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

# *the consumer price index*

for June 1972

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# The Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 percent in June to 125.0 percent of its 1967 base. The increase was due chiefly to higher prices for meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, used cars, houses, and household services. The June index was 2.9 percent higher than it was a year ago; the first time since November 1967 the change for a 12-month period was less than 3 percent.

After seasonal adjustment, the June increase was 0.1 percent. In June, the food index, which includes both food purchased in grocery stores and restaurant meals, increased 0.2 percent after seasonal adjustment. In both April and May, the index declined 0.1 percent. The non-food commodities index showed no change in June after rising 0.5 percent in May. The services index increased 0.3 percent, compared with a 0.2 percent in May.

The annual rate of change in the CPI for the calendar quarter ending in June was 2.2 percent, which was less than the 3.6-percent rate for the preceding quarter. (See table A.) The slowdown was primarily due to the behavior of the food component of the index, which was unchanged from March to June after advancing at a 7.2-percent annual rate from December to March. The index for nonfood commodities rose at a 2.7-percent seasonally adjusted rate in the second quarter compared with 2.4 percent in the first quarter. The services index rose at a 3.4-percent rate in the second quarter, slightly less than the first quarter.

In the 10 months since the start of the Economic Stabilization Program last August, the CPI has risen at a 2.7-percent rate. Excluding the Phase I period from August to November, when most prices were frozen, the rate of advance through June was 3.1 percent. This advance compares with a 3.8-percent rate in the first 8 months of 1971 and increases of 6 percent in calendar year 1969 and 5.5 percent in 1970. Seasonally adjusted annual rates of change for the CPI and its major components before and since the Economic Stabilization Program began are as follows:

	8 months before Phase I, December 1970 to August 1971	3 months, Phase I, August 1971 to November 1971	7 months, Phase II, November 1971 to June 1972	10 months, Phases I and II August 1971 to June 1972
All items .....	3.8	1.9	3.1	2.7
Food .....	5.0	1.7	4.0	3.3
Commodities less food .....	2.9	0	2.5	1.7
Services .....	4.6	3.1	3.6	3.4

## Food

The food index, which includes both food purchased in grocery stores and restaurant meals, rose 0.2 percent in June on a seasonally adjusted basis after declining 0.1 percent in April and May.

The index for food purchased in grocery stores rose 0.6 percent in June before seasonal adjustment and 0.2 percent after seasonal adjustment. The index declined in April and May. The turnaround in June was primarily due to a rise in meat prices following several months of sharp declines. Beef and pork prices rose considerably more than they usually do in June, reflecting earlier May advances at the wholesale level. An important factor in the sharper than usual rise in wholesale and retail meat prices this spring has been strong consumer demand, particularly for beef. Retail prices for poultry also rose after declining in April and May, but the increase was smaller than usual for June. However, a rise in demand reduced stocks of poultry in cold storage during May and wholesale prices for poultry rose sharply in June.

In addition to the upturn in meat prices, retail prices for fresh fruits and vegetables rose considerably more in June than in April or May. The large rise in fresh fruit prices was mostly due to seasonal declines in supplies, especially of oranges and strawberries and the introduction of watermelons into the index for the first time this season. Fresh vegetable prices rose contraseasonally as adverse weather and the end of harvests in some areas curtailed supplies, particularly of tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers, and onions.

As wholesale prices for meats and fresh fruits and fresh vegetables continued to climb in June, pointing to higher prices at retail, the government suspended import quotas on meats for the balance of 1972 and extended stabilization controls to cover wholesale and retail prices of raw food products such as fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, and raw seafood.

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
	Un-adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Un-adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Un-adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Un-adjusted			
June 1971 .....	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.5	4.7	3.8	4.5
July .....	.2	.3	.5	.2	-.1	.2	.5	4.8	3.8	4.4
August .....	.2	.3	.2	.3	.1	.3	.5	4.1	4.0	4.4
September .....	.1	.1	-.8	-.3	.3	0	.3	3.0	3.9	4.0
October .....	.2	.2	-.2	-.1	.5	0	.2	2.6	3.7	3.6
November .....	.2	.2	.1	.8	.1	0	.3	1.9	3.0	3.5
December .....	.4	.3	1.1	.6	0	.2	.3	2.6	2.8	3.4
January 1972 .....	.1	.3	0	-.1	-.3	.2	.5	3.2	2.9	3.4
February .....	.5	.6	1.6	1.8	.1	.3	.2	4.8	3.4	3.7
March .....	.2	0	.2	0	.3	.2	.2	3.6	3.1	3.5
April .....	.2	.2	0	-.1	.3	.2	.3	3.1	3.2	3.4
May .....	.3	.3	-.1	-.1	.6	.5	.2	2.1	3.5	3.2
June .....	.2	.1	.6	.2	.2	0	.3	2.2	2.9	2.9

Prices in other major categories of food purchased in grocery stores declined in June. Prices for most dairy products continued to move down in June as milk production reached seasonal highs. The decline in the prices of evaporated milk was particularly sharp as manufacturers' stocks rose nearly 40 percent between the end of April and the end of May. Prices of most cereal and bakery products also declined in June for the second consecutive month. Bread prices were lower because of promotional sales. Flour prices declined as a result of slackening demand. Prices of corn flakes continued to move down, as they have been doing since June of 1971, because of large supplies of corn available at low prices. The large corn supply also has contributed to the decline in prices of salad and cooking oils from February to June. Egg prices fell more than they usually do in June, as production and cold storage holdings rose during May. Because of promotional sales, prices were also lower in June for a number of other items such as sugar, chocolate bars, coffee, cola drinks, some soups, and baby food. The index for food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—increased 0.4 percent in June both before and after seasonal adjustment.

**Commodities less food**

The index for nonfood commodities was unchanged in June as widespread price rises in durable goods were offset by declines in nondurable goods, mostly apparel and gasoline.

Reflecting strong demand, used car prices, which started their usual spring rise in March, rose sharply in April and May. These prices continued to increase in June; but in line with their usual seasonal pattern the

increase was less than in the 2 preceding months. The demand for new cars remained extremely strong in June, resulting in a considerably smaller decline in new car prices than is usual for this time of the year. Sales of domestic new cars established a new record for the month and were up 9.9 percent from June of 1971. Sales of imported cars rose considerably in June from the preceding month, but were down 6.3 percent from June of last year. Imports represented 14.1 percent of total U.S. car sales this June compared with 16.0 percent in 1971.

Price increases for houses and household durables also contributed to the rise in the durable goods component of the CPI in June. Prices were higher for most appliances, including ranges, clothes dryers, vacuum cleaners, and washing machines as consumer demand strengthened and sales ended. Prices of most other durable housefurnishings also were higher, particularly table lamps, imported dinnerware, and imported and domestic stainless flatware sets. These increases were moderated somewhat by the start of summer clearance sales on furniture and floor coverings.

In the nondurable goods component of the CPI, prices of apparel commodities declined 0.2 percent after seasonal adjustment. The decline in apparel prices other than footwear was sharper than usual for June. With consumer demand for apparel showing very little improvement in the first 5 months of this year over the same period in 1971, clearance sales on spring and summer merchandise began earlier than in previous years. Prices also were lowered on many year-round items such as women's and girls' dresses and men's suits, slacks, and short-sleeved sport shirts.

Footwear prices, however, increased slightly in June, instead of moving down as they usually do. Retail footwear prices have not yet reflected all of the increases which have occurred at the wholesale level. In an effort to hold down footwear prices, the Price Commission in late May limited price increases by shoe manufacturers to a dollar-for-dollar pass-through of leather costs. Also, export controls were imposed in late June on domestically produced cattle hides to hold down prices on hides and leather. The program restricts hide producers (who are usually meatpackers also from exporting more than 1,350,000 hides a month—the same level at which they exported hides in 1971).

Gasoline prices, which declined in the first 4 months of this year, rose sharply in May but declined again in June. In May, oil companies were partially successful in restoring prices to the prefreeze level by withdrawing discounts which help retailers maintain profit margins during times of price wars. Prices were forced down in June, however, by competitive pressures from volume outlets and independents.

Among other nondurable goods, prices of alcoholic beverages declined in June. Retail prices for beer purchased for home consumption were lowered sharply following earlier declines at the wholesale level. Prices of tobacco products increased mostly because of higher taxes.

### Services

The index for consumer services rose 0.3 percent in June, less than 0.2 percent in May, but the same as in April. All of the major categories in the services index rose moderately during the quarter.

Charges for household services rose 0.3 percent in June, the same as in April and May. There were changes in trend during the quarter for some of these services. Mortgage interest rates increased slightly in June, ending a 7-month decline which began in November 1971. The rise resulted from a combination of a high level of demand for houses and a decline in the supply of lendable funds. Mortgage lending activity rose 20 percent between April and May, while savings inflow fell below the seasonal level for the period. Following a substantial rise in the first 4 months of this year and a slight rise in May, property taxes declined slightly in June. The decline reflected lower taxes in Minnesota, where the State legislature granted some relief to its local school districts.

Among utility services, charges for natural gas, which was stable in April and May, declined in June as lower summer rates in some cities more than offset increased charges in other cities. Charges for electricity rose 0.9 percent in April, 0.6 percent in May, and 0.5 percent in

June. The increases were due to higher rates and higher fuel costs. Electricity utility fuel costs (bituminous coal, residual fuel oil, and natural gas) have risen substantially during the past 2 years, and the higher costs have been passed on to the consumer. Many companies have experienced higher costs since they switched to the more expensive low sulphur fuels. The June increase in telephone rates was larger than for any of the preceding 3 months.

Charges for home maintenance and repairs increased 0.5 percent in June, slightly faster than in April or May. The increase in charges for these services in the second quarter was much smaller than in the same period of 1971. Among housekeeping services, charges for domestic services decelerated during the quarter from 1.1 percent in April to 0.2 percent in June.

The index for medical care services rose 0.3 percent in June. The increase in April was also 0.3 percent and in May 0.2 percent. After rising sharply in the first quarter, charges for hospital services rose modestly in the second quarter, 0.3 percent in April and May and 0.2 percent in June. Fees charged by physicians, which moved up an average of 0.2 percent each month from August 1971 through May of this year, increased 0.5 percent in June.

The increase of 0.1 percent in the transportation services index in June was the same as in April and May. Among auto-related services, charges for auto repairs rose 0.2 percent in each month during the second quarter, considerably smaller than the monthly increases in the first quarter. Auto insurance charges increased slightly in June after declining in April and May. Parking fees, particularly municipal fees, increased sharply in the second quarter, 0.4 percent in April, 5.0 percent in May, and 0.8 percent in June. Increases reflected higher labor costs following the end of the wage-price-rent freeze and efforts by local governments to boost revenues. Fares for public transportation—local transit, intercity buses, and taxis—increased moderately in the second quarter.

Among other services, apparel and personal care services rose slightly each month during the second quarter. Increases for recreational services accelerated, particularly in June, because of seasonal rise in drive-in movie admissions and fees for golf greens.

### Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 120,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in June for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from the following table, 74 percent of these monthly comparisons remained unchanged, 11 percent

decreased, and 15 percent increased between May and June. The proportion of prices increasing, decreasing, and holding steady in June was about the same as in the previous month.

The June index also includes 24,000 price comparisons to June from periods prior to May, of which 19,000

cover the quarterly span from March to June. About 13 percent of these increased, a slightly lower proportion than in last month's index. In addition, a little more than 5,000 rental units were surveyed in June and about 20 percent of these reported rent increases from December. About 4 percent of the 5,000 reported increases between May and June.

**Table B. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons<sup>1</sup>**

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

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

<sup>2</sup> Based on approximately 98,000 individual price quotations.

# New Consumer Price Indexes by Size of City

THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS has developed a new set of consumer price indexes which measure price change in urban areas grouped by size of population. These indexes add a new dimension to analysis of price data by providing alternate measures for comparison with the U.S. city average and by permitting comparisons of price change among areas with different size populations. They will be published four times a year for the months of March, June, September, and December.\* This article describes the new indexes and provides a brief analysis of their behavior over the 5-year period from December 1966 to December 1971.

The new indexes are calculated from price data collected in 56 metropolitan and nonmetropolitan urban areas of the United States for the national Consumer Price Index. For the new price indexes, the 56 areas are grouped by their 1960 population into five groups. (See the listing of the areas included in each group at the end of the article.) The first group consists of the five largest metropolitan areas included in the national CPI, all with an urban population of at least 3.5 million (class A-1) in 1960. The other groups had populations of 1.4 million to 3.5 million (class A-2); 250,000 to 1.4 million (class B); 50,000 to 250,000 (class C); and 2,500 to 50,000 (class D), the later being nonmetropolitan urban areas.

For each of the urban population classes, indexes for all items and for the subgroups of food, housing, apparel and upkeep, transportation, and health and recreation will be available. Table 1 shows the relative importance in the weighting structure of the U.S. City Average Consumer Price Index of the all items and major subgroup indexes for each urban classi-

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\* In the CPI detailed report.

fication. (Tables 2 through 6 show historical indexes for the five population classes.)

These new indexes are not designed to replace any of the individual city indexes currently published. The Bureau will continue to publish separate monthly indexes for each of the five largest metropolitan areas in the CPI and separate quarterly indexes for each of the 18 other areas. As is the case with indexes for individual areas, the indexes for urban areas classified by size of population cannot be used to determine differences in price levels or living costs at a point in time. They indicate only that prices in one group have changed more, less, or the same as in another.

In addition, these new indexes should not be construed necessarily as the best indicator of price behavior for a given city or geographic area because that city or area falls within the population ranges of the new indexes. Population is only one of several factors that have a significant effect on price behavior in a city. For example, differences in price movement may also be related to differences in eco-

**Table 1. Relative importance<sup>1</sup> in the U.S. Consumer Price Index of all items and major groups, urban areas grouped by population,<sup>2</sup> December 1971**

Population class	All items	Food	Housing	Apparel and upkeep	Transportation	Health and recreation
U.S. total....	100.00	22.28	33.97	10.49	13.32	19.94
3.5 million or more (A-1).....	32.74	7.53	10.87	3.52	4.30	6.52
1.4 to 3.5 million (A-2).....	11.88	2.66	4.05	1.25	1.56	2.36
250,000 to 1.4 million (B).....	25.85	5.46	9.00	2.65	3.55	5.19
50,000 to 250,000 (C).....	12.50	2.77	4.23	1.32	1.68	2.50
2,500 to 50,000 (D).....	17.03	3.86	5.82	1.75	2.23	3.37

<sup>1</sup> These data indicate the percentage of the U.S. "all items" Consumer Price Index weight represented by each population size class index as of December 1971.

<sup>2</sup> Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

conomic structure, demographic characteristics, and geographic location. The Bureau intends to develop additional data that would permit analysis of price behavior by region in order to supply yet another dimension to its price data.

### Historical patterns

The new indexes for urban areas show that between December 1966 and December 1971, the index of all items and the indexes for all subgroups of goods and services, except apparel and upkeep, tended to increase more (in percentage terms) in the larger urban population classes than in the smallest:

Population class	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel, por- upkeep	Trans- recrea- tion	Health, recrea- tion
3.5 million or more (A-1) .....	26.3	22.5	29.4	23.0	25.4	28.4
1.4 to 3.5 million (A-2) .....	25.2	20.6	28.2	25.4	22.5	27.2
250,000 to 1.4 million (B) .....	24.6	19.9	29.3	24.1	18.7	26.5
50,000 to 250,000 (C) .....	23.4	19.5	27.0	24.2	17.4	26.4
2,500 to 50,000 (D) .....	22.6	19.4	25.8	23.1	17.5	24.2
United States.	24.8	20.7	28.2	23.7	20.8	26.8

The index of all items for the largest urban areas rose 26.3 percent between December 1966 and December 1971, 3.7 percentage points more than the increase for the smallest areas. Differences between these two were similar for the food, housing, and health and recreation subgroups. For the transportation subgroups, however, the difference between them was almost 8 percentage points. For the apparel and upkeep subgroup, the difference between increases in the largest and the smallest population classes was only 0.1 percentage point. The largest increase in apparel prices occurred in the 1.4 to 3.5 million population class. The increase for this class was 2.3 percentage points higher than that for the smallest class, still the smallest difference between size classes for any subgroup.

### Relationship to overall price change

Analyzing changes in indexes over the entire period (December 1966–December 1971) masks some aspects of the behavior of the indexes since significant changes in the overall behavior of prices occurred during the period. At the national level, the rate of increase in prices, measured in terms of December to December percent changes, accelerated from 3.0

percent in December 1967 to 6.1 percent in December 1969. In 1970 the rate of advance slowed to 5.5 percent and in December 1971 it was down to 3.4 percent. Annual percent changes in the all items indexes for each population class followed the same general pattern as those in the U.S. all items index, although there were differences in the magnitude of changes. Prices rose at about the same pace in each size class in 1967. However, when prices began to accelerate in 1968, the rates of increase (all items indexes) from December to December of each year began to diverge.

The acceleration of price increases in 1968 and 1969 was greater in the larger population classes than in the smaller ones, and the deceleration in 1970 and 1971 was slightly less in the larger than in

**Table 2. Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in areas with an urban population of 3.5 million or more (class A-1),<sup>1</sup> 1967–72**  
(1967=100)

Period	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel and upkeep	Transportation	Health and recreation
<b>1967</b>						
March.....	99.0	99.1	99.4	99.0	98.5	98.6
June.....	99.7	99.7	99.8	99.8	99.7	99.4
September.....	100.8	100.7	100.3	101.8	101.0	101.2
December.....	101.6	101.2	101.2	102.4	101.7	102.3
Annual average..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>1968</b>						
March.....	102.8	102.3	102.4	103.5	103.2	103.6
June.....	104.0	103.5	103.5	105.0	103.7	104.8
September.....	105.5	105.0	105.3	108.3	103.3	106.2
December.....	106.6	105.5	106.6	109.4	104.3	107.6
Annual average..	104.3	103.8	103.9	105.4	103.5	105.2
<b>1969</b>						
March.....	108.5	106.7	108.7	110.5	109.0	108.9
June.....	110.0	109.3	109.9	111.1	109.1	110.9
September.....	111.7	111.3	112.4	113.9	108.1	112.4
December.....	113.4	113.7	113.9	114.2	111.1	113.2
Annual average..	110.2	109.5	110.5	111.4	108.7	110.9
<b>1970</b>						
March.....	115.4	115.3	116.7	114.8	113.6	115.1
June.....	117.2	116.4	118.8	115.4	116.1	117.1
September.....	118.9	116.8	120.8	118.6	117.5	119.1
December.....	120.4	116.7	123.4	118.7	121.2	120.5
Annual average..	117.4	116.2	119.0	115.7	117.0	117.3
<b>1971</b>						
March.....	121.5	118.7	123.5	118.4	123.0	122.3
June.....	123.2	121.1	125.4	119.3	124.0	123.9
September.....	124.2	121.1	127.3	121.3	123.4	125.1
December.....	124.8	122.0	128.4	120.9	123.3	125.4
Annual average..	123.0	120.2	125.6	119.0	123.3	123.8
<b>1972</b>						
March.....	126.3	124.4	129.8	121.6	124.1	126.8
June.....	127.1	125.1	131.1	120.4	125.1	128.2

<sup>1</sup> Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

the smaller, as the following tabulation shows:

Urban population class	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
3.5 million and over (A-1)	2.8	4.9	6.4	6.2	3.7
1.4 to 3.5 million (A-2)	2.9	5.1	6.2	5.4	3.4
250,000 to 1.4 million (B)	3.1	4.5	6.5	5.0	3.4
50,000 to 250,000 (C)	3.1	4.6	5.6	4.9	3.2
2,500 to 50,000 (D)	2.9	4.3	5.4	5.3	2.9
United States	3.0	4.7	6.1	5.5	3.4

Analysis of the price indexes by subgroup for each population class (not shown in the tabulation) adds another dimension to the cyclical behavior of prices. Indexes for food followed the same general pattern as the all items indexes, although there were variations in the magnitudes of price

**Table 3. Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in areas with an urban population of 1.4 million to 3.5 million (class A-2),<sup>1</sup> 1967-72**

[1967=100]

Period	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel and upkeep	Transportation	Health and recreation
<b>1967</b>						
March	99.0	98.9	99.2	98.7	98.9	98.8
June	99.7	99.8	99.8	99.8	99.9	99.4
September	100.7	101.0	100.5	100.6	100.6	101.0
December	101.6	100.7	101.3	102.2	101.9	102.4
Annual average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>1968</b>						
March	102.9	102.3	102.5	102.9	102.5	104.3
June	104.3	103.5	104.3	105.7	103.2	105.2
September	105.4	105.0	105.6	106.7	103.4	106.1
December	106.8	105.6	107.3	109.1	105.2	107.9
Annual average	104.4	103.7	104.4	105.5	103.3	105.4
<b>1969</b>						
March	108.4	106.6	108.9	109.8	107.7	109.1
June	110.1	109.4	110.4	111.9	108.6	110.5
September	111.7	111.0	112.9	112.9	108.2	112.1
December	113.4	113.3	114.4	115.6	110.1	113.2
Annual average	110.4	109.4	111.1	112.0	108.2	110.8
<b>1970</b>						
March	114.8	114.5	117.0	114.4	110.0	114.9
June	116.3	115.4	118.0	116.6	113.2	116.7
September	117.8	116.0	120.5	117.1	114.2	118.3
December	119.5	116.1	122.1	120.1	118.4	119.8
Annual average	116.6	115.3	118.8	116.7	113.3	116.9
<b>1971</b>						
March	120.2	117.6	122.1	119.3	118.4	121.5
June	121.7	119.0	123.5	120.8	121.1	122.6
September	122.6	118.6	125.9	121.3	120.1	124.1
December	123.6	120.2	126.9	123.3	120.3	124.3
Annual average	121.7	118.5	124.2	120.9	119.8	122.8
<b>1972</b>						
March	124.2	121.9	127.7	122.2	119.6	125.3
June	125.1	122.4	128.8	122.7	121.1	126.3

<sup>1</sup> Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

changes for each class. For other CPI subgroups the pattern was somewhat different.

The rise in the indexes for housing accelerated in all population groups in 1968 and 1969, and in all except the 250,000 to 1.4 million class in 1970. In the latter class, the peak increase occurred in 1969, followed by a somewhat slower rise in 1970. The rate of price advance in housing for all population classes slowed substantially in 1971.

Price changes for transportation were the only ones which showed a deceleration in 1968. The slow-down occurred in all population classes, but was particularly sharp in the smallest class. The rate of advance became faster in 1969, and continued to accelerate in 1970. The 9-percent increase for the largest population class was considerably larger than

**Table 4. Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in areas with an urban population of 250,000 to 1.4 million (class B),<sup>1</sup> 1967-72**

[1967=100]

Period	All Items	Food	Housing	Apparel and upkeep	Transportation	Health and recreation
<b>1967</b>						
March	98.9	99.1	99.0	98.8	98.7	98.9
June	99.8	100.1	99.7	100.0	99.9	99.6
September	100.7	100.4	100.8	100.5	100.8	100.8
December	101.6	100.8	101.6	102.0	101.7	102.0
Annual average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>1968</b>						
March	102.7	102.4	102.6	102.8	102.2	103.6
June	103.9	103.2	104.1	104.7	103.1	104.5
September	104.8	104.0	105.3	106.1	102.9	105.6
December	106.2	105.0	107.1	108.0	103.4	107.0
Annual average	104.0	103.3	104.3	104.9	102.8	104.8
<b>1969</b>						
March	107.9	106.0	109.3	108.6	106.2	108.3
June	109.8	108.7	111.6	111.4	106.4	109.6
September	111.1	110.5	113.0	112.4	105.6	111.7
December	113.1	112.5	115.2	114.9	107.9	112.9
Annual average	109.9	108.8	111.6	111.3	106.2	110.1
<b>1970</b>						
March	114.5	113.9	118.0	114.4	107.3	114.4
June	116.3	114.6	120.0	115.9	111.0	115.9
September	117.3	115.2	121.6	116.6	110.6	117.5
December	118.7	114.6	123.2	119.2	114.5	118.7
Annual average	116.2	114.4	120.0	116.2	110.3	116.1
<b>1971</b>						
March	119.2	116.0	122.6	118.4	115.4	120.3
June	120.9	118.1	124.1	120.0	116.9	121.6
September	121.6	118.0	125.5	120.4	116.1	123.4
December	122.7	119.5	127.2	122.0	116.3	123.8
Annual average	120.8	117.5	124.5	120.0	116.0	121.9
<b>1972</b>						
March	123.4	121.6	127.9	121.1	115.5	124.9
June	124.5	122.1	128.6	123.0	117.9	125.9

<sup>1</sup> Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

that for the other population classes, reflecting widespread increases in local transit fares. By comparison with the 9-percent rise in the largest population category, transportation prices rose 7.5 percent in areas with 1.4 to 3.5 million population, and about 6 percent in the other three areas. In contrast, in 1971, the increases in the three largest classes were each 1.6 percent, 0.6 percent in groupings with 50,000-250,000 population, and 0.9 percent in groupings with 2,500 to 50,000 population. Repeal of the automobile excise tax in the second half of 1971 contributed to the slowdown that year.

Compared with other CPI subgroups, health and recreation indexes ascended steadily upward in 1967, 1968, and 1969 in all the population strata. In 1970, the rate of advance accelerated sharply, ranging from 6.4 percent in the largest population category to

5.8 percent in the next largest category, and about 5 percent in the three smallest population categories. With the wage-price-rent freeze in effect after August 15, 1971, increases that year slowed to a rate of 3.7 percent in the smallest population category, to 3.8 percent in the 1.4 to 3.5 million class, and from 4.1 percent to 4.3 percent in other classes.

The indexes for apparel and upkeep rose at a more rapid rate in 1968 than in 1967. Subsequently, however, the rate of advance slowed in all classes except the 250,000 to 1.4 million category. In this class, the rise in the index continued to accelerate through 1969, slowed in 1970, and became slightly faster in 1971. In contrast to the indexes for other subgroups, which usually showed larger increases in the largest classes, the increases in the index for apparel and upkeep in the largest classes each year were not the biggest.

**Table 5. Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in areas with urban population of 50,000 to 250,000 (class C),<sup>1</sup> 1967-72**

[1967=100]

Period	All items	Food	Housing	Apparel and upkeep	Transportation	Health and recreation
<b>1967</b>						
March.....	98.7	99.1	98.8	98.3	98.3	98.5
June.....	99.9	100.1	99.9	100.1	100.1	99.5
September.....	100.6	100.3	100.7	100.5	100.7	100.9
December.....	101.8	100.9	101.5	102.5	102.0	102.7
Annual average..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>1968</b>						
March.....	103.0	102.3	102.8	103.1	102.5	104.3
June.....	104.1	103.5	103.8	105.7	102.5	105.7
September.....	105.1	104.0	105.2	107.5	102.7	106.7
December.....	106.5	104.9	107.1	109.7	103.6	107.9
Annual average..	104.3	103.3	104.3	105.9	102.7	105.7
<b>1969</b>						
March.....	107.9	106.1	108.6	109.5	106.5	108.8
June.....	109.6	108.8	110.4	111.3	106.8	110.6
September.....	110.7	110.4	111.8	112.0	106.0	112.1
December.....	112.5	112.1	113.5	114.9	108.6	113.0
Annual average..	109.7	108.8	110.5	111.5	106.6	110.7
<b>1970</b>						
March.....	113.9	113.6	116.1	114.8	108.7	113.8
June.....	115.5	114.2	117.7	116.6	111.6	115.7
September.....	116.5	114.7	119.6	116.0	111.2	117.4
December.....	118.0	113.6	121.4	119.7	114.9	118.6
Annual average..	115.5	113.9	118.0	116.4	111.1	115.9
<b>1971</b>						
March.....	118.5	115.6	121.0	118.7	115.4	119.6
June.....	120.5	117.9	122.9	120.9	117.6	121.3
September.....	120.8	117.8	123.9	120.1	115.8	123.3
December.....	121.8	119.0	125.3	122.1	115.6	123.7
Annual average..	120.1	117.1	123.0	120.3	116.0	121.6
<b>1972</b>						
March.....	122.6	121.4	126.1	120.6	115.3	124.2
June.....	123.8	121.4	127.9	123.6	116.7	125.1

<sup>1</sup> Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

**Table 6. Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in areas with urban population of 2,500 to 50,000 (class D),<sup>1</sup> 1967-72**

[1967=100]

Period	All items	Food	Housing	Apparel and upkeep	Transportation	Health and recreation
<b>1967</b>						
March.....	98.8	99.3	98.9	98.2	98.5	98.8
June.....	99.9	100.0	99.8	99.9	100.0	99.6
September.....	100.7	100.5	100.7	100.3	100.8	100.8
December.....	101.6	100.5	101.5	102.9	101.9	102.1
Annual average..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>1968</b>						
March.....	102.6	102.2	102.5	102.8	102.8	103.2
June.....	103.9	103.3	103.7	105.1	103.7	104.4
September.....	104.8	104.0	105.1	106.2	103.6	105.3
December.....	106.0	104.8	106.8	109.0	102.7	106.7
Annual average..	104.0	103.2	104.1	105.3	103.1	104.5
<b>1969</b>						
March.....	107.3	105.5	108.4	108.8	106.2	107.6
June.....	109.0	108.2	109.9	111.1	106.5	108.9
September.....	110.2	109.7	111.7	111.9	105.2	110.8
December.....	111.7	111.6	113.0	114.3	107.4	111.5
Annual average..	109.1	108.2	110.2	111.1	105.9	109.3
<b>1970</b>						
March.....	113.1	113.1	115.8	114.1	107.0	112.3
June.....	114.9	114.2	117.4	115.8	110.2	114.3
September.....	115.9	114.8	119.2	115.9	109.8	115.7
December.....	117.6	114.4	121.0	118.6	114.0	117.4
Annual average..	114.9	113.9	117.7	115.7	109.7	114.4
<b>1971</b>						
March.....	118.0	115.7	120.9	118.2	114.2	118.6
June.....	119.9	118.1	122.4	120.3	116.7	120.0
September.....	120.1	117.8	123.1	119.1	115.4	121.4
December.....	121.0	119.0	124.2	121.7	115.0	121.7
Annual average..	119.5	117.3	122.4	119.6	115.2	120.1
<b>1972</b>						
March.....	121.9	120.8	125.5	120.6	114.7	122.7
June.....	122.8	121.7	126.3	122.2	116.2	123.3

<sup>1</sup> Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

## Statistical analysis

The foregoing analysis indicates that there are some differences in the rate of price change by urban area classified by population size. The differences, however, are small and do not always show a consistent pattern. Therefore, to determine whether price changes by population size are statistically significant with respect to time and each other, a series of analytical tests were undertaken. The first test, a

### Areas included in each population class (based on 1960 Census of Population)

#### Class A-1: 3.5 million or more

Chicago, Ill.—Northwestern Indiana

Detroit, Mich.

Los Angeles—Long Beach, Calif.

New York, N.Y.—Northeastern New Jersey  
Philadelphia, Pa.

#### Class A-2: 1.4 to 3.5 million

Baltimore, Md.

Boston, Mass.

Cleveland, Ohio

Pittsburgh, Pa.

St. Louis, Mo.

San Francisco—Oakland,  
Calif.

Washington, D.C.

#### Class B: 250,000 to 1.4 million

Atlanta, Ga.

Buffalo, N.Y.

Cincinnati, Ohio

Dallas, Tex.

Dayton, Ohio

Denver, Colo.

Hartford, Conn.

Honolulu, Hawaii

Houston, Tex.

Indianapolis, Ind.

Kansas City, Mo.

Milwaukee, Wis.

Minneapolis—St. Paul,  
Minn.

Nashville, Tenn.

San Diego, Calif.

Seattle, Wash.

Wichita, Kansas

#### Class C: 50,000 to 250,000

Austin, Tex.

Bakersfield, Calif.

Baton Rouge, La.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Champaign—Urbana, Ill.

Durham, N.C.

Green Bay, Wis.

Lancaster, Pa.

Orlando, Fla.

Portland, Me.

#### Class D: 2,500 to 50,000

Anchorage, Alas.

Crookston, Minn.

Devil's Lake, N. Dak.

Findlay, Ohio

Florence, Ala.

Kingston, N.Y.

Klamath Falls, Oreg.

Logansport, Ind.

McAllen, Tex.

Mangum, Okla.

Martinsville, Va.

Millville, N.J.

Niles, Mich.

Orem, Utah

Southbridge, Mass.

Union, S.C.

Vicksburg, Miss.

regression analysis, was done by taking the natural log of the quarterly "all items" indexes for the five population classes and the United States as functions of time, for example,  $\text{Log CPI} = a + b(\text{time})$ . The coefficient (b) of the independent variable (time) is the average quarterly rate of change in the index between December 1966 and December 1971. When multiplied by 100, this change gives the average quarterly percentage change in the index over this period.

The results of these regressions, shown in table 7, indicate a great deal of similarity in the average quarterly percentage changes with the range going from a low of 1.13 percent in the smallest population class to a high of 1.33 percent in the largest class. The results also show that during this period the trend of upward price movement was greater the larger the population group. The coefficient on the time variable for each group compares with an average quarterly percent change of 1.25 for the U.S. "all items" CPI over the same period. In each case the coefficient revealed by the regression was found to be highly significant.

To test whether the quarterly rates of change found in the preceding analysis are significantly different from one another, another log equation was employed. The second method was to take the log of the ratio of the two indexes which were to be compared as a function of time:

$$\text{Log} (\text{CPI}_{A1}/\text{CPI}_{A2}) = \alpha + \beta (\text{time})$$

This is the same as subtracting the log equations in the preceding analysis:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Log} (\text{CPI}_{A1}/\text{CPI}_{A2}) &= \text{Log} \text{CPI}_{A1} - \text{Log} \text{CPI}_{A2} \\ &= a + b \text{ time} - (a' + b' \text{ time}) \\ &= (a - a') + (b - b') \text{ time} \\ &= \alpha + \beta \text{ time.} \end{aligned}$$

If the difference between the two regression co-

**Table 7. Results of regression analysis<sup>1</sup> testing statistical significance of findings**

Dependent Variable <sup>2</sup>	b Coefficient	Standard error	t Value	Coefficient of determination (R <sup>2</sup> )
Log (A1-CPI).....	0.013305	0.000233	59.18	0.995
Log (A2-CPI).....	0.012555	0.000191	65.86	0.996
Log (B-CPI).....	0.012193	0.000236	51.77	0.993
Log (C-CPI).....	0.011690	0.000177	66.22	0.996
Log (D-CPI).....	0.011375	0.000184	61.91	0.995
Log (U.S.-CPI)....	0.012460	0.000201	62.12	0.995

<sup>1</sup> Regression equation:  $\text{Log} (\text{CPI}) = a + b(\text{time})$ .

<sup>2</sup> "A1" refers to urban areas with population of 3.5 million or more; "A2", 1.4 to 3.5 million; "B", 250,000 to 1.4 million; "C", 50,000 to 250,000; and "D", 2,500 to 50,000.

efficients or rate of change in prices of the original equations is not significant it will be indicated by the resulting "t" test of the coefficient  $\beta = (b - b')$ .

**Table 8. Results of regression analysis<sup>1</sup> testing significance of findings**

Dependent variable <sup>2</sup>	b Coefficient	Standard error	t Value	Coefficient of determination (R <sup>2</sup> )
Log (A1-CPI/A2-CPI).....	0.000749	0.000109	6.84	0.722
Log (A1-CPI/B-CPI).....	0.001111	0.000122	9.12	0.822
Log (A1-CPI/C-CPI).....	0.001615	0.000144	11.20	0.874
Log (A1-CPI/D-CPI).....	0.001929	0.000105	18.45	0.950
Log (A2-CPI/B-CPI).....	0.000362	0.000078	4.62	0.543
Log (A2-CPI/C-CPI).....	0.000866	0.000079	11.02	0.871
Log (A2-CPI/D-CPI).....	0.001180	0.000077	15.27	0.928
Log (B-CPI/C-CPI).....	0.000504	0.000090	5.58	0.633
Log (B-CPI/D-CPI).....	0.000818	0.000097	8.48	0.800
Log (C-CPI/D-CPI).....	0.000314	0.000064	4.92	0.574

<sup>1</sup> Regression equation:  $\text{Log}(CPI_1/CPI_2) = \alpha + \beta(\text{time})$ .  
<sup>2</sup> See footnote 2, table 7.

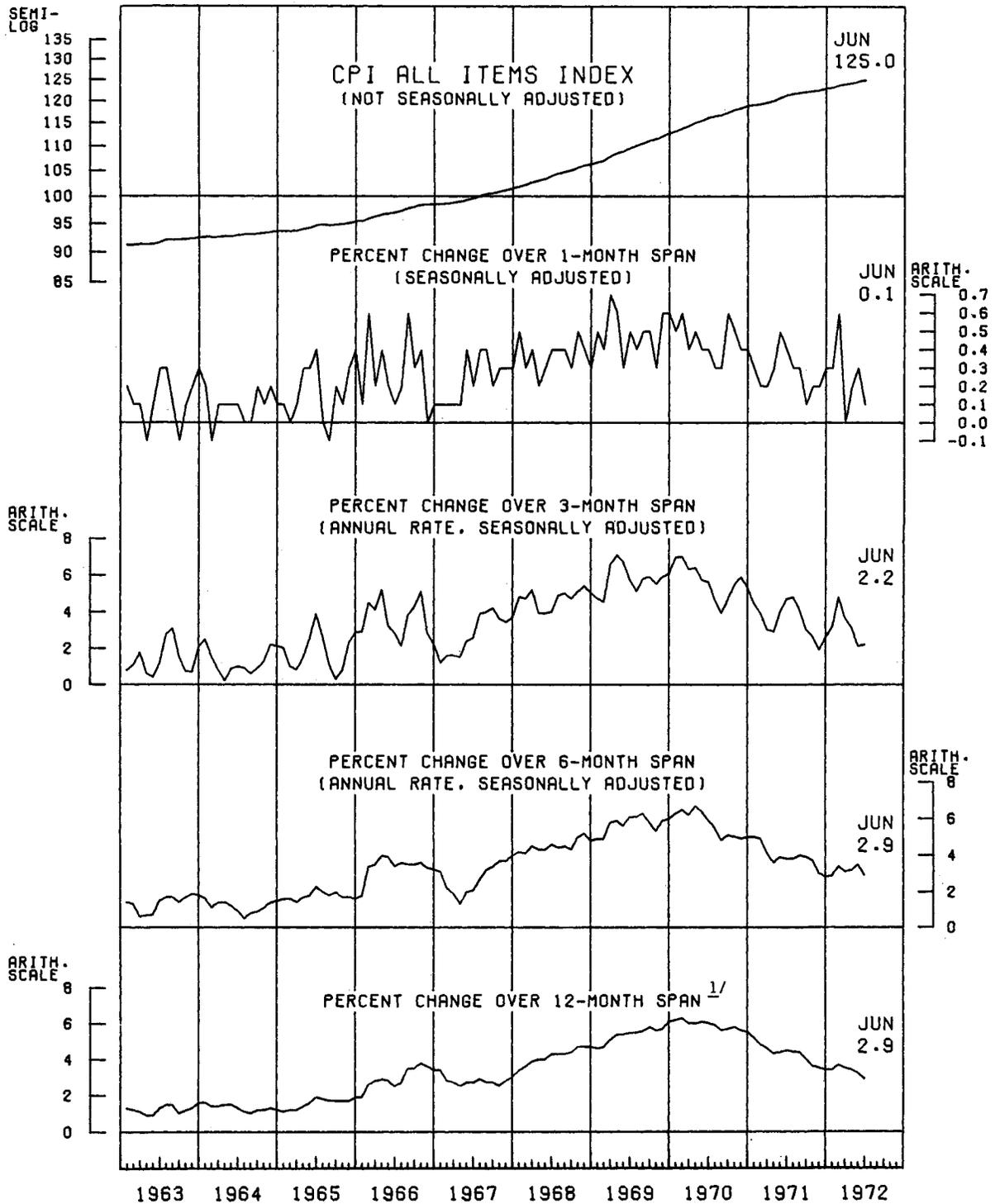
The results of applying the test to all the possible combinations of the new all items indexes are given in table 8<sup>1</sup>. These indicate that the average quarterly percentage change in price for any one population class is significantly different from that of any other population class even at the 1-percent level of significance (at which the "t" test value with 18 degrees of freedom is 2.88). The "t" values along with the coefficients also indicate that the extent to which the quarterly price movements differ from one another increases as the difference in the size of the population classes increases. These results support the earlier regression results which indicated a faster pace of price movement the larger the urban areas. □

———— FOOTNOTE ————

<sup>1</sup> In testing any two indexes, it does not matter which way the ratio is tested ( $\text{Log}(A_1/A_2)$  or  $\text{Log}(A_2/A_1)$ ) since this only affects the sign of the coefficient and not the significance test. The test used is a two-tailed "t" test.

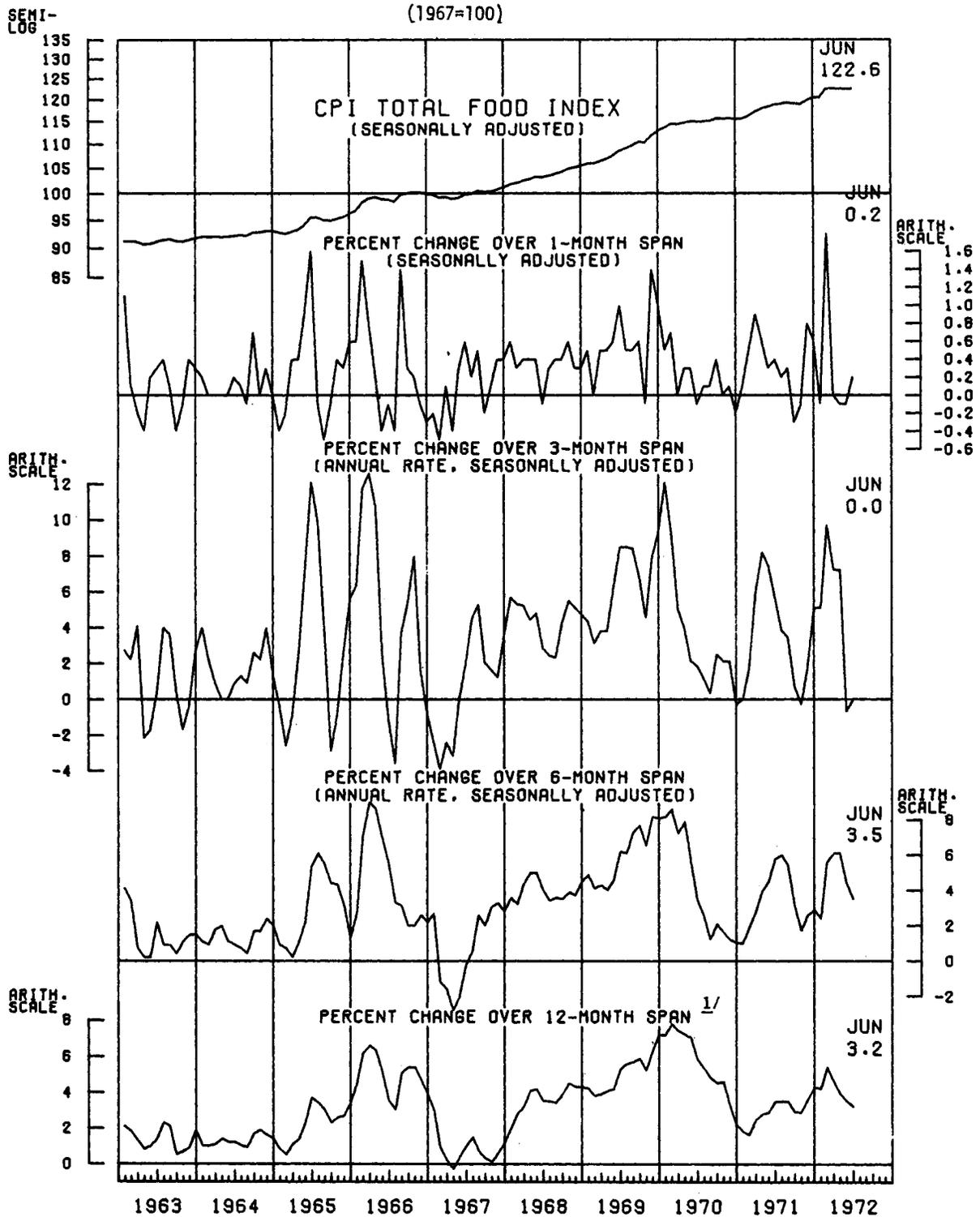
CHART 1. ALL ITEMS INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE, 1963-72

(1967=100)



<sup>1/</sup> Computed from the unadjusted series.  
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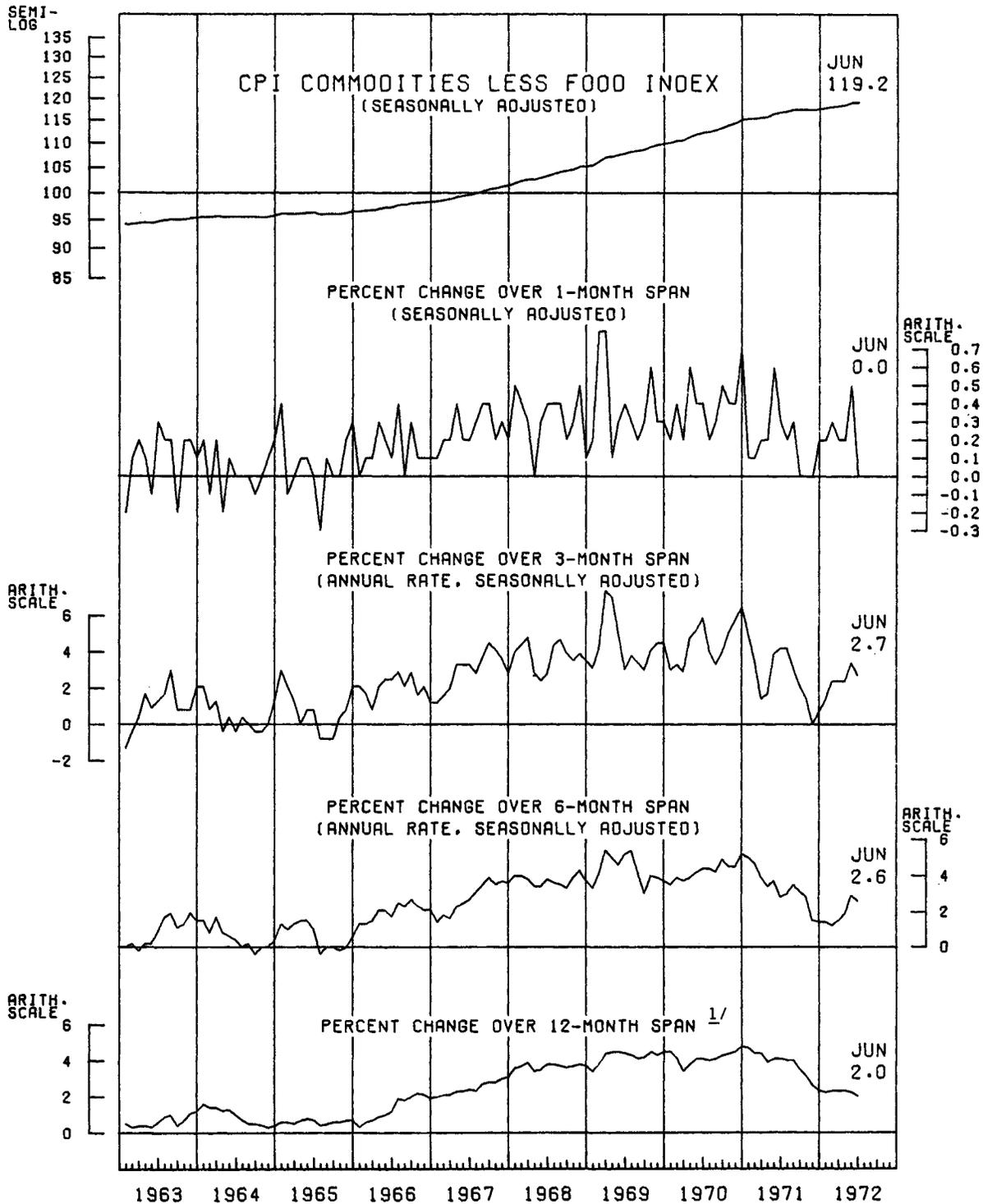
CHART 2. TOTAL FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE, 1963-72



1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.  
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CHART 3. COMMODITIES LESS FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE, 1963-72

(1967=100)

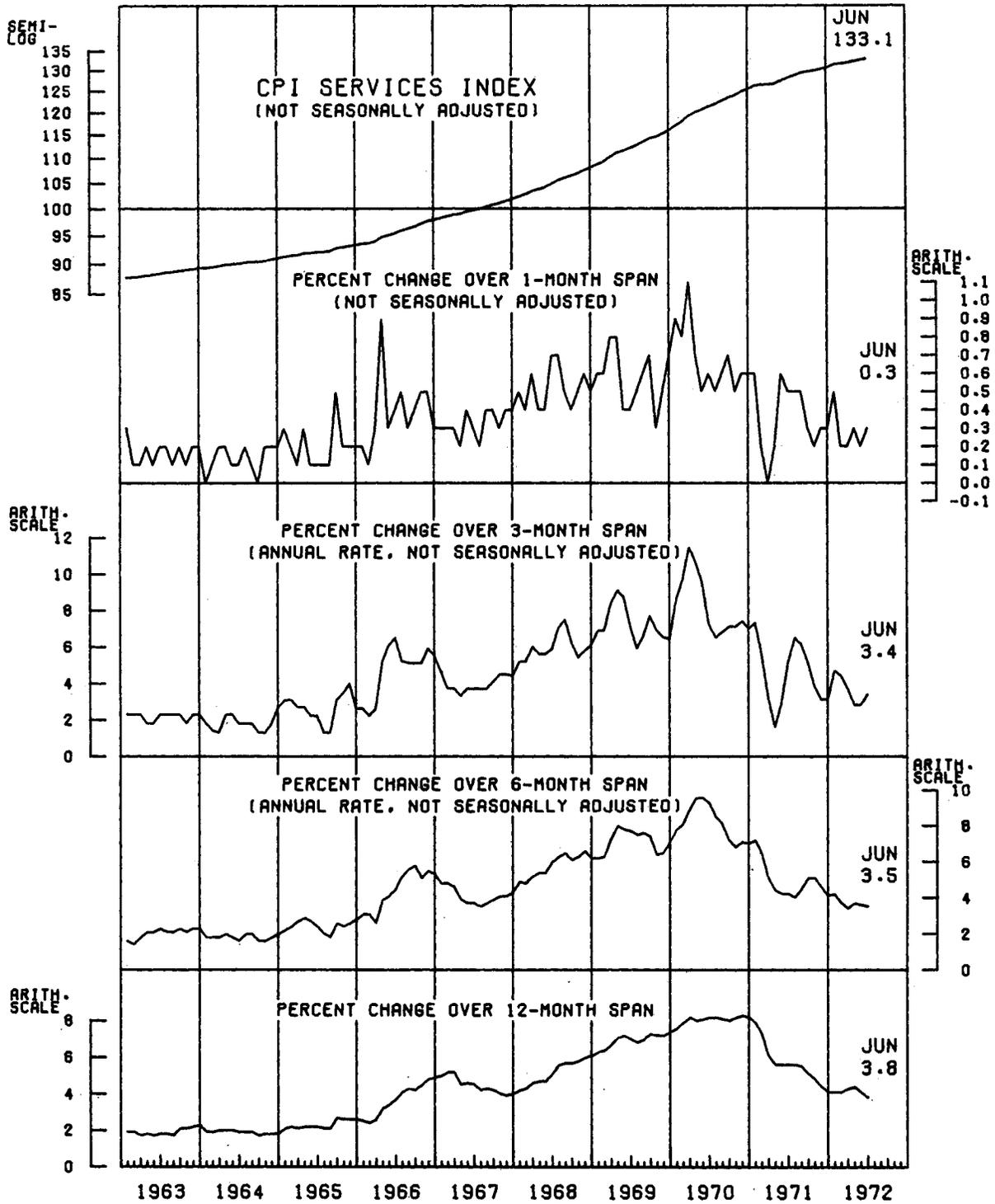


<sup>1/</sup> Computed from the unadjusted series.

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CHART 4. SERVICES INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE, 1963-72

(1967=100)



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

Groups	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to		Seasonally adjusted percent change from		
	December 1971	1967=100 unless otherwise noted	June 1972	May 1972	from--	from--	previous month	from--
	1971	June 1972	May 1972	May 1972	June 1971	May-June	April-May	March-April
Commodity and service groups								
All items -----	100.00	125.0	124.7	0.2	2.9	0.1	0.3	0.2
All items (1957-59=100)-----	-	145.4	145.0	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities-----	62.59	120.7	120.3	.3	2.4	.2	.3	0
Food-----	22.19	123.0	122.3	.6	3.2	.2	-.1	-.1
Food at home-----	17.23	120.9	120.2	.6	3.0	.2	-.2	-.2
Cereals and bakery products-----	2.28	114.5	114.7	-.2	.3	-.2	-.1	.1
Meats, poultry, and fish-----	5.64	126.4	124.8	1.3	7.7	.7	-.7	-.6
Dairy products-----	2.72	117.0	117.3	-.3	1.1	-.4	-.4	.3
Fruits and vegetables-----	3.03	127.2	123.9	2.7	1.7	1.6	.2	-.7
Other foods at home-----	3.56	114.5	116.0	-1.3	-.2	-.8	1.4	-.5
Food away from home-----	4.96	130.9	130.4	.4	4.0	.4	.3	.3
Commodities less food-----	40.40	119.4	119.2	.2	2.0	0	.5	.2
Nondurables less food-----	23.63	119.5	119.7	-.2	2.2	-.2	.4	.1
Apparel commodities 1/-----	9.03	122.4	122.9	-.4	1.7	-.2	.2	.2
Men's and boys'-----	2.82	121.9	122.4	-.4	.4	-.3	.2	.8
Women's and girls'-----	4.02	122.6	123.4	-.6	2.3	-.3	0	-.1
Footwear-----	1.57	124.7	124.6	.1	2.5	.3	.2	.4
Nondurables less food and apparel-----	14.60	117.9	117.9	0	2.6	-.2	.5	.1
Gasoline and motor oil-----	2.92	106.8	107.4	-.6	.8	-.8	1.5	-.7
Tobacco products-----	2.09	134.0	133.2	.6	6.9	.6*	.4*	.2*
Alcoholic beverages-----	2.50	119.1	119.5	-.3	2.1	-.3*	.2*	.3*
Fuel oil and coal-----	.67	117.8	118.7	-.8	.3	-.5	.3	.3
Other nondurables-----	6.42	118.0	117.8	.2	2.4	.2	.3	.3
Durables commodities-----	16.77	119.2	118.4	.7	1.5	.3	.3	.1
Household durables-----	4.83	115.1	114.8	.3	1.8	.3	.3	.2
New cars-----	2.12	111.3	111.4	-.1	-2.3	.5	-.1	.5
Used cars-----	1.98	113.4	110.0	3.1	-.6	3.1*	3.4*	2.4*
Other durables-----	7.84	126.2	125.5	.6	3.2	.4	.3	.3
Services-----	37.41	133.1	132.7	.3	3.8	.3*	.2*	.3*
Rent-----	5.05	118.8	118.3	.4	3.1	.4*	.2*	.3*
Services less rent-----	32.36	135.7	135.3	.3	3.9	.3*	.2*	.2*
Household services less rent-----	15.36	138.9	138.5	.3	5.5	.4	.6	.1
Transportation services-----	5.57	136.0	135.8	-.1	1.4	.1	.4	.1
Medical care services-----	5.55	138.0	137.6	.3	3.4	.4	.2	.3
Other services-----	5.88	125.6	125.3	.2	2.5	.1	.1	.2
Special indexes:								
All items less food-----	77.81	125.7	125.4	.2	2.9	.2	.4	.2
Nondurable commodities-----	45.82	121.2	121.0	.2	2.6	0	.2	0
Apparel commodities less footwear-----	7.46	122.0	122.6	-.5	1.6	-.2	.1	.2
Services less medical care services-----	31.86	132.4	132.0	.3	3.9	.3*	.2*	.3*
Insurance and finance-----	9.85	143.5	143.0	.3	4.2	.6	.6	-.1
Utilities and public transportation-----	5.51	125.8	125.7	.1	4.8	.2	.5	.2
Housekeeping and home maintenance service-----	4.46	144.2	143.5	.5	4.8	.3	.3	.5
Expenditure classes								
All items-----	100.00	125.0	124.7	0.2	2.9	0.1	0.3	0.2
Food-----	22.19	123.0	122.3	.6	3.2	.2	-.1	-.1
Housing-----	33.84	129.0	128.5	.4	4.0	.4*	.2*	.2*
Shelter 2/-----	21.72	134.1	133.4	.5	4.5	.4	.5	.3
Rent-----	5.05	118.8	118.3	.4	3.1	.4*	.2*	.3*
Homeownership 3/-----	16.25	139.6	138.9	.5	5.0	.5	.4	.3
Fuel and utilities 4/-----	4.71	120.1	120.1	0	4.8	.3	.3	.3
Gas and electricity-----	2.43	120.3	120.5	-.2	5.0	.2	.3	.2
Household furnishings and operation-----	7.41	121.0	120.8	.2	1.9	.2	.1	.3
Apparel and upkeep-----	10.45	122.1	122.5	-.3	1.7	-.2	.2	.3
Transportation-----	13.27	120.0	119.5	.4	.3	.2	.5	.1
Private-----	11.80	117.6	117.1	.4	0	.2	.6	0
Public-----	1.47	143.0	142.7	.2	2.9	-.4	.4	.6
Health and recreation-----	19.87	126.1	125.8	.2	3.3	.2*	.2*	.4*
Medical care-----	6.46	132.4	132.0	.3	3.0	.5	.2	.2
Personal care-----	2.58	120.0	119.7	.3	2.7	.3	.5	.3
Reading and recreation-----	5.71	122.9	122.5	.3	3.0	.3	.1	.3
Other goods and services-----	5.12	125.6	125.4	.2	4.4	0	.4	.6
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter-----	78.28	122.7	122.4	.2	2.4	.2	.2	.1
All items less medical care-----	93.54	124.6	124.3	.2	2.9	.2	.2	.2
All items less mortgage interest costs-----	96.25	124.2	123.8	.3	2.9	.2	.2	.2
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967-\$1.00-----	-	\$0.800	\$0.802	-.2	-2.8	-	-	-
1957-59-\$1.00-----	-	.688	.690					

1/ Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, and jewelry not shown separately.  
 2/ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.  
 3/ Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.  
 4/ Also includes residential telephone, fuel oil, coal, water and sewerage service not shown separately.  
 \* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

Area <u>1/</u>	Pricing schedule <u>2/</u>	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases			
		June 1972			May 1972	March 1972	June 1971
U.S. City Average -----	M	125.0	145.4		0.2	0.8	2.9
Chicago -----	M	124.2	141.1		.4	.8	2.7
Detroit -----	M	126.0	144.7		.4	.8	3.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	121.7	143.2		.2	.4	2.5
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. ---	M	130.9	155.8		.3	.7	3.8
Philadelphia -----	M	126.5	147.8		.3	.6	1.9
		April 1972				January 1972	April 1971
Boston -----	1	126.2	151.2			1.0	3.7
Houston -----	1	124.8	142.8			1.3	4.4
Minneapolis-St. Paul ----	1	124.2	144.0			.3	3.2
Pittsburgh -----	1	124.7	143.4			1.2	3.1
		May 1972				February 1972	May 1971
Buffalo -----	2	126.1		<u>3/</u> 138.5		1.0	3.9
Cleveland -----	2	126.1	142.3			.2	3.4
Dallas -----	2	124.6		<u>3/</u> 134.7		.7	3.5
Milwaukee -----	2	122.8	138.6			.5	3.1
San Diego -----	2	123.8		<u>4/</u> 130.1		1.2	3.6
Seattle -----	2	118.8	139.6			.2	2.9
Washington -----	2	125.6	146.3			.7	2.8
		June 1972				March 1972	June 1971
Atlanta -----	3	124.8	143.5			.8	2.0
Baltimore -----	3	125.5	145.7			.5	1.6
Cincinnati -----	3	124.6	141.4			1.3	3.2
Honolulu -----	3	122.2		<u>5/</u> 131.7		.2	3.1
Kansas City -----	3	123.9	147.1			1.2	2.7
St. Louis -----	3	121.9	142.4			.9	1.7
San Francisco-Oakland ----	3	124.3	147.9			1.1	3.7

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

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

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

3/ November 1963=100.

4/ February 1965=100.

5/ December 1963=100.

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

Table 3. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas 1/ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from May 1972 to June 1972

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.3
Food -----	.6	1.3	1.1	.8	.6	.0
Housing -----	.4	.3	.2	.6	.6	.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	-.3	-.1	-.6	-.2	-1.7	-.1
Transportation -----	.4	-.3	1.1	-1.3	.2	.2
Health and recreation -----	.2	.1	.0	.3	.6	.4
Medical care -----	.3	-.1	.4	.4	.7	.1
Personal care -----	.3	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	.3	-.1	-.2	.1	1.1	.4
Other goods and services -----	.2	.2	-.2	.7	.2	.9

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

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

(1967=100)

Group	Indexes			Percent changes to June 1972 from:	
	June 1972	May 1972	March 1972	1 month ago	3 months ago
Food -----	122.6	122.4	122.6	0.2	.0
Food at home -----	120.4	120.2	120.8	.2	-.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.6	114.8	114.8	-.2	-.2
Meats, poultry and fish -----	126.0	125.1	126.8	.7	-.6
Dairy products -----	116.9	117.4	117.5	-.4	-.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	122.7	120.8	121.4	1.6	1.1
Other food at home -----	116.8	117.8	116.8	-.8	.0
Fuel and utilities <u>1/</u> -----	120.3	120.0	119.4	.3	.8
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.3	118.9	118.2	-.5	.1
Apparel and upkeep <u>2/</u> -----	121.9	122.1	121.5	-.2	.3
Men's and boys' -----	121.5	121.9	120.7	-.3	.7
Women's and girls' -----	122.6	123.0	123.1	-.3	-.4
Footwear -----	124.6	124.2	123.5	.3	.9
Transportation -----	119.5	119.3	118.6	.2	.8
Private -----	116.9	116.7	116.0	.2	.8
Automobiles, new -----	112.1	111.5	111.1	.5	.9
Commodities -----	120.5	120.3	119.9	.2	.5
Commodities less food -----	119.2	119.2	118.4	.0	.7
Nondurables -----	121.0	121.0	120.8	.0	.2
Nondurables less food -----	119.5	119.7	119.1	-.2	.3
Apparel commodities -----	122.3	122.5	122.0	-.2	.2
Durables -----	118.7	118.3	117.8	.3	.8

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

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

Group	U.S. city average	Atlanta	Baltimore	Chicago	Cincinnati	Detroit	Honolulu
Indexes (1967=100)							
All items -----	125.0	124.8	125.5	124.2	124.6	126.0	122.2
Food -----	123.0	123.6	123.2	123.9	124.4	122.4	121.3
Food at home -----	120.9	121.1	120.9	122.6	123.4	121.0	118.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.5	118.2	111.9	114.1	117.0	114.5	105.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	126.4	123.7	124.7	129.1	124.9	129.6	123.2
Dairy products -----	117.0	119.0	118.6	116.1	120.0	113.3	117.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.2	132.0	127.7	130.4	134.0	124.4	122.1
Other foods at home -----	114.5	114.4	117.0	115.8	117.5	112.2	115.8
Food away from home -----	130.9	131.4	132.3	128.7	128.2	128.7	130.5
Housing -----	129.0	131.2	130.7	124.3	124.3	133.3	124.0
Shelter -----	134.1	135.9	138.1	128.5	128.8	142.9	129.2
Rent -----	118.8	117.0	112.4	(2/)	109.5	120.1	127.5
Homeownership -----	139.6	141.6	148.8	135.6	137.7	147.5	130.2
Fuel and utilities -----	120.1	125.4	117.0	115.3	121.1	116.1	109.8
Fuel oil and coal -----	117.8	-	114.9	113.4	-	113.9	-
Gas and electricity -----	120.3	124.1	117.2	115.7	117.5	117.3	104.3
Household furnishings and operation -----	121.0	124.0	122.9	117.2	114.4	115.1	115.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	122.1	116.8	122.4	119.1	121.7	117.4	120.3
Men's and boys' -----	121.9	121.0	127.4	117.1	122.2	116.9	113.9
Women's and girls' -----	122.6	111.5	115.5	121.3	118.2	114.0	123.8
Footwear -----	124.7	116.6	130.2	117.7	130.6	125.1	115.7
Transportation -----	120.0	113.1	116.1	123.7	124.2	116.8	123.4
Private -----	117.6	115.8	115.3	117.9	119.1	114.3	125.3
Public -----	143.0	78.8	121.1	160.4	163.5	147.5	112.8
Health and recreation -----	126.1	128.4	127.9	127.5	127.1	128.2	121.1
Medical care -----	132.4	140.2	142.1	131.1	136.7	141.1	126.8
Personal care -----	120.0	123.7	121.5	120.7	125.4	(2/)	120.8
Reading and recreation -----	122.9	123.4	125.3	124.1	119.2	124.0	121.9
Other goods and services -----	125.6	119.4	120.3	130.9	125.7	121.1	113.9
Percent changes from March 1972 to June 1972							
All items -----	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.8	1.3	0.8	-0.2
Food -----	.5	.8	-.6	1.0	.6	.3	-1.5
Food at home -----	.2	.6	-1.1	.9	.6	.0	-2.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	-.3	1.8	-4.7	-2.5	.8	-1.0	.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-.3	.4	-1.3	.7	-.9	-.4	-.8
Dairy products -----	-.3	1.1	-1.2	-.8	-.8	-3.3	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	4.8	3.3	2.8	7.1	6.2	9.1	-8.9
Other foods at home -----	-1.9	-2.0	-1.4	-.1	-1.7	-4.0	-2.1
Food away from home -----	1.2	1.2	1.7	1.1	.9	1.5	.9
Housing -----	.9	1.2	1.6	.6	1.1	1.1	.2
Shelter -----	1.1	1.3	2.4	.9	1.4	.9	.2
Rent -----	.9	.7	.6	(2/)	.4	3/ .5	.8
Homeownership -----	1.0	1.5	3.0	1.0	1.8	.9	-.1
Fuel and utilities -----	.4	1.1	.0	-.3	.0	2.7	.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	-.8	-	.0	.0	.0	.0	-
Gas and electricity -----	.5	1.6	.2	-.6	-.1	2.3	-.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	.7	.6	.7	.3	1.0	1.1	.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	.7	-.2	-1.5	-.4	.2	.4	-.1
Men's and boys' -----	1.3	-.3	-1.3	.1	-1.1	1.7	.3
Women's and girls' -----	.1	.0	-3.3	-1.9	1.6	-1.3	-.9
Footwear -----	1.0	-.7	1.6	1.3	.2	2.3	1.0
Transportation -----	1.4	.7	.6	1.6	4.2	1.0	.5
Private -----	1.5	.8	.8	2.1	4.8	1.2	.6
Public -----	.5	1.4	-.4	-.6	.7	-1.0	.0
Health and recreation -----	.9	.9	.9	1.2	.8	.4	.3
Medical care -----	.8	1.6	1.4	.6	.3	.6	.2
Personal care -----	1.1	.3	2.1	2.3	1.2	(2/)	.3
Reading and recreation -----	1.0	.7	.5	1.8	.5	.9	.5
Other goods and services -----	.8	.4	.3	.7	1.4	-.2	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas <sup>1/</sup> for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, June 1972, and percent changes from March 1972--Continued

Group	Kansas City	Los Angeles- Long Beach	New York- Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia	St. Louis	San Francisco- Oakland
All items -----	123.9	121.7	130.9	126.5	121.9	124.3
Food -----	123.2	120.0	128.1	123.0	122.0	121.2
Food at home -----	121.1	119.0	124.6	119.8	119.9	119.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	117.0	111.5	116.9	114.9	120.0	112.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	125.6	127.4	129.9	125.5	121.1	126.4
Dairy products -----	126.4	114.8	120.2	118.6	119.5	115.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	120.5	121.7	133.1	123.3	129.7	123.2
Other foods at home -----	114.5	112.9	115.8	111.0	110.1	114.2
Food away from home -----	129.6	122.6	138.9	136.3	132.0	126.1
Housing -----	126.0	126.8	135.8	130.2	121.8	131.5
Shelter -----	131.9	129.4	141.7	139.3	124.0	135.9
Rent -----	110.5	(2/)	125.6	(2/)	108.3	129.2
Homeownership -----	140.2	132.8	153.8	143.4	128.4	139.3
Fuel and utilities -----	115.4	127.0	124.8	117.1	116.8	127.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	-	120.4	111.9	119.4	-
Gas and electricity -----	116.3	130.1	123.6	122.4	120.0	118.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	117.2	117.5	126.8	121.7	120.2	119.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	126.5	120.0	121.5	120.0	119.5	119.7
Men's and boys' -----	125.9	116.8	121.7	122.1	115.5	118.9
Women's and girls' -----	127.9	123.9	119.8	115.0	120.8	120.3
Footwear -----	130.4	122.7	123.8	127.1	127.5	121.4
Transportation -----	119.6	115.4	132.9	125.5	120.6	120.1
Private -----	118.4	115.3	125.1	122.6	118.3	119.3
Public -----	140.0	116.7	162.8	142.3	144.9	133.6
Health and recreation -----	124.7	120.1	131.3	129.7	123.7	120.8
Medical care -----	128.9	128.3	140.3	140.9	126.0	126.8
Personal care -----	121.7	114.4	(2/)	(2/)	123.4	115.6
Reading and recreation -----	117.5	113.6	127.5	126.0	118.4	117.4
Other goods and services -----	130.1	119.2	131.5	126.2	126.3	118.7
Percent changes from March 1972 to June 1972						
All items -----	1.2	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.9	1.1
Food -----	.3	1.0	.5	-1.0	-1.0	1.2
Food at home -----	.1	1.2	.0	-1.7	1.3	1.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	.4	.2	.3	-.9	.7	.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-1.3	1.2	-.5	-.5	-.7	.6
Dairy products -----	-.2	.3	-.3	-1.6	.8	.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.6	5.0	4.2	-.4	8.5	6.3
Other foods at home -----	-1.5	-.8	-2.7	-5.8	-1.2	-1.9
Food away from home -----	.8	.7	2.0	1.0	.1	1.9
Housing -----	1.1	.5	1.3	1.5	.7	1.8
Shelter -----	1.8	.3	1.5	2.4	1.1	2.0
Rent -----	.3	(2/)	3/ 1.0	(2/)	.2	.9
Homeownership -----	2.2	.3	1.3	2.8	1.4	2.6
Fuel and utilities -----	-.3	1.7	1.4	.3	-.7	.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	-	.0	.0	-.3	-
Gas and electricity -----	-.4	2.0	3.3	.9	-1.2	.0
Household furnishings and operation -----	-.1	.3	.5	.1	.2	1.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	.2	.0	-1.9	.1	-.6	-.4
Men's and boys' -----	.6	.0	.7	.2	-.9	-2.3
Women's and girls' -----	-1.1	-.2	-5.4	-.9	-1.8	-.2
Footwear -----	1.2	.6	.6	1.4	1.8	.0
Transportation -----	3.5	-.4	.8	1.3	3.2	1.2
Private -----	3.7	-.5	.9	1.6	3.4	1.3
Public -----	2.2	1.2	.2	-.1	.4	-.7
Health and recreation -----	.6	.4	1.5	.9	.7	.6
Medical care -----	.9	.9	1.1	.4	.7	.8
Personal care -----	.6	-1.0	(2/)	(2/)	.7	.4
Reading and recreation -----	.0	.4	1.6	.6	1.7	.9
Other goods and services -----	.8	.8	1.9	1.6	-.5	.1

<sup>1/</sup> See footnote 1, table 2.

<sup>2/</sup> Not available.

<sup>3/</sup> Change from April 1972.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, June 1972, and percent changes from May 1972

Area <sup>1/</sup>	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 -----	123.0	120.9	114.5	126.4	117.0	127.2	114.5	130.9
Atlanta -----	123.6	121.1	118.2	123.7	119.0	132.0	114.4	131.4
Baltimore -----	123.2	120.9	111.9	124.7	118.6	127.7	117.0	132.3
Boston -----	122.9	121.4	113.1	129.6	116.1	125.7	113.9	128.3
Buffalo -----	123.2	122.0	115.0	125.9	116.9	133.2	114.9	130.2
Chicago -----	123.9	122.6	114.1	129.1	116.1	130.4	115.8	128.7
Cincinnati -----	124.4	123.4	117.0	124.9	120.0	134.0	117.5	128.2
Cleveland -----	122.9	122.1	112.3	125.7	122.5	129.5	116.5	127.1
Dallas -----	122.1	118.8	113.4	124.8	111.7	124.7	113.6	134.0
Detroit -----	122.4	121.0	114.5	129.6	113.3	124.4	112.2	128.7
Honolulu -----	121.3	118.1	105.9	123.2	117.9	122.1	115.8	130.5
Houston -----	123.6	119.6	110.8	124.8	118.3	125.4	114.3	137.6
Kansas City -----	123.2	121.1	117.0	125.6	126.4	120.5	114.5	129.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	120.0	119.0	111.5	127.4	114.8	121.7	112.9	122.6
Milwaukee -----	120.1	118.5	114.3	125.1	113.6	124.6	110.8	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	124.1	122.0	121.3	128.9	117.3	123.0	116.9	133.6
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J.---	128.1	124.6	116.9	129.9	120.2	133.1	115.8	138.9
Philadelphia -----	123.0	119.8	114.9	125.5	118.6	123.3	111.0	136.3
Pittsburgh -----	121.5	119.5	112.5	122.6	116.3	129.2	113.8	133.9
St. Louis -----	122.0	119.9	120.0	121.1	119.5	129.7	110.1	132.0
San Diego -----	123.4	120.7	114.2	132.4	114.6	122.9	109.9	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland. --	121.2	119.9	112.7	126.4	115.4	123.2	114.2	126.1
Seattle -----	120.4	118.4	110.2	126.3	116.1	118.1	114.1	126.9
Washington -----	124.8	120.9	118.3	121.7	111.8	132.9	118.6	134.7
Percent changes May 1972 to June 1972								
U.S. city average -----	0.6	0.6	-0.2	1.3	-0.3	2.7	-1.3	0.4
Atlanta -----	.3	.3	.8	1.2	.0	1.7	-2.1	.2
Baltimore -----	.4	.5	-1.4	1.5	-.6	1.8	-.3	.3
Boston -----	.1	.1	-2.2	1.3	-.7	2.4	-2.2	.2
Buffalo -----	.6	.7	-1.8	1.3	.0	3.3	-.7	.1
Chicago -----	1.3	1.7	-2.1	2.5	.4	6.9	-.5	-.2
Cincinnati -----	.7	1.0	2.2	.9	-.2	3.1	-.8	.1
Cleveland -----	1.1	1.2	1.7	1.1	-1.0	5.0	-.5	.2
Dallas -----	.4	.4	.3	2.1	-.5	.6	-1.2	.1
Detroit -----	1.1	1.3	.6	2.4	-2.7	5.5	-1.1	.0
Honolulu -----	-.8	-1.3	.2	-.1	.1	-5.9	-1.2	.8
Houston -----	.3	.4	-.8	1.3	.2	.9	-.8	.2
Kansas City -----	1.0	1.2	.4	2.7	.2	2.5	-.5	.4
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	.8	1.1	-.3	2.1	.3	3.3	-.8	.1
Milwaukee -----	.6	.8	-1.5	.9	-1.0	5.9	-.5	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.6	.8	-.1	1.7	.9	2.0	-1.0	.1
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J.---	.6	.5	-.2	.9	-.3	3.0	-1.8	.9
Philadelphia -----	.0	-.1	1.1	.7	.3	.3	-2.5	.1
Pittsburgh -----	.0	.0	-3.4	2.0	-2.4	3.2	-2.0	.2
St. Louis -----	.5	.6	-.6	.6	-.2	3.8	-1.2	.0
San Diego -----	.9	1.2	1.2	2.0	-.1	4.6	-2.0	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	1.0	1.1	.1	2.8	-.3	2.8	-2.0	1.0
Seattle -----	.9	.9	.1	2.2	.4	1.8	-.8	1.0
Washington -----	1.5	2.1	2.0	4.7	-.9	3.6	-.8	.3

<sup>1/</sup> See footnote 1, table 2.

<sup>2/</sup> Not available.

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

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change to June 1972 from--		June 1971 unadjusted
	June 1972		May 1972		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Total food -----	123.0	122.6	0.6	0.2	3.2
Food away from home -----	130.9	131.0	.4	.4	4.0
Restaurant meals -----	130.9	131.0	.4	.4	4.1
Snacks -----	131.0	131.3	.2	.5	3.0
Food at home -----	120.9	120.4	.6	.2	3.0
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.5	114.6	-.2	-.2	.3
Flour -----	99.4	99.1	-.8	-.8	-2.3
Cracker meal -----	135.9	135.6	.3	.4	4.1
Corn flakes -----	100.3	100.5	-.7	-.7	-8.9
Rice -----	109.3	109.2	-.4	-.4	-.1
Bread, white -----	113.0	113.5	.3	.4	.4
Bread, whole wheat -----	119.3	120.0	-.8	-.7	1.8
Cookies -----	109.5	109.8	-1.7	-.9	1.0
Layer cake -----	119.9	119.9	.1	.1	-.1
Cinnamon rolls -----	121.3	121.3	.4	.4	2.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	126.4	126.0	1.3	.7	7.7
Meats -----	127.5	127.2	1.5	1.2	9.0
Beef and veal -----	135.8	135.0	1.3	1.2	7.7
Steak, round -----	132.6	131.8	1.5	1.9	6.0
Steak, sirloin -----	131.9	130.0	3.5	2.4	5.4
Steak, porterhouse -----	134.0	132.5	2.8	1.8	6.6
Rump roast -----	132.1	131.2	2.2	2.6	6.4
Rib roast -----	136.7	136.2	.1	-.1	6.6
Chuck roast -----	132.4	132.7	-1.1	.0	5.5
Hamburger -----	136.6	135.9	.7	.4	7.2
Beef liver -----	133.0	133.1	.6	1.0	17.4
Veal cutlets -----	162.0	161.0	1.5	1.2	15.1
Pork -----	118.0	118.2	2.3	.9	13.9
Chops -----	119.8	120.3	4.4	2.3	13.8
Loin roast -----	119.0	119.8	3.7	2.4	13.4
Pork sausage -----	126.1	125.6	1.0	-.6	14.2
Ham, whole -----	112.0	113.0	1.4	.6	8.1
Picnics -----	119.9	121.2	-.9	-.8	13.6
Bacon -----	113.1	111.6	2.1	.1	17.7
Other meats -----	122.8	122.7	.9	.7	6.0
Lamb chops -----	129.5	128.6	2.3	1.3	6.9
Frankfurters -----	122.4	121.9	.2	-.6	5.7
Ham, canned -----	112.8	113.7	-.7	.4	4.9
Bologna sausage -----	128.1	128.2	1.0	1.1	7.7
Salami sausage -----	125.4	125.4	1.0	.5	7.3
Liverwurst -----	118.4	118.3	1.1	.9	3.1
Poultry -----	108.9	107.7	.5	-1.3	-2.4
Frying chicken -----	107.6	105.9	.4	-1.8	-4.0
Chicken breasts -----	112.4	112.5	.4	.4	2.3
Turkey -----	111.4	111.5	.5	-.5	.3
Fish -----	141.3	141.2	.8	.9	8.4
Shrimp, frozen -----	136.3	136.3	1.9	2.2	16.7
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	149.1	149.0	.9	.9	5.5
Tuna fish, canned -----	134.0	133.7	.2	.4	3.5
Sardines, canned -----	145.6	145.7	-.1	.0	8.9
Dairy products -----	117.0	116.9	-.3	-.4	1.1
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	116.3	116.4	-.4	-.4	1.0
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	120.3	120.4	.0	.0	2.0
Milk, fresh, skim -----	121.9	121.8	-.1	-.1	1.0
Milk, evaporated -----	118.8	118.2	-1.4	-2.1	-.2
Ice cream -----	106.7	106.9	.2	.0	1.4
Cheese, American process -----	124.5	124.1	.3	.2	2.3
Butter -----	104.8	104.9	-.5	-.5	-.9

See footnote at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change to June 1972 from--		
	June 1972		May 1972		June 1971 unadjusted
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Fruits and vegetables -----	127.2	122.7	2.7	1.6	1.7
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	132.2	124.5	4.3	2.6	.8
Fresh fruits -----	130.8	121.6	8.1	.7	3.6
Apples -----	131.4	117.6	7.9	-.8	6.1
Bananas -----	108.4	108.4	3.8	5.3	17.1
Oranges -----	123.3	127.0	4.5	2.6	-1.4
Orange juice, fresh -----	130.6	130.7	.0	-.2	5.3
Grapefruit -----	145.1	137.0	10.0	-3.7	-2.8
Grapes -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Strawberries -----	115.0	117.8	11.3	7.9	10.4
Watermelon -----	144.8	119.8	(1/)	(1/)	-15.3
Fresh vegetables -----	133.4	126.6	1.5	3.8	-1.5
Potatoes -----	123.8	109.5	8.9	-1.9	-8.9
Onions -----	122.9	115.8	9.7	8.0	14.9
Asparagus -----	138.1	151.1	-2.1	2.9	13.9
Cabbage -----	124.9	112.3	-6.9	-9.5	-10.5
Carrots -----	135.5	131.6	-2.2	-8.2	-11.4
Celery -----	135.3	124.4	-9.0	-13.9	11.4
Cucumbers -----	128.8	138.9	5.6	27.8	-.5
Lettuce -----	120.9	130.8	10.6	22.6	3.1
Peppers, green -----	160.2	139.1	-22.9	-8.7	-22.7
Spinach -----	135.2	136.6	-1.0	-.7	6.1
Tomatoes -----	155.1	152.4	14.7	29.9	21.3
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	119.9	120.1	.1	.2	3.5
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	121.1	121.7	-.4	-.2	2.9
Pears, canned -----	117.7	118.2	.3	.6	.5
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink -----	114.3	114.5	-.4	-.2	1.0
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	135.3	135.0	-.7	-1.1	7.3
Lemonade concentrate, frozen -----	117.3	117.5	.0	1.0	3.3
Beets, canned -----	121.4	121.4	.8	.8	5.7
Peas, green, canned -----	107.2	107.8	-.2	.1	1.3
Tomatoes, canned -----	115.5	115.2	-.1	-.3	-.4
Dried beans -----	136.9	137.2	-.1	-.1	11.8
Broccoli, frozen -----	118.9	118.8	.7	.7	1.2
Other food at home -----	114.5	116.8	-1.3	-.8	-.2
Eggs -----	94.2	109.2	-7.4	-3.4	-4.9
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	118.2	117.5	.3	.3	2.2
Salad dressing, Italian -----	109.1	109.0	-1.4	-1.2	-.5
Salad or cooking oil -----	121.5	121.4	-.7	-.7	2.1
Sugar and sweets -----	120.6	120.5	-.7	-.7	1.0
Sugar -----	114.8	114.8	-.5	-.6	2.3
Grape jelly -----	124.9	124.7	-.5	-.6	4.6
Chocolate bar -----	130.6	130.5	-.2	-.8	-.5
Syrup, chocolate flavored -----	111.1	111.0	-1.3	-1.2	-2.1
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	120.5	120.1	-.4	-.7	-1.4
Coffee, can and bag -----	117.2	117.0	-.8	-1.0	-4.2
Coffee, instant -----	124.3	123.7	-.6	-.9	-.6
Tea -----	109.0	108.6	.1	-.4	.6
Carbonated drink, cola flavored -----	127.8	127.4	-.3	-.5	1.2
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored -----	128.3	127.9	.0	-.2	1.2
Prepared and partially prepared foods-----	114.4	114.5	-.3	-.1	1.4
Bean soup, canned -----	116.3	116.2	-.3	-.1	2.0
Chicken soup, canned -----	104.2	104.1	-1.5	-1.5	-2.2
Spaghetti, canned -----	118.9	119.1	.5	.7	1.5
Mashed potatoes, instant -----	112.3	111.9	.1	-.1	.6
Potatoes, french fried, frozen -----	111.0	111.2	.2	.3	.8
Baby foods -----	110.4	111.2	-.8	-.8	-.6
Sweet pickle relish -----	124.3	125.1	-.7	.1	6.5
Pretzels -----	116.1	115.9	.5	.4	1.9

1/ Priced only in season.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to June 1972 from	
		June 1972	May 1972	May 1972	June 1971
Housing -----		129.0	128.5	0.4	4.0
Shelter 1/ -----		134.1	133.4	.5	4.5
Rent -----		118.8	118.3	.4	3.1
Homeownership costs 2/ -----		139.6	138.9	.5	5.0
Mortgage interest rates -----		117.1	117.0	.1	.1
Property taxes -----		144.8	145.0	-.1	11.5
Property insurance rates -----		122.6	122.7	-.1	2.0
Maintenance and repairs -----		140.6	139.9	.5	4.9
Commodities 3/ -----		123.9	123.3	.5	3.4
Exterior house paint -----		117.4	117.5	-.1	1.2
Interior house paint -----		117.5	117.2	.3	3.0
Services -----		147.8	147.1	.5	5.5
Repainting living and dining rooms -----		159.5	157.7	1.1	7.4
Reshingling house roof -----		156.2	155.0	.8	7.1
Residing house -----		135.2	135.0	.1	3.6
Sink replacement -----		145.8	145.7	.1	3.3
Furnace repair -----		153.6	152.8	.5	7.4
Fuel and utilities -----		120.1	120.1	.0	4.8
Fuel oil and coal -----		117.8	118.7	-.8	.3
Fuel oil, #2 -----		116.5	116.5	.0	.3
Gas and electricity -----		120.3	120.5	-.2	5.0
Gas -----		121.2	122.2	-.8	4.1
Electricity -----		119.5	118.9	.5	5.8
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services -----		114.9	114.0	.8	7.9
Residential water and sewerage services -----		137.7	137.7	.0	3.8
Household furnishings and operation 4/ -----		121.0	120.8	.2	1.9
Housefurnishings -----		116.4	116.2	.2	1.5
Textiles -----		114.2	113.6	.5	1.8
Sheets, percale or muslin -----		116.7	114.9	1.6	1.7
Curtains, tailored, polyester -----		112.1	112.2	-.1	1.9
Bedspreads, chiefly cotton -----		111.6	111.5	.1	3.6
Drapery fabric, cotton or rayon/acetate -----		122.7	121.7	.8	3.5
Pillows, bed, polyester, acrylic, or kapok -----		108.1	107.2	.8	-1.0
Slipcover, throws, ready made, chiefly cotton -----		113.8	113.7	.1	1.0
Furniture and bedding -----		121.5	121.7	-.2	1.6
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser -----	Mar. 70	105.1	105.3	-.2	1.0
Sofas, upholstered -----		120.8	120.6	.2	.0
Cocktail table -----	Dec. 71	100.4	100.4	.0	(5/)
Dining room chairs -----	Mar. 70	105.1	105.3	-.2	1.6
Recliner, upholstered -----	Dec. 71	98.0	98.7	-.7	(5/)
Sofas, dual purpose -----		116.9	117.2	-.3	.4
Bedding, mattress and box springs -----	June 70	104.5	104.5	.0	.7
Aluminum folding chair -----		126.1	128.3	-1.7	8.1
Cribs -----		119.0	118.0	.8	.6
Floor coverings -----		106.4	106.7	-.3	.0
Broadloom, carpeting, manmade fibers -----		101.4	101.8	-.4	-1.0
Vinyl sheet goods -----		117.9	117.7	.2	3.0
Vinyl asbestos tile -----		118.2	118.3	-.1	1.3
Appliances 6/ -----		105.8	105.7	.1	.2
Washing machines, electric, automatic -----		110.5	110.4	.1	1.0
Vacuum cleaners, canister type -----		104.0	103.8	.2	-.3
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers electric -----		107.9	107.9	.0	-.4
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric -----		111.0	110.0	.9	-.3
Clothes dryers, electric, automatic -----		114.4	113.7	.6	1.4
Air conditioners, demountable -----		111.0	111.1	-.1	.0
Room heaters, electric, portable -----		(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)
Garbage disposal units -----		111.0	111.0	.0	1.3
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, earthenware -----		123.7	122.9	.7	4.6
Flatware, stainless steel -----		122.9	121.6	1.1	2.8
Table lamps, with shade -----		123.0	121.8	1.0	1.3
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type -----		120.8	120.2	.5	3.2
Electric drills, hand held -----		106.0	105.9	.1	-.3
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents -----		111.0	110.9	.1	.5
Paper napkins -----		130.6	130.8	-.2	3.6
Toilet tissue -----		125.2	126.0	-.6	.3
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic service, general housework -----		139.2	138.9	.2	4.1
Baby sitter service -----		135.6	135.3	.2	4.1
Postal charges -----		146.6	146.6	.0	.0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service -----		138.5	138.0	.4	3.7
Licensed day care service, preschool child -----		122.2	121.3	.7	3.6
Washing machine repairs -----		140.8	140.4	.3	2.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, for selected items and groups, June 1972 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued (1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to June 1972 from:	
		June 1972	May 1972	May 1972	June 1971
Apparel and upkeep 8/		122.1	122.5	-0.3	1.7
Apparel commodities		122.4	122.9	-.4	1.7
Apparel commodities less footwear		122.0	122.6	-.5	1.6
Men's and boys'		121.9	122.4	-.4	.4
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)
Suits, year round weight	131.8	132.4	-.5	1.4	
Suits, tropical weight	136.8	138.0	-.9	4.1	
Jackets, lightweight	114.8	115.7	-.8	1.7	
Slacks, wool or wool blends	114.9	116.7	-1.5	-2.5	
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends	133.9	137.3	-2.5	.5	
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton	114.7	114.7	.0	1.3	
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton	115.5	115.1	.3	1.9	
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton	113.7	113.4	.3	-.1	
T-shirts, chiefly cotton	117.4	117.4	.0	-1.7	
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers	116.7	116.7	.0	.3	
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton	116.2	115.7	.4	.7	
Boy's:					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blend	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Sport coats, wool or wool blend	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blend	127.3	127.1	.2	3.8	
Undershorts, cotton	120.5	120.5	.0	.9	
Women's and girls'		122.6	123.4	-.6	2.3
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blend	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Sweaters, wool or acrylic	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton	121.4	121.3	.1	2.3	
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers	122.8	124.3	-1.2	-6	
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber	128.8	129.6	-.6	1.9	
Dresses, street, wool or wool blend	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Slips, nylon	111.0	110.9	.1	1.1	
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot	118.1	117.0	.9	2.5	
Girdles, manmade blend	116.9	118.2	-1.1	.7	
Brassiers, nylon lace	121.9	121.9	.0	1.6	
Hose, or pantyhose, nylon seamless	96.0	96.5	-.5	-2.0	
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers	114.4	114.9	-.4	-1.2	
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton	111.7	111.2	.4	1.5	
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic	144.6	143.2	1.0	9.6	
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl cotton, or polyester blends	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Skirts, wool, wool blends, or acrylic	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends	119.2	125.3	-4.9	8.8	
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	(7/)	
Slips, polyester blends	110.2	111.0	-.7	-.5	
Handbags, plastic	124.7	129.8	-3.9	-4.5	
Footwear		124.7	124.6	.1	2.5
Man's:					
Shoes, street, oxford	123.8	123.1	.6	3.0	
Shoes, work, high	120.9	121.5	-.5	2.0	
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump	125.9	126.6	-.6	1.8	
Shoes, evening, pump	122.3	122.1	.2	2.5	
Shoes, casual	126.1	125.9	.2	-.1	
Houseslippers, scuff	124.8	124.3	.4	3.1	
Children's:					
Shoes,	126.9	126.5	.3	3.3	
Sneakers, boys', oxford type	123.5	123.1	.3	3.9	
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump	129.8	129.8	.0	2.9	
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable	114.5	114.0	.4	2.4	
Yard goods, polyester blend	119.0	117.8	1.0	-3.3	
Wrist watches, men's and women's	115.2	115.0	.2	1.9	
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses	117.5	117.5	.0	.3	
Automatic laundry service	114.8	115.1	-.3	1.8	
Laundry, men's shirts	121.0	120.8	.2	1.4	
Tailoring charge, hem adjustment	132.5	132.5	.0	3.8	
Shoe repair, women's heel lift	115.4	115.1	.3	2.1	

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to June 1972 from:	
		June 1972	May 1972	May 1972	June 1971
Transportation -----		120.0	119.5	0.4	0.3
Private 9/ -----		117.6	117.1	.4	.0
Automobiles, new -----		111.3	111.4	-.1	-2.3
Automobiles, used -----		113.4	110.0	3.1	-.6
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		105.6	106.2	-.6	.7
Motor oil, premium -----		123.4	123.3	.1	2.9
Tires, new, tubeless -----		115.8	116.3	-.4	.9
Auto repairs and maintenance 10/ -----		134.9	134.6	.2	4.3
Auto insurance rates -----		140.7	140.6	.1	-1.3
Auto registration -----		127.5	127.5	.0	3.0
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		147.0	145.9	.8	9.0
Public -----		143.0	142.7	.2	2.9
Local transit fares -----		149.9	149.1	.5	4.2
Taxicab fares -----		133.6	132.9	.5	1.4
Railroad fares, coach -----		122.7	127.0	-3.4	-3.7
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		129.2	129.6	-.3	-.3
Bus fares, intercity -----		138.1	137.6	.4	3.9
Health and recreation -----		126.1	125.8	.2	3.3
Medical care -----		132.4	132.0	.3	3.0
Drugs and prescriptions -----		105.8	105.7	.1	.1
Over-the-counter items -----		111.6	111.7	-.1	.5
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		95.0	95.3	-.3	-2.3
Aspirin compounds -----		118.1	117.7	.3	3.1
Liquid tonics -----		101.3	101.3	.0	-.2
Adhesive bandages, package -----		123.6	124.1	-.4	-.4
Cold tablets or capsules -----		113.9	113.9	.0	1.9
Cough syrup -----		113.9	114.1	-.2	.1
Prescriptions -----		100.9	100.7	.2	-.3
Anti-infectives -----		75.4	75.2	.3	-6.0
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		126.5	125.9	.5	3.3
Ataractics -----		102.9	102.7	.2	2.2
Anti-spasmodics -----		108.0	107.9	.1	.3
Cough preparations -----		130.7	129.7	.8	3.9
Cardiovasculars and anti-hypertensives -----		111.4	111.4	.0	-.2
Analgesics, internal -----		109.5	109.5	.0	1.5
Anti-obesity -----		117.2	117.1	.1	1.6
Hormones -----		92.8	92.9	-.1	-1.9
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees -----		133.9	133.3	.5	3.1
General physician, office visits -----		135.0	134.3	.5	2.5
General physician, house visits -----		137.0	135.8	.9	4.3
Obstetrical cases -----		134.0	134.0	.0	4.0
Pediatric care, office visits -----		135.8	135.6	.1	2.6
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		129.0	128.5	.4	3.4
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		128.2	127.9	.2	4.0
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		130.0	129.8	.2	4.6
Dentists' fees -----		132.4	131.9	.4	4.7
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		133.9	133.4	.4	5.2
Extractions, adult -----		132.6	131.9	.5	4.8
Dentures, full upper -----		129.1	129.0	.1	3.8
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		125.0	124.7	.2	4.2
Routine laboratory tests -----		120.7	120.7	.0	4.7
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	102.0	101.8	.2	(5/)
Semi-private room rates -----		173.8	173.2	.3	6.9
Operating room charges -----		167.2	167.3	-.1	7.7
X-ray, dianostic series, upper G.I. -----		128.8	128.9	-.1	2.7
Laboratory test, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	102.0	101.9	.1	(5/)
Anti-infective, tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	100.1	100.3	-.2	(5/)
Tranquilizer, chlordiazepoxid, HCL -----	Jan. 72	101.9	101.1	.8	(5/)
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	102.8	102.8	.0	(5/)
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	102.2	101.9	.3	(5/)
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	102.0	101.9	.1	(5/)
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	101.9	101.7	.2	(5/)
Personal care -----		120.0	119.7	.3	2.7
Toilet goods -----		117.4	117.1	.3	3.2
Toothpaste, standard, dentifrice -----		109.4	109.9	-.5	1.7
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		122.6	122.9	-.2	9.1
Hand lotions, liquid -----		126.0	125.2	.6	6.0
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		108.2	108.0	.2	1.0
Face powder, pressed -----		133.3	131.4	1.4	7.4
Deodorants, aerosol -----		105.5	106.0	-.5	.0
Cleansing tissues -----		125.1	124.3	.6	.3
Home permanent wave kits -----		109.1	109.1	.0	-1.9
Personal care services -----		122.7	122.4	.2	2.3
Men's haircuts -----		125.1	124.9	.2	2.4
Beauty shop services -----		121.0	120.7	.2	2.2
Women's haircuts -----		121.1	121.0	.1	1.4
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		124.7	124.3	.3	2.5
Permanent waves, cold -----		112.6	112.6	.0	2.0

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to June 1972 from:	
		June 1972	May 1972	May 1972	June 1971
Reading and recreation <sup>11/</sup> -----		122.9	122.5	0.3	3.0
Recreational goods -----		108.0	107.8	.2	1.2
TV sets, portable and console -----		99.5	99.6	-.1	-.6
TV replacement tubes -----		131.1	130.6	.4	7.3
Radios, portable and table model -----		99.1	99.0	.1	.6
Tape recorders, portable -----		94.7	94.4	.3	.4
Phonograph records, stereophonic -----		107.2	106.5	.7	4.0
Movie cameras, Super 8, zoom lens -----		88.2	87.5	.8	-1.1
Film, 35mm, color -----		108.1	108.2	-.1	-.4
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core -----		105.2	104.9	.3	.6
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover -----		126.3	126.2	.1	.4
Fishing rods, fresh water spincasting -----		107.6	107.3	.3	-3.0
Bowling balls -----		114.0	113.6	.4	2.1
Bicycles, boys' -----		117.0	116.0	.9	3.2
Tricycles -----		114.0	113.1	.8	2.5
Dog food, canned or boxed -----		110.6	110.4	.2	1.7
Recreational services -----		128.7	128.0	.5	2.1
Indoor movie admissions -----		142.5	141.2	.9	3.0
Adult -----		141.5	140.0	1.1	2.2
Children's -----		145.2	144.7	.3	4.8
Drive-in movie admissions, adult -----		147.8	145.9	1.3	4.5
Bowling fees, evening -----		118.6	118.9	-.3	1.8
Golf green fees -----		130.7	129.0	1.3	1.7
TV repair, picture tube replacement -----		98.2	98.0	.2	-.1
Film developing, color -----		116.6	117.8	-1.0	-.3
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery -----		132.8	131.8	.8	2.2
Magazines, single copy and subscription -----		133.4	133.4	.0	5.6
Piano lessons, beginner -----		122.2	122.2	.0	1.3
Other goods and services -----		125.6	125.4	.2	4.4
Tobacco products -----		134.0	133.2	.6	6.9
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size -----		135.6	134.4	.9	6.9
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size -----		136.1	135.5	.4	7.2
Cigars, domestic, regular size -----		110.9	110.7	.2	4.6
Alcoholic beverages -----		119.1	119.5	-.3	2.1
Beer -----		113.1	114.2	-1.0	-.1
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon -----		108.5	108.6	-.1	2.2
Wine, dessert and table -----		126.7	126.5	.2	4.0
Away from home -----		130.7	130.5	.2	4.0
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral service, adult -----		121.1	120.7	.3	3.7
Bank service charges, checking accounts -----		107.4	107.4	.0	-3.0
Legal services, short form will -----		150.6	149.3	.9	13.0
<b>Other special groups:</b>					
All items less shelter -----		122.7	122.4	.2	2.4
Commodities less food -----		119.4	119.2	.2	2.0
Nondurables less food and apparel -----		117.9	117.9	.0	2.6
Household services less rent -----		138.9	138.5	.3	5.5
Transportation services -----		136.0	135.8	.1	1.4
Other services -----		125.6	125.3	.2	2.5

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

## Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

\*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

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

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

## A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

## Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

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

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

Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items .....	.04	.06	.09
Food at home .....	.07	.10	.15
Food away from home .....	.08	.14	.33
Housing .....	.06	.10	.19
Apparel and upkeep .....	.17	.27	.33
Transportation .....	.11	.17	.20
Medical care .....	.09	.14	.28
Personal care .....	.14	.19	.34
Reading and recreation .....	.09	.12	.20
Other goods and services .....	.11	.17	.23

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

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1970 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1971.

annual percent changes in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1971 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## A Note About Calculating Index Changes

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

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

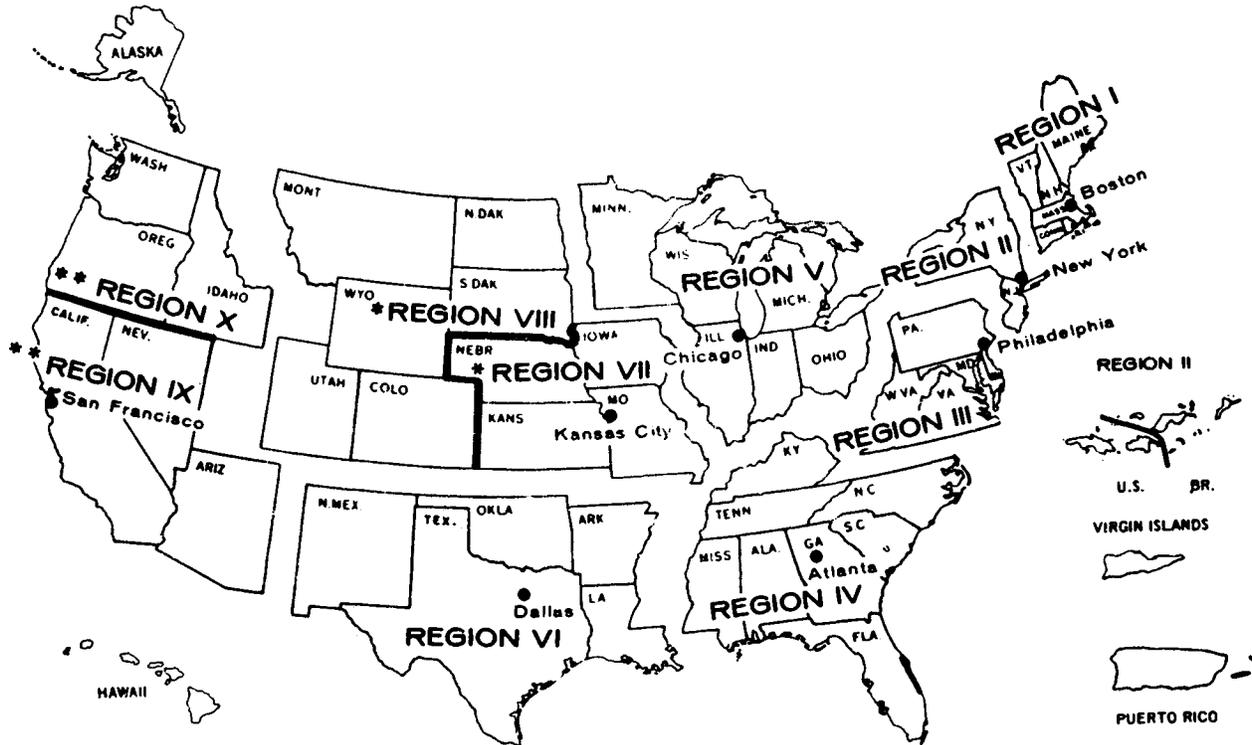
CPI	123.8
less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
index point differences =	0.6

Index point difference divided by the index for the previous period:

$$\frac{123.8 - 123.2}{123.2} \times 100 = 0.5$$

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

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