

September 1968

the consumer price index



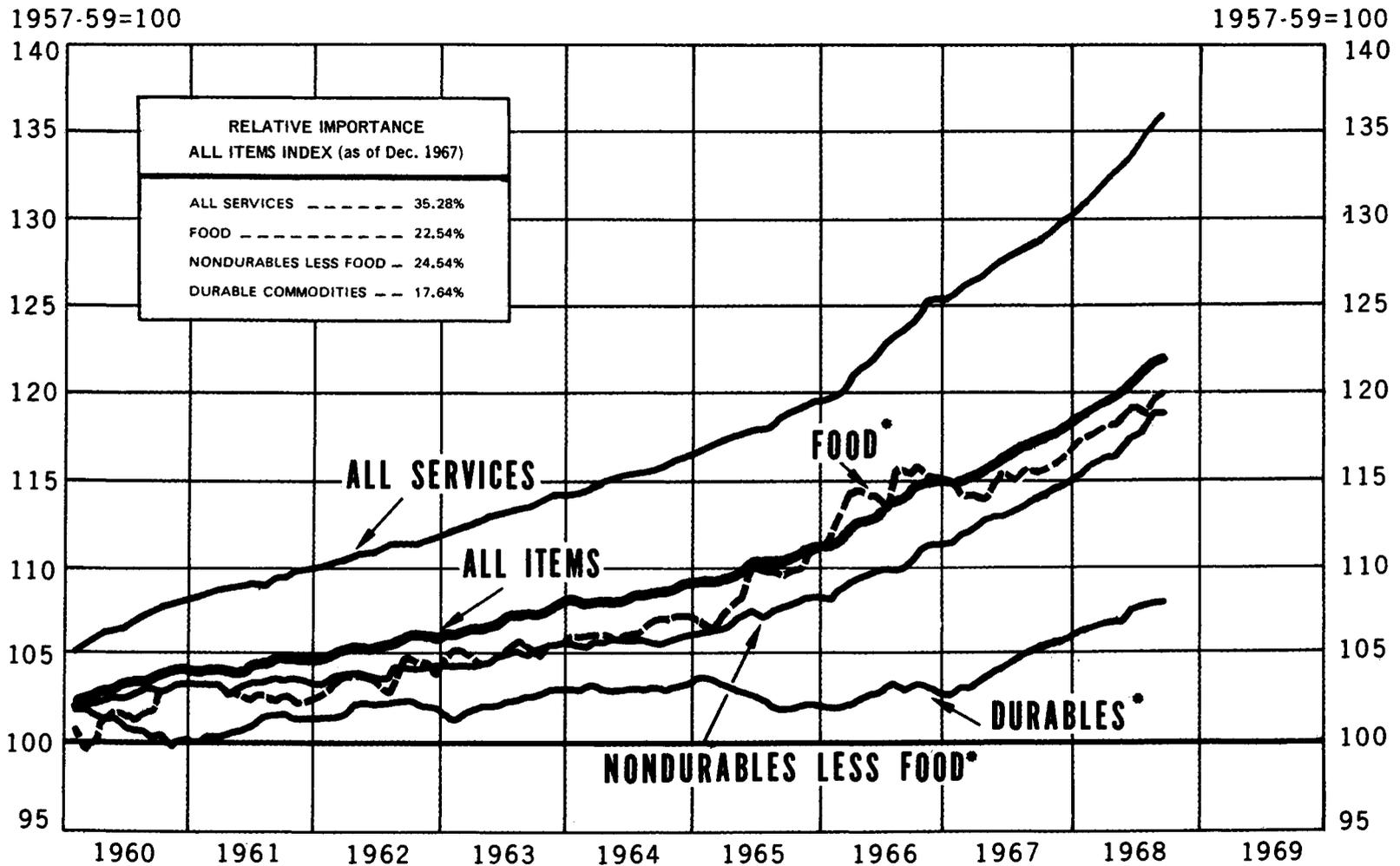
U.S. CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

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 SEPTEMBER 1968

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 percent in September to 122.2 (1957-59=100). The increase was the smallest recorded since September 1967 and follows the slowdown noted in August which was attributed mainly to decreased growth rates in mortgage interest charges and durable goods prices. The principal causes of the increase for September were higher apparel prices and service charges. Food prices dropped for the first time since November 1967 and prices of 1968 model cars were off slightly. Over the past year the index has risen 4.4 percent, propelled almost equally by advancing service charges and nondurable commodities prices. Food has contributed a fifth of the annual rise and durables about one-tenth.

Nondurables less food

Prices of nondurables other than food continued to advance in September. After a contraseasonal upswing in August, the index rose more than normally expected in September. Greater than seasonal increases were posted in prices of apparel commodities; they accounted for about 60 percent of the advance for all items. The advances for apparel occurred in a strong retail market as increased wholesale costs of woolen, worsted, and synthetic fabrics for clothing and of leather for footwear were passed on to the consumer. Higher wage costs at all levels were another underlying factor in the advance.

The women's and girls' apparel index jumped 2.3 percent in September, the largest August to September increase since 1962; it brought the index to 6.7 percent higher than a year earlier. Prices for fall and winter coats, skirts, and dresses were substantially higher than those prevailing on comparable clothes before last year's clearance sales. For example, women's street dresses were over 9 percent higher than last September. Men's and boys' clothing prices also advanced, primarily because of increases for tailored clothing. Footwear prices increased another 0.8 percent, equal to last month's rise.

Increased state sales taxes were responsible again this month for a rise in tobacco products prices. Increases for textile housefurnishings reflected returns to normal levels after traditional August "white sales," as well as strong demand for bedspreads, pillows, curtains, and drapery fabric. Increases also were recorded for over-the-counter drug items.

The only significant decline in September was for gasoline and motor oil prices which dropped 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. Generally widespread increases for gasoline were outweighed by sharply competitive price decreases in the Los Angeles and Kansas City areas.

Services

Service prices rose 0.4 percent in September, the same as in August, to a level nearly 6 percent higher than last year. Higher physicians' fees and increased hospital service charges were responsible for the acceleration of the medical care services index to a level 0.7 percent higher than August and nearly 7 percent higher than a year ago.

Rents, up 0.3 percent, continued their persistent rise. Increases were spread throughout the country; the scarcity of multifamily rental units and the slow rate of home building, together with higher maintenance costs, taxes, and insurance, were responsible for the increases. Higher costs of operation have resulted in higher hotel and motel room

rates. Because of a significant moderation in the rate of advance for mortgage interest, homeownership costs were up only 0.2 percent in September compared with 0.8 percent in August and 1.3 percent in July. Residential property taxes rose as reassessments and rate increases were reported in several cities; homeowners' insurance rates also increased. Home maintenance services advanced at nearly twice the August rate, in response to earlier wage increases and wholesale price rises for materials.

Other services have continued to advance steadily. Auto repairs rose in September, as persistently increasing parts and labor costs have pushed prices to a record level. Auto insurance rates and parking fees continued to advance. Barbers have raised the prices of haircuts because of higher union rates and supply costs. Bowling fees and movie admissions also advanced.

Food

In spite of the continuing rise in restaurant prices, food prices on the average were slightly lower this month, on the strength of a 7 percent decline in prices of fresh fruits and vegetables. Despite sharply reduced prices on seasonally abundant apples, potatoes, grapes, tomatoes, and cucumbers, the average prices of fruits and vegetables fell less than usual for September. Meat prices rose less than usual in September, pork prices fell as supplies were increased, and beef and veal prices increased only slightly. Shoppers paid over 10 percent more for eggs as production and cold storage holdings declined. Prepared and partially prepared foods averaged higher, because of rising labor and packaging costs.

Durables

Prices for the last of the 1968-model new cars dropped 0.7 percent, only about half the usual September decrease. Prices for household durables increased much more rapidly than they had in August. Furniture prices rose markedly as prices for the fall selling season advanced in response to last spring's factory increases. Strong replacement demand and increased wholesale prices, combined with the usual seasonal demand, pushed up appliance prices. A small increase was noted for floor coverings as wool broadloom prices firmed.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

About 19,000 workers will receive pay adjustments as the result of increases in the national and city indexes for September. About 10,000 will receive a 3-cent-an-hour pay raise based on the advance in the national index since June. Other increases will range from 2 to 7 cents:

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

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)				Percent change to September 1968 from--					
	September 1968		August 1968		September 1967	August 1968		June 1968		September 1967
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted		Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	
All items -----	122.2	-----	121.9	-----	117.1	0.2	-----	1.1	-----	4.4
Food -----	120.4	120.0	120.5	119.7	115.9	-.1	0.3	1.1	0.7	3.9
Food at home -----	116.8	116.3	117.1	115.8	112.9	-.3	.4	.9	.3	3.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.8	-----	119.6	-----	118.4	.2	-----	1.0	-----	1.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.5	113.0	115.3	114.0	113.4	.2	-.9	2.0	-.9	1.9
Dairy products -----	121.6	121.4	121.5	121.6	117.3	.1	-.2	.6	-.4	3.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	122.9	127.0	128.2	125.6	115.6	-4.1	1.1	-5.5	1.2	6.3
Other foods at home -----	107.4	106.2	105.5	105.3	102.4	1.8	.9	4.8	1.8	4.9
Food away from home -----	138.0	-----	137.2	-----	130.8	.6	-----	1.7	-----	5.5
Housing -----	120.4	-----	120.1	-----	115.0	.2	-----	1.4	-----	4.7
Shelter 1/ -----	125.3	-----	125.0	-----	118.7	.2	-----	2.0	-----	5.6
Rent -----	115.7	-----	115.4	-----	112.8	.3	-----	.7	-----	2.6
Homeownership 2/ -----	129.1	-----	128.8	-----	121.1	.2	-----	2.4	-----	6.0
Fuel and utilities 3/ -----	110.5	110.5	110.7	110.9	109.4	-.2	-.4	.2	-.1	1.6
Fuel oil and coal 4/ -----	115.8	117.2	115.7	117.7	112.3	.1	-.4	.3	0	3.1
Gas and electricity -----	109.3	-----	109.7	-----	108.9	-.4	-----	-.1	-----	.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	113.9	-----	113.3	-----	108.8	.5	-----	.9	-----	4.7
Apparel and upkeep 5/ -----	122.2	122.1	120.3	121.0	115.1	1.6	.9	1.9	1.8	6.2
Men's and boys' -----	123.2	123.0	121.2	121.7	115.5	1.7	1.1	2.6	2.4	6.7
Women's and girls' -----	118.5	118.1	115.8	116.5	111.1	2.3	1.4	1.7	1.4	6.7
Footwear -----	134.0	134.1	133.0	133.3	126.4	.8	.6	1.7	1.8	6.0
Transportation -----	119.5	119.7	120.0	120.0	116.8	-.4	-.3	-.2	-.1	2.3
Private -----	117.2	117.4	117.7	117.7	114.8	-.4	-.3	-.2	-.1	2.1
Public -----	138.7	-----	138.6	-----	133.0	.1	-----	.2	-----	4.3
Health and recreation -----	131.1	-----	130.5	-----	124.9	.5	-----	1.1	-----	5.0
Medical care -----	146.4	-----	145.5	-----	138.5	.6	-----	1.4	-----	5.7
Personal care -----	121.5	-----	120.9	-----	116.4	.5	-----	1.2	-----	4.4
Reading and recreation -----	126.7	-----	126.3	-----	120.5	.3	-----	.9	-----	5.1
Other goods and services 6/ -----	124.4	-----	124.2	-----	119.7	.2	-----	.7	-----	3.9
Special groups:										
All items less shelter -----	121.5	-----	121.2	-----	116.7	.2	-----	.9	-----	4.1
All items less food -----	123.0	-----	122.6	-----	117.7	.3	-----	1.2	-----	4.5
All items less medical care -----	120.8	-----	120.5	-----	115.8	.2	-----	1.1	-----	4.3
Commodities 7/ -----	116.1	116.1	115.9	115.8	112.0	.2	.3	.9	.9	3.7
Nondurables -----	119.6	119.4	119.2	119.0	114.9	.3	.3	1.2	.9	4.1
Durables 7/ 8/ -----	107.6	107.9	107.7	107.8	104.8	-.1	.1	.2	.5	2.7
Services 9/ -----	136.0	-----	135.5	-----	128.7	.4	-----	1.6	-----	5.7
Commodities less food 7/ -----	113.9	114.0	113.5	113.7	110.0	.4	.3	.8	.9	3.5
Nondurables less food -----	118.9	118.8	118.1	118.5	114.1	.7	.3	1.2	1.1	4.2
Apparel commodities -----	121.5	121.3	119.5	120.3	114.1	1.7	.8	2.0	1.8	6.5
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	119.0	118.6	116.8	117.7	111.7	1.9	.8	2.1	1.7	6.5
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	117.4	-----	117.3	-----	114.1	.1	-----	.7	-----	2.9
New cars -----	98.4	101.0	99.1	100.4	96.1	-.7	.6	-1.7	.3	2.4
Used cars -----	126.7	125.2	(10/)	(10/)	126.2	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	.4
Household durables 11/ -----	102.0	-----	101.6	-----	98.4	.4	-----	.7	-----	3.7
Housefurnishings -----	105.4	105.5	104.9	105.2	101.2	.5	.3	.7	.9	4.2
Services less rent 9/ -----	140.5	-----	140.0	-----	132.3	.4	-----	1.7	-----	6.2
Household services less rent -----	137.0	-----	136.7	-----	128.1	.2	-----	2.5	-----	6.9
Transportation services -----	133.8	-----	133.6	-----	128.9	.1	-----	.4	-----	3.8
Medical care services -----	158.2	-----	157.1	-----	148.0	.7	-----	1.7	-----	6.9
Other services 12/ -----	140.3	-----	139.7	-----	132.4	.4	-----	1.0	-----	6.0
All items index on other bases:										
1947-49=100 -----	150.0	-----	149.6	-----	143.7	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=100 -----	252.4	-----	251.8	-----	241.8	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:										
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.818	-----	\$0.820	-----	\$0.854	-.2	-----	-1.1	-----	-4.2
1947-49=\$1.00 -----	.667	-----	.668	-----	.696	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=\$1.00 -----	.396	-----	.397	-----	.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 "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	August 1968	June 1968	September 1967
		September 1968			August 1968	June 1968	September 1967
U.S. City Average -----	M	122.2	150.0		0.2	1.1	4.4
Chicago -----	M	119.8	151.1		.4	1.3	4.2
Detroit -----	M	121.2	149.4		.5	1.2	5.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	122.8	153.0		0	.7	3.1
New York -----	M	125.9	151.7		.6	1.9	5.2
Philadelphia -----	M	123.8	152.0		.7	1.5	5.0
		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			115.7		1.2	4.8
Cleveland -----	2	120.0	149.0			.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			1.7	4.2
Washington -----	2	123.1	148.2			1.7	4.9
		September 1968				June 1968	September 1967
Atlanta -----	3	121.2	150.0			1.8	4.8
Baltimore -----	3	122.4	151.9			1.5	4.1
Cincinnati -----	3	120.3	146.4			1.4	4.9
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100) --	3			112.8		1.2	4.1
Kansas City -----	3	124.4	154.0			.2	3.6
St. Louis -----	3	122.7	152.3			1.2	4.2
San Francisco-Oakland ----	3	125.5	159.3			1.0	4.2

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 August 1968 to September 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.2	0.4	0.5	0	0.6	0.7
Food -----	- .1	0	0	0.2	.1	.5
Housing -----	.2	.2	1.0	.4	.1	.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.6	2.9	1.9	1.7	3.4	3.5
Transportation -----	- .4	- .2	- .2	- 2.4	- .2	- .2
Health and recreation -----	.5	.2	.2	.2	.6	.2
Medical care -----	.6	.3	.7	0	.7	.6
Personal care -----	.5	1.2	.2	.5	.9	.3
Reading and recreation -----	.3	0	- .1	0	.5	- .3
Other goods and services -----	.2	0	- .1	.2	.5	(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:										
Sept.	122.2	120.4	120.4	122.2	119.5	131.1	146.4	121.5	126.7	124.4
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
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
September 1968 indexes and percent changes from June 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Baltimore	Chicago	Cincinnati	Detroit	Honolulu (Dec. 1963=100)
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)							
All items -----	122.2	121.2	122.4	119.8	120.3	121.2	112.8
Food -----	120.4	118.9	123.4	122.3	117.6	119.0	112.8
Food at home -----	116.8	116.1	119.1	120.5	114.1	116.1	112.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.8	113.2	124.1	124.4	113.6	115.1	112.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.5	117.2	117.4	117.8	115.6	119.4	113.8
Dairy products -----	121.6	114.2	116.7	135.3	117.1	128.0	113.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	122.9	122.8	133.6	123.1	123.5	111.4	114.0
Other foods at home -----	107.4	112.7	109.3	109.0	103.1	106.1	106.8
Food away from home -----	138.0	129.0	141.5	130.5	136.0	134.8	114.5
Housing -----	120.4	122.4	119.5	116.2	115.1	116.7	117.4
Shelter -----	125.3	124.0	123.6	119.1	116.6	120.9	124.4
Rent -----	115.7	111.7	113.8	111.0	104.9	-----	111.4
Homeownership -----	129.1	127.6	127.5	122.9	122.1	124.5	133.3
Fuel and utilities -----	110.5	114.0	108.8	108.6	106.5	103.6	100.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	115.8	-----	118.8	108.5	112.1	106.4	-----
Gas and electricity -----	109.3	110.7	101.2	108.2	109.0	105.1	99.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	113.9	120.3	118.1	113.1	113.2	110.4	107.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	122.2	123.3	124.0	118.4	127.3	121.0	111.6
Men's and boys' -----	123.2	122.9	125.7	116.3	130.7	121.5	106.7
Women's and girls' -----	118.5	116.3	117.0	115.4	119.8	119.7	116.5
Footwear -----	134.0	136.3	147.8	130.9	146.4	131.4	112.0
Transportation -----	119.5	115.4	119.9	117.3	121.4	118.8	103.9
Private -----	117.2	112.9	117.8	116.4	117.8	116.0	106.4
Public -----	138.7	129.3	126.6	124.2	151.8	137.2	92.3
Health and recreation -----	131.1	128.9	128.2	125.9	130.2	133.5	113.5
Medical care -----	146.4	143.5	159.9	153.7	153.2	154.9	122.9
Personal care -----	121.5	130.3	121.9	121.8	113.9	127.1	106.1
Reading and recreation -----	126.7	125.0	122.3	109.9	125.5	126.4	107.2
Other goods and services -----	124.4	116.7	113.0	117.5	120.8	120.0	116.1
Percent changes June 1968 to September 1968							
All items -----	1.1	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.2	1.2
Food -----	1.1	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.1	.9	.9
Food at home -----	.9	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.2	.9	.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	1.0	.3	.6	1.6	1.2	3.1	1.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.0	2.6	1.5	2.8	2.8	2.7	1.2
Dairy products -----	.6	.4	.7	1.0	1.0	2.4	.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 5.5	- 3.2	.5	- 4.6	- 4.1	-10.1	- 2.1
Other foods at home -----	4.8	5.5	5.4	4.7	4.8	5.4	3.4
Food away from home -----	1.7	2.0	2.2	3.2	.7	1.2	.5
Housing -----	1.4	2.4	1.8	1.3	1.2	1.8	1.6
Shelter -----	2.0	3.2	2.3	1.7	1.7	2.5	2.0
Rent -----	.7	.3	.7	(2/ .4	.1	-----	1.2
Homeownership -----	2.4	4.1	2.9	2.1	2.3	2.9	2.4
Fuel and utilities -----	.2	0	1.2	.6	.7	.1	.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	.3	-----	0	0	4.0	0	-----
Gas and electricity -----	- .1	0	.8	.1	.8	.2	0
Household furnishings and operation -----	.9	2.1	.9	.3	.5	.9	1.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.9	1.8	2.1	2.1	5.2	2.5	2.6
Men's and boys' -----	2.6	4.0	4.0	1.9	4.1	4.4	2.9
Women's and girls' -----	1.7	1.6	1.7	2.2	6.9	2.2	3.4
Footwear -----	1.7	.1	1.7	1.9	6.6	2.3	1.2
Transportation -----	- .2	- .3	.4	- .1	.1	- .7	- .2
Private -----	- .2	- .3	.5	- .1	.1	- .9	- .2
Public -----	.2	.1	0	0	0	.4	0
Health and recreation -----	1.1	2.1	.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.3
Medical care -----	1.4	2.8	1.5	.7	1.1	.9	1.7
Personal care -----	1.2	2.6	1.8	2.7	.4	.6	.3
Reading and recreation -----	.9	2.0	.6	.3	1.9	.4	1.0
Other goods and services -----	.7	.3	.3	1.3	.7	1.9	2.0

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
September 1968 indexes and percent changes from June 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 -----	124.4	122.8	125.9	123.8	122.7	125.5
Food -----	123.9	118.0	121.6	121.1	124.7	118.8
Food at home -----	121.2	112.2	116.5	116.7	120.8	113.6
Cereals and bakery products ----	124.4	120.2	119.3	116.0	123.7	117.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	119.6	106.1	115.7	112.2	120.5	112.4
Dairy products -----	130.5	118.7	112.7	127.4	133.8	117.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.8	127.1	127.7	127.1	128.4	120.6
Other foods at home -----	111.9	97.6	107.6	106.2	105.4	103.0
Food away from home -----	133.5	138.6	143.8	145.0	140.1	141.8
Housing -----	118.5	125.2	124.7	120.2	116.6	131.8
Shelter -----	120.3	132.3	129.1	122.6	119.8	142.0
Rent -----	107.4	115.4	-----	116.1	110.1	138.0
Homeownership -----	125.6	137.8	130.6	124.2	122.2	143.8
Fuel and utilities -----	117.9	106.1	110.6	109.6	108.0	102.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	121.4	122.1	110.7	-----
Gas and electricity -----	118.7	112.5	111.0	102.7	109.9	108.4
Household furnishings and operation	111.6	113.2	121.1	117.8	115.7	115.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	129.5	121.7	129.0	130.2	123.7	126.5
Men's and boys' -----	129.3	124.9	132.8	125.6	122.8	123.6
Women's and girls' -----	129.4	121.8	126.0	126.0	124.3	124.1
Footwear -----	140.3	129.6	139.1	139.9	133.4	131.8
Transportation -----	120.2	123.0	120.6	128.6	121.3	119.3
Private -----	117.0	118.4	119.7	123.1	119.5	121.1
Public -----	148.4	154.5	127.3	155.9	129.0	103.4
Health and recreation -----	138.8	124.8	136.8	130.9	132.8	130.3
Medical care -----	154.2	142.7	150.0	155.3	140.6	146.7
Personal care -----	122.8	115.6	117.7	115.7	124.4	130.3
Reading and recreation -----	139.3	111.9	138.3	120.2	133.2	116.3
Other goods and services -----	128.8	121.0	132.3	125.4	128.6	127.6
Percent changes June 1968 to September 1968						
All items -----	0.2	0.7	1.9	1.5	1.2	1.0
Food -----	.8	.6	1.6	1.6	.7	.6
Food at home -----	.8	.3	1.7	1.9	.5	-.1
Cereals and bakery products ----	.7	.2	1.7	.7	3.1	.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.4	2.1	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.5
Dairy products -----	2.5	-.6	1.0	.2	0	.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 6.1	- 5.8	- 2.8	-.2	- 4.9	- 7.9
Other foods at home -----	4.6	3.4	6.1	6.8	3.1	3.7
Food away from home -----	.5	1.3	1.8	.8	1.4	3.1
Housing -----	1.2	1.6	2.0	1.6	.9	1.8
Shelter -----	1.3	2.0	2.9	2.4	1.4	2.0
Rent -----	.4	2/ .5	-----	2/ .5	.6	1.3
Homeownership -----	1.7	2.4	4.6	2.7	1.7	2.4
Fuel and utilities -----	.4	0	.1	.1	- 1.1	0
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	.2	-.1	-.9	-----
Gas and electricity -----	1.5	.2	.1	0	- 1.5	0
Household furnishings and operation	1.1	1.0	.9	1.2	.8	1.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	3.9	2.4	3.7	3.2	3.2	1.9
Men's and boys' -----	3.2	1.8	4.0	4.1	3.1	3.9
Women's and girls' -----	5.5	3.5	5.5	3.6	4.2	1.8
Footwear -----	3.8	2.0	1.5	2.0	3.5	.2
Transportation -----	- 4.7	- 2.5	.5	.5	.1	.2
Private -----	- 5.0	- 2.6	.7	.6	.2	.2
Public -----	-.4	.4	0	.1	.1	0
Health and recreation -----	1.6	.9	1.6	1.1	1.5	.7
Medical care -----	.5	.9	2.2	2.9	1.5	.8
Personal care -----	1.1	1.0	1.1	.5	1.1	1.0
Reading and recreation -----	4.0	1.1	1.3	-.2	1.2	1.0
Other goods and services -----	.5	.6	1.7	.6	1.9	.1

1/ See footnote 1, table 2.

2/ Change from July 1968.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food and its Subgroups
September 1968 indexes and percent changes from August 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 -----	120.4	116.8	119.8	115.5	121.6	122.9	107.4	138.0
Atlanta -----	118.9	116.1	113.2	117.2	114.2	122.8	112.7	129.0
Baltimore -----	123.4	119.1	124.1	117.4	116.7	133.6	109.3	141.5
Boston -----	123.6	118.5	120.9	120.1	115.6	128.1	108.6	145.7
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	114.7	112.7	105.8	113.8	116.5	114.6	110.9	126.3
Chicago -----	122.3	120.5	124.4	117.8	135.3	123.1	109.0	130.5
Cincinnati -----	117.6	114.1	113.6	115.6	117.1	123.5	103.1	136.0
Cleveland -----	118.8	115.9	113.8	118.7	121.5	123.8	103.9	135.8
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	114.7	112.7	110.1	115.4	122.0	110.7	107.1	122.6
Detroit -----	119.0	116.1	115.1	119.4	128.0	111.4	106.1	134.8
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	112.8	112.2	112.5	113.8	113.2	114.0	106.8	114.5
Houston -----	120.8	117.0	126.7	111.7	119.5	128.0	107.9	137.3
Kansas City -----	123.9	121.2	124.4	119.6	130.5	123.8	111.9	133.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	118.0	112.2	120.2	106.1	118.7	127.1	97.6	138.6
Milwaukee -----	119.6	117.8	110.5	118.3	129.6	122.3	108.9	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	118.3	115.4	111.8	113.7	126.7	115.5	111.2	131.3
New York -----	121.6	116.5	119.3	115.7	112.7	127.7	107.6	143.8
Philadelphia -----	121.1	116.7	116.0	112.2	127.4	127.1	106.2	145.0
Pittsburgh -----	117.7	115.2	119.9	118.2	115.0	120.5	104.9	133.2
St. Louis -----	124.7	120.8	123.7	120.5	133.8	128.4	105.4	140.1
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	113.1	110.4	108.9	117.8	108.7	106.9	104.8	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	118.8	113.6	117.6	112.4	117.0	120.6	103.0	141.8
Seattle -----	119.9	114.4	108.4	114.6	125.9	123.4	102.4	142.7
Washington -----	123.8	119.6	112.8	116.6	124.9	127.4	116.3	140.3
Percent changes August 1968 to September 1968								
U.S. City Average -----	- 0.1	- 0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	- 4.1	1.8	0.6
Atlanta -----	.8	.7	.2	2.3	-.9	- 3.8	2.5	1.3
Baltimore -----	.6	.4	.4	-.8	0	-.7	3.5	1.5
Boston -----	.1	0	.2	.3	.1	- 2.7	1.9	.4
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	- 1.5	- 1.7	.7	-.4	.3	- 11.2	1.1	0
Chicago -----	0	-.2	1.1	.4	.6	- 6.3	2.3	.9
Cincinnati -----	.1	.1	- 1.1	.2	.5	-.7	1.2	.1
Cleveland -----	.1	.1	-.3	.7	.9	- 3.6	2.1	.1
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	.3	.3	.3	.5	.1	- 2.1	1.6	.2
Detroit -----	0	-.1	.1	.5	-.1	- 5.3	3.3	.1
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	.6	.5	.4	.5	.5	0	.9	.7
Houston -----	.2	.2	-.4	.1	-.2	-.4	1.4	.3
Kansas City -----	.3	.2	.4	-.1	.2	- 1.4	1.9	.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	.2	.1	.3	-.1	-.5	.3	.7	.1
Milwaukee -----	-.2	-.3	.5	.9	-.1	- 5.8	1.7	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	-.1	-.2	.6	.3	.3	- 4.9	1.9	.2
New York -----	.1	-.1	-.1	.3	.3	- 4.1	2.4	.8
Philadelphia -----	.5	.6	.7	.6	.1	- 1.6	2.9	.2
Pittsburgh -----	.7	.7	2.0	1.0	4.6	- 5.3	1.7	.3
St. Louis -----	.1	-.1	1.4	-.5	.1	- 2.1	1.2	.9
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	.9	1.2	1.3	.9	.2	.6	3.0	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	.3	.1	-.3	.4	.2	- 1.2	.9	1.3
Seattle -----	.1	-.3	- 1.9	-.1	.2	- 1.0	0	1.3
Washington -----	.7	.3	.4	- 1.2	1.3	- 1.8	3.6	1.4

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

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to September 1968 from--		
	September 1968		August 1968		September 1967
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Total food -----	120.4	120.0	- 0.1	0.3	3.9
Food away from home -----	138.0	-----	.6	-----	5.5
Restaurant meals -----	138.3	-----	.6	-----	5.5
Snacks 1/ -----	119.1	-----	.4	-----	5.1
Food at home -----	116.8	116.3	- .3	.4	3.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.8	-----	.2	-----	1.2
Flour -----	112.0	-----	.3	-----	- 1.8
Cracker meal 1/ -----	117.4	-----	.3	-----	.5
Corn flakes -----	128.5	-----	- .2	-----	- .4
Rice -----	110.7	-----	- .1	-----	1.7
Bread, white -----	125.9	-----	.2	-----	2.3
Bread, whole wheat 1/ -----	116.7	-----	1.0	-----	2.0
Cookies -----	100.9	-----	0	-----	- .8
Layer cake 1/ -----	110.0	-----	.1	-----	4.8
Cinnamon rolls 1/ -----	108.2	-----	0	-----	.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.5	113.0	.2	- .9	1.9
Meats -----	118.0	115.5	.1	- .7	1.5
Beef and veal -----	119.1	117.2	.3	- 1.3	3.1
Steak, round -----	113.5	112.6	.1	0	2.5
Steak, sirloin 2/ -----	113.5	-----	- .1	-----	2.3
Steak, porterhouse 1/ -----	118.9	-----	.3	-----	3.0
Rump roast 1/ -----	109.9	-----	.8	-----	2.8
Rib roast -----	126.7	125.0	.4	- 1.0	3.2
Chuck roast -----	110.0	108.3	- .5	- 2.5	2.2
Hamburger -----	122.1	120.7	.5	- .7	4.0
Beef liver 1/ -----	107.4	-----	- .5	-----	1.2
Veal cutlets -----	144.1	144.0	.5	.6	6.2
Pork -----	117.4	112.2	- .3	- .6	- 1.1
Chops -----	123.0	118.3	- .3	1.4	.6
Loin roast 2/ -----	128.7	-----	- 1.1	-----	- .6
Pork sausage 1/ -----	128.0	-----	1.0	-----	1.5
Ham, whole -----	112.2	111.1	.7	- .1	- .2
Picnics 1/ -----	115.8	-----	- 1.6	-----	- 2.5
Bacon -----	115.7	108.5	- .5	- .2	- 4.4
Other meats -----	120.3	119.8	0	- .1	1.3
Lamb chops 1/ -----	129.1	-----	- .4	-----	2.5
Frankfurters -----	118.7	118.0	.4	.4	.5
Ham, canned 1/ -----	115.3	-----	.5	-----	- 1.1
Bologna sausage 1/ -----	120.3	-----	- .2	-----	3.1
Salami sausage 1/ -----	115.5	-----	- .2	-----	2.2
Liverwurst 1/ -----	116.8	-----	- .4	-----	.4
Poultry -----	94.5	-----	1.0	-----	4.1
Frying chicken -----	96.0	94.0	.7	.4	5.5
Chicken breasts 1/ -----	105.5	-----	1.2	-----	3.7
Turkey 1/ -----	99.2	-----	1.4	-----	- 2.6
Fish -----	124.8	125.1	.4	.6	3.0
Shrimp, frozen 1/ -----	109.5	-----	.7	-----	.3
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	126.1	126.2	.2	.2	1.4
Tuna fish, canned -----	111.9	-----	.2	-----	1.9
Sardines, canned 1/ -----	122.7	-----	.5	-----	7.8
Dairy products -----	121.6	121.4	.1	- .2	3.7
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	119.6	118.9	.1	- .5	4.4
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	124.9	-----	.2	-----	4.9
Milk, fresh, skim 1/ -----	119.0	-----	.3	-----	5.4
Milk, evaporated -----	121.3	-----	- .1	-----	3.1
Ice cream -----	99.1	-----	- .1	-----	.4
Cheese, American process -----	140.5	141.5	.1	.5	3.8
Butter -----	116.6	116.5	- .2	- .9	.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
September 1968 indexes and percent changes from selected dates--Continued
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to September 1968 from--		September 1967 Unadjusted
	September 1968		August 1968		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Fruits and vegetables -----	122.9	127.0	- 4.1	1.1	6.3
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	128.6	135.4	- 7.0	1.3	6.8
Apples -----	168.7	163.5	-17.6	- 2.5	9.2
Bananas -----	95.3	93.4	.7	1.6	- 3.8
Oranges -----	167.0	154.3	6.1	1.8	31.0
Orange juice, fresh 1/ -----	87.2	-----	.5	-----	19.9
Grapefruit -----	188.9	157.7	1.0	1.6	9.8
Grapes 3/ -----	114.5	140.5	-20.5	- 3.0	6.9
Strawberries 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Watermelon 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Potatoes -----	132.0	136.2	-10.1	1.5	.6
Onions -----	137.9	138.7	- 7.2	5.5	5.9
Asparagus 1/3/ -----	(3/)	-----	(3/)	-----	(3/)
Cabbage -----	132.1	151.1	.2	7.2	11.4
Carrots -----	109.2	112.5	- 7.4	.4	- 2.0
Celery -----	99.5	104.4	- 9.9	- 6.0	-10.8
Cucumbers 1/ -----	97.9	-----	-15.1	-----	- 6.5
Lettuce -----	122.4	127.1	3.9	5.3	14.1
Peppers, green 1/ -----	122.9	-----	-13.6	-----	7.1
Spinach 1/ -----	102.1	-----	- 1.8	-----	4.5
Tomatoes -----	95.3	129.1	-10.5	- .2	9.8
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	116.1	-----	.3	-----	5.5
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	109.1	-----	0	-----	5.8
Pears, canned 1/ -----	116.9	-----	- 1.1	-----	16.1
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned 1/ --	97.9	-----	2.3	-----	2.4
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	89.6	90.4	1.5	1.1	23.4
Lemonade concentrate, frozen 2/ -----	87.8	-----	.5	-----	.9
Beets, canned 1/ -----	111.4	-----	- .4	-----	2.7
Peas, green, canned -----	122.0	-----	.2	-----	.1
Tomatoes, canned -----	128.7	-----	- 1.0	-----	2.1
Dried beans -----	125.5	-----	1.4	-----	8.4
Broccoli, frozen 1/ -----	102.1	-----	1.0	-----	2.1
Other food at home -----	107.4	106.2	1.8	.9	4.9
Eggs -----	109.4	102.1	10.4	.4	21.7
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	101.8	-----	- .6	-----	- 1.6
Salad dressing, Italian 1/ -----	102.1	-----	- .6	-----	.2
Salad or cooking oil 1/ -----	121.9	-----	.1	-----	- 1.9
Sugar and sweets -----	120.7	-----	.2	-----	4.5
Sugar -----	113.6	-----	.1	-----	.6
Grape jelly -----	119.7	-----	.1	-----	2.4
Chocolate bar -----	119.5	-----	.6	-----	13.1
Syrup, chocolate flavored 1/ -----	101.7	-----	- .2	-----	1.4
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	101.6	-----	- .1	-----	2.5
Coffee, can and bag -----	87.4	-----	0	-----	.3
Coffee, instant 4/ -----	98.9	-----	0	-----	2.6
Tea -----	100.6	-----	- .4	-----	- .4
Cola drink -----	149.7	-----	.3	-----	7.3
Carbonated fruit drink 1/ -----	117.9	-----	.1	-----	7.9
Prepared and partially prepared foods 1/	103.5	-----	.7	-----	2.1
Bean soup, canned 1/ -----	100.9	-----	0	-----	.8
Chicken soup, canned 1/ -----	96.2	-----	.2	-----	0
Spaghetti, canned 1/ -----	112.6	-----	.8	-----	1.8
Mashed potatoes, instant 1/ -----	102.8	-----	.6	-----	1.5
Potatoes, french fried, frozen 2/ -----	88.5	-----	1.4	-----	4.2
Baby foods, canned -----	110.5	-----	.6	-----	2.5
Sweet pickle relish 1/ -----	110.6	-----	1.2	-----	3.5
Pretzels 1/ -----	106.3	-----	.2	-----	1.6

1/ December 1963=100.

2/ April 1960=100.

3/ Priced only in season.

4/ 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)

	August 1968 to September 1968		June 1968 to September 1968		March 1968 to June 1968		December 1967 to March 1968		Sept. 1967 to December 1967		Sept. 1967 to September 1968	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI*	WPI*
*ALL ITEMS -----	0.2	0.4	1.1	0.4	1.2	0.5	1.1	1.3	0.9	0.6	4.4	2.7
CONSUMER PRODUCTS -----	0.3	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.4	1.2	1.2	0.8	0.4	3.7	2.7
<u>Nondurable</u> -----	.3	.7	.7	1.1	1.1	.5	1.3	1.4	.7	.1	3.8	3.0
Food and beverages at home -----	.4	1.2	.4	2.0	.8	.2	1.4	2.0	.7	.4	3.3	4.3
Apparel and accessories -----	.8	.4	1.8	.7	1.8	.8	1.7	1.3	1.1	1.1	6.5	4.0
Household furnishings and supplies -----	.1	.4	.2	1.1	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.3	.1	.5	2.7	1.7
Gasoline and motor oil -----	.7	1.0	.3	1.1	.5	3.6	1.7	.6	.5	5.5	1.0	3.8
Other nondurables -----	.4	.2	.5	.2	.8	.3	.9	.4	1.1	.3	3.3	1.1
<u>Durable</u> -----	.3	.3	.7	.2	.8	0	.9	.8	1.0	1.1	3.4	1.7
New passenger cars -----	.6	.8	.3	1.0	.3	.2	.5	.4	1.2	2.3	2.4	1.4
Appliances -----	.5	0	.8	.6	.4	.1	.2	.5	.4	.2	1.8	1.2
Furniture and floor coverings -----	.4	.1	1.0	.5	1.1	.6	1.9	1.3	.8	.9	4.8	3.5
*Other durables -----	.4	.1	.9	.6	.8	.2	1.4	.8	.7	.3	4.0	1.5
*CONSUMER SERVICES -----	0.4	-	1.6	-	1.4	-	1.5	-	1.1	-	5.7	-
*Insurance and finance -----	.3	-	3.2	-	2.3	-	1.3	-	1.3	-	8.3	-
*Rent -----	.3	-	.7	-	.6	-	.6	-	.6	-	2.6	-
*Utilities and public transportation -----	.2	-	.2	-	.4	-	.8	-	.1	-	1.5	-
*Housekeeping and home maintenance services -----	.6	-	1.5	-	1.7	-	3.0	-	1.3	-	7.8	-
*Medical care services -----	.7	-	1.7	-	1.2	-	2.1	-	1.6	-	6.9	-
*Personal care services -----	.6	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.6	-	1.2	-	5.8	-
*Other services -----	.4	-	1.1	-	1.4	-	2.2	-	1.3	-	6.1	-
WHOLESALE PRICES:												
<u>Type of Product:</u>												
Farm products -----	-	1.4	-	1.6	-	2.0	-	2.6	-	1.5	-	4.5
Processed foods and feeds -----	-	.4	-	.1	-	.6	-	1.9	-	.1	-	2.3
*Industrial commodities -----	-	.3	-	.4	-	.2	-	1.1	-	.8	-	2.5
<u>Industrial Materials and Equipment:</u>												
Chemicals and allied products -----	-	.2	-	.5	-	.1	-	.2	-	.2	-	0
Rubber and rubber products -----	-	.2	-	.7	-	.3	-	.6	-	.9	-	2.5
Lumber and wood products -----	-	1.8	-	4.7	-	2.5	-	4.3	-	.7	-	12.8
Pulp, paper and allied products -----	-	.3	-	.7	-	.5	-	.2	-	.6	-	1.0
*Metals and metal products -----	-	.8	-	.4	-	1.8	-	2.2	-	1.7	-	2.5
Machinery and equipment -----	-	.4	-	1.0	-	.7	-	.9	-	.9	-	3.5
<u>Stage of Processing at Wholesale:</u>												
Finished goods -----	-	.4	-	.5	-	.6	-	1.2	-	.6	-	3.0
Consumer -----	-	.5	-	.7	-	.5	-	1.2	-	.4	-	2.9
Producer -----	-	.3	-	.8	-	.7	-	.9	-	1.3	-	3.7
Intermediate materials, supplies and components -----	-	.5	-	.5	-	.2	-	1.1	-	.7	-	2.5
Crude materials -----	-	.8	-	1.7	-	.8	-	2.2	-	1.1	-	2.4

NOTE: The price changes shown for Consumer Products and components are for roughly comparable classes of finished consumer products from the CPI and WPI. A brief description of the classes of items contained in each group is included at the end of this report. Complete listings of inclusions in the CPI and WPI groupings will be furnished on request.

*Based on data unadjusted for seasonal variations.

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

A system of "replicated" samples introduced into the index structure in the 1964 revision permits an estimate of sampling error for the CPI. ^{1/} The table below shows standard errors for monthly, quarterly, and annual percent changes in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1967 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard error. Data also are shown in terms of the relative error of the standard error of percent changes. The relative errors tend to decrease markedly for successively longer time periods, as expected.

Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. The table below indicates, for example, that a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all-items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might result from a much smaller change in the unrounded value. Hence, any particular change of 0.1 percent may or may not be significant. On the other hand, a published change of 0.2 percent is almost always significant, regardless of the time period to which it relates.

Standard and Relative Errors of Percent Changes in the
CPI Based on 1967 Data

Component	Standard Error			Relative Error		
	Monthly Change	Quarterly Change	Annual Change	Monthly Change	Quarterly Change	Annual Change
All items -----	.03	.05	.07	.12	.07	.03
Food at home -----	.08	.11	.16	.14	.10	.19
Food away from home ---	.06	.12	.27	.16	.10	.05
Housing -----	.04	.07	.14	.18	.11	.05
Apparel -----	.16	.24	.26	.29	.23	.06
Transportation -----	.07	.12	.14	.17	.11	.05
Medical care -----	.12	.17	.26	.23	.10	.04
Personal care -----	.14	.19	.34	.56	.26	.12
Reading and recreation -	.08	.12	.15	.29	.16	.06
Other goods and services	.10	.14	.20	.25	.13	.07

This replaces the table of average standard errors based on 1965 data which was included in the CPI report through January 1968.

^{1/} The method of deriving these estimates is described in a paper by Marvin Wilkerson, "Measurement of Sampling Error in the Consumer Price Index," Journal of the American Statistical Association, September 1967.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average changes in prices of goods and services usually bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, both families and single persons living alone. It is based on prices of about 400 items which were selected to represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage earners and clerical workers. Prices for these items are obtained in urban portions of 39 Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) and 17 smaller cities, which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. They are collected from grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments which wage earners and clerical workers patronize.

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 56 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the 5 largest SMSA's and every 3 months in other SMSA's and cities. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain local transit fares, public utility rates, 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

	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 industrial 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		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.