The Consumer Price Index rose 0.3 percent in January to 124.1 (1957-59=100). This increase matched the January 1968 increase, largest for that month since 1958, although it was smaller than the average monthly increase during 1968. The January index was 4.6 percent higher than a year ago.

Prices were higher for nearly all important items except apparel and new and used cars, but decreases for apparel were less than usual for January. The advancing costs of most consumer services, particularly those associated with automobile operation, homeownership, and medical care, led the upswing and were responsible for more than two-thirds of the increase. A larger than usual rise in food prices accounted for much of the remainder of the increase.

Nearly half of the index rise in the past 12 months has resulted from increasing charges for services. Nondurable commodities less food, principally apparel, accounted for nearly one-fourth of the over-the-year increase; food and durable goods were responsible for the remainder.

Services

Consumer services continued upward in January; they increased 0.7 percent over December. The increase was somewhat more than the average monthly advance in 1968, 0.5 percent. Automobile services jumped sharply in a number of cities, especially New York, as insurance premiums were raised, and some States boosted automobile registration and drivers' permit fees. Most automobile repair and maintenance services also were higher.

Charges for medical care services moved higher. They advanced 0.9 percent because of increased dentists' and doctors' fees and hospital service charges. Fees for housekeeping services rose moderately in January as domestic workers continued to command higher wages and charges for laundry continued to rise. Over the year housekeeping services climbed 6.6 percent. Home maintenance and repair services, conventional mortgage interest charges, real estate taxes, and property insurance were all higher, but rent, up 0.2 percent, eased slightly from the rate of advance exhibited during the preceding 5 months. Hotel and motel rates posted one of their sharpest advances in recent years and household gas and electricity rates and personal care services edged higher.

Food

Food prices in grocery stores rose significantly more than usual in January by jumping 0.8 percent, primarily a result of higher meat and egg prices. Restaurant meals continued their long-term uptrend, but the 0.3 percent rise was the smallest in several months.

Nearly all cuts of beef were higher as production dropped substantially. Pork prices rose despite small production gains. Poultry prices were unchanged on the average; lower prices for frying chickens offset an increase in the cost of turkeys. Egg prices registered an unusual and exceptionally large gain for the month as the effects of curtailed production and reduced cold storage supplies continued. Over the year, retail egg prices increased nearly 41 percent.

Prices of fruits and vegetables increased in January, but the advance was smaller than usual for this time of year. Among fresh fruits, bananas and apples were sharply higher and outweighed decreases for most other fruits, particularly citrus fruits which were
in more abundant supply. Fresh vegetables advanced slightly as rain and freezing weather curtailed yields in many winter producing areas. However, ample tomato supplies from Florida and Mexico dropped tomato prices sharply. Canned fruits and vegetables were generally lower because of large 1968 packs, but orange concentrate prices rose due to tight supplies and an expected drop in the 1968-69 pack after the freezing weather in mid-December.

Dairy products rose 0.1 percent as higher cheese and butter prices were offset only partially by lower prices for fresh whole and skim milk.

**Durable goods**

Durable goods prices fell 0.1 percent in January, chiefly because of lower new and used car prices. The drop in used car prices was due largely to an influx of late model cars from rental and leasing companies. Severe winter weather and seasonally lower demand also contributed to lower prices. New car prices fell, as dealers offered higher concessions and inventories reached record levels, but the drop was less than usual for January. (On January 1, manufacturers' suggested retail prices were increased to reflect the addition of head restraints as standard equipment, but adjustments in the index were made for the value of these.)

Most other durable goods prices were higher in January although the gains were small. Furniture price changes were mixed. The influence of generally higher wholesale prices was offset partially by widespread January furniture sales. Floor coverings were again higher because of increased mill prices, and appliance prices edged up despite year-end sales on ranges, dryers, and color and black-and-white television receivers. A continued strong market for automobile replacement tires permitted retailers to pass on higher wholesale prices.

**Nondurable goods other than food**

Apparel prices declined 0.7 percent as a result of widespread clearance sales, especially for women's coats, wool dresses, and skirts. Despite these reductions, apparel prices advanced on a seasonally adjusted basis, indicating that sale price reductions were not as steep or widespread as in the past. Footwear prices were unchanged on the average; reduced prices for men's and women's shoes were balanced by higher price tags on children's shoes.

The usual January sales were also responsible for a decline in textile house-furnishings, particularly pillows, bedspreads, and non-permanent press cotton sheets. Curtains and drapery fabrics rose slightly although some scattered sale prices were reported.

Gasoline and motor oil prices advanced sharply in January, due largely to increases for gasoline in the Los Angeles area, where frequent "price wars" have occurred. Significant increases in gasoline prices also were reported in several other cities in January. Fuel oil prices rose moderately; the most notable increase occurred in New York.

**Cost-of-Living Adjustments**

More than 630,000 workers will receive cost-of-living wage increases based on the January Consumer Price Index. About 500,000 employees in the trucking industry will receive a 4-cent-an-hour increase, the maximum permitted for this second annual review under their 3-year contract. Other advances, based on quarterly, semiannual, or annual changes in the national or city indexes, will range from 1 to 8 cents an hour.

**NOTE: Changes in Publication Policy**

Beginning with this report, detailed Consumer Price Index data for selected items and groups, formerly issued quarterly in a separate report, will be published monthly and included in the report as table 9. The former quarterly release was discontinued with the publication of data for December 1968.

In addition, data for selected seasonally adjusted series, formerly shown on table 1 are now shown separately on table 4 of this report.
### TABLE I: Consumer Price Index—United States City Average

For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, January 1969

(Unadjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

**Group** | **Indexes ($1957-59=100 unless otherwise noted)** | **Percent change to January 1969 from**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January 1968</th>
<th>December 1968</th>
<th>October 1968</th>
<th>January 1969</th>
<th>One month</th>
<th>Three months</th>
<th>A year</th>
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<td>123.7</td>
<td>122.9</td>
<td>118.6</td>
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<td>125.9</td>
<td>145.5</td>
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<td>120.6</td>
<td>118.7</td>
<td>.4</td>
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<td>117.9</td>
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<td>118.4</td>
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<td>120.4</td>
<td>118.5</td>
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<td>124.7</td>
<td>123.8</td>
<td>119.3</td>
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<td>.9</td>
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<td>Housekeeping and home maintenance services</td>
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<td>120.5</td>
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<td>Medical care services</td>
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<td>151.6</td>
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<td>Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957-59=1.00</td>
<td>$1.060</td>
<td>$1.008</td>
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<td>$0.843</td>
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<tr>
<td>1959-61=1.00</td>
<td>.939</td>
<td>.929</td>
<td>.894</td>
<td>.848</td>
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1/ Also includes home mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.
2/ Also includes telephone, water, and sewerage services not shown separately.
3/ Also includes insurance, automobiles insurance, and other auto expenses.
4/ Also includes health insurance, automobile insurance, and other auto expenses.
5/ Includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
6/ Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.
7/ Includes telephone, water, and sewerage services not shown separately.
8/ Also includes home mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.
9/ Includes home mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.
10/ Includes gas and electricity, telephone, water, and sewer, public transportation.

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Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
http://fraser.stlouisfed.org/
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<th>Area 1/</th>
<th>Pricing Schedule 2/</th>
<th>Indexes</th>
<th>Percent change from:</th>
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<td>124.1</td>
<td>152.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>121.4</td>
<td>153.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>122.8</td>
<td>151.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles-Long Beach</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>124.7</td>
<td>155.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>127.8</td>
<td>153.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>125.2</td>
<td>153.6</td>
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<td>127.9</td>
<td>158.5</td>
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<td>Houston</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>123.2</td>
<td>151.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minneapolis-St. Paul</td>
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<td>122.9</td>
<td>152.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>124.0</td>
<td>152.8</td>
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<td>Buffalo (Nov.1963=100)</td>
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<td>121.8</td>
<td>151.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dallas (Nov.1963=100)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>118.7</td>
<td>149.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>124.5</td>
<td>156.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego (Feb.1965=100)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>124.9</td>
<td>150.3</td>
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<td>Washington</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>122.1</td>
<td>151.2</td>
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<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>124.0</td>
<td>153.9</td>
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<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>121.1</td>
<td>147.3</td>
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<td>Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)</td>
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<td>Kansas City</td>
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<td>123.4</td>
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<td>St. Louis</td>
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<td>160.9</td>
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1/ Area coverage includes the urban portion of the corresponding Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) except for New York and Chicago where the more extensive Standard Consolidated Areas are used. Area definitions are those established for the 1960 Census and do not include revisions made since 1960.

2/ Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all cities; most other goods and services priced as indicated:

M - Every month.
1 - January, April, July, and October.
2 - February, May, August, and November.
3 - March, June, September, and December.
## TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index—The United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Major Groups
Percent change from December 1968 to January 1969

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>U.S. City Average</th>
<th>Chicago</th>
<th>Detroit</th>
<th>Los Angeles–Long Beach</th>
<th>New York</th>
<th>Philadelphia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All items</td>
<td></td>
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<td>0.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
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<td>1.2</td>
<td>.9</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td></td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparel and upkeep</td>
<td></td>
<td>-.7</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>-.6</td>
<td>-1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td></td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>-.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and recreation</td>
<td></td>
<td>.6</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.7</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical care</td>
<td></td>
<td>.7</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>2.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal care</td>
<td></td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>-.2</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>-.3</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading and recreation</td>
<td></td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>-.3</td>
<td>.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other goods and services</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>-.1</td>
<td>-.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ See footnote 1, Table A-2.
2/ Not available.

## TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index — United States City Average For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for Selected Groups
Seasonally Adjusted
(1957-59=100)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>January 1969</th>
<th>December 1968</th>
<th>October 1968</th>
<th>One Month Ago</th>
<th>Three Months Ago</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>122.2</td>
<td>121.6</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food at home</td>
<td>115.5</td>
<td>117.8</td>
<td>117.3</td>
<td>.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meats, poultry, and fish</td>
<td>116.3</td>
<td>115.2</td>
<td>114.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy products</td>
<td>122.3</td>
<td>122.1</td>
<td>121.7</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>129.6</td>
<td>129.8</td>
<td>128.4</td>
<td>-.2</td>
<td>.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other foods at home</td>
<td>109.4</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel and utilities</td>
<td>111.5</td>
<td>111.3</td>
<td>110.3</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel oil and coal</td>
<td>115.1</td>
<td>114.5</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>-1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparel and upkeep</td>
<td>124.1</td>
<td>123.7</td>
<td>122.7</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men's and boys'</td>
<td>125.4</td>
<td>124.7</td>
<td>123.6</td>
<td>.6</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's and girls'</td>
<td>120.0</td>
<td>119.7</td>
<td>118.9</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footwear</td>
<td>136.6</td>
<td>136.2</td>
<td>134.5</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>120.5</td>
<td>120.2</td>
<td>120.4</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>117.5</td>
<td>118.0</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>-.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New cars</td>
<td>101.6</td>
<td>101.3</td>
<td>102.0</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>-.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commodities</td>
<td>117.6</td>
<td>117.2</td>
<td>116.6</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nondurables</td>
<td>121.4</td>
<td>120.8</td>
<td>120.1</td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nondurables less food</td>
<td>120.5</td>
<td>120.1</td>
<td>119.5</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparel commodities</td>
<td>123.5</td>
<td>123.0</td>
<td>122.0</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durables</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td>108.5</td>
<td>108.3</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
2/ Also includes infant's wear sewing materials, jewelry, and apparel upkeep services not shown separately.
### TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index—United States and Selected Areas 1\)
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Commodity Groups
January 1969 indexes and percent changes from October 1968

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>U.S. City Average</th>
<th>Boston</th>
<th>Chicago</th>
<th>Detroit</th>
<th>Houston</th>
<th>Los Angeles—Long Beach</th>
<th>Minneapolis—St. Paul</th>
<th>New York</th>
<th>Philadelphia</th>
<th>Pittsburgh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excludes all items</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food</strong></td>
<td>124.1</td>
<td>127.9</td>
<td>121.4</td>
<td>122.8</td>
<td>123.2</td>
<td>124.7</td>
<td>122.9</td>
<td>127.8</td>
<td>125.2</td>
<td>124.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shelter</strong></td>
<td>122.0</td>
<td>125.1</td>
<td>124.0</td>
<td>119.5</td>
<td>123.4</td>
<td>124.6</td>
<td>120.5</td>
<td>123.3</td>
<td>127.7</td>
<td>119.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food at home</strong></td>
<td>118.3</td>
<td>119.7</td>
<td>122.3</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>116.0</td>
<td>117.0</td>
<td>118.0</td>
<td>118.1</td>
<td>117.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cereals and bakery products</strong></td>
<td>120.5</td>
<td>123.6</td>
<td>127.5</td>
<td>115.1</td>
<td>127.1</td>
<td>120.5</td>
<td>113.2</td>
<td>119.0</td>
<td>118.5</td>
<td>120.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Meats, poultry, and fish</strong></td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>120.2</td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>118.3</td>
<td>111.5</td>
<td>105.3</td>
<td>134.5</td>
<td>116.9</td>
<td>121.2</td>
<td>118.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dairy products</strong></td>
<td>122.7</td>
<td>118.3</td>
<td>135.9</td>
<td>128.8</td>
<td>128.4</td>
<td>139.1</td>
<td>127.9</td>
<td>114.2</td>
<td>131.3</td>
<td>115.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fruits and vegetables</strong></td>
<td>127.0</td>
<td>129.6</td>
<td>123.9</td>
<td>111.9</td>
<td>130.0</td>
<td>134.3</td>
<td>119.6</td>
<td>130.6</td>
<td>129.3</td>
<td>125.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other foods at home</strong></td>
<td>109.8</td>
<td>109.3</td>
<td>111.8</td>
<td>107.9</td>
<td>110.8</td>
<td>105.8</td>
<td>112.4</td>
<td>109.7</td>
<td>107.4</td>
<td>109.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food away from home</strong></td>
<td>140.3</td>
<td>148.3</td>
<td>132.5</td>
<td>136.5</td>
<td>141.3</td>
<td>146.0</td>
<td>147.0</td>
<td>147.1</td>
<td>135.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Housing</strong></td>
<td>122.7</td>
<td>129.2</td>
<td>137.6</td>
<td>119.1</td>
<td>121.6</td>
<td>127.4</td>
<td>121.0</td>
<td>126.8</td>
<td>121.6</td>
<td>122.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shelter</strong></td>
<td>128.2</td>
<td>138.6</td>
<td>121.2</td>
<td>124.7</td>
<td>120.3</td>
<td>135.0</td>
<td>127.4</td>
<td>131.9</td>
<td>125.6</td>
<td>124.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rent 2/3</strong></td>
<td>116.9</td>
<td>132.7</td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>105.1</td>
<td>116.8</td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>117.6</td>
<td>111.6</td>
<td>114.3</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Homeownership</strong></td>
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<td>125.7</td>
<td>127.8</td>
<td>126.0</td>
<td>129.3</td>
<td>129.3</td>
<td>127.7</td>
<td>126.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuel and utilities</strong></td>
<td>111.7</td>
<td>109.4</td>
<td>107.4</td>
<td>103.4</td>
<td>125.1</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td>106.7</td>
<td>112.7</td>
<td>109.6</td>
<td>119.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuel oil and coal</strong></td>
<td>116.7</td>
<td>119.8</td>
<td>109.4</td>
<td>110.0</td>
<td>122.7</td>
<td>114.2</td>
<td>122.4</td>
<td>115.1</td>
<td>122.5</td>
<td>116.9</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Gas and electricity</strong></td>
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<td>121.2</td>
<td>130.7</td>
<td>104.3</td>
<td>144.4</td>
<td>122.9</td>
<td>111.4</td>
<td>102.7</td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td>117.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household furnishings and operation</strong></td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td>123.2</td>
<td>114.5</td>
<td>110.5</td>
<td>124.3</td>
<td>113.7</td>
<td>112.8</td>
<td>113.7</td>
<td>117.1</td>
<td>118.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apparel and upkeep</strong></td>
<td>124.0</td>
<td>123.5</td>
<td>116.4</td>
<td>121.3</td>
<td>121.5</td>
<td>122.4</td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>127.9</td>
<td>129.6</td>
<td>125.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men's and boys'</strong></td>
<td>124.9</td>
<td>117.7</td>
<td>117.5</td>
<td>120.5</td>
<td>121.7</td>
<td>125.7</td>
<td>128.8</td>
<td>131.9</td>
<td>127.8</td>
<td>121.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's and girls'</strong></td>
<td>118.7</td>
<td>118.7</td>
<td>117.4</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td>117.3</td>
<td>121.7</td>
<td>122.9</td>
<td>122.0</td>
<td>121.6</td>
<td>121.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Footwear</strong></td>
<td>116.3</td>
<td>138.1</td>
<td>131.6</td>
<td>133.8</td>
<td>141.2</td>
<td>132.8</td>
<td>131.0</td>
<td>135.1</td>
<td>141.7</td>
<td>140.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation</strong></td>
<td>120.7</td>
<td>127.8</td>
<td>121.4</td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>118.3</td>
<td>126.0</td>
<td>120.5</td>
<td>124.1</td>
<td>129.7</td>
<td>122.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private</strong></td>
<td>117.9</td>
<td>117.8</td>
<td>116.7</td>
<td>116.6</td>
<td>113.8</td>
<td>121.5</td>
<td>119.0</td>
<td>124.0</td>
<td>124.4</td>
<td>116.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public</strong></td>
<td>114.8 4/</td>
<td>171.2</td>
<td>152.1</td>
<td>137.2</td>
<td>171.8</td>
<td>135.4</td>
<td>128.6</td>
<td>127.4</td>
<td>155.9</td>
<td>148.5</td>
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</table>

#### Percent changes October 1968 to January 1969

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<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percent changes</th>
<th>October 1968 to January 1969</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>All items</strong></td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food</strong></td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shelter</strong></td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rent</strong></td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuel and utilities</strong></td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fuel oil and coal</strong></td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gas and electricity</strong></td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household furnishings and operation</strong></td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Apparel and upkeep</strong></td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men's and boys'</strong></td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's and girls'</strong></td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Footwear</strong></td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation</strong></td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Private</strong></td>
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<td>1.0</td>
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<td><strong>Public</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Health and recreation</strong></td>
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<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Medical care</strong></td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal care</strong></td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reading and recreation</strong></td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other foods and services</strong></td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1/ See footnote 1, table 2.
2/ 1968 annual average for Chicago, Los Angeles—Long Beach and Philadelphia are 110.4, 114.9 and 115.5, respectively.
3/ Corrected indexes: October 1968, 107.3; November 1968, 107.3; December 1968, 107.3.
4/ Corrected indexes: October 1968, 105.7; November 1968, 105.7; December 1968, 105.7.
5/ Corrected index for December 1968 is 144.3.
6/ Not available.
7/ Change from November 1968.
TABLE 5A: Consumer Price Index—United States and Selected Areas \(^1\)
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Commodity Groups
Year 1968 Indexes and Percent Changes from Year 1967

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Boston</th>
<th>Houston</th>
<th>Minneapolis-St. Paul</th>
<th>Pittsburgh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All items</td>
<td>125.7</td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>121.2</td>
<td>120.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All items (1947-49=100)</td>
<td>154.2</td>
<td>147.0</td>
<td>149.9</td>
<td>148.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>122.7</td>
<td>119.7</td>
<td>117.3</td>
<td>115.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food at home</td>
<td>117.7</td>
<td>116.0</td>
<td>114.4</td>
<td>113.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereals and bakery products</td>
<td>121.1</td>
<td>126.1</td>
<td>109.5</td>
<td>117.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meats, poultry, and fish</td>
<td>119.6</td>
<td>109.8</td>
<td>112.0</td>
<td>115.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy products</td>
<td>115.4</td>
<td>120.5</td>
<td>124.5</td>
<td>131.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>127.7</td>
<td>129.5</td>
<td>122.5</td>
<td>122.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other foods at home</td>
<td>105.6</td>
<td>103.0</td>
<td>106.8</td>
<td>102.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food away from home</td>
<td>146.2</td>
<td>136.0</td>
<td>130.0</td>
<td>132.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>125.7</td>
<td>116.7</td>
<td>119.7</td>
<td>118.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td>133.6</td>
<td>115.0</td>
<td>126.5</td>
<td>118.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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**Percent Changes December 1968 to January 1969**

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1/ See footnote 1, table 2.

2/ Not available.
TABLE 7: Consumer Price Index—United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food Items
January 1969 indexes and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

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See footnotes at the end of the table.
TABLE 7: Consumer Price Index—United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food Items
January 1969 indexes and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

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1/ December 1963=100.
2/ April 1960=100.
3/ Priced only in season.
4/ July 1961=100.
TABLE 8: Consumer Price Index -- Portland, Oregon
All items and commodity groups, January 1969 and 1968 average indexes
and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100)

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<td>Women's and girls'</td>
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<td>December 1968</td>
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<td>108.4</td>
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<td>Furniture and bedding</td>
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<td>Bedroom suites, good or inexpensive quality</td>
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<td>Living room suites, good or inexpensive quality</td>
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<td>Furnishings</td>
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<td>Box springs</td>
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<td>Cribs</td>
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<td>Rug, hard surface</td>
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<td>Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers</td>
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<td>Air conditioners, demountable 1/</td>
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<td>Other house furnishings</td>
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<td>109.3</td>
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<td>Dec. 63</td>
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<td>109.3</td>
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<td>Lawn mowers, power, rotary type 1/</td>
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<td>Postal charges</td>
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<td>Laundry, flatwork, finished service</td>
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<td>Licensed day care service, preschool child</td>
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TABLE 9: Consumer Price Index--U.S. City Average For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers
Indexes for Selected Items and Groups, January 1969 and Percent Changes from Selected Dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)
### Table 9: Consumer Price Index—U.S. City Average

For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers — Continued

| Item and Group | Other Index Bases | January 1969 | December 1968 | Percent change to January 1969
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apparel and upkeep 8/</td>
<td>123.8</td>
<td>124.3</td>
<td>- 0.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparel commodities less footwear</td>
<td>116.9</td>
<td>117.2</td>
<td>- 1.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men's and boys'</strong></td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's and girls'</strong></td>
<td>118.4</td>
<td>118.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Footwear</strong></td>
<td>120.3</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous apparel:</strong></td>
<td>119.9</td>
<td>120.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Apparel services:</strong></td>
<td>120.7</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### December 63

| Item and Group | Other Index Bases | January 1969 | December 1968 | Percent change to January 1969
<table>
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<th></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Apparel and upkeep 8/</strong></td>
<td>123.8</td>
<td>124.3</td>
<td>- 0.7</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Apparel commodities less footwear</strong></td>
<td>116.9</td>
<td>117.2</td>
<td>- 1.1</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Men's</strong></td>
<td>119.4</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Women's</strong></td>
<td>118.4</td>
<td>118.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Footwear</strong></td>
<td>120.3</td>
<td>120.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Miscellaneous apparel:</strong></td>
<td>119.9</td>
<td>120.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Apparel services:</strong></td>
<td>120.7</td>
<td>120.9</td>
<td>0.2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Percent change to January 1969 unless otherwise specified.
### TABLE 9: Consumer Price Index—U.S. City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers — Continued

| Item and Group | Other Indexes | Percent change to January 1969
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<th></th>
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</thead>
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<td>Base</td>
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<td>Transportation</td>
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<td>Private _9/</td>
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<td>137.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Automobiles, new</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor oil, premium</td>
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<td>Tires, new, tubeless</td>
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<td>Auto repairs and maintenance</td>
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<td>Auto insurance rates</td>
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<td>Auto registration</td>
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<td>Parking fees, private and municipal</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public</td>
<td>144.8</td>
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<td>Local transit fares</td>
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<td>Taxi fares</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
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<tr>
<td>Railroad fares, coach</td>
<td>108.9</td>
<td>108.4</td>
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<td>Airplane fares, chiefly coach</td>
<td>103.2</td>
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<td>Railroad fares, coach</td>
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<td>Bus fares, intercity</td>
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<td>Medical care</td>
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<td>Drugs and prescriptions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prescription items</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>105.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid tonics</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>100.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aspirin compounds</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>116.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adhesive bandages, package</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>107.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold tablets or capsules</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>113.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough syrup</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>113.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prescriptions</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>87.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-infective</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>62.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sedatives and hypnotics</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>103.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antacids</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>89.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-arrhythmics</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>101.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-spasms</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>103.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cough preparations</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>105.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular and anti-hypertensives</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>95.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allergics, internal</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>101.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anesthetics</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>101.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anesthetics, general</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>94.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional services:</td>
<td>144.7</td>
<td>146.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physicians' fees</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>151.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family doctor, office visits</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>157.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family doctor, house visits</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>144.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmological care</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>134.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric care, office visits</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>137.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric care, office visits</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>171.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ophthalmology and ophthalmology</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>145.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentists' fees</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>138.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filling, adult, amalgam, one surface</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>139.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extractions, adult</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>124.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentures, full upper</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>124.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other professional services:</td>
<td>127.8</td>
<td>127.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>114.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital service charges:</td>
<td>243.1</td>
<td>239.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily service charges</td>
<td>239.0</td>
<td>235.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-private room</td>
<td>235.8</td>
<td>232.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private room</td>
<td>235.8</td>
<td>232.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating room charges</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>153.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I.</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>119.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal care</td>
<td>123.7</td>
<td>123.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet goods</td>
<td>108.7</td>
<td>108.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothpaste, standard dentifrice</td>
<td>117.8</td>
<td>117.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toilet soap, hard milled</td>
<td>122.6</td>
<td>122.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hand lotions, liquid</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>105.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaving cream, aerosol</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>102.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face powder, pressed</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>120.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deodorants, cream or roll-on</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>93.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleansing tissues</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>106.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home permanent refills</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>92.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal care services</td>
<td>242.1</td>
<td>241.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men's haircuts</td>
<td>250.0</td>
<td>249.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty shop services</td>
<td>133.5</td>
<td>133.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women's haircuts</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>126.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shampoo and wave sets, plain</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>149.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent waves, cold</td>
<td>Dec. 63</td>
<td>165.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 9: Consumer Price Index—U.S. City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers — Continued
Indexes for Selected Items and Groups, January 1969
and Percent Changes from Selected Dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item and Group</th>
<th>Other Index Bases</th>
<th>November 1968</th>
<th>December 1968</th>
<th>December 1969</th>
<th>Percent change to January 1969</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading and recreation 11/</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational goods</td>
<td></td>
<td>124.4</td>
<td>128.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV sets, portable and console</td>
<td></td>
<td>97.8</td>
<td>97.9</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV replacement tubes</td>
<td></td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>80.3</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio, portable and table model</td>
<td></td>
<td>114.8</td>
<td>114.0</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tape recorders, portable</td>
<td></td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>76.8</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phonograph records, stereophonic</td>
<td></td>
<td>90.6</td>
<td>91.2</td>
<td>-7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies, home, Supers 8, zoom lens</td>
<td></td>
<td>95.6</td>
<td>96.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Films, 16mm, color</td>
<td></td>
<td>83.0</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf balls, liquid center</td>
<td></td>
<td>98.6</td>
<td>98.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing rods, fresh water спинет</td>
<td></td>
<td>103.8</td>
<td>103.7</td>
<td>-1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling balls</td>
<td></td>
<td>116.2</td>
<td>113.7</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle, boys'</td>
<td></td>
<td>97.0</td>
<td>98.1</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tricycles</td>
<td></td>
<td>107.2</td>
<td>106.7</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog food, canned or boxed</td>
<td></td>
<td>109.7</td>
<td>109.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational services</td>
<td></td>
<td>124.6</td>
<td>126.3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor movie admissions</td>
<td></td>
<td>191.6</td>
<td>190.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>187.9</td>
<td>185.3</td>
<td>-1.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's</td>
<td></td>
<td>208.3</td>
<td>207.0</td>
<td>-0.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drive-in movie admissions, adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>153.9</td>
<td>153.7</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling fees, evening</td>
<td></td>
<td>109.8</td>
<td>109.2</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf greens fees</td>
<td></td>
<td>124.8</td>
<td>127.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TV repairs, picture tube replacement</td>
<td></td>
<td>102.6</td>
<td>102.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film developing, black and white</td>
<td></td>
<td>120.1</td>
<td>120.1</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading and education:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspapers, street sale and delivery</td>
<td></td>
<td>121.3</td>
<td>121.1</td>
<td>-2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazines, single copy and subscription</td>
<td></td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piano lessons, beginner</td>
<td></td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco products</td>
<td></td>
<td>121.6</td>
<td>125.6</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes, filter tip</td>
<td></td>
<td>141.6</td>
<td>141.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size</td>
<td></td>
<td>148.0</td>
<td>148.0</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes, filter tip, king size</td>
<td></td>
<td>140.5</td>
<td>140.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes, domestic, regular size</td>
<td></td>
<td>151.6</td>
<td>151.3</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholic beverages</td>
<td></td>
<td>115.3</td>
<td>115.6</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beer</td>
<td></td>
<td>112.8</td>
<td>112.6</td>
<td>-0.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon</td>
<td></td>
<td>109.0</td>
<td>109.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wine, dessert and table</td>
<td></td>
<td>107.4</td>
<td>107.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Away from home</td>
<td></td>
<td>118.1</td>
<td>119.3</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral services, adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>112.5</td>
<td>112.3</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank service charges, checking accounts</td>
<td></td>
<td>109.9</td>
<td>109.6</td>
<td>-0.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal services, short form will</td>
<td></td>
<td>128.3</td>
<td>127.6</td>
<td>-0.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other special groups:

| All items less shelter | | 121.1 | 122.7 | 1.3 |
| Commodities less food | | 115.0 | 115.2 | -2 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel | | 118.7 | 118.3 | -0.4 |
| Household services less rent | | 139.6 | 139.2 | 0.4 |
| Transportation services | | 139.1 | 136.8 | 1.8 |
| Other services | | 145.3 | 142.0 | -2 |

1/ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
2/ Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.
3/ Also includes pine shelving, furnace air filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shovels not shown separately.
4/ Also includes Venetian blinds, mail, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholstering, and moving expenses.
5/ Priced only in season.
6/ Not available.
7/ Also includes radio and television sets, shown separately under reading and recreation.
8/ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girl's lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, end alignment, and chassis lubrication.
9/ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girl's lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, end alignment, and chassis lubrication.
10/ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girl's lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, end alignment, and chassis lubrication.
11/ Also includes outboard motors, running toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.
Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

A system of "replicated" samples introduced into the index structure in the 1964 revision permits an estimate of sampling error for the CPI. 1/ The table below shows standard errors for monthly, quarterly, and annual percent changes in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1968 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard error. Data also are shown in terms of the relative error of the standard error of percent changes. The relative errors tend to decrease markedly for successively longer time periods, as expected.

Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. The table below indicates, for example, that a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all-items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might result from a much smaller change in the unrounded value. Hence, any particular change of 0.1 percent may or may not be significant. On the other hand, a published change of 0.2 percent is almost always significant, regardless of the time period to which it relates.

Standard and Relative Errors of Percent Changes in the CPI Based on 1968 Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Standard Error</th>
<th></th>
<th>Relative Error</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monthly Change</td>
<td>Quarterly Change</td>
<td>Annual Change</td>
<td>Monthly Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All items</td>
<td>.03</td>
<td>.05</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food at home</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>.13</td>
<td>.24</td>
<td>.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food away from home</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>.15</td>
<td>.18</td>
<td>.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>.05</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>.13</td>
<td>.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apparel</td>
<td>.15</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.31</td>
<td>.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>.06</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.15</td>
<td>.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical care</td>
<td>.10</td>
<td>.13</td>
<td>.24</td>
<td>.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal care</td>
<td>.13</td>
<td>.19</td>
<td>.47</td>
<td>.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading and recreation</td>
<td>.09</td>
<td>.13</td>
<td>.22</td>
<td>.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other goods and services</td>
<td>.08</td>
<td>.17</td>
<td>.36</td>
<td>.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1967 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1968.

**Brief Explanation of the CPI**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average changes in prices of goods and services usually bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, both families and single persons living alone. It is based on prices of about 400 items which were selected to represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage earners and clerical workers. Prices for these items are obtained in urban portions of 39 Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) and 17 smaller cities, which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. They are collected from grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments which wage earners and clerical workers patronize.

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 56 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the 5 largest SMSA's and every 3 months in other SMSA's and 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 location are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in the spending of all wage earners and clerical workers. SMSA and city data are then combined in the total index with weights based on the 1960 populations of SMSA's and cities they represent. Index numbers are computed on the base 1957-59=100, and are also available on the bases of 1947-49=100 and 1939=100.

The national index (the United States city average) includes prices from the 23 SMSA's for which separate indexes are published in this report, as well as from the following additional locations:

- Alabama - Florence
- Alaska - Anchorage
- California - Bakersfield*
- Colorado - Denver*
- Connecticut - Hartford*
- Florida - Orlando*
- Indiana - Indianapolis*
- Illinois - Champaign-Urbana*
- Iowa - Cedar Rapids*
- Kansas - Wichita*
- Louisiana - Baton Rouge*
- Maine - Portland*
- Massachusetts - Southbridge
- Michigan - Niles
- Minnesota - Crookston
- Mississippi - Vicksburg
- New Jersey - Millville
- New York - Kingston
- North Carolina - Durham*
- North Dakota - Devils Lake
- Ohio - Dayton*
- Oklahoma - Mangum
- Oregon - Klamath Falls
- Pennsylvania - Lancaster*
- South Carolina - Union
- Tennessee - Nashville*
- Texas - Austin*
- Utah - Orem
- Virginia - Martinsville
- Wisconsin - Green Bay*
- West Virginia - Clarksburg

*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

Comparisons of indexes for individual SMSA's show only that prices in one location changed more or less than in another. The SMSA indexes cannot be used to measure differences in price levels or in living costs between areas.

A description of the index and historical tables of index numbers for the United States city average and for 23 large SMSA's are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D. C. 20212 or any of its regional offices (addresses below).

**BLS Regional Offices**

- 1371 Peachtree Street, N.E.
  Atlanta, Georgia 30309
- 450 Golden Gate Avenue
  San Francisco, California 94102
- 411 N. Akard Street
  Dallas, Texas 75201
- 341 Ninth Avenue
  New York, New York 10001
  Boston, Massachusetts 02203
- Box 1784
  Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105
- 219 South Dearborn Street
  Chicago, Illinois 60604
- 911 Walnut Street
  Kansas City, Missouri 64106
- 219 South Dearborn Street
  Chicago, Illinois 60604
- 911 Walnut Street
  Kansas City, Missouri 64106

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