

May 1968

the consumer price index



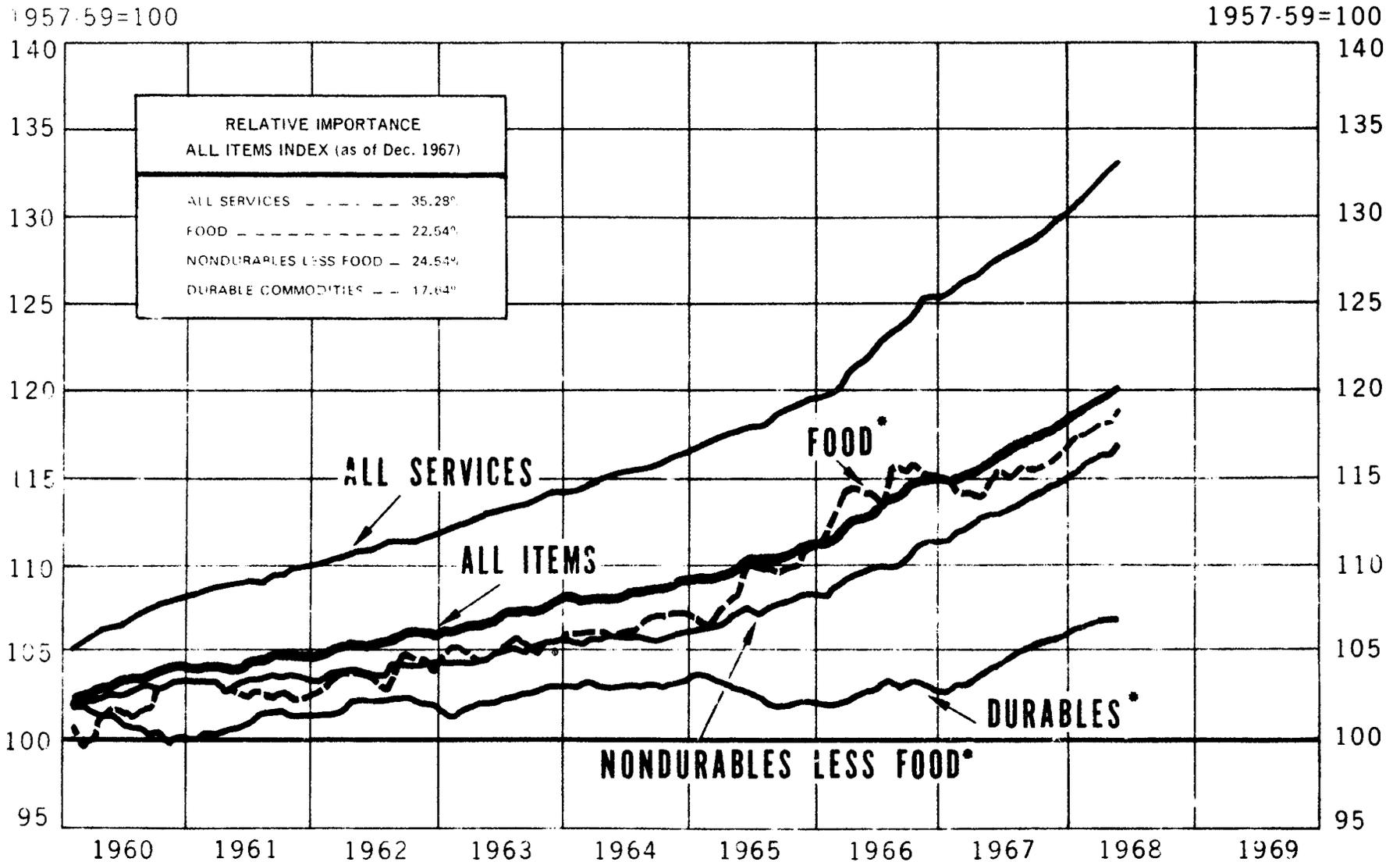
U S CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: COMMODITIES AND SERVICES

*(Seasonally Adjusted)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MAY 1968

The Consumer Price Index rose for the sixteenth consecutive month in May, advancing 0.3 percent to 120.3 (1957-59=100), 4.1 percent above its May 1967 level.

Prices of most consumer goods and services were higher. Costs of apparel led the increase, and with food, accounted for more than half of the total increase for the month. Charges for consumer services also continued to advance at a rapid pace. Over the year, nondurable commodities and services have contributed about 47 percent and 40 percent respectively to the overall increase. Durable good prices, although rising slowly, have maintained a greater degree of price stability than other major components of the index.

Food

Grocery store food prices were 0.4 percent higher in May, mainly because of higher prices for milk and fresh fruits and vegetables. Meats, poultry, and fish prices also averaged higher, but egg prices fell nearly 9 percent. Restaurant meal prices, which have moved up steadily for more than four years, rose 0.5 percent to a level 5 percent over a year ago.

The rise in dairy products was partly a reaction to the April 1 increase in the support price for manufacturing grade fluid milk. Fresh whole milk purchased both in grocery stores and for home delivery gained substantially. Prices for skim milk, a relatively low volume item, were even stronger as retailers apparently widened their margins to take advantage of its increasing popularity. Only ice cream prices declined, reflecting widespread sales promotion programs.

Fruits and vegetables were up 1.9 percent, almost entirely because of higher prices for fresh produce. Tight supplies due to shrinking storage holdings, reduced imports of bananas, and a small 1967-68 citrus crop resulted in a marked increase for fresh fruits. Only strawberries, off 11.4 percent as a result of rapidly rising production, declined. Fresh vegetables posted a net advance, but movements were mixed. Prices for lettuce and cucumbers declined sharply as the California, New Mexico and Florida crops came in, but these reductions were more than offset by the higher prices for potatoes, resulting from the small late spring potato crop, and higher prices of tomatoes and green peppers, due to weather damage to the California and Florida crops.

Meats, poultry and fish prices averaged 0.3 percent higher over the month. Better cuts of beef showed strength as demand continued at a high level. Prices of most pork cuts were lower, but sharp gains for bacon and sausage resulted in a net advance for pork of 0.4 percent. Poultry prices declined because of a planned reduction in the production of broilers and fryers. Egg prices were down 8.7 percent due to unusually heavy spring production. They are now 0.5 percent below the May 1967 level and at their lowest index level for this month since 1959.

Services

Consumer services rose 0.4 percent in May, about the same rate maintained during 1967 but slightly below the rate registered in the first quarter of 1968. Nearly

all services were higher; personal care, medical care, property taxes and mortgage interest charges showed significant gains.

The cost of medical care services rose 0.5 percent in continuation of their persistent climb. Higher salaries of office staff, increased overhead costs, and higher medical supply costs contributed to a rise for professional fees. Hospital service costs rose substantially higher than a year ago.

Personal care charges rose 0.7 percent mostly because of higher charges for men's haircuts, but beauty shop charges also averaged higher. Hotel and motel room rates increased, partly to cover the upward drift of operating expenses and partly because of the increasing demand for accommodations as the vacation season approaches. Recreational services, particularly golf greens fees, were higher too.

Real estate taxes moved sharply higher in several cities and mortgage interest charges rose in response to continued strong competition from the bond market and to increases in mortgage rate ceilings in a number of states.

Gas and electricity bills generally were unchanged, as were water and sewerage service charges, but telephone service registered a small gain. Residential rents continued to climb slowly and home maintenance services advanced moderately, primarily because of increased wage rates in union building trades.

Nondurables other than food

Prices of nondurable goods except food advanced 0.5 percent in May. Higher price tags for women's and girls' summer wear such as cotton dresses, shorts and bathing suits, led the 0.9 percent advance in the apparel sector, but nearly all clothing items and footwear were higher. Over the year, rising prices of apparel commodities have been an important factor in advancing nondurables prices; they accounted for over half of the total change. Very high levels of consumer demand have enabled some retailers to increase profit margins.

Gasoline price changes were largely offsetting, but motor oil prices were higher in several areas, as the long term uptrend for this item continued. Fuel oil staged a contraseasonal increase, as normal seasonal discounts either were not being granted or were less than those of previous years. Textile housefurnishings declined moderately following traditional May white sales for sheets, pillows and bedspreads, but higher prices for slipcovers, curtains and drapery fabrics partially offset the decline.

Durables

New car prices were unchanged as sales were at a record level in May. Used cars rose 0.3 percent reflecting strong demand for good, late model cars.

Furniture prices were 0.4 percent higher than in April. Almost all furniture items were more expensive, but bedroom suites and dining room furniture led the list. Increased costs of production, coupled with strong demand, have exerted a continuous upward pressure on prices. Floor coverings were up as increases for nylon carpeting offset small reductions for wool broadloom carpeting.

Higher prices for sporting goods, especially seasonal items, were behind most of the increase in recreational durables although small declines occurred in prices of

color television sets and table model radios, probably in anticipation of introduction of new models in June. Appliance prices held steady in general. Decreases for refrigerators, ranges, dryers, and vacuum cleaners were balanced by higher prices for washing machines and air conditioners. Increased material costs, particularly copper, were cited as the determining factor in these rises.

Cost-of-Living Adjustment

More than 210,000 workers will receive hourly pay increases based either on the national Consumer Price Index or individual city indexes for May. About 110,000, mostly aerospace workers, will receive 3-cent increases because of the rise in the national index since February. Some 75,000 employees of the meatpacking industry will receive 6-cent adjustments based on the national increase over the past 6 months. Other increases, representing quarterly, semi-annual or annual changes at national or city levels, will range from 1 cent to 6 cents.

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

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)					Percent change to May 1968 from--				
	May 1968		April 1968		May 1967	April 1968		February 1968		May 1967
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	unadjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	unadjusted
All items -----	120.3	-----	119.9	-----	115.6	0.3	-----	1.1	-----	4.1
Food -----	118.8	119.4	118.3	118.7	113.9	.4	0.6	1.2	1.7	4.3
Food at home -----	115.6	116.3	115.1	115.7	110.9	.4	.5	1.2	1.9	4.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.4	-----	118.3	-----	118.8	.1	-----	.2	-----	.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.0	114.8	112.7	113.7	108.5	.3	1.0	.9	2.7	4.1
Dairy products -----	120.2	120.9	118.8	119.3	115.9	1.2	1.3	1.4	2.1	3.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.7	128.9	128.3	126.7	116.4	1.9	1.7	4.6	2.4	12.3
Other foods at home -----	101.9	103.0	103.0	103.5	100.7	- 1.1	- .5	- .7	.4	1.2
Food away from home -----	135.1	-----	134.4	-----	128.7	.5	-----	1.4	-----	5.0
Housing -----	117.8	-----	117.5	-----	113.9	.3	-----	.8	-----	3.4
Shelter 1/ -----	121.6	-----	121.3	-----	117.5	.2	-----	.7	-----	3.5
Rent -----	114.6	-----	114.4	-----	112.1	.2	-----	.6	-----	2.2
Homeownership 2/ -----	124.3	-----	124.0	-----	119.7	.2	-----	.6	-----	3.8
Fuel and utilities 3/ -----	110.3	110.3	110.0	109.9	108.7	.3	.4	.5	.5	1.5
Fuel oil and coal 4/ -----	115.3	116.0	114.0	113.5	110.8	1.1	2.2	1.3	3.7	4.1
Gas and electricity -----	109.5	-----	109.5	-----	108.3	0	-----	.2	-----	1.1
Household furnishings and operation -	112.5	-----	112.2	-----	107.9	.3	-----	1.2	-----	4.3
Apparel and upkeep 5/ -----	119.5	119.3	118.4	118.5	113.8	.9	.7	2.5	1.9	5.0
Men's and boys' -----	119.8	119.7	119.2	119.2	114.0	.5	.4	2.6	1.9	5.1
Women's and girls' -----	116.2	116.1	114.5	114.8	109.6	1.5	1.1	3.4	2.7	6.0
Footwear -----	131.2	131.1	130.4	130.1	125.2	.6	.8	1.6	1.3	4.8
Transportation -----	119.1	119.2	119.0	119.1	115.5	.1	.1	.4	.1	3.1
Private -----	116.8	116.8	116.8	116.9	113.6	0	- .1	.3	- .1	2.8
Public -----	137.3	-----	137.2	-----	130.9	.1	-----	.8	-----	4.9
Health and recreation -----	129.2	-----	128.8	-----	122.8	.3	-----	1.3	-----	5.2
Medical care -----	144.0	-----	143.5	-----	135.7	.3	-----	1.5	-----	6.1
Personal care -----	119.6	-----	119.0	-----	115.0	.5	-----	1.7	-----	4.0
Reading and recreation -----	125.3	-----	124.9	-----	119.6	.3	-----	1.9	-----	4.8
Other goods and services 6/ -----	122.6	-----	122.5	-----	116.7	.1	-----	.4	-----	5.1
Special groups:										
All items less shelter -----	120.0	-----	119.6	-----	115.1	.3	-----	1.3	-----	4.3
All items less food -----	121.0	-----	120.6	-----	116.3	.3	-----	1.1	-----	4.0
All items less medical care -----	118.9	-----	118.5	-----	114.4	.3	-----	1.1	-----	3.9
Commodities 7/ -----	114.7	114.9	114.3	114.5	110.5	.3	.3	1.1	1.1	3.8
Nondurables -----	117.8	118.0	117.3	117.5	113.2	.4	.4	1.2	1.2	4.1
Durables 7/ 8/ -----	106.9	106.9	107.0	107.0	103.9	0	- .1	.5	.2	2.9
Services 9/ -----	133.0	-----	132.5	-----	127.0	.4	-----	1.3	-----	4.7
Commodities less food 7/ -----	112.5	112.5	112.2	112.2	108.7	.3	.3	.9	.7	3.5
Nondurables less food -----	117.0	116.9	116.4	116.4	112.7	.5	.4	1.2	.8	3.8
Apparel commodities -----	118.7	118.5	117.6	117.8	112.7	.9	.6	2.7	2.0	5.3
Apparel commodities less footwear	116.2	116.0	115.0	115.2	110.2	1.0	.7	2.9	2.1	5.4
Nondurables less food and apparel -	116.0	-----	115.8	-----	112.6	.2	-----	.4	-----	3.0
New cars -----	100.3	100.5	100.3	100.1	96.9	0	.4	- .5	.1	3.5
Used cars -----	126.7	126.7	126.9	126.9	121.4	.3	- .2	2.5	- .2	4.4
Household durables 10/ -----	101.1	-----	100.8	-----	98.1	.3	-----	1.2	-----	3.1
Housefurnishings -----	104.4	104.2	104.2	103.9	100.6	.2	.3	1.3	1.0	3.8
Services less rent 9/ -----	137.1	-----	136.6	-----	130.4	.4	-----	1.4	-----	5.1
Household services less rent -----	132.1	-----	131.5	-----	126.5	.5	-----	1.1	-----	4.4
Transportation services -----	132.9	-----	132.7	-----	127.7	.2	-----	.8	-----	4.1
Medical care services -----	155.0	-----	154.3	-----	144.4	.5	-----	1.8	-----	7.3
Other services 11/ -----	138.3	-----	137.6	-----	130.8	.5	-----	2.2	-----	5.7
All items index on other bases:										
1947-49=100 -----	147.6	-----	147.1	-----	141.8	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=100 -----	248.4	-----	247.6	-----	238.7	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:										
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.831	-----	\$0.834	-----	\$0.865	- .4	-----	- 1.1	-----	- 3.9
1947-49=\$1.00 -----	.678	-----	.680	-----	.705	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=\$1.00 -----	.403	-----	.404	-----	.419	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10/ Called "durables less cars" prior to 1964.

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

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	April 1968	February 1968	May 1967
		May 1968			April 1968	February 1968	May 1967
U.S. City Average -----	M	120.3	147.6		0.3	1.1	4.1
Chicago -----	M	117.8	148.5		.3	1.1	4.6
Detroit -----	M	118.9	146.6		.3	1.4	3.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	120.9	150.7		.2	.2	3.4
New York -----	M	122.9	148.0		.3	1.2	3.8
Philadelphia -----	M	121.5	149.1		.4	1.2	4.7
		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
		May 1968				February 1968	May 1967
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) ---	2	-----	-----	114.3		1.8	4.4
Cleveland -----	2	119.1	147.9			1.1	6.5
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) ---	2	-----	-----	112.7		2.2	4.8
Milwaukee -----	2	115.9	146.1			.8	3.3
San Diego (Feb.1965=100) -	2	-----	-----	108.7		.9	4.4
Seattle -----	2	^{3/} 121.1	^{4/} 152.2			.7	3.7
Washington -----	2	121.0	145.6			1.6	4.6
		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.

^{3/} Corrected index: February 1968, 120.2.

^{4/} Corrected index: February 1968, 151.1.

TABLE 3: Consumer Price Index--The United States and Selected Areas ^{1/}
 For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Major Groups
 Percent change from April 1968 to May 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.3	0.3	0.3	- 0.2	0.3	0.4
Food -----	.4	.2	.4	- .1	.5	.9
Housing -----	.3	.5	.4	- .5	.2	- .1
Apparel and upkeep -----	.9	1.0	1.3	.4	.9	.4
Transportation -----	.1	- .3	.2	- .2	.1	.4
Health and recreation -----	.3	0	.2	.2	0	.4
Medical care -----	.3	- .3	.3	.8	.2	1.2
Personal care -----	.5	.5	- .2	- .8	.2	1.1
Reading and recreation -----	.3	.1	.3	.1	- .1	- .3
Other goods and services -----	.1	- .1	- .3	.2	- .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
1966: May	120.3	118.8	117.8	119.5	119.1	129.2	144.0	119.6	125.3	122.6
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
Annual Average: 1967	116.3	115.2	114.3	114.0	115.9	123.8	136.7	115.5	120.1	118.7
1966	113.1	114.2	111.1	109.6	112.7	119.0	127.7	112.2	117.1	116.9
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
 May 1968 indexes and percent changes from February 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Buffalo (Nov.1963=100)	Chicago	Cleveland	Dallas (Nov.1963=100)	Detroit	Los Angeles- Long Beach
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)							
All items -----	120.3	114.3	117.8	119.1	112.7	118.9	120.9
Food -----	118.8	114.8	118.9	115.8	113.6	116.7	116.8
Food at home -----	115.6	113.3	117.5	113.1	111.7	113.9	111.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.4	105.7	120.9	112.0	110.4	111.6	119.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.0	110.5	112.9	114.1	112.8	115.6	103.1
Dairy products -----	120.2	114.6	133.1	119.2	121.5	124.8	119.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.7	131.8	127.7	126.8	118.9	119.9	136.5
Other foods at home -----	101.9	107.1	103.1	98.7	101.4	99.8	93.0
Food away from home -----	135.1	124.1	125.8	131.9	121.0	132.1	136.0
Housing -----	117.8	112.2	114.2	115.5	110.5	113.1	122.1
Shelter -----	121.6	113.5	116.5	116.3	113.2	115.8	128.3
Rent -----	114.6	105.8	110.0	104.4	103.4	-----	114.5
Homeownership -----	124.3	114.9	119.5	118.5	117.8	118.6	132.7
Fuel and utilities -----	110.3	108.5	107.9	115.4	104.0	103.3	106.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	115.3	108.4	108.8	-----	-----	106.4	-----
Gas and electricity -----	109.5	109.3	108.1	116.3	99.3	104.6	112.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	112.5	111.2	112.4	110.5	108.8	108.7	111.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	119.5	120.6	115.9	117.6	112.9	117.9	118.6
Men's and boys' -----	119.8	118.5	114.2	122.4	114.9	116.8	122.3
Women's and girls' -----	116.2	123.2	112.7	110.2	113.1	116.8	118.0
Footwear -----	131.2	124.4	128.0	132.6	111.8	127.9	126.0
Transportation -----	119.1	111.2	117.1	120.8	109.4	119.2	122.8
Private -----	116.8	111.6	116.2	117.4	109.1	116.6	118.3
Public -----	137.3	106.5	123.9	142.1	114.1	135.9	153.6
Health and recreation -----	129.2	116.3	124.2	130.1	117.2	132.4	123.7
Medical care -----	144.0	120.1	152.5	153.7	124.1	154.4	141.1
Personal care -----	119.6	112.5	117.4	114.3	113.1	126.1	115.1
Reading and recreation -----	125.3	114.1	108.9	119.4	114.5	125.7	110.6
Other goods and services -----	122.6	117.1	115.9	127.5	112.7	117.8	120.4
Percent changes February 1968 to May 1968							
All items -----	1.1	1.8	1.1	1.1	2.2	1.4	0.2
Food -----	1.2	2.4	.3	1.4	2.0	.5	.4
Food at home -----	1.2	2.4	.1	1.2	1.7	.4	.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	.2	1.6	-.7	.3	7.9	.7	1.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.9	.8	-1.3	1.7	.6	.9	-.1
Dairy products -----	1.4	2.3	2.8	-.5	2.0	.2	1.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	4.6	7.7	1.0	3.3	3.5	3.8	2.2
Other foods at home -----	-.7	.8	.1	.3	-1.2	-3.1	-1.8
Food away from home -----	1.4	2.8	1.1	3.0	2.7	1.0	.5
Housing -----	.8	2.3	.6	1.0	1.7	1.4	-.3
Shelter -----	.7	2.7	.8	1.1	.8	1.4	-.5
Rent -----	.6	.4	^{2/} .4	.7	.6	-----	^{2/} .4
Homeownership -----	.6	3.1	.8	1.3	.7	1.5	-1.0
Fuel and utilities -----	.5	.8	0	0	5.5	.7	0
Fuel oil and coal -----	1.3	0	-.2	-----	-----	-.7	-----
Gas and electricity -----	.2	1.3	0	0	.5	.2	0
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.2	1.8	.5	.7	2.2	2.0	.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.5	2.9	4.3	.9	3.7	2.6	1.5
Men's and boys' -----	2.6	3.0	4.2	1.0	2.6	2.8	1.5
Women's and girls' -----	3.4	4.1	7.2	1.7	5.6	3.2	2.2
Footwear -----	1.6	1.6	2.0	-.2	2.6	1.1	.2
Transportation -----	.4	.5	.3	.3	2.4	1.4	-1.4
Private -----	.3	.6	.3	.3	2.6	.5	-1.4
Public -----	.8	0	.2	.4	.3	13.4	.3
Health and recreation -----	1.3	.3	1.5	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.2
Medical care -----	1.5	.1	.8	1.9	1.6	1.6	1.8
Personal care -----	1.7	1.4	1.0	-.9	3.9	1.9	2.3
Reading and recreation -----	1.9	0	2.3	1.5	2.5	3.6	.6
Other goods and services -----	.4	.4	1.5	1.7	.1	-.4	.4

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas 1/
 For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Commodity Groups
 May 1968 indexes and percent changes from February 1968 --Continued

Group	Milwaukee	New York	Philadelphia	San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)						
All items -----	115.9	122.9	121.5	108.7	3/ 121.1	121.0
Food -----	117.2	119.4	119.5	111.2	4/ 118.2	120.7
Food at home -----	115.3	114.5	114.9	108.4	113.7	117.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	106.9	116.8	115.0	107.8	109.9	112.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	114.1	113.9	110.9	113.9	112.0	115.7
Dairy products -----	125.9	111.6	126.4	107.9	122.4	123.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	132.3	131.9	131.6	110.6	132.5	127.8
Other foods at home -----	102.1	100.9	98.2	99.6	98.6	107.4
Food away from home -----	128.3	140.6	143.8	118.7	137.1	135.8
Housing -----	113.1	121.3	117.1	108.4	122.1	115.9
Shelter -----	113.9	124.1	117.9	111.7	130.2	118.1
Rent -----	107.2	-----	115.0	107.7	121.5	119.1
Homeownership -----	116.2	122.9	118.6	113.3	132.2	115.9
Fuel and utilities -----	111.3	110.5	109.5	99.5	112.7	103.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.4	121.1	122.2	-----	109.8	115.8
Gas and electricity -----	101.9	110.8	102.7	100.0	97.9	100.6
Household furnishings and operation -----	112.1	119.4	115.6	104.7	110.9	116.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	116.4	123.9	126.4	107.1	118.6	126.3
Men's and boys' -----	117.9	127.1	119.9	112.9	120.4	121.9
Women's and girls' -----	112.9	118.7	123.1	103.0	117.1	125.6
Footwear -----	128.3	130.8	136.4	112.9	134.0	137.2
Transportation -----	113.1	119.2	127.3	106.3	119.4	118.7
Private -----	111.9	118.4	121.8	106.4	118.4	116.6
Public -----	130.0	125.5	155.6	105.0	128.6	131.8
Health and recreation -----	121.8	133.3	128.6	109.7	124.2	131.4
Medical care -----	136.1	145.5	149.7	115.8	138.0	163.9
Personal care -----	122.5	115.8	114.5	102.2	115.6	118.5
Reading and recreation -----	118.7	136.4	119.7	105.2	116.5	125.5
Other goods and services -----	113.6	127.5	(5/)	113.2	123.6	115.0
Percent changes February 1968 to May 1968						
All items -----	0.8	1.2	1.2	0.9	0.7	1.6
Food -----	.9	1.2	2.0	1.8	.9	3.0
Food at home -----	1.0	1.2	2.1	.9	.9	3.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	0	-.2	1.2	.8	.2	1.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.9	.7	2.2	1.6	1.1	5.2
Dairy products -----	.3	.8	2.0	.8	-.2	3.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.7	5.4	5.4	4.1	5.3	8.8
Other foods at home -----	- 1.6	- 1.1	-.5	- 2.4	- 1.7	- 1.0
Food away from home -----	.4	1.3	1.8	4.0	1.0	1.9
Housing -----	1.3	.8	.1	.5	.7	.4
Shelter -----	1.9	.8	-.4	.4	.5	-.1
Rent -----	.5	-----	2/ -.3	2.4	.9	.5
Homeownership -----	2.4	1.2	-.8	-.4	.3	-.3
Fuel and utilities -----	0	.3	.5	0	.2	-.2
Fuel oil and coal -----	0	1.8	2.3	-----	.5	2.7
Gas and electricity -----	0	-.3	0	0	0	-.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	.5	.9	.6	.9	1.4	1.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.7	2.7	2.3	1.9	1.2	4.1
Men's and boys' -----	2.1	3.9	2.6	1.7	.6	4.0
Women's and girls' -----	3.9	2.1	2.7	3.4	1.6	5.7
Footwear -----	1.2	.8	2.9	.4	1.4	2.4
Transportation -----	- 2.3	.2	.6	.6	-.5	.5
Private -----	- 2.5	0	.7	.7	-.7	.5
Public -----	0	.6	-.1	-.1	.3	.4
Health and recreation -----	.7	1.1	1.3	.7	1.2	1.3
Medical care -----	.1	1.5	1.9	.1	1.5	1.9
Personal care -----	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.7	-.5	1.5
Reading and recreation -----	2.1	1.8	1.5	.7	2.9	1.3
Other goods and services -----	0	0	(5/)	1.3	-.1	.3

1/ See footnote 1, table 2.

2/ Change from March 1968.

3/ Corrected Index: February 1968, 120.2.

4/ Corrected Index: February 1968, 117.1.

5/ Not available.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food and its Subgroups
May 1968 Indexes and Percent Changes from April 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 -----	118.8	115.6	118.4	113.0	120.2	130.7	101.9	135.1
Atlanta -----	117.2	114.8	113.7	115.0	113.3	130.2	106.6	125.6
Baltimore -----	120.6	116.5	123.3	115.0	117.4	132.9	102.4	137.8
Boston -----	122.5	117.8	121.8	119.8	115.6	129.3	103.9	142.9
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	114.8	113.3	105.7	110.5	114.6	131.8	107.1	124.1
Chicago -----	118.9	117.5	120.9	112.9	133.1	127.7	103.1	125.8
Cincinnati -----	116.0	112.6	112.1	113.2	113.6	129.6	98.2	133.7
Cleveland -----	115.8	113.1	112.0	114.1	119.2	126.8	98.7	131.9
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	113.6	111.7	110.4	112.8	121.5	118.9	101.4	121.0
Detroit -----	116.7	113.9	111.6	115.6	124.8	119.9	99.8	132.1
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	112.2	111.6	111.1	111.8	113.4	119.3	103.7	113.9
Houston -----	118.7	115.1	125.7	109.2	119.0	131.2	102.6	134.1
Kansas City -----	122.3	119.5	123.0	116.6	128.3	131.2	106.2	132.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	116.8	111.5	119.9	103.1	119.1	136.5	93.0	136.0
Milwaukee -----	117.2	115.3	106.9	114.1	125.9	132.3	102.1	128.3
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	117.4	114.6	109.3	111.3	126.0	128.5	103.4	130.3
New York -----	119.4	114.5	116.8	113.9	111.6	131.9	100.9	140.6
Philadelphia -----	119.5	114.9	115.0	110.9	126.4	131.6	98.2	143.8
Pittsburgh -----	115.0	112.4	116.9	115.2	110.1	124.4	99.3	131.5
St. Louis -----	123.8	120.4	120.9	119.0	133.2	137.7	101.2	136.9
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	111.2	108.4	107.8	113.9	107.9	110.6	99.6	118.7
San Francisco-Oakland --	118.0	113.6	117.5	110.8	115.9	132.0	98.3	137.5
Seattle -----	118.2	113.7	109.9	112.0	122.4	132.5	98.6	137.1
Washington -----	120.7	117.0	112.6	115.7	123.2	127.8	107.4	135.8
Percent changes April 1968 to May 1968								
U.S. City Average -----	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.2	1.9	- 1.1	0.5
Atlanta -----	.8	.8	.1	2.0	- 1.2	5.4	- 2.2	.6
Baltimore -----	.8	1.0	.9	1.9	2.6	2.0	- 1.9	.1
Boston -----	.9	1.0	.7	.9	2.1	3.1	- 1.1	.5
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	1.2	1.1	1.6	-.1	2.4	2.7	-.3	2.5
Chicago -----	.2	.2	-.3	.1	1.6	-.1	-.6	.2
Cincinnati -----	.9	1.1	-.3	.7	.4	4.9	-.7	.1
Cleveland -----	.4	.1	-.4	1.1	- 1.2	1.0	- 1.0	2.5
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	.6	.6	.8	.7	1.8	2.5	- 1.7	.7
Detroit -----	.4	.4	.5	.6	.1	3.1	- 1.7	.3
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	-.2	-.5	-.8	0	.7	- 2.1	-.4	.7
Houston -----	.6	.6	.1	.7	2.4	1.2	-.8	.4
Kansas City -----	0	-.2	-.2	-.3	-.2	1.9	- 1.2	.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	-.1	-.2	1.3	-.3	.7	-.9	- 1.2	.1
Milwaukee -----	.2	.2	.6	.4	.1	1.9	- 1.9	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	1.0	1.2	1.6	-.1	3.5	3.0	-.8	.5
New York -----	.5	.5	.3	.4	1.1	2.3	- 1.3	.6
Philadelphia -----	.9	1.1	1.1	1.4	2.0	2.3	- 1.1	.2
Pittsburgh -----	.3	.3	1.2	.8	.3	.3	- 1.3	.9
St. Louis -----	1.0	1.2	.9	.6	1.8	4.2	-.9	.1
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	.8	-.5	.4	-.1	.3	-.2	- 2.4	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	-.1	-.2	.3	-.4	.2	-.4	-.3	.2
Seattle -----	.2	.1	-.5	-.1	-.1	1.3	-.5	.4
Washington -----	1.1	1.1	.2	2.4	2.2	1.3	- 1.0	1.1

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

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to May 1968 from--		
	May 1968		April 1968		May 1967
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Total food -----	118.8	119.4	0.4	0.6	4.3
Food away from home -----	135.1	-----	.5	-----	5.0
Restaurant meals -----	135.3	-----	.5	-----	4.9
Snacks 1/ -----	117.1	-----	.6	-----	5.1
Food at home -----	115.6	116.3	.4	.5	4.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.4	-----	.1	-----	-.3
Flour -----	112.7	-----	-.1	-----	-1.7
Cracker meal 1/ -----	117.3	-----	.2	-----	.5
Corn flakes -----	128.0	-----	-.9	-----	-.7
Rice -----	110.0	-----	.3	-----	1.8
Bread, white -----	123.3	-----	.2	-----	-.6
Bread, whole wheat 1/ -----	114.2	-----	.1	-----	-.1
Cookies -----	99.8	-----	-1.3	-----	-2.2
Layer cake 1/ -----	108.1	-----	1.3	-----	2.0
Cinnamon rolls 1/ -----	107.0	-----	.8	-----	-1.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.0	114.8	.3	1.0	4.1
Meats -----	115.7	117.9	.6	1.2	5.0
Beef and veal -----	117.1	118.4	.9	1.0	6.5
Steak, round -----	112.9	114.5	2.6	2.9	7.7
Steak, sirloin 2/ -----	110.8	-----	2.7	-----	7.8
Steak, porterhouse 1/ -----	115.7	-----	1.9	-----	8.9
Rump roast 1/ -----	108.9	-----	1.6	-----	6.9
Rib roast -----	124.0	125.4	-.5	-.1	6.7
Chuck roast -----	109.0	110.7	-1.3	-.3	7.8
Hamburger -----	119.1	121.3	-.1	.7	4.9
Beef liver 1/ -----	106.6	-----	.3	-----	.7
Veal cutlets -----	141.6	141.9	0	.3	8.0
Pork -----	114.0	119.1	.4	1.3	4.6
Chops -----	116.6	123.6	-.5	.2	7.3
Loin roast 2/ -----	122.7	-----	-.6	-----	6.1
Pork sausage 1/ -----	122.7	-----	-.9	-----	3.3
Ham, whole -----	109.1	113.1	-.7	1.2	3.5
Picnics 1/ -----	113.0	-----	-1.7	-----	.6
Bacon -----	117.3	121.7	3.1	2.9	4.2
Other meats -----	118.9	119.4	0	0	2.3
Lamb chops 1/ -----	128.3	-----	1.3	-----	8.5
Frankfurters -----	116.3	116.8	-1.0	-1.0	.2
Ham, canned 1/ -----	115.1	-----	.4	-----	.5
Bologna sausage 1/ -----	118.2	-----	-.3	-----	1.9
Salami sausage 1/ -----	113.5	-----	-.4	-----	2.2
Liverwurst 1/ -----	115.6	-----	-.3	-----	0
Poultry -----	91.0	-----	-1.8	-----	1.7
Frying chicken -----	92.3	93.7	-2.2	.9	3.4
Chicken breasts 1/ -----	102.6	-----	-.7	-----	2.2
Turkey 1/ -----	95.6	-----	-1.2	-----	-6.7
Fish -----	122.9	122.7	.6	.7	.4
Shrimp, frozen 1/ -----	106.7	-----	-.4	-----	-4.4
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	124.8	124.4	.4	.2	-.3
Tuna fish, canned -----	110.5	-----	1.8	-----	-.9
Sardines, canned 1/ -----	121.1	-----	.2	-----	7.0
Dairy products -----	120.2	120.9	1.2	1.3	3.7
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	118.3	119.5	1.5	2.0	5.0
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	123.4	-----	1.6	-----	5.7
Milk, fresh, skim 1/ -----	117.5	-----	2.6	-----	6.0
Milk, evaporated -----	118.9	-----	1.3	-----	1.4
Ice cream -----	98.2	-----	-.7	-----	-.4
Cheese, American process -----	138.4	138.3	.7	.8	1.4
Butter -----	116.8	117.4	.3	.4	1.3

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to May 1968 from--		
	May 1968		April 1968		May
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.7	128.9	1.9	1.7	12.3
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	142.7	139.1	2.7	2.1	15.1
Apples -----	170.5	161.3	6.6	.2	20.9
Bananas -----	103.5	102.5	9.6	9.4	11.5
Oranges -----	141.8	146.8	3.0	.6	30.7
Orange juice, fresh 1/ -----	84.4	-----	1.8	-----	18.0
Grapefruit -----	167.3	176.5	11.2	4.6	40.7
Grapes 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Strawberries 3/ -----	122.0	122.9	-11.4	- 3.6	- 4.4
Watermelon 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Potatoes -----	142.1	135.6	18.8	13.0	13.4
Onions -----	171.8	170.3	- 5.5	- 6.7	27.4
Asparagus 1/ 3/ -----	122.9	-----	9.6	-----	25.0
Cabbage -----	161.4	152.7	7.5	6.4	12.5
Carrots -----	113.0	115.8	- 9.2	-12.1	10.1
Celery -----	111.2	114.4	4.3	1.6	5.7
Cucumbers 1/ -----	159.1	-----	-27.3	-----	22.8
Lettuce -----	114.1	111.8	-18.6	-28.0	-23.1
Peppers, green 1/ -----	211.8	-----	13.4	-----	15.5
Spinach 1/ -----	102.3	-----	- 2.3	-----	2.3
Tomatoes -----	163.0	145.3	10.1	9.2	37.1
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	115.6	-----	.4	-----	7.9
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	109.1	-----	.8	-----	14.5
Pears, canned 1/ -----	118.3	-----	.3	-----	28.2
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned 1/ -----	95.2	-----	1.0	-----	1.3
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	86.6	88.3	2.2	5.4	19.6
Lemonade concentrate, frozen 2/ -----	90.0	-----	- 1.2	-----	.6
Beets, canned 1/ -----	110.7	-----	.4	-----	4.2
Peas, green, canned -----	121.5	-----	.5	-----	.2
Tomatoes, canned -----	131.0	-----	.2	-----	7.1
Dried beans -----	123.4	-----	- .2	-----	9.6
Broccoli, frozen 1/ -----	100.9	-----	1.1	-----	1.7
Other food at home -----	101.9	103.0	- 1.1	- .5	1.2
Eggs -----	81.9	88.7	- 8.7	- 3.9	- .5
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	103.8	-----	.2	-----	- 1.1
Salad dressing, Italian 1/ -----	102.9	-----	- .1	-----	2.0
Salad or cooking oil 1/ -----	121.9	-----	- .2	-----	- 2.0
Sugar and sweets -----	116.7	-----	.3	-----	2.3
Sugar -----	112.9	-----	- .2	-----	1.2
Grape jelly -----	118.4	-----	.4	-----	2.1
Chocolate bar -----	106.9	-----	.7	-----	1.9
Syrup, chocolate flavored 1/ -----	101.9	-----	.3	-----	3.9
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	101.1	-----	.6	-----	2.0
Coffee, can and bag -----	87.4	-----	.5	-----	- 1.1
Coffee, instant 4/ -----	98.1	-----	1.3	-----	1.1
Tea -----	101.2	-----	0	-----	.3
Cola drink -----	147.7	-----	.9	-----	7.4
Carbonated fruit drink 1/ -----	115.9	-----	.8	-----	7.1
Prepared and partially prepared foods 1/ -----	102.1	-----	0	-----	1.6
Bean soup, canned 1/ -----	100.9	-----	.2	-----	1.1
Chicken soup, canned 1/ -----	96.0	-----	.1	-----	- .4
Spaghetti, canned 1/ -----	112.1	-----	.1	-----	3.4
Mashed potatoes, instant 1/ -----	102.2	-----	.1	-----	.3
Potatoes, french fried, frozen 2/ -----	86.8	-----	1.4	-----	3.1
Baby foods, canned -----	105.7	-----	0	-----	.2
Sweet pickle relish 1/ -----	108.4	-----	- 1.3	-----	1.2
Pretzels 1/ -----	105.5	-----	0	-----	4.1

1/ December 1963=100.

2/ April 1960=100.

3/ Priced only in season.

4/ July 1961=100.

OLD SERIES

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

Group	Index	Percent change from --	
		February 1968	May 1967
All items -----	121.4	0.2	3.7
All items (1947-49=100) -----	144.8		
Food -----	117.7	1.5	5.1
Food at home -----	114.8	1.6	5.0
Cereals and bakery products --	120.4	.8	.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	117.6	1.2	4.8
Dairy products -----	116.8	3.7	7.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.9	3.0	11.1
Other foods at home -----	103.5	.2	1.9
Housing -----	114.3	- 1.4	1.8
Rent -----	113.8	.4	1.1
Gas and electricity -----	105.8	0	1.0
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	103.8	- 4.6	5.2
Housefurnishings -----	106.5	.5	5.8
Household operation -----	121.0	.9	3.0
Apparel -----	121.0	1.3	4.6
Men's and boys' -----	121.6	1.8	4.0
Women's and girls' -----	118.6	.6	4.7
Footwear -----	131.9	1.9	5.6
Other apparel -----	107.7	1.1	4.5
Transportation -----	115.6	.7	2.6
Private -----	112.6	.8	2.8
Public -----	134.6	0	1.0
Medical care -----	148.6	.5	5.0
Personal care -----	129.8	- .2	5.5
Reading and recreation -----	165.3	.2	1.7
Other goods and services -----	125.9	.2	8.3

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

	April 1968 to May 1968		Feb. 1968 to May 1968		Nov. 1967 to Feb. 1968		Aug. 1967 to Nov. 1967		May 1967 to Aug. 1967		May 1967 to May 1968	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI*	WPI*
*ALL ITEMS -----	0.3	0.2	1.1	0.5	1.0	1.7	0.8	0.1	1.1	0.3	4.1	2.6
CONSUMER PRODUCTS -----	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.5	0.6	.1	0.7	0.4	3.8	2.8
<u>Nondurable</u> -----	.5	.7	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.9	.7	-.7	.5	.5	3.9	3.0
Food and beverages at home -----	.6	1.3	1.6	1.8	1.8	2.9	0	-.7	.7	.1	4.1	4.1
Apparel and accessories -----	.6	.2	2.0	.7	1.2	1.4	1.1	.9	.9	.4	5.3	3.4
Household furnishings and supplies -----	.7	.5	1.6	1.8	.6	.7	.1	.2	.3	.7	2.6	3.6
Gasoline and motor oil -----	-.2	-2.0	-1.5	.5	1.4	.2	1.0	-6.7	-.8	.4	-.1	-5.7
Other nondurables -----	0	.1	.2	.3	1.3	.1	1.6	.2	.8	1.4	3.9	2.0
<u>Durable</u> -----	.3	-.1	.6	-.2	.7	.6	1.0	1.2	.9	.6	3.2	2.2
New passenger cars -----	.4	-.2	.1	-.6	.9	.2	1.3	2.0	1.1	0	3.5	1.6
Appliances -----	0	0	.1	.3	.4	.2	.2	.5	.4	.2	1.1	1.3
Furniture and floor coverings -----	.3	.5	1.1	1.0	1.8	.8	1.1	1.3	.5	.3	4.5	3.5
*Other durables -----	.3	0	1.1	.4	1.0	.8	.9	.4	.3	1.7	3.3	3.3
*CONSUMER SERVICES -----	0.4	-	1.3	-	1.3	-	1.1	-	0.9	-	4.7	-
*Insurance and finance -----	.4	-	.9	-	1.6	-	.9	-	.8	-	4.3	-
*Rent -----	.2	-	.6	-	.6	-	.5	-	.4	-	2.2	-
*Utilities and public transportation -----	.2	-	.5	-	.6	-	.4	-	.5	-	2.0	-
*Housekeeping and home maintenance services -----	.5	-	1.9	-	2.5	-	1.6	-	1.2	-	7.4	-
*Medical care services -----	.5	-	1.8	-	1.8	-	2.0	-	1.6	-	7.3	-
*Personal care services -----	.7	-	2.2	-	1.1	-	1.0	-	1.3	-	5.6	-
*Other services -----	.4	-	2.2	-	1.2	-	1.5	-	.8	-	5.8	-
WHOLESALE PRICES:												
<u>Type of Product:</u>												
Farm products -----	-	2.1	-	2.8	-	4.3	-	-2.0	-	-2.1	-	2.9
Processed foods and feeds -----	-	.7	-	1.3	-	2.0	-	-.9	-	.2	-	2.6
*Industrial commodities -----	-	-.2	-	.2	-	1.1	-	.8	-	.3	-	2.5
<u>Industrial Materials and Equipment:</u>												
Chemicals and allied products -----	-	-.1	-	.5	-	.3	-	0	-	-.3	-	.1
Rubber and rubber products -----	-	.1	-	.3	-	.3	-	1.0	-	2.5	-	4.2
Lumber and wood products -----	-	1.2	-	4.0	-	3.8	-	2.3	-	1.6	-	12.3
Pulp, paper and allied products -----	-	.4	-	.6	-	1.1	-	.7	-	.3	-	1.5
*Metals and metal products -----	-	-1.4	-	-1.4	-	2.1	-	1.6	-	.3	-	2.6
Machinery and equipment -----	-	.2	-	.8	-	1.2	-	.5	-	.4	-	3.0
<u>Stage of Processing at Wholesale:</u>												
Finished goods -----	-	.3	-	1.0	-	1.2	-	.5	-	.4	-	3.1
Consumer -----	-	.4	-	.9	-	1.4	-	.2	-	.4	-	2.9
Producer -----	-	0	-	.6	-	1.1	-	1.2	-	.5	-	3.4
Intermediate materials, supplies and components -----	-	-.2	-	.2	-	1.3	-	.6	-	.2	-	2.3
Crude materials -----	-	.3	-	1.3	-	3.2	-	-1.1	-	-1.9	-	1.4

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, news-paper 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	

Composition of Index Groupings Appearing in Table 9

	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.