



the consumer price index

for May 1974

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

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Price Movements

May 1974

The Consumer Price Index rose 1.1 percent in May to 145.6 percent of its 1967 base. The rise was due to higher prices for a wide range of consumer goods and services, notably fresh vegetables, used cars, apparel commodities, gasoline, and housekeeping services. The effect of these increases was partially offset by lower prices for some foods, particularly meats. The May CPI was 10.7 percent higher than a year ago.

On a seasonally-adjusted basis, the May CPI also rose 1.1 percent. The increase was larger than in April, and about the same as the average monthly increase in the first 3 months of this year. The food index, which declined in April, increased 0.9 percent. The index for non-food commodities rose 1.3 percent in May—the fifth consecutive month of substantial increase in this index. The services index (not seasonally adjusted) rose 1.0

percent in May, compared with an average monthly increase of 0.7 percent in the first 4 months of this year.

Monthly changes in detail (not seasonally adjusted)

The index for food purchased in grocery stores increased 0.6 percent, instead of decreasing slightly as it usually does in May. Prices rose for most food items except meats, poultry, and eggs which continued to decline.

Fresh vegetable prices rose 19.0 percent, substantially more than is usual for May. Fresh vegetable prices declined in April. Dwindling supplies of potatoes in storage, reduced acreage of some spring vegetable crops, gaps in production between producing areas, and unfavorable growing conditions in Florida accounted for

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items	
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	Compound annual rate	From 12 months ago
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	From 3 months ago	
								Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
1973:									
May	0.6	0.6	1.0	1.2	0.6	0.3	0.4	8.6	5.5
June .....	.7	.6	1.4	1.2	.6	.4	.4	7.5	5.9
July .....	.2	.2	.8	.3	-.2	.2	.2	5.5	5.7
August	1.8	1.9	6.0	6.1	.2	.3	.7	11.1	7.5
September .....	.3	.4	-.7	-.3	.4	.3	.9	10.2	7.4
October .....	.8	.8	.1	.7	.9	.5	1.1	13.1	7.9
November .....	.7	.8	1.1	1.4	.7	.7	.6	8.3	8.4
December .....	.7	.6	.9	.5	.6	.6	.6	9.2	8.8
1974:									
January .....	.9	1.1	1.6	1.7	.6	1.3	.7	10.2	9.4
February	1.3	1.2	2.5	2.2	1.0	1.1	.7	12.2	10.0
March	1.1	1.1	1.0	.6	1.5	1.4	.8	14.2	10.2
April .....	.6	.6	-.3	-.4	1.3	1.1	.6	12.1	10.2
May	1.1	1.1	.7	.9	1.6	1.3	1.0	11.4	10.7

much of the price boost for such items as potatoes, lettuce, green peppers, tomatoes, and cucumbers. Fresh fruit prices also increased much more than they usually do in May. Prices of bananas rose sharply reflecting taxes imposed by exporting countries and reduced supplies. Prices for oranges, grapefruit, and apples also increased, but near mid-season production resulted in lower prices for strawberries. Processed fruit and vegetable prices continued to increase as a result of declining stocks and firm demand.

Prices of cereal and bakery products, sugar and sweets, nonalcoholic beverages, and partially prepared foods such as bean soup and french fried potatoes continued to rise rapidly, reflecting higher costs for ingredients. But the increase in prices of dairy products was noticeably smaller than earlier this year as wholesale prices of fluid milk have been declining in recent months.

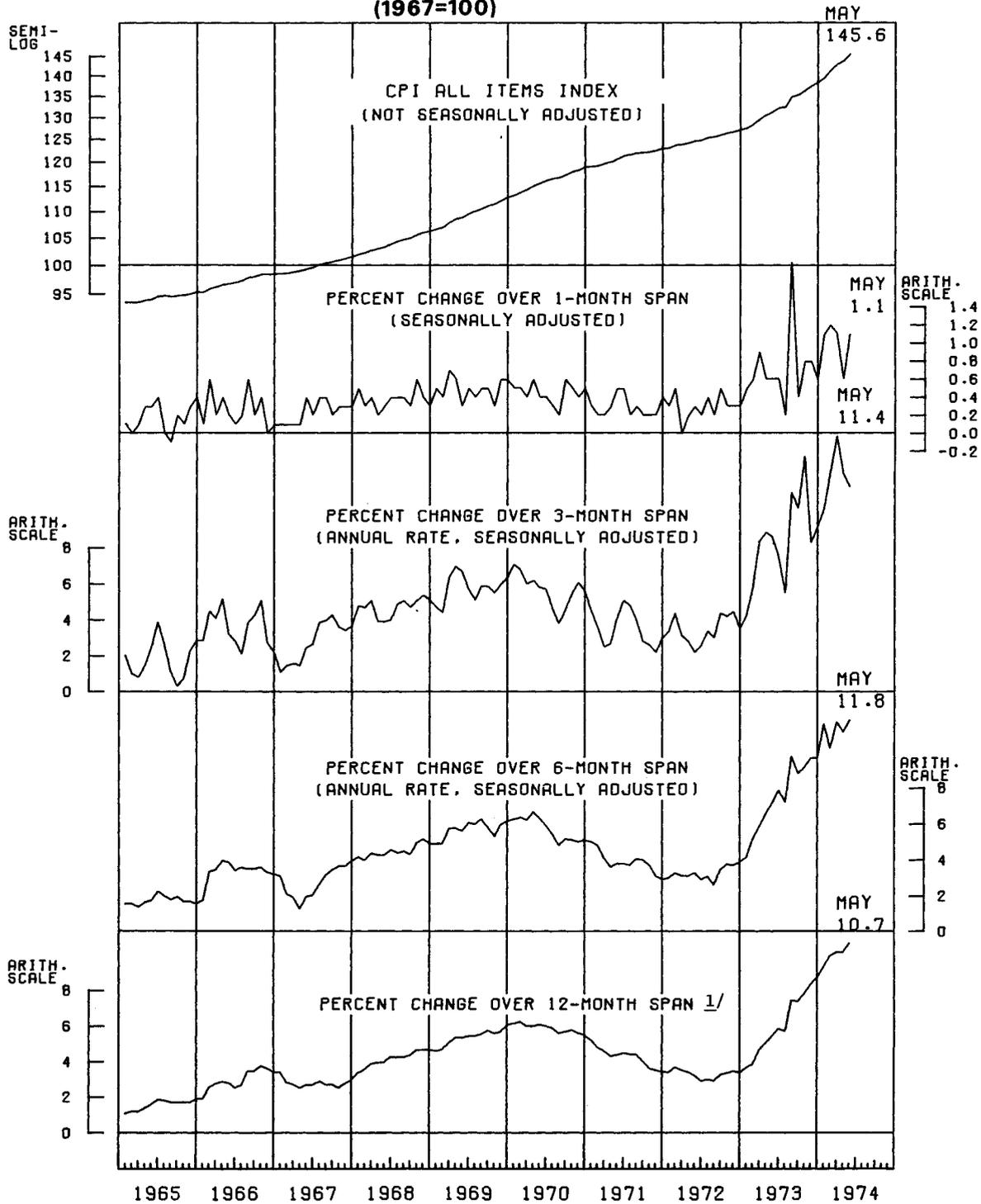
The index for food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—increased 1.0 percent, following a rise of 1.2 percent in April.

The nonfood commodities index increased 1.6 percent, considerably more than is usual for May. Prices rose for all major types of commodities. The used car index rose sharply for the second consecutive month after declining steadily from July 1973 through March

of this year. New car prices rose instead of declining as is usual in May. Prices rose as a result of increased base and option prices by domestic car producers, higher transportation charges, and lower concessions given by some dealers. Apparel prices rose more than seasonally. Prices for furniture, housekeeping supplies, appliances, toilet goods, reading materials, and tobacco products continued to rise. The gasoline and motor oil index and the fuel oil and coal index also continued to increase, but by much less than earlier this year.

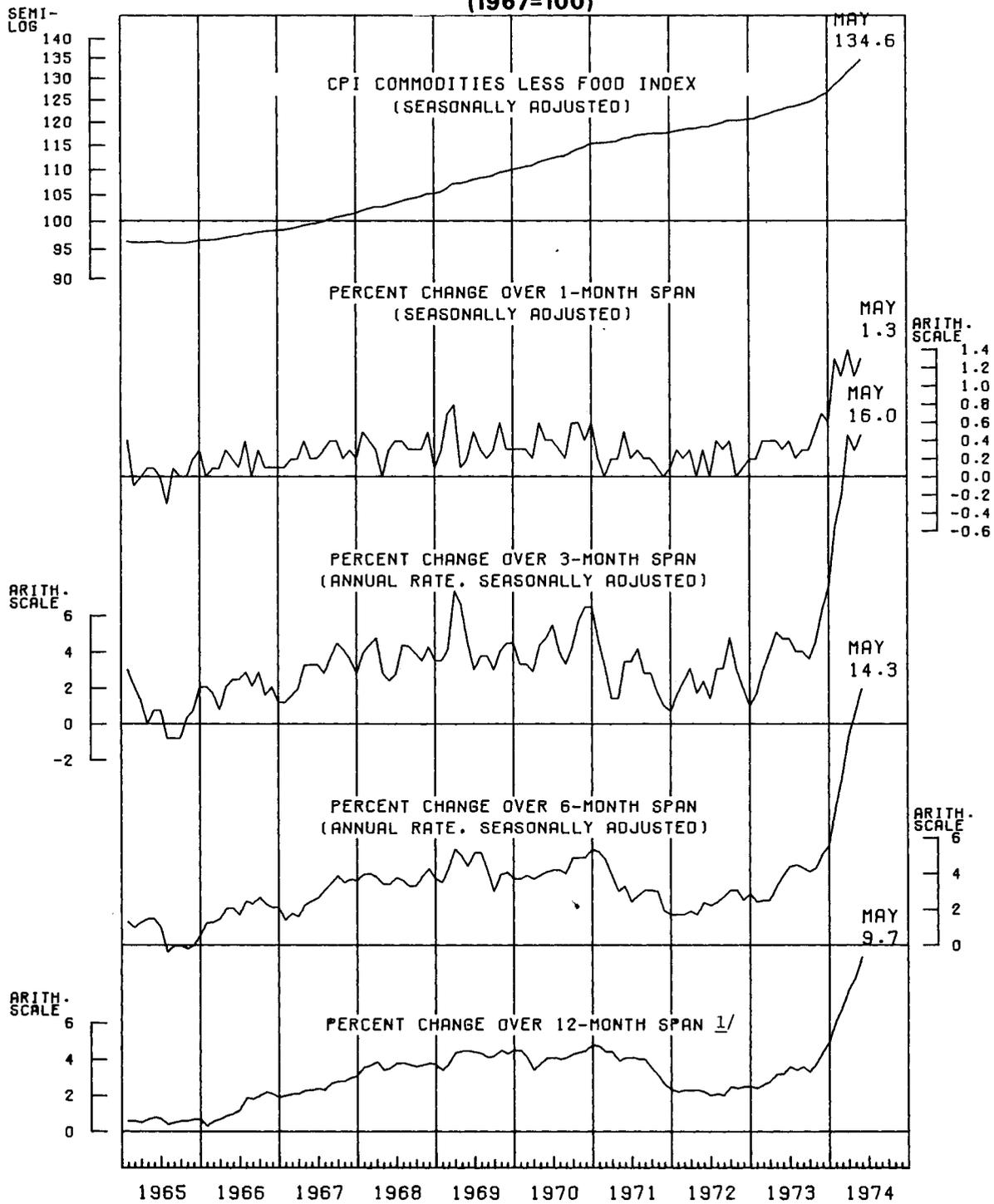
The services index rose 1.0 percent in May. Indexes for all major categories of services in the CPI, except transportation services and rent, increased more than in any preceding month this year. Charges for household services other than rent rose 1.2 percent due to increases in housekeeping services, gas and electricity, home maintenance services, and mortgage interest costs. The index for medical care services also rose 1.2 percent. There were large increases in physicians' fees, fees for other professional services such as eye examinations and laboratory tests, and in charges for hospital rooms. In May, price controls were removed in the health care industry. Among other services, charges rose at a faster rate than in recent months for most apparel services, barber and beauty shop services, and movie admissions.

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



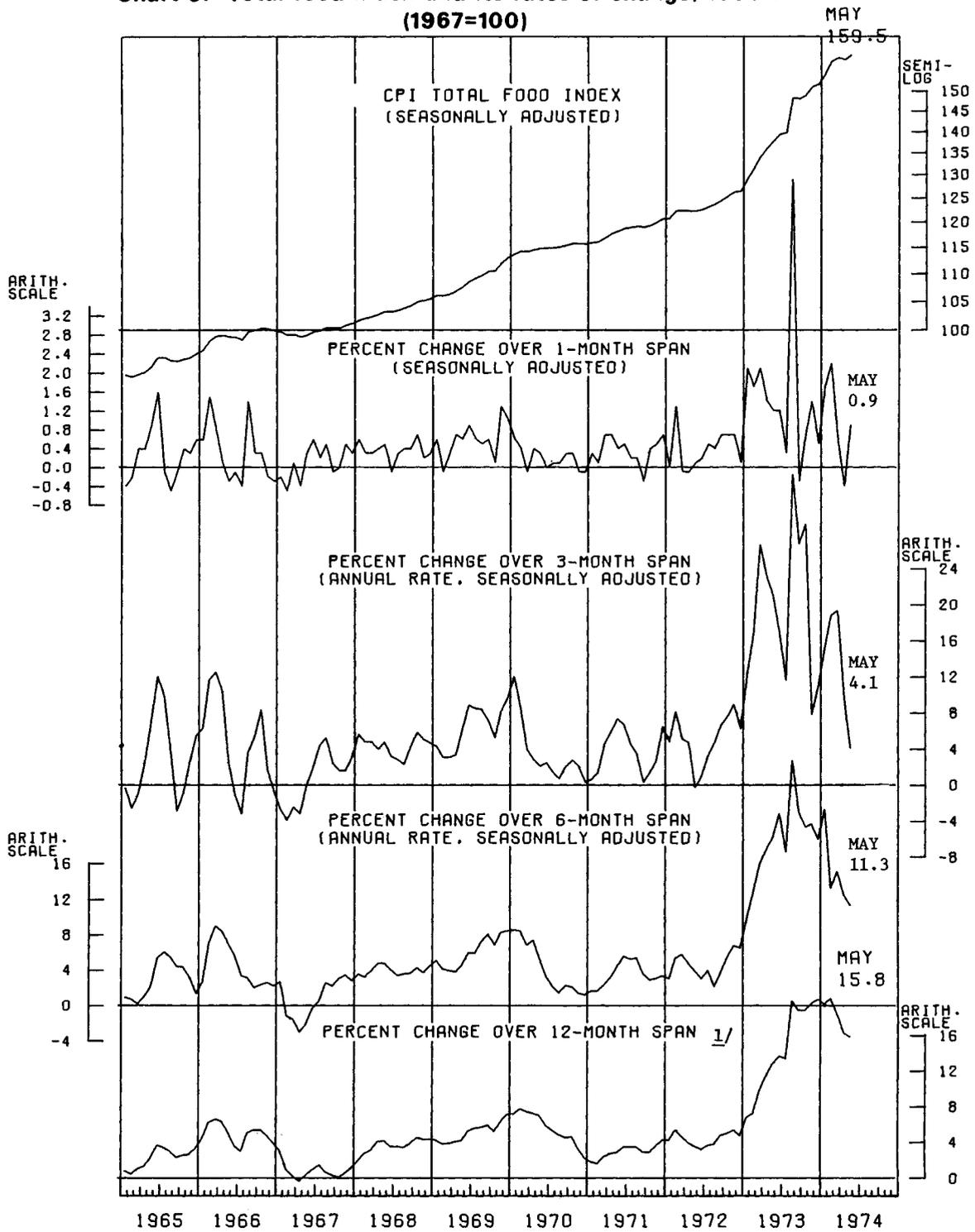
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series
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**Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



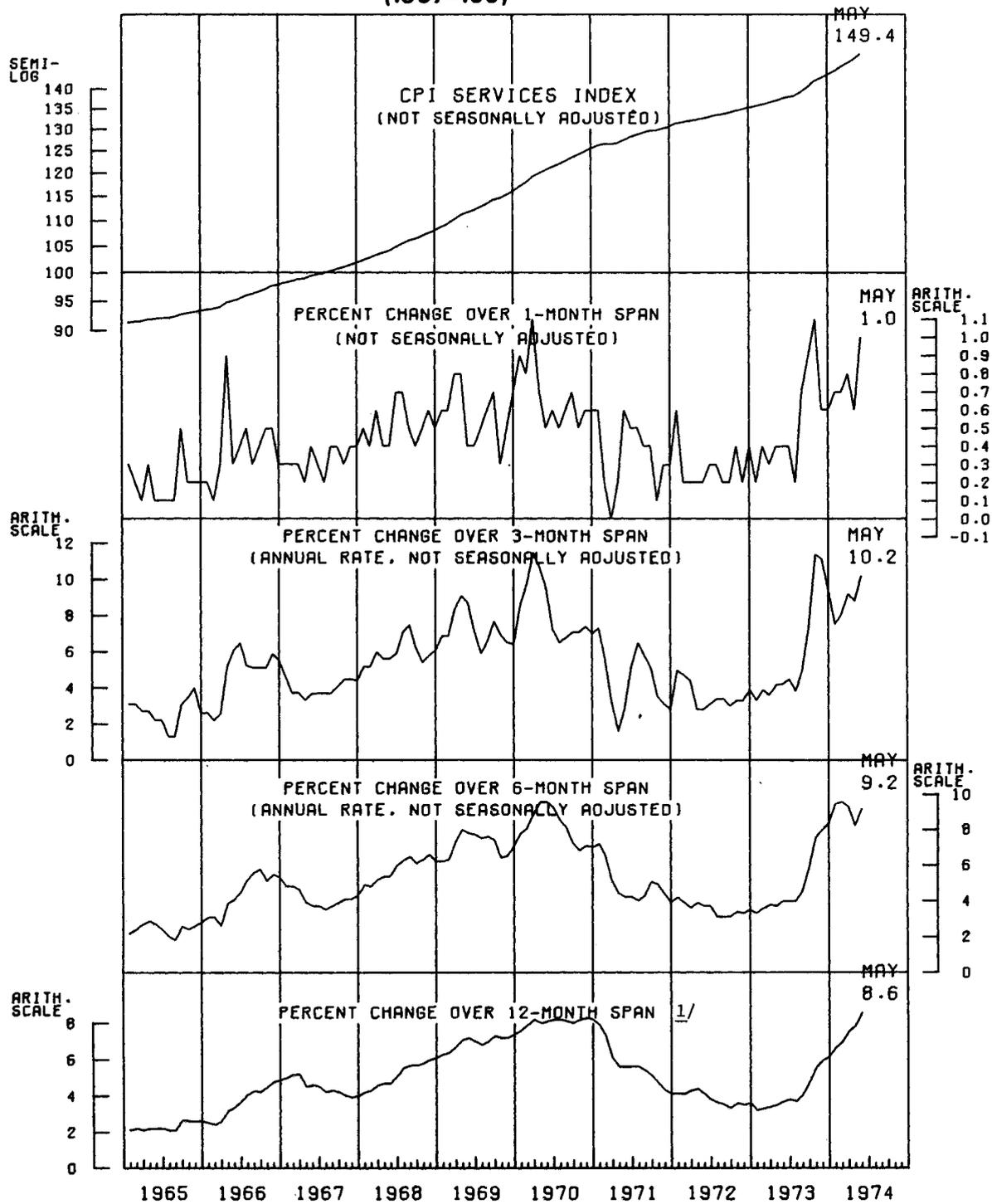
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)



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



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

Group	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to May 1974 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
		December 1973	April 1974	May 1974	May 1974	April 1974	February to March	March to April	April to May
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.000	144.0	145.6	10.7	1.1	1.1	0.6	1.1
All items (1957-59=100)	-	167.5	169.4	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	63.454	141.9	143.7	12.0	1.3	1.0	.6	1.2
Food	24.810	158.6	159.7	15.8	.7	.6	-.4	.9
Food at home	19.633	159.4	160.4	16.6	.6	.4	-.7	.8
Cereals and bakery products	2.644	161.4	164.3	34.6	1.8	2.7	1.7	1.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.988	164.4	158.6	1.9	-3.5	-3.0	-3.9	-2.6
Dairy products	3.023	153.7	154.6	25.5	1.5	1.5	1.7	.6
Fruits and vegetables	3.146	163.0	177.7	22.9	9.0	3.1	-1.2	8.1
Other foods at home	3.832	151.8	151.2	20.6	-.4	1.9	1.6	.2
Food away from home	5.177	155.6	157.1	13.1	1.0	.9	1.0	.8
Commodities less food	38.644	132.8	134.9	9.7	1.6	1.4	1.1	1.3
Nondurables less food	22.978	137.7	139.5	12.5	1.3	1.9	1.0	1.1
Apparel commodities ¹	8.569	133.6	135.0	6.1	1.0	1.0	.8	.5
Men's and boys'	2.661	134.2	135.7	7.1	1.1	1.3	1.1	.8
Women's and girls'	3.815	132.4	133.7	5.1	1.0	1.1	.8	.2
Footwear	1.504	136.3	137.4	5.4	.8	.7	.7	.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.409	140.1	142.2	16.4	1.5	2.2	1.1	1.5
Gasoline and motor oil	3.162	160.1	163.9	41.2	2.4	6.8	2.2	1.9
Tobacco products	1.993	139.6	140.6	2.6	.7	*.3	*.1	*.7
Alcoholic beverages	2.349	128.3	129.1	6.1	.6	*.4	*.9	*.6
Fuel oil and coal	.872	206.5	211.0	63.2	2.2	-.5	3.0	2.7
Other nondurables	6.033	128.1	130.0	8.2	1.5	1.1	.8	1.5
Durable commodities	15.666	126.1	128.5	5.5	1.9	.7	1.3	1.5
Household durables	4.566	125.1	126.5	6.8	1.1	.7	1.0	1.0
New cars	1.917	113.3	114.6	3.2	1.1	.5	.7	1.4
Used cars	1.849	110.7	121.9	11.1	10.1	*.8	*8.3	*10.1
Other durables	7.334	135.3	136.1	6.7	.6	1.4	.5	.5
Services	36.546	147.9	149.4	8.6	1.0	*.8	*.6	*1.0
Rent	4.873	128.8	129.3	4.5	.4	*.3	*.3	*.4
Services less rent	31.673	151.4	153.1	9.3	1.1	*.9	*.7	*1.1
Household services less rent	15.463	160.1	162.1	12.4	1.2	1.0	.9	1.4
Transportation services	5.090	140.1	140.5	2.9	.3	.8	.4	.5
Medical care services	5.423	153.6	155.4	8.6	1.2	.7	.6	1.2
Other services	5.698	138.4	140.2	7.4	1.3	.6	.5	1.3
Special indexes:								
All items less food	75.190	139.7	141.5	9.1	1.3	1.0	.9	1.2
Nondurable commodities	47.788	147.8	149.3	14.2	1.0	1.1	.4	1.0
Apparel commodities less footwear	7.064	133.0	134.6	6.4	1.2	1.1	.8	.6
Services less medical care services	31.123	147.1	148.5	8.6	1.0	*.8	*.6	*1.0
Insurance and finance	9.707	159.3	160.1	9.4	.5	.4	.5	.7
Utilities and public transportation	5.318	139.3	140.2	8.4	.6	1.0	.8	1.0
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.457	167.3	171.8	13.7	2.7	2.2	1.2	2.6
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1.489	106.9	107.5	2.0	.6	*.3	*.4	*.6
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.000	144.0	145.6	10.7	1.1	1.1	0.6	1.1
Food	24.810	158.6	159.7	15.8	.7	.6	-.4	.9
Housing	33.321	146.0	147.6	10.7	1.1	1.0	.8	1.1
Shelter ²	21.459	150.2	151.3	9.1	.7	.7	.7	.9
Rent	4.873	128.8	129.3	4.5	.4	*.3	*.3	*.4
Homeownership ³	16.184	158.2	159.4	10.5	.8	1.0	.8	.8
Fuel and utilities ⁴	4.820	146.9	148.6	18.5	1.2	.9	1.5	1.4
Gas and electricity	2.390	141.9	143.9	14.5	1.4	2.1	1.3	1.5
Household furnishings and operation	7.042	134.0	137.0	10.6	2.2	1.7	.9	2.1
Apparel and upkeep	9.945	133.6	135.0	6.6	1.0	1.0	.8	.7
Transportation	12.602	134.4	137.6	11.4	2.4	2.2	1.5	2.0
Private	11.369	133.1	136.6	12.6	2.6	2.4	1.6	2.3
Public	1.369	146.3	146.3	1.7	0	.1	.1	.3
Health and recreation	18.946	136.3	137.7	6.3	1.0	*.7	*.7	*1.0
Medical care	6.229	145.6	147.2	7.8	1.1	.8	.4	1.2
Personal care	2.513	133.1	134.9	8.4	1.4	.7	.9	1.2
Reading and recreation	5.346	130.4	132.0	5.1	1.2	.5	.4	1.2
Other goods and services	4.859	133.6	134.4	4.6	.6	.4	.6	.6
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78.541	142.4	144.2	11.2	1.3	1.1	.6	1.1
All items less medical care	93.771	144.0	145.6	10.9	1.1	1.1	.6	1.0
All items less mortgage interest costs	95.951	142.6	144.2	10.2	1.1	1.1	.6	1.1
CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁵	17.583	159.9	160.4	16.1	.3	*.9	*-1.1	*.3
CPI - selected beef cuts ⁷	2.290	167.5	163.3	1.2	-2.5	*-1.9	*-5.3	*-2.5
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$1.00	-	\$0.694	\$0.687	-9.6	-1.0	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.597	.590	-	-	-	-	-

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 telephones, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.
⁵ Revised.
⁶ 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.
⁷ Calculated from the CPI beef and veal component by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver.
* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	February 1974	March 1974	April 1974	May 1974	3 months ending in		6 months ending in		November 1973	May 1974
					August 1973	November 1973	February 1974	May 1974		
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	11.1	8.3	12.2	11.4	9.7	11.8
Commodities	139.7	141.1	141.9	143.6	14.8	6.2	15.7	11.6	10.4	13.7
Food	157.9	158.8	158.1	159.5	34.5	7.8	18.9	4.1	20.4	11.3
Food at home	159.3	160.0	158.9	160.2	42.0	4.1	21.9	2.3	21.6	11.7
Cereals and bakery products	154.2	158.4	161.1	164.1	8.8	89.0	24.1	28.3	43.4	26.2
Meats, poultry, and fish	174.9	169.7	163.1	158.9	82.9	-23.1	12.6	-31.9	18.6	-12.4
Dairy products	148.9	151.2	153.7	154.6	11.9	54.7	23.3	16.2	31.5	19.7
Fruits and vegetables	157.8	162.7	160.7	173.7	25.6	-3.4	28.2	46.8	10.2	37.2
Other foods at home	147.1	149.9	152.3	152.6	33.6	6.6	28.4	15.8	19.4	21.9
Food away from home	152.9	154.2	155.8	157.1	10.2	21.2	10.0	11.4	15.5	10.7
Commodities less food	129.7	131.5	132.9	134.6	4.0	6.3	12.6	16.0	5.1	14.3
Nondurables less food	133.9	136.4	137.7	139.2	4.9	8.6	20.1	16.8	6.7	18.5
Apparel commodities ¹	131.2	132.5	133.6	134.3	4.8	3.2	6.7	9.8	4.0	8.2
Men's and boys'	130.5	132.2	133.7	134.8	4.9	1.6	8.7	13.8	3.2	11.3
Women's and girls'	130.6	132.1	133.1	133.3	5.1	3.8	3.1	8.5	4.5	5.8
Footwear	134.0	134.9	135.9	136.9	3.7	3.7	5.6	8.9	3.7	7.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	135.6	138.6	140.1	142.2	4.7	12.5	28.7	20.9	8.5	24.8
Gasoline and motor oil	147.7	157.7	161.2	164.2	11.1	26.8	84.7	52.7	18.7	68.0
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted)	139.0	139.4	139.6	140.6	2.4	1.5	2.0	4.7	1.9	3.4
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted)	126.6	127.1	128.3	129.1	2.3	6.4	7.6	8.1	4.3	7.9
Fuel oil and coal	200.4	199.3	205.3	210.8	13.3	88.5	170.9	22.4	46.2	82.1
Other nondurables	125.4	126.8	127.8	129.7	3.4	5.7	9.5	14.4	4.6	11.9
Durable commodities	124.0	124.9	126.5	128.4	2.7	1.3	3.6	15.0	2.0	9.2
Household durables	122.9	123.8	125.0	126.2	4.1	4.4	7.1	11.2	4.3	9.1
New cars	111.4	112.0	112.8	114.4	4.4	-1.8	-7.7	11.2	1.3	5.1
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted)	103.0	102.2	110.7	121.9	2.3	-16.1	-38.1	96.2	-7.3	10.2
Other durables	132.2	135.0	135.7	136.4	2.2	5.1	9.5	10.0	3.6	9.8
Services (not seasonally adjusted)	145.8	147.0	147.9	149.4	5.0	11.1	8.1	10.2	8.0	9.2
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	128.0	128.4	128.8	129.3	4.3	4.2	5.5	4.1	4.2	4.8
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted)	149.1	150.4	151.4	153.1	5.2	12.4	8.5	11.2	8.7	9.8
Household services less rent	157.3	158.8	160.3	162.6	6.2	17.1	12.6	14.2	11.5	13.4
Transportation services	138.1	139.2	139.7	140.4	2.7	2.1	0	6.8	2.4	3.4
Medical care services	151.3	152.4	153.3	155.2	3.4	12.5	7.8	10.7	7.8	9.2
Other services	136.9	137.7	138.4	140.2	5.6	7.1	6.7	10.0	6.4	8.3
Special indexes:										
All items less food	137.1	138.5	139.7	141.4	5.0	7.8	10.6	13.1	6.4	11.8
Nondurables commodities	145.5	147.1	147.7	149.2	19.3	7.5	20.1	10.6	13.3	15.2
Apparel commodities less footwear	130.5	132.0	133.1	133.9	5.5	3.2	6.0	10.8	4.3	8.4
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	145.0	146.2	147.1	148.5	5.4	11.4	7.8	10.0	8.4	8.9
Insurance and finance	158.1	158.8	159.6	160.7	6.4	18.6	6.3	6.7	12.3	6.5
Utilities and public transportation	136.3	137.6	138.7	140.1	3.1	6.9	12.3	11.6	5.0	12.0
Housekeeping and home maintenance services	162.0	165.6	167.6	172.0	6.5	10.3	11.9	27.1	8.4	19.3
Appliances (including radio and T. V.) (not seasonally adjusted)	106.2	106.5	106.9	107.5	-4	1.9	1.5	5.0	.8	3.2
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	11.1	8.3	12.2	11.4	9.7	11.8
Food	157.9	158.8	158.1	159.5	34.5	7.8	18.9	4.1	20.4	11.3
Housing	143.4	144.9	146.1	147.7	5.8	11.7	13.0	12.5	8.7	12.7
Shelter ²	148.4	149.5	150.5	151.8	5.9	12.1	9.1	9.5	9.0	9.3
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	128.0	128.4	128.8	129.3	4.3	4.2	5.5	4.1	4.2	4.8
Homeownership ³	156.0	157.5	158.7	160.0	6.2	14.3	10.9	10.7	10.2	10.8
Fuel and utilities ⁴	142.9	144.2	146.3	148.3	4.9	18.9	36.5	16.0	11.7	25.8
Gas and electricity	136.5	139.3	141.1	143.2	4.2	11.2	22.3	21.1	7.7	21.7
Household furnishings and operation	130.5	132.7	133.9	136.7	5.3	7.2	9.7	20.4	6.2	15.0
Apparel and upkeep	131.2	132.5	133.6	134.5	5.5	3.8	6.7	10.4	4.6	8.5
Transportation	129.7	132.5	134.5	137.2	4.3	4.6	13.0	25.2	4.4	18.9
Private	128.0	131.1	133.2	136.2	4.4	5.0	14.6	28.2	4.7	21.2
Public	145.8	146.0	146.2	146.6	3.1	.6	.8	2.2	1.8	1.5
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	134.5	135.4	136.3	137.7	2.8	6.6	5.9	9.9	4.7	7.8
Medical care	143.5	144.7	145.3	147.1	3.0	11.2	6.7	10.4	7.0	8.5
Personal care	130.9	131.8	133.0	134.6	4.9	8.2	8.7	11.8	6.5	10.2
Reading and recreation	129.2	129.9	130.4	131.9	2.2	3.9	5.8	8.6	3.1	7.2
Other goods and services	132.4	132.9	133.7	134.5	2.2	4.4	5.3	6.5	3.3	5.9
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter	139.9	141.5	142.3	143.9	13.3	6.8	13.0	11.9	10.0	12.5
All items less medical care	141.6	143.2	144.0	145.5	11.8	7.9	12.5	11.5	9.8	12.0
All items less mortgage interest costs	140.2	141.7	142.5	144.1	11.1	6.4	11.9	11.6	8.8	11.8
CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted)	160.3	161.7	159.9	160.4	50.2	-4.6	26.3	.2	19.7	12.5
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted)	180.3	176.8	167.5	163.3	37.9	-19.8	41.2	-32.7	5.1	-2.5

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 1973	February 1974	April 1974
May 1974							
U. S. city average -----	M	145.6	169.4		10.7	2.9	1.1
Chicago -----	M	144.1	163.7		10.2	2.5	.8
Detroit -----	M	146.6	168.4		9.9	1.9	.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	M	140.6	165.3		10.4	3.2	1.0
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	M	152.5	181.5		10.4	2.3	1.1
Philadelphia -----	M	149.5	174.6		11.5	3.2	.9
April 1974							
Boston -----	1	145.3	174.0		9.7	2.3	
Houston -----	1	143.1	163.7		9.7	2.9	
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	1	145.2	168.3		11.0	3.5	
Pittsburgh -----	1	144.2	165.8		9.9	3.5	
May 1974							
Buffalo -----	2	147.7		³ 162.3	10.9	2.4	
Cleveland -----	2	146.2	165.1		10.2	2.9	
Dallas -----	2	143.3		³ 155.0	9.7	2.7	
Milwaukee -----	2	142.1	160.5		9.3	2.2	
San Diego -----	2	145.3		⁴ 152.8	11.2	3.6	
Seattle -----	2	139.5	163.9		10.5	2.7	
Washington -----	2	147.7	172.1		10.8	2.6	
March 1974							
Atlanta -----	3	144.1	165.7		10.8	3.7	
Baltimore -----	3	147.3	171.0		11.7	4.7	
Cincinnati -----	3	141.3	160.4		8.9	3.4	
Honolulu -----	3	137.7		⁵ 148.5	9.3	3.7	
Kansas City -----	3	138.6	164.5		8.8	3.1	
St. Louis -----	3	138.2	161.4		9.5	3.3	
San Francisco-Oakland -----	3	139.2	165.6		8.2	3.0	

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

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

- M - Every month.
- 1 - January, April, July, and October.
- 2 - February, May, August, and November.
- 3 - March, June, September, and December.
- ³ November 1963=100.
- ⁴ February 1965=100.
- ⁵ December 1963=100.

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

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from April 1974 to May 1974

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	1.1	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.1	0.9
Food -----	.7	.3	.4	.8	.2	.4
Housing -----	1.1	.6	.9	.3	.8	.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.0	.3	.5	1.5	1.5	.2
Transportation -----	2.4	2.6	1.3	2.3	1.9	2.1
Health and recreation -----	1.0	.6	.7	1.3	2.3	1.2
Medical care -----	1.1	1.3	1.1	1.9	1.4	1.5
Personal care -----	1.4	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	1.2	.7	.2	1.7	4.1	1.2
Other goods and services -----	.6	-.8	.8	.2	1.2	1.4

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.
² Not available.

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

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967= 100)						
All items -----	145. 6	144. 1	146. 6	140. 6	152. 5	149. 5
Food -----	159. 7	158. 8	162. 4	154. 2	162. 8	163. 0
Food at home -----	160. 4	160. 1	163. 5	156. 4	163. 3	162. 6
Cereals and bakery products -----	164. 3	169. 4	178. 3	161. 2	162. 6	166. 3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	158. 6	154. 1	164. 6	159. 4	161. 5	161. 8
Dairy products -----	154. 6	152. 2	157. 5	149. 3	158. 2	154. 2
Fruits and vegetables -----	177. 7	182. 0	170. 9	163. 0	187. 0	182. 1
Other food at home -----	151. 2	153. 5	150. 5	149. 1	150. 7	151. 3
Food away from home -----	157. 1	153. 5	158. 0	148. 2	161. 7	164. 7
Housing -----	147. 6	² 141. 5	147. 2	140. 5	158. 4	154. 5
Shelter -----	151. 3	145. 3	154. 3	142. 4	162. 0	163. 2
Rent, residential -----	129. 3	126. 5	(³)	127. 1	(³)	135. 4
Homeownership -----	159. 4	153. 8	159. 4	147. 1	177. 0	170. 5
Fuel and utilities -----	⁴ 148. 6	⁵ 138. 1	142. 5	142. 2	169. 3	154. 9
Fuel oil and coal -----	211. 0	208. 4	218. 5	-	213. 5	204. 6
Gas and electricity -----	⁶ 143. 9	⁷ 130. 1	143. 7	159. 9	173. 1	157. 0
Household furnishings and operation -----	137. 0	131. 8	128. 2	133. 1	142. 7	138. 4
Apparel and upkeep -----	135. 0	131. 4	129. 8	132. 4	134. 6	130. 4
Men's and boys' -----	135. 7	129. 9	129. 6	126. 4	138. 0	136. 4
Women's and girls' -----	133. 7	134. 0	121. 3	135. 2	127. 3	120. 6
Footwear -----	137. 4	130. 2	145. 6	135. 4	135. 4	138. 3
Transportation -----	137. 6	140. 6	139. 1	138. 1	145. 2	140. 1
Private -----	136. 6	137. 0	137. 7	139. 6	140. 7	139. 3
Public -----	146. 3	163. 9	155. 8	110. 0	162. 7	145. 0
Health and recreation -----	137. 7	139. 9	142. 2	132. 3	145. 3	142. 2
Medical care -----	147. 2	146. 5	159. 4	145. 4	157. 4	158. 9
Personal care -----	134. 9	(³)	(³)	(³)	136. 8	(³)
Reading and recreation -----	132. 0	134. 5	133. 0	123. 6	139. 4	135. 7
Other goods and services -----	134. 4	140. 1	133. 7	127. 2	143. 2	136. 5
Percent changes February 1974 to May 1974						
All items -----	2. 9	2. 5	1. 9	3. 2	2. 3	3. 2
Food -----	1. 3	- . 3	- 1. 1	2. 1	. 3	1. 4
Food at home -----	. 9	- . 8	- 1. 0	1. 6	- . 5	1. 0
Cereals and bakery products -----	6. 4	5. 3	5. 3	7. 6	4. 2	7. 6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	- 9. 0	- 11. 9	- 9. 5	- 9. 4	- 8. 4	- 7. 3
Dairy products -----	3. 5	2. 5	4. 0	8. 2	2. 1	2. 5
Fruits and vegetables -----	14. 0	15. 3	11. 5	11. 4	11. 6	13. 6
Other food at home -----	2. 2	2. 3	- 1. 5	4. 4	- . 1	- . 4
Food away from home -----	2. 9	1. 9	4. 2	3. 6	3. 2	2. 7
Housing -----	2. 9	3. 1	1. 4	1. 9	2. 3	4. 7
Shelter -----	2. 0	2. 3	- . 5	. 9	1. 6	4. 1
Rent, residential -----	1. 0	⁸ 6. 6	(³)	⁸ 8. 8	(³)	⁸ 8. 8
Homeownership -----	2. 3	2. 6	- . 7	. 8	2. 2	4. 6
Fuel and utilities -----	3. 6	4. 5	5. 0	1. 9	2. 8	6. 8
Fuel oil and coal -----	4. 5	8. 8	9. 2	-	- . 1	4. 1
Gas and electricity -----	4. 8	4. 0	6. 1	3. 0	7. 6	11. 7
Household furnishings and operation -----	5. 3	4. 6	5. 7	5. 4	4. 1	4. 8
Apparel and upkeep -----	3. 5	3. 1	3. 3	5. 3	3. 5	2. 0
Men's and boys' -----	5. 0	4. 1	2. 3	4. 9	10. 2	4. 0
Women's and girls' -----	2. 8	3. 4	4. 1	6. 1	- 1. 1	- . 1
Footwear -----	2. 9	2. 8	2. 2	2. 4	4. 1	3. 3
Transportation -----	6. 4	5. 8	6. 3	6. 9	4. 2	5. 4
Private -----	7. 1	6. 9	6. 8	7. 6	5. 6	6. 4
Public -----	. 1	. 2	. 2	- 8. 1	. 3	. 1
Health and recreation -----	2. 4	2. 6	1. 9	3. 4	3. 3	2. 5
Medical care -----	. 26	2. 2	2. 0	3. 2	3. 4	2. 3
Personal care -----	3. 1	(³)	(³)	(³)	4. 4	(³)
Reading and recreation -----	2. 4	3. 9	2. 2	4. 0	4. 7	2. 8
Other goods and services -----	1. 6	. 6	1. 2	2. 3	1. 6	2. 7

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, May 1974, and percent changes from February 1974—Continued

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (1967=100)							
All items -----	147.7	146.2	143.3	142.1	145.3	139.5	147.7
Food -----	159.7	159.9	155.9	156.2	157.4	155.1	164.2
Food at home -----	159.3	160.8	154.4	156.9	154.9	157.5	163.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	168.9	164.2	158.8	163.4	155.3	158.4	167.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	159.1	153.3	153.1	155.8	160.0	161.2	155.0
Dairy products -----	152.2	167.6	150.0	154.9	148.9	152.5	148.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	176.4	183.0	164.2	167.9	161.4	163.4	196.2
Other food at home -----	144.7	148.5	149.7	148.4	146.3	151.7	160.2
Food away from home -----	162.0	155.8	161.4	152.8	163.5	147.3	166.3
Housing -----	151.9	140.1	140.8	137.5	152.1	142.8	146.6
Shelter -----	152.1	140.6	145.2	136.0	166.3	146.7	149.2
Rent, residential -----	131.1	118.0	116.2	128.0	140.9	116.2	130.5
Homeownership -----	156.0	144.6	158.1	138.4	177.0	155.7	160.1
Fuel and utilities -----	169.3	145.5	127.3	145.0	131.2	⁹ 144.9	144.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	229.8	-	-	213.2	-	207.8	215.6
Gas and electricity -----	166.8	149.3	121.3	139.5	140.1	¹⁰ 115.4	147.2
Household furnishings and operation -----	138.5	134.4	138.5	136.2	126.0	132.5	140.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	143.6	139.3	135.9	140.1	138.7	129.2	140.2
Men's and boys' -----	162.6	138.6	142.4	145.9	137.6	130.2	139.4
Women's and girls' -----	140.5	142.0	132.3	133.4	145.2	126.8	142.3
Footwear -----	131.7	136.5	134.9	143.3	135.0	128.0	141.0
Transportation -----	136.8	147.6	143.0	139.8	139.0	124.5	138.9
Private -----	134.6	143.9	142.3	135.9	140.7	128.0	137.4
Public -----	160.9	172.4	150.8	187.1	109.6	104.5	147.5
Health and recreation -----	136.3	145.9	138.3	136.4	130.8	130.7	141.5
Medical care -----	139.9	161.8	144.7	145.4	140.6	139.9	157.6
Personal care -----	133.1	141.6	144/2	139.4	129.1	131.7	131.6
Reading and recreation -----	134.9	134.6	129.3	134.8	125.1	128.1	131.8
Other goods and services -----	135.8	142.0	135.4	129.0	126.5	124.5	141.0
Percent changes February 1974 to May 1974							
All items -----	2.4	2.9	2.7	2.2	3.6	2.7	2.6
Food -----	2.1	.8	.8	1.1	2.1	2.8	.6
Food at home -----	1.5	.1	.2	.9	.1	2.7	-.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	8.8	7.7	4.4	5.6	6.1	6.7	6.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-8.1	-11.3	-9.2	-7.8	-10.4	-7.6	-11.2
Dairy products -----	4.1	6.0	1.8	4.2	6.3	4.5	3.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	13.2	13.5	14.1	10.9	12.2	18.5	14.4
Other food at home -----	2.3	1.1	2.4	2.9	2.7	4.2	1.3
Food away from home -----	5.0	4.5	2.8	1.8	7.6	3.2	2.5
Housing -----	1.7	4.1	2.5	.9	3.8	1.9	3.1
Shelter -----	.8	2.9	1.9	-.5	3.0	-.5	2.7
Rent, residential -----	1.3	.9	.5	1.0	.9	2.7	1.6
Homeownership -----	.6	3.3	2.3	-1.1	3.7	-1.2	3.2
Fuel and utilities -----	2.0	8.7	1.8	.2	5.8	5.7	4.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	9.4	-	-	.9	-	15.4	1.2
Gas and electricity -----	1.8	13.1	3.5	0	7.0	.7	8.8
Household furnishings and operation -----	4.2	5.7	4.5	5.2	5.5	5.7	3.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	3.0	1.2	1.5	4.2	3.7	2.5	2.9
Men's and boys' -----	4.8	2.8	2.2	5.2	5.0	2.5	2.0
Women's and girls' -----	2.7	-1.3	-1.0	3.2	1.5	3.5	4.1
Footwear -----	2.3	1.5	.2	5.4	3.7	-.9	2.0
Transportation -----	6.0	6.0	8.3	5.9	6.8	6.3	5.1
Private -----	6.7	7.2	9.0	6.6	7.2	7.2	6.0
Public -----	.2	.2	.3	.2	.3	.6	.2
Health and recreation -----	1.4	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.5
Medical care -----	1.8	1.3	1.8	3.3	2.8	3.2	3.5
Personal care -----	2.5	3.4	3.8	4.1	3.5	2.3	2.2
Reading and recreation -----	-.6	3.4	1.8	1.7	2.0	2.5	1.4
Other goods and services -----	2.8	1.9	2.3	1.4	1.8	1.3	3.1

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.
² Revised index: April 1974, 140.6.
³ Not available.
⁴ Revised index: April 1974, 146.9.
⁵ Revised index: April 1974, 137.0.
⁶ Revised index: April 1974, 141.9.
⁷ Revised index: April 1974, 129.7.
⁸ Change from March 1974.
⁹ Revised index: February 1974, 137.1.
¹⁰ Revised index: February 1974, 114.6.

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

Area ¹	Total food	Food at home						Food away from home
		Total	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Other foods at home	
Indexes (1967=100)								
U. S. city average -----	159.7	160.4	164.3	158.6	154.6	177.7	151.2	157.1
Atlanta -----	162.7	164.5	170.3	162.0	160.9	186.3	153.4	156.6
Baltimore -----	162.2	162.9	162.1	162.6	157.3	178.5	155.4	159.4
Boston -----	158.9	159.9	162.7	161.3	149.8	175.3	149.7	154.8
Buffalo -----	159.7	159.3	168.9	159.1	152.2	176.4	144.7	162.0
Chicago -----	158.8	160.1	169.4	154.1	152.2	182.0	153.5	153.5
Cincinnati -----	161.7	163.8	174.7	159.3	163.5	173.3	156.1	153.4
Cleveland -----	159.9	160.8	164.2	153.3	167.6	183.0	148.5	155.8
Dallas -----	155.9	154.4	158.8	153.1	150.0	164.2	149.7	161.4
Detroit -----	162.4	163.5	178.3	164.6	157.5	170.9	150.5	158.0
Honolulu -----	156.3	157.2	176.4	156.7	151.4	152.9	150.6	153.0
Houston -----	161.5	159.8	162.1	162.0	163.2	161.6	152.0	167.3
Kansas City -----	160.6	161.7	164.5	159.3	173.1	164.1	153.7	157.2
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	154.2	156.4	161.2	159.4	149.3	163.0	149.1	148.2
Milwaukee -----	156.2	156.9	163.4	155.8	154.9	167.9	148.4	152.8
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	161.5	161.2	176.7	162.2	159.1	161.2	153.3	162.7
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	162.8	163.3	162.6	161.5	158.2	187.0	150.7	161.7
Philadelphia -----	163.0	162.6	166.3	161.8	154.2	182.1	151.3	164.7
Pittsburgh -----	162.7	162.1	168.5	156.6	153.5	188.1	152.4	166.1
St. Louis -----	157.9	158.5	172.3	149.8	158.1	177.0	148.1	155.4
San Diego -----	157.4	154.9	155.3	160.0	148.9	161.4	146.3	163.5
San Francisco-Oakland -----	153.6	157.1	155.3	158.6	149.5	167.8	152.6	141.4
Seattle -----	155.1	157.5	158.4	161.2	152.5	163.4	151.7	147.3
Washington -----	164.2	163.2	167.1	155.0	148.0	196.2	160.2	166.3
Percent changes April 1974 to May 1974								
U. S. city average -----	0.7	0.6	1.8	-3.5	0.6	9.0	-0.4	1.0
Atlanta -----	.4	.4	1.5	-3.1	.8	9.1	-1.7	.7
Baltimore -----	.4	.4	1.3	-3.5	1.2	7.9	-.3	.6
Boston -----	1.0	.9	2.1	-1.9	.4	7.2	-.1	1.2
Buffalo -----	1.5	1.1	2.8	-2.5	1.8	7.8	-.3	3.1
Chicago -----	.3	.2	-.4	-4.0	.8	10.2	-.3	.6
Cincinnati -----	1.3	1.3	3.2	-2.4	-.4	9.8	-.5	.8
Cleveland -----	2.0	1.7	2.5	-2.4	2.6	9.1	1.0	3.5
Dallas -----	1.2	1.0	2.2	-2.7	-.1	10.1	.1	1.9
Detroit -----	.4	.1	-.5	-2.7	1.7	8.0	-1.8	1.2
Honolulu -----	.1	-.1	2.4	-2.7	4.3	-.4	.6	.8
Houston -----	.2	.3	1.1	-3.8	.8	7.0	1.0	.2
Kansas City -----	.5	.4	-.4	-2.4	.4	7.0	.3	.9
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	.8	1.0	1.7	-3.6	1.9	7.0	2.3	.3
Milwaukee -----	.9	.7	1.7	-2.5	.7	8.0	-.2	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	.7	.9	2.0	-3.0	.4	6.8	1.2	.3
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	.2	.1	1.6	-3.5	-.3	8.2	-1.4	.7
Philadelphia -----	.4	.1	3.7	-4.0	.2	8.4	-2.3	1.2
Pittsburgh -----	1.0	1.0	3.4	-2.9	-.3	10.6	-1.7	1.1
St. Louis -----	.7	.8	1.6	-4.2	0	10.5	.2	.5
San Diego -----	2.7	.9	.9	-3.2	.5	9.6	2.3	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland -----	.9	.9	.5	-2.7	.2	9.1	1.4	.7
Seattle -----	1.7	1.5	1.5	-4.2	1.7	13.6	1.5	2.1
Washington -----	.4	-.2	1.3	-4.9	.6	8.2	-.9	1.9

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.
² Not available.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to May 1974 from—		
	May 1974		May 1973	April 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	159.7	159.5	15.8	0.7	0.9
Food away from home	157.1	157.1	13.1	1.0	.8
Restaurant meals	157.7	157.7	13.0	.9	.8
Snacks	154.2	154.4	13.3	1.2	1.3
Food at home	160.4	160.2	16.6	.6	.8
Cereals and bakery products	164.3	164.1	34.6	1.8	1.9
Flour	181.9	181.5	56.4	-.7	-.5
Cracker meal	184.5	183.8	31.1	4.5	4.4
Corn flakes	123.9	123.3	19.8	1.2	.8
Rice	244.6	244.1	96.9	.6	.9
Bread, white	157.7	158.0	30.8	.2	.2
Bread, whole wheat	162.6	163.1	28.1	1.8	2.2
Cookies	141.0	139.9	24.3	7.1	6.6
Layer cakes	152.5	152.5	20.6	2.3	2.6
Cinnamon rolls	158.3	158.1	24.6	2.2	1.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	158.6	158.9	1.9	-3.5	-2.6
Meats	158.7	159.5	1.8	-3.7	-2.4
Beef and veal	165.8	165.1	1.9	-2.5	-1.3
Steak, round	160.2	159.1	1.3	-1.8	-.2
Steak, sirloin	151.1	150.8	.5	-.5	-.1
Steak, porterhouse	152.8	153.0	.7	-.9	-.6
Rump roast	157.6	156.0	2.2	-1.6	-.9
Rib roast	163.4	162.6	.6	-1.0	-.8
Chuck roast	163.9	162.0	-5.3	-4.9	-3.1
Hamburger	175.3	174.4	2.8	-4.2	-4.0
Beef liver	168.1	166.4	8.2	-3.9	-4.0
Veal cutlets	198.2	196.8	4.9	-.7	-.6
Pork	148.8	151.7	-.8	-5.9	-4.2
Chops	142.7	147.1	-2.1	-4.0	-3.0
Loin roast	150.5	154.7	-.8	-3.7	-2.1
Pork sausage	171.9	173.3	3.5	-4.6	-3.6
Ham, whole	143.2	145.5	1.9	-10.4	-7.5
Picnics	151.6	151.8	-4.8	-9.9	-8.6
Bacon	143.6	146.1	-1.1	-5.3	-3.5
Other meats	157.1	157.1	5.2	-3.5	-3.4
Lamb chops	151.0	151.6	4.1	-.5	-.1
Frankfurters	157.2	157.4	.5	-6.1	-5.6
Ham, canned	156.6	156.4	11.2	-4.1	-3.5
Bologna sausage	162.3	162.6	3.6	-3.7	-3.4
Salami sausage	159.2	159.4	5.9	-2.4	-2.1
Liverwurst	156.5	156.3	5.9	-4.0	-4.2
Poultry	138.7	138.0	-7.8	-5.6	-4.7
Frying chicken	138.3	137.1	-10.7	-6.0	-4.7
Chicken breasts	140.7	140.0	-2.6	-2.2	-1.5
Turkey	138.8	139.9	2.1	-7.1	-6.4
Fish	187.1	186.5	16.8	.1	.2
Shrimp, frozen	171.9	171.2	11.6	-2.9	-3.1
Fish, fresh or frozen	217.1	216.5	17.3	.1	-.3
Tuna fish, canned	168.5	167.5	19.6	1.0	1.0
Sardines, canned	191.2	190.8	18.8	2.1	2.1
Dairy products	154.7	154.6	25.5	.6	.6
Milk, fresh, grocery	156.5	156.5	28.4	.4	.4
Milk, fresh skim	167.9	167.4	29.0	.7	.4
Milk, evaporated	171.1	170.6	30.2	2.0	1.3
Ice cream	130.4	130.9	18.5	2.3	2.3
Cheese, American process	174.4	173.9	29.5	.3	.5
Butter	113.6	114.3	10.3	-1.8	-1.8

See footnote at end of table.

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

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to May 1974 from—		
	May 1974		May 1973	April 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables	177.7	173.7	22.9	9.0	8.1
Fresh fruits and vegetables	181.8	175.1	15.9	13.9	12.0
Fresh fruits	148.9	149.3	8.1	5.8	5.4
Apples	163.8	160.0	12.6	3.1	-2.1
Bananas	120.2	119.7	19.5	29.0	32.6
Oranges	146.6	153.2	6.5	7.4	5.8
Orange juice, fresh	138.1	138.7	4.6	.9	.7
Grapefruit	138.1	150.8	5.7	4.5	.6
Grapes	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Strawberries	122.0	130.3	1.2	-21.6	-8.8
Watermelon	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Fresh vegetables	208.3	194.1	20.8	19.0	16.3
Potatoes	329.7	328.4	78.9	21.2	18.3
Onions	143.1	139.9	-52.9	-8.7	-11.2
Asparagus	151.6	157.9	12.8	1.5	-.7
Cabbage	149.6	136.0	-23.4	3.2	-1.5
Carrots	133.8	137.4	1.8	3.0	-.8
Celery	144.8	140.6	-1.3	12.9	.6
Cucumbers	171.6	161.1	18.6	17.6	49.4
Lettuce	180.4	177.6	9.2	40.8	36.5
Peppers, green	196.1	135.2	3.9	34.3	14.6
Spinach	172.2	172.9	12.7	-1.8	-1.0
Tomatoes	179.2	170.8	41.2	32.5	34.8
Processed fruits and vegetables	171.6	171.9	35.9	2.1	2.5
Fruit cocktail, canned	147.1	147.0	14.2	1.2	1.8
Pears, canned	135.7	136.0	9.5	.4	.5
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	127.5	127.5	7.1	1.9	2.4
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	140.6	140.9	2.5	.6	.9
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	131.8	131.0	9.4	1.1	1.5
Beets, canned	157.0	157.2	13.8	1.4	1.7
Peas, green, canned	122.3	122.8	12.0	2.2	3.2
Tomatoes, canned	144.7	144.6	16.1	2.1	2.0
Dried beans	439.4	444.7	204.5	4.3	4.7
Broccoli, frozen	134.0	134.0	11.0	1.1	1.6
Other food at home	151.2	152.6	20.6	-.4	.2
Eggs	133.2	143.1	-4.0	-17.0	-13.4
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	192.0	192.2	58.5	1.0	1.3
Salad dressing, Italian	126.3	125.8	13.5	1.9	1.6
Salad or cooking oil	193.2	192.8	53.7	-.2	-.2
Sugar and sweets	175.9	175.2	39.3	3.7	3.6
Sugar	205.9	205.9	70.9	8.3	8.4
Grape jelly	157.9	157.3	18.8	3.9	3.8
Chocolate bar	190.0	189.8	40.9	1.1	.8
Syrup, chocolate flavored	153.9	153.1	32.8	1.9	2.1
Nonalcoholic beverages	149.3	149.0	15.3	2.5	2.3
Coffee, can	156.6	156.4	17.4	1.8	1.8
Coffee, instant	153.4	152.5	16.5	3.1	2.7
Tea	117.3	117.1	5.8	1.1	.9
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	152.5	152.2	16.1	4.1	4.0
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	151.5	150.9	15.6	3.3	3.1
Prepared and partially prepared foods	138.1	138.0	17.2	3.0	3.1
Bean soup, canned	156.1	155.8	32.6	6.7	6.8
Chicken soup, canned	127.1	127.0	20.7	2.7	3.0
Spaghetti, canned	134.1	134.2	9.0	1.4	1.4
Mashed potatoes, instant	132.1	131.4	12.0	2.6	2.1
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	143.7	143.7	26.6	6.1	6.1
Baby foods	132.9	132.9	16.9	.7	.8
Sweet pickle relish	141.3	141.0	7.6	-.7	.1
Pretzels	137.4	137.0	17.4	5.0	5.1

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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to May 1974 from:	
		April 1974	May 1974	May 1973	April 1974
Housing		146.0	147.6	10.7	1.1
Shelter ¹		150.2	151.3	9.1	.7
Rent, residential		128.8	129.3	4.5	.4
Homeownership ²		158.2	159.4	10.5	.8
Mortgage interest rates		134.1	134.9	14.1	.6
Property taxes		151.0	149.9	-1.6	-.7
Property insurance premiums		124.0	124.7	-.2	.6
Maintenance and repairs		165.0	167.6	12.0	1.6
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		148.2	150.5	10.3	1.6
Exterior house paint		130.1	132.3	11.0	1.7
Interior house paint		127.2	128.1	6.8	.7
Maintenance and repair services		172.2	175.0	12.8	1.6
Repainting living and dining rooms		181.2	184.4	9.2	1.8
Reshingling house roof		184.5	190.3	16.8	3.3
Residing house		162.8	165.1	16.2	1.4
Replacing sink		169.1	171.5	11.9	1.4
Repairing furnace		171.7	172.7	7.7	.6
Fuel and utilities		145.9	148.6	18.5	1.2
Fuel oil and coal		206.5	211.0	63.2	2.2
Fuel oil, No. 2		207.7	210.2	65.1	2.1
Gas and electricity		9.9	143.9	14.5	1.4
Gas		139.6	141.3	10.9	1.2
Electricity		144.1	146.3	18.0	1.5
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		121.1	121.1	4.8	.0
Residential water and sewerage services		154.2	153.9	5.1	-.2
Household furnishings and operation ⁵		134.0	137.0	10.6	2.2
Housefurnishings		126.1	127.6	7.7	1.2
Textiles		127.5	129.1	11.6	1.3
Sheets		133.8	133.2	13.8	-.4
Curtains, tailored		122.9	125.3	9.2	2.0
Bedspreads		130.6	134.1	19.6	2.7
Drapery fabric		146.1	148.6	17.2	1.7
Pillows, bed		110.3	109.7	1.5	-.5
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		120.9	123.0	6.9	1.7
Furniture and bedding		132.9	134.7	7.9	1.4
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	117.4	119.7	9.2	1.4
Sofas, upholstered		127.9	128.9	4.5	.8
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	111.0	113.3	9.7	2.1
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	117.5	119.4	10.4	1.6
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	104.3	105.1	5.0	.8
Sofas, dual purpose		126.8	127.9	7.5	.9
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	114.1	115.6	8.9	1.3
Aluminum folding chairs		140.2	143.4	8.6	2.3
Cribs		132.9	135.1	10.5	1.7
Floor coverings		114.0	115.1	7.2	1.0
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		108.1	109.0	6.9	.8
Vinyl sheet goods		126.0	127.3	5.7	1.0
Vinyl asbestos tile		129.6	131.2	9.9	1.2
Appliances (excluding radio and T. V.)		111.6	112.4	2.6	.7
Washing machines, electric, automatic		112.8	113.5	2.4	.6
Vacuum cleaners		104.5	105.6	2.0	1.1
Refrigerator-freezers, electric		109.4	110.2	1.7	.7
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		111.4	112.4	2.2	.9
Clothes dryers, electric		116.4	117.5	3.0	.9
Air conditioners, demountable		112.4	112.6	2.6	.2
Room heaters, electric, portable		(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)
Garbage disposal units		114.6	114.9	3.0	.3
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		140.7	141.6	9.3	.6
Flatware, stainless steel		143.7	144.2	9.7	.3
Table lamps, with shade		131.5	132.4	3.0	.7
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		130.6	130.7	7.4	.1
Electric drills, hand-held		111.1	112.4	5.2	1.2
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		122.1	125.1	11.7	2.5
Paper napkins		152.4	158.7	14.6	4.1
Toilet tissue		145.2	151.8	25.5	4.5
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		158.6	173.8	19.3	9.6
Baby sitter services		149.8	163.8	16.1	9.3
Postal charges		175.4	175.3	19.6	-.1
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		165.1	168.0	13.9	1.8
Licensed day care services, preschool child		138.1	139.3	7.9	.9
Washing machine repairs		160.6	162.2	9.4	1.0

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to May 1974 from:	
		April 1974	May 1974	May 1973	April 1974
Apparel and upkeep ⁷		133.6	135.0	6.6	1.0
Apparel commodities		133.6	135.0	6.1	1.0
Apparel commodities less footwear		133.0	134.6	6.4	1.2
Men's and boys'		134.2	135.7	7.1	1.1
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)
Suits, year round weight	135.4	135.5	.7	.1	
Suits, tropical weight	164.2	164.5	12.7	.2	
Jackets, lightweight	123.2	124.5	5.5	1.1	
Slacks, wool or wool blends	116.4	115.9	-.1	-.4	
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends	140.6	141.7	-.8	-.8	
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton	134.6	139.1	16.7	3.3	
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton	135.0	139.0	16.2	3.0	
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton	121.5	122.1	8.6	.5	
T-shirts, chiefly cotton	139.0	140.1	15.1	.8	
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers	120.2	120.7	2.9	.4	
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton	137.0	139.6	16.2	1.9	
Boys' :					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	
Sport coats, wool or wool blends	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends	153.4	157.5	17.5	2.7	
Undershorts, cotton	137.7	139.1	13.6	1.0	
Women's and girls'	132.4	133.7	5.1	1.0	
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	
Sweaters, wool or acrylic	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton	139.6	142.2	9.0	1.9	
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers	132.9	134.0	6.4	.8	
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fibers	138.8	139.4	3.3	.4	
Slips, nylon	114.8	114.8	3.5	0	
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot	125.2	126.0	5.5	.6	
Girdles, manmade blend	122.8	123.3	3.6	.4	
Brassieres, nylon lace	130.7	131.3	5.0	.5	
Hose or panty hose, nylon seamless	92.0	92.1	-2.5	.1	
Anklets or knee-length socks	118.5	120.6	5.9	1.8	
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton	121.4	121.2	8.2	-.2	
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic	161.2	163.2	9.9	1.2	
Girls' :					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends	127.1	127.5	3.5	.3	
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	
Slips, polyester blends	113.7	114.9	5.0	1.1	
Handbags, plastic	144.3	147.5	17.0	2.2	
Footwear	136.3	137.4	5.4	.8	
Men's:					
Shoes, street	138.9	141.2	6.2	1.7	
Shoes, work, high	146.0	147.2	9.2	.8	
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump	135.0	135.8	4.5	.6	
Shoes, evening, pump	127.8	128.2	3.6	.3	
Shoes, casual	137.2	138.1	5.8	.7	
Houseslippers, scuff	132.1	133.5	3.8	1.1	
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford	137.4	138.0	3.8	.4	
Sneakers, boys', oxford type	135.8	137.5	9.5	1.3	
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump	141.5	141.6	4.7	.1	
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable	134.2	145.7	22.8	8.6	
Yard goods, polyester blend	146.3	151.5	23.8	3.6	
Wrist watches, men's and women's	124.8	125.3	5.2	.4	
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses	131.8	133.7	10.7	1.4	
Automatic laundry service	122.1	124.1	5.3	1.6	
Laundry, men's shirts	138.7	140.1	9.8	1.0	
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment	145.8	146.7	6.6	.6	
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift	128.9	130.3	7.9	1.1	

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 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to May 1974 from:	
		April 1974	May 1974	May 1973	April 1974
Transportation -----		134.4	137.6	11.4	2.4
Private ⁸ -----		133.1	136.6	12.6	2.6
Automobiles, new -----		113.3	114.6	3.2	1.1
Automobiles, used -----		110.7	121.9	1.1	10.1
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		161.4	165.4	43.5	2.5
Motor oil, premium -----		142.8	143.7	13.0	.6
Tires, new, tubeless -----		114.1	116.3	5.1	1.9
Auto repairs and maintenance ⁹ -----		151.8	153.1	8.3	.9
Auto insurance rates -----		138.6	138.6	.1	0
Auto registration -----		128.9	128.9	4.2	0
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		155.4	157.1	3.4	1.1
Public -----		146.3	146.3	1.7	0
Local transit fares -----		148.4	148.3	-1.1	-.1
Taxicab fares -----		145.4	145.4	7.1	0
Railroad fares, coach -----		127.1	127.1	3.8	0
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		141.5	141.4	7.0	-.1
Bus fares, intercity -----		159.0	159.0	10.0	0
Health and recreation -----		136.3	137.7	6.3	1.0
Medical care -----		146.5	147.2	7.8	1.1
Drugs and prescriptions -----		107.6	108.0	2.0	.4
Over-the-counter items -----		114.6	115.6	2.8	.9
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		96.4	96.3	.8	-.1
Aspirin compounds -----		118.5	119.5	1.5	.8
Liquid tonics -----		104.0	104.9	3.1	.9
Adhesive bandages, packages -----		130.8	133.1	5.1	1.8
Cold tablets or capsules -----		115.7	115.7	1.4	0
Cough syrup -----		118.5	119.5	3.6	.8
Prescriptions -----		101.6	101.6	1.2	0
Anti-infectives -----		68.1	67.7	-5.0	-.6
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		137.5	137.3	6.4	-.1
Ataractics -----		104.7	104.7	.9	0
Antispasmodics -----		108.8	109.0	1.3	.2
Cough preparations -----		143.2	144.1	6.0	.6
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives -----		114.0	114.2	1.2	.2
Analgesics, internal -----		111.9	111.9	.2	0
Anti-obesity -----		120.8	121.3	4.0	.4
Hormones -----		93.8	94.1	3.1	.3
Professional services: -----					
Physicians' fees -----		145.8	147.7	7.4	1.3
General physician, office visits -----		149.1	150.7	8.8	1.1
General physician, house visits -----		145.9	147.9	4.7	1.4
Obstetrical cases -----		144.1	145.7	5.7	1.1
Pediatric care, office visits -----		148.4	150.9	7.8	1.7
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		136.9	139.6	4.5	2.0
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		135.3	136.3	4.2	.7
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		138.0	141.0	6.3	2.2
Dentists' fees -----		142.9	143.8	6.0	.6
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		145.8	147.0	6.6	.8
Extractions, adult -----		142.6	143.3	6.4	.5
Dentures, full upper -----		137.2	137.8	4.3	.4
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		135.2	138.0	6.6	2.1
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis -----		129.0	131.2	7.6	1.7
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	110.7	112.0	6.6	1.2
Semiprivate rooms -----		192.0	194.5	7.5	1.3
Operating room charges -----		191.4	192.2	7.7	.4
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----		137.2	137.9	5.1	.5
Laboratory tests, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	108.0	108.9	5.4	.8
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	100.1	105.4	7.8	5.3
Tranquilizer, chlorthalidoxepoxide, HCL and meprobamate -----	Jan. 72	107.7	107.9	3.4	.2
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	109.3	109.7	5.0	.4
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	107.3	107.7	3.8	.4
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	112.7	113.4	6.6	.6
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	108.4	108.8	5.5	.4
Personal care -----		133.1	134.9	8.4	1.4
Toilet goods -----		128.2	130.2	9.0	1.6
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		111.7	112.6	2.3	.8
Toilet soap, hard-milled -----		155.6	163.1	28.5	4.8
Hand lotions, liquid -----		130.3	131.4	4.9	.8
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		109.6	109.0	.1	-.5
Face powder, pressed -----		152.6	153.0	6.0	.3
Deodorants, aerosol -----		106.5	104.9	.1	-1.5
Cleansing tissues -----		146.6	151.9	20.5	3.6
Home permanent wave kits -----		109.5	110.9	1.4	1.3
Personal care services -----		138.3	139.9	8.0	1.2
Men's haircuts -----		140.8	142.1	8.1	.9
Beauty shop services -----		136.6	138.3	7.8	1.2
Women's haircuts -----		144.9	146.6	10.1	1.2
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		140.0	141.6	7.5	1.1
Permanent waves, cold -----		120.7	122.8	6.0	1.7

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to May 1974 from:	
		April 1974	May 1974	May 1973	April 1974
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation ¹⁰		130.4	132.0	5.1	1.2
Recreational goods		112.9	113.7	4.3	.7
TV sets, portable and console		98.1	98.3	.2	.2
TV replacement tubes		138.1	139.1	3.4	.7
Radios, portable and table model		101.3	101.4	2.1	.1
Tape recorders, portable		94.9	95.2	2.5	.3
Phonograph records, stereophonic		110.7	110.7	1.7	0
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		91.4	91.6	3.5	.2
Film, 35mm, color		109.5	111.3	3.2	1.6
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		104.1	104.2	.2	.1
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		130.7	131.9	3.6	.9
Fishing rods, fresh-water spin-casting		112.3	114.0	4.3	1.5
Bowling balls		117.4	118.0	2.2	.5
Bicycles, boys'		129.9	132.3	8.6	1.8
Tricycles		121.1	121.9	5.9	.7
Dog food, canned or boxed		143.5	144.0	19.3	.3
Recreational services		136.6	139.7	5.8	2.3
Indoor movie admissions		152.2	160.4	8.6	5.4
Adult		150.1	160.6	9.8	7.0
Children's		158.1	159.6	5.1	.9
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		155.5	157.8	5.8	1.5
Bowling fees, evening		129.9	129.4	5.3	-.4
Golf green fees		(⁶)	145.8	7.2	(⁶)
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		100.6	101.1	1.7	.5
Film developing, color		116.0	117.2	.8	1.0
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		147.0	150.2	10.3	2.2
Magazines, single copy and subscription		133.7	133.7	-1.8	0
Piano lessons, beginner		132.2	132.2	5.1	0
Other goods and services		133.6	134.4	4.6	.6
Tobacco products		139.6	140.6	2.6	.7
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		141.1	142.3	2.5	.9
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		141.5	142.4	2.3	.6
Cigars, domestic, regular size		118.1	118.7	5.3	.5
Alcoholic beverages		128.3	129.1	6.1	.6
Beer		121.6	123.6	8.1	1.6
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		109.8	109.7	.7	-.1
Wine, dessert and table		145.8	146.1	8.2	.2
Beer away from home		142.1	142.1	5.6	0
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		133.5	134.0	6.9	.4
Bank service charges, checking accounts		103.3	103.3	-3.8	0
Legal services, short form will		173.1	173.5	9.5	.2

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

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

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

⁵ Revised index.

⁶ Priced only in season.

⁷ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zip-pers not shown separately.

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

⁹ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

¹⁰ Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks not shown separately.

Table 9. Consumer Price Index—United States city average and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for regular and premium gasoline

(October 1973=100)

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Index		Percent change to May 1974 from ²	Index		Percent change to May 1974 from ²
	April 1974	May 1974		April 1974	May 1974	
U. S. city average ²	163.4	167.4	2.4	156.6	160.3	2.4
Atlanta	135.3	137.0	1.3	132.9	133.6	.5
Baltimore	135.4	137.9	1.8	133.1	134.8	1.3
Boston	126.8	133.6	3.9	126.3	130.8	3.6
Buffalo	142.2	141.1	-.8	139.5	138.7	-.6
Chicago	132.9	135.3	1.8	130.1	131.7	1.2
Cincinnati	134.5	140.1	4.2	131.0	136.5	4.2
Cleveland	126.8	139.5	8.3	127.8	135.4	5.9
Dallas	143.0	144.1	.8	138.0	138.9	.7
Detroit	137.7	137.3	-.3	134.2	134.1	-.1
Honolulu	125.7	130.2	3.6	123.5	128.0	3.6
Houston	138.2	140.7	1.8	134.3	136.5	1.6
Kansas City	135.6	138.3	2.0	131.9	134.3	1.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach	133.7	136.0	1.7	131.1	133.4	1.8
Milwaukee	138.4	138.2	-.1	134.9	135.1	.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul	135.7	138.7	2.2	132.2	134.3	1.6
New York-Northeastern N. J.	131.8	136.5	3.6	130.0	135.3	4.1
Philadelphia	134.6	137.1	1.9	131.6	133.6	1.5
Pittsburgh	132.8	136.2	2.6	128.9	132.1	2.5
St. Louis	131.7	134.1	1.8	129.5	131.8	1.8
San Diego	131.2	134.2	2.3	128.8	131.7	2.3
San Francisco-Oakland	127.7	133.8	4.8	124.5	130.8	5.1
Seattle	130.3	132.9	2.0	128.2	130.4	1.7
Washington	129.2	134.8	4.3	126.5	131.7	4.1

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 1967=100.

Table 10. Consumer Price Index—United States city average and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, average prices for regular and premium gasoline

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Average price per gallon					
	March 1974	April 1974	May 1974	March 1974	April 1974	May 1974
U. S. city average -----	\$0.528	\$0.537	\$0.550	\$0.564	\$0.573	\$0.587
Atlanta -----	.519	.538	.544	.557	.576	.579
Baltimore -----	.536	.554	.564	.575	.596	.603
Boston -----	.517	.521	.541	.555	.560	.580
Buffalo -----	.542	.573	.568	.581	.611	.607
Chicago -----	.559	.559	.569	.598	.598	.605
Cincinnati -----	.531	.545	.567	.568	.582	.606
Cleveland -----	.530	.524	.568	.563	.569	.603
Dallas -----	.487	.503	.507	.524	.537	.540
Detroit -----	.562	.575	.573	.600	.614	.613
Honolulu -----	.569	.568	.588	.603	.602	.623
Houston -----	.453	.480	.489	.491	.518	.526
Kansas City -----	.499	.518	.528	.538	.556	.566
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	.530	.540	.549	.566	.577	.587
Milwaukee -----	.526	.533	.532	.564	.570	.571
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	.509	.536	.548	.548	.574	.583
New York—Northeastern N. J. -----	.549	.558	.578	.589	.596	.620
Philadelphia -----	.543	.538	.548	.584	.583	.592
Pittsburgh -----	.516	.531	.545	.552	.570	.584
St. Louis -----	.525	.535	.545	.562	.574	.584
San Diego -----	.538	.543	.555	.573	.578	.591
San Francisco—Oakland -----	.543	.545	.571	.580	.578	.607
Seattle -----	.521	.525	.535	.558	.567	.577
Washington -----	.528	.535	.558	.569	.576	.600

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.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

A Note About Calculating Index Changes

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

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

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

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

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

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

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

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

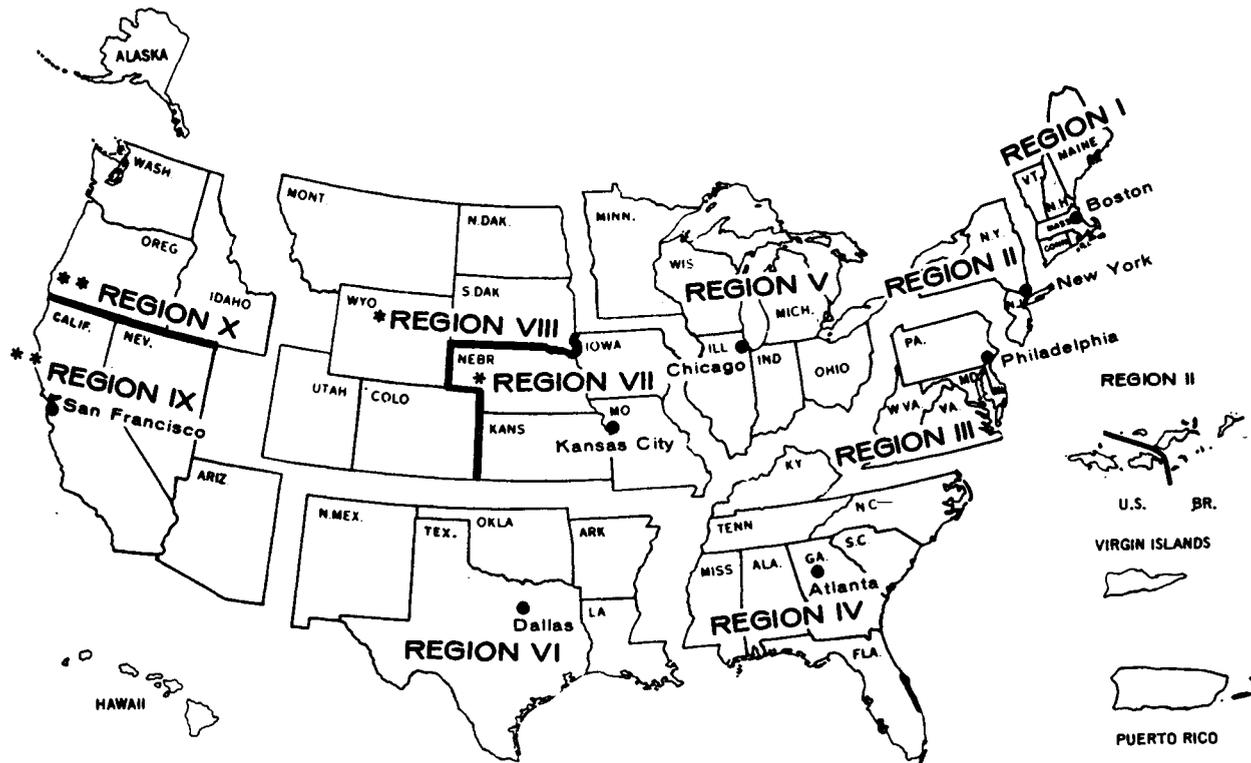
The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard error.

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

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

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

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