



the consumer price index

for March 1974

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

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Price Movements

March 1974

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 1.1 percent in March to 143.1 of its 1967 base. Higher prices for gasoline and food each accounted for about one-fourth of the rise in the index. The remainder of the increase was due to higher prices for many other consumer goods and services, notably apparel, gas, electricity, postal charges, and physicians' fees. The March CPI was 10.2 percent higher than a year earlier.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the CPI rose 1.1 percent in March, following increases of 1.0 percent in January and 1.3 percent in February. The increase in the food index of 0.8 percent in March was considerably less than the rise in the preceding 2 months. The increase in the index for nonfood commodities was unusually large for the third consecutive month. The services index rose 0.8 percent, following increases of 0.7 percent in the preceding 2 months.

Prices in the first quarter

In the calendar quarter ended in March, the CPI rose at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 14.5 percent, compared with 9.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 1973. Price rises at an annual rate of 21.3 percent for food and 16.0 percent for nonfood commodities were twice as fast as increases in the final quarter of last year. Charges for services rose at a 9.2 percent rate in the first quarter, about the same as in the preceding quarter. The rate of increase in a variety of commodities and services accelerated in the first quarter. Excluding food and energy items, the rise in the CPI was 8.8 percent, at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate, up from 5.5 percent in the fourth quarter. The acceleration in the first quarter reflected the continued effects of commodity shortages in some sectors which developed during 1973, the Arab oil embargo, decontrol of prices during Phase 4 of the Economic Stabilization Program, and regulation of the Federal Energy Office governing petroleum prices.

Changes in retail prices of goods and some services are affected by changes in prices of finished products at the wholesale level. Wholesale prices of finished goods, in turn, are responsive to changes in prices of materials at crude and intermediate stages of processing. In the

first quarter, wholesale prices of raw food products rose, after declining in late 1973. The rate of advance in prices of most industrial raw materials and products at the intermediate stage of production accelerated. Prices of crude petroleum, coal, and gas fuels continued to rise. Large increases occurred among chemicals, rubber, paper, nonmetallic mineral products, and particularly metals and metal products. Prices rose for metal cans, heating equipment, plumbing fixtures, aluminum siding, and other metal products, in response to large increases in the past year for all types of nonferrous metals. Prices of steel mill products, which had moved up at a relatively moderate rate in 1973, were raised in the first quarter with the approval of the Cost of Living Council. On the other hand, wholesale prices continued to decline for several agricultural-related industrial commodities—hides and skins and plant and animal fibers, and prices of textile products increased at a slower rate than in 1973.

The behavior of both retail and wholesale prices in the first quarter was also influenced by changes in Phase IV regulations. Starting in late 1973, Phase 4 wage and price controls were eased or terminated on a selective basis in different sectors of the economy. On February 1, most retail concerns—except food and automotive concerns—were decontrolled. This reduced the portion of the Consumer Price Index covered by controls to 28 percent from about 43 percent in the fourth quarter. Mandatory controls on health services were also eased somewhat in early 1974. In the first quarter, controls were removed from manufacturing industries such as fertilizers, paper, some nonferrous metals, rubber goods, petrochemicals, and others in which price restraints had contributed to the supply problem. In early February, about 40 percent of the Wholesale Price index was covered by controls. Large concerns, which were still subject to Phase 4 regulations, were required to give a 30-day prenotification of price increases; cost increases were allowed to be passed through on a dollar-for-dollar basis; and profit margins were limited. Prices in most sectors of the economy were expected to be decontrolled before April 30 when the legislative authority for controls would lapse if not extended, and the Economic Stabilization Program, which began in August 1971, would be terminated.

Food. Following an upsurge in farm products prices early in the first quarter, food prices at wholesale and retail levels increased at a faster rate than in the fourth quarter of last year. In the first quarter, retail prices of all categories of food purchased in grocery stores increased; in the fourth quarter of last year, prices of meats, poultry, and eggs declined. The increase in meat and poultry prices, however, occurred early in the quarter when supplies were curtailed primarily by the truckers' strike. But the late 1973 downtrend resumed before the end of the first quarter due to a combination of strong consumer resistance to higher prices and an end to the strike. (See tables B and 2.)

Among other categories of food, price increases for cereal and bakery products, dairy products, and processed fruits and vegetables remained substantial, but the increases were not as large as they were in late 1973. Fresh vegetable prices rose sharply in the first quarter as a result of smaller production of winter crops, particularly potatoes. Prices for sugar and sugar-based items and coffee increased as prices for raw sugar, cocoa beans, and coffee beans rose in response to rising worldwide demand and substandard crops in growing areas.

Some easing of upward pressures on food prices was evident at the end of the first quarter when wholesale prices of many farm products began to decline, including

prices of grains and animal feeds. Prices declined in response to rising world production, the weakness in livestock markets, and the reappearance of Peruvian anchovies which are used in animal feeds. In addition, the end of the Arab oil embargo in March reduced speculative trading.

Nonfood commodities. Although the increase in the food index in the CPI decelerated at the end of the first quarter, the increase in the nonfood commodities index remained unusually large throughout the quarter. About half of the rise in the nonfood commodities index in the first quarter was due to increases in prices of gasoline and motor oil. Price rises for gasoline accelerated sharply reflecting higher wholesale costs of gasoline which service station owners were allowed to pass through. In addition, the Federal Energy Office allowed independent service station owners an additional increase to compensate for the lower volume of gasoline sales.

Fuel oil prices rose sharply in the fourth quarter and early in the first quarter; however, the increase slowed in February, and prices declined slightly in March. Fuel oil prices weakened in response to large inventories resulting from warmer-than-normal weather, consumer energy conservation, refinery maximization of distillate production, and lower import prices.

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items	
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	Compound annual rate	From 12 months ago
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	From 3 months ago	
								Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
1973:									
March	0.9	0.9	2.6	2.4	0.5	0.5	0.3	8.6	4.7
April .....	.7	.6	1.5	1.4	.7	.4	.4	9.2	5.1
May .....	.6	.6	1.0	1.1	.6	.4	.4	8.7	5.5
June .....	.7	.6	1.4	.9	.6	.5	.4	7.4	5.9
July .....	.2	.2	.8	.5	-.2	.1	.2	5.7	5.7
August	1.8	1.9	6.0	6.1	.2	.5	.7	11.4	7.5
September .....	.3	.3	-.7	-.1	.4	.1	.9	10.3	7.4
October .....	.8	.8	.1	.5	.9	.5	1.1	13.0	7.9
November .....	.7	.8	1.1	1.4	.7	.7	.6	8.0	8.4
December .....	.7	.5	.9	.3	.6	.7	.6	9.0	8.8
1974:									
January .....	.9	1.0	1.6	1.6	.6	1.3	.7	9.9	9.4
February	1.3	1.3	2.5	2.5	1.0	1.0	.7	12.1	10.0
March	1.1	1.1	1.0	.8	1.5	1.5	.8	14.5	10.2

Table B. Changes in Consumer and Wholesale Price Indexes

(In percent. Seasonally adjusted, except services, compound annual rate)

Item	Percent changes for 3 months ending				
	1973				1974
	March	June	September	December	March
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX					
All items	8.6	7.4	10.3	9.0	14.5
Food	28.6	14.7	28.8	9.2	21.3
Commodities less food	4.0	5.4	2.6	7.9	16.0
Services	3.6	4.5	7.4	9.4	9.2
WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX					
All commodities ¹	21.1	23.4	13.2	15.5	24.8
Farm products and processed foods and feeds	51.9	43.2	35.9	-12.8	15.2
Industrial commodities ¹	10.2	14.9	4.5	31.3	29.2
Selected Stage of Processing Indexes:					
Crude materials except food	11.8	36.0	25.1	57.0	84.0
Intermediate materials except food ¹	12.4	14.2	4.7	20.1	34.9
Producers' finished goods	4.7	6.7	3.9	5.6	14.0
Consumers' goods except food ¹	7.2	17.5	.7	66.9	18.2
Consumer foods	44.2	14.2	36.2	.3	19.8

¹ Revised indexes back to March 1973—reflecting improved data for refined petroleum products—will be published when the May WPI is released on June 13, 1974. Changes in this table are based on data before the revision.

Price increases accelerated in the first quarter for a variety of other nonfood commodities including apparel, footwear, furniture, newspapers, housekeeping supplies, and appliances. Appliance prices had been relatively stable in the past several years; but prices at the wholesale level started to rise in the second half of 1973. Prices for other commodities such as apparel, footwear, and furniture rose more at wholesale than at retail in 1973. In the first quarter of this year, wholesale prices of these commodities continued to increase as rapidly as they did in the fourth quarter of last year. In addition to higher prices for materials, continued strong demand, rising labor and transportation costs, relaxation of price and wage controls, and efforts to improve profit margins were factors which contributed to price increases for these consumer goods.

Higher prices for new cars also contributed to the rise in the index for nonfood commodities in the first quarter of this year. In the preceding quarter, the CPI for new cars declined after seasonal adjustment because in October 1973, when the 1974 model cars were intro-

duced, price increases were held down by price controls, large quality adjustments, and weak demand for large cars. In mid-December, however, manufacturers were permitted to raise prices. These increases were reflected in the CPI during the first quarter after retail outlets reduced their inventories of cars available at old prices. The price increases more than offset larger concessions given by dealers. The used car index continued to decline as a result of the weak demand for large cars.

Services

Charges for consumer services rose at a 9.2-percent annual rate in the first quarter of this year, about the same as in the final quarter of 1973 but faster than in the first three quarters of last year. The acceleration in the last half of 1973 was partly due to the rapid increase in mortgage interest rates. In the first quarter of this year, mortgage interest rates declined slightly, but other types of services, particularly household services and medical care services, rose at a faster rate.

About a fifth of the rise in the services index stemmed from large increases in charges for gas and electricity. These charges continued to rise as a result of higher costs for residual fuel oil, coal, and natural gas, coupled with tax increases in some cities. Among other household services, charges for home repair and maintenance services increased more rapidly than they had in the previous quarter as various material costs rose sharply. Increases at the wholesale level for asphalt strip shingles and aluminum siding resulted in higher charges for roof reshingling and house residing. Among housekeeping services, postal charges rose about 20 percent in March. The rent component of the CPI rose at approximately the same rate as in the final quarter of 1973. Landlords continued to face higher charges for most operating costs, particularly fuels and utilities.

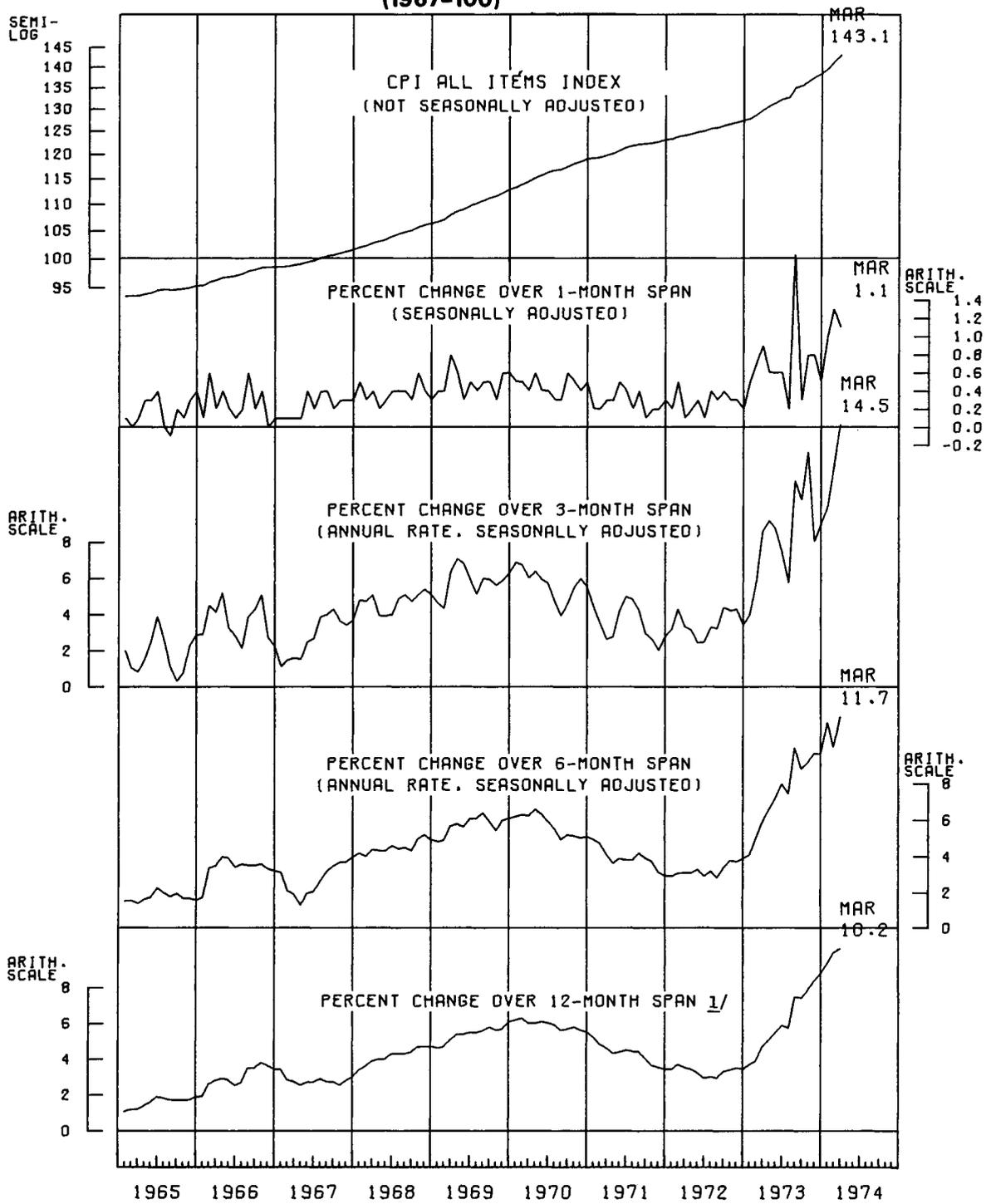
The first quarter increase in the medical care services index was smaller than the increase in the fourth quarter, which reflected the effects of the annual adjustment for retained earnings of health insurance companies. However, the rise in charges for physicians' fees and hospital services accelerated. In mid-January, Phase 4 controls on health services were modified to allow for

annual increases in physicians' fees of up to 4.0 percent, and in hospital charges of up to 7.5 percent. The first quarter increase in operating room charges and semi-private room rates was significantly more than in the final quarter of 1973.

In transportation services, local transit fares decreased 0.3 percent following a 0.9 percent decline in the final quarter of 1973. Reduced fares, together with increases in transit subsidies in some cities, were the primary reasons for the decrease. Except for intercity bus fares, charges for most other types of public transportation remained stable. Auto repairs and maintenance charges accelerated sharply during the first quarter, as material and labor costs continued to increase. Competitive pressures resulted in a decrease in the parking fees component, but auto insurance premiums increased slightly following a small decrease in the previous quarter.

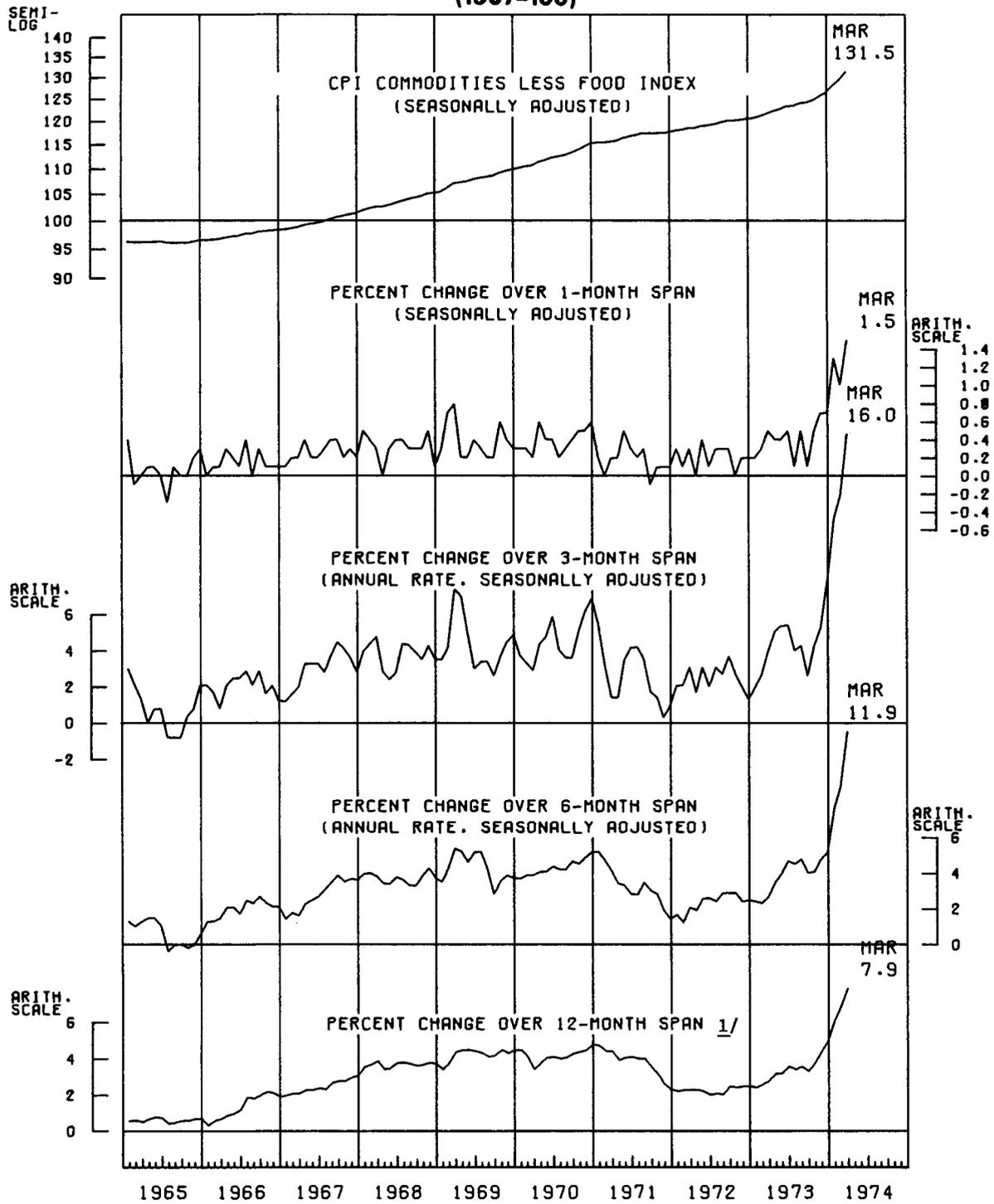
Other types of services, including personal care, recreational, apparel, and funeral services, rose at an annual rate of 0.7 percent from 6.1 percent in the final quarter of 1973. Among the various apparel services priced, laundry and drycleaning charges rose sharply as wholesale prices of petroleum-base cleaning supplies increased.

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



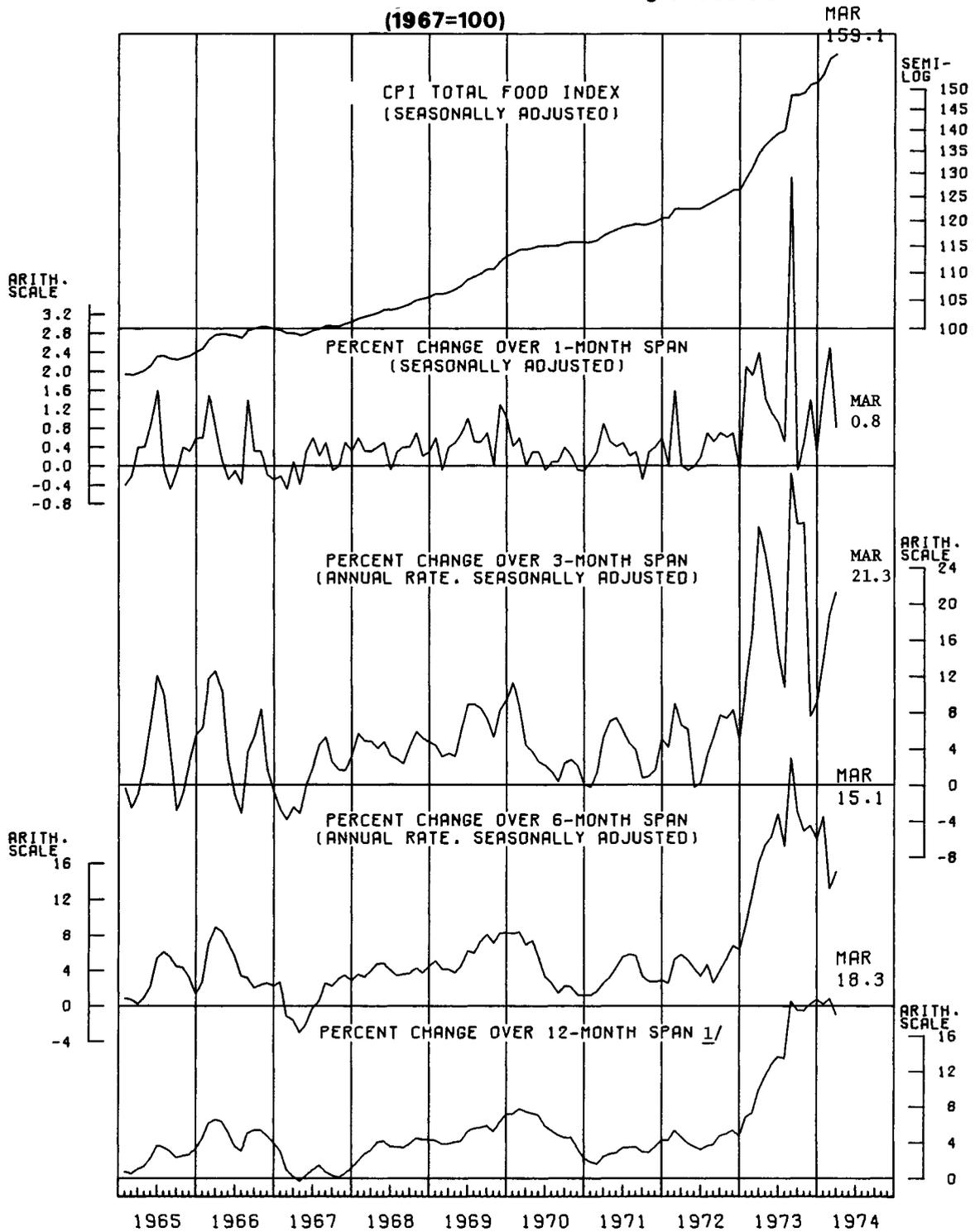
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



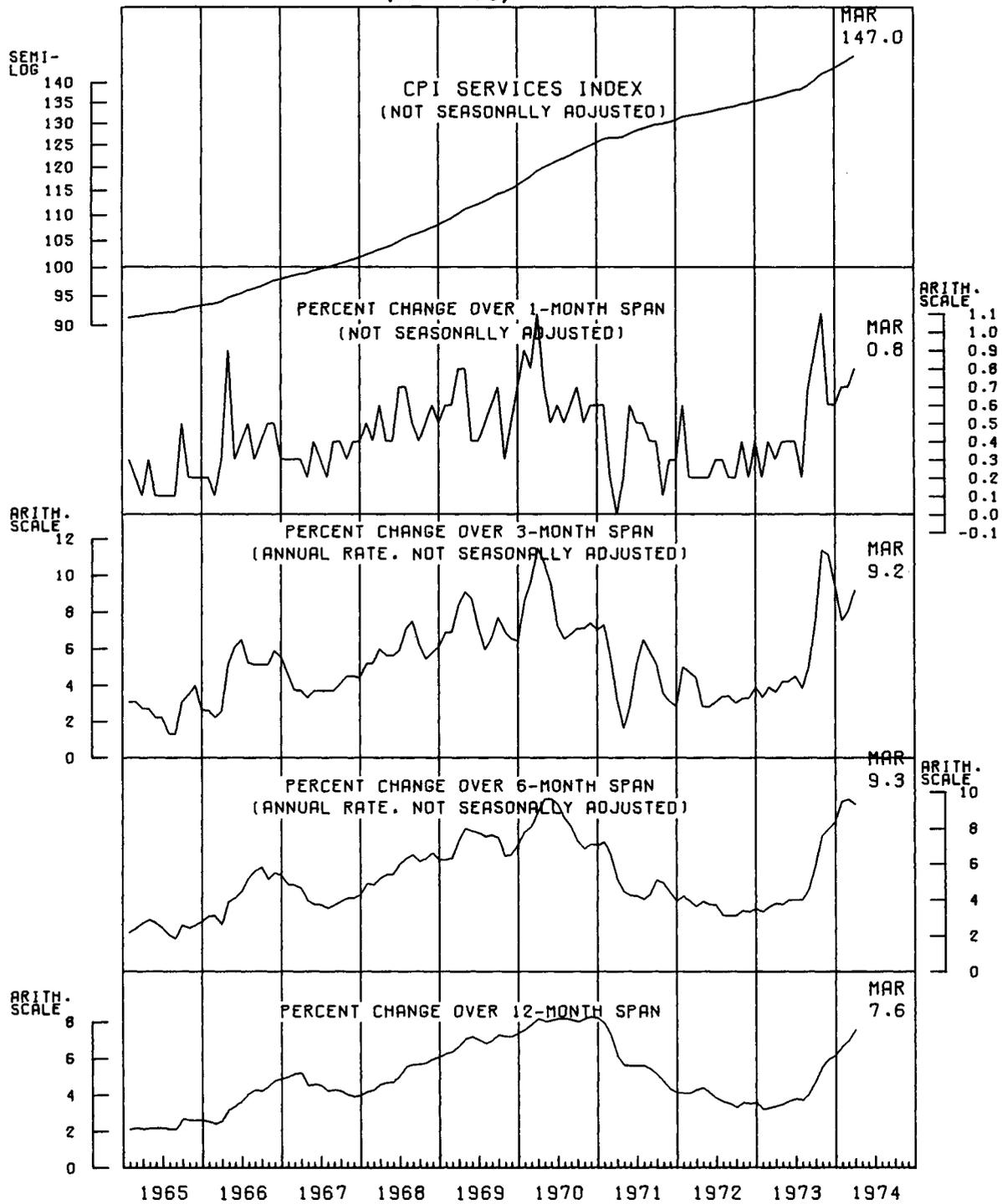
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)



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



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

Group	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted			Unadjusted percent change to March 1974 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
		December 1973	February 1974	March 1974	March 1973	February 1974	December to January	January to February	February to March
All items	100.000	141.5	143.1	10.2	1.1	1.0	1.3	1.1	
All items (1957-59=100)	-	164.6	166.4	-	-	-	-	-	
Commodities	63.454	139.3	141.0	11.8	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.1	
Food	24.810	157.6	159.1	18.3	1.0	1.6	2.5	.8	
Food at home	19.633	159.0	160.6	19.7	1.0	1.8	2.9	.9	
Cereals and bakery products	2.644	154.4	158.6	33.3	2.7	.8	3.1	2.5	
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.988	174.2	171.6	12.4	-1.5	1.4	2.9	-2.4	
Dairy products	3.023	149.3	151.5	24.7	1.5	*1.0	*2.1	*1.5	
Fruits and vegetables	3.146	155.9	162.5	18.8	4.2	1.5	4.4	2.9	
Other foods at home	3.832	148.0	150.2	21.9	1.5	1.6	3.7	1.9	
Food away from home	5.177	152.6	153.7	13.3	.7	.7	.7	.8	
Commodities less food	38.644	129.2	131.1	7.9	1.5	1.3	1.0	1.5	
Nondurables less food	22.978	133.5	136.1	11.2	1.9	1.7	1.7	1.9	
Apparel commodities ¹	8.569	130.3	132.1	5.5	1.4	.1	1.2	1.1	
Men's and boys'	2.661	129.2	131.8	5.8	2.0	.3	1.4	1.4	
Women's and girls'	3.815	130.1	131.6	5.2	1.2	-.2	1.1	1.0	
Footwear	1.504	133.5	134.9	4.8	1.0	.8	.5	.7	
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.409	135.5	138.5	14.7	2.2	2.6	2.0	2.2	
Gasoline and motor oil	3.162	147.1	157.4	39.3	7.0	6.2	5.9	6.4	
Tobacco products	1.993	139.0	139.4	2.9	.3	*.1	*.2	*.3	
Alcoholic beverages	2.349	126.6	127.1	4.8	.4	*.5	*.6	*.4	
Fuel oil and coal	.872	202.0	201.5	57.7	-.2	11.8	3.8	-.1	
Other nondurables	6.033	125.3	126.7	6.2	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	
Durable commodities	15.666	123.4	124.3	3.4	.7	.2	.5	.8	
Household durables	4.566	122.5	123.7	5.8	1.0	.7	.7	.7	
New cars	1.917	112.7	112.8	1.8	.1	.5	.2	.5	
Used cars	1.849	103.0	102.2	-10.1	-.8	*-5.0	*-3.7	*-1.8	
Other durables	7.334	133.2	134.7	5.7	1.1	.7	1.1	1.4	
Services	36.546	145.8	147.0	7.6	.8	*.7	*.7	*.8	
Rent	4.873	128.0	128.4	4.6	.3	*.3	*.5	*.3	
Services less rent	31.673	149.1	150.4	8.0	.9	*.7	*.7	*.9	
Household services less rent	15.463	157.1	158.8	10.9	1.1	1.1	1.2	.6	
Transportation services	5.090	139.1	139.6	2.4	.4	-.4	.1	.4	
Medical care services	5.423	151.1	152.7	7.4	1.1	.6	.9	.7	
Other services	5.698	136.8	137.6	6.5	.6	*.4	*.7	*.6	
Special indexes:									
All items less food	75.190	136.8	138.4	7.8	1.2	.7	1.0	1.0	
Nondurable commodities	47.788	145.2	147.2	14.7	1.4	1.6	2.1	1.2	
Apparel commodities less footwear	7.064	129.6	131.6	5.7	1.5	0	1.2	1.2	
Services less medical care services	31.123	145.0	146.2	7.7	.8	*.7	*.6	*.8	
Insurance and finance	9.707	158.3	158.8	9.0	.3	.8	.4	.1	
Utilities and public transportation	5.318	136.8	138.2	7.2	1.0	.7	1.0	.9	
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.457	161.5	165.3	10.6	2.4	1.1	1.0	2.2	
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1.489	106.2	106.5	1.0	.3	*.3	*.2	*.3	
Expenditure classes									
All items	100.000	141.5	143.1	10.2	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	
Food	24.810	157.6	159.1	18.3	1.0	1.6	2.5	.8	
Housing	33.321	143.4	144.9	9.4	1.0	*1.1	*.8	*1.0	
Shelter ²	21.459	148.3	149.4	8.5	.7	.8	.8	.5	
Rent	4.873	128.0	128.4	4.6	.3	*.3	*.5	*.3	
Homeownership ³	16.184	155.8	157.2	9.8	.9	1.0	1.0	.4	
Fuel and utilities ⁴	4.820	143.5	144.9	16.3	1.0	3.5	1.8	.9	
Gas and electricity	2.390	137.3	140.0	12.0	2.0	2.5	2.2	2.0	
Household furnishings and operation	7.042	130.1	132.6	7.8	1.9	1.0	.8	1.7	
Apparel and upkeep	9.945	130.4	132.2	5.9	1.4	.2	1.1	1.1	
Transportation	12.602	129.3	132.0	8.6	2.1	.9	1.5	2.2	
Private	11.233	127.5	130.4	9.5	2.3	1.2	1.7	2.3	
Public	1.369	146.2	146.6	1.5	.3	-1.3	.3	-.1	
Health and recreation	18.946	134.5	135.4	5.3	.7	*.5	*.6	*.7	
Medical care	6.229	143.4	144.8	6.6	1.0	.5	.7	.8	
Personal care	2.513	130.8	131.8	7.1	.8	*.5	*.8	*.8	
Reading and recreation	5.346	128.9	129.5	4.0	.5	.4	.8	.5	
Other goods and services	4.859	132.3	132.8	4.1	.4	.5	.5	.5	
Special indexes:									
All items less shelter	78.541	139.8	141.5	10.7	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.1	
All items less medical care	93.771	141.5	143.1	10.5	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1	
All items less mortgage interest costs	95.951	140.1	141.7	9.8	1.1	.9	1.3	1.1	
CPI- domestically produced farm foods ⁵	17.583	160.3	161.7	19.9	.9	*1.8	*3.1	*.9	
CPI- selected beef cuts ⁶	2.290	180.3	176.8	11.1	-1.9	*1.9	*8.5	*-1.9	
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:									
1967=\$1.00	-	\$0.707	\$0.699	-9.2	-1.1	-	-	-	
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.608	.601	-	-	-	-	-	

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.
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					
	December 1973	January 1974	February 1974	March 1974	3 months ending in				6 months ending in	
					June 1973	September 1973	December 1973	March 1974	September 1973	March 1974
Commodity and service groups										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	7.4	10.3	9.0	14.5	8.8	11.7
Commodities -----	135.6	137.4	139.6	141.1	9.5	12.0	8.7	17.2	10.7	12.9
Food -----	151.6	154.0	157.9	159.1	14.7	28.8	9.2	21.3	12.6	15.1
Food at home -----	152.0	154.8	159.3	160.8	15.4	31.6	8.0	25.2	23.3	16.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	148.6	149.8	154.4	158.3	14.9	34.7	58.2	28.8	24.4	42.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	168.3	170.7	175.6	171.3	9.8	71.0	-20.8	7.3	37.0	-7.8
Dairy products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	144.9	146.3	149.3	151.5	8.8	21.5	52.9	19.5	15.0	35.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	148.9	151.1	157.8	162.3	31.2	-18.3	31.3	41.2	3.5	36.1
Other foods at home -----	139.5	141.8	147.0	149.8	26.4	17.7	12.0	33.0	21.9	22.0
Food away from home -----	150.7	151.8	152.8	154.0	12.0	15.4	16.7	9.1	13.7	12.8
Commodities less food -----	126.7	128.3	129.6	131.5	5.4	2.6	7.9	16.0	4.0	11.9
Nondurables less food -----	129.5	131.7	133.9	136.4	7.0	1.3	14.8	23.1	4.1	18.9
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	129.5	129.6	131.1	132.5	4.9	4.2	3.5	9.6	4.5	6.5
Men's and boys' -----	128.2	128.6	130.4	132.2	5.2	2.2	2.9	13.1	3.7	7.8
Women's and girls' -----	129.7	129.4	130.8	132.1	5.9	5.1	2.2	7.6	5.5	4.9
Footwear -----	132.3	133.3	134.0	135.0	3.5	4.4	3.1	8.4	3.9	5.7
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	129.6	133.0	135.6	138.6	8.5	-6	20.9	30.8	4.5	25.7
Gasoline and motor oil -----	131.6	139.7	148.0	157.4	25.5	-5.9	55.8	104.6	8.7	78.5
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	138.5	138.7	139.0	139.4	5.4	2.1	1.5	2.6	3.7	2.0
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted) -----	125.3	125.9	126.6	127.1	3.3	3.0	7.0	5.9	3.2	6.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	173.0	193.4	200.8	200.5	16.0	6.5	177.0	80.4	11.1	123.5
Other nondurables -----	123.1	124.3	125.4	126.8	3.4	3.0	6.1	12.6	3.2	9.3
Durable commodities -----	123.0	123.3	123.9	124.9	3.4	4.3	-3	6.3	3.8	2.9
Household durables -----	121.1	122.0	122.9	123.7	7.4	3.7	3.4	8.9	5.5	6.1
New cars -----	110.6	111.2	111.4	112.0	5.2	6.6	-8.9	5.2	5.9	-2.1
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted) -----	112.6	107.0	103.0	102.2	33.9	-6.4	-23.2	-32.1	11.9	-27.8
Other durables -----	130.9	131.8	133.2	135.0	.6	3.8	5.7	13.1	2.2	9.3
Services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	143.8	144.8	145.8	147.0	4.5	7.4	9.4	9.2	5.9	9.3
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	126.9	127.3	128.0	128.4	4.0	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.3	4.8
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	146.9	148.0	149.1	150.4	4.4	7.9	10.1	9.9	6.1	10.0
Household services less rent -----	154.1	155.8	157.6	158.6	6.0	11.5	13.8	12.2	8.7	13.0
Transportation services -----	138.7	138.1	138.3	138.9	3.9	3.0	2.3	-6	3.4	1.5
Medical care services -----	149.1	150.0	151.3	152.4	4.6	3.7	12.4	9.2	4.1	10.8
Other services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	135.3	135.9	136.8	137.6	6.7	6.2	6.1	7.0	6.4	6.6
Special indexes:										
All items less food -----	134.7	135.7	137.1	138.5	5.4	5.0	9.1	11.8	5.2	10.4
Nondurable commodities -----	140.3	142.5	145.5	147.3	10.7	15.1	11.9	21.5	12.8	16.6
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	128.9	128.9	130.4	132.0	5.6	3.5	3.8	10.0	4.5	6.8
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	143.1	144.1	145.0	146.2	4.5	8.1	9.2	9.0	6.3	9.1
Insurance and finance -----	156.1	157.6	158.3	158.5	4.8	14.3	11.8	5.5	9.4	8.6
Utilities and public transportation -----	134.1	135.0	136.4	137.6	3.2	4.4	10.5	10.9	3.8	10.7
Housekeeping and home maintenance service -----	158.6	160.4	162.0	165.5	7.7	7.3	9.6	18.6	7.5	14.0
Appliances (including radio and TV) (not seasonally adjusted) -----	105.7	106.0	106.2	106.5	0	.4	.8	3.1	.2	1.9
Expenditure classes										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	7.4	10.3	9.0	14.5	8.8	11.7
Food -----	151.6	154.0	157.9	159.1	14.7	28.8	9.2	21.3	12.6	15.1
Housing (not seasonally adjusted) -----	140.6	142.2	143.4	144.9	4.6	8.3	12.2	12.8	6.4	12.5
Shelter ² -----	146.3	147.4	148.6	149.4	5.3	9.8	10.2	8.7	7.5	9.5
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	126.9	127.3	128.0	128.4	4.0	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.3	4.8
Homeownership ³ -----	153.3	154.8	156.3	157.0	5.7	10.9	12.4	10.0	8.3	11.2
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	135.9	140.7	143.2	144.5	5.6	4.5	29.9	27.8	5.1	28.8
Gas and electricity -----	130.7	134.0	136.9	139.6	2.9	5.2	11.8	30.1	4.1	20.6
Household furnishings and operation -----	128.1	129.4	130.4	132.6	4.3	5.6	6.8	14.8	4.9	10.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	129.5	129.7	131.1	132.5	5.2	4.2	4.8	9.6	4.7	7.2
Transportation -----	126.6	127.7	129.6	132.5	7.1	2.6	5.6	20.0	4.8	12.5
Private -----	124.4	125.9	128.0	130.9	7.9	2.3	6.0	22.6	5.1	14.0
Public -----	147.2	145.3	145.8	145.6	2.8	3.6	3.9	-4.3	3.2	-3
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted) -----	133.0	133.7	134.5	135.4	4.4	3.4	5.9	7.4	3.9	6.7
Medical care -----	141.8	142.5	143.5	144.7	3.6	3.3	11.5	8.4	3.4	9.9
Personal care (not seasonally adjusted) -----	129.2	129.8	130.8	131.8	6.0	4.6	9.5	8.3	5.3	8.9
Reading and recreation -----	127.7	128.2	129.2	129.9	2.9	2.9	3.2	7.1	2.9	5.1
Other goods and services -----	131.2	131.8	132.4	133.1	4.5	.6	5.4	5.9	2.5	5.6
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter -----	136.5	138.1	139.9	141.5	8.1	10.5	9.0	15.5	9.3	12.2
All items less medical care -----	138.3	140.0	141.6	143.2	7.9	10.4	8.8	14.9	9.2	11.9
All items less mortgage interest costs (not seasonally adjusted) -----	137.1	138.4	140.2	141.7	7.7	9.4	8.3	14.1	8.5	11.2
CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) -----	152.7	155.5	160.3	161.7	17.3	32.7	5.4	25.7	24.8	15.1
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) -----	163.1	166.2	180.3	176.8	8.0	39.9	-26.9	38.1	22.9	.5

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	March 1973	December 1973	February 1974
				March 1974			
U.S. city average -----	M	143.1	166.4		10.2	3.3	1.1
Chicago -----	M	142.1	161.4		10.2	3.9	1.1
Detroit -----	M	144.9	166.5		10.5	3.5	.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	M	137.6	161.8		8.9	2.6	1.0
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	M	150.8	179.5		10.5	3.4	1.2
Philadelphia -----	M	147.0	171.7		10.9	4.0	1.4
				January 1974			
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			
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	
				March 1974			
Atlanta -----	3	144.1	165.7		10.8	3.7	
Baltimore -----	3	147.3	171.0		11.7	4.7	
Cincinnati -----	3	141.3	160.4		8.9	3.4	
Honolulu -----	3	137.7		⁵ 148.5	9.3	3.7	
Kansas City -----	3	138.6	164.5		8.8	3.1	
St. Louis -----	3	138.2	161.4		9.5	3.3	
San Francisco-Oakland -----	3	139.2	165.6		8.2	3.0	

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 areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from February 1974 to March 1974

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	1.1	1.1	0.8	1.0	1.2	1.4
Food -----	1.0	.1	.4	.5	.5	1.4
Housing -----	1.0	1.5	.2	.6	1.6	1.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.7	3.0	1.8
Transportation -----	2.1	1.7	3.0	2.2	1.1	2.2
Health and recreation -----	.7	.9	.4	.8	.6	.6
Medical care -----	1.0	.9	.4	1.0	1.3	.3
Personal care -----	.8	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.5	.7	.9	.6	.5	1.0
Other goods and services -----	.4	.6	.1	.9	-.1	1.0

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, March 1974, and percent changes from December 1973

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967= 100)						
All items -----	143.1	142.1	144.9	137.6	150.8	147.0
Food -----	159.1	159.4	163.2	151.8	163.1	163.0
Food at home -----	160.6	161.3	165.4	154.5	164.7	163.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	158.6	163.4	176.2	151.2	157.7	157.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	171.6	169.9	176.2	172.7	173.5	175.8
Dairy products -----	151.5	149.9	156.3	138.4	155.6	152.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	162.5	162.5	157.1	150.7	172.9	167.5
Other food at home -----	150.2	152.3	153.1	145.4	152.8	152.3
Food away from home -----	153.7	151.5	153.8	144.3	158.2	160.6
Housing -----	144.9	139.4	145.5	138.7	157.2	150.0
Shelter -----	149.4	144.0	154.3	141.1	161.5	159.0
Rent, residential -----	128.4	125.7	(²)	126.1	(²)	134.3
Homeownership -----	157.2	152.4	159.6	145.7	177.0	165.5
Fuel and utilities -----	144.9	133.2	136.5	139.9	168.6	146.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	201.5	188.5	200.8		210.7	200.1
Gas and electricity -----	140.0	127.9	136.6	156.1	172.2	142.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	132.6	129.0	124.5	130.1	139.6	135.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	132.2	129.5	127.9	129.1	133.9	130.1
Men's and boys' -----	131.8	127.2	126.8	122.9	135.2	136.2
Women's and girls' -----	131.6	131.6	121.2	132.5	130.5	121.7
Footwear -----	134.9	129.4	143.9	133.0	133.1	136.6
Transportation -----	132.0	135.1	134.8	132.1	140.9	135.8
Private -----	130.4	130.6	133.0	132.7	135.3	134.2
Public -----	146.6	163.9	155.8	119.5	162.4	145.0
Health and recreation -----	135.4	137.5	140.1	129.0	141.4	139.6
Medical care -----	144.8	144.6	156.8	142.3	154.2	155.9
Personal care -----	131.8	133.3	132.6	121.6	131.8	128.9
Reading and recreation -----	129.5	130.3	131.3	119.6	133.9	133.3
Other goods and services -----	132.8	140.1	132.2	125.4	140.7	134.2
Percent changes December 1973 to March 1974						
All items -----	3.3	3.9	3.5	2.6	3.4	4.0
Food -----	5.2	4.9	5.8	3.7	5.0	6.5
Food at home -----	6.0	5.4	6.2	4.5	5.9	7.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	6.8	5.9	10.7	5.6	5.8	7.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	3.5	3.1	2.2	3.4	4.5	5.0
Dairy products -----	4.6	3.7	7.9	1.2	3.1	5.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	11.8	11.5	12.5	7.2	11.8	14.8
Other food at home -----	6.4	6.3	5.4	6.2	6.0	7.0
Food away from home -----	2.0	2.6	3.6	1.5	2.1	2.8
Housing -----	3.1	5.2	2.2	1.2	3.7	3.7
Shelter -----	2.0	5.4	.9	.2	2.2	1.7
Rent, residential -----	1.2	3.6	(²)	3.6	(²)	3.8
Homeownership -----	2.3	7.2	.9	-1	2.7	1.7
Fuel and utilities -----	6.6	6.4	7.2	1.8	9.5	8.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	16.6	15.5	29.5		6.2	29.3
Gas and electricity -----	6.9	4.0	5.6	3.8	20.9	3.6
Household furnishings and operation -----	3.6	3.4	4.0	4.4	4.6	4.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.3	1.2	2.2	3.0	2.7	1.8
Men's and boys' -----	2.1	2.3	1.2	4.6	4.6	4.8
Women's and girls' -----	-2	-4	2.5	2.2	1.0	-1.8
Footwear -----	1.7	2.5	2.1	1.6	3.5	2.2
Transportation -----	4.2	3.1	5.4	5.4	1.9	4.3
Private -----	4.7	3.7	5.9	5.7	2.8	5.1
Public -----	.1	.2	.2	-1.2	-1.2	.1
Health and recreation -----	1.8	2.3	2.3	1.7	1.9	1.9
Medical care -----	2.4	2.8	2.5	2.6	3.6	1.4
Personal care -----	2.0	2.3	(²)	1.1	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	1.5	1.6	2.3	1.4	2.1	2.1
Other goods and services -----	1.1	2.4	2.6	1.0	.4	2.4

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	San Francisco-Oakland	St. Louis
Indexes (1967=100)							
All items -----	144.1	147.3	141.3	137.7	138.6	139.2	138.2
Food -----	162.8	161.4	160.0	155.4	159.6	151.6	158.5
Food at home -----	165.1	163.0	162.3	157.0	161.8	155.5	159.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	165.1	156.5	172.0	169.8	159.4	151.3	166.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	174.7	174.9	169.1	163.0	169.7	168.0	165.0
Dairy products -----	159.1	151.7	162.3	143.6	172.7	141.1	158.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	168.7	166.1	155.4	153.5	152.0	154.9	161.9
Other food at home -----	154.0	152.5	152.7	147.8	152.0	148.4	146.5
Food away from home -----	155.0	154.8	151.5	149.8	152.9	138.2	153.4
Housing -----	147.7	154.0	137.4	135.8	133.6	143.4	132.7
Shelter -----	154.1	164.9	141.5	140.3	137.2	148.7	132.4
Rent, residential -----	123.6	119.5	114.3	139.3	114.3	137.3	111.8
Homeownership -----	163.4	184.1	154.1	140.9	146.0	154.6	138.1
Fuel and utilities -----	139.2	144.6	135.6	⁴ 124.2	125.7	130.5	135.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	210.7	-	-	-	-	208.5
Gas and electricity -----	140.9	134.6	127.3	⁵ 128.6	127.2	136.9	127.2
Household furnishings and operation -----	138.0	135.3	127.7	127.4	129.3	132.6	131.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	130.3	138.1	132.9	130.2	134.4	132.2	126.1
Men's and boys' -----	137.4	147.6	133.1	125.2	130.3	132.7	123.5
Women's and girls' -----	125.7	126.1	128.5	130.1	137.2	133.1	125.9
Footwear -----	123.1	146.5	144.3	128.6	141.9	129.5	136.4
Transportation -----	125.5	129.2	125.9	131.3	130.9	129.7	129.1
Private -----	128.6	130.1	129.2	133.8	130.1	129.2	131.8
Public -----	84.2	122.8	100.5	117.4	143.3	138.6	96.1
Health and recreation -----	139.6	138.0	138.8	127.6	134.3	130.0	133.5
Medical care -----	154.6	157.3	155.1	139.5	144.0	138.6	137.1
Personal care -----	138.8	131.7	136.4	126.9	132.8	126.3	133.3
Reading and recreation -----	130.9	129.9	124.7	126.6	122.9	124.3	125.8
Other goods and service -----	127.5	131.4	137.1	115.9	136.9	125.9	136.7
Percent changes December 1973 to March 1974							
All items -----	3.7	4.7	3.4	3.7	3.1	3.0	3.3
Food -----	5.6	4.0	5.3	6.4	5.1	4.1	5.6
Food at home -----	6.9	4.6	6.1	8.1	6.0	5.0	6.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	8.3	5.0	12.6	18.3	5.9	0	7.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	3.4	3.1	2.4	3.4	3.4	0	3.1
Dairy products -----	7.7	4.5	7.3	4.8	7.6	0	5.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	10.8	7.0	8.0	10.7	7.9	0	13.5
Other food at home -----	8.1	5.1	6.3	8.9	7.7	0	6.9
Food away from home -----	1.7	1.4	2.4	1.1	2.4	1.2	.8
Housing -----	3.2	7.9	3.1	3.3	1.7	2.6	2.2
Shelter -----	3.4	8.3	2.0	1.7	1.0	2.5	1.8
Rent, residential -----	.7	.7	1.2	2.0	.6	1.1	.5
Homeownership -----	4.1	10.7	2.3	1.4	1.0	3.1	2.0
Fuel and utilities -----	3.4	11.4	5.0	9.4	1.2	.7	1.8
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	32.3	-	-	-	-	8.5
Gas and electricity -----	5.4	9.4	6.3	18.1	2.9	1.8	.6
Household furnishings and operation -----	2.5	4.4	5.2	6.3	4.1	4.2	3.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.9	2.1	1.1	2.1	2.1	2.2	.1
Men's and boys' -----	2.5	4.3	2.1	3.3	3.9	4.1	1.8
Women's and girls' -----	2.5	-1.3	-8	.9	1.4	1.2	-1.9
Footwear -----	.7	1.9	3.2	3.3	2.1	2.0	.7
Transportation -----	4.8	4.6	3.1	4.4	4.6	3.7	4.5
Private -----	4.9	5.3	3.4	5.1	4.8	3.9	4.8
Public -----	.5	.3	.2	0	.3	.1	.2
Health and recreation -----	2.3	1.9	2.6	1.0	1.8	1.6	2.5
Medical care -----	2.3	1.2	4.3	1.8	3.7	2.8	2.6
Personal care -----	4.3	0	1.8	1.9	.9	1.3	3.1
Reading and recreation -----	.9	2.1	1.3	1.9	.9	1.2	1.5
Other goods and services -----	2.5	3.2	2.2	-1.7	.7	.2	2.7

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

³ Change from January 1974.

⁴ Revised index: December 1973, 113.5.

⁵ Revised index: December 1973, 108.9; 1973 annual average 107.0.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, March 1974, and percent changes from February 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 -----	159.1	160.6	158.6	171.6	151.5	162.5	150.2	153.7
Atlanta -----	162.8	165.1	165.1	174.7	159.1	168.7	154.0	155.0
Baltimore -----	161.4	163.0	156.5	174.9	151.7	166.1	152.5	154.8
Boston -----	157.9	159.8	160.6	169.1	148.4	162.8	149.3	150.3
Buffalo -----	157.8	158.4	158.6	172.6	146.7	161.3	142.5	154.9
Chicago -----	159.4	161.3	163.4	169.9	149.9	162.5	152.3	151.5
Cincinnati -----	160.0	162.3	172.0	169.1	162.3	155.4	152.7	151.5
Cleveland -----	158.2	159.9	160.2	164.9	161.9	161.9	148.2	150.1
Dallas -----	155.7	155.2	154.9	164.6	148.5	151.4	149.0	157.9
Detroit -----	163.2	165.4	176.2	176.2	156.3	157.1	153.1	153.8
Honolulu -----	155.4	157.0	169.8	163.0	143.6	153.5	147.8	149.8
Houston -----	161.4	160.4	158.8	174.2	159.3	151.6	149.0	165.1
Kansas City -----	159.6	161.8	159.4	169.7	172.7	152.0	152.0	152.9
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	151.8	154.5	151.2	172.7	138.4	150.7	145.4	144.3
Milwaukee -----	156.1	157.4	159.3	167.8	151.4	156.1	146.7	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	160.8	160.6	169.1	174.2	155.2	151.2	151.0	162.0
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	163.1	164.7	157.7	173.5	155.6	172.9	152.8	158.2
Philadelphia -----	163.0	163.6	157.8	175.8	152.2	167.5	152.3	160.6
Pittsburgh -----	162.7	162.9	162.1	171.9	150.2	169.6	153.5	161.8
St. Louis -----	158.5	159.6	166.0	165.0	158.0	161.9	146.5	153.4
San Diego -----	154.0	154.6	148.2	175.2	140.8	146.9	143.0	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland -----	151.6	155.5	151.3	168.0	141.1	154.9	148.4	138.2
Seattle -----	153.5	156.4	154.2	173.7	149.8	144.5	148.6	144.0
Washington -----	163.3	163.4	160.1	168.9	146.5	177.3	158.4	162.6
Percent changes February 1974 to March 1974								
U. S. city average -----	1.0	1.0	2.7	-1.5	1.5	4.2	1.5	0.7
Atlanta -----	1.6	1.8	4.2	-1.4	3.4	5.0	2.1	1.0
Baltimore -----	1.6	1.8	4.8	-1.1	1.3	5.0	.9	.9
Boston -----	.8	.7	3.6	-1.5	.5	3.4	.5	.7
Buffalo -----	.9	1.0	2.2	-.3	.3	3.5	.8	.4
Chicago -----	.1	-.1	1.6	-2.9	.9	2.9	1.5	.6
Cincinnati -----	1.3	1.4	6.2	-1.7	3.0	2.6	1.3	1.1
Cleveland -----	-.3	-.4	5.1	-4.6	2.4	.4	.9	.7
Dallas -----	.6	.7	1.8	-2.4	.8	5.2	1.9	.6
Detroit -----	.4	.1	4.1	-3.1	3.2	2.5	.2	1.5
Honolulu -----	1.9	2.2	4.6	-.1	2.6	3.5	3.6	.6
Houston -----	.5	.6	3.3	-1.7	.8	2.5	1.2	.6
Kansas City -----	1.4	1.3	3.0	-1.0	2.8	2.4	2.2	1.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	.5	.3	.9	-1.9	.3	3.0	1.8	.8
Milwaukee -----	1.0	1.2	2.9	-.7	1.9	3.1	1.7	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	1.6	1.8	5.7	-1.3	1.4	4.5	1.9	.8
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	.5	.3	1.0	-1.6	.5	3.2	1.3	1.0
Philadelphia -----	1.4	1.6	2.1	.7	1.2	4.5	1.1	.2
Pittsburgh -----	1.4	1.7	4.5	-.4	2.2	1.9	1.4	.2
St. Louis -----	1.4	1.7	4.1	-1.9	2.4	5.3	2.4	.1
San Diego -----	-.1	-.1	1.2	-1.9	.5	2.1	.4	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland -----	.7	.7	3.0	-1.9	.6	4.2	1.4	.9
Seattle -----	1.7	2.0	3.8	-.4	2.7	4.8	2.1	.8
Washington -----	0	-.1	1.8	-3.2	1.9	3.4	.2	.2

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, March 1974 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to March 1974 from—		
	March 1974		March 1973	February 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	159.1	159.1	18.3	1.0	0.8
Food away from home	153.7	154.0	13.3	.7	.8
Restaurant meals	154.8	155.1	13.9	.7	.7
Snacks	148.1	148.4	10.3	.5	.7
Food at home	160.6	160.8	19.7	1.0	.9
Cereals and bakery products	158.6	158.3	33.3	2.7	2.5
Flour	179.2	178.5	60.3	4.3	4.1
Cracker meal	173.9	173.4	25.0	1.9	1.4
Corn flakes	119.8	119.4	20.4	1.0	1.0
Rice	240.9	240.4	102.9	1.5	1.6
Bread, white	156.3	156.1	33.6	4.7	4.6
Bread, whole wheat	157.3	157.1	25.4	3.4	3.2
Cookies	126.1	126.2	12.0	-.7	-1.3
Layer cakes	146.9	146.5	18.8	2.9	2.7
Cinnamon rolls	150.1	150.0	21.8	1.8	1.8
Meats, poultry, and fish	171.6	171.3	12.4	-1.5	-2.4
Meats	173.1	172.9	13.1	-1.8	-2.8
Beef and veal	178.4	178.6	11.4	-1.6	-2.5
Steak, round	170.9	170.9	7.6	-3.2	-3.8
Steak, sirloin	158.4	158.9	6.0	-1.6	-3.0
Steak, porterhouse	158.4	159.4	5.7	-1.4	-2.2
Rump roast	166.9	167.4	8.3	-2.8	-3.1
Rib roast	170.5	169.7	7.8	-2.2	-3.6
Chuck roast	189.7	186.0	13.0	-1.6	-3.9
Hamburger	196.1	195.9	18.1	-1.2	-2.1
Beef liver	175.6	176.1	16.5	1.4	.8
Veal cutlets	203.7	203.9	9.9	.5	-.3
Pork	169.0	168.3	12.8	-2.9	-4.3
Chops	157.5	156.4	2.9	-3.3	-4.8
Loin roast	169.5	168.0	8.4	-2.2	-4.0
Pork sausage	190.3	191.1	20.7	-1.9	-3.0
Ham, whole	167.4	163.6	24.0	-1.6	-2.7
Picnics	177.5	174.4	15.1	-1.7	-3.3
Bacon	166.7	168.7	16.2	-4.4	-5.3
Other meats	167.6	167.8	17.9	-.7	-1.1
Lamb chops	155.6	155.9	7.5	1.1	.9
Frankfurters	173.8	175.0	17.5	-1.2	-1.9
Ham, canned	167.9	165.3	25.3	-2.0	-2.4
Bologna sausage	176.2	176.6	19.1	-.3	-.6
Salami sausage	166.3	167.1	17.0	-.2	-.5
Liverwurst	166.5	166.5	22.5	-1.4	-1.2
Poultry	152.0	150.6	.9	-1.7	-2.8
Frying chicken	152.3	150.6	-4.1	-2.1	-3.5
Chicken breasts	146.6	146.5	.8	-.5	-.8
Turkey	156.8	156.5	32.9	-1.1	-.9
Fish	185.2	184.8	21.2	1.4	1.5
Shrimp, frozen	179.2	178.3	23.1	0	-.3
Fish, fresh or frozen	214.9	215.8	23.2	0	.6
Tuna fish, canned	163.3	162.8	19.4	1.7	1.8
Sardines, canned	183.9	183.9	19.0	4.1	4.7
Dairy products	151.5	-	24.7	1.5	0
Milk, fresh, grocery	153.7	153.2	27.6	1.8	1.6
Milk, fresh, skim	164.1	164.1	28.4	1.7	1.5
Milk, evaporated	164.4	164.7	30.7	2.6	2.6
Ice cream	125.3	125.3	14.8	.2	.2
Cheese, American process	171.0	170.8	31.0	1.6	1.6
Butter	115.2	115.2	8.8	-1.7	-1.6

See footnote at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to March 1974 from—		
	March 1974		March 1973	February 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables					
Fresh fruits and vegetables	162.5	162.3	18.8	4.2	2.9
Fresh fruits	162.3	162.0	11.9	5.0	2.7
Apples	135.9	141.6	-2.1	-2.1	-3.1
Bananas	154.9	161.4	23.1	1.6	-1.1
Oranges	91.8	91.8	-5.6	-13.9	-13.9
Orange juice, fresh	138.9	144.8	4.2	-.5	-1.0
Grapefruit	136.6	136.9	3.5	2.4	1.8
Grapes	132.8	151.8	3.0	-2.1	-1.2
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	183.6	177.7	15.3	9.8	6.6
Potatoes	263.7	272.4	60.9	17.0	16.0
Onions	185.5	191.0	-11.9	-.7	-.1
Asparagus	198.5	162.3	9.0	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	159.4	151.1	-4.3	10.0	15.4
Carrots	135.4	138.7	-6.7	-3.0	1.0
Celery	132.0	131.7	-9.3	.5	4.6
Cucumbers	151.1	124.5	-19.6	8.4	10.3
Lettuce	137.1	141.9	2.5	15.2	7.9
Peppers, green	140.1	119.3	-4.3	1.3	-4.9
Spinach	174.6	175.1	14.4	2.0	4.1
Tomatoes	166.4	164.3	20.2	-4.2	-3.2
Processed fruits and vegetables	162.8	163.0	30.8	3.0	3.0
Fruit cocktail, canned	143.8	144.1	12.6	1.8	1.8
Pears, canned	134.0	134.3	9.1	1.1	1.4
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	124.5	124.6	5.3	.5	.2
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	140.0	140.6	2.0	.4	-.3
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	126.8	125.8	5.9	1.4	1.4
Beets, canned	152.3	152.1	14.7	1.9	1.5
Peas, green, canned	119.1	119.5	8.9	1.4	1.6
Tomatoes, canned	138.1	138.2	13.5	1.5	1.2
Dried beans	389.1	389.5	175.8	7.9	8.6
Broccoli, frozen	131.2	131.1	10.3	1.6	1.5
Other food at home	150.2	149.8	21.9	1.5	1.9
Eggs	175.8	173.0	29.1	-9.4	-7.1
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	183.1	182.6	55.8	6.5	6.0
Salad dressing, Italian	121.9	121.9	10.4	1.8	1.8
Salad or cooking oil	181.0	180.6	50.7	8.9	9.0
Sugar and sweets	162.0	162.0	30.6	8.4	8.1
Sugar	172.4	172.4	45.4	17.2	17.0
Grape jelly	146.6	145.9	11.7	1.4	.9
Chocolate bar	183.1	184.0	39.5	11.2	10.9
Syrup, chocolate flavored	147.6	146.9	29.7	4.6	4.6
Nonalcoholic beverages	142.0	142.0	12.3	2.1	2.1
Coffee, can and bag	150.1	150.1	16.9	1.8	1.8
Coffee, instant	143.9	144.0	12.3	2.7	3.0
Tea	115.5	115.6	4.9	.8	.7
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	141.4	141.1	8.6	2.8	2.5
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	142.3	142.6	9.5	2.3	2.1
Prepared and partially prepared foods	132.7	132.6	13.4	1.8	1.7
Bean soup, canned	145.7	145.4	24.5	2.4	2.3
Chicken soup, canned	123.2	123.0	17.1	1.9	1.7
Spaghetti, canned	133.4	133.3	8.6	1.4	1.4
Mashed potatoes, instant	127.1	126.8	10.4	1.1	1.1
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	129.0	128.9	14.7	3.0	2.8
Baby foods	130.8	130.9	17.1	2.9	3.0
Sweet pickle relish	142.1	141.1	7.7	.9	.4
Pretzels	129.3	129.4	10.5	1.2	1.0

¹ Priced only in season.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1974, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1974 from:	
		February 1974	March 1974	March 1973	February 1974
Housing		143.4	144.9	9.4	1.0
Shelter ¹		148.3	149.4	8.5	-.7
Rent, residential		128.0	128.4	4.6	-.3
Homeownership ²		155.8	157.2	9.8	-.9
Mortgage interest rates		134.8	134.0	13.8	-.6
Property taxes		151.5	151.2	-.5	-.2
Property insurance rates		123.8	123.8	-.7	0
Maintenance and repairs		159.9	162.2	10.7	1.4
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		143.1	145.1	11.4	1.4
Exterior house paint		124.6	127.4	7.0	2.2
Interior house paint		124.3	125.1	4.9	-.6
Maintenance and repair services		167.1	169.6	10.5	1.5
Repainting living and dining rooms		177.2	179.8	8.3	1.5
Reshingling house roof		176.9	180.5	12.1	2.0
Residing house		157.6	159.5	13.4	1.2
Replacing sink		162.7	166.5	9.5	2.3
Repairing furnace		169.7	170.7	7.4	-.6
Fuel and utilities		143.5	144.9	16.3	1.0
Fuel oil and coal		202.0	201.5	57.7	-.2
Fuel oil, No. 2		202.1	201.5	60.3	-.3
Gas and electricity		137.3	140.0	12.0	2.0
Gas		136.9	138.4	9.2	1.1
Electricity		137.7	141.4	14.6	2.7
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		121.0	121.0	4.9	0
Residential water and sewerage services		150.5	151.2	5.6	.5
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		130.1	132.6	7.8	1.9
Housefurnishings		123.0	124.6	6.0	1.3
Textiles		122.4	125.9	9.4	2.9
Sheets		124.5	130.2	10.6	4.6
Curtains, tailored		121.4	122.1	9.7	-.6
Bedspreads		117.6	126.1	10.9	7.2
Drapery fabric		139.8	144.3	14.5	3.2
Pillows, bed		109.4	110.3	4.1	-.8
Slipcovers and throws, ready made		121.2	121.6	5.5	-.3
Furniture and bedding		129.7	131.4	7.0	1.3
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	144.8	115.8	8.3	-.9
Sofas, upholstered		125.5	126.6	3.9	-.9
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	109.7	110.5	7.9	-.7
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	114.0	115.8	8.7	1.6
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	101.9	103.7	5.2	1.8
Sofas, dual purpose		124.9	125.7	7.1	-.6
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	111.8	112.8	6.7	-.9
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Cribs		130.1	132.6	9.8	1.9
Floor coverings		111.2	112.5	4.9	1.2
Brooadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		105.2	106.5	4.8	1.2
Vinyl sheet goods		125.5	125.3	4.2	-.2
Vinyl asbestos tile		124.9	127.4	6.4	2.0
Appliances (excluding radio and T. V.)		110.7	111.1	1.5	-.4
Washing machines, electric, automatic		111.9	112.1	1.2	-.2
Vacuum cleaners		104.3	104.4	-.6	-.1
Refrigerators-freezers, electric		109.0	109.2	-.9	-.2
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		110.5	111.2	1.3	-.6
Clothes dryers, electric		114.9	115.4	1.1	-.4
Air conditioners, demountable		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable		111.0	112.2	3.9	1.1
Garbage disposal units		113.8	113.9	2.5	-.1
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		138.6	140.1	8.9	1.1
Flatware, stainless steel		136.4	140.3	7.2	2.9
Table lamps, with shade		129.7	130.3	2.0	-.5
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		(⁵)	129.3	(⁵)	(⁵)
Electric drills, hand-held		108.5	109.8	3.0	1.2
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		120.4	121.6	8.4	1.0
Paper napkins		145.8	148.1	7.8	1.6
Toilet tissue		137.9	142.3	12.4	3.2
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		155.5	156.3	8.7	-.5
Baby sitter services		147.4	148.7	5.7	-.9
Postal charges		146.6	175.4	19.6	19.6
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		159.0	161.9	12.0	1.8
Licensed day care services, preschool child		136.6	137.5	8.8	-.7
Washing machine repairs		157.0	159.6	9.2	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, March 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1974 from:	
		February 1974	March 1974	March - 1973	February 1974
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		130.4	132.2	5.9	1.4
Apparel commodities		130.3	132.1	5.5	1.4
Apparel commodities less footwear		129.6	131.6	5.7	1.5
Men's and boys'		129.2	131.8	5.8	2.0
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends		134.4	134.6	3.5	.1
Suits, year round weight		130.7	132.7	.8	1.5
Suits, tropical weight		(⁵)	160.7	(⁵)	(⁵)
Jackets, lightweight		121.3	122.1	4.5	.7
Slacks, wool or wool blends		117.9	116.4	1.1	-1.3
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		140.7	141.1	-.4	.3
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		128.0	130.3	11.3	1.8
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		130.1	132.7	12.5	2.0
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		116.5	118.3	6.3	1.5
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		131.3	135.6	13.9	3.3
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		119.3	119.8	2.7	.4
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton		131.1	133.5	11.8	1.8
Boys':					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends		113.1	111.5	-8.6	-1.4
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends		148.3	150.4	14.3	1.4
Undershorts, cotton		131.8	135.1	11.5	2.5
Women's and girls'		130.1	131.6	5.2	1.2
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Sweaters, wool or acrylic		134.5	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers		140.3	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton		(⁵)	135.1	(⁵)	(⁵)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers		129.0	131.6	5.4	2.0
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber		139.8	138.7	3.8	-.8
Slips, nylon		113.1	113.9	2.6	.7
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot		123.1	124.2	4.5	.9
Girdles, manmade blend		121.2	121.7	3.2	.4
Brassieres, nylon lace		128.4	129.6	5.2	.9
Hose or panty hose, nylon seamless		91.6	91.8	-3.7	.2
Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers		117.3	118.3	3.1	.9
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton		115.9	119.1	7.3	2.8
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic		155.9	159.6	9.8	2.4
Girl's:					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends		117.5	115.2	.8	-2.0
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends		122.8	124.1	7.6	1.1
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton		149.3	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Slips, polyester blends		111.3	112.5	3.2	1.1
Handbags, plastic		137.7	142.8	13.2	3.7
Footwear		133.5	134.9	4.8	1.0
Men's:					
Shoes, street		136.4	137.9	5.8	1.1
Shoes, work, high		142.6	144.2	10.7	1.1
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		130.6	132.8	3.0	1.7
Shoes, evening, pump		126.7	127.0	2.6	.2
Shoes, casual		133.5	136.1	6.1	1.9
House slippers, scuff		131.4	131.7	3.8	.2
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		135.4	136.4	3.9	.7
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		129.8	133.5	6.5	2.9
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump		139.6	139.7	4.0	.1
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable		126.5	130.5	10.7	3.2
Yard goods, polyester blend		140.0	144.8	20.9	3.4
Wrist watches, men's and women's		123.0	123.8	5.0	.7
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses		129.2	130.7	9.4	1.2
Automatic laundry service		121.0	121.5	4.4	.4
Laundry, men's shirts		136.8	137.7	8.5	.7
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment		144.5	144.7	6.2	.1
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift		128.1	128.1	6.7	0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1974 from:	
		February 1974	March 1974	March 1973	February 1974
Transportation -----		129.3	132.0	8.6	2.1
Private ¹ -----		127.5	130.4	9.5	2.3
Automobiles, new -----		112.7	112.8	1.8	-.1
Automobiles, used -----		103.0	102.2	-10.1	-8
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		147.8	158.7	41.7	7.4
Motor oil, premium -----		137.6	140.0	11.3	1.7
Tires, new, tubeless -----		110.7	113.0	8	2.1
Auto repairs and maintenance ² -----		148.9	150.3	7.3	-.9
Auto insurance rates -----		137.7	138.0	-.1	-.2
Auto registration -----		128.9	128.9	4.3	0
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		154.2	154.8	2.6	-.4
Public -----		146.2	146.6	1.5	-.3
Local transit fares -----		148.7	148.7	-1.3	0
Taxicab fares -----		145.3	145.4	7.1	-.1
Railroad fares, coach -----		127.0	127.1	3.9	-.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		141.4	141.5	7.1	-.1
Bus fares, intercity -----		150.9	159.0	10.0	5.4
Health and recreation -----		134.5	135.4	5.3	-.7
Medical care -----		143.4	144.8	6.6	1.0
Drugs and prescriptions -----		107.0	107.3	1.6	-.3
Over-the-counter items -----		113.8	114.3	2.0	-.4
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		95.4	96.3	1.9	-.9
Aspirin compounds -----		118.4	118.3	-.1	-1.1
Liquid tonics -----		103.4	103.6	2.5	-.2
Adhesive bandages, packages -----		129.7	130.5	4.1	-.6
Cold tablets or capsules -----		115.4	115.8	1.2	-.3
Cough syrup -----		116.6	117.6	2.2	-.9
Prescriptions -----		101.3	101.5	1.3	-.2
Anti-infectives -----		68.3	68.0	-4.6	-4
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		135.1	136.5	6.5	1.0
Ataractics -----		105.0	104.7	1.0	-.3
Antispasmodics -----		108.8	108.8	1.1	0
Cough preparations -----		142.6	143.2	6.0	-.4
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives -----		113.9	113.9	1.3	0
Analgesics, internal -----		112.0	112.0	1.1	0
Anti-obesity -----		120.0	120.2	3.4	-.2
Hormones -----		92.9	93.6	2.3	-.8
Professional services: -----					
Physicians fees -----		142.6	145.0	6.1	1.7
General physician, office visits -----		144.7	148.1	7.4	2.3
General physician, house visits -----		143.3	145.3	3.3	1.4
Obstetrical cases -----		142.0	143.0	4.5	-.7
Pediatric care, office visits -----		146.2	147.8	6.2	1.1
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		135.9	136.8	2.9	-.7
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		134.1	134.8	3.2	-.5
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		137.0	137.6	5.0	-.4
Dentists' fees -----		140.7	141.5	5.0	-.6
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		143.1	144.2	5.3	-.8
Extractions, adult -----		140.7	141.1	5.5	-.3
Dentures, full upper -----		135.7	136.3	4.0	-.4
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		133.7	134.3	5.6	-.4
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis -----		127.8	128.3	5.9	-.4
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	109.4	110.2	5.4	-.7
Semiprivate room rates -----		190.3	191.4	6.3	-.6
Operating room charges -----		188.4	189.7	7.0	-.7
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.1 -----		134.9	135.6	3.6	-.5
Laboratory tests, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	108.2	108.4	5.2	-.2
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	96.7	100.3	2.1	3.7
Tranquilizers, chlordiazepoxide, HCL and meprobamate -----	Jan. 72	106.5	107.1	4.6	-.6
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	108.8	109.3	4.7	-.5
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	106.4	107.2	3.5	-.8
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	109.2	110.9	6.6	1.6
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	107.8	108.2	4.9	-.4
Personal care -----		130.8	131.8	7.1	-.8
Toilet goods -----		125.4	126.5	6.6	-.9
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		108.7	110.1	0	1.3
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		148.2	150.5	20.7	1.6
Hand lotion, liquid -----		127.8	129.7	2.1	1.5
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		109.4	109.3	1.4	-1.1
Face powder, pressed -----		150.5	150.8	7.4	-.2
Deodorants, aerosol -----		105.4	106.0	1.5	-.6
Cleansing tissues -----		140.7	142.6	13.8	1.4
Home permanent wave kits -----		109.8	110.3	2	-.5
Personal care services -----		136.6	137.4	7.7	-.6
Men's haircuts -----		139.4	139.9	8.4	-.4
Beauty shop services -----		134.6	135.6	7.1	-.7
Women's haircuts -----		142.2	143.8	10.4	1.1
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		138.1	138.9	6.6	-.6
Permanent waves, cold -----		119.2	120.1	4.4	-.8

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1974 from:	
		February 1974	March 1974	March 1973	February 1974
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation ¹ -----		128.9	129.5	4.0	-.5
Recreational goods -----		111.4	112.3	3.8	-.8
TV sets, portable and console -----		97.9	98.0	-.5	-.1
TV replacement tubes -----		136.0	137.1	2.2	-.8
Radios, portable and table model -----		100.2	100.7	1.7	-.5
Tape recorders, portable -----		94.6	94.9	3.0	-.3
Phonograph records, stereophonic -----		110.0	110.3	1.8	-.3
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens -----		91.2	90.9	2.7	-.3
Film, 35mm, color -----		108.7	108.7	.5	0
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core -----		104.5	104.1	-1.0	-.4
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover -----		129.1	130.0	2.8	-.7
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting -----		110.1	111.6	2.8	1.4
Bowling balls -----		116.4	116.5	1.3	-.1
Bicycles, boys' -----		125.7	128.7	8.2	2.4
Tricycles -----		119.6	120.6	5.4	-.8
Dog food, canned or boxed -----		140.2	142.6	26.8	1.7
Recreational services -----		135.3	135.7	4.1	-.3
Indoor movie admissions -----		150.3	151.3	4.6	-.7
Adult -----		148.2	149.4	4.4	-.8
Children's -----		156.2	156.5	5.0	-.2
Drive-in movie admissions, adult -----		154.0	153.7	3.9	-.2
Bowling fees, evening -----		129.1	129.3	5.2	-.2
Golf green fees -----		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
TV repair, color picture tube replacement -----		100.4	100.5	1.3	-.1
Film developing, color -----		115.7	116.4	.4	-.6
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery -----		142.5	144.1	7.9	1.1
Magazines, single copy and subscription -----		133.7	133.7	-.3	0
Piano lessons, beginner -----		131.4	131.7	4.9	-.2
Other goods and services -----		132.3	132.8	4.1	-.4
Tobacco products -----		139.0	139.4	2.9	-.3
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size -----		140.5	140.9	2.6	-.3
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size -----		141.0	141.3	2.7	-.2
Cigars, domestic, regular size -----		116.7	117.6	5.4	-.8
Alcoholic beverages -----		126.6	127.1	4.8	-.4
Beer -----		119.4	120.1	4.5	-.6
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon -----		109.7	109.8	.5	-.1
Wine, dessert and table -----		144.4	145.0	11.5	-.4
Beer away from home -----		140.1	140.5	5.0	-.3
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult -----		131.9	132.9	7.1	-.8
Bank service charges, checking account -----		105.2	103.7	-2.6	-1.4
Legal services, short form will -----		168.8	172.7	9.9	2.3

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 venetian blinds, 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, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

⁷ Also includes recapped tires 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.

Table 9. Consumer Price Index—United States average and areas grouped by size of population¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups, March 1974, and percent changes from selected dates

Area and group	Relative importance	Indexes (1967= 100)			Percent change to March 1974 from:	
		December 1973	March 1973	December 1973	March 1974	March 1973	December 1973
United States:						
All items	100.000	129.8	138.5	143.1	10.2	3.3
Food	24.810	134.5	151.3	159.1	18.3	5.2
Housing	33.321	132.4	140.6	144.9	9.4	3.1
Apparel and upkeep	9.945	124.8	130.5	132.2	5.9	1.3
Transportation	12.602	121.5	126.7	132.0	8.6	4.2
Health and recreation	18.946	128.6	133.0	135.4	5.3	1.8
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):						
All items	32.751	132.4	141.1	145.9	10.2	3.4
Food	8.356	136.3	153.0	160.7	17.9	5.0
Housing	10.766	135.1	143.6	148.4	9.8	3.3
Apparel and upkeep	3.311	124.8	128.5	131.5	5.4	2.3
Transportation	4.081	127.3	132.3	136.8	7.5	3.4
Health and recreation	6.237	131.0	135.6	138.3	5.6	2.0
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):						
All items	11.740	130.0	138.0	142.3	9.5	3.1
Food	2.958	134.3	150.8	158.2	17.8	4.9
Housing	3.911	132.2	138.6	142.8	8.0	3.0
Apparel and upkeep	1.188	125.0	132.2	133.3	6.6	.8
Transportation	1.454	122.5	126.4	131.5	7.3	4.0
Health and recreation	2.229	129.0	132.8	135.1	4.7	1.7
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):						
All items	25.649	129.2	137.6	141.9	9.8	3.1
Food	6.070	133.8	150.1	158.1	18.2	5.3
Housing	8.745	131.9	139.7	143.2	8.6	2.5
Apparel and upkeep	2.541	126.2	132.1	133.5	5.8	1.1
Transportation	3.360	119.0	124.4	130.0	9.2	4.5
Health and recreation	4.933	128.4	132.8	135.3	5.4	1.9
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):						
All items	12.462	128.2	137.1	141.8	10.6	3.4
Food	3.094	133.5	150.1	158.1	18.4	5.3
Housing	4.168	130.8	139.3	144.1	10.2	3.4
Apparel and upkeep	1.260	124.5	131.7	132.4	6.3	.5
Transportation	1.585	117.4	123.0	128.8	9.7	4.7
Health and recreation	2.355	127.2	131.4	133.6	5.0	1.7
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):						
All items	17.022	127.0	136.6	141.2	11.2	3.4
Food	4.332	132.8	150.8	158.8	19.6	5.3
Housing	5.732	129.2	138.2	142.6	10.4	3.2
Apparel and upkeep	1.644	122.4	129.5	130.1	6.3	.5
Transportation	2.121	117.5	123.4	129.3	10.0	4.8
Health and recreation	3.193	125.4	130.1	132.0	5.3	1.5

¹ Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

Table 10. Consumer Price Index—United States average and areas grouped by region for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups, March 1974, and percent changes from selected dates

Area and group	Relative importance ¹	Indexes (1967= 100) ¹				Percent change to March 1974 from:	
	December 1973	March 1973	December 1973	March 1974	March 1973	December 1973	
United States:							
All items -----	100.000	129.8	138.5	143.1	10.2	3.3	
Food -----	24.810	134.5	151.3	159.1	18.3	5.2	
Housing -----	33.321	132.4	140.6	144.9	9.4	3.1	
Apparel and upkeep -----	9.945	124.8	130.5	132.2	5.9	1.3	
Transportation -----	12.602	121.5	126.7	132.0	8.6	4.2	
Health and recreation -----	18.946	128.6	133.0	135.4	5.3	1.8	
Northeast:							
All items -----	33.041	133.4	142.5	147.4	10.5	3.4	
Food -----	8.742	136.6	152.9	161.1	17.9	5.4	
Housing -----	10.672	137.3	146.9	152.1	10.8	3.5	
Apparel and upkeep -----	3.493	125.8	131.2	133.7	6.3	1.9	
Transportation -----	3.861	126.8	131.4	135.4	6.8	3.0	
Health and recreation -----	6.273	132.1	136.2	138.7	5.0	1.8	
North Central:							
All items -----	28.001	128.2	136.6	141.2	10.1	3.4	
Food -----	6.926	133.8	151.5	159.7	19.4	5.4	
Housing -----	9.313	128.1	134.4	138.6	8.2	3.1	
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.666	124.7	130.4	131.2	5.2	.6	
Transportation -----	3.722	121.3	127.1	132.4	9.2	4.2	
Health and recreation -----	5.374	128.9	133.6	136.3	5.7	2.0	
South:							
All items -----	21.836	129.3	138.8	143.5	11.0	3.4	
Food -----	5.293	135.4	153.1	160.8	18.8	5.0	
Housing -----	7.397	132.4	141.8	146.4	10.6	3.2	
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.254	125.0	131.5	132.6	6.1	.8	
Transportation -----	2.816	117.5	123.5	129.7	10.4	5.0	
Health and recreation -----	4.076	128.1	132.9	135.3	5.6	1.8	
West:							
All items -----	16.291	126.3	134.0	137.7	9.0	2.8	
Food -----	3.727	130.4	145.6	152.0	16.6	4.4	
Housing -----	5.797	130.6	138.2	140.7	7.7	1.8	
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.496	122.4	127.1	129.4	5.7	1.8	
Transportation -----	2.142	117.8	122.1	128.3	8.9	5.1	
Health and recreation -----	3.129	122.6	126.6	128.5	4.8	1.5	

¹ Regional index and relative importance data exclude Anchorage, Alaska and Honolulu, Hawaii which are excluded in the U. S. level data. Consequently, regional relative importances will not add to U. S. totals.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

A Note About Calculating Index Changes

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

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

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

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

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

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

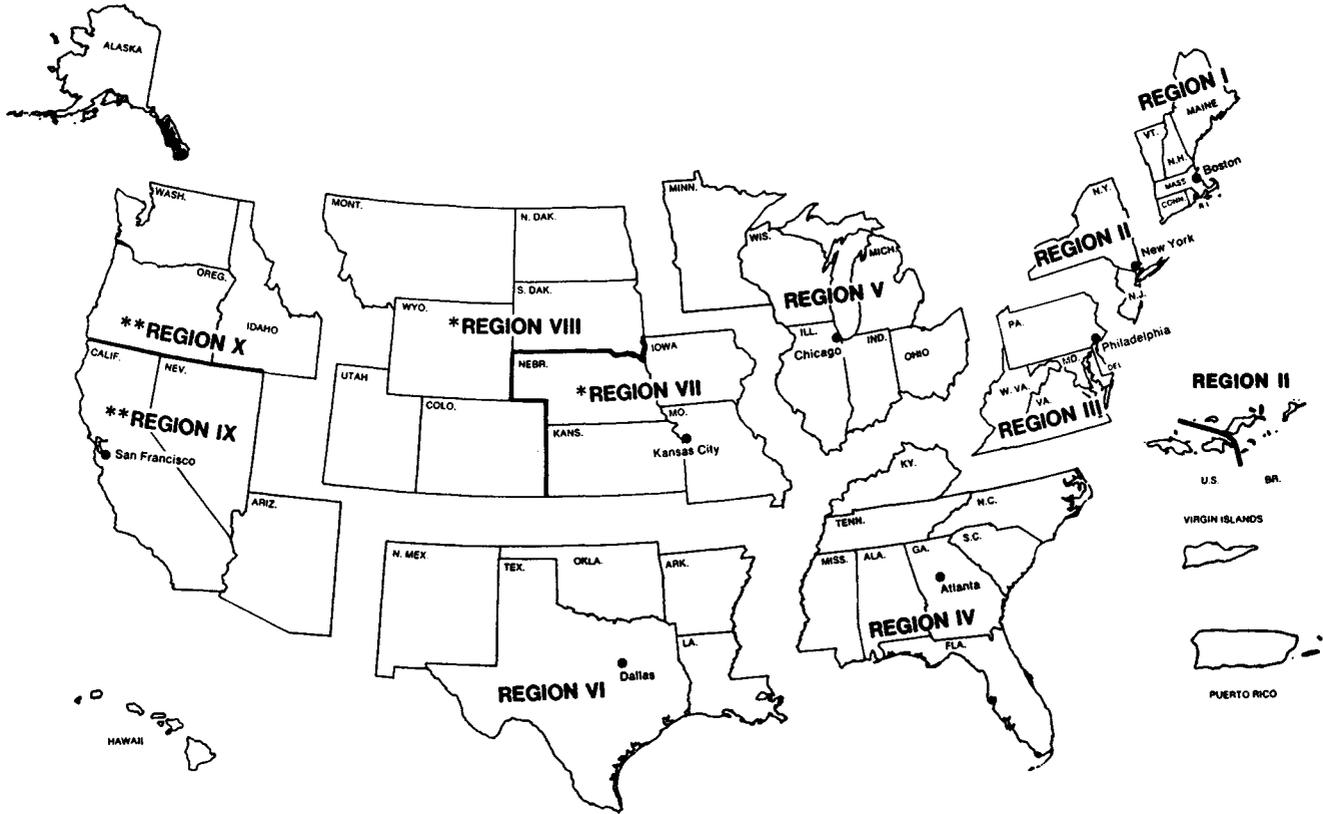
The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard error.

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 Wilkerson, "Measurement of Sampling Error in the Consumer Price Index," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, September 1967.

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