

December 1968

the consumer price index

U.S. CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

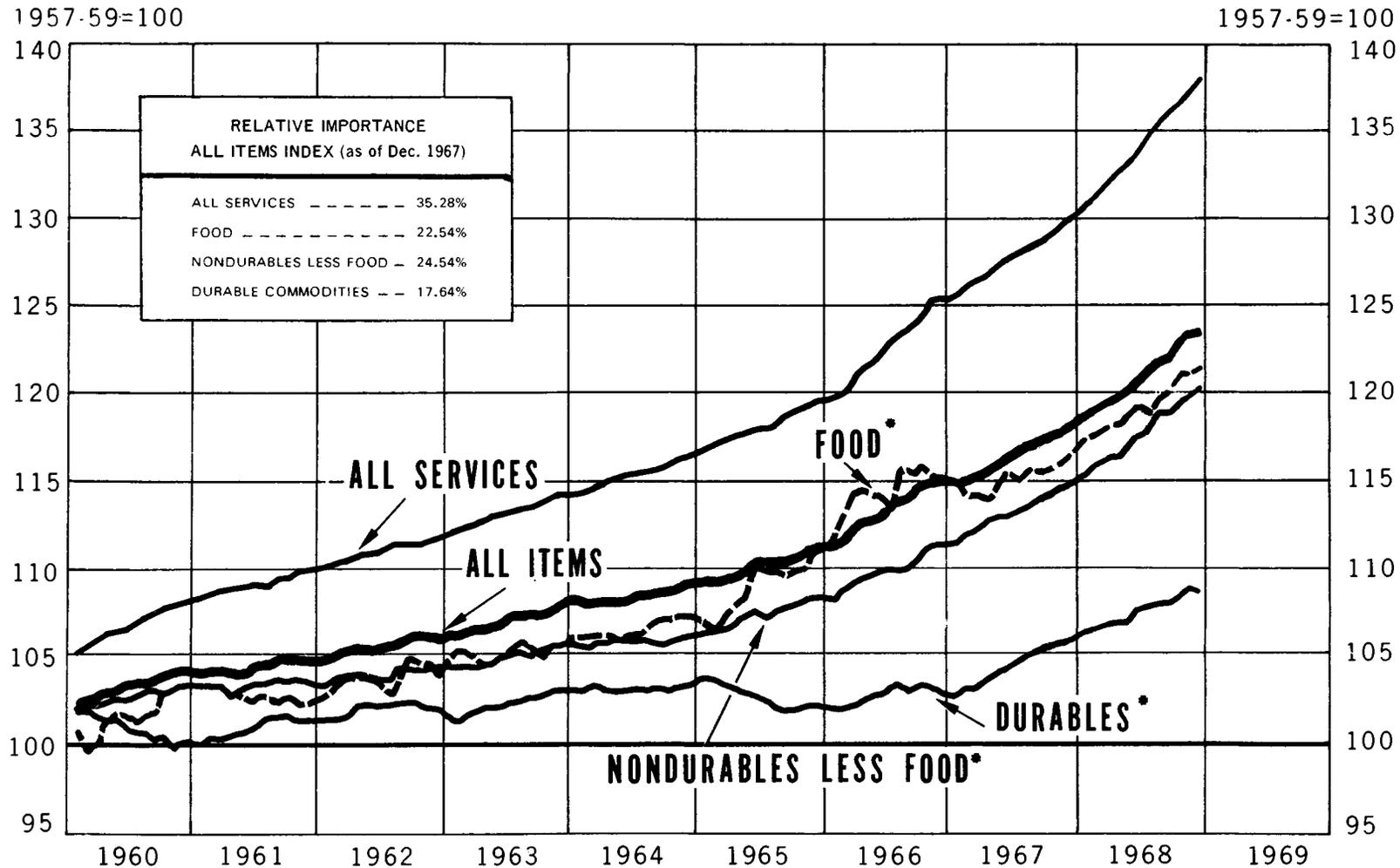


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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 DECEMBER 1968

The Consumer Price Index closed the year with the smallest advance in three months when the December index moved up 0.2 percent to 123.7 (1957-59=100). This slowdown from the pace of recent months reflected lower prices of both new and used cars, which offset mounting price levels of services, housing, and food.

Over the year since December 1967, the index has risen 4.7 percent, the sharpest December-to-December advance since 1951. The 1968 rise was dominated by increased charges for consumer services, and was buoyed by the surge in food prices, which had advanced only fractionally in 1967.

Price Changes November to December 1968

Services

Service charges went up 0.5 percent in December; they accounted for over three-quarters of the total price rise for all items. Services have risen at an almost constant rate over the year. Increases in the first and last quarters were 1.5 percent each and rises in the second and third quarters were 1.4 and 1.6 percent, respectively.

Charges to homeowners for housekeeping and home repair services increased, and expanded coverage and reassessments brought higher insurance premiums and real estate taxes. Rents, accelerating from the relatively moderate rate of the past 2-1/2 years, increased 0.3 percent for the fifth month in a row.

The public transportation index jumped 2.8 percent in December when local transit fares were raised in several cities, notably in Chicago, where fares went up from 30 to 40 cents a ride. Also, fare schedules were increased for taxicabs and intercity buses in several cities.

Medical care service charges continued to move higher; they rose another 0.7 percent; doctors and dentists raised their fees, and hospitals increased their daily service charges.

Food

In a reversal of their November decline, retail food prices moved up 0.6 percent in December. Short supplies of fresh vegetables and eggs were the principal factors in the unseasonable advance. Meals eaten away from home continued their steady uptrend with another increase of 0.4 percent and ended the year 5.7 percent higher than they were at the end of 1967.

Reduced acreage for tomatoes and cabbage, poor growing weather for cucumbers and green peppers, and a gap between fall and winter crops of lettuce were the chief contributing elements in the 3-1/2 percent rise for fruits and vegetables. The advance was relieved to some extent by significant reductions for seasonally ample supplies of citrus fruits.

The nearly 10 percent increase in egg prices resulted from reduced supplies, as production of eggs was down sharply from October. An unusually slight decline for meats, poultry, and fish (-0.2 percent) reflected the nearly counterbalancing effects of lower beef, veal, and turkey prices; pork and fish prices rose.

Cereals, bakery products, and dairy products showed no net change between November and December.

Nondurable Commodities Less Food

Nondurable goods other than food advanced in December, but at the slower rate first noted in November. Prices of apparel commodities again dominated the group movement, but instead of clothing, footwear prices were the most significant factor in the advance. Men's tailored clothing continued to move ahead strongly. Women's and girls' apparel prices also advanced on the average, but the advance was tempered by numerous reductions on winter seasonal items, such as coats, sweaters, and slacks.

Previous manufacturers' increases for cigarettes were carried through to retail, but advances have moderated since mid-year. Other increases were recorded for newspapers, some toilet goods, textile housefurnishings, housekeeping and home maintenance supplies, and fuel oil. Of the nondurable commodities, only gasoline registered a significant decrease in December, largely the result of competitive price declines in the Los Angeles area.

Durables

Prices of durable commodities declined 0.5 percent in December, as the result of reductions for new and used automobiles. Higher concessions and special promotional sales resulted in the 1.1 percent drop in new car prices, and large inventories of late model used cars helped to depress their prices. Tire prices, on the other hand, advanced for the seventh consecutive month.

Household durables averaged higher as prices were raised for most major types of furniture, wool and nylon carpeting, and black-and-white television sets. Prices were cut on color television sets for December sales and also were reduced on radios and vacuum cleaners.

Prices in the year 1968

Prices rose for all major classes of goods and services during 1968; services accounted for almost one-half of the year's increase. The 4.7 percent rise in the index between December 1967 and December 1968, half again as large as the 1967 advance of 3.1 percent, was the largest recorded for any year since 1951. Nondurable commodities prices rose 4.4 percent--nearly twice as much as in 1967. The advance was split almost equally between food and other nondurables. Food prices climbed 4.3 percent, doubling their impact on the rise in the all items index. The durables group rose least, 3.1 percent.

Services

Consumer services rose more than 6 percent during 1968; costs of owning and maintaining a home led the advance. Mortgage costs were significantly higher, property taxes were raised as most localities either conducted reassessments or increased the tax rates, and homeowner's and property insurance rates were raised to cover the added perils of civil disorder. In addition, the costs of home maintenance and repair services increased and domestic service workers and babysitters charged more for their services.

Steadily declining vacancy rates and the accompanying strong demand for the available rental units were the major factors in the increase in rents, but owners also cited higher taxes and maintenance costs.

Medical care service charges gained 7.3 percent over December 1967--a slightly lower rate of advance than in the preceding two years. Monthly advances for professional charges slowed somewhat during the summer months, but hospital services and health insurance continued to rise at a substantial rate throughout the year.

Automobile owners paid nearly 4-1/2 percent more for repairs as both parts and labor costs advanced. Sizeable increases recorded for local transit fares, taxicab, and intercity bus fares, and less substantial rises for train and air fares brought a 6.2 percent increase in total public transportation prices.

The pervasive rise in service charges also extended to movie admissions, personal care services, funerals, and legal services.

Nondurables Less Food

Nondurable commodities other than food increased about 4-1/2 percent in 1968 as apparel prices moved up at a sharply accelerated rate, especially during the second half of the year. The advance was attributable largely to men's and boys' tailored clothing which climbed more than 7 percent compared with 3.7 percent in 1967. Women's and girls' apparel and footwear prices also moved higher, each about 6-1/2 percent.

Food

The rise of 4.3 percent in food prices in 1968 was more than 3 times the rise of 1967. Food eaten away from home rose 5.7 percent compared with 4.8 in the twelve months ending in December 1967, but prices of food bought for home consumption increased 4 percent compared with a fractional 0.3 percent in 1967. Fruit and vegetable prices took the lead, rising 5.7 percent, mainly because of higher prices for fresh vegetables which were in short supply during most of the year. Strong demand and lower production brought higher egg prices. Increased per capita consumption underlay the 2.2 percent advance in the meat, poultry, and fish segment. Fish prices advanced in each of the last 9 months in 1968. The most important advance in dairy products prices was for fresh milk; cereal and bakery products prices showed a slight gain of 0.4 percent.

Durables

Durable commodity prices went up 2.5 percent in 1968, and accounted for considerably less of the movement in the overall index than they did in 1967, despite the fact that prices of most items averaged higher. Houses cost more, and furniture, floor coverings, appliances, and other housefurnishings all moved higher in 1968. The rise in new car prices (2.8 percent) was almost the same as in 1967. Used car prices were down nearly 5 percent over the year whereas they ended 1967 over 9 percent higher than the previous year.

Cost-of-Living Adjustment

Approximately 88,000 workers will receive cost-of-living increases based on the December Consumer Price Index. About 54,000 employees in the glass container industry will receive a 1-percent increase based on the change in the national index over the past year; 3-cent quarterly increases will go to about 12,000 workers in several industries. Increases of two dollars per week, reflecting the advance in the San Francisco index since September 1967, will be paid to 2,000 employees in the printing industry in northern California. Other increases, ranging from 1 to 8 cents, are based on monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reviews of the national and Atlanta indexes.

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

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)				Percent change to December 1968 from --					
	December 1968		November 1968		December 1967	November 1968		September 1968		December 1967
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
All items -----	123.7	-----	123.4	-----	118.2	0.2	-----	1.2	-----	4.7
Food -----	121.2	121.4	120.5	121.0	116.2	.6	0.3	.7	1.2	4.3
Food at home -----	117.4	117.8	116.6	117.2	112.9	.7	.5	.5	1.3	4.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	120.1	-----	120.1	-----	118.4	0	-----	.3	-----	1.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	114.4	115.0	114.6	114.6	111.2	.2	.3	1.0	1.8	2.9
Dairy products -----	122.6	121.9	122.6	121.9	118.1	0	0	.8	.4	3.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.4	129.4	123.8	128.0	119.6	2.1	1.1	2.8	1.9	5.7
Other foods at home -----	108.4	107.2	106.7	106.2	102.2	1.6	.9	.9	.9	6.1
Food away from home -----	139.9	-----	139.4	-----	132.4	.4	-----	1.4	-----	5.7
Housing -----	122.3	-----	121.7	-----	116.0	.5	-----	1.6	-----	5.4
Shelter ^{1/} -----	127.6	-----	126.9	-----	119.9	.6	-----	1.8	-----	6.4
Rent -----	116.7	-----	116.3	-----	113.5	.3	-----	.9	-----	2.8
Homeownership ^{2/} -----	132.0	-----	131.1	-----	122.6	.7	-----	2.2	-----	7.7
Fuel and utilities ^{3/} -----	111.5	111.3	111.3	111.2	109.3	.2	.1	.9	.7	2.0
Fuel oil and coal ^{4/} -----	116.2	114.4	115.9	115.6	113.1	.3	-1.0	.3	-2.4	2.7
Gas and electricity -----	110.0	-----	109.9	-----	108.7	.1	-----	.6	-----	1.2
Household furnishings and operation -----	115.1	-----	114.8	-----	109.7	.3	-----	1.1	-----	4.9
Apparel and upkeep ^{5/} -----	124.3	123.7	124.0	123.3	116.8	.2	.3	1.7	1.3	6.4
Men's and boys' -----	125.3	124.6	125.0	124.1	116.8	.2	.4	1.7	1.3	7.3
Women's and girls' -----	120.8	119.6	120.7	119.4	113.6	.1	.2	1.9	1.3	6.3
Footwear -----	136.3	135.9	135.7	135.3	127.9	.4	.4	1.7	1.3	6.6
Transportation -----	120.2	120.2	121.2	120.7	117.9	.8	-.4	.6	.4	2.0
Private -----	117.5	117.4	118.9	118.3	115.8	1.2	-.8	.3	0	1.5
Public -----	143.3	-----	139.4	-----	134.9	2.8	-----	3.3	-----	6.2
Health and recreation -----	132.8	-----	132.4	-----	126.6	.3	-----	1.3	-----	4.9
Medical care -----	149.1	-----	148.2	-----	140.4	.6	-----	1.8	-----	6.2
Personal care -----	123.4	-----	122.8	-----	117.2	.5	-----	1.6	-----	5.3
Reading and recreation -----	128.2	-----	128.0	-----	122.2	.2	-----	1.2	-----	4.9
Other goods and services ^{6/} -----	125.6	-----	125.4	-----	121.4	.2	-----	1.0	-----	3.5
Special groups:										
All items less shelter -----	122.7	-----	122.5	-----	117.7	.2	-----	1.0	-----	4.2
All items less food -----	124.7	-----	124.4	-----	118.9	.2	-----	1.4	-----	4.9
All items less medical care -----	122.2	-----	121.9	-----	116.8	.2	-----	1.2	-----	4.6
Commodities ^{7/} -----	117.2	117.1	117.1	117.0	112.9	.1	.1	.9	.9	3.8
Nondurables -----	120.7	120.7	120.3	120.4	115.6	.3	.2	.9	1.1	4.4
Durables ^{7/ 8/} -----	108.7	108.5	109.3	108.9	106.1	.5	-.4	1.0	.6	2.5
Services ^{9/} -----	138.1	-----	137.4	-----	130.1	.5	-----	1.5	-----	6.1
Commodities less food ^{7/} -----	115.2	115.0	115.3	114.8	111.1	.1	.2	1.1	.9	3.7
Nondurables less food -----	120.3	120.1	120.2	119.7	115.2	.1	.3	1.2	1.1	4.4
Apparel commodities -----	123.7	122.8	123.4	122.4	115.9	.2	.3	1.8	1.2	6.7
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	121.2	120.4	121.0	119.9	113.5	.2	.4	1.8	1.5	6.8
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	118.3	-----	118.3	-----	114.7	0	-----	.8	-----	3.1
New cars -----	102.7	101.3	103.8	101.9	101.3	1.1	-.6	4.4	.3	1.4
Used cars -----	118.7	118.3	(10/)	(10/)	124.8	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	(10/)	4.9
Household durables ^{11/} -----	103.0	-----	102.8	-----	99.1	.2	-----	1.0	-----	3.9
Housefurnishings -----	106.6	106.5	106.5	106.5	102.1	.1	0	1.1	.9	4.4
Services less rent ^{9/} -----	142.9	-----	142.0	-----	133.8	.6	-----	1.7	-----	6.8
Household services less rent -----	139.2	-----	138.5	-----	129.1	.5	-----	1.6	-----	7.8
Transportation services -----	136.8	-----	135.2	-----	130.4	1.2	-----	2.2	-----	4.9
Medical care services -----	161.4	-----	160.3	-----	150.4	.7	-----	2.0	-----	7.3
Other services ^{12/} -----	142.0	-----	141.5	-----	134.3	.4	-----	1.2	-----	5.7
All items index on other bases:										
1947-49=100 -----	151.8	-----	151.4	-----	145.0	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=100 -----	255.4	-----	254.8	-----	244.1	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:										
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.808	-----	\$0.810	-----	\$0.846	-.2	-----	-1.2	-----	-4.5
1947-49=\$1.00 -----	.659	-----	.661	-----	.690	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
1939=\$1.00 -----	.392	-----	.392	-----	.410	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

^{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 1-A: Consumer Price Index--United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers
Major group, subgroup, and special group indexes, 1968 annual average indexes
and percent changes 1967 to 1968

Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)		Percent change to
	1968 Average	1967 Average	1968 from --
	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	1967 Average Unadjusted
All items -----	121.2	116.3	4.2
Food -----	119.3	115.2	3.6
Food at home -----	115.9	112.3	3.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.0	118.5	.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.7	111.2	2.2
Dairy products -----	120.6	116.7	3.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.8	117.5	7.9
Other foods at home -----	104.5	101.9	2.6
Food away from home -----	136.3	129.6	5.2
Housing -----	119.1	114.3	4.2
Shelter <u>1/</u> -----	123.6	117.9	4.8
Rent -----	115.1	112.4	2.4
Homeownership <u>2/</u> -----	127.0	120.2	5.7
Fuel and utilities <u>3/</u> -----	110.4	109.0	1.3
Fuel oil and coal <u>4/</u> -----	115.1	111.6	3.1
Gas and electricity -----	109.5	108.5	.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	113.0	108.2	4.4
Apparel and upkeep <u>5/</u> -----	120.1	114.0	5.4
Men's and boys' -----	120.8	114.3	5.7
Women's and girls' -----	116.4	109.9	5.9
Footwear -----	132.2	125.5	5.3
Transportation -----	119.6	115.9	3.2
Private -----	117.3	113.9	3.0
Public -----	138.2	132.1	4.6
Health and recreation -----	130.0	123.8	5.0
Medical care -----	145.0	136.7	6.1
Personal care -----	120.3	115.5	4.2
Reading and recreation -----	125.7	120.1	4.7
Other goods and services <u>6/</u> -----	123.6	118.2	4.6
<u>Special groups:</u>			
All items less shelter -----	120.6	115.9	4.1
All items less food -----	121.9	116.8	4.4
All items less medical care -----	119.7	115.0	4.1
Commodities <u>7/</u> -----	115.3	111.2	3.7
Nondurables -----	118.4	114.0	3.9
Durables <u>7/</u> <u>8/</u> -----	107.5	104.3	3.1
Services <u>9/</u> -----	134.3	127.7	5.2
Commodities less food <u>7/</u> -----	113.2	109.2	3.7
Nondurables less food -----	117.7	113.1	4.1
Apparel commodities -----	119.3	113.0	5.6
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	116.8	110.5	5.7
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	116.8	113.1	3.3
New cars -----	100.8	98.1	2.8
Used cars -----	(10/)	121.5	(10/)
Household durables <u>11/</u> -----	101.4	98.2	3.3
Housefurnishings -----	104.7	100.8	3.9
Services less rent <u>9/</u> -----	138.6	131.1	5.7
Household services less rent -----	134.5	127.0	5.9
Transportation services -----	133.5	128.4	4.0
Medical care services -----	156.3	145.6	7.3
Other services <u>12/</u> -----	138.8	131.5	5.6
All items index on other bases:			
1947-49=100 -----	148.7	142.7	---
1939=100 -----	250.2	240.1	---
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar:			
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	\$0.825	\$0.860	- 4.1
1947-49=\$1.00 -----	.673	.701	---
1939=\$1.00 -----	.400	.416	---

See footnotes, table 1.

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 <u>1/</u>	Pricing Schedule <u>2/</u>	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1957-59=100	1947-49=100	Other bases	December 1968	September 1968	December 1967
		December 1968			December 1968	September 1968	December 1967
U.S. City Average -----	M	123.7	151.8		0.2	1.2	4.7
Chicago -----	M	121.0	152.6		.6	1.0	4.5
Detroit -----	M	122.5	151.0		.3	1.1	5.2
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	124.2	154.8		0	1.1	3.6
New York -----	M	127.2	153.2		.2	1.0	5.3
Philadelphia -----	M	125.1	153.6		.2	1.1	5.4
		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
		November 1968				August 1968	November 1967
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) ---	2			116.9		1.0	5.1
Cleveland -----	2	121.8	151.3			1.5	6.2
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) ---	2			115.4		1.5	5.8
Milwaukee -----	2	118.7	149.7			1.1	3.7
San Diego (Feb.1965=100) -	2			111.2		1.1	4.4
Seattle -----	2	124.5	156.4			1.1	4.4
Washington -----	2	124.9	150.3			1.5	6.0
		December 1968				September 1968	December 1967
Atlanta -----	3	122.1	151.2			0.7	4.5
Baltimore -----	3	124.0	153.9			1.3	5.6
Cincinnati -----	3	121.1	147.3			.7	4.4
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100) --	3			113.9		1.0	3.8
Kansas City -----	3	125.5	155.2			.9	4.4
St. Louis -----	3	123.4	153.2			.6	3.8
San Francisco-Oakland ----	3	126.7	160.9			1.0	4.5

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 November 1968 to December 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.2	0.6	0.3	0	0.2	0.2
Food -----	.6	.7	.1	0.8	.4	.7
Housing -----	.5	.3	.7	.6	.6	0
Apparel and upkeep -----	.2	.1	.1	.7	.2	.2
Transportation -----	-.8	2.0	-.5	-3.5	-.9	-.6
Health and recreation -----	.3	.4	.7	.2	.1	.5
Medical care -----	.6	1.0	1.3	.6	.1	.5
Personal care -----	.5	.8	1.1	.2	.3	.3
Reading and recreation -----	.2	.1	0	0	.1	.5
Other goods and services -----	.2	-.2	0	.2	.1	(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=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: Dec.	123.7	121.2	122.3	124.3	120.2	132.8	149.1	123.4	128.2	125.6
Nov.	123.4	120.5	121.7	124.0	121.2	132.4	148.2	122.8	128.0	125.4
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
Annual Average: 1968	121.2	119.3	119.1	120.1	119.6	130.0	145.0	120.3	125.7	123.6
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
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
December 1968 indexes and percent changes from September 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Baltimore	Chicago	Cincinnati	Detroit	Honolulu (Dec. 1963=100)
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)							
All items -----	123.7	122.1	124.0	121.0	121.1	122.5	113.9
Food -----	121.2	119.1	123.9	122.5	118.4	118.4	113.9
Food at home -----	117.4	115.5	119.1	120.4	115.0	115.2	113.1
Cereals and bakery products ----	120.1	113.1	125.2	123.5	115.7	115.7	112.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	114.4	112.9	117.7	116.6	114.4	117.4	113.8
Dairy products -----	122.6	116.9	119.1	135.6	118.8	128.4	113.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.4	123.7	129.8	124.3	126.9	109.6	118.7
Other foods at home -----	108.4	114.3	109.4	109.7	103.6	105.8	106.9
Food away from home -----	139.9	132.1	144.0	132.2	136.4	136.0	116.6
Housing -----	122.3	123.1	122.1	116.9	116.2	118.9	118.4
Shelter -----	127.6	123.6	127.6	120.0	117.7	124.1	125.4
Rent -----	116.7	112.5	114.4	-----	104.9	106.6	112.7
Homeownership -----	132.0	126.8	133.1	124.1	123.8	128.2	134.3
Fuel and utilities -----	111.5	114.0	108.8	106.5	106.8	103.4	100.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	116.2	-----	118.5	108.7	118.8	108.7	-----
Gas and electricity -----	110.0	110.7	101.3	104.2	109.0	104.4	99.4
Household furnishings and operation	115.1	123.7	119.5	114.9	114.4	110.9	108.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	124.3	124.7	125.1	119.6	127.4	123.0	112.3
Men's and boys' -----	125.3	124.1	127.4	118.0	131.0	122.5	108.4
Women's and girls' -----	120.8	119.7	115.7	115.3	118.4	120.9	117.2
Footwear -----	136.3	134.7	150.7	132.0	147.4	133.1	111.8
Transportation -----	120.2	116.8	123.0	120.9	120.3	119.7	106.2
Private -----	117.5	113.6	119.3	116.1	115.9	117.1	109.1
Public -----	143.3	140.4	140.9	152.1	157.7	137.2	92.3
Health and recreation -----	132.8	130.5	128.9	127.6	132.2	135.5	114.4
Medical care -----	149.1	146.4	160.3	157.0	155.6	158.2	124.5
Personal care -----	123.4	130.8	124.8	123.1	117.5	131.5	107.2
Reading and recreation -----	128.2	126.7	122.5	111.4	128.0	127.4	107.8
Other goods and services -----	125.6	117.1	113.4	118.0	121.4	120.4	116.9
Percent changes September 1968 to December 1968							
All items -----	1.2	0.7	1.3	1.0	0.7	1.1	1.0
Food -----	.7	.2	.4	.2	.7	-.5	1.0
Food at home -----	.5	-.5	0	-.1	.8	-.8	.8
Cereals and bakery products ----	.3	-.1	.9	-.7	1.8	.5	-.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-1.0	-3.7	.3	-1.0	-1.0	-1.7	0
Dairy products -----	.8	2.4	2.1	.2	1.5	.3	.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	2.8	.7	-2.8	1.0	2.8	-1.6	4.1
Other foods at home -----	.9	1.4	.1	.6	.5	-.3	.1
Food away from home -----	1.4	2.4	1.8	1.3	.3	.9	1.8
Housing -----	1.6	.6	2.2	.6	1.0	1.9	.9
Shelter -----	1.8	-.3	3.2	.8	.9	2.6	.8
Rent -----	.9	.7	.5	-----	0	2/ .6	1.2
Homeownership -----	2.2	-.6	4.4	1.0	1.4	3.0	.8
Fuel and utilities -----	.9	0	0	-1.9	.3	-.2	0
Fuel oil and coal -----	.3	-----	-.3	.2	6.0	2.2	-----
Gas and electricity -----	.6	0	.1	-3.7	0	-.7	0
Household furnishings and operation	1.1	2.8	1.2	1.6	1.1	.5	1.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.7	1.1	.9	1.0	.1	1.7	.6
Men's and boys' -----	1.7	1.0	1.4	1.5	.2	.8	1.6
Women's and girls' -----	1.9	2.9	-1.1	-.1	-1.2	1.0	.6
Footwear -----	1.7	-1.2	2.0	.8	.7	1.3	-.2
Transportation -----	.6	1.2	2.6	3.1	-.9	.8	2.2
Private -----	.3	.6	1.3	-.3	-1.6	.9	2.5
Public -----	3.3	8.6	11.3	22.5	3.9	0	0
Health and recreation -----	1.3	1.2	.5	1.4	1.5	1.5	.8
Medical care -----	1.8	2.0	.3	2.1	1.6	2.1	1.3
Personal care -----	1.6	.4	2.4	1.1	3.2	3.5	1.0
Reading and recreation -----	1.2	1.4	.2	1.4	2.0	.8	.6
Other goods and services -----	1.0	.3	.4	.4	.5	.3	.7

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
 December 1968 indexes and percent changes from September 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 -----	125.5	124.2	127.2	125.1	123.4	126.7
Food -----	124.4	119.3	122.3	121.9	124.9	119.6
Food at home -----	121.3	113.6	116.9	117.2	120.7	114.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	125.4	119.9	118.5	118.0	124.5	116.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	118.5	105.1	115.3	111.4	119.0	110.9
Dairy products -----	130.7	119.1	113.9	130.9	131.5	117.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	124.9	135.6	129.9	127.9	128.9	124.7
Other foods at home -----	112.4	99.4	108.2	105.8	107.7	105.1
Food away from home -----	135.2	140.0	145.6	146.7	141.9	143.4
Housing -----	118.6	127.2	126.4	121.7	118.0	133.5
Shelter -----	119.8	134.5	131.1	125.5	121.7	144.0
Rent -----	108.2	-----	126.8	-----	110.4	140.4
Homeownership -----	124.5	140.6	132.9	127.8	124.4	145.6
Fuel and utilities -----	119.5	108.6	112.3	109.6	109.1	104.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	120.9	122.1	113.0	-----
Gas and electricity -----	120.5	112.5	110.9	102.7	111.4	108.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	112.1	114.4	121.8	118.0	116.5	116.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	130.1	123.1	130.3	131.7	124.2	127.4
Men's and boys' -----	129.0	125.7	133.7	128.0	123.4	124.7
Women's and girls' -----	129.6	123.4	126.3	127.3	123.4	124.1
Footwear -----	141.7	132.4	136.7	141.1	137.3	134.0
Transportation -----	123.0	122.8	121.1	129.5	120.9	120.3
Private -----	119.8	118.2	120.3	124.2	119.1	122.1
Public -----	150.3	154.5	127.4	155.9	129.0	103.8
Health and recreation -----	140.5	126.4	138.6	132.5	134.2	131.6
Medical care -----	156.7	144.7	151.9	157.6	142.1	148.5
Personal care -----	124.2	117.1	120.6	116.6	125.7	133.1
Reading and recreation -----	140.4	112.9	138.7	122.7	133.8	116.4
Other goods and services -----	130.2	122.9	134.9	125.9	130.7	129.0
Percent changes September 1968 to December 1968						
All items -----	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	0.6	1.0
Food -----	.4	1.1	.6	.7	.2	.7
Food at home -----	.1	1.2	.3	.4	-.1	.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	.8	-.2	-.7	1.7	-.6	-.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-.9	-.9	-.3	-.7	-1.2	-1.3
Dairy products -----	.2	.3	1.1	2.7	-1.7	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	.9	6.7	1.7	.6	.4	3.4
Other foods at home -----	.4	1.8	.6	-.4	2.2	2.0
Food away from home -----	1.3	1.0	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.1
Housing -----	.1	1.6	1.4	1.2	1.2	1.3
Shelter -----	-.4	1.7	1.5	2.4	1.6	1.4
Rent -----	.7	-----	2/ .6	-----	.3	1.7
Homeownership -----	-.9	2.0	1.8	2.9	1.8	1.3
Fuel and utilities -----	1.4	2.4	1.5	0	1.0	2.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	-.4	0	2.1	-----
Gas and electricity -----	1.5	0	-.1	0	1.4	0
Household furnishings and operation -----	.4	1.1	.6	.2	.7	1.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	.5	1.2	1.0	1.2	.4	.7
Men's and boys' -----	-.2	.6	.7	1.9	.5	.9
Women's and girls' -----	.2	1.3	.2	1.0	-.7	0
Footwear -----	1.0	2.2	2.7	.9	2.9	1.7
Transportation -----	2.3	-.2	.4	.7	-.3	.8
Private -----	2.4	-.2	.5	.9	-.3	.8
Public -----	1.3	0	.1	0	0	.4
Health and recreation -----	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.0
Medical care -----	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.1	1.2
Personal care -----	1.1	1.3	2.5	.8	1.0	2.1
Reading and recreation -----	.8	.9	.3	2.1	.5	.1
Other goods and services -----	1.1	1.6	2.0	.4	1.6	1.1

1/ See footnote 1, table 2.

2/ Change from October 1968.

TABLE 5A: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas 1/
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Commodity Groups
1968 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1967 to 1968

Group	U.S. City Average	Atlanta	Baltimore	Chicago	Cincinnati	Detroit	Honolulu (Dec. 1963=100)
Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)							
All items -----	121.2	119.6	120.9	118.5	118.9	119.8	111.9
All items (1947-49=100) -----	148.7	148.1	150.0	149.5	144.7	147.7	-----
Food -----	119.3	117.2	121.3	120.4	116.3	117.6	112.2
Food at home -----	115.9	114.4	116.9	118.8	112.7	114.8	111.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.0	113.4	123.6	122.3	113.5	113.0	111.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.7	113.8	115.0	115.4	113.6	117.0	112.5
Dairy products -----	120.6	114.7	116.7	133.1	115.3	126.3	112.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.8	124.6	131.3	126.1	124.8	115.6	117.1
Other foods at home -----	104.5	109.1	105.3	105.6	100.1	102.9	104.8
Food away from home -----	136.3	127.2	139.6	128.0	134.5	133.4	113.8
Housing -----	119.1	120.2	117.9	115.0	113.9	114.8	116.2
Shelter -----	123.6	120.8	121.5	117.5	115.0	118.4	122.7
Rent -----	115.1	111.3	113.3	-----	104.8	104.9	110.4
Homeownership -----	127.0	123.4	124.7	120.9	119.9	121.6	131.1
Fuel and utilities -----	110.4	114.0	108.0	107.7	106.2	103.3	100.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	115.1	-----	117.5	108.7	112.3	106.9	-----
Gas and electricity -----	109.5	110.7	100.9	107.1	108.6	104.6	99.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	113.0	119.2	117.2	112.9	112.3	108.9	106.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	120.1	122.0	121.9	115.7	123.0	118.4	109.8
Men's and boys' -----	120.8	120.4	122.0	114.2	126.3	117.6	105.4
Women's and girls' -----	116.4	115.6	115.3	111.3	114.9	116.9	114.1
Footwear -----	132.2	135.1	145.6	128.8	141.3	128.5	110.3
Transportation -----	119.6	115.6	119.6	117.7	120.6	119.0	104.4
Private -----	117.3	112.9	117.2	116.5	116.8	116.8	106.9
Public -----	138.2	131.1	128.1	126.4	152.5	133.9	92.3
Health and recreation -----	130.0	127.1	127.1	124.9	129.6	132.6	112.2
Medical care -----	145.0	141.0	158.0	153.2	152.0	154.3	121.2
Personal care -----	120.3	127.4	120.8	119.2	114.1	126.9	105.5
Reading and recreation -----	125.7	123.5	121.1	109.3	124.7	125.1	106.3
Other goods and services -----	123.6	116.4	112.7	116.5	120.6	119.1	114.6
Percent changes 1967 to 1968							
All items -----	4.2	4.0	4.1	4.3	4.8	4.3	3.8
Food -----	3.6	2.6	4.3	4.3	3.4	3.1	3.6
Food at home -----	3.2	2.1	4.3	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	.4	.6	1.3	2.0	-.4	.5	2.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	2.2	1.9	3.9	2.1	1.6	2.8	1.4
Dairy products -----	3.3	.4	2.5	5.5	1.9	4.8	4.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	7.9	8.0	8.5	8.9	8.3	4.9	9.7
Other foods at home -----	2.6	1.9	4.8	3.7	3.4	1.6	1.5
Food away from home -----	5.2	4.0	4.2	5.4	4.3	4.0	4.1
Housing -----	4.2	4.8	3.6	3.5	4.8	4.9	4.5
Shelter -----	4.8	5.4	4.7	4.0	5.7	6.2	5.8
Rent -----	2.4	2.5	1.7	-----	.6	3.3	3.3
Homeownership -----	5.7	6.2	5.9	4.9	8.1	6.8	7.2
Fuel and utilities -----	1.3	1.4	.3	1.0	1.1	.6	.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	3.1	-----	3.2	2.3	3.9	1.8	-----
Gas and electricity -----	.9	0	-.9	0	1.4	0	0
Household furnishings and operation -----	4.4	5.1	3.3	3.6	4.3	3.5	2.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	5.4	4.1	4.6	5.3	7.0	4.3	3.8
Men's and boys' -----	5.7	4.5	5.9	5.7	7.1	6.4	3.9
Women's and girls' -----	5.9	4.1	3.1	5.1	7.0	3.1	3.6
Footwear -----	5.3	4.6	6.0	5.4	8.7	3.6	3.3
Transportation -----	3.2	2.4	3.5	4.5	5.1	4.0	3.7
Private -----	3.0	2.4	3.4	3.2	4.1	3.4	4.3
Public -----	4.6	2.9	3.6	13.2	12.1	12.0	0
Health and recreation -----	5.0	5.3	4.7	5.0	5.5	4.7	3.5
Medical care -----	6.1	6.7	5.6	5.9	7.6	6.6	5.9
Personal care -----	4.2	8.3	3.3	3.7	2.6	4.4	1.3
Reading and recreation -----	4.7	4.0	6.1	4.6	4.0	5.7	2.7
Other goods and services -----	4.6	2.8	2.9	5.2	6.2	1.9	3.1

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5A: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas 1/
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Commodity Groups
1968 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1967 to 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 -----	123.5	122.2	124.1	122.4	121.5	124.3
All items (1947-49=100) -----	152.8	152.3	149.5	150.3	150.9	157.8
Food -----	122.7	117.5	120.2	119.6	123.5	118.4
Food at home -----	120.0	112.0	115.1	115.0	119.8	113.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	123.8	119.4	117.9	115.4	121.6	117.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	117.6	104.3	114.3	110.6	119.1	110.7
Dairy products -----	128.8	118.8	112.0	126.7	132.6	116.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.3	133.1	129.6	127.7	130.3	128.6
Other foods at home -----	108.7	96.0	103.6	101.5	103.7	100.8
Food away from home -----	132.6	137.3	141.9	144.0	138.2	139.3
Housing -----	117.1	124.1	122.9	118.8	115.7	129.6
Shelter -----	118.7	130.9	126.5	120.9	118.4	139.1
Rent -----	107.2	-----	124.8	-----	109.6	136.6
Homeownership -----	123.4	136.2	126.5	122.4	120.4	140.1
Fuel and utilities -----	116.9	106.4	110.7	109.4	108.7	102.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	120.4	121.2	111.8	-----
Gas and electricity -----	117.3	112.4	110.9	102.7	110.8	108.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	110.5	112.1	120.0	116.3	114.8	114.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	125.7	119.6	125.0	127.1	121.3	124.7
Men's and boys' -----	125.7	123.1	128.3	121.6	120.7	121.0
Women's and girls' -----	124.2	118.8	120.2	122.9	120.7	122.0
Footwear -----	137.1	128.2	131.7	136.7	131.4	131.3
Transportation -----	122.1	124.7	120.2	128.1	121.1	119.0
Private -----	119.2	120.2	119.4	122.6	119.3	120.8
Public -----	143.3	154.0	126.4	155.8	128.9	103.5
Health and recreation -----	137.1	124.1	135.1	129.6	131.4	129.7
Medical care -----	153.2	141.5	147.6	152.0	139.3	145.8
Personal care -----	120.7	115.2	116.8	114.6	123.3	129.7
Reading and recreation -----	136.2	111.3	136.8	120.1	131.3	115.5
Other goods and services -----	128.4	120.7	130.6	124.7	127.3	127.6
Percent changes 1967 to 1968						
All items -----	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.8	4.0	4.5
Food -----	4.1	3.0	3.9	4.5	3.8	3.2
Food at home -----	3.7	2.4	3.7	3.7	3.3	2.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	1.2	-.1	.5	1.0	1.9	.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	3.3	1.7	3.0	3.1	2.8	2.2
Dairy products -----	4.1	1.6	3.3	3.9	3.8	1.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	7.9	8.4	9.0	8.4	9.0	7.3
Other foods at home -----	2.5	1.2	2.8	2.3	-.1	2.9
Food away from home -----	5.3	4.5	4.6	7.6	6.3	4.6
Housing -----	3.7	3.7	4.1	3.8	3.7	5.5
Shelter -----	3.9	3.8	4.4	3.0	4.1	6.7
Rent -----	1.1	-----	2.6	-----	1.6	5.2
Homeownership -----	4.9	4.3	5.5	3.3	4.8	7.3
Fuel and utilities -----	2.7	1.4	.9	1.5	.5	0
Fuel oil and coal -----	-----	-----	2.9	3.5	2.5	-----
Gas and electricity -----	1.5	1.4	.3	.9	.5	.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	3.9	4.3	5.1	6.7	4.6	4.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	7.4	5.3	5.7	5.7	5.8	5.7
Men's and boys' -----	6.8	6.3	7.5	5.9	6.1	5.2
Women's and girls' -----	10.4	5.5	5.8	6.0	7.2	6.7
Footwear -----	6.7	6.0	3.6	5.9	4.4	6.1
Transportation -----	2.5	3.1	2.6	5.1	2.1	2.8
Private -----	2.1	3.0	3.0	4.5	1.9	2.9
Public -----	9.3	4.8	1.4	8.5	3.9	.7
Health and recreation -----	4.5	5.3	5.1	5.8	5.0	5.2
Medical care -----	6.5	5.5	6.6	8.1	4.8	4.9
Personal care -----	4.1	4.1	3.6	3.3	4.2	4.8
Reading and recreation -----	2.7	3.4	5.3	4.7	4.4	3.7
Other goods and services -----	4.4	7.4	4.1	5.8	6.0	8.5

1/ See footnote 1, table 2.

TABLE 6: Consumer Price Index--United States and Selected Areas
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food and its Subgroups
December 1968 indexes and percent changes from November 1968

Area <u>1/</u>	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 -----	121.2	117.4	120.1	114.4	122.6	126.4	108.4	139.9
Atlanta -----	119.1	115.5	113.1	112.9	116.9	123.7	114.3	132.1
Baltimore -----	123.9	119.1	125.2	117.7	119.1	129.8	109.4	144.0
Boston -----	124.6	119.3	122.0	119.9	118.1	130.1	108.2	147.8
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	117.0	115.4	108.6	112.7	119.0	125.3	112.9	127.1
Chicago -----	122.5	120.4	123.5	116.6	135.6	124.3	109.7	132.2
Cincinnati -----	118.4	115.0	115.7	114.4	118.8	126.9	103.6	136.4
Cleveland -----	119.2	116.3	116.0	117.9	122.9	123.4	104.7	136.5
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	115.9	113.1	110.1	114.0	120.9	114.8	108.6	126.5
Detroit -----	118.4	115.2	115.7	117.4	128.4	109.6	105.8	136.0
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	113.9	113.1	112.4	113.8	113.4	118.7	106.9	116.6
Houston -----	122.9	118.6	126.7	111.7	127.9	129.1	109.0	141.1
Kansas City -----	124.4	121.3	125.4	118.5	130.7	124.9	112.4	135.2
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	119.3	113.6	119.9	105.1	119.1	135.6	99.4	140.0
Milwaukee -----	120.4	118.5	110.8	117.0	130.7	126.1	110.4	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	119.3	116.0	110.6	112.7	127.9	120.0	111.6	134.3
New York -----	122.3	116.9	118.5	115.3	113.9	129.9	108.2	145.6
Philadelphia -----	121.9	117.2	118.0	111.4	130.9	127.9	105.8	146.7
Pittsburgh -----	118.8	116.2	120.0	118.2	114.9	123.5	107.2	135.1
St. Louis -----	124.9	120.7	124.5	119.0	131.5	128.9	107.7	141.9
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	112.9	109.2	108.3	112.9	108.9	107.5	105.8	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	119.6	114.1	116.6	110.9	117.3	124.7	105.1	143.4
Seattle -----	120.5	114.9	107.4	114.1	125.1	127.2	103.9	143.8
Washington -----	124.9	120.1	115.8	116.7	124.7	126.8	117.2	143.2
Percent changes November 1968 to December 1968								
U.S. City Average -----	0.6	0.7	0	- 0.2	0	2.1	1.6	0.4
Atlanta -----	.4	.3	- 0.3	- 1.6	0.3	.9	2.8	.8
Baltimore -----	1.1	1.1	- .5	1.1	.1	1.3	2.3	.8
Boston -----	.7	.9	1.2	- .2	.4	2.6	1.4	.2
Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) -	1.1	1.3	1.4	.3	.1	4.1	1.5	.2
Chicago -----	.7	.8	- 1.4	0	.4	3.1	2.1	.2
Cincinnati -----	.4	.5	0	- 1.0	.5	2.3	1.3	.2
Cleveland -----	.5	.7	0	.6	1.7	.5	.7	.1
Dallas (Nov.1963=100) --	.9	.8	- .5	- .4	- .4	4.0	1.8	1.0
Detroit -----	.1	0	.2	- .4	.1	- 2.1	2.4	.3
Honolulu (Dec.1963=100)	- .2	- .4	- .2	- .5	- .3	- .5	- .1	.6
Houston -----	.7	.7	0	.4	.2	1.0	2.0	.4
Kansas City -----	.2	.1	.4	- .9	- .1	.5	1.1	.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	.8	.9	.7	.1	.1	3.4	1.0	.3
Milwaukee -----	.8	.9	0	.5	- .5	2.8	2.2	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.5	.3	- .3	- .3	.2	.5	1.6	1.0
New York -----	.4	.5	- .5	.4	- .1	.2	2.0	.1
Philadelphia -----	.7	.7	.2	- .4	1.1	1.6	1.9	.3
Pittsburgh -----	1.4	1.5	.3	1.3	- .3	3.7	2.5	.2
St. Louis -----	.8	.8	- .3	.6	- 1.5	2.1	2.6	.6
San Diego (Feb.1965=100)	.4	.6	0	.2	0	1.0	1.2	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	.3	.2	- 1.3	.5	- .1	- .8	1.6	.3
Seattle -----	.6	.8	0	- .2	- .1	3.9	.9	.1
Washington -----	.6	.6	- .3	- 1.0	0	2.4	2.8	.6

1/ See footnote 1, table 2.

2/ Not available.

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

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to December 1968 from --		December 1967 Unadjusted
	December 1968		November 1968		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Total food -----	121.2	121.4	0.6	0.3	4.3
Food away from home -----	139.9	-----	.4	-----	5.7
Restaurant meals -----	140.0	-----	.3	-----	5.5
Snacks <u>1/</u> -----	121.6	-----	.4	-----	6.4
Food at home -----	117.4	117.8	.7	.5	4.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	120.1	-----	0	-----	1.4
Flour -----	110.2	-----	- 1.6	-----	- 2.4
Cracker meal <u>1/</u> -----	117.5	-----	0	-----	.3
Corn flakes -----	129.3	-----	.2	-----	.2
Rice -----	111.1	-----	.1	-----	1.8
Bread, white -----	126.0	-----	- .5	-----	2.4
Bread, whole wheat <u>1/</u> -----	117.9	-----	.3	-----	3.3
Cookies -----	100.6	-----	.5	-----	- 1.7
Layer cake <u>1/</u> -----	110.5	-----	.2	-----	4.1
Cinnamon rolls <u>1/</u> -----	109.0	-----	.6	-----	1.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	114.4	115.0	- .2	.3	2.9
Meats -----	117.1	117.7	- .3	.6	2.6
Beef and veal -----	118.7	118.5	- .7	- .5	2.6
Steak, round -----	112.7	112.0	- 1.7	- 1.7	.6
Steak, sirloin <u>2/</u> -----	111.1	-----	- 1.2	-----	1.1
Steak, porterhouse <u>1/</u> -----	116.7	-----	- .6	-----	2.9
Rump roast <u>1/</u> -----	108.8	-----	- 1.2	-----	.7
Rib roast -----	129.3	128.9	- 1.0	.3	4.4
Chuck roast -----	110.4	109.5	- 1.2	- 1.2	2.1
Hamburger -----	123.1	123.1	.2	.6	4.9
Beef liver <u>1/</u> -----	106.2	-----	- 1.2	-----	0
Veal cutlets -----	143.8	144.8	- .6	- .8	5.6
Pork -----	114.9	116.8	.3	2.0	3.1
Chops -----	118.0	122.3	1.2	4.4	5.9
Loin roast <u>2/</u> -----	124.6	-----	- .2	-----	5.1
Pork sausage <u>1/</u> -----	125.4	-----	- .8	-----	3.6
Ham, whole -----	112.4	109.6	.7	- 1.6	- .2
Picnics <u>1/</u> -----	117.2	-----	2.7	-----	3.4
Bacon -----	113.0	115.8	- 1.1	- .1	.4
Other meats -----	120.7	120.5	0	.2	1.9
Lamb chops <u>1/</u> -----	129.9	-----	0	-----	5.1
Frankfurters -----	117.9	118.1	- .4	.4	1.3
Ham, canned <u>1/</u> -----	115.5	-----	- .9	-----	- .4
Bologna sausage <u>1/</u> -----	121.3	-----	.3	-----	2.7
Salami sausage <u>1/</u> -----	116.1	-----	0	-----	2.4
Liverwurst <u>1/</u> -----	117.6	-----	1.3	-----	.7
Poultry -----	90.8	-----	- .3	-----	3.9
Frying chicken -----	91.2	93.5	0	- .1	4.9
Chicken breasts <u>1/</u> -----	103.6	-----	.1	-----	3.1
Turkey <u>1/</u> -----	98.4	-----	- 3.0	-----	- .7
Fish -----	126.3	126.3	.6	.3	3.5
Shrimp, frozen <u>1/</u> -----	112.5	-----	.9	-----	5.3
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	127.5	127.8	.9	1.1	1.8
Tuna fish, canned -----	112.1	-----	.4	-----	1.6
Sardines, canned <u>1/</u> -----	123.6	-----	.2	-----	5.1
Dairy products -----	122.6	121.9	0	0	3.8
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	120.7	119.7	.1	.2	4.1
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	126.3	-----	.2	-----	5.0
Milk, fresh, skim <u>1/</u> -----	121.0	-----	.6	-----	5.9
Milk, evaporated -----	121.5	-----	- .2	-----	3.7
Ice cream -----	99.0	-----	- .7	-----	.5
Cheese, American process -----	141.2	140.8	- .1	.1	3.9
Butter -----	117.1	115.9	- .2	- .5	.8

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to December 1968 from --		December 1967 Unadjusted
	December 1968		November 1968		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.4	129.4	2.1	1.1	5.7
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	135.2	141.3	3.5	2.3	8.7
Apples -----	150.0	174.8	5.2	.7	13.9
Bananas -----	87.8	92.0	-.5	.4	- 1.6
Oranges -----	131.5	132.7	- 19.0	- 13.0	-.1
Orange juice, fresh 1/ -----	88.1	-----	.5	-----	14.9
Grapefruit -----	151.3	172.1	- 17.4	- 13.8	9.6
Grapes * -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Strawberries 3/ -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Watermelon -----	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Potatoes -----	133.4	145.3	1.1	.3	8.4
Onions -----	132.0	141.8	1.5	1.0	3.6
Asparagus * 1/ 2/ -----	(3/)	-----	(3/)	-----	(3/)
Cabbage -----	156.3	162.5	10.7	1.8	21.4
Carrots -----	112.6	111.3	5.2	.4	- 20.4
Celery -----	110.7	111.9	3.8	3.2	- 6.3
Cucumbers 1/ -----	217.1	-----	61.3	-----	95.9
Lettuce -----	138.6	144.5	10.0	24.9	8.0
Peppers, green 1/ -----	160.1	-----	8.2	-----	- 16.5
Spinach 1/ -----	107.1	-----	3.1	-----	10.0
Tomatoes -----	166.0	136.7	25.4	- 5.7	41.6
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	115.7	-----	.1	-----	1.6
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	107.9	-----	.4	-----	.7
Pears, canned 1/ -----	111.5	-----	- 1.2	-----	- 2.6
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned 1/ --	98.5	-----	.2	-----	2.7
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	91.8	88.5	-.1	- 2.6	15.6
Lemonade concentrate, frozen 2/ -----	90.6	-----	.8	-----	.3
Beets, canned 1/ -----	113.2	-----	-.1	-----	2.8
Peas, green, canned -----	121.6	-----	.2	-----	-.3
Tomatoes, canned -----	126.4	-----	.2	-----	- 2.0
Dried beans -----	125.5	-----	.2	-----	3.5
Broccoli, frozen 1/ -----	101.2	-----	.1	-----	1.6
Other food at home -----	108.4	107.2	1.6	.9	6.1
Eggs -----	112.2	104.0	9.4	5.4	27.4
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	102.7	-----	.2	-----	- 1.3
Salad dressing, Italian 1/ -----	101.3	-----	0	-----	- 1.5
Salad or cooking oil 1/ -----	122.4	-----	-.3	-----	-.4
Sugar and sweets -----	122.0	-----	.5	-----	5.0
Sugar -----	113.5	-----	-.1	-----	.1
Grape jelly -----	120.6	-----	.3	-----	2.6
Chocolate bar -----	122.9	-----	1.5	-----	16.3
Syrup, chocolate flavored 1/ -----	102.2	-----	-.1	-----	.7
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	102.3	-----	.2	-----	3.3
Coffee, can and bag -----	87.4	-----	-.1	-----	.7
Coffee, instant 4/ -----	100.6	-----	0	-----	3.7
Tea -----	101.2	-----	.5	-----	1.2
Cola drink -----	151.6	-----	.7	-----	7.5
Carbonated fruit drink 1/ -----	119.0	-----	.3	-----	7.8
Prepared and partially prepared foods 1/	103.9	-----	.1	-----	2.3
Bean soup, canned 1/ -----	100.8	-----	.3	-----	.1
Chicken soup, canned 1/ -----	95.9	-----	-.2	-----	-.6
Spaghetti, canned 1/ -----	114.4	-----	.8	-----	2.9
Mashed potatoes, instant 1/ -----	102.7	-----	.2	-----	1.0
Potatoes, french fried, frozen 2/ -----	89.0	-----	0	-----	5.3
Baby foods, canned -----	111.1	-----	-.1	-----	3.5
Sweet pickle relish 1/ -----	111.9	-----	-.1	-----	3.3
Pretzels 1/ -----	106.5	-----	-.1	-----	3.0

1/ December 1963=100.

2/ April 1960=100.

3/ Priced only in season.

4/ July 1961=100.

TABLE 7-A: Consumer Price Index--United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food Items
1968 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1967 to 1968

Item or Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)		Percent change to 1968 from --
	1968 unadjusted	1967 unadjusted	1967 unadjusted
Total food -----	119.3	115.2	3.6
Food away from home -----	136.3	129.6	5.2
Restaurant meals -----	136.5	129.9	5.1
Snacks <u>1/</u> -----	118.0	112.1	5.3
Food at home -----	115.9	112.3	3.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.0	118.5	.4
Flour -----	112.4	114.4	- 1.7
Cracker meal <u>1/</u> -----	117.3	116.8	.4
Corn flakes -----	128.7	128.8	- .1
Rice -----	110.3	108.3	1.8
Bread, white -----	124.4	123.8	.5
Bread, whole wheat <u>1/</u> -----	115.3	114.0	1.1
Cookies -----	100.5	101.8	- 1.3
Layer cake <u>1/</u> -----	108.8	105.4	3.2
Cinnamon rolls <u>1/</u> -----	107.3	107.4	- .1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	113.7	111.2	2.2
Meats -----	116.4	113.8	2.3
Beef and veal -----	117.7	113.1	4.1
Steak, round -----	112.5	108.4	3.8
Steak, sirloin <u>2/</u> -----	111.0	106.6	4.1
Steak, porterhouse <u>1/</u> -----	116.1	110.6	5.0
Rump roast <u>1/</u> -----	108.7	105.1	3.4
Rib roast -----	125.8	119.6	5.2
Chuck roast -----	109.9	105.1	4.6
Hamburger -----	120.6	115.9	4.1
Beef liver <u>1/</u> -----	106.8	106.4	.4
Veal cutlets -----	142.2	133.3	6.7
Pork -----	115.0	114.8	.2
Chop -----	118.8	116.1	2.3
Loin roast <u>2/</u> -----	125.3	123.4	1.5
Pork sausage <u>1/</u> -----	124.0	122.8	1.0
Ham, whole -----	110.9	110.9	0
Picnics <u>1/</u> -----	115.0	117.1	- 1.8
Bacon -----	114.8	117.9	- 2.6
Other meats -----	119.5	117.8	1.4
Lamb chops <u>1/</u> -----	128.3	121.3	5.8
Frankfurters -----	117.2	116.9	.3
Ham, canned <u>1/</u> -----	115.0	116.6	- 1.4
Bologna sausage <u>1/</u> -----	119.4	117.3	1.8
Salami sausage <u>1/</u> -----	114.6	112.4	2.0
Liverwurst <u>1/</u> -----	116.4	116.3	.1
Poultry -----	91.7	88.9	3.1
Frying chicken -----	92.7	88.4	4.9
Chicken breasts <u>1/</u> -----	103.2	100.3	2.9
Turkey <u>1/</u> -----	97.9	102.6	- 4.6
Fish -----	123.8	121.8	1.6
Shrimp, frozen <u>1/</u> -----	108.6	109.4	- .7
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	125.5	124.8	.6
Tuna fish, canned -----	110.7	111.0	- .3
Sardines, canned <u>1/</u> -----	121.7	114.2	6.6
Dairy products -----	120.6	116.7	3.3
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	118.5	113.8	4.1
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	123.7	117.8	5.0
Milk, fresh, skim <u>1/</u> -----	117.5	112.2	4.7
Milk, evaporated -----	119.8	117.4	2.0
Ice cream -----	98.8	99.0	- .2
Cheese, American process -----	139.2	136.3	2.1
Butter -----	116.8	115.9	.8

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7-A: Consumer Price Index--United States City Average
For Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Food Items
1968 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1967 to 1968--Continued

Item or Group	Indexes (1957-59=100)		Percent change to 1968 from --
	1968 unadjusted	1967 unadjusted	
Fruits and vegetables -----	126.8	117.5	7.9
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	136.0	124.3	9.4
Apples -----	163.4	140.3	16.5
Bananas -----	93.0	94.1	- 1.2
Oranges -----	147.6	116.9	26.3
Orange juice, fresh <u>1/</u> -----	84.7	73.9	14.6
Grapefruit -----	167.4	136.3	22.8
Grapes <u>3/4/</u> -----	144.0	138.7	3.8
Strawberries <u>3/5/</u> -----	128.8	127.7	.9
Watermelon <u>3/5/</u> -----	124.5	119.4	4.3
Potatoes -----	135.1	131.6	2.7
Onions -----	146.6	135.0	8.6
Asparagus <u>3/1/ 4/</u> -----	124.6	114.0	9.3
Cabbage -----	147.4	135.6	8.7
Carrots -----	128.4	111.1	15.6
Celery -----	113.3	111.3	1.8
Cucumbers <u>1/</u> -----	150.8	132.0	14.2
Lettuce -----	127.8	128.5	- .5
Peppers, green <u>1/</u> -----	162.7	153.5	6.0
Spinach <u>1/</u> -----	104.5	99.5	5.0
Tomatoes -----	133.0	116.3	14.4
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	115.3	109.2	5.6
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	108.3	99.8	8.5
Pears, canned <u>1/</u> -----	116.3	98.7	17.8
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned <u>1/</u> -----	95.9	95.2	.7
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	87.0	75.4	15.4
Lemonade concentrate, frozen <u>2/</u> -----	89.5	89.0	.6
Beets, canned <u>1/</u> -----	111.3	107.1	3.9
Peas, green, canned -----	121.4	121.5	- .1
Tomatoes, canned -----	129.3	123.7	4.5
Dried beans -----	124.1	115.1	7.8
Broccoli, frozen <u>1/</u> -----	100.9	99.6	1.3
Other food at home -----	104.5	101.9	2.6
Eggs -----	95.3	88.4	7.8
Fats and oils:			
Margarine -----	103.3	104.8	- 1.4
Salad dressing, Italian <u>1/</u> -----	102.4	101.6	.8
Salad or cooking oil <u>1/</u> -----	122.1	124.2	- 1.7
Sugar and sweets -----	118.6	114.7	3.4
Sugar -----	113.2	112.5	.6
Grape jelly -----	118.9	116.8	1.8
Chocolate bar -----	112.9	104.3	8.2
Syrup, chocolate flavored <u>1/</u> -----	101.9	99.4	2.5
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	101.0	99.1	1.9
Coffee, can and bag -----	87.3	88.4	- 1.2
Coffee, instant <u>6/</u> -----	98.5	96.8	1.8
Tea -----	100.7	100.5	.2
Cola drink -----	147.7	137.8	7.2
Carbonated fruit drink <u>1/</u> -----	116.0	108.4	7.0
Prepared and partially prepared foods <u>1/</u> -----	102.7	100.8	1.9
Bean soup, canned <u>1/</u> -----	100.8	99.2	1.6
Chicken soup, canned <u>1/</u> -----	96.0	96.6	- .6
Spaghetti, canned <u>1/</u> -----	112.3	109.2	2.8
Mashed potatoes, instant <u>1/</u> -----	102.4	101.9	.5
Potatoes, french fried, frozen <u>2/</u> -----	87.0	84.6	2.8
Baby foods, canned -----	108.3	106.7	1.5
Sweet pickle relish <u>1/</u> -----	109.7	106.7	2.8
Pretzels <u>1/</u> -----	105.8	102.5	3.2

- 1/ December 1963=100.
2/ April 1960=100.
3/ Priced only in season.
4/ 5-month average.
5/ 3-month average.
6/ 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)

	Nov. 1968 to Dec. 1968		Sept. 1968 to Dec. 1968		June 1968 to Sept. 1968		March 1968 to June 1968		Dec. 1967 to March 1968		Dec. 1967 to Dec. 1968	
	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI	WPI	CPI*	WPI*
*ALL ITEMS -----	0.2	0.2	1.2	0.6	1.1	0.4	1.2	0.5	1.1	1.3	4.7	2.8
CONSUMER PRODUCTS -----	0.2	0.1	1.0	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.9	0.8	1.2	1.0	3.9	2.8
<u>Nondurable</u> -----	.3	.2	1.0	.3	.7	1.1	1.1	.5	1.3	1.4	4.2	3.2
Food and beverages at home -----	.5	.2	1.1	.4	.4	2.0	.8	-.2	1.4	2.0	3.8	4.3
Apparel and accessories -----	.3	-.1	1.2	.6	1.8	.7	1.8	.8	1.7	1.3	6.7	3.5
Household furnishings and supplies -----	.1	-.4	.1	-.3	.2	-1.1	1.6	1.0	1.0	1.3	2.9	.9
Gasoline and motor oil -----	-.6	.4	.3	-2.3	.3	-1.1	-.5	3.6	1.7	-.6	1.8	-.5
Other nondurables -----	.3	.2	1.0	1.1	.5	.2	.8	.3	.9	.4	3.2	2.0
<u>Durable</u> -----	.1	.1	.9	1.1	.7	-.2	.8	0	.9	.8	3.2	1.7
New passenger cars -----	-.6	-.1	.3	2.1	.3	-1.0	.3	-.2	.5	.4	1.4	1.3
Appliances -----	0	.1	.2	-.5	.8	.6	.4	-.1	.2	.5	1.7	.5
Furniture and floor coverings -----	.2	.2	.8	.5	1.0	.5	1.1	.6	1.9	1.3	4.9	2.9
*Other durables -----	.4	.4	1.3	.6	.9	.6	.8	-.2	1.4	.8	4.6	1.8
*CONSUMER SERVICES -----	0.5	-	1.5	-	1.6	-	1.4	-	1.5	-	6.1	-
*Insurance and finance -----	.6	-	2.0	-	3.2	-	2.3	-	1.3	-	9.1	-
*Rent -----	.3	-	.9	-	.7	-	.6	-	.6	-	2.8	-
*Utilities and public transportation -----	.8	-	1.5	-	.2	-	.4	-	.8	-	2.9	-
*Housekeeping and home maintenance services -----	.6	-	1.7	-	1.5	-	1.7	-	3.0	-	8.2	-
*Medical care services -----	.7	-	2.0	-	1.7	-	1.2	-	2.1	-	7.3	-
*Personal care services -----	.4	-	1.4	-	1.5	-	1.5	-	1.6	-	6.1	-
*Other services -----	.3	-	1.1	-	1.1	-	1.4	-	2.2	-	5.8	-
WHOLESALE PRICES:												
<u>Type of Product:</u>												
Farm products -----	-	-.8	-	1.5	-	-1.6	-	2.0	-	2.6	-	4.4
Processed foods and feeds -----	-	-.4	-	.4	-	-.1	-	.6	-	1.9	-	2.9
*Industrial commodities -----	-	.4	-	1.0	-	.4	-	.2	-	1.1	-	2.7
<u>Industrial Materials and Equipment:</u>												
Chemicals and allied products -----	-	-.3	-	-.5	-	-.5	-	.1	-	.2	-	-.7
Rubber and rubber products -----	-	.2	-	.3	-	.7	-	.3	-	.6	-	1.9
Lumber and wood products -----	-	5.4	-	10.8	-	4.7	-	2.5	-	4.3	-	24.1
Pulp, paper and allied products -----	-	0	-	0	-	.7	-	-.5	-	.2	-	.4
*Metals and metal products -----	-	.4	-	.5	-	.4	-	-1.8	-	2.2	-	1.3
Machinery and equipment -----	-	0	-	.5	-	1.0	-	.7	-	.9	-	3.1
<u>Stage of Processing at Wholesale:</u>												
Finished goods -----	-	.1	-	.6	-	.5	-	.6	-	1.2	-	3.0
Consumer -----	-	.2	-	.5	-	.7	-	.5	-	1.2	-	3.1
Producer -----	-	.2	-	.9	-	.8	-	.7	-	.9	-	3.3
Intermediate materials, supplies and components -----	-	.5	-	.7	-	.5	-	.2	-	1.1	-	2.5
Crude materials -----	-	-1.2	-	1.4	-	-1.7	-	.8	-	2.2	-	2.7

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

*Based on data unadjusted for seasonal variations.

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 56 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the 5 largest SMSA's and every 3 months in other SMSA's and cities. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain local transit fares, public utility rates, newspaper prices, fuel prices, and certain other items which change in price infrequently. Prices of most other goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in the spending of all wage earners and clerical workers. SMSA and city data are then combined in the total index with weights based on the 1960 populations of SMSA's and cities they represent. Index numbers are computed on the base 1957-59=100, and are also available on the bases of 1947-49=100 and 1939=100.

The national index (the United States city average) includes prices from the 23 SMSA's for which separate indexes are published in this report, as well as from the following additional locations:

Alabama - Florence	Louisiana - Baton Rouge*	Ohio - Findlay
Alaska - Anchorage	Maine - Portland*	Oklahoma - Mangum
California - Bakersfield*	Massachusetts - Southbridge	Oregon - Klamath Falls
Colorado - Denver*	Michigan - Niles	Pennsylvania - Lancaster*
Connecticut - Hartford*	Minnesota - Crookston	South Carolina - Union
Florida - Orlando*	Mississippi - Vicksburg	Tennessee - Nashville*
Indiana - Indianapolis*	New Jersey - Millville	Texas - Austin*
Indiana - Logansport	New York - Kingston	Texas - McAllen
Illinois - Champaign-Urbana*	North Carolina - Durham*	Utah - Orem
Iowa - Cedar Rapids*	North Dakota - Devils Lake	Virginia - Martinsville
Kansas - Wichita*	Ohio - Dayton*	Wisconsin - Green Bay*

*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

Comparisons of indexes for individual SMSA's show only that prices in one location changed more or less than in another. The SMSA indexes cannot be used to measure differences in price levels or in living costs between areas.

A description of the index and historical tables of index numbers for the United States city average and for 23 large SMSA's are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D. C. 20212 or any of its regional offices (addresses below).

BLS Regional Offices

1371 Peachtree Street, N.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30309	341 Ninth Avenue New York, New York 10001	219 South Dearborn Street Chicago, Illinois 60604
450 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, California 94102	John F. Kennedy Fed. Bldg. Boston, Massachusetts 02203	911 Walnut Street Kansas City, Missouri 64106
411 N. Akard Street Dallas, Texas 75201	Box 1784 William Penn Annex Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19105	

Composition of Index Groupings Appearing in Table 8

	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.