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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1962

The Consumer Price Index rose by 0.6 percent in September, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Much of the advance resulted from substantial increases in meat prices which were attributed to the withholding of livestock from the markets by the farmers. In addition, egg prices rose seasonally, and apparel prices showed the largest September increase in a decade with the introduction of new fall and winter clothing.

Consumer prices averaged 1.4 percent higher than a year earlier, mostly because of increases for food and services. The Consumer Price Index for September 1962 was 106.1 percent of the 1957-59 average. (On the former base of 1947-49=100, it was 130.2).

FOOD

The food price index advanced by 1.0 percent between August and September 1962, largely because of higher prices for meats and eggs. Prices of poultry and milk also increased, but fresh fruit and vegetable prices were off seasonally.

All cuts of beef were higher, with increases ranging from 4.7 percent for hamburger to 8.4 percent for chuck roast. Pork chop prices were up by 5.8 percent and pork roast 7.6 percent. Prices of frying chickens rose 3.6 percent. Egg prices rose by nearly 15 percent in September as production dropped seasonally, but they were still almost 1 percent below a year earlier and at their lowest September levels since 1959. Food prices averaged 2.1 percent higher than a year ago, led by an advance of 7.2 percent for meats, poultry, and fish, and smaller increases for cereals and bakery products, and for restaurant meals.

APPAREL

The rise of 2.0 percent in apparel prices was somewhat larger than the usual increase in September, when consumers begin to buy new fall and winter clothing in volume. Prices of women's and girls' apparel rose 3.7 percent, led by increases for coats, wool dresses, and wool skirts. Men's and boys' clothing prices were 1.1 percent higher, with increases for suits, topcoats, and jackets. Apparel prices averaged 1.0 percent higher than in September 1961.

OTHER GOODS
AND SERVICES

Transportation costs were up 0.4 percent, largely because of an increase of 3.8 percent in gasoline prices as price wars ended in several cities. A decline in dealers' selling prices of 1962 model automobiles, near the end of the model year, was offset by higher prices for used cars.

Housing costs edged up 0.1 percent, with seasonally higher prices for both solid and petroleum fuels and a slight increase in rents.

COST-OF-LIVING
ADJUSTMENTS

Based on the September index, the wages of almost 60,000 workers will be increased by amounts ranging from 1 to 3 cents an hour. About one-fifth of these will receive 1 cent, about four-fifths 2 cents, either in cash or equivalents, while a small group of 1,000 workers will get 3 cents. About 20,000 other workers will receive from 1 to 3 cents based on city indexes.

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

(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)		Percent change to September 1962 from --			Indexes	
	September 1962	August 1962	August 1962	June 1962	September 1961	1947-49=100	1939=100
						September 1962	September 1962
All items-----	106.1	105.5	0.6	0.8	1.4	130.2	219.1
Food-----	104.8	103.8	1.0	1.3	2.1	123.7	262.6
Food at home-----	103.5	102.3	1.2	1.4	2.1	120.3	255.4
Cereals and bakery products-----	107.9	107.8	.1	.5	2.4	143.1	250.0
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	106.3	102.6	3.6	6.6	7.2	117.2	282.0
Dairy products-----	104.2	103.9	.3	1.5	-0.9	118.0	236.8
Fruits and vegetables-----	102.2	105.2	-2.9	-8.7	-.1	126.3	272.9
Other foods at home-----	97.8	95.2	2.7	4.7	-.8	108.1	223.3
Food away from home-----	111.5	111.4	.1	.8	2.7	1/	1/
Housing 2/-----	104.9	104.8	.1	.1	.9	133.7	175.7
Rent-----	105.9	105.8	.1	.3	1.1	145.6	168.1
Gas and electricity-----	108.0	108.0	0	.3	.2	125.9	120.0
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	101.3	100.1	1.2	1.9	.6	138.1	244.8
Housefurnishings-----	98.7	98.5	.2	-.4	-1.0	102.7	192.4
Household operation-----	107.6	107.4	.2	.2	1.6	141.1	206.2
Apparel-----	104.6	102.5	2.0	1.8	1.0	112.1	213.6
Men's and boys'-----	104.0	102.9	1.1	.9	1.1	113.0	222.6
Women's and girls'-----	103.6	99.9	3.7	3.1	.8	102.9	188.8
Footwear-----	109.5	109.3	.2	.4	1.4	143.4	285.1
Other apparel-----	101.2	100.3	.9	.8	-.2	93.2	229.5
Transportation-----	107.8	107.4	.4	.5	1.7	151.9	216.3
Private-----	106.7	106.2	.5	.7	1.5	139.0	212.3
Public-----	115.7	115.7	0	.1	2.8	215.4	264.9
Medical care-----	114.7	114.6	.1	.3	2.5	165.7	228.4
Personal care-----	106.8	106.8	0	.7	1.9	136.8	229.6
Reading and recreation-----	110.0	110.3	-.3	.7	1.9	127.4	202.2
Other goods and services-----	105.6	105.5	.1	.4	.6	134.5	190.7
Special groups:							
All items less food-----	106.6	106.2	.4	.5	1.2	133.7	193.5
All items less shelter-----	106.1	105.5	.6	.8	1.5	127.7	230.6
Commodities-----	104.1	103.2	.9	1.0	1.3	120.2	233.1
Nondurables-----	104.7	103.5	1.2	1.3	1.6	122.9	239.2
Food-----	104.8	103.8	1.0	1.3	2.1	123.7	262.6
Nondurables less food-----	104.6	103.2	1.4	1.2	.8	122.5	208.6
Apparel-----	104.5	102.4	2.1	1.8	1.0	112.0	215.0
Apparel less footwear-----	103.5	101.0	2.5	2.1	.8	106.5	1/
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	104.6	103.7	.9	.8	.9	131.5	199.5
Durables-----	101.6	101.7	-.1	0	.6	112.6	196.5
New cars-----	100.4	101.0	-.6	-1.1	-.3	134.9	236.7
Used cars-----	120.5	119.1	1.2	2.9	7.3	1/	1/
Durables less cars-----	98.6	98.7	-.1	-.2	-.4	101.7	177.4
Commodities less food-----	103.4	102.6	.8	.8	.8	117.5	197.6
Services-----	109.8	109.9	-.1	.3	1.8	155.9	193.8
Rent-----	105.9	105.8	.1	.3	1.1	145.6	168.1
Services less rent-----	110.5	110.6	-.1	.3	1.7	158.3	215.5
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	108.6	108.5	.1	.1	1.2	142.5	163.8
Transportation services-----	110.5	111.7	-1.1	-.9	.5	190.9	238.3
Medical care services-----	117.5	117.3	.2	.5	3.3	175.3	248.6
Other services 3/-----	109.3	109.3	0	.6	2.1	141.1	241.9
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (Reference period=\$1.00)-----	\$0.943	\$0.948	-.5	-.7	-1.4	\$0.769	\$0.456

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 change, selected dates
U.S. city average and 20 large cities**

(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

City	Indexes (1957-59=100)			Percent change to Sept. 1962 from--		Indexes 1947-49=100 1939=100	
	September 1962	June 1962	September 1961	June 1962	September 1961	September 1962	September 1962
	United States city average	106.1	105.3	104.6	0.8	1.4	130.2
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	105.2	104.5	104.0	.7	1.2	132.7	226.4
Detroit	102.8	101.8	101.3	1.0	1.5	126.8	214.8
Los Angeles	107.2	107.0	105.3	.2	1.8	133.7	221.3
New York	107.3	105.8	105.2	1.4	2.0	129.3	215.1
Philadelphia	106.0	104.9	104.6	1.0	1.3	130.2	219.9
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	September 1962	June 1962	September 1961	June 1962	September 1961	September 1962	September 1962
Atlanta	104.7	104.0	103.6	.7	1.1	129.6	222.4
Baltimore	106.0	104.8	104.4	1.1	1.5	131.5	227.2
Cincinnati	104.3	103.3	103.0	1.0	1.3	126.9	217.4
St. Louis	105.6	104.4	104.1	1.1	1.4	131.0	221.0
San Francisco	107.5	107.5	106.3	0	1.1	136.4	232.9
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	August 1962	May 1962	August 1961	May 1962	August 1961	August 1962	August 1962
Cleveland	103.8	103.5	103.6	.3	0.2	128.9	217.9
Houston	104.6	104.7	102.5	.1	2.0	128.9	216.5
Scranton	106.0	105.7	104.2	.3	1.7	126.5	216.2
Seattle	106.7	106.3	104.9	.4	1.7	134.1	226.6
Washington, D. C.	104.6	104.2	104.0	.4	.6	125.9	208.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	July 1962	April 1962	July 1961	April 1962	July 1961	July 1962	July 1962
Boston	107.2	107.1	105.2	.1	1.9	132.8	217.8
Kansas City	106.0	105.7	104.9	.3	1.0	131.1	212.5
Minneapolis	105.7	105.5	104.4	.2	1.2	130.8	215.6
Pittsburgh	106.0	105.7	105.2	.3	.8	130.6	224.8
Portland, Oregon	104.8	103.9	104.4	.9	.4	129.8	222.7

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 1962 to September 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	0.6	1.0	0.1	2.0	0.4	0.1	0	-0.3	0.1
Chicago	.8	0.9	.3	1.9	3.3	0	-0.2	-.2	-.8
Detroit	.5	.8	.3	0.6	1.6	.1	-.9	0	0
Los Angeles	.6	1.1	.2	2.7	-.4	-.1	-.4	.7	-.2
New York	.7	1.2	0	2.8	-.3	-.1	-.3	-.1	0
Philadelphia	.8	1.2	.1	2.5	.6	.2	-1.1	.6	.1

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Balti- more	Chicago	Cincin- nati	Detroit	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	St. Louis	San Francisco
Indexes (1957-59=100)											
All items-----	106.1	104.7	106.0	105.2	104.3	102.8	107.2	107.3	106.0	105.6	107.5
Food-----	104.8	104.3	104.5	106.7	103.7	101.6	105.9	107.0	104.8	104.2	105.0
Food at home-----	103.5	104.0	101.9	106.2	102.9	100.7	103.8	104.5	103.3	103.2	103.1
Cereals and bakery products--	107.9	104.2	107.9	110.8	109.4	104.6	116.7	108.6	104.7	106.1	106.6
Meats, poultry, and fish----	106.3	106.5	104.6	110.3	106.2	103.9	102.1	107.3	105.3	107.9	104.7
Dairy products-----	104.2	102.2	98.7	110.4	101.4	106.6	106.8	103.9	101.9	101.4	105.7
Fruits and vegetables-----	102.2	104.5	101.2	101.0	103.4	93.4	106.4	104.0	103.9	102.0	106.2
Other foods at home-----	97.8	102.1	98.2	99.4	96.0	96.3	93.8	98.5	100.2	97.5	94.4
Housing-----	104.9	103.9	106.0	103.4	102.0	98.0	106.2	107.9	104.5	102.0	108.9
Rent-----	105.9	103.8	105.6	104.5	102.3	--	105.4	--	107.0	104.5	114.9
Gas and electricity-----	108.0	109.9	104.6	106.2	110.6	105.3	115.5	105.5	102.7	108.8	111.0
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	101.3	107.7	100.4	104.7	103.6	99.7	--	99.1	96.9	102.8	--
Housefurnishings-----	98.7	94.2	98.4	100.6	98.5	97.6	99.2	103.2	98.2	97.8	98.2
Household operation-----	107.6	113.4	113.6	105.9	107.7	103.4	104.4	108.9	115.0	105.9	110.3
Apparel-----	104.6	101.6	106.8	102.5	103.0	105.4	104.5	105.0	106.8	104.5	104.4
Men's and boys'-----	104.0	103.1	104.8	102.8	104.9	102.9	105.2	104.7	104.6	103.0	102.6
Women's and girls'-----	103.6	98.6	106.0	100.3	99.8	106.0	103.8	103.5	108.0	105.1	103.3
Footwear-----	109.5	109.4	115.6	108.9	109.6	109.3	108.2	111.4	109.9	108.8	111.2
Other apparel-----	101.2	97.8	102.1	97.8	99.3	102.3	100.6	100.8	103.4	98.2	103.1
Transportation-----	107.8	107.0	106.3	106.6	108.5	105.1	112.6	105.1	109.7	110.4	107.6
Private-----	106.7	106.6	103.8	106.5	107.3	103.3	108.6	106.7	108.8	108.8	108.3
Public-----	115.7	109.4	117.0	107.9	116.7	114.4	140.4	100.8	113.1	116.8	102.4
Medical care-----	114.7	111.5	120.0	117.7	113.7	114.8	114.0	114.9	120.6	114.4	116.3
Personal care-----	106.8	108.4	107.2	106.9	100.5	106.4	103.1	2105.0	106.1	109.6	110.2
Reading and recreation-----	110.0	107.2	102.3	100.5	106.7	107.0	103.8	110.4	100.2	118.7	107.2
Other goods and services-----	105.6	101.7	103.6	101.1	104.8	109.1	106.0	104.1	104.4	106.8	107.7
Percent change from June 1962 to September 1962											
All items-----	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.2	1.4	1.0	1.1	0
Food-----	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.4	2.2	0.7	-.2	3.2	2.1	1.9	-0.8
Food at home-----	1.4	1.6	1.0	1.4	2.4	.7	-.3	3.5	2.2	2.2	-1.2
Cereals and bakery products--	.5	.1	0.5	3.0	2.1	-.2	-1.4	-0.3	-0.7	1.6	.3
Meats, poultry, and fish----	6.6	6.3	5.9	7.1	7.8	8.9	3.3	7.8	7.1	9.1	2.2
Dairy products-----	1.5	-.6	-.1	1.8	0.3	.7	.1	3.8	1.5	-1.4	0
Fruits and vegetables-----	-8.7	-5.7	-8.5	-11.2	-4.9	-13.7	-8.2	-3.3	-6.2	-6.3	-11.9
Other foods at home-----	4.7	3.9	4.6	4.4	4.8	4.7	4.3	6.1	5.9	3.4	3.3
Housing-----	.1	.3	.8	.2	0	.2	.3	.3	.1	0.1	.3
Rent-----	.3	0	.2	1/ 0	-.1	--	1/- .1	--	1/ .3	.1	1.0
Gas and electricity-----	.3	0	.5	0	.1	-.2	0	.2	0	0	0
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	1.9	3.7	-.4	4.6	5.6	2.4	--	.6	-.3	3.6	--
Housefurnishings-----	-.4	-2.9	-.7	-.6	.3	-.2	.2	-.1	-.8	-.6	-.2
Household operation-----	.2	4.1	1.1	.7	-.3	.1	.4	0	1.5	-.5	.3
Apparel-----	1.8	.7	1.5	1.6	1.4	.7	2.1	2.6	2.5	.6	-.3
Men's and boys'-----	.9	.9	1.3	1.4	3.7	-.2	2.0	.1	.5	-.3	.2
Women's and girls'-----	3.1	1.3	2.0	3.1	.3	1.0	3.0	5.7	4.9	1.7	-.9
Footwear-----	.4	.1	1.9	0	.4	1.2	.3	.3	.1	-.5	.1
Other apparel-----	.8	-1.9	-.5	-1.2	-.1	.4	2.4	1.5	2.6	-.5	-.2
Transportation-----	.5	1.2	2.1	1.3	.3	3.2	-.4	-.4	.7	3.3	.3
Private-----	.7	1.4	2.6	1.7	.4	4.0	-.4	-.6	.9	4.2	.3
Public-----	.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care-----	.3	0	.9	.4	3.6	.2	0	.2	.1	.4	.4
Personal care-----	.7	0	.5	-.2	.1	-.7	.1	.8	-.4	0	2.5
Reading and recreation-----	.7	0	-.4	-.1	.1	.8	.7	.4	.6	1.0	-.1
Other goods and services-----	.4	0	.2	-.7	.2	6.8	-.3	.2	.2	.2	-.1

1/ Change from July 1962 to September 1962.

2/ Revised index August 1962 = 105.3.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index--Food and its subgroups
September 1962 Indexes and percent changes, August 1962 to September 1962
U.S. city average and 20 large cities
(1957-59=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--	104.8	1.0	103.5	1.2	107.9	0.1	106.3	3.6	104.2	0.3	102.2	-2.9	97.8	2.7
Atlanta-----	104.3	0.9	104.0	1.1	104.2	-.1	106.5	3.5	102.2	-.3	104.5	-4.1	102.1	3.7
Baltimore-----	104.5	.3	101.9	0.3	107.9	-.3	104.6	1.9	98.7	.1	101.2	-3.1	98.2	1.8
Boston-----	105.7	.7	104.0	.4	108.2	0	106.6	1.9	99.1	.0	106.8	-2.6	99.4	1.3
Chicago-----	106.7	.9	106.2	.9	110.8	0	110.3	4.1	110.4	.2	101.0	-5.2	99.4	3.1
Cincinnati-----	103.7	1.5	102.9	.8	109.4	-.5	106.2	3.6	101.4	.2	103.4	0.2	96.0	3.2
Cleveland-----	102.4	.9	101.5	1.0	103.9	.2	107.3	3.4	99.3	.1	100.3	-4.0	94.9	2.7
Detroit-----	101.6	.8	100.7	.8	104.0	.1	103.9	3.9	106.6	.2	93.4	-5.0	96.3	3.0
Houston-----	104.0	1.1	101.9	1.4	105.5	.3	103.9	2.9	102.4	3.0	104.2	-2.0	95.0	1.6
Kansas City-----	105.1	.9	104.8	1.2	109.0	.3	107.0	5.6	107.9	-.4	102.4	-6.1	99.5	3.5
Los Angeles-----	105.9	1.1	103.8	1.5	116.7	-1.4	102.1	3.3	106.8	0	106.4	.2	93.8	3.8
Minneapolis-----	102.5	.7	101.1	.9	101.4	-.9	103.9	2.9	105.3	2.6	96.8	-6.3	97.5	4.1
New York-----	107.0	1.2	104.5	1.7	108.6	0	107.3	4.2	103.9	.7	104.0	-1.8	98.5	3.1
Philadelphia-----	104.8	1.2	103.3	1.4	104.7	-1.1	105.3	4.1	101.9	-.1	103.9	-1.5	100.2	3.1
Pittsburgh-----	103.4	.9	103.2	1.0	106.9	.1	108.9	2.8	99.7	.2	99.1	-3.7	99.4	3.3
Portland, Oreg.-----	104.8	1.4	103.3	1.7	104.9	1.2	106.7	3.6	106.7	.9	103.6	-.7	96.3	2.4
St. Louis-----	104.2	1.5	103.2	1.8	106.1	1.4	107.9	5.4	101.4	.9	102.0	-4.4	97.5	3.2
San Francisco-----	105.0	.7	103.1	.8	106.6	.1	104.7	1.7	105.7	.1	106.2	-.9	94.4	1.9
Scranton-----	103.8	1.5	102.8	1.8	108.7	0	106.0	4.5	101.7	2.6	97.5	-3.6	99.5	3.0
Seattle-----	106.6	.6	104.3	.7	107.1	0	107.8	2.8	106.4	-.4	103.8	-2.8	97.3	2.2
Washington, D. C.-----	103.0	.4	101.6	.4	109.1	-.7	103.6	4.2	100.6	-.9	97.4	-5.4	98.5	2.4

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

Food and unit	September 1962	August 1962	Food and unit	September 1962	August 1962
Cereals and bakery products:	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>	Fresh--Continued	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat-----5 lb.	57.2	57.3	Grapefruit-----each	16.3	15.5
Biscuit mix-----40 oz.	48.0	47.8	Peaches *-----lb.	18.0	16.8
Mecaroni-----16 oz.	24.9	24.8	Strawberries *-----pt.	*	*
Corn meal-----1b.	14.2	14.1	Grapes, seedless *-----lb.	22.6	25.9
Rolled oats-----18 oz.	23.8	23.8	Watermelons *-----lb.	*	4.0
Corn flakes-----12 oz.	27.7	27.5	Potatoes-----10 lb.	62.3	68.5
Rice, short grain-----1b.	19.3	19.3	Sweet potatoes-----1b.	14.8	17.3
Rice, long grain-----1b.	21.6	21.6	Corn *-----doz. ears	69.1	68.8
Bread, white-----1b.	21.2	21.2	Onions-----1b.	10.3	11.7
Soda crackers-----1b.	31.1	31.0	Carrots-----1b.	14.7	15.8
Sandwich cookies-----16 oz.	52.3	52.4	Lettuce-----head	19.7	16.5
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Celery-----1b.	12.9	15.7
Round steak-----1b.	112.6	106.5	Cabbage-----1b.	8.4	8.4
Sirloin steak-----1b.	117.5	110.7	Tomatoes-----1b.	19.8	21.4
Chuck roast-----1b.	66.6	61.3	Beans, green-----1b.	22.7	21.9
Rib roast-----1b.	88.8	83.5	Canned:		
Hamburger-----1b.	53.9	51.5	Orange juice-----46 oz. can	40.8	41.1
Veal cutlets-----1b.	149.8	148.3	Pineapple juice-----46 oz. can	32.7	32.7
Pork chops, center cut-----1b.	99.7	94.3	Peaches-----#2½ can	32.2	33.1
Pork roast-----1b.	71.4	66.4	Pineapple-----#2 can	39.1	39.1
Bacon, sliced-----1b.	75.8	74.0	Fruit cocktail-----#303 can	25.5	25.9
Ham, whole-----1b.	63.9	62.4	Corn, cream style-----#303 can	19.9	20.0
Lamb, leg-----1b.	74.1	73.3	Peas, green-----#303 can	22.5	22.6
Frankfurters-----1b.	64.2	63.5	Tomatoes-----#303 can	15.5	15.6
Luncheon meat, canned-----12 oz.	50.4	50.4	Tomato juice-----46 oz. can	32.0	32.4
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook-----1b.	41.8	40.4	Baby foods-----4½ to 5 oz.	10.8	10.7
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen-----1b.	50.3	50.2	Dried:		
Haddock, fillet, frozen-----1b.	55.2	55.1	Prunes-----1b.	40.1	41.1
Salmon, pink, canned-----16 oz.	75.9	77.5	Beans-----1b.	17.3	17.3
Tuna fish, canned-----6 to 6½ oz.	35.3	35.1	Other foods at home:		
Dairy products:			Tomato soup-----10½ to 11 oz. can	12.3	12.4
Milk, fresh, (grocery)-----qt.	24.5	24.3	Beans, with pork-----16 oz. can	15.0	15.0
Milk, fresh, (delivered)-----qt.	26.2	26.1	Pickles, sliced-----15 oz.	26.7	26.6
Ice cream-----½ gal.	85.1	85.5	Catsup, tomato-----14 oz.	23.1	23.1
Butter-----1b.	74.8	74.6	Potato chips-----4 oz.	27.9	27.9
Cheese, American process-----½ lb.	36.1	36.1	Coffee-----1b. can	71.4	71.3
Milk, evaporated-----14½ oz. can	15.4	15.4	Coffee-----1b. bag	57.5	57.4
Fruits and vegetables:			Coffee, instant-----6 oz.	91.9	90.3
Frozen:			Tea bags-----pkg. of 16	24.5	24.4
Strawberries-----10 oz.	27.1	27.1	Cola drink, carton-----72 oz.	50.1	50.1
Orange juice concentrate-----6 oz.	19.7	20.0	Shortening, hydrogenated-----3 lb.	85.6	88.1
Lemonade concentrate-----6 oz.	13.4	13.2	Margarine, colored-----1b.	27.9	28.1
Peas, green-----10 oz.	20.8	20.8	Lard-----1b.	20.2	20.0
Beans, green-----9 oz.	22.9	22.9	Salad dressing-----pt.	38.3	38.3
Potatoes, french fried-----9 oz.	18.8	18.8	Peanut butter-----1b.	57.5	57.8
Fresh:			Sugar-----5 lb.	58.8	58.6
Apples-----1b.	16.0	21.1	Corn syrup-----24 oz.	27.4	27.4
Bananas-----1b.	16.1	15.9	Grape jelly-----12 oz.	29.7	29.6
Oranges, size 200-----dos.	87.1	79.0	Chocolate bar-----1 oz.	4.5	4.5
Lemons-----1b.	20.5	19.5	Eggs, Grade A, large-----doz.	58.9	51.3
			Gelatin, flavored-----3 to 4 oz.	9.8	9.9

* 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 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.

BLS Regional Offices

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Street, N. E.	Zone 1	Zone 3	Zone 11	Zone 10
Zone 9				

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