

March 1968

the consumer price index



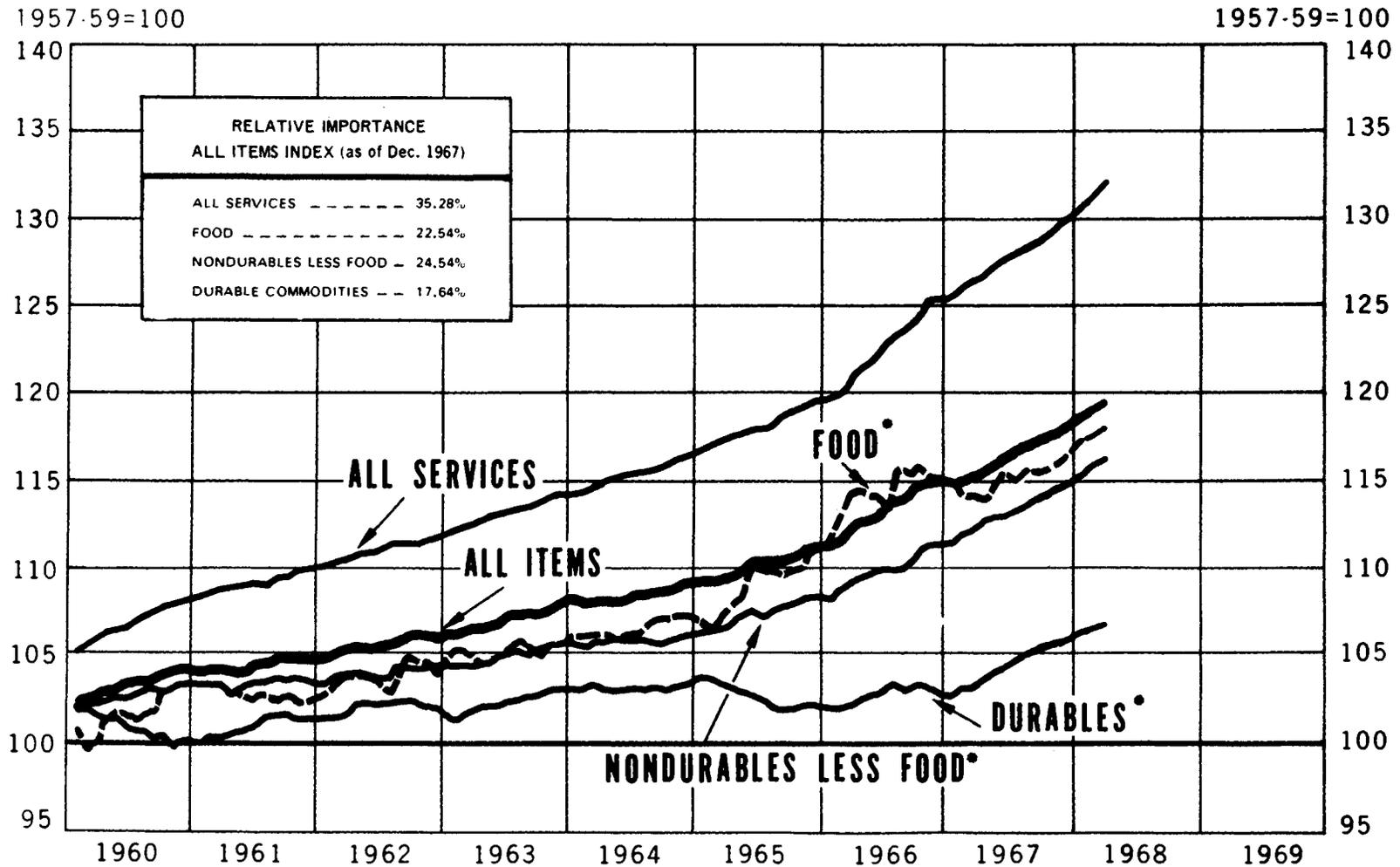
U S CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: COMMODITIES AND SERVICES

*(Seasonally Adjusted)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 1968

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent in March, the fourteenth consecutive monthly increase in the index and the largest increase since July 1967. The index, at 119.5 (1957-59=100), was 3.9 percent higher than in March 1967.

Prices of most consumer goods and services were higher. Consumer service prices, which were up 0.6 percent, accounted for nearly half of the total increase for the month. Over the year, rapidly advancing costs of consumer services have been responsible for slightly more than half of the rise in the index. Among the important sectors contributing to the rise in service costs during March were medical care, higher education, and home maintenance and housekeeping services. Apparel prices were also strong with the advent of spring fashions and food prices continued to climb.

Food

Grocery store food prices rose 0.4 percent in March primarily because of higher prices for pork, poultry and fresh fruits. Pork prices rose 1.2 percent reflecting decreased production. Poultry prices also rose in response to lower production, led by frying chicken prices which increased 9.2 percent. Beef and veal prices were unchanged on the average, but fish prices dropped 1.2 percent.

Fresh fruit and vegetable prices moved higher, although most of the advance was confined to fresh fruit. Reduced supplies of apples, bananas, and citrus fruits forced prices up on these items, but the marketing of fresh crops of most vegetables at lower prices had an offsetting effect. Despite the decline in prices of some fresh vegetables this month, most fresh vegetables were substantially higher than a year ago; only potato and asparagus prices were below last year's level. Processed fruit and vegetable prices declined 0.2 percent in March reversing, at least temporarily, the upward trend that began last June. A primary cause of the decline was a 1.8-percent drop in the price of canned green peas, the consequence of a sharply higher stock position. Egg prices, despite heavy supplies, declined only 3.5 percent in March, somewhat less than usual for this time of year, as demand remained at a high level. Dairy products were up 0.2 percent; most of the increase was attributable to higher fresh delivered milk and ice cream prices. The 1-percent rise in ice cream prices reflected a return to "normal" from promotional sale prices in February.

Services

The cost of consumer services continued to rise in March, increasing 0.6 percent to a point 4.6 percent above March 1967. The rate of advance, which had quickened in the last two quarters of 1967, continued to accelerate in the first quarter of 1968. Recent increases in college tuition charges were an important factor in the March increase and medical care costs contributed substantially. A 1.7-percent advance for hospital services was attributable largely to higher personnel and equipment expenses; doctors' and dentists' fees rose 0.6 percent. Personal care services advanced 1 percent, due chiefly to higher rates for beauty shop services, although there also were increases for men's haircuts.

In the homeownership area, property taxes moved up as communities responded to demands for more and better municipal services. Property insurance costs also were higher in March, as carriers attempted to offset losses resulting from poor underwriting experience. Mortgage interest costs were unchanged. Home maintenance services, up 1.0 percent, posted their largest monthly increase since 1964, largely the effect of rising labor costs, although higher material prices reportedly also are becoming an increasingly important factor. Charges for domestic help and other housekeeping services climbed substantially, partially reflecting the effect of the new minimum wage provisions.

Nondurable goods other than food

Women's spring and summer apparel, which came on the market at increased price levels, paced the 0.9-percent advance in apparel prices, but prices averaged higher for all kinds of apparel. Wholesale price increases and firm demand were important factors in the retail price advance. Expectations that manufacturers will grant major wage increases in 1968 exerted upward pressure on current price levels; retailers attempted to anticipate wholesale price changes in order to maintain or increase profit margins. Footwear prices too, were higher, reflecting higher wholesale prices, increased retail markups, and strong consumer demand. Textile housefurnishings also were higher (0.6 percent), primarily because of substantial increases in the prices of sheets and bedspreads.

Gasoline and motor oil prices advanced 0.3 percent, as price wars ended in the Los Angeles area and refinery prices exhibited more than seasonal strength. Fuel oil prices rose slightly in response to good demand and a tight supply situation in the Northeast. Tobacco products were moderately higher primarily because of higher State taxes.

Durable goods

Durable goods prices were up 0.2 percent in March, largely as a result of strong advances in the furniture and floor covering components. All furniture prices were higher, but outdoor furniture contributed most to the increase as new lawn furniture was placed on sale at high introductory prices. Bedroom and dining room suite prices also moved ahead briskly. In both cases good demand combined with higher shipping, wage, and materials costs were responsible for the higher prices. Wool and nylon carpeting were higher because of the return to presale prices and higher wholesale prices, particularly for nylon broadloom.

New car prices declined 0.2 percent in March, following their usual seasonal pattern, as many dealers increased concessions on new models. Appliance prices continued to climb, advancing 0.3 percent in March. All major appliance prices, with the exception of ranges, were higher despite numerous sales featuring old model merchandise. Partially offsetting these increases, however, were the price declines for home electronics, primarily television and radio sets.

Cost-of-living adjustment

Approximately 80,000 workers will receive cost-of-living increases based on the March Consumer Price Index. About 65,000 employees in the aerospace and public transportation industries will receive 3-cent-an-hour increases, based on the change in the index since December. Other workers will receive increases from 1 to 5 cents based on monthly, quarterly, and semiannual changes in the national indexes.

TABLE 1. Consumer Price Index--United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, March 1968
and percent changes from selected dates¹

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)					Percent change to March 1968 from --				
	March 1968		February 1968		March 1967	February 1968		December 1967		March 1967
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted		Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	
All items -----	119.5	-----	119.0	-----	115.0	0.4	-----	1.1	-----	3.9
Food -----	117.9	118.1	117.4	117.4	114.2	.4	0.6	1.5	1.5	3.2
Food at home -----	114.7	114.9	114.2	114.3	111.5	.4	.5	1.6	1.5	2.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.1	-----	118.2	-----	118.6	-.1	-----	.3	-----	-.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.1	113.9	112.0	111.9	110.0	1.0	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.8
Dairy products -----	118.7	118.8	118.5	118.4	115.7	.2	.3	.5	1.2	2.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.1	125.8	124.9	125.8	115.2	1.0	0	5.4	2.4	9.5
Other foods at home -----	102.2	102.7	102.6	102.6	102.3	-.4	.1	0	1.5	-.1
Food away from home -----	133.7	-----	133.3	-----	127.7	.3	-----	1.0	-----	4.7
Housing -----	117.2	-----	116.9	-----	113.3	.3	-----	1.0	-----	3.4
Shelter ^{1/} -----	121.0	-----	120.8	-----	116.6	.2	-----	.9	-----	3.8
Rent -----	114.2	-----	113.9	-----	111.8	.3	-----	.6	-----	2.1
Homeownership ^{2/} -----	123.8	-----	123.5	-----	118.6	.2	-----	1.0	-----	4.4
Fuel and utilities ^{3/} -----	109.9	109.8	109.8	109.7	108.7	.1	.1	.5	.7	1.1
Fuel oil and coal ^{4/} -----	113.9	112.4	113.8	111.8	111.1	.1	.5	.7	.9	2.5
Gas and electricity -----	109.3	-----	109.3	-----	108.3	0	-----	.6	-----	.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	111.8	-----	111.2	-----	107.3	.5	-----	1.9	-----	4.2
Apparel and upkeep ^{5/} -----	117.6	117.8	116.6	117.1	112.6	.9	.6	.7	1.4	4.4
Men's and boys' -----	117.9	118.4	116.8	117.5	112.7	.9	.8	.9	2.0	4.6
Women's and girls' -----	113.6	113.9	112.4	113.1	108.2	1.1	.7	0	1.2	5.0
Footwear -----	129.7	129.8	129.1	129.4	124.2	.5	.3	1.4	1.7	4.4
Transportation -----	119.0	119.5	118.6	119.1	114.2	.3	.3	.9	1.5	4.2
Private -----	116.7	117.2	116.4	116.9	112.2	.3	.3	.8	1.4	4.0
Public -----	137.1	-----	136.2	-----	130.5	.7	-----	1.6	-----	5.1
Health and recreation -----	128.3	-----	127.5	-----	122.2	.6	-----	1.3	-----	5.0
Medical care -----	142.9	-----	141.9	-----	134.6	.7	-----	1.8	-----	6.2
Personal care -----	118.4	-----	117.6	-----	114.4	.7	-----	1.0	-----	3.5
Reading and recreation -----	124.2	-----	123.0	-----	118.9	1.0	-----	1.6	-----	4.5
Other goods and services ^{6/} -----	122.4	-----	122.1	-----	116.4	.2	-----	.8	-----	5.2
Special groups:										
All items less shelter -----	119.1	-----	118.5	-----	114.6	.5	-----	1.2	-----	3.9
All items less food -----	120.2	-----	119.7	-----	115.4	.4	-----	1.1	-----	4.2
All items less medical care -----	118.1	-----	117.6	-----	113.8	.4	-----	1.1	-----	3.8
Commodities ^{7/} -----	113.9	114.1	113.5	113.7	110.0	.4	.4	.9	1.1	3.5
Nondurables -----	116.9	117.1	116.4	116.6	112.9	.4	.4	1.1	1.3	3.5
Durables ^{7/ 8/} -----	106.6	106.8	106.4	106.7	102.9	.2	.1	.5	.8	3.6
Services ^{9/} -----	132.1	-----	131.3	-----	126.3	.6	-----	1.5	-----	4.6
Commodities less food ^{7/} -----	111.9	112.1	111.5	111.7	107.8	.4	.4	.7	1.2	3.8
Nondurables less food -----	116.1	116.3	115.6	115.9	111.8	.4	.3	.8	1.2	3.8
Apparel commodities -----	116.6	117.0	115.6	116.2	111.5	.9	.7	.6	1.6	4.6
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	114.0	114.3	112.9	113.6	109.0	1.0	.6	.4	1.4	4.6
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	115.8	-----	115.5	-----	112.0	.3	-----	1.0	-----	3.4
New cars -----	100.6	100.4	100.8	100.4	97.2	-.2	0	.7	.4	3.5
Used cars -----	N.A.	N.A.	123.6	127.0	115.9	(12)	(12)	(12)	(12)	(12)
Household durables ^{10/} -----	100.4	-----	99.9	-----	97.8	.5	-----	1.3	-----	2.7
Housefurnishings -----	103.8	103.8	103.1	103.2	100.3	.7	.6	1.7	1.8	3.5
Services less rent ^{9/} -----	136.1	-----	135.2	-----	129.5	.7	-----	1.7	-----	5.1
Household services less rent -----	131.1	-----	130.6	-----	125.6	.4	-----	1.5	-----	4.4
Transportation services -----	132.4	-----	131.9	-----	127.4	.4	-----	1.5	-----	3.9
Medical care services -----	153.6	-----	152.3	-----	142.9	.9	-----	2.1	-----	7.5
Other services ^{11/} -----	137.0	-----	135.3	-----	129.7	1.3	-----	2.0	-----	5.6
All items index on other bases:										
1947-49=100 -----	146.6	-----	146.0	-----	141.1	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=100 -----	246.8	-----	245.7	-----	237.5	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:										
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.837	-----	\$0.840	-----	\$0.870	-.4	-----	1.1	-----	3.8
1947-49=\$1.00 -----	.682	-----	.685	-----	.709	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=\$1.00 -----	.405	-----	.407	-----	.421	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

^{1/} Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

^{2/} Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

^{3/} Also includes telephone, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

^{4/} Called "Solid and petroleum fuels" prior to 1964.

^{5/} Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, jewelry, and apparel upkeep services not shown separately.

^{6/} Includes tobacco, alcoholic beverages, and funeral, legal, and bank service charges.

^{7/} Includes home purchase costs which were classified under services prior to 1964.

^{8/} Also includes auto parts, toys, and recreational goods not shown separately.

^{9/} Excludes home purchase costs which were classified under this heading prior to 1964.

^{10/} Called "Durables less cars" prior to 1964.

^{11/} Includes the services components of apparel, personal care, reading and recreation, and other goods and services.

^{12/} Not available due to insufficient data.

TABLE 2. Consumer Price Index—The United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, All Items
Most recent index and percent changes from selected dates

Area <u>1/</u>	Pricing Schedule <u>2/</u>	Indexes			Percent change from:	
		1957-59=100	1947-49=100	Other bases	December 1967	March 1967
		March 1968				
U.S. City Average -----	M	119.5	146.6		1.1	3.9
Chicago -----	M	117.0	147.5		1.0	4.2
Detroit -----	M	118.2	145.7		1.5	3.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	M	121.1	151.0		1.0	4.9
New York -----	M	122.1	147.1		1.1	3.3
Philadelphia -----	M	120.7	148.2		1.7	4.5
		January 1968				
Boston -----	1	121.7	150.8		0.7	2.6
Houston -----	1	116.7	143.8		1.0	3.3
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	1	119.3	147.6		.8	5.2
Pittsburgh -----	1	117.5	144.8		1.7	3.1
		February 1968				
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	2	-----	-----	112.3	1.0	3.5
Cleveland -----	2	117.8	146.3		2.7	5.7
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	2	-----	-----	110.3	1.1	3.1
Milwaukee -----	2	115.0	145.0		.4	3.2
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	2	-----	-----	107.7	1.1	3.9
Seattle -----	2	120.0	150.8		.7	3.5
Washington -----	2	119.1	143.4		1.1	3.5
		March 1968				
Atlanta -----	3	117.8	145.8		0.9	3.3
Baltimore -----	3	118.7	147.3		1.1	3.4
Cincinnati -----	3	117.1	142.5		.9	4.9
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	3	-----	-----	110.8	1.0	3.9
Kansas City -----	3	121.7	150.5		1.2	3.2
St. Louis -----	3	120.2	149.2		1.1	4.1
San Francisco-Oakland --	3	122.7	155.7		1.2	4.8

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 ^{1/}
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Major Groups
Percent change from February 1968 to March 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.4	0.4	0.8	0.3	0.5	0.5
Food -----	.4	-.3	.3	-.1	.3	.8
Housing -----	.3	.2	.7	0	.5	.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	.9	2.6	1.4	1.0	1.2	.9
Transportation -----	.3	.3	1.3	1.0	.2	.3
Health and recreation -----	.6	.8	.8	.4	.6	.6
Medical care -----	.7	.7	1.1	0	.8	.3
Personal care -----	.7	.6	.4	2.2	.1	.3
Reading and recreation -----	1.0	1.3	1.1	.5	1.2	1.0
Other goods and services ---	.2	.6	.2	-.1	0	(2/)

^{1/} See footnote 1, table 2.
^{2/} Not available.

TABLE 4: Consumer Price Index--United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers
Major group indexes, selected dates
(1957-59=100)

Date	All items	Food	Housing	Apparel and upkeep	Transportation	Health and recreation				
						Total	Medical care	Personal care	Reading and recreation	Other goods and services
1968:										
Mar.	119.5	117.9	117.2	117.6	119.0	128.3	142.9	118.4	124.2	122.4
Feb.	119.0	117.4	116.9	116.6	118.6	127.5	141.9	117.6	123.0	122.1
Jan.	118.6	117.0	116.4	115.9	118.7	127.1	141.2	117.6	122.7	121.9
1967:										
Dec.	118.2	116.2	116.0	116.8	117.9	126.6	140.4	117.2	122.2	121.4
Nov.	117.8	115.6	115.5	116.6	118.3	126.2	139.7	116.9	122.0	121.0
Oct.	117.5	115.7	115.3	116.0	117.7	125.5	139.0	116.5	121.4	120.3
Sept.	117.1	115.9	115.0	115.1	116.8	124.9	138.5	116.4	120.5	119.7
Aug.	116.9	116.6	114.7	113.8	116.4	124.2	137.5	116.1	120.0	118.8
July	116.5	116.0	114.3	113.7	116.2	123.6	136.9	115.5	119.8	117.8
June	116.0	115.1	114.1	113.9	115.7	123.2	136.3	115.3	119.7	116.9
May	115.6	113.9	113.9	113.8	115.5	122.8	135.7	115.0	119.6	116.7
Apr.	115.3	113.7	113.6	113.0	115.1	122.6	135.1	114.9	119.4	116.6
Mar.	115.0	114.2	113.3	112.6	114.2	122.2	134.6	114.4	118.9	116.4
Annual Average:										
1967	116.3	115.2	114.3	114.0	115.9	123.8	136.7	115.5	120.1	118.2
1966	113.1	114.2	111.1	109.6	112.7	119.0	127.7	112.2	117.1	114.9
1965	109.9	108.8	108.5	106.8	111.1	115.6	122.3	109.9	115.2	111.4
1964	108.1	106.4	107.2	105.7	109.3	113.6	119.4	109.2	114.1	108.8
1963	106.7	105.1	106.0	104.8	107.8	111.4	117.0	107.9	111.5	107.1
1962	105.4	103.6	104.8	103.6	107.2	109.4	114.2	106.5	109.6	105.3
1957	98.0	97.8	98.5	99.5	96.5	97.0	95.5	97.1	96.9	98.5

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas ^{1/}
 For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Commodity Groups
 March 1968 indexes and percent changes from December 1967

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Baltimore	Chicago	Cincinnati	Detroit	Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)							
All items -----	119.5	117.8	118.7	117.0	117.1	118.2	110.8
Food -----	117.9	115.8	118.8	118.1	113.7	116.4	111.7
Food at home -----	114.7	113.3	114.4	116.8	109.9	113.8	111.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.1	113.5	122.4	118.1	111.2	110.4	111.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.1	112.6	112.0	114.2	111.9	116.8	110.9
Dairy products -----	118.7	114.3	114.4	130.7	112.2	124.7	112.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.1	124.7	128.0	126.0	120.1	113.9	119.7
Other foods at home -----	102.2	106.7	103.3	102.4	97.2	102.3	103.2
Food away from home -----	133.7	124.7	137.5	124.8	133.0	131.3	112.9
Housing -----	117.2	117.6	115.2	113.7	112.0	112.3	114.7
Shelter -----	121.0	117.1	117.6	115.5	112.7	115.1	120.5
Rent -----	114.2	110.6	112.6	109.6	104.7	-----	108.9
Homeownership -----	123.8	118.8	119.5	118.4	116.5	117.8	128.6
Fuel and utilities -----	109.9	114.0	107.0	107.9	105.8	103.2	100.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	113.9	-----	115.1	109.0	112.3	107.2	-----
Gas and electricity -----	109.3	110.7	100.8	108.1	108.3	104.3	99.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	111.8	117.6	115.8	112.5	110.7	107.2	106.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	117.6	120.8	119.3	114.0	119.7	116.5	108.3
Men's and boys' -----	117.9	118.7	117.7	112.6	121.5	115.3	104.5
Women's and girls' -----	113.6	114.0	114.4	109.7	112.1	115.8	111.6
Footwear -----	129.7	134.3	142.2	126.8	138.6	126.5	108.7
Transportation -----	119.0	114.9	117.9	117.1	119.8	119.0	104.3
Private -----	116.7	112.3	115.8	116.2	116.1	116.4	106.8
Public -----	137.1	129.2	124.1	123.9	151.0	135.9	92.3
Health and recreation -----	128.3	125.4	126.0	123.4	129.1	131.2	110.5
Medical care -----	142.9	138.4	156.9	152.3	151.0	153.6	118.8
Personal care -----	118.4	125.1	119.2	116.9	113.0	124.3	103.1
Reading and recreation -----	124.2	121.8	119.7	107.8	124.1	122.6	105.2
Other goods and services -----	122.4	116.0	112.1	114.9	120.7	118.5	113.2
Percent changes December 1967 to March 1968							
All items -----	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.5	1.0
Food -----	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.2	.9	1.9
Food at home -----	1.6	1.5	2.0	1.6	1.1	.9	1.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	-.3	-.2	.8	-1.1	-.7	-1.5	-.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.7	1.8	1.4	2.1	1.5	1.7	-.2
Dairy products -----	.5	1.2	-.1	.7	-.4	.3	3.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.4	5.9	6.2	5.8	3.2	2.9	9.7
Other foods at home -----	0	.1	1.9	-.3	.7	-.3	-.4
Food away from home -----	1.0	.4	.4	.6	1.6	.9	2.2
Housing -----	1.0	.2	.7	1.2	.3	1.4	.4
Shelter -----	.9	-.8	1.0	1.1	-.2	1.6	.2
Rent -----	.6	.5	.4	^{2/} .3	0	-----	.6
Homeownership -----	1.0	-1.2	1.3	1.5	-.3	1.8	-.1
Fuel and utilities -----	.5	1.4	-.6	.7	.7	.8	0
Fuel oil and coal -----	.7	-----	0	1.0	-.8	1.7	-----
Gas and electricity -----	.6	0	-1.0	.3	1.0	0	0
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.9	1.6	.8	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	.7	1.8	1.4	.9	1.7	1.4	1.0
Men's and boys' -----	.9	1.5	.9	1.8	.7	2.8	1.5
Women's and girls' -----	0	1.1	2.1	.2	1.4	1.2	-.6
Footwear -----	1.4	2.3	1.9	2.2	3.8	-.2	2.3
Transportation -----	.9	-.1	.2	.7	.7	2.2	1.2
Private -----	.8	-.2	.1	.8	.8	1.3	1.4
Public -----	1.6	.3	.3	.2	0	13.4	0
Health and recreation -----	1.3	2.0	1.6	1.1	1.9	2.1	.6
Medical care -----	1.8	2.7	2.5	2.1	4.3	2.6	1.3
Personal care -----	1.0	4.8	1.6	0	.4	.2	-1.2
Reading and recreation -----	1.6	.8	2.0	1.0	2.2	3.5	.4
Other goods and services -----	.8	.5	.1	.9	.4	.8	1.1

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas ^{1/}
 For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Commodity Groups
 March 1968 indexes and percent changes from December 1967--Continued

Group	Kansas City	Los Angeles- Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia	St. Louis	San Francisco- Oakland
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)						
All items -----	121.7	121.1	122.1	120.7	120.2	122.7
Food -----	121.6	116.2	118.4	118.0	122.5	117.2
Food at home -----	119.0	110.9	113.5	113.6	119.0	112.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	122.9	118.4	116.8	114.3	119.7	116.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	117.1	103.4	113.1	109.8	119.9	110.4
Dairy products -----	128.7	118.2	110.3	123.8	131.0	115.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.0	133.3	128.4	128.3	130.3	129.4
Other foods at home -----	106.0	93.6	101.0	98.4	101.3	97.5
Food away from home -----	130.9	135.2	139.2	141.7	136.3	136.9
Housing -----	115.8	122.5	120.9	117.2	114.1	126.5
Shelter -----	117.3	128.8	123.7	118.4	115.9	134.6
Rent -----	106.7	114.0	-----	114.6	109.0	134.3
Homeownership -----	121.6	133.7	122.6	119.4	117.4	134.6
Fuel and utilities -----	116.2	106.1	110.1	109.0	109.3	102.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	119.0	119.4	111.7	-----
Gas and electricity -----	114.9	112.4	110.9	102.6	111.8	108.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	109.2	111.4	119.2	115.3	113.7	113.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	121.8	118.1	122.2	124.7	119.6	122.9
Men's and boys' -----	121.6	122.1	124.6	116.6	119.7	119.4
Women's and girls' -----	119.4	116.9	117.9	122.3	118.4	119.8
Footwear -----	134.1	126.1	129.1	133.3	129.4	129.8
Transportation -----	120.3	125.7	119.2	127.0	^{3/} 121.0	118.3
Private -----	117.9	121.2	118.5	121.4	^{4/} 119.2	120.0
Public -----	131.6	153.6	125.1	155.6	128.8	103.4
Health and recreation -----	135.0	122.7	132.7	127.6	129.5	129.0
Medical care -----	151.8	138.6	144.5	147.3	138.2	144.7
Personal care -----	116.4	115.0	114.7	112.9	122.0	128.4
Reading and recreation -----	133.5	110.4	135.6	119.1	128.3	115.1
Other goods and services -----	127.4	119.8	127.5	123.8	125.3	127.4
Percent changes December 1967 to March 1968						
All items -----	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.7	1.1	1.2
Food -----	1.8	-.8	1.5	2.3	1.5	.9
Food at home -----	1.9	-1.2	1.7	2.0	1.5	1.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	.4	-1.8	-.9	.5	-.3	-1.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	3.4	-3.1	1.5	2.7	2.1	2.8
Dairy products -----	1.9	-.1	1.2	.3	.2	-.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	4.3	1.1	6.6	6.7	8.1	1.9
Other foods at home -----	-.9	-1.1	.2	-1.4	-2.8	-.6
Food away from home -----	1.1	.4	.8	3.5	1.5	.3
Housing -----	1.3	.6	1.3	1.5	.7	1.1
Shelter -----	1.4	.5	.7	.7	.2	1.1
Rent -----	.2	^{2/} .4	-----	^{2/} .4	.3	1.4
Homeownership -----	1.8	.3	.9	.7	.1	.8
Fuel and utilities -----	2.1	0	.1	.7	.6	.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	.4	1.0	2.0	-----
Gas and electricity -----	-1.1	0	-.1	.8	.5	.3
Household furnishings and operation -----	.8	1.4	3.3	3.3	2.0	1.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.3	1.3	.9	1.3	2.2	1.7
Men's and boys' -----	.2	2.3	2.0	-.9	3.0	2.3
Women's and girls' -----	2.4	.4	.5	2.8	2.2	1.4
Footwear -----	.9	1.9	0	.9	1.6	1.2
Transportation -----	.7	4.1	.2	2.0	0	.6
Private -----	.7	4.3	.2	1.3	0	.6
Public -----	0	.3	.3	6.8	.3	.2
Health and recreation -----	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	.8	1.6
Medical care -----	3.8	1.0	1.6	1.0	2.0	2.4
Personal care -----	-.9	1.9	.5	1.3	1.5	1.1
Reading and recreation -----	.3	1.1	1.6	2.4	0	1.3
Other goods and services -----	-.1	1.4	.3	.7	-.6	1.0

^{1/} See footnote 1, table 2.

^{2/} Change from January 1968.

^{3/} Corrected indexes: September and December 1966, 115.8; March 1967, 116.9; June 1967, 118.5; September 1967, 119.9; December 1967, 121.0; 1967 annual average, 118.6.

^{4/} Corrected indexes: September 1966, 114.2; December 1966, 114.3; March 1967, 115.4; June 1967, 117.2; September 1967, 118.1; December 1967, 119.2; 1967 annual average, 117.1.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food and its Subgroups
March 1968 indexes and percent changes from February 1968

Area ^{1/}	Total food	Food at home						Food away from home
		Total	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Other foods at home	
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)								
U.S. City Average -----	117.9	114.7	118.1	113.1	118.7	126.1	102.2	133.7
Atlanta -----	115.8	113.3	113.5	112.6	114.3	124.7	106.7	124.7
Baltimore -----	118.8	114.4	122.4	112.0	114.4	128.0	103.3	137.5
Boston -----	121.6	117.0	121.2	120.0	113.6	124.8	105.0	141.7
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	112.9	111.6	103.8	110.7	112.1	126.0	106.4	120.8
Chicago -----	118.1	116.8	118.1	114.2	130.7	126.0	102.4	124.8
Cincinnati -----	113.7	109.9	111.2	111.9	112.2	120.1	97.2	133.0
Cleveland -----	114.6	112.2	112.4	113.0	120.8	123.4	97.5	128.4
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	112.4	110.9	107.7	113.7	119.4	114.4	102.6	118.3
Detroit -----	116.4	113.8	110.4	116.8	124.7	113.9	102.3	131.3
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	111.7	111.3	111.9	110.9	112.7	119.7	103.2	112.9
Houston -----	117.9	114.6	124.9	109.8	116.7	129.0	102.5	132.4
Kansas City -----	121.6	119.0	122.9	117.1	128.7	127.0	106.0	130.9
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	116.2	110.9	118.4	103.4	118.2	133.3	93.6	135.2
Milwaukee -----	116.7	114.8	106.0	114.9	125.6	127.2	103.0	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	115.5	112.3	107.8	111.4	119.1	123.3	103.4	129.6
New York -----	118.4	113.5	116.8	113.1	110.3	128.4	101.0	139.2
Philadelphia -----	118.0	113.6	114.3	109.8	123.8	128.3	98.4	141.7
Pittsburgh -----	114.3	111.8	116.4	115.5	110.0	119.4	100.0	130.4
St. Louis -----	122.5	119.0	119.7	119.9	131.0	130.3	101.3	136.3
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	109.8	108.2	107.4	115.0	107.6	106.0	101.3	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	117.2	112.7	116.6	110.4	115.4	129.4	97.5	136.9
Seattle -----	^{3/} 117.5	^{3/} 113.0	110.3	^{3/} 112.7	122.6	125.8	98.8	136.5
Washington -----	118.3	114.5	111.6	112.2	120.0	123.0	107.4	133.5
Percent changes February 1968 to March 1968								
U.S. City Average -----	0.4	0.4	- 0.1	1.0	0.2	1.0	- 0.4	0.3
Atlanta -----	1.2	1.4	0	1.8	1.2	3.7	.9	.2
Baltimore -----	.5	.7	.1	1.6	- .1	- 1	.6	.1
Boston -----	.4	.4	- .5	1.3	.2	.4	- .1	.3
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	.7	.9	- .2	1.0	.1	2.9	.1	.1
Chicago -----	- .3	- .5	- 3.0	- 1.2	.9	- 3	- .6	.3
Cincinnati -----	.4	.3	- .7	1.1	.1	- .7	.6	.8
Cleveland -----	.4	.4	.6	.7	.8	.5	- .9	.2
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	.9	1.0	5.3	1.4	.3	- .4	0	.4
Detroit -----	.3	.3	- 4	1.9	.1	- 1.4	- .7	.4
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	.5	.1	.4	- .4	0	1.2	- .1	2.1
Houston -----	.4	.5	- .2	2.3	.5	- .6	- .7	0
Kansas City -----	1.0	1.1	- .1	2.6	1.8	- .1	.2	.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	- .1	- .2	.1	.4	.3	- .2	- 1.2	- .1
Milwaukee -----	.4	.5	- .8	1.6	.1	1.6	- .8	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.6	.5	.3	1.5	- .2	.4	.3	.6
New York -----	.3	.4	- .2	0	- .4	2.6	0	.3
Philadelphia -----	.8	1.0	.6	1.2	- .1	2.8	- .3	.3
Pittsburgh -----	.6	.6	.9	1.8	.1	- .3	- .2	.3
St. Louis -----	1.0	1.0	0	2.7	0	2.3	- 1.4	1.0
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	.5	.7	.5	2.6	.6	- .2	- .7	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	0	- .1	- .6	1.4	- .3	- .8	- 1.2	.1
Seattle -----	.3	.3	.5	1.7	0	0	- 1.5	.5
Washington -----	.9	1.3	.1	2.0	.4	4.7	- 1.0	.2

^{1/} See footnote 1, table 2.

^{2/} Not available.

^{3/} Corrected indexes, February 1968: Food, 117.1; Food at home, 112.7; meats, poultry, and fish, 110.8.

TABLE 7: Consumer Price Index--United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food Items
March 1968 indexes and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to March 1968 from --		
	March 1968		February 1968		March 1967
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Total food -----	117.9	118.1	0.4	0.6	3.2
Food away from home -----	133.7	-----	.3	-----	4.7
Restaurant meals -----	134.1	-----	.4	-----	4.8
Snacks 1/ -----	115.4	-----	.2	-----	4.5
Food at home -----	114.7	114.9	.4	.5	2.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.1	-----	- .1	-----	- .4
Flour -----	113.3	-----	.1	-----	- 1.0
Cracker meal 1/ -----	117.3	-----	0	-----	.3
Corn flakes -----	129.1	-----	.2	-----	.2
Rice -----	109.6	-----	.2	-----	1.8
Bread, white -----	122.5	-----	- .2	-----	- 1.3
Bread, whole wheat 1/ -----	113.0	-----	- .9	-----	- .6
Cookies -----	100.7	-----	.6	-----	- 1.1
Layer cake 1/ -----	107.1	-----	- .4	-----	1.3
Cinnamon rolls 1/ -----	106.2	-----	- .3	-----	- 1.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.1	113.9	1.0	1.8	2.8
Meats -----	115.3	116.1	.3	1.0	2.9
Beef and veal -----	116.3	116.5	0	.3	4.4
Steak, round -----	111.7	112.0	- .7	- .3	5.1
Steak, sirloin 2/ -----	109.6	-----	0	-----	5.7
Steak, porterhouse 1/ -----	114.0	-----	- .2	-----	5.4
Rump roast 1/ -----	108.1	-----	- .5	-----	4.8
Rib roast -----	123.9	124.6	.2	1.1	6.8
Chuck roast -----	109.7	108.9	.3	.6	5.8
Hamburger -----	118.8	118.9	.2	.2	3.0
Beef liver 1/ -----	105.6	-----	1.0	-----	- 1.2
Veal cutlets -----	140.0	139.0	1.0	.9	6.4
Pork -----	114.5	116.5	1.2	2.3	2.1
Chops -----	119.2	122.6	2.4	4.5	7.2
Loin roast 2/ -----	125.2	-----	2.4	-----	4.6
Pork sausage 1/ -----	121.0	-----	0	-----	.2
Ham, whole -----	110.3	110.5	- .7	.5	- 1.2
Picnics 1/ -----	115.0	-----	1.1	-----	- 1.6
Bacon -----	114.2	116.4	1.1	1.0	- .2
Other meats -----	118.3	118.8	.1	.6	.9
Lamb chops 1/ -----	126.1	-----	.5	-----	9.0
Frankfurters -----	116.5	116.9	.8	.5	.2
Ham, canned 1/ -----	115.4	-----	- .2	-----	- 3.4
Bologna sausage 1/ -----	118.2	-----	.3	-----	.2
Salami sausage 1/ -----	4/ 112.8	-----	- .7	-----	1.2
Liverwurst 1/ -----	114.9	-----	- 1.4	-----	- 1.6
Poultry -----	94.4	-----	7.3	-----	5.0
Frying chicken -----	96.5	95.2	9.2	9.2	7.7
Chicken breasts 1/ -----	104.4	-----	3.9	-----	4.3
Turkey 1/ -----	96.8	-----	.9	-----	- 7.5
Fish -----	121.4	121.2	- 1.2	- 1.2	- 1.0
Shrimp, frozen 1/ -----	105.4	-----	- 2.1	-----	- 4.7
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	124.0	123.9	- .9	- .2	- 1.1
Tuna fish, canned -----	108.2	-----	- 1.3	-----	- 3.7
Sardines, canned 1/ -----	119.9	-----	- .7	-----	5.3
Dairy products -----	118.7	118.8	.2	.3	2.6
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	116.4	116.8	0	.4	3.6
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	121.5	-----	.4	-----	4.8
Milk, fresh, sklm 1/ -----	114.5	-----	0	-----	3.3
Milk, evaporated -----	117.3	-----	0	-----	- .3
Ice cream -----	98.9	-----	1.0	-----	.2
Cheese, American process -----	137.4	137.0	.3	.3	.4
Butter -----	116.5	116.7	- .1	0	.6

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7: Consumer Price Index--United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food Items
March 1968 indexes and percent changes from selected dates--Continued
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to March 1968 from --		
	March 1968		February 1968		March 1967
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.1	125.8	1.0	0	9.5
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	135.4	135.0	1.7	- 0.1	11.4
Apples -----	152.4	160.3	4.8	1.0	16.0
Bananas -----	93.1	93.8	2.3	2.3	- .7
Oranges -----	142.9	154.5	2.1	2.3	34.7
Orange juice, fresh <u>1/</u> -----	81.6	-----	1.4	-----	9.5
Grapefruit -----	143.8	163.8	1.9	2.4	24.7
Grapes * -----	*	*	*	*	*
Strawberries * -----	*	*	*	*	*
Watermelon * -----	*	*	*	*	*
Potatoes -----	120.1	123.7	- 1.1	- .7	- 9.6
Onions -----	149.0	151.6	8.8	7.4	1.6
Asparagus * <u>1/</u> -----	148.0	-----	(5/)	-----	- 4.6
Cabbage -----	153.7	144.3	- 5.0	- .2	8.5
Carrots -----	168.8	176.6	- 7.2	- 3.2	72.1
Celery -----	109.9	106.7	- 8.8	- 10.4	13.7
Cucumbers <u>1/</u> -----	191.6	-----	- .2	-----	10.9
Lettuce -----	102.5	101.1	- 3.8	- .2	1.5
Peppers, green <u>1/</u> -----	172.7	-----	3.5	-----	8.8
Spinach <u>1/</u> -----	105.1	-----	- .9	-----	5.6
Tomatoes -----	144.0	135.7	1.8	- 1.1	25.1
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	114.6	-----	- .2	-----	6.6
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	108.3	-----	.5	-----	12.3
Pears, canned <u>1/</u> -----	117.0	-----	.3	-----	26.9
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned <u>1/</u> --	94.0	-----	- .5	-----	- .9
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	82.7	82.9	.7	.1	7.7
Lemonade concentrate, frozen <u>2/</u> -----	91.0	-----	0	-----	.1
Beets, canned <u>1/</u> -----	110.1	-----	.1	-----	4.3
Peas, green, canned -----	120.1	-----	- 1.8	-----	- .4
Tomatoes, canned -----	130.3	-----	.6	-----	8.7
Dried beans -----	122.7	-----	- .2	-----	8.0
Broccoli, frozen <u>1/</u> -----	100.3	-----	- .6	-----	1.1
Other food at home -----	102.2	102.7	- .4	.1	- .1
Eggs -----	86.1	87.6	- 3.5	.8	- 7.0
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	104.5	-----	.6	-----	- 1.5
Salad dressing, Italian <u>1/</u> -----	102.7	-----	0	-----	1.9
Salad or cooking oil <u>1/</u> -----	121.7	-----	- .3	-----	- 3.5
Sugar and sweets -----	116.2	-----	.2	-----	2.6
Sugar -----	112.7	-----	0	-----	.5
Grape jelly -----	117.8	-----	.5	-----	1.6
Chocolate bar -----	106.1	-----	.1	-----	4.5
Syrup, chocolate flavored <u>1/</u> -----	101.6	-----	- .1	-----	3.1
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	99.9	-----	.1	-----	.9
Coffee, can and bag -----	86.8	-----	- .1	-----	- 2.9
Coffee, instant <u>3/</u> -----	96.4	-----	- .8	-----	- 1.1
Tea -----	101.0	-----	.9	-----	1.5
Cola drink -----	145.0	-----	.7	-----	7.7
Carbonated fruit drink <u>1/</u> -----	113.3	-----	0	-----	5.8
Prepared and partially prepared foods <u>1/</u>	102.1	-----	.2	-----	1.9
Bean soup, canned <u>1/</u> -----	101.2	-----	.4	-----	4.7
Chicken soup, canned <u>1/</u> -----	96.0	-----	.1	-----	- .9
Spaghetti, canned <u>1/</u> -----	111.8	-----	.3	-----	4.4
Mashed potatoes, instant <u>1/</u> -----	102.3	-----	- .6	-----	.1
Potatoes, french fried, frozen <u>2/</u> -----	85.0	-----	.1	-----	.1
Baby foods, canned -----	106.2	-----	- .3	-----	- .2
Sweet pickle relish <u>1/</u> -----	109.6	-----	.7	-----	2.8
Pretzels <u>1/</u> -----	105.6	-----	.7	-----	4.5

1/ December 1963=100.

2/ April 1960=100.

3/ July 1961=100.

4/ Corrected index: February 1968 is 113.6.

5/ Not available.

* Priced only in season.

Table 8: Percent Change in Prices for Selected Groups in the Consumer Price Index and the Wholesale Price Index (Seasonally adjusted except where indicated)

	Feb. 1968 to Mar. 1968		Dec. 1967 to Mar. 1968		Sept. 1967 to Dec. 1967		June 1967 to Sept. 1967		Mar. 1967 to June 1967		Mar. 1967 to Mar. 1968	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI*	WPI*
*ALL ITEMS -----	0.4	0.2	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.9	-0.1	0.9	0.6	3.9	2.4
CONSUMER PRODUCTS -----	.6	.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	.5	.4	.2	.3	.8	3.2	2.7
<u>Nondurable</u> -----	.5	.4	1.5	1.4	1.1	0	.3	.1	.4	1.2	3.3	2.7
Food and beverages at home -----	.4	.4	1.6	1.8	.9	.5	.3	.3	0	1.6	2.8	3.5
Apparel and accessories -----	.7	.4	1.6	1.2	1.2	1.3	.8	.3	1.0	.5	4.6	3.2
Household furnishings and supplies -----	.5	.9	1.3	1.4	.3	.5	.4	.5	1.0	1.5	2.3	3.9
Gasoline and motor oil -----	.2	.2	2.9	.6	-.8	-5.9	.2	1.0	.4	-1.4	2.6	-5.8
Other nondurables -----	.4	.4	1.1	.4	1.5	.2	1.2	.1	-.2	1.8	3.7	2.5
<u>Durable</u> -----	.1	.1	.6	.7	1.1	1.2	.7	.5	.5	.1	2.9	2.5
New passenger cars -----	0	.1	.4	.3	1.7	2.2	1.0	.1	.3	0	3.5	2.6
Appliances -----	0	.1	.1	.5	.5	.3	.2	.3	-.1	-.3	.7	.8
Furniture and floor coverings -----	.6	.5	2.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	.9	.4	.3	0	4.1	2.7
*Other durables -----	.6	.2	1.4	.8	.7	.3	.6	2.0	.4	.1	3.1	3.2
*CONSUMER SERVICES -----	.6	-	1.5	-	1.1	-	1.0	-	.9	-	4.6	-
*Insurance and finance -----	.2	-	1.3	-	1.3	-	.8	-	.7	-	4.2	-
*Rent -----	.3	-	.6	-	.6	-	.5	-	.4	-	2.1	-
*Utilities and public transportation -----	.2	-	.8	-	.1	-	.6	-	.3	-	1.8	-
*Housekeeping and home maintenance services -----	1.0	-	3.0	-	1.3	-	1.6	-	1.3	-	7.4	-
*Medical care services -----	.9	-	2.1	-	1.6	-	1.9	-	1.6	-	7.5	-
*Personal care services -----	1.0	-	1.6	-	1.2	-	1.2	-	.8	-	4.8	-
*Other services -----	1.3	-	2.2	-	1.3	-	.9	-	1.2	-	5.8	-
WHOLESALE PRICES:												
<u>Type of Product:</u>												
Farm products -----	-	1.1	-	2.4	-	1.9	-	-4.8	-	3.1	-	2.5
Processed foods and feeds -----	-	.4	-	1.9	-	.3	-	-.5	-	1.0	-	2.1
*Industrial commodities -----	-	.3	-	1.1	-	.8	-	.5	-	0	-	2.5
<u>Industrial Materials and Equipment:</u>												
Chemicals and allied products -----	-	.5	-	.2	-	.1	-	-.4	-	.2	-	.1
Rubber and rubber products -----	-	.3	-	.4	-	.8	-	2.7	-	0	-	4.0
Lumber and wood products -----	-	1.6	-	4.4	-	.6	-	3.9	-	.7	-	9.9
Pulp, paper and allied products -----	-	.8	-	.2	-	.6	-	.5	-	.3	-	1.5
*Metals and metal products -----	-	1.0	-	2.6	-	1.3	-	.6	-	-.5	-	4.1
Machinery and equipment -----	-	.2	-	.9	-	1.0	-	.4	-	.2	-	2.5
<u>Stage of Processing at Wholesale:</u>												
Finished goods -----	-	.5	-	1.2	-	.7	-	.1	-	.9	-	3.0
Consumer -----	-	.3	-	1.1	-	.7	-	.1	-	.9	-	2.8
Producer -----	-	.3	-	1.0	-	1.3	-	.6	-	.5	-	3.3
Intermediate materials, supplies and components -----	-	.5	-	1.4	-	.6	-	.3	-	-.2	-	2.1
Crude materials -----	-	1.0	-	2.1	-	1.3	-	-3.7	-	2.3	-	1.9

NOTE: The price changes shown for Consumer Products and components are for roughly comparable classes of finished consumer products from the CPI and WPI. A brief description of the classes of items contained in each group is included at the end of this report. Complete listings of inclusions in the CPI and WPI groupings will be furnished on request.

*Based on data unadjusted for seasonal variations.

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 1967 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 1967 Data

Component	Standard Error			Relative Error		
	Monthly Change	Quarterly Change	Annual Change	Monthly Change	Quarterly Change	Annual Change
All items -----	.03	.05	.07	.12	.07	.03
Food at home -----	.08	.11	.16	.14	.10	.19
Food away from home ----	.06	.12	.27	.16	.10	.05
Housing -----	.04	.07	.14	.18	.11	.05
Apparel -----	.16	.24	.26	.29	.23	.06
Transportation -----	.07	.12	.14	.17	.11	.05
Medical care -----	.12	.17	.26	.23	.10	.04
Personal care -----	.14	.19	.34	.56	.26	.12
Reading and recreation -	.08	.12	.15	.29	.16	.06
Other goods and services	.10	.14	.20	.25	.13	.07

This replaces the table of average standard errors based on 1965 data which was included in the CPI report through January 1968.

^{1/} The method of deriving these estimates is described in a paper by Marvin Wilkerson, "Measurement of Sampling Error in the Consumer Price Index," Journal of the American Statistical Association, September 1967.

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

*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 Offices¹

1371 Peachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30309	341 Ninth Avenue New York, New York 10001	219 South Dearborn Street Chicago, Illinois 60604
450 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, California 94102	John F. Kennedy Fed. Bldg. Boston, Massachusetts 02203	911 Walnut Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106
411 N. Akard St. Dallas, Texas 75201		

1/ Address for Philadelphia will be added in CPI for April.

Composition of Index Groupings Appearing in Table 8

	Consumer Price Index	Wholesale Price Index
ALL ITEMS -----	All commodities and services	All Commodities
CONSUMER PRODUCTS -----	All commodities except home purchase, used cars, food and beverages away from home, newspapers, magazines and books.	Nondurable and durable commodities ready for use by home consumers except a few individual consumer products included in WPI groupings of commodities purchased primarily by industrial firms.
Nondurable -----	All nondurable commodities except food and beverages away from home and newspapers, magazines and books.	A combination of indexes listed below. <u>1/</u>
Food and beverages at home -----	Food at home, alcoholic beverages at home.	Fresh and dried fruits and vegetables, nuts, and eggs from the farm products group; and the processed foods and feeds group, excluding crude vegetable oils and manufactured animal feeds.
Apparel and accessories -----	Apparel, footwear, and accessories. <u>2/</u>	Apparel and some fabrics and sewing materials, leather footwear, leather gloves, rubber footwear, watches and clocks, jewelry.
Household furnishings and supplies -----	Home maintenance nondurables, fuel oil and coal, textile housefurnishings, housekeeping supplies.	Textile housefurnishings, fuels for home use (except gas), soap and synthetic detergents, sanitary papers and health products, matches, pens and pencils, and prepared paints, and miscellaneous housekeeping supplies.
Gasoline and motor oil -----	Gasoline and motor oil.	Gasoline and automotive motor oil.
Other nondurables -----	Drugs and pharmaceuticals, toilet goods, recreational nondurables, tobacco products.	Pharmaceutical preparations, cosmetics and other toilet preparations, tobacco products, personal brushes, and recreational items such as toys, film, and playing cards.
Durable -----	All durable commodities except home purchase and used cars.	A combination of indexes listed below. <u>1/</u>
New passenger cars -----	New cars.	Passenger cars.
Appliances -----	Household appliances, radio and TV.	Home electronic equipment, room heaters, and household appliances, excluding electric lamps.
Furniture and floor coverings -----	Furniture and floor coverings.	Household furniture and floor coverings.
Other durables -----	Home maintenance durables, other housefurnishings, tires, recreational durables, except radio and TV.	Other durable commodities throughout the WPI which are used for home maintenance, including some household goods, tires and tubes, outboard motors, equipment for home workshops and home gardens, recreational items such as photographic equipment, sporting and athletic goods, musical instruments, and phonograph records, electric lamps, typewriters, luggage and small leather goods, and caskets and morticians goods.
CONSUMER SERVICES -----	All consumer services.	
Insurance and finance -----	Mortgage interest, taxes and insurance, automobile insurance and other auto expenses. <u>3/</u>	
Rent -----	Rent of home or apartment.	
Utilities and public transportation -----	Gas and electricity, telephone, water and sewer, public transportation.	
Housekeeping and home maintenance services --	Housekeeping and home maintenance services.	
Medical care services -----	Medical care except drugs and prescriptions.	
Personal care services -----	Personal care services.	
Other services -----	Hotels, apparel services, auto repairs and maintenance, recreational services, reading and educational services, personal expenses.	
WHOLESALE PRICES		
Type of product Farm Product Processed foods and feeds Industrial commodities Industrial materials and equipment		Same as the Wholesale Price Indexes for major groups.
Stage of Processing at wholesale Finished goods Consumer Producer Intermediate materials, supplies, and components Crude materials		The Wholesale Price Stage of Processing Indexes. The Consumer Finished Goods index differs from the Consumer Products index in weighting structure and is based on a larger sample of commodities.

1/ The classification by durable and nondurable commodities is based on CPI classification and is not necessarily the same as the WPI classification in the Indexes by Durability of Product

2/ Same as apparel commodities.

3/ Includes registration and license fees and parking fees.