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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR DECEMBER 1961

Prices of consumer goods and services in U.S. cities registered a further decline of 0.1 percent in December, according to the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The decrease in the Consumer Price Index to 128.2 (1947-49=100), reflected lower average prices for commodities such as new and used cars, gasoline, and apparel. Food prices averaged higher (0.1 percent) and there was a continued small gain in service prices.

The index rose only 0.5 over the year, the smallest increase for a comparable period since 1955. Moreover, most of this increase occurred between June and July when the index advanced by 0.4 percent. The rise in consumer prices from December 1960 was due largely to a 1.7 percent increase in services which, combined with higher average prices for durables (chiefly used cars), outweighed a 0.4 percent decline for nondurables, mainly food and gasoline.

TRANSPORTATION The 0.8 percent decrease in December for transportation was the most important price development. Lower average prices for used cars and gasoline were responsible for most of the decline, but lower prices for new cars and tires were additional minor factors. Moderating the decrease somewhat was an 0.5 percent advance in public transportation, as transit fares increased in a few cities.

Used car prices fell by nearly 3 percent, as improvement in new car sales and seasonally lower demand led to the accumulation of larger stocks in dealers' hands. However, used car prices were about 14 percent above December 1960's relatively low level.

Lower gasoline prices continued to reflect strong competitive influences which currently prevail in the market due to the introduction of new grades of gasoline and the competition engendered from suppliers' attempts to enhance or retain their market position.

APPAREL Reductions at year-end clearance sales for winter and fall items of men's and boys' clothing and women's and girls' apparel were responsible for the 0.2 percent decline in the apparel index. Footwear prices rose slightly, continuing their steady climb which began in July 1961. Earlier increases in leather prices and higher labor costs were the reasons given for the advance. Shoe prices were 1.3 percent above year-ago levels and accounted for a major share of the 0.4 percent increase in the overall apparel index since December 1960.

FOOD The major influences in the 0.1 percent rise of retail food prices were seasonal advances for fresh vegetables and higher average prices for poultry and for beef and veal products. Lower average prices for eggs and most pork products represented the most significant reductions moderating the increase in the food price index. Price movements among other important food products were relatively small and about equally divided between increases and decreases. The index for all foods, at 120.4 (1947-49=100) was 0.8 percent below December 1960 and about 1.3 percent below the peak of 122.0 reached in July 1961.

Prices of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables rose by 1.5 percent in December, led by the higher prices for all fresh vegetables, which reflected seasonally decreasing supplies. Increases for apples, bananas, and lemons more than offset lower prices of grapefruit and oranges.

Average prices of meats, poultry, and fish rose by 0.1 percent, due

chiefly to higher prices for poultry and beef and veal products, which more than outweighed a continuing seasonal decline in average prices of pork products. The increase in poultry prices reflected lower production. Despite the 4.3 percent rise in poultry prices in December, however, the index for poultry was nearly 10 percent below a year ago.

In comparison with December 1960, the meats, poultry, and fish index was 1.6 percent lower, largely because of the sharp decline registered by poultry prices and moderately lower prices for pork products.

Lower egg prices in December were attributable to seasonally increased supplies. In comparison with a year earlier, egg prices were off by 18 percent, largely a result of increased production in the last half of 1961 above 1960 levels.

#### HOUSING AND OTHER GROUPS

A 0.2 percent increase in the housing index reflected primarily advances for elements of home ownership costs, rents, and solid and petroleum fuels. Higher maintenance costs and taxes were the principal reasons given for the continued rise in rents, while advances for heating fuels were attributed to continued strong winter demand. Retail prices of housefurnishings declined slightly for the third successive month, mainly because of lower prices for durable household goods. Continuing widespread price competition for some major appliances and soft surface floor coverings was primarily responsible.

The medical care index rose by 0.1 percent with higher rates for professional services, hospitalization insurance, and hospital room rates more than offsetting a decrease in prices of prescriptions and drugs.

#### 1961 PRICE TRENDS

The 1961 annual average Consumer Price Index of 127.8 was 1.0 percent above the 1960 average, representing, with the exception of 1959, the smallest yearly increase since 1955. Continued gains in service charges, especially those associated with shelter and medical care, were again mainly responsible for the 1961 increases. However higher food prices also contributed significantly to the overall rise, led by higher average prices for restaurant meals, cereals and bakery products, and dairy products.

#### COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS

Cost-of-living allowances of approximately 264,000 workers will be adjusted on the basis of the December national index. About 230,000 employees of long distance and local trucking firms located in all geographical regions, except the Atlantic seaboard, will receive 1-cent increases in their hourly rates and, in some cases, a one-quarter of a mill per mile increase in their mileage rates. These increases are based on semi-annual or annual reviews. Approximately 31,000 employees, mainly aircraft workers, are scheduled to receive reductions of 1 cent per hour, based on a quarterly review. No change will be made for 46,000 other workers in a variety of industries.

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

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes		Percent change to December 1961 from --			
	December 1961	November 1961	November 1961	September 1961	December 1960	Year 1959
All items	128.2	128.3	- 0.1	- 0.1	0.5	115.8
Food	120.4	120.3	.1	- .6	- .8	155.6
Food at home	116.9	116.8	.1	- .8	- 1.5	148.2
Cereals and bakery products	140.9	140.9	0	.9	1.4	146.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	108.7	108.6	.1	- .6	- 1.6	161.3
Dairy products	119.5	119.4	.1	.4	.2	140.0
Fruits and vegetables	123.4	121.6	1.5	- 2.5	- 2.3	166.5
Other foods at home	107.3	108.2	- .8	- 1.5	- 3.9	121.7
Food away from home (Jan. 1953=100)	122.8	122.7	.1	.4	2.4	(1/)
Housing 2/	133.1	132.9	.2	.4	.6	74.9
Rent	144.4	144.2	.1	.3	1.1	66.7
Gas and electricity	125.7	125.7	0	0	.1	19.8
Solid and petroleum fuels	140.1	139.2	.6	2.1	2.3	148.4
Housefurnishings	103.3	103.4	- .1	- .5	- .6	93.4
Household operation	139.5	139.5	0	.4	.9	103.9
Apparel	111.0	111.2	- .2	.1	.4	111.4
Men's and boys'	112.1	112.3	- .2	.2	.1	120.7
Women's and girls'	101.3	101.7	- .4	- .8	.2	85.9
Footwear	142.5	142.3	.1	.7	1.3	183.3
Other apparel	93.1	93.0	.1	- .3	- 1.0	129.3
Transportation	149.3	150.5	- .8	- .1	1.9	112.7
Private	136.7	138.0	- .9	- .1	1.6	102.7
Public	210.9	209.9	.5	.7	3.9	159.4
Medical care	162.6	162.4	.1	.6	2.9	124.0
Personal care	134.8	134.3	.4	.4	.8	126.2
Reading and recreation	125.3	125.2	.1	.2	2.5	98.9
Other goods and services	133.7	133.8	- .1	- .1	.8	89.4
Special groups:						
All items less food	132.3	132.4	- .1	.2	1.1	91.5
All items less shelter	125.7	125.8	- .1	- .1	.6	126.9
Commodities	118.3	118.5	- .2	- .3	- .1	129.3
Nondurables	120.5	120.6	- .1	- .4	- .4	134.4
Food	120.4	120.3	.1	- .6	- .8	155.6
Nondurables less food	121.3	121.5	- .2	- .2	.2	196.6
Apparel	110.8	111.0	.2	- .2	.3	112.7
Apparel less footwear	105.3	105.6	.3	- .4	0	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel	130.2	130.5	- .2	- .2	.2	97.6
Durables	112.0	112.6	- .5	.1	1.1	95.5
New cars	139.1	139.7	- .4	2.7	.1	144.0
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)	94.4	96.9	- 2.6	- 2.5	13.7	(1/)
Durables less cars	101.9	102.0	- .1	- .2	- .9	77.8
Commodities less food	116.5	116.9	- 3.	- .1	.5	96.1
Services	154.0	153.7	.2	.5	1.7	91.5
Rent	144.4	144.2	.1	.3	1.1	66.7
Services less rent	156.4	156.1	.2	.5	1.8	112.8
Household operation services, gas, and electricity	141.3	141.2	.1	.4	.9	62.4
Transportation services	190.7	190.3	.2	.4	2.1	138.1
Medical care services	171.1	170.8	.2	.8	3.5	142.7
Other services 3/	139.0	138.6	.3	.6	1.6	138.4
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)	\$0.780	\$0.779	.1	.1	- .5	-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 —		
	December 1961	September 1961	December 1960	Year 1939	September 1961	December 1960	Year 1939
<b>United States city average</b>	128.2	128.3	127.5	59.4	- 0.1	0.5	115.8
<b>Cities priced monthly 1/</b>							
Chicago	130.9	131.1	130.6	58.6	- .2	.2	123.4
Detroit	124.4	124.9	125.8	59.0	- .4	- 1.1	110.8
Los Angeles	131.9	131.3	131.0	60.4	.5	.7	118.4
New York	126.9	126.8	126.3	60.1	.1	.5	111.1
Philadelphia	128.7	128.4	128.0	59.2	.2	.5	117.4
<b>Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/</b>	December 1961	September 1961	December 1960	Year 1939	September 1961	December 1960	Year 1939
Atlanta	128.0	128.3	127.7	58.3	- .2	.2	119.6
Baltimore	129.6	129.6	129.3	57.9	0	.2	123.8
Cincinnati	124.9	125.4	125.0	58.4	- .4	- .1	113.9
St. Louis	129.6	129.2	127.9	59.3	.3	1.3	118.5
San Francisco	135.2	134.9	133.9	58.6	.2	1.0	130.7
<b>Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/</b>	November 1961	August 1961	November 1960	Year 1939	August 1961	November 1960	Year 1939
Cleveland	128.1	128.7	127.9	59.2	- .5	.2	116.4
Houston	128.0	126.3	126.4	59.5	1.3	1.3	145.1
Scranton	124.8	124.3	123.9	58.5	.4	.7	114.3
Seattle	132.9	131.8	130.5	59.2	.8	1.8	124.5
Washington, D. C.	125.4	125.2	123.8	60.4	.2	1.3	107.6
<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

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 November 1961 to December 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
<b>United States city average</b>	- 0.1	0.1	0.2	- 0.2	- 0.8	0.1	0.4	0.1	- 0.1
Chicago	0	.3	- .1	- .1	- .7	0	0	0	- .1
Detroit	- .6	- .1	- .2	.6	- 5.1	- .1	0	.7	- .2
Los Angeles	0	.1	- .1	.2	- .1	0	.4	- .3	- .1
New York	.1	.2	.3	- .5	- .7	0	1.2	- .5	- .1
Philadelphia	- .1	- .2	.3	- .3	- 1.1	0	.2	0	0

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

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Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphis	St. Louis	San Francisco
<b>Indexes (1947-49=100)</b>											
All items -----	128.2	128.0	129.6	130.9	124.9	124.4	131.9	126.9	128.7	129.6	135.2
Food -----	120.4	117.2	121.0	118.6	120.4	118.4	126.9	122.3	122.5	120.7	126.1
Food at home -----	116.9	115.1	115.2	115.5	117.1	115.2	120.6	117.4	118.4	115.0	122.5
Cereals and bakery products --	140.9	127.8	136.5	134.0	141.5	130.6	160.3	150.5	140.7	129.6	153.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	108.7	111.3	109.0	103.6	110.6	103.7	108.7	108.5	109.7	104.6	114.3
Dairy products -----	119.5	117.2	117.9	124.0	116.9	120.4	117.4	123.4	124.5	110.1	121.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.4	124.4	118.5	121.1	123.4	124.3	137.7	118.2	122.3	129.4	139.0
Other foods at home -----	107.3	105.0	106.3	113.6	108.7	106.8	103.3	106.3	107.3	114.2	105.4
Housing -----	133.1	135.8	129.5	141.7	126.5	125.1	140.6	133.0	127.7	128.7	139.4
Rent -----	144.4	142.6	141.4	---	144.7	139.2	---	139.6	---	151.3	161.9
Gas and electricity -----	125.7	135.8	109.3	130.0	136.0	121.9	148.3	122.6	106.7	114.7	158.1
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	140.1	141.6	141.7	141.7	153.2	129.4	---	148.5	144.1	160.5	---
Housefurnishings -----	103.3	106.4	98.0	103.0	95.1	107.3	101.3	107.7	108.4	103.2	106.6
Household operation -----	139.5	148.8	138.4	140.2	144.8	124.0	128.1	139.5	149.8	142.7	132.3
Apparel -----	111.0	115.1	113.6	113.5	108.0	109.3	111.9	110.6	112.4	110.2	112.3
Men's and boys' -----	112.1	119.4	108.7	116.8	109.9	113.5	114.8	112.7	111.9	110.7	111.4
Women's and girls' -----	101.3	102.8	107.9	101.2	96.9	102.7	98.6	104.5	104.2	102.1	103.2
Footwear -----	142.5	152.3	148.3	146.4	147.1	137.5	142.5	147.2	142.0	138.8	149.2
Other apparel -----	93.1	92.2	98.1	96.2	89.3	87.6	84.0	97.8	95.8	94.3	93.1
Transportation -----	149.3	147.7	163.9	156.2	143.3	131.7	151.4	148.1	158.9	165.7	169.8
Private -----	136.7	138.3	140.3	136.8	131.3	123.1	142.1	129.7	135.8	140.4	156.9
Public -----	210.9	202.1	231.5	205.4	193.5	179.1	216.3	191.0	211.6	252.7	187.1
Medical care -----	162.6	151.0	177.3	173.2	161.9	171.8	154.1	150.9	170.7	182.1	163.7
Personal care -----	134.8	142.3	132.9	139.6	128.6	142.7	135.3	124.9	144.2	140.2	131.4
Reading and recreation -----	125.3	125.6	2/130.1	123.2	115.6	119.9	105.7	128.5	123.0	112.3	124.3
Other goods and services -----	133.7	133.7	140.4	123.6	130.4	137.2	132.6	131.9	134.1	137.1	134.6
<b>Percent change from September 1961 to December 1961</b>											
All items -----	0.1	- 0.2	0	- 0.2	- 0.4	- 0.4	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2
Food -----	.6	- 1.6	- 0.5	- .6	- .3	- .3	.9	- .3	- .2	- .2	- .1
Food at home -----	.8	- 2.0	- .8	- .9	- .5	- .3	1.0	- .7	- .3	- .3	- .1
Cereals and bakery products --	.9	.6	1.0	.3	6.5	.8	5.8	.2	1.2	4.2	- .3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.6	- 1.6	- .8	- .8	1.7	- .8	.5	.1	1.2	- 1.9	- .7
Dairy products -----	.4	- .3	.4	- .2	- .2	- .3	.1	2.3	2.0	- 1.3	- .2
Fruits and vegetables -----	2.5	- 6.8	- 1.2	2.7	2.3	1.2	2.0	- 4.2	- 4.5	.5	2.1
Other foods at home -----	1.5	- .9	- 2.2	1.0	1.8	- 1.6	- .6	- 1.8	- 2.0	- 1.1	- 1.0
Housing -----	.4	.3	.5	.1	.1	- .2	- .1	.5	.9	.2	.3
Rent -----	.3	.4	.3	---	0	1/ .1	---	1/ .5	---	.1	.1
Gas and electricity -----	0	0	0	.1	.5	- .9	.1	.1	0	0	0
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	2.1	8.4	1.9	.4	2.8	1.5	---	2.6	10.3	1.6	---
Housefurnishings -----	.5	.2	1.5	.3	.2	.3	- .7	.3	- 1.0	.3	.3
Household operation -----	.4	- .3	.1	1.0	.1	- .2	- .1	.1	1.0	.4	1.7
Apparel -----	- .1	0	- .5	- .5	- .5	- .6	- .1	.1	.4	- .4	0
Men's and boys' -----	.2	- .3	- .8	0	0	2.4	- .2	.2	.1	- .1	.2
Women's and girls' -----	- .8	- .6	- .3	1.6	1.5	- .4	- .2	.3	1.2	- 1.0	- .3
Footwear -----	.7	1.8	.2	.4	1.1	.4	.1	.8	.3	.7	.3
Other apparel -----	- .3	.3	- 2.0	.4	.3	.1	- 1.4	.2	- .8	.2	.5
Transportation -----	- .1	1.2	- .3	.8	1.8	- 3.7	1.2	- .2	- .3	1.7	1.4
Private -----	- .1	1.3	- .4	.9	2.1	- 4.5	1.4	- .2	- .4	2.0	1.6
Public -----	.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care -----	.6	.9	.6	1.9	.1	- .1	0	.2	- .1	4.5	.4
Personal care -----	.4	1.3	.2	0	- 1.2	.5	.1	.5	- .2	.1	.5
Reading and recreation -----	.2	- .8	1.5	0	.6	1.0	1.6	.2	.2	- 2.0	0
Other goods and services -----	- .1	.1	.3	.2	0	- .1	0	0	.1	.1	.5

1/ Change from October 1961 to December 1961.

2/ Revised indexes: 3/61=133.8; 6/61=131.6; 9/61=132.1.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index -- Food and its subgroups  
December 1961 indexes and percent changes, November 1961 to December 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 ---	120.4	0.1	116.9	0.1	140.9	0	108.7	0.1	119.5	0.1	123.4	1.5	107.3	- 0.8
Atlanta -----	117.2	- .1	115.1	0	127.8	0.3	111.3	.5	117.2	.1	124.4	- 0.2	105.0	- .6
Baltimore -----	121.0	- .2	115.2	- .3	136.5	0	109.0	- .2	117.9	.6	118.5	0	106.3	- 1.6
Boston -----	120.7	.2	116.2	.3	135.0	.3	111.8	1.2	112.8	- .3	126.4	.3	103.2	- .5
Chicago -----	118.6	.3	115.5	.3	134.0	0	103.6	.1	124.0	- .2	121.1	3.2	113.6	- 1.5
Cincinnati -----	120.4	.2	117.1	.3	141.5	.7	110.6	.1	116.9	- .1	123.4	1.7	108.7	- .8
Cleveland -----	113.8	- .3	110.1	- .5	132.6	- .6	102.8	- .4	109.8	- .3	111.3	.3	106.4	- 1.1
Detroit -----	118.4	- .1	115.2	0	130.6	0	103.7	.6	120.4	- .4	124.3	1.6	106.8	- 1.7
Houston -----	116.6	0	112.2	- .1	129.4	.2	102.8	0	110.0	- .1	126.8	- .2	105.2	- .4
Kansas City -----	113.8	- .4	110.1	- .4	137.7	- .3	101.0	- .2	113.5	- 1.6	115.1	2.0	99.9	- 1.9
Los Angeles -----	126.9	.1	120.6	.2	160.3	- .1	108.7	- .3	117.4	.2	137.7	1.9	103.3	- .9
Minneapolis -----	116.8	.1	112.6	- .1	132.3	0	101.8	- .1	109.0	- .3	125.2	1.8	110.8	- 1.2
New York -----	122.3	.2	117.4	.2	150.5	.1	108.5	.4	123.4	.8	118.2	.4	106.3	- .7
Philadelphia -----	122.5	- .2	118.4	- .3	140.7	.2	109.7	1.0	124.5	.2	122.3	- 1.7	107.3	- 1.6
Pittsburgh -----	120.7	- .5	118.6	- .6	142.9	- .3	110.5	- 1.6	115.4	.1	119.0	1.2	118.2	- 1.2
Portland, Oreg. -----	122.4	- .6	118.2	- .8	133.7	- 7.3	113.9	1.2	124.1	.2	121.0	1.7	109.3	- 1.6
St. Louis -----	120.7	.7	115.0	1.0	129.6	3.0	104.6	.4	110.1	- .9	129.4	3.2	114.2	- .2
San Francisco -----	126.1	.8	122.5	1.0	153.0	0	114.3	.1	121.9	.2	139.0	4.4	105.4	.5
Scranton -----	116.5	0	114.5	0	138.6	.2	103.7	.1	114.1	0	115.7	1.8	105.3	- 1.7
Seattle -----	125.3	.6	121.5	.7	152.4	- .1	112.7	.8	125.0	- .2	131.2	1.9	106.8	.8
Washington, D.C. -----	119.6	- .7	115.9	- 1.0	140.6	- .3	106.8	.6	122.2	.2	113.7	- 4.1	109.5	- 1.7

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

Food and unit	December 1961	November 1961	Food and unit	December 1961	November 1961
	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Cereals and bakery products:			Fresh--Continued		
Flour, wheat ----- 5 lb.	55.8	55.7	Grapefruit ----- each	12.3	13.1
Biscuit mix ----- 40 oz.	47.7	47.8	Peaches ----- lb.	*	*
Macaroni ----- 16 oz.	24.3	24.2	Strawberries ----- pt.	*	*
Corn meal ----- 1 lb.	13.4	13.4	Grapes, seedless ----- lb.	*	26.7
Rolls, oats ----- 18 oz.	22.5	22.5	Watermelons ----- lb.	*	*
Corn flakes ----- 12 oz.	26.8	26.8	Potatoes ----- 10 lb.	56.0	55.4
Rice, short grain ----- 1 lb.	18.7	18.6	Sweet potatoes ----- lb.	14.9	14.1
Rice, long grain ----- 1 lb.	21.0	20.9	Corn ----- doz. ears	*	*
Bread, white ----- 1 lb.	20.9	21.0	Onions ----- lb.	10.3	9.9
Soda crackers ----- 1 lb.	30.8	30.5	Carrots ----- lb.	15.4	14.4
Sandwich cookies ----- 16 oz.	52.2	52.2	Lettuce ----- head	17.8	17.4
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery ----- lb.	14.3	13.6
Round steak ----- 1 lb.	104.4	103.6	Cabbage ----- lb.	8.5	7.7
Sirloin steak ----- 1 lb.	107.0	107.1	Tomatoes ----- lb.	30.4	27.1
Chuck roast ----- 1 lb.	60.0	59.1	Beans, green ----- lb.	24.0	22.5
Rib roast ----- 1 lb.	81.3	80.3	Canned:		
Hamburger ----- 1 lb.	51.1	51.0	Orange juice ----- 46-oz. can	48.4	48.8
Veal cutlets ----- 1 lb.	143.7	142.1	Pineapple juice ----- 46-oz. can	32.1	32.3
Pork chops, center cut ----- 1 lb.	85.4	87.9	Peaches ----- #2 1/2 can	32.5	32.6
Pork roast ----- 1 lb.	61.2	62.9	Pineapple ----- #2 can	38.7	38.6
Bacon, sliced ----- 1 lb.	68.5	71.2	Fruit cocktail ----- #303 can	26.1	26.2
Ham, whole ----- 1 lb.	62.1	60.7	Corn, cream style ----- #303 can	20.3	20.4
Lamb, leg ----- 1 lb.	69.3	68.8	Peas, green ----- #303 can	22.3	22.1
Frankfurters ----- 1 lb.	62.9	63.3	Tomatoes ----- #303 can	15.9	15.8
Luncheon meat, canned ----- 12 oz.	51.1	50.8	Tomato juice ----- 46-oz. can	32.5	32.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook ----- 1 lb.	37.0	35.5	Baby foods ----- 4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.5	10.5
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen ----- 1 lb.	48.4	48.3	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen ----- 1 lb.	54.8	54.5	Prunes ----- lb.	41.7	41.8
Salmon, pink, canned ----- 16 oz.	76.9	76.6	Beans ----- lb.	17.2	17.2
Tuna fish, canned ----- 6 to 6 1/2 oz.	33.3	32.9	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup ----- 10 1/2 to 11-oz. can	12.3	12.3
Milk, fresh, (grocery) ----- qt.	24.9	24.8	Beans, with pork ----- 16-oz. can	14.8	14.8
Milk, fresh, (delivered) ----- qt.	26.5	26.6	Pickles, sliced ----- 15 oz.	26.6	26.6
Ice cream ----- 1/2 gal.	86.2	86.3	Catsup, tomato ----- 14 oz.	23.0	22.9
Butter ----- 1 lb.	76.3	76.2	Potato chips ----- 4 oz.	27.7	27.7
Cheese, American process ----- 1/2 lb.	36.3	36.3	Coffee ----- 1 lb. can	71.4	71.8
Milk, evaporated ----- 14 1/2-oz. can	15.8	15.8	Coffee ----- 1 lb. bag	57.4	57.5
Fruits and vegetables:			Coffee, instant ----- 6 oz.	91.6	92.7
Frozen:			Tea bags ----- pkg. of 16	24.5	24.5
Strawberries ----- 10 oz.	27.1	27.1	Cola drink, carton ----- 36 oz.	31.0	30.9
Orange juice concentrate ----- 6 oz.	24.2	24.2	Shortening, hydrogenated ----- 3 lb.	90.7	90.4
Lemonade concentrate ----- 6 oz.	13.9	13.8	Margarine, colored ----- lb.	28.8	29.0
Peas, green ----- 10 oz.	20.6	20.6	Lard ----- lb.	20.3	20.3
Beans, green ----- 9 oz.	22.7	22.5	Salad dressing ----- pt.	38.3	38.3
Potatoes, french fried ----- 9 oz.	19.3	19.6	Peanut butter ----- 1 lb.	56.2	56.0
Fresh:			Sugar ----- 5 lb.	58.1	58.1
Apples ----- 1 lb.	13.3	13.0	Corn syrup ----- 24 oz.	27.1	27.1
Bananas ----- 1 lb.	16.4	16.1	Grape jelly ----- 12 oz.	29.5	29.4
Oranges, size 200 ----- doz.	75.5	75.9	Chocolate bar ----- 1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons ----- 1 lb.	19.6	19.1	Eggs, Grade A, large ----- doz.	56.5	58.5
			Gelatin, flavored ----- 3 to 4 oz.	9.7	9.6

\* Priced only in season.

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TABLE A: Consumer Price Index--United States city average: Special group indexes, 1961 annual averages and percent changes from 1960

(1947-49=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	1961 Average	
	Index	Percent change from 1960
All items-----	127.8	1.0
All items less food-----	131.4	1.1
All items less shelter-----	125.4	1.1
Commodities-----	118.3	0.7
Nondurables-----	120.7	.9
Food-----	121.1	1.2
Nondurables less food-----	120.8	.6
Apparel-----	110.0	.6
Apparel less footwear-----	104.6	.6
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	129.9	.5
Durables-----	111.3	- .3
New cars-----	137.7	0
Used cars (Jan. 1953=100)-----	91.0	3.9
Durables less cars-----	102.0	- 1.2
Commodities less food-----	116.0	.3
Services-----	152.8	1.9
Rent-----	143.6	1.3
Services less rent-----	155.2	2.0
Household operation, gas, and electricity-----	140.7	1.2
Transportation services-----	189.2	2.3
Medical care services-----	168.8	3.7
Other services-----	137.9	1.7
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1947-49=\$1.00)-----	\$0.782	- 1.1

**TABLE B : Consumer Price Index—All items and commodity groups**  
 1961 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1960 to 1961  
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in December 1961

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
<b>Indexes (1947-49=100)</b>											
All items -----	127.3	127.8	129.6	130.6	124.9	125.6	131.4	126.3	128.2	129.0	134.3
Food -----	121.1	117.8	121.5	119.0	121.5	120.3	127.1	122.2	123.1	121.1	126.1
Food at home -----	118.0	115.9	116.5	116.2	118.5	117.4	121.0	117.9	119.3	115.7	122.7
Cereals and bakery products --	139.8	127.0	135.6	133.1	139.0	130.2	154.5	149.3	139.2	125.7	153.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	109.5	112.6	110.0	104.5	112.1	104.6	109.2	109.5	110.0	106.0	114.7
Dairy products -----	118.6	117.4	117.5	123.1	117.7	120.2	116.3	119.6	122.2	110.9	121.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	128.8	128.4	122.9	125.7	128.4	134.4	140.0	123.6	129.6	133.8	139.6
Other foods at home -----	107.8	104.2	107.8	113.2	110.0	108.0	106.1	106.5	107.8	113.6	105.6
Food away from home -----	121.4										
Housing -----	132.5	135.7	129.4	141.1	126.2	126.1	140.5	132.1	126.7	128.6	138.3
Rent -----	143.6	141.7	140.6	---	144.7	140.2	---	138.0	---	150.9	159.6
Gas and electricity -----	125.8	135.8	109.8	130.0	136.5	122.6	148.1	122.3	106.7	114.7	156.2
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	138.5	136.4	139.0	142.1	146.9	128.2	---	145.4	134.4	158.6	---
Housefurnishings -----	103.6	107.2	99.8	101.8	94.9	107.9	101.8	107.4	109.1	103.4	106.1
Household operation -----	138.9	149.0	137.5	138.9	143.8	124.8	128.6	139.3	148.3	142.2	130.5
Apparel -----	110.2	115.4	113.9	112.7	107.7	108.6	111.8	109.2	110.4	110.7	112.1
Men's and boys' -----	111.7	120.3	109.2	116.6	109.9	111.3	114.6	112.6	111.9	111.2	111.0
Women's and girls' -----	100.3	104.0	108.2	99.8	96.6	97.9	102.5	96.6	100.7	102.7	103.2
Footwear -----	141.2	149.0	147.4	146.0	145.7	137.2	142.1	145.2	140.3	137.9	148.7
Other apparel -----	92.9	91.4	99.7	96.2	89.2	87.5	84.5	97.1	95.7	95.6	92.4
Transportation -----	147.9	145.5	162.4	155.5	144.2	136.2	147.8	148.0	159.0	163.3	166.0
Private -----	135.5	135.9	138.9	136.0	132.4	128.3	138.3	129.5	136.0	138.1	153.1
Public -----	207.9	202.1	230.2	205.2	192.2	179.1	215.2	191.0	211.2	251.3	185.8
Medical care -----	160.9	147.9	176.1	171.0	161.5	168.3	153.5	149.8	168.0	174.5	162.2
Personal care -----	134.0	140.8	132.8	138.7	129.5	142.0	135.5	123.6	144.2	139.6	131.7
Reading and recreation -----	124.1	126.6	132.2	123.8	112.9	119.3	104.1	128.0	122.5	110.1	122.3
Other goods and services -----	133.2	133.6	140.3	123.4	130.9	139.6	133.1	132.2	133.5	135.4	135.0
<b>Percent change from 1960 to 1961</b>											
All items -----	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.2	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.3
Food -----	1.2	.7	1.4	1.3	.8	1.3	0.8	.2	0.8	1.8	1.4
Food at home -----	0.9	.8	0.7	1.2	.8	1.2	.4	-.3	.5	1.5	1.2
Cereals and bakery products --	2.2	.8	1.4	1.6	2.4	2.4	3.7	3.0	.9	1.0	0.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.2	.6	.9	1.5	1.1	.3	-.5	-2.1	-.5	1.2	-.4
Dairy products -----	1.5	.9	.9	1.4	.1	4.8	1.3	0	.8	5.4	1.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	.4	-1.4	-.5	.4	.4	-1.3	.4	-.2	-.1	0.8	3.7
Other foods at home -----	.9	2.4	.7	1.2	.6	1.1	-1.2	.2	1.8	.2	.5
Food away from home -----	2.2										
Housing -----	.3	0	.5	.4	.2	-.8	1.3	1.8	.8	-.4	1.5
Rent -----	1.3	.6	.9	(1/)	.3	-1.4	(1/)	2.6	(1/)	.3	3.1
Gas and electricity -----	.8	.9	.1	0	1.6	4.7	3.1	.9	0	.8	3.4
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	2.1	.7	6.6	1.3	-.1	1.1	---	4.9	6.3	.5	---
Housefurnishings -----	-.6	-1.8	-.5	-.4	-1.5	-1.0	-1.6	1.8	-1.1	-.6	-.8
Household operation -----	1.1	1.6	1.8	.1	1.8	-.4	.6	.7	3.8	.7	2.1
Apparel -----	.7	-.1	1.5	-.3	-.3	2.0	.4	.7	1.4	1.1	.9
Men's and boys' -----	1.2	1.1	1.3	-.1	.5	2.2	.8	2.1	.9	1.1	.7
Women's and girls' -----	.3	-1.0	1.7	-1.1	-1.1	2.3	.3	-.8	2.5	1.3	1.2
Footwear -----	.9	1.4	1.9	1.4	.3	.6	.4	3.0	-.1	.9	1.0
Other apparel -----	-.4	-2.5	.5	-1.4	-.7	1.6	-1.6	-.3	0	.5	.1
Transportation -----	1.2	1.3	1.4	-.6	.1	-1.7	3.2	.2	2.6	2.0	.7
Private -----	.7	1.0	.1	-.7	.9	-2.0	1.1	.3	1.1	1.0	.7
Public -----	4.3	2.4	7.1	.4	.9	.7	16.9	.3	8.3	6.5	.5
Medical care -----	3.0	1.0	4.5	2.3	3.3	4.7	1.1	3.7	4.3	2.3	2.2
Personal care -----	.5	.5	-.2	.6	.1	3.3	.6	-.6	.3	2.2	.5
Reading and recreation -----	2.1	1.4	.5	-1.3	.9	.3	1.3	2.3	-.6	9.4	1.4
Other goods and services -----	.8	-.1	-.2	.1	-.2	-.3	-.5	-.9	.8	2.2	.5

1/ Not available.



### 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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