

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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OFFICE OF PRICES

AND LIVING CONDITIONS

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the consumer price index

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

The Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.3 percent in May to 124.7 percent of its 1967 base. The increase was due chiefly to higher prices for clothing, used cars, gasoline, and household services. The May index was 3.2 percent higher than it was a year ago.

After seasonal adjustment, the May increase was also 0.3 percent. During the 6 months since the wage-price-rent freeze ended in November, the CPI has risen at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.5 percent. (See table A.) There was a sharp deceleration in the rate of increase during the last 3 months of this period compared with the first 3 months as slower rates of increase for food and services offset a faster rate for nonfood commodities. The rate of advance was 4.0 percent during the period from February to August 1971—the 6-month period immediately preceding the start of the Economic Stabilization Program. In the first 9 months of the program, which includes the

period from August to November when most prices were frozen, the CPI rose at an annual rate of 2.9 percent.

All three major components of the CPI—food, commodities less food, and services—increased at a slower rate from November to May than they did from February to August 1971. During the 6 months of the post-freeze period, however, movements among these components varied considerably. The food index rose sharply from November to February, before declining slightly from February to May. The rise in prices of nonfood commodities was moderate in the first 3 months of the post-freeze period, but accelerated in the next 3 months to about the same pace as in the 6 months preceding the freeze. The rate of advance in the services index slowed markedly from February to May. For the November to February period as a whole it was about the same as in the 6 months before the freeze.

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
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted			
May 1971	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.6	0.6	4.0	3.9	4.4
June .....	.6	.4	.8	.4	.4	.3	.5	4.7	3.8	4.5
July .....	.2	.3	.5	.2	-.1	.2	.5	4.8	3.8	4.4
August .....	.2	.3	.2	.3	.1	.3	.5	4.1	4.0	4.4
September .....	.1	.1	-.8	-.3	.3	0	.3	3.0	3.9	4.0
October .....	.2	.2	-.2	-.1	.5	0	.2	2.6	3.7	3.6
November .....	.2	.2	.1	.8	.1	0	.3	1.9	3.0	3.5
December .....	.4	.3	1.1	.6	0	.2	.3	2.6	2.8	3.4
January 1972 .....	.1	.3	0	-.1	-.3	.2	.5	3.2	2.9	3.4
February .....	.5	.6	1.6	1.8	.1	.3	.2	4.8	3.4	3.7
March .....	.2	0	.2	0	.3	.2	.2	3.6	3.1	3.5
April .....	.2	.2	0	-.1	.3	.2	.3	3.1	3.2	3.4
May .....	.3	.3	-.1	-.1	.6	.5	.2	2.1	3.5	3.2

Food

In May, the food index, which includes both grocery store food and restaurant meals, declined 0.1 percent after seasonal adjustment, the same as in April. Prices, which were collected during the first week of May, declined for most types of food except fresh fruits and vegetables. The meat index declined contraseasonally for the second consecutive month; the index for dairy products declined for the first time in 6 months, and the index for cereal and bakery products also turned down after increases in each of the 3 preceding months.

The decline in retail meat prices in April and May, which were sharper than usual for pork and contraseasonal for beef, followed the declines at wholesale in March and April. In addition, consumer resistance to high prices, particularly for pork, appears to have contributed to some extent in containing meat prices. The shift in demand away from pork is indicated by a rise of 21 percent in cold storage holdings from March to April, despite a decline of 14 percent in production. Although beef production was 8 percent smaller in April than in March, cold storage holdings remained steady indicating consumers were cutting back on purchases of beef. The decline in meat production, however, resulted in a sharper than usual advance in wholesale meat prices in May, and prospects for higher prices at retail in the coming months.

After declining sharply in March and April, fresh vegetable prices rose significantly in May. Prices rose as supplies of some vegetables declined, primarily because harvesting had ended in some areas and had not yet begun in others. Prices were lower in May than in February for most fresh vegetables including potatoes, spinach, cabbages, carrots, and particularly lettuce, cucumbers, and tomatoes. From February to May, fresh fruit prices did not increase as much as they usually do mostly because of large contraseasonal declines in orange prices.

Prices of processed fruits and vegetables, which are subject to controls, increased at a steady pace from November to April before declining in May. In May, prices declined for most items due to sales and inventory adjustments as the new processing season approached.

Among other major categories of food purchased in grocery stores, prices of cereal and bakery products declined more than they usually do in May, particularly flour and bread prices. Prices for dairy products declined contraseasonally in May in response to rising milk production and maintenance of the milk support price at the same level as in April 1971. The decline in egg

prices, however, was smaller than usual for May as production declined 4 percent and cold storage holdings decreased 3 percent between March and April.

Price increases for restaurant meals and snacks away from home became progressively larger during the 6 months since the freeze ended. The rate of advance for the 3 months ending in May was about as rapid as in the 6 months before the freeze. Large increases over the past year in wholesale prices for meats, poultry, and fish contributed to higher prices for restaurant meals.

Commodities less food

The index for nonfood commodities rose at a somewhat faster pace in the February–May period than in the November–February period. The acceleration occurred mostly in May, when the index rose 0.5 percent after seasonal adjustment, compared with 0.2 percent in each of the 2 preceding months. Much of the large May increase resulted from a continued rise in prices of used cars and apparel and a sharp upturn in gasoline prices, following declines in recent months.

Used car prices which declined steadily from July of 1971 through February 1972, started their usual spring uptrend in March. The May increase in used car prices was the sharpest in about 2 years, reflecting strong demand. From January to April, used car sales, as reported by new car dealers, were up 7.1 percent from the same period of last year. New car prices, which were raised immediately after the freeze ended, have been trending down since February, which is usual for this time of year. Declines, however, were less than usual in March and April. The decline in May was slightly larger than usual.

Gasoline prices were raised just before the freeze and went into effect last August. Subsequently, prices declined almost steadily through April of this year. In May, however, oil companies attempted to restore prices to the pre-freeze level by withdrawing discounts which help retailers maintain profit margins during price wars. Although gasoline prices increased significantly in May, the restoration attempt was not completely successful because of competition from low-price volume selling service stations.

Apparel prices rose 0.7 percent in May, following increases of 0.6 percent in March and 0.4 percent in April. It is usual for apparel prices to move up in these months as spring and summer items come on the market. The increases in these 3 months were somewhat larger than usual—in March, primarily because of higher prices for women's clothing items, and in April and May

because of increases for men's clothing, particularly suits, and for footwear. Retail price increases for apparel reflected earlier price rises at wholesale caused in part by advances in the prices of textile products and especially hides and leather.

As leather and hide prices continued to advance, the Price Commission, in late May, granted price increases to shoe manufacturers; however, the increases were limited to a dollar-for-dollar pass-through of leather cost increases instead of treating new leather costs as subject to customary profit margin determination in figuring prices. In granting the increases, the Commission ordered the companies to roll back any price boosts they had been permitted previously and to apply the new standards to the base-period prices that existed during the 90-day wage-price-rent freeze; shoe prices must be reduced if cost of raw materials fall.

The index for household durables, which held steady in the first 3 months of the post-freeze period, increased 0.4 percent in March, and 0.3 percent in April and in May. On a seasonally adjusted basis, the total increase in the February–May period was 0.7 percent. Prices for floor coverings moved up slightly after declining from August of 1971 through February. The appliance price index, on the other hand, remained steady throughout the November–May period. Retail prices for furniture and bedding increased 1.0 percent in March, 0.2 percent in April, and 0.6 percent in May—the largest 3-month rise in almost 3 years. These monthly increases which were somewhat larger than usual resulted from higher prices at wholesale. A shortage of skilled workers, which has been developing over the years, and higher prices for hardwood lumber were among the factors which contributed to the increase in wholesale furniture prices. The rise in hardwood lumber prices, in turn, was due in part to increased demand for furniture stemming from expansion in housing starts and the growth in sales by furniture warehouse outlets. From January through May, sales in retail furniture stores were up 13 percent from the same period of last year. The April report from the Southern Furniture Manufacturers Association shows an increase of over 34 percent in orders for upholstered goods and over 21 percent in orders for case goods (all nonupholstered furniture).

Prices of other commodities such as alcoholic beverages, reading material, and toilet goods increased slightly more in the February–May period than in the November to February period. Prices of tobacco products continued to move up from February to May, mostly because of higher State and municipal taxes on cigarettes. The increases were not as large as they were in the November to February period.

Services

The index for services rose 0.7 percent from February to May, compared with 1.1 percent from November to February. The smaller increase reflected a significant deceleration in charges for household services which had advanced substantially in the first 3 months of the post-freeze period. The rise in charges for other major categories of services—medical care and transportation services—also decelerated from February to May.

Declines in mortgage interest rates, and smaller increases in property taxes, particularly in May, and in charges for public utility services slowed down the rise in the index for household services during the February to May period. Charges for electricity, gas, and telephone use rose sharply after the freeze ended and before the Price Commission instituted a new freeze which lasted from February 10 to March 25. In April and May, charges for gas services leveled off and telephone charges rose slightly. Electricity bills, however, rose substantially due to rate increases, adjustments for higher fuel costs, and tax increases. Home repair and maintenance costs accelerated from February to May, but not as much as they usually do in this period.

In the index for medical care services, charges for hospital services, which had advanced sharply in the first 3 months of the post-freeze period, moderated significantly in the 3 months ending in May. Fees for professional services—particularly doctors' fees—rose at a moderate rate over the entire post-freeze period from November to May.

The index for transportation services held almost steady in the February to May period, after increasing 1.3 percent from November to February. This increase, however, occurred mostly in January when local transit fares rose sharply, especially in New York City. Local transit and railroad fares declined between February and May, but intercity bus fares rose. Among auto-related services, charges for auto repairs decelerated significantly from February to May; on the other hand, declines in charges for auto insurance were smaller than earlier in the year, and parking fees rose sharply, particularly in May.

Charges for other services such as dry cleaning, shoe repairs, beauty and barber shop, and recreational services as a group increased at about the same moderate pace in the 3 months ending in May as they did from November to February.

Effect of items identified as exempt from post-freeze regulations

A substantial proportion of the 0.3-percent increase in the May CPI was due to price changes for items identified as exempt from regulation under Phase II of the

Economic Stabilization Program. Prices of used cars, raw agricultural products, and houses increased while mortgage interest rates declined. When the effects of the price changes for these items are removed, the increase in the May index was 0.1 percent, the same as last month.

Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 120,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in May for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from the following table, 75 percent of these

monthly comparisons remained unchanged, 12 percent decreased, and 13 percent increased between April and May. The proportion of prices increasing, decreasing, and holding steady in May was about the same as in the previous month.

The May index also includes 23,000 price comparisons to May from periods prior to April, of which 18,000 cover the quarterly span from February to May. About 15 percent of these increased, the same as in last month's index. In addition, a little less than 5,000 rental units were surveyed in May and about 18 percent of these reported rent increases from November. Four percent of the 5,000 reported increases between April and May.

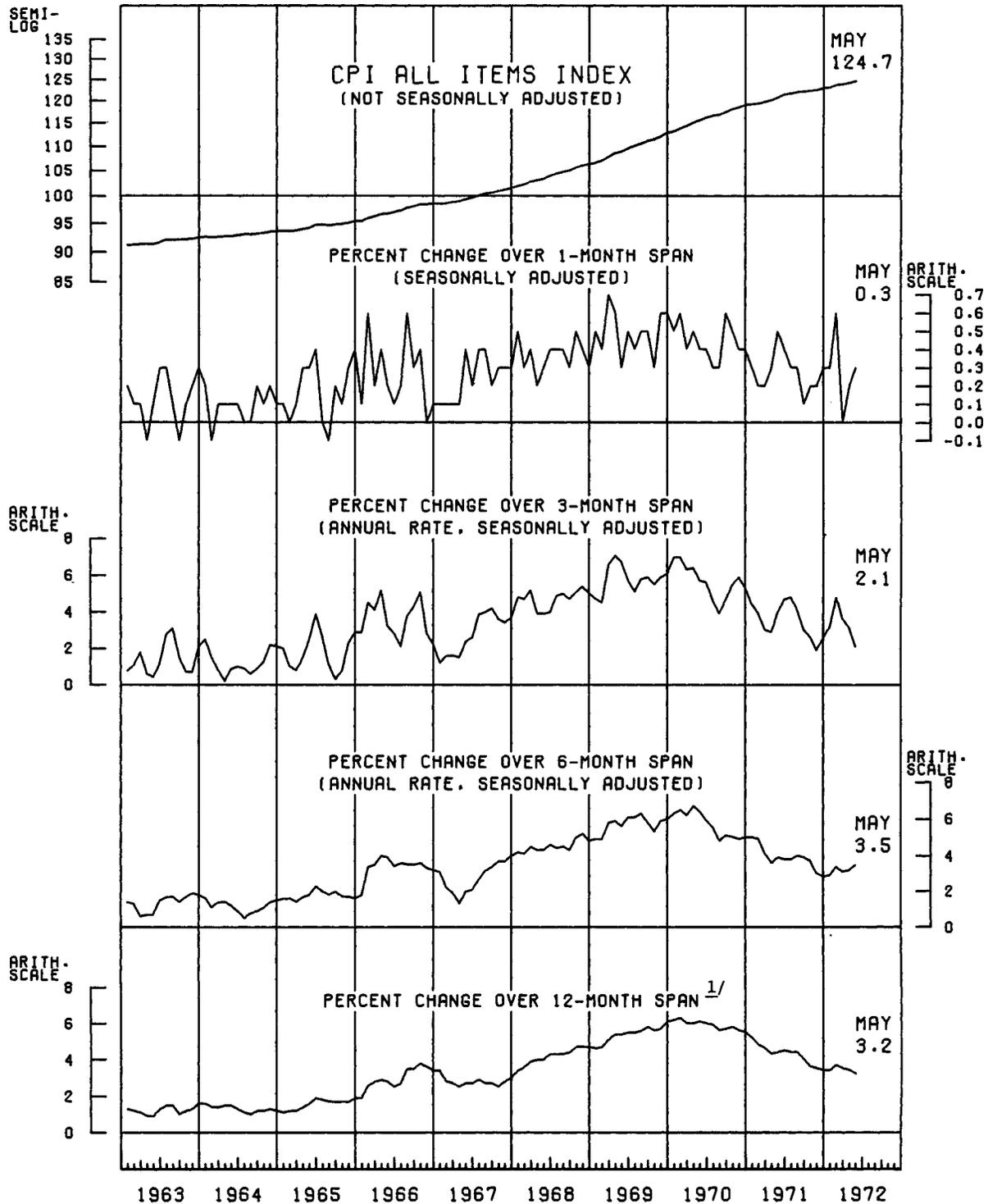
Table B. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons¹

Item	November to December	December to January	January to February	February to March	March to April	April to May
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	16	14	22	15	14	13
Decreases	7	11	8	10	12	12
No change	77	75	70	75	74	75
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	17	15	24	16	15	14
Decreases	8	11	9	12	13	13
No change	75	74	67	72	72	73
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	6	7	8	10	7	8
Decreases	5	10	7	5	7	6
No change	89	83	85	85	86	86
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	6	12	8	3	6	7
Decreases	1	5	3	1	4	5
No change	93	83	89	96	90	88
All items excluding raw agricultural products	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	9	12	20	13	11	10
Decreases	6	7	6	7	9	10
No change	85	81	74	80	80	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 price quotations.

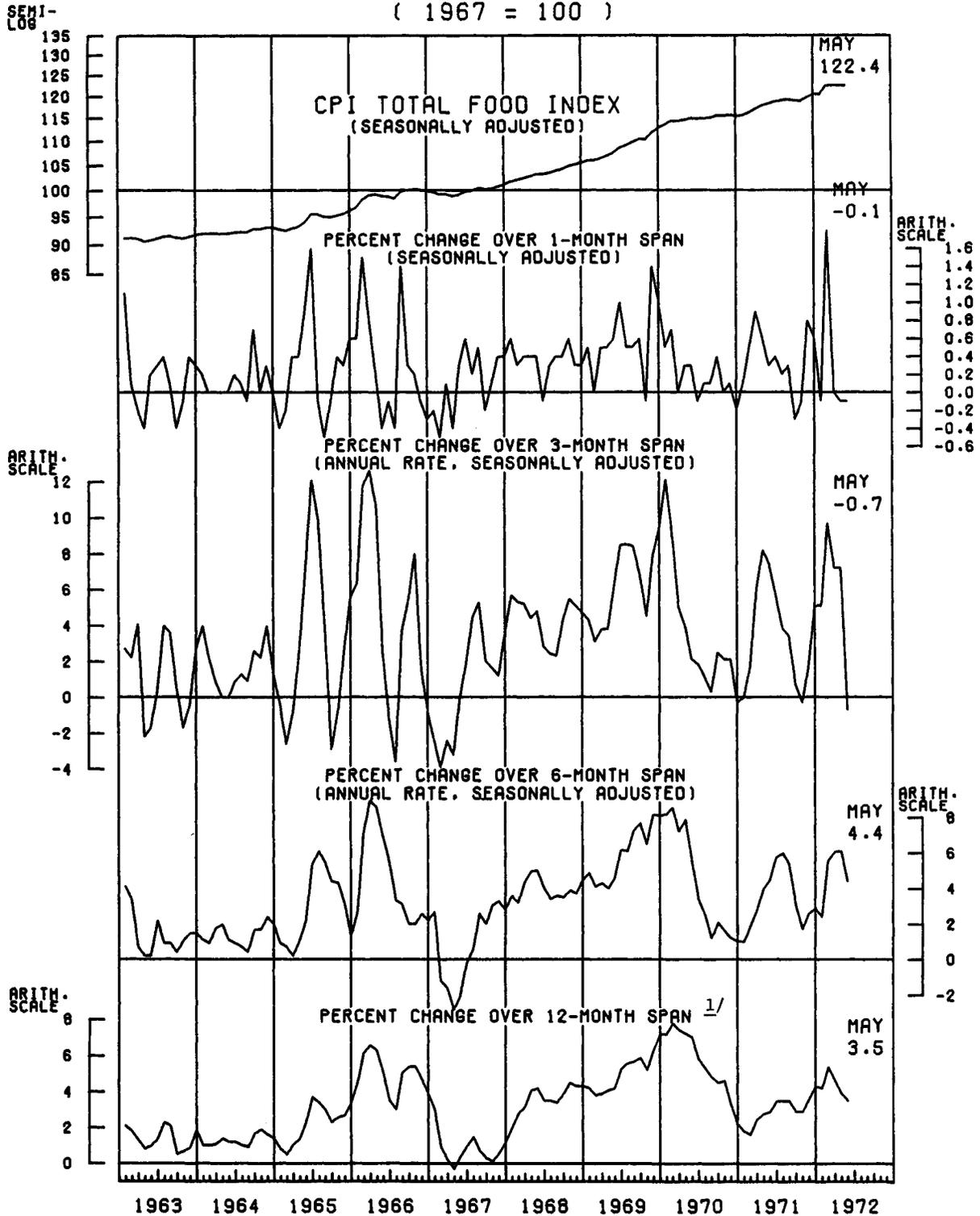
ALL ITEMS INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
 (1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

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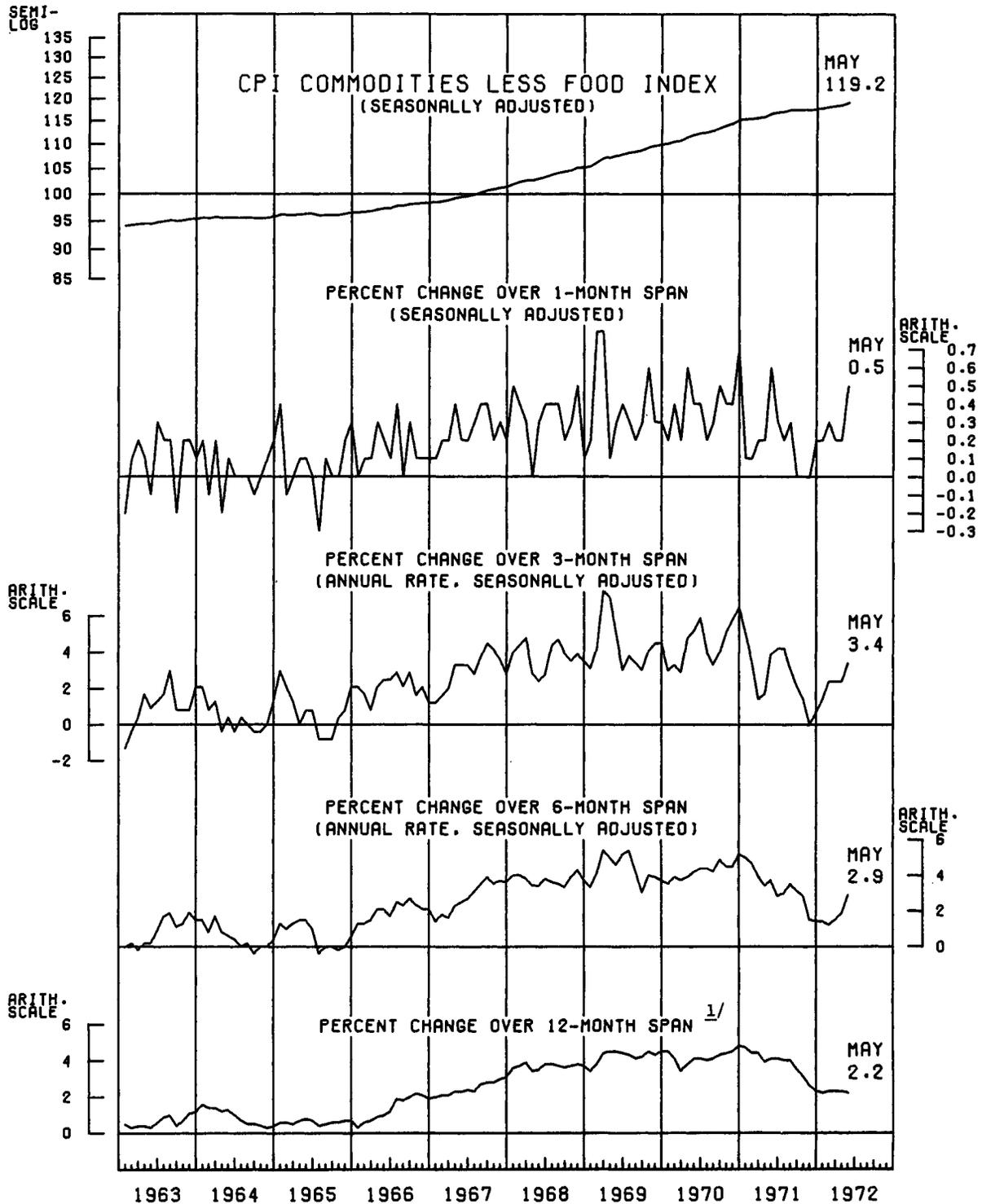
TOTAL FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
 (1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

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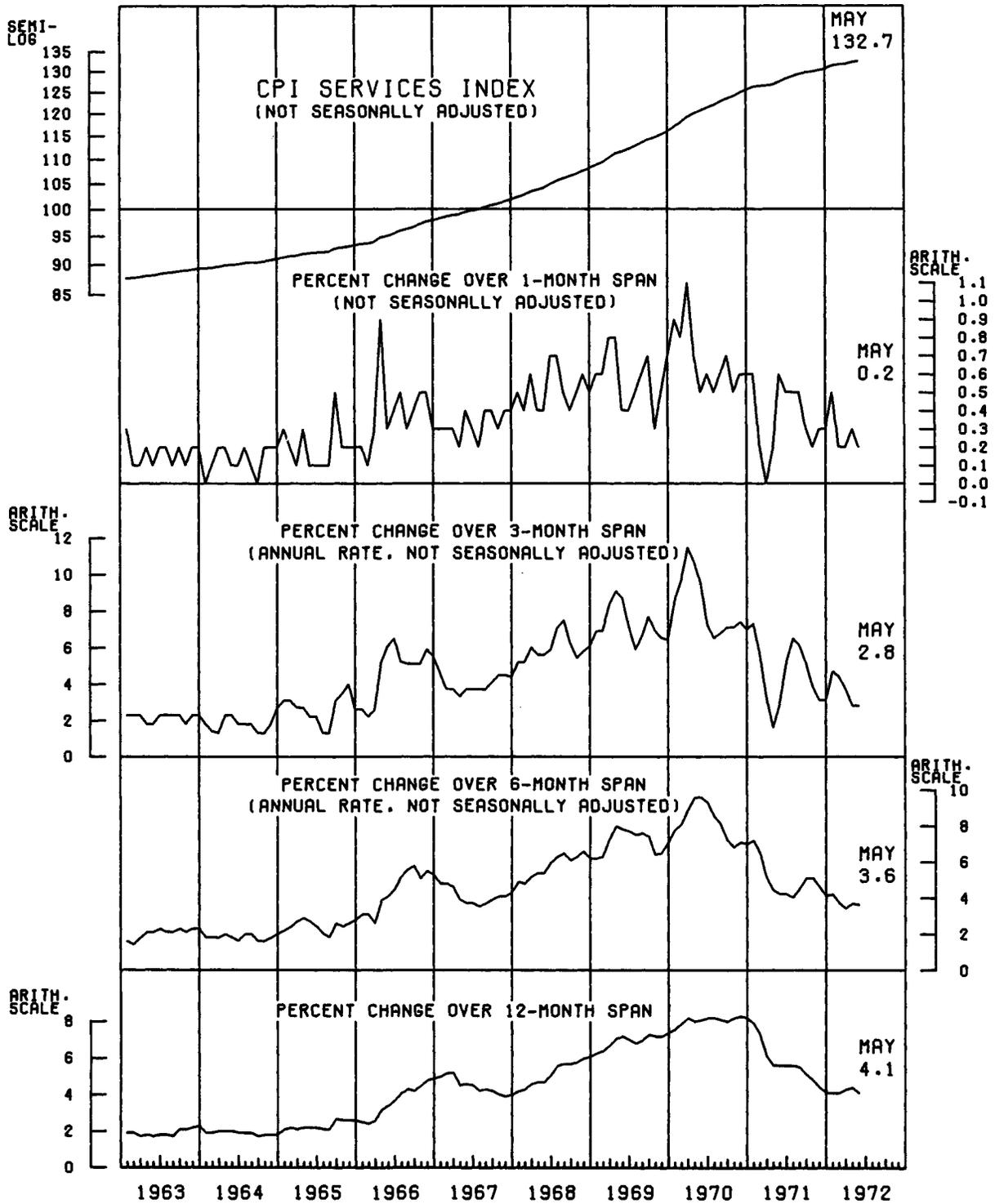
COMMODITIES LESS FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
 (1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

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



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

Groups	Relative importance December 1971	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to May 1972 from--		Seasonally adjusted percent change from previous month		
		May 1972	April 1972	April 1972	May 1971	April-May	March-April	February-March
		Commodity and service groups						
All items -----	100.00	124.7	124.3	0.3	3.2	0.3	0.2	0
All items (1957-59=100)-----		145.0	144.6	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities-----	62.59	120.3	119.9	.3	2.6	.3	0	0.1
Food-----	22.19	122.3	122.4	-.1	3.5	-.1	-.1	0
Food at home-----	17.23	120.2	120.4	-.2	3.4	-.2	-.2	-.1
Cereals and bakery products-----	2.28	114.7	115.0	-.3	.5	-.1	-.1	.4
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	5.64	124.8	125.9	-.9	7.8	-.7	-.6	-.4
Dairy products-----	2.72	117.3	117.4	-.1	1.9	-.4	-.3	-.4
Fruits and vegetables-----	3.03	123.9	122.1	1.5	2.1	.2	-.7	-3.1
Other foods at home-----	3.56	116.0	116.2	-.2	.4	1.4	-.5	1.9
Food away from home-----	4.96	130.4	130.0	.3	4.1	.3	.3	.5
Commodities less food-----	40.40	119.2	118.5	.6	2.2	.5	.2	.2
Nondurables less food-----	23.63	119.7	119.1	.5	2.7	.4	.1	.3
Apparel commodities 1/-----	9.03	122.9	122.1	.7	2.0	.2	.2	.3
Men's and boys'-----	2.82	122.4	121.9	.4	1.0	.2	.8	0
Women's and girls'-----	4.02	123.4	122.3	.9	2.5	0	-.1	.4
Footwear-----	1.57	124.6	124.1	.4	2.4	.2	.4	.3
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	14.60	117.9	117.4	.4	3.1	.5	.1	.3
Gasoline and motor oil-----	2.92	107.4	106.3	1.0	2.2	1.5	-.7	-.4
Tobacco products-----	2.09	133.2	132.7	.4	6.8	.4 *	.2 *	.4 *
Alcoholic beverages-----	2.50	119.5	119.3	.2	2.7	.2 *	.3 *	.2 *
Fuel oil and coal-----	.67	118.7	118.6	.1	1.3	.3	.3	.2
Other nondurables-----	6.42	117.8	117.4	.3	2.7	.3	.3	.2
Durable commodities-----	16.77	118.4	117.7	.6	1.5	.3	.1	.3
Household durables-----	4.83	114.8	114.4	.3	1.9	.3	.2	.3
New cars-----	2.12	111.4	111.7	-.3	-2.2	-.1	.5	.3
Used cars-----	1.98	110.0	106.4	3.4	-2.5	3.4 *	2.4 *	.9 *
Other durables-----	7.84	125.5	125.1	.3	3.5	.3	.3	0
Services-----	37.41	132.7	132.4	.2	4.1	.2 *	.3 *	.2 *
Rent-----	5.05	118.3	118.1	.2	3.1	.2 *	.3 *	.2 *
Services less rent-----	32.36	135.3	135.0	.2	4.2	.2 *	.2 *	.2 *
Household services less rent-----	15.36	138.5	138.1	.3	6.0	.6	.1	-.2
Transportation services-----	5.57	135.8	135.6	.1	2.0	.4	.1	-.1
Medical care services-----	5.55	137.6	137.3	.2	3.5	.2	.3	.1
Other services-----	5.88	125.3	125.1	.2	2.7	.1	.2	.1
Special indexes:								
All items less food-----	77.81	125.4	124.9	.4	3.1	.4	.2	.2
Nondurable commodities-----	45.82	121.0	120.7	.2	3.1	.2	0	.1
Apparel commodities less footwear-----	7.46	122.6	121.8	.7	1.9	.1	.2	.2
Services less medical care services-----	31.86	132.0	131.7	.2	4.2	.2 *	.3 *	.2 *
Insurance and finance-----	9.85	143.0	142.7	.1	4.3	.6	-.1	-.1
Utilities and public transportation-----	5.51	125.7	125.4	.2	5.4	.5	.2	-.2
Housekeeping and home maintenance service-----	4.46	143.5	143.0	.3	5.5	.3	.5	-.1
Expenditure classes								
All items-----	100.00	124.7	124.3	0.3	3.2	0.3	0.2	0
Food-----	22.19	122.3	122.4	-.1	3.5	-.1	-.1	0
Housing-----	33.84	128.5	128.2	.2	4.3	.2 *	.2 *	.2 *
Shelter 2/-----	21.72	133.4	133.0	.3	4.9	.5	.3	-.2
Rent-----	5.05	118.3	118.1	.2	3.1	.2 *	.3 *	.2 *
Homeownership 3/-----	16.25	138.9	138.5	.3	5.5	.4	.3	-.4
Fuel and utilities 4/-----	4.71	120.1	119.9	.2	5.0	.3	.3	.2
Gas and electricity-----	2.43	120.5	120.2	.2	5.3	.3	.2	.4
Household furnishings and operation-----	7.41	120.8	120.5	.2	2.3	.1	.3	.3
Apparel and upkeep-----	10.45	122.5	121.8	.6	1.9	.2	.3	.2
Transportation-----	13.27	119.5	118.6	.8	.6	.5	-.1	.2
Private-----	11.80	117.1	116.1	.9	.1	.6	0	.2
Public-----	1.47	142.7	142.7	0	4.6	.4	.6	-1.6
Health and recreation-----	19.87	125.8	125.5	.2	3.5	.2 *	.4 *	.2 *
Medical care-----	6.46	132.0	131.7	.2	3.0	.2	.2	0
Personal care-----	2.58	119.7	119.1	.5	2.7	.5	.3	.1
Reading and recreation-----	5.71	122.5	122.3	.2	3.0	-.1	.3	.2
Other goods and services-----	5.12	125.4	125.1	.2	4.6	.4	.6	.3
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter-----	78.28	122.4	122.1	.2	2.7	.2	.1	.2
All items less medical care-----	93.54	124.3	123.9	.3	3.2	.2	.2	.1
All items less mortgage interest costs-----	96.25	123.8	123.5	.2	3.2	.2	.2	.2
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$1.00-----	-	\$0.802	\$0.805	-.4	-3.1	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00-----	-	.690	.692					

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			
		May 1972			April 1972	February 1972	May 1971
U.S. city average -----	M	124.7	145.0		0.3	0.7	3.2
Chicago -----	M	123.7	140.6		.3	.6	2.6
Detroit -----	M	125.5	144.2		.4	.5	3.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	121.4	142.8		.1	.8	2.8
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. ---	M	130.5	155.3		.2	.8	4.2
Philadelphia -----	M	126.1	147.3		.1	.7	2.2
		April 1972				January 1972	April 1971
Boston -----	1	126.2	151.2			1.0	3.7
Houston -----	1	124.8	142.8			1.3	4.4
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	1	124.2	144.0			.3	3.2
Pittsburgh -----	1	124.7	143.4			1.2	3.1
		May 1972				February 1972	May 1971
Buffalo -----	2	126.1	-	<u>3/</u> 138.5		1.0	3.9
Cleveland -----	2	126.1	142.3			.2	3.4
Dallas -----	2	124.6	-	<u>3/</u> 134.7		.7	3.5
Milwaukee -----	2	122.8	138.6			.5	3.1
San Diego -----	2	123.8	-	<u>4/</u> 130.1		1.2	3.6
Seattle -----	2	118.8	139.6			-.2	2.9
Washington -----	2	125.6	146.3			.7	2.8
		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 April 1972 to May 1972

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadel-phia
All items-----	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.1
Food-----	-.1	.0	-.2	-.2	-.1	-1.0
Housing-----	.2	.3	.8	.0	.3	.7
Apparel and upkeep-----	.6	.2	.8	.0	.1	-.3
Transportation-----	.8	1.1	.2	1.0	.6	1.1
Health and recreation-----	.2	.5	.2	.0	.4	.1
Medical care-----	.2	.5	.1	.2	.2	-.1
Personal care-----	.5	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation-----	.2	.5	.7	.4	-.1	-.2
Other goods and services-----	.2	.1	.0	-.1	.5	.5

1/ See footnote 1, table 2.
2/ Not available.

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

Group	Indexes			Percent changes to May 1972 from:	
	May 1972	April 1972	February 1972	April 1972	February 1972
Food -----	122.4	122.5	122.6	- 0.1	- 0.2
Food at home -----	120.2	120.5	120.9	- .2	- .6
Cereal and bakery products -----	114.8	114.9	114.3	- .1	.4
Meat, poultry, and fish -----	125.1	126.0	127.3	- .7	- 1.7
Dairy products -----	117.4	117.9	117.0	- .4	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	120.8	120.5	125.3	.2	- 3.6
Other foods at home -----	117.8	116.2	114.6	1.4	2.8
Fuel and utilities <u>1/</u> -----	120.0	119.7	119.2	.3	.7
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.9	118.5	118.0	.3	.7
Apparel and upkeep <u>2/</u> -----	122.1	121.9	121.3	.2	.7
Men's and boys' -----	121.9	121.7	120.7	.2	1.0
Women's and girls' -----	123.0	123.0	122.6	0	.3
Footwear -----	124.2	124.0	123.1	.2	.9
Transportation -----	119.3	118.7	118.4	.5	.8
Private -----	116.7	116.0	115.8	.6	.8
New cars -----	111.5	111.6	110.8	-.1	.6
Commodities -----	120.3	119.9	119.8	.3	.4
Commodities less food -----	119.2	118.6	118.2	.5	.8
Nondurables -----	121.0	120.8	120.7	.2	.2
Nondurables less food -----	119.7	119.2	118.8	.4	.8
Apparel commodities -----	122.5	122.3	121.6	.2	.7
Durables -----	118.3	117.9	117.5	.3	.7

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, May 1972 index and percent changes from February 1972

Group	U.S. city average	Buffalo	Chicago	Cleveland	Dallas	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach
Indexes (1967=100)							
All items -----	124.7	126.1	123.7	126.1	124.6	125.5	121.4
Food -----	122.3	122.5	122.3	121.6	121.6	121.1	119.0
Food at home -----	120.2	121.2	120.6	120.7	118.3	119.4	117.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.7	117.1	116.6	110.4	113.1	113.8	111.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	124.8	124.3	125.9	124.3	122.2	126.6	124.8
Dairy products -----	117.3	116.9	115.6	123.7	112.3	116.4	114.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.9	128.9	122.0	123.3	124.0	117.9	117.8
Other foods at home -----	116.0	115.7	116.4	117.1	115.0	113.5	113.8
Food away from home -----	130.4	130.1	128.9	126.8	133.9	128.7	122.5
Housing -----	128.5	131.8	123.9	126.2	127.7	133.1	126.0
Shelter -----	133.4	132.7	128.0	129.0	133.3	142.7	128.5
Rent -----	118.3	119.2	112.6	112.8	111.7	(2/)	118.1
Homeownership -----	138.9	135.3	134.9	131.8	143.1	147.4	131.6
Fuel and utilities -----	120.1	137.8	115.2	120.7	116.9	115.3	125.2
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.7	121.1	113.4	-	-	113.9	-
Gas and electricity -----	120.5	140.3	115.7	122.3	113.6	116.0	128.3
Household furnishings and operation -----	120.8	124.7	116.9	119.2	121.2	115.3	117.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	122.5	127.5	119.2	123.8	121.4	118.1	120.2
Men's and boys' -----	122.4	140.6	117.7	120.6	126.0	127.4	117.7
Women's and girls' -----	123.4	126.2	121.5	127.0	119.3	115.4	123.6
Footwear -----	124.6	120.0	116.9	123.2	125.2	125.2	122.6
Transportation -----	119.5	118.4	124.1	126.1	120.7	115.5	116.9
Private -----	117.1	116.5	118.2	121.4	118.8	112.7	116.9
Public -----	142.7	138.4	161.3	156.8	145.5	149.0	115.3
Health and recreation -----	125.8	125.6	127.4	132.4	126.8	128.2	119.7
Medical care -----	132.0	125.9	131.2	142.9	131.2	140.5	127.8
Personal care -----	119.7	118.5	(2/)	123.5	126.5	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	122.5	127.6	124.2	124.9	121.9	124.3	113.5
Other goods and services -----	125.4	127.0	130.6	132.7	125.9	121.3	118.4
Percent changes from February 1972 to May 1972							
All items -----	0.7	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.7	0.5	0.8
Food -----	.1	-.3	-.4	-.1	-.7	-.8	.1
Food at home -----	-.2	-.4	-1.1	-.2	-1.0	-1.4	-.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	.3	-.3	-.4	-1.0	-.5	-.4	.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-1.2	-1.9	-2.0	-2.2	-2.9	-3.5	-.4
Dairy products -----	.3	.1	-1.0	1.2	.4	-.3	.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	.0	3.0	-1.0	-.2	-.8	1.7	-3.2
Other foods at home -----	.3	-1.4	.3	2.4	.3	-1.3	.9
Food away from home -----	1.2	.5	1.9	.7	.7	1.7	1.2
Housing -----	.7	.2	.6	-.6	.5	1.5	.2
Shelter -----	.7	-.4	.6	-1.1	.1	1.3	-.2
Rent -----	.7	-.9	3/ .5	.4	.1	(2/)	3/ .3
Homeownership -----	.7	-.6	-.6	-1.5	.1	1.4	-.4
Fuel and utilities -----	.7	-.3	-.2	.1	1.5	2.1	.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	.0	-.7	.0	-	-	.0	-
Gas and electricity -----	.9	.4	-.3	.1	2.9	1.1	.8
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.0	1.4	.7	1.5	1.2	2.1	1.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.5	4.3	.3	.9	1.2	.9	1.3
Men's and boys' -----	2.3	.3	1.3	-1.1	1.4	2.2	.7
Women's and girls' -----	1.4	11.8	-.2	3.3	2.2	-.4	2.3
Footwear -----	1.5	-2.4	.2	1.8	1.0	2.7	.5
Transportation -----	1.0	2.7	1.7	1.0	2.5	-1.2	4.2
Private -----	1.2	2.1	2.1	.2	2.8	-1.4	4.3
Public -----	-.6	8.8	.0	4.7	.0	.0	.0
Health and recreation -----	.9	.9	1.4	.8	.9	.6	.4
Medical care -----	.8	.4	.9	.8	.4	.4	.5
Personal care -----	1.1	1.8	(2/)	1.0	2.3	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	.8	.6	2.2	1.3	1.4	1.6	.5
Other goods and services -----	.9	1.4	.7	.4	.0	.1	.1

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Group	Milwaukee	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items -----	122.8	130.5	126.1	123.8	118.8	125.6
Food -----	119.4	127.3	123.0	122.3	119.3	122.9
Food at home -----	117.6	124.0	119.9	119.3	117.3	118.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	116.0	117.1	113.7	112.8	110.1	116.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	124.0	128.7	124.6	129.8	123.6	116.2
Dairy products -----	114.7	120.6	118.3	114.5	115.6	112.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	117.7	129.2	123.7	117.5	116.0	128.3
Other foods at home -----	111.4	117.9	113.9	112.1	115.0	119.6
Food away from home -----	126.3	137.6	136.1	129.7	125.6	134.3
Housing -----	125.8	135.0	129.1	132.3	121.3	127.0
Shelter -----	128.8	140.7	137.6	143.3	125.9	131.1
Rent -----	117.4	(2/)	123.8	133.4	105.7	118.0
Homeownership -----	132.4	152.8	141.2	147.6	131.7	138.7
Fuel and utilities -----	123.4	124.5	116.7	115.7	114.5	114.1
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.4	120.4	111.9	-	118.7	117.5
Gas and electricity -----	128.8	123.0	121.5	112.1	109.0	114.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	119.3	126.5	121.0	112.2	114.5	122.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	127.2	123.6	120.1	122.7	116.8	125.4
Men's and boys' -----	128.6	123.7	122.4	122.2	114.1	125.8
Women's and girls' -----	126.0	122.9	115.8	130.4	119.1	128.4
Footwear -----	126.5	125.9	125.6	119.6	119.4	126.6
Transportation -----	117.4	132.6	125.3	116.5	108.5	122.9
Private -----	114.5	124.9	122.4	116.1	108.3	118.6
Public -----	152.3	162.4	142.4	123.3	109.8	146.9
Health and recreation -----	122.9	130.5	129.2	118.3	120.1	127.9
Medical care -----	127.5	139.3	140.7	122.6	125.2	139.8
Personal care -----	118.5	119.2	(2/)	116.1	114.0	118.1
Reading and recreation -----	122.8	126.1	125.5	115.5	118.6	122.9
Other goods and services -----	121.1	131.2	125.1	117.7	119.3	125.3
Percent changes from February 1972 to May 1972						
All items -----	0.5	0.8	0.7	1.2	-0.2	0.7
Food -----	.0	.3	.6	.4	-.3	-.6
Food at home -----	-.4	-.2	-1.2	.3	-.6	-1.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	-.8	1.5	-1.7	.6	-.6	1.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-1.0	-1.2	-.2	.2	1.1	-4.4
Dairy products -----	.3	.0	-1.7	1.2	.0	1.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	.5	.3	-1.4	-1.9	-4.7	-2.1
Other foods at home -----	-.6	.1	-2.3	1.3	-.2	-.6
Food away from home -----	1.7	1.8	1.5	.9	.7	1.5
Housing -----	-.2	1.0	.8	1.1	-.7	1.2
Shelter -----	-.3	.8	1.0	1.1	-1.6	1.4
Rent -----	.4	(2/)	3/	.7	.0	1.0
Homeownership -----	-.5	.6	.9	1.4	-1.9	1.5
Fuel and utilities -----	.6	1.3	.1	.1	.9	.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	.0	.0	.0	-	.0	.0
Gas and electricity -----	1.1	3.4	.3	.1	1.3	1.2
Household furnishings and operation -----	-.5	1.4	.3	1.1	.7	.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.8	1.2	3.4	1.5	-.1	1.8
Men's and boys' -----	.2	4.1	2.5	1.7	-1.6	4.5
Women's and girls' -----	3.9	-1.0	5.3	2.0	.9	1.1
Footwear -----	.0	4.7	4.4	1.2	-.1	.4
Transportation -----	1.7	.4	1.4	3.6	.4	.2
Private -----	2.0	.6	1.6	3.8	.5	.3
Public -----	.0	.0	.1	.0	.0	.1
Health and recreation -----	.4	1.2	.5	.3	.3	1.1
Medical care -----	.4	.5	.2	.3	.6	1.2
Personal care -----	-.8	2.0	(2/)	1.8	.9	.6
Reading and recreation -----	.4	1.0	-.2	.0	.2	1.4
Other goods and services -----	.8	1.9	.9	-.2	.2	.8

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

^{2/} Not available.

^{3/} Change from March 1972.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, May 1972 indexes and percent changes from April 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 -----	122.3	120.2	114.7	124.8	117.3	123.9	116.0	130.4
Atlanta -----	123.2	120.7	117.3	122.2	119.0	129.8	116.8	131.1
Baltimore -----	122.7	120.3	113.5	122.9	119.3	125.4	117.3	131.9
Boston -----	122.8	121.3	115.6	128.0	116.9	122.8	116.5	128.0
Buffalo -----	122.5	121.2	117.1	124.3	116.9	128.9	115.7	130.1
Chicago -----	122.3	120.6	116.6	125.9	115.6	122.0	116.4	128.9
Cincinnati -----	123.5	122.2	114.5	123.8	120.2	130.0	118.5	128.1
Cleveland -----	121.6	120.7	110.4	124.3	123.7	123.3	117.1	126.8
Dallas -----	121.6	118.3	113.1	122.2	112.3	124.0	115.0	133.9
Detroit -----	121.1	119.4	113.8	126.6	116.4	117.9	113.5	128.7
Honolulu -----	122.3	119.7	105.7	123.3	117.8	129.8	117.2	129.5
Houston -----	123.2	119.1	111.7	123.2	118.1	124.3	115.2	137.3
Kansas City -----	122.0	119.7	116.5	122.3	126.2	117.6	115.1	129.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	119.0	117.7	111.8	124.8	114.4	117.8	113.8	122.5
Milwaukee -----	119.4	117.6	116.0	124.0	114.7	117.7	111.4	126.3
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	123.3	121.0	121.4	126.8	116.2	120.6	118.1	133.4
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. ---	127.3	124.0	117.1	128.7	120.6	129.2	117.9	137.6
Philadelphia -----	123.0	119.9	113.7	124.6	118.3	123.7	113.9	136.1
Pittsburgh -----	121.5	119.5	116.5	120.2	119.1	125.2	116.1	133.6
St. Louis -----	121.4	119.2	120.7	120.4	119.7	124.9	111.4	132.0
San Diego -----	122.3	119.3	112.8	129.8	114.5	117.5	112.1	129.7
San Francisco-Oakland --	120.0	118.6	112.6	123.0	115.8	119.8	116.5	124.9
Seattle -----	119.3	117.3	110.1	123.6	115.6	116.0	115.0	125.6
Washington -----	122.9	118.4	116.0	116.2	112.8	128.3	119.6	134.3
Percent changes April 1972 to May 1972								
U.S. city average -----	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.9	-0.1	1.5	-0.2	0.3
Atlanta -----	-.4	-.5	-.8	-1.5	.4	1.3	-.6	.0
Baltimore -----	.0	-.2	-2.0	-.9	-.3	2.0	.8	.2
Boston -----	.2	.2	.8	-.2	.1	.2	1.0	.4
Buffalo -----	.0	.0	1.4	-1.4	.6	2.4	-.9	-.2
Chicago -----	.0	-.2	-.3	.2	-.8	-1.2	.6	.5
Cincinnati -----	.2	.2	-1.9	.1	.0	2.0	-.3	.3
Cleveland -----	-.1	-.2	-.5	.0	.5	-.5	-.3	.3
Dallas -----	.2	.2	.2	-1.2	-.9	3.3	.3	.3
Detroit -----	-.2	-.6	-1.3	-1.5	-.3	2.3	-.8	1.3
Honolulu -----	-.4	-.6	-.3	-.3	.0	-.9	-1.1	.0
Houston -----	-.3	-.6	-.4	-1.5	-.3	1.2	-.3	.1
Kansas City -----	-.4	-.7	-.7	-2.2	-.4	1.3	-.3	.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	-.2	-.3	.0	-.6	-.3	-.8	.4	.1
Milwaukee -----	.3	-.2	.2	-.9	.2	1.3	-.4	1.7
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.3	.3	-1.0	-.2	1.2	1.9	-.3	.5
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. ---	-.1	-.3	-.1	-1.3	-.1	1.5	-.3	.5
Philadelphia -----	-1.0	-1.3	-3.1	-.6	-1.7	.6	-3.0	.4
Pittsburgh -----	-.7	-.9	-.4	-1.8	-.4	.2	-1.4	.1
St. Louis -----	.3	.4	.0	-.1	-.2	2.7	.2	.0
San Diego -----	.2	.0	.4	-.5	.0	.5	.4	.9
San Francisco-Oakland --	.3	.2	.4	-1.0	.7	1.4	1.0	.6
Seattle -----	.2	.1	-.8	.1	-.4	.6	.3	.5
Washington -----	-.7	-1.5	-1.7	-3.6	.0	.5	-.6	.8

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

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

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change to May 1972 from--		
	May 1972		April 1972		May 1971 unadjusted
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Total food -----	122.3	122.4	-0.1	-0.1	3.5
Food away from home -----	130.4	130.5	.3	.3	4.1
Restaurant meals -----	130.4	130.5	.4	.4	4.3
Snacks -----	130.7	130.7	-.1	-.1	3.2
Food at home -----	120.7	120.2	-.2	-.2	3.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.7	114.8	-.3	-.1	.5
Flour -----	100.2	99.9	-.2	-.5	- 1.4
Cracker meal -----	135.5	135.0	.1	.1	4.2
Corn flakes -----	101.0	101.2	.4	-.2	- 8.3
Rice -----	109.7	109.6	-.3	-.4	.5
Bread, white -----	112.7	113.0	-.5	-.4	.4
Bread, whole wheat -----	120.3	120.8	-.2	.2	2.8
Cookies -----	111.4	110.8	.2	-.1	1.5
Layer cake -----	119.8	119.8	-.2	-.2	.3
Cinnamon rolls -----	120.8	120.8	.0	-.1	2.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	124.8	125.1	-.9	-.7	7.8
Meats -----	125.6	125.7	-1.0	-1.2	8.7
Beef and veal -----	134.1	133.4	-1.3	-1.9	7.6
Steak, round -----	130.6	129.3	-2.5	-3.4	5.5
Steak, sirloin -----	127.5	127.0	-2.6	-3.9	4.1
Steak, porterhouse -----	130.4	130.1	-1.4	-2.7	5.9
Rump roast -----	129.2	127.9	-2.6	-3.4	5.0
Rib roast -----	136.6	136.3	-1.2	-1.9	8.9
Chuck roast -----	133.9	132.7	-2.7	-1.9	7.0
Hamburger -----	135.7	135.3	-.7	-.9	7.8
Beef liver -----	132.2	131.8	2.9	2.9	16.5
Veal cutlets -----	159.6	159.1	.3	.6	14.3
Pork -----	115.4	117.2	-1.1	-.7	12.9
Chops -----	114.7	117.6	-1.0	-.3	11.9
Loin roast -----	114.7	117.0	-.9	-.7	11.9
Pork sausage -----	124.9	126.3	.2	.3	14.3
Ham, whole -----	110.5	112.3	-2.0	-2.4	7.9
Picnics -----	121.0	122.2	-1.5	-.2	13.3
Bacon -----	110.8	111.5	-1.3	-1.8	16.3
Other meats -----	121.7	121.9	-.2	-.2	5.9
Lamb chops -----	126.6	127.0	-.1	-.4	6.0
Frankfurters -----	122.1	122.6	-.8	0	6.7
Ham, canned -----	113.6	113.3	.9	.9	6.1
Bologna sausage -----	126.8	126.8	-.8	-.8	7.1
Salami sausage -----	124.2	124.8	.3	.8	7.5
Liverwurst -----	117.1	117.2	-1.0	-1.3	2.4
Poultry -----	108.4	109.1	-.9	-.1	.6
Frying chicken -----	107.2	107.8	-1.0	.6	-.1
Chicken breasts -----	111.9	112.1	.3	.7	3.3
Turkey -----	110.9	112.1	-1.8	-.2	1.2
Fish -----	140.2	139.9	.3	.1	8.3
Shrimp, frozen -----	133.7	133.4	-.1	-.4	15.1
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	147.7	147.6	1.0	1.0	5.5
Tuna fish, canned -----	133.7	133.2	.3	.2	3.8
Sardines, canned -----	145.7	145.7	.2	.4	9.7
Dairy products -----	117.3	117.4	-.1	-.4	1.9
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	116.8	116.9	-.1	-.2	1.7
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	120.3	120.4	.3	0	2.3
Milk, fresh, skim -----	122.0	121.9	.1	-.2	1.5
Milk, evaporated -----	120.5	120.7	-.2	-1.0	3.0
Ice cream -----	106.5	106.9	-.3	-.2	1.0
Cheese, American process -----	124.1	123.9	-.1	-.1	2.8
Butter -----	105.3	105.4	-.4	-.5	-.3

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change to May 1972 from--		
	May 1972		April 1972		May 1971 unadjusted
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Fruits and vegetables -----	123.9	120.8	1.5	0.2	2.1
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	126.7	121.4	2.8	.7	.9
Apples -----	121.8	118.5	6.7	2.6	4.8
Bananas -----	104.4	102.9	- 4.6	- 5.2	10.9
Oranges -----	118.0	123.8	.6	- 1.2	- 2.4
Orange juice, fresh -----	130.6	130.9	.5	- 1.3	7.4
Grapefruit -----	131.9	142.3	7.8	4.2	6.1
Grapes 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Strawberries 1/ -----	103.3	109.2	- 13.3	- 1.3	- 5.6
Watermelon 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Potatoes -----	113.7	111.6	.1	- 3.7	- 1.7
Onions -----	112.0	107.2	4.4	.6	8.3
Asparagus 1/ -----	141.0	146.9	16.6	13.5	14.4
Cabbage -----	134.1	124.1	6.7	4.8	3.3
Carrots -----	138.5	143.4	7.7	8.3	3.6
Celery -----	148.6	144.4	18.7	7.9	38.1
Cucumbers -----	122.0	108.7	- 24.9	- 6.9	- 19.5
Lettuce -----	109.3	106.7	- 5.1	- 6.5	- 12.8
Peppers, green -----	207.7	152.3	38.1	19.5	- 2.1
Spinach -----	136.5	137.5	.7	3.0	5.7
Tomatoes -----	135.2	117.3	3.4	1.8	11.2
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	119.8	119.9	- .4	- .3	4.1
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	121.6	122.0	- .5	- .2	3.8
Pears, canned -----	117.3	117.5	.0	.0	.6
Grapefruit-pineapple juice, canned -----	114.8	114.7	- .7	- .8	1.3
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	136.2	136.5	- .3	- .1	12.6
Lemonade concentrate, frozen -----	117.3	116.3	- .6	- .2	3.6
Beets, canned -----	120.4	120.4	.2	.2	5.2
Peas, green, canned -----	107.4	107.7	- 1.2	- .8	1.0
Tomatoes, canned -----	115.6	115.5	.2	0	.3
Dried beans -----	137.0	137.3	- .1	- .1	15.0
Broccoli, frozen -----	118.1	118.0	- .9	- 1.0	.2
Other food at home -----	116.0	117.8	- .2	1.4	.4
Eggs -----	101.7	113.1	- 1.2	9.6	- 4.1
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	117.8	117.2	- .5	- .7	1.5
Salad dressing, Italian -----	110.6	110.3	- .7	- .9	.8
Salad or cooking oil -----	122.3	122.2	- .6	- .3	2.7
Sugar and sweets -----	121.4	121.4	.0	- .1	2.0
Sugar -----	115.4	115.5	.1	.2	2.9
Grape jelly -----	125.5	125.4	.3	0	5.9
Chocolate bar -----	130.8	131.5	.0	.2	.1
Syrup, chocolate flavored -----	112.6	112.3	- .7	- .5	- .9
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	121.0	121.0	.1	.2	- .7
Coffee, can and bag -----	118.1	119.2	- .1	0	- 3.7
Coffee, instant -----	125.0	124.8	.0	- .2	.6
Tea -----	108.9	109.0	.6	.6	1.1
Cola drink -----	128.2	128.1	.0	.2	2.0
Carbonated fruit drink -----	128.3	128.2	.1	- .1	1.9
Prepared and partially prepared foods ---	114.7	114.6	.2	.3	2.0
Bean soup, canned -----	116.6	116.3	.3	.2	2.6
Chicken soup, canned -----	105.8	105.7	- .8	- .7	- .7
Spaghetti, canned -----	118.3	118.3	.8	.9	1.1
Mashed potatoes, instant -----	112.2	112.0	.8	.6	1.3
Potatoes, french fried, frozen -----	110.8	110.9	- .2	- .1	.6
Baby foods, canned -----	111.3	112.1	- .1	.1	.6
Sweet pickle relish -----	125.2	125.0	.0	.7	7.5
Pretzels -----	115.5	115.4	.4	.5	1.9

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, May 1972 and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to May 1972	
		May 1972	Apr. 1972	Apr. 1972	May 1971
Housing		128.5	128.2	0.2	4.3
Shelter 1/		133.4	133.0	.3	4.9
Rent		118.3	118.1	.2	3.1
Homeownership costs 2/		138.9	138.5	.3	5.5
Mortgage interest rates		117.0	117.1	-.1	.3
Property taxes		145.0	144.7	.2	11.9
Property insurance rates		122.7	122.6	.1	2.8
Maintenance and repairs		139.9	139.2	.5	6.1
Commodities 3/		123.3	122.4	.7	4.4
Exterior house paint		117.5	118.5	-.8	1.3
Interior house paint		117.2	116.4	.7	3.4
Services		147.1	146.5	.4	6.7
Repainting living and dining rooms		157.7	156.5	.8	7.9
Reshingling house roof		155.0	154.3	.5	9.2
Residing house		135.0	134.5	.4	4.7
Sink replacement		145.7	145.5	.1	4.9
Furnace repair		152.8	152.4	.3	7.9
Fuel and utilities		120.1	119.9	.2	5.0
Fuel oil and coal		118.7	118.6	.1	1.3
Fuel oil, #2		116.5	116.5	.0	.5
Gas and electricity		120.5	120.2	.2	5.3
Gas		122.2	122.3	-.1	4.8
Electricity		118.9	118.2	.6	5.8
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		114.0	113.7	.3	7.3
Residential water and sewerage services		137.7	137.7	.0	3.8
Household furnishings and operation 4/		120.8	120.5	.2	2.3
Housefurnishings		116.2	115.9	.3	1.8
Textiles		113.6	113.7	-.1	2.5
Sheets, percale or muslin		114.9	116.0	-.9	2.9
Curtains, tailored, polyester		112.2	111.3	.8	3.7
Bedspreads, chiefly cotton		111.5	111.0	.5	3.6
Drapery fabric, cotton or rayon/acetate		121.7	121.1	.5	3.4
Pillows, bed, polyester, acrylic, or kapok		107.2	108.6	-1.3	.7
Slipcover, throws, ready made chiefly cotton		113.7	113.7	.0	2.2
Furniture and bedding		121.7	121.0	.6	2.2
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	105.3	104.9	.4	1.9
Sofas upholstered		120.6	120.2	.3	.0
Cocktail table	Dec. 71	100.4	100.6	-.2	(5/)
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	105.3	104.9	.4	2.4
Recliner upholstered	Dec. 71	98.7	98.7	.0	(5/)
Sofas, dual purpose		117.2	116.8	.3	.4
Bedding--mattress and box springs	June 70	104.5	104.5	.0	1.2
Aluminum folding chair 6/		128.3	122.3	4.9	8.7
Cribs		118.0	117.6	.3	.4
Floor coverings		106.7	106.5	.2	.7
Broadloom, carpeting, manmade fibers		101.8	101.6	.2	.1
Vinyl sheet goods		117.7	117.7	.0	2.9
Vinyl asbestos tile		118.3	117.9	.3	1.7
Appliances 7/		105.7	105.7	.0	.4
Washing machines, electric, automatic		110.4	110.4	.0	1.0
Vacuum cleaners, canister type		103.8	103.7	.1	.2
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers electric		107.9	108.0	-.1	.0
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		110.0	110.4	-.4	1.2
Clothes dryers, electric, automatic		113.7	113.6	.1	1.3
Air conditioners, demountable		111.1	110.4	.6	1.0
Room heaters, electric, portable 6/		(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)
Garbage disposal units		111.0	111.2	-.2	1.3
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, earthenware		122.9	122.6	.2	4.2
Flatware, stainless steel		121.6	121.8	-.2	1.9
Table lamps, with shade		121.8	122.2	-.3	.7
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		120.2	118.9	1.1	2.9
Electric drills, hand held		105.9	105.8	.1	.5
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		110.9	111.1	-.2	.4
Paper napkins		130.8	129.5	1.0	2.6
Toilet tissue		126.0	125.6	.3	1.2
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic service, general housework		138.9	138.4	.4	4.4
Baby sitter service		135.3	135.0	.2	5.4
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	.0	.0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		138.0	137.6	.3	3.9
Licensed day care service, preschool child		121.3	120.8	.4	3.2
Washing machine repairs		140.4	138.9	1.1	4.1

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, May 1972 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to May 1972 from:	
		May 1972	Apr. 1972	Apr. 1972	May 1971
Apparel and upkeep 8/ -----		122.5	121.8	.6	1.9
Apparel commodities -----		122.9	122.1	.7	2.0
Apparel commodities less footwear -----		122.6	121.8	.7	1.9
Men's and boys' -----		122.4	121.9	.4	1.0
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends 6/ -----	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)
Suits, year round weight -----	132.4	131.1	1.0	2.1	
Suits, tropical weight 6/ -----	138.0	136.3	1.2	4.9	
Jackets, lightweight -----	115.7	115.1	.5	2.8	
Slacks, wool or wool blends -----	116.7	117.2	-.4	.5	
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends -----	137.3	137.0	.2	3.2	
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----	114.7	114.6	.1	1.7	
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----	115.1	114.9	.2	1.5	
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton -----	113.4	113.1	.3	.3	
T-shirts, chiefly cotton -----	117.4	117.4	.0	1.5	
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers -----	116.7	116.6	.1	.4	
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton -----	115.7	115.4	.3	.3	
Boys':					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blend 6/ -	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Sport coats, wool or wool blend 6/ -----	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blend -----	127.1	127.1	.0	4.2	
Undershorts, cotton -----	120.5	120.5	.0	.4	
Women's and girls' -----	123.4	122.3	.9	2.5	
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blend 6/ -----	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton 6/ -----	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Sweaters, wool or acrylic 6/ -----	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers 6/ -	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton 6/ -----	121.3	115.5	5.0	1.6	
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers -----	124.3	123.7	.5	.6	
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber -----	129.6	130.1	-.4	2.4	
Dresses, street, wool or wool blend 6/ -----	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Slips, nylon -----	110.9	110.9	.0	.4	
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot -----	117.0	116.6	.3	1.7	
Girdles, manmade blend -----	118.2	118.2	.0	3.1	
Brassiers, nylon lace -----	121.9	121.9	.0	1.1	
Hose, or panty hose, nylon seamless -----	96.5	96.1	.4	2.9	
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers -	114.9	115.9	-.9	1.5	
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton -----	111.2	110.7	.5	1.3	
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic -----	143.2	142.5	.5	8.2	
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl cotton, or polyester blends --	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Skirts, wool, wool blends, or acrylic 6/ -----	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends 6/ --	125.3	121.4	3.2	12.8	
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton 6/ -----	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	(6/)	
Slips, polyester blends -----	111.0	111.1	-.1	.7	
Handbags, plastic -----	129.8	130.6	-.6	1.1	
Footwear -----	124.6	124.1	.4	2.4	
Men's:					
Shoes, street-----	123.1	121.4	1.4	2.8	
Shoes, work, high -----	121.5	121.3	.2	2.9	
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump -----	126.6	125.8	.6	2.2	
Shoes, evening, pump -----	122.1	122.0	.1	1.3	
Shoes, casual -----	125.9	126.5	-.5	.6	
Houseslippers, scuff -----	124.3	124.5	-.2	2.7	
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford -----	126.5	125.9	.5	3.3	
Sneakers, boys', oxford type -----	123.1	122.6	.4	3.6	
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump -----	129.8	129.5	.2	3.3	
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable -----	114.0	113.5	.4	2.0	
Yard goods, polyester blend -----	117.8	118.1	-.3	3.8	
Wrist watches, men's and women's -----	115.0	114.6	.3	2.0	
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses ----	117.5	117.4	.1	.3	
Automatic laundry service -----	115.1	114.9	.2	2.2	
Laundry, men's shirts -----	120.8	120.6	.2	1.5	
Tailoring charge, hem adjustment -----	132.5	132.1	.3	3.8	
Shoe repair, women's heel lift -----	115.1	114.6	.4	2.5	

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to May 1972 from:	
		May 1972	Apr. 1972	Apr. 1972	May 1971
Transportation -----		119.5	118.6	0.8	0.6
Private 9/ -----		117.1	116.1	.9	.1
Automobiles, new -----		111.4	111.7	-.3	- 2.2
Automobiles, used -----		110.0	106.4	3.4	- 2.5
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		106.2	105.0	1.1	2.1
Motor oil, premium -----		123.3	122.9	.3	3.4
Tires, new, tubeless -----		116.3	116.0	.3	1.3
Auto repairs and maintenance <u>10/</u> -----		134.6	134.3	.2	4.8
Auto insurance rates -----		140.6	140.7	-.1	- 1.1
Auto registration -----		127.5	127.5	.0	3.0
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		145.9	138.9	5.0	8.2
Public -----		142.7	142.7	.0	4.6
Local transit fares -----		149.1	149.1	.0	3.8
Taxicab fares -----		132.9	132.9	.0	11.6
Railroad fares, coach -----		127.0	127.0	.0	.6
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		129.6	129.6	.0	4.4
Bus fares, intercity -----		137.6	137.6	.0	5.4
Health and recreation -----		125.8	125.5	.2	3.5
Medical care -----		132.0	131.7	.2	3.0
Drugs and prescriptions -----		105.7	105.5	.2	.2
Over-the-counter items -----		111.7	110.9	.7	.9
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		95.3	95.2	.1	- 2.4
Aspirin compounds -----		117.7	115.4	2.0	3.2
Liquid tonics -----		101.3	101.2	.1	-.1
Adhesive bandages, package -----		124.1	124.1	.0	.8
Cold tablets or capsules -----		113.9	113.2	.6	2.1
Cough syrup -----		114.1	112.8	1.2	.6
Prescriptions -----		100.7	100.9	-.2	-.4
Anti-infectives -----		75.2	76.0	- 1.1	- 6.2
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		125.9	125.2	.6	2.9
Ataractics -----		102.7	102.8	-.1	1.9
Anti-spasmodics -----		107.9	107.8	.1	.5
Cough preparations -----		129.7	128.9	.6	3.1
Cardiovasculars and anti-hypertensives -----		111.4	111.8	-.4	.2
Analgesics, internal -----		109.5	109.4	.1	1.6
Anti-obesity -----		117.1	116.7	.3	2.0
Hormones -----		92.9	94.0	- 1.2	- 2.1
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees -----		133.3	133.2	.1	3.2
General physician, office visits -----		134.3	134.2	.1	2.6
General physician, house visits -----		135.8	135.6	.1	4.5
Obstetrical cases -----		134.0	133.9	.1	4.0
Pediatric care, office visits -----		135.6	135.6	.0	2.6
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		128.5	128.5	.0	3.5
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		127.9	127.8	.1	4.2
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		129.8	129.6	.2	4.6
Dentists' fees -----		131.9	131.6	.2	4.7
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		133.4	133.0	.3	5.2
Extractions, adult -----		131.9	131.5	.3	4.4
Dentures, full upper -----		129.0	128.8	.2	4.2
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		124.7	124.5	.2	4.3
Routine laboratory tests -----		120.7	119.7	.8	4.8
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	101.8	101.5	.3	-
Semiprivate rooms -----		173.2	172.7	.3	7.1
Operating room charges -----		167.3	166.6	.4	7.8
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----		128.9	129.0	-.1	3.3
Laboratory test, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	101.9	101.5	.4	.0
Anti-infective, tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	100.3	100.9	-.6	.0
Tranquillizer, chlordiazepoxide, HCL -----	Jan. 72	101.1	100.6	.5	.0
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	102.8	102.8	.0	.0
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	101.9	101.5	.4	.0
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	101.9	100.8	1.1	.0
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	101.7	101.6	.1	-
Personal care -----		119.7	119.1	.5	2.7
Toilet goods -----		117.1	116.3	.7	3.2
Toothpaste, standard dentifrices -----		109.9	108.8	1.0	2.4
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		122.9	121.0	1.6	9.5
Hand lotions, liquid -----		125.2	125.1	.1	6.0
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		108.0	107.5	.5	.8
Face powder, pressed -----		131.4	126.2	4.1	6.1
Deodorants, aerosol -----		106.0	105.6	.4	.9
Cleansing tissues -----		124.3	125.4	-.9	-.1
Home permanent wave kits -----		109.1	110.9	- 1.6	- 1.4
Personal care services -----		122.4	122.0	.3	2.3
Men's haircuts -----		124.9	124.4	.4	2.5
Beauty shop services -----		120.7	120.4	.2	2.3
Women's haircuts -----		121.0	120.7	.2	1.7
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		124.3	123.9	.3	2.6
Permanent waves, cold -----		112.6	112.5	.1	2.3

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 group, May 1972 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to May 1972 from:	
		May 1972	Apr. 1972	Apr. 1972	May 1971
Reading and recreation ^{11/} -----		122.5	122.3	0.2	3.0
Recreational goods -----		107.8	107.7	.1	1.3
TV sets, portable and console -----		99.6	99.8	-.2	.4
TV replacement tubes -----		130.6	129.8	.6	7.1
Radios, portable and table model -----		99.0	98.8	.2	.6
Tape recorders, portable -----		94.4	93.8	.6	.3
Phonograph records, stereophonic -----		106.5	106.4	.1	4.1
Movie cameras, Super 8, zoom lens -----		87.5	88.8	- 1.5	- 2.0
Film, 35mm, color -----		108.2	108.3	-.1	.1
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core -----		104.9	104.8	.1	.4
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover -----		126.2	126.0	.2	1.4
Fishing rods, fresh water spincasting -----		107.3	107.4	-.1	- 2.8
Bowling balls -----		113.6	113.4	.2	2.8
Bicycles, boys' -----		116.0	114.8	1.0	3.1
Tricycles -----		113.1	112.7	.4	1.6
Dog food, canned or boxed -----		110.4	110.8	-.4	1.8
Recreational services -----		128.0	127.8	.2	2.4
Indoor movie admissions -----		141.2	140.7	.4	2.1
Adult -----		140.0	139.2	.6	1.4
Children's -----		144.7	145.0	-.2	4.0
Drive-in movie admissions, adult -----		145.9	143.8	1.5	4.7
Bowling fees, evening -----		118.9	119.3	-.3	2.5
Golf green fees -----		129.0	129.6	-.5	2.5
TV repair, color picture tube replacement -----		98.0	98.1	-.1	-.1
Film developing, color -----		117.8	118.1	-.3	1.4
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery -----		131.8	131.6	.2	1.5
Magazines, single copy and subscription -----		133.4	133.4	.0	5.6
Piano lessons, beginner -----		122.2	122.1	.1	1.2
Other goods and services -----		125.4	125.1	.2	4.6
Tobacco products -----		133.2	132.7	.4	6.8
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size -----		134.4	133.9	.4	6.4
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size -----		135.5	135.0	.4	7.5
Cigars, domestic, regular size -----		110.7	110.7	.0	4.5
Alcoholic beverages -----		119.5	119.3	.2	2.7
Beer -----		114.2	114.1	.1	1.3
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon -----		108.6	108.6	.0	2.5
Wine, dessert and table -----		126.5	126.4	.1	4.4
Away from home -----		130.5	130.1	.3	3.9
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult -----		120.7	120.6	.1	3.8
Bank service charges, checking accounts -----		107.4	107.4	.0	- 3.7
Legal services, short form will -----		149.3	149.3	.0	12.0
Other special groups:					
All items less shelter -----		122.4	122.1	.2	2.7
Commodities less food -----		119.2	118.5	.6	2.2
Nondurables less food and apparel -----		117.9	117.4	.4	3.1
Household services less rent -----		138.5	138.1	.3	6.0
Transportation services -----		135.8	135.6	.1	2.0
Other services -----		125.3	125.1	.2	2.7

- ^{1/} Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
^{2/} Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.
^{3/} Also includes pine shelving, furnace air filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.
^{4/} Also includes venetian blinds, nails, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholstering, and moving expenses.
^{5/} Not available.
^{6/} Priced only in season.
^{7/} Also includes radios and television sets, shown separately under reading and recreation.
^{8/} Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.
^{9/} Also includes recapped tires and drivers' license fees not shown separately.
^{10/} Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.
^{11/} Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.

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 seasonal 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 changeovers, holidays, and sales.

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

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 is 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

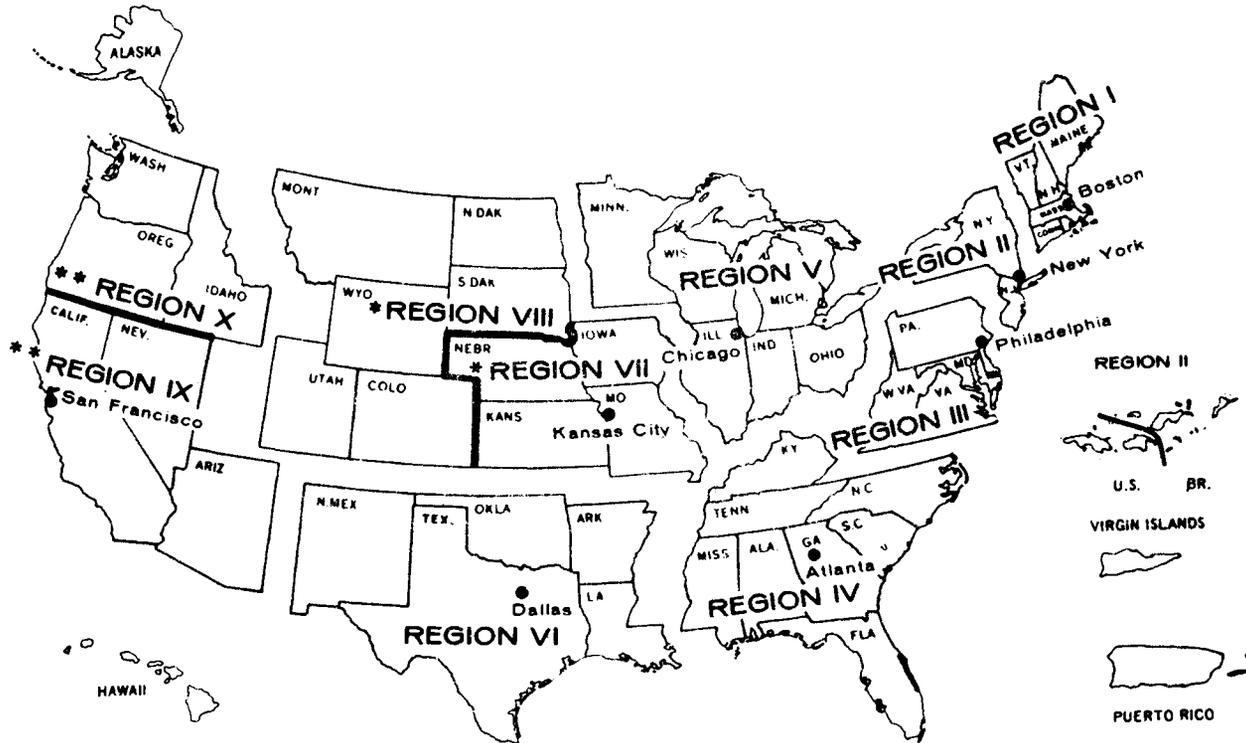
Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. As the table indicates, for example, a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all-items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might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