

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MAY 1962

The Consumer Price Index in May remained at 105.2 (1957-59=100), unchanged from April, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (On the former base of 1947-49=100, the May index was 129.1.) The stability of consumer prices in the main reflected a balance between lower prices for food, solid fuels, and gasoline, and further price gains for services and used cars. Prices of consumer goods and services have advanced by 1.3 percent over May 1961, with the most important increases being for medical care services, housing, public transportation, food, used cars, and gasoline.

FOOD

A decline from April of 0.2 percent in average retail food prices resulted from lower prices for eggs, meats and poultry, dairy products, and most fresh fruits, moderated by a continuing rise in average prices of fresh vegetables. The index for total foods, at 103.2, was nearly 1 percent above May 1961, primarily because of a 14 percent increase in fresh vegetable prices and a 2.5 percent advance in prices of restaurant meals.

Egg prices dropped by about 4 percent between April and May 1962, reaching the lowest level for the month since 1959 and 5 percent below May 1961. The decline reflected ample supplies from a rate of production about 3 percent above a year earlier.

A decrease of 0.5 percent in prices of meats was largely attributable to adequate supplies of beef and pork products and the influence of low poultry prices. Over the year, prices of meats, poultry, and fish have advanced about 1 percent, resulting from an increase of nearly 5 percent in prices of fish combined with higher average prices for beef and veal.

Dairy products prices declined seasonally in May, reflecting lower prices for fresh milk, as production trended toward its annual peak. Prices of nearly all processed dairy products also decreased because of abundant supplies and the recent drop in government support prices for fluid milk at the producer's level.

Average prices of fruits and vegetables advanced for the sixth consecutive month, due almost entirely to higher prices for fresh vegetables and apples. The advance in fresh vegetable prices was caused mainly by smaller supplies from a spring crop adversely affected by weather.

HOUSING

A rise of 0.1 percent in housing reflected mainly higher home ownership costs combined with a further increase in household operation services, particularly advances for laundry and dry cleaning and higher wage rates for domestic service. An additional small rise in residential rents also was reported. The most important reductions were those for coal and for household textiles. The downward movement in coal prices was attributable to seasonal factors while traditional white sales were primarily responsible for the 1.4 percent decline in prices of nondurable house-furnishings.

MEDICAL CARE  
AND OTHER SECTORS

The increase of 0.2 percent in the medical care resulted from higher professional fees, hospital room rates, and health insurance rates, partly offset by reductions in average prices of prescriptions and drugs. Since May 1961, medical care prices have advanced by nearly 3 percent, almost entirely because of increases for medical care services; average prices of prescriptions and drugs declined 1 percent.

Transportation prices moved somewhat higher (0.1 percent) as increases for used cars and tires outweighed declines for gasoline and new cars. Public transportation charges were unchanged in May. Used car prices rose by nearly 2 percent as the relationship of sales to used car inventories remained favorable and sales increased somewhat more than seasonally. Used car prices in May were 11 percent above a year earlier and nearly 45 percent above the low recorded in March 1956. Dealers' selling prices of new cars declined an average of 0.4 percent. Gasoline prices declined by 1 percent due to sharp competitive declines in several cities.

Apparel prices remained stable for the second consecutive month as increases in prices of men's clothing balanced declines in prices of women's and girls' apparel and footwear. Apparel prices were 0.5 percent above year ago levels largely reflecting higher prices for footwear and slight increases for boys' clothing.

**COST-OF-LIVING  
ADJUSTMENTS**

Approximately 160,000 workers covered by cost-of-living escalator clauses are scheduled to receive increases ranging from 1- to 3-cents an hour on the basis of the change in the index to May 1962. About 60,000 workers, mainly employees of aerospace establishments, will receive 1-cent an hour increases on the basis of quarterly reviews. Some 85,000 workers in the meat packing industry will receive a 1-cent increase based on the rise in the index over the last six months. The remaining 15,000 workers, employed by various metal working companies, will receive either 2- or 3-cent increases, based on semiannual or annual reviews.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index--United States city average  
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, May 1962  
and percent changes from selected dates

(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)		Percent change to May 1962 from--			Indexes	
	May 1962	April 1962	April 1962	February 1962	May 1961	1947-49=100	1939=100
						May 1962	May 1962
All items-----	105.2	105.2	0	0.4	1.3	129.1	217.2
Food-----	103.2	103.4	- 0.2	.1	0.9	121.8	258.6
Food at home-----	101.9	102.1	- .2	0	.6	118.4	251.4
Cereals and bakery products-----	107.5	107.3	.2	.4	2.0	142.5	249.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	99.6	100.1	- .5	- 1.0	1.1	109.9	264.2
Dairy products-----	103.0	103.7	- .7	- 2.0	.8	116.6	234.1
Fruits and vegetables-----	109.4	108.6	.7	6.3	2.2	135.2	292.1
Other foods at home-----	94.4	95.1	- .7	- 3.1	- 1.4	104.3	215.5
Food away from home-----	110.1	109.9	.2	.5	2.5	(1/)	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	104.7	104.6	.1	.1	1.0	133.5	175.4
Rent-----	105.4	105.4	.1	.3	1.2	145.1	167.5
Gas and electricity-----	107.7	107.8	- .1	- .2	- .5	125.6	119.7
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	100.1	102.4	- 2.2	- 3.8	0	136.4	241.9
Housefurnishings-----	99.0	99.3	- .3	- .3	- .4	103.1	193.0
Household operation-----	107.4	107.1	.3	.5	1.5	140.8	205.8
Apparel-----	102.7	102.7	0	.7	.5	110.1	209.8
Men's and boys'-----	103.1	102.9	.2	.3	.3	112.1	220.7
Women's and girls'-----	100.0	100.3	- .3	1.0	0	99.3	182.3
Footwear-----	109.1	109.2	- .1	.3	1.5	142.9	284.1
Other apparel-----	100.6	100.3	.3	.8	- .2	92.7	228.2
Transportation-----	107.3	107.2	.1	1.2	3.2	151.2	215.3
Private-----	106.0	106.0	0	1.2	2.9	138.1	210.9
Public-----	115.6	115.6	0	.7	4.2	215.2	264.7
Medical care-----	114.1	113.9	.2	1.0	2.8	164.9	227.2
Personal care-----	106.4	106.3	.1	.6	1.9	136.3	228.8
Reading and recreation-----	109.5	109.4	.1	.4	2.3	126.8	201.3
Other goods and services-----	105.1	105.1	0	.1	.6	133.9	189.8
Special groups:							
All items less food-----	106.0	106.0	0	.5	1.4	132.9	192.4
All items less shelter-----	105.2	105.2	0	.4	1.4	126.7	228.6
Commodities-----	103.0	103.1	- .1	.3	1.1	119.0	230.6
Nondurables-----	103.2	103.5	- .3	.1	.8	121.2	235.8
Food-----	103.2	103.4	- .2	.1	.9	121.8	258.6
Nondurables less food-----	103.5	103.8	- .3	.2	1.0	121.2	206.4
Apparel-----	102.5	102.6	- .1	.6	.4	109.9	210.8
Apparel less footwear-----	101.2	101.3	- .1	.7	.1	104.1	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	104.0	104.4	- .4	- .1	1.4	130.7	198.4
Durables-----	101.5	101.4	.1	.7	1.5	112.5	196.3
New cars-----	101.8	102.2	- .4	- .6	- .2	136.8	240.0
Used cars-----	115.3	113.4	1.7	7.1	11.1	(1/)	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	98.9	98.9	0	- .1	.2	102.0	178.0
Commodities less food-----	102.6	102.8	- .2	.4	1.1	116.6	196.1
Services-----	109.4	109.2	.2	.5	1.9	155.3	193.1
Rent-----	105.5	105.4	.1	.3	1.2	145.1	167.5
Services less rent-----	110.1	109.8	.3	.5	1.9	157.8	214.8
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	108.4	108.2	.2	.3	1.1	142.2	163.5
Transportation services-----	111.5	111.5	0	.3	2.0	192.7	240.5
Medical care services-----	116.6	116.2	.3	1.0	3.5	174.0	246.7
Other services 3/-----	108.7	108.2	.5	.7	2.0	140.3	240.6
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (Reference period=\$1.00)-----	\$0.951	\$0.951	0	- .3	- 1.2	\$0.775	\$0.460

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**

(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

City	Indexes (1957-59=100)			Percent change to May 1962 from--		Indexes	
	May 1962	February 1962	May 1961	February 1962	May 1961	1947-49=100	1939=100
						May 1962	May 1962
United States city average-----	105.2	104.8	103.8	0.4	1.3	129.1	217.2
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago-----	104.6	104.4	103.0	.2	1.6	131.9	225.1
Detroit-----	102.0	102.0	101.9	0	0.1	125.8	213.1
Los Angeles-----	106.9	105.7	105.1	1.1	1.7	133.3	220.7
New York-----	105.7	105.9	104.2	- .2	1.4	127.4	211.9
Philadelphia-----	104.7	105.0	104.2	- .3	.5	128.6	217.2
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	May 1962	February 1962	May 1961	February 1962	May 1961	May 1962	May 1962
Cleveland-----	103.5	103.1	103.0	.4	.5	128.5	217.2
Houston-----	104.7	104.5	102.4	.2	2.2	129.0	216.8
Scranton-----	105.7	105.5	104.0	.2	1.6	126.1	215.5
Seattle-----	106.3	105.9	104.8	.4	1.4	133.6	225.8
Washington, D. C.-----	104.2	104.0	103.2	.2	1.0	125.5	207.6
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	April 1962	January 1962	April 1961	January 1962	April 1961	April 1962	April 1962
Boston-----	107.1	106.2	104.9	.8	2.1	132.7	217.6
Kansas City-----	105.7	105.2	104.7	.5	1.0	130.8	211.9
Minneapolis-----	105.5	104.3	104.3	1.2	1.2	130.5	215.1
Pittsburgh-----	105.7	105.2	104.9	.5	.8	130.2	224.2
Portland, Oregon-----	103.9	103.8	103.6	.1	.3	128.7	220.8
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	March 1962	December 1961	March 1961	December 1961	March 1961	March 1962	March 1962
Atlanta-----	103.7	103.4	103.2	.3	.5	128.4	220.2
Baltimore-----	104.6	104.4	104.4	.2	.2	129.8	224.2
Cincinnati-----	103.3	102.6	102.5	.7	.8	125.7	215.4
St. Louis-----	104.8	104.4	103.9	.4	.9	130.1	219.3
San Francisco-----	107.3	106.5	105.4	.8	1.8	136.2	232.4

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 April 1962 to May 1962**  
**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	- 0.2	0.1	0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0
Chicago-----	- 0.2	- .9	- .1	0.1	.2	.1	.4	.2	0.4
Detroit-----	- .2	.2	- .2	.2	- 3.9	1.0	- .1	1.2	- .1
Los Angeles-----	.6	.8	.7	.3	1.1	- .1	.1	.4	.1
New York-----	- .3	- 1.0	- .2	- .4	.5	.5	- .1	0	- .1
Philadelphia-----	- .4	- .3	- .5	- .1	- .5	- .1	0	- 2.9	0

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups  
May 1962 indexes and percent changes, February 1962 to May 1962  
U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in May 1962

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleveland	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington, D. C.
Indexes (1957-59=100) <sup>2/</sup>											
All items-----	105.2	104.6	103.5	102.0	104.7	106.9	105.7	104.7	105.7	106.3	104.2
Food-----	103.2	104.6	101.1	101.4	103.1	106.2	103.5	102.3	103.2	105.5	101.5
Food at home-----	101.9	104.0	100.1	100.7	100.8	104.5	101.2	100.9	101.9	103.4	100.2
Cereals and bakery products--	107.5	108.4	103.7	105.0	107.3	118.1	109.2	105.9	108.3	107.3	108.5
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	99.6	101.2	99.1	96.5	98.6	97.9	99.8	98.4	99.7	101.8	97.5
Dairy products-----	103.0	108.5	99.7	107.6	100.6	106.8	100.9	100.5	99.7	106.9	103.2
Fruits and vegetables-----	109.4	111.1	109.0	107.1	108.9	119.4	105.9	107.3	110.4	112.3	102.1
Other foods at home-----	94.4	96.0	92.6	93.1	93.6	89.9	94.1	96.1	95.6	93.7	95.1
Housing-----	104.7	103.4	101.1	97.8	101.9	105.7	107.4	104.5	103.3	105.1	102.6
Rent-----	105.5	104.5	101.4	---	99.1	105.2	---	106.2	105.6	108.2	107.7
Gas and electricity-----	107.7	106.2	107.4	105.4	115.8	115.5	105.5	102.7	105.2	100.1	107.4
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	100.1	102.9	103.3	101.3	---	---	98.6	97.4	93.4	98.6	97.0
Housefurnishings-----	99.0	101.2	96.2	97.6	100.5	99.6	103.0	98.3	95.1	97.3	99.5
Household operation-----	107.4	105.2	105.9	103.2	105.6	103.5	108.9	113.6	109.5	107.9	111.3
Apparel-----	102.7	101.1	102.6	104.7	104.2	102.7	101.8	104.1	104.0	104.8	104.9
Men's and boys'-----	103.1	101.9	102.8	103.0	105.5	103.4	104.5	104.1	105.2	103.6	103.1
Women's and girls'-----	100.0	97.5	99.1	105.1	103.1	100.9	96.9	102.6	102.0	102.9	104.2
Footwear-----	109.1	108.9	111.4	108.0	107.3	108.6	111.1	109.8	108.2	112.5	111.6
Other apparel-----	100.6	99.1	102.1	101.9	102.1	99.0	99.0	101.4	102.3	103.0	102.4
Transportation-----	107.3	106.9	107.6	101.6	109.0	112.2	105.4	108.8	104.5	109.2	105.5
Private-----	106.0	106.9	106.4	99.0	107.7	108.1	107.1	107.7	105.1	107.8	104.7
Public-----	115.6	107.9	114.8	114.4	117.4	140.4	100.8	113.1	100.4	121.2	110.0
Medical care-----	114.1	117.4	118.5	114.6	107.2	114.0	114.7	116.3	113.6	109.7	117.7
Personal care-----	106.4	107.6	105.4	107.4	112.7	103.5	104.4	107.9	114.3	108.1	108.7
Reading and recreation-----	109.5	100.8	106.9	107.0	111.4	103.2	110.5	99.5	128.1	104.6	110.2
Other goods and services-----	105.1	102.0	106.5	102.2	106.8	106.3	103.5	104.2	107.5	109.8	102.5
Percent change from February 1962 to May 1962											
All items-----	0.4	0.2	0.4	0	0.2	1.1	- 0.2	- 0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2
Food-----	.1	.6	1.0	0.6	.2	1.0	- 1.0	-.2	.9	.4	.2
Food at home-----	0	.9	1.2	.8	-.2	1.1	- 1.1	-.3	.7	.3	-.1
Cereals and bakery products--	.4	4.2	0	0	4.3	4.2	.9	1.4	0	.3	-.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	- 1.0	- 1.5	- 1.2	- 1.8	- 1.0	- 0.8	- 1.1	- 1.8	.5	.4	-.6
Dairy products-----	- 2.0	- 1.3	-.1	-.8	- 2.4	-.4	- 5.4	- 2.8	- 2.5	.3	-.4
Fruits and vegetables-----	6.3	5.7	10.9	11.6	3.1	6.2	4.0	5.6	8.9	3.8	5.7
Other foods at home-----	- 3.1	- 3.4	- 1.8	- 3.4	- 3.5	- 5.0	- 2.9	- 2.6	- 2.3	- 3.3	- 3.6
Housing-----	.1	.1	.3	.1	-.4	.7	-.3	-.7	-.6	.5	0
Rent-----	.3	1/ .3	-.1	---	-.4	1/ .3	---	1/-.2	.7	1.7	.4
Gas and electricity-----	-.2	0	0	.2	-.2	0	-.4	0	0	0	2.5
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	- 3.8	- 1.7	- 5.1	0	---	---	- 6.5	- 9.6	- 5.7	0	- 7.6
Housefurnishings-----	-.3	.5	-.3	.4	- 2.0	-.8	-.3	- 1.8	-.4	-.4	.6
Household operation-----	.5	.7	.2	0	0	.3	.1	.5	.1	3.9	.3
Apparel-----	.7	.6	.4	.3	1.1	.2	-.3	1.1	.3	0	.2
Men's and boys'-----	.3	.9	.7	-.2	1.4	0	.2	1.0	.1	.1	.5
Women's and girls'-----	1.0	.6	.2	.8	1.4	.5	-.8	1.6	.4	-.4	-.1
Footwear-----	.3	.1	.5	.2	.1	0	.1	.3	.4	.2	1.5
Other apparel-----	.8	.8	.2	.4	1.1	.1	-.6	.6	.1	.2	- 1.3
Transportation-----	1.2	1.5	1.0	- 2.7	.2	2.7	.9	.3	- 1.0	.6	.4
Private-----	1.2	1.9	1.2	- 3.3	.2	2.5	1.1	.7	- 1.2	.6	.4
Public-----	.7	0	0	0	0	3.5	0	0	0	.6	0
Medical care-----	1.0	.5	.2	1.4	.8	3.3	1.1	.2	1.2	.4	.7
Personal care-----	.6	.3	-.3	-.2	.9	.5	-.1	.2	.3	2.3	.5
Reading and recreation-----	.4	0	-.9	0	1.1	.6	.3	- 3.3	2.3	.7	.3
Other goods and services-----	.1	.2	.1	-.2	-.4	.2	.1	0	.1	-.6	.9

1/ Change from March 1962 to May 1962.

2/ The reference base in the April 1962 report should have read (1957-59=100).

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index--Food and its subgroups  
May 1962 indexes and percent changes, April 1962 to May 1962  
U.S. city average and 20 large cities  
(1957-59=100) <sup>2/</sup>

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--	103.2	- 0.2	101.9	- 0.2	107.5	0.2	99.6	- 0.5	103.0	- 0.7	109.4	0.7	94.4	- 0.7
Atlanta-----	103.1	.4	102.4	.2	103.8	0	101.1	.5	102.8	- .3	107.4	1.3	99.6	- .6
Baltimore-----	102.7	0	100.4	- .2	107.5	.1	98.9	- 1.4	98.8	- .1	105.9	1.4	95.4	- .3
Boston-----	103.7	.2	101.9	.4	108.0	.1	101.5	- .3	95.5	- .6	111.5	3.0	95.8	.1
Chicago-----	104.6	- .9	104.0	- 1.2	108.4	- 4.1	101.2	- .8	108.5	- .8	111.1	- 1.0	96.0	- .9
Cincinnati-----	101.2	- .3	100.1	- .4	104.3	- 2.9	100.3	- .4	101.5	0	105.2	1.5	92.5	- .8
Cleveland-----	101.1	.5	100.1	.6	103.7	- .2	99.1	- 1.4	99.7	.1	109.0	5.2	92.6	.2
Detroit-----	101.4	.2	100.7	.3	105.0	.4	96.5	- 1.2	107.6	.2	107.1	4.1	93.1	- 1.2
Houston-----	103.1	.2	100.8	.2	107.3	.8	98.6	.2	100.6	.3	108.9	- .3	93.6	0
Kansas City-----	102.6	.8	101.6	.9	107.8	.3	98.5	.4	103.1	9.0	108.8	- 1.9	95.5	- .4
Los Angeles-----	106.2	.8	104.5	1.0	118.1	4.2	97.9	.9	106.8	- .2	119.4	2.0	89.9	- 1.5
Minneapolis-----	102.4	0	100.7	0	103.8	.1	99.6	.2	103.3	.9	106.8	- 1.1	93.6	0
New York-----	103.5	- 1.0	101.2	- 1.1	109.2	.4	99.8	- 1.3	100.9	- 2.7	105.9	- .6	94.1	- .7
Philadelphia-----	102.3	- .3	100.9	- .3	105.9	1.2	98.4	- 1.2	100.5	- .5	107.3	.5	96.1	- .6
Pittsburgh-----	102.4	.7	102.1	.9	106.5	.1	102.7	.7	97.8	0	110.6	4.6	95.5	- .6
Portland, Oreg.-----	104.3	1.3	102.6	1.4	103.2	2.9	101.9	1.2	105.1	.7	114.1	2.9	93.4	.2
St. Louis-----	102.3	.1	101.0	.2	104.3	- .1	99.1	- .1	103.9	2.5	107.5	- .4	94.3	- .3
San Francisco-----	105.4	0	103.9	0	106.1	- .2	100.9	- .3	105.7	- .4	119.1	1.7	92.0	- 1.2
Scranton-----	103.2	.3	101.9	.2	108.3	0	99.7	0	99.7	- .1	110.4	2.3	95.6	- 1.1
Seattle-----	105.5	- .8	103.4	- .9	107.3	.1	101.8	- .4	106.9	- .1	112.3	- 1.8	93.7	- 2.0
Washington, D. C.---	101.5	- .1	100.2	- .2	108.5	- .4	97.5	0	103.2	0	102.1	1.0	95.1	- 1.1

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

Food and unit	May 1962	April 1962	Food and unit	May 1962	April 1962
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents	Fresh--Continued	Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat-----5 lb.	56.7	56.6	Grapefruit-----each	13.0	12.7
Biscuit mix-----40 oz.	47.9	47.8	Peaches *-----lb.	*	*
Macaroni-----16 oz.	24.8	24.7	Strawberries *-----pt.	32.5	41.9
Corn meal-----1b.	14.0	13.9	Grapes, seedless *-----lb.	*	*
Rolled oats-----18 oz.	23.6	23.5	Watermelons *-----lb.	*	*
Corn flakes-----12 oz.	26.9	26.9	Potatoes-----10 lb.	64.8	60.2
Rice, short grain-----1b.	19.0	19.0	Sweet potatoes-----lb.	17.2	16.7
Rice, long grain-----1b.	21.4	21.4	Corn *-----doz. ears	111.4	123.5
Bread, white-----1b.	21.1	21.1	Onions-----1b.	13.6	14.9
Soda crackers-----1b.	31.0	30.9	Carrots-----1b.	15.1	14.9
Sandwich cookies-----16 oz.	52.3	52.3	Lettuce-----head	24.2	19.1
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery-----1b.	17.0	18.2
Round steak-----1b.	105.5	106.2	Cabbage-----1b.	13.0	18.3
Sirloin steak-----1b.	109.1	107.9	Tomatoes-----1b.	35.6	31.3
Chuck roast-----1b.	60.7	61.9	Beans, green-----1b.	31.5	31.3
Rib roast-----1b.	82.0	82.1	Canned:		
Hamburger-----1b.	51.3	51.5	Orange juice-----46 oz. can	42.5	43.7
Veal cutlets-----1b.	147.8	146.3	Pineapple juice-----46 oz. can	32.1	32.4
Pork chops, center cut-----1b.	86.5	86.7	Peaches-----#2 1/2 can	32.9	32.8
Pork roast-----1b.	61.0	62.1	Pineapple-----#2 can	38.7	38.7
Bacon, sliced-----1b.	68.4	67.8	Fruit cocktail-----#303 can	25.9	26.0
Ham, whole-----1b.	61.1	62.1	Corn, cream style-----#303 can	20.0	20.0
Lamb, leg-----1b.	70.4	69.5	Peas, green-----#303 can	22.4	22.4
Frankfurters-----1b.	62.3	63.1	Tomatoes-----#303 can	15.8	15.8
Luncheon meat, canned-----12 oz.	51.0	51.2	Tomato juice-----46 oz. can	32.4	32.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook-----1b.	39.6	40.2	Baby foods-----4 1/2 to 5 oz.	10.6	10.6
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen-----1b.	50.0	49.7	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen-----1b.	55.6	55.8	Prunes-----1b.	41.4	41.3
Salmon, pink, canned-----16 oz.	77.3	77.3	Beans-----1b.	17.3	17.3
Tuna fish, canned-----6 to 6 1/2 oz.	34.9	34.7	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup-----10 1/2 to 11 oz. can	12.4	12.4
Milk, fresh, (grocery)-----qt.	24.0	24.2	Beans, with pork-----16 oz. can	14.9	15.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered)-----qt.	25.6	25.8	Pickles, sliced-----15 oz.	26.7	26.6
Ice cream-----1/2 gal.	86.2	86.1	Catsup, tomato-----14 oz.	23.1	23.1
Butter-----1b.	74.9	75.3	Potato chips-----4 oz.	28.1	28.0
Cheese, American process-----1/2 lb.	36.2	36.4	Coffee-----1b. can	71.0	71.1
Milk, evaporated-----14 1/2 oz. can	15.6	15.7	Coffee-----1b. bag	57.3	56.8
Fruits and vegetables:			Coffee, instant-----6 oz.	90.0	90.7
Frozen:			Tea bags-----pkg. of 16	24.6	24.6
Strawberries-----10 oz.	27.1	27.1	Cola drink, carton-----72 oz.	50.0	49.7
Orange juice concentrate-----6 oz.	20.7	21.2	Shortening, hydrogenated-----3 lb.	91.5	91.5
Lemonade concentrate-----6 oz.	13.9	14.0	Margarine, colored-----1b.	28.8	28.8
Peas, green-----10 oz.	20.8	20.9	Lard-----1b.	20.1	20.1
Beans, green-----9 oz.	22.6	22.8	Salad dressing-----pt.	38.3	38.2
Potatoes, french fried-----9 oz.	19.1	19.0	Peanut butter-----1b.	57.3	57.2
Fresh:			Sugar-----5 lb.	58.2	58.2
Apples-----1b.	17.8	16.2	Corn syrup-----24 oz.	27.3	27.3
Bananas-----1b.	16.5	16.8	Grape jelly-----12 oz.	29.6	29.5
Oranges, size 200-----doz.	76.7	80.8	Chocolate bar-----1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons-----1b.	19.1	19.4	Eggs, Grade A, large-----doz.	48.9	51.0
			Gelatin, flavored-----3 to 4 oz.	9.8	9.8

\* Priced only in season.

<sup>1/</sup> Changed from 36 oz. to 72 oz. carton effective May.

<sup>2/</sup> The reference base in the February 1962 report should have read (1957-59=100).

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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 1957-59 = 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 for the U.S. 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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