



# *the consumer price index*

February 1973

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

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# Price Movement

## February 1973

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.7 percent in February to 128.6 percent of its 1967 base. Almost two-thirds of the rise was due to higher prices for food. Price increases for fuel oil, gasoline, rent, property taxes, and some apparel items also contributed significantly to the rise. The February index was 3.9 percent higher than its year-ago level.

After seasonal adjustment, the February increase was 0.8 percent. Prices of food, including restaurant meals and snacks, rose an average of 2.2 percent, and prices of nonfood commodities increased 0.5 percent after seasonal adjustment. The services index rose 0.4 percent. (See table A.)

In the 6-month period ending in February—which includes 5 months of Phase II and 1 month of Phase III—the CPI increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.2 percent, compared with 2.5 percent in the preceding 6 months ending in August 1972. This acceleration was due to a faster rate of increase in the food index—12.6 percent in the August–February period com-

pared with 2.1 percent in the February–August period of 1972. The rate of increase for all items less food in the 6 months ending in February of this year was 3.2 percent, about the same as in the 6 months ending in August 1972. Nonfood commodities increased at a 2.3 percent rate in the most recent 6-month period, down from 2.9 percent in the preceding 6-month period. The rate of advance in the services index was 3.6 percent from last August to February to this year compared with 3.1 percent in the February–August period of 1972.

The annual rate of advance in the all items CPI in the most recent 3 months—November to February—was 6.3 percent, up from a 4.2-percent rate in the preceding 3 months. The food index increased at a sharply faster pace and other items at a slightly faster rate.

### Monthly changes in detail

*Food.* The index of food purchased in grocery stores—the major part of the total food index—rose 2.3 percent in February following an increase of 2.5 percent in

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

Year and month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items at seasonally adjusted compound annual rates		
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	From 3 months ago	From 6 months ago	From 12 months ago
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted			
<b>1972:</b>										
February .....	0.5	0.6	1.6	1.8	0.1	0.3	0.2	4.8	3.4	3.7
March .....	.2	0	.2	0	.3	.2	.2	3.6	3.1	3.5
April .....	.2	.2	0	-.1	.3	.2	.2	3.1	3.2	3.4
May .....	.3	.3	-.1	-.1	.6	.5	.2	2.1	3.5	3.2
June .....	.2	.1	.6	.2	.2	0	.3	2.2	2.9	2.9
July .....	.4	.4	1.0	.6	0	.3	.3	3.3	3.2	3.0
August .....	.2	.2	.3	.5	.1	.3	.2	2.9	2.5	2.9
September .....	.4	.5	.2	.6	.7	.4	.2	4.6	3.4	3.3
October .....	.3	.3	.1	.2	.4	-.1	.4	4.1	3.7	3.4
November .....	.2	.3	.4	1.1	.2	.1	.2	4.2	3.6	3.5
December .....	.3	.2	.5	0	.1	.2	.4	3.2	3.9	3.4
<b>1973:</b>										
January .....	.3	.5	2.1	1.9	-.5	0	.2	4.1	4.1	3.7
February .....	.7	.8	1.9	2.2	.3	.5	.4	6.3	5.2	3.9

January. With the exception of eggs, prices of most types of food increased substantially in February as they continued to reflect the recent upsurge in wholesale prices. Prices of meats, poultry, and cereal and bakery products increased considerably more than seasonally. Prices of dairy products and fresh vegetables rose contraseasonally. Prices of fresh fruits increased, but the rise was less than usual. Egg prices, however, declined sharply in February, following a substantial increase in January. The index of food away-from-home (restaurant meals and snacks) increased 0.6 percent.

The current spiral in retail food prices follows an unusually steep climb in the prices of farm products which began in late 1972. This acceleration occurred as adverse weather conditions intensified the imbalance between demand for and supply of many farm products, which had already developed by late 1972, particularly livestock and grains. This imbalance in supply and demand has been attributed to a combination of factors such as strong consumer demand for meats stemming from rising incomes, the large wheat sale to Russia, a massive crop failure last year throughout the world, crop damage caused by Hurricane Agnes, cutbacks in hog production in 1971, and in poultry flocks in 1972.

*Nonfood commodities.* The index of nonfood commodities increased 0.3 percent instead of declining as it usually does in February. A particularly large increase in prices of fuel oil, together with higher prices for gasoline, women's and girls' apparel, and footwear, accounted for about three-fourths of the rise in the nonfood commodities index. Prices also increased for textile housefurnishings, home maintenance and repair commodities, housekeeping supplies, and alcoholic beverages. There were small declines in the prices of men's apparel, furniture, appliances, new and used cars, and tires.

Fuel oil prices increased 5.7 percent in February, following a general price increase at the wholesale level in mid-January after the start of Phase III. Gasoline prices rose 0.6 percent in February instead of declining as they usually do. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the increase was 1.2 percent. In recent months, gasoline price wars and discounting have virtually stopped.

*Services.* The index for services rose 0.4 percent in February. Higher charges for rent and most household services contributed significantly to the rise. Prices for most other types of services also increased.

The rent index increased 0.5 percent and the index for household services less rent increased 0.4 percent. Property taxes rose sharply in some cities. Charges were higher for all types of home maintenance and repair services for all utilities, and for housekeeping services, particularly laundry services. Mortgage interest rates continued to move up, but at a moderate pace.

The index for medical care services also increased 0.4 percent. Charges for operating rooms, semiprivate rooms, and physical therapy increased significantly but physicians' fees rose moderately.

The index for transportation services increased a slight 0.1 percent. Although auto repair charges continued to advance sharply and parking fees were higher, charges for auto insurance and local-transit fares decreased slightly. The decline in local-transit fares occurred in the Washington metropolitan area as a result of public takeover of the transit system.

Among other services in the CPI, the index for personal care services rose 1.0 percent in February because of sharply higher charges for both barber and beauty shop services. Increases in recreational services such as movie admission charges, bowling fees, and television repairs averaged 0.3 percent. Charges for apparel services also rose an average of 0.3 percent.

#### Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 120,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in February for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from table B, 64 percent of these monthly comparisons were unchanged, 9 percent decreased, and 27 percent increased between January and February. The proportion of food and nonfood commodity prices increasing was substantially larger than it was in January. The number of services prices increasing and the number decreasing were smaller than it was in January. The February index also includes 23,000 price comparisons to February from periods before January, of which 18,500 cover the quarterly span from November to February. About 15 percent of these increased. In addition, about 4,500 rental units were surveyed in February and 19 percent of these reported rent increases from August.

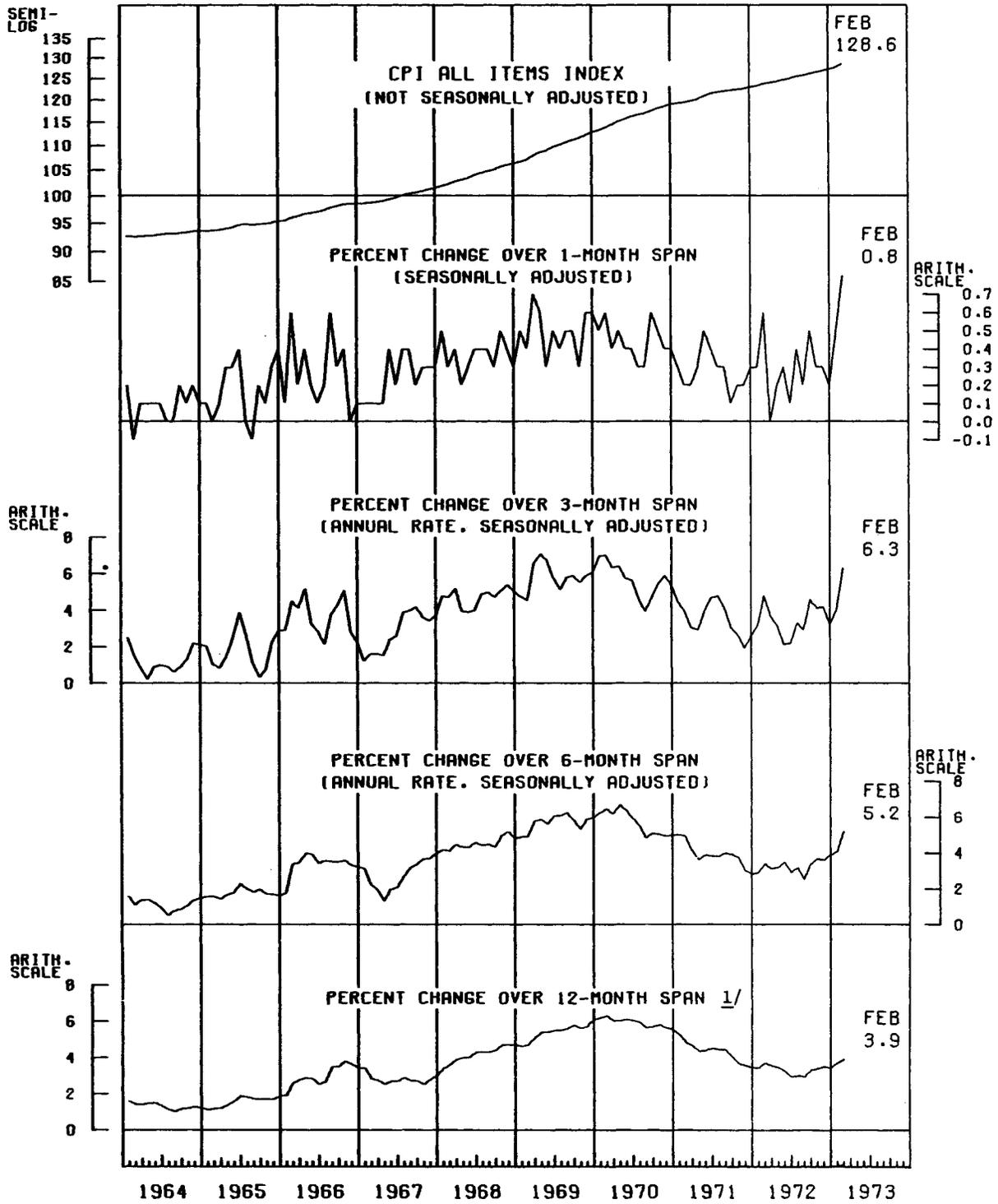
Table B. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons <sup>1</sup>

Item	1971		December 1971 to January 1972	1972				
	October to November	November to December		January to February	February to March	March to April	April to May	May to June
All items <sup>2</sup> .....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases .....	11	16	14	22	15	14	13	15
Decreases .....	9	7	11	8	10	12	12	11
No change .....	80	77	75	70	75	74	75	74
Food at home .....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases .....	13	17	15	24	16	15	14	17
Decreases .....	10	8	11	9	12	13	13	12
No change .....	77	75	74	67	72	72	73	71
Commodities less								
food .....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases .....	7	6	7	8	10	7	8	6
Decreases .....	6	5	10	7	5	7	6	7
No change .....	87	89	83	85	85	86	86	87
Services .....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases .....	2	6	12	8	3	6	7	5
Decreases .....	1	1	5	3	1	4	5	3
No change .....	97	93	83	89	96	90	88	92
	1972—Continued						December	1973
	June to July	July to August	August to September	September to October	October to November	November to December	1972 to January 1973	January to February
All items <sup>2</sup> .....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases .....	18	16	15	15	14	14	21	27
Decreases .....	10	11	10	11	11	9	10	9
No change .....	72	73	75	74	75	77	69	64
Food at home .....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases .....	20	18	16	17	16	17	23	31
Decreases .....	11	13	12	12	12	10	8	10
No change .....	69	69	72	71	72	73	69	59
Commodities less								
food .....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases .....	8	8	11	6	6	6	7	12
Decreases .....	7	6	5	6	5	4	8	4
No change .....	85	86	84	88	89	90	85	84
Services .....	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases .....	4	3	4	4	4	3	9	5
Decreases .....	3	3	2	5	2	3	27	4
No change .....	93	94	94	91	94	94	64	91

<sup>1</sup> 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.

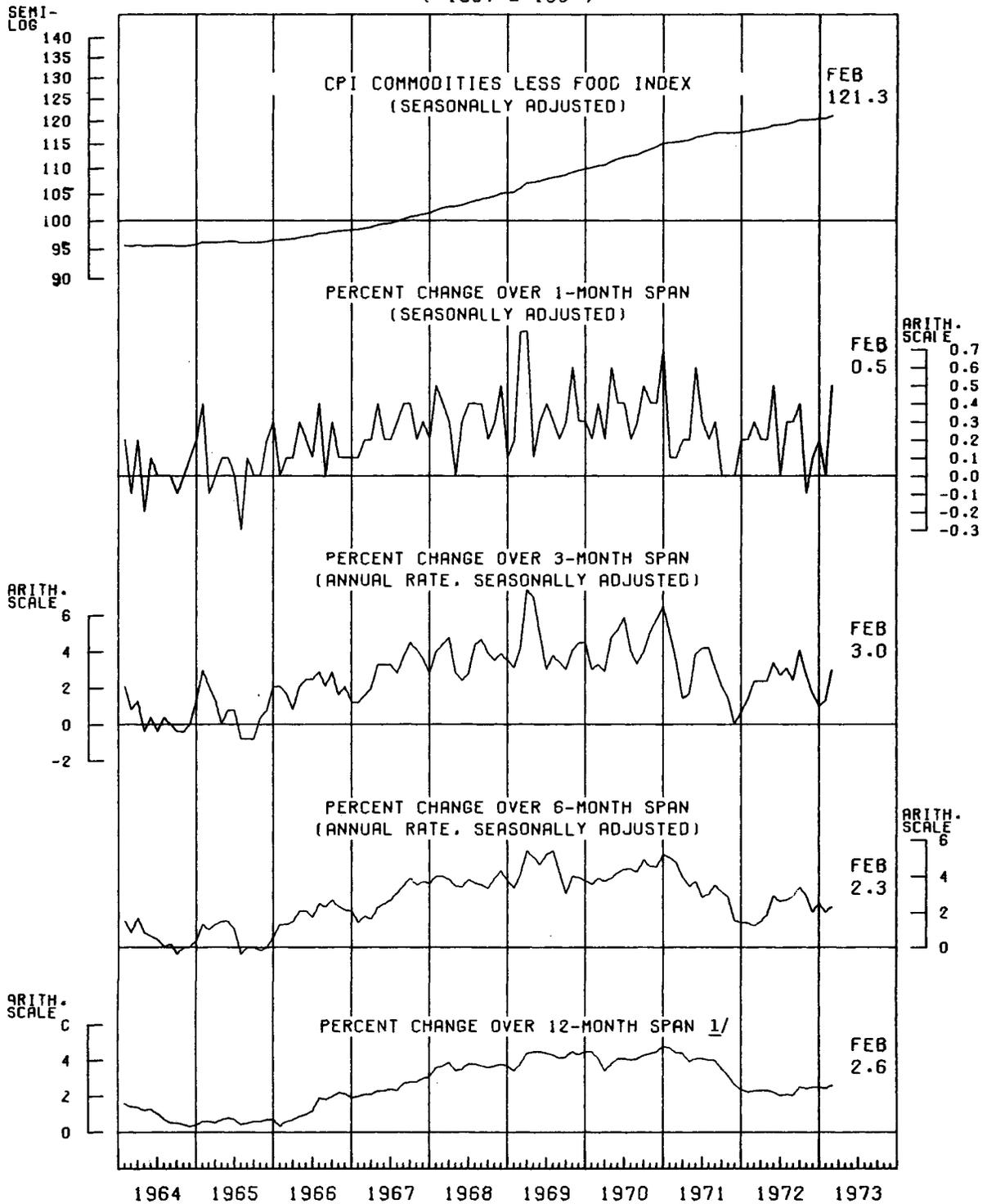
<sup>2</sup> Based on approximately 98,000 individual quotations.

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



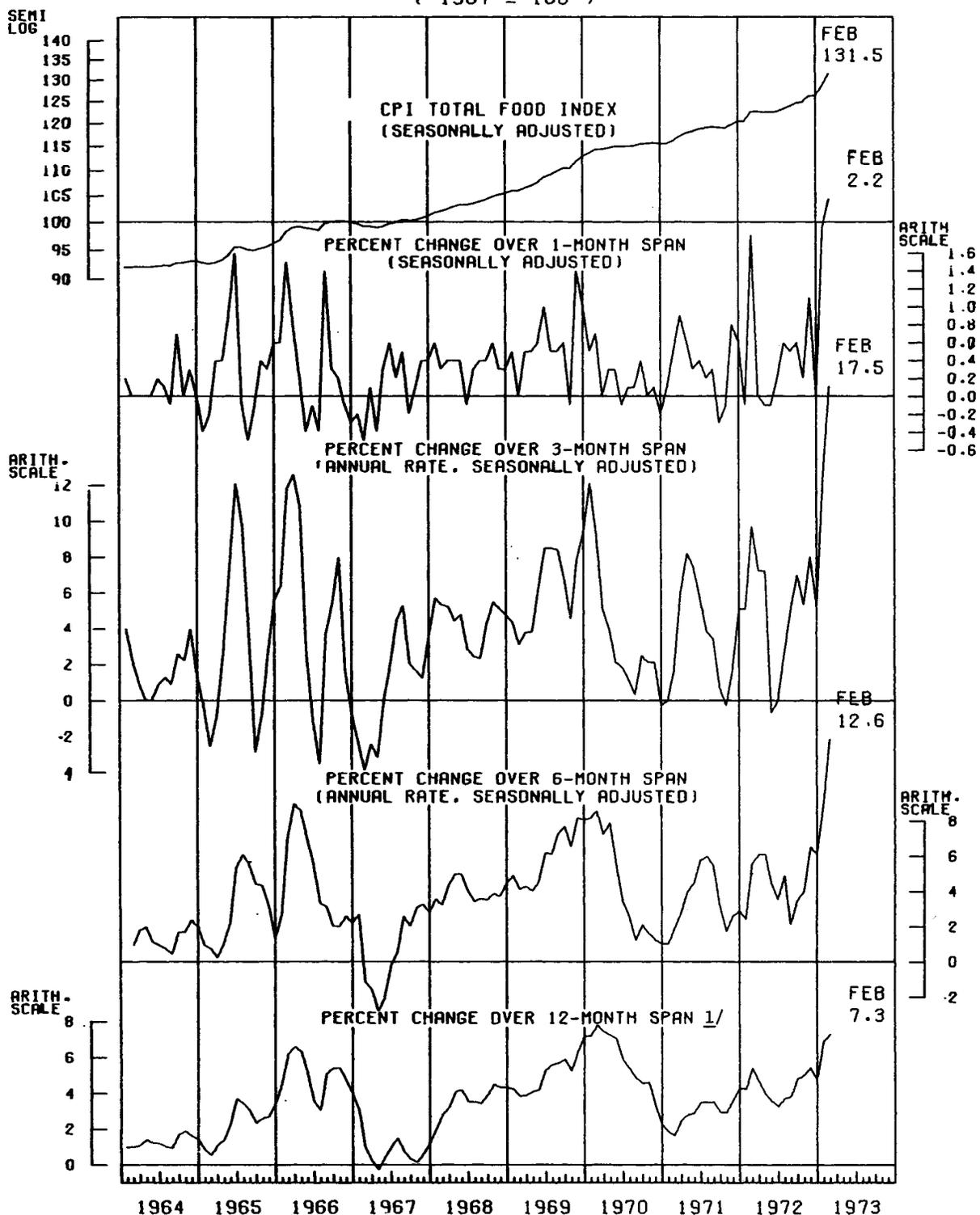
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.  
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CHART 2. COMMODITIES LESS FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1964-73  
( 1967 = 100 )



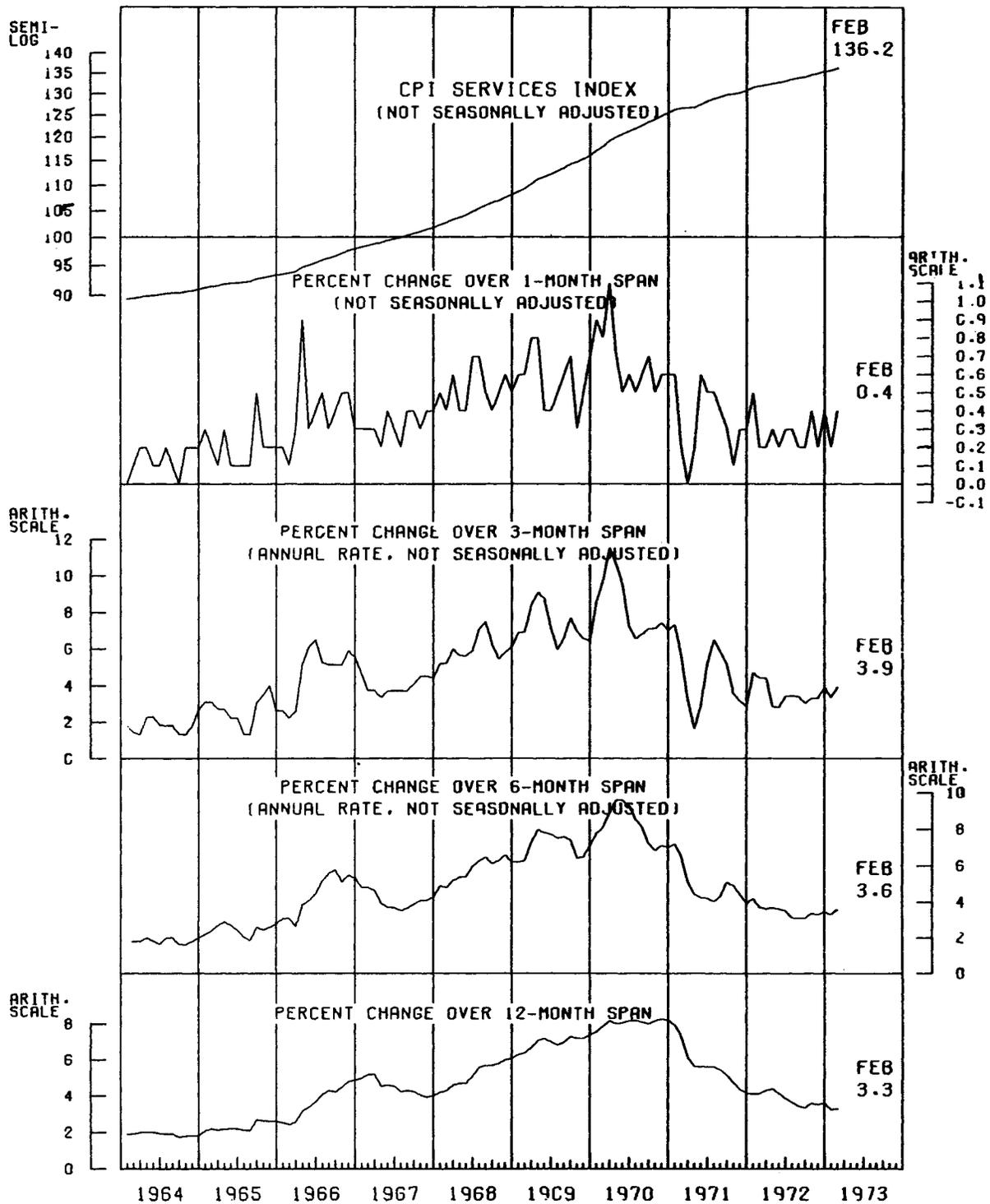
<sup>1/</sup> Computed from the unadjusted series.  
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CHART 3. TOTAL FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1964-73  
( 1967 = 100 )



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



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

Groups	Relative importance December 1972	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to February 1973 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from		
		January 1973	February 1973	February 1972	January 1973	November to December	December to January	January to February
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.000	127.7	128.6	3.9	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.8
All items (1957-59=100)	-	148.5	149.5	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	62.552	123.4	124.5	4.3	.9	.1	.7	1.1
Food	22.492	128.6	131.1	7.3	1.9	0	1.9	2.2
Food at home	17.494	127.2	130.1	8.0	2.3	0	2.3	2.4
Cereals and bakery products	2.243	116.3	117.8	3.1	1.3	.8	.3	1.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.016	136.1	142.8	13.1	4.9	.1	3.3	5.0
Dairy products	2.685	119.1	121.0	3.5	1.6	.5	.7	1.8
Fruits and vegetables	2.999	130.5	133.3	7.6	2.1	-.9	1.7	2.4
Other foods at home	3.552	123.8	123.1	6.5	-.6	.5	2.6	.1
Food away from home	4.998	134.2	134.7	4.5	.4	.5	.4	.4
Commodities less food	40.059	120.5	120.9	2.6	.3	.2	0	.5
Nondurables less food	23.415	120.9	121.6	2.7	.6	.2	0	.6
Apparel commodities <sup>1</sup>	8.960	123.1	123.8	2.4	.6	.3	-.3	.3
Men's and boys'	2.799	123.5	123.3	3.0	-.2	.4	-.1	-.1
Women's and girls'	3.982	122.2	123.3	1.3	.9	.3	-.8	.4
Footwear	1.572	126.6	127.6	4.0	.8	.2	-.1	.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.455	119.7	120.4	2.9	.6	0	.3	.7
Gasoline and motor oil	2.902	111.7	112.4	5.1	.6	0	.3	1.2
Tobacco products	2.103	134.2	134.5	1.9	.2	*.1	*0	*.2
Alcoholic beverages	2.459	120.7	121.2	2.1	.4	*.1	*.2	*.4
Fuel oil and coal	.655	120.7	127.2	7.2	5.4	.1	.4	5.4
Other nondurables	6.335	118.7	119.1	2.1	.3	.2	.1	.3
Durables commodities	16.644	119.9	119.9	2.4	0	.3	-.2	.3
Household durables	4.772	116.1	116.3	2.4	.2	.3	0	.2
New cars	2.060	111.1	111.0	-.8	-.1	.7	1.0	-.1
Used cars	2.056	112.8	112.4	9.1	-.4	*.9	*-1.9	*.4
Other durables	7.756	127.2	127.3	1.8	.1	0	-.2	.2
Services	37.448	135.7	136.2	3.3	.4	*.4	*.2	*.4
Rent, residential	5.059	121.5	122.1	3.7	.5	*.4	*.4	*.5
Services less rent	32.389	138.3	138.7	3.2	.3	*.3	*.2	*.3
Household services less rent	15.486	142.3	142.8	4.0	.4	.6	.6	.6
Transportation services	5.473	136.0	136.1	.4	.1	-.1	-1.0	-.1
Medical care services	5.575	141.0	141.5	3.7	.4	.1	.3	.2
Other services	5.855	128.1	128.6	3.3	.4	.3	.2	.6
Special indexes:								
All items less food	77.508	127.4	127.9	3.0	.4	.3	0	.5
Nondurable commodities	45.907	124.7	126.2	4.9	1.2	.1	1.0	1.4
Apparel commodities less footwear	7.388	122.5	123.1	2.1	.5	.2	-.3	.3
Services less medical care services	31.873	134.9	135.3	3.2	.3	*.3	*.2	*.3
Insurance and finance	9.829	145.4	145.7	2.3	.2	.3	-.2	.3
Utilities and public transportation	5.522	128.2	128.5	2.9	.2	-.1	.4	.1
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.502	147.9	148.4	4.7	.3	.8	.5	.4
Appliances (including radio and T. V.)	1.621	105.7	105.5	-.2	-.2	-	-	-.4
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.000	127.7	128.6	3.9	0.7	0.2	0.5	0.8
Food	22.492	128.6	131.1	7.3	1.9	0	1.9	2.2
Housing	33.859	131.4	132.0	3.4	.5	*.3	*.2	*.5
Shelter <sup>2</sup>	21.830	136.9	137.3	3.5	.3	.6	.2	.5
Rent	5.059	121.5	122.1	3.7	.5	*.4	*.4	*.5
Homeownership <sup>3</sup>	16.355	142.6	142.9	3.6	.2	.6	.3	.4
Fuel and utilities <sup>4</sup>	4.708	122.8	124.1	4.3	1.1	.2	.8	1.1
Gas and electricity	2.434	124.1	124.5	4.4	.3	.2	1.3	.1
Household furnishings and operation	7.321	122.2	122.6	2.5	.3	.2	.2	.1
Apparel and upkeep	10.370	123.0	123.6	2.4	.5	.2	-.2	.2
Transportation	13.134	121.0	121.1	2.4	.1	-.2	-.5	.5
Private	11.665	118.5	118.7	2.7	.2	.1	.2	.2
Public	1.469	144.3	144.3	.6	0	-.1	-.7	.1
Health and recreation	19.768	127.8	128.1	2.7	.2	*.1	*.2	*.2
Medical care	6.447	134.9	135.3	3.3	.3	.1	.3	.1
Personal care	2.573	121.8	122.4	3.4	.5	.4	.3	.6
Reading and recreation	5.656	124.1	124.3	2.3	.2	0	0	.4
Other goods and services	5.093	126.7	127.1	2.3	.3	.2	.3	.5
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78.170	125.3	126.4	4.0	.9	.1	.6	.9
All items less medical care	93.553	127.3	128.2	3.9	.7	.2	.5	.9
All items less mortgage interest costs	96.298	126.8	127.8	4.0	.8	.2	.4	.9
CPI - domestically produced farm foods <sup>5</sup>	15.519	127.2	130.4	8.4	2.5	*.6	*2.7	*2.5
CPI - selected beef cuts <sup>6</sup>	2.060	141.6	151.1	11.5	7.0	*.5	*5.0	*7.0
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$1.00	-	\$0.783	\$0.778	-3.7	-.6	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.673	.669	-	-	-	-	-

<sup>1</sup> Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, and jewelry not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

<sup>3</sup> Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> 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

Groups	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate Percent changes for					
					3 months ending in				6 months ending in	
	November 1972	December 1972	January 1973	February 1973	May 1972	August 1972	November 1972	February 1973	August 1972	February 1973
<b>Commodity and service groups</b>										
All items	-	-	-	-	2.1	2.9	4.2	6.3	2.5	5.2
Commodities	122.7	122.8	123.6	124.9	1.7	3.4	4.7	7.4	2.5	6.0
Food	126.3	126.3	128.7	131.5	-7	5.0	8.0	17.5	2.1	12.6
Food at home	124.6	124.6	127.5	130.5	-2.3	5.4	9.5	20.3	1.5	14.8
Cereals and bakery products	115.1	116.0	116.3	117.8	1.8	-1.7	2.8	9.7	0	6.2
Meats, poultry, and fish	132.7	132.8	137.2	144.0	-6.7	13.1	12.0	38.7	2.7	24.6
Dairy products	117.6	118.2	119.0	121.1	1.4	-3.0	3.8	12.4	-9	8.1
Fruits and vegetables	130.7	129.5	131.7	134.8	-13.6	18.7	15.4	13.2	1.3	14.3
Other foods at home	118.2	118.8	121.9	122.0	11.6	-6.3	8.2	13.5	2.3	10.8
Food away from home	133.0	133.7	134.2	134.8	4.7	4.0	3.7	5.5	4.4	4.6
Commodities less food	120.4	120.7	120.7	121.3	3.4	2.4	1.7	3.0	2.9	2.3
Nondurables less food	121.1	121.3	121.3	122.0	3.1	.7	4.1	3.0	1.9	3.5
Apparel commodities <sup>1</sup>	124.1	124.5	124.1	124.5	3.0	-1.3	6.7	1.3	.8	4.0
Men's and boys'	123.7	124.2	124.4	124.3	4.0	-2.3	8.5	2.0	.8	5.2
Women's and girls'	124.3	124.7	123.7	124.2	1.3	-3.5	8.1	-3	-1.1	3.8
Footwear	126.7	127.0	126.9	128.0	3.6	3.9	4.2	4.2	3.8	4.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	119.4	119.4	119.7	120.5	3.5	1.4	3.1	3.7	2.4	3.4
Gasoline and motor oil	111.4	111.4	111.7	113.0	1.5	5.3	8.3	5.9	3.4	7.1
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted)	134.3	134.2	134.2	134.5	3.7	2.7	.6	.6	3.2	.6
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted)	120.4	120.5	120.7	121.2	2.7	1.3	1.7	2.7	2.0	2.2
Fuel oil and coal	119.3	119.4	119.9	126.4	3.1	-1.7	3.1	26.0	.7	14.0
Other nondurables	118.6	118.8	118.9	119.2	3.5	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.0
Durables commodities	119.8	120.1	119.9	120.3	2.8	5.2	0	1.7	4.0	.8
Household durables	116.0	116.3	116.3	116.5	2.8	2.8	2.1	1.7	2.8	1.9
New cars	108.1	108.9	110.0	109.9	2.6	5.1	-16.0	6.8	3.8	-10.2
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted)	116.0	115.0	112.8	112.4	30.1	9.0	13.4	-11.8	19.1	0
Other durables	127.2	127.2	126.9	127.2	2.6	6.2	-1.6	0	4.4	-8
Services (not seasonally adjusted)	134.9	135.4	135.7	136.2	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.9	3.1	3.6
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	120.5	121.0	121.5	122.1	2.7	3.4	3.0	5.4	3.1	4.2
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted)	137.6	138.0	138.3	138.7	2.7	3.3	3.6	3.2	3.0	3.4
Household services less rent	141.0	141.8	142.6	143.4	1.8	3.5	3.8	7.0	2.6	5.4
Transportation services	137.1	136.9	135.5	135.3	2.1	3.9	0.9	-5.1	3.0	-2.2
Medical care services	140.7	140.9	141.3	141.6	2.4	2.9	7.1	2.6	2.7	4.8
Other services	127.4	127.8	128.1	128.9	1.6	2.6	4.5	4.8	2.1	4.7
<b>Special indexes:</b>										
All items less food	127.1	127.5	127.5	128.2	3.3	2.6	2.9	3.5	2.9	3.2
Nondurable commodities	123.6	123.7	124.9	126.6	1.0	2.7	6.0	10.1	1.8	8.0
Apparel commodities less footwear	123.7	124.0	123.6	124.0	2.0	-1.6	7.1	1.0	.2	4.0
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	134.2	134.6	134.9	135.3	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.3	3.1	3.3
Insurance and finance	145.3	145.7	145.4	145.8	1.1	5.1	1.7	1.4	3.1	1.5
Utilities and public transportation	127.7	127.6	128.1	128.2	1.9	1.9	5.8	1.6	1.9	3.7
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	146.3	147.4	148.2	148.8	4.0	4.5	3.1	7.0	4.3	5.0
<b>Expenditure classes</b>										
All items	-	-	-	-	2.1	2.9	4.2	6.3	2.5	5.2
Food	126.3	126.3	128.7	131.5	-7	5.0	8.0	17.5	2.1	12.6
Housing (not seasonally adjusted)	130.8	131.2	131.4	132.0	2.9	4.4	2.8	3.7	3.6	3.3
Shelter <sup>2</sup>	135.9	136.7	137.0	137.7	2.4	4.9	1.5	5.4	3.6	3.4
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	120.5	121.0	121.5	122.1	2.7	3.4	3.0	5.4	3.1	4.2
Homeownership <sup>3</sup>	141.7	142.5	142.9	143.5	1.2	6.5	1.4	5.2	3.8	3.3
Fuel and utilities <sup>4</sup>	121.5	121.7	122.7	124.0	2.7	1.3	4.7	8.5	2.0	6.6
Gas and electricity	122.1	122.4	124.0	124.1	4.1	1.7	5.1	6.7	2.9	5.9
Household furnishings and operation	122.1	122.4	122.6	122.7	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.5	2.5
Apparel and upkeep	123.8	124.1	123.9	124.2	2.7	-7	6.4	1.3	1.0	3.8
Transportation	121.4	121.2	120.6	121.2	3.1	4.8	2.3	-7	3.9	.8
Private	119.1	118.9	118.3	118.8	3.5	5.6	2.7	-1.0	4.5	.8
Public	145.3	145.2	144.2	144.3	-2.2	2.5	4.8	-2.7	.1	1.0
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	127.4	127.5	127.8	128.1	3.6	2.2	2.9	2.2	2.9	2.5
Medical care	134.6	134.8	135.2	135.4	1.8	2.8	6.2	2.4	2.3	4.3
Personal care	121.0	121.5	121.9	122.6	3.4	1.7	3.0	5.4	2.5	4.2
Reading and recreation	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.5	2.3	2.3	3.0	1.6	2.3	2.3
Other goods and services	125.9	126.2	126.6	127.2	5.2	-3	0	4.2	2.4	2.1
<b>Special indexes:</b>										
All items less shelter	124.7	124.8	125.6	126.7	2.0	2.6	5.3	6.6	2.3	5.9
All items less medical care	126.6	126.8	127.4	128.5	2.3	3.3	4.2	6.1	2.8	5.2
All items less mortgage interest costs	126.1	126.4	126.9	128.1	2.3	3.3	4.2	6.5	2.8	5.4
CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted)	123.1	123.8	127.2	130.4	-1.7	9.7	1.6	25.9	3.9	13.1
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted)	135.6	134.9	141.6	151.5	-10.2	21.1	-8.9	55.8	4.3	19.1

<sup>1</sup> Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, and jewelry not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

<sup>3</sup> Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

<sup>4</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>	Pricing schedule <sup>2</sup>	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1969=100	1957-59=100	Other bases	February 1972	November 1972	January 1973
February 1973							
U.S. city average	M	128.6	149.5		3.9	1.3	0.7
Chicago	M	127.5	144.8		3.7	1.4	.9
Detroit	M	129.7	149.0		3.8	1.8	.9
Los Angeles—Long Beach	M	125.5	147.6		4.3	1.0	.6
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J.	M	134.9	160.5		4.1	1.2	.9
Philadelphia	M	130.6	152.6		4.3	1.2	1.2
January 1973							
Boston	1	129.7	155.4		3.9	0.6	
Houston	1	127.2	145.5		3.2	.6	
Minneapolis—St. Paul	1	127.8	148.1		3.2	.5	
Pittsburgh	1	127.2	146.3		3.2	.6	
February 1973							
Buffalo	2	130.3		<sup>3</sup> 143.2	4.3	1.3	
Cleveland	2	129.9	146.6		3.2	1.6	
Dallas	2	127.7		<sup>3</sup> 138.1	3.2	1.6	
Milwaukee	2	127.0	143.4		3.9	1.6	
San Diego	2	128.2		<sup>4</sup> 134.7	5.0	1.1	
Seattle	2	123.1	144.7		3.4	1.6	
Washington	2	130.7	152.2		4.8	.8	
December 1972							
Atlanta	3	127.7	146.9		3.4	0.6	
Baltimore	3	128.0	148.6		2.3	.2	
Cincinnati	3	126.5	143.6		3.8	.2	
Honolulu	3	124.4		<sup>5</sup> 134.1	2.7	1.1	
Kansas City	3	125.5	148.9		3.4	0	
St. Louis	3	123.7	144.5		2.3	.1	
San Francisco—Oakland	3	126.3	150.2		3.9	.6	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> November 1963=100.

<sup>4</sup> February 1965=100.

<sup>5</sup> December 1963=100.

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

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas<sup>1</sup> for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from January 1973 to February 1973

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.9	1.2
Food	1.9	2.6	2.0	1.6	1.6	2.4
Housing	.5	0	-.2	.6	.6	1.1
Apparel and upkeep	.5	1.5	2.6	.5	1.8	2.6
Transportation	-.1	-.1	1.8	.2	.1	0
Health and recreation	.2	.5	.5	0	.5	.3
Medical care	.3	.1	.3	.5	.1	.1
Personal care	.5	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Reading and recreation	.2	1.0	-.3	-.3	.2	.6
Other goods and services	.3	.4	1.6	0	.4	.3

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 3.

<sup>2</sup> Not available.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas<sup>1</sup> for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, February 1973 index and percent changes from November 1972

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles— Long Beach	New York— Northeastern New Jersey	Phila- delphia
	(Indexes 1967=100)					
All items -----	128.6	127.5	129.7	125.5	134.9	130.6
Food -----	131.1	132.4	131.1	127.7	135.6	132.1
Food at home -----	130.1	132.6	130.9	128.7	133.5	130.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	117.8	122.6	124.3	113.9	118.8	118.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	142.8	145.0	145.4	144.9	144.0	142.0
Dairy products -----	121.0	121.2	118.6	119.2	124.3	121.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	133.3	134.4	123.7	128.1	139.4	133.8
Other foods at home -----	123.1	125.0	124.1	122.7	125.5	121.8
Food away from home -----	134.7	131.5	132.2	125.0	142.4	140.0
Housing -----	132.0	125.8	134.7	129.8	140.5	133.5
Shelter -----	137.3	130.1	144.0	132.8	147.6	142.9
Rent, residential -----	122.1	( <sup>2</sup> )	122.3	( <sup>2</sup> )	133.5	( <sup>2</sup> )
Homeownership costs -----	142.9	136.0	148.3	136.8	158.3	147.1
Fuel and utilities -----	124.1	117.5	119.4	128.1	129.5	122.2
Fuel oil and coal -----	127.2	121.3	124.6	-	127.4	120.1
Gas and electricity -----	124.5	117.9	121.3	134.5	129.5	128.0
Household furnishings and operation -----	122.6	117.8	116.2	120.0	128.7	123.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.6	122.4	120.3	120.0	121.7	122.5
Men's and boys' -----	123.3	117.5	120.0	117.6	121.9	120.5
Women's and girls' -----	123.3	127.0	115.2	121.3	118.7	120.0
Footwear -----	127.6	121.8	130.2	126.5	124.5	128.2
Transportation -----	121.1	124.6	120.3	120.4	134.0	125.9
Private -----	118.7	119.0	117.9	120.6	126.3	122.9
Public -----	144.3	160.5	148.5	117.3	163.3	143.5
Health and recreation -----	128.1	129.3	131.4	122.2	133.5	132.2
Medical care -----	135.3	134.6	144.2	131.7	143.3	144.9
Personal care -----	122.4	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	121.3	( <sup>2</sup> )
Reading and recreation -----	124.3	125.6	125.9	114.6	128.2	128.0
Other goods and services -----	127.1	130.5	123.9	120.2	134.3	128.4
Percent Changes November 1972 to February 1973						
All items -----	1.3	1.4	1.8	1.0	1.2	1.2
Food -----	4.5	5.1	5.1	4.4	3.8	4.8
Food at home -----	5.4	6.4	6.0	5.9	4.9	5.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	2.4	5.9	6.2	1.2	-.8	2.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	8.6	8.9	7.9	10.6	7.6	9.1
Dairy products -----	2.8	2.4	3.8	2.9	3.3	1.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.4	6.8	4.8	3.2	3.6	5.3
Other foods at home -----	4.2	4.8	4.5	5.7	4.1	5.5
Food away from home -----	1.1	-.2	1.5	-.6	.9	1.4
Housing -----	.9	1.0	.7	-.6	1.4	-.2
Shelter -----	.8	.9	-.7	-.7	1.4	-.3
Rent, residential -----	1.3	( <sup>2</sup> )	-.4	( <sup>2</sup> )	1.9	( <sup>2</sup> )
Homeownership costs -----	-.6	-.4	-.7	-.8	-.4	-.5
Fuel and utilities -----	2.0	1.7	1.4	-.2	3.4	2.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	6.6	6.3	9.4	-	5.8	5.5
Gas and electricity -----	1.9	2.2	1.1	-.7	4.7	2.8
Household furnishings and operation -----	.4	.7	-.4	-.3	.4	.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	-1.1	-.8	-.9	-.9	-3.0	-.2
Men's and boys' -----	-1.2	-1.0	-1.6	-.1	-2.5	-3.9
Women's and girls' -----	-2.5	-1.9	-2.8	-2.5	-5.6	1.4
Footwear -----	.4	.7	3.0	1.1	-1.6	-.9
Transportation -----	-.2	-.7	2.9	-.8	0	-.2
Private -----	-.3	-.8	3.2	-.8	0	-.3
Public -----	-.1	-.1	0	-.3	.1	.5
Health and recreation -----	.5	.6	.7	-.6	.8	.5
Medical care -----	.9	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	1.2	.9	( <sup>2</sup> )
Personal care -----	1.2	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	2.3	( <sup>2</sup> )
Reading and recreation -----	.2	1.1	0	-.4	-.5	.5
Other goods and services -----	.6	-.1	1.6	-.2	1.1	.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas<sup>1</sup> for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, February 1973 index and percent changes from November 1972—Continued

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
	(Indexes 1967=100)						
All items	130.3	129.9	127.7	127.0	128.2	123.1	130.7
Food	130.6	130.8	131.1	128.7	131.5	128.5	134.3
Food at home	129.9	130.9	128.9	128.0	130.6	127.9	131.8
Cereals and bakery products	117.0	115.3	115.5	120.2	114.1	114.1	120.7
Meats, poultry, and fish	139.0	143.4	143.6	140.0	151.1	142.1	141.5
Dairy products	121.6	125.6	114.3	118.3	118.6	120.6	116.3
Fruits and vegetables	141.0	132.7	131.9	129.3	125.7	124.7	140.8
Other foods at home	121.3	122.9	122.2	121.4	122.7	124.4	127.2
Food away from home	134.3	131.0	139.2	131.3	133.3	130.3	140.6
Housing	135.0	128.9	128.8	127.3	136.9	125.1	131.7
Shelter	137.1	131.9	133.8	129.7	149.7	129.5	134.9
Rent, residential	123.0	114.0	112.5	120.0	135.2	106.3	120.7
Homeownership costs	139.7	135.0	143.3	132.7	155.8	136.1	143.2
Fuel and utilities	140.6	124.5	119.3	126.0	117.7	117.0	126.6
Fuel oil and coal	128.9	-	-	127.3	-	123.9	127.5
Gas and electricity	141.7	125.1	118.2	131.3	119.3	109.1	127.8
Household furnishings and operation	124.8	120.3	122.8	121.5	113.4	119.3	125.1
Apparel and upkeep	132.6	125.1	125.6	130.5	123.2	120.5	127.7
Men's and boys'	148.3	118.8	126.2	131.7	120.9	125.0	124.6
Women's and girls'	130.7	127.9	126.0	130.1	129.7	116.8	132.1
Footwear	125.1	129.4	129.3	129.7	124.4	123.7	131.7
Transportation	120.6	127.0	119.0	122.4	118.5	110.6	124.7
Private	118.2	121.7	116.9	117.2	119.1	112.5	120.9
Public	146.2	161.5	146.4	185.4	106.8	99.8	146.0
Health and recreation	128.2	135.5	129.4	125.7	121.5	122.0	130.3
Medical care	128.4	148.7	130.5	130.5	126.9	127.9	142.0
Personal care	122.9	127.2	128.4	122.3	118.9	117.8	119.8
Reading and recreation	130.4	126.3	123.7	126.2	118.5	120.3	124.4
Other goods and services	128.5	133.9	128.4	122.6	120.2	119.9	130.4
Percent changes November 1972 to February 1973							
All items	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.1	1.6	0.8
Food	4.6	4.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	4.9	3.9
Food at home	5.4	4.8	5.8	6.1	6.6	6.1	5.5
Cereals and bakery products	2.2	3.3	2.1	4.4	1.2	1.2	1.7
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.6	7.7	9.0	7.3	11.7	10.8	11.2
Dairy products	4.2	2.9	3.8	2.3	2.9	2.9	2.6
Fruits and vegetables	11.1	2.2	4.8	7.6	2.6	4.4	1.7
Other foods at home	1.4	3.9	4.7	6.9	7.2	5.4	3.5
Food away from home	.5	.9	2.1	.7	.6	1.4	.4
Housing	-.5	1.2	.5	.6	1.0	.8	-.8
Shelter	-.4	1.5	.2	.2	1.4	.3	-1.3
Rent, residential	1.3	.2	.4	.7	.5	.5	.5
Homeownership costs	-.7	1.7	.1	.1	1.6	.2	-2.3
Fuel and utilities	-2.0	.2	2.0	1.9	-.1	1.3	.5
Fuel oil and coal	6.4	-	-	7.1	-	3.9	7.9
Gas and electricity	-3.3	.6	4.0	1.6	0	0	-.5
Household furnishings and operation	.3	.6	.3	.8	.4	1.7	.6
Apparel and upkeep	2.0	-.1	1.4	.6	-.7	.5	.4
Men's and boys'	0	-1.2	-.2	.5	-1.1	1.5	-2.7
Women's and girls'	4.1	-.2	1.8	1.6	-2.0	-2.1	1.9
Footwear	1.5	.5	1.3	-.9	1.9	4.2	1.5
Transportation	.8	.5	-.6	.7	-1.7	-1.0	-.2
Private	.9	.1	-.6	.5	-1.8	-.1	.1
Public	0	2.0	0	1.0	0	-6.2	-1.2
Health and recreation	.8	.9	1.3	.6	.4	1.1	.5
Medical care	1.3	1.7	1.7	.9	.3	1.5	.4
Personal care	1.0	1.4	.5	-.2	1.4	2.3	1.1
Reading and recreation	-.3	-.1	1.1	1.0	.3	1.1	.2
Other goods and services	.9	.3	1.7	.2	.3	.3	1.5

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 3.

<sup>2</sup> Not available.

<sup>3</sup> Change from December 1972.

Table 5-A. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas<sup>1</sup> for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1972 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1971-72

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
	(Indexes 1967=100)						
All items	126.6	126.5	124.9	123.7	124.4	119.7	126.9
All items (1957-59=100)	<sup>2</sup> 139.1	142.8	<sup>2</sup> 135.0	139.6	<sup>3</sup> 130.8	140.7	147.9
Food	123.5	123.3	123.0	120.6	123.3	120.7	125.8
Food at home	122.2	122.6	119.9	118.9	120.5	118.8	122.0
Cereals and bakery products	115.7	111.5	113.2	115.4	112.7	111.0	117.4
Meats, poultry, and fish	127.7	128.6	126.9	126.7	132.3	125.9	122.9
Dairy products	116.7	121.9	111.4	114.2	114.4	116.2	112.4
Fruits and vegetables	127.3	126.0	124.1	119.7	119.5	117.8	132.9
Other foods at home	117.5	117.4	115.8	112.7	112.9	116.4	121.6
Food away from home	131.2	127.7	134.4	127.6	130.4	126.7	135.6
Housing	133.1	126.3	127.9	126.4	132.8	122.6	128.8
Shelter	134.6	129.0	133.6	129.5	144.5	127.6	127.6
Rent, residential	120.1	113.0	111.8	117.9	133.6	105.7	118.6
Homeownership	137.3	131.8	143.5	133.2	149.1	133.9	140.9
Fuel and utilities	140.3	121.5	116.5	123.4	113.8	114.4	118.2
Fuel oil and coal	121.4	-	-	118.6	-	118.8	117.7
Gas and electricity	143.1	123.0	112.8	128.7	114.0	108.6	120.4
Household furnishings and operation	123.8	118.8	121.3	120.0	112.2	115.4	123.0
Apparel and upkeep	126.1	123.8	121.7	126.8	122.1	117.5	125.0
Men's and boys'	141.8	121.0	125.5	128.5	121.4	116.8	124.1
Women's and girls'	121.2	125.7	119.8	124.3	128.9	118.3	128.0
Footwear	121.6	125.7	125.4	128.3	120.0	119.5	127.5
Transportation	117.9	126.0	119.9	119.3	117.1	109.4	123.6
Private	116.1	121.5	117.9	115.3	117.0	109.7	119.5
Public	137.4	155.7	145.7	167.8	120.3	108.0	147.1
Health and recreation	125.7	132.7	126.9	123.6	119.2	120.2	128.1
Medical care	126.1	144.0	131.6	128.1	123.8	125.5	139.9
Personal care <sup>4</sup>	119.5	123.5	126.2	120.2	116.1	114.3	118.0
Reading and recreation	127.8	124.9	121.8	123.5	116.3	118.4	122.8
Other goods and services	126.7	132.7	126.1	121.4	118.7	119.4	126.2
	Percent changes 1971-72						
All items	3.9	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.8	2.8	3.4
Food	3.2	3.7	4.4	4.2	5.1	4.1	4.7
Food at home	3.3	4.0	4.9	4.3	5.3	4.6	4.9
Cereals and bakery products	-1.5	-1.1	-8	-1	2.2	.3	1.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	8.5	9.3	10.8	10.0	11.6	10.9	8.1
Dairy products	-1	1.2	.8	2.0	1.4	2.1	2.4
Fruits and vegetables	5.0	3.6	5.7	4.5	4.0	3.5	7.1
Other foods at home	-6	.5	1.4	.1	1.4	1.6	2.1
Food away from home	3.1	2.5	3.0	3.9	4.3	2.6	4.2
Housing	6.2	3.2	2.2	3.1	4.3	2.9	5.1
Shelter	6.5	4.0	2.4	2.7	5.2	3.0	5.2
Rent, residential	4.8	1.4	.2	3.2	2.4	-1.1	3.6
Homeownership	6.8	4.4	3.2	2.6	6.2	4.0	6.0
Fuel and utilities	10.5	2.5	1.6	6.7	5.9	4.5	8.2
Fuel oil and coal	1.7	-	-	-3	-	.1	.2
Gas and electricity	9.3	3.2	3.0	8.9	4.4	5.2	8.8
Household furnishings and operation	2.6	.5	1.9	1.8	1.0	2.0	2.7
Apparel and upkeep	2.4	1.8	2.8	2.1	3.7	1.3	1.6
Men's and boys'	4.7	1.1	1.8	4.6	1.8	-4	.9
Women's and girls'	.9	2.4	3.9	-1	5.7	1.7	2.4
Footwear	.9	1.5	3.4	1.5	3.1	1.6	2.5
Transportation	.9	1.3	2.0	1.9	2.9	2.2	.2
Private	.2	.7	2.2	1.0	3.3	2.8	.3
Public	8.6	4.4	.9	10.5	-1.9	-8	.5
Health and recreation	3.8	3.5	3.1	2.4	2.7	2.6	2.7
Medical care	3.1	2.9	2.2	1.6	2.3	2.1	2.5
Personal care	2.1	4.0	5.3	1.3	4.6	.4	2.0
Reading and recreation	3.7	2.8	2.3	3.0	2.4	2.1	3.4
Other goods and services	5.8	5.0	4.1	3.1	2.2	4.6	2.3

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 3.

<sup>2</sup> November 1963=100.

<sup>3</sup> February 1965=100.

<sup>4</sup> 1972 annual average for New York is 118.7.

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

Area <sup>1</sup>	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 -----	131.1	130.1	117.8	142.8	121.0	133.3	123.1	134.7
Atlanta -----	132.8	132.1	120.2	144.0	124.2	139.2	124.2	135.2
Baltimore -----	132.7	132.3	117.1	143.7	122.8	136.8	126.3	134.2
Boston -----	130.5	130.0	118.3	142.2	120.8	134.4	121.6	132.3
Buffalo -----	130.6	129.9	117.0	139.0	121.6	141.0	121.3	134.3
Chicago -----	132.4	132.6	122.6	145.0	121.2	134.4	125.0	131.5
Cincinnati -----	131.6	131.8	120.0	141.0	126.2	134.7	126.1	130.9
Cleveland -----	130.8	130.9	115.3	143.4	125.6	132.7	122.9	131.0
Dallas -----	131.1	128.9	115.5	143.6	114.3	131.9	122.2	139.2
Detroit -----	131.1	130.9	124.3	145.4	118.6	123.7	124.1	132.2
Honolulu -----	128.0	125.9	109.1	133.5	124.5	131.9	121.8	133.8
Houston -----	133.6	130.4	113.9	146.2	122.5	131.1	122.8	144.8
Kansas City -----	130.4	130.0	119.3	141.9	130.6	125.9	122.8	131.8
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	127.7	128.7	113.9	144.9	119.2	128.1	122.7	125.0
Milwaukee -----	128.7	128.0	120.2	140.0	118.3	129.3	121.4	131.3
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	132.6	131.5	128.4	146.5	122.7	129.0	124.4	137.4
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	135.6	133.5	118.8	144.0	124.3	139.4	125.5	142.4
Philadelphia -----	132.1	130.2	118.5	142.0	121.7	133.8	121.8	140.0
Pittsburgh -----	130.2	129.0	115.8	139.8	117.0	137.1	123.3	137.9
St. Louis -----	129.2	127.9	121.6	136.5	121.8	134.0	118.4	135.4
San Diego -----	131.5	130.6	114.1	151.1	118.6	125.7	122.7	133.3
San Francisco—Oakland -----	129.5	129.8	112.8	142.2	119.8	132.5	125.6	128.4
Seattle -----	128.5	127.9	114.1	142.1	120.6	124.7	124.4	130.3
Washington -----	134.3	131.8	120.7	141.5	116.3	140.8	127.2	140.6
Percent changes January 1973 to February 1973								
U. S. city average -----	1.9	2.3	1.3	4.9	1.6	2.1	-0.6	0.4
Atlanta -----	2.2	2.7	1.3	6.1	1.2	2.3	-.4	1.1
Baltimore -----	2.3	2.9	1.7	5.2	1.5	3.5	-.2	.1
Boston -----	2.0	2.5	.8	5.4	1.1	3.1	-1.1	.2
Buffalo -----	2.0	2.2	.1	4.0	3.4	4.4	-2.1	.3
Chicago -----	2.6	3.3	3.4	5.7	1.3	3.5	-.4	0
Cincinnati -----	2.3	2.7	3.0	4.7	2.7	2.4	-.2	.9
Cleveland -----	2.0	2.3	1.4	5.3	2.4	2.2	-2.2	.5
Dallas -----	2.3	2.6	1.0	5.0	1.1	3.0	.1	1.3
Detroit -----	2.0	2.5	3.2	4.2	3.0	1.2	-.7	.2
Honolulu -----	1.1	1.4	.5	2.9	3.3	.2	-.9	.2
Houston -----	2.2	2.9	1.5	6.5	.2	3.4	-.6	.3
Kansas City -----	2.0	2.7	.8	6.5	2.6	3.0	-1.6	-.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	1.6	2.1	.7	4.4	2.7	.4	.1	.3
Milwaukee -----	2.4	2.8	1.2	4.5	2.3	3.3	.9	( <sup>2</sup> )
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	1.5	1.8	.8	4.8	1.4	1.7	-1.0	.5
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	1.6	2.2	1.3	4.5	1.1	1.2	0	.1
Philadelphia -----	2.4	2.8	-.1	6.1	.8	3.0	.4	.3
Pittsburgh -----	2.3	2.6	1.5	5.9	.3	3.1	-1.0	.7
St. Louis -----	1.7	2.0	1.4	3.9	.3	2.9	-.6	.2
San Diego -----	1.3	1.6	.4	3.8	2.6	-.8	-.8	( <sup>2</sup> )
San Francisco—Oakland -----	1.3	1.6	.2	3.5	2.3	1.2	-1.1	.4
Seattle -----	1.1	1.2	.7	3.6	2.2	-1.3	-1.0	.8
Washington -----	1.7	2.4	.4	5.7	1.7	2.1	-1.0	.3

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 4.

<sup>2</sup> Not available.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to February 1973 from—		
	February 1973		February 1972	January 1973	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	131.1	131.5	7.3	1.9	2.2
Food away from home	134.7	134.8	4.5	.4	.4
Restaurant meals	134.9	135.2	4.9	.4	.6
Snacks	133.9	133.9	3.0	.2	.5
Food at home	130.1	130.5	8.0	2.3	2.4
Cereals and bakery products	117.8	117.8	3.1	1.3	1.3
Flour	108.1	108.1	7.1	2.6	2.5
Cracker meal	138.2	138.6	3.2	1.2	1.3
Corn flakes	99.4	99.2	-2.7	.1	.1
Rice	116.5	116.4	5.6	2.7	2.6
Bread, white	115.2	115.1	2.2	.8	1.0
Bread, whole wheat	124.5	124.6	4.4	2.0	2.1
Cookies	113.3	114.3	3.3	1.7	2.3
Layer cakes	121.5	121.1	1.9	.8	.5
Cinnamon rolls	123.5	123.1	3.6	.5	.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	142.8	144.0	13.1	4.9	5.0
Meats	145.2	146.4	13.9	5.4	5.3
Beef and veal	152.3	153.7	11.9	6.6	6.8
Steak, round	152.7	153.5	11.3	7.6	7.6
Steak, sirloin	144.2	147.1	9.2	5.6	6.4
Steak, porterhouse	146.6	149.1	9.1	5.0	5.5
Rump roast	149.5	150.4	11.1	7.1	7.7
Rib roast	151.4	153.1	8.8	3.7	4.9
Chuck roast	160.2	161.0	14.8	12.8	11.7
Hamburger	153.7	154.8	13.1	7.2	7.0
Beef liver	139.9	141.2	18.3	3.0	2.9
Veal cutlets	174.9	176.5	12.0	3.9	3.9
Pork	142.2	143.6	19.1	5.3	4.7
Chops	146.5	147.8	18.0	5.9	4.3
Loin roast	147.3	148.8	21.3	6.2	5.2
Pork sausage	145.1	147.5	20.6	5.1	4.8
Ham, whole	129.4	127.9	14.9	-1.4	.8
Picnics	141.8	142.1	15.6	6.9	6.1
Bacon	139.5	142.6	22.4	6.9	6.4
Other meats	134.0	134.7	11.4	2.8	3.0
Lamb chops	140.0	141.0	10.1	6.5	6.4
Frankfurters	134.3	136.2	10.7	2.8	3.3
Ham, canned	128.7	127.6	15.5	1.4	1.4
Bologna sausage	138.4	139.2	11.2	2.5	2.6
Salami sausage	133.8	134.5	11.7	1.1	1.4
Liverwurst	128.6	128.5	9.5	2.1	1.6
Poultry	120.7	121.8	9.0	4.0	3.7
Frying chicken	121.7	123.3	10.5	4.4	4.1
Chicken breasts	122.5	123.5	9.4	4.9	4.5
Turkey	114.2	114.1	1.8	.8	.9
Fish	151.3	150.7	10.4	1.4	1.2
Shrimp, frozen	141.7	141.1	10.4	1.0	.8
Fish, fresh or frozen	173.8	173.5	19.9	3.5	3.3
Tuna fish, canned	136.2	135.7	4.4	.4	.3
Sardines, canned	153.7	152.8	6.7	.6	.6
Dairy products	121.0	121.1	3.5	1.6	1.8
Milk, fresh, grocery	120.5	120.6	3.5	2.2	2.5
Milk, fresh, delivered	124.7	124.7	4.4	1.6	1.8
Milk, fresh, skim	127.8	128.1	5.4	2.9	3.1
Milk, evaporated	123.7	124.2	2.3	1.1	1.4
Ice cream	107.7	107.7	1.5	.5	.8
Cheese, American process	129.7	129.6	5.1	1.1	.9
Butter	105.6	105.5	-.2	-.1	.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 1973 indexes and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to February 1973 from—		
	February 1973		February 1972	January 1973	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables					
Fresh fruits and vegetables	133.3	134.8	7.6	2.1	2.4
Fresh fruits	139.8	142.5	10.3	3.2	3.8
Apples	126.3	133.2	9.6	2.3	-2
Bananas	122.6	132.0	11.6	3.9	1.4
Oranges	101.3	102.2	.9	3.9	1.0
Orange juice, fresh	129.5	135.7	6.1	-2	-1.7
Grapefruit	132.4	133.7	1.4	.2	.4
Grapes	128.9	145.8	6.4	2.0	.2
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	150.7	149.5	10.6	3.7	5.4
Potatoes	152.7	160.9	33.1	7.5	6.2
Onions	175.4	178.3	64.2	18.4	12.1
Asparagus	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	133.7	121.1	-7.2	1.8	-5.7
Carrots	144.4	143.3	1.4	2.6	3.2
Celery	147.0	147.0	-14.5	-.9	1.4
Cucumbers	161.8	130.0	9.2	33.2	18.5
Lettuce	133.2	146.7	-12.4	-6.5	1.6
Peppers, green	153.1	137.2	14.0	8.4	-2.8
Spinach	151.1	148.7	5.5	1.6	-.3
Tomatoes	146.8	145.1	4.3	-10.7	-7.4
Processed fruits and vegetables	123.7	123.7	3.5	.5	.7
Fruit cocktail, canned	126.7	127.0	4.8	1.3	1.8
Pears, canned	121.6	121.4	3.7	.3	.3
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	118.0	118.5	3.1	.3	.8
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	136.9	137.6	.7	.3	.3
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	119.5	118.2	1.7	.2	-.3
Beets, canned	130.0	130.4	9.2	1.2	1.6
Peas, green, canned	108.2	108.5	-.3	.4	.6
Tomatoes, canned	121.6	122.0	5.5	1.6	1.8
Dried beans	141.3	140.5	4.4	.1	-.1
Broccoli, frozen	117.9	117.9	-.5	-.9	-.9
Other food at home	123.1	122.0	6.5	-.6	.1
Eggs	141.2	132.5	39.3	-6.9	-3.4
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	116.6	116.7	-1.3	.3	.8
Salad dressing, Italian	109.9	110.0	-.5	-.4	-.4
Salad or cooking oil	119.0	118.9	-4.0	0	0
Sugar and sweets	122.8	123.2	1.9	.9	1.1
Sugar	117.9	118.3	3.1	1.0	1.2
Grape jelly	129.6	129.6	5.6	2.2	2.3
Chocolate bar	131.1	132.2	.3	.2	.8
Syrup, chocolate flavored	111.7	111.4	-1.5	.4	.3
Nonalcoholic beverages	125.6	125.7	4.1	1.4	1.4
Coffee, can and bag	127.3	127.2	7.6	2.4	2.3
Coffee, instant	127.6	127.6	1.7	2.1	2.1
Tea	110.1	110.3	2.8	.4	.5
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	129.5	129.6	1.3	-.1	-.1
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	129.3	129.7	1.3	.5	.5
Prepared and partially prepared foods	116.2	116.3	1.8	.4	.4
Bean soup, canned	117.0	117.1	1.1	.3	.4
Chicken soup, canned	104.7	104.8	-2.1	.5	.6
Spaghetti, canned	122.5	122.4	4.0	.2	.2
Mashed potatoes, instant	113.0	112.9	.7	.5	.2
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	111.8	112.0	1.6	-.4	-.4
Baby foods	110.7	110.7	-.4	.7	.9
Sweet pickle relish	130.4	130.0	6.4	.2	.2
Pretzels	116.6	116.8	1.8	1.7	1.4

<sup>1</sup> 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 1973 and percent changes from selected dates

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1973 from:	
		January 1973	February 1973	February 1972	January 1973
Housing		131.4	132.0	3.4	0.5
Shelter <sup>1</sup>		136.9	137.3	3.5	.3
Rent, residential		121.5	122.1	3.7	.5
Homeownership <sup>2</sup>		142.6	142.9	3.6	.2
Mortgage interest rates		117.9	118.1	-1.1	.2
Property taxes		150.8	151.7	7.0	.6
Property insurance premiums		124.5	124.5	1.7	0
Maintenance and repairs		144.7	145.3	5.3	.4
Maintenance and repair commodities <sup>3</sup>		127.9	128.6	6.0	.5
Exterior house paint		119.0	118.8	.8	-.2
Interior house paint		119.1	119.3	3.2	.2
Maintenance and repair services		151.9	152.5	5.0	.4
Repainting living and dining rooms		164.1	165.1	6.4	.6
Reshingling house roof		159.6	160.2	5.2	.4
Residing house		139.1	139.6	4.4	.4
Replacing sink		150.5	150.7	4.5	.1
Repairing furnace		157.9	158.3	4.7	.3
Fuel and utilities		122.8	124.1	4.3	1.1
Fuel oil and coal		120.7	127.2	7.2	5.4
Fuel oil, No. 2		118.3	125.1	7.4	5.7
Gas and electricity		124.1	124.5	4.4	.3
Gas		126.2	126.6	3.9	.3
Electricity		122.1	122.6	4.8	.4
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		114.6	115.2	2.5	.5
Residential water and sewerage services		141.7	141.7	3.9	0
Household furnishings and operation <sup>4</sup>		122.2	122.6	2.5	.3
Housefurnishings		116.9	117.2	1.9	.3
Textiles		113.1	115.2	2.8	1.9
Sheets		113.6	117.5	3.0	3.4
Curtains, tailored		114.1	113.5	2.1	-.5
Bedspreads		110.2	113.6	6.3	3.1
Drapery fabric		125.0	125.3	4.8	.2
Pillows, bed		102.1	105.7	-1.5	3.5
Slipcovers and throws, ready made		113.1	115.1	1.9	1.8
Furniture and bedding		121.8	121.7	1.8	-.1
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	105.7	105.4	1.2	-.3
Sofas, upholstered		120.5	120.9	1.6	.3
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	101.8	102.1	2.4	.3
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	104.4	104.0	.7	-.4
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	98.5	98.8	.6	.3
Sofas, dual purpose		117.7	116.5	.5	-1.0
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	105.3	105.2	.8	-.1
Aluminum folding chairs		( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Cribs		120.0	120.1	1.7	.1
Floor coverings		106.6	107.1	.9	.5
Broadloom, carpeting		101.2	101.6	.2	.4
Vinyl sheet goods		119.6	119.8	3.0	.2
Vinyl asbestos tile		119.0	119.7	1.8	.6
Appliances (excluding radio and T. V.)		109.9	109.7	.1	-.2
Washing machines, electric, automatic		111.0	110.9	.5	-.1
Vacuum cleaners, canister type		103.7	103.8	0	.1
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.1	108.3	0	.2
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		111.1	110.9	.5	-.2
Clothes dryers, electric		114.6	114.0	.4	-.5
Air conditioners, demountable	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Room heaters, electric, portable		108.7	107.8	-.6	-.8
Garbage disposal units		111.8	111.4	.4	-.4
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		126.9	128.6	6.3	1.3
Flatware, stainless steel		130.7	130.8	7.0	.1
Table lamps, with shade		126.8	127.1	4.0	.2
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Electric drills, hand-held		106.4	105.9	-.3	-.5
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		111.4	111.7	.6	.3
Paper napkins		135.6	137.2	6.9	1.2
Toilet tissue		125.2	126.2	1.1	.8
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic service, general housework		141.9	142.2	4.3	.2
Babysitter services		139.2	139.4	4.2	.1
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		142.1	143.8	5.3	1.2
Licensed day care services, preschool child		125.8	126.1	5.1	.2
Washing machine repairs		144.1	144.9	4.7	.6

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, February 1973 and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1973 from:	
		January 1973	February 1973	February 1972	January 1973
Apparel and upkeep <sup>6</sup> .....		123.0	123.6	2.4	0.5
Apparel commodities .....		123.1	123.8	2.4	.6
Apparel commodities less footwear .....		122.5	123.1	2.1	.5
Men's and boys' .....		123.5	123.3	3.0	-.2
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends .....		128.8	126.6	5.9	-1.7
Suits, year round weight .....		129.4	129.2	2.9	-.2
Suits, tropical weight .....		( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Jackets, lightweight .....		115.3	116.0	2.9	.6
Slacks, wool or wool blends .....		115.7	115.7	-.5	0
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends .....		142.4	141.8	3.4	-.4
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton .....		115.8	116.7	2.0	.8
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton .....		116.1	116.7	2.2	.5
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton .....		110.7	111.0	-1.5	-.3
T-shirts, chiefly cotton .....		118.6	118.9	.8	.3
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers .....		116.2	116.3	1.2	-.1
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton .....		117.7	118.4	2.1	-.6
Boys':					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends .....		123.1	123.3	7.4	.2
Sport coats, wool or wool blends .....		119.6	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends .....		130.6	131.1	4.0	.4
Undershorts, cotton .....		121.1	121.2	.5	-.1
Women's and girls':		122.2	123.3	1.3	.9
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or blends .....		121.7	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Carcoat, heavyweight, cotton .....		123.7	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Sweater, wool or acrylic .....		115.9	119.1	( <sup>5</sup> )	2.8
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers .....		140.1	127.6	1.8	-8.9
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton .....		( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers .....		124.2	125.5	2.1	1.0
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber .....		130.9	132.4	.8	1.1
Slips, nylon .....		110.6	110.9	-.1	-.3
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot .....		118.4	118.7	2.1	-.3
Girdles, manmade blend .....		116.7	117.8	.5	-.9
Brassieres, nylon lace .....		121.5	121.6	.2	-.1
Hose or panty hose, nylon seamless .....		94.6	94.4	-3.4	-.2
Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers .....		114.7	114.3	-1.3	-.3
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton .....		110.5	111.6	1.6	1.0
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic .....		146.0	146.4	4.4	.3
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends .....		110.1	109.8	-6.4	-.3
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic .....		104.7	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends .....		120.6	123.4	15.1	2.3
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton .....		137.1	138.7	( <sup>5</sup> )	1.2
Slips, polyester blends .....		109.9	109.4	-2.4	-.5
Handbags, plastic .....		122.8	123.5	-3.1	-.6
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze .....		116.3	117.1	3.6	.7
Yard goods, cotton .....		118.7	118.7	-1.5	0
Wrist watches, men's and women's .....		117.3	118.0	3.5	.6
Footwear .....		126.6	127.6	4.0	.8
Men's:					
Shoes, street .....		126.7	129.1	7.7	1.9
Shoes, work, high .....		127.4	129.4	6.6	1.6
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump .....		125.5	127.0	2.6	1.2
Shoes, evening, pump .....		123.0	123.3	2.3	.2
Shoes, casual .....		128.0	126.8	1.7	-.9
House slippers, scuff .....		127.2	126.7	2.2	-.4
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford .....		129.5	130.1	5.3	.5
Sneakers, boys', oxford type .....		124.9	124.8	2.7	-.1
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump .....		130.8	132.9	3.3	1.6
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses .....		119.0	119.3	1.6	.3
Automatic laundry service .....		115.8	115.8	1.3	0
Laundry, men's shirts .....		125.3	126.5	4.8	1.0
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment .....		135.9	135.7	3.0	-.1
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift .....		119.1	119.6	5.1	.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, February 1973 and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1973 from:	
		January 1973	February 1973	February 1972	January 1973
<b>Transportation</b>		121.0	121.1	2.4	0.1
<b>Private<sup>1</sup></b>		118.5	118.7	2.7	.2
Automobiles, new		111.1	111.0	-.8	-.1
Automobiles, used		112.8	112.4	9.1	-.4
Gasoline, regular and premium		110.7	111.4	5.4	.6
Motor oil, premium		125.1	125.3	2.3	.2
Tires, new, tubeless		113.1	112.9	-3.8	-.2
Auto repairs and maintenance <sup>2</sup>		138.4	139.3	4.3	.7
Auto insurance rates		138.4	138.2	-1.7	-.1
Auto registration		123.0	123.0	-3.2	0
Parking fees, private and municipal		149.7	150.6	9.1	.6
<b>Public</b>		144.3	144.3	.6	0
Local transit fares		150.6	150.5	.1	-.1
Taxicab fares		135.6	135.6	2.1	0
Railroad fares, coach		122.2	122.2	-4.7	0
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		132.1	132.1	1.9	0
Bus fares, intercity		144.0	144.0	5.8	0
<b>Health and recreation</b>		127.8	128.1	2.7	.2
<b>Medical care</b>		134.9	135.3	3.3	.3
<b>Drugs and prescriptions</b>		105.7	105.8	.3	.1
<b>Over-the-counter items</b>		111.7	111.8	1.1	.1
Multiple vitamin concentrates		94.5	93.6	-1.5	-1.0
Aspirin compounds		117.6	118.2	3.2	.5
Liquid tonics		101.2	101.2	0	0
Cold tablets or capsules		114.3	114.1	.9	-.2
Adhesive bandages, packages		125.2	125.1	1.1	-.1
Cough syrup		113.9	114.7	1.8	.7
<b>Prescriptions</b>		100.6	100.8	-.4	.2
Anti-infectives		72.6	72.9	-5.8	.4
Sedatives and hypnotics		127.8	128.1	2.6	.2
Ataractics		103.8	103.7	1.0	-.1
Antispasmodics		107.8	108.0	.3	.2
Cough preparations		133.4	134.6	5.3	.9
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		112.1	112.4	.5	.3
Analgesics, internal		110.7	110.6	1.4	-.1
Anti-obesity		117.6	117.7	0	.1
Hormones		92.6	92.8	-1.3	.2
<b>Professional services:</b>					
<b>Physicians' fees</b>		135.7	136.1	2.6	.3
General physician, office visits		137.0	137.1	2.7	.1
General physician, house visits		139.3	139.5	3.3	.1
Obstetrical cases		134.7	136.2	2.9	1.1
Pediatric care, office visits		138.0	138.7	2.3	.5
Psychiatrist, office visits		131.8	132.6	3.4	.6
Herniorrhaphy, adult		129.7	129.9	2.3	.2
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		130.6	130.9	1.3	.2
<b>Dentists' fees</b>		134.3	134.4	2.9	.1
Filling, adult, amalgam, one surface		136.6	136.8	3.8	.1
Extractions, adult		133.2	133.3	2.1	.1
Dentures, full upper		130.7	130.8	1.9	.1
<b>Other professional services:</b>					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		126.5	126.7	2.3	.2
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis		121.4	121.6	2.3	.2
<b>Hospital service charges</b>	Jan. 72	103.6	104.1	3.5	.5
Semiprivate rooms		177.6	178.9	4.6	.7
Operating room charges		173.5	175.6	6.4	1.2
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G. I.		130.7	130.8	2.3	.1
<b>Laboratory tests, urinalysis</b>	Jan. 72	102.7	102.8	1.9	.1
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL	Jan. 72	99.7	98.3	-1.4	-1.4
Tranquilizers, chlordiazepoxide, HCL	Jan. 72	102.0	102.4	2.7	.4
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	104.0	104.1	2.2	.1
Intravenous solution, saline	Jan. 72	103.0	103.3	2.8	.3
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath	Jan. 72	102.9	103.6	3.1	.7
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	101.9	102.1	.9	.2
<b>Personal care</b>		121.8	122.4	3.4	.5
<b>Toilet goods</b>		118.1	118.2	2.4	.1
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		109.4	109.1	-.5	-.3
Toilet soap, hard milled		123.3	123.1	2.3	-.2
Hand lotions, liquid		127.3	127.5	2.8	.2
Shaving cream, aerosol		108.3	108.2	1.7	-.1
Face powder, pressed		140.6	140.4	14.1	-.1
Deodorants, aerosol		104.4	104.2	-.8	-.2
Cleansing tissues		122.2	123.2	1.1	.8
Home permanent wave kits		109.9	109.9	-1.3	0
<b>Beauty shop services</b>		125.6	126.8	4.4	1.0
Men's haircuts		127.5	128.6	3.6	.9
Women's haircuts		124.3	125.5	4.8	1.0
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		126.8	128.5	6.9	1.3
Permanent waves, cold		128.0	129.0	4.7	.8
		113.8	114.9	3.0	1.0

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, February 1973 and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1973 from:	
		January 1973	February 1973	February 1972	January 1973
Reading and recreation <sup>9</sup> .....		124.1	124.3	2.3	0.2
Recreational goods .....		107.8	108.0	.7	.2
TV sets, portable and console .....		98.8	98.5	-1.2	-.3
TV replacement tubes .....		133.4	134.2	5.8	.6
Radios, portable and table model .....		99.1	98.8	.4	-.3
Tape recorders, portable .....		92.9	92.6	-.8	-.3
Phonograph records, stereophonic .....		108.1	108.2	1.1	.1
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens .....		88.3	88.2	-.6	-.1
Film, 35mm, color .....		108.1	108.2	-.1	.1
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core .....		105.3	105.3	.3	0
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover .....		126.4	126.9	.6	.4
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting .....		107.8	107.6	-1.1	-.2
Bowling balls .....		114.2	115.0	1.9	.7
Bicycles, boys' .....		117.5	118.2	3.5	.6
Tricycles .....		114.0	114.1	1.0	.1
Dog food, canned or boxed .....		110.8	111.1	1.4	.3
Recreational services .....		129.7	130.1	2.4	.3
Indoor movie admissions .....		142.7	143.4	3.5	.5
Adult .....		141.2	141.8	3.4	.4
Children's .....		146.9	147.7	3.4	.5
Drive-in movie admissions, adult .....		148.2	148.1	3.2	-.1
Bowling fees, evening .....		122.2	122.7	3.6	.4
Golf green fees .....		( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
TV repair, color picture tube replacement .....		98.7	99.1	.6	.4
Film developing color .....		116.2	115.8	-2.1	-.3
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery .....		133.6	133.6	2.1	0
Magazines, single copy and subscription .....		134.1	134.1	7.4	0
Piano lessons, beginner .....		125.2	125.5	2.9	.2
Other goods and services .....		126.7	127.1	2.3	.3
Tobacco products .....		134.2	134.5	1.9	.2
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size .....		136.0	136.3	2.3	.2
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size .....		136.3	136.5	1.6	.2
Cigars, domestic, regular size .....		111.2	111.3	.9	.1
Alcoholic beverages .....		120.7	121.2	2.1	.4
Beer .....		114.6	114.8	1.1	.2
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon .....		109.1	109.1	.6	0
Wine, dessert and table .....		128.5	129.3	2.9	.6
Beer away from home .....		132.8	133.8	3.7	.8
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult .....		123.0	123.4	2.7	.3
Bank service charges, checking accounts .....		106.5	106.5	-1.8	0
Legal services, short form will .....		155.5	155.7	9.8	.1

<sup>1</sup> Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Priced only in season.

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

<sup>7</sup> Also includes storage batteries and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

<sup>8</sup> Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

<sup>9</sup> 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 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 changes, holidays, and sales.

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

## Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

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

**Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 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

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 1970 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1971.

annual percent changes in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1972 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances

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

## A Note About Calculating Index Changes

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

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

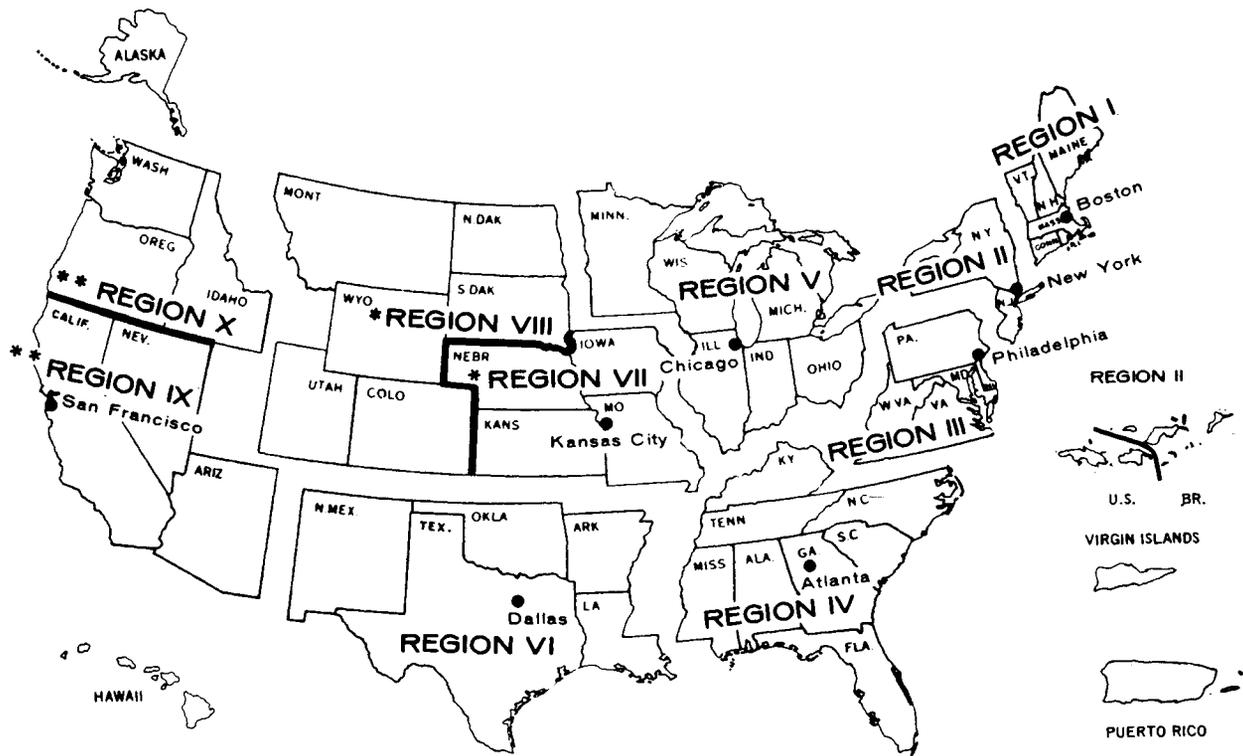
CPI	123.8
less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
index point difference =	0.6

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

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

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

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