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

the consumer price index

for January 1974

CONTENTS

	Page
Price movements	1
Charts 1—4. Consumer price indexes for all items and major components, and rates of change over 1-, 3-, 6-, and 12-months spans	4
Table 1. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes	8
Table 2. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes	9
Table 3. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items most recent index and percent changes from selected dates	10
Table 4. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from December 1973 to January 1974	10
Table 5. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, January 1974, index and percent changes from October 1973	11
Table 5-A. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1973 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1972-73 ...	12
Table 6. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, January 1974, and percent changes from December 1973	13
Table 7. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, January 1974, and percent changes from selected dates	14
Table 8. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, January 1974, and percent changes from selected dates	16

Price Movements

January 1974

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.9 percent in January to 139.7 of its 1967 base. Higher prices for food and energy items accounted for about four-fifths of the increase in the January index, with each component contributing about equally. The effect of the increases was moderated by price declines for apparel and used cars. The January CPI was 9.4 percent higher than it was a year ago.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI increased 1.0 percent in January. The increase was 0.5 percent in December and 0.8 percent in November. The food index rose 1.6 percent in January, compared with 0.3 percent in December and 1.4 percent in November. The increase in the nonfood commodities index of 1.3 percent was almost twice as much as the increases in each of the 2 preceding months. The services index rose 0.7 percent in January, compared with 0.6 percent in November and in December.

Monthly changes in detail (not seasonally adjusted)

The index for food purchased in grocery stores—which usually is unchanged in January—increased 1.8 percent, twice the increases in both November and December. Meat and poultry prices, which declined in each of the last 3 months of 1973, increased in January, and prices of most other foods continued to rise. Meat prices rose because of decreased supplies caused by transportation difficulties, reduced livestock slaughter, and strong demand. Increases in poultry prices resulted from firm demand and short supplies caused by holiday-shortened slaughter weeks in late December. Increases in prices of dairy products and cereal and bakery products, however, were not as large as those recorded during most of 1973, as prices of flour and bread leveled out in January and prices of butter declined. Prices of processed

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items		
								Compound annual rates		From 12 months ago
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Serv-ices	From 3 months ago	From 6 months ago	
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed
1973:										
January	0.3	0.5	2.1	2.1	-0.5	0.2	0.2	4.0	4.1	3.7
February .....	.7	.7	1.9	1.9	.3	.3	.4	5.7	5.0	3.9
March .....	.9	.9	2.6	2.4	.5	.5	.3	8.6	5.9	4.7
April .....	.7	.6	1.5	1.4	.7	.4	.4	9.2	6.6	5.1
May .....	.6	.6	1.0	1.1	.6	.4	.4	8.7	7.2	5.5
June .....	.7	.6	1.4	.9	.6	.5	.4	7.4	8.0	5.9
July .....	.2	.2	.8	.5	-.2	.1	.2	5.7	7.4	5.7
August	1.8	1.9	6.0	6.1	.2	.5	.7	11.4	10.0	7.5
September .....	.3	.3	-.7	-.1	.4	.1	.9	10.3	8.8	7.4
October .....	.8	.8	.1	.5	.9	.5	1.1	13.0	9.2	7.9
November .....	.7	.8	1.1	1.4	.7	.7	.6	8.0	9.7	8.4
December .....	.7	.5	.9	.3	.6	.7	.6	9.0	9.6	8.8
1974:										
January .....	.9	1.0	1.6	1.6	.6	1.3	.7	9.9	11.4	9.4

Table B. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons ¹

Change	December 1972 to January 1973	1973					
		January to February	February to March	March to April	April to May	May to June	June to July
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	21	27	26	24	20	20	16
Decreases	10	9	8	10	11	11	9
No change	69	64	66	66	69	69	75
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	23	31	30	27	23	23	18
Decreases	8	10	9	12	13	12	10
No change	69	59	61	61	64	65	72
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	7	12	11	11	9	13	8
Decreases	8	4	5	4	5	5	6
No change	85	84	84	85	86	82	86
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	9	5	4	4	6	3	2
Decreases	27	4	2	3	3	2	2
No change	64	91	94	93	91	95	96
1973—Continued							December 1973 to January 1974
		July to August	August to September	September to October	October to November	November to December	
All items ²		100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases		29	23	26	25	22	25
Decreases		9	18	19	16	12	12
No change		62	59	55	59	66	63
Food at home		100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases		34	26	29	27	23	26
Decreases		10	21	22	10	15	11
No change		56	53	49	54	62	63
Commodities less food		100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases		7	10	23	33	31	36
Decreases		5	11	5	4	4	7
No change		88	79	72	63	65	57
Services		100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases		5	5	6	5	6	12
Decreases		2	4	3	1	1	21
No change		93	91	91	94	93	67

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 95,000 individual quotations.

fruits and vegetables continued to move up rapidly, especially dried beans; prices of fresh fruits rose more than they usually do in January, and prices of fresh vegetables increased seasonally. Among other food items, egg prices rose more than usual because of higher shell egg prices at the wholesale level and increasing demand. Coffee prices rose, reflecting higher green coffee prices at wholesale. Sugar prices continued to rise in response to the tight supply situation for raw sugar and higher processing and transportation costs. The index for food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—rose 0.6 percent in January, about the same as in December, and noticeably less than the increases last fall.

The nonfood commodities index rose 0.6 percent; it usually declines by this amount in January. Prices of fuel oil and gasoline continued to rise sharply. Over the 12 months that ended in January, the fuel oil and coal index and the gasoline and motor oil index increased 61.2 percent and 25.1 percent, respectively. (See page 16 for details on retail gasoline prices.) Prices also increased in January for other nonfood commodities such as newspapers, housekeeping supplies, and household durables. The new car index rose more than it usually does in January, reflecting the mid-December increases in manufacturers' prices. The effect of these price increases was partly off-set by lower prices of used cars and seasonal declines in apparel prices.

The services index rose 0.7 percent in January. Higher charges for gas and electricity accounted for almost a fourth of the rise. Rate and tax increases, and fuel adjustments for electricity all contributed to the rise. In addition, charges for other household services such as

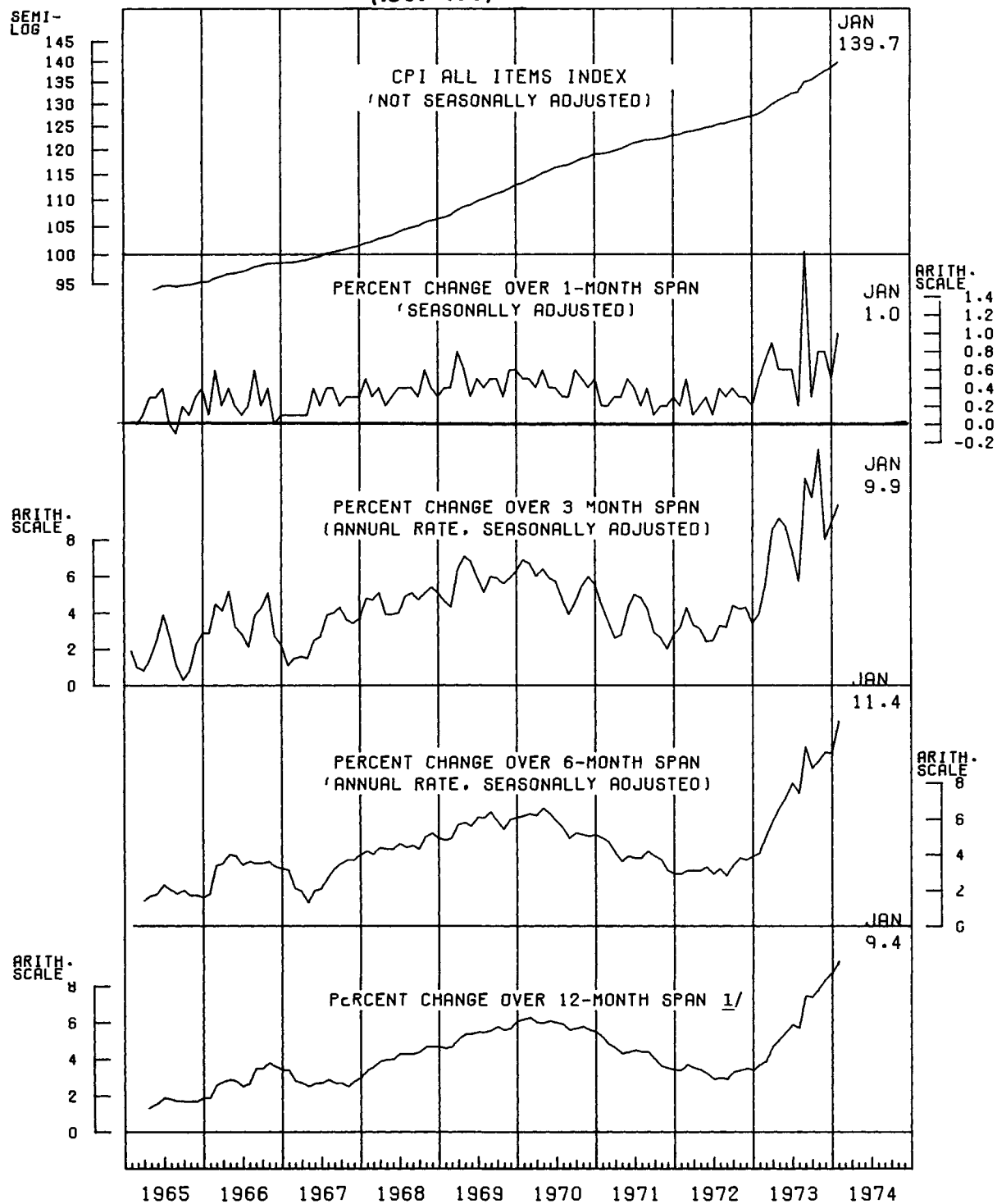
home maintenance and repairs, housekeeping services, property taxes, and mortgage interest costs also rose. The index for medical care services rose more rapidly than it has in recent months, led by increases in dentists' fees and charges for semiprivate hospital rooms. In the transportation services category, charges for auto repairs continued to rise, and auto registration fees increased. Local transit fares declined.

Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 118,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in January for use in this index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations (accounting for about 40 percent of the weight of the CPI market basket) represent monthly comparisons. About 25 percent of these monthly comparisons showed an increase, 12 percent showed a decrease, and 63 percent showed no change between December and January, as can be seen from table B. The proportion of nonfood commodity prices increasing in January was markedly larger than increases in each of the preceding three months. The proportions of food and service prices increasing were larger than in December.

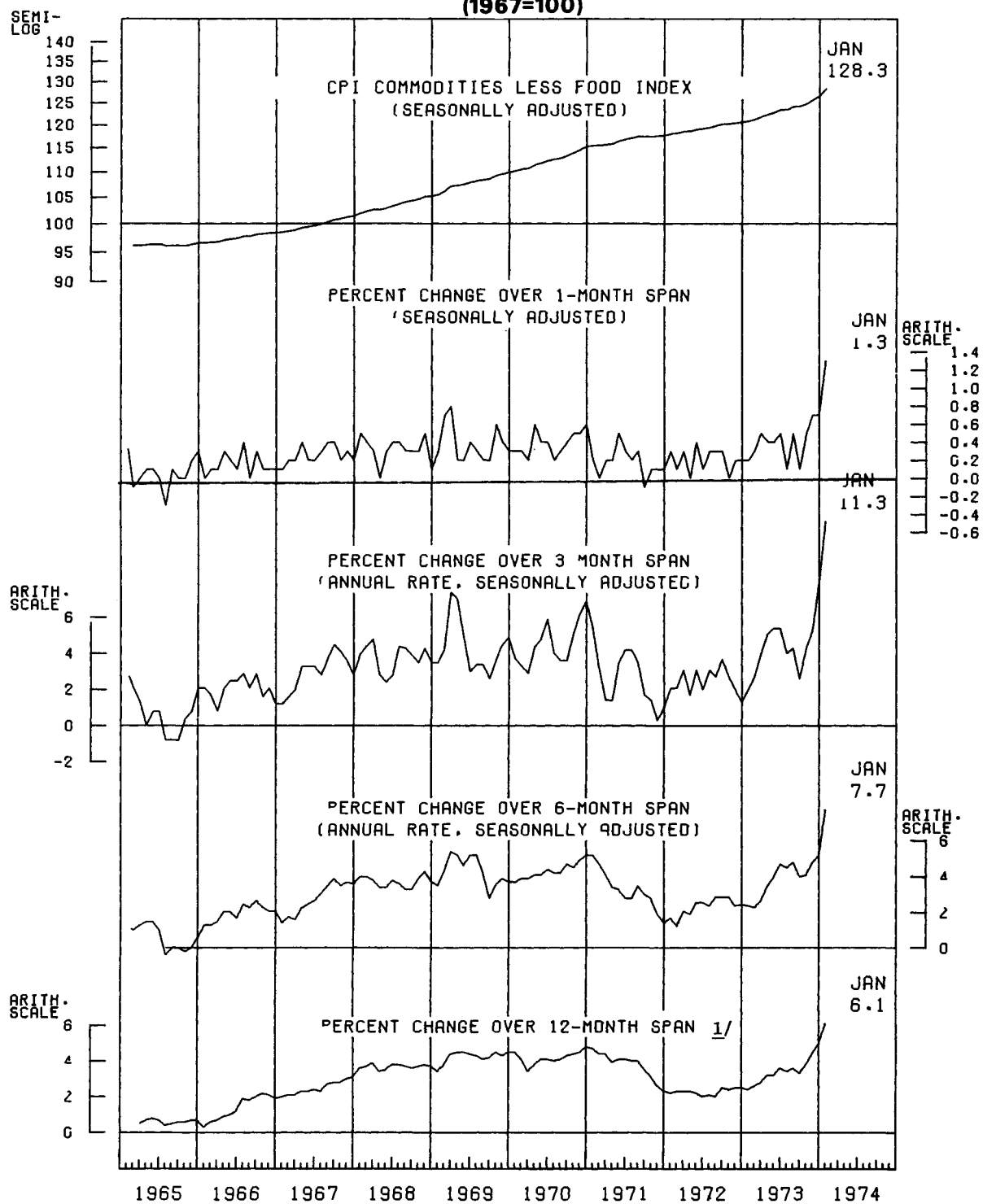
The January index also includes approximately 23,000 price comparisons from periods before December, 18,000 of which cover the quarterly span from October to January. About 21 percent of these quarterly price comparisons increased, more than in the September-to-December period. In addition, about 4,800 rental units were surveyed in January, and 28 percent of those reported rent increases from July 1973, more than for the 6-month period ended in December.

**Chart 1. All items index and its rate of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



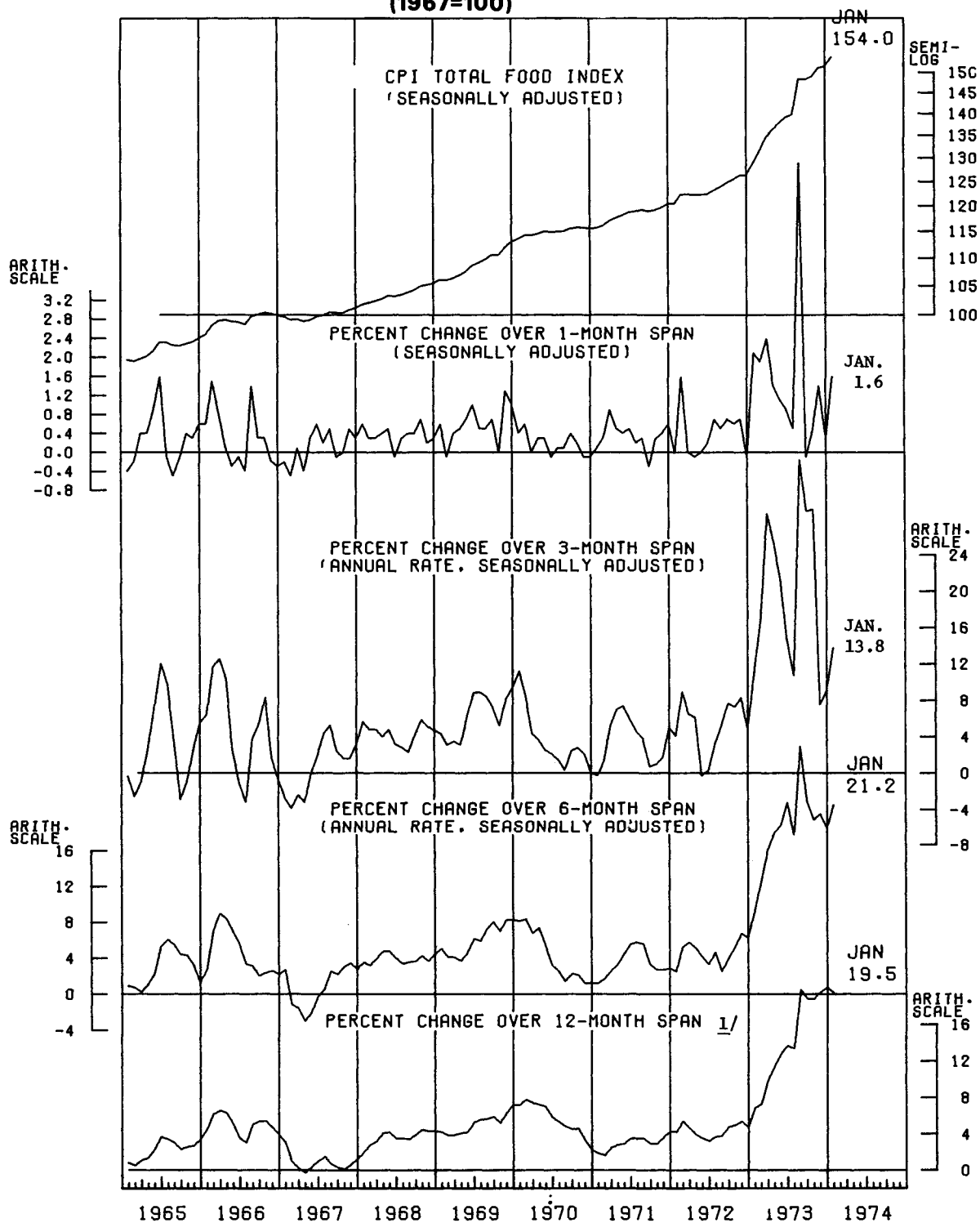
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)



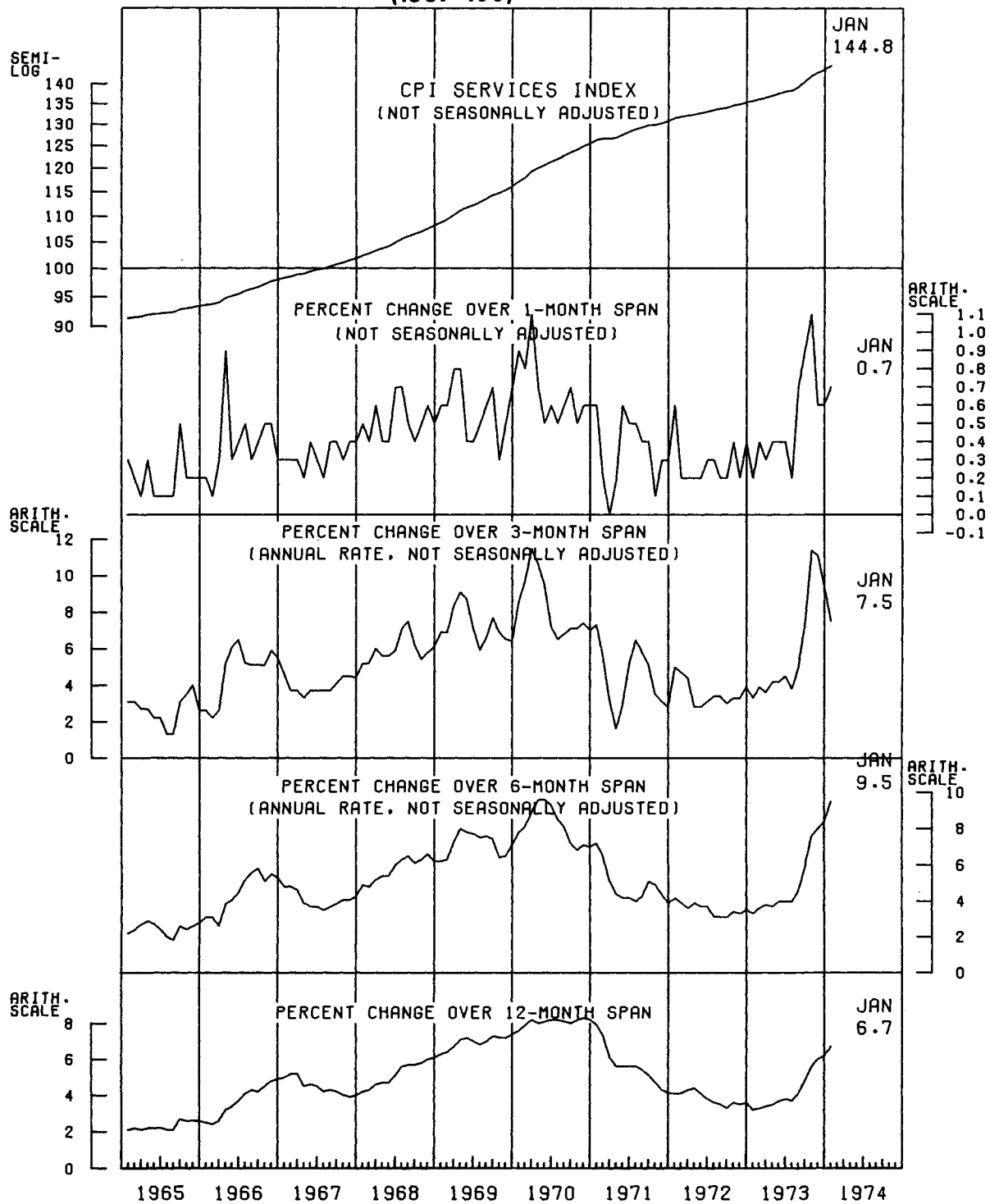
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 4. Services index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(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 December 1973	Unadjusted indexes 1967= 100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to January 1974 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
		December 1973	January 1974	January 1973	December 1973	October to November	November to December	December to January
Commodity and service groups								
All items -----	100.000	138.5	139.7	9.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	1.0
All items (1957-59= 100) -----	-	161.1	162.5	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities -----	63.454	135.7	137.0	11.0	1.0	.9	.7	1.3
Food -----	24.810	151.3	153.7	19.5	1.6	1.4	.3	1.6
Food at home -----	19.633	151.5	154.3	21.3	1.8	1.3	.3	1.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	2.644	148.5	149.7	28.7	.8	5.0	1.7	.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	6.988	165.8	169.2	24.3	2.1	-.9	-.6	1.4
Dairy products -----	3.023	144.9	146.3	22.8	1.0	*2.8	*2.6	*1.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.146	145.3	149.7	14.7	3.0	2.6	.7	1.5
Other foods at home -----	3.832	141.2	143.9	16.2	1.9	.9	1.1	1.6
Food away from home -----	5.177	150.7	151.6	13.0	.6	1.4	.7	.7
Commodities less food -----	38.644	127.1	127.9	6.1	.6	.7	.7	1.3
Nondurables less food -----	22.978	130.0	131.3	8.6	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.7
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	8.569	130.7	128.6	4.5	-1.6	.2	.3	.1
Men's and boys' -----	2.661	129.1	127.7	3.4	-1.1	.2	.5	.3
Women's and girls' -----	3.815	131.8	127.8	4.6	-3.0	.2	0	-.2
Footwear -----	1.504	132.6	133.0	5.1	.3	.4	.1	.8
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	14.409	129.6	132.9	11.0	2.5	1.8	1.8	2.6
Gasoline and motor oil -----	3.162	131.9	139.7	25.1	5.9	4.5	3.9	6.2
Tobacco products -----	1.993	138.5	138.7	3.4	.1	*1.1	*.1	*.1
Alcoholic beverages -----	2.349	125.3	125.9	4.3	.5	*.5	*.8	*.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	.872	172.8	194.6	61.2	12.6	10.0	11.0	11.8
Other nondurables -----	6.033	123.1	124.1	4.5	.8	.6	.4	1.0
Durable commodities -----	15.666	123.2	123.3	2.8	.1	-.1	.1	.2
Household durables -----	4.566	121.0	121.8	4.9	.7	.3	.2	.7
New cars -----	1.917	112.0	112.9	1.6	.8	0	-.4	.5
Used cars -----	1.849	112.6	107.0	-5.1	-5.0	*-2.0	*-3.0	*-5.0
Other durables -----	7.334	131.2	132.2	3.9	.8	.2	.5	.7
Services -----	36.546	143.8	144.8	6.7	.7	*.6	*.6	*.7
Rent -----	4.873	126.9	127.3	4.5	.3	*.3	*.5	*.3
Services less rent -----	31.673	146.9	148.0	7.0	.7	*.6	*.5	*.7
Household services less rent -----	15.463	² 154.3	155.8	9.5	1.0	.9	.7	1.1
Transportation services -----	5.090	138.1	138.8	2.1	.5	0	.4	-.4
Medical care services -----	5.423	148.7	149.7	6.2	.7	.4	.2	.6
Other services -----	5.698	135.3	135.9	6.1	.4	*.6	*.4	*.4
Special indexes:								
All items less food ³ -----	75.190	² 134.8	135.6	6.4	.6	.7	.7	.7
Nondurable commodities -----	47.788	140.3	142.1	14.0	1.3	1.2	.9	1.6
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	7.064	130.3	127.7	4.2	-2.0	.2	.3	0
Services less medical care services -----	31.123	143.1	144.1	6.8	.7	*.6	*.6	*.7
Insurance and finance -----	9.707	156.7	157.9	8.6	.8	.8	.1	.8
Utilities and public transportation -----	5.318	² 133.8	135.3	5.5	1.1	.5	1.3	.7
Housekeeping and home maintenance service -----	4.457	158.8	160.1	8.2	.8	.7	.8	1.1
Appliances (including radio and T. V.) -----	1.489	105.7	106.0	.3	.3	*.1	*-.1	*.3
Expenditure classes								
All items -----	100.000	138.5	139.7	9.4	0.9	0.8	0.5	1.0
Food -----	24.810	151.3	153.7	19.5	1.6	1.4	.3	1.6
Housing -----	33.321	² 140.6	142.2	8.1	1.1	*.9	*.8	*1.2
Shelter ⁴ -----	21.459	146.4	147.4	7.6	.7	.6	.5	.8
Rent -----	4.873	126.9	127.3	4.5	.3	*.3	*.5	*.3
Homeownership ⁵ -----	16.184	153.6	154.8	8.6	.8	.7	.6	1.0
Fuel and utilities ⁶ -----	4.820	² 135.9	140.8	14.7	3.6	2.2	3.0	3.5
Gas and electricity -----	2.390	131.0	134.3	8.2	2.5	1.2	.8	2.5
Household furnishings and operation -----	7.042	128.0	129.0	5.6	.8	.6	.5	1.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	9.945	130.5	128.8	4.7	-1.3	.4	.3	.2
Transportation -----	12.602	126.7	128.1	5.9	1.1	.9	.7	.9
Private -----	11.233	124.6	126.2	6.5	1.3	.9	.6	1.2
Public -----	1.369	146.5	146.0	1.2	-.3	-.3	1.1	-1.3
Health and recreation -----	18.946	133.0	133.7	4.6	.5	*.4	*.3	*.5
Medical care -----	6.229	141.4	142.2	5.4	.6	.3	.4	.5
Personal care -----	2.513	129.2	129.8	6.6	.5	*.6	*.9	*.5
Reading and recreation -----	5.346	127.6	128.3	3.4	.5	.2	.2	.4
Other goods and services -----	4.859	131.3	131.8	4.0	.4	.5	.5	.5
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter -----	78.541	136.5	137.8	10.0	1.0	.9	.6	1.2
All items less medical care -----	93.771	138.4	139.7	9.7	.9	.8	.6	1.2
All items less mortgage interest costs -----	95.951	137.1	138.3	9.0	.9	.8	.6	.9
CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁷ -----	17.583	152.7	155.5	22.2	1.8	*.9	*1.0	*1.8
CPI - selected beef cuts ⁸ -----	2.290	163.1	166.2	17.4	1.9	*-2.0	*-1.4	*1.9
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$1.00 -----	-	\$0.722	\$0.716	-8.6	-.8	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	-	.621	.615	-	-	-	-	-

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

² Revised index.

³ Revised index 1973 annual average, 130.7.

⁴ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

⁵ Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

⁶ Also includes residential telephones, fuel oil, coal, water and sewerage service not shown separately.

⁷ Calculated from the CPI food at home component by excluding fish, non-alcoholic beverages, bananas, chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup, and about half of the index weight for sugar.

⁸ 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 change for					
	October 1973	November 1973	December 1973	January 1974	3 months ending in			6 months ending in		
					April 1973	July 1973	October 1973	January 1974	July 1973	January 1974
Commodity and service groups										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	9.2	5.7	13.0	9.9	7.4	11.4
Commodities -----	133.5	134.7	135.6	137.4	12.1	6.4	13.3	12.2	9.3	12.7
Food -----	149.1	151.2	151.6	154.0	25.4	10.7	29.0	13.8	17.8	21.2
Food at home -----	149.6	151.6	152.0	154.8	29.4	10.4	32.3	14.6	19.5	23.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	139.1	146.1	148.6	149.8	12.2	12.6	61.5	34.5	12.4	47.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	170.9	169.3	168.3	170.7	61.6	2.6	44.8	- 5	28.8	20.0
Dairy products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	137.3	141.2	144.9	146.3	9.4	7.8	49.8	28.9	8.6	39.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	144.1	147.8	148.9	151.1	29.2	24.1	-10.6	20.9	26.6	4.0
Other foods at home -----	136.8	138.0	139.5	141.8	7.4	19.7	23.0	15.4	13.4	19.2
Food away from home -----	147.6	149.6	150.7	151.8	8.3	11.9	20.4	11.9	10.1	16.1
Commodities less food -----	124.9	125.8	126.7	128.3	5.1	4.0	4.3	11.3	4.5	7.7
Nondurables less food -----	126.4	127.9	129.5	131.7	7.1	5.0	4.9	17.9	6.0	11.2
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	128.8	129.1	129.5	129.6	7.3	2.2	5.8	2.5	4.7	4.1
Men's and boys' -----	127.4	127.6	128.2	128.6	3.6	2.9	3.2	3.8	3.2	3.5
Women's and girls' -----	129.5	129.7	129.7	129.4	10.4	0	8.8	- 3	5.1	4.1
Footwear -----	131.7	132.2	132.3	133.3	8.1	3.1	4.0	4.9	5.6	4.5
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	125.0	127.3	129.6	133.0	6.8	5.7	4.9	28.2	6.3	16.0
Gasoline and motor oil -----	121.3	126.7	131.6	139.7	13.9	15.0	6.2	75.9	14.5	36.7
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	138.2	138.3	138.5	138.7	7.0	3.9	1.2	1.5	5.4	1.3
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted) -----	123.7	124.3	125.3	125.9	3.0	4.0	3.0	7.3	3.5	5.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	141.7	155.8	173.0	193.4	29.0	13.8	32.4	247.0	21.2	114.3
Other nondurables -----	121.9	122.6	123.1	124.3	3.4	2.4	4.4	8.1	2.9	6.2
Durable commodities -----	123.0	122.9	123.0	123.3	5.1	2.0	3.3	1.0	3.5	2.1
Household durables -----	120.4	120.8	121.1	122.0	4.5	5.9	3.7	5.4	5.2	4.6
New cars -----	111.0	111.0	110.6	111.2	5.2	4.0	-3.5	7	4.6	-1.4
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted) -----	118.5	116.1	112.6	107.0	16.9	19.7	-13.0	-33.5	18.3	-24.0
Other durables -----	129.9	130.2	130.9	131.8	3.5	- 3	6.7	6.0	1.6	6.4
Services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	142.2	143.0	143.8	144.8	4.2	3.8	11.4	7.5	4.0	9.5
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	125.9	126.3	126.9	127.3	4.7	4.0	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.7
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	145.2	146.1	146.9	148.0	3.8	4.1	12.5	7.9	3.9	10.2
Household services less rent -----	151.7	153.0	154.1	155.8	2.8	6.0	18.5	11.3	4.4	14.8
Transportation services -----	138.1	138.1	138.7	138.1	2.1	3.0	3.3	0	2.5	1.6
Medical care services -----	148.2	148.8	149.1	150.0	3.2	3.4	13.4	4.9	3.3	9.1
Other services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	134.0	134.8	135.3	135.9	5.7	5.7	7.2	5.8	5.7	6.5
Special indexes:										
All items less food -----	132.8	133.7	134.7	135.7	4.8	4.1	7.6	9.0	4.4	8.3
Nondurable commodities -----	137.4	139.0	140.3	142.5	15.5	7.6	17.0	15.7	11.5	16.4
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	128.2	128.5	128.9	128.9	7.3	1.6	6.2	2.2	4.4	4.2
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	141.4	142.3	143.1	144.1	3.9	4.2	11.5	7.9	4.0	9.7
Insurance and finance -----	155.0	156.3	156.4	157.6	1.9	3.9	22.9	6.9	2.9	14.6
Utilities and public transportation -----	131.7	132.4	134.1	135.0	2.5	2.5	7.0	10.4	2.5	8.7
Housekeeping and home maintenance service -----	156.2	157.3	158.6	160.4	5.5	7.9	8.3	11.2	6.7	9.8
Appliances (including radio and TV) (not seasonally adjusted) -----	105.7	105.8	105.7	106.0	-1.1	0	1.1	1.1	- 6	1.1
Expenditure classes										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	9.2	5.7	13.0	9.9	7.4	11.4
Food -----	149.1	151.2	151.6	154.0	25.4	10.7	29.0	13.8	17.8	21.2
Housing (not seasonally adjusted) -----	138.1	139.4	140.6	142.2	4.0	4.3	12.1	12.4	4.1	12.3
Shelter ² -----	144.6	145.5	146.3	147.4	3.3	4.7	14.8	8.0	4.0	11.3
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	125.9	126.3	126.9	127.3	4.7	4.0	4.9	4.5	4.3	4.7
Homeownership ³ -----	151.3	152.4	153.3	154.8	2.8	4.8	17.6	9.6	3.8	13.5
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	129.2	132.0	135.9	140.7	6.7	3.6	11.3	40.6	5.1	25.1
Gas and electricity -----	128.2	129.7	130.7	134.0	3.3	3.6	7.2	19.4	3.4	13.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	126.7	127.5	128.1	129.4	3.0	4.6	5.9	8.8	3.8	7.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	128.6	129.1	129.5	129.7	6.6	2.6	6.1	3.5	4.6	4.8
Transportation -----	124.6	125.7	126.6	127.7	7.5	6.0	0	10.3	6.7	5.0
Private -----	122.5	123.6	124.4	125.9	8.4	5.1	1.0	11.6	6.7	6.1
Public -----	146.1	145.6	147.2	145.3	- 8	3.7	4.2	-2.2	1.4	1.0
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted) -----	132.1	132.6	133.0	133.7	4.5	3.4	5.6	4.9	4.0	5.3
Medical care -----	140.9	141.3	141.8	142.5	2.1	3.3	11.9	4.6	2.7	8.2
Personal care (not seasonally adjusted) -----	127.3	128.1	129.2	129.8	6.7	4.9	6.5	8.1	5.8	7.3
Reading and recreation -----	127.1	127.4	127.7	128.2	3.9	3.2	2.9	3.5	3.6	3.2
Other goods and services -----	129.9	130.5	131.2	131.8	5.8	3.1	1.2	6.0	4.5	3.6
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter -----	134.5	135.7	136.5	138.1	10.6	6.0	12.1	11.1	8.3	11.6
All items less medical care -----	136.4	137.5	138.3	140.0	9.4	6.0	12.6	11.0	7.7	11.8
All items less mortgage interest costs -----	135.2	136.3	137.1	138.4	9.8	6.0	10.4	9.8	7.9	10.1
CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) -----	149.9	151.2	152.7	155.5	34.6	13.8	25.9	15.8	23.7	20.8
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) -----	168.8	165.4	163.1	166.2	69.2	3.8	15.0	-6.0	32.5	4.0

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 1974			January 1973	October 1973	December 1973
U.S. city average -----	M	139.7	162.5		9.4	2.3	0.9
Chicago -----	M	138.7	157.5		9.7	2.2	1.4
Detroit -----	M	141.5	162.6		10.1	2.6	1.1
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	M	135.2	159.0		8.3	2.2	.8
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	M	146.8	174.6		9.7	2.6	.6
Philadelphia -----	M	³ 142.8	166.7		10.7	2.4	1.0
		January 1974			January 1973	October 1973	
Boston -----	1	142.0	170.1		9.5	2.4	
Houston -----	1	139.1	159.2		9.4	2.1	
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	1	140.3	162.6		9.8	2.9	
Pittsburgh -----	1	139.3	160.2		9.5	2.0	
		November 1973			November 1972	August 1973	
Buffalo -----	2	138.6		⁴ 152.3	7.8	1.5	
Cleveland -----	2	137.5	155.3		7.5	1.2	
Dallas -----	2	135.6		⁴ 146.6	7.9	1.4	
Milwaukee -----	2	135.7	153.2		8.6	1.9	
San Diego -----	2	136.5		⁵ 143.5	7.6	1.6	
Seattle -----	2	131.4	154.4		8.4	2.0	
Washington -----	2	139.4	162.4		7.5	2.2	
		December 1973			December 1972	September 1973	
Atlanta -----	3	138.9	159.7		8.8	1.4	
Baltimore -----	3	140.7	163.3		9.9	2.3	
Cincinnati -----	3	136.6	155.0		8.0	1.6	
Honolulu -----	3	132.8		⁶ 143.2	6.8	2.5	
Kansas City -----	3	134.4	159.6		7.1	1.4	
St. Louis -----	3	133.8	156.3		8.2	1.1	
San Francisco—Oakland -----	3	135.2	160.9		7.0	.5	

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

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

M - Every month.

1 - January, April, July, and October.

2 - February, May, August, and November.

3 - March, June, September, and December.

³ Revised index for December 1973, 141.4.

⁴ November 1963= 100.

⁵ February 1965= 100.

⁶ December 1963= 100.

NOTE: The Consumer Price Index cannot be used for measuring differences in living costs among areas; it indicates price changes 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 areas ¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from December 1973 to January 1974

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.9	1.4	1.1	0.8	0.6	1.0
Food -----	1.6	2.2	2.5	2.3	1.7	2.4
Housing -----	1.1	2.5	.8	.2	1.3	1.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	-1.3	-2.7	-2.2	-1.4	-3.6	-3.0
Transportation -----	1.1	1.2	1.1	2.0	.1	1.1
Health and recreation -----	.5	.7	1.2	.4	.7	.7
Medical care -----	.6	.9	.7	.7	1.2	0
Personal care -----	.5	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.5	.6	1.0	.3	1.2	1.0
Other goods and services -----	.4	.5	1.7	.2	.3	1.1

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 1974, index and percent changes from October 1973

Group	U. S. city average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles— Long Beach	Minne- apolis	New York— North- eastern New Jersey	Phila- delphia	Pitts- burgh
Indexes (1967= 100)										
All items -----	139.7	142.0	138.7	141.5	139.1	135.2	140.3	146.8	² 142.8	139.3
Food -----	153.7	153.2	155.3	158.2	155.6	149.7	154.1	157.9	156.7	155.1
Food at home -----	154.3	154.3	156.6	160.1	153.8	152.1	153.5	158.8	156.1	154.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	149.7	153.3	155.6	161.5	148.8	145.7	156.0	150.1	149.2	149.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	169.2	167.5	170.0	177.1	170.0	175.3	172.7	170.2	170.9	166.2
Dairy products -----	146.3	144.0	145.7	148.5	150.9	137.2	147.4	151.6	146.3	143.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	149.7	150.6	149.8	146.4	145.6	145.0	141.3	160.3	152.5	154.8
Other food at home -----	143.9	143.0	146.5	148.5	141.5	139.8	143.3	147.5	145.8	146.5
Food away from home -----	151.6	149.1	150.2	150.4	161.9	142.9	156.7	155.3	159.2	160.7
Housing -----	³ 142.2	148.9	135.8	143.5	139.7	137.4	144.5	153.5	⁴ 146.6	138.7
Shelter -----	147.4	154.1	140.1	153.5	146.8	141.1	151.8	158.5	156.8	147.2
Rent, residential -----	127.3	140.2	125.0	⁽⁵⁾	113.3	125.3	124.6	⁽⁵⁾	133.2	121.5
Homeownership costs -----	154.8	160.4	146.9	158.9	158.4	146.0	156.5	172.9	163.0	154.4
Fuel and utilities -----	⁶ 140.8	152.0	131.5	132.7	124.9	137.3	138.7	161.4	⁷ 142.2	127.8
Fuel oil and coal -----	194.6	187.1	191.6	186.3	-	-	220.9	218.4	184.6	-
Gas and electricity -----	134.3	138.4	124.0	132.5	130.9	150.8	131.3	150.2	139.6	135.6
Household furnishings and operation -----	129.0	134.8	125.2	120.1	134.2	124.8	126.8	135.7	130.5	127.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	128.8	130.5	124.6	122.4	136.4	123.6	128.9	125.7	124.0	131.5
Men's and boys' -----	127.7	125.1	121.1	123.0	124.7	117.0	126.9	125.5	122.7	125.1
Women's and girls' -----	127.8	130.7	125.7	111.8	147.9	125.2	131.7	118.9	117.3	136.3
Footwear -----	133.0	134.1	125.2	139.9	136.0	130.9	129.7	130.8	133.2	136.3
Transportation -----	128.1	126.0	132.7	129.3	121.9	127.8	126.2	138.5	131.6	128.2
Private -----	126.2	123.6	127.9	127.1	119.5	128.1	126.1	132.4	129.3	126.4
Public -----	146.0	140.7	163.6	155.5	160.9	120.9	128.7	161.9	144.9	140.1
Health and recreation -----	133.7	132.8	135.3	138.5	136.6	127.4	135.0	139.7	138.0	134.1
Medical care -----	142.2	142.1	141.9	154.1	145.7	139.7	138.0	150.7	153.8	138.9
Personal care -----	129.8	126.9	⁽⁵⁾	132.5	138.3	⁽⁵⁾	132.2	⁽⁵⁾	128.4	125.8
Reading and recreation -----	128.3	133.0	129.0	129.7	126.2	118.3	133.6	132.8	131.8	130.3
Other goods and services -----	131.8	126.6	137.5	131.0	133.1	124.4	134.1	140.5	132.4	136.9
Percent changes October 1973 to January 1974										
All items -----	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.6	2.1	2.2	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.0
Food -----	3.6	3.6	2.8	4.0	2.5	5.5	3.4	3.8	4.8	3.8
Food at home -----	3.8	3.9	2.6	4.2	2.7	6.4	3.6	4.4	5.3	3.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	7.7	8.0	7.9	6.7	6.1	11.1	4.1	6.6	7.6	8.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- .9	.2	- .9	.2	-1.4	3.8	0	.3	.3	-1.4
Dairy products -----	6.6	3.5	3.2	9.3	4.1	6.8	3.9	9.6	8.6	4.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	7.9	6.1	2.5	6.1	5.1	12.1	8.5	7.5	10.8	9.4
Other food at home -----	4.9	7.0	5.9	6.0	5.0	3.9	4.7	5.7	6.6	5.9
Food away from home -----	2.6	2.4	3.5	3.0	2.1	3.0	2.5	1.8	3.0	4.1
Housing -----	3.0	3.7	3.5	2.9	2.0	1.5	3.6	4.6	3.1	1.7
Shelter -----	1.9	1.6	3.2	2.4	2.3	1.3	3.8	2.5	1.9	1.3
Rent, residential -----	1.1	1.4	⁸ .8	⁽⁵⁾	.6	⁸ .9	.7	⁽⁵⁾	⁸ .9	.2
Homeownership costs -----	2.2	1.6	3.8	2.6	2.7	1.2	4.3	3.5	1.9	1.5
Fuel and utilities -----	9.5	13.3	8.6	8.8	3.2	3.7	4.1	17.6	8.9	2.7
Fuel oil and coal -----	37.9	29.5	38.9	39.9	-	-	43.7	47.1	36.5	-
Gas and electricity -----	5.4	7.5	2.5	7.1	5.7	6.3	.5	8.5	1.7	3.5
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.8	2.1	1.3	1.5	.8	1.2	2.3	2.6	2.0	1.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	- .6	-1.1	-2.4	-2.5	.4	-1.1	.4	-3.2	-2.9	-1.2
Men's and boys' -----	- .5	-1.0	-1.5	- .6	1.6	- .9	1.3	-1.2	-4.8	.2
Women's and girls' -----	-2.7	-2.7	-5.3	-7.6	-2.1	-3.5	-1.1	-9.2	-6.2	-4.0
Footwear -----	.8	.1	- .2	1.6	1.9	.5	.1	.5	.8	1.6
Transportation -----	2.5	2.0	2.4	3.2	3.6	3.0	4.0	1.5	2.6	2.3
Private -----	2.7	2.4	2.6	3.4	3.8	3.0	4.4	2.5	2.9	2.6
Public -----	.6	.4	1.9	.6	.4	2.7	-1.5	-1.2	1.0	.6
Health and recreation -----	1.2	.3	1.6	2.1	1.8	.5	1.7	1.5	1.0	1.4
Medical care -----	1.1	.6	1.2	1.5	1.8	.7	2.4	1.8	.3	1.8
Personal care -----	2.0	- .2	⁽⁵⁾	1.8	5.1	⁽⁵⁾	3.0	⁽⁵⁾	2.2	.6
Reading and recreation -----	.9	.2	.5	.9	.8	- .2	.9	1.2	1.2	2.1
Other goods and services -----	1.2	.3	3.0	4.4	.4	.1	.9	.9	1.2	.7

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Revised index: December 1973, 141.4.

³ Revised index: December 1973, 140.6.

⁴ Revised index: December 1973, 144.7.

⁵ Not available.

⁶ Revised index: December 1973, 135.9.

⁷ Revised index: December 1973, 135.3.

⁸ Change from November 1973.

Table 5-A. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1973 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1972-73—Continued

Group	Boston	Houston	Minneapolis	Pittsburgh
Indexes (1967= 100)				
All items -----	134.7	132.3	133.0	132.9
All items (1957-59= 100) -----	161.4	151.4	154.2	152.8
Food -----	140.1	143.3	142.0	141.7
Food at home -----	140.5	141.0	141.4	141.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	129.0	124.8	138.1	126.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	157.7	162.7	163.6	158.5
Dairy products -----	126.7	131.3	129.8	125.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	142.6	138.4	134.7	145.7
Other food at home -----	128.6	128.5	131.0	131.4
Food away from home -----	138.6	151.2	144.7	146.3
Housing -----	139.9	134.1	136.3	134.2
Shelter -----	147.9	140.5	142.1	143.0
Rent, residential ² -----	136.2	112.3	122.8	119.7
Homeownership -----	153.1	150.2	145.4	149.6
Fuel and utilities -----	128.7	120.3	130.8	122.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	137.9	-	135.5	-
Gas and electricity -----	126.5	123.7	130.2	127.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	130.5	129.6	122.5	123.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	128.5	130.5	125.1	127.7
Men's and boys' -----	124.4	120.7	124.5	123.2
Women's and girls' -----	128.9	141.7	125.7	131.9
Footwear -----	132.9	129.8	129.6	131.1
Transportation -----	122.6	117.0	121.1	124.4
Private -----	119.9	114.3	120.6	122.3
Public -----	139.4	160.0	129.7	138.9
Health and recreation -----	131.0	132.6	131.6	130.8
Medical care -----	138.9	140.8	132.3	134.2
Personal care ³ -----	125.2	130.0	127.0	121.8
Reading and recreation -----	131.7	124.5	132.4	127.9
Other goods and services -----	125.4	131.1	131.6	134.1
Percent changes 1972-73				
All items -----	6.0	5.7	6.0	6.1
Food -----	13.3	14.6	14.1	15.4
Food at home -----	15.0	16.5	15.5	16.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	12.8	12.4	13.0	10.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	20.8	27.6	25.7	26.3
Dairy products -----	8.3	11.2	11.2	6.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	14.0	10.1	11.4	15.2
Other food at home -----	11.5	10.3	10.3	12.2
Food away from home -----	7.5	8.9	8.5	9.2
Housing -----	5.0	4.2	4.1	3.5
Shelter -----	4.2	4.5	3.9	4.0
Rent, residential -----	5.4	1.3	1.4	2.3
Homeownership -----	3.7	5.2	4.2	4.3
Fuel and utilities -----	9.7	3.5	6.4	2.2
Fuel oil and coal -----	17.8	-	17.7	-
Gas and electricity -----	4.7	2.8	5.3	2.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	3.7	4.2	3.0	3.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	3.4	3.8	4.7	3.3
Men's and boys' -----	2.9	3.5	3.7	2.4
Women's and girls' -----	2.6	4.4	6.6	3.5
Footwear -----	3.5	3.1	3.5	4.9
Transportation -----	2.6	1.9	4.0	2.6
Private -----	3.0	2.0	4.1	3.0
Public -----	1.2	1.6	2.6	.6
Health and recreation -----	2.3	3.4	4.0	3.8
Medical care -----	3.1	4.1	5.0	4.3
Personal care -----	3.0	5.3	5.0	4.3
Reading and recreation -----	2.0	2.0	3.4	3.1
Other goods and services -----	1.6	2.5	3.0	3.6

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² 1973 Annual average indexes for Chicago, Los Angeles—Long Beach, and Philadelphia are 121.6, 121.9, and 129.6 respectively.

³ 1973 Annual average indexes for Detroit and Philadelphia are 128.6 and 124.1 respectively.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, January 1974, and percent changes from December 1973

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 -----	153.7	154.3	149.7	169.2	146.3	149.7	143.9	151.6
Atlanta -----	156.1	156.9	152.7	170.5	152.3	157.1	144.6	153.0
Baltimore -----	156.6	157.4	147.8	171.3	147.3	156.5	147.8	153.3
Boston -----	153.2	154.3	153.3	167.5	144.0	150.6	143.0	149.1
Buffalo -----	151.8	151.8	151.4	167.0	144.0	147.1	137.8	152.0
Chicago -----	155.3	156.6	155.6	170.0	145.7	149.8	146.5	150.2
Cincinnati -----	152.8	153.8	154.8	163.6	151.9	148.0	145.2	148.8
Cleveland -----	153.6	154.8	149.7	166.4	153.8	150.3	143.3	147.8
Dallas -----	150.7	149.5	146.3	163.2	142.8	141.6	142.0	155.0
Detroit -----	158.2	160.1	161.5	177.1	148.5	146.4	148.5	150.4
Honolulu -----	147.7	147.3	152.2	156.0	138.3	141.6	138.8	148.2
Houston -----	155.6	153.8	148.8	170.0	150.9	145.6	141.5	161.9
Kansas City -----	153.3	154.4	150.3	166.1	161.6	143.7	143.6	149.7
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	149.7	152.1	145.7	175.3	137.2	145.0	139.8	142.9
Milwaukee -----	151.0	151.9	148.9	167.4	144.2	146.4	140.5	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	154.1	153.5	156.0	172.7	147.4	141.3	143.3	156.7
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	157.9	158.8	150.1	170.2	151.6	160.3	147.5	155.3
Philadelphia -----	156.7	156.1	149.2	170.9	146.3	152.5	145.8	159.2
Pittsburgh -----	155.1	154.2	149.1	166.2	143.4	154.8	146.5	160.7
St. Louis -----	152.6	152.5	155.2	163.7	150.5	147.9	139.2	152.9
San Diego -----	151.1	151.6	143.6	174.2	138.4	141.8	139.0	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland -----	146.8	149.7	141.9	166.4	138.8	140.7	142.6	136.7
Seattle -----	146.8	148.2	143.6	166.3	144.8	132.8	140.7	142.2
Washington -----	160.5	160.5	152.6	171.7	140.3	170.1	154.5	160.1
Percent changes December 1973 to January 1974								
U.S. city average -----	1.6	1.8	0.8	2.1	1.0	3.0	1.9	0.6
Atlanta -----	1.3	1.6	.2	.9	3.1	3.2	1.5	.4
Baltimore -----	.9	1.0	-.8	1.0	1.5	.8	1.9	.5
Boston -----	1.9	2.1	.3	2.1	1.3	3.4	2.8	1.2
Buffalo -----	1.6	1.7	.6	2.8	.5	1.9	1.5	1.0
Chicago -----	2.2	2.3	.8	3.2	.8	2.8	2.2	1.7
Cincinnati -----	.6	.6	1.4	-1.0	.4	2.8	1.0	.5
Cleveland -----	1.3	1.4	.3	1.6	.8	3.2	1.1	.5
Dallas -----	1.7	1.8	1.7	2.2	2.1	1.1	1.7	1.1
Detroit -----	2.5	2.8	1.4	2.7	2.5	4.9	2.3	1.3
Honolulu -----	1.1	1.4	6.1	-1.1	.9	2.1	2.3	0
Houston -----	1.5	1.6	.3	2.5	.6	1.0	1.7	1.1
Kansas City -----	1.0	1.2	-.1	1.2	.7	2.0	1.8	.3
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	2.3	2.9	1.7	4.9	.4	3.1	2.1	.5
Milwaukee -----	1.5	1.9	.7	1.9	.7	3.7	2.0	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	1.4	1.5	-.4	1.7	1.2	2.8	1.8	.9
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	1.7	2.1	.7	2.5	.5	3.6	2.3	.3
Philadelphia -----	2.4	2.4	1.6	2.0	1.7	4.5	2.4	1.9
Pittsburgh -----	2.0	2.1	1.4	2.4	1.8	3.0	1.5	1.7
St. Louis -----	1.7	1.9	.9	2.2	.9	3.7	1.5	.5
San Diego -----	2.3	3.2	2.7	4.8	.2	3.3	2.9	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland -----	.8	1.1	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	.1
Seattle -----	1.0	1.2	.5	.5	2.8	1.0	1.7	.1
Washington -----	2.4	3.0	1.4	3.8	1.6	4.0	2.7	.7

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 1974 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Index		Percent changes to January 1974 from—		
	January 1974		January 1973	December 1973	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	153.7	154.0	19.5	1.6	1.6
Food away from home	151.6	151.8	13.0	.6	.7
Restaurant meals	152.7	152.9	13.7	.5	.6
Snacks	146.1	145.8	9.4	1.2	1.0
Food at home	154.3	154.8	21.3	1.8	1.8
Cereals and bakery products	149.7	149.8	28.7	.8	.8
Flour	163.5	163.5	55.1	.1	-.3
Cracker meal	158.8	159.9	16.3	.9	.9
Corn flakes	115.7	115.4	16.5	2.9	2.8
Rice	230.5	230.3	103.3	3.4	3.2
Bread, white	146.4	146.0	28.1	0	-.5
Bread, whole wheat	148.8	148.8	21.9	.1	.3
Cookies	122.5	123.1	10.0	.9	1.0
Layer cakes	139.7	140.1	15.9	.1	.6
Cinnamon rolls	144.1	143.7	17.2	.3	-.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	169.2	170.7	24.3	2.1	1.4
Meats	169.9	171.6	23.4	1.4	.5
Beef and veal	168.6	170.3	18.0	1.8	.6
Steak, round	161.2	162.2	13.6	3.3	1.1
Steak, sirloin	148.9	150.7	9.1	2.1	0
Steak, porterhouse	150.8	152.5	8.0	1.2	-.7
Rump roast	157.4	158.2	12.8	3.1	1.0
Rib roast	165.2	165.4	13.2	1.2	-.1
Chuck roast	169.9	173.4	19.6	1.1	-.7
Hamburger	184.1	186.0	28.4	1.2	1.2
Beef liver	171.1	173.5	26.0	.2	.3
Veal cutlets	198.0	200.4	17.6	1.1	.8
Pork	173.5	176.0	28.5	2.0	1.4
Chops	161.6	165.7	16.8	6.2	5.7
Loin roast	172.0	175.3	24.0	5.3	4.8
Pork sausage	194.4	198.8	40.9	-.3	.2
Ham, whole	178.1	172.2	35.7	1.1	-1.2
Picnics	182.5	184.3	37.5	1.4	.6
Bacon	169.2	172.8	29.7	-1.6	-2.4
Other meats	168.1	168.8	28.9	-.1	-.1
Lamb chops	149.0	150.1	13.4	.9	.6
Frankfurters	174.6	176.5	33.6	-.3	-.1
Ham, canned	174.1	173.1	37.2	1.2	.1
Bologna sausage	176.3	177.2	30.6	-1.1	-1.3
Salami sausage	167.0	167.7	26.1	-.7	-.8
Liverwurst	168.4	169.2	33.7	-.5	-.6
Poultry	157.0	158.7	35.2	7.6	5.4
Frying chicken	156.9	159.0	34.6	11.1	8.1
Chicken breasts	147.0	148.5	25.9	3.6	3.5
Turkey	168.2	168.4	48.5	-2.4	-3.2
Fish	180.4	180.2	20.9	1.3	1.4
Shrimp, frozen	176.3	176.7	25.7	.4	.5
Fish, fresh or frozen	212.9	212.5	26.8	1.8	1.8
Tuna fish, canned	156.7	156.7	15.5	2.3	2.1
Sardines, canned	176.3	175.6	15.4	.8	.8
Dairy products	146.3	-	22.8	1.0	0
Milk, fresh, grocery	147.8	147.7	25.4	.9	.8
Milk, fresh, skim	157.1	157.3	26.5	1.1	1.1
Milk, evaporated	154.7	154.9	26.4	2.2	2.2
Ice cream	124.4	124.0	16.0	.6	.6
Cheese, American process	162.3	162.6	26.5	2.4	2.6
Butter	121.0	120.6	14.5	-1.3	-1.6

See footnote at end of table.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, January 1974 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent changes to January 1974 from—		
	January 1974		January 1973	December 1973	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables	149.7	151.1	14.7	3.0	1.5
Fresh fruits and vegetables	148.5	150.2	9.6	3.1	-.4
Fresh fruits	138.5	149.1	12.1	1.8	1.6
Apples	150.6	165.1	27.6	1.8	-2.0
Bananas	107.1	112.9	9.8	6.7	5.6
Oranges	139.9	148.2	7.9	-1.2	3.4
Orange juice, fresh	134.1	135.0	1.5	.1	1.1
Grapefruit	136.7	157.5	8.1	2.8	3.1
Grapes	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	156.7	152.7	7.8	4.1	.2
Potatoes	189.0	199.6	33.1	1.3	1.1
Onions	146.5	154.9	-1.1	-1.2	-2.5
Asparagus	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	149.9	141.4	14.1	.5	-8.2
Carrots	131.4	127.6	-6.7	-3.4	-5.1
Celery	131.7	124.2	-11.2	4.6	.3
Cucumbers	142.1	132.2	17.0	22.6	14.8
Lettuce	120.0	120.2	-15.7	.8	21.8
Peppers, green	182.4	194.9	29.1	5.4	3.0
Spinach	165.2	163.7	11.1	1.6	2.9
Tomatoes	160.1	151.2	-2.6	15.8	30.6
Processed fruits and vegetables	151.5	151.3	23.1	2.9	3.0
Fruit cocktail, canned	138.7	138.3	10.9	.7	.8
Pears, canned	131.0	130.9	8.1	.6	.5
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	122.7	122.8	4.3	1.0	1.1
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	139.3	140.4	2.1	.3	.9
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	123.7	122.8	3.7	.4	.2
Beets, canned	148.6	148.6	15.7	1.8	1.9
Peas, green, canned	115.6	115.5	7.2	1.0	1.2
Tomatoes, canned	133.6	134.0	11.6	1.3	1.7
Dried beans	315.1	314.5	123.2	10.0	10.0
Broccoli, frozen	127.2	127.3	6.9	.8	.6
Other food at home	143.9	141.8	16.2	1.9	1.6
Eggs	191.0	172.9	26.0	4.5	3.2
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	163.7	163.2	40.8	1.9	1.6
Salad dressing, Italian	119.4	119.6	8.3	.8	.9
Salad or cooking oil	160.6	160.4	35.0	.5	.1
Sugar and sweets	140.3	140.4	15.3	1.4	1.4
Sugar	140.5	140.9	20.4	1.2	1.4
Grape jelly	142.9	142.8	12.7	.8	.6
Chocolate bar	141.0	141.3	7.7	.8	1.3
Syrup, chocolate flavored	136.9	136.8	23.1	2.8	2.3
Nonalcoholic beverages	137.3	137.6	10.8	1.4	1.4
Coffee, can and bag	145.3	145.4	16.9	2.3	2.1
Coffee, instant	137.8	137.9	10.2	1.6	1.8
Tea	114.2	115.0	4.1	.7	1.2
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	136.4	136.5	5.2	.6	.4
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	136.6	137.0	6.1	.1	.1
Prepared and partially prepared foods	126.8	126.9	9.6	1.4	1.4
Bean soup	133.6	133.7	14.5	4.0	4.0
Chicken soup, canned	117.4	117.4	12.7	.5	.6
Spaghetti, canned	129.0	128.9	5.5	2.0	2.1
Mashed potatoes, instant	123.3	123.7	9.7	1.3	1.2
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	124.1	124.5	10.5	.6	.6
Baby foods	121.6	121.4	10.6	1.1	1.0
Sweet pickle relish	139.2	138.8	7.0	1.1	1.0
Pretzels	124.0	124.6	8.1	.8	1.0

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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to January 1974 from:	
		December 1973	January 1974	January 1973	December 1973
Housing		¹ 140.6	142.2	8.1	1.1
Shelter ²		146.4	147.4	7.6	.7
Rent, residential		126.9	127.3	4.5	.3
Homeownership ³		153.6	154.8	8.6	.8
Mortgage interest rates		134.8	135.1	14.6	.2
Property taxes		151.6	151.9	.7	.2
Property insurance premiums		123.7	123.6	-.7	-.1
Maintenance and repairs		156.9	158.3	9.4	.9
Maintenance and repair commodities ⁴		140.7	142.0	11.0	.9
Exterior house paint		122.4	123.7	3.9	1.1
Interior house paint		121.1	123.0	3.3	1.6
Maintenance and repair services		163.9	165.3	8.8	.9
Repainting living and dining rooms		176.0	176.8	7.7	.5
Reshingling house roof		171.1	173.8	8.9	1.6
Residing house		153.8	155.2	11.6	.9
Replacing sink		160.8	161.7	7.4	.6
Repairing furnace		166.8	167.9	6.3	.7
Fuel and utilities		¹ 135.9	140.8	14.7	3.6
Fuel oil and coal		172.8	194.6	61.2	12.6
Fuel oil, No. 2		171.8	194.5	64.4	13.2
Gas and electricity		131.0	134.3	8.2	2.5
Gas		133.1	135.1	7.1	1.5
Electricity		129.0	133.5	9.3	3.5
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		¹ ⁵ 120.5	120.9	5.5	.3
Residential water and sewerage services		149.1	149.2	5.3	.1
Household furnishings and operation ⁶		128.0	129.0	5.6	.8
Housefurnishings		121.3	122.0	4.4	.6
Textiles		120.1	119.5	5.7	-.5
Sheets		121.9	118.3	4.1	-3.0
Curtains, tailored		118.5	121.2	6.2	2.3
Bedspreads		116.3	115.0	4.4	-1.1
Drapery fabric		134.8	136.6	9.3	1.3
Pillows, bed		109.9	107.1	4.9	-2.5
Slipcovers and throws, ready made		118.9	118.1	4.4	-.7
Furniture and bedding		128.5	129.3	6.2	.6
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	113.4	114.2	8.0	.7
Sofas, upholstered		126.3	126.3	4.8	0
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	107.6	109.7	7.8	2.0
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	112.6	113.5	8.7	.8
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	101.4	102.2	3.8	.8
Sofas, dual purpose		123.2	124.0	5.4	.6
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	109.9	110.8	5.2	.8
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁷)	(⁷)	(⁷)	(⁷)
Cribs		126.9	128.2	6.8	1.0
Floor coverings		109.7	110.4	3.6	.6
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		104.1	104.4	3.2	.3
Vinyl sheet goods		124.5	124.8	4.3	.2
Vinyl asbestos tile		120.8	124.2	4.4	2.8
Appliances(excluding radio and T.V.)		110.1	110.6	.6	.5
Washing machines, electric, automatic		111.3	111.7	.6	.4
Vacuum cleaners		103.9	104.1	.4	.2
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.4	108.7	.6	.3
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		110.4	110.2	-.8	-.2
Clothes dryers, electric		114.9	114.9	.3	0
Air conditioners, demountable		(⁷)	(⁷)	(⁷)	(⁷)
Room heaters, electric, portable		109.8	111.2	2.3	1.3
Garbage disposal units		112.4	113.3	1.3	.8
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		135.4	137.5	8.4	1.6
Flatware, stainless steel		132.7	134.0	2.5	1.0
Table lamps, with shade		127.9	128.8	1.6	.7
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		(⁷)	(⁷)	(⁷)	(⁷)
Electric drills, hand-held		106.4	108.0	1.5	1.5
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		117.4	118.9	6.7	1.3
Paper napkins		140.5	143.3	5.7	2.0
Toilet tissue		132.9	135.7	8.4	2.1
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		153.4	154.1	8.6	.5
Baby sitter services		146.9	147.4	5.9	.3
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		155.7	157.9	11.1	1.4
Licensed day care services, preschool child		135.9	136.3	8.3	.3
Washing machine repairs		153.4	154.7	7.4	.8

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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to January 1974 from:	
		December 1973	January 1974	January 1973	December 1973
Apparel and upkeep ⁸ -----		130.5	128.8	4.7	-1.3
Apparel commodities -----		130.7	128.6	4.5	-1.6
Apparel commodities less footwear -----		130.3	127.7	4.2	-2.0
Men's and boys' -----		129.1	127.7	3.4	-1.1
Men's: -----					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends -----		136.5	135.1	4.9	-1.0
Suits, year round weight -----		136.1	131.8	1.9	-3.2
Suits, tropical weight -----		(7)	(7)	(7)	(7)
Jackets, lightweight -----		120.5	120.3	4.3	-.2
Slacks, wool or wool blends -----		117.1	116.0	.3	-.9
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends -----		138.6	139.3	-2.2	.5
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		124.1	123.9	7.0	-.2
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		126.0	127.4	9.7	1.1
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton -----		117.8	115.9	4.7	-1.6
T-shirts, chiefly cotton -----		124.7	127.1	7.2	1.9
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers -----		118.1	118.6	2.1	.4
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		124.5	125.8	6.9	1.0
Boys': -----					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends -----		123.5	112.6	-8.5	-8.8
Sport coats, wool or wool blends -----		122.7	120.8	1.0	-1.5
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blend -----		143.2	143.8	10.1	.4
Undershorts, cotton -----		127.0	128.3	5.9	1.0
Women's and girls' -----		131.8	127.8	4.6	-3.0
Women's: -----					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends -----		139.2	125.6	3.2	-9.8
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton -----		147.0	131.8	6.5	-10.3
Sweaters, wool or acrylic -----		137.9	133.1	14.8	-3.5
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers -----		153.0	144.1	2.9	-5.8
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		(7)	(7)	(7)	(7)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers -----		128.8	127.4	2.6	-1.1
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber -----		140.7	139.0	6.2	-1.2
Slips, nylon -----		111.6	112.0	1.3	.4
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot -----		122.3	122.5	3.5	.2
Girdles, manmade blend -----		120.0	119.1	2.1	-.8
Brassieres, nylon lace -----		128.1	127.6	5.0	-.4
Hose or panty hose, nylon seamless -----		92.0	92.0	-2.7	0
Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers -----		113.0	115.6	.8	2.3
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton -----		114.4	114.3	3.4	-.1
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic -----		158.9	154.8	6.0	-2.6
Girls': -----					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton, or polyester blend -----		121.0	118.7	7.8	-1.9
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic -----		126.1	115.2	10.0	-8.6
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends -----		124.4	119.0	-1.3	-4.3
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton -----		146.3	146.7	7.0	.3
Slips, polyester blends -----		109.7	110.4	.5	.6
Handbags, plastic -----		136.1	134.0	9.1	-1.5
Footwear -----		132.6	133.0	5.1	.3
Men's: -----					
Shoes, street -----		136.0	136.0	7.3	0
Shoes, work, high -----		141.1	141.6	11.1	.4
Women's: -----					
Shoes, street, pump -----		131.1	130.6	4.1	-.4
Shoes, evening, pump -----		125.6	126.5	2.8	.7
Shoes, casual -----		133.0	134.0	4.7	.8
Householders, scuff -----		130.7	131.0	3.0	.2
Children's: -----					
Shoes, oxford -----		134.6	134.6	3.9	0
Sneakers, boys', oxford type -----		127.5	128.0	2.5	.4
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump -----		136.6	138.8	6.1	1.6
Miscellaneous apparel: -----					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable -----		121.7	122.6	5.4	.7
Yard goods, polyester blend -----		135.5	137.3	15.7	1.3
Wrist watches, men's and women's -----		121.9	122.6	4.5	.6
Apparel services: -----					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses -----		126.6	127.7	7.3	.9
Automatic laundry service -----		119.5	120.6	4.1	.9
Laundry, men's shirts -----		133.7	136.0	8.5	1.7
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment -----		143.7	143.7	5.7	0
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift -----		126.7	127.2	6.8	.4

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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to January 1974 from:	
		December 1973	January 1974	January 1973	December 1973
Transportation ⁹		126.7	128.1	5.9	1.1
Private		124.6	126.2	6.5	1.3
Automobiles, new		112.0	112.9	1.6	.8
Automobiles, used		112.6	107.0	-5.1	-5.0
Gasoline, regular and premium		131.9	140.1	26.6	6.2
Motor oil, premium		132.1	134.9	7.8	2.1
Tires, new, tubeless		110.3	110.3	-2.5	0
Auto repairs and maintenance ¹⁰		145.9	147.3	6.4	1.0
Auto insurance rates		137.4	137.7	.5	.2
Auto registration		123.7	128.9	4.8	4.2
Parking fees, private and municipal		155.4	155.8	4.1	.3
Public		146.5	146.0	1.2	-.3
Local transit fares		149.2	148.4	-1.5	-.5
Taxicab fares		145.3	145.3	7.2	0
Railroad fares, coach		126.7	126.8	3.8	.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		141.4	141.4	7.0	0
Bus fares, intercity		150.9	150.9	4.8	0
Health and recreation		133.0	133.7	4.6	.5
Medical care		141.4	142.2	5.4	.6
Drugs and prescriptions		106.3	106.7	.9	.4
Over-the-counter items		113.0	113.5	1.6	.4
Multiple vitamin concentrates		95.8	96.2	1.8	.4
Aspirin compounds		118.0	118.2	.5	.2
Liquid tonics		102.2	102.5	1.3	.3
Adhesive bandages, packages		128.4	128.9	3.0	.4
Cold tablets or capsules		114.6	115.2	.8	.5
Cough syrup		115.1	116.0	1.8	.8
Prescriptions		100.7	101.1	.5	.4
Anti-infectives		69.9	69.0	-5.0	-1.3
Sedative and hypnotics		131.5	133.4	4.4	1.4
Anesthetics		104.1	104.2	.4	.1
Antispasmodics		108.0	108.6	.7	.6
Cough preparations		139.5	140.6	5.4	.8
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		114.1	114.1	1.8	0
Analgesics, internal		111.2	111.5	.7	.3
Anti-obesity		119.0	119.8	1.9	.7
Hormones		91.3	92.8	.2	1.6
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		140.8	141.3	4.1	.4
General physician, office visits		142.8	143.4	4.7	.4
General physician, house visits		142.7	143.1	2.7	.3
Obstetrical cases		140.1	140.4	4.2	.2
Pediatric care, office visits		142.5	143.4	3.9	.6
Psychiatrist, office visits		135.0	135.1	2.5	.1
Herniorrhaphy, adult		132.8	132.9	2.5	.1
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		135.2	135.9	4.1	.5
Dentists' fees		138.6	140.3	4.5	1.2
Filling, adult, amalgam, one surface		140.8	142.7	4.5	1.3
Extractions, adult		137.9	140.3	5.3	1.7
Dentures, full upper		134.9	135.5	3.7	.4
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		132.1	132.5	4.7	.3
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis		124.7	125.2	3.1	.4
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	107.6	108.3	4.5	.7
Semiprivate rooms		186.4	188.4	6.1	1.1
Operating room charges		183.8	184.4	6.3	.3
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I.		133.3	133.5	2.1	.2
Laboratory tests, urinalysis	Jan. 72	106.5	106.9	4.1	.4
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL	Jan. 72	96.6	96.4	-3.3	-.2
Tranquilizers, chlordiazepoxide, HCL and meprobamate	Jan. 72	106.2	106.2	4.1	0
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	105.5	106.0	1.9	.5
Intravenous solution, saline	Jan. 72	105.0	105.3	2.2	.3
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath	Jan. 72	107.5	108.0	5.0	.5
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	106.7	107.4	5.4	.7
Personal care		129.2	129.8	6.6	.5
Toilet goods		123.3	124.1	5.1	.6
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		109.3	108.3	-1.0	-.9
Toilet soap, hard milled		141.2	145.4	17.9	3.0
Hand lotions, liquid		126.9	127.1	.2	.2
Shaving cream, aerosol		109.1	108.5	.2	-.5
Face powder, pressed		150.0	150.0	6.7	0
Deodorants, aerosol		105.0	105.2	.8	.2
Cleansing tissues		133.9	136.4	11.6	1.9
Home permanent wave kits		109.3	109.5	-.4	.2
Personal care services		135.3	135.8	8.1	.4
Men's haircuts		138.0	138.7	8.8	.5
Beauty shop services		133.4	133.8	7.6	.3
Women's haircuts		140.9	141.3	11.4	.3
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		136.8	137.2	7.2	.3
Permanent waves, cold		118.3	118.7	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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to January 1974 from:	
		December 1973	January 1974	January 1973	December 1973
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation ¹¹		127.6	128.3	3.4	0.5
Recreational goods		110.3	110.9	2.9	.5
TV sets, portable and console		97.8	97.8	-1.0	0
TV replacement tubes		135.3	135.5	1.6	.1
Radios, portable and table model		99.8	99.6	.5	-.2
Tape recorders, portable		94.2	94.2	1.4	0
Phonograph records, stereophonic		109.0	109.8	1.6	.7
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		90.7	91.0	3.1	.3
Film, 35mm, color		107.6	108.4	.3	.7
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		103.3	103.6	-1.6	.3
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		128.3	128.0	1.3	-.2
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		110.2	110.1	2.1	-.1
Bowling balls		115.5	116.2	1.8	.6
Bicycles, boys'		125.2	125.2	6.6	0
Tricycles		117.3	118.0	3.5	.6
Dog food, canned or boxed		135.0	138.9	25.4	2.9
Recreational services		134.1	134.6	3.8	.4
Indoor movie admissions		149.0	149.8	5.0	.5
Adult		146.8	147.6	4.5	.5
Children's		155.4	155.9	6.1	.3
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		151.4	151.8	2.4	.3
Bowling fees, evening		127.9	128.4	5.1	.4
Golf green fees		(⁷)	(⁷)	(⁷)	(⁷)
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		100.4	100.5	1.8	.1
Film developing, color		115.5	115.8	-.3	.3
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		137.9	140.8	5.4	2.1
Magazines, single copy and subscription		133.7	133.7	-.3	0
Piano lessons, beginner		129.9	130.9	4.6	.8
Other goods and services		131.3	131.8	4.0	.4
Tobacco products		138.5	138.7	3.4	.1
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		140.1	140.3	3.2	.1
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		140.5	140.8	3.4	.2
Cigars, domestic, regular size		115.3	116.1	4.4	.7
Alcoholic beverages		125.3	125.9	4.3	.5
Beer		117.7	118.2	3.1	.4
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		109.5	109.6	.5	.1
Wine, dessert and table		141.8	143.4	11.6	1.1
Beer away from home		139.0	139.8	5.3	.6
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		129.8	130.3	5.9	.4
Bank service charges, checking accounts		104.8	105.2	-1.2	.4
Legal services, short form will		168.9	168.4	8.3	-.3

¹ Revised.

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

³ Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

⁴ Also includes pine shelving, furnace filter, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.

⁵ Revised indexes: January 1973, 114.5; February 1973, 115.1; March 1973, 115.3; April 1973, 115.5; May 1973, 115.6; August 1973, 117.0.

⁶ Also includes window shades, nails, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholstering and moving expenses.

⁷ Priced only in season.

⁸ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zip-pers not shown separately.

⁹ Also includes storage batteries and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

¹⁰ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

¹¹ Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.

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 About Calculating Index Changes

Movements of the indexes from one 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 example in the accompanying box illustrates the computation of index point and percent changes.

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.

Percent changes for 3-month and 6-month periods are expressed as annual rates and 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. BLS does not publish annual rates based on data for 1 month.

<i>Index Point Change</i>	
CPI	123.8
Less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
Equals index point change:	0.6
<i>Percent Change</i>	
Index point difference,	<u>0.6</u>
Divided by the previous index,	123.2
Equals,	0.005
Results multiplied by one hundred	0.005x100
Equals percent change:	0.5

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 are also 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 annual *percent changes* in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1972 averages.

Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 1972 data

Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items . . . . .	.04	.06	.09
Food at home . . . . .	.07	.10	.15
Food away from home . . . . .	.08	.14	.33
Housing . . . . .	.06	.10	.19
Apparel and upkeep . . . . .	.17	.27	.33
Transportation . . . . .	.11	.17	.20
Medical care . . . . .	.09	.14	.28
Personal care . . . . .	.14	.19	.34
Reading and recreation . . . . .	.09	.12	.20
Other goods and services . . . . .	.11	.17	.23

The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard error.

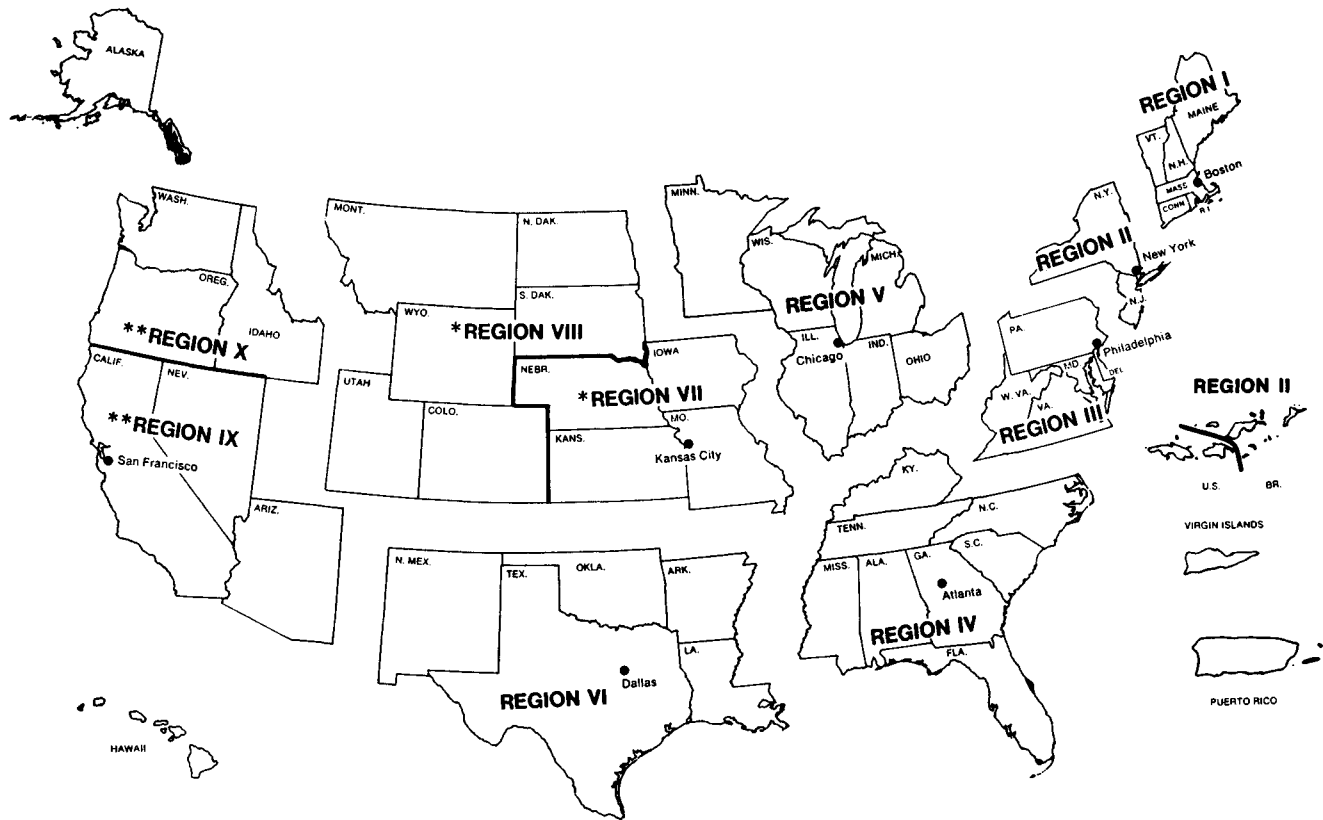
Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. As the table indicates, for example, a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all-items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might 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 March 1973.

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

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