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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST 1961

The Consumer Price Index declined by 0.1 percent between July and August to 128.0 (1947-49=100), the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Seasonally lower food prices, especially for fresh fruits and vegetables, were the principal cause of the decrease. Prices averaged slightly higher for both nonfood commodities and for services. Transportation showed the most significant increase over the month. There was a small decline for housing, and apparel prices averaged unchanged.

In the first eight months of 1961, consumer prices have advanced by approximately 0.5 percent, less than during any comparable period since 1955. This advance has resulted largely from steady increases for services and for used cars. Except for seasonal variations, food prices have been relatively stable in 1961 as a moderate decline in beef prices and a sharp drop in poultry prices offset increases for other foods. Compared with a year ago, average retail prices of consumer goods and services have advanced by 1.1 percent, led by higher charges for services.

FOOD

A decline of 0.7 percent in average retail food prices in August erased most of the advance recorded in July and brought the average back to approximately the levels prevailing during the early months of 1961. Lower prices for fresh fruits and vegetables accounted for most of the drop in prices of food purchased for home consumption; however, prices of restaurant meals also declined for the first time since December 1958.

Fresh vegetables registered a sharp decrease of 13 percent as reductions were recorded for all vegetables priced. Among the most significant reductions were decreases of about 38 percent in prices of sweet corn, 25 percent for tomatoes, and 11 percent for potatoes, as market supplies climbed to seasonal peaks. The 1961 potato crop is estimated to be about 8 percent above last year's, and August prices were about 10 percent below a year ago.

Price movements for fresh fruits were mixed, but averaged lower, as price advances for oranges, grapefruit and peaches were offset by lower prices for other fruits. Compared with August 1960, prices of fruits and vegetables were 4.0 percent higher.

An increase of 1.5 percent in pork prices, reflecting seasonally low supplies, was largely responsible for the 0.5 percent rise in average prices of meats. Prices of frying chickens increased slightly over the period for the second small rise from the record low prices prevailing in June. Production, however, was at new highs for this time of the year. Compared with August 1960, the meats, poultry, and fish index has declined by 2.6 percent, led by a drop of nearly 14 percent for chickens.

Higher fluid milk prices reflected seasonal factors, increased minimum returns to farmers set by Federal marketing orders, and increased processing and distribution costs. Only fractional changes were recorded in average prices of manufactured dairy products. Over the year, prices for milk sold in grocery stores have not changed, but delivered milk increased by 1.3 percent. Among manufactured dairy products cheese prices rose 6.9 percent, with ice cream the only product to register a decrease.

NONFOOD  
COMMODITIES

Higher prices for used cars and gasoline were the major factors responsible for the 0.1 percent rise in the index for commodities other than food. Seasonally higher prices for women's apparel and for solid and petroleum fuels, accompanied by an increase in newspapers prices, also

contributed to the slight rise. Among the more important moderating factors were lower prices for household textiles, laundry soap and detergents, and men's and boys' apparel.

The 2.7 percent increase in used car prices represented the largest advance between July and August since the series was introduced in 1953. The lower volume of new car sales in 1961 resulted in a scarcity of trade-in cars on dealers' lots, with consequent strengthening in used car prices. Trade sources estimate that, as of September 1, dealers' stocks of used cars were at the lowest levels since October 1958. Gasoline prices rose seasonally on the average, in spite of sharp price reductions in a few cities.

Seasonally higher prices for fall lines of women's and girls' dresses were chiefly responsible for the small advance in prices of women's and girls' apparel. Higher prices for women's shoes reflected higher wholesale costs to retailers in a few cities. Offsetting these advances, however was an 0.4 percent decline for men's clothing following sales prices of summer apparel. August white sales resulted in lower average prices for textile housefurnishings.

SERVICES The principal increases contributing to the continued upward price trend for services over the month were advances in movie admissions, home purchase, professional medical fees, and public transportation. Price changes for other service items were relatively minor.

Higher prices for movie admissions were partially caused by higher admissions charged for the showing of special features in several cities. The cost of home ownership increased slightly in August, with the advance attributed to increased demand for homes and higher labor and material costs of maintenance and repairs. However, mortgage interest rates continued to decline.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS As a result of the August index, 1- or 2-cent per hour cost-of-living increases are scheduled for 120,000 workers whose quarterly reviews of their cost-of-living escalator allowances are tied to the August index. About 100,000 will receive 1-cent increases, including about 85,000 employees engaged in aircraft-missile production. About 20,000 employees of an aircraft firm and a number of smaller metalworking firms are scheduled for a 2-cent-an-hour increase.

Contracts for some 580,000 workers in the basic steel and related industries provide for a review of the cost-of-living escalator allowance on the basis of the August index. The index is above the level necessary to provide the maximum 3-cent increase in the amount allowable under these contracts, but it is not known at this time whether all or part of this increase will be paid to the workers in cash beginning on October 1 or will go to offset increases in insurance costs. In December 1960, the 3-cent increase in the cost-of-living allowance was used to offset projected increases in insurance costs for an earlier period.

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NOTE Page 9 of this report contains tables of indexes of consumer prices and comparative living costs for Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska. These data are the initial results of a continuing study of consumer prices and comparative living costs in Anchorage and Fairbanks made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These indexes are calculated twice yearly on a May-October cycle. As a convenience to users of the Alaska indexes, the tables will be printed in the first full monthly report of the Consumer Price Index issued after their release. Press releases containing only the Alaska indexes will be issued immediately after calculation is completed. Persons interested in obtaining the press releases, which contain analytical material as well as the tables of indexes, may be placed upon the mailing list, upon request to the Regional Director, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 630 Sansome Street, San Francisco 11, California.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to August 1961 from --			
	August 1961	July 1961	July 1961	May 1961	August 1960	Year 1959
All items-----	128.0	128.1	- 0.1	0.5	1.1	115.5
Food-----	121.2	122.0	- .7	.4	0.9	157.3
Food at home-----	118.2	119.0	- .7	.4	.7	151.0
Cereals and bakery products-----	139.6	139.4	.1	- .1	1.4	144.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	108.4	107.8	.6	- .3	- 2.6	160.6
Dairy products-----	118.5	118.0	.4	.9	1.6	138.0
Fruits and vegetables-----	132.4	138.2	- 4.2	.2	4.0	186.0
Other foods at home-----	107.6	107.9	- .3	1.7	1.0	122.3
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	121.5	121.6	- .1	.5	2.0	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	132.3	132.4	- .1	.1	.6	73.9
Rent-----	143.6	143.6	0	.1	1.2	65.8
Gas and electricity-----	125.6	125.6	0	- .5	.6	19.7
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	136.9	135.9	.7	.3	2.6	142.7
Housefurnishings-----	103.2	103.6	- .4	- .3	- .3	93.3
Household operation-----	138.8	139.1	- .2	.1	.9	102.9
Apparel-----	109.9	109.9	0	.3	.5	109.3
Men's and boys'-----	111.1	111.5	- .4	- .5	.5	118.7
Women's and girls'-----	100.2	100.0	.2	.9	.5	83.9
Footwear-----	141.2	141.0	.1	.3	.9	180.7
Other apparel-----	92.9	92.9	0	.1	- .2	128.8
Transportation-----	149.3	148.3	.7	1.8	2.1	112.7
Private-----	136.8	135.9	.7	1.9	1.8	108.9
Public-----	209.1	208.5	.3	1.3	4.9	157.2
Medical care-----	161.4	161.2	.1	.6	3.0	122.3
Personal care-----	134.2	134.3	- .1	.3	.3	125.2
Reading and recreation-----	124.4	124.1	.2	.4	2.1	97.5
Other goods and services-----	133.6	133.6	0	.4	.9	89.2
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	131.6	131.4	.2	.5	1.2	90.4
All items less shelter-----	125.6	125.7	- .1	.6	1.2	126.7
Commodities-----	118.4	118.7	- .3	.6	.7	129.5
Nondurables-----	120.8	121.1	- .2	.5	.8	135.0
Food-----	121.2	122.0	- .7	.4	.9	157.3
Nondurables less food-----	120.7	120.6	.1	.6	.5	105.6
Apparel-----	109.7	109.7	0	.3	.5	110.6
Apparel less footwear-----	104.3	104.4	- .1	.3	.5	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	130.0	129.9	.1	.8	.5	97.3
Durables-----	111.9	111.5	.4	1.0	.8	95.3
New cars-----	136.2	136.3	- .1	- .7	.5	138.9
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	96.1	93.6	2.7	7.4	10.1	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	102.1	102.1	0	.3	- .9	78.2
Commodities less food-----	116.1	116.0	.1	.7	.5	95.5
Services-----	153.0	152.8	.1	.3	1.8	90.3
Rent-----	143.6	143.6	0	.1	1.2	65.8
Services less rent-----	155.4	155.2	.1	.3	1.9	111.4
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	140.6	140.7	- .1	- .1	1.0	61.6
Transportation services-----	189.8	189.4	.2	.5	2.5	137.0
Medical care services-----	169.5	169.3	.1	.8	3.8	140.4
Other services 3/-----	137.9	137.7	.1	.2	1.4	136.5
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.781	\$0.781	0	- .5	- 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 --		
	August 1961	May 1961	August 1960	Year 1939	May 1961	August 1960	Year 1939
United States city average	128.0	127.4	126.6	59.4	0.5	1.1	115.5
<b>Cities priced monthly 1/</b>							
Chicago	130.8	129.9	130.3	58.6	.7	0.4	123.2
Detroit	125.8	125.6	125.6	59.0	.2	.2	113.2
Los Angeles	131.1	131.0	129.2	60.4	.1	1.5	117.1
New York	126.4	125.6	125.3	60.1	.6	.9	110.3
Philadelphia	128.0	127.9	126.8	59.2	.1	.9	116.2
<b>Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/</b>							
Cleveland	128.7	127.9	127.4	59.2	.6	1.0	117.4
Houston	126.3	126.1	126.1	59.5	.2	.2	112.3
Scranton	124.3	124.1	121.8	58.5	.2	2.1	112.5
Seattle	131.8	131.7	129.8	59.2	.1	1.5	122.6
Washington, D. C.	125.2	124.3	123.2	60.4	.7	1.6	107.3
<b>Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/</b>							
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
<b>Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/</b>							
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

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 July 1961 to August 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	- 0.7	- 0.1	0	0.7	0.1	- 0.1	0.2	0
Chicago	-.1	-.5	.1	- 0.5	.4	0	1.0	-.1	0
Detroit	.2	-.9	0	.1	5.2	.2	0	- 1.1	- 0.1
Los Angeles	-.2	-.6	.1	-.8	.5	.1	- 1.1	-.2	-.7
New York	0	-.3	.1	.6	.1	.4	-.6	.3	0
Philadelphia	-.2	-.7	-.1	.3	-.1	0	.1	-.4	-.1

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
<b>Indexes (1947-49=100)</b>											
All items -----	128.0	130.8	128.7	125.8	126.3	131.1	126.4	128.0	124.3	131.8	125.2
Food -----	121.2	119.5	116.6	120.7	117.0	125.3	122.2	123.4	116.7	124.9	121.9
Food at home -----	118.2	116.8	113.3	117.7	113.6	118.8	118.3	119.6	114.9	121.0	118.8
Cereals and bakery products --	139.6	133.2	132.6	129.7	128.5	152.4	149.1	139.1	136.7	152.0	138.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	108.4	103.8	103.8	103.4	103.8	107.7	107.8	108.4	107.8	112.2	107.4
Dairy products -----	118.5	123.6	110.3	120.4	115.8	115.1	119.2	121.9	111.3	125.2	121.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	132.4	130.2	124.9	139.2	131.2	136.1	129.4	135.0	124.8	131.4	128.4
Other foods at home -----	107.6	113.0	108.2	108.3	103.3	103.8	106.2	107.9	105.4	105.4	111.1
Housing -----	132.3	141.2	130.8	125.4	131.4	140.5	132.1	125.9	125.5	134.9	123.5
Rent -----	143.6	--	161.8	140.3	137.6	--	138.4	--	134.9	152.7	135.2
Gas and electricity -----	125.6	130.1	124.1	123.1	133.7	148.2	122.5	106.7	124.9	86.7	133.6
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	136.9	140.9	142.0	127.5	--	--	143.8	128.1	137.1	139.2	144.3
Housefurnishings -----	103.2	101.5	98.0	106.0	100.7	101.6	107.1	107.7	<sup>3/</sup> 97.1	101.6	99.7
Household operation -----	138.8	138.4	125.6	<sup>2/</sup> 124.0	145.6	128.0	139.3	148.1	123.2	139.9	140.5
Apparel -----	109.9	111.6	111.5	107.9	112.1	111.5	109.0	109.1	113.8	112.3	106.2
Men's and boys' -----	111.1	115.7	115.8	109.8	109.2	112.6	112.3	111.4	114.6	116.5	110.4
Women's and girls' -----	100.2	98.4	99.8	97.6	105.0	102.8	96.4	98.2	105.1	102.0	97.2
Footwear -----	141.2	145.2	139.6	136.9	146.4	143.1	145.1	141.3	145.7	142.9	131.8
Other apparel -----	92.9	95.3	97.1	87.2	90.1	85.1	96.8	95.1	94.6	88.2	90.7
Transportation -----	149.3	157.7	147.5	139.9	142.6	150.7	148.5	159.9	146.7	153.6	149.1
Private -----	136.8	138.4	136.4	132.6	134.4	141.3	130.1	136.9	133.2	139.4	141.1
Public -----	209.1	205.4	201.4	179.1	202.9	216.3	191.0	211.6	191.3	217.0	178.3
Medical care -----	161.4	170.0	184.8	171.9	140.2	153.6	150.6	170.0	137.3	158.9	160.5
Personal care -----	134.2	139.5	133.7	142.2	142.5	135.0	123.5	144.5	149.7	141.3	132.7
Reading and recreation -----	124.4	123.2	134.7	119.0	126.3	104.0	128.3	122.2	178.7	121.1	126.6
Other goods and services -----	133.6	124.2	136.6	137.9	137.4	132.2	131.8	133.8	123.9	150.8	138.4
<b>Percent change from May 1961 to August 1961</b>											
All items -----	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.7
Food -----	.4	.8	.8	-.3	.8	-1.7	1.0	.7	0	-.4	1.0
Food at home -----	.4	.8	.7	-.3	.7	-2.2	1.4	.7	-.1	-1.5	1.1
Cereals and bakery products --	-.1	.2	.6	-.6	-.4	-1.0	.2	-.1	-.4	.3	-.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-.3	0	1.0	-.2	0	-.5	-.5	-1.3	-.9	-2.7	.6
Dairy products -----	.9	.7	-.5	.6	-.3	-.5	2.8	1.2	-.1	.1	-.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	.2	1.2	.6	-3.4	4.6	-5.4	2.9	2.4	-1.8	-5.4	3.8
Other foods at home -----	1.7	2.2	1.3	1.8	-.1	-2.9	2.1	2.2	3.0	1.3	1.7
Housing -----	.1	.7	0	-.7	-.1	-.1	.5	-.5	0	-.2	.6
Rent -----	.1	--	-.1	<sup>1/</sup> -2	-.1	--	<sup>1/</sup> .4	--	0	.1	.6
Gas and electricity -----	-.5	.1	0	.3	-.1	.1	.4	0	0	0	-2.3
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	.3	0	2.2	-.5	--	--	1.5	-1.5	3.0	0	4.1
Housefurnishings -----	-.3	.8	-.9	-1.9	.1	-.1	-.2	-1.2	-1.0	-.4	.5
Household operation -----	.1	.1	0	-1.0	-.2	-.8	0	0	-.3	-1.2	.6
Apparel -----	.3	-.5	.5	-.5	-.1	-.3	1.0	.1	-.5	-.4	-.2
Men's and boys' -----	-.5	-.9	.2	-1.3	-.7	-2.2	-.2	-.3	-.2	-.1	-.5
Women's and girls' -----	.9	-.5	.1	0	-.1	.3	2.3	0	-1.2	-.7	.1
Footwear -----	.3	-.3	1.5	-.4	1.0	1.1	.3	1.2	-.3	0	.2
Other apparel -----	.1	-.4	.1	-.2	-.1	1.1	.2	-.3	-.3	-.9	-.4
Transportation -----	1.8	2.8	2.4	3.0	-2.2	4.7	.3	.2	-.4	1.1	1.8
Private -----	1.9	3.4	.7	3.8	-3.0	5.4	.4	.1	-.5	-.4	2.2
Public -----	1.3	.2	10.8	0	2.3	1.0	0	0	0	14.6	0
Medical care -----	.6	-.2	-.5	5.0	0	.3	.3	0	.4	-.1	.8
Personal care -----	.3	1.2	-.5	.6	.1	-.7	.3	0	4.2	.1	.2
Reading and recreation -----	.4	.1	1.6	-.1	6.4	.5	.2	-.1	2.3	2.9	-.3
Other goods and services -----	.4	.4	.1	-2.5	-.1	-.9	-.4	.3	0	-.1	.7

<sup>1/</sup> Change from June 1961 to August 1961.  
<sup>2/</sup> Revised index, July 1961 = 123.8.  
<sup>3/</sup> Revised index, May 1961 = 98.1.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups  
August, 1961 indexes and percent changes, July, 1961 to August, 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	- 0.7	118.2	- 0.7	139.6	0.1	108.4	0.6	118.5	0.4	132.4	- 4.2	107.6	- 0.3
Atlanta -----	118.5	- .3	116.7	- .3	127.0	- .1	110.7	.3	117.5	0	135.2	- 1.0	105.3	- 1.0
Baltimore -----	122.3	- .5	117.0	- .7	135.6	.1	109.0	.2	117.5	- .1	128.2	- 3.5	107.5	- .4
Boston -----	121.4	- .5	117.8	- .4	134.3	0	109.5	1.0	112.6	0	138.2	- 3.8	104.8	.3
Chicago -----	119.5	- .5	116.8	- .4	133.2	.5	103.8	1.1	123.6	1.3	130.2	- 4.8	113.0	- .4
Cincinnati -----	122.0	- 1.0	119.1	- 1.0	137.9	0	112.5	.7	117.2	- .1	131.9	- 5.7	110.4	- .3
Cleveland -----	116.6	- .3	113.3	- .4	132.6	0	103.8	.4	110.3	- .5	124.9	- 1.3	108.2	- .6
Detroit -----	120.7	- .9	117.8	- 1.0	129.7	.1	103.4	.5	120.4	.5	139.2	- 6.1	108.3	.2
Houston -----	117.0	.6	113.6	.6	128.5	- .1	103.8	2.2	115.8	.2	131.2	- .2	103.3	0
Kansas City -----	115.0	- 1.0	111.8	- 1.2	134.7	- .1	102.2	.6	113.9	- 2.6	123.1	- 3.8	100.8	- .9
Los Angeles -----	125.3	- .6	118.8	- .8	152.4	- .5	107.7	.8	115.1	- .2	136.1	- 3.3	103.8	- .5
Minneapolis -----	117.5	- 1.4	113.6	- 1.7	134.8	- .3	102.3	.9	109.1	0	128.6	- 9.0	110.7	- .5
New York -----	122.2	- .3	118.3	- .3	149.1	.5	107.8	.5	119.2	1.3	129.4	- 3.2	106.2	- .7
Philadelphia -----	123.4	- .7	119.6	- .8	139.1	.6	108.4	.1	121.9	.3	135.0	- 4.5	107.9	- .3
Pittsburgh -----	122.9	- .6	121.2	- .7	140.2	0	111.4	1.5	117.8	- .1	131.9	- 5.7	118.4	- .3
Portland, Oreg. -----	123.7	.2	119.9	.2	141.3	1.5	111.0	1.3	123.4	.1	127.2	- 2.8	111.6	.7
St. Louis -----	121.0	- .2	115.3	- .4	124.6	.3	104.9	.4	111.6	.9	134.5	- 3.2	113.1	- .6
San Francisco -----	125.0	- .9	121.5	- 1.1	153.4	.1	112.7	- 1.1	119.7	0	136.5	- 4.3	106.6	.6
Scranton -----	116.7	- 1.5	114.9	- 1.8	136.7	.3	107.8	- .2	111.3	0	124.8	- 8.4	105.4	- .9
Seattle -----	124.9	- .6	121.0	- .7	152.0	.2	112.2	0	125.2	0	131.4	- 3.6	105.4	0
Washington, D.C. -----	121.9	- .2	118.8	- .3	138.5	- .3	107.4	.8	121.9	.6	128.4	- 3.0	111.1	- .1

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

Food and unit	August 1961	July 1961	Food and unit	August 1961	July 1961
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.9	56.1	Fresh--Continued		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	48.1	48.1	Grapefruit * ----- each	15.6	13.9
Macaroni ----- 15 oz.	23.3	23.3	Peaches * ----- lb.	16.6	16.2
Corn meal ----- lb.	13.3	13.3	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Rolled oats ----- 13 oz.	22.5	22.4	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	31.1	33.4
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	26.7	26.6	Watermelons * ----- lb.	4.2	5.1
Rice, short grain ----- lb.	18.6	18.6	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	62.6	69.9
Rice, long grain ----- lb.	20.7	20.7	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	19.8	(1/)
Bread, white ----- lb.	20.9	20.9	Corn ----- doz. ears	66.9	108.5
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.1	29.1	Onions ----- lb.	12.0	12.0
Sandwich cookies ----- 16 oz.	51.6	50.9	Carrots ----- lb.	16.1	16.4
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce ----- head	16.3	17.5
Round steak ----- lb.	101.2	100.6	Celery ----- lb.	13.2	14.1
Sirloin steak ----- lb.	106.1	104.6	Cabbage ----- lb.	8.6	10.1
Chuck roast ----- lb.	55.8	56.1	Tomatoes ----- lb.	24.8	33.0
Rib roast ----- lb.	78.6	78.4	Beans, green ----- lb.	19.8	22.8
Hamburger ----- lb.	49.2	50.4	Canned:		
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	141.8	142.2	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	48.6	48.5
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	88.8	89.9	Pineapple juice ----- 46 oz. can	33.8	33.7
Pork roast ----- lb.	63.2	63.7	Peaches ----- 42 oz. can	33.2	33.4
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	73.5	70.2	Pineapple ----- 42 oz. can	38.5	38.5
Ham, whole ----- lb.	60.3	59.8	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.7	26.8
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	68.1	69.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	21.0	20.9
Frankfurters ----- lb.	63.1	62.7	Peas, green ----- #303 can	22.1	22.0
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.8	50.9	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	16.0	16.0
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	37.1	36.8	Tomato juice ----- 46 oz. can	33.1	33.4
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	47.6	47.4	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.6	10.6
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	54.3	54.3	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	75.0	74.6	Prunes ----- lb.	41.8	41.8
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.2	32.4	Beans ----- lb.	17.0	16.9
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.5	24.3	Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.5
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	26.3	26.1	Beans, with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.9	14.8
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	86.2	86.2	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.5	26.6
Butter ----- lb.	76.3	76.3	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.9	23.0
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	36.2	36.3	Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	27.9	27.6
Milk, evaporated ----- 14-oz. can	15.9	15.9	Coffee ----- lb. can	73.5	73.5
Fruits and vegetables:			Coffee ----- lb. bag	58.6	58.8
Frozen:			Coffee, instant ----- 6 oz.	94.2	93.9
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.0	27.0	Tea bags ----- pkgt. of 16	24.6	24.6
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	24.3	24.4	Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	30.9	31.0
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.7	13.6	Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	91.9	93.0
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.3	20.5	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	29.3	29.4
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.9	23.0	Lard ----- lb.	20.4	20.9
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.7	19.6	Salad dressing ----- pt.	38.0	37.9
Fresh:			Peanut butter ----- lb.	55.7	55.7
Apples ----- lb.	21.9	22.4	Sugar ----- 5 lb.	58.7	58.9
Bananas ----- lb.	16.1	16.2	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	27.1	27.0
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	81.6	78.9	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	29.4	29.2
Lemons ----- lb.	18.7	19.0	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
			Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	55.8	56.1
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.7	9.5

\* Priced only in season.

1/ Not available.

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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

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				

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INDEXES OF CONSUMER PRICES AND LIVING COSTS  
FOR ANCHORAGE AND FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

Tables 1 and 2 show the initial results derived from a continuing study of consumer prices and comparative living costs in Anchorage and Fairbanks made by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Henceforth the Bureau will compute, on a semiannual basis, an index of changes in consumer prices for Anchorage and Fairbanks comparable to the Consumer Price Index for other United States cities, and, also semiannually, an index of the cost of equivalent goods and services for wage-earner and clerical-worker families in each of these cities compared with the cost in Seattle, Washington.

COMPARATIVE LIVING COST INDEXES The indexes shown in table 1 measure intercity differences in the cost of equivalent goods and services, including rents and homeowner costs, in Anchorage and Fairbanks compared with costs in Seattle, Washington. The list of goods and services and their relative importance in the index represent the average 1959 expenditures of wage- and clerical-worker families of two or more persons in each Alaska city, as adjusted for changes in the Consumer Price Index to October 1960.

USES AND LIMITATIONS The intercity indexes were designed primarily for use in local wage negotiations and contracts. The comparisons were made with Seattle because that city has been the traditional base for recruiting workers for Alaskan employment and, therefore, has been the basis for living cost comparisons as used in wage negotiations.

The relative differences in costs are those for established families in each city and will not reflect differences in living costs associated with moving to Alaska, nor visiting there.

The intercity index for each Alaska city measures the difference in living costs between that city and Seattle. Since the expenditure patterns are not identical for the two Alaska cities, the intercity indexes cannot be used as a precise measure of differences in costs between the two Alaska cities. Likewise, these intercity indexes are not comparable to the indexes published for 20 large United States cities based on the Autumn 1959 costs of the City Worker's Family Budget.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES The Consumer Price Indexes presented in Table 2 are designed to measure average changes in prices of commodities and services purchased by families of 2 or more, headed by a wage earner or clerical worker in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Price changes for Alaskan cities will not be included in the calculation of the national index until the current revision is completed. Beginning in January 1964, Anchorage will be among the cities represented in the national index.

The list of goods and services priced for these indexes is substantially the same as for the national index, but items particularly important in Alaska were added. The weighting factors used to combine price changes for individual items are based on the results of detailed surveys of actual expenditures made during 1959 by families of wage earners and clerical workers in Anchorage and Fairbanks.

USES AND LIMITATIONS The Consumer Price Indexes are designed solely to measure changes in prices paid by the index population from one period of time to another. They provide a reasonable approximation of changes in consumer price trends for the general population of these cities.

Like the U.S. Consumer Price Index, these indexes are appropriate for use in adjusting wages for changes in the purchasing power of the consumer dollar.

The indexes are based on average expenditures and reflect average price changes. Like all averages, the results summarize varying situations, so that neither the weights nor the price changes can be cited as typical of or identical with those experienced by an individual family or by smaller groups within the total index population.

TABLE 1: Indexes of Intercity Differences in the Cost of Equivalent Goods and Services (including rents and homeowner costs)

Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska compared with Seattle, Washington\*

(Costs in Seattle = 100)

Group	Anchorage		Fairbanks	
	May 1961	Oct. 1960	May 1961	Oct. 1960
All items	126	127	136	136
Food 1/	127	129	145	144
Housing 2/	140	140	154	154
Rental housing 3/	177	178	215	219
Apparel	112	112	121	118
Other goods and services 4/	114	117	121	122
All items less housing	118	120	128	128

\* Based on the pattern of expenditures of wage- and clerical-worker families of two or more persons in each city who were full-year residents in Alaska.

1/ Includes food at home and away from home.

2/ Includes rent, heat and utilities, housefurnishings, household operation, repairs and maintenance, and homeownership costs (mortgage principal and interest, taxes and insurance).

3/ Average contract rent for tenant-occupied, 2-, 3-, 4-, and 5-room dwellings meeting defined standards, plus cost of heating fuel, utilities and specified equipment when the cost of these items is not included in the monthly rent.

4/ Includes personal care, medical care, transportation, reading, recreation, education, tobacco, beverages, and miscellaneous expenses.

TABLE 2: Consumer Price Indexes, May 1960, October 1960, and May 1961, for Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska (Avg. May-Oct. 1960 = 100)

Group	Anchorage					Fairbanks				
	Indexes		Percent change to May 1961 from			Indexes		Percent change to May 1961 from		
	May 1961	Oct. 1960	May 1960	Oct. 1960	May 1960	May 1960	Oct. 1960	May 1961	Oct. 1960	May 1960
All items	100.1	100.3	99.8	- 0.2	0.3	99.7	100.3	100.9	0.6	1.2
Food 1/	102.0	101.3	98.8	.7	3.2	99.4	100.6	102.6	2.0	3.2
Food at home	101.9	101.4	98.7	.5	3.2	99.3	100.7	102.8	2.1	3.5
Cereals and bakery products	100.5	99.6	100.4	.9	3.1	97.8	102.2	93.9	- 8.1	- 4.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	100.2	102.3	97.3	- 2.5	3.0	100.3	99.7	104.9	5.2	4.6
Dairy products	104.1	102.5	97.5	1.6	6.8	98.5	101.5	104.8	3.3	6.4
Fruits and vegetables	104.2	99.8	100.2	4.4	4.0	99.8	100.2	104.2	4.0	4.4
Other foods at home	101.6	101.2	99.3	.4	2.3	98.7	101.3	101.1	- .2	2.4
Housing 2/	100.4	100.4	99.6	0	.8	99.5	100.5	100.2	- .3	0.7
Rent	100.6	100.3	99.7	.3	.9	99.7	100.3	98.7	- 1.6	- 1.0
Gas and electricity	98.3	98.6	101.4	- .3	- 3.1	103.7	96.3	95.9	- .4	- 7.5
Solid and petroleum fuels	92.8	100.1	99.9	- 7.3	- 7.1	100.0	100.0	101.0	1.0	1.0
Housefurnishings	100.9	100.4	99.7	.5	1.2	99.5	100.5	102.1	1.6	2.6
Household operation	103.6	100.0	100.0	3.6	3.6	99.0	101.0	105.5	4.5	6.6
Apparel	99.2	100.0	100.0	- .8	- .8	99.9	100.1	102.0	1.9	2.1
Men's and boys'	99.7	100.2	99.9	- .5	- .2	99.4	100.5	101.3	.8	1.9
Women's and girls'	98.9	99.6	100.4	- .7	- 1.5	100.6	99.4	103.1	3.7	2.5
Footwear	99.3	100.3	99.2	- 1.5	.1	98.9	101.1	102.5	1.4	3.6
Other apparel	96.8	99.8	100.1	- 3.0	- 3.3	100.1	99.9	89.4	- 10.5	- 10.7
Transportation	97.2	98.9	101.1	- 1.7	- 3.9	100.5	99.5	98.4	- 1.1	- 2.1
Private	96.3	98.7	101.3	- 1.9	- 4.4	100.5	99.5	98.2	- 1.3	- 2.3
Public	100.6	100.6	99.4	0	1.2	99.7	100.3	100.3	0	.6
Medical care	100.9	100.1	99.9	.8	1.0	99.6	100.3	103.2	2.9	3.6
Personal care	99.0	100.2	99.8	- 1.2	- .8	98.0	102.0	103.8	1.8	5.9
Reading and recreation	98.2	99.0	101.0	- .8	- 2.8	99.9	100.1	101.1	1.0	1.2
Other goods and services 3/	100.2	100.2	99.8	.1	.5	100.1	99.9	100.4	.5	.3

1/ Includes restaurant meals not shown separately.

2/ Includes home purchase and other home-owner costs not shown separately.

3/ Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and "miscellaneous services" (such as legal services, banking fees, burial services, etc.).

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