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<http://stats.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: AUGUST 1998

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.1 percent in August, before seasonal adjustment, to a level of 163.4 (1982-84=100), the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. For the 12-month period ended in August, the CPI-U has increased 1.6 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) also rose 0.1 percent in August, prior to seasonal adjustment. The August 1998 CPI-W level of 160.0 was 1.4 percent higher than the index in August 1997.

CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI-U rose 0.2 percent in August, the same as in July. In August the food index increased 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month. Prices for food at home advanced 0.3 percent as a sharp increase in prices for dairy products was partially offset by a decline in the index for fruits and vegetables. The energy index, which was unchanged in July, declined 1.0 percent in August. The index for petroleum-based energy decreased 1.4 percent, and the index for energy services fell 0.4 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U increased 0.2 percent in August, the same as in July. An upturn in the index for apparel, reflecting the introduction of fall-winter wear, was largely offset by smaller increases in the indexes for cigarettes and airline fares, coupled with a decline in the index for telephone services.

Table A. Percent changes in CPI for Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

| Expenditure<br>Category | Changes from preceding month<br>1998 | Seasonally adjusted         | Un-                                   |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                         |                                      | annual rate<br>3-mos. ended | Compound adjusted<br>12-mos.<br>ended |

|                                   | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Aug. '98 | Aug. '98 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|----------|----------|
| All Items                         | .1   | .0   | .2   | .3  | .1   | .2   | .2   | 1.7      | 1.6      |
| Food and beverages                | .0   | .0   | .1   | .5  | .1   | .2   | .3   | 2.8      | 2.1      |
| Housing                           | .1   | .2   | .4   | .3  | .1   | .2   | .1   | 1.8      | 2.5      |
| Apparel                           | .2   | -.2  | -.1  | .4  | .2   | -.3  | 1.1  | 4.0      | 1.2      |
| Transportation                    | -.4  | -.5  | -.1  | .1  | -.3  | .3   | .0   | .0       | -1.8     |
| Medical care                      | .3   | .3   | .4   | .3  | .4   | .2   | .4   | 3.9      | 3.5      |
| Recreation                        | .3   | .4   | .0   | .0  | .1   | .0   | .1   | .8       | 1.3      |
| Education and<br>communication    | -.1  | .3   | .3   | .3  | .1   | .0   | -.5  | -1.6     | 1.5      |
| Other goods and<br>services       | .8   | -.3  | 1.0  | .7  | .0   | .7   | .1   | 2.9      | 5.4      |
| Special Indexes                   |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |          |          |
| Energy                            | -2.2 | -1.2 | -.1  | .3  | -.7  | .0   | -1.0 | -6.4     | -7.7     |
| Food                              | .0   | .0   | .1   | .6  | .1   | .2   | .2   | 2.5      | 2.2      |
| All Items less<br>food and energy | .3   | .1   | .3   | .2  | .1   | .2   | .2   | 2.1      | 2.5      |

Beginning with release of data for January 1999, the BLS will introduce a new formula for calculating the basic components of the CPI. See page 4 for more details. See pages 5 and 6 for announcements on methodological changes concerning utility rebates and hedonic quality adjustment for televisions.

During the first eight months of 1998, the CPI-U rose at a 1.6 percent seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR). This compares with an increase of 1.7 percent for all of 1997. Declines in energy costs have continued to act as a moderating influence on overall consumer price index movements thus far in 1998, decreasing at a 10.5 percent annual rate after declining 3.4 percent in all of 1997. Food costs, which rose 1.5 percent in 1997, have risen at a 2.4 percent SAAR in the first eight months of 1998. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U has advanced at a 2.5 percent rate thus far in 1998, compared with a 2.2 percent rise for all of 1997.

The food and beverages index rose 0.3 percent in August. The index for food at home increased 0.3 percent in August, the same as in July. A 1.6 percent increase in the index for dairy products accounted for almost half of the August food at home advance. The indexes for other food at home--reflecting a 5.3 percent increase in butter prices--and cereal and bakery products rose 0.7 and 0.5 percent, respectively. On the other hand, prices for fruits and vegetables and for non-alcoholic beverages turned down in August, and the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs moderated. The index for fruits and vegetables, which rose 0.3 percent in July, declined 0.4 percent in August. The indexes for fresh fruits and

for fresh vegetables declined 0.5 and 1.0 percent, respectively, more than offsetting a 0.5 percent increase in the index for processed fruits and vegetables. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, prices for fresh fruits rose 0.5 percent, while fresh vegetable prices fell 3.9 percent.) The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs rose 0.3 percent in August, following a 0.5 percent increase in July. A 0.3 percent decline in meat prices was more than offset by increases in prices for poultry, eggs, and fish and seafood. Prices for poultry and for fish and seafood rose 1.5 and 1.2 percent, respectively, and the index for eggs rose 1.0 percent. The other two components of the food and beverage index--food away from home and alcoholic beverages--rose 0.2 percent and were unchanged, respectively.

The housing component rose 0.1 percent in August. Shelter costs rose 0.3 percent, following increases of 0.2 percent in each of the preceding two months. Within shelter, the index for rent rose 0.3 percent; owners' equivalent rent, 0.2 percent; and the cost of lodging away from home, 0.7 percent. The index for fuels and utilities, which was unchanged in July, declined 0.4 percent in August. The indexes for electricity and for fuel oil each declined 0.9 percent, more than offsetting a 0.4 percent rise in the index for natural gas. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, charges for natural gas declined 0.5 percent.) The index for household furnishings and operations declined 0.2 percent in August.

The transportation component was unchanged in August, following a 0.3 percent rise in July. The index for motor fuel, which was unchanged in July, declined 1.6 percent in August. Gasoline prices have fallen 10.1 percent thus far in 1998 and are 23.3 percent lower than their peak level in November 1990. The index for new and used vehicle prices rose 0.2 percent. The index for new vehicles, which increased 0.5 percent in July, rose 0.3 percent in August. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, new vehicle prices rose 0.1 percent.) The index for used cars and trucks fell 0.1 percent. Public transportation costs increased 2.2 percent in August. The index for airline fares, which typically declines in August, increased 0.2 percent.

The index for apparel rose 1.1 percent in August, following a 0.3 percent decline in July. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, apparel prices rose 1.5 percent, reflecting the introduction of higher priced fall-winter wear.)

Medical care costs rose 0.4 percent in August to a level 3.5 percent above a year ago. The index for medical care commodities--prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs, and medical supplies--increased 0.6 percent. The index for medical care services rose 0.3 percent. Charges for professional services and for hospital and related services each increased



|                                   |      |      |     |    |     |     |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|-----|----|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| Energy                            | -2.1 | -1.3 | -.2 | .3 | -.6 | -.1 | -1.1 | -6.8 | -8.3 |
| Food                              | -.1  | .0   | .1  | .6 | .1  | .3  | .3   | 2.8  | 2.1  |
| All Items less<br>food and energy | .2   | .1   | .4  | .2 | .1  | .2  | .2   | 2.1  | 2.3  |

Consumer Price Index data for September are scheduled for release on Friday, October 16, 1998, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

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Planned change in the Consumer Price Index Formula

On April 16, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced its decision to use a new formula for calculating the basic components of the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). This change will become effective with data for January 1999.

The new formula, the geometric mean estimator, will be used in index categories that comprise approximately 61 percent of total consumer spending represented by the CPI-U. The remaining index categories, which are shown in the table below, will continue to be calculated as they are currently. Based upon BLS research, it is expected that planned use of the new formula will reduce the annual rate of increase in the CPI by approximately 0.2 percentage point per year.

The geometric mean estimator will be introduced in both the CPI-U and the CPI-W effective with data for January 1999, in accord with the past practice of introducing methodological changes at the beginning of a calendar year. BLS will continue to publish "overlap" CPI-U and CPI-W series using the current calculation method for the first six months of 1999. These indexes will not be published regularly for months subsequent to June 1999, but will be available upon request.

Additional information on this change was published in the April 1998 CPI Detailed Report and is available on the Internet (<http://stats.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>). This information may also be obtained by writing to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, 2 Massachusetts Ave. N.E., Room 3615 Washington, D.C. 20212-0001 or by calling (202) 606-7000.

Arithmetic Mean (Laspeyres) Formula

1. Selected shelter services:

- |                              |                                       |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A) Rent of primary residence | B) Owners' equivalent rent of primary | C) Housing at school, excluding board |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|

residence

2. Selected utilities and government charges:

- |                                |  |                                      |
|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| A) Electricity                 | C) Residential water and sewerage maintenance                            | E) Telephone services, local charges |
| B) Utility natural gas service | D) State and local registration, license, and motor vehicle property tax | F) Cable television                  |

3. Selected medical care services:

- |                         |  |                                    |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| A) Physicians' services | C) Eyeglasses and eye care                 | E) Hospital services               |
| B) Dental services      | D) Services by other medical professionals | F) Nursing homes and adult daycare |

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Improvements to CPI Procedures for Handling Refunds for Utilities

Effective with the calculation of the index for January 1999, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) will change its treatment of refunds for electricity, natural gas, or other utility services when the refunds are based on earlier periods' utility consumption amounts. The change will affect both the price indexes and the average prices computed by the CPI program.

Under the current practice, the CPI utility indexes reflect refunds that appear on current period bills but that are based on past period utility consumption. Generally these refunds result from the rollback of temporary rate increases, lower than anticipated energy costs, or a reevaluation of rates with respect to actual costs. The current practice makes these indexes rather volatile and do not reflect the actual current price (for example, what a new customer would pay) for a utility service such as electricity.

Under the new procedure, the CPI will disregard any refund for past excess charges when it appears on residential customer bills as a separate refund credit that is subtracted from the charges for

current billing period's usage. The movement of the CPI utility indexes will reflect all changes in rates—generally in the month they are effective. The CPI utility indexes will continue to reflect current period credits that are based on current period consumption, such as those associated with purchased gas or fuel adjustments.

For additional information on this change, write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Room 3615, Washington, DC 20212-0001; or telephone Bob Adkins at (202) 606-6985 ext. 264, or send e-mail to Adkins\_B@bls.gov

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Using a hedonic model to adjust television prices in the Consumer Price Index for changes in quality

Effective with the release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for January 1999, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will introduce an improvement in the way in which it calculates the Television stratum of the CPI.

As of December 1997, Televisions constituted 0.215 percent in the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (the CPI-U) and 0.256 percent in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (the CPI-W).

Bureau of Labor Statistics researchers developed a regression procedure, called a hedonic model, that decomposes the price of television sets into implicit prices for each important feature and component /1. This model uses Television observations collected for the CPI and provides an estimate of the value of each of the significant features and components of the sets for which prices are collected. This yields a mechanism for replacing obsolete televisions in the CPI sample with current ones, allowing the CPI to capture the price change that may occur as new models replace old ones in the market place without counting the value of quality improvements as price increases.

The CPI has used similar hedonic methods to adjust apparel prices for many years. In January 1998, the CPI began using a similar approach for Personal Computers. In the coming years, BLS plans to extend the method to additional CPI items.

Starting with the CPI for January 1999, when a television model in the CPI sample improves in some way, the value of that change, as derived from the regression estimates, will be deducted from the observed price change for that product. (Conversely, if a model deteriorates, the value of the difference will be added to the

price.)

For additional information on these changes, write to  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes  
2 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Room 3260  
Washington, DC 20212-0001  
or telephone Tim LaFleur at (202) 606-6982 ext. 253,  
or send e-mail to LaFleur\_T@bls.gov

/1 Brent R. Moulton, Timothy J. LaFleur, and Karin E. Moses,  
"Research on Improved Quality Adjustment in the CPI: The Case  
of Televisions," presented to the Conference of the Ottawa  
Group, April 1998.

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BLS to Maintain Current Reference Base of 1982-84=100 for most CPI  
index series

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) previously indicated its intention to change the numerical reference base for both the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) from their present 1982-84=100 base to a 1993-95=100 base, effective with release of the January 1999 index in February 1999. BLS also indicated that the alternate, or 1967=100 base, would be discontinued in 1999 as well. This plan was initially described in the December 1996 Monthly Labor Review, a publication which contained several articles that dealt with the 1998 CPI Revision.

The BLS has now decided not to implement this rebasing plan. Instead, the BLS will maintain the reference base of 1982-84=100 used for most items. In addition, the 1967=100 reference base will continue to be the alternate base for the All Items indexes. This decision is based in part on the fact that historical data have less precision after rebasing. Rebasing is simply an arithmetic transformation that does not substantially impact the index. Because the rebased index values are smaller, however, the loss of precision due to rounding is more serious. In addition, retaining the old index reference bases would spare users the inconvenience associated with conversion.

Changes in the numerical reference base should not be confused with the plans by BLS to update the market basket of the CPI. Since release of the January CPI in February 1998, the



expenditure weights applied to CPI categories have been based on consumer spending patterns for 1993-95.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

| CPI-U   | Relative importance, December 1997 | Unadjusted indexes |           | Unadjusted percent change to Aug. 1998 from- |           | Seasonally adjusted percent change from- |              |              |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--|-----------|--|--------------|--------------|
|   |                                    | July 1998          | Aug. 1998 | Aug. 1997                                    | July 1998 | May to June                              | June to July | July to Aug. |
| Expenditure category                                |                                    |                    |           |  |           |  |              |              |
| All items .....                                     | 100.000                            | 163.2              | 163.4     | 1.6  | 0.1       | 0.1                                      | 0.2          | 0.2          |
| All items (1967=100) .....                          | -                                  | 488.8              | 489.6     | -  | -         | -  | -            | -            |
| Food and beverages .....                            | 16.310                             | 160.9              | 161.4     | 2.1  | 0.3       | 0.1                                      | 0.2          | 0.3          |
| Food .....  | 15.326                             | 160.5              | 161.0     | 2.2  | 0.3       | 0.1                                      | 0.2          | 0.2          |
| Food at home .....                                  | 9.646                              | 160.8              | 161.4     | 1.8  | 0.4       | 0.1                                      | 0.3          | 0.3          |
| Cereals and bakery products .....                   | 1.536                              | 181.8              | 182.7     | 2.3  | 0.5       | 0.3                                      | 0.1          | 0.5          |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....                | 2.629                              | 146.9              | 148.2     | -0.6   | 0.9       | 0.0                                      | 0.5          | 0.3          |
| Dairy and related products (1).....                 | 1.037                              | 148.2              | 150.5     | 5.0  | 1.6       | 0.0                                      | 0.1          | 1.6          |
| Fruits and vegetables .....                         | 1.394                              | 198.2              | 195.9     | 4.6  | -1.2      | -1.0                                     | 0.3          | -0.4         |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials ..... | 1.077                              | 132.3              | 132.0     | -3.4   | -0.2      | 0.4                                      | 0.0          | -0.7         |
| Other food at home .....                            | 1.972                              | 151.1              | 152.1     | 2.3  | 0.7       | 0.8                                      | 0.3          | 0.7          |
| Sugar and sweets .....                              | .377                               | 149.9              | 150.2     | 1.6  | 0.2       | 0.9                                      | -0.7         | 0.6          |
| Fats and oils .....                                 | .291                               | 147.6              | 149.7     | 5.9  | 1.4       | 1.6                                      | 2.6          | 2.0          |
| Other foods .....                                   | 1.305                              | 165.9              | 166.9     | 3.2  | 0.6       | 0.6                                      | 0.1          | 0.5          |
| Other miscellaneous foods (1) (2).....              | .309                               | 102.6              | 103.5     | -  | 0.9       | 1.1                                      | 0.1          | 0.9          |
| Food away from home (1).....                        | 5.680                              | 161.1              | 161.5     | 2.6  | 0.2       | 0.1                                      | 0.2          | 0.2          |
| Other food away from home (1) (2).....              | .172                               | 101.6              | 102.3     | -  | 0.7       | 0.4                                      | 0.6          | 0.7          |
| Alcoholic beverages .....                           | .983                               | 165.6              | 165.7     | 1.5  | 0.1       | 0.4                                      | 0.3          | 0.0          |
| Housing .....                                       | 39.560                             | 161.2              | 161.5     | 2.5  | 0.2       | 0.1                                      | 0.2          | 0.1          |
| Shelter .....                                       | 29.788                             | 182.6              | 183.3     | 3.3  | 0.4       | 0.2                                      | 0.2          | 0.3          |
| Rent of primary residence .....                     | 6.885                              | 172.2              | 172.8     | 3.3  | 0.3       | 0.3                                      | 0.2          | 0.3          |



|   |        |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| other than telephone services (1) (4)                       | .350   | 39.1  | 37.6  | -22.0 | -3.8 | -2.2 | -3.7 | -3.8 |
| Personal computers and peripheral<br>equipment (1) (2)..... | .234   | 75.2  | 71.1  | -     | -5.5 | -3.3 | -6.0 | -5.5 |
| Other goods and services .....                              | 4.321  | 237.8 | 238.0 | 5.4   | 0.1  | 0.0  | 0.7  | 0.1  |
| Tobacco and smoking products .....                          | .894   | 273.2 | 273.7 | 12.4  | 0.2  | -0.6 | 2.6  | 0.1  |
| Personal care (1).....                                      | 3.427  | 157.0 | 157.1 | 3.0   | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.1  |
| Personal care products (1).....                             | .737   | 149.1 | 148.5 | 3.5   | -0.4 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.4 |
| Personal care services (1).....                             | .963   | 166.1 | 166.6 | 2.4   | 0.3  | -0.1 | 0.5  | 0.3  |
| Miscellaneous personal services .....                       | 1.465  | 235.1 | 235.7 | 3.1   | 0.3  | 0.4  | 0.3  | 0.4  |
| Commodity and service group                                 |        |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |
| Commodities .....   | 42.635 | 141.6 | 141.7 | 0.2   | 0.1  | -0.1 | 0.2  | 0.1  |
| Food and beverages .....                                    | 16.310 | 160.9 | 161.4 | 2.1   | 0.3  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.3  |
| Commodities less food and beverages .....                   | 26.326 | 130.1 | 130.0 | -1.0  | -0.1 | -0.1 | 0.1  | 0.0  |
| Nondurables less food and beverages .....                   | 14.729 | 131.8 | 131.9 | -1.4  | 0.1  | -0.1 | 0.1  | -0.1 |
| Apparel .....   | 4.944  | 129.6 | 131.6 | 1.2   | 1.5  | 0.2  | -0.3 | 1.1  |
| Nondurables less food, beverages, and<br>apparel .....      | 9.785  | 138.0 | 137.1 | -2.6  | -0.7 | 0.0  | 0.1  | -0.4 |
| Durables .....  | 11.596 | 127.5 | 127.2 | -0.4  | -0.2 | 0.0  | 0.3  | 0.0  |
| Services .....  | 57.365 | 184.9 | 185.3 | 2.8   | 0.2  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Rent of shelter (3).....                                    | 29.410 | 190.1 | 190.8 | 3.3   | 0.4  | 0.2  | 0.1  | 0.4  |
| Transportation services .....                               | 6.984  | 187.8 | 187.8 | 1.9   | 0.0  | -0.2 | 0.2  | 0.4  |
| Other services .....  | 10.625 | 216.9 | 217.6 | 3.3   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.1  | 0.1  |
| Special indexes   |        |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |
| All items less food .....                                   | 84.674 | 163.6 | 163.9 | 1.6   | 0.2  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.1  |
| All items less shelter .....                                | 70.212 | 157.3 | 157.4 | 1.0   | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.1  |
| All items less medical care .....                           | 94.386 | 158.7 | 159.0 | 1.5   | 0.2  | 0.0  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Commodities less food .....                                 | 27.309 | 131.5 | 131.4 | -0.9  | -0.1 | -0.1 | 0.2  | 0.0  |
| Nondurables less food .....                                 | 15.712 | 133.8 | 133.9 | -1.2  | 0.1  | -0.1 | 0.2  | -0.1 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel .....                     | 10.768 | 139.7 | 138.9 | -2.3  | -0.6 | 0.1  | 0.1  | -0.3 |
| Nondurables .....   | 31.039 | 146.4 | 146.8 | 0.5   | 0.3  | -0.1 | 0.2  | 0.0  |
| Services less rent of shelter (3).....                      | 27.955 | 192.6 | 192.7 | 2.1   | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.3  | 0.0  |
| Services less medical care services .....                   | 52.973 | 179.0 | 179.5 | 2.7   | 0.3  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.1  |
| Energy .....  | 7.013  | 105.2 | 103.8 | -7.7  | -1.3 | -0.7 | 0.0  | -1.0 |
| All items less energy .....                                 | 92.987 | 170.8 | 171.2 | 2.3   | 0.2  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| All items less food and energy .....                        | 77.661 | 173.3 | 173.8 | 2.5   | 0.3  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Commodities less food and energy<br>commodities .....       | 24.053 | 142.4 | 142.7 | 1.1   | 0.2  | 0.0  | 0.1  | 0.2  |
| Energy commodities .....                                    | 3.256  | 93.3  | 91.3  | -14.0 | -2.1 | -1.0 | -0.1 | -1.4 |
| Services less energy services .....                         | 53.608 | 190.9 | 191.5 | 3.1   | 0.3  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.3  |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar                     |        |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |

|   |   |         |         |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|
| (1982-84=\$1.00) .....                  | - | \$ .613 | \$ .612 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar |   |         |         |   |   |   |   |   |
| (1967=\$1.00) .....                     | - | \$ .205 | \$ .204 | - | - | - | - | - |

- 1 Not seasonally adjusted.
- 2 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- 3 Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.
- 4 Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.
- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

| CPI-U   | Seasonally adjusted indexes |              |              |              | Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for |              |             |                  |              |              |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|--------------|-------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|
|   |                             |              |              |              | 3 months ended--                                   |              |             | 6 months ended-- |              |              |
|   | May<br>1998                 | June<br>1998 | July<br>1998 | Aug.<br>1998 | Nov.<br>1997                                       | Feb.<br>1998 | May<br>1998 | Aug.<br>1998     | Feb.<br>1998 | Aug.<br>1998 |
| Expenditure category                                |                             |              |              |              |  |              |             |                  |              |              |
| All items .....                                     | 162.9                       | 163.0        | 163.3        | 163.6        | 2.3  | 0.5          | 2.2         | 1.7              | 1.4          | 2.0          |
| Food and beverages .....                            | 160.6                       | 160.8        | 161.2        | 161.7        | 2.0  | 1.3          | 2.3         | 2.8              | 1.6          | 2.5          |
| Food .....  | 160.4                       | 160.6        | 161.0        | 161.4        | 2.0  | 1.3          | 2.5         | 2.5              | 1.7          | 2.5          |
| Food at home .....                                  | 160.7                       | 160.8        | 161.3        | 161.8        | 1.3  | 0.5          | 2.5         | 2.8              | 0.9          | 2.6          |
| Cereals and bakery products .....                   | 180.5                       | 181.0        | 181.2        | 182.1        | 1.8  | 1.3          | 2.5         | 3.6              | 1.6          | 3.0          |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....                | 146.9                       | 146.9        | 147.6        | 148.1        | -1.6   | -3.7         | -0.8        | 3.3              | -2.7         | 1.2          |
| Dairy and related products (1).....                 | 148.1                       | 148.1        | 148.2        | 150.5        | 10.4   | 1.9          | 1.1         | 6.6              | 6.1          | 3.8          |
| Fruits and vegetables .....                         | 203.5                       | 201.4        | 202.0        | 201.1        | 2.5  | 6.8          | 18.9        | -4.6             | 4.7          | 6.5          |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials ..... | 132.5                       | 133.0        | 133.0        | 132.1        | -4.6   | -3.5         | -4.7        | -1.2             | -4.0         | -3.0         |
| Other food at home .....                            | 149.2                       | 150.4        | 150.9        | 152.0        | -0.3   | 0.8          | 1.1         | 7.7              | 0.3          | 4.3          |
| Sugar and sweets .....                              | 149.0                       | 150.3        | 149.3        | 150.2        | 2.5  | 1.9          | -1.1        | 3.3              | 2.2          | 1.1          |

|  |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Fats and oils .....                                      | 141.1 | 143.3 | 147.0 | 149.9 | -0.8 | -0.8  | 0.3   | 27.4  | -0.8  | 13.0  |
| Other foods .....  | 164.5 | 165.5 | 165.7 | 166.5 | 2.8  | 3.2   | 1.7   | 5.0   | 3.0   | 3.3   |
| Other miscellaneous foods (1) (2).....                   | 101.4 | 102.5 | 102.6 | 103.5 | -    | -     | 4.0   | 8.5   | -     | 6.3   |
| Food away from home (1).....                             | 160.6 | 160.7 | 161.1 | 161.5 | 3.1  | 2.5   | 2.5   | 2.3   | 2.8   | 2.4   |
| Other food away from home (1) (2).....                   | 100.6 | 101.0 | 101.6 | 102.3 | -    | -     | 0.8   | 6.9   | -     | 3.8   |
| Alcoholic beverages .....                                | 164.7 | 165.3 | 165.8 | 165.8 | 1.7  | 1.7   | -0.2  | 2.7   | 1.7   | 1.2   |
| Housing .....  | 159.9 | 160.1 | 160.4 | 160.6 | 3.4  | 1.0   | 3.3   | 1.8   | 2.2   | 2.5   |
| Shelter .....  | 181.3 | 181.6 | 181.9 | 182.4 | 3.0  | 3.4   | 4.1   | 2.4   | 3.2   | 3.3   |
| Rent of primary residence .....                          | 171.3 | 171.8 | 172.2 | 172.8 | 3.1  | 2.6   | 3.8   | 3.5   | 2.9   | 3.7   |
| Lodging away from home (2).....                          | 102.1 | 101.4 | 100.7 | 101.4 | -    | -     | 7.4   | -2.7  | -     | 2.2   |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary<br>residence (3)..... | 187.2 | 187.6 | 188.1 | 188.5 | 2.7  | 3.5   | 3.7   | 2.8   | 3.1   | 3.3   |
| Tenants' and household insurance (1) (2)..               | 99.6  | 99.1  | 99.3  | 99.2  | -    | -     | -2.4  | -1.6  | -     | -2.0  |
| Fuels and utilities .....                                | 128.8 | 128.3 | 128.3 | 127.8 | 6.3  | -12.1 | 2.8   | -3.1  | -3.4  | -0.2  |
| Fuels .....  | 113.5 | 112.9 | 112.9 | 112.4 | 9.7  | -17.9 | 2.9   | -3.8  | -5.1  | -0.5  |
| Fuel oil and other fuels .....                           | 91.7  | 90.6  | 90.3  | 89.7  | -0.4 | -17.7 | -0.9  | -8.4  | -9.5  | -4.7  |
| Gas (piped) and electricity .....                        | 121.1 | 120.6 | 120.6 | 120.1 | 10.8 | -18.0 | 2.7   | -3.3  | -4.7  | -0.3  |
| Household furnishings and operations .....               | 126.4 | 126.6 | 127.0 | 126.8 | 0.6  | 2.3   | 1.0   | 1.3   | 1.4   | 1.1   |
| Apparel .....  | 132.9 | 133.2 | 132.8 | 134.2 | 1.2  | -0.9  | 0.6   | 4.0   | 0.2   | 2.3   |
| Men's and boys' apparel .....                            | 131.5 | 131.7 | 131.9 | 132.3 | 0.9  | 3.4   | -1.5  | 2.5   | 2.2   | 0.5   |
| Women's and girls' apparel .....                         | 126.5 | 127.2 | 126.0 | 128.4 | 3.2  | -2.5  | 3.9   | 6.1   | 0.3   | 5.0   |
| Infants' and toddlers' apparel (1).....                  | 126.9 | 124.7 | 122.0 | 124.4 | -4.0 | -8.9  | 12.9  | -7.7  | -6.5  | 2.1   |
| Footwear .....   | 126.5 | 128.4 | 128.5 | 129.4 | 1.6  | -4.3  | -1.9  | 9.5   | -1.4  | 3.7   |
| Transportation .....                                     | 141.7 | 141.3 | 141.7 | 141.7 | -1.1 | -4.1  | -2.0  | 0.0   | -2.6  | -1.0  |
| Private transportation .....                             | 138.1 | 137.9 | 138.2 | 137.9 | -1.4 | -5.3  | -2.0  | -0.6  | -3.4  | -1.3  |
| New and used motor vehicles (2).....                     | 100.2 | 100.1 | 100.5 | 100.7 | -    | -     | 0.4   | 2.0   | -     | 1.2   |
| New vehicles .....                                       | 143.2 | 142.7 | 143.4 | 143.9 | -1.4 | -0.6  | -0.8  | 2.0   | -1.0  | 0.6   |
| Used cars and trucks (1).....                            | 150.0 | 150.9 | 151.3 | 151.1 | -2.4 | 2.2   | 4.4   | 3.0   | -0.1  | 3.7   |
| Motor fuel .....   | 93.0  | 92.1  | 92.1  | 90.6  | -4.8 | -29.2 | -13.4 | -9.9  | -17.9 | -11.7 |
| Gasoline (all types) .....                               | 92.3  | 91.5  | 91.3  | 89.9  | -5.2 | -29.6 | -14.2 | -10.0 | -18.3 | -12.1 |
| Motor vehicle parts and equipment .....                  | 100.7 | 101.2 | 101.3 | 101.3 | -1.6 | -1.6  | -1.6  | 2.4   | -1.6  | 0.4   |
| Motor vehicle maintenance and repair .....               | 165.9 | 166.6 | 167.0 | 167.3 | 1.5  | 4.0   | 1.0   | 3.4   | 2.7   | 2.2   |
| Public transportation .....                              | 190.2 | 188.2 | 190.1 | 194.2 | 1.7  | 11.9  | -2.5  | 8.7   | 6.7   | 2.9   |
| Medical care .....                                       | 241.4 | 242.3 | 242.8 | 243.7 | 2.7  | 3.1   | 4.3   | 3.9   | 2.9   | 4.1   |
| Medical care commodities .....                           | 221.2 | 221.6 | 221.7 | 223.1 | 1.5  | 3.0   | 6.0   | 3.5   | 2.2   | 4.7   |
| Medical care services .....                              | 245.7 | 246.8 | 247.4 | 248.2 | 3.0  | 3.2   | 3.7   | 4.1   | 3.1   | 3.9   |
| Professional services .....                              | 221.3 | 222.3 | 222.6 | 223.3 | 2.2  | 3.2   | 3.9   | 3.7   | 2.7   | 3.8   |
| Hospital and related services .....                      | 285.9 | 286.7 | 288.5 | 289.5 | 3.6  | 3.6   | 2.7   | 5.1   | 3.6   | 3.9   |
| Recreation (2).....                                      | 101.0 | 101.1 | 101.1 | 101.2 | -    | -     | 1.6   | 0.8   | -     | 1.2   |
| Video and audio (1) (2).....                             | 101.2 | 101.2 | 101.1 | 101.2 | 1.2  | 3.6   | 0.0   | 0.0   | 2.4   | 0.0   |

|  |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Education and communication (2).....       | 100.8 | 100.9 | 100.9 | 100.4 | -    | -     | 3.7   | -1.6  | -     | 1.0   |
| Education (2).....                         | 102.3 | 102.6 | 102.9 | 103.3 | -    | -     | 6.5   | 4.0   | -     | 5.2   |
| Educational books and supplies .....       | 249.9 | 249.8 | 250.8 | 250.1 | 3.2  | 3.5   | 8.4   | 0.3   | 3.3   | 4.3   |
| Tuition, other school fees, and childcare  | 293.5 | 294.3 | 295.3 | 296.4 | 4.5  | 4.8   | 6.4   | 4.0   | 4.7   | 5.2   |
| Communication (1) (2).....                 | 99.4  | 99.4  | 99.1  | 97.9  | 1.2  | -3.5  | 0.8   | -5.9  | -1.2  | -2.6  |
| Information and information processing (1) |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |       |
| (2).....                                   | 99.3  | 99.3  | 99.0  | 97.7  | 1.2  | -3.9  | 0.8   | -6.3  | -1.4  | -2.8  |
| Telephone services (1) (2).....            | 101.1 | 101.4 | 101.5 | 100.4 | -    | -     | 4.5   | -2.7  | -     | 0.8   |
| Information and information processing     |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |       |
| other than telephone services (1) (4)      | 41.5  | 40.6  | 39.1  | 37.6  | -4.9 | -25.0 | -23.0 | -32.6 | -15.5 | -28.0 |
| Personal computers and peripheral          |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |       |
| equipment (1) (2).....                     | 82.7  | 80.0  | 75.2  | 71.1  | -    | -     | -32.7 | -45.4 | -     | -39.4 |
| Other goods and services .....             | 237.0 | 236.9 | 238.5 | 238.7 | 5.6  | 6.8   | 5.8   | 2.9   | 6.2   | 4.3   |
| Tobacco and smoking products .....         | 268.4 | 266.9 | 273.8 | 274.2 | 10.9 | 18.6  | 11.5  | 8.9   | 14.7  | 10.2  |
| Personal care (1).....                     | 156.6 | 156.8 | 157.0 | 157.1 | 4.8  | 1.8   | 4.2   | 1.3   | 3.3   | 2.7   |
| Personal care products (1).....            | 149.3 | 149.2 | 149.1 | 148.5 | 7.4  | 1.7   | 7.3   | -2.1  | 4.5   | 2.5   |
| Personal care services (1).....            | 165.4 | 165.3 | 166.1 | 166.6 | 2.0  | 2.0   | 2.7   | 2.9   | 2.0   | 2.8   |
| Miscellaneous personal services .....      | 233.3 | 234.2 | 234.8 | 235.7 | 2.8  | 2.6   | 3.0   | 4.2   | 2.7   | 3.6   |

#### Commodity and service group

|   |       |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Commodities .....                         | 141.9 | 141.8 | 142.1 | 142.2 | 1.1  | -1.4 | 0.3  | 0.8  | -0.1 | 0.6  |
| Food and beverages .....                  | 160.6 | 160.8 | 161.2 | 161.7 | 2.0  | 1.3  | 2.3  | 2.8  | 1.6  | 2.5  |
| Commodities less food and beverages ..... | 130.7 | 130.6 | 130.7 | 130.7 | 0.0  | -3.0 | -0.9 | 0.0  | -1.5 | -0.5 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages ..... | 132.7 | 132.6 | 132.7 | 132.6 | 0.9  | -5.2 | -0.9 | -0.3 | -2.2 | -0.6 |
| Apparel .....                             | 132.9 | 133.2 | 132.8 | 134.2 | 1.2  | -0.9 | 0.6  | 4.0  | 0.2  | 2.3  |
| Nondurables less food, beverages, and     |       |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| apparel .....                             | 137.5 | 137.5 | 137.6 | 137.1 | -0.3 | -8.3 | -0.6 | -1.2 | -4.4 | -0.9 |
| Durables .....                            | 127.4 | 127.4 | 127.8 | 127.8 | -1.2 | -0.3 | -1.2 | 1.3  | -0.8 | 0.0  |
| Services .....                            | 183.9 | 184.1 | 184.4 | 184.8 | 3.1  | 2.0  | 3.6  | 2.0  | 2.6  | 2.8  |
| Rent of shelter (3).....                  | 189.0 | 189.3 | 189.5 | 190.3 | 3.3  | 3.3  | 4.1  | 2.8  | 3.3  | 3.4  |
| Transportation services .....             | 187.8 | 187.5 | 187.8 | 188.6 | 1.1  | 4.6  | 0.0  | 1.7  | 2.8  | 0.9  |
| Other services .....                      | 216.8 | 217.5 | 217.8 | 218.1 | 2.5  | 3.2  | 4.6  | 2.4  | 2.9  | 3.5  |

#### Special indexes

|   |       |       |       |       |     |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|
| All items less food .....               | 163.2 | 163.3 | 163.6 | 163.8 | 2.3 | 0.2  | 2.2  | 1.5  | 1.2  | 1.9  |
| All items less shelter .....            | 157.1 | 157.2 | 157.5 | 157.6 | 1.8 | -0.8 | 1.3  | 1.3  | 0.5  | 1.3  |
| All items less medical care .....       | 158.3 | 158.3 | 158.6 | 158.9 | 2.3 | 0.3  | 2.0  | 1.5  | 1.3  | 1.8  |
| Commodities less food .....             | 132.2 | 132.1 | 132.3 | 132.3 | 0.3 | -2.7 | -1.2 | 0.3  | -1.2 | -0.5 |
| Nondurables less food .....             | 134.7 | 134.5 | 134.8 | 134.6 | 0.9 | -4.3 | -0.9 | -0.3 | -1.8 | -0.6 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel ..... | 139.1 | 139.2 | 139.3 | 138.9 | 0.0 | -7.4 | -0.9 | -0.6 | -3.8 | -0.7 |
| Nondurables .....                       | 146.8 | 146.7 | 147.0 | 147.0 | 1.9 | -1.9 | 0.8  | 0.5  | 0.0  | 0.7  |

|   |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |      |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Services less rent of shelter (3).....                | 191.7 | 191.9 | 192.4 | 192.4 | 3.7  | -0.2  | 3.8   | 1.5  | 1.7   | 2.7   |
| Services less medical care services .....             | 178.0 | 178.3 | 178.7 | 178.9 | 3.5  | 1.6   | 3.4   | 2.0  | 2.5   | 2.7   |
| Energy .....  | 103.2 | 102.5 | 102.5 | 101.5 | 2.9  | -22.9 | -4.2  | -6.4 | -10.9 | -5.3  |
| All items less energy .....                           | 170.7 | 170.9 | 171.3 | 171.7 | 2.2  | 2.4   | 2.6   | 2.4  | 2.3   | 2.5   |
| All items less food and energy .....                  | 173.3 | 173.5 | 173.8 | 174.2 | 2.1  | 2.8   | 2.6   | 2.1  | 2.5   | 2.3   |
| Commodities less food and energy<br>commodities ..... | 143.2 | 143.2 | 143.4 | 143.7 | 1.1  | 1.1   | 0.8   | 1.4  | 1.1   | 1.1   |
| Energy commodities .....                              | 92.8  | 91.9  | 91.8  | 90.5  | -4.1 | -28.5 | -12.3 | -9.6 | -17.2 | -10.9 |
| Services less energy services .....                   | 190.2 | 190.5 | 190.9 | 191.4 | 2.8  | 3.5   | 3.4   | 2.5  | 3.1   | 3.0   |

1 Not seasonally adjusted.

2 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

3 Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

4 Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 3. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Selected areas, all items index

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

| CPI-U                                 | Pricing<br>schedule<br>(1) | All items   |              |              |              |                                      |              |              |                                      |             |              |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
|                                       |                            | Indexes     |              |              |              | Percent change to<br>Aug.1998 from-- |              |              | Percent change to<br>July1998 from-- |             |              |
|                                       |                            | May<br>1998 | June<br>1998 | July<br>1998 | Aug.<br>1998 | Aug.<br>1997                         | June<br>1998 | July<br>1998 | July<br>1997                         | May<br>1998 | June<br>1998 |
| U.S. city average .....               | M                          | 162.8       | 163.0        | 163.2        | 163.4        | 1.6                                  | 0.2          | 0.1          | 1.7                                  | 0.2         | 0.1          |
| Region and area size(2)               |                            |             |              |              |              |                                      |              |              |                                      |             |              |
| Northeast urban .....                 | M                          | 169.4       | 169.6        | 169.9        | 170.5        | 1.6                                  | 0.5          | 0.4          | 1.4                                  | 0.3         | 0.2          |
| Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....    | M                          | 170.2       | 170.4        | 170.7        | 171.4        | 1.8                                  | 0.6          | 0.4          | 1.5                                  | 0.3         | 0.2          |
| Size B/C 50,000 to 1,500,000 (3)..... | M                          | 101.8       | 101.9        | 102.0        | 102.2        | 1.0                                  | 0.3          | 0.2          | 1.0                                  | 0.2         | 0.1          |
| Midwest urban (4).....                | M                          | 159.4       | 159.5        | 159.8        | 159.5        | 1.5                                  | 0.0          | -0.2         | 2.0                                  | 0.3         | 0.2          |
| Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....    | M                          | 160.5       | 160.8        | 161.2        | 161.0        | 1.9                                  | 0.1          | -0.1         | 2.5                                  | 0.4         | 0.2          |

|  |   |       |       |       |       |     |      |      |     |      |     |
|--|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|
| Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 (3).....              | M | 102.3 | 102.2 | 102.2 | 102.0 | 1.1 | -0.2 | -0.2 | 1.6 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than<br>50,000) ..... | M | 153.4 | 153.3 | 153.5 | 153.3 | 0.5 | 0.0  | -0.1 | 0.6 | 0.1  | 0.1 |
| South urban .....                                    | M | 158.8 | 159.1 | 159.3 | 159.5 | 1.5 | 0.3  | 0.1  | 1.5 | 0.3  | 0.1 |
| Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....                   | M | 157.7 | 158.4 | 158.5 | 158.9 | 1.9 | 0.3  | 0.3  | 1.7 | 0.5  | 0.1 |
| Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 (3).....              | M | 102.2 | 102.3 | 102.4 | 102.5 | 1.1 | 0.2  | 0.1  | 1.1 | 0.2  | 0.1 |
| Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than<br>50,000) ..... | M | 159.3 | 160.0 | 160.0 | 160.2 | 2.4 | 0.1  | 0.1  | 2.3 | 0.4  | 0.0 |
| West urban .....                                     | M | 164.3 | 164.2 | 164.3 | 164.8 | 2.0 | 0.4  | 0.3  | 2.0 | 0.0  | 0.1 |
| Size A - More than 1,500,000 .....                   | M | 165.0 | 165.0 | 165.1 | 165.6 | 2.4 | 0.4  | 0.3  | 2.4 | 0.1  | 0.1 |
| Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 (3).....              | M | 102.4 | 102.3 | 102.3 | 102.5 | 1.0 | 0.2  | 0.2  | 1.0 | -0.1 | 0.0 |

Size classes

|              |   |       |       |       |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|--------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A (5).....   | M | 147.3 | 147.5 | 147.7 | 148.1 | 2.1 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 2.0 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| B/C (3)..... | M | 102.2 | 102.2 | 102.3 | 102.4 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 1.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| D .....      | M | 158.8 | 159.2 | 159.3 | 159.4 | 1.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 1.7 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

Selected local areas(6)

|   |   |       |       |       |       |     |      |      |     |      |      |
|---|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|
| Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI .....                        | M | 165.6 | 166.0 | 166.5 | 165.4 | 1.8 | -0.4 | -0.7 | 3.0 | 0.5  | 0.3  |
| Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA .....               | M | 162.3 | 162.2 | 162.1 | 162.6 | 1.8 | 0.2  | 0.3  | 1.6 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island,<br>NY-NJ-CT-PA .....    | M | 173.0 | 173.1 | 173.6 | 174.2 | 2.0 | 0.6  | 0.3  | 1.6 | 0.3  | 0.3  |
| Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT .....                   | 1 | 170.9 | -     | 170.7 | -     | -   | -    | -    | 2.2 | -0.1 | -    |
| Cleveland-Akron, OH .....                                   | 1 | 159.2 | -     | 159.9 | -     | -   | -    | -    | 2.3 | 0.4  | -    |
| Dallas-Fort Worth, TX .....                                 | 1 | 153.0 | -     | 154.2 | -     | -   | -    | -    | -   | 0.8  | -    |
| Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV (7).....                  | 1 | 101.5 | -     | 102.8 | -     | -   | -    | -    | 1.7 | 1.3  | -    |
| Atlanta, GA .....   | 2 | -     | 162.0 | -     | 161.9 | -   | -0.1 | -    | -   | -    | -    |
| Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI .....                           | 2 | -     | 159.4 | -     | 160.5 | 2.3 | 0.7  | -    | -   | -    | -    |
| Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX .....                        | 2 | -     | 146.4 | -     | 147.4 | 1.4 | 0.7  | -    | -   | -    | -    |
| Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL .....                             | 2 | -     | 160.2 | -     | 160.8 | -   | 0.4  | -    | -   | -    | -    |
| Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City,<br>PA-NJ-DE-MD ..... | 2 | -     | 168.0 | -     | 168.6 | 1.1 | 0.4  | -    | -   | -    | -    |
| San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA .....                    | 2 | -     | 165.5 | -     | 166.6 | 3.3 | 0.7  | -    | -   | -    | -    |
| Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA .....                          | 2 | -     | 167.5 | -     | 168.5 | -   | 0.6  | -    | -   | -    | -    |

1 Areas on pricing schedule 2 (see Table 10) will appear next month.

2 Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.

3 Indexes on a December 1996=100 base.



4 The 'North Central' region has been renamed the 'Midwest' region by the Census Bureau. It is composed of the same geographic entities.

5 Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.

6 In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 39 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland-Salem, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.

7 Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

| CPI-W   | Relative importance, December 1997 | Unadjusted indexes |           | Unadjusted percent change to Aug. 1998 from- |           | Seasonally adjusted percent change from- |              |              |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--|-----------|--|--------------|--------------|
|   |                                    | July 1998          | Aug. 1998 | Aug. 1997                                    | July 1998 | May to June                              | June to July | July to Aug. |
| Expenditure category                                |                                    |                    |           |  |           |  |              |              |
| All items .....                                     | 100.000                            | 159.8              | 160.0     | 1.4  | 0.1       | 0.1                                      | 0.2          | 0.1          |
| All items (1967=100) .....                          | -                                  | 476.0              | 476.5     | -  | -         | -  | -            | -            |
| Food and beverages .....                            | 17.903                             | 160.2              | 160.7     | 2.0  | 0.3       | 0.1                                      | 0.3          | 0.2          |
| Food .....  | 16.861                             | 159.8              | 160.4     | 2.1  | 0.4       | 0.1                                      | 0.3          | 0.3          |
| Food at home .....                                  | 10.785                             | 159.7              | 160.4     | 1.8  | 0.4       | 0.1                                      | 0.3          | 0.3          |
| Cereals and bakery products .....                   | 1.678                              | 181.6              | 182.5     | 2.4  | 0.5       | 0.3                                      | 0.1          | 0.5          |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....                | 3.125                              | 146.6              | 147.9     | -0.6   | 0.9       | 0.1                                      | 0.5          | 0.3          |
| Dairy and related products (1).....                 | 1.135                              | 147.8              | 150.1     | 5.0  | 1.6       | -0.1                                     | 0.1          | 1.6          |
| Fruits and vegetables .....                         | 1.447                              | 197.3              | 194.9     | 4.3  | -1.2      | -1.2                                     | 0.5          | -0.6         |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials ..... | 1.215                              | 131.2              | 130.7     | -3.3   | -0.4      | 0.4                                      | 0.2          | -0.7         |
| Other food at home .....                            | 2.185                              | 150.5              | 151.5     | 2.4  | 0.7       | 0.7                                      | 0.5          | 0.7          |
| Sugar and sweets .....                              | .420                               | 149.9              | 150.3     | 1.7  | 0.3       | 0.9                                      | -0.6         | 0.7          |
| Fats and oils .....                                 | .332                               | 147.3              | 149.3     | 5.7  | 1.4       | 1.4                                      | 2.5          | 1.9          |
| Other foods .....                                   | 1.432                              | 165.9              | 166.8     | 3.2  | 0.5       | 0.5                                      | 0.4          | 0.4          |

|  |        |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Other miscellaneous foods (1) (2).....                   | .344   | 102.8 | 103.5 | -     | 0.7  | 1.0  | 0.3  | 0.7  |
| Food away from home (1).....                             | 6.076  | 161.1 | 161.4 | 2.5   | 0.2  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Other food away from home (1) (2).....                   | .212   | 101.5 | 102.2 | -     | 0.7  | 0.4  | 0.5  | 0.7  |
| Alcoholic beverages .....                                | 1.042  | 164.5 | 164.6 | 1.3   | 0.1  | 0.3  | 0.4  | 0.0  |
| Housing .....  | 36.450 | 157.6 | 157.7 | 2.3   | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.1  |
| Shelter .....  | 27.033 | 177.0 | 177.6 | 3.1   | 0.3  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Rent of primary residence .....                          | 8.347  | 171.8 | 172.4 | 3.2   | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.2  |
| Lodging away from home (2).....                          | 1.346  | 111.9 | 112.8 | -     | 0.8  | -0.2 | -1.1 | 0.5  |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary<br>residence (3)..... | 17.016 | 171.2 | 171.8 | 3.2   | 0.4  | 0.2  | 0.3  | 0.2  |
| Tenants' and household insurance (1) (2)..               | .324   | 99.4  | 99.4  | -     | 0.0  | -0.4 | 0.1  | 0.0  |
| Fuels and utilities .....                                | 5.053  | 131.5 | 130.6 | -0.5  | -0.7 | -0.3 | 0.1  | -0.5 |
| Fuels .....  | 4.143  | 116.6 | 115.6 | -2.1  | -0.9 | -0.4 | 0.0  | -0.6 |
| Fuel oil and other fuels .....                           | .229   | 88.2  | 87.0  | -6.7  | -1.4 | -1.0 | -0.3 | -0.8 |
| Gas (piped) and electricity .....                        | 3.914  | 124.6 | 123.6 | -2.1  | -0.8 | -0.4 | 0.1  | -0.7 |
| Household furnishings and operations .....               | 4.365  | 125.6 | 125.2 | 1.2   | -0.3 | 0.0  | 0.4  | -0.2 |
| Apparel .....  | 5.300  | 128.2 | 129.9 | 0.4   | 1.3  | 0.3  | -0.4 | 0.9  |
| Men's and boys' apparel .....                            | 1.503  | 129.1 | 129.9 | 0.9   | 0.6  | 0.2  | 0.2  | -0.1 |
| Women's and girls' apparel .....                         | 1.985  | 118.6 | 121.3 | 1.4   | 2.3  | 0.5  | -1.0 | 1.9  |
| Infants' and toddlers' apparel (1).....                  | .337   | 122.7 | 125.0 | -2.6  | 1.9  | -1.6 | -2.2 | 1.9  |
| Footwear .....   | 1.082  | 127.4 | 128.4 | 0.9   | 0.8  | 1.5  | -0.2 | 0.9  |
| Transportation .....                                     | 19.847 | 140.8 | 140.2 | -2.2  | -0.4 | -0.1 | 0.2  | -0.1 |
| Private transportation .....                             | 18.790 | 138.2 | 137.6 | -2.5  | -0.4 | -0.1 | 0.1  | -0.3 |
| New and used motor vehicles (2).....                     | 9.285  | 100.2 | 100.2 | 0.6   | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.4  | 0.2  |
| New vehicles .....                                       | 5.304  | 143.9 | 144.0 | -0.2  | 0.1  | -0.3 | 0.4  | 0.3  |
| Used cars and trucks (1).....                            | 3.162  | 152.7 | 152.4 | 1.7   | -0.2 | 0.7  | 0.3  | -0.2 |
| Motor fuel .....   | 3.682  | 93.9  | 91.7  | -14.9 | -2.3 | -0.9 | -0.2 | -1.6 |
| Gasoline (all types) .....                               | 3.658  | 93.4  | 91.2  | -15.2 | -2.4 | -0.9 | -0.2 | -1.6 |
| Motor vehicle parts and equipment .....                  | .694   | 100.5 | 100.5 | -0.5  | 0.0  | 0.6  | 0.1  | -0.1 |
| Motor vehicle maintenance and repair .....               | 1.664  | 168.0 | 168.4 | 2.6   | 0.2  | 0.4  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Public transportation .....                              | 1.057  | 188.7 | 188.9 | 4.0   | 0.1  | -0.8 | 0.9  | 1.8  |
| Medical care .....                                       | 4.591  | 242.1 | 242.8 | 3.5   | 0.3  | 0.5  | 0.2  | 0.3  |
| Medical care commodities .....                           | .906   | 219.1 | 219.9 | 3.5   | 0.4  | 0.2  | 0.1  | 0.5  |
| Medical care services .....                              | 3.684  | 247.2 | 248.0 | 3.5   | 0.3  | 0.5  | 0.2  | 0.3  |
| Professional services .....                              | 2.372  | 224.4 | 224.8 | 3.3   | 0.2  | 0.5  | 0.1  | 0.2  |
| Hospital and related services .....                      | 1.097  | 284.3 | 285.6 | 3.8   | 0.5  | 0.3  | 0.6  | 0.4  |
| Recreation (2).....                                      | 5.969  | 100.9 | 101.1 | 1.0   | 0.2  | 0.1  | -0.1 | 0.2  |
| Video and audio (1) (2).....                             | 1.968  | 101.0 | 101.1 | 1.1   | 0.1  | 0.0  | -0.1 | 0.1  |
| Education and communication (2).....                     | 5.396  | 100.2 | 100.3 | 1.8   | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.1  | -0.5 |

|  |       |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Education (2).....                         | 2.402 | 101.1 | 102.6 | 5.1   | 1.5  | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.3  |
| Educational books and supplies .....       | .192  | 251.3 | 251.3 | 3.9   | 0.0  | -0.1 | 0.4  | -0.4 |
| Tuition, other school fees, and childcare  | 2.211 | 285.3 | 289.9 | 5.2   | 1.6  | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.4  |
| Communication (1) (2).....                 | 2.994 | 99.6  | 98.4  | -1.3  | -1.2 | 0.1  | -0.2 | -1.2 |
| Information and information processing (1) |       |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |
| (2).....                                   | 2.841 | 99.5  | 98.3  | -1.4  | -1.2 | 0.1  | -0.3 | -1.2 |
| Telephone services (1) (2).....            | 2.547 | 101.5 | 100.5 | -     | -1.0 | 0.2  | 0.1  | -1.0 |
| Information and information processing     |       |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |
| other than telephone services (1) (4)      | .294  | 40.2  | 38.9  | -21.1 | -3.2 | -1.9 | -3.8 | -3.2 |
| Personal computers and peripheral          |       |       |       |       |      |      |      |      |
| equipment (1) (2).....                     | .191  | 74.4  | 71.2  | -     | -4.3 | -2.9 | -6.4 | -4.3 |
| Other goods and services .....             | 4.544 | 236.0 | 236.2 | 6.3   | 0.1  | -0.1 | 0.9  | 0.2  |
| Tobacco and smoking products .....         | 1.300 | 273.4 | 273.7 | 12.6  | 0.1  | -0.6 | 2.7  | 0.3  |
| Personal care (1).....                     | 3.244 | 157.0 | 157.2 | 3.1   | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.1  |
| Personal care products (1).....            | .832  | 150.1 | 149.6 | 3.6   | -0.3 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.3 |
| Personal care services (1).....            | .964  | 166.4 | 167.0 | 2.6   | 0.4  | -0.1 | 0.5  | 0.4  |
| Miscellaneous personal services .....      | 1.226 | 233.9 | 234.9 | 3.4   | 0.4  | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.5  |

#### Commodity and service group

|   |        |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |
|---|--------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Commodities .....                         | 47.234 | 141.5 | 141.5 | 0.1  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.2  | 0.1  |
| Food and beverages .....                  | 17.903 | 160.2 | 160.7 | 2.0  | 0.3  | 0.1  | 0.3  | 0.2  |
| Commodities less food and beverages ..... | 29.331 | 130.3 | 130.0 | -1.2 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.2  | -0.1 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages ..... | 15.928 | 131.4 | 131.3 | -1.9 | -0.1 | -0.2 | 0.4  | -0.5 |
| Apparel .....                             | 5.300  | 128.2 | 129.9 | 0.4  | 1.3  | 0.3  | -0.4 | 0.9  |
| Nondurables less food, beverages, and     |        |       |       |      |      |      |      |      |
| apparel .....                             | 10.628 | 137.7 | 136.6 | -3.0 | -0.8 | -0.2 | 0.1  | -0.4 |
| Durables .....                            | 13.403 | 127.3 | 127.0 | -0.3 | -0.2 | 0.0  | 0.5  | -0.1 |
| Services .....                            | 52.766 | 181.6 | 181.9 | 2.5  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Rent of shelter (3).....                  | 26.708 | 170.4 | 171.0 | 3.1  | 0.4  | 0.3  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Transportation services .....             | 6.824  | 185.2 | 185.1 | 1.6  | -0.1 | -0.1 | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Other services .....                      | 10.006 | 213.7 | 214.3 | 3.3  | 0.3  | 0.3  | 0.1  | 0.0  |

#### Special indexes

|   |        |       |       |      |      |      |     |      |
|---|--------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-----|------|
| All items less food .....                 | 83.139 | 159.7 | 159.8 | 1.3  | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.2 | 0.1  |
| All items less shelter .....              | 72.967 | 155.0 | 155.1 | 0.8  | 0.1  | 0.0  | 0.2 | 0.1  |
| All items less medical care .....         | 95.409 | 156.0 | 156.1 | 1.2  | 0.1  | 0.1  | 0.2 | 0.1  |
| Commodities less food .....               | 30.373 | 131.6 | 131.4 | -1.1 | -0.2 | -0.1 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| Nondurables less food .....               | 16.970 | 133.4 | 133.3 | -1.7 | -0.1 | -0.1 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel .....   | 11.670 | 139.3 | 138.3 | -2.5 | -0.7 | -0.3 | 0.2 | -0.2 |
| Nondurables .....                         | 33.831 | 146.1 | 146.3 | 0.2  | 0.1  | -0.1 | 0.3 | 0.0  |
| Services less rent of shelter (3).....    | 26.057 | 171.5 | 171.5 | 2.0  | 0.0  | 0.1  | 0.2 | 0.1  |
| Services less medical care services ..... | 49.082 | 176.0 | 176.3 | 2.5  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2 | 0.2  |

|  |        |         |         |       |      |      |      |      |
|--|--------|---------|---------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| Energy .....   | 7.825  | 104.5   | 102.9   | -8.3  | -1.5 | -0.6 | -0.1 | -1.1 |
| All items less energy .....                                      | 92.175 | 167.4   | 167.8   | 2.2   | 0.2  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| All items less food and energy .....                             | 75.315 | 169.4   | 169.8   | 2.3   | 0.2  | 0.1  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Commodities less food and energy<br>commodities .....            | 26.463 | 142.0   | 142.2   | 1.0   | 0.1  | 0.0  | 0.2  | 0.1  |
| Energy commodities .....   | 3.910  | 93.7    | 91.5    | -14.2 | -2.3 | -0.8 | -0.2 | -1.6 |
| Services less energy services .....                              | 48.852 | 187.9   | 188.4   | 3.0   | 0.3  | 0.2  | 0.2  | 0.2  |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar<br>(1982-84=\$1.00)..... | -      | \$ .626 | \$ .625 | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    |
| Purchasing power of the consumer dollar<br>(1967=\$1.00) .....   | -      | \$ .210 | \$ .210 | -     | -    | -    | -    | -    |

1 Not seasonally adjusted.

2 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

3 Indexes on a December 1984=100 base

4 Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

| CPI-W                    | Seasonally adjusted indexes |              |              |              | Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for |              |             |              |                     |              |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--|--------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                          | May<br>1998                 | June<br>1998 | July<br>1998 | Aug.<br>1998 | 3 months ended--                                   |              |             |              | 6 months<br>ended-- |              |
|                          |                             |              |              |              | Nov.<br>1997                                       | Feb.<br>1998 | May<br>1998 | Aug.<br>1998 | Feb.<br>1998        | Aug.<br>1998 |
| Expenditure category     |                             |              |              |              |  |              |             |              |                     |              |
| All items .....          | 159.5                       | 159.6        | 159.9        | 160.0        | 1.8  | 0.3          | 2.0         | 1.3          | 1.0                 | 1.6          |
| Food and beverages ..... | 160.1                       | 160.2        | 160.7        | 161.1        | 1.8  | 1.3          | 2.3         | 2.5          | 1.5                 | 2.4          |
| Food .....               | 159.7                       | 159.8        | 160.3        | 160.8        | 2.0  | 1.0          | 2.5         | 2.8          | 1.5                 | 2.7          |
| Food at home .....       | 159.7                       | 159.8        | 160.3        | 160.8        | 1.3  | 0.3          | 2.5         | 2.8          | 0.8                 | 2.7          |

|  |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cereals and bakery products .....                        | 180.3 | 180.8 | 181.0 | 181.9 | 2.0  | 1.4   | 2.7   | 3.6   | 1.7   | 3.2   |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....                     | 146.5 | 146.6 | 147.3 | 147.8 | -1.9 | -3.7  | -0.8  | 3.6   | -2.8  | 1.4   |
| Dairy and related products (1).....                      | 147.8 | 147.7 | 147.8 | 150.1 | 11.1 | 1.6   | 1.1   | 6.4   | 6.2   | 3.7   |
| Fruits and vegetables .....                              | 203.0 | 200.5 | 201.6 | 200.4 | 2.1  | 7.1   | 18.9  | -5.0  | 4.6   | 6.3   |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage<br>materials .....   | 131.2 | 131.7 | 131.9 | 131.0 | -4.1 | -3.5  | -4.7  | -0.6  | -3.8  | -2.7  |
| Other food at home .....                                 | 148.6 | 149.7 | 150.4 | 151.5 | -0.3 | 1.1   | 1.1   | 8.0   | 0.4   | 4.5   |
| Sugar and sweets .....                                   | 148.9 | 150.2 | 149.3 | 150.3 | 1.9  | 1.9   | -0.8  | 3.8   | 1.9   | 1.5   |
| Fats and oils .....                                      | 141.1 | 143.1 | 146.7 | 149.5 | -0.8 | -0.8  | 0.9   | 26.0  | -0.8  | 12.7  |
| Other foods .....  | 164.5 | 165.3 | 165.9 | 166.6 | 2.2  | 3.7   | 1.7   | 5.2   | 3.0   | 3.4   |
| Other miscellaneous foods (1) (2).....                   | 101.5 | 102.5 | 102.8 | 103.5 | -    | -     | 4.0   | 8.1   | -     | 6.1   |
| Food away from home (1).....                             | 160.6 | 160.8 | 161.1 | 161.4 | 3.1  | 2.5   | 2.5   | 2.0   | 2.8   | 2.3   |
| Other food away from home (1) (2).....                   | 100.6 | 101.0 | 101.5 | 102.2 | -    | -     | 1.2   | 6.5   | -     | 3.8   |
| Alcoholic beverages .....                                | 163.6 | 164.1 | 164.7 | 164.7 | 1.2  | 1.5   | -0.5  | 2.7   | 1.4   | 1.1   |
| Housing .....  | 156.3 | 156.5 | 156.8 | 156.9 | 3.4  | 0.5   | 3.4   | 1.5   | 2.0   | 2.5   |
| Shelter .....  | 176.0 | 176.4 | 176.8 | 177.2 | 2.8  | 3.5   | 3.7   | 2.8   | 3.2   | 3.2   |
| Rent of primary residence .....                          | 171.0 | 171.5 | 172.0 | 172.4 | 3.2  | 2.6   | 3.8   | 3.3   | 2.9   | 3.6   |
| Lodging away from home (2).....                          | 102.1 | 101.9 | 100.8 | 101.3 | -    | -     | 8.2   | -3.1  | -     | 2.4   |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary<br>residence (3)..... | 170.6 | 170.9 | 171.4 | 171.8 | 2.7  | 3.6   | 3.6   | 2.8   | 3.1   | 3.2   |
| Tenants' and household insurance (1) (2)..               | 99.7  | 99.3  | 99.4  | 99.4  | -    | -     | -2.0  | -1.2  | -     | -1.6  |
| Fuels and utilities .....                                | 128.4 | 128.0 | 128.1 | 127.4 | 6.6  | -12.2 | 2.5   | -3.1  | -3.2  | -0.3  |
| Fuels .....  | 112.8 | 112.4 | 112.4 | 111.7 | 10.1 | -18.0 | 2.5   | -3.8  | -5.0  | -0.7  |
| Fuel oil and other fuels .....                           | 92.0  | 91.1  | 90.8  | 90.1  | -0.4 | -17.4 | 0.9   | -8.0  | -9.3  | -3.7  |
| Gas (piped) and electricity .....                        | 120.5 | 120.0 | 120.1 | 119.3 | 11.6 | -18.3 | 2.7   | -3.9  | -4.5  | -0.7  |
| Household furnishings and operations .....               | 125.0 | 125.0 | 125.5 | 125.2 | 0.6  | 2.6   | 1.0   | 0.6   | 1.6   | 0.8   |
| Apparel .....  | 131.1 | 131.5 | 131.0 | 132.2 | 0.6  | -2.7  | 0.0   | 3.4   | -1.1  | 1.7   |
| Men's and boys' apparel .....                            | 131.1 | 131.4 | 131.6 | 131.5 | 0.9  | 1.2   | 0.0   | 1.2   | 1.1   | 0.6   |
| Women's and girls' apparel .....                         | 124.0 | 124.6 | 123.4 | 125.7 | 1.6  | -4.4  | 2.0   | 5.6   | -1.4  | 3.8   |
| Infants' and toddlers' apparel (1).....                  | 127.4 | 125.4 | 122.7 | 125.0 | -4.0 | -12.0 | 14.7  | -7.3  | -8.1  | 3.1   |
| Footwear .....   | 127.1 | 129.0 | 128.8 | 130.0 | 2.2  | -4.8  | -2.8  | 9.4   | -1.4  | 3.1   |
| Transportation .....                                     | 140.6 | 140.4 | 140.7 | 140.5 | -1.7 | -4.7  | -2.0  | -0.3  | -3.2  | -1.1  |
| Private transportation .....                             | 138.1 | 138.0 | 138.2 | 137.8 | -2.0 | -5.6  | -1.7  | -0.9  | -3.8  | -1.3  |
| New and used motor vehicles (2).....                     | 100.3 | 100.3 | 100.7 | 100.9 | -    | -     | 0.8   | 2.4   | -     | 1.6   |
| New vehicles .....                                       | 144.4 | 144.0 | 144.6 | 145.1 | -1.6 | -0.8  | -0.6  | 2.0   | -1.2  | 0.7   |
| Used cars and trucks (1).....                            | 151.3 | 152.3 | 152.7 | 152.4 | -1.9 | 1.9   | 3.8   | 2.9   | 0.0   | 3.4   |
| Motor fuel .....   | 93.2  | 92.4  | 92.2  | 90.7  | -6.2 | -28.4 | -12.6 | -10.3 | -18.1 | -11.5 |
| Gasoline (all types) .....                               | 92.5  | 91.7  | 91.5  | 90.0  | -5.9 | -29.0 | -13.8 | -10.4 | -18.3 | -12.1 |
| Motor vehicle parts and equipment .....                  | 100.0 | 100.6 | 100.7 | 100.6 | -1.6 | -0.4  | -2.4  | 2.4   | -1.0  | 0.0   |
| Motor vehicle maintenance and repair .....               | 167.0 | 167.7 | 168.1 | 168.5 | 1.7  | 3.7   | 1.2   | 3.6   | 2.7   | 2.4   |
| Public transportation .....                              | 187.0 | 185.5 | 187.2 | 190.6 | 1.8  | 9.0   | -2.3  | 7.9   | 5.3   | 2.7   |

|  |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Medical care .....   | 240.5 | 241.6 | 242.1 | 242.9 | 2.8  | 3.1   | 4.1   | 4.1   | 2.9   | 4.1   |
| Medical care commodities .....   | 218.1 | 218.5 | 218.7 | 219.9 | 2.3  | 2.3   | 6.1   | 3.3   | 2.3   | 4.7   |
| Medical care services .....  | 245.4 | 246.6 | 247.2 | 248.0 | 2.9  | 3.4   | 3.7   | 4.3   | 3.1   | 4.0   |
| Professional services .....  | 222.7 | 223.9 | 224.1 | 224.6 | 2.6  | 3.3   | 3.5   | 3.5   | 3.0   | 3.5   |
| Hospital and related services .....  | 282.0 | 282.8 | 284.5 | 285.6 | 3.5  | 3.8   | 2.4   | 5.2   | 3.7   | 3.8   |
| Recreation (2).....  | 100.8 | 100.9 | 100.8 | 101.0 | -    | -     | 0.8   | 0.8   | -     | 0.8   |
| Video and audio (1) (2).....   | 101.1 | 101.1 | 101.0 | 101.1 | 1.2  | 3.6   | -0.4  | 0.0   | 2.4   | -0.2  |
| Education and communication (2).....   | 100.9 | 101.0 | 101.1 | 100.6 | -    | -     | 4.1   | -1.2  | -     | 1.4   |
| Education (2).....   | 102.3 | 102.6 | 102.9 | 103.2 | -    | -     | 6.5   | 3.6   | -     | 5.0   |
| Educational books and supplies .....   | 252.6 | 252.4 | 253.3 | 252.3 | 3.7  | 3.8   | 8.7   | -0.5  | 3.7   | 4.0   |
| Tuition, other school fees, and childcare .....                                    | 287.5 | 288.5 | 289.4 | 290.5 | 5.3  | 4.8   | 6.2   | 4.2   | 5.1   | 5.2   |
| Communication (1) (2).....   | 99.7  | 99.8  | 99.6  | 98.4  | 1.6  | -3.2  | 1.6   | -5.1  | -0.8  | -1.8  |
| Information and information processing (1) (2).....                                | 99.7  | 99.8  | 99.5  | 98.3  | 1.6  | -3.2  | 1.6   | -5.5  | -0.8  | -2.0  |
| Telephone services (1) (2).....  | 101.2 | 101.4 | 101.5 | 100.5 | -    | -     | 4.9   | -2.7  | -     | 1.0   |
| Information and information processing other than telephone services (1) (4) ..... | 42.6  | 41.8  | 40.2  | 38.9  | 0.0  | -25.5 | -25.2 | -30.5 | -13.7 | -27.9 |
| Personal computers and peripheral equipment (1) (2).....                           | 81.9  | 79.5  | 74.4  | 71.2  | -    | -     | -34.7 | -42.9 | -     | -38.9 |
| Other goods and services .....   | 234.6 | 234.3 | 236.3 | 236.7 | 6.6  | 8.2   | 6.6   | 3.6   | 7.4   | 5.1   |
| Tobacco and smoking products .....   | 268.3 | 266.6 | 273.7 | 274.5 | 10.8 | 19.2  | 11.5  | 9.6   | 14.9  | 10.5  |
| Personal care (1).....   | 156.7 | 156.8 | 157.0 | 157.2 | 5.1  | 1.8   | 4.5   | 1.3   | 3.4   | 2.9   |
| Personal care products (1).....  | 150.5 | 150.3 | 150.1 | 149.6 | 7.7  | 1.4   | 8.1   | -2.4  | 4.5   | 2.7   |
| Personal care services (1).....  | 165.7 | 165.6 | 166.4 | 167.0 | 2.2  | 2.0   | 3.0   | 3.2   | 2.1   | 3.1   |
| Miscellaneous personal services .....  | 232.3 | 233.1 | 233.7 | 234.9 | 3.0  | 3.2   | 3.0   | 4.6   | 3.1   | 3.8   |
| Commodity and service group  |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |       |       |       |
| Commodities .....  | 141.6 | 141.6 | 141.9 | 142.0 | 0.6  | -1.4  | 0.0   | 1.1   | -0.4  | 0.6   |
| Food and beverages .....   | 160.1 | 160.2 | 160.7 | 161.1 | 1.8  | 1.3   | 2.3   | 2.5   | 1.5   | 2.4   |
| Commodities less food and beverages .....  | 130.6 | 130.5 | 130.7 | 130.6 | -0.3 | -3.3  | -0.9  | 0.0   | -1.8  | -0.5  |
| Nondurables less food and beverages .....  | 132.2 | 131.9 | 132.4 | 131.8 | 0.6  | -5.8  | -1.2  | -1.2  | -2.7  | -1.2  |
| Apparel .....  | 131.1 | 131.5 | 131.0 | 132.2 | 0.6  | -2.7  | 0.0   | 3.4   | -1.1  | 1.7   |
| Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....                                | 137.2 | 136.9 | 137.1 | 136.5 | -0.3 | -8.5  | -0.9  | -2.0  | -4.5  | -1.4  |
| Durables .....   | 127.0 | 127.0 | 127.6 | 127.5 | -1.9 | 0.3   | -1.2  | 1.6   | -0.8  | 0.2   |
| Services .....   | 180.6 | 180.9 | 181.2 | 181.5 | 3.2  | 1.6   | 3.4   | 2.0   | 2.4   | 2.7   |
| Rent of shelter (3).....   | 169.3 | 169.8 | 170.1 | 170.5 | 2.9  | 3.2   | 3.4   | 2.9   | 3.0   | 3.1   |
| Transportation services .....  | 185.5 | 185.3 | 185.6 | 186.0 | 0.9  | 3.8   | 0.6   | 1.1   | 2.3   | 0.9   |
| Other services .....   | 213.6 | 214.2 | 214.5 | 214.6 | 2.9  | 3.3   | 4.6   | 1.9   | 3.1   | 3.2   |

Special indexes

|   |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |      |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| All items less food .....                 | 159.1 | 159.2 | 159.5 | 159.6 | 2.0  | -0.3  | 2.0   | 1.3  | 0.9   | 1.6   |
| All items less shelter .....              | 154.9 | 154.9 | 155.2 | 155.3 | 1.8  | -1.0  | 1.3   | 1.0  | 0.4   | 1.2   |
| All items less medical care .....         | 155.6 | 155.7 | 156.0 | 156.1 | 2.1  | 0.0   | 1.8   | 1.3  | 1.0   | 1.6   |
| Commodities less food .....               | 132.1 | 132.0 | 132.2 | 132.1 | 0.0  | -3.3  | -0.9  | 0.0  | -1.6  | -0.5  |
| Nondurables less food .....               | 134.1 | 134.0 | 134.2 | 133.8 | 0.6  | -5.7  | -0.6  | -0.9 | -2.6  | -0.7  |
| Nondurables less food and apparel .....   | 138.6 | 138.2 | 138.5 | 138.2 | 1.4  | -8.4  | -1.7  | -1.1 | -3.6  | -1.4  |
| Nondurables .....                         | 146.4 | 146.3 | 146.7 | 146.7 | 0.8  | -2.4  | 1.4   | 0.8  | -0.8  | 1.1   |
| Services less rent of shelter (3).....    | 170.7 | 170.8 | 171.1 | 171.2 | 3.4  | -0.7  | 4.1   | 1.2  | 1.3   | 2.6   |
| Services less medical care services ..... | 175.0 | 175.4 | 175.7 | 176.0 | 3.3  | 0.9   | 3.7   | 2.3  | 2.1   | 3.0   |
| Energy .....                              | 102.5 | 101.9 | 101.8 | 100.7 | 2.2  | -23.0 | -4.9  | -6.8 | -11.3 | -5.9  |
| All items less energy .....               | 167.4 | 167.6 | 168.0 | 168.3 | 2.0  | 2.2   | 2.7   | 2.2  | 2.1   | 2.4   |
| All items less food and energy .....      | 169.5 | 169.7 | 170.1 | 170.4 | 2.2  | 2.4   | 2.6   | 2.1  | 2.3   | 2.4   |
| Commodities less food and energy          |       |       |       |       |      |       |       |      |       |       |
| commodities .....                         | 142.7 | 142.7 | 143.0 | 143.2 | 0.8  | 1.1   | 0.8   | 1.4  | 1.0   | 1.1   |
| Energy commodities .....                  | 93.1  | 92.4  | 92.2  | 90.7  | -5.6 | -27.6 | -12.3 | -9.9 | -17.3 | -11.1 |
| Services less energy services .....       | 187.5 | 187.9 | 188.2 | 188.6 | 2.6  | 3.3   | 3.5   | 2.4  | 3.0   | 2.9   |

1 Not seasonally adjusted.

2 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

3 Indexes on a December 1984=100 base

4 Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Selected areas, all items index

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

| CPI-W                   | Pricing<br>schedule<br>(1) | All items   |              |              |              |                                      |              |              |                                      |             |              |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
|                         |                            | Indexes     |              |              |              | Percent change to<br>Aug.1998 from-- |              |              | Percent change to<br>July1998 from-- |             |              |
|                         |                            | May<br>1998 | June<br>1998 | July<br>1998 | Aug.<br>1998 | Aug.<br>1997                         | June<br>1998 | July<br>1998 | July<br>1997                         | May<br>1998 | June<br>1998 |
| U.S. city average ..... | M                          | 159.5       | 159.7        | 159.8        | 160.0        | 1.4                                  | 0.2          | 0.1          | 1.5                                  | 0.2         | 0.1          |

Region and area size(2)





|  |   |   |       |   |       |     |     |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|-------|---|-------|-----|-----|---|---|---|---|
| PA-NJ-DE-MD .....                        | 2 | - | 167.4 | - | 167.9 | 1.2 | 0.3 | - | - | - | - |
| San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA ..... | 2 | - | 161.7 | - | 162.7 | 2.9 | 0.6 | - | - | - | - |
| Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA .....       | 2 | - | 162.8 | - | 163.8 | -   | 0.6 | - | - | - | - |

1 Areas on pricing schedule 2 (see Table 10) will appear next month.

2 Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.

3 Indexes on a December 1996=100 base.

4 The 'North Central' region has been renamed the 'Midwest' region by the Census Bureau. It is composed of the same geographic entities.

5 Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.

6 In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 39 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland-Salem, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA; Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.

7 Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.