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

The Secretary of Labor has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this Department. Use of funds for printing this periodical has been approved by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget through July 1978.

the consumer price index

for February 1974

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Price Movements

February 1974

The Consumer Price Index rose 1.3 percent in February to 141.5, of its 1967 base. Almost half of the February increase was due to higher prices for food. Higher prices for gasoline and other energy items accounted for about a fifth of the increase. The February CPI was 10.0 percent higher than a year ago.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the February increase in the CPI was also 1.3 percent. In January the CPI increased 1.0 percent and in December 0.5 percent. The food index rose 2.5 percent in February, compared with 1.6 percent in January and 0.3 percent in December. The nonfood commodities index rose 1.0 percent in February, following increases of 1.3 percent in January and 0.7 percent in December. The services index rose 0.7 percent in February, the same as in January.

Monthly changes in detail (not seasonally adjusted)

Food. The index for food purchased in grocery stores—the major portion of the food index—rose 3.0 percent, substantially more than is usual for February. The index for food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—rose 0.7 percent.

Over a third of the rise in the food-at-home index was due to the increase of 3.0 percent in the index for meats, poultry, and fish. Within this category, beef prices rose 7.5 percent, following a smaller increase in January and declines in the last 3 months of 1973. The February increase followed sharply higher wholesale prices for cattle and beef in January. Wholesale prices rose as cattle marketings were reduced by severe winter highway conditions and the truckers' strike. Low retail inventories and a general increase in demand also contributed to higher prices for beef. Pork prices, on the other hand, increased only slightly in February, while poultry prices declined instead of increasing as they usually do. Fish prices continued to increase.

The index for fruits and vegetables increased 4.1 percent instead of declining as it usually does in February. Large increases occurred among fresh vegetables such as potatoes, onions, tomatoes, and carrots because of dwindling stock holdings, reduced acreage plantings, and adverse winter growing conditions. Prices of processed fruits and vegetables continued to rise due to lower stock

positions for most items and firm demand. Prices declined, however, for most fresh fruits.

There were large increases in other categories of food purchased in grocery stores. The cereal and bakery products index rose 3.1 percent; higher prices for rice and flour contributed heavily to this increase. Wholesale prices for both of these items have moved up steadily over the past year in response to heavy export demand. The index for dairy products rose 2.1 percent reflecting higher production, packaging, and transportation costs, and strong demand for cheese and milk. The index for sugar and sweets increased 6.6 percent—considerably more than in recent months. The increase reflected a recent upsurge in wholesale prices for sugar and cocoa caused by rising world demand for these products.

Nonfood Commodities. The index for nonfood commodities—which usually is unchanged in February—increased 1.0 percent. The gasoline and motor oil index increased 5.3 percent, slightly less than in January, to a level 30.9 percent above February of last year. (See USDL-74-134 gasoline release). The fuel oil and coal index rose 3.8 percent, the smallest increase in 5 months, to a level 58.8 percent above February 1973. The upward price movement for fuel oil slowed as a result of large inventories that weakened wholesale prices; these large inventories resulted from a combination of warmer-than-normal winter weather, maximization of heating oil production, and conservation measures.

Apparel prices rose more than they usually do in February, following a seasonal decline in January. Spring and summer seasonal items were reintroduced into the index for some cities at the same or higher prices than prevailed a year ago. Prices were also higher for many year-round items. Prices also increased for a wide range of other nonfood commodities such as textile housefurnishings, housekeeping supplies, toilet goods, newspapers, and household durables.

The rise in the nonfood commodities index in February was moderated somewhat by a decline in used car prices for the seventh consecutive month. New car prices also decreased, but less than they usually do in February. Larger concessions were given on most cars in the CPI,

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items		
								Compound annual rates		From 12 months ago
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Serv-ices	From 3 months ago	From 6 months ago	
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed
1973:										
February	0.7	0.7	1.9	1.9	0.3	0.3	0.4	5.7	5.0	3.9
March .....	.9	.9	2.6	2.4	.5	.5	.3	8.6	5.9	4.7
April .....	.7	.6	1.5	1.4	.7	.4	.4	9.2	6.6	5.1
May .....	.6	.6	1.0	1.1	.6	.4	.4	8.7	7.2	5.5
June .....	.7	.6	1.4	.9	.6	.5	.4	7.4	8.0	5.9
July .....	.2	.2	.8	.5	-.2	.1	.2	5.7	7.4	5.7
August	1.8	1.9	6.0	6.1	.2	.5	.7	11.4	10.0	7.5
September .....	.3	.3	-.7	-.1	.4	.1	.9	10.3	8.8	7.4
October .....	.8	.8	.1	.5	.9	.5	1.1	13.0	9.2	7.9
November .....	.7	.8	1.1	1.4	.7	.7	.6	8.0	9.7	8.4
December .....	.7	.5	.9	.3	.6	.7	.6	9.0	9.6	8.8
1974:										
January .....	.9	1.0	1.6	1.6	.6	1.3	.7	9.9	11.4	9.4
February	1.3	1.3	2.5	2.5	1.0	1.0	.7	12.1	10.0	10.0

but the effect of the concessions was partly offset by the mid-December increases in manufacturers' prices which were being reflected for the first time at some retail outlets.

Services. The services index rose 0.7 percent in February. In the household services category, charges for gas, electricity, water and sewerage services, housekeeping and home maintenance services, and rent continued to increase. Higher cost of fuels—residual fuel oil, coal, and natural gas—accounted for much of the rise in charges for electricity and gas; some of the rise was due to rate and tax increases. Large wholesale price increases for aluminum siding and asphalt strip shingles since late 1973 contributed to the rise in charges for home maintenance services, such as roof reshingling and house residing. The uptrend in mortgage interest rates which began in June 1972 was interrupted in February with a small decline. Property taxes also decreased slightly.

The index for medical care services increased 0.9 percent—more than in recent months—as a result of larger increases for physicians' fees and charges for most types of hospital services. In mid-January, Phase 4 controls on health services were modified, raising slightly

the permissible increases in physicians' and hospital charges.

Other types of services such as personal care, recreational, funeral, and apparel services continued to rise. Among apparel services, charges for drycleaning rose sharply.

Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 118,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in February for use in this index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations (accounting for about 40 percent of the weight of the CPI market basket) represent monthly comparisons. About 34 percent of these monthly comparisons showed an increase, 10 percent showed a decrease, and 56 percent showed no change between January and February, as can be seen from table B. The proportion of food prices increasing in February was considerably larger than the proportion increasing in each of the preceding 5 months. The proportion of non-food commodity prices increasing was about the same as

Table B. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons¹

Item	1973						
	January to February	February to March	March to April	April to May	May to June	June to July	July to August
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	27	26	24	20	20	16	29
Decreases	9	8	10	11	11	9	9
No change	64	66	66	69	69	75	62
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	31	30	27	23	23	18	34
Decreases	10	9	12	13	12	10	10
No change	59	61	61	64	65	72	56
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	12	11	11	9	13	8	7
Decreases	4	5	4	5	5	6	5
No change	84	84	85	86	82	86	88
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	5	4	4	6	3	2	5
Decreases	4	2	3	3	2	2	2
No change	91	94	93	91	95	96	93
1973—Continued							December 1973 to January 1974
	August to September	September to October	October to November	November to December			January to February
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	23	26	25	22	25	25	34
Decreases	18	19	16	12	12	12	10
No change	59	55	59	66	63	63	56
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	26	29	27	23	26	26	38
Decreases	21	22	19	15	11	11	12
No change	53	49	54	62	63	63	50
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	10	23	33	31	36	36	34
Decreases	11	5	4	4	7	7	7
No change	79	72	63	65	57	57	59
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	5	6	5	6	12	12	6
Decreases	4	3	1	1	21	21	2
No change	91	91	94	93	67	67	92

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

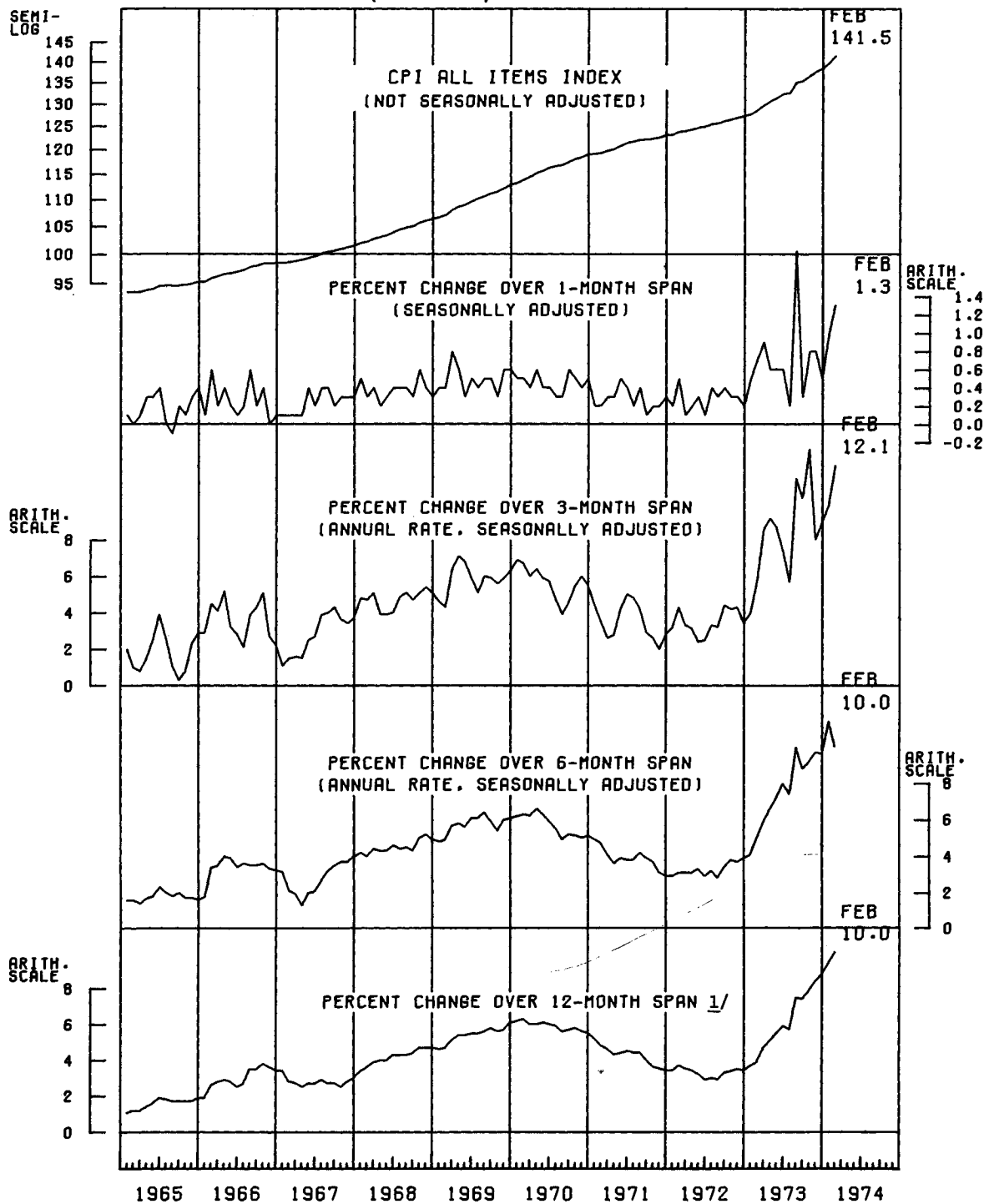
² Based on approximately 95,000 individual quotations.

in recent months. The proportion of service prices increasing was much smaller than in January and about the same as in the last 3 months of 1973.

The February index also includes approximately 23,000 price comparisons from periods before January, 19,000 of which cover the quarterly span from November

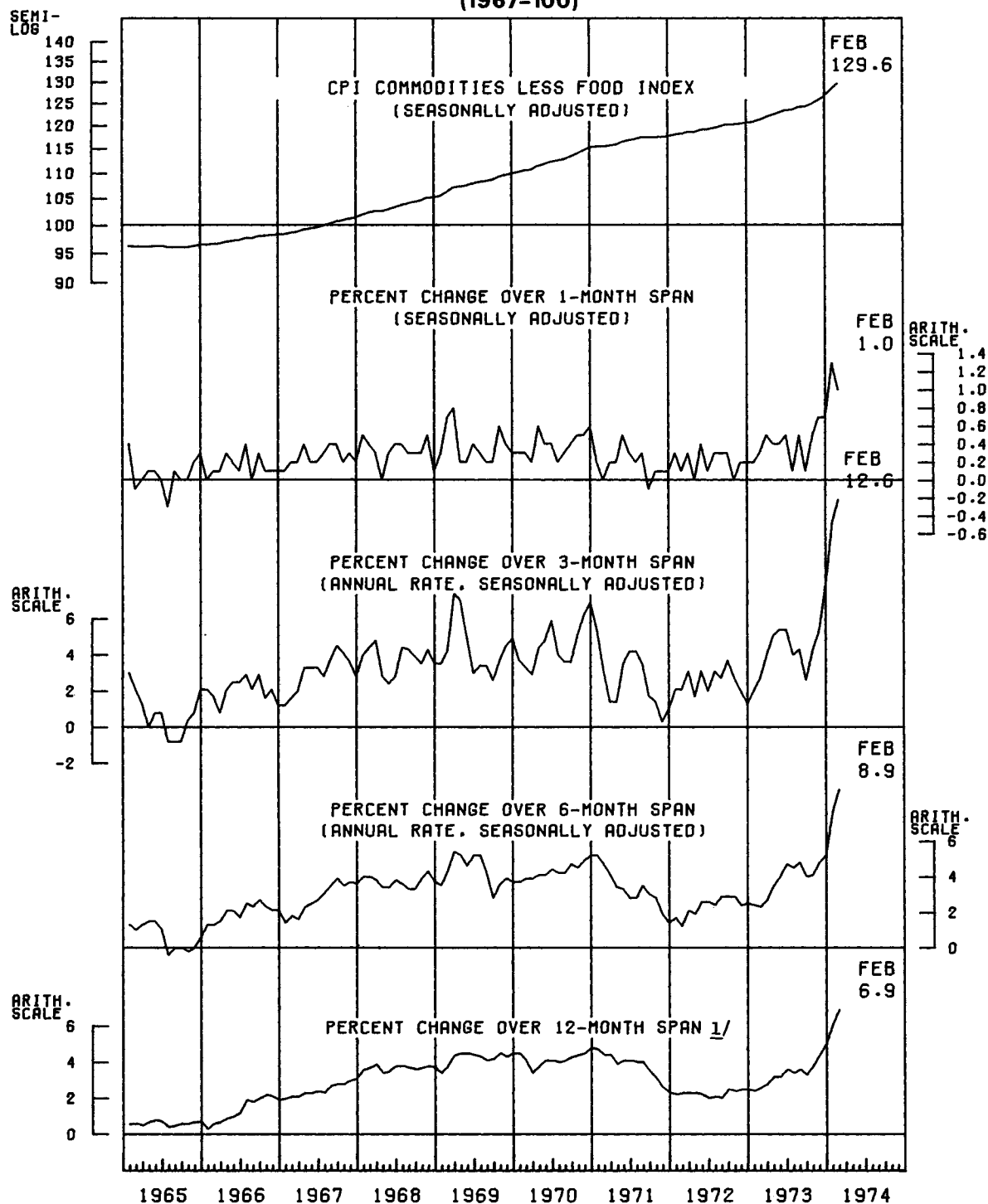
to February. About 24 percent of these quarterly price comparisons increased, more than in the October-to-January period. In addition, about 4,700 rental units were surveyed in February, and 27 percent of these reported rent increases from August 1973, about the same as for the 6-month period which ended in January.

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



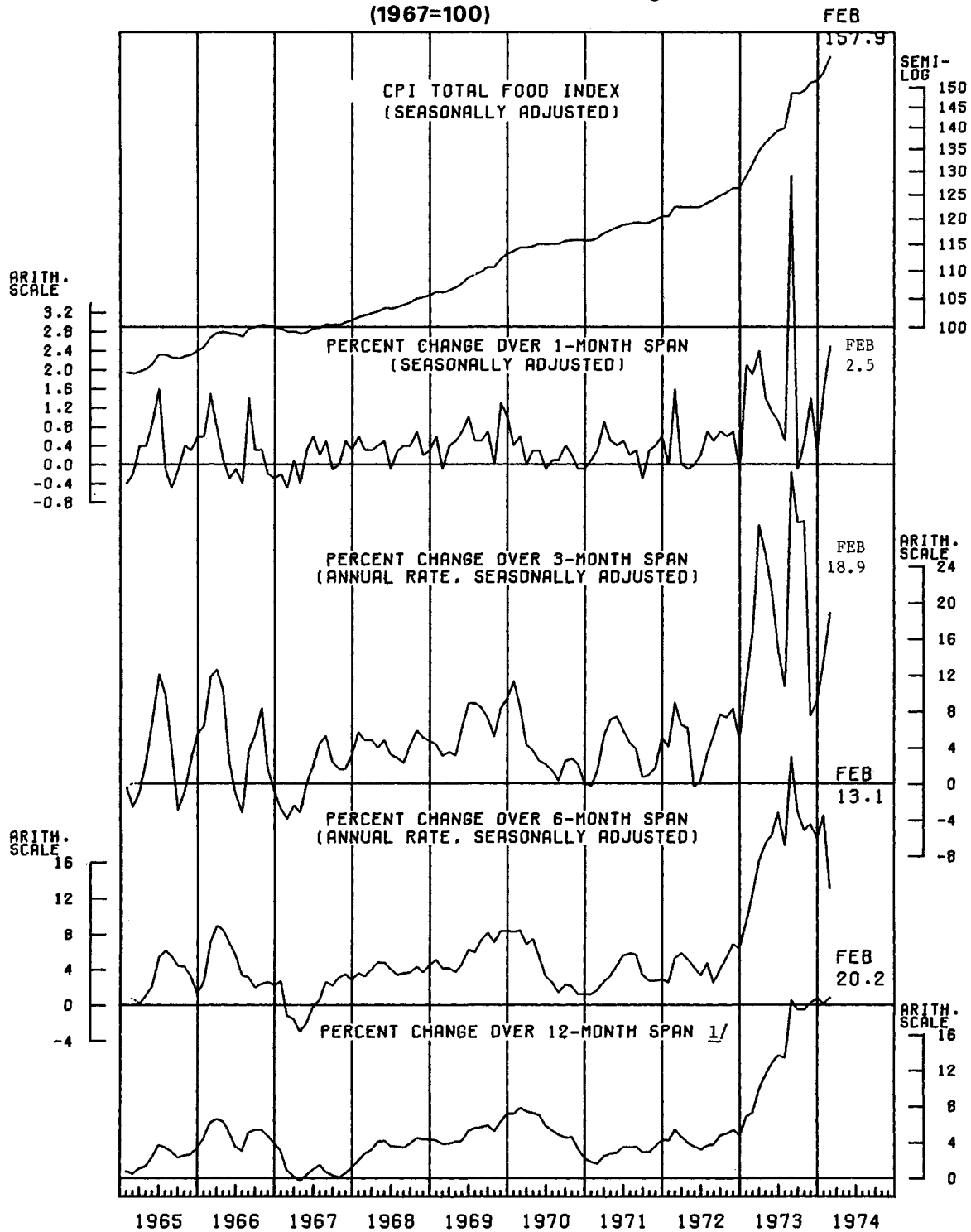
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



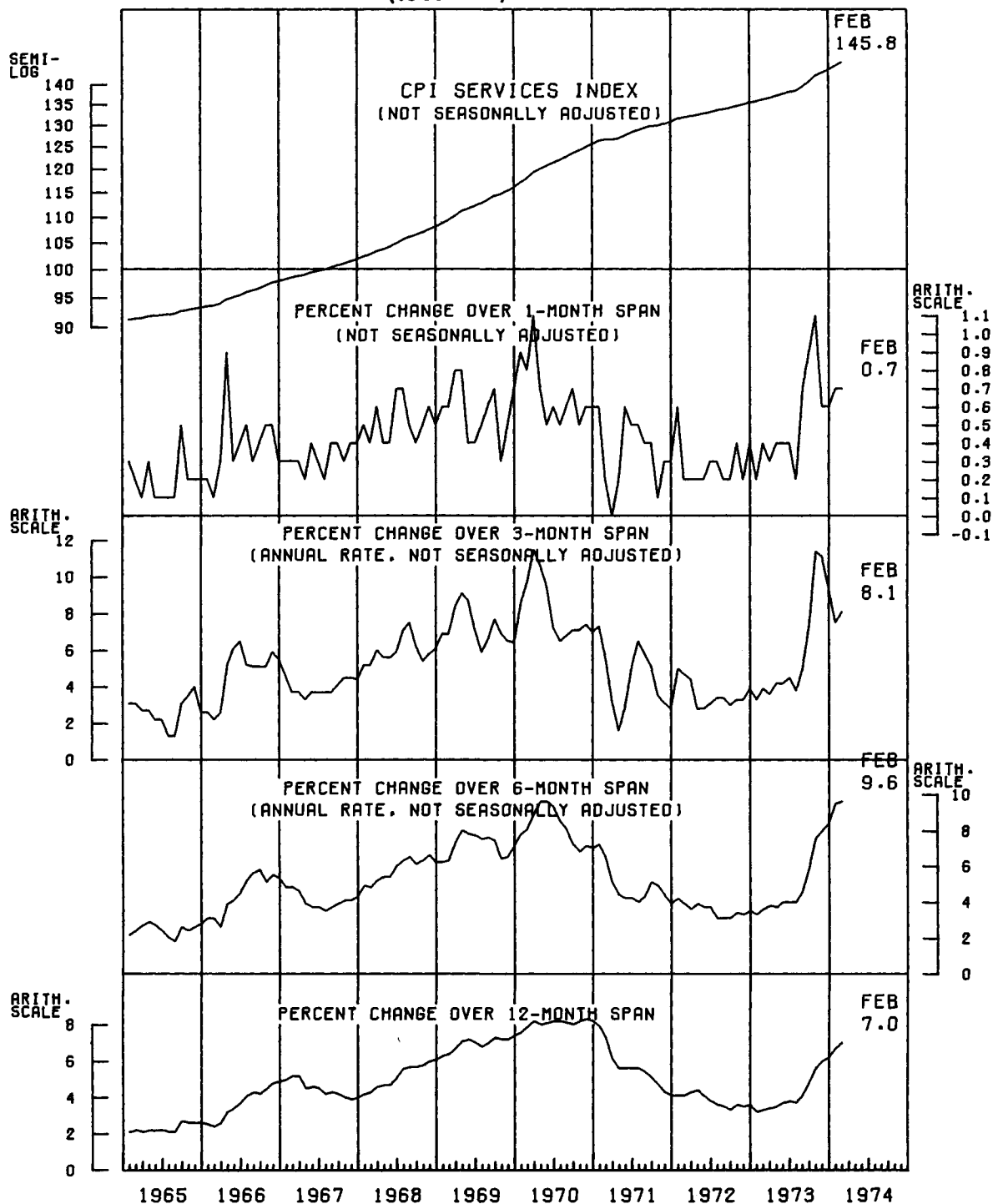
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 4. Services index and its rates of change, 1965-74
 (1967=100) 100)



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

Group	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to February 1974 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—			
		December 1973	January 1974	February 1974	February 1973	January 1974	November to December 1973	December to January 1974	January to February 1974
		Commodity and service groups							
All items -----	100.000	139.7	141.5	10.0	1.3	0.5	1.0	1.3	
All items (1957-59=100) -----	-	162.5	164.6	-	-	-	-	-	
Commodities -----	63.454	137.0	139.3	11.9	1.7	.7	1.3	1.6	
Food -----	24.810	153.7	157.6	20.2	2.5	.3	1.6	2.5	
Food at home -----	19.633	154.3	159.0	22.2	3.0	.3	1.8	2.9	
Cereals and bakery products -----	2.644	149.7	154.4	31.1	3.1	1.7	.8	3.1	
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	6.988	169.2	174.2	22.0	3.0	-.6	1.4	2.9	
Dairy products -----	3.023	146.3	149.3	23.4	2.1	*2.6	*1.0	*2.1	
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.146	149.7	155.9	17.0	4.1	.7	1.5	4.4	
Other foods at home -----	3.832	143.9	148.0	20.2	2.8	1.1	1.6	3.7	
Food away from home -----	5.177	151.6	152.6	13.3	.7	.7	.7	.7	
Commodities less food -----	38.644	127.9	129.2	6.9	1.0	.7	1.3	1.0	
Nondurables less food -----	22.978	131.3	133.5	9.8	1.7	1.3	1.7	1.7	
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	8.569	128.6	130.3	5.3	1.3	.3	.1	1.2	
Men's and boys' -----	2.661	127.7	129.2	4.8	1.2	.5	.3	1.4	
Women's and girls' -----	3.815	127.8	130.1	5.5	1.8	0	-.2	1.1	
Footwear -----	1.504	133.0	133.5	4.6	.4	.1	.8	.5	
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	14.409	132.9	135.5	12.5	2.0	1.8	2.6	2.0	
Gasoline and motor oil -----	3.162	139.7	147.1	30.9	5.3	3.9	6.2	5.9	
Tobacco products -----	1.993	138.7	139.0	3.3	.2	*.1	*.1	*.2	
Alcoholic beverages -----	2.349	125.9	126.6	4.5	.6	*.8	*.5	*.6	
Fuel oil and coal -----	.872	194.6	202.0	58.8	3.8	11.0	11.8	3.8	
Other nondurables -----	6.033	124.1	125.3	5.2	1.0	.4	1.0	.9	
Durable commodities -----	15.666	123.3	123.4	2.9	.1	.1	.2	.5	
Household durables -----	4.566	121.8	122.5	5.3	.6	.2	.7	.7	
New cars -----	1.917	112.9	112.7	1.5	-.2	-.4	.5	.2	
Used cars -----	1.849	107.0	103.0	-8.4	-3.7	*-3.3	*-5.0	*-3.7	
Other durables -----	7.334	132.2	133.2	4.6	.8	.5	.7	1.1	
Services -----	36.546	144.8	145.8	7.0	.7	*.6	*.7	*.7	
Rent -----	4.873	127.3	128.0	4.7	.5	*.5	*.3	*.5	
Services less rent -----	31.673	148.0	149.1	7.5	.7	*.5	*.7	*.7	
Household services less rent -----	15.463	155.8	157.1	10.0	.8	.7	1.1	1.2	
Transportation services -----	5.090	138.8	139.1	2.2	.2	.4	-.4	.1	
Medical care services -----	5.423	149.7	151.1	6.8	.9	.2	.6	.9	
Other services -----	5.698	135.9	136.8	6.4	.7	*.4	*.4	*.7	
Special indexes:									
All items less food -----	75.190	135.6	136.8	7.0	.9	.7	.7	1.0	
Nondurable commodities -----	47.788	142.1	145.2	15.1	2.2	.9	1.6	2.1	
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	7.064	127.7	129.6	5.3	1.5	.3	0	1.2	
Services less medical care services -----	31.123	144.1	145.0	7.1	.6	*.6	*.7	*.6	
Insurance and finance -----	9.707	157.9	158.3	8.6	.3	.1	.8	.4	
Utilities and public transportation -----	5.318	135.3	136.8	6.5	1.1	1.3	.7	1.0	
Housekeeping and home maintenance service -----	4.457	160.1	161.5	8.8	.9	.8	1.1	1.0	
Appliances (including radio and T.V.) -----	1.489	106.0	106.2	.7	.2	*-.1	*.3	*.2	
Expenditure classes									
All items -----	100.000	139.7	141.5	10.0	1.3	0.5	1.0	1.3	
Food -----	24.810	153.7	157.6	20.2	2.5	.3	1.6	2.5	
Housing -----	33.321	142.2	143.4	8.6	.8	*.9	*1.1	*.8	
Shelter ² -----	21.459	147.4	148.3	7.9	.6	.5	.8	.8	
Rent -----	4.873	127.3	128.0	4.7	.5	*.5	*.3	*.5	
Homeownership ³ -----	16.184	154.8	155.8	9.0	.6	.6	1.0	1.0	
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	4.820	140.8	143.5	15.6	1.9	3.0	3.5	1.8	
Gas and electricity -----	2.390	134.3	137.3	10.3	2.2	.8	2.5	2.2	
Household furnishings and operation -----	7.042	129.0	130.1	6.1	.9	.5	1.0	.8	
Apparel and upkeep -----	9.945	128.8	130.4	5.5	1.2	.3	.2	1.1	
Transportation -----	12.602	128.1	129.3	6.8	.9	.7	.9	1.5	
Private -----	11.233	126.2	127.5	7.4	1.0	.6	1.2	1.7	
Public -----	1.369	146.0	146.2	1.3	.1	1.1	-1.3	.3	
Health and recreation -----	18.946	133.7	134.5	5.0	.6	*.3	*.5	*.6	
Medical care -----	6.229	142.2	143.4	6.0	.8	.4	.5	.7	
Personal care -----	2.513	129.8	130.8	6.9	.8	*.9	*.5	*.8	
Reading and recreation -----	5.346	128.3	128.9	3.7	.5	.2	.4	.8	
Other goods and services -----	4.859	131.8	132.3	4.1	.4	.5	.5	.5	
Special indexes:									
All items less shelter -----	78.541	137.8	139.8	10.6	1.5	.6	1.2	1.3	
All items less medical care -----	93.771	139.7	141.5	10.4	1.3	.6	1.2	1.1	
All items less mortgage interest costs -----	95.951	138.3	140.1	9.6	1.3	.6	.9	1.3	
CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁵ -----	17.583	155.5	160.3	22.9	3.1	*1.0	*1.8	*3.1	
CPI - selected beef cuts ⁶ -----	2.290	166.2	180.3	19.0	8.5	*-1.4	*1.9	*8.5	
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:									
1967=\$1.00 -----	-	\$0.716	\$0.707	-9.1	-1.3	-	-	-	
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	-	.615	.608	-	-	-	-	-	

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

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

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	November 1973	December 1973	January 1974	February 1974	3 months ending in				6 months ending in	
					May 1973	August 1973	November 1973	February 1974	August 1973	February 1974
Commodity and service groups										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	8.7	11.4	8.0	12.1	10.0	10.0
Commodities -----	134.7	135.6	137.4	139.6	12.1	14.4	6.2	15.4	13.2	10.7
Food -----	151.2	151.6	154.0	157.9	21.3	34.5	7.5	18.9	27.7	13.1
Food at home -----	151.6	152.0	154.8	159.3	24.0	42.0	3.8	21.9	32.7	12.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	146.1	148.6	149.8	154.4	15.0	9.2	88.4	24.7	12.1	53.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	169.3	168.3	170.7	175.6	37.4	82.9	-24.0	15.7	58.5	-6.2
Dairy products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	141.2	144.9	146.3	149.3	7.5	11.5	54.7	25.0	9.5	39.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	147.8	148.9	151.1	157.8	21.4	25.6	-5.5	29.9	23.5	10.8
Other foods at home -----	138.0	139.5	141.8	147.0	15.6	31.6	7.0	28.8	23.3	17.3
Food away from home -----	149.6	150.7	151.8	152.8	13.1	9.8	22.2	8.8	11.4	15.3
Commodities less food -----	125.8	126.7	128.3	129.6	5.4	4.3	5.3	12.6	4.8	8.9
Nondurables less food -----	127.9	129.5	131.7	133.9	6.4	4.3	8.9	20.1	5.3	14.4
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	129.1	129.5	129.6	131.1	7.3	5.1	2.5	6.3	6.2	4.4
Men's and boys' -----	127.6	128.2	128.6	130.4	5.6	4.2	.6	9.1	4.9	4.8
Women's and girls' -----	129.7	129.7	129.4	130.8	9.7	5.1	4.1	3.4	7.4	3.8
Footwear -----	132.2	132.3	133.3	134.0	5.7	3.1	4.0	5.6	4.4	4.8
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	127.3	129.6	133.0	135.6	6.1	4.0	12.9	28.7	5.0	20.6
Gasoline and motor oil -----	126.7	131.6	139.7	148.0	13.0	8.1	28.9	86.2	10.5	54.9
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	138.3	138.5	138.7	139.0	7.6	2.4	1.5	2.0	5.0	1.7
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted) -----	124.3	125.3	125.9	126.6	1.7	2.3	6.4	7.6	2.0	7.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	155.8	173.0	193.4	200.8	9.5	13.0	86.6	175.9	11.2	126.9
Other nondurables -----	122.6	123.1	124.3	125.4	2.4	3.4	5.7	9.5	2.9	7.6
Durable commodities -----	122.9	123.0	123.3	123.9	4.4	3.0	1.0	3.3	3.7	2.1
Household durables -----	120.8	121.1	122.0	122.9	6.0	4.5	4.1	7.1	5.2	5.6
New cars -----	111.0	110.6	111.2	111.4	5.2	5.1	-5.2	1.4	5.2	-1.9
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted) -----	116.1	112.6	107.0	103.0	32.5	2.3	-16.1	-38.1	16.5	-27.9
Other durables -----	130.2	130.9	131.8	133.2	2.2	1.9	5.1	9.5	2.1	7.3
Services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	143.0	143.8	144.8	145.8	4.2	5.0	11.1	8.1	4.6	9.6
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	126.3	126.9	127.3	128.0	4.7	4.3	4.2	5.5	4.5	4.9
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	146.1	146.9	148.0	149.1	4.1	5.2	12.4	8.5	4.7	10.4
Household services less rent -----	153.0	154.1	155.8	157.6	3.1	6.8	18.3	12.6	4.9	15.4
Transportation services -----	138.1	138.7	138.1	138.3	3.6	3.6	1.2	.6	3.6	.9
Medical care services -----	148.8	149.1	150.0	151.3	3.4	3.1	14.3	6.9	3.3	10.5
Other services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	134.8	135.3	135.9	136.8	6.4	4.7	8.4	6.1	5.5	7.2
Special indexes:										
All items less food -----	133.7	134.7	135.7	137.1	4.8	4.1	8.5	10.6	4.4	9.5
Nondurable commodities -----	139.0	140.3	142.5	145.5	13.6	19.3	7.5	20.1	16.4	13.6
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	128.5	128.9	128.9	130.4	7.3	5.8	2.2	6.0	6.6	4.1
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	142.3	143.1	144.1	145.0	3.9	5.4	11.4	7.8	4.6	9.6
Insurance and finance -----	156.3	156.4	157.6	158.3	2.5	6.7	21.1	5.2	4.6	12.9
Utilities and public transportation -----	132.4	134.1	135.0	136.4	3.5	2.5	7.6	12.6	3.0	10.1
Housekeeping and home maintenance service -----	157.3	158.6	160.4	162.0	6.3	7.1	9.7	12.5	6.7	11.1
Appliances (including radio and T.V.) (not seasonally adjusted) -----	105.8	105.7	106.0	106.2	-.4	-.4	1.9	1.5	-.4	1.7
Expenditure classes										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	8.7	11.4	8.0	12.1	10.0	10.0
Food -----	151.2	151.6	154.0	157.9	21.3	34.5	7.5	18.9	27.7	13.1
Housing (not seasonally adjusted) -----	139.4	140.6	142.2	143.4	4.0	5.8	13.0	12.0	4.9	12.5
Shelter ² -----	145.5	146.3	147.4	148.6	3.8	5.9	13.4	8.8	4.9	11.1
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	126.3	126.9	127.3	128.0	4.7	4.3	4.2	5.5	4.5	4.9
Homeownership ³ -----	152.4	153.3	154.8	156.3	3.7	6.5	15.8	10.6	5.1	13.2
Fuel and utilities -----	132.0	135.9	140.7	143.2	4.6	4.2	18.2	38.5	4.4	27.9
Gas and electricity -----	129.7	130.7	134.0	136.9	3.6	3.2	11.6	24.1	3.4	17.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	127.5	128.1	129.4	130.4	3.0	5.3	7.2	9.4	4.1	8.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	129.1	129.5	129.7	131.1	6.6	5.5	3.8	6.3	6.0	5.1
Transportation -----	125.7	126.6	127.7	129.6	6.8	4.0	3.9	13.0	5.3	8.4
Private -----	123.6	124.4	125.9	128.0	6.5	4.0	4.3	15.0	5.3	9.5
Public -----	145.6	147.2	145.3	145.8	.3	3.7	.8	.6	2.0	.7
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted) -----	132.6	133.0	133.7	134.5	4.8	2.8	6.6	5.9	3.8	6.2
Medical care -----	141.3	141.8	142.5	143.5	2.7	3.0	12.2	6.4	2.8	9.2
Personal care (not seasonally adjusted) -----	128.1	129.2	129.8	130.8	6.7	4.2	7.9	8.7	5.5	8.3
Reading and recreation -----	127.4	127.7	128.2	129.2	3.3	2.2	3.9	5.8	2.7	4.8
Other goods and services -----	130.5	131.2	131.8	132.4	5.5	1.2	3.8	6.0	3.3	4.9
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter -----	135.7	136.5	138.1	139.9	10.2	12.6	6.8	13.0	11.4	9.8
All items less medical care -----	137.5	138.3	140.0	141.6	9.7	11.8	7.6	12.5	10.7	10.0
All items less mortgage interest costs -----	136.3	137.1	138.4	140.2	9.4	10.8	6.4	11.9	10.1	9.1
CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) -----	151.2	152.7	155.5	160.3	26.2	50.2	-4.6	26.3	37.7	9.8
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) -----	165.4	163.1	166.2	180.3	28.5	37.9	-19.8	41.2	33.1	6.4

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

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

Area ¹	Pricing schedule ²	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases			
		February 1974			February 1973	November 1973	January 1974
U.S. city average -----	M	141.5	164.6		10.0	2.8	1.3
Chicago -----	M	140.6	159.7		10.3	3.3	1.4
Detroit -----	M	143.8	165.2		10.9	3.5	1.6
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	M	136.2	160.1		8.5	1.9	.7
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	M	149.0	177.4		10.4	3.2	1.5
Philadelphia -----	M	144.9	169.2		10.9	3.1	1.5
		January 1974			January 1973	October 1973	
Boston -----	1	142.0	170.1		9.5	2.4	
Houston -----	1	139.1	159.2		9.4	2.1	
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	1	140.3	162.6		9.8	2.9	
Pittsburgh -----	1	139.3	160.2		9.5	2.0	
		February 1974			February 1973	November 1973	
Buffalo -----	2	144.2		³ 158.5	10.7	4.0	
Cleveland -----	2	142.1	160.4		9.4	3.3	
Dallas -----	2	139.6		³ 150.9	9.3	2.9	
Milwaukee -----	2	139.0	157.0		9.4	2.4	
San Diego -----	2	140.2		⁴ 147.4	9.4	2.7	
Seattle -----	2	135.8	159.6		10.3	3.3	
Washington -----	2	144.0	167.8		10.2	3.3	
		December 1973			December 1972	September 1973	
Atlanta -----	3	138.9	159.7		8.8	1.4	
Baltimore -----	3	140.7	163.3		9.9	2.3	
Cincinnati -----	3	136.6	155.0		8.0	1.6	
Honolulu -----	3	132.8		⁵ 143.2	6.8	2.5	
Kansas City -----	3	134.4	159.6		7.1	1.4	
St. Louis -----	3	133.8	156.3		8.2	1.1	
San Francisco—Oakland -----	3	135.2	160.9		7.0	.5	

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

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

M - Every month.

1 - January, April, July, and October.

2 - February, May, August, and November.

3 - March, June, September, and December.

³ November 1963=100.

⁴ February 1965=100.

⁵ December 1963=100.

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

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas ¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from January 1974 to February 1974

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	1.3	1.4	1.6	0.7	1.5	1.5
Food -----	2.5	2.5	2.7	.9	2.8	2.6
Housing -----	.8	1.1	1.2	.4	.8	.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.2	2.2	2.7	1.7	3.4	3.1
Transportation -----	.9	.2	1.2	1.1	.6	1.0
Health and recreation -----	.6	.7	.8	.5	.6	.5
Medical care -----	.8	1.0	1.4	.9	1.0	1.0
Personal care -----	.8	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.5	.3	.3	.5	.3	.2
Other goods and services -----	.4	1.2	.8	-.1	.3	.4

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, February 1974, and percent changes from November 1973

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles— Long Beach	New York— Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items	141.5	140.6	143.8	136.2	149.0	144.9
Food	157.6	159.2	162.5	151.1	162.3	160.8
Food at home	159.0	161.4	165.2	154.0	164.2	161.0
Cereals and bakery products	154.4	160.8	169.3	149.8	156.1	154.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	174.2	175.0	181.9	176.0	176.4	174.6
Dairy products	149.3	148.5	151.5	138.0	154.9	150.4
Fruits and vegetables	155.9	157.9	153.3	146.3	167.5	160.3
Other food at home	148.0	150.0	152.8	142.8	150.9	150.7
Food away from home	152.6	150.6	151.6	143.1	156.7	160.3
Housing	143.4	137.3	145.2	137.9	154.8	147.5
Shelter	148.3	142.1	155.0	141.1	159.4	156.8
Rent, residential	128.0	(²)	127.5	(²)	141.2	(²)
Homeownership	155.8	149.9	160.6	146.0	173.2	163.0
Fuel and utilities	143.5	132.1	135.7	139.5	164.7	145.0
Fuel oil and coal	202.0	191.5	200.1	-	213.8	196.6
Gas and electricity	137.3	125.1	135.5	155.2	160.8	140.6
Household furnishings and operation	130.1	126.0	121.3	126.3	137.1	132.0
Apparel and upkeep	130.4	127.4	125.7	125.7	130.0	127.8
Men's and boys'	129.2	124.8	126.7	120.5	125.2	131.1
Women's and girls'	130.1	129.6	116.5	127.4	128.7	120.7
Footwear	133.5	126.6	142.4	132.2	130.1	133.9
Transportation	129.3	132.9	130.9	129.2	139.3	132.9
Private	127.5	128.1	128.9	129.7	133.3	130.9
Public	146.2	163.6	155.5	119.7	162.2	144.9
Health and recreation	134.5	136.3	139.6	128.0	140.6	138.7
Medical care	143.4	143.3	156.2	140.9	152.2	155.4
Personal care	130.8	(²)	(²)	(²)	131.0	(²)
Reading and recreation	128.9	129.4	130.1	118.9	133.2	132.0
Other goods and services	132.3	139.2	132.1	124.3	140.9	132.9
Percent changes November 1973 to February 1974						
All items	2.8	3.3	3.5	1.9	3.2	3.1
Food	5.1	5.6	6.0	4.4	5.3	5.7
Food at home	5.9	6.3	6.9	5.4	6.6	6.4
Cereals and bakery products	5.9	5.6	8.8	6.6	6.5	5.7
Meats, poultry, and fish	4.1	5.3	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.3
Dairy products	5.7	6.0	6.3	1.8	8.0	7.4
Fruits and vegetables	8.5	7.6	8.6	8.9	8.1	9.3
Other food at home	7.3	8.3	8.3	5.2	7.3	7.7
Food away from home	1.9	3.0	2.2	1.8	1.6	3.0
Housing	2.9	3.9	3.1	.9	4.2	2.8
Shelter	1.9	4.1	2.7	.4	2.4	.9
Rent, residential	1.3	(²)	3.9	(²)	1.1	(²)
Homeownership	2.1	5.5	2.9	.3	2.6	.9
Fuel and utilities	8.6	7.4	7.4	1.8	14.4	9.5
Fuel oil and coal	29.8	32.3	40.3	-	21.5	35.7
Gas and electricity	5.8	2.4	4.7	3.7	14.9	2.6
Household furnishings and operation	2.0	1.3	1.3	2.2	3.0	2.5
Apparel and upkeep	-.1	-.8	.5	.4	-.5	-.1
Men's and boys'	.2	.8	1.8	1.8	-3.0	1.8
Women's and girls'	-1.6	-2.9	-2.2	-1.7	-.7	-3.9
Footwear	.7	-.1	2.9	1.5	-.2	.8
Transportation	2.8	2.2	3.8	3.0	1.6	3.3
Private	3.0	2.4	4.2	3.1	2.5	3.9
Public	1.1	1.9	.6	1.7	-1.0	1.0
Health and recreation	1.4	2.1	2.1	1.0	1.7	1.4
Medical care	1.8	2.0	2.1	1.7	2.6	1.0
Personal care	2.1	(²)	(²)	(²)	2.5	(²)
Reading and recreation	1.1	.9	.5	.8	1.5	1.4
Other goods and services	1.1	4.0	4.2	.1	.6	1.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, February 1974, and percent changes from November 1973—Continued

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (1967= 100)							
All items -----	144.2	142.1	139.6	139.0	140.2	135.8	144.0
Food -----	156.4	158.7	154.7	154.5	154.2	150.9	163.3
Food at home -----	156.9	160.6	154.1	155.5	154.8	153.4	163.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	155.2	152.4	152.1	154.8	146.4	148.5	157.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	173.1	172.9	168.7	168.9	178.6	174.4	174.5
Dairy products -----	146.2	158.1	147.3	148.6	140.1	145.9	143.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	155.8	161.2	143.9	151.4	143.9	137.9	171.5
Other food at home -----	141.4	146.9	146.2	144.2	142.4	145.6	158.1
Food away from home -----	154.3	149.1	157.0	150.1	152.0	142.8	162.2
Housing -----	149.4	134.6	137.3	136.3	146.6	140.1	142.2
Shelter -----	150.9	136.6	142.5	136.7	161.4	147.5	145.3
Rent, residential -----	129.4	116.9	115.6	126.7	139.7	113.1	128.4
Homeownership -----	155.0	140.0	154.6	139.9	170.7	157.6	155.2
Fuel and utilities -----	165.9	133.8	125.1	144.7	124.0	136.5	137.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	210.0	-	-	211.4	-	180.1	213.1
Gas and electricity -----	163.9	132.0	117.2	139.5	130.9	112.9	135.3
Household furnishings and operation -----	132.9	127.1	132.5	129.5	119.4	125.3	135.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	139.4	137.6	133.9	134.5	133.8	126.0	136.3
Men's and boys' -----	155.1	134.8	139.3	138.7	131.1	127.0	136.6
Women's and girls' -----	136.8	143.8	133.7	129.3	143.0	122.5	136.7
Footwear -----	128.8	134.5	134.6	136.0	130.2	129.1	138.2
Transportation -----	129.0	139.3	132.0	132.0	130.1	117.1	132.2
Private -----	126.2	134.2	130.6	127.5	131.3	119.4	129.6
Public -----	160.5	172.0	150.3	186.8	109.3	103.9	147.2
Health and recreation -----	134.4	142.7	135.3	133.2	127.7	127.7	138.0
Medical care -----	137.4	159.8	142.2	140.7	136.8	135.5	152.2
Personal care -----	129.9	136.9	138.9	133.9	124.7	128.7	128.8
Reading and recreation -----	135.7	130.2	127.0	132.6	122.6	125.0	130.0
Other goods and services -----	132.1	139.3	132.4	127.2	124.3	122.9	136.8
Percent changes November 1973 to February 1974							
All items -----	4.0	3.3	2.9	2.4	2.7	3.3	3.3
Food -----	4.9	6.4	5.4	4.6	5.3	5.2	5.2
Food at home -----	5.3	7.1	6.2	5.2	6.5	6.3	6.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	4.7	6.8	9.1	6.0	5.9	7.1	6.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	4.1	5.3	4.5	1.2	8.5	5.1	2.8
Dairy products -----	4.0	6.2	6.3	6.5	2.3	5.7	5.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	9.1	12.5	4.4	8.7	9.6	10.1	8.3
Other food at home -----	5.8	7.3	8.7	8.6	4.6	5.8	9.8
Food away from home -----	3.0	1.9	2.6	2.2	1.9	1.5	3.1
Housing -----	5.1	1.5	1.5	2.1	.8	3.8	2.5
Shelter -----	3.7	1.2	.6	.9	.1	3.4	1.6
Rent, residential -----	.6	.7	.9	1.0	.8	1.8	.9
Homeownership -----	4.2	1.2	.5	.9	-.1	3.7	2.0
Fuel and utilities -----	13.9	4.0	2.5	6.6	2.4	9.8	6.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	38.2	-	-	32.0	-	29.4	36.1
Gas and electricity -----	12.3	6.4	-.3	1.4	4.3	2.7	3.8
Household furnishings and operation -----	2.5	1.1	3.3	2.5	2.1	1.7	3.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.0	1.9	1.9	-1.8	2.3	.5	2.3
Men's and boys' -----	4.9	3.6	4.0	1.2	2.7	-.5	1.7
Women's and girls' -----	-.5	1.5	.9	-5.6	1.8	-.2	2.2
Footwear -----	1.6	-.2	1.2	-.9	1.3	.8	1.9
Transportation -----	3.3	5.5	4.7	2.8	4.9	3.3	3.6
Private -----	3.4	5.3	4.9	3.1	5.1	3.4	4.3
Public -----	1.7	6.8	2.6	.4	1.4	2.6	.8
Health and recreation -----	2.4	2.7	1.7	2.3	1.8	1.8	2.8
Medical care -----	3.8	4.1	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.0	3.1
Personal care -----	3.3	2.8	3.7	1.4	1.1	4.6	2.8
Reading and recreation -----	1.7	1.4	.9	2.8	2.7	1.3	2.8
Other goods and services -----	.9	2.2	.8	2.3	.6	1.1	2.0

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

³ Change from December 1973.

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

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (1967= 100)							
All items -----	134.8	134.1	132.0	131.5	132.5	127.5	135.0
All items (1957-59= 100) -----	² 148.1	151.4	² 142.6	148.5	³ 139.3	149.8	157.3
Food -----	141.0	142.1	140.1	138.4	139.6	136.3	145.5
Food at home -----	140.7	143.0	138.8	138.6	139.0	136.8	144.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	128.3	126.5	124.5	129.6	122.5	122.4	130.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	158.4	161.8	158.5	157.4	163.8	157.6	159.9
Dairy products -----	127.4	133.9	122.0	126.2	123.7	126.3	123.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	145.3	142.2	139.3	136.7	131.7	130.4	154.0
Other food at home -----	127.5	130.3	128.9	127.1	128.6	129.8	134.6
Food away from home -----	142.4	137.8	145.1	138.7	142.0	134.9	148.7
Housing -----	138.2	130.0	131.2	130.2	140.4	130.0	134.4
Shelter -----	140.8	132.3	136.4	132.2	154.3	136.0	137.9
Rent, residential -----	126.3	115.0	113.4	122.7	136.9	108.5	124.3
Homeownership -----	143.6	135.3	146.6	135.2	161.7	144.0	145.8
Fuel and utilities -----	143.6	126.4	120.9	131.1	118.8	120.2	127.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	136.5	-	-	139.1	-	128.7	136.6
Gas and electricity -----	144.2	124.8	117.1	135.2	121.1	109.4	128.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	126.6	123.1	125.4	123.7	115.2	121.1	127.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	134.7	129.6	128.7	133.0	126.8	123.0	130.9
Men's and boys' -----	149.0	123.5	129.6	133.7	124.4	126.5	130.3
Women's and girls' -----	133.6	133.9	130.3	132.1	134.7	120.4	133.8
Footwear -----	126.1	132.2	131.3	133.6	126.4	124.7	134.2
Transportation -----	122.9	129.9	123.4	126.0	122.0	112.1	126.1
Private -----	120.3	124.3	121.6	121.1	123.0	114.2	122.6
Public -----	152.1	166.9	146.6	185.7	107.3	100.6	146.1
Health and recreation -----	129.5	137.3	131.0	128.1	123.4	123.6	132.1
Medical care -----	130.2	150.9	136.9	134.0	130.1	129.9	144.4
Personal care -----	124.9	130.3	130.9	126.9	121.6	120.5	122.0
Reading and recreation -----	130.8	128.0	124.5	128.0	118.9	121.6	125.4
Other goods and services -----	129.9	135.2	130.1	123.8	121.8	121.0	132.5
Percent changes 1972-73							
All items -----	6.5	6.0	5.7	6.3	6.5	6.5	6.4
Food -----	14.2	15.2	13.9	14.8	13.2	12.9	15.7
Food at home -----	15.1	16.6	15.8	16.6	15.4	15.2	18.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	10.9	13.5	10.0	12.3	8.7	10.3	10.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	24.0	25.8	24.9	24.2	23.8	25.2	30.1
Dairy products -----	9.2	9.8	9.5	10.5	8.1	8.7	9.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	14.1	12.9	12.2	14.2	10.2	10.7	15.9
Other food at home -----	8.5	11.0	11.3	12.8	13.9	11.5	10.7
Food away from home -----	8.5	7.9	8.0	8.7	8.9	6.5	9.7
Housing -----	3.8	2.9	2.6	3.0	5.7	6.0	4.3
Shelter -----	4.6	2.6	2.1	2.1	6.8	6.6	3.9
Rent, residential -----	5.2	1.8	1.4	4.1	2.5	2.6	4.8
Homeownership -----	4.6	2.7	2.2	1.5	8.5	7.5	3.5
Fuel and utilities -----	2.4	4.0	3.8	6.2	4.4	5.1	7.8
Fuel oil and coal -----	12.4	-	-	17.3	-	8.3	16.1
Gas and electricity -----	.8	1.5	3.8	5.1	6.2	.7	7.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	2.3	3.6	3.4	3.1	2.7	4.9	3.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	6.8	4.7	5.8	4.9	3.8	4.7	4.7
Men's and boys' -----	5.1	2.1	3.3	4.0	2.5	8.3	5.0
Women's and girls' -----	10.2	6.5	8.8	6.3	4.5	1.8	4.5
Footwear -----	3.7	5.2	4.7	4.1	5.3	4.4	5.3
Transportation -----	4.2	3.1	2.9	5.6	4.4	2.5	2.0
Private -----	3.6	2.3	3.1	5.0	5.1	4.1	2.6
Public -----	10.7	7.2	.6	10.7	-10.8	-6.9	-.7
Health and recreation -----	3.0	3.5	3.2	3.6	3.5	2.8	3.1
Medical care -----	3.3	4.8	4.0	4.6	5.1	3.5	3.2
Personal care -----	4.5	5.5	3.7	5.6	4.7	5.4	3.4
Reading and recreation -----	2.3	2.5	2.2	3.6	2.2	2.7	2.1
Other goods and services -----	2.5	1.9	3.2	2.0	2.6	1.3	5.0

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² November 1963= 100.

³ February 1965= 100.

⁴ 1973 annual average for New York is 124.8.

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

Area ¹	Total food	Food at home						Food away from home
		Total	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Other foods at home	
Indexes (1967= 100)								
U.S. city average -----	157.6	159.0	154.4	174.2	149.3	155.9	148.0	152.6
Atlanta -----	160.2	162.2	158.4	177.2	153.9	160.6	150.9	153.5
Baltimore -----	158.8	160.1	149.4	175.0	149.7	158.2	151.2	153.4
Boston -----	156.7	158.7	155.0	171.7	147.6	157.4	148.5	149.3
Buffalo -----	156.4	156.9	155.2	173.1	146.2	155.8	141.4	154.3
Chicago -----	159.2	161.4	160.8	175.0	148.5	157.9	150.0	150.6
Cincinnati -----	158.0	160.1	161.9	172.1	157.6	151.4	150.7	149.9
Cleveland -----	158.7	160.6	152.4	172.9	158.1	161.2	146.9	149.1
Dallas -----	154.7	154.1	152.1	168.7	147.3	143.9	146.2	157.0
Detroit -----	162.5	165.2	169.3	181.9	151.5	153.3	152.8	151.6
Honolulu -----	152.5	153.6	162.3	163.2	139.9	148.3	142.6	148.9
Houston -----	160.6	159.5	153.8	177.3	158.1	147.9	147.2	164.1
Kansas City -----	157.4	159.7	154.8	171.4	168.0	148.4	148.8	150.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	151.1	154.0	149.8	176.0	138.0	146.3	142.8	143.1
Milwaukee -----	154.5	155.5	154.8	168.9	148.6	151.4	144.2	150.1
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	158.3	157.8	160.0	176.5	153.1	144.7	148.2	160.7
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	162.3	164.2	156.1	176.4	154.9	167.5	150.9	156.7
Philadelphia -----	160.8	161.0	154.5	174.6	150.4	160.3	150.7	160.3
Pittsburgh -----	160.4	160.2	155.1	171.2	146.9	166.5	151.4	161.4
St. Louis -----	156.3	157.0	159.5	168.2	154.3	153.8	143.1	153.2
San Diego -----	154.2	154.8	146.4	178.6	140.1	143.9	142.4	152.0
San Francisco—Oakland -----	150.5	154.4	146.9	171.3	140.2	148.6	146.4	137.0
Seattle -----	150.9	153.4	148.5	174.4	145.9	137.9	145.6	142.8
Washington -----	163.3	163.6	157.2	174.5	143.7	171.5	158.1	162.2
Percent changes January 1974 to February 1974								
U.S. city average -----	2.5	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.1	4.1	2.8	0.7
Atlanta -----	2.6	3.4	3.7	3.9	1.1	2.2	4.4	.3
Baltimore -----	1.4	1.7	1.1	2.2	1.6	1.1	2.3	.1
Boston -----	2.3	2.9	1.1	2.5	2.5	4.5	3.8	.1
Buffalo -----	3.0	3.4	2.5	3.7	1.5	5.9	2.6	1.5
Chicago -----	2.5	3.1	3.3	2.9	1.9	5.4	2.4	.3
Cincinnati -----	3.4	4.1	4.6	5.2	3.8	2.3	3.8	.7
Cleveland -----	3.3	3.7	1.8	3.9	2.8	7.3	2.5	.9
Dallas -----	2.7	3.1	4.0	3.4	3.2	1.6	3.0	1.3
Detroit -----	2.7	3.2	4.8	2.7	2.0	4.7	2.9	.8
Honolulu -----	3.2	4.3	6.6	4.6	1.2	4.7	2.7	.5
Houston -----	3.2	3.7	3.4	4.3	4.8	1.6	4.0	1.4
Kansas City -----	2.7	3.4	3.0	3.2	4.0	3.3	3.6	.3
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	.9	1.2	2.8	.4	.6	.9	2.1	.1
Milwaukee -----	2.3	2.4	4.0	.9	3.1	3.4	2.6	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.2	3.9	2.4	3.4	2.6
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	2.8	3.4	4.0	3.6	2.2	4.5	2.3	.9
Philadelphia -----	2.6	3.1	3.6	2.2	2.8	5.1	3.4	.7
Pittsburgh -----	3.4	3.9	4.0	3.0	2.4	7.6	3.3	.4
St. Louis -----	2.4	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.5	4.0	2.8	.2
San Diego -----	2.1	2.1	1.9	2.5	1.2	1.5	2.4	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland -----	2.5	3.1	3.5	2.9	1.0	5.6	2.7	.2
Seattle -----	2.8	3.5	3.4	4.9	.8	3.8	3.5	.4
Washington -----	1.7	1.9	3.0	1.6	2.4	.8	2.3	1.3

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

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

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to February 1974 from—		
	February 1974		February 1973	January 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	157.6	157.9	20.2	2.5	2.5
Food away from home	152.6	152.8	13.3	.7	.7
Restaurant meals	153.7	154.0	13.9	.7	.7
Snacks	147.3	147.3	10.0	.8	1.0
Food at home	159.0	159.3	22.2	3.0	2.9
Cereals and bakery products	154.4	154.4	31.1	3.1	3.1
Flour	171.8	171.5	58.9	5.1	4.9
Cracker meal	170.7	171.0	23.5	7.5	6.9
Corn flakes	118.6	118.2	19.3	2.5	2.4
Rice	237.3	236.6	103.7	3.0	2.7
Bread, white	149.3	149.2	29.6	2.0	2.2
Bread, whole wheat	152.2	152.2	22.2	2.3	2.3
Cookies	127.0	127.9	12.1	3.7	3.9
Layer cakes	142.7	142.6	17.4	2.1	1.8
Cinnamon rolls	147.5	147.4	19.4	2.4	2.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	174.2	175.6	22.0	3.0	2.9
Meats	176.3	177.9	21.4	3.8	3.7
Beef and veal	181.3	183.1	19.0	7.5	7.5
Steak, round	176.5	177.6	15.6	9.5	9.5
Steak, sirloin	161.0	163.8	11.7	8.1	8.7
Steak, porterhouse	160.7	163.0	9.6	6.6	6.9
Rump roast	171.7	172.7	14.8	9.1	9.2
Rib roast	174.3	176.1	15.1	5.5	6.5
Chuck roast	192.8	193.6	20.3	13.5	11.6
Hamburger	198.4	200.0	29.1	7.8	7.5
Beef liver	173.1	174.7	23.7	1.2	.7
Veal cutlets	202.6	204.6	15.8	2.3	2.1
Pork	174.0	175.8	22.4	.3	-1.1
Chops	162.9	164.2	11.2	.8	-.9
Loin roast	173.4	175.0	17.7	.8	-.2
Pork sausage	193.9	197.1	33.6	-.3	-.9
Ham, whole	170.2	168.2	31.5	-4.4	-2.3
Picnics	180.6	180.4	27.4	-1.0	-2.1
Bacon	174.4	178.1	25.0	3.1	3.1
Other meats	168.8	169.6	26.0	.4	.5
Lamb chops	153.9	154.5	9.9	3.3	2.9
Frankfurters	175.9	178.4	31.0	.7	1.1
Ham, canned	171.3	169.4	33.1	-1.6	-2.1
Bologna sausage	176.8	177.7	27.7	.3	.3
Salami sausage	166.7	167.9	24.6	-.2	.1
Liverwurst	168.8	168.5	31.3	.2	-.4
Poultry	154.7	155.0	28.2	-1.5	-2.3
Frying chicken	155.6	156.1	27.9	-.8	-1.8
Chicken breasts	147.3	147.7	20.2	.2	-.5
Turkey	158.5	157.9	38.8	-5.8	-6.2
Fish	182.6	182.1	20.7	1.2	1.1
Shrimp, frozen	179.2	178.8	26.5	1.6	1.2
Fish, fresh or frozen	214.9	214.5	23.6	.9	.9
Tuna fish, canned	160.5	160.0	17.8	2.4	2.1
Sardines, canned	176.7	175.6	15.0	.2	0
Dairy products	149.3	-	23.4	2.1	0
Milk, fresh, grocery	151.0	150.8	25.3	2.2	2.1
Milk, fresh, skim	161.4	161.6	26.3	2.7	2.7
Milk, evaporated	160.3	160.6	29.6	3.6	3.7
Ice cream	125.0	125.1	16.1	.5	.9
Cheese, American process	168.3	168.1	29.8	3.7	3.4
Butter	117.2	117.1	11.0	-3.1	-2.9

See footnote at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to February 1974 from—		
	February 1974		February 1973	January 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables	155.9	157.8	17.0	4.1	4.4
Fresh fruits and vegetables	154.5	157.8	10.5	4.0	5.1
Fresh fruits	138.8	146.1	9.9	.2	-2.0
Apples	152.4	163.2	24.3	1.2	-1.2
Bananas	106.6	106.6	5.2	-5	-5.6
Oranges	139.6	146.2	7.8	-2	-1.3
Orange juice, fresh	133.4	134.5	.8	-5	-4
Grapefruit	135.6	153.7	5.2	-8	-2.4
Grapes	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	167.2	166.7	10.9	6.7	9.2
Potatoes	225.4	234.8	47.6	19.3	17.6
Onions	186.9	191.1	6.6	27.6	23.4
Asparagus	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	144.9	130.9	8.4	-3.3	-7.4
Carrots	139.6	137.3	-3.3	6.2	7.6
Celery	131.4	125.9	-10.6	-2	1.4
Cucumbers	139.4	112.9	-13.8	-1.9	-14.6
Lettuce	119.0	131.5	-10.7	-8	9.4
Peppers, green	138.3	125.5	-9.7	-24.2	-35.6
Spinach	171.2	168.2	13.3	3.6	2.7
Tomatoes	173.7	169.8	18.3	8.5	12.3
Processed fruits and vegetables	158.0	158.2	27.7	4.3	4.6
Fruit cocktail, canned	141.3	141.6	11.5	1.9	2.4
Pears, canned	132.6	132.5	9.0	1.2	1.2
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	123.9	124.3	5.0	1.0	1.2
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	139.4	141.0	1.8	.1	.4
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	125.1	124.1	4.7	1.1	1.1
Beets, canned	149.5	149.8	15.0	.6	.8
Peas, green, canned	117.5	117.6	8.6	1.6	1.8
Tomatoes, canned	136.1	136.5	11.9	1.9	1.9
Dried beans	360.5	358.7	155.1	14.4	14.1
Broccoli, frozen	129.1	129.1	9.5	1.5	1.4
Other food at home	148.0	147.0	20.2	2.8	3.7
Eggs	194.1	186.3	37.5	1.6	7.8
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	172.0	172.2	47.5	5.1	5.5
Salad dressing, Italian	119.7	119.8	8.9	.3	.2
Salad or cooking oil	166.2	165.7	39.7	3.5	3.3
Sugar and sweets	149.5	149.8	21.7	6.6	6.7
Sugar	147.1	147.4	24.8	4.7	4.6
Grape jelly	144.6	144.6	11.6	1.2	1.3
Chocolate bar	164.7	165.9	25.6	16.8	17.4
Syrup, chocolate flavored	141.1	140.5	26.3	3.1	2.7
Nonalcoholic beverages	139.1	139.1	10.7	1.3	1.1
Coffee, can and bag	147.5	147.4	15.9	1.5	1.4
Coffee, instant	140.1	139.8	9.8	1.7	1.4
Tea	114.6	114.8	4.1	.4	-.2
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	137.6	137.6	6.3	.9	.8
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	139.1	139.7	7.6	1.8	2.0
Prepared and partially prepared foods	130.4	130.4	12.2	2.8	2.8
Bean soup, canned	142.3	142.2	21.6	6.5	6.4
Chicken soup, canned	120.9	121.0	15.5	3.0	3.1
Spaghetti, canned	131.6	131.5	7.4	2.0	2.0
Mashed potatoes, instant	125.7	125.4	11.2	1.9	1.4
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	125.3	125.4	12.1	1.0	.7
Baby foods	127.1	127.1	14.8	4.5	4.7
Sweet pickle relish	140.9	140.6	8.1	1.2	1.3
Pretzels	127.8	128.1	9.6	3.1	2.8

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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1974 from:	
		January 1974	February 1974	February 1973	January 1974
Housing		142.2	143.4	8.6	0.8
Shelter ¹		147.4	148.3	7.9	.6
Rent		127.3	128.0	4.7	.5
Homeownership ²		154.8	155.8	9.0	.6
Mortgage interest rates		135.1	134.8	14.1	-.2
Property taxes		151.9	151.5	-.1	-.3
Property insurance rates		123.6	123.8	-.6	.2
Maintenance and repairs		158.3	159.9	10.0	1.0
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		142.0	143.1	11.3	.8
Exterior house paint		123.7	124.6	4.9	.7
Interior house paint		123.0	124.3	4.2	1.1
Maintenance and repair services		165.3	167.1	9.6	1.1
Repainting living and dining rooms		176.8	177.2	7.3	.2
Reshingling house roof		173.8	176.9	10.4	1.8
Residing house		155.2	157.6	12.9	1.5
Replacing sink		161.7	162.7	8.0	.6
Repairing furnace		167.9	169.7	7.2	1.1
Fuel and utilities		140.8	143.5	15.6	1.9
Fuel oil and coal		194.6	202.0	58.8	3.8
Fuel oil, No. 2		194.5	202.1	61.6	3.9
Gas and electricity		134.3	137.3	10.3	2.2
Gas		135.1	136.9	8.1	1.3
Electricity		133.5	137.7	12.3	3.1
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		120.9	121.0	5.1	.1
Residential water and sewerage services		149.2	150.5	6.2	.9
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		129.0	130.1	6.1	.9
Housefurnishings		122.0	123.0	4.9	.8
Textiles		119.5	122.4	6.3	2.4
Sheets		118.3	124.5	6.0	5.2
Curtains, tailored		121.2	121.4	7.0	.2
Bedspreads		115.0	117.6	3.5	2.3
Drapery fabric		136.6	139.8	11.6	2.3
Pillows, bed		107.1	109.4	3.5	2.1
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		118.1	121.2	5.3	2.6
Furniture and bedding		129.3	129.7	6.6	.3
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	114.2	114.8	8.9	.5
Sofas, upholstered		126.3	125.5	3.8	-.6
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	109.7	109.7	7.4	0
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	113.5	114.0	9.6	.4
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	102.2	101.9	3.1	-.3
Sofas, dual purpose		124.0	124.9	7.2	.7
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	110.8	111.8	6.3	.9
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Cribs		128.2	130.1	8.3	1.5
Floor coverings		110.4	111.2	3.8	.7
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		104.4	105.2	3.5	.8
Vinyl sheet goods		124.8	125.5	4.8	.6
Vinyl asbestos tile		124.2	124.9	4.3	.6
Appliances (excluding radio and T. V.)		110.6	110.7	.9	.1
Washing machines, electric, automatic		111.7	111.9	.9	.2
Vacuum cleaners		104.1	104.3	.5	.2
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.7	109.0	.6	.3
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		110.2	110.5	-.4	.3
Clothes dryers, electric		114.9	114.9	.8	0
Air conditioners, demountable		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable		111.2	111.0	3.0	-.2
Garbage disposal units		113.3	113.8	2.2	.4
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		137.5	138.6	7.8	.8
Flatware, stainless steel		134.0	136.4	4.3	1.8
Table lamps, with shade		128.8	129.7	2.0	.7
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Electric drills, hand-held		108.0	108.5	2.5	.5
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		118.9	120.4	7.8	1.3
Paper napkins		143.3	145.8	6.3	1.7
Toilet tissue		135.7	137.9	9.3	1.6
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		154.1	155.5	9.4	.9
Baby sitter services		147.4	147.4	5.7	0
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		157.9	159.0	10.6	.7
Licensed day care services, preschool child		136.3	136.6	8.3	.2
Washing machine repairs		154.7	157.0	8.4	1.5

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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1974 from:	
		January 1974	February 1974	February 1973	January 1974
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		128.8	130.4	5.5	1.2
Apparel commodities		128.6	130.3	5.3	1.3
Apparel commodities less footwear		127.7	129.6	5.3	1.5
Men's and boys'		127.7	129.2	4.8	1.2
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends		135.1	134.4	6.2	-.5
Suits, year round weight		131.8	130.7	1.2	-.8
Suits, tropical weight	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Jackets, lightweight		120.3	121.3	4.6	.8
Slacks, wool or wool blends		116.0	117.9	1.9	1.6
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		139.3	140.7	-.8	1.0
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		123.9	128.0	9.7	3.3
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		127.4	130.1	11.5	2.1
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		115.9	116.5	5.0	.5
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		127.1	131.3	10.4	3.3
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		118.6	119.3	2.6	.6
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton		125.8	131.1	10.7	4.2
Boys'					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends		112.6	113.1	-8.3	.4
Sport coats, wool or wool blends	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends		143.8	148.3	13.1	3.1
Undershorts, cotton		128.3	131.8	8.7	2.7
Women's and girls'					
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends		125.6	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton		131.8	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Sweaters, wool or acrylic		133.1	134.5	12.9	1.1
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers		144.1	140.3	10.0	-2.6
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers		127.4	129.0	2.8	1.3
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber		139.0	139.8	5.6	.6
Slips, nylon		112.0	113.1	2.0	1.0
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot		122.5	123.1	3.7	.5
Girdles, manmade blend		119.1	121.2	2.9	1.8
Brassieres, nylon lace		127.6	128.4	5.6	.6
Hose or panty hose, nylon seamless		92.0	91.6	-3.0	-.4
Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers		115.6	117.3	2.6	1.5
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton		114.3	115.9	3.9	1.4
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic		154.8	155.9	6.5	.7
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends		118.7	117.5	7.0	-1.0
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends		119.0	122.8	-.5	3.2
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton		146.7	149.3	7.6	1.8
Slips, polyester blends		110.4	111.3	1.7	.8
Handbags, plastic		134.0	137.7	11.5	2.8
Footwear		133.0	133.5	4.6	.4
Men's:					
Shoes, street		136.0	136.4	5.7	.3
Shoes, work, high		141.6	142.6	10.2	.7
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		130.6	130.6	2.8	0
Shoes, evening, pump		126.5	126.7	2.8	.2
Shoes, casual		134.0	133.5	5.3	-.4
Houseslipppers, scuff		131.0	131.4	3.7	.3
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		134.6	135.4	4.1	.6
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		128.0	129.8	4.0	1.4
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump		138.8	139.6	5.0	.6
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable		122.6	126.5	8.0	3.2
Yard goods, polyester blend		137.3	140.0	17.9	2.0
Wrist watches, men's and women's		122.6	123.0	4.2	.3
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses		127.7	129.2	8.3	1.2
Automatic laundry service		120.6	121.0	4.5	.3
Laundry, men's shirts		136.0	136.8	8.1	.6
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment		143.7	144.5	6.5	.6
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift		127.2	128.1	7.1	.7

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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1974 from:	
		January 1974	February 1974	February 1973	January 1974
Transportation -----		128.1	129.3	6.8	0.9
Private ⁷ -----		126.2	127.5	7.4	1.0
Automobiles, new -----		112.9	112.7	1.5	-.2
Automobiles, used -----		107.0	103.0	-8.4	-3.7
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		140.1	147.8	32.7	5.5
Motor oil, premium -----		134.9	137.6	9.8	2.0
Tires, new, tubeless -----		110.3	110.7	-1.9	-.4
Auto repairs and maintenance ⁸ -----		147.3	148.9	6.9	1.1
Auto insurance rates -----		137.7	137.7	-.4	0
Auto registration -----		128.9	128.9	4.8	0
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		155.8	154.2	2.4	1.0
Public -----		146.0	146.2	1.2	.1
Local transit fares -----		148.4	148.7	-1.2	-.2
Taxicab fares -----		145.3	145.3	7.2	0
Railroad fares, coach -----		126.8	127.0	3.9	-.2
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		141.4	141.4	7.0	0
Bus fares, intercity -----		150.9	150.9	4.8	0
Health and recreation -----		133.7	134.5	5.0	.6
Medical care -----		142.2	143.4	6.0	.8
Drugs and prescriptions -----		106.7	107.0	1.1	.3
Over-the-counter items -----		113.5	113.8	1.8	.3
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		96.2	95.4	1.9	-.8
Aspirin compounds -----		118.2	118.4	.2	.2
Liquid tonics -----		102.5	103.4	2.2	.9
Adhesive bandages, packages -----		128.9	129.7	3.7	.6
Cold tablets or capsules -----		115.2	115.4	1.1	.2
Cough syrup -----		116.0	116.6	1.7	.5
Prescriptions -----		101.1	101.3	.5	.2
Anti-infectives -----		69.0	68.3	-6.3	-1.0
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		133.4	135.1	5.5	1.3
Antiracics -----		104.2	105.0	1.3	.8
Antispasmodics -----		108.6	108.8	.7	.2
Cough preparations -----		140.6	142.6	5.9	1.4
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives -----		114.1	113.9	1.3	-.2
Analgesics, internal -----		111.5	112.0	1.3	.4
Anti-obesity -----		119.8	120.0	2.0	.2
Hormones -----		92.8	92.9	.1	.1
Professional services: -----					
Physicians' fees -----		141.3	142.6	4.8	.9
General physician, office visits -----		143.4	144.7	5.5	.9
General physician, house visits -----		143.1	143.3	2.7	.1
Obstetrical cases -----		140.4	142.0	4.3	1.1
Pediatric care, office visits -----		143.4	146.2	5.4	2.0
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		135.1	135.9	2.5	.6
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		132.9	134.1	3.2	.9
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		135.9	137.0	4.7	.8
Dentists' fees -----		140.3	140.7	4.7	.3
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		142.7	143.1	4.6	.3
Extractions, adult -----		140.3	140.7	5.6	.3
Dentures, full upper -----		135.5	135.7	3.7	.1
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		132.5	133.7	5.5	.9
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis -----		125.2	127.8	5.1	2.1
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	108.3	109.4	5.1	1.0
Semiprivate rooms -----		188.4	190.3	6.4	1.0
Operating room charges -----		184.4	188.4	7.3	2.2
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----		133.5	134.9	3.1	1.0
Laboratory tests, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	106.9	108.2	5.3	1.2
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	96.4	96.7	-1.6	.3
Tranquilizers, chlordiazepoxide, HCL and meprobamate -----	Jan. 72	106.2	106.5	4.0	.3
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	106.0	108.8	4.5	2.6
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	105.3	106.4	3.0	1.0
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	108.0	109.2	5.4	1.1
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	107.4	107.8	5.6	.4
Personal care -----		129.8	130.8	6.9	.8
Toilet goods -----		124.1	125.4	6.1	1.0
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		108.3	108.7	-.4	-.4
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		145.4	148.2	20.4	1.9
Hand lotions, liquid -----		127.1	127.8	.2	.6
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		108.5	109.4	1.1	.8
Face powder, pressed -----		150.0	150.5	7.2	.3
Deodorants, aerosol -----		105.2	105.4	1.2	.2
Cleansing tissues -----		136.4	140.7	14.2	3.2
Home permanent wave kits -----		109.5	109.8	-.1	.3
Personal care services -----		135.8	136.6	7.7	.6
Men's haircuts -----		138.7	139.4	8.4	.5
Beauty shop services -----		133.8	134.6	7.3	.6
Women's haircuts -----		141.3	142.2	10.7	.6
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		137.2	138.1	7.1	.7
Permanent waves, cold -----		118.7	119.2	3.7	.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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1974 from:	
		January 1974	February 1974	February 1973	January 1974
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation ¹		128.3	128.9	3.7	0.5
Recreational goods		110.9	111.4	3.1	.5
TV sets, portable and console		97.8	97.9	-.6	.1
TV replacement tubes		135.5	136.0	1.3	.4
Radios, portable and table model		99.6	100.2	1.4	.6
Tape recorders, portable		94.2	94.6	2.2	.4
Phonograph records, stereophonic		109.8	110.0	1.7	.2
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		91.0	91.2	3.4	.2
Film, 35mm, color		108.4	108.7	-.5	.3
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		103.6	104.5	-.8	.9
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		128.0	129.1	1.7	.9
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		110.1	110.1	2.3	0
Bowling balls		116.2	116.4	1.2	.2
Bicycles, boys'		125.2	125.7	6.3	.4
Tricycles		118.0	119.6	4.8	1.4
Dog food, canned or boxed		138.9	140.2	26.2	.9
Recreational services		134.6	135.3	4.0	.5
Indoor movie admissions		149.8	150.3	4.8	.3
Adult		147.6	148.2	4.5	.4
Children's		155.9	156.2	5.8	.2
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		151.8	154.0	4.0	1.4
Bowling fees, evening		128.4	129.1	5.2	.5
Golf green fees		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		100.5	100.4	1.3	-.1
Film developing, color		115.8	115.7	-.1	-.1
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		140.8	142.5	6.7	1.2
Magazines, single copy and subscription		133.7	133.7	-.3	0
Piano lessons, beginner		130.9	131.4	4.7	.4
Other goods and services		131.8	132.3	4.1	.4
Tobacco products		138.7	139.0	3.3	.2
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		140.3	140.5	3.1	.1
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		140.8	141.0	3.3	.1
Cigars, domestic, regular size		116.1	116.7	4.9	.5
Alcoholic beverages		125.9	126.6	4.5	.6
Beer		118.2	119.4	4.0	1.0
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		109.6	109.7	.5	.1
Wine, dessert and table		143.4	144.4	11.7	.7
Beer away from home		139.8	140.1	4.7	.2
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		130.3	131.9	6.9	1.2
Bank service charges, checking accounts		105.2	105.2	-1.2	0
Legal services, short form will		168.4	168.8	8.4	.2

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

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

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

⁵ Priced only in season.

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

⁷ Also includes storage batteries and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

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

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

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

A Note About Calculating Index Changes

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

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

Percent changes for 3-month and 6-month periods are expressed as annual rates and are computed according to the standard formula for compound growth rates. These data indicate what the percent change would be if the current rate were maintained for a 12-month

period. BLS does not publish annual rates based on data for 1 month.

<i>Index Point Change</i>	
CPI	123.8
Less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
Equals index point change:	0.6
<i>Percent Change</i>	
Index point difference,	<u>0.6</u>
Divided by the previous index,	123.2
Equals,	0.005
Results multiplied by one hundred	0.005×100
Equals percent change:	0.5

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

A system of "replicated" samples introduced into the index structure in the 1964 revision permits an estimate of sampling error for the CPI.¹ The table below shows standard errors for monthly, quarterly, and annual *percent changes* in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1973 averages.

Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 1973 data

Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items . . . . .	.04	.06	.08
Food at home . . . . .	.10	.15	.17
Food away from home . . . . .	.14	.26	.29
Housing . . . . .	.06	.10	.17
Apparel and upkeep . . . . .	.19	.26	.29
Transportation . . . . .	.06	.10	.17
Medical care . . . . .	.08	.14	.18
Personal care . . . . .	.14	.20	.39
Reading and recreation . . . . .	.09	.14	.17
Other goods and services . . . . .	.09	.11	.27

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

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

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1971 data which was included in the CPI report through January 1974.

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

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