

August 1968

the consumer price index

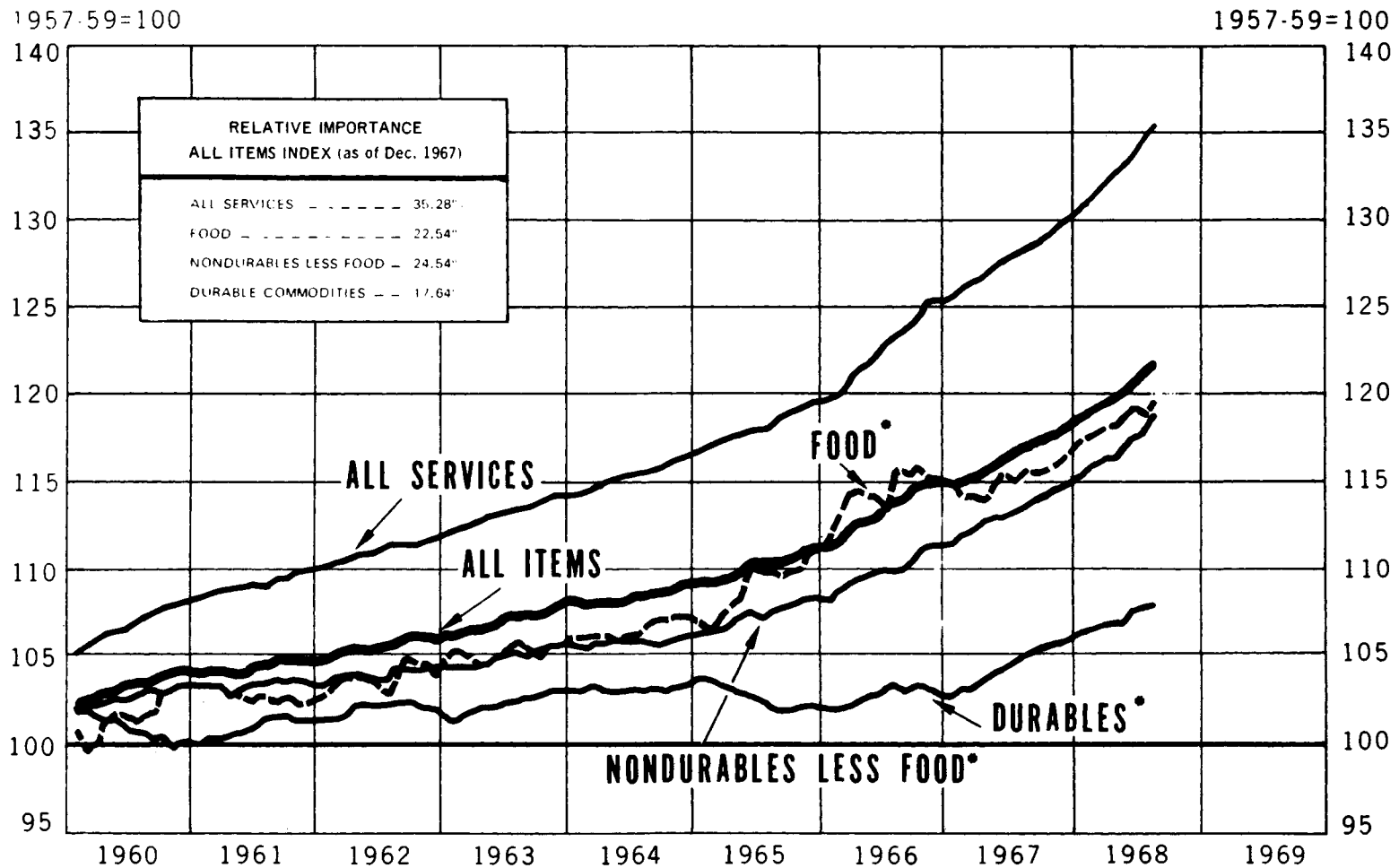
U.S. CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: COMMODITIES AND SERVICES

*(Seasonally Adjusted)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Latest Data: August 1968

Released September 26, 1968

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR AUGUST 1968

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.3 percent in August, to 121.9 (1957-59=100). This rise was less than the 0.5 percent increases for each of the preceding 2 months, and about equal to the average for earlier months this year. The August increase resulted mainly from continuing advances in service charges and contraseasonally higher prices for nondurable commodities. The slowdown in the rise from the previous 2 months is attributable primarily to the decreased rate of advance for household services, medical care services, and durable goods. The index has risen 4.3 percent over the past year.

Since August 1967, service charges have accounted for nearly half of the increase in consumer prices, particularly those associated with housing. Food prices have been responsible for less than one-fifth of the index advance. The all-items index has gone up 3.1 percent since the beginning of the year, compared with a rise of 1.9 percent during the first 8 months of 1967.

Services

Service charges went up 0.4 percent in August, a much slower increase than the 0.7 percent recorded in both June and July. Most service charge increases dropped off substantially from the previous 2 months, particularly mortgage interest rates. Nevertheless, services average more than 5½ percent higher than a year ago.

Although mortgage interest charges continued to rise, mainly as the result of a higher legal limit on interest rates in New York, the rate of advance was significantly slower than in June or July. Other service charges connected with the ownership and maintenance of a home also increased at slower rates. Residential property taxes and insurance rose 0.6 percent in August compared with 0.8 percent in both of the preceding 2 months. Increased union wage rates in the building trades during the second quarter of this year were reflected in the upward movement in the costs of home maintenance and repairs, particularly for painting, plumbing, and heating services; the sharpest increase, 1 percent, was recorded in June, nearly twice that for August. Meanwhile, house and apartment rents continued to advance at the highest rate in nearly 14 years.

Medical care services rose 0.3 percent, and resumed their relatively slower rate of increase after a sharp spurt in July. Increases for hospital services and related charges were a third of their July rate. Professional medical and dental fees continued their steady uptrend.

Both recreational and transportation service charges were higher in August, but the rate of increase over July was more rapid for the former, and was cut in half for the latter. Higher admission charges at drive-in movies were one of the major factors in the 0.6 percent advance in recreational service costs, and piano lessons cost more as teachers' salaries were increased. Rising costs of parts and labor resulted in increased auto repair service charges.

Nondurables less food

Nondurables other than food rose contraseasonally in August largely because of higher prices for apparel and gasoline. The increase accounted for nearly 30 percent of the total advance in the August price level. Apparel prices advanced 0.5 percent; men's and boys' clothing were up sharply to a level nearly 6 percent higher than in August 1967. Advancing wholesale prices for wool fabrics and higher costs at all levels were reflected

in the higher prices for men's tailored clothing, especially suits. Footwear prices jumped 0.8 percent on the basis of continued strong demand and retailers' anticipation of further wholesale price increases.

In contrast, women's and girls' apparel prices rose only fractionally as across-the-board increases in most year-round items such as dresses, and lingerie and foundation garments just barely offset sharp reductions in warm weather seasonal items such as bathing suits, women's cotton dresses and shorts. Brisk demand for girls' back-to-school apparel enabled retailers to charge substantially higher prices than last season.

Widespread price increases were reported for gasoline despite a drop in refinery prices. Prices of soaps and detergents, primarily solid detergents, rose sharply. Toilet goods prices also advanced, and cigarettes cost more because of higher state and local sales taxes. On the other hand, textile housefurnishings dropped seasonally because of traditional August "white sales."

Food

Although they have declined in August in 7 of the last 11 years, food prices went up this year for the third year in a row. The increase averaged 0.4 percent and accounted for one quarter of this month's rise in the overall index, twice the rate for June, but less than the July rate. Strong demand and short supplies forced many prices up contraseasonally and held others at higher levels than usual. August marked the ninth consecutive monthly rise in food prices; food prices were nearly 3½ percent higher than August 1967 levels. Despite increases in production, prices of meat and poultry moved up more than expected, due to lower cold storage holdings and some widening of retail margins. Frying chicken and hamburger prices rose contraseasonally; pork products, although advancing less than expected, nevertheless contributed significantly to the over-the-month rise. Egg prices, up 11.5 percent, nearly twice the July increase, advanced more than usual when hot weather affected the quantity and quality of available supplies. Most cereals and bakery products (except flour) cost more, due to increased labor and packaging materials costs; ice cream prices rose sharply because sales promotions ended in many cities and fresh milk averaged higher in response to the seasonal contraction in supplies.

On the average, fresh fruit and vegetable prices declined 5.1 percent, almost 3 percent less than their usual seasonal drop. Fresh vegetables showed more-than-seasonal declines, but apple prices rose contraseasonally, as supplies diminished due to the small summer crop in Eastern and Midwestern areas. Oranges advanced sharply, as a result of a nearly 50 percent drop in marketable supplies compared with last year, and short supplies brought less than seasonal price reductions for tomatoes and watermelon.

Durables

Lower prices for new cars (down 0.7 percent) held the August rise in durable goods to a modest 0.1 percent as the rate of price increases tapered off for most other durables.

Appliances prices edged up again in August, at half of the July rate, in the wake of widespread factory price increases. Particularly strong demand was reported for air conditioners during the hot weather, but prices were firm for most other large appliances (except refrigerator-freezers) despite a slowdown in sales.

Continuing shortages of skilled labor in the industry helped push furniture prices slightly higher to equal the July rise, despite scattered August sales. Furniture prices were 5½ percent higher than August 1967 levels, as production costs continue their upturn.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

About 100,000 workers will receive pay increases based on the August Consumer Price Index. For approximately 80,000 employees in aerospace industries the advances will range from 1 to 4 cents an hour as a result of changes in the national index over varying periods of time. Other increases based on the national or various city indexes will range up to 8 cents an hour.

Preliminary Report on Prices of New Passenger Cars

Suggested retail prices of 1969 models of U.S.-made passenger cars averaged approximately \$40, or 1.2 percent, higher than prices of comparable 1968 models after allowance for net quality improvements. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, in consultation with other agencies, arrived at this figure after a detailed evaluation of all significant changes made in the 1969 models, including reductions in warranties. Final results of the evaluation will be reflected in the official price indexes for October, to be reported late in November.

For new cars, as for all other products, the Bureau of Labor Statistic allows for changes in quality (both improvement and deterioration) before determining the amount of actual change in prices. Quality in an automobile is measured for safety, reliability, performance, durability, economy of operation, carrying capacity, maneuverability, comfort, and convenience. The Bureau of Labor Statistics makes no allowance for style or changes in appearance designed solely to make the car look new or different, although these attributes may appeal to many customers. If improvements in the quality of a product are equal to the increase in quoted prices, the official price indexes would show no change.

Suggested retail prices of 1969 models of new passenger cars, including popular optional equipment, actually were raised an average of \$41 over comparable 1968 models. This average does not reflect the somewhat larger increases on stationwagons or the higher-priced "top-of-the-line" and special cars. It is confined to medium-and lower-priced cars representing about two-thirds of total automobile sales. The average also includes changes in prices of popular optional equipment. Some prices of optional items were actually reduced and most others were raised less than on basic cars.

The Bureau has found that \$24 of the \$41 increase can be accounted for by net quality improvements in the new models. However, nearly all of this allowance is balanced off by a reduction in general warranties valued by the Bureau at \$23. After adjustment for these offsetting changes, the adjusted price increase works out to \$40.

A breakdown of the quality changes shows \$4 for changes made in response to new or modified Federal Safety Standards. This amount includes several changes required on all cars produced and sold after January 1, 1969, such as improved defrosters, windshield wipers, and side marker lights. It does not include head restraints, which are optional at extra cost on most models until January 1.

A second class of improvements on 1969 models involves other safety changes made in anticipation of future requirements, or deemed by manufacturers to be desirable for safety purposes, even though not required by any present or contemplated standard. The average value of such changes is \$10. Included are items such as improved theft protection, structural changes designed to protect passengers from injury in a collision, and more reliable brakes.

Finally, 1969 models contain other significant changes aside from safety features. A balancing of both improvements and deterioration in non-safety quality features this year results in a net improvement. The value of net improvements, outside of those related to safety, is found to be \$10. It includes changes such as engine improvements for greater reliability and durability, better ventilation systems, and more durable interior trim.

A significant loss in value to consumers is the reduction in general warranties on 1969 models. On 1968 models, general warranties extended to 24 months or 24,000 miles, but they have been reduced to 12 months or 12,000 miles on 1969 models. This change is valued at \$23, and offsets quality improvements, in the Bureau's evaluation.

This evaluation is based on information for 15 models of new passenger cars selected to represent all passenger cars, except luxury cars and station wagons, produced in this country by U.S. manufacturers. Imported cars are excluded from this preliminary evaluation, although they are represented in the official price indexes.

Detailed data supplied by automobile manufacturers and other sources on all significant changes in 1969 models from comparable 1968 models, including their effects on production costs, have been taken into account. Although the Bureau of Labor Statistics has consulted with the National Highway Safety Bureau of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and other agencies, the Bureau is solely responsible for the results of its evaluation.

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

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)					Percent change to August 1968 from--				
	August 1968		July 1968		August 1967	July 1968		May 1968		August 1967
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
All items -----	121.9	-----	121.5	-----	116.9	0.3	-----	1.3	-----	4.3
Food -----	120.5	119.7	120.0	119.0	116.6	.4	.6	1.4	.3	3.3
Food at home -----	117.1	115.8	116.7	115.5	113.9	.3	.3	1.3	-.4	2.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.6	-----	119.2	-----	118.4	.3	-----	1.0	-----	1.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.3	114.0	114.0	113.4	113.1	1.1	.5	2.0	-.7	1.9
Dairy products -----	121.5	121.6	121.0	121.5	116.6	.4	-.1	1.1	.6	4.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	128.2	125.6	132.2	123.4	122.7	-3.0	1.8	-1.9	-2.6	4.5
Other foods at home -----	105.5	105.3	103.3	104.6	102.6	2.1	.7	3.5	2.2	2.8
Food away from home -----	137.2	-----	136.5	-----	130.3	.5	-----	1.6	-----	5.3
Housing -----	120.1	-----	119.5	-----	114.7	.5	-----	2.0	-----	4.7
Shelter 1/ -----	125.0	-----	124.2	-----	118.4	.6	-----	2.8	-----	5.6
Rent -----	115.4	-----	115.1	-----	112.6	.3	-----	.7	-----	2.5
Homeownership 2/ -----	128.8	-----	127.8	-----	120.8	.8	-----	3.6	-----	6.6
Fuel and utilities 3/ -----	110.7	110.9	110.6	111.0	109.1	.1	-.1	.4	.5	1.5
Fuel oil and coal 4/ -----	115.7	117.7	115.7	117.7	111.7	0	0	.3	1.5	3.6
Gas and electricity -----	109.7	-----	109.5	-----	108.5	.2	-----	.2	-----	1.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	113.3	-----	113.1	-----	108.3	.2	-----	.7	-----	4.6
Apparel and upkeep 5/ -----	120.3	121.0	119.7	120.3	113.8	.5	.6	.7	1.4	5.7
Men's and boys' -----	121.2	121.7	120.1	120.7	114.5	.9	.8	1.2	1.7	5.9
Women's and girls' -----	115.8	116.5	115.7	116.4	108.8	.1	.1	-.3	.3	6.4
Footwear -----	133.0	133.3	132.0	132.5	126.0	.8	.6	1.4	1.7	5.6
Transportation -----	120.0	120.0	119.8	119.6	116.4	.2	.3	.8	.7	3.1
Private -----	117.7	117.7	117.6	117.4	114.4	.1	.3	.8	.8	2.9
Public -----	138.6	-----	138.5	-----	132.8	.1	-----	.9	-----	4.4
Health and recreation -----	130.5	-----	130.2	-----	124.2	.2	-----	1.0	-----	5.1
Medical care -----	145.5	-----	145.1	-----	137.5	.3	-----	1.0	-----	5.8
Personal care -----	120.9	-----	120.4	-----	116.1	.4	-----	1.1	-----	4.1
Reading and recreation -----	126.3	-----	125.9	-----	120.0	.3	-----	.8	-----	5.3
Other goods and services 6/ -----	124.2	-----	123.9	-----	118.8	.2	-----	1.3	-----	4.5
Special groups:										
All items less shelter -----	121.2	-----	120.8	-----	116.5	.3	-----	1.0	-----	4.0
All items less food -----	122.6	-----	122.1	-----	117.1	.4	-----	1.3	-----	4.7
All items less medical care -----	120.5	-----	120.1	-----	115.6	.3	-----	1.3	-----	4.2
Commodities 7/ -----	115.9	115.8	115.5	115.3	111.9	.3	.4	1.0	.8	3.6
Nondurables -----	119.2	119.0	118.7	118.3	114.8	.4	.6	1.2	.8	3.8
Durable 7/ 8/ -----	107.7	107.8	107.6	107.6	104.7	.1	.2	.7	.8	2.9
Services 9/ -----	135.5	-----	134.9	-----	128.2	.4	-----	1.9	-----	5.7
Commodities less food 7/ -----	113.5	113.7	113.2	113.3	109.4	.3	.4	.9	1.1	3.7
Nondurables less food -----	118.1	118.5	117.6	117.8	113.2	.4	.6	.9	1.4	4.3
Apparel commodities -----	119.5	120.3	118.9	119.5	112.7	.5	.7	.7	1.5	6.0
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	116.8	117.7	116.3	116.9	110.0	.4	.7	.5	1.5	6.2
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	117.3	-----	116.9	-----	113.4	.3	-----	1.1	-----	3.4
New cars -----	99.1	100.4	99.8	100.6	96.9	-.7	-.2	-1.2	-.1	2.3
Used cars -----	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	125.2	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)
Household durables 11/ -----	101.6	-----	101.5	-----	98.2	.1	-----	.5	-----	3.5
Housefurnishings -----	104.9	105.2	104.8	104.9	100.8	.1	.3	.5	1.0	4.1
Services less rent 9/ -----	140.0	-----	139.3	-----	131.7	.5	-----	2.1	-----	6.3
Household services less rent -----	136.7	-----	135.6	-----	127.5	.8	-----	3.5	-----	7.2
Transportation services -----	133.6	-----	133.5	-----	128.8	.1	-----	.5	-----	3.7
Medical care services -----	157.1	-----	156.6	-----	146.7	.3	-----	1.4	-----	7.1
Other services 12/ -----	139.7	-----	139.2	-----	131.9	.4	-----	1.0	-----	5.9
All items index on other bases:										
1947-49=100 -----	149.6	-----	149.1	-----	143.4	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=100 -----	251.8	-----	250.9	-----	241.4	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:										
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.820	-----	\$0.823	-----	\$0.855	-.4	-----	-1.3	-----	-4.1
1947-49=\$1.00 -----	.668	-----	.671	-----	.697	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=\$1.00 -----	.397	-----	.399	-----	.414	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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 "Durable 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	July 1968	May 1968	August 1967
		August 1968			July 1968	May 1968	August 1967
U.S. City Average -----	M	121.9	149.6		0.3	1.3	4.3
Chicago -----	M	119.3	150.5		.3	1.3	4.2
Detroit -----	M	120.6	148.6		.2	1.4	4.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	122.8	153.1		.4	1.6	3.8
New York -----	M	125.2	150.9		.8	1.9	4.9
Philadelphia -----	M	123.0	151.0		.3	1.2	4.8
		July 1968				April 1968	July 1967
Boston -----	1	124.7	154.5			0.9	4.0
Houston -----	1	119.3	147.0			1.1	4.4
Minneapolis-St. Paul ----	1	121.8	150.7			1.2	5.4
Pittsburgh -----	1	120.0	147.9			.5	4.3
		August 1968				May 1968	August 1967
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) ---	2	120.0	149.0	115.7		1.2	4.8
Cleveland -----	2					.8	6.0
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) ----	2			113.7		.9	4.4
Milwaukee -----	2	117.4	148.1			1.3	3.3
San Diego (Feb.1965=100) -	2			110.0		1.2	3.9
Seattle -----	2	123.2	154.8			1.8	4.2
Washington -----	2	123.1	148.2			1.7	4.9
		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 July 1968 to August 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.3
Food -----	.4	.8	.3	-.2	.6	.3
Housing -----	.5	.4	-.1	.5	1.5	.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	.5	.4	1.5	0	1.0	-.2
Transportation -----	.2	-.2	-.3	1.0	.2	.3
Health and recreation -----	.2	.2	.5	.3	.3	.1
Medical care -----	.3	.3	.2	.4	.1	.3
Personal care -----	.4	1.0	0	-.3	.5	.4
Reading and recreation -----	.3	0	1.4	.7	.5	-.1
Other goods and services -----	.2	.1	.3	.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:										
Aug.	121.9	120.5	120.1	120.3	120.0	130.5	145.5	120.9	126.3	124.2
July	121.5	120.0	119.5	119.7	119.8	130.2	145.1	120.4	125.9	123.9
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
Annual Average:										
1967	116.3	115.2	114.3	114.0	115.9	123.8	136.7	115.5	120.1	118.2
1966	113.1	114.2	111.1	109.6	112.7	119.0	127.7	112.2	117.1	114.9
1965	109.9	108.8	108.5	106.8	111.1	115.6	122.3	109.9	115.2	111.4
1964	108.1	106.4	107.2	105.7	109.3	113.6	119.4	109.2	114.1	108.8
1963	106.7	105.1	106.0	104.8	107.8	111.4	117.0	107.9	111.5	107.1
1962	105.4	103.6	104.8	103.6	107.2	109.4	114.2	106.5	109.6	105.3
1957	98.0	97.8	98.5	99.5	96.5	97.0	95.5	97.1	96.9	98.5

TABLE 5: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas 1/
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Commodity Groups
August 1968 indexes and percent changes from May 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 -----	121.9	115.7	119.3	120.0	113.7	120.6	122.8
Food -----	120.5	116.4	122.3	118.7	114.4	119.0	117.8
Food at home -----	117.1	114.7	120.8	115.8	112.4	116.2	112.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.6	105.1	123.0	114.1	109.8	115.0	119.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.3	114.3	117.3	117.9	114.8	118.8	106.2
Dairy products -----	121.5	116.1	134.5	120.4	121.9	128.1	119.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	128.2	129.0	131.4	128.4	113.1	117.6	126.7
Other foods at home -----	105.5	109.7	106.6	101.8	105.4	102.7	96.9
Food away from home -----	137.2	126.3	129.3	135.6	122.4	134.7	138.5
Housing -----	120.1	113.6	116.0	115.2	112.2	115.6	124.7
Shelter -----	125.0	114.7	118.8	116.2	115.9	119.6	132.1
Rent -----	115.4	106.6	-----	104.8	104.3	105.5	-----
Homeownership -----	128.8	116.1	122.7	118.2	121.5	122.9	137.7
Fuel and utilities -----	110.7	112.6	108.6	114.3	103.8	103.5	106.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	115.7	108.4	108.5	-----	-----	106.4	-----
Gas and electricity -----	109.7	115.5	108.2	114.7	99.1	104.9	112.3
Household furnishings and operation -----	113.3	111.2	113.1	110.0	109.3	109.3	111.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	120.3	122.3	115.1	119.1	113.7	118.8	119.7
Men's and boys' -----	121.2	121.3	114.9	124.2	117.3	118.6	122.8
Women's and girls' -----	115.8	124.5	109.5	110.8	112.9	116.8	118.5
Footwear -----	133.0	127.6	129.3	134.2	112.7	130.2	129.0
Transportation -----	120.0	111.8	117.5	121.9	110.3	119.0	126.0
Private -----	117.7	112.3	116.7	118.5	110.0	116.3	121.4
Public -----	138.6	106.6	124.2	143.6	114.1	136.7	154.5
Health and recreation -----	130.5	118.4	125.6	130.8	117.7	133.2	124.6
Medical care -----	145.5	121.6	153.3	155.3	124.2	153.8	142.7
Personal care -----	120.9	113.8	120.3	117.4	113.2	126.8	115.0
Reading and recreation -----	126.3	116.0	109.9	119.0	115.8	126.5	111.9
Other goods and services -----	124.2	120.3	117.5	127.6	112.8	120.1	120.7
Percent changes May 1968 to August 1968							
All items -----	1.3	1.2	1.3	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.6
Food -----	1.4	1.4	2.9	2.5	.7	2.0	.9
Food at home -----	1.3	1.2	2.8	2.4	.6	2.0	.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	1.0	-.6	1.7	1.9	-.5	3.0	-.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.0	3.4	3.9	3.3	1.8	2.8	3.0
Dairy products -----	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.0	.3	2.6	.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 1.9	- 2.1	2.9	1.3	- 4.9	- 1.9	- 7.2
Other foods at home -----	3.5	2.4	3.4	3.1	3.9	2.9	4.2
Food away from home -----	1.6	1.8	2.8	2.8	1.2	2.0	1.8
Housing -----	2.0	1.2	1.6	-.3	1.5	2.2	2.1
Shelter -----	2.8	1.1	2.0	-.1	2.4	3.3	3.0
Rent -----	.7	.8	-----	.4	.9	2/ .8	-----
Homeownership -----	3.6	1.0	2.7	-.3	3.1	3.6	3.8
Fuel and utilities -----	.4	3.8	.6	- 1.0	-.2	.2	-.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	.3	0	-.3	-----	-----	0	-----
Gas and electricity -----	.2	5.7	.1	- 1.4	-.2	.3	-.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	.7	0	.6	-.5	.5	.6	.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	.7	1.4	-.7	1.3	.7	.8	.9
Men's and boys' -----	1.2	2.4	.6	1.5	2.1	1.5	.4
Women's and girls' -----	-.3	1.1	- 2.8	.5	-.2	0	.4
Footwear -----	1.4	2.6	1.0	1.2	.8	1.8	2.4
Transportation -----	.8	.5	.3	.9	.8	-.2	2.6
Private -----	.8	.6	.4	.9	.8	-.3	2.6
Public -----	.9	.1	.2	1.1	0	.6	.6
Health and recreation -----	1.0	1.8	1.1	.5	.4	.6	.7
Medical care -----	1.0	1.2	.5	1.0	.1	-.4	1.1
Personal care -----	1.1	1.2	2.5	2.7	.1	.6	-.1
Reading and recreation -----	.8	1.7	.9	-.3	1.1	.6	1.2
Other goods and services -----	1.3	2.7	1.4	.1	.1	2.0	.2

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
 August 1968 indexes and percent changes from May 1968--Continued

Group	Milwaukee	New York	Philadelphia	San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)						
All items -----	117.4	125.2	123.0	110.0	123.2	123.1
Food -----	119.8	121.5	120.5	112.1	119.8	123.0
Food at home -----	118.1	116.6	116.0	109.1	114.8	119.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	109.9	119.4	115.2	107.5	110.5	112.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	117.3	115.4	111.5	116.7	114.7	118.0
Dairy products -----	129.7	112.4	127.3	108.5	125.7	123.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	129.8	133.2	129.2	106.3	124.7	129.8
Other foods at home -----	107.1	105.1	103.2	101.7	102.4	112.3
Food away from home -----	130.2	142.6	144.7	120.3	140.8	138.3
Housing -----	114.8	124.6	119.6	110.6	125.0	119.2
Shelter -----	116.4	129.0	122.5	115.3	135.6	122.8
Rent -----	107.7	125.1	-----	109.2	123.1	119.8
Homeownership -----	119.3	130.5	124.2	117.6	138.9	123.1
Fuel and utilities -----	111.3	110.5	109.6	99.5	112.6	104.8
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.4	121.4	122.1	-----	109.8	116.1
Gas and electricity -----	101.9	110.9	102.7	100.0	97.9	102.8
Household furnishings and operation -----	113.0	121.1	116.0	104.6	110.5	116.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	116.8	124.8	125.8	108.8	118.8	127.1
Men's and boys' -----	120.3	130.2	120.2	115.9	122.6	125.2
Women's and girls' -----	111.9	118.0	119.8	104.0	114.8	124.5
Footwear -----	127.8	131.6	138.0	115.2	135.3	139.4
Transportation -----	113.4	120.8	128.9	106.8	121.4	119.9
Private -----	112.2	119.9	123.5	106.9	120.7	118.0
Public -----	130.0	127.3	155.9	106.0	128.8	131.7
Health and recreation -----	123.2	136.0	130.6	110.3	126.2	132.4
Medical care -----	138.7	148.9	154.4	117.1	140.2	165.4
Personal care -----	125.3	116.7	115.3	104.4	117.8	119.0
Reading and recreation -----	119.8	137.6	120.6	105.6	117.9	126.3
Other goods and services -----	113.7	131.6	(3/)	112.0	125.9	116.1
Percent changes May 1968 to August 1968						
All items -----	1.3	1.9	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.7
Food -----	2.2	1.8	.8	.8	1.4	1.9
Food at home -----	2.4	1.8	1.0	.6	1.0	2.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	2.8	2.2	.2	-.3	.5	-.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.8	1.3	.5	2.5	2.4	2.0
Dairy products -----	3.0	.7	.7	.6	2.7	.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 1.9	1.0	- 1.8	- 3.9	- 5.9	1.6
Other foods at home -----	4.9	4.2	5.1	2.1	3.9	4.6
Food away from home -----	1.5	1.4	.6	1.3	2.7	1.8
Housing -----	1.5	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.4	2.8
Shelter -----	2.2	3.9	3.9	3.2	4.1	4.0
Rent -----	.5	^{2/} .4	-----	1.4	1.3	.6
Homeownership -----	2.7	6.2	4.7	3.8	5.1	6.2
Fuel and utilities -----	0	0	.1	0	-.1	1.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	0	.2	-.1	-----	0	.3
Gas and electricity -----	0	.1	0	0	0	2.2
Household furnishings and operation -----	.8	1.4	.3	-.1	-.4	.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	.3	.7	-.5	1.6	.2	.6
Men's and boys' -----	2.0	2.4	.3	2.7	1.8	2.7
Women's and girls' -----	-.9	-.6	- 2.7	1.0	- 2.0	-.9
Footwear -----	-.4	.6	1.2	2.0	1.0	1.6
Transportation -----	.3	1.3	1.3	.5	1.7	1.0
Private -----	.3	1.3	1.4	.5	1.9	1.2
Public -----	0	1.4	.2	1.0	.2	-.1
Health and recreation -----	1.1	2.0	1.6	.5	1.6	.8
Medical care -----	1.9	2.3	3.1	1.1	1.6	.9
Personal care -----	2.3	.8	.7	2.2	1.9	.4
Reading and recreation -----	.9	.9	.8	.4	1.2	.6
Other goods and services -----	.1	3.2	(3/)	- 1.1	1.9	1.0

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

^{2/} Change from June 1968.

^{3/} Not available.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food and its Subgroups
August 1968 indexes and percent changes from July 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 -----	120.5	117.1	119.6	115.3	121.5	128.2	105.5	137.2
Atlanta -----	118.0	115.3	113.0	114.6	115.2	127.7	110.0	127.4
Baltimore -----	122.7	118.6	123.6	118.3	116.7	134.6	105.6	139.4
Boston -----	123.5	118.5	120.7	119.7	115.5	131.6	106.6	145.1
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	116.4	114.7	105.1	114.3	116.1	129.0	109.7	126.3
Chicago -----	122.3	120.8	123.0	117.3	134.5	131.4	106.6	129.3
Cincinnati -----	117.5	114.0	114.9	115.4	116.5	124.4	101.9	135.8
Cleveland -----	118.7	115.8	114.1	117.9	120.4	128.4	101.8	135.6
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	114.4	112.4	109.8	114.8	121.9	113.1	105.4	122.4
Detroit -----	119.0	116.2	115.0	118.8	128.1	117.6	102.7	134.7
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	112.1	111.6	112.1	113.2	112.6	114.0	105.8	113.7
Houston -----	120.5	116.8	127.2	111.6	119.7	128.5	106.4	136.9
Kansas City -----	123.5	120.9	123.9	119.7	130.3	125.5	109.8	133.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	117.8	112.1	119.8	106.2	119.3	126.7	96.9	138.5
Milwaukee -----	119.8	118.1	109.9	117.3	129.7	129.8	107.1	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	118.4	115.6	111.1	113.4	126.3	121.4	109.1	131.0
New York -----	121.5	116.6	119.4	115.4	112.4	133.2	105.1	142.6
Philadelphia -----	120.5	116.0	115.2	111.5	127.3	129.2	103.2	144.7
Pittsburgh -----	116.9	114.4	117.6	117.0	109.9	127.3	103.1	132.8
St. Louis -----	124.6	120.9	122.0	121.1	133.6	131.2	104.2	138.9
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	112.1	109.1	107.5	116.7	108.5	106.3	101.7	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	118.4	113.5	118.0	112.0	116.8	122.1	102.1	140.0
Seattle -----	119.8	114.8	110.5	114.7	125.7	124.7	102.4	140.8
Washington -----	123.0	119.3	112.4	118.0	123.3	129.8	112.3	138.3
Percent changes July 1968 to August 1968								
U.S. City Average -----	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.4	- 3.0	2.1	0.5
Atlanta -----	.8	.9	- .4	1.0	.9	- 1.0	2.8	.2
Baltimore -----	.7	.9	.5	2.1	-.3	- .7	1.3	0
Boston -----	.2	.2	-.3	-.3	0	- .2	2.1	.2
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	.6	.6	-.3	1.7	-.4	- .4	1.3	.5
Chicago -----	.8	.8	- 1.0	1.1	.3	.8	1.8	.8
Cincinnati -----	-.1	-.1	.9	1.1	-.1	- 4.2	1.9	.1
Cleveland -----	1.2	1.1	-.1	1.8	.8	- .6	2.3	1.6
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	.5	.6	-.4	1.5	-.3	- 2.2	2.1	.6
Detroit -----	.3	.3	2.5	.8	2.4	- 4.6	1.0	.7
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	.7	1.0	-.3	1.6	-.2	.8	1.9	0
Houston -----	.5	.5	.4	.4	.1	- 2.1	2.9	.5
Kansas City -----	.4	.6	.2	1.4	2.4	- 4.0	1.9	.2
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	-.2	-.4	- 1.1	1.5	0	- 6.3	1.6	.6
Milwaukee -----	1.1	.9	0	2.0	.2	- 1.8	2.9	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.3	.3	1.7	.9	-.2	- 4.1	2.8	.2
New York -----	.6	.6	1.8	.6	.3	- 2.3	2.7	.5
Philadelphia -----	.3	.4	-.1	.5	.1	- 1.6	2.8	.2
Pittsburgh -----	.5	.5	.1	.5	.2	- 1.3	2.9	0
St. Louis -----	.6	.7	1.5	1.1	-.1	- 1.6	2.4	.2
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	.3	-.1	-.5	1.6	0	- 4.7	.9	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	-.7	- 1.3	.8	.6	.5	- 10.5	1.4	1.4
Seattle -----	.8	.5	1.1	1.5	.2	- 2.0	1.6	1.7
Washington -----	1.2	1.3	1.0	4.1	- 1.7	- 2.6	2.4	.9

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

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to August 1968 from--		August 1967 Unadjusted
	August 1968		July 1968		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Total food -----	120.5	119.7	0.4	0.6	3.3
Food away from home -----	137.2	-----	.5	-----	5.3
Restaurant meals -----	137.5	-----	.6	-----	5.3
Snacks 1/ -----	118.6	-----	.3	-----	5.2
Food at home -----	117.1	115.8	.3	.3	2.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.6	-----	.3	-----	1.0
Flour -----	111.7	-----	.7	-----	1.8
Cracker meal 1/ -----	117.1	-----	0	-----	.3
Corn flakes -----	128.8	-----	.3	-----	.4
Rice -----	110.8	-----	.1	-----	2.4
Bread, white -----	125.6	-----	.7	-----	1.7
Bread, whole wheat 1/ -----	115.6	-----	.4	-----	1.0
Cookies -----	100.9	-----	.1	-----	1.2
Layer cake 1/ -----	109.9	-----	.5	-----	4.6
Cinnamon rolls 1/ -----	108.2	-----	1.0	-----	.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.3	114.0	1.1	.5	1.9
Meats -----	117.9	116.3	1.1	.2	1.6
Beef and veal -----	118.8	118.7	.9	.7	4.1
Steak, round -----	113.4	112.6	1.2	.2	4.0
Steak, sirloin 2/ -----	113.6	-----	2.3	-----	5.2
Steak, porterhouse 1/ -----	118.6	-----	2.1	-----	5.4
Rump roast 1/ -----	109.0	-----	.6	-----	2.5
Rib roast -----	126.2	126.2	.1	.2	5.2
Chuck roast -----	110.5	111.1	.4	1.0	3.9
Hamburger -----	121.5	121.6	1.1	1.3	4.0
Beef liver 1/ -----	107.9	-----	.6	-----	1.4
Veal cutlets -----	143.4	143.1	.2	.1	6.5
Pork -----	117.8	112.9	1.3	.9	2.2
Chops -----	123.4	116.7	.3	1.8	1.4
Loin roast 2/ -----	130.1	-----	1.8	-----	.7
Pork sausage 1/ -----	126.7	-----	2.8	-----	1.3
Ham, whole -----	111.4	111.2	2.3	1.1	.4
Picnics 1/ -----	117.7	-----	1.7	-----	2.1
Bacon -----	116.3	108.7	.8	2.9	6.9
Other meats -----	120.3	119.9	1.2	.8	1.4
Lamb chops 1/ -----	129.6	-----	.3	-----	3.9
Frankfurters -----	118.2	117.5	2.8	1.6	.1
Ham, canned 1/ -----	114.7	-----	1.7	-----	2.0
Bologna sausage 1/ -----	120.5	-----	1.4	-----	2.6
Salami sausage 1/ -----	115.7	-----	1.1	-----	3.0
Liverwurst 1/ -----	117.3	-----	.8	-----	1.3
Poultry -----	93.6	-----	2.2	-----	3.9
Frying chicken -----	95.3	93.6	2.7	3.5	5.9
Chicken breasts 1/ -----	104.2	-----	1.5	-----	3.1
Turkey 1/ -----	97.8	-----	.9	-----	4.7
Fish -----	124.3	124.4	.2	.1	2.4
Shrimp, frozen 1/ -----	108.7	-----	.3	-----	1.3
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	125.9	126.0	.1	.1	1.0
Tuna fish, canned -----	111.7	-----	.7	-----	1.5
Sardines, canned 1/ -----	122.1	-----	.2	-----	8.1
Dairy products -----	121.5	121.6	.4	.1	4.2
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	119.5	119.5	.5	.1	5.1
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	124.6	-----	.2	-----	5.4
Milk, fresh, skim 1/ -----	118.6	-----	.3	-----	5.8
Milk, evaporated -----	121.4	-----	.3	-----	3.4
Ice cream -----	99.2	-----	1.4	-----	.4
Cheese, American process -----	140.4	140.8	.4	.4	3.5
Butter -----	116.8	117.6	.1	.1	1.2

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to August 1968 from--		August 1967 Unadjusted
	August 1968		July 1968		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Fruits and vegetables -----	128.2	125.6	- 3.0	1.8	4.5
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	138.3	133.6	- 5.1	2.8	3.3
Apples -----	204.8	167.7	- 2.3	5.4	17.8
Bananas -----	94.6	91.9	- 1.8	- 4.1	- 2.8
Oranges -----	157.4	151.6	9.2	5.0	32.9
Orange juice, fresh <u>1/</u> -----	86.8	-----	1.5	-----	20.4
Grapefruit -----	187.0	155.2	5.6	- 2.0	11.9
Grapes* -----	144.1	144.8	- 26.1	- 2.3	- 10.6
Strawberries <u>3/</u> -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Watermelon -----	109.4	132.6	- .1	18.1	- 8.6
Potatoes -----	146.8	134.2	- 10.2	- 10.9	- 4.0
Onions -----	148.6	131.5	- 1.7	- 6.7	4.3
Asparagus * <u>1/</u> <u>3/</u> -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Cabbage -----	131.8	141.0	- 7.6	- .7	4.4
Carrots -----	117.9	112.0	- .8	- .1	- .2
Celery -----	110.4	111.1	- 19.8	- 8.8	- 7.6
Cucumbers <u>1/</u> -----	115.3	-----	4.2	-----	17.9
Lettuce -----	117.8	120.7	- 12.4	- 16.4	- 7.6
Peppers, green <u>1/</u> -----	142.2	-----	- 6.7	-----	2.6
Spinach <u>1/</u> -----	104.0	-----	- 1.6	-----	2.2
Tomatoes -----	106.5	129.4	- 19.0	5.3	- 20.2
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	115.7	-----	.3	-----	6.3
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	109.1	-----	.5	-----	9.0
Pears, canned <u>1/</u> -----	118.2	-----	.1	-----	20.2
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned <u>1/</u> -----	95.7	-----	.5	-----	.7
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	88.3	89.4	- .1	- 2.0	21.6
Lemonade concentrate, frozen <u>2/</u> -----	87.4	-----	1.3	-----	1.5
Beets, canned <u>1/</u> -----	111.9	-----	.2	-----	3.9
Peas, green, canned -----	121.7	-----	.3	-----	.2
Tomatoes, canned -----	130.0	-----	.5	-----	4.0
Dried beans -----	123.8	-----	.1	-----	8.7
Broccoli, frozen <u>1/</u> -----	101.1	-----	.8	-----	1.1
Other food at home -----	105.5	105.3	2.1	.7	2.8
Eggs -----	99.1	101.7	11.5	5.0	7.4
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	102.4	-----	- 1.3	-----	- .6
Salad dressing, Italian <u>1/</u> -----	102.7	-----	0	-----	1.6
Salad or cooking oil <u>1/</u> -----	121.8	-----	.2	-----	- 1.3
Sugar and sweets -----	120.5	-----	1.9	-----	4.6
Sugar -----	113.5	-----	.4	-----	.8
Grape jelly -----	119.6	-----	.5	-----	2.1
Chocolate bar -----	118.8	-----	6.1	-----	12.5
Syrup, chocolate flavored <u>1/</u> -----	101.9	-----	0	-----	2.3
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	101.7	-----	.6	-----	2.6
Coffee, can and bag -----	87.4	-----	- .3	-----	- .5
Coffee, instant <u>5/</u> -----	98.9	-----	.3	-----	2.7
Tea -----	101.0	-----	.2	-----	.2
Cola drink -----	149.2	-----	1.2	-----	7.0
Carbonated fruit drink <u>1/</u> -----	117.8	-----	2.3	-----	8.2
Prepared and partially prepared foods <u>1/</u> -----	102.8	-----	.4	-----	1.7
Bean soup, canned <u>1/</u> -----	100.9	-----	.5	-----	.7
Chicken soup, canned <u>1/</u> -----	96.0	-----	- .1	-----	- .2
Spaghetti, canned <u>1/</u> -----	111.7	-----	- .1	-----	1.7
Mashed potatoes, instant <u>1/</u> -----	102.2	-----	.4	-----	.5
Potatoes, french fried, frozen <u>2/</u> -----	87.3	-----	0	-----	2.6
Baby foods, canned -----	109.8	-----	1.5	-----	2.6
Sweet pickle relish <u>1/</u> -----	109.3	-----	1.3	-----	3.2
Pretzels <u>1/</u> -----	106.1	-----	.3	-----	2.2

1/ December 1963=100.

2/ April 1960=100.

3/ Priced only in season.

4/ Not available.

5/ July 1961=100.

OLD SERIES

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

Group	Index	Percent change from --	
		May 1968	August 1967
All items -----	123.8	2.0	4.3
All items (1947-49=100) -----	147.7		
Food -----	120.2	2.1	3.6
Food at home -----	117.5	2.4	3.3
Cereals and bakery products --	120.9	.4	.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	120.4	2.4	1.7
Dairy products -----	118.4	1.4	5.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	120.9	3.4	5.8
Other foods at home -----	107.1	3.5	3.7
Housing -----	117.4	2.7	4.3
Rent -----	114.5	.6	1.7
Gas and electricity -----	105.8	0	1.0
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	106.7	2.8	5.0
Housefurnishings -----	107.2	.7	6.8
Household operation -----	120.9	.1	1.9
Apparel -----	122.6	1.3	5.6
Men's and boys' -----	124.2	2.1	4.1
Women's and girls' -----	119.6	.8	6.1
Footwear -----	133.9	1.5	7.3
Other apparel -----	108.3	.6	4.6
Transportation -----	116.2	.5	2.6
Private -----	113.2	.5	2.7
Public -----	134.6	0	1.0
Medical care -----	152.4	2.6	5.1
Personal care -----	131.0	.9	1.2
Reading and recreation -----	167.1	1.1	2.8
Other goods and services -----	129.6	2.9	10.9

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

	July 1968 to August 1968		May 1968 to August 1968		Feb. 1968 to May 1968		Nov. 1967 to February 1968		Aug. 1967 to November 1967		August 1967 to August 1968	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI*	WPI*
*ALL ITEMS -----	0.3	- 0.4	1.3	0.2	1.1	0.5	1.0	1.7	0.8	0.1	4.3	2.5
CONSUMER PRODUCTS -----	0.4	- 0.5	0.6	- 0.1	1.1	0.9	1.1	1.4	0.7	0	3.5	2.3
<u>Nondurable</u> -----	.7	- .5	.7	- .1	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.6	.7	- .4	3.6	2.4
Food and beverages at home -----	.4	- .8	- .3	- .8	1.6	1.9	1.2	2.4	.2	- .3	2.8	3.2
Apparel and accessories -----	.7	.2	1.5	.8	2.0	.7	1.2	1.3	1.1	1.0	6.0	3.9
Household furnishings and supplies -----	.3	- .7	.9	- .6	1.3	1.7	.6	.6	0	.4	2.9	2.1
Gasoline and motor oil -----	1.1	- 1.9	1.7	1.1	- .9	.4	.6	- 1.0	1.0	- 5.3	2.4	- 4.8
Other nondurables -----	.1	.2	.8	.4	.4	.3	1.0	.1	1.4	.2	3.5	.9
<u>Durable</u> -----	.2	.1	.8	.3	.6	- .1	1.0	.8	.8	1.1	3.2	2.1
New passenger cars -----	- .2	.4	- .1	.3	.1	- .5	.9	.3	1.3	1.9	2.3	2.1
Appliances -----	.1	.3	.6	.2	.1	.2	.4	.5	.2	.3	1.3	1.3
Furniture and floor coverings -----	.4	.2	.9	.5	1.3	1.0	1.7	.9	1.0	1.2	5.0	3.7
*Other durables -----	.2	- .2	.8	.1	1.1	.4	1.0	.8	.9	.4	3.9	1.7
*CONSUMER SERVICES -----	0.4	-	1.9	-	1.3	-	1.3	-	1.1	-	5.7	-
*Insurance and finance -----	.9	-	4.6	-	.9	-	1.6	-	.9	-	8.2	-
*Rent -----	.3	-	.7	-	.6	-	.6	-	.5	-	2.5	-
*Utilities and public transportation -----	.2	-	.5	-	.5	-	.6	-	.4	-	2.0	-
*Housekeeping and home maintenance services -----	.4	-	1.7	-	1.9	-	2.5	-	1.6	-	8.0	-
*Medical care services -----	.3	-	1.4	-	1.8	-	1.8	-	2.0	-	7.1	-
*Personal care services -----	.5	-	1.2	-	2.2	-	1.1	-	1.0	-	5.5	-
*Other services -----	.4	-	1.1	-	2.2	-	1.2	-	1.5	-	6.1	-
WHOLESALE PRICES:												
<u>Type of Product:</u>												
Farm products -----	-	- 1.6	-	- 2.6	-	2.4	-	3.5	-	- 0.9	-	2.2
Processed foods and feeds -----	-	- .3	-	0	-	1.3	-	1.6	-	- .4	-	2.5
*Industrial commodities -----	-	.1	-	.3	-	.3	-	1.1	-	.8	-	2.4
<u>Industrial Materials and Equipment:</u>												
Chemicals and allied products -----	-	0	-	.2	-	.5	-	.3	-	.1	-	.1
Rubber and rubber products -----	-	.4	-	.9	-	.3	-	.5	-	1.1	-	2.9
Lumber and wood products -----	-	.9	-	2.9	-	4.1	-	3.6	-	2.3	-	13.6
Pulp, paper and allied products -----	-	.1	-	.3	-	.6	-	1.1	-	.6	-	.9
*Metals and metal products -----	-	.1	-	.4	-	1.4	-	2.1	-	1.6	-	1.9
Machinery and equipment -----	-	.3	-	.7	-	.7	-	1.2	-	.6	-	3.2
<u>Stage of Processing at Wholesale:</u>												
Finished goods -----	-	.3	-	.2	-	1.0	-	1.1	-	.6	-	2.9
Consumer -----	-	.4	-	.1	-	1.0	-	1.2	-	.3	-	2.6
Producer -----	-	.3	-	.7	-	.6	-	1.1	-	1.2	-	3.6
Intermediate materials, supplies and components -----	-	0	-	.2	-	.2	-	1.2	-	.8	-	2.4
Crude materials -----	-	1.3	-	2.0	-	1.2	-	2.5	-	.4	-	1.3

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.

Composition of Index Groupings Appearing in Table 9

	Consumer Price Index	Wholesale Price Index
ALL ITEMS -----	All commodities and services	All Commodities
<u>CONSUMER PRODUCTS</u> -----	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.
<u>Nondurable</u> -----	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.
<u>Durable</u> -----	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.
<u>CONSUMER SERVICES</u> -----	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.	
<u>WHOLESALE PRICES</u>		
Type of product		Same as the Wholesale Price Indexes for major groups.
Farm Product		
Processed foods and feeds		
Industrial commodities		
Industrial materials and equipment		
Stage of Processing at wholesale		The Wholesale Price Stage of Processing Indexes.
Finished goods		The Consumer Finished Goods index differs from the Consumer Products index in weighting structure and is based on a larger sample of commodities.
Consumer		
Producer		
Intermediate materials, supplies, and components		
Crude materials		

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.

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
1015 Chestnut Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107		411 North Akard Street Dallas, Texas 75201