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

the consumer price index

for January 1973

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Price Movements

January 1973

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.3 percent in January, to 127.7 percent of its 1967 base. The rise was due to a substantial increase in food prices, the effects of which were moderated by declines in prices of nonfood commodities, particularly apparel and used cars. The January index was 3.7 percent higher than it was a year ago.

After seasonal adjustment, the January increase was 0.5 percent. Food prices, including restaurant meals and snacks, rose an average of 1.9 percent and prices of nonfood commodities were unchanged after seasonal adjustment. The services index increased 0.2 percent.

In the 6-month period ending in January, the CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.1 percent. The rate of advance was the same in the first 3 months (July-October) and the last 3 months (October-January) of the period. The food index accelerated in the October-January period to a 12.7-percent annual rate from 5.3 percent in the preceding 3 months; the nonfood commodities index, however, decelerated to a 1.3-percent rate in the last 3 months from 2.7 percent in the first 3 months. The services index rose at a 3.3-percent annual rate in both periods.

The rate of increase in the CPI during Phase II of the Economic Stabilization Program was about the same as in the 8 months of 1971 before the start of Phase I as a slowdown in the rate of increase in nonfood commodities and services, which account for more than three-quarters of the CPI market basket, offset an acceleration in the rate of increase in foods. All of the grocery store food prices as well as some of the other prices for the January CPI were obtained while Phase II of the Economic Stabilization Program was still in effect.

Monthly changes in detail

Food. Prices of food purchased in grocery stores—the major part of the total food index—rose 2.5 percent before seasonal adjustment; they usually increase slightly in January. Prices rose for most food items; increases were particularly sharp for meats, poultry, eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, and milk. Equally large price increases have been recorded for these items individually at various times during the past few years. However, in combination the rise was the largest seasonally adjusted 1-month increase since a separate food-at-home index was

Table A. Percent changes in CPI and components, selected periods

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items at seasonally adjusted compound annual rates		
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	From 3 mos. ago	From 6 mos. ago	From 12 mos. ago
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed			
January 1972	0.1	0.3	0	-0.1	-0.3	.2	.6	3.2	2.9	3.4
February .....	.5	.6	1.6	1.8	.1	.3	.2	4.8	3.4	3.7
March .....	.2	0	.2	0	.3	.2	.2	3.6	3.1	3.5
April .....	.2	.2	0	-.1	.3	.2	.2	3.1	3.2	3.4
May .....	.3	.3	-.1	-.1	.6	.5	.2	2.1	3.5	3.2
June .....	.2	.1	.6	.2	.2	0	.3	2.2	2.9	2.9
July .....	.4	.4	1.0	.6	0	.3	.3	3.3	3.2	3.0
August .....	.2	.2	.3	.5	.1	.3	.2	2.9	2.5	2.9
September .....	.4	.5	.2	.6	.7	.4	.2	4.6	3.4	3.3
October .....	.3	.3	.1	.2	.4	-.1	.4	4.1	3.7	3.4
November .....	.2	.3	.4	1.1	.2	.1	.2	4.2	3.6	3.5
December .....	.3	.2	.5	0	.1	.2	.4	3.2	3.9	3.4
January 1973 .....	.3	.5	2.1	1.9	-.5	0	.2	4.1	4.1	3.7

Table B. Comparative seasonally adjusted annual rates of change in the CPI and its major components before and during the Economic Stabilization Program

Items	1971 before Phase I (December 1970 to August 1971)	3 months Phase I (August 1971 to November 1971)	14 months Phase II (November 1971 to January 1973)	17 months Phase I and II (August 1971 to January 1973)	Latest 6 months (July 1972 to January 1973)
All items	3.8	1.9	3.7	3.4	4.1
Food	5.0	1.7	6.3	5.5	9.0
Commodities less food	2.9	0	2.3	1.9	2.0
Services	4.5	3.1	3.5	3.5	3.3

first published in January 1952. The index of food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—increased 0.4 percent.

The January rise in retail food prices followed sharp increases in wholesale prices for consumer foods in December. Higher food prices reflect a combination of factors such as declines in production, rising feed costs, and strong demand. The declines in meat and poultry production and rising feed costs were both due in part to adverse weather conditions in late 1972 which restricted livestock and live poultry marketings and delayed harvests of feed grains. Smaller egg supply was mostly due to cutbacks in flock size.

Weather was an important factor in the January increase in fresh fruit and vegetable prices. Fresh orange supplies were reduced by the early December freeze in California. Vegetable supplies were smaller because of reduced acreage planting of some items and unusually cold and rainy weather in winter producing areas during much of December. Increases in retail prices of cereal and bakery products reflected higher wholesale prices for flour, wheat, and rice resulting from strong export demand.

Nonfood commodities. The index of nonfood commodities declined 0.5 percent before seasonal adjustment. Prices of apparel commodities declined especially women's clothing prices which fell much more than they usually do in January. On a seasonally adjusted basis, prices of women's apparel declined 0.8 percent. Prices of winter coats, sweaters, and skirts fell more than they usually do and prices of some of the year-round items such as street dresses which normally are not affected by end of season sales registered declines.

Tire prices, which decreased almost steadily in 1972, declined sharply in January. Prices moved down as they usually do in January for used cars, textile housefurnishings, furniture, and houses.

The effects of these declines were partially offset by price increases for fuel oil, gasoline, home repair and maintenance goods, and new cars. New car prices continued to rise contraseasonally reflecting the early December increase for 1973 model cars.

Services. The services index increased 0.2 percent. Increases in charges for household services, particularly rent, electricity, gas, laundry flatwork, and mortgage interest rates contributed to the rise in the index as did large increases in auto repair and hospital room charges. Increases in all of these services except rent were larger than in recent months. Physicians' fees and charges for most apparel services, men's haircuts, and beauty shop services also increased in January but not as much as in December.

The effects of the preceding increases were offset partly by declines in auto registration fees, auto and property insurance, telephone charges, and local transit fares. The primary reason for the large decline in auto insurance charges was the introduction of no-fault insurance in New Jersey and Connecticut. In addition, physical damage and liability rates were lower in some cities. The decline in residential telephone services was the result of a 1-percent decrease in the federal excise tax which more than offset rate increases in some cities.

Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 120,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in January for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from table C, 69 percent of these monthly comparisons were unchanged, 10 percent decreased, and 21 percent increased between December and January. The proportion of food and service prices increasing was substantially larger than in December. The number of nonfood commodity and service prices declining also was larger. The rise in the number of service prices showing declines reflected, in large part, the decrease in the Federal excise tax on telephone service. The January index also includes 23,000 price comparisons to January from periods prior to December of which 18,000 cover the quarterly span from October to January. About 12 percent of these increased. In addition, about 5,000 rental units were surveyed in January and 18 percent of these reported rent increases from July.

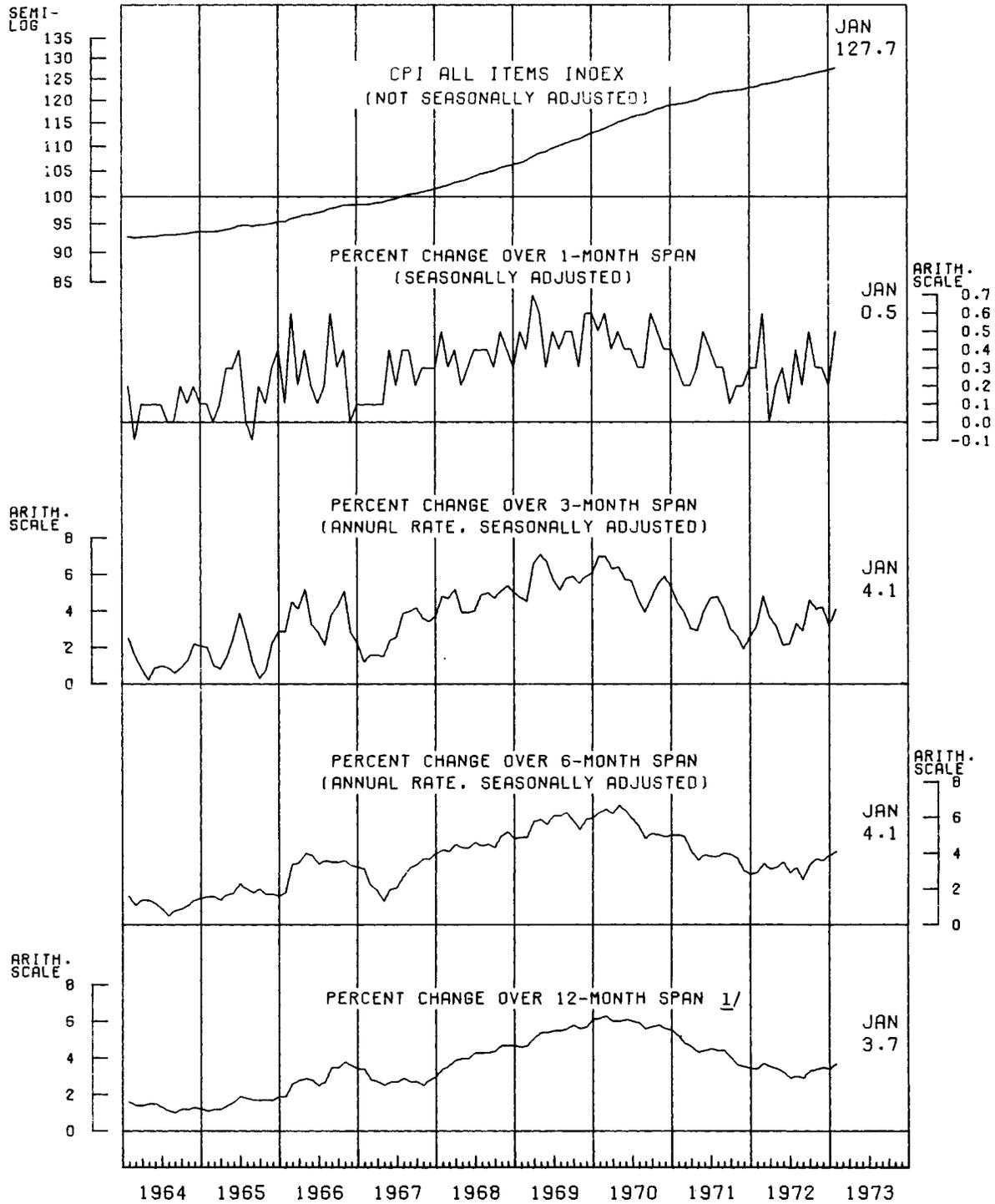
Table C. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons ¹

Item	1971		December 1971 to January 1972	1972				
	October to November	November to December		January to February	February to March	March to April	April to May	May to June
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	11	16	14	22	15	14	13	15
Decreases	9	7	11	8	10	12	12	11
No change	80	77	75	70	75	74	75	74
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	13	17	15	24	16	15	14	17
Decreases	10	8	11	9	12	13	13	12
No change	77	75	74	67	72	72	73	71
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	7	6	7	8	10	7	8	6
Decreases	6	5	10	7	5	7	6	7
No change	87	89	83	85	85	86	86	87
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	2	6	12	8	3	6	7	5
Decreases	1	1	5	3	1	4	5	3
No change	97	93	83	89	96	90	88	92
1972—Continued								December 1972 to January 1973
	June to July	July to August	August to September	September to October	October to November	November to December		
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	18	16	15	15	14	14	21	
Decreases	10	11	10	11	11	9	10	
No change	72	73	75	74	75	77	69	
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	20	18	16	17	16	17	23	
Decreases	11	13	12	12	12	10	8	
No change	69	69	72	71	72	73	69	
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	8	8	11	6	6	6	7	
Decreases	7	6	5	6	5	4	8	
No change	85	86	84	88	89	90	85	
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	4	3	4	4	4	3	9	
Decreases	3	3	2	5	2	3	27	
No change	93	94	94	91	94	94	64	

¹ Regulations of the Economic Stabilization Program permit certain types of increases, but it is not possible to determine whether allowable increases accounted for all increases shown in the table.

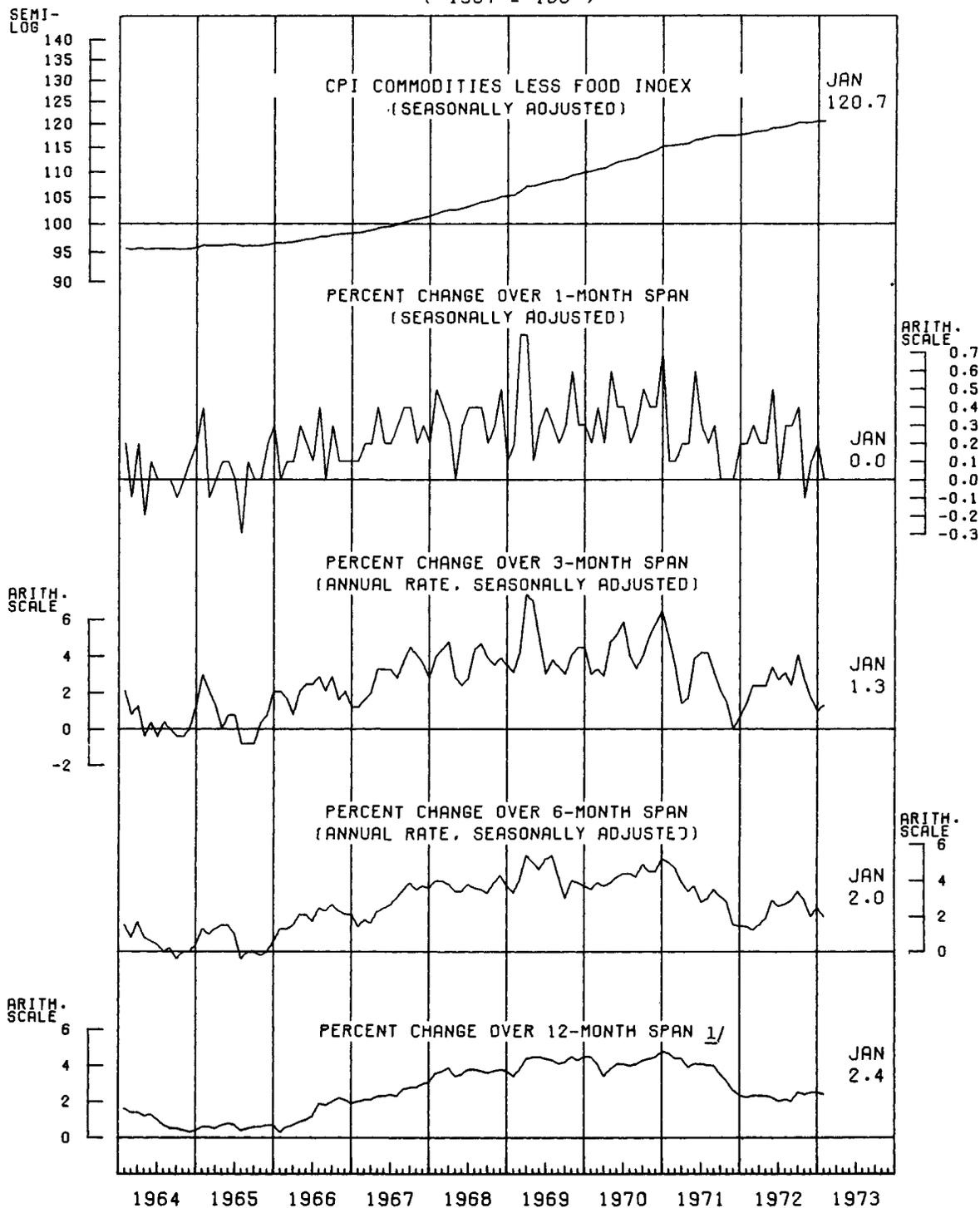
² Based on approximately 98,000 individual quotations.

CHART 1. ALL ITEMS INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1964-73
 (1967 = 100)



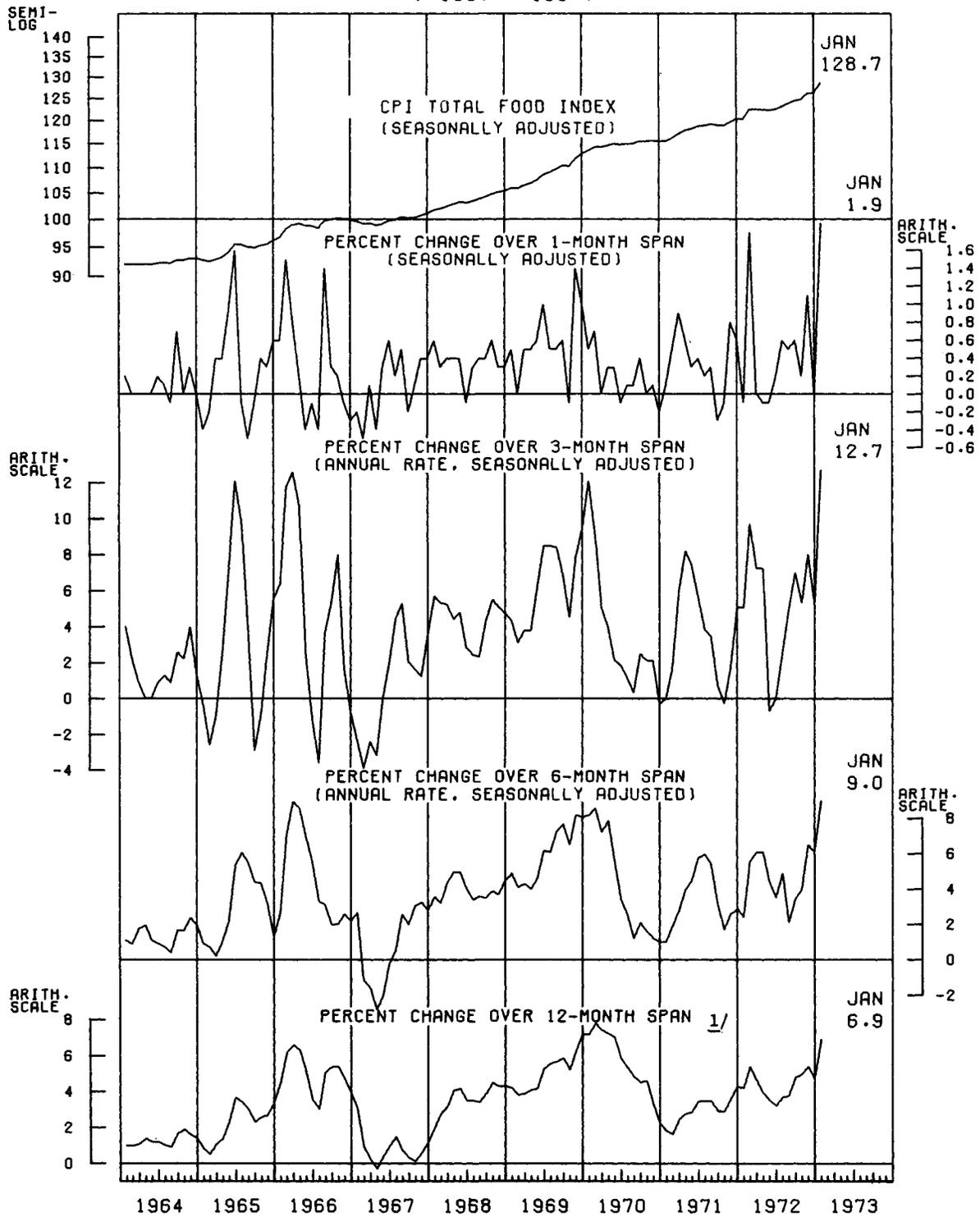
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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CHART 2. COMMODITIES LESS FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1964-73
(1967 = 100)



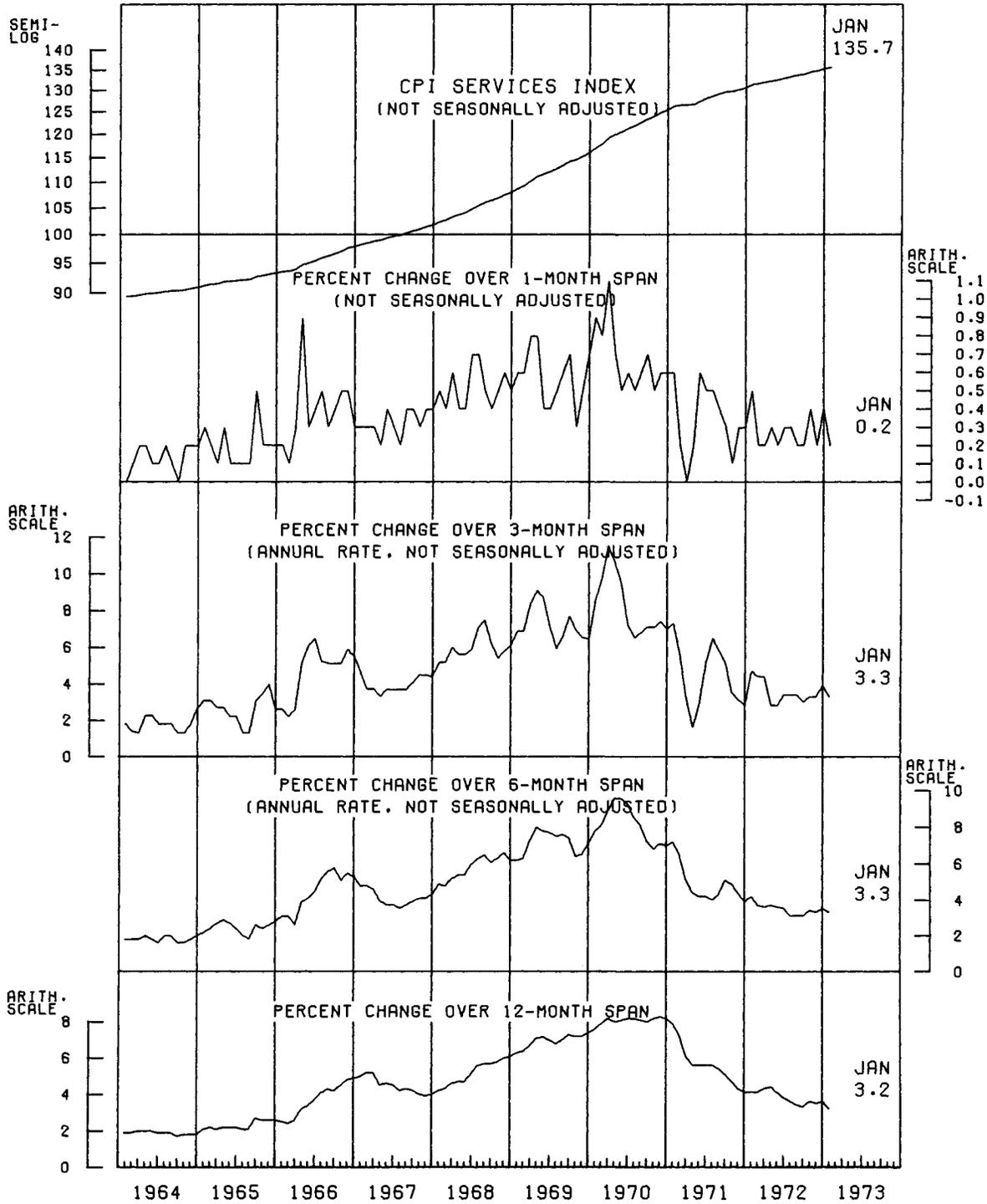
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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CHART 3. TOTAL FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1964-73
(1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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CHART 4. SERVICES INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1964-73
 (1967 = 100)



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Table 1. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes

Group	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to January 1973 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from		
	1972	December 1972	January 1973	January 1972	December 1972	October to November	November to December	December to January
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.000	127.3	127.7	3.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5
All items (1957-59=100)	-	148.0	148.5	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	62.552	122.9	123.4	4.0	.4	.4	.1	.7
Food	22.492	126.0	128.6	6.9	2.1	1.1	0	1.9
Food at home	17.494	124.1	127.2	7.6	2.5	1.5	0	2.3
Cereals and bakery products	2.243	115.8	116.3	2.3	.4	.5	.8	.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.016	131.2	136.1	12.8	3.7	1.3	.1	3.3
Dairy products	2.685	118.3	119.1	2.3	.7	.5	.5	.7
Fruits and vegetables	2.999	127.3	130.5	7.9	2.5	.8	-.9	1.7
Other foods at home	3.552	120.2	123.8	6.5	3.0	.9	.5	2.6
Food away from home	4.998	133.7	134.2	4.4	.4	.4	.5	.4
Commodities less food	40.059	121.1	120.5	2.4	-.5	.1	.2	0
Nondurables less food	23.415	121.7	120.9	2.4	-.7	.3	.2	0
Apparel commodities ¹	8.960	125.5	123.1	2.3	-1.9	.2	.3	-.3
Men's and boys'	2.799	124.8	123.5	3.0	-1.0	.7	.4	-.2
Women's and girls'	3.982	126.4	122.2	1.7	-3.3	.1	.3	-.8
Footwear	1.572	127.3	126.6	3.2	-.5	.4	.2	-.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.455	119.5	119.7	2.5	.2	.3	0	.3
Gasoline and motor oil	2.902	111.2	111.7	3.6	.4	.8	0	.3
Tobacco products	2.103	134.2	134.2	0	3.1	0*	-.1*	0*
Alcoholic beverages	2.459	120.5	120.7	1.9	.2	.1*	.1*	.2*
Fuel oil and coal	.655	119.4	120.7	1.7	1.1	.8	.1	.4
Other nondurables	6.335	118.8	118.7	2.1	-1.1	0	.2	-.1
Durables commodities	16.644	120.3	119.9	2.2	-.3	-.1	.3	-.2
Household durables	4.772	116.2	116.1	2.1	-1.1	.2	.3	0
New cars	2.060	110.6	111.1	-1.0	.5	-.6	.7	1.0
Used cars	2.056	115.0	112.8	7.1	-1.9	.7*	-.9*	-1.9*
Other durables	7.756	127.6	127.2	1.8	-.3	-.2	0	-.2
Services	37.448	135.4	135.7	3.2	.2	.2*	.4*	.2*
Rent	5.059	121.0	121.5	3.4	.4	.2*	.4*	.4*
Services less rent	32.389	138.0	138.3	3.1	.2	.3*	.3*	.2*
Household services less rent	15.486	141.9	142.3	3.9	.3	.3	.6	.6
Transportation services	5.473	136.4	136.0	.3	-.3	.1	-.1	-1.0
Medical care services	5.575	140.5	141.0	3.8	.4	.3	.1	.3
Other services	5.855	127.7	128.1	3.1	.3	.4	.3	.2
Special indexes:								
All items less food	77.508	127.6	127.4	2.7	-.2	.2	.3	0
Nondurable commodities	45.907	123.8	124.7	4.6	.7	.5	.1	1.0
Apparel commodities less footwear	7.388	125.2	122.5	2.2	-2.2	.2	.2	-.3
Services less medical care services	31.873	134.6	134.9	3.1	.2	.3*	.3*	.2*
Insurance and finance	9.829	145.8	145.4	2.2	-.3	.1	.3	-.2
Utilities and public transportation	5.522	127.6	128.2	3.1	.5	.5	-.1	.4
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.502	147.4	147.9	4.5	.3	.3	.8	.5
Appliances (including radio and T. V.)	1.621	105.8	105.7	-.1	-.1	-	-	-
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.000	127.3	127.7	3.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.5
Food	22.492	126.0	128.6	6.9	2.1	1.1	0	1.9
Housing	33.859	131.2	131.4	3.2	.2	.3*	.3*	.2*
Shelter ²	21.830	136.8	136.9	3.4	.1	0	.6	.2
Rent	5.059	121.0	121.5	3.4	.4	.2*	.4*	.4*
Homeownership ³	16.355	142.6	142.6	3.5	0	0	.6	.3
Fuel and utilities ⁴	4.708	121.9	122.8	3.7	.7	.3	.2	.8
Gas and electricity	2.434	122.5	124.1	4.3	1.3	.5	.2	1.3
Household furnishings and operation	7.321	122.3	122.2	2.3	-.1	.2	.2	.2
Apparel and upkeep	10.370	125.0	123.0	2.3	-1.6	.4	.2	-.2
Transportation	13.134	121.3	121.0	1.8	-.2	.3	-.2	-.5
Private	11.665	118.9	118.5	1.8	-.3	.4	-.2	-.5
Public	1.469	144.5	144.3	.6	-.1	.1	-.1	-.7
Health and recreation	19.768	127.5	127.8	2.8	.2	.2*	.1*	.2*
Medical care	6.447	134.4	134.9	3.4	.4	.2	.1	.3
Personal care	2.573	121.5	121.8	3.1	.2	.2	.4	.3
Reading and recreation	5.656	124.0	124.1	2.2	.1	0	0	0
Other goods and services	5.093	126.5	126.7	2.6	.2	0	.2	.3
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78.170	124.8	125.3	3.6	.4	.4	.1	.6
All items less medical care	93.553	126.9	127.3	3.7	.3	.4	.2	.5
All items less mortgage interest costs	96.298	126.4	126.8	3.7	.3	.3	.2	.4
CPI—domestically produced farm foods ⁵	15.519	123.8	127.2	8.0	2.7	.5*	.6*	2.7*
CPI—selected beef cuts ⁶	2.060	134.9	141.6	8.4	5.0	.3*	-.5*	5.0*
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967-\$1.00	-	\$0.786	\$0.783	-3.6	-.4	-	-	-
1957-59-\$1.00	-	.675	.673	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, and jewelry not shown separately.

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

³ Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

⁴ Also includes residential telephone, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

⁵ Calculated from the CPI food at home component by excluding fish, nonalcoholic beverages, bananas, chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup, and about half of the index weight for sugar.

⁶ Calculated from the CPI beef and veal component by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver.

* Not seasonally adjusted.

NOTE: Index applies to month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index-United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent changes for					
					3 months ending in			6 months ending in		
	October 1972	November 1972	December 1972	January 1973	April 1972	July 1972	October 1972	January 1973	July 1972	January 1973
Commodity and service groups										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	3.1	3.3	4.1	4.1	3.2	4.1
Commodities -----	122.2	122.7	122.8	123.6	3.4	3.7	4.0	4.7	3.6	4.3
Food -----	124.9	126.3	126.3	128.7	7.2	2.6	5.3	12.7	4.9	9.0
Food at home -----	122.8	124.6	124.6	127.5	7.3	3.0	4.7	16.2	5.1	10.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.5	115.1	116.0	116.3	4.3	-2.1	0.7	6.4	1.1	3.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	131.0	132.7	132.8	137.2	14.9	8.9	7.3	20.3	11.8	13.6
Dairy products -----	117.0	117.6	118.2	119.0	5.6	-4.0	1.0	7.0	0.7	4.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	129.7	130.7	129.5	131.7	-4.8	9.6	22.4	6.3	2.1	14.1
Other foods at home -----	117.1	118.2	118.8	121.9	6.4	1.7	1.4	17.4	4.1	9.1
Food away from home -----	132.5	133.0	133.7	134.2	4.7	3.7	3.7	5.2	4.2	4.5
Commodities less food -----	120.3	120.4	120.7	120.7	2.4	3.1	2.7	1.3	2.7	2.0
Nondurables less food -----	120.7	121.1	121.3	121.3	2.4	1.7	3.4	2.0	2.0	2.7
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	123.8	124.1	124.5	124.1	3.3	-0.3	5.3	1.0	1.5	3.1
Men's and boys' -----	122.9	123.7	124.2	124.4	3.4	-1.6	5.7	5.0	0.8	5.4
Women's and girls' -----	124.2	124.3	124.7	123.7	4.3	-2.6	6.7	-1.6	0.8	2.5
Footwear -----	126.2	126.7	127.0	126.9	3.6	3.9	3.2	2.2	3.8	2.7
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	119.1	119.4	119.4	119.7	2.4	2.4	3.1	2.0	2.4	2.6
Gasoline and motor oil -----	110.5	111.4	111.4	111.7	-5.8	7.4	9.2	4.4	0.6	6.8
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	134.3	134.3	134.2	134.2	7.9	4.0	0.9	-0.3	5.9	0.3
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted) -----	120.3	120.4	120.5	120.7	2.7	1.0	2.4	1.3	1.9	1.8
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.3	119.3	119.4	119.9	2.1	-1.0	0.3	5.5	0.5	2.9
Other nondurables -----	118.6	118.6	118.8	118.9	2.8	2.1	2.4	1.0	2.4	1.7
Durables commodities -----	119.9	119.8	120.1	119.9	2.1	5.2	1.7	0.0	3.6	0.8
Household durables -----	115.8	116.0	116.3	116.3	1.4	3.2	2.1	1.7	2.3	1.9
New cars -----	108.8	108.1	108.9	110.0	1.8	2.5	-11.9	4.5	2.2	-4.1
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted) -----	115.2	116.0	115.0	112.8	4.2	25.9	9.2	-8.1	14.5	0.2
Other durables -----	127.4	127.2	127.2	126.9	1.9	6.2	0.3	-1.6	4.0	-0.6
Services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	134.6	134.9	135.4	135.7	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.3
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	120.3	120.5	121.0	121.5	3.1	2.7	3.7	4.1	2.9	3.9
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	137.2	137.6	138.0	138.3	2.7	3.3	3.3	3.2	3.0	3.3
Household services less rent -----	140.6	141.0	141.8	142.6	1.5	5.3	3.2	5.8	3.4	4.5
Transportation services -----	137.0	137.1	136.9	135.5	-0.6	4.2	2.1	-4.3	1.8	-1.2
Medical care services -----	140.3	140.7	140.9	141.3	2.7	3.3	6.5	2.9	3.0	4.7
Other services -----	126.9	127.4	127.8	128.1	2.6	2.3	3.5	3.8	2.4	3.7
Special indexes:										
All items less food -----	126.8	127.1	127.5	127.5	2.6	3.2	2.9	2.2	2.9	2.6
Nondurable commodities -----	123.0	123.6	123.7	124.9	4.8	2.3	5.0	6.3	3.5	5.7
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	123.4	123.7	124.0	123.6	3.3	-1.3	6.1	0.6	1.0	3.3
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	133.8	134.2	134.6	134.9	2.5	3.4	3.0	3.3	2.9	3.2
Insurance and finance -----	145.1	145.3	145.7	145.4	-0.6	7.2	1.4	0.8	3.3	1.1
Utilities and public transportation -----	127.1	127.7	127.6	128.1	1.9	3.2	4.2	3.2	2.6	3.7
Housekeeping and home maintenance service -----	145.8	146.3	147.4	148.2	3.7	4.5	3.1	6.7	4.1	4.9
Expenditure classes										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	3.1	3.3	4.1	4.1	3.2	4.1
Food -----	124.9	126.3	126.3	128.7	7.2	2.6	5.3	12.7	4.9	9.0
Housing (not seasonally adjusted) -----	130.4	130.8	131.2	131.4	2.9	4.1	2.8	3.1	3.5	3.0
Shelter ² -----	135.9	135.9	136.7	137.0	1.8	5.8	2.7	3.3	3.8	3.0
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	120.3	120.5	121.0	121.5	3.1	2.7	3.7	4.1	2.9	3.9
Homeownership ³ -----	141.7	141.7	142.5	142.9	1.2	6.8	2.6	3.4	3.9	3.0
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	121.1	121.5	121.7	122.7	3.8	2.4	3.4	5.4	3.1	4.4
Gas and electricity -----	121.5	122.1	122.4	124.0	2.4	4.1	2.3	8.5	3.2	5.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	121.9	122.1	122.4	122.6	2.0	1.7	3.0	2.3	1.8	2.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.3	123.8	124.1	123.9	3.0	-0.3	5.0	2.0	1.3	3.5
Transportation -----	121.0	121.4	121.2	120.6	0.7	4.5	3.4	-1.3	2.5	1.0
Private -----	118.6	119.1	118.9	118.3	-0.7	4.9	4.2	-1.0	2.1	1.5
Public -----	145.1	145.3	145.2	144.2	-3.3	1.7	6.9	-2.5	-0.8	2.1
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted) -----	127.2	127.4	127.5	127.8	3.9	2.6	2.9	1.9	3.2	2.4
Medical care -----	134.3	134.6	134.8	135.2	1.8	3.1	5.9	2.7	2.5	4.3
Personal care -----	120.8	121.0	121.5	121.9	2.7	3.4	2.7	3.7	3.1	3.2
Reading and recreation -----	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0	3.3	2.3	3.3	0.0	2.8	1.6
Other goods and services -----	125.9	125.9	126.2	126.6	7.0	1.0	0.3	2.2	3.9	1.3
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter -----	124.2	124.7	124.8	125.6	2.7	3.3	4.3	4.6	3.0	4.4
All items less medical care -----	126.1	126.6	126.8	127.4	3.6	3.3	3.6	4.2	3.4	3.9
All items less mortgage interest costs -----	125.7	126.1	126.4	126.9	3.6	3.3	3.9	3.9	3.5	3.9
CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) -----	122.5	123.1	123.8	127.2	7.3	7.9	1.0	16.3	7.6	8.4
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) -----	135.2	135.6	134.9	141.6	13.2	10.2	-7.9	20.3	11.7	5.3

¹ Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, and jewelry not shown separately.

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

³ Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

⁴ Also includes residential telephone, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

NOTE: Index applies to month as a whole, not to any specific date.

Table 3. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items most recent index and percent changes from selected dates

Area ¹	Pricing schedule ²	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases	January 1972	October 1972	December 1972
January 1973							
U.S. City average	M	127.7	148.5		3.7	0.9	0.3
Chicago	M	126.4	143.6		3.5	.8	.2
Detroit	M	128.5	147.7		3.5	1.0	.2
Los Angeles-Long Beach	M	124.8	146.7		4.0	.7	.3
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J.	M	133.7	159.1		4.0	.4	0
Philadelphia	M	129.0	150.7		3.4	.2	.1
January 1973							
Boston	1	129.7	155.4		3.9	0.6	
Houston	1	127.2	145.5		3.2	.6	
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1	127.8	148.1		3.2	.5	
Pittsburgh	1	127.2	146.3		3.2	.6	
November 1972							
Buffalo	2	128.6		³ 141.4	4.5	1.4	
Cleveland	2	127.9	144.4		2.8	1.3	
Dallas	2	125.7		³ 135.9	2.7	.2	
Milwaukee	2	125.0	141.2		3.4	.3	
San Diego	2	126.8		⁴ 133.3	5.0	1.4	
Seattle	2	121.2	142.4		3.1	1.1	
Washington	2	129.7	151.1		4.4	1.6	
December 1972							
Atlanta	3	127.7	146.9		3.4	0.6	
Baltimore	3	128.0	148.6		2.3	.2	
Cincinnati	3	126.5	143.6		3.8	.2	
Honolulu	3	124.4		⁵ 134.1	2.7	1.1	
Kansas City	3	125.5	148.9		3.4	0	
St. Louis	3	123.7	144.5		2.3	.1	
San Francisco-Oakland	3	126.3	150.2		3.9	.6	

¹ Area coverage includes the urban portion of the corresponding Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA except for New York and Chicago where the more extensive Standard Consolidated Areas are used. Area definitions are those established for the 1960 Census and do not include revisions made since 1960.

² Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all cities; most other goods and services priced as indicated:

M—Every month.

1—January, April, July, and October.

2—February, May, August, and November.

3—March, June, September, and December.

³ November 1963=100.

⁴ February 1965=100.

⁵ December 1963=100.

NOTE: The Consumer Price Index cannot be used for measuring differences in living costs among areas; it indicates price change within areas. Estimates of differences in living costs among areas are found in the family budgets.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups percent changes from December 1972 to January 1973

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1
Food	2.1	1.9	2.5	2.4	1.9	1.7
Housing	.2	.2	-.3	0	.1	-.3
Apparel and upkeep	-1.6	-2.2	-2.9	-1.7	-4.6	-2.5
Transportation	-.2	-.6	0	-.9	-.1	-.4
Health and recreation	.2	.1	.2	.4	.3	.1
Medical care	.4	.7	.3	.3	.3	.1
Personal care	.2	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	.1	0	.2	.8	.1	-.2
Other goods and services	.2	-.1	-.1	-.1	.5	.2

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, January 1973, and percent changes from October 1972

Group	U. S. city average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles—Long Beach	Minneapolis—St. Paul	New York—North-eastern New Jersey	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh
Indexes (1967=100)										
All items	127.7	² 129.7	126.4	128.5	127.2	124.8	127.8	133.7	129.0	127.2
Food	128.6	128.0	129.0	128.5	130.7	125.7	130.6	133.4	129.0	127.3
Food at home	127.2	126.8	128.4	127.7	126.7	126.1	129.2	130.6	126.6	125.7
Cereals and bakery products	116.3	117.4	118.6	120.4	112.2	113.1	127.4	117.3	118.6	114.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	136.1	134.9	137.2	139.6	137.3	138.8	139.8	137.8	133.8	132.0
Dairy products	119.1	119.5	119.6	115.2	122.2	116.1	121.0	123.0	120.7	116.7
Fruits and vegetables	130.5	130.3	129.8	122.2	126.8	127.6	126.9	137.8	129.9	133.0
Other foods at home	123.8	122.9	125.5	125.0	123.6	122.6	125.7	125.5	121.3	124.6
Food away from home	134.2	132.1	131.5	132.0	144.4	124.6	136.7	142.3	139.6	136.9
Housing	131.4	136.4	125.8	135.0	130.4	129.0	131.3	139.7	132.0	131.1
Shelter	136.9	146.3	130.5	144.6	135.7	132.2	136.5	147.1	141.0	139.4
Rent	121.5	133.1	116.1	(³)	111.4	119.8	121.9	(³)	126.9	118.2
Homeownership	142.6	152.3	136.9	149.2	144.1	135.9	138.9	158.5	144.7	145.5
Fuel and utilities	122.8	118.3	116.5	118.7	120.5	127.6	125.5	128.2	119.4	120.1
Fuel oil and coal	120.7	118.8	114.7	117.6	-	-	116.5	123.1	114.1	-
Gas and electricity	124.1	120.5	117.7	121.2	125.1	133.8	126.8	129.2	124.9	124.9
Household furnishings and operation	122.2	127.6	117.5	116.1	125.7	118.8	119.9	127.6	123.2	120.6
Apparel and upkeep	123.0	124.9	120.6	117.3	125.7	119.4	121.7	119.5	119.4	123.1
Men's and boys'	123.5	122.5	117.6	119.4	117.7	117.3	119.8	121.4	120.1	120.9
Women's and girls'	122.2	123.9	122.9	110.4	135.8	119.7	122.2	114.0	114.1	123.9
Footwear	126.6	133.1	120.8	124.3	123.7	126.5	127.1	123.2	125.1	128.3
Transportation	121.0	⁴ 120.7	124.7	118.2	114.1	120.2	118.7	133.9	125.9	121.9
Private	118.5	⁵ 117.9	119.1	115.7	111.3	120.4	118.1	126.2	122.9	119.5
Public	144.3	138.2	160.5	148.5	159.7	117.3	128.7	163.3	143.5	138.1
Health and recreation	127.8	129.5	128.7	130.8	130.2	122.2	128.6	132.9	131.8	127.9
Medical care	134.9	137.0	134.5	143.7	138.4	131.1	129.3	143.4	144.8	131.7
Personal care	121.8	123.3	(³)	125.5	125.2	(³)	124.5	(³)	121.2	119.5
Reading and recreation	124.1	130.5	124.4	126.3	123.1	115.0	128.4	127.9	127.2	126.2
Other goods and services	126.7	124.0	130.0	121.9	129.2	120.2	129.6	133.8	128.0	129.4
Quarterly percent changes from October 1972 to January 1973										
All items	0.9	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.6
Food	3.0	1.6	3.0	3.8	2.5	3.2	3.6	2.6	2.7	2.9
Food at home	3.6	1.8	3.6	4.2	2.9	4.1	4.1	3.2	3.2	3.3
Cereals and bakery products	1.5	2.0	3.0	2.9	2.0	1.4	4.2	-.2	3.5	2.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	3.7	.5	3.2	4.3	4.3	6.0	4.0	3.3	2.8	1.8
Dairy products	1.7	1.0	1.7	2.6	2.9	.5	2.8	2.6	.9	.6
Fruits and vegetables	4.8	1.6	5.4	4.8	-.8	5.3	5.3	3.5	3.6	5.9
Other foods at home	4.9	4.6	5.4	5.9	4.1	4.6	4.3	5.2	5.4	6.2
Food away from home	1.1	.8	.5	1.7	1.2	.6	1.3	1.1	1.2	1.1
Housing	.8	1.3	.9	.8	.7	.3	-1.0	.8	-.8	.1
Shelter	.7	2.0	1.1	1.0	.2	.5	-1.5	.8	-1.7	.4
Rent	1.0	1.4	⁶ 1.4	(³)	.3	⁶ 3	.2	(³)	⁶ .6	.3
Homeownership	.6	2.2	.9	1.1	.2	.4	-1.8	.1	-2.3	.5
Fuel and utilities	1.8	-.1	.9	1.7	3.6	1.0	.6	2.5	.8	-.9
Fuel oil and coal	2.2	1.5	.5	3.2	-	-	1.2	2.2	1.6	-
Gas and electricity	2.6	-.8	2.0	2.5	6.4	.1	1.2	4.0	.8	-1.1
Household furnishings and operation	.3	.9	.3	-.6	0	-.4	-.3	-.2	0	.2
Apparel and upkeep	-1.0	-2.3	-1.7	-3.2	-2.5	-1.4	-1.1	-5.0	-3.0	-2.5
Men's and boys'	-.2	.2	-.9	-1.6	-.4	-1.1	-1.8	-2.9	-4.0	-.6
Women's and girls'	-2.9	-6.0	-3.9	-6.8	-4.8	-3.3	-1.7	-10.3	-4.7	-6.1
Footwear	.1	1.6	.8	-1.4	-2.5	1.5	0	-2.5	-2.9	.3
Transportation	-.2	.1	-.3	1.2	.4	-.6	.9	.1	.4	-.2
Private	-.2	.2	-.4	1.3	.3	-.6	.9	.1	.4	-.3
Public	.1	0	.1	0	.8	.3	1.1	.1	.5	0
Health and recreation	.5	.4	.3	.5	.5	.7	.6	.3	.4	.5
Medical care	.7	.9	1.2	.3	1.1	.6	1.5	1.6	.3	1.0
Personal care	.8	1.1	(³)	1.8	-.3	(³)	-.1	(³)	.7	-.2
Reading and recreation	.1	-.2	0	.3	.2	.7	-.2	-.9	.6	.4
Other goods and services	-.2	.1	-.6	.1	.3	.3	.7	.5	.1	.1

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Revised indexes: April 1971, 121.6; July 1971, 122.7; October 1971, 124.3; 1971 annual average 122.7; January 1972, 124.8; July 1972, 127.0.

³ Not available.

⁴ Revised indexes: April 1971, 118.2; July 1971, 120.3; October 1971, 1971 annual average, 119.4; January 1972, 119.1; April 1972, 118.5; July 1972, 119.1; October 1972, 120.6.

⁵ Revised indexes: April 1971, 114.9; July 1971, 117.4; October 1971, 116.6; 1971 annual average 116.4; January 1972, 116.1; April 1972, 115.3; July 1972, 116.1; October 1972, 117.7.

⁶ Change from November 1972.

Table 5a. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1972 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1971-72

Group	Boston	Houston	Minneapolis— St. Paul	Pittsburgh
	Indexes (1967=100)			
All items	127.1	125.2	125.5	125.3
All items (1957-59=100)	152.3	143.3	145.5	144.1
Food	123.7	125.0	124.4	122.8
Food at home	122.2	121.0	122.4	121.0
Cereals and bakery products	114.4	111.0	122.2	113.7
Meats, poultry, and fish	130.5	127.5	130.2	125.5
Dairy products	117.0	118.1	116.7	117.4
Fruits and vegetables	125.1	125.7	120.9	126.5
Other foods at home	115.3	116.5	118.8	117.1
Food away from home	128.9	138.9	133.4	134.0
Housing	133.3	128.7	130.9	129.7
Shelter	141.9	134.5	136.8	137.5
Rent ²	129.2	110.9	121.1	117.0
Homeownership	147.6	142.8	139.5	143.4
Fuel and utilities	117.3	116.2	122.9	119.7
Fuel oil and coal	117.1	-	115.1	-
Gas and electricity	120.8	120.3	123.7	124.1
Household furnishings and operation	125.8	124.4	118.9	119.7
Apparel and upkeep	124.3	125.7	119.5	123.6
Men's and boys'	120.9	116.6	120.1	120.3
Women's and girls'	125.6	135.7	117.9	127.5
Footwear	128.4	125.9	125.2	125.0
Transportation	119.5	114.8	116.4	121.2
Private	116.4	112.1	115.8	118.7
Public	137.8	157.5	126.4	138.1
Health and recreation	128.0	128.2	126.5	126.0
Medical care	134.7	135.3	126.0	128.7
Personal care ³	121.6	123.4	121.0	116.8
Reading and recreation	129.1	122.1	122.1	124.1
Other goods and services	123.4	127.9	127.8	129.5
	Percent changes 1971-72			
All items	3.6	3.6	3.1	3.1
Food	4.4	5.2	4.4	3.3
Food at home	4.6	5.1	4.7	3.3
Cereals and bakery products	1.6	-.6	1.0	-.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	8.6	10.5	10.6	9.1
Dairy products	1.7	3.1	1.7	-1.5
Fruits and vegetables	5.0	6.3	4.9	3.4
Other foods at home	1.4	1.5	1.8	-.2
Food away from home	3.7	5.2	3.3	3.2
Housing	5.1	3.3	3.6	3.3
Shelter	6.3	3.2	3.4	4.3
Rent	5.3	1.0	2.1	2.5
Homeownership	6.9	3.9	3.6	4.9
Fuel and utilities	4.7	3.3	6.7	2.6
Fuel oil and coal	1.9	-	-.3	-
Gas and electricity	4.2	2.3	4.4	2.6
Household furnishings and operation	2.3	3.4	2.1	1.1
Apparel and upkeep	2.1	3.0	1.2	3.3
Men's and boys'	-.2	3.1	-.3	1.6
Women's and girls'	2.7	3.7	1.2	5.3
Footwear	4.4	2.2	2.3	4.2
Transportation	-.1	1.5	-.8	1.0
Private	0	1.2	-.7	-.7
Public	-.1	4.8	1.6	2.8
Health and recreation	3.2	4.1	3.6	3.4
Medical care	3.3	4.0	1.8	5.0
Personal care	1.0	5.0	2.6	1.7
Reading and recreation	3.0	2.5	3.1	5.8
Other goods and services	3.9	5.4	6.8	.5

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² 1972 Annual average indexes for Chicago, Los Angeles—Long Beach, and Philadelphia are 113.2; and 118.5 and 124.4 respectively.

³ 1972 Annual average indexes for Detroit and Philadelphia are 121.3 and 120.4 respectively.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, January 1973, and percent changes from December 1972

Area ¹	Total food	Food at home						Food away from home
		Total	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Other foods at home	
Indexes (1967= 100)								
U. S. city average	128.6	127.2	116.3	136.1	119.1	130.5	123.8	134.2
Atlanta	129.9	128.6	118.7	135.7	122.7	136.1	124.7	133.7
Baltimore	129.7	128.6	115.1	136.6	121.0	132.2	126.6	134.1
Boston	128.0	126.8	117.4	134.9	119.5	130.3	122.9	132.1
Buffalo	128.1	127.1	116.9	133.6	117.6	135.1	123.9	133.9
Chicago	129.0	128.4	118.6	137.2	119.6	129.8	125.5	131.5
Cincinnati	128.6	128.3	116.5	134.7	122.9	131.5	126.3	129.7
Cleveland	128.2	127.9	113.7	136.2	122.7	129.9	125.7	130.3
Dallas	128.2	125.6	114.3	136.7	113.1	128.0	122.1	137.4
Detroit	128.5	127.7	120.4	139.6	115.2	122.2	125.0	132.0
Honolulu	126.6	124.2	108.6	129.7	120.5	131.7	122.9	133.5
Houston	130.7	126.7	112.2	137.3	122.2	126.8	123.6	144.4
Kansas City	127.9	126.6	118.4	133.3	127.3	122.2	124.8	132.1
Los Angeles—Long Beach	125.7	126.1	113.1	138.8	116.1	127.6	122.6	124.6
Milwaukee	125.7	124.5	118.8	134.0	115.6	125.2	120.3	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul	130.6	129.2	127.4	139.8	121.0	126.9	125.7	136.7
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J.	133.4	130.6	117.3	137.8	123.0	137.8	125.5	142.3
Philadelphia	129.0	126.6	118.6	133.8	120.7	129.9	121.3	139.6
Pittsburgh	127.3	125.7	114.1	132.0	116.7	133.0	123.6	136.9
St. Louis	127.1	125.4	119.9	131.4	121.4	130.2	119.1	135.1
San Diego	129.8	128.6	113.6	145.5	115.6	126.7	123.7	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland	127.8	127.8	112.6	137.4	117.1	130.9	127.0	127.9
Seattle	127.1	126.4	113.3	137.2	118.0	126.3	125.7	129.3
Washington	132.0	128.7	120.2	133.9	114.4	137.9	128.5	140.2
Percent changes December 1972 to January 1973								
U. S. city average	2.1	2.5	0.4	3.7	0.7	2.5	3.0	0.4
Atlanta	2.2	2.8	.7	4.8	1.0	.8	3.8	.2
Baltimore	1.6	2.0	0	3.3	.4	1.1	2.7	.1
Boston	1.5	1.8	.8	1.9	.3	3.4	2.5	.1
Buffalo	2.2	2.6	.9	3.4	.3	3.9	2.6	.2
Chicago	1.9	2.4	.8	3.2	1.1	2.5	2.9	.1
Cincinnati	1.3	1.6	-.5	2.9	.5	.3	2.4	.2
Cleveland	1.7	2.0	-.3	2.6	.2	2.5	3.1	.1
Dallas	2.2	2.5	.7	4.3	2.2	1.0	2.2	.7
Detroit	2.5	2.7	2.4	4.2	.4	1.7	3.0	.9
Honolulu	-.2	-.2	-.5	1.2	-.2	-5.6	3.1	0
Houston	1.9	2.3	1.4	3.9	2.4	-1.2	3.1	.2
Kansas City	1.6	2.0	.5	2.8	0	2.2	3.1	.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach	2.4	3.3	-.3	6.3	.1	2.2	3.8	.1
Milwaukee	2.2	2.8	2.7	3.3	.3	3.2	3.9	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul	2.2	2.5	3.7	3.2	.5	1.8	2.7	1.0
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J.	1.9	2.4	-.2	2.9	.8	3.9	2.6	.6
Philadelphia	1.7	2.1	.7	2.7	.5	2.2	3.0	.6
Pittsburgh	1.8	2.0	1.4	1.6	.3	3.7	3.3	.1
St. Louis	1.7	2.0	-.6	3.2	.5	2.4	2.8	.2
San Diego	3.3	4.7	.4	8.0	.3	3.9	5.6	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland	3.1	4.1	-.2	6.4	.2	5.1	4.2	.2
Seattle	3.0	3.8	.4	6.7	.6	3.2	4.4	.6
Washington	2.4	3.3	.3	6.2	.8	2.1	2.9	.2

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.
² Not available.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, January 1973 indexes and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to January 1973 from—		
	January 1973		January 1972	December 1972	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	128.6	128.7	6.9	2.1	1.9
Food away from home	134.2	134.2	4.4	.4	.4
Restaurant meals	134.3	134.4	4.7	.3	.4
Snacks	133.6	133.3	2.8	.7	.5
Food at home	127.2	127.5	7.6	2.5	2.3
Cereals and bakery products	116.3	116.3	2.3	.4	.3
Flour	105.4	105.5	4.6	2.2	1.7
Cracker meal	136.5	136.8	3.3	.3	.1
Corn flakes	99.3	99.1	-3.1	.2	.2
Rice	113.4	113.4	2.8	1.9	1.8
Bread, white	114.3	114.0	2.8	0	-.4
Bread, whole wheat	122.1	122.0	2.7	.6	.7
Cookies	111.4	111.7	2.0	.5	.4
Layer cakes	120.5	120.5	.8	.3	.5
Cinnamon rolls	122.9	122.4	3.3	-.2	-1.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	136.1	137.2	12.8	3.7	3.3
Meats	137.7	139.0	13.7	3.9	3.6
Beef and veal	142.9	143.9	9.3	4.5	3.5
Steak, round	141.9	142.6	8.5	6.5	4.5
Steak, sirloin	136.5	138.3	6.2	4.8	3.6
Steak, porterhouse	139.6	141.3	6.5	4.4	3.1
Rump roast	139.6	139.6	9.0	5.4	3.3
Rib roast	146.0	146.0	8.0	6.6	5.9
Chuck roast	142.0	144.2	8.4	5.5	5.4
Hamburger	143.4	144.7	9.6	3.5	3.7
Beef liver	135.8	137.2	18.3	1.3	1.7
Veal cutlets	168.3	169.8	12.1	2.0	1.7
Pork	135.0	137.1	23.6	5.1	5.1
Chops	138.4	141.7	24.2	7.9	7.8
Loin roast	138.7	141.4	24.8	7.9	7.9
Pork sausage	138.0	140.8	22.2	.9	1.7
Ham, whole	131.2	126.9	19.3	4.5	2.4
Picnics	132.7	133.9	17.1	4.6	5.1
Bacon	130.5	134.0	29.2	3.8	3.8
Other meats	130.4	130.8	11.6	.9	.8
Lamb chops	131.4	132.5	5.3	-.1	.2
Frankfurters	130.7	131.9	13.3	1.3	1.8
Ham, canned	126.9	125.9	16.4	1.5	.4
Bologna sausage	135.0	135.7	12.5	.5	.7
Salami sausage	132.4	132.7	13.3	.4	.5
Liverwurst	126.0	126.5	10.3	1.5	1.5
Poultry	116.1	117.5	7.1	5.4	4.1
Frying chicken	116.6	118.4	8.5	6.8	5.2
Chicken breasts	116.8	118.2	5.8	2.6	3.0
Turkey	113.3	113.1	2.0	1.4	0
Fish	149.2	148.9	10.8	.4	.1
Shrimp, frozen	140.3	140.0	14.0	-.4	-1.0
Fish, fresh or frozen	167.9	167.9	16.0	1.6	1.3
Tuna fish, canned	135.7	135.3	5.5	0	-.6
Sardines, canned	152.8	151.9	7.5	.1	.1
Dairy products	119.1	119.0	2.3	.7	.7
Milk, fresh, grocery	117.9	117.7	1.9	.8	.7
Milk, fresh, delivered	122.7	122.5	3.3	.8	.8
Milk, fresh, skim	124.2	124.2	3.1	.6	.7
Milk, evaporated	122.4	122.5	1.2	.6	.3
Ice cream	107.2	106.8	.5	.9	.8
Cheese, American process	128.3	128.4	4.9	.5	.4
Butter	105.7	105.3	-.1	.3	0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, January 1973 indexes and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to January 1972 from—		
	January 1973		January 1972	December 1972	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables	130.5	131.7	7.9	2.5	1.7
Fresh fruits and vegetables	135.5	137.3	11.0	3.8	1.8
Fresh fruits	123.5	133.5	9.7	2.5	2.5
Apples	118.0	130.2	10.5	.6	-3.4
Bananas	97.5	101.2	5.3	.2	-2.5
Oranges	129.7	138.1	4.9	8.3	15.4
Orange juice, fresh	132.1	133.2	1.0	.6	1.7
Grapefruit	126.4	145.5	4.3	-3.1	-2.1
Grapes	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	145.3	141.9	11.9	4.6	3.2
Potatoes	142.0	151.5	26.0	4.2	4.3
Onions	148.1	159.1	40.1	3.2	3.4
Asparagus	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	131.4	128.4	-9.6	4.3	.5
Carrots	140.8	138.9	-3.4	-2.6	-1.3
Celery	148.3	145.0	-15.1	9.0	5.2
Cucumbers	121.5	109.7	.5	10.5	3.2
Lettuce	142.4	144.4	6.6	-4.7	11.7
Peppers, green	141.3	141.2	23.9	17.6	15.5
Spinach	148.7	149.1	6.9	2.6	4.2
Tomatoes	164.4	156.7	14.3	12.4	31.2
Processed fruits and vegetables	123.1	122.9	3.3	.6	.6
Fruit cocktail, canned	125.1	124.7	3.0	1.5	1.7
Pears, canned	121.2	121.0	3.7	.6	.3
Pineapple-grapefruit juice, drink	117.6	117.6	2.5	1.1	1.2
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	136.5	137.2	.5	.3	.3
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	119.3	118.5	1.6	0	0
Beets, canned	128.4	128.4	8.5	.8	.5
Peas, green, canned	107.8	107.8	-.7	.6	1.1
Tomatoes, canned	119.7	119.9	4.2	.3	.5
Dried beans	141.2	140.6	5.5	.1	-.1
Broccoli, frozen	119.0	119.0	1.0	.2	.1
Other food at home	123.8	121.9	6.5	3.0	2.6
Eggs	151.6	137.1	40.4	18.4	16.1
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	116.3	115.8	-.9	-.3	-.5
Salad dressing, Italian	110.3	110.4	.1	-.6	-.6
Salad or cooking oil	119.0	118.9	-4.0	-.2	-.7
Sugar and sweets	121.7	121.8	1.3	.2	.3
Sugar	116.7	116.9	2.7	.2	.3
Grape jelly	126.8	126.7	4.4	.5	.5
Chocolate bar	130.9	131.2	.1	0	.8
Syrup, chocolate flavored	111.2	111.1	-1.9	.1	-.4
Nonalcoholic beverages	123.9	124.0	2.9	.6	.6
Coffee, can and bag	124.3	124.4	5.2	1.0	.9
Coffee, instant	125.0	125.0	.2	.6	.7
Tea	109.7	109.8	3.4	-.1	-.2
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	129.6	129.7	1.5	.4	.2
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	128.7	129.1	.6	.5	.5
Prepared and partially prepared foods	115.7	115.8	1.9	0	0
Bean soup, canned	116.7	116.6	1.9	.1	-.1
Chicken soup, canned	104.2	104.2	-2.1	-.6	-.7
Spaghetti, canned	122.3	122.2	3.6	.1	.2
Mashed potatoes, instant	112.4	112.7	.8	-.4	-.4
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	112.3	112.4	3.5	.4	.1
Baby foods	109.9	109.7	-1.1	.1	.1
Sweet pickle relish	130.1	129.7	6.6	.2	.1
Pretzels	114.7	115.2	.5	-.3	0

¹ Priced only in season.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, January 1973, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to January 1973 from:	
		December 1972	January 1973	January 1972	December 1972
Housing		131.2	131.4	3.2	0.2
Shelter ¹		136.8	136.9	3.4	.1
Rent residential		121.0	121.5	3.4	.4
Homeownership ²		142.6	142.6	3.5	0
Mortgage interest rates		117.5	117.9	-.4	.3
Property taxes		150.6	150.8	6.9	.1
Property insurance premiums		125.0	124.5	1.7	-.4
Maintenance and repairs		144.2	144.7	5.0	.3
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		127.3	127.9	5.4	.5
Exterior house paint		118.1	119.0	1.1	.8
Interior house paint		118.9	119.1	2.8	.2
Maintenance and repair services		151.5	151.9	4.8	.3
Repainting living and dining rooms		163.7	164.1	6.3	.2
Reshingling house roof		158.6	159.6	5.0	.6
Residing house		138.7	139.1	4.3	.3
Replacing sink		150.4	150.5	4.6	.1
Repairing furnace		157.4	157.9	4.6	.3
Fuel and utilities		121.9	122.8	3.7	.7
Fuel oil and coal		119.4	120.7	1.7	1.1
Fuel oil, No. 2		117.0	118.3	1.5	1.1
Gas and electricity		122.5	124.1	4.3	1.3
Gas		125.1	126.2	3.8	.9
Electricity		120.2	122.1	4.7	1.6
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		115.0	114.6	3.6	-.3
Residential water and sewerage services		141.7	141.7	3.9	0
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		122.3	122.2	2.3	-.1
Housefurnishings		117.3	116.9	1.7	-.3
Textiles		115.4	113.1	2.1	-2.0
Sheets		119.0	113.6	3.2	-4.5
Curtains, tailored		113.2	114.1	3.4	.8
Bedspreads		113.9	110.2	4.9	-3.2
Drapery fabric		124.6	125.0	5.1	.3
Pillows, bed		107.4	102.1	-4.6	-4.9
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		114.1	113.1	0	-.9
Furniture and bedding		122.1	121.8	1.7	-.2
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	105.8	105.7	1.1	-.1
Sofas, upholstered		121.2	120.5	1.0	-.6
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	101.6	101.8	1.7	.2
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	105.2	104.4	1.0	-.8
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	98.7	98.5	-.7	-.2
Sofas, dual purpose		118.2	117.7	.9	-.4
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	105.2	105.3	1.5	.1
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Cribs		120.2	120.0	1.7	-.2
Floor coverings		106.6	106.6	.3	0
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		101.4	101.2	-.7	-.2
Vinyl sheet goods		119.1	119.6	3.5	.4
Vinyl asbestos tile		118.1	119.0	1.2	.8
Appliances (excluding radio and T. V.)		109.9	109.9	.3	0
Washing machines, electric, automatic		110.8	111.0	.7	.2
Vacuum cleaners, canister type		103.8	103.7	-.3	-.1
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.4	108.1	-.1	-.3
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		111.0	111.1	-.1	.1
Clothes dryers, electric		114.8	114.6	1.1	-.2
Air conditioners, demountable		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable		109.4	108.7	.1	-.6
Garbage disposal units		111.0	111.8	.8	.7
Other Housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		126.6	126.9	5.7	.2
Flatware, stainless steel		129.8	130.7	7.1	.7
Table lamps, with shade		126.4	126.8	3.9	.3
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Electric drills, hand-held		107.0	106.4	-.6	-.6
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		111.5	111.4	.4	-.1
Paper napkins		134.4	135.6	5.4	.9
Toilet tissue		125.6	125.2	.6	-.3
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic service, general housework		141.6	141.9	4.0	.2
Babysitter services		139.3	139.2	4.3	-.1
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		140.9	142.1	4.2	.9
Licensed day care services, preschool child		125.8	125.8	5.4	0
Washing machine repairs		143.6	144.1	4.3	.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, January 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to January 1973 from:	
		December 1972	January 1973	January 1972	December 1972
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		125.0	123.0	2.3	-1.6
Apparel commodities		125.5	123.1	2.3	-1.9
Apparel commodities less footwear		125.2	122.5	2.2	-2.2
Men's and boys'		124.8	123.5	3.0	-1.0
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends		130.8	128.8	6.3	-1.5
Suits, year round weight		134.3	129.4	2.3	-3.6
Suits, tropical weight	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Jackets, lightweight		114.3	115.3	2.0	.9
Slacks, wool or wool blends		116.4	115.7	0	-.6
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		142.0	142.4	6.3	.3
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		115.2	115.8	1.5	.5
Shirts, work, cotton, or polyester/cotton		116.0	116.1	1.4	.1
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		113.5	110.7	-1.7	-2.5
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		118.5	118.6	.3	.1
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		116.2	116.2	1.7	0
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton		117.0	117.7	1.2	.6
Boys':					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends		127.1	123.1	6.3	-3.1
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		121.6	119.6	1.3	-1.6
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends		129.7	130.6	3.3	.7
Undershorts, cotton		120.7	121.1	1.0	.3
Women's and girls'		126.4	122.2	1.7	-3.3
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends		134.5	121.7	4.7	-9.5
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton		136.2	123.7	6.4	-9.2
Sweaters, wool or acrylic		124.4	115.9	-4.8	-6.8
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers		147.2	140.1	3.8	-4.8
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers		124.7	124.2	5.6	-.4
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber		133.4	130.9	1.0	-1.9
Slips, nylon		110.5	110.6	-.5	.1
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot		118.8	118.4	1.5	-.3
Girdles, manmade blend		118.2	116.7	.5	-1.3
Brassieres, nylon lace		123.7	121.5	-.7	-1.8
Hose, or panty hose, nylon seamless		95.0	94.6	-2.9	-.4
Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers		114.8	114.7	-1.0	-.1
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton		110.8	110.5	.3	-.3
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic		148.3	146.0	5.1	-1.6
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends		114.6	110.1	-6.0	-3.9
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic		119.1	104.7	4.5	-12.1
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends		125.3	120.6	10.7	-3.8
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton		140.9	137.1	4.6	-2.7
Slips, polyester blends		109.8	109.9	-1.6	.1
Handbags, plastic		127.0	122.8	-1.0	-3.3
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable		116.9	116.3	2.9	-.5
Yard goods, polyester blend		118.7	118.7	-1.6	0
Wrist watches, men's and women's		117.3	117.3	2.9	0
Footwear		127.3	126.6	3.2	-.5
Men's:					
Shoes, street		127.5	126.7	5.8	-.6
Shoes, work, high		127.1	127.4	5.2	.2
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		128.4	125.5	1.0	-2.3
Shoes, evening, pump		123.6	123.0	1.9	-.5
Shoes, casual		128.3	128.0	2.3	-.2
House slippers, scuff		126.9	127.2	2.6	.2
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		130.0	129.5	5.8	-.4
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		124.9	124.9	3.2	0
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump		130.2	130.8	1.7	.5
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses		118.8	119.0	1.5	.2
Automatic laundry service		115.7	115.8	1.8	-.1
Laundry, men's shirts		125.0	125.3	4.0	.2
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment		135.5	135.9	3.2	.3
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift		118.9	119.1	4.7	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, January 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to January 1973 from:	
		December 1972	January 1973	January 1972	December 1972
Transportation		121.3	121.0	1.8	-0.2
Private ⁷		118.9	118.5	1.8	-.3
Automobiles, new		110.6	111.1	-1.0	.5
Automobiles, used		115.0	112.8	7.1	-1.9
Gasoline, regular and premium		110.2	110.7	3.7	.5
Motor oil, premium		124.7	125.1	2.3	.3
Tires, new, tubeless		114.8	113.1	-4.1	-1.5
Auto repairs and maintenance ⁸		136.8	138.4	4.0	1.2
Auto insurance rates		139.6	138.4	-1.7	-.9
Auto registration		127.7	123.0	-3.2	-3.7
Parking fees, private and municipal		149.4	149.7	8.4	.2
Public		144.5	144.3	.6	-.1
Local transit fares		150.8	150.6	.3	-.1
Taxicab fares		135.6	135.6	2.1	0
Railroad fares, coach		122.2	122.2	-4.7	0
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		132.1	132.1	1.9	0
Bus fares, intercity		144.0	144.0	5.8	0
Health and recreation		127.5	127.8	2.8	.2
Medical care		134.4	134.9	3.4	.4
Drugs and prescriptions		105.6	105.7	.2	.1
Over-the-counter items		111.7	111.7	1.3	0
Multiple vitamin concentrates		94.9	94.5	-.6	-.4
Aspirin compounds		117.0	117.6	3.1	.5
Liquid tonics		100.9	101.2	.4	.3
Cold tablets or capsules		114.2	114.3	1.3	.1
Adhesive bandages, packages		125.2	125.2	1.1	0
Cough syrup		114.2	113.9	2.0	-.3
Prescriptions		100.5	100.6	-.9	.1
Anti-infectives		72.6	72.6	-8.0	0
Sedatives and hypnotics		127.9	127.8	2.5	-.1
Ataractics		103.5	103.8	1.2	.3
Antispasmodics		108.0	107.8	-.1	-.2
Cough preparations		117.0	117.6	-.1	.5
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		112.1	112.1	.1	0
Analgessics, internal		132.0	133.4	5.0	1.1
Anti-obesity		110.1	110.7	2.3	.5
Hormones		92.6	92.6	-1.5	0
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		135.4	135.7	2.6	.2
General physician, office visits		136.6	137.0	2.8	.3
General physician, house visits		138.8	139.3	3.3	.4
Obstetrical cases		134.6	134.7	2.0	.1
Pediatric care, office visits		137.8	138.0	2.0	.1
Psychiatrist, office visits		131.7	131.8	3.0	.1
Herniorrhaphy, adult		129.6	129.7	2.3	.1
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		130.5	130.6	1.5	.1
Dentists' fees		133.7	134.3	2.9	.4
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		135.5	136.6	3.6	.8
Extractions, adult		133.3	133.2	2.1	-.1
Dentures, full upper		130.2	130.7	2.0	.4
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		126.3	126.5	2.8	.2
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis		121.3	121.4	2.3	.1
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	103.2	103.6	3.6	.4
Semiprivate rooms		176.3	177.6	4.7	.7
Operating room charges		173.1	173.5	6.1	.2
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G. I		130.1	130.7	2.3	.5
Laboratory tests, urinalysis	Jan. 72	102.7	102.7	2.7	0
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL	Jan. 72	99.4	99.7	-.3	.3
Tranquilizers, chlordiazepoxide, HCL and meprobate	Jan. 72	101.9	102.0	2.0	.1
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	104.0	104.0	4.0	0
Intravenous solution, saline	Jan. 72	102.8	103.0	3.0	.2
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath	Jan. 72	102.8	102.9	2.9	.1
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	102.4	101.9	1.9	-.5
Personal care		121.5	121.8	3.1	.2
Toilet goods		117.9	118.1	2.6	.2
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		109.5	109.4	-.5	-.1
Toilet soap, hard milled		123.3	123.3	3.0	0
Hand lotions, liquid		127.3	127.3	5.0	0
Shaving cream, aerosol		107.6	108.3	1.1	.7
Face powder, pressed		139.3	140.6	15.2	.9
Deodorants, aerosol		104.6	104.4	-.5	-.2
Cleansing tissues		122.2	122.2	-1.8	0
Home permanent		109.8	109.9	-1.3	.1
Personal care services		125.2	125.6	3.5	.3
Men's haircuts		127.2	127.5	2.9	.2
Beauty shop services		123.9	124.3	4.1	.3
Women's haircuts		126.4	126.8	5.5	.3
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		127.4	128.0	4.3	.5
Permanent waves, cold		113.6	113.8	2.1	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, January 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to January 1973 from:	
		December 1972	January 1973	January 1972	December 1972
Reading and recreation ⁹		124.0	124.1	2.2	0.1
Recreational goods		107.9	107.8	.4	-.1
TV sets, portable and console		99.0	98.8	-1.1	-.2
TV replacement tubes		133.4	133.4	5.5	0
Radios, portable and table model		99.2	99.1	-.7	-.1
Tape recorders, portable		94.5	92.9	-5.5	-1.7
Phonograph records, stereophonic		108.0	108.1	.8	.1
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		88.2	88.3	0	.1
Film, 35mm, color		108.1	108.1	-.5	0
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		105.1	105.3	.2	.2
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		126.0	126.4	.5	.3
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		108.1	107.8	-2.7	-.3
Bowling balls		114.2	114.2	.7	0
Bicycles, boys'		116.7	117.5	3.3	.7
Tricycles		114.4	114.0	1.2	-.3
Dog food, canned or boxed		110.7	110.8	1.0	.1
Recreational services		129.3	129.7	2.2	.3
Indoor movie admissions		142.1	142.7	2.7	.4
Adult		140.8	141.2	2.5	.3
Children's		145.9	146.9	3.3	.7
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		146.6	148.2	3.6	1.1
Bowling fees, evening		122.0	122.2	3.6	.2
Golf green fees	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		98.7	98.7	.1	0
Film developing, color		116.1	116.2	-1.7	.1
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		133.4	133.6	2.2	.1
Magazines, single copy and subscription		134.1	134.1	7.4	0
Piano lessons, beginner		125.0	125.2	3.0	.2
Other goods and services		126.5	126.7	2.6	.2
Tobacco products		134.2	134.2	3.1	0
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		135.9	136.0	3.3	.1
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		136.2	136.2	3.0	0
Cigars, domestic, regular size		111.3	111.2	1.4	-.1
Alcoholic beverages		120.5	120.7	1.9	.2
Beer		114.4	114.6	1.0	.2
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		109.0	109.1	1.6	.1
Wine, dessert and table		128.3	128.5	2.6	.2
Beer away from home		132.6	132.8	2.7	.2
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		122.7	123.0	2.9	.2
Bank service charges, checking accounts		106.5	106.5	-2.9	0
Legal services, short form will		153.0	155.5	9.7	1.6

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

³ Also includes pine shelving, furnace filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.

⁴ Also includes venetian blinds, nails, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholstering, and moving expenses.

⁵ Priced only in season.

⁶ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

⁷ Also includes recapped tires and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

⁸ Includes price for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front-end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

⁹ Also includes outdoor motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average changes in prices of goods and services usually bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers. It is based on prices of about 400 items which were selected to represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage earners and clerical workers. Prices for these items are obtained in urban portions of 39 major statistical areas and 17 smaller cities, which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States. They are collected from about 18,000 establishments—grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments.

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 56 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the five largest areas and every 3 months in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by

personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain local transit fares, public utility rates, newspaper prices, fuel prices, and certain other items.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in the spending of all wage earners and clerical workers. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published for 23 areas.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date—1967—which equals 100.0. An increase of 22 percent, for example, is shown as 122.0. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: The price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers has risen from \$10 in 1967 to \$12.20.

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

Because price data are used for different purposes by different groups, the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes seasonally adjusted as well as unadjusted changes each month.

For analyzing general price trends in the economy, seasonally adjusted changes are usually preferred, since they eliminate the effect of changes that normally occur at the same time and in about the same magnitude every year such as price movements resulting from changing

climatic conditions, production cycles, model changeovers, holidays, and sales.

The unadjusted data are of primary interest to consumers concerned about the prices they actually pay. Unadjusted data also are used extensively for escalation purposes. Many collective bargaining contract agreements and pension plans, for example, tie compensation changes to the Consumer Price Index unadjusted for seasonal variation.

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

A system of "replicated" samples introduced into the index structure in the 1964 revision permits an estimate of sampling error for the CPI.¹ The table below shows standard errors for monthly, quarterly, and

are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard error.

Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 1971 data

Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items .....	.03	.05	.08
Food at home .....	.07	.10	.12
Food away from home .....	.08	.15	.30
Housing .....	.05	.08	.16
Apparel and upkeep .....	.19	.31	.26
Transportation .....	.09	.16	.20
Medical care .....	.06	.10	.17
Personal care .....	.11	.19	.34
Reading and recreation .....	.06	.10	.16
Other goods and services .....	.08	.14	.32

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

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1971 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1972.

annual percent changes in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1971 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances

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

A Note About Calculating Index Changes

Percent changes expressed as annual rates are computed according to the standard formula for compound growth rates. These data indicate what the percent change would be if the current rate were maintained for a 12-month period.

Movements of the indexes from 1 month to another are usually expressed as percent changes rather than changes in index points because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percent changes are not. The following example illustrates the computation of index point and percent changes:

CPI	123.8
less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
index point difference =	0.6

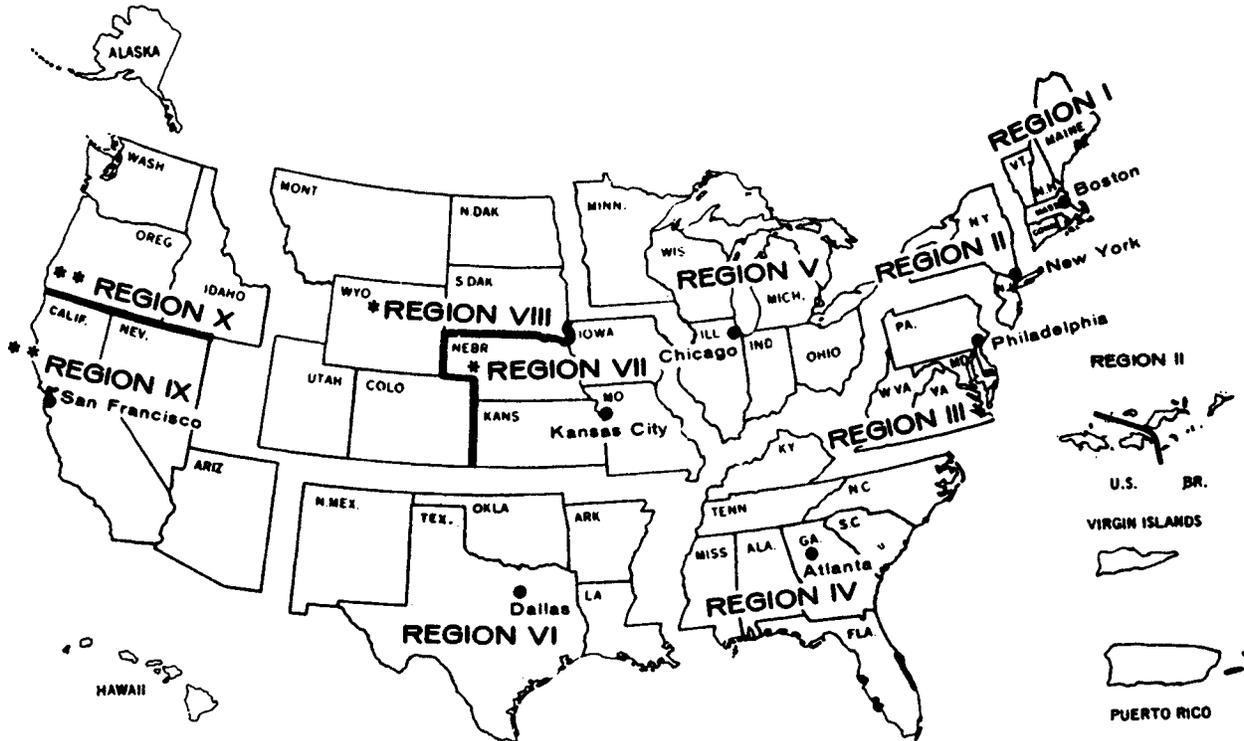
Index point difference divided by the index for the previous period:

$$\frac{123.8 - 123.2}{123.2} \times 100 = 0.5$$

Seasonally adjusted percent changes in the U.S. All Items Index are based on seasonal adjustment factors and seasonally adjusted indexes carried to two decimal places. This procedure helps to eliminate rounding error in the percent changes.

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