

Price Movements

January 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 1.8 percent seasonally adjusted from December to January. This followed increases of about 0.6 percent in 3 of the 4 immediately preceding months. The Intermediate Goods Price Index climbed 1.2 percent in January after showing no net change during the second half of 1989. Prices received by domestic producers of crude goods advanced 2.4 percent following a 1.6-percent advance in December and a 0.7-percent rise in November. (See table A.)

The unusually large advance in the finished goods index was caused primarily by a 13.6-percent jump in the index for energy goods. Consumer food prices also rose sharply, climbing more than 2 percent. In contrast, the index for finished goods other than foods and energy inched up only 0.1 percent following a 0.5-percent advance in December. Energy prices also accounted for most of the increases at earlier stages of processing; material prices outside of the food and energy sectors edged up only marginally. (See table B.)

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 1.9 percent in January to 117.5 (1982=100).

From January 1989 to January 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up 5.8 percent, the Intermediate Goods

Price Index rose 2.5 percent, and the Crude Goods Price Index increased 5.2 percent. Finished consumer food prices were up 5.9 percent over the year; however, the index for intermediate foods and feeds dropped 2.0 percent, and crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs rose 1.0 percent. The index for finished energy goods climbed 19.7 percent from January 1989 to January 1990; at the intermediate and crude stages of processing, energy prices were up 18.3 and 15.7 percent, respectively. Excluding the often-volatile food and energy sectors, finished goods moved up 3.8 percent, intermediate goods inched up 0.3 percent, and crude goods fell 5.8 percent.

Finished goods

Finished consumer goods. The Producer Price Index for finished consumer goods rose 2.5 percent seasonally adjusted in January following a 0.7-percent increase a month earlier. Prices for finished energy goods soared 13.6 percent after a 1.9-percent rise in December. Prices increases accelerated sharply for the both gasoline (16.7 percent in January vs. 1.5 percent in December) and home heating oil (25.3 vs. 6.8 percent). The index for natural gas moved up 3.2 per-

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
January	1.1	1.3	3.9	0.5	4.5	1.1	4.1
February .....	.6	.8	2.1	.6	5.3	.4	-.1
March .....	.4	.6	1.3	.2	5.5	.6	1.7
April .....	.6	-.5	7.5	.1	5.6	.5	1.0
May .....	.7	.5	2.5	.6	6.2	.1	0
June .....	.1	-.6	-2.3	.7	6.1	-.3	-.1
July	-.4	.2	-3.3	-.2	5.1	-.2	.2
August	-.3	.3	-6.9	.5	4.3	-.3	-2.3
September .....	.7	-.3	6.6	.4	4.6	.4	1.2
October .....	.5	1.4	.2	.2	4.9	.2	0
November .....	.1	.9	-3.2	.2	4.6	0	.7
December .....	.6	.6	1.9	.5	4.8	-.1	1.6
1990:							
January	1.8	2.1	13.6	.1	5.8	1.2	2.4

NOTE: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this release may differ from those previously reported because seasonal adjustment factors have been recalculated

to reflect developments during 1989. In addition, data for September 1989 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
January	2.4	3.1	0.7	6.1	2.5	6.9	2.3	8.2
February	-1	1.2	.3	6.4	-1.0	1.1	-.4	6.9
March	1.1	2.1	.3	6.5	2.0	2.1	.4	9.7
April	-1.1	3.9	.1	6.4	-2.4	5.2	-.1	9.2
May	-1.4	.5	.2	6.0	-1.2	1.3	-.3	9.2
June	-1.9	-.4	-.2	4.9	-1.1	-1.0	-1.6	6.3
July	1.4	-1.7	-.2	4.0	-.6	1.8	-1.2	6.8
August	-.4	-1.7	-.1	3.3	.7	-6.8	1.0	4.3
September	-.1	2.5	.1	3.4	-.6	3.5	.4	5.8
October	-.1	.7	.1	3.4	-.6	.7	-.1	6.2
November .....	.8	-.4	0	3.0	2.3	.3	-2.2	8.3
December	-.4	1.6	-.4	2.4	2.5	2.2	-2.1	6.9
1990:								
January .....	.3	8.8	.1	2.5	1.0	5.0	.2	5.2

NOTE: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this release may differ from those previously reported. See table A.

cent in January, twice as much as in the previous month.

The consumer foods index advanced 2.1 percent in January after rising 0.6 percent a month earlier. Much of the acceleration in price increases was due to the index for fresh and dried vegetables, which jumped 58 percent. Prices more than doubled for cabbage, lettuce, and tomatoes, while snap beans and dried beans nearly doubled; each of these except dried beans had fallen sharply in December. Prices also turned up after falling in the previous month for fish, soft drinks, fresh fruits, and pork. Prices rose more than a month earlier for eggs, processed fruits and vegetables, and bakery products. Price declines slowed for shortening and cooking oils and milled rice. In contrast, beef and dairy product prices were unchanged after rising in December. Prices turned down after rising a month earlier for processed chickens and pasta. Prices fell more than a month earlier for processed turkeys and roasted coffee.

The index for consumer goods less foods and energy showed no change following a 0.6-percent rise in December. Indexes for both passenger cars and light trucks fell, and price declines accelerated for tires and tubes. Prices turned down after rising a month earlier for tobacco products. Price increases slowed considerably for prescription drugs, soaps and detergents, cosmetics, periodicals, and household appliances. In contrast, prices turned up after decreasing in the previous month for children's apparel, alcoholic beverages, and household glassware. Price increases accelerated for women's and men's apparel and newspapers.

Capital equipment. The Producer Price Index for capital equipment moved up 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month. In January, substantial increases were recorded for aircraft, communication equipment, construction machinery, commercial furniture, photographic equipment, and transformers.

In contrast, prices for motor vehicles and electromedical equipment fell.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 1.2 percent, seasonally adjusted. The most dramatic advances were in the intermediate energy category. While the index for intermediate goods other than energy registered no change for January, this reflected a balance between sharp decreases for several nondurable manufacturing materials on the one hand and increases for a number of manufacturing and construction components on the other. (See table B.)

The intermediate energy goods index moved up 8.8 percent in January. Although the index for liquefied petroleum gas surged nearly 50 percent, prices remained substantially below the record levels reached during the early 1980's. Unusually large increases also occurred for gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuels, and residual fuels. The electric power index continued to move up at a moderate pace.

In contrast to other categories of intermediate goods, the materials for nondurable manufacturing index fell 0.8 percent, accentuating its recent downward trend. The most notable price declines were for industrial chemicals, plastic resins, paperboard, phosphates, inedible fats and oils, and paint materials. Prices climbed, however, for processed yarns and nitrogenates. The durable manufacturing materials index edged up 0.1 percent, after dropping 1.7 percent a month earlier. Prices rose for primary copper and lead but moved down for steel mill products, copper and brass mill shapes, primary zinc, and precious metals.

Following two consecutive declines, the index for construction materials and components moved up 0.2 percent. Prices

increased for prepared paints, unitary air conditioners, switchgear and switchboards, heating equipment, asphalt roofing, and plumbing fixtures and brass fittings. Plywood prices moved down, however. The components for manufacturing index rose 0.5 percent, more than in any other recent month. Substantial advances took place for aircraft engines and auxiliary equipment, motor vehicle parts, ball and roller bearings, and internal combustion engines. In contrast, prices for digital integrated circuits fell considerably. Among other categories, higher prices were recorded for formula feeds, glass containers, and photographic supplies, while prices for crude vegetable oils declined.

Crude goods

After rising 1.6 percent in December, the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing advanced 2.4 percent in January, seasonally adjusted. Increases for energy materials accelerated and other non-food items also rose, but advances slowed among foodstuffs. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index jumped 5.0 percent, more than double the 2.2-percent increase registered in the previous month. The indexes for both crude petroleum and natural gas advanced much more than in December. Coal prices turned up after falling in December.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy edged up 0.2 percent following declines of more than 2 percent in both November and December. Prices turned up for copper base scrap, ferrous scrap, and softwood logs after showing December declines. Price decreases slowed for aluminum base scrap, nonferrous metal ores, and raw cotton. Wastepaper prices remained unchanged after falling for 3 consecutive months. In contrast, prices fell substantially for cattle hides

after rising in December.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index increased 1.0 percent following a rise of 2.5 percent in the previous month. Price advances slowed for cattle and fluid milk. Prices for hogs, live chickens, soybeans, and corn turned down after advancing in December. On the other hand, raw cane sugar prices were up after showing no change in December. Price declines slowed for wheat.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries moved up 1.4 percent from December to January. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) This index rose 0.3 percent in December and showed no change in the month before that. The January index was dominated by a 14.8-percent surge for the petroleum refining industry group. Substantial increases were also recorded in January for the printing and publishing industry group (1.3 percent) and for the measuring instrument group (1.2 percent). Most other indexes for major manufacturing industry groups increased in a range between 0.3 and 0.6 percent. The index for primary metal industries, however, moved down 0.3 percent. Over the year from January 1989 to January 1990, the index for the net output of total manufacturing industries advanced 4.7 percent, led by the 27.6-percent climb for petroleum refining.

The index for the net output of total mining industries increased 4.5 percent over the month and 8.8 percent over the year. In January, the oil and gas extraction industry group index moved up 6.3 percent, while the metal mining index decreased 3.5 percent.

Price Movements

February 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods showed no change from January to February after seasonal adjustment. This index had climbed 1.8 percent in January and 0.6 percent in December. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods declined 0.7 percent in February, following a 1.2-percent advance a month earlier and a slight drop of 0.1 percent in December. Crude material prices rose 0.4 percent over the month, far less than in either January or December. (See table A.)

The slowdown in the Finished Goods Price Index was largely due to a turnaround in the energy index, which fell 5.0 percent after an upward surge of nearly 14 percent in the previous month. Consumer food prices continued to rise substantially, although not nearly as much as in January. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.4 percent, after inching up the month before.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Finished Goods Price Index edged down 0.1 percent in February to 117.4 (1982 = 100).

From February 1989 to February 1990, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 5.1 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices advanced 6.1 percent, the energy goods index climbed 11.7 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 3.7 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index increased 1.4 percent during the 12 months ended in February 1990, and crude material

prices were up 5.6 percent; excluding energy prices, both indexes were only slightly higher in February 1990 than a year earlier.

Finished goods

Finished consumer goods. The Producer Price Index for finished consumer goods inched down 0.2 percent seasonally adjusted in February following a 2.5-percent advance a month earlier. Prices for finished energy goods turned down 5.0 percent after a 13.6-percent jump in January. Home heating oil prices fell 30.2 percent; the level of this index is now the lowest since last August. Gasoline prices moved down 2.3 percent following a 16.7-percent rise a month earlier. The index for natural gas edged up marginally after a 3.2-percent increase in January.

The consumer foods index rose 0.9 percent in February after rising 2.1 percent in the previous month. Prices for eggs fell 24.0 percent, nearly offsetting the advances registered during the preceding 6 months. Dairy products fell after climbing rapidly over much of the last year. The index for fresh and dried vegetables soared 23.3 percent in the wake of a 58-percent surge in January. Fish price increases slowed. In contrast, prices turned up for processed chickens, beef and veal, and confectionery end products. Prices rose more

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
February	0.6	0.8	2.1	0.6	5.3	0.4	-0.1
March .....	.4	.6	1.3	.2	5.5	.6	1.7
April .....	.6	-.5	7.5	.1	5.6	.5	1.0
May .....	.7	.5	2.5	.6	6.2	.1	0
June .....	.1	-.6	-2.3	.7	6.1	-.3	-1.1
July	-.4	.2	-3.3	-.2	5.1	-.2	.2
August	-.3	.3	-6.9	.5	4.3	-.3	-2.3
September .....	.7	-.3	6.6	.4	4.6	.4	1.2
October .....	.5	1.4	.2	.2	5.0	.2	.3
November .....	.1	.9	-3.2	.2	4.6	0	.4
December .....	.6	.6	1.9	.5	4.8	-.1	1.6
1990:							
January	1.8	2.1	13.6	.1	5.8	1.2	2.4
February	0	.9	-5.0	.4	5.1	-.7	.4

¹ Data for October 1989 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
February	-0.1	1.2	0.3	6.4	-1.0	1.1	-0.4	6.9
March	1.1	2.1	.3	6.5	2.0	2.1	.4	9.7
April	-1.1	3.9	.1	6.4	-2.4	5.2	-.1	9.2
May	-1.4	.5	.2	6.0	-1.2	1.3	-.3	9.2
June	-1.9	-.4	-.2	4.9	-1.1	-1.0	-1.6	6.3
July	1.4	-1.7	-.2	4.0	-.6	1.8	-1.2	6.8
August	-.4	-1.7	-.1	3.3	.7	-6.8	1.0	4.3
September	-.1	2.5	.1	3.4	-.6	3.5	.4	5.8
October	-.2	.8	.1	3.4	0	.7	.1	6.5
November .....	.9	-.5	0	3.0	1.7	.3	-2.4	8.3
December	-.4	1.6	-.4	2.4	2.5	2.2	-2.1	6.9
1990:								
January3	8.8	.1	2.5	1.0	5.0	.2	5.2
February	-.9	-6.0	.1	1.4	1.0	.1	-.8	5.6

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than a month earlier for processed fruits and vegetables, pork, and bakery products, and soft drink prices advanced as much as in January.

The index for consumer goods less foods and energy increased 0.6 percent in February, after showing no change in the previous month. Within this category, price increases for nondurables accelerated from 0.2 percent in January to 0.8 percent, while the index for durables was unchanged after dropping 0.3 percent a month earlier. Among nondurables, the index for tobacco products turned up, and price increases accelerated for alcoholic beverages, prescription drugs, and textile housefurnishings. Prices continued to rise for women's and men's apparel and periodicals. In contrast, price increases slowed for children's apparel, newspapers, and over-the-counter drugs. Prices for tires and tubes fell twice as much as in January. Among consumer durables, increases for mobile homes, gold jewelry, and floor coverings offset declines for home electronic equipment, light trucks, and flatware.

Capital equipment. The Producer Price Index for capital equipment increased 0.2 percent for the third consecutive month in February. The most significant increases included civilian aircraft, ships, railroad equipment, and tools and dies. The electromedical equipment index declined more than 2 percent for the second consecutive month.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components moved down 0.7 percent seasonally adjusted from January to February, chiefly because of a substantial drop in the energy goods index. Prices for foods and feeds also declined, while the index for intermediate

goods less foods and energy inched up 0.1 percent for the second consecutive month. (See table B.)

After climbing 1.6 percent in December and 8.8 percent in January, the intermediate energy goods index fell 6.0 percent in February. Prices for diesel fuel and kerosene each dropped more than 25 percent over the month, and the index for liquefied petroleum gas dropped nearly 15 percent in the wake of a surge of nearly 50 percent a month earlier. Indexes for jet fuels, electric power, gasoline and residual fuel also retreated in February.

The index for intermediate foods and feeds, which had moved up 0.3 percent in January, dropped 0.9 percent in February. Lower prices for prepared animal feeds and dairy products outweighed increases for meats, crude vegetable oils, and confectionery materials.

The index for durable manufacturing materials declined 0.5 percent in February, the ninth decrease in the last 11 months. Lower prices were recorded for aluminum, zinc, copper, cadmium, and most types of nonferrous mill shapes. Prices for steel mill products also declined along a broad front. Increases were recorded, however, for foundry and forge shop products, precious metals, lead, and titanium mill shapes.

In contrast with the durable manufacturing materials category, the index for nondurable manufacturing materials advanced 0.6 percent following a 0.8-percent drop in January and a 0.3-percent decline in December. Prices turned up after January decreases for industrial chemicals, paint materials, and inedible fats and oils. Indexes for processed yarns, synthetic fibers, and nitrogenates climbed more than a month earlier. Prices fell modestly for paper and paperboard.

The construction materials and components index edged up 0.1 percent, after a 0.2-percent rise in January and decreases of 0.3 percent in December and November.

Moderate increases for metal valves, plastic construction products, and plywood more than offset continued declines for nonferrous wire and cable. Among other kinds of intermediate goods, advances were registered for metal and glass containers, air conditioning and refrigeration equipment, and ball and roller bearings, while the electronic components index declined.

Crude goods

After advancing 2.4 percent in January, the increase for the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing slowed to 0.4 percent in February, seasonally adjusted. Energy prices were nearly unchanged following substantial January advance, and prices for other nonfood items turned down after rising slightly in January. The foodstuffs category increased as much as in the previous month. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index inched up 0.1 percent after climbing 5.0 percent in January. Crude petroleum prices increased 0.9 percent following advances of 3.6 and 7.7 percent, respectively, in December and January. The index for natural gas rose 0.1 percent in February after a sizable advance a month earlier. Coal prices turned down 1.5 percent.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy fell 0.8 percent following a rise of 0.2 percent in January. Cattle hide prices rebounded 13.1 percent after registering a substantial decrease in the previous month. Prices for raw cotton and construction sand and gravel also turned up following January declines. Prices decreases slowed for lead and zinc ores, ferroalloy ores, and phosphates.

For the second consecutive month, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose 1.0 percent. The index for broilers and fryers jumped over 24 percent; increases were also noted for fresh vegetables, hay, livestock, and corn. Declines were registered, however, for fluid milk, wheat, and raw cane sugar.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector moved down 0.4 percent from January to February after jumping 1.4 percent in the previous month. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The downturn reflected the behavior of the index for the net output of the petroleum refining industry group, which fell 8.1 percent in February after soaring 14.8 percent in January. The index for the net output of the primary metals industry group dropped 0.9 percent in February following January's decline of 0.3 percent. In contrast, price indexes were considerably higher in February for the net output of the tobacco manufactures, chemicals, textiles, and lumber industry groups. From February 1989 to February 1990, the Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries rose 4.0 percent.

The indexes for the net output of total mining industries edged down 0.2 percent over the month but was, nevertheless, 7.3 percent higher than its year-earlier level. February was dominated by a 3.1-percent decrease in the metal mining industry group index.

Price Movements

March 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods dropped 0.2 percent seasonally adjusted from February to March. This decline followed an unchanged index in February and a 1.8-percent jump in January. The Intermediate Goods Price Index showed no change in March after dropping 0.7 percent a month earlier and climbing 1.2 percent in January. The Crude Goods Price Index, which slowed to a 0.4-percent rise in February after a 2.4 percent advance in January, decreased 1.4 percent in March. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices turned down after five consecutive monthly increases. The index for finished energy goods also fell, although not as much as in February. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 0.3 percent over the month, about the same as in other recent months.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.3 percent in March to 117.0 (1982=100). From March 1989 to March 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 4.4 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices moved up 4.9 percent, the index for energy goods climbed 7.4 percent, and prices for other kinds of finished goods rose 3.8 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved up 0.8 percent during the 12 months ended in March 1990, almost entirely because

of a 6.2-percent advance in prices for intermediate energy goods. The Crude Goods Price Index rose 2.3 percent over the year, paced by a 7.1-percent jump in the index for crude energy materials; crude foodstuff prices were up slightly (1.3 percent) in the past 12 months, while prices for basic industrial materials were 5.0 percent lower than a year earlier.

Finished goods

Finished consumer goods. The Producer Price Index for finished consumer goods fell 0.3 percent seasonally adjusted in March, after moving down 0.2 percent a month earlier. The index for consumer foods turned down 0.6 percent following a 0.9-percent increase in February. Fresh vegetable prices declined 25.5 percent in March after soaring in both January and February, as prices turned down sharply for tomatoes, celery, and cabbage; prices for lettuce and snap beans also fell but less than in February. Beef and veal prices dropped 2.9 percent after moving up 1.4 percent in February. Roasted coffee prices declined more than in other recent months. Price increases slowed for processed fruits and vegetables, processed chickens, fresh fruits, bakery products, confectionery products, and pasta. In contrast, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for eggs, processed turkeys,

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
March	0.4	0.6	1.3	0.2	5.5	0.6	1.7
April .....	.6	-.5	7.5	.1	5.6	.5	1.0
May .....	.7	.5	2.5	.6	6.2	.1	0
June .....	.1	-.6	-2.3	.7	6.1	-.3	-1.1
July	-.4	.2	-3.3	-.2	5.1	-.2	.2
August	-.3	.3	-6.9	.5	4.3	-.3	-2.3
September .....	.7	-.3	6.6	.4	4.6	.4	1.2
October .....	.5	1.4	.2	.2	5.0	.2	.3
November .....	.1	.8	-2.9	.2	4.6	-.2	.6
December .....	.6	.7	1.6	.4	4.8	.1	1.4
1990:							
January	1.8	2.1	13.6	.1	5.8	1.2	2.4
February	0	.9	-5.0	.4	5.1	-.7	.4
March	-.2	-.6	-2.4	.3	4.4	0	-1.4

¹ Data for November 1989 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
March	1.1	2.1	0.3	6.5	2.0	2.1	0.4	9.7
April	-1.1	3.9	.1	6.4	-2.4	5.2	-.1	9.2
May	-1.4	.5	2	6.0	-1.2	1.3	-.3	9.2
June	-1.9	-.4	-.2	4.9	-1.1	-1.0	-1.6	6.3
July	1.4	-1.7	-.2	4.0	-.6	1.8	-1.2	6.8
August	-.4	-1.7	-.1	3.3	.7	-6.8	1.0	4.3
September	-.1	2.5	.1	3.4	-.6	3.5	.4	5.8
October	-.2	.8	.1	3.4	0	.7	.1	6.5
November .....	.8	-1.4	-.1	2.8	2.2	.4	-2.5	8.6
December	-.4	2.5	-.3	2.4	2.1	2.1	-2.0	6.9
1990:								
January3	8.8	.1	2.5	1.0	5.0	.2	5.2
February	-.9	-6.0	.1	1.4	1.0	.1	-.8	5.6
March4	-1.0	-.3	.8	-.3	-4.6	2.0	2.3

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and milled rice. Prices rose more than a month earlier for shortening and cooking oils, fish, soft drinks, and pork. Price declines slowed for dairy products.

The index for finished energy goods fell 2.4 percent in March following a 5.0-percent decline in the previous month. Home heating oil prices increased 10.6 percent after falling a record 30.2 percent in February. Gasoline prices fell 2.8 percent, slightly more than a month before. The index for natural gas turned down 2.5 percent after inching up slightly a month earlier.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy rose 0.2 percent in March following a 0.6 percent advance in February. This slowdown was due in part to a downturn in prices for women's apparel, pharmaceutical preparations, and newspapers. Prices fell more than a month earlier for passenger cars and household flatware. Price increases slowed for men's apparel and textile housefurnishings. The indexes for tobacco products and mobile homes were unchanged after substantial advances in February. In contrast, prices turned up after falling in the previous month for sanitary papers, light trucks, tires and tubes, cosmetics, and costume jewelry. Prices continued to rise considerably for alcoholic beverages, gold jewelry, children's apparel, and floor coverings.

Capital equipment. The Producer Price Index for capital equipment increased 0.4 percent in March after a 0.2-percent rise a month earlier. Increases were registered for civilian aircraft, ships, metal cutting machine tools, and integrating and measuring instruments. Prices declined, however, for railroad equipment.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Sup-

plies, and Components showed no change in March on a seasonally adjusted basis, following a sharp jump in January and a downturn in February. The movement of this index in each of these 3 months mirrored, in large part, the movement of the energy goods index. (See table B.)

The intermediate energy index declined 1.0 percent, in the wake of an 8.8-percent surge in January and a 6.0-percent plunge in February. Prices for diesel fuel and residual fuels turned up after falling the month before. Liquefied petroleum gas prices fell sharply for the second consecutive month, however, and decreases were also registered for jet fuels, gasoline, and coke.

The index for intermediate goods other than foods and energy rose 0.3 percent, after inching up 0.1 percent in each of the 2 preceding months. The durable manufacturing materials index advanced 0.7 percent, following a 0.5 percent drop a month earlier. Prices rose for copper and brass mill shapes, steel mill products, and primary zinc and lead, but moved down for aluminum mill shapes and precious metals. The materials for nondurable manufacturing index was unchanged in March. Prices declined for industrial chemicals, nitrogenates, processed yarns, synthetic fibers, woodpulp, and paperboard. Higher prices were recorded for plastic resins and synthetic rubber, however.

The construction materials and components index moved up 0.2 percent. Prices increased for nonferrous wire and cable, softwood lumber, prepared paints, and wiring devices. Prices for copper pipes and tubes fell sharply, however. Among other categories, advances took place for metal containers and aircraft parts and auxiliary equipment, while declines prevailed for paper bags and boxes as well as unsupported plastics. In the intermediate foods and feeds grouping, higher prices for crude vegetable oils more than offset

decreases for flour.

Crude goods

Following an increase of 0.4 percent in February, the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing fell 1.4 percent in March, seasonally adjusted. Energy material prices turned down and price advances slowed for foodstuffs, while prices for basic industrial materials increased after dropping in February. (See table B.) The crude energy materials index fell 4.6 percent after rising for 6 consecutive months. Crude petroleum prices fell 7.5 percent following a February increase of 0.9 percent and a January surge of 7.7 percent. The index for natural gas also turned down. Coal prices, however, moved up substantially after dropping in February.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose 0.3 percent, following 1.0 percent increases in both January and February. Prices for fresh vegetables and hay turned down after jumping in the preceding month, and wheat prices fell faster than in the previous month. Price advances for live chickens slowed markedly after soaring in February. Price increases also slowed for cattle and fresh fruits. In contrast, hog prices jumped nearly 15 percent following a modest increase in February. Soybean and corn prices also advanced more than in the month before. Price decreases slowed for fluid milk, and raw cane sugar prices turned up.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy rose 2.0 percent following a 0.8-percent decrease in February. Prices turned up following decreases in the previous month for ferrous scrap, nonferrous metal ores, and

for lead, zinc, and copper base scrap. Price decreases slowed for aluminum base scrap and wastepaper. Raw cotton and softwood log prices rose faster than in February. On the other hand, cattle hide prices fell after rising sharply a month earlier, and advances slowed for construction sand and gravel.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries was unchanged in March at 112.2 (December 1984 = 100). (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The largest declines over the month were those recorded for the petroleum refining industry group (2.1 percent) and the tobacco manufactures industry group (0.7 percent). The only increase greater than 0.5 percent was the 0.1-percent advance for the primary metal industries group index. Most other industry group indexes rose moderately. From March 1989 to March 1990, the price index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector moved up 3.4 percent.

The index for the net output of total mining industries fell 3.6 percent in March, reflecting a 5.2-percent drop in the index for the oil and gas extraction industry group. In contrast, the metal mining industry group index advanced 4.8 percent over the month. During the last 12 months, the index for the net output of the domestic mining sector increased 4.3 percent.

Price Movements

April 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods declined 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, from March to April. This drop, and the 0.2 percent decline in March, are in sharp contrast to the 1.8 percent rise in January. The Intermediate Goods Price Index inched up 0.1 percent after showing no change in March. The Crude Goods Price Index, which had fallen 1.4 percent in March, decreased a further 3.1 percent in April, the largest drop in 4 years. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices fell 0.6 percent for the second consecutive month. The index for finished energy goods also fell in April, but less than in March, and much less than in February; prices for capital goods rose less in April (0.2 percent) than in March.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods was 117.0 (1982=100), the same as in March.

From April 1989 to April 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 3.5 percent. During the same period, consumer food prices advanced 4.7 percent, the index for energy goods fell 1.8 percent, and prices for other kinds of finished goods increased 4.0 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved up 0.4 percent during the 12 months ended in April 1990; this pace reflected declines in both the durable and nondurable manufacturing materials categories. The Crude Goods Price Index declined 1.7 percent over the year;

prices for crude foodstuffs advanced 2.9 percent, and prices for basic industrial materials were 2.7 percent lower than a year earlier.

Finished goods

Finished consumer goods. The Producer Price Index for finished consumer goods fell 0.3 percent for the second consecutive month. The index for consumer foods declined 0.6 percent, also the same as in March. In April, prices plummeted for tomatoes (73.3 percent), sweet corn (49.2 percent), cabbage (36.4 percent), snap beans (24.1 percent), and onions (15.3 percent). Decreases were also registered for processed chickens, confectionery end products, shortening and cooking oils, and fresh fruits. In contrast, prices rose for pork, eggs, beef and veal, fish, roasted coffee, pasta, and milled rice.

The index for finished energy goods fell 1.7 percent, less than either the February or March decline. Gasoline prices turned up 2.2 percent after falling for 2 months, but home heating oil prices turned down 1.9 percent after advancing 10.6 percent in March. The index for natural gas declined even more in April (5.5 percent) than in March (2.5 percent).

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
April	0.6	-0.5	7.5	0.1	5.6	0.5	1.0
May .....	.7	.5	2.5	.6	6.2	.1	0
June .....	.1	-.6	-2.3	.7	6.1	-.3	-1.1
July	-4	.2	-3.3	-.2	5.1	-.2	.2
August	-3	.3	-6.9	.5	4.3	-.3	-2.3
September .....	.7	-.3	6.6	.4	4.6	.4	1.2
October .....	.5	1.4	.2	.2	5.0	.2	.3
November .....	.1	.8	-2.9	.2	4.6	-.2	.6
December .....	.6	.7	1.4	.4	4.9	0	1.5
1990:							
January	1.8	2.0	13.8	.1	5.8	1.2	2.3
February	0	.9	-5.0	.4	5.1	-.7	.4
March	-.2	-.6	-2.4	.3	4.4	0	-1.4
April	-3	-.6	-1.7	.2	3.5	.1	-3.1

¹ Data for December 1989 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
April	-1.1	3.9	0.1	6.4	-2.4	5.2	-0.1	9.2
May	-1.4	.5	.2	6.0	-1.2	1.3	-.3	9.2
June	-1.9	-.4	-.2	4.9	-1.1	-1.0	-1.6	6.3
July	1.4	-1.7	-.2	4.0	-.6	1.8	-1.2	6.8
August	-.4	-1.7	-.1	3.3	.7	-6.8	1.0	4.3
September	-.1	2.5	.1	3.4	-.6	3.5	.4	5.8
October	-.2	.8	.1	3.4	0	.7	.1	6.5
November .....	.8	-1.4	-.1	2.8	2.2	-.4	-2.5	8.6
December	-.3	1.4	-.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	-1.7	7.1
1990:								
January .....	.2	9.9	0	2.5	.8	5.0	-.2	5.2
February	-.9	-6.0	.1	1.4	1.0	.1	-.8	5.6
March .....	.4	-1.0	.3	.8	.3	-4.6	2.0	2.3
April	1.2	-.6	.1	.4	-.8	-7.8	2.2	-1.7

¹ Data for December 1989 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

inched up 0.1 percent in April following a 0.2 percent rise in March. Prices increased for pharmaceutical preparations, tobacco products, soaps and detergents, sanitary papers, floor coverings, and toys. Prices declined for alcoholic beverages, gold jewelry, periodicals, and household flatware. On an unadjusted basis, the passenger car index moved down 0.3 percent, following a 0.8 percent decline in March.

Capital equipment. The Producer Price Index for capital equipment increased 0.2 percent in April, following a 0.4 percent rise in March. Price increases slowed for metal forming machine tools, electromedical equipment, paper industries machinery, and civilian aircraft. Prices declined again for office and store machines and equipment. In contrast, prices for ships rose faster in April (2.3 percent) than in March (1.2 percent). Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for printing trades machinery, oil field and gas field machinery, mining machinery and equipment, and railroad equipment.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components registered a slight increase of 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, in April. Although this was the second month of virtual stability overall, significant changes occurred in the price levels of the component indexes.

After showing no net change in March, the nondurable manufacturing materials index dropped 0.6 percent in April. Lower prices for industrial chemicals dominated the category, but prices also fell for paperboard, woodpulp, gray fabrics, synthetic fibers, plastic resins, and inedible fats and oils. The significant increases were for phosphates and finished fabrics.

The slowdown in the rate of increase in the index for

durable manufacturing materials (from 0.7 percent last month to 0.3 percent in April) largely reflected a return to the downward trend in the steel mill products price index. With the exception of March, steel prices have been declining in most recent months, and are currently 2.9 percent lower than 12 months ago. Prices for lead, gold, and platinum also moved down, while increases occurred for aluminum, copper, and zinc.

The rise of 0.6 percent in the index for construction materials and components was broad based and was the largest in several months. Plywood prices surged almost 10 percent, nearly returning to the November level. In addition, prices increased substantially for nonferrous wire and cable, copper pipe and tubes, prepared paint, softwood lumber, and wiring devices.

The intermediate energy index continued to decline, but less than in the 2 previous months. Prices for liquefied petroleum gas and jet fuels moved down less than in March, while diesel and residual fuel turned down after rising the month before. The indexes for electric power and gasoline registered moderate advances.

Among other intermediate goods, prices rose sharply for abrasive products, but moved lower for aircraft engines and parts. The intermediate foods and feeds index increased 1.2 percent, led by higher prices for meats, confectionery materials, and flour. Crude vegetable oils turned down, however.

Crude goods

Following a drop of 1.4 percent in March, the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing fell 3.1 percent in April, seasonally adjusted. Energy prices fell faster than in April, and foodstuff prices turned down after rising in the previous month.

The crude energy materials index fell 7.8 percent following a 4.6 percent decline in March. Crude petroleum prices dropped 12.0 percent, the largest monthly decline in 4 years. The index for natural gas fell faster than in the preceding month. Coal prices turned down following a March advance.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index decreased 0.8 percent after 5 months of small-to-moderate increases. Hog prices turned down after showing a marked increase in the previous month. Prices also fell for live poultry, cattle, soybeans, and fresh fruits, following advances in March. Fresh vegetables prices fell 31.1 percent after a 25.5 percent decline in March, while advances slowed for unprocessed fish. In contrast, prices for corn and raw cane sugar rose faster than in the preceding month. Prices for wheat and hay turned up following March declines, and fluid milk price declines were smaller than in the previous month.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy rose 2.2 percent after increasing 2.0 percent in March. Substantial increases were noted for ferrous scrap, Douglas fir logs, aluminum base scrap, copper ores, lead scrap, and iron ore. Moderate advances were recorded for copper base scrap, raw cotton, and phosphates. The index for cattle hides showed a small increase. On the other hand, large declines were observed for wastepaper, gold ores, and domestic apparel

wool. Prices also fell for ferroalloy ores, lead and zinc ores, construction sand and gravel, and pulpwood.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries increased 0.4 percent in April. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The largest increases over the month were those recorded for the petroleum refining industry group (1.8 percent) and the lumber and wood products industry group (1.6 percent). The index for the stone, clay, glass, and concrete industry group rose 0.5 percent. Most other industry group indexes rose modestly, except for the transportation equipment industry group which edged down 0.1 percent. From April 1989 to April 1990, the price index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector increased 2.9 percent.

The index for the net output of total mining industries fell 5.5 percent in April, reflecting a 7.8 percent decline in the index for the oil and gas extraction industry group. In contrast, the metal mining industry group index advanced 2.6 percent. During the last 12 months, the index for the net output of the domestic mining sector decreased 4.4 percent.

Price Movements

May 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.3 percent from April to May on a seasonally adjusted basis. This increase followed 3 months of small declines. The Intermediate Goods Price Index edged down 0.1 percent in May, the third consecutive month of little or no change. Prices for crude goods also moved down 0.1 percent over the month, after falling much more in both April and March. (See table A.)

Much of the May upturn in the Finished Goods Price Index was due to prices for consumer foods, which rose 0.6 percent following drops of the same magnitude in both April and March. The index for energy goods continued to decrease, although the decline was smaller than in any of the 3 preceding months. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 0.2 percent, about the same as in most other recent months.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods advanced 0.6 percent in May to 117.7 (1982=100). During the 12 months ended in May 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 3.1 percent, the Intermediate Goods Price Index edged up 0.2 percent, and the Crude Goods Price Index declined 1.8 percent. Consumer food prices moved up 4.8 percent over the year, while indexes for food-related materials rose 1.6 percent at both the

intermediate and the crude levels. Energy indexes were down more than 5 percent within the finished and the crude goods categories, while the intermediate energy index was down 0.4 percent over the last 12 months. Excluding the often volatile food and energy sectors, prices for finished goods rose 3.6 percent over the year; corresponding indexes at the intermediate and crude levels, however, fell 0.2 and 1.4 percent, respectively.

Finished goods

Finished consumer goods. After declining 0.3 percent in each of the previous 3 months, the Producer Price Index for finished consumer goods turned up 0.3 percent in May. The index for consumer foods rose 0.6 percent, following a decline of the same magnitude in April. Price increases accelerated for fish, dairy products, pasta, and processed turkeys. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for shortening and cooking oils and processed chickens. Prices for fresh and dried vegetables fell much less than in either of the 2 preceding months. Pork prices rose about 5 percent for the second consecutive month. In contrast, egg prices turned down substantially after rising in April, and fresh fruit prices fell more rapidly than in the previous month. Price increases

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
May	0.7	0.5	2.5	0.6	6.2	0.1	0
June .....	.1	-.6	-2.3	.7	6.1	-.3	-1.1
July	-4	.2	-3.3	-.2	5.1	-.2	.2
August	-3	.3	-6.9	.5	4.3	-.3	-2.3
September .....	.7	-.3	6.6	.4	4.6	.4	1.2
October .....	.5	1.4	.2	.2	5.0	.2	.3
November .....	.1	.8	-2.9	.2	4.6	-.2	.6
December .....	.6	.7	1.4	.4	4.9	0	1.5
1990:							
January	1.9	2.3	13.7	.2	5.9	1.2	2.2
February	-.1	.6	-4.9	.3	5.1	-.7	.5
March	-2	-.6	-2.4	.3	4.4	0	-1.4
April	-3	-.6	-1.7	.2	3.5	.1	-3.1
May .....	.3	.6	-1.0	.2	3.1	-.1	-.1

¹ Data for January 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
May	-1.4	0.5	0.2	6.0	-1.2	1.3	-0.3	9.2
June	-1.9	-4	-2	4.9	-1.1	-1.0	-1.6	6.3
July	1.4	-1.7	-2	4.0	-.6	1.8	-1.2	6.8
August	-.4	-1.7	-1	3.3	.7	-6.8	1.0	4.3
September	-.1	2.5	.1	3.4	-.6	3.5	.4	5.8
October	-.2	.8	.1	3.4	0	.7	.1	6.5
November .....	.8	-1.4	-1	2.8	2.2	.4	-2.5	8.6
December	-.3	1.4	-2	2.3	2.2	2.1	-1.7	7.1
1990:								
January .....	.2	9.3	.1	2.5	.7	4.8	-.2	5.0
February	-.9	-5.4	0	1.4	1.0	.2	-.8	5.6
March .....	.4	-1.0	.3	.8	.3	-4.6	2.0	2.3
April	1.2	-.6	.1	.4	-.8	-7.8	2.2	-1.7
May	1.2	-1.5	.1	.2	-2.5	2.1	1.0	-1.8

¹ Data for January 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

slowed for beef and veal, bakery products, roasted coffee, and milled rice.

The index for finished energy goods fell 1.0 percent, less than in any of the 3 previous months. The index for natural gas turned up 0.9 percent after a 5.5-percent drop a month earlier. In contrast, gasoline prices moved down 2.1 percent, about as much as they had advanced in April. Home heating oil prices decreased more (6.2 percent) than in April (1.9 percent).

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy increased 0.5 percent, considerably more than in either April or March. Price increases accelerated for tobacco products, newspapers, household furniture, footwear, and household glassware. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for passenger cars, alcoholic beverages, periodicals, textile housefurnishings, and children's apparel, and prices for books and mobile homes advanced after showing no change in either April or March. Price declines slowed for gold jewelry. In contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for over-the-counter drugs, household appliances, and home electronic equipment. Price increases slowed somewhat for prescription drugs and toys.

Capital equipment. The Producer Price Index for capital equipment was unchanged in May following a 0.2-percent increase in April. Some of the notable advances in May included commercial furniture, transformers and power regulators, metal cutting machine tools, commercial refrigeration equipment, heavy motor trucks, pumps and compressors, dairy industry machinery, and rubber working machinery. Decreases were noted for light motor trucks, agricultural machinery and equipment, electromedical equipment, and dental equipment.

Intermediate goods

After rising 0.1 percent in April and showing no change in March, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components inched down 0.1 percent in May seasonally adjusted. Energy materials led the decline, while increases were paced by foods and feeds and by materials for nondurable manufacturing. (See table B.)

Following a drop of 0.6 percent in April, the intermediate energy index fell 1.5 percent. Prices for electric power and gasoline turned down after increasing in the preceding month. Jet fuel prices fell faster than in April. In contrast, price declines slowed for No. 2 diesel fuel, liquefied petroleum gas, and residual fuel.

The index for materials for durable manufacturing edged down 0.1 percent following a 0.3-percent rise in April. Lower prices for hot rolled steel sheets, semifinished steel mill products, lead, aluminum mill shapes, and cement outweighed advances for copper and brass mill shapes, hot rolled steel bars, and zinc.

The foods and feeds index increased 1.2 percent, the same as in April. Prices rose for prepared animal feeds, meats, dry milk, and cheese, while flour and refined sugar prices declined.

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing rose 0.4 percent after dropping 0.6 percent in April. Prices turned up following declines in the preceding month for industrial chemicals, plastic resins, paper, synthetic fibers, inedible fats and oils, paint materials, and leather. Price declines slowed for woodpulp. In contrast, downturns were registered for finished fabrics and nitrogenates, and paperboard prices fell for the fifth consecutive month.

After a relatively sharp climb of 0.6 percent in April, the index for construction materials and components inched up

0.1 percent. Prices for plywood, softwood lumber, and wiring devices turned down in May following advances a month earlier. Nonferrous wire and cable prices rose considerably, although not as much as in either of the 2 preceding months. The index for switchboard and switchgear equipment, however, moved up more than in April.

Among other intermediate industrial goods, declines were noted for electronic components and accessories, paper boxes and containers, and metal containers. Prices moved up for steel pipe, industrial herbicides, and aircraft engines.

Crude goods

After falling 1.4 percent in March and 3.1 percent in April, the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing inched down 0.1 percent in May, seasonally adjusted. The crude energy materials index turned up following steep decreases in each of the 2 previous months, but foodstuff prices dropped more than in April. The index for basic industrial materials advanced for the third consecutive month. (See table B).

The crude energy materials index, which had dropped 4.6 percent in March and 7.8 percent in April, turned up 2.1 percent in May. The upturn was broad-based: Crude petroleum prices rose 3.0 percent following a 12-percent slump a month earlier, the natural gas index increased 0.9 percent in the wake of a 5.5-percent decrease in April, and coal prices advanced 1.3 percent after a small April decline.

Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs moved down 2.5 percent, following a 0.8-percent drop in the preceding month. Lower prices for corn and wheat, which had advanced considerably in April, accounted for much of the sharper drop in this index. Hay and raw cane sugar prices also turned down in May, and cattle and soybean prices declined more than a month earlier. In contrast, prices for fluid milk and hogs moved up following April decreases, and chicken prices fell much less than in April.

After climbing about 2 percent in both March and April, the index for crude nonfood materials other than energy rose 1.0 percent. This slowdown was caused primarily by indexes for nonferrous ores and aluminum scrap, both of which turned down following April advances. Wastepaper prices continued to decline, and prices for copper scrap and raw cotton increased less than in the prior month. Ferrous scrap prices also rose a little less than in April, but the increase was still more than 6 percent for the second consecutive month. Construction sand and gravel turned up after a slight drop in April, and leaf tobacco and cattle hide prices rose more in May than in the preceding month.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries increased 0.4 percent in May, the same as in April. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The largest increases over the month were those recorded for tobacco manufactures (2.3 percent), food and kindred products (1.6 percent), and leather and leather products (0.7 percent.) The index for the lumber and wood products industry group moved down 0.4 percent. From May 1989 to May 1990, the total manufacturing industries index increased 2.7 percent.

The index for the net output of total mining industries turned up 1.1 percent in May after falling 5.5 percent in April. The oil and gas extraction and the bituminous coal mining industry group indexes advanced after declining in the previous month. In contrast, the index for the metal mining industry group moved down 3.5 percent after rising 2.6 percent a month earlier, and the index for the anthracite mining industry group fell 1.4 percent, after inching down 0.1 percent in the previous month. During the 12 months ended in May 1990, the index for the net output of the domestic mining sector fell 4.6 percent.

Price Movements

June 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent seasonally adjusted from May to June. The June advance followed a 0.3-percent increase in May and decreases of 0.3 percent in both April and March. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods declined 0.2 percent, a little more than in the preceding month. The Crude Goods Price Index fell 2.4 percent, far more than in May but not as much as in the month before. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, food prices declined moderately for the third time in the last 4 months. The energy goods index dropped for the fifth consecutive month. The index for items outside the food and energy sectors, however, climbed 0.6 percent, more than in any other single month since the previous June.

During the first half of 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.7 percent. Although this pace was only half the 7.4-percent rate of increase registered for the first half of 1989, it was somewhat faster than the second half rate of 2.6 percent. Indexes for food, energy, and nonfood nonenergy items also rose at rates about 3.7 percent during the first 6 months of 1990.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for

Finished Goods increased 0.2 percent in June to 117.9 (1982=100).

During the 12 months ended in June 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 3.1 percent. Over this same period, consumer food prices advanced 5.0 percent, the index for finished energy goods fell 3.7 percent, and prices for items other than foods and energy moved up 3.4 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index inched up 0.2 percent over the past 12 months, while crude material prices were 3.0 percent lower than a year earlier.

Finished goods

The index for consumer foods turned down 0.4 percent seasonally adjusted in June following a 0.6-percent advance a month earlier. From December 1989 to June 1990, this index advanced at a 3.7-percent annual rate, considerably slower than the 6.4-percent rate in the last half of 1989. In June, prices turned down after rising in the previous month for fish, pork, processed chickens, and pasta. Prices for soft drinks fell much more than in May, and beef and veal prices were unchanged after rising a month earlier. Price increases

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadjusted)		
1989:							
June	0.1	-0.6	-2.3	0.7	6.1	-0.3	-1.1
July	-4	.2	-3.3	-.2	5.1	-.2	.2
August	-.3	.3	-6.9	.5	4.3	-.3	-2.3
September .....	.7	-.3	6.6	.4	4.6	.4	1.2
October .....	.5	1.4	.2	.2	5.0	.2	.3
November .....	.1	.8	-2.9	.2	4.6	-.2	.6
December .....	.6	.7	1.4	.4	4.9	0	1.5
1990:							
January	1.9	2.3	13.7	.2	5.9	1.2	2.2
February	0	.7	-4.5	.3	5.1	-.8	.3
March	-.3	-.7	-2.8	.3	4.4	.1	-1.2
April	-.3	-.6	-1.7	.2	3.5	.1	-3.1
May .....	.3	.6	-1.0	.2	3.1	-.1	-.1
June .....	.2	-.4	-.9	.6	3.1	-.2	-2.4

¹ Data for February 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the figures

shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
June	-1.9	-0.4	-0.2	4.9	-1.1	-1.0	-1.6	6.3
July	1.4	-1.7	-.2	4.0	-.6	1.8	-1.2	6.8
August	-.4	-1.7	-.1	3.3	.7	-6.8	1.0	4.3
September	-.1	2.5	.1	3.4	-.6	3.5	.4	5.8
October	-.2	.8	.1	3.4	0	.7	.1	6.5
November .....	.8	-1.4	-.1	2.8	2.2	.4	-2.5	8.6
December	-.3	1.4	-.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	-1.7	7.1
1990:								
January .....	.2	9.3	.1	2.5	.7	4.8	-.2	5.0
February	-.9	-5.1	-.1	1.4	.6	.4	-.8	5.5
March .....	.4	-1.4	.3	.8	.8	-4.7	2.0	2.3
April	1.2	-.6	.1	.4	-.8	-7.8	2.2	-1.7
May	1.2	-1.5	.1	.2	-2.5	2.1	1.0	-1.8
June	-1.3	-1.0	-.1	.2	.4	-6.2	-.6	-3.0

¹ Data for February 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

slowed for shortening and cooking oils, processed turkeys, and milled rice. In contrast, prices turned up after falling in May for eggs and fresh fruits and vegetables. In addition, price increases accelerated for dairy products and roasted coffee.

The index for finished energy goods fell 0.9 percent in June after a 1.0-percent drop in May. Despite significant declines in each of the past 5 months, this index increased at an annual rate of 3.4 percent in the first half of 1990 because of a jump of almost 14 percent in January. In June, the natural gas index turned down 1.3 percent after rising 0.9 percent in the previous month. Prices for home heating oil fell even more (10.5 percent) than in May (6.2 percent). Gasoline prices, however, turned up slightly following a May decrease.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy increased 0.7 percent in June after rising 0.5 percent in May. For the 6 months ended in June, this index registered an increase at a 4.3-percent annual rate, compared with an advance at a 3.2-percent rate during the previous 6 months. In June, increases were registered for tobacco products, passenger cars, women's apparel, household furniture, jewelry, newspapers, over-the-counter drugs, and household flatware. In contrast, decreases were noted for cosmetics, sanitary papers, and children's apparel.

The Producer Price Index for capital equipment rose 0.4 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis in June after showing no change a month earlier. This index rose at a 2.8-percent annual rate in the first half of 1990, only slightly less than the 3.2-percent rate of advance for the last half of 1989. In June, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for motor vehicles, agricultural machinery, textile machinery, printing trades machinery, and railroad equipment. Prices rose more than a month earlier for civilian aircraft and mining machinery and equipment. In contrast, prices for transformers fell after

rising in May, and price increases slowed for commercial furniture, pumps and compressors, metal cutting machine tools, and industrial material handling equipment.

Intermediate goods

After rising 0.1 percent in April and edging down 0.1 percent in May, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components dropped 0.2 percent in June seasonally adjusted. Prices for energy goods and foods and feeds showed notable decreases, but most other categories showed little or no change. (See table B.)

For the 6-month period ending in June 1990, the intermediate goods index moved up at a 0.7-percent rate, after inching down at a 0.2-percent rate during the latter half of 1989 and climbing at a 5.0-percent rate in the first half of that year. Price increases accelerated moderately in the first half of 1990 for manufacturing components and construction materials. Prices inched up for durable manufacturing materials after falling at a rate of nearly 6 percent during the previous 6 months, while declines for nondurable manufacturing items slowed considerably.

In June, the intermediate energy goods index fell 1.0 percent, the fifth decline in as many months. Substantial decreases were registered for diesel fuel, residual fuel, and jet fuels. Increases were noted, however, for electric power rates and liquefied petroleum gas.

The intermediate foods and feeds index dropped 1.3 percent following increases in each of the 3 preceding months. Prices for prepared animal feeds and pork fell after rising in May. Price advances slowed for dry milk products and cheese. Chocolate material prices dropped faster than in the preceding month. In contrast, prices for crude vegetable oils, refined sugar, and cottage cheese turned up after declining a month earlier, and price declines for butter slowed markedly.

The construction materials index moved down 0.2 percent after a May rise of 0.1 percent. Prices fell for softwood plywood, softwood lumber, nonferrous wire and cable, wiring devices, and industrial controls switchgear. Advances were noted, however, for heating equipment and plastic construction products.

The index for durable manufacturing materials edged down 0.2 percent following a 0.1-percent decline in the preceding month. Prices fell for copper and brass mill shapes, aluminum mill shapes, particleboard, and primary copper, aluminum, and gold. In contrast, increases were noted for steel sheet and strip, semifinished steel mill products, and prepared paint.

Among other intermediate industrial goods, price increases were registered for newsprint, primary organic chemicals, and digital MOS integrated circuits.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved down 2.4 percent seasonally adjusted from May to June following declines of 0.1 percent in May and 3.1 percent in April. Crude energy materials fell sharply for the third time in the last 4 months, and basic industrial material prices turned down after rising considerably during the preceding 3 months. The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs, however, advanced modestly after a substantial drop in May. (See table B.)

During the first 6 months of 1990, the Crude Goods Price Index decreased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 8.6 percent, after rising at a 2.7-percent rate in the last half of 1989 and at an 11.3-percent rate in the first half. The downturn was due in large part to the index for crude energy materials, which declined at a 21.6-percent rate; this followed a small rise in the second half of last year and a surge at a 35.4-percent rate in the first 6 months of 1989. Crude foodstuff prices were slightly lower in June 1990 than in December 1989, and basic industrial material prices turned up after retreating in 1989's second half.

The index for crude energy materials dropped 6.2 percent from May to June, chiefly because of an 11.9-percent drop in the index for crude petroleum. Crude oil prices had fallen by about the same amount in April before rebounding somewhat in May. The natural gas index decreased moderately in June, and coal prices were unchanged following a substantial May increase.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy

moved down 0.6 percent over the month, following a 1.0-percent rise in May and advances of about 2 percent in each of the 2 months before that. Prices turned down after several months of increase for ferrous scrap, copper base scrap, and cattle hides, and indexes for leaf tobacco and for construction sand and gravel showed little or no change following large advances in May. Wastepaper prices continued to drop. In contrast, the nonferrous metal ores index turned up after falling considerably a month earlier, and raw cotton prices rose more than 3 percent for the fifth consecutive month.

Crude foodstuff prices rose 0.4 percent in June after dropping 2.5 percent in the previous month. Prices turned up after May decreases for corn, wheat, cattle, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Fluid milk prices climbed more than in May, and soybean prices edged down only slightly after a much larger decline a month earlier. In contrast, hog and unprocessed fin fish prices fell sharply after rising in May, and broilers and fryers decreased substantially for the third consecutive month. Raw cane sugar prices also continued to move down.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries was unchanged in June after increasing 0.4 percent in May. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Substantial increases for tobacco manufactures and transportation equipment were offset by declines for the industry groups for petroleum refining, lumber and wood products, and primary metal industries. In the 6 months ended in June, the total manufacturing industries index rose at a 3.8-percent annual rate, compared with a 1.6-percent rate of advance in the last half of 1989; for the 12 months ended in June 1990, this index increased 2.7 percent.

The index for the net output of total mining industries turned down 3.1 percent in June after increasing 1.1 percent the month before. The oil and gas extraction industry group index fell 4.7 percent after advancing in the previous month. In contrast, the index for the metal mining industry group turned up after falling in May. From December 1989 to June 1990, the index for the net output of the domestic mining sector declined at a 13.2-percent annual rate, after edging up at a 0.5-percent rate in the previous 6 months; during the 12 months ended in June 1990, this index fell 6.6 percent.

Price Movements

July 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods edged down 0.1 percent seasonally adjusted from June to July. The index increased 0.2 percent in June and 0.3 percent in May. The Intermediate Goods Price Index showed no change in July following slight declines in each of the 2 preceding months. Crude material prices, which dropped 2.4 percent in June, increased 0.6 percent in July. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices were unchanged after a small decrease a month earlier. The energy goods index declined for the sixth consecutive month, although the July decrease was smaller than any of its predecessors. After a substantial advance in June, the index for finished goods other than foods and energy edged down 0.1 percent.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.1 percent in July to 118.0 (1982=100).

From July 1989 to July 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 3.4 percent. During the same period, consumer food prices advanced 5.0 percent, the energy goods index fell 0.9 percent, and prices for other kinds of finished goods moved up 3.6 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods rose 0.4 percent from July 1989 to

July 1990, while the Crude Goods Price Index was 2.6 percent lower than a year before.

Finished goods

After dropping 0.4 percent in June and rising 0.6 percent in May, the index for finished consumer foods showed no change in July. Increases were led by fresh fruits, fish, cheese, processed poultry, soft drinks, roasted coffee, and frozen specialties. These were offset, however, by declines for pork, beef and veal, eggs, and fluid milk products.

The index for finished energy goods fell 0.5 percent from June to July, following declines of about 1 percent in both June and May. In July, lower gasoline prices outweighed an upturn in the natural gas index. The home heating oil index rose slightly after substantial declines in both preceding months.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy, which climbed 0.7 percent in June and 0.5 percent the month before, decreased 0.2 percent in July. Prices turned down following June increases for tobacco products, passenger cars, over-the-counter drugs, and household glassware. Prices for books and costume jewelry rose less than in the

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
July	-0.4	0.2	-3.3	-0.2	5.1	-0.2	0.2
August	-.3	.3	-6.9	.5	4.3	-.3	-2.3
September .....	.7	-.3	6.6	.4	4.6	.4	1.2
October .....	.5	1.4	.2	.2	5.0	.2	.3
November .....	.1	.8	-2.9	.2	4.6	-.2	.6
December .....	.6	.7	1.4	.4	4.9	0	1.5
1990:							
January	1.9	2.3	13.7	.2	5.9	1.2	2.2
February	0	.7	-4.5	.3	5.1	-.8	.3
March	-.2	-.5	-2.7	.4	4.5	.1	-1.3
April	-.3	-.9	-1.9	.1	3.5	.1	-3.0
May .....	.3	.6	-1.0	.2	3.1	-.1	-.1
June .....	.2	-.4	-.9	.6	3.1	-.2	-2.4
July	-.1	0	-.5	-.1	3.4	0	.6

¹ Data for March 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
July	1.4	-1.7	-0.2	4.0	-0.6	1.8	-1.2	6.8
August	-4	-1.7	-1	3.3	.7	-6.8	1.0	4.3
September	-1	2.5	.1	3.4	-.6	3.5	.4	5.8
October	-2	.8	.1	3.4	0	.7	.1	6.5
November .....	.8	-1.4	-.1	2.8	2.2	.4	-2.5	8.6
December	-.3	1.4	-.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	-1.7	7.1
1990:								
January .....	.2	9.3	.1	2.5	.7	4.8	-.2	5.0
February	-.9	-5.1	-.1	1.4	.6	.4	-.8	5.5
March .....	.4	-1.4	.3	.8	.9	-4.8	1.9	2.3
April	1.2	-.6	.2	.4	-.9	-7.6	2.2	-1.7
May	1.2	-1.5	.1	.2	-2.5	2.1	1.0	-1.8
June	-1.3	-1.0	-.1	.2	.4	-6.2	-.6	-3.0
July .....	.5	-1.2	.1	.4	1.0	-.1	.9	-2.6

¹ Data for March 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

previous month. In contrast, prescription drugs turned up after a slight decline, and household flatware prices advanced much more than in June.

The capital equipment index rose 0.3 percent, about as much as in the previous month. Advances were recorded for light trucks, construction machinery, switchgear and switchboard equipment, pumps and compressors, engineering and scientific instruments, food products machinery, and photographic equipment. The index for office and store machines, however, turned down sharply.

Intermediate goods

Following declines of 0.2 percent in June and 0.1 percent in May, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components showed no change in July, seasonally adjusted. Increases for foods and feeds and durable manufacturing materials offset declines for energy goods. Other categories showed little or no change. (See table B.)

The index for intermediate foods and feeds turned up 0.5 percent after dropping 1.3 percent in June. Prices advanced for prepared animal feeds and confectionery materials following declines in the previous month. Prices for refined sugar rose more than in June. However, prices turned down for crude vegetable oils, beef and veal, and fluid and dry milk products after increasing or showing no change in the preceding month. Flour prices fell much faster than in the preceding month.

The index for durable manufacturing materials moved up 0.2 percent after dropping 0.2 percent in June. Prices turned up for primary copper, copper and brass mill shapes, carbon steel plates and sheets, and primary lead after falling or show-

ing no change in the previous month. Decreases slowed for plywood, gold, and particleboard. After increasing in June, in contrast, prices rose more slowly for semifinished steel mill products. Silver and platinum prices turned down after rising the month before, and primary aluminum fell faster than in the preceding month.

The intermediate energy goods index dropped 1.2 percent, about as much as in most other recent months. Prices for both gasoline and residual fuels moved down about 5 percent. Advances were noted, however, for liquefied petroleum gas.

Among other intermediate industrial goods, increases were noted for commercial printing, phosphates, and wiring devices. However, declines were registered for plastic resins and materials, plastic construction products, and cotton broadwovens.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned up 0.6 percent seasonally adjusted from June to July following four consecutive monthly declines. The July index for crude energy materials edged down after a far more substantial decline in June. In addition, the index for basic industrial materials turned up, and prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs rose more than the month before. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy goods inched down 0.1 percent in July following a 6.2-percent drop in June. Crude petroleum prices fell 4.0 percent in July, far less than June's decline of nearly 12 percent. In addition, the natural gas index climbed 6.6 percent over the month, the largest increase since May 1979.

In July, the index for crude nonfood materials other than energy turned up 0.9 percent after a 0.6-percent decline in June that followed 3 consecutive monthly increases. The July indexes for copper base scrap and for softwood logs, bolts, and timber turned up after decreasing in the preceding month. In addition, the indexes for nonferrous metal ores and aluminum base scrap climbed more than in June, and iron and steel scrap and wastepaper prices fell less than in June. In contrast, July construction sand and gravel prices turned down. The raw cotton index rose a little less than in June, although the advance was more than 3 percent for the sixth consecutive month.

Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs advanced 1.0 percent over the month following a 0.4-percent rise in June and declines in each of the 2 prior months. Indexes for broilers and fryers, hay, and soybeans rose after June decreases. July prices for unprocessed fin fish turned up after a considerable decline in June and 5 consecutive monthly increases before that. In addition, fresh fruit prices moved up 14.0 percent, more than in any other month in nearly 7 years, and hog prices decreased less than the preceding month. In contrast, wheat and corn prices turned down in July, and prices for cattle and fluid milk moved up less than in June.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries inched down 0.1 percent in July after showing no change the month before. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) By far the largest movement from June to July was a drop of 2.2 percent in the index for the net output of the petroleum refining industry group. No other major industry group index changed more than 0.4 percent in either direction. From July 1989 to July 1990, the total manufacturing industries index increased 2.8 percent.

The index for the net output of total mining industries advanced 1.9 percent following a decline of 3.1 percent in June. The oil and gas extraction industry group index, which fell 4.7 percent in June, climbed 3.0 percent. The metal mining industry group index increased more than 1 percent for the second consecutive month. During the 12 months ended in July 1990, the index for the net output of the domestic mining sector fell 5.5 percent.

Prices Movements

August 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 1.3 percent seasonally adjusted from July to August. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods also climbed 1.3 percent in August following a period of stable or falling prices. The Crude Goods Price Index, up 9.3 percent, recorded its steepest monthly increase in 17 years. (See table A.)

The August advance in the Finished Goods Price Index was the largest monthly rise since January's increase of 1.9 percent; from January through July, the index had shown virtually no net change. Substantial advances in the price indexes for energy goods dominated the August increases at all three major stages of processing. Food price movements were mixed. Outside the energy and food sectors, prices moved up 0.3 percent at both the finished and the intermediate stages of processing and nearly 2 percent at the crude stage.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 1.0 percent in August to 119.2 (1982=100).

From August 1989 to August 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 5.1 percent, the Intermediate Goods Price Index moved up 2.1 percent, and the Crude Goods Price In-

dex climbed 9.0 percent. During the same period, price indexes for energy goods advanced 17.0 percent at the finished level, 10.9 percent at the intermediate level, and 18.5 percent at the crude level. Increases in food prices were much more modest, ranging from 1.7 percent for intermediate foods and feeds to 5.3 percent for consumer foods. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy was up 3.4 percent during the 12 months ended in August 1990; comparable indexes rose 0.7 and 2.4 percent at the intermediate and the crude stages of processing, respectively.

Finished goods

In August, the index for finished energy goods climbed 9.5 percent seasonally adjusted following a 0.5-percent decline in July. This index had fallen in each month since January, when it jumped almost 14 percent. Gasoline prices advanced 16.9 percent in August after falling 5.3 percent a month earlier. Home heating oil prices rose 38.8 percent after edging up only slightly in July; the largest 1-month advance prior to this record rise was the 25.3-percent increase registered in January. In contrast, the index for natural gas

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
August	-0.3	0.3	-6.9	0.5	4.3	-0.3	-2.3
September .....	.7	-.3	6.6	.4	4.6	.4	1.2
October .....	.5	1.4	.2	.2	5.0	.2	.3
November .....	.1	.8	-2.9	.2	4.6	-.2	.6
December .....	.6	.7	1.4	.4	4.9	0	1.5
1990:							
January	1.9	2.3	13.7	.2	5.9	1.2	2.2
February	0	.7	-4.5	.3	5.1	-.8	.3
March	-.2	-.5	-2.7	.4	4.5	.1	-1.3
April	-.2	-.9	-.7	.1	3.7	.1	-2.6
May .....	.1	.6	-2.2	.2	3.1	-.1	-.5
June .....	.2	-.4	-.9	.6	3.1	-.2	-2.4
July	-.1	0	-.5	-.1	3.4	0	.6
August	1.3	.8	9.5	.3	5.1	1.3	9.3

¹ Data for April 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
August	-0.4	-1.7	-0.1	3.3	0.7	-6.8	1.0	4.3
September	-.1	2.5	.1	3.4	-.6	3.5	.4	5.8
October	-.2	.8	-.1	3.4	0	.7	-.1	6.5
November .....	.8	-1.4	-.1	2.8	2.2	.4	-2.5	8.6
December	-.3	1.4	-.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	-1.7	7.1
1990:								
January .....	.2	9.3	.1	2.5	.7	4.8	-.2	5.0
February	-.9	-5.1	-.1	1.4	.6	.4	-.8	5.5
March .....	.4	-1.4	.3	.8	.9	-4.8	1.9	2.3
April	1.1	-.6	.2	.4	-.6	-7.0	2.5	-1.3
May	1.4	-1.5	.1	.2	-2.8	1.4	.7	-1.8
June	-1.3	-1.0	-.1	.2	.4	-6.2	-.6	-3.0
July .....	.5	-1.2	.1	.4	1.0	-.1	.9	-2.6
August	-.1	9.6	.3	2.1	-.9	25.5	1.8	9.0

¹ Data for April 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

turned down 9.4 percent, following a 6.6-percent rise in the previous month.

After showing no change a month earlier, the index for finished consumer foods moved up 0.8 percent. Prices turned up after falling in July for eggs, beef and veal, fluid milk products, fresh and dried vegetables, processed fruits and vegetables, and shortening and cooking oils. Prices for pork and for condensed and evaporated milk fell less than a month earlier. Prices rose more than in the previous month for pickles, soft drinks, pasta, processed turkeys, and roasted coffee. In contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for fresh fruits, processed chickens, cheese, and butter. Prices rose less than in July for fish and milled rice.

Intermediate goods

After showing no change in July and declining in June and May, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components moved up 1.3 percent in August, seasonally adjusted. Indexes for energy goods registered a strong advance, and durable manufacturing materials rose faster than in July. Other major categories of intermediate goods showed little or no change. (See table B.)

The index for energy goods jumped 9.6 percent, the largest 1-month change recorded since this series was created in 1974. The index had declined in each of the preceding 6 months. Prices for diesel fuel, kerosene, and liquefied petroleum gas each soared over 30 percent. Prices for gasoline, jet fuels, and residual fuel rose substantially following declines in the preceding month. Electric power rates moved up after showing no change in the previous month.

The index for durable manufacturing materials increased 1.3 percent following a 0.2-percent rise in July. Price advances accelerated for primary copper, copper and brass mill shapes, and gold mill shapes. Prices turned up for primary

aluminum, silver mill shapes, gold, and silver following July decreases. In contrast, prices turned down for steel mill products and zinc after rising in the preceding month. Lead prices were unchanged after a steep climb in July, and plywood prices fell faster than in the previous month.

The index for foods and feeds edged down 0.1 percent following a 0.5-percent increase in July. Prices for prepared animal feeds, cheese, and confectionery materials turned down after rising in the preceding month. On the other hand, prices turned up for beef and veal and for crude vegetable oils after moving down in July.

Among other intermediate goods, increases were noted for printed materials, internal combustion engines, plastic resins and materials, converted paper and paperboard products, nitrogenates, and toluene. However, declines were registered for paperboard and synthetic yarns.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing surged 9.3 percent seasonally adjusted from July to August, more than in any other month since August 1973. The index for crude energy goods turned up sharply as crude petroleum prices soared. The index for basic industrial materials also moved up, but prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs turned down. (See table B.)

The August index for crude energy goods climbed 25.5 percent after edging down 0.1 percent in July and falling 6.2 percent in June. The crude petroleum index jumped 62.5 percent, the largest monthly increase ever recorded for this series. However, the natural gas index plummeted 9.4 percent, the steepest monthly drop in nearly 14 years. (The natural gas index is lagged 1 month.) Coal prices also fell.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy climbed 1.8 percent, rising for the fifth time in the last 6

months. August prices for iron and steel scrap, some round-wood products, and construction sand and gravel turned up after declining the preceding month. In addition, increases in copper ore and aluminum base scrap prices accelerated in August. In contrast, prices for raw cotton turned down following 6 months of substantial advances. Indexes for leaf tobacco, softwood logs, and cattle hides also turned down following July increases, and wastepaper prices dropped for the seventh consecutive month. Copper base scrap prices continued to rise sharply, although not as much as in July.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index moved down 0.9 percent after increasing 1.0 and 0.4 percent in July and June, respectively. Prices for hay and for broilers and fryers turned down after rising in the preceding month, and hog and corn prices fell considerably more than in July. In addition, fluid milk prices inched up only slightly after much larger gains in each of the 3 prior months. However, increases in cattle and soybean prices accelerated substantially, and the index for unprocessed fin fish climbed more than 10 percent for the second consecutive month. Although wheat prices continued to decline substantially, the August decrease was considerably smaller than July's.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries moved up 1.4 percent in August after edging down 0.1 percent in the previous month. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) By far the largest advance for any industry group was the 17.3 percent rise for petroleum refining. The index for the primary metal industries group increased 0.7 percent in August, and the printing and publishing group index registered a rise of 0.5 percent. The only notable decline was a 0.7-percent drop for the lumber and wood products industry group. From August 1989 to August 1990, the total manufacturing industries index increased 4.6 percent, led by petroleum refining with a yearly advance of 23.7 percent.

The index for the net output of the domestic mining sector surged 9.2 percent in August, following a 1.9-percent advance in July. The oil and gas extraction industry group index climbed 13.1 percent over the month, and the metal mining index moved up 2.3 percent. During the 12 months ended in August 1990, the index for the net output of total mining industries increased 8.8 percent.

Price Movements

September 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 1.6 percent seasonally adjusted from August to September. This followed an increase of 1.3 percent in August and a dip of 0.1 percent in July. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods advanced 1.8 percent in September, after rising 1.3 percent a month earlier and showing no change in July. The Crude Goods Price Index climbed 4.6 percent in the wake of an advance of 9.3 percent in the previous month. (See table A.)

As in August, substantial rises in indexes for energy products dominated each of the three major stages of processing. Food-related prices, however, fell across a broad front. Excluding food and energy, price indexes rose on a seasonally adjusted basis at the finished and the intermediate levels but inched down at the crude level.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.9 percent in September to 120.3 (1982 = 100).

During the third quarter of 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index climbed at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 11.7 percent, after edging up marginally in the second quarter and rising at a rate of 7.1 percent in the first quarter. Similarly, the Intermediate Goods Price Index increased at a rate of 13.4 percent from June to September, following a slight decrease

in the second quarter and a modest advance in the first. The Crude Goods Price Index soared at a rate of 75.4 percent in the third quarter following a drop at a rate of 20.2 percent from March to June. The recent surge in energy prices was the overriding influence at all stages of processing during the third quarter.

From September 1989 to September 1990, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods increased 5.9 percent. During the same period, consumer food prices rose 4.7 percent, the index for energy goods advanced 24.4 percent, and prices for nonfood nonenergy goods moved up 3.7 percent. Prices for intermediate goods rose 3.5 percent during the 12 months ended in September 1990, and crude material prices were 12.5 percent higher than a year ago.

Finished goods

In September, the index for finished energy goods advanced 13.8 percent seasonally adjusted, following a 9.5-percent rise in August. Both the gasoline and the home heating oil indexes climbed more than 20 percent. In addition, the index for natural gas turned up somewhat after falling about 9 percent in August.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
September	0.7	-0.3	6.6	0.4	4.6	0.4	1.2
October .....	.5	1.4	.2	.2	5.0	.2	.3
November .....	.1	.8	-2.9	.2	4.6	-.2	.6
December .....	.6	.7	1.4	.4	4.9	0	1.5
1990:							
January	1.9	2.3	13.7	.2	5.9	1.2	2.2
February	0	.7	-4.5	.3	5.1	-.8	.3
March	-2	-.5	-2.7	.4	4.5	.1	-1.3
April	-2	-.9	-.7	.1	3.7	.1	-2.6
May .....	.1	.3	-1.5	.3	3.1	.1	-.1
June .....	.2	-.2	-1.6	.6	3.1	-.4	-2.8
July	-1	0	-.5	-.1	3.4	0	.6
August	1.3	.8	9.5	.3	5.1	1.3	9.3
September	1.6	-.9	13.8	.6	5.9	1.8	4.6

¹ Data for May 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
September	-0.1	2.5	0.1	3.4	-0.6	3.5	0.4	5.8
October	-2	.8	.1	3.4	0	.7	.1	6.5
November .....	.8	-1.4	-.1	2.8	2.2	.4	-2.5	8.6
December	-3	1.4	-.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	-1.7	7.1
1990:								
January .....	.2	9.3	.1	2.5	.7	4.8	-.2	5.0
February	-9	-5.1	-.1	1.4	.6	.4	-.8	5.5
March .....	.4	-1.4	.3	.8	.9	-4.8	1.9	2.3
April	1.1	-.6	.2	.4	-.6	-7.0	2.5	-1.3
May	1.2	-.8	.1	.4	-2.4	1.9	1.1	-1.3
June	-1.1	-1.8	-.1	.2	0	-6.7	-1.0	-3.0
July .....	.5	-1.2	.1	.4	1.0	-.1	.9	-2.6
August	-1	9.6	.3	2.1	-.9	25.5	1.8	9.0
September	-1.5	10.8	.6	3.5	-1.8	12.4	-.1	12.5

¹ Data for May 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

rose 0.6 percent in September. Significant advances included pharmaceutical preparations, alcoholic beverages, household furniture, cosmetics, newspapers, and periodicals. Before seasonal adjustment, passenger car prices moved up 0.2 percent after falling in August and July; however, after seasonal adjustment, the new car index advanced 3.4 percent in September. In contrast, prices declined for sanitary papers, gold jewelry, children's apparel, and books.

After increasing 0.8 percent in August, the index for finished consumer foods moved down 0.9 percent. Prices turned down in September after rising a month earlier for beef and veal, eggs, fresh vegetables, shortening, and pasta. Prices for dairy products and pork fell more in September than in August. Prices rose less than a month earlier for soft drinks, processed turkeys, and roasted coffee. In contrast, prices turned up after falling in the previous month for processed chickens and bakery products, and fresh fruit prices fell less than in August.

The Producer Price Index for capital equipment advanced 0.8 percent in September. Major contributors to the September increase included ships, oil field machinery, agricultural machinery, industrial material handling equipment, railroad equipment, pumps and compressors, and machine tools. Prices for both heavy and light trucks fell considerably before seasonal adjustment but moved up on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Intermediate goods

Following a rise of 1.3 percent in August and no change in July, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components advanced 1.8 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. Indexes for energy goods moved up strongly,

as in August, and nondurable manufacturing materials rose much faster than in the preceding month. However, advances for durable manufacturing materials slowed, and the foods and feeds index fell much more than in August. (See table B.)

The index for energy goods jumped 10.8 percent, after rising 9.6 percent in the previous month. Double-digit increases were registered in September for gasoline, jet fuels, diesel fuel, residual fuel, and liquefied petroleum gas. Electric power rates advanced modestly.

The index for nondurable manufacturing materials jumped 2.0 percent after inching up 0.1 percent in August. The acceleration was dominated by a strong advance in petrochemical prices. In addition, prices rose faster than in August for paint materials, paper, nitrogenates, thermoplastic resins, and synthetic fibers. Price declines slowed for paperboard and processed yarns. Gray fabrics showed no change after an August rise, however.

The increase for the durable manufacturing materials index slowed to 0.4 percent after moving up 1.3 percent in August. Prices turned down for copper and brass mill shapes and for precious metals. Copper prices rose much less than in August or July. Prices fell more than in August for plywood and semifinished steel mill products. However, prices rose more rapidly than in August for aluminum mill shapes, cement, and hardwood lumber, and hot rolled steel sheet and strip prices moved up following no change in the previous month. Aluminum prices climbed about 10 percent for the second consecutive month.

The index for foods and feeds dropped 1.5 percent after edging down 0.1 percent in August. Prices turned down for beef and veal and for crude vegetable oils following increases in the prior month. Prices for condensed and evaporated milk

and for pork decreased more than in August. In contrast, prices declined slowed for prepared animal feeds, and the index for chocolate materials turned up following an August decrease.

Among other intermediate goods, increases were noted for printed materials, automotive chemicals, motor vehicle parts, miscellaneous metal products, and plastic construction products. However, prices fell for precious metal mill shapes.

Crude goods

After a 9.3-percent surge in August, the index for Crude Materials for Further Processing slowed by nearly half to an increase of 4.6 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. The September index for crude energy materials rose substantially, although considerably less than in the previous month. In addition, prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs fell more than in August, and the index for basic industrial materials inched down after increasing in each of the 2 prior months. (See table B.)

The increase in prices for crude energy materials slowed to 12.4 percent following a 25.5-percent increase in August. Crude petroleum prices moved up considerably less than in August; however, other than the 62.5-percent August increase, the 20.4-percent rise in September was greater than any other monthly increase since January 1974. In contrast, the natural gas index turned up after a near-record drop in the previous month.

In September, the index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs dropped 1.8 percent after declining in August. Prices for cattle, fluid milk, unprocessed fin fish, and fresh and dried vegetables turned down after moving up in the previous month. In addition, soybean prices rose less than in the preceding month. However, the indexes for live chickens and hogs turned up after declining in August. Decreases in prices for hay, wheat, corn, and fresh fruits slowed follow-

ing larger declines in August.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy inched down 0.1 percent after moving up 1.8 percent in August and 0.9 percent in July. Following August increases, prices for iron and steel scrap and some roundwood products turned down and copper base scrap did not change. Copper ores rose less than in either of the 2 preceding months. September indexes for raw cotton, cattle hides, and softwood logs declined more than in the previous month. In contrast, the index for uranium, radium, and vanadium ores surged more than 50 percent. In addition, the leaf tobacco index turned up after falling in August, and wastepaper prices increased for the first time in a year. Aluminum base scrap prices rose for the fourth time in as many months.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries moved up 1.4 percent in September, the same as in the preceding month. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) As in August, the petroleum refining industry group index recorded the largest advance (15.8 percent). The chemicals industry group registered a climb of 0.9 percent. Indexes for most other major manufacturing groups showed little or no change over the month. From September 1989 to September 1990, the total manufacturing industries index increased 5.7 percent.

The index for the net output of the domestic mining sector rose 7.7 percent from August to September. The oil and gas extraction industry group index moved up 10.4 percent over the month, and the metal mining index increased 6.1 percent. During the 12 months ended in September 1990, the index for the net output of total mining industries increased 13.3 percent.

Price Movements

October 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 1.1 percent seasonally adjusted from September to October. The October advance followed increases of 1.6 and 1.3 percent, respectively, in September and August. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods rose 1.5 percent, the third consecutive substantial increase. The Crude Goods Price Index climbed 8.7 percent, much more than in September and only a little less than August's surge of 9.3 percent. (See table A.)

Large advances in indexes for energy goods accounted for most of the October rises at all three major stages of processing. Also, prices for food items turned up broadly after September decreases. When food and energy are excluded, finished goods showed no change over the month, intermediate goods rose moderately, and crude goods fell considerably.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 1.7 percent in October to 122.3 (1982=100).

From October 1989 to October 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 6.4 percent. During the same period, consumer food prices rose 4.3 percent, the energy goods index advanced 33.9 percent, and prices for other kinds of finished goods moved up 3.4 percent. The Intermediate Goods

Price Index rose 4.9 percent in the 12 months ended in October 1990, while crude material prices were 22.0 percent higher than in the same month a year ago.

Finished goods

In October, the index for finished energy goods rose 8.0 percent seasonally adjusted following a 13.8-percent rise in September; since July, this index has increased by one-third. Prices for both gasoline and home heating oil continued to rise at a rapid pace, but the change was less than in either of the 2 previous months. The index for natural gas turned down slightly after increasing in September and dropping substantially in August.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy was unchanged in October after advancing 0.6 percent in September. Before seasonal adjustment, prices increased sharply for both passenger cars and light trucks; however, on a seasonally adjusted basis, the passenger car index fell considerably and light trucks inched up marginally. (See "Report on Quality Changes for 1991 Model Passenger Cars," page 4.) Prices rose on a seasonally adjusted basis for newspapers, sanitary papers, women's apparel, cosmetics, and books.

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
October	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.2	5.0	0.2	0.3
November .....	.1	.8	-2.9	.2	4.6	-2	.6
December .....	.6	.7	1.4	.4	4.9	0	1.5
1990:							
January	1.9	2.3	13.7	.2	5.9	1.2	2.2
February	0	.7	-4.5	.3	5.1	-.8	.3
March	-.2	-.5	-2.7	.4	4.5	.1	-1.3
April	-.2	-.9	-.7	.1	3.7	.1	-2.6
May .....	.1	.3	-1.5	.3	3.1	.1	-.1
June .....	.2	-.4	-1.6	.6	3.1	-.3	-2.6
July	-.1	.2	-.5	-.2	3.4	-.1	.4
August	1.3	.8	9.5	.3	5.1	1.3	9.3
September	1.6	-.9	13.8	.6	5.9	1.8	4.6
October	1.1	.9	8.0	0	6.4	1.5	8.7

¹ Data for June 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
October	-0.2	0.8	0.1	3.4	0	0.7	0.1	6.5
November .....	.8	-1.4	-.1	2.8	2.2	.4	-2.5	8.6
December	-.3	1.4	-.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	-1.7	7.1
1990:								
January .....	.2	9.3	.1	2.5	.7	4.8	-.2	5.0
February	-.9	-5.1	-.1	1.4	.6	.4	-.8	5.5
March .....	.4	-1.4	.3	.8	.9	-4.8	1.9	2.3
April	1.1	-.6	.2	.4	-.6	-7.0	2.5	-1.3
May	1.2	-.8	.1	.4	-2.4	1.9	1.1	-1.3
June	-1.1	-.6	-.1	.4	.4	-6.8	-.5	-2.8
July .....	.5	-2.3	.1	.4	.6	0	.4	-2.6
August	-.1	9.6	.3	2.1	-.9	25.5	1.8	9.0
September	-1.5	10.8	.6	3.5	-1.8	12.4	-.1	12.5
October .....	.4	8.4	.4	4.9	1.1	18.7	-1.7	22.0

¹ Data for June 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

The index for finished consumer foods advanced 0.9 percent in October, after falling by the same amount in September. Prices turned up after falling in the previous month for beef and veal, pork, eggs, fresh and dried vegetables, and pasta. In contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for processed chickens and roasted coffee. Prices fell more than in September for fish, dairy products, and shortening and cooking oils.

The Producer Price Index for capital equipment turned down 0.2 percent in October after rising 0.8 percent in the previous month. On an unadjusted basis, motor vehicle prices turned up 6.6 percent after falling 0.8 percent a month earlier; after seasonal adjustment, however, the motor vehicles index turned down. Among other capital goods, the largest advances included civilian aircraft, tools and dies, commercial furniture, and truck trailers. However, prices moved down for ships and agricultural machinery.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components moved up 1.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, following increases of 1.8 percent in September and 1.3 percent in August. Indexes for energy goods advanced strongly, as they had in the previous 2 months. In addition, the index for nondurable manufacturing materials rose substantially for the second consecutive month. Most other major categories showed small increases. (See table B.)

The index for energy goods jumped 8.4 percent. Sizable increases continued for jet fuels, gasoline, diesel fuel, liquefied petroleum gas, and residual fuel. Prices for electric power also rose.

The index for nondurable manufacturing materials moved up 1.3 percent. As in September, a substantial increase was

registered for petrochemicals. Prices also advanced considerably for fertilizer materials, plastic resins and materials, finished fabrics, synthetic rubber, paperboard, paint materials, medicinal chemicals, and inedible fats and oils. However, prices fell for woodpulp, synthetic fibers, gray fabrics, and leather.

Among other intermediate goods, increases were noted for aluminum mill shapes, vegetable-based animal feeds, aircraft parts and equipment, plastic products, and printed materials. Declines were registered, however, for hot rolled steel sheet and strip, softwood lumber, confectionery materials, refined lead and copper, and cheese.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing surged 8.7 percent seasonally adjusted from September to October, preceded by a 4.6-percent rise in September and a 9.3-percent advance in August. The index for crude energy goods rose dramatically for the third consecutive month as crude petroleum prices continued to soar. In addition, prices turned up for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs after falling in each of the 2 prior months. However, the basic industrial materials index dropped much more than in September. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials climbed 18.7 percent following a 12.4-percent advance in September and a 25.5-percent jump in August. After increasing 20.4 percent in September and a record 62.5 percent in August, the crude petroleum index surged 29.5 percent in October, the second largest monthly increase on record for this series. Coal prices rose considerably in October after edging up in September. In contrast, the natural gas index moved down slightly after rising in the prior month.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned up 1.1 percent in August after falling 1.8 percent in September and 0.9 percent in August. Indexes for hay, cattle, and fresh and dried vegetables turned up following a decrease in the month before. Prices for hogs rose considerably more than in September, and soybean prices rose substantially for the fourth consecutive month. In addition, corn and wheat prices fell less than in the previous month. In contrast, fluid milk and unprocessed fin fish moved down substantially more than in the preceding month, and broilers and fryers turned down after moving up in the prior month.

Prices for crude materials other than food and energy dropped 1.7 percent in October after inching down in September. The index for iron and steel scrap declined more than in any other month in over a year, and prices for softwood logs decreased more than in the month before. Indexes for copper ores, leaf tobacco, and silver ores turned down after rising in the preceding month. Copper base scrap prices also fell. After substantial increases in September, prices for uranium, radium, and vanadium ores and for gold ores showed little or no change in October. Aluminum base scrap prices increased less than in the previous month. Indexes for raw cotton and cattle hides fell for the third consecutive month, although

less than in September. Phosphate prices advanced 5.8 percent, the sharpest monthly increase in three and a half years.

Net output price indexes for mining and manufacturing industries

The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector advanced 1.6 percent from September to October. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The two largest increases in October were registered for the petroleum refining industry group (11.7 percent) and the transportation equipment industry group (3.0 percent). Increases in the range of 0.5 to 0.7 percent were recorded for the chemicals, printing and publishing, and rubber and plastic products industry groups. The only sizable decline was a drop of 1.0 percent for the lumber and wood products industry group index. From October 1989 to October 1990, the index for total manufacturing industries moved up 6.6 percent.

The index for total mining industries jumped 11.2 percent over the month and was up 26.7 percent over the last year. The October advance was led by a climb of 15.0 percent in the index for the oil and gas extraction industry group. In contrast, the metal mining group index fell 2.8 percent from September to October.

Price Movements

November 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.5 percent seasonally adjusted from October to November. This followed 3 consecutive monthly advances of more than 1 percent. The rise in the Intermediate Goods Price Index slowed even more, from 1.5 percent in October to 0.1 percent in November. Crude material prices dropped 6.2 percent after an upward surge of 8.7 percent in October. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for energy goods inched up slightly following 3 months of sharply rising prices. Consumer food prices climbed 0.8 percent, almost as much as the month before. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.5 percent after showing no change in October and increasing 0.6 percent in September.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 0.5 percent in November to 122.9 (1982 = 100).

During the 12 months ended in November 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index advanced 7.0 percent. During the same period, consumer food prices rose 4.2 percent, the energy goods index climbed 38.4 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were up 3.6 percent. Prices for intermediate goods increased 5.2 percent from November 1989 to November 1990, and the Crude Goods Price Index was 13.8 percent higher than in the previous year.

Finished goods

After climbing rapidly during each of the 3 previous months, the index for finished energy goods edged up 0.1 percent in November. Prices for gasoline and home heating oil dropped 2.6 and 7.3 percent, respectively, over the month, following advances of 8.0 and 15.0 percent, respectively, in October and even larger increases in September and August. The natural gas index, however, rose 5.0 percent in November after a small decline the month before.

Consumer food prices moved up 0.8 percent in November, about the same as the rise of 0.9 percent in the preceding month. Higher prices were registered in November for fresh and dried vegetables, fish, pork, beef and veal, confectionery end products, and bakery products. Decreases were led by dairy products, processed fruits and vegetables, eggs, and shortening and cooking oils.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.6 percent, following no change in October and a rise of 0.6 percent in September. The index for passenger cars rose 0.3 percent from October to November before seasonal adjustment. This index rose considerably more (1.8 percent) after seasonal adjustment. In addition, the index for tobacco products climbed 3.7 percent seasonally adjusted, much more than in the previous month. Prices for pharmaceutical

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
November	0.1	0.8	-2.9	0.2	4.6	-0.2	0.6
December .....	.6	.7	1.4	.4	4.9	0	1.5
1990:							
January	1.9	2.3	13.7	.2	5.9	1.2	2.2
February	0	.7	-4.5	.3	5.1	-.8	.3
March	-.2	-.5	-2.7	.4	4.5	.1	-1.3
April	-2	-.9	-7	.1	3.7	.1	-2.6
May .....	.1	.3	-1.5	.3	3.1	.1	-.1
June .....	.2	-.4	-1.6	.6	3.1	-.3	-2.6
July .....	.1	.3	0	0	3.6	0	.6
August	1.1	.7	9.0	.2	5.1	1.2	9.1
September	1.6	-.9	13.8	.6	5.9	1.8	4.6
October	1.1	.9	8.0	0	6.4	1.5	8.7
November .....	.5	.8	.1	.5	7.0	.1	-6.2

¹ Data for July 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
November	0.8	-1.4	-0.1	2.8	2.2	0.4	-2.5	8.6
December	-3	1.4	-2	2.3	2.2	2.1	-1.7	7.1
1990:								
January .....	.2	9.3	.1	2.5	.7	4.8	-2	5.0
February	-9	-5.1	-1	1.4	.6	.4	-8	5.5
March .....	.4	-1.4	.3	.8	.9	-4.8	1.9	2.3
April	1.1	-6	.2	.4	-6	-7.0	2.5	-1.3
May	1.2	-8	.1	.4	-2.4	1.9	1.1	-1.3
June	-1.1	-6	-1	.4	.4	-6.8	-5	-2.8
July .....	.4	-1.8	.2	.5	.6	.4	.7	-2.4
August	0	9.0	.2	2.1	-9	25.0	1.5	9.0
September	-1.5	10.8	.6	3.5	-1.8	12.4	-1	12.5
October .....	.4	8.4	.4	4.9	1.1	18.7	-1.7	22.0
November	-1.5	-1	.2	5.2	-1.7	-10.3	-2.3	13.8

¹ Data for July 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

preparations and tires and tubes also rose more than in October, and prices turned up for textile housefurnishings and floor coverings after falling in the month before. In contrast, prices for newspapers and sanitary papers edged up marginally following much larger increases in October, and household glassware prices turned down sharply.

The capital equipment index increased 0.2 percent in November, after a decrease of the same size in October. Prices turned up for passenger cars and agricultural machinery after October declines. In addition, light trucks and machine tools rose more than in October, and the index for oil field machinery advanced following no change in the month before. In contrast, indexes for civilian aircraft, tools and dies, and truck trailers were unchanged in November after substantial October increases, and prices for commercial furniture and heavy trucks edged down following large advances in October.

Intermediate goods

Following increases of about 1.5 percent in each of the 3 previous months, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components edged up 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted. Energy prices dropped slightly after advancing rapidly in each of the 3 preceding months. In addition, prices for food and feeds and for construction materials also turned down following October increases, while the index for durable manufacturing materials fell considerably after showing no change in the previous month. (See table B.)

The index for energy goods turned down 0.1 percent, following an 8.4-percent jump in the previous month. Prices fell for jet fuels and diesel fuel after showing double-digit increases in each of the 3 preceding months. Gasoline prices also turned down after substantial recent rises. Price advances

slowed for liquefied petroleum gas, residual fuel, and electric power.

The index for foods and feeds fell 1.5 percent after moving up 0.4 percent in October. Soybean meal prices were sharply lower following an advance in the previous month. Prices fell faster for crude vegetable oils and natural cheese. On the other hand, declines slowed for corn sweeteners and flour. Butter prices continued to increase.

The index for materials and components for construction edged down 0.1 percent following a 0.3-percent rise in October. Prices fell sharply for nonferrous wire and cable after increasing in the preceding month. Prices for plastic construction products also turned down following an October rise. Price advances slowed for metal valves, heating equipment, and asphalt felts and coatings. Fabricated structural metal products showed no change following an October increase. In contrast, price declines slowed for softwood lumber and plywood. Prices rose faster than in the preceding month for concrete products, plumbing fixtures, and millwork. Prices turned up for wiring devices after dropping in October.

The index for durable manufacturing materials dropped 1.0 percent after showing no change in the preceding month. Prices fell for primary nonferrous metals, aluminum mill shapes, and cold rolled steel sheet and strip after registering advances in October. Prices dropped faster than in the previous month for copper and brass mill shapes and for hardwood lumber. Price advances slowed for cold finished steel bars. However, price declines slowed for hot rolled steel sheet and strip and for plywood. Prices turned up for hot rolled steel bars and plates, building paper and board, and cement after falling in October.

The index for nondurable manufacturing materials rose 1.0 percent after moving up 1.3 percent in the previous month.

Significant increases included plastic resins and materials, industrial chemicals, paint materials, paperboard, nitrogenates, gray fabrics, and synthetic rubber. In contrast, prices fell for woodpulp and finished fabrics.

Among other intermediate goods, increases were noted for agricultural chemicals, electronic components and accessories, and paper bags.

Crude goods

After registering sizable increases in each of the 3 previous months, the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing decreased a record 6.2 percent seasonally adjusted in November, chiefly because of a downturn in energy prices. Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs also turned down after rising in October, and the basic industrial materials index dropped markedly. (See table B.)

Following record or near-record increases over the past 3 months, the index for crude energy materials fell 10.3 percent, the largest decline ever registered for this category. The crude petroleum index dropped 16.1 percent after establishing record advances twice in the preceding 3 months. Coal prices also turned down after rising in October. In contrast, the natural gas index climbed after moving down slightly in the previous month.

The November index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs fell 1.7 percent after a 1.1-percent upturn in October and a 1.8-percent drop in September. Prices for hogs and soybeans turned down following increases in each of the 2 previous months. The hay index rose considerably less than in the preceding month, and corn prices fell much more than in most other recent months. However, the indexes for broilers and fryers and for fluid milk fell less than in the preceding month. Cattle and fresh vegetable prices advanced more than in October. In addition, the unprocessed fin fish and wheat indexes turned up after dropping in October.

Prices for crude materials other than food and energy decreased 2.3 percent in the wake of a drop of 1.7 percent in October. The index for aluminum base scrap turned down after 5 successive monthly increases, and the gold ores index moved down after climbing the previous 3 months. Prices for softwood logs and raw cotton both fell for the fourth time in as many months, and copper base scrap prices declined more than in the month before. Phosphate prices rose much less than in October. In contrast, prices for copper ores and

cattle hides turned up after declining in the prior month. The indexes for iron and steel scrap and for silver ores dropped less than in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for the mining, manufacturing, and services industries

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector edged up 0.1 percent in November after rising 1.6 percent in October and 1.4 percent in both September and August. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The slowdown in price increases in November largely reflected a turnaround for the petroleum refining industry group; this index inched down 0.1 percent in November following 3 months of double-digit advances. Prices also moved down after increasing in October for the primary metals and the food products industry groups.

In addition, the index for the transportation equipment industry group moved up 0.2 percent after rising 3.0 percent the month before, reflecting an easing in price hikes for motor vehicles. Increases in the indexes for the furniture, stone, and miscellaneous manufacturing industry groups also slowed. In contrast, prices for the tobacco manufactures industry group climbed 2.4 percent after edging down in the previous month. Prices increased accelerated for the chemicals and allied products industry group, and prices fell less than in October for the lumber and wood products industry group.

Mining. The index for total mining industries turned down 4.4 percent after surging in each of the previous 3 months. As in the manufacturing sector, the downturn was primarily energy-induced. The index for the oil and gas extraction industry group declined 5.6 percent following 3 months of sharp advances. Prices also turned down after rising a month earlier for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group. In contrast, the metal mining industry group index fell less than in October, and price increases accelerated for both the anthracite and the non-metallic mining industry groups.

Services. Among service industries, indexes for deep sea transportation of freight, scheduled air transportation, travel agencies, and local telephone service all showed significant price increases in November. In contrast, the index for long distance telephone service declined.

Price Movements

December 1990

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.6 percent seasonally adjusted from November to December. The December drop contrasted with a rise of 0.5 percent in November and advances of more than 1 percent in each of the 3 months before that. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods fell 0.9 percent after edging up 0.1 percent in the preceding month and climbing sharply from August through October. Crude material prices decreased 5.4 percent, the second consecutive substantial decline after surging in August, September, and October. (See table A.)

Indexes for energy products were sharply lower at each of the three major stages of processing in December. Food prices turned down considerably at the finished level and showed little change at other stages of processing. Outside the food and energy sectors, prices for finished goods continued to increase moderately, intermediate goods prices edged down slightly, and basic industrial material prices dropped substantially for the third consecutive month.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.8 percent in December to close the year at 121.9 (1982 = 100).

From December 1989 to December 1990, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 5.6 percent, following an advance of 4.9 percent in 1989. Prices for finished energy goods surged 29.8 percent during the year after recording a 9.5-percent climb

in 1989. Consumer food price increases slowed, however, from 5.2 percent in 1989 to 2.5 percent a year later. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy also moderated to an increase of 3.5 percent in 1990 following one of 4.2 percent in 1989. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 4.3 percent in calendar 1990 after moving up 2.3 percent in the previous year. Crude material prices increased 6.0 percent in 1990 in the wake of a 7.1-percent advance 1 year before.

Finished goods

The finished energy goods index moved down 4.8 percent seasonally adjusted from November to December after inching up 0.1 percent in November and climbing 34.1 percent during the 3-month period before that. Gasoline and home heating oil prices both fell more than in November; however, the natural gas index advanced substantially for the second consecutive month. From December 1989 to December 1990, the gasoline index rose 45.2 percent and home heating oil prices advanced 28.1 percent, while the natural gas index showed a net increase of 3.7 percent.

After moving up nearly 1 percent in each of the 2 preceding months, the consumer foods index dropped 0.9 percent in December. The downturn was led by lower prices for fresh

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1989:							
December	0.6	0.7	1.4	0.4	4.9	0	1.5
1990:							
January	1.9	2.3	13.7	.2	5.9	1.2	2.2
February	0	.7	-4.5	.3	5.1	-.8	.3
March	-.2	-.5	-2.7	.4	4.5	.1	-1.3
April	-.2	-.9	-.7	.1	3.7	.1	-2.6
May .....	.1	.3	-1.5	.3	3.1	.1	-.1
June .....	.2	-.4	-1.6	.6	3.1	-.3	-2.6
July .....	.1	.3	0	0	3.6	0	.6
August	1.1	.6	8.7	.2	5.2	1.3	9.2
September	1.6	-.8	14.1	.6	5.9	1.8	4.5
October	1.1	.9	8.0	0	6.4	1.5	8.7
November .....	.5	.8	.1	.5	7.0	.1	-6.2
December	-.6	-.9	-4.8	.3	5.6	-.9	-5.4

¹ Data for August 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1989:								
December	-0.3	1.4	-0.2	2.3	2.2	2.1	-1.7	7.1
1990:								
January .....	.2	9.3	.1	2.5	.7	4.8	-.2	5.0
February	-.9	-5.1	-.1	1.4	.6	.4	-.8	5.5
March .....	.4	-1.4	.3	.8	.9	-4.8	1.9	2.3
April	1.1	-.6	.2	.4	-.6	-7.0	2.5	-1.3
May	1.2	-.8	.1	.4	-2.4	1.9	1.1	-1.3
June	-1.1	-.6	-.1	.4	.4	-6.8	-.5	-2.8
July .....	.4	-1.8	.2	.5	.6	.4	.7	-2.4
August	0	9.0	.3	2.1	-1.1	25.1	1.9	9.0
September	-1.5	10.8	.5	3.5	-1.5	12.3	-.4	12.5
October .....	.4	8.4	.4	4.9	1.1	18.7	-1.7	22.0
November	-1.5	-.1	.2	5.2	-1.7	-10.3	-2.3	13.8
December .....	.2	-5.5	-.2	4.3	-.1	-10.7	-1.8	6.0

¹ Data for August 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

and dried vegetables, pork, and roasted coffee following November increases. In addition, prices for fish, confectionery end products, beef and veal, and fresh fruits rose less than in the preceding month, and processed turkey prices fell much more than in November. Prices for dairy products declined for the fourth consecutive month. In contrast, prices turned up after decreasing in November for eggs, processed chickens, and pasta, and the processed fruits and vegetables index fell considerably less than in the month before.

During 1990 as a whole, the sharpest advances among consumer foods were registered for fish (15.9 percent), pork (12.8 percent), and beef and veal (9.5 percent). In contrast, egg prices were off nearly 12 percent over the year, and indexes for fresh and dried vegetables and for processed turkeys were both down 9.0 percent.

The Producer Price Index for consumer goods other than foods and energy edged up 0.2 percent over the month, after a rise of 0.6 percent a month earlier. The tobacco products index, which jumped 3.7 percent in November, slowed to 0.4 percent in December. The passenger car index was unchanged before seasonal adjustment in December following a small rise in the previous month; after seasonal adjustment, the increase slowed from 1.8 percent in November to 0.9 percent. After rising in November, prices for books, tires and tubes, and home electronic equipment turned down, and mobile homes and textile housefurnishings showed no change. The women's apparel index decreased considerably more than in the preceding month. In contrast, price increases accelerated in December for prescription drugs, cosmetics, and light trucks, and household appliances and lawn and garden equipment turned up after declining in November. Household glassware prices edged down marginally following a much larger decrease in the previous month.

During the last 12 months, the index for consumer goods other than foods and energy rose 3.6 percent. The tobacco products index climbed 12.8 percent, the fourth consecutive annual increase in excess of 10 percent. Among the few other large increases were those for newspapers, prescription drugs, and books, up 9.0, 8.3, and 6.4 percent, respectively. Substantial declines were rare in 1990, led by the drop of 7.7 percent for household glassware.

The capital equipment index moved up 0.4 percent in December after a rise of 0.2 percent in the month before. Higher prices were registered for cars and light trucks, civilian aircraft, agricultural machinery, pumps and compressors, construction machinery, and integrating and measuring instruments. Prices declined, however, for heavy trucks and aeronautical and nautical instruments. Prices for most kinds of capital equipment rose moderately over the year; one of the few exceptions was a rise of nearly 10 percent for metal forming machine tools.

Intermediate goods

After inching up 0.1 percent in November and advancing about 1.5 percent per month in other recent months, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components dropped 0.9 percent, seasonally adjusted. Energy prices dropped sharply after edging down in November, and prices for nondurable manufacturing materials turned down following sizable advances in each of the 3 preceding months. Prices for durable manufacturing materials declined as substantially as in the previous month. Prices turned up, however, for foods and feeds following November declines. (See table B.)

For the 12 months ending in December, the 4.3-percent advance for intermediate materials was led by a 21.8-percent

jump in energy prices. Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials, components for manufacturing, and construction materials also showed increases, while foods and feeds prices declined during 1990.

The index for energy goods fell 5.5 percent in December, following a 0.1-percent decline in the preceding month. Prices turned down for residual fuel, liquefied petroleum gas, and electric power after registering advances in November. Prices dropped faster than in the previous month for jet fuels, gasoline, and diesel fuel. For the 12 months ending in December, most indexes for intermediate petroleum products showed increases between 30 and 50 percent, while electric power rose 3.8 percent for the year.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials turned down 0.2 percent following increases of 1 percent or more in each of the 3 preceding months. Petrochemical prices fell after registering advances in September, October, and November. Prices for paperboard, paint materials, fertilizer materials, and leather also turned down following increases in the previous month. Price advances slowed for synthetic rubber, thermoplastic resins, and grey fabrics. In contrast, prices turned up for finished fabrics after declining a month earlier, and prices rose faster for synthetic fibers. Wood-pulp prices fell less than in November or October. The 12-month increase of 3.8 percent for nondurable manufacturing materials was led by advances of about 20 percent for both nitrogenates and paint materials; leading decreases included woodpulp and paperboard (down 9.3 and 4.4 percent, respectively).

Durable manufacturing material prices dropped 1.2 percent, about the same as in November. Decreases were noted for aluminum mill shapes, copper and brass mill shapes, primary lead and copper, and aluminum extrusion billets. The index for durable manufacturing materials edged down 0.1 percent during 1990 as prices for most items declined moderately. One of the biggest drops was registered for precious metals (19.6 percent), while increases included prepared paint, primary aluminum and copper, and cement.

Prices for foods and feeds turned up 0.2 percent following a 1.5-percent drop in November. Advances were registered for prepared animal feeds, crude vegetable oils, condensed and evaporated milk products, flour, and confectionery materials following declines in the preceding month. Price declines slowed for cheese. In contrast, pork prices turned down after a November advance, beef and veal increases slowed, and fluid milk products fell faster than in the previous month. The 1990 decrease of 1.2 percent for foods and feeds was led by prepared animal feeds, dairy products, and flour, while prices for meats and crude vegetable oils advanced.

The index for construction materials inched up 0.1 percent after moving down 0.1 percent in November. Higher prices for plywood, softwood lumber, millwork, and wiring devices outweighed decreases for nonferrous wire and cable and metal job stampings. During the year 1990, construction materials prices increased 1.5 percent. Although prices for many items rose moderately over the year, plywood

prices fell 8.6 percent, and softwood lumber and gypsum products each decreased more than 5 percent.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing fell 5.4 percent seasonally adjusted from November to December in the wake of a 6.2-percent decline in the prior month. Crude energy prices dropped more than 10 percent for the second consecutive month as crude petroleum prices continued to fall. In contrast, the index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs edged down after a more substantial decline in the preceding month. Prices for basic industrial materials continued to drop substantially. (See table B.)

Rising for the fourth consecutive year, prices for materials at the crude stage of processing climbed more slowly (6.0 percent) over the year than in 1989 (7.1 percent). Crude foodstuff and feedstuff prices turned down 3.6 percent in 1990 after registering three successive annual increases. In contrast, the energy goods index advanced nearly 20 percent for the second consecutive year. The index for crude nonfood materials less energy turned up 0.4 percent over the last 12 months after moving down 3.6 percent in 1989.

In December, the index for crude energy materials dropped 10.7 percent, topping November's record decline for this category. Crude petroleum prices fell considerably for the second month after record and near-record increases only a few months earlier. The crude petroleum index registered a 32.9-percent over-the-year increase in the wake of a 35-percent jump in 1989. The natural gas index rose more than in November.

Crude foodstuff and feedstuff prices inched down 0.1 percent after a 1.7-percent decline in the preceding month. After falling sharply the month before, soybean prices turned up to register the fifth advance in the last 6 months. Corn prices advanced after decreasing for 5 consecutive months. In addition, the index for live chickens moved up substantially, and the fluid milk index fell less than in the prior month. After increasing in the previous month, however, the indexes for hay, fresh and dried vegetables, and wheat turned down. In addition, increases in the indexes for cattle, unprocessed fin fish, and fresh fruits slowed, and the hogs index fell much more than in the preceding month. (The California freeze occurred after the December pricing date for fresh fruits and vegetables.) From December 1989 to December 1990, prices for wheat, fluid milk, and hay were sharply lower, while the unprocessed fin fish index soared.

Prices for crude materials other than food and energy declined 1.8 percent after falling 2.3 percent in November. The indexes for softwood logs, copper base scrap, and aluminum base scrap also moved down less than in the prior month. In addition, prices for wastepaper and raw cotton turned up after November decreases. However, the indexes for copper ores, cattle hides, leaf tobacco, and phosphates receded after advancing in the month before. Prices for uranium, radium, and vanadium ores fell dramatically after

remaining unchanged in the 2 previous months. Prices also declined faster than in November for iron and steel scrap and for silver ores. During the last 12 months, raw cotton prices climbed 12.4 percent, but indexes for silver ores, wastepaper, and cattle hides each fell more than 10 percent.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector turned down 0.8 percent in December after inching up in November. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The December reversal was dominated by the petroleum refining industry group, which fell 8.9 percent; this index inched down 0.1 percent in the previous month following 3 months of double-digit advances. Other declines in December included the primary metal industries industry group index, which fell 0.9 percent after a drop of 1.1 percent in November, and the food and kindred products group industry index, which fell 0.3 percent for the second consecutive month. In contrast, the tobacco products industry group index rose 2.5 percent, about the same as a month earlier. Industry group indexes also increased in December for chemicals and allied products and rubber and miscellaneous plastic products.

For the calendar year ended in December 1990, the Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector advanced 5.6 percent, compared to a 4.3-percent

rise in all of 1989. The petroleum refining industry group index jumped nearly 40 percent from December 1989 to December 1990, following a rise of about 14 percent a year earlier. Most other manufacturing industry indexes showed moderate annual increases; however, the primary metal industries and lumber and wood products industry groups each declined slightly less than 1.0 percent.

Mining. The index for total mining industries fell 5.0 percent in December following a 4.4-percent decline in November. In recent months, changes in this index closely mirrored price movements for the petroleum refining industry index. Prices fell sharply in December for both the metal mining (7.4 percent) and the oil and gas extraction (6.5 percent) industry groups. For all of 1990, the total mining industries index advanced about 13 percent, compared to about 10 percent in 1989.

Services. Among service industries, declines were noted for the industry group indexes for domestic and foreign deep sea transportation of freight, air courier services, travel agencies, and scrap and waste materials. Each of these industries showed annual increases of about 10 percent or more, except for the scrap and waste materials industry, which rose only slightly. In contrast, increases were registered in December for the scheduled air transportation and for the radio and broadcasting industry group indexes; these indexes were 23.7 and 6.4 percent higher than a year earlier.

Improvements in the PPI Sample

Two major improvements in the PPI sample will be implemented on February 15, 1991, when the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases Producer Price Index data for January 1991.

Computers. Monthly indexes for electronic computers will be introduced for the first time into the Producer Price Index. BLS has been publishing experimental price indexes for computers on a quarterly basis for the past 2 years; based on experience gained during this period, the Bureau is now prepared to integrate indexes for computers into the PPI system. These data will appear as industry code 3571 in table 5 of this periodical and as commodity code 11-51 in table 6. These series will be allocated between the consumer goods and the capital equipment portions of the Finished Goods Price Index. Table 13, showing experimental price indexes for computers, will be discontinued. For more information on these experimental indexes, see "New price index for the computer industry" by James Sinclair and Brian Catron, in the October 1990 issue of the *Monthly Labor Review*.

Energy. Among energy-producing industries, indexes for the residential sector for electricity and natural gas utilities will be introduced. Indexes for residential gas and electricity will become part of the Finished Goods Price Index. The intermediate energy goods category will also be expanded to include indexes for commercial gas, industrial gas, and natural gas to electric utilities. The present series for commercial and industrial power will continue to be published, including regional data. The present index for natural gas for pipe lines (commodity code 05-31) will be allocated entirely to the crude energy goods category. Industry codes 1311 (Crude petroleum and natural gas) and 1321 (Natural gas liquids) will continue to appear in table 5. Data for the electric and natural gas utilities industry will also appear in table 5 as industry code 4981.

For further information on the electronic computer industry group, contact James Sinclair at (202) 272-5052; for information on the improvements for gas and electric utilities, contact Maria Caswell or Bryan Moser at (202) 272-5127.

Price Movements

January 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.1 percent seasonally adjusted from December to January. The index declined 0.6 percent in December after rising 0.4 percent in November. The Intermediate Goods Price Index dropped 0.5 percent over the month, somewhat less than its decrease of 0.8 percent the month before. After falling more than 5 percent in each of the last 2 months, the Crude Goods Price Index turned up 2.6 percent. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the energy index continued to decline, although by considerably less than in the preceding month. Consumer food prices declined slightly for the second consecutive month. The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy increased substantially following no change in December and a sizable November advance. Capital equipment prices rose about as much as in other recent months.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Finished Goods Price Index was unchanged in January at 121.9 (1982=100). During the 12 months ended in January 1991, this index moved up 3.7 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices edged up 0.6 percent, the energy goods index climbed 12.7 percent, and the index for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 3.8 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods were 2.6 percent higher than in January 1990, and crude material prices were 6.9 percent higher than a year earlier.

Finished goods

The index for finished energy goods moved down 2.5 percent seasonally adjusted from December to January, following a decrease of 4.7 percent a month earlier. Prices for home heating oil declined 6.2 percent in the wake of a drop of nearly 10 percent in December, but gasoline prices fell even more (10.0 percent) than the month before (8.6 percent). The index for residential electric power climbed 2.5 percent seasonally adjusted, and the series for residential gas moved up 0.3 percent after seasonal adjustment. (See "Resampling of Industries," page 4, for information about improvements in indexes for residential electric power and gas.)

Consumer food prices edged down 0.3 percent following a decline of 0.5 percent in December. Meats and fresh and dried vegetables accounted for most of the January decrease. Prices also fell for fluid milk products, processed fruits and vegetables, and roasted coffee. These declines more than offset higher prices for fresh fruits, bakery products, candy and nuts, soft drinks, and eggs.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy advanced 0.8 percent over the month after showing no change in December and climbing 0.7 percent the month before that. Prices received by producers of alcoholic beverages jumped a record 5.9 percent; this surge coincided with a boost in

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
January	1.7	1.6	12.3	0.2	5.9	1.1	2.1
February	-1	1.0	-4.8	.3	5.1	-.7	.3
March	-.1	-.5	-2.7	.4	4.5	0	-1.7
April	-1	-.6	1	.2	3.7	1	-2.5
May .....	.3	.4	-.6	.5	3.1	1	.3
June	0	-.2	-.7	.2	3.1	-.1	-2.4
July .....	.3	.5	1	.3	3.6	0	.4
August	1.1	.6	9.1	.2	5.2	1.3	9.1
September	1.3	-.5	11.3	.3	6.0	1.6	4.9
October	1.2	.6	9.1	.2	6.4	1.6	8.2
November .....	.4	.2	.2	.5	7.0	1	-5.9
December	-.6	-.5	-4.7	.2	5.6	-.8	-5.5
1991							
January	-.1	-.3	-2.5	.5	3.7	-.5	2.6

Note: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously reported because seasonal adjustment factors have been recalculated to reflect developments during 1990. In addition, data for September 1990 have

have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
January	0.1	8.3	0.1	2.5	0.4	4.8	-0.3	5.0
February	-5	-5.3	-1	1.4	.6	.4	-.5	5.5
March .....	.4	-1.6	.3	.8	.1	-4.8	1.8	2.3
April .....	.9	0	.1	.4	0	-7.0	2.2	-1.3
May	1.0	-.6	.2	.4	-1.7	1.9	1.1	-1.3
June	-.6	-.4	-.1	.4	.7	-6.8	-.1	-2.8
July	0	-1.8	.2	.5	.4	4	.6	-2.4
August	-.2	9.3	.2	2.1	-1.2	25.1	1.8	9.0
September	-1.0	9.8	.5	3.5	-1.2	13.0	-.9	12.7
October	-.1	9.2	.3	4.9	.5	18.0	-1.4	22.0
November	-1.2	-.1	.2	5.2	-1.2	-10.3	-2.2	13.8
December .....	.2	-5.0	-.1	4.3	-.7	-10.7	-1.6	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-3.2	.1	2.6	-1.5	6.3	.3	6.9

Note: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously reported. See table A.

Federal excise taxes, which are not included, by definition, in the Producer Price Index. The passenger car and light trucks indexes were up moderately before seasonal adjustment (0.2 and 0.7 percent, respectively); after seasonal adjustment, these indexes rose 2.0 and 1.3 percent, respectively, much more than in December. Prices for soaps and synthetic detergents, household appliances, and over-the-counter drugs also increased more than in the previous month, and prices for books, children's apparel, and gold jewelry turned up following December declines. The prescription drugs index climbed 1.0 percent for the second consecutive month. In contrast, indexes for floor coverings, home electronic equipment, household glassware, and household flatware turned down.

The capital equipment index rose 0.3 percent in January, the same as in the prior month. Advances were led by motor vehicles, communications equipment, special industry machinery, commercial furniture, pumps and compressors, metal cutting machine tools, and mining machinery. In contrast, the index for electronic computers declined 1.8 percent, and the ships index also moved down. (See "Resampling of Industries," page 4, for information on the introduction of computers into the Producer Price Index. The Finished Goods Price Index would still have declined 0.1 percent in January even without the introduction of the computers index.)

Intermediate goods

After dropping 0.8 percent in December and inching up 0.1 percent in November, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components moved down 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prices fell for energy goods, manufacturing materials, and foods and feeds. (See table B.)

The index for energy goods dropped 3.2 percent, following declines of 5.0 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively, in December and November. Gasoline, jet fuels, diesel fuel, and residual fuel all dropped at least 10 percent during January. Liquefied petroleum gas also showed a sizable decline. Prices jumped nearly 3 percent, however, for both commercial and industrial electric power. The indexes for natural gas for commercial, industrial, and electric utility users also rose.

Prices for foods and feeds turned down 1.3 percent following a 0.2-percent rise in December. Prices for prepared animal feeds, beef and veal, crude vegetable oils, flour, confectionery materials, and butter fell after rising in the previous month. Price declines slowed, however, for fluid milk products. Price increases accelerated for condensed and evaporated milk, and cheese prices turned up.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials dropped 0.5 percent, somewhat more than the 0.2-percent decline in the preceding month. Substantial decreases were registered for woodpulp and phosphates. Declines were also observed for paperboard, paint materials, broadwoven gray fabrics, nitrogenates, synthetic fibers, synthetic rubber, leather, ethylene oxide, phenol, and toluene. In contrast, prices advanced for medicinal chemicals, synthetic yarns, inedible fats and oils, and formaldehyde.

Prices for durable manufacturing materials dropped 0.5 percent following slightly larger declines in each of the 2 preceding months. Prices fell substantially for copper and brass mill shapes, for primary aluminum, lead, and zinc, and for refined lead. Price declines were also noted for aluminum mill shapes, plywood, hot rolled steel bars, semifinished steel mill products, primary copper, and hardwood lumber. In contrast, prices advanced for hot rolled steel sheets, prepared paint, cement, particleboard, gold, and silver.

Among other industrial goods, increases were registered for printed materials and miscellaneous general purpose equipment.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned up 2.6 percent seasonally adjusted from December to January following a 5.5-percent drop in the previous month and an ebb of 5.9 percent in the month before that. Prices for crude energy materials and basic industrial materials moved up after recent declines. The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index fell more than in either of the 2 prior months. (See table B.)

In January, the index for crude energy materials rose 6.3 percent after dropping more than 10 percent in each of the last 2 months of 1990. The crude petroleum index climbed 11.3 percent following decreases of 18.9 and 16.1 percent in December and November, respectively. The natural gas index, however, moved up less than in either of the 2 previous months.

The crude nonfood materials less energy index rose 0.3 percent following four consecutive monthly decreases. Softwood log prices turned up 2.7 percent following 5 months of waning prices. After double-digit declines in the preceding month, the indexes for copper ores and for uranium, radium, and vanadium ores did not change. In addition, aluminum base scrap and cattle hide prices moved down less than in the previous month. In contrast, price declines for iron and steel scrap accelerated. The index for raw cotton moved down in January after a December increase and a drop in each of the 4 months before that. The phosphates index also turned down after rising 6 consecutive months. Advances for wastepaper, construction sand and gravel, and copper base scrap slowed, showing little change during the month, and the index for silver ores fell 28.3 percent after a drop of nearly 10 percent in the prior month.

Crude foodstuff and feedstuff prices moved down 1.5 percent during the first month of 1991 after a 0.7-percent decline at the end of 1990 and a 1.2-percent drop in November. Cattle prices fell following a month of stability, and soybean prices turned down after a December increase. Advances in corn and live chicken prices decelerated. The wheat index fell for the seventh consecutive month, and the index for fresh and dried vegetables fell much more sharply after seasonal adjustment than in December. In contrast, the hog and hay indexes turned up after dropping considerably in the previous

month, and fresh fruit prices moved up after declining 5 months in succession. The price of fluid milk declined less in January than in any of the 4 preceding months, and the live turkeys index inched down after a decline of nearly 20 percent in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector fell 0.3 percent in January following a 0.8-percent decline in December. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) A drop of 8.4 percent in the index for the petroleum refining industry group outweighed increases for most other manufacturing industry groups; the only other decrease was registered for primary metal industries indexes, which edged down slightly (0.1 percent).

In January the largest increase was for the printing and publishing industry group (1.7 percent). The industry groups for chemicals and allied products, measuring and controlling instruments, stone, clay, glass, and concrete products, tobacco manufactures, and for rubber and plastics products all rose about 0.8 percent. Advances of 0.5 percent were recorded for the industry groups for furniture and fixtures, electrical and electronic machinery, and for miscellaneous manufacturing industries.

Mining. The index for total mining industries advanced 4.5 percent in January after falling in both December (5.0 percent) and November (4.4 percent). Prices turned up after decreasing a month earlier for the oil and gas extraction industry group (5.8 percent vs.-6.5 percent) and for the nonmetallic minerals industry group (0.7 percent vs.-0.3 percent). In addition, price increases accelerated somewhat for the bituminous coal industry group. In contrast, prices for the metal mining industry group fell (1.9 percent) for the fourth consecutive month, but much less than in December (7.4 percent).

Services. Among service industries, price increases were registered for the industry group indexes for deep-sea transportation of freight, electric power and gas utilities, wholesaling of scrap and waste metals, and tour operators. In contrast, declines were noted for radio broadcasting, travel agencies, and scheduled air cargo transportation.

Price Movements

February 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.6 percent seasonally adjusted from January to February. The February decrease, which followed drops of 0.1 percent in January and 0.6 percent in December, was largely due to a substantial decline in energy prices. The Intermediate Goods Price Index fell 0.7 percent, the third consecutive substantial monthly decline. Following a rise of 2.6 percent in January, crude material prices turned down 8.2 percent, even larger than the decreases registered in December and November (See table A.)

Sharply lower prices for energy accounted for most of the February declines at each of the three major stages of processing. Food prices showed relatively little change. Outside of the food and energy sectors, the index for finished goods moved up 0.4 percent, a little less than in January. Basic industrial commodity prices also rose less than the month before, while prices for intermediate goods other than foods and energy edged down.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods decreased 0.6 percent in February to 121.2 (1982=100). From February 1990 to February 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up 3.2 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices

inched down 0.2 percent, the index for finished energy goods climbed 12.6 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced 3.8 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved up 2.7 percent from February 1990 to February 1991, while the Crude Goods Price Index decreased 2.2 percent.

Finished goods

The index for finished energy goods fell 5.1 percent in February seasonally adjusted, after declining 2.5 percent in the preceding month and 4.7 percent in December. Much of the larger February drop was due to the residential electric power index, which turned down following a sizable advance in January. The residential gas index also decreased after rising a month earlier. In addition, gasoline and home heating oil prices fell more than in January.

After easing down slightly in both January and December, prices for finished consumer foods inched up 0.2 percent in February. Increases were led by fresh fruits and vegetables, soft drinks, candy and nuts, cheese, pork, and processed turkeys. The most significant declines were recorded for eggs, beef and veal, pasta, and fluid milk products.

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods						Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Intermediate goods	Crude goods			
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	+	+						
	+	+	+	+								
1990:												
February	-0.1	1.0	-4.8	0.3			5.1	-0.7	0.3			
March	-1	.5	-2.7	4			4.5	0	-1.7			
April	-1	.6	1	.2			3.7	1	-2.5			
May	3	.4	.6	5			3.1	1	.3			
June	0	.2	-7	.2			3.1	-1	-2.4			
July	3	.5	1	3			3.6	0	.4			
August	1.1	.6	9.1	2			5.2	1.3	9.1			
September	1.3	-.5	11.3	3			6.0	1.6	4.9			
October	1.2	.6	9.1	2			6.4	1.6	8.5			
November	4	.2	.2	.5			7.0	1	-6.1			
December	-.6	-.5	-4.7	.2			5.6	-.8	-5.5			
1991												
January	-1	-.3	-2.5	5			3.7	-.5	2.6			
February	-.6	.2	-5.1	.4			3.2	-.7	-8.2			

Data for October 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
February	-0.5	-5.3	-0.1	1.4	0.6	0.4	-0.5	5.5
March .....	.4	-1.6	.3	.8	.1	-4.8	1.8	2.3
April .....	.9	0	.1	.4	0	-7.0	2.2	-1.3
May	1.0	-.6	.2	.4	-1.7	1.9	1.1	-1.3
June	-.6	-.4	-.1	.4	.7	-6.8	-.1	-2.8
July	0	-1.8	.2	.5	.4	.4	.6	-2.4
August	-.2	9.3	.2	2.1	-1.2	25.1	1.8	9.0
September	-1.0	9.8	.5	3.5	-1.2	13.0	-.9	12.7
October	-.1	9.4	.3	5.0	.3	18.8	-1.4	22.2
November	-1.2	-.3	.2	5.2	-.9	-10.9	-2.2	13.8
December .....	.2	-5.0	-.1	4.3	-.7	-10.7	-1.6	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-3.2	.1	2.6	-1.5	6.3	.3	6.9
February	1.6	-4.1	-.1	2.7	0	-15.9	.2	-2.2

¹ Data for October 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy advanced 0.5 percent over the month, following a climb of 0.8 percent in January. Prices received by domestic producers of alcoholic beverages, which climbed a record 5.9 percent in January, decreased 1.0 percent in February. Prices for books and for soaps and detergents showed little or no change in February after surging nearly 2 percent higher in January. Motor vehicles and over-the-counter drugs rose much less than in the preceding month, and indexes for household appliances, gold jewelry, and children's apparel turned down following January increases. In contrast, prices for floor coverings, home electronic equipment, and household glassware turned up after falling in January, and women's apparel prices advanced considerably following no change the month before. The index for prescription drugs moved up 1.0 percent for the third consecutive month.

The capital equipment index increased 0.2 percent from January to February, about as much as in other recent months. Higher prices for motor vehicles, agricultural machinery and equipment, and aircraft more than offset a drop in computer prices.

Intermediate goods

After moving down 0.5 percent in January and 0.8 percent in December, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components fell 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted. Prices dropped for energy goods and manufacturing materials, while prices for foods and feeds advanced. (See table B.)

The index for energy goods dropped 4.1 percent, following declines of 3.2 and 5.0 percent in January and December. As in each of the preceding 2 months, there were substantial declines for gasoline, liquefied petroleum gas, jet fuels, diesel fuel, and residual fuel. Prices for utility natural gas and commercial electric power also fell. In contrast, prices advanced for industrial electric power.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials decreased 0.9 percent after a 0.5-percent decline in January. Prices were lower for petrochemicals, thermoplastic resins, fertilizer materials, paperboard, synthetic rubber, and synthetic yarns. In addition, prices for inedible fats and oils moved down 9.4 percent. Prices for nylon and aramid fibers, however, climbed more than 10 percent. The index for durable manufacturing materials dropped 0.2 percent following larger declines in each of the 4 preceding months. Prices fell for aluminum mill shapes, hot rolled steel, primary copper and lead, precious metals, and flat glass.

Prices for foods and feeds turned up 1.6 percent following a 1.3-percent decline in January. This was due chiefly to an upturn in prices for prepared animal feeds. Crude vegetable oils, pork, flour, and confectionery materials also rose after falling in the previous month. Cheese prices advanced more than in January, and price declines slowed for beef and veal. Price increases slowed, however, for condensed and evaporated milk.

Among other industrial goods, decreases were noted for softwood lumber, secondary nonferrous metals, converted paper and paperboard products, and plywood. Prices rose for general-purpose equipment and electronic components.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing registered a record decline of 8.2 percent from January to February seasonally adjusted. Prices for crude energy materials dropped nearly 16 percent, also a record for this series. The index for crude materials other than food and energy rose slightly less than in the previous month. Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs, however, remained unchanged after falling in the preceding month. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials turned down 15.9 percent in February; even though this was the third substantial decline in the past 4 months, this index was still almost 20 percent higher than its July level. The crude petroleum index continued to revert towards its pre-Gulf crisis level with a drop of 27.7 percent, the largest 1-month decrease since an equivalent decline in March 1986. After rising in each of the 3 previous months, the natural gas index moved down 5.7 percent. In addition, a slight decline in coal prices followed 2 months of advances.

In February, basic industrial material prices rose 0.2 percent after a 0.3-percent increase in January. After rising the month before, softwood log prices inched down and gold ore prices moved down moderately. The indexes for copper ores and cattle hides each fell 3.5 percent after showing no change or a smaller decline, respectively, in January. Leaf tobacco prices rose more slowly, and the pulpwood logs index did not change after increasing in the preceding month. In contrast, the raw cotton index surged 9.9 percent after declining in 5 of the 6 previous months. The copper base scrap and wastepaper indexes each climbed about 3 percent after registering slight increases the month before. In addition, the price of construction sand and gravel rose considerably more than in any other recent month. The silver ores index turned up 8.7 percent following a decrease of 28.3 percent in Jauaay. The phosphate index and the index for aluminum base scrap each fell less than in the prior month.

Following decreases in 5 of the 6 preceding months, the index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs did not change in February. Prices for soybeans, fresh and dried vegetables, and live turkeys turned up after dropping in the month prior. The indexes for both wheat and fluid milk moved up after decreasing for the past 6 months. The hogs index advanced more than in the previous month. In contrast, the broilers and fryers index and the hay index each turned down after a January increase. Price increases slowed for fresh fruits, corn, and unprocessed fin fish. The raw cane sugar index decreased for the third consecutive month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 11.8 percent in February after rising 4.5 percent in January. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The February decline almost matched the combined decreases for November and December. Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned down 15.6 percent after rising 5.8 percent a month earlier. The index for bituminous coal and lignite mining also fell after increasing in January. For the fifth consecutive month, prices for the metal mining industry group fell; the 1.8-percent drop was about the same as a month earlier. In contrast, prices continued to rise modestly for the nonmetallic industry group. In February, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 80.7 (December 1984 = 100), a dip of 0.5 percent from February 1990.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries declined 0.6 percent, twice as much as in January. The index for the petroleum refining industry group fell 8.8 percent, the third consecutive large monthly decrease. The index for primary metal industries fell 0.5 percent, somewhat faster than a month earlier. The index for nonmetallic mineral products edged down after increasing in January. Price increases slowed significantly for some industry groups, including printing and publishing (0.4 vs. 1.7 percent); chemicals and allied products (0.2 vs. 0.9 percent); rubber and plastic products (0.2 vs. 0.7 percent); measuring and controlling instruments (0.3 vs. 0.8 percent); and tobacco manufactures (0.1 vs. 0.8 percent). Prices for most other industry groups also rose less in February than in January; one of the few exceptions was the apparel and textile mill products industry group, where price increases accelerated. In February, the Producer Price Index for total manufacturing industries was 116.2 (December 1984 = 100), 3.6 percent higher than 12 months earlier.

Services. The index for the U.S. Postal Service jumped 19.5 percent; hikes ranged from 2.6 percent for fourth class library rate mail to 30.9 percent for second class nonprofit rate mail. Other increases included wastepaper wholesaling (2.9 percent), tour operators (2.5 percent), and domestic deep sea transportation of freight (2.2 percent). Declines were registered, however, for air transportation (1.9 percent), natural gas (1.7 percent), radio broadcasting (1.4 percent), foreign deep sea transportation of freight (0.5 percent), and commercial power (0.4 percent).

Price Movements

March 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.3 percent seasonally adjusted from February to March. This decline followed a decrease of 0.6 percent in February and marked the fourth consecutive monthly drop. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods fell 1.0 percent in March, more than in any of the 3 preceding months. The Crude Goods Price Index moved down 3.2 percent, after dropping 8.2 percent in the month before. (See table A.)

The increase in the index for finished goods other than foods and energy, which had registered increases averaging 0.4 percent during the previous 4 months, slowed to a rise of 0.2 percent in March. The energy goods index moved down for the fourth consecutive month, although by not as much as in February. Food prices rose slightly for the second consecutive month.

From December 1990 to March 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index decreased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.9 percent. In contrast, this index advanced at an annual rate of 4.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 1990 and at a rate of 11.3 percent in the third. The downturn in the first quarter was mostly due to a reversal in energy prices. The consumer foods index showed relatively little change for the fourth consecutive quarter. The increase in the index for finished goods other than foods and energy accelerated moderately from an

annual rate of 3.5 percent in each of the last two quarters of 1990 to 4.4 percent in the first quarter of this year.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.5 percent in March to 120.6 (1982 = 100). During the 12 months ended in March 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 2.9 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices edged up 0.6 percent, the energy goods index climbed 11.8 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were up 3.7 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index was 1.7 percent higher than a year ago, while crude material prices declined 3.8 percent over the year.

Finished goods

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy edged up 0.2 percent in March, much less than in either February (0.5 percent) or January (0.8 percent). Nevertheless, for the first quarter as a whole, this index accelerated from a 3.1-percent annual rate of increase in the fourth quarter of 1990 to a rate of 5.6 percent. The March slowdown was broad-based. After substantial increases in February, indexes for passenger cars and women's apparel rose much more slowly, and indexes for prescription and over-the-counter drugs, floor coverings, lawn and garden equipment,

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
March	-0.1	-0.5	-2.7	0.4	4.5	0	-1.7
April	-1	-6	.1	.2	3.7	.1	-2.5
May .....	.3	.4	-.6	.5	3.1	.1	.3
June	0	-2	-.7	.2	3.1	-.1	-2.4
July .....	.3	.5	.1	.3	3.6	0	.4
August	1.1	.6	9.1	.2	5.2	1.3	9.1
September	1.3	-.5	11.3	.3	6.0	1.6	4.9
October	1.2	.6	9.1	.2	6.4	1.6	8.5
November .....	.4	.1	.2	.5	7.0	.2	-6.2
December	-.6	-.3	-4.7	.2	5.6	-.8	-5.4
1991:							
January	-.1	-.3	-2.5	.5	3.7	-.5	2.6
February	-.6	.2	-5.1	.4	3.2	-.7	-8.2
March	-.3	.2	-3.2	.2	2.9	-1.0	-3.2

¹ Data for November 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
March	0.4	-1.6	0.3	0.8	0.1	-4.8	1.8	2.3
April .....	.9	0	.1	.4	0	-7.0	2.2	-1.3
May	1.0	-6	.2	.4	-1.7	1.9	1.1	-1.3
June	-6	-4	-.1	.4	.7	-6.8	-.1	-2.8
July	0	-1.8	.2	.5	.4	.4	.6	-2.4
August	-2	9.3	.2	2.1	-1.2	25.1	1.8	9.0
September	-1.0	9.8	.5	3.5	-1.2	13.0	-.9	12.7
October	-.1	9.4	.3	5.0	.3	18.8	-1.4	22.2
November	-1.2	-2	.3	5.3	-1.0	-11.0	-2.3	13.7
December .....	.2	-5.1	-.2	4.3	-.6	-10.6	-1.4	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-3.2	.1	2.6	-1.5	6.3	.3	6.9
February	1.6	-4.1	-.1	2.7	0	-15.9	.2	-2.2
March .....	.9	-5.0	-.4	1.7	1.2	-7.3	-1.1	-3.8

¹ Data for November 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

and home electronic equipment turned down. Prices for soaps and detergents and for alcoholic beverages also decreased. Prices turned up following February declines, however, for footwear, sanitary papers, toys and games, and tires and tubes. In addition, indexes for tobacco products and newspapers rose more on a seasonally adjusted basis than in the preceding month.

The index for finished energy goods fell 3.2 percent seasonally adjusted in March, after decreasing 5.1 percent in February and 2.5 percent in January. During the first quarter of 1991, this index slumped at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 35.4 percent; in contrast, this index rose at a rate of 17.7 percent from September through December 1990 after surging at an annual rate of 118.7 percent during the third quarter. In March, gasoline price decreases slowed to 5.8 percent following double-digit drops in both February and January. In addition, the index for residential gas also moved down less than in February. By contrast, however, the index for home heating oil dropped 16.5 percent, considerably more than in other recent months.

The index for finished consumer foods inched up 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month. These prices moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.6 percent in the first quarter, less than the rate of 1.3 percent recorded in the final quarter of last year. In March, advances for eggs, pork, bakery products, dairy products, fresh fruits, and pasta outweighed lower prices for processed chickens, candy and nuts, fresh and dried vegetables, beef and veal, roasted coffee, and processed fruits and vegetables.

The capital equipment index also moved up 0.2 percent, the same as in February. Increases in March were led by ships, light trucks, tools and dies, and oilfield machinery and

equipment. Significant decreases included computers, heavy trucks, and telephone and telegraph apparatus. From December 1990 to March 1991, the capital equipment index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.2 percent, about the same as in most other recent calendar quarters.

Intermediate goods

After falling an average of about 0.7 percent in each of the 3 preceding months, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components fell 1.0 percent in March, seasonally adjusted. Prices again dropped for energy goods and manufacturing materials, while prices for foods and feeds continued to advance. (See table B.)

For the quarter ending in March, intermediate prices fell at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 8.6 percent, the steepest rate of decline in 5 years. This turnaround was prompted by a sizable downturn in energy prices and declines for both nondurable and durable manufacturing materials. Food and feed prices, however, turned up, and prices for construction materials continued to rise slightly.

In March, the index for energy goods dropped 5.0 percent, following a decline of 4.1 percent in the preceding month. Prices fell markedly for diesel fuel and residual fuel. Prices declined for gasoline, jet fuels, and liquefied petroleum gas for the fifth time in as many months. The index for utility natural gas also fell. In contrast, prices advanced for industrial electric power.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials fell 1.7 percent following a drop of 0.9 percent in February. Prices fell faster than in the previous month for industrial chemicals, plant materials, paperboard, woodpulp, plastic resins and

materials, and leather. In addition, synthetic fiber prices turned down after rising in February. On the other hand, price declines slowed for inedible fats and oils, while prices turned up for synthetic yarns and phosphates after decreasing in the preceding month.

After dropping 0.2 percent in February, the index for durable manufacturing materials fell 0.8 percent, making the March decline the sixth decline in as many months. Prices turned down after rising or showing no change in the previous month for copper and brass mill shapes, primary aluminum and zinc, cold rolled steel sheet and strip, and cold finished steel bars. However, prices rose following February declines for plywood, hot rolled steel sheet and strip, primary copper, prepared paint, silver, flat glass, and building paper and board. Gold prices fell much less than in the preceding month. Lead prices remained unchanged after falling substantially for 5 consecutive months.

The index for foods and feeds rose 0.9 percent after increasing 1.6 percent in February. Higher prices for prepared animal feeds and flour accounted for most of the March advance. Among other intermediate goods, decreases were noted for photographic supplies.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing fell 3.2 percent seasonally adjusted from February to March after dropping 8.2 percent the preceding month. After a more substantial decline in the previous month, price decreases for crude energy materials slowed. The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose after showing no change in the month before. The index for crude materials other than food and energy, however, turned down following small increases in February and January. (See table B.)

During the first quarter, the index for materials at the crude stage of processing dropped at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 30.9 percent, compared with a 14.4-percent rate of decrease in the fourth quarter of last year. Crude petroleum prices accounted for the bulk of the dramatic price changes for crude materials over the past 8 months. By the end of the first quarter, the crude goods index had returned to its pre-Gulf-crisis level as petroleum prices retreated rapidly.

The index for crude energy goods declined 7.3 percent in March in the wake of a drop of 15.9 percent in February. This index slumped at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 52.7 percent from December to March after falling at a rate of about 20 percent in the previous quarter. The crude petroleum index moved down 15.8 percent in March, about half as much as in the previous month. The March index for natural gas also continued to recede following a more sizable decline in the preceding month. The coal index dropped more than in the month before.

Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs climbed 1.2 percent in March after remaining constant in February and decreasing 1.5 percent in January. The net result was a first quarter decline at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.1 percent, less than in any of the three preceding quarters. Cattle

prices turned up in March following declines in February and January. Corn and fluid milk prices rose considerably more than in the month before. Price decreases for live chickens slowed somewhat. In contrast, the hay index declined more emphatically, falling 11.1 percent in March after a 3.7-percent drop in February. Price increases slowed for soybeans, hogs, live turkeys, wheat, and fresh fruits. Prices turned down for lambs and fresh and dried vegetables after February advances, and the unprocessed fin fish index dropped following 4 months of rising prices.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy turned down 1.1 percent following slight increases in each of the 2 previous months. In the first quarter of 1991, the decline in the basic industrial materials index slowed to an annual rate of 2.4 percent after recording an 18.5-percent rate of decrease in the prior quarter. The raw cotton index did not change in March after surging nearly 10 percent in February. Uranium, radium, and vanadium ore prices moved down after showing no change for 2 months. After increasing in the prior month, prices for copper base scrap, construction sand and gravel, wastepaper, and silver ores turned down. In addition, indexes for aluminum base scrap, cattle hides, and lead and zinc ores fell more than in the month before. Indexes for iron and steel scrap and for copper ores, however, fell less than in February.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 5.0 percent in March, much less than in February (11.8 percent). (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) For the 3 months ended in March, this index fell at a 41.2-percent annual rate, in sharp contrast to its skyrocketing advances during the latter part of 1990. In March, prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group declined 6.9 percent, after dropping 15.6 percent a month earlier. Prices for the metal mining industry group fell for the sixth consecutive month. In contrast to these declines, prices were unchanged for the nonmetallic industry group, following increases in both February and January. In March, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 76.7 (December 1984=100), 1.8 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries declined 0.9 percent, the fourth consecutive monthly decrease. From December 1990 to March 1991 this index fell at a 6.7-percent annual rate, the first calendar-quarter decrease since the third quarter of 1989. In March, the industry group index for chemicals and allied products turned down 1.0 percent after 7 months of increases. The petroleum refining industry group index declined 10.4 percent, somewhat more than the decreases of over 8 percent posted in each of the previous 3 months. In contrast, increases of 0.7 percent were registered for the industry groups for leather and leather products and lumber and wood

products. Changes for most other industry groups were modest. In March, the Producer Price Index for Total Manufacturing Industries was 115.2 (December 1984=100), 2.6 percent higher than 12 months earlier.

Services. Among service industries, decreases occurred for

domestic deep sea transportation of freight (3.9 percent), travel agencies (2.9 percent), water transportation of freight (2.2 percent), tour operators (1.9 percent), natural gas utilities (1.7 percent), and scrap metal collection (1.0 percent). An advance of 0.8 percent was registered for line haul operations railroads.

Price Movements

April 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent from March to April on a seasonally adjusted basis. This rise followed energy-driven declines in each of the 4 preceding months. The Intermediate Goods Price Index continued to drop, although its decrease of 0.4 percent in April was smaller than those recorded in each of the 4 previous months. Prices for crude materials fell 0.5 percent, far less than in either March or February. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the energy index moved down slightly in April following several much larger declines. Consumer food prices rose somewhat more than in either of the 2 preceding months. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy increased 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month after registering somewhat larger advances earlier in 1991.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent in April to 120.9 (1982=100). From April 1990 to April 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index climbed 3.2 percent. During this same period, food prices rose 1.8 percent, the energy goods index jumped 10.4 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy increased 3.7 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods

moved up 1.1 percent in the 12 months ended in April 1991, while crude material prices were 1.7 percent lower than they had been a year earlier.

Finished goods

After 4 months of decreases in the 3- to 5-percent range, the index for finished energy goods dipped 0.3 percent lower in April. Prices for gasoline moved down 0.7 percent in the wake of a 5.8-percent drop in March and even larger decreases in each of the 3 months before that. The decline in home heating oil prices slowed from 16.5 percent in March to 4.5 percent in April. In addition, residential gas prices turned up after falling in March and February.

Consumer food prices moved up 0.4 percent over the month following advances of 0.2 percent in both March and February. Increases were led by a record surge of 34.3 percent for fresh and dried vegetables, surpassing the previous record advance of 32.6 percent in February 1989. Higher prices were also recorded for dairy products, candy and nuts, and processed turkeys. Decreases occurred, however, for red meats, eggs, fish, processed chickens, soft drinks, and roasted coffee.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
April	-0.1	-0.6	0.1	0.2	3.7	0.1	-2.5
May .....	.3	.4	-.6	.5	3.1	.1	.3
June	0	-.2	-.7	.2	3.1	-.1	-2.4
July .....	.3	.5	.1	.3	3.6	0	.4
August	1.1	.6	9.1	.2	5.2	1.3	9.1
September	1.3	-.5	11.3	.3	6.0	1.6	4.9
October	1.2	.6	9.1	.2	6.4	1.6	8.5
November .....	.4	.1	.2	.5	7.0	.2	-6.2
December	-.4	-.3	-4.0	.2	5.7	-.8	-5.4
1991:							
January	-.2	-.3	-3.2	.5	3.7	-.6	2.6
February	-.6	.2	-5.1	.4	3.2	-.7	-8.2
March	-.3	.2	-3.2	.2	2.9	-1.0	-3.2
April .....	.2	.4	-.3	.2	3.2	-.4	-.5

¹ Data for December 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
April	0.9	0	0.1	0.4	0	-7.0	2.2	-1.3
May	1.0	-6	.2	.4	-1.7	1.9	1.1	-1.3
June	-.6	-.4	-.1	.4	.7	-6.8	-.1	-2.8
July	0	-1.8	.2	.5	.4	.4	.6	-2.4
August	-.2	9.3	.2	2.1	-1.2	25.1	1.8	9.0
September	-1.0	9.8	.5	3.5	-1.2	13.0	-.9	12.7
October	-.1	9.4	.3	5.0	.3	18.8	-1.4	22.2
November	-1.2	-.2	.3	5.3	-1.0	-11.0	-2.3	13.7
December .....	.2	-5.2	-.1	4.3	-1.2	-10.2	-1.3	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-3.1	0	2.6	-.9	5.9	.2	6.9
February	1.6	-4.1	-.1	2.7	0	-15.9	.2	-2.2
March .....	.9	-5.0	-.4	1.7	1.2	-7.3	-1.1	-3.8
April	-.2	-1.5	-.2	1.1	-1.0	0	-.5	-1.7

¹ Data for December 1990 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

energy moved up 0.4 percent, more than in March but less than in either February or January. The index for tobacco products climbed 2.7 percent, and prices for prescription and over-the-counter drugs advanced 2.3 and 1.4 percent, respectively. Prices for cosmetics, men's and boys' apparel, and periodicals also moved up. Lower prices were registered, however, for light trucks and passengers cars, pet food, veterinary preparations, sanitary papers, and books.

The capital equipment index turned down 0.2 percent in April, the first monthly drop since October 1987. Prices decreased following March advances for light trucks and passenger cars, ships, tools and dies, and textile machinery. The oilfield machinery and equipment index was unchanged after a sizable advance in March. The electronic computers index continued to decrease substantially. In contrast, price increases accelerated for pumps and compressors, heavy trucks fell much less than in March, and indexes for transformers, printing trades machinery, and metal forming machine tools turned up after falling a month earlier.

Intermediate goods

After falling 1.0 percent in March, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components moved down 0.4 percent in April, seasonally adjusted. Price declines slowed for energy goods after showing larger decreases in each of the 4 preceding months. Declines for nondurable manufacturing materials were smaller than in March. The index for foods and feeds, however, turned down after rising in March and February. (See table B.)

The decline for the energy goods index slowed to 1.5 percent after dropping 5.0 percent in March. Prices for diesel fuel and residual fuels both decreased between 4 and 5 percent after plummeting much more in March. Prices for gasoline, liquefied petroleum gas, and industrial and commercial natural gas also registered smaller declines than in the previous month. Industrial power prices advanced as much as in March. Jet fuel prices continued to drop substantially, however.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials moved down 0.8 percent after falling 1.7 percent in March. Modest decreases were shown for basic organic chemicals, paint materials, and woodpulp following much larger declines in the preceding month. Price declines also slowed for thermoplastic resins, paperboard, leather, nitrogenates, and synthetic rubber. Prices turned up for medicinal and botanical chemicals and for inedible fats and oils after dropping in March. Paper prices dropped much more than in March, however.

The index for foods and feeds dropped 0.2 percent after rising 0.9 percent in March and 1.6 percent in February. Prices turned down for prepared animal feeds, pork, cheese, and condensed and evaporated milk following rises in the preceding month. Flour prices moved up much less than the month before, and price decreases for crude vegetable oils became larger. In contrast, price increases accelerated for confectionery materials.

Prices for durable manufacturing materials fell 0.7 percent, almost the same as in March. Prices fell for steel mill products, aluminum mill shapes, hardwood lumber, and primary copper and aluminum. Price advances were noted, however, for prepared paint, plywood, cement, building paper and board, and primary zinc.

The construction materials index was unchanged after edging up 0.1 percent in March. Advances for fabricated structural metal products and softwood lumber offset lower prices for nonferrous wire and cable, plastic construction products, asphalt shingles, and gypsum products. Among other industrial goods, the index for paper boxes and containers declined.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing fell 0.5 percent seasonally adjusted in April after dropping 3.2 percent in March and plunging 8.2 percent in February. The crude energy goods index did not change following substantial declines in each of the 2 previous months, and the index for basic industrial materials fell less than in the previous month. In contrast, prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs turned down after rising in March. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials remained constant in April following a 7.3-percent decrease in March and a 15.9-percent drop in February. Crude petroleum prices turned up after sizable declines in each of the 2 preceding months. Coal prices fell less than in March. In contrast, the natural gas index dropped more than in the month before.

In April, prices for crude materials excluding food and energy fell 0.5 percent after a 1.1-percent decline in the prior month. Following stable prices in March and a surge of nearly 10 percent in February, the raw cotton index climbed almost 7 percent. Price declines slowed for cattle hides, copper base scrap, and gold ores. After dropping in the month before, copper ore and silver ore prices turned up, and the index for uranium, radium, and vanadium ores showed no change. In contrast, prices for iron and steel scrap, wastepaper, and aluminum base scrap decreased more than in March. Following March increases, indexes for softwood and pulpwood logs turned down.

Crude foodstuff and feedstuff prices dropped 1 percent after a 1.2-percent increase in the prior month. The indexes for cattle, corn, fluid milk, soybeans, hogs, fresh fruits, and raw cane sugar declined in April after advancing a month earlier. The wheat and live turkey indexes moved up less than in March while unprocessed fin fish prices declined far more than in the month before. In contrast, the fresh and dried vegetables index surged by more than a third. Hay prices increased after a considerable decline in March, and the index for broilers and fryers fell less than in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 0.9 percent in April, much less than in April, much less than either March (5.0 percent) or February (11.8 percent). (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group fell 1.3 percent, after 2 months of sharper declines. Prices for the metal mining industry groups decreased 0.4 percent, the seventh consecutive monthly drop. Prices for the anthracite mining industry group fell 1.2 percent, much more than in any of the previous 3 months, and prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group moved down 0.4 percent for the third consecutive month. In April, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 76.0 (December 1984=100), 1.6 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries edged up 0.1 percent after 3 months of declines. Prices for the tobacco manufactures industry-group index advanced 2.8 percent, following 2 months of almost no change. The decline in the petroleum refining industry group slowed to 0.5 percent, following decreases of over 8 percent in each of the previous 4 months. After decreasing in the previous month, the index for the chemical and allied products industry group turned up. Prices for the lumber and wood-products industry group rose 0.8 percent, about as much as the month before. In contrast, the industry-group indexes for leather and leather products and for rubber and plastic products inched down after rising a month earlier, and prices for the paper and the primary metal industries groups fell somewhat more than in March. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 115.3 in April (December 1984=100), 2.4 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Services. Among service industries, sizable decreases occurred for domestic deep sea transportation of freight (1.6 percent), water transportation of freight (1.5 percent), tour operators (1.5 percent), and for scrap and waste materials collection (1.3 percent). At the same time, advances were registered for foreign deep sea transportation of freight (2.0 percent), air transportation (1.2 percent), and travel agencies (4.7 percent).

Price Movements

May 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.6 percent seasonally adjusted from April to May. This followed a rise of 0.2 percent in April and declines in both March and February. The Intermediate Goods Price Index edged down 0.1 percent following 5 months of larger decreases. The Crude Goods Price Index showed no change in May after a moderate drop in April and substantial declines in each of the 2 preceding months. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for energy goods turned up after 5 consecutive monthly decreases. Food prices continued to rise modestly. Following advances of 0.2 percent in each of the 3 preceding months, the index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.4 percent in May on the strength of increases for tobacco products and civilian aircraft.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 0.7 percent in May to 121.7 (1982=100). From May 1990 to May 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up 3.4 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices increased 1.4 percent, the energy goods index climbed 13.9 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced 3.5 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved up 0.9 percent in the 12 months ended in May 1991, while

prices received by domestic producers of crude goods were 2.4 percent lower than a year earlier.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished energy goods advanced 2.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, in May after inching down 0.3 percent in April and falling between 2 and 6 percent in each of the 4 preceding months. Gasoline prices climbed 5.2 percent following a drop of 0.7 percent in April. The index for residential electric power moved up 1.1 percent following little or no change in each of the 3 previous months. The index for home heating oil continued to decline but less than in other recent months. In contrast, the index for residential gas decreased 1.3 percent after a 1.8-percent increase a month earlier.

The index for consumer nondurables other than foods and energy rose 0.8 percent over the month, following an increase of 0.6 percent in April. The rise in this index was dominated by a 4.0-percent seasonally adjusted advance in tobacco products, which showed no change before seasonal adjustment. Other increases included apparel, pet food, sanitary papers and health products, and newspapers. Declines were recorded for soaps and synthetic detergents and for alcoholic beverages. The consumer durables index moved down 0.3 percent, about the same as in

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
May	0.3	0.4	-0.6	0.5	3.1	0.1	0.3
June	0	-2	-7	.2	3.1	-1	-2.4
July .....	.3	.5	.1	.3	3.6	0	.4
August	1.1	.6	9.1	.2	5.2	1.3	9.1
September	1.3	-.5	11.3	.3	6.0	1.6	4.9
October	1.2	.6	9.1	.2	6.4	1.6	8.5
November .....	.4	.1	.2	.5	7.0	.2	-6.2
December	-.4	-.3	-4.0	.2	5.7	-.8	-5.4
1991:							
January .....	.1	-.2	-2.2	.8	4.0	-.5	1.8
February	-.9	.1	-6.0	.2	3.2	-.8	-7.4
March	-.3	.2	-3.2	.2	2.9	-1.0	-3.2
April .....	.2	.4	-.3	.2	3.2	-.4	-5
May .....	.6	.2	2.4	.4	3.4	-.1	0

¹ Data for January 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods; seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
May	1.0	-0.6	0.2	0.4	-1.7	1.9	1.1	-1.3
June	-6	-4	-1	.4	.7	-6.8	-1	-2.8
July	0	-1.8	.2	.5	.4	.4	.6	-2.4
August	-2	9.3	.2	2.1	-1.2	25.1	1.8	9.0
September	-1.0	9.8	.5	3.5	-1.2	13.0	-.9	12.7
October	-1	9.4	.3	5.0	.3	18.8	-1.4	22.2
November	-1.2	-2	.3	5.3	-1.0	+11.0	-2.3	13.7
December .....	.2	-5.2	-1	4.3	-1.2	-10.2	-1.3	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-2.8	0	2.6	-1.1	4.4	.3	5.9
February	1.7	-4.3	-1	2.7	.2	-14.7	-1	-2.2
March .....	.9	-5.0	-.4	1.7	1.2	-7.3	-1.1	-3.8
April	-2	-1.5	-.2	1.1	-1.0	0	-.5	-1.7
May	-2.5	1.1	-.1	.9	-3.2	3.0	-.8	-2.4

¹ Data for January 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

April. The May drop was principally due to lower prices for passenger cars.

After 3 months of small changes, The Produce Price Index for capital equipment climbed 0.6 percent in May. Most of this upward movement was caused by a 3.0-percent climb in the index for civilian aircraft. Trucks, special industry machinery, oilfield and gasfield machinery, and communications equipment also registered higher prices in May. Lower prices were recorded, however, for passenger cars and computers.

Consumer food prices edged up 0.2 percent after a rise of 0.4 percent in April. The fresh and dried vegetables index jumped 22.7 percent in May in the wake of a 34.3-percent surge the preceding month; lettuce prices more than doubled from April to May, and prices for tomatoes, celery, and cabbage also climbed substantially. Advances were also registered in May for dairy products and fish. Declines for red meats, eggs, shortening and cooking oils, soft drinks, and miscellaneous processed foods largely offset these increases, however.

Intermediate goods

After falling 0.4 percent in April, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components inched down 0.1 percent in May, seasonally adjusted, the smallest of 6 consecutive monthly declines. Energy prices turned up after having dropped steadily since November and declines slowed for nondurable and durable manufacturing materials, while food prices fell faster than in the previous

month. (See table B.)

The energy goods index rose 1.1 percent following a 1.5-percent decrease in April and larger declines in other recent months. Prices advanced for jet fuels, gasoline, diesel fuel, commercial power, and liquefied petroleum gas after dropping in recent months. Industrial power prices increased faster than the modest increases of the 3 preceding months. In contrast, the index for natural gas to electric utilities turned down following an April advance. In addition, prices for residual fuel and for commercial and industrial natural gas fell more than in the previous month.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials moved down 0.4 percent, considerably less than in any of the preceding 3 months. Prices dropped for petrochemicals, low density polyethylene resins, writing papers, woodpulp, paperboard, and textured synthetic yarns except nylon and polyester. Increases were noted, however, for the other basic organic chemicals category, as well as for fertilizer materials.

Prices for durable manufacturing materials dropped 0.4 percent following a 0.7-percent decline in April. Prices fell for steel sheet and strip, hot rolled steel bars, aluminum mill shapes, and for primary aluminum, copper, and zinc.

The construction materials index moved up 0.2 percent after showing no change in April. Most of the May rise was due to substantial advances for plywood and softwood lumber (12.1 and 5.7 percent, respectively). In contrast, prices dropped for fabricated structural metal products, welded steel and nonferrous wire products, and asphalt felts and coatings.

The index for foods and feeds dropped 2.5 percent after

falling 0.2 percent in April. Prices for crude vegetable oils plummeted more than 14 percent following a much smaller decline the previous month. Prices also fell more rapidly than in April for meats, condensed and evaporated milk, prepared animal feeds, and refined sugar. In addition, flour prices turned down following an April advance, and prices for confectionary materials remained unchanged after rising substantially in April and March. Prices rose for natural cheese after no change in April, however.

Among other industrial goods, prices fell for secondary nonferrous metals and paper boxes and containers, while an increase was noted for printed material.

Crude goods

After moving down 0.5 percent in April, the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing showed no change in May. An upturn in energy prices offset continued declines for foodstuffs and basic industrial materials. (See table B.)

Prices for crude energy materials advanced 3.0 percent over the month following no change in April. The index for natural gas to pipelines climbed 3.2 percent after falling in each of the first 4 months of the year. The crude petroleum index increased 4.8 percent, about as much as in the preceding month.

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs dropped 3.2 percent from April to May, considerably more than in the month before. Prices for corn, soybeans, broilers and fryers, cattle, hogs, and fresh fruits declined more in May than a month earlier. In addition, indexes turned down after April increases for hay and live turkeys. Fresh vegetables prices continued to rise rapidly, although not as much as in April; wheat price increases also slowed. In contrast, indexes for fluid milk and unprocessed fin fish turned up following April decreases.

The index for crude materials other than foods and energy moved down 0.8 percent, more than in April but less than in March. May declines for scrap metals, cattle hides, wastepaper, and copper ores outweighed increases for softwood logs, raw cotton, and lead and zinc ores.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries advanced 2.6 percent in May following 3 consecutive monthly declines. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned up 3.9 percent after falling 1.3 percent in April and 2 months of sharper declines before that. Also after decreasing in April, price declines slowed for the metal mining and the anthracite mining industry groups and the bituminous coal industry group showed no change. Prices rose a little more than a month earlier for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group. In May, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 78.0 (December 1984 = 100), 3.6 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.3 percent after edging up 0.1 percent in April. Prices for the petroleum refining and related products industry group turned up 3.4 percent following 6 months of declines which totaled to a drop of nearly one third. Prices also rose in May following decreases a month earlier for the textile mill products and the leather and leather products industry groups. In addition, price increases accelerated (2.1 vs. 0.8 percent) for the lumber and wood products industry group. Price declines slowed for the paper industry group. In contrast, prices turned down after rising in the previous month for the industry groups for tobacco products and chemicals. The indexes for the transportation equipment and the primary metal industry groups fell more than in either April or March. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 115.6 in May (December 1984 = 100), 2.2 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Services. Among service industries, prices increased for electric power utilities, radio broadcasting, and for both domestic and foreign deep sea freight transportation. However, prices declined for scrap and waste materials, water transportation of freight, natural gas utilities, travel agencies, and air transportation.

Price Movements

June 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, from May to June. The June decline followed advances of 0.6 percent in May and 0.2 percent in April. The Intermediate Goods Price Index edged up 0.1 percent over the month, the first rise in this index since November. After showing no change in May, crude material prices dropped 1.9 percent in June. (See table A.)

The downturn in the Finished Goods Price Index was broadly based. The index for energy goods, which had turned up in May after 5 consecutive monthly declines, decreased again in June. Consumer food prices fell considerably after 4 months of modest increases. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were unchanged after a rise of 0.4 percent a month earlier.

From December 1990 to June 1991, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.5 percent. This contrasted with an 8.2-percent rate of advance in the second half of 1990. Energy prices accounted for most of this turnaround; the index for finished energy goods decreased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of nearly 20 percent in the first 6 months of 1991, after climbing at a rate of more than 60 percent during the preceding 6 months. Consumer food

prices edged up only marginally in the first half of 1991 following an increase at a rate of 1.8 percent in the last 6 months of 1990. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up at an annual rate of 3.3 percent during the first 6 months of the year, about the same as in each of the three previous half-year spans.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up 0.2 percent in June to 121.9 (1982=100). From June 1990 to June 1991, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 3.5 percent. During this same period consumer food prices increased 1.0 percent, energy prices climbed 16.0 percent, and the index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 3.4 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index increased 1.1 percent during the 12 months ended in June 1991, while prices of crude goods were 1.7 percent below their level of a year earlier.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished energy goods turned down 1.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, in June after advancing 2.4 percent in May. Gasoline and residential electric power prices fell following rises a month earlier. In contrast, the index for home heating oil

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
June	0	-0.2	-0.7	0.2	3.1	-0.1	-2.4
July .....	.3	.5	.1	.3	3.6	0	.4
August	1.1	.6	9.1	.2	5.2	1.3	9.1
September	1.3	-.5	11.3	.3	6.0	1.6	4.9
October	1.2	.6	9.1	.2	6.4	1.6	8.5
November .....	.4	.1	.2	.5	7.0	.2	-6.2
December	-.4	-.3	-4.0	.2	5.7	-.8	-5.4
1991:							
January .....	.1	-.2	-2.2	.8	4.0	-.5	1.8
February	-.7	.2	-5.3	.2	3.4	-.8	-7.7
March	-.5	.1	-3.9	.1	2.9	-1.0	-3.0
April .....	.2	.4	-.3	.2	3.2	-.4	-.5
May .....	.6	.2	2.4	.4	3.4	-.1	0
June	-.3	-.6	-1.4	0	3.5	.1	-1.9

¹ Data for February 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
June	-0.6	-0.4	-0.1	0.4	0.7	-6.8	-0.1	-2.8
July	0	-1.8	.2	.5	.4	.4	.6	-2.4
August	-2	9.3	.2	2.1	-1.2	25.1	1.8	9.0
September	-1.0	9.8	.5	3.5	-1.2	13.0	-.9	12.7
October	-1	9.4	.3	5.0	.3	18.8	-1.4	22.2
November	-1.2	-.2	.3	5.3	-1.0	-11.0	-2.3	13.7
December .....	.2	-5.2	-.1	4.3	-1.2	-10.2	-1.3	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-2.8	0	2.6	-1.1	4.4	.3	5.9
February	1.7	-4.2	-.1	2.7	.1	-14.9	-.1	-2.5
March .....	.9	-5.1	-.4	1.7	1.3	-7.1	-.9	-3.8
April	-2	-1.5	-.2	1.1	-1.0	0	-.5	-1.7
May	-2.5	1.1	-.1	.9	-3.2	3.0	-.8	-2.4
June	-.5	.1	0	1.1	.7	-3.5	-2.6	-1.7

¹ Data for February 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

turned up after 7 months of sharp declines. The index for residential gas declined much less than in the previous month. For the 6 months ended in June, the finished energy goods index fell at a 19.7-percent annual rate, reflecting sharp plunges in prices of gasoline and home heating oil, along with a modest drop for residential gas. The index for residential electric power, however, recorded a small increase.

After edging up 0.2 percent in May, the consumer foods index fell 0.6 percent to end the first 6 months of 1991 nearly unchanged from the December 1990 level. Most of the June downturn was due to the index for fresh and dried vegetables, which decreased 6.8 percent in the wake of sharply higher prices in May and April. Prices also turned down in June after rising a month earlier for fish, processed fruits and vegetables, pasta, and confectionery end products. In contrast, prices turned up after falling in May for eggs, soft drinks, fresh, and bakery products. Price declines slowed for pork, beef and veal, and shortening and cooking oils.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved down 0.2 percent in June following an increase of 0.2 percent in May. From December 1990 to June 1991, this index increased at a 3.4-percent annual rate, the same as in the preceding 6 months. Most of the June downturn was due to the index for tobacco products, which fell 3.2 percent after increasing considerably in May and April. Prices also turned down in June after climbing in the previous month for floor coverings and toys. Price increases slowed for men's and children's apparel. In contrast, prices fell less than a month earlier for passenger cars, and the index for soaps and detergents showed no change following a substantial decline in May. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for alcoholic beverages, prescription drugs, books, home electronic

equipment, sporting goods, and gold jewelry. In addition, price increases accelerated for light trucks.

The Producer Price Index for capital equipment advanced 0.3 percent in June following a 0.6-percent rise in May to end the first half of 1991 with a 2.9-percent annual rate of increase. The index for civilian aircraft rose much less than a month earlier. Prices turned down after rising in the preceding month for oilfield machinery and transformers. Prices for electronic computers fell 3.5 percent in June after declining 2.5 percent in May. In contrast, the index for ships rose 1.8 percent after showing no change in the previous month. Price increases for motor trucks accelerated, and prices turned up after decreasing a month earlier for machine tools.

Intermediate goods

After inching down 0.1 percent in May, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components edged up 0.1 percent in June, seasonally adjusted. Prices rose for construction materials, durable manufacturing materials, and energy goods, while declines were registered for nondurable manufacturing materials and for foods and feeds. (See table B.)

From December 1990 to June 1991, intermediate goods prices fell at a 5.4-percent seasonally adjusted annual rate, following an 8.0-percent advance for the last half of 1990. Energy prices plummeted at a 22.6-percent rate after surging at a 48.7-percent rate in the previous 6 months. Indexes for nondurable and durable manufacturing materials also turned down following advances in the second half of last year.

In June, the construction materials index moved up 0.6 percent, the largest monthly increase in 2 1/2 years.

Prices turned up for fabricated structural metal products, asphalt felts and coatings, and wiring devices after dropping in May. Price increases accelerated for softwood lumber, millwork, and plastic construction products. Nonferrous wire and cable and fabricated ferrous wire products showed no change following May decreases. In contrast, price advances slowed for plywood. Prices for gypsum products and steel wire fell faster than in the preceding month.

The index for materials for durable manufacturing rose 0.2 percent after declining for 8 consecutive months. Prices turned up for cold rolled steel sheets, hot rolled steel bars, cement, hardwood lumber, and gold. Prices increased faster than in May for copper and brass mill shapes and for silver. Price decreases slowed for primary copper, hot rolled steel sheet and strip, primary zinc, and aluminum mill shapes. However, prices turned down for flat glass after rising in May. Prices for semifinished steel mill products and primary aluminum fell faster than in the previous month.

The index for energy goods inched up 0.1 percent following a 1.1-percent advance in May. Prices for gasoline and liquefied petroleum gas turned down after advancing in the preceding month. Price increases slowed for commercial power, jet fuels, and diesel fuel. Industrial power showed no change following a May increase. In contrast, residual fuel prices turned up following 6 months of declines. Indexes for natural gas to electric utilities and commercial natural gas edged up after sharp drops in May. In addition, price declines slowed for industrial natural gas.

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing dropped 0.7 percent following a 0.4-percent decline in May. Prices fell faster than in the prior month for plastic resins and materials, primary basic organic chemicals, paper, woodpulp, and synthetic rubber. Prices fell for gray fabrics, finished fabrics, and medicinal and botanical chemicals after rising in May. However, price increases accelerated for nitrogenates, and prices turned up for paperboard and leather following May declines. Decreases slowed for intermediate basic organic chemicals and processed yarns and threads.

The index for foods and feeds fell 0.5 percent following a 2.5-percent drop in May. Prices turned up for crude vegetable oils and prepared animal feeds. Declines slowed for pork, beef and veal, refined sugar, and flour. In contrast, prices for confectionery materials moved down after showing no change in the preceding month.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing fell 1.9 percent, seasonally adjusted, from May to June following no change in May and decreases in each of the 3 preceding months. Energy material prices turned down after rising in May, and basic indus-

trial material prices fell more than a month earlier. Crude foodstuff prices, however, turned up after dropping in May and April. (See table B.)

During the first half of 1991, the crude goods price index decreased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 20.7 percent, after advancing at a rate of 22.2 percent in the second half of 1990. The turnaround was caused by the reversal in the index for crude energy materials. Prices for other kinds of crude materials fell at a rate of 7.3 percent in the first 6 months of the year, virtually the same as the rate recorded in the preceding 6 months.

The index for crude energy materials declined 3.5 percent in June after rising 3.0 percent a month earlier. Indexes for crude petroleum and natural gas (to pipelines) dropped 4.7 and 4.0 percent, respectively, following May increases. Producer prices for crude energy materials retreated at an annual rate of 32.7 percent from December 1990 through June 1991, after surging at an annual rate of 81.5 percent in the latter half of 1990.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy decreased 2.6 percent over the month, considerably more than in any of the 4 preceding months. Prices fell more than in May for ferrous scrap, wastepaper, and copper ores. In addition, prices for raw cotton, softwood logs, and silver ores turned down following May increases. Cattle hide prices declined much less than they had in May, however, and gold ore prices turned up. Indexes for aluminum base scrap and copper base scrap fell about as much as they had a month earlier.

After decreasing 3.2 percent in May, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index moved up 0.7 percent in June. Prices turned up following declines the month before for cattle, hay, soybeans, live poultry, and fresh fruits. Corn prices dropped much less than in May, and indexes for wheat and fluid milk rose more than in the preceding month. In contrast, prices for fresh vegetables and unprocessed fin fish turned down after May increases, and hog prices decreased substantially more than in May.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries declined 3.1 percent in June following a 2.6-percent advance in May. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) For the 6 months ended in June, this index fell at an annual rate of almost 30 percent. Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned down 4.3 percent in June after advancing 3.9 percent in May; in the first half of 1991, this index fell at a 35.2-percent annual rate. Prices for the metal mining industry group declined much more than in May. In contrast, the bituminous coal industry group index increased 0.3 percent after showing no change a month earlier. In June, the Producer Price Index for total mining

industries stood at 75.6 (December 1984=100), 4.7 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries was unchanged after moving up 0.3 percent in May. From December 1990 to June 1991, this index fell at a 2.7-percent annual rate. In June, prices for the petroleum refining and related products industry group turned down 1.2 percent following an advance of 3.4 percent in May; the first half of 1991 was marked by a 42-percent rate of decline in this category. Prices also fell in June for the paper industry

group. In contrast, prices advanced from May to June for lumber and wood products (3.1 percent) and tobacco manufactures (2.3 percent). The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 115.6 in June (December 1984=100), 2.2 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Services. Among service industries, prices declined for wholesaling of scrap and waste materials, travel agencies, foreign deep sea freight transportation, and natural gas utilities. However, prices increased for electric power utilities, tour operators, and radio broadcasting.

Price Movements

July 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from June to July. The July decrease followed a decline of 0.3 percent in June and a rise of 0.6 percent in May. The Intermediate Goods Price Index fell 0.3 percent over the month after inching up 0.1 percent in June and dropping in each of the preceding 6 months. Crude material prices edged up 0.2 percent following a decrease of 1.9 percent a month earlier. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, indexes for both consumer foods and energy goods fell about as much in July as in June. Prices for other kinds of finished goods rose 0.2 percent after showing no change in June and advancing 0.4 percent in May.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Finished Goods Price Index moved down 0.2 percent in July to 121.6 (1982=100). Over the 12 months ended in July 1991, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 2.9 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices edged down 0.2 percent, the index for finished energy goods climbed 13.7 percent, prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy rose 3.6 percent, and capital equipment increased 3.0 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods moved up 0.8 percent from July 1990 to July 1991, while the Crude Goods Price Index was 2 percent lower than its level of a year ago.

Finished goods

The index for finished consumer foods decreased 0.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, from June to July, after falling 0.6 percent in the preceding month. Prices for fresh and dried vegetables, which had soared in April and May before retreating somewhat in June, slumped nearly 25 percent in July, leaving this index only 3.4 percent higher than it had been 12 months earlier; prices for tomatoes, lettuce, and snap beans each fell more than 30 percent in July. Roasted coffee prices fell 5.5 percent, more than in any of the 5 preceding months. Prices for processed chickens, beef and veal, and shortening and cooking oils also declined more than in June. In addition, prices for eggs and bakery products turned down following June increases, and soft drinks were unchanged after rising in June. In contrast, indexes for fish, processed fruits and vegetables, pasta, and confectionery end products turned up after dropping a month earlier. Dairy products advanced more than in the previous month, and pork prices declined less than in June. Fresh fruit prices moved up as much as they had the month before.

The index for finished energy goods moved down 1.3 percent, about the same as in the preceding month. Gasoline prices fell more than in June, but indexes for residential electricity and residential gas turned up following June decreases. In addition, home heating oil prices increased more than in June.

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
July	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.3	3.6	0	0.4
August	1.1	.6	9.1	.2	5.2	1.3	9.1
September	1.3	-.5	11.3	.3	6.0	1.6	4.9
October	1.2	.6	9.1	.2	6.4	1.6	8.5
November .....	.4	.1	.2	.5	7.0	.2	-6.2
December	-4	-.3	-4.0	.2	5.7	-.8	-5.4
1991:							
January .....	.1	-.2	-2.2	.8	4.0	-.5	1.8
February	-.7	.2	-5.3	.2	3.4	-.8	-7.7
March	-2	.2	-3.3	.3	3.2	-1.0	-3.3
April	-.1	.3	-.9	-.1	3.2	-.4	-.1
May .....	.6	.2	2.4	.4	3.4	-.1	0
June	-.3	-.6	-1.4	0	3.5	.1	-1.9
July	-2	-.8	-1.3	.2	2.9	-.3	.2

¹ Data for March 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
July	0	-1.8	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.6	-2.4
August	-2	9.3	.2	2.1	-1.2	25.1	1.8	9.0
September	-1.0	9.8	.5	3.5	-1.2	13.0	-.9	12.7
October	-1	9.4	.3	5.0	.3	18.8	-1.4	22.2
November	-1.2	-.2	.3	5.3	-1.0	-11.0	-2.3	13.7
December .....	.2	-5.2	-.1	4.3	-1.2	-10.2	-1.3	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-2.8	0	2.6	-1.1	4.4	.3	5.9
February	1.7	-4.2	-.1	2.7	.1	-14.9	-.1	-2.5
March .....	.8	-5.1	-.5	1.6	1.0	-7.3	-1.3	-4.2
April	-1	-1.5	-.2	1.1	-.7	.3	-.1	-1.7
May	-2.5	1.1	-.1	.9	-3.2	3.0	-.8	-2.4
June	-.5	.1	0	1.1	.7	-3.5	-2.6	-1.7
July	-1.1	-1.1	-.1	.8	-1.7	2.0	-.7	-2.0

¹ Data for March 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

After decreasing 0.4 percent in June, the index for consumer nondurable goods other than foods and energy turned up 0.6 percent. Most of this turnaround was due to the tobacco products index, which advanced 2.2 percent in July, seasonally adjusted, after dropping 3.2 percent in June; before seasonal adjustment, this index rose a little more than 2 percent in both months. In addition, alcoholic beverages and over-the-counter drugs rose more than in the preceding month, and the index for soaps and detergents moved up considerably after remaining unchanged in June. The index for prescription drugs rose more than 1 percent for the second consecutive month. The newspapers index edged up much more slowly than in June, however.

The consumer durables index showed no change after small declines in each month of the second quarter. Passenger car prices inched down seasonally adjusted after a much larger June decrease, although the July decline was somewhat larger than June's before seasonal adjustment. Indexes for books, home electronic equipment, and gold jewelry turned down following sizable advances a month earlier. In addition, the increase in light truck prices slowed.

The capital equipment index inched up 0.1 percent over the month following a rise of 0.3 percent in June. The ships index was unchanged in July in the wake of a steep climb a month earlier, and prices for trucks and metal cutting machine tools moved up considerably less than in June. Computer prices continued to drop rapidly. In contrast, prices for civilian aircraft and agricultural machinery rose somewhat more than in June, and indexes for oil and gas field machinery, truck trailers, and textile machinery turned up rapidly after decreasing in the previous month.

Intermediate goods

After edging up 0.1 percent in May, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components dropped 0.3 percent in July, seasonally adjusted. Prices turned down for energy goods and materials for durable manufacturing following increases in June, and price advances slowed for construction materials. Prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing, however, did not drop as fast as they did in June. (See table B.)

The index for energy goods fell 1.1 percent following a marginal rise in June. Prices for gasoline and liquefied petroleum gas fell much faster than in the preceding month. Indexes for jet fuels and commercial natural gas turned down following June increases, and industrial power prices dropped after showing no change in the previous month. Price advances slowed for residual fuel. In contrast, price increases accelerated for commercial power and for natural gas to electric utilities. Diesel fuel prices rose more than 1 percent for the third consecutive month.

The increase in the index for materials and components for construction slowed to 0.2 percent following a 0.6-percent advance in June. Prices for softwood lumber and plywood turned down following sizable increases in each of the 2 preceding months. By contrast, prices for plastic construction products increased faster than in June, gypsum products edged up following three substantial declines, and nonferrous wire and cable advanced after showing no change in June. Most other kinds of construction materials registered small changes in July.

The index for materials for durable manufacturing inched down 0.1 percent after rising 0.2 percent in the preceding month. Moderate declines were registered for cold

rolled steel sheets, aluminum mill shapes, and for primary gold, aluminum, and silver. These decreases more than offset advances for semifinished steel mill products, copper and brass mill shapes, and for primary lead, copper, and platinum.

The foods and feeds index dropped 1.1 percent after decreasing 0.5 percent in June. Prepared animal feeds and crude vegetable oils turned down following increases in the preceding month, and flour prices dropped more than in June. In contrast, prices for confectionery materials turned up, price declines slowed for pork, and cheese prices rose faster than in the preceding month.

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing fell 0.3 percent after dropping 0.7 percent in June.¹ Paper showed no change for July following 5 months of declines. Price decreases slowed for petrochemicals, plastic resins and materials, and woodpulp. In addition, increases for paperboard and fertilizer material prices accelerated. Prices turned up for medicinal chemicals, processed yarns and threads, gray fabrics, and finished fabrics after falling in the preceding month. By contrast, prices for many industrial chemicals, leather, and paint materials turned down after advancing in the previous month.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing advanced 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from June to July following a 1.9-percent decrease in the preceding month. After a substantial decline in June, prices for crude energy goods turned up. In addition, the index for crude nonfood materials other than energy fell less than in the month before. The index for crude food-stuffs and feedstuffs, however, turned down following a moderate increase in June. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials turned up 2.0 percent in July after a 3.5-percent drop in June. Most of this upturn was due to the crude petroleum index, which climbed 5.5 percent following a 4.7-percent decrease a month earlier. Furthermore, the index for natural gas (to pipelines) declined much less than in June, and coal prices rose more than in either of the 2 preceding months.

The index for basic industrial materials fell 0.7 percent, considerably less than the 2.6-percent drop in June. Prices for scrap metals, silver ores, and softwood logs turned up after decreasing a month earlier. Indexes for leaf tobacco and for sand and gravel advanced more than in the prior month. By contrast, prices for copper ores, cattle hides, and raw cotton fell more than in the month before, and hardwood log prices decreased after showing no change in

June. In addition, the wastepaper index declined more than 6 percent for the second consecutive month.

Following a 0.7-percent increase in June, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index fell 1.7 percent. Prices for hay, soybeans, wheat, and live poultry turned down after rising in the preceding month. Indexes for cattle and fluid milk moved up less than in June. Prices for corn, fresh and dried fruits and vegetables, and raw cane sugar fell more than in the month before. In contrast, prices turned up for hogs and unprocessed fin fish after dropping substantially in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries increased 0.8 percent in July following a 3.1-percent decline in June. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned up 1.1 percent after falling 4.3 percent a month earlier. In contrast, prices for the metal mining industry group declined 4.4 percent, much more than in June. Prices turned down for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group after inching up a month earlier. In July, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 76.2 (December 1984 = 100), 2.8 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries dipped 0.3 percent in July after showing no change in June. Prices retreated across a broad front, led by the petroleum refining industry group, which moved down 3.2 percent following a 1.2-percent decline in June. Prices also fell in July for the industry groups for leather, chemicals, food products, printing and publishing, and primary metal industries. In contrast, prices advanced from June to July for tobacco manufactures (2.2 percent), lumber and wood products, textile mill products, and measuring and controlling instruments. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 115.3 in July (December 1984 = 100), 1.9 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Services. Among service industries, prices declined for tour operators (3.7 percent), domestic deep sea freight transportation, collection of scrap and waste materials, natural gas utilities, and scheduled air transportation. However, prices increased for electric power utilities, radio broadcasting, water transportation of freight, railroad freight, travel agencies, and foreign deep sea freight transportation.

Price Movements

August 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from July to August. The August increase followed modest declines in both July and June. The Intermediate Goods Price Index also turned up, rising 0.4 percent in August after falling a month earlier. Crude material prices were unchanged following a small rise in July and a sizable drop in June. (See table A.)

The upturn in the Finished Goods Price Index was largely due to a considerable advance in the energy goods index. Consumer food prices declined for the third consecutive month. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent, the same as in July.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods edged up 0.1 percent in August to 121.7 (1982=100). From August 1990 to August 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 2.0 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices decreased 1.2 percent, the energy goods index climbed 6.2 percent, consumer goods other than foods and energy advanced 3.7 percent, and capital equipment prices increased 2.8 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of inter-

mediate goods were 0.1 percent lower in August 1991 than in the same month a year earlier, and the Crude Goods Price Index was 10.0 percent below its August 1990 level.

Finished goods

After declining more than 1 percent both in June and July, the index for finished energy goods rose 1.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, in August. Gasoline prices accounted for this turnaround with an advance of 4.6 percent in August in the wake of a 5.5-percent drop in the preceding month. Home heating oil prices climbed 4.7 percent, about as much as in July. In contrast, the index for residential gas turned down and residential electricity rates inched up marginally; both indexes recorded sizable increases in the previous month.

The index for finished consumer foods moved down 0.4 percent over the month, following drops of 0.8 percent in July and 0.6 percent in June. Decreases in August were led by a 4.7-percent decline in beef and veal prices. Lower prices also were registered for fish, both fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, colas, and pork. These drops outweighed advances for potato and corn chips, shorten-

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
August	1.1	0.6	9.1	0.2	5.2	1.3	9.1
September	1.3	-.5	11.3	.3	6.0	1.6	4.9
October	1.2	.6	9.1	.2	6.4	1.6	8.5
November .....	.4	.1	.2	.5	7.0	.2	-6.2
December	-.4	-.3	-4.0	.2	5.7	-.8	-5.4
1991:							
January .....	.1	-.2	-2.2	.8	4.0	-.5	1.8
February	-.7	.2	-5.3	.2	3.4	-.8	-7.7
March	-.2	.2	-3.3	.3	3.2	-1.0	-3.3
April .....	.1	.3	-.1	.1	3.3	-.4	-.4
May .....	.4	.2	1.6	.2	3.4	-.1	.3
June	-.3	-.6	-1.4	0	3.5	.1	-1.9
July	-.2	-.8	-1.3	.2	2.9	-.3	.2
August .....	.2	-.4	1.8	.2	2.0	.4	0

¹ Data for April 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
August	-0.2	9.3	0.2	2.1	-1.2	25.1	1.8	9.0
September	-1.0	9.8	.5	3.5	-1.2	13.0	-.9	12.7
October	-.1	9.4	.3	5.0	-.3	18.8	-1.4	22.2
November	-1.2	-.2	.3	5.3	-1.0	-11.0	-2.3	13.7
December .....	.2	-5.2	-.1	4.3	-1.2	-10.2	-1.3	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-2.8	0	2.6	-1.1	4.4	.3	5.9
February	1.7	-4.2	-.1	2.7	.1	-14.9	-.1	-2.5
March .....	.8	-5.1	-.5	1.6	1.0	-7.3	-1.3	-4.2
April	-.2	-1.5	-.2	1.0	-.7	-.4	.1	-2.1
May	-2.4	1.1	-.1	.9	-3.2	3.7	-.9	-2.4
June	-.5	.1	0	1.1	.7	-3.5	-2.6	-1.7
July	-1.1	-1.1	-.1	.8	-1.7	2.0	-.7	-2.0
August	2.1	1.9	0	-.1	-1.8	1.3	.5	-10.0

¹ Data for April 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

ing and cooking oils, processed chickens, dairy products, and eggs.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.3 percent after an increase of 0.4 percent the month before. Passenger cars and tobacco products accounted for most of the August advance after seasonal adjustment with identical increases of 1.1 percent; before seasonal adjustment, new car prices moved down 0.4 percent and the tobacco products index edged up 0.2 percent. Other August increases included women's apparel, household appliances, prescription drugs, glassware, and textbooks. Prices decreased somewhat for cosmetics and alcoholic beverages, however.

For the second consecutive month, the index for capital equipment inched up 0.1 percent. Increases for passenger cars, civilian aircraft, agricultural machinery, and construction machinery more than offset lower prices for computers, oilfield machinery, and trucks.

Intermediate goods

After dropping 0.3 percent in July, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components advanced 0.4 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. Prices turned up for energy goods, foods and feeds, and nondurable manufacturing materials following declines in July. However, prices for construction materials turned down, and prices fell faster than in July for materials for durable manufacturing. (See table B.)

The index for energy goods advanced 1.9 percent following a drop of 1.1 percent in July. The index for liquefied petroleum gas jumped 10.3 percent after a substantial drop in the preceding month. Prices for jet

fuels, gasoline, and commerical and industrial natural gas also turned up following July decreases. In addition, price increases accelerated for diesel fuel and residual fuel, and prices for industrial power moved down more slowly than in the preceding month. In contrast, price advances slowed for commerical power and for natural gas to electric utilities.

The foods and feeds index increased 2.1 percent after dropping 1.1 percent in July. Following declines in the previous month, prices turned up substantially for formula feeds and for both soy- and wheat-based animal feeds, as well as for crude soybean oils and wheat flour. In contrast, prices fell faster than in July for meats, and prices for confectionery materials turned down. Price advances slowed for dairy products.

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing turned up 0.3 percent, the first increase for this category since last November. Petrochemical prices edged up after declining substantially in each of the 3 preceding months. Prices for inedible fats and oils jumped more than 15 percent, also following 3 months of substantial decreases. Paint materials, leather, and alkalies and chlorine turned up following July declines. Price decreases for plastic resins and materials slowed after showing 6 months of sizable declines. Price declines were also smaller for intermediate and other basic organic chemicals. Price increases for gray fabrics accelerated from July to August. In contrast, price advances slowed for paperboard, and processed yarns and threads showed no change following a July advance. Prices for woodpulp and synthetic rubber fell faster than in July. Prices turned down after rising in the previous month for medicinal and botanical chemicals and for phosphates.

The index for materials and components for construction dropped 0.4 percent after increasing in each of the preceding 4 months. Indexes for softwood lumber and plywood both dropped about 9 percent in August following more modest declines in July and substantial surges in June and May. Prices turned down for plastic construction products, gypsum products, and heating equipment after rising in the previous month. However, prices for nonferrous wire and cable increased faster than in July.

The index for materials for durable manufacturing fell 0.7 percent after inching down 0.1 percent in July. Prices dropped faster than in the preceding month for hot rolled steel sheet and strip, hot rolled steel bars, primary aluminum, and primary silver. Prices turned down for semifinished steel mill products and for copper and brass mill shapes after rising in July. Price for primary lead showed no change in August following a steep climb in July and a sizable drop in June. In contrast, prices for aluminum mill shapes turned up after declining in July. Primary copper prices rose faster than in the previous month.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing showed no change from July to August, seasonally adjusted, following a slight increase of 0.2 percent in July. Advances in energy and basic industrial material prices offset a decrease in prices for foodstuffs and feedstuffs. (See table B.)

After increasing 2.0 percent in July, the crude energy materials index moved up 1.3 percent. The index for crude petroleum rose 1.9 percent, considerably less than the 5.5-percent climb in the preceding month. The crude oil index was nearly 20 percent lower in August 1991 than in the same month a year earlier. Coal prices fell 1.0 percent following increases in July and June. In contrast, the natural gas (to pipelines) index turned up after decreasing in each of the 2 previous months.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy advanced 0.5 percent after declining in most other months over the past year. Prices for copper ores and cattle hides turned up following substantial July decreases. The wastepaper index fell much less than in other recent months. The index for softwood logs rose more than in the prior month, and hardwood log prices registered no change after dropping 5 percent in July. By contrast, prices for iron and steel scrap, leaf tobacco, and silver ores turned down following increases the month before. The index for aluminum base scrap moved up less than in July,

and the raw cotton index fell more sharply than in either of the 2 preceding months.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index fell 1.8 percent, about as much as it had a month earlier. Prices turned down sharply following increases the month before for cattle, hog, and unprocessed fin fish. Prices turned up substantially, however, for corn, soybeans, wheat, and live poultry after decreasing in the previous month. In addition, price declines slowed for hay and for fresh and dried vegetables.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries increased 1.0 percent in August following a 0.8-percent advance in July. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group rose 1.9 percent, considerably more than a month earlier. In addition, prices for the metal mining industry group turned up 0.4 percent after 10 consecutive monthly decreases. In contrast, prices turned down 1.0 percent for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group after moving up 0.3 percent in both July and June. Prices for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group fell 0.3 percent, about the same as a month earlier. In August, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 77.0 (December 1984=100), 4.2 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries turned up 0.3 percent in August after falling that much in July. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group increased 4.6 percent after falling 3.2 percent in July and 1.2 percent in June. Prices also increased after falling in July for the industry groups for leather, printing and publishing, and fabricated metal products. In contrast, prices turned down 2.7 percent for the lumber and wood products industry group after rising 0.6 percent a month earlier, and prices for tobacco manufactures were unchanged after 2 months of sharp increases. Prices continued to decline for the primary metal industries group. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 115.7 in August (December 1984=100), 1.0 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Services. Among service industries, prices increased for water transportation of freight, travel agencies, collection of scrap and waste materials, and truck rental and leasing. However, prices decreased for foreign deep sea freight transportation, railroad freight, and radio broadcasting.

Price Movements

September 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods edged up 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from August to September. This followed a rise of 0.2 percent in August and modest declines in each of the 2 preceding months. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved up 0.1 percent in September after an advance of 0.4 percent in the preceding month. Crude material prices declined 0.9 percent over the month after showing no change in August. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices fell moderately for the fourth consecutive month. The index for finished energy goods rose much less than in the month before. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were unchanged from August to September following 2 months of small increases.

During the third quarter of 1991, prices received by domestic producers of finished goods inched up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.3 percent. This was even more modest than the 0.7-percent annual rate of change recorded for the Finished Goods Price Index in the second quarter this year. The Intermediate Goods Price Index, which dropped sharply in the first quarter and moderately in the second quarter, rose at a rate of 0.7 percent in the third. The Crude Goods Price Index decreased

at a rate of 2.8 percent from June to September, after falling at a considerably faster pace in each of the three preceding quarters.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.3 percent in September to 121.3 (1982 = 100). From September 1990 to September 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 0.7 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices dropped 1.2 percent, finished energy goods declined 3.5 percent, and prices for other kinds of finished goods advanced 3.0 percent. The index for intermediate materials, supplies, and components fell 1.5 percent from September 1990 to September 1991, and crude material prices were 15.0 percent lower than their level of a year earlier.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished energy goods increased 0.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, from August to September in the wake of a 1.8-percent climb in the preceding month. During the third quarter, prices for energy items climbed at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.3 percent after showing no change in the second quarter and falling sharply during the first 3 months of the year. The slowdown from August to September was primarily due to

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
September	1.3	-0.5	11.3	0.3	6.0	1.6	4.9
October	1.2	.6	9.1	.2	6.4	1.6	8.5
November .....	.4	.1	.2	.5	7.0	.2	-6.2
December	-4	-.3	-4.0	.2	5.7	-.8	-5.4
1991:							
January .....	.1	-.2	-2.2	.8	4.0	-.5	1.8
February	-.7	.2	-5.3	.2	3.4	-.8	-7.7
March	-.2	.2	-3.3	.3	3.2	-1.0	-3.3
April .....	.1	.3	-.1	.1	3.3	-.4	-4
May .....	.5	0	1.7	.4	3.5	-.1	.1
June	-.4	-.4	-1.5	-.2	3.5	.1	-1.7
July	-.2	-.8	-1.3	.2	2.9	-.3	.2
August .....	.2	-.4	1.8	.2	2.0	.4	0
September .....	.1	-.5	.8	0	.7	.1	-.9

¹ Data for May 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
September	-1.0	9.8	0.5	3.5	-1.2	13.0	-0.9	12.7
October	-1	9.4	.3	5.0	.3	18.8	-1.4	22.2
November	-1.2	-.2	.3	5.3	-1.0	-11.0	-2.3	13.7
December .....	.2	-5.2	-.1	4.3	-1.2	-10.2	-1.3	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-2.8	0	2.6	-1.1	4.4	.3	5.9
February	1.7	-4.2	-.1	2.7	.1	-14.9	-.1	-2.5
March .....	.8	-5.1	-.5	1.6	1.0	-7.3	-1.3	-4.2
April	-.2	-1.5	-.2	1.0	-.7	-.4	.1	-2.1
May	-2.6	1.0	-.2	.8	-3.3	3.3	-.6	-2.5
June	-.3	.2	.1	1.1	.8	-3.2	-2.9	-1.7
July	-1.1	-1.1	-.1	.8	-1.7	2.0	-.7	-2.0
August	2.1	1.9	0	-.1	-1.8	1.3	.5	-10.0
September	-.4	.8	0	-1.5	1.5	-2.7	-.9	-15.0

¹ Data for May 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

gasoline prices, which inched up only marginally following a substantial advance the month before. Home heating oil prices climbed somewhat less than in either of the 2 preceding months. In contrast, the index for residential gas turned up after decreasing in August.

Prices for finished consumer foods moved down 0.5 percent in September, about as much as the month before. The foods index dropped at an annual rate of 6.6 percent from June to September, the fastest rate of decrease for any calendar quarter since the third quarter of 1976. September declines were led by meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, potato and corn chips, fats and oils, and eggs. Significant increases included candy and nuts, roasted coffee, and fish.

The index for finished consumer goods less foods and energy showed no change in September following moderate increases in August and July. From June to September this index moved up at an annual rate of 2.7 percent, more than in the preceding 3 months (0.9 percent) but slower than the first quarter's pace of 5.9 percent. Prices turned down rapidly in September after modest August rises for prescription drugs, sanitary papers and health products, and soaps and detergents. The index for passenger cars moved down 2.5 percent before seasonal adjustment, reflecting traditional end-of-model-year discounts; after seasonal adjustment, the new cars index rose 0.6 percent, somewhat less than in August. Indexes for alcoholic beverages and light trucks turned up, however, following small decreases a month earlier.

Capital equipment prices rose 0.2 percent in September, about the same as in most other recent months. This index moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.3 percent in the third quarter, the same as in the previous 3

months but far less than other quarterly rates registered in recent years. Motor vehicles accounted for most of the September rise; turbines and agricultural equipment also moved up. The computers index fell far less than in any of the 4 preceding months.

Intermediate goods

After rising 0.4 percent in August, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components edged up 0.1 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. Most of this slowdown was caused by the energy and food components. The index for intermediate goods other than foods and energy showed no change for the second consecutive month. (See table B.)

In September, the price increase for energy goods slowed to 0.8 percent, following a 1.9-percent advance in August. Energy prices turned up at a 6.9-percent annual rate of increase in the third quarter, after a slight decline in the preceding quarter and a substantial drop from December to March. Prices rose much less in September than a month earlier for gasoline, diesel fuel, and liquefied petroleum gas. Residual fuel prices turned down, and the commercial power index was unchanged after increasing considerably in other recent months. In contrast, prices rose faster than in August for jet fuels, commercial and industrial natural gas, and natural gas to electric utilities.

The foods and feeds index fell 0.4 percent in September after rising 2.1 percent in August. This index rose at a 2.6-percent annual rate from June to September after plunging at an 11.5-percent rate in the previous 3 months. Prices edged down for prepared animal feeds in September after a substantial advance a month earlier. Prices also

turned down after increasing in August for natural and processed cheese and for condensed and evaporated milk, and pork prices fell more than a month earlier. Price increases slowed markedly for crude vegetable oils. In contrast, prices fell less than in August for beef and veal and for butter, and prices for confectionery materials turned up after falling considerably in the previous month.

The index of materials for nondurable manufacturing increased 0.3 percent in September, the same as in August. During the third quarter, this index turned up modestly after falling sharply through the first half of 1991. Increases were registered in September for paperboard, plastic resins, and basic organic chemicals, while declines were led by paint materials and leather.

The index of materials and components for construction was unchanged in September following a 0.4-percent decrease in August. Construction material prices edged down slightly in the third quarter following a 3.6-percent rate of increase from March to June. Softwood lumber prices showed no change in September and prices for plywood fell 2.2 percent; both fell about 9 percent a month earlier. Prices for plastic construction products also decreased less than in August. Gypsum products advanced 3.7 percent after dropping 4.2 percent in August. In contrast, prices for nonferrous wire and cable turned down following an August increase, and price increases slowed for millwork.

The index of materials for durable manufacturing moved down 0.2 percent in September, less than the drop of 0.7 percent in August. Durable manufacturing material prices decreased at an annual rate of 3.7 percent from June to September, the fourth consecutive quarterly decline. Prices turned up after falling in August for flat glass, hot rolled steel bars and plates, copper and brass mill shapes, silver, and hardwood lumber. Price declines slowed for primary aluminum, gold, and platinum. Copper prices advanced 4.6 percent for the second consecutive month. In contrast, zinc prices turned down after rising in August, and prices for aluminum mill shapes were unchanged after a modest rise a month earlier.

Among other intermediate goods, prices turned down after rising in August for metal containers, aircraft engines, mechanical power transmission equipment, mixed fertilizers, and photographic supplies. Prices for unsupported plastic film were unchanged after rising in the previous month. In contrast, the index for steel pipe fell less than in August. Prices turned up after decreasing a month earlier for metal job stampings, motor vehicle parts, aircraft parts, and motors and generators.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing declined 0.9 percent, seasonally adjusted, in September after showing no change in August and a slight increase in July. Following increases in each of

the last 2 months, the crude energy materials index turned down in September. The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy also moved down after an August advance. Prices for foodstuffs and feedstuffs, however, turned up following declines in August and July. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials turned down 2.7 percent after rising 1.3 percent in the previous month. This index increased in the third quarter at an annual rate of 2.1 percent following a 1.5-percent rate of decline in the second quarter and much larger drops in each of the two preceding quarters. The index for natural gas (to pipelines) fell 6.3 percent following a 1.8-percent increase in August. The crude petroleum index edged down after climbing in each of the preceding 2 months. In contrast, coal prices fell less than in the preceding month.

The basic industrial materials index decreased 0.9 percent after advancing 0.5 percent in August. These prices fell at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.3 percent from June to September, compared with a 13.0-percent rate of decrease in the second quarter. Prices turned down in September for softwood logs, copper ores, aluminum and copper base scrap, cattle hides, and gold ores following increases a month earlier. The index for uranium-radium-vanadium ores dropped substantially after registering no change in either of the 2 months before. In addition, leaf tobacco and silver ores prices fell faster than in the prior month. The wastepaper index declined as much as in August. Prices for iron and steel scrap and for lead and zinc ores, however, turned up following decreases in the previous month, and price declines slowed for raw cotton.

Following decreases in each of the preceding 2 months, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned up 1.5 percent in September. In the third quarter of 1991, this index decreased at an annual rate of 8.1 percent after falling at a rate of 12.5 percent in the second quarter. Prices for cattle, hogs, and unprocessed fin fish turned up in September following substantial August declines. The fresh and dried fruits and vegetables index fell less than in August. By contrast, prices for corn and live poultry turned down after rising in the month before. Price increases slowed for wheat, soybeans, fluid milk, and raw cane sugar.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector dropped 2.3 percent in September after increasing 1.0 percent in August. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) From June to September, this index declined at an annual rate of 2.1 percent, after falling at a rate of 6.1 percent during the second quarter. In September, the index for the oil and gas extraction industry group decreased 3.2 percent following a 1.9-percent climb in the preceding month. The metal mining industry group index also turned down, declining

0.9 percent after rising 0.4 percent in August. In contrast, prices for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group increased 0.3 percent after decreasing by the same amount a month earlier. The Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 75.2 in September (December 1984=100), 13.7 percent below its level of a year ago.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the domestic manufacturing sector moved down 0.2 percent over the month following a 0.3-percent rise in August. During the third quarter, this index showed almost no net change, after rising at a rate of 1.0 percent from March to June. Most major manufacturing industry groups

registered little or no change from August to September; the only sizable exceptions were a drop of 1.0 percent for transportation equipment and an advance of 0.9 percent for petroleum refining. The September index for total manufacturing industries was 115.5 (December 1984=100), a drop of 0.6 percent from its September 1990 value.

Services. Among service industries, notable increases included those for Mississippi River transportation of freight and deep sea foreign transportation of freight. The indexes for travel agencies and truck rentals, however, dropped considerably.

Price Movements

October 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.7 percent seasonally adjusted from September to October. The October advance followed small increases in both September and August. The Intermediate Goods Price Index edged down 0.1 percent after inching up by the same amount a month earlier. The Crude Goods Price Index climbed 1.8 percent following a drop of 0.9 percent in September. (See table A.)

After four consecutive monthly declines, the finished consumer foods index turned up moderately in October. The finished energy goods index, which declined in 6 out of the first 7 months of the year, turned up in August and rose again in October. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced 0.5 percent following no change in September; however, the October rise may be somewhat overstated by the seasonal adjustment process. (See page 2.)

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 0.8 percent in October to 122.3 (1982=100). From October 1990 to October 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index showed no change. During the same period, consumer food prices dropped 1.3 percent, the index for energy goods fell 11.1 percent, consumer goods other than foods and energy advanced 3.8

percent, and capital equipment prices rose 2.7 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods declined 3.2 percent from October 1990 to October 1991, and crude material prices were 20.2 percent below their level of a year ago.

Finished goods

After decreasing 0.5 percent in September, the index for finished consumer foods increased 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted. The October upturn was led by beef and veal, pork, and processed chickens, each of which rose following September declines. Dairy products and fish advanced considerably more than in the preceding month. In contrast, indexes for fresh and dried fruits and vegetables and for processed turkeys each fell more than 10 percent after much smaller decreases a month earlier. In addition, prices for confectionery end products turned down.

The increase in the index for finished energy goods accelerated from 0.8 percent in September to 1.7 percent in October. Prices for residential electricity and gasoline both fell considerably before seasonal adjustment; seasonally adjusted, however, both indexes rose more

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
October	1.2	0.6	9.1	0.2	6.4	1.6	8.5
November .....	.4	.1	.2	.5	7.0	.2	-6.2
December	-.4	-.3	-4.0	.2	5.7	-.8	-5.4
1991:							
January .....	.1	-.2	-2.2	.8	4.0	-.5	1.8
February	-.7	.2	-5.3	.2	3.4	-.8	-7.7
March	-.2	.2	-3.3	.3	3.2	-1.0	-3.3
April .....	.1	.3	-.1	.1	3.3	-.4	-.4
May .....	.5	0	1.7	.4	3.5	-.1	.1
June	-.4	-.5	-1.5	-.1	3.5	.1	-1.5
July	-.2	-.7	-1.3	.2	2.9	-.3	0
August .....	.2	-.4	1.8	.2	2.0	.4	0
September .....	.1	-.5	.8	0	.7	.1	-.9
October .....	.7	.4	1.7	.5	0	-.1	1.8

¹ Data for June 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
October	-0.1	9.4	0.3	5.0	0.3	18.8	-1.4	22.2
November	-1.2	-.2	.3	5.3	-1.0	-11.0	-2.3	13.7
December .....	.2	-5.2	-.1	4.3	-1.2	-10.2	-1.3	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-2.8	0	2.6	-1.1	4.4	.3	5.9
February	1.7	-4.2	-.1	2.7	.1	-14.9	-.1	-2.5
March .....	.8	-5.1	-.5	1.6	1.0	-7.3	-1.3	-4.2
April	-.2	-1.5	-.2	1.0	-.7	-.4	.1	-2.1
May	-2.6	1.0	-.2	.8	-3.3	3.3	-.6	-2.5
June	-.4	.4	.1	1.1	.8	-2.7	-3.0	-1.4
July	-1.0	-1.2	-.1	.8	-1.7	1.4	-.6	-2.0
August	2.1	1.9	0	-.1	-1.8	1.3	.5	-10.0
September	-.4	.8	0	-1.5	1.5	-2.7	-.9	-15.0
October	1.1	-.4	-.1	-3.2	.1	3.9	-.5	-20.2

¹ Data for June 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

than in September. In addition, the index for liquefied petroleum gas surged 17.1 percent, far more than in the preceding month. The index for residential gas, in contrast, turned down following a September advance. Although home heating oil prices continued to rise, the October increase was much smaller than those in each of the 3 preceding months.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the index for consumer durable goods swung from a 0.2-percent decline in September to an advance of 0.8 percent in October. The seasonally adjusted index for consumer durable goods is not calculated as the sum of its seasonally adjusted components; instead, this index is adjusted directly. This process can lead to results that are inconsistent with the movements of its seasonally adjusted components. This was the case in October, and as a result the rise in the index for consumer durable goods, and to a lesser extent the increase for finished goods excluding food and energy, may be somewhat overstated.

Within the consumer durable goods index, prices for books rose much more than in September. Prices for passenger cars and light trucks each climbed about 10 percent before seasonal adjustment, reflecting the introduction of 1992 models as well as the termination of discounts on 1991 models; after seasonal adjustment, passenger car prices moved up 0.5 percent and the light trucks index was up 1.2 percent. (See the article, "Report on Quality Changes for 1992 Model Passenger Cars," page 5.)

The index for consumer nondurables other than foods and energy moved up 0.5 percent in October after showing no change in September. Indexes for prescription drugs and for soaps and detergents turned up substantially following sizable declines in the preceding month. Indexes

for alcoholic beverages and over-the-counter drugs, however, edged down following September increases.

Capital equipment prices rose 0.4 percent in October after increasing 0.2 percent the month before. The heavy motor trucks index advanced 3.1 percent after seasonal adjustment, far more than in September; before seasonal adjustment, heavy truck prices climbed 7.5 percent. Indexes for ships and photographic equipment each climbed about 1 percent after inching down in September. In contrast, the rise in the agricultural machinery and equipment index slowed considerably, and the computers index dropped much more than a month earlier.

Intermediate goods

After inching up 0.1 percent in September, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components edged down 0.1 percent in October, seasonally adjusted. Prices dropped moderately for energy goods and for materials for durable manufacturing, and small declines were registered for nondurable manufacturing and construction materials. Prices for foods and feeds turned up. (See table B.)

Prices turned down 0.4 percent for energy goods after rising 0.8 percent in September and 1.9 percent in August. Jet fuel prices turned down in October after sizable advances in each of the 2 preceding months. Prices for commercial power and residual fuel fell markedly following no change for the power index and a slight decline for residual fuel in the preceding month. Price increases slowed for diesel fuel. In contrast, prices for liquefied petroleum gas jumped much more than in September and August. Price increases also accelerated for gasoline and commercial natural gas.

The index for durable manufacturing materials fell 0.6 percent after decreasing 0.2 percent in September. Primary aluminum prices fell faster than in the previous month. Prices turned down for primary copper and hot rolled steel bars after rising in September. Aluminum mill shapes moved down after showing no change in the preceding month. Hot rolled steel sheets, however, turned up following six consecutive monthly decreases. The primary lead index jumped after registering no change in either of the 2 preceding months.

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing dropped 0.3 percent after rising by the same percentage in September. Price increases for paperboard and petrochemicals slowed in October. Paper, finished fabrics, and phosphates turned down after moving up in the previous month. Indexes for synthetic alcohols, synthetic fibers, and inedible fats and oils dropped after remaining unchanged in September. Woodpulp prices fell faster than in the preceding month. In contrast, price declines slowed for paint materials and leather. Prices turned up for formaldehyde, basic inorganic chemicals, gray fabrics, medicinal chemicals, and nitrogenates following September declines. Prices for plastic resins and materials continued to advance.

The index for materials and components for construction edged down 0.2 percent after showing no change in September. Prices for plastic construction products, fabricated structural metal products, and nonferrous wire and cable fell more than in September. In contrast, softwood lumber prices rose following no change in September and a substantial decline in August, and millwork prices increased faster than in the preceding month.

The index for foods and feeds advanced 1.1 percent following a drop of 0.4 percent in September. Prices turned up for condensed milk, beef and veal, and pork after falling in the previous month. Prices rose faster than in September for flour and crude vegetable oils. Prices turned down for confectionery materials, however.

Among other intermediate goods, the electronic components and accessories index turned down after a small rise in the previous month.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing rose 1.8 percent seasonally adjusted in October following a 0.9-percent decline in September. Energy prices accounted for most of this upturn. In addition, the basic industrial materials index fell less than in the month before. Price advances slowed considerably, however, for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials turned up 3.9 percent after falling 2.7 percent in September. Nevertheless, this index was 31.5 percent below its level of October 1990. Following a marginal decrease in September, the

crude petroleum index climbed 10 percent; this was the largest increase since January. The index for natural gas (to pipelines) declined 0.5 percent after dropping much more substantially a month earlier. Coal prices, however, fell faster than in September.

Prices for crude materials other than food and energy moved down 0.5 percent in October after falling 0.9 percent in the previous month. Over the last 12 months, this index fell 9.3 percent. Prices turned up in October for copper scrap and ores, softwood logs, cattle hides, leaf tobacco, and silver ores following decreases in September. The index for uranium-radium-vanadium ores did not change after dropping more than 10 percent a month earlier. Furthermore, hardwood log prices climbed in October after showing no change in either of the 2 prior months. In contrast, price increases slowed for iron and steel scrap. Prices for aluminum base scrap, raw cotton, and wastepaper fell more sharply than in the preceding month, and the index for lead and zinc ores turned down following a substantial increase the month before.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index inched up 0.1 percent after rising 1.5 percent the previous month. Following a considerable increase in September, the cattle index registered no change. Hog prices turned down sharply after rising in the prior month. Prices fell substantially more than in September for live turkeys and for fresh and dried fruits and vegetables. In addition, price increases slowed for soybeans. By contrast, prices turned up for broilers and fryers and for corn following decreases in September. The unprocessed fin fish index surged, preceded by a moderate increase in September and a substantial drop in August, and the index for wheat rose much faster than a month earlier.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries increased 3.1 percent in October following a 2.3-percent decline in September. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned up 4.3 percent after falling 3.2 percent a month earlier. In addition, prices for the metal mining industry group inched up 0.1 percent after decreasing 0.9 percent in September. Prices for the anthracite mining industry group moved up 0.5 percent after showing no change the previous month. In contrast, prices turned down 0.2 percent for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group after moving up 0.3 percent in September. Prices for the industry group for bituminous coal and lignite mining fell 0.4 percent, the third consecutive monthly decline. In October, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 77.5 (December 1984 = 100), 19.8 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries turned up 0.7 percent in October after inching down 0.2 percent in September. Prices for the transportation equipment industry group advanced 4.0 percent, following a 1.0-percent decline a month earlier. Prices also increased after falling in September for the industry groups for chemicals and allied products and for food and kindred products. Prices rose somewhat faster than a month earlier for the industry groups for printing and publishing and for measuring and controlling instruments. In contrast, prices for the petroleum refining industry group decreased 0.7 percent after rising 0.9 percent a month earlier. Prices for the

leather products industry group fell more than in September. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 116.3 in October (December 1984=100), 1.5 percent below its level 12 months earlier.

Services. Among service industries, prices decreased for electric power utilities (4.1 percent), collection of scrap and waste materials (2.1 percent), and tour operators. However, prices increased for radio broadcasting (2.8 percent), water transportation of freight (1.4 percent), and natural gas utilities.

Price Movements

November 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent seasonally adjusted from October to November. This followed a rise of 0.7 percent in October and small increases in each of the 2 previous months. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 0.2 percent in November after edging down in the preceding month. The Crude Goods Price Index increased 0.3 percent following an advance of 1.8 percent in October. (See table A.)

Within the finished goods category, prices for consumer foods inched down after a moderate October increase. The index for finished energy goods showed no change following 3 months of substantial increases. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.3 percent, somewhat less than in the month before.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods was unchanged in November at 122.3 (1982=100). From November 1990 to November 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index declined 0.5 percent. During the same 12-month period, consumer food prices dropped 1.5 percent, the index for finished energy goods fell 12.6 percent, consumer goods other than foods and energy advanced 3.4 percent, and capital equipment prices were up 2.6 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods decreased 3.2 percent in

the 12 months ended in November 1991, and crude material prices were 14.6 percent lower than they had been a year ago.

Finished goods

The index for finished consumer foods inched down 0.1 percent in November after rising 0.4 percent a month earlier. Declines were widespread within the category for meats, poultry, and fish. Lower prices were also registered for fresh fruits, eggs, and soft drinks. In contrast, prices for many fresh vegetables were sharply higher, principally because of insect damage to crops. In addition, prices rose for bakery products, frozen juices and ades, nuts, cheese, and pasta.

The index for finished energy goods showed no change over the month after climbing 1.7 percent in October. Indexes for residential electricity and liquefied petroleum gas turned down following sizable advances a month earlier, and gasoline prices moved up somewhat less than in October. The residential gas index, however, turned up after dropping in the previous month, and home heating oil prices rose considerably more than in October.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.4 percent from October to November. Most of

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
November	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.5	7.0	0.2	-6.2
December	-.4	-.3	-4.0	.2	5.7	-.8	-5.4
1991:							
January .....	.1	-.2	-2.2	.8	4.0	-.5	1.8
February	-.7	.2	-5.3	.2	3.4	-.8	-7.7
March	-.2	.2	-3.3	.3	3.2	-1.0	-3.3
April .....	.1	.3	-.1	.1	3.3	-.4	-.4
May .....	.5	0	1.7	.4	3.5	-.1	.1
June	-.4	-.5	-1.5	-.1	3.5	.1	-1.5
July	-.2	-.7	-1.3	.2	2.9	-.4	.1
August .....	.2	-.4	1.8	.2	2.0	.4	-.1
September .....	.1	-.5	.8	0	.7	.1	-.9
October .....	.7	.4	1.7	.5	0	-.1	1.8
November .....	.2	-.1	0	.3	-.5	.2	.3

¹ Data for July 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
November	-1.2	-0.2	0.3	5.3	-1.0	-11.0	-2.3	13.7
December .....	.2	-5.2	-.1	4.3	-1.2	-10.2	-1.3	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-2.8	0	2.6	-1.1	4.4	.3	5.9
February	1.7	-4.2	-.1	2.7	.1	-14.9	-.1	-2.5
March .....	.8	-5.1	-.5	1.6	1.0	-7.3	-1.3	-4.2
April	-.2	-1.5	-.2	1.0	-.7	-.4	.1	-2.1
May	-2.6	1.0	-.2	.8	-3.3	3.3	-.6	-2.5
June	-.4	.4	.1	1.1	.8	-2.7	-3.0	-1.4
July	-1.1	-1.2	-.1	.8	-1.5	1.6	-.3	-1.9
August	2.2	1.9	0	-.1	-2.0	1.1	.2	-10.0
September	-.4	.8	0	-1.5	1.5	-2.7	-.9	-15.0
October	1.1	-.4	-.1	-3.2	.1	3.9	-.5	-20.2
November .....	.1	.5	.1	-3.2	-.2	1.2	-1.8	-14.6

¹ Data for July 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

this advance was due to seasonally adjusted increases of more than 1 percent for passenger cars and tobacco products; before seasonal adjustment, these two indexes showed little or no change. Prices for sanitary paper products and alcoholic beverages moved up, while television prices declined.

The capital equipment index rose 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, in November. Increases for cars, light trucks, and tractors outweighed decreases for heavy trucks and railroad equipment.

Intermediate goods

After edging down 0.1 percent in October, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components moved up 0.2 percent in November, seasonally adjusted. Prices turned up for energy goods and for materials for durable and nondurable manufacturing. The advance in the foods and feeds index, however, slowed markedly. (See table B.)

Prices advanced 0.5 percent for intermediate energy goods after dropping 0.4 percent in October. Residual fuel prices turned up after falling sharply in October. Indexes for jet fuel and for natural gas to electric utilities turned up following declines in the previous month. Price increases accelerated for diesel fuel and for commercial and industrial natural gas. In contrast, the liquefied petroleum gas index edged down after surging for 3 consecutive months, and industrial power rates turned down.

The index for durable manufacturing materials moved up 0.3 percent after falling 0.6 percent in October. Prices turned up for hot rolled steel bars and for primary zinc. Price declines slowed for primary aluminum, primary

copper, and aluminum mill shapes. Price advances slowed, however, for hot rolled steel sheets and for flat glass. Prices fell following October increases for copper and brass mill shapes and for precious metals. Primary lead prices remained unchanged following a sizable advance in the preceding month.

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing rose 0.3 percent after falling by the same amount a month earlier. Prices turned up following October declines for synthetic alcohols, inedible fats and oils, finished fabrics, and leather. Price declines slowed for paper, woodpulp, and synthetic fibers. By contrast, prices turned down for thermoplastic resins, basic inorganic chemicals, and nitrogenates. Price advances slowed for petrochemicals and paperboard.

The index for materials and components for construction inched down 0.1 percent after dropping 0.2 percent in October. Prices fell substantially for nonferrous wire and cable, plastic construction products, and aluminum foil packaging. Advances were noted, however, for softwood lumber, plywood, and millwork.

The rise in the index for foods and feeds slowed to 0.1 percent after climbing 1.1 percent in October. Prices for beef and veal, condensed and evaporated milk products, crude vegetable oils, and pork turned down in the wake of October increases. Price advances slowed for butter and fluid milk products. In contrast, prices for corn sweeteners were unchanged following a sharp decline in the preceding month, and prices turned up for formula feeds and processed cheese.

Among other intermediate goods, prices for paper boxes and containers continued to increase.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing advanced 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, from October to November after climbing 1.8 percent in the preceding month. Most of this deceleration was due to slower price increases for crude energy materials. In addition, the index for basic industrial materials fell faster than in the previous month, and the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned down slightly following a marginal increase a month earlier. (See table B.)

After rising 3.9 percent in October, the crude energy materials index increased 1.2 percent. Prices for crude petroleum turned down 3.5 percent following a 10-percent rise in the prior month. In contrast, the index for natural gas (to pipelines) climbed 7.1 percent after a small decline in October; this was the largest monthly increase since last December. Furthermore, coal prices moved up 1 percent following declines in each of the preceding 4 months.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy fell 1.8 percent after decreasing 0.5 percent in October. Following increases in the previous month, prices turned down for softwood logs, copper-base scrap, leaf tobacco, iron and steel scrap, and silver ores. The index for copper ores rose less than in the month before. Price decreases slowed, however, for aluminum-base scrap and for lead and zinc ores. Raw cotton prices declined for the sixth consecutive month, although not as much as in October. Prices for cattle hides and for sand and gravel rose faster than in the prior month. In addition, the wastepaper index turned up following decreases in most months this year.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs prices edged down 0.2 percent after a slight increase a month earlier. The index for broilers and fryers registered no change following a substantial climb in the previous month. Prices turned down for unprocessed fin fish, soybeans, and corn after rising in October. Price increases slowed for wheat. The fresh fruits index dropped 12.4 percent in November, the largest decline in 5 years. By contrast, prices turned up for fresh and dried vegetables and for live turkeys following considerable drops in the month before. The index for hogs fell less than in the preceding month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and service industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries increased 1.9 percent in November following a 3.1-percent increase in October. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group advanced 2.7 percent after rising 4.3 percent a month earlier. In addition, prices for the metal mining industry group turned down 0.5 percent after inching up 0.1 percent in October. In contrast, prices for the anthracite-mining industry group moved up 1.4 percent after increasing 0.5 percent in the previous month. Prices for the industry group for bituminous coal and lignite mining turned up 0.5 percent following three consecutive monthly declines. In November, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 79.0 (December 1984 = 100), 14.5 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries moved up 0.2 percent in November after advancing 0.7 percent in October. Prices for the transportation equipment industry group, which advanced 4.0 percent in October, inched up 0.1 percent in November. Prices edged down following moderate October advances for the industry groups for food products and chemicals. In contrast, the index for the petroleum refining industry group turned up 2.4 percent after decreasing 0.7 percent a month earlier. Prices increased slightly after falling a month earlier for the industry groups for lumber and wood products, paper products, and leather products. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 116.5 in November (December 1984 = 100), 1.4 percent below its level 12 months earlier.

Services. Among service industries, prices increased for deep sea foreign transportation of freight (3.7 percent), natural gas utilities (2.9 percent), and travel agencies (2.2 percent). In contrast, prices decreased for electric power utilities (3.6 percent), water transportation of freight (2.9 percent), and collection of scrap and waste materials (1.6 percent).

The Bureau of Labor Statistics will soon update the value weights used to calculate the Producer Price Indexes to reflect more recent production patterns. The new weights, which will be introduced when January 1992 data are released in February, will be based on 1987 shipment values taken from the Census of Manufactures and other sources. PPI weights have been derived from 1982 shipment values since January 1987.

All indexes calculated from traditional commodity groupings will be affected by this weight update. In addition, 1987 weights will be introduced for net output indexes for total manufacturing, total mining, and all 2-digit major industry groups based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. Weights for indexes for all 3-digit industry subgroups, industry-based stage-of-processing groupings, and material inputs to construction industries

which appear in this report will also be switched from 1982 to 1987. Many industry indexes published at the 4-digit level in this periodical have already been switched to 1987 weights over the past few years; others will be updated gradually in the years ahead.

The weight revision will not change the existing arithmetic reference periods of the PPI index system. Indexes calculated from traditional commodity groupings will continue to be published on the reference base of $1982=100$; the reference bases for SIC-classified indexes will, as now, usually reflect the month and year of introduction of each series. The PPI classification system will remain unchanged. Therefore, the continuity and comparability of PPI indexes will not be affected by the weight revision.

Price Movements

December 1991

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from November to December. This index rose 0.2 percent in November. The Intermediate Goods Price Index also declined 0.2 percent in December after an advance of 0.2 percent a month earlier. Prices received by domestic producers of crude materials fell 2.2 percent following increases in November and October. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices decreased more than in the preceding month, and the energy index turned down after showing no change in November. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent, a little less than in the month before.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods fell 0.3 percent in December to close the year at 121.9 (1982=100). From December 1990 to December 1991, the Finished Goods Price Index edged down 0.1 percent; in 1990, this index climbed 5.7 percent. The downturn was chiefly due to the index for finished energy goods, which retreated 9.6 percent in 1991 after soaring 30.7 percent in 1990. Consumer food prices also dropped in 1991 (1.6 percent) after increasing the year before (2.6 percent). Price increases for finished goods other than foods and energy slowed to 3.1 percent in 1991

following a rise of 3.5 percent a year earlier. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved down 2.6 percent from December 1990 to December 1991 in the wake of a 4.3-percent advance in 1990. Crude material prices, up 6.0 percent in 1990, were off 11.6 percent in 1991.

Finished goods

The index for finished energy goods dropped 1.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, from November to December, the first decline since July. Prices for both gasoline and home heating oil turned down after climbing in November. The residential electricity index, however, turned up after falling a month earlier, and residential gas prices continued to increase. In calendar year 1991, prices for home heating oil and gasoline both fell more than 25 percent after jumping sharply in 1990.

Consumer food prices moved down 0.4 percent in December, following a slight dip of 0.1 percent in the preceding month. After soaring 23.6 percent in November, the index for fresh and dried vegetables slumped 15.2 percent, led by lower prices for lettuce and tomatoes. Pasta prices also turned down in December, and indexes for processed fruits and vegetables and for bakery products moved up much less than in November. In contrast, egg

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1990:							
December	-0.4	-0.3	-4.0	0.2	5.7	-0.8	-5.4
1991:							
January .....	.1	-.2	-2.2	.8	4.0	-.5	1.8
February	-.7	.2	-5.3	.2	3.4	-.8	-7.7
March	-.2	.2	-3.3	.3	3.2	-1.0	-3.3
April .....	.1	.3	-.1	.1	3.3	-.4	-.4
May .....	.5	0	1.7	.4	3.5	-.1	.1
June	-.4	-.5	-1.5	-.1	3.5	.1	-1.5
July	-.2	-.7	-1.3	.2	2.9	-.4	.1
August .....	.2	-.5	1.8	.2	2.0	.4	-.1
September .....	.1	-.4	.8	0	.7	.2	-.9
October .....	.7	.4	1.7	.5	0	-.1	1.8
November .....	.2	-.1	0	.3	-.5	.2	.3
December	-.2	-.4	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.2	-2.2

¹ Data for August 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1990:								
December	0.2	-5.2	-0.1	4.3	-1.2	-10.2	-1.3	6.0
1991:								
January	-1.3	-2.8	0	2.6	-1.1	4.4	.3	5.9
February	1.7	-4.2	-.1	2.7	.1	-14.9	-.1	-2.5
March .....	.8	-5.1	-.5	1.6	1.0	-7.3	-1.3	-4.2
April	-.2	-1.5	-.2	1.0	-.7	-.4	.1	-2.1
May	-2.6	1.0	-.2	.8	-3.3	3.3	-.6	-2.5
June	-.4	.4	.1	1.1	.8	-2.7	-3.0	-1.4
July	-1.1	-1.2	-.1	.8	-1.5	1.6	-.3	-1.9
August	2.1	1.8	-.1	-.2	-1.8	.9	.2	-10.1
September	-.3	1.0	.1	-1.5	1.3	-2.4	-.9	-15.0
October	1.1	-.4	-.1	-3.2	.1	3.9	-.5	-20.2
November .....	.1	.5	.1	-3.2	-.2	1.2	-1.8	-14.6
December	-.2	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-.4	-3.9	-.4	-11.6

¹ Data for August 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

prices turned up sharply after falling in each of the 3 preceding months, and prices for beef, pork, fresh fruits, and fish decreased less than in the month before. The 1.6-percent decline in food prices in 1991 was led by indexes for fresh and dried fruits and vegetables, pork, and for beef and veal, each of which fell between 10 and 20 percent.

The index for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy inched up 0.1 percent over the month. This index increased 3.4 percent over the year after recording an advance of 3.7 percent in 1990. In December, the passenger car index decreased 0.8 percent before seasonal adjustment and 0.1 percent seasonally adjusted; from December 1990 to December 1991, new car prices rose 3.5 percent, somewhat less than their 4.3-percent increase in 1990. The index for tobacco products climbed 4.6 percent before seasonal adjustment in December, which translated into a seasonally adjusted rise of 0.8 percent; this index climbed 13.1 percent in 1991, marking its fifth consecutive annual double-digit advance. In December, prices for sanitary paper products and books turned down following November increases, but the index for men's and boys' apparel turned up.

The capital equipment index rose 0.2 percent in December for the second consecutive month. Increases were paced by a climb of 2.8 percent for ships, while the computers index fell 1.2 percent. The capital equipment index increased 2.5 percent over the year; ships, civilian aircraft, and light motor trucks were among the few categories to rise more than 5 percent. The index for electronic computers, however, declined 19.5 percent in 1991.

Intermediate goods

After moving up 0.2 percent in November, the Producer

Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components turned down 0.2 percent in December, seasonally adjusted. Prices turned down for energy goods, materials for nondurable manufacturing, and foods and feeds; in addition, durable manufacturing material prices were flat following a November rise. Construction material prices, however, turned up. (See table B.)

The 1991 downturn in the intermediate materials index after a 1990 increase was led by intermediate energy goods, which fell 11.6 percent following a 21.8-percent advance a year earlier. Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials also turned down. Prices fell faster than in 1990 for durable manufacturing materials, and price advances slowed for materials and components for construction. By contrast, the index for foods and feeds fell less than the year before.

In December, prices for intermediate energy goods dropped 1.3 percent after rising 0.5 percent in the preceding month. Prices turned up for both commercial and industrial power after declining in the previous month. Residual fuel prices jumped 9.8 percent, substantially more than in November. In contrast, diesel fuel prices dropped 10.7 percent after advancing in the preceding month. Prices also turned down following November rises for jet fuels, gasoline, and natural gas to electric utilities. Advances slowed markedly for the indexes for commercial and industrial natural gas, and prices fell faster for liquefied petroleum gas than in the month before. For the 12 months ended in December, prices for jet fuels, diesel fuel, and residual fuel dropped more than 30 percent following substantial advances in the preceding year.

The index for nondurable manufacturing materials dropped 0.3 percent after rising by the same amount in November. Petrochemical prices fell after advancing for 4

consecutive months. Prices also turned down for other basic organic chemicals, processed yarns and threads, and inedible fats and oils. Woodpulp prices fell faster than in November. Prices advances slowed for finished fabrics. However, prices turned up for phosphates and dry sodium hydroxide following November declines, and price decreases slowed for nitrogenates. Prices rose faster for paint materials and gray fabrics.

The index for durable manufacturing materials remained unchanged in December after a 0.3-percent rise in the previous month. Prices turned down for hot rolled steel bars, refined copper, and flat glass. Prices fell faster for copper and brass mill shapes and for primary copper than in the previous month. In contrast, price increases accelerated for hot rolled steel sheets and primary zinc, and prices turned up for gold and platinum following November decreases.

The foods and feeds index dropped 0.2 percent after edging up 0.1 percent in the preceding month. Prices turned down for formula feeds, cheese, and butter following advances in the previous month. In contrast, prices turned up for crude soybean oil, and price declines slowed for beef and veal and for pork. Flour prices rose considerably for the fifth consecutive month.

The index for materials and components for construction advanced 0.2 percent after decreasing 0.1 percent in the prior month. Prices turned up for fabricated structural metal products, wiring devices, and metal sanitary ware following declines in November. Prices rose faster for softwood lumber, plywood, and millwork than in the previous month. Price declines slowed for plastic construction products and nonferrous wire and cable. However, prices dropped for asphalt felts and coatings after showing no change in November.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing declined 2.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, in December after increasing 0.3 percent in November and 1.8 percent in October. Energy prices accounted for most of this downturn. In addition, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index fell slightly more than in the prior month. Price declines slowed, however, for basic industrial materials. (See table B.)

In December, the index for crude energy materials turned down 3.9 percent following increases in each of the previous 2 months. The crude petroleum index fell 13.8 percent, considerably faster than in November. In addition, the natural gas (to pipelines) index rose 5.2 percent, somewhat less than a month earlier, and coal prices turned down following a November rise.

Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs edged down 0.4 percent, slightly faster than in November. Prices turned down substantially for fresh and dried vegetables. Corn prices declined a little more than in the month

before. The index for soybeans, however, turned up following a moderate decrease in the prior month. In addition, price declines slowed for hogs, fresh fruits, and unprocessed fin fish, and increases accelerated for live turkeys and wheat.

Following a 1.8-percent decline in November, the index for crude nonfood materials other than energy moved down 0.4 percent. Prices turned up for aluminum base scrap and phosphates after falling in the preceding month. Price declines slowed for raw cotton, copper base scrap, and softwood logs. By contrast, prices fell faster than in November for iron and steel scrap and for silver ores. In addition, prices for cattle hides and copper ores turned down following November increases. The index for sand and gravel rose less than a month earlier, while the wastepaper index showed no change in December after a slight increase in the previous month.

The Crude Goods Price Index fell 11.6 percent in 1991, following increases for 4 consecutive years. The index for crude energy goods dropped 16.7 percent after climbing nearly 20 percent in each of the previous 2 years. Prices for crude petroleum dropped more than 30 percent in 1991 following upward surges in both 1990 and 1989. Indexes for natural gas (to pipelines) and coal also turned down following increases the year before. The basic industrial materials index fell 8 percent after showing a slight increase in 1990. Substantial price decreases for iron and steel scrap, raw cotton, wastepaper, and cattle hides accounted for most of this downturn. From December 1990 to December 1991, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index fell 5.6 percent. Sharp declines over the last 12 months were registered for cattle, hogs, and fresh and dried fruits and vegetables. In contrast, wheat prices soared 37.1 percent and fluid milk prices climbed 17.1 percent.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector fell 0.3 percent in December following a 0.2-percent rise in November. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) This decline was lead by a drop of 6.4 percent in the index for the petroleum refining industry group. Increases were paced by a 4.8-percent advance for the tobacco manufactures industry group. In addition, the lumber and wood products industry group index moved up 0.8 percent.

The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 116.1 in December (December 1984=100), 0.9 percent below its level 12 months earlier. The largest decline over the year was recorded for the petroleum refining industry group, which fell 26 percent. Decreases were also registered for the industry groups for primary metal industries and for paper and allied products. Most other industry groups increased from December 1990 to December 1991. The largest advances

occurred for the industry groups for tobacco manufactures (14.3 percent) and for lumber and wood products.

Mining. The Producer Price Index for total domestic mining industries decreased 2.0 percent in December after rising in both November and October. Prices turned down after increasing a month earlier for the oil and gas extraction industry group and for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group. Prices for the metal mining industry group fell more in December than in November. In contrast, prices for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group turned up moderately after moving down in each of the 2 preceding months. In December, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 77.4 (December 1984=100), 12.5 percent lower than a

year earlier. Over the year, declines of more than 16 percent were registered for the industry groups for oil and gas extraction and for metal mining; other mining industry groups showed more modest changes.

Other. Among other industries, price increases were registered in December for the industry groups for travel agencies and for electric power and gas utilities. In contrast, decreases were noted for water transportation of freight, truck rental and leasing, and for scrap and waste material collection. Over the year, prices increased for domestic deep sea transportation of freight, electric power utilities, radio broadcasting, and travel agencies. In contrast, declines were registered for the industry indexes for scrap and waste material collection and tour operators.

PPI Weights to be Updated

The Bureau of Labor Statistics will soon update the value weights used to calculate the Producer Price Indexes to reflect more recent production patterns. The new weights, which will be introduced when January 1992 data are released in February, will be based on 1987 shipment values taken from the Census of Manufactures and other sources. PPI weights have been derived from 1982 shipment values since January 1987.

All indexes calculated from traditional commodity groupings will be affected by this weight update. In addition, 1987 weights will be introduced for net output indexes for total manufacturing, total mining, and all 2-digit major industry groups based on the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. Weights for indexes for all 3-digit industry subgroups, industry-based stage-of-processing groupings, and material inputs to construction industries

which appear in this report will also be switched from 1982 to 1987. Many industry indexes published at the 4-digit level in this periodical have already been switched to 1987 weights over the past few years; others will be updated gradually in the years ahead.

The weight revision will not change the existing arithmetic reference periods of the PPI index system. Indexes calculated from traditional commodity groupings will continue to be published on the reference base of 1982=100; the reference bases for SIC-classified indexes will, as now, usually reflect the month and year of introduction of each series. The PPI classification system will remain unchanged. Therefore, the continuity and comparability of PPI indexes will not be affected by the weight revision.

Price Movements

January 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, from December to January. The January decline followed a decrease of 0.1 percent in December and no change in November. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods fell 0.5 percent in January after dropping 0.2 percent a month earlier. Crude material prices decreased 0.6 percent, considerably less than in December. (See table A.)

Within the finished goods category, the energy index fell substantially more than in the previous month. Consumer food prices moved down for the eighth time in the last 9 months. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy rose about as much as in most other recent months.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent in January to 121.7 (1982 = 100). From January 1991 to January 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index declined 0.5 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices dropped 1.8 percent, the index for energy goods decreased 10.0 percent, consumer goods other than foods and energy advanced 2.9 percent, and capital equipment prices increased 1.9 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved down 2.7 percent from January 1991 to January 1992, and the Crude Goods Price Index was 13.7 percent lower than its level 12 months earlier.

Finished goods

The index for finished energy goods dropped 2.8 percent seasonally adjusted from December to January, twice as much as in the preceding month. Gasoline prices were down 7.0 percent, far more than December's decline of 1.6 percent. The residential electricity index turned down following a December rise, and the residential gas index declined considerably after showing no change in the previous month. Home heating oil prices continued to decrease substantially, although not as much as in December.

Prices for finished consumer foods moved down 0.3 percent over the month following declines of 0.2 percent in both December and November. The new index for eggs for fresh use slumped nearly 23 percent. Lower prices were also registered for pork, processed chickens, citrus fruits, cheese, condensed and evaporated milk, soft drinks, and roasted coffee. In contrast, the index for fresh vegetables jumped nearly 18 percent. Advances were also recorded for processed turkeys, noncitrus fruits, processed fruits and vegetables, and beef and veal.

The index for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 0.3 percent in January. During the last 12 months, this index rose either 0.2 or 0.3 percent in every

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
January	0.2	-0.1	-2.0	0.9	4.0	-0.3	1.8
February	-.7	0	-4.6	.2	3.4	-.5	-7.8
March	-.3	.1	-3.1	.2	3.2	-1.1	-3.5
April .....	.2	.3	-.5	.3	3.3	-.3	-.3
May .....	.2	-.2	.9	.2	3.5	-.1	.5
June	-.2	-.2	-.8	0	3.5	.2	-1.6
July	-.2	-.6	-1.0	.2	2.9	-.4	0
August .....	.2	-.5	1.6	.2	2.0	.3	-.2
September .....	.2	-.1	.4	.3	.8	.2	-.7
October .....	.3	0	1.2	.2	0	-.3	1.7
November	0	-.2	.1	.2	-.5	.1	.3
December	-.1	-.2	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.2	-2.1
1992:							
January	-.3	-.3	-2.8	.3	-.5	-.5	-.6

Note: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this issue may differ from those previously reported because seasonal adjustment factors have been recalculated to reflect development during 1991. In addition, data for September 1991 have

been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
January	-1.4	-2.2	0.2	2.6	-1.0	4.4	0.1	5.9
February	1.4	-3.6	-.1	2.7	-.2	-14.9	-.2	-2.5
March .....	.3	-4.9	-.3	1.6	.3	-7.3	-1.3	-4.2
April	0	-1.5	-.2	1.0	-.2	-.4	0	-2.1
May	-1.7	.8	-.2	.8	-2.4	3.3	-.7	-2.5
June	-.3	.4	.2	1.1	.4	-2.7	-3.1	-1.4
July	-1.5	-.7	-.2	.8	-1.7	1.6	-.5	-1.9
August	1.9	1.3	-.1	-.2	-1.5	.9	0	-10.1
September .....	.2	1.5	-.1	-1.5	1.6	-2.5	-.8	-15.0
October .....	.8	-1.8	-.1	-3.2	-.2	4.0	-.5	-20.2
November .....	.3	.6	0	-3.2	-.4	1.2	-1.3	-14.6
December	0	-1.7	.1	-2.6	-.4	-3.9	-.2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-.8	-2.4	-.2	-2.7	1.7	-3.5	0	-13.7

Note: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this issue may differ from those previously reported. See table A.

month except June (when it was unchanged). Within this category, consumer goods were up 0.4 percent in January. Increases were led by passenger cars, which moved up 0.1 percent before seasonal adjustment and 1.5 percent after seasonal adjustment. Other advances included newspapers, malt beverages, women's apparel, soaps and detergents, and luggage. Lower prices were registered, however, for periodicals, sanitary paper products, tires, and pet food. The capital equipment index moved up 0.2 percent for the fifth consecutive month. December advances for civilian aircraft, cars and light trucks, special industry machinery, and instruments outweighed declines for electronic computers, heavy trucks, transformers and power regulators, and construction machinery.

Intermediate goods

After dropping 0.2 percent in December, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components fell 0.5 percent in January, seasonally adjusted. Prices for energy goods fell faster than they did in December. The index for durable manufacturing materials turned down following an increase in the preceding month. Foods and feeds prices declined after showing no change in the prior month, and the index for construction materials remained flat following a December advance. (See table B.)

Prices for intermediate energy goods dropped 2.4 percent after declining 1.7 percent in the preceding month. Indexes for gasoline, jet fuels, and liquefied petroleum gas dropped much faster than in December. Commercial power rates turned down following a sizable advance in the prior month. Increases slowed substantially for industrial power rates and for the industrial natural gas index. By contrast, price declines slowed somewhat for

diesel fuel, although the January decrease was still more than 10 percent. The index for natural gas for electric utilities rose after edging down in the previous month. The commercial natural gas index continued to increase moderately, and for the second consecutive month residual fuel prices climbed more than 5 percent.

The index for durable manufacturing materials turned down 0.5 percent following a 0.3-percent advance in December. Prices fell much faster than in the previous month for primary aluminum and for copper and brass mill shapes. Prices turned down after rising in the preceding month for primary zinc, gold, and platinum. Price advances slowed for hot rolled steel sheets. However, plywood prices rose faster than in December.

The foods and feeds index dropped 0.8 percent after showing no change in December. Prices for prepared animal feeds, pork, and cheese fell much faster than in the previous month. Prices turned down for crude vegetable oils and condensed milk following increases in December. In contrast, beef and veal turned up after falling in December, and flour and confectionery materials rose faster than in the preceding month.

The index for materials and components for construction showed no change following an advance of 0.3 percent in the prior month. Prices for nonferrous wire and cable and plastic construction products dropped faster than in December. Advances slowed somewhat for softwood lumber. By contrast, prices turned up for asphalt felts and coatings and for concrete products.

The index for nondurable manufacturing materials dropped 0.5 percent after falling 0.4 percent in December. Prices for petrochemicals, paper, and synthetic fibers fell more than in the preceding month. Prices turned down for paint materials, basic inorganic chemicals, gray fabrics, in-

termediate organic chemicals, medicinal chemicals, leather, and phosphates. However, woodpulp prices rose following a sharp decline in December, and prices also turned up for synthetic rubber. Declines slowed for plastic resins and materials and for processed yarns and threads.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved down 0.6 percent seasonally adjusted from December to January after dropping 2.1 percent in the previous month. Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs turned up following a small decline in December. Energy prices fell slightly less than a month earlier, and the basic industrial materials index registered no change after decreasing for 4 consecutive months. (See table B.)

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose 1.7 percent after showing small declines in each of the 3 prior months. Prices for slaughter cattle, corn, and hay turned up following decreases in the month before. In addition, the index for fresh and dry vegetables climbed 17.9 percent after dropping nearly 10 percent in December. Prices for fresh fruits and melons edged down after falling more than 8 percent in each of the 3 previous months. Price declines slowed for slaughter broilers and fryers and for soybeans. The new index for unprocessed shellfish increased 5.8 percent from December to January, and slaughter turkey prices advanced more than 12 percent for the second consecutive month. In contrast, fluid milk prices edged down 0.8 percent, the first decrease since January 1991. The index for slaughter hogs fell substantially faster than in December. Wheat prices rose less than in the month before, and the index for unprocessed finfish turned down after increasing a month earlier.

The index for crude energy materials fell 3.5 percent, slightly less than its 3.9-percent decrease in the previous month. The crude petroleum index declined 7.1 percent in the wake of a 13.8-percent drop in December; this index was more than 40 percent below its level of a year ago. Coal prices moved up after decreasing in the month before. The index for natural gas (to pipelines), however, turned down 1.5 percent after climbing more than 5 percent in the prior month.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy did not change after showing a slight decrease in the preceding month. Following declines in December, prices turned up for softwood logs, aluminum base scrap, and cattle hides.

Price declines slowed for copper ores and silver ores. By contrast, prices turned down for copper base scrap, leaf tobacco, and gold ores following December increases. In addition, prices for iron and steel scrap and for raw cotton fell faster than in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for total domestic mining fell 2.8 percent in January after decreasing 2.0 percent in December. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The index for the oil and gas extraction industry group declined 3.9 percent after a drop of 2.5 percent a month earlier. Prices also declined for the metal mining industry group, although not as much as in December. Prices continued to rise moderately for the industry group for nonmetallic minerals mining. Prices for the industry group for bituminous coal mining edged up after declining in the previous month. In January, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 75.2 (December 1984=100), 17.1 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector moved down 0.2 percent in January following a 0.3-percent decrease in December. The petroleum refining industry group index fell 6.2 percent, about the same as in the previous month. Prices also decreased in January for the industry group for primary metals. Advances of 1 percent or more were registered for the industry groups for printing and publishing, lumber and wood products, and leather products. Prices increased modestly for the industry groups for measuring instruments, tobacco manufactures, apparel, and fabricated metal products. In January, the index for the net output of the domestic mining sector stood at 115.9 (December 1984=100), 0.9 percent below its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, price decreases were registered in January for the newly introduced industry index for passenger car rental, as well as for the indexes for radio broadcasting, water transportation of freight, and tour operators. Prices for waste and scrap material collection fell much less than in other recent months. In contrast, prices advanced for the industry groups for scheduled air transportation, travel agencies, and for another new category, refrigerated warehousing and storage.

Price Movements

February 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from January to February. The February increase followed small declines in January and December. Prices also turned up at earlier stages of processing. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 0.5 percent over the month after dropping by the same amount in January, and the Crude Goods Price Index climbed 1.7 percent following 3 consecutive monthly decreases. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, food prices turned up substantially after declining in 8 of the 9 preceding months. The index for energy goods inched down following much larger drops in January and December. Outside of the food and energy sectors, prices edged up 0.1 percent after increasing 0.3 percent a month earlier. Among intermediate and crude goods, prices rose considerably for a wide range of manufacturing and construction materials.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent in February to 121.9 (1982=100). From February 1991 to February 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 0.4 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices decreased 0.9 percent, the finished energy goods index fell 5.7 percent, consumer goods other than foods and energy increased 2.8 percent, and capital equipment prices were up

1.7 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index was 1.6 percent lower in February 1992 than in the same month a year before, and crude material prices were down 4.9 percent from their February 1991 level.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished consumer foods advanced 1.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, following a decrease of 0.3 percent in January. Prices for pork, eggs for fresh use, processed chickens, finfish and shellfish, and soft drinks turned up after declining or showing no change in January. In addition, indexes for beef and veal and for fresh and dry vegetables climbed substantially more than a month earlier. Prices for fresh fruits and melons, however, fell much more than in January, and the processed turkeys index turned down after a considerable January advance.

The index for finished energy goods edged down 0.1 percent in February following a decrease of 2.8 percent in the preceding month. Gasoline and home heating oil prices turned up after sizable declines in January, and the residential gas index dropped less than in the month before. Residential electric rates, however, decreased more than in January.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
February	-0.7	0	-4.6	0.2	3.4	-0.5	-7.8
March	-3	.1	-3.1	.2	3.2	-1.1	-3.5
April .....	.2	.3	-.5	.3	3.3	-.3	-.3
May .....	.2	-.2	.9	.2	3.5	-.1	.5
June	-.2	-.2	-.8	0	3.5	.2	-1.6
July	-.2	-.6	-1.0	.2	2.9	-.4	0
August .....	.2	-.5	1.6	.2	2.0	.3	-.2
September .....	.2	-.1	.4	.3	.8	.2	-.7
October .....	.2	0	1.2	.2	-.1	-.3	2.1
November .....	.1	-.2	.1	.2	-.5	.1	-.1
December	-.1	-.2	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.2	-2.1
1992:							
January	-.3	-.3	-2.8	.3	-.5	-.5	-.6
February .....	.2	1.1	-.1	.1	.4	.5	1.7

¹ Data for October 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
February	1.4	-3.6	-0.1	2.7	-0.2	-14.9	-0.2	-2.5
March .....	.3	-4.9	-.3	1.6	.3	-7.3	-1.3	-4.2
April	0	-1.5	-.2	1.0	-.2	-.4	0	-2.1
May	-1.7	.8	-.2	.8	-2.4	3.3	-.7	-2.5
June	-.3	.4	.2	1.1	.4	-2.7	-3.1	-1.4
July	-1.5	-.7	-.2	.8	-1.7	1.6	-.5	-1.9
August	1.9	1.3	-.1	-.2	-1.5	.9	0	-10.1
September .....	.2	1.5	-.1	-1.5	1.6	-2.5	-.8	-15.0
October .....	.8	-1.1	-.2	-3.1	0	4.7	-.5	-20.0
November .....	.3	-.1	.1	-3.2	-.6	.6	-1.3	-14.6
December	0	-1.7	.1	-2.6	-.4	-3.9	-2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-.8	-2.4	-.2	-2.7	1.7	-3.5	0	-13.7
February	1.4	1.1	.4	-1.6	2.2	1.2	1.4	-4.9

¹ Data for October 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

moved up 0.1 percent over the month in the wake of a rise of 0.4 percent in the preceding month. Indexes for passenger cars, alcoholic beverages, and soaps and detergents turned down after climbing more than 1 percent a month earlier, and the newspapers index was unchanged following a jump of more than 5 percent in January. In contrast, the periodicals index advanced considerably following a sizable January decline, and the prescription drugs category climbed substantially after showing little or no change in January and December and dropping in November.

The capital equipment index was unchanged from January to February following small increases in other recent months. The index for civilian aircraft showed no change after a substantial increase in the preceding month, and indexes for passenger cars and light trucks turned down following January advances. Prices for heavy motor trucks and electromedical equipment, however, moved up after declining in January.

Intermediate goods

After dropping 0.5 percent in January, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components moved up 0.5 percent in February, seasonally adjusted. The index for energy goods advanced following sizable declines in each of the 2 preceding months. Prices for durable manufacturing materials and for foods and feeds turned up sharply after falling in the preceding month. (See table B.) Construction material prices jumped after showing modest or no changes in most other recent months, and the index for nondurable manufacturing materials edged down following larger decreases in January and December.

Prices for intermediate energy goods advanced 1.1 percent after dropping 2.4 percent in the preceding month. Petroleum products turned up sharply while natural gas indexes declined. Prices for jet fuels and diesel fuel both surged more than 10 percent after dropping substantially in January and December. Gasoline prices also turned up following decreases in the preceding 2 months, and residual fuel prices jumped more than 20 percent. In contrast, indexes for natural gas for electric utility, industrial, and commercial use fell following January increases. Liquefied petroleum gas declined markedly for the third consecutive month, and liquid asphalt prices edged down following a sharp January advance.

The index for durable manufacturing materials turned up 1.5 percent following a 0.5-percent decline in January. This, the largest 1-month increase in this category in nearly 4 years, was due in large part to a surge in aluminum and copper prices. Prices for primary aluminum soared nearly 12 percent following 11 consecutive months of declines. Prices for primary copper and for copper and brass mill shapes also turned up substantially after falling in most recent months. Prices turned up for aluminum mill shapes, and price increases accelerated for building paper and board.

The index for materials and components for construction increased 0.8 percent after showing no change in January. Softwood lumber and plywood prices rose even faster than in other recent months. Prices turned up for magnet wire, plastic construction products, industrial controls, heating and air conditioning equipment, wiring devices, and steel wire after dropping or showing no change in January. Price advances continued for millwork. By contrast, prices turned down for concrete products and

fabricated structural metal products. Price advances slowed for asphalt felts and coatings. Prices for bath tubs fell faster than in January, and gypsum products declined after showing no change in the prior month.

The decline for the nondurable manufacturing materials index slowed to 0.1 percent after falling 0.5 percent in January. Prices turned up for synthetic fibers, gray fabrics, paint materials, medicinal chemicals, and miscellaneous basic organic chemicals. Price declines slowed for petrochemicals, processed yarns and threads, and leather. Woodpulp and paperboard prices rose faster than in the preceding month. By contrast, the index for intermediate basic organic chemicals dropped 5.4 percent, the largest decline in that series in 8 years. Prices turned down for synthetic rubber and miscellaneous inorganic chemicals. Prices for nitrogenates and plastic resins and materials fell faster than in January. Paper prices continued to drop.

The foods and feeds index advanced 1.4 percent after dropping 0.8 percent in January. Prices turned up for prepared animal feeds, pork, crude vegetable oils, and cheese. Beef and veal prices rose faster than in the preceding month. Price declines slowed for condensed and evaporated milk. Flour rose substantially for the seventh time in as many months. Prices turned down for confectionery materials, however.

Among other industrial goods, price increases were noted for printing materials and for electronic components and accessories.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing rose 1.7 percent, seasonally adjusted, from January to February after falling in each of the 3 preceding months. Energy prices accounted for most of this upturn. In addition, the basic industrial materials index increased after showing no change a month earlier, and prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs rose faster than in the previous month. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index increased 1.2 percent after dropping 3.5 percent in January and 3.9 percent in December. Following a 7.1-percent slump in January, the crude petroleum index turned up 4.5 percent. The index for natural gas (to pipelines) fell less than in the prior month. In contrast, coal prices turned down.

After showing no change in January, the index for crude nonfood materials less energy rose 1.4 percent; this was the first monthly increase since January 1991. Prices turned up in February for iron and steel scrap, copper base scrap, leaf tobacco, gold ores, silver ores, and phosphates after falling in the prior month. The index for aluminum base scrap climbed nearly 10 percent following a more moderate advance in January, and price declines slowed for raw cotton. By contrast, price increases slowed for softwood logs and cattle hides. The index for sand and gravel fell faster than in

the previous month, and prices for the other roundwood products category turned down after rising a month earlier.

Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs increased 2.2 percent in February, after a 1.7-percent rise in the month before. Following a substantial drop in January, the index for slaughter hogs climbed 9.1 percent, the largest increase in 4 years. Prices also turned up for soybeans and unprocessed finfish after falling a month earlier. Wheat prices climbed 11.6 percent after a moderate increase in the prior month. The index for fresh and dry vegetables surged 26.0 percent, faster than in January. The unprocessed shellfish index also rose more rapidly than in the month before. In addition, price declines slowed for slaughter broilers and fryers and for raw cane sugar. Prices turned down sharply, however, for hay and slaughter turkeys following large increases a month earlier. Corn prices also turned down. Furthermore, prices for fresh fruits and melons and for fluid milk fell more than in the preceding month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for total domestic mining moved down 0.3 percent in February, far less than its decreases of 2.8 percent in January and 2.0 percent in December. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The index for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned up 0.3 percent after falling 3.9 percent a month earlier. In addition, prices for the metal mining industry group declined less than in January or December. In contrast, prices for the industry group for bituminous coal mining turned down 1.9 percent after rising slightly in the previous month. In February, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 75.0 (December 1984=100), 7.2 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector increased 0.3 percent in February following a 0.2-percent decrease in January and a 0.3-percent drop in December. The petroleum refining industry group index turned up 2.6 percent after declining over 6 percent in both January and December. Prices also turned up after falling somewhat in January for the industry groups for primary metal industries and chemicals. Price increases accelerated (3.1 percent in February versus 1.2 percent in January) for the industry group for lumber and wood products. By contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for the industry groups for leather products, furniture and fixtures, and measuring instruments. The index for the printing and publishing industry group continued to rise, although not as much as a month earlier. In February, the index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 116.3 (December 1984=100), 0.1 percent its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices increased in February after falling a month earlier for the industry indexes for water transportation of freight, tour operators, and for waste and scrap material collection. Prices for freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway increased after registering no change in January. The index for passenger car rental fell 1.9 percent following a 3.4-percent decline in the previous month. In contrast,

prices turned down after rising in January for the industry indexes for scheduled air transportation, travel agencies, electric power utilities, natural gas utilities, refrigerated warehousing and storage, and marine cargo handling. Prices for domestic deep sea transportation of freight moved down after showing no change a month earlier. The index for radio broadcasting was unchanged after a substantial decrease a month earlier.

Price Movements

March 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from February to March. The index also rose 0.2 percent in February, following a decline of 0.3 percent in January. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods showed no change in March after increasing 0.5 percent in the previous month and decreasing by the same amount in January. The Crude Goods Price Index dropped 1.5 percent over the month in the wake of a climb of 1.7 percent in February. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the energy goods index increased following a slight dip in February. By contrast, food prices turned down in March after a sizable advance a month earlier. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent, about as much as in other recent months.

During the first quarter of 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.7 percent, slightly less than the 1.0-percent rate recorded in the fourth quarter of 1991. Food prices turned up at an annual rate of 1.0 percent from December 1991 to March 1992, after declining at about the same rate in the previous quarter. The index for finished energy goods dropped at a rate of 7.0 percent in the first quarter following a much smaller decrease from September to December. Prices for

other kinds of finished goods moved up at a rate of 2.4 percent in the first 3 months of 1992, nearly the same as in the last 3 months of 1991. The Intermediate Goods Price Index showed no net change from December 1991 to March 1992, and the Crude Goods Price Index declined at a rate of 1.6 percent; both indexes decreased modestly at the end of 1991.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Finished Goods Price Index edged up 0.1 percent in March to 122.0 (1982=100). From March 1991 to March 1992, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods increased 0.9 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices dropped 1.4 percent, finished energy goods fell 1.5 percent, and the index for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 2.4 percent. Prices for intermediate goods inched down 0.5 percent during the 12 months ended in March 1992, and crude material prices were 2.6 percent lower than their March 1991 level.

Finished goods

The index for finished energy goods climbed 1.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from February to March after edging down in February and falling considerably in January. This upturn was due to March increases for residential electricity and residential gas, both of which decreased in the preceding month. In contrast, the home

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
March	-0.3	0.1	-3.1	0.2	3.2	-1.1	-3.5
April .....	.2	.3	-.5	.3	3.3	-.3	-.3
May .....	.2	-.2	.9	.2	3.5	-.1	.5
June	-.2	-.2	-.8	0	3.5	.2	-1.6
July	-.2	-.6	-1.0	.2	2.9	-.4	0
August .....	.2	-.5	1.6	.2	2.0	.3	-.2
September .....	.2	-.1	.4	.3	.8	.2	-.7
October .....	.2	0	1.2	.2	-.1	-.3	2.1
November .....	.1	-.2	.1	.2	-.5	0	-.1
December	-.1	-.2	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.1	-2.1
1992:							
January	-.3	-.3	-2.8	.3	-.5	-.5	-.6
February .....	.2	1.1	-.1	.1	.4	.5	1.7
March .....	.2	-.5	1.2	.2	.9	0	-1.5

¹ Data for November 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
March	0.3	-4.9	-0.3	1.6	0.3	-7.3	-1.3	-4.2
April	0	-1.5	-.2	1.0	-.2	-.4	0	-2.1
May	-1.7	.8	-.2	.8	-2.4	3.3	-.7	-2.5
June	-.3	.4	.2	1.1	.4	-2.7	-3.1	-1.4
July	-1.5	-.7	-.2	.8	-1.7	1.6	-.5	-1.9
August	1.9	1.3	-.1	-.2	-1.5	.9	0	-10.1
September .....	.2	1.5	-.1	-1.5	1.6	-2.5	-.8	-15.0
October .....	.8	-1.1	-.2	-3.1	0	4.7	-.5	-20.0
November .....	.3	-.5	.1	-3.3	-.7	.7	-.8	-14.6
December	0	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-.3	-4.1	-.6	-11.6
1992:								
January	-.8	-2.4	-.2	-2.7	1.7	-3.5	0	-13.7
February	1.4	1.1	.4	-1.6	2.2	1.2	1.4	-4.9
March	-.9	-.9	.2	-.5	-1.2	-3.4	2.2	-2.6

¹ Data for November 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

heating oil index inched up following a far more substantial February advance. Gasoline prices also rose less than in February.

Prices for finished consumer foods fell 0.5 percent over the month following a rise of 1.1 percent in February. Indexes for a wide variety of foods turned down in March following February increases; among these items were fresh and dry vegetables, beef and veal, finfish and shellfish, soft drinks, eggs for fresh use, and processed chickens. In addition, pork prices moved up less than in the month before. Indexes for fresh fruits and melons and for dairy products also fell but less than in February.

After edging up 0.1 percent in February, prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy rose 0.2 percent in March. The index moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.0 percent from December 1991 to March 1992, somewhat faster than in the preceding 3 months. The March increase was led by the index for passenger cars, which rose 0.6 percent after seasonal adjustment; before seasonal adjustment, new car prices were off 0.2 percent. Similarly, the tobacco products index was unchanged before seasonal adjustment and increased 0.7 percent after seasonal adjustment. Higher prices were also registered in March for light trucks, footwear, and prescription drugs. Indexes for alcoholic beverages and hair preparations moved down, however.

The capital equipment index rose 0.2 percent over the month, the same as in 5 of the 6 preceding months. Motor vehicles and ships accounted for most of the March advance; metal working machinery, pumps and compressors, and transformers also moved up. In contrast, the index for electronic computers again fell substantially, and prices for process control instruments also moved down.

Intermediate goods

After rising 0.5 percent in February, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components showed no change for March, seasonally adjusted. The indexes for energy goods and for foods and feeds turned down following February advances, and price increases slowed for durable manufacturing materials and construction materials. (See table B.)

Prices for energy goods dropped 0.9 percent after rising 1.1 percent in the preceding month. Energy goods fell at an annual rate of 8.4 percent during the first 3 months of 1992, slightly less than in the previous quarter. In March, prices turned down for jet fuels, diesel fuel, and residual fuel following substantial increases in February. In contrast, the index for liquefied petroleum gas climbed 14.8 percent following sharp declines in each of the 3 preceding months. In addition, commercial and industrial power rates turned up following February declines, and decreases slowed for natural gas sold to the electric utility, industrial, and commercial sectors.

After rising 1.5 percent in February, the advance for the index for durable manufacturing materials slowed to 0.3 percent. In the first quarter, durable manufacturing materials jumped at a 4.9-percent rate after showing no net change in the preceding quarter and declining in each of the four quarters before that. Prices turned down in March for primary aluminum, copper and brass mill shapes, titanium sponge, and hot rolled steel bars after rising or showing no change in the previous month. Price advances slowed for primary copper and building paper and board. By contrast, prices turned up for cold rolled steel sheets after showing no change in February, and cold finished

finished bars rose after dropping a month earlier. Hard wood lumber and secondary aluminum prices rose faster than in February.

The index for materials and components for construction rose 0.5 percent after increasing 0.8 percent in February. From December 1991 to March 1992, construction materials advanced at a 5.2-percent rate, much more than in the prior quarter. In March, price advances slowed for plywood, softwood lumber, and millwork. Prices fell for switchgear and wiring devices after moving up in the prior month. Prices turned up, however, for fabricated structural metal products, gypsum products, and plumbing fixtures and brass fittings following February declines. Prices for plastic construction products rose faster than in the preceding month.

The foods and feeds index dropped 0.9 percent after rising 1.4 percent in February. Foods and feeds turned down at a 1.4-percent rate in the first quarter, after rising in the preceding 3 months. Prices turned down in March for flour, beef and veal, and refined sugar. Advances slowed for prepared animal feeds and pork. By contrast, prices turned up for dry milk products and ice cream mix. Declines slowed for confectionery materials, fluid milk products, and butter.

Prices turned up 0.3 percent for nondurable manufacturing materials after inching down 0.1 percent in February. In the first quarter, price declines were smaller than in the preceding 3 months. In March, price decreases slowed for petrochemicals, intermediate basic organic chemicals, and nitrogenates. Prices turned up for basic inorganic chemicals, finished fabrics, leather, and processed yarns and threads. Plastic resins and materials showed no change following declines in each of the 4 preceding months. Prices for other basic organics and for paint materials rose faster than in February. Prices turned down, however, for synthetic fibers. Price advances slowed for gray fabrics, woodpulp, paperboard, and medicinal chemicals.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing fell 1.5 percent seasonally adjusted in March after rising 1.7 percent in February and edging down 0.6 percent in January. Following an increase in the prior month, the crude energy materials index turned down in March. Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs also moved down after rising in February. The index for basic industrial materials, however, rose faster than in the previous month. (See table B.)

Energy material prices turned down 3.4 percent after increasing 1.2 percent in February. In the first quarter of 1992, this index slumped at an annual rate of 20.7 percent after moving up at a rate of nearly 5 percent in the previous quarter. The crude petroleum index turned down 4.9 percent in March after rising 4.5 percent a month earlier. The index for natural gas (to pipelines) fell 3.2 percent following a smaller February decrease. In contrast, price declines slowed for coal.

Following sizable increases in each of the preceding 2 months, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index fell 1.2 percent in March. From December 1991 to March 1992, these prices climbed at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 11.3 percent, the first quarterly increase since the opening months of 1990. Prices turned down in March for slaughter cattle, slaughter hogs, wheat, fresh and dry vegetables, and unprocessed finfish following considerable increases a month earlier. The index for slaughter broilers and fryers dropped more than 10 percent after a much smaller decrease in February, and soybean prices rose less than in the previous month. By contrast, corn prices turned up following a slight decline in the prior month. Price decreases slowed for fluid milk, slaughter turkeys, and fresh fruits and melons.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy rose 2.2 percent following a 1.4-percent increase in February and no change in January. After falling in each of the preceding five calendar quarters, this index surged at an annual rate of 15.5 percent in the first quarter; this was the largest quarterly increase since the first 3 months of 1988. Prices rose more than in February for iron and steel scrap, leaf tobacco, softwood logs, and wastepaper. In addition, prices for sand and gravel, copper ores, and raw cotton turned up following declines in February. The index for aluminum base scrap, however, rose less than in the prior month, and prices turned down for copper base scrap, cattle hides, and silver ores after rising in the preceding month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The index for the net output of total domestic mining industries declined 2.0 percent in March following a 0.3-percent decline in February. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) For the 3 months ended in March, this index fell at an annual rate of almost 20 percent. Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned down 3.1 percent in March after moving up 0.3 percent in February; from December 1991 to March 1992,

this index fell at a 24-percent annual rate. In contrast, prices for the metal mining industry group increased 1.5 percent in March after declining for 6 consecutive months. Prices for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group advanced more than a month earlier. The bituminous coal industry group index was unchanged after falling substantially a month earlier. In March, the index for total mining stood at 73.5 (December 1984=100), 4.3 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries inched up 0.1 percent after moving up 0.3 percent in February. From December 1991 to March 1992, this index increased at a 1-percent annual rate. In March, prices for the petroleum refining and related products industry group turned down 1.7 percent following an advance of 2.6 percent in February; for the first quarter of 1992, this index recorded a 20.2-percent rate of decline. The paper industry group also moved

down over the month. In contrast, prices advanced considerably from February to March for leather and leather products (1.9 percent) and for lumber and wood products (1.6 percent); primary metal industries and electrical machinery also moved up. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 116.4 in March (December 1984=100), 1.0 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices increased for passenger car rental (6.0 percent), travel agencies (4.0 percent), scrap and waste material collection, radio broadcasting, scheduled air transportation, and electric power utilities. Prices declined, however, for foreign deep sea freight transportation (5.3 percent), truck rental and leasing, natural gas utilities, freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, and water transportation of freight.

Price Movements

April 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent seasonally adjusted from March to April. The April increase matched those of both March and February. The Intermediate Goods Price Index edged up 0.1 percent over the month after showing no change in March and rising 0.5 percent in February. Prices received by domestic producers of crude goods advanced 0.5 percent in April following a drop of 1.5 percent a month earlier and a 1.7-percent climb in February. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, prices for consumer foods fell a little less than in March. The index for finished energy goods rose considerably less than in the month before. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent, about the same as in most other recent months.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 0.2 percent in April to 122.2 (1982 = 100). From April 1991 to April 1992, this index rose 0.9 percent. During the same period, the index for consumer foods declined 1.9 percent, prices for finished energy goods decreased 0.5 percent, consumer goods other than foods and energy advanced 2.7 percent, and capital equipment prices increased 1.7 percent. The index for intermediate goods inched down 0.1 percent during the 12

months ended in April 1992, and crude material prices were down 1.9 percent over the year.

Finished goods

Prices for finished consumer foods moved down 0.3 percent from March to April, seasonally adjusted; this marked the tenth time in the last 12 months that food prices fell less than 1 percent. A slump of 18.1 percent in the index for fresh and dry vegetables accounted for most of the April decrease. Lower prices were also recorded for soft drinks, processed chickens, noncitrus fruits and berries, and pasta products. These declines, however, were nearly offset by increases for finfish and shellfish, cheese, bakery products, citrus fruits, and pork.

The index for finished energy goods rose 0.5 percent in the wake of a 1.2-percent climb in the month before. The slowdown was due to the index for residential electric power, which turned down after a March advance. In contrast, home heating oil prices increased much more than in the previous month. Gasoline and residential gas prices continued to rise.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.4 percent in April, more than in either of the 2 preceding months. Indexes for sanitary paper products,

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
April	0.2	0.3	-0.5	0.3	3.3	-0.3	-0.3
May .....	.2	-.2	.9	.2	3.5	-.1	.5
June	-.2	-.2	-.8	0	3.5	.2	-1.6
July	-.2	-.6	-1.0	.2	2.9	-.4	0
August .....	.2	-.5	1.6	.2	2.0	.3	-.2
September .....	.2	-.1	.4	.3	.8	.2	-.7
October .....	.2	0	1.2	.2	-.1	-.3	2.1
November .....	.1	-.2	.1	.2	-.5	0	-.1
December	-.1	-.1	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.1	-2.1
1992:							
January	-.3	-.4	-2.8	.4	-.5	-.5	-.6
February .....	.2	1.1	-.1	.1	.4	.5	1.7
March .....	.2	-.5	1.2	.2	.9	0	-1.5
April .....	.2	-.3	.5	.2	.9	.1	.5

¹ Data for December 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
April	0	-1.5	-0.2	1.0	-0.2	-0.4	0	-2.1
May	-1.7	.8	-2	.8	-2.4	3.3	-.7	-2.5
June	-.3	.4	.2	1.1	.4	-2.7	-3.1	-1.4
July	-1.5	-.7	-.2	.8	-1.7	1.6	-.5	-1.9
August	1.9	1.3	-.1	-.2	-1.5	.9	0	-10.1
September .....	.2	1.5	-.1	-1.5	1.6	-2.5	-.8	-15.0
October .....	.8	-1.1	-.2	-3.1	0	4.7	-.5	-20.0
November .....	.3	-.5	.1	-3.3	-.7	.7	-.8	-14.6
December	-.1	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-.6	-3.9	-.2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-.7	-2.4	-.2	-2.7	2.0	-3.6	-.4	-13.7
February	1.4	1.1	.4	-1.6	2.2	1.2	1.4	-4.9
March	-.9	-.9	.2	-.5	-1.2	-3.4	2.2	-2.6
April	-.3	.5	0	-.1	-1.4	2.7	.2	-1.9

¹ Data for December 1991 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

men's and boys' apparel, tobacco products, and tires and tubes rose more than in March. In addition, prices turned up following March decreases for alcoholic beverages, over-the-counter drugs, cosmetics, and textile housefurnishings. By contrast, the rise in the seasonally adjusted index for passenger cars slowed to 0.2 percent; before seasonal adjustment, new car prices fell 0.3 percent in April. Prices for books and footwear turned down after increasing in March.

The capital equipment index rose 0.2 percent in April, the same as in most other recent months. Advances for heavy and light trucks, ships, and commercial furniture outweighed decreases for computers.

Intermediate goods

After showing no change in March, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components inched up 0.1 percent in April, seasonally adjusted. Advances were noted for energy and nondurable manufacturing materials, while declines were registered for durable manufacturing materials and for foods and feeds. (See table B.)

Prices for intermediate energy goods rose 0.5 percent in April after dropping 0.9 percent in the preceding month. This movement was largely due to upturns in the indexes for jet fuels, diesel fuel, and residual fuel following March declines. Gasoline prices rose a little more than in the preceding month. In contrast, the indexes for industrial and commercial electric power both slipped after rising in March, and the index for liquefied petroleum gas rose considerably less than in the prior month. The index for natural gas to electric utilities fell substantially after inching down in March.

Prices moved up 0.2 percent for nondurable manufacturing materials after rising 0.3 percent a month earlier. Prices advanced for basic organic chemicals, woodpulp, nitrogenates, and synthetic rubber. However, decreases were registered for thermoplastic resins and fabricated industrial textile products.

After rising 0.3 percent in March, the index for durable manufacturing materials turned down 0.2 percent. Prices fell for primary copper, flat rolled steel sheets, and building paper and board after increasing or showing no change for the prior month. Prices fell faster for platinum and gold than in the previous month, and price advances slowed for hardwood lumber. In contrast, prices increased for primary aluminum, hot rolled steel bars, prepared paint, and semifinished steel mill products following declines or no change in the preceding month. Aluminum mill shape prices rose faster than in March. The index for primary zinc surged nearly 10 percent, far more than in the previous month.

The foods and feeds index fell 0.3 percent in April after a 0.9-percent drop in March. Flour prices decreased much less than in the month before, and beef and veal prices also declined more slowly. Prices for natural and processed cheese and for pork rose more than in March, and the index for potato chips turned up. Conversely, the index for prepared animal feeds turned down after a March advance, and crude vegetable oil prices fell considerably in April after climbing the month before. In addition, the index for condensed and evaporated milk rose less than in March.

The index for materials and components for construction registered no change following increases of 0.5 percent in March and 0.8 percent in February. The advance

for softwood lumber prices slowed to 0.1 percent after much larger increases in each of the 7 preceding months. Increases also slowed for nonferrous wire and cable. In addition, prices turned down for plywood, gypsum products, plastic construction products, asphalt felts and coatings, and heating equipment. Increases accelerated slightly, however, for millwork, plumbing fixtures, and metal valves. The index for switchgear and switchboard equipment turned up following a March decrease.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved up 0.5 percent seasonally adjusted after falling 1.5 percent in March. The April upturn was due to the crude energy goods index, which advanced following a decline in the previous month. In contrast, the index for basic industrial materials rose much less than a month earlier, and prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs fell slightly more than in March. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials increased 2.7 percent after falling 3.4 percent in March. The crude petroleum index surged 10.0 percent following a drop of nearly 5 percent in the month before. After moving down in March, coal prices turned up 1.7 percent, the largest monthly increase since January 1982. The index for natural gas (to pipelines), however, fell faster than in the previous month.

In April, the index for crude nonfood materials less energy edged up 0.2 percent after rising 2.2 percent a month earlier. The index for leaf tobacco plummeted 17.4 percent after climbing 12.4 percent in March. Prices also turned down for iron and steel scrap, sand and gravel, copper ores, gold ores, and phosphates following increases in the previous month. The index for copper base scrap fell more than in the prior month, and price increases slowed for wastepaper. By contrast, prices rose more rapidly than in March for raw cotton, softwood logs, and aluminum base scrap.

Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs fell 1.4 percent in April, slightly more than in the preceding month. Decreases were led by corn, slaughter cattle, and wheat. Lower prices were also registered for sorghum, fresh and dry vegetables, soybeans, rough rice, and chicken eggs. In contrast, prices for slaughter hogs and for unprocessed

finfish and shellfish climbed substantially. Other increases included slaughter turkeys and citrus fruits.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries increased 0.5 percent in April following a 2.0-percent decline in March. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned up 0.6 percent in April after moving down 3.1 percent in March. The bituminous coal industry group index advanced 1.0 percent in April after showing no change a month earlier. In contrast, prices for the metal mining industry group decreased 1.5 percent in April after increasing as much in March. Prices for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group also fell after rising in the previous month. In April, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 73.9 (December 1984=100), 2.6 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.3 percent after edging up 0.1 percent in March. In April, prices for the petroleum refining and related products industry group turned up 3.8 percent following a decline of 1.7 percent in March. The paper industry group also turned up substantially (2.5 percent) after decreasing a month earlier. In contrast, prices turned down 1.3 percent in April, after rising nearly 2 percent in March, for the leather and leather products industry group. Price increases slowed for the industry groups for lumber and wood products and for primary metal industries. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 116.8 in April (December 1984=100), 1.2 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices declined for scheduled air transportation (13.5 percent), travel agencies (7.6 percent), water transportation of freight, passenger car rental, natural gas utilities, and electric power utilities. Prices advanced, however, for freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, radio broadcasting, and scrap and waste material collection.

Price Movements

May 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, from April to May. The May advance followed increases of 0.2 percent in both April and March. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 0.4 percent over the month after edging up 0.1 percent in April and showing no change in March. Prices for crude materials climbed 1.4 percent in May following a 0.5-percent increase a month earlier. (See table A.)

The increase for finished goods other than foods and energy accelerated from 0.2 percent in April to 0.6 percent in May; an earlier than usual jump in prices for tobacco products, combined with an upturn in the civilian aircraft index, accounted for most of the May advance. The index for finished energy goods also rose more than in April, although not as much as in March. Consumer food prices continued to drop moderately.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.7 percent in May to 123.1 (1982=100). Over the year from May 1991 to May 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.1 percent. During this same period, the consumer foods index decreased 2.3 percent, finished energy goods edged down 0.5 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy increased 2.8 percent. Prices received by domestic pro-

ducers of intermediate goods inched up 0.4 percent from May 1991 to May 1992, while crude material prices were down 1.1 percent from their level of a year ago.

Finished goods

After rising 0.4 percent from March to April, the Producer Price Index for consumer goods other than foods and energy climbed 0.7 percent in May, seasonally adjusted. The acceleration was more than accounted for by the index for tobacco products, which advanced 5.3 percent before seasonal adjustment and 7.3 percent after seasonal adjustment; in other recent years, increases in tobacco product prices (before adjustment) have usually been reflected in data for June or July. Indexes for women's apparel and books rose modestly after falling in April. In contrast, the index for sanitary paper products declined 1.2 percent after jumping 4.1 percent a month earlier. In addition, the passenger car index dropped 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, in May after inching up 0.2 percent the month before; on an unadjusted basis, new car prices edged down 0.2 percent in May.

Capital equipment prices increased 0.5 percent from April to May following rises of 0.2 percent in each of the 2 preceding months. The civilian aircraft index more than

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
May	0.2	-0.2	0.9	0.2	3.5	-0.1	0.5
June	-2	-2	-8	0	3.5	.2	-1.6
July	-2	-6	-1.0	.2	2.9	-.4	0
August	2	-.5	1.6	.2	2.0	.3	-.2
September	2	-.1	.4	.3	.8	.2	-.7
October	2	0	1.2	.2	-.1	-.3	2.1
November .....	.1	-.2	.1	.2	-.5	0	-.1
December	-1	-.1	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.1	-2.1
1992:							
January	-2	-.4	-2.8	.5	-.4	-.6	-1.0
February .....	.1	1.1	-.1	-.1	.4	.6	2.2
March	2	-.5	1.2	.2	.9	0	-1.5
April	2	-.3	.5	.2	.9	.1	.5
May .....	.4	-.4	.9	.6	1.1	.4	1.4

¹ Data for January 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
May	-1.7	0.8	-0.2	0.8	-2.4	3.3	-0.7	-2.5
June	-3	.4	.2	1.1	.4	-2.7	-3.1	-1.4
July	-1.5	-.7	-.2	.8	-1.7	1.6	-.5	-1.9
August	1.9	1.3	-.1	-.2	-1.5	.9	0	-10.1
September .....	.2	1.5	-.1	-1.5	1.6	-2.5	-.8	-15.0
October .....	.8	-1.1	-.2	-3.1	0	4.7	-.5	-20.0
November .....	.3	-.5	.1	-3.3	-.7	.7	-.8	-14.6
December	-.1	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-.6	-3.9	-.2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-1.0	-3.1	-.1	-2.7	1.8	-4.6	-.2	-14.1
February	1.6	1.9	.3	-1.6	2.4	2.3	1.1	-4.9
March	-.9	-.9	.2	-.5	-1.2	-3.4	2.2	-2.6
April	-.3	.5	0	-.1	-1.4	2.7	.2	-1.9
May	-.1	2.4	.1	.4	.9	2.5	.9	-1.1

¹ Data for January 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

accounted for the May acceleration, climbing 3.0 percent in the wake of a decline of 0.7 percent in the previous month. In addition, the index for electronic computers decreased considerably less than in April, and prices for light trucks and agricultural machinery rose more than the month before. At the same time, however, indexes for heavy trucks, ships, commercial furniture, construction machinery, truck trailers, and transformers showed little or no change in May after increasing substantially in the previous month.

The index for finished energy goods moved up 0.9 percent over the month following a 0.5-percent rise in April. The residential electricity index turned up in May after decreasing a month earlier, and gasoline and home heating oil prices increased more than in April. The index for residential gas, however, fell following an advance in the preceding month.

Consumer food prices dropped 0.4 percent after declining 0.3 percent in April. Sharply lower prices for fish and fresh vegetables accounted for the May decrease. Prices for eggs, processed chickens, frozen juices and ades, and frozen specialities also declined. These decreases were partly offset by increases for dairy products, soft drinks, bakery products, pork, and pasta products.

Intermediate goods

After edging up 0.1 percent in April, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components advanced 0.4 percent in May, seasonally adjusted. Prices for energy goods rose much faster than in the previous month. (See table B.) The index for durable manufacturing materials turned up after decreasing a month earlier. In addition, prices for nondurable man-

ufacturing materials increased slightly more than in the preceding month.

Following a 0.5-percent increase in April, the index for intermediate energy goods climbed 2.4 percent in May, the largest increase since October 1990. Commercial and industrial power rates turned up following decreases in the prior month. The diesel fuel index surged 9.4 percent after rising 2.5 percent a month earlier. Prices for jet fuels and gasoline also rose faster than in April. In addition, price declines slowed for industrial natural gas, and the residual fuels index climbed more than 13 percent for the second consecutive month. By contrast, prices turned down for liquefied petroleum gas following substantial increases in April and March. Furthermore, prices fell more rapidly than a month earlier for natural gas for commercial customers and electric utilities.

Prices for durable manufacturing materials turned up 0.2 percent in May after decreasing by the same amount in April. Prices turned up for cold rolled steel sheets, copper and brass mill shapes, and primary copper following April declines. The hardwood lumber index rose faster than a month earlier. In contrast, prices turned down for primary aluminum, hot rolled steel bars, aluminum mill shapes, and semifinished steel mill products after increasing the month before. The primary zinc index rose substantially less than in April. The index for nondurable manufacturing materials moved up 0.3 percent in May, slightly more than in the preceding month. Increases were led by petrochemicals, plastic resins and materials, paint materials, paper, fertilizer materials, and woodpulp.

In May, the index for materials and components for construction showed no change for the second consecutive month. Prices moved up for gypsum products and

plastic construction productions, while sizable decreases were recorded for plywood and softwood lumber.

The foods and feeds index inched down 0.1 percent in May, slightly less than in the preceding month. Prices declined for formula feeds and flour, but advances were registered for most dairy products and pork.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing climbed 1.4 percent seasonally adjusted after rising 0.5 percent in April. The faster rate of increase in May was mostly due to an upturn in prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs. In addition, the index for basic industrial materials increased more in May than in April. The crude energy goods index continued to advance sharply, although slightly less than in the prior month. (See table B.)

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs climbed 0.9 percent after a 1.4-percent drop in April. The slaughter cattle index rose 1.4 percent after an April decline, and the fluid milk index advanced 4.3 percent after dropping a month earlier. Indexes for alfalfa hay and slaughter broilers moved up rapidly after modest increases the month before, and the corn and the fresh vegetables indexes fell considerably less than in April. In contrast, the slaughter hogs index dropped 2.7 percent after rising nearly 10 percent in April. Unprocessed finfish prices slumped dramatically in May after a sizable April increase; the unprocessed shellfish index also turned down.

In May, the index for crude nonfood materials less energy rose 0.9 percent after edging up 0.2 percent in April. The leaf tobacco index increased 0.5 percent after dropping 17.4 percent the month before. Upturns were also registered for copper ores, cattle hides, and copper base scrap. By contrast, the index for aluminum base scrap dropped 1.2 percent after rising 4.0 percent in April. Prices for softwood logs, bolts, and timber rose less than in April.

The index for crude energy materials rose 2.5 percent in May following a climb of 2.7 percent a month earlier. Crude petroleum prices rose 5.3 percent during the month, while the natural gas index moved up modestly. The price of coal remained unchanged in May.

Net output price Indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries advanced 1.5 percent in May following a 0.5-percent increase in April. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group moved up 1.9 percent after rising 0.6 percent in April. The index for the metal mining industry group turned up 2.0 percent after decreasing 1.5 percent a month earlier. Prices for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group also turned up after falling in the previous month. Prices for the anthracite mining industry group fell 0.4 percent, about half as much as in April. In contrast, the increase in the bituminous coal industry group index slowed to 0.6 percent in May after rising 1.0 percent a month earlier. In May, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 75.0 (December 1984 = 100), 3.6 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.6 percent after moving up 0.3 percent in April. In May, the index for the petroleum refining and related products industry group advanced 6.1 percent following a rise of 3.8 percent in April. The tobacco manufactures industry group increased 5.5 percent after showing no change a month earlier. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for leather products, nonmetallic mineral products, and food products. Price increases slowed considerably for the industry group for lumber and wood products. In contrast, the paper industry group turned down 0.5 percent after increasing 2.5 percent a month earlier. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 117.5 in May (December 1984 = 100), 1.6 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, indexes declined for scheduled air transportation, travel agencies, passenger car rental, water transportation of freight, truck rental and leasing, natural gas utilities, and freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway. Prices advanced, however, for radio broadcasting, electric power utilities, tour operators, and domestic deep sea transportation of freight.

Price Movements

June 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from May to June. While this was less than the 0.4-percent advance recorded in May, it was about the same as in most other recent months. The Intermediate Goods Price Index climbed 0.7 percent in June, considerably more than in other recent months. Crude material prices climbed 1.3 percent, almost as much as in May and much more than in April. (See table A.)

Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy edged down 0.1 percent in June after increasing 0.6 percent a month earlier. The index for finished energy goods, however, jumped more than in any other month since October 1990. Consumer food prices turned up slightly after decreasing moderately in each of the 3 preceding months. The June increases in the categories for intermediate and crude goods were both due in large part to substantially higher prices for energy.

During the first half of 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.0 percent, somewhat more than its 1.2-percent rate of increase in the last half of 1991. Food prices slowed their decline from a 2.7-percent rate in the second half of 1991 to a 0.6-percent rate in the first half of this year.

The energy goods rose at a rate of 3.9 percent in the first 6 months of 1992 following a 1.6-percent rate of advance during the latter half of 1991. Excluding food and energy, prices for finished goods increased at a rate of 2.7 percent from December 1991 to June 1992, marginally faster than their pace through the last 6 months of 1991.

The Intermediate Goods Price Index turned up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.3 percent in the first half after declining slightly in the previous 6 months. Similarly, the Crude Goods Price Index advanced at a rate of 5.8 percent over the first 6 months of 1992 in the wake of a 2.0-percent rate of decrease in the last half of 1991.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.5 percent from May to June to 123.7 (1982 = 100). From June 1991 to June 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.5 percent. During this same period, prices for consumer foods dropped 1.8 percent, the energy goods index advanced 3.1 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy increased 2.5 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods rose 0.9 percent during the 12 months ended in June 1992, and crude material prices were 1.7 percent higher than they had been a year earlier.

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
June	-0.2	-0.2	-0.8	0	3.5	0.2	-1.6
July	-.2	-.6	-1.0	.2	2.9	-.4	0
August .....	.2	-.5	1.6	.2	2.0	.3	-.2
September .....	.2	-.1	.4	.3	.8	.2	-.7
October .....	.2	0	1.2	.2	-.1	-.3	2.1
November .....	.1	-.2	.1	.2	-.5	0	-.1
December	-.1	-.1	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.1	-2.1
1992:							
January	-.2	-.4	-2.8	.5	-.4	-.6	-1.0
February .....	.2	1.0	.5	.1	.6	.4	1.7
March .....	.1	-.4	.5	.1	.9	.2	-1.1
April .....	.2	-.3	.5	.2	.9	.1	.5
May .....	.4	-.4	.9	.6	1.1	.4	1.4
June .....	.2	.2	2.3	-.1	1.5	.7	1.3

¹ Data for February 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
June	-0.3	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.4	-2.7	-3.1	-1.4
July	-1.5	-.7	-.2	.8	-1.7	1.6	-.5	-1.9
August	1.9	1.3	-.1	-.2	-1.5	.9	0	-10.1
September .....	.2	1.5	-.1	-1.5	1.6	-2.5	-.8	-15.0
October .....	.8	-1.1	-.2	-3.1	0	4.7	-.5	-20.0
November .....	.3	-.5	.1	-3.3	-.7	.7	-.8	-14.6
December	-.1	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-.6	-3.9	-.2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-1.0	-3.1	-.1	-2.7	1.8	-4.6	-.2	-14.1
February	1.2	1.1	.2	-1.7	2.0	1.5	1.7	-5.3
March	-.4	-.1	.2	-.5	-.8	-2.6	1.7	-2.6
April	-.3	.5	0	-.1	-1.4	2.7	.2	-1.9
May	-.1	2.4	.1	.4	.9	2.5	.9	-1.1
June .....	.4	3.1	.2	.9	.8	2.3	.2	1.7

¹ Data for February 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Finished goods

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy fell 0.3 percent seasonally adjusted from May to June, in contrast to a 0.7-percent jump in the preceding month. The downturn was due to the tobacco products index, which declined 3.3 percent after seasonal adjustment following an upward surge of 7.3 percent in May; before seasonal adjustment, the tobacco products index was unchanged in June. Among other consumer goods, higher prices were recorded in June for books, prescription drugs, tires, and light trucks; indexes for passenger cars and women's apparel decreased, however. During the first half of 1992, the index for consumer goods other than foods and energy rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.0 percent, the same as in the previous 6 months.

The capital equipment index inched down 0.1 percent in June following an increase of 0.5 percent in May. The civilian aircraft index moved up only slightly in the wake of a substantial boost a month earlier. Among other kinds of capital goods, indexes for electronic computers, ships, and locomotives declined considerably in June, while prices for X-ray equipment, commercial furniture, and special industry machinery advanced. From December 1991 to June 1992, the capital equipment index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.2 percent—more than in the second half of 1991 but less than in the first 6 months of 1991.

The increase in the index for finished energy goods accelerated from 0.9 percent in May to 2.3 percent in June. Gasoline and home heating oil prices climbed much more than in the preceding month, and the index for residential gas turned up after a May drop. Residential electric rates, however, turned down following a rise in May.

Consumer food prices edged up 0.2 percent in June after a drop of 0.4 percent in the previous month. The upturn largely reflected the index for finfish and shellfish, which climbed 13.5 percent after slumping by roughly the same amount in May. Soft drink prices rose more than they had a month earlier, indexes for processed chickens and for shortening and cooking oils turned up following May decreases, and egg prices fell considerably less than in the previous month. Prices for pork and fresh fruits, however, moved down substantially after increasing a month earlier. In addition, indexes for beef and veal, fresh vegetables, and for processed fruits and vegetables dropped more than in May, and increases slowed for bakery products and pasta.

Intermediate goods

Following a 0.4-percent increase in May, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components climbed 0.7 percent in June, seasonally adjusted. Prices for energy goods and nondurable manufacturing materials rose more rapidly than in the previous month, and the index for intermediate foods and feeds turned up after edging down in May. (See table B.)

Prices for intermediate energy goods climbed 3.1 percent, even faster than the 2.4-percent increase in May. From December 1991 to June 1992, energy prices turned up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 7.8 percent after declining modestly in the preceding 6 months. Gasoline prices rose 7.4 percent in June following a moderate increase in the prior month, and the diesel fuel index surged 12.4 percent higher after a 9.4-percent rise in May. In addition, prices turned up following May decreases for liquefied petroleum gas, natural gas to electric utilities,

and for commercial and industrial natural gas. In contrast, price increases slowed considerably for residual fuel, jet fuels, and electric power for commercial and industrial customers.

The index for nondurable manufacturing materials rose 0.9 percent following a 0.3-percent advance a month earlier. During the first half of the year, this index increased at an annual rate of 1.9 percent after falling steadily during 1991. Prices rose faster in June than in the previous month for basic organic chemicals, nitrogenates, and plastic resins and materials. Prices turned up for synthetic fibers, finished fabrics, alkalies and chlorine, and synthetic rubber after decreasing of showing no change in May. Prices turned down, however, for paint materials and paper following increases a month earlier, and the index for woodpulp rose less than in May.

After inching down 0.1 percent in May, the intermediate foods and feeds index turned up 0.4 percent in June. Prices for foods and feeds edged down at an annual rate of 0.4 percent from December 1991 to June 1992, after rising at a 3.1-percent rate in the prior 6 months. Prices turned up in June after falling in May for prepared animal feeds, crude vegetable oils, and flour. In addition, prices for condensed and evaporated milk products rose faster than in the previous month. By contrast, prices for pork turned down after having risen month earlier. Beef and veal and butter prices fell much faster than in May, and price increases slowed for natural and processed cheese.

In June, prices for durable manufacturing materials moved up 0.4 percent, slightly faster than in the previous month. After falling at an annual rate of 3.0 percent in the latter half of 1991, this index climbed at a 3.5-percent rate during the first half of 1992. Prices turned up in June for hot rolled steel bars, plywood, primary aluminum, and semifinished steel following May declines. Prices rose faster than in the prior month for copper and brass mill shapes, primary copper, and primary zinc. In addition, the index for hot rolled steel sheets fell less than in May. Price increases slowed, however, for hardwood lumber.

The index for materials and components for construction remained flat in June for the third consecutive month. During the first half of the year, construction material prices moved up at an annual rate of 2.6 percent after easing down slightly in the preceding 6 months. June increases were led by nonferrous wire and cable, plywood, and plastic construction materials, while softwood lumber prices declined substantially.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing climbed 1.3 percent in June, seasonally adjusted, after rising 1.4 percent in May. The index for basic industrial materials rose considerably less than in May, while the indexes for crude energy goods and

crude foodstuffs rose about as much as in the preceding month. (See table B.)

In June, the index for crude nonfood materials less energy edged up 0.2 percent after a 0.9-percent rise in May. This index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 9.1 percent in the first half of 1992, compared to a 5.4-percent rate of decline in the second half of 1991. Prices for softwood logs advanced 0.9 percent in June after a 2.3-percent increase in May. Indexes for copper ores, cattle hides, raw cotton, and wastepaper also rose less than in the prior month, and aluminum base scrap prices fell more rapidly than in May. By contrast, the index for copper base scrap climbed 4.6 percent after a May increase of 1.9 percent. Prices for gold and silver ores turned up after May declines, and the iron and steel scrap index fell less than in the month before.

The index for crude energy materials rose 2.3 percent in June following advances of 2.5 percent in May and 2.7 percent in April. This index moved up at an annual rate of 3.1 percent during the first 6 months of 1992 following a 2.3-percent rate of increase in the latter half of 1991. The index for natural gas dropped 4.5 percent in June after rising slightly in May. In contrast, the index for crude petroleum climbed 8.8 percent in June after moving up 5.3 percent in May.

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs climbed 0.8 percent in June after rising 0.9 percent in May. This index increased at a rate of 6.5 percent in the first half of 1992 after dropping at a rate of 5.8 percent during the second half of 1991. In June, indexes for slaughter cattle, alfalfa hay, slaughter broilers, and for fresh fruits and melons turned down after May increases. The fluid milk index rose less than in May. Conversely, the unprocessed finfish index rose 79.2 percent after plummeting 40.1 percent in the prior month. Indexes for corn, wheat, and slaughter hogs also turned up after May declines. The soybeans index rose more than in May, and the unprocessed shellfish index fell less in June than in the month before.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries advanced 0.5 percent in June following a 1.5-percent increase in May. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group moved up 0.8 percent after rising 1.9 percent in May. The increase in the index for the metal mining industry group also slowed from 2 percent a month earlier to 1.3 percent in June. The bituminous coal industry group index decreased 0.5 percent, about the same as its rise in the previous month.

In June, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 75.4 (December 1984 = 100), 0.9 percent lower than a year earlier. For the 6 months ended in June, this index fell at a 5.3-percent annual rate after moving up at a 3.7-per-

cent annual rate in the previous 6 months. The oil and gas extraction industry group index declined at a 7.1-percent annual rate in the first half of 1992, about the same rate that it had risen by in the second half of 1991.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.3 percent after moving up 0.6 percent in May. In June, the index for the petroleum refining and related products industry group advanced 4.8 percent following a rise of 6.1 percent in May. The tobacco manufactures industry group showed no change after increasing 5.5 percent a month earlier. Price increases slowed for the food products industry group. Prices turned down after rising a month earlier for lumber and wood products, transportation equipment, and nonmetallic mineral products. In contrast, the textile mill products industry group index turned up 0.5 percent after showing no change a month earlier, and price de-

clines slowed for the paper products industry group.

The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 117.9 in June (December 1984=100), 2.0 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier. In the first half of 1992, this index rose at a 3.3-percent annual rate after increasing slightly in the second half of 1991. The index for the petroleum refining industry group increased at an 18.9-percent annual rate from December 1991 to June 1992 after falling at a 5.6-percent rate in the second half of 1991.

Other. Among other industries, prices advanced in June for electric power utilities, passenger car rental, truck rental and leasing, travel agencies, scheduled air transportation, natural gas utilities, water transportation of freight, and marine cargo handling. Prices declined, however, for collection of scrap and waste materials, tour operators, and radio broadcasting.

Price Movements

July 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from June to July. This followed advances of 0.2 percent in June and 0.4 percent in May. The Intermediate Goods Price Index showed no change in July after climbing 0.7 percent a month earlier and 0.4 percent in May. The index for crude goods remained unchanged after surging more than 1 percent in each of the 3 preceding months. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for consumer foods was unchanged in July. The energy goods index declined moderately after a sizable increase the month before. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent following a slight decrease in June.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods was unchanged in July at 123.7 (1982=100). Over the year from July 1991 to July 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.7 percent. During this same period, food prices dropped 1.3 percent, the index for energy goods increased 3.6 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 2.5 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods were 1.1 percent higher in July 1992 than they had been a year earlier, and the Crude Goods Price Index was up 1.8 percent from its July 1991 level.

Finished goods

After declining 0.3 percent in June, the index for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent in July. The index for passenger cars turned up 0.7 percent after seasonal adjustment following a drop of 0.8 percent in the previous month; before seasonal adjustment, passenger car prices were up 0.2 percent in July. The index for tobacco products moved down much less than in June. Prices for soaps and detergents advanced substantially after edging down slightly a month before. In contrast, the index for books turned down following a sharp June rise, and prescription drug prices showed no change after a sizable increase in the previous month.

Capital equipment prices moved up 0.2 percent in July, seasonally adjusted, following a small decrease in June. Advances were led by motor vehicles, civilian aircraft, truck trailers, construction machinery, and agricultural machinery. The index for electronic computers, however, continued to decrease substantially.

Following an upward surge of 2.3 percent in June, the index for finished energy goods fell 0.4 percent in July. Gasoline and home heating oil prices turned down after climbing sharply in June, and the rise in the index for residential gas slowed somewhat. In contrast, the residential

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
July	-0.2	-0.6	-1.0	0.2	2.9	-0.4	0
August .....	.2	-.5	1.6	.2	2.0	.3	-.2
September .....	.2	-.1	.4	.3	.8	.2	-.7
October .....	.2	0	1.2	.2	-.1	-.3	2.1
November .....	.1	-.2	.1	.2	-.5	0	-.1
December	-.1	-.1	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.1	-2.1
1992:							
January	-.2	-.4	-2.8	.5	-.4	-.6	-1.0
February .....	.2	1.0	.5	.1	.6	.4	1.7
March .....	.2	-.5	.5	.3	1.1	.1	-1.7
April .....	.1	-.2	.5	0	.9	.2	1.1
May .....	.4	-.4	.9	.6	1.1	.4	1.4
June .....	.2	.2	2.3	-.1	1.5	.7	1.3
July .....	.1	0	-.4	.2	1.7	0	0

Data for March 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
July	-1.5	-0.7	-0.2	0.8	-1.7	1.6	-0.5	-1.9
August	1.9	1.3	-1	-2	-1.5	.9	0	-10.1
September .....	.2	1.5	-1	-1.5	1.6	-2.5	-8	-15.0
October .....	.8	-1.1	-2	-3.1	0	4.7	-5	-20.0
November .....	.3	-5	.1	-3.3	-7	.7	-8	-14.6
December	-1	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-6	-3.9	-2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-1.0	-3.1	-1	-2.7	1.8	-4.6	-2	-14.1
February	1.2	1.1	.2	-1.7	2.0	1.5	1.7	-5.3
March	-4	-2	.2	-5	-1.0	-4.4	2.0	-3.3
April	-3	.6	0	-1	-1.2	4.6	-2	-1.9
May	-1	2.4	.1	.4	.9	2.5	.9	-1.1
June .....	.4	3.1	.2	.9	.8	2.3	.2	1.7
July	-2.0	-1	.2	1.1	-1.7	1.1	1.3	1.8

¹ Data for March 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

electricity index advanced 0.8 percent in July after declining by the same amount in the preceding month.

Prices for finished consumer foods showed no change following a rise of 0.2 percent in June. July increases for fresh vegetables, unprocessed finfish, frozen packaged fish, beef and veal, and fluid milk products offset decreases for fresh fruits and melons, processed poultry, unprocessed shellfish, fats and oils, pork, and roasted coffee.

Intermediate goods

After jumping 0.7 percent in June, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components remained unchanged in July, seasonally adjusted. Prices turned down for energy goods and for foods and feeds after rising in June, and nondurable manufacturing materials increased less than in the preceding month. (See table B.)

Prices for intermediate energy goods edged down 0.1 percent in July after moving up 3.1 percent in the preceding month. Prices turned down following June increases for gasoline, natural gas for commercial and industrial use, and natural gas for electric utilities. Price advances slowed for diesel fuel, residual fuel, and commercial power. Industrial power prices fell after showing no change a month earlier. Price increases accelerated for jet fuels and liquefied petroleum gas, however.

The foods and feeds index dropped 2.0 percent following a rise of 0.4 percent in June. Prices turned down for prepared animal feeds, crude vegetable oils, condensed and evaporated milk, flour, and cheese. Prices for beef and veal and for confectionery materials turned up, however, and pork decreases slowed.

The increase in the index for materials for nondurable manufacturing slowed to 0.4 percent following a June advance of 0.9 percent. Prices turned down for fertilizer materials, gray fabrics, synthetic fibers, and synthetic rubber. Price advances slowed for miscellaneous basic organics and finished fabrics. Prices fell faster for chlorine liquid than in June. By contrast, prices rose faster than in the previous month for intermediate basic organics, wood-pulp, and paperboard. Declines slowed for paint materials. Advances for petrochemicals continued at about the same rapid pace as in the preceding month.

The index for materials and components for construction moved down 0.2 percent after showing no change in either May or June. Declines were registered for softwood lumber, metal pipe fittings, and plywood. Prices advanced in July for nonferrous wire and cable.

The index for materials for durable manufacturing moved up 0.6 percent after rising 0.4 percent in June. Price increases accelerated for primary copper, copper and brass mill shapes, cold rolled steel sheets, and hardwood lumber. Lead prices jumped sharply after showing no change in the previous month. In contrast, price indexes turned down for plywood, zinc, and semifinished steel mill products. Prices for hot rolled steel sheet and strip fell faster than in June.

Crude goods

In July, the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing showed no change after seasonal adjustment following a 1.3-percent rise in June. The index for crude foodstuffs turned down substantially after rising in June, and prices for crude energy goods rose less than in

any of the 3 preceding months. (See table B.) The index for basic industrial materials rose much more than in June.

Prices for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs dropped 1.7 percent in July following a 0.8-percent increase in June. Corn prices dropped 11.9 percent after a 4.2-percent increase a month ago. Indexes for wheat, soybeans, and slaughter hogs also fell in July after climbing in June, and the unprocessed finfish and fluid milk indexes rose less than in the month before. In contrast, the index for slaughter cattle increased 3.9 percent in July after falling 1.4 percent a month earlier. Prices for slaughter chicken broilers and for fresh and dried vegetables also turned up.

The index for crude energy materials rose 1.1 percent in July, less than its advance of 2.3 percent in June. Crude petroleum prices were down 3.4 percent after climbing 8.8 percent in the prior month. Coal prices also turned down, dropping 0.6 percent in July after edging up 0.2 percent in June. Conversely, the index for natural gas to pipelines moved up 8.6 percent in July following a 4.5-percent drop in the prior month.

In July, the index for crude nonfood materials less energy climbed 1.3 percent following a modest 0.2-percent gain in June. Prices for iron and steel scrap rose 2.0 percent after falling in the previous month, and the aluminum base scrap index also turned up following a June decline. In addition, indexes for softwood logs, raw cotton, and leaf tobacco rose more rapidly in July than in the previous month. By contrast, the index for cattle hides fell 3.1 percent in July after rising the month before, and indexes for wastepaper, phosphates, and silver ores also turned down. The index for hardwood logs dropped after showing no change in June, and prices for gold ores and copper base scrap rose less than the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of

domestic mining industries climbed 2.5 percent in July, considerably more than in either June (0.5 percent) or May (1.5 percent). (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group advanced 3.5 percent over the month in the wake of a 0.8-percent rise in June. The increase in the index for the metal mining industry group accelerated to 1.8 percent in July after moving up 1.3 percent a month earlier. In July, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 77.3 (December 1984=100), 1.4 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector edged down 0.1 percent in July following a rise of 0.3 percent in the previous month. Declines were led by a drop of 1.9 percent in the index for the petroleum refining industry group, which had climbed 4.8 percent in June and 6.1 percent in May. Other industry groups decreasing in July included leather and leather products, lumber and wood products, nonelectrical machinery, and food. Increases were paced by the index for the primary metal industries group (up 0.5 percent) and the apparel industry group (up 0.4 percent). The Producer Price Index for the net output of total manufacturing industries was 117.8 (December 1984=100) in July, 2.1 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, the index for the passenger car rental industry climbed 9.5 percent in July following a 4.7-percent advance the month before. Industry indexes for scheduled air transportation, scrap and waste collection, domestic deep sea transportation of freight, and marine cargo handling each increased more than 1 percent from June to July. In contrast, the radio broadcasting industry index dropped 3.4 percent, much more than in June. Other July decreases were registered for tour operators, travel agencies, and truck rentals.

Price Movements

August 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from July to August. This followed an increase of the same size in July and advances of 0.2 percent in both May and June. The index for intermediate goods showed no change for the second consecutive month. Crude material prices inched down slightly after no change in July and substantial increases in each of the prior 3 months. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for consumer foods rose considerably after remaining unchanged a month earlier. The index for finished energy goods edged down following a somewhat larger July decrease. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy dipped 0.1 percent after a small rise in July.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent in August to 123.5 (1982=100). From August 1991 to August 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.5 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices edged down 0.1 percent, the index for finished energy goods increased 1.9 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 2.1 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 1.0 percent from August 1991 to August 1992, and crude material prices were 1.8 percent higher than a year earlier.

Finished goods

Prices for finished consumer foods climbed 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted, from July to August. The index for fresh and dry vegetables soared 30.2 percent over the month, as lettuce prices tripled; prices for many other vegetables were also sharply higher. The index for fresh fruits and melons rose nearly 17 percent, paced by a jump of 70 percent for strawberries. Higher prices were also recorded in August for processed chickens, beef and veal, pork, packaged fluid milk, and eggs. Declines included unprocessed finfish, soft drinks, cheese, and fats and oils.

The index for finished energy goods edged down 0.1 percent after falling 0.4 percent the month before. Gasoline prices fell less than in July, but home heating oil prices dropped more rapidly. Among the utilities, the index for residential electric power moved up less than in the preceding month, while the increase in the residential gas index accelerated.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy decreased 0.1 percent in August after rising 0.2 percent a month earlier. The tobacco products index dropped 5.6 percent after seasonal adjustment in August in the wake of a small decline in July and a 3.3-percent decline in June; before seasonal adjustment, the tobacco products index moved down 6.4 percent from July to August. The

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
August	0.2	-0.5	1.6	0.2	2.0	0.3	-0.2
September .....	.2	-1	.4	.3	.8	.2	-.7
October .....	.2	0	1.2	.2	-.1	-.3	2.1
November .....	.1	-.2	.1	.2	-.5	0	-.1
December	-.1	-.1	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.1	-2.1
1992:							
January	-2	-4	-2.8	.5	-.4	-.6	-1.0
February .....	.2	1.0	.5	.1	.6	.4	1.7
March .....	.2	-.5	.5	.3	1.1	.1	-1.7
April .....	.3	-.3	.7	.4	1.1	.2	1.0
May .....	.2	-.3	.8	.2	1.1	.4	1.5
June .....	.2	.2	2.3	-.1	1.5	.7	1.3
July .....	.1	0	-.4	.2	1.7	0	0
August .....	.1	.7	-.1	-.1	1.5	0	-.1

¹ Data for April 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
August	1.9	1.3	-0.1	-0.2	-1.5	0.9	0	-10.1
September .....	.2	1.5	-.1	-1.5	1.6	-2.5	-.8	-15.0
October .....	.8	-1.1	-.2	-3.1	0	4.7	-.5	-20.0
November .....	.3	-.5	.1	-3.3	-.7	.7	-.8	-14.6
December	-.1	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-.6	-3.9	-.2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-1.0	-3.1	-.1	-2.7	1.8	-4.6	-.2	-14.1
February	1.2	1.1	.2	-1.7	2.0	1.5	1.7	-5.3
March	-.4	-.2	.2	-.5	-1.0	-4.4	2.0	-3.3
April	-.4	.6	0	-.1	-1.2	3.9	.3	-2.0
May	0	2.4	.1	.4	.9	3.2	.4	-1.1
June .....	.4	3.1	.2	.9	.8	2.3	.2	1.7
July	-2.0	-.1	.2	1.1	-1.7	1.1	1.3	1.8
August	-.2	-.6	.2	1.0	-.4	.2	.1	1.8

¹ Data for April 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

index for soaps and detergents was unchanged after a sizable boost in the prior month. In addition, prices for light trucks and children's apparel turned down following July increases. In contrast, prices for pharmaceutical preparations and for periodicals rose considerably after little or no change a month earlier, and the index for books turned up following a substantial July decline. The passenger cars index increased 1.0 percent, seasonally adjusted, somewhat more than in July; before seasonal adjustment, new car prices dropped 0.4 percent.

The capital equipment index inched up 0.1 percent over the month. Increases for passenger cars, civilian aircraft, and turbines outweighed decreases for light trucks, commercial furniture, and computers.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components remained unchanged for the second time in as many months, seasonally adjusted. Prices rose for nondurable manufacturing materials but declined for energy goods and for foods and feeds. (See table B.)

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing moved up 0.4 percent, the same as in July. Prices for thermoplastic resins, paperboard, inedible fats and oils, paint materials, chlorine liquid, and woodpulp advanced at least 1 percent. In contrast, declines were noted for paper, fertilizer materials, boron compounds, and sulfuric acid.

The index for materials and components for construction edged up 0.1 percent after dropping 0.2 percent in July. Prices turned up for plywood, softwood lumber, and gypsum products after falling or showing no change in the

previous month. Prices fell after rising in July, however, for nonferrous wire and cable and for fabricated ferrous wire products. Prices for millwork and plastic construction products fell faster than in the month before.

Prices for intermediate energy goods dropped 0.6 percent after edging down 0.1 percent in July. Prices turned down for jet fuels, diesel fuel, and coke oven products following sizable July increases. Price advances slowed for liquefied petroleum gas and commercial power. By contrast, residual fuel prices jumped nearly 10 percent after edging up a month earlier. Declines slowed for gasoline and industrial power. Prices turned up for industrial, commercial, and electric utility natural gas following declines in the preceding month.

The foods and feeds index fell 0.2 percent following a decrease of 2.0 percent in July. Price declines slowed for prepared animal feeds and flour. Prices turned up after decreasing in July for condensed and evaporated milk and for pork. Price increases accelerated for beef and veal. Confectionery materials, however, fell after inching up in the previous month, and cheese prices fell faster than in July. Crude vegetable oil prices fell sharply for the second consecutive month.

The index for materials for durable manufacturing showed no change following a 0.6-percent advance in July. Prices turned down for copper and brass mill shapes, primary copper, cold rolled steel sheets, and flat rolled steel bars. Hardwood lumber prices advanced less rapidly than a month earlier. By contrast, prices turned up for flat glass, primary zinc, and for building paper and board. In addition, increases accelerated for primary lead.

Crude goods

In August, the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing edged down 0.1 percent after showing no change in July. Indexes for both crude energy goods and basic industrial materials rose much less than in July. The index for crude foodstuffs, however, dropped considerably less than a month earlier. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials rose 0.2 percent following an advance of 1.1 percent in July. The natural gas to pipelines index increased 2.6 percent after climbing 8.6 percent in the prior month. In contrast, coal prices turned up 1.9 percent in August after dropping in July, and the crude petroleum index decreased 2.4 percent following a 3.4-percent decline the month before.

Prices for crude nonfood materials less energy edged up 0.1 percent in August after rising 1.3 percent in July. The index for iron and steel scrap fell 5.1 percent following a 2.0-percent rise in the prior month. Raw cotton and leaf tobacco prices also turned down after July advances, and the indexes for softwood logs, copper scrap, and aluminum scrap rose substantially less than in July. In contrast, the index for cattle hides turned up in August, climbing 3.0 percent after dropping by approximately the same amount a month earlier. The indexes for copper ores and gold ores rose more in August than in the month before, and prices for wastepaper fell less than in July.

In August, the index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs moved down 0.4 percent following a 1.7-percent decrease in July. The index for corn dropped 2.1 percent, considerably less than the 11.9-percent drop registered in July. Indexes for soybeans, alfalfa hay, and wheat also fell less than in July. Prices for slaughter hogs, fresh fruits and melons, and shellfish turned up after July declines. Fresh vegetable prices surged about 30 percent. Conversely, the slaughter cattle index dropped 2.2 percent in August after climbing in July, and the indexes for fluid milk and unprocessed finfish both turned down following July increases. The price of slaughter chicken broilers rose less than in July.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries advanced 0.8 percent in August following a 2.5-percent increase in July. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group moved up 0.7 percent after rising 3.5 percent in July. In contrast, the increase in the index for the metal mining industry group accelerated from 1.8 percent a month earlier to 3.4 percent in August. The bituminous coal industry group index increased 0.4 percent after showing no change in the previous month. In August, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 77.9 (December 1984 = 100), 1.4 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries fell 0.3 percent after inching down 0.1 percent in July. The index for the tobacco manufactures industry group turned down 5.8 percent following a 0.3-percent rise in the previous month. Prices also turned down after rising a month earlier for the transportation equipment industry group. The industry groups for apparel, primary metal industries, measuring instruments, and chemicals showed little or no change following July increases. In contrast, the petroleum refining and related products industry group fell 0.7 percent following a larger decrease in July. The industry groups for lumber products and electrical machinery were unchanged in August after falling in July. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 117.5 in August (December 1984 = 100), 1.6-percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices advanced in August for passenger car rental, natural gas utilities, scheduled air transportation, water transportation of freight, and deep sea foreign transportation of freight. Prices declined, however, for travel agencies, marine cargo handling, and deep sea transportation of domestic freight.

Price Movements

September 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, from August to September. This followed increases of 0.1 percent in both July and August. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 0.2 percent in September after showing no change in each of the 2 preceding months. Crude material prices climbed 1.6 percent over the month after registering little or no change in July and August. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for energy goods turned up in September following small decreases in July and August. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent after edging down 0.1 percent in August. Consumer food prices continued to rise, although not as much as a month earlier.

During the third quarter of 1992, the rate of inflation slowed along a broad front. The Finished Goods Price Index increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.0 percent from June to September, after rising at a 3.0-percent rate during the second quarter. The increase in the index for finished energy goods slowed from a 16.1-percent rate in the second quarter to a rate of 1.0 percent in the third. In addition, prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose at a rate of 1.2 percent from June to September, the slowest pace for any calendar quarter in more than 5 years. The index for consumer foods, how-

ever, turned from a 1.6-percent rate of decline in the second quarter to a 4.3-percent rate of advance in the third quarter. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose at an annual rate of 0.7 percent in the third quarter, considerably smaller than the 5.0-percent rate of increase from March to June. The Crude Goods Price Index also advanced at a more moderate rate from June to September (6.1 percent) than in the second quarter (16.6 percent).

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent in September to 123.3 (1982 = 100). From September 1991 to September 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.6 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices moved up 0.4 percent, the index for energy goods increased 2.3 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were up 1.9 percent. Prices for intermediate goods were 0.9 percent higher in September 1992 than a year earlier, and the Crude Goods Price Index advanced 4.1 percent over the year.

Finished goods

The index for finished energy goods advanced 0.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, from August to September after easing down 0.1 percent in the previous month. Gasoline prices climbed 2.8 percent after dropping 1.7 percent in

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
September	0.2	-0.1	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.2	-0.7
October .....	.2	0	1.2	.2	-1	-.3	2.1
November .....	.1	-.2	.1	.2	-.5	0	-.1
December	-.1	-.1	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.1	-2.1
1992:							
January	-.2	-.4	-2.8	.5	-.4	-.6	-1.0
February .....	.2	1.0	.5	.1	.6	.4	1.7
March .....	.2	-.5	.5	.3	1.1	.1	-1.7
April .....	.3	-.3	.7	.4	1.1	.2	1.0
May .....	.2	-.2	1.0	.3	1.1	.4	1.7
June .....	.2	.1	2.1	-.2	1.5	.6	1.1
July .....	.1	0	-4	.2	1.7	0	0
August .....	.1	.7	-.1	-.1	1.5	0	-.1
September .....	.3	.4	.8	.2	1.6	.2	1.6

¹ Data for May 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
September	0.2	1.5	-0.1	-1.5	1.6	-2.5	-0.8	-15.0
October .....	.8	-1.1	-2	-3.1	0	4.7	-5	-20.0
November .....	.3	-.5	.1	-3.3	-.7	.7	-.8	-14.6
December	-.1	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-.6	-3.9	-.2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-1.0	-3.1	-.1	-2.7	1.8	-4.6	-.2	-14.1
February	1.2	1.1	.2	-1.7	2.0	1.5	1.7	-5.3
March	-.4	-.2	.2	-.5	-1.0	-4.4	2.0	-3.3
April	-.4	.6	0	-.1	-1.2	3.9	.3	-2.0
May .....	.1	2.4	.2	.4	1.1	3.2	.8	-.9
June .....	.4	3.1	.2	.9	.6	2.3	-.2	1.7
July	-2.0	-.1	.2	1.1	-1.7	1.1	1.3	1.8
August	-.2	-.6	.2	1.0	-.4	.2	.1	1.8
September .....	.8	.3	0	.9	.6	3.6	-.5	4.1

¹ Data for May 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

August and 4.5 percent in July. The home heating oil index inched up 0.1 percent in September following a decline of 4.4 percent a month earlier. The rise in the residential gas index, however, slowed from 1.7 percent in August to 0.2 percent in September.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent in September after edging down 0.1 percent in the preceding month. From June to September, this index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.2 percent, half as much as in the second quarter. Most of the September upturn was due to the tobacco products index, which climbed 4.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, following a decrease of 5.6 percent a month before; this index rose 3.2 percent in September before seasonal adjustment. Indexes for light trucks, cosmetics, and tires and tubes also turned up in September following August declines. The passenger cars index, however, fell 0.9 percent after seasonal adjustment in the wake of a 1.0-percent advance in August; before seasonal adjustment, the new cars index dropped 4.1 percent in September, reflecting the liquidation allowances granted dealers by auto producers to enable them to reduce their remaining inventory of 1992 model-year cars. Prices for prescription drugs, sanitary papers, periodicals, and books also turned down after rising in the previous month, and the soaps and detergents index dropped sharply following no change in August.

Consumer food prices increased 0.4 percent in September after climbing 0.7 percent a month earlier. The index for fresh and dry vegetables and the index for fresh fruits and melons each fell more than 6 percent in September following upward surges of about 30 and 17 percent, respectively, in August. Prices for young chickens, dairy products, and pasta also turned down after August advances. By contrast, the finfish index turned up

after a slump of more than 30 percent in the prior month. Indexes for soft drinks and for shortening and cooking oils also rose in September after falling a month earlier, and prices for chicken eggs and pork advanced more than in August.

The capital equipment index was unchanged in September after edging up 0.1 percent in the previous month. This index moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.9 percent in the third quarter, the same as in the second quarter. In September, advances for light trucks, civilian aircraft, commercial furniture, construction machinery, and special industry machinery offset declines for cars, electronic computers, transformers, and heavy trucks.

Intermediate goods

After remaining unchanged in August, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 0.2 percent in September, seasonally adjusted. Prices for energy goods and for foods and feeds turned up following August declines, while the index for construction materials rose slightly more than in the previous month. The index for nondurable manufacturing materials, however, turned down after rising in August, and durable manufacturing material prices also fell. (See table B.)

Prices for intermediate energy goods rose 0.3 percent after falling 0.6 percent in August. In the third quarter, this index fell at a seasonally adjusted rate of 1.4 percent; in contrast, these prices climbed at a rate of 27.5 percent in the second quarter. The gasoline and industrial electric power indexes turned up in September following August decreases. Prices for diesel fuel and jet fuels fell less than in the previous month, and price increases accelerated for in-

dustrial natural gas. In contrast, indexes for residual fuel, liquefied petroleum gas, and natural gas to electric utilities turned down following August advances.

The index for intermediate foods and feeds rose 0.8 percent after edging down 0.2 percent a month earlier. This index dropped at a seasonally adjusted rate of 5.3 percent in the third quarter following a slight rise in the second quarter. Indexes for crude vegetable oils, flour, and prepared animal feeds turned up in September after decreasing a month earlier. In contrast, prices for refined sugar turned down following an August increase.

After inching up 0.1 percent in August, the index for construction materials rose 0.3 percent in September. In the third quarter, this index rose at a seasonally adjusted rate of 0.6 percent after edging down slightly in the second quarter. September advances were led by softwood lumber, plywood, and millwork, while decreases were paced by nonferrous wire and cable.

The index for nondurable manufacturing materials fell 0.3 percent after rising 0.4 percent in August. These prices rose at a seasonally adjusted rate of 2.4 percent in the third quarter, well below the 5.7-percent rate recorded in the second quarter. Price advances for plastic resins and materials slowed in September. In addition, indexes for paperboard, primary and intermediate organic chemicals, paint materials, woodpulp, and for alkalies and chlorine turned down following August advances. In contrast, indexes for paper and for medicinal and botanical chemicals turned up in September.

Prices for durable manufacturing materials dropped 0.5 percent in September after showing no change in August. From June to September, this index edged up at a seasonally adjusted rate of 0.3 percent after rising at a rate of 1.7 percent in the second quarter. In September, prices for copper and brass mill shapes, hot rolled steel sheet and strip, and copper cathode dropped more than in the preceding month. Indexes for primary aluminum and flat glass turned down following August rises, and lead prices remained flat after a sizable increase a month earlier. Conversely, the index for cold rolled steel sheet and strip remained unchanged after dropping in August, and building paper prices rose more rapidly than in the prior month.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing climbed 1.6 percent in September, seasonally adjusted, after edging down 0.1 percent in August. The index for crude energy goods rose much more than in the month before, and the index for crude foodstuffs turned up after falling in August. The basic industrial materials index, however, turned down modestly after a slight increase in the previous month. (See table B.)

The September index for crude energy materials rose 3.6 percent following a 0.2-percent advance in August. This index moved up at an annual rate of 21.8 percent during the third quarter, following a 44.8-percent rate of increase

in the second quarter. The index for crude petroleum turned up 4.1 percent in September after falling 2.4 percent in August. In addition, the natural gas to pipelines index rose 5.3 percent, about twice as much as in the previous month. In contrast, the coal index declined 1.3 percent after climbing 1.9 percent a month earlier.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index increased 0.6 percent after falling 0.4 percent in August. This index decreased at seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.9 percent during the third quarter, after rising at a 1.5-percent annual rate during the second quarter. In September, indexes for slaughter cattle, corn, wheat, unprocessed finfish, and alfalfa hay turned up following August decreases. Conversely, the slaughter broilers index fell 11.5 percent after climbing in the previous month. Indexes for fresh and dry vegetables, fresh fruits and melons, and slaughter turkeys also turned down after August rises. Prices for slaughter hogs rose less than a month earlier.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy fell 0.5 percent in September after rising 0.1 percent in August. This index increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.8 percent in the third quarter, about as much as in the second quarter. Indexes for aluminum base scrap, copper ores, copper base scrap, gold ores, silver ores, and some roundwood products turned down in September after August increases. In contrast, iron and steel scrap prices turned up after falling a month earlier. Leaf tobacco and wastepaper also turned up after declining in the preceding month. The index for softwood logs, bolts, and timber and the cattle hides index both rose more than in August. The price of raw cotton fell less in September than in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries climbed 3.0 percent from August to September after advancing 0.8 percent a month earlier. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) From June to September, this index moved up at an annual rate of 28.0 percent, even faster than the 18.9-percent rate registered during the second quarter. The September acceleration chiefly reflected the index for the oil and gas extraction industry group, which rose 4.5 percent over the month in the wake of a 0.7-percent increase in August. By contrast, indexes for the metal mining, the bituminous coal mining, and the nonmetallic mineral mining industry groups turned down in September following August advances. In September, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 80.2 (December 1984 = 100), 6.8 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries showed no change in September after moving down 0.3 percent in the previous

month. During the third quarter, this index dropped at an annual rate of 1.4 percent following a 5.3-percent rate of increase in the preceding 3 months. September advances were led by the industry groups for tobacco manufactures (3.4 percent), lumber and wood products (2.5 percent), and petroleum refining (1.0 percent). In contrast, the transportation equipment industry group index declined 1.6 percent over the month. The index for the net output

of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 11.75 in September (December 1984 = 100), up 1.6 percent from its level of a year ago.

Other. Prices rose in September for travel agencies (4.3 percent), car rentals (3.6 percent), and scheduled air transportation (2.5 percent). The industry indexes for domestic deep sea freight transportation and for air courier services each fell 1.0 percent.

Price Movements

October 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from September to October. This followed increases of 0.3 percent in September and 0.1 percent in August. The Intermediate Goods Price Index edged down 0.1 percent in October after rising 0.2 percent a month earlier and showing no change in August. Crude material prices moved down 0.1 percent over the month after climbing 1.6 percent in September. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the consumer foods index inched up slightly following larger advances in both August and September. Prices for energy goods rose considerably more than in the preceding month. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy fell 0.1 percent in October after rising 0.2 percent the month before.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods increased 0.8 percent in October to 124.3 (1982=100). Over the year from October 1991 to October 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.7 percent. During the same period, consumer food prices moved up 0.5 percent, the index for finished energy goods advanced 2.2 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy increased 2.0 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods were 1.1 percent higher in October 1992 than in the same month

a year before, and the Crude Goods Price Index was 1.9 percent higher than its October 1991 level.

Finished goods

The index for finished consumer foods edged up 0.1 percent from September to October following a rise of 0.4 percent in the previous month. October increases were led by a 27-percent advance in the fresh and dry vegetables index. Prices for processed chickens, melons, beef and veal, and bakery products also moved up. In contrast, the index for finfish and shellfish dropped 10.5 percent in October. Lower prices were also recorded for dairy products, chicken eggs, pork, soft drinks, and roasted coffee.

After advancing 0.8 percent in September, the index for finished energy goods rose 1.4 percent. Indexes for residential electricity and for residential gas climbed 1.2 and 2.0 percent, respectively, in October after both moved up slightly a month earlier. Gasoline prices also increased more than in September. Home heating oil prices, however, turned down after a small September rise.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy inched down 0.1 percent in October following an increase of 0.2 percent in the previous month. The index for passenger cars declined 2.3 percent after seasonal adjustment, reflecting the introduction of 1993 models (see "Report on

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
October	0.2	0	1.2	0.2	-0.1	-0.3	2.1
November .....	.1	-2	.1	.2	-5	0	-1
December	-.1	-.1	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.1	-2.1
1992:							
January	-.2	-.4	-2.8	.5	-4	-.6	-1.0
February .....	.2	1.0	.5	.1	.6	.4	1.7
March .....	.2	-.5	.5	.3	1.1	.1	-1.7
April .....	.3	-.3	.7	.4	1.1	.2	1.0
May .....	.2	-.2	1.0	.3	1.1	.4	1.7
June .....	.2	.2	2.5	-.2	1.6	.7	1.7
July	0	-.2	-.8	.2	1.7	-.1	-.6
August .....	.1	.7	-.1	-.1	1.5	0	-1
September .....	.3	.4	.8	.2	1.6	.2	1.6
October .....	.1	.1	1.4	-.1	1.7	-.1	-.1

¹ Data for June 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
October	0.8	-1.1	-0.2	-3.1	0	4.7	-0.5	-20.0
November .....	.3	-.5	.1	-3.3	-.7	.7	-.8	-14.6
December	-.1	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-.6	-3.9	-.2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-1.0	-3.1	-.1	-2.7	1.8	-4.6	-.2	-14.1
February	1.2	1.1	.2	-1.7	2.0	1.5	1.7	-5.3
March	-.4	-.2	.2	-.5	-1.0	-4.4	2.0	-3.3
April	-.4	.6	0	-.1	-1.2	3.9	.3	-2.0
May .....	.1	2.4	.2	.4	1.1	3.2	.8	-.9
June .....	.4	3.6	.2	1.0	.7	3.5	.1	2.3
July	-2.1	-.6	.1	1.1	-1.8	0	1.0	1.8
August	-.2	-.6	.2	1.0	-.4	.2	.1	1.8
September .....	.8	.3	0	.9	.6	3.6	-.5	4.1
October	-.6	.9	-.2	1.1	.6	-.5	-1.3	1.9

¹ Data for June 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Quality Changes for 1993 Model Passenger Cars," on page 4). Before seasonal adjustment, the new car index climbed 7.1 percent from September to October but was still 0.5 percent below its October 1991 level. Indexes advanced over the month after seasonal adjustment for tobacco products, apparel, prescription drugs, alcoholic beverages, and cosmetics.

The capital equipment index moved down 0.2 percent from September to October after showing no change a month before. Lower prices for passenger cars and computers more than offset advances for light trucks, communication equipment, and construction machinery.

Intermediate goods

After rising 0.2 percent in September, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components edged down 0.1 percent in October, seasonally adjusted. The index for durable manufacturing materials fell more rapidly than in September, and prices for foods and feeds turned down. In contrast, the energy goods index rose more than in the prior month. (See table B.)

The index for durable manufacturing materials fell 1.3 percent in October after dropping 0.5 percent in September. Plywood prices rose considerably less than the month before, and indexes for hot rolled steel bars, primary lead, building paper, and zinc fell after rising or showing no change in September. In contrast, indexes for hot rolled steel sheet and strip and for copper and brass mill shapes fell less in October than in September. In addition, prices for cold finished steel bars and primary aluminum turned up after falling in the prior month.

Prices for intermediate foods and feeds dropped 0.6 percent in October after climbing 0.8 percent a month earlier. Indexes for confectionery materials, pork, and prepared animal feeds turned down after rising in September, and prices for crude vegetable oils rose less rapidly. Prices for condensed and evaporated milk and for cheese declined more than in the preceding month. In contrast, the refined sugar and the dry milk products indexes turned up in October, and flour prices rose more than in September.

After rising 0.3 percent in September, the index for construction materials did not change in October. Price increases for softwood lumber decelerated in October, slowing to 0.8 percent after a 5.1-percent increase in September. Indexes for plywood and millwork also rose less rapidly. In addition, prices for gypsum products turned down following a September increase. Conversely, the fabricated structural metal products index turned up slightly after a small September decline, and the indexes for nonferrous wire and cable and for plastic construction products fell less than in the previous month.

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing dropped 0.3 percent, the same as in September. Decreases in October were led by petrochemicals and gray fabrics. Indexes for basic inorganic chemicals, intermediate organic chemicals, woodpulp, and paperboard also dropped. Indexes for miscellaneous basic organic chemicals, nitrogenates, and for alkalies and chlorine increased.

The intermediate energy goods index rose 0.9 percent after increasing 0.3 percent in September. Prices for jet fuels fell much less than a month earlier, and the diesel fuel index also fell less than in September. Indexes for industrial electric power, commercial natural gas, and gasoline

rose more than in the prior month. Conversely, indexes for liquefied petroleum gas and residual fuel fell much more than in September.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing edged down 0.1 percent in October, seasonally adjusted, after climbing 1.6 percent in September. The index for crude energy goods turned down after rising the month before, and the basic industrial materials index fell more than in September. The index for crude food-stuffs and feedstuffs, however, rose as much as it did in September. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials fell 0.5 percent following a 3.6-percent rise in September. The index for natural gas to pipelines turned down after a sizable increase in September. In addition, the crude petroleum index rose much less than in the previous month. In contrast, the coal index turned up after a substantial decrease in September.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy fell 1.3 percent in October after declining 0.5 percent in September. Indexes for iron and steel scrap, leaf tobacco, and wastepaper turned down after rising in the previous month. The index for raw cotton fell far more than a month earlier, and the cattle hides index increased marginally following a substantial advance in September. Conversely, aluminum base scrap prices turned up after falling considerably the month before. The index for hardwood logs registered a sizable increase after showing no change the previous month. Prices for copper scrap and ores continued to drop, although somewhat less sharply than in September.

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs rose 0.6 percent for the second consecutive month. The October increase was paced by advances of over 25 percent for both slaughter broilers and fresh and dry vegetables. Prices for soybeans and for fresh fruits and melons also climbed in October. These increases were partially offset, however, by decreases in indexes for slaughter cattle, corn, fluid milk, and unprocessed finfish.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector moved down 0.7 percent from September to October. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) This contrasted with a climb of 3.0 percent for this index in September. The oil and gas extraction industry group index dropped 0.9 percent in October in the wake of a 4.5-percent advance a month earlier. The metal mining industry group index fell 2.1 percent in October, the same as in September. The bituminous coal and lignite industry group index, however, turned up slightly after a sizable September decrease. In October, the index for total mining industries stood at 79.6 (December 1984=100), 2.3 percent higher than its level a year before.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total manufacturing industries rose 0.7 percent in October after showing no change in the previous month. The largest October change was the 3.7-percent advance registered for the transportation equipment industry group, which had fallen 1.6 percent in September. In contrast, the petroleum refining industry group index moved up 0.5 percent in October, half as much as in the preceding month. The tobacco manufactures industry group index was unchanged following a substantial September increase, and lumber and wood products eased down after rising considerably in September. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector was 118.3 (December 1984=100) in October, up 1.6 percent from October 1991.

Other. Indexes for scheduled air cargo transportation and Mississippi River freight transportation rose considerably more in October than a month earlier. In addition, indexes for freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway and for domestic deep sea freight transportation turned up following September decreases. By contrast, indexes for passenger car rentals and scheduled air passenger transportation turned down after sizable increases in the preceding month. The airports and airport services index also moved down.

Price Movements

November 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from October to November. The November decrease followed a rise of 0.1 percent in October and a 0.3-percent advance in September. Both the Intermediate Goods Price Index and the Crude Goods Price Index fell 0.2 percent in November after inching down 0.1 percent a month earlier. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices turned down following increases in each of the 3 preceding months. The index for energy goods also retreated after sizable advances in September and October. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy edged up 0.1 percent following a drop of the same size in October.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods declined 0.3 percent in November to 123.9 (1982=100). From November 1991 to November 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.3 percent. During this same period, the index for finished consumer foods edged up 0.2 percent, the energy goods index increased 0.5 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy climbed 2.0 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods increased 1.0 percent during the 12 months ended in November 1992, and crude material prices advanced 1.8 percent over the same interval.

Finished goods

The index for finished consumer foods decreased 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, from October to November after moving up 0.1 percent in October and 0.4 percent in September. The November downturn largely reflected the fresh and dry vegetables index, which dropped by nearly one-third after a 27.0-percent upward surge in October; some of the larger declines in November included cucumbers (67.4 percent), lettuce (59.1 percent), and radishes (46.7 percent). Beef and veal prices also turned down following an October advance. By contrast, the index for eggs for fresh use climbed 17.7 percent over the month following a 9.0-percent decrease in October. In addition, prices for unprocessed finfish and shellfish declined much less than in the preceding month, and fresh fruit and melon prices climbed considerably more than in October.

Following a climb of 1.4 percent in October, the index for finished energy goods dropped 1.5 percent in November. Gasoline prices and residential electricity rates turned down after October increases. Home heating oil prices fell nearly 12 percent, far more than in the previous month. Residential gas rates, however, moved up 2.2 percent in November, a little more than in October. Prices for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent following a slight decrease of 0.1 percent in October. The upturn was paced by the index

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
November	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.2	-0.5	0	-0.1
December	-.1	-.1	-1.4	.2	-.1	-.1	-2.1
1992:							
January	-.2	-.4	-2.8	.5	-4	-.6	-1.0
February .....	.2	1.0	.5	.1	.6	.4	1.7
March .....	.2	-.5	.5	.3	1.1	.1	-1.7
April .....	.3	-.3	.7	.4	1.1	.2	1.0
May .....	.2	-.2	1.0	.3	1.1	.4	1.7
June .....	.2	.2	2.5	-.2	1.6	.7	1.7
July	0	-.2	-.6	.1	1.7	0	-.2
August .....	.1	.7	-.3	-.1	1.5	-.1	-.5
September .....	.3	.4	.8	.2	1.6	.2	1.6
October .....	.1	.1	1.4	-.1	1.7	-.1	-.1
November	-.2	-.5	-1.5	.1	1.3	-.2	-.2

¹ Data for July 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
November	0.3	-0.5	0.1	-3.3	-0.7	0.7	-0.8	-14.6
December	-.1	-1.3	.1	-2.6	-.6	-3.9	-.2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-1.0	-3.1	-.1	-2.7	1.8	-4.6	-.2	-14.1
February	1.2	1.1	.2	-1.7	2.0	1.5	1.7	-5.3
March	-4	-.2	.2	-.5	-1.0	-4.4	2.0	-3.3
April	-.4	.6	0	-.1	-1.2	3.9	.3	-2.0
May .....	.1	2.4	.2	.4	1.1	3.2	.8	-.9
June .....	.4	3.6	.2	1.0	.7	3.5	.1	2.3
July	-1.8	0	.2	1.3	-1.8	1.1	.9	2.2
August	-.5	-1.2	.1	1.0	-.4	-.9	.2	1.8
September .....	.8	.3	0	.9	.6	3.6	-.5	4.1
October	-.6	.9	-.2	1.1	.6	-.5	-1.3	1.9
November .....	.5	-1.0	0	1.0	-.6	.6	-.9	1.8

¹ Data for July 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

for passenger cars, which climbed 1.0 percent in November after seasonal adjustment in the wake of a 2.3-percent drop a month earlier; before seasonal adjustment, new car prices eased down 0.1 percent in November. Indexes for sanitary papers and health products, tires and tubes, and household furniture also turned up following October decreases. In contrast, indexes for tobacco products and prescription drugs moved down after both rose about 1 percent in October.

The capital equipment index inched up 0.1 percent in November. Advances were led by cars and light trucks, commercial furniture, special industry machinery, and nonfarm tractors. Decreases were paced by civilian aircraft and electronic computers.

Intermediate goods

After edging down 0.1 percent in October, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components fell 0.2 percent in November, seasonally adjusted. The index for energy goods turned down after an October increase. In contrast, the durable manufacturing materials index fell less than in the prior month, and prices for foods and feeds turned up following an October decline. (See table B.)

The index for intermediate energy materials fell 1.0 percent in November after increasing 0.9 percent a month before. Gasoline prices dropped 3.6 percent after climbing by about as much in October, and the index for commercial electric power also turned down. Indexes for diesel fuel and jet fuels fell far more than in the month before. The index for residual fuel turned up substantially, however. In addition, the index for natural gas to electric utilities rose more than in October, and the liquefied petroleum gas index fell less than it had a month earlier.

Prices for materials for durable manufacturing slipped 0.2 percent in November after falling 1.3 percent in October. Indexes for hot rolled steel bars and flat glass edged up following October decreases. Prices for copper and for copper and brass mill shapes fell less rapidly than in the prior month. In contrast, the indexes for aluminum mill shapes and lead fell more than in October, and prices for plywood and primary aluminum dropped after rising in October.

The intermediate foods and feeds index rose 0.5 percent in November following a 0.6-percent drop in the prior month. Prices for confectionery materials climbed 1.3 percent following a 9.4-percent decline in October, and the index for natural and processed cheese also turned up. The index for crude vegetable oils rose more than in the previous month, and indexes for condensed and evaporated milk and for pork fell less than in October. Prices for beef and veal, however, turned down in November. The index for prepared animal feeds fell more than in October, and flour prices rose less than they had a month before.

Following a 0.3-percent drop in October, the index for materials for nondurable manufacturing edged down 0.1 percent. Decreases in November were paced by paperboard, processed yarns, plastic resins, and gray fabrics. Conversely, the index for basic organic chemicals rose considerably in November.

Prices for construction materials rose 0.2 percent after showing no change in October. Indexes for softwood lumber, concrete products, plastic construction materials, and millwork products rose in November. In contrast, prices for plywood and gypsum products fell.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for

Further Processing moved down 0.2 percent in November, seasonally adjusted, following a drop of 0.1 percent in October. The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs turned down after rising in October. The index for crude energy goods turned up after an October decline, however, and the basic industrial materials index fell less than in the previous month. (See table B.)

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs fell 0.6 percent in November after rising by the same amount in October. The increase in the slaughter broilers index slowed to 4.9 percent in November after an advance of more than 25 percent in the month before. The soybeans index also rose less than in the previous month. The fresh and dry vegetables index turned down sharply following a sizable October increase. In contrast, indexes for slaughter hogs and unprocessed shellfish turned up in November following October decreases. Prices for unprocessed fin-fish, corn, and slaughter cattle fell less than in the previous month. Indexes for fresh fruits and melons and for wheat rose more than in October.

The index for crude energy materials turned up 0.6 percent in November after falling 0.5 percent in October. This upturn was paced by the natural gas to pipelines index, which climbed 11.0 percent in November after an October decline. This was partially offset, however, by the crude petroleum index, which slumped 7.6 percent following a small rise in October. The coal index also turned down.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy declined 0.9 percent after falling 1.3 percent in October. The November raw cotton index turned up 0.7 percent after declining 11.8 percent in the preceding month. Prices for iron and steel scrap and for leaf tobacco also turned up after dropping in October. In addition, the index for copper base scrap fell less than it had a month earlier. Conversely, prices of softwood logs, bolts, and timber rose much less than in the month before. The index for copper ores fell more than in the previous month, and aluminum scrap and gold ore prices turned down after rising in October. The index for hardwood logs remained un-

changed after a sizable October advance.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector advanced 2.4 percent from October to November. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) This followed a 0.7-percent decrease in October and a climb of 3.0 percent in September. The oil and gas extraction industry group index was largely responsible for the November upturn, rising 3.6 percent in the wake of a 0.9-percent drop a month earlier. By contrast, the metal mining industry group index declined 4.8 percent over the month, more than twice as much as in October. The index for total mining industries stood at 81.5 (December 1984=100) in November, up 3.2 percent from its November 1991 level.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total manufacturing industries edged 0.1 percent lower in November. In contrast, this index rose 0.7 percent in the preceding month. The largest decrease was a 1.9-percent drop for the petroleum refining industry group. The index for the primary metal industries group moved down 0.4 percent. The largest advances were recorded for tobacco factories (0.9 percent) and lumber and wood manufactures (0.4 percent). In November, the index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector was 118.2 (December 1984=100), an increase of 1.5 percent from 12 months earlier.

Other. After climbing substantially in October, indexes for Mississippi River freight transportation and for truck rentals turned down in November. In addition, the car rentals index dropped more than in the preceding month. By contrast, the index for scheduled air passenger transportation increased 2.9 percent and the tour operators index moved up 2.3 percent in November after both indexes inched down in October. The index for domestic deep sea transportation of freight rose much more in November than a month earlier.

Price Movements

December 1992

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from November to December. This followed a drop of 0.2 percent in November and a rise of 0.1 percent in October. The Intermediate Goods Price Index was unchanged in December after slight declines in each of the 2 preceding months. Crude material prices fell 1.2 percent over the month, far more than in either October or November. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, food prices turned up sharply after declining in November. The index for finished energy goods, however, dropped substantially for the second consecutive month. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 0.3 percent following a smaller rise the month before.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods edged down 0.1 percent in December to end the year at 123.8 (1982 = 100). From December 1991 to December 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up 1.6 percent; during 1991, this index inched down 0.1 percent. Consumer food prices increased 1.5 percent in 1992 in the wake of a decrease of the same size a year earlier. Following a decline of nearly 10 percent in 1991, the index for finished energy goods eased down 0.1 percent in 1992. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 1.9 percent from December 1991 to December 1992, well below the 3.1-percent increase re-

corded in the previous year. The index for intermediate goods moved up 1.1 percent in 1992 after falling 2.6 percent the year before, and the Crude Goods Price Index advanced 2.9 percent following a decline of 11.6 percent in 1991.

Finished goods

After declining 0.5 percent in November, the index for finished consumer foods rebounded in December with an advance of 1.2 percent, the largest monthly climb since January 1990. Fresh vegetable prices led the upturn, jumping 41.0 percent following a slump of 33.2 percent in the preceding month; prices for cucumbers and beets more than doubled over the month, and prices for lettuce and snap beans soared more than 60 percent. Indexes for red meats, finfish and shellfish, and confectionery end products also turned up following November decreases. In contrast, prices for fresh fruits and melons, eggs for fresh use, processed chickens, and pasta turned down in December after increasing in the previous month. Food price increases during 1992 were dominated by a 67.4-percent surge in the fresh and dry vegetables index.

The index for finished energy goods fell 1.9 percent in December following a decrease of 1.5 percent the month before. Gasoline prices fell 6.4 percent, much more than in November. Home heating oil prices also declined con-

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1991:							
December	-0.1	-0.1	-1.4	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	-2.1
1992:							
January .....	.2	-.4	-2.8	.5	-.4	-.6	-1.0
February .....	.2	1.0	.5	.1	.6	.4	1.7
March .....	.2	-.5	.5	.3	1.1	.1	-1.7
April .....	.3	-.3	.7	.4	1.1	.2	1.0
May .....	.2	-.2	1.0	.3	1.1	.4	1.7
June .....	.2	.2	2.5	-.2	1.6	.7	1.7
July	0	-.2	-.6	.1	1.7	0	-.2
August .....	.1	.9	-.4	-.1	1.6	.1	-.7
September .....	.3	.2	.9	.2	1.6	0	1.8
October .....	.1	.1	1.4	-.1	1.7	-.1	-.1
November	-.2	-.5	-1.5	.1	1.3	-.2	-.2
December .....	.2	1.2	-1.9	.3	1.6	0	-1.2

¹ Data for August 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1991:								
December	-0.1	-1.3	0.1	-2.6	-0.6	-3.9	-0.2	-11.6
1992:								
January	-1.0	-3.1	-.1	-2.7	1.8	-4.6	-.2	-14.1
February	1.2	1.1	.2	-1.7	2.0	1.5	1.7	-5.3
March	-.4	-.2	.2	-.5	-1.0	-4.4	2.0	-3.3
April	-.4	.6	0	-.1	-1.2	3.9	.3	-2.0
May .....	.1	2.4	.2	.4	1.1	3.2	.8	-.9
June .....	.4	3.6	.2	1.0	.7	3.5	.1	2.3
July	-1.8	0	.2	1.3	-1.8	1.1	.9	2.2
August	-.3	-.7	.2	1.1	-.4	-1.6	.4	1.5
September .....	.6	-.1	-.1	.9	.6	4.4	-.6	4.1
October	-.6	.9	-.2	1.1	.6	-.5	-1.3	1.9
November .....	.5	-1.0	0	1.0	-.6	.6	-.9	1.8
December	1.1	-1.3	.2	1.1	1.1	-4.9	2.6	2.9

¹ Data for August 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

siderably, although not as much as in the previous month. The residential gas index turned down after rising about 2 percent in both October and November; the residential electricity index, however, increased following a November decline. In 1992, gasoline and home heating oil prices each dropped about 5 percent following far larger decreases in the preceding year. The rise in residential electric power rates slowed to 1.1 percent from December 1991 to December 1992 after climbing about 5 percent a year earlier. The increase in the residential gas index, by contrast, accelerated to 5.7 percent in 1992 following a rise of less than 1 percent in 1991.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month. This index rose 2.1 percent from December 1991 to December 1992 in the wake of a 3.4-percent increase a year earlier. In December, the passenger car index rose 0.6 percent, seasonally adjusted, but moved down 0.3 percent before seasonal adjustment; the increase in passenger car prices slowed from 3.1 percent in 1991 to 0.6 percent in 1992. Despite a 1.0-percent advance in December for tobacco products, this index rose only about half as much in 1992 (6.7 percent) as in any of the preceding 5 years. Prices for prescription drugs climbed 1.6 percent from November to December, the largest monthly rise of the year; nevertheless, this index slowed to an increase of 6.4 percent in 1992 after advancing 7.8 percent in 1991.

The capital equipment index moved up 0.2 percent in December, a little more than in November. Capital equipment prices increased 1.6 percent from December 1991 to December 1992 following a 2.5-percent rise in 1991. Motor vehicles accounted for most of the December advance. Prices for computers continued to fall, however,

bringing the total 1992 decline for this index to 15.1 percent.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components was unchanged in December after a 0.2-percent drop in November. Prices for materials for durable manufacturing turned up, and the index for construction materials rose much more than in November. In contrast, prices for nondurable manufacturing materials fell considerably more than in the prior month. (See table B.)

The index for materials for durable manufacturing climbed 0.9 percent in December after slipping 0.2 percent the month before. This index rose 1.2 percent in 1992 following a 3.7-percent drop in 1991. Prices for copper and brass mill shapes increased 3.4 percent in December after falling about the same amount in the prior month. Indexes for plywood and primary copper also turned up after falling in November. The index for lead was unchanged after a sizable decrease the month before. Prices for hot rolled steel sheet and strip, however, fell a little more than in November, and indexes for cold finished steel bars and semifinished steel products turned down over the month.

Prices for materials and components for construction rose 1.0 percent in December, the largest advance for any month since January 1988. This index climbed 2.7 percent from December 1991 to December 1992 following a 0.8-percent increase in 1991. Indexes for softwood lumber, millwork, and nonferrous wire and cable rose much more in December than in November, and the plywood index increased after dropping in the previous month. Over the year, the softwood lumber index rose 22.1 percent and ply-

wood prices moved up 25.3 percent; these were the largest annual increases for both series since the 1970's. In contrast, indexes for plastic construction materials and concrete products rose less in December than in November. In addition, prices for plumbing fixtures and brass fittings and for asphalt felts and coatings moved slightly lower after rising substantially the month before.

The Producer Price Index for intermediate foods and feeds climbed 1.1 percent in December after a 0.5-percent advance in November. In 1992 this index dropped 0.5 percent, a little more than in 1991. The index for prepared animal feeds turned up 2.4 percent in December after falling slightly in November. Indexes for beef and veal and for pork also turned up in December. In contrast, prices for miscellaneous beverage materials fell more than they had a month earlier, and indexes for flour and cheese fell after rising in November.

Prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing fell 0.8 percent in December after edging down 0.1 percent in the preceding month. From December 1991 to December 1992, this index moved up 0.3 percent after dropping 4.8 percent in 1991. Indexes for industrial chemicals, wood-pulp, and inedible fats and oils fell in December after November increases, and the index for nitrogenates fell more than in the month before. Prices for paperboard and synthetic fibers, however, turned up slightly following substantial declines a month earlier, and indexes for phosphates and for processed yarns and threads fell less than in November.

In December, the Producer Price Index for intermediate energy goods fell 1.3 percent after decreasing 1.0 percent a month earlier. From December 1991 to December 1992, this index climbed 1.8 percent following a drop of 11.6 percent in 1991. The residual fuels index declined 3.4 percent in December after rising by twice that percentage in November. Indexes for industrial natural gas and natural gas for electric utilities also turned down following large increases in the previous month. Prices for gasoline and diesel fuel fell more rapidly than a month before. In contrast, the commercial electric power index turned up in December. Indexes for liquefied petroleum gas and jet fuels fell less rapidly than in November.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing fell 1.2 percent in December, seasonally adjusted, following a drop of 0.2 percent in November. The index for crude energy goods turned down after rising in November. In contrast, the indexes for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs and for basic industrial materials turned up after November declines. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy goods turned down 4.9 percent in December after rising 0.6 percent in November. This index rose 1.5 percent from December 1991 to December 1992 after falling 16.6 percent a year earlier. The natural gas to pipelines index turned down 4.9 percent

in December after an 11.0-percent advance the month before. This index turned up 5.4 percent in 1992, after falling 4.9 percent the previous year. The December crude petroleum index fell 8.0 percent, slightly more than in the previous month. For 1992, crude petroleum prices moved down 2.2 percent after falling over 30 percent in 1991. The coal index climbed 1.9 percent in December following a 0.9-percent decline in November.

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs turned up 1.1 percent in December after falling 0.6 percent in November. This index rose 2.8 percent in 1992 after falling 5.8 percent in the previous year. The December upturn was paced by indexes for slaughter cattle, fresh and dry vegetables, corn, unprocessed finfish, and alfalfa hay, all of which advanced in December following November decreases. In addition, prices for slaughter turkeys rose far more than in the preceding month. The slaughter broilers index, however, slumped 12.5 percent following a rise in November. Prices for slaughter hogs, fresh fruits and melons, and wheat also turned down in December.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy rose 2.6 percent after declining 0.9 percent in November. This index rose 5.6 percent in 1992 following a decrease of 7.6 percent a year earlier. The increase in the iron and steel scrap index accelerated to 5.6 percent in December after a considerably smaller advance in the preceding month. Prices for softwood logs, bolts, and timber and for raw cotton also rose much more than in November. In addition, indexes for copper ores, nonferrous scrap metal, and cattle hides turned up in December. Sand and gravel prices rose after remaining unchanged in November, and December gold ore prices fell less than in the preceding month. Conversely, prices for wastepaper turned down after rising in November. The silver ores index also turned down after a sizable November surge.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector dropped 3.8 percent from November to December. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) This contrasted with a climb of 2.4 percent in the previous month. The oil and gas extraction industry group index turned down 5.4 percent over the month following an advance of 3.6 percent in November. The metal mining industry group index, however, moved up 1.2 percent in December in the wake of a 4.8-percent decline a month earlier. During 1992, the index for total mining industries rose 1.2 percent following a slump of 12.4 percent in the previous year. This index ended 1992 at a level of 78.4 (December 1984 = 100).

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total manufacturing industries moved down 0.3 percent in December, slightly more than in the preceding month. The December decline was chiefly due to a 6.9-percent

drop in the index for the petroleum refining industry group. Conversely, the tobacco manufactures index moved 3.0 percent higher from November to December, and the lumber and wood products industry group index rose 2.4 percent. Most other major manufacturing industry group indexes showed little change in December. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 117.9 (December 1984=100) in December, up 1.6 percent from its level of a year earlier. In 1991, this index fell 1.0 percent.

Other. In December, indexes turned down following

November increases for domestic deep sea freight transportation and for travel agencies. In addition, indexes for Mississippi River freight transportation and scheduled air cargo transportation fell considerably more than they had a month earlier. By contrast, indexes for car rental, truck rental and leasing, and airports and airport services turned up after declining in November. The car rental index climbed 17.2 percent from December 1991 to December 1992. The scheduled air passenger transportation index climbed 3.9 percent over the month following a rise of nearly 3 percent in November but was still down 3.6 percent for the year as a whole.

Price Movements

January 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from December 1992 to January 1993. This followed a rise of 0.1 percent in December and decreases of 0.1 percent in both October and November. The Intermediate Goods Price Index advanced 0.3 percent in January following declines in each of the preceding 3 months. The Crude Goods Price Index also turned up, climbing 0.7 percent in January after a sizable drop in the previous month. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices turned down substantially following a large December increase. In contrast, the index for finished energy goods rose considerably in the wake of a sizable decline a month earlier. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced 0.4 percent, principally because of higher prices for motor vehicles and tobacco products.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent in January to 124.0 (1982=100). From January 1992 to January 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.8 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices increased 1.1 percent, the index for finished energy goods advanced 3.1 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were up 1.7 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods rose 1.9 percent during

the 12 months ended in January 1993, and crude material prices were up 4.6 percent over the same period.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished consumer foods moved down 0.9 percent, seasonally adjusted, from December 1992 to January 1993 after climbing 1.3 percent the month before. Most of this downturn occurred because the index for fresh and dry vegetables fell 19.2 percent following an upward surge of 48.4 percent in December. Indexes for beef and veal and for finfish and shellfish also turned down in January after sizable increases in the preceding month. In addition, prices for processed fruits and vegetables, processed chickens, and soft drinks declined more than in December. Bakery products and processed turkeys, however, increased more than in the previous month.

After declining in both November and December, the index for finished energy goods advanced 0.9 percent in January. The upturn was chiefly due to gasoline prices, which moved up 2.9 percent following a 7.0-percent drop a month earlier. In addition, prices for home heating oil and for residential gas decreased less than in December, and the increase in the residential electricity index accelerated.

The index for finished consumer goods other than foods

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
January	0	-0.4	-2.0	0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-1.1
February .....	.2	.4	1.3	.1	.6	.5	1.5
March .....	.2	-.1	.4	.3	1.1	.1	-1.7
April .....	.2	-.3	.7	.3	1.1	.2	1.0
May .....	.3	-.1	.8	.4	1.1	.4	2.0
June .....	.2	.2	2.4	-.2	1.6	.7	1.4
July	0	-.1	-.4	.1	1.7	0	.1
August .....	.1	.7	-.6	0	1.6	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.4	.1	.1	1.6	.2	2.1
October	-.1	-.1	.9	-.1	1.7	-.3	-.5
November	-.1	-.5	-1.1	.1	1.3	-.1	-.1
December .....	.1	1.3	-2.3	.2	1.6	-.1	-1.2
1993:							
January .....	.2	-.9	.9	.4	1.8	.3	.7

NOTE: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this issue may differ from those previously reported because seasonal adjustment factors have been

recalculated to reflect developments during 1992. In addition, data for September 1992 have been recalculated to reflect developments during 1992.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
January	-0.4	-2.8	0	-2.7	1.5	-4.6	0.3	-14.1
February .....	.5	1.6	.2	-1.7	1.8	1.5	1.5	-5.3
March	-.6	-.1	.2	-.5	-1.2	-4.4	1.9	-3.3
April	-.2	.6	0	-.1	-1.0	3.9	.2	-2.0
May .....	.2	1.9	.2	.4	1.4	3.2	.7	-.9
June .....	.3	3.1	.2	1.0	.2	3.5	.2	2.3
July	-1.3	.3	.2	1.3	-1.1	1.1	.7	2.2
August	-.5	-.7	.1	1.1	-.2	-1.6	.2	1.5
September .....	.7	.3	.1	1.0	.1	5.1	-.4	4.5
October	-.7	-.2	-.2	1.1	.7	-1.2	-1.2	1.9
November .....	.5	-.5	-.1	1.0	-.6	.6	-.7	1.8
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.1	1.0	-4.9	2.3	2.9
1993:								
January .....	.4	-.5	.3	1.9	.3	0	3.1	4.6

NOTE: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this issue may differ from those previously reported. See note for table A.

and energy rose 0.4 percent over the month following smaller increases in both November and December. The passenger cars index climbed 1.2 percent after seasonal adjustment, far more than December's rise of 0.2 percent; before seasonal adjustment, new car prices showed no change over the month. The index for tobacco products advanced 2.6 percent in January, seasonally adjusted, more than twice as much as in the preceding month; January's increase before seasonal adjustment was 2.4 percent. Prices for periodicals and over-the-counter drugs also rose much more than in December. Conversely, prices for prescription drugs, men's and boys' apparel, tires and tubes, and home electronic equipment turned down following December increases.

Capital equipment prices moved up 0.3 percent over the month after rising 0.2 percent a month earlier. Indexes for cars and heavy motor trucks, civilian aircraft, and pumps and compressors rose more than in December, while increases for light motor trucks slowed.

Intermediate goods

After edging down 0.1 percent in December, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 0.3 percent in January. The index for energy goods fell less than in the previous month, and prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing turned up slightly. Construction material prices rose substantially for the second consecutive month. In contrast, indexes for durable manufacturing materials and for foods and feeds rose less than in the previous month. (See table B.)

In January, the Producer Price Index for intermediate energy goods fell 0.5 percent after decreasing 1.5 percent a month earlier. Prices for gasoline turned up following a December decline. The index for diesel fuel fell much less

than a month earlier, and the liquefied petroleum gas index was unchanged after a sizable drop a month earlier. Prices turned up slightly for jet fuels. The index for residual fuel, however, fell far more than in the previous month, and the industrial natural gas index also decreased at a quickened pace. In addition, the industrial electric power index turned down in January.

Prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing edged up 0.1 percent in January after falling 0.6 percent in December. The index for miscellaneous basic organic chemicals climbed 3.7 percent after falling by about the same amount in December. Prices also turned up for plastic resins and materials, alkalies and chlorine, and phosphates. In contrast, indexes for woodpulp, intermediate basic organic chemicals, paper, and synthetic rubber fell more than they had a month earlier.

The index for materials and components for construction increased 0.9 percent in January after rising 0.8 percent a month earlier. Prices for softwood lumber climbed 6.9 percent for the second consecutive month. Prices for plywood, millwork, nonferrous wire and cable, and plastic construction products also moved up considerably. Conversely, the index for fabricated structural metal for buildings declined in January.

The Producer Price Index for materials for durable manufacturing rose 0.5 percent after moving up 0.8 percent in December. Indexes for flat glass and for primary aluminum turned down after December increases, and prices for copper and brass mill shapes rose less than in the previous month. In contrast, the indexes for hot rolled steel bars and for plywood rose much more than in December, and prices for cold rolled steel sheet and strip turned up in January.

Prices for intermediate foods and feeds advanced 0.4

percent in January following an increase of 0.8 percent in December. The index for prepared animal feeds rose considerably less than a month earlier, and the index for beef and veal turned down slightly after rising in December. Conversely, the indexes for miscellaneous beverage materials, confectionery materials, flour, and condensed milk turned up after falling in the previous month.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned up 0.7 percent in January, seasonally adjusted, following a drop of 1.2 percent in December. The index for crude energy goods was unchanged after falling in December, and the basic industrial materials index rose more in January than in the previous month. In contrast, the index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs rose less than in December. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy goods remained unchanged in January after falling 4.9 percent in December. The natural gas to pipelines index turned up 3.6 percent in January after falling nearly 5 percent the month before. The crude petroleum index dropped 2.8 percent, much less than in the previous month. In contrast, the coal index turned down 1.8 percent in January after rising by about the same amount in December.

After rising 2.3 percent in December, the index for crude nonfood materials less energy rose 3.1 percent in January. This accelerated increase was paced by the copper base scrap index, which registered a 5.9-percent advance after rising slightly in December. Prices for softwood logs, bolts, and timber, for cattle hides, and for sand and gravel also rose more than in the preceding month. In addition, the wastepaper index turned up following a December decline. The copper ores index, however, turned down 1.8 percent following a rise of 4.5 percent in December. In addition, prices for raw cotton and aluminum base scrap rose less in January than a month earlier.

The rise in the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index slowed to 0.3 percent in January after increasing 1.0 percent in December. The fresh and dry vegetables index remained volatile, falling 19.2 percent in January after jumping 48.4 percent in December and declining 32.0 percent a month before that. Prices for corn and unprocessed finfish also turned down after December increases. In

addition, the hay index rose less than in December. Conversely, prices for slaughter broilers edged up marginally after falling nearly 10 percent in December. The slaughter cattle index rose more than it had the month before, and the January indexes for both fluid milk and wheat fell less than in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries advanced 0.5 percent in January following a 3.8-percent decline in December. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned up 1.1 percent after falling 5.4 percent a month earlier. Prices rose a little more than they had a month earlier for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group. Prices for the metal mining and the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry groups, however, turned down. In January, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 78.8 (December 1984=100), 5.6 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.3 percent after decreasing as much in December. Price declines for the petroleum refining and related products industry group slowed from 6.9 percent a month earlier to 0.3 percent in January. Price increases accelerated for the industry groups: Lumber and wood products, rubber and plastics, and printing and publishing. Prices for tobacco manufactures continued to rise rapidly, although not as much as in December. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 118.3 in January (December 1984=100), 2.1 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices increased for scrap and waste materials, scheduled air transportation and courier services, travel agencies, and trucking. Prices declined, however, for Mississippi River transportation of freight, radio broadcasting, natural gas utilities, tour operators, and for airports and airport services.

Price Movements

February 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, from January to February. The February advance followed rises of 0.2 percent in January and 0.1 percent in December. The Intermediate Goods Price Index climbed 0.5 percent in February after increasing 0.3 percent a month earlier. Crude material prices decreased 0.5 percent over the month in the wake of a 0.7-percent increase in January. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for energy goods climbed considerably more than in the previous month. Consumer food prices inched down following a much larger January decline. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 0.3 percent in February after a 0.4-percent increase a month earlier.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent in February to 124.3 (1982=100). From February 1992 to February 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.8 percent. During the same period, consumer food prices edged up 0.5 percent, the index for finished energy goods rose 3.5 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy increased 2.0 percent. Prices for intermediate goods were 1.8 percent higher than a year earlier, and the Crude Goods Price Index was up 2.5 percent in the 12 months ended in February 1993.

Finished goods

The index for finished consumer foods inched down 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from January to February following a drop of 0.9 percent in the preceding month. Prices for fresh and dry vegetables fell 4.7 percent in February in the wake of a decline of 19.2 percent the month before. Indexes for processed fruits and vegetables and for fresh fruits and melons also fell less than in January. In addition, prices for processed young chickens, finfish and shellfish, dairy products, roasted coffee, and eggs for fresh use turned up following January decreases. In contrast, indexes for bakery products, pork, and processed turkeys turned down after rising in the previous month.

Prices for finished energy goods advanced 1.7 percent over the month after rising 0.9 percent in January. The February acceleration was due to the home heating oil index, which jumped 18.5 percent after seasonal adjustment following a small drop a month earlier; before seasonal adjustment, home heating oil prices rose 6.3 percent in February. By contrast, the residential electricity index was down slightly after rising in January, and the residential gas index declined much more than in the preceding month. Gasoline prices rose a little less than in January.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.3 percent over the month after a rise of

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
February	0.2	0.4	1.3	0.1	0.6	0.5	1.5
March .....	.2	-.1	.4	.3	1.1	.1	-1.7
April .....	.2	-.3	.7	.3	1.1	.2	1.0
May .....	.3	-.1	.8	.4	1.1	.4	2.0
June .....	.2	.2	2.4	-.2	1.6	.7	1.4
July	0	-.1	-.4	.1	1.7	0	.1
August .....	.1	.7	-.6	0	1.6	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.4	-.1	.1	1.6	.2	2.1
October	0	-.1	1.0	-.1	1.7	-.3	-.4
November	-.2	-.5	-1.3	.1	1.3	-.1	-.2
December .....	.1	1.3	-2.3	.2	1.6	-.1	-1.2
1993:							
January .....	.2	-.9	.9	.4	1.8	.3	.7
February .....	.4	-.1	1.7	.3	1.8	.5	-.5

¹ Data for October 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
February	0.5	1.6	0.2	-1.7	1.8	1.5	1.5	-5.3
March	-.6	-.1	.2	-.5	-1.2	-4.4	1.9	-3.3
April	-.2	.6	0	-.1	-1.0	3.9	.2	-2.0
May .....	.2	1.9	.2	.4	1.4	3.2	.7	-.9
June .....	.3	3.1	.2	1.0	.2	3.5	.2	2.3
July	-1.3	.3	.2	1.3	-1.1	1.1	.7	2.2
August	-.5	-.7	.1	1.1	-.2	-1.6	.2	1.5
September .....	.7	.3	.1	1.0	.1	5.1	-.4	4.5
October	-.6	-.6	-.2	1.1	.8	-1.1	-1.2	1.9
November .....	.4	-.1	-.1	1.0	-.7	.5	-.6	1.8
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.1	1.0	-4.9	2.3	2.9
1993:								
January .....	.4	-.5	.3	1.9	.3	0	3.1	4.6
February	-.4	.7	.5	1.8	.1	-2.5	2.2	2.5

¹ Data for October 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

0.4 percent in January. Passenger cars and tobacco products dominated the February increase: The new cars index moved up 0.6 percent both before and after seasonal adjustment, while the tobacco products index rose 1.0 percent, seasonally adjusted, and 0.1 percent before seasonal adjustment. In addition, higher prices were recorded in February for cosmetics, household appliances, men's and boys' apparel, and household furniture. Prices moved down, however, for alcoholic beverages, books, and for luggage and small leather goods.

The capital equipment index advanced 0.5 percent in February following an increase of 0.3 percent in the previous month. Prices for light motor trucks and civilian aircraft rose more than in January. The communication equipment index turned up after showing no change in January. By contrast, the heavy motor trucks index moved up much less than in the preceding month.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 0.5 percent in February after a 0.3-percent increase in January. The index for energy goods turned up after decreasing in January, and prices for materials for durable manufacturing advanced much more than in the previous month. In contrast, the index for foods and feeds turned down following a January increase. (See table B.)

After moving down 0.5 percent in January, the Producer Price Index for intermediate energy goods rose 0.7 percent in February. The index for diesel fuel climbed 7.2 percent after falling in each of the 6 previous months. Indexes for residual fuel and for industrial and commercial natural gas also turned up following January declines, while the index for liquefied petroleum gas

increased after showing no change in January. Jet fuel prices advanced more than in the preceding month. In contrast, prices for industrial and commercial electric power dropped considerably more in February than a month earlier.

In February, the Producer Price Index for materials for durable manufacturing advanced 1.4 percent after a 0.5-percent increase in January. Indexes for hot rolled steel sheet and strip and for flat glass turned up after dropping a month earlier. The copper and brass mill shapes index rose substantially more than in the previous month, and primary aluminum prices fell less. Indexes for hot rolled steel bars and for plywood, however, moved up less than they had in January, and prices for prepared paint, semifinished steel mill products, and primary copper turned down.

Prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing rose 0.3 percent in February after edging up 0.1 percent a month before. The index for paper climbed 0.6 percent after falling by about the same amount a month earlier. Indexes for intermediate and primary basic organic chemicals also turned up in February. The index for medicinal and botanical chemicals increased far more than they had in the prior month. Conversely, the index for miscellaneous basic organic chemicals rose less than a month earlier, phosphate prices turned down, and the paperboard index fell much more than they had in January.

The index for materials and components for construction climbed 1.1 percent following increases of almost 1 percent in both January and December; the February increase was the largest in nearly 12 years. Prices for fabricated structural metal products increased after falling in the previous month. The index for softwood lumber ad-

vanced 9.4 percent after a climb of nearly 7 percent in January; millwork prices also rose more than they had a month earlier. The plywood index, however, increased less rapidly. Prices for nonferrous wire and cable and for plastic construction products showed little or no change after moving up considerably in January.

The Producer Price Index for intermediate foods and feeds declined 0.4 percent in February after rising by the same amount in January. Prices for confectionery materials and crude vegetable oils fell after climbing a month earlier, and indexes for soft drink bases and for flour were unchanged following sizable January advances. In contrast, refined sugar prices turned up after falling a month ago, and the index for natural and processed cheese rose more than they had in January.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned down 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, following a rise of 0.7 percent in January. Most of the February downturn was due to the index for crude energy goods, which dropped after showing no change in January. In addition, both the basic industrials materials index and the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose less in February than they had in the previous month. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy goods fell 2.5 percent in February after remaining unchanged in January. The natural gas to pipelines index slumped 12.8 percent in February after rising 3.6 percent the month before. In contrast, the crude petroleum index turned up 7.8 percent after declining in the previous month. The coal index turned up slightly after a substantial December decrease.

The rise in the crude nonfood materials less energy index slowed somewhat to 2.2 percent in February after a climb of 3.1 percent in January. The aluminum base scrap index turned down nearly 5 percent after rising in January. Prices for copper base scrap, cattle hides, and for sand and gravel also turned down after increasing in the preceding month. In addition, the raw cotton index moved up much less than in January. By contrast, the rise in the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index accelerated to 6.8 percent following a boost of more than 4 percent a month earlier. The iron and steel scrap index also advanced more than in the previous month. In addition, the leaf tobacco index turned up after falling in January.

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs inched up 0.1 percent in February after increasing 0.3 percent in the preceding month. Increases were led by a surge in prices for Irish potatoes for processing. Indexes for breaker eggs, slaughter lambs, and unprocessed finfish also moved up. These increases were largely offset, however, by declines for corn, soybeans, slaughter turkeys, strawberries, and hogs.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. In February, the Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 3.8 percent. This followed a January rise of 0.5 percent and a 3.8-percent decline in December. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The downturn in February was mostly due to the oil and gas extraction industry group index, which fell 5.4 percent after increasing a month earlier. Prices also moved down after rising in the previous month for the industry group for nonmetallic minerals mining. By contrast, prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group turned up after falling a month earlier. In addition, prices for the metal mining industry group fell did not fall as much as in January. In February, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 75.8 (December 1984=100), 1.6 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.4 percent in February after rising 0.3 percent in January. While price increases accelerated for a few industry groups, this barely offset decelerations in price increases for some other categories. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group turned up 1.2 percent following a moderate decline in January. Prices also rose after falling a month earlier for the paper and allied products industry group. Price increases accelerated for the industry group for lumber and wood products (4.2 versus 3.1 percent), as well as for the transportation equipment, furniture and fixtures, and measuring instruments groups. In contrast, prices for the tobacco manufactures and the rubber and plastic products industry groups showed no change after rising substantially in January, and price increases slowed for the industry groups for printing and publishing and for chemicals and allied products. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 118.8 in February (December 1984=100), 2.1 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for Mississippi River transportation of freight, domestic deep sea transportation of freight, airports and airport services, tour operators, and truck rental and leasing. The index for passenger car rentals rose more than in January. In contrast, prices showed little or no change after rising considerably in the previous month for scheduled air passenger transportation and for travel agencies. The index for scrap and waste material collection continued to advance, although not as sharply as a month earlier. In addition, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for nonlocal trucking and for electric power utilities. Indexes for both natural gas utilities and radio broadcasting fell about 1 percent for the second consecutive month.

Price Movements

March 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.4 percent seasonally adjusted from February to March. This followed an increase of the same size in February and a 0.2-percent rise in January. The Intermediate Goods Price Index advanced 0.3 percent in March following a climb of 0.5 percent a month earlier. After dropping 0.5 percent in February, crude material prices turned up 0.4 percent in March. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the energy index rose substantially for the third consecutive month. Consumer food prices turned up following declines in January and February. The increase in the index for finished goods other than foods and energy slowed to 0.1 percent.

After edging down slightly in the final 3 months of 1992, the Finished Goods Price Index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.9 percent during the first quarter of 1993. Energy prices were responsible for much of this upturn, climbing at an annual rate of 16.6 percent from December 1992 to March 1993 following a drop at a rate of nearly 10 percent from September to December. In contrast, consumer food prices moved down at an annual rate of 1.9 percent in the first quarter of 1993 after rising at a rate of 2.9 percent during the fourth quarter of 1992. Price increases for goods outside of the food and energy sectors accelerated from a 0.9-percent annual rate in the final quarter of 1992 to a rate of 3.3 percent in the first 3 months of 1993. The Intermediate Goods Price Index turned up

from a 1.7-percent rate of decline from September to December to a 4.6-percent rate of advance from December to March. Similarly, crude material prices rose at a 2.4-percent rate in the first quarter after dropping at a 6.8-percent rate in the preceding quarter.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent from February to March to 124.6 (1982 = 100). From March 1992 to March 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 2.0 percent. During the same period, consumer food prices increased 1.1 percent, the energy goods index advanced 4.3 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 1.9 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods increased 2.0 percent during the 12 months ended in March 1993, and the Crude Goods Price Index climbed 4.8 percent over the year.

Finished goods

The index for finished energy goods climbed 1.3 percent seasonally adjusted from February to March after rising 1.7 percent a month earlier. Home heating oil prices moved up 8.5 percent over the month. Gasoline and residential gas prices were also considerably higher, while the index for residential electricity rates showed little change.

The consumer foods index rose 0.5 percent seasonally adjusted after a slight February decline. Increases in

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
March	0.2	-0.1	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.1	-1.7
April .....	.2	-.3	.7	.3	1.1	.2	1.0
May .....	.3	-.1	.8	.4	1.1	.4	2.0
June .....	.2	.2	2.4	-.2	1.6	.7	1.4
July	0	-.1	-.4	.1	1.7	0	.1
August .....	.1	.7	-.6	0	1.6	0	-.7
September .....	.2	-.4	.1	.1	1.6	.2	2.1
October	c .1	c .1	1.0	-.1	c 1.8	-.3	c -.3
November	-.2	-.6	-1.3	.2	1.4	-.3	-.1
December	0	1.2	-2.3	.1	1.6	.1	-1.4
1993:							
January .....	.2	-.9	.9	.4	1.8	.3	.7
February .....	.4	-.1	1.7	.3	1.8	.5	-.5
March .....	.4	.5	1.3	.1	2.0	.3	.4

¹ Data for November 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from

those previously published.

c=Corrected. See footnote 10 for table 1.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
March	-0.6	-0.1	0.2	-0.5	-1.2	-4.4	1.9	-3.3
April	-.2	.6	0	-.1	-1.0	3.9	.2	-2.0
May	.2	1.9	.2	.4	1.4	3.2	.7	-.9
June	.3	3.1	.2	1.0	.2	3.5	.2	2.3
July	-1.3	.3	.2	1.3	-1.1	1.1	.7	2.2
August	-.5	-.7	.1	1.1	-.2	-1.6	.2	1.5
September	.7	.3	.1	1.0	.1	5.1	-.4	4.5
October	-.6	-.6	-.2	1.1	c 1.0	-1.1	-1.2	c 2.0
November	.5	-1.3	0	.9	-.9	1.1	-.5	2.1
December	.7	-.4	.2	1.1	1.0	-5.5	2.1	2.9
1993:								
January	.4	-.5	.3	1.9	.3	0	3.1	4.6
February	-.4	.7	.5	1.8	.1	-2.5	2.2	2.5
March	-.7	1.1	.2	2.0	.1	.8	.4	4.8

¹ Data for November 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

c=Corrected. See footnote 10 for table 1.

March were recorded for red meats, chicken eggs, soft drinks, cheese, dry milk products, and mayonnaise. In addition, the March advance in food prices was partly due to a correction in the index for finfish. By contrast, lower prices were registered for processed fruits and vegetables, processed poultry, fresh fruits and melons, candy and nuts, ground coffee, and for shortening and cooking oils.

Prices for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy edged up 0.1 percent in March following a rise of 0.3 percent in the preceding month. Indexes for tobacco products, passenger cars, light trucks, and household appliances rose less than in the previous month. In addition, prices turned down following February increases for sanitary papers and health products, over-the-counter drugs, and periodicals. Indexes for alcoholic beverages and for toys and children's vehicles, however, showed little or no change following sizable decreases a month earlier.

The capital equipment index moved up 0.2 percent, about the same as in most other recent months. Increases were led by trucks, special industry machinery, and metalworking machinery. The index for electronic computers moved down, however.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 0.3 percent seasonally adjusted following a 0.5-percent rise in February. Prices for materials for durable manufacturing rose much less than in February. Prices for energy goods and construction materials, however, rose more than a month earlier. (See table B.)

After increasing 1.4 percent in February, the Producer Price Index for materials for durable manufacturing moved up 0.2 percent in March. These prices climbed at a rate of 8.4 percent during the first quarter of 1993 after

falling modestly during each of the final two quarters of 1992. The index for copper and brass mill shapes dropped 5.6 percent in March after increasing 3.4 percent in February, and prices for hot rolled steel sheet and strip also turned down. Primary copper prices fell far more than they had a month before, and the index for aluminum mill shapes remained unchanged following a February decline. Prices for hardwood lumber and for plywood rose less than in February. In contrast, indexes for aluminum ingot and semifinished steel mill products turned up in March.

Prices for intermediate foods and feeds moved down 0.7 percent in March after falling 0.4 percent in February. This index dropped at a 3.2-percent rate during the first 3 months of 1993 after increasing at a 2.2-percent rate during the final 3 months of 1992. The index for prepared animal feeds decreased after edging up a month earlier. Prices for flour fell after showing no change in February, and the index for natural and processed cheese rose less than in the previous month. Indexes for red meats, however, turned up in March after slight declines a month earlier, and the condensed and evaporated milk index rose more than in February.

The Producer Price Index for intermediate energy goods rose 1.1 percent in March after climbing 0.7 percent in the previous month. This index increased at a 5.3-percent rate during the first quarter of 1993 following an 8.5-percent rate of decrease during the final 3 months of 1992. The index for industrial electric power rose 0.5 percent in March after dropping 2.3 percent a month earlier. The index for commercial electric power edged down after a much larger fall in February, prices for jet fuels rose considerably more than in the prior month. In contrast, indexes for liquefied petroleum gas, diesel fuel, and gasoline rose less than in February, and the residual fuel index turned down.

In March, the index for materials and components for construction climbed 1.2 percent after a February increase of 1.1 percent. These prices advanced at an annual rate of 13.8 percent during the first 3 months of 1993, the largest quarterly rate of increase in 13 years. Millwork prices climbed 3.6 percent in March after increasing 2.0 percent in February. Indexes for plastic construction products, plumbing fixtures and brass fittings, and gypsum products turned up after February decreases. Indexes for fabricated structural metal products and plywood rose less than in the previous month, however. In addition, prices for nonferrous wire and cable dropped after no change in February.

Prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing increased 0.3 percent for the second consecutive month. These prices rose at a 2.5-percent rate in the first quarter of 1993 after falling at a 5.7-percent rate during the last 3 months of 1992. Indexes for paperboard, alkalies and chlorine, synthetic fibers, and paint materials turned up after declining in February. In contrast, the index for basic organic chemicals turned down in March.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved up 0.4 percent seasonally adjusted following a 0.5-percent decrease in February. The March upturn was due to the index for crude energy goods. In contrast, the basic industrials materials index rose much less than in the previous month. The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index edged up slightly for the second consecutive month. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy goods turned up 0.8 percent in March after falling 2.5 percent in February. From December 1992 to March 1993, this index moved down at an annual rate of 6.9 percent, following a 20.2-percent rate of decrease in the fourth quarter of 1992. The decline in the natural gas to pipelines index slowed to 1.5 percent in March after falling nearly 13 percent in February. By contrast, the crude petroleum index rose considerably less than in February.

The rise in the index for crude nonfood materials less energy slowed for the second consecutive month, moving up 0.4 percent in March after increasing 2.2 percent in the preceding month and 3.1 percent in January. These prices increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 25.4 percent during the first 3 months of the year, after rising at a rate of 1.5 percent during the last quarter of 1992. Iron and steel scrap prices turned down 0.8 percent in March after rising 7.6 percent in February. The leaf tobacco index also turned down after increasing in the preceding month. Indexes for both copper base scrap and copper ores fell far more than in February. In addition, the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index rose somewhat less than a month earlier. In contrast, the rise in the raw cotton index accelerated to 5.5 percent after a minimal increase in the previous month. The cattle hides index remained un-

changed after falling substantially in February. In addition, the gold ores index turned up slightly after a February decline.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose 0.1 percent in March, the same as in February. This index increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.9 percent during the first quarter, after advancing at a 4.3-percent rate in the previous 3 months. Increases in March were led by a sharp rise in alfalfa hay prices. Indexes for slaughter hogs and fluid milk also climbed substantially. Declines were registered for slaughter cattle, corn, slaughter broilers, and wheat.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector inched down 0.1 percent in March following a drop of 3.8 percent in February. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) From December 1992 to March 1993, this index declined at an annual rate of 13.1 percent after falling at a rate of 11.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 1992. The index for the oil and gas extraction industry group edged up slightly from February to March following a drop of more than 5 percent in the preceding month. Conversely, the metal mining industry group index fell 3.2 percent in March, more than twice as much as in February. The March index for total mining industries stood at 75.7 (December 1984=100), 4.8 percent higher than its level of a year ago.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries moved up 0.3 percent from February to March after increasing 0.4 percent a month earlier. In the first 3 months of 1993, these prices rose at an annual rate of 4.5 percent, a much faster pace than in the preceding quarter. The lumber and wood products industry group index climbed 4.3 percent in March, about the same as in February. Prices for the refined petroleum industry group advanced 2.2 percent, far more than in the preceding month. By contrast, indexes for the measuring instruments, transportation equipment, and electrical and electronic machinery industry groups showed little or no change following February advances. In March, the index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector was 119.2 (December 1984=100), up 2.4 percent from March 1992.

Other. Among other industries, indexes for passenger car rentals, Mississippi River freight transportation, and tour operators turned down in March after increasing in the previous month. Indexes for airports and hospitals rose less than in February. Conversely, indexes for radio broadcasting and nonlocal trucking advanced in March following February decreases, and the index for courier services other than air climbed 2.4 percent after showing no change a month before.

Price Movements

April 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.6 percent, seasonally adjusted, from March to April. The April advance followed increases of 0.4 percent in both February and March. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 0.2 percent over the month after increasing 0.3 percent in March and 0.5 percent in February. Crude material prices climbed 1.2 percent in April following a 0.4-percent rise the month before. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, prices for consumer foods advanced much more than in March. The finished energy goods index, however, edged up marginally following sizable climbs in each of the preceding 3 months. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 0.4 percent in April after inching up 0.1 percent in the previous month.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.6 percent in April to 125.3 (1982 = 100). From April 1992 to April 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 2.4 percent. During this same period, prices for finished consumer foods increased 2.9 percent, the index for finished energy goods advanced 3.7 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 1.8 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods were 2.1 percent higher in April 1993 than they were a year earlier, and the Crude Goods Price Index was up 4.9 percent over the year.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished consumer foods advance 1.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, in April, far more than the 0.5-percent increase recorded a month earlier. The index for fresh and dry vegetables moved up 44.7 percent over the month; prices for lettuce, dry onions, eggplant, and green peppers more than doubled from March to April, and tomato prices nearly doubled. Indexes for dairy products and pork increased much more than in March, and fresh fruit prices turned up slightly after sizable declines in each of the 4 preceding months. By contrast, indexes for finfish and shellfish, chicken eggs, and soft drinks turned down following March increases.

The index for finished energy goods edged up 0.1 percent following advances of 1.3 percent in March and 1.7 percent in February. Home heating oil prices dropped 6.7 percent in April after climbing 8.5 percent a month earlier, and gasoline prices eased down 0.4 percent following a rise of 2.0 percent in March. In addition, the residential gas index moved up considerably less than in the previous month.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.4 percent over the month after edging up 0.1 percent in March. Indexes for passenger cars and tobacco products each climbed more than 1 percent after seasonal adjustment, following rises of 0.4 percent in both indexes

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
April	0.2	-0.3	0.7	0.3	1.1	0.2	1.0
May .....	.3	-.1	.8	.4	1.1	.4	2.0
June .....	.2	.2	2.4	-.2	1.6	.7	1.4
July	0	-.1	-.4	.1	1.7	0	.1
August .....	.1	.7	-.6	0	1.6	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.4	.1	.1	1.6	.2	2.1
October	-.1	.1	1.0	-.1	1.8	-.3	-.3
November	-.2	-.6	-1.3	.2	1.4	-.3	-.1
December	0	1.3	-2.4	.1	1.6	0	-1.1
1993:							
January .....	.2	-1.0	1.0	.3	1.8	.3	.4
February .....	.4	-.1	1.7	.3	1.8	.5	-.5
March .....	.4	.5	1.3	.1	2.0	.3	.4
April .....	.6	1.4	.1	.4	2.4	.2	1.2

¹ Data for December 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
April	-0.2	0.6	0	-0.1	-1.0	3.9	0.2	-2.0
May .....	.2	1.9	.2	.4	1.4	3.2	.7	-.9
June .....	.3	3.1	.2	1.0	.2	3.5	.2	2.3
July	-1.3	.3	.2	1.3	-1.1	1.1	.7	2.2
August	-.5	-.7	.1	1.1	-.2	-1.6	.2	1.5
September .....	.7	.3	.1	1.0	.1	5.1	-.4	4.5
October	-.6	-.6	-2	1.1	1.0	-1.1	-1.2	2.0
November .....	.5	-1.3	0	.9	-.9	1.1	-.5	2.1
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.0	1.1	-4.8	2.2	3.3
1993:								
January .....	.3	.7	.3	1.9	.1	-.8	3.0	4.6
February	-.4	.7	.5	1.8	.1	-2.5	2.2	2.5
March	-.7	1.1	.2	2.0	.1	.8	.4	4.8
April	1.5	.2	.2	2.1	2.5	-.6	1.8	4.9

¹ Data for December 1992 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

in March; before seasonal adjustment, tobacco product prices moved up 1.3 percent in April and new car prices increased 0.3 percent. In addition, the books index turned up following a decline in March, and prescription drug prices rose much more than in the previous month.

The capital equipment index rose 0.2 percent in April, the same as in March. Indexes for civilian aircraft, ships, and agricultural machinery registered sizable advances after little or no change a month earlier. The index for heavy motor trucks, however, turned down following substantial increases in each of the preceding 3 months. In addition, computer prices fell a little more than in March.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components increased 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, in April following a 0.3-percent rise in March. Prices for construction materials showed no change after several large monthly increases, and the energy goods index rose much less than in the previous month. Prices for intermediate foods and feeds, however, turned up after falling in March. (See table B.)

After climbing 1.1 percent in February and 1.2 percent in March, the index for materials and components for construction was unchanged in April. Softwood lumber prices dropped 3.1 percent following climbs of more than 9 percent in each of the preceding 2 months, and the plywood index fell 8.5 percent after substantial increases during the first quarter of 1993. In addition, the index for millwork rose much less than in the previous month. In contrast, the index for gypsum products rose 9.1 percent, far more than a month ago.

In April, the Producer Price Index for intermediate energy goods edged up 0.2 percent after a 1.1-percent advance in March. Indexes for diesel fuel and jet fuel turned down following substantial March increases. Gasoline prices also turned down, and the index for liquefied petroleum gas rose less than in the prior month. The index for residual fuel, however, advanced more than 17 percent in April after falling in March. The index for commercial electric power also turned up in April.

Prices for durable manufacturing materials dropped 0.3 percent in April after rising 0.2 percent in March. The index for plywood turned down sharply after climbing 2.3 percent in March and 4.3 percent in February. Prices also turned down in April for cold rolled steel sheet and strip, primary aluminum, aluminum mill shapes, and cold finished steel bars. In contrast, the copper and brass mill shapes index fell considerably less than in March, and indexes for hot rolled steel sheet and strip and for cement turned up. In addition, indexes for hardwood lumber and hot rolled steel bars rose more than in the month before.

The Producer Price Index for intermediate foods and feeds advanced 1.5 percent in April after falling in March. Prices for prepared animal feeds turned up following a decrease in the prior month. Indexes for crude vegetable oils and flour also turned up after falling a month earlier, and prices for natural and processed cheese and for pork rose more than in March. The index for dry milk products rose less than in March, however, and prices for confectionery materials fell more than a month before.

In April, the index for materials for nondurable manufacturing rose 0.3 percent for the third consecutive month. Prices for basic organic chemicals rose 2.6 percent after decreasing in March. Indexes for gray fabrics, basic

inorganic chemicals, and nitrogenates also turned up in April. In contrast, prices for synthetic fibers turned down after rising in March, and indexes for phosphates and for plastic resins and materials fell more than in March.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing rose 1.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, after increasing 0.4 percent in March. The April acceleration was due to the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index and to the basic industrial materials index, both of which rose much more than in March. In contrast, the index for crude energy goods turned down after rising in March. (See table B.)

The rise in the index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs accelerated to 2.5 percent in April after edging up 0.1 percent in March. Prices for corn, slaughter cattle, fresh and dry vegetables, slaughter broilers, soybeans, and wheat turned up after falling in March. In contrast, indexes for unprocessed finfish and slaughter hogs turned down in April after sizable increases in the previous month.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy moved up 1.8 percent in April after a 0.4-percent rise in March. The acceleration was dominated by the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index, which advanced 14.0 percent after climbing 5.4 percent in March. The gold ores index also rose more than in March. Indexes for pulpwood logs and for construction sand and gravel both turned up following March declines. In addition, prices for copper ores and aluminum base scrap fell less than in the previous month. The leaf tobacco index, however, dropped 10.1 percent in April after a slight decline in the previous month. Prices for iron and steel scrap, copper base scrap, and phosphates also fell more than in March. In addition, the raw cotton and wastepaper indexes turned down after rising a month earlier. Iron ore and cattle hide prices fell after remaining unchanged in March.

The crude energy goods index turned down 0.6 percent in April after rising 0.8 percent in March. This downturn was led by the crude petroleum index, which decreased 0.9 percent after rising 2.8 percent in March. The coal index also turned down after edging slightly higher in the previous month. Conversely, the decline in the April natural gas to pipelines index slowed to 0.3 percent after falling 1.5 percent in March.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. In April, the Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 0.4 percent following a March decrease of 0.1 percent. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The larger decline in April was due to the oil and gas extraction industry group index, which moved down after inching up a month earlier, and to the industry group index for bituminous coal, which declined more than in the previous month. In contrast, price decreases slowed for the metal mining industry group. In addition, prices moved up faster than in the previous month for the industry group for nonmetallic minerals mining. In April, the Producer Price Index for total mining was 75.4 (December 1984=100), 2.7 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.3 percent in April, after rising about as much in each of the previous 3 months. The tobacco products industry group index climbed 1.4 percent after showing no change in March. In addition, the industry group index for food products moved up more than in the previous month, and indexes for the chemical products and the rubber and plastic products industry groups turned up following March declines. These changes were offset by a deceleration in price increases for the industry groups for lumber and wood products (1.3 versus 4.3 percent), printing and publishing, and petroleum refining. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector was 119.6 in April (December 1983=100), 2.3 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for tour operators, nonscheduled air transportation, and refrigerated warehousing and storage. Price declines slowed markedly for passenger car rental and for water transportation of freight, (not elsewhere classified). In contrast, prices turned down after little or no change a month earlier for truck rental and leasing, travel agencies, and for tugging and towing services. Prices fell more than a month earlier for scrap and waste materials collection and for natural gas utilities. Prices increases slowed noticeably for hospitals and radio broadcasting; the index for courier services other than air showed no change following a substantial advance a month earlier.

Price Movements

May 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods showed no change from April to May after seasonal adjustment. This followed increases of 0.6 percent in April and 0.4 percent in March. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved down 0.2 percent in May following advances in each of the first 4 months of 1993. The Crude Goods Price Index rose 2.0 percent after climbing 1.2 percent a month earlier. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices eased down slightly following a substantial increase in the previous month. The index for finished energy goods decreased after inching up in April and climbing rapidly in each of the first 3 months of the year. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent, half as much as in April.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 0.3 percent in May to 125.7 (1982=100). From May 1992 to May 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 2.0 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices moved up 2.9 percent, the finished energy goods index rose 2.2 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced 1.7 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods were 1.5 percent higher in May 1993 than a year earlier, and crude material prices climbed 5.0 percent over the year.

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
May	0.3	-0.1	0.8	0.4	1.1	0.4	2.0
June .....	.2	.2	2.4	-2	1.6	.7	1.4
July	0	-.1	-.4	.1	1.7	0	.1
August .....	.1	.7	-.6	0	1.6	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.4	.1	.1	1.6	.2	2.1
October .....	.1	.1	1.0	-.1	1.8	-.3	-.3
November	-.2	-.6	-1.3	.2	1.4	-.3	-.1
December	0	1.3	-2.4	.1	1.6	0	-1.1
1993:							
January .....	.3	-.6	1.0	.4	2.0	.3	.3
February .....	.2	-.5	1.7	.1	1.8	.5	-.4
March .....	.4	.5	1.3	.1	2.0	.3	.4
April .....	.6	1.4	.1	.4	2.4	.2	1.2
May	0	-.1	-.6	.2	2.0	-.2	2.0

¹ Data for January 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished consumer foods edged down 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from April to May following a 1.4-percent advance in the preceding month. Most of the May downturn was due to indexes for fresh and dry vegetables and for pork, both of which fell after increasing in April. Prices for shortening and cooking oils, bakery products, and roasted coffee also turned down in the wake of April increases, and the dairy products index moved up less than it had in the preceding month. By contrast, the index for fresh fruits and melons climbed 21.6 percent, far more than in April. Prices for beef and veal and for shellfish also moved up more than a month before, and the index for confectionery end products turned up following a slight dip in April.

The index for finished energy goods moved down 0.6 percent in May after inching up 0.1 percent in the prior month. Gasoline prices dropped much more than they had in April. Home heating oil prices, however, turned up following a substantial decline a month before, and the residential gas index increased more than in April.

Prices for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy rose 0.2 percent following a 0.4-percent advance in the preceding month. After advancing about 1 percent in April, indexes for passenger cars and prescription drugs both turned down in May. The seasonally adjusted in-

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
May	0.2	1.9	0.2	0.4	1.4	3.2	0.7	-0.9
June .....	.3	3.1	.2	1.0	.2	3.5	.2	2.3
July	-1.3	.3	.2	1.3	-1.1	1.1	.7	2.2
August	-.5	-.7	.1	1.1	-.2	-1.6	.2	1.5
September .....	.7	.3	.1	1.0	.1	5.1	-.4	4.5
October	-.6	-.6	-.2	1.1	1.0	-1.1	-1.2	2.0
November .....	.5	-1.3	0	.9	-.9	1.1	-.5	2.1
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.0	1.1	-4.8	2.2	3.3
1993:								
January .....	.4	0	.4	1.8	.5	-1.5	3.4	4.6
February	-.5	1.4	.4	1.8	-.3	-1.8	1.9	2.5
March	-.7	1.1	.2	2.0	.1	.8	.4	4.8
April	1.5	.2	.2	2.1	2.5	-.6	1.8	4.9
May	-.2	-.1	-.2	1.5	.5	4.8	.4	5.0

¹ Data for January 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

crease in the tobacco products index, however, accelerated from 1.4 percent in April to 2.1 percent in May; before seasonal adjustment, prices for tobacco products were up 0.2 percent in May. In addition, the books index climbed 3.5 percent over the month.

The capital equipment index rose 0.2 percent for the fourth consecutive month. Higher prices for ships and light trucks outweighed decreases for cars and computers.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components fell 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, in May after rising by the same amount in April. Prices for construction materials dropped after showing no change in April, and the intermediate foods and feeds index turned down slightly following a sizable increase a month earlier. (See table B.)

The Producer Price Index for materials and components for construction dropped 0.7 percent in May after showing no change in the prior month. Prices for gypsum products turned down following a steep increase in April. Indexes for millwork, plastic construction products, and metal valves also turned down in May, and softwood lumber prices fell more than they had in the previous month. Prices for asphalt felts and coatings, however, turned up after an April decline, and the index for nonferrous wire and cable fell a little less than a month earlier.

After advancing 1.5 percent in April, the index for intermediate foods and feeds edged down 0.2 percent in May. Prices for pork fell 5.1 percent after climbing about as much in April, and indexes for prepared animal feeds, crude vegetable oils, and flour also turned down. The index for natural and processed cheese rose much less than in the previous month. In contrast, prices for confectionery materials turned up in May.

Prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing were unchanged after moving up 0.3 percent in April. The index for miscellaneous organic chemicals dropped 1.9 percent in May after advancing 3.9 percent in the prior month. Prices for gray fabrics and for inedible fats and oils also turned down after April increases, and indexes for wood-pulp and intermediate organic chemicals rose less than the month before. Conversely, indexes for petrochemicals and synthetic rubber turned up in May, and the index for phosphates fell much less than in the previous month.

The Producer Price Index for materials for durable manufacturing declined 0.7 percent after a 0.3-percent drop in April. Prices for copper and brass mill shapes and for copper cathode fell much more than they had in April, and the hot rolled steel bars index was unchanged after advancing in the previous month. By contrast, the indexes for hot rolled steel sheet and strip and for semifinished steel mill products rose considerably more than they had in April. In addition, prices for cold rolled steel sheet and strip and for cold finished steel bars turned up after falling in the preceding month.

After rising 0.2 percent in April, the index for intermediate energy goods edged down 0.1 percent in May. The residual fuel index fell 2.7 percent after a large April increase, and indexes for commercial and industrial electric power and for liquefied petroleum gas also turned down. Prices for gasoline fell far more than in April. Conversely, indexes for diesel fuel, jet fuels, industrial natural gas, gas to electric utilities, and commercial natural gas turned up following April decreases.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing rose 2.0 percent, seasonally adjusted, after increasing 1.2 percent in April. The May acceleration was

due to the crude energy index, which turned up sharply after falling in April. In contrast, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index and the basic industrial materials index both rose much less than they had in April. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy goods climbed 4.8 percent in May after falling 0.6 percent in April. This upturn was largely due to the natural gas to pipelines index, which advanced 12.3 percent after edging down in the previous month. The May crude petroleum index also turned up after falling a month earlier. The coal index, however, decreased somewhat more than in April.

The rise in the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index slowed to 0.5 percent in May after rising 2.5 percent April. This deceleration was led by the corn index, which turned down 4.0 percent after climbing 6.6 percent in April. Indexes for fresh and dry vegetables, soybeans, and wheat also turned down after rising in April. In addition, the slaughter hogs index fell considerably more than in April, and the slaughter broilers index rose less than in the previous month. The fresh fruits and melons index, however, turned sharply higher in May after a slight increase in the previous month. Prices for hay and slaughter cattle also rose more than in April.

The rise in the crude nonfood materials less energy index slowed to 0.4 percent in May after climbing 1.8 percent in April. This slowdown was principally due to the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index, which rose 2.9 percent in May after advancing 14.0 percent in April. The construction sand and gravel index turned down after rising in the previous month, and the pulpwood logs index remained unchanged in May after rising in April.

Conversely, the iron and steel scrap index turned up 2.5 percent in May after falling by about the same amount in April. Prices for aluminum base scrap, raw cotton, and cattle hides also turned up after falling in April. The leaf tobacco index fell less than in the previous month, and the iron ore index was unchanged following an April decrease.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries turned up 4.9 percent in

May following an April decline of 0.4 percent. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The May reversal was mostly due to the oil and gas extraction industry group index, which advanced 7.1 percent after moving down a month earlier. In addition, price declines slowed noticeably for the metal mining industry group. In contrast, the index for the anthracite mining industry group fell after showing no change a month earlier, and the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group index inched down after rising modestly a month earlier. Prices for the bituminous coal industry group continued to fall. In May, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 79.1 (December 1984=100), 5.3 percent higher than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries moved up 0.2 percent, after rising about 0.3 percent in each of the previous 4 months. This slight deceleration was due in large part to the lumber and wood products industry group, which turned down 1.8 percent in May after several months of substantial increases. In addition, the rise for the tobacco products industry group index slowed from 1.4 percent in April to 0.2 percent in May. Prices continued to rise rapidly for the petroleum refining industry group. Price changes among other major manufacturing industry groups were mixed and modest. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 119.8 in May (December 1984=100), 1.9 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for truck rental and leasing and for natural gas utilities. The index for electric power utilities advanced 1.1 percent after edging up in April. Prices fell much less than the month before for travel agencies and for scrap and waste materials collection. In contrast, prices turned down sharply after increasing in the previous month for deep sea foreign transportation of freight. The index for passenger car rental fell much more than in the previous month, and the index for tour operators was unchanged after rising 0.7 percent in April.

Price Movements

June 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, from May to June. This index showed no change in May and rose 0.6 percent in April. The Intermediate Goods Price Index increased 0.2 percent in June, offsetting a decline of the same size a month earlier. Prices for crude goods dropped 1.1 percent over the month after advancing substantially in both April and May. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices fell much more than in May. The index for finished energy goods decreased about as much as in the preceding month. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy inched down 0.1 percent following a small increase in May.

During the first 6 months of 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.4 percent. These prices edged up at a 0.5-percent annual rate in the second half of 1992 and increased at a 2.6-percent rate in the first half of last year. The modest acceleration in the first half of this year was partly due to the energy goods index, which climbed at an annual rate of 6.1 percent from December 1992 to June 1993 after decreasing at a 6.9-percent rate from June to December 1992. In addition, prices for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced at a 2.4-percent annual rate in the first half of 1993, twice as fast as the pace set in the latter half of 1992; motor ve-

hicles more than accounted for this acceleration. Consumer food prices, however, eased down marginally during the first 6 months of this year after increasing at a rate of 3.8 percent in the second half of 1992. Prices for intermediate goods turned up at a 2.8-percent annual rate following a slight decline in the last half of 1992, and the Crude Goods Price Index moved up at a 4.8-percent rate during the first half of this year after showing no change over the last 6 months of 1992.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods edged down 0.1 percent in June to 125.6 (1982=100). From June 1992 to June 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up 1.4 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices rose 1.9 percent, finished energy goods dipped 0.7 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy increased 1.8 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved up 1.1 percent during the 12 months ended in June 1993, and crude material prices were 2.4 percent higher than a year earlier.

Finished goods

The index for finished consumer foods fell 0.9 percent, seasonally adjusted, from May to June after edging down 0.1 percent a month earlier. In the first 6 months of 1993, consumer food prices eased down at a seasonally adjusted

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
June	0.2	0.2	2.4	-0.2	1.6	0.7	1.4
July	0	-.1	-.4	.1	1.7	0	.1
August .....	.1	.7	-.6	0	1.6	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.4	.1	.1	1.6	.2	2.1
October .....	.1	.1	1.0	-.1	1.8	-.3	-.3
November	-.2	-.6	-1.3	.2	1.4	-.3	-.1
December	0	1.3	-2.4	.1	1.6	0	-1.1
1993:							
January .....	.3	-.6	1.0	.4	2.0	.3	.3
February .....	.4	0	1.7	.2	2.0	.5	-.2
March .....	.2	0	1.3	.1	2.0	.3	.2
April .....	.6	1.4	.1	.4	2.4	.2	1.2
May	0	-.1	-.6	.2	2.0	-.2	2.0
June	-.3	-.9	-.5	-.1	1.4	.2	-1.1

¹ Data for February 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods				Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy		
1992:									
June	0.3	3.1	0.2	1.0	0.2	3.5	0.2	2.3	
July	-1.3	.3	.2	1.3	-1.1	1.1	.7	2.2	
August	-.5	-.7	.1	1.1	-.2	-1.6	.2	1.5	
September .....	.7	.3	.1	1.0	.1	5.1	-.4	4.5	
October	-.6	-.6	-.2	1.1	1.0	-1.1	-1.2	2.0	
November .....	.5	-1.3	0	.9	-.9	1.1	-.5	2.1	
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.0	1.1	-4.8	2.2	3.3	
1993:									
January .....	.4	0	.4	1.8	.5	-1.5	3.4	4.6	
February	-.4	1.4	.5	1.9	0	-1.4	2.0	2.8	
March	-.8	1.1	.2	2.0	-.2	.4	.3	4.8	
April	1.5	.2	.2	2.1	2.5	-.6	1.8	4.9	
May	-.2	-.1	-.2	1.5	.5	4.8	.4	5.0	
June	-.9	1.3	.1	1.1	-3.1	.2	.2	2.4	

¹ Data for February 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

annual rate of 0.2 percent. In June, prices for fresh fruits and melons dropped 11.4 percent after climbing 21.6 percent in May; in addition, the fresh vegetables index decreased 37.9 percent, far more than a month before. Beef and veal prices were slightly lower in June following a May advance. By contrast, indexes for finfish and shellfish and for chicken eggs turned up sharply after falling in May, and pork prices eased slightly lower following a much larger decline a month earlier.

The index for finished energy goods moved down 0.5 percent in June, about as much as in May. Lower prices for gasoline, finished lubricants, and home heating oil more than offset an advance for residential natural gas.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy turned down 0.3 percent over the month after rising 0.2 percent in May. From December 1992 to June 1993, this index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.2 percent, following a 1.3-percent rate of increase during the preceding 6 months. The June downturn was dominated by a 5.9-percent drop in the tobacco products index, which followed substantial increases in both April and May; before seasonal adjustment, prices for tobacco products declined 2.2 percent in June. In addition, the books index edged up marginally following a sizable May advance. By contrast, the passenger cars index rose 0.6 percent in June, seasonally adjusted, after decreasing by the same percentage a month before. In addition, prices for both prescription and over-the-counter drugs were sharply higher after showing little change in May.

The capital equipment index rose 0.2 percent in June for the third consecutive month. These prices moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.8 percent in the first half of 1993, compared with a 0.9-percent rate of advance in the latter half of 1992. In June, higher prices for cars and

light trucks outweighed declines for computers and communication equipment.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, in June after falling by the same amount in May. Prices for energy goods and durable manufacturing materials turned up, while the index for construction materials fell less than it had in the prior month. (See table B.)

After edging down 0.1 percent in May, the index for intermediate energy goods advanced 1.3 percent in June. In the first half of 1993, these prices increased at an 8.0-percent rate following a 6.6-percent rate of decline during the second half of 1992. The commercial electric power index moved up 5.5 percent in June after a drop in the prior month, and indexes for industrial electric power and liquefied petroleum gas also turned up sharply in June. The index for gasoline fell somewhat less than in May. Indexes turned down in June, however, for natural gas to electric utilities, diesel fuel, commercial natural gas, and jet fuels. Residual fuel prices decreased more than in the month before.

The Producer Price Index for materials for durable manufacturing rose 0.3 percent in June following a 0.7-percent May decline. This index advanced at a 2.7-percent rate during the first 6 months of 1993 after falling at a 1.2-percent rate in the second half of 1992. The copper and brass mill shapes index climbed 4.7 percent in June after a May decline. Prices for copper cathode and aluminum mill shapes also turned up from May to June, and the plywood index eased down marginally after a steep drop in both April and May. Cold rolled steel sheet increased more than in the preceding month. Conversely, indexes for

semifinished steel mill products, hot rolled steel bars, silver, and cold finished steel bars turned down in June.

Prices for materials and components for construction slipped 0.2 percent in June following a 0.7-percent drop in May. During the first half of 1993, this index advanced at a 4.7-percent annual rate, the fastest pace for any half year since the second half of 1988. Prices for plywood inched down 0.2 percent in June following a 9.2-percent decline in May. In addition, indexes for nonferrous wire and cable, plastic construction products, and metal valves turned up after May declines. The millwork index fell more than in May, however.

In June, prices for intermediate foods and feeds dropped 0.9 percent after edging down 0.2 percent in May. After falling at a 0.7-percent rate in the second half of 1992, this index declined at a 1.1-percent rate during the first half of this year. Confectionery material prices fell 2.6 percent in June after climbing substantially in May. Indexes for beef and veal and for natural and processed cheese also turned down in June, while the index for prepared animal feeds fell more than a month earlier. In contrast, indexes for pork and flour fell less than in May, and prices for dry milk products turned up.

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing rose 0.2 percent in June after showing no change a month earlier. After falling at a 2.1-percent rate from June to December 1992, this index advanced at a 2.3-percent rate in the first 6 months of 1993. Prices for plastic resins and materials moved up 2.7 percent in June after a modest May decline, and the index for gray fabrics also turned up in June. The miscellaneous basic organic chemicals index fell less than in May. By contrast, indexes for intermediate basic organic chemicals, alkalies and chlorine, paint materials, and processed yarns and threads turned down after rising in May.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned down 1.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, after increasing 2.0 percent in May. The June downturn was broadly based. The crude energy and the basic industrial materials indexes rose less than in May, and the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned down after a May increase. (See table B.)

The rise in the index for crude energy goods slowed to 0.2 percent in June after a climb of 4.8 percent in May. This index increased at an annual rate of 3.5 percent in the first half of 1993, after falling at a rate of 0.7 percent in the second half of 1992. The deceleration from May to June was largely due to the crude petroleum index, which turned down 8.6 percent after rising in May. The natural gas to pipelines index continued to advance considerably, although not as sharply as in the previous month. The coal index, however, fell less than in May.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned down 3.1 percent in June after rising 0.5 percent in May. This

index edged up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 0.2 percent in the first 6 months of this year after remaining unchanged in the latter half of last year. The June downturn was led by hay, slaughter cattle, slaughter broilers, fresh fruits and melons, and unprocessed shellfish, each of which turned down after increasing in May. In addition, indexes for corn and for fresh and dry vegetables fell more than in May, and the fluid milk index rose less than in the previous month. Indexes for slaughter hogs and unprocessed finfish, however, turned up after falling in May, and wheat prices moved down less than they had in the month before.

The crude nonfood materials less energy index edged up 0.2 percent after an increase of 0.4 percent in May. Basic industrial material prices climbed at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 17.4 percent during the first half of this year after rising at a rate of 2.0 percent in the latter half of 1992. The June slowdown was principally due to the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index, which turned down 4.2 percent in June after advancing 2.9 percent in May. Indexes for raw cotton and cattle hides also turned down after rising in the previous month. Conversely, the advance in the iron and steel scrap index accelerated to 8.7 percent. In addition, prices for copper base scrap, leaf tobacco, and for construction sand and gravel turned up after falling in May, and the copper ores index fell less than in May.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries climbed 2.1 percent from May to June following a 4.9-percent advance in the previous month. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) During the first half of 1993, this index moved up at an annual rate of 4.9 percent, somewhat slower than the 6.9 percent rate recorded in the last half of 1992. In June, the index for the oil and gas extraction industry group rose 2.9 percent in the wake of an advance of 7.1 percent a month earlier. By contrast, indexes for the metal mining and the bituminous coal industry groups turned up following May decreases. In June, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 80.8 (December 1984 = 100), up 5.9 percent from June 1992.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the domestic manufacturing sector fell 0.3 percent in June after rising 0.2 percent a month before. From December 1992 to June 1993, this index increased at an annual rate of 2.7 percent after showing no change from June to December 1992. From May to June, indexes for the petroleum refining, tobacco manufactures, and lumber and wood products industry groups each dropped more than 2 percent. The primary metals industries group index, however, turned up 0.5 percent following a May decrease. Most other major manufacturing industry groups showed little

change in June. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 119.5 (December 1984=100) in June, 1.4 percent higher than a year earlier.

Other. Indexes for scheduled air passenger transportation, airports and airport services, nonscheduled air transportation, and specialty nonpsychiatric hospitals turned down in June following May increases. In addition, indexes for

passenger car rentals and Mississippi River freight transportation dropped more than in the prior month, and the truck rental index was unchanged after a sizable rise in May. Conversely, indexes for scheduled air cargo transportation, travel agencies, and tour operators recorded substantial advances following little or no change a month earlier. The radio broadcasting index continued to increase considerably.

Price Movements

July 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from June to July. This followed a decrease of 0.3 percent in June and no change in May. The Intermediate Goods Price Index edged down 0.1 percent in July in the wake of a 0.2-percent increase a month earlier. The Crude Goods Price Index fell 1.3 percent, a little more than in June. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the energy goods index declined more than in either of the preceding 2 months. Prices for consumer foods, however, inched down only slightly after a much larger June decrease. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy edged up 0.1 percent following a drop of the same size in the previous month.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent in July to 125.3 (1982=100). During the 12 months ended in July 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.3 percent. From July 1992 to July 1993, prices for consumer foods increased 1.8 percent, the finished energy goods index dropped 1.2 percent, and the index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 1.7 percent. Indexes for both intermediate and crude goods were 1.0 percent higher than they had been a year earlier.

Finished goods

The index for finished energy goods decreased 1.0 per-

cent, seasonally adjusted, in July following drops of 0.5 percent in June and 0.6 percent in May. Prices for gasoline and home heating oil both fell 4.5 percent over the month, considerably more than in June. In addition, the increase in the residential gas index slowed. Residential electric rates, however, rose after showing no change in either of the preceding 2 months.

After dropping 0.9 percent in June, the consumer foods index edged down 0.1 percent in July. The index for fresh and dry vegetables climbed 19.2 percent following a decline of nearly 38 percent in June; the July advance was led by a surge of 135.4 percent in lettuce prices. In addition, the index for shortening and cooking oils advanced 7.0 percent following a slight drop in June. By contrast, prices for finfish and shellfish, chicken eggs for fresh use, dairy products, soft drinks, and young chickens turned down following June increases, and pork and beef prices declined more than they had in the previous month.

The index for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.1 percent following a 0.3-percent decrease in June. The upturn was largely due to the tobacco products index, which fell far less in July (0.5 percent) than it had a month earlier (5.9 percent). In addition, the index for children's apparel turned up strongly following a June decline, and the passenger car index moved up 0.8 percent, somewhat more than it had in June; before

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
July	0	-0.1	-0.4	0.1	1.7	0	0.1
August .....	.1	.7	-.6	0	1.6	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.4	.1	.1	1.6	.2	2.1
October .....	.1	.1	1.0	-.1	1.8	-.3	-.3
November	-.2	-.6	-1.3	.2	1.4	-.3	-.1
December	0	1.3	-2.4	.1	1.6	0	-1.1
1993:							
January .....	.3	-.6	1.0	.4	2.0	.3	.3
February .....	.4	0	1.7	.2	2.0	.5	-.2
March .....	.3	.2	1.1	.2	2.0	.3	.2
April .....	.5	1.3	.3	.2	2.4	.2	1.2
May	0	-.1	-.6	.2	2.0	-.2	2.0
June	-.3	-.9	-.5	-.1	1.4	.2	-.1
July	-.2	-.1	-1.0	.1	1.3	-.1	-1.3

¹ Data for March 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
July	-1.3	0.3	0.2	1.3	-1.1	1.1	0.7	2.2
August	-.5	-.7	.1	1.1	-.2	-1.6	.2	1.5
September .....	.7	.3	.1	1.0	.1	5.1	-.4	4.5
October	-.6	-.6	-.2	1.1	1.0	-1.1	-1.2	2.0
November .....	.5	-1.3	0	.9	-.9	1.1	-.5	2.1
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.0	1.1	-4.8	2.2	3.3
1993:								
January .....	.4	0	.4	1.8	.5	-1.5	3.4	4.6
February	-.4	1.4	.5	1.9	0	-1.4	2.0	2.8
March	-.6	1.1	.2	2.1	0	.3	.1	4.8
April	1.3	.2	.1	2.1	2.3	-.5	2.0	4.9
May	-.2	-1	-.2	1.5	.5	4.8	.4	5.0
June	-.9	1.3	.1	1.1	-3.1	.2	.2	2.4
July	2.3	-1.6	.1	1.0	1.2	-4.9	.6	1.0

¹ Data for March 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

seasonal adjustment, new car prices inched up 0.1 percent in July. After advancing considerably in June, however, the over-the-counter drugs index turned down and prescription drug prices moved up only slightly.

Capital equipment prices edged up 0.1 percent in July, a little less than they had in either May or June. July increases for motor vehicles, communication equipment, and commercial furniture outweighed declines for civilian aircraft, construction machinery, and electronic computers.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components edged down 0.1 percent in July after a 0.2-percent increase in June. Prices for energy goods turned down, but the intermediate foods and feeds index turned up. As in June, manufacturing material prices rose modestly and construction material prices eased down somewhat. (See table B.)

After advancing 1.3 percent in June, the index for intermediate energy goods fell 1.6 percent in July. Prices for commercial electric power declined 1.0 percent following a 5.5-percent June increase. Indexes for industrial electric power and for liquefied petroleum gas also turned down after rising a month earlier, and indexes for gasoline, jet fuels, and diesel fuel fell more than they had in June. Indexes for residual fuel and for miscellaneous petroleum and coal products turned up in July, however, and indexes for natural gas to electric utilities and commercial natural gas fell less than they had in June.

Prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing edged up 0.1 percent after a 0.2-percent June rise. The index for plastic resins and materials eased down 0.1 percent after a 2.7-percent June advance, and prices for primary

basic organic chemicals and gray fabrics also turned down. In addition, the woodpulp index fell much more than in the previous month. In contrast, indexes for alkalies and chlorine, paperboard, and processed yarns and thread increased following June decreases.

The Produce Price Index for intermediate foods and feeds climbed 2.3 percent following a June decline of 0.9 percent. Much of this upturn was due to the index for prepared animal feeds, which increased 4.0 percent after a 1.0-percent decrease in June. Indexes for crude vegetable oils, confectionery materials, flour, and refined sugar also turned up in July after falling in the prior month. Indexes for pork, beef and veal, and natural and processed cheese fell more than in June, however.

The index for materials for durable manufacturing rose 0.3 percent for the second consecutive month. Prices for hot rolled steel bars, cold rolled steel sheet and strip, aluminum ingot, and precious metals rose in July. In contrast, indexes for copper and brass mill shapes and for building paper declined.

Prices for construction materials edged down 0.2 percent, the same as in June. Lower prices for softwood lumber and plywood outweighed increases for fabricated structural metal products and plastic construction products.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing dropped 1.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, after falling 1.1 percent in June. The faster decline in July was mainly due to the index for crude energy goods, which turned down sharply after a slight June increase. By contrast, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned up, and the basic industrial materials index rose somewhat

more than it had in June. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy goods turned down 4.9 percent in July after edging up 0.2 percent a month earlier. This downturn was largely due to the natural gas to pipelines index, which decreased 6.8 percent after rising 9.6 percent in June. The decline in crude petroleum prices, however, slowed to 5.3 percent after falling 8.6 percent in the previous month, and the coal index turned up after a June decline.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index advanced 1.2 percent in July after falling 3.1 percent in June. The July upturn was led by the corn index, which climbed 11.1 percent after moving down 7.4 percent in June. Indexes for soybeans, hay, fresh and dry vegetables, wheat, and slaughter turkeys also turned up after June declines. By contrast, the fluid milk index turned down after increasing in June. Prices for unprocessed finfish and slaughter hogs also declined after rising the month before, and slaughter cattle prices decreased more than they had in June.

The crude nonfood materials less energy index moved up 0.6 percent after rising 0.2 percent in the preceding month. The July acceleration was led by the hardwood logs index, which climbed 15.5 percent after remaining unchanged in June. The iron ore index also increased after showing no change in the previous month. Indexes for copper ores and raw cotton turned up after June declines. In addition, the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index fell less than it had in June, and the aluminum base scrap index rose more than it had in the previous month. Conversely, the advance in the iron and steel scrap index slowed, and the copper base scrap index inched down after a sizable increase in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 4.2 percent in July

following a June rise of 2.1 percent. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The downturn was mostly due to the oil and gas extraction industry group index, which fell 5.8 percent after increasing 2.9 percent a month earlier. Prices also moved down after rising in the previous month for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group. By contrast, prices for the metal mining industry group advanced 2.8 percent, considerably more than a month earlier. In July, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 77.4 (December 1984 = 100), 1.0 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. In July, the Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries decreased 0.3 percent, the same as it had in June. The price decline for the petroleum refining industry group accelerated from 2.8 percent in June to 3.6 percent in July. Prices turned down after rising a month earlier for the industry groups for transportation equipment and leather products. By contrast, price declines slowed for the industry groups for tobacco manufactures and lumber and wood products. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier, however, for the apparel industry group. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 119.2 in July (December 1984 = 100), 1.2 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for passenger car rental, water transportation of freight not elsewhere classified, airports and airport services, and scheduled air transportation. Price increases accelerated for radio broadcasting. In contrast, the index for electric utilities showed no change after rising 7.5 percent a month earlier. Prices turned down after rising in June for tour operators and for deep sea foreign transportation of freight. Prices for scrap and waste material collection were up about 2.5 percent for the second consecutive month.

Price Movements

August 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.6 percent, seasonally adjusted, from July to August. The August decrease was larger than those registered in any of the 3 preceding months. The Intermediate Goods Price Index showed no change in August after a marginal decline a month earlier. Crude material prices dropped 0.5 percent following sharper decreases in both June and July. (See table A.)

After edging up 0.1 percent in July, the index for finished goods other than foods and energy fell 1.0 percent, chiefly because of a steep drop in the tobacco products index. The index for finished energy goods, however, fell a little less than in the previous month. Consumer food prices turned up after decreasing in each of the 3 preceding months.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.8 percent in August to 124.3 (1982=100). Over the year from August 1992 to August 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 0.6 percent. During the same period, consumer food prices increased 1.6 percent, the index for finished energy goods declined 1.4 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.7 percent. Indexes for both intermediate goods and crude goods rose 1.0 percent in the 12 months ended in August 1993.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy fell 1.7 percent, seasonally adjusted, from July to August after inching up 0.1 percent a month earlier. The 25.6-percent decline in the tobacco products index after seasonal adjustment (down 26.5 percent before seasonal adjustment) accounted for this unusually large movement. Prices for books and cosmetics also declined. The index for passenger cars, however, moved up 1.0 percent, seasonally adjusted (down 0.3 percent unadjusted). Indexes for alcoholic beverages, periodicals, light trucks, and sanitary papers and health products also advanced.

The index for finished energy goods fell 0.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, after a drop of 1.0 percent a month earlier. Gasoline prices decreased considerably less than in July, and the residential gas index climbed more than it had in the previous month. Home heating oil prices, however, declined much more than in July.

Prices for finished consumer foods moved up 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, after edging down 0.1 percent in July. Indexes for chicken eggs, fresh fruits and melons, finfish and shellfish, young chickens, pork, and soft drinks each turned up following July decreases. By contrast, prices for fresh and dry vegetables, shortening and cook-

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
August	0.1	0.7	-0.6	0	1.6	0	-0.7
September .....	.2	.4	.1	.1	1.6	.2	2.1
October .....	.1	.1	1.0	-.1	1.8	-.3	-.3
November	-2	-.6	-1.3	.2	1.4	-.3	-.1
December	0	1.3	-2.4	.1	1.6	0	-1.1
1993:							
January .....	.3	-.6	1.0	.4	2.0	.3	.3
February .....	.4	0	1.7	.2	2.0	.5	-.2
March .....	.3	.2	1.1	.2	2.0	.3	.2
April .....	.6	1.4	.3	.4	2.5	.3	1.5
May	-1	-.2	-.6	.1	2.0	-.3	1.7
June	-.3	-.9	-.5	-.1	1.4	.2	-.1
July	-.2	-.1	-1.0	.1	1.3	-.1	-.13
August	-.6	.5	-.8	-1.0	.6	0	-.5

¹ Data for April 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
August	-0.5	-0.7	0.1	1.1	-0.2	-1.6	0.2	1.5
September .....	.7	.3	.1	1.0	.1	5.1	-4	4.5
October	-.6	-.6	-.2	1.1	1.0	-1.1	-1.2	2.0
November .....	.5	-1.3	0	.9	-.9	1.1	-.5	2.1
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.0	1.1	-4.8	2.2	3.3
1993:								
January .....	.4	0	.4	1.8	.5	-1.5	3.4	4.6
February	-.4	1.4	.5	1.9	0	-1.4	2.0	2.8
March	-.6	1.1	.2	2.1	0	.3	.1	4.8
April	1.4	.3	.2	2.2	2.5	.4	1.3	5.2
May	-.3	-.2	-.3	1.5	.3	3.8	1.1	5.0
June	-.9	1.3	.1	1.1	-3.1	.2	.2	2.4
July	2.3	-1.6	.1	1.0	1.2	-4.9	.6	1.0
August .....	.7	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.6	-1.8	-2.6	1.0

¹ Data for April 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

ing oils, and confectionery end products rose substantially less than a month earlier. In addition, the processed fruits and vegetables index turned down following a July advance, and the dairy products index dropped more than in the previous month.

The capital equipment index moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, in August, about as much as in most other recent months. Higher prices for motor vehicles and communication equipment outweighed continued declines for electronic computers.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components was unchanged in August on a seasonally adjusted basis after edging down 0.1 percent in July. Prices for construction materials turned up, and the energy goods index fell slightly less than in July. The intermediate foods and feeds index rose considerably less than in July, however. (See table B.)

After falling 0.2 percent in July, the index for construction materials advanced 0.5 percent in August. Prices for softwood lumber and plywood turned up sharply after dropping for 4 consecutive months, and indexes for millwork and concrete products also turned up. Prices for nonferrous wire and cable, however, fell much more than in July.

The Producer Price Index for intermediate energy goods fell 1.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, following a 1.6-percent drop in July. The gasoline index declined 1.6 percent after a 4.5-percent decrease in the previous month. In addition, indexes for industrial and commercial electric power, natural gas to electric utilities, and commercial natural gas turned up in August after falling a month

earlier. In contrast, indexes for diesel fuel, liquefied petroleum gas, and jet fuels fell considerably more than they had in July, and residual fuel prices turned down.

Prices for intermediate foods and feeds rose 0.7 percent in August after a 2.3-percent July advance. Indexes for crude vegetable oils and confectionery materials turned down modestly after climbing substantially a month earlier.

Prices for prepared animal feeds rose less than they had a month earlier, and the beef and veal index fell slightly more rapidly than it had in July. Conversely, pork prices turned up in August, and indexes for flour and refined sugar rose more than they had in July.

The index for nondurable manufacturing materials edged down 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, following an increase of the same size in July. The paper index declined slightly after a moderate rise in July, and prices for paperboard, nitrogenates, phosphates, and alkalies and chlorine also turned down in August. The basic organic chemicals index turned up after falling in July, however, and prices for gray fabrics and paint materials also turned up. In addition, the index for woodpulp fell less than it had in July.

After rising 0.3 percent in July, the index for materials for durable manufacturing moved up 0.2 percent in August. Prices for copper and brass mill shapes fell considerably more than in July. Indexes for silver, gold, zinc, and hardwood lumber turned down after advancing in July, and prices for cold rolled steel sheet and strip and for primary aluminum ingot rose much less than they had in the month before. In contrast, the index for hot rolled steel sheet and strip rose far more than it had in the prior month, and indexes for plywood and building paper turned up substantially after sizable July decreases.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing dropped 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, after falling 1.3 percent in July. Prices for crude energy materials fell less than they had in July, and the index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs rose somewhat more than it had a month earlier. In contrast, the index for basic industrial materials turned down for the first time since last November. (See table B.)

Prices for crude energy goods dropped 1.8 percent following a July decline of 4.9 percent. The index for natural gas to pipelines fell 2.0 percent after falling 6.8 percent the month before, and prices for crude petroleum also fell less than they had in July. In addition, the coal index rose more than it had in the previous month.

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs advanced 1.6 percent, seasonally adjusted, after climbing 1.2 percent in the prior month. Prices for corn, slaughter broilers, slaughter cattle, wheat, slaughter hogs, and fresh fruits and melons rose in August. In contrast, the indexes for fluid milk, Irish potatoes for processing, alfalfa hay, and unprocessed finfish and shellfish fell in August.

After rising 0.6 percent in July, the index for crude nonfood materials less energy fell 2.6 percent, seasonally adjusted. The iron and steel scrap index fell 7.2 percent following a July advance of 5.3 percent, and indexes for aluminum base scrap, raw cotton, and cattle hides also turned down in August. Indexes for softwood logs and copper base scrap fell much more than in July, and prices for hardwood logs and iron ores were unchanged after climbing substantially a month earlier. Indexes for leaf tobacco and copper ores rose more than in the previous month, however, and wastepaper prices fell less than in July. The silver ores index turned up after declining in the preceding month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries declined 1.4 percent in August following a 4.2-percent drop in July. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The slowdown

was due to the index for the oil and gas extraction industry group, which fell 2.3 percent after decreasing 5.8 percent in the previous month. By contrast, prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group turned up 1.5 percent after declining 0.4 percent a month earlier. The anthracite mining industry group index moved up 0.8 percent following 2 months of no change. Prices for the metal mining industry group advanced 2.6 percent, about the same as in July. In August, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 76.3 (December 1984 = 100), 1.4 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries declined 0.5 percent after moving down 0.3 percent in both June and July. In August, prices for the tobacco manufactures industry group decreased 26.4 percent after much smaller declines in each of the previous 2 months. Prices turned down slightly in August after rising in the previous month for the apparel industry group. By contrast, the index for the petroleum refining industry group decreased 2.2 percent, somewhat less than in either June or July. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for the industry group indexes for lumber and wood products and for leather and leather products. Prices for the primary metal industries group increased 0.5 percent for the third consecutive month. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 118.6 in August (December 1984 = 100), 0.9 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned down after advancing in July for scrap and waste materials collection, general warehousing and storage, local trucking without storage, travel agencies, cable and other pay television services, and for airports and airport services. Price increases for passenger car rental and water transportation of freight, n.e.c., slowed markedly. By contrast, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for tour operators, deep sea foreign transportation of freight, and natural gas utilities. In addition, the index for scheduled air passenger transportation climbed 3.8 percent, considerably more than in July.

Price Movements

September 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from August to September. The September increase followed declines in each of the 3 preceding months. The Intermediate Goods Price Index edged up 0.1 percent in September after showing no change a month earlier. Prices received by domestic producers of crude goods moved down 0.4 percent, the fourth consecutive monthly decrease. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for finished goods other than foods and energy was unchanged in September after dropping 1.0 percent in the previous month. The energy goods index showed no change following four consecutive monthly declines. Prices for consumer foods rose somewhat more than in August.

During the third quarter of 1993, prices received by domestic producers of finished goods moved down at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.5 percent, after rising at an annual rate of 0.6 percent from March to June. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy turned down at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.8 percent from June to September following a 1.2-percent rate of advance in the second quarter. In addition, prices for finished energy goods declined more in the third quarter than in the preceding 3 months. The consumer

foods index, however, climbed more from June to September than it did from March to June. Prices for intermediate goods were unchanged in the third quarter after a slight increase in the previous 3 months, and the Crude Goods Price Index fell about as much in the third quarter as it had risen in the second.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods declined 0.3 percent in September to 123.9 (1982 = 100). From September 1992 to September 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up 0.5 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices climbed 1.9 percent, the index for finished energy goods fell 1.6 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 0.5 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index increased 0.9 percent during the 12 months ended in September 1993, and crude material prices were 1.4 percent lower than a year earlier.

Finished goods

Prices for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy were unchanged in September, on a seasonally adjusted basis, after dropping 1.0 percent a month before. During the third quarter, this index declined at an annual rate of 6.4 percent, following a 1.2-percent rate of advance from March to June. The tobacco products index climbed

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
September	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.6	0.2	2.1
October .....	.1	.1	1.0	-1	1.8	-.3	-.3
November	-2	-.6	-1.3	.2	1.4	-.3	-.1
December	0	1.3	-2.4	.1	1.6	0	-1.1
1993:							
January .....	.3	-.6	1.0	.4	2.0	.3	.3
February .....	.4	0	1.7	.2	2.0	.5	-.2
March .....	.3	.2	1.1	.2	2.0	.3	.2
April .....	.6	1.4	.3	.4	2.5	.3	1.5
May	0	0	-.5	.1	2.1	-.3	2.0
June	-.4	-1.0	-.6	-.1	1.4	.2	-1.4
July	-.2	-.1	-1.0	.1	1.3	-.1	-1.3
August	-.6	.5	-.8	-1.0	.6	0	-.5
September .....	.2	.7	0	0	.5	.1	-.4

¹ Data for May 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
September	0.7	0.3	0.1	1.0	0.1	5.1	-0.4	4.5
October	-.6	-.6	-.2	1.1	1.0	-1.1	-1.2	2.0
November .....	.5	-1.3	0	.9	-.9	1.1	-.5	2.1
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.0	1.1	-4.8	2.2	3.3
1993:								
January .....	.4	0	.4	1.8	.5	-1.5	3.4	4.6
February	-.4	1.4	.5	1.9	0	-1.4	2.0	2.8
March	-.6	1.1	.2	2.1	0	.3	.1	4.8
April	1.4	.3	.2	2.2	2.5	.4	1.3	5.2
May	-.4	-.5	-.2	1.5	.5	4.2	1.3	5.2
June	-.8	1.5	0	1.1	-3.3	-.1	0	2.4
July	2.3	-1.6	.1	1.0	1.2	-4.9	.6	1.0
August .....	.7	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.6	-1.8	-2.6	1.0
September	-.5	.5	0	.9	.1	-1.2	0	-1.4

¹ Data for May 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

2.0 percent in September after dropping 25.6 percent in the previous month. In addition, indexes for books and women's apparel rose slightly after August decreases. By contrast, the passenger cars index fell 0.6 percent, seasonally adjusted, in September (down 3.4 percent before seasonal adjustment) after an August advance of 1.0 percent. The September downturn reflected the end-of-model-year liquidation allowances granted dealers by auto producers. The index for light trucks also moved down following an August increase.

The capital equipment index showed no change over the month following small increases in most other months so far this year. Capital equipment prices moved up at an annual rate of 1.2 percent from June to September, the same as in the previous quarter. Increases in September were led by heavy trucks, tools and dies, commercial furniture, agricultural machinery and equipment, transformers, and truck trailers. These were balanced, however, by decreases for passenger cars, light trucks, and computer storage devices.

The index for finished energy goods was unchanged on a seasonally adjusted basis following decreases of 0.8 percent in August and 1.0 percent in July. Energy prices fell at an annual rate of 6.9 percent from June to September, about twice as fast as in the preceding calendar quarter. Home heating oil prices turned up in September after a sizable decline a month earlier, and residential electricity rates rose more than in August. The residential gas index, however, increased less than in the preceding month, and gasoline prices continued to fall.

Consumer food prices moved up 0.7 percent over the month following a 0.5-percent rise in August. After increasing at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.3

percent in the second quarter, the advance in this index accelerated to a rate of 4.6 percent from June to September. In September, higher prices were recorded for fresh fruits and vegetables, pork, beef and veal, natural cheese, processed poultry, and processed fruits and vegetables. Declines were led by chicken eggs, fluid milk products, and pasta.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components edged up 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, in September after showing no change in August. From June to September, prices for intermediate goods showed no change following a 0.7-percent rate of advance in the previous calendar quarter. Prices for energy goods turned up in September after falling in August, and the index for construction materials rose more than a month earlier. Indexes for foods and feeds and materials for durable manufacturing, however, turned down in September after rising in the prior month. (See table B.)

After falling 1.3 percent in August, the Producer Price Index for intermediate energy goods increased 0.5 percent in September. These prices fell at a 9.3-percent rate in the third quarter after advancing at a 5.7-percent rate in the second. The diesel fuel index climbed 5.8 percent in September following a 7.1-percent drop the month before. In addition, prices for jet fuels fell much less than in August, and indexes for both commercial and industrial electric power rose more than in the previous month. Indexes for residual fuel and liquefied petroleum gas fell more than in August, however.

Prices for materials and components for construction advanced 0.7 percent following an August rise of 0.5 percent. After a second quarter drop at a rate of 3.6 percent, this index increased at a 3.7-percent rate in the third quarter. The larger rise in September was chiefly due to the index for millwork, which rose 2.1 percent after moving up 0.3 percent in the previous month. Indexes for plastic construction products and gypsum products also rose more than in August. In contrast, the plywood index was unchanged in September after advancing nearly 8 percent in August. Prices for softwood lumber and fabricated structural metal products rose less than in the prior month.

The Producer Price Index for intermediate foods and feeds fell 0.5 percent in September following a 0.7-percent August advance. This index climbed at a 10.1-percent rate during the third quarter after moving up at a 0.7-percent rate from March to June. Prices for prepared animal feeds declined 2.8 percent in September after rising 2.4 percent in the previous month. Indexes for flour and refined sugar also turned down in September, while prices for crude vegetable oils fell twice as much as in August. Conversely, prices for natural and processed cheese, beef and veal, and condensed and evaporated milk turned up after falling in August. The pork index rose much more than in August.

In September, the index for materials for durable manufacturing decreased 0.3 percent after edging up 0.2 percent in August. This index increased at a 0.7-percent rate from June to September following a 2.6-percent rate of decline in the second quarter. The index for hot rolled steel sheet and strip rose 1.0 percent in September after climbing 2.1 percent in the prior month. The plywood index was unchanged after climbing steeply in August, and indexes for hot rolled steel bars and copper cathode turned down. Indexes for cold rolled steel sheet and strip and for aluminum mill shapes, however, rose more than a month earlier.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials fell 0.3 percent in September after edging down 0.1 percent a month earlier. After rising at a 2.1-percent rate in the second quarter, this index declined at a 1.0-percent rate during the third quarter. The index for miscellaneous basic organic chemicals fell 0.8 percent in September after a 1.3-percent August advance. Prices for gray fabrics and paint materials also turned down in September, and the index for primary organic chemicals fell more than in August. In contrast, indexes for alkalies and chlorine and for phosphates rose after falling in August.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing dropped 0.4 percent after falling 0.5 percent in August. During the third quarter, crude material prices decreased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 8.6 percent, following an 8.5-percent rate of

advance in the previous 3 months. The index for basic industrial materials remained unchanged in September after falling sharply in August, and the crude energy materials index fell less than a month earlier. In contrast, the index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs rose far less than in either July or August. (See table B.)

The crude nonfood materials less energy index remained unchanged following an August decline of 2.6 percent. From June to September this index moved down at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 7.9 percent following a 10.9-percent rate of increase in the second quarter of this year. The index for iron and steel scrap turned up 0.7 percent in September after falling 7.2 percent the month before. Indexes for cattle hides, raw cotton, and phosphates also turned up after falling in the previous month. In addition, prices for softwood logs, bolts and timber fell much less than in August, and the index for sand and gravel rose more than in the previous month. Prices for gold ores, however, turned down 5.2 percent after rising 2.3 percent a month earlier. The copper ores index also turned down after an August increase, and the leaf tobacco index remained unchanged after rising considerably a month earlier.

The decline in the index for crude energy goods slowed to 1.2 percent in September after a drop of 1.8 percent in the prior month. These prices fell at an annual rate of 27.6 percent during the third quarter after rising at a 19.3-percent rate during the second. The decline in the natural gas to pipelines index slowed to 0.9 percent in September after falling 2.0 percent a month earlier. The crude petroleum index fell about as much as in August, and coal prices rose substantially for the second consecutive month.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index edged up 0.1 percent after rising 1.6 percent in August. This index climbed at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 12.2 percent in the third quarter after declining at a 1.5-percent rate in the previous 3 months. Indexes for corn and wheat turned down in September following sizable advances in each of the 2 preceding months. The slaughter cattle index also turned down in September, and soybean prices fell much more than in August. The decline in the fluid milk index, however, slowed to 1.6 percent after falling 5.6 percent a month earlier. Indexes for slaughter hogs and slaughter broilers rose more than in August, and the hay index turned up after declining in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries declined 1.2 percent in September following a 1.4-percent drop in August. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) During the third quarter, this index fell at a 24.2-percent annual rate after rising at a 29.1-percent rate in the second

quarter. In September, price declines for the oil and gas extraction industry group slowed from 2.3 percent a month earlier to 1.6 percent. The index for the coal mining industry group was unchanged after advancing considerably in August. Prices continued to rise modestly for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group. By contrast, the metal mining industry group index decreased 1.5 percent after increasing 2.6 percent in August. In September, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 75.4 (December 1984 = 100), 6.7 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries moved down 0.2 percent after falling 0.5 percent in August. From June to September, this index declined at a 3.6-percent annual rate following a 0.7-percent rate of advance from March to June. In September, prices for the tobacco manufactures industry group increased 0.7 percent after declining 26.4 percent in August. The index for the petroleum refining industry group also turned up after falling in the previous month. By contrast, the index for the transportation equipment industry group decreased 1.6 percent after showing no change a month earlier. Prices turned down after rising a month earlier for the leather and leather products industry group. The index for the lumber and wood products industry group rose much more in September (1.5 percent) than in August (0.5 percent). The

index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 118.4 in September (December 1984 = 100), 0.7 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned down after advancing in August for tour operators, deep sea foreign transportation of freight, scheduled air transportation, water transportation of freight n.e.c., passenger car rental, nonlocal trucking, and truck rental and leasing. After a drop of 1.1 percent in August, the index for cable and other pay television services fell 2.5 percent in September, as a decrease for the subscriber services index more than offset an increase for the advertising index. Prices also fell more than in August for deep sea domestic transportation of freight and for airports and airport services. Prices continued to rise rapidly for natural gas utilities and radio broadcasting. By contrast, prices turned up after falling or showing no change a month earlier for courier services except by air, local trucking with storage, electric power utilities, freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, and marine cargo handling. Price increases accelerated for psychiatric hospitals, general medical and surgical hospitals, and for tugging and towing services. In addition, the indexes for the collection of scrap and waste materials and for local trucking without storage fell less than a month earlier.

Price Movements

October 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from September to October. This followed a September advance of 0.2 percent and a drop of 0.6 percent in August. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods edged down 0.1 percent in October after an increase of the same size a month earlier. The Crude Goods Price Index climbed 1.4 percent following decreases in each of the 4 preceding months. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for finished goods other than foods and energy fell 0.5 percent seasonally adjusted in October after showing no change the month before. In addition, prices for consumer foods turned down following increases in both August and September. By contrast, the index for finished energy goods registered a sizable advance after showing no change in September and declining in each of the 4 months before that.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.6 percent in October to 124.7 (1982=100). From October 1992 to October 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 0.2 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices increased 1.4 percent, the finished energy goods index fell 1.4 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy edged up 0.1 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price

Index advanced 1.0 percent over the 12 months ended in October 1993, and crude material prices were 0.3 percent higher than a year earlier.

Finished goods

After recording no change in September, the Producer Price Index for consumer goods other than foods and energy decreased 0.5 percent in October. The index for passenger cars dropped 3.9 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis over the month (up 5.0 percent before seasonal adjustment), reflecting the introduction of 1994 models. (See "Report on Quality Changes for 1994 Model Passenger Cars," in this issue.) The new car index was 1.9 percent higher in October 1993 than it had been a year earlier. The tobacco products index rose less in October than it had in the previous month, and indexes for periodicals and newspapers fell considerably following little or no change in September.

The capital equipment index fell 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, over the month after showing no change in September. The October decline was principally due to lower prices for motor vehicles and computers. Civilian aircraft prices, however, advanced rapidly.

The index for finished consumer foods moved down 0.5 percent in October following an increase of 0.7 percent in

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
October	0.1	0.1	1.0	-0.1	1.8	-0.3	-0.3
November	-2	-6	-1.3	.2	1.4	-3	-1
December	0	1.3	-2.4	.1	1.6	0	-1.1
1993:							
January .....	.3	-.6	1.0	.4	2.0	.3	.3
February .....	.4	0	1.7	.2	2.0	.5	-.2
March .....	.3	.2	1.1	.2	2.0	.3	.2
April .....	.6	1.4	.3	.4	2.5	.3	1.5
May	0	0	-.5	.1	2.1	-3	2.0
June	-.6	-1.0	-.5	-.4	1.3	.2	-1.6
July	0	-.2	-1.1	.3	1.3	-1	-1.2
August	-.6	.5	-.8	-1.0	.6	0	-.5
September .....	.2	.7	0	0	.5	.1	-.4
October	-.2	-.5	1.3	-.5	.2	-.1	1.4

¹ Data for June 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
October	-0.6	-0.6	-0.2	1.1	1.0	-1.1	-1.2	2.0
November .....	.5	-1.3	0	.9	-.9	1.1	-.5	2.1
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.0	1.1	-4.8	2.2	3.3
1993:								
January .....	.4	0	.4	1.8	.5	-1.5	3.4	4.6
February	-4	1.4	.5	1.9	0	-1.4	2.0	2.8
March	-6	1.1	.2	2.1	0	.3	.1	4.8
April	1.4	.3	.2	2.2	2.5	.4	1.3	5.2
May	-4	-.5	-.2	1.5	.5	4.2	1.3	5.2
June	-.9	1.1	.1	1.1	-3.4	-.5	.1	2.1
July	2.4	-1.2	0	1.0	1.3	-4.6	.4	1.0
August .....	.7	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.6	-1.8	-2.6	1.0
September	-.5	.5	0	.9	.1	-1.2	0	-1.4
October .....	.5	-.1	0	1.0	-1.5	4.9	.9	.3

¹ Data for June 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

September. Prices for beef and veal and for fresh fruits and vegetables were sharply lower following sizable advances a month before, and pork prices rose slightly after a much larger September climb. By contrast, prices for fresh eggs, confectionery end products, and pasta turned up after decreasing in the previous month, and the processed poultry index increased more than in either August or September.

The finished energy goods index climbed 1.3 percent in October following no change a month earlier. Gasoline prices turned up 6.3 percent after drops of 1.6 percent in both August and September, and the home heating oil index rose much more than in September. The residential gas index, however, declined 2.3 percent, offsetting its increase during the 2 preceding months.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components edged down 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, in October after rising by the same amount in September. The index for energy goods fell slightly following a September increase, and prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing fell more than in September. The foods and feeds index, however, advanced in October after falling in the prior month. (See table B.)

Prices for intermediate energy goods dropped 0.1 percent in October following a 0.5-percent increase in the previous month. Commercial electric power prices fell 3.9 percent after rising 1.2 percent in September, and indexes for industrial electric power and for commercial and industrial natural gas also fell after advancing in September. Prices for diesel fuel rose less than a month

earlier. In contrast, indexes for gasoline, residual fuel, and jet fuels rose in October after falling in September.

In October, the index for materials for nondurable manufacturing dropped 0.6 percent after falling 0.3 percent in September. Prices for plastic resins and materials, alkalies and chlorine, and intermediate organic chemicals turned down after rising or showing no change a month earlier. In addition, woodpulp prices fell more than in September. Paperboard prices, however, rose after falling in September. Indexes for gray fabrics and for miscellaneous basic organic and inorganic chemicals also turned up in October.

The index for construction materials increased 0.5 percent in October after a 0.7-percent September advance. The millwork index rose less than in September. Prices for plastic construction products also moved up less in October than in the previous month, and the gypsum products index turned down after a sizable rise in September. In contrast, the index for concrete products rose more than it had a month earlier, and the plywood index climbed substantially after registering no change in September.

The Producer Price Index for materials for durable manufacturing dropped 0.4 percent in October, a little more than in September. The aluminum mill shapes index fell 1.2 percent following a September increase, and the index for cold rolled steel sheet and strip also turned down in October. Prices for hot rolled steel sheet and strip rose much less than in September, and copper cathode prices fell far more in October than in the previous month. The copper and brass mill shapes index, however, fell considerably less than in September. Indexes for hot rolled steel

bars, precious metals, and flat glass turned up in October following September declines.

After falling 0.5 percent in September, prices for intermediate foods and feeds advanced by the same amount in October. The index for prepared animal feeds edged down marginally in October after falling 2.8 percent a month earlier. Confectionery material prices rose much more than in September, and the index for flour turned up in October after falling in the prior month. By contrast, prices for beef and veal turned down after climbing in September, and the pork index rose less than it had a month earlier. The index for natural and processed cheese was unchanged following a large September advance.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing rose 1.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, after falling 0.4 percent in September. The index for crude energy materials turned up steeply after a September decline, and the basic industrial materials index rose after remaining unchanged a month earlier. In contrast, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned down after a slight September advance. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index turned up 4.9 percent following a September decline of 1.2 percent. The index for crude petroleum climbed 11.4 percent in October after falling sharply in each of the 4 preceding months. The natural gas to pipelines index also turned up after decreasing for several months. The coal index, however, turned down after rising substantially in each of the previous 2 months.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy rose 0.9 percent in October after showing no change in the prior month. The advance in the iron and steel scrap index accelerated to 11.6 percent in October after rising modestly a month earlier. Indexes for construction sand and gravel and for raw cotton also rose more than in September. In addition, aluminum base scrap and leaf tobacco prices turned up after falling or showing no change in the prior month, and the gold ores index fell much less than in September. Conversely, the copper ores index decreased 12.0 percent, substantially more than in September. Indexes for copper base scrap and for softwood logs, bolts, and timber also declined more than in the previous month. In addition, the cattle hides index turned down after a large September advance.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index fell 1.5 percent after edging up 0.1 percent in September. The index for slaughter cattle dropped 7.1 percent after a 1.3-percent decrease in September. Indexes for slaughter hogs, fresh and dry vegetables, and for fresh fruits and melons each turned down in October following substantial increases in the previous month. In addition, the slaughter broilers index rose less than in September. The corn index, however, turned up nearly 7 percent after falling a month earlier.

Prices for soybeans, fluid milk, and wheat also turned up after declining in September, and indexes for slaughter turkeys and for hay advanced far more than in the preceding month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries turned up 3.3 percent in October following a 1.2-percent drop in September and larger declines in August and July. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) In October, prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group increased 4.7 percent after falling 1.6 percent a month earlier. In addition, prices rose more than in the previous month for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group. By contrast, the metal mining industry group index decreased 5.3 percent, much more than in September. Prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group moved down slightly following no change a month earlier. In October, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 77.9 (December 1984=100), 2.3 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries moved up 0.8 percent in October, the first increase since May. The index for the transportation equipment industry group advanced 3.4 percent after falling 1.6 percent in the previous month. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group increased 4.2 percent, far more than in September. Prices were unchanged in October after decreasing in September for the leather products industry group. By contrast, price increases slowed for lumber and wood products and for tobacco manufactures. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 119.4 in October (December 1984=100), 0.9 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned up after decreasing in September for tour operators, water transportation of freight not elsewhere classified, deep sea domestic transportation of freight, scheduled air passenger transportation, travel agencies, airports and airport services, scrap and waste materials collection, cable and other pay television services, and for hotels and motels. Prices rose more than in the previous month for hospitals and railroad freight. By contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for scheduled air cargo transportation, electric power utilities, radio broadcasting, natural gas utilities, and for local trucking with storage. Price decreases slowed for deep sea foreign transportation of freight and for passenger car rentals.

Price Movements

November 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods showed no change, seasonally adjusted, from October to November. This followed a decrease of 0.2 percent in October and an increase of the same size in September. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved down 0.2 percent in November, a little more than in the preceding month. After climbing 1.4 percent in October, the advance in the Crude Goods Price Index slowed to 0.4 percent in November. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for energy goods dropped substantially over the month in the wake of a rise in October. By contrast, prices for consumer foods turned up in November following a decrease a month earlier. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.4 percent after declining 0.5 percent in October.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods decreased 0.2 percent in November to 124.4 (1982=100). From November 1992 to November 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index edged up 0.3 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices rose 2.7 percent, the index for energy goods fell 2.8 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were up 0.3 percent. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods were 1.0 percent higher

than they had been a year earlier, and crude material prices were up 0.7 percent.

Finished goods

After advancing 1.3 percent in October, the Producer Price Index for finished energy goods fell 2.7 percent, seasonally adjusted, in November. The downturn was led by the gasoline index, which dropped 5.8 percent following a 6.3-percent climb in October. Indexes for residential electricity and home heating oil also dropped following October increases. The residential gas index, however, edged up slightly after a sizable decrease a month earlier.

Prices for finished consumer foods moved up 0.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, over the month following a decline of 0.5 percent in October. Prices for beef and veal, fresh and dry vegetables, and fresh fruits and melons turned up in November after declining considerably in the preceding month. In addition, the milled rice index climbed more than 20 percent for the second consecutive month. By contrast, indexes for processed poultry, pork, soft drinks, and fish turned down in November following October increases, and chicken egg prices rose much less than they had in the preceding month.

The index for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.3 percent after a decrease of 0.5

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
November	-0.2 0	-0.6 1.3	-1.3 -2.4	0.2 .1	1.4 1.6	-0.3 0	-0.1 -1.1
1993:							
January .....	.3	-.6	1.0	.4	2.0	.3	.3
February .....	.4	0	1.7	.2	2.0	.5	-.2
March .....	.3	.2	1.1	.2	2.0	.3	.2
April .....	.6	1.4	.3	.4	2.5	.3	1.5
May	0	0	-.5	.1	2.1	-.3	2.0
June	-.6	-1.0	-.5	-.4	1.3	.2	-1.6
July	0	-.2	-.9	.2	1.3	-.1	-2.2
August	-.6	.5	-1.0	-1.0	.6	0	.6
September .....	.2	.7	0	0	.5	.1	-.4
October	-.2	-.5	1.3	-.5	.2	-.1	1.4
November	0	.8	-2.7	.4	.3	-.2	.4

¹ Data for July 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
November	0.5	-1.3	0	0.9	-0.9	1.1	-0.5	2.1
December .....	.8	-1.5	.2	1.0	1.1	-4.8	2.2	3.3
1993:								
January .....	.4	0	.4	1.8	.5	-1.5	3.4	4.6
February	-.4	1.4	.5	1.9	0	-1.4	2.0	2.8
March	-.6	1.1	.2	2.1	0	.3	.1	4.8
April	1.4	.3	.2	2.2	2.5	.4	1.3	5.2
May	-.4	-.5	-.2	1.5	.5	4.2	1.3	5.2
June	-.9	1.1	.1	1.1	-3.4	-.5	.1	2.1
July	2.3	-1.0	0	1.0	1.1	-7.3	.7	-.2
August .....	.8	-1.4	.2	1.0	1.8	1.1	-2.9	1.0
September	-.5	.5	0	.9	.1	-1.2	0	-.4
October .....	.5	-.1	0	1.0	-1.5	4.9	.9	.3
November	1.7	-2.2	.1	1.0	3.8	-3.8	1.7	.7

¹ Data for July 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

percent a month earlier. This upturn was dominated by the passenger car index, which rose 2.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, in November following a 3.9-percent drop in the previous month; before seasonal adjustment, new car prices moved up 0.9 percent in November and were 2.8 percent higher than in November 1992. The tobacco products index, however, fell 1.3 percent after increasing in both September and October.

The capital equipment index moved up 0.2 percent from October to November on a seasonally adjusted basis after falling 0.4 percent a month before. Prices for cars and trucks turned up following October decreases. The civilian aircraft index, however, moved up far less than it had in the preceding month.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components fell 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, in November after edging down 0.1 percent in October. Prices for energy materials declined much more than they had in October. The index for materials for durable manufacturing turned up after falling in October, however, and the foods and feeds index advanced considerably more than in the previous month. (See table B.)

In November, the index for intermediate energy goods dropped 2.2 percent after edging down 0.1 percent in October. The gasoline index declined 5.8 percent following a 6.3-percent October advance. Prices for diesel fuel and residual fuel also turned down sharply after rising in the previous month, and the index for jet fuels advanced less than in October. Indexes for commercial electric power and liquefied petroleum gas, however, fell much less than in October, and prices for commercial natural gas

and liquid asphalt turned up after dropping a month earlier.

The index for durable manufacturing materials increased 0.3 percent in November following a 0.4-percent October decline. Prices for copper cathode dropped 2.0 percent after falling nearly 9 percent in October, and the aluminum mill shapes index also fell less than in the prior month. In addition, indexes for copper and brass mill shapes and for cold rolled steel sheet and strip advanced after falling in October. By contrast, prices for hot rolled steel sheet and strip and for hot rolled steel bars turned down after rising a month before, and the primary aluminum index fell more than in October.

Prices for intermediate foods and feeds climbed 1.7 percent in November after advancing 0.5 percent in October. Indexes for beef and veal, prepared animal feeds, and fluid milk products turned up after declining in the prior month. Prices for natural and processed cheese advanced following no change a month earlier, and indexes for crude vegetable oils and flour rose more than in October. Prices for confectionery materials, however, rose far less in November than in the previous month. Indexes for pork and for condensed and evaporated milk fell after increasing in October.

After falling 0.6 percent in October, the index for materials for nondurable manufacturing declined 0.3 percent in November. Prices for nitrogenates climbed 12.0 percent after falling in October. In addition, indexes for intermediate organic chemicals, woodpulp, and paint materials fell less than in October, and prices for miscellaneous organic chemicals rose more than in the month before. In contrast, indexes for gray fabrics and miscellaneous inorganic chemicals turned down in November, and prices for plastic resins and materials fell more than in the prior month.

The Producer Price Index for construction materials rose 0.6 percent following a 0.5-percent October advance. Prices for nonferrous wire and cable increased after falling in the previous month. The gypsum products index also turned up in November, and softwood lumber prices rose more than they had in October. Indexes for concrete products and plastic construction materials, however, turned down in November after rising a month before.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved up 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, in November after rising 1.4 percent in the preceding month. The index for crude energy materials turned down after rising sharply in October. In contrast, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned up substantially after an October decline, and the basic industrial materials index rose more than it had a month earlier. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index turned down 3.8 percent following a October advance of 4.9 percent. The index for crude petroleum fell 11.2 percent in November after rising by about the same amount in the preceding month. The natural gas to pipelines index also turned down after an October increase. The coal index, however, turned up after falling in the prior month.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose 3.8 percent in November after falling 1.5 percent in the previous month. The slaughter cattle index moved up 3.7 percent in November after a sharp decline a month earlier. Indexes for fresh and dry vegetables and for fresh fruits and melons also turned up after falling substantially in October. In addition, the corn and hay indexes rose more than in the prior month, and the slaughter hogs index fell much less than in October. Conversely, indexes for slaughter turkeys and unprocessed finfish and shellfish turned down after rising in October, and soybean prices advanced somewhat less than in the preceding month.

The index for crude nonfood materials other than energy rose 1.7 percent, nearly twice as much as in October. Indexes for softwood logs, bolts, and timber, copper and gold ores, and cattle hides turned up in November following decreases in the prior month. In addition, the copper base scrap index fell much less than in the preceding month. The advance in the iron and steel scrap index, however, slowed to 6.9 percent after increasing well over 11 percent a month earlier. In addition, prices for leaf tobacco, raw cotton, construction

sand and gravel, and aluminum base scrap turned down after October increases.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries turned down 2.6 percent in November following a 3.3-percent rise in October. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) In November, prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group decreased 3.7 percent after advancing 4.7 percent a month earlier. Prices also fell after rising in the previous month for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group. By contrast, the metal mining industry group index increased 2.4 percent after declining 5.3 percent in October. Prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group also moved up after falling in the previous month. In November, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 75.9 (December 1984=100), 7.4 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries inched down 0.1 percent in November following a 0.8-percent advance in October. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group decreased 4.5 percent after advancing by about the same amount in the previous month. The increase for the transportation equipment industry group slowed to 0.1 percent in November from 3.4 percent in the previous month. By contrast, prices advanced 1.7 percent for the industry group for lumber and wood products after a slight increase a month earlier. The food and kindred products industry group index moved up after showing no change a month earlier. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 119.3 in November (December 1984=100), 0.9 percent higher than its level 12 months earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned down after rising in October for water transportation of freight n.e.c., tour operators, and railroad freight. Price increases slowed for scrap and waste materials collection, hotels and motels, hospitals, scheduled air passenger transportation, and for airports and airport services. By contrast, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for passenger car rental, deep sea foreign transportation of freight, scheduled air cargo transportation, radio broadcasting, and natural gas utilities. Price decreases slowed for truck rental and leasing and for electric power utilities.

Price Movements

December 1993

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from November to December. This index showed no change in November and fell 0.2 percent in October. The Intermediate Goods Price Index decreased 0.2 percent over the month, the same as in November. Prices for crude goods declined 2.2 percent in December after rising 0.4 percent a month earlier. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for energy goods dropped more sharply than it had in the previous month. The increase in consumer food prices accelerated, however. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose modestly from November to December.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.2 percent in December to 124.1 (1982=100). From December 1992 to December 1993, the Finished Goods Price Index edged up 0.2 percent, considerably less than the 1.6-percent increase registered for this index in calendar 1992. Prices for finished consumer foods advanced 2.4 percent in 1993 after increasing 1.6 percent a year before. The finished energy goods index moved 3.8 percent lower over the year after a slight drop of 0.3 percent in 1992. The index for finished goods other than foods and

energy slowed from a 2.0-percent advance in 1992 to a rise of 0.4 percent a year later. At earlier stages of processing, prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods moved up 1.0 percent for the second consecutive year, while the Crude Goods Price Index turned down 0.5 percent in 1993 after increasing 3.3 percent in 1992.

Finished goods

After decreasing 2.7 percent, seasonally adjusted, in November, the Producer Price Index for finished energy goods fell 3.5 percent in December. Gasoline prices were down 10.4 percent over the month following a decrease of nearly 6 percent in November. In addition, the home heating oil index dropped 13.5 percent in the wake of a decline of about 12 percent in the preceding month. Gasoline and home heating oil prices were down 16.8 and 10.8 percent, respectively, for the year as a whole, much more than their declines in 1992. The residential electricity index also fell in December, although not as much as in November. Charges for residential gas, however, moved up more than in the previous month.

Prices for finished consumer foods advanced 1.1 percent over the month following an increase of 0.8 percent in

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1992:							
December	0	1.3	-2.4	0.1	1.6	0	-1.1
1993:							
January .....	.3	-.6	1.0	.4	2.0	.3	.3
February .....	.4	0	1.7	.2	2.0	.5	-.2
March .....	.3	.2	1.1	.2	2.0	.3	.2
April .....	.6	1.4	.3	.4	2.5	.3	1.5
May	0	0	-.5	.1	2.1	-.3	2.0
June	-.6	-1.0	-.5	-.4	1.3	.2	-1.6
July	0	-.2	-.9	.2	1.3	-.1	-2.2
August	-.6	.5	-1.0	-1.0	.5	0	-.4
September .....	.2	.7	0	.1	.5	.1	.6
October	-.2	-.5	1.3	-.5	.2	-.1	1.4
November	0	.8	-2.7	.4	.3	-.2	.4
December	-.1	1.1	-3.5	.2	.2	-.2	-2.2

¹ Data for August 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1992:								
December	0.8	-1.5	0.2	1.0	1.1	-4.8	2.2	3.3
1993:								
January .....	.4	0	.4	1.8	.5	-1.5	3.4	4.6
February	-4	1.4	.5	1.9	0	-1.4	2.0	2.8
March	-6	1.1	.2	2.1	0	.3	.1	4.8
April	1.4	.3	.2	2.2	2.5	.4	1.3	5.2
May	-4	-.5	-.2	1.5	.5	4.2	1.3	5.2
June	-.9	1.1	.1	1.1	-3.4	-.5	.1	2.1
July	2.3	-1.0	0	1.0	1.1	-7.3	.7	-.2
August .....	.6	-1.4	.2	1.0	1.7	-1.9	-2.2	0
September	-.4	.5	0	.9	.2	1.8	-.6	-1.4
October .....	.5	-.1	0	1.0	-1.5	4.9	.9	.3
November	1.7	-2.2	.1	1.0	3.8	-3.8	1.7	.7
December	1.6	-3.6	.2	1.0	1.3	-8.9	2.4	-.5

¹ Data for August 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

November. The acceleration was led by the fresh and dry vegetables index, which climbed nearly 40 percent after an advance of more than 18 percent a month earlier. Fresh fruit prices also increased faster than they had in November. In addition, prices turned up after November declines for processed poultry, shortening and cooking oils, and fish. By contrast, prices for beef and veal, confectionery end products, chicken eggs, processed fruits and vegetables, and bakery products turned down in December. The milled rice index moved up 5.7 percent, far less than its advances of more than 20 percent in both October and November.

For the second consecutive month, the index for consumer goods other than foods and energy increased 0.3 percent. From December 1992 to December 1993, this index fell 0.6 percent, following a rise of 2.1 percent in 1992. In December, advances for cars and light trucks, tobacco products, and newspaper circulation outweighed declines for apparel and for sanitary papers and health products. In 1993, the tobacco products index fell 22.4 percent after rising 6.7 percent in the year before, while the increase for new cars accelerated from 0.6 percent in 1992 to 3.3 percent in 1993.

The capital equipment index moved up 0.3 percent after rising 0.2 percent in November. Prices for capital goods were 1.9 percent higher in December 1993 than a year earlier, a slightly larger increase than 1992's 1.7 percent. December advances were led by motor vehicles, civilian aircraft, commercial furniture, agricultural machinery, and railroad cars. Indexes for computer storage devices and for X-ray and electromedical equipment moved down, however.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials,

Supplies, and Components edged down 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from November to December, the same as in the preceding month. As in November, the decrease was chiefly due to a drop in the energy goods index. The nondurable manufacturing materials index also continued to fall. Prices for durable manufacturing materials, however, rose much more than in November. Indexes for construction materials and for foods and feeds advanced about as strongly as in the previous month. (See table B.)

The index for intermediate energy goods declined 3.6 percent over the month in the wake of a 2.2-percent decrease in November. This index turned down 4.8 percent from December 1992 to December 1993 following a rise of 0.7 percent in calendar 1992. In December, indexes for jet fuels and liquid asphalt turned down after rising in November, and indexes for diesel fuel, gasoline, and liquefied petroleum gas fell much more than in the preceding month. By contrast, indexes for commercial power and industrial natural gas turned up following November declines. The residual fuel and industrial power indexes did not decrease as much as they had a month before.

Nondurable manufacturing material prices moved down 0.5 percent in December, somewhat more than November's decrease of 0.3 percent. This index declined 0.5 percent in 1993 following a 0.3-percent increase in the previous year. In December, indexes for nitrogenates, basic organic chemicals, and paperboard turned down after rising a month earlier, and the synthetic fibers index fell considerably more than in November. Prices for plastic resins and materials, gray fabrics, and paper, however, decreased less than in the prior month, and indexes for basic inorganic chemicals and inedible fats and oils turned up following November declines.

The index for durable manufacturing materials climbed 1.1 percent over the month, the largest monthly advance since February. These prices moved up 2.6 percent in 1993, about twice as much as in 1992. After falling in November, prices turned up in December for hot rolled steel bars, hot rolled steel sheet and strip, copper cathode, aluminum mill shapes, and primary aluminum. In addition, indexes for copper and brass mill shapes and for silver rose considerably more than they did a month before. In contrast, the flat glass index turned down after increasing in November, and the semifinished steel index rose less than it did in the previous month. For 1993 as a whole, the steel mill products index climbed 5.9 percent following a 2.6-percent decrease in 1992, but the index for primary nonferrous metals dropped 11.2 percent, far more than a year earlier.

The Producer Price Index for materials and components for construction rose 0.5 percent in December after a 0.6-percent increase a month before. Prices for softwood lumber and for plywood moved up somewhat less than in November, and the gypsum products index turned down. The nonferrous wire and cable index, however, advanced faster than in November, and prices for concrete products, plastic construction materials, and asphalt felts and coatings turned up slightly after decreasing in the preceding month. From December 1992 to December 1993, the construction materials index rose 4.9 percent following an increase of 2.7 percent in 1992. The softwood lumber index advanced 32.1 percent in 1993 after climbing 23.1 percent the year before.

The index for intermediate foods and feeds moved up 1.6 percent in December, almost as much as in November. After easing down 0.5 percent in 1992, this index turned up 5.7 percent in 1993. The December rise was led by formula feeds, edible fats and oils, and flour, while prices for meats and confectionery materials declined.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned down 2.2 percent in December, seasonally adjusted, following a rise of 0.4 percent in the preceding month. The index for crude energy materials fell much more than it had in November, and the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose considerably less than in the prior month. In contrast, the basic industrial materials index rose more than it did a month earlier. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index fell 8.9 percent following a 3.8-percent decline in November. This index fell 13.7 percent from December 1992 to December 1993 after rising 2.3 percent a year earlier. The natural gas to pipelines index fell 6.3 percent in December, far more than in the preceding month; over the calendar year, this index fell 7.5 percent after rising by the same amount in 1992. The index for crude petroleum moved down 15.2 percent in December following a drop

of more than 11 percent in November. Domestic crude oil prices declined 27.3 percent for the year, substantially more than their 1992 decrease. The December coal index turned down 3.3 percent, more than offsetting its November increase.

The rise in the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index slowed to 1.3 percent in December after increasing 3.8 percent in the prior month. The slaughter cattle index turned down in December after rising in the previous month. The slaughter broilers index also turned down after a November advance, and indexes for slaughter hogs and unprocessed shellfish fell much more than they had in the prior month. Hay and wheat prices rose considerably less than they had in November. The rise in the fresh and dry vegetables index, however, accelerated sharply. Indexes for fluid milk, soybeans, corn, and fresh fruits and melons also rose more than in the preceding month. In addition, indexes for slaughter turkeys and unprocessed finfish turned up after falling in the prior month. The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose 6.6 percent from December 1992 to December 1993, more than twice as much as in 1992. Some of the more substantial 1993 increases included Louisiana rough rice (86.2 percent), hay (43.9 percent), corn (34.7 percent), soybeans (20.1 percent), fresh and dry vegetables (19.4 percent), and wheat (18.6 percent), but slaughter livestock prices were off 6.7 percent.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy rose 2.4 percent after increasing 1.7 percent in November. This index rose 11.6 percent in 1993, about twice as much as in 1992. The raw cotton index turned up 10.6 percent in December following a 3.6 percent decrease in the prior month. Indexes for copper base scrap, leaf tobacco, aluminum base scrap, and wastepaper also turned up after November declines. Conversely, the rise in the iron and steel scrap index slowed to 2.7 percent after an increase of almost 7 percent a month earlier; in 1993, this index rose 45.0 percent after showing little change in 1992. Indexes for softwood logs, bolts, and timber and for copper ores also rose less in December than a month earlier. From December 1992 to December 1993, the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index increased 26.7 percent, about the same as in 1992.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 5.8 percent in December following a 2.6-percent decline in November. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) In December, prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group decreased 8.2 percent after falling 3.7 percent a month earlier. Prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group turned

down slightly after rising in the previous month. The metal mining industry group index rose 1.5 percent after increasing 2.4 percent in November. By contrast, prices for the anthracite mining industry group rose more rapidly than a month earlier.

After increasing 1.8 percent in 1992, the Producer Price Index for total mining fell 9.4 percent in 1993, chiefly reflecting lower prices for oil and gas extraction and for metal mining. This index ended 1993 at a level of 71.5 (December 1984=100).

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries moved down 0.4 percent in December after inching 0.1 percent lower in November. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group fell much more in December (11.1 percent) than in November (4.5 percent). By contrast, prices for tobacco manufactures turned up 3.4 percent after 2 months of almost no change. In addition, prices for the primary metal industries group advanced after showing no change a month earlier, and prices for the furniture and fixtures industry group rose more rapidly than in November.

The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 118.8 in December (December 1984=100), 0.8 percent higher than its level of a year earlier. In 1992, this index increased 1.6 percent. In 1993, sharp declines for tobacco manufactures (22.8 percent) and petroleum refining (12.8

percent) were offset by lumber and wood products (up 13.7 percent) and modest increases for most other manufacturing industries.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned down after rising or showing no change in November for passenger car rental, hotels and motels, radio broadcasting, local trucking with storage, deep sea domestic transportation of freight, and marine cargo handling. Price increases slowed for deep sea foreign transportation of freight, travel agencies, and scheduled air transportation. By contrast, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for electric power utilities and for local trucking without storage. Prices rose more than a month earlier for scrap and waste materials collection, natural gas utilities, and for airports and airport services.

Over the year, the index for metal scrap collection climbed 17.5 percent, after a small advance in 1992. The scheduled air passenger transportation index turned up 13.1 percent after falling a year before. Prices also rose in 1993 for hospitals, radio broadcasting, and travel agencies. In contrast, prices for passenger car rental turned down 4.8 percent after increasing 18.3 percent in the previous year. Prices also fell for waste-paper collection, domestic deep sea transportation of freight, and for water transportation of freight, not elsewhere classified.

Price Movements

January 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from December 1993 to January 1994. This followed a decline of 0.1 percent in December and a rise of 0.1 percent in November. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods increased 0.2 percent in January after a decrease of the same size a month earlier. The Crude Goods Price Index advanced 1.3 percent over the month following a 2.4-percent drop in December. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for energy goods turned up after substantial declines in both November and December. In addition, prices for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.4 percent following a 0.2-percent advance in December. Consumer food prices, however, turned down modestly.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent in January to 124.4 (1982=100). From January 1993 to January 1994, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 0.2 percent. During this same period, prices for consumer foods advanced 2.3 percent, the finished energy goods index fell 4.0 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were up 0.4 percent. Both the Intermediate Goods Price Index and the Crude Goods Price Index were 0.8 percent higher in January 1994 than they had been a year earlier.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished energy goods moved up 0.8 percent in January on a seasonally adjusted basis following declines of more than 2 percent in each of the preceding 2 months. After dropping 5.3 percent in November and 8.5 percent in December, gasoline prices rebounded 6.5 percent in January. Home heating oil prices decreased 1.2 percent following drops of more than 10 percent in both November and December. By contrast, the residential gas index turned down after a slight December increase.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.3 percent over the month following a marginal rise of 0.1 percent in December. Passenger car prices climbed 1.3 percent after seasonal adjustment in the wake of a 0.5-percent advance in the previous month; before seasonal adjustment, new car prices were up 0.7 percent from December to January. In addition, the tobacco products index advanced 1.5 percent after increasing 0.6 percent in December. Indexes for periodicals circulation and prescription drugs also moved up more than in the previous month. Prices for alcoholic beverages and for soaps and detergents turned down after edging up in December, however, and newspaper circulation rates rose much less than a month before.

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
January	0.3	-0.2	1.0	0.4	2.0	0.3	0
February .....	.4	0	1.4	.3	2.0	.4	-1
March .....	.2	.2	.9	.1	2.0	.3	.2
April .....	.5	1.3	0	.3	2.5	.3	1.2
May	0	-4	-.5	.2	2.1	-.3	2.1
June	-.5	-.6	-.9	-.3	1.3	0	-1.5
July	0	-.1	-.8	.1	1.3	0	-2.0
August	-.8	.3	-1.0	-1.1	.5	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.6	-.1	.1	.4	0	.7
October	-.1	-.2	.9	-.3	.2	.2	1.6
November .....	.1	.9	-2.2	.3	.3	-1	.6
December	-.1	.6	-2.6	.2	.2	-.2	-2.4
1994:							
January .....	.2	-.3	.8	.4	.2	.2	1.3

NOTE: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously reported because seasonal adjustment factors have been recalculated to reflect developments during 1993. In addition, data for

September 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
January	0.4	0.1	0.3	1.8	0.1	-1.5	3.2	4.6
February	-5	.9	.4	1.9	.2	-1.4	1.6	2.8
March	-5	.9	.2	2.1	.2	.3	.2	4.8
April	1.1	.3	.2	2.2	1.7	.4	1.5	5.2
May .....	.1	-.8	-.2	1.5	.8	4.2	1.1	5.2
June	-1.0	.6	0	1.1	-3.2	-.5	.1	2.1
July	2.4	-1.3	.1	1.0	1.5	-7.3	.7	-.2
August .....	.6	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.1	-1.9	-2.0	0
September	-.4	0	0	.9	.5	1.2	.1	-1.4
October .....	.8	.5	.1	1.0	-1.5	5.5	.4	.3
November	1.2	-1.3	.1	1.0	4.2	-3.8	1.8	.7
December	1.4	-3.2	.2	1.0	1.0	-8.9	2.3	-.5
1994:								
January .....	.2	.1	.2	.8	-.9	3.8	1.6	.8

NOTE: Figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously reported. See note for table A.

The capital equipment index rose 0.6 percent in January, twice as much as in December. Motor vehicle prices climbed considerably more than in the preceding month, and indexes for communication equipment, construction machinery, and electronic computers advanced after showing no change in December. Prices for civilian aircraft and agricultural machinery, however, rose less than in the prior month, and indexes for transformers and railroad equipment turned down after December increases.

Prices for finished consumer foods fell 0.3 percent following a 0.6-percent December advance. The fresh vegetables index dropped 16.5 percent in January after sizable climbs in both November and December. Indexes for fresh fruits and melons and for milled rice also turned down following December increases, and prices for beef and veal and for fresh chicken eggs fell more than they did a month before. The index for processed chickens dropped after showing no change in December, and the rise in the dairy products index slowed. By contrast, prices for fish, pork, soft drinks, and pasta turned up following December decreases, and the index for shortening and cooking oils rose much more than in the preceding month.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components advanced 0.2 percent in January after dropping by the same amount in December. Prices for energy goods rose slightly following a sizable decline in December. Indexes for durable manufacturing materials, foods and feeds, and construction materials, however, rose less in January than in the prior month. (See table B.)

After falling 3.2 percent in December, the index for intermediate energy goods edged up 0.1 percent in January. Indexes for gasoline, natural gas to electric utilities, commercial electric power, and liquefied petroleum gas

turned up following December decreases. Prices for diesel fuel and jet fuels fell considerably less than in December. In contrast, the index for industrial electric power fell more in January than in the previous month, industrial natural gas prices were unchanged after advancing in December, and the commercial natural gas index rose less than it had in the prior month.

Prices for materials for nondurable manufacturing declined 0.2 percent after falling 0.3 percent in December. The index for miscellaneous basic organic chemicals turned up following a drop in the previous month, and prices for nitrogenates, processed yarns and threads, and woodpulp also turned up in January after falling in December. In addition, the primary basic organic chemicals index fell considerably less than in December. Prices for plastic resins and materials and for paper, however, fell more in January than in the prior month.

The Producer Price Index for materials for durable manufacturing rose 0.2 percent in January after climbing 0.9 percent in December. Prices for hot rolled steel sheet and strip dropped 1.1 percent after a much smaller decline in the previous month. Indexes for hot rolled steel bars and for copper cathode rose much less in January than a month before, and primary aluminum prices turned down sharply after rising in December. In contrast, flat glass prices were unchanged after dropping substantially in December, and the plywood index rose more than it had a month earlier.

In January, prices for intermediate foods and feeds moved up 0.2 percent following a 1.4-percent advance in the previous month. The prepared animal feeds index edged up 0.1 percent after a much larger advance in December. Indexes for crude vegetable oils and fluid milk products also rose far less than a month before. Flour prices turned down in January, and beef and veal prices fell more than in December. Indexes for confectionery materials, pork, and

for canned milk products advanced after dropping in December, however, and condensed milk prices increased more than in the month before.

Prices for materials and components for construction rose 0.4 percent in January following a 0.5-percent December advance. Indexes for millwork, plywood, softwood lumber, and plastic construction products rose in January, while prices for heating equipment, switchgear, and metal valves fell.

Among other types of intermediate goods, indexes for aircraft parts and auxiliary equipment, aircraft engines and engine parts, internal combustion engines, and photographic supplies each rose about 1 percent in January after considerably smaller December advances.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned up 1.3 percent in January, seasonally adjusted, following a decline of 2.4 percent in the preceding month. The upturn was due to the index for crude energy materials, which climbed sharply after a substantial drop in December. In contrast, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned down after rising in the prior month, and the basic industrial materials index rose less than it did a month earlier. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index turned up 3.8 percent following a decline of 8.9 percent in December. This upturn was broadly based. The natural gas to pipelines index advanced 7.2 percent after falling 6.3 percent in the preceding month. In addition, crude petroleum prices rose slightly after declining more than 15 percent in December, and the coal index also turned up after a sizable December decline.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned down 0.9 percent in January after increasing by about the same amount in the prior month. The rise in the corn index slowed to 3.0 percent in January, a third as much as in December. Indexes for fresh and dry vegetables, Louisiana rough rice, wheat, and hay turned down after December advances. In addition, slaughter broiler prices fell much more than in the preceding month. The slaughter hogs index, however, turned up 6.8 percent after falling nearly 10 percent in December. The unprocessed finfish index climbed 38.8 percent after a marginal December decline, and the slaughter cattle index fell less than it had in the previous month.

The rise in the crude nonfood materials less energy index slowed to 1.6 percent after increasing 2.3 percent in December. This deceleration was largely due to the iron and steel scrap index, which turned down 2.4 percent in January following a 2.1-percent increase in the previous month. Indexes for leaf tobacco, gold and silver ores, and raw cotton rose less than they had in December. In addition, the hardwood logs index dropped after remaining unchanged for

the previous 5 months. Conversely, the pulpwood logs index turned up after a slight decline a month earlier, and the copper base scrap index rose more than it had a month ago. The softwood logs, bolts, and timber index continued to advance considerably.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries rose 3.6 percent in January following a 5.8-percent decline in December. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) In January, prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned up 4.8 percent after falling 8.2 percent a month earlier. Prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry advanced 1.4 percent after declining slightly in the previous month. The metal mining industry group index rose 1.4 percent, about the same as in December. By contrast, the index for the anthracite mining industry was unchanged after increasing a month earlier. In January, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 74.1 (December 1984=100), 5.4 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.3 percent in January after falling 0.4 percent in December. Price decreases for the petroleum refining industry group slowed from 11.1 percent in December to 0.3 percent in January. In addition, prices rose more than in the previous month for the industry groups for printing and publishing, lumber and wood products, leather and leather products, and transportation equipment. By contrast, the rise in the index for tobacco manufactures decelerated to 1.7 percent in January from 3.4 percent a month earlier. Price increases also slowed for the industry groups for primary metal industries and for furniture and fixtures. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 119.2 in December (December 1984=100), 0.7 percent higher than its level of a year earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned up after falling in December for passenger car rental, tour operators, hotels and motels, local trucking with storage, marine cargo handling, and for truck rental and leasing. In addition, the newly introduced index for offices and clinics of doctors of medicine increased 1.5 percent in January. By contrast, prices turned down substantially after rising a month earlier for airports and airport services and for travel agencies. The index for radio broadcasting fell far more in January than it had a month earlier. Price increases slowed for scheduled air cargo and passenger transportation and for natural gas utilities.

Price Movements

February 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, from January to February. This followed a 0.2-percent increase in January and a dip of 0.1 percent in December. The Intermediate Goods Price Index advanced 0.4 percent in February after rising 0.2 percent in the preceding month. Prices received by domestic producers of crude goods, however, decreased 1.3 percent after climbing by the same amount in January. (See table A.)

The increase in the Finished Goods Price Index was almost entirely due to sharply higher prices for energy. Finished consumer food prices declined about as much as in the previous month. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy edged up 0.1 percent over the month after increasing 0.4 percent in January. The advance in the Intermediate Goods Price Index was also dominated by higher energy prices; in contrast, the decline in the Crude Goods Price Index reflected a broad drop in prices for energy materials. Prices for intermediate goods other than foods and energy showed no change, but the index for crude nonfood materials other than energy continued to climb rapidly. (See table B.)

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 0.3 percent in February to 124.8 (1982=100). From February 1993 to February 1994, the

Finished Goods Price Index edged up 0.2 percent. During this same period, prices for consumer foods advanced 1.8 percent, the index for finished energy goods declined 2.6 percent, and finished goods other than foods and energy increased 0.4 percent. The index for intermediate materials, supplies, and components rose 0.9 percent during the 12 months ended in February 1994, and the Crude Goods Price Index was down 0.5 percent over the year.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished energy goods climbed 2.8 percent in February on a seasonally adjusted basis following a 0.8-percent increase a month earlier and a 2.6-percent drop in December. The acceleration was led by the home heating oil index, which advanced 23.5 percent after falling 1.2 percent in January. The residential gas index also turned up after declining in the previous month. Gasoline prices rose more than 6 percent for the second consecutive month.

Prices for finished consumer foods moved down 0.4 percent over the month after a January decline of 0.3 percent. The February decrease was dominated by a 25-percent slump in the fresh and dry vegetables index. Lower prices were also registered for fish, roasted coffee,

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
February	0.4	0	1.4	0.3	2.0	0.4	-0.1
March .....	.2	.2	.9	.1	2.0	.3	.2
April .....	.5	1.3	0	-.3	2.5	.3	1.2
May	0	-.4	-.5	.2	2.1	-.3	2.1
June	-.5	-.6	-.9	-.3	1.3	0	-1.5
July	0	-.1	-.8	.1	1.3	0	-2.0
August	-.8	.3	-1.0	-1.1	.5	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.6	-.1	.1	.4	0	.7
October	-.1	-.2	.8	-.3	.2	.1	2.2
November .....	.1	.9	-2.1	.3	.3	0	0
December	-.1	.6	-2.6	.2	.2	-.2	-2.4
1994:							
January .....	.2	-.3	.8	.4	.2	.2	1.3
February .....	.5	-.4	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-1.3

¹ Data for October 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
February	-0.5	0.9	0.4	1.9	0.2	-1.4	1.6	2.8
March	-.5	.9	.2	2.1	.2	.3	.2	4.8
April	1.1	.3	.2	2.2	1.7	.4	1.5	5.2
May .....	.1	-.8	-.2	1.5	.8	4.2	1.1	5.2
June	-1.0	.6	0	1.1	-3.2	-.5	.1	2.1
July	2.4	-1.3	.1	1.0	1.5	-7.3	.7	-.2
August .....	.6	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.1	-1.9	-2.0	0
September	-.4	0	0	.9	.5	1.2	.1	-1.4
October .....	.6	.1	0	1.0	-1.4	6.6	1.3	.9
November	1.4	-1.0	.2	1.0	4.1	-4.8	.9	.7
December	1.4	-3.2	.2	1.0	1.0	-8.9	2.3	-.5
1994:								
January .....	.2	.1	.2	.8	-.9	3.8	1.6	.8
February .....	.8	3.1	0	.9	1.2	-6.4	2.0	-.5

¹ Data for October 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

frozen juices, and beef and veal. By contrast, increases were recorded for pork, chicken eggs, mayonnaise, cheese, canned vegetables, fresh fruits, and processed chickens.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent in February in the wake of a 0.3-percent rise in the prior month. Prices for passenger cars, tobacco products, and periodical circulation increased much less than in January, and indexes for newspaper circulation rates and sanitary papers turned down after showing little or no change a month earlier. By contrast, household furniture prices climbed 1.8 percent after inching up slightly in December and January. In addition, indexes for apparel, alcoholic beverages, and soaps and detergents turned up following January declines, and book prices increased much more than they had in the previous month.

After advancing 0.6 percent in January, the capital equipment index slowed to a 0.1-percent rise in February. The deceleration was principally due to the motor vehicles index, which was unchanged following a climb of 1.3 percent in January. In addition, prices for civilian aircraft, construction machinery, and electronic computers turned down after rising considerably a month before. The ships index, however, rose substantially, and the transformers index turned up after a sizable drop in the previous month.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, after a January advance of 0.2 percent. The index for energy goods advanced much more than in January, and prices for foods and feeds and for durable manufacturing materials also increased more than in the previous month. The index for construction materials turned down, however. (See table B.)

The index for intermediate energy goods climbed 3.1 percent in February after edging up 0.1 percent a month earlier. Prices for diesel fuel rose 18.1 percent after declining 3.4 percent in January. Indexes for jet fuels, industrial electric power, and residual fuel also turned up in February, and prices for liquefied petroleum gas rose much more than they had in January. Indexes for natural gas to electric utilities, commercial electric power, and commercial natural gas rose considerably less than they had a month earlier, however.

Prices for intermediate foods and feeds advanced 0.8 percent in February following an increase of 0.2 percent in the prior month. After edging up 0.1 percent in January, the prepared animal feeds index climbed 2.6 percent. Indexes for pork and cheese also rose more than they had a month earlier, while prices for flour and for beef and veal fell considerably less than in January. In contrast, indexes for crude vegetable oils, confectionery materials, and liquid milk products fell in February following January advances. Prices for dry milk products rose less in February than a month earlier.

Prices for durable manufacturing materials rose 0.4 percent after moving up 0.2 percent in the prior month. The hot rolled steel sheet and strip index advanced 1.3 percent following a 1.1-percent decline in January. Primary aluminum prices turned up sharply in February, and indexes for aluminum mill shapes, copper cathode, and hot rolled steel bars advanced much more than in January. Conversely, indexes for plywood, cold finished steel bars, and building paper and board turned down after rising in January.

The Producer Price Index for construction materials dropped 0.2 percent in February after a 0.4-percent January advance. Softwood lumber prices fell 6.9 percent after increasing 0.7 percent in January. Indexes for plywood, mill-work, and plastic construction materials also turned down in

February. In contrast, prices for nonferrous wire and cable and for gypsum products rose far more than they did a month earlier, and the heating equipment index turned up after falling in January.

The nondurable manufacturing materials index declined 0.2 percent for the second consecutive month. Prices fell for miscellaneous basic organic chemicals, paint materials, paper, and finished fabrics. Indexes for alkalies and chlorine, processed yarns and threads, woodpulp, and nitrogenates advanced, however.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned down 1.3 percent in February, seasonally adjusted, following a rise of the same amount in the preceding month. The downturn was due to the index for crude energy materials, which dropped substantially after a sharp climb in January. In contrast, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned up after falling in the prior month, and the basic industrial materials index rose somewhat more than it did a month earlier. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index turned down 6.4 percent following a rise of 3.8 percent in January. This downturn was broadly based. The natural gas to pipelines index declined 10.4 percent after rising 7.2 percent in the preceding month. The crude petroleum index fell 3.8 percent after increasing 0.5 percent a month earlier. The coal index dropped 1.5 percent, about as much as it had advanced in January.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned up 1.2 percent in February after decreasing 0.9 percent in the prior month. The slaughter broilers index turned up 11.8 percent in February, more than offsetting its January drop of about 10 percent. Indexes for slaughter cattle, Louisiana rough rice, hay, slaughter turkeys, wheat, fresh fruits and melons, and for unprocessed shellfish also turned up after January declines. Indexes for corn and finfish, however, turned down after rising in January, and prices for fresh and dry vegetables fell much more than in the previous month. In addition, indexes for fluid milk, slaughter hogs, and soybeans rose less than they had in January.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy moved up 2.0 percent after increasing 1.6 percent in January. This acceleration was led by the iron and steel scrap index, which turned up in February following a decrease in the previous month. The wastepaper index also advanced after decreasing in January. In addition, indexes for aluminum base scrap, copper ores, raw cotton, and leaf tobacco rose more than they did a month earlier. Conversely, the rise in the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index slowed to 1.2 percent, less than half as much as a month earlier. The pulpwood logs

index edged down slightly after a January rise, and the cattle hides index fell more than it had a month before.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 5.4 percent in February following a 3.6-percent increase in January. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) In February, prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned down 7.6 percent after rising 4.8 percent a month earlier. Prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry also dropped after advancing in the previous month. By contrast, the metal mining industry group index moved up 3.3 percent after a 1.4-percent increase a month earlier. The index for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry turned up after dipping slightly in the previous month. In February, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 70.1 (December 1984=100), 8.0 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.5 percent in February after a 0.3-percent rise in January. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group turned up 5.6 percent in February following 3 months of decline. In addition, prices rose more than in January for the industry groups for primary metal industries and furniture and fixtures. By contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for the industry groups for lumber and wood products, tobacco manufactures, and leather products. Prices rose less than in January for the printing and publishing and the transportation equipment industry groups. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 119.8 in February (December 1984=100), 0.8 percent higher than its level of a year earlier.

Other. Among other industries, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for radio broadcasting, airports and airport services, and for travel agencies. In addition, prices advanced after showing no change in January for crude petroleum pipelines, freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, wastepaper collection, and air courier services. Price increases accelerated for truck rental and leasing. By contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for passenger car rental, scheduled air transportation, deep sea domestic transportation of freight, and for general warehousing and storage. Prices were unchanged in February after advancing in January for tour operators. Price increases slowed for hotels and motels, metal scrap collection, and for offices and clinics of doctors of medicine.

Errata

This table corrects several errors in table C of the January 1994 issue of *Producer Price Indexes*.

Table C. Over-the-month percent changes in major stage-of-processing indexes, seasonally adjusted, using former and recalculated seasonal factors for 1993

Month	Finished goods		Intermediate goods		Crude goods	
	Former	Recalculated	Former	Recalculated	Former	Recalculated
January	0.3c	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0
February .....	.4	.4	.5	.4	-.2	-.1
March .....	.3	.2	.3	.3	.2	.2
April .....	.6c	.5	.3	.3c	1.5	1.2
May	0	0	-.3	-.3	2.0	2.1
June	-.6	-.5	.2	0	-.1	-.1.5
July	0	0	-.1	0	-2.2	-2.0
August	-.6	-.8	0	0	-.4	-.7
September .....	.2	.2	.1	0	.6	.7
October	-.2	-.1	-.1	.2	1.4	1.6
November	0	.1	-.2	-.1	.4	.6
December	-.1	-.1	-.2	-.2	-2.2	-2.4

c= Corrected.

Price Movements

March 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from February to March. This followed a 0.5-percent advance in February and a rise of 0.2 percent in January. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods increased 0.2 percent over the month, half as much as February's rise of 0.4 percent. After dropping 1.3 percent in February, the Crude Goods Price Index turned up 2.8 percent in March. (See table A.)

The slowdown in the Finished Goods Price Index over the month reflected the behavior of the index for finished energy goods, which showed no change in March in the wake of a steep climb a month earlier. By contrast, prices for consumer foods turned up moderately following 2 months of small declines. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent in March, more than in February but less than in January.

During the first quarter of 1994, the Finished Goods Price Index moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.9 percent following a marginal decrease at a 0.3-percent annual rate during the fourth quarter of 1993. The first quarter upturn was partly due to the energy goods index, which advanced at a rate of 15.3 percent after falling at about the same rate in the last 3 months of 1993. In addition, the increase in prices for finished goods other than foods and

energy accelerated from a 0.9-percent rate in the final quarter of 1993 to a rate of 3.3 percent in the opening quarter of 1994; the acceleration was led by indexes for capital equipment and for consumer durable goods, while the acceleration in consumer nondurables was much more modest. Consumer food prices turned down at a rate of 0.9 percent from December 1993 to March 1994, in contrast with their 5.2-percent rate of advance in the preceding 3 months.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent in March to 125.0 (1982=100). From March 1993 to March 1994, the Finished Goods Price Index edged up 0.2 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices increased 2.2 percent, the index for finished energy goods declined 3.5 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 0.4 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index was 0.7 percent higher in March 1994 than in the same month a year earlier, and prices for crude materials for further processing advanced 2.1 percent over the year.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished energy goods was unchanged from February to March on a seasonally adjusted basis; a month before, energy prices had climbed 2.8 per-

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
March	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.1	2.0	0.3	0.2
April .....	.5	1.3	0	.3	2.5	.3	1.2
May	0	-.4	-.5	.2	2.1	-.3	2.1
June	-.5	-.6	-.9	-.3	1.3	0	-1.5
July	0	-.1	-.8	.1	1.3	0	-2.0
August	-.8	.3	-1.0	-1.1	.5	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.6	-.1	.1	4	0	.7
October	-.1	-.2	.8	-.3	2	.1	2.2
November .....	.1	.8	-2.1	.4	4	.2	-.3
December	-.1	.6	-2.6	.1	.2	-.3	-2.1
1994:							
January .....	.2	-.3	.8	.4	.2	.2	1.3
February .....	.5	-.4	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-1.3
March .....	.2	.5	0	.2	.2	.2	2.8

¹ Data for November 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
March	-0.5	0.9	0.2	2.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	4.8
April	1.1	.3	.2	2.2	1.7	.4	1.5	5.2
May .....	.1	-.8	-.2	1.5	.8	4.2	1.1	5.2
June	-1.0	.6	0	1.1	-3.2	-.5	.1	2.1
July	2.4	-1.3	.1	1.0	1.5	-7.3	.7	-.2
August .....	.6	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.1	-1.9	-2.0	0
September	-.4	0	0	.9	.5	1.2	.1	-1.4
October .....	.6	.1	0	1.0	-1.4	6.6	1.3	.9
November	1.1	-.2	.2	1.2	4.7	-6.3	1.1	.4
December	1.6	-3.9	.2	1.0	.4	-7.4	2.1	-.5
1994:								
January .....	.2	.1	.2	.8	-.9	3.8	1.6	.8
February .....	.8	3.1	0	.9	1.2	-6.4	2.0	-.5
March	-.3	.1	.2	.7	-1.0	9.3	.9	2.1

¹ Data for November 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

cent. Gasoline prices were down 1.8 percent in March after advancing more than 6 percent in each of the previous 2 months. Similarly, the home heating oil index declined 0.7 cent in March after an upward surge of 23.5 percent in February. The residential gas index, however, increased 1.9 percent over the month following a rise of 1.2 percent in February.

Prices for finished consumer foods moved up 0.5 percent in March after falling 0.4 percent in the prior month. The upturn was chiefly due to the fresh and dry vegetables index, which advanced 9.8 percent following sharp decreases in both January and February. Prices for fish and for beef and veal also turned up after declining a month earlier, and processed chicken prices rose more than in February. By contrast, pork prices moved down 4.4 percent after increasing substantially in each of the previous 2 months. Indexes for shortening and cooking oils and for pasta also turned down in March, and prices for fresh fruits and chicken eggs rose less than in February.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy inched up 0.1 percent over the month after a 0.2-percent rise in February. From December 1993 to March 1994, this index increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.6 percent, more than twice as much as the 1.2-percent rate registered from September to December 1993. In March, advances were led by tobacco products, photographic equipment, passenger cars, mobile homes, and household furniture. The alcoholic beverages index decreased, however.

After edging up 0.1 percent in February, capital equipment prices rose 0.3 percent in March. This index moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.0 percent during the first quarter of 1994, considerably more than the 0.9-percent rate recorded for the final quarter of 1993. The acceleration from February to March was paced by the heavy trucks

index, which climbed 2.2 percent after showing no change a month before. In addition, prices for civilian aircraft, light motor trucks, and construction machinery turned up following February decreases.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components increased 0.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, in March following a 0.4-percent rise in February. During the first 3 months of 1994, this index rose at a 3.1-percent annual rate after edging down at a 0.3-percent rate in the final quarter of 1993. The index for energy goods advanced slightly in March after rising much more in February, and prices for foods and feeds declined after rising in the previous month. The index for nondurable manufacturing materials turned up, however. (See table B.)

The index for intermediate energy goods edged up 0.1 percent in March after a February climb of 3.1 percent. Prices for energy goods rose at a 14.1-percent annual rate during the first 3 months of 1994 after declining at a 15.2-percent rate in the final quarter of 1993. In March, the diesel fuel index rose 3.3 percent after climbing 18.1 percent in February. The liquefied petroleum gas index also rose much less than in the prior month, and indexes for gasoline and jet fuels declined moderately in March after advancing substantially in February. Indexes for residual fuel and commercial natural gas rose more than in the previous month, however.

After rising 0.8 percent in February, prices for intermediate foods and feeds fell 0.3 percent. Food and feed prices rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.4 percent from December 1993 to March 1994, much less than the 14.5-percent rate of advance during the last 3 months of 1993. Prices for prepared animal feeds, pork, and fluid milk products dropped in March after rising in February, and flour

prices fell more than in the preceding month. Conversely, indexes for beef and veal, confectionery materials, liquid milk products, and dry milk products turned up after falling in the previous month.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials rose 0.5 percent in March following a February decline of 0.2 percent. This index advanced at a 0.7-percent annual rate during the first 3 months of 1994 after declining at a 2.4-percent rate in each of the two previous quarters. Prices for miscellaneous basic organic chemicals were unchanged in March following a February decline. Indexes for petrochemicals, paint materials, synthetic rubber, and leather turned up in March, and prices for paperboard and for plastic resins and materials rose more than in February. In contrast, indexes for basic inorganic chemicals and for processed yarns and threads turned down in March after rising in the prior month.

The Producer Price Index for construction materials was unchanged in March after falling 0.2 percent in February. Prices for construction materials rose at a 0.6-percent rate during the first quarter of 1994, far less than their 7.5-percent rate of advance in the fourth quarter of 1993. The softwood lumber index declined 2.0 percent in March after dropping 6.9 percent in February, and indexes for plywood and plastic construction products also fell much less than a month before. Prices for gypsum products rose substantially more than in the previous month, and the index for wiring devices turned up. Nonferrous wire and cable prices rose far less than in February, however, and the millwork index decreased more in March than in the prior month.

The index for durable manufacturing materials advanced 0.5 percent in March after rising 0.4 percent in February. This index climbed at a 4.7-percent seasonally adjusted annual rate from December 1993 to March 1994, about the same as in the preceding 3 months. Prices for aluminum mill shapes, primary aluminum, cold rolled steel sheet and strip, copper cathode, and flat glass rose in March. In contrast, lower prices were recorded for hot rolled steel sheet and strip and for plywood.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned up 2.8 percent in March, seasonally adjusted, following a decline of 1.3 percent in the preceding month. During the first quarter, crude material prices increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 11.5 percent, following a 1.2-percent rate of decline in the previous 3 months. The March upturn was due to the index for crude energy goods, which advanced substantially after a sharp decline in February. In contrast, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned down after rising in the prior month, and the basic industrial materials index rose somewhat less than in other recent months. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index turned up 9.3 percent following a decline of 6.4 percent in February. From December 1993 to March 1994, this index moved up at an annual rate of 26.7 percent following a decrease of about the

same amount in the fourth quarter of 1993. The March upturn was broadly based. The index for natural gas to pipelines prices rose 17.9 percent after declining more than 10 percent in the preceding month. In addition, the crude petroleum index increased 4.8 percent after falling nearly 4 percent a month earlier. The coal index continued to fall, but not as much as it had in February.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned down 1.0 percent in March after increasing 1.2 percent in the prior month. These prices fell at an annual rate of 2.5 percent during the first quarter after rising at a 15.5-percent rate during the final 3 months of last year. The corn index dropped 8.2 percent in March after a decrease of 2.4 percent in February. Indexes for slaughter hogs, slaughter cattle, and wheat turned down after February increases. The slaughter broilers index rose considerably less than in the previous month. The index for fresh and dry vegetables, however, turned up nearly 10 percent after falling 25.0 percent in February. The unprocessed finfish index also turned up after declining substantially in the prior month, and the fluid milk and hay indexes rose much more than they had a month earlier.

The March rise in the crude nonfood materials less energy index slowed to 0.9 percent after an increase of 2.0 percent in February. This index climbed at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 19.0 percent in the first quarter, nearly as much as its rate of advance in the previous 3 months. The leaf tobacco index turned down 13.2 percent in March following a 4.0-percent rise in the previous month. The iron and steel scrap index also turned down after increasing in February. In addition, indexes for raw cotton, copper base scrap, aluminum base scrap, and copper ores rose considerably less than they did a month earlier. Conversely, indexes for softwood logs, bolts, and timber and for wastepaper increased more than they had a month earlier. In addition, cattle hide prices turned up after declining in February, and hardwood log prices moved up substantially after showing no change in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries climbed 8.4 percent in March after decreasing 5.4 percent in the preceding month. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) During the first quarter, this index advanced at an annual rate of 45.5 percent; in the final quarter of 1993, by contrast, this index moved down at a rate of 7.2 percent. The upturn from February to March resulted from the oil and gas extraction industry group index, which jumped 12.5 percent after declining 7.6 percent in February. The increase in the metal mining industry group index, however, slowed from 3.3 percent in February to 1.7 percent a month later. The nonmetallic minerals mining industry group index showed no change in March after rising in the previous month. In

March, the index for total mining industries stood at 76.0 (December 1984=100), 0.3 percent above its level of a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries inched up 0.1 percent in March following a 0.5-percent increase in February. From December 1993 to March 1994, this index moved up at an annual rate of 7.3 percent, following a 0.7-percent rate of decrease in the preceding 3 months. The March slowdown principally reflected the drop of 0.3 percent in the petroleum refining industry group index, which had advanced 5.6 percent in February. In addition, the primary metal industries group index moved up 0.5 percent in March, about half as much as its increase of a month before. By contrast, indexes for the lumber and wood products industry group and the leather and leather products industry group turned up modestly after each fell 0.8 percent in February. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector in

March was 119.9 (December 1984=100), an increase of 0.5 percent over the last 12 months.

Other. The index for passenger car rental rates advanced 13.8 percent in March after declining 2.5 percent in the previous month. Indexes for air passenger transportation, Mississippi River freight transportation, domestic deep sea freight transportation, and general warehousing and storage also turned up following February decreases. The tour operators industry index climbed 3.4 percent after showing no change a month earlier, and indexes for hotels and motels, scrap and waste materials, courier services except by air, and travel agencies rose more than in February. Conversely, indexes for freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, radio broadcasting, air courier services, and airports and airport services dropped moderately following sizable advances in the preceding month. In addition, indexes for crude petroleum pipe lines and for truck rental and leasing moved up considerably less than in February.

Price Movements

April 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from March to April. This decline followed a 0.2-percent rise in March and an advance of 0.5 percent in February. The Intermediate Goods Price Index showed no change in April following a 0.2-percent increase a month earlier. Prices received by domestic producers of crude goods fell 0.5 percent over the month after climbing 2.8 percent in March. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, consumer food prices turned down following a March increase. The index for finished energy goods eased down slightly after remaining unchanged in the preceding month. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy edged up 0.1 percent following a 0.2-percent rise in March.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods remained unchanged in April at 125.0 (1982=100). From April 1993 to April 1994, the Finished Goods Price Index moved down 0.4 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices moved up 0.4 percent, the finished energy goods index dropped 3.7 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy inched up 0.1 percent.

Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods rose 0.4 percent from April 1993 to April 1994, and the Crude Goods Price Index was up 0.5 percent over the last 12 months.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished consumer foods decreased 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, in April in the wake of an increase of the same magnitude in the month before. Prices for fresh and dry vegetables, beef and veal, chicken eggs, fish, processed chickens, and fresh fruits and melons turned down in April after increasing a month earlier. Pork prices, however, fell only half as much as in March, and indexes for shortening and cooking oils, pasta, soft drinks, and processed turkeys turned up following March declines.

The index for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy edged 0.1 percent lower in April after seasonal adjustment following a rise of the same size in March. Prices for tobacco products, women's apparel, sanitary papers and health products, household furniture, pharmaceutical preparations, and periodicals circulation turned down after increasing in the previous month, and

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
April	0.5	1.3	0	0.3	2.5	0.3	1.2
May	0	-.4	-.5	.2	2.1	-.3	2.1
June	-.5	-.6	-.9	-.3	1.3	0	-1.5
July	0	-.1	-.8	.1	1.3	0	-2.0
August	-.8	.3	-1.0	-1.1	.5	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.6	-.1	.1	.4	0	.7
October	-.1	-.2	.8	-.3	.2	.1	2.2
November .....	.1	.8	-2.1	.4	.4	.2	-.3
December	-.1	.6	-2.9	.1	.2	-.3	-1.5
1994:							
January .....	.2	-.3	1.1	.4	.2	.1	.7
February .....	.5	-.4	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-1.3
March .....	.2	.5	0	.2	.2	.2	2.8
April	-.1	-.5	-.1	.1	-.4	0	-.5

¹ Data for December 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
April	1.1	0.3	0.2	2.2	1.7	0.4	1.5	5.2
May .....	.1	-.8	-.2	1.5	.8	4.2	1.1	5.2
June	-1.0	.6	0	1.1	-3.2	-.5	.1	2.1
July	2.4	-1.3	.1	1.0	1.5	-7.3	.7	-.2
August .....	.6	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.1	-1.9	-2.0	0
September	-.4	0	0	.9	.5	1.2	.1	-1.4
October .....	.6	.1	0	1.0	-1.4	6.6	1.3	.9
November	1.1	-.2	.2	1.2	4.7	-6.3	1.1	.4
December	1.4	-3.5	.2	1.0	1.0	-5.9	1.2	.1
1994:								
January .....	.4	-.4	.2	.8	-1.5	2.1	2.5	.8
February .....	.8	3.1	0	.9	1.2	-6.4	2.0	-.5
March	-.3	.1	.2	.7	-1.0	9.3	.9	2.1
April	-.3	-1.0	.2	.4	-1.1	-.1	-.3	.5

¹ Data for December 1993 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

the index for home electronic equipment was unchanged following an unusually large advance in March. By contrast, the alcoholic beverages index edged up after a sizable decrease in the preceding month.

Capital equipment prices climbed 0.4 percent over the month following increases of 0.3 percent in March and 0.1 percent in February. The index for light motor trucks advanced 1.6 percent in April, far more than March's rise of 0.5 percent. Indexes for tools and dies, civilian aircraft, construction machinery, and metal cutting machine tools also rose more than in the prior month. In addition, the communications equipment index turned up after declining slightly in March, and electronic computer prices fell less than in the preceding month. Conversely, the heavy motor trucks index edged slightly higher following a much larger climb in March, the ships index showed no change after advancing moderately a month before, and prices for transformers and for x-ray and electromedical equipment turned down following March increases.

The index for finished energy goods edged down 0.1 percent in April after showing no change in the previous month. Indexes for residential gas and electricity turned down in April after increasing in March, and home heating oil prices fell much more than they did a month before. Gasoline prices, however, moved 1.0 percent higher following a decline in March.

Intermediate goods

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components was unchanged in April after a March advance of 0.2 percent. Indexes for energy goods and for durable

manufacturing materials turned down in April, and prices for construction materials fell after showing no change in March. The nondurable manufacturing materials index rose considerably more than in the previous month, however. (See table B.)

The index for intermediate energy goods fell 1.0 percent in April after edging up 0.1 percent in the preceding month. Prices for diesel fuel, residual fuel, commercial and industrial natural gas, and natural gas to electric utilities turned down after advancing in March. In contrast, indexes for gasoline and for miscellaneous petroleum and coal products turned up after declining in March.

Prices for materials for durable manufacturing decreased 0.3 percent in April following a 0.5-percent increase in the previous month. Indexes for aluminum mill shapes, copper cathode, cold rolled steel sheet and strip, flat glass, and for copper and brass mill shapes turned down after moving up in March. In addition, plywood prices fell more than in March. The cement index rose more in April than it had a month before, however, and cold finished steel bar prices climbed substantially after remaining unchanged in March.

The Producer Price Index for construction materials declined 0.4 percent in April after showing no change in the prior month. Softwood lumber prices fell 7.3 percent, much more than in March. The millwork index also fell more than it had a month before, and gypsum product prices rose far less in April than in the previous month. Additionally, indexes for wiring devices and for plumbing fixtures and brass fittings turned down following March advances. By contrast, prices for plastic construction products, asphalt felts and coatings, and switchgear turned

up in April, and the concrete products index rose more than in March.

The nondurable manufacturing materials index climbed 0.9 percent in April after rising 0.5 percent in the prior month. Prices for intermediate basic organic chemicals advanced 6.8 percent following a slight increase in March. Indexes for plastic resins and materials, paperboard, medicinal and botanical chemicals, nitrogenates, woodpulp, and phosphates also rose more in April than they had in the month before. Prices for synthetic fibers fell more than they had in March, however, and indexes for inedible fats and oils and for synthetic rubber turned down. Prices for paint materials rose less than they had in March.

The intermediate foods and feeds index declined 0.3 percent for the second consecutive month. Lower prices for animal feeds, flour, pork, and crude vegetable oils more than offset advances for confectionery materials, fluid milk products, and for natural and processed cheese.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing turned down 0.5 percent in April, seasonally adjusted, following an advance of 2.8 percent in the preceding month. Indexes for crude energy goods and basic industrial materials turned down after rising in March, and the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index fell slightly more than in the prior month. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index edged down 0.1 percent following an advance of 9.3 percent in March. The index for natural gas to pipelines fell 4.7 percent after surging nearly 18 percent in the preceding month. In contrast, the crude petroleum index increased 7.6 percent after rising nearly 5 percent a month earlier. The coal index fell 1.0 percent for the second consecutive month.

The crude nonfood materials less energy index turned down 0.3 percent in April after increasing 0.9 percent in the prior month. Prices for softwood logs, bolts, and timber and for hardwood logs were unchanged following substantial March increases. Indexes for wastepaper, aluminum base scrap, and copper ores rose considerably less than in the previous month. In addition, the iron and steel scrap index fell more than in March. The pulpwood logs index, however, turned up in April after a slight decline in the prior month, and indexes for construction sand and gravel and for raw cotton rose more than they did a month earlier.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index moved down 1.1 percent after declining 1.0 percent in March. Prices for corn, slaughter hogs, soybeans, fresh fruits and melons, unprocessed finfish, and for fresh and dry vegetables excluding potatoes fell in April. Conversely, prices were higher for slaughter cattle, hay, slaughter turkeys, and unprocessed shellfish.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 1.2 percent in April following an 8.4-percent increase in March. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) In April, prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group turned down 1.6 percent after climbing 12.5 percent a month earlier. Prices for the metal mining industry group turned down slightly after rising in March, and prices for anthracite mining turned down after 3 months of no change. In contrast, the index for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group moved up after showing no change in the previous month. Prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry declined, but somewhat less than in either of the previous 2 months. In April, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 75.1 (December 1984=100), 1.3 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.2 percent in April after a 0.1-percent rise in March. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group turned up 1.4 percent in April following a modest decline in the previous month. In addition, prices rose 0.5 percent for the industry group for chemicals, and allied products after showing no change in March. Prices for the lumber and wood products industry group, however, turned down 1.4 percent after a small rise in March, and the increase for the nonmetallic mineral products industry group slowed to 0.3 percent. Most other major manufacturing industry groups showed little or no change. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 120.1 in April (December 1984=100), 0.3 percent higher than its level of a year earlier.

Other. Prices moved up 2.4 percent after falling a month earlier for airports and airport services. Prices for refined petroleum pipe lines rose after showing no change a month earlier. Prices were unchanged in April following March decreases for farm produce warehousing and storage and for air courier services. Price increases slowed considerably for hotel and motels, crude petroleum pipe lines, and deep sea domestic transportation of freight. Prices continued to rise for water transportation of freight, not elsewhere classified. By contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for passenger car rental, tour operators, metal scrap collection, natural gas utilities, truck rental and leasing, travel agencies, and railroad line haul operations. Prices were unchanged in April after rising in March for courier services except air. Prices continued to decline for freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway.

Price Movements

May 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved down 0.1 percent, seasonally adjusted, from April to May. This followed a decrease of the same size in April and a small increase in March. The Intermediate Goods Price Index rose 0.2 percent over the month after showing no change in April. The Crude Goods Price Index declined 1.4 percent, considerably more than its drop of 0.5 percent a month earlier. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, prices for both consumer foods and energy goods decreased about 1 percent following smaller declines in April. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced 0.4 percent after moving up 0.1 percent in April and 0.2 percent in March.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods increased 0.2 percent in May to 125.3 (1982=100). From May 1993 to May 1994, the Finished Goods Price Index declined 0.4 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices eased down 0.3 percent, the index for finished energy goods dropped 4.3 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy edged up 0.4 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index increased 0.9 percent during the 12 months ended in May 1994, while crude material prices were 3.0 percent lower than they had been a year earlier.

Finished goods

The index for finished consumer foods fell 0.9 percent, seasonally adjusted, from April to May following a 0.5-percent decline a month before. Prices for red meats, fresh and dry vegetables, processed chickens, and chicken eggs dropped considerably more than they did in April. In addition, indexes for dairy products and processed turkeys turned down after advancing in the preceding month, and prices for shortening and cooking oils and for pasta products moved up only marginally following much larger April advances. By contrast, the fresh fruits and melons index turned up 5.6 percent after falling more than 4 percent in the previous month. The processed fruits and vegetables index climbed substantially after showing no change in April, and soft drink prices rose more than they had a month before.

After showing little or no change in both March and April, the index for finished energy goods decreased 1.0 percent in May. Gasoline prices turned down 2.8 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis following an April advance of 1.0 percent; before seasonal adjustment, gasoline prices rose 3.0 percent. Indexes for both residential gas and electricity declined more than they did in the preceding month. Home heating oil prices, however, turned up after decreasing in April.

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
May	0	-0.4	-0.5	0.2	2.1	-0.3	2.1
June	-.5	-6	-.9	-.3	1.3	0	-1.5
July	0	-.1	-.8	.1	1.3	0	-2.0
August	-.8	.3	-1.0	-1.1	.5	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.6	-.1	.1	.4	0	.7
October	-.1	-.2	.8	-.3	.2	.1	2.2
November .....	.1	.8	-2.1	.4	.4	.2	-.3
December	-.1	.6	-2.9	.1	.2	-.3	-1.5
1994:							
January .....	.3	-.4	1.1	.5	.2	.1	1.7
February .....	.4	-.3	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-2.2
March .....	.2	.5	0	.2	.2	.2	2.8
April	-.1	-.5	-.1	.1	-.4	0	-.5
May	-.1	-.9	-1.0	.4	-.4	.2	-1.4

¹ Data for January 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
May	0.1	-0.8	-0.2	1.5	0.8	4.2	1.1	5.2
June	-1.0	.6	0	1.1	-3.2	-.5	.1	2.1
July	2.4	-1.3	.1	1.0	1.5	-7.3	.7	-.2
August .....	.6	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.1	-1.9	-2.0	0
September	-.4	0	0	.9	.5	1.2	.1	-1.4
October .....	.6	.1	0	1.0	-1.4	6.6	1.3	.9
November	1.1	-.2	.2	1.2	4.7	-6.3	1.1	.4
December	1.4	-3.5	.2	1.0	1.0	-5.9	1.2	.1
1994:								
January .....	.3	-.2	.2	.9	-.9	4.1	2.7	1.8
February .....	.9	3.0	0	.9	.6	-8.2	1.7	-.5
March	-.3	.1	.2	.7	-1.0	9.3	.9	2.1
April	-.3	-1.0	.2	.4	-1.1	-.1	-.3	.5
May	-.9	-.5	.3	.9	-3.4	1.0	-1.1	-3.0

¹ Data for January 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Prices for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy rose 0.4 percent over the month after inching down 0.1 percent a month before. The upturn was led by the index for tobacco products, which rose 1.9 percent, seasonally adjusted, after decreasing 0.9 percent in April; before seasonal adjustment, the tobacco products index was unchanged from April to May. Passenger car prices rose more than they did in April, and indexes for women's apparel, prescription drugs, sanitary papers and health products, and household furniture turned up following declines in the prior month. The index for alcoholic beverages, however, turned down after a slight increase a month earlier.

The capital equipment index rose 0.4 percent for the second consecutive month. Higher prices for motor vehicles accounted for most of the May advance, and commercial furniture prices also increased. The civilian aircraft index turned down, however.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 0.2 percent in May after showing no change in April. Higher prices for durable and nondurable manufacturing materials were responsible for most of the May advance, while prices for energy goods and for foods and feeds declined over the month. (See table B.)

In May, the index for durable manufacturing materials advanced 0.9 percent after declining 0.3 percent in April. Prices for copper and brass mill shapes increased 6.9 percent following a 0.9-percent drop in the prior month. Indexes also turned up in May for both hot and cold rolled steel sheet and strip, plywood, copper cathode, flat glass, and aluminum mill shapes. In contrast, the aluminum ingot index advanced less than it had in the previous month, building paper and building board prices turned down, and the cement index rose less than it had in April.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials registered a 0.7-percent advance in May following April's increase of 0.9 percent. Indexes for primary and intermediate basic organic chemicals, fertilizer materials, woodpulp, paper board, paper, and plastic resins and materials advanced in May. In contrast, prices for miscellaneous basic organic chemicals declined from April to May.

The index for construction materials moved up 0.2 percent in May after an April drop of 0.4 percent. Softwood lumber prices fell 2.6 percent following a more substantial April decline, and the millwork index also fell less than it had a month before. The plywood index turned up, and prices for fabricated structural metal products and for nonferrous wire and cable rose considerably more than in April. Indexes for concrete products and for plastic construction materials, however, rose less in May than in the previous month, and the index for gypsum products turned down after rising in each of the previous 7 months.

The Producer Price Index for intermediate energy goods fell 0.5 percent in May after dropping 1.0 percent in the prior month. The diesel fuel index advanced 0.9 percent after an April decline of 7.6 percent. Indexes for industrial natural gas, natural gas to electric utilities, residual fuel, and jet fuels also turned up in May, and prices for miscellaneous petroleum and coal products rose much more than in April. Conversely, indexes for commercial electric power, gasoline, and liquefied petroleum gas turned down in May, and industrial electric power prices fell considerably more than it had in April.

The intermediate foods and feeds index moved down 0.9 percent in May after declining 0.3 percent a month before. The confectionery materials index decreased 0.8 percent after a 6.0-percent April gain; prices for natural and processed cheese and for condensed and evaporated milk also turned down. In addition, indexes for beef and veal and for

pork declined more than they had in the previous month. By contrast, prices for flour, crude vegetable oils, and refined sugar advanced in May after falling in April.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved down 1.4 percent in May, seasonally adjusted, following a decline of 0.5 percent in the preceding month. Indexes for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs and for basic industrial materials fell much more than in April. In contrast, the crude energy materials index turned up after edging down in the prior month. (See table B.)

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index dropped 3.4 percent in May after falling 1.1 percent a month earlier. The slaughter cattle index turned down 6.4 percent after increasing 1.6 percent in the preceding month. Indexes for fluid milk, hay, and slaughter turkeys also turned down sharply after rising a month earlier. In addition, prices for slaughter hogs, fresh vegetables except potatoes, and for unprocessed finfish fell more than a month ago. The decline in the corn index, however, slowed to 3.5 percent in May after a drop of almost 6 percent in the prior month. Prices for soybeans also decreased considerably less than in April. In addition, indexes for wheat and for fresh fruits and melons turned up after falling in the previous month, and the Irish potatoes for processing index rose more than in April.

The crude nonfood materials less energy index moved down 1.1 percent after declining 0.3 percent in April. The softwood logs, bolts, and timber index fell 3.9 percent after remaining unchanged in the prior month. The index for iron and steel scrap decreased more than it did a month earlier. In addition, indexes for other roundwood products and for construction sand and gravel moved down after rising in April. Conversely, the rise in the wastepaper index accelerated to 11.8 percent in May, far more than its increase a month earlier. Indexes for copper base scrap, raw cotton, and copper ores rose considerably more than they had in April.

The crude energy materials index turned up 1.0 percent in May after inching 0.1 percent lower a month earlier. Prices for crude petroleum climbed 14.8 percent after increasing 7.6 percent in April. In addition, coal prices turned up after declining in 5 of the 6 preceding months. By contrast, the index for natural gas to pipelines dropped 9.3 percent, much more than its 4.7-percent decrease in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries decreased 1.5 percent in May following a 1.2-percent decline in April. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) In May, prices for the oil and gas extraction industry group moved down 2.3 percent after falling 1.6 percent a month earlier. The index for the nonmetallic minerals mining industry group turned down 0.2 percent after rising 0.6 percent in the previous month. In contrast, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for the metal mining and the coal industry groups. In May, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 74.0 (December 1984=100), 6.9 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price for total domestic manufacturing industries increased 0.2 percent in May, the same as in April. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group advanced 2.4 percent in May following a 1.4-percent increase in the previous month. Prices for the furniture and fixtures industry group rose 1.1 percent after edging down slightly in the previous month. Increases were also registered over the month for the industry groups for primary metal industries, transportation equipment, and paper products. Prices for the lumber and wood products industry group fell only half as much in May (0.7 percent) as they had in April. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 120.4 in May (December 1984=100), 0.5 percent higher than its level of a year earlier.

Other. Prices for wastepaper collection advanced 7.5 percent in May after edging up 0.1 percent a month earlier. Prices turned up after declining in April for truck rental and leasing, gas and electric utilities, travel agencies, and scheduled air passenger transportation. In addition, price increases accelerated for radio broadcasting, deep sea domestic transportation of freight, and nonferrous metal scrap collection. In contrast, prices fell more in May than they had a month earlier for ferrous metal scrap collection, freight transportation on the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway, passenger car rental, and scheduled air cargo transportation. Prices turned down after rising in the previous month for hotel and motels and for water transportation of freight not elsewhere classified. Prices for airports and airport services were unchanged after climbing 2.4 percent in April.

Price Movements

June 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods was unchanged, seasonally adjusted, from May to June. This followed decreases of 0.1 percent in May and April. The Intermediate Goods Price Index increased 0.3 percent in June after rising 0.2 percent a month earlier. Prices for crude goods rose 0.9 percent over the month after falling in both April and May. (See table A.)

Among finished goods in June, the index for consumer foods showed no change and the index for finished energy goods turned up 0.3 percent; both indexes had declined in May and April. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy inched down 0.1 percent, the first decline for this index since last October.

During the first 6 months of 1994, the Finished Goods Price Index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.6 percent. These prices moved down at a 1.4-percent annual rate in the second half of 1993 and increased at a 1.9-percent rate in the first half of last year. The slight acceleration in the first half of this year was partly due to the index for energy goods, which advanced at a 6.0-percent annual rate from December 1993 to June 1994 after falling at an 11.6-percent annual rate from June to December 1993. In addition, prices for finished goods other than foods and energy increased at a 2.5-percent annual rate in the first half of 1994 after moving down at a 1.3-percent annual rate in the

latter half of 1993; much of this acceleration was due to the index for motor vehicles. Consumer food prices, however, turned down at a 3.3-percent annual rate during the first 6 months of 1994 after increasing at a rate of 4.2 percent in the second half of 1993. The Intermediate Goods Price Index increased at a 2.4-percent annual rate after showing no change in the last half of 1993, and the Crude Goods Price Index rose at a 2.2-percent annual rate during the first half of the year after falling at a 3.4-percent annual rate over the last 6 months of 1993.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods inched up 0.2 percent in June to 125.5 (1982=100). From June 1993 to June 1994, the Finished Goods Price index was unchanged. During this same period, consumer food prices rose 0.4 percent, finished energy goods fell 3.1 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy increased 0.6 percent. The Intermediate Goods Index moved up 1.1 percent during the 12 months ended in June 1994, and the Crude Goods Price Index was 0.6 percent lower than a year earlier.

Finished goods

In June, the index for finished consumer foods was unchanged after falling 0.9 percent in May and 0.5 percent in April. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for fresh

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
June	-0.5	-0.6	-0.9	-0.3	1.3	0	-1.5
July	0	-.1	-.8	.1	1.3	0	-2.0
August	-.8	.3	-1.0	-1.1	.5	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.6	-.1	.1	.4	0	.7
October	-.1	-.2	.8	-.3	.2	.1	2.2
November .....	.1	.8	-2.1	.4	.4	.2	-.3
December	-.1	.6	-2.9	.1	.2	-.3	-1.5
1994:							
January .....	.3	-.4	1.1	.5	.2	.1	1.7
February .....	.4	-.3	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-1.4
March .....	.2	.5	0	.2	.2	.2	1.9
April	-.1	-.5	-.1	.1	-.4	0	-.5
May	-.1	-.9	-1.0	.4	-.4	.2	-1.4
June	0	0	.3	-.1	0	.3	.9

¹ Data for February 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of

the figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
June	-1.0	0.6	0	1.1	-3.2	-0.5	0.1	2.1
July	2.4	-1.3	.1	1.0	1.5	-7.3	.7	-.2
August .....	.6	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.1	-1.9	-2.0	0
September	-.4	0	0	.9	.5	1.2	.1	-1.4
October .....	.6	.1	0	1.0	-1.4	6.6	1.3	.9
November	1.1	-.2	.2	1.2	4.7	-6.3	1.1	.4
December	1.4	-3.5	.2	1.0	1.0	-5.9	1.2	.1
1994:								
January .....	.3	-.2	.2	.9	-.9	4.1	2.7	1.8
February .....	.8	2.8	.1	.9	.9	-6.3	2.2	.4
March	-.3	.2	.2	.7	-1.2	7.0	.5	2.1
April	-.3	-1.0	.2	.4	-1.1	-1	-.3	.5
May	-.9	-.5	.3	.9	-3.4	1.0	-1.1	-3.0
June	-1.4	-.2	.6	1.1	-1.2	3.3	.7	-.6

¹ Data for February 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

and dry vegetables (32.0 versus -6.1 percent), chicken eggs (8.2 versus -15.1 percent), finfish and shell fish, and processed young chickens. Prices fell less than they did a month earlier for pork, beef and veal, and processed turkeys. Roast coffee prices rose much more rapidly than in the previous month. In contrast, prices for dairy products and milled rice fell more in June than in May, and prices turned down after rising a month earlier for fresh fruits and melons, processed fruits and vegetables, shortening and cooking oils, and pasta. Price increases slowed for soft drinks and bakery products. The index for finished energy goods moved up 0.3 percent in June, after falling 1.0 percent in May and edging down 0.1 percent in April. The index for gasoline turned up 1.5 percent in June after moving down 2.8 percent in May. Prices for residential natural gas fell 1.3 percent after falling 1.5 percent in the previous month. Prices for residential electric power fell somewhat more than they had a month earlier. Prices continued to rise for home heating oil.

Prices for consumer goods other than foods and energy inched down 0.1 percent in June after rising 0.4 percent in May. From December 1993 to June 1994, this index rose at a 1.8-percent seasonally adjusted annual rate; this followed a decrease at a 2.6-percent rate in the latter half of 1993. The tobacco products index was a leading contributor to the small June downturn; tobacco products fell 2.7 percent after rising 1.9 percent a month earlier. Prices also turned down after rising a month earlier for women's and girls' apparel, cosmetics and other toilet preparations, and leather footwear. Price increases slowed for passenger cars, light trucks, prescription drugs, periodicals, and floor coverings. Prices fell more than they had a month earlier for over-the-counter drugs. In contrast, price increases accelerated for sanitary papers, household furniture, and newspapers. Prices

turned up after falling a month earlier for home electronic equipment and mobile homes. Price declines slowed somewhat for alcoholic beverages, sporting goods, and household flatware.

The capital equipment index inched up 0.1 percent in June after rising 0.4 percent in both May and April. This index rose at a 4.0-percent annual rate in the first half of 1994, compared with a 1.2-percent rate of advance in the latter half of 1993. In June, price increases slowed markedly for motor vehicles; prices for commercial furniture were unchanged after rising a month earlier.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components advanced 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, in June after rising 0.2 percent in May. Indexes for construction materials and for materials for durable manufacturing rose more than in May, and prices for energy goods fell less in June than in the prior month. The foods and feeds index fell more than it had in May, however. (See table B.)

Prices for construction materials rose 1.0 percent in June after moving up 0.2 percent in May. This index advanced at a 1.6-percent annual rate in the first half of 1994 after climbing at a 6.0-percent rate in the final half of 1993. Softwood lumber prices increased 7.3 percent in June following a 2.6-percent decline in the previous month. Indexes for gypsum products and for millwork also turned up after falling in May, while prices for plywood and for plumbing fixtures and brass fittings rose more in June than the month before. In contrast, indexes for fabricated structural metal products, nonferrous wire and cable, and heating equipment rose less than in May, while prices for air conditioning and refrigeration

tion equipment edged down slightly in June following a modest advance in the prior month.

In June, prices for durable manufacturing materials climbed 1.4 percent following a 0.9-percent increase in May. This index rose at a 6.6-percent rate during the first 6 months of 1994 after advancing at a 3.1-percent rate from June 1993 to December 1993. Plywood prices increased 4.8 percent in June after a 2.0-percent gain in May. Prices for domestic copper cathode and hardwood lumber also rose more in June than in the previous month, and the building paper and building board index rose after declining in May. The indexes for hot rolled steel sheet and strip, hot rolled steel bars, and aluminum ingot turned down in June, however, and flat glass prices rose much less than they had in May.

The Producer Price Index for intermediate energy goods fell 0.2 percent in June following a 0.5-percent decline in May. Prices for items in this category increased at a 2.2-percent rate during the first 6 months of 1994 after dropping at an 11.7-percent rate during the last 6 months of 1993. Gasoline prices climbed 1.5 percent in June after falling 2.8 percent in the prior month. Prices for liquefied petroleum gas also turned up after declining in May, and indexes for industrial and commercial electric power fell less in June than in the previous month. Residual fuel prices rose much more than in May. In contrast, indexes for industrial natural gas, natural gas to electric utilities, and miscellaneous petroleum and coal products fell in June after rising in May. Commercial natural gas prices fell more than in May.

Food and feed prices fell 1.4 percent in June following a May drop of 0.9 percent. From December 1993 to June 1994, this index declined at a 3.4-percent annual rate after climbing at a 12.1-percent rate in the latter half of 1993. Flour prices dropped 3.1 percent in June following a 2.0-percent May advance. Indexes for fluid milk products and for crude vegetable oils also turned down in June, while the natural and processed cheese index dropped more than in May. Indexes for prepared animal feeds and for confectionery materials climbed after falling in May, however, and prices for pork and for beef and veal fell less in June than they had in the previous month.

The index for materials for nondurable manufacturing increased 0.7 percent for the second consecutive month. This index advanced at a 5.1-percent rate during the first 6 months of 1994 following a 2.6-percent rate of decline in the second half of 1993. Prices for paperboard, finished fabrics, and miscellaneous inorganic chemicals fell in June. In contrast, indexes for plastic resins and materials and for basic organic chemicals rose in June.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved up 0.9 percent in June, seasonally adjusted, following a decline of 1.4 percent in the preceding month. The June upturn was broad based; indexes for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs fell much less than in May, prices for crude energy materials rose more than in the prior

month, and the basic industrial materials index rose after falling a month earlier. (See table B.)

The decline in the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index slowed to 1.2 percent in June from 3.4 percent in the preceding month. From December 1993 to June 1994, this index moved down at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 13.1 percent following an increase at a rate of 15.7 percent in the second half of 1993. The corn index turned up 6.5 percent in June after falling 3.5 percent a month earlier. Indexes for fresh and dry vegetables, slaughter broilers, and unprocessed finfish also rose after falling a month earlier. In addition, prices for slaughter cattle and slaughter hogs fell less than in the prior month. The wheat index, however, turned down 5.5 percent after rising 3.9 percent in May. Prices for hay and fluid milk fell more than they had in the previous month.

The crude energy materials index moved up 3.3 percent after rising 1.0 percent in May. These prices rose at an annual rate of 18.2 percent during the first half of the year after falling at a 25.1-percent rate during the final 6 months of last year. The natural gas to pipelines index moved up 1.0 percent in June after declining 9.3 percent in May. Conversely, the rise in the crude petroleum index slowed to 8.0 percent from 14.8 percent in May. In addition, the index for coal decreased 0.9 percent after rising 0.6 percent a month earlier.

The crude nonfood materials less energy index moved up 0.7 percent after decreasing 1.1 percent in May. This index climbed at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 9.6 percent in the first half of the year, almost twice as much as its rate of advance in the previous 6 months. The rise in the waste-paper index accelerated to 33.9 percent in June, far more than its increase of 11.8 percent a month earlier. Indexes for copper ores, aluminum base scrap, and copper base scrap also rose considerably more than they did in May. Prices for softwood logs, bolts, and timber fell less than a month earlier. In addition, the other roundwood products index turned up after declining last month. By contrast, iron and steel scrap prices fell 8.2 percent after declining 5.7 percent a month ago, and the raw cotton index rose less than in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries turned up 2.6 percent in June following declines in both April and May. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) During the first half of 1994, this index rose at an annual rate of 8.4 percent after falling at an 18.4-percent rate in the last half of 1993. In June, the index for the oil and gas extraction group advanced 3.3 percent after 2 months of decline. In addition, price increases accelerated for the metal mining industry group. In June, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 75.9 (December 1984=100), down 5.7 percent from June 1993.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the domestic manufacturing sector inched up 0.1 percent in June after increasing 0.2 percent in both April and May. From December 1993 to June 1994, this index increased at a 2.9-percent annual rate after declining at a 1.2-percent annual in the latter half of 1993. In June, price increases for the petroleum refining industry group slowed from 2.4 percent in May to 1.4 percent. Increases also were recorded in June for the industry groups for primary metal industries, nonmetallic mineral products, and for lumber and wood products. Prices for the transportation industry group inched down after rising a month earlier, and price increases slowed for the furniture and fixtures industry group. The index for the domestic manufacturing industry sector stood at 120.5 (December 1984=100) in June, 0.8 percent higher than a

year earlier.

Other. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for tour operators; water transportation of freight, not elsewhere classified; and for crude petroleum pipe lines. Price increases accelerated for waste paper collection (from 7.5 percent in May to 25.5 percent), nonferrous metal scrap collection, electric power utilities, and scheduled air passenger transportation. Prices fell less in June than in May for scheduled air cargo transportation. By contrast, prices turned down in June after rising in May for natural gas utilities, travel agencies, and radio broadcasting. Price increases slowed for truck rental and leasing, deep sea domestic transportation of freight, and other specialty hospitals. Price fell more than in May for passenger car rental and ferrous metal scrap collection.

Price Movements

July 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, from June to July. The Finished Goods Price Index showed no change in June and edged down 0.1 percent in May. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods climbed 0.5 percent over the month in the wake of a 0.3-percent rise in June. Crude material prices dropped 0.9 percent following an increase of the same size a month earlier. (See table A.)

Most of the July advance in the Fnished Goods Price Index was due to a substantial advance in energy prices. Consumer food prices moved up after remaining unchanged in June. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy inched up 0.1 percent in July.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.4 percent in July to 126.0 (1982=100). From July 1993 to July 1994, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 0.6 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices increased 1.0 percent, the energy goods index showed no change, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were up 0.5 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index advanced 1.6 percent during the 12 months ended in July 1994, and prices for crude goods were 0.6 percent higher than a year before.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished energy goods climbed 2.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, in July following a 0.3-percent rise a month earlier. Gasoline and home heating oil prices advanced 8.0 and 6.4 percent, respectively, much more than in June. In addition, indexes for both residential electricity and gas turned up following June decreases.

Prices for finished consumer foods moved up 0.5 percent over the month after showing no change in the preceding month. The July advance was dominated by a 42.8-percent surge in the roasted coffee index. Higher prices were recorded for fresh vegetables except potatoes, as well as for unprocessed finfish, soft drinks, bakery products, and melons. Lower prices were registered, however, for dairy products, meats, shortening and cooking oils, and processed chickens.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy was unchanged from June to July after edging down 0.1 percent in June. The tobacco products index fell 0.2 percent after a considerably larger decline of 2.7 percent in the previous month. The passenger cars index rose 0.7 percent after seasonal adjustment following a 0.2-percent

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
July	0	-0.1	-0.8	0.1	1.3	0	-2.0
August	-.8	.3	-1.0	-1.1	.5	0	-.7
September .....	.2	.6	-.1	.1	.4	0	.7
October	-.1	-.2	.8	-.3	.2	.1	2.2
November .....	.1	.8	-2.1	.4	.4	.2	-.3
December	-.1	.6	-2.9	.1	.2	-.3	-1.5
1994:							
January .....	.3	-.4	1.1	.5	.2	.1	1.7
February .....	.4	-.3	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-1.4
March .....	.2	.6	-.3	.1	.2	.2	1.3
April	0	-.5	.1	.1	-.4	0	.1
May	-.1	-.9	-1.0	.4	-.4	.2	-1.4
June	0	0	.3	-.1	0	.3	.9
July .....	.5	.5	2.5	.1	.6	.5	-.9

¹ Data for March 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
July	2.4	-1.3	0.1	1.0	1.5	-7.3	0.7	-0.2
August .....	.6	-1.3	.2	1.0	1.1	-1.9	-2.0	0
September	-4	0	0	.9	.5	1.2	.1	-1.4
October .....	.6	.1	0	1.0	-1.4	6.6	1.3	.9
November	1.1	-2	.2	1.2	4.7	-6.3	1.1	.4
December	1.4	-3.5	.2	1.0	1.0	-5.9	1.2	.1
1994:								
January .....	.3	-2	.2	.9	-.9	4.1	2.7	1.8
February .....	.8	2.8	.1	.9	.9	-6.3	2.2	.4
March	-3	0	.2	.7	-1.1	5.0	.3	1.5
April	-2	-7	.1	.4	-1.2	1.8	-.1	.5
May	-.9	-.5	.3	.9	-3.4	1.0	-1.1	-3.0
June	-1.4	-.2	.6	1.1	-1.2	3.3	.7	-.6
July	-2.0	1.7	.4	1.6	-2.1	-1.3	2.0	.6

¹ Data for March 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

increase in June; before seasonal adjustment, new car prices were up 0.2 percent in July. The index for newspaper circulation rates also advanced more than it did a month before. By contrast, prices for sanitary papers and health products and for prescription drugs turned down after increasing in June.

The capital equipment index inched up 0.1 percent for the second consecutive month. Increases for passenger cars, commercial furniture, special industry machinery, metalworking machinery, and transformers outweighed declines for electronic computers and construction machinery.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 0.5 percent in July after increasing 0.3 percent in June. Prices for energy goods turned up after declining slightly in June, and the index for nondurable manufacturing materials rose a little more than in the prior month. Prices for construction and durable manufacturing materials, however, rose considerably less than they had a month before, and the foods and feeds index fell more than it did a month earlier. (See table B.)

In July, the index for intermediate energy goods advanced 1.7 percent after edging 0.2 percent lower in June. Prices advanced more than in June for gasoline, diesel fuel, and jet fuel. Indexes for industrial natural gas and natural gas to electric utilities declined much less than in the previous month. In addition, prices for commercial natural gas, commercial electric power, and industrial power turned up after falling in June. In contrast, increases for liquefied petroleum gas and residual fuel slowed.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials registered a 0.9-percent advance in July following June's increase of 0.7 percent. Indexes for basic organic chemicals, paperboard,

paper, nitrogenates, alkalies and chlorine, and woodpulp advanced sharply in July.

The index for construction materials moved up 0.3 percent in July after a June rise of 1.0 percent. The deceleration was chiefly due to softwood lumber prices, which turned down 3.6 percent following a June advance of 7.3 percent. Indexes for nonferrous wire and cable and for asphalt felts and coatings also fell after rising a month earlier. Prices for plywood, gypsum products, and for plumbing fixtures and brass fittings rose far less than in June. Indexes for fabricated structural metal products and plastic construction products, however, increased more than they had in the previous month.

The Producer Price Index for durable manufacturing materials rose 0.6 percent after increasing 1.4 percent in the prior month. The copper and brass mill shapes index turned down 2.2 percent after advancing 6.0 percent in June and 6.9 percent in May. The index for hardwood lumber also turned down in July. Prices for plywood, copper, and for building paper and board rose much less than in June. Conversely, the index for hot rolled steel sheet and strip turned up 1.5 percent in July after declining slightly in June. Prices for primary aluminum also rose after falling a month earlier. In addition, indexes for aluminum mill shapes and for cold rolled steel sheet and strip rose more than in June.

The intermediate foods and feeds index moved down 2.0 percent in July after declining 1.4 percent a month before. The prepared animal feeds index decreased 2.9 percent after a small advance in June. Confectionery material prices also turned down, and indexes for crude vegetable oils and fluid milk products fell more than in the previous month. By contrast, prices for natural and processed cheese fell 1.8 percent, much less than their 5.2-percent decline in June. Indexes for condensed and evaporated milk, pork, flour, and

for beef and veal also fell less than a month earlier.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved down 0.9 percent in July, offsetting a June advance of the same amount. The index for crude energy materials turned down after rising in June, and the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index fell more than in the prior month. In contrast, the basic industrial materials index advanced more than it had a month before. (See table B.)

The crude energy materials index turned down 1.3 percent in July after climbing 3.3 percent a month earlier. The natural gas to pipelines index dropped 9.7 percent after increasing 1.0 percent in June. The crude petroleum index rose 6.3 percent, the fifth consecutive substantial monthly increase. Coal prices turned up after falling in the prior month.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index moved down 2.1 percent after declining 1.2 percent in June. The larger July decrease was partly due to the corn index, which dropped 14.0 percent in July after climbing 6.5 percent in June. Indexes for slaughter broilers and soybeans also turned down after increasing in June. In addition, the index for fresh vegetables except potatoes rose less in July (11.5 percent) than the month before (39.8 percent), and unprocessed finfish prices also rose less than they had in the prior month. Prices for Irish potatoes for processing fell 25 percent after remaining unchanged in June. The slaughter cattle index, however, turned up 6.4 percent after falling 5.1 percent in the prior month. Indexes for hay, wheat, fresh fruits and melons, and slaughter hogs also rose after declining a month earlier, and fluid milk prices fell less than in June.

The rise in the crude nonfood materials less energy index accelerated to 2.0 percent in July following an increase of 0.7 percent in June. Prices for iron and steel scrap climbed 4.1 percent after declining 8.2 percent in June. The index for softwood logs, bolts, and timber fell less than in the previous month. Prices for aluminum base scrap, cattle hides, and silver ores rose more than in the preceding month. By contrast, the raw cotton index dropped 11.8 percent after increasing in each of the last 7 months. In addition, prices for both copper base scrap and copper ores rose considerably less than a month earlier.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector moved down 2.2 percent in July after advancing 2.6 percent a month earlier. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The oil and gas extraction industry group index fell 3.6 percent after climbing 3.3 percent in June. The metal mining industry group domestic mining sector moved down 2.2 percent in July index advanced 5.1 percent following an 8.6 percent jump in the previous month. In July, the Producer Price Index for total mining industries stood at 74.2 (December 1984=100), down 1.3 percent from a year earlier.

Manufacturing. Prices received by producers for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector moved up 0.2 percent in July, about the same as in most other recent months. The increase in the index for the petroleum refining industry group index accelerated from 1.4 percent in June to 4.4 percent in July. The primary metal industries group index moved up 0.7 percent, almost as much as in May and June. The lumber and wood products industry group index, however, declined 0.7 percent, offsetting an increase of the same size a month before. The index for total manufacturing industries stood at 120.8 (December 1984=100) in July, up 1.3 percent from July 1993.

Other. After dropping 10.4 percent in June, the index for passenger car rentals rebounded 8.8 percent a month later. Indexes for ferrous metal scrap collection, radio broadcasting, and hotels and motels also turned up in July after declining in June. The wastepaper collection index climbed more than 25 percent for the second consecutive month. The crude petroleum pipelines index advanced considerably more than it did a month before, and the travel agencies index fell less than in June. By contrast, air passenger transportation charges turned down 0.8 percent after increasing 1.3 percent in the preceding month; the truck rental and leasing index also decreased following a June advance. The airports and airport services index dropped 1.8 percent after showing no change in June.

Price Movements

August 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods increased 0.6 percent, seasonally adjusted, from July to August. The Finished Goods Price Index moved up 0.5 percent in July and showed no change in June. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods rose 0.7 percent over the month following a 0.5-percent advance in July. Crude material prices declined 0.4 percent after falling 0.9 percent in the previous month. (See table A.)

The index for finished goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.4 percent, faster than in July. Consumer food prices also moved up more than in the previous month. Prices for finished energy goods continued to rise, although not as much as in July.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.5 percent in August to 126.6 (1982=100). From August 1993 to August 1994, the Finished Goods Price Index increased 1.9 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices rose 1.4 percent, the energy goods index advanced 2.8 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy were up 1.9 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price Index moved up 2.4 percent during the 12 months ended in August 1994, and prices for crude goods were 0.8 percent higher than a year before.

Finished goods

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.4 percent in August after showing no change in July. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for cosmetics, sanitary papers and health products, tobacco products, prescription drugs, alcoholic beverages, and light trucks. Prices for women's apparel and over-the-counter drugs moved up after showing little or no change a month earlier. Prices for passenger cars rose 0.7 percent, the same as in July. (Before seasonal adjustment, the passenger car index inched down 0.1 percent in August.) By contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for tires and tubes and floor coverings. Price increases for newspaper circulation slowed from 2.4 percent in the previous month to 0.6 percent in August. Prices for household flatware were unchanged in August after moving up 2.5 percent in the preceding month.

The Producer Price Index for finished consumer foods moved up 0.7 percent, seasonally adjusted, in August after rising 0.5 percent a month earlier. Prices turned up markedly after falling in the previous month for beef and veal (6.9 versus -2.0 percent), dairy products, pork, and eggs for fresh use. Price declines slowed for shortening and cooking oils and for milled rice. Prices rose more rapidly than in the

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
August	-0.8	0.3	-1.0	-1.1	0.5	0	-0.7
September .....	.2	.6	-.1	.1	.4	0	.7
October	-.1	-.2	.8	-.3	.2	.1	2.2
November .....	.1	.8	-2.1	.4	.4	.2	-.3
December	-.1	.6	-2.9	.1	.2	-.3	-1.5
1994:							
January .....	.3	-.4	1.1	.5	.2	.1	1.7
February .....	.4	-.3	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-1.4
March .....	.2	.6	-.3	.1	.2	.2	1.3
April	0	-.5	.3	.1	-.4	0	-.2
May	-.1	-1.0	-1.2	.5	-.4	.2	-1.2
June	0	0	.3	-.1	0	.3	.9
July .....	.5	.5	2.5	.1	.6	.5	-.9
August .....	.6	.7	1.7	.4	1.9	.7	-.4

¹ Data for April 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
August	0.6	-1.3	0.2	1.0	1.1	-1.9	-2.0	0
September	-4	0	0	.9	.5	1.2	.1	-1.4
October .....	.6	.1	0	1.0	-1.4	6.6	1.3	.9
November	1.1	-.2	.2	1.2	4.7	-6.3	1.1	.4
December	1.4	-3.5	.2	1.0	1.0	-5.9	1.2	.1
1994:								
January .....	.3	-.2	.2	.9	-.9	4.1	2.7	1.8
February .....	.8	2.8	.1	.9	.9	-6.3	2.2	.4
March	-.3	0	.2	.7	-1.1	5.0	.3	1.5
April	-.3	-.6	.1	.5	-1.1	1.1	-.3	.2
May	-.8	-.6	.3	.9	-3.5	1.7	-1.0	-3.0
June	-1.4	-.2	.6	1.1	-1.2	3.3	.7	-.6
July	-2.0	1.7	.4	1.6	-2.1	-1.3	2.0	.6
August .....	.4	2.2	.5	2.4	-1.4	-.1	1.4	.8

¹ Data for April 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

preceding month for finfish and shellfish. By contrast, prices for roasted coffee moved up 12.0 percent after rising nearly 43 percent in July. Prices turned down after increasing in July for soft drinks, fresh fruits and melons, bakery products, and pasta. Prices for young chickens fell 3.2 percent after falling 1.4 percent in the previous month, and prices for turkeys were almost unchanged after increasing 2.8 percent in July.

Prices for finished energy goods advanced 1.7 percent in August following a 2.5-percent increase in the preceding month. Prices for home heating oil were unchanged after rising 6.4 percent in July. Prices for residential gas turned down 0.7 percent following a 0.9-percent increase a month earlier. Price increases slowed for gasoline (from 8.0 percent in July to 6.8 percent in August) and residential electric power.

The capital equipment index inched up 0.1 percent for the third consecutive month. Increases for motor vehicles, pumps and compressors, and railroad equipment outweighed declines for office and store machines, metal cutting machine tools, and computers.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components rose 0.7 percent in August after increasing 0.5 percent in July. Prices for foods and feeds turned up after 5 consecutive months of decline. Indexes for nondurable and durable manufacturing materials as well as for energy goods rose more than in the prior month. Prices for construction materials rose the same amount as in the month before. (See table B.)

In August, the index for intermediate foods and feeds advanced 0.4 percent after declining 2.0 percent in July. Prices

turned up after falling in July for meats, condensed and evaporated milk, and flour. Indexes for prepared animal feeds, confectionery materials, fluid milk products, crude vegetable oils, and for natural and processed cheese declined less than they had in the previous month. In contrast, prices for malt and malt byproducts were unchanged after increasing a month earlier.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials registered a 1.4-percent advance in August following July's increase of 0.9 percent. Indexes for primary and miscellaneous basic organic chemicals, plastic resins and materials, woodpulp, alkalies and chlorine, and synthetic fibers advanced more than in July. In addition, gray fabric prices turned up after falling a month earlier. Prices for paper and intermediate basic organic chemicals, however, rose less than in July.

The index for intermediate energy goods moved up 2.2 percent in August after a July increase of 1.7 percent. The rise in commercial electric power prices accelerated to 1.6 percent from 0.1 percent in July. Indexes for residual fuel and industrial electric power also rose more than they had a month earlier. In addition, prices for natural gas to electric utilities turned up after falling in July. In contrast, the index for diesel fuel decreased 0.2 percent after increasing 7.3 percent in the previous month. Prices for miscellaneous petroleum and coal products also turned down after rising a month earlier. In addition, indexes for jet fuel and gasoline rose less than in the prior month.

The Producer Price Index for durable manufacturing materials rose 0.7 percent after increasing 0.6 percent a month earlier. Prices advanced for hot rolled steel sheet and strip, plywood, aluminum, and for building paper and board. Conversely, indexes for copper and brass mill shapes, silver,

gold, and zinc declined in August.

The index for construction materials moved up 0.3 percent in August, the same as in the month before. Increases for softwood lumber, plywood, plastic construction products, asphalt felts and coatings, concrete products, and switchgear outweighed declines for nonferrous wire and cable, plumbing fixtures and brass fittings, and air conditioning and refrigeration equipment.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved down 0.4 percent in August after falling 0.9 percent in July. Indexes for crude energy materials and for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs fell less than they had in July. In contrast, the basic industrial materials index advanced less than it had a month before. (See table B.)

The decline in the crude energy materials index slowed to 0.1 percent in August from 1.3 percent a month earlier. The natural gas to pipelines index turned up 3.0 percent after dropping 9.7 percent in July, and coal prices rose somewhat faster than they had in the previous month. Crude petroleum prices, however, turned down 3.4 percent after increasing in each of the previous 5 months.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index moved down 1.4 percent after declining 2.1 percent in July. The smaller July decrease was partly due to the corn index, which was unchanged after dropping 14 percent in July. Indexes for slaughter broilers, soybeans, and Irish potatoes for processing fell less than in July. In addition, prices for slaughter hogs, slaughter turkeys, and unprocessed shellfish rose more in August than they had the month before. By contrast, the rise in the slaughter cattle index slowed to 1.1 percent from 6.4 percent in the prior month. Prices for fresh vegetables except potatoes turned down after rising in July, and the fluid milk index fell more than it had a month earlier.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy moved up 1.4 percent in August following an increase of 2.0 percent in July. Price increases for wastepaper slowed to 1.4 percent from over 36 percent in July and nearly 34 percent in June. Indexes for aluminum base scrap, copper ores, gold ores, and copper base scrap turned down after rising in the previous month. The raw cotton index, however, turned up 3.8 percent after dropping almost 12 percent in July. Prices for iron and steel scrap rose more than they had a month earlier, and the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index fell less than in July.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector moved up 0.3 percent in August after falling 2.2 percent in the preceding month. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) The oil and gas extraction industry group index turned up 0.4 percent following a 3.6-percent decline in July. Price increases accelerated for the industry group for bituminous coal and lignite mining. By contrast, the metal mining industry group index turned down 0.8 percent in August after rising 5.1 percent in July, and the index for the nonmetallic minerals mining group fell much more than in the previous month.

Manufacturing. Prices received by producers for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector rose 0.6 percent in August after moving up 0.2 percent in July. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group increased 5.8 percent in August after rising 4.4 percent in the previous month. Price increases also accelerated for the industry groups for chemicals and allied products and for paper and allied products. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for the industry groups for lumber and wood products and for food and kindred products. Prices continued to climb for the industry groups for primary metal industries and for rubber and plastic products.

Other. After rising over 25 percent in July, the index for wastepaper collection moved up 1.0 percent in August. Prices turned up for scheduled air transportation after falling a month earlier. Prices for ferrous metal scrap collection rose faster in August (8.8 percent) than in July (2.1 percent). Price declines slowed for airports and airport services. The index for general medical and surgical hospitals increased 0.6 percent for the second consecutive month. By contrast, price increases for the passenger car rental index slowed markedly from July (8.8 percent) to August (0.9 percent). Price increases also slowed for nonferrous metal scrap collection and radio broadcasting. The index for crude petroleum pipelines was unchanged after moving up 1.7 percent in July. Prices turned down in August after increasing in the preceding month for hotels and motels, as well as for cable and other pay television services.

Price Movements

September 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods declined 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, from August to September. The September decline followed increases in each of the 3 preceding months. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods rose 0.3 percent over the month following a 0.7-percent advance in August. Crude material prices fell 1.6 percent, the third consecutive monthly decrease. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for finished goods less foods and energy inched up 0.1 percent after rising 0.4 percent in August. In contrast, the indexes for energy goods and consumer foods declined after rising a month earlier.

During the third quarter of 1994, prices received by domestic producers of finished goods advanced at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.6 percent, after inching down at an annual rate of 0.3 percent from March to June. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.1 percent, the same amount posted in the second quarter. The index for finished energy goods rose moderately from June to September after falling from March to June. After two consecutive quarterly declines, the consumer foods index increased in the third quarter. Prices for intermediate goods increased much faster in the third quarter than they had in each of the two previous quarters, and the Crude Goods Price Index

fell much more in the third quarter than it had in the second quarter.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods declined 0.9 percent in September to 125.5 (1982=100). From September 1993 to September 1994, this index increased 1.4 percent. During this same period, consumer food prices rose 0.6 percent, the index for finished energy goods was unchanged, and the prices for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced 1.9 percent. The Intermediate Goods Price index increased 2.7 percent during the 12 months ended in September 1994, and crude material prices were 1.5 percent lower than a year earlier.

Finished goods

Prices for finished energy goods turned down 2.9 percent in September on a seasonally adjusted basis, after rising 1.7 percent a month earlier. During the third quarter, this index rose at a 4.8-percent annual rate following a decline at a 2.6-percent annual rate from March to June. Gasoline prices turned down in September after sizable advances in July and August. Prices also declined after rising in August for residential electric power, and home heating oil prices declined after showing no change in the prior month. The index for residential gas fell for the second consecutive month.

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
September	0.2	0.6	-0.1	0.1	0.4	0	0.7
October	-1	-2	.8	-3	.2	.1	2.2
November .....	.1	.8	-2.1	.4	.4	.2	-.3
December	-1	.6	-2.9	.1	.2	-.3	-1.5
1994:							
January .....	.3	-.4	1.1	.5	.2	.1	1.7
February .....	.4	-.3	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-1.4
March .....	.2	.6	-.3	.1	.2	.2	1.3
April	0	-.5	.3	.1	-.4	0	-.2
May	-.2	-.9	-1.2	.4	-.4	.1	-1.5
June .....	.1	-.1	.3	.1	0	.4	1.2
July .....	.5	.5	2.5	.1	.6	.5	-.9
August .....	.6	.7	1.7	.4	1.9	.7	-.4
September	-.5	-.2	-2.9	.1	1.4	.3	-1.6

¹ Data for May 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
September	-0.4	0	0	0.9	0.5	1.2	0.1	-1.4
October .....	.6	.1	0	1.0	-1.4	6.6	1.3	.9
November	1.1	-.2	.2	1.2	4.7	-6.3	1.1	.4
December	1.4	-3.5	.2	1.0	1.0	-5.9	1.2	.1
1994:								
January .....	.3	-.2	.2	.9	-.9	4.1	2.7	1.8
February .....	.8	2.8	.1	.9	.9	-6.3	2.2	.4
March	-.3	0	.2	.7	-1.1	5.0	.3	1.5
April	-.3	-.6	.1	.5	-1.1	1.1	-.3	.2
May	-.9	-1.1	.3	.9	-3.9	1.2	-1.1	-3.3
June	-1.2	.2	.6	1.1	-.8	3.7	.8	-.6
July	-2.0	1.7	.4	1.6	-2.1	-1.3	2.0	.6
August .....	.4	2.2	.5	2.4	-1.4	-.1	1.4	.8
September .....	.4	-2.0	.6	2.7	.2	-5.3	1.3	-1.5

¹ Data for May 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Prices for finished consumer foods moved down 0.2 percent over the month following a 0.7-percent rise in August. After falling at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.8 percent in the second quarter and 0.6 percent in the first quarter, this index turned up at a 4.2-percent rate from June to September. In September, prices turned down after rising in August for beef and veal, roasted coffee (-10.3 versus 12.0 percent), pork, finfish and shellfish, eggs for fresh use, processed fruits and vegetables, and dairy products. Pasta prices fell more than they had in the previous month. By contrast, prices turned up after falling in the previous month for fresh and dry vegetables, processed young chickens, fresh fruits and melons, shortening and cooking oils, bakery products, and milled rice. Prices continued to rise for turkeys.

Prices for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.1 percent from August to September following a 0.4-percent rise in the previous month. This index rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.0 percent in the third quarter following an increase at a 1.5-percent rate in the second quarter. The deceleration in price increases from August to September was led by the index for passenger cars, which fell 1.1 percent (down 4.0 percent before seasonal adjustment) after rising 0.7 percent in the previous month. Prices also decreased in September after increasing in August for cosmetics and women's apparel. Price increases slowed for sanitary papers, newspaper circulation, light trucks, and household glassware. The index for home electronic equipment was unchanged after rising in August, and prices for floor coverings fell slightly more than in the previous month. By contrast, the tobacco products index increased 2.0 percent after rising 1.4 percent in August. Price increases also accelerated for prescription drugs, book publishing, alcoholic beverages, mobile homes, household furniture, over the counter drugs, and goldjewelry. Prices turned up after declining a month earlier for

tires and tubes, sporting and athletic goods, footwear, and for lawn and garden equipment. Prices were unchanged in September after moving down in August for household appliances and girls' apparel.

In September, the capital equipment index increased 0.1 percent for the third consecutive month. This index moved up at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.8 percent from June to September, half as much as in the second quarter. In September, increases were registered for truck trailers, heavy motor trucks, metal cutting machine tools, transformers and power regulators, and for office and store machines and equipment. Declines occurred for commercial furniture, communication equipment, and for pumps and compressors.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components increased 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, in September following a 0.7-percent rise in August. During the third quarter, this index rose at a 5.9-percent seasonally adjusted annual rate after increasing at a 2.1-percent rate in the second quarter. The index for energy goods turned down in September by about the same amount it rose in August. By contrast, indexes for nondurable manufacturing and construction products rose more than they had in August. In addition, prices for durable manufacturing and for foods and feeds rose about the same amount as in the previous month. (See table B.)

The index for intermediate energy goods turned down 2.0 percent in September after 3 consecutive monthly increases. Prices for energy goods rose at a 7.5-percent seasonally adjusted annual rate in the last 3 months after declining at a 5.7-percent rate from March to June. In September, the gasoline index fell 7.5 percent after climbing

6.8 percent in August. Indexes for residual fuel, jet fuels, and industrial natural gas also turned down after advancing in August. Prices for diesel fuel and liquefied petroleum gas fell more than in the previous month. In addition, the commercial electric power index rose less than in August. In contrast, prices for miscellaneous petroleum and coal products as well as coke oven products fell less than in August.

Prices for nondurable manufacturing materials registered a 1.7-percent advance in September following August's increase of 1.4 percent. Nondurable manufacturing material prices rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 17.0 percent from June to September, much more than the 8.6-percent rate of increase in the second quarter. In September, indexes for plastic resins and materials, paper, and intermediate organic chemicals rose more than they had a month earlier. In addition, phosphate prices turned up after falling in August. Prices for paperboard, woodpulp, and alkalies and chlorine, however, rose less than they had in August. In addition, the synthetic fiber index turned down after rising a month earlier.

The index for construction materials moved up 0.5 percent in September after an August increase of 0.3 percent. This index advanced at a 4.5-percent seasonally adjusted annual rate during the third quarter after increasing at a 3.0-percent rate in the second quarter. The nonferrous wire and cable index turned up 2.4 percent in September after decreasing 0.9 percent a month earlier. The index for plumbing fixtures and brass fittings also rose after falling in August. In addition, prices for fabricated structural metal products and plastic construction products rose more than they had a month ago. In contrast, the rise in the index for softwood lumber slowed to 0.7 percent after increasing 4.1 percent in the previous month. Prices for plywood and concrete products also rose less than they had a month earlier. In addition, the index for asphalt felts and coatings turned down after rising the prior month.

The Producer Price Index for durable manufacturing materials rose 0.8 percent after increasing 0.7 percent in August. From June to September, prices for durable manufacturing materials rose at an 8.6-percent seasonally adjusted annual rate, slightly more than the 8.1-percent rate of advance from March to June. In September, prices advanced for copper and brass mill shapes, copper, aluminum, silver, and lead. Conversely, indexes for flat glass, hot rolled steel sheet and strip, hardwood lumber, and cold finished steel bars declined.

The index for intermediate foods and feeds moved up 0.4 percent in September, the same as the month before. This index fell at a 4.4-percent seasonally adjusted annual rate from June to September, after declining at a 9.5-percent rate in the preceding 3 months. From August to September, increases for crude vegetables oils, flour, natural and processed cheese, and miscellaneous beverage materials outweighed declines for prepared animal feeds, pork, condensed and evaporated milk products, and butter.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved down 1.6 percent in September after falling 0.4 percent in August. During the third quarter, crude material prices decreased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 10.8 percent, following a 1.9-percent rate of decline in the previous 3 months. In September, the index for crude energy materials fell much more than it had a month earlier, and basic industrial material prices rose about the same amount as in July. In contrast, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned up after falling for 6 consecutive months. (See table B.)

The decline in the crude energy materials index accelerated to 5.3 percent in September from 0.1 percent a month earlier. From June to September, this index moved down at an annual rate of 24.2 percent, mostly offsetting a slightly larger rate of increase in the second quarter. The September decline was broad-based. The crude petroleum index fell 11.1 percent after dropping 3.4 percent in August. Natural gas prices turned down after rising a month earlier, and coal prices were unchanged after increasing in 5 of the previous 6 months.

The crude nonfood materials less energy index moved up 1.3 percent after rising 1.4 percent in August. These prices rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 20.4 percent in the third quarter after falling at a 2.1-percent rate from March to June. In September, increases in indexes for copper ores, aluminum base scrap, leaf tobacco, and miscellaneous roundwood products outweighed declines for softwood logs, bolts, and timber, silver ores, wastepaper, and pulpwood logs.

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs moved up 0.2 percent in September following a decrease of 1.4 percent in August. This index fell at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 12.6 percent in the third quarter following a decrease at a 20.9-percent rate in the previous 3 months. The slaughter broiler index turned up 5.6 percent in September following a decrease of 8.5 percent in August. Prices for wheat, fluid milk, Louisiana rough rice, and for fresh and dry vegetables turned up after falling in the previous month. In addition, the soybean index fell less than in August, and corn prices advanced after showing no change in the previous month. The slaughter cattle index, however, turned down 2.1 percent after rising about 1 percent in August. Prices for slaughter hogs and hay also turned down after rising a month earlier.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector declined 3.0 percent in September after rising 0.3 percent in the preceding month. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) From June to September, this index fell at an 18.1-percent annual rate following an increase at a 7.7-percent annual rate in the second quarter. In September, the oil and gas extraction

industry group index turned down 4.6 percent following a 0.4-percent increase in August. Price increases slowed for the industry group for bituminous coal and lignite mining. By contrast, the metal mining industry group index turned up 3.7 percent in September after decreasing 0.8 percent in August. The index for the nonmetallic minerals mining group also moved up after falling in the previous month. In September, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 72.2 (December 1984=100), 4.0 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. Prices received by producers for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector dropped 0.4 percent in September after moving up 0.6 percent in August. During the third quarter, this index moved up at a 1.7-percent annual rate, somewhat less than the rate posted in the second quarter (2.0 percent). Prices for the transportation equipment industry group fell 1.6 percent after showing no change in the previous month. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group decreased 3.9 percent in September after increasing 5.8 percent in the previous month.

Prices for the food and kindred products industry group also fell after increasing a month earlier. Price increases for the paper and allied products industry slowed from 1.1 percent in August to 1.6 percent in September. The industry group for chemicals and allied products rose 1.1 percent, about the same as in August. By contrast, price increases accelerated for the industry groups for primary metal industries, leather and leather products, lumber and wood products, and for rubber and plastic products. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 121.0 in September (December 1984=100), 2.2 percent higher than a year earlier.

Other. Among other industries, the index for passenger car rental turned down 12.1 percent following a 0.9-percent rise in August. Declines also were registered for nonlocal trucking, railroad line haul operations, travel agencies, and natural gas utilities. However, prices advanced for water transportation of freight, not elsewhere classified; tugging and towing services; scrap and waste materials collection; truck rental and leasing; and psychiatric hospitals.

Price Movements

October 1994

In October, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods declined 0.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, for the second consecutive month. The decreases in September and October followed increases in each of the previous 3 months. In October, prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods rose 0.3 percent, the same as in September. Crude material prices fell 0.6 percent, the fourth consecutive monthly decline. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for finished energy goods fell 1.2 percent in October after declining 2.9 percent a month earlier, and the index for finished consumer foods moved down 0.2 percent, the same as in September. The index for finished goods less foods and energy turned down 0.5 percent after several months of increases, as prices for motor vehicles rose less than the recent average for this time of the year. In accordance with our usual practice, new model year passenger cars and light trucks were introduced into the PPI in October.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods increased 0.2 percent in October to 125.8 (1982=100). From October 1993 to October 1994, this index advanced 1.0 percent. Over this same period, consumer food prices moved up 0.6 percent, the index for finished energy goods fell 2.2 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced 1.8 percent. The In-

termediate Goods index increased 3.0 percent during the 12 months ended October 1994, and crude material prices were 4.1 percent lower than a year earlier.

Finished goods

Prices for finished energy goods fell 1.2 percent in October after a 2.9-percent decline in September. Decreases continued, but at a slower pace when compared to September, for gasoline and home heating oil. By contrast, prices for residential natural gas moved down more in October than in September, and prices for residential electric power turned up after falling in the previous month.

Prices for finished consumer foods moved down 0.2 percent in October, the same as in September. Declines were registered for fresh fruits and melons, eggs, milled rice, finfish and shellfish, pork, and beef and veal. However, prices rose for fresh and dry vegetables, pasta products, roasted coffee, processed poultry, and for shortening and cooking oils.

After inching up 0.1 percent in September, prices for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy declined 0.3 percent in October, largely because the passenger car index fell 2.6 percent, after seasonal adjustment. Before seasonal adjustment, the passenger car index rose 5.7 percent, the same as last October, but less than the average for prior

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
October	-0.1	-0.2	0.8	-0.3	0.2	0.1	2.2
November .....	.1	.8	-2.1	.4	.4	.2	-.3
December	-.1	.6	-2.9	.1	-.2	-.3	-1.5
1994:							
January .....	.3	-.4	1.1	.5	.2	.1	1.7
February .....	.4	-.3	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-.14
March .....	.2	.6	-.3	.1	.2	.2	1.3
April	0	-.5	.3	.1	-.4	0	-.2
May	-.2	-.9	-1.2	.4	-.4	.1	-1.5
June .....	.1	0	.7	.1	.1	.6	.8
July .....	.5	.4	2.1	.1	.6	.3	-.5
August .....	.6	.7	1.7	.4	1.9	.7	-.4
September	-.5	-.2	-2.9	.1	1.4	.3	-1.6
October	-.5	-.2	-1.2	-.5	1.0	.3	-.6

¹ Data for June 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
October	0.6	0.1	0	1.0	-1.4	6.6	1.3	0.9
November	1.1	-2	.2	1.2	4.7	-6.3	1.1	.4
December	1.4	-3.5	.2	1.0	1.0	-5.9	1.2	.1
1994:								
January .....	.3	-2	.2	.9	-.9	4.1	2.7	1.8
February .....	.8	2.8	.1	.9	.9	-6.3	2.2	.4
March	-.3	0	.2	.7	-1.1	5.0	.3	1.5
April	-.3	-.6	.1	.5	-1.1	1.1	-.3	.2
May	-.9	-1.1	.3	.9	-3.9	1.2	-1.1	-3.3
June	-1.3	1.0	.6	1.3	-.7	2.5	1.1	-1.0
July	-1.9	1.0	.4	1.6	-2.2	-.1	1.7	.6
August .....	.4	2.2	.5	2.4	-1.4	-.1	1.4	.8
September .....	.4	-2.0	.6	2.7	.2	-5.3	1.3	-1.5
October	-1.0	-1.7	.7	3.0	-2.0	0	.9	-4.1

¹ Data for June 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Octobers. (Because the timing of price changes for passenger cars has differed from year to year, precise identification of seasonal factors for this series is difficult.) Prices turned down after rising a month earlier for light trucks and prescription drugs. By contrast prices turned up after falling in the previous month for cosmetics and women's apparel. Price increases accelerated for sanitary papers, household glassware, lawn and garden equipment, over-the-counter drugs, and household flatware. Price increases slowed for tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, and books.

In October, the capital equipment index moved down 1.0 percent, the first monthly decline since a year ago. Most of the October 1994 decline was due to the indexes for light trucks, heavy trucks, and passenger cars. Prices also turned down after increasing in September for metal cutting machine tools. Price increases slowed for truck trailers, construction machinery, office and store machines, transformers, and textile machinery. By contrast, prices turned up after falling a month earlier for oil field and gas field machinery, and price increases accelerated for civilian aircraft, agricultural machinery, industrial material handling equipment, tools and dies, metal forming machine tools, railroad equipment, and mining machinery.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components increased 0.3 percent after seasonal adjustment in October, the same as in September. Prices for intermediate goods less foods and energy increased 0.7 percent after several moderate advances. The index for energy goods fell slightly less in October than it had in the previous month, and the index for foods and feeds turned down after rising in September. (See table B.)

The rise in the index for nondurable manufacturing materials slowed to 1.5 percent in October from 1.7 percent

in September. The rise in the primary organic chemicals index slowed to 0.2 percent in October from 9.7 percent a month earlier. In addition, indexes for plastic resins and materials, intermediate organic chemicals, and paper all rose less than they had in September. Prices for gray fabrics turned down after rising in the previous month. In contrast, the increase in prices for paperboard accelerated to 3.1 percent in October from 1.0 percent a month earlier. Indexes for woodpulp and alkalies and chlorine also rose more than in September. In addition, price for processed yarns and threads rose after showing no change the month before.

The index for construction materials moved up 0.7 percent in October after a September increase of 0.5 percent. The plywood index increased 3.1 percent after rising 2.0 percent a month earlier. Indexes for millwork, gypsum products, and softwood lumber also rose more than they had in September. In contrast, the rise in the nonferrous wire and cable index slowed to 0.3 percent after increasing 2.4 percent in the previous month. Prices for fabricated structural metal products, wiring devices, plumbing fixtures and brass fittings, and concrete products also increased less than they had a month earlier. In addition, the index for heating equipment turned down after rising in the prior month.

Prices for durable manufacturing materials registered a 1.0-percent advance in October following September's increase of 0.8 percent. The index for flat glass turned up 1.4 percent after falling 1.6 percent a month earlier. Hot rolled steel sheet and strip prices also turned up after falling in September. In addition, indexes for aluminum mill shapes and plywood rose more than in the previous month. The rise in prices for copper and brass mill shapes, however, slowed to 1.7 percent from 5.3 percent in September. In addition, indexes for hot rolled steel bars, copper, and aluminum turned down after rising a month earlier.

The index for intermediate energy goods declined 1.7 per-

cent after decreasing 2.0 percent a month earlier. The decline in prices for gasoline slowed to 5.8 percent from 7.5 percent in September. In addition, indexes for jet fuels, industrial and commercial natural gas, and diesel fuel all fell less than they had a month ago. Prices for petroleum coke turned up after a September decline, and the commercial electric power index rose more than in the prior month. Conversely, indexes for industrial electric power and natural gas to electric utilities turned down after increasing a month earlier.

The Producer Price Index for intermediate foods and feeds moved down 1.0 percent in October, reversing its 0.4-percent advance the month before. The rise in the index for crude vegetable oils slowed to 0.8 percent from 11.5 percent in September. Prices for flour also rose less than in the prior month. Indexes for confectionery material, beef and veal, fluid milk products, and pork fell more than in September. In addition, prices for condensed and evaporated milk turned down after rising a month earlier. The decline in the index for prepared animal feeds, however, slowed to 0.4 percent in October from 1.6 percent in September, and sugar prices turned up after a September decline.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved down 0.6 percent in October after falling 1.6 percent in September. The index for crude energy materials remained unchanged after falling a month earlier. In contrast, the crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index turned down after rising in September, and the basic industrial materials index rose less than in the prior month. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials remained unchanged in October after falling for 3 consecutive months. The crude petroleum index rose 2.5 percent after dropping 11.1 percent in September. Coal prices rose about 1 percent after remaining unchanged a month earlier. By contrast, the natural gas to pipelines index declined, the sixth moderate decrease in the last 7 months.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index moved down 2.0 percent after rising 0.2 percent in September. The corn index turned down 5.4 percent after increasing 1.4 percent a month ago. Prices for unprocessed finfish, Louisiana rough rice, and for fresh fruits and melons also declined after rising in September. Indexes for wheat and fluid milk rose less than they had a month earlier. In addition, prices for slaughter cattle and soybeans fell more than in the prior month. In contrast, indexes for hay and Irish potatoes for processing both turned up after falling in September.

The crude nonfood materials less energy index moved up 0.9 percent in October following a rise of 1.3 percent in September. The raw cotton index turned down 9.1 percent following an increase of 2.8 percent in September. Prices for miscellaneous roundwood products also fell after increasing in the previous month and the indexes for copper ores and leaf tobacco rose less than in September. The rise in

aluminum base-scrap prices, however, accelerated to 13.1 percent from 3.6 percent in September. Prices for cattle hides as well as iron and steel scrap also rose more than a month ago. In addition, the index for construction sand and gravel increased after showing no change in September.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector declined 0.3 percent in October after falling 3.0 percent in the preceding month. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Price declines for the oil and gas extraction industry group slowed from -4.6 percent in September to -0.9 percent in October. Prices rose more than in the previous month for the bituminous mining and the nonmetallic mining industry groups. Prices for the anthracite mining industry group increased after 6 months of no change. However, price increases slowed for the metal mining industry group. In October, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 72.0 (December 1984=100), 8.0 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. Prices received by producers for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector moved up 0.3 percent in October after falling 0.4 percent in September. Prices turned up 2.8 percent after falling 1.6 percent a month earlier for the transportation equipment industry group. Prices also turned up in October after falling in September for the apparel industry group. Price increases accelerated for the industry groups for rubber and plastic products and for paper and allied products. Prices continued to rise for the primary metal industries grouping. By contrast, prices turned down after rising somewhat a month earlier for the industry groups for lumber products, chemicals and allied products, and tobacco manufactures. Price increases slowed for the leather products industry group. The petroleum refining industry group index declined 3.9 percent for the second consecutive month. The food and kindred products industry group index also moved down the same amount as in September. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 121.4 in October (December 1984=100), 1.7 percent higher than a year earlier.

Other. Among other industries, the index for electric power utilities moved down 3.7 percent after showing no change in September. Prices turned down in October after rising a month earlier for truck rental and leasing, waste paper collection, ferrous scrap metal collection, tour operators, scheduled air passenger transportation, and psychiatric hospitals. Price increases slowed for airports and airport services and for tugging and towing services. Prices for line haul railroad operations were unchanged after falling in September. By contrast, prices turned up after falling in September for travel agencies, radio broadcasting, scheduled air cargo transportation, and passenger car rental. Prices rose faster in October than in September for local trucking except stor-

ages; water transportation of freight, not elsewhere classified; crude petroleum pipelines; nonferrous metal scrap collection; and for general medical and surgical hospitals. Price

declines slowed for natural gas utilities. Prices continued to rise for other speciality hospitals. The index for air courier services was unchanged after rising a month earlier.

Price Movements

November 1994

The Producer Price Index for finished goods increased 0.5 percent in November. This increase followed declines of 0.5 percent in both September and October. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods advanced 1.1 percent, the largest monthly increase since October 1990 when it rose 1.4 percent. Crude material prices climbed 1.0 percent, after falling in each of the previous 4 months. (See table A.)

Among finished goods, the index for finished energy goods rose 2.1 percent in November and the index for finished consumer foods turned up 0.2 percent. Both indexes had declined in each of the prior 2 months. The index for finished goods less foods and energy inched up 0.1 percent after decreasing 0.5 percent in October.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods increased 0.2 percent in November to 126.1 (1982=100). From November 1993 to November 1994, this index advanced 1.3 percent. Over this same period, consumer food prices moved up 0.2 percent, the index for finished energy goods rose 2.1 percent, and prices for finished goods other than foods and energy advanced 1.6 percent. The Intermediate Goods index increased 3.9 percent during the 12 months ended November 1994, and crude material prices were 2.7 percent lower than a year earlier.

Finished goods

Prices for finished energy goods advanced 2.1 percent in November after a 2.9-percent decline in September and a 1.2-percent decrease in October. Prices for gasoline turned up 4.5 percent in November after falling 5.8 percent in October. Price declines slowed markedly for residential natural gas and home heating oil. Prices continued to rise rapidly for residential electricity.

Prices for finished consumer foods turned up 0.2 percent in November, after moving down 0.2 percent in both September and October. Prices increased after falling a month earlier for beef and veal, eggs for fresh use, finfish and shellfish, and dairy products. Price declines slowed significantly for pork, fresh fruits and melons, and milled rice. The index for bakery products rose after showing no change in the previous month while the index for shortening and cooking oils rose more rapidly. By contrast, prices turned down in November, after rising a month earlier, for fresh and dry vegetables, young processed chickens, confectionery end products, pasta, and processed turkeys. Soft drink prices were unchanged after moving up in October and price increases slowed markedly for roasted coffee.

Prices for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy moved up 0.2 percent in November following a 0.3-

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
November	0.1	0.8	-2.1	0.4	0.4	0.2	-0.3
December	-.1	.6	-2.9	.1	.2	-.3	-1.5
1994:							
January .....	.3	-.4	1.1	.5	.2	.1	1.7
February .....	.4	-.3	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-1.4
March .....	.2	.6	-.3	.1	.2	.2	1.3
April	0	-.5	.3	.1	-4	0	-.2
May	-.2	-.9	-1.2	.4	-4	.1	-1.5
June .....	.1	0	.7	.1	.1	.6	.8
July .....	.5	.4	2.0	.1	.6	.4	-.5
August .....	.6	.7	1.8	.4	1.9	.6	-.4
September	-.5	-.2	-2.9	.1	1.4	.3	-1.6
October	-.5	-.2	-1.2	-.5	1.0	.3	-.6
November .....	.5	.2	2.1	.1	1.3	1.1	1.0

¹ Data for July 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
November	1.1	-0.2	0.2	1.2	4.7	-6.3	1.1	0.4
December	1.4	-3.5	.2	1.0	1.0	-5.9	1.2	.1
1994:								
January .....	.3	-.2	.2	.9	-.9	4.1	2.7	1.8
February .....	.8	2.8	.1	.9	-.9	-6.3	2.2	.4
March	-.3	0	.2	.7	-1.1	5.0	-.3	1.5
April	-.3	-.6	.1	.5	-1.1	1.1	-.3	.2
May	-.9	-1.1	.3	.9	-3.9	1.2	-1.1	-3.3
June	-1.3	1.0	.6	1.3	-.7	2.5	1.1	-1.0
July	-2.0	1.6	.5	1.8	-2.5	.1	2.0	.7
August .....	.5	1.6	.4	2.4	-1.1	-.4	1.0	.8
September .....	.4	-2.0	.6	2.7	.2	-5.3	1.3	-1.5
October	-1.0	-1.7	.7	3.0	-2.0	0	.9	-4.1
November .....	.3	2.8	.9	3.9	1.5	-1.0	3.4	-2.7

¹ Data for July 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

percent decline in October. In November, passenger car prices increased 1.0 percent (-0.1 percent before seasonal adjustment) after declining 2.6 percent in October. Prices also turned up after falling in the previous month for prescription drugs, mobile homes, toys, newspaper circulation, and sporting goods. Price declines slowed for light trucks and price increases for books accelerated. By contrast, prices turned down after rising in the previous month for cosmetics, tobacco products, women's apparel, sanitary papers, and alcoholic beverages. Price increases slowed for household glassware, over-the-counter drugs, footwear, and for lawn and garden equipment. Prices fell more in November than in October for girls' apparel.

In November, the capital equipment index inched up 0.1 percent, after declining 1.0 percent in October. The index for communication equipment moved up after decreasing in October. Prices turned up after falling in the previous month for commercial furniture, metal cutting machine tools, and x-ray equipment. Price increases accelerated for truck trailers, pumps and compressors, and for construction machinery. The index for motor trucks fell substantially less than they had in October. By contrast, prices fell more in November than in October for computers. In addition, prices turned down after increasing a month earlier for agricultural machinery, transformers, and oil field machinery. Price increases slowed for civilian aircraft, tools and dies, railroad equipment, mining machinery, and metal forming machine tools.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components increased 1.1 percent after seasonal adjustment in November, after rising 0.3 percent in October. When food and energy prices are excluded, the index increased 0.9 percent in November, following a 0.7-percent

advance in October. Prices for intermediate energy materials as well as foods and feeds turned up after falling in October. Prices for both manufacturing and construction materials continued their upward trend. (See table B.)

The index for intermediate energy goods turned up 2.8 percent in November after falling 1.7 percent in October. The gasoline index rose 4.5 percent in November after declining 5.8 percent a month earlier. In addition, prices for diesel fuel, industrial electric power, liquefied petroleum gas, jet fuels, and natural gas to electric utilities all turned up after falling in October. Also, the commercial electric power index rose more than in the previous month. In contrast, prices for coke oven products turned down 0.5 percent after rising 2.3 percent a month earlier, and the index for liquid asphalt rose less than it had the previous month.

The index for durable manufacturing materials moved up 1.7 percent in November after an October increase of 1.0 percent. The copper and brass mill shapes index increased 8.5 percent after rising 1.7 percent a month earlier. Indexes for aluminum mill shapes, plywood, hot rolled steel sheet and strip, and for building paper and board also rose more than they had in October. In addition, prices for aluminum, copper, and hot rolled steel bars turned up after falling in the previous month. In contrast, the index for cold rolled steel sheets declined 0.5 percent after an increase of about the same amount a month earlier.

Following a 1.0-percent October decline, prices for intermediate foods and feeds registered a 0.3-percent advance in November, led by the index for beef and veal which turned up 2.5 percent after falling 2.2 percent a month earlier. Prices for confectionery materials, fluid milk products, and for condensed and evaporated milk also turned up after falling in October. In addition, the index for crude vegetable oils rose more than in the previous month, and pork prices fell less than a month earlier. The decline in the prepared

animal feeds index, however, accelerated to 2.6 percent from 0.4 percent in October. In addition, flour prices turned down after rising a month earlier.

The index for materials and components for construction increased 0.9 percent after rising 0.7 percent a month earlier. The increase in prices for nonferrous wire and cable accelerated to 3.0 percent from 0.3 percent in October. Indexes for plywood, fabricated structural metal products, softwood lumber, concrete products, nonfluid power metal valves, and wiring devices also rose more than they had a month ago. In addition, prices for asphalt felts and coatings remained unchanged after falling in October. Conversely, prices for gypsum products turned down 2.0 percent after increasing 3.1 percent a month earlier, and the plastic construction products index rose less than in the prior month.

The rise in the Producer Price Index for nondurable manufacturing materials slowed to 0.8 percent in November from 1.5 percent the month before. The index for intermediate basic organic chemicals turned down 0.2 percent after rising 6.1 percent in October. Prices for woodpulp and phosphates also declined after increasing in the prior month. Indexes for plastic resins and materials, alkalies and chlorine, synthetic rubber, and miscellaneous basic organic chemicals rose less than in October. The index for gray fabrics, however, turned up 0.4 percent after declining 0.5 percent a month earlier, and paperboard prices rose more than they had in October.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved up 1.0 percent in November after falling 0.6 percent in October. The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs turned up after falling a month earlier, and the basic industrial materials index rose more than in October. In contrast, the crude energy materials index fell after remaining unchanged in the prior month. (See table B.)

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs turned up 1.5 percent in November after declining in 7 of the last 8 months. The slaughter cattle index rose 6.5 percent after dropping 3.1 percent in October. Prices for corn, soybeans, and unprocessed finfish also turned up after falling a month earlier. By contrast, the slaughter broilers index turned down 10.3 percent after increasing over 5 percent in each of the previous 2 months. Prices for fresh vegetables except potatoes, fluid milk, and hay also moved down after rising in October.

The index for crude nonfood materials less energy moved up 3.4 percent after rising 0.9 percent in October. The raw cotton index turned up 8.4 percent after declining 9.1 percent a month earlier. Prices for wastepaper and softwood logs, bolts, and timber also turned up after falling in October. In addition, indexes for iron and steel scrap and nonferrous scrap rose more than a month earlier. In contrast, indexes for both cattle hides and for construction sand and gravel turned down after rising in October.

The crude energy materials index fell 1.0 percent in

November after remaining unchanged in October. The crude petroleum index turned down 0.6 percent following an increase of 2.5 percent in October. Prices for natural gas to pipelines fell more than in the previous month. The rise in the coal index, however, accelerated to 2.3 percent from 0.9 percent in October.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of the domestic mining sector declined 0.8 percent in November after falling 3.0 percent in September and 0.3 percent in October. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Price declines for the oil and gas extraction industry group accelerated from -0.9 percent in October to -2.0 percent in November. Prices for the nonmetallic mining industry group turned down after rising in each of the previous 2 months. However, prices rose more rapidly than in the previous month for the metal mining and the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry groups. In November, the Producer Price Index for total mining stood at 71.4 (December 1984=100), 4.5 percent lower than a year earlier.

Manufacturing. Prices received by producers for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector moved up 0.4 percent in November after rising 0.3 percent in October. Increases were registered for the following industry groups: Petroleum refining; paper and allied products; primary metal industries; lumber and wood products; rubber and plastic products; chemicals and allied products, fabricated metal products; and printing and publishing. By contrast, indexes for both the transportation and the apparel industry groups inched down. The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 121.9 in November (December 1984=100), 2.2 percent higher than a year earlier.

Other. Among other industries, price increases accelerated for crude petroleum pipelines, passenger car rental, and nonferrous metal scrap collection. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for ferrous metal scrap collection, waste paper collection, natural gas utilities, cable and other pay television services, and scheduled air passenger transportation. Price declines slowed for electric power utilities and for truck rental and leasing. Prices continued to rise for other specialty hospitals. By contrast, prices turned down after rising in October for water transportation of freight, not elsewhere classified, deep sea foreign transportation of freight, local trucking without storage, tugging and towing services, travel agencies, and for airports and airport services. Price increases slowed for scheduled air cargo transportation, radio broadcasting, nonlocal trucking, general medical and surgical hospitals, help supply services, and for hotels and motels. Prices fell more than they had a month earlier for psychiatric hospitals.

Price Movements

December 1994

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods moved up 0.2 percent in December after seasonal adjustment. This index increased 0.5 percent in November following declines in both October and September. Prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods rose 0.3 percent in December after advancing 1.1 percent in the previous month. Crude material prices increased 0.3 percent after a 1.0-percent rise in November. (See table A.)

Among finished goods in December, the index for energy goods turned down 1.5 percent following a 2.1-percent rise a month earlier. Price increases for finished consumer foods accelerated from 0.2 percent in November to 1.6 percent in December. Prices for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 0.2 percent, following a rise of 0.1 percent in November.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index For Finished Goods inched up 0.1 percent in December to 126.2 (1982 = 100). From December 1993 to December 1994, the Finished Goods Price Index rose 1.7 percent after registering a 0.2-percent rise in calendar year 1993. The finished energy goods index turned up 3.4 percent in 1994 after a decline of 4.1 percent the year before. Prices for finished consumer foods moved up 1.0 percent in 1994 after increasing 2.4 percent in 1993. The index for finished goods other than foods and energy rose 1.6 percent in 1994 following a

0.4-percent rise a year earlier. At the earlier stages of processing, prices received by domestic producers of intermediate goods advanced 4.4 percent after 2 consecutive yearly increases of 1.0 percent. The Crude Goods Price Index turned down 1.1 percent in 1994 after showing virtually no change in 1993.

Finished goods

The Producer Price Index for finished energy goods fell 1.5 percent in December, seasonally adjusted. This followed a November increase of 2.1 percent. Gasoline prices were down 4.5 percent in December, after rising as much in November. (For futher details see "Quality Adjustment for Changes to Gasoline Resulting from the Clean Air Act Amendment of 1990" in this issue.) In December, prices also turned down after rising a month earlier for residential electric power. Prices for residential natural gas continued to move down. By contrast, home heating oil prices turned up 2.1 percent after falling 0.9 percent in the previous month.

Prices for finished consumer foods advanced 1.6 percent over the month following a 0.2-percent rise in November. The acceleration in price increases was led by the index for fresh and dry vegetables, which turned up almost 70 percent after a decline of 8.1 percent in the previous month. Fresh fruit prices turned up 17.5 percent after falling 3.8

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Finished goods					Intermediate goods	Crude goods
	Total	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in finished goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)		
1993:							
December	-0.1	0.6	-2.9	0.1	0.2	-0.3	-1.5
1994:							
January .....	.3	-.4	1.1	.5	.2	.1	1.7
February .....	.4	-.3	2.8	.1	.2	.4	-1.4
March .....	.2	.6	-.3	.1	.2	.2	1.3
April	0	-.5	.3	.1	-.4	0	-.2
May	-2	-.9	-1.2	.4	-.4	.1	-1.5
June .....	.1	0	.7	.1	.1	.6	.8
July .....	.5	.4	2.0	.1	.6	.4	-.5
August .....	.5	.3	1.8	.4	1.9	.6	.1
September	-3	.2	-2.9	.1	1.4	.3	-2.1
October	-.5	-.2	-1.2	-.5	1.0	.3	-.6
November .....	.5	.2	2.1	.1	1.3	1.1	1.0
December .....	.2	1.6	-1.5	.2	1.7	.3	.3

¹ Data for August 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted¹

Month	Intermediate goods				Crude goods			
	Foods	Energy	Except foods and energy	Change in intermediate goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)	Foods	Energy (unadj.)	Except foods and energy	Change in crude goods from 12 months ago (unadj.)
1993:								
December	1.4	-3.5	0.2	1.0	1.0	-5.9	1.2	0.1
1994:								
January .....	.3	-.2	.2	.9	-.9	4.1	2.7	1.8
February .....	.8	2.8	.1	.9	.9	-6.3	2.2	.4
March	-.3	0	.2	.7	-1.1	5.0	.3	1.5
April	-.3	-.6	.1	.5	-1.1	1.1	-.3	.2
May	-.9	-1.1	.3	.9	-3.9	1.2	-1.1	-3.3
June	-1.3	1.0	.6	1.3	-.7	2.5	1.1	-1.0
July	-2.0	1.6	.5	1.8	-2.5	.1	2.0	.7
August .....	.4	1.6	.5	2.5	-1.0	.4	1.5	1.3
September .....	.6	-2.0	.5	2.7	.1	-6.1	.8	-1.5
October	-1.0	-1.7	.7	3.0	-2.0	0	.9	-4.1
November .....	.3	2.8	.9	3.9	1.5	-1.0	3.4	-2.7
December	-1.0	-.9	.6	4.4	1.1	-2.3	2.5	-1.1

¹ Data for August 1994 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. For this reason, some of the

figures shown above and elsewhere in this report may differ from those previously published.

percent a month earlier and prices also turned up after declining in the previous month for pork and processed turkeys. In addition, soft drink prices moved up in December after showing no change in November and prices for pasta were unchanged after falling in the previous month. Price declines slowed somewhat for processed fruits and vegetables and for milled rice. By contrast, prices turned down following advances a month earlier for beef and veal, fin-fish and shellfish, dairy products, and for shortening and cooking oils. Price increases slowed for eggs for fresh use, bakery products, and roasted coffee. Prices fell more in December than in November for confectionery end products and for processed young chickens.

The index for consumer goods other than foods and energy inched up 0.1 percent in December, following a 0.2-percent increase in November. From December 1993 to December 1994, this index turned up 1.4 percent after falling 0.4 percent a year earlier. In December, advances were registered within this grouping for passenger cars, mobile homes, household flatware, women's apparel, alcoholic beverages, light trucks, and cosmetics. Prices declined, however, for tobacco products and for tires and tubes.

The capital equipment index moved up 0.4 percent in December after inching up 0.1 percent in November. Prices for capital goods were 2.0 percent higher in December 1994 than a year earlier, slightly larger than the 1.8 percent increase in 1993. In December, prices turned up after falling in November for light motor trucks, heavy motor trucks, electronic computers, and agricultural machinery. Prices rose more rapidly in December than in November for truck trailers. By contrast, prices turned down after rising a month earlier for communication equipment, civilian aircraft, and metal cutting machine tools. Price increases slowed for commercial furniture and prices for metal forming machine tools were unchanged after increasing in the previous month.

Intermediate goods

The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components increased 0.3 percent, seasonally adjusted, in December after rising 1.1 percent in November. When food and energy prices are excluded, this index increased 0.6 percent in December, following a 0.9-percent advance in November. Prices for intermediate energy materials as well as for foods and feeds turned down after rising in November. Indexes for both durable manufacturing and construction materials rose less than a month earlier. In addition, the index for nondurable manufacturing materials rose more than in November. (See table B.)

The index for durable manufacturing materials increased 1.4 percent after rising 1.7 percent a month earlier. From December 1993 to December 1994, this index increased 9.8 percent, almost four times its increase in 1993. The December rise was led by higher prices for aluminum mill shapes, primary aluminum, primary copper, and copper and brass mill shapes. However, prices declined for silver, zinc, gold, and flat glass.

The rise in the Producer Price Index for nondurable manufacturing materials accelerated to 1.2 percent in December from 0.8 percent the month before. After edging down 0.6 percent in 1993, this index turned up 10.5 percent in 1994. The December rise was led by the primary basic organic chemicals index which rose 5.0 percent after increasing 0.4 percent in November. Prices for inedible fats and oils and basic inorganic chemicals also rose more than in the prior month. Indexes for woodpulp, paint materials, and synthetic fibers turned up after falling on November. The index for paperboard, however, remained unchanged after rising 3.7 percent a month earlier, and miscellaneous basic organic chemical prices rose less than in November.

The index for materials and components for construction moved up 0.3 percent in December after a November in-

crease of 0.9 percent. This index increased 3.9 percent in 1994 following a 5.0-percent advance in 1993. In December, the softwood lumber index decreased 3.1 percent after rising 2.1 percent a month earlier. Indexes for plywood, nonfluid power valves, and for plumbing fixtures and brass fittings also turned down after increasing in November. Prices for fabricated structural metal products, concrete products, nonferrous wire and cable, and wiring devices all rose less than in the previous month. In addition, the index for millwork remained unchanged after rising a month earlier. Prices for gypsum products, however, turned up 2.5 percent after declining 2.0 percent in November.

The index for intermediate energy goods turned down 0.9 percent in December after rising 2.8 percent in November. This index advanced 3.0 percent from December 1993 to December 1994 following a decline of 4.2 percent in calendar year 1993. December, the gasoline index fell 4.5 percent after increasing the same amount a month earlier. Prices for diesel fuel, industrial electric power, and natural gas to electric utilities also turned down after rising in November. In addition, price increases slowed from November to December for commercial electric power, commercial and industrial natural gas, and liquefied petroleum. In contrast, prices for residual fuel turned up 3.3 percent after falling 1.8 percent a month earlier.

Prices for intermediate foods and feeds registered a 1.0-percent decline in December, following a 0.3-percent November advance. Over the year, these prices moved down 4.5 percent after rising 5.5 percent in 1993. In December, the index for crude vegetable oils turned down 1.7 percent after rising 7.7 percent a month earlier. Prices for beef and veal, fluid milk products, miscellaneous beverage materials, and liquid milk products also fell after increasing in November. In contrast, the decline in the prepared animal feeds index slowed to 1.1 percent from 2.6 percent a month earlier.

Crude goods

The Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing moved up 0.3 percent in December after rising 1.0 percent in November. The index for crude energy materials fell more than it had in November, and prices for both basic industrial materials and crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs rose less than in the prior month. (See table B.)

The index for crude energy materials declined 2.3 percent in December, the third decline in this index over the last 4 months. This index fell 1.9 percent from December 1993 to December 1994 after declining 12.3 percent a year earlier. In December, bituminous coal prices fell 6.6 percent after rising 2.3 percent in November. The index for crude petroleum fell more than it had a month earlier. By contrast, the natural gas to pipelines index turned up 2.3 percent after decreasing 3.6 percent in the prior month.

The rise in the crude nonfood materials less energy index slowed to 2.5 percent from 3.4 percent in November. The aluminum base scrap index rose 3.5 percent after increas-

ing 15.5 percent a month earlier. Prices for both iron and steel scrap and copper base scrap also rose less than in November. In addition, the index for miscellaneous roundwood products turned down after rising a month earlier, and cattle hide prices fell for the second consecutive month. By contrast, the rise in the softwood logs, bolts, and timber index accelerated to 0.8 percent from 0.1 percent in November. Prices for copper ores and raw cotton also rose more than in the previous month. In addition, the construction sand and gravel index turned up after falling in November. The basic industrial materials index rose 17.0 percent from December 1993 to December 1994, compared with a 10.7-percent increase in 1993. Some of the more substantial 1994 increases within this grouping included wastepaper (171.6 percent), aluminum base scrap (85.5 percent), copper base scrap (52.3 percent), raw cotton (34.9 percent), and cattle hides (21.7 percent). Softwood log prices, however, fell 15 percent.

The crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs index rose 1.1 percent in December after increasing 1.5 percent in November. This index fell 9.3 percent in 1994, after rising 7.2 percent in 1993. The December slaughter cattle index turned down 1.6 percent following a 6.5-percent rise in November. Prices for soybeans also fell after increasing a month earlier. The slaughter hogs index, however, turned up 14.5 percent after falling over 10 percent in November. Prices for fresh vegetables except potatoes more than doubled in December, following a decline in November. Prices for slaughter broilers and fluid milk also turned up after falling a month ago. In addition, the corn index rose more than it had in the previous month.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and other industries

Mining. The Producer Price Index for the net output of total domestic mining industries fell 0.8 percent for the second consecutive month. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) In December, prices for the bituminous coal and lignite mining industry group declined 7.2 percent after rising 2.6 percent a month earlier. Prices continued to rise rapidly for the metal mining industry group. The oil and gas extraction industry group index, however, turned up somewhat after falling in November.

After falling 7.9 percent in 1993, the Producer Price Index for total mining moved down 2.6 percent in 1994, chiefly reflecting lower prices for oil and gas extraction and for nonmetallic mineral mining. The index for total domestic mining stood at a level of 70.8 (December 1984=100).

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for total domestic manufacturing industries moved down 0.2 percent in December after increasing 0.4 percent in November. Prices for the petroleum refining industry group fell

5.7-percent after increasing 2.8 percent in the previous month. Prices for foods and kindred products moved down after showing no change a month earlier. Prices for the rubber and plastic products industry group were unchanged after rising in November. Price increases slowed somewhat for the industry groups for paper and allied products and for primary metal industries. The index for the tobacco manufacturers industry group was unchanged after inching up in November. By contrast, prices turned up somewhat after decreasing in November for the industry group for transportation equipment. Price increases accelerated for the printing and publishing industry group. Prices for the chemicals and allied products industry group rose 1 percent or more in 3 of the last 4 months.

The index for the net output of the domestic manufacturing sector stood at 121.7 in December, 2.4 percent higher than its level of a year earlier. In 1993, this index increased 0.8 percent. In 1994, all categories increased in price except for food and kindred products, which moved down 0.3 percent. The over-the-year advances for three industries were more than 9 percent: Paper and allied products; petroleum refining; and primary metal industries. Prices for the chemicals and

allied products industry group rose 7.4 percent in 1994.

Other. Among other industries, prices for waste paper collection increased over 6 percent for the second consecutive month. Prices turned up after falling a month earlier for water transportation of freight, not elsewhere classified, and for refined petroleum pipe lines. Prices rose more than in November for deep sea domestic transportation of freight and ferrous metal scrap collection. Prices for electric utilities were unchanged after falling last month. By contrast, prices turned down after rising in November for passenger car rental. Prices for hotels and motels also turned down, but after showing no change a month earlier. Price increases slowed for crude petroleum pipelines, nonferrous metal scrap collection, natural gas utilities, crude petroleum pipe lines, and for truck rental and leasing.

Over the year, the largest increases were in the indexes for waste paper collection (33.7 percent), metal scrap collection (21.9 percent), Mississippi River transportation (19.4 percent), water transportation of freight, not elsewhere classified (16.5 percent), and crude petroleum pipelines (13.7 percent). Prices for natural gas utilities declined 3.5 percent.