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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1961

Prices of consumer goods and services rose by 0.2 percent between August and September to a new high of 128.3 (1947-49=100), the U.S. Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today.

Seasonal increases for apparel and continued higher costs for services were the major influences in the advance. However, all major nonfood components contributed. Seasonal declines for fruits and vegetables lowered average food prices.

Thus far in 1961, consumer prices have advanced by 0.7 percent, the smallest increase for a January to September period since 1955. Compared with September 1960, average retail prices were 1.2 percent higher, with increased charges for services responsible for slightly more than half of the rise.

APPAREL The 1.1 percent rise for apparel, though not unusual for this season of the year, was sufficient to carry the apparel index slightly over the record level of 111.0 (1947-49=100) reached in October 1960. The advance between August and September was due primarily to seasonally higher prices for new fall wool clothing for both men and women, which more than offset small declines reported for a number of other clothing items. The increase of 1.9 percent in average prices of women's and girls' apparel was the largest rise noted for the comparable monthly period since 1955. As a consequence, the index for women's and girls' apparel was at a record high. However, despite a rise of 0.7 percent over the period the index for men's and boys' apparel remained 0.3 percent below record levels prevailing in September and October 1960.

HOUSING Although most housing components advanced slightly over the period, housefurnishings and rents were most influential. Among housefurnishings, the most significant increase was recorded for household textiles, reflecting the return to regular prices following traditional August "white sales." Prices of durable housefurnishings also edged upward for the first time since January. Residential rents rose by 0.2 percent over the month, the largest increase since October 1960. Most cities recorded increases. The advance was attributable in part to rising costs to property owners, particularly higher property taxes. Costs associated with home purchase were relatively stable over the month as price movements in the various cities were largely offsetting; average prices over the year, however, were slightly lower.

FOOD The drop of 0.1 percent in average retail food prices was attributable mainly to seasonal reductions for fresh fruits and vegetables and a continued decline in poultry prices, which more than offset increases for meats, eggs, restaurant meals, and dairy products. The 0.7 percent increase in restaurant meals substantially offset the 0.3 percent decline in the food purchase for home consumption index. The total food index, 121.1, was 0.7 percent above a year earlier, reflecting a 2.5 percent increase in prices of restaurant meals and an 0.4 percent rise in food purchased for home consumption. Overall food prices have declined by about 0.8 percent from the record level of 122.0 reached in July 1961.

Prices of fresh fruits and vegetables fell by 6.8 percent as lower prices were recorded for apples, tomatoes, grapes, potatoes, and all other priced fresh vegetables except snap beans. In comparison with a year ago, the index for all fruits and vegetables combined averaged 1.5 percent higher, with advances for most fresh fruits and processed fruits and vegetables more than cancelling a reduction of about 6 percent in prices of fresh vegetables.

An 0.9 percent increase in the index for meats, poultry, and fish was due primarily to a 1.5 percent rise in average prices for meats as nearly all individual items increased over the period. Offsetting these increases to some extent was a further drop (2.3 percent) in poultry prices, reflecting the continuation of record production.

Seasonal increases for fluid milk largely accounted for the 0.4 percent rise in the index for dairy products. Average retail prices of eggs increased seasonally by 6.5 percent; their prices remained approximately 5.6 percent below year earlier levels.

**TRANSPORTATION
AND OTHER GROUPS**

The transportation index rose slightly (0.1 percent) as continuing advances in used car prices and gasoline offset small price reductions for new automobiles. The used car index, up 0.7 percent in September, has risen almost 20 percent since January, surpassing the 13 percent price recovery recorded from March to December 1958. The relatively low level of new car sales last summer did not provide dealers with the usual supply of trade-in cars, and inventories remained below a 30 days' selling supply for the seventh consecutive month. Prices of new cars declined by 0.6 percent as the 1961 model year came to a close.

**COST-OF-LIVING
ADJUSTMENT**

As a result of the September index, 1- or 2-cent per hour increases are scheduled for 86,000 workers on the basis of a quarterly review of their cost-of-living escalator allowances. About 51,000 employees of transportation and aircraft manufacturing firms will receive 1-cent increases. The majority of the 35,000 workers scheduled to receive 2-cent increases are aircraft firm employees, while the remainder work in a variety of industries.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to September 1961 from--			
	September 1961	August 1961	August 1961	June 1961	September 1960	Year 1959
All items-----	128.3	128.0	0.2	0.5	1.2	116.0
Food-----	121.1	121.2	-.1	.2	0.7	157.1
Food at home-----	117.8	118.2	-.3	0	.3	150.1
Cereals and bakery products-----	139.7	139.6	.1	0	1.4	144.2
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	109.4	108.4	.9	1.9	-.7	163.0
Dairy products-----	119.0	118.5	.4	1.4	1.3	139.0
Fruits and vegetables-----	126.5	132.4	-4.5	-6.6	1.5	173.2
Other foods at home-----	108.9	107.6	1.2	2.7	-.4	125.0
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)-----	122.3	121.5	.7	.9	2.5	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	132.6	132.3	.2	.2	.5	74.2
Rent-----	143.9	143.6	.2	.3	1.3	66.2
Gas and electricity-----	125.7	125.6	.1	-.5	0	19.8
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	137.2	136.9	.2	1.2	1.8	143.3
Housefurnishings-----	103.8	103.2	.6	-.1	-.3	94.4
Household operation-----	138.9	138.8	.1	0	.7	103.1
Apparel-----	111.1	109.9	1.1	1.4	.5	111.6
Men's and boys'-----	111.9	111.1	.7	.4	-.3	120.3
Women's and girls'-----	102.1	100.2	1.9	2.7	1.0	87.3
Footwear-----	141.5	141.2	.2	.5	.9	181.3
Other apparel-----	93.4	92.9	.5	.9	-.4	130.0
Transportation-----	149.4	149.3	.1	1.2	3.2	112.8
Private-----	136.9	136.8	.1	1.2	3.1	109.0
Public-----	209.4	209.1	.1	1.0	4.5	157.6
Medical care-----	161.7	161.4	.2	.5	3.1	122.7
Personal care-----	134.3	134.2	.1	.3	.3	125.3
Reading and recreation-----	125.0	124.4	.5	1.2	2.4	98.4
Other goods and services-----	133.8	133.6	.1	.5	.8	89.5
Special groups:						
All items less food-----	132.0	131.6	.3	.6	1.3	91.0
All items less shelter-----	125.8	125.6	.2	.5	1.2	127.1
Commodities-----	118.7	118.4	.3	.6	.8	130.0
Nondurables-----	121.0	120.8	.2	.5	.6	135.4
Food-----	121.1	121.2	-.1	.2	.7	157.1
Nondurables less food-----	121.5	120.7	.7	1.0	.5	107.0
Apparel-----	111.0	109.7	1.2	1.5	.5	113.1
Apparel less footwear-----	105.7	104.3	1.3	1.6	.4	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	130.4	130.0	.3	.7	.5	97.9
Durables-----	111.9	111.9	0	.6	1.7	95.3
New cars-----	135.4	136.2	-.6	-1.0	2.3	137.5
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	96.8	96.1	.7	4.6	14.4	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	102.1	102.1	0	.3	-.9	78.2
Commodities less food-----	116.6	116.1	.4	.9	.9	96.3
Services-----	153.2	153.0	.1	.3	1.6	90.5
Rent-----	143.9	143.6	.2	.3	1.3	66.2
Services less rent-----	155.6	155.4	.1	.4	1.7	111.7
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	140.8	140.6	.1	0	.7	61.8
Transportation services-----	189.9	189.8	.1	.3	2.2	137.1
Medical care services-----	169.8	169.5	.2	.6	3.8	140.9
Other services 3/-----	138.2	137.9	.2	.4	1.2	137.0
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.779	\$0.781	-.3	-.6	-1.3	-53.7

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 --		
	September 1961	June 1961	September 1960	Year 1939	June 1961	September 1960	Year 1939
United States city average	128.3	127.6	126.8	59.4	0.5	1.2	116.0
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	131.1	129.7	130.4	58.6	1.1	0.5	123.7
Detroit	124.9	125.8	125.4	59.0	-.7	-.4	111.7
Los Angeles	131.3	131.4	129.8	60.4	-.1	1.2	117.4
New York	126.8	125.8	125.5	60.1	.8	1.0	111.0
Philadelphia	128.4	127.8	127.2	59.2	.5	.9	116.9
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	September 1961	June 1961	September 1960	Year 1939	June 1961	September 1960	Year 1939
Atlanta	128.3	127.4	127.9	58.3	.7	.3	120.1
Baltimore	129.6	129.8	128.7	57.9	-.2	.7	123.8
Cincinnati	125.4	124.6	124.8	58.4	.6	.5	114.7
St. Louis	129.2	129.0	127.4	59.3	.2	1.4	117.9
San Francisco	134.9	133.8	133.0	58.6	.8	1.4	130.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	August 1961	May 1961	August 1960	Year 1939	May 1961	August 1960	Year 1939
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
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

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 August 1961 to September 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	0.2	-0.1	0.2	1.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1
Chicago	.2	-.2	.2	2.2	-.2	0	.1	0	-.2
Detroit	-.7	-1.7	-.1	0.6	-2.3	0	-.1	-.3	-.4
Los Angeles	.2	.4	.1	.4	-.7	.3	.1	0	.3
New York	.3	.4	.2	1.4	-.1	0	.6	.4	.1
Philadelphia	.3	-.5	.5	2.6	-.4	.5	0	.5	.1

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Baltimore	Chicago	Cincinnati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Philadelphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
All items -----	128.3	128.3	129.6	131.1	125.4	124.9	131.3	126.8	128.4	129.2	134.9
Food -----	121.1	119.1	121.6	119.3	120.8	118.7	125.8	122.7	122.8	121.0	126.2
Food at home -----	117.8	117.4	116.1	116.5	117.7	115.6	119.4	118.2	118.8	115.4	122.6
Cereals and bakery products --	139.7	127.1	135.2	133.6	132.9	129.6	151.5	150.2	139.1	124.4	153.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	109.4	113.1	109.9	104.4	112.5	104.5	109.2	108.4	108.4	106.6	115.1
Dairy products -----	119.0	117.6	117.4	124.2	117.1	120.8	117.3	120.6	122.0	111.6	122.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.5	133.5	119.9	124.5	126.3	122.8	135.0	123.4	128.0	128.8	136.2
Other foods at home -----	108.9	106.0	108.7	114.7	110.7	108.5	103.9	108.2	109.5	115.5	106.5
Housing -----	132.6	135.4	128.8	141.5	126.6	125.3	140.7	132.3	126.5	128.4	139.0
Rent -----	143.9	142.0	141.0	169.5	144.7	---	152.0	---	132.9	151.2	161.7
Gas and electricity -----	125.7	135.8	109.3	130.1	136.7	123.0	148.2	122.5	106.7	114.7	158.1
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	137.2	130.6	139.1	141.2	149.0	127.5	---	144.8	130.6	158.0	---
Housefurnishings -----	103.8	106.2	99.5	102.7	95.3	107.0	102.0	107.4	109.5	102.9	106.3
Household operation -----	138.9	149.2	138.2	138.8	145.0	124.2	128.2	139.3	148.3	142.1	130.1
Apparel -----	111.1	115.1	114.2	114.1	108.5	108.6	112.0	110.5	111.9	110.6	112.3
Men's and boys' -----	111.9	119.7	109.6	116.8	109.9	110.8	115.0	112.5	111.8	110.8	111.2
Women's and girls' -----	102.1	103.4	108.2	102.8	98.4	98.3	102.5	98.9	103.3	103.1	103.5
Footwear -----	141.5	149.6	148.0	145.8	145.5	136.9	142.3	146.0	141.6	137.8	148.7
Other apparel -----	93.4	91.9	100.1	96.6	89.6	87.5	85.2	97.6	96.6	94.1	92.6
Transportation -----	149.4	146.0	164.4	157.4	145.9	136.7	149.6	148.4	159.3	163.0	167.4
Private-----	136.9	136.5	140.8	138.1	134.1	128.9	140.1	129.9	136.3	137.6	154.4
Public-----	209.4	202.1	231.5	205.4	193.5	179.1	216.3	191.0	211.6	252.7	187.1
Medical care -----	161.7	149.7	176.3	170.0	161.8	171.9	154.1	150.6	170.9	174.2	163.1
Personal care -----	134.3	140.5	132.6	139.6	130.1	142.0	135.2	124.3	144.5	140.0	132.0
Reading and recreation -----	125.0	126.6	130.9	123.2	114.9	118.7	104.0	128.8	122.8	114.6	124.3
Other goods and services -----	133.8	133.6	140.0	123.9	130.4	137.4	132.6	131.9	133.9	136.9	135.3
Percent change from June 1961 to September 1961											
All items -----	0.5	0.7	-0.2	1.1	0.6	-0.7	-0.1	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.8
Food -----	.2	2.1	-.1	0.8	-.2	-1.9	-.6	1.2	.3	-.6	0
Food at home -----	0	2.5	-.4	.7	-.3	-2.1	-.9	1.0	.3	-.9	-.2
Cereals and bakery products --	0	-.1	-.3	.5	-4.6	0	-1.4	.7	.1	-1.1	.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.9	2.8	2.2	1.6	3.2	2.0	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.2	2.0
Dairy products -----	1.4	.2	-.1	2.4	-.2	1.2	1.9	3.9	1.8	.8	2.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	-6.6	3.2	-7.8	-4.7	-4.5	-15.9	-4.6	-4.8	-5.5	-9.6	-8.1
Other foods at home -----	2.7	4.5	2.3	3.4	1.7	1.8	-2.1	3.9	3.5	3.3	2.3
Housing -----	.2	.1	-.6	.6	.9	.8	0	.3	.1	.6	.7
Rent -----	.3	.4	.4	<u>1/</u> .5	0	---	<u>1/</u> .4	---	<u>1/</u> .7	.6	2.1
Gas and electricity -----	-.5	0	-.9	.1	-.1	0	.1	.2	0	0	0
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	1.2	0	1.4	1.9	7.7	.8	---	2.2	1.2	6.6	---
Housefurnishings -----	-.1	-1.4	-1.5	1.5	1.3	-1.6	-.3	-.2	-.2	-.5	.2
Household operation -----	0	.2	.1	.4	1.5	-1.0	-.5	0	.1	-.1	0
Apparel -----	1.4	-.3	.4	2.4	1.7	.6	.5	2.3	2.7	-.2	0
Men's and boys' -----	.4	-1.1	.4	.7	.5	0	1.1	.1	0	-.3	.4
Women's and girls' -----	2.7	-1.0	.5	5.3	3.5	1.2	0	4.7	5.2	.2	-.2
Footwear -----	.5	1.7	.3	.1	.2	-.2	.3	1.0	1.4	.3	-.3
Other apparel -----	.9	1.5	.2	1.4	1.0	.2	1.7	1.3	1.3	-2.9	0
Transportation -----	1.2	-.2	1.2	3.5	.8	1.7	-.1	.1	-.5	-.7	2.6
Private-----	1.2	-.2	1.5	4.3	.7	2.1	-.3	0	-.7	-.9	2.7
Public-----	1.0	0	0	.2	1.2	0	1.0	0	0	.1	1.2
Medical care -----	.5	1.7	.2	-.2	.1	.4	.5	.3	.5	.8	.7
Personal care -----	.3	-.8	-.2	1.2	.8	-.1	.1	1.0	.6	.6	.2
Reading and recreation -----	1.2	.5	.4	.4	3.3	-.3	.5	1.2	.7	3.4	2.7
Other goods and services -----	.5	0	-.4	.2	-.7	-3.0	-.4	-.3	.4	.1	.1

1/ Change from July 1961 to September 1961.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups
September, 1961 indexes and percent changes, August 1961 to September, 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 ---	121.1	-0.1	117.8	-0.3	139.7	0.1	109.4	0.9	119.0	0.4	126.5	-4.5	108.9	1.2
Atlanta -----	119.1	.5	117.4	.6	127.1	.1	113.1	2.2	117.6	.1	133.5	-1.3	106.0	0.7
Baltimore -----	121.6	-.6	116.1	-.8	135.2	-.3	109.9	.8	117.4	-.1	119.9	-6.5	108.7	1.1
Boston -----	120.6	-.7	116.4	-1.2	134.2	-.1	109.8	.3	112.5	-.1	129.0	-6.7	105.1	.3
Chicago -----	119.3	-.2	116.5	-.3	133.6	.3	104.4	.6	124.2	.5	124.5	-4.4	114.7	1.5
Cincinnati -----	120.8	-1.0	117.7	-1.2	132.9	-3.6	112.5	0	117.1	-.1	126.3	-4.2	110.7	.3
Cleveland -----	116.5	-.1	113.3	0	132.6	0	105.2	1.3	110.6	.3	119.7	-4.2	110.0	1.7
Detroit -----	118.7	-1.7	115.6	-1.9	129.6	-.1	104.5	1.1	120.8	.3	122.8	-11.8	108.5	.2
Houston -----	117.0	0	113.8	.2	128.5	0	104.6	.8	115.9	.1	128.7	-1.9	104.6	1.3
Kansas City -----	114.6	-.3	111.0	-.7	134.7	0	102.5	.3	113.8	-.1	115.4	-6.3	102.8	2.0
Los Angeles -----	125.8	.4	119.4	.5	151.5	-.6	109.2	1.4	117.3	1.9	135.0	-0.8	103.9	.1
Minneapolis -----	117.5	0	113.5	-.1	137.7	2.2	102.5	.2	109.1	0	122.8	-4.5	112.6	1.7
New York -----	122.7	.4	118.2	-.1	150.2	.7	108.4	.6	120.6	1.2	123.4	-4.6	108.2	1.9
Philadelphia -----	122.8	-.5	118.8	-.7	139.1	0	108.4	0	122.0	.1	128.0	-5.2	109.5	1.5
Pittsburgh -----	122.1	-.7	120.3	-.7	142.1	1.4	113.0	1.4	115.3	-2.1	123.4	-6.4	119.4	.8
Portland, Oreg. -----	124.2	.4	120.4	.4	143.1	1.3	114.5	3.2	124.1	.6	122.7	-3.5	111.4	-.2
St. Louis -----	121.0	0	115.4	.1	124.4	-.2	106.6	1.6	111.6	0	128.8	-4.2	115.5	2.1
San Francisco -----	126.2	1.0	122.6	.9	153.4	0	115.1	2.1	122.1	2.0	136.2	-.2	106.5	-.1
Scranton -----	116.5	-.2	114.6	-.3	137.1	.3	109.1	1.2	113.8	2.2	113.6	-9.0	107.8	2.3
Seattle -----	125.1	.2	121.4	.3	151.8	-.1	113.6	1.2	125.3	.1	128.0	-2.6	107.3	1.8
Washington, D.C. -----	121.5	-.3	118.2	-.5	138.9	.3	107.2	-.2	122.0	.1	124.4	-3.1	111.8	.6

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

Food and unit	September 1961		August 1961		Food and unit	September 1961		August 1961	
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Cereals and bakery products:					Fresh--Continued				
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.8	55.9			Grapefruit * ----- each	16.7	15.6		
Biscuit mix ----- 20 oz.	47.9	48.1			Peaches * ----- lb.	16.6	16.6		
Macaroni ----- 16 oz.	23.3	23.3			Strawberries * ----- pt.				
Corn meal ----- lb.	13.4	13.3			Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	23.1	31.1		
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	22.5	22.5			Watermelons * ----- lb.		4.2		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	26.7	26.7			Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	59.4	62.6		
Rice, short grain ----- lb.	18.5	18.6			Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	16.7	19.8		
Rice, long grain ----- lb.	20.7	20.7			Corn ----- doz. ears	59.3	66.9		
Bread, white ----- lb.	20.8	20.9			Onions ----- lb.	10.5	12.0		
Soda crackers ----- lb.	29.0	29.1			Carrots ----- lb.	15.2	16.1		
Sandwich cookies ----- 16 oz.	52.2	51.6			Lettuce ----- head	15.9	16.3		
Meats, poultry, and fish:					Celery ----- lb.	12.7	13.2		
Round steak ----- lb.	102.8	101.2			Cabbage ----- lb.	8.1	8.6		
Sirloin steak ----- lb.	106.6	106.1			Tomatoes ----- lb.	19.2	24.8		
Chuck roast ----- lb.	57.1	55.8			Beans, green ----- lb.	20.1	19.8		
Rib roast ----- lb.	79.3	78.6			Canned:				
Hamburger ----- lb.	50.5	49.2			Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	48.9	48.6		
Veal cutlets ----- lb.	142.4	141.8			Pineapple juice ----- 46-oz. can	32.9	33.8		
Pork chops, center cut ----- lb.	90.1	88.8			Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	32.7	33.2		
Pork roast ----- lb.	64.3	63.2			Pineapple ----- #2 can	38.6	38.5		
Bacon, sliced ----- lb.	75.0	73.5			Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.5	26.7		
Ham, whole ----- lb.	61.6	60.3			Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	21.1	21.0		
Lamb, leg ----- lb.	69.2	68.1			Peas, green ----- #303 can	22.1	22.1		
Frankfurters ----- lb.	62.9	63.1			Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.8	16.0		
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.7	50.8			Tomato juice ----- 46-oz. can	32.7	33.1		
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- lb.	36.2	37.1			Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.4	10.6		
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	47.7	47.6			Dried:				
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- lb.	54.4	54.3			Prunes ----- lb.	41.8	41.8		
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	75.5	75.0			Beans ----- lb.	17.1	17.0		
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.0	32.2			Other foods at home:				
Dairy products:					Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.3	12.4		
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.7	24.5			Beans, with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.9	14.9		
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	26.4	26.3			Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.5	26.5		
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	86.1	86.2			Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.9	22.9		
Butter ----- lb.	76.3	76.3			Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	28.0	27.9		
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	36.2	36.2			Coffee ----- lb. can	73.1	73.5		
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.8	15.9			Coffee ----- lb. bag	58.7	58.6		
Fruits and vegetables:					Coffee, instant ----- 6 oz.	92.9	94.2		
Frozen:					Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.5	24.6		
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.0	27.0			Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	31.0	30.9		
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	24.2	24.3			Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	92.0	91.9		
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.7	13.7			Margarine, colored ----- lb.	29.0	29.3		
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.2	20.3			Lard ----- lb.	20.4	20.4		
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.7	22.9			Salad dressing ----- pt.	38.1	38.0		
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.7	19.7			Peanut butter ----- lb.	55.7	55.7		
Fresh:					Sugar ----- 5 lb.	58.2	58.7		
Apples ----- lb.	17.6	21.9			Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	27.0	27.1		
Bananas ----- lb.	16.2	16.1			Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	29.2	29.4		
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	84.7	81.6			Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5		
Lemons ----- lb.	18.7	18.7			Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	59.3	55.8		
					Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.7	9.7		

* 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.

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OCCUPATIONAL WAGE SURVEYS

(BLS Bulletins 1285-1 through 1285-82)

The U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has released all of the occupational wage surveys for major labor markets conducted in late 1960 and early 1961. The individual bulletins provide earnings information for about 60 jobs selected from several categories: Office clerical, professional and technical, maintenance and powerplant, and custodial and material movement.

In addition to areawide averages and distributions of workers by earnings classes for each job, information is provided wherever possible by major industry division, including manufacturing, public utilities, finance, trade, and services.

In 42 of the areas, data are also presented for paid holidays; paid vacations; scheduled weekly hours; health, insurance, and pension plans; minimum entrance rates; and shift differential practices.

The areas covered, survey date, bulletin number, and price are as follows:

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<u>Area</u>	<u>Payroll period</u>	<u>Bulletin number</u>	<u>Price (in cents)</u>	<u>Number of copies</u>
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