

Released August 25, 1961

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR JULY 1961

The Consumer Price Index advanced by 0.4 percent between June and July to 128.1 (1947-49=100), the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. This was the largest monthly increase since October 1960. Higher food prices, primarily reflecting seasonal factors, accounted for a major share of the rise to a new high; but there were also small increases for many other nonfood consumer items. The more important increases were for gasoline, sporting goods, used cars, and women's apparel. Compared with a year earlier, average retail prices of consumer goods and services have advanced by 1.2 percent, led by higher charges for services.

FOOD

Average retail food prices rose by 0.9 percent between June and July reflecting mainly the record high level of prices for fresh fruits and vegetables, and seasonal increases for eggs, pork products, and milk. The July increase brought the total food group index, which includes restaurant meals, to a new high of 122.0, exceeding the previous record of 121.7 established in July 1958. Despite a 1.0 percent rise over the month, the index for food purchased for home consumption, at 119.0, was still 1.2 percent below its high registered in April, May, and July 1958, primarily as a result of substantially lower current price levels for meats and poultry.

The continuing effects of adverse growing conditions earlier in the year resulted in increases in average retail prices, amounting to 1.9 percent for fresh fruits and 5.0 percent for fresh vegetables. Grapes, which were priced for the first time since November 1960, were 3.5 percent above year-ago levels, and considerably higher than prices at the close of the 1960 pricing season. Smaller price increases were reported for apples, bananas, and oranges. Peaches were priced in July for the first time this season at levels well below a year ago, reflecting heavy market supplies.

The advance in fresh vegetable prices was led by a 14 percent rise in prices of tomatoes and a 13 percent increase in onion prices. Because of unfavorable weather, the late spring and early summer tomato and onion crops, which provide the July market supplies of these vegetables, were significantly below last year. Price increases were reported for nearly all other fresh vegetables except snap beans and carrots, for which supplies increased seasonally. Processed fruits and vegetable prices were unchanged on the average, as increases for canned and dried fruits and vegetables offset a decrease for frozen fruits and vegetables.

In comparison with July 1960, all fruit and vegetable prices averaged 2.9 percent higher as increases for important categories ranged from 1.8 percent for fresh fruits and vegetables to 5.0 percent for frozen and canned fruits and vegetables.

Average prices of meats, poultry, and fish, which had been declining since February, registered an increase of 0.4 percent over the month, due chiefly to higher prices for pork products which rose for the second consecutive month as production declined seasonally. Smaller increases were recorded for poultry and fish. Prices of beef products averaged lower, continuing a five-month decline. In comparison with July 1960, prices of meats, poultry, and fish averaged 2.7 percent lower, with a drop of 4.3 percent for beef and veal and a 16.0 percent decline for chickens.

In line with seasonal trends, average prices of dairy products advanced in July, with increases reported for fluid milk and most manufactured dairy products, while egg prices registered an increase of about 9.2 percent.

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation index advanced by 0.4 percent in July, with higher prices for gasoline, used cars, and railroad fares. The 1.2 percent rise in average prices of gasoline was largely attributable to the termination of price wars

in a few cities, with a consequent return to prior price levels. However, gasoline prices are still 1.6 percent below year-earlier levels, reflecting ample supplies and strong competitive pressures. Used car prices continued the recovery which began in February and rose by 1.2 percent. Prices of popular makes of used cars now average 7.5 percent above their year-ago levels.

Dealers' selling prices of new cars registered a small decline of 0.3 percent between June and July. The generally mild reductions in dealers' selling prices of new cars since the beginning of the 1961 model year was attributable to the unusually large concessions granted by dealers when the new models were introduced. An increase of 0.6 percent in the public transportation index reflected a rise in allowable coach fares granted to some western railroads and higher transit fares in a few cities.

APPAREL Higher prices for women's and girls' clothing accounted for most of the 0.3 percent rise in the apparel index. At the same time, small increases were reported for all other components of apparel, including footwear. The generally firm tone in apparel prices in July accompanied tight control of inventories by retailers, which minimized the influence of seasonal reductions in summer seasonal apparel items. Footwear prices advanced slightly as scattered sale prices for spring and summer footwear moderated the effect of price increases for the new fall lines.

HOUSING AND OTHER GROUPS The stability in the housing index was due to small offsetting price movements among important housing components. Residential gas rates declined by 1.0 percent as rate increases placed in effect in two cities over a year ago, pending commission review, were finally approved only in part and local bills consequently were reduced. Prices for household textiles averaged lower as many retailers advanced the opening date of the traditional August white sales. Mortgage interest rates also were lower, continuing to reflect the May decrease in interest rates of FHA insured mortgages from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{1}{4}$ percent.

The reading and recreation index rose by 0.5 percent, almost entirely because of higher prices reported for sporting goods. Over the year, prices for reading and recreation were 2.1 percent higher, due mainly to advances for newspapers and movie admissions. Average prices for sporting goods are 1.1 percent under those of July 1960.

Although prices of prescriptions and drugs averaged lower, higher rates for hospitalization insurance were largely responsible for an 0.2 percent increase in the medical care index. Compared with a year ago, medical care has increased by 3.1 percent primarily as a result of higher rates for hospitalization and surgical insurance, with advances in fees for professional services and hospital accommodations being contributing factors.

COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT As a result of the July index, cost-of-living allowances for about 300,000 workers will be increased by 1 cent an hour, generally on the basis of a quarterly review of wage contracts. Workers scheduled to receive increases include about 120,000 farm equipment workers and about 80,000 employees of some automobile and related auto parts manufacturing firms. The remaining 100,000 workers are employed in a variety of metal-working establishments, including some 40,000 employees of aircraft-missile companies.

An additional 12,500 aircraft employees will receive a 2-cents an hour raise as a result of the resumption of quarterly reviews following a 1-year suspension of their escalator clause. More than 550,000 employees of four major auto companies are not included in these totals. For these workers the last cost-of-living review under existing contracts was based on the April index.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to July 1961 from --			
	July 1961	June 1961	June 1961	April 1961	July 1960	Year 1959
All items-----	128.1	127.6	0.4	0.5	1.2	115.7
Food-----	122.0	120.9	.9	.7	1.2	159.0
Food at home-----	119.0	117.8	1.0	.6	0.9	152.7
Cereals and bakery products-----	139.4	139.7	-.2	-.2	1.4	143.7
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	107.8	107.4	.4	-2.4	-2.7	159.1
Dairy products-----	118.0	117.3	.6	.1	1.9	136.9
Fruits and vegetables-----	138.2	135.4	2.1	5.2	2.8	198.5
Other foods at home-----	107.9	106.0	1.8	1.4	3.0	122.9
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	121.6	121.2	.3	.7	2.3	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	132.4	132.4	0	.1	.8	74.0
Rent-----	143.6	143.5	.1	.2	1.3	65.8
Gas and electricity-----	125.6	126.3	-.6	-.2	.6	19.7
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	135.9	135.6	.2	-2.9	2.3	141.0
Housefurnishings-----	103.6	103.9	-.3	-.2	-.5	94.0
Household operation-----	139.1	138.9	.1	.3	1.2	103.4
Apparel-----	109.9	109.6	.3	.4	.7	109.3
Men's and boys'-----	111.5	111.4	.1	-.2	1.2	119.5
Women's and girls'-----	100.0	99.4	.6	.9	.6	83.5
Footwear-----	141.0	140.8	.1	.1	.9	180.3
Other apparel-----	92.9	92.6	.3	.1	-.2	128.8
Transportation-----	148.3	147.7	.4	1.7	1.6	111.3
Private-----	135.9	135.3	.4	1.9	1.3	107.5
Public-----	208.5	207.3	.6	1.0	4.8	156.5
Medical care-----	161.2	160.9	.2	.8	3.1	122.0
Personal care-----	134.3	133.9	.3	.4	.7	125.3
Reading and recreation-----	124.1	123.5	.5	0	2.1	97.0
Other goods and services-----	133.6	133.1	.4	.8	1.1	89.2
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	131.4	131.2	.2	.5	1.2	90.2
All items less shelter-----	125.7	125.2	.4	.6	1.2	126.9
Commodities-----	118.7	118.0	.6	.7	.8	130.0
Nondurables-----	121.1	120.4	.6	.6	.9	135.6
Food-----	122.0	120.9	.9	.7	1.2	159.0
Nondurables less food-----	120.6	120.3	.2	.5	.6	105.5
Apparel-----	109.7	109.4	.3	.3	.6	110.6
Apparel less footwear-----	104.4	104.0	.4	.4	.8	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	129.9	129.5	.3	.7	.5	97.1
Durables-----	111.5	111.2	.3	.7	.4	94.6
New cars-----	136.3	136.7	-.3	-.9	.1	139.1
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	93.6	92.5	1.2	6.7	7.5	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	102.1	101.8	.3	.2	-.9	78.2
Commodities less food-----	116.0	115.6	.3	.7	.5	95.3
Services-----	152.8	152.7	.1	.3	1.9	90.0
Rent-----	143.6	143.5	.1	.2	1.3	65.8
Services less rent-----	155.2	155.0	.1	.3	2.0	111.2
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	140.7	140.8	-.1	.1	1.2	61.7
Transportation services-----	189.4	189.3	.1	.5	2.4	136.5
Medical care services-----	169.3	168.8	.3	1.0	3.9	140.1
Other services 3/-----	137.7	137.6	.1	.1	1.6	136.2
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.781	\$0.784	-.4	-.4	-1.1	-53.6

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 —		
	July 1961	April 1961	July 1960	Year 1939	April 1961	July 1960	Year 1939
United States city average-----	128.1	127.5	126.6	59.4	0.5	1.2	115.7
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	130.9	130.1	130.4	58.6	.6	0.4	123.4
Detroit-----	125.5	125.6	125.8	59.0	-.1	-.2	112.7
Los Angeles-----	131.4	131.1	129.5	60.4	.2	1.5	117.5
New York-----	126.4	125.8	124.8	60.1	.5	1.3	110.3
Philadelphia-----	128.3	128.0	126.9	59.2	.2	1.1	116.7
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	July 1961	April 1961	July 1960	Year 1939	April 1961	July 1960	Year 1939
Boston-----	130.4	130.0	128.7	61.0	.3	1.3	113.8
Kansas City-----	129.8	129.5	127.9	61.7	.2	1.5	110.4
Minneapolis-----	129.2	129.0	127.5	60.7	.2	1.3	112.9
Pittsburgh-----	129.6	129.2	128.9	58.1	.3	.5	123.1
Portland, Oregon-----	129.3	128.3	127.5	58.3	.8	1.4	121.8
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	June 1961	March 1961	June 1960	Year 1939	March 1961	June 1960	Year 1939
Atlanta-----	127.4	127.7	127.1	58.3	-.2	.2	118.5
Baltimore-----	129.8	129.5	128.3	57.9	.2	1.2	124.2
Cincinnati-----	124.6	124.8	124.6	58.4	-.2	0	113.4
St. Louis-----	129.0	128.9	127.2	59.3	.1	1.4	117.5
San Francisco-----	133.8	133.8	132.4	58.6	0	1.1	128.3
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

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 June 1961 to July 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-----	0.4	0.9	0	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.5	0.4
Chicago-----	.9	1.4	0.3	.7	3.2	-.2	.1	.5	.4
Detroit-----	-.2	.7	-.7	-.2	-1.0	.2	.1	1.0	-2.5
Los Angeles-----	0	-.5	-.2	.9	.1	.1	1.0	.7	0
New York-----	.5	1.2	.1	.3	0	-.1	1.0	.5	-.4
Philadelphia-----	.4	1.6	-.3	-.2	0	-.1	.4	.7	.4

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland Oregon
Indexes (1947-49=100)											
All items -----	128.1	130.4	130.9	125.5	129.8	131.4	129.2	126.4	128.3	129.6	129.3
Food -----	122.0	122.0	120.1	121.8	116.2	126.0	119.2	122.6	124.3	123.6	123.5
Food at home -----	119.0	118.3	117.3	119.0	113.2	119.7	115.6	118.7	120.6	122.0	119.7
Cereals and bakery products --	139.4	134.3	132.6	129.6	134.9	153.2	135.2	148.3	138.3	140.2	139.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	107.8	108.4	102.7	102.9	101.6	106.8	101.4	107.3	108.3	109.7	109.6
Dairy products -----	118.0	112.6	122.0	119.8	117.0	115.3	109.1	117.7	121.5	117.9	123.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	138.2	143.6	136.8	148.2	127.9	140.7	141.3	133.7	141.3	139.8	130.9
Other foods at home -----	107.9	104.5	113.5	108.1	101.7	104.3	111.3	106.9	108.2	118.7	110.8
Housing -----	132.4	142.0	141.0	125.4	130.4	140.4	130.6	132.0	126.0	132.7	132.3
Rent -----	143.6	159.6	168.7	--	145.6	151.4	159.7	--	132.0	136.8	140.4
Gas and electricity -----	125.6	118.7	130.0	123.0	129.8	148.2	136.4	122.6	106.7	144.9	104.6
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	135.9	145.2	140.1	126.5	137.6	--	128.1	142.7	127.3	135.1	140.8
Housefurnishings -----	103.6	102.1	101.7	107.5	100.7	101.5	96.4	107.5	108.7	107.9	101.8
Household operation -----	139.1	137.9	138.4	124.8	144.7	128.8	135.2	139.7	148.3	152.3	136.2
Apparel -----	109.9	107.4	112.2	107.8	107.6	112.4	105.9	108.3	108.8	106.2	115.4
Men's and boys' -----	111.5	106.7	116.5	109.5	112.6	115.1	110.4	112.3	111.7	108.0	117.1
Women's and girls' -----	100.0	99.8	98.7	97.6	97.9	103.3	95.6	95.2	98.0	93.9	104.0
Footwear -----	141.0	134.7	146.3	137.4	133.7	142.7	133.4	144.6	139.5	139.8	149.2
Other apparel -----	92.9	101.5	95.9	87.2	86.5	84.8	88.3	96.4	94.9	100.0	100.5
Transportation -----	148.3	152.4	157.0	133.0	155.4	149.9	132.4	148.3	160.1	163.7	144.6
Private -----	135.9	146.5	137.6	124.6	140.5	140.5	124.6	129.9	137.2	134.8	137.9
Public -----	208.5	169.1	205.4	179.1	258.9	216.3	199.1	191.0	211.6	256.0	201.0
Medical care -----	161.2	168.0	170.0	171.5	180.7	153.5	228.9	150.0	170.0	176.5	154.1
Personal care -----	134.3	136.3	138.1	142.2	134.6	136.5	137.2	124.3	144.3	129.0	135.8
Reading and recreation -----	124.1	129.4	123.3	120.3	141.0	104.2	134.4	127.9	122.7	118.5	130.4
Other goods and services -----	133.6	127.6	124.2	138.0	132.7	133.1	137.3	131.8	133.9	132.7	131.6
Percent change from April 1961 to July 1961											
All items -----	0.5	0.3	0.6	- 0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.8
Food -----	.7	1.2	1.1	.4	.8	- 1.8	.5	.8	1.1	1.0	-. 2
Food at home -----	.6	1.5	.9	.4	.9	- 2.4	.4	1.0	1.3	1.1	-. 5
Cereals and bakery products --	-. 2	- 2.1	.1	-. 6	-. 4	-. 4	.5	-. 5	-. 4	0	- 1.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 2.4	- 2.1	- 2.3	- 2.6	-. 5	- 2.9	- 3.4	- 3.3	- 2.7	- 1.8	- 1.4
Dairy products -----	.1	.4	.1	.6	.4	-. 3	-. 5	.3	1.0	0	-. 9
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.2	10.5	6.1	4.8	4.4	- 4.6	5.4	8.8	7.5	7.5	-. 6
Other foods at home -----	1.4	1.4	2.4	.8	.8	- 2.4	2.0	2.2	2.4	1.7	1.4
Housing -----	.1	-. 8	.3	- 1.0	-. 3	-. 3	-. 2	.2	-. 5	-. 2	-. 5
Rent -----	.2	.1	<u>1/</u> 0	--	-. 3	<u>1/</u> -1	.4	--	<u>1/</u> .2	.4	.5
Gas and electricity -----	-. 2	-. 1	0	.6	-. 2	.1	0	.7	0	.1	0
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	- 2.9	- 1.8	- 2.3	- 1.6	- 2.1	--	- 3.2	- 2.9	- 7.1	0	0
Housefurnishings -----	-. 2	-. 5	.5	- 1.3	- 2.6	-. 8	0	.1	-. 6	.2	-. 3
Household operation -----	.3	.1	0	-. 5	1.2	-. 3	.2	.3	.3	.1	1.3
Apparel -----	.4	.6	-. 3	-. 6	-. 3	.9	0	.1	-. 5	.9	-. 2
Men's and boys' -----	-. 2	-. 3	-. 3	- 1.6	-. 1	0	-. 8	-. 4	-. 4	.5	-. 3
Women's and girls' -----	.9	1.3	-. 5	-. 2	-. 2	1.8	.8	.5	-. 9	.9	-. 1
Footwear -----	.1	0	0	0	.3	.8	-. 1	0	-. 1	1.6	0
Other apparel -----	.1	1.0	-. 3	-. 3	- 2.1	.5	0	-. 4	-. 7	0	-. 1
Transportation -----	1.7	1.6	2.4	-. 5	.8	5.1	- 1.3	.5	.6	- 1.3	7.7
Private -----	1.9	2.0	2.9	-. 6	.9	6.0	- 1.5	.6	.7	- 1.6	8.7
Public -----	1.0	0	.2	0	.3	1.0	.5	0	0	0	1.0
Medical care -----	.8	.7	-. 1	5.0	-. 3	.3	4.2	.9	2.9	.3	.6
Personal care -----	.4	-. 1	-. 2	.1	.7	.1	-. 1	1.1	-. 1	.5	.5
Reading and recreation -----	0	.9	-. 3	1.0	-. 3.1	.2	- 3.8	.5	- 2.0	.4	-. 2
Other goods and services -----	.8	0	1.0	- 2.5	5.7	-. 3	2.9	-. 4	.4	.1	.8

1/ Change from May 1961 to July 1961.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
July 1961 indexes and percent changes, June 1961 to July 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 ---	122.0	0.9	119.0	1.0	139.4	- 0.2	107.8	0.4	118.0	0.6	138.2	2.1	107.9	1.8
Atlanta -----	118.9	2.0	117.1	2.3	127.1	- .1	110.4	.4	117.5	.1	136.5	5.5	106.4	4.9
Baltimore -----	122.9	1.0	117.8	1.0	135.4	- .1	108.8	1.2	117.6	.1	132.8	2.2	107.9	1.5
Boston -----	122.0	2.0	118.3	2.2	134.3	- .8	108.4	.7	112.6	3.5	143.6	5.7	104.5	2.2
Chicago -----	120.1	1.4	117.3	1.4	132.6	- .2	102.7	- .1	122.0	.6	136.8	4.7	113.5	2.3
Cincinnati -----	123.2	1.7	120.3	1.9	137.9	- 1.0	111.7	2.5	117.3	0	139.8	5.7	110.7	1.7
Cleveland -----	116.9	.8	113.7	0.7	132.6	- .5	103.4	1.2	110.8	.3	126.6	- 1.2	108.9	2.3
Detroit -----	121.8	.7	119.0	.8	129.6	0	102.9	.4	119.8	.3	148.2	1.5	108.1	1.4
Houston -----	116.3	.4	112.9	.6	128.6	- .3	101.6	.4	115.6	- .2	131.5	2.8	103.3	0.4
Kansas City -----	116.2	.6	113.2	.7	134.9	- .1	101.6	2.2	117.0	- .1	127.9	0	101.7	.8
Los Angeles -----	126.0	- .5	119.7	- .7	153.2	- .3	106.8	- .7	115.3	.2	140.7	- 0.6	104.3	- 1.7
Minneapolis -----	119.2	.4	115.6	.4	135.2	.3	101.4	- .6	109.1	- .1	141.3	.8	111.3	2.0
New York -----	122.6	1.2	118.7	1.5	148.3	- .5	107.3	.5	117.7	1.4	133.7	3.2	106.9	2.7
Philadelphia -----	124.3	1.6	120.6	1.9	138.3	- .4	108.3	1.2	121.5	1.3	141.3	4.3	108.2	2.3
Pittsburgh -----	123.6	.8	122.0	.9	140.2	- .1	109.7	.4	117.9	.1	139.8	2.5	118.7	1.8
Portland, Oreg. -----	123.5	.5	119.7	.5	139.2	- .4	109.6	- .5	123.3	4.1	130.9	- 1.1	110.8	.9
St. Louis -----	121.3	- .3	115.8	- .6	124.2	- 1.3	104.5	- .8	110.6	- .1	139.0	- 2.5	113.8	1.8
San Francisco -----	126.1	- .1	122.8	- .1	153.3	.3	113.9	1.0	119.7	.1	142.6	- 3.8	106.0	1.8
Scranton -----	118.5	1.4	117.0	1.6	136.3	- .7	108.0	1.4	111.3	.1	136.2	2.9	106.4	3.4
Seattle -----	125.6	0	121.8	- .2	151.7	.3	112.2	- 1.8	125.2	- .1	136.3	- .9	105.4	2.5
Washington, D.C. -----	122.2	.8	119.2	1.0	138.9	- .3	106.6	1.1	121.2	.3	132.4	1.5	111.2	1.7

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

Food and unit	July 1961	June 1961	Food and unit	July 1961	June 1961
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	56.1	56.3	Fresh--Continued		
Biscuit mix ----- 40 oz.	48.1	48.1	Grapefruit * ----- each	13.9	12.3
Macaroni ----- 15 oz.	23.3	23.3	Peaches * ----- lb.	16.2	
Corn meal ----- 1 lb.	13.3	13.3	Strawberries * ----- pt.		29.1
Rolled oats ----- 13 oz.	22.4	22.4	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	33.4	
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	26.6	26.3	Watermelons * ----- lb.	5.1	5.3
Rice, short grain ----- 1 lb.	18.6	18.6	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	69.9	66.0
Rice, long grain ----- 1 lb.	20.7	20.6	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	(1/)	18.8
Bread, white ----- 1 lb.	20.9	20.9	Onions ----- 1 lb.	12.3	10.9
Soda crackers ----- 1 lb.	29.1	29.1	Carrots ----- 1 lb.	16.4	17.3
Sandwich cookies ----- 1 lb.	50.9	51.9	Lettuce ----- head	17.5	17.3
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- lb.	14.1	13.5
Round steak ----- 1 lb.	100.6	101.6	Cabbage ----- lb.	10.1	9.6
Sirloin steak ----- 1 lb.	104.6	105.4	Tomatoes ----- 1 lb.	33.0	29.0
Chuck roast ----- 1 lb.	56.1	57.1	Beans, green ----- 1 lb.	22.8	25.9
Rib roast ----- 1 lb.	78.4	80.0	Canned:		
Hamburger ----- 1 lb.	50.4	50.9	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	48.5	48.2
Veal cutlets ----- 1 lb.	142.2	142.0	Pineapple juice ----- 46-oz. can	33.7	33.3
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1 lb.	89.9	86.2	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	33.4	33.6
Pork roast ----- 1 lb.	63.7	61.3	Pineapple ----- #2 can	38.5	38.4
Bacon, sliced ----- 1 lb.	70.2	69.5	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.8	26.8
Ham, whole ----- 1 lb.	59.8	60.0	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	20.9	20.8
Lamb, leg ----- 1 lb.	69.7	70.1	Peas, green ----- #303 can	22.0	22.1
Frankfurters ----- 1 lb.	62.7	62.8	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.0	16.1
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.9	51.3	Tomato juice ----- 46-oz. can	33.4	33.3
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1 lb.	36.8	36.6	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.6	10.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1 lb.	47.4	46.8	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1 lb.	54.3	54.2	Prunes ----- 1 lb.	41.8	41.7
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	74.6	74.2	Beans ----- 1 lb.	16.9	16.8
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.4	32.4	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.5	12.5
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.3	24.2	Beans, with pork ----- 15-oz. can	14.8	14.9
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	26.1	25.8	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.6	26.6
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	86.2	86.5	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.0	22.8
Butter ----- 1 lb.	76.3	76.2	Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	27.6	27.3
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	36.3	36.3	Coffee ----- 1 lb. can	73.5	74.5
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.9	15.9	Coffee ----- 1 lb. bag	58.8	59.1
Fruits and vegetables:			Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.6	24.6
Frozen:			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	31.0	30.6
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.0	26.9	Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	93.0	92.8
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	24.4	24.7	Margarine, colored ----- 1 lb.	29.4	29.1
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.6	13.6	Lard ----- 1 lb.	20.9	21.4
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.5	20.8	Salad dressing ----- pt.	37.9	37.7
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	23.0	23.1	Peanut butter ----- 1 lb.	55.7	55.9
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.6	19.7	Sugar ----- 5 lb.	58.9	59.1
Fresh:			Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	27.0	27.0
Apples ----- 1 lb.	22.4	21.8	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	29.2	29.2
Bananas ----- 1 lb.	16.2	15.6	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	78.9	77.5	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	56.1	51.6
Lemons ----- 1 lb.	19.0	19.4	Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.5	9.4

* Priced only in season.

1/ Not available.

LABOR - D. C.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BLS Regional Offices

Atlanta	New York	Chicago	San Francisco	Boston
1371 Peachtree	341 Ninth Ave.	105 West Adams St.	630 Sansome St.	18 Oliver St.
Street, N. E.	Zone 1	Zone 3	Zone 11	Zone 10
Zone 9				

LABOR - D. C.

