



the consumer price index

for May 1973

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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*a monthly report
on consumer price movements
including statistical tables
and technical notes.*

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Price Movements

May 1973

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.6 percent in May to 131.5 percent of its 1967 base. Higher prices for food, apparel, used cars, gasoline, and household services accounted for about three-fourths of the rise in the CPI. The May index was 5.5 percent above a year ago.

After seasonal adjustment, the May increase was also 0.6 percent. In the 6 months ended in May, the CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 7.2 percent. In the last 3 months of this period, the index rose at an 8.7 percent annual rate.

The May food index, which includes prices of food purchased in grocery stores and in restaurants, showed a monthly increase of 1.1 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis, following increases of 1.4 percent in April and 2.4 percent in March. The nonfood commodities index increased 0.4 percent in May after seasonal adjustment, the same as it had in April, and less

than the 0.5 percent increase in March. The services index rose 0.4 percent in May, compared with 0.3 percent in each of the 2 preceding months. (See table A.) (For changes before and during the Economic Stabilization Program that began in August 1971 see table C.)

Monthly change in detail

The index for food purchased in grocery stores—the major part of the total food index—rose 0.9 percent, instead of declining as it usually does in May. With the exception of meats and eggs, most food items showed price increases in May. The cereal and bakery products index rose sharply, instead of declining slightly as it usually does in May. Higher wholesale prices for wheat, flour, and rice, which resulted mainly from strong export demand, were primarily responsible for the increase.

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 months ago | From 6 months ago | From 12 months ago |
| | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted | Unadjusted | | | |
| 1972: | | | | | | | | | | |
| May | 0.3 | 0.3 | -0.1 | 0 | 0.6 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 2.4 | 3.3 | 3.2 |
| June | .2 | .1 | .6 | .2 | .2 | .1 | .3 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.9 |
| July | .4 | .4 | 1.0 | .7 | 0 | .3 | .3 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.0 |
| August | .2 | .3 | .3 | .5 | .1 | .3 | .2 | 3.2 | 2.8 | 2.9 |
| September | .4 | .4 | .2 | .7 | .7 | .3 | .2 | 4.4 | 3.4 | 3.3 |
| October | .3 | .3 | .1 | .6 | .4 | 0 | .4 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 3.4 |
| November | .2 | .3 | .4 | .7 | .2 | .2 | .2 | 4.3 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| December | .3 | .2 | .5 | -.1 | .1 | .2 | .4 | 3.4 | 3.9 | 3.4 |
| 1973: | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | .3 | .5 | 2.1 | 2.1 | -.5 | .2 | .2 | 4.0 | 4.1 | 3.7 |
| February | .7 | .7 | 1.9 | 1.9 | .3 | .3 | .4 | 5.7 | 5.0 | 3.9 |
| March | .9 | .9 | 2.6 | 2.4 | .5 | .5 | .3 | 8.6 | 5.9 | 4.7 |
| April | .7 | .6 | 1.5 | 1.4 | .7 | .4 | .3 | 9.2 | 6.6 | 5.1 |
| May | .6 | .6 | 1.0 | 1.1 | .6 | .4 | .4 | 8.7 | 7.2 | 5.5 |

NOTE: The May index is based entirely on prices prevailing before the price freeze was announced by the President on June 13. The June index will be based on prices collected both before and after the freeze, because pricing for the CPI is done throughout the month.

Table B. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons ¹

| Item | November 1971 to December 1971 | December 1971 to January 1972 | 1972 | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | | January to February | February to March | March to April | April to May | May to June |
| All items ² | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Increases | 16 | 14 | 22 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 15 |
| Decreases | 7 | 11 | 8 | 10 | 12 | 12 | 11 |
| No change | 77 | 75 | 70 | 75 | 74 | 75 | 74 |
| Food at home | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Increases | 17 | 15 | 24 | 16 | 15 | 14 | 17 |
| Decreases | 8 | 11 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 13 | 12 |
| No change | 75 | 74 | 67 | 72 | 72 | 73 | 71 |
| Commodities less food | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Increases | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 6 |
| Decreases | 5 | 10 | 7 | 5 | 7 | 6 | 7 |
| No change | 89 | 83 | 85 | 85 | 86 | 86 | 87 |
| Services | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Increases | 6 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Decreases | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| No change | 93 | 83 | 89 | 96 | 90 | 88 | 92 |

| Item | 1972—Continued | | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--|
| | June to July | July to August | August to September | September to October | October to November | November to December | |
| All items ² | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | |
| Increases | 18 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 14 | 14 | |
| Decreases | 10 | 11 | 10 | 11 | 11 | 9 | |
| No change | 72 | 73 | 75 | 74 | 75 | 77 | |
| Food at home | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | |
| Increases | 20 | 18 | 16 | 17 | 16 | 17 | |
| Decreases | 11 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 10 | |
| No change | 69 | 69 | 72 | 71 | 72 | 73 | |
| Commodities less food | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | |
| Increases | 8 | 8 | 11 | 6 | 6 | 6 | |
| Decreases | 7 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 4 | |
| No change | 85 | 86 | 84 | 88 | 89 | 90 | |
| Services | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | |
| Increases | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | |
| Decreases | 3 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | |
| No change | 93 | 94 | 94 | 91 | 94 | 94 | |

| Item | December 1972 to January 1973 | 1973 | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| | | January to February | February to March | March to April | April to May |
| All items ² | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Increases | 21 | 27 | 26 | 24 | 20 |
| Decreases | 10 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 11 |
| No change | 69 | 64 | 66 | 66 | 69 |
| Food at home | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Increases | 23 | 31 | 30 | 27 | 23 |
| Decreases | 8 | 10 | 9 | 12 | 13 |
| No change | 69 | 59 | 61 | 61 | 64 |
| Commodities less food | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Increases | 7 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 9 |
| Decreases | 8 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 |
| No change | 85 | 84 | 84 | 85 | 86 |
| Services | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Increases | 9 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Decreases | 27 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| No change | 64 | 91 | 94 | 93 | 91 |

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

² Based on approximately 98,000 individual monthly quotations.

Table C. Seasonally adjusted annual rates or change in the CPI and major components before and during the Economic Stabilization Program that began in August 1971

| Item | 1971, before Phase I (December 1970 to August 1971) | 3 months Phase I (August 1971 to November 1971) | 14 months Phase II (November 1971 to January 1973) | 4 months Phase III (January 1973 to May 1973) | 21 months Phase I, II, III (August 1971 to May 1973) |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| All items | 3.8 | 2.0 | 3.6 | 8.7 | 4.3 |
| Food | 4.8 | 1.7 | 6.5 | 22.4 | 8.6 |
| Commodities less food | 2.9 | 0.3 | 2.4 | 5.0 | 2.6 |
| Services ¹ | 4.5 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 4.0 | 3.6 |

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

The fruits and vegetable index rose more than seasonally, as fresh vegetable prices rose more than usual and processed fruits and vegetable prices rose contra-seasonally. Adverse winter and spring weather conditions, which affected planting, maturing, and yields of crops, caused sharp price increases for onions, potatoes, cabbage, and celery. Fresh fruit prices rose about seasonally. Dairy product prices rose 1.1 percent in May. Cheese and evaporated milk prices rose 1.8 and 1.7 percent, respectively, as strong demand for cheese, lower evaporated milk supplies, and the increased subsidy for milk used for processing, exerted upward pressure on prices. Grocery milk prices rose 1.2 percent, reflecting higher prices at the wholesale and farm market levels.

The index for meats, poultry, and fish rose 0.1 percent, the smallest increase since January 1973. Meat prices declined slightly, as beef and pork prices were lower. The declines in these prices, however, were smaller than usual for May. Prices of other meats, increased, but considerably less than in the 3 preceding months. The change in the food-at-home index is based on a comparison of prices collected in the first week of May with those collected in the first week of April. Ceilings were placed on meat prices in late March. Retail poultry prices increased slightly, instead of declining as they usually do in May. The large increase in fish prices was also contraseasonal. The index for nonfood commodities rose 0.6 percent, a larger-than-seasonal increase for May. Higher prices for apparel, used cars, and gasoline accounted for most of the rise in the nonfood commodities index. Prices of apparel commodities rose 0.8 percent, more than the usual increase for May. Women's and girls' apparel prices rose seasonally as spring and summer seasonal items were reintroduced into the index for some cities at the same or higher prices than prevailed a year ago. Prices of men's and boys' apparel increased more than they usually do in May. Earlier increases in cotton yarn prices plus higher wage costs at the manufacturing level were

reflected in increased prices of products made from cotton and combinations of cotton and man-made fibers. In addition, foreign demand for yarns and fabrics in the American market has contributed to the shortages that now exist at all levels of cotton production. Prices of year round weight suits and slacks were substantially higher. The increase in the footwear index also was more than seasonal. Retail prices continued to reflect earlier increases in wholesale prices. In recent months, however, wholesale footwear prices have declined in response to declining prices for hides and leather.

Used car prices rose 2.8 percent, slightly less than the usual increase for May.

The new car index was unchanged from April to May instead of moving down slightly as it usually does during this period. Dealer concessions on new domestic cars did not increase as much as usual in May as the demand continued strong. In addition, prices were higher for imported cars, reflecting the effects of the dollar devaluation.

Retail gasoline prices rose slightly for the second consecutive month. The increases reflect wholesale price increases which became effective in late April and early May. Prices also rose for fuel oil, home maintenance and repair commodities, furniture, houses, tobacco products, and newspapers.

Services

The service index increased 0.4 percent in May. Increases in charges for household services and rent contributed significantly to the rise. The rent index and the index for household services other than rent both rose 0.4 percent. Prices paid for home maintenance and repair services and housekeeping services increased significantly in May.

The index for medical care services increased 0.3 percent. Physicians' fees rose 0.4 percent. Other professional service charges such as eye examinations and laboratory tests were higher. Hospital charges for semi-

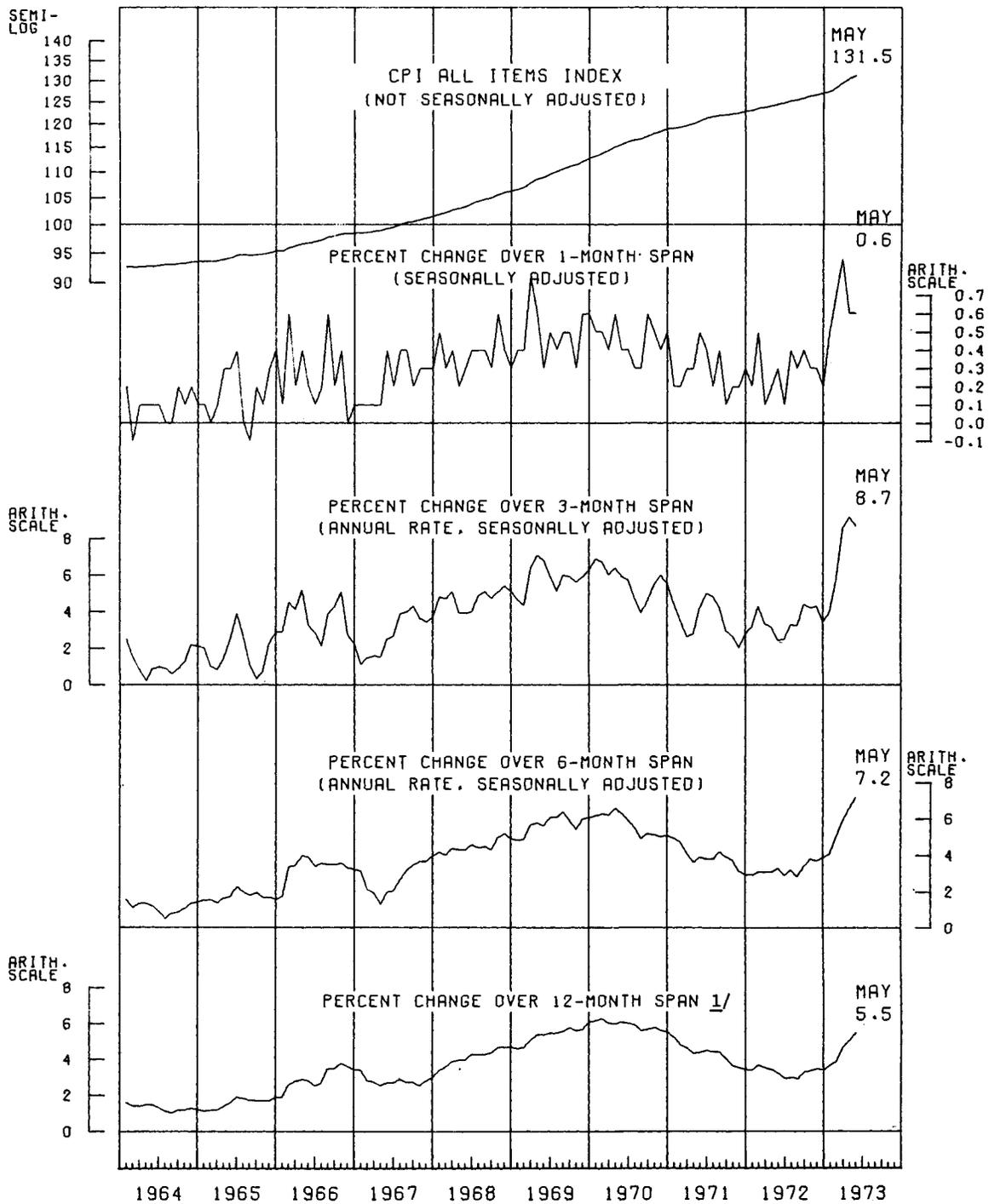
private rooms and operating rooms rose only 0.1 percent following sharp increases in the first 4 months of 1973.

Among other services in the CPI, the index for personal care services rose 0.8 percent. The recreational service index rose chiefly due to higher movie admission charges. Funeral service charges rose 0.6 percent, due to

increased costs of caskets, other supplies, and labor.

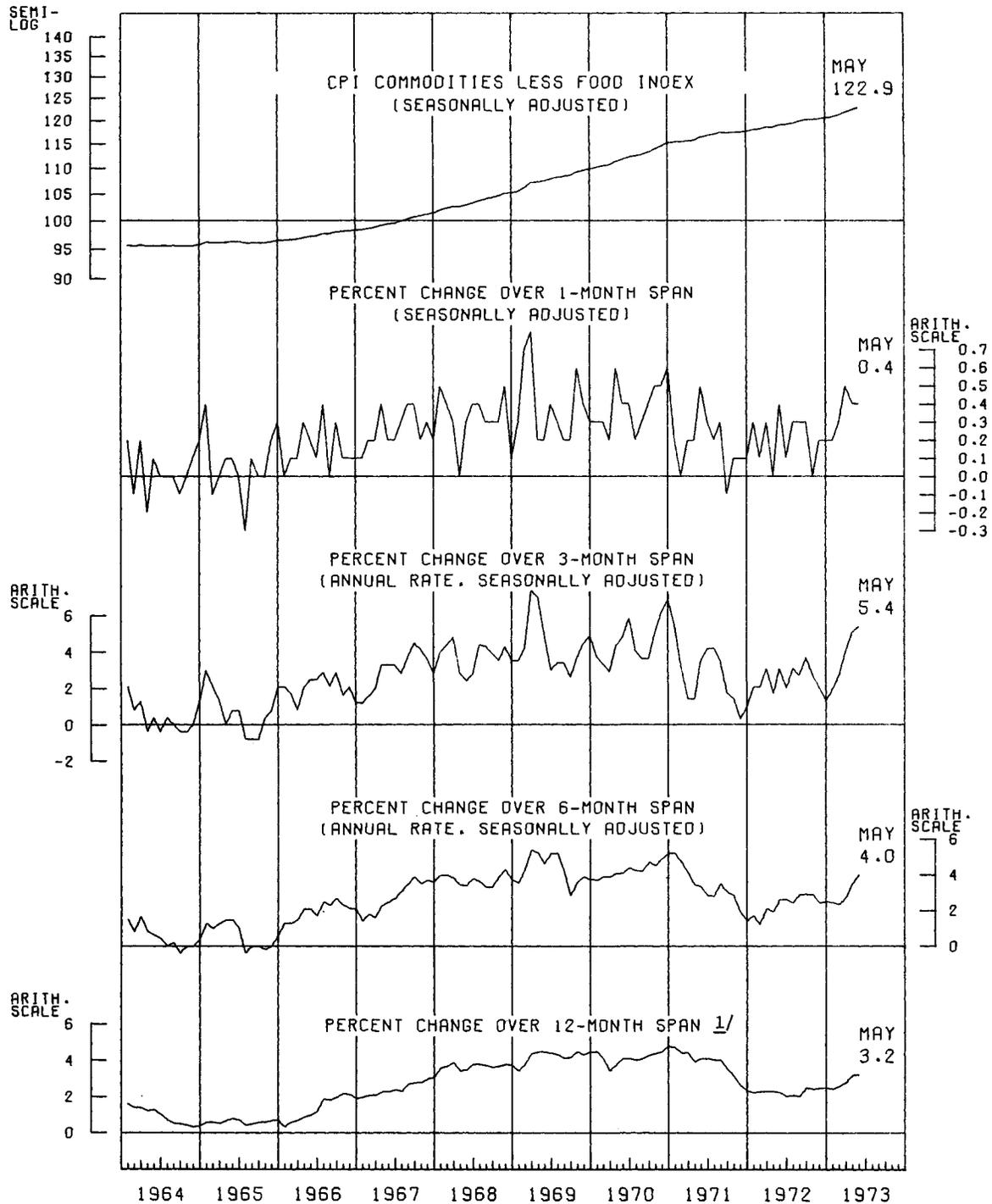
The index for transportation services continued its trend of very moderate monthly increases, rising 0.1 percent in May. Public transportation, auto insurance rates, parking fees, and auto finance charges remained unchanged.

**Chart 1. All items index and its rate of change, 1964-73
(1967=100)**



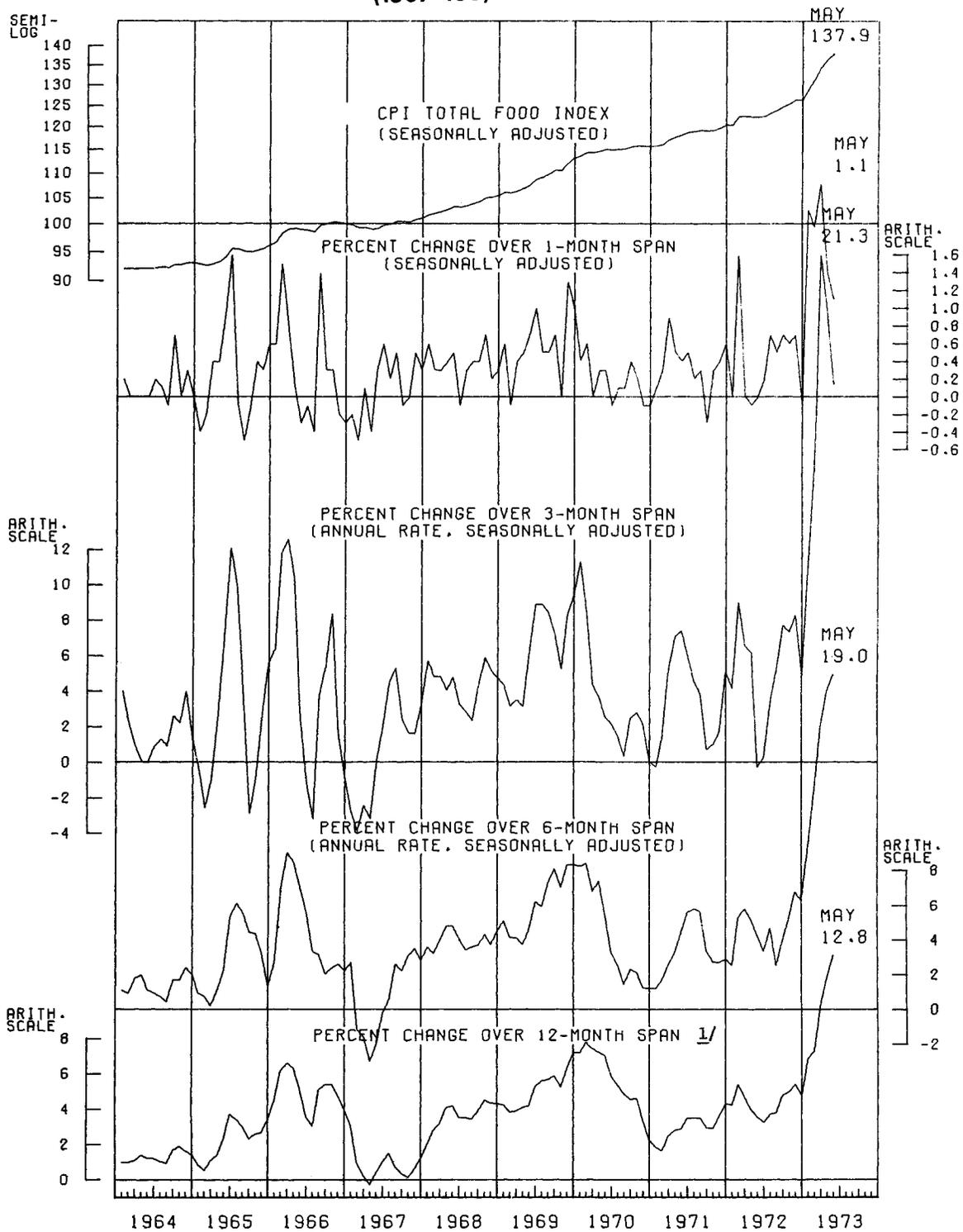
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1964-73
(1967=100)**



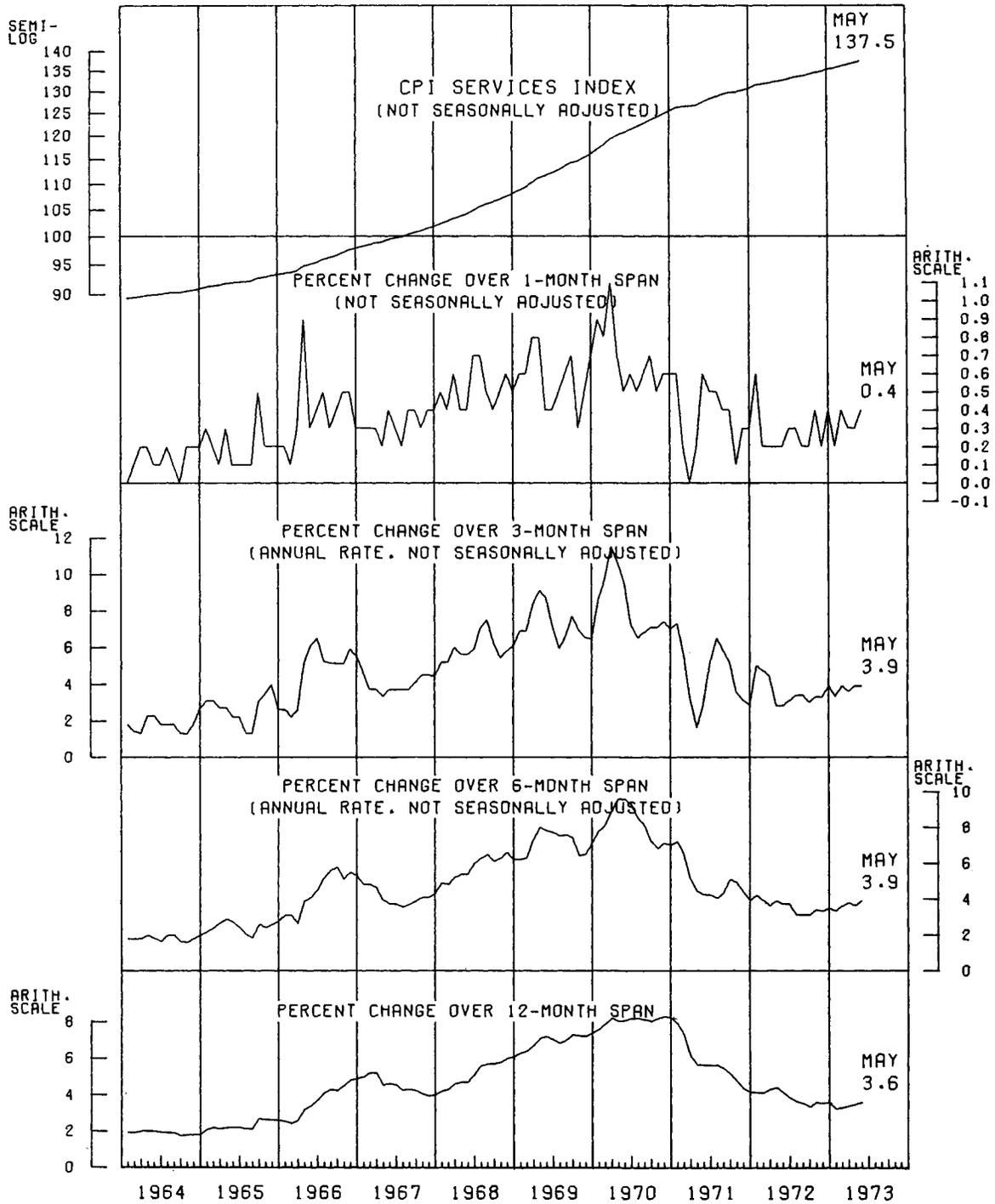
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1964-73
(1967=100)**



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 4. Services index and its rates of change, 1964-73
(1967=100)



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

| Group | Relative importance | Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted | | Unadjusted percent change to May 1973 from— | | Seasonally adjusted percent change from | | |
|---|---------------------|--|----------|---|------------|---|----------------|--------------|
| | | April 1973 | May 1972 | May 1972 | April 1973 | February to March | March to April | April to May |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Commodity and service groups | | | | | | | | |
| All items | 100.000 | 130.7 | 131.5 | 5.5 | 0.6 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 0.6 |
| All items (1957-59=100) | - | 152.0 | 153.0 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Commodities | 62.552 | 127.4 | 128.3 | 6.7 | .7 | 1.2 | 1.0 | .7 |
| Food | 22.492 | 136.5 | 137.9 | 12.8 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| Food at home | 17.494 | 136.4 | 137.6 | 14.5 | .9 | 3.0 | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 2.243 | 120.2 | 122.1 | 6.5 | 1.6 | .8 | .8 | 1.8 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 6.016 | 155.4 | 155.6 | 24.7 | .1 | 5.8 | 1.6 | .7 |
| Dairy products | 2.685 | 121.8 | 123.2 | 5.0 | 1.1 | *.4 | *.2 | *1.1 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 2.999 | 141.8 | 144.6 | 16.7 | 2.0 | 1.3 | 2.7 | .9 |
| Other foods at home | 3.552 | 124.3 | 125.4 | 8.1 | .9 | .5 | 1.1 | 2.0 |
| Food away from home | 4.998 | 137.0 | 138.9 | 6.5 | 1.4 | .9 | .7 | 1.5 |
| Commodities less food | 40.059 | 122.3 | 123.0 | 3.2 | .6 | .5 | .4 | .4 |
| Nondurables less food | 23.415 | 123.3 | 124.0 | 3.6 | .6 | .5 | .7 | .4 |
| Apparel commodities ¹ | 8.960 | 126.2 | 127.2 | 3.5 | .8 | .9 | .6 | .3 |
| Men's and boys' | 2.799 | 125.9 | 126.7 | 3.5 | .6 | .5 | .4 | .5 |
| Women's and girls' | 3.982 | 126.0 | 127.2 | 3.1 | 1.0 | 1.4 | 1.0 | 0 |
| Footwear | 1.572 | 129.7 | 130.3 | 4.6 | .5 | .5 | .5 | .4 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel | 14.455 | 121.7 | 122.2 | 3.6 | .4 | .3 | .7 | .4 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 2.902 | 114.7 | 116.1 | 8.1 | 1.2 | -1.1 | 2.1 | 1.0 |
| Tobacco products | 2.103 | 136.5 | 137.0 | 2.9 | .4 | *.7 | *.7 | *.4 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 2.459 | 121.6 | 121.7 | 1.8 | .1 | *.1 | *.2 | *.1 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 6.655 | 128.3 | 129.3 | 8.9 | .8 | .6 | .6 | 1.1 |
| Other nondurables | 6.335 | 120.0 | 120.1 | 2.0 | .1 | .2 | .4 | 0 |
| Durable commodities | 16.644 | 121.0 | 121.8 | 2.9 | .7 | .3 | .5 | .2 |
| Household durables | 4.772 | 117.7 | 118.5 | 3.2 | .7 | .3 | .6 | .6 |
| New cars | 2.060 | 111.1 | 111.1 | -3 | 0 | .3 | .8 | .2 |
| Used cars | 2.056 | 117.3 | 120.6 | 9.6 | 2.8 | *1.2 | *3.2 | *2.8 |
| Other durables | 7.756 | 127.4 | 127.6 | 1.7 | .2 | .3 | .2 | .1 |
| Services | 37.448 | 137.0 | 137.5 | 3.6 | .4 | *.3 | *.3 | *.4 |
| Rent | 5.059 | 123.0 | 123.5 | 4.1 | .4 | *.4 | *.3 | *.4 |
| Services less rent | 32.389 | 139.6 | 140.1 | 3.5 | .4 | *.4 | *.3 | *.4 |
| Household services less rent | 15.486 | 143.6 | 144.2 | 4.2 | .4 | -1.1 | .1 | .7 |
| Transportation services | 5.473 | 136.5 | 136.6 | .6 | .1 | .2 | .3 | .4 |
| Medical care services | 5.575 | 142.7 | 143.1 | 4.0 | .3 | .2 | .4 | .3 |
| Other services | 5.855 | 129.9 | 130.6 | 4.2 | .5 | *.5 | *.5 | *.5 |
| Special indexes: | | | | | | | | |
| All items less food | 77.508 | 129.1 | 129.7 | 3.4 | .5 | .2 | .5 | .5 |
| Nondurable commodities | 45.907 | 129.7 | 130.7 | 8.0 | .8 | 1.5 | 1.0 | .7 |
| Apparel commodities less footwear | 7.388 | 125.5 | 126.5 | 3.2 | .8 | .9 | .7 | .2 |
| Services less medical care services | 31.873 | 136.2 | 136.7 | 3.6 | .4 | *.4 | *.3 | *.4 |
| Insurance and finance | 9.829 | 145.9 | 146.3 | 2.4 | .3 | -2 | .3 | .5 |
| Utilities and public transportation | 5.522 | 129.1 | 129.3 | 3.1 | .2 | .2 | .2 | .4 |
| Housekeeping and home maintenance service | 4.502 | 150.0 | 151.1 | 5.3 | .7 | .5 | .5 | .6 |
| Appliances (including radio and T. V.) | 1.621 | 105.4 | 105.4 | -.3 | 0 | *-.1 | *0 | *0 |
| Expenditure classes | | | | | | | | |
| All items | 100.000 | 130.7 | 131.5 | 5.5 | .6 | .9 | .6 | .6 |
| Food | 22.492 | 136.5 | 137.9 | 12.8 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 1.4 | 1.1 |
| Housing | 33.859 | 132.8 | 133.3 | 3.7 | .4 | *.2 | *.4 | *.4 |
| Shelter ² | 21.830 | 138.1 | 138.7 | 3.9 | .4 | .1 | .3 | .7 |
| Rent | 5.059 | 123.0 | 123.5 | 4.1 | .4 | *.4 | *.3 | *.4 |
| Homeownership ³ | 16.355 | 143.6 | 144.2 | 3.8 | .4 | -1.1 | .3 | .7 |
| Fuel and utilities ⁴ | 4.708 | 125.1 | 125.4 | 4.7 | .2 | .2 | .4 | .5 |
| Gas and electricity | 2.434 | 125.5 | 125.7 | 4.3 | .2 | .4 | .2 | .2 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 7.321 | 123.6 | 123.9 | 2.6 | .2 | .2 | .4 | .2 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 10.370 | 125.8 | 126.7 | 3.4 | .7 | .7 | .6 | .2 |
| Transportation | 13.134 | 122.6 | 123.5 | 3.3 | .7 | .6 | .7 | .4 |
| Private | 11.665 | 120.3 | 121.3 | 3.6 | .8 | .3 | .9 | .3 |
| Public | 1.469 | 143.9 | 143.9 | .8 | 0 | -3 | -1 | .5 |
| Health and recreation | 19.768 | 129.2 | 129.6 | 3.0 | .3 | *.4 | *.5 | *.3 |
| Medical care | 6.447 | 136.2 | 136.6 | 3.5 | .3 | .2 | .1 | .3 |
| Personal care | 2.573 | 123.8 | 124.4 | 3.9 | .5 | *.6 | *.6 | *.5 |
| Reading and recreation | 5.656 | 125.2 | 125.6 | 2.5 | .3 | .3 | .2 | .2 |
| Other goods and services | 5.093 | 128.2 | 128.5 | 2.5 | .2 | .6 | .5 | .3 |
| Special indexes: | | | | | | | | |
| All items less shelter | 78.170 | 128.9 | 129.7 | 6.0 | .6 | 1.0 | .8 | .6 |
| All items less medical care | 93.553 | 130.5 | 131.3 | 5.6 | .6 | 1.0 | .7 | .6 |
| All items less mortgage interest costs | 96.298 | 130.0 | 130.8 | 5.7 | .6 | .9 | .8 | .6 |
| CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁵ | 15.519 | 137.0 | 138.2 | 15.4 | .9 | *3.5 | *1.6 | *.9 |
| CPI - selected beef cuts ⁶ | 2.060 | 161.5 | 161.3 | 21.9 | -1 | *5.0 | *1.5 | *-.1 |
| Purchasing power of consumer dollar: | | | | | | | | |
| 1967=1.00 | - | \$0.765 | \$0.760 | -5.2 | -.7 | - | - | - |
| 1957-59=1.00 | - | .658 | .654 | - | - | - | - | - |

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 services 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 changes for | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|---------------|-------------|--|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
| | February 1973 | March 1973 | April 1973 | May 1973 | 3 months ending in | | | 6 months ending in | | |
| | | | | | August 1972 | November 1972 | February 1973 | May 1973 | November 1972 | May 1973 |
| Commodity and service groups | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items | - | - | - | - | 3.2 | 4.3 | 5.7 | 8.7 | 3.7 | 7.2 |
| Commodities | 124.7 | 126.2 | 127.4 | 128.3 | 3.4 | 4.7 | 6.7 | 12.1 | 4.0 | 9.3 |
| Food | 131.4 | 134.5 | 136.4 | 137.9 | 5.3 | 8.3 | 16.8 | 21.3 | 6.8 | 19.0 |
| Food at home | 130.4 | 134.3 | 136.1 | 137.6 | 5.4 | 9.5 | 20.0 | 24.0 | 7.5 | 22.0 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 117.8 | 118.8 | 119.8 | 122.0 | -.7 | 2.8 | 9.3 | 15.0 | 1.0 | 12.2 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 144.0 | 152.4 | 154.8 | 155.9 | 12.7 | 13.3 | 37.4 | 37.4 | 13.0 | 37.4 |
| Dairy products (not seasonally adjusted) | 121.0 | 121.5 | 121.8 | 123.2 | -2.4 | 3.8 | 11.7 | 7.5 | .7 | 9.6 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 134.9 | 136.7 | 140.4 | 141.6 | 15.3 | 14.4 | 15.6 | 21.4 | 14.8 | 18.5 |
| Other foods at home | 122.2 | 122.8 | 124.2 | 126.7 | -3.7 | 7.4 | 14.2 | 15.6 | 1.7 | 14.9 |
| Food away from home | 134.8 | 136.0 | 137.0 | 139.0 | 4.0 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 13.1 | 4.2 | 8.9 |
| Commodities less food | 121.3 | 121.9 | 122.4 | 122.9 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 5.4 | 2.4 | 4.0 |
| Nondurables less food | 122.0 | 122.6 | 123.4 | 123.9 | 1.0 | 4.1 | 3.0 | 6.4 | 2.5 | 4.7 |
| Apparel commodities ¹ | 124.5 | 125.6 | 126.3 | 126.7 | .3 | 5.0 | 1.6 | 7.3 | 2.6 | 4.4 |
| Men's and boys' | 124.4 | 125.0 | 125.5 | 126.1 | -1.0 | 7.1 | 2.6 | 5.6 | 3.0 | 4.1 |
| Women's and girls' | 123.9 | 125.6 | 126.8 | 126.8 | -2.9 | 6.7 | -6 | 9.7 | 1.8 | 4.4 |
| Footwear | 128.1 | 128.8 | 129.4 | 129.9 | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.5 | 5.7 | 4.1 | 5.1 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel | 120.5 | 120.9 | 121.8 | 122.3 | 1.7 | 3.1 | 3.7 | 6.1 | 2.4 | 4.9 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 113.1 | 113.0 | 115.4 | 116.6 | 4.9 | 7.9 | 7.0 | 13.0 | 6.4 | 9.9 |
| Tabacco products (not seasonally adjusted) | 134.5 | 135.5 | 136.5 | 137.0 | 2.7 | .6 | .6 | 7.6 | 1.7 | 4.1 |
| Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted) | 121.2 | 121.3 | 121.6 | 121.7 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 2.2 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 126.4 | 127.2 | 127.9 | 129.3 | -1.0 | 3.4 | 25.6 | 9.5 | 1.2 | 17.3 |
| Other nondurables | 119.2 | 119.4 | 119.9 | 119.9 | 1.4 | 2.4 | 1.7 | 2.4 | 1.9 | 2.0 |
| Durable commodities | 120.4 | 120.8 | 121.4 | 121.7 | 4.8 | .7 | 1.7 | 4.4 | 2.7 | 3.0 |
| Household durables | 116.6 | 116.9 | 117.6 | 118.3 | 2.8 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 6.0 | 2.5 | 4.0 |
| New cars | 109.7 | 110.0 | 110.9 | 111.1 | 4.0 | -11.9 | 2.6 | 5.2 | -4.3 | 3.9 |
| Used cars (not seasonally adjusted) | 112.4 | 113.7 | 117.3 | 120.6 | 9.0 | 13.4 | -11.8 | 32.5 | 11.2 | 8.1 |
| Other durables | 127.3 | 127.7 | 127.9 | 128.0 | 5.2 | -.9 | .3 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| Services (not seasonally adjusted) | 136.2 | 136.6 | 137.0 | 137.5 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 3.9 |
| Rent (not seasonally adjusted) | 122.1 | 122.6 | 123.0 | 123.5 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 5.0 |
| Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted) | 138.7 | 139.2 | 139.6 | 140.1 | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.2 | 4.1 | 3.4 | 3.7 |
| Household services less rent | 143.2 | 143.1 | 143.3 | 144.3 | 4.1 | 3.8 | 5.8 | 3.1 | 3.9 | 4.4 |
| Transportation services | 135.3 | 135.6 | 136.0 | 136.5 | 3.3 | .6 | -4.9 | 3.6 | 1.9 | -7 |
| Medical care services | 141.6 | 141.9 | 142.4 | 142.8 | 2.6 | 7.4 | 2.6 | 3.4 | 5.0 | 3.0 |
| Other services (not seasonally adjusted) | 128.6 | 129.2 | 129.9 | 130.6 | 1.9 | 4.9 | 3.8 | 6.4 | 3.4 | 5.1 |
| Special indexes: | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items less food | 128.2 | 128.5 | 129.1 | 129.7 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 4.8 | 2.7 | 4.1 |
| Nondurable commodities | 126.5 | 128.4 | 129.7 | 130.6 | 3.3 | 5.7 | 9.7 | 13.6 | 4.5 | 11.6 |
| Apparel commodities less footwear | 123.8 | 124.9 | 125.8 | 126.0 | -1.0 | 5.4 | 1.3 | 7.3 | 2.1 | 4.3 |
| Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted) | 135.3 | 135.8 | 136.2 | 136.7 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 3.4 | 3.8 |
| Insurance and finance | 145.7 | 145.4 | 145.8 | 146.6 | 4.5 | 1.4 | 1.1 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 1.8 |
| Utilities and public transportation | 128.1 | 128.4 | 128.7 | 129.2 | 2.3 | 5.2 | 1.6 | 3.5 | 3.7 | 2.5 |
| Housekeeping and home maintenance service | 148.8 | 149.5 | 150.2 | 151.1 | 4.2 | 3.6 | 7.0 | 6.3 | 3.9 | 6.7 |
| Appliances (including radio and T. V.) (not seasonally adjusted) | 105.5 | 105.4 | 105.4 | 105.4 | 0 | .8 | -1.5 | -.4 | .4 | -.9 |
| Expenditure classes | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items | - | - | - | - | 3.2 | 4.3 | 5.7 | 8.7 | 3.7 | 7.2 |
| Food | 131.4 | 134.5 | 136.4 | 137.9 | 5.3 | 8.3 | 16.8 | 21.3 | 6.8 | 19.0 |
| Housing (not seasonally adjusted) | 132.0 | 132.3 | 132.8 | 133.3 | 4.4 | 2.8 | 3.7 | 4.0 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
| Shelter ² | 137.6 | 137.7 | 138.1 | 139.0 | 4.9 | 2.1 | 4.5 | 4.1 | 3.5 | 4.3 |
| Rent (not seasonally adjusted) | 122.1 | 122.6 | 123.0 | 123.5 | 3.4 | 3.0 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 3.2 | 5.0 |
| Homeownership ³ | 143.3 | 143.1 | 143.6 | 144.6 | 5.6 | 2.0 | 4.0 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| Fuel and utilities ⁴ | 123.9 | 124.2 | 124.7 | 125.3 | 2.0 | 4.4 | 7.8 | 4.6 | 3.2 | 6.2 |
| Gas and electricity | 124.1 | 124.6 | 124.9 | 125.2 | 3.0 | 4.0 | 6.7 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 5.1 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 122.8 | 123.0 | 123.5 | 123.7 | 2.0 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 124.2 | 125.1 | 125.9 | 126.2 | .3 | 5.0 | 2.0 | 6.6 | 2.6 | 4.3 |
| Transportation | 121.3 | 122.0 | 122.8 | 123.3 | 4.1 | 2.7 | 0 | 6.8 | 3.4 | 3.3 |
| Private | 119.2 | 119.6 | 120.7 | 121.1 | 4.2 | 2.4 | 1.4 | 6.5 | 3.3 | 3.9 |
| Public | 143.9 | 143.5 | 143.3 | 144.0 | 2.5 | 4.0 | -3.3 | .3 | 3.2 | -1.5 |
| Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted) | 128.1 | 128.6 | 129.2 | 129.6 | 2.2 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 4.8 | 2.6 | 3.5 |
| Medical care | 135.4 | 135.7 | 135.9 | 136.3 | 2.8 | 5.9 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 4.3 | 2.7 |
| Personal care (not seasonally adjusted) | 122.4 | 123.1 | 123.8 | 124.4 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 4.7 | 6.7 | 2.2 | 5.7 |
| Reading and recreation | 124.5 | 124.9 | 125.2 | 125.5 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 1.6 | 3.3 | 2.6 | 2.4 |
| Other goods and services | 127.2 | 127.9 | 128.5 | 128.9 | .3 | .6 | 3.5 | 5.5 | .5 | 4.5 |
| Special indexes: | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items less shelter | 126.5 | 127.8 | 128.8 | 129.6 | 3.0 | 5.0 | 5.9 | 10.2 | 4.0 | 8.0 |
| All items less medical care | 128.3 | 129.6 | 130.5 | 131.3 | 3.3 | 4.2 | 5.5 | 9.7 | 3.7 | 7.6 |
| All items less mortgage interest costs | 127.9 | 129.0 | 130.0 | 130.8 | 3.3 | 4.6 | 5.5 | 9.4 | 3.9 | 7.4 |
| CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) | 130.4 | 134.9 | 137.0 | 138.2 | 9.7 | 1.6 | 25.9 | 26.2 | 5.6 | 26.0 |
| CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) | 151.5 | 159.1 | 161.5 | 161.3 | 21.1 | -8.9 | 55.8 | 28.5 | 5.1 | 41.5 |

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 | May 1972 | February 1973 | April 1973 |
| | | May 1973 | | | May 1972 | February 1973 | April 1973 |
| U. S. city average ----- | M | 131.5 | 153.0 | | 5.5 | 2.3 | 0.6 |
| Chicago ----- | M | 130.8 | 148.6 | | 5.7 | 2.6 | .7 |
| Detroit ----- | M | 133.4 | 153.3 | | 6.3 | 2.9 | .8 |
| Los Angeles—Long Beach ----- | M | 127.4 | 149.8 | | 5.0 | 1.5 | .4 |
| N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. ----- | M | 138.0 | 164.2 | | 5.6 | 2.3 | .4 |
| Philadelphia ----- | M | 134.1 | 156.7 | | 6.3 | 2.7 | .5 |
| | | April 1973 | | | April 1972 | January 1973 | |
| Boston ----- | 1 | 132.4 | 158.6 | | 4.9 | 2.1 | |
| Houston ----- | 1 | 130.5 | 149.3 | | 4.6 | 2.6 | |
| Minneapolis—St. Paul ----- | 1 | 130.8 | 151.6 | | 5.3 | 2.3 | |
| Pittsburgh ----- | 1 | 131.2 | 150.9 | | 5.2 | 3.1 | |
| | | May 1973 | | | May 1972 | February 1973 | |
| Buffalo ----- | 2 | 133.2 | | ³ 146.4 | 5.6 | 2.2 | |
| Cleveland ----- | 2 | 132.7 | 149.9 | | 5.2 | 2.2 | |
| Dallas ----- | 2 | 130.6 | | ³ 141.1 | 4.8 | 2.3 | |
| Milwaukee ----- | 2 | 130.0 | 146.8 | | 5.9 | 2.4 | |
| San Diego ----- | 2 | 130.7 | | ⁴ 137.3 | 5.7 | 2.0 | |
| Seattle ----- | 2 | 126.3 | 148.4 | | 6.3 | 2.6 | |
| Washington ----- | 2 | 133.3 | 155.3 | | 6.1 | 2.0 | |
| | | March 1973 | | | March 1972 | December 1972 | |
| Atlanta ----- | 3 | 130.1 | 149.7 | | 5.1 | 1.9 | |
| Baltimore ----- | 3 | 131.9 | 153.1 | | 5.6 | 3.0 | |
| Cincinnati ----- | 3 | 129.8 | 147.3 | | 5.5 | 2.6 | |
| Honolulu ----- | 3 | 126.0 | | ⁵ 135.8 | 2.9 | 1.3 | |
| Kansas City ----- | 3 | 127.4 | 151.3 | | 4.1 | 1.5 | |
| St. Louis ----- | 3 | 126.2 | 147.4 | | 4.5 | 2.0 | |
| San Francisco—Oakland ----- | 3 | 128.7 | 153.1 | | 4.9 | 1.9 | |

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 changes from April 1973 to May 1973

| Group | U. S. city average | Chicago | Detroit | Los Angeles—Long Beach | New York—Northeastern New Jersey | Philadelphia |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| All items ----- | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Food ----- | 1.0 | 1.1 | .3 | .9 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Housing ----- | .4 | .3 | 1.6 | -.1 | -.1 | .4 |
| Apparel and upkeep ----- | .7 | .5 | -.2 | .4 | .7 | 0 |
| Transportation ----- | .7 | 1.1 | .8 | .7 | .4 | .6 |
| Health and recreation ----- | .3 | .5 | .2 | .3 | .3 | .2 |
| Medical care ----- | .3 | .5 | .3 | .2 | .6 | .1 |
| Personal care ----- | .5 | (²) | (²) | (²) | (²) | (²) |
| Reading and recreation ----- | .3 | .6 | .2 | 1.2 | 0 | .5 |
| Other goods and services ----- | .2 | .6 | 0 | -.1 | -.3 | .1 |

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, May 1973, and percent changes from February 1972

| Group | U.S. city average | Chicago | Detroit | Los Angeles—Long Beach | New York—Northeastern New Jersey | Philadelphia |
|---|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Indexes (1967=100) | | | | | | |
| All items | 131.5 | 130.8 | 133.4 | 127.4 | 138.0 | 134.1 |
| Food | 137.9 | 138.8 | 138.6 | 133.6 | 141.9 | 139.5 |
| Food at home | 137.6 | 139.2 | 139.2 | 134.8 | 140.7 | 138.4 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 122.1 | 126.7 | 128.1 | 119.0 | 123.8 | 123.4 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 155.6 | 156.0 | 159.7 | 156.2 | 154.7 | 155.5 |
| Dairy products | 123.2 | 124.4 | 123.0 | 120.4 | 125.8 | 123.5 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 144.6 | 143.9 | 132.4 | 135.4 | 150.8 | 144.7 |
| Other food at home | 125.4 | 125.6 | 126.9 | 124.8 | 128.7 | 125.8 |
| Food away from home | 138.9 | 137.3 | 136.3 | 130.3 | 145.6 | 144.4 |
| Housing | 133.3 | 127.7 | 137.5 | 128.9 | 142.1 | 136.2 |
| Shelter | 138.7 | 132.1 | 147.9 | 131.5 | 150.0 | 146.2 |
| Rent, residential | 123.5 | 121.4 | (²) | 120.8 | (²) | 128.7 |
| Homeownership | 144.2 | 136.8 | 152.9 | 134.6 | 161.6 | 150.8 |
| Fuel and utilities | 125.4 | 118.8 | 120.0 | 129.2 | 130.6 | 124.4 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 129.3 | 124.6 | 124.4 | | 129.2 | 125.3 |
| Gas and electricity | 125.7 | 119.7 | 121.7 | 136.1 | 132.5 | 128.8 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 123.9 | 120.1 | 117.2 | 120.3 | 128.5 | 125.2 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 126.7 | 126.3 | 122.5 | 122.7 | 126.7 | 125.4 |
| Men's and boys' | 126.7 | 121.3 | 121.6 | 119.6 | 129.6 | 125.1 |
| Women's and girls' | 127.2 | 133.0 | 118.8 | 125.5 | 123.6 | 122.9 |
| Footwear | 130.3 | 123.8 | 130.3 | 128.0 | 129.5 | 130.9 |
| Transportation | 123.5 | 127.8 | 123.7 | 122.8 | 135.2 | 127.6 |
| Private | 121.3 | 122.6 | 121.6 | 123.1 | 127.8 | 124.8 |
| Public | 143.9 | 160.5 | 148.5 | 117.3 | 163.3 | 143.5 |
| Health and recreation | 129.6 | 130.7 | 133.3 | 124.0 | 135.0 | 133.5 |
| Medical care | 136.6 | 135.9 | 147.4 | 133.7 | 144.0 | 147.4 |
| Personal care | 124.4 | (²) | (²) | (²) | 125.4 | (²) |
| Reading and recreation | 125.6 | 127.4 | 126.9 | 117.1 | 129.5 | 128.0 |
| Other goods and services | 128.5 | 131.6 | 124.7 | 121.2 | 135.7 | 129.8 |
| Percent changes February 1973 to May 1973 | | | | | | |
| All items | 2.3 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 1.5 | 2.3 | 2.7 |
| Food | 5.2 | 4.8 | 5.7 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 5.6 |
| Food at home | 5.8 | 5.0 | 6.3 | 4.7 | 5.4 | 6.3 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 4.5 | 4.2 | 4.1 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 9.0 | 7.6 | 9.8 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 9.5 |
| Dairy products | 1.8 | 2.6 | 3.7 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.5 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 8.5 | 7.1 | 7.0 | 5.7 | 8.2 | 8.1 |
| Other food at home | 1.9 | .5 | 2.3 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 3.3 |
| Food away from home | 3.1 | 4.4 | 3.1 | 4.2 | 2.2 | 3.1 |
| Housing | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.1 | -.7 | 1.1 | 2.0 |
| Shelter | 1.0 | 1.5 | 2.7 | -1.0 | 1.6 | 2.3 |
| Rent, residential | 1.1 | 1.1 | (²) | 3.4 | (²) | 3.9 |
| Homeownership | .9 | .6 | 3.1 | -1.6 | 2.1 | 2.5 |
| Fuel and utilities | 1.0 | 1.1 | .5 | .9 | .8 | 1.8 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 1.7 | 2.7 | -.2 | | 1.4 | 4.3 |
| Gas and electricity | 1.0 | 1.5 | .3 | 1.2 | 2.3 | .6 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 1.1 | 2.0 | .9 | .3 | -.2 | 1.5 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 2.5 | 3.2 | 1.8 | 2.3 | 4.1 | 2.4 |
| Men's and boys' | 2.8 | 3.2 | 1.3 | 1.7 | 6.3 | 3.8 |
| Women's and girls' | 3.2 | 4.7 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 4.1 | 2.4 |
| Footwear | 2.1 | 1.6 | .1 | 1.2 | 4.0 | 2.1 |
| Transportation | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.0 | .9 | 1.4 |
| Private | 2.2 | 3.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 1.2 | 1.5 |
| Public | -.3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Health and recreation | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.0 |
| Medical care | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.2 | 1.5 | .5 | 1.7 |
| Personal care | 1.6 | (²) | (²) | (²) | 3.4 | (²) |
| Reading and recreation | 1.0 | 1.4 | .8 | 2.2 | 1.0 | 0 |
| Other goods and services | 1.1 | .8 | .6 | .8 | 1.0 | 1.1 |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, March 1973, and percent changes from December 1972—Continued

| Group | Buffalo | Cleveland | Dallas | Milwaukee | San Diego | Seattle | Washington |
|---|---------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|------------|
| Indexes (1967=100) | | | | | | | |
| All items | 133.2 | 132.7 | 130.6 | 130.0 | 130.7 | 126.3 | 133.3 |
| Food | 138.2 | 139.5 | 136.9 | 134.5 | 137.2 | 133.9 | 141.5 |
| Food at home | 137.7 | 140.2 | 135.4 | 134.0 | 135.8 | 134.1 | 139.9 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 121.0 | 121.2 | 120.1 | 123.8 | 117.8 | 117.0 | 126.0 |
| Meats, poultry and fish | 154.2 | 159.4 | 153.7 | 150.7 | 159.6 | 152.7 | 154.0 |
| Dairy products | 122.2 | 127.6 | 116.4 | 119.9 | 120.4 | 123.7 | 118.5 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 153.0 | 145.0 | 142.7 | 139.5 | 134.2 | 137.0 | 156.2 |
| Other food at home | 122.1 | 126.8 | 124.5 | 122.4 | 123.9 | 124.6 | 128.9 |
| Food away from home | 140.9 | 136.3 | 142.7 | 136.0 | 140.4 | 133.2 | 145.5 |
| Housing | 136.7 | 129.1 | 129.7 | 129.0 | 138.1 | 128.8 | 132.5 |
| Shelter | 139.0 | 131.4 | 134.3 | 131.0 | 151.2 | 134.4 | 135.7 |
| Rent, residential | 125.8 | 114.6 | 112.8 | 121.5 | 136.3 | 107.4 | 123.1 |
| Homeownership | 141.5 | 134.4 | 143.9 | 133.9 | 157.7 | 142.2 | 142.9 |
| Fuel and utilities | 143.1 | 125.2 | 120.5 | 130.4 | 118.3 | 120.3 | 125.6 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 128.9 | - | - | 133.5 | - | 125.2 | 130.4 |
| Gas and electricity | 144.4 | 125.8 | 116.6 | 135.5 | 119.9 | 109.4 | 127.6 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 125.7 | 122.3 | 124.5 | 122.8 | 113.8 | 120.8 | 127.2 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 133.5 | 128.1 | 128.3 | 132.3 | 124.8 | 123.2 | 131.7 |
| Men's and boys' | 147.8 | 121.8 | 128.3 | 131.4 | 123.1 | 125.7 | 131.6 |
| Women's and girls' | 132.1 | 131.6 | 131.2 | 132.8 | 131.2 | 122.5 | 135.9 |
| Footwear | 125.8 | 132.0 | 130.7 | 133.4 | 126.0 | 124.3 | 134.1 |
| Transportation | 122.3 | 129.7 | 123.6 | 126.5 | 121.7 | 111.7 | 125.6 |
| Private | 120.1 | 123.2 | 121.8 | 121.7 | 122.5 | 113.8 | 122.0 |
| Public | 146.2 | 172.0 | 146.4 | 185.6 | 106.8 | 99.8 | 146.0 |
| Health and recreation | 129.4 | 137.1 | 131.0 | 127.6 | 122.6 | 123.3 | 131.5 |
| Medical care | 129.6 | 150.0 | 136.5 | 132.8 | 128.4 | 128.6 | 143.0 |
| Personal care | 124.3 | 129.8 | 128.4 | 125.7 | 121.8 | 120.3 | 120.7 |
| Reading and recreation | 131.1 | 128.4 | 126.1 | 128.0 | 118.5 | 121.3 | 125.4 |
| Other goods and services | 130.3 | 135.1 | 130.2 | 123.8 | 121.0 | 121.5 | 132.4 |
| Percent changes February 1973 to May 1973 | | | | | | | |
| All items | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.0 | 2.6 | 2.0 |
| Food | 5.8 | 6.7 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 5.4 |
| Food at home | 6.0 | 7.1 | 5.0 | 4.7 | 4.0 | 4.8 | 6.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 3.4 | 5.1 | 4.0 | 3.0 | 3.2 | 2.5 | 4.4 |
| Meats, poultry and fish | 10.9 | 11.2 | 7.0 | 7.6 | 5.6 | 7.5 | 8.8 |
| Dairy products | .5 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 2.6 | 1.9 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 8.5 | 9.3 | 8.2 | 7.9 | 6.8 | 9.9 | 10.9 |
| Other food at home | .7 | 3.2 | 1.9 | .8 | 1.0 | .2 | 1.3 |
| Food away from home | 4.9 | 4.0 | 2.5 | 3.6 | 5.3 | 2.2 | 3.5 |
| Housing | 1.3 | .2 | .7 | 1.3 | .9 | 3.0 | .6 |
| Shelter | 1.4 | -.4 | .4 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 3.8 | .66 |
| Rent, residential | 1.7 | .5 | .3 | 1.3 | .8 | 1.0 | 2.0 |
| Homeownership | 1.3 | -.4 | .4 | .9 | 1.2 | 4.5 | -.2 |
| Fuel and utilities | 1.8 | .6 | -.7 | 3.5 | .5 | 2.8 | -.8 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 0 | - | - | 4.9 | - | 1.0 | 2.3 |
| Gas and electricity | 1.9 | .6 | -1.4 | 3.2 | .5 | .3 | -.2 |
| Household furnishings and operation | .7 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.1 | .4 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| Apparel and upkeep | .7 | 2.4 | 2.1 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 3.1 |
| Men's and boys' | -.3 | 2.5 | 1.7 | -.2 | 1.8 | .6 | 5.6 |
| Women's and girls' | 1.1 | 2.9 | 4.1 | 2.1 | 1.2 | 4.9 | 2.9 |
| Footwear | .6 | 2.0 | 1.1 | 2.9 | 1.3 | .5 | 1.8 |
| Transportation | 1.4 | 2.1 | 3.9 | 3.3 | 2.7 | 1.0 | .7 |
| Private | 1.6 | 1.2 | 4.2 | 3.8 | 2.9 | 1.2 | .9 |
| Public | 0 | 6.5 | 0 | .1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Health and recreation | .9 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.5 | .9 | 1.1 | .9 |
| Medical care | .9 | .9 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 1.2 | .5 | .7 |
| Personal care | 1.1 | 2.0 | 0 | 2.8 | 2.4 | 2.1 | .8 |
| Reading and recreation | .5 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 0 | .8 | .8 |
| Other goods and services | 1.4 | .9 | 1.4 | 1.0 | .7 | 1.3 | 1.5 |

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

³ Change from March 1973.

⁴ Revised index: February 1973, 121.4.

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

| 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 ----- | 137.9 | 137.6 | 122.1 | 155.6 | 123.2 | 144.6 | 125.4 | 138.9 |
| Atlanta ----- | 140.6 | 140.7 | 125.0 | 158.2 | 127.7 | 154.9 | 126.3 | 140.3 |
| Baltimore ----- | 139.8 | 140.1 | 119.7 | 157.0 | 125.9 | 150.4 | 127.3 | 138.6 |
| Boston ----- | 136.4 | 136.4 | 122.3 | 153.3 | 121.9 | 143.2 | 123.8 | 135.9 |
| Buffalo ----- | 138.2 | 137.7 | 121.0 | 154.2 | 122.2 | 153.0 | 122.1 | 140.9 |
| Chicago ----- | 138.8 | 139.2 | 126.7 | 156.0 | 124.4 | 143.9 | 125.6 | 137.3 |
| Cincinnati ----- | 140.0 | 141.2 | 124.4 | 157.1 | 127.0 | 148.2 | 130.2 | 135.8 |
| Cleveland ----- | 139.5 | 140.2 | 121.2 | 159.4 | 127.6 | 145.0 | 126.8 | 136.3 |
| Dallas ----- | 136.9 | 135.4 | 120.1 | 153.7 | 116.4 | 142.7 | 124.5 | 142.7 |
| Detroit ----- | 138.6 | 139.2 | 128.1 | 159.7 | 123.0 | 132.4 | 126.9 | 136.3 |
| Honolulu ----- | 132.7 | 131.8 | 111.6 | 144.4 | 124.6 | 138.4 | 124.1 | 135.1 |
| Houston ----- | 139.1 | 136.3 | 118.5 | 158.5 | 124.0 | 136.2 | 123.7 | 149.1 |
| Kansas City ----- | 138.1 | 138.2 | 125.5 | 156.8 | 133.4 | 135.8 | 125.5 | 137.9 |
| Los Angeles—Long Beach ----- | 133.6 | 134.8 | 119.0 | 156.2 | 120.4 | 135.4 | 124.8 | 130.3 |
| Milwaukee ----- | 134.5 | 134.0 | 123.8 | 150.7 | 119.9 | 139.5 | 122.4 | 136.0 |
| Minneapolis—St. Paul ----- | 138.6 | 138.3 | 132.3 | 160.3 | 125.1 | 137.0 | 126.6 | 140.0 |
| N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. ----- | 141.9 | 140.7 | 123.8 | 154.7 | 125.8 | 150.8 | 128.7 | 145.6 |
| Philadelphia ----- | 139.5 | 138.4 | 123.4 | 155.5 | 123.5 | 144.7 | 125.8 | 144.4 |
| Pittsburgh ----- | 137.4 | 136.5 | 120.0 | 151.7 | 122.2 | 148.0 | 125.4 | 143.0 |
| St. Louis ----- | 136.0 | 135.5 | 127.4 | 147.7 | 123.5 | 147.2 | 121.7 | 138.7 |
| San Diego ----- | 137.2 | 135.8 | 117.8 | 159.6 | 120.4 | 134.2 | 123.9 | 140.4 |
| San Francisco—Oakland ----- | 135.2 | 136.6 | 117.3 | 153.1 | 121.1 | 142.4 | 128.3 | 130.5 |
| Seattle ----- | 133.9 | 134.1 | 117.0 | 152.7 | 123.7 | 137.0 | 124.6 | 133.2 |
| Washington ----- | 141.5 | 139.9 | 126.0 | 154.0 | 118.5 | 156.2 | 128.9 | 145.5 |
| Percent changes April 1973 to May 1973 | | | | | | | | |
| U. S. city average ----- | 1.0 | 0.9 | 1.6 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 1.4 |
| Atlanta ----- | 1.4 | 1.7 | .7 | -.7 | 1.6 | 4.7 | 1.4 | .9 |
| Baltimore ----- | .7 | .5 | .4 | -.5 | 1.5 | 2.6 | .2 | 1.5 |
| Boston ----- | .6 | .5 | 2.8 | -.4 | .3 | 1.3 | .3 | .7 |
| Buffalo ----- | .8 | .3 | 1.3 | -.1 | 1.4 | .5 | -.7 | 3.3 |
| Chicago ----- | 1.1 | 1.0 | .6 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 2.9 | -.7 | 1.3 |
| Cincinnati ----- | 1.3 | 1.4 | 4.2 | -.7 | .6 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.3 |
| Cleveland ----- | 1.2 | .8 | .4 | -.3 | .8 | 2.8 | 1.5 | 2.9 |
| Dallas ----- | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.8 | -.3 | 1.3 | 2.2 | .8 | 2.0 |
| Detroit ----- | .3 | 0 | 2.6 | -1.4 | 1.7 | -.6 | 1.0 | 1.4 |
| Honolulu ----- | 1.0 | 1.2 | 1.3 | -.3 | .2 | 3.4 | 1.2 | .6 |
| Houston ----- | 1.3 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 1.0 | 1.4 | .9 | 1.3 | 1.6 |
| Kansas City ----- | 1.3 | 1.2 | 2.6 | -.5 | 1.2 | 3.6 | 1.4 | 1.8 |
| Los Angeles—Long Beach ----- | .9 | .6 | 1.4 | -.5 | .5 | 1.0 | .1 | 2.0 |
| Milwaukee ----- | .8 | .1 | 1.6 | -1.8 | .7 | 3.0 | .1 | ² 3.6 |
| Minneapolis—St. Paul ----- | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 1.2 | .4 |
| N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. ----- | 1.1 | 1.1 | 2.3 | -.1 | 1.2 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.0 |
| Philadelphia ----- | 1.0 | .9 | .7 | -.3 | .7 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 1.2 |
| Pittsburgh ----- | .6 | .6 | 1.9 | -1.7 | 3.9 | 2.0 | 1.0 | .4 |
| St. Louis ----- | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.8 | -.2 | .9 | 2.1 | 1.8 | 1.8 |
| San Diego ----- | 1.9 | .5 | 1.5 | -.7 | 1.1 | 4.0 | -.4 | ² 5.3 |
| San Francisco—Oakland ----- | .7 | .8 | 2.6 | -.1 | .7 | 1.9 | .1 | .9 |
| Seattle ----- | 1.1 | 1.1 | .7 | -.4 | 1.8 | 3.6 | -.4 | 1.1 |
| Washington ----- | .9 | .9 | 2.1 | -.3 | .9 | 2.5 | 1.5 | .9 |

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Change from February 1973.

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

(1967=100)

| Item and group | Index | | Percent change to May 1973 from— | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------|---------------------|
| | May 1973 | | May 1972 | April 1973 | |
| | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted | Unadjusted | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted |
| Food | 137.9 | 137.9 | 12.8 | 1.0 | 1.1 |
| Food away from home | 138.9 | 139.0 | 6.5 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Restaurant meals | 139.5 | 139.6 | 7.0 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Snacks | 136.1 | 136.2 | 4.1 | .6 | .7 |
| Food at home | 137.6 | 137.6 | 14.5 | .9 | 1.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 122.1 | 122.0 | 6.5 | 1.6 | 1.8 |
| Flour | 116.3 | 115.8 | 16.1 | 2.1 | 1.9 |
| Cracker meal | 140.7 | 139.9 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Corn flakes | 103.4 | 103.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Rice | 124.2 | 124.0 | 13.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Bread, white | 120.6 | 120.8 | 7.0 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| Bread, whole wheat | 126.9 | 127.3 | 5.5 | .6 | 1.2 |
| Cookies | 113.4 | 112.5 | 1.8 | .7 | .4 |
| Layer cakes | 126.5 | 126.6 | 5.6 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| Cinnamon rolls | 127.0 | 127.0 | 5.1 | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 155.6 | 155.9 | 24.7 | .1 | .7 |
| Meats | 155.9 | 156.4 | 24.1 | -.1 | .6 |
| Beef and veal | 162.7 | 161.9 | 21.3 | -.1 | .4 |
| Steak, round | 158.2 | 157.1 | 21.1 | -.6 | .6 |
| Steak, sirloin | 150.3 | 149.6 | 17.9 | -.9 | -1.5 |
| Steak, porterhouse | 151.8 | 152.0 | 16.4 | -.2 | -.7 |
| Rump roast | 154.2 | 152.4 | 19.3 | -.1 | .2 |
| Rib roast | 162.4 | 161.8 | 18.9 | .9 | .6 |
| Chuck roast | 173.0 | 171.5 | 29.2 | .3 | 1.8 |
| Hamburger | 170.6 | 169.9 | 25.7 | .1 | .4 |
| Beef liver | 155.3 | 154.5 | 17.5 | -.6 | -.7 |
| Veal cutlets | 188.9 | 188.5 | 18.4 | .1 | .6 |
| Pork | 150.0 | 152.4 | 30.0 | -.5 | .6 |
| Chops | 145.8 | 150.0 | 27.1 | 1.3 | 2.6 |
| Loin roast | 151.7 | 155.4 | 32.3 | -.8 | .1 |
| Pork sausage | 166.1 | 167.4 | 33.0 | .1 | .7 |
| Ham, whole | 140.5 | 143.1 | 27.1 | -1.1 | 2.1 |
| Picnics | 159.2 | 160.2 | 31.6 | -1.2 | .5 |
| Bacon | 145.2 | 146.4 | 31.0 | -1.8 | -.9 |
| Other meats | 149.4 | 149.5 | 22.8 | .3 | .8 |
| Lamb chops | 145.0 | 145.7 | 14.5 | -.3 | -.5 |
| Frankfurters | 156.4 | 156.7 | 28.1 | .3 | 1.2 |
| Ham, canned | 140.8 | 140.2 | 23.9 | .7 | .9 |
| Bologna sausage | 156.7 | 156.7 | 23.6 | -.4 | 0 |
| Salami sausage | 150.3 | 150.5 | 21.0 | 1.1 | 1.6 |
| Liverwurst | 147.8 | 148.1 | 26.2 | .7 | .7 |
| Poultry | 150.4 | 151.2 | 38.7 | .2 | .8 |
| Frying chicken | 154.8 | 155.7 | 44.4 | -.6 | .8 |
| Chicken, breasts | 144.5 | 144.8 | 29.1 | -.5 | -.2 |
| Turkey | 136.0 | 137.4 | 22.6 | 5.4 | 7.5 |
| Fish | 160.2 | 159.9 | 14.3 | 2.6 | 2.8 |
| Shrimp, frozen | 154.1 | 153.6 | 15.3 | 3.1 | 2.8 |
| Fish, fresh or frozen | 185.1 | 184.9 | 25.3 | 3.3 | 3.1 |
| Tuna fish, canned | 140.9 | 140.1 | 5.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 |
| Sardines, canned | 161.0 | 161.0 | 10.5 | 2.5 | 2.7 |
| Dairy products | 123.2 | - | 5.0 | 1.1 | - |
| Milk, fresh, grocery | 121.9 | 121.8 | 4.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Milk, fresh, delivered | 126.5 | - | 5.2 | .8 | - |
| Milk, fresh, skim | 130.2 | 129.9 | 6.7 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| Milk, evaporated | 131.4 | 131.4 | 9.0 | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| Ice cream | 110.0 | 110.3 | 3.3 | .6 | .6 |
| Cheese, American process | 134.7 | 134.4 | 8.5 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| Butter | 103.0 | 103.0 | -2.2 | -.2 | -.2 |

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

(1967=100)

| Item and group | Index | | Percent change to May 1973 from— | | |
|---|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | May 1973 | | May 1972 | April 1973 | |
| | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted | Unadjusted | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted |
| Food—Continued | | | | | |
| Food away from home—Continued | | | | | |
| Fruits and vegetables | 144.6 | 141.6 | 16.7 | 2.0 | 0.9 |
| Fresh fruits and vegetables | 156.9 | 151.4 | 23.8 | 2.8 | .8 |
| Fresh fruits | 137.7 | 138.4 | 113.8 | .7 | -1.1 |
| Apples | 145.5 | 142.0 | 19.5 | 8.4 | 3.8 |
| Bananas | 100.6 | 98.9 | -3.6 | -5.9 | -6.3 |
| Oranges | 137.6 | 144.1 | 16.6 | 1.4 | 0 |
| Orange juice, fresh | 132.0 | 132.4 | 1.1 | .2 | -1.1 |
| Grapefruit | 130.6 | 141.0 | -1.0 | 2.7 | -1.5 |
| Grapes | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) |
| Strawberries | 120.6 | 127.9 | 16.7 | -17.8 | -6.0 |
| Watermelon | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) | (¹) |
| Fresh vegetables | 172.4 | 161.6 | 31.2 | 4.2 | 1.5 |
| Potatoes | 184.3 | 184.1 | 62.1 | 7.5 | 5.3 |
| Onions | 303.6 | 294.2 | 171.1 | 20.6 | 15.6 |
| Asparagus | 134.4 | 139.9 | -4.7 | -7.6 | -9.4 |
| Cabbage | 195.2 | 183.3 | 45.6 | 16.4 | 14.3 |
| Carrots | 131.4 | 133.5 | -5.1 | .2 | -3.3 |
| Celery | 146.7 | 139.3 | -1.3 | 10.7 | -3.8 |
| Cucumbers | 144.7 | 133.6 | 18.6 | -15.1 | 7.2 |
| Lettuce | 165.2 | 164.4 | 51.1 | 2.9 | -1.1 |
| Peppers, green | 188.7 | 128.6 | -9.1 | 1.6 | -19.8 |
| Spinach | 152.8 | 153.7 | 11.9 | -1.0 | .7 |
| Tomatoes | 126.9 | 115.8 | -6.1 | -5.0 | -5.0 |
| Processed fruits and vegetables | 126.3 | 126.4 | 5.4 | .5 | .6 |
| Fruit cocktail, canned | 128.8 | 128.9 | 5.9 | -.3 | .1 |
| Pears, canned | 123.9 | 124.3 | 5.6 | .4 | .6 |
| Pineapple-grapefruit juice, drink | 119.0 | 118.9 | 3.7 | -.2 | .2 |
| Orange juice, concentrate, frozen | 137.2 | 137.2 | .7 | -1.3 | -1.2 |
| Lemonade concentrate, frozen | 120.5 | 119.8 | 2.7 | -.2 | .2 |
| Beets, canned | 138.0 | 138.1 | 14.6 | 2.9 | 3.2 |
| Peas, green, canned | 109.2 | 109.6 | 1.7 | -.7 | .0 |
| Tomatoes, canned | 124.6 | 124.7 | 7.8 | 1.0 | .7 |
| Dried beans | 144.3 | 144.4 | 5.3 | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| Broccoli, frozen | 120.7 | 120.8 | 2.2 | 0 | .6 |
| Other food at home | 125.4 | 126.7 | 8.1 | .9 | 2.0 |
| Eggs | 138.7 | 149.6 | 36.4 | -1.1 | 7.3 |
| Fats and oils | | | | | |
| Margarine | 121.1 | 120.7 | 2.8 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Salad dressing, Italian | 111.3 | 110.9 | .6 | .8 | .5 |
| Salad or cooking oil | 125.7 | 125.6 | 2.8 | 2.0 | 2.3 |
| Sugar and sweets | 126.3 | 126.0 | 4.0 | .8 | .6 |
| Sugar | 120.5 | 120.4 | 4.4 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Grape jelly | 132.9 | 132.5 | 5.9 | .3 | -.2 |
| Chocolate bar | 134.8 | 135.1 | 3.1 | 1.4 | 1.5 |
| Syrup, chocolate flavored | 115.9 | 115.4 | 2.9 | .5 | .7 |
| Nonalcoholic beverages | 129.5 | 129.5 | 7.0 | 1.8 | 1.9 |
| Coffee, can and bag | 133.4 | 133.5 | 13.0 | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| Coffee, instant | 131.7 | 131.2 | 5.4 | 2.2 | 2.1 |
| Tea | 110.9 | 110.9 | 1.8 | .4 | .2 |
| Carbonated drink, cola flavored | 131.4 | 131.3 | 2.5 | .7 | .7 |
| Carbonated drink, fruit flavored | 131.1 | 130.8 | 2.2 | .5 | .3 |
| Prepared and partially prepared foods | 117.8 | 117.6 | 2.7 | .3 | .3 |
| Bean soup, canned | 117.7 | 117.2 | .9 | .3 | .2 |
| Chicken soup, canned | 105.3 | 105.1 | -.5 | 0 | .1 |
| Spaghetti, canned | 123.0 | 123.2 | 4.0 | .5 | .7 |
| Mashed potatoes, instant | 117.9 | 117.5 | 5.1 | .8 | .3 |
| Potatoes, french fried, frozen | 113.5 | 113.6 | 2.4 | .4 | .7 |
| Baby foods | 113.7 | 114.3 | 2.2 | .8 | 1.2 |
| Sweet pickle relish | 131.3 | 130.9 | 4.9 | -.7 | 0 |
| Pretzels | 117.0 | 116.7 | 1.3 | 0 | -1.1 |

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 1973, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

| Item and group | Other index base | Indexes | | Percent change to May 1973 from: | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| | | April 1973 | May 1973 | May 1972 | April 1973 |
| Housing | | 132.8 | 133.3 | 3.7 | 0.4 |
| Shelter ¹ | | 138.1 | 138.7 | 3.9 | .4 |
| Rent, residential | | 123.0 | 123.5 | 4.1 | .4 |
| Homeownership ² | | 143.6 | 144.2 | 3.8 | .4 |
| Mortgage interest rates | | 117.8 | 118.2 | 1.0 | .3 |
| Property taxes | | 152.1 | 152.4 | 5.1 | .2 |
| Property insurance premiums | | 124.8 | 125.0 | 1.9 | .2 |
| Maintenance and repairs | | 148.1 | 149.6 | 6.9 | 1.0 |
| Maintenance and repair commodities ³ | | 134.2 | 136.5 | 10.7 | 1.7 |
| Exterior house paint | | 119.3 | 119.2 | 1.4 | -.1 |
| Interior house paint | | 119.6 | 119.9 | 2.3 | .3 |
| Maintenance and repair services | | 154.1 | 155.2 | 5.5 | .7 |
| Repainting living and dining rooms | | 167.1 | 168.9 | 7.1 | 1.1 |
| Reshingling house roof | | 161.4 | 162.9 | 5.1 | .9 |
| Residing house | | 141.1 | 142.1 | 5.3 | .7 |
| Replacing sink | | 152.7 | 153.3 | 5.2 | .4 |
| Repairing furnace | | 159.5 | 160.4 | 5.0 | .6 |
| Fuel and utilities | | 125.1 | 125.4 | 4.7 | .2 |
| Fuel oil and coal | | 128.3 | 129.3 | 8.9 | .8 |
| Fuel oil, No. 2 | | 126.2 | 127.3 | 9.3 | .9 |
| Gas and electricity | | 125.5 | 125.7 | 4.3 | .2 |
| Gas | | 127.1 | 127.4 | 4.3 | .2 |
| Electricity | | 124.0 | 124.0 | 4.3 | 0 |
| Other utilities: | | | | | |
| Residential telephone services | | 115.6 | 115.8 | 2.6 | .2 |
| Residential water and sewerage services | | 144.3 | 144.3 | 4.8 | 0 |
| Household furnishings and operation ⁴ | | 123.6 | 123.9 | 2.6 | .2 |
| Housefurnishings | | 118.0 | 118.5 | 2.0 | .4 |
| Textiles | | 115.8 | 115.7 | 1.8 | -.1 |
| Sheets | | 118.2 | 117.0 | 1.8 | -1.0 |
| Curtains, tailored | | 113.4 | 114.7 | 2.2 | 1.1 |
| Bedsprads | | 112.4 | 112.1 | .5 | -.3 |
| Drapery fabric | | 126.7 | 126.8 | 4.2 | .1 |
| Pillows, bed | | 108.2 | 108.1 | .8 | -.1 |
| Slipcovers and throws, ready-made | | 115.5 | 115.1 | 1.2 | -.3 |
| Furniture and bedding | | 123.6 | 124.8 | 2.5 | 1.0 |
| Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser | Mar. 70 | 107.7 | 109.0 | 3.5 | 1.2 |
| Sofas, upholstered | | 122.3 | 123.4 | 2.3 | .9 |
| Cocktail tables | Dec. 71 | 102.8 | 103.3 | 2.9 | .5 |
| Dining room chairs | Mar. 70 | 107.3 | 108.2 | 2.8 | .8 |
| Recliners, upholstered | Dec. 71 | 99.7 | 100.1 | 1.4 | .4 |
| Sofas, dual purpose | | 118.0 | 119.0 | 1.5 | .8 |
| Bedding, mattress and box springs | June 70 | 106.0 | 106.2 | 1.6 | .2 |
| Aluminum folding chairs | | 128.1 | 132.0 | 2.9 | 3.0 |
| Cribs | | 120.4 | 122.3 | 3.6 | 1.6 |
| Floor coverings | | 107.6 | 107.4 | .7 | -.2 |
| Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers | | 102.2 | 102.0 | .2 | -.2 |
| Vinyl sheet goods | | 120.1 | 120.4 | 2.3 | .2 |
| Vinyl asbestos tile | | 119.7 | 119.4 | .9 | -.3 |
| Appliances (excluding radio and T. V.) | | 109.5 | 109.5 | .1 | 0 |
| Washing machines, electric, automatic | | 110.8 | 110.8 | .4 | 0 |
| Vacuum cleaners, canister type | | 103.8 | 103.5 | -.3 | -.3 |
| Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric | | 108.2 | 108.4 | .5 | .2 |
| Ranges, free standing, gas or electric | | 110.0 | 110.0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clothes dryers, electric | | 114.2 | 114.1 | .4 | -.1 |
| Air conditioners, demountable | | 109.9 | 109.7 | -1.3 | -.2 |
| Room heaters, electric, portable | | (⁵) | (⁵) | (⁵) | (⁵) |
| Garbage disposal units | | 111.0 | 111.5 | .5 | .5 |
| Other housefurnishings: | | | | | |
| Dinnerware, fine china | | 128.8 | 129.6 | 5.5 | .6 |
| Flatware, stainless steel | | 131.1 | 131.4 | 8.1 | .2 |
| Table lamps, with shade | | 127.7 | 128.5 | 5.5 | .6 |
| Lawn mowers, power, rotary type | | 121.6 | 121.7 | 1.2 | .1 |
| Electric drills, hand-held | | 106.4 | 106.8 | .8 | .4 |
| Housekeeping supplies: | | | | | |
| Laundry soaps and detergents | | 112.4 | 112.0 | 1.0 | -.4 |
| Paper napkins | | 138.5 | 138.5 | 5.9 | 0 |
| Toilet tissue | | 127.1 | 121.0 | -4.0 | -4.8 |
| Housekeeping services: | | | | | |
| Domestic services, general housework | | 144.4 | 145.7 | 4.9 | .9 |
| Baby sitter services | | 140.7 | 141.1 | 4.3 | .3 |
| Postal charges | | 146.6 | 146.6 | 0 | 0 |
| Laundry, flatwork, finished service | | 145.9 | 147.5 | 6.9 | 1.1 |
| Licensed day care services, preschool child | | 128.8 | 129.1 | 6.4 | .2 |
| Washing machine repairs | | 147.2 | 146.2 | 5.6 | .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, May 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

| Item and group | Other index base | Indexes | | Percent change to May 1973 from: | |
|--|------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------------|------------|
| | | April 1973 | May 1973 | May 1972 | April 1973 |
| Apparel and upkeep ^b | | 125.8 | 126.7 | 3.4 | .7 |
| Apparel commodities..... | | 126.2 | 127.2 | 3.5 | .8 |
| Apparel commodities less footwear..... | | 125.5 | 126.5 | 3.2 | .8 |
| Men's and boys' ^c | | 125.9 | 126.7 | 3.5 | .6 |
| Men's: | | | | | |
| Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) |
| Suits, year round weight..... | 133.6 | 134.6 | 1.7 | .7 | |
| Suit, tropical weight..... | 146.1 | 145.9 | 5.7 | -1.1 | |
| Jackets, lightweight..... | 117.5 | 118.0 | 2.0 | .4 | |
| Slacks, wool or wool blends..... | 115.7 | 116.0 | -.6 | -.3 | |
| Slacks, cotton or manmade blends..... | 143.0 | 142.8 | 4.0 | -1.1 | |
| Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton..... | 118.1 | 119.2 | 3.9 | .9 | |
| Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton..... | 119.0 | 119.6 | 3.9 | .5 | |
| Shirts, business, polyester/cotton..... | 111.9 | 112.4 | -.9 | -.4 | |
| T-shirts, chiefly cotton..... | 119.7 | 121.7 | 3.7 | 1.7 | |
| Socks, cotton or manmade fibers..... | 116.6 | 117.3 | .5 | .6 | |
| Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton..... | 119.2 | 120.1 | 3.8 | .8 | |
| Boys: | | | | | |
| Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | |
| Sport coats, wool or wool blends..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | |
| Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends..... | 133.0 | 134.0 | 5.4 | .8 | |
| Undershorts, cotton..... | 122.1 | 122.5 | 1.7 | .3 | |
| Women's and girls' ^c | 126.0 | 127.2 | 3.1 | 1.0 | |
| Women's: | | | | | |
| Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | |
| Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | |
| Sweaters, wool or acrylic..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | |
| Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | |
| Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton..... | 123.3 | 130.5 | 7.6 | 5.8 | |
| Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers..... | 124.7 | 125.9 | 1.3 | 1.0 | |
| Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber..... | 134.6 | 135.0 | 4.2 | .3 | |
| Slips, nylon..... | 110.9 | 110.9 | 0 | 0 | |
| Panties, acetate or nylon tricot..... | 119.0 | 119.4 | 2.1 | .3 | |
| Girdles, manmade blend..... | 118.7 | 119.0 | .7 | .3 | |
| Brassieres, nylon lace..... | 124.2 | 125.0 | 2.5 | .6 | |
| Hose or pantyhose, nylon seamless..... | 94.3 | 94.5 | -2.1 | -.2 | |
| Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers..... | 114.3 | 113.9 | -.9 | -.3 | |
| Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton..... | 111.5 | 112.0 | .7 | .4 | |
| Handbags, rayon faille or plastic..... | 148.3 | 148.5 | 3.7 | .1 | |
| Girls: | | | | | |
| Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | |
| Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | |
| Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends..... | 122.6 | 123.2 | -1.7 | -.5 | |
| Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton..... | (5) | (5) | (5) | (5) | |
| Slips, polyester blends..... | 109.2 | 109.4 | -1.4 | -.2 | |
| Handbags, plastic..... | 124.9 | 126.1 | -2.9 | 1.0 | |
| Footwear..... | 129.7 | 130.3 | 4.6 | .5 | |
| Men's: | | | | | |
| Shoes, street..... | 132.1 | 133.0 | 8.0 | .7 | |
| Shoes, work, high..... | 132.4 | 134.8 | 10.9 | 1.8 | |
| Women's: | | | | | |
| Shoes, street, pump..... | 130.1 | 130.0 | 2.7 | -1.1 | |
| Shoes, evening, pump..... | 123.7 | 123.7 | 1.3 | 0 | |
| Shoes, casual..... | 130.1 | 130.5 | 3.7 | .3 | |
| Houseslipppers, scuff..... | 127.5 | 128.6 | 3.5 | .9 | |
| Children's: | | | | | |
| Shoes, oxford..... | 132.5 | 133.0 | 5.1 | .4 | |
| Sneakers, boys, oxford type..... | 125.6 | 125.6 | 2.0 | 0 | |
| Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump..... | 135.2 | 135.3 | 4.2 | .1 | |
| Miscellaneous apparel: | | | | | |
| Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable..... | 118.3 | 118.6 | 4.0 | .3 | |
| Yard goods, polyester blend..... | 120.8 | 122.4 | 3.9 | 1.3 | |
| Wrist watches, men's and women's..... | 119.1 | 119.1 | 3.6 | 0 | |
| Apparel services: | | | | | |
| Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses..... | 120.2 | 120.8 | 2.8 | .5 | |
| Automatic laundry service..... | 116.5 | 117.9 | 2.4 | 1.2 | |
| Laundry, men's shirts..... | 127.1 | 127.6 | 5.6 | .4 | |
| Tailoring charges, hem adjustment..... | 136.8 | 137.6 | 3.8 | .6 | |
| Shoe repairs, women's heel lift..... | 120.4 | 120.8 | 5.0 | .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 groups, May 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

| Item and group | Other index base | Indexes | | Percent change to May 1973 from: | |
|---|------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------------|------------|
| | | April 1973 | May 1973 | May 1972 | April 1973 |
| Transportation | | 122.6 | 123.5 | 3.3 | 0.7 |
| Private ⁷ | | 120.3 | 121.3 | 3.6 | .8 |
| Automobiles, new | | 111.1 | 111.1 | -.3 | 0 |
| Automobiles, used | | 117.3 | 120.6 | 9.6 | 2.8 |
| Gasoline, regular and premium | | 113.8 | 115.3 | 8.6 | 1.3 |
| Motor oil, premium | | 126.5 | 127.2 | 3.2 | .6 |
| Tires, new, tubeless | | 111.2 | 110.7 | -4.8 | -.4 |
| Auto repairs and maintenance ⁸ | | 140.7 | 141.4 | 5.1 | .5 |
| Auto insurance rates | | 138.4 | 138.4 | -1.5 | 0 |
| Auto registration | | 123.7 | 123.7 | -3.0 | 0 |
| Parking fees, private and municipal | | 152.0 | 152.0 | 4.2 | 0 |
| Public | | 143.9 | 143.9 | .8 | 0 |
| Local transit fares | | 149.8 | 149.9 | .5 | .1 |
| Taxicab fares | | 135.7 | 135.7 | 2.1 | 0 |
| Railroad fares, coach | | 122.3 | 122.4 | -3.6 | .1 |
| Airplane fares, chiefly coach | | 132.1 | 132.1 | 1.9 | 0 |
| Bus fares, intercity | | 144.6 | 144.6 | 5.1 | 0 |
| Health and recreation | | 129.2 | 129.6 | 3.0 | .3 |
| Medical care | | 136.2 | 136.6 | 3.5 | .3 |
| Drugs and prescriptions | | 105.7 | 105.9 | .2 | .2 |
| Over-the-counter items | | 112.2 | 112.5 | .7 | .3 |
| Multiple vitamin concentrates | | 94.7 | 95.5 | .2 | .8 |
| Aspirin compounds | | 117.5 | 117.7 | 0 | .2 |
| Liquid tonics | | 101.2 | 101.7 | .4 | .5 |
| Cold tablets or capsules | | 114.4 | 114.1 | -.2 | -.3 |
| Adhesive bandages, packages | | 126.1 | 126.7 | 2.1 | .5 |
| Cough syrup | | 115.1 | 115.3 | 1.1 | .2 |
| Prescriptions | | 100.3 | 100.4 | -.3 | .1 |
| Anti-infectives | | 71.1 | 71.3 | -5.2 | .3 |
| Sedatives and hypnotics | | 128.4 | 129.0 | 2.5 | .5 |
| Ataractics | | 103.6 | 103.8 | 1.1 | .2 |
| Antispasmodics | | 107.4 | 107.6 | -.3 | .2 |
| Cough preparations | | 135.3 | 136.0 | 4.9 | .5 |
| Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives | | 112.9 | 112.8 | 1.3 | -.1 |
| Analgesics, internal | | 111.5 | 111.7 | 2.0 | .2 |
| Anti-obesity | | 116.4 | 116.6 | -.4 | .2 |
| Hormones | | 91.5 | 91.3 | -1.7 | -.2 |
| Professional services: | | | | | |
| Physicians fees | | 136.9 | 137.5 | 3.2 | .4 |
| General physician, office visits | | 138.1 | 138.5 | 3.1 | .3 |
| General physician, house visits | | 141.0 | 141.3 | 4.1 | .2 |
| Obstetrical cases | | 137.0 | 137.9 | 2.9 | .7 |
| Pediatric care, office visits | | 139.6 | 140.0 | 3.2 | .3 |
| Psychiatrist, office visits | | 132.9 | 133.6 | 4.0 | .5 |
| Herniorrhaphy, adult | | 130.5 | 130.8 | 2.3 | .2 |
| Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy | | 131.1 | 132.7 | 2.2 | 1.2 |
| Dentists' fees | | 135.4 | 135.7 | 2.9 | .2 |
| Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface | | 137.8 | 137.9 | 3.4 | .1 |
| Extractions, adult | | 134.3 | 134.7 | 2.1 | .3 |
| Dentures, full upper | | 131.9 | 132.1 | 2.4 | .2 |
| Other professional services: | | | | | |
| Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses | | 127.6 | 129.4 | 3.8 | 1.4 |
| Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis | | 121.2 | 121.9 | 1.0 | .6 |
| Hospital service charges | Jan. 72 | 104.9 | 105.1 | 3.2 | .2 |
| Semiprivate room | | 180.8 | 181.0 | 4.5 | .1 |
| Operating room charges | | 178.4 | 178.5 | 6.7 | .1 |
| X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. | | 131.2 | 131.2 | 1.8 | 0 |
| Laboratory tests, urinalysis | Jan. 72 | 103.0 | 103.3 | 1.4 | .3 |
| Anti-infective, tetracycline, HCL | Jan. 72 | 97.7 | 97.8 | -2.5 | .1 |
| Tranquilizer, chlordiazepoxide, HCL and meprobamate | Jan. 72 | 102.4 | 104.4 | 3.3 | 2.0 |
| Electrocardiogram | Jan. 72 | 104.5 | 104.5 | 1.7 | 0 |
| Intravenous solution, saline | Jan. 72 | 103.6 | 103.8 | 1.9 | .2 |
| Physical therapy, whirlpool bath | Jan. 72 | 106.3 | 106.4 | 4.4 | .1 |
| Oxygen, inhalation therapy | Jan. 72 | 103.1 | 103.1 | 1.4 | 0 |
| Personal care | | 123.8 | 124.4 | 3.9 | .5 |
| Toilet goods | | 119.3 | 119.5 | 2.0 | .2 |
| Toothpaste, standard dentifrice | | 110.7 | 110.1 | -.2 | -.5 |
| Toilet soap, hard milled | | 126.0 | 126.9 | 3.3 | .7 |
| Hand lotions, liquid | | 126.6 | 125.3 | -.1 | -1.0 |
| Shaving cream, aerosol | | 108.5 | 108.9 | .8 | .4 |
| Face powder, pressed | | 142.9 | 144.3 | 9.8 | 1.0 |
| Deodorants, aerosol | | 104.7 | 104.8 | -1.1 | .1 |
| Cleansing tissues | | 125.4 | 126.1 | 1.4 | .6 |
| Home permanent wave kits | | 109.3 | 109.4 | -.3 | .1 |
| Personal care services | | 128.5 | 129.5 | 5.8 | .8 |
| Men's haircut | | 130.2 | 131.4 | 5.2 | .9 |
| Beauty shop services | | 127.3 | 128.3 | 6.3 | .8 |
| Women's haircuts | | 131.4 | 133.2 | 10.1 | 1.4 |
| Shampoo and wave sets, plain | | 131.0 | 131.7 | 6.0 | .5 |
| Permanent waves, cold | | 115.1 | 115.8 | 2.8 | .6 |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, May 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

| Item and group | Other index base | Indexes | | Percent change to May 1973 from: | |
|--|------------------|------------|----------|----------------------------------|------------|
| | | April 1973 | May 1973 | May 1972 | April 1973 |
| Health and recreation—Continued | | | | | |
| Reading and recreation ¹ | | 125.2 | 125.6 | 2.5 | 0.3 |
| Recreational goods | | 108.6 | 109.0 | 1.1 | .4 |
| TV sets, portable and console | | 98.2 | 98.1 | -1.5 | -.1 |
| TV replacement tubes | | 134.3 | 134.5 | 3.0 | .1 |
| Radios, portable and table model | | 99.2 | 99.3 | .3 | .1 |
| Tape recorders, portable | | 92.5 | 92.9 | -1.6 | -.4 |
| Phonograph records, stereophonic | | 108.2 | 108.8 | 2.2 | .6 |
| Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens | | 88.7 | 88.5 | 1.1 | -.2 |
| Film, 35mm, color | | 108.1 | 107.8 | -.4 | -.3 |
| Golf balls, liquid center or solid core | | 104.3 | 104.0 | -.9 | -.3 |
| Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover | | 127.1 | 127.3 | .9 | .2 |
| Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting | | 109.1 | 109.3 | 1.9 | .2 |
| Bowling balls | | 115.4 | 115.5 | 1.7 | .1 |
| Bicycles, boys' | | 121.1 | 121.8 | 5.0 | .6 |
| Tricycles | | 114.3 | 115.1 | 1.8 | .7 |
| Dog food, canned or boxed | | 116.4 | 120.7 | 9.3 | 3.7 |
| Recreational services | | 131.5 | 132.1 | 3.2 | .5 |
| Indoor movie admissions | | 146.7 | 147.7 | 4.6 | .7 |
| Adult | | 145.2 | 146.2 | 4.4 | .7 |
| Children's | | 150.8 | 151.9 | 5.0 | .7 |
| Drive-in movie admissions, adult | | 148.5 | 149.2 | 2.3 | .5 |
| Bowling fees, evening | | 123.1 | 122.9 | 3.4 | -.2 |
| Golf green fees | | 134.9 | 136.0 | 5.4 | .8 |
| TV repair, color picture tube replacement | | 99.5 | 99.4 | 1.4 | -.1 |
| Film developing, color | | 116.3 | 116.3 | -1.3 | 0 |
| Reading and education: | | | | | |
| Newspapers, street sale and delivery | | 134.8 | 136.2 | 3.3 | 1.0 |
| Magazines, single copy and subscription | | 136.1 | 136.1 | 2.0 | 0 |
| Piano lessons, beginner | | 125.6 | 125.8 | 2.9 | .2 |
| Other goods and services | | 128.2 | 128.5 | 2.5 | .2 |
| Tobacco products | | 136.5 | 137.0 | 2.9 | .4 |
| Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size | | 138.2 | 138.8 | 3.3 | .4 |
| Cigarettes, filter tip, king size | | 138.7 | 139.2 | 2.7 | .4 |
| Cigars, domestic, regular size | | 112.3 | 112.7 | 1.8 | .4 |
| Alcoholic beverages | | 121.6 | 121.7 | 1.8 | .1 |
| Beer | | 114.9 | 114.3 | .1 | -.5 |
| Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon | | 109.1 | 108.9 | .3 | -.2 |
| Wine, dessert and table | | 131.5 | 135.0 | 6.7 | 2.7 |
| Beer away from home | | 134.3 | 134.6 | 3.1 | .2 |
| Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses: | | | | | |
| Funeral services, adult | | 124.6 | 125.4 | 3.9 | .6 |
| Bank service charges, checking accounts | | 106.5 | 107.4 | 0 | .8 |
| Legal services, short form will | | 158.3 | 158.5 | 6.2 | .1 |

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, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

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

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

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

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

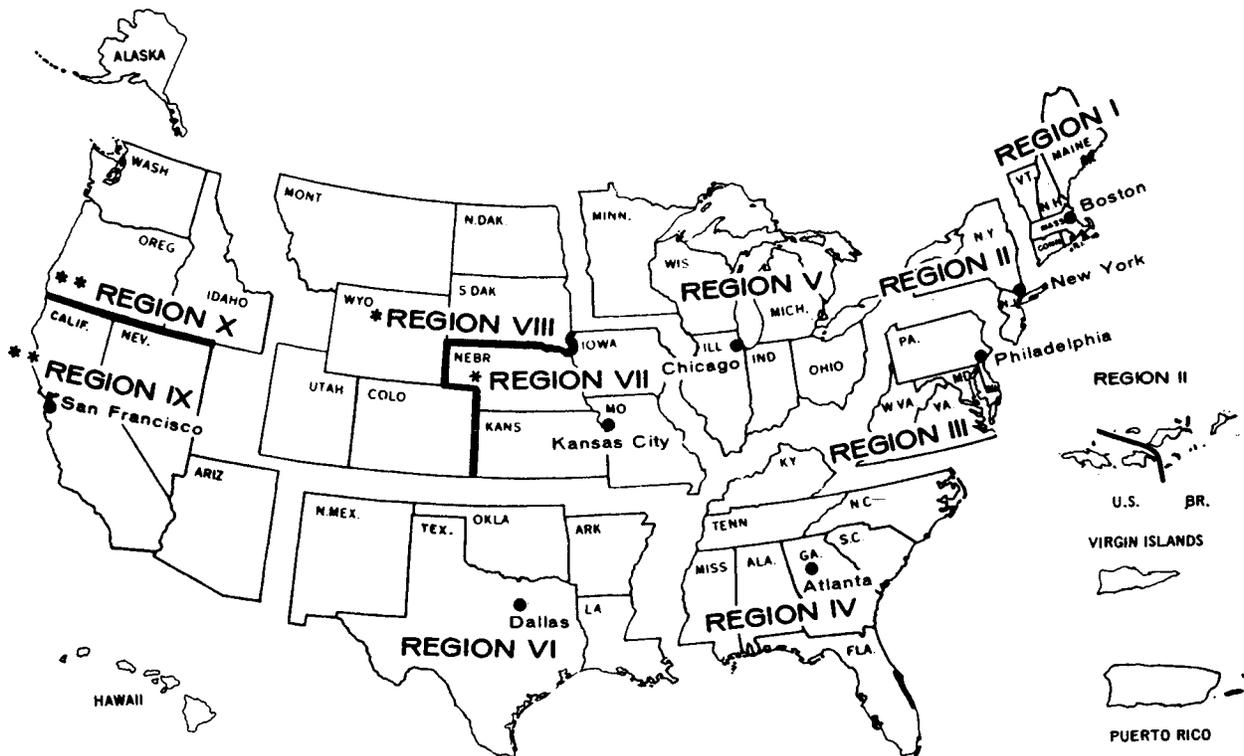
Because price data are used for different purposes by different groups, the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes seasonally adjusted as well as unadjusted changes each month.

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

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