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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR OCTOBER 1961

The Consumer Price Index advanced by 0.1 percent between September and October to 128.4 (1947-49=100), led by higher prices for new cars and a further small increase for services, the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Food prices averaged 0.2 percent lower with seasonal declines for fresh fruits despite moderate gains for many other foods. The increase in the Consumer Price Index last month, while establishing a new high, brought the index to a point only 0.9 percent above a year ago, marking the smallest October-to-October advance since 1955.

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation index rose by 0.6 percent, chiefly as a result of a 3.2 percent increase in dealers' selling prices of new cars. The advance in new car prices reflected the reduction in price concessions granted by dealers for 1962 models as compared with end-of-model-year prices for 1961 cars. Prices of used cars increased again over the period due to continuing firm demand and relatively low inventories of used cars. Gasoline prices dropped by 1.3 percent despite the ending of price wars in some cities as seasonally lower demand and strong competitive price pressures prevailed. Public transportation remained unchanged over the month.

FOOD

A drop of almost 8 percent in average prices for fresh fruits was mainly responsible for the 0.2 percent decline in average food prices. All other major food sectors registered increases, with the exception of dairy products, which remained unchanged. This marked the third successive small decrease in food prices since they reached their seasonal peak in July. The index for all foods, at 120.9 (1947-49=100), was at the same level as in October 1960.

Apple prices were sharply lower as supplies increased seasonally reflecting a total crop estimated to be about 17 percent above that of last year. Prices of oranges and bananas also decreased as supplies expanded. With the exception of grapes, which were 5 percent higher than a year ago, fruit prices averaged 4.5 percent lower than in October 1960. Fresh vegetable prices rose by 0.8 percent higher, while prices of processed fruits and vegetables showed little change on the average over the month.

Prices of meats, poultry, and fish averaged 0.3 percent higher in October, for the first September-to-October increase in 10 years. The advance was due largely to a contraseasonal increase in pork prices, but beef also averaged higher (0.3 percent) contraseasonally. Poultry prices dropped by 1.3 percent as supplies continued to be heavy. The decline of about 13 percent in poultry prices over the past year was the principal factor causing the October index for meats, poultry, and fish combined to be 0.3 percent under a year ago.

Egg prices rose by 4.0 percent partly in response to seasonal influences. However, average egg prices were approximately 11 percent below October 1960 levels, reflecting increased supplies produced by larger laying flocks and increased rate of lay.

HOUSING

The housing index edged upward (0.1 percent) as small advances for household operation, rent, and repairs and maintenance, together with seasonal increases for solid and petroleum fuels, more than outweighed reductions for housefurnishings, particularly major appliances. The increase in rents was widespread among the cities and was attributed to higher property taxes and increased maintenance costs. Detroit was the only large city to register a rent decrease which was accompanied by an indication of increasing rates of rental vacancies. Higher maintenance and repair costs to homeowners reflect both increased labor costs and higher prices of merchandise and materials.

OTHER GROUPS Apparel prices rose by 0.3 percent, primarily as a result of the continued effects of introducing new fall lines and the return to regular prices after early season sales for outerwear. Higher professional fees were largely responsible for the 0.4 percent advance in the medical care index. Increased prices for newspapers and movie admissions brought about a 0.3 percent rise in the reading and recreation index.

OVER THE YEAR SUMMARY Approximately 60 percent of the 0.9 percent rise in the Consumer Price Index over the past year resulted from higher charges for services, particularly advances for health insurance and other medical services, movie admissions, rent, and public transportation. The most significant influences moderating the increase for services were lower average mortgage interest rates and stable average prices for gas and electricity. Though service prices have continued to rise, the rate of increase has slowed down in comparison with other recent years. The increase of 1.5 percent in the services index for the year ended in October 1961 represents the smallest October-to-October increase since 1945. The commodity price index, influenced mostly by the increase of nearly 16 percent in used car prices, was 0.5 percent higher in October than a year ago. Average prices of durable commodities other than cars were generally lower over the year, while food prices averaged unchanged. The index for nondurable commodities other than food was up slightly, representing the net effects of higher prices for apparel, newspapers, and tobacco, and lower average gasoline prices, reflecting strong competitive pressures and ample supplies.

COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS Approximately 930,000 workers are scheduled to receive cost-of-living escalator increases, generally 1 cent per hour, on the basis of the national index. Included among these wage earners are about 825,000 employees of automobile and farm equipment firms, and 75,000 workers in the aircraft-missile industry. Most of the remainder are employed in a variety of metal working establishments.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to			
	October 1961	September 1961	September 1961	July 1961	October 1960	Year 1959
All items	128.4	128.3	0.1	0.2	0.9	116.2
Food	120.9	121.1	-.2	-.9	0	156.7
Food at home	117.6	117.8	-.2	-1.2	-.5	149.7
Cereals and bakery products	140.2	139.7	.4	.6	1.2	145.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	109.7	109.4	.3	1.8	-.3	163.7
Dairy products	119.0	119.0	0	.8	.5	139.0
Fruits and vegetables	122.9	126.5	-2.8	-11.1	-1.5	165.4
Other foods at home	109.8	108.9	.8	1.8	-2.0	126.9
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)	122.4	122.3	.1	.7	2.5	(1/)
Housing 2/	132.7	132.6	.1	.2	.4	74.4
Rent	144.1	143.9	.1	.3	1.1	66.4
Gas and electricity	125.7	125.7	0	.1	0	19.8
Solid and petroleum fuels	138.4	137.2	.9	1.8	1.7	145.4
Housefurnishings	103.6	103.8	-.2	0	-.4	94.0
Household operation	139.2	138.9	.2	.1	.8	103.5
Apparel	111.4	111.1	.3	1.4	.4	112.2
Men's and boys'	112.2	111.9	.3	.6	0	120.9
Women's and girls'	102.4	102.1	.3	2.4	.6	67.9
Footwear	141.7	141.5	.1	.5	.9	181.7
Other apparel	93.1	95.4	-.3	.2	-.9	129.3
Transportation	150.3	149.4	.6	1.3	2.9	114.1
Private	137.9	136.9	.7	1.5	2.8	110.5
Public	209.4	209.4	0	.4	4.1	157.6
Medical care	162.5	161.7	.4	.7	3.2	123.6
Personal care	134.0	134.3	-.2	-.2	0	124.8
Reading and recreation	125.4	125.0	.3	1.0	2.9	99.0
Other goods and services	133.8	135.8	0	.1	.8	89.5
Special groups:						
All items less food	132.3	132.0	.2	.7	1.2	91.5
All items less shelter	126.0	125.8	.2	.2	1.0	127.4
Commodities	118.8	118.7	.1	.1	.5	130.2
Nondurables	120.9	121.0	-.1	-.2	.2	135.2
Food	120.9	121.1	-.2	-.9	0	156.7
Nondurables less food	121.5	121.5	0	.7	.5	107.0
Apparel	111.2	111.0	.2	1.4	.4	113.4
Apparel less footwear	105.9	105.7	.2	1.4	.2	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel	130.3	130.4	-.1	.3	.6	97.7
Durables	112.7	111.9	.7	1.1	1.6	96.7
New cars	139.7	135.4	3.2	2.5	1.0	145.1
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)	97.3	96.8	.5	4.0	15.7	(1/)
Durables less cars	102.1	102.1	0	0	-.7	73.2
Commodities less food	117.0	116.6	.3	.9	.9	97.0
Services	153.4	153.2	.1	.4	1.5	90.8
Rent	144.1	145.9	.1	.3	1.1	66.4
Services less rent	155.8	155.6	.1	.4	1.6	112.0
Household operation services, gas, and electricity	141.0	140.8	.1	.2	.6	62.1
Transportation services	190.0	189.9	.1	.3	2.0	137.2
Medical care services	170.5	169.8	.4	.7	3.8	141.8
Other services 3/	138.3	158.2	.1	.4	1.1	137.2
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)	\$0.779	\$0.779	0	-.3	-.9	-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 --		
	October 1961	July 1961	October 1960	Year 1939	July 1961	October 1960	Year 1939
United States city average-----	128.4	128.1	127.3	59.4	0.2	0.9	116.2
<b>Cities priced monthly 1/</b>							
Chicago-----	131.3	130.9	130.7	58.6	.3	.5	124.1
Detroit-----	125.4	125.5	125.7	59.0	-.1	-.2	112.5
Los Angeles-----	131.6	131.4	130.3	60.4	.2	1.0	117.9
New York-----	126.9	126.4	126.1	60.1	.4	.6	111.1
Philadelphia-----	128.7	128.5	127.7	59.2	.3	.8	117.4
<b>Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/</b>	October 1961	July 1961	October 1960	Year 1939	July 1961	October 1960	Year 1939
Boston-----	130.6	130.4	129.1	61.0	.2	1.2	114.1
Kansas City-----	129.4	129.8	128.2	61.7	-.3	.9	109.7
Minneapolis-----	129.2	129.2	128.5	60.7	0	.5	112.9
Pittsburgh-----	129.4	129.6	129.0	58.1	-.2	.3	122.7
Portland, Oregon-----	129.6	129.3	127.2	58.3	.2	1.9	122.3
<b>Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/</b>	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
<b>Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/</b>	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

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 September 1961 to October 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	- 0.2	0.1	0.3	0.6	0.4	- 0.2	0.3	0
Chicago-----	.2	-.4	.1	-.2	1.5	1.9	0	-.1	0
Detroit-----	.4	.4	.2	.6	1.2	-.1	.1	.4	0.1
Los Angeles-----	.2	.8	.1	-.3	-.1	0	-.1	0	.1
New York-----	.1	-.3	.2	.4	.8	.1	-.7	.8	0
Philadelphia-----	.2	.2	0	.8	1.1	-.2	-.4	.3	.1

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Kansas City	Los Angeles	Minneapolis	New York	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh	Portland, Oregon
<b>Indexes (1947-49=100)</b>											
All items -----	128.4	130.6	131.3	125.4	129.4	131.6	129.2	126.9	128.7	129.4	129.6
<b>Food -----</b>	120.9	120.5	118.8	119.2	114.3	126.8	117.9	122.3	123.1	121.8	123.8
Food at home -----	117.6	116.3	115.7	116.1	110.6	120.5	114.1	117.7	119.2	120.0	120.0
Cereals and bakery products --	140.2	134.2	133.5	129.9	136.5	155.0	137.5	149.5	139.7	142.5	144.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	109.7	110.9	104.3	104.8	103.2	109.5	103.0	109.2	109.8	112.3	113.8
Dairy products -----	119.0	111.9	124.4	121.3	111.4	117.1	109.2	120.3	124.7	115.2	124.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	122.9	127.8	118.1	121.4	111.8	135.5	122.9	119.2	123.5	120.0	119.0
Other foods at home -----	109.8	104.7	116.1	110.8	103.5	106.3	114.5	108.9	110.2	121.6	112.4
Housing -----	132.7	143.5	141.6	125.5	130.8	140.8	130.7	132.5	126.5	132.3	131.8
Rent -----	144.1	161.4	---	139.1	145.6	---	159.9	138.9	---	137.0	140.7
Gas and electricity -----	125.7	118.7	130.1	122.8	129.3	148.2	136.4	122.7	106.7	144.9	104.6
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	138.4	147.4	141.2	129.0	137.6	---	132.7	144.8	133.3	136.0	141.4
Housefurnishings -----	103.6	102.2	102.6	107.2	100.2	102.0	95.8	107.6	108.4	109.2	101.3
Household operation -----	139.2	138.0	138.8	124.5	145.6	128.2	135.5	139.6	148.5	152.8	134.8
Apparel -----	111.4	109.4	113.9	109.3	108.5	111.7	108.3	110.9	112.8	108.2	115.7
Men's and boys' -----	112.2	107.3	116.6	112.4	113.3	114.7	111.4	112.7	112.0	107.9	117.4
Women's and girls' -----	102.4	103.1	102.5	98.8	98.9	102.4	99.7	99.4	105.1	98.3	104.9
Footwear -----	141.7	135.3	145.6	136.9	134.2	142.3	134.0	146.6	141.4	138.7	148.9
Other apparel -----	93.1	101.7	96.4	87.8	87.0	83.9	89.8	98.0	96.7	100.5	99.3
Transportation -----	150.3	151.2	159.8	138.3	151.9	149.5	132.9	149.6	161.0	165.8	146.1
Private -----	137.9	145.0	140.7	130.7	136.8	140.1	125.1	131.3	138.2	137.1	139.6
Public -----	209.4	169.1	205.4	179.1	258.9	216.3	199.1	191.0	211.6	256.0	201.0
Medical care -----	162.3	168.9	173.3	171.8	182.2	154.1	229.2	150.8	170.6	176.7	153.7
Personal care -----	134.0	136.8	139.6	142.2	134.1	135.1	137.9	123.4	143.9	127.7	135.0
Reading and recreation -----	125.4	129.5	123.1	119.2	143.0	104.0	133.8	129.8	123.2	118.2	134.7
Other goods and services -----	133.8	127.6	123.9	137.5	134.5	132.7	137.6	131.9	134.1	133.4	131.7
<b>Percent change from July 1961 to October 1961</b>											
All items -----	0.2	0.2	0.3	- 0.1	- 0.3	0.2	0	0.4	0.3	- 0.2	0.2
<b>Food -----</b>	-.9	- 1.2	- 1.1	- 2.1	- 1.6	.6	- 1.1	-.2	- 1.0	- 1.5	.2
Food at home -----	- 1.2	- 1.7	- 1.4	- 2.4	- 2.3	.7	- 1.3	-.8	- 1.2	- 1.6	.3
Cereals and bakery products --	.6	-.1	.7	.2	1.2	1.2	1.7	.8	1.0	1.6	3.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.8	2.3	1.6	1.8	1.6	2.5	1.6	1.8	1.4	2.4	3.8
Dairy products -----	.8	-.6	2.0	1.3	- 4.8	1.6	0.1	2.2	2.6	- 2.3	.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	-11.1	-11.0	-13.7	-18.1	-12.6	- 3.7	-13.0	-10.8	-12.6	-14.2	- 9.1
Other foods at home -----	1.8	.2	2.5	2.5	1.8	1.9	2.9	1.9	1.8	2.4	1.4
Housing -----	.2	1.1	.4	.1	.3	.3	.1	.4	.4	-.3	-.4
Rent -----	.3	1.1	---	1/-.9	0	---	.1	1/.4	---	.1	-.2
Gas and electricity -----	.1	0	.1	-.2	-.4	0	0	.1	0	0	0
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	1.8	1.5	.8	2.0	0	---	3.6	1.5	4.7	.7	.4
Housefurnishings -----	0	.1	.9	-.3	-.5	-.5	-.6	.1	-.3	1.2	-.5
Household operation -----	.1	.1	.3	.6	.6	-.5	.2	-.1	.1	.3	- 1.0
Apparel -----	1.4	1.9	1.5	1.4	.8	-.6	2.3	2.4	3.7	1.9	.3
Men's and boys' -----	.6	.6	.1	2.6	.6	-.3	.9	.4	.3	-.1	.3
Women's and girls' -----	2.4	3.3	3.9	1.2	1.0	-.9	4.3	4.4	7.2	4.7	.9
Footwear -----	.5	.4	-.5	-.4	.4	-.3	.4	1.4	1.4	-.8	-.2
Other apparel -----	.2	.2	.5	.7	.6	- 1.1	1.7	1.7	1.9	.5	- 1.2
Transportation -----	1.3	-.8	1.8	4.0	- 2.3	-.3	.4	.9	.6	1.3	1.0
Private -----	1.5	- 1.0	2.3	3.9	- 2.6	-.3	.4	1.1	.7	1.7	1.2
Public -----	.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care -----	.7	.5	1.9	.2	.2	.4	.1	.5	.4	.1	-.3
Personal care -----	-.2	.4	1.1	0	-.4	- 1.0	.5	-.7	-.3	-.2	-.6
Reading and recreation -----	1.0	.1	-.2	-.9	1.4	-.2	-.4	1.5	.4	-.3	3.3
Other goods and services -----	.1	0	-.2	-.4	1.4	-.3	.2	.1	.1	.5	.1

1/ Change from August 1961 to October 1961.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups  
 October 1961 indexes and percent changes, September 1961 to October 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 ---	120.9	- 0.2	117.6	- 0.2	140.2	0.4	109.7	0.3	119.0	0	122.9	- 2.8	109.8	0.8
Atlanta -----	119.2	.1	117.3	-.1	127.1	0	112.6	-.4	117.4	- 0.2	130.8	- 2.0	108.0	1.9
Baltimore -----	122.2	.5	116.7	.5	135.5	.2	110.5	.5	117.5	.1	120.6	0.6	109.8	1.0
Boston -----	120.5	-.1	116.3	-.1	134.2	0	110.9	1.0	111.9	-.5	127.8	-.9	104.7	-.4
Chicago -----	118.8	-.4	115.7	-.7	133.5	-.1	104.3	-.1	124.4	.2	118.1	- 5.1	116.1	1.2
Cincinnati -----	121.2	.3	118.2	.4	140.6	5.8	111.3	- 1.1	117.1	0	125.2	-.9	111.6	.8
Cleveland -----	115.6	-.8	112.3	-.9	133.0	.3	104.1	- 1.0	110.7	.1	114.4	- 4.4	111.1	1.0
Detroit -----	119.2	-.4	116.1	-.4	129.9	.2	104.8	.3	121.3	.4	121.4	- 1.1	110.8	2.1
Houston -----	116.8	-.2	113.2	-.5	128.6	.1	104.7	.1	110.2	- 4.9	128.8	.1	105.5	.9
Kansas City -----	114.3	-.3	110.6	-.4	136.5	1.3	103.2	.7	111.4	- 2.1	111.8	- 3.1	103.5	.7
Los Angeles -----	126.0	.8	120.5	.9	155.0	2.3	109.5	.3	117.1	- .2	135.5	.4	106.3	2.5
Minneapolis -----	117.9	.3	114.1	.5	137.5	-.1	103.0	.5	109.2	.1	122.9	.1	114.5	1.7
New York -----	122.3	.3	117.7	-.4	149.5	-.5	109.2	.7	120.3	-.2	119.2	- 3.4	108.9	.6
Philadelphia -----	123.1	.2	119.2	.3	139.7	.4	109.8	1.3	124.7	2.2	123.5	- 3.5	110.2	.6
Pittsburgh -----	121.8	-.2	120.0	-.2	142.5	.3	112.3	-.6	115.2	-.1	120.0	- 2.8	121.6	.8
Portland, Oreg. -----	123.8	.3	120.0	-.3	144.0	.6	113.8	-.6	124.3	.2	119.0	- 3.0	112.4	1.9
St. Louis -----	120.8	-.2	115.0	-.3	124.1	-.2	106.6	0	111.8	.2	125.4	- 2.6	116.1	.5
San Francisco -----	126.3	.1	122.6	0	153.2	-.1	114.8	-.3	122.0	-.1	136.8	-.4	106.7	-.2
Scranton -----	116.2	-.2	114.4	-.2	136.8	-.2	108.3	-.7	113.9	.1	112.7	-.8	108.7	.8
Seattle -----	125.2	.1	121.4	0	152.1	.2	113.6	0	125.4	.1	127.1	-.7	108.0	.7
Washington, D.C. -----	120.3	1.0	116.8	- 1.2	140.4	1.1	106.0	- 1.1	121.9	-.1	116.6	- 6.3	112.2	.4

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

Food and unit	October 1961	September 1961	Food and unit	October 1961	September 1961
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
<b>Cereals and bakery products:</b>			<b>Fresh--Continued</b>		
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.5	55.8	Grapefruit * ----- each	16.7	16.7
Biscuit mix ----- 40 oz.	47.9	47.9	Peaches * ----- lb.		16.6
Macaroni ----- 16 oz.	23.7	23.3	Strawberries * ----- pt.		
Corn meal ----- 1 lb.	13.4	13.4	Grapes, seedless * ----- lb.	24.6	23.1
Rolled oats ----- 18 oz.	22.5	22.5	Watermelons * ----- lb.		
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	26.8	26.7	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	56.6	59.4
Rice, short grain ----- 1 lb.	18.6	18.5	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	14.3	16.7
Rice, long grain ----- 1 lb.	20.7	20.7	Corn ----- doz. ears *		59.3
Bread, white ----- 1 lb.	21.0	20.8	Onions ----- lb.	9.9	10.5
Soda crackers ----- 1 lb.	29.3	29.0	Carrots ----- lb.	14.7	15.2
Sandwich cookies ----- 16 oz.	51.9	52.2	Lettuce ----- head	16.9	15.9
<b>Meats, poultry, and fish:</b>			Celery ----- lb.	13.4	12.7
Round steak ----- 1 lb.	102.7	102.8	Cabbage ----- lb.	7.9	8.1
Sirloin steak ----- 1 lb.	136.2	106.6	Tomatoes ----- lb.	22.7	19.2
Chuck roast ----- 1 lb.	58.2	57.1	Beans, green ----- lb.	21.5	20.1
Rib roast ----- 1 lb.	70.5	79.3	<b>Canned:</b>		
Hamburger ----- 1 lb.	50.6	50.5	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	48.8	48.9
Veal cutlets ----- 1 lb.	142.3	142.4	Pineapple juice ----- 46-oz. can	32.5	32.9
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1 lb.	90.2	90.1	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	32.5	32.7
Pork roast ----- 1 lb.	64.5	64.3	Pineapple ----- #2 can	38.6	38.6
Bacon, sliced ----- 1 lb.	76.5	75.0	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.3	26.5
Ham, whole ----- 1 lb.	60.6	61.6	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	20.7	21.1
Lamb, leg ----- 1 lb.	69.1	69.2	Peas, green ----- #303 can	22.2	22.1
Frankfurters ----- 1 lb.	63.4	62.9	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.9	15.8
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	50.7	50.7	Tomato juice ----- 46-oz. can	32.4	32.7
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1 lb.	35.8	36.2	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.5	10.4
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1 lb.	47.9	47.7	<b>Dried:</b>		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1 lb.	54.4	54.4	Prunes ----- lb.	41.9	41.8
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	76.1	75.5	Beans ----- lb.	17.2	17.1
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	32.5	32.0	<b>Other foods at home:</b>		
<b>Dairy products:</b>			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.4	12.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.7	24.7	Beans, with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.3	14.9
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	26.4	26.4	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.6	26.5
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	86.1	86.1	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	22.8	22.9
Butter ----- 1 lb.	76.3	76.3	Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	27.7	28.0
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	36.3	36.2	Coffee ----- 1 lb. can	72.7	73.1
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.8	15.8	Coffee ----- 1 lb. bag	57.8	58.7
<b>Fruits and vegetables:</b>			Coffee, instant ----- 6 oz.	93.1	92.9
<b>Frozen:</b>			Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.5	24.5
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.1	27.0	Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	31.0	31.0
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	24.2	24.2	Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	91.0	92.0
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.8	13.7	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	28.9	29.0
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.3	20.2	Lard ----- lb.	20.4	20.4
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.6	22.7	Salad dressing ----- pt.	32.2	32.1
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.6	19.7	Peanut butter ----- 1 lb.	55.8	55.7
<b>Fresh:</b>			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	58.4	58.2
Apples ----- 1 lb.	13.6	17.6	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	27.1	27.0
Bananas ----- 1 lb.	15.7	16.2	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	29.3	29.2
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	31.8	34.7	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1 lb.	10.1	18.7	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	61.8	59.3
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.7	9.7

\* Priced only in season.

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.

MEMORANDUM

TO : Users of the Consumer Price Index  
FROM : Ewan Clague, Commissioner  
SUBJECT: The CPI and Problems of Quality Change

The November 1961 issue of the Monthly Labor Review will contain an article on "The CPI and Problems of Quality Change." This article is a frank and full discussion of the methods now used by the BLS to take quality changes into account in calculating the Consumer Price Index.

Since the quality change problem is one of great current interest, arrangements have been made to have reprints of the article available. Single copies of the reprint will be sent without charge to users of the index, until the supply is exhausted. If you wish a copy, please fill out and mail the form below to any of the following Bureau of Labor Statistics regional offices:

18 Oliver St.  
Boston 10, Mass.

341 Ninth Avenue  
New York 1, N. Y.

1371 Peachtree St., N.E.  
Atlanta 9, Ga.

105 West Adams St.  
Chicago 3, Ill.

630 Sansome St.  
San Francisco 11, Calif.

or to the

Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Washington 25, D. C.

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(detach) (detach)

Please send me a copy of the reprint on "The CPI and Problems of Quality Change."

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

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U. S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics

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