

April 1968

the consumer price index



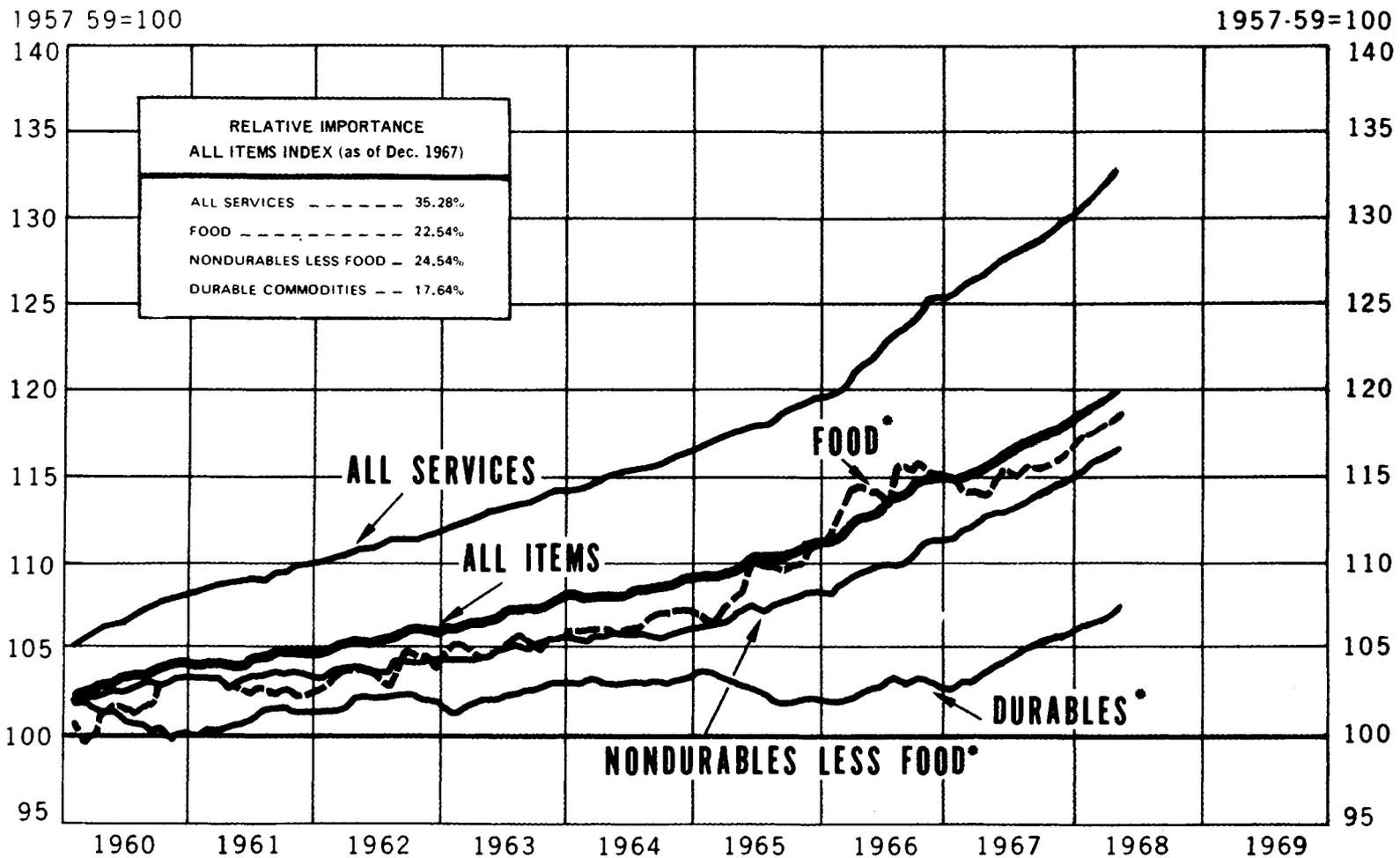
U S CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

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

Latest Data APRIL 1968

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D. C. 20212

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR APRIL 1968

The Consumer Price Index continued to climb in April, rising 0.3 percent to 119.9 (1957-59=100), an increase of 4.0 percent since April 1967. Prices were higher for nearly all important items except meats, gasoline, and new cars. Nondurable goods and consumer services led the upswing and together were responsible for more than four-fifths of the increase. Apparel prices continued to advance and food prices rose instead of declining as they usually do in April.

The April increase in consumer prices was at approximately the same rate as that which has prevailed over the past year. During the first quarter of 1968, however, prices had risen more than three times the year-earlier rate. Rising food prices this year, in addition to continuing advances for services, apparel, and some other items, have caused the more rapid climb in the index. At the same time, prices for durable goods also began to move up, after several years of relative stability.

Food

Retail prices of food and beverages at home rose 0.3 percent in April and food away from home was 0.5 percent higher. The advance in grocery store prices was principally the result of higher fruit and vegetable prices. Fresh fruit and vegetable prices were up 2.6 percent to a record high for the month. Fresh vegetable prices were mixed; onions rose 22 percent to their highest index level since April 1948, and lettuce was up nearly 37 percent. Higher prices for these items stemmed from adverse fall and spring growing weather which caused a gap in California lettuce production and a delay in the spring onion crop in Texas. Limited harvests in Florida and declining Mexican imports were responsible for a 14 percent jump in cucumber prices and an 8 percent rise for green peppers. Carrot prices dropped more than 26 percent as supplies from Arizona, California, and Texas came to market, and asparagus prices fell 24 percent, as the California asparagus harvest reached its peak. Most fresh fruits were moderately higher. Oranges were the only exception, declining 3-1/2 percent, as greater supplies of Valencia oranges became available. Overall, fresh fruit and vegetable prices in April averaged about 16 percent higher than those of a year ago. Reduced crop yields, resulting at least in part from adverse weather, were the main cause.

Meat prices declined in April, but the reduction was less than is usual for this time of year. The decline was primarily the result of increased production; strong demand for both beef and pork prevented a larger drop in prices. Seafood prices were slightly higher in April; poultry prices dipped about 2 percent in a reaction to the 11 percent jump in poultry meat production in March. Over the year, beef and veal prices were up 5 percent, pork and poultry nearly 3-1/2 percent. Dairy products rose contraseasonally as the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced an increase in support prices for fluid milk effective April 1.

Services

Charges for consumer services continued their upward trend, but the increase was one of the smallest in recent months. Medical care services posted an advance of 0.5 percent mainly because of a one percent rise in hospital service costs. Increased dental fees, attributed to higher supply, equipment, and office salary costs, contributed most of the 0.4 percent rise in professional services.

Increases in barber and beauty shop charges were responsible for higher personal care costs; higher wages for domestic help and laundry service helped to push housekeeping services to higher levels. Household moving expenses edged up, coincident with the upswing in moving that usually takes place in late spring, to offset higher wage rates for employees. Home maintenance and repair services, mortgage interest, and real estate taxes were higher, as were rent, hotel and motel charges, most utilities, and local transit fares.

Nondurable goods other than food

The renewal of gasoline price wars in Los Angeles was the principal cause of a contraseasonal decline of 0.9 percent for this item. Gasoline prices usually go up when the heavy travel season opens. Following their April decline, gasoline and motor oil prices averaged the same as they did a year ago.

Apparel prices continued upward in April to a level nearly five percent higher than a year ago. All apparel categories increased; men's and women's clothing had about equal influence. Men's tropical suits, which were introduced at higher price levels than a year ago, accounted for a major portion of the increase in men's wear. Women's and girls' apparel prices were up, primarily because new spring and summer cotton dresses and blouses were offered at higher price levels. Special sales accounted for minor price reductions for some women's items, such as light weight coats and hose.

Footwear prices also continued their steady rise. Basic reasons for advancing retail apparel prices include higher retail markups, higher wholesale prices, and a booming apparel market reflected in the nearly 19 percent rise in apparel store sales over a year ago. Increases in the price of cotton fabrics are attributable to sharp rises in raw cotton costs in the latter part of 1967 reinforced by strong demand and wage increases at the mills.

Durable goods

Durable goods, up 0.3 percent, showed a slightly greater than seasonal advance, principally because of higher used car prices, resulting from solid demand and the decrease in new car production in early April that accrued from labor difficulties and civil disturbances. Since April of last year used car prices have climbed 6.3 percent. New car prices fell 0.3 percent in April, chiefly due to increased concessions offered by dealers.

Appliance prices were slightly higher as increases appeared across the board for all major appliances and home electronics, except tape recorders. Appliance sales have been good in 1968; most items registered gains over the comparable period in 1967.

Furniture prices increased again. Bedroom suits showed the largest increase, but most other types of wood furniture, as well as upholstered furniture, were also higher. Contributing to higher furniture prices were strong demand and higher material, labor, and transportation costs.

Cost-of-living adjustment

Approximately 115,000 workers will receive increases in their cost-of-living allowances as a result of the national and city Consumer Price Indexes for April. About 65,000 aerospace employees will receive 3 cents an hour increases based on the change in the national index since January. Most of the remaining increases will range from 1 cent to 6 cents, and will represent monthly, quarterly, and semi-annual adjustments. About 4,200 employees in the home appliance industry will receive an annual increase of 1.75 percent.

TABLE 1: Consumer Price Index—United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, April 1968
and percent changes from selected dates

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)					Percent change to April 1968 from --				
	April 1968		March 1968		April 1967 unadjusted	March 1968		January 1968		April 1967 unadjusted
	Unad- justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad- justed	Seasonally adjusted		Unad- justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad- justed	Seasonally adjusted	
All items -----	119.9	-----	119.5	-----	115.3	0.3	-----	1.1	-----	4.0
Food -----	118.3	118.7	117.9	118.1	113.7	.3	0.5	1.1	1.3	4.0
Food at home -----	115.1	115.6	114.7	114.9	110.8	.3	.6	1.1	1.4	3.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.3	-----	118.1	-----	118.5	.2	-----	0	-----	.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	112.7	113.8	113.1	113.9	109.0	.4	- 1	1.0	1.7	3.4
Dairy products -----	118.8	119.4	118.7	118.8	115.7	.1	.5	.3	1.3	2.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	128.3	126.9	126.1	125.8	114.2	1.7	.9	3.4	.1	12.3
Other foods at home -----	103.0	103.5	102.2	102.7	101.4	.8	.8	1.1	2.4	1.6
Food away from home -----	134.4	-----	133.7	-----	128.3	.5	-----	1.1	-----	4.8
Housing -----	117.5	-----	117.2	-----	113.6	.3	-----	.9	-----	3.4
Shelter 1/ -----	121.3	-----	121.0	-----	116.9	.2	-----	.9	-----	3.8
Rent -----	114.4	-----	114.2	-----	111.9	.2	-----	.6	-----	2.2
Homeownership 2/ -----	124.0	-----	123.8	-----	119.0	.2	-----	.9	-----	4.2
Fuel and utilities 3/ -----	110.0	110.0	109.9	109.8	108.8	.1	.2	.5	.8	1.1
Fuel oil and coal 4/ -----	114.0	113.4	113.9	112.4	111.0	.1	.9	.3	1.4	2.7
Gas and electricity -----	109.5	-----	109.3	-----	108.4	.2	-----	.6	-----	1.0
Household furnishings and operation -	112.2	-----	111.8	-----	107.7	.4	-----	1.4	-----	4.2
Apparel and upkeep 5/ -----	118.4	118.5	117.6	117.8	113.0	.7	.6	2.2	1.6	4.8
Men's and boys' -----	119.2	119.2	117.9	118.4	113.5	1.1	.7	2.5	2.1	5.0
Women's and girls' -----	114.5	114.7	113.6	113.9	108.4	.8	.7	2.8	2.0	5.6
Footwear -----	130.4	130.3	129.7	129.8	124.9	.5	.4	1.8	1.5	4.4
Transportation -----	119.0	119.1	119.0	119.5	115.1	0	-.3	.3	.5	3.4
Private -----	116.8	116.8	116.7	117.2	113.2	.1	-.3	.2	0	3.2
Public -----	137.2	-----	137.1	-----	130.6	.1	-----	1.3	-----	5.1
Health and recreation -----	128.8	-----	128.3	-----	122.6	.4	-----	1.3	-----	5.1
Medical care -----	143.5	-----	142.9	-----	135.1	.4	-----	1.6	-----	6.2
Personal care -----	119.0	-----	118.4	-----	114.9	.5	-----	1.2	-----	3.6
Reading and recreation -----	124.9	-----	124.2	-----	119.4	.6	-----	1.8	-----	4.6
Other goods and services 6/ -----	122.5	-----	122.4	-----	116.6	.1	-----	.5	-----	5.1
Special groups:										
All items less shelter -----	119.6	-----	119.1	-----	114.8	.4	-----	1.2	-----	4.2
All items less food -----	120.6	-----	120.2	-----	115.9	.3	-----	1.1	-----	4.1
All items less medical care -----	118.5	-----	118.1	-----	114.1	.3	-----	1.0	-----	3.9
Commodities 7/ -----	114.3	114.5	113.9	114.1	110.2	.4	.4	1.0	1.1	3.7
Nondurables -----	117.3	117.5	116.9	117.1	113.0	.3	.3	1.1	1.1	3.8
Durables 7/ 8/ -----	106.9	107.0	106.6	106.8	103.4	.3	.2	.6	.6	3.4
Services 9/ -----	132.5	-----	132.1	-----	126.6	.3	-----	1.3	-----	4.7
Commodities less food 7/ -----	112.2	112.2	111.9	112.1	108.4	.3	.1	.9	.7	3.5
Nondurables less food -----	116.4	116.4	116.1	116.3	112.4	.3	.1	1.1	1.0	3.6
Apparel commodities -----	117.6	117.7	116.6	117.0	111.9	.9	.6	2.4	1.9	5.1
Apparel commodities less footwear	115.0	115.1	114.0	114.3	109.4	.9	.7	2.5	1.9	5.1
Nondurables less food and apparel -	115.8	-----	115.8	-----	112.7	0	-----	.4	-----	2.8
New cars -----	100.3	100.1	100.6	100.4	97.0	-.3	-.3	-.3	.3	3.4
Used cars -----	126.3	126.9	(10/)	(10/)	118.8	(10/)	(10/)	.4	1.6	6.3
Household durables 11/ -----	100.8	-----	100.4	-----	98.0	.4	-----	1.2	-----	2.9
Housefurnishings -----	104.2	104.0	103.8	103.8	100.6	.4	.2	1.6	1.2	3.6
Services less rent 9/ -----	136.6	-----	136.1	-----	130.0	.4	-----	1.5	-----	5.1
Household services less rent -----	131.5	-----	131.1	-----	126.0	.3	-----	1.2	-----	4.4
Transportation services -----	132.7	-----	132.4	-----	127.6	.2	-----	.9	-----	4.0
Medical care services -----	154.3	-----	153.6	-----	143.6	.5	-----	1.9	-----	7.5
Other services 12/ -----	137.6	-----	137.0	-----	130.3	.4	-----	2.1	-----	5.6
All items index on other bases:										
1947-49=100 -----	147.1	-----	146.6	-----	141.5	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=100 -----	247.6	-----	246.8	-----	238.1	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:										
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.834	-----	\$0.837	-----	\$0.867	-.4	-----	- 1.1	-----	- 3.8
1947-49=\$1.00 -----	.680	-----	.682	-----	.707	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=\$1.00 -----	.404	-----	.405	-----	.420	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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/ Not available due to insufficient data.

11/ Called "Durables less cars" prior to 1964.

12/ Includes the services components of apparel, personal care, reading and recreation, and other goods and services.

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 1/	Pricing Schedule 2/	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1957-59=100	1947-49=100	Other bases	March 1968	January 1968	April 1967
		April 1968			March 1968	January 1968	April 1967
U.S. City Average -----	M	119.9	147.1		0.3	1.1	4.0
Chicago -----	M	117.4	148.1		.3	1.3	4.6
Detroit -----	M	118.5	146.0		.3	1.6	3.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	121.1	150.9		0	.5	4.1
New York -----	M	122.5	147.6		.3	1.3	3.6
Philadelphia -----	M	121.0	148.5		.2	1.2	4.5
		April 1968				January 1968	April 1967
Boston -----	1	123.6	153.1			1.6	4.0
Houston -----	1	118.0	145.4			1.1	3.9
Minneapolis-St. Paul ----	1	120.4	149.0			.9	5.4
Pittsburgh -----	1	119.4	147.1			1.6	4.6
		February 1968				November 1967	February 1967
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				December 1967	March 1967
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 March 1968 to April 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.3	0.3	0.3	0	0.3	0.2
Food -----	.3	.5	-.2	0.6	.3	.3
Housing -----	.3	-.1	.3	.2	.2	0
Apparel and upkeep -----	.7	.6	-.1	0	.5	1.0
Transportation -----	0	.3	0	- 2.1	-.1	-.2
Health and recreation -----	.4	.6	.8	.6	.5	.4
Medical care -----	.4	.4	.3	1.0	.5	.4
Personal care -----	.5	-.1	1.7	.9	.8	.3
Reading and recreation -----	.6	.9	2.2	.1	.7	.8
Other goods and services -----	.1	1.0	-.3	.3	.2	(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:										
Apr.	119.9	118.3	117.5	118.4	119.0	128.8	143.5	119.0	124.9	122.5
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
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
 April 1968 indexes and percent changes from January 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles- Long Beach	Minn- neapolis- St. Paul	New York	Phila- delphia	Pitts- burgh
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)										
All items -----	119.9	123.6	117.4	118.5	118.0	121.1	120.4	122.5	121.0	119.4
Food -----	118.3	121.4	118.7	116.2	118.0	116.9	116.2	118.8	118.4	114.6
Food at home -----	115.1	116.6	117.3	113.4	114.4	111.7	113.2	113.9	113.6	112.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.3	120.9	121.3	111.0	125.6	118.4	107.6	116.4	113.8	115.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	112.7	118.7	112.8	114.9	108.4	103.4	111.4	113.4	109.4	114.3
Dairy products -----	118.8	113.2	131.0	124.7	116.2	118.3	121.7	110.4	123.9	109.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	128.3	125.4	127.8	116.3	129.6	137.8	124.7	128.9	128.7	124.0
Other foods at home -----	103.0	105.1	103.7	101.5	103.4	94.1	104.2	102.2	99.3	100.6
Food away from home -----	134.4	142.2	125.5	131.7	133.6	135.8	129.6	139.7	143.5	130.3
Housing -----	117.5	124.3	113.6	112.6	115.1	122.7	119.1	121.1	117.2	118.0
Shelter -----	121.3	131.7	115.5	115.2	112.5	129.1	126.1	123.9	118.4	117.5
Rent -----	114.4	128.4	-----	104.1	103.7	-----	113.0	124.0	-----	111.6
Homeownership -----	124.0	133.0	118.4	117.9	115.9	134.0	128.4	122.6	119.4	119.1
Fuel and utilities -----	110.0	109.4	107.9	103.3	119.2	106.1	103.4	110.1	109.0	117.7
Fuel oil and coal -----	114.0	119.8	109.0	107.2	-----	-----	113.0	119.0	119.4	-----
Gas and electricity -----	109.5	101.8	108.1	104.4	133.3	112.4	98.9	110.9	102.7	117.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	112.2	118.6	112.3	108.2	119.8	111.5	110.5	119.6	115.3	116.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	118.4	120.8	114.7	116.4	114.9	118.1	117.1	122.8	125.9	121.6
Men's and boys' -----	119.2	113.3	113.7	115.4	115.6	122.4	125.3	127.5	119.9	113.0
Women's and girls' -----	114.5	118.1	110.4	114.6	111.3	116.6	109.1	117.2	122.1	118.6
Footwear -----	130.4	131.5	127.6	126.7	132.3	126.3	127.9	129.9	135.7	135.5
Transportation -----	119.0	122.3	117.4	119.0	116.4	123.0	120.0	119.1	126.8	120.0
Private -----	116.8	116.8	116.6	116.4	112.7	118.5	118.3	118.4	121.2	115.4
Public -----	137.2	135.0	123.9	135.9	150.3	153.6	128.9	125.1	155.6	134.0
Health and recreation -----	128.8	128.9	124.2	132.2	127.3	123.4	130.5	133.3	128.1	128.9
Medical care -----	143.5	145.0	152.9	154.0	131.7	140.0	152.6	145.2	147.9	148.4
Personal care -----	119.0	119.4	116.8	126.4	130.9	116.0	120.7	115.6	113.2	110.4
Reading and recreation -----	124.9	133.0	108.8	125.3	125.3	110.5	127.3	136.6	120.0	120.0
Other goods and services -----	122.5	115.8	116.0	118.1	120.8	120.2	114.2	127.7	(Z/)	127.6
Percent changes January 1968 to April 1968										
All items -----	1.1	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.1	0.5	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.6
Food -----	1.1	.5	.8	.6	1.1	.6	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.1
Food at home -----	1.1	.4	.8	.5	1.1	.5	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	0	.2	1.4	-.1	.2	-.1	-.1	-.7	-.2	-.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.0	.3	-.8	-.2	2.2	1.0	1.5	.9	1.3	1.3
Dairy products -----	.3	-.2	1.2	-.1	.2	.3	1.9	-.2	.2	-.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.4	.6	3.7	4.2	.9	1.4	1.6	3.9	4.0	4.4
Other foods at home -----	1.1	1.1	.6	-.4	1.0	.1	1.1	2.7	.5	.7
Food away from home -----	1.1	.9	1.0	.8	1.1	.7	.6	.9	1.9	.6
Housing -----	.9	1.6	.6	1.6	1.0	.4	1.1	1.2	.8	1.5
Shelter -----	.9	2.0	.7	1.7	.4	.2	1.4	1.0	.8	1.6
Rent -----	.6	.4	-----	3/ .5	.7	-----	.8	3/ .4	-----	.3
Homeownership -----	.9	2.7	.9	1.9	.4	0	1.3	1.1	.9	2.0
Fuel and utilities -----	.5	0	.1	.7	0	0	0	.1	0	.2
Fuel oil and coal -----	.3	0	0	0	-----	-----	0	.1	0	-----
Gas and electricity -----	.6	0	.3	.1	0	0	.1	.1	0	.3
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.4	2.1	.6	1.9	2.5	1.3	1.4	2.4	1.1	2.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.2	5.1	4.5	3.1	2.0	2.0	2.7	3.4	3.4	5.4
Men's and boys' -----	2.5	4.7	3.9	4.2	3.7	1.9	3.9	5.5	3.8	1.4
Women's and girls' -----	2.8	5.8	8.0	2.7	1.9	3.1	3.0	3.9	4.4	11.4
Footwear -----	1.8	2.8	1.8	3.5	2.4	.7	2.1	1.5	2.9	2.3
Transportation -----	.3	.7	.6	1.4	.8	- 1.5	-.7	.1	.1	.1
Private -----	.2	.8	.7	.5	.9	- 1.6	- 1.0	0	.1	.1
Public -----	1.3	.9	.2	13.4	.1	.3	3.0	.3	-.1	.1
Health and recreation -----	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.8	1.4	1.3	.9	1.1	1.2	1.2
Medical care -----	1.6	.4	1.9	1.9	.4	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.0	.5
Personal care -----	1.2	1.6	.1	1.6	2.5	2.6	-.6	1.0	.3	.9
Reading and recreation -----	1.8	2.7	2.0	3.6	2.2	.7	1.5	2.0	2.4	2.9
Other goods and services -----	.5	0	1.6	0	.9	1.3	0	.2	(Z/)	.2

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

^{2/} Not available.

^{3/} Change from February 1968.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food and its Subgroups
April 1968 indexes and percent changes from March 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 -----	118.3	115.1	118.3	112.7	118.8	128.3	103.0	134.4
Atlanta -----	116.3	113.9	113.6	112.7	114.7	123.5	109.0	124.9
Baltimore -----	119.6	115.3	122.2	112.9	114.4	130.3	104.4	137.6
Boston -----	121.4	116.6	120.9	118.7	113.2	125.4	105.1	142.2
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	113.4	112.1	104.0	110.6	111.9	128.3	107.4	121.1
Chicago -----	118.7	117.3	121.3	112.8	131.0	127.8	103.7	125.5
Cincinnati -----	115.0	111.4	112.4	112.4	113.1	123.5	98.9	133.6
Cleveland -----	115.3	113.0	112.5	112.9	120.7	125.6	99.7	128.7
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	112.9	111.0	109.5	112.0	119.3	116.0	103.2	120.2
Detroit -----	116.2	113.4	111.0	114.9	124.7	116.3	101.5	131.7
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	112.4	112.2	112.0	111.8	112.6	121.8	104.1	113.1
Houston -----	118.0	114.4	125.6	108.4	116.2	129.6	103.4	133.6
Kansas City -----	122.3	119.7	123.3	117.0	128.6	128.8	107.5	131.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	116.9	111.7	118.4	103.4	118.3	137.8	94.1	135.8
Milwaukee -----	117.0	115.1	106.3	113.7	125.8	129.8	104.1	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	116.2	113.2	107.6	111.4	121.7	124.7	104.2	129.6
New York -----	118.8	113.9	116.4	113.4	110.4	128.9	102.2	139.7
Philadelphia -----	118.4	113.6	113.8	109.4	123.9	128.7	99.3	143.5
Pittsburgh -----	114.6	112.1	115.5	114.3	109.8	124.0	100.6	130.3
St. Louis -----	122.6	119.0	119.8	118.3	130.8	132.1	102.1	136.8
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	110.3	108.9	107.4	114.0	107.6	110.8	102.1	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	118.1	113.8	117.2	111.2	115.7	132.5	98.6	137.2
Seattle -----	118.0	113.6	110.4	112.1	122.5	130.8	99.1	136.6
Washington -----	119.4	115.7	112.4	113.0	120.5	126.2	108.5	134.3
Percent changes March 1968 to April 1968								
U.S. City Average -----	0.3	0.3	0.2	- 0.4	0.1	1.7	0.8	0.5
Atlanta -----	.4	.5	.1	.1	.3	- 1.0	2.2	.2
Baltimore -----	.7	.8	-.2	.8	0	1.8	1.1	.1
Boston -----	-.2	-.3	-.2	- 1.1	-.4	.5	.1	.4
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	.4	.4	.2	-.1	-.2	1.8	.9	.2
Chicago -----	.5	.4	2.7	- 1.2	.2	1.4	1.3	.6
Cincinnati -----	1.1	1.4	1.1	.4	.8	2.8	1.7	.5
Cleveland -----	.6	.7	.1	-.1	-.1	1.8	2.3	.2
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	.4	.1	1.7	- 1.5	-.1	1.4	.6	1.6
Detroit -----	-.2	-.4	.5	- 1.6	0	2.1	-.8	.3
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	.6	.8	.1	.8	-.1	1.8	.9	.2
Houston -----	.1	-.2	.6	- 1.3	.4	.5	.9	.9
Kansas City -----	.6	.6	.3	-.1	-.1	1.4	1.4	.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	.6	.7	0	0	.1	3.4	.5	.4
Milwaukee -----	.3	.3	.3	- 1.0	.2	2.0	1.1	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.6	.8	-.2	0	2.2	1.1	.8	0
New York -----	.3	.4	-.3	.3	.1	.4	1.2	.4
Philadelphia -----	.3	0	-.4	-.4	.1	.3	.9	1.3
Pittsburgh -----	.3	.3	-.8	- 1.0	-.2	3.9	.6	-.1
St. Louis -----	.1	0	.1	- 1.3	-.2	1.4	.8	.4
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	.5	.6	0	-.9	0	4.5	.8	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	.8	1.0	.5	.7	.3	2.4	1.1	.2
Seattle -----	.4	.5	.1	-.5	-.1	4.0	.3	.1
Washington -----	.9	1.0	.7	.7	.4	2.6	1.0	.6

^{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
April 1968 indexes and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to April 1968 from --		
	April 1968		March 1968		April 1967
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	unadjusted
Total food -----	118.3	118.7	0.3	0.5	4.0
Food away from home -----	134.4	-----	.5	-----	4.8
Restaurant meals -----	134.6	-----	.4	-----	4.7
Snacks <u>1/</u> -----	116.4	-----	.9	-----	4.9
Food at home -----	115.1	115.6	.3	.6	3.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.3	-----	.2	-----	-.2
Flour -----	112.8	-----	-.4	-----	-1.5
Cracker meal <u>1/</u> -----	117.1	-----	-.2	-----	.3
Corn flakes -----	129.1	-----	0	-----	0
Rice -----	109.7	-----	.1	-----	1.8
Bread, white -----	123.0	-----	.4	-----	-.5
Bread, whole wheat <u>1/</u> -----	114.1	-----	1.0	-----	0
Cookies -----	101.1	-----	.4	-----	-1.2
Layer cake <u>1/</u> -----	106.7	-----	-.4	-----	1.6
Cinnamon rolls <u>1/</u> -----	106.2	-----	0	-----	-1.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	112.7	113.8	-.4	-.1	3.4
Meats -----	115.0	116.6	-.3	.4	3.8
Beef and veal -----	116.0	117.3	-.3	.7	5.0
Steak, round -----	110.0	111.3	-1.5	-.6	4.4
Steak, sirloin <u>2/</u> -----	107.9	-----	-1.6	-----	4.6
Steak, porterhouse <u>1/</u> -----	113.5	-----	-.4	-----	6.4
Rump roast <u>1/</u> -----	107.2	-----	-.8	-----	4.7
Rib roast -----	124.6	125.5	.6	.7	7.2
Chuck roast -----	110.4	110.8	.6	1.7	8.0
Hamburger -----	119.2	120.4	.3	1.3	4.2
Beef liver <u>1/</u> -----	106.3	-----	.7	-----	0
Veal cutlets -----	141.6	141.6	1.1	1.9	8.4
Pork -----	113.6	117.8	-.8	1.1	3.4
Chops -----	117.2	123.8	-1.7	1.0	8.7
Loin roast <u>2/</u> -----	123.4	-----	-1.4	-----	5.9
Pork sausage <u>1/</u> -----	121.6	-----	.5	-----	1.6
Ham, whole -----	109.9	112.0	-.4	1.4	.8
Picnics <u>1/</u> -----	115.0	-----	0	-----	.3
Bacon -----	113.8	118.5	-.4	1.8	.3
Other meats -----	118.9	119.5	.5	.6	1.8
Lamb chops <u>1/</u> -----	126.6	-----	.4	-----	8.9
Frankfurters -----	117.5	118.0	.9	.9	.9
Ham, canned <u>1/</u> -----	114.6	-----	-.7	-----	-1.5
Bologna sausage <u>1/</u> -----	118.5	-----	.3	-----	1.9
Salami sausage <u>1/</u> -----	113.9	-----	1.0	-----	1.5
Liverwurst <u>1/</u> -----	116.0	-----	1.0	-----	-.9
Poultry -----	92.7	-----	-1.8	-----	3.3
Frying chicken -----	94.4	93.3	-2.2	-2.0	5.7
Chicken breasts <u>1/</u> -----	103.3	-----	-1.1	-----	3.0
Turkey <u>1/</u> -----	96.8	-----	0	-----	-7.1
Fish -----	122.2	121.8	.7	.5	-.5
Shrimp, frozen <u>1/</u> -----	107.1	-----	1.6	-----	-3.3
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	124.3	124.1	.2	.2	-1.0
Tuna fish, canned -----	108.5	-----	.3	-----	-3.0
Sardines, canned <u>1/</u> -----	120.8	-----	.8	-----	5.1
Dairy products -----	118.8	119.4	.1	.5	2.7
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	116.5	117.3	.1	.4	3.7
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	121.5	-----	0	-----	4.7
Milk, fresh, skim <u>1/</u> -----	114.5	-----	0	-----	3.4
Milk, evaporated -----	117.4	-----	.1	-----	.3
Ice cream -----	98.9	-----	0	-----	-.3
Cheese, American process -----	137.5	137.2	.1	.1	.4
Butter -----	116.5	117.0	0	.3	.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
April 1968 indexes and percent changes from selected dates--Continued
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to April 1968 from --		April 1967 unadjusted
	April 1968		March 1968		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Fruits and vegetables -----	128.3	126.9	1.7	0.9	12.3
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	138.9	136.3	2.6	1.0	15.8
Apples -----	160.0	160.2	5.0	-.1	17.6
Bananas -----	94.4	93.6	1.4	-.2	2.3
Oranges -----	137.7	146.0	- 3.6	- 5.5	29.9
Orange juice, fresh 1/ -----	82.9	-----	1.6	-----	14.3
Grapefruit -----	150.4	169.0	4.6	3.2	28.3
Grapes 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Strawberries 3/ -----	137.7	127.5	(4/)	(4/)	7.3
Watermelon 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Potatoes -----	119.6	119.8	-.4	- 3.2	6.5
Onions -----	181.8	182.9	22.0	20.6	29.7
Asparagus 1/ 3/ -----	112.1	-----	- 24.3	-----	7.2
Cabbage -----	150.1	143.2	- 2.3	-.8	11.7
Carrots -----	124.4	132.6	- 26.3	- 24.9	28.4
Celery -----	106.6	112.1	- 3.0	5.1	9.4
Cucumbers 1/ -----	218.8	-----	14.2	-----	31.6
Lettuce -----	140.1	155.5	36.7	53.8	27.0
Peppers, green 1/ -----	186.7	-----	8.1	-----	22.6
Spinach 1/ -----	104.7	-----	-.4	-----	5.3
Tomatoes -----	148.0	133.7	2.8	- 1.5	25.7
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	115.1	-----	.4	-----	7.3
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	108.2	-----	-.1	-----	12.7
Pears, canned 1/ -----	117.9	-----	.8	-----	27.6
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned 1/ --	94.3	-----	.3	-----	.6
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	84.7	83.7	2.4	1.0	16.3
Lemonade concentrate, frozen 2/ -----	91.1	-----	.1	-----	.7
Beets, canned 1/ -----	110.3	-----	.2	-----	4.2
Peas, green, canned -----	120.9	-----	.7	-----	.2
Tomatoes, canned -----	130.8	-----	.4	-----	8.1
Dried beans -----	123.7	-----	.8	-----	9.3
Broccoli, frozen 1/ -----	99.8	-----	-.5	-----	.4
Other food at home -----	103.0	103.5	.8	.8	1.6
Eggs -----	89.7	92.8	4.2	5.9	3.3
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	103.6	-----	-.9	-----	2.1
Salad dressing, Italian 1/ -----	103.0	-----	.3	-----	2.6
Salad or cooking oil 1/ -----	122.1	-----	.3	-----	2.2
Sugar and sweets -----	116.4	-----	.2	-----	1.9
Sugar -----	113.1	-----	.4	-----	.9
Grape jelly -----	117.9	-----	.1	-----	1.5
Chocolate bar -----	106.2	-----	.1	-----	1.4
Syrup, chocolate flavored 1/ -----	101.6	-----	0	-----	3.6
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	100.5	-----	.6	-----	1.6
Coffee, can and bag -----	87.0	-----	.2	-----	1.6
Coffee, instant 5/ -----	96.8	-----	.4	-----	0
Tea -----	101.2	-----	.2	-----	.8
Cola drink -----	146.4	-----	1.0	-----	7.4
Carbonated fruit drink 1/ -----	115.0	-----	1.5	-----	6.6
Prepared and partially prepared foods 1/	102.1	-----	0	-----	1.8
Bean soup, canned 1/ -----	100.7	-----	-.5	-----	2.8
Chicken soup, canned 1/ -----	95.9	-----	-.1	-----	1.0
Spaghetti, canned 1/ -----	112.0	-----	.2	-----	4.0
Mashed potatoes, instant 1/ -----	102.1	-----	-.2	-----	.1
Potatoes, french fried, frozen 2/ -----	85.6	-----	.7	-----	1.2
Baby foods, canned -----	105.7	-----	-.5	-----	.3
Sweet pickle relish 1/ -----	109.8	-----	.2	-----	2.6
Pretzels 1/ -----	105.5	-----	.1	-----	4.4

1/ December 1963=100.

2/ April 1960=100.

3/ Priced only in season.

4/ Not available.

5/ July 1961=100.

TABLE 8: Consumer Price Index--Portland, Oregon
 All items and commodity groups
 April 1968 indexes and percent changes from selected dates
 (1957-59=100)

Group	Index	Percent change from --	
		January 1968	April 1967
All items -----	121.3	1.3	3.3
All items (1947-49=100) -----	150.3		
Food -----	118.7	1.7	4.0
Food at home -----	114.7	1.8	4.2
Cereals and bakery products --	111.7	0	.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	122.1	2.3	6.0
Dairy products -----	124.8	.1	2.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.3	5.2	11.9
Other foods at home -----	99.7	.5	.6
Housing -----	121.1	.8	2.5
Rent -----	115.2	.4	2.0
Gas and electricity -----	102.5	0	0
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	112.9	3.4	3.4
Housefurnishings -----	98.9	1.4	2.3
Household operation -----	121.2	0	.6
Apparel -----	119.9	3.7	4.4
Men's and boys' -----	123.0	3.0	3.9
Women's and girls' -----	116.3	4.9	4.3
Footwear -----	129.7	3.1	5.9
Other apparel -----	108.5	3.1	3.3
Transportation -----	117.0	.1	2.6
Private -----	113.2	.1	3.2
Public -----	139.7	0	.6
Medical care -----	140.2	.1	5.8
Personal care -----	123.9	3.4	4.8
Reading and recreation -----	127.5	1.4	3.7
Other goods and services -----	119.1	.3	2.3

Table 9: Percent Change in Prices for Selected Groups in the Consumer Price Index and the Wholesale Price Index (Seasonally adjusted except where indicated)

	Mar. 1968 to Apr. 1968		Jan. 1968 to Apr. 1968		Oct. 1967 to Jan. 1968		July 1967 to Oct. 1967		Apr. 1967 to July 1967		Apr. 1967 to Apr. 1968	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI*	WPI*
*ALL ITEMS -----	0.3	0.1	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.9	-0.4	1.0	1.1	4.0	2.8
CONSUMER PRODUCTS -----	0.3	0.1	1.1	1.2	1.0	0.9	1.0	-0.4	0.4	1.1	3.5	3.0
<u>Nondurable</u> -----	.3	.4	1.2	1.7	1.1	1.1	1.0	-1.1	.3	1.5	3.6	3.2
Food and beverages at home -----	.6	.1	1.4	1.9	1.5	1.8	.8	-1.9	.1	2.4	3.8	4.2
Apparel and accessories -----	.6	.2	1.9	.9	1.0	1.7	1.0	.4	1.1	.4	5.1	3.3
Household furnishings and supplies -----	.6	.4	1.2	1.9	.8	0	-.3	.5	.4	1.1	2.1	3.6
Gasoline and motor oil -----	-1.6	2.4	.2	4.3	.8	-2.9	.2	-3.5	-1.1	-.1	0	-2.5
Other nondurables -----	0	-.2	.6	.6	1.3	-.4	1.7	.3	.2	1.6	3.8	2.1
<u>Durable</u> -----	.2	-.2	.5	-.2	.6	.7	1.2	1.6	.7	.2	3.0	2.3
New passenger cars -----	-.3	-.6	-.3	-.7	.1	.2	2.6	2.6	1.0	-.2	3.4	1.8
Appliances -----	.1	.2	0	.6	.4	.3	.5	.2	.1	-.2	1.0	.9
Furniture and floor coverings -----	.4	0	1.5	.6	1.5	1.0	.9	.9	.5	.4	4.4	3.0
*Other durables -----	.3	.2	1.2	.2	.9	1.1	.7	1.7	.3	.2	3.1	3.2
*CONSUMER SERVICES -----	0.3	-	1.3	-	1.3	-	1.1	-	0.9	-	4.7	-
*Insurance and finance -----	.3	-	.9	-	1.5	-	1.0	-	.7	-	4.3	-
*Rent -----	.2	-	.6	-	.6	-	.5	-	.4	-	2.2	-
*Utilities and public transportation -----	.1	-	.6	-	.5	-	.3	-	.5	-	1.9	-
*Housekeeping and home maintenance services -----	.4	-	2.1	-	2.1	-	1.8	-	1.1	-	7.4	-
*Medical care services -----	.5	-	1.9	-	1.8	-	1.8	-	1.7	-	7.5	-
*Personal care services -----	.4	-	1.7	-	1.2	-	1.0	-	.8	-	4.9	-
*Other services -----	.5	-	2.2	-	1.3	-	1.1	-	1.1	-	5.9	-
WHOLESALE PRICES:												
<u>Type of Product:</u>												
Farm products -----	-	-0.4	-	3.1	-	1.1	-	-3.7	-	4.2	-	4.6
Processed foods and feeds -----	-	.3	-	2.0	-	.4	-	-.9	-	1.1	-	2.5
*Industrial commodities -----	-	.2	-	.9	-	.9	-	.8	-	0	-	2.6
<u>Industrial Materials and Equipment:</u>												
Chemicals and allied products -----	-	.1	-	.5	-	-.2	-	-.1	-	-.2	-	0
Rubber and rubber products -----	-	-.1	-	.1	-	.7	-	2.7	-	.4	-	4.0
Lumber and wood products -----	-	1.1	-	4.8	-	2.0	-	2.5	-	1.5	-	11.2
Pulp, paper and allied products -----	-	-.2	-	.4	-	1.0	-	.2	-	.5	-	1.3
*Metals and metal products -----	-	-.5	-	1.4	-	1.7	-	.7	-	-.1	-	3.8
Machinery and equipment -----	-	.4	-	.7	-	1.3	-	.6	-	.2	-	2.9
<u>Stage of Processing at Wholesale:</u>												
Finished goods -----	-	.2	-	1.2	-	.9	-	0	-	1.0	-	3.2
Consumer -----	-	.3	-	1.3	-	1.1	-	-.4	-	1.1	-	3.1
Producer -----	-	.3	-	.7	-	1.0	-	1.3	-	.5	-	3.5
Intermediate materials, supplies and components -----	-	.1	-	1.2	-	.9	-	.3	-	-.1	-	2.3
Crude materials -----	-	0	-	2.9	-	.3	-	-1.9	-	2.1	-	3.5

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 Offices

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	Box 1784 William Penn Annex Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105	

	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 individual 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.