

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

J. D. Hodgson, Secretary

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Geoffrey H. Moore, Commissioner

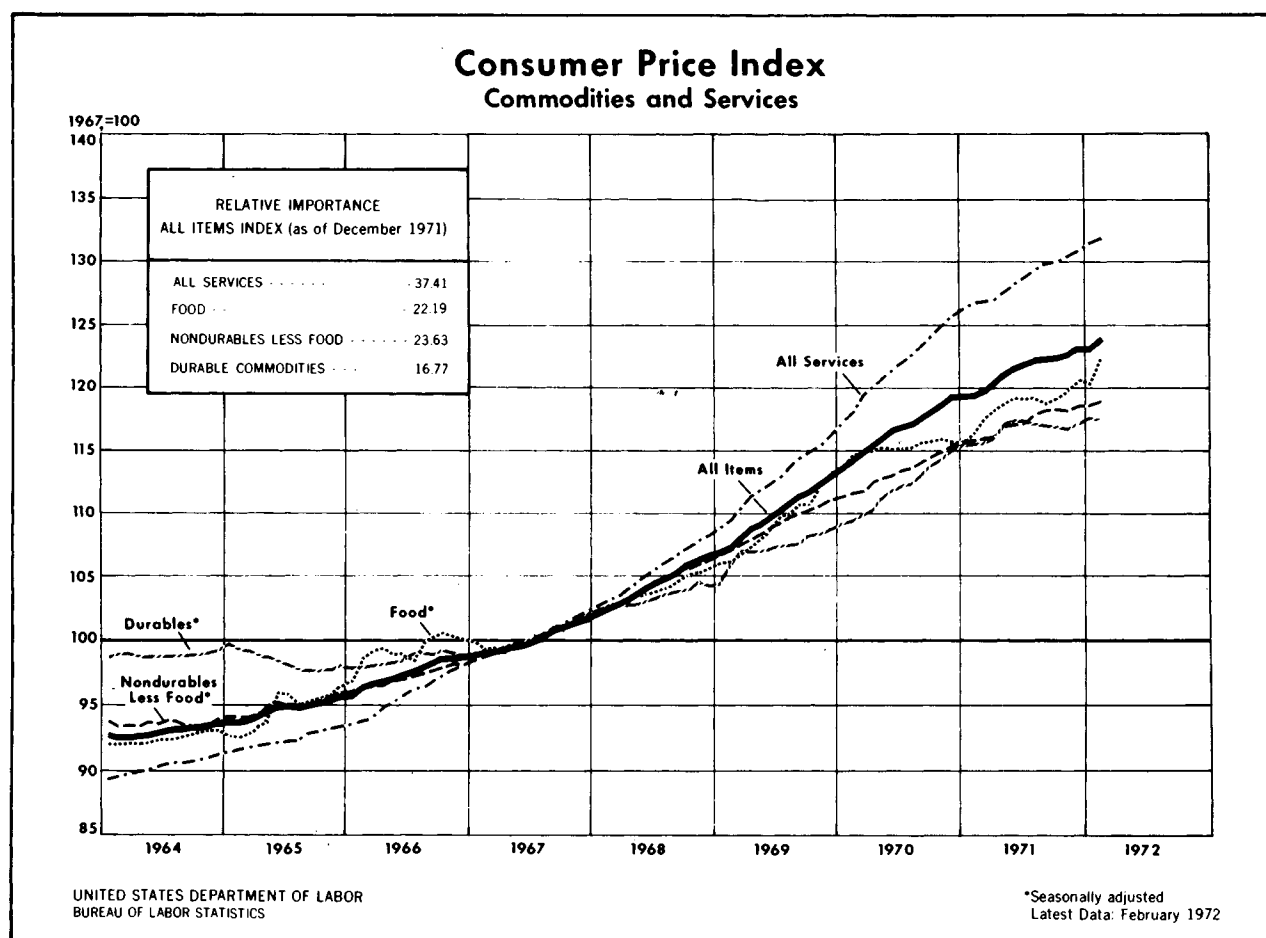
OFFICE OF PRICES

AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Joel Popkin, Assistant Commissioner

the consumer price index

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



THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
FOR
FEBRUARY 1972

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.5 percent in February to 123.8 percent of its 1967=base. About three-fourths of the rise was due to higher prices for food, particularly meats. After seasonal adjustment, the February increase was also 0.5 percent. The February index was 3.7 percent higher than it was a year ago.

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items at seasonally adjusted compound annual rate		
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Serv-ices	From	From	From
	Unadj.	Seas. adj.	Unadj.	Seas. adj.	Unadj.	Seas. adj.	Unadj.	3 mos. ago	6 mos. ago	12 mos. ago
February 1971-	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.5	0	- 0.1	0.2	4.0	4.8	4.8
March -----	.3	.2	.9	.9	.3	.2	0	2.8	4.1	4.6
April -----	.3	.3	.7	.9	.3	.2	.2	2.8	3.6	4.3
May -----	.5	.6	.3	.2	.7	.7	.6	4.2	4.1	4.4
June -----	.6	.5	.8	.5	.4	.3	.5	5.3	4.0	4.5
July -----	.2	.2	.5	.1	.1	.1	.5	4.9	3.9	4.4
August -----	.2	.3	.2	.1	.1	.3	.5	4.0	4.1	4.4
September ----	.1	.1	.8	.3	.3	0	.3	2.6	3.9	4.0
October -----	.2	.1	.2	0	.5	0	.2	2.4	3.6	3.6
November -----	.2	.2	.1	.7	.1	0	.3	1.7	2.8	3.5
December -----	.4	.4	1.1	.7	0	.3	.3	2.8	2.7	3.4
January 1972--	.1	.3	0	.2	.3	.2	.5	3.3	2.8	3.4
February -----	.5	.5	1.6	1.7	.1	.1	.2	4.9	3.3	3.7

In the 6 months since the Economic Stabilization Program was announced in August, the CPI has risen at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.3 percent. During the 6 months preceding the wage-price-rent freeze, the annual rate of increase was 4.1 percent. The rate for the August-November period, which corresponds roughly to Phase I of the Economic Stabilization Program, was 1.7 percent. From November to February (Phase II), the rate of the increase was 4.9 percent.

The August to November change reflects for the most part changes in prices collected during the wage-price-rent freeze although some prices were collected before August 15 and after November 13. The August to November change also includes price changes for items exempt from the freeze, such as raw foods, or subject to special regulations which permit increases under certain conditions. (See page 6 for a fuller explanation of the impact of the wage-price-rent freeze on the CPI for February.)

More than half of the acceleration between Phase I and Phase II was due to the rapid rise in food prices. The nonfood commodities index, which did not change in Phase I, increased at an annual rate of 1.7 percent from November to February. The November-February rise was somewhat less than the 3.1 percent rate during the May-August period. Charges for consumer services increased at an annual rate of 4.4 percent in Phase II a little more than the 3.1 percent rate in Phase I but considerably less than the 6.1 percent rate during the 3 months immediately preceding the freeze.

Food

The rate of advance in the food price index accelerated sharply in February because prices of food purchased in grocery stores rose 1.9 percent. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the increase was 2.0 percent--the largest 1-month rise since March 1958. The February increase followed a decline of 0.3 percent in January and an increase of 0.9 percent in December.

For the 3 months from November to February, prices of grocery foods rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 10.6 percent, in sharp contrast to the 1.4 percent rate of increase during the August-November period and the 2.1 percent rate during the 3 months before the freeze. (See table B.) About 70 percent of the February increase and 60 percent of the November-February advance was due to a steep rise in the meats, poultry, and fish component of the food index.

Table B. CPI food and components seasonally adjusted percent change at compound annual rate

Groups	3-months ending				
	February 1972	November 1971	August 1971	May 1971	February 1971
Food -----	9.3	1.7	2.7	8.2	1.7
Food at home -----	10.6	1.4	2.1	9.4	0.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	1.1	- 1.4	0.7	5.1	6.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	30.2	7.0	1.0	8.3	- 2.8
Dairy products -----	4.2	- 1.0	2.5	4.6	2.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	9.9	- 0.3	10.9	20.5	1.1
Other food at home -----	- 4.8	- 2.7	- 3.7	11.7	- 1.4
Food away from home -----	3.5	2.5	5.5	4.6	5.7

The CPI for meats, poultry, and fish rose at a seasonally adjusted rate of 30.2 percent from November to February after increasing at a 7.0-percent rate from August to November. Meat prices, which declined somewhat less than they usually do from August to November, advanced sharply from November to February, a period when they usually show a slight seasonal decrease. In February alone, meat prices climbed 5.2 percent--the largest monthly increase since June 1965--reflecting sharp gains in wholesale meat and livestock prices from October to January.

Large increases in pork and hog prices have been attributed to smaller supplies as hogs are now in the downswing of the traditional 2-year production cycle. The number of hogs on farms on December 1, 1971 was 7 percent lower than it was a year earlier and pork production during January 1972 was 12 percent lower than they were in January 1971 and 15 percent lower than December 1971.

The cause of the rise in beef prices appears to be due to strong consumer demand. At the start of 1972, the inventory of cattle on feed in the weight groups that supply the bulk of the marketings was up 11 percent from year--earlier levels. Beef production in January was 1 percent higher than it was in December 1971. Nevertheless, beef held in cold storage during January 1972 was down 3 percent from its December 1971 level. Cold storage movement, however, is only an indicator of demand, because a very small percentage of beef is held in cold storage.

Retail poultry prices, which declined during the last 3 months of 1971, increased slightly more than they generally do in January and February. Higher prices were attributed to smaller production and a decline in cold storage holdings. Fish prices also moved up strongly in January and February due in part to smaller winter catches and increased demand of the Lenten season. Greater demand for poultry, fish, and other high protein food would appear to be partly the result of high meat prices.

A sharper than usual increase in the prices of fresh fruits and vegetables--at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 14.3 percent--accounted for about a fourth of the rise in the index for grocery store foods from November to February. From August to November, fresh fruit and vegetable prices declined slightly. Smaller domestic supplies this winter, because

of reduced acreage planted of some items, adverse weather conditions, and some gaps in domestic production as harvesting shifted from one growing area to another pushed up prices of fresh vegetables in the 3 months ending in February, particularly prices of lettuce, celery, and tomatoes.

Slackening imports from Mexico and the West Indies accounted for increases in prices for cucumbers, green peppers, and bananas. Smaller supplies in cold storage caused a sharper than usual increase in apple prices from November to February. Prices of fresh oranges did not decline as much as they usually do in December and January because of late maturing crops; in February, however, they moved down somewhat more than seasonally.

For the 3 months ending in February, prices of dairy products increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.2 percent; they declined at a 1.0-percent rate from August to November. Instead of moving down seasonally from November to February, prices rose for milk and cheese, reflecting increases in wholesale costs. Wholesale milk prices rose in January as demand exceeded supply, particularly for milk used by manufacturers of cheese and evaporated milk. Although milk production rose in February and fluid stocks were reported to be adequate, wholesale milk prices continued to rise as short supplies for manufacturing needs were noted in certain areas, particularly as plants faced active competition from cheese producers for surplus milk.

Prices for cereal and bakery products, which declined in the August to November period, continued to move down in December and January but increased in February. The increase was due partly to the fact that white bread prices returned to regular levels following sales in a number of cities in January. In addition, increases in wholesale prices for flour and bread contributed to higher prices at retail.

The index for other food at home declined at a 4.8 percent seasonally adjusted annual rate from November to February, sharper than the 2.7 percent rate of decline from August to November. Lower egg prices accounted for most of the decline.

The rate of advance in the index for food away from home--restaurant meals and snacks--which decelerated markedly during Phase I, was slightly faster during the November-February period. However, the rise in food costs since late 1971 apparently has not had an important effect on the prices of restaurant meals. In addition, the rise in wage rates for restaurant workers slowed considerably during 1971. Average hourly earnings for nonsupervisory workers in eating and drinking places are estimated to have increased about 3 percent over the year ending in January 1972, compared with an increase of over 7 percent for the year ending in January 1971.

Commodities less food

The index for nonfood commodities, which held steady from August to November on a seasonally adjusted basis, rose at a moderate pace of 1.7 from November to February. This rate was slower than the 3.1 percent in the 3 months ending in August. New cars and cigarettes, were the only major components which contributed to the slight acceleration in the nonfood commodities index. Prices of other components of the nonfood commodities index either increased less or declined more than they did during Phase I.

Table C. CPI commodities less food, seasonally adjusted percent change at compound annual rate, except when indicated

Group	3 months ending				
	February 1972	November 1971	August 1971	May 1971	February 1971
Commodities less food -----	1.7	0	3.1	4.2	3.2
Nondurables less food -----	2.4	1.4	3.8	3.1	3.2
Apparel commodities -----	1.7	3.0	- 0.3	4.4	2.4
Nondurables less food and apparel <u>1/</u> -----	1.7	1.0	6.8	1.8	2.9
Gasoline and motor oil -	2.9	- 1.8	14.9	- 8.3	0.4
Tobacco products <u>1/</u> --	9.6	3.5	10.7	1.9	1.0
Alcoholic beverages <u>1/</u>	1.4	3.1	3.5	3.5	4.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	- .4	- 1.7	4.2	3.1	9.4
Other nondurables <u>1/</u> --	1.7	1.7	3.2	5.8	3.6
Durable commodities -----	2.4	- 0.7	1.7	4.2	4.3
Household durables -----	0	0.4	4.3	1.8	1.4
New cars -----	15.4	- 13.6	- 9.8	- 1.0	16.5
Used cars <u>1/</u> -----	- 23.7	- 7.9	- 1.1	30.7	- 11.6
Other durables <u>1/</u> -----	2.3	4.6	6.1	4.4	2.0

1/ Not seasonally adjusted.

In Phase I, new car prices declined sharply reflecting the repeal of the Federal excise tax. Manufacturer-to-dealer prices on new cars were raised in late November and early December. These price increases pertained to new shipments and did not apply to cars held in inventory. As a result only a small portion of the increase was reflected in the December CPI for new cars. A larger portion was reflected in the January index. For the same reason, most of the list price increases, which went into effect in January 1972, were not reflected until February. However, dealer concessions in February were larger than usual and more than offset the increase in list prices. The new car index, therefore, showed no change on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Sales of domestic new cars in February surpassed the previous record for February established in 1965. Imported car sales also surpassed the previous February sales record registered in 1971. However, foreign cars have been taking a somewhat smaller share of the total new car market so far this year than they were last spring and summer.

The used car index showed a somewhat different pattern. Used car prices declined at a faster pace in the first 3 months of Phase II than in the Phase I period. Following an unusually large drop in December, the January and February declines in used car prices were very close to the normal seasonal pattern.

Prices of household durables, which rose at a 4.3-percent annual rate in the 3 months preceding the freeze, held almost level during Phase I and showed no change during the first 3 months of Phase II. Wholesale prices behaved similarly, holding steady from August through January instead of rising about 0.4 percent as they usually do. In February, wholesale prices for household durables and appliances advanced as a result of the combined effects of a number of small increases permitted by the Price Commission. Stable prices, the boom in housing, and the rise in warehouse retailing with accompanying stepped-up promotions had a stimulating effect on the volume of business in furniture and appliance stores. In January, sales in these stores were up 6 percent from December 1971 and 17 percent from January 1971. In February, sales continued to improve.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the rise in the prices of apparel commodities slowed to an annual rate of 1.7 percent in the first 3 months of Phase II. The increase was mostly due to a sharp rise in women's apparel prices in February, when spring items were reintroduced at higher prices than those which prevailed at the end of the season last year. In addition, prices were higher for some year-round items such as women's blouses and dresses made of man-made fibers because of return to regular prices after the end of clearance sales. Although wholesale prices for apparel rose just slightly from November to February, footwear prices increased significantly in January and February. Footwear prices are under considerable pressure from rising prices for hides and skins. (Because of a growing shortage in the worldwide supply of cattle hides, U.S. tanners and shoe manufacturers have asked the Government to set quotas on the exports of cattle hides to reduce the upward pressure on prices caused by strong foreign demand.)

Among nondurable commodities other than food and apparel, prices of gasoline declined more during the November-February period than they did from August to November, primarily because of a renewal of major price wars in a number of cities. The sharp acceleration in the rise in the prices of tobacco products reflected numerous increases in State and local taxes, as well as increase in wholesale prices.

Services

Since August 1971, when the Economic Stabilization Program went into effect, the index for consumer services has risen at an annual rate of 3.7 percent. For the 3 months ending in February, the index advanced at a 4.4 percent annual rate, and for the 3 months ending in November, the rate of advance was 3.1 percent. These increases were considerably below the 6.1 percent in the 3 months prior to the freeze. (See table D.)

Table D. CPI services and components, percent change at seasonally adjusted annual rate compounded, except when indicated by 1/

Group	3-months ending				
	February 1972	November 1971	August 1971	May 1971	February 1971
Services 1/ -----	4.4	3.1	6.1	2.9	5.6
Rent 1/ -----	3.1	2.8	3.9	3.9	6.6
Household less rent ----	7.6	5.5	9.2	- 2.4	2.5
Transportation -----	1.5	- 0.3	4.9	7.6	10.4
Medical care -----	3.9	0.6	6.8	7.9	7.7
Other services -----	2.3	4.0	3.0	2.7	6.9

1/ Not seasonally adjusted.

The rise in charges for household services was faster in Phase II primarily because of the continued rise in property taxes and a sharp acceleration in charges for utilities. Property taxes, which are exempt from regulations under the Economic Stabilization Program, rose steadily throughout Phase I.

Charges for gas, electricity and telephone all increased substantially during the November-February period. Except for gas, which increased in November, charges for these services did not change on balance during the August-November period. In December and January, gas and electricity charges rose sharply due to rate increases and adjustments for higher fuel costs. Telephone rates also advanced. In February, gas and electricity charges increased slightly; this rise reflected changes which occurred before the Price Commission instituted a new freeze on utility rates effective from February 10 through March 25. Residential telephone rates, on the other hand, advanced substantially in February because of increases in a number of cities before February 10.

The rise in the index for household services was moderated by a decline in mortgage interest rates which began late in Phase I and continued during Phase II. Rates on conventional loans moved down as the supply of funds exceeded the demand for them.

Medical care service charges rose 3.9 percent at a seasonally adjusted annual rate from November 1971 to February 1972, compared with an increase at an 0.6 percent rate in the 3 months ending in November 1971, and a considerably faster 6.8 percent rate in the 3 months preceding the freeze. Charges for semiprivate rooms, and use of the operating room rose sharply from November to February as labor costs rose. Laboratory fees also rose significantly. (See Technical Note on revision of the Medical Care Component, page 9.)

The index for transportation services, which edged down slightly from August to November, increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.5 percent from November to February. This was substantially less than increases in 1971 before the freeze. The increase in the index since November was partly due to a large rise in local-transit fares, particularly in January; local-transit fares held almost steady from April through November of last year. In addition, charges for auto repairs and parking fees recorded large increases after November. These increases, however, were considerably smaller than they were in the November to February period of 1971. The effect of these increases on the index was moderated by declines in auto insurance rates. Introduction of dividends in various States because of an overall reduction in the amount of claims paid in 1971 and the introduction of no-fault insurance in some States contributed to lower rates.

Charges for other services such as legal service, tailoring, shoe repairs, beauty shop services, and movies increased at a slower pace from November to February than they did during the freeze.

Impact of the Economic Stabilization Program

About one-fifth of the 0.5-percent increase in the February CPI was due to price changes of items exempt from regulation under Phase II of the Economic Stabilization Program. When the effects of price changes for raw agricultural products--fresh fruits and vegetables and eggs--used cars, houses, mortgage interest rates and taxes are removed, the increase in the February index was 0.4 percent. This 0.4 percent is more than the corresponding 0.1-percent increase in January and the 0.2 percent in December. Most of the 0.4-percent February increase was caused by higher prices for nonexempt foods purchased in grocery stores, especially meat. Price increases for telephone services, women's clothing and a few other items--partially offset by a decline in gasoline prices--also contributed to the increase.

The preceding analysis is based on the contribution to the change between January and February of individual index components weighted by their relative importance in the CPI market basket. The behavior of the CPI also can be viewed through analysis of individual prices without regard to their relative importance in the index market basket. Accordingly, the Bureau of Labor Statistics analyzed the 120,000 individual prices it directly collects for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of the 120,000 quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from table E, 70 percent of these prices remained unchanged, 8 percent decreased, and 22 percent increased between January and February. The proportion of prices which increased was considerably larger this month than in any month since October 1971, when this analysis was initiated. The widespread increase in food prices accounted for almost all of this change.

The February index also includes about 23,000 price comparisons to February from periods before January. About 18,500 of these cover the quarterly span from November to February. About 12 percent of these prices increased, a slightly higher proportion than in last month's index. In addition, more than 4,500 rental units were surveyed for the index in February and about 2.3 percent of these increased between January and February. Of the total rental units surveyed, 2 percent showed increases in excess of 2.5 percent and about 1.2 percent had increases in excess of 5 percent.

Table E. Percent Distribution of monthly price comparisons 1/

Groups	September to October	October to November	November to December	December to January	January to February
All items 2/ -----	100	100	100	100	100
Increases -----	11	11	16	14	22
Decreases -----	10	9	7	11	8
No change -----	79	80	77	75	70
Food at home -----	100	100	100	100	100
Increases -----	12	13	17	15	24
Decreases -----	11	10	8	11	9
No change -----	77	77	75	74	67
Commodities less food -----	+ 100	100	100	100	100
Increases -----	7	7	6	7	8
Decreases -----	7	6	5	10	7
No change -----	86	87	89	83	85
Services -----	100	100	100	100	100
Increases -----	1	2	6	12	8
Decreases -----	8	1	1	5	3
No change -----	91	97	93	83	89
All items excluding raw ---- agricultural products ----	100	100	100	100	100
Increases -----	7	7	9	12	20
Decreases -----	8	7	6	7	6
No change -----	85	86	85	81	74

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 above table.

2/ Based on approximately 97,000 individual price quotations.

A NOTE ABOUT CALCULATING INDEX CHANGES

Effective with the February 1970 release, and continuing thereafter, percent changes expressed as annual rates will be computed according to the standard formula for compound growth rates. These data indicate what the percent 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:

Index Point Change		Percent Change
February 1972 CPI(1967=100)	123.8	Index point difference divided by the index for the previous period: $\frac{123.8 - 123.2}{123.2} \times 100 = 0.5$
less January index	<u>123.2</u>	
index point difference =	0.6	

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

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 pensions plans, for example, tie compensation changes to the Consumer Price Index unadjusted for seasonal variation.

Technical Note

Revision of the Medical Care Component of the Consumer Price Index February 1972

Effective with the index for February 1972, the samples of specifications priced to represent hospital services and health insurance in the Consumer Price Index have been enlarged and reweighted. In accordance with established CPI procedures, the introduction of new specifications and the redistribution of index weight did not affect the level of the index or its components. The enlarged and reweighted samples are expected to provide better estimates of price change for these two important index components.

The hospital services component of medical care in the CPI represents direct expenditures of the index population for hospital services; the health insurance component represents expenditures made for health insurance policies by the index population.^{1/}

Hospital services

Before February 1972, hospital services were represented in the index by daily service charges for private and semiprivate hospital rooms. This component will now be represented by a sample of 10 specifications, seven of which are new to the index, as indicated in table F.

Table F. CPI Item Samples--Hospital Services ^{2/}

Before February 1972		As of February 1972	
A	B	A	B
Hospital service specifications	Hospital service specifications	Hospital service specifications	Hospital service specifications
Semiprivate room	Semiprivate room	Semiprivate room	Semiprivate room
Private room	Private room	Operating room ^{3/}	Operating room ^{3/}
		Laboratory fees	X-rays ^{3/}
		Electrocardiogram	Oxygen
		Tetracycline	Tranquilizer
		Intravenous solution	Physical therapy

^{2/} The CPI system of replication provides for two separate samples of items (A and B) for use in the measurement of sampling error.

^{3/} Previously included in health insurance component only.

^{1/} The index population consists of urban wage earners and clerical workers' families whose 1960-61 expenditures account for the weights of individual items in the CPI.

Charges for private rooms will no longer be included in the sample of specifications priced for hospital services because their trend is very similar to that for semiprivate rooms. Specifications for use of operating rooms and for X-rays, which were previously included only in the health insurance component, have now been added to the hospital service segment as well. The other seven specifications in the revised sample, which are new to the CPI, were priced on a test basis over an extended period of time before inclusion in the index. These seven specifications were selected by BLS with advice from the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) and the American Hospital Association (AHA) as being typical of the hospital services which consumers purchase. HEW also assisted the BLS by providing a portion of the funds required for the testing of the new items.

The redistribution of index weight in the hospital services component necessitated by the introduction of new specifications was made on the basis of hospital revenue data supplied by AHA. Since these data represented total hospital revenue for various services, they had to be adjusted to eliminate amounts received from health insurance companies in payment for covered services. These adjustments were made on the basis of data available in the Source Book of Health Insurance Data, 1970; these data indicate the percentage of total hospital revenue paid by health insurance for various covered services.

Health insurance

Since the last comprehensive index revision, completed in December 1963, health insurance has been represented in the CPI by an estimate of claims paid and earnings retained for overhead by health insurance companies. Health insurance premiums are not priced directly.^{4/} The claims portion of health insurance consists of a representative sample of hospital and non-hospital services for which payments are made by insurance companies in behalf of policyholders. The overhead portion is computed from month to month on the basis of the price change shown by the claims portion and is adjusted annually to reflect any change in the retained earnings experience of health insurance companies. (For a detailed description of the health insurance component see "Health Insurance in the Revised CPI," Monthly Labor Review, November 1964.) The current revision of the health insurance component does not constitute a change in this basic approach to measuring price trend for this component of the CPI. Rather, it is designed to provide better estimates of the claims portion of the component through an expansion and reweighting of the sample of specifications priced for the claims portion of health insurance, (See table G.)

Table G. CPI Item Samples--Health Insurance

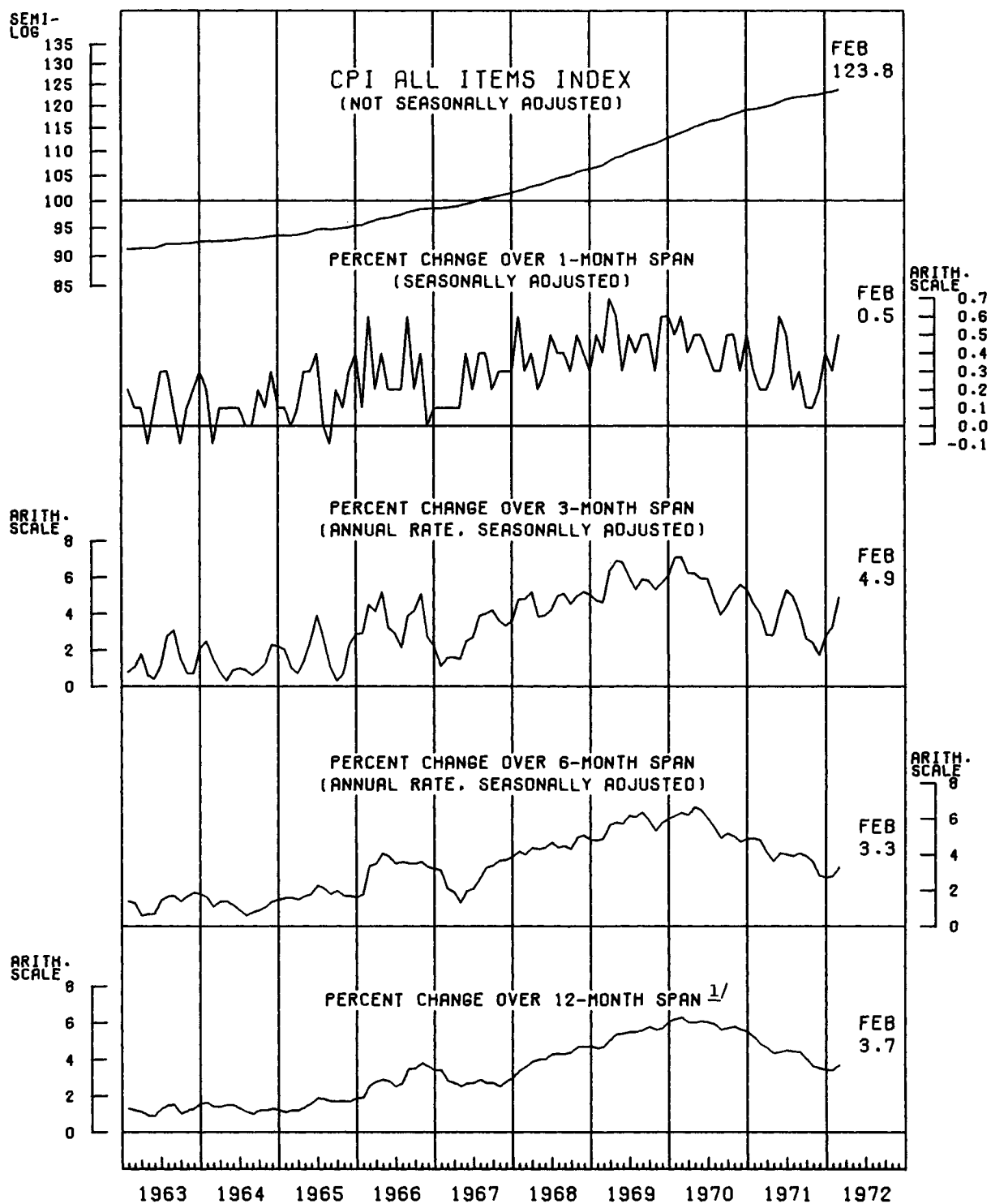
Before February 1972		As of February 1972	
A	B	A	B
Claims portion	Claims portion	Claims Portion	Claims Portion
Hospital service specifications	Hospital service specifications	Hospital service specifications	Hospital service specifications
Semiprivate room	Semiprivate room	Semiprivate room	Semiprivate
Private room	Private room	Operating room	Operating room
Operating room	X-ray	Laboratory fees	X-ray
Nonhospital service specifications	Nonhospital service specifications	Tetracycline	Tranquilizer
Physicians' office visit	Physicians' office visit	Electrocardiogram	Physical therapy
Surgeons' fees	Surgeons' fees	Intravenous solution	Oxygen
(Tonsillectomy/Adenoidectomy)	(Herniorrhaphy, adult)	Nonhospital service specifications	Nonhospital service specifications
Prescriptions and drugs	Obstetrical case	Physicians' office visit	Physicians' office visit
	Prescriptions and drugs	Surgeons' fees	Surgeons' fees
		(Tonsillectomy/Adenoidectomy)	(Herniorrhaphy, adult)
			Obstetrical cases

4/ The procedure of pricing claims and retained earnings of health insurance companies was adopted instead of direct pricing of premiums because of the difficulties in adjusting the premiums for changes in the quality of policy coverage.

As in the case of hospital services, the specifications for private rooms has been deleted. In addition, the prescription and drug expenditure weight has been transferred from nonhospital services to hospital services within the claims portion.

The claims portion of health insurance is intended to represent the experience of health insurance companies in paying out benefits. Consequently, the distribution of index weight to the specifications within the claims portion must be based on the importance of these specifications in benefits paid out by insurance companies. Data obtained from the Health Insurance Association of America, covering benefits paid for various hospital services by approximately 80 percent of private insurance companies, were used to derive the revised weighting structure from the claims portion.

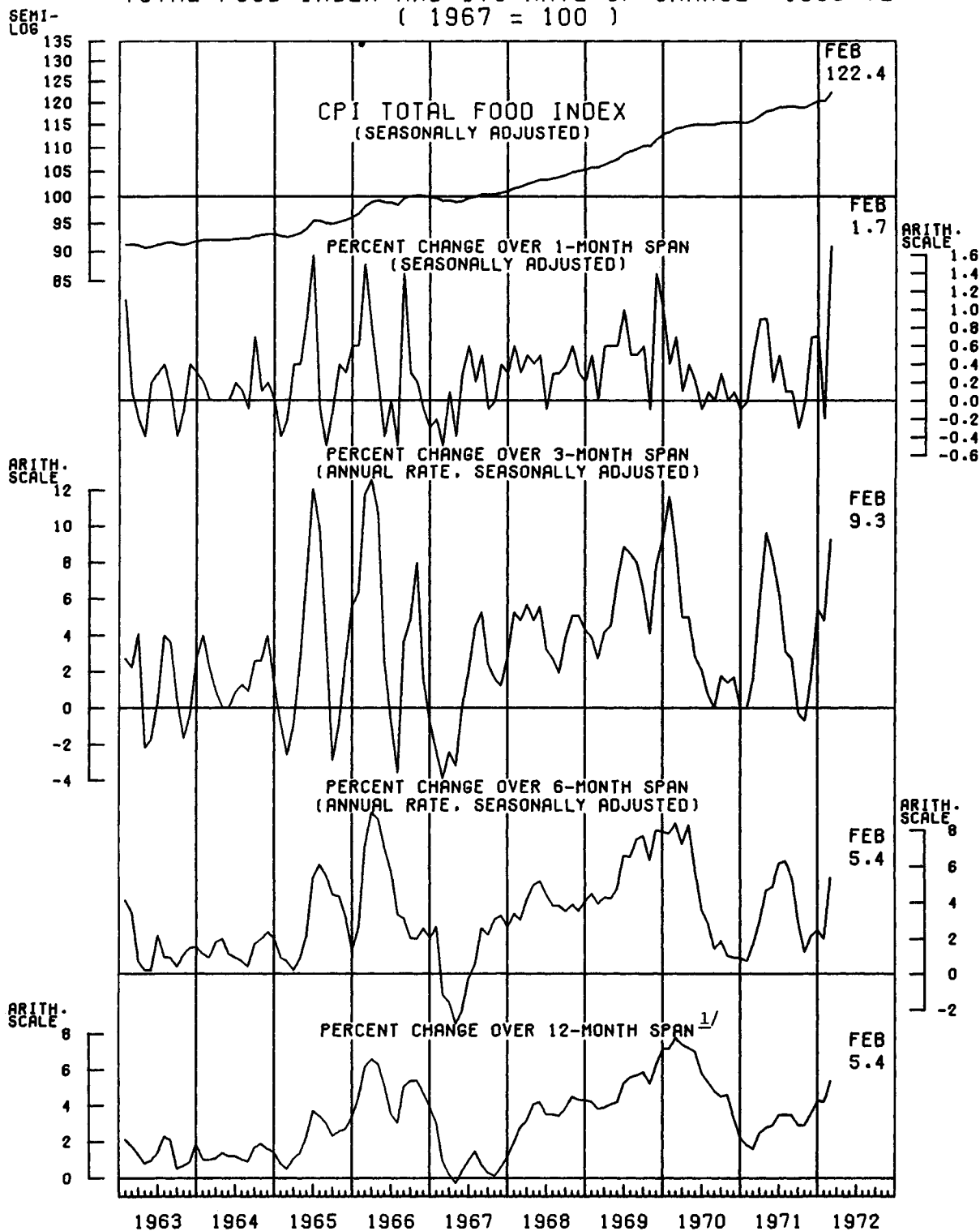
ALL ITEMS INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
(1967 = 100)



1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.

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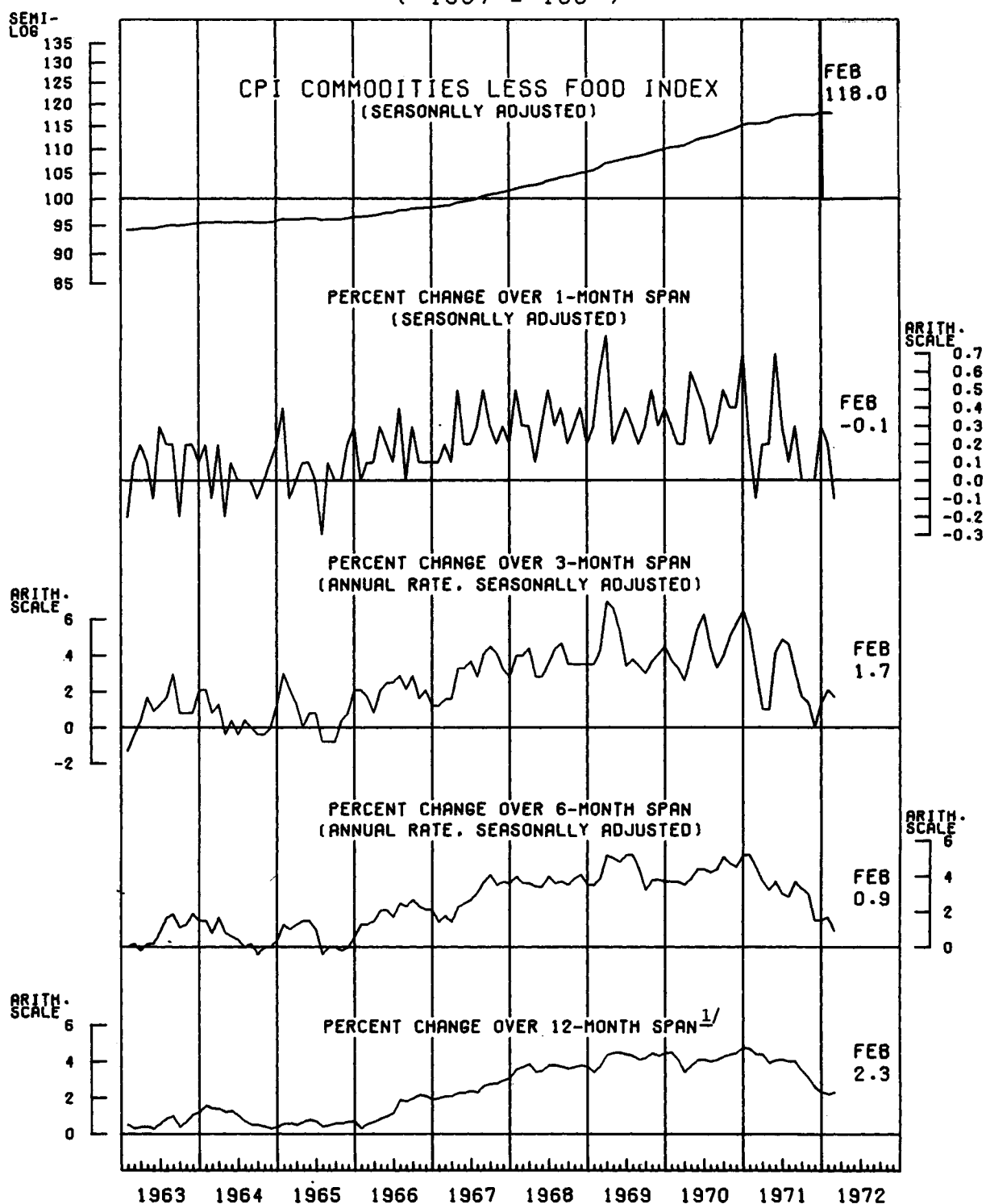
TOTAL FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
(1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

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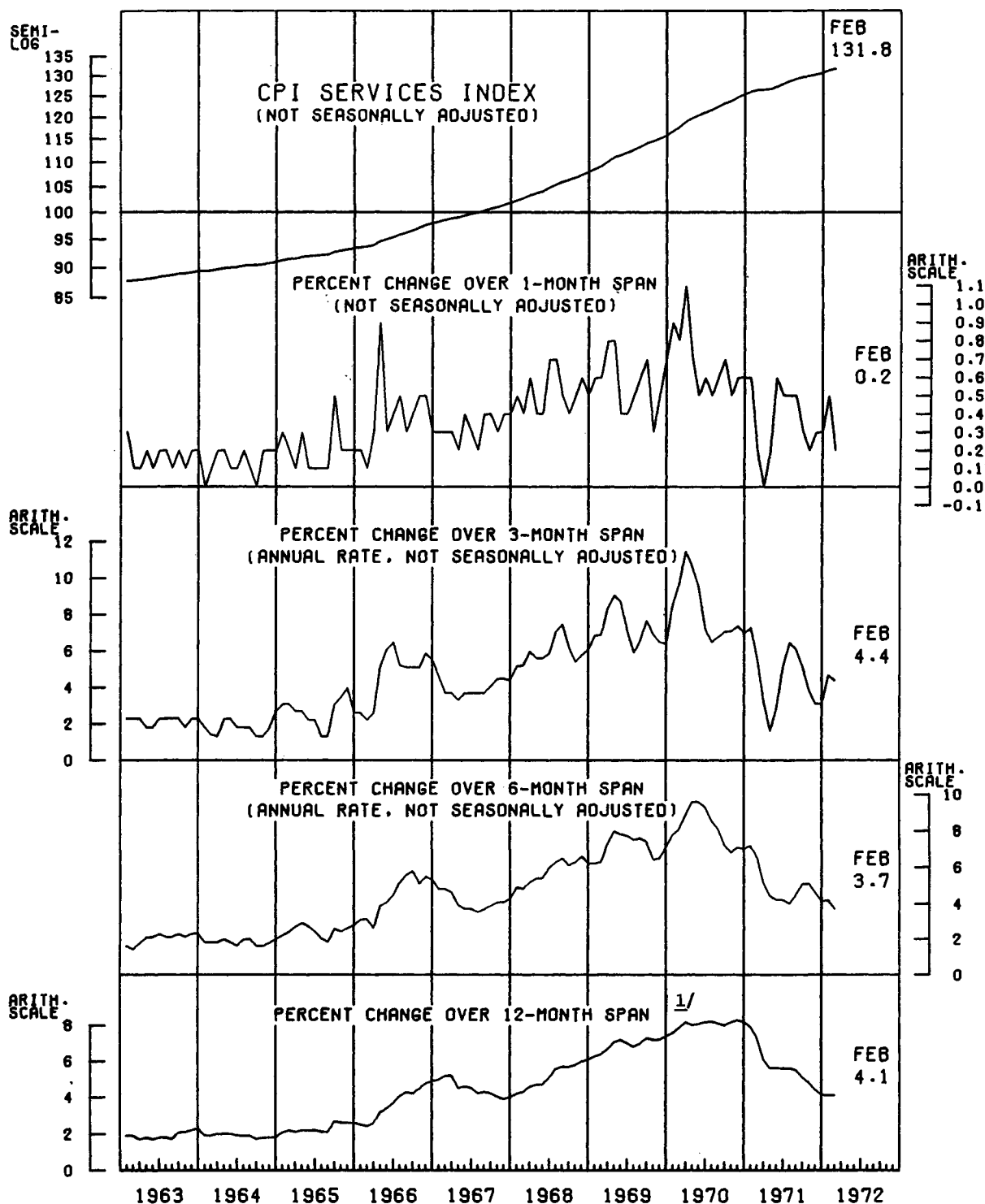
COMMODITIES LESS FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
(1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

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SERVICES INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
(1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Table 1. Consumer Price Index--United States City Average for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers,
by Commodity and Service Groups, and Expenditure Classes

Groups	Relative importance December	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to February 1972 from--		Seasonally adjusted percent change from previous month		
	1971	February 1972	January 1972	January 1972	February 1971	January- February	December- January	November- December
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.00	123.8	123.2	0.5	3.7	0.5	0.3	0.4
All items (1957-59=100)		143.9	143.3					
Commodities	62.59	119.4	118.7	.6	3.4	.6	.1	.3
Food	22.19	122.2	120.3	1.6	5.4	1.7	-.2	.7
Food at home	17.23	120.5	118.2	1.9	5.8	2.0	-.3	.9
Cereals and bakery products	2.28	114.3	113.7	.5	1.3	.6	-.1	-.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	5.64	126.3	120.7	4.6	11.2	4.4	1.2	1.2
Dairy products	2.72	116.9	116.4	.4	2.5	.6	.3	.1
Fruits and vegetables	3.03	123.9	120.9	2.5	10.0	2.5	-4.2	4.3
Other foods at home	3.56	115.6	116.2	-.5	-.1	-.2	-.6	-.4
Food away from home	4.96	128.9	128.6	.2	4.0	.3	.3	.2
Commodities less food	40.40	117.8	117.7	.1	2.3	-.1	.2	.3
Nondurables less food	23.63	118.4	118.1	.3	2.6	.2	.2	.3
Apparel commodities 1/	9.03	120.9	120.3	.5	2.2	.4	-.1	.1
Men's and boys'	2.82	119.7	119.9	-.2	1.5	0	-.3	.2
Women's and girls'	4.02	121.7	120.2	1.2	2.7	1.0	-.1	.2
Footwear	1.57	122.7	122.7	0	2.3	-.2	.2	.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.60	117.0	116.8	.2	2.8	*.2	*.0	*.3
Gasoline and motor oil	2.92	106.9	107.8	-.8	.1	-.7	-.6	.6
Tobacco products	2.09	132.0	130.2	1.4	6.4	*1.4	*.8	*.2
Alcoholic beverages	2.50	118.7	118.5	.2	2.9	*.2	*.1	*.1
Fuel oil and coal	.67	118.7	118.7	0	1.3	0	.2	-.3
Other nondurables	6.42	116.6	116.3	.3	3.1	*.3	*.1	*.3
Durables commodities	16.77	117.1	117.3	-.2	1.8	.1	.3	.3
Household durables	4.83	113.6	113.7	-.1	1.6	-.1	0	.1
New cars	2.12	111.9	112.2	-.3	-2.9	0	2.1	1.5
Used cars	1.98	103.0	105.3	-2.2	-2.4	-.7	.5	-2.3
Other durables	7.84	125.1	125.0	.1	4.3	*.1	*.3	*.2
Services	37.41	131.8	131.5	.2	4.1	*.2	*.5	*.3
Rent	5.05	117.5	117.1	.3	3.4	*.3	*.2	*.3
Services less rent	32.36	134.4	134.1	.2	4.2	.3	.5	.3
Household services less rent	15.36	137.4	137.0	.3	4.9	.3	.9	.7
Transportation services	5.57	135.7	135.6	.1	3.4	.1	.3	0
Medical care services	5.55	136.4	135.8	.4	4.8	.4	.2	.3
Other services	5.88	124.5	124.3	.2	3.0	.2	.2	.1
Special indexes:								
All items less food	77.81	124.2	124.0	.2	3.2	.2	.3	.2
Nondurable commodities	45.82	120.3	119.2	.9	4.0	1.0	-.1	.4
Apparel commodities less footwear	7.46	120.6	119.9	.6	2.2	.3	-.1	.2
Services less medical care	31.86	131.1	130.8	.2	4.0	*.2	*.5	*.3
Insurance and finance	9.85	142.4	142.3	.1	2.1	.1	.6	.3
Utilities and public transportation	5.51	125.1	124.6	.4	6.3	.3	1.1	.9
Housekeeping and home maintenance services	4.46	141.8	141.5	.2	7.3	.4	.4	.2
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.00	123.8	123.2	.5	3.7	.5	.3	.4
Food	22.19	122.2	120.3	1.6	5.4	1.7	-.2	.7
Housing	33.84	127.6	127.3	.2	4.1	*.2	*.4	*.3
Shelter 2/	21.72	132.5	132.3	.2	4.1	*.2	*.5	*.2
Rent	5.05	117.5	117.1	.3	3.4	*.3	*.2	*.3
Homeownership 3/	16.25	138.0	137.8	.1	4.3	0	.9	.1
Fuel and utilities 4/	4.71	119.3	118.7	.5	5.5	.6	.8	.9
Gas and electricity	2.43	119.4	119.0	.3	5.9	.3	.8	1.6
Household furnishings and operation	7.41	119.6	119.5	.1	3.2	-.1	0	.2
Apparel and upkeep	10.45	120.7	120.2	.4	2.2	.2	0	.2
Transportation	13.27	118.3	119.0	-.6	.7	-.1	.3	.1
Private	11.80	115.7	116.4	-.6	-.1	-.3	.6	-.4
Public	1.47	143.5	143.4	.1	6.8	.3	2.1	.1
Health and recreation	19.87	124.7	124.3	.3	3.7	-	-	-
Medical care	6.46	131.0	130.5	.4	4.1	.4	.2	.2
Personal care	2.58	118.4	118.1	.3	2.6	.3	.3	-.1
Reading and recreation	5.71	121.5	121.4	.1	3.4	.2	.2	.4
Other goods and services	5.12	124.3	123.5	.6	4.4	.8	.7	.2
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78.28	121.5	120.9	.5	3.5	.6	.1	.4
All items less medical care	93.54	123.4	122.8	.5	3.6	.5	.3	.3
All items less mortgage interest costs	96.25	122.9	122.3	.5	3.9	*.5	*.1	*.4
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$1.00	-	\$0.808	.812	-.5	-3.6	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.695	.698	-	-	-	-	-

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 fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

TABLE 2. Consumer Price Index--The United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items most recent index and percent changes from selected dates

Area 1/	Pricing Schedule 2/	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases			
		February 1972			January 1972	November 1971	February 1971
U.S. City Average -----	M	123.8	143.9		0.5	1.0	3.7
Chicago -----	M	123.0	139.7		.7	1.0	3.0
Detroit -----	M	124.9	143.6		.6	1.2	4.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	120.4	141.6		.2	.2	3.6
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. ---	M	129.5	154.1		.9	1.5	4.9
Philadelphia -----	M	125.2	146.2		.4	.4	2.8
		January 1972				October 1971	January 1971
Boston -----	1	124.9	149.6			.3	3.5
Houston -----	1	123.2	140.9			.7	3.3
Minneapolis-St. Paul ----	1	123.8	143.5			.3	3.1
Pittsburgh -----	1	123.2	141.7			.2	3.4
		February 1972				November 1971	February 1971
Buffalo -----	2	124.9		3/ 137.2		1.5	4.4
Cleveland -----	2	125.9	142.1			1.2	3.6
Dallas -----	2	123.7		3/ 133.7		1.1	3.3
Milwaukee -----	2	122.2	138.0			1.1	2.7
San Diego -----	2	122.3		4/ 128.5		1.2	3.5
Seattle -----	2	119.0	139.8			1.2	3.8
Washington -----	2	124.7	145.3			.4	3.1
		December 1971				September 1971	December 1970
Atlanta -----	3	123.5	142.0			1.2	3.4
Baltimore -----	3	125.1	145.3			.6	3.6
Cincinnati -----	3	121.9	138.4			.4	2.9
Honolulu -----	3	121.1		5/ 130.6		-.1	4.7
Kansas City -----	3	121.4	144.1			-.1	2.0
St. Louis -----	3	120.9	141.3			.3	2.8
San Francisco-Oakland ----	3	121.8	145.0			.7	2.8

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 3. Consumer Price Index--The United States and selected areas ^{1/} for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups percent change from January 1972 to February 1972

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.9	0.4
Food -----	1.6	2.5	2.0	1.2	1.4	1.3
Housing -----	.2	.2	-.2	.5	.5	.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	.4	2.1	2.2	.4	2.3	-.7
Transportation -----	-.6	-1.4	.3	-2.0	-.2	-.4
Health and recreation -----	.3	0	.2	0	.5	.2
Medical care -----	.4	.3	.5	.2	0	.6
Personal care -----	.3	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	.1	.2	.5	.2	-.5	.2
Other goods and services -----	.6	-.3	-.4	-.1	2.3	0

^{1/} See footnote 1, table 2.

^{2/} Not available.

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

(1967=100)

Group	Indexes			Percent changes to: February 1972	
	February 1972	January 1972	November 1971	From: 1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago
Food -----	122.4	120.3	119.7	1.7	2.3
Food at home -----	120.6	118.2	117.6	2.0	2.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	126.9	121.6	118.8	4.4	6.8
Dairy products -----	116.9	116.2	115.7	.6	1.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	124.6	121.6	121.7	2.5	2.4
Other foods at home -----	114.3	114.5	115.7	-.2	-1.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.3	113.6	114.0	.6	.3
Fuel and utilities ^{1/} -----	119.3	118.6	116.6	.6	2.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	117.9	117.9	118.0	0	-.1
Apparel and upkeep ^{2/} -----	121.3	121.0	120.8	.2	.4
Men's and boys' -----	120.5	120.5	120.7	0	-.2
Women's and girls' -----	122.7	121.5	121.3	1.0	1.2
Footwear -----	122.9	123.1	122.8	-.2	.1
Transportation -----	118.7	118.8	118.4	-.1	.3
Private -----	116.2	116.5	116.3	-.3	-.1
New cars -----	111.2	111.2	107.3	0	3.6
Commodities -----	119.6	118.9	118.4	.6	1.0
Commodities less food -----	118.0	118.1	117.5	-.1	.4
Nondurables -----	120.5	119.3	118.9	1.0	1.3
Nondurables less food -----	118.8	118.6	118.1	.2	.6
Apparel commodities -----	121.6	121.1	121.1	.4	.4
Durables -----	117.5	117.4	116.8	.1	.6

^{1/} Also includes telephone, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

^{2/} Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, jewelry, and apparel upkeep services not shown separately.

TABLE 5. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas 1/ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups February 1972 index and percent changes from November 1971

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles- Long Beach	New York- Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items -----	123.8	123.0	124.9	120.4	129.5	125.2
Food -----	122.2	122.8	122.1	118.9	126.9	123.8
Food at home -----	120.5	121.9	121.1	118.1	124.3	121.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.3	117.1	114.2	110.9	115.4	115.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	126.3	128.5	131.2	125.3	130.3	124.8
Dairy products -----	116.9	116.8	116.7	114.3	120.6	120.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.9	123.2	115.9	121.7	128.8	125.4
Other foods at home -----	115.6	116.1	115.0	112.8	117.8	116.6
Food away from home -----	128.9	126.5	126.5	121.0	135.2	134.1
Housing -----	127.6	123.2	131.1	125.8	133.7	2/ 128.1
Shelter -----	132.5	127.2	140.9	128.7	139.6	136.2
Rent -----	117.5	(3/)	118.9	(3/)	123.0	(3/)
Homeownership -----	138.0	134.1	145.3	132.1	151.9	139.9
Fuel and utilities -----	119.3	115.4	112.9	124.7	122.9	4/ 115.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.7	113.4	113.9	-	120.4	111.9
Gas and electricity -----	119.4	116.0	114.7	127.3	119.0	5/ 119.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	119.6	116.1	112.9	116.3	124.8	120.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	120.7	118.8	117.0	118.7	122.1	116.1
Men's and boys' -----	119.7	116.2	114.9	116.9	118.8	119.4
Women's and girls' -----	121.7	121.8	115.9	120.8	124.2	110.0
Footwear -----	122.7	116.7	121.9	122.0	120.3	120.3
Transportation -----	118.3	122.0	116.9	112.2	132.1	123.6
Private -----	115.7	115.8	114.3	112.1	124.1	120.5
Public -----	143.5	161.3	149.0	115.3	162.4	142.3
Health and recreation -----	124.7	125.6	127.4	119.2	128.9	128.5
Medical care -----	131.0	130.0	139.9	127.2	138.6	140.4
Personal care -----	118.4	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	116.9	(3/)
Reading and recreation -----	121.5	121.5	122.3	112.9	124.9	125.7
Other goods and services -----	124.3	129.7	121.2	118.3	128.7	124.0
Percent change from November 1971 to February 1972						
All items -----	1.0	1.0	1.2	0.2	1.5	0.4
Food -----	2.7	3.0	3.7	2.7	2.1	2.7
Food at home -----	3.3	3.7	4.3	3.2	2.8	3.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	.2	-1.8	0	.4	-.3	-.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	6.9	9.0	8.9	7.6	6.0	4.4
Dairy products -----	.9	1.3	1.5	0	1.8	.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.2	3.5	4.2	4.3	3.2	7.4
Other foods at home -----	0	.2	.8	.4	-.8	1.3
Food away from home -----	.5	.6	.6	1.3	.1	1.1
Housing -----	.9	1.1	.1	.4	1.9	.3
Shelter -----	.9	1.0	.1	.2	6/ 2.4	-.8
Rent -----	.8	(3/)	6/ .4	(3/)	1.1	(3/)
Homeownership -----	1.0	1.1	-.1	.3	3.0	-1.1
Fuel and utilities -----	2.1	3.5	1.5	2.3	2.5	4.8
Fuel oil and coal -----	.5	.3	0	-	.2	0
Gas and electricity -----	2.8	6.2	2.4	1.8	4.5	6.8
Household furnishings and operation -----	.1	.4	-.7	0	.1	-.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	-1.0	-1.5	-.9	-.5	-.2	-3.7
Men's and boys' -----	-1.7	-2.1	-4.3	-.1	-2.0	-4.0
Women's and girls' -----	-1.4	-2.4	.9	-1.5	1.1	-6.5
Footwear -----	-.4	-.8	-.1	.2	-1.2	-3.0
Transportation -----	-.4	-2.1	1.5	-2.9	2.2	0
Private -----	-.8	-2.5	1.7	-3.0	-.1	-.2
Public -----	3.0	.1	.1	1.6	9.1	1.1
Health and recreation -----	.8	1.5	1.5	.3	.9	.3
Medical care -----	1.0	.9	2.5	.3	.9	.6
Personal care -----	.4	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	-.3	(3/)
Reading and recreation -----	.6	.7	1.3	.2	0	.3
Other goods and services -----	1.2	4.2	.4	.5	2.2	(3/)

TABLE 5. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas ^{1/} for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups
February 1972 index and percent changes from November 1971 --Continued

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
Indexes 1967=100							
All items -----	124.9	125.9	123.7	122.2	122.3	119.0	124.7
Food -----	122.9	121.7	122.5	119.4	121.8	119.6	123.7
Food at home -----	121.7	121.0	119.5	118.1	119.0	118.0	120.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	117.4	111.5	113.7	116.9	112.1	110.8	114.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	126.7	127.1	125.9	125.3	129.6	122.2	121.5
Dairy products -----	116.8	122.2	111.8	114.3	113.1	115.6	111.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	125.2	123.6	125.0	117.1	119.8	121.7	131.0
Other foods at home -----	117.4	114.3	114.7	112.1	110.7	115.2	120.3
Food away from home -----	129.4	125.9	133.0	124.2	128.6	124.7	132.3
Housing -----	131.6	127.0	127.1	126.1	130.9	122.2	125.5
Shelter -----	133.2	130.5	133.2	129.2	141.7	128.0	129.3
Rent -----	118.1	112.3	111.6	116.9	132.5	105.7	116.8
Homeownership -----	136.1	133.8	143.0	133.1	145.6	134.3	136.6
Fuel and utilities -----	137.4	120.6	115.2	122.7	115.6	113.5	113.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	121.9	-	-	118.4	-	118.7	117.5
Gas and electricity -----	139.7	122.2	110.4	127.4	112.0	107.6	113.0
Household furnishings and operation -----	123.0	117.4	119.8	119.9	111.0	113.7	121.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	122.3	122.7	120.0	124.9	120.9	116.9	123.2
Men's and boys' -----	140.2	122.0	124.2	128.3	120.1	116.0	120.4
Women's and girls' -----	112.9	122.9	116.7	121.3	127.8	118.0	127.0
Footwear -----	122.9	125.5	124.0	126.5	118.2	119.5	126.1
Transportation -----	115.3	124.9	117.7	115.4	112.4	108.1	122.6
Private -----	114.1	121.1	115.6	112.3	111.8	107.8	118.3
Public -----	127.2	149.8	145.5	152.3	123.3	109.8	146.8
Health and recreation -----	124.5	131.3	125.7	122.4	117.9	119.7	126.5
Medical care -----	125.4	141.7	130.7	127.0	122.2	124.5	138.1
Personal care -----	116.4	122.3	123.7	119.5	114.0	113.0	117.4
Reading and recreation -----	126.9	123.3	120.2	122.3	115.5	118.4	121.2
Other goods and services -----	125.3	132.2	125.9	120.1	117.9	119.1	124.3
Percent changes from November 1971 to February 1972							
All items -----	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	0.4
Food -----	2.6	2.8	3.4	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.1
Food at home -----	3.0	3.3	4.3	3.3	3.4	3.6	2.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	-1.3	.6	.1	.4	1.2	1.4	-1.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	6.6	7.7	9.6	7.2	8.3	5.7	5.6
Dairy products -----	-.5	1.4	.4	.8	-.4	.3	.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	6.6	2.4	5.6	6.1	2.5	8.9	4.8
Other foods at home -----	.2	-.1	.7	-.4	.3	.6	.3
Food away from home -----	.1	.2	.2	-.1	.9	-.3	.9
Housing -----	2.3	1.0	.4	2.1	1.7	1.4	.4
Shelter -----	2.1	1.2	.8	1.6	2.5	2.1	.2
Rent -----	.8	.3	.1	.5	.5	-.2	.3
Homeownership -----	2.4	1.4	.9	1.8	3.1	2.5	.1
Fuel and utilities -----	4.2	1.3	0	6.4	1.9	1.7	1.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	1.7	-	-	0	-	0	0
Gas and electricity -----	4.2	1.8	.1	8.6	2.4	.5	.3
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.2	-.2	-.3	.8	-.7	-.4	.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	-1.9	-.1	1.4	-1.9	1.9	-.6	-1.9
Men's and boys' -----	-.7	.7	-.2	-.2	1.0	-1.9	-3.1
Women's and girls' -----	-4.4	-.5	2.9	-4.8	4.0	-.5	-2.5
Footwear -----	-.5	-.5	1.7	-.2	-.3	.8	-.1
Transportation -----	-.1	.6	-.8	-.3	-2.0	1.3	-.6
Private -----	-.2	.7	-.9	-.4	-2.2	1.5	-.7
Public -----	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and recreation -----	1.5	1.1	1.1	.4	.7	.4	.6
Medical care -----	1.3	-.4	1.5	.2	.2	.6	.8
Personal care -----	-2.0	2.3	2.7	.1	2.4	-.7	.9
Reading and recreation -----	1.4	.6	.4	.4	.5	.9	.3
Other goods and services -----	4.2	2.7	.3	.9	.4	.1	.2

^{1/} See footnote 1, table 2.

^{2/} Revised indexes: Dec. 1971 = 127.8; Jan. 1972 = 127.8.

^{3/} Not available.

^{4/} Revised indexes: Dec. 1971=115.9; Jan. 1972=115.8; 1971 Annual Average=112.6.

^{5/} Revised indexes: Dec. 1971=120.3; Jan. 1972=120.1; 1971 Annual Average=114.3.

^{6/} Change from December 1971.

TABLE 5-A. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas 1/ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1971 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1970-71

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (1967=100)							
All items -----	121.8	122.8	121.3	120.1	119.9	116.4	122.7
Food -----	119.7	118.9	117.8	115.7	117.3	115.9	120.2
Food at home -----	118.3	117.9	114.3	114.0	114.4	113.6	116.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	117.5	112.7	114.1	115.5	110.3	110.7	116.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	117.7	117.7	114.5	115.2	118.5	113.5	113.7
Dairy products -----	116.8	120.4	110.5	112.0	112.8	113.8	109.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.2	121.6	117.4	114.5	114.9	113.8	124.1
Other foods at home -----	118.2	116.8	114.2	112.6	111.3	114.6	119.1
Food away from home -----	127.2	124.6	130.5	122.8	125.0	123.5	130.1
Housing -----	125.3	122.4	125.2	122.6	127.5	119.1	122.6
Shelter -----	126.4	124.0	130.5	126.1	137.3	123.9	126.2
Rent -----	114.6	111.4	111.6	114.2	130.5	106.9	114.5
Homeownership -----	128.6	126.2	139.1	129.8	140.4	128.7	132.9
Fuel and utilities -----	127.0	118.5	114.7	115.6	109.0	109.5	109.2
Fuel oil and coal -----	119.4	-	-	119.0	-	118.7	117.5
Gas and electricity -----	130.9	119.2	109.5	118.2	109.2	103.2	110.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	120.7	118.2	119.0	117.9	111.1	113.1	119.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.2	121.6	118.4	124.2	117.8	116.0	123.0
Men's and boys' -----	135.4	119.7	123.3	122.9	119.2	117.3	123.0
Women's and girls' -----	120.1	122.7	115.3	124.4	122.0	116.3	125.0
Footwear -----	120.5	123.9	121.3	126.4	116.4	117.6	124.4
Transportation -----	116.8	124.4	117.5	117.1	113.8	107.0	123.4
Private -----	115.9	120.7	115.4	114.2	113.3	106.7	119.2
Public -----	126.5	149.2	144.4	151.8	122.6	108.9	146.3
Health and recreation -----	121.1	128.2	123.1	120.7	116.1	117.2	124.7
Medical care -----	122.3	140.0	128.8	126.1	121.0	122.9	136.5
Personal care -----	117.0	118.8	119.8	118.6	111.0	113.8	115.7
Reading and recreation -----	123.2	121.5	119.1	119.9	113.6	116.0	118.8
Other goods and services -----	119.7	126.4	121.1	117.8	116.2	114.2	123.4
Percent changes 1970-71							
All items -----	4.9	2.9	3.0	3.7	4.0	2.1	4.3
Food -----	3.0	1.2	2.6	2.3	3.3	2.1	2.5
Food at home -----	2.4	.6	1.7	1.9	2.6	1.9	1.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	6.5	3.1	4.1	5.4	3.9	4.2	4.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	.8	- 1.3	- .5	- .4	1.0	- 1.1	- 2.5
Dairy products -----	1.7	2.6	3.5	2.8	3.1	4.0	2.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	4.4	3.9	4.6	4.5	7.9	4.9	6.5
Other foods at home -----	1.5	- 1.9	1.1	1.0	0	1.0	1.9
Food away from home -----	6.0	4.7	5.3	4.2	5.2	2.9	5.0
Housing -----	5.9	1.7	2.5	4.3	3.9	1.1	4.9
Shelter -----	4.0	.5	2.2	4.6	3.9	- .6	5.3
Rent -----	4.8	3.6	1.4	4.0	5.6	- 2.0	4.7
Homeownership -----	4.0	- .1	2.4	4.8	3.5	- .5	5.6
Fuel and utilities -----	12.6	10.5	2.0	3.0	4.7	4.7	4.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	5.2	-	-	3.0	-	7.6	6.2
Gas and electricity -----	14.5	11.6	.8	2.0	3.1	2.9	5.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	6.1	2.2	3.3	4.4	3.0	3.5	3.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	4.7	3.3	.4	1.8	2.5	3.8	2.8
Men's and boys' -----	4.6	3.5	0	3.7	2.0	3.7	3.5
Women's and girls' -----	5.2	3.6	- .9	- .5	3.2	5.1	1.5
Footwear -----	4.7	3.9	1.3	2.1	2.8	2.4	3.4
Transportation -----	4.5	6.7	5.9	5.8	5.7	1.8	6.0
Private -----	4.3	5.3	5.1	5.8	5.4	1.4	5.1
Public -----	6.7	14.3	15.7	5.1	10.8	3.6	10.2
Health and recreation -----	5.5	4.7	4.0	4.1	3.6	3.5	4.7
Medical care -----	5.9	7.0	4.6	5.7	5.4	3.8	7.5
Personal care -----	3.6	2.0	2.9	4.2	2.4	- .2	1.9
Reading and recreation -----	6.9	4.7	2.9	5.3	3.4	3.3	3.3
Other goods and services -----	4.5	2.9	4.8	1.8	2.2	4.6	4.6

TABLE 6. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, February 1972 indexes and percent changes from January 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	
(1967=100)								
U.S. City Average -----	122.2	120.5	114.3	126.3	116.9	123.9	115.6	128.9
Atlanta -----	122.1	119.8	115.4	123.1	117.4	129.2	114.3	129.4
Baltimore -----	123.2	121.4	113.8	125.8	118.1	126.4	117.7	130.1
Boston -----	121.2	119.8	113.1	128.0	116.2	120.9	112.3	126.6
Buffalo -----	122.9	121.7	117.4	126.7	116.8	125.2	117.4	129.4
Chicago -----	122.8	121.9	117.1	128.5	116.8	123.2	116.1	126.5
Cincinnati -----	123.6	122.8	115.6	126.4	121.0	128.2	117.6	126.6
Cleveland -----	121.7	121.0	111.5	127.1	122.2	123.6	114.3	125.9
Dallas -----	122.5	119.5	113.7	125.9	111.8	125.0	114.7	133.0
Detroit -----	122.1	121.1	144.2	131.2	116.7	115.9	115.0	126.5
Honolulu -----	123.7	121.8	106.3	123.0	117.4	141.5	117.5	129.0
Houston -----	123.2	119.6	111.8	126.4	114.8	123.1	115.2	136.1
Kansas City -----	122.8	120.9	116.0	126.7	126.0	116.9	115.3	128.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	118.9	118.1	110.9	125.3	114.3	121.7	112.8	121.0
Milwaukee -----	119.4	118.1	116.9	125.3	114.3	117.1	112.1	124.2
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	122.0	119.9	120.8	127.2	114.2	118.6	116.4	131.1
New York -----	126.9	124.3	115.4	130.3	120.6	128.8	117.8	135.2
Philadelphia -----	123.8	121.4	115.7	124.8	120.3	125.4	116.6	134.1
Pittsburgh -----	122.6	121.1	116.4	123.9	119.8	125.3	117.3	132.0
St. Louis -----	120.9	118.7	120.2	120.1	119.0	124.3	111.1	131.3
San Diego -----	121.8	119.0	112.1	129.6	113.1	119.8	110.7	128.6
San Francisco-Oakland --	120.2	119.3	112.6	124.6	114.8	123.4	114.6	123.7
Seattle -----	119.6	118.0	110.8	122.2	115.6	121.7	115.2	124.7
Washington -----	123.7	120.4	114.9	121.5	111.0	131.0	120.3	132.3
Percent changes January 1972 to February 1972								
U.S. City Average -----	1.6	1.9	.5	4.6	.4	2.5	-.5	.2
Atlanta -----	1.2	1.6	.8	4.9	.9	1.8	- 1.9	.3
Baltimore -----	1.1	1.3	- 2.0	3.2	.1	3.7	-.6	0
Boston -----	1.4	2.0	.9	3.6	1.2	2.6	-.6	.1
Buffalo -----	1.5	1.7	.3	4.5	-.6	2.4	-.7	.2
Chicago -----	2.5	3.1	1.8	5.7	1.0	4.1	.3	.2
Cincinnati -----	2.6	3.2	1.3	5.9	2.7	3.5	-.1	.3
Cleveland -----	2.4	2.8	3.7	5.1	2.6	2.0	-.6	.2
Dallas -----	1.4	1.6	.3	5.4	.4	.8	- 1.1	.3
Detroit -----	2.0	2.5	-.8	6.1	.4	1.2	0	0
Honolulu -----	2.5	3.4	.7	2.9	.5	10.4	1.0	-.1
Houston -----	1.1	1.4	.4	4.4	-.3	.3	-.9	.3
Kansas City -----	1.6	2.0	-.1	5.8	1.4	.4	-.5	.2
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	1.2	1.5	.2	4.3	0	2.1	-.9	.2
Milwaukee -----	2.1	2.6	0	6.5	1.1	3.1	-.8	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	1.2	1.4	-.3	5.6	-.5	1.0	-.5	.2
New York -----	1.4	1.9	.2	4.0	.2	2.5	-.3	.1
Philadelphia -----	1.3	1.6	.3	3.2	.2	4.0	- 1.5	.4
Pittsburgh -----	1.4	1.7	.3	4.3	.1	2.6	- 1.3	.2
St. Louis -----	1.0	1.2	-.1	3.4	-.4	1.9	-.4	0
San Diego -----	1.5	1.7	.6	4.8	0	.8	- 1.1	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	.9	1.2	1.0	3.3	.1	.1	-.6	0
Seattle -----	1.0	1.5	.5	3.6	.3	1.9	-.2	-.3
Washington -----	2.3	3.2	- 1.1	6.4	.4	6.4	-.1	.5

^{1/} See footnote 1, table 2.

^{2/} Not available.

TABLE 7. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items
February 1971 indexes and percent changes from selected dates.

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change to February 1972 from--		
	February 1972		January 1972		February 1971
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Total food -----	122.2	122.4	1.6	1.7	5.4
Food away from home -----	128.9	-	.2	-	4.0
Restaurant meals -----	128.6	-	.2	-	4.0
Snacks -----	130.0	-	.0	-	3.7
Food at home -----	120.5	120.6	1.9	2.0	5.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.3	114.3	.5	.6	1.3
Flour -----	100.9	-	.1	-	.2
Cracker meal -----	133.9	-	1.3	-	5.9
Corn flakes -----	102.2	-	.3	-	6.6
Rice -----	110.3	-	0	-	1.5
Bread, white -----	112.7	-	1.3	-	.8
Bread, whole wheat -----	119.3	-	.3	-	3.6
Cookies -----	109.7	-	.5	-	3.5
Layer cake -----	119.2	-	.3	-	.1
Cinnamon rolls -----	119.2	-	.2	-	1.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	126.3	126.9	4.6	4.4	11.2
Meats -----	127.5	128.3	5.3	5.2	12.3
Beef and veal -----	136.1	136.9	4.1	4.0	13.4
Steak, round -----	137.2	137.5	4.9	4.8	15.2
Steak, sirloin -----	132.1	-	2.8	-	13.8
Steak, porterhouse -----	134.4	-	2.5	-	14.6
Rump roast -----	134.6	-	5.1	-	13.5
Rib roast -----	139.2	139.8	3.0	4.1	17.9
Chuck roast -----	139.5	139.4	6.5	5.0	16.7
Hamburger -----	135.9	136.7	3.9	3.8	11.1
Beef liver -----	118.3	-	3.0	-	5.3
Veal cutlets -----	156.2	156.8	4.1	3.5	16.4
Pork -----	119.4	120.4	9.3	9.1	15.7
Chops -----	124.2	125.2	11.5	10.6	20.9
Loin roast -----	121.4	-	9.3	-	17.4
Pork sausage -----	120.3	-	6.6	-	8.5
Ham, whole -----	112.6	111.2	2.4	4.5	6.5
Picnics -----	122.7	-	8.3	-	13.1
Bacon -----	114.0	116.4	12.9	12.1	19.5
Other meats -----	120.3	120.7	3.0	3.2	5.5
Lamb chops -----	127.1	-	1.8	-	7.6
Frankfurters -----	121.3	122.8	5.1	5.3	7.1
Ham, canned -----	111.4	-	2.2	-	9.5
Bologna sausage -----	124.5	-	3.8	-	6.9
Salami sausage -----	119.8	-	2.5	-	4.4
Liverwurst -----	117.4	-	2.8	-	3.2
Poultry -----	110.7	-	2.1	-	4.9
Frying chicken -----	110.1	110.4	2.4	.1	5.7
Chicken breasts -----	112.0	-	1.4	-	5.1
Turkey -----	112.2	-	1.0	-	1.4
Fish -----	137.0	136.6	1.7	1.8	7.9
Shrimp, frozen -----	128.3	-	4.2	-	11.5
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	145.0	144.7	.2	.2	6.9
Tuna fish, canned -----	130.4	-	1.4	-	2.6
Sardines, canned -----	144.1	-	1.3	-	10.7
Dairy products -----	116.9	116.9	.4	.6	2.5
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	116.4	116.5	.6	1.0	2.9
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	119.4	-	.5	-	2.5
Milk, fresh, skim -----	121.3	-	.7	-	2.8
Milk, evaporated -----	120.9	-	0	-	4.8
Ice cream -----	106.1	-	.6	-	.1
Cheese, American process -----	123.4	123.3	.9	.7	3.5
Butter -----	105.8	105.8	0	.4	-.2

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items
February 1971 indexes and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change to February 1972 from--		
	February 1972		January 1972		February 1971
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.9	124.6	2.5	2.5	10.0
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	126.8	128.2	3.8	3.8	13.0
Apples -----	109.9	118.4	2.9	.3	5.2
Bananas -----	100.4	102.8	8.4	9.0	5.6
Oranges -----	122.0	128.3	- 1.4	- 1.8	6.0
Orange juice, fresh -----	130.6	-	- .2	-	11.8
Grapefruit -----	121.1	135.3	- .1	- 1.2	13.1
Grapes 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Strawberries 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Watermelon 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Potatoes -----	114.7	119.4	1.8	-.6	4.2
Onions -----	106.8	106.5	1.0	- 7.0	11.6
Asparagus 1/ -----	(1/)	-	(1/)	-	(1/)
Cabbage -----	144.1	131.0	- .8	- 3.5	19.1
Carrots -----	142.4	137.3	- 2.3	- 2.8	30.0
Celery -----	172.0	172.9	- 1.5	2.0	58.8
Cucumbers -----	148.2	-	22.6	-	18.1
Lettuce -----	152.1	168.3	13.8	26.4	39.8
Peppers, green -----	134.3	-	17.8	-	5.0
Spinach -----	143.2	-	2.9	-	13.4
Tomatoes -----	140.8	140.2	- 2.1	7.4	8.0
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	119.5	-	.3	-	5.8
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	120.9	-	-.4	-	5.4
Pears, canned -----	117.3	-	.3	-	1.2
Pineapple-grapefruit juice, drink -----	114.4	-	-.3	-	2.5
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	135.9	135.6	.1	- .1	15.8
Lemonade concentrate, frozen -----	117.5	-	.1	-	5.0
Beets, canned -----	119.0	-	.6	-	6.1
Peas, green, canned -----	108.5	-	-.1	-	3.8
Tomatoes, canned -----	115.3	-	.3	-	.4
Dried beans -----	135.4	-	1.1	-	19.7
Broccoli, frozen -----	118.5	-	.6	-	1.5
Other food at home -----	115.6	114.3	-.5	-.2	-.1
Eggs -----	101.4	93.0	- 6.1	- 6.3	- 10.0
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	118.1	-	.7	-	3.9
Salad dressing, Italian -----	110.4	-	.2	-	2.8
Salad or cooking oil -----	124.0	-	.1	-	6.3
Sugar and sweets -----	120.5	-	.3	-	2.2
Sugar -----	114.3	-	.6	-	2.6
Grape jelly -----	122.7	-	1.0	-	5.6
Chocolate bar -----	130.7	-	-.1	-	.7
Syrup, chocolate flavored -----	113.4	-	.1	-	.2
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	120.7	-	.2	-	- 1.1
Coffee, can and bag -----	118.3	-	.1	-	- 5.4
Coffee, instant -----	125.5	-	.6	-	1.2
Tea -----	107.1	-	.9	-	-.2
Cola drink -----	127.8	-	.1	-	3.3
Carbonated fruit drink -----	127.6	-	-.2	-	2.7
Prepared and partially prepared foods -----	114.1	-	.5	-	2.2
Bean soup, canned -----	115.7	-	1.0	-	1.8
Chicken soup, canned -----	106.9	-	.5	-	.7
Spaghetti, canned -----	117.8	-	-.3	-	.7
Mashed potatoes, instant -----	112.2	-	.6	-	1.7
Potatoes, french fried, frozen -----	110.0	-	1.4	-	-.4
Baby foods, canned -----	111.2	-	.1	-	1.2
Sweet pickle relish -----	122.5	-	.4	-	7.1
Pretzels -----	114.5	-	.4	-	4.0

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, February 1972 and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to February 1972 from	
		February 1972	January 1972	January 1972	February 1971
Housing -----		127.6	127.3	.2	4.1
Shelter 1/ -----		132.5	132.3	.2	4.1
Rent -----		117.5	117.1	.3	3.4
Homeownership costs 2/ -----		138.0	137.8	.1	4.3
Mortgage interest rates -----		118.2	118.4	-.2	-7.2
Property taxes -----		141.8	141.1	.5	11.6
Property insurance rates -----		122.4	122.4	0	5.5
Maintenance and repairs -----		138.0	137.8	.1	6.7
Commodities 3/ -----		121.3	121.3	0	4.2
Exterior house paint -----		117.9	117.7	.2	2.0
Interior house paint -----		115.6	115.8	-.2	1.5
Services -----		145.2	144.9	.2	7.6
Repainting living and dining rooms -----		155.1	154.4	.5	9.5
Reshingling house roof -----		152.3	152.0	.2	11.8
Residing house -----		133.7	133.4	.2	4.9
Sink replacement -----		144.2	143.9	.2	5.7
Furnace repair -----		151.2	150.9	.2	8.7
Fuel and utilities -----		119.3	118.7	.5	5.5
Fuel oil and coal -----		118.7	118.7	0	1.3
Fuel oil, #2 -----		116.5	116.5	0	.6
Gas and electricity -----		119.4	119.0	.3	5.9
Gas -----		121.9	121.7	.2	6.4
Electricity -----		117.0	116.6	.3	5.2
Other utilities: -----		-	-	-	-
Residential telephone services -----		113.5	111.8	1.5	7.2
Residential water and sewerage services -----		136.4	136.4	0	5.8
Household furnishings and operation 4/ -----		119.6	119.5	.1	3.2
Housefurnishings -----		115.0	114.9	.1	1.6
Textiles -----		112.1	110.8	1.2	.9
Sheets, percale or muslin -----		114.1	110.1	3.6	-1.4
Curtains, tailored, polyester -----		111.2	110.3	.8	2.3
Bedsprings, chiefly cotton -----		106.9	105.1	1.7	-1.2
Drapery fabric, cotton or rayon/acetate -----		119.6	118.9	.6	1.6
Pillows, bed, polyester, acrylic, or kapok -----		107.3	107.0	.3	1.8
Sleepover, throws, ready made chiefly cotton -----		113.0	113.1	-.1	2.1
Furniture and bedding -----		119.5	119.8	-.3	1.8
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser -----	Mar. 70	104.1	104.6	-.5	2.2
Sofas, upholstered -----		119.0	119.3	-.3	2.8
Cocktail table 5/ -----	Dec. 71	99.7	100.1	-.4	(5/)
Dining room chairs -----	Mar. 70	103.3	103.4	-.1	1.1
Recliner, upholstered 5/ -----	Dec. 71	98.2	99.2	-1.0	(5/)
Sofas, dual purpose -----		115.9	116.7	-.7	.6
Bedding, mattress and box springs -----	June 70	104.4	103.7	.7	2.1
Aluminum folding chair 6/ -----		(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)
Cribs -----		118.1	118.0	.1	1.4
Floor coverings -----		106.1	106.3	-.2	-.1
Broadloom, carpeting, manmade fibers -----		101.4	101.9	-.5	-1.1
Vinyl sheet goods -----		116.3	115.6	.6	3.1
Vinyl asbestos tile -----		117.6	117.6	0	.9
Appliances 7/ -----		105.7	105.8	-.1	.6
Washing machines, electric, automatic -----		110.4	110.2	.2	1.8
Vacuum cleaners, canister type -----		103.8	104.0	-.2	.3
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric -----		108.3	108.2	.1	.5
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric -----		110.4	111.2	-.7	.5
Clothes dryers, electric, automatic -----		113.5	113.3	.2	2.4
Air conditioners, demountable 6/ -----		(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)
Room heaters, electric, portable 6/ -----		108.4	108.6	-.2	.7
Garbage disposal units -----		111.0	110.9	.1	.5
Other housefurnishings: -----					
Dinnerware, chinaware -----		121.0	120.1	.7	5.1
Flatware, stainless steel -----		122.2	122.0	.2	2.0
Table lamps, with shade -----		122.2	122.0	.2	2.8
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type 6/ -----		(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)
Electric drills, hand held -----		106.2	107.0	-.7	-.9
Housekeeping supplies: -----					
Laundry soaps and detergents -----		111.0	111.0	0	3.4
Paper napkins -----		128.4	128.6	-.2	4.5
Toilet tissue -----		124.8	124.5	.2	1.7
Housekeeping services: -----					
Domestic service, general housework -----		136.4	136.4	0	3.7
Baby sitter service -----		133.8	133.4	.3	4.7
Postal charges -----		146.6	146.6	0	21.2
Laundry, flatwork, finished service -----		136.6	136.4	.1	5.2
Licensed day care service, preschool child -----		120.0	119.4	.5	2.7
Washing machine repairs -----		138.4	138.1	.2	5.6

TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, February 1972 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to February 1972 from:	
		February 1972	January 1972	January 1972	February 1971
Apparel and upkeep 8/		120.7	120.2	.4	2.2
Apparel commodities		120.9	120.3	.5	2.2
Apparel commodities less footwear		120.6	119.9	.6	2.2
Men's and boys'		119.7	119.9	-.2	1.5
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends 6/		119.5	121.2	- 1.4	-.3
Suits, year round weight		125.6	126.5	-.7	.6
Suits, tropical weight 6/		(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)
Jackets, lightweight		112.7	113.0	-.3	1.3
Slacks, wool or wool blends		116.3	115.7	.5	1.1
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		137.1	134.0	2.3	4.7
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		114.4	114.1	.3	3.1
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		114.2	114.5	-.3	2.8
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		112.7	112.6	.1	2.1
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		118.0	118.3	-.3	-.8
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		114.9	114.3	.5	-.3
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton		116.0	116.3	-.3	1.9
Boy's:					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blend 6/		114.8	115.8	-.9	- 1.5
Sport coats, wool or wool blend 6/		(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blend		126.1	126.4	-.2	4.8
Undershorts, cotton		120.6	119.9	.6	1.3
Women's and girls'		121.7	120.2	1.2	2.7
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blend 6/		(6/)	116.2	(6/)	(6/)
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton 6/		(6/)	116.3	(6/)	(6/)
Sweaters, wool or acrylic 6/		(6/)	121.8	(6/)	(6/)
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers 6/		125.3	135.0	- 7.2	9.5
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton 6/		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers		122.9	117.6	4.5	-.4
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber		131.3	129.6	1.3	2.5
Dresses, street, wool or wool blend 6/		(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)
Slips, nylon		111.0	111.2	-.2	.3
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot		116.3	116.7	-.3	1.5
Girdles, manmade blend		117.2	116.1	.9	1.7
Brassiers, nylon lace		121.3	122.3	-.8	2.6
Hose, or panty hose, nylon seamless		97.7	97.4	.3	- 2.6
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers		115.8	115.9	-.1	-.6
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton		109.8	110.2	-.4	.5
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic		140.2	138.9	.9	9.6
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl cotton, or polyester blends		117.3	117.1	.2	3.5
Skirts, wool, wool blends, or acrylic 6/		(6/)	100.2	(6/)	(6/)
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends		107.2	108.9	- 1.6	3.8
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton 6/		(6/)	131.1	(6/)	(6/)
Slips, polyester blends		112.1	111.7	.4	2.8
Handbags, plastic		127.5	124.1	2.7	-.1
Footwear		122.7	122.7	0	2.3
Men's:					
Shoes, street		119.9	119.7	.2	1.8
Shoes, work, high		121.4	121.1	.2	4.0
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		123.8	124.3	-.4	1.3
Shoes, evening, pump		120.5	120.7	-.2	.3
Shoes, casual		124.7	125.1	-.3	2.9
Houseslippers, scuff		124.0	124.0	0	3.6
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		123.6	122.4	1.0	2.9
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		121.5	121.0	.4	3.7
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump		128.7	128.6	.1	4.6
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable		113.0	113.0	0	2.2
Yard goods, polyester blend		120.5	120.6	-.1	- 1.1
Wrist watches, men's and women's		114.0	114.0	0	1.6
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses		117.4	117.2	.2	1.5
Automatic laundry service		114.3	113.7	.5	-.4
Laundry, men's shirts		120.7	120.5	.2	1.9
Tailoring charge, hem adjustment		131.8	131.7	.1	4.0
Shoe repair, women's heel lift		113.8	113.8	0	3.7

TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, February 1972 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to February 1972 from:	
		February 1972	January 1972	January 1972	February 1971
Transportation -----		118.3	119.0	- .6	.7
Private 9/ -----		115.7	116.4	- .6	- .1
Automobiles, new -----		111.9	112.2	- .3	- 2.9
Automobiles, used -----		103.0	105.3	- 2.2	- 2.4
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		105.7	106.7	- .9	- .3
Motor oil, premium -----		122.5	122.3	.2	4.0
Tires, new, tubeless -----		117.4	117.9	- .4	2.1
Auto repairs and maintenance 10/ -----		133.6	133.1	.4	6.2
Auto insurance rates -----		140.8	141.0	- .1	.6
Auto registration -----		127.1	127.1	0	4.4
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		138.0	138.1	- .1	2.9
Public -----		143.5	143.4	.1	6.8
Local transit fares -----		150.3	150.2	.1	6.4
Taxicab fares -----		132.8	132.8	0	11.6
Railroad fares, coach -----		128.2	128.2	0	2.5
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		129.6	129.6	0	6.3
Bus fares, intercity -----		136.1	136.1	0	5.6
Health and recreation -----		124.7	124.3	.3	3.7
Medical care -----		131.0	130.5	.4	4.1
Drugs and prescriptions -----		105.5	105.5	0	.6
Over-the-counter items -----		110.6	110.3	.3	.7
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		95.0	95.1	- .1	- 3.0
Aspirin compounds -----		114.5	114.1	.4	1.4
Liquid tonics -----		101.2	100.8	.4	- .4
Adhesive bandages, package -----		123.7	123.8	- .1	2.9
Cold tablets or capsules -----		113.1	112.8	.3	3.6
Cough syrup -----		112.7	111.7	.9	- 1.1
Prescriptions -----		101.2	101.5	- .3	.4
Anti-infectives -----		77.4	78.9	- 1.9	- 5.1
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		124.9	124.7	.2	3.3
Ataractics -----		102.7	102.6	.1	1.4
Anti-spasmodics -----		107.7	107.9	- .2	2.0
Cough preparations -----		127.8	127.1	.6	2.9
Cardiovasculars and anti-hypertensives -----		111.8	112.0	- .2	2.1
Analgesics, internal -----		109.1	108.2	.8	1.8
Anti-obesity -----		117.7	117.7	0	5.6
Hormones -----		94.0	94.0	0	- 1.2
Professional services: -----					
Physicians' fees -----		132.6	132.3	.2	4.7
General physician, office visits -----		133.5	133.3	.2	4.1
General physician, house visits -----		135.1	134.8	.2	6.4
Obstetrical cases -----		132.3	132.0	.2	5.3
Pediatric care, office visits -----		135.6	135.3	.2	5.5
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		128.3	127.9	.3	4.3
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		127.0	126.8	.2	4.9
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		129.2	128.7	.4	6.5
Dentists' fees -----		130.6	130.5	.1	5.2
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		131.8	131.8	0	5.4
Extractions, adult -----		130.6	130.4	.2	4.9
Dentures, full upper -----		128.3	128.2	.1	4.8
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		123.8	123.1	.6	5.3
Routine laboratory tests -----		118.9	118.7	.2	3.8
Hospital service charges: -----					
Daily service charges -----		(5/)	167.1	(5/)	(5/)
Semiprivate rooms -----		171.1	169.9	.9	8.7
Operating room charges -----		165.0	163.5	.9	8.8
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----		127.9	127.7	.2	4.8
Personal care -----		118.4	118.1	.3	2.6
Toilet goods -----		115.4	115.1	.3	2.8
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		109.6	109.9	- .3	2.9
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		120.3	119.7	.5	10.9
Hand lotions, liquid -----		124.0	121.2	2.3	3.3
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		106.4	107.1	- .7	1.0
Face powder, pressed -----		123.1	122.0	.9	- .6
Deodorants, aerosol -----		105.0	104.9	.1	- .2
Cleansing tissues -----		123.1	124.4	- 1.0	1.4
Home permanent wave kits -----		111.3	111.3	0	1.7
Personal care services -----		121.5	121.3	.2	2.4
Men's haircuts -----		124.1	123.9	.2	2.1
Beauty shop services -----		119.7	119.4	.3	2.7
Women's haircuts -----		120.2	120.2	0	1.8
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		123.2	122.7	.4	3.2
Permanent waves, cold -----		111.6	111.5	.1	2.8

TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, February 1972 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100 unless otherwise Specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to February 1972 from:	
		February 1972	January 1972	January 1972	February 1971
Reading and recreation ^{11/} -----		121.5	121.4	.1	3.4
Recreational goods -----		107.3	107.4	-.1	1.6
TV sets, portable and console -----		99.7	99.9	-.2	-.4
TV replacement tubes -----		126.9	126.4	.4	4.8
Radios, portable and table model -----		98.4	98.4	0	-.2
Tape recorders, portable -----		93.3	93.4	-.1	-2.4
Phonograph records, stereophonic -----		107.0	107.2	-.2	7.5
Movie cameras, Super 8, zoom lens -----		88.7	88.3	.5	-1.8
Film, 35mm, color -----		108.3	108.6	-.3	.2
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core -----		105.0	105.1	-.1	1.0
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover -----		126.2	125.8	.3	4.6
Fishing rods, fresh water spincasting -----		108.8	110.8	-1.8	2.0
Bowling balls -----		112.9	113.4	-.4	2.7
Bicycles, boys' -----		114.2	113.8	.4	3.6
Tricycles -----		113.0	112.6	.4	3.1
Dog food, canned or boxed -----		109.6	109.7	-.1	2.7
Recreational services -----		127.0	126.9	.1	3.1
Indoor movie admissions -----		138.6	139.0	-.3	2.3
Adult -----		137.1	137.8	-.5	1.1
Children's -----		142.8	142.2	.4	5.9
Drive-in movie admissions, adult -----		143.5	143.1	.3	5.6
Bowling fees, evening -----		118.4	117.9	.4	2.5
Golf green fees ^{6/} -----		(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)
TV repair, picture tube replacement -----		98.5	98.6	-.1	1.3
Film developing, color -----		118.3	118.2	.1	3.1
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery -----		130.8	130.7	.1	2.4
Magazines, single copy and subscription -----		124.9	124.9	0	1.7
Piano lessons, beginner -----		122.0	121.6	.3	1.2
Other goods and services -----		124.3	123.5	.6	4.4
Tobacco products -----		132.0	130.2	1.4	6.4
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size -----		133.2	131.6	1.2	6.1
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size -----		134.3	132.2	1.6	7.0
Cigars, domestic, regular size -----		110.3	109.7	.5	4.4
Alcoholic beverages -----		118.7	118.5	.2	2.9
Beer -----		113.6	113.5	.1	1.8
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon -----		108.5	107.4	1.0	2.6
Wine, dessert and table -----		125.6	125.3	.2	5.5
Away from home -----		129.0	129.3	-.2	3.4
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult -----		120.2	119.5	.6	4.0
Bank service charges, checking accounts -----		108.5	109.7	-1.1	-2.3
Legal services, short form will -----		141.8	141.7	.1	6.5
Other special groups:					
All items less shelter -----		121.5	120.9	.5	3.5
Commodities less food -----		117.8	117.7	.1	2.3
Nondurables less food and apparel -----		117.0	116.8	.2	2.8
Household services less rent -----		137.4	137.0	.3	4.9
Transportation services -----		135.7	135.6	.1	3.4
Other services -----		124.5	124.3	.2	3.0

^{1/} Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

^{2/} Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

^{3/} Also includes pine shelving, furnace air filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.

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

^{5/} Not available.

^{6/} Prices only in season.

^{7/} Also includes radios and television sets, shown separately under reading and recreation.

^{8/} Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

^{9/} Also includes recapped tires 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.

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 1971 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: the chances are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard error.

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

Average Standard Errors of Percent Changes in the
CPI Based on 1971 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

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1970 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1971.

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

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average changes in prices of goods and services usually bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers, both families and single persons living alone. It is based on prices of about 400 items which were selected to represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage earners and clerical workers. Prices for these items are obtained in urban portions of 39 Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas (SMSA's) and 17 smaller cities, which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii. They are collected from grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments which wage earners and clerical workers patronize.

Prices of foods, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 56 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the 5 largest SMSA's and every 3 months in other SMSA's and cities. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain local transit fares, public utility rates, newspaper prices, fuel prices, and certain other items which change in price infrequently. Prices of most other goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in the spending of all wage earners and clerical workers. SMSA and city data are then combined in the total index with weights based on the 1960 populations of SMSA's and cities they represent. Index numbers are computed on the base 1967=100, and are also available on the base of 1957-59=100.

The national index (the United States city average) includes prices from the 23 SMSA's for which separate indexes are published in this report, as well as from the following additional locations:

Alabama – Florence	New Jersey – Millville
Alaska – Anchorage	New York – Kingston
California – Bakersfield*	North Carolina – Durham*
Colorado – Denver*	North Dakota – Devils Lake
Connecticut – Hartford*	Ohio – Dayton*
Florida – Orlando*	Ohio – Findlay
Indiana – Indianapolis*	Oklahoma – Mangum
Indiana – Logansport	Oregon – Klamath Falls
Illinois – Champaign-Urbana*	Pennsylvania – Lancaster*
Iowa – Cedar Rapids*	South Carolina – Union
Kansas – Wichita*	Tennessee – Nashville*
Louisiana – Baton Rouge*	Texas – Austin*
Maine – Portland*	Texas – McAllen
Massachusetts – Southbridge	Utah – Orem
Michigan – Niles	Virginia – Martinsville
Minnesota – Crookston	Wisconsin – Green Bay*
Mississippi – Vicksburg	

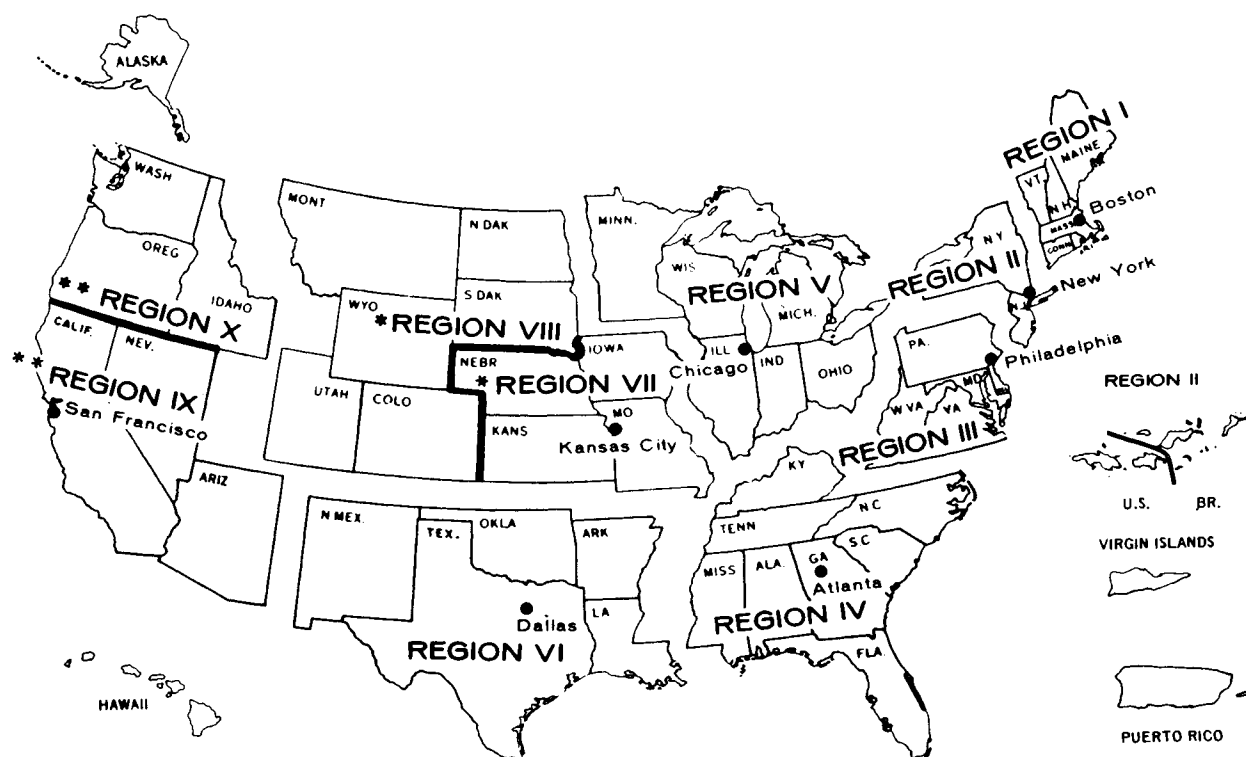
*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

Comparisons of indexes for individual SMSA's show only that prices in one location changed more or less than in another. The SMSA indexes cannot be used to measure differences in price levels or in living costs between areas.

A description of the index and historical tables of index numbers for the United States city average and for 23 large SMSA's are available on request to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, D. C. 20212 or any of its regional offices.

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- * Regions VII and VIII will be serviced by Kansas City.
- ** Regions IX and X will be serviced by San Francisco.