

March 1969

the consumer price index



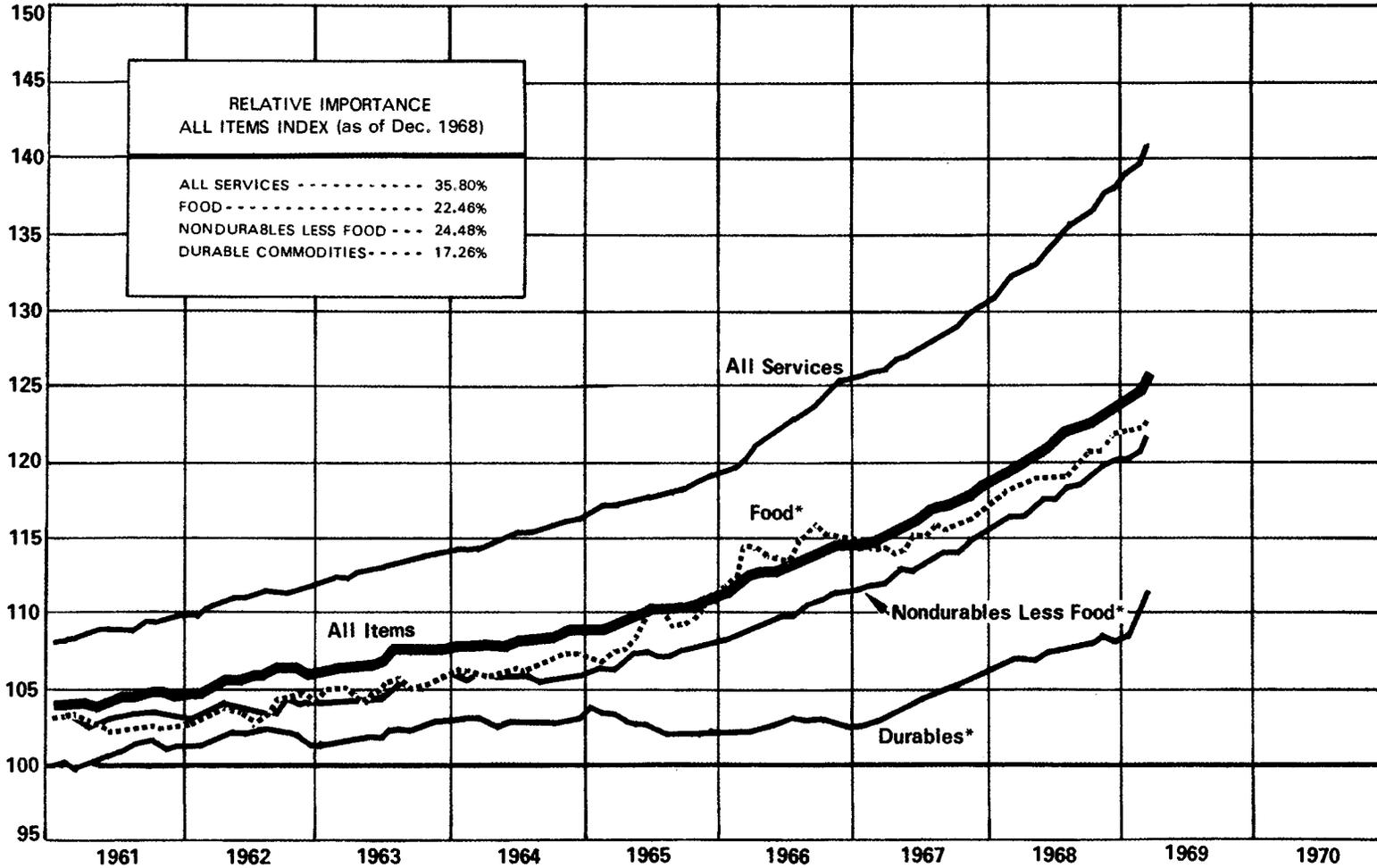
U S CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Consumer Price Indexes: Commodities and Services

1957-59 = 100



RELATIVE IMPORTANCE ALL ITEMS INDEX (as of Dec. 1968)	
ALL SERVICES	35.80%
FOOD	22.46%
NONDURABLES LESS FOOD	24.48%
DURABLE COMMODITIES	17.26%

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR - George P. Shultz, Secretary
 BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS • Geoffrey H. Moore, Commissioner

* Seasonally Adjusted
 Latest Data: March 1969

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MARCH 1969

In March, the Consumer Price Index registered its largest monthly advance since February 1951; it increased 0.8 percent to 125.6 (1957-59=100). With this rise, the index increased 1.5 percent during the first quarter, the largest 3 month advance since 1956. The March index was 5.1 percent higher than it was a year ago.

Significant and widespread price increases for both commodities and services were responsible for the greatly accelerated March advance. Costs of consumer services rose at nearly twice their 1968 average monthly pace. Prices of household and transportation services moved up appreciably more than usual and medical care services extended their steep upturn for the third consecutive month. Services as a whole accounted for about 40 percent of the March increase in the all items index.

Food prices rose significantly, following February's slight decline, and other nondurable goods moved up substantially because of increases for apparel and gasoline. Price increases for durable commodities were particularly large and pervasive and, on the average, accounted for about one-fourth of the total index advance. Furniture, houses, and durable home maintenance and repair commodities all showed larger price increases than in recent months, while used cars slightly exceeded their unusually large February rise.

The sharp climb in retail prices during the first quarter was due largely to strong advances for services and consumer durables. Prices of food and other nondurable goods also rose significantly but at rates more in line with those of the preceding quarter.

Much of the 2.2 percent quarterly increase for durable goods resulted from the run-up in used car prices in February and March. The steeper uptrend in service costs was due to larger increases for household, transportation, and medical care services.

Nearly half of the index rise over the past twelve months stemmed from the 6.7 percent advance in consumer service costs. Higher prices for nondurable commodities other than food accounted for about one-fifth of the over-the-year increase; food and durable goods were about equally responsible for the remainder.

Services

Almost two-thirds of the unusually large increase for consumer services in March came about because of a 1.4 percent rise in prices of household services, other than rent. Reflecting recent interest rate boosts on VA and conventional loans, mortgage interest charges posted their largest gain since mid-1968. Substantial increases were also recorded for real estate taxes and insurance. Prices of home maintenance and repair services jumped 1.5 percent in March, the largest monthly increase on record, to a point nearly 8 percent above their year-earlier levels.

Medical care services, led by increases for doctors' and dentists' fees, climbed 0.9 percent. This increase brought the total rise in these costs during the first quarter to 2.7 percent--the largest advance for any three-month period since late in 1966.

Higher charges for intercity travel, especially air fares, and hikes in automobile insurance and registration fees were behind the significant March advance in transportation services. During the first quarter, prices for this group of services climbed 3 percent, the largest quarterly advance in recent years.

In contrast to the strong increases for most services during the first quarter, prices of "other" services--recreational, educational, apparel, etc.--rose slowly in comparison with their 5.7 percent annual rate in 1968.

Food

Retail food prices were up contraseasonally in March, despite a sizeable decline for eggs, chiefly on the strength of a larger-than-usual increase for fresh vegetables. Prices of meats and dairy products failed to decline as they usually do at this season and restaurant meals and snacks continued their long-term uptrend.

Fresh vegetables jumped 6.6 percent because of particularly large price increases for tomatoes, lettuce, and asparagus, which stemmed primarily from tightening supplies. Meats, poultry, and fish averaged 0.3 percent higher in response to reduced supplies of beef and poultry. Milk prices climbed contraseasonally because of the continued contraction in output. Egg prices dropped more than is normal for March, apparently due to an appreciable slowing in consumer demand.

After adjustment for seasonal influences, retail food prices showed a 1.2 percent rise in the first quarter. Meats, poultry, and fish were up appreciably owing to strong demand and generally lower production. Egg prices increased about 6 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis because of unusually low output. Fruits and vegetables, on the other hand, rose less than seasonally through the first quarter despite the jump in March. Large supplies of some fresh vegetables and citrus fruits resulted in lower prices for these items and held down the advance for the group.

Compared with March of 1968, prices of food in grocery stores averaged 3.3 percent higher. About two-thirds of this increase was the result of higher prices for meats, particularly beef, fish, eggs, and dairy products. Prices of restaurant meals and other food consumed away from home climbed nearly 6 percent; the rise reflected not only higher food costs but also the growing expense of providing services.

Durables

About 60 percent of the March run up in durable goods prices resulted from a 6.4 percent jump in used car prices. The recent strength in used car prices, up nearly 10 percent in the first quarter, apparently is connected with an increase in the demand for older models to be used as "second" cars. New car prices rose fractionally in March and declined substantially less in the first three months of 1969 than they did in the similar period of recent years. The moderate first-quarter decline was unusual because inventories of new cars were at record levels and sales were not commensurately high.

Prices for household durables, principally furniture and durable commodities used in home maintenance and repairs, increased significantly in March. The rise in furniture prices was due largely to the re-introduction of some seasonal items at prices substantially above the clearance levels last reported for the index. However, sizeable price increases also were recorded for most other furniture items. The 3.6 percent rise in prices of durable home maintenance and repair commodities in March was led by continuing increases for pine shelving.

About three-fourths of the 4.2 percent increase for durable goods since March of last year came about because of higher prices for houses and household durables. Used and new car prices were also higher this year and accounted for about one-fifth of the rise for durables.

Nondurable goods other than food

Retail prices of nondurable goods other than food, in March, posted their largest monthly rise in a year and a half. Four-fifths of this increase was caused by larger-than-seasonal price increases for apparel and a substantial hike for gasoline. The 0.9 percent rise in nondurable prices during the first quarter represented a somewhat slower rate of advance than in the previous nine months, but was in line with the pace of the first quarter of last year.

Prices for all types of apparel rose much more than usual for March; women's and men's clothing exerted the greatest upward influence. Spring and summer apparel lines, introduced with higher price tags than those of a year ago, played a large role in the overall increase, but prices for year-round items also rose significantly. Footwear was more expensive in March as sales promotions on these items ended and higher wholesale prices were passed along to the consumer. The sustained uptrend in clothing prices, up 6.6 percent over the year, is the result of mounting cost pressures at the manufacturing and retailing levels coupled with brisk consumer demand.

Nearly all areas reported appreciably higher prices for gasoline in March in the wake of widespread increases in wholesale prices and the cessation of "price wars" in some cities.

Higher prices for apparel accounted for about half of the 4.6 percent rise for nondurables other than food over the past twelve months. The remainder of the advance was due largely to increases for gasoline, alcoholic beverages, cigarettes and newspapers.

Cost-of-living adjustments

Approximately 35,000 workers will receive cost-of-living pay increases based on the March Consumer Price Index. About 28,200 workers, mostly in the public transportation and electrical machinery industries, will receive hourly increases ranging from 2 to 7 cents based on the advance in the national index during the past 3 months. An additional 4,000 workers, chiefly in aircraft and transportation, will receive increases of from 2 to 7 cents an hour, based upon semiannual or annual reviews, and 2,600 local transit workers in Atlanta and Baltimore will receive 3 or 5 cent increases, based on quarterly reviews of the indexes for those areas. An estimated 8,500 workers in various industries will not receive cost-of-living increases this month because they already have received the maximums stipulated in their contracts.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index--United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, March 1969

(Unadjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise noted)				Percent change to		
	March 1969	February 1969	December 1968	March 1968	One month Ago	Three Months Ago	A year Ago
All items -----	125.6	124.6	123.7	119.5	0.8	1.5	5.1
All items (1947-49=100) -----	154.1	152.9	151.8	146.7	-----	-----	-----
Food -----	122.4	121.9	121.2	117.9	.4	1.0	3.8
Food at home -----	118.5	118.1	117.4	114.7	.3	.9	3.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	121.2	120.8	120.1	118.1	.3	.9	2.6
Meats, poultry and fish -----	116.5	116.2	114.4	113.1	.3	1.8	3.0
Dairy products -----	123.0	122.8	122.6	118.7	.2	.3	3.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.6	124.7	126.4	126.1	2.3	.9	1.2
Other foods at home -----	108.5	109.4	108.4	102.2	-.8	.1	6.2
Food away from home -----	141.3	140.7	139.9	133.7	.4	1.0	5.7
Housing -----	124.4	123.3	122.3	117.2	.9	1.7	6.1
Shelter ^{1/} -----	130.5	128.9	127.6	121.0	1.2	2.3	7.9
Rent -----	117.5	117.2	116.7	114.2	.3	.7	2.9
Homeownership ^{2/} -----	135.7	133.6	132.0	123.8	1.6	2.8	9.6
Fuel and utilities ^{3/} -----	112.2	111.8	111.5	109.9	.4	.6	2.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	117.2	116.9	116.2	113.9	.3	.9	2.9
Gas and electricity -----	110.6	110.2	110.0	109.3	.4	.5	1.2
Household furnishings and operation -----	116.4	115.8	115.1	111.8	.5	1.1	4.1
Apparel and upkeep ^{4/} -----	124.9	123.9	124.3	117.6	.8	.5	6.2
Men's and boys' -----	126.4	125.3	125.3	117.9	.9	.9	7.2
Women's and girls' -----	120.6	119.3	120.8	113.6	1.1	-.2	6.2
Footwear -----	137.6	136.8	136.3	129.7	.6	1.0	6.1
Transportation -----	124.3	122.0	120.2	119.0	1.9	3.4	4.5
Private -----	121.6	119.3	117.5	116.7	1.9	3.5	4.2
New cars -----	102.4	102.3	102.7	100.6	.1	-.3	1.8
Used cars -----	130.5	122.6	118.7	(5/)	6.4	9.9	(5/)
Gasoline -----	117.2	114.5	113.3	113.4	2.4	3.4	3.4
Public -----	147.5	145.5	144.3	137.1	1.4	2.2	7.6
Health and recreation -----	134.3	133.7	132.8	128.3	.4	1.1	4.7
Medical care -----	152.5	151.3	149.1	142.9	.8	2.3	6.7
Personal care -----	124.8	124.1	123.4	118.4	.6	1.1	5.4
Reading and recreation -----	128.7	128.4	128.2	124.2	.2	.4	3.6
Other goods and services ^{6/} -----	126.1	125.8	125.6	122.4	.2	.4	3.0
<u>Seasonally Adjusted:</u>							
Food -----	122.8	122.1	121.6	118.3	.6	1.0	-----
Apparel and upkeep -----	125.3	124.5	123.7	118.0	.6	1.3	-----
Transportation -----	124.7	122.5	120.2	119.4	1.8	3.7	-----
<u>Special Groups:</u>							
All items less food -----	126.8	125.6	124.7	120.2	1.0	1.7	5.5
All items less medical care -----	124.0	123.0	122.2	118.1	.8	1.5	5.0
Commodities -----	118.7	117.8	117.2	113.9	.8	1.3	4.2
Nondurables -----	121.8	121.1	120.7	116.9	.6	.9	4.2
Nondurables less food -----	121.4	120.5	120.3	116.1	.7	.9	4.6
Apparel commodities -----	124.3	123.1	123.7	116.6	1.0	.5	6.6
Durables -----	111.1	109.7	108.7	106.6	1.3	2.2	4.2
Household durables -----	104.4	103.7	103.0	100.4	.7	1.4	4.0
Services -----	140.9	139.7	138.1	132.1	.9	2.0	6.7
Services less rent -----	146.1	144.6	142.9	136.1	1.0	2.2	7.3
Insurance and finance (Dec.1965=100) ^{7/} -----	125.2	123.0	120.9	112.2	1.8	3.6	11.6
Utilities and public transportation (Dec.1965=100) ^{8/} -----	107.0	106.4	105.8	103.6	.6	1.1	3.3
Housekeeping and home maintenance services (Dec.1965=100) -----	124.5	123.2	121.9	116.1	1.1	2.1	7.2
Medical care services -----	165.8	164.3	161.4	153.6	.9	2.7	7.9
<u>Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar:</u>							
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.796	\$0.803	\$0.808	\$0.837	-.8	-1.5	-4.9
1939=\$1.00 -----	.386	.389	.391	.405	-----	-----	-----

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

^{5/} Not available.

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

^{7/} Includes mortgage interest, taxes and insurance, automobile insurance and other auto expenses.

^{8/} Includes gas and electricity, telephone, water and sewer, public transportation.

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	February 1969	December 1968	March 1968
		March 1969					
U.S. City Average -----	M	125.6	154.1		0.8	1.5	5.1
Chicago -----	M	122.9	154.9		.8	1.6	5.0
Detroit -----	M	125.1	154.2		1.4	2.1	5.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	126.6	157.8		1.1	1.9	4.5
New York -----	M	129.6	156.1		1.0	1.9	6.1
Philadelphia -----	M	127.0	155.9		.8	1.5	5.2
		January 1969				October 1968	January 1968
Boston -----	1	127.9	158.5			1.0	5.1
Houston -----	1	123.2	151.7			1.7	5.6
Minneapolis-St. Paul ----	1	122.9	152.1			.7	3.0
Pittsburgh -----	1	124.0	152.8			1.1	5.5
		February 1969				November 1968	February 1968
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) ---	2			117.3		0.3	4.5
Cleveland -----	2	123.1	152.9			1.1	4.5
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) ----	2			116.8		1.2	5.9
Milwaukee -----	2	120.8	152.4			1.8	5.0
San Diego (Feb.1965=100) -	2			112.8		1.4	4.7
Seattle -----	2	125.9	158.2			1.1	4.7
Washington -----	2	126.3	152.0			1.1	6.0
		March 1969				December 1968	March 1968
Atlanta -----	3	124.9	154.7			2.3	6.0
Baltimore -----	3	125.7	156.0			1.4	5.9
Cincinnati -----	3	122.7	149.4			1.3	4.8
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100) --	3			115.6		1.5	4.3
Kansas City -----	3	128.1	158.6			2.1	5.3
St. Louis -----	3	125.4	155.6			1.6	4.3
San Francisco-Oakland ----	3	128.9	163.6			1.7	5.1

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 1969 to March 1969

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.8	0.8	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.8
Food -----	.4	.7	.8	.6	.4	.2
Housing -----	.9	.6	1.3	1.3	1.2	.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	.8	.9	.4	.3	2.4	1.6
Transportation -----	1.9	2.0	3.4	2.9	1.4	1.3
Health and recreation -----	.4	.2	.9	.2	.7	.5
Medical care -----	.8	.3	.9	.5	1.5	1.3
Personal care -----	.6	.8	1.9	0	.5	.3
Reading and recreation -----	.2	0	1.1	-.1	.1	.5
Other goods and services -----	.2	.1	.1	.2	.6	(2/)

^{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)

Group	Indexes			Percent change to March 1969 From:	
	March 1969	February 1969	December 1968	One Month Ago	Three Months Ago
Food -----	122.8	122.1	121.6	0.6	1.0
Food at home -----	118.9	118.3	117.8	.5	.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	117.0	116.3	115.2	.6	1.6
Dairy products -----	123.2	122.8	122.1	.3	.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.3	125.6	129.8	1.4	- 1.9
Other foods at home -----	108.9	109.3	107.3	-.4	1.5
Fuel and utilities ^{1/} -----	112.1	111.6	111.3	.4	.7
Fuel oil and coal -----	116.0	115.4	114.5	.5	1.3
Apparel and upkeep ^{2/} -----	125.3	124.5	123.7	.6	1.3
Men's and boys' -----	126.8	125.9	124.7	.7	1.7
Women's and girls' -----	121.0	120.1	119.7	.7	1.1
Footwear -----	137.7	137.1	136.2	.4	1.1
Transportation -----	124.7	122.5	120.2	1.8	3.7
Private -----	122.0	119.7	117.5	1.9	3.8
New cars -----	102.1	101.9	101.3	.2	.8
Commodities -----	118.9	118.0	117.2	.8	1.5
Commodities less food -----	117.0	---	---	---	---
Nondurables -----	122.0	121.3	120.8	.6	1.0
Nondurables less food -----	121.6	120.7	120.1	.7	1.2
Apparel commodities -----	124.7	123.8	123.0	.7	1.4
Durables -----	111.3	109.9	108.5	1.3	2.6

^{1/} Also includes telephone, water, and sewerage 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
March 1969 Index and Percent Changes from December 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles- Long Beach	New York	Phila- delphia
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)						
All items -----	125.6	122.9	125.1	126.6	129.6	127.0
Food -----	122.4	123.9	120.8	120.3	123.6	123.2
Food at home -----	118.5	121.8	117.9	114.7	118.1	118.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	121.2	125.8	115.9	120.9	120.1	120.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	116.5	119.6	120.4	107.5	117.8	113.2
Dairy products -----	123.0	135.5	128.9	119.7	114.1	132.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.6	125.6	117.4	134.9	130.5	129.5
Other foods at home -----	108.5	109.2	106.9	100.2	108.4	104.7
Food away from home -----	141.3	133.8	137.1	140.3	146.8	148.4
Housing -----	124.4	119.0	121.0	130.2	128.9	123.1
Shelter -----	130.5	122.7	127.6	138.7	134.0	127.0
Rent -----	117.5	112.2	(2/)	117.6	(2/)	118.1
Homeownership -----	135.7	127.7	132.4	145.8	137.5	129.3
Fuel and utilities -----	112.2	107.6	103.6	108.7	112.8	109.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	117.2	110.1	110.0	-----	123.1	122.5
Gas and electricity -----	110.6	106.0	104.4	112.7	111.0	102.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	116.4	116.2	110.3	115.2	124.8	119.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	124.9	120.2	123.3	123.4	132.1	133.2
Men's and boys' -----	126.4	119.0	124.1	127.3	137.4	129.8
Women's and girls' -----	120.6	115.6	118.3	122.0	127.0	127.0
Footwear -----	137.6	133.7	136.9	134.1	138.3	145.6
Transportation -----	124.3	124.9	124.9	129.7	126.9	134.6
Private -----	121.6	120.6	122.3	125.2	127.2	127.1
Public -----	147.5	153.4	140.6	155.3	128.8	176.5
Health and recreation -----	134.3	128.5	138.2	127.0	140.8	133.9
Medical care -----	152.5	158.8	163.0	147.0	158.5	160.7
Personal care -----	124.8	124.0	132.9	117.3	121.4	117.6
Reading and recreation -----	128.7	112.1	130.7	112.3	139.5	124.4
Other goods and services -----	126.1	118.3	121.2	123.3	135.2	126.0
Percent Changes December 1968 to March 1969						
All items -----	1.5	1.6	2.1	1.9	1.9	1.5
Food -----	1.0	1.1	2.0	.8	1.1	1.1
Food at home -----	.9	1.2	2.3	1.0	1.0	1.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	.9	1.9	.2	.8	1.4	2.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.8	2.6	2.6	2.3	2.2	1.6
Dairy products -----	.3	-.1	.4	.5	.2	1.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	.9	1.0	7.1	-.5	.5	1.3
Other foods at home -----	.1	-.5	1.0	.8	.2	-.1.0
Food away from home -----	1.0	1.2	.8	.2	.8	1.2
Housing -----	1.7	1.8	1.8	2.4	2.0	1.2
Shelter -----	2.3	2.3	2.8	3.1	2.2	1.2
Rent -----	.7	<u>3/</u> .6	(2/)	<u>3/</u> 1.3	(2/)	<u>3/</u> 1.1
Homeownership -----	2.8	2.9	3.3	3.7	3.5	1.2
Fuel and utilities -----	.6	.3	.2	.1	.4	0
Fuel oil and coal -----	.9	1.3	1.2	-----	1.8	.3
Gas and electricity -----	.5	.3	0	.2	.1	0
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.1	1.1	-.5	.7	2.5	1.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	.5	.5	.2	.2	1.4	1.1
Men's and boys' -----	.9	.8	1.3	1.3	2.8	1.4
Women's and girls' -----	-.2	.3	-2.2	-1.1	.6	-.2
Footwear -----	1.0	1.3	2.9	1.3	1.2	3.2
Transportation -----	3.4	3.3	4.3	5.6	4.8	3.9
Private -----	3.5	3.9	4.4	5.9	5.7	2.3
Public -----	2.2	.9	2.5	.5	1.1	13.2
Health and recreation -----	1.1	.7	2.0	.5	1.6	1.1
Medical care -----	2.3	1.1	3.0	1.6	4.3	2.0
Personal care -----	1.1	.7	1.1	.2	.7	.9
Reading and recreation -----	.4	.6	2.6	-.5	.6	1.4
Other goods and services -----	.4	.3	.7	.3	.2	.1

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

^{2/} Not available.

^{3/} Change from January 1969.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas 1/
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Commodity Groups
March 1969 Index and Percent Changes from December 1968

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	San Francisco	St. Louis
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)							
All items -----	124.9	125.7	122.7	115.6	128.1	128.9	125.4
Food -----	120.7	125.3	119.1	115.7	125.6	121.4	125.8
Food at home -----	117.2	120.3	115.5	114.8	122.3	116.1	121.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	113.5	123.3	113.0	111.6	121.6	118.3	123.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	116.7	119.4	116.8	114.8	121.3	112.5	121.4
Dairy products -----	117.6	120.1	120.1	114.1	133.6	116.9	131.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	125.5	132.0	125.9	123.3	125.4	131.9	130.8
Other foods at home -----	114.3	111.0	104.0	110.2	112.7	105.8	107.2
Food away from home -----	133.3	146.4	137.7	118.5	137.3	144.4	143.3
Housing -----	127.5	122.5	117.2	120.2	121.5	136.1	120.1
Shelter -----	130.1	127.0	118.9	127.8	124.3	147.5	124.5
Rent -----	113.3	114.8	105.1	114.1	108.7	142.5	111.1
Homeownership -----	135.1	132.1	125.5	137.2	130.8	149.9	127.9
Fuel and utilities -----	114.5	110.0	107.7	100.3	120.1	104.6	110.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	118.5	118.8	-----	-----	-----	117.8
Gas and electricity -----	111.5	101.8	107.5	99.4	119.8	108.4	111.6
Household furnishings and operation -----	125.6	121.5	114.9	109.7	112.6	117.3	117.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	124.8	128.4	128.6	113.6	131.2	129.2	125.9
Men's and boys' -----	127.8	130.7	133.3	108.9	130.0	126.6	123.8
Women's and girls' -----	115.5	120.3	119.2	119.4	129.7	125.8	126.0
Footwear -----	135.6	154.9	149.0	112.6	145.5	135.3	138.7
Transportation -----	119.6	125.5	124.7	108.5	129.1	123.4	124.0
Private -----	116.6	122.1	120.6	111.8	126.1	125.4	122.3
Public -----	141.2	141.6	159.7	92.3	150.6	104.3	129.7
Health and recreation -----	133.5	131.6	134.6	115.3	141.4	132.7	136.6
Medical care -----	152.6	165.4	163.0	126.9	159.1	150.9	145.9
Personal care -----	134.2	127.3	120.9	107.3	123.7	132.8	129.6
Reading and recreation -----	128.5	124.5	128.0	108.3	141.1	117.1	135.7
Other goods and services -----	117.2	115.2	121.7	117.2	130.8	129.4	131.0
Percent Changes December 1968 to March 1969							
All items -----	2.3	1.4	1.3	1.5	2.1	1.7	1.6
Food -----	1.3	1.1	.6	1.6	1.0	1.5	.7
Food at home -----	1.5	1.0	.4	1.5	.8	1.8	.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	.4	- 1.5	- 2.3	-.7	- 3.0	1.5	-.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	3.4	1.4	2.1	.9	2.4	1.4	2.0
Dairy products -----	.6	.8	1.1	.6	2.2	-.3	-.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	1.5	1.7	-.8	3.9	.4	5.8	1.5
Other foods at home -----	0	1.5	.4	3.1	.3	.7	-.5
Food away from home -----	.9	1.7	1.0	1.6	1.6	.7	1.0
Housing -----	3.6	.3	.9	1.5	2.4	1.9	1.8
Shelter -----	5.3	-.5	1.0	1.9	3.8	2.4	2.3
Rent -----	.7	.3	.2	1.2	.5	1.5	.6
Homeownership -----	6.5	-.8	1.4	2.2	5.1	3.0	2.8
Fuel and utilities -----	.4	1.1	.8	0	.5	.2	1.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	0	0	-----	-----	-----	4.2
Gas and electricity -----	.7	.5	- 1.4	0	.6	0	.2
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.5	1.7	.4	1.1	.4	.7	.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	.1	2.6	.9	1.2	.8	1.4	1.4
Men's and boys' -----	3.0	2.6	1.8	.5	.8	1.5	.3
Women's and girls' -----	- 3.5	4.0	.7	1.9	.1	1.4	2.1
Footwear -----	.7	2.8	1.1	.7	2.7	1.0	1.0
Transportation -----	2.4	2.0	3.7	2.2	5.0	2.6	2.6
Private -----	2.6	2.3	4.1	2.5	5.3	2.7	2.7
Public -----	.6	.5	1.3	0	.2	.5	.5
Health and recreation -----	2.3	2.1	1.8	.8	.6	.8	1.8
Medical care -----	4.2	3.2	4.8	1.9	1.5	1.6	2.7
Personal care -----	2.6	2.0	2.9	.1	-.4	-.2	3.1
Reading and recreation -----	1.4	1.6	0	.5	.5	.6	1.4
Other goods and services -----	.1	1.6	.2	.3	.5	.3	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food and its Subgroups
March 1969 indexes and percent changes from February 1969

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 -----	122.4	118.5	121.2	116.5	123.0	127.6	108.5	141.3
Atlanta -----	120.7	117.2	113.5	116.7	117.6	125.5	114.3	133.3
Baltimore -----	125.3	120.3	123.3	119.4	120.1	132.0	111.0	146.4
Boston -----	126.3	121.1	126.0	121.8	119.7	129.4	110.4	148.9
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) --	117.4	115.5	108.6	114.6	118.2	123.8	112.7	128.8
Chicago -----	123.9	121.8	125.8	119.6	135.5	125.6	109.2	133.8
Cincinnati -----	119.1	115.5	113.0	116.8	120.1	125.9	104.0	137.7
Cleveland -----	119.6	116.5	115.9	117.9	119.9	125.7	106.1	137.9
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	116.5	113.4	109.5	115.9	120.8	113.7	108.2	128.4
Detroit -----	120.8	117.9	115.9	120.4	128.9	117.4	106.9	137.1
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	115.7	114.8	111.6	114.8	114.1	123.3	110.2	118.5
Houston -----	124.3	120.3	125.1	114.0	129.2	133.1	110.0	141.9
Kansas City -----	125.6	122.3	121.6	121.3	133.6	125.4	112.7	137.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	120.3	114.7	120.9	107.5	119.7	134.9	100.2	140.3
Milwaukee -----	122.0	120.1	111.9	120.6	131.4	128.3	109.6	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	120.2	116.4	113.3	114.9	123.1	120.1	112.2	137.6
New York -----	123.6	118.1	120.1	117.8	114.1	130.5	108.4	146.8
Philadelphia -----	123.2	118.5	120.5	113.2	132.8	129.5	104.7	148.4
Pittsburgh -----	119.2	116.6	120.7	119.1	115.5	122.7	107.0	136.3
St. Louis -----	125.8	121.5	123.5	121.4	131.4	130.8	107.2	143.3
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	114.5	110.7	108.8	117.1	109.8	107.2	106.0	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	121.4	116.1	118.3	112.5	116.9	131.9	105.8	144.4
Seattle -----	122.3	117.0	113.9	116.2	127.7	126.9	104.9	144.6
Washington -----	126.3	121.1	115.5	118.1	125.6	127.8	118.1	146.0
Percent Changes February 1969 to March 1969								
U.S. City Average -----	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2	2.3	- 0.8	0.4
Atlanta -----	.6	.6	.1	1.2	.3	3.7	- 1.7	.6
Baltimore -----	1.0	.8	- .4	1.0	.7	3.9	- .7	1.1
Boston -----	.2	.2	.2	- .7	.8	1.6	.1	.3
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) --	.2	.2	.5	- .7	-.6	2.8	-.2	.4
Chicago -----	.7	.9	.1	1.1	-.3	5.1	- 1.1	.1
Cincinnati -----	.3	.2	- 2.4	.3	-.6	2.6	- 1.0	.4
Cleveland -----	-.3	-.4	.7	- 1.6	-.4	2.5	- 1.2	.3
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	.3	.3	0	.5	.1	.9	-.6	.5
Detroit -----	.8	.9	.3	.8	-.2	3.6	.1	0
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	0	-.1	-.1	-.7	.4	-.4	1.0	.3
Houston -----	.4	.5	- 1.0	1.2	.2	1.4	- .5	.3
Kansas City -----	.1	-.2	- 2.7	-.7	2.5	1.3	- 1.0	1.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	.6	.8	.2	.9	.5	3.1	-.6	.1
Milwaukee -----	.5	.7	1.6	.8	-.2	3.7	- 1.4	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.8	.6	1.8	-.4	.6	1.4	.4	1.4
New York -----	.4	.3	.3	.3	-.1	1.3	-.3	.4
Philadelphia -----	.2	.3	.4	.6	.2	1.4	- 1.7	.5
Pittsburgh -----	.4	.5	1.4	-.3	.2	1.4	.5	.1
St. Louis -----	.5	.4	-.4	.6	-.1	2.7	-.8	.6
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	.6	.8	.3	1.2	.9	3.7	- 1.7	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	1.0	1.0	.7	1.1	0	5.3	- 1.3	.6
Seattle -----	.7	.9	3.8	.3	.9	2.5	- 1.4	.1
Washington -----	.2	.2	.9	- 1.1	.4	2.2	0	.3

^{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
March 1969 indexes and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent Change to March 1969 from --		
	March 1969		February 1969		March 1968
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Total food -----	122.4	122.8	0.4	0.6	3.8
Food away from home -----	141.3	-----	.4	-----	5.7
Restaurant meals -----	141.4	-----	.4	-----	5.4
Snacks <u>1/</u> -----	123.0	-----	.5	-----	6.6
Food at home -----	118.5	118.9	.3	.5	3.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	121.2	-----	.3	-----	2.6
Flour -----	111.5	-----	-.2	-----	- 1.6
Cracker meal <u>1/</u> -----	117.8	-----	.2	-----	.4
Corn flakes -----	129.3	-----	-.1	-----	.2
Rice -----	111.6	-----	0	-----	1.8
Bread, white -----	127.4	-----	.5	-----	4.0
Bread, whole wheat <u>1/</u> -----	119.2	-----	.6	-----	5.5
Cookies -----	100.8	-----	1.3	-----	.1
Layer cake <u>1/</u> -----	111.1	-----	-.2	-----	3.7
Cinnamon rolls <u>1/</u> -----	111.8	-----	.3	-----	5.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	116.5	117.0	.3	.6	3.0
Meats -----	119.1	119.5	.1	.3	3.3
Beef and veal -----	121.4	121.8	.1	.2	4.4
Steak, round -----	116.8	117.2	-.2	.4	4.6
Steak, sirloin <u>2/</u> -----	113.5	-----	-.3	-----	3.6
Steak, porterhouse <u>1/</u> -----	118.5	-----	-.1	-----	3.9
Rump roast <u>1/</u> -----	112.3	-----	.4	-----	3.9
Rib roast -----	129.3	130.2	- 1.1	-.7	4.4
Chuck roast -----	114.3	113.7	.3	.4	4.2
Hamburger -----	125.0	125.1	.5	.4	5.2
Beef liver <u>1/</u> -----	107.7	-----	-.4	-----	2.0
Veal cutlets -----	147.7	147.1	1.1	1.2	5.5
Pork -----	116.4	117.3	-.2	-.1	1.7
Chops -----	121.0	122.8	-.7	.2	1.5
Loin roast <u>2/</u> -----	126.6	-----	-.9	-----	1.1
Pork sausage <u>1/</u> -----	125.7	-----	.2	-----	3.9
Ham, whole -----	113.1	113.6	.6	1.9	2.5
Picnics <u>1/</u> -----	118.3	-----	-.1	-----	2.9
Bacon -----	114.3	115.9	.6	.3	.1
Other meats -----	122.0	122.5	.5	.8	3.1
Lamb chops <u>1/</u> -----	132.4	-----	.4	-----	5.0
Frankfurters -----	119.2	119.8	.6	.3	2.3
Ham, canned <u>1/</u> -----	117.2	-----	1.9	-----	1.6
Bologna sausage <u>1/</u> -----	121.8	-----	0	-----	3.0
Salami sausage <u>1/</u> -----	116.6	-----	-.1	-----	3.4
Liverwurst <u>1/</u> -----	118.3	-----	-.1	-----	3.0
Poultry -----	94.2	-----	2.1	-----	-.2
Frying chicken -----	95.5	93.2	2.7	2.0	- 1.0
Chicken breasts <u>1/</u> -----	105.3	-----	1.3	-----	.9
Turkey <u>1/</u> -----	99.7	-----	-.8	-----	3.0
Fish -----	127.7	127.4	0	.1	5.2
Shrimp, frozen <u>1/</u> -----	116.5	-----	.8	-----	10.5
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	128.6	128.6	-.2	.9	3.7
Tuna fish, canned -----	112.4	-----	-.8	-----	3.9
Sardines, canned <u>1/</u> -----	123.5	-----	-.3	-----	3.0
Dairy products -----	123.0	123.2	.2	.3	3.6
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	120.7	120.9	.3	.5	3.7
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	127.0	-----	.2	-----	4.5
Milk, fresh, skim <u>1/</u> -----	121.4	-----	.2	-----	6.0
Milk, evaporated -----	122.4	-----	.5	-----	4.3
Ice cream -----	98.9	-----	-.5	-----	0
Cheese, American process -----	142.5	142.2	-.1	-.1	3.7
Butter -----	117.4	117.8	-.2	.1	.8

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 1969 indexes and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent Change to March 1969 from --		
	March 1969		February 1969		March 1968
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.6	127.3	2.3	1.4	1.2
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	137.2	136.7	3.7	2.0	1.3
Apples -----	164.7	171.6	2.9	- 1.1	8.1
Bananas -----	91.4	91.7	- 3.5	- 4.9	- 1.8
Oranges -----	126.9	135.4	.2	.8	- 11.2
Orange juice, fresh 1/ -----	90.2	-----	2.5	-----	10.5
Grapefruit -----	134.3	151.4	- 5.2	- 5.1	- 6.6
Grapes 3/ -----	(3/)	-----	(3/)	-----	(3/)
Strawberries 3/ -----	(3/)	-----	(3/)	-----	(3/)
Watermelon 3/ -----	(3/)	-----	(3/)	-----	(3/)
Potatoes -----	139.1	145.0	2.0	2.4	15.8
Onions -----	123.6	125.0	- 3.6	- 6.1	- 17.0
Asparagus 1/ 3/ -----	171.5	-----	(3/)	-----	15.9
Cabbage -----	149.7	139.6	- 2.7	.4	- 2.6
Carrots -----	113.0	117.5	- 1.1	3.5	- 33.1
Celery -----	110.6	110.7	- .9	- .2	.6
Cucumbers 1/ -----	145.3	-----	- 15.3	-----	- 24.2
Lettuce -----	156.0	162.8	35.3	43.1	52.2
Peppers, green 1/ -----	192.9	-----	.4	-----	11.7
Spinach 1/ -----	110.0	-----	- .3	-----	4.7
Tomatoes -----	144.3	133.1	8.3	4.9	.2
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	115.8	-----	.4	-----	1.0
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	106.6	-----	- .3	-----	- 1.6
Pears, canned 1/ -----	110.1	-----	0	-----	- 5.9
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned 1/ -----	99.4	-----	.7	-----	5.7
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	99.5	99.5	5.0	4.4	20.3
Lemonade concentrate, frozen 2/ -----	91.4	-----	.2	-----	.4
Beets, canned 1/ -----	113.5	-----	.3	-----	3.1
Peas, green, canned -----	120.6	-----	.4	-----	.4
Tomatoes, canned -----	124.3	-----	- .5	-----	- 4.6
Dried beans -----	124.8	-----	- .4	-----	1.7
Broccoli, frozen 1/ -----	101.3	-----	.6	-----	1.0
Other food at home -----	108.5	108.9	- .8	- .4	6.2
Eggs -----	108.5	110.3	- 6.6	- 1.9	26.0
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	103.0	-----	.7	-----	- 1.4
Salad dressing, Italian 1/ -----	102.6	-----	.3	-----	.1
Salad or cooking oil 1/ -----	122.8	-----	- .6	-----	.9
Sugar and sweets -----	123.8	-----	.6	-----	6.5
Sugar -----	114.1	-----	.5	-----	1.2
Grape jelly -----	122.4	-----	.7	-----	3.9
Chocolate bar -----	123.7	-----	.5	-----	16.6
Syrup, chocolate flavored 1/ -----	105.4	-----	.7	-----	3.7
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	102.5	-----	.3	-----	2.6
Coffee, can and bag -----	87.0	-----	0	-----	.2
Coffee, instant 4/ -----	101.2	-----	1.5	-----	5.0
Tea -----	101.6	-----	.1	-----	.6
Cola drink -----	152.8	-----	.3	-----	5.4
Carbonated fruit drink 1/ -----	119.3	-----	.2	-----	5.3
Prepared and partially prepared foods 1/ -----	105.1	-----	.6	-----	2.9
Bean soup, canned 1/ -----	103.5	-----	1.1	-----	2.3
Chicken soup, canned 1/ -----	96.7	-----	.5	-----	.7
Spaghetti, canned 1/ -----	115.7	-----	.5	-----	3.5
Mashed potatoes, instant 1/ -----	104.5	-----	1.3	-----	2.2
Potatoes, french fried, frozen 2/ -----	90.7	-----	1.9	-----	6.7
Baby foods, canned -----	111.1	-----	- .6	-----	4.6
Sweet pickle relish 1/ -----	112.8	-----	.4	-----	2.9
Pretzels 1/ -----	106.7	-----	- .2	-----	1.0

1/ December 1963=100.

2/ April 1960=100.

3/ Priced only in season.

4/ July 1961=100.

TABLE 8 : Consumer Price Index--U.S. City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers

Indexes for Selected Items and Groups, March 1969
and Percent Changes from Selected Dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Other Index Bases	Indexes		Percent Change to March 1969 From:	
		March 1969	February 1969	February 1969	March 1968
Housing -----		124.4	123.3	0.9	6.1
Shelter 1/ -----		130.5	128.9	1.2	7.9
Rent -----		117.5	117.2	.3	2.9
Homeownership costs 2/ -----		135.7	133.6	1.6	9.6
Mortgage interest rates -----		129.5	126.1	2.7	13.9
Property taxes -----	Dec.63	127.7	126.4	1.0	7.4
Property insurance rates -----		146.1	146.0	.1	3.9
Maintenance and repairs -----		137.4	135.4	1.5	7.8
Commodities 3/ -----	Dec.63	115.9	113.9	1.8	7.7
Exterior house paint -----		115.5	114.6	.8	3.6
Interior house paint -----	Dec.63	111.6	111.2	.4	3.6
Services -----	Dec.63	132.0	130.1	1.5	7.9
Repainting living and dining rooms -----		167.1	166.5	.4	7.7
Reshingling roofs -----		150.4	149.4	.7	9.5
Residing houses -----	Dec.63	125.3	123.3	1.6	6.8
Replacing sinks -----	Dec.63	133.7	131.1	2.0	7.7
Repairing furnaces -----	Dec.63	134.5	131.5	2.3	8.9
Fuel and utilities -----		112.2	111.8	.4	2.1
Fuel oil and coal -----		117.2	116.9	.3	2.9
Fuel oil, #2 -----		114.5	114.3	.2	2.8
Gas and electricity -----		110.6	110.2	.4	1.2
Gas -----		116.2	116.1	.1	1.6
Electricity -----		104.5	104.0	.5	.8
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services -----		103.1	103.1	0	1.5
Residential water and sewerage services -----		143.4	141.6	1.3	7.2
Household furnishings and operation 4/ -----		116.4	115.8	.5	4.1
Housefurnishings -----		107.8	107.1	.7	3.9
Textiles -----		113.6	112.7	.8	3.5
Sheets, percale or muslin -----		119.6	119.6	0	3.9
Curtains, tailored, polyester marquisette -----		109.3	108.0	1.2	3.9
Bedspreads, chiefly cotton, tufted -----		116.3	113.5	2.5	3.3
Drapery fabric, cotton or rayon/acetate -----		121.1	120.1	.8	5.9
Pillows, bed, polyester or acrylic filling -----	Dec.63	107.3	107.9	-.6	.8
Slipcovers, ready made, chiefly cotton -----	Dec.63	108.6	108.0	.6	2.4
Furniture and bedding -----		119.7	118.3	1.2	5.5
Bedroom suites, good or inexpensive quality -----		122.3	121.2	.9	7.0
Living room suites, good and inexpensive quality -----		121.9	121.2	.6	4.2
Lounge chairs, upholstered -----	Dec.63	112.7	112.0	.6	5.3
Dining room suites -----	Dec.63	125.0	124.5	.4	5.9
Sofas, upholstered -----	Dec.63	112.7	112.0	.6	6.1
Sofas, dual purpose -----		114.8	114.1	.6	4.0
Sleep sets, Hollywood bed type -----	Dec.63	110.0	109.3	.6	3.6
Box springs -----	Dec.63	120.4	119.7	.6	8.5
Aluminum folding chairs 5/ -----	June 64	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Cribs -----	Dec.63	115.1	113.2	1.7	4.8
Floor coverings -----		106.1	106.1	0	1.8
Rugs, soft surface -----		104.4	104.5	-.1	1.8
Rugs, hard surface -----		110.0	110.0	0	1.9
Tile, vinyl -----	Dec.63	107.2	106.8	.4	2.1
Appliances 7/ -----	Dec.63	85.4	85.4	0	1.2
Washing machines, electric, automatic -----		89.9	90.0	-.1	1.8
Vacuum cleaners, canister type -----		81.1	81.1	0	1.4
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers electric -----		84.7	84.7	0	1.6
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric -----		97.1	96.5	.6	2.5
Clothes dryers, electric, automatic -----	Dec.63	98.8	98.4	.4	2.1
Air conditioners, demountable 5/ -----	June 64	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Room heaters, electric, portable 5/ -----	Dec.63	98.0	97.5	.5	2.4
Garbage disposal units -----	Dec.63	102.8	103.2	-.4	3.4
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, earthenware -----		132.0	131.8	.2	2.9
Flatware, stainless steel -----	Dec.63	117.0	117.0	0	5.7
Table lamps, with shade -----	Dec.63	112.4	111.3	1.0	5.0
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type 5/ -----	June 64	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Electric drills, hand held -----	Dec.63	102.4	101.7	.7	4.1
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents -----		105.6	105.3	.3	1.8
Paper napkins -----		127.5	127.6	-.1	6.9
Toilet tissue -----		116.8	116.5	.3	3.0
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic service, general housework -----		170.2	169.8	.2	5.6
Baby sitter service -----	Dec.63	131.0	130.1	.7	7.4
Postal charges -----		165.5	165.5	0	2.2
Laundry, flatwork, finished service -----	Dec.63	137.9	136.6	1.0	8.1
Licensed day care service, preschool child -----	Dec.63	124.1	123.7	.3	1.3
Washing machine repairs -----	Dec.63	129.0	127.3	1.3	0

TABLE 8: Consumer Price Index--U.S. City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers -- Continued

Indexes for Selected Items and Groups, March 1969
and Percent Changes from Selected Dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and Group	Other Index Bases	Indexes		Percent change to March 1969 From:	
		March 1969	February 1969	February 1969	March 1968
Apparel and upkeep 8/ -----		124.9	123.9	0.8	6.2
Apparel commodities -----		124.3	123.1	1.0	6.6
Apparel commodities less footwear -----		126.6	120.5	.9	6.7
Men's and boys' -----		126.4	125.3	.9	7.2
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool 5/ -----		137.7	137.5	.1	6.3
Suits, year round weight -----		146.8	144.6	1.5	10.2
Suits, tropical weight 5/ -----	June 64	126.2	(5/)	(5/)	0
Jackets, lightweight -----	Dec.63	123.1	122.7	.3	8.8
Slacks, wool or wool blend -----		125.3	123.4	1.5	7.3
Slacks, cotton or manmade blend -----		112.9	111.0	1.7	10.3
Trousers, work, cotton -----		115.5	115.1	.3	4.6
Shirts, work, cotton -----		121.8	121.1	.6	3.0
Shirts, business, cotton -----		120.4	120.1	.2	4.2
T-shirts, chiefly cotton -----		129.2	128.7	.4	9.7
Socks, cotton -----		118.1	117.5	.5	4.9
Handkerchiefs, cotton -----	Dec.63	111.4	110.9	.5	6.7
Boy's:					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blend 5/ -----	Dec.63	108.7	108.2	.5	3.2
Sport coats, wool or wool blend 5/ -----	Dec.63	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blend -----		124.3	124.9	-.5	5.6
Undershirts, cotton -----		125.0	124.0	.8	8.7
Women's and girls' -----		120.6	119.3	1.1	6.2
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blend 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton 5/ -----	Dec.63	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Sweaters, wool or acrylic 5/ -----	Dec.63	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Skirts, wool or wool blend 5/ -----	Sept.61	(5/)	104.4	(5/)	(5/)
Skirts, cotton or cotton blend 5/ -----	Mar.62	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Blouses, cotton -----		123.1	121.2	1.6	9.9
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber -----		148.4	146.3	1.4	11.8
Dresses, street, wool or wool blend 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Dresses, street, cotton 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Housedresses, cotton -----		144.2	142.5	1.2	17.6
Slips, nylon -----		109.4	109.4	0	3.1
Panties, acetate -----		107.9	108.1	-.2	3.7
Girdles, manmade blend -----		118.2	118.2	0	7.6
Brassieres, cotton -----	Dec.63	119.4	119.1	.3	4.9
Hose, nylon seamless -----		99.1	98.0	1.1	-.3
Anklets, cotton -----	Dec.63	114.7	114.6	.1	5.8
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton -----	Dec.63	107.8	106.7	1.0	3.2
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic -----	Dec.63	111.4	110.8	.5	8.8
Girl's:					
Raincoats, vinyl plastic or chiefly cotton 5/ -----	Dec.63	118.3	118.9	-.5	13.5
Skirts, wool or wool blend 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Dresses, cotton -----		133.5	132.5	.8	10.8
Slacks, cotton 5/ -----	Dec.63	(5/)	117.7	(5/)	(5/)
Slips, cotton blend -----	Dec.63	106.9	106.6	.3	4.7
Robes, duster style, quilted tricot or percale 5/ -----	Dec.63	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Handbags -----	Dec.63	108.0	107.7	.3	8.3
Footwear -----		137.6	136.8	.6	6.1
Men's:					
Shoes, street, oxford -----		136.0	134.4	1.2	4.9
Shoes, work, high -----		134.5	133.5	.7	4.3
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump -----		145.9	144.9	.7	7.8
Shoes, evening, pump -----	Dec.63	117.9	117.4	.4	6.4
Shoes, casual, pump -----	Dec.63	123.3	122.5	.7	4.9
Houseslippers, scuff -----	Dec.63	123.0	122.7	.2	9.5
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford -----		137.6	137.1	.4	6.0
Sneakers, boys', oxford type -----	Dec.63	115.7	115.7	0	3.2
Dress shoes, girls', strap -----	Dec.63	127.6	127.7	-.1	6.9
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze -----		101.7	101.9	-.2	3.1
Yard goods, cotton -----		118.1	115.8	2.0	8.7
Wrist watches, men's and women's -----	Dec.63	101.4	100.9	.5	6.7
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses ---		129.4	129.1	.2	5.3
Automatic laundry service -----	Dec.63	108.4	107.9	.5	1.7
Laundry, men's shirts -----	Dec.63	121.9	121.3	.5	4.7
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment -----	Dec.63	121.8	121.3	.4	6.7
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift -----		119.6	119.6	0	.3

TABLE 8: Consumer Price Index--U.S. City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers -- Continued

Indexes for Selected Items and Groups, March 1969
and Percent Changes from Selected Dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and Group	Other Index Bases	Indexes		Percent change to March 1969 From:	
		March 1969	February 1969	February 1969	March 1968
Transportation -----		124.3	122.0	1.9	4.5
Private 9/ -----		121.6	119.3	1.9	4.2
Automobiles, new -----		102.4	102.3	.1	1.8
Automobiles, used -----		130.5	122.6	6.4	(6/)
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		117.2	114.5	2.4	3.4
Motor oil, premium -----		135.5	134.6	.7	4.2
Tires, new, tubeless -----		114.8	114.9	-.1	3.0
Auto repairs and maintenance 10/ -----		132.0	131.1	.7	6.3
Auto insurance rates -----		156.1	155.7	.3	6.9
Auto registration -----		133.5	130.7	2.1	6.4
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		117.2	116.5	.6	6.7
Public -----	Dec.63	147.5	145.5	1.4	7.6
Local transit fares -----		158.6	158.4	.1	8.2
Taxicab fares -----	Dec.63	124.8	124.8	0	5.6
Railroad fares, coach -----		114.6	108.4	5.7	7.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----	Dec.63	110.7	103.3	7.2	7.8
Bus fares, intercity -----	Dec.63	118.6	117.8	.7	2.6
Health and recreation -----		134.3	133.7	.4	4.7
Medical care -----		152.5	151.3	.8	6.7
Drugs and prescriptions -----		98.8	98.6	.2	.6
Over-the-counter items -----	Dec.63	106.6	106.4	.2	.9
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----	Dec.63	92.2	92.2	0	- 1.8
Aspirin compounds -----	Dec.63	106.5	105.6	.9	1.3
Liquid tonics -----	Dec.63	100.9	101.0	-.1	-.5
Adhesive bandages, package -----	Dec.63	116.4	116.5	-.1	2.4
Cold tablets or capsules -----	Dec.63	108.8	108.1	.6	2.1
Cough syrup -----	Dec.63	113.5	113.8	-.3	.6
Prescriptions -----		88.2	88.0	.2	.5
Anti-infectives -----	Mar.60	62.5	62.4	.2	- 2.3
Sedatives and hypnotics -----	Mar.60	105.9	105.0	.9	5.9
Ataractics -----	Mar.60	89.7	89.8	-.1	-.1
Anti-spasmodics -----	Mar.60	101.1	101.1	0	.2
Cough preparations -----	Mar.60	106.7	106.4	.3	4.6
Cardiovasculars and anti-hypertensives -----	Mar.60	96.5	95.9	.6	1.8
Analgesics, internal -----	Mar.67	102.4	102.1	.3	1.0
Anti-obesity -----	Mar.67	102.8	102.1	.7	3.4
Hormones -----	Mar.67	94.3	94.7	-.4	- 3.3
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees -----		152.6	151.1	1.0	6.6
Family doctor, office visits -----		154.1	152.0	1.4	6.3
Family doctor, house visits -----		161.5	158.8	1.7	8.8
Obstetrical cases -----		146.5	145.9	.4	7.3
Pediatric care, office visits -----	Dec.63	139.6	139.0	.4	9.0
Psychiatrist, office visits -----	Dec.63	125.5	125.2	.2	5.7
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----	Dec.63	123.1	122.8	.2	4.6
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		146.4	146.3	.1	5.5
Dentists' fees -----		140.1	139.4	.5	5.4
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		141.1	140.2	.6	5.5
Extractions, adult -----		138.9	138.4	.4	6.1
Dentures, full upper -----	Dec.63	124.3	124.1	.2	4.5
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		128.9	128.5	.3	3.2
Routine laboratory tests -----	Dec.63	115.4	115.1	.3	2.9
Hospital service charges:					
Daily service charges -----		249.2	246.2	1.2	13.3
Semiprivate rooms -----		245.1	242.2	1.2	13.5
Private rooms -----		241.6	238.4	1.3	13.0
Operating room charges -----	Dec.63	160.4	158.1	1.5	15.7
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----	Dec.63	121.4	120.3	.9	5.0
Personal care -----		124.8	124.1	.6	5.4
Toilet goods -----		109.8	109.2	.5	5.2
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		113.9	113.3	.5	6.5
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		123.9	123.5	.3	1.8
Hand lotions, liquid -----	Dec.63	106.4	105.4	.9	8.9
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		101.9	102.4	-.5	1.1
Face powder, pressed -----		123.1	121.4	1.4	8.6
Deodorants, cream or roll-on -----	Dec.63	94.9	93.9	1.1	3.9
Cleansing tissues -----		107.1	106.8	.3	4.2
Home permanent refills -----		96.6	96.0	.6	7.8
Personal care services -----		143.2	142.5	.5	5.6
Men's haircuts -----		151.7	150.5	.8	7.1
Beauty shop services -----		134.2	133.9	.2	4.5
Women's haircuts -----	Dec.63	120.7	120.5	.2	4.1
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		150.1	149.7	.3	5.9
Permanent waves, cold -----		105.4	105.3	.1	2.1

TABLE 8: Consumer Price Index--U.S. City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers -- Continued

Indexes for Selected Items and Groups, March 1969
and Percent Changes from Selected Dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and Group	Other Index Bases	Indexes		Percent change to March 1969 From:	
		March 1969	February 1969	February 1969	March 1968
Reading and recreation ^{11/} -----		128.7	128.4	0.2	3.6
Recreational goods -----	Dec.63	97.9	97.7	.2	1.7
TV sets, portable and console -----		79.8	80.1	-.4	-.1
TV replacement tubes -----	Dec.63	114.8	114.7	.1	7.4
Radios, portable and table model -----		76.3	76.3	0	-.8
Tape recorders, portable -----	Dec.63	91.2	91.1	.1	-.8
Phonograph records, stereophonic -----	Dec.63	96.4	95.9	.5	-.6
Movie cameras, Super 8, zoom lens -----	Dec.63	84.8	84.5	.4	-1.5
Film, 35mm, color -----	Dec.63	98.9	98.6	.3	2.0
Golf balls, liquid center -----	Dec.63	104.2	104.0	.2	1.3
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover -----	Dec.63	110.1	110.4	-.3	7.4
Fishing rods, fresh water spincast -----	Dec.63	116.6	116.3	.3	5.7
Bowling balls -----	Dec.63	97.6	97.9	-.3	1.6
Bicycle, boys' -----	Dec.63	107.8	107.3	.5	3.3
Tricycles -----	Dec.63	107.5	107.2	.3	1.5
Dog food, canned or boxed -----	Dec.63	107.9	107.4	.5	1.7
Recreational services -----	Dec.63	127.1	126.7	.3	4.9
Indoor movie admissions -----		193.2	192.6	.3	5.9
Adult -----		188.6	188.2	.2	5.8
Children's -----		208.6	207.4	.6	6.0
Drive-in movie admissions, adult -----	Dec.63	153.1	153.6	-.3	9.8
Bowling fees, evening -----	Dec.63	110.4	110.1	.3	2.8
Golf greens fees -----	Dec.63	127.3	125.0	1.8	5.9
TV repairs, picture tube replacement -----		102.7	102.6	.1	-.3
Film developing, black and white -----	Dec.63	120.2	120.0	.2	3.1
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery -----		152.7	152.3	.3	5.0
Magazines, single copy and subscription -----	Dec.63	119.3	119.3	0	4.4
Piano lessons, beginner -----	Dec.63	121.7	121.6	.1	5.0
Other goods and services -----		126.1	125.8	.2	3.0
Tobacco products -----		141.8	141.7	.1	3.4
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size -----		148.7	148.6	.1	3.6
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size -----	Mar.59	140.7	140.5	.1	3.5
Cigars, domestic, regular size -----		105.9	105.9	0	1.8
Alcoholic beverages -----		115.9	115.6	.3	2.7
Beer -----		113.5	113.0	.4	1.7
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon -----		108.9	108.9	0	.5
Wine, dessert and table -----	Dec.63	108.0	107.8	.2	2.1
Away from home -----	Dec.63	118.9	118.8	.1	5.3
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult -----	Dec.63	113.6	113.1	.4	3.6
Bank service charges, checking accounts -----	Dec.63	107.5	107.4	.1	0
Legal services, short form will -----	Dec.63	129.5	128.2	1.0	5.5
Other special groups:					
All items less shelter -----		124.4	123.5	.7	5.1
Commodities less food -----		116.8	115.7	1.0	4.4
Nondurables less food and apparel -----		119.7	118.9	.7	3.4
Household services less rent -----		142.5	140.6	1.4	8.7
Transportation services -----		140.9	139.8	.8	6.4
Other services -----		143.2	142.7	.4	4.5

^{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 shrubbery not shown separately.

^{4/} Also includes venetian blinds, nails, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholstering, and moving expenses.

^{5/} Priced only in season.

^{6/} Not available.

^{7/} Also includes radios and television sets, shown separately under reading and recreation.

^{8/} Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

^{9/} Also includes recapped tires and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

^{10/} Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

^{11/} Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.

A NOTE ABOUT CALCULATING INDEX CHANGES

Movements of the indexes from one date to another are usually expressed as percentage changes rather than changes in index points because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percentage changes are not. The following example illustrates the computation of index point and percentage changes:

Index Point Change	Percentage Change
March 1969 CPI (1957-59=100) 125.6	Index point difference divided by the
less February 1969 index <u>124.6</u>	index for the previous period:
Index point difference = 1.0	$\frac{125.6 - 124.6}{124.6} \times 100 = .8 \text{ percent}$

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

Component	Standard Error			Relative Error		
	Monthly Change	Quarterly Change	Annual Change	Monthly Change	Quarterly Change	Annual Change
All items -----	.03	.05	.08	.08	.04	.02
Food at home -----	.08	.13	.24	.18	.13	.08
Food away from home -----	.08	.15	.18	.17	.11	.04
Housing -----	.05	.08	.13	.12	.06	.03
Apparel -----	.15	.22	.31	.21	.14	.06
Transportation -----	.06	.10	.15	.17	.16	.05
Medical care -----	.10	.13	.24	.20	.09	.04
Personal care -----	.13	.19	.47	.30	.16	.12
Reading and recreation ----	.09	.13	.22	.22	.11	.05
Other goods and services --	.08	.17	.36	.29	.19	.08

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

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