

June 1968

the consumer price index



U S CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

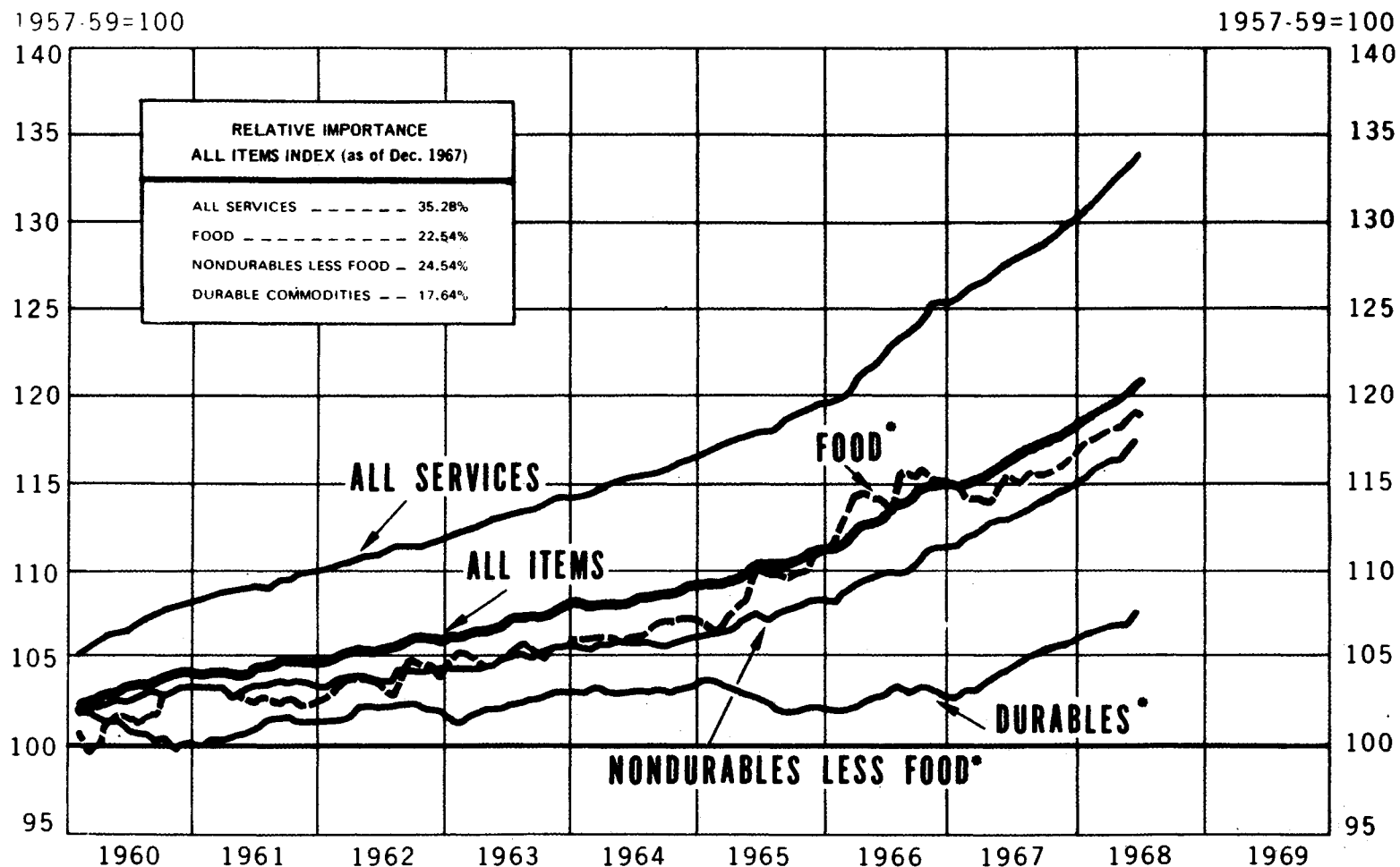


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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 JUNE 1968

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.5 percent in June, the largest monthly increase since February 1966. This is considerably larger than the average 0.3 percent rise from May to June since 1951. Higher service costs, primarily mortgage interest charges, accounted for about half of this month's rise, but most commodities also increased.

Grocery store food prices rose, but at a slower pace than in recent months, as fresh fruit and vegetable prices dropped contraseasonally in June. Nondurables less food continued their steady climb, with some easing in the rate of advance of apparel prices. Over the year, the all items index has risen 4.2 percent, advancing services prices being responsible for about 40 percent of the rise and higher food prices accounting for about 20 percent.

The index climbed 2.3 percent in the first half of this year, more than twice as much as in the first half of 1967, and considerably more than the 1.7 percent increase during the first 6 months of 1966. Unlike 1967, however, when most of the first half increase took place in the second quarter, this year's first half increase has been about evenly divided between the two quarters.

Food

Retail prices of food at home rose 0.2 percent in June, somewhat less than usual, and food away from home was 0.4 percent higher. The smaller-than-usual advance in grocery store prices was principally the result of a 0.7 percent contraseasonal decline in fresh fruits and vegetables. Nearly all fresh vegetables were lower, especially tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers and cabbage, as heavy supplies reached market after earlier delays caused by unfavorable spring weather. Potato prices were sharply higher, however, as supplies dwindled; celery and spinach also gained. Fresh fruit price changes were mixed; bananas and oranges were lower as supplies expanded, but watermelons were introduced at prices substantially higher than last year as production ran below the year-ago level. Most other fresh fruits were moderately higher; apples rose almost 9 percent, a reflection of last year's low production and dwindling cold storage holdings. Since last June, fruit and vegetable prices as a whole have gone up an average of 8.4 percent and accounted for close to half of the increase for food at home.

A contraseasonal decline in pork prices due to a heavy accumulation of supplies in May, held down the increase (0.2 percent) in meat, poultry and fish. Most cuts of beef and veal averaged higher, and poultry prices, responding to production cutbacks during the first quarter, rose 0.5 percent. Over the year, poultry prices were up 5.2 percent and beef and veal prices 4.1 percent, more than offsetting the 4.2 percent decline for pork. Dairy products, in a further reaction to the April 1 increase in milk support prices, climbed 0.6 percent. Strong demand pushed eggs up 2.4 percent, to a level 7.0 percent above last year's unusually low prices.

Services

Service costs, which had slowed perceptibly in April and May, resumed their accelerated upward trend, advancing 0.7 percent in June. The recent increase in the interest rate ceiling on VA-guaranteed home loans and substantial rate increases for conventional mortgages were instrumental in raising mortgage interest charges nearly 4 percent. Property taxes continued their long-term upswing and home insurance rates moved ahead as rates were increased in a number of areas, due chiefly to the continuing threat of losses arising from civil disorders. Higher wage rates were largely responsible for a 1.0 percent rise in home decoration and repair charges. Rents continued very firm, advancing 0.3 percent in June. Higher operating costs appear to be the primary cause of rent hikes, but at least a part of the uptrend is attributable to a growing housing shortage due to underbuilding in past months.

Medical care services posted a 0.3 percent rise, principally because of higher physicians' fees, but the March-to-June increase of 1.2 percent was the smallest quarterly gain for this group since the fourth quarter of 1965.

Increases in barber and beauty shop services were partly responsible for higher personal care costs, and charges for domestic help and other housekeeping services climbed substantially. Auto repair and maintenance and hotel and motel charges were higher, as were most recreational fees, and taxi, bus and air fares.

Nondurable goods less food

Prices of nondurable goods other than food were up 0.4 percent, apparel, cigarettes, gasoline and motor oil accounting for nearly four-fifths of the increase. Women's clothing had the most significant effect on the apparel category with prices for almost every item rising. Higher prices were recorded also for men's suits, slacks and business shirts, and for footwear and accessories. The causes of the increases center primarily on rising operational, labor, and wholesale costs, coupled with strong demand. The substantial June increase in gasoline and motor oil prices was largely the result of the return to "normal" price levels in Los Angeles and Kansas City following price wars. Cigarette prices increased significantly due to higher State taxes in New York and New Jersey.

Durables

Durable goods rose 0.5 percent even though new car prices dipped 0.2 percent (less than usual for June) as dealers offered larger concessions. Apprehension that new model cars will be introduced at higher prices in the fall may be at least partially behind the very brisk sales performance exhibited by new cars in the second quarter of this year.

Furniture and floor covering prices increased again. Most furniture items moved higher, as recent wholesale increases trickled through to the retail level; increased fiber and wage costs contributed to firm carpeting prices.

Household appliances, including radio and TV, were unchanged in June. Black-and-white television sets continued to show surprising strength while smaller gains were posted by color television sets and portable radios.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

Approximately 45,000 workers will receive cost-of-living increases based on either the National Consumer Price Index or city indexes for June. As a result of the rise in the National index since March, about 34,000 employees in manufacturing and transportation industries are scheduled to receive raises of 2 to 4 cents an hour. An additional 5,000 will receive 2-cent increases based on the index advance since last December. Adjustments to be made on the basis of city indexes apply mostly to local transit and printing workers and will vary in size.

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

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)					Percent change to June 1968 from--				
	June 1968		May 1968		June 1967 unadjusted	May 1968		March 1968		June 1967 unadjusted
	Unad- justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad- justed	Seasonally adjusted		Unad- justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad- justed	Seasonally adjusted	
All items -----	120.9	-----	120.3	-----	116.0	0.5	-----	1.2	-----	4.2
Food -----	119.1	119.2	118.8	119.4	115.1	.3	- 0.2	1.0	0.9	3.5
Food at home -----	115.8	115.9	115.6	116.3	112.3	.2	- .3	1.0	.7	3.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.6	-----	118.4	-----	118.3	.2	-----	.4	-----	.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.2	114.0	113.0	114.8	111.6	.2	- .7	.1	.2	1.4
Dairy products -----	120.9	121.9	120.2	120.9	116.3	.6	.8	1.9	2.7	4.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.0	125.5	130.7	128.9	119.9	- .5	- 2.6	3.1	-.2	8.4
Other foods at home -----	102.5	104.3	101.9	103.0	100.0	.6	1.3	.3	1.6	2.5
Food away from home -----	135.7	-----	135.1	-----	129.1	.4	-----	1.5	-----	5.1
Housing -----	118.7	-----	117.8	-----	114.1	.8	-----	1.3	-----	4.0
Shelter 1/ -----	122.9	-----	121.6	-----	117.7	1.1	-----	1.6	-----	4.4
Rent -----	114.9	-----	114.6	-----	112.2	.3	-----	.6	-----	2.4
Homeownership 2/ -----	126.1	-----	124.3	-----	119.9	1.4	-----	1.9	-----	5.2
Fuel and utilities 3/ -----	110.3	110.6	110.3	110.3	108.6	0	.3	.4	.7	1.6
Fuel oil and coal 4/ -----	115.4	117.2	115.3	116.0	110.5	.1	1.0	1.3	4.3	4.4
Gas and electricity -----	109.4	-----	109.5	-----	108.2	- .1	-----	.1	-----	1.1
Household furnishings and operation -	112.9	-----	112.5	-----	108.1	.4	-----	1.0	-----	4.4
Apparel and upkeep 5/ -----	119.9	119.9	119.5	119.3	113.9	.3	.5	2.0	1.8	5.3
Men's and boys' -----	120.1	120.1	119.8	119.7	114.1	.3	.3	1.9	1.4	5.3
Women's and girls' -----	116.5	116.5	116.2	116.1	109.7	.3	.3	2.6	2.3	6.2
Footwear -----	131.7	131.7	131.2	131.1	125.4	.4	.5	1.5	1.5	5.0
Transportation -----	119.7	119.8	119.1	119.2	115.7	.5	.5	.6	.3	3.5
Private -----	117.4	117.5	116.8	116.8	113.7	.5	.6	.6	.3	3.3
Public -----	138.4	-----	137.3	-----	132.2	.8	-----	.9	-----	4.7
Health and recreation -----	129.7	-----	129.2	-----	123.2	.4	-----	1.1	-----	5.3
Medical care -----	144.4	-----	144.0	-----	136.3	.3	-----	1.0	-----	5.9
Personal care -----	120.1	-----	119.6	-----	115.3	.4	-----	1.4	-----	4.2
Reading and recreation -----	125.6	-----	125.3	-----	119.7	.2	-----	1.1	-----	4.9
Other goods and services 6/ -----	123.5	-----	122.6	-----	116.9	.7	-----	.9	-----	5.6
Special groups:										
All items less shelter -----	120.4	-----	120.0	-----	115.6	.3	-----	1.1	-----	4.2
All items less food -----	121.6	-----	121.0	-----	116.5	.5	-----	1.2	-----	4.4
All items less medical care -----	119.5	-----	118.9	-----	114.8	.5	-----	1.2	-----	4.1
Commodities 7/ -----	115.1	115.1	114.7	114.9	111.0	.3	.2	1.1	.9	3.7
Nondurables -----	118.2	118.3	117.8	118.0	113.8	.3	.3	1.1	1.0	3.9
Durables 7/ 8/ -----	107.4	107.4	106.9	106.9	104.1	.5	.5	.8	.6	3.2
Services 9/ -----	133.9	-----	133.0	-----	127.4	.7	-----	1.4	-----	5.1
Commodities less food 7/ -----	113.0	113.0	112.5	112.5	108.9	.4	.4	1.0	.8	3.8
Nondurables less food -----	117.5	117.5	117.0	116.9	112.7	.4	.5	1.2	1.0	4.3
Apparel commodities -----	119.1	119.1	118.7	118.5	112.8	.3	.5	2.1	1.8	5.6
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	116.6	116.6	116.2	116.0	110.3	.3	.5	2.3	2.0	5.7
Nondurables less food and apparel -	116.6	-----	116.0	-----	112.7	.5	-----	.7	-----	3.5
New cars -----	100.1	100.7	100.3	100.5	96.8	- .2	.2	-.5	.3	3.4
Used cars -----	(10/)	(10/)	126.7	126.7	122.4	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)
Household durables 11/ -----	101.3	-----	101.1	-----	98.0	.2	-----	.9	-----	3.4
Housefurnishings -----	104.7	104.6	104.4	104.2	100.7	.3	.4	.9	.9	4.0
Services less rent 9/ -----	138.1	-----	137.1	-----	130.8	.7	-----	1.5	-----	5.6
Household services less rent -----	133.7	-----	132.1	-----	126.7	1.2	-----	2.0	-----	5.5
Transportation services -----	133.3	-----	132.9	-----	128.1	.3	-----	.7	-----	4.1
Medical care services -----	155.5	-----	155.0	-----	145.2	.3	-----	1.2	-----	7.1
Other services 12/ -----	138.9	-----	138.3	-----	131.3	.4	-----	1.4	-----	5.8
All items index on other bases:										
1947-49=100 -----	148.4	-----	147.6	-----	142.3	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=100 -----	249.7	-----	248.4	-----	239.5	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:										
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.827	-----	\$0.831	-----	\$0.862	- .5	-----	- 1.2	-----	- 4.1
1947-49=\$1.00 -----	.674	-----	.678	-----	.703	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=\$1.00 -----	.400	-----	.403	-----	.418	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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			
		June 1968			May 1968	March 1968	June 1967
U.S. City Average -----	M	120.9	148.4		0.5	1.2	4.2
Chicago -----	M	118.3	149.2		.4	1.1	4.8
Detroit -----	M	119.8	147.6		.8	1.4	4.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	121.9	152.0		.8	.7	3.9
New York -----	M	123.6	148.9		.6	1.2	4.1
Philadelphia -----	M	122.0	149.7		.4	1.1	4.6
		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	121.1	152.2	-----		.7	3.7
Washington -----	2	121.0	145.6	-----		1.6	4.6
		June 1968				March 1968	June 1967
Atlanta -----	3	119.0	147.4	-----		1.0	3.7
Baltimore -----	3	120.6	149.7	-----		1.6	4.2
Cincinnati -----	3	118.6	144.4	-----		1.3	4.9
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100) --	3	-----	-----	111.5		.6	3.7
Kansas City -----	3	124.1	153.6	-----		2.0	5.7
St. Louis -----	3	121.3	150.6	-----		.9	4.1
San Francisco-Oakland ----	3	124.2	157.6	-----		1.2	4.9

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 May 1968 to June 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.4
Food -----	.3	1.0	1.0	.4	.3	-.3
Housing -----	.8	.4	1.3	.9	.7	1.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	.3	.1	.1	.3	.4	-.2
Transportation -----	.5	.3	.3	2.7	.7	.5
Health and recreation -----	.4	.4	-.2	0	1.0	.7
Medical care -----	.3	.1	-.6	.2	.9	.8
Personal care -----	.4	1.0	.2	-.5	.5	.5
Reading and recreation -----	.2	.6	.2	.1	.1	.6
Other goods and services ---	.7	.1	0	-.1	2.0	(2/)

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

^{2/} Not available.

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

Date		All items	Food	Housing	Apparel and upkeep	Transportation	Health and recreation				
							Total	Medical care	Personal care	Reading and recreation	Other goods and services
1968:	June	120.9	119.1	118.7	119.9	119.7	129.7	144.4	120.1	125.6	123.5
	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
Annual Average:	June	116.0	115.1	114.1	113.9	115.7	123.2	136.3	115.3	119.7	116.9
	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
June 1968 indexes and percent changes from March 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Baltimore	Chicago	Cincinnati	Detroit	Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)							
All items -----	120.9	119.0	120.6	118.3	118.6	119.8	111.5
Food -----	119.1	116.8	121.3	120.1	116.3	117.9	111.8
Food at home -----	115.8	114.1	117.2	118.8	112.7	115.1	111.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.6	113.5	123.4	122.4	112.2	111.6	110.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.2	114.2	115.7	114.6	112.5	116.3	112.4
Dairy products -----	120.9	113.7	117.5	133.9	115.9	125.0	113.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.0	126.9	133.6	129.0	128.8	123.9	116.5
Other foods at home -----	102.5	106.8	103.7	104.1	98.4	100.7	103.3
Food away from home -----	135.7	126.5	138.4	126.5	135.0	133.2	113.9
Housing -----	118.7	119.5	117.4	114.7	113.7	114.6	115.6
Shelter -----	122.9	120.2	120.8	117.1	114.6	117.9	122.0
Rent -----	114.9	111.4	113.0	-----	104.8	104.7	110.1
Homeownership -----	126.1	122.6	123.9	120.4	119.3	121.0	130.2
Fuel and utilities -----	110.3	114.0	107.5	107.9	105.8	103.5	100.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	115.4	-----	118.8	108.5	107.8	106.4	-----
Gas and electricity -----	109.4	110.7	100.4	108.1	108.1	104.9	99.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	112.9	117.8	117.1	112.8	112.6	109.4	105.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	119.9	121.1	121.5	116.0	121.0	118.0	108.8
Men's and boys' -----	120.1	118.2	120.9	114.1	125.5	116.4	103.7
Women's and girls' -----	116.5	114.5	115.1	112.9	112.1	117.1	112.7
Footwear -----	131.7	136.1	145.4	128.4	137.3	128.5	110.7
Transportation -----	119.7	115.7	119.4	117.4	121.3	119.6	104.1
Private -----	117.4	113.2	117.2	116.5	117.7	117.0	106.6
Public -----	138.4	129.2	126.6	124.2	151.8	136.7	92.3
Health and recreation -----	129.7	126.3	127.0	124.7	128.9	132.2	112.0
Medical care -----	144.4	139.6	157.5	152.6	151.6	153.5	120.8
Personal care -----	120.1	127.0	119.8	118.6	113.5	126.4	106.4
Reading and recreation -----	125.6	122.5	121.6	109.6	123.2	125.9	106.1
Other goods and services -----	123.5	116.3	112.7	116.0	120.0	117.8	113.8
Percent changes March 1968 to June 1968							
All items -----	1.2	1.0	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.4	0.6
Food -----	1.0	.9	2.1	1.7	2.3	1.3	.1
Food at home -----	1.0	.7	2.4	1.7	2.5	1.1	-.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	.4	0	.8	3.6	.9	1.1	-1.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.1	1.4	3.3	.4	.5	-.4	1.4
Dairy products -----	1.9	-.5	2.7	2.4	3.3	.2	.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.1	1.8	4.4	2.4	7.2	8.8	-2.7
Other foods at home -----	.3	.1	.4	1.7	1.2	-1.6	.1
Food away from home -----	1.5	1.4	.7	1.4	1.5	1.4	.9
Housing -----	1.3	1.6	1.9	.9	1.5	2.0	.8
Shelter -----	1.6	2.6	2.7	1.4	1.7	2.4	1.2
Rent -----	.6	.7	.4	-----	.1	2/ .6	1.1
Homeownership -----	1.9	3.2	3.7	1.7	2.4	2.7	1.2
Fuel and utilities -----	.4	0	.5	0	0	.3	0
Fuel oil and coal -----	1.3	-----	3.2	-.5	-4.0	-.7	-----
Gas and electricity -----	.1	0	-.4	0	-.2	.6	0
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.0	.2	1.1	.3	1.7	2.1	-.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.0	.2	1.8	1.8	1.1	1.3	.5
Men's and boys' -----	1.9	-.4	2.7	1.3	3.3	1.0	-.8
Women's and girls' -----	2.6	.4	.6	2.9	0	1.1	1.0
Footwear -----	1.5	1.3	2.3	1.3	-.9	1.6	1.8
Transportation -----	.6	.7	1.3	.3	1.3	.5	-.2
Private -----	.6	.8	1.2	.3	1.4	.5	-.2
Public -----	.9	0	2.0	.2	.5	.6	0
Health and recreation -----	1.1	.7	.8	1.1	-.2	.8	1.4
Medical care -----	1.0	.9	.4	.2	.4	-.1	1.7
Personal care -----	1.4	1.5	.5	1.5	.4	1.7	3.2
Reading and recreation -----	1.1	.6	1.6	1.7	-.7	2.7	.9
Other goods and services -----	.9	.3	.5	1.0	-.6	-.6	.5

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
 June 1968 indexes and percent changes from March 1968--Continued

Group	Kansas City	Los Angeles- Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia	St. Louis	San Francisco- Oakland
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)						
All items -----	124.1	121.9	123.6	122.0	121.3	124.2
Food -----	122.9	117.3	119.7	119.2	123.8	118.1
Food at home -----	120.2	111.9	114.6	114.5	120.2	113.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	123.5	120.0	117.3	115.2	120.0	117.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	117.9	103.9	113.9	110.6	119.1	110.7
Dairy products -----	127.3	119.4	111.6	127.1	133.8	116.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	131.9	134.9	131.4	127.4	135.0	130.9
Other foods at home -----	107.0	94.4	101.4	99.4	102.2	99.3
Food away from home -----	132.8	136.8	141.3	143.8	138.1	137.6
Housing -----	117.1	123.2	122.2	118.3	115.6	129.5
Shelter -----	118.7	129.7	125.5	119.7	118.1	139.2
Rent -----	107.0	-----	124.6	-----	109.4	136.2
Homeownership -----	123.5	134.6	124.8	120.9	120.1	140.4
Fuel and utilities -----	117.4	106.1	110.5	109.5	109.2	102.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	121.1	122.2	111.7	-----
Gas and electricity -----	117.0	112.3	110.9	102.7	111.6	108.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	110.4	112.1	120.0	116.4	114.8	113.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	124.6	118.9	124.4	126.2	119.9	124.1
Men's and boys' -----	125.3	122.7	127.7	120.7	119.1	119.0
Women's and girls' -----	122.6	117.7	119.4	121.6	119.3	121.9
Footwear -----	135.2	127.0	131.1	137.1	128.9	131.6
Transportation -----	126.1	126.1	120.0	127.9	121.2	119.1
Private -----	123.1	121.6	118.9	122.4	119.3	120.9
Public -----	149.0	153.9	127.3	155.7	128.9	103.4
Health and recreation -----	136.6	123.7	134.6	129.5	130.9	129.4
Medical care -----	153.4	141.4	146.8	150.9	138.5	145.6
Personal care -----	121.5	114.5	116.4	115.1	123.0	129.0
Reading and recreation -----	134.0	110.7	136.5	120.4	131.6	115.1
Other goods and services -----	128.2	120.3	130.1	124.7	126.2	127.5
Percent changes March 1968 to June 1968						
All items -----	2.0	0.7	1.2	1.1	0.9	1.2
Food -----	1.1	.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	.8
Food at home -----	1.0	.9	1.0	.8	1.0	.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	.5	1.4	.4	.8	.3	.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.7	.5	.7	.7	-.7	.3
Dairy products -----	- 1.1	1.0	1.2	2.7	2.1	.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.9	1.2	2.3	-.7	3.6	1.2
Other foods at home -----	.9	.9	.4	1.0	.9	1.8
Food away from home -----	1.5	1.2	1.5	1.5	1.3	.5
Housing -----	1.1	.6	1.1	.9	1.3	2.4
Shelter -----	1.2	.7	1.5	1.1	1.9	3.4
Rent -----	.3	-----	(2/) .5	-----	.4	1.4
Homeownership -----	1.6	.7	1.8	1.3	2.3	4.3
Fuel and utilities -----	1.0	0	.4	.5	-.1	0
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	1.8	2.3	0	-----
Gas and electricity -----	1.8	-.1	0	.1	-.1	0
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.1	.6	.7	1.0	1.0	.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.3	.7	1.8	1.2	.3	1.0
Men's and boys' -----	3.0	.5	2.5	3.5	-.5	-.3
Women's and girls' -----	2.7	.7	1.3	-.6	.8	1.8
Footwear -----	.8	.7	1.5	2.9	-.4	1.4
Transportation -----	4.8	.3	.7	.7	.2	.7
Private -----	4.4	.3	.3	.8	.1	.8
Public -----	13.2	.2	1.8	.1	.1	0
Health and recreation -----	1.2	.8	1.4	1.5	1.1	.3
Medical care -----	1.1	2.0	1.6	2.4	.2	.6
Personal care -----	4.4	-.4	1.5	1.9	.8	.5
Reading and recreation -----	.4	.3	.7	1.1	2.6	0
Other goods and services -----	.6	.4	2.0	.7	.7	.1

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

^{2/} Change from April 1968.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food and its Subgroups
June 1968 indexes and percent changes from May 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 -----	119.1	115.8	118.6	113.2	120.9	130.0	102.5	135.7
Atlanta -----	116.8	114.1	113.5	114.2	113.7	126.9	106.8	126.5
Baltimore -----	121.3	117.2	123.4	115.7	117.5	133.6	103.7	138.4
Boston -----	121.9	116.8	120.8	118.7	115.8	128.0	102.6	144.0
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	115.5	113.9	105.0	112.1	116.6	130.3	107.8	125.1
Chicago -----	120.1	118.8	122.4	114.6	133.9	129.0	104.1	126.5
Cincinnati -----	116.3	112.7	112.2	112.5	115.9	128.8	98.4	135.0
Cleveland -----	116.9	114.1	112.5	115.0	121.3	128.6	99.1	133.3
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	114.1	112.2	110.3	113.6	122.2	119.3	102.0	121.4
Detroit -----	117.9	115.1	111.6	116.3	125.0	123.9	100.7	133.2
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	111.8	111.2	110.7	112.4	113.1	116.5	103.3	113.9
Houston -----	119.1	115.6	126.1	109.1	120.0	133.4	102.6	134.5
Kansas City -----	122.9	120.2	123.5	117.9	127.3	131.9	107.0	132.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	117.3	111.9	120.0	103.9	119.4	134.9	94.4	136.8
Milwaukee -----	118.3	116.6	108.7	114.9	129.3	133.2	103.1	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	117.5	114.6	109.0	111.5	126.4	126.6	104.7	130.3
New York -----	119.7	114.6	117.3	113.9	111.6	131.4	101.4	141.3
Philadelphia -----	119.2	114.5	115.2	110.6	127.1	127.4	99.4	143.8
Pittsburgh -----	115.2	112.6	116.0	115.2	110.3	125.6	99.5	131.9
St. Louis -----	123.8	120.2	120.0	119.1	133.8	135.0	102.2	138.1
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	111.4	108.7	107.6	114.2	108.4	110.2	100.8	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	118.1	113.7	117.4	110.7	116.2	130.9	99.3	137.6
Seattle -----	118.6	114.2	109.3	113.1	124.8	129.9	99.9	137.2
Washington -----	120.9	116.9	111.5	114.0	124.8	129.5	107.9	136.6
Percent changes May 1968 to June 1968								
U.S. City Average -----	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.6	- 0.5	0.6	0.4
Atlanta -----	- .3	- .6	- .2	- .7	.4	- 2.5	.2	.7
Baltimore -----	.6	.6	.1	.6	.1	.5	1.3	.4
Boston -----	- .5	- .8	- .8	- .9	.2	- 1.0	- 1.3	.8
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	.6	.5	- .7	1.4	1.7	- 1.1	.7	.8
Chicago -----	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.5	.6	1.0	1.0	.6
Cincinnati -----	.3	.1	.1	- .6	2.0	- .6	.2	1.0
Cleveland -----	.9	.9	.4	.8	1.8	1.4	.4	1.1
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	.4	.4	- .1	.7	.6	.3	.6	.3
Detroit -----	1.0	1.1	0	.6	.2	3.3	.9	.8
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	- .4	- .4	- .4	.5	- .3	- 2.3	- .4	0
Houston -----	.3	.4	.3	- .1	.8	1.7	0	.3
Kansas City -----	.5	.6	.4	1.1	- .8	.5	.8	.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	.4	.4	.1	.8	.3	- 1.2	1.5	.6
Milwaukee -----	.9	1.1	1.7	.7	2.7	.7	1.0	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.1	0	- .3	.2	.3	- 1.5	1.3	0
New York -----	.3	.1	.4	0	0	- .4	.5	.5
Philadelphia -----	- .3	- .3	.2	- .3	.6	- 3.2	1.2	0
Pittsburgh -----	.2	.2	- .8	0	.2	1.0	.2	.3
St. Louis -----	0	- .2	- .7	.1	.5	- 2.0	1.0	.9
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	.2	.3	- .2	.3	.5	- .4	1.2	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	.1	.1	- .1	- .1	.3	- .8	1.0	.1
Seattle -----	.3	.4	- .5	1.0	2.0	- 2.0	1.3	.1
Washington -----	.2	- .1	- 1.0	- 1.5	1.3	1.3	.5	.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
June 1968 indexes and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to June 1968 from--		
	June 1968		May 1968		June 1967
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	unadjusted
Total food -----	119.1	119.2	0.3	- 0.2	3.5
Food away from home -----	135.7	-----	.4	-----	5.1
Restaurant meals -----	136.0	-----	.5	-----	5.1
Snacks <u>1/</u> -----	117.4	-----	.3	-----	5.1
Food at home -----	115.8	115.9	.2	- .3	3.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	118.6	-----	.2	-----	.3
Flour -----	112.3	-----	- .4	-----	- 2.8
Cracker meal <u>1/</u> -----	117.2	-----	- .1	-----	.5
Corn flakes -----	128.3	-----	.2	-----	- .3
Rice -----	110.4	-----	.4	-----	1.9
Bread, white -----	123.7	-----	.3	-----	- .2
Bread, whole wheat <u>1/</u> -----	114.2	-----	0	-----	.3
Cookies -----	100.1	-----	.3	-----	- .7
Layer cake <u>1/</u> -----	108.4	-----	.3	-----	3.1
Cinnamon rolls <u>1/</u> -----	106.9	-----	- .1	-----	.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.2	114.0	.2	- .7	1.4
Meats -----	115.8	117.3	.1	- .5	1.0
Beef and veal -----	117.3	118.4	.2	0	4.1
Steak, round -----	111.7	112.0	- 1.1	- 2.2	2.8
Steak, sirloin <u>2/</u> -----	111.8	-----	.9	-----	4.4
Steak, porterhouse <u>1/</u> -----	116.4	-----	.6	-----	5.1
Rump roast <u>1/</u> -----	107.8	-----	- 1.0	-----	2.4
Rib roast -----	125.1	126.4	.9	.8	5.7
Chuck roast -----	108.6	112.1	- .4	1.3	5.4
Hamburger -----	119.9	119.8	.7	- 1.2	4.4
Beef liver <u>1/</u> -----	106.7	-----	.1	-----	.8
Veal cutlets -----	143.3	143.0	1.2	.8	7.7
Pork -----	113.9	115.2	- .1	- 3.3	- 4.2
Chops -----	116.2	113.7	- .3	- 8.0	- 4.5
Loin roast <u>2/</u> -----	123.4	-----	.6	-----	- 3.7
Pork sausage <u>1/</u> -----	122.8	-----	.1	-----	- .3
Ham, whole -----	110.0	111.6	.8	1.3	- .3
Picnics <u>1/</u> -----	112.7	-----	- .3	-----	- 4.5
Bacon -----	116.8	118.5	- .4	- 2.6	- 7.7
Other meats -----	119.1	119.2	.2	- .2	1.6
Lamb chops <u>1/</u> -----	129.1	-----	.6	-----	4.9
Frankfurters -----	117.0	116.9	.6	.1	.1
Ham, canned <u>1/</u> -----	113.4	-----	- 1.5	-----	- .3
Bologna sausage <u>1/</u> -----	118.8	-----	.5	-----	1.9
Salami sausage <u>1/</u> -----	113.9	-----	.4	-----	2.2
Liverwurst <u>1/</u> -----	116.1	-----	.4	-----	.3
Poultry -----	91.5	-----	.5	-----	5.2
Frying chicken -----	92.8	93.2	.5	- .5	7.5
Chicken breasts <u>1/</u> -----	102.5	-----	- .1	-----	3.5
Turkey <u>1/</u> -----	96.9	-----	1.4	-----	- 4.2
Fish -----	123.6	123.8	.6	.9	2.1
Shrimp, frozen <u>1/</u> -----	107.9	-----	1.1	-----	- 1.6
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	125.0	125.6	.2	1.0	.8
Tuna fish, canned -----	111.1	-----	.5	-----	0
Sardines, canned <u>1/</u> -----	121.6	-----	.4	-----	8.6
Dairy products -----	120.9	121.9	.6	.8	4.0
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	118.8	120.9	.4	1.2	5.1
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	123.9	-----	.4	-----	5.5
Milk, fresh, skim <u>1/</u> -----	117.8	-----	.3	-----	5.3
Milk, evaporated -----	120.7	-----	1.5	-----	2.8
Ice cream -----	98.7	-----	.5	-----	- 1.0
Cheese, American process -----	139.4	139.8	.7	1.1	2.9
Butter -----	116.8	117.5	0	.1	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
June 1968 indexes and percent changes from selected dates--Continued
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to June 1968 from--		
	June 1968		May 1968		June 1967
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	unadjusted
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.0	125.5	- 0.5	- 2.6	8.4
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	141.7	133.2	- .7	- 4.2	9.2
Apples -----	185.4	157.8	8.7	- 2.2	23.8
Bananas -----	94.4	93.7	- 8.8	- 8.6	1.4
Oranges -----	138.0	140.5	- 2.7	- 4.3	27.3
Orange juice, fresh 1/ -----	84.7	-----	.4	-----	19.0
Grapefruit -----	173.9	159.7	3.9	- 9.5	36.2
Grapes 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Strawberries 3/ -----	126.8	136.8	3.9	11.3	- .4
Watermelon 3/ -----	154.7	128.9	(4/)	(4/)	20.8
Potatoes -----	160.4	135.0	12.9	- .4	20.8
Onions -----	159.1	143.9	- 7.4	- 15.5	18.7
Asparagus 1/ 3/ -----	118.4	-----	- 3.7	-----	13.8
Cabbage -----	148.6	131.3	- 7.9	- 14.0	- 4.8
Carrots -----	112.7	105.3	- .3	- 9.1	2.9
Celery -----	118.5	114.6	6.6	.2	- 3.7
Cucumbers 1/ -----	122.0	-----	- 23.3	-----	- 1.1
Lettuce -----	114.3	110.1	.2	- 1.5	- 31.8
Peppers, green 1/ -----	190.2	-----	- 10.2	-----	15.3
Spinach 1/ -----	103.5	-----	1.2	-----	2.3
Tomatoes -----	125.2	121.3	- 23.2	- 16.5	2.9
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	115.4	-----	- .2	-----	7.3
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	108.9	-----	- .2	-----	12.4
Pears, canned 1/ -----	117.7	-----	- .5	-----	24.9
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned 1/ --	95.4	-----	.2	-----	.8
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	87.4	89.9	.9	1.8	22.4
Lemonade concentrate, frozen 2/ -----	88.9	-----	- 1.2	-----	.9
Beets, canned 1/ -----	111.2	-----	.5	-----	4.0
Peas, green, canned -----	120.6	-----	- .7	-----	- .7
Tomatoes, canned -----	130.8	-----	- .2	-----	6.1
Dried beans -----	123.7	-----	.2	-----	10.2
Broccoli, frozen 1/ -----	100.6	-----	- .3	-----	1.4
Other food at home -----	102.5	104.3	.6	1.3	2.5
Eggs -----	83.9	94.9	2.4	7.0	7.0
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	103.9	-----	.1	-----	- 1.0
Salad dressing, Italian 1/ -----	102.5	-----	- .4	-----	.8
Salad or cooking oil 1/ -----	122.0	-----	.1	-----	- 1.1
Sugar and sweets -----	117.6	-----	.8	-----	2.7
Sugar -----	113.2	-----	.3	-----	1.1
Grape jelly -----	118.8	-----	.3	-----	1.8
Chocolate bar -----	109.6	-----	2.5	-----	4.2
Syrup, chocolate flavored 1/ -----	101.9	-----	0	-----	3.7
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	101.3	-----	.2	-----	2.3
Coffee, can and bag -----	87.8	-----	.5	-----	- .2
Coffee, instant 5/ -----	98.8	-----	.7	-----	2.6
Tea -----	100.9	-----	- .3	-----	- .2
Cola drink -----	147.7	-----	0	-----	6.9
Carbonated fruit drink 1/ -----	115.8	-----	- .1	-----	7.0
Prepared and partially prepared foods 1/	102.3	-----	.2	-----	2.0
Bean soup, canned 1/ -----	100.5	-----	- .4	-----	.5
Chicken soup, canned 1/ -----	96.0	-----	0	-----	- .3
Spaghetti, canned 1/ -----	111.8	-----	- .3	-----	2.7
Mashed potatoes, instant 1/ -----	102.3	-----	.1	-----	.5
Potatoes, french fried, frozen 2/ -----	86.6	-----	- .2	-----	3.7
Baby foods, canned -----	106.9	-----	1.1	-----	1.0
Sweet pickle relish 1/ -----	108.7	-----	.3	-----	2.6
Pretzels 1/ -----	105.8	-----	.3	-----	4.4

1/ December 1963=100.

2/ April 1960=100.

3/ Priced only in season.

4/ Not available.

5/ July 1961=100.

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

	May 1968 to June 1968		March 1968 to June 1968		Dec. 1967 to March 1968		Sept. 1967 to Dec. 1967		June 1967 to Sept. 1967		June 1967 to June 1968	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI*	WPI*
*ALL ITEMS -----	0.5	0.2	1.2	0.5	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.6	0.9	- 0.1	4.2	2.3
CONSUMER PRODUCTS -----	0.2	- 0.4	0.9	0.3	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.2	3.6	2.2
<u>Nondurable</u> -----	.3	- .4	1.1	.6	1.3	1.4	.7	.5	.5	.1	3.7	2.1
Food and beverages at home -----	- .3	- 1.5	.8	.1	1.4	1.8	.7	.5	.1	- .3	3.0	1.9
Apparel and accessories -----	.5	.4	1.8	.8	1.7	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.0	.3	5.6	3.6
Household furnishings and supplies -----	.7	.1	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.4	- .1	.5	.5	.5	3.0	3.4
Gasoline and motor oil -----	.8	3.2	- .5	3.5	1.7	.6	- .5	- 5.9	.6	1.0	1.3	- 1.1
Other nondurables -----	.7	.4	.8	.3	.9	.4	1.1	.2	1.8	.1	4.6	.9
<u>Durable</u> -----	.4	.3	.8	.1	.9	.7	1.0	1.2	.6	.5	3.3	2.5
New passenger cars -----	.2	.5	.3	.1	.5	.3	1.2	2.2	1.3	.1	3.4	2.5
Appliances -----	.2	- .3	.4	.1	.2	.5	.4	.3	.2	.3	1.2	1.0
Furniture and floor coverings -----	.3	.1	1.1	.6	1.9	1.2	.8	1.1	1.0	.4	4.8	3.4
*Other durables -----	.3	- .4	.8	.2	1.4	.8	.7	.3	.6	2.0	3.6	2.9
*CONSUMER SERVICES -----	0.7	-	1.4	-	1.5	-	1.1	-	1.0	-	5.1	-
*Insurance and finance -----	1.6	-	2.3	-	1.3	-	1.3	-	.8	-	5.8	-
*Rent -----	.3	-	.6	-	.6	-	.6	-	.5	-	2.4	-
*Utilities and public transportation -----	.1	-	.4	-	.8	-	.1	-	.6	-	1.9	-
*Housekeeping and home maintenance services -----	.8	-	1.7	-	3.0	-	1.3	-	1.6	-	7.9	-
*Medical care services -----	.3	-	1.2	-	2.1	-	1.6	-	1.9	-	7.1	-
*Personal care services -----	.4	-	1.5	-	1.6	-	1.2	-	1.2	-	5.5	-
*Other services -----	.4	-	1.4	-	2.2	-	1.3	-	.9	-	5.9	-
WHOLESALE PRICES:												
<u>Type of Product:</u>												
Farm products -----	-	- 1.0	-	0.7	-	2.4	-	1.9	-	- 4.8	-	0.1
Processed foods and feeds -----	-	- .3	-	.7	-	1.9	-	.3	-	- .5	-	1.8
*Industrial commodities -----	-	.2	-	.2	-	1.0	-	.9	-	.5	-	2.6
<u>Industrial Materials and Equipment:</u>												
Chemicals and allied products -----	-	.1	-	.1	-	.2	-	.1	-	- .4	-	0
Rubber and rubber products -----	-	.3	-	.3	-	.4	-	.8	-	2.7	-	4.3
Lumber and wood products -----	-	.1	-	2.5	-	4.4	-	.6	-	3.9	-	11.9
Pulp, paper and allied products -----	-	.7	-	.5	-	.2	-	.6	-	.5	-	.8
*Metals and metal products -----	-	0	-	- 1.8	-	2.2	-	1.7	-	.6	-	2.7
Machinery and equipment -----	-	.1	-	.7	-	.9	-	1.0	-	.4	-	3.0
<u>Stage of Processing at Wholesale:</u>												
Finished goods -----	-	.1	-	.6	-	1.2	-	.7	-	.1	-	2.7
Consumer -----	-	.1	-	.5	-	1.1	-	.7	-	.1	-	2.4
Producer -----	-	.3	-	.6	-	1.0	-	1.3	-	.6	-	3.5
Intermediate materials, supplies and components -----	-	.1	-	0	-	1.2	-	.8	-	.3	-	2.3
Crude materials -----	-	.1	-	.4	-	2.1	-	1.3	-	- 3.7	-	0

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.