

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST 1963

The Consumer Price Index in August remained unchanged from its July level of 107.1 (1957-59=100), the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. Lower food prices offset higher transportation and recreation costs. The August index was up by 1.5 percent from a year ago, principally because of higher price levels for food and housing, although all major groups of goods and services contributed to the increase.

FOOD

The food index in August dropped 0.2 percent as sharp declines in fresh fruit and vegetable prices more than offset higher prices for meats, fresh milk, and eggs. Prices of fresh tomatoes, lettuce, corn, grapes, and watermelons decreased substantially. Orange prices continued to decline in August, but frozen orange juice concentrate and canned orange juice continued to rise.

Meat prices averaged higher in August as beef, pork, and frankfurter prices increased, while prices of lamb, canned luncheon meat, fish, and chickens were lower. Fresh milk and egg prices rose seasonally, as production dropped. Soft drink prices continued to advance because of earlier increases in industrial sugar prices. Retail sugar prices declined again in August, but remained 26 percent above a year ago. Over the past year, food prices averaged 2.1 percent higher, largely because of an advance of 8.6 percent in prices of fruits and vegetables, with smaller increases for most other important classes of foods. Prices of meats, poultry, and fish were 1.2 percent below a year earlier.

HOUSING

The housing index remained at its July level in August, and was 1.1 percent above a year ago. Residential rents edged up another 0.1 percent during the month and costs of housekeeping services and coal also advanced. Gas and electricity bills and housefurnishings prices declined.

OTHER GOODS
AND SERVICES

Transportation costs averaged 0.5 percent higher in August. Price increases for gasoline were partially offset by declines in new car prices. Costs of medical care continued to rise slightly, reflecting higher physicians' and dentists' fees and increased rates for hospital rooms. Higher costs for motion picture admissions were responsible for a further rise in the reading and recreation index in August. Apparel edged upward slightly because of price increases for men's tailored clothing.

COST-OF-LIVING
ADJUSTMENTS

As a result of the August national index, cost-of-living allowances will increase by 1 to 3 cents an hour for about 150,000 workers. Of these, 130,000 workers in the aerospace industry will receive 2 or 3 cents and 6,000 chemical employees will receive 1 cent, based on quarterly reviews. In addition, about 4,000 food processing employees in Michigan will receive a 4-cent quarterly increase based on the Detroit index and 1,000 delicatessen workers in Illinois will receive a 1-cent quarterly increase based on the Chicago index.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index--United States city average
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, August 1963
and percent changes from selected dates

(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)		Percent change to August 1963 from--			Indexes	
	August 1963	July 1963	July 1963	May 1963	August 1962	1947-49=100	1939=100
						August 1963	August 1963
All items-----	107.1	107.1	0	0.8	1.5	131.4	221.2
Food-----	106.0	106.2	- 0.2	1.7	2.1	125.1	265.6
Food at home-----	104.5	104.8	- .3	2.0	2.2	121.4	257.8
Cereals and bakery products-----	109.1	109.2	- .1	- .2	1.2	144.7	252.8
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	101.4	100.2	1.2	3.5	- 1.2	111.8	269.0
Dairy products-----	104.2	103.3	.9	1.4	.3	118.0	236.8
Fruits and vegetables-----	114.2	118.7	- 3.8	.3	8.6	141.2	305.0
Other foods at home-----	98.0	97.8	.2	3.7	2.9	108.3	223.8
Food away from home-----	113.3	113.1	.2	.4	1.7	(1/)	(1/)
Housing 2/-----	106.0	106.0	0	.3	1.1	135.2	177.6
Rent-----	106.8	106.7	.1	.2	.9	146.8	169.6
Gas and electricity-----	107.2	108.1	- .8	- .2	- .7	125.0	119.1
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	102.6	102.3	.3	.2	2.5	139.8	247.9
Housefurnishings-----	98.3	98.5	- .2	- .1	- .2	102.3	191.6
Household operation-----	110.6	110.3	.3	.5	3.0	145.0	211.9
Apparel-----	104.0	103.9	.1	.3	1.5	111.5	212.4
Men's and boys'-----	104.7	104.5	.2	.5	1.7	113.8	224.1
Women's and girls'-----	101.2	101.2	0	.1	1.3	100.5	184.4
Footwear-----	110.6	110.5	.1	.3	1.2	144.9	288.0
Other apparel-----	101.1	101.1	0	.2	.8	93.1	229.3
Transportation-----	108.3	107.8	.5	.8	.8	152.6	217.3
Private-----	106.9	106.4	.5	.8	.7	139.3	212.7
Public-----	117.1	116.6	.4	.5	1.2	218.0	268.1
Medical care-----	117.1	116.9	.2	.6	2.2	169.2	233.2
Personal care-----	108.0	108.0	0	.2	1.1	138.3	232.2
Reading and recreation-----	112.1	111.5	.5	1.3	1.6	129.8	206.1
Other goods and services-----	108.0	108.0	0	1.9	2.4	137.6	195.0
Special groups:							
All items less food-----	107.6	107.5	.1	.6	1.3	134.9	195.3
All items less shelter-----	107.2	107.1	.1	1.0	1.6	129.1	233.0
Commodities-----	104.7	104.7	0	1.1	1.5	120.9	234.5
Nondurables-----	105.5	105.5	0	1.2	1.9	123.9	241.0
Food-----	106.0	106.2	- .2	1.7	2.1	125.1	265.6
Nondurables less food-----	105.0	104.8	.2	.8	1.7	123.0	209.4
Apparel-----	103.8	103.7	.1	.3	1.4	111.3	213.5
Apparel less footwear-----	102.5	102.4	.1	.3	1.5	105.5	(1/)
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	105.7	105.5	.2	1.0	1.9	132.9	201.6
Durables-----	101.4	101.3	.1	.4	- .3	112.4	196.1
New cars-----	100.2	100.5	- .3	- .9	- .8	134.7	236.2
Used cars-----	119.0	118.1	.8	2.9	- .1	(1/)	(1/)
Durables less cars-----	98.5	98.5	0	.2	- .2	101.6	177.3
Commodities less food-----	103.6	103.5	.1	.6	1.0	117.7	198.0
Services-----	111.7	111.5	.2	.5	1.6	158.6	197.1
Rent-----	106.8	106.7	.1	.2	.9	146.8	169.6
Services less rent-----	112.6	112.4	.2	.6	1.8	161.4	219.6
Household operation services, gas, and electricity-----	110.7	110.7	0	.5	2.0	145.2	166.9
Transportation services-----	112.7	112.4	.3	.4	.9	194.7	243.1
Medical care services-----	120.4	120.2	.2	.8	2.6	179.6	254.8
Other services 3/-----	111.2	110.9	.3	.8	1.7	143.6	246.1
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (Reference period=\$1.00)-----	\$0.934	\$0.934	0	- .8	- 1.5	\$0.761	\$0.452

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 Aug. 1963 from--		Indexes	
	August 1963	May 1963	August 1962	May 1963	August 1962	1947-49=100 August 1963	1939=100 August 1963
	United States city average	107.1	106.2	105.5	0.8	1.5	131.4
Cities priced monthly 1/							
Chicago	105.7	105.0	104.4	.7	1.2	133.3	227.5
Detroit	104.4	102.4	102.3	2.0	2.1	128.7	218.1
Los Angeles	108.4	107.6	106.6	.7	1.7	135.2	223.8
New York	109.3	107.8	106.6	1.4	2.5	131.7	219.1
Philadelphia	107.5	106.2	105.2	1.2	2.2	132.0	223.0
Cities priced in February, May, August, November 2/	August 1963	May 1963	August 1962	May 1963	August 1962	August 1963	August 1963
Cleveland	105.1	104.3	103.8	.8	1.3	130.5	220.6
Houston	106.2	104.4	104.6	1.7	1.5	130.8	219.9
Scranton	107.6	106.7	106.0	.8	1.5	128.4	219.4
Seattle	109.1	107.4	106.7	1.6	2.2	137.1	231.7
Washington, D. C.	106.8	106.1	104.8	.7	1.9	128.6	212.8
Cities priced in January, April, July, October 2/	July 1963	April 1963	July 1962	April 1963	July 1962	July 1963	July 1963
Boston	109.8	109.2	107.2	.5	2.4	136.0	223.0
Kansas City	107.1	106.4	106.0	.7	1.0	132.5	214.7
Minneapolis	107.7	106.5	105.7	1.1	1.9	133.2	219.6
Pittsburgh	107.9	106.3	106.0	1.5	1.8	132.9	228.9
Portland, Oregon	106.8	106.2	104.8	.6	1.9	132.3	227.0
Cities priced in March, June, September, December 2/	June 1963	March 1963	June 1962	March 1963	June 1962	June 1963	June 1963
Atlanta	104.9	104.9	104.0	0	.9	129.9	222.8
Baltimore	106.8	106.2	104.8	.6	1.9	132.5	228.9
Cincinnati	104.6	104.5	103.3	.1	1.3	127.3	218.1
St. Louis	105.6	105.8	104.4	.2	1.1	131.0	221.0
San Francisco	108.9	108.4	107.5	.5	1.3	138.2	235.9

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 July 1963 to August 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	- 0.2	0	0.1	0.5	0.2	0	0.5	0
Chicago	- 0.3	.1	- 0.2	.4	.5	.2	- 0.2	- 2.7	0.2
Detroit	.5	-.4	0	.8	3.6	.1	-.2	1.8	.1
Los Angeles	.4	-.6	-.1	0	3.7	0	.4	1.3	.1
New York	.1	-.1	.3	0	0	.4	-.2	.1	0
Philadelphia	.1	.1	.1	-.5	-.1	.1	-.2	3.0	0

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Cleve- land	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles	New York	Phila- delphia	Scranton	Seattle	Washington D. C.
Indexes (1957-59=100)											
All items-----	107.1	105.7	105.1	104.4	106.2	108.4	109.3	107.5	107.6	109.1	106.8
Food-----	106.0	107.6	102.6	103.0	104.7	107.1	108.1	105.2	104.4	107.8	105.5
Food at home-----	104.5	107.2	101.4	102.1	102.1	104.6	105.6	103.3	103.0	105.3	103.7
Cereals and bakery products--	109.1	109.6	106.9	102.4	106.8	117.1	112.0	105.0	107.9	108.8	108.7
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	101.4	105.1	100.7	99.6	98.7	98.2	102.3	98.9	99.4	103.8	98.6
Dairy products-----	104.2	110.8	99.8	104.9	102.1	107.9	102.6	103.1	99.1	108.4	103.7
Fruits and vegetables-----	114.2	114.9	109.5	110.7	110.9	114.9	118.6	115.4	113.6	112.2	112.6
Other foods at home-----	98.0	99.6	94.1	95.9	97.0	93.4	97.2	98.5	99.4	97.8	100.1
Housing-----	106.0	104.1	102.1	98.1	105.3	108.2	110.0	107.3	105.5	109.8	104.9
Rent-----	106.8	-----	101.4	94.4	99.8	-----	113.5	-----	107.2	109.7	109.7
Gas and electricity-----	107.2	105.7	107.4	106.2	132.5	114.5	105.6	103.7	105.5	100.1	104.4
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	102.6	103.0	106.9	99.5	-----	-----	105.3	103.4	95.8	104.0	104.5
Housefurnishings-----	98.3	100.0	93.7	97.5	98.3	98.5	103.6	97.5	95.1	96.9	98.0
Household operation-----	110.6	108.1	110.5	105.4	114.2	105.9	112.8	116.4	111.9	116.0	111.3
Apparel-----	104.0	100.3	105.1	105.6	106.6	104.1	104.9	105.1	105.1	107.1	105.7
Men's and boys'-----	104.7	102.7	103.9	103.4	106.2	105.5	107.0	105.5	108.1	108.6	104.9
Women's and girls'-----	101.2	94.2	102.7	105.7	106.3	102.4	101.7	103.8	103.0	104.2	103.6
Footwear-----	110.6	110.0	114.4	111.0	110.9	108.8	111.3	110.1	107.5	113.8	113.2
Other apparel-----	101.1	99.6	103.9	100.6	102.5	100.2	101.6	101.9	100.4	104.1	104.9
Transportation-----	108.3	106.7	108.2	107.0	106.2	113.1	106.4	111.7	106.6	110.7	107.0
Private-----	106.9	106.8	105.8	105.6	104.8	109.4	108.5	108.3	106.1	109.7	105.9
Public-----	117.1	107.4	121.7	114.4	115.1	138.5	100.6	123.7	110.1	118.7	113.8
Medical care-----	117.1	120.8	127.0	123.2	110.1	115.4	116.9	121.6	115.9	111.0	125.2
Personal care-----	108.0	107.3	104.2	106.4	111.0	106.1	107.6	106.6	115.1	106.1	106.6
Reading and recreation-----	112.1	100.1	107.9	112.5	111.2	103.1	117.0	103.2	130.0	107.3	113.1
Other goods and services-----	108.0	101.8	107.6	109.2	107.9	107.3	111.3	110.0	112.5	110.5	103.5
Percent change from May 1963 to August 1963											
All items-----	0.8	0.7	0.8	2.0	1.7	0.7	1.4	1.2	0.8	1.6	0.7
Food-----	1.7	2.8	1.9	2.3	2.6	1.1	1.7	1.9	1.3	1.0	2.1
Food at home-----	2.0	3.3	2.1	2.5	3.3	1.3	2.0	2.1	1.1	1.1	2.2
Cereals and bakery products--	-.2	-1.0	.3	-1.3	5.5	1.8	-.8	-.7	-.4	1.5	-.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	3.5	5.8	2.9	4.6	3.0	3.4	1.8	3.1	2.7	2.7	3.2
Dairy products-----	1.4	.4	3.2	.9	3.1	-.2	2.5	2.6	-.3	.8	2.6
Fruits and vegetables-----	.3	3.4	.4	2.8	2.7	-2.3	2.6	.4	-1.6	-4.3	1.4
Other foods at home-----	3.7	4.4	3.5	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.2
Housing-----	.3	-.1	.2	0	1.2	.2	.9	.6	.7	2.4	-.2
Rent-----	.2	-----	.3	1/ 0	0	-----	1/ .4	-----	.5	-.9	.2
Gas and electricity-----	-.2	0	0	.7	0	0	.9	1.0	1.0	0	.6
Solid and petroleum fuels-----	.2	.5	1.3	-.9	-----	-----	2.1	-2.2	2.6	-.2	1.4
Housefurnishings-----	-.1	-.8	-1.5	-.6	0	.2	.5	-.1	.6	.1	-.2
Household operation-----	.5	.5	2.9	-.1	6.2	-.2	.6	.9	.2	.2	-1.9
Apparel-----	.3	-.9	.8	.8	1.6	.2	1.7	-.1	.4	.8	0
Men's and boys'-----	.5	0	.7	1.1	.8	.5	1.9	-.1	1.6	.8	.7
Women's and girls'-----	.1	-2.1	1.5	1.2	2.3	.2	2.1	0	-.3	.7	-.4
Footwear-----	.3	-.6	-.2	-.3	1.3	-.3	.8	-.3	.1	.5	-.1
Other apparel-----	.2	.7	.5	-.1	.6	0	1.6	0	.2	1.6	.1
Transportation-----	.8	-.7	.8	3.4	4.1	1.4	1.1	0	-1.2	2.5	.8
Private-----	.8	-.7	-.2	4.2	4.7	1.7	1.4	0	-1.4	2.8	1.0
Public-----	.5	0	6.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical care-----	.6	.7	.4	6.8	.1	.2	0	.4	.1	.5	.1
Personal care-----	.2	-.1	-1.3	-1.2	-.4	.2	.4	.4	.3	-1.3	-.3
Reading and recreation-----	1.3	.1	.8	5.3	.5	1.4	.9	3.2	1.6	.5	1.4
Other goods and services-----	1.9	.9	.4	.3	.7	1.2	4.8	5.4	4.0	.5	.9

1/ Change from June 1963 to August 1963.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index--Food and its subgroups
August 1963 Indexes and Percent Changes, July 1963 to August 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--	106.0	- 0.2	104.5	- 0.3	109.1	- 0.1	101.4	1.2	104.2	0.9	114.2	- 3.8	98.0	0.2
Atlanta-----	104.8	- .2	104.4	- .2	104.9	- .1	102.1	1.6	100.7	- 2.1	114.1	- 1.0	102.7	- .5
Baltimore-----	105.7	- .3	103.3	- .5	115.1	.2	100.3	1.9	98.6	.1	110.9	- 4.7	97.9	- .4
Boston-----	109.0	.4	106.7	- .1	111.4	- .4	103.7	1.2	100.7	.9	123.0	- 1.7	99.3	- .7
Chicago-----	107.6	- .1	107.2	.1	109.6	.6	105.1	2.0	110.8	- .2	114.9	- 3.0	99.6	.2
Cincinnati-----	103.7	.2	102.2	.2	103.2	.1	102.1	2.8	100.8	.1	113.1	- 2.9	94.8	- .1
Cleveland-----	103.6	0	101.4	- .1	106.9	- .2	100.7	2.1	99.8	3.2	109.5	- 5.2	94.1	- .1
Detroit-----	103.0	.4	102.1	- .5	102.4	- 1.1	99.6	1.9	104.9	.8	110.7	- 5.5	95.9	.4
Houston-----	104.7	.1	102.1	.1	106.8	.5	98.7	- .4	102.1	2.6	110.9	- .5	97.0	- .3
Kansas City-----	105.2	.1	104.5	.1	109.0	.4	100.3	1.0	103.2	1.0	114.0	- 2.1	100.6	.3
Los Angeles-----	107.1	- .6	104.6	- .7	117.1	- .1	98.2	.9	107.9	- .1	114.9	- 4.0	93.4	- .1
Minneapolis-----	102.4	- 1.3	100.6	- 1.6	99.3	- .1	98.9	.7	104.3	.9	105.3	- 8.7	97.2	- .5
New York-----	108.1	- .1	105.6	- .2	112.0	- .2	102.3	.8	102.6	1.6	118.6	- 2.8	97.2	- .3
Philadelphia-----	105.2	- .1	103.3	0	105.0	.5	98.9	2.0	103.1	.1	115.4	- 2.5	98.5	- .7
Pittsburgh-----	104.4	- .2	104.1	- .2	110.9	.8	104.2	1.2	99.7	2.9	109.6	- 6.2	99.0	0
Portland, Oreg.-----	106.2	.4	104.8	.5	107.3	.2	104.8	2.9	107.0	.5	113.4	- 4.6	96.0	2.5
St. Louis-----	105.5	- .2	103.5	- .3	106.1	.4	101.8	1.5	103.1	.5	111.3	- 4.5	98.2	.2
San Francisco-----	107.1	- .5	105.1	- .7	110.6	- .1	103.0	1.5	106.4	- .1	113.3	- 6.1	96.5	1.5
Scranton-----	104.4	- .6	103.0	- .7	107.9	.1	99.4	.8	99.1	- .2	113.6	- 5.5	99.4	.8
Seattle-----	107.8	0	105.3	- .1	108.8	.3	103.8	.9	108.4	0	112.2	- 3.5	97.8	1.7
Washington, D. C.-----	105.5	0	103.7	- .5	108.7	- .5	98.6	1.1	103.7	.1	112.6	- 2.9	100.1	- .2

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

Food and unit	August 1963	July 1963	Food and unit	August 1963	July 1963
Cereals and bakery products:	<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>		<u>Cents</u>	<u>Cents</u>
Flour, wheat-----5 lb.	57.3	57.2	Fresh--Continued		
Biscuit mix-----40 oz.	48.1	48.0	Grapefruit-----each	22.4	21.2
Macaroni-----16 oz.	25.0	24.9	Peaches *-----lb.	18.5	18.2
Corn meal-----1b.	14.5	14.5	Strawberries *-----pt.	*	*
Rolled oats-----18 oz.	24.1	24.1	Grapes, seedless *-----lb.	31.0	38.0
Corn flakes-----12 oz.	28.4	28.4	Watermelons *-----lb.	4.7	5.0
Rice, short grain-----1b.	19.4	19.4	Potatoes-----10 lb.	72.0	70.4
Rice, long grain-----1b.	21.6	21.6	Sweet potatoes-----lb.	16.1	15.1
Bread, white-----1b.	21.6	21.6	Corn *-----doz. ears	67.3	96.2
Soda crackers-----1b.	30.9	31.0	Onions-----1b.	13.5	13.2
Sandwich cookies-----16 oz.	52.1	52.2	Carrots-----1b.	15.4	15.5
Meats, poultry, and fish:			Lettuce-----head	21.8	29.2
Round steak-----1b.	107.0	104.3	Celery-----1b.	13.4	15.1
Sirloin steak-----1b.	111.3	108.4	Cabbage-----1b.	9.4	9.8
Chuck roast-----1b.	60.2	57.2	Tomatoes-----1b.	23.8	36.5
Rib roast-----1b.	83.4	82.4	Beans, green-----1b.	21.4	24.1
Hamburger-----1b.	50.4	50.6	Canned:		
Veal cutlets-----1b.	151.8	152.4	Orange juice-----46 oz. can	55.9	54.9
Pork chops, center cut-----1b.	92.7	90.9	Pineapple juice-----46 oz. can	34.3	33.6
Pork roast-----1b.	64.7	64.1	Peaches-----#2½ can	33.5	33.2
Bacon, sliced-----1b.	73.4	71.4	Pineapple-----#2 can	39.7	39.5
Ham, whole-----1b.	61.0	60.1	Fruit cocktail-----#303 can	25.8	25.4
Lamb, leg-----1b.	72.5	73.6	Corn, cream style-----#303 can	19.3	19.3
Frankfurters-----1b.	63.0	62.6	Peas, green-----#303 can	22.5	22.5
Luncheon meat, canned-----12 oz.	49.2	49.3	Tomatoes-----#303 can	15.6	15.5
Frying chickens, ready-to-cook-----1b.	39.6	39.9	Tomato juice-----46 oz. can	31.9	31.9
Ocean perch, fillet, frozen-----1b.	52.7	53.0	Baby foods-----4½ to 5 oz.	10.9	10.9
Haddock, fillet, frozen-----1b.	57.4	57.7	Dried:		
Salmon, pink, canned-----16 oz.	69.6	69.9	Prunes-----1b.	40.1	40.0
Tuna fish, canned-----6 to 6½ oz.	33.0	33.8	Beans-----1b.	17.9	17.8
Dairy products:			Other foods at home:		
Milk, fresh, (grocery)-----qt.	24.4	24.0	Tomato soup-----10½ to 11 oz. can	12.3	12.4
Milk, fresh, (delivered)-----qt.	26.1	25.8	Beans, with pork-----16 oz. can	15.0	15.0
Ice cream-----½ gal.	85.1	85.5	Pickles, sliced-----15 oz.	27.1	27.0
Butter-----1b.	74.9	74.9	Cataup, tomato-----14 oz.	22.2	22.1
Cheese, American process-----½ lb.	36.5	36.3	Potato chips-----4 oz.	27.9	28.0
Milk, evaporated-----14½ oz. can	15.4	15.4	Coffee-----1b. can	69.8	69.6
Fruits and vegetables:			Coffee-----1b. bag	56.5	57.1
Frozen:			Coffee, instant-----6 oz.	92.6	92.4
Strawberries-----10 oz.	27.7	27.6	Tea bags-----pkg. of 48	64.1	63.9
Orange juice concentrate-----6 oz.	32.7	32.2	Cola drink, carton-----72 oz.	55.0	54.0
Lemonade concentrate-----6 oz.	14.5	14.4	Shortening, hydrogenated-----3 lb.	83.4	83.2
Peas, green-----10 oz.	21.1	21.3	Margarine, colored-----1b.	27.6	27.4
Beans, green-----9 oz.	23.7	23.7	Lard-----1b.	19.7	19.6
Potatoes, french fried-----9 oz.	18.2	18.1	Salad dressing-----pt.	38.1	38.0
Fresh:			Peanut butter-----1b.	57.8	57.9
Apples-----1b.	22.5	22.8	Sugar-----5 lb.	73.7	79.2
Bananas-----1b.	16.2	15.8	Corn syrup-----24 oz.	28.7	28.7
Oranges, size 200-----doz.	92.1	93.3	Grape jelly-----12 oz.	30.5	30.3
Lemons-----1b.	22.1	22.6	Chocolate bar-----1 oz.	4.5	4.5
			Eggs, Grade A, large-----doz.	52.6	50.6
			Gelatin, flavored-----3 to 4 oz.	10.1	10.0

* Priced only in season.

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

1371 Peachtree
Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

341 Ninth Avenue
New York, New York 10001

105 West Adams Street
Chicago, Illinois 60603

630 Sansome Street
San Francisco, California 94111

18 Oliver Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

1365 Ontario Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

