## the consumer


price index

for December 1970

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

 BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICSMarch 1971

## the consumer price index

a monthly report
on consumer price movements
including statistical tables
and technical notes.

## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR <br> J. D. Hodgson, Secretary bureau of labor Statistics Geoffrey H. Moore, Commissioner



The Consumer Price Index rose 0.5 percent in December to 138.5 percent of its 1957-59 base. The increase compares with a 0.3 -percent rise in November and was due largely to price advances registered for household and medical care services, food, houses, gasoline, and new cars.

On a seasonally adjusted basis the December rise was also 0.5 percent, the same as in September and October and more than the 0.3 -percent increase in November. After seasonal adjustment, food prices rose in December; they had declined in November. Although red meat prices continued to decrease, prices rose for most other foods, particularly for poultry and eggs. Prices of restaurant meals, however, showed their smallest monthly rise in nearly 2 years. The rise in prices of commodities other than food accelerated from November's pace. New car prices rose 1.4 percent instead of declining as they normally do in December. Gasoline prices, which had fallen in November, began to rise because of the cessation of "price wars" in several areas and the late November general increase of 1 cent per gallon. Prices of used cars and houses rose the same percentages as they had in November. On the other hand, household durables rose less than they had in any month since May, and apparel commodity prices posted their smallest monthly rise since July.

The 0.6 -percent increase in charges for consumer services was the same as the average monthly increase since May. Price increases for household services led the advance, particularly residential property taxes and insurance, house and apartment rents, and mortgage interest costs. The increase in mortgage interest costs was due entirely to higher house prices. Average mortgage interest rates were unchanged over the month; they had declined in November. The increase in residential rents was due largely to increases in the New York City area. Prices of medical care services continued to rise significantly, primarily on the strength of higher prices for visits to physicians' offices. The rise in prices of transportation services slowed noticeably from its pace in recent months due to a smaller increase for automobile services. The following tabulation shows the month-tomonth percent changes for 1970:

Summary of month-to-month percent changes

| Month | All items |  | Food |  | Commodities less food |  | Services $1 /$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Unadj. | Seas. Adj. | Unadj. | Seas. Adj. | Unadj. | Seas. Adj. | Unadj. |
| January 1970 --------- | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.4 | -. 2 | 0.3 | 0.9 |
| February --------------- | . 5 | . 5 | . 6 | . 8 | . 2 | . 1 | . 7 |
| March -----m---------- | . 5 | . 4 | . 1 | . 2 | . 3 | . 2 | 1.1 |
|  | . 6 | . 5 | . 3 | . 3 | . 7 | . 6 | . 7 |
|  | . 4 | . 5 | . 3 | . 4 | . 6 | . 6 | . 5 |
|  | . 4 | . 3 | . 2 | -. 4 | . 4 | . 4 | . 6 |
|  | . 4 | . 3 | . 5 | . 1 | . 1 | . 2 | . 5 |
| August --------------- | . 2 | . 2 | . 1 | -. 1 | . 1 | . 2 | . 6 |
| September ------------ | . 4 | . 5 | -. 1 | . 4 | . 7 | . 6 | . 6 |
|  | . 6 | . 5 | -. 2 | . 1 | 1.0 | . 6 | . 5 |
|  | . 3 | . 3 | -. 5 | -. 1 | . 6 | . 4 | . 6 |
| December ------------- | . 5 | . 5 | . 3 | . 2 | . 3 | . 6 | . 6 |

1/ Based on unadjusted indexes, because these prices have little seasonal
movement.

The CPI rose 5.5 percent from December 1969 to December 1970; the increase was less than last year's 6.1 percent advance because food prices rose at a much slower pace. Prices of nonfood commodities and services increased more than they had in 1969. Percent changes and contributions to the percent changes over 12 -month periods ended in December 1968, 1969, and 1970 for major groups of the CPI are shown below.
Contribution of percent changes in CPI groups
to the percent change for CPI all items
to the percent change for CPI all items

|  | Percent change 12 months ended-- |  |  | Contribution to change 12 months ended-- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1970 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1969 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1969 . \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1970 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1969 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \hline \text { December } \\ 1968 \end{gathered}$ |
| CPI all items ----------- | 5.1 | 6.1 | 4.7 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
|  | 2.2 | 7.2 | 7.3 | 9.36 | 26.38 | 20.70 |
| Commodities less food - | 4.8 | 4.4 | 3.7 | 36.28 | 30.73 | 32.62 |
| Apparel commodities - | 3.8 | 5.3 | 6.7 | 6.38 | 8.13 | 13.18 |
| Nondurables less food and appare1 -- | 4.4 | 4.0 | 3.1 | 11.80 | 9.84 | 10.16 |
| Durables ------------ | 5.8 | 4.5 | 2.5 | 18.10 | 12.75 | 9.28 |
| Services ---------------1 | 8.2 | 7.4 | 6.1 | 54.35 | 42.89 | 46.68 |
|  | 4.6 | 3.7 | 2.8 | 4.28 | 3.12 | 3.17 |
| Household services <br> less rent $\qquad$ | 9.6 | 9.5 | 7.8 | 26.15 | 22.08 | 23.08 |
| Transportation <br> services $\qquad$ | 10.3 | 8.5 | 4.9 | 9.86 | 6.96 | 5.28 |
| Medical care services $\qquad$ | 8.3 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 8.48 | 6.02 | 8.02 |
| Other services ------ | 5.6 | 4.9 | 5.7 | 5.97 | 4.72 | 7.09 |

Food
The 2.2-percent rise in retail food prices in the year ending in December 1970 was the smallest December to December increase since 1967. Prices of food began to decline in June as farm supplies increased. Despite further increases in September and December, these prices rose 1.7 percent in 1970 compared with 7.2 percent in 1969 and 4.3 percent in 1968. Prices for restaurant meals and snacks consumed away from home increased at a significantly slower pace after June.

Among the major categories of food in the CPI, the most significant reversal in trend occurred in the price index for the meat, poultry, and fish group which fell 0.6 percent during the year; it had risen 11.2 percent in 1969 . Pork prices rose 16 percent in 1969 and dropped 9.5 percent in 1970; sharp price declines occurred in the last 3 months of the year as hog slaughter, pork production, and holdings in cold storage rose considerably above year-earlier levels. Poultry prices declined substantially in August and in the Fall as production increased. Prices rose in December, but they were still 2 percent lower than they had been a year ago. In 1969, prices of poultry rose 7.8 percent. Beef prices began to decline in August and continued to decline until the end of 1970 due to some increase in supplies and competition from lower priced pork and poultry. At the end of the year, beef prices were still 2.5 percent higher than they had been in December 1969 but this over-the-year increase was considerably smaller than the 10 -percent rise recorded in 1969.

Fruit and vegetable prices declined 1.7 percent from December 1969 to December 1970; they had increased 4.5 percent in 1969. The decline occurred mostly in the last 3 months of 1970, when widespread price decreases were reported for most fresh fruits and vegetables. At yearend, fresh vegetable prices had dropped 11 percent since December 1969, but fresh fruit prices had increased 3.2 percent. Prices of most processed fruits and vegetables, except frozen orange juice, rose more than they had in 1969. The decline in frozen orange juice prices in 1970 stemmed from increased inventories that resulted from the large 1970-71 citrus crop.

Despite an increase in December, egg prices declined about 25 percent in 1970; in 1969 they had risen by the same amount. Although egg prices declined in 1970, prices rose for most other items in the "Other food at home" group. Prices of nonalcoholic beverages rose considerably more than they had in 1969, mainly because of the 20 -percent increase in coffee prices. Wholesale prices of green coffee advanced in response to shortages caused by the 1969 freeze in Brazil. By the third quarter, however, prices for green coffee started to ease and by December wholesale and retail coffee prices were declining.

Prices of cereal and bakery products rose rapidly throughout 1970. They, advanced 5.8 percent in 1970 compared with 4.0 percent in 1969. One factor in the larger increase was the rise in ingredient costs. This increase stenmed from expanded export demand for flour and the possibility of a shortage of grain due to leaf blight damage to the corn crop.

Prices of dairy products rose 3.9 percent, almost as much as they had in 1969. The sharpest increases occurred in the first 3 months of 1970 when agricultural support levels were raised.

## Commodities less food

Compared with the behavior of food prices in 1970, price increases for commodities other than food continued to accelerate. The December to December rise was responsible for about 36 percent of the rise in the CPI. In 1969, nonfood commodities accounted for about 30 percent of the rise. Prices at the retail level reflected, to a large extent, earlier increases in wholesale prices. The WPI for consumer finished goods other than food rose almost 4 percent in 1970--the largest December to December increase in 20 years. Rising costs, particularly for labor and materials, were important factors in wholesale price increases. By the end of the first quarter, some slowdown occurred in the increases in unit labor costs and after the second quarter in prices of crude and intermediate materials, but for the most part these slowdown did not affect prices of consumer finished goods in 1970. The leveling out in retail sales was a moderating influence on prices of some consumer goods.

## Durable commodities

Retail prices of durable comodities rose 5.8 percent in 1970 , compared with 4.5 percent in 1969. Price increases were substantially larger for new and used cars and houses, but smaller for household durables. In every quarter of 1970 except the second, new car prices increased sharply on a seasonally adjusted basis. Between December 1969 and December 1970 new car prices rose 6.7 percent at retail and 6.1 percent at wholesale. In the preceding 3 years increases were about 2 percent a year. Continued strength in prices of 1970 models and higher list prices on 1971 models accounted for the large increase in the CPI for new cars. Dealer concessions on 1970 models did not increase as much as they usually do during the summer months or in the fall when 1971 models were introduced. Price increases remained large in the fourth quarter, particularly in December when prices rose instead of falling as they usually do. Increases in suggested retail prices were announced in late November and December after new labor contracts were negotiated. In additiop, supplies of new cars were still below normal as a result of the strike at General

Even before the strike, new car output was down from year-earlier levels. Sales of new domestic cars at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of $7-3 / 4$ million units in the first three quarters were less than the sales rates of well over 8 million units throughout 1968 and 1969. In the fourth quarter of 1970 , the rate of domestic car sales was reduced by the strike to 5.4 million units. The slackening in new car sales also had an effect on the supply of used cars. Because of reduced supplies and to some extent a shift in demand from new to used cars, prices of used cars rose sharply in $1970-7.3$ percent compared with 4.4 percent in 1969.

Prices of household durables rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.4 percent in the fourth quarter, a more rapid rate than in the first three quarters of 1970. Despite the acceleration, the 2.8 -percent increase in prices in 1970 was the smallest in 3 years. Sluggish sales and lower lumber prices contributed to a more moderate rise in furniture prices in 1970. At retail, prices for furniture rose 3.6 percent in 1970, compared with 5.5 percent in 1968 and in 1969. At wholesale, the increase in 1970 was 2.9 percent, down from 4.4 percent in 1968, and 3.6 percent in 1969. On the other hand, the increase in 1970 for appliances, was somewhat larger than it had been in 1969-1.7 percent compared with 1.0 percent. At wholesale, appliance prices rose 1.8 percent in 1970; they had declined 0.5 percent in 1969. Although prices of radios and television sets showed little change over the year, prices of clothes dryers, refrigerators, and other appliances recorded large increases.

## Nondurable commodities less food

The December to December increase of 4.1 percent for nondurable commodities other than food was less than the 4.5 -percent rise in 1969 , mainly because of a considerably smaller increase in prices of apparel. Increases in 1970 for gasoline and tobacco products were somewhat smaller and alcoholic beverages about the same as in 1969. On the other hand, prices of other nondurables such as fuel oil and coal, newspapers, and drugs and prescriptions rose more than they had in 1969.

After increasing very little in the first 3 quarters, prices of apparel accelerated sharply in the fall, when the new lines of winter clothing were introduced. Nevertheless, apparel prices less footwear rose 3.7 percent in 1970 , down from 6.8 percent in 1968 and 5.2 percent in 1969. The increase of 2.2 percent at the wholesale level was down from 3.6 percent in 1968 and 4.5 percent in 1969. The smaller increase was due largely to general slackening in the economy and rising prices which made the consumer more selective in his expenditure for clothing.

Retail gasoline prices were raised twice in 1970, first in April and again in late November. The upward price trend was moderated, however, by frequent price wars in some areas, particularly Los Angeles. For the entire year of 1970 , gasoline prices rose 2.7 percent, less than the 3.2 -percent rise in 1969. Prices of fuel oil and coal moved up at a rapid pace throughout 1970, and increased more than seasonally in the fourth quarter. The increase over the year was a substantial 7.2 percent, compared with 2.6 percent in 1969, and reflected the sharp rise in wholesale prices for crude and processed fuels. Among the factors which contributed to these increases were rapidly rising requirements for fuel from utilities, heavy foreign demand for coal, shortages of low-sulphur fuels now required by law in many places, and hostilities in the Middle East which have increased the cost and the difficulty of transporting oil. Prices of newspapers, books, and other reading materials also increased sharply in 1970 as a result of rising material and labor costs. Drugs and prescription prices rose 2.4 percent over the year, the largest annual increase in over a decade. Although the higher prices for over-the-counter items were attributed to higher costs of merchandise and operations, the increase for most prescriptions reflected the growth of a new pricing policy in the retail drug trade which adds specified fees for pharmacists' services to the cost of the drug to determine the selling price of the prescription. Previously, pharmacists' services were not based on specified fees.

## Services

After rising at an annual rate of more than 11 percent in the first quarter of 1970 , service prices rose at a slower but still substantial 7 -percent rate for the balance of the year. The resulting 8.2-percent increase during the 12 -month period accounted for almost 55 percent of the rise in the CPI in 1970. The 7.4 -percent rise in 1969 was responsible for 43 percent of the CPI rise.

Charges for services have continued to rise rapidly because many services such as medical care and auto and home repairs require large amounts of labor and are less subject to mechanization than production of many commodities. Productivity improvements, therefore, are hard to attain and increases in wages show up more directily in prices. Another factor has been the rising cost of providing local and State governmental services which is reflected in higher charges for items such as water and sewerage services, property taxes, and municipal parking fees.

Among the major types of services in the CPI, increases in 1970 were larger than those in 1969 for rent, transportation, and medical care and about the same in both years for household services. Nevertheless, price rises in the fourth quarter for all of these groups, except rent, were smaller than in the first quarter.

The most significant slowdown during 1970 occurred in prices in the household services group which dropped from an annual rate of 14.7 percent in the first quarter to 7.8 percent in the fourth quarter. This moderation resulted primarily from the leveling off in mortgage interest rates. After moving up sharply through the first quarter of 1970 , mortgage interest rates increased at a slower rate thereafter and leveled out by yearend. The 6.9 -percent rise in 1970 in mortgage interest rates was almost half the 1969 increase. By September the mortgage market had improved noticeably. The interest rate ceiling on FHA and VA loans was lowered in December from 8.5 percent to 8.0 percent and again in January 1971 to 7.5 percent.

Among other household services, increases of 8.6 percent for home repairs, 6.3 percent for laundry services, and 3.1 percent for day care services were considerably smaller than those that occurred in 1969. However, increases of 7.8 percent for domestic services, 10.2 percent for property taxes, 12.9 percent for water and sewerage services, and 5.6 percent in gas and electricity rates were larger than the increases in 1969.

The rent component rose substantially in the final quarter of 1970. Increases occurred in a number of cities including San Francisco, Baltimore, and Detroit. In addition, an exceptionally sharp rise in New York City in December reflected a recently approved increase affecting both controlled and uncontrolled rental units. The increase in the rent component in the fourth quarter, at an annual rate of 6.6 percent, was faster than the 4.4 -percent rate at the start of the year. The rise in the rent component accelerated steadily from less than 2 percent annually in mid-1967 to 2.8 percent in 1968, and 3.7 percent in 1969. Among the factors cited as reasons for higher rent in recent years have been increased operating costs including property taxes, labor, insurance, maintenance and repairs, and the increase in demand for apartments as the cost of purchasing or maintaining a home advanced.

Because of a relatively small increase in December, the price rise in the transportation services group decelerated in the fourth quarter to a 9.0 -percent annual rate, down from the sharp 17.5 -percent rate recorded in the first quarter. The increase for the year of 10.3 percent was larger than that for any of the other services groups and more than the 8.5 -percent rise in 1969. These changes reflected to a large extent the rise in local transit fares in New York City in the first quarter and increases later in the year in many cities including Chicago, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., St. Louis, Detroit, and Cincinnati. Local transit fares rose 20 percent in 1970 , compared with an
increase of 6 percent in 1969. The previous high, in recent years, was the 9.1 percent rise in 1965. Railroad and bus fares also rose more than they had in 1969, but airline fares increased less. Among auto-related services, parking fees rose substantially more than they had in 1969. An increase of 7.4 percent for auto repairs was slightly more and 10.7 percent for auto insurance was somewhat less than the increase in 1969.

In 1970, charges for medical care services rose 8.3 percent; in 1969 the rise was 7.1 percent. The difference stemmed partly from the greater downward effect that the annual adjustment of retained earnings of health insurance companies had on the CPI for medical care services in October of 1969 than they had in October 1970. Premiums for health insurance are represented in the index by prices of services for which benefits are paid and by a measure of changes in the ratio of profits and overhead costs to benefits. Increases for most other medical care services including physicians' fees and hospital charges were larger than they had been in 1969.

## Cost of Living Adjustments

About 107,000 workers will receive cost-of-1iving wage increases based on the Consumer Price Index for December. Approximately 68,000 workers, including 29,000 airline employees ( 7 cents per hour), 5,000 aerospace workers ( $2-1 / 2$ percent), 4,400 workers in the glass container industry ( 1 percent) and about 30,000 other workers in various industries (5 or 8 cents per hour) will receive pay increases based on the rise in the national index since December 1969. An additional 27,000 employees will receive pay increases ranging from 2 to 11 cents per hour based on the monthly, quarterly and semiannual changes in the national index.

Some 8,000 machinists and metal workers in the San Francisco area will get hourly pay increases of 5 or 7 cents, based on rise in the index for the area since June. About 2,500 transit workers will get quarterly increases based on city indexes for their areas.

NEW BASE PERIOD FOR CONSUMER PRICE INDEX


#### Abstract

Beginning with the release of data for January 1971, the Consumer Price Index will be calculated on the new 1967=100 standard reference base. The new base was established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for use by all Government statistical agencies in line with the longstanding policy that index bases be updated periodically. For the convenience of index users, the all items indexes for the U.S. city average and the 23 major cities will also be published on their former official reference base (1957-59 in most cases). A description of the methodology of rebasing the index will be available on request.


Effective with the February 1970 release, and continuing thereafter, percent changes expressed as annual rates will be computed according to the standard formula for compound growth rates. These data indicate what the percent would be if the current rate were maintained for a 12 -month period.

Movements of the indexes from one date to another are usually expressed as percent changes rather than changes in the index points because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percent changes are not. The following example illustrates the computation of index point and percent changes:
Index Point Change Percent Change

December 1970 CPI ( $1957-59=100$ ) 138.5 Index point difference divided
less November 1970 index $\quad 137.8$ by the index for the previous
Index point difference = $\quad 0.7$ period:
$\frac{138.5-137.8}{137.8} \times 100=0.5$

Effective with the July 1970 release, and continuing thereafter, seasonally adjusted percent changes in the U.S. All Items Index will be based on seasonal adjustment factors and seasonally adjusted indexes carried to two decimal places. This procedure will help to eliminate rounding error in the percent changes.

TABLE 1. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, December 1970
(Unadjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

| Group | Indexes(1957-59=100 unless otherwise noted) |  |  |  | Percent change to December 1970 from: |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1970 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{array}{\|c} \hline \text { November } \\ 1970 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 1970 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1969 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { I Month } \\ & \text { ago } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { Months } \\ & \text { ago } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1 \text { Year } \\ \text { ago } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
|  | 138.5 | 137.8 | 136.6 | 131.3 | 0.5 | 1.4 | 5.5 |
|  | 169.9 | 169.1 | 167.6 | 161.1 |  |  |  |
|  | 132.8 | 132.4 | 133.3 | 129.9 | . 3 | -. 4 | 2.2 |
|  | 127.3 | 126.9 | 128.2 | 125.8 | . 3 | -. 7 | 1.2 |
| Cereals and bakery products -------------- | 132.2 | 131.8 | 130.6 | 124.9 | . 3 | 1.2 | 5.8 |
|  | 126.4 | 127.1 | 130.1 | 127.2 | -. 6 | -2.8 | -. 6 |
|  | 132.6 | 132.4 | 131.3 | 127.6 | . 2 | 1.0 | 3.9 |
|  | 129.9 | 128.5 | 131.0 | 132.1 | 1.1 | -. 8 | -1.7 |
| 0 ther foods at home | 118.2 | 116.9 | 118.0 | 116.6 | 1.1 | . 2 | 1.4 |
|  | 159.2 | 158.7 | 157.4 | 149.9 | . 3 | 1.1 | 6.2 |
|  | 140.1 | 139.3 | 137.8 | 130.5 | . 6 | 1.7 | 7.4 |
|  | 150.8 | 149.8 | 148.4 | 138.5 | . 7 | 1.6 | 8.9 |
|  | 126.6 | 125.7 | 124.6 | 121.0 | . 7 | 1.6 | 4.6 |
|  | 160.4 | 159.3 | 157.8 | 145.4 | . 7 | 1.6 | 10.3 |
|  | 121.3 | 120.7 | 118.2 | 114.6 | . 5 | 2.6 | 5.8 |
|  | 128.2 | 127.1 | 124.3 | 119.2 | . 9 | 3.1 | 7.6 |
| Gas and electricity | 120.1 | 119.2 | 116.8 | 113.7 | . 8 | 2.8 | 5.6 |
| Household furnishings and operation -------- | 124.8 | 124.5 | 123.6 | 120.0 | . 2 | 1.0 | 4.0 |
|  | 135.9 | 135.7 | 133.6 | 130.8 | . 1 | 1.7 | 3.9 |
|  | 136.7 | 136.8 | 134.8 | 132.0 | -. 1 | 1.4 | 3.6 |
| Women's and girls' | 132.4 | 132.4 | 129.4 | 127.2 | 0 | 2.3 | 4.1 |
|  | 150.4 | 149.9 | 148.6 | 144.4 | . 3 | 1.2 | 4.2 |
| Transportation ------------------------------------- | 135.5 | 134.4 | 131.0 | 126.4 | . 8 | 3.4 | 7.2 |
|  | 131.2 | 130.1 | 126.6 | 123.4 | . 8 | 3.6 | 6.3 |
| New cars | 111.9 | 110.4 | 103.1 | 104.9 | 1.4 | 8.5 | 6.7 |
|  | 133.0 | 132.2 | 127.4 | 123.9 | . 6 | 4.4 | 7.3 |
|  | 120.0 | 118.6 | 117.8 | 116.9 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 2.7 |
|  | 176.2 | 175.0 | 173.3 | 153.0 | . 7 | 1.7 | 15.2 |
|  | 147.4 | 146.9 | 145.7 | 139.6 | . 3 | 1.2 | 5.6 |
|  | 169.8 | 168.7 | 167.6 | 158.1 | . 7 | 1.3 | 7.4 |
|  | 132.8 | 132.3 | 131.7 | 128.1 | . 4 | . 8 | 3.7 |
|  | 139.6 | 139.3 | 137.7 | 132.7 | . 2 | 1.4 | 5.2 |
| Other goods and services --------------------- | 140.1 | 139.8 | 138.8 | 133.5 | . 2 | . 9 | 4.9 |
| Seasonally Adjusted: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 133.2 | 132.9 | 132.9 | - | . 2 | . 2 | - |
| Apparel and upkeep ----------------------------- | 135.1 | 134.6 | 133.3 | - | . 4 | 1.4 | . |
|  | 135.6 | 134.0 | 131.7 | - | 1.2 | 3.0 | . |
| Special Groups: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 140.4 | 139.7 | 137.8 | 131.9 | . 5 | 1.9 | 6.4 |
| All items less medical care | 136.6 | 136.0 | 134.8 | 129.7 | . 4 | 1.3 | 5.3 |
| Commodities less food | 126.1 | 125.7 | 123.8 | 120.3 | . 3 | 1.9 | 4.8 |
|  | 128.5 | 128.0 | 127.0 | 123.6 | . 4 | 1.2 | 4.0 |
|  | 131.8 | 131.4 | 131.0 | 127.7 | . 3 | . 6 | 3.2 |
| Nondurables 1ess food -----------------------10 | 130.9 | 130.5 | 129.1 | 125.7 | . 3 | 1.4 | 4.1 |
|  | 135.2 | 135.2 | 133.0 | 130.3 | . 0 | 1.7 | 3.8 |
|  | 120.2 | 119.6 | 117.3 |  |  | 2.5 |  |
|  | 109.5 | 109.4 | 108.6 | 106.5 | . 1 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
|  | 160.4 | 159.5 | 157.7 | 148.3 | . 6 | 1.7 | 8.2 |
|  | 167.8 | 166.9 | 164.9 | 154.3 | . 5 | 1.8 | 8.7 |
|  | 156.2 | 155.3 | 153.5 | 144.4 | . 6 | 1.8 | 8.2 |
| Insurance and finance (Dec. 1965=100) ------- | 152.3 | 151.2 | 149.3 | 136.0 | . 7 | 2.0 | 12.0 |
| Utilities and public transportation <br> (Dec. 1965=100) | 118.6 | 118.0 | 116.0 | 109.8 | . 5 | 2.2 | 8.0 |
| Housekeeping and home maintenance services <br> (Dec. 1965=100) | 143.7 | 142.9 | 141.1 | 133.5 | . 6 | 1.8 | 7.6 |
|  | 187.1 | 185.7 | 184.2 | 172.8 | . 8 | 1.6 | 8.3 |
| Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | . 722 | . 726 | . 732 | . 762 | -. 6 | -1.4 | -5.2 |
| $1939=\$ 1.00$ | . 350 | . 351 | . 355 | . 369 | - | , | - |

$\frac{1 /}{2 /}$ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
$\frac{2}{3 /}$ Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.
3/ Also includes telephone, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.
Note: Index applies to month as a whole not to any specific date.

TABLE 1-A. Consumer Price Index-United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers 1970 annual average indexes
(Unadjusted, unless otherwise indicated)


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 1/ | Pricing Schedule $2 /$ | Indexes |  |  | Percent change from: |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1957-59=100 | 1947-49=100 | Other beses |  |  |  |
|  |  | December 1970 |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { November } \\ & 1970 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 1970 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1969 \end{gathered}$ |
| U.S. City Average -------- | M | 138.5 | 169.9 |  | 0.5 | 1.4 | 5.5 |
| Chicago ------------------- | M | 135.4 | 170.7 |  | . 4 | 1.2 | 5.5 |
| Detroit ..---.------------ | M | 137.3 | 169.3 |  | -. 4 | 1.0 | 5.0 |
| Los Angeles-Long Beach --- | M | 137.4 | 171.3 |  | . 5 | . 9 | 4.8 |
|  | M | 145.7 | 175.5 |  | . 8 | 1.6 | 7.1 |
| Philadelphia ------------- | M | 141.7 | 174.0 |  | . 2 | 1.4 | 7.2 |
|  |  | October 1970 |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 1970 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { October } \\ & 1969 \end{aligned}$ |
| Boston ------------------- | 1 | 142.3 | 176.4 |  |  | 2.0 | 5.6 |
| Houston ------------------ | 1 | 134.9 | 166.2 |  |  | . 9 | 3.9 |
| Minneapolis-St. Paul ----- | 1 | 138.2 | 171.0 |  |  | 1.1 | 6.1 |
| Pittsburgh --------------- | 1 | 136.7 | 168.5 |  |  | 1.6 | 6.4 |
| Buffalo (Nov.1963=100) ...Cleveland Dellas (Nov.1963=100) .-..Milwaukee Sen Diego (Feb. 1965=100) Seattle -------------.----We shington |  | November 1970 |  |  |  | August 1970 | $\begin{gathered} \text { November } \\ 1969 \end{gathered}$ |
|  | 2 |  |  | 130.5 |  | 2.0 | 5.9 |
|  | 2 | 137.0 | 170.1 |  |  | 1.0 | 5.8 |
|  | 2 |  |  | 128.5 |  | . 2 | 3.9 |
|  |  | 133.0 | 167.7 |  |  | 1.4 | 4.7 |
|  | 2 |  |  | 123.7 |  | 1.6 | 5.7 |
|  | 2 | 135.0 | 169.6 |  |  | . 3 | 3.8 |
|  | 2 | 139.0 | 167.3 |  |  | . 9 | 5.3 |
|  |  | December 1970 |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 1970 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1969 \end{gathered}$ |
| Atlanta ------------------ | 3 | 137.1 | 169.7 |  |  | 1.6 | 5.5 |
| Baltimore -----------...-- | 3 | 140.1 | 173.9 |  |  | 2.1 | 6.2 |
| Cincinnati --------------- | 3 | 134.5 | 163.7 |  |  | 1.4 | 5.3 |
| Honolulu (Dec.1963=100) -- | 3 |  |  | 124.7 |  | . 6 | 4.2 |
| Kanses City -...---------- | 3 | 141.3 | 174.8 |  |  | 2.0 | 6.1 |
| St. Louis ---------------- | 3 | 137.3 | 170.4 |  |  | . 8 | 5.0 |
| San Francisco-0akland ....- | 3 | 141.0 | 178.9 |  |  | 1.5 | 4.8 . |

for New York and Chicago where the more extensive Standard Consolidated Areas are used. Area definitions are those establiahed 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.
Note: The Consumer Price Index cannot be used for measuring differences in living costs among areas; it indicates price change within areas. Estimates of differences in living costs among areas are found in the family budgets.

TABLE 3. Consumer Price Index--The United States and selected areas $\underline{1 /}$ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups percent change from November 1970 to December 1970.


TABLE 4. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers for selected groups, seasonally adjusted

| Group | Indexes |  |  | Percent changes to: December 1970 From: |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1970 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | November $1970$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { September } \\ 1970 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 1 \text { Month } \\ & \text { Ago } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 3 \text { Months } \\ & \text { Ago } \end{aligned}$ |
| Food | 133.2 | 132.9 | 132.9 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
|  | 127.8 | 127.5 | 127.8 | . 2 | 0 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ---m-------1 | 127.5 | 127.5 | 127.9 | 0 | -. 3 |
|  | 132.2 | 131.9 | 131.2 | . 2 | . 8 |
| Fruits and vegetables -----------------10-1 | 132.3 | 132.5 | 134.5 | -. 2 | - 1.6 |
|  | 117.0 | 116.7 | 117.1 | -3 | -. 1 |
|  | 121.2 | 120.6 | 118.3 | . 5 | 2.5 |
|  | 127.6 | 127.1 | 124.9 | . 4 | 2.2 |
| Apparel and upkeep 2/ ---------------------- | 135.1 | 134.6 | 133.3 | . 4 | 1.4 |
|  | 136.0 | 135.7 | 134.4 | - 2 | 1.2 |
|  | 131.0 | 130.6 | 128.9 | . 3 | 1.6 |
| Footwear --...- | 150.1 | 149.5 | 148.6 | . 4 | 1.0 |
| Transportation | 135.6 | 134.0 | 131.7 | 1.2 | 3.0 |
| Private | 131.3 | 129.6 | 127.2 | 1.3 | 3.2 |
|  | 110.4 | 108.1 | 106.2 | 2.1 | 4.0 |
| Commodities | 128.4 | 127.9 | 127.0 | . 4 | 1.1 |
| Commodities less food | 125.8 | 125.1 | 123.9 | . 6 | 1.5 |
| Nondurables --- | 131.7 | 131.4 | 130.7 | . 2 | . 8 |
| Nondurables less food | 130.6 | 129.9 | 128.8 | . 5 | 1.4 |
| Apparel commodities ---.-.------.- | 134.3 | 134.0 | 132.6 | . 2 | 1.3 |
|  | 120.1 | 119.1 | 117.9 | . 8 | 1.9 |



TABLE 5. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas $\mathbf{1 /}^{\text {/ }}$ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, December 1970 index and percent changes from September 1970

| Group | $\begin{gathered} \text { U.S. } \\ \text { City } \\ \text { Average } \end{gathered}$ | Chicago | Detroit | Los Angeles Long Beach | New York | Philadelphia |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified) |  |  |  |  |  |
| All 1 tems ----------------------------- | 138.5 | 135.4 | 137.3 | 137.4 | 145.7 | 141.7 |
|  | 132.8 | 132.9 | 130.8 | 128.9 | 137.6 | 133.2 |
|  | 127.3 | 129.4 | 126.9 | 122.5 | 129.2 | 126.5 |
| Cereals and bakery products ---- | 132.2 | 136.9 | 127.6 | 129.9 | 131.2 | 133.2 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ------- | 126.4 | 128.2 | 133.2 | 116.5 | 130.5 | 121.2 |
|  | 132.6 | 140.5 | 134.5 | 130.0 | 127.1 | 142.0 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----------- | 129.9 | 127.1 | 120.9 | 135.4 | 135.7 | 128.5 |
| Other foods at home ---.-...---- | 118.2 | 118.8 | 114.8 | 108.1 | 119.2 | 115.5 |
|  | 159.2 | 148.7 | 152.2 | 151.9 | 172.1 | 168.7 |
| Housing ---------------------------------- | 140.1 | 133.0 | 139.7 | 144.8 | 147.2 | 143.2 |
|  | 150.8 | 140.6 | 153.5 | 157.0 | 157.2 | 156.9 |
|  | 126.6 | (21) | 115.2 | (21) | 139.5 | (2) |
|  | 160.4 | 151.4 | 162.3 | 166.8 | 168.4 | 164.0 |
|  | 121.3 | 116.8 | 110.1 | 119.2 | 122.3 | 118.8 |
|  | 128.2 | 120.7 | 119.6 | - | 131.9 | 132.1 |
| Gas and electricity ---.-...--... | 120.1 | 113.9 | 111.4 | 129.0 | 120.3 | 112.2 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 124.8 | 122.1 | 116.5 | 120.7 | 136.5 | 129.1 |
| Apparel and upkeep -------------------- | 135.9 | 127.8 | 128.5 | 132.8 | 143.3 | 142.5 |
|  | 136.7 | 127.3 | 130.9 | 133.5 | 144.2 | 139.7 |
|  | 132.4 | 122.9 | 119.9 | 136.1 | 138.6 | 132.3 |
|  | 150.4 | 143.6 | 148.0 | 140.6 | 151.1 | 158.0 |
|  | 135.5 | 140.0 | 128.9 | 139.0 | 146.9 | 146.1 |
|  | 131.2 | 134.0 | 123.8 | 134.3 | 140.3 | 139.2 |
|  | 176.2 | 179.0 | 176.0 | 164.4 | 177.6 | 181.8 |
|  | 147.4 | 143.5 | 150.7 | 135.5 | 156.7 | 152.6 |
|  | 169.8 | 180.1 | 186.1 | 162.9 | 181.7 | 187.4 |
|  | 132.8 | 132.9 | (2/) | 121.2 | (2/) | (2/) |
| Reading and recreation --..---.-- | 139.6 | 121.3 | 136.5 | 117.9 | 154.8 | 136.5 |
| Other goods and services ---------- | 140.1 | 137.5 |  |  |  |  |
|  | Percent changes from September 1970 to December 1970 |  |  |  |  |  |
| All items ----------------------------- | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
|  | -. 4 | -. 4 | -1.7 | . 1 | . 2 | -. 1 |
|  | -. 7 | -. 8 | -2.5 | -. 2 | . 0 | -. 6 |
| Gereals and bakery products | 1.2 | 1.0 | . 9 | . 3 | 3.4 | . 5 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ----.... | -2.8 | -3.2 | -5.0 | -2.3 | -. 9 | -3.0 |
| Dairy products | 1.0 | . 7 | -2.7 | . 3 | 2.7 | 1.1 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----------- | -. 8 | -. 5 | . 1 | 2.8 | -1.8 | -. 3 |
| Other foods at home | . 2 | . 9 | -1.5 | . 2 | -1.0 | 1.5 |
|  | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.7 | . 9 | . 9 | 1.7 |
|  | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 2.8 | 2.1 |
|  | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 1.2 | 3.8 | 2.2 |
|  | 1.6 | (2/) | 3/ . 7 | (2/) | 3/ 2.1 | (2/) |
|  | 1.6 | 1.9 | - 1.8 | 1.3 | - 3.2 | 2.4 |
| Fuel and utilities $\qquad$ Fuel oil and coal $\qquad$ | 2.6 | 3.3 3.9 | 2.3 | 4.2 | 4.4 | 2.4 1.5 |
| Fuel oil and coal $\qquad$ Gas and electricity $\qquad$ | 3.1 2.8 1 | 3.9 .7 | 4.9 3.1 | 3.4 | 2.6 | 3.8 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 2.8 1.0 | . 7 | 3.1 .8 | 3.4 | 4.4 | 1.7 |
|  | 1.7 | -. 8 | -. 2 | . 9 | . 2 | -. 1 |
|  | 1.4 | -. 1 | . 5 | . 5 | -. 7 | -.1.4 |
|  | 2.3 | -2.3 | -1.1 | . 3 | -. 3 | -1.8 |
| Pootwear --------------------------- | 1.2 | . 3 | -. 3 | . 9 | 1.1 | -1.2 |
|  | 3.4 | 4.2 | 5.0 | 2.1 | 2.7 | 3.3 |
| Private -------------------------------- | 3.6 | 5.1 | 3.5 | 2.2 | 3.5 | 3.6 |
| Public ----------------------------------- | 1.7 | . 2 | 19.6 | . 8 | . 1 | . 9 |
| Health and recreation ---------------------- | 1.2 | 1.3 | . 6 | . 1 | 1.4 | 1.7 |
|  | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.3 | . 2 | 2.4 | 2.0 |
| Personal care $\qquad$ <br>  | . 8 | . 8 | (2) | -. 6 | (2) | (2/) |
| Reading and recreation $\qquad$ Other goods and services $\qquad$ | 1.4 | .8 1.7 | .1 .4 | .3 .1 | 1.8 1.0 | $\begin{array}{r}\text { 2. } \\ \hline .6\end{array}$ |

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas $\underline{1 /}$ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, December 1970 index and percent changes from September 1970--Continued

| Group | Atlanta | Baltimore | Cincinnati | $\begin{gathered} \text { Honolulu } \\ \text { (Dec.63 } 2100 \text { ) } \end{gathered}$ | Kansas City | $\underset{\text { Francigco }}{\text { San }}$ | St. Louis |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 137.1 | 140.1 | 134.5 | 124.7 | 141.3 | 141.0 | 137.3 |
|  | 132.4 | 136.6 | 130.0 | 123.6 | 136.7 | 130.3 | 137.3 |
|  | 127.5 | 129.4 | 124.9 | 119.7 | 131.2 | 123.5 | 131.8 |
| Cereals and bakery products --.- | 126.7 | 137.3 | 125.2 | 114.5 | 138.2 | 125.8 | 140.3 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ---..-- | 126.2 | 129.8 | 124.4 | 123.2 | 128.5 | 122.2 | 130.0 |
| Dairy products ---------------- | 131.4 | 131.8 | 131.0 | 120.3 | 146.7 | 125.9 | 147.0 |
| Fruits and vegetables ------------ | 132.2 | 132.7 | 133.0 | 121.4 | 125.4 | 132.5 | 136.8 |
| Other foods at home ------------------ | 124.2 150.2 | 119.2 168.1 | 115.4 155.7 | 115.8 135.5 | 123.0 156.1 | 112.8 160.1 | 114.6 160.7 |
| Housing -------------------------------- | 142.8 | 141.2 | 129.7 | 130.8 | 136.3 | 152.5 | 131.3 |
|  | 152.1 | 152.7 | 134.8 | 142.4 | 143.7 | 169.3 | 138.0 |
|  | 121.5 | 121.2 | 111.5 | 129.2 | 114.0 | 159.1 | 115.3 |
| Homeownership -------------------- | 161.6 | 166.2 | 146.0 | 151.6 | 156.2 | 174.3 | 144.2 |
| Fuel and utilities ----------------- | 115.6 | 115.3 | 118.7 | 101.3 | 127.8 | 111.5 | 119.2 |
|  | - | 128.9 | 170.2 | - | - | - | 121.0 |
| Gas and electricity ----------.-- | 112.5 | 105.1 | 114.7 | 101.8 | 131.0 | 117.6 | 123.5 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 133.3 | 133.9 | 119.4 | 114.5 | 120.1 | 123.7 | 125.4 |
| Apparel and upkeep ------------------1-1 | 134.9 | 143.1 | 140.2 | 124.5 | 145.1 | 137.7 | 134.1 |
| Men's and boys' ------------------1. | 135.4 | 145.0 | 144.5 | 115.9 | 149.0 | 135.7 | 130.3 |
| Women's and girls'----------------- | 129.0 | 136.9 | 130.5 | 132.8 | 141.7 | 133.6 | 135.8 |
| Footwear --------------------------- | 142.9 | 170.4 | 165.8 | 123.0 | 158.2 | 145.9 | 147.5 |
|  | 128.4 | 134.5 | 137.3 | 114.7 | 141.2 | 135.9 | 141.3 |
|  | 124.4 | 131.8 | 131.2 | 119.7 | 136.2 | 136.8 | 136.8 |
| Public ------------------------------ | 162.7 | 144.0 | 190.5 | 90.5 | 198.2 | 135.3 | 179.1 |
| Health and recreation --------------- | 144.5 | 146.5 | 145.7 | 125.4 | 154.4 | 142.7 | 149.0 |
|  | 172.1 | 193.3 | 177.9 | 139.6 | 173.2 | 164.4 | 159.9 |
|  | 138.0 | 135.6 | 131.6 | 119.1 | 134.4 | 140.5 | 139.9 |
| Reading and recreation ------------ | 137.6 | 136.9 | 136.6 | 117.9 | 149.2 | 125.9 | 142.7 |
| Other goods and services --------- | 123.8 | 126.7 | 131.9 | 124.3 | 149.5 | 137.8 | 148.4 |
|  |  | Percent | ges from Sep | ember 1970 to | December 1970 |  |  |
|  | 1.6 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 0.6 | 2.0 | 1.5 | 0.8 |
| Food ---------------------------------- | . 5 | -. 8 | -. 1 | -1.0 | -1.2 | 1.2 | -1.2 |
|  | . 1 | -1.5 | -. 7 | -1.3 | -1.9 | 1.0 | -1.8 |
| Cereals and bakery products ----- | 4.2 | 1.0 | -. 9 | -1.3 | . 1 | 1.1 | . 1 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ------- | -1.6 | -2.8 | -5.2 | -2.7 | -4.9 | -1.1 | -4.7 |
| Dairy products ------------------- | 2.9 | . 2 | 4.4 | . 7 | . 3 | . 4 | . 1 |
| Fruits and vegetables ------------ | -3.6 | -4.3 | 2.6 | -. 6 | -2.6 | 5.7 | -1.7 |
| Other foods at home ------------- | . 9 | . 0 | -. 1 | -. 6 | -. 2 | 1.0 | . 2 |
| Food away from home ------------- | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.2 | . 0 | . 9 | 1.7 | 1.4 |
| Housing -------------------------------- | 1.5 | 4.0 | 1.6 | 1.2 | 1.0 | . 9 | 1.8 |
|  | 2.1 | 5.9 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 1.6 | . 7 | 2.0 |
|  | . 9 | 1.1 | . 5 | . 9 | . 4 | 1.3 | . 8 |
| Homeownership ------------------- | 2.5 | 7.6 | 2.6 | 1.7 | 1.9 | . 5 | 2.3 |
| Puel and utilities ---------------- | . 3 | . 3 | . 8 | . 5 | -. 6 | 2.0 | 1.2 |
|  | - | 2.1 | 6.3 | - | - |  | . 7 |
| Gas and electricity Household furnishings and operation | . 4 | -.1.4 | . 8 | 1.5 | -1.1 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
|  | . 6 | 1.4 | . 6 | 1.5 | . 7 | 1.1 | 1.6 |
| Apparel and upkeep ------------------- | . 7 | 2.1 | 1.4 | -. 4 | . 7 | . 8 | -. 5 |
| Men's and boys' -------------------- | . 2 | . 5 | 1.8 | . 4 | 3.0 | 1.1 | -1.4 |
|  | . 6 | 3.8 | . 6 | -2.1 | -. 9 | . 1 | -1.2 |
|  | -. 3 | 2.3 | . 8 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
|  | 4.5 | 3.5 | 4.4 | 2.3 | 8.6 | 4.1 | 4.4 |
| Private ------------------------------- | 4.8 | 3.9 | 5.0 | 2.7 | 9.2 | 4.4 | 4.8 |
| Public ------------------------------- | . 4 | . 1 | . 1 | . 0 | . 9 | . 4 | . 2 |
| Health and recreation -------------- | 1.3 | 1.9 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.1 | . 3 |
| Medical care ------------------------- | 2.1 | 3.3 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 1.8 | . 5 | . 4 |
| Personsl care -------------------------- | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.3 | -. 1 | 2.0 | . 0 |
| Reading and recreation ---------------- | . 6 | 1.0 | . 6 | 1.0 | . 9 | 1.9 | . 4 |
| Other goods and services ---------- | . 9 | 1.7 | . 2 | -. 3 | 1.2 | 1.1 | . 2 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ See footnote 1, table 2. <br> $\mathbf{2}^{\prime} /$ Not avallable.  <br> 3/ Change from October 1970.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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TABLE 5-A. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas $1 /$ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1970 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1969-70

| Group | $\begin{gathered} \text { U.S. } \\ \text { City } \\ \text { Average } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Atlanta | Baltimore | Chicago | Cincinnati | Detroit | $\begin{gathered} \text { Honolulu } \\ (\text { Dec. } .1963=100) \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified) |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 135.3 | 133.8 | 135.8 | 132.1 | 131.3 | 134.9 | 123.1 |
|  | 166.0 | 165.6 | 168.5 | 166.6 | 159.8 | 166.4 | - |
|  | 132.4 | 131.1 | 136.5 | 133.2 | 129.3 | 131.5 | 123.6 |
|  | 127.7 | 127.1 | 130.1 | 130.7 | 125.1 | 128.7 | 120.7 |
| Cereals and bakery products ---- | 129.0 | 121.6 | 134.2 | 134.6 | 123.8 | 124.6 | 115.7 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish ------- | 129.6 | 128.1 | 132.8 | 133.1 | 129.5 | 137.8 | 125.9 |
|  | 130.5 | 128.0 | 129.1 | 139.0 | 126.1 | 136.9 | 118.1 |
|  | 133.2 | 136.6 | 138.4 | 130.1 | 132.5 113.6 | 122.2 | 122.6 115.3 |
|  | 116.3 | 122.4 | 117.5 | 116.9 | 113.6 150.7 | 114.6 147.6 | 115.3 132.5 |
|  | 155.4 | 145.2 | 164.2 | 144.9 | 150.7 | 147.6 | 132.5 |
|  | 135.9 | 139.2 | 133.9 | 129.2 | 126.5 | 135.9 | 128.7 |
|  | 145.7 | 147.2 | 141.5 | 136.2 | 131.3 | 148.5 | 140.0 |
|  | 123.7 | 119.4 | 119.1 | - | 110.1 | 113.2 | 126.2 |
|  | 154.4 | 155.7 | 150.9 | 145.6 | 141.5 | 156.7 | 149.6 100.7 |
|  | 117.3 | 115.2 | 114.5 | 112.4 | 114.2 | 107.7 | 100.7 |
|  | 122.9 | 112. | 124.9 | 115.5 | 147.7 | 115.3 | - 100.1 |
| Gas and electricity ------------- | 116.4 122.7 | 112.1 131.0 | 105.4 130.9 | 112.0 | 113.0 117.8 | 108.5 115.1 | 100.1 112.3 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 122.7 | 131.0 | 130.9 | 120.0 | 117.8 | 115.1 | 112.3 |
|  | 132.3 | 132.4 | 138.9 | 124.5 | 136.7 | 127.1 | 121.8 |
|  | 133.8 | 133.9 | 142.6 | 123.9 | 142.1 | 128.9 | 114.4 |
|  | 127.5 | 125.6 | 130.4 | 118.6 | 126.5 | 118.6 | 128.6 |
|  | 147.7 | 142.8 | 165.9 | 141.5 | 161.9 | 146.9 | 120.3 |
|  | 130.6 | 122.5 | 130.0 | 133.3 | 130.2 | 125.7 | 112.3 |
|  | 126.5 | 118.3 | 126.9 | 128.2 | 124.8 | 122.4 | 116.9 |
|  | 169.7 | 161.6 | 143.2 | 166.5 | 176.9 | 150.8 | 90.0 |
|  | 143.9 | 141.0 | 141.9 | 139.5 | 142.6 | 147.7 | 123.3 |
| Medical care ------------------------- | 164.9 | 166.8 | 184.1 | 173.5 | 173.0 | 180.0 | 135.4 |
|  | 130.7 | 133.8 | 133.7 | 130.9 | 129.4 | - | 116.8 |
| Reading and recreation ------------- | 136.2 | 135.1 | 133.5 | 118.9 | 133.9 | 135.3 | 115.8 |
| Other goods and services --mom- | 137.1 | 122.2 | 122.9 | 133.1 | 129.4 | 130.2 | 124.5 |
|  | Percent changes 1969-70 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 6.0 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 5.2 |
|  | 5.5 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 4.7 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.3 |
|  | 5.1 | 5.6 | 5.2 | 4.2 | 5.6 | 5.8 | 4.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products ----- | 5.4 | 6.0 | 6.6 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 5.9 | 3.7 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -------- | 5.2 | 4.9 | 5.5 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 6.7 | 5.5 |
|  | 4.8 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 1.8 | 4.9 | 4.7 | 3.1 |
| Fruits and vegetables ------------ | 3.7 | 6.5 | 3.6 | 2.0 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 1.4 |
| Other foods at home -------------- | 5.8 | 5.2 | 4.3 | 5.2 | 7.6 | 5.8 | 4.9 |
|  | 7.5 | 6.8 | 9.4 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 6.0 | 8.6 |
|  | 7.3 | 7.5 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 6.2 | 9.2 | 5.6 |
|  | 9.1 | 10.5 | 8.5 | 8.8 | 8.0 | 12.2 | 7.2 |
|  | 4.1 | 4.2 | 2.6 | - | 3.9 | 4.1 | 8.0 |
|  | 10.8 | 12.2 | 10.6 | 11.1 | 9.7 | 13.7 | 6.7 |
|  | 3.9 | 0.5 | 3.7 | 3.9 | 6.0 | 3.4 | 0.2 |
|  | 4.3 | - | 4.8 | 4.3 | 25.6 | 4.2 | - |
| Gas and electricity --------------- | 4.4 | 0.4 | 2.6 | 5.1 | 4.4 | 2.9 | 0.5 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 4.1 | 3.9 | 5.6 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 2.8 |
|  | 4.1 | 4.3 | 5.5 | 2.6 | 4.4 | 2.8 | 5.3 |
|  | 4.1 | 3.0 | 6.3 | 3.3 | 5.3 | 3.7 | 2.3 |
|  | 3.8 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 1.7 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 7.9 |
|  | 5.3 | 3.9 | 5.1 | 4.3 | 6.1 | 6.5 | 5.6 |
|  | 5.2 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 6.6 | 4.8 | 2.3 | 4.0 |
|  | 4.3 | 2.3 | 3.4 | 6.2 | 4.1 | 1.8 | 4.9 |
|  | 14.0 | 7.9 | 0.9 | 8.5 | 9.7 | 7.1 | -1.9 |
|  | 5.3 | 4.5 | 5.8 | 6.2 | 4.7 | 5.7 | 5.2 |
|  | 6.4 | 7.5 | 9.3 | 6.7 | 5.0 | 8.7 | 4.6 |
|  | 3.6 | 1.1 | 3.6 | 4.1 | 5.9 | - | 7.4 |
| Reading and recreation ------------ | 4.4 | 3.9 | 5.6 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 2.9 | 5.0 |
| Other goods and services ---------- | 6.3 | 2.6 | 3.9 | 8.7 | 4.3 | 6.2 | 5.3 |

See footnote at end of table.

TABLE 5-A. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas $1 /$ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1970 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1969-70--Continued

| Group | Kansas City | Los AngelesLong Beach | New York | Philadelphia | St. Louis | San FranciscoOakland |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Indexes (1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified) |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 137.4 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 170.0 | 134.4 | 141.6 | 137.6 | 134.5 | 137.8 |
|  | 136.9 | 128.0 | 170.6 | 168.9 | 166.9 | 175.0 |
|  | 132.4 | 122.0 | 128.8 | 132.6 | 137.3 132.6 | 129.0 |
| Cereals and bakery products ----- | 135.8 | 126.9 | 126.4 | 129.8 | 136.9 | 123.0 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -------- | 134.0 | 119.1 | 131.1 | 124.0 | 136.3 | 124.4 |
|  | 144.0 | 127.5 | 123.9 | 138.5 | 142.3 | 124.1 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----------- | 129.1 | 133.6 | 140.9 | 132.5 | 139.5 | 130.2 |
| Other foods at home --------------- | 121.1 | 106.8 | 117.5 | 112.6 | 113.4 | 110.5 |
| Food away from home ---------------- | 152.9 | 149.5 | 168.1 | 164.7 | 156.4 | 155.5 |
|  | 133.2 | 140.8 | 141.1 | 136.8 | 128.2 | 149.8 |
|  | 138.9 | 152.4 | 149.2 | 147.4 | 134.1 | 166.2 |
|  | 112.7 | - | 134.8 | - | 113.9 | 154.8 |
| Homeownership ----m--------------- | 150.0 | 161.4 | 158.3 | 152.7 | 139.5 | 171.8 |
|  | 127.6 | 113.8 | 116.7 | 115.6 | 117.8 | 108.9 |
| Fuel oil and coal ------------------- | 130.9 | - | 128.0 | 127.5 | 120.7 | 115.0 |
| Gas and electricity ------------ | 130.9 | 123.0 | 114.0 | 109.4 | 121.9 | 122.0 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 119.3 | 119.3 | 134.4 | 126.3 | 122.8 | 122.0 |
|  | 141.8 | 130.1 | 139.1 | 139.3 | 132.2 | 134.6 |
| Men's and boys' | 141.1 | 131.9 | 143.7 | 135.6 | 130.1 | 132.0 |
|  | 141.2 | 132.0 | 131.8 | 129.0 | 133.1 | 130.3 |
|  | 155.3 | 139.8 | 148.3 | 157.1 | 144.3 | 143.4 |
|  | 131.4 | 132.6 | 143.2 | 141.4 | 132.4 | 129.5 |
|  | 126.4 | 127.9 | 136.1 | 134.2 | 128.3 | 130.4 |
| Public -------------------------------- | 192.7 | 161.1 | 175.7 | 179.6 | 167.5 | 127.3 |
| Health and recreation ----------------- | 150.9 | 134.2 | 152.0 | 146.9 | 146.5 | 139.6 |
|  | 168.3 | 160.6 | 173.6 | 178.9 | 157.3 | 161.4 |
|  | 133.4 | 121.6 | - | - | 137.9 | 137.7 |
|  | 146.5 | 116.8 | 150.6 | 130.9 | 141.4 | 122.4 |
| Other goods and services ------m--> | 145.5 | 127.6 | 146.7 | 142.8 | 144.6 | 134.9 |
|  | Percent changes 1969-70 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Al1 items ---------------------------- | 5.6 | 5.0 | 7.4 | 6.7 | 5.5 | 5.1 |
|  | 5.8 | 4.4 | 7.3 | 5.7 | 6.0 | 4.2 |
|  | 5.1 | 4.2 | 6.2 | 4.9 | 6.0 | 3.8 |
| Cereals and bakery products ---- | 7.1 | 3.8 | 4.2 | 7.5 | 10.2 | 4.3 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish -------- | 4.3 | 4.9 | 6.1 | 4.9 | 5.2 | 5.1 |
|  | 6.7 | 4.9 | 7.2 | 3.9 | 6.6 | 4.5 |
| Fruits and vegetables ----------- | 2.4 | 0.3 | 6.2 | 3.3 | 5.0 | 0.8 |
|  | 5.8 | 6.0 | 6.7 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 3.6 |
|  | 8.1 | 4.8 | 10.8 | 8.6 | 6.3 | 5.6 |
|  | 7.6 | 6.5 | 7.9 | 8.7 | 5.5 | 7.5 |
|  | 9.5 | 7.9 | 9.6 | 12.2 | 6.3 | 9.2 |
|  | 3.0 | - | 4.4 | - | 2.0 | 7.1 |
| Homeownership ---------------------- | 11.8 | 8.6 | 13.2 | 13.6 | 7.4 | 10.1 |
| Fuel and utilities | 5.5 | 3.4 | 2.9 | 4.3 | 6.0 | 3.7 |
|  | - | - | 3.3 | 4.1 | 2.4 | -. |
| Gas and electricity --------------10-1 | 8.2 | 6.5 | 1.7 | 4.9 | 8.0 | 5.3 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 3.9 | 2.8 | 6.0 | 4.6 | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 5.4 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 3.8 | 3.0 |
|  | 6.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 2.5 |
|  | 5.6 | 6.4 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 5.1 | 2.7 |
|  | 4.6 | 3.6 | 5.3 | 6.6 | 2.7 | 4.0 |
|  | 2.9 | 3.4 | 12.5 | 5.4 | 5.9 | 4.1 |
|  | 1.4 | 3.4 | 6.7 | 6.0 | 5.3 | 3.5 |
|  | 27.3 | 3.2 | 36.1 | 2.2 | 13.2 | 14.6 |
|  | 5.0 | 4.1 | 6.0 | 7.4 | 5.6 | 4.0 |
|  | 4.4 | 7.1 | 7.5 | 8.4 | 6.4 | 5.5 |
| Personal care ------------------------ | 5.0 | 1.9 | - | - | 5.4 | 1.9 |
|  | 3.5 | 2.7 | 6.0 | 4.3 | 3.2 | 3.4 |
| Other goods and services -----m---- | 7.9 | 2.4 | 5.8 | 9.5 | 7.1 | 3.6 |

I/ See footnote 1 , table 2 .

TABLE 6. Cosnumer Price Index--United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, December 1970 Indexes and percent changes from November 1970


1/f See footnote 1 , table 2.
$\overline{2} /$ Not available.

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TABLE 7. Cosnumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, December 1970 indexes and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

| Item or Group | Index |  | Percent Change to December 1970 from-- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | December 1970 |  | November 1970 |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { December } \\ 1969 \\ \text { Unadjusted } \end{gathered}$ |
|  | Unadiusted | Seasonally adjusted | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted |  |
|  | 132.8 | 133.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 2.2 |
|  | 159.2 | - | . 3 | - | 6.2 |
|  | 159.2 | - | . 3 | - | 6.0 |
|  | 139.2 | - | . 4 | - | 7.2 |
|  | 127.3 | 127.8 | . 3 | . 2 | 1.2 |
| Cereals and bakery products ----m------ | 132.2 | - | . 3 | - | 5.8 |
|  | 114.0 | - | . 1 | - | 2.8 |
|  | 143.1 | - | . 4 | - | 11.9 |
|  | 139.7 | - | . 9 | - | 7.5 |
|  | 116.3 | - | . 4 | - | 2.6 |
|  | 137.2 | - | -. 4 | - | 4.7 |
|  | 131.0 | - | . 9 | - | 5.6 |
|  | 107.8 | - | . 5 | - | 6.8 |
|  | 124.8 | - | 1.5 | - | 5.8 |
|  | 123.2 | - | -. 2 | - | 6.4 |
|  | 126.4 | 127.5 | -. 6 | 0 | -. 6 |
|  | 129.1 | 130.1 | -1.5 | -. 9 | -1.7 |
|  | 133.9 | 134.8 | -. 7 | -. 3 | 2.5 |
|  | 125.4 | 126.3 | -1.6 | -. 9 | 1.8 |
|  | 121.5 | - | -1.1 | - | 2.1 |
| Steak, porterhouse 1/ ------------ | 126.7 | - | -1.3 | - | 2.3 |
|  | 120.9 | - | -1.4 | - | 1.8 |
|  | 142.3 | 142.4 | 0 | -. 6 | 1.3 |
|  | 123.8 | 124.3 | -1.2 | -1.0 | . 5 |
|  | 141.8 | 142.8 | -. 1 | . 5 | 2.9 |
|  | 120.4 | - | . 5 | - | 1.5 |
|  | 176.7 | 178.8 | . 1 | . 7 | 9.1 |
|  | 120.7 | 122.4 | -3.4 | -2.4 | -9.5 |
|  | 119.2 | 122.9 | -4.9 | -3.3 | -12.2 |
|  | 128.9 | - | -3.9 | - | -10.1 |
|  | 138.8 | - | -3.1 | - | -5.4 |
|  | 120.1 | 117.3 | . 2 | -2.0 | -8.1 |
|  | 128.1 | - | -2.5 | - | -4.9 |
|  | 117.9 | 120.9 | -3.8 | -2.3 | -11.4 |
|  | 135.0 | 134.9 | -. 4 | -. 1 | . 4 |
|  | 143.8 | - | 1.0 | - | 2.4 |
| Frankfurters --------m-m-m-m-m-m | 134.7 | 135.1 | -. 3 | . 5 | . 1 |
|  | 125.7 | - | -1.1 | - | -3.6 |
|  | 137.5 | - | -1.2 | - | . 7 |
|  | 130.0 | - | -. 2 | - | 1.6 |
|  | 131.4 | - | -. 5 | - | 1.2 |
|  | 95.9 | - | 4.5 | - | -2.0 |
|  | 95.2 | 98.2 | 7.0 | 7.2 | -2.8 |
| Chicken breasts $1 /$------------------- | 106.9 | - | 2.1 | - | -3.2 |
|  | 112.7 | - | -3.8 | - | 2.2 |
|  | 151.5 | 151.3 | 1.3 | . 8 | 11.9 |
|  | 125.5 |  | -. 1 | - | . 9 |
| Fish, fresh or frozen ----m-m-m-m | 164.1 | 163.4 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 14.4 |
|  | 137.6 | - | 1.2 | - | 16.7 |
| Sardines, canned 1/ ---m------m- | 145.3 | - | 2.0 | - | 15.9 |
|  | 132.6 | 132.2 | . 2 | . 2 | 3.9 |
|  | 128.3 | 127.7 | -. 1 | . 1 | 2.6 |
| Milk, fresh, delivered -----------------10 | 136.9 | - | . 1 | - | 3.5 |
|  | 132.3 | - | . 2 | - | 5.0 |
| Milk, evaporated | 135.2 | - | -. 1 | - | 8.2 |
|  | 105.0 | - | . 1 | - | 2.9 |
| Cheese, American process ---m--m-----m | 161.4 | 161.4 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 5.9 |
|  | 122.6 | 122.0 | . 2 | . 2 | 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, December 1970 indexes and percent changes from selected dates-Continued
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

| Item or Group | Index |  | Percent change to December 1970 from-- |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | December 1970 |  | November 1970 |  | December1969Unadiusted |
|  | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted |  |
| Fruits and vegetables | 129.9 | 132.3 | 1.1 | -. 2 | -1.7 |
|  | 136.0 | 141.2 | 1.3 | -. 1 | -5.6 |
|  | 136.0 | 156.3 | 3.3 | -1.0 | 5.2 |
| Bananas | 81.7 | 86.1 | -7.8 | -7.1 | -12.4 |
|  | 138.6 | 142.6 | -5.1 | 7.9 | 10.9 |
|  | 89.3 | - | -. 7 | - | -2.4 |
|  | 142.0 | 157.8 | -4.5 | -3.1 | 0 |
|  | (3/) | (3/) | (3/) | (3/) | (3/) |
|  | ( $3 /$ ) | (3/) | (3/) | (3/) | (3/) |
|  | ( $\overline{3} /$ ) | ( $\overline{3} /$ ) | (3/) | (3/) | (3/) |
|  | 146.1 | 155.6 | . 8 | . 1 | 2.9 |
| Onions - | 129.9 | 138.5 | -1.1 | -2.2 | -4.8 |
|  | (3/) | - | (3/) | - | (3/) |
|  | 149.6 | 149.0 | 4.3 | -5.6 | -13.7 |
| Carrots -- | 116.4 | 110.9 | 1.0 | -7.0 | -20.6 |
|  | 125.0 | 126.3 | -3.5 | -4.6 | -5.4 |
|  | 144.3 | - | 20.0 | - | -18.2 |
|  | 143.5 | 132.9 | -1.9 | . 5 | -24.3 |
|  | 167.8 | - | 7.2 | - | -22.7 |
|  | 126.1 | - | . 2 | - | 3.5 |
|  | 160.2 | 131.4 | 23.5 | -2.7 | -9.7 |
| Processed fruits and vegetables --------- | 122.5 | - | . 7 | - | 4.6 |
|  | 113.4 | - | . 9 | $\sim$ | 6.8 |
|  | 112.6 | - | . 8 | - | 5.8 |
| Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned 1/ -- | 106.8 | - | . 1 | - | 4.3 |
| Orange fuice concentrate; frozen --m---- | 89.0 | 88.2 | -. 6 | -1.3 | -8.6 |
| Lemonade concentrate, frozen 2/ ------- | 98.4 | - | 1.4 | - | 3.9 |
|  | 119.8 | - | . 2 | - | 5.5 |
|  | 127.3 | - | . 2 | - | 4.0 |
| Tomatoes, canned --m---m--m-m-m-m-m-m | 141.7 | - | . 7 | - | 11.9 |
|  | 125.7 | - | 2.1 | - | 1.9 |
|  | 115.3 | - | . 2 | - | 5.2 |
|  | 118.2 | 117.0 | 1.1 | . 3 | 1.4 |
|  | 105.6 | 99.2 | 6.6 | 2.0 | -24.9 |
| Fats and oils: Margarine | 117.7 | - | 1.9 | - | 12.1 |
| Salad dressing, Italian 1/ --m-m | 107.0 | - | . 3 | - | 4.3 |
|  | 140.8 | - | 1.1 | - | 12.8 |
|  | 135.1 | - | . 5 | - | 6.0 |
|  | 124.8 | - | . 5 | - | 7.4 |
|  | 135.0 | - | . 4 | - | 4.9 |
|  | 136.0 | - | . 4 | - | 6.8 |
| Syrup, chocolate flavored 1/ ---m---- | 112.5 | - | . 8 | - | 5.0 |
|  | 120.7 | - | -. 1 | - | 12.4 |
| Coffee, can and bag -------m-m-m-m | 111.0 | - | -. 4 | - | 20.3 |
|  | 120.2 | - | . 3 | - | 11.3 |
|  | 106.9 | - | -. 6 | - | 3.9 |
|  | 168.4 | - | . 5 | - | 6.3 |
| Carbonated fruit drink 1/ --m-m-m-m | 133.3 | - | . 1 | - | 6.8 |
| Prepared and partially prepared foods 1/ | 111.8 | - | . 2 | - | 3.3 |
| Bean soup, canned 1/ m-----m---m-m | 112.4 | - | . 1 | - | 3.3 |
|  | 102.9 | - | . 3 | - | 2.6 |
|  | 126.8 | - | . 2 | - | 5.3 |
| Mashed potatoes, instant 1/ ---m-m-m | 110.2 | - | . 5 | - | . 5 |
| Potatoes, french fried, froxen 2/ ---- | 93.0 | - | -. 4 | - | . 5 |
|  | 116.9 | - | . 3 | - | 4.5 |
|  | 120.1 | - | -. 2 | - | 4.4 |
|  | 112.6 | - | . 2 | - | 4.7 |

$\frac{1 / 2}{2 /}$ December 1963=100.
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 1970 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1969 to 1970

| Item or Group | $\begin{gathered} \text { Indexes } \\ (1957-59=100) \end{gathered}$ |  | Percent change to 1970 from |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} 1970 \\ \text { Unadjusted } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1969 \\ \text { Unadjusted } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1969 \\ \text { Unadjusted } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
|  | 132.4 | 125.5 | 5.5 |
|  | 155.4 | 144.6 | 7.5 |
|  | 155.5 | 144.9 | 7.3 |
|  | 135.5 | 125.4 | 8.1 |
|  | 127.7 | 121.5 | 5.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products ------------1 | 129.0 | 122.4 | 5.4 |
|  | 113.3 | 111.5 | 1.6 |
|  | 136.7 | 122.3 | 11.8 |
|  | 132.9 | 129.2 | 2.9 |
|  | 115.0 | 112.3 | 2.4 |
| Bread, white --------------------------- | 135.1 | 128.1 | 5.5 |
|  | 127.0 | 120.5 | 5.4 |
|  | 105.4 | 100.6 | 4.8 |
|  | 121.7 | 113.7 | 7.0 |
|  | 119.6 | 113.1 | 5.7 |
|  | 129.6 133.8 | 123.2 | 5.2 5.5 |
|  | 135.2 | 129.5 | 4.4 |
|  | 128.1 | 124.4 | 3.0 |
|  | 124.1 | 121.7 | 2.0 |
|  | 129.5 | 126.4 | 2.5 |
|  | 122.8 142.4 | 118.4 139.7 | 3.7 1.9 |
|  | 126.6 | 122.3 | 3.5 |
|  | 142.0 | 134.0 | 6.0 |
|  | 120.7 | 113.2 | 6.6 |
| Beef liver $1 /$ <br>  | 172.4 | 156.4 | 10.2 |
|  | 133.0 | 125.2 | 6.2 |
|  | 134.4 | 129.6 | 3.7 |
|  | 147.6 | 137.8 | 7.1 |
|  | 127.4 | 117.1 | 8.8 |
|  | 136.3 | 127.5 | 6.9 |
|  | 134.4 | 124.3 | 8.1 |
|  | 136.6 | 127.7 | 7.0 |
|  | 142.0 | 137.0 | 3.6 |
| Frankfurters ------------------------ | 135.9 | 127.4 | 6.7 |
|  | 138.9 | 129.3 | 7.4 |
|  | 130.6 | 122.1 | 7.0 |
|  | 132.2 | 123.7 | 6.9 |
|  | 96.4 | 96.9 | -0.5 |
|  | 94.9 | 98.1 | -3.3 |
|  | 108.4 | 108.4 102.8 | 13.5 |
|  | 143.7 | 130.6 | 10.0 |
|  | 126.7 | 119.3 | 6.2 |
|  | 155.1 | 134.6 | 15.2 |
|  | 128.1 | 114.4 | 12.0 |
| Tuna fish, canned -------------------- | 133.2 | 124.2 | 7.2 |
|  | 130.5 | 124.5 | 4.8 |
|  | 127.0 | 121.8 | 4.3 |
|  | 134.7 | 128.4 | 4.9 |
|  | 129.7 | 123.0 | 5.4 |
|  | 131.4 | 123.5 | 6.4 |
|  | 103.8 | 99.5 | 4.3 |
|  | 157.5 | 146.8 | 7.3 |
| Cheese, American process --------------------------------- | 121.1 | 118.3 | 2.4 |

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 1970 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1969 to 1970--Continued

|  | (195 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ess } \\ & 7=100) \end{aligned}$ | Percent change to <br> 1970 friom -- |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Item or Group | $\begin{gathered} 1970 \\ \text { Unadjusted } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1969 \\ \text { Unadjusted } \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 1969 \\ \text { Unadjusted } \end{gathered}$ |
|  | 133.2 | 128.4 | 3.7 |
|  | 144.5 | 138.1 | 4.6 |
|  | 150.0 | 162.5 | -7.7 |
|  | 95.5 | 95.3 | 0.2 |
|  | 133.5 | 128.4 | 4.0 |
|  | 90.1 | 90.9 | -0.9 |
|  | 172.2 | 155.1 | 11.0 |
|  | 175.2 | 154.4 131.9 | 13.5 |
|  | 132.1 | 131.9 | 12.4 |
|  | 148.2 | 144.8 | 10.5 |
| Potatoes | 157.8 | 134.1 | 17.7 |
| sparagus 3/1/ | 140.1 | 138.7 | 1.0 |
| Asparagus Cabbage | 178.9 | 152.0 | 17.7 |
| Carrots | 122.7 | 123.8 | -0.9 |
|  | 136.6 | 125.6 | 8.8 |
| Cucumbers 1/ | 153.5 | 148.1 | 3.6 |
|  | 139.3 | 144.4 | -3.5 |
|  | 215.8 | 172.4 | 25.2 |
|  | 120.2 | 138.1 | 0.4 |
|  | 119.2 | 116.3 | 2.5 |
| Processed fruits and vegetables --m-------- | 108.1 | 106.4 | 1.6 |
|  | 108.1 | 106.4 | -0.9 |
|  | 105.4 | 100.5 | 4.9 |
| Grapefruit-pinespple juice, canned 1/ -- | 105.4 92.3 | 100.5 | -6.7 |
| Orange juice concentrate; frozen ------ | 95.9 | 92.5 | 3.7 |
| Lemonade concentrate, frozen 2/ -------- | 95.9 117.1 | 113.2 | 3.4 |
|  | 123.7 | 121.7 | 1.6 |
|  | 134.8 | 124.7 | 8.1 |
|  | 122.3 | 124.7 | -1.9 |
|  | 113.3 | 104.7 | 8.2 |
| Broccoli, frozen $1 /$ | 116.3 | 109.9 | 5.8 |
|  | 111.0 | 112.1 | -1.0 |
|  | 111.0 |  |  |
| Fats and oils: | 111.1 | 103.0 | 7.9 |
|  | 104.2 | 102.6 | 1.6 |
| Salad dressing, Italian $1 /$ - | 134.7 | 123.4 | 9.2 |
|  | 132.0 | 125.1 | 5.5 |
| Sugar and sweets | 120.8 | 115.3 | 4.8 |
|  | 132.5 | 124.1 | 6.8 |
|  | 132.5 | 125.1 | 5.9 |
|  | 110.6 | 106.1 | 4.2 |
| Syrup, chocolate flavored 1/ -manemem | 116.3 | 103.7 | 12.2 |
|  | 105.2 | 87.5 | 20.2 |
|  | 115.6 | 103.2 | 12.0 |
| Tea | 105.5 | 101.8 | 3.6 |
| Cola drink | 164.0 | 155.3 | 5.6 |
| Carbonated fruit drink 1/ ---m-m-m | 130.2 | 121.9 | 6.8 |
| Prepared and partially prepared foods 1/ | 110.3 | 106.2 | 3.9 |
| Bean soup, canned 1/ $-\rightarrow-\infty-$ | 111.3 | 105.0 | 6.0 |
|  | 102.1 | 98.0 | 4.2 |
| Spaghetti, canned 1/ --m-m-m-m-m | 123.8 | 117.1 | 5.7 |
| Mashed potatoes, instant 1/ ---------1 | 110.6 | 107.2 | 3.2 |
| Potatoes, french fried, frozen 2/ --- | 93.2 | 91.4 | 2.0 |
| Baby foods, canned --m-m-m-m-m-m | 113.8 | 111.6 | 2.0 |
|  | 117.8 | 112.8 | 4.4 |
|  | 110.4 | 107.1 | 3.1 |
| 1/ December 1963=100. <br> 2/ April 1960-100. |  |  |  |
| 3/ Priced only in season. |  |  |  |
| 4/ July 1961=100. |  |  |  |

TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, December 1970 and percent changes from selected dates
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

| Item and group | Other <br> index <br> bases | Indexes |  | Percent change to December 1970 Erom: |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | December 1970 | November 1970 | November 1970 | December 1969 |
| Housing | Dec. 63 | 140.1 | 139.3 | 0.6 | 7.4 |
| Shelter 1/- |  | 150.8 | 149.8 | . 7 | 8.9 |
| Rent |  | 126.6 | 125.7 | . 7 | 4.6 |
| Homeownership 2/ $^{\prime}$ |  | 160.4 | 159.3 | . 7 | 10.3 |
| Mortgage interest rates |  | 149.2 | 149.2 | . 0 | 6.9 |
| Property taxes -------- |  | 145.4 | 143.2 | 1.5 | 10.2 |
|  |  | 157.0 | 155.7 | . 8 | 2.4 |
|  |  | 156.8 | 156.0 | . 5 | 7.5 |
| Commodities 3/ ---- | Dec. 63 | 121.3 | 121.4 | . 1 | 4.7 |
| Exterior house paint | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Dec. } 63 \\ & \text { Dec. } 63 \end{aligned}$ | 123.6 | 122.7 | . 7 | 3.8 |
| Interior house paint |  | 117.4 | 116.8 | . 5 | 2.7 |
| Services ----------------- |  | 155.9 | 154.8 | . 7 | 8.6 |
| Repainting living and dining rooms |  | 208.2 | 206.6 | . 8 | 13.4 |
|  |  | 177.1 | 175.8 | . 7 | 7.9 |
| Residing house - | Dec. 63 <br> Dec. 63 <br> Dec. 63 | 142.7 | 141.8 | . 6 | 6.5 |
| Sink replacement ----------------100 |  | 160.1 | 158.6 | . 9 | 10.8 |
| Furnace repair - |  | 159.1 | 157.7 | . 9 | 6.3 |
| Fuel and utilities |  | 121.3 | 120.7 | . 5 | 5.8 |
| Fuel oil and coal - |  | 128.2 | 127.1 | . 9 | 7.6 |
| Fuèl oil, 12 ----- |  | 123.9 | 122.7 | 1.0 | 6.6 |
| Gas and electricity |  | 120.1 | 119.2 | . 8 | 5.6 |
| Gas |  | 126.7 | 125.7 | . 8 | 5.8 |
| Electricity |  | 113.1 | 112.4 | . 6 | 5.5 |
| Other utilities: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Residential telephone services |  | 106.4 | 106.4 | . 0 | 2.5 |
| Residential water and sewerage services --------- |  | 166.5 | 166.5 | . 0 | 12.9 |
|  |  | 124.8 | 124.5 | . 2 | 4.0 |
|  |  | 113.8 | 113.6 | . 2 | 2.9 |
|  |  | 119.2 | 119.0 | . 2 | 2.7 |
|  |  | 125.6 | 125.5 | . 1 | 2.8 |
|  |  | 113.6 | 112.6 | . 9 | 1.2 |
|  |  | 119.4 | 119.0 | . 3 | 1.5 |
| Drapery fabric, cotton or rayon/acetate -------- |  | 131.0 | 130.5 | . 4 | 3.5 |
| Pillows, bed, polyester, acrylic, or kapok ----- | Dec. 63 | 110.3 | 111.5 | - 1.1 | 1.8 |
| Slipcover, ready made, chiefly cotton -----m---- | Dec. 63 | 115.9 | 115.9 | . 0 | 5.0 |
|  |  | 128.3 | 128.0 | . 2 | 3.6 |
|  |  | 101.7 | 101.6 | . 1 | [ |
| Living room suites, good and inexpensive quality $\qquad$ |  | 129.8 | 129.4 | . 3 | 2.8 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 125.5 | 125.0 | . 4 | 5.6 |
|  | - Mar. 70 | 101.8 | 101.5 | . 3 | (51) |
| Sofas, upholstered | Dec. 63 | 121.8 | 122.1 | -. 2 | 4.5 |
| Sofas, dual purpose --------------1-20 |  | 124.6 | 125.0 | -. 3 | 3.8 |
| Bedding-mattress and box springs | June 70 | 101.4 | 101.2 | . 2 | (51) |
| Aluminum folding chair | June 64 | (6/) | (6) | (6) | (6/) |
| Cribs | Dec. 63 | 125.3 | 124.5 | . 6 | 4.6 |
| Floor coverings |  | 107.8 | 107.5 | . 3 | . 7 |
| Rugs, soft surface |  | 103.8 | 103.7 | . 1 | -. 9 |
| Rugs, hard surface |  | 116.4 | 116.1 | . 3 | 3.5 |
| Tile, vinyl | Dec. 63 | 115.2 | 114.2 | . 9 | 4.4 |
|  |  | 87.9 | 87.8 | . 1 | 1.7 |
| Washing machines, electric, automatic ---------- |  | 93.6 | 93.4 | . 2 | 2.3 |
| Vacuum cleaners, canister type -----.---------- |  | 81.7 | 81.4 | . 4 | . 4 |
| Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers electric- |  | 88.6 | 88.4 | . 2 | 3.0 |
| Ranges, free standing, gas or electric |  | 101.5 | 101.2 | . 3 | 2.5 |
| Clothes dryers, electric, automatic | Dec. 63 | 104.0 | 103.5 | . 5 | 3.4 |
|  | June 64 | (6) | (6) | (6/) | (5/) |
| Room heaters, electric, portable 6/ | Dec. 63 | 103.2 | 103.4 | -. 2 | 2.8 |
| Carbage disposal units - | Dec. 63 | 109.0 | 109.1 | -. 1 | 3.8 |
| Orher housefurnishings: |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 142.2 | 141.9 | . 2 | 4.9 |
| Flatware, stainless steel | Deec. 63 | 121.7 | 121.7 | . 0 | 2.3 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 124.3 | 124.0 | . 2 | 4.7 |
| Lawn mowers, power, rotary type | June 64 | (6) | (6) | (6/) | (6/) |
| Electric drills, hand held --- | Dec. 63 | $1 \overline{0} 1.5$ | 102.4 | - . 9 | - 2.4 |
| Housekeeping supplies: |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 110.6 | 110.4 | . 2 | 3.3 |
| Paper napikins .... |  | 140.7 | 140.4 | . 2 | 7.4 |
| Toilet tissue |  | 132.6 | 130.9 | 1.3 | 10.2 |
| Housekeeping services: |  |  |  |  |  |
| Domestic service, general housework ------------ |  | 194.0 | 193.5 | . 3 | 7.8 |
| Baby sitter service | Dec.63i | 146.1 | 145.5 | . 4 | 6.3 |
|  |  | 171.2 | 171.2 | . 0 | 3.4 |
| Laundry, flatwork, finished service --..-.....--- | Dec. 63 | 156.0 | 154.7 | . 8 | 6.3 |
| Licensed day care service, preschool child ----- | Dec. 53. | 135.9 | 135.3 | . 4 | 3.1 |
| Washing machine repairs | Dec. 63 | 148.0 | 147.8 | . 1 | 9.3 |

TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, December 1970 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued


TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, December 1970 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued.
(1957-59-100 unleas otherwise specified)


TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, December 1970 and percent changes from selected dates-Continued
(1957-59*100 unless otherwise specified)

| Item and group | Other index bases | Indexes |  | Percent change to December 1970from: |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | December 1970 | November 1970 | November 1979 | December 1969 |
| Reading and recreation 11/ |  | 139.6 | 139.3 | 0.2 | 5.2 |
| Recreational gooda --- | Dec. 63 | 100.9 | 100.9 | . 0 | 1.8 |
| TV sets, portable and console |  | 80.7 | 80.7 | . 0 | . 6 |
| TV replacement tubes ------- | Dec. 63 | 124.0 | 124.1 | -. 1 | 6.6 |
| Radios, portable and table model |  | 76.5 | 76.5 | . 0 | . 0 |
| Tape recorders, portable | Dec. 63 | 91.2 | 91.1 | . 1 | 1.2 |
| Phonograph records, stereophonic | Dec. 63 | 97.6 | 97.6 | . 0 | -. 4 |
| Movie cameras, Super 8, zoom lens | Dec. 63 | 80.6 | 81.1 | -. 6 | - 2.1 |
| Film, 35 mm , color | Dec. 63 | 100.6 | 100.5 | . 1 | 1.5 |
| Golf balls, liquid center or solid core ---- | Dec. 63 | 104.8 | 104.5 | . 3 | . 8 |
| Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover --------- | Dec. 63 | 120.3 | 119.7 | . 5 | 4.8 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 117.3 | 118.1 | -. 7 | -. 8 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 104.7 | 104.0 | . 7 | 4.2 |
| Bicycles, boys' | Dec. 63 | 110.3 | 111.9 | - 1.4 | -. 1 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 113.5 | 113.9 | $-.4$ | 1.7 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 112.8 | 110.9 | 1.7 | 4.7 |
| Recreational services | Dec. 63 | 140.6 | 140.3 | + 2 | 5.6 |
| Indoor movie admissions |  | 226.7 | 225.9 | . 4 | 7.8 |
| Adult ------------ |  | 221.4 | 220.7 | . 3 | 7.8 |
| Children's |  | 244.5 | 243.3 | . 5 | 7.7 |
| Drive-in movie admissions, adult | Dec. 63 | 108.6 | 180.1 | .3 | 9.1 |
| Bowling fees, evening --------- | Dec. 63 | 117.5 | 117.8 | - ${ }^{3}$ | 3.3 |
| Golf green fees ---- | Dec. 63 | (6/) | (6/) | (6/) | (6/) |
| IV repair, picture tube replacement |  | 97.6 | 97.8 | -. 2 | - 2.6 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 121.6 | 121.0 | . 5 | 3.3 |
| Reading and education: |  |  |  |  | 10.7 |
|  |  | 175.1 136.2 | 173.9 136.2 | . 0 | 10.7 7.8 |
| Magazines, single copy and subscription ---------------10 | Dec. 63 | 136.2 131.8 | 136.2 131.6 | . 2 | 7.8 3.5 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 131.8 | 131.6 | . 2 | 3.5 |
| Other goods and services |  | 140.1 | 139.8 | . 2 | 4.9 |
| Tobacco products ------- |  | 162.2 | 162.1 | . 1 | 5.5 |
| Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size ---------------1. |  | 171.0 | 170.8 | -1 | 5.9 |
| Cigarettes, filter tip, king size | Mar. 59 | 162.5 | 162.3 | . 1 | 5.9 |
| Cigars, domestic, regular size |  | 109.1 | 109.1 | . 0 | -. 8 |
| Alcoholic beverages |  | 125.7 | 125.5 | . 2 | 4.2 |
| Beer ---------- |  | 120.5 | 120.3 | . 2 | 3.4 |
| Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon |  | 113.4 | 113.3 | . 1 | 1.7 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 120.4 | 120.4 | . 0 | 4.5 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 134.1 | 133.7 | . 3 | 6.5 |
| Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses: |  |  | 121.5 | .2 | 3.7 |
|  | Dec. 63 | 121.7 | 115.6 | .2 -.2 | 3.7 4.6 |
| Bank service charges, checking acounts Legsl services, short form will | Dec. 63 | 115.4 158.1 | 115.6 155.2 | - 1.9 | 4.6 12.0 |
| Other special groups: |  |  |  |  |  |
| All items less shelter |  | 135.4 | 134.8 | . 4 | 4.6 |
| Commodities less food |  | 126.1 | 125.7 | . 3 | 4.8 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel |  | 128.4 | 127.8 | . 5 | 4.4 |
| Household services less rent- |  | 167.1 | 166.0 | . 7 | 9.6 |
| Transportation services- |  | 163.7 | 162.9 | . 5 | 10.3 |
| Other services |  | 157.2 | 156.6 | . 4 | 5.6 |

1/ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
2/ Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.
3/ Also includes pine shelving, furnace air filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.
4/ Also includes venetian blinds, nails, carpet aweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholstering,
and moving expenses.
5/ Not available.
$6 /$ Pricad only in season.
7/ Also includes radios and television sets, shown separately under reading and recreation.
8/ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, batning suits, girls. shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.
$\overline{\overline{0}} /$ Ancludes prices for includes tires and drivers' license fees not shown separately.
$10 /$ Includes prices for vater pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front
end alignment, and chassis lubrication.
11/ Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.

TABLE 8A. Consumer Price Index-United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1970 annual average indexes for selected items and groups and percent changes from previous year
(1957-59 $=100$ unless otherwise specified)


TABLE 8A. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1970 annual average indexes. for selected items and groups and percent changes from previous year--Continaed


TABLE 8A. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1970 annual average indexes for selected items and groups and percent changes from previous year--Continued
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)


TABLE 8A. Consumer Price Index-United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1970 annual average indexes for selected items and groups and percent changes from previous year--Continued
(1957-59=100 unless otherwise specified)

$\frac{1 /}{2 /}$ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
$\frac{2 /}{3 /}$ Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.
3/ Also includes pine shelving, furnace air filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.
4/ Also includes venetian blinds, nails, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholatering, and moving expenses.
5/ 10-months average.
6/ Not available.
7/ 7 -months average.
8/ Priced only in season.
9/ 5 -months average.
10/ Also includes radios and television sets, shown separately under reading and recreation.
11/ 6-months average.
12/ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.
13/ 4-months average.
14/ Also includes recapped tires and drivers' license fees not shown separately.
15/ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.
16/ Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.

## Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPF

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 1969 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 1969 Data

| Component | Standard Error |  |  | Relative Error |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Monthly Change | Quarterly Change | Annual Change | Monthly Change | Quarterly Change | Annual Change |
| All items ----------------- | . 03 | . 05 | . 07 | . 07 | . 04 | . 01 |
|  | . 07 | . 11 | . 13 | . 10 | . 07 | . 03 |
| Food away from home ----- | . 08 | . 14 | . 28 | . 13 | . 08 | . 05 |
| Housing -------------------- | . 06 | . 09 | . 15 | . 10 | . 06 | . 02 |
| Apparel -------------------- | . 14 | . 23 | . 22 | . 25 | . 18 | . 04 |
| Transportation ---------- | . 08 | . 13 | . 14 | . 13 | . 10 | . 04 |
|  | . 13 | . 19 | . 36 | . 24 | . 12 | . 05 |
| Personal care ---------- | . 12 | . 20 | . 32 | . 36 | . 20 | . 07 |
| Reading and recreation -- | . 09 | . 13 | . 20 | . 33 | . 15 | . 05 |
| Other goods and services- | . 13 | . 20 | . 34 | . 25 | . 14 | . 08 |

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1968 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1969.

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 questionnalres 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 avaflable 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
Alaska - Anchorage
California - Bakersfield*
Colorado - Denver*
Connecticut - Hartford*
Florida - Orlando*
Indiana - Indianapolis*
Indiana - Logansport
Illinois - Champaign-Urbana*
Iowa - Cedar Rapids*
Kansas - Wichita*
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Louisiana - Baton Rouge*
Maine - Portland*
Massachusetts - Southbridge
Michigan - Niles
Minnesota - Crookston
Mississippi - Vicksburg
New Jersey - Millville
New York - Kingston
North Caroinna - Durham*
North Dakota - Devils Lake
Ohio - Dayton*
Ohio - Findlay
Oklahoma - Mangum
Oregon - Klamath Falls
Pennsylvania - Lancaster*
South Carolina - Union
Tennessee - Nashville*
Texas - Austin*
Texas - McAllen
Utah - Orem
Virginia - Martinsville
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 avallable on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D. C. 20212 or any of its regional offices (addresses below).

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