atlanta -----	116.2	- .7	114.2	- .8	127.0	0.1	112.1	- 0.9	117.0	- .2	124.0	- 1.4	101.2	- 1.2
Baltimore -----	120.8	- .3	116.1	- .5	135.5	- .6	110.0	- 1.2	117.4	- .1	122.9	- .3	106.2	- .1
Boston -----	119.8	- .6	115.9	- .6	136.7	- .4	108.8	- 1.7	108.9	- 2.9	133.5	2.8	102.6	- .5
Chicago -----	118.6	- .2	115.9	- .3	133.0	.7	103.8	- 1.2	122.7	.7	128.7	- .2	110.6	- .2
Cincinnati -----	121.5	- .2	118.6	- .3	138.9	- .1	111.5	- 1.8	118.2	0	131.0	2.3	108.7	- .4
Cleveland -----	115.7	- .5	112.5	- .7	131.8	.1	102.8	- 2.6	110.9	.2	124.2	.6	106.8	- .1
Detroit -----	121.1	- .2	118.2	- .3	130.5	.1	103.6	- 1.9	119.7	.5	144.1	1.9	106.4	- .7
Houston -----	116.1	- .5	112.8	- .6	129.0	0	103.8	- .8	116.1	0	125.4	- 2.4	103.4	- .1
Kansas City -----	114.7	- .5	111.6	- .5	134.8	- .5	101.6	- .5	116.9	.3	122.1	- .3	99.6	- 1.3
Los Angeles -----	127.5	- .6	121.5	- .9	153.9	.1	108.2	- 1.6	115.7	.1	143.9	- 2.4	106.9	0
Minneapolis -----	118.6	0	115.1	0	134.8	.2	103.3	- 1.6	109.3	- .4	137.4	2.5	109.0	- .1
New York -----	121.0	- .5	116.7	- .7	148.8	- .1	108.3	- 2.4	116.0	- 1.2	125.7	2.3	104.0	- .6
Philadelphia -----	122.6	- .3	118.8	- .3	139.3	.4	109.8	- 1.3	120.4	- .1	131.8	.3	105.6	- .1
Pittsburgh -----	121.8	- .5	120.0	- .6	140.1	- .1	110.2	- 1.3	117.9	0	130.1	0	115.9	- .7
Portland, Oreg. -----	122.5	- 1.0	118.6	- 1.4	141.8	.2	110.4	- .6	118.8	- 4.5	128.5	- 2.4	109.1	- .2
St. Louis -----	121.5	- .2	116.2	0	126.0	.2	106.0	- .8	110.3	- .2	141.3	1.7	111.0	- .2
San Francisco -----	126.2	0	123.0	0	152.9	.2	115.1	- .7	119.7	- .2	145.4	1.5	103.6	- .5
Scranton -----	116.7	- .2	115.0	- .3	137.2	0	108.8	- .6	111.4	- .2	127.1	- .2	102.3	0
Seattle -----	125.4	0	122.8	- .1	151.5	.6	115.3	.8	125.1	- .1	138.9	- 1.3	104.0	- .7
Washington, D.C. -----	120.7	- .6	117.5	- .8	139.5	0	106.8	- 2.6	122.3	.1	123.7	.5	109.2	- .6

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

Food and unit	May 1961 Cents	April 1961 Cents	Food and unit	May 1961 Cents	April 1961 Cents
Cereals and bakery products:			Fresh--Continued		
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	56.3	56.4	Grapefruit * ----- each	11.8	11.9
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	27.1	27.1	Peaches * ----- lb.		
Macaroni ----- 16 oz.	23.2	23.2	Strawberries * ----- pt.	31.9	39.7
Corn meal ----- lb.	13.2	13.2	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.		
Rolled oats ----- 13 oz.	22.4	22.4	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	26.1	26.0	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	66.8	65.7
Rice, short grain ----- lb.	18.5	18.5	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	17.1	16.2
Rice, long grain ----- lb.	20.6	20.5	Onions ----- lb.	10.2	9.8
Bread, white ----- lb.	20.9	20.9	Carrots ----- lb.	16.3	16.5
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.1	29.1	Lettuce ----- head	15.9	15.2
Sandwich cookies ----- lb.	51.9	51.9	Celery ----- lb.	13.3	12.6
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Cabbage ----- lb.	9.0	9.2
Round steak ----- lb.	104.2	104.9	Tomatoes ----- lb.	33.0	33.6
Sirloin steak ----- lb.	106.6	107.3	Beans, green ----- lb.	24.5	25.6
Chuck roast ----- lb.	59.8	61.6	Canned:		
Rib roast ----- lb.	80.8	81.9	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	48.6	49.2
Hamburger ----- lb.	51.6	52.0	Pineapple juice ----- 46 oz. can	33.2	33.1
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	142.8	144.2	Peaches ----- 2 1/2 can	33.6	33.6
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	85.1	87.0	Pineapple ----- #2 can	38.5	38.4
Pork roast ----- lb.	61.1	62.5	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.7	26.8
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	69.6	69.8	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	20.7	20.6
Ham, whole ----- lb.	60.1	61.7	Peas, green ----- #303 can	22.0	22.0
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	69.1	71.4	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.1	16.1
Frankfurters ----- lb.	63.3	63.3	Tomato juice ----- 46 oz. can	33.1	33.2
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	51.0	50.5	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.6	10.6
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	38.8	41.4	Dried:		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	47.5	47.0	Prunes ----- lb.	41.5	41.5
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	54.6	55.0	Beans ----- lb.	16.8	16.7
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	73.9	73.5	Other foods at home:		
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.2	32.5	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.	24.3	24.4	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.5	26.6
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	25.8	26.0	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.9	22.9
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	86.8	86.6	Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	27.3	27.3
Butter ----- lb.	76.2	76.4	Coffee ----- lb. can	74.4	74.7
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	36.4	36.4	Coffee ----- lb. bag	58.8	59.2
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.9	15.9	Tea bags ----- pkgt. of 16	24.5	24.4
Fruits and vegetables:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	30.5	30.4
Frozen:			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	91.8	89.2
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	26.9	27.0	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	28.7	28.5
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	25.0	25.9	Lard ----- lb.	21.6	21.7
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.7	13.7	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.3	36.7
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	21.1	21.2	Peanut butter ----- lb.	55.9	55.8
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.0	23.1	Sugar ----- 5 lb.	59.2	59.3
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.6	19.7	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	27.0	27.0
Fresh:			Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	29.2	29.2
Apples ----- lb.	19.4	17.5	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Bananas ----- lb.	15.3	15.3	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	51.8	53.6
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	78.4	79.8	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.4	9.4
Lemons ----- lb.	20.0	20.3			

* 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

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Street, N. E.	Zone 1	Zone 3	Zone 11	Zone 10
Zone 9				

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