



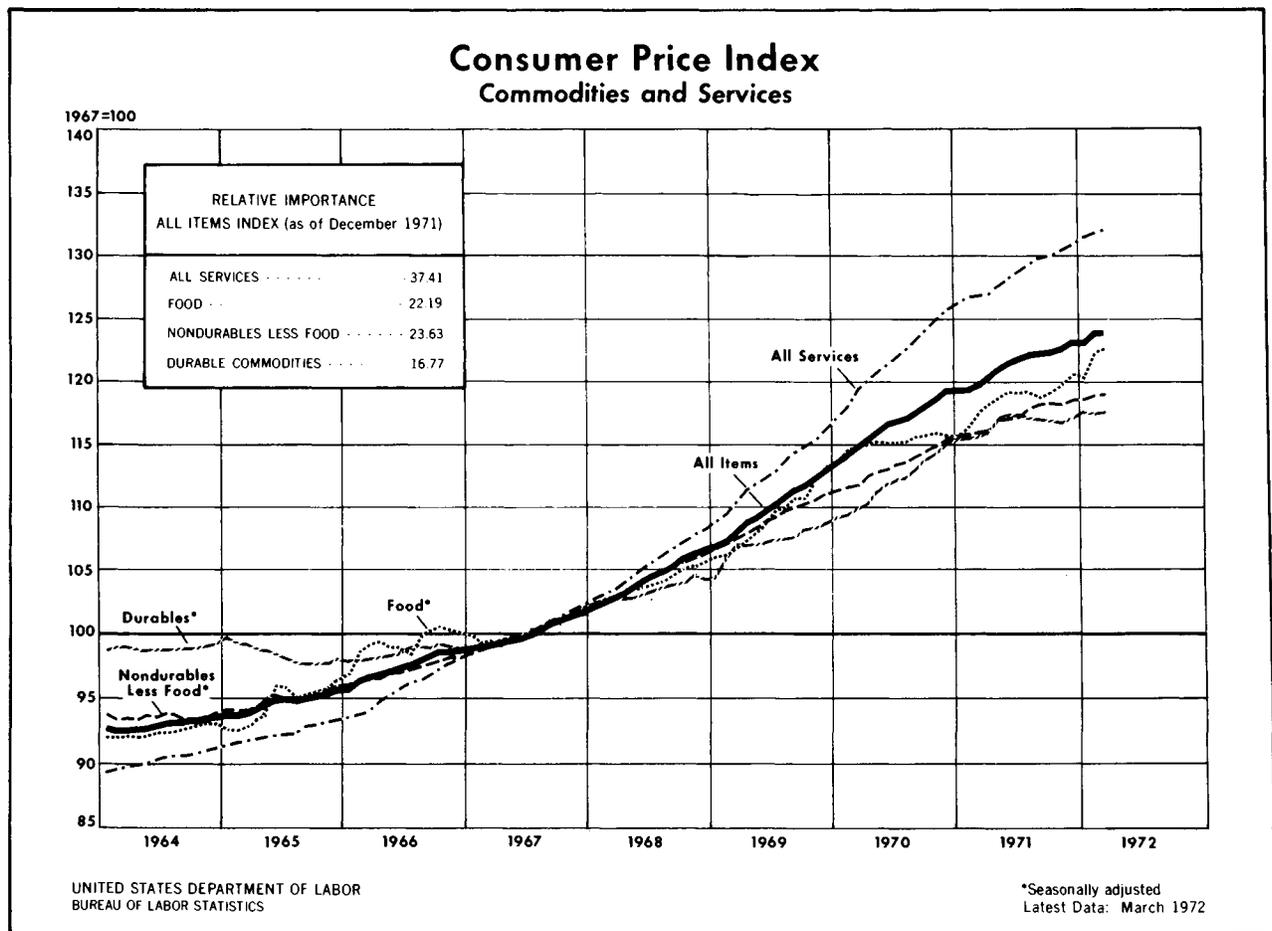
the consumer price index

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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OFFICE OF PRICES
AND LIVING CONDITIONS
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a monthly report
on consumer price movements
including statistical tables
and technical notes.



The Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 percent in March to 124.0 percent of its 1967 base. Most of the increase was due to higher property taxes and higher prices for clothing, eggs, beef, veal, and restaurant meals, the effects of which were moderated by lower vegetable and pork prices and mortgage interest rates. The March index was 3.5 percent above a year ago.

After seasonal adjustment, the March index was unchanged. During the 4 months since the freeze ended in November, the CPI has risen at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.7 percent. This rise compares with a rate of 4.1 percent during the period from February to August 1971, the 6-month period immediately preceding the Economic Stabilization Program. The seasonally-adjusted annual rate of increase for the first 7 months of the Economic Stabilization Program, which includes the August-

November period when most prices were frozen, was 2.8 percent.

Food

In March, the food price index, which includes both food purchased in grocery stores and restaurant meals, rose 0.2 percent after seasonal adjustment. This increase was considerably less than the 1.7 percent rise from January to February. (See table 1 p. 9.) The slowdown occurred because of a substantially smaller increase in meat prices and a sharp decline in fresh vegetable prices.

The rise in meat prices slowed markedly in March after a steep climb during the preceding 3 months, particularly February. As wholesale prices for livestock and meats turned down due to a larger than usual increase in production in late February and early March, retail pork prices declined in March for

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items at seasonally adjusted compound annual rates		
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	From 3 mos. ago	From 6 mos. ago	From 12 mos. ago
	Unadj.	Seas. adj.	Unadj.	Seas. adj.	Unadj.	Seas. adj.	Unadj.			
March 1971	0.3	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.3	0.2	0.0	2.8	4.1	4.6
April .....	.3	.3	.7	.9	.3	.2	.2	2.8	3.6	4.3
May .....	.5	.6	.3	.2	.7	.7	.6	4.2	4.1	4.4
June .....	.6	.5	.8	.5	.4	.3	.5	5.3	4.0	4.5
July .....	.2	.2	.5	.1	-.1	.1	.5	4.9	3.9	4.4
August .....	.2	.3	.2	.1	.1	.3	.5	4.0	4.1	4.4
September .....	.1	.1	-.8	-.3	.3	0	.3	2.6	3.9	4.0
October .....	.2	.1	-.2	0	.5	0	.2	2.4	3.6	3.6
November .....	.2	.2	.1	.7	.1	0	.3	1.7	2.8	3.5
December .....	.4	.4	1.1	.7	0	.3	.3	2.8	2.7	3.4
January .....	.1	.3	0	-.2	-.3	.2	.5	3.3	2.8	3.4
February .....	.5	.5	1.6	1.7	.1	-.1	.2	4.9	3.3	3.7
*March .....	.2	0	.2	.2	.3	.3	.2	3.4	3.1	3.5

* The seasonally adjusted All Items change can differ from the average of the components because the All Items figure is derived separately and because of rounding. The difference is more apparent than usual in March.

the first time since October. Beef and veal prices continued to rise, but the increase was much smaller than during the preceding 3 months. Poultry prices also increased less than in February.

Prices of fresh vegetables dropped sharply instead of rising seasonally, and fresh fruit prices increased less than they usually do in March. Fresh fruit and vegetable prices—particularly the latter—are highly volatile because changes in weather conditions affect the size of the crop as well as the timing of harvesting. After advancing considerably more than they usually do in February, fresh vegetable prices fell in March as harvesting in winter producing areas, especially of lettuce, reached a peak. Supplies of tomatoes from Mexico and Florida also increased. Among fresh fruits, grapefruit prices increased sharply but orange and banana prices declined contraseasonally. The increase in apple prices was smaller than usual for March. Unlike fresh fruit and vegetable prices, which are exempt from regulation under the Economic Stabilization Program, prices of processed fruits and vegetables held steady during the wage-price-rent freeze and have since moved up 0.3 percent each month from December through March, a somewhat smaller increase than during the same period of 1971.

Prices also rose for most other food purchased in grocery stores. However, increases in dairy products and cereal and bakery products were slightly smaller than in February. Egg prices, which declined sharply in January and February, increased substantially as demand built up for Easter.

Prices of restaurant meals and snacks away from home increased 0.4 percent, instead of moving down slightly as they usually do in March. The rise in these prices decelerated noticeably in the final 8 months of 1971, rose slightly faster in January and February, and accelerated in March to about the same pace as immediately before the start of the Economic Stabilization Program.

Commodities less food

The index of nonfood commodities rose 0.3 percent in March after sea-

sonal adjustment, compared with a decline of 0.1 percent in February and increases of 0.2 percent in January and 0.3 percent in December. About 40 percent of the March rise was due to an increase in apparel prices. Prices were also higher for most other nonfood commodities including furniture, textile housefurnishings, gasoline, and used cars.

The increase of 0.6 percent in the index for apparel commodities was largely due to higher prices for footwear and an increase in prices of spring clothing items priced for the first time this season. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the index rose 0.2 percent. Footwear prices rose much more than is usual for March—0.5 percent after seasonal adjustment—due to the ending of sales and widespread price advances reflecting large increases in wholesale costs. Prices of men's clothing rose seasonally. Higher prices for year-round suits, tropical weight suits, and lightweight jackets accounted for most of the increase. Prices of women's and girls' apparel rose somewhat more than they usually do in March, as women's bathing suits and lightweight skirts were priced for the first time this season and prices for girls' dresses and lightweight coats returned to regular prices after sales in February.

The index for furniture and bedding rose significantly in March. Folding chairs, which were priced the first time for this year, accounted for more than half the rise in this index. In addition, end of semiannual sales caused price increases for most items. Prices for textile housefurnishings rose for the same reason.

Used car prices, which moved down almost steadily from July through February, increased in March as they began their usual spring-to-summer uptrend. New car prices declined, but the decrease was a little less than usual for this time of the year. Gasoline prices, which declined in January and February, increased in March particularly on the West Coast.

Prices of most other nonfood commodities such as toilet goods, recreational goods, and alcoholic beverages increased moderately. Prices of tobacco

products continued to increase—although not as much as they did in February—mostly because of tax increases in some cities.

Services

Charges for consumer services rose 0.2 percent in March, the same as in February and less than in each of the preceding 3 months. Most of the increase was due to higher charges for medical care and household services.

The index for medical care services increased 0.4 percent for the fourth consecutive month. Rates for semiprivate hospital room and for operating rooms increased 0.6 percent due to wage rate increases. Dentists' fees rose 0.3 percent, and physicians' fees, 0.2 percent. These increases in hospital charges and professional fees were considerably smaller than March increases in recent years.

Charges for household services increased 0.2 percent, slightly less than in February and much less than in January. The rise in the index for household services was moderated by a somewhat larger decrease in mortgage interest rates than had occurred during the preceding 4 months. Telephone rates, which rose substantially in January and February, showed no change in March. The increase of 0.2 percent for gas and electricity in March was the same as in February and considerably smaller than in January. On the other hand, property taxes rose 1.3 percent and water and sewerage rates rose 1 percent because of annual changes in many cities. Charges for home maintenance and repairs were larger than in recent months, a usual seasonal pattern for spring months. Higher wages for domestic workers, laundrerers, and babysitters raised the cost of housekeeping services.

Charges for transportation services decreased 0.1 percent in March, as the index for local-transit fares dropped 1.3 percent. This decline was almost entirely the result of a reduction in cash fare from 40 to 15 cents in Atlanta. The reduction is to be subsidized through an increase in sales tax. Railroad coach fares also declined, but intercity bus fares were up sharply.

Effect of items identified as exempt from post-freeze regulations

The 0.2 percent increase in the March CPI is not changed by removal of the effect of items identified as exempt from regulation. Since declines in raw agricultural products, especially fresh vegetables, mortgage interest rates, and houses were offset by increases in taxes and used cars, the March increase remains 0.2 percent after removal of these items. This 0.2 percent compares with a corresponding 0.4 percent increase in February and a 0.1 percent increase in January.

Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 120,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in March for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from table B, 75 percent of these monthly comparisons remained unchanged, 10 percent decreased, and 15 percent increased between February and March. The proportion of prices which increased was considerably less than in February, when there was a sharp rise in the number of grocery store food price increases. The proportion of nonfood commodity prices increasing edged up to 10 percent, the highest figure for any month since October when this analysis was initiated. On the other hand, the proportion of prices for services which rose was considerably less than in February.

The March index also includes more than 24,000 price comparisons to March from periods before February. About 19,000 of these cover the quarterly span from December to March. About 14 percent of these prices increased, a slightly higher proportion than in last month's index. The number of price increases for restaurant meals increased noticeably. In addition, more than 5,000 rental units were surveyed in March. About 13 percent of these reported rent increases since September; 2.4 percent rose between February and March.

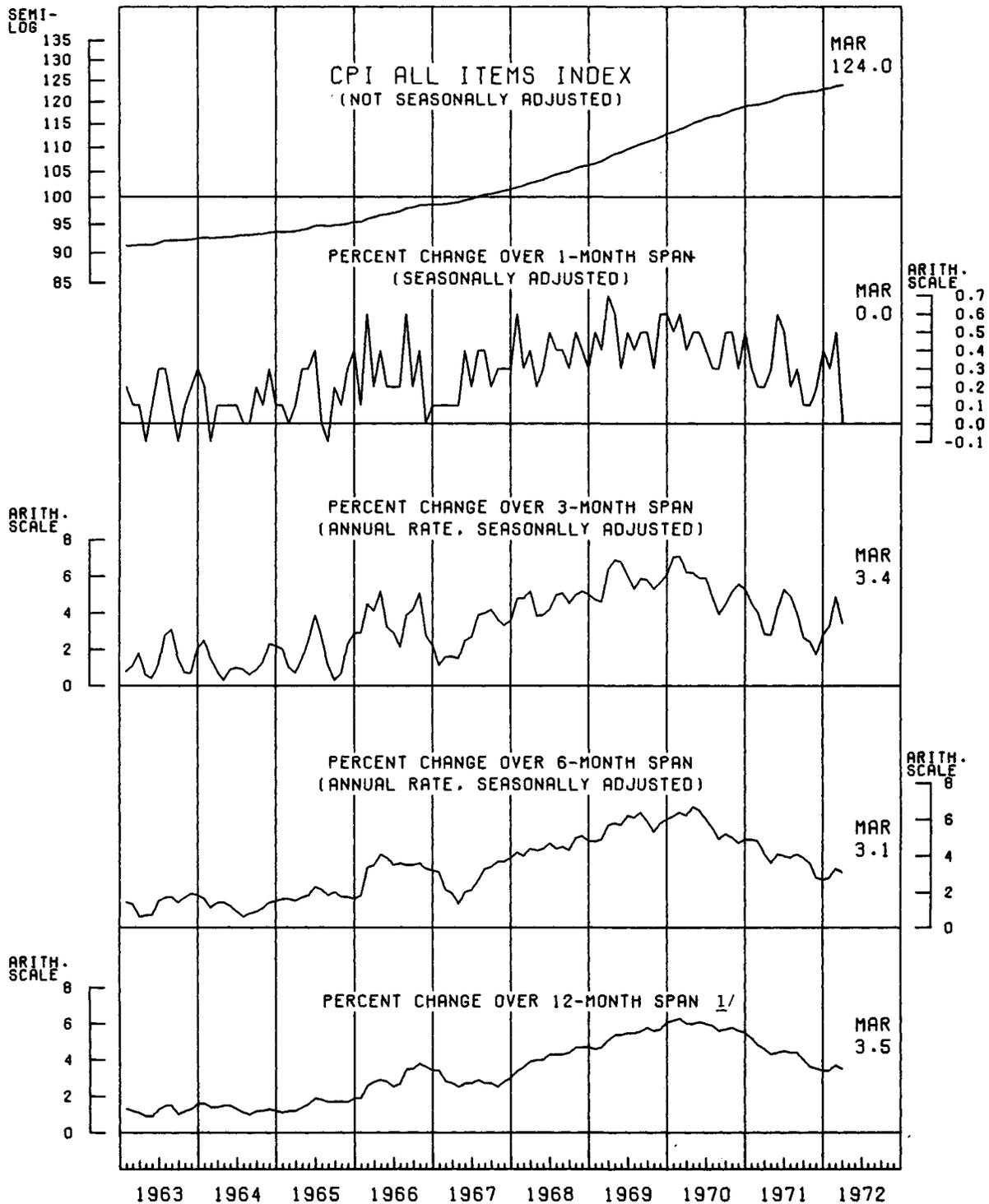
Table B. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons¹

Groups	September to October	October to November	November to December	December to January	January to February	February to March
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases.....	11	11	16	14	22	15
Decreases.....	10	9	7	11	8	10
No change.....	79	80	77	75	70	75
Food at home.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases.....	12	13	17	15	24	16
Decreases.....	11	10	8	11	9	12
No change.....	77	77	75	74	67	72
Commodities less food.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases.....	7	7	6	7	8	10
Decreases.....	7	6	5	10	7	5
No change.....	86	87	89	83	85	85
Services.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases.....	1	2	6	12	8	3
Decreases.....	8	1	1	5	3	1
No change.....	91	97	93	83	89	96
All items excluding raw agricultural products.....	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases.....	7	7	9	12	20	13
Decreases.....	8	7	6	7	6	7
No change.....	85	86	85	81	74	80

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

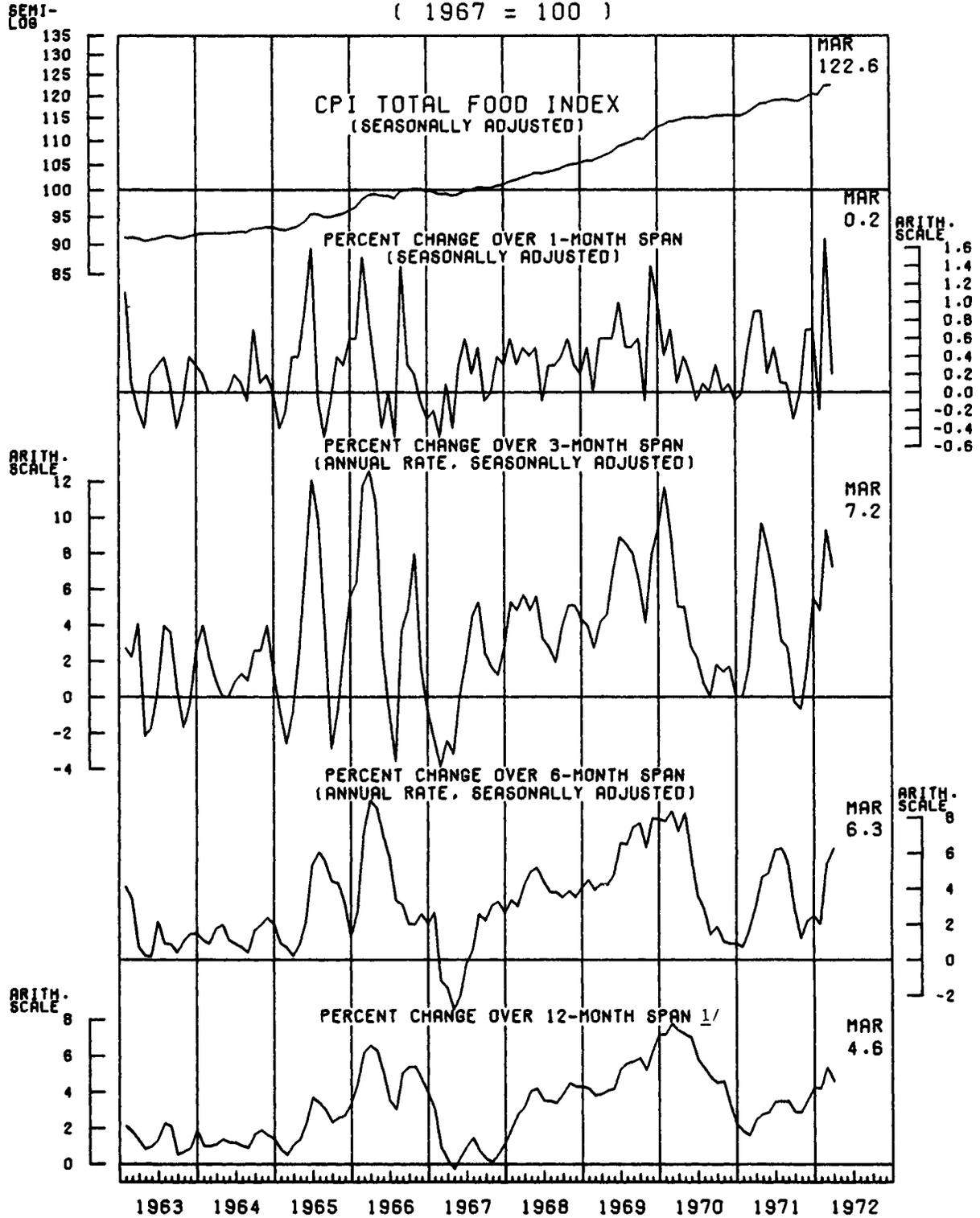
² Based on approximately 98,000 individual price quotations.

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



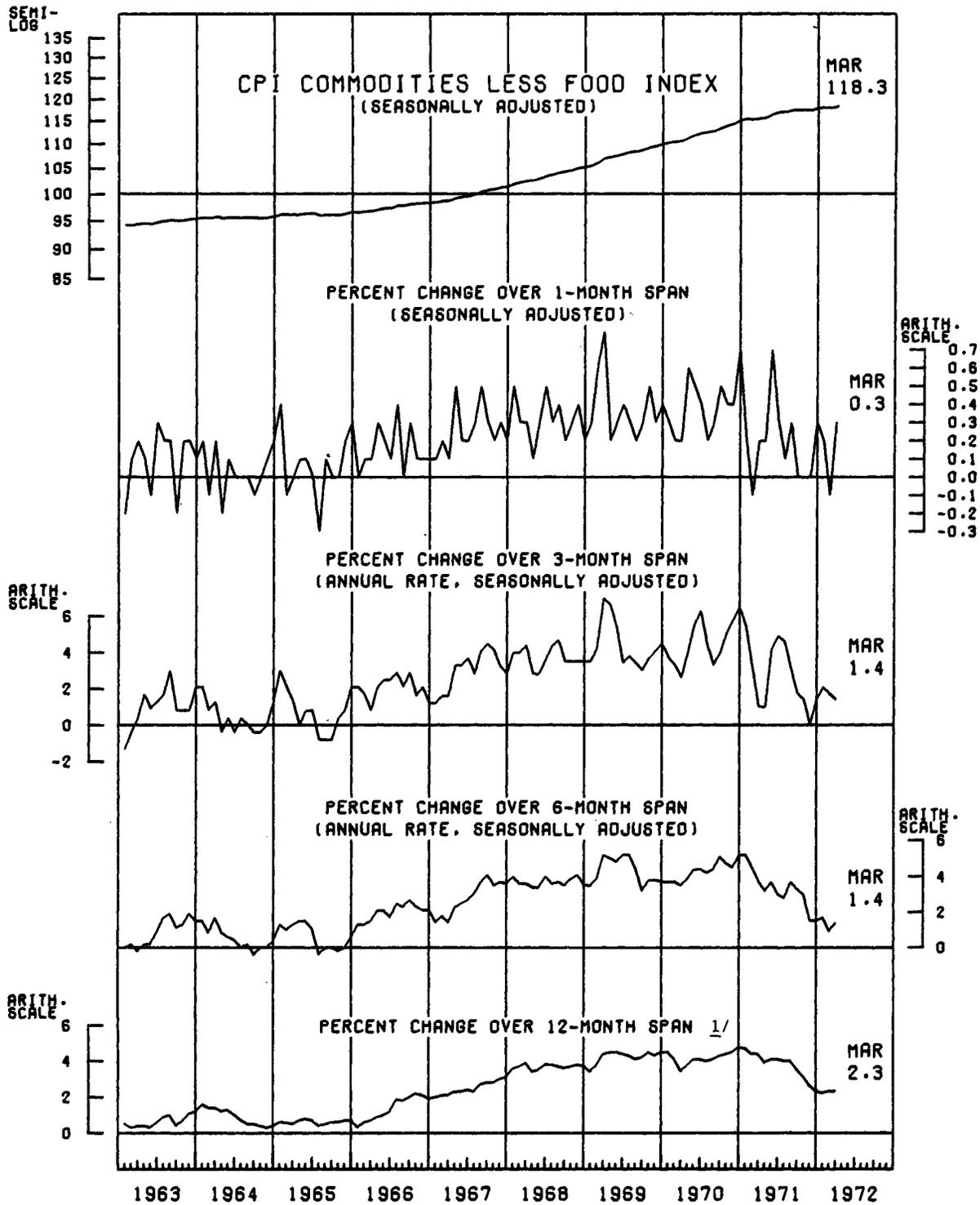
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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TOTAL FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
 (1967 = 100)



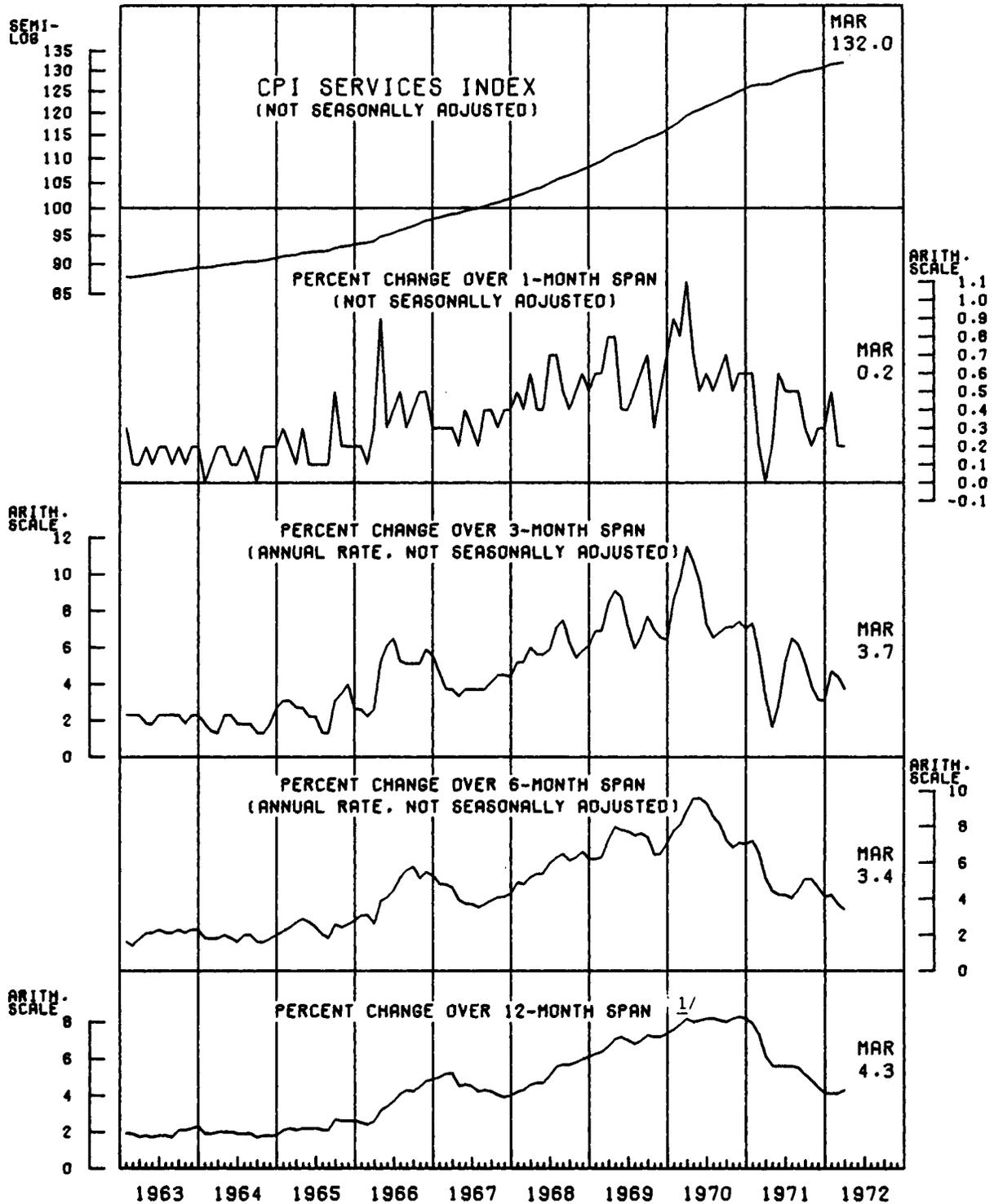
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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COMMODITIES LESS FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
 (1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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SERVICES INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
 (1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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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	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to		Seasonally adjusted percent change from		
	December	1967=100 unless otherwise noted		from--		previous month		
	1971	March 1972	February 1972	February 1972	March 1971	February-March	January-February	December-January
Commodity and service groups								
All items -----	100.00	124.0	123.8	0.2	3.5	0	0.5	0.3
All items (1957-59=100)-----		144.3	143.9					
Commodities-----	62.59	119.7	119.4	.3	3.1	.3	.6	.1
Food-----	22.19	122.4	122.2	.2	4.6	.2	1.7	-.2
Food at home-----	17.23	120.6	120.5	.1	4.8	.2	2.0	-.3
Cereals and bakery products-----	2.28	114.8	114.3	.4	1.6	.4	.6	-.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	5.64	126.8	126.3	.4	9.7	.3	4.4	1.2
Dairy products-----	2.72	117.3	116.9	.3	2.7	.5	.6	.3
Fruits and vegetables-----	3.03	121.4	123.9	-2.0	4.7	-2.7	2.5	-4.2
Other foods at home-----	3.56	116.7	115.6	1.0	1.0	2.3	-.2	-.6
Food away from home-----	4.96	129.4	128.9	.4	4.1	.5	.3	.3
Commodities less food-----	40.40	118.2	117.8	.3	2.3	.3	-.1	.2
Nondurables less food-----	23.63	118.9	118.4	.4	2.8	.2	.2	.2
Apparel commodities 1/-----	9.03	121.6	120.9	.6	2.4	.2	.4	-.1
Men's and boys'-----	2.82	120.3	119.7	.5	.8	0	0	-.3
Women's and girls'-----	4.02	122.5	121.7	.7	3.6	.2	1.0	-.1
Footwear-----	1.57	123.5	122.7	.7	2.5	.5	-.2	.2
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	14.60	117.3	117.0	.3	2.9	*.3	*.2	*.0
Gasoline and motor oil-----	2.92	107.3	106.9	.4	.6	-.3	-.7	-.6
Tobacco products-----	2.09	132.5	132.0	.4	6.8	*.4	*1.4	*.8
Alcoholic beverages-----	2.50	118.9	118.7	.2	2.7	*.2	*.2	*.1
Fuel oil and coal-----	.67	118.7	118.7	0	1.1	.2	0	.2
Other nondurables-----	6.42	116.9	116.6	.3	3.0	*.3	*.3	*.1
Durables commodities-----	16.77	117.3	117.1	.2	1.8	.2	.1	.3
Household durables-----	4.83	114.1	113.6	.4	1.8	.2	-.1	0
New cars-----	2.12	111.7	111.9	-.2	-2.3	.1	0	2.1
Used cars-----	1.98	103.9	103.0	.9	-2.7	*.9	*.2	*.1
Other durables-----	7.84	125.0	125.1	-.1	4.2	*.1	*.1	*.3
Services-----	37.41	132.0	131.8	.2	4.3	*.2	*.2	*.5
Rent-----	5.05	117.7	117.5	.2	3.3	*.2	*.3	*.2
Services less rent-----	32.36	134.7	134.4	.2	4.5	.1	.3	.5
Household services less rent-----	15.36	137.7	137.4	.2	5.8	-.1	.3	.9
Transportation services-----	5.57	135.5	135.7	-.1	2.7	-.2	.1	.3
Medical care services-----	5.55	136.9	136.4	.4	4.2	.1	.4	.2
Other services-----	5.88	124.7	124.5	.2	2.9	.1	.2	.2
Special indexes:								
All items less food-----	77.81	124.5	124.2	.2	3.2	.1	.2	.3
Nondurable commodities-----	45.82	120.6	120.3	.2	3.6	.2	1.0	-.1
Apparel commodities less footwear-----	7.46	121.3	120.6	.6	2.4	.3	.3	-.1
Services less medical care services-----	31.86	131.3	131.1	.2	4.3	*.2	*.2	*.5
Insurance and finance-----	9.85	142.6	142.4	.1	3.9	.1	.1	.6
Utilities and public transportation-----	5.51	125.1	125.1	0	5.5	0	.3	1.1
Housekeeping and home maintenance services-----	4.46	142.4	141.8	.4	7.1	.1	.4	.4
Expenditure classes								
All items-----	100.00	124.0	123.8	0.2	3.5	0	0.5	0.3
Food-----	22.19	122.4	122.2	.2	4.6	.2	1.7	-.2
Housing-----	33.84	127.9	127.6	.2	4.5	*.2	*.2	*.4
Shelter 2/-----	21.72	132.7	132.5	.2	4.7	*.2	*.2	*.5
Rent-----	5.05	117.7	117.5	.2	3.3	*.2	*.3	*.2
Homeownership 3/-----	16.25	138.2	138.0	.1	5.3	.1	0	.9
Fuel and utilities 4/-----	4.71	119.6	119.3	.3	5.1	.2	.6	.8
Gas and electricity-----	2.43	119.7	119.4	.3	5.6	.3	.3	.8
Household furnishings and operation-----	7.41	120.1	119.6	.4	3.2	.3	-.1	0
Apparel and upkeep-----	10.45	121.3	120.7	.5	2.3	.2	.2	0
Transportation-----	13.27	118.4	118.3	.1	.5	.2	-.1	.3
Private-----	11.80	115.9	115.7	.2	0	-.1	-.3	.6
Public-----	1.47	142.3	143.5	-.8	4.6	-1.5	.3	2.1
Health and recreation-----	19.87	125.0	124.7	.2	3.6	*.2	*.3	*.3
Medical care-----	6.46	131.4	131.0	.3	3.6	0	.4	.2
Personal care-----	2.58	118.7	118.4	.3	2.5	.1	.3	.3
Reading and recreation-----	5.71	121.7	121.5	.2	3.4	.1	.2	.2
Other goods and services-----	5.12	124.6	124.3	.2	4.4	.3	.8	.7
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter-----	78.28	121.8	121.5	.2	3.2	.2	.6	.1
All items less medical care-----	93.54	123.6	123.4	.2	3.5	.1	.5	.3
All items less mortgage interest costs-----	96.25	123.2	122.9	.2	3.7	*.2	*.5	*.1
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$1.00-----		90.806	.808	-.2	-3.5			
1957-59=\$1.00-----		.693	.695					

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.
 * Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

Area <u>1/</u>	Pricing Schedule <u>2/</u>	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases	February 1972	December 1971	March 1971
		March 1972					
U.S. City Average -----	M	124.0	144.3	-	0.2	0.7	3.5
Chicago -----	M	123.2	139.9	-	.2	.7	2.8
Detroit -----	M	125.0	143.7	-	.1	1.1	4.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	121.2	142.6	-	.7	.9	3.7
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. ---	M	130.0	154.7	-	.4	1.6	4.6
Philadelphia -----	M	125.8	147.0	-	.5	.6	2.9
		January 1972				October 1971	January 1971
Boston -----	1	124.9	149.6	-	-	.3	3.5
Houston -----	1	123.2	140.9	-	-	.7	3.3
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	1	123.8	143.5	-	-	.3	3.1
Pittsburgh -----	1	123.2	141.7	-	-	.2	3.4
		February 1972				November 1971	February 1971
Buffalo -----	2	124.9	-	<u>3/</u> 137.2	-	1.5	4.4
Cleveland -----	2	125.9	142.1	-	-	1.2	3.6
Dallas -----	2	123.7	-	<u>3/</u> 133.7	-	1.1	3.3
Milwaukee -----	2	122.2	138.0	-	-	1.1	2.7
San Diego -----	2	122.3	-	<u>4/</u> 128.5	-	1.2	3.5
Seattle -----	2	119.0	139.8	-	-	1.2	3.8
Washington -----	2	124.7	145.3	-	-	.4	3.1
		March 1972				December 1971	March 1971
Atlanta -----	3	123.8	142.3	-	-	.2	2.8
Baltimore -----	3	124.9	145.0	-	-	-.2	2.3
Cincinnati -----	3	123.0	139.6	-	-	.9	2.7
Honolulu -----	3	122.4	-	<u>5/</u> 132.0	-	1.1	4.9
Kansas City -----	3	122.4	145.3	-	-	.8	2.7
St. Louis -----	3	120.8	141.1	-	-	-.1	2.2
San Francisco-Oakland ---	3	122.9	146.2	-	-	.9	3.2

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

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

- M - Every month.
- 1 - January, April, July, and October.
- 2 - February, May, August, and November.
- 3 - March, June, September, and December.

3/ November 1963=100.

4/ February 1965=100.

5/ December 1963=100.

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

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.7	0.4	0.5
Food -----	.2	-.1	-.1	-.1	.4	.4
Housing -----	.2	.2	.5	.3	.3	.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	.5	.7	-.1	1.1	1.5	3.3
Transportation -----	.1	-.2	-1.1	3.3	-.2	.2
Health and recreation -----	.2	.3	.2	.3	.3	0
Medical care -----	.3	.2	.3	0	.1	0
Personal care -----	.3	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	.2	.3	.5	.3	.5	-.4
Other goods and services -----	.2	.2	.1	0	.3	.2

^{1/} See footnote 1, table 2.
^{2/} Not available.

TABLE 4. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers for selected groups, seasonally adjusted (1967=100)

Group	Indexes			Percent change to March 1972 From:	
	March 1972	February 1972	December 1971	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago
Food -----	122.6	122.4	120.5	0.2	1.7
Food at home -----	120.8	120.6	118.6	.2	1.9
Cereal and bakery products -----	114.8	114.3	113.7	.4	1.0
Meat, poultry, and fish -----	127.3	126.9	120.2	.3	5.9
Dairy products -----	117.5	116.9	115.8	.5	1.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.2	124.6	126.9	-2.7	-4.5
Other food at home -----	116.9	114.3	115.2	2.3	1.5
Fuel and utilities ^{1/} -----	119.5	119.3	117.7	.2	1.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.1	117.9	117.7	.2	.3
Apparel and upkeep ^{2/} -----	121.5	121.3	121.0	.2	.4
Men's and boys' -----	120.5	120.5	120.9	0	-.3
Women's and girls' -----	123.0	122.7	121.6	.2	1.2
Footwear -----	123.5	122.9	122.9	.5	.5
Transportation -----	118.9	118.7	118.5	.2	.3
Private -----	116.1	116.2	115.8	-.1	.3
New cars -----	111.3	111.2	108.9	.1	2.2
Commodities -----	119.9	119.6	118.8	.3	.9
Commodities less food -----	118.3	118.0	117.9	.3	.3
Nondurables -----	120.8	120.5	119.4	.2	1.2
Nondurables less food -----	119.0	118.8	118.4	.2	.5
Apparel commodities -----	121.8	121.6	121.2	.2	.5
Durables -----	117.7	117.5	117.1	.2	.5

^{1/} Also includes telephone, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.
^{2/} Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, jewelry, and apparel upkeep services not shown separately.

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

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items -----	124.0	123.2	125.0	121.2	130.0	125.8
Food -----	122.4	122.7	122.0	118.8	127.4	124.3
Food at home -----	120.6	121.5	121.0	117.6	124.6	121.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.8	117.0	115.7	111.3	116.6	116.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	126.8	128.2	130.1	125.9	130.5	126.1
Dairy products -----	117.3	117.0	117.2	114.5	120.6	120.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.4	121.7	114.0	115.9	127.7	123.8
Other foods at home -----	116.7	115.9	116.9	113.8	119.0	117.8
Food away from home -----	129.4	127.3	126.8	121.8	136.2	134.9
Housing -----	127.9	123.5	131.8	126.2	134.1	128.3
Shelter -----	132.7	127.3	141.6	129.0	139.6	136.1
Rent -----	117.7	112.0	(2/)	117.8	(2/)	122.9
Homeownership -----	138.2	134.2	146.2	132.4	151.9	139.5
Fuel and utilities -----	119.6	115.6	113.1	124.9	123.1	116.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.7	113.4	113.9	-	120.4	111.9
Gas and electricity -----	119.7	116.4	114.7	127.6	119.7	119.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	120.1	116.9	113.9	117.1	126.2	121.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	121.3	119.6	116.9	120.0	123.9	119.9
Men's and boys' -----	120.3	117.0	114.9	116.8	120.9	121.8
Women's and girls' -----	122.5	123.6	115.5	124.1	126.6	116.0
Footwear -----	123.5	116.2	122.3	122.0	123.1	125.3
Transportation -----	118.4	121.8	115.6	115.9	131.9	123.9
Private -----	115.9	115.5	112.9	115.9	124.0	120.7
Public -----	142.3	161.3	149.0	115.3	162.4	142.4
Health and recreation -----	125.0	126.0	127.7	119.6	129.3	128.5
Medical care -----	131.4	130.3	140.3	127.2	138.8	140.4
Personal care -----	118.7	118.0	(2/)	115.6	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	121.7	121.9	122.9	113.2	125.5	125.2
Other goods and services -----	124.6	130.0	121.3	118.3	129.1	124.2
Percent changes from December 1971 to March 1972						
All items -----	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.9	1.6	0.6
Food -----	1.7	2.6	2.3	1.9	1.8	1.9
Food at home -----	2.0	3.0	2.9	1.7	2.0	2.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	.9	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.2	.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	6.6	6.5	7.2	6.8	5.5	5.0
Dairy products -----	1.0	1.6	1.7	.3	1.6	.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	-2.4	1.6	-1.9	-4.2	-1.9	-2.2
Other foods at home -----	.1	-.3	1.1	1.1	-.3	.6
Food away from home -----	.9	1.0	.3	1.9	.9	1.6
Housing -----	.9	.8	.5	.7	1.6	.4
Shelter -----	.8	.7	.8	.6	1.7	.1
Rent -----	.7	3/ .2	(2/)	3/ .1	(2/)	3/ .5
Homeownership -----	.9	.8	.8	.8	2.2	-.2
Fuel and utilities -----	1.4	1.8	0	.9	1.2	.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	.5	0	0	-	.2	0
Gas and electricity -----	1.3	2.8	-.3	.6	1.5	-.3
Household furnishings and operation -----	.4	.5	.1	.7	1.3	.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	-.4	-.7	-.2	.8	1.2	-.1
Men's and boys' -----	-1.1	-1.2	-2.0	-.3	-.2	-2.4
Women's and girls' -----	-.6	-1.0	1.0	1.8	3.1	.1
Footwear -----	.3	-.7	.3	.2	.9	1.0
Transportation -----	-.2	-2.8	.9	.9	2.3	0
Private -----	-.3	-3.4	1.0	1.0	.2	-.1
Public -----	1.9	0	0	0	9.2	.1
Health and recreation -----	.9	1.6	1.3	.7	1.2	.2
Medical care -----	1.0	.9	2.0	.3	.7	.6
Personal care -----	.7	.1	(2/)	2.6	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	.5	.9	1.2	.8	.2	-.3
Other goods and services -----	1.3	3.9	.4	.3	2.6	.2

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

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	San Francisco	St. Louis
(Indexes 1967=100)							
All items -----	123.8	124.9	123.0	122.4	122.4	122.9	120.8
Food -----	122.6	123.9	123.6	123.2	122.8	119.8	120.8
Food at home -----	120.4	122.2	122.7	121.0	121.0	118.7	118.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	116.1	117.4	116.1	105.6	116.5	112.5	119.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	123.2	126.3	126.0	124.2	127.2	125.6	122.0
Dairy products -----	117.7	120.0	121.0	117.5	126.6	114.7	118.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.8	124.2	126.2	134.1	114.1	115.9	119.5
Other foods at home -----	116.7	118.7	119.5	118.3	116.3	116.4	111.4
Food away from home -----	129.8	130.1	127.1	129.4	128.6	123.8	131.9
Housing -----	129.7	128.6	122.9	123.7	124.6	129.2	121.0
Shelter -----	134.1	134.8	127.0	128.9	129.6	133.2	122.6
Rent -----	116.2	111.7	109.1	126.5	110.2	128.0	108.1
Homeownership -----	139.5	144.5	135.2	130.3	137.2	135.8	126.6
Fuel and utilities -----	124.0	117.0	121.1	109.8	115.7	126.4	117.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	114.9	-	-	-	-	119.7
Gas and electricity -----	122.2	117.0	117.6	104.4	116.8	118.1	121.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	123.2	122.1	113.3	114.6	117.3	117.5	120.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	117.0	124.3	121.4	120.4	126.2	120.2	120.2
Men's and boys' -----	121.4	129.1	123.5	113.6	125.2	121.7	116.5
Women's and girls' -----	111.5	119.5	116.3	124.9	129.3	120.5	123.0
Footwear -----	117.4	128.1	130.4	114.5	128.8	121.4	125.2
Transportation -----	112.3	115.4	119.2	(4/) ^{2/} 122.8	115.5	118.7	116.9
Private -----	114.9	114.4	113.6	(5/) ^{2/} 124.6	114.2	117.8	114.4
Public -----	77.7	121.6	162.3	112.8	137.0	134.6	145.5
Health and recreation -----	127.2	126.7	126.1	120.7	124.0	120.1	122.9
Medical care -----	138.0	140.1	136.3	126.5	127.8	125.8	125.1
Personal care -----	123.3	119.0	123.9	120.4	121.0	115.1	122.5
Reading and recreation -----	122.5	124.7	118.6	121.3	117.5	116.4	116.4
Other goods and services -----	118.9	119.9	124.0	113.7	129.1	118.6	126.9
Percent changes from December 1971 to March 1972							
All items -----	0.2	-0.2	0.9	1.1	0.8	0.9	-0.1
Food -----	2.5	.6	2.4	1.9	1.7	.8	1.2
Food at home -----	3.0	.7	2.8	2.5	2.3	.9	1.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	2.6	-.4	2.7	.9	-.4	2.3	-.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	8.0	4.0	7.6	2.5	8.0	5.8	7.1
Dairy products -----	1.1	1.7	2.3	2.8	2.0	-.1	-.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	-1.4	-4.4	-1.5	3.6	-2.5	-9.0	-3.9
Other foods at home -----	.7	-.7	.2	1.9	-.6	1.5	-.4
Food away from home -----	1.2	0	1.0	.3	.1	.2	.8
Housing -----	0	-.4	.7	.7	.7	.8	0
Shelter -----	-.3	-1.5	.6	.7	.9	.4	-.3
Rent -----	.8	.4	.4	.5	.3	.7	.1
Homeownership -----	-.6	-2.1	.7	.7	1.1	.2	-.5
Fuel and utilities -----	.5	2.2	2.0	.9	.4	4.5	.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	0	-	-	-	-	-.3
Gas and electricity -----	.4	.8	2.2	.1	-.1	.3	.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	.8	1.0	0	1.0	.4	.2	.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	.3	.1	-.6	1.1	1.4	.5	-.5
Men's and boys' -----	-.3	.3	-1.0	.9	1.8	2.8	.3
Women's and girls' -----	-.3	-.7	-.9	.7	1.9	-.6	-1.7
Footwear -----	2.4	.4	.4	.9	.7	.7	.6
Transportation -----	-2.9	-1.9	-2.1	.9	-.3	1.1	-3.1
Private -----	1.0	-2.1	-2.5	1.1	-.3	1.2	-3.4
Public -----	-44.7	.1	0	-.1	0	0	0
Health and recreation -----	.5	0	2.1	.7	1.1	1.3	.2
Medical care -----	.6	.4	2.9	.4	.8	1.3	1.0
Personal care -----	0	-1.3	2.4	1.9	.8	.4	.2
Reading and recreation -----	.5	-.1	-.5	.7	.7	1.8	.1
Other goods and services -----	.8	.3	3.4	.2	2.5	.8	-.7

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

^{2/} Not available.

^{3/} Change from January 1972.

^{4/} Corrected indexes: June 1970=112.6; September 1970=112.6; December 1970=115.2; March 1971=118.0.

^{5/} Corrected indexes: June 1970=115.3; September 1970=115.3; December 1970=118.3; March 1971=120.4.

TABLE 6. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, March 1972 indexes and percent changes from February 1972

Area ^{1/}	Total food	Food at home						Food away from home
		Total	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Other foods at home	
Indexes (1967=100)								
U.S. City Average -----	122.4	120.6	114.8	126.8	117.3	121.4	116.7	129.4
Atlanta -----	122.6	120.4	116.1	123.2	117.7	127.8	116.7	129.8
Baltimore -----	123.9	122.2	117.4	126.3	120.0	124.2	118.7	130.1
Boston -----	122.3	121.1	113.4	130.1	116.6	121.7	114.3	126.8
Buffalo -----	122.8	121.5	117.1	126.7	116.4	123.8	118.2	130.1
Chicago -----	122.7	121.5	117.0	128.2	117.0	121.7	115.9	127.3
Cincinnati -----	123.6	122.7	116.1	126.0	121.0	126.2	119.5	127.1
Cleveland -----	122.1	121.5	110.8	127.8	122.8	121.0	117.1	125.9
Dallas -----	122.1	119.1	113.2	125.6	113.4	120.6	115.4	133.2
Detroit -----	122.0	121.0	115.7	130.1	117.2	114.0	116.9	126.8
Honolulu -----	123.2	121.0	105.6	124.2	117.5	134.1	118.3	129.4
Houston -----	124.0	120.3	112.0	126.9	118.4	122.3	116.1	136.8
Kansas City -----	122.8	121.0	116.5	127.2	126.6	114.1	116.3	128.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	118.8	117.6	111.3	125.9	114.5	115.9	113.8	121.8
Milwaukee -----	119.4	118.1	116.5	126.1	114.3	115.6	112.1	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	122.8	120.8	122.0	128.9	114.9	116.3	118.6	131.4
New York -----	127.4	124.6	116.6	130.5	129.6	127.7	119.0	136.2
Philadelphia -----	124.3	121.9	116.0	126.1	120.5	123.8	117.8	134.9
Pittsburgh -----	123.1	121.6	117.3	125.2	119.7	122.9	119.1	132.1
St. Louis -----	120.8	118.4	119.2	122.0	118.6	119.5	111.4	131.9
San Diego -----	121.8	119.0	112.1	131.4	113.1	114.0	112.4	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	119.8	118.7	112.5	125.6	114.7	115.9	116.4	123.8
Seattle -----	119.0	117.2	110.6	123.2	116.0	114.9	115.2	125.0
Washington -----	124.0	120.5	116.4	122.8	111.4	126.8	121.0	132.7
Percent changes from February 1972 to March 1972								
U.S. City Average -----	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	- 2.0	1.0	0.4
Atlanta -----	.4	.5	.6	.1	.3	- 1.1	2.1	.3
Baltimore -----	.6	.7	3.2	.4	1.6	- 1.7	.8	0
Boston -----	.9	1.1	.3	1.6	.3	.7	1.8	.2
Buffalo -----	-.1	-.2	-.3	0	.3	- 1.1	.7	.5
Chicago -----	-.1	-.3	-.1	-.2	.2	- 1.2	-.2	.6
Cincinnati -----	0	-.1	.4	-.3	0	- 1.6	1.6	.4
Cleveland -----	-.3	.4	-.6	.6	.5	- 2.1	2.4	0
Dallas -----	-.3	-.3	-.4	-.2	1.4	- 3.5	.6	.2
Detroit -----	-.1	-.1	1.3	-.8	.4	- 1.6	1.7	.2
Honolulu -----	-.4	-.7	-.7	1.0	.1	- 5.2	.7	.3
Houston -----	.6	.6	.2	.4	3.1	-.6	.8	.5
Kansas City -----	0	.1	.4	.4	.5	- 2.4	.9	-.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	-.1	-.4	.4	.5	.2	- 4.8	.9	.7
Milwaukee -----	0	0	-.3	.6	0	- 1.3	0	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.7	.8	1.0	1.3	.6	- 1.9	1.9	.2
New York -----	.4	.2	1.0	.2	0	-.9	1.0	.7
Philadelphia -----	.4	.4	.3	1.0	.2	- 1.3	1.0	.6
Pittsburgh -----	.4	.4	.8	1.0	-.1	- 1.9	1.5	.1
St. Louis -----	-.1	-.3	-.8	1.6	-.3	- 3.9	.3	.5
San Diego -----	0	0	0	1.4	0	- 4.8	1.5	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	-.3	-.5	-.1	.8	-.1	- 6.1	1.6	.1
Seattle -----	-.5	-.7	-.2	.8	.3	- 5.6	0	.2
Washington -----	.2	.1	1.3	1.1	.4	- 3.2	.6	.3

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

^{2/} Not Available.

TABLE 7. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items March 1972 indexes and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to March 1972 from:		
	March 1972		February 1972		March 1971
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Total food -----	122.4	122.6	0.2	0.2	4.6
Food away from home -----	129.4	-	.4	-	4.1
Restaurant meals -----	129.3	-	.5	-	4.2
Snacks -----	130.2	-	.2	-	3.6
Food at home -----	120.6	120.8	.1	.2	4.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.8	114.8	.4	.4	1.6
Flour -----	100.8	-	-.1	-	1.0
Cracker meal -----	134.9	-	-.7	-	5.4
Corn flakes -----	102.0	-	-.2	-	- 7.0
Rice -----	110.0	-	-.3	-	1.0
Bread, white -----	113.2	-	.4	-	1.8
Bread, whole wheat -----	119.2	-	-.1	-	2.8
Cookies -----	110.7	-	.9	-	3.4
Layer cake -----	120.4	-	1.0	-	1.1
Cinnamon rolls -----	120.0	-	.7	-	2.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	126.8	127.3	.4	.3	9.7
Meats -----	127.9	128.8	.3	.4	10.6
Beef and veal -----	137.1	137.8	.7	.7	12.0
Steak, round -----	137.5	138.1	.2	.4	13.5
Steak, sirloin -----	132.3	-	.2	-	11.3
Steak, porterhouse -----	134.8	-	.3	-	12.7
Rump roast -----	135.4	-	.6	-	12.6
Rib roast -----	140.1	141.2	.6	1.0	14.9
Chuck roast -----	141.2	140.9	1.2	1.1	13.1
Hamburger -----	137.3	138.0	1.0	1.0	10.1
Beef liver -----	121.3	-	2.5	-	7.4
Veal cutlets -----	157.4	147.2	.8	.3	15.7
Pork -----	118.2	119.3	- 1.0	-.9	11.5
Chops -----	119.0	120.7	- 4.2	- 3.6	9.8
Loin roast -----	119.5	-	- 1.6	-	11.7
Pork sausage -----	123.5	-	2.7	-	10.3
Ham, whole -----	114.3	113.2	1.5	1.8	7.2
Picnics -----	123.8	-	.9	-	12.2
Bacon -----	112.6	114.8	- 1.2	- 1.4	16.6
Other meats -----	121.6	122.0	1.1	1.1	6.2
Lamb chops -----	127.3	-	.2	-	7.2
Frankfurters -----	123.3	124.3	1.6	1.2	8.0
Ham, canned -----	112.7	-	1.2	-	4.6
Bologna sausage -----	126.3	-	1.4	-	7.7
Salami sausage -----	122.5	-	2.3	-	6.4
Liverwurst -----	117.5	-	-.1	-	3.1
Poultry -----	111.6	-	.8	-	3.5
Frying chicken -----	111.0	110.6	.8	.2	3.3
Chicken breasts -----	112.5	-	.4	-	5.4
Turkey -----	113.7	-	1.3	-	3.0
Fish -----	138.3	138.2	.9	1.2	8.3
Shrimp, frozen -----	131.9	-	2.8	-	15.2
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	144.9	145.3	-.1	.4	5.2
Tuna fish, canned -----	132.0	-	1.2	-	3.2
Sardines, canned -----	144.1	-	0	-	10.2
Dairy products -----	117.3	117.5	.3	.5	2.7
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	116.9	117.1	.4	.5	2.8
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	120.0	-	.5	-	2.7
Milk, fresh, skim -----	121.8	-	.4	-	3.0
Milk, evaporated -----	120.8	-	-.1	-	4.2
Ice cream -----	107.1	-	.9	-	1.6
Cheese, American process -----	123.4	123.2	0	-.1	3.4
Butter -----	105.8	106.1	0	-.3	-.1

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 7. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items March 1972 indexes and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to March 1972 from:		
	March 1972		February 1972		March 1971
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Fruits and vegetables -----	121.4	121.2	- 2.0	- 2.7	4.7
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	122.3	121.8	- 3.5	- 5.0	3.9
Apples -----	112.2	116.9	2.1	- 1.3	3.5
Bananas -----	98.3	98.0	- 2.1	- 4.7	2.4
Oranges -----	121.3	127.1	- .6	- .9	4.3
Orange juice, fresh -----	130.7	-	.1	-	12.0
Grapefruit -----	124.6	142.2	2.9	5.1	13.8
Grapes 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Strawberries 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Watermelon 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Potatoes -----	115.4	119.5	.6	.1	3.8
Onions -----	105.1	103.4	- 1.6	- 2.9	10.2
Asparagus 1/ -----	163.5	-	(1/)	-	2.3
Cabbage -----	133.4	126.1	- 7.4	- 3.7	11.4
Carrots -----	143.8	148.7	1.0	8.3	32.4
Celery -----	164.3	173.7	- 4.5	.5	54.3
Cucumbers -----	145.5	-	- 1.8	-	7.8
Lettuce -----	106.4	112.5	- 30.0	- 33.2	- 10.3
Peppers, green -----	147.8	-	10.1	-	- 7.4
Spinach -----	135.8	-	- 5.2	-	7.1
Tomatoes -----	112.9	109.0	- 19.8	- 22.3	- 18.2
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	119.9	-	.3	-	5.6
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	121.4	-	.4	-	5.4
Pears, canned -----	117.2	-	-.1	-	1.1
Pineapple-Grapefruit juice, drink -----	115.2	-	.7	-	2.5
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	136.6	136.1	.5	.4	16.2
Lemonade concentrate, frozen -----	117.8	-	.3	-	4.9
Beets, canned -----	119.8	-	.7	-	6.6
Peas, green, canned -----	107.9	-	-.6	-	2.6
Tomatoes, canned -----	115.5	-	.2	-	.3
Dried beans -----	136.5	-	.8	-	19.8
Broccoli, frozen -----	119.0	-	.4	-	2.0
Other food at home -----	116.7	116.9	1.0	2.3	1.0
Eggs -----	107.5	108.0	6.0	16.1	- 3.1
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	118.6	-	.4	-	4.0
Salad dressing, Italian -----	110.8	-	.4	-	2.9
Salad or cooking oil -----	123.7	-	-.2	-	5.5
Sugar and sweets -----	121.2	-	.6	-	2.6
Sugar -----	114.9	-	.5	-	3.1
Grape jelly -----	124.5	-	1.5	-	7.1
Chocolate bar -----	130.6	-	-.1	-	.2
Syrup, chocolate flavored -----	113.5	-	.1	-	.1
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	120.9	-	.2	-	-.7
Coffee, can and bag -----	118.3	-	0	-	- 4.4
Coffee, instant -----	125.1	-	-.3	-	1.7
Tea -----	108.1	-	.9	-	.6
Cola drink -----	128.1	-	.2	-	2.6
Carbonated fruit drink -----	128.2	-	.5	-	2.8
Prepared and partially prepared foods -----	114.4	-	.3	-	2.2
Bean soup, canned -----	116.2	-	.4	-	2.7
Chicken soup, canned -----	106.4	-	-.5	-	-.3
Spaghetti, canned -----	116.8	-	-.8	-	-.3
Mashed potatoes, instant -----	112.3	-	.1	-	1.7
Potatoes, french fried, frozen -----	110.4	-	.4	-	-.2
Baby foods, canned -----	111.4	-	.2	-	.9
Sweet pickle relish -----	124.4	-	1.6	-	8.5
Pretzels -----	115.2	-	.6	-	3.6

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, March 1972 and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to March 1972 from	
		March 1972	February 1972	February 1972	March 1971
Housing -----		127.9	127.6	.2	4.5
Shelter 1/ -----		132.7	132.5	.2	4.7
Rent -----		117.7	117.5	.2	3.3
Homeownership costs 2/ -----		138.2	138.0	.1	5.3
Mortgage interest -----		117.7	118.2	-.4	- 3.5
Property taxes -----		143.6	141.8	1.3	12.7
Property insurance rates -----		122.4	122.4	0	4.6
Maintenance and repairs -----		138.6	138.0	.4	6.3
Commodities 3/ -----		122.0	121.3	.6	4.5
Exterior house paint -----		118.2	117.9	.3	2.3
Interior house paint -----		116.3	115.6	.6	2.8
Services -----		145.9	145.2	.5	7.1
Repainting living and dining rooms -----		155.6	155.1	.3	8.9
Reshingling house roof -----		153.0	152.3	.5	10.2
Residing house -----		133.9	133.7	.1	4.4
Sink replacement -----		145.1	144.2	.6	5.6
Furnace repair -----		152.2	151.2	.7	8.2
Fuel and utilities -----		119.6	119.3	.3	5.1
Fuel oil and coal -----		118.7	118.7	0	1.1
Fuel oil, #2 -----		116.5	116.5	0	.4
Gas and electricity -----		119.7	119.4	.3	5.6
Gas -----		122.2	121.9	.2	6.4
Electricity -----		117.2	117.0	.2	4.6
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services -----		113.5	113.5	0	7.1
Residential water and sewerage services -----		137.7	136.4	1.0	3.8
Household furnishings and operation 4/ -----		120.1	119.6	.4	3.2
Housefurnishings -----		115.6	115.0	.5	1.9
Textiles -----		113.2	112.1	1.0	1.7
Sheets, percale or muslin -----		114.4	114.1	.3	-.3
Curtains, tailored, polyester -----		110.9	111.2	-.3	1.9
Bedspreads, chiefly cotton -----		109.8	106.9	2.7	1.5
Drapery fabric, cotton or rayon/acetate -----		121.2	119.6	1.3	3.1
Pillows, bed, polyester, acrylic, or kapok -----		108.2	107.3	.8	.7
Slipcover, throws, ready made chiefly cotton -----		114.6	113.0	1.4	3.2
Furniture and bedding -----		120.7	119.5	1.0	2.2
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser -----	Mar. 70	104.6	104.1	.5	2.1
Living room suites, good and inexpensive quality --		119.7	119.0	.6	0
Cocktail table -----	Dec. 71	99.5	99.7	-.2	0
Dining room chairs -----	Mar. 70	104.2	103.3	.9	1.6
Recliner, upholstered -----	Dec. 71	98.6	98.2	.4	0
Sofas, dual purpose -----		116.9	115.9	.9	-.3
Bedding, mattress and box springs -----		104.4	104.4	0	1.6
Aluminum folding chair 5/ -----	June 70	121.9	(5/)	8.5	10.4
Cribs -----		119.0	118.1	.8	1.6
Floor coverings -----		106.3	106.1	.2	.1
Broadloom, carpeting, manmade fibers -----		101.5	101.4	.1	-.8
Vinyl sheet goods -----		116.7	116.3	.3	3.1
Vinyl asbestos tile -----		117.8	117.6	.2	.9
Appliances 6/ -----		105.8	105.7	.1	.8
Washing machines, electric, automatic -----		110.6	110.4	.2	1.5
Vacuum cleaners, canister type -----		103.7	103.8	-.1	.8
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric -----		108.3	108.3	0	.5
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric -----		110.5	110.4	.1	.5
Clothes dryers, electric, automatic -----		113.6	113.5	.1	1.9
Air conditioners, demountable -----		110.4	(5/)	(5/)	1.2
Room heaters, electric, portable 5/ -----		108.5	108.4	.1	1.3
Garbage disposal units -----		111.0	111.0	0	1.6
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, earthenware -----		122.2	121.0	1.0	5.3
Flatware, stainless steel -----		121.4	122.2	-.7	1.6
Table lamps, with shade -----		121.7	122.2	-.4	2.0
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type -----		117.1	(5/)	(5/)	.8
Electric drills, hand held -----		105.3	106.2	-.8	1.2
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents -----		111.2	111.0	.2	2.9
Paper napkins -----		128.9	128.4	.4	3.0
Toilet tissue -----		125.1	124.8	.2	1.5
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic service, general housework -----		136.9	136.4	.4	3.8
Baby sitter service -----		134.8	133.8	.7	5.4
Postal charges -----		146.6	146.6	0	21.2
Laundry, flatwork, finished service -----		137.0	136.6	.3	4.5
Licensed day care service, preschool child -----		120.3	120.0	.3	2.4
Washing machine repairs -----		138.9	138.4	.4	5.2

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

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to March 1972 from:	
		March 1972	February 1972	February 1972	March 1971
Apparel and upkeep 7/ -----		121.3	120.7	.5	2.3
Apparel commodities -----		121.6	120.9	.6	2.4
Apparel commodities less footwear -----		121.3	120.6	.6	2.4
Men's and boys' -----		120.3	119.7	.5	.8
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends 5/ -----		119.3	119.5	-.2	-.3
Suits, year round weight -----		127.6	125.6	1.6	.2
Suits, tropical weight 5/ -----		130.9	(5/)	(5/)	2.4
Jackets, lightweight -----		115.0	112.7	2.0	1.0
Slacks, wool or wool blends -----		115.7	116.3	-.5	-.2
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends -----		137.4	137.1	.2	4.5
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		114.4	114.4	0	2.0
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		114.5	114.2	.3	2.2
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton -----		112.4	112.7	-.3	-.5
T-shirts, chiefly cotton -----		117.8	118.0	-.2	-1.0
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers -----		116.2	114.9	1.1	0
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		116.2	116.0	.2	1.8
Boys':					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blend 5/ -		112.3	114.8	-2.2	-3.1
Sport coats, wool or wool blend 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blend -----		126.8	126.1	.6	4.9
Undershorts, cotton -----		120.5	120.6	-.1	.6
Women's and girls' -----		122.5	121.7	.7	3.6
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blend 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Sweaters, wool or acrylic 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers 5/ -		(5/)	125.3	(5/)	(5/)
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers -----		122.2	122.9	-.6	.2
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber -----		130.4	131.3	-.7	3.6
Dresses, street, wool or wool blend 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Slips, nylon -----		110.5	111.0	-.5	-.1
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot -----		116.5	116.3	.2	1.1
Girdles, manmade blend -----		117.4	117.2	.2	2.4
Brassiers, nylon lace -----		121.6	121.3	.2	2.2
Hose, or panty hose, nylon seamless -----		97.5	97.7	-.2	-2.2
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers -		116.1	115.8	.3	-.2
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton -----		110.3	109.8	.5	.9
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic -----		141.5	140.2	.9	10.5
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl cotton, or polyester blends --		116.8	117.3	-.4	3.2
Skirts, wool, wool blends, or acrylic 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends 5/ --		119.2	107.2	11.2	13.8
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Slips, polyester blends -----		112.1	112.1	0	1.4
Handbags, plastic -----		128.8	127.5	1.0	.7
Footwear -----		123.5	122.7	.7	2.5
Men's:					
Shoes, street -----		121.6	119.9	1.4	2.5
Shoes, work, high -----		121.3	121.4	-.1	3.3
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump -----		124.6	123.8	.6	1.3
Shoes, evening, pump -----		121.4	120.5	.7	.8
Shoes, casual -----		125.5	124.7	.6	2.6
House slippers, scuff -----		124.2	124.0	.2	3.6
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford -----		124.6	123.6	.8	3.2
Sneakers, boys', oxford type -----		122.3	121.5	.7	3.8
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump -----		128.7	128.7	0	4.2
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable -----		113.2	113.0	.2	1.8
Yard goods, polyester blend -----		118.9	120.5	-1.3	-2.4
Wrist watches, men's and women's -----		114.3	114.0	.3	2.0
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses ----		117.4	117.4	0	1.1
Automatic laundry service -----		114.2	114.3	-.1	-.6
Laundry, men's shirts -----		120.9	120.7	.2	1.9
Tailoring charge, hem adjustment -----		132.1	131.8	.2	4.1
Shoe repair, women's heel lift -----		114.0	113.8	.2	3.9

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

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to March 1972 from:	
		March 1972	February 1972	February 1972	March 1971
Transportation -----		118.4	118.3	.1	.5
Private 8/ -----		115.9	115.7	.2	0
Automobiles, new -----		111.7	111.9	-.2	- 2.3
Automobiles, used -----		103.9	103.0	.9	- 2.7
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		106.1	105.7	.4	.3
Motor oil, premium -----		122.7	122.5	.2	3.7
Tires, new, tubeless -----		116.6	117.4	-.7	1.3
Auto repairs and maintenance 9/ -----		134.0	133.6	.3	5.5
Auto insurance rates -----		140.9	140.8	.1	.6
Auto registration -----		127.1	127.1	0	4.4
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		138.3	138.0	.2	2.5
Public -----		142.3	143.5	-.8	4.6
Local transit fares -----		148.4	150.3	- 1.3	3.7
Taxicab fares -----		132.9	132.8	.1	11.6
Railroad fares, coach -----		126.9	128.2	- 1.0	.6
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		129.6	129.6	0	4.4
Bus fares, intercity -----		137.6	136.1	1.1	5.4
Health and recreation -----		125.0	124.7	.2	3.6
Medical care -----		131.4	131.0	.3	3.6
Drugs and prescriptions -----		105.5	105.5	0	.6
Over-the-counter items -----		110.8	110.6	.2	.8
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		95.1	95.0	.1	- 3.2
Aspirin compounds -----		115.0	114.5	.4	1.9
Liquid tonics -----		101.2	101.2	0	-.5
Adhesive bandages, package -----		123.9	123.7	.2	2.5
Cold tablets or capsules -----		113.5	113.1	.4	3.4
Cough syrup -----		112.9	112.7	.2	-.4
Prescriptions -----		101.1	101.2	-.1	-.4
Anti-infectives -----		76.7	77.4	-.9	- 5.0
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		125.1	124.9	.2	3.0
Ataractics -----		102.8	102.7	.1	1.4
Anti-spasmodics -----		107.8	107.7	.1	2.0
Cough preparations -----		128.5	127.8	.5	3.2
Cardiovasculars and anti-hypertensives -----		111.8	111.8	0	1.8
Analgesics, internal -----		109.2	109.1	.1	1.7
Anti-obesity -----		117.5	117.7	-.2	5.3
Hormones -----		93.8	94.0	-.2	- 1.2
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees -----		132.9	132.6	.2	3.8
General physician, office visits -----		134.0	133.5	.4	3.2
General physician, house visits -----		135.5	135.1	.3	5.3
Obstetrical cases -----		132.8	132.3	.4	5.2
Pediatric care, office visits -----		135.5	135.6	-.1	4.2
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		128.5	128.3	.2	4.1
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		127.4	127.0	.3	4.8
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		129.2	129.2	0	5.6
Dentists' fees -----		131.0	130.6	.3	5.0
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		132.3	131.8	.4	5.4
Extractions, adult -----		131.0	130.6	.3	4.6
Dentures, full upper -----		128.3	128.3	0	4.4
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		124.0	123.8	.2	5.0
Routine laboratory tests -----		119.4	118.9	.4	4.1
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	101.2	100.6	.6	(10/)
Semiprivate rooms -----		172.2	171.1	.6	8.2
Operating room charges -----		-	-	-	-
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----		-	-	-	-
Laboratory test, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	101.4	100.9	.5	(10/)
Anti-infective, Tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	100.0	99.7	.3	(10/)
Tranquilizer, Chlordiazepoxide, HCL -----	Jan. 72	99.9	99.7	.2	(10/)
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	102.5	101.0	.6	(10/)
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	101.4	100.5	.9	(10/)
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	100.7	100.5	.2	(10/)
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	101.5	101.2	.3	(10/)
Personal care -----		118.7	118.4	.3	2.5
Toilet goods -----		115.8	115.4	.3	2.7
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		109.5	109.6	-.1	2.1
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		121.1	120.3	.7	10.5
Hand lotions, liquid -----		123.8	124.0	-.2	3.3
Shaving cream aerosol -----		107.2	106.4	.8	2.1
Face powder, pressed -----		125.1	123.1	1.6	.9
Deodorants, aerosol -----		105.6	105.0	.6	.1
Cleansing tissues -----		123.4	123.1	.2	.7
Home permanent wave kits -----		110.5	111.3	-.7	.6
Personal care services -----		121.7	121.5	.2	2.3
Men's haircuts -----		124.2	124.1	.1	2.1
Beauty shop services -----		119.9	119.7	.2	2.4
Women's haircuts -----		120.5	120.2	.2	1.9
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		123.5	123.2	.2	2.8
Permanent waves, cold -----		111.8	111.6	.2	2.2

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

(1967=100 unless otherwise Specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to March 1972 from:	
		March 1972	February 1972	February 1972	March 1971
Reading and recreation 11/ -----		121.7	121.5	.2	3.4
Recreational goods -----		107.6	107.3	.3	1.7
TV sets, portable and console -----		100.0	99.7	.3	.1
TV replacement tubes -----		128.8	126.9	1.5	6.1
Radios, portable and table mode! -----		98.5	98.4	.1	.2
Tape recorders, portable -----		93.3	93.3	0	- 2.6
Phonograph records, stereophonic -----		106.6	107.0	-.4	7.1
Movie cameras, Super 8, zoom lens -----		88.8	88.7	.1	- 1.3
Film, 35mm, color -----		108.3	108.3	0	.2
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core -----		105.0	105.0	0	.9
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover -----		125.7	126.2	-.4	4.3
Fishing rods, fresh water spincasting -----		107.3	108.8	- 1.4	- 2.2
Bowling balls -----		113.2	112.9	.3	3.2
Bicycles, boys' -----		114.9	114.2	.6	4.1
Tricycles -----		113.4	113.0	.4	2.8
Dog food, canned or boxed -----		110.4	109.6	.7	2.7
Recreational services -----		127.3	127.0	.2	3.2
Indoor movie admissions -----		139.2	138.6	.4	2.3
Adult -----		138.2	137.1	.8	1.8
Children's -----		141.8	142.8	-.7	3.5
Drive-in movie admissions, adult -----		143.7	143.5	.1	5.7
Bowling fees, evening -----		119.1	118.4	.6	2.8
Golf green fees 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
TV repair, color picture tube replacement -----		98.3	98.5	-.2	.8
Film developing, color -----		118.2	118.3	-.1	3.1
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery -----		130.8	130.8	0	2.0
Magazines, single copy and subscription -----		124.9	124.9	0	1.7
Piano lessons, beginner -----		122.1	122.0	.1	1.1
Other goods and services -----		124.6	124.3	.2	4.4
Tobacco products -----		132.5	132.0	.4	6.8
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size -----		133.7	113.2	.4	6.4
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size -----		134.8	134.3	.4	7.4
Cigars, domestic, regular size -----		110.6	110.3	.3	4.5
Alcoholic beverages -----		118.9	118.7	.2	.27
Beer -----		113.9	113.6	.3	1.6
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon -----		108.5	108.5	0	2.6
Wine, dessert and table -----		125.9	125.6	.2	5.1
Away from home -----		129.1	129.0	.1	3.2
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult -----		120.6	120.2	.3	4.1
Bank service charges, checking accounts -----		108.2	108.5	-.3	- 2.8
Legal services, short form will -----		141.9	141.8	.1	6.5
Other special groups:					
All items less shelter -----		121.8	121.5	.2	3.2
Commodities less food -----		118.2	117.8	.3	2.3
Nondurables less food and apparel -----		117.3	117.0	.3	2.9
Household services less rent -----		137.7	137.4	.2	5.8
Transportation services -----		135.5	135.7	-.1	2.7
Other services -----		124.7	124.5	.2	2.9

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

2/ Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

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

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

5/ Priced only in season.

6/ Also includes radios and television sets, shown separately under reading and recreation.

7/ Also includes men's sweaters, sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' robes, cotton and polyester blend skirts, shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

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

9/ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front

end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

10/ Not available.

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

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

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

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

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 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 following example illustrates the computation of index point and percent changes:

CPI	123.8
less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
index point differences =	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 seasonally adjustment factors and seasonally adjusted indexes carried to two decimal places. This procedure helps to eliminate rounding error in the percent changes.

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

ing 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 are also used extensively for escalation purposes. Many collective bargaining contract agreements and pensions plans, for example, tie compensation changes to the Consumer Price Index unadjusted for seasonally variation.

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

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

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

Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items .....	.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

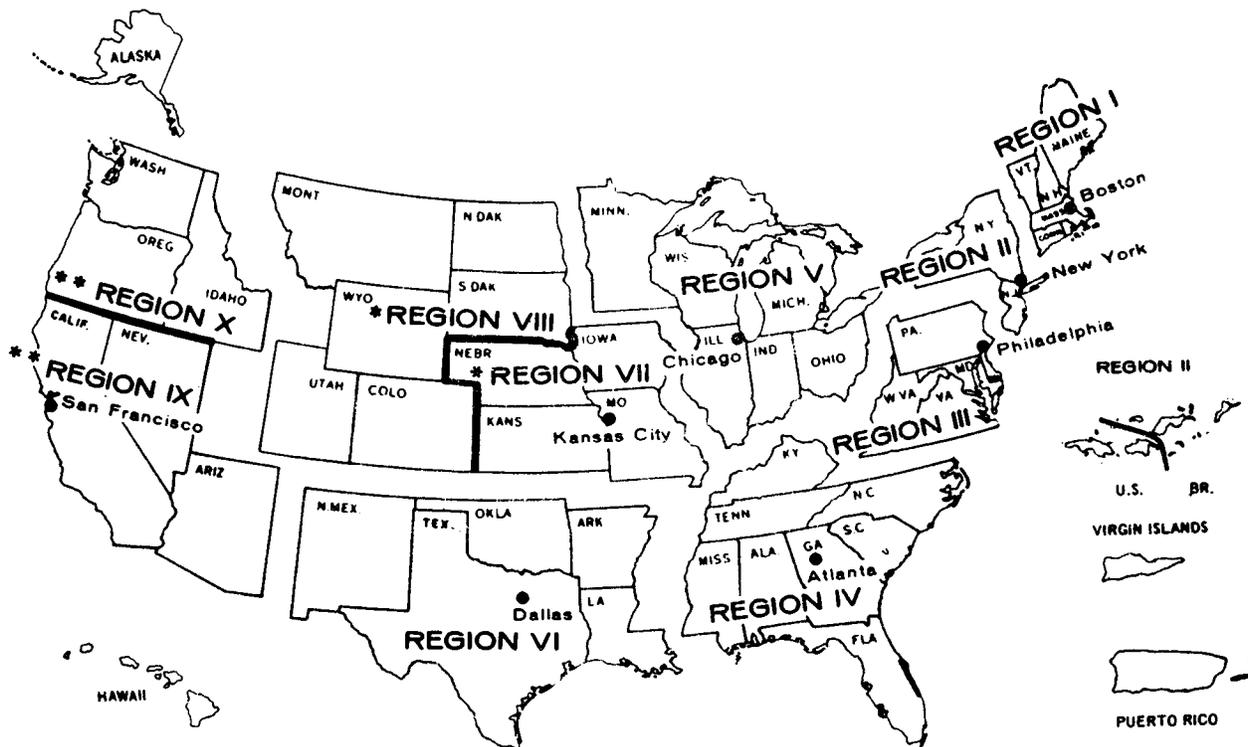
Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. As the table indicates, for example, a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all-items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might 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 1971 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances

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

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