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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 1963

The Consumer Price Index edged up 0.1 percent in March to a new record high, the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Prices rose in March for used cars, apparel, and certain housing items, while food prices declined. The Consumer Price Index, at 106.2 (1957-59=100), was 1.1 percent higher than a year earlier. The rise over the year was primarily the result of higher prices for food and housing, although all major types of goods and services shared in the advance.

HOUSING

The housing index rose 0.3 percent in March, to a level 1.1 percent higher than a year earlier. Costs of home ownership were up, as higher real estate taxes were reported in several of the cities surveyed in March. Household operation costs rose 0.4 percent, reflecting increases in water rates. An increase of 0.3 percent in housefurnishings prices reflected the return to regular prices following special sales of household textiles and some furniture. Residential rents, fuels, and electricity were unchanged on the average.

TRANSPORTATION
AND APPAREL

Transportation costs were 0.2 percent higher in March, chiefly because of an advance of 2.3 percent in prices of used cars reflecting continued heavy demand. New car prices dropped 0.8 percent, as dealers offered higher concessions and sales continued at near-record levels. Auto insurance rates advanced.

Apparel prices rose 0.3 percent, with women's and girls' apparel showing an 0.4 percent increase.

FOOD

Food prices dropped 0.4 percent in March mainly because of lower prices for meats, although prices of fresh vegetables and eggs also declined.

Meat, poultry, and fish prices dropped 1.4 percent as decreases were reported for almost all types of meats. Pork prices fell 2.0 percent, with the marketing of last fall's pig crop continuing at a high level. Beef prices also declined as production continued high.

Fruit and vegetable prices rose 0.2 percent, with higher prices for fruits more than offsetting seasonal reductions in vegetable prices. Prices of oranges and orange juice advanced further, continuing to reflect smaller supplies resulting from the December-January freeze. Lettuce prices dropped 22.0 percent and green beans were down 10.2 percent as improved weather conditions brought increased supplies.

Compared with a year ago, food prices are up 1.4 percent, with restaurant meals 2.6 percent higher, fruits and vegetables 5.0 percent, and cereals and bakery products 1.7 percent. Dairy products prices declined 1.4 percent during the year.

COST-OF-LIVING
ADJUSTMENTS

About 40,000 workers, including 30,000 in the aerospace industry, will receive increases of 1 cent an hour, based on the quarterly change in the national index. In addition, about 25,000 workers will receive increases in varying amounts based on city indexes.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index--United States city average
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, March 1963
and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)		Percent change to March 1963 from--			Indexes	
	March 1963	February 1963	February 1963	December 1962	March 1962	1947-49=100	1939=100
						March 1963	March 1963
All items-----	106.2	106.1	0.1	0.4	1.1	130.3	219.3
Food-----	104.6	105.0	-.4	1.1	1.4	123.4	262.1
Food at home-----	103.0	103.5	-.5	1.1	1.1	119.7	254.1
Cereals and bakery products-----	109.1	109.2	-.1	.8	1.7	144.7	252.8
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	100.7	102.1	-1.4	-1.8	.1	111.1	267.1
Dairy products-----	103.5	103.6	-.1	-.4	-1.4	117.2	235.2
Fruits and vegetables-----	109.6	109.4	.2	9.4	5.0	135.5	292.7
Other foods at home-----	96.7	97.1	-.4	-.5	.6	106.9	220.8
Food away from home-----	112.6	112.5	.1	.4	2.6	(1/)	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	105.7	105.4	.3	.5	1.1	134.8	177.1
Rent-----	106.4	106.4	0	.2	1.0	146.3	168.9
Gas and electricity-----	108.0	108.0	0	-.1	.1	125.9	120.0
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	104.8	104.8	0	0	1.2	142.8	253.2
Housefurnishings-----	98.6	98.3	.3	0	-.9	102.6	192.2
Household operation-----	109.7	109.3	.4	1.5	2.4	143.8	210.2
Apparel-----	103.6	103.3	.3	-.3	.9	111.1	211.6
Men's and boys'-----	103.9	103.7	.2	-.4	1.1	112.9	222.4
Women's and girls'-----	101.1	100.7	.4	-.4	.7	100.4	184.3
Footwear-----	110.0	109.9	.1	.1	.8	144.1	286.4
Other apparel-----	101.1	100.9	.2	-.2	.8	93.1	229.3
Transportation-----	107.0	106.8	.2	-.9	1.0	150.8	214.7
Private-----	105.6	105.3	.3	-1.1	1.0	137.6	210.1
Public-----	116.4	116.3	.1	.6	1.3	216.7	266.5
Medical care-----	115.8	115.6	.2	.4	1.9	167.3	230.6
Personal care-----	107.3	107.3	0	-.3	1.3	137.5	230.7
Reading and recreation-----	110.1	110.0	.1	.1	.8	127.5	202.4
Other goods and services-----	105.7	105.7	0	.1	.6	134.7	190.8
Special groups:							
All items less food-----	106.8	106.6	.2	.1	1.0	133.9	193.9
All items less shelter-----	106.1	106.1	0	.3	1.0	127.7	230.6
Commodities-----	103.7	103.8	-.1	.1	.9	119.8	232.2
Nondurables-----	104.4	104.5	-.1	.4	1.2	122.6	238.5
Food-----	104.6	105.0	-.4	1.1	1.4	123.4	262.1
Nondurables less food-----	104.2	104.1	.1	-.4	.7	122.0	207.8
Apparel-----	103.4	103.2	.2	-.3	.8	110.8	212.7
Apparel less footwear-----	102.1	101.8	.3	-.4	.8	105.1	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	104.7	104.6	.1	-.4	.7	131.6	199.7
Durables-----	100.8	100.6	.2	-.9	-.1	111.7	194.9
New cars-----	100.9	101.7	-.8	-1.7	-1.5	135.6	237.9
Used cars-----	113.3	110.7	2.3	-2.9	4.3	(1/)	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	98.5	98.4	.1	-.1	-.5	101.6	177.3
Commodities less food-----	102.9	102.7	.2	-.5	.5	116.9	196.7
Services-----	110.8	110.5	.3	.6	1.7	157.3	195.6
Rent-----	106.4	106.4	0	.2	1.0	146.3	168.9
Services less rent-----	111.6	111.2	.4	.7	1.8	159.9	217.7
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	110.2	109.9	.3	1.0	1.8	144.6	166.2
Transportation services-----	111.8	111.4	.4	.8	.4	193.2	241.1
Medical care services-----	118.9	118.7	.2	.6	2.7	177.4	251.6
Other services 3/-----	110.0	109.6	.4	.6	1.9	142.0	243.5
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (Reference period=\$1.00)-----	\$0.942	\$0.943	-.1	-.3	-1.1	\$0.768	\$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 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 March 1963 from--		Indexes 1947-49=100 1939=100	
	March 1963	December 1962	March 1962	December 1962	March 1962	March 1963	March 1963
United States city average	106.2	105.8	105.0	0.4	1.1	130.3	219.3
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	105.2	104.7	104.5	.5	.7	132.7	226.4
Detroit	102.6	102.5	102.0	.1	.6	126.5	214.4
Los Angeles	107.7	107.2	106.1	.5	1.5	134.3	222.3
New York	107.6	106.9	105.9	.7	1.6	129.7	215.7
Philadelphia	106.4	105.7	105.0	.7	1.3	130.7	220.7
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	March 1963	December 1962	March 1962	December 1962	March 1962	March 1963	March 1963
Atlanta	104.9	104.5	103.7	.4	1.2	129.9	222.8
Baltimore	106.2	105.7	104.6	.5	1.5	131.8	227.7
Cincinnati	104.5	104.0	103.3	.5	1.2	127.2	217.9
St. Louis	105.8	106.0	104.8	-.2	1.0	131.3	221.4
San Francisco	108.4	107.8	107.3	.6	1.0	137.6	234.8
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	February 1963	November 1962	February 1962	November 1962	February 1962	February 1963	February 1963
Cleveland	104.3	103.7	103.1	.6	1.2	129.5	218.9
Houston	105.0	104.5	104.5	.5	.5	129.4	217.4
Scranton	106.9	106.5	105.5	.4	1.3	127.5	218.0
Seattle	107.2	107.0	105.9	.2	1.2	134.8	227.7
Washington, D. C.	105.6	105.3	104.0	.3	1.5	127.1	210.4
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	January 1963	October 1962	January 1962	October 1962	January 1962	January 1963	January 1963
Boston	108.6	108.2	106.2	.4	2.3	134.6	220.6
Kansas City	105.9	107.1	105.2	- 1.1	.7	131.0	212.3
Minneapolis	106.0	105.9	104.3	.1	1.6	131.1	216.2
Pittsburgh	106.5	106.3	105.2	.2	1.2	131.2	225.9
Portland, Oregon	105.7	105.3	103.8	.4	1.8	131.0	224.6

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 February 1963 to March 1963
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	- 0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0	0.1	0
Chicago	.5	.3	.7	.3	1.0	.2	0.2	.1	0.4
Detroit	0	-.6	.2	-.4	.9	.1	.3	.4	0
Los Angeles	-.1	-.9	.9	.1	-.7	0	0	0	0
New York	0	-.2	.2	0	.3	.3	-.1	.5	0
Philadelphia	.2	-.3	.8	.5	.1	-.1	.2	0	0

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--All items and commodity groups
 March 1963 indexes and percent changes, December 1962 to March 1963
 U.S. city average and 10 cities priced in March 1963

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-----	106.2	104.9	106.2	105.2	104.5	102.6	107.7	107.6	106.4	105.8	108.4
Food-----	104.6	103.8	103.7	105.7	102.6	101.1	106.8	106.6	104.1	104.5	106.9
Food at home-----	103.0	103.2	100.8	104.9	101.4	100.0	104.4	103.9	102.4	102.6	104.8
Cereals and bakery products--	109.1	104.8	107.9	110.4	107.0	104.4	118.3	112.5	105.7	106.1	110.5
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	100.7	99.7	99.5	103.0	99.2	96.8	97.4	102.2	99.7	100.5	102.6
Dairy products-----	103.5	102.8	98.4	110.2	103.0	105.1	108.3	101.1	103.5	102.7	106.6
Fruits and vegetables-----	109.6	109.5	104.6	108.3	109.0	103.0	115.8	111.7	109.4	109.1	115.6
Other foods at home-----	96.7	102.5	97.3	98.0	94.6	95.3	91.9	96.0	97.4	97.8	93.7
Housing-----	105.7	104.1	106.3	104.3	102.9	98.1	107.6	109.3	106.1	102.5	109.9
Rent-----	106.4	104.1	106.6	104.6	102.3	-----	106.4	-----	107.4	104.3	116.4
Gas and electricity-----	108.0	109.9	102.9	106.2	110.5	105.1	114.7	104.9	102.7	108.5	110.0
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	104.8	109.6	104.8	104.7	106.4	100.4	-----	105.4	108.0	103.9	-----
Housefurnishings-----	98.6	93.4	96.3	101.1	98.3	98.5	99.9	103.2	98.5	96.8	98.9
Household operation-----	109.7	116.0	114.4	107.5	109.8	105.4	106.1	112.0	114.4	107.7	113.3
Apparel-----	103.6	103.2	106.7	101.1	102.7	104.1	104.0	103.6	106.7	104.1	105.0
Men's and boys'-----	103.9	103.4	104.6	102.4	104.4	102.5	105.1	105.0	105.5	102.6	103.3
Women's and girls'-----	101.1	101.8	105.7	96.7	99.1	103.2	102.2	100.6	106.5	104.1	104.0
Footwear-----	110.0	109.3	116.5	109.9	110.9	110.2	109.1	111.0	110.6	109.1	111.3
Other apparel-----	101.1	98.5	100.8	99.6	98.3	100.3	100.2	100.3	104.8	100.5	103.4
Transportation-----	107.0	107.3	106.9	106.7	108.5	104.5	111.1	105.2	111.2	109.8	107.4
Private-----	105.6	107.2	103.1	106.8	107.2	102.5	107.2	106.9	107.7	108.1	108.3
Public-----	116.4	108.1	123.2	107.4	116.7	114.4	138.5	100.6	123.7	116.6	101.1
Medical care-----	115.8	111.3	125.3	119.3	114.6	115.3	114.5	116.7	120.9	115.0	117.9
Personal care-----	107.3	109.3	107.5	107.5	101.0	107.6	105.2	106.2	106.0	110.0	111.3
Reading and recreation-----	110.1	108.6	103.0	100.6	111.1	106.1	102.9	110.9	100.2	118.9	107.4
Other goods and services-----	105.7	101.8	103.6	101.3	104.5	108.9	106.0	105.0	104.4	107.0	107.8
Percent change from December 1962 to March 1963											
All items-----	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.5	0.7	0.7	-0.2	0.6
Food-----	1.1	1.1	.3	1.3	.9	.5	1.1	1.6	1.1	-.1	1.2
Food at home-----	1.1	1.2	.2	1.5	1.0	.6	1.3	1.9	1.2	.1	1.5
Cereals and bakery products--	.8	0	-.2	-.1	1.5	-.3	1.2	3.3	-.1	.6	.4
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	-1.8	-2.6	-2.7	-.7	-2.8	-2.3	-3.0	-1.4	-1.8	-3.5	0
Dairy products-----	-.4	0	-.5	-.3	-.3	-1.0	1.4	-.7	-1.3	-1.7	-.3
Fruits and vegetables-----	9.4	10.4	7.1	11.9	11.6	8.5	7.3	11.9	12.2	7.5	7.7
Other foods at home-----	-.5	.9	-.5	-.9	-1.4	-.4	.5	-.7	-	-.4	-.5
Housing-----	.5	.2	.3	.7	.4	.1	1.2	.6	1.0	-.1	.4
Rent-----	.2	.2	.2	1/ .1	0	-----	1/ .1	-----	1/ .4	-.2	.2
Gas and electricity-----	-.1	0	-.9	-.1	0	0	-.7	-.7	0	-.3	-.9
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	0	0	0	0	.6	0	-----	-.5	0	.2	-----
Housefurnishings-----	0	-.3	-.6	0	-.5	.1	.9	.2	.4	-.6	-.1
Household operation-----	1.5	1.5	.6	.8	1.7	1.2	1.8	.9	-.4	.8	1.8
Apparel-----	-.3	.9	.2	-1.4	.1	.3	-.6	-.6	.1	.4	0
Men's and boys'-----	-.4	0	-.2	-.2	.1	-.1	-.1	-.5	.9	.5	.6
Women's and girls'-----	-.4	2.1	.4	-2.8	-.1	.5	-1.3	-.5	-.8	.2	-.5
Footwear-----	.1	-.2	.3	.1	.7	.5	0	-.4	.7	.7	0
Other apparel-----	-.2	-.1	-.4	-1.6	-.8	.2	-.4	0	1.0	.5	0
Transportation-----	-.9	-1.0	.2	.2	.1	-1.5	-1.7	0	1.4	-1.6	.3
Private-----	-1.1	-1.1	-1.2	.3	0	-1.9	-1.9	-.1	-1.0	-2.1	.4
Public-----	.6	0	5.3	0	0	0	0	0	9.4	0	0
Medical care-----	.4	-.1	4.4	.5	.7	.6	.4	1.1	.2	.5	.7
Personal care-----	-.3	-.4	-.1	.3	-.7	.1	-.1	-.5	-.1	-.1	-.1
Reading and recreation-----	.1	-.1	.5	0	1.6	.3	-.3	0	-.8	.3	.8
Other goods and services-----	.1	.1	0	.1	-.1	-.2	.1	.1	.1	0	.2

1/ Change from January 1963 to March 1963.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index--Food and its subgroups
 March 1963 Indexes and Percent Changes, February to March 1963
 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--	104.6	-0.4	103.0	-0.5	109.1	-0.1	100.7	-1.4	103.5	-0.1	109.6	0.2	96.7	-0.4
Atlanta-----	103.8	-.4	103.2	-.5	104.8	0	99.7	-1.2	102.8	-.1	109.5	-1.2	102.5	.4
Baltimore-----	103.7	-.2	100.8	-.4	107.9	0	99.5	-1.1	98.4	-.3	104.6	-.6	97.3	.4
Boston-----	106.5	.2	104.6	.4	108.7	.8	105.3	0	97.2	-1.1	114.1	-.3	98.9	2.1
Chicago-----	105.7	.3	104.9	.3	110.4	0	103.0	-.8	110.2	-.2	108.3	2.8	98.0	.2
Cincinnati-----	102.6	-1.1	101.4	-1.2	107.0	-.5	99.2	-2.1	103.0	-.2	109.0	-2.2	94.6	-.1
Cleveland-----	101.7	-.5	100.5	-.6	106.2	-.5	101.2	-1.7	99.3	-.1	105.1	-.8	93.5	-.2
Detroit-----	101.1	-.6	100.0	-.8	104.4	0	96.8	-1.7	105.1	-1.6	103.0	-.2	95.3	-.3
Houston-----	102.3	-.7	99.3	-.9	102.2	-1.8	98.1	-1.0	96.6	-.2	106.2	-2.1	95.5	.2
Kansas City-----	103.6	-.7	102.6	-.9	108.1	-.2	97.4	-2.8	106.0	.3	109.4	-.4	98.4	-.4
Los Angeles-----	106.8	-.9	104.4	-1.3	118.3	-.3	97.4	-2.6	108.3	-.2	115.8	-.7	91.9	-2.1
Minneapolis-----	101.8	.1	100.0	-.1	100.9	5.2	98.3	-2.0	102.7	.4	104.3	-1.9	96.2	.3
New York-----	106.6	-.2	103.9	-.4	112.5	-.6	102.2	-1.3	101.1	-.2	111.7	1.3	96.0	-.5
Philadelphia-----	104.1	-.3	102.4	-.4	105.7	0	99.7	-1.0	103.5	-.1	109.4	-.2	97.4	-.2
Pittsburgh-----	104.1	-.2	103.9	-.2	110.3	0	103.9	-2.3	99.8	0	110.6	3.3	98.2	-.3
Portland, Oreg.-----	104.6	-.6	102.8	-.8	106.8	.4	102.6	-.9	105.4	-.5	111.0	1.1	93.2	-3.0
St. Louis-----	104.5	-.5	102.6	-.5	106.1	-.3	100.5	-1.7	102.7	-.3	109.1	0	97.8	.4
San Francisco-----	106.9	-.1	104.8	-.3	110.5	.3	102.6	-.8	106.6	.1	115.6	1.5	93.7	-2.0
Scranton-----	103.3	-1.1	102.0	-1.3	108.1	-3.7	99.6	-1.6	101.7	0	106.9	-1.2	97.5	0
Seattle-----	107.3	-.4	105.1	-.5	106.8	-.1	104.9	.4	107.3	.8	113.2	2.2	96.7	-.9
Washington, D. C.---	103.6	-.4	102.1	-.5	109.0	.7	100.7	.4	101.2	.8	106.4	.7	96.7	-.3

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

Food and unit	March 1963	February 1963	Food and unit	March 1963	February 1963
Cereals and bakery products:	Cents	Cents		Cents	Cents
Flour, wheat-----5 lb.	56.4	56.6	Fresh--Continued		
Biscuit mix-----40 oz.	48.1	48.0	Grapefruit-----each	15.4	15.6
Macaroni-----16 oz.	24.9	25.0	Peaches *-----1b.	*	*
Corn meal-----1b.	14.4	14.3	Strawberries *-----pt.	*	*
Rolled oats-----18 oz.	24.1	24.1	Grapes, seedless *-----1b.	*	*
Corn flakes-----12 oz.	28.3	28.2	Watermelons *-----1b.	*	*
Rice, short grain-----1b.	19.3	19.3	Potatoes-----10 lb.	62.6	62.1
Rice, long grain-----1b.	21.5	21.5	Sweet potatoes-----1b.	13.0	13.0
Bread, white-----1b.	21.7	21.7	Corn *-----doz. ears	*	*
Soda crackers-----1b.	31.1	31.1	Onions-----1b.	10.2	10.3
Sandwich cookies-----16 oz.	52.2	52.2	Carrots-----1b.	14.0	14.8
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce-----head	17.4	22.3
Round steak-----1b.	109.0	111.0	Celery-----1b.	14.7	15.0
Sirloin steak-----1b.	110.9	113.8	Cabbage-----1b.	13.1	14.2
Chuck roast-----1b.	63.0	64.3	Tomatoes-----1b.	37.6	39.3
Rib roast-----1b.	84.8	86.8	Beans, green-----1b.	26.2	29.1
Hamburger-----1b.	52.0	52.7	Canned:		
Veal cutlets-----1b.	151.7	151.9	Orange juice-----46 oz. can	49.6	47.5
Pork chops, center cut-----1b.	86.9	88.1	Pineapple juice-----46 oz. can	32.7	32.8
Pork roast-----1b.	62.6	63.3	Peaches-----#2½ can	32.2	32.2
Bacon, sliced-----1b.	65.9	67.6	Pineapple-----#2 can	39.1	39.1
Ham, whole-----1b.	61.3	62.4	Fruit cocktail-----#303 can	25.1	25.3
Lamb, leg-----1b.	71.5	73.2	Corn, cream style-----#303 can	19.2	19.5
Frankfurters-----1b.	63.5	63.9	Peas, green-----#303 can	22.6	22.6
Luncheon meat, canned-----12 oz.	50.5	50.4	Tomatoes-----#303 can	15.3	15.3
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook-----1b.	40.9	40.8	Tomato juice-----46 oz. can	31.5	31.5
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen-----1b.	52.2	52.0	Baby foods-----4½ to 5 oz.	10.9	11.0
Haddock, fillet, frozen-----1b.	56.4	56.8	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned-----16 oz.	72.2	73.2	Prunes-----1b.	39.9	39.8
Tuna fish, canned-----6 to 6½ oz.	34.2	34.4	Beans-----1b.	17.7	17.8
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery)-----qt.	24.3	24.3	Tomato soup-----10½ to 11 oz. can	12.3	12.4
Milk, fresh, (delivered)-----qt.	25.9	25.9	Beans, with pork-----16 oz. can	15.0	15.0
Ice cream-----½ gal.	84.9	84.7	Pickles, sliced-----15 oz.	27.0	26.9
Butter-----1b.	74.9	74.9	Catsup, tomato-----14 oz.	22.2	22.3
Cheese, American process-----½ lb.	36.1	36.0	Potato chips-----4 oz.	27.9	27.9
Milk, evaporated-----14½ oz. can	15.4	15.4	Coffee-----1b. can	68.7	69.1
Fruits and vegetables:			Coffee-----1b. bag	56.8	57.0
Frozen:			Coffee, instant-----6 oz.	93.1	92.6
Strawberries-----10 oz.	27.4	27.4	Tea bags-----pkg. of 48	63.0	64.0
Orange juice concentrate-----6 oz.	27.4	26.5	Cola drink, carton-----72 oz.	50.3	50.2
Lemonade concentrate-----6 oz.	13.9	13.7	Shortening, hydrogenated-----3 lb.	85.3	86.1
Peas, green-----10 oz.	21.1	21.0	Margarine, colored-----1b.	27.4	27.5
Beans, green-----9 oz.	23.2	23.0	Lard-----1b.	20.0	20.0
Potatoes, french fried-----9 oz.	18.3	18.5	Salad dressing-----pt.	37.8	38.0
Fresh:			Peanut butter-----1b.	57.4	57.7
Apples-----1b.	16.0	15.2	Sugar-----5 lb.	59.7	59.4
Bananas-----1b.	16.9	16.8	Corn syrup-----24 oz.	28.3	28.1
Oranges, size 200-----doz.	93.4	85.9	Grape jelly-----12 oz.	29.7	29.6
Lemons-----1b.	24.7	26.9	Chocolate bar-----1 oz.	4.5	4.5
			Eggs, Grade A, large-----doz.	56.6	57.4
			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

Atlanta
1371 Peachtree
Street, N. E.
Zone 9

New York
341 Ninth Avenue
Zone 1

Chicago
105 West Adams Street
Zone 3

San Francisco
630 Sansome Street
Zone 11

Boston
18 Oliver Street
Zone 10

Cleveland
1365 Ontario Street
Zone 14

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