

October 1968

the consumer price index

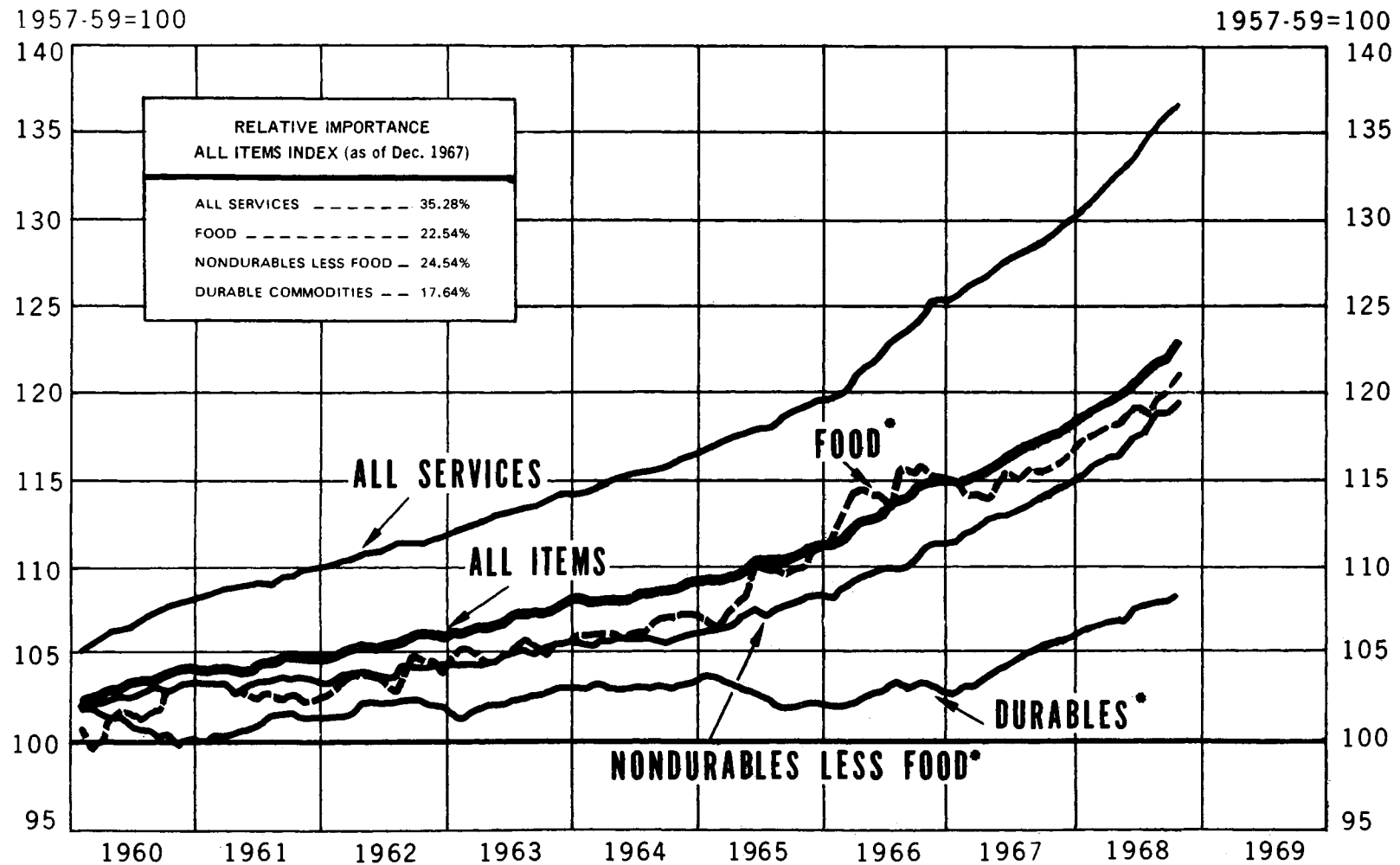
U S CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

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 OCTOBER 1968

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.6 percent to 122.9 (1957-59=100) in October for the largest monthly increase in any month since September 1962 and the largest October rise since 1950. The increase was broadly based; most commodities moved up at greater than seasonal rates. Food prices moved up contraseasonally, and service charges continued to rise at their usual pace. Significant declines occurred among prices for apples, frying chickens, potatoes, some housekeeping supplies, and gas bills.

Since October 1967, prices have risen an average of 4.6 percent. Services have risen at a greater than average rate and have been responsible for about 45 percent of the 12-month increase. Spurred by sharply higher fall seasonal apparel prices, nondurable commodities contributed about as much to the overall advance, but moved at just under the average rate of increase; durables, contributing about one-tenth of the movement, rose only half as much.

Services

Service charges rose another 0.4 percent in October to equal the increases in each of the preceding 2 months. Rents continued to rise at an accelerated rate, brought on by the widespread decline in housing vacancy levels. Charges for other household services advanced at double the September rate. Mortgage interest, homeowners' taxes and insurance, housekeeping, and home maintenance service charges all advanced. Medical care services continued to rise; dental fees and hospital service charges increased. Other service charges contributing to the persistent rise were laundry and drycleaning, men's haircuts, recreational admission fees, and legal fees.

Nondurables less food

Prices of nondurable commodities other than food have continued to increase at an accelerated pace. Apparel commodities prices dominated the advance with a 1 percent jump; this increase reflected higher production, materials, and distribution costs. Clothing prices were up on two fronts: ready-to-wear year-round items, such as women's blouses, cocktail and daytime dresses and children's dresses, and cold-weather clothing, particularly woolen winter coats, men's suits, slacks, and skirts introduced this season. Footwear prices advanced steadily at the rate of recent months, primarily because of increased materials costs and brisk retail sales.

The rise in textile housefurnishings, particularly for pillows and slipcovers, was moderated by fractional declines for sheets and bedspreads. Prices of home delivered newspapers rose, as well as those for cosmetics and other toilet goods. Fuel oil prices edged downward contraseasonally as the country experienced slightly warmer weather than normal through October.

Durables

New car prices rose 4.5 percent in October, when 1969 models were introduced. Prices for new cars have increased 1.7 percent over the October 1967 level. After adjustment for quality change between 1968 and 1969 models, the retail increase reflected a reduction in overallowances on trade-ins and other discounts on new models, as well as an increase of about 1 percent in list prices. The increase for new cars was the primary

factor in the 0.8 percent rise in durable goods prices. Other durables advanced, but most, like furniture and appliances, moved up at rates somewhat lower than September's. The rises generally reflect previous wholesale price increases.

Food

Food prices moved up 0.4 percent in October. This was the first October increase in food prices since 1960. The unusual advance was brought about by the combination of strong demand and reduced marketings for some foods and the persistent advance in prices of meals eaten away from home. Planted acreage for some fresh vegetables was lower, harvests were delayed for some fruits, and production was lower for some meat animals.

Lettuce, tomato, and cabbage prices increased more than usual; price reductions were less than usual for the fall harvest of potatoes and onions. Fresh milk prices rose more than seasonal partly as the result of the recent increase in support levels for fluid milk prices in some areas; egg prices were driven higher by strong demand on seasonally reduced supplies. Meat, poultry, and fish prices showed the first decline in 6 months, but not as much as expected in October, (-0.1 percent), largely on the strength of sharply lower prices for frying chickens which were abundant. Beef and veal prices rose fractionally; reductions for steaks were outweighed by greater than usual increases for roasts. Pork, other meats, and fish prices all averaged higher.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

About 460,000 workers will receive cost-of-living increases as a result of the rise in the October Consumer Price Index. For 385,000 electrical workers the increase will be the maximum allowed by the escalator clauses, 1.75 percent, based on the change in the national index from a year ago. Other workers will receive increases ranging from 1 to 8 cents an hour, based on changes in national or city indexes for periods varying from a month to a year.

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

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)					Percent change to October 1968 from--				
	October 1968		September 1968		October 1967	September 1968		July 1968		October 1967
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted		Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	
All items -----	122.9	-----	122.2	-----	117.5	0.6	----	1.2	----	4.6
Food -----	120.9	120.9	120.4	120.0	115.7	.4	0.8	.8	1.6	4.5
Food at home -----	117.2	117.2	116.8	116.3	112.6	.3	.8	.4	1.5	4.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.8	-----	119.8	-----	118.2	0	-----	.5	-----	1.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.4	114.3	115.5	113.0	112.3	-.1	1.2	1.2	.8	2.8
Dairy products -----	122.3	121.7	121.6	121.4	117.9	.6	.2	1.1	.2	3.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.4	128.4	122.9	127.0	115.3	.4	1.1	- 6.7	4.1	7.0
Other foods at home -----	108.6	107.3	107.4	106.2	102.3	1.1	1.0	5.1	2.6	6.2
Food away from home -----	138.9	-----	138.0	-----	131.4	.7	-----	1.8	-----	5.7
Housing -----	120.9	-----	120.4	-----	115.3	.4	-----	1.2	-----	4.9
Shelter 1/ -----	126.0	-----	125.3	-----	119.0	.6	-----	1.4	-----	5.9
Rent -----	116.0	-----	115.7	-----	113.0	.3	-----	.8	-----	2.7
Homeownership 2/ -----	130.0	-----	129.1	-----	121.5	.7	-----	1.7	-----	7.0
Fuel and utilities 3/ -----	110.4	110.3	110.5	110.5	109.4	-.1	-.2	-.2	-.6	.9
Fuel oil and coal 4/ -----	115.9	116.4	115.8	117.2	112.5	.1	-.7	-.2	- 1.1	3.0
Gas and electricity -----	109.1	-----	109.3	-----	108.9	-.2	-----	-.4	-----	.2
Household furnishings and operation -	114.2	-----	113.9	-----	109.1	.3	-----	1.0	-----	4.7
Apparel and upkeep 5/ -----	123.3	122.7	122.2	122.1	116.0	.9	.5	3.0	2.0	6.3
Men's and boys' -----	124.1	123.6	123.2	123.0	116.1	.7	.5	3.3	2.4	6.9
Women's and girls' -----	120.1	118.9	118.5	118.1	112.7	1.4	.7	3.8	2.1	6.6
Footwear -----	134.9	134.5	134.0	134.1	127.1	.7	.3	2.2	1.5	6.1
Transportation -----	120.6	120.4	119.5	119.7	117.7	.9	.6	.7	.7	2.5
Private -----	118.4	118.2	117.2	117.4	115.7	1.0	.7	.7	.7	2.3
Public -----	138.7	-----	138.7	-----	133.0	0	-----	.1	-----	4.3
Health and recreation -----	131.9	-----	131.1	-----	125.5	.6	-----	1.3	-----	5.1
Medical care -----	147.4	-----	146.4	-----	139.0	.7	-----	1.6	-----	6.0
Personal care -----	122.1	-----	121.5	-----	116.5	.5	-----	1.4	-----	4.8
Reading and recreation -----	127.5	-----	126.7	-----	121.4	.6	-----	1.3	-----	5.0
Other goods and services 6/ -----	125.1	-----	124.4	-----	120.3	.6	-----	1.0	-----	4.0
Special groups:										
All items less shelter -----	122.2	-----	121.5	-----	117.1	.6	-----	1.2	-----	4.4
All items less food -----	123.8	-----	123.0	-----	118.2	.7	-----	1.4	-----	4.7
All items less medical care -----	121.5	-----	120.8	-----	116.2	.6	-----	1.2	-----	4.6
Commodities 7/ -----	116.8	116.6	116.1	116.1	112.4	.6	.4	1.1	1.1	3.9
Nondurables -----	120.2	120.1	119.6	119.4	115.1	.5	.6	1.3	1.5	4.4
Durables 7/ 8/ -----	108.5	108.3	107.6	107.9	105.7	.8	.4	.8	.7	2.6
Services 9/ -----	136.6	-----	136.0	-----	129.1	.4	-----	1.3	-----	5.8
Commodities less food 7/ -----	114.7	114.5	113.9	114.0	110.6	.7	.4	1.3	1.1	3.7
Nondurables less food -----	119.7	119.5	118.9	118.8	114.5	.7	.6	1.8	1.4	4.5
Apparel commodities -----	122.7	122.0	121.5	121.3	115.1	1.0	.6	3.2	2.1	6.6
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	120.3	119.5	119.0	118.6	112.7	1.1	.8	3.4	2.2	6.7
Nondurables less food and apparel -	117.9	-----	117.4	-----	114.2	.4	-----	.9	-----	3.2
New cars -----	102.8	102.0	98.4	101.0	101.1	4.5	1.0	3.0	1.4	1.7
Used cars -----	(10/)	(10/)	126.7	125.2	126.0	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)
Household durables 11/ -----	102.3	-----	102.0	-----	98.7	.3	-----	.8	-----	3.6
Housefurnishings -----	105.9	105.9	105.4	105.5	101.5	.5	.4	1.0	1.0	4.3
Services less rent 9/ -----	141.2	-----	140.5	-----	132.7	.5	-----	1.4	-----	6.4
Household services less rent -----	137.6	-----	137.0	-----	128.4	.4	-----	1.5	-----	7.2
Transportation services -----	134.6	-----	133.8	-----	129.2	.6	-----	.8	-----	4.2
Medical care services -----	159.4	-----	158.2	-----	148.7	.8	-----	1.8	-----	7.2
Other services 12/ -----	140.9	-----	140.3	-----	133.1	.4	-----	1.2	-----	5.9
All items index on other bases:										
1947-49=100 -----	150.9	-----	150.0	-----	144.2	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=100 -----	253.9	-----	252.4	-----	242.6	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:										
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.814	-----	\$0.818	-----	\$0.851	-.5	-----	- 1.1	-----	- 4.3
1947-49=\$1.00 -----	.663	-----	.667	-----	.693	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=\$1.00 -----	.394	-----	.396	-----	.412	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

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			
		October 1968			September 1968	July 1968	October 1967
U.S. City Average -----	M	122.9	150.9		0.6	1.2	4.6
Chicago -----	M	120.2	151.5		.3	1.1	4.4
Detroit -----	M	121.7	150.0		.4	1.2	5.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	123.8	154.3		.8	1.2	4.1
New York -----	M	126.5	152.4		.5	1.9	5.2
Philadelphia -----	M	124.5	152.9		.6	1.5	5.2
		October 1968				July 1968	October 1967
Boston -----	1	126.6	156.9			1.5	4.8
Houston -----	1	121.1	149.2			1.5	4.8
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	1	122.0	151.0			.2	3.0
Pittsburgh -----	1	122.6	151.1			2.2	6.1
		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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.8	0.5	0.6
Food -----	.4	.2	.2	.6	.5	.3
Housing -----	.4	- .1	.4	.6	.1	.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	.9	.7	.7	.6	.3	1.1
Transportation -----	.9	.7	.7	2.2	1.0	.5
Health and recreation -----	.6	.5	.4	.6	.9	.5
Medical care -----	.7	.3	.7	.5	.8	.8
Personal care -----	.5	- .1	1.3	.6	.9	.2
Reading and recreation -----	.6	1.1	.2	.8	.2	.6
Other goods and services ---	.6	.3	- .1	.3	1.5	(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:	Oct.	122.9	120.9	120.9	123.3	120.6	131.9	147.4	122.1	127.5	125.1
	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
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
October 1968 indexes and percent changes from September 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles- Long Beach	Minn- neapolis- St. Paul	New York	Phila- delphia	Pitts- burgh
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)										
All items -----	122.9	126.6	120.2	121.7	121.1	123.8	122.0	126.5	124.5	122.6
Food -----	120.9	124.1	122.5	119.2	122.3	118.7	119.1	122.2	121.5	117.6
Food at home -----	117.2	118.9	120.5	116.3	118.1	113.0	116.2	117.0	117.0	115.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.8	120.4	123.5	116.1	125.9	119.6	111.9	119.2	116.9	118.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.4	121.3	117.8	118.7	110.3	105.5	113.7	115.9	112.3	117.6
Dairy products -----	122.3	117.5	135.0	128.5	127.9	118.8	127.4	113.9	129.4	114.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.4	127.4	122.8	112.1	127.6	129.2	118.0	128.9	126.9	120.0
Other foods at home -----	108.6	107.5	109.9	106.5	110.1	100.4	112.1	108.0	105.8	105.9
Food away from home -----	138.9	146.8	131.9	135.6	140.5	139.5	132.3	144.8	145.4	134.6
Housing -----	120.9	127.7	116.1	117.2	118.1	125.9	119.5	124.8	120.9	120.5
Shelter -----	126.0	136.5	119.3	121.7	116.6	133.4	125.5	129.3	123.9	121.2
Rent -----	116.0	130.8	-----	106.0	105.0	-----	115.7	126.0	-----	113.5
Homeownership -----	130.0	138.9	123.2	125.4	120.9	139.3	127.2	130.2	125.9	123.3
Fuel and utilities -----	110.4	109.5	106.5	103.5	118.9	106.1	105.0	110.5	109.6	118.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	115.9	120.1	108.7	106.4	-----	-----	114.2	120.8	122.1	-----
Gas and electricity -----	109.1	102.0	104.2	104.9	132.8	112.5	100.3	111.0	102.7	118.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	114.2	121.5	113.7	110.3	122.4	113.3	112.4	121.2	118.0	117.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.3	124.9	119.2	121.9	120.4	122.4	119.1	129.4	131.6	125.9
Men's and boys' -----	124.1	117.0	117.2	121.6	118.0	125.6	126.0	131.6	128.3	117.7
Women's and girls' -----	120.1	121.5	116.3	119.7	119.8	122.7	112.4	126.5	127.3	123.4
Footwear -----	134.9	136.7	131.8	131.5	138.3	130.9	130.4	134.4	140.6	139.9
Transportation -----	120.6	123.0	118.1	119.6	117.2	125.7	122.3	121.8	129.3	122.6
Private -----	118.4	117.3	117.4	116.9	113.5	121.2	120.8	121.1	123.9	118.3
Public -----	138.7	136.0	124.2	137.2	150.5	154.5	128.6	127.3	155.9	134.1
Health and recreation -----	131.9	132.9	126.5	134.1	130.0	125.5	132.5	138.0	131.5	133.7
Medical care -----	147.4	153.4	154.1	156.0	136.2	143.4	155.4	151.2	156.6	155.9
Personal care -----	122.1	125.0	121.7	128.7	134.0	116.3	119.6	118.8	115.9	114.3
Reading and recreation -----	127.5	135.8	111.1	126.7	127.7	112.8	131.1	138.6	120.9	121.9
Other goods and services -----	125.1	117.1	117.8	119.9	121.3	121.4	115.2	134.3	(2/)	133.8
Percent changes July 1968 to October 1968										
All items -----	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.2	1.5	1.2	0.2	1.9	1.5	2.2
Food -----	.8	.7	1.0	.5	2.0	.6	.8	1.2	1.2	1.1
Food at home -----	.4	.5	.5	.3	1.6	.4	.8	.9	1.3	1.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	.5	-.6	-.6	3.5	-.6	-1.2	2.5	1.6	1.4	.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.2	1.1	1.6	.7	-.8	-.9	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.0
Dairy products -----	1.1	1.7	.7	2.7	6.9	-.4	.6	1.6	1.7	4.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	-6.7	-3.4	-5.8	-9.1	-2.8	-4.4	-6.8	-5.4	-3.4	-7.0
Other foods at home -----	5.1	3.0	5.0	4.7	6.5	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.4	5.7
Food away from home -----	1.8	1.4	2.8	1.3	3.2	1.3	1.1	2.0	.7	1.4
Housing -----	1.2	1.2	.5	1.3	.9	1.5	-1.4	1.6	1.7	1.9
Shelter -----	1.4	1.8	.9	1.7	.5	1.8	-2.7	2.3	2.6	3.0
Rent -----	.8	1.3	-----	3/ .5	.5	-----	1.3	3/ .7	-----	.8
Homeownership -----	1.7	2.0	1.1	1.8	.5	2.1	-3.4	3.1	3.1	3.6
Fuel and utilities -----	-.2	0	-1.9	0	1.5	0	1.3	0	0	.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	.2	.3	.2	0	-----	-----	4.3	-.2	-.1	-----
Gas and electricity -----	-.4	0	-3.7	0	2.5	.2	1.7	0	0	.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.0	.6	.9	.9	1.1	1.3	.9	.8	1.1	.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	3.0	4.4	4.0	4.1	3.9	2.3	2.0	4.7	4.4	4.4
Men's and boys' -----	3.3	4.9	3.9	4.1	1.6	1.9	.8	3.0	6.6	2.5
Women's and girls' -----	3.8	5.5	5.6	3.4	7.0	3.3	4.0	8.1	4.7	8.2
Footwear -----	2.2	3.3	2.7	5.5	3.4	2.3	1.8	2.8	5.2	2.5
Transportation -----	.7	.5	.3	.2	.5	.8	1.3	1.0	.6	1.4
Private -----	.7	.5	.4	.1	.5	.9	1.4	1.3	.7	1.7
Public -----	.1	.1	0	.4	.1	0	-.2	0	.1	0
Health and recreation -----	1.3	2.4	1.0	1.2	1.8	1.0	1.1	1.8	.8	3.1
Medical care -----	1.6	4.3	.9	1.6	2.3	.8	1.2	1.7	1.7	2.0
Personal care -----	1.4	2.3	2.2	1.5	1.7	.8	-1.2	2.3	1.0	3.0
Reading and recreation -----	1.3	2.0	1.1	1.5	2.7	1.5	1.7	1.2	.2	1.8
Other goods and services -----	1.0	1.1	.3	.2	.3	.7	1.2	2.1	(2/)	5.6

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

^{2/} Not available.

^{3/} Change from August 1968.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food and its Subgroups
October 1968 indexes and percent changes from September 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 -----	120.9	117.2	119.8	115.4	122.3	123.4	108.6	138.9
Atlanta -----	118.8	115.8	113.5	115.1	117.1	122.2	113.0	129.5
Baltimore -----	124.5	120.3	126.0	117.8	118.9	136.4	109.8	141.9
Boston -----	124.1	118.9	120.4	121.3	117.5	127.4	107.5	146.8
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	115.3	113.4	106.0	113.8	117.9	116.1	111.8	126.8
Chicago -----	122.5	120.5	123.5	117.8	135.0	122.8	109.9	131.9
Cincinnati -----	118.6	115.3	116.1	116.2	117.8	125.5	104.3	135.9
Cleveland -----	118.1	114.9	113.9	116.8	120.1	120.9	105.0	136.2
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	114.6	112.0	109.4	113.6	121.6	108.8	108.7	124.4
Detroit -----	119.2	116.3	116.1	118.7	128.5	112.1	106.5	135.6
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	113.0	112.0	111.9	112.7	113.7	115.4	106.9	115.9
Houston -----	122.3	118.1	125.9	110.3	127.9	127.6	110.1	140.5
Kansas City -----	124.4	121.9	125.2	120.2	130.4	124.7	112.7	133.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	118.7	113.0	119.6	105.5	118.8	129.2	100.4	139.5
Milwaukee -----	119.6	117.8	111.6	117.2	130.0	121.3	110.1	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	119.1	116.2	111.9	113.7	127.4	118.0	112.1	132.3
New York -----	122.2	117.0	119.2	115.9	113.9	128.9	108.0	144.8
Philadelphia -----	121.5	117.0	116.9	112.3	129.4	126.9	105.8	145.4
Pittsburgh -----	117.6	115.0	118.6	117.6	114.9	120.0	105.9	134.6
St. Louis -----	124.7	120.8	123.9	120.9	133.7	124.6	107.5	140.4
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	112.0	108.9	107.8	113.3	108.2	104.9	106.7	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	119.6	114.3	119.0	111.2	116.7	123.2	105.6	142.6
Seattle -----	120.2	114.5	107.7	114.8	125.4	121.0	105.2	143.7
Washington -----	124.2	119.8	113.7	117.6	125.0	126.1	116.0	141.3
Percent changes September 1968 to October 1968								
U.S. City Average -----	0.4	0.3	0	- 0.1	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.7
Atlanta -----	- .1	- .3	0.3	- 1.8	2.5	- .5	.3	.4
Baltimore -----	.9	1.0	1.5	.3	1.9	2.1	.5	.3
Boston -----	.4	.3	- .4	1.0	1.6	- .5	- 1.0	.8
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	.5	.6	.2	0	1.2	1.3	.8	.4
Chicago -----	.2	0	- .7	0	- .2	- .2	.8	1.1
Cincinnati -----	.9	1.1	2.2	.5	.6	1.6	1.2	- .1
Cleveland -----	- .6	- .9	.1	- 1.6	- 1.2	- 2.3	1.1	.3
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	- .1	- .6	- .6	- 1.6	- .3	- 1.7	1.5	1.5
Detroit -----	.2	.2	.9	- .6	.4	.6	.4	.6
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	.2	- .2	- .5	- 1.0	.4	1.2	.1	1.2
Houston -----	1.2	.9	- .6	- 1.3	7.0	- .3	2.0	2.3
Kansas City -----	.4	.6	.6	.5	- .1	.7	.7	.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	.6	.7	- .5	- .6	.1	1.7	2.9	.6
Milwaukee -----	0	0	1.0	- .9	.3	- .8	1.1	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.7	.7	.1	0	.6	2.2	.8	.8
New York -----	.5	.4	- .1	.2	1.1	.9	.4	.7
Philadelphia -----	.3	.3	.8	.1	1.6	- .2	- .4	.3
Pittsburgh -----	- .1	- .2	- 1.1	- .5	- .1	- .4	1.0	1.1
St. Louis -----	0	0	.2	.3	- .1	- 3.0	2.0	.2
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	- 1.0	- 1.4	- 1.0	- 3.8	- .5	- 1.9	1.8	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	.7	.6	1.2	- 1.1	- .3	2.2	2.5	.6
Seattle -----	.3	.1	- .6	.2	- .4	- 1.9	2.7	.7
Washington -----	.3	.2	.8	.9	.1	- 1.0	- .3	.7

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

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to October 1968 from--		
	October 1968		September 1968		October 1967
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Total food -----	120.9	120.9	0.4	0.8	4.5
Food away from home -----	138.9	-----	.7	-----	5.7
Restaurant meals -----	139.1	-----	.6	-----	5.7
Snacks 1/ -----	120.8	-----	1.4	-----	6.1
Food at home -----	117.2	117.2	.3	.8	4.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.8	-----	0	-----	1.4
Flour -----	112.4	-----	.4	-----	- 1.2
Cracker meal 1/ -----	117.4	-----	0	-----	.5
Corn flakes -----	128.5	-----	0	-----	- .4
Rice -----	111.0	-----	.3	-----	1.6
Bread, white -----	125.4	-----	- .4	-----	1.5
Bread, whole wheat 1/ -----	117.2	-----	.4	-----	2.2
Cookies -----	100.8	-----	- .1	-----	- .6
Layer cake 1/ -----	110.4	-----	.4	-----	4.9
Cinnamon rolls 1/ -----	107.8	-----	- .4	-----	2.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.4	114.3	- .1	1.2	2.8
Meats -----	118.2	116.5	.2	.9	2.2
Beef and veal -----	119.2	117.8	.1	.5	3.2
Steak, round -----	113.3	111.6	- .2	- .9	2.3
Steak, sirloin 2/ -----	112.2	-----	- 1.1	-----	3.1
Steak, porterhouse 1/ -----	118.3	-----	- .5	-----	4.6
Rump roast 1/ -----	109.3	-----	- .5	-----	2.0
Rib roast -----	127.6	126.5	.7	1.2	3.7
Chuck roast -----	111.2	108.5	1.1	.2	1.7
Hamburger -----	122.8	121.5	.6	.7	3.9
Beef liver 1/ -----	108.3	-----	.8	-----	2.6
Veal cutlets -----	143.5	143.8	- .4	- .1	5.4
Pork -----	117.6	114.5	.2	2.0	.9
Chops -----	122.6	119.0	- .3	.6	2.4
Loin roast 2/ -----	129.1	-----	.3	-----	2.1
Pork sausage 1/ -----	128.4	-----	.3	-----	2.2
Ham, whole -----	112.2	110.8	0	.3	.5
Picnics 1/ -----	116.5	-----	.6	-----	- 1.0
Bacon -----	116.0	112.6	.3	3.8	- 1.5
Other meats -----	121.0	120.8	.6	.8	2.1
Lamb chops 1/ -----	130.8	-----	1.3	-----	5.1
Frankfurters -----	118.7	117.9	0	- .1	.5
Ham, canned 1/ -----	115.9	-----	.5	-----	- .5
Bologna sausage 1/ -----	121.3	-----	.8	-----	3.6
Salami sausage 1/ -----	116.1	-----	.5	-----	3.0
Liverwurst 1/ -----	117.2	-----	.3	-----	1.1
Poultry -----	92.4	-----	- 2.2	-----	5.7
Frying chicken -----	92.8	94.2	- 3.3	.2	7.0
Chicken breasts 1/ -----	104.9	-----	- .6	-----	5.0
Turkey 1/ -----	101.5	-----	2.3	-----	1.0
Fish -----	125.2	125.7	.3	.5	3.5
Shrimp, frozen 1/ -----	109.8	-----	.3	-----	2.1
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	126.5	126.9	.3	.6	1.9
Tuna fish, canned -----	112.0	-----	.1	-----	1.9
Sardines, canned 1/ -----	123.3	-----	.5	-----	7.4
Dairy products -----	122.3	121.7	.6	.2	3.7
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	120.5	119.2	.8	.3	4.3
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	125.8	-----	.7	-----	5.2
Milk, fresh, skim 1/ -----	120.1	-----	.9	-----	5.0
Milk, evaporated -----	121.2	-----	- .1	-----	3.1
Ice cream -----	99.2	-----	.1	-----	1.0
Cheese, American process -----	141.1	141.4	.4	- .1	3.6
Butter -----	117.1	116.3	.4	- .2	.5

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to October 1968 from--		
	October 1968		September 1968		October 1967
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.4	128.4	.4	1.1	7.0
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	129.8	138.4	.9	2.2	8.9
Apples -----	141.8	168.4	- 15.9	3.0	12.5
Bananas -----	97.4	92.4	2.2	- 1.1	- 4.7
Oranges -----	171.0	150.1	2.4	- 2.7	25.3
Orange juice, fresh 1/ -----	87.7	-----	.6	-----	19.2
Grapefruit -----	205.6	183.4	8.8	16.3	32.9
Grapes * -----	121.7	138.3	6.3	- 1.6	9.2
Strawberries 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Watermelon -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Potatoes -----	127.4	140.6	- 3.5	3.2	3.7
Onions -----	133.7	139.9	- 3.0	.9	7.3
Asparagus * 1/ 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Cabbage -----	143.9	162.6	8.9	7.6	23.8
Carrots -----	105.0	108.8	- 3.8	- 3.3	- 7.2
Celery -----	100.7	105.9	1.2	1.4	- 10.2
Cucumbers 1/ -----	99.8	-----	1.9	-----	- 22.2
Lettuce -----	151.5	150.9	23.8	18.7	26.7
Peppers, green 1/ -----	128.2	-----	4.3	-----	.9
Spinach 1/ -----	107.3	-----	5.1	-----	9.4
Tomatoes -----	106.6	137.5	11.9	6.5	19.2
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	115.7	-----	- .3	-----	4.3
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	107.6	-----	- 1.4	-----	2.9
Pears, canned 1/ -----	113.9	-----	- 2.6	-----	9.1
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned 1/ -----	97.0	-----	- .9	-----	1.7
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	91.1	91.4	1.7	1.1	25.7
Lemonade concentrate, frozen 2/ -----	89.5	-----	1.9	-----	1.6
Beets, canned 1/ -----	112.3	-----	.8	-----	3.5
Peas, green, canned -----	120.8	-----	- 1.0	-----	- 1.0
Tomatoes, canned -----	127.2	-----	- 1.2	-----	- .2
Dried beans -----	126.5	-----	.8	-----	8.9
Broccoli, frozen 1/ -----	102.1	-----	0	-----	1.8
Other food at home -----	108.6	107.3	1.1	1.0	6.2
Eggs -----	115.9	106.6	5.9	4.4	28.9
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	102.7	-----	.9	-----	- 1.4
Salad dressing, Italian 1/ -----	101.6	-----	- .5	-----	- .5
Salad or cooking oil 1/ -----	121.8	-----	- .1	-----	- 1.0
Sugar and sweets -----	121.3	-----	.5	-----	4.9
Sugar -----	113.9	-----	.3	-----	.9
Grape jelly -----	120.2	-----	.4	-----	2.7
Chocolate bar -----	120.3	-----	.7	-----	13.9
Syrup, chocolate flavored 1/ -----	102.1	-----	.4	-----	1.5
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	101.7	-----	.1	-----	2.9
Coffee, can and bag -----	87.5	-----	.1	-----	.6
Coffee, instant 4/ -----	99.4	-----	.5	-----	3.2
Tea -----	100.8	-----	.2	-----	- .2
Cola drink -----	149.5	-----	- .1	-----	6.8
Carbonated fruit drink 1/ -----	117.5	-----	- .3	-----	7.6
Prepared and partially prepared foods 1/ -----	103.6	-----	.1	-----	2.2
Bean soup, canned 1/ -----	101.0	-----	.1	-----	.3
Chicken soup, canned 1/ -----	96.1	-----	- .1	-----	- .1
Spaghetti, canned 1/ -----	113.0	-----	.4	-----	1.9
Mashed potatoes, instant 1/ -----	102.6	-----	- .2	-----	1.3
Potatoes, french fried, frozen 2/ -----	88.9	-----	.5	-----	5.3
Baby foods, canned -----	110.7	-----	.2	-----	3.1
Sweet pickle relish 1/ -----	110.6	-----	0	-----	3.5
Pretzels 1/ -----	106.5	-----	.2	-----	1.8

1/ December 1963=100.

2/ April 1960=100.

3/ Priced only in season.

4/ July 1961=100

OLD SERIES

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

Group	Index	Percent change from --	
		July 1968	October 1967
All items -----	123.9	1.1	3.8
All items (1947-49=100) -----	153.5		
Food -----	120.4	.9	4.5
Food at home -----	114.8	.1	3.2
Cereals and bakery products --	113.1	- .2	1.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	122.8	1.4	2.5
Dairy products -----	126.4	.6	1.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	108.6	- 6.6	7.8
Other foods at home -----	103.2	3.5	4.0
Housing -----	123.9	.8	3.1
Rent -----	116.1	.4	1.6
Gas and electricity -----	102.5	0	0
Solid and petroleum fuels -----	113.3	0	3.8
Housefurnishings -----	99.9	1.1	1.8
Household operation -----	123.5	2.2	2.4
Apparel -----	123.3	2.5	5.3
Men's and boys' -----	123.5	- .2	3.6
Women's and girls' -----	123.3	5.6	7.0
Footwear -----	133.2	2.4	6.9
Other apparel -----	109.4	1.5	2.5
Transportation -----	118.0	.1	1.2
Private -----	114.4	.1	1.2
Public -----	139.7	0	.6
Medical care -----	143.9	2.1	5.0
Personal care -----	130.0	.8	10.0
Reading and recreation -----	130.4	2.3	4.1
Other goods and services -----	122.1	.4	3.0

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

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	September 1968 to October 1968		July 1968 to October 1968		April 1968 to July 1968		January 1968 to April 1968		October 1967 to January 1968		October 1967 to October 1968	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI*	WPI*
*ALL ITEMS -----	0.6	0	1.2	0	1.3	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	4.6	2.8
CONSUMER PRODUCTS -----	0.7	- 0.1	1.3	0	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.9	4.0	2.9
<u>Nondurable</u> -----	.5	- .6	1.4	- .4	.6	1.0	1.0	1.7	1.1	1.1	4.2	3.3
Food and beverages at home -----	.8	- .7	1.5	- .4	.2	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.2	1.5	3.9	4.4
Apparel and accessories -----	.6	.5	2.1	1.1	1.4	.8	2.0	1.0	1.0	1.5	6.6	4.4
Household furnishings and supplies -----	- .1	0	.1	- 1.1	1.3	.6	.9	1.9	.5	0	2.8	1.5
Gasoline and motor oil -----	1.0	- 1.9	1.5	- 2.8	.6	1.0	- .3	4.2	.6	- 3.8	2.4	- 1.6
Other nondurables -----	.3	.3	.7	.7	.8	.3	.4	.6	1.3	- .4	3.3	1.1
<u>Durable</u> -----	.5	1.0	1.0	.8	.8	.3	.7	- .2	.7	.8	3.1	1.7
New passenger cars -----	1.0	2.6	1.4	2.2	.5	- .3	- .3	- .5	.1	.1	1.7	1.5
Appliances -----	.1	- .5	.7	- .1	.5	- .1	0	.6	.4	.3	1.5	.7
Furniture and floor coverings -----	.3	.3	1.0	.5	.9	.9	1.6	.6	1.2	1.0	4.8	3.2
*Other durables -----	.5	.2	1.0	.1	.9	.3	1.2	.2	.9	1.1	4.1	1.7
*CONSUMER SERVICES -----	0.4	-	1.3	-	1.8	-	1.3	-	1.3	-	5.8	-
*Insurance and finance -----	.8	-	2.0	-	4.1	-	.9	-	1.5	-	8.8	-
*Rent -----	.3	-	.8	-	.6	-	.6	-	.6	-	2.7	-
*Utilities and public transportation -----	- .1	-	- .1	-	.5	-	.6	-	.5	-	1.5	-
*Housekeeping and home maintenance services -----	.5	-	1.5	-	1.8	-	2.1	-	2.1	-	7.8	-
*Medical care services -----	.8	-	1.8	-	1.5	-	1.9	-	1.8	-	7.2	-
*Personal care services -----	.6	-	1.7	-	1.4	-	1.7	-	1.2	-	6.2	-
*Other services -----	.4	-	1.2	-	1.1	-	2.2	-	1.3	-	5.9	-
WHOLESALE PRICES:												
<u>Type of Product:</u>												
Farm products -----	-	- .1	-	- .3	-	.7	-	3.2	-	.5	-	4.2
Processed foods and feeds -----	-	0	-	- .8	-	1.1	-	2.0	-	.2	-	2.4
*Industrial commodities -----	-	.5	-	.8	-	0	-	.9	-	.9	-	2.7
<u>Industrial Materials and Equipment:</u>												
Chemicals and allied products -----	-	- .2	-	- .4	-	.3	-	.5	-	- .2	-	.4
Rubber and rubber products -----	-	.2	-	0	-	1.4	-	.2	-	.6	-	2.2
Lumber and wood products -----	-	2.5	-	5.3	-	3.1	-	5.0	-	2.0	-	16.4
Pulp, paper and allied products -----	-	- .1	-	.3	-	0	-	.4	-	1.0	-	.9
* Metals and metal products -----	-	.3	-	1.0	-	- 1.7	-	1.0	-	2.1	-	2.4
Machinery and equipment -----	-	.3	-	1.0	-	.6	-	.6	-	1.2	-	3.5
<u>Stage of Processing at Wholesale:</u>												
Finished goods -----	-	.1	-	.3	-	.7	-	1.2	-	.9	-	3.1
Consumer -----	-	0	-	.2	-	.9	-	1.1	-	.9	-	3.2
Producer -----	-	.4	-	1.0	-	.4	-	.8	-	1.1	-	3.4
Intermediate materials, supplies and components -----	-	.3	-	.7	-	0	-	1.0	-	.8	-	2.6
Crude materials -----	-	.2	-	.3	-	.3	-	2.7	-	.2	-	2.3

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 11

	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 and tubes, 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 Farm Product Processed foods and feeds Industrial commodities Industrial materials and equipment		Same as the Wholesale Price Indexes for major groups.
Stage of Processing at wholesale Finished goods Consumer Producer Intermediate materials, supplies, and components Crude materials		The Wholesale Price Stage of Processing Indexes. The Consumer Finished Goods index differs from the Consumer Products index in weighting structure and is based on a larger sample of commodities.

1/ The classification by durable and nondurable commodities is based on CPI classification and is not necessarily the same as the WPI classification in the Indexes by Durability of Product

2/ Same as apparel commodities.

3/ Includes registration and license fees and parking fees.

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

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