

The behaviour of the consumer price index during the years of almost continuous economic growth following the end of the Second World War up to 1959 is discussed in the 1962 Year Book at pp. 928-929 and the movement during 1959-62 in subsequent editions.

Following a period of relative price stability, prices began to advance at a slightly higher rate in 1963, averaging 1.8 p.c. above 1962. The largest increases occurred in food (3.2 p.c.), health and personal care (2.6 p.c.) and clothing (2.5 p.c.). In 1964, the advance continued with prices again averaging 1.8 p.c. over the previous year. The groups showing the largest increases in 1964 were health and personal care (3.3 p.c.) and clothing (2.5 p.c.).

7.—Consumer Price Index Numbers, 1955-64

(1949=100)

Year	Food	Housing	Clothing	Transportation	Health and Personal Care	Recreation and Reading	Tobacco and Alcohol	Composite Index
GROUP WEIGHT AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL.....	27	32	11	12	7	5	6	100
1955.....	112.1	122.4	108.0	118.5	126.7	122.6	107.4	116.4
1956.....	113.4	124.2	108.6	123.3	130.0	125.3	107.7	118.1
1957.....	118.6	126.7	108.5	129.9	138.2	129.8	109.4	121.9
1958.....	122.1	129.0	109.7	133.8	145.4	138.4	110.6	125.1
1959.....	121.1	131.4	109.9	138.4	150.2	141.7	114.0	126.5
1960.....	122.2	132.7	110.9	140.3	154.5	144.3	115.8	128.0
1961.....	124.0	133.2	112.5	140.6	155.3	146.1	116.3	129.2
1962.....	126.2	134.8	113.5	140.4	158.3	147.3	117.8	130.7
1963.....	130.3	136.2	116.3	140.4	162.4	149.3	118.1	133.0
1964.....	132.4	138.4	119.2	142.0	167.8	151.8	120.2	135.4

Table 8 gives single commodity price relatives for a number of important items entering into the food component of the consumer price index.

8.—Urban Average and Relative Retail Prices of Staple Foods, 1955-64

(1949=100)

Year	Beef, sirloin, per lb.		Pork, rib chops, per lb.		Butter, creamery, per lb.		Eggs, "A", fresh, per doz.		Milk, fresh, per qt.	
	Average Price	Price Relative	Average Price	Price Relative	Average Price	Price Relative	Average Price	Price Relative	Average Price	Price Relative
	cts.		cts.		cts.		cts.		cts.	
1955.....	80.0	113.6	61.5	108.2	64.1	99.2	61.5	99.9	21.1	118.5
1956.....	81.6	115.9	64.4	113.2	63.5	98.3	63.2	102.7	21.2	119.1
1957.....	84.3	119.7	74.6	131.1	65.7	101.7	56.0	91.0	22.5	126.2
1958.....	94.4	134.1	72.5	127.4	69.2	107.0	57.9	94.1	23.2	130.4
1959.....	101.0	143.5	67.6	118.9	69.6	107.8	54.4	88.4	23.4	131.0
1960.....	97.7	138.8	69.8	122.8	69.8	108.0	54.5	88.6	23.7	133.0
1961.....	97.1	138.0	72.8	128.0	69.9	108.2	56.3	91.5	23.5	132.0
1962.....	107.4	152.5	74.9	131.7	62.1	96.0	53.2	86.5	23.6	132.4
1963.....	103.7	147.4	74.4	130.9	58.5	90.5	58.4	94.9	23.8	134.0
1964.....	99.9	141.9	73.1	128.4	58.9	91.2	50.7	82.4	24.6	138.2