

the consumer price index



U.S. CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS

for July 1974

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

October 1974





the consumer price index

for July 1974

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Peter J. Brennan, Secretary

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
Julius Shiskin, Commissioner

OFFICE OF PRICES
AND LIVING CONDITIONS
W. John Layng, Assistant Commissioner

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

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Price Movements

July 1974

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.8 percent in July to 148.3 percent of its 1967=100 base. Increases in mortgage interest costs and higher prices for automobiles, medical care services, restaurant meals, and a wide range of other commodities and services accounted for the rise. The effect of these increases was offset partially by lower prices for apparel and some food items—notably fresh fruits and vegetables, beef, and dairy products. The CPI in July was 11.8 percent higher than a year ago.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the rise in the July CPI was also 0.8 percent. This compares with an increase of 1.0 percent in June and 1.1 percent in May. The slower rise in July was due to a decline in the food index of 0.4 percent after seasonal adjustment. The index for nonfood commodities rose 1.3 percent, continuing the rapid pace of the first 6 months of this year.

The services index rose 1.1 percent in July, compared with 1.0 percent increases in each of the 2 preceding months and the 0.7 percent average monthly rise in the first 4 months of this year.

Monthly changes in detail (not seasonally adjusted)

Food. The index for food purchased in grocery stores—based on prices collected on the 2nd, 3rd, and 5th of July—declined 0.2 percent from June. This index usually rises seasonally in July. Contrary to their usual upward movement in July, prices for beef, dairy products, eggs, and fresh fruits declined. Fresh vegetable prices fell more than is usual for this time of the year. Retail beef prices continued lower reflecting earlier declines through mid-June in wholesale prices caused by ample supplies and weak demand. Prices of most dairy products de-

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
	Unad-justed	Seasonally ac-justed	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	From 3 months ago	
							Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	
1973:									
July.....	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.3	-0.2	0.2	0.2	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
June.....	1.0	1.0	.4	.3	1.4	1.3	1.0	10.9	11.1
July.....	.8	.8	.1	-.4	1.0	1.3	1.1	11.7	11.8

clined because of plentiful supplies resulting from the expansion of milk production in the spring and early summer. Large supplies from the summer crops caused prices to drop for fresh fruits and vegetables, particularly watermelons, potatoes, onions, lettuce, and tomatoes. Lower prices for bananas reflected rising imports and falling demand.

The effect of these declines was largely offset by higher prices for most other grocery store food items. Both pork and poultry prices rose for the first time since early this year influenced by the upturn in wholesale prices after mid-June. The increase in retail poultry prices was much smaller than usual for July, while the increase in pork prices was somewhat larger than usual. Prices for cereal and bakery products, sugar and sweets, nonalcoholic beverages, and partially-prepared foods continued to increase. Higher prices for ingredients—particularly sugar—and for nonagricultural inputs such as containers and packaging materials, machinery, fuels, labor, and transportation are factors contributing to the rise in many food items.

The index for food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—rose 1.1 percent, about the same as in recent months.

Commodities less food. The index for nonfood commodities increased 1.0 percent. This index usually shows a small seasonal decline in July. About three-fifths of the July increase was due to higher prices for durable commodities. New car prices continued to rise in marked contrast to their normal seasonal pattern. All major domestic automobile producers have raised prices over the May-July period; transportation charges have increased; and consumer demand for 1974 models has strengthened somewhat in anticipation of higher prices for 1975 model cars. Used car prices continued to rise substantially, but the July increase was noticeably smaller than in recent months.

Prices of all types of household durables also continued to rise rapidly. Higher prices for floor covering reflected rising prices for synthetic and natural backing materials. Jute prices are rising due to reduced crops in India and Bangladesh. Prices for vinyl rugs and vinyl asbestos tile have risen as prices of raw materials, particularly vinyl chloride, resins, and asbestos, continued

to rise. Manufacturers raised prices on all lines of appliances this spring. Price increases are gradually being reflected at the retail level, but the increase at retail has been smaller than at wholesale due to consumer resistance. Prices for most furniture, except aluminum folding chairs, and for dinnerware and flatware, also increased in July.

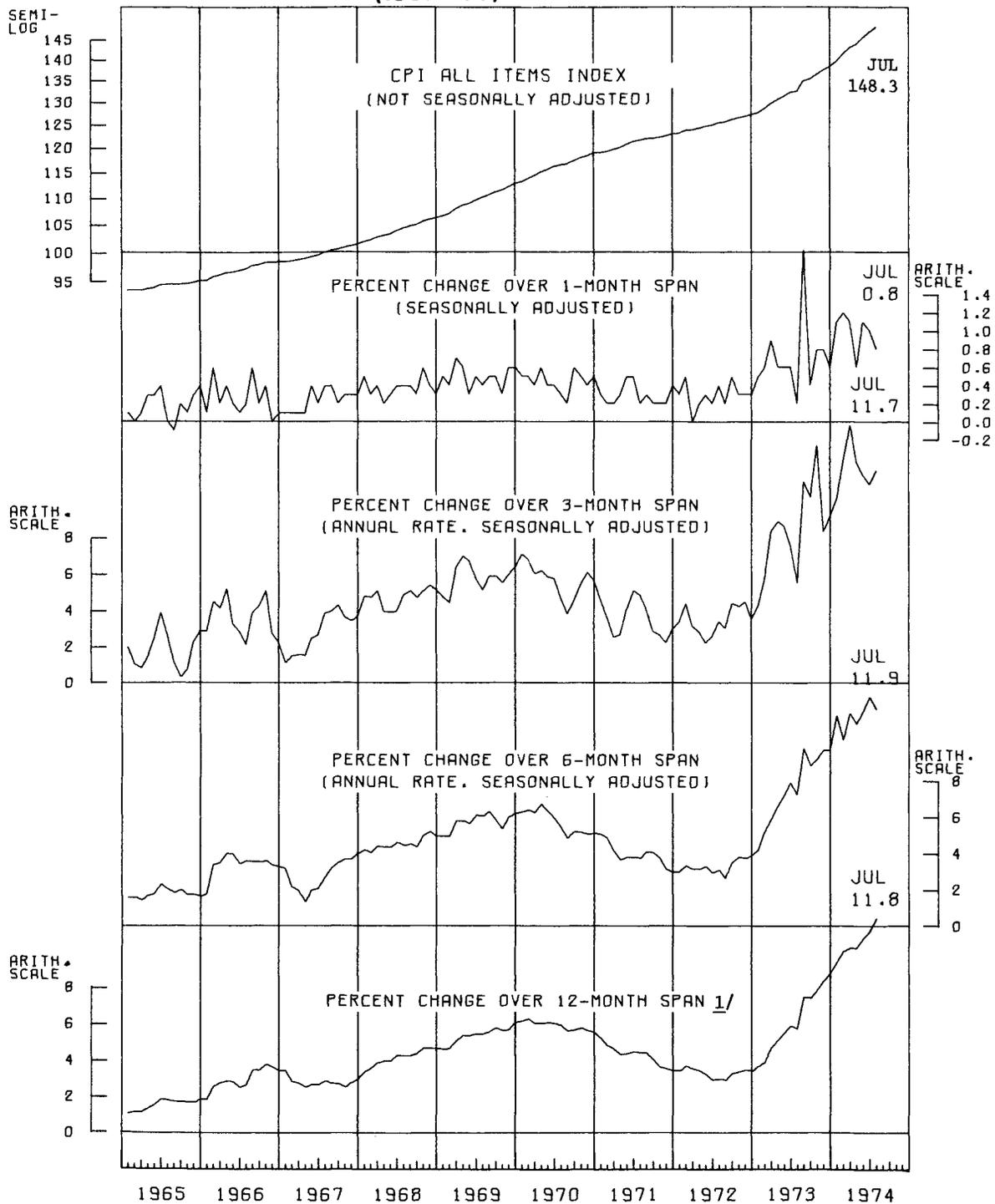
There were also large increases for nondurable commodities such as housekeeping supplies, toilet goods, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and fuel oil and coal. Rising costs, particularly for materials, were an important factor in these price increases. The rise in gasoline and motor oil index, however, slowed noticeably. Among the 23 metropolitan areas for which gasoline prices are published, prices of regular gasoline declined in nine areas, and increased in three other areas by only 0.1 percent. (See tables 9 and 10.) Prices for apparel commodities declined, but by much less than is usual for July.

Services

The services index rose 1.1 percent in July. More than 25 percent of this increase was due to higher mortgaging costs which reflect earlier increases in interest rates on conventionally financed loans as well as rate increases for VA-guaranteed loans (from 8.74 to 9.0) and FHA-insured loans (from 9.0 to 9.25). Among other household services, charges for home maintenance services rose as a result of higher materials and labor costs, as well as higher costs for permits. The rise in housekeeping services—particularly for general housework and baby sitters—continued to reflect the impact of the rise in minimum wages. Residential gas bills rose in July. The Federal Power Commission's decision to increase the regulated price for interstate sales of natural gas resulted in increases in purchased gas adjustments and rate increases.

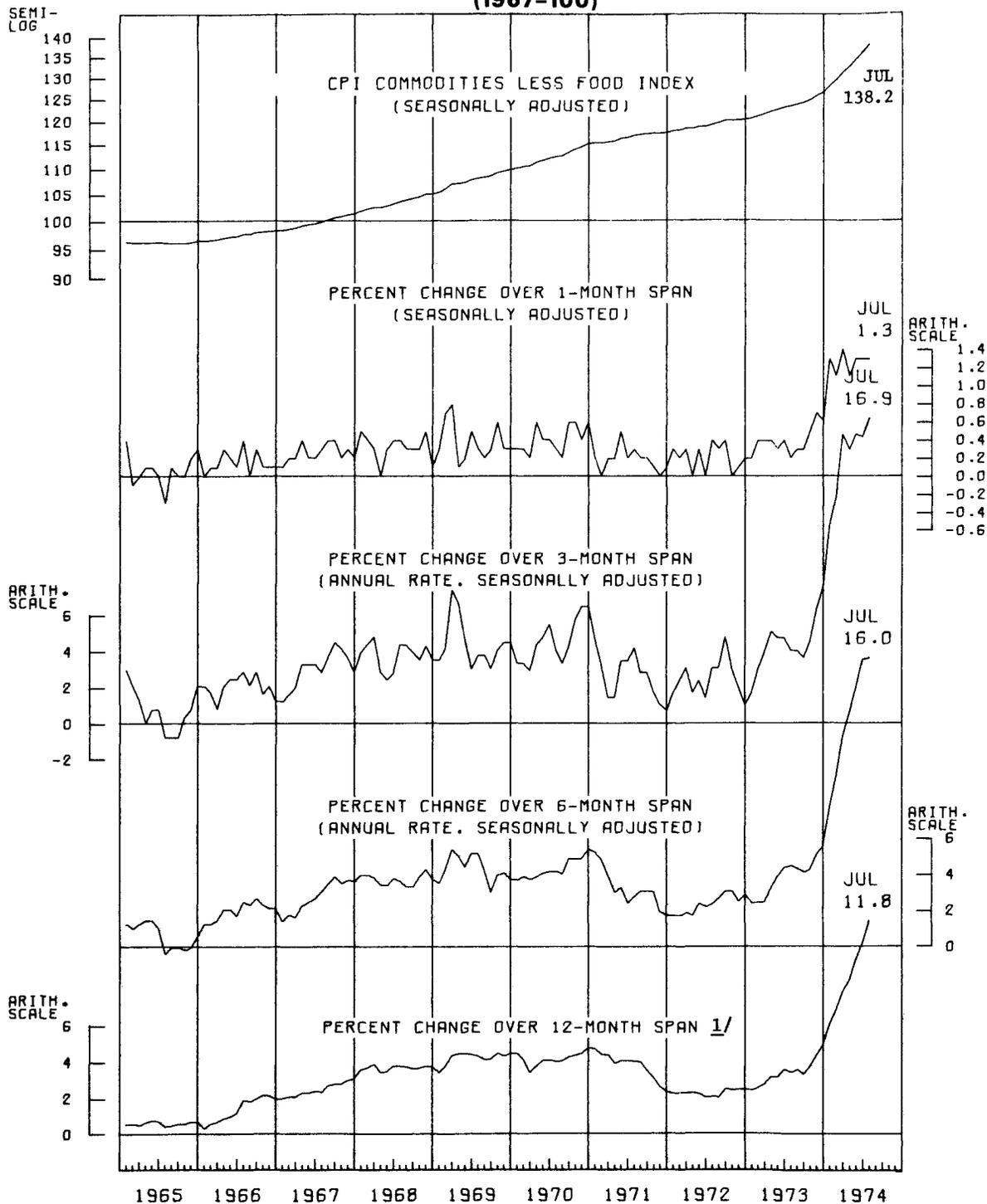
The index for medical care services continued to rise rapidly as a result of higher fees for doctors, dentists, and other professional services such as laboratory tests, and higher hospital charges for semiprivate rooms, X-rays, and other services. Charges for other services such as auto repairs, parking fees, drycleaning, laundering men's shirts, haircuts, and movie admissions also rose.

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



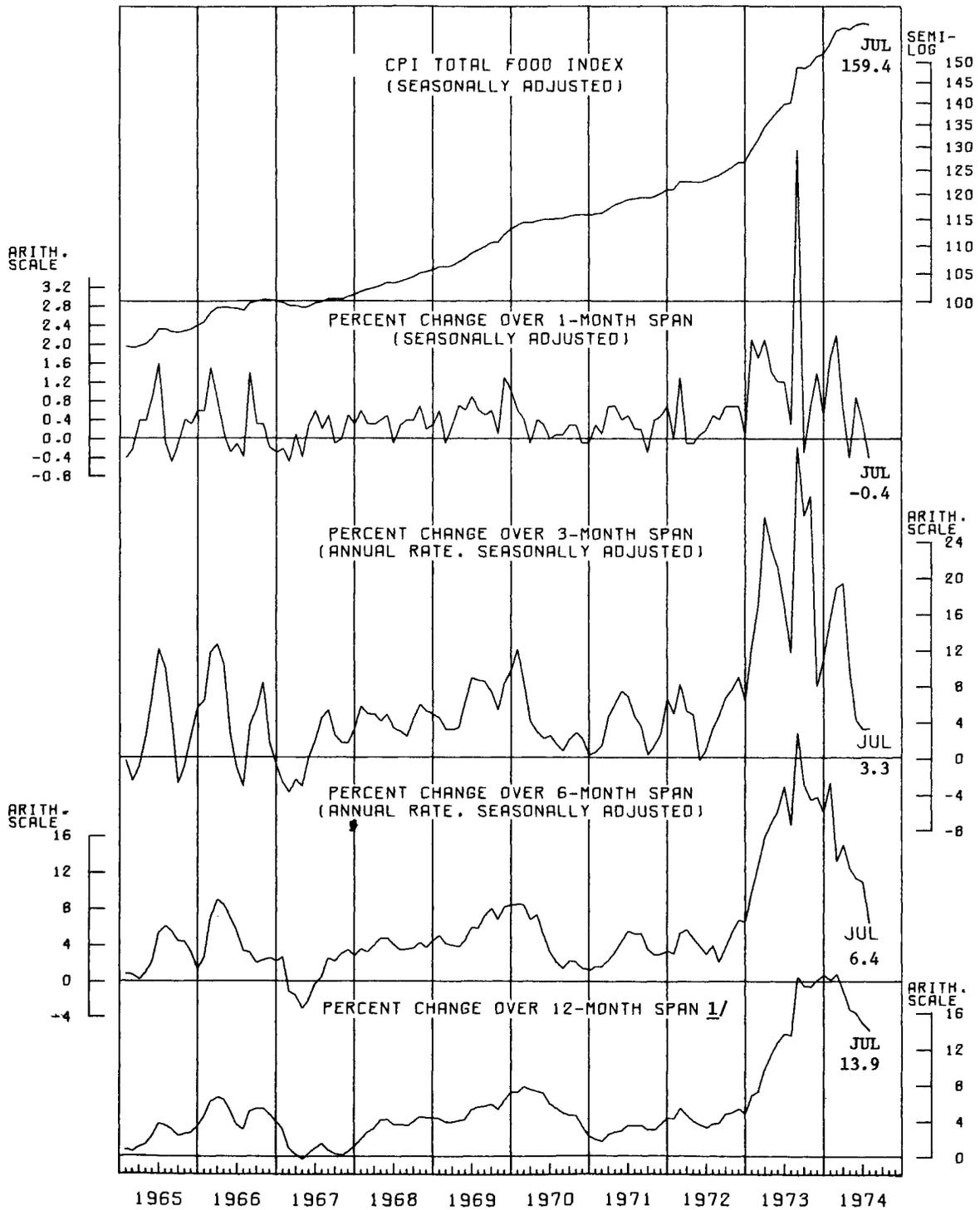
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



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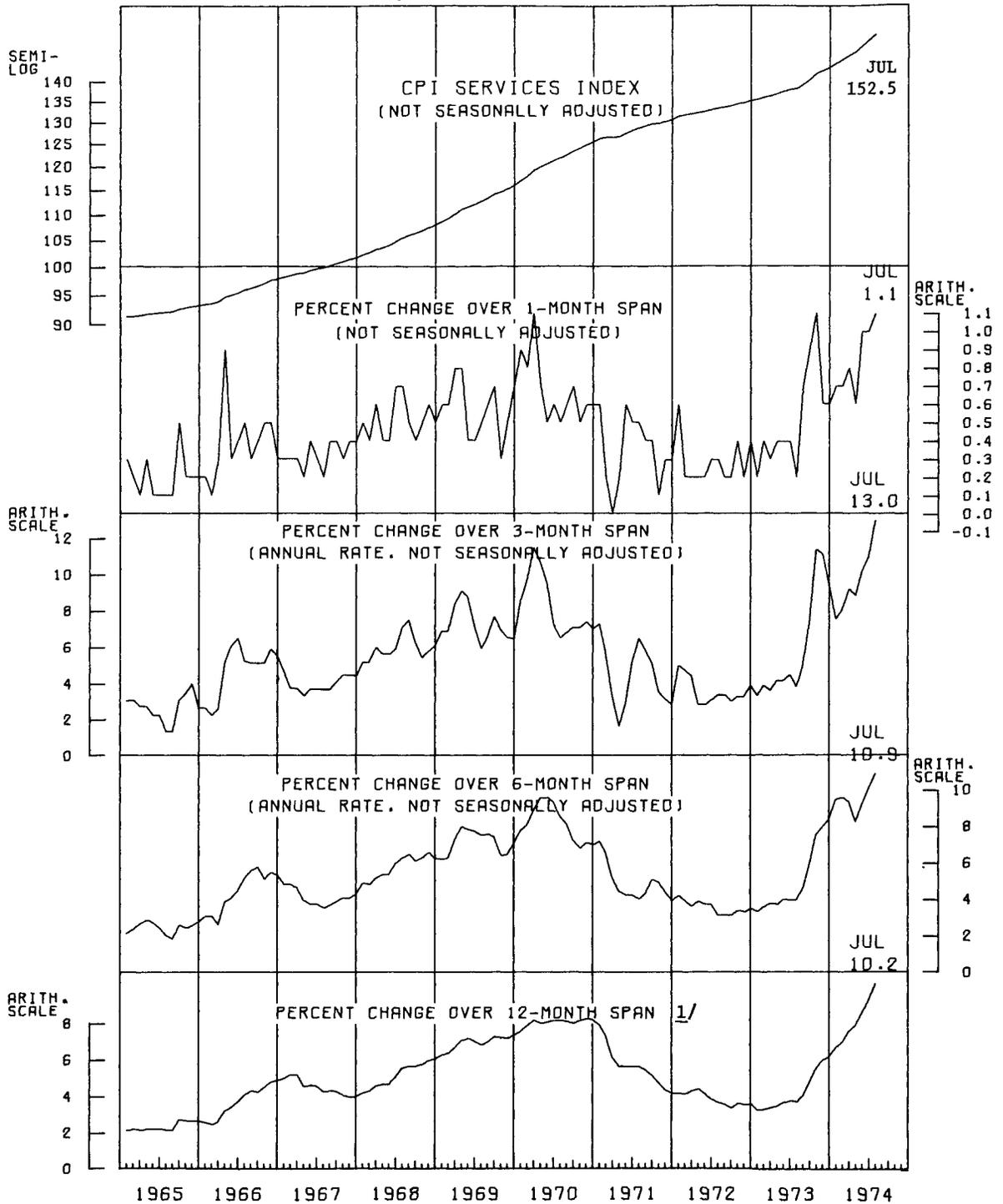
**Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

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**Chart 4. Services index and its rates of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



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 July 1974 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
		December 1973	June 1974	July 1974	July 1973	June 1974	April to May	May to June	June to July
Commodity and service groups								
All items -----	100.000	147.1	148.3	11.8	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8
All items (1957-59= 100) -----	-	171.1	172.5	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities -----	63.454	145.2	146.1	12.6	.6	1.2	.9	.6
Food -----	24.810	160.3	160.5	13.9	.1	.9	-.3	-.4
Food at home -----	19.633	160.9	160.6	14.0	-.2	.8	.1	-.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	2.644	165.3	166.7	35.0	.8	1.9	.9	.7
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	6.988	155.1	154.6	-2.0	-.3	-2.6	-2.6	-1.4
Dairy products -----	3.023	153.8	151.6	22.2	-1.4	.6	-.4	-1.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.146	183.1	178.7	16.3	-2.4	8.1	.7	-2.2
Other foods at home -----	3.832	154.5	158.4	23.3	2.6	.2	2.8	2.0
Food away from home -----	5.177	158.6	160.4	13.8	1.1	.8	1.1	1.1
Commodities less food -----	38.644	136.8	138.1	11.8	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.3
Nondurables less food -----	22.978	141.0	141.8	14.0	.6	1.1	1.2	1.1
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	8.569	135.6	135.0	7.1	-.4	.5	.9	.5
Men's and boys' -----	2.661	137.0	136.0	8.5	-.7	.8	1.0	.7
Women's and girls' -----	3.815	133.6	132.9	5.9	-.5	.2	.5	.4
Footwear -----	1.504	137.4	136.9	5.4	-.4	.7	.3	.1
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	14.409	144.3	145.9	18.1	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.1
Gasoline and motor oil -----	3.162	165.4	166.3	39.2	.5	1.9	1.2	-.1
Tobacco products -----	1.993	142.8	144.9	5.2	1.5	*.7	*1.6	*1.5
Alcoholic beverages -----	2.349	130.0	131.8	7.3	1.4	*.6	*.7	*1.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	.872	214.2	218.5	65.9	2.0	2.7	1.9	2.7
Other nondurables -----	6.033	132.5	134.1	11.1	1.2	1.5	1.9	1.4
Durable commodities -----	15.666	131.2	133.0	8.7	-1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5
Household durables -----	4.566	128.2	129.5	8.5	1.0	1.0	1.3	1.1
New cars -----	1.917	116.4	118.0	6.4	1.4	1.4	2.1	1.9
Used cars -----	1.849	133.6	140.2	14.3	4.9	*10.1	*9.6	*4.9
Other durables -----	7.334	137.1	137.9	7.9	.6	.5	.6	.6
Services -----	36.546	150.9	152.5	10.2	1.1	*1.0	*1.0	*1.1
Rent -----	4.873	129.8	130.3	4.7	.4	*.4	*.4	*.4
Services less rent -----	31.673	154.7	156.6	11.1	1.2	*1.1	*1.0	*1.2
Household services less rent -----	15.463	164.0	166.5	14.6	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.4
Transportation services -----	5.090	141.5	142.3	3.9	.6	.5	.7	.6
Medical care services -----	5.423	158.0	160.2	11.3	1.4	1.2	1.7	1.4
Other services -----	5.698	141.1	142.2	8.0	.8	1.3	.6	.9
Special indexes:								
All items less food -----	75.190	143.3	144.7	11.0	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.1
Nondurable commodities -----	47.788	150.4	150.9	14.0	.3	1.0	.7	.3
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	7.064	135.2	134.6	7.5	-.4	.6	.9	.7
Services less medical care services -----	31.123	149.8	151.4	10.0	1.1	*1.0	*.9	*1.1
Insurance and finance -----	9.707	161.5	163.5	11.3	1.2	.7	.9	1.0
Utilities and public transportation -----	5.318	141.0	141.9	9.6	.6	1.0	.6	.7
Housekeeping and home maintenance service -----	4.457	175.1	178.5	16.4	1.9	2.6	1.6	1.9
Appliances (including radio and TV) -----	1.489	108.3	109.3	3.7	.9	*.6	*.7	*.9
Expenditure classes								
All items -----	100.000	147.1	148.3	11.8	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.8
Food -----	24.810	160.3	160.5	13.9	.1	.9	.3	-.4
Housing -----	33.321	149.2	150.9	12.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2
Shelter ² -----	21.459	152.8	154.4	10.5	1.0	.9	.9	1.0
Rent -----	4.873	129.8	130.3	4.7	.4	*.4	*.4	*.4
Homeownership ³ -----	16.184	161.2	163.2	12.4	1.2	.8	.9	1.2
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	4.820	149.4	150.9	20.0	1.0	1.4	.9	1.0
Gas and electricity -----	2.390	144.5	146.2	16.5	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.5
Household furnishings and operation -----	7.042	139.2	141.4	13.1	1.6	2.1	1.5	1.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	9.945	135.7	135.3	7.6	-.3	.7	.8	.7
Transportation -----	12.602	140.7	142.6	14.3	1.4	2.0	2.0	1.4
Private -----	11.233	139.8	141.9	15.7	1.5	2.3	2.1	1.6
Public -----	1.369	148.6	148.6	2.6	0	.3	1.2	.1
Health and recreation -----	18.946	139.4	141.0	8.2	1.1	*1.0	*1.2	*1.1
Medical care -----	6.229	149.4	151.4	10.3	1.3	1.2	1.5	1.3
Personal care -----	2.513	136.5	137.8	10.0	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.0
Reading and recreation -----	5.346	133.5	134.6	6.7	.8	1.2	1.0	1.0
Other goods and services -----	4.859	135.8	137.7	6.3	1.4	.6	1.0	1.3
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter -----	78.541	145.7	146.8	12.1	.8	1.1	1.0	.9
All items less medical care -----	93.771	147.1	148.2	11.8	.7	1.0	1.0	.6
All items less mortgage interest costs -----	95.951	145.7	146.7	11.1	-.7	1.1	.9	.8
CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁵ -----	17.583	160.2	159.7	12.9	-.3	*.3	*-.1	*-.3
CPI - selected beef cuts ⁶ -----	2.290	161.9	159.1	-2.4	-1.7	*-2.5	*-.9	*-1.7
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$ 1.00 -----	-	\$ 0.680	\$ 0.674	-10.6	-.9	-	-	-
1957-59=\$ 1.00 -----	-	.584	.580	-	-	-	-	-

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 Calculated from the CPI food at home component by excluding fish, nonalcoholic beverages, bananas, chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup and about half of the index weight for sugar.

⁶ Calculated from the CPI beef and veal component by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver.

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	April 1974	May 1974	June 1974	July 1974	3 months ending in			6 months ending in		
					October 1973	January 1974	April 1974	July 1974	January 1974	July 1974
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	13.1	10.2	12.1	11.7	11.6	11.9
Commodities	141.9	143.6	144.9	145.7	13.6	12.9	13.1	11.1	13.3	12.1
Food	158.1	159.5	160.0	159.4	29.0	15.3	9.7	3.3	22.0	6.4
Food at home	158.9	160.2	160.4	159.0	32.6	15.5	9.9	.3	23.8	5.0
Cereals and bakery products	161.1	164.1	165.6	166.7	60.5	35.6	33.1	14.6	47.5	23.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	163.1	158.9	154.8	152.6	42.4	4.3	-19.1	-23.4	21.9	-21.3
Dairy products	153.7	154.6	154.0	151.6	50.3	28.2	22.2	-5.4	38.8	7.5
Fruits and vegetables	160.7	173.7	175.0	171.2	-6.1	21.4	24.6	28.8	6.8	26.7
Other foods at home	152.3	152.6	156.9	160.0	23.0	14.5	34.6	21.8	18.7	28.0
Food away from home	155.8	157.1	158.8	160.6	19.1	12.8	11.0	12.9	15.9	11.9
Commodities less food	132.9	134.6	136.4	138.2	4.6	11.0	15.1	16.9	7.7	16.0
Nondurables less food	137.7	139.2	140.9	142.4	5.2	17.8	19.1	14.4	11.4	16.7
Apparel commodities ¹	133.6	134.3	135.5	136.2	5.1	3.5	12.2	8.0	4.3	10.1
Men's and boys'	133.7	134.8	136.2	137.2	2.9	4.1	16.5	10.9	3.5	13.6
Women's and girls'	133.1	133.3	133.9	134.5	7.4	.9	11.2	4.3	4.1	7.7
Footwear	135.9	136.9	137.3	137.4	4.0	5.3	7.7	4.5	4.7	6.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	140.1	142.2	144.3	145.9	4.9	28.2	23.1	17.6	16.0	20.3
Gasoline and motor oil	161.2	164.2	166.2	166.1	6.5	75.4	77.8	12.7	36.7	41.6
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted)	139.6	140.6	142.8	144.9	1.2	1.5	2.6	16.1	1.3	9.1
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted)	128.3	129.1	130.0	131.8	3.0	7.3	7.8	11.4	5.1	9.6
Fuel oil and coal	205.3	210.8	214.8	220.5	29.6	247.5	26.5	33.1	112.2	29.7
Other nondurables	127.8	129.7	132.2	134.0	4.7	8.5	11.0	20.9	6.6	15.8
Durable commodities	126.5	128.4	130.5	132.5	3.7	1.6	10.1	20.4	2.6	15.1
Household durables	125.0	126.2	127.8	129.2	4.1	6.1	9.5	14.1	5.1	11.8
New cars	112.8	114.4	116.8	119.0	0	-2.1	5.9	23.9	-1.1	14.5
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted)	110.7	121.9	133.6	140.2	-13.0	-33.5	14.6	157.3	-24.0	71.7
Other durables	135.7	136.4	137.2	138.0	6.4	6.3	12.0	7.0	6.4	9.5
Services (not seasonally adjusted)	147.9	149.4	150.9	152.5	11.4	7.5	8.8	13.0	9.5	10.9
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	128.8	129.3	129.8	130.3	4.9	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted)	151.4	153.1	154.7	156.6	12.5	7.9	9.5	14.5	10.2	12.0
Household services less rent	160.3	162.6	164.5	166.8	17.2	11.0	12.9	17.2	14.1	15.1
Transportation services	139.7	140.4	141.4	142.3	3.0	.3	4.7	7.7	1.6	6.2
Medical care services	153.3	155.2	157.8	160.0	12.8	4.9	9.1	18.7	8.8	13.8
Other services	138.4	140.2	141.0	142.2	6.9	6.1	7.6	11.4	6.5	9.5
Special indexes:										
All items less food	139.7	141.4	143.2	144.8	7.2	9.0	12.3	15.4	8.1	13.9
Nondurable commodities	147.7	149.2	150.2	150.6	17.4	16.0	14.8	8.1	16.7	11.4
Apparel commodities less footwear	133.1	133.9	135.1	136.0	5.5	2.8	13.0	9.0	4.2	11.0
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	147.1	148.5	149.8	151.4	11.5	7.9	8.6	12.2	9.7	10.4
Insurance and finance	159.6	160.7	162.1	163.7	22.7	7.2	5.7	10.7	14.7	8.2
Utilities and public transportation	138.7	140.1	141.0	142.0	7.0	10.7	10.8	9.9	8.8	10.3
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	167.6	172.0	174.8	178.1	8.6	11.2	19.2	27.5	9.9	23.3
Appliances (including radio and TV) (not seasonally adjusted)	106.9	107.5	108.3	109.3	1.1	1.1	3.4	9.3	1.1	6.3
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	13.1	10.2	12.1	11.7	11.6	11.9
Food	158.1	159.5	160.0	159.4	29.0	15.3	9.7	3.3	22.0	6.4
Housing	146.1	147.7	149.3	151.1	11.8	12.1	11.7	14.4	12.0	13.1
Shelter ²	150.5	151.8	153.1	154.6	13.8	8.3	9.0	11.4	11.0	10.2
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	128.8	129.3	129.8	130.3	4.9	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.7	4.8
Homeownership ³	158.7	160.0	161.5	163.4	16.6	9.9	11.0	12.4	13.2	11.7
Fuel and utilities ⁴	146.3	148.3	149.7	151.2	10.6	40.6	16.9	14.1	24.7	15.5
Gas and electricity	141.1	143.2	144.6	146.8	8.5	16.5	24.4	17.2	12.4	20.7
Household furnishings and operation	133.9	136.7	138.8	141.1	6.2	8.8	14.7	23.3	7.5	18.9
Apparel and upkeep	133.6	134.5	135.6	136.5	5.5	3.8	12.2	9.0	4.6	10.6
Transportation	134.5	137.2	140.0	142.0	2.3	9.3	22.7	24.2	5.7	23.5
Private	133.2	136.2	139.0	141.2	2.6	11.5	24.1	26.3	7.0	25.2
Public	146.2	146.6	148.3	148.5	2.8	-3	1.4	6.4	1.2	3.9
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	136.3	137.7	139.4	141.0	5.6	4.9	8.0	14.5	5.3	11.2
Medical care	145.3	147.1	149.3	151.2	11.2	4.6	8.1	17.3	7.9	12.6
Personal care	133.0	134.6	136.4	137.8	6.5	8.4	9.9	15.2	7.5	12.5
Reading and recreation	130.4	131.9	133.2	134.5	3.2	3.8	6.7	13.2	3.5	9.9
Other goods and services	133.7	134.5	135.9	137.6	1.9	6.0	5.6	12.2	3.9	8.8
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter	142.3	143.9	145.4	146.7	11.5	11.5	12.4	13.0	11.5	12.7
All items less medical care	144.0	145.5	147.0	147.9	13.3	11.0	11.9	11.3	12.1	11.6
All items less mortgage interest costs	142.5	144.1	145.4	146.6	10.7	10.1	11.7	12.0	10.4	11.9
CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted)	159.9	160.4	160.2	159.7	25.9	15.8	11.8	-.5	20.8	5.5
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted)	167.5	163.3	161.9	159.1	15.0	-6.0	3.2	-18.6	4.0	-8.4

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	July 1973	April 1974	June 1974
July 1974							
U. S. city average -----	M	148.3	172.5		11.8	3.0	0.8
Chicago -----	M	146.5	166.5		11.5	2.4	.4
Detroit -----	M	149.8	172.2		12.0	3.0	.7
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	M	143.3	168.5		11.0	2.9	1.1
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	M	154.6	183.9		11.1	2.5	.5
Philadelphia -----	M	152.1	177.6		12.8	2.6	.7
July 1974							
Boston -----	1	149.9	179.6		11.8	3.2	
Houston -----	1	148.2	169.5		12.7	3.6	
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	1	149.0	172.6		11.9	2.6	
Pittsburgh -----	1	148.6	170.9		12.1	3.1	
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	
June 1974							
Atlanta -----	3	147.5	169.6		11.2	2.4	
Baltimore -----	3	151.7	176.1		13.5	3.0	
Cincinnati -----	3	146.1	165.8		11.6	3.4	
Honolulu -----	3	141.4		⁵ 152.4	10.9	2.7	
Kansas City -----	3	143.6	170.5		10.6	3.6	
St. Louis -----	3	141.4	165.4		10.4	2.3	
San Francisco—Oakland -----	3	144.1	171.4		10.3	3.5	

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 June 1974 to July 1974

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.8	0.4	0.7	1.1	0.5	0.7
Food -----	.1	.2	-.1	.1	.4	.8
Housing -----	1.1	.6	.9	1.8	.6	.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	-.3	-1.4	-.2	-.2	-1.3	-1.7
Transportation -----	1.4	1.7	1.0	1.2	1.3	1.3
Health and recreation -----	1.1	.7	1.9	1.0	1.0	1.3
Medical care -----	1.3	.4	1.2	1.5	.7	1.3
Personal care -----	1.0	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.8	.4	3.1	.6	.9	.7
Other goods and services -----	1.4	1.2	1.7	1.3	1.4	1.8

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, July 1974 index, and percent changes from April 1974

Group	U. S. city average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles—Long Beach	Minneapolis	New York—North eastern New Jersey	Phila-delphia	Pitts-burgh
Indexes (1967= 100)										
All items -----	148.3	149.9	146.5	149.8	148.2	143.3	149.0	154.6	152.1	148.6
Food -----	160.5	161.6	160.4	162.6	162.7	155.5	162.9	165.0	164.5	162.9
Food at home -----	160.6	162.2	161.2	163.0	159.8	157.4	162.0	165.1	162.5	161.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	166.7	165.1	174.4	186.6	162.7	164.4	175.8	166.8	167.2	169.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	154.6	159.5	154.2	157.1	155.0	153.3	157.3	158.5	159.6	153.7
Dairy products -----	151.6	149.5	146.1	151.6	162.8	148.2	159.3	154.4	150.8	143.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	178.7	180.9	183.2	171.3	167.0	170.1	163.8	194.5	181.6	191.1
Other food at home -----	158.4	158.2	159.7	160.1	158.2	155.7	160.8	159.3	157.5	158.9
Food away from home -----	160.4	159.3	156.9	161.5	172.8	150.2	166.4	164.9	173.1	170.7
Housing -----	150.9	156.7	144.1	151.6	150.0	143.7	153.4	160.2	156.5	148.3
Shelter -----	154.4	157.4	147.3	160.2	154.6	145.5	159.6	² 163.6	164.2	156.1
Rent, residential -----	130.3	143.0	127.9	⁽³⁾	116.0	127.8	127.0	⁽³⁾	136.7	123.8
Homeownership costs -----	163.2	163.6	156.1	166.3	167.9	150.9	165.1	⁴ 178.7	171.4	165.2
Fuel and utilities -----	150.9	169.1	139.9	142.2	133.6	144.2	148.2	170.5	157.5	135.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	218.5	214.9	214.9	212.4	-	-	229.2	220.4	208.9	-
Gas and electricity -----	146.2	155.6	131.9	144.1	129.2	163.8	145.0	171.8	159.7	146.8
Household furnishings and operation -----	141.4	146.7	136.8	131.4	150.2	137.4	138.6	145.6	141.9	140.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	135.3	137.2	130.4	131.1	143.3	132.5	134.1	132.8	129.7	139.4
Men's and boys' -----	136.0	129.6	129.5	135.6	134.6	126.6	136.8	132.4	135.2	133.1
Women's and girls' -----	132.9	138.8	129.4	119.2	152.7	133.3	130.1	128.5	119.8	144.2
Footwear -----	136.9	138.6	130.2	144.1	138.5	135.4	137.8	127.6	134.4	142.5
Transportation -----	142.6	138.8	146.0	143.4	134.7	143.0	139.7	150.2	145.2	142.2
Private -----	141.9	138.0	143.3	142.3	133.0	144.5	140.1	146.6	144.9	142.2
Public -----	148.6	143.2	162.9	155.6	162.8	115.9	133.8	164.1	147.2	142.5
Health and recreation -----	141.0	137.9	143.1	146.9	143.4	135.0	141.0	148.2	147.2	142.6
Medical care -----	151.4	148.4	151.3	162.7	154.0	149.1	144.0	161.0	165.2	149.5
Personal care -----	137.8	133.2	⁽³⁾	139.8	143.4	⁽³⁾	138.1	⁽³⁾	134.0	131.3
Reading and recreation -----	134.6	135.4	136.4	136.5	130.4	125.2	140.4	141.9	139.4	135.0
Other goods and services -----	137.7	132.9	143.3	141.3	141.6	130.1	139.3	146.2	142.5	148.7
Percent changes April 1974 to July 1974										
All items -----	3.0	3.2	2.4	3.0	3.6	2.9	2.6	2.5	2.6	3.1
Food -----	1.2	2.7	1.3	.5	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.1
Food at home -----	.8	2.3	.9	-.2	.3	1.6	1.4	1.2	.1	.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	3.3	3.6	2.6	4.1	1.5	3.7	1.4	4.3	4.2	4.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-6.0	-3.0	-4.0	-7.2	-8.0	-7.3	-6.0	-5.3	-5.3	-4.7
Dairy products -----	-1.4	.2	-3.2	-2.1	.6	1.2	.6	-2.6	-2.0	-7.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	9.6	10.6	10.9	8.3	10.6	11.6	8.5	12.5	8.1	12.4
Other food at home -----	4.3	5.5	3.7	4.4	5.1	6.9	6.1	4.2	1.7	2.5
Food away from home -----	3.1	4.2	2.8	3.5	3.5	1.7	2.6	2.7	6.4	3.9
Housing -----	3.4	3.6	2.5	3.9	4.8	2.6	2.6	1.9	2.2	3.6
Shelter -----	2.8	2.5	1.8	4.2	5.5	2.2	2.0	1.3	.9	2.9
Rent, residential -----	1.2	1.2	⁵ 1.1	⁽³⁾	1.4	⁵ .6	.7	⁽³⁾	⁵ 1.0	1.5
Homeownership costs -----	3.2	2.8	1.8	4.7	6.5	2.3	2.2	1.4	.6	3.2
Fuel and utilities -----	2.7	5.8	2.1	2.4	-1.8	1.9	1.4	1.3	4.8	3.7
Fuel oil and coal -----	5.8	9.7	6.7	.7	-	-	5.2	6.2	4.2	-
Gas and electricity -----	3.0	4.0	1.7	3.7	-3.2	3.0	1.6	-.7	7.1	5.2
Household furnishings and operation -----	5.5	5.0	4.9	3.9	7.1	4.2	5.2	4.2	3.2	5.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.3	.7	-.5	1.5	2.0	1.5	.2	.2	-.4	1.6
Men's and boys' -----	1.3	-3.5	-2.2	4.5	.7	1.8	2.1	-3.2	-1.5	2.1
Women's and girls' -----	.4	1.8	-2.6	-1.3	.5	-1.1	-2.7	1.7	-.2	.7
Footwear -----	.4	1.2	-.4	-.8	1.2	.3	.4	-4.1	-2.3	.6
Transportation -----	6.1	6.4	6.5	4.4	5.3	5.9	5.3	5.4	5.8	5.9
Private -----	6.6	7.1	7.8	4.9	5.7	6.0	5.4	6.8	6.6	6.5
Public -----	1.6	1.6	-.6	-.1	1.0	5.3	3.6	.9	1.5	1.6
Health and recreation -----	3.4	2.7	2.9	4.0	4.0	3.4	2.9	4.3	4.8	4.2
Medical care -----	4.0	3.1	4.6	3.2	4.9	4.5	2.8	3.7	5.6	5.5
Personal care -----	3.5	.9	⁽³⁾	4.2	2.8	⁽³⁾	2.8	⁽³⁾	1.6	2.5
Reading and recreation -----	3.2	1.7	2.2	2.9	2.0	3.0	2.3	6.0	4.0	1.6
Other goods and services -----	3.1	4.1	1.4	6.5	5.3	2.4	3.6	3.3	5.9	6.0

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.
² Revised index: June 1974, 163.1.
³ Not available.
⁴ Revised index: June 1974, 178.1.
⁵ Change from May 1974.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, July 1974 indexes, and percent changes from June 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 -----	160.5	160.6	166.7	154.6	151.6	178.7	158.4	160.4
Atlanta -----	162.7	163.6	173.6	157.7	160.2	180.0	157.5	159.7
Baltimore -----	163.1	162.7	165.2	158.5	151.3	182.4	160.2	164.3
Boston -----	161.6	162.2	165.1	159.5	149.5	180.9	158.2	159.3
Buffalo -----	159.9	159.2	172.5	155.6	150.6	175.3	149.5	164.1
Chicago -----	160.4	161.2	174.4	154.2	146.1	183.2	159.7	156.9
Cincinnati -----	163.2	165.4	176.1	154.7	165.2	176.3	166.2	155.0
Cleveland -----	159.2	159.6	169.1	147.5	161.8	181.3	154.8	157.8
Dallas -----	155.7	153.0	160.1	144.0	148.4	164.3	156.1	165.6
Detroit -----	162.6	163.0	188.6	157.1	151.6	171.3	160.1	161.5
Honolulu -----	156.9	157.5	177.0	152.2	151.8	156.5	156.0	154.5
Houston -----	162.7	159.8	162.7	155.0	162.8	167.0	158.2	172.8
Kansas City -----	160.7	161.3	166.4	153.8	170.5	161.9	161.8	158.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	155.5	157.4	164.4	153.3	148.2	170.1	155.7	150.2
Milwaukee -----	154.8	155.1	165.5	149.3	147.5	169.1	153.9	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	162.9	162.0	175.8	157.3	159.3	163.8	160.8	166.4
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	165.0	165.1	166.8	158.5	154.4	194.5	159.3	164.9
Philadelphia -----	164.5	162.5	167.2	159.6	150.8	181.6	157.5	173.1
Pittsburgh -----	162.9	161.6	169.6	153.7	143.2	191.1	158.9	170.7
St. Louis -----	157.6	157.6	172.8	146.7	155.0	172.5	154.6	157.4
San Diego -----	159.2	157.3	159.2	158.4	147.9	167.4	153.8	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland -----	154.8	157.9	157.9	154.7	148.1	171.7	159.3	144.0
Seattle -----	155.3	157.6	162.6	156.2	150.4	161.8	159.3	148.0
Washington -----	164.4	163.3	169.6	150.0	143.8	198.2	167.8	167.0
Percent changes June 1974 to July 1974								
U. S. city average -----	0.1	-0.2	0.8	-0.3	-1.4	-2.4	2.6	1.1
Atlanta -----	.1	.1	1.2	.2	.2	-3.3	1.3	.5
Baltimore -----	.7	.9	1.0	.1	0	1.1	2.5	.1
Boston -----	1.1	.9	2.0	-.6	.3	.8	3.1	2.2
Buffalo -----	.1	0	2.1	-.4	-.5	-2.3	2.0	.3
Chicago -----	.2	-.1	1.2	.1	-3.2	-1.3	2.6	1.0
Cincinnati -----	.7	.8	.4	.8	0	-.7	3.2	.3
Cleveland -----	.3	.3	3.0	-1.5	-2.2	.7	2.7	.6
Dallas -----	.2	-.2	.6	-1.6	-.1	-3.0	3.2	1.6
Detroit -----	-.1	-.4	.9	-.2	-4.0	-2.0	2.3	1.4
Honolulu -----	.2	-.1	.4	-2.2	-.5	2.0	2.0	1.0
Houston -----	.8	.4	-.2	.7	-.1	-1.1	2.1	1.9
Kansas City -----	.2	0	.6	1.0	-2.5	-3.2	2.9	.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	.1	-.1	1.5	-1.4	-.6	-2.5	2.8	.9
Milwaukee -----	-.9	-1.1	-.5	-.5	-4.4	-3.3	1.8	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	.5	.2	-1.0	-.2	.2	-1.0	2.6	1.3
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	.4	.1	1.2	-.2	-1.5	-1.1	2.6	1.2
Philadelphia -----	.8	0	.8	.1	-1.6	-1.4	2.3	4.0
Pittsburgh -----	.1	-.3	.5	.3	-4.8	-.8	1.9	2.0
St. Louis -----	-.1	-.2	-.1	1.9	-2.7	-4.4	2.9	.3
San Diego -----	.6	.8	1.2	.3	-.3	-.7	3.4	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland -----	-.1	-.4	1.0	-1.8	-.7	-2.0	2.8	1.3
Seattle -----	-.1	-.2	1.6	-.8	-.6	-2.8	2.2	.5
Washington -----	.3	.5	.2	-2.0	-.8	1.7	3.8	-.1

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, July 1974 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to July 1974 from—		
	July 1974		July 1973	June 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	160.5	159.4	13.9	0.1	-0.4
Food away from home	160.4	160.6	13.8	1.1	1.1
Restaurant meals	160.3	160.5	13.1	.8	-.9
Snacks	160.9	161.1	17.1	3.2	3.1
Food at home	160.6	159.0	14.0	-.2	-.9
Cereals and bakery products	166.7	166.7	35.0	.8	.7
Flour	170.8	171.3	45.1	-1.2	-1.4
Cracker meal	190.6	190.6	33.4	1.0	1.4
Corn flakes	136.1	135.4	29.1	3.5	3.0
Rice	244.0	246.5	91.4	-.5	.3
Bread, white	160.0	160.0	31.6	.3	-.2
Bread, whole wheat	163.5	164.0	27.5	1.1	.6
Cookies	143.7	143.6	26.6	2.1	1.2
Layer cakes	156.3	156.5	23.0	1.3	1.2
Cinnamon rolls	163.0	163.5	26.4	1.7	2.2
Meats, poultry, and fish	154.6	152.5	-2.0	-.3	-1.4
Meats	154.0	152.0	-2.4	-.5	-1.7
Beef and veal	161.0	158.3	-2.0	-1.8	-3.1
Steak, round	158.7	157.6	-1.1	-.6	-.9
Steak, sirloin	151.7	146.6	-.1	-.7	-3.4
Steak, porterhouse	154.1	149.2	-.2	-.4	-2.9
Rump roast	155.8	155.3	-.2	-.6	-.2
Rib roast	161.9	160.0	-1.5	-.1	-1.4
Chuck roast	160.7	159.9	-7.4	.4	-.4
Hamburger	164.0	162.1	-4.4	-4.5	-5.3
Beef liver	151.7	149.6	-3.3	-2.8	-3.7
Veal cutlets	195.7	192.8	3.1	-1.1	-2.2
Pork	145.9	143.9	-4.9	3.3	.8
Chops	152.8	148.5	1.3	10.1	5.7
Roast	158.6	156.3	1.7	10.1	7.3
Pork sausage	158.5	157.4	-6.3	-2.1	-3.0
Ham, whole	131.7	133.3	-6.5	-3.0	-3.5
Picnics	144.4	145.0	-9.2	1.6	.4
Bacon	132.4	131.3	-11.5	-.7	-2.4
Other meats	150.2	149.6	.2	-2.5	-2.8
Lamb chops	160.0	158.1	9.2	1.7	.8
Frankfurters	143.3	142.7	-8.4	-5.4	-6.0
Ham, canned	141.8	143.8	.6	-4.8	-4.1
Bologna sausage	154.3	153.4	-1.7	-2.4	-2.8
Salami sausage	152.1	151.0	1.7	-2.3	-2.6
Liverwurst	149.5	149.1	.3	-2.3	-2.4
Poultry	136.2	132.4	-11.9	.3	-1.0
Frying chicken	137.1	132.2	-13.3	1.0	-.8
Chicken breasts	138.9	137.3	-5.7	.4	-.4
Turkey	129.8	129.9	-10.7	-3.3	-3.2
Fish	188.2	188.4	14.9	.6	.9
Shrimp, frozen	168.9	168.1	6.8	-.2	.2
Fish, fresh or frozen	216.4	216.0	13.8	.5	.4
Tuna fish, canned	170.9	171.4	17.2	.8	1.5
Sardines, canned	196.9	198.5	21.8	1.1	1.6
Dairy products	151.6	151.6	22.2	-1.4	-1.6
Milk, fresh, grocery	152.5	152.8	24.1	-1.9	-2.1
Milk, fresh, skim	165.1	165.3	26.1	-1.6	-1.5
Milk, evaporated	174.7	174.4	30.3	1.4	1.6
Ice cream	134.2	133.8	21.7	.8	0
Cheese, American process	166.2	166.2	21.9	-3.2	-2.8
Butter	109.0	109.4	6.2	-.8	-.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, July 1974 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

Item and group	Index		Percent change to July 1974 from—		
	July 1974		July 1973	June 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables	178.7	171.2	16.3	-2.4	-2.2
Fresh fruits and vegetables	182.9	170.0	6.8	-3.9	-3.8
Fresh fruits	164.7	149.5	6.5	-2.0	-4.2
Apples	189.2	159.5	6.7	7.6	1.0
Bananas	125.1	121.1	10.5	-16.1	-16.0
Oranges	148.3	147.7	9.5	-.8	-3.5
Orange juice, fresh	138.4	138.3	4.4	-.4	-.6
Grapefruit	154.1	141.8	-3.7	4.8	(1)
Grapes	217.6	180.6	9.0	(1)	(1)
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	168.2	176.5	2.1	-22.0	-2.6
Fresh vegetables	197.6	187.7	6.9	-5.2	-2.4
Potatoes	278.0	238.6	11.8	-14.0	-18.4
Onions	147.8	135.7	-15.7	-1.9	-3.1
Asparagus	176.7	183.9	12.9	4.7	1.9
Cabbage	160.2	160.0	-4.1	-2.8	2.1
Carrots	158.4	152.7	10.6	4.6	2.8
Celery	173.4	164.7	9.1	11.3	7.5
Cucumbers	144.9	159.9	13.3	3.9	15.3
Lettuce	181.3	176.5	-3.8	-3.9	-5.8
Peppers, green	187.8	197.3	29.6	9.4	26.3
Spinach	178.7	178.0	7.5	.8	-.6
Tomatoes	166.9	155.7	3.5	-7.7	-7.3
Processed fruits and vegetables	172.6	173.1	35.3	.2	.2
Fruit cocktail, canned	153.6	153.8	18.9	3.2	3.0
Pears, canned	139.8	140.1	11.8	2.3	2.4
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	132.7	133.0	11.0	2.3	2.3
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	140.9	140.5	3.6	-.2	-.7
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	135.3	136.9	13.7	1.8	2.6
Beets, canned	160.1	160.3	14.8	.9	1.3
Peas, green, canned	128.0	128.1	16.2	2.7	2.5
Tomatoes, canned	147.2	147.2	17.7	1.1	1.3
Dried beans	418.1	424.5	176.9	-3.6	-3.4
Broccoli, frozen	135.8	135.5	10.8	1.0	1.0
Other food at home	158.4	160.0	23.3	2.6	2.0
Eggs	127.8	135.7	-15.5	-.5	-6.3
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	194.4	195.2	54.7	-.4	.4
Salad dressing, Italian	129.5	129.4	18.3	1.0	.6
Salad or cooking oil	192.2	193.9	49.9	-.2	.6
Sugar and sweets	195.1	195.1	52.5	6.0	6.1
Sugar	266.2	266.5	115.5	13.4	13.5
Grape jelly	175.7	175.5	30.5	8.0	8.2
Chocolate bar	191.6	191.2	40.3	.3	.3
Syrup, chocolate flavored	156.6	157.7	35.0	-.9	1.5
Nonalcoholic beverages	158.1	157.8	20.0	2.8	2.7
Coffee, can	163.4	163.2	18.2	1.9	1.4
Coffee, instant	161.1	161.1	20.9	1.7	2.3
Tea	120.4	119.9	8.2	1.2	1.3
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	165.8	165.6	25.9	4.5	4.8
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	166.8	166.5	27.0	5.5	5.7
Prepared and partially prepared foods	146.5	146.9	23.8	3.0	3.2
Bean soup, canned	174.5	175.0	47.5	4.6	5.0
Chicken soup, canned	131.7	132.2	24.4	2.0	2.2
Spaghetti, canned	145.1	145.2	17.4	4.3	4.2
Mashed potatoes, instant	142.3	142.0	20.2	3.7	4.3
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	153.1	153.3	33.9	4.6	4.8
Baby foods	140.5	140.8	22.6	2.7	2.6
Sweet pickle relish	140.8	142.5	7.3	1	.8
Pretzels	143.9	143.8	22.2	1.3	1.7

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, July 1974, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to July 1974 from:	
		June 1974	July 1974	July 1973	June 1974
Housing		149.2	150.9	12.4	1.1
Shelter ¹		152.8	154.4	10.5	1.0
Rent, residential		129.8	130.3	4.7	.4
Homeownership ²		161.2	163.2	12.4	1.2
Mortgage interest rates		136.8	139.7	17.3	2.1
Property taxes		149.9	149.8	-1.8	-.1
Property insurance premiums		124.6	124.1	-.6	-.4
Maintenance and repairs		171.2	174.1	14.4	1.7
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		153.1	154.9	11.7	1.2
Exterior house paint		135.5	136.3	14.3	.6
Interior house paint		131.1	133.5	11.8	1.8
Maintenance and repair services		179.0	182.4	15.4	1.9
Repainting living and dining rooms		188.4	192.4	12.2	2.1
Reshingling house roof		196.1	200.3	21.3	2.1
Residing house		169.6	172.9	18.5	1.9
Replacing sink		174.0	177.0	14.0	1.7
Repairing furnace		175.1	177.4	8.8	1.3
Fuel and utilities		149.4	150.9	20.0	1.0
Fuel oil and coal		214.2	218.5	65.9	2.0
Fuel oil, No. 2		213.8	217.7	66.4	1.8
Gas and electricity		144.5	146.2	16.5	1.2
Gas		141.1	143.3	13.3	1.6
Electricity		147.7	148.9	19.5	.8
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		121.1	121.2	4.6	.1
Residential water and sewerage services		154.4	154.7	5.2	.2
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		139.2	141.4	13.1	1.6
Housefurnishings		129.6	131.0	10.0	1.1
Textiles		131.1	131.6	14.3	.4
Sheets		137.5	135.4	16.0	-1.5
Curtains, tailored		125.3	126.6	9.9	1.0
Bedspreads		135.9	137.7	24.5	1.3
Drapery fabric		151.8	155.4	21.8	2.4
Pillows, bed		110.4	108.3	4.2	-1.9
Slipcovers and throws, ready made		125.2	125.4	8.0	.2
Furniture and bedding		136.3	136.5	8.4	.1
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	120.7	121.9	10.4	1.0
Sofas, upholstered		130.8	132.1	6.5	1.0
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	115.7	116.1	11.4	.3
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	120.7	122.3	11.1	1.3
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	105.1	160.9	7.0	1.7
Sofas, dual purpose		128.0	129.4	7.5	1.1
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	118.1	119.3	10.7	1.0
Aluminum folding chairs		142.2	126.5	-2.2	-11.0
Cribs		137.0	138.3	10.2	.9
Floor coverings		117.0	119.7	10.2	2.3
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		111.0	112.7	9.0	1.5
Vinyl sheet goods		127.9	132.0	8.9	3.2
Vinyl asbestos tile		134.3	139.8	16.5	4.1
Appliances excluding radio and T. V.		113.7	115.0	4.8	1.1
Washing machines, electric, automatic		114.7	116.2	4.9	1.3
Vacuum cleaners		107.3	108.0	3.1	.7
Refrigerators-freezers, electric		111.4	113.2	4.8	1.6
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		113.9	114.7	4.7	.7
Clothes dryers, electric		119.2	121.3	6.0	1.8
Air conditioners, demountable		113.9	114.2	3.3	.3
Room heaters, electric, portable		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Garbage disposal units		115.9	117.1	4.6	1.0
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		144.5	149.4	13.8	3.4
Flatware, stainless steel		145.3	149.1	12.9	2.6
Table lamps, with shade		134.5	136.0	5.2	1.1
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		132.7	132.3	8.3	-.3
Electric drills, hand-held		112.1	113.4	6.1	1.2
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		128.3	132.3	17.4	3.1
Paper napkins		163.2	167.2	20.2	2.5
Toilet tissue		154.3	157.0	21.2	1.7
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		176.4	185.6	26.9	5.2
Baby sitter services		167.8	172.4	20.8	2.7
Postal charges		175.3	175.3	19.6	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished services		170.8	172.4	15.7	.9
Licensed day care services, preschool child		140.7	142.0	8.4	.9
Washing machine repairs		164.1	165.3	10.9	.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, July 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

Item and group	Other index base	Index		Percent change to July 1974 from:	
		June 1974	July 1974	July 1973	June 1974
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		135.7	135.3	7.6	-.3
Apparel commodities		135.6	135.0	7.1	-.4
Apparel commodities less footwear		135.2	134.6	7.5	-.4
Men's and boys'		137.0	136.0	8.5	-.7
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Suits, year round weight		137.2	131.1	1.0	-4.4
Sport jacket	June 74	100.0	95.8	(7)	-4.2
Jackets, lightweight		125.2	125.5	6.6	.2
Slacks, wool or wool blends		115.8	115.7	1.0	-1.1
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		143.2	141.0	2.0	-1.5
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		138.8	142.2	18.3	2.4
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		141.6	143.6	18.7	1.4
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		122.4	122.0	7.7	-.3
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		142.7	143.5	16.9	.6
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		121.3	122.0	3.7	.6
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton		142.9	144.4	20.3	1.0
Boys' :					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends		161.3	163.8	18.5	1.5
Undershorts, cotton		141.6	142.5	15.5	.6
Women's and girls'					
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Sweaters, wool or acrylic		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Skirts, wool or wool blend or manmade fibers		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Skirts, cotton or polyester/ cotton		139.1	130.9	7.8	-5.9
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers		133.5	131.7	5.7	-1.3
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fibers		138.7	138.4	4.1	-.2
Slips, nylon		114.7	114.9	3.2	.2
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot		127.8	128.9	7.5	.9
Girdles, manmade blend		122.3	122.5	4.1	.2
Brassieres, nylon lace		131.8	132.5	6.8	.5
Hose or panty hose, nylon seamless		92.1	92.2	-2.1	.1
Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers		121.7	124.3	8.7	2.1
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton		121.7	121.4	9.0	-.2
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic		162.2	162.7	7.4	.3
Girls' :					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends		132.7	133.0	8.4	.2
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Slips, polyester blends		116.0	116.8	6.5	.7
Handbags, plastic		145.6	146.0	12.1	.3
Footwear		137.4	136.9	5.4	-.4
Men's:					
Shoes, street		141.9	142.8	7.0	.6
Shoes, work, high		148.2	148.6	7.7	.3
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		134.9	131.3	2.5	-2.7
Shoes, evening, pump		127.9	127.3	2.1	-.5
Shoes, casual		138.5	135.4	4.7	-2.2
House slippers, scuff		133.8	134.9	4.9	.8
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		138.3	139.6	5.3	.9
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		138.0	138.7	10.4	.5
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump		141.0	140.6	8.4	-.3
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable		150.8	159.1	33.6	5.5
Yard goods, polyester blend		157.3	159.7	27.9	1.5
Wrist watches, men's and women's		126.0	126.2	5.2	.2
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses		135.1	136.3	12.1	.9
Automatic laundry service		124.2	125.1	6.0	.7
Laundry, men's shirts		143.1	145.3	12.9	1.5
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment		147.5	148.2	7.2	.5
Shoe repair, women's heel lift		131.3	132.0	8.5	.5

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index base	Index		Percent change to July 1974 from:	
		June 1974	July 1974	July 1973	June 1974
Transportation -----		140.7	142.6	14.3	1.4
Private ⁸ -----		139.8	141.9	15.7	1.5
Automobiles, new -----		116.4	118.0	6.4	1.4
Automobiles, used -----		133.6	140.2	14.3	4.9
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		166.9	167.7	41.2	.5
Motor oil, premium -----		145.2	147.3	15.0	1.4
Tires, new, tubeless -----		118.9	120.9	9.6	1.7
Auto repairs and maintenance ⁹ -----		154.3	157.0	10.2	1.7
Auto insurance rates -----		138.2	138.4	.2	.1
Auto registration -----		128.9	128.9	4.2	0
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		157.5	159.4	3.4	1.2
Public -----		148.6	148.6	2.6	0
Local transit fares -----		147.5	147.5	-1.9	0
Taxicab fares -----		154.1	154.1	11.4	0
Railroad fares, coach -----		140.5	140.5	14.6	0
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		148.2	148.2	10.2	0
Bus fares, intercity -----		159.5	159.5	9.3	0
Health and recreation -----		139.4	141.0	8.2	1.1
Medical care -----		149.4	151.4	10.3	1.3
Drugs and prescriptions -----		108.7	109.5	3.4	.7
Over-the-counter items -----		116.6	117.5	4.5	.8
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		96.7	97.6	3.2	.9
Aspirin compounds -----		120.4	122.5	4.2	1.7
Liquid tonics -----		105.7	106.4	4.5	.7
Adhesive bandages, packages -----		135.2	136.7	8.2	1.1
Cold tablets or capsules -----		115.8	116.1	1.1	.3
Cough syrup -----		121.0	121.2	5.0	.2
Prescriptions -----		102.0	102.7	2.3	.7
Anti-infectives -----		67.8	68.7	-3.2	1.3
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		138.0	140.5	8.9	1.8
Ataractics -----		104.6	104.5	.7	-1.1
Antispasmodics -----		109.3	110.1	2.0	.7
Cough preparations -----		145.5	147.3	7.0	1.2
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives -----		115.0	115.5	2.4	.4
Analgesics, internal -----		112.4	112.9	1.5	.4
Anti-obesity -----		121.1	121.4	3.7	.2
Hormones -----		95.0	94.9	3.9	-1.1
Professional services: -----					
Physicians' fees -----		150.3	152.3	10.2	1.3
General physician, office visits -----		154.1	156.0	11.8	1.2
General physician, house visits -----		151.2	152.6	7.8	.9
Obstetrical cases -----		147.8	151.0	9.1	2.2
Pediatric care, office visits -----		152.4	154.2	9.8	1.2
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		140.1	142.0	6.1	1.4
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		137.6	139.2	6.0	1.2
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		142.5	145.4	9.1	2.0
Dentists' fees -----		145.7	147.4	7.8	1.2
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		149.0	150.2	8.1	.8
Extractions, adult -----		145.3	147.3	8.3	1.4
Dentures, full upper -----		139.4	141.7	6.8	1.6
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		139.0	139.7	7.6	.5
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis -----		133.0	136.2	11.2	2.4
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	113.6	115.3	9.2	1.5
Semiprivate rooms -----		198.4	202.6	11.4	2.1
Operating room charges -----		196.9	199.5	11.3	1.3
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G. I. -----		138.3	140.1	6.2	1.3
Laboratory tests, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	110.3	111.2	6.6	.8
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	104.1	104.5	7.1	.4
Tranquilizer, chlordiazepoxide, HCL and meprobamate -----	Jan. 72	108.5	108.7	3.6	.2
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	111.6	112.1	7.3	.4
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	108.0	108.9	4.9	.8
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	114.1	115.8	8.5	1.5
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	110.2	111.6	7.8	1.3
Personal care -----		136.5	137.8	10.0	1.0
Toilet goods -----		132.4	134.1	12.0	1.3
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		113.8	114.7	5.1	.8
Toilet soap, hard-milled -----		172.3	178.2	39.2	3.4
Hand lotions, liquid -----		133.3	134.2	6.9	.7
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		109.9	110.4	1.5	.5
Face powder, pressed -----		154.0	156.4	6.7	1.6
Deodorants, aerosol -----		103.4	103.7	-1.1	.3
Cleansing tissues -----		154.6	156.1	24.9	1.0
Home permanent wave kits -----		111.9	112.3	2.6	.4
Personal care services -----		140.8	141.7	8.1	.6
Men's haircuts -----		143.5	144.7	8.1	.8
Beauty shop services -----		138.8	139.5	7.9	.5
Women's haircuts -----		146.9	148.0	10.3	.7
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		142.0	142.6	7.4	.4
Permanent waves, cold -----		123.6	124.3	6.4	.6

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Item and group	Other index base	Index		Percent change to July 1974 from:	
		June 1974	July 1974	July 1973	June 1974
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation ¹⁰		133.5	134.6	6.7	0.8
Recreational goods		114.3	115.1	5.2	.7
TV sets, portable and console		98.5	98.6	1.0	.1
TV replacement tubes		139.6	139.9	3.8	.2
Radios, portable and table model		101.5	102.1	2.6	.6
Tape recorders, portable		95.1	95.4	2.1	.3
Phonograph records, stereophonic		111.3	113.4	5.0	1.9
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		91.6	91.9	2.2	.3
Film, 35mm, color		112.7	113.5	5.5	.7
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		104.3	104.8	1.6	.5
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		132.7	134.3	5.7	1.2
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		114.8	115.0	4.8	.2
Bowling balls		119.4	121.1	4.8	1.4
Bicycles, boys'		133.0	135.5	10.3	1.9
Tricycles		123.6	124.0	6.7	.3
Dog food, canned or boxed		145.2	146.2	18.0	.7
Recreational services		140.3	141.6	6.3	.9
Indoor movie admissions		157.8	160.0	7.7	1.4
Adult		155.5	158.1	7.8	1.7
Children's		164.2	165.2	7.3	.6
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		164.1	167.3	9.4	2.0
Bowling fees, evening		129.2	129.4	5.0	.2
Golf green fees		147.3	147.4	6.9	.1
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		101.5	101.6	1.4	.1
Film developing, color		117.7	118.9	2.3	1.0
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		157.4	160.3	17.5	1.8
Magazines, single copy and subscription		140.7	140.8	3.5	.1
Piano lessons, beginner		132.7	133.4	5.7	.5
Other goods and services		135.8	137.7	6.3	1.4
Tobacco products		142.8	144.9	5.2	1.5
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		144.8	146.6	5.2	1.2
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		144.5	147.1	5.1	1.8
Cigars, domestic, regular size		119.4	119.9	5.6	.4
Alcoholic beverages		130.0	131.8	7.3	1.4
Beer		124.6	126.2	8.8	1.3
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		109.7	110.5	1.4	.7
Wine, dessert and table		146.6	147.4	7.7	.5
Beer away from home		143.6	146.6	8.4	2.1
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		134.9	135.4	7.1	.4
Bank service charges, checking accounts		103.2	103.4	-3.4	.2
Legal services, short form will		175.5	177.8	8.9	1.3

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

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

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

⁵ Priced only in season.

⁶ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

⁷ Not available.

⁸ Also includes recapped tires 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 onboard 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 July 1974 from— June 1974	Index		Percent change to July 1974 from— June 1974
	June 1974	July 1974		June 1974	July 1974	
U. S. city average ² -----	169.2	169.9	0.4	161.4	162.3	0.6
Atlanta -----	140.6	142.6	1.4	136.6	138.4	1.3
Baltimore -----	139.0	139.1	.1	135.5	136.5	.7
Boston -----	134.9	137.0	1.6	131.4	133.5	1.6
Buffalo -----	143.2	144.4	.8	140.1	141.5	1.0
Chicago -----	138.0	137.8	-.1	133.1	133.1	0
Cincinnati -----	140.4	140.6	.1	136.7	136.5	-.1
Cleveland -----	139.8	136.1	-2.6	136.2	132.8	-2.5
Dallas -----	146.3	145.2	-.8	140.5	141.0	.4
Detroit -----	138.3	137.6	-.5	133.7	134.2	.4
Honolulu -----	132.5	133.0	.4	129.8	130.0	.2
Houston -----	143.5	141.8	-1.2	139.1	138.6	-.4
Kansas City -----	140.1	141.4	.9	136.2	138.1	1.4
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	136.3	135.9	-.3	133.5	132.5	-.7
Milwaukee -----	141.5	140.6	-.6	136.0	136.8	.6
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	140.1	141.2	.8	135.1	136.1	.7
New York—Northeastern N. J. -----	139.3	139.7	.3	137.0	137.5	.4
Philadelphia -----	139.4	139.7	.2	135.0	135.5	.4
Pittsburgh -----	136.4	137.2	.6	132.4	133.4	.8
St. Louis -----	137.2	137.1	-.1	134.0	134.5	.4
San Diego -----	134.9	135.1	.1	132.8	132.7	-.1
San Francisco—Oakland -----	134.9	136.8	1.4	131.8	132.9	.8
Seattle -----	135.5	134.3	-.9	132.3	130.9	-1.1
Washington -----	135.6	136.0	.3	131.6	132.1	.4

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					
	May 1974	June 1974	July 1974	May 1974	June 1974	July 1974
U. S. city average -----	\$0.550	\$0.556	\$0.558	\$0.587	\$0.591	\$0.594
Atlanta -----	.544	.559	.567	.579	.592	.599
Baltimore -----	.564	.569	.569	.603	.607	.611
Boston -----	.541	.546	.554	.580	.583	.592
Buffalo -----	.568	.577	.582	.607	.613	.619
Chicago -----	.569	.580	.580	.605	.611	.611
Cincinnati -----	.567	.569	.569	.606	.607	.611
Cleveland -----	.568	.569	.554	.603	.606	.606
Dallas -----	.507	.515	.511	.540	.547	.591
Detroit -----	.573	.577	.574	.613	.611	.618
Honolulu -----	.588	.599	.610	.623	.632	.633
Houston -----	.489	.498	.492	.526	.536	.534
Kansas City -----	.528	.535	.540	.566	.574	.582
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	.549	.550	.549	.587	.587	.583
Milwaukee -----	.532	.545	.541	.571	.575	.578
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	.548	.554	.558	.583	.587	.591
New York—Northeastern N. J. -----	.578	.590	.592	.620	.628	.630
Philadelphia -----	.548	.557	.558	.592	.598	.601
Pittsburgh -----	.545	.546	.549	.584	.585	.589
St. Louis -----	.545	.558	.557	.584	.594	.596
San Diego -----	.555	.558	.559	.591	.596	.596
San Francisco—Oakland -----	.571	.576	.584	.607	.611	.617
Seattle -----	.535	.546	.541	.577	.585	.579
Washington -----	.558	.561	.563	.600	.600	.602

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	0.005x100
Equals percent change:	0.5

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

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

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

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

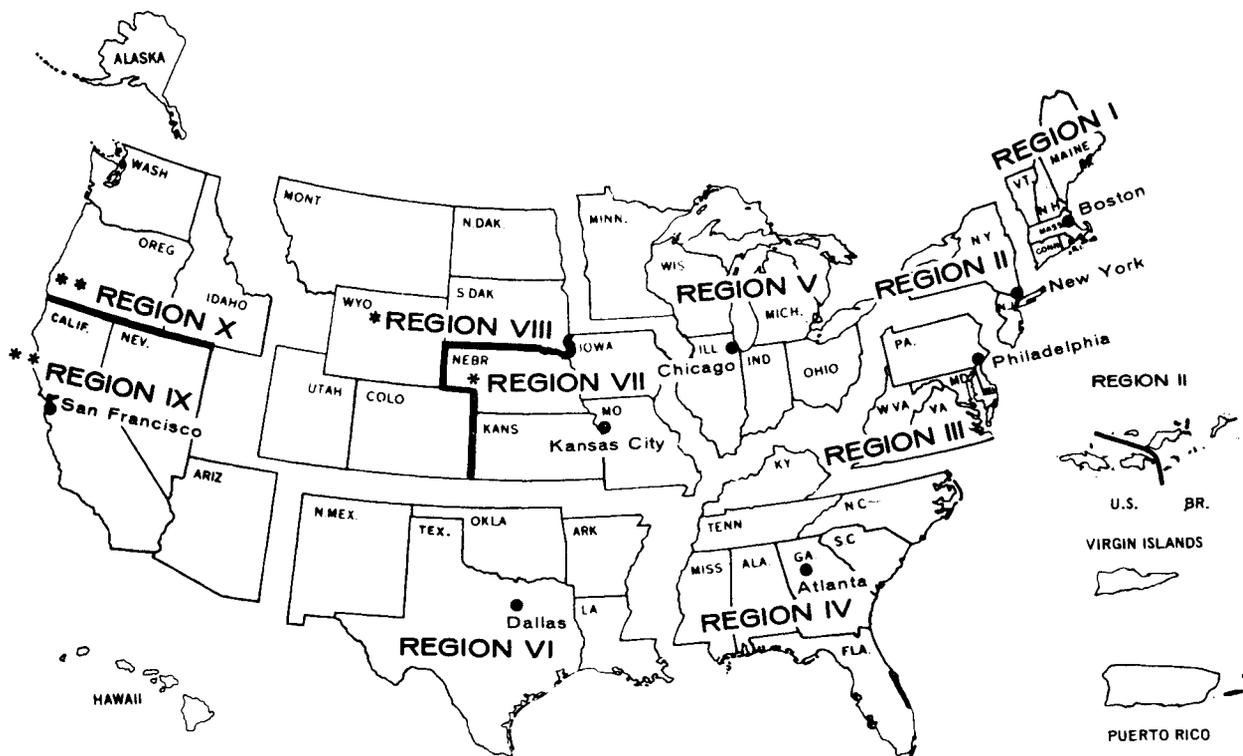
Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. As the table indicates, for example, a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all-items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might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

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

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

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