

the consumer price index

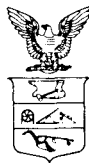
U.S. CITY AVERAGE
AND
SELECTED AREAS



for August 1972

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

December 1972



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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

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for August 1972

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Price Movements August 1972

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 percent in August to 125.7 percent of its 1967 base. Most of the increase was due to higher prices for meats, restaurant meals, gasoline, household services, and used cars. The increase after seasonal adjustment was also 0.2 percent.

In the 12 months ending in August, the first year of the Economic Stabilization Program, the CPI rose 2.9 percent. (See table B.) This increase compared with a rise of 4.4 percent in the preceding 12-month period and an advance at a rate of 3.8 percent in the first 8 months of 1971 before the Stabilization Program went into effect. Increases in charges for services were markedly slower than in the period before the program began.

In August, the food index, which includes both food purchased in grocery stores and restaurant meals, rose 0.5 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis, following an increase of 0.6 percent in July and 0.2 percent in June. The index for nonfood commodities, which held steady in June, rose 0.3 percent in both July and August. The services index increased 0.2 percent in August compared with 0.3 percent in the 2 preceding months.

Food

Before seasonal adjustment, the August index for food purchased in grocery stores increased 0.2 percent, instead of declining slightly as it usually does. The increase, however, was substantially smaller than in June and July because of smaller price increases for meats, eggs, and fresh fruits, and declines in prices of poultry, fresh vegetables, and dairy products.

Meat prices rose 0.9 percent in August, slightly more than the usual seasonal increase but less than the increases of 1.5 percent in June and 3.0 percent in July. Meat prices, which turned up sharply in late 1971, advanced every month this year except in April and May. In August of this year, they were 11.9 percent higher than in August 1971.

The behavior of beef prices was an important factor in the slower rise in meat prices in August compared with June and July. Increases in beef prices at retail became smaller as wholesale prices leveled out in July. In August,

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

Month	Change from preceding month							Change 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
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed			
August 1971	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.1	.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
July .....	.4	.4	1.0	.6	0	.3	.3	3.3	3.2	3.0
August .....	.2	.2	.3	.5	.1	.3	.2	2.9	2.5	2.9

Table B. Percent changes in CPI and selected components before and during Economic Stabilization Program

(Seasonally adjusted annual rates)

Component	12 months before Phase I (August 1970 to August 1971)	1971 before Phase I (December 1970 to August 1971)	3 months, Phase I, (August 1971 to November 1971)	9 months, Phase II, (November 1971 to August 1972)	12 months Phases I and II (August 1971 to August 1972)
All items	4.4	3.8	1.9	3.3	2.9
Food	3.5	5.0	1.7	4.6	3.8
Commodities less food	4.0	2.9	0	2.7	2.0
Services	5.5	4.6	3.1	3.5	3.4

wholesale beef prices declined sharply because of increased production coupled with the rise in consumer resistance to purchases of beef. Although a similar resistance developed earlier this year when prices rose sharply, the demand for beef generally has been strong during the past year because of rising income.

Retail pork prices also contributed to the slower rise in meat prices in August. The increase of 1.1 percent in August was slightly less than seasonal, and considerably smaller than the 2.3 percent increase in June and the 5.3 percent advance in July. After a sharp rise in wholesale pork prices in July there was a slight decline in August; hog prices rose, instead of falling as is usual. Hog prices, which have advanced almost steadily since late 1971 because of smaller supplies, were 48.9 percent higher this August than in August 1971. Reflecting the increase in hog prices and sharp reductions in pork production and cold storage holdings, pork prices at wholesale were 25 percent higher and retail prices 17.3 percent higher this August than in August 1971.

Fish prices rose 0.6 percent, about the same rise as in the 2 preceding months, and somewhat less than earlier this year.

Retail prices for poultry declined 1.1 percent in August, following an increase of 2.7 percent in July. The August decline was much sharper than usual. The demand for poultry, which was particularly strong early in June, slowed subsequently, and cold storage holdings increased 29 percent between the end of June and the end of July, despite a reduction of 6 percent in poultry slaughtered under Federal inspection. Poultry prices, which have been relatively stable during the past year compared with meat and fish prices, were down 1.3 percent this August from their year-earlier level.

Egg prices, which climbed sharply in July, rose a less-than-seasonal 3.0 percent in August. Prices were restrained from advancing as sharply as they usually do as production increased 2 percent and cold storage holdings rose 6 percent in July. Compared with the year-earlier level, egg production this July, as in May and June, was down slightly, but cold storage holdings remained

sharply higher. Egg prices this August were down 4.3 percent from their levels in August 1971.

The index for fruits and vegetables declined in August for the first time since March. Fresh vegetable prices, which rose contraseasonally in June and July, declined 1.3 percent in August. The decline, however, was considerably less than usual. Lighter supplies than usual due to adverse weather conditions and smaller acreage planting pushed up potato and onion prices and kept prices of cabbages, cucumbers, and tomatoes from declining as much as they usually do in August. Because of large increases in recent months, both potato and onion prices this August were sharply higher than in August of 1971 and accounted for much of the 8.2 percent rise in the fresh vegetable index over the year. Fresh fruit prices, which rose seasonally in June and July, increased contraseasonally in August. The increase of 0.4 percent, however, was the smallest in 5 months. Large increases in the prices of apple and citrus fruits were almost offset by declines for bananas and grapes. Mostly because grape prices this August were considerably lower than in August 1971, the index for fresh fruits was just 0.7 percent higher than its year-earlier level.

Processed fruits and vegetable prices increased 0.2 percent in August, following an increase of 0.1 percent in each of the 2 preceding months. In August, prices rose sharply for canned vegetables—beets and tomatoes—and dried beans, but declined for most canned or frozen fruit juices. Prices of dried beans and canned beets have moved up almost steadily during the past year to a level considerably higher than their August 1971 level, but price increases during the year for most other items were moderate. The index for processed fruits and vegetables this August was 2.0 percent above its August 1971 level, an increase considerably smaller than that in the preceding 12-month period when prices rose substantially for all of these items.

Prices of dairy products declined in August for the fourth consecutive month, following increases in the first 4 months of this year. Prices declined in August for all dairy products except cheese, for which the demand

continued to outpace production. In August, the index for dairy products was just 0.5 percent above its year-earlier level, the smallest year-to-year increase since late 1965.

Commodities less food

The index of nonfood commodities increased 0.3 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis in August, the same as in July and substantially more than in June. Nevertheless, the rate of advance in the index in the 3 months ending in August was less than in the preceding 3-month period, and the same as in the 3-month period before that. Over the entire year that the Economic Stabilization Program has been in effect, prices of nonfood commodities in the CPI increased about 2/3 as much as their annual rate of increase in the 8 months of 1971 preceding the program. Although price rises accelerated from May to August for some commodities such as gasoline, houses, home repair and maintenance goods, and footwear, the effect of these increases on the index was moderated by lower prices for clothing, household durables, and other items primarily because of summer clearance sales.

The index for cereal and bakery products, which declined every month from April through July, held steady in August. The index this August was 0.1 percent below its year-earlier level. Bread prices rose, and flour prices held steady this August, but prices were lower for other items. Bread prices were higher because of the end of promotional sales and earlier increases granted by the Price Commission to manufacturers. Before August, flour prices had declined almost steadily this year.

Among other food purchased in grocery stores, prices of salad and cooking oils continued to decline in August, but coffee prices rose for the first time since October 1971. The increase reflected higher wholesale prices resulting from a frost in Brazil. Although the frost did not affect the crop already on the market, estimates of the 1973-74 crop destroyed range up to 40 percent, creating an immediate world wide demand and higher prices for green coffee.

The index for food away from home increased 0.5 percent in August. Monthly increases in this index ranged from 0.3 to 0.5 percent in the February to August period—slightly faster rates of increase than in late 1971 and early this year but slower than before the start of the Economic Stabilization Program. In the 12 months since August 1971, the index rose 3.8 percent, compared with 3.4 percent in the 8 months preceding the freeze. Slower rises in wages and a larger volume of business in restaurants helped to moderate somewhat the effect of large increases in wholesale prices for meats. Meats

account for 33 percent of the total cost of foods utilized by the Nation's food service operation.

Gasoline prices, which declined almost steadily from November to June, rose sharply in July and advanced further in August as major oil companies continued to withdraw discounts to dealers. In addition, the sales tax in California was applied to gasoline for the first time. The August increase brought gasoline prices 0.5 percent higher than their levels of a year ago.

The August increase in house prices was smaller than in June and July, but the increase for the 3 months ending in August was the largest since last summer. A sharp advance in lumber prices, which is one of the factors contributing to increases in new house prices, was primarily responsible for the large monthly increases in the prices of home maintenance and repair commodities from February through August of this year. Prices of small housefurnishings, particularly imported dinnerware and flatware, also increased significantly in the May to August period.

In contrast, prices of textile housefurnishings and major household durables declined from May to August primarily because of summer clearance sales. Furniture prices, which rose from February to May, declined each month from May to August. Prices this August were 1.3 percent higher than their August 1971 levels—the smallest 12-month increase since 1966. Competition from warehouse furniture outlets held prices down, although the demand for furniture increased sharply, as indicated by a 29 percent rise in new orders from July 1971 to July 1972. Appliance prices this August were at the same level as they were a year earlier, showing very little monthly change during the year. Floor covering prices, however, showed greater fluctuation; they declined almost steadily from November to February but increased from February to July partly because of a shortage of carpet yarns. Clearance sales of broadloom carpeting brought prices down in August, to a level 0.3 percent below the August 1971 level.

Prices for apparel commodities declined slightly more than they usually do in August. Clearance sales of seasonal items and sales of some year-round items were responsible for the decline. Following a seasonal increase in the spring, clothing prices declined more than they usually do in June and July. Apart from the influence of the Stabilization Program in limiting price increases, sales in women's apparel stores in the first 7 months of 1972 were just 1 percent higher than in the first 7 months of 1971. Sales in men's apparel stores, however, were 7 percent higher this year. Footwear prices rose 0.4 percent as retailers continued to pass along higher wholesale prices. Although shoe store sales in the first 7 months of this year were also just 1 percent higher

than in the first 7 months of 1971, footwear prices this August were 3.0 percent higher than their level of a year ago. Reflecting earlier increases in wholesale footwear prices caused by sharply advancing prices for hides and leather, retail prices increased more this spring than they usually do. Prices did not decline as they usually do in June and July and rose more than seasonally in August.

New car prices declined in June, July and August, but much less than they usually do in these months. The less than seasonal decline in new car prices this summer reflected extremely strong sales combined with relatively low inventories held by new car dealers. Domestic new car sales, which established new monthly sales record for 4 consecutive months, continued strong in August—15.9 percent more than the number of units sold a year earlier—but failed to surpass the August sales record established in 1955. The shortage of domestic cars also boosted imported car sales. Sales of imported cars accounted for 19 percent of the total U.S. market, the best since August 1971. The used car price index declined in August for the first time since February. The decline was not as large as usual for this time of the year, probably because of the uncertainty in the used car market caused partly by the Price Commission's temporary freeze on new car prices for 1973 models.

Price rises for most other nonfood commodities such as tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, newspapers, books, and magazines, drugs and prescriptions, toilet goods, and housekeeping supplies have been smaller in recent months—particularly in July and August—compared with increases earlier in the post-freeze period.

Services

The index for consumer services continued to rise at a moderate pace. The 0.2 percent rise in August was slightly less than in July and similar to most monthly increases since August of last year. More than half the August increases was due to higher charges for most household services. The index this August was 3.4 percent higher than its August 1971 level. In the 9 months of Phase II the services index rose at a rate of 3.5 percent compared with 4.6 percent in the first 8 months of 1971.

In August, charges for household services rose 0.3 percent, less than the increase of 0.5 percent in July and the same as in the 3 preceding months. Among home-ownership-related services, mortgage interest charges increased less in August than in July, and property insurance held steady following a large rise in July. Property taxes, however, rose more than in recent months as rate increases and property revaluations occurred in several areas. The increase was still considerably smaller than earlier this year. Among utilities, charges for electricity, which had been increasing sharply earlier this year—

particularly from March through June—declined slightly in July, and rose 0.2 percent in August. Charges for gas also increased 0.2 percent in August, after holding steady in July. In contrast to electricity, charges for gas rose moderately from January to April, and declined in May and June. Charges for home maintenance and repair services increased 0.4 percent in August, about the average monthly increase for this spring and summer. Charges for most housekeeping services increased in August, less than in July for baby-sitters and domestic services, but about the same as in recent months for laundry flatwork and household moving.

The index of medical care services increased 0.1 percent in August, compared with monthly increases of 0.3 percent between March and July, and 0.4 percent between December and March. The August slowdown was primarily due to a smaller rise in charges for semi-private hospital rooms. Operating room charges continued to increase sharply. The increase in physicians' and dentists' fees remained moderate.

Among other services, apparel services rose 0.3 percent in August, the largest increase since last September. Charges for tailoring, shoe repairs, and laundering shirts rose sharply. Personal care services increased 0.2 percent, the same as earlier monthly increases this year. Recreational services declined, however, for the first time this year, because of return to regular prices for movie admissions after more expensive special attractions. August increases of 0.1 percent in funeral charges and for legal services for writing short-term wills were smaller than earlier this year. The Price Commission recently imposed a 2.5 percent ceiling on increases in the fees of law firms that have more than 60 employees.

Following a large increase in January, the transportation services index moved up by 0.1 percent almost steadily through June. In July, it rose 0.2 percent, but was unchanged in August. The rise in the index in 1972 was moderated partly by declines in automobile insurance charges from last August through May of this year. Charges for auto insurance rose in June and July, but were unchanged in August. The behavior of auto insurance prices in the past year reflects the effects of improved underwriting experience, the Economic Stabilization Program, and actions of State legislatures and insurance departments. State legislatures in several States have passed no-fault laws which have resulted in greatly reducing liability premiums. Some form of an open rating law has been enacted in 22 States to promote competitive rates. In addition to auto insurance prices, railroad and airplane fares also showed a decline since August 1971, compared with large increases in the preceding 12 months.

Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 120,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in August for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from the following table, 73 percent of these monthly comparisons remained unchanged, 11 percent decreased, and 16 percent increased between July and August. The proportion of prices increasing dropped between July and August. A larger proportion of the prices of food decreased in August than in the previous month.

The July index also includes 23,000 price comparisons to August from periods prior to July of which 18,000 cover the quarterly span from May to August. About 14 percent of these increased, approximately the same proportion as in last month's index. In addition, a little over 4,500 rental units were surveyed in August and about 25 percent of these reported rent increases from February. Five percent of the 4,500 units reported increases between July and August, about twice the number of increases reported in the previous month.

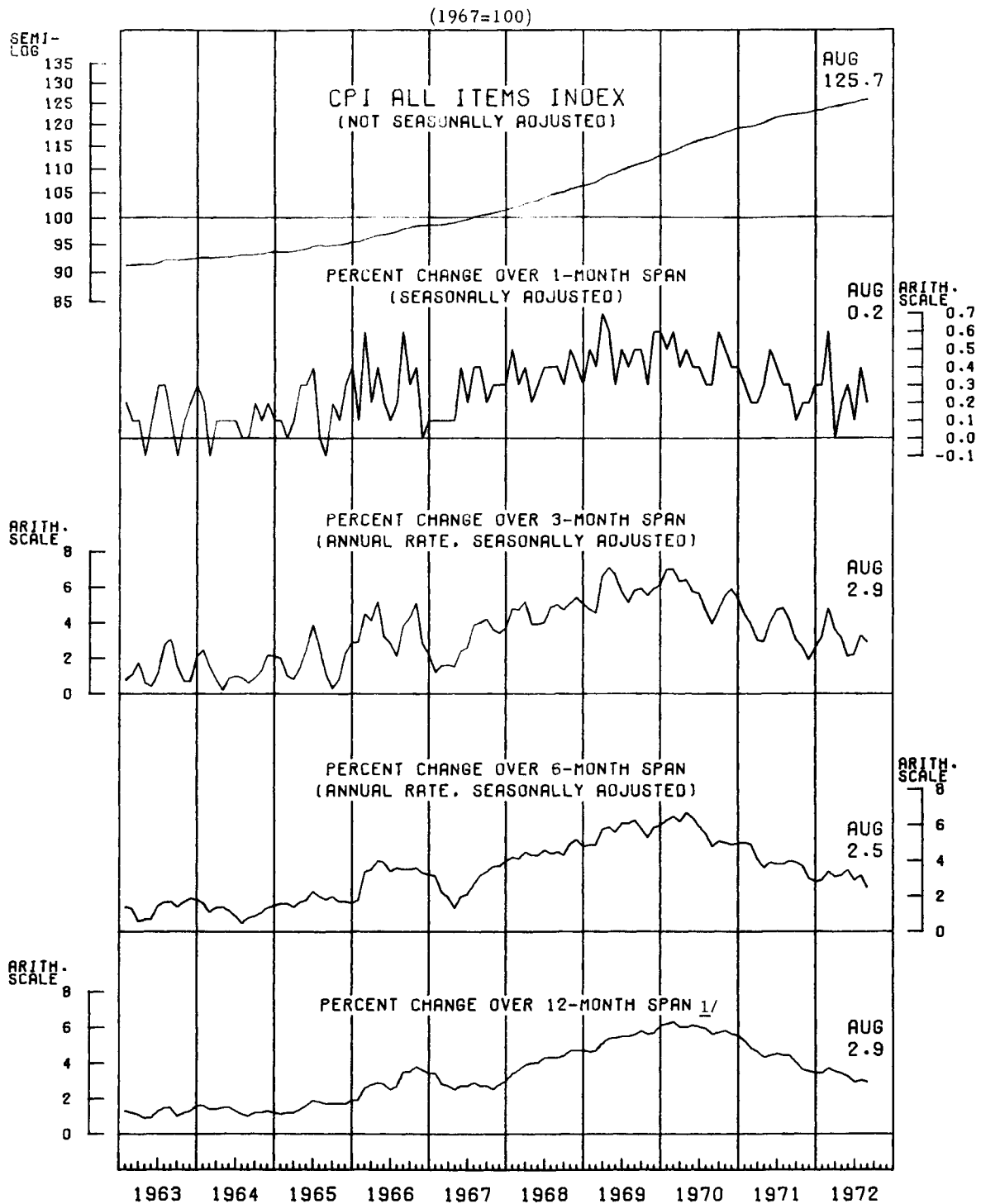
Table C. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons¹

Item	January to February	February to March	March to April	April to May	May to June	June to July	July to August
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	22	15	14	13	15	18	16
Decreases	8	10	12	12	11	10	11
No change	70	75	74	75	74	72	73
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	24	16	15	14	17	20	18
Decreases	9	12	13	13	12	11	13
No change	67	72	72	73	71	69	69
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	8	10	7	8	6	8	8
Decreases	7	5	7	6	7	7	6
No change	85	85	86	86	87	85	86
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	8	3	6	7	5	4	3
Decreases	3	1	4	5	3	3	3
No change	89	96	90	88	92	93	94

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

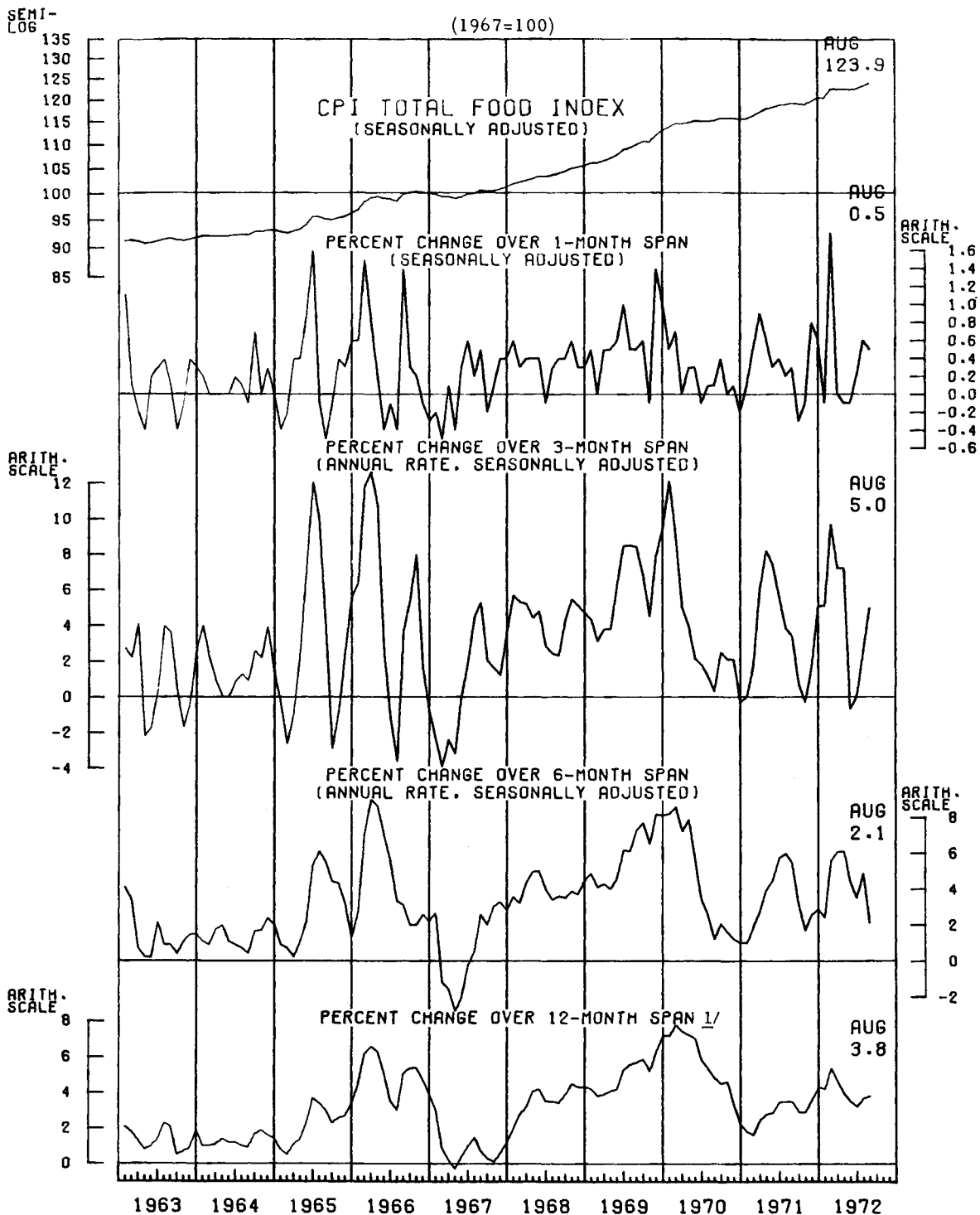
² Based on approximately 98,000 individual quotations.

Chart 1. All items index and its rate of change, 1963-72



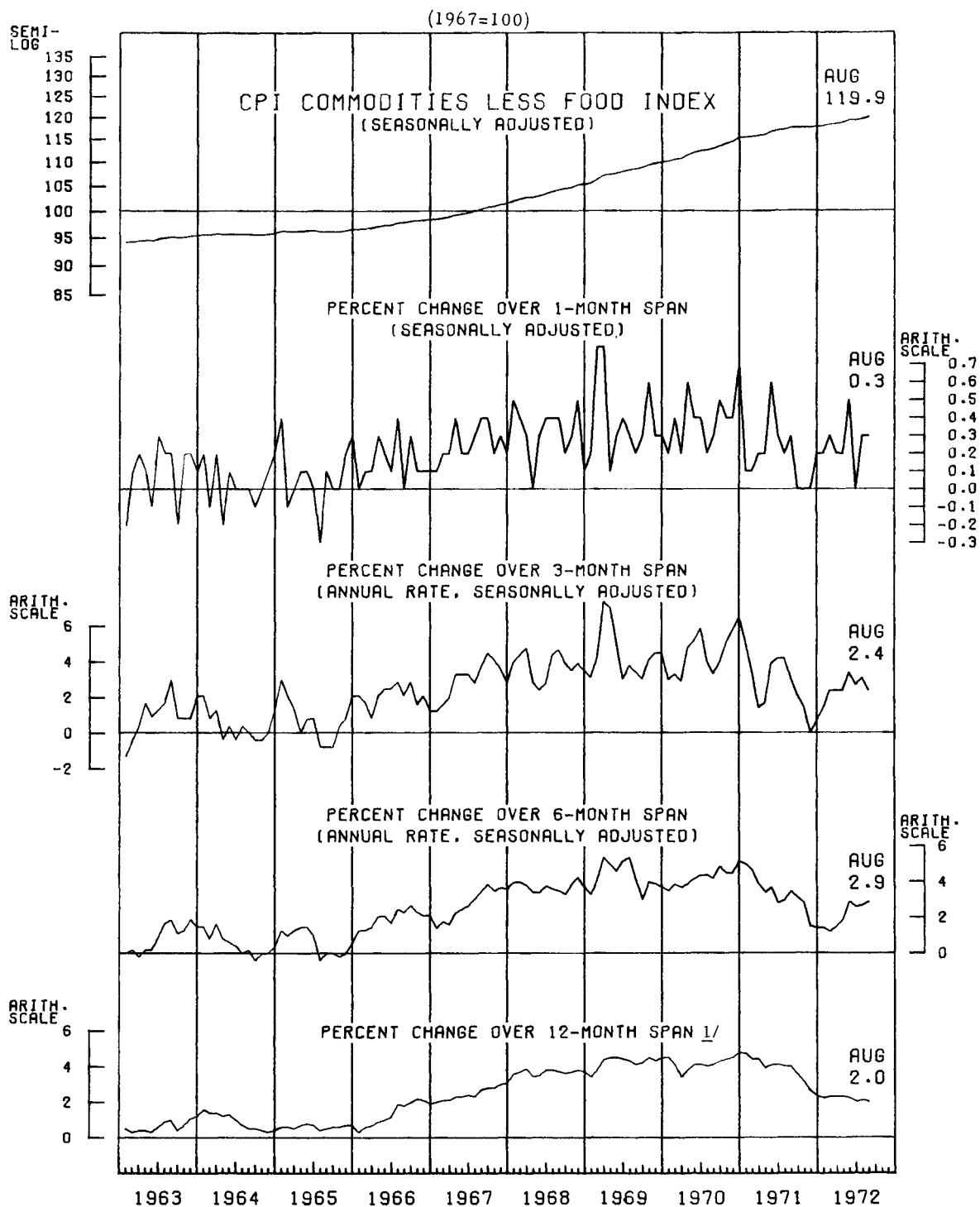
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 2. Total food index and its rate of change, 1963-72



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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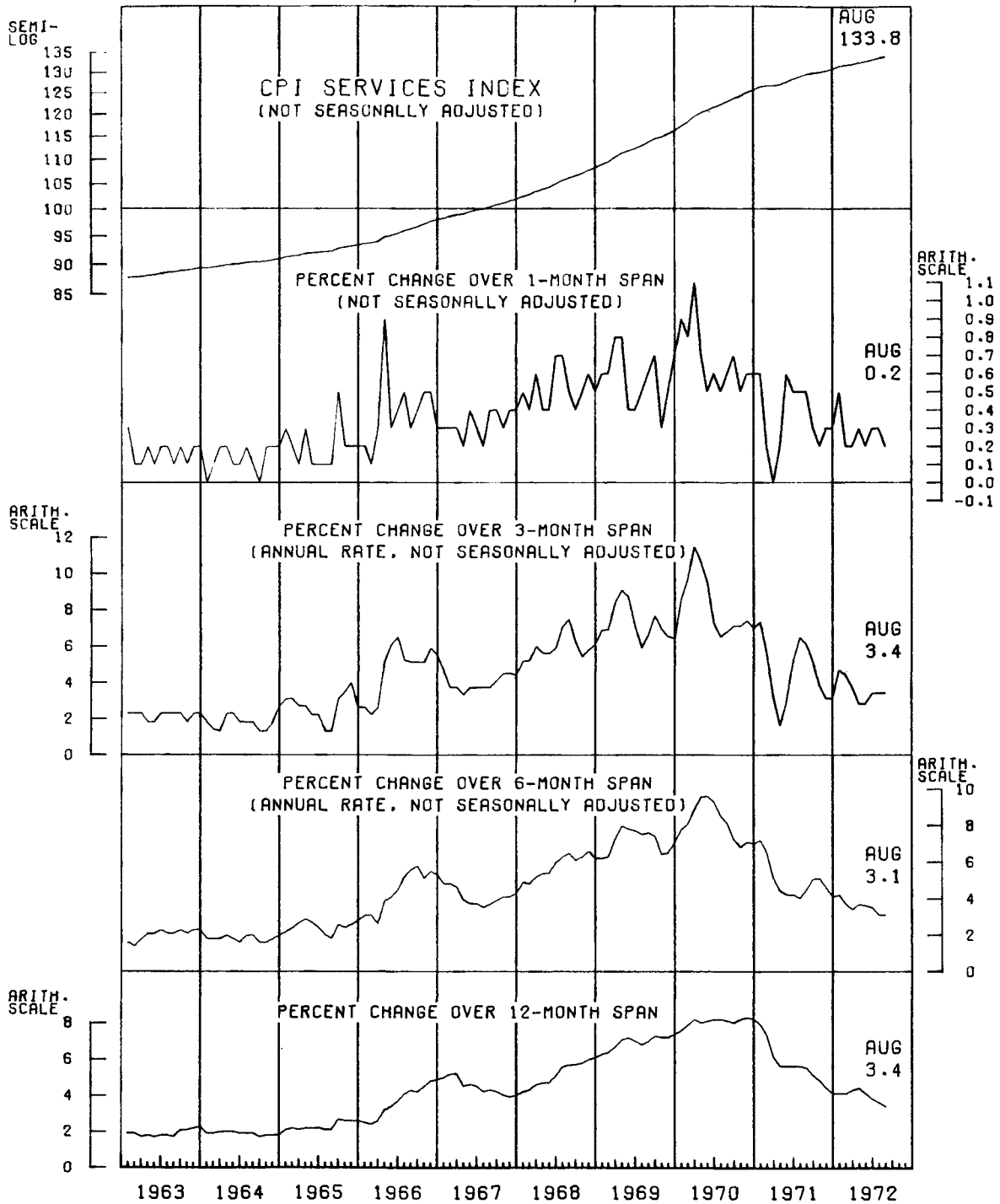
Chart 3. Commodities less food index and its rate of change, 1963-72



^{1/} 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 urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes

Groups	Relative importance December 1971	Unadjusted indexes 1967 100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to August 1972 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from		
		August 1972	July 1972	July 1972	August 1971	July to August	June to July	May to June
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.00	125.7	125.5	0.2	2.9	0.2	0.4	0.1
All items (1957-59=100)		146.2	145.9	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	62.59	121.4	121.2	.2	2.7	.2	.4	.2
Food	22.19	124.6	124.2	.3	3.8	.5	.6	.2
Food at home	17.23	122.7	122.4	.2	3.9	.3	.8	.2
Cereals and bakery products	2.28	114.4	114.4	0	-1	0	-.3	-.2
Meats, poultry, and fish	5.64	130.8	129.9	-.7	10.2	.2	2.1	.7
Dairy products	2.72	116.6	116.8	-.2	-.5	-.2	-.2	-.4
Fruits and vegetables	3.03	128.1	128.4	-.2	3.6	2.3	.5	1.6
Other foods at home	3.56	116.0	115.3	-.6	-.6	-.7	-.1	-.8
Food away from home	4.96	131.9	131.3	.5	3.8	.4	.2	.4
Commodities less food	40.40	119.5	119.4	.1	2.0	.3	.3	0
Nondurables less food	23.63	119.4	119.3	.1	1.9	.2	.2	-.2
Apparel commodities ¹	9.03	120.9	121.3	-.3	1.5	-.1	-.2	-.2
Men's and boys'	2.82	120.4	120.4	0	.7	0	-.2	-.3
Women's and girls'	4.02	119.8	121.2	-1.2	1.4	-.2	-.3	-.3
Footwear	1.57	125.1	124.6	-.4	3.0	.2	.5	.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.60	118.6	118.2	.3	2.1	.3	.3	-.2
Gasoline and motor oil	2.92	109.5	108.1	1.3	.6	1.0	1.1	-.8
Tobacco products	2.09	134.1	134.0	.1	4.8	*.1	*.0	*.6
Alcoholic beverages	2.50	119.9	119.6	.3	2.1	*.3	*.4	*.3
Fuel oil and coal	.67	117.9	117.7	-.2	-.1	-.2	-.1	-.5
Other nondurables	6.42	118.0	117.9	.1	2.1	.1	0	.2
Durables commodities	16.77	119.7	119.6	.1	2.4	.3	.6	.3
Household durables	4.83	115.4	115.3	.1	1.8	.2	.3	.3
New cars	2.12	110.6	111.0	-.4	1.2	.5	.2	.5
Used cars	1.98	112.4	112.7	-.3	-.1	*.3	*.6	*1.8
Other durables	7.84	127.6	127.2	.3	3.7	.3	.8	.4
Services	37.41	133.8	133.5	.2	3.4	*.2	*.3	*.3
Rent	5.05	119.4	119.0	.3	3.1	*.3	*.2	*.4
Services less rent	32.36	136.4	136.2	.1	3.4	*.1	*.4	*.3
Household services less rent	15.36	140.0	139.6	.3	4.8	.1	.3	.4
Transportation services	5.57	136.3	136.3	0	1.6	.4	.4	.1
Medical care services	5.55	138.6	138.4	.1	2.6	.1	.1	.4
Other services	5.88	125.9	125.8	.1	2.5	.2	.5	.1
Special indexes:								
All items less food	77.81	126.1	125.9	-.2	2.8	.2	.2	.2
Nondurable commodities	45.82	122.0	121.7	-.2	2.9	.2	.4	0
Apparel commodities less footwear	7.46	120.0	120.7	-.6	1.2	0	-.2	-.2
Services less medical care	31.86	133.1	132.8	.2	3.6	*.2	*.3	*.3
Insurance and finance	9.85	144.7	144.3	.3	4.1	.1	.6	.6
Utilities and public transportation	5.51	125.9	126.0	-.1	3.5	-.1	.2	.2
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.46	145.3	144.7	.4	4.2	.3	.4	.3
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.00	125.7	125.5	0.2	2.9	0.2	0.4	0.1
Food	22.19	124.6	124.2	.3	3.8	.5	.6	.2
Housing	33.84	129.9	129.5	.3	3.8	*.3	*.4	*.4
Shelter ²	21.72	135.5	134.9	.4	4.6	.4	.5	.4
Rent	5.05	119.4	119.0	.3	3.1	*.3	*.2	*.4
Homeownership ³	16.25	141.3	140.7	.4	5.1	.3	.8	.5
Fuel and utilities ⁴	4.71	120.1	120.2	-.1	3.3	-.2	0	.3
Gas and electricity	2.43	120.5	120.3	.2	4.1	-.2	.3	.2
Household furnishings and operation	7.41	121.2	121.1	.1	1.8	.2	.2	.2
Apparel and upkeep	10.45	120.8	121.1	-.2	1.5	.1	-.1	-.2
Transportation	13.27	120.5	120.3	.2	1.0	.5	.7	0
Private	11.80	118.1	117.8	.3	.7	.8	.7	-.1
Public	1.47	143.3	143.3	0	3.0	.6	.4	-.4
Health and recreation	19.87	126.5	126.3	.2	2.8	*.2	*.2	*.2
Medical care	6.46	132.9	132.7	.2	2.2	.2	.1	.5
Personal care	2.58	120.2	120.0	.2	2.3	.1	0	.3
Reading and recreation	5.71	123.0	123.0	0	2.8	.1	-.2	.3
Other goods and services	5.12	126.0	125.8	.2	3.4	.1	-.2	0
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78.28	123.2	123.1	.1	2.5	.2	.3	.2
All items less medical care	93.54	125.3	125.1	.2	3.0	.2	.4	.2
All items less mortgage interest costs	96.25	124.8	124.6	.2	2.9	.2	.4	.2
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$1.00	-	\$0.796	\$0.797	-.1	-2.8	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.684	.685	-	-	-	-	-

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 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 1/	Pricing Schedule 2/	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases	July 1972	May 1972	August 1971
		August 1972			July 1972	May 1972	August 1971
U.S. City Average -----	M	125.7	146.2		0.2	0.8	2.9
Chicago -----	M	125.0	142.0		.5	1.1	2.9
Detroit -----	M	126.9	145.8		.2	1.1	3.3
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	122.8	144.5		0	1.2	2.8
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. ---	M	131.7	156.7		.2	.9	3.8
Philadelphia -----	M	127.4	148.8		.3	1.0	3.1
		July 1972				April 1972	July 1971
Boston -----	1	127.1	152.2			0.7	3.4
Houston -----	1	125.2	143.2			.3	3.2
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	1	125.5	145.5			1.0	3.0
Pittsburgh -----	1	125.5	144.3			.6	3.0
		August 1972				May 1972	August 1971
Buffalo -----	2	126.8		3/ 139.3		0.6	3.3
Cleveland -----	2	126.2	142.5			.1	2.4
Dallas -----	2	125.5		3/ 135.7		.7	2.3
Milwaukee -----	2	124.6	140.7			1.5	2.6
San Diego -----	2	125.1		4/ 131.5		1.1	3.6
Seattle -----	2	119.9	140.9			.9	2.0
Washington -----	2	127.7	148.8			1.7	3.4
		June 1972				March 1972	June 1971
Atlanta -----	3	124.8	143.5			0.8	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		5/ 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 areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups percent changes from July 1972 to August 1972

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3
Food	.3	1.3	-.1	-.1	.2	.2
Housing	.3	.2	.0	-.1	.6	.8
Apparel and upkeep	-.2	.3	.6	-.3	-.2	-.3
Transportation	.2	.6	.3	.4	.1	.2
Health and recreation	.2	-.2	.2	.2	.1	.1
Medical care	.2	.2	.4	.2	.1	.8
Personal care	.2	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	.0	-.2	.0	.3	-.4	-.1
Other goods and services	.2	-.5	.1	.1	.2	.0

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 August 1972 from:	
	August 1972	July 1972	May 1972	1 month ago	3 months ago
Food	123.9	123.3	122.4	0.5	1.2
Food at home	121.8	121.4	120.2	.3	1.3
Cereal and bakery products	114.3	114.3	114.8	0	-.4
Meat, poultry, and fish	129.0	128.7	125.1	.2	3.1
Dairy products	116.5	116.7	117.4	-.2	-.8
Fruits and vegetables	126.1	123.3	120.8	2.3	4.4
Other foods at home	115.9	116.7	117.8	-.7	-1.6
Fuel and utilities ¹	120.1	120.3	120.0	-.2	.1
Fuel oil and coal	118.4	118.2	118.9	.2	-.4
Apparel and upkeep ²	121.9	121.8	122.1	.1	-.2
Men's and boys'	121.2	121.2	121.9	0	-.6
Women's and girls'	121.9	122.2	123.0	-.2	-.9
Footwear	125.4	125.2	124.2	.2	1.0
Transportation	120.7	120.1	119.3	.5	1.2
Private	118.3	117.4	116.7	.8	1.4
New cars	112.9	112.3	111.5	.5	1.3
Commodities	121.3	121.0	120.3	.2	.8
Commodities less food	119.9	119.5	119.2	.3	.6
Nondurables less food	121.8	121.5	121.0	.2	.7
Nondurables	119.9	119.7	119.7	.2	.2
Apparel commodities	122.1	122.2	122.5	-.1	-.3
Durables	119.8	119.4	118.3	.3	1.3

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 areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, August 1972 index and percent changes from May 1972

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—North-eastern New Jersey	Phila-delphia
(Monthly indexes 1967=100)						
All items -----	125.7	125.0	126.9	122.8	131.7	127.4
Food -----	124.6	125.9	124.1	121.2	129.8	124.3
Food at home -----	122.7	125.0	123.0	120.6	126.4	121.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.4	116.2	116.0	111.5	116.6	112.6
Meats, poultry and fish -----	130.8	134.3	135.0	130.6	133.1	129.8
Dairy products -----	116.6	116.5	112.9	115.0	119.5	118.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	128.1	130.3	120.9	121.9	136.4	123.9
Other food at home -----	116.0	117.1	115.2	115.1	117.0	112.2
Food away from home -----	131.9	129.2	129.2	123.0	140.3	137.3
Housing -----	129.9	125.4	134.5	127.9	136.9	132.2
Shelter -----	135.5	130.5	144.8	131.2	143.5	142.7
Rent -----	119.4	(²)	120.7	(²)	127.2	(²)
Homeownership costs -----	141.3	138.2	149.7	135.1	155.6	147.5
Fuel and utilities -----	120.1	114.9	116.1	124.9	124.8	117.7
Fuel oil and coal -----	117.9	113.7	113.9	120.4	111.9	111.9
Gas and electricity -----	120.5	114.9	117.3	131.0	123.5	122.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	121.2	116.5	115.0	117.9	127.0	121.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	120.8	116.2	117.6	118.8	120.0	117.4
Men's and boys' -----	120.4	114.5	115.1	116.0	118.5	117.6
Women's and girls' -----	119.8	115.0	114.9	120.4	117.4	111.7
Footwear -----	125.1	118.5	126.1	124.0	125.7	126.5
Transportation -----	120.5	125.6	116.9	118.3	133.3	125.6
Private -----	118.1	120.1	114.4	118.4	125.6	122.7
Public -----	143.3	160.4	147.5	116.7	162.8	142.3
Health and recreation -----	126.5	127.5	128.9	120.7	131.8	130.8
Medical care -----	132.9	131.8	141.8	129.4	140.4	143.3
Personal care -----	120.2	(²)	(²)	(²)	119.7	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	123.0	123.8	123.7	114.2	127.7	126.1
Other goods and services -----	126.0	130.4	121.5	119.4	132.7	127.7
Quarterly percent changes, May 1972 to August 1972						
All items -----	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.9	1.0
Food -----	1.9	2.9	2.5	1.8	2.0	1.1
Food at home -----	2.1	3.6	3.0	2.5	1.9	1.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	-3	-3	1.9	-3	-4	-1.0
Meats, poultry and fish -----	4.8	6.7	6.6	4.6	3.4	4.2
Dairy products -----	-6	.8	-3.0	.5	-9	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.4	6.8	2.5	3.5	5.6	.2
Other food at home -----	.0	.6	1.5	1.1	-.8	-1.5
Food away from home -----	1.2	.2	.4	.4	2.0	.8
Housing -----	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.5	1.4	2.4
Shelter -----	1.6	2.0	1.5	2.1	2.0	3.7
Rent -----	.9	(²)	(²)	(²)	(³)	(²)
Homeownership -----	1.7	2.4	1.6	2.7	1.8	4.5
Fuel and utilities -----	.0	-3	.7	-2	.2	.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	-7	.3	.0	.0	.0	.0
Gas and electricity -----	.0	-7	1.1	2.1	.4	.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	.3	-3	-3	.0	.4	.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	-1.4	-2.5	-.4	-1.2	-2.9	-2.2
Men's and boys' -----	-1.6	-2.7	-2.0	-1.4	-4.2	-3.9
Women's and girls' -----	-2.9	-5.3	-.4	-2.6	-4.5	-3.5
Footwear -----	.4	1.4	.7	1.1	-.2	.7
Transportation -----	.8	1.2	1.2	1.2	.5	.2
Private -----	.9	1.6	1.5	1.3	.6	.2
Public -----	.4	-.6	-1.0	1.2	.2	-.1
Health and recreation -----	.6	.1	.5	.8	1.0	1.2
Medical care -----	.7	.5	.9	1.3	.8	1.8
Personal care -----	.4	(²)	(²)	(²)	.4	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.4	-3	-5	.6	1.3	.5
Other goods and services -----	.5	-.2	.2	.8	1.1	2.1

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
(Quarterly indexes 1967=100)							
All items -----	126.8	126.2	125.5	124.6	125.1	119.9	127.7
Food -----	124.6	124.7	123.7	122.2	124.2	121.7	127.5
Food at home -----	123.3	123.9	120.6	120.4	121.4	119.9	123.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.2	111.0	113.1	114.1	112.9	110.0	117.5
Meats, poultry and fish -----	130.9	131.3	129.1	129.6	135.3	130.2	125.7
Dairy products -----	116.1	121.5	109.1	113.7	114.5	116.3	112.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	131.4	130.1	126.6	125.1	119.2	117.8	135.5
Other food at home -----	116.3	117.1	115.4	112.7	112.4	115.7	122.7
Food away from home -----	131.4	129.2	134.8	129.2	131.0	127.7	137.4
Housing -----	133.6	124.6	128.6	127.3	133.4	122.7	130.1
Shelter -----	135.0	126.5	134.6	130.9	145.3	127.7	133.8
Rent -----	120.8	113.3	111.7	118.1	134.1	105.6	119.3
Homeownership costs -----	137.7	128.8	145.0	135.0	150.2	134.0	142.3
Fuel and utilities -----	142.7	121.3	116.8	123.5	113.0	114.5	121.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	121.1			118.4		118.7	117.5
Gas and electricity -----	145.6	123.3	113.4	129.0	112.4	109.1	127.0
Household furnishings and operation -----	123.2	118.8	121.6	120.2	112.6	115.8	123.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	124.0	123.6	121.6	124.9	121.0	116.4	123.9
Men's and boys' -----	138.1	121.5	125.2	126.1	121.4	113.4	122.0
Women's and girls' -----	119.2	124.7	119.6	120.8	126.1	117.1	126.1
Footwear -----	119.9	125.1	124.6	129.5	119.7	119.8	127.4
Transportation -----	118.2	126.6	121.4	122.5	119.1	109.7	124.1
Private -----	116.4	121.8	119.5	117.5	118.6	110.2	120.0
Public -----	137.9	157.6	145.5	182.8	127.6	106.7	147.1
Health and recreation -----	125.8	133.0	127.3	124.0	119.5	120.2	128.3
Medical care -----	126.1	145.0	131.6	128.3	124.0	126.2	140.3
Personal care -----	120.9	122.7	127.3	120.1	117.3	117.6	123.0
Reading and recreation -----	126.9	124.9	122.8	123.9	116.2	117.6	123.0
Other goods and services -----	127.4	132.9	126.0	122.2	119.3	119.4	126.4
Quarterly percent changes, May 1972 to August 1972							
All items -----	0.6	0.1	0.7	1.5	1.1	0.9	1.7
Food -----	1.7	2.5	1.7	2.3	1.6	2.0	3.7
Food at home -----	1.7	2.7	1.9	2.4	1.8	2.2	4.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	-2.5	.5	.0	-1.6	.1	-.1	1.3
Meats, poultry and fish -----	5.3	5.6	5.6	4.5	4.2	5.3	8.2
Dairy products -----	-.7	-1.8	-2.8	-.9	.0	.6	-.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	1.9	5.5	2.1	6.3	1.4	1.6	5.6
Other food at home -----	.5	.0	.3	1.2	.3	.6	2.6
Food away from home -----	1.0	1.9	.7	2.3	1.0	1.7	2.3
Housing -----	1.4	-1.3	.7	1.2	.8	1.2	2.4
Shelter -----	1.7	-1.9	1.0	1.6	1.4	1.4	2.1
Rent -----	1.3	.4	.0	.6	.5	-.1	1.1
Homeownership costs -----	1.8	-2.3	1.3	2.0	1.8	1.7	2.6
Fuel and utilities -----	3.6	.5	-.1	.1	-2.3	.0	6.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	.0			.0		.0	.0
Gas and electricity -----	3.8	.8	-.2	.2	.3	.1	11.0
Household furnishings and operation -----	-1.2	-.3	.3	.8	.4	1.1	1.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	-2.7	-.2	.2	-1.8	-1.4	-.3	-1.2
Men's and boys' -----	-1.8	.7	-.6	-1.9	-.7	-.6	-3.0
Women's and girls' -----	-5.5	-1.8	.3	-4.1	-3.3	-1.7	-1.8
Footwear -----	-.1	1.5	-.5	2.4	.1	.3	.6
Transportation -----	-.2	.4	.6	4.3	2.2	1.1	1.0
Private -----	-.1	.3	.6	2.6	2.2	1.8	1.2
Public -----	-.4	.5	.0	20.0	3.5	-2.8	.1
Health and recreation -----	.2	.5	.4	.9	1.0	.1	.3
Medical care -----	.2	1.5	.3	.6	1.1	.8	.5
Personal care -----	2.0	-.6	.6	1.4	1.0	.5	-.1
Reading and recreation -----	-.5	.0	.7	.9	.6	-.8	.1
Other goods and services -----	.3	.2	.1	.9	1.4	.2	.9

¹ See footnote 1, table 2.
² Not available.
³ Change from June 1972.

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

Area ¹	Total food	Food at home						Food away from home
		Total	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Other foods at home	
(Indexes 1967=100)								
U.S. City Average -----	124.6	122.7	114.4	130.8	116.6	128.1	116.0	131.9
Atlanta -----	126.0	124.3	118.3	130.5	118.5	135.8	116.3	131.7
Baltimore -----	126.0	124.2	113.7	128.9	118.4	135.4	118.7	133.2
Boston -----	125.2	124.0	114.8	133.5	116.5	130.3	115.3	129.2
Buffalo -----	124.6	123.3	114.2	130.9	116.1	131.4	116.3	131.4
Chicago -----	125.9	125.0	116.2	134.3	116.5	130.3	117.1	129.2
Cincinnati -----	125.3	124.4	118.4	128.9	117.8	132.2	118.6	128.6
Cleveland -----	124.7	123.9	111.0	131.3	121.5	130.1	117.1	129.2
Dallas -----	123.7	120.6	113.1	129.1	109.1	126.6	115.4	134.8
Detroit -----	124.1	123.0	116.0	135.0	112.9	120.9	115.2	129.2
Honolulu -----	122.9	119.8	105.8	125.6	117.8	126.5	116.4	131.7
Houston -----	125.4	121.7	110.1	129.4	118.3	127.0	116.2	138.6
Kansas City -----	124.2	122.4	116.9	129.5	126.0	118.6	116.4	130.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	121.2	120.6	111.5	130.6	115.0	121.9	115.1	123.0
Milwaukee -----	122.2	120.4	114.1	129.6	113.7	125.1	112.7	129.2
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	125.9	124.1	122.8	133.6	117.0	125.2	118.3	134.0
N. Y. -Northeastern N. J.	129.8	126.4	116.6	133.1	119.5	136.4	117.0	140.3
Philadelphia -----	124.3	121.3	112.6	129.8	118.6	123.9	112.2	137.2
Pittsburgh -----	123.0	121.2	111.3	127.8	115.7	129.1	115.2	134.3
St. Louis -----	123.8	121.9	119.4	125.8	119.5	131.1	112.0	132.6
San Diego -----	124.2	121.4	112.9	135.3	114.5	119.2	112.4	131.0
San Francisco-Oakland --	122.0	120.6	112.3	129.4	115.2	119.5	116.4	126.7
Seattle -----	121.7	119.9	110.0	130.2	116.3	117.8	115.7	127.7
Washington -----	127.5	123.7	117.5	125.7	112.9	135.5	122.7	137.4
Percent changes July 1972 to August 1972								
U.S. City Average -----	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.7	-0.2	0.2	0.6	0.5
Atlanta -----	1.4	1.9	.1	3.0	.2	3.4	1.2	.2
Baltimore -----	.8	.9	1.4	.9	-.3	1.6	1.0	.6
Boston -----	1.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	.0	.6	2.0	.2
Buffalo -----	.2	.1	-.6	1.1	-.7	-1.1	.8	.4
Chicago -----	1.3	1.5	2.7	1.8	.2	2.1	.9	.1
Cincinnati -----	-.2	-.3	.4	-.4	-1.7	-.4	.3	.2
Cleveland -----	.2	.1	-1.3	.6	.2	-.5	.4	1.3
Dallas -----	.6	.5	.2	.4	-1.8	2.8	.5	.5
Detroit -----	-.1	-.2	.3	1.0	-.1	-4.1	.7	.4
Honolulu -----	.7	.8	-.5	1.8	-.2	.0	1.2	.3
Houston -----	.5	.4	.0	.9	-.1	-1.1	1.0	.8
Kansas City -----	.1	.1	-.2	1.0	.1	-1.6	.2	.2
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	-.1	-.2	.3	-.4	.1	-1.9	.8	.3
Milwaukee -----	1.1	.8	-.1	1.5	-.3	-.1	1.5	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	.5	.6	-.5	1.4	-.1	.8	.4	.2
N. Y. -Northeastern N. J.	.2	-.1	-.5	-.2	-.2	.3	.3	.8
Philadelphia -----	.2	.2	-.1	1.3	.2	-2.1	.6	.4
Pittsburgh -----	.0	.0	.1	.2	.2	-1.2	.3	.1
St. Louis -----	.2	.2	.0	-.2	-.2	1.0	.9	.3
San Diego -----	.0	-.4	1.0	-.4	.0	-2.5	.0	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland --	-.3	-.6	-.4	.0	-.3	-2.9	.4	.2
Seattle -----	.5	.6	-.3	1.4	.4	-.4	.5	.6
Washington -----	1.1	.8	-.3	1.6	.1	-.1	1.5	1.9

¹ See footnote 1, table 2.

² Not available.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, August 1972 indexes and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change to August 1972 from—		
	August 1972		July 1972		August 1971 unadjusted
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Total food -----	124.6	123.9	0.3	0.5	3.8
Food away from home -----	131.9	131.8	.5	.4	3.8
Restaurant meals -----	132.0	131.9	.5	.5	4.0
Snacks -----	131.6	131.7	.4	.5	2.7
Food at home -----	122.7	121.8	.2	.3	3.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.4	114.3	.0	.0	-.1
Flour -----	99.2	99.3	.0	.2	-2.0
Cracker meal -----	135.9	135.6	.0	-.2	3.7
Corn flakes -----	99.9	100.0	-.1	.2	-5.4
Rice -----	109.2	109.2	-.4	-.4	-.6
Bread, white -----	113.9	113.6	1.1	.7	.9
Bread, whole wheat -----	119.9	119.9	.2	.1	1.0
Cookies -----	109.1	108.3	-.7	-.7	-.8
Layer cake -----	119.9	119.9	-.2	-.3	-1.1
Cinnamon rolls -----	119.0	119.0	-1.4	-1.4	-.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	130.8	129.0	.7	.2	10.2
Meats -----	132.5	130.4	.9	.2	11.9
Beef and veal -----	140.2	138.4	.6	.3	10.6
Steak, round -----	137.0	135.4	-.2	-.8	9.3
Steak, sirloin -----	136.6	133.7	-.2	-.1	9.3
Steak, porterhouse -----	139.3	135.8	.1	-.1	8.7
Rump roast -----	136.5	135.0	.7	-.2	10.0
Rib roast -----	141.0	139.2	.0	-.4	8.5
Chuck roast -----	140.2	138.3	1.3	.1	11.3
Hamburger -----	140.9	139.6	1.6	1.4	10.9
Beef liver -----	133.3	132.2	.2	-.6	16.6
Veal cutlets -----	165.6	164.0	.7	.8	13.8
Pork -----	125.4	121.7	1.1	-.2	17.3
Chops -----	128.0	122.0	-2.1	-3.8	13.2
Loin roast -----	128.7	123.9	-1.1	-2.7	15.8
Pork sausage -----	132.6	129.9	2.7	1.4	19.0
Ham, whole -----	114.5	115.1	.5	-.4	11.3
Picnics -----	128.3	126.2	4.6	3.4	19.5
Bacon -----	120.7	117.4	3.8	2.9	24.9
Other meats -----	125.9	125.0	1.5	.9	8.2
Lamb chops -----	131.5	130.3	-.1	.5	5.9
Frankfurters -----	127.6	126.2	2.6	1.5	10.3
Ham, canned -----	114.7	115.4	1.5	.7	7.6
Bologna sausage -----	131.9	130.9	2.3	2.0	10.1
Salami sausage -----	128.3	127.2	1.2	.6	9.1
Liverwurst -----	121.3	120.9	1.7	1.7	6.2
Poultry -----	110.6	108.6	-1.1	-.8	-1.3
Frying chicken -----	109.7	107.4	-1.6	-.6	-1.8
Chicken breasts -----	114.3	112.2	.5	-1.1	.7
Turkey -----	111.4	111.3	-.2	-.6	-1.1
Fish -----	142.8	142.9	.6	.6	8.3
Shrimp, frozen -----	136.8	136.7	.2	.7	14.1
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	154.2	153.9	1.8	1.7	8.3
Tuna fish, canned -----	132.3	132.6	-.8	-.8	2.5
Sardines, canned -----	147.8	149.0	.8	1.0	8.4
Dairy products -----	116.6	116.5	-.2	-.2	.5
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	115.6	115.7	-.3	-.4	.3
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	120.4	120.4	.1	.0	1.9
Milk, Fresh, skim -----	121.7	121.8	-.2	-.1	1.2
Milk, evaporated -----	117.9	117.2	-.2	-.1	-2.7
Ice cream -----	106.1	105.8	-.4	-.8	-.4
Cheese, American process -----	124.7	124.6	.2	.4	2.2
Butter -----	104.6	104.7	-.1	-.1	-1.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, August 1972 indexes and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change to August 1972 from—		
	August 1972		July 1972		August 1971
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Fruits and vegetables -----	128.1	126.1	-0.2	2.3	3.6
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	133.4	130.0	-.5	3.5	4.7
Fresh fruits -----	134.8	122.4	.4	.8	.7
Apples -----	144.5	119.5	3.0	1.7	4.0
Bananas -----	100.2	98.1	-4.6	-4.6	.7
Oranges -----	134.8	128.6	6.2	1.3	-.4
Orange juice, fresh -----	131.9	130.7	.8	.0	2.9
Grapefruit -----	180.3	145.9	18.3	7.5	2.5
Grapes -----	150.1	147.9	-17.0	2.4	-11.5
Strawberries -----	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Watermelon -----	124.2	144.6	2.6	11.4	4.4
Fresh vegetables -----	132.4	136.9	-1.3	6.1	8.2
Potatoes -----	148.1	135.3	3.6	10.6	16.0
Onions -----	155.5	143.7	5.1	4.1	35.0
Asparagus -----	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Cabbage -----	119.6	132.3	-2.4	9.0	9.3
Carrots -----	125.3	114.8	-2.8	-5.0	-23.0
Celery -----	124.7	121.2	-10.9	.0	-.7
Cucumbers -----	115.9	150.3	-2.8	6.2	28.8
Lettuce -----	114.7	117.0	3.5	3.7	-7.5
Peppers, green -----	122.3	154.6	-15.9	-1.8	16.3
Spinach -----	142.8	144.0	3.6	5.6	10.7
Tomatoes -----	121.0	142.0	-7.2	11.4	-.8
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	120.2	120.3	.2	.2	2.0
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	121.0	121.0	-.2	-.2	1.6
Pears, canned -----	118.1	117.1	.3	-.1	.6
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink -----	115.1	115.2	-.4	-.5	.9
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	135.6	134.7	-.3	-.7	1.5
Lemonade concentrate, frozen -----	115.2	116.6	-.3	-.9	.3
Beets, canned -----	123.0	122.9	1.3	1.4	5.5
Peas, green, canned -----	107.0	106.7	-.6	-.9	-.6
Tomatoes, canned -----	117.3	116.9	1.3	1.4	.9
Dried beans -----	138.1	138.4	.7	.7	7.8
Broccoli, frozen -----	118.1	117.9	-.5	-.7	-.5
Other food at home -----	116.0	115.9	.6	-.7	-.6
Eggs -----	105.0	105.0	3.0	-6.4	-4.3
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	117.4	118.1	.0	.6	.9
Salad dressing, Italian -----	109.2	109.3	-.3	.0	-.7
Salad or cooking oil -----	120.0	119.8	-.1	-.2	-1.3
Sugar and sweets -----	120.5	120.4	.1	.0	.2
Sugar -----	114.4	114.1	-.1	-.2	1.1
Grape jelly -----	125.1	125.2	.1	.2	2.8
Chocolate bar -----	130.6	130.2	.1	.0	-.8
Syrup, chocolate flavored -----	110.7	110.8	.3	.3	-2.4
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	120.6	120.4	.2	.2	-1.1
Coffee, can and bag -----	118.4	118.3	1.0	.9	-2.8
Coffee, instant -----	122.3	122.3	-.9	-.9	-2.3
Tea -----	109.4	109.1	.6	.6	1.3
Carbonated drink, cola flavored -----	128.0	127.9	-.2	-.2	1.0
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored -----	127.6	127.3	-.2	.1	.1
Prepared and partially prepared foods -----	114.8	114.7	.4	.3	1.1
Bean soup, canned -----	115.9	115.9	-.3	-.4	1.0
Chicken soup, canned -----	104.5	104.6	.1	.2	-1.7
Spaghetti, canned -----	121.4	121.9	1.6	1.7	3.2
Mashed potatoes, instant -----	111.9	111.6	.4	.2	.0
Potatoes, french fried frozen -----	111.3	110.6	.5	.0	.4
Baby foods -----	110.1	109.4	.0	-.7	-1.5
Sweet pickle relish -----	125.5	126.3	1.1	.5	5.6
Pretzels -----	115.3	115.1	.2	.2	1.1

¹ Priced only in season.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to from	
		August 1972	July 1972	July 1972	August 1971
Housing		129.9	129.5	.3	3.8
Shelter 1/		135.5	134.9	.4	4.6
Rent		119.4	119.0	.3	3.1
Homeownership costs 2/		141.3	140.7	.4	5.1
Mortgage interest rates		117.3	117.2	.1	-.7
Property taxes		145.7	144.9	.6	10.2
Property insurance rates		123.4	123.4	.0	1.6
Maintenance and repairs		141.9	141.1	.6	4.5
Commodities 3/		125.2	124.2	.8	3.8
Exterior house paint		117.6	117.2	.3	2.0
Interior house paint		117.5	117.4	.1	2.0
Services		149.1	148.5	.4	4.7
Repainting living and dining rooms		161.3	160.5	.5	6.6
Reshingling house roof		157.1	156.2	.6	5.6
Residing house		136.4	135.9	.4	3.3
Sink replacement		146.7	146.1	.4	2.6
Furnace repair		155.0	154.6	.3	6.2
Fuel and utilities		120.1	120.2	-.1	3.3
Fuel oil and coal		117.9	117.7	.2	.1
Fuel oil, #2		116.6	116.5	.1	.2
Gas and electricity		120.5	120.3	.2	4.1
Gas		121.4	121.2	.2	3.9
Electricity		119.6	119.4	.2	4.4
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		114.1	115.0	-.8	3.4
Residential water and sewerage services		138.8	138.8	.0	2.8
Household furnishings and operation 4/		121.2	121.1	.1	1.8
Housefurnishings		116.3	116.4	-.1	1.3
Textiles		113.0	113.4	-.4	1.7
Sheets, percale or muslin		111.7	113.4	-1.5	1.4
Curtains, tailored, polyester		112.8	112.5	.3	1.2
Bedspreads, chiefly cotton		109.9	110.3	-.4	2.7
Drapery fabric, cotton or rayon/acetate		124.2	123.9	.2	4.5
Pillows, bed, polyester, acrylic, or kapok		104.2	104.7	-.5	-2.1
Slipcover, throws, ready made chiefly cotton		114.6	114.9	-.3	2.0
Furniture and bedding		121.1	121.3	-.2	1.3
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	105.0	104.8	.2	.5
Sofas upholstered		120.4	120.6	-.2	2.5
Cocktail table	Dec. 71	101.8	100.0	1.8	(5)
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	103.2	104.1	-.9	.3
Recliner upholstered	Dec. 71	98.1	98.0	.1	(5)
Sofas, dual purpose		116.7	116.9	-.2	.2
Bedding-mattress and box springs	June 70	104.9	104.9	.0	.9
Aluminum folding chair		123.5	125.8	-1.8	9.5
Cribs		118.4	119.3	-.8	.3
Floor coverings		106.5	106.8	-.3	-.3
Broadloom, carpeting, manmade fibers		101.4	101.7	-.3	-1.3
Vinyl sheet goods		118.7	118.6	.1	2.4
Vinyl asbestos tile		118.4	118.2	.2	1.7
Appliances 6/		105.7	105.8	-.1	.0
Washing machines, electric, automatic		110.4	110.6	-.2	.5
Vacuum cleaners, canister type		103.5	103.8	-.3	-.8
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers electric		107.8	107.9	-.1	-.4
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		111.3	111.3	.0	-.1
Clothes dryers, electric, automatic		114.0	114.5	-.4	.7
Air conditioners, demountable		110.4	110.9	-.5	-.5
Room heaters, electric, portable 7/		(7)	(7)	(7)	(7)
Garbage disposal units		111.0	111.0	.0	.7
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		125.7	125.4	.2	5.7
Flatware, stainless steel		124.7	123.7	.8	2.6
Table lamps, with shade		124.8	124.4	.3	2.0
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		119.0	119.5	-.4	3.3
Electric drills, hand-held		107.0	106.7	.3	.7
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		111.1	111.1	.0	.0
Paper napkins		131.9	131.7	.2	3.0
Toilet tissue		123.9	124.4	-.4	1.1
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic service, general housework		139.6	139.4	.1	3.5
Baby sitter services		136.9	136.6	.2	4.7
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	.0	.0
Laundry, flatwork, finished services,		139.5	139.0	.4	3.6
Licensed day care service, preschool child		123.0	122.4	.5	3.4
Washing machine repair		141.4	141.1	.2	3.0

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to August 1972 from:	
		August 1972	July 1972	July 1972	August 1971
Apparel and upkeep B/ -----		120.8	121.1	-.2	1.5
Apparel commodities -----		120.9	121.3	-.3	1.5
Apparel commodities less footwear -----		120.0	120.7	-.6	1.2
Men's and boys' -----		120.4	120.4	.0	.7
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)
Suits, year round weight -----	128.6	128.1	.4	.7	
Suits, tropical weight -----	130.8	131.3	-.4	4.8	
Jackets, lightweight -----	113.7	114.0	-.3	1.4	
Slacks, wool or wool blends -----	114.4	113.5	.8	-.9	
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends -----	135.3	133.1	1.7	3.4	
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----	115.1	115.0	.1	1.2	
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----	115.4	115.4	.0	1.2	
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton -----	111.5	112.1	-.5	-.8	
T-shirts, chiefly cotton -----	117.6	117.4	.2	-1.2	
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers -----	116.0	115.9	.1	1.0	
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton -----	116.5	116.3	.2	1.1	
Boys':					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blend -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Sport coats, wool or wool blend -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blend -----	127.4	127.5	-.1	3.8	
Undershorts, cotton -----	120.2	120.8	-.5	.3	
Women's and girls' -----	119.8	121.2	-1.2	1.4	
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blend -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Sweaters, wool or acrylic -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Skirts, cotton polyester/cotton -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers -----	110.4	116.7	-5.4	7.3	
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber -----	120.8	123.4	-2.1	1.4	
Dresses, street, wool or wool blend -----	126.5	127.4	-.7	-.2	
Slips, nylon -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot -----	110.8	110.8	.0	-.3	
Girdles, manmade blend -----	118.3	118.1	.2	2.2	
Brassiers, nylon lace -----	117.9	116.9	.9	.9	
Hose, or panty hose, nylon seamless -----	122.5	122.1	.3	1.1	
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers -----	96.0	96.4	.4	-2.6	
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton -----	113.8	114.4	-.5	.9	
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic -----	110.6	109.9	.6	.8	
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton, or polyester blends -----	144.5	142.8	1.2	7.7	
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends -----	109.1	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton -----	122.6	120.0	2.2	14.2	
Slips, polyester blends -----	(?)	(?)	(?)	(?)	
Handbags, plastic -----	110.3	110.5	-.2	.5	
Footwear -----	120.6	122.6	-1.6	-5.0	
Men's:					
Shoes, street, oxford -----	125.1	124.6	.4	3.0	
Shoes, work, high -----	124.5	124.2	.2	4.4	
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump -----	122.8	123.2	-.3	2.8	
Shoes, evening, pump -----	126.5	125.1	1.1	2.9	
Shoes, casual -----	122.1	121.8	.2	2.1	
House slippers, scuff -----	123.3	122.8	.4	-.2	
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford -----	125.6	125.4	.2	1.7	
Sneakers, boys', oxford type -----	128.3	127.3	.8	4.8	
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump -----	124.2	124.2	.0	4.0	
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable -----	130.4	130.1	.2	3.2	
Yard goods, polyester blend -----	116.0	115.3	.6	3.1	
Wrist watches, men's and women's -----	119.3	119.1	.2	-2.1	
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses -----	116.6	115.7	.8	2.6	
Automatic laundry service -----	117.7	117.6	.1	.8	
Laundry, men's shirts -----	114.9	114.9	.0	1.5	
Tailoring charge, hem adjustment -----	122.2	121.6	.5	2.5	
Shoe repair, women's heel lift -----	133.7	132.9	.6	3.6	
		116.7	115.6	1.0	3.8

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, August 1972 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued
(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to August 1972 from:	
		August 1972	July 1972	July 1972	August 1971
Transportation -----		120.5	120.3	0.2	1.0
Private -----		118.1	117.8	.3	.7
Automobiles, new -----		110.6	111.0	-.4	1.2
Automobiles, used -----		112.4	112.7	-.3	-.1
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		108.4	106.9	1.4	.5
Motor oil, premium -----		124.2	123.9	.2	2.6
Tires, new, tubeless -----		115.5	116.0	-.4	-1.5
Auto repairs and maintenance -----		135.7	135.2	.4	3.6
Auto insurance rates -----		141.1	141.1	.0	-1.3
Auto registration -----		127.5	127.5	.0	3.1
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		147.2	147.1	.1	7.7
Public -----		143.3	143.3	.0	3.0
Local transit fares -----		150.3	150.3	.0	4.4
Taxicab fares -----		133.6	133.6	.0	1.4
Railroad fares, coach -----		122.9	122.9	.0	-3.5
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		129.2	129.2	.0	-.3
Bus fares, intercity -----		138.1	138.1	.0	3.9
Health and recreation -----		126.5	126.3	.2	2.8
Medical care -----		132.9	132.7	.2	2.2
Drugs and prescriptions -----		105.8	105.6	.2	.2
Over-the-counter items -----		111.5	111.2	.3	1.2
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		95.3	95.1	.2	.0
Aspirin compounds -----		116.8	116.6	.2	2.3
Liquid tonics -----		101.4	101.2	.2	.1
Adhesive bandages, packages -----		124.1	123.4	.6	.2
Cold tablets or capsules -----		114.5	114.2	.3	2.0
Cough syrup -----		113.7	113.5	.2	2.2
Prescriptions -----		100.9	100.9	.0	-.8
Anti-infectives -----		74.3	74.7	-.5	-7.1
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		127.6	127.4	.2	3.1
Ataractics -----		103.3	103.3	.0	1.0
Anti-spasmodics -----		108.0	108.0	.0	-.1
Cough preparations -----		132.2	131.9	.2	3.8
Cardiovasculars and anti hypertensives -----		111.7	111.5	.2	-.3
Analgesics, internal -----		109.8	109.6	.2	1.5
Anti-obesity -----		118.0	118.0	.0	1.2
Hormones -----		92.9	92.5	.4	-2.0
Professional services: -----					
Physicians' fees -----		134.2	134.0	.1	2.3
General physician, office visits -----		135.2	135.1	.1	1.9
General physician, house visits -----		137.3	137.2	.1	4.0
Obstetrical cases -----		134.3	134.2	.1	2.6
Pediatric care, office visits -----		136.1	135.9	.1	2.0
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		129.3	129.2	.1	2.9
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		128.6	128.2	.3	3.5
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		130.4	129.8	.5	1.9
Dentists' fees -----		132.8	132.7	.1	3.8
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		134.3	134.2	.1	3.9
Extractions, adult -----		132.9	132.8	.1	4.3
Dentures, full upper -----		129.5	129.5	.0	3.1
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		125.3	125.0	.2	2.8
Routine laboratory tests -----		120.8	120.7	.1	3.1
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	102.7	102.4	.3	(5)
Semiprivate rooms -----		175.3	174.9	.2	5.7
Operating room charges -----		170.0	168.6	.8	8.5
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----		129.6	129.3	.2	2.5
Laboratory tests, urinalysis, HCL -----	Jan. 72	102.4	102.3	.1	(5)
Anti-infective, Tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	100.0	99.8	.2	(5)
Tranquilizer, Chlordiazepoxide, HCL -----	Jan. 72	101.9	101.7	.2	(5)
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	102.8	102.8	.0	(5)
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	102.4	102.3	.1	(5)
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	102.2	102.1	.1	(5)
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	102.0	102.0	.0	(5)
Personal care -----		102.2	120.0	.2	2.3
Toilet goods -----		117.4	117.3	.1	2.5
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		109.9	110.0	-.1	2.0
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		121.9	122.5	-.5	4.4
Hand lotions, liquid -----		127.1	124.9	1.8	6.8
Shaving cream aerosol -----		107.1	107.0	.1	.2
Face powder, pressed -----		134.2	135.0	-.6	8.2
Deodorants, aerosol -----		105.1	105.6	-.5	-.8
Cleansing tissues -----		124.7	124.5	.2	.4
Home permanent wave kits -----		109.6	109.2	.4	-1.7
Personal care services -----		123.2	122.9	.2	2.2
Men's haircuts -----		125.4	125.3	.1	1.8
Beauty shop services -----		121.6	121.2	.3	2.4
Women's haircuts -----		121.9	121.2	.6	2.3
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		125.6	125.1	.4	2.8
Permanent waves, cold -----		112.6	112.6	.0	1.6

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to August 1972	
		August 1972	July 1972	From: July 1972	August 1971
Reading and recreation ^{11/} -----		123.0	123.0	.0	2.8
Recreational goods -----		108.1	108.1	.0	1.1
TV sets, portable and console -----		99.4	99.4	.0	-.5
TV replacement tubes -----		132.6	131.8	.6	8.6
Radios, portable and table mode ¹ -----		99.2	99.1	.1	.8
Tape recorders, portable -----		95.1	94.9	.2	1.6
Phonograph records, stereophonic -----		107.6	107.5	.1	1.7
Movie cameras, Super 8, zoom lens -----		88.3	88.3	.0	-1.1
Film, 35mm, color -----		108.2	108.0	.2	-.2
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core -----		105.1	104.8	.3	.5
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover -----		126.4	126.2	.2	.9
Fishing rods, fresh water spincasting -----		107.6	107.1	.5	-2.2
Bowling balls -----		114.1	113.9	.2	1.7
Bicycles, boys' -----		117.1	117.4	-.3	2.7
Tricycles -----		114.5	114.3	.2	2.3
Dog food, canned or boxed -----		110.2	111.0	-.7	-.1
Recreational services -----		128.6	128.9	-.2	2.0
Indoor movie admissions -----		143.3	144.1	-.6	3.7
Adult -----		142.7	143.5	-.6	3.1
Children's -----		145.0	145.5	-.3	5.2
Drive-in movie admissions, adult -----		147.1	146.7	.3	3.2
Bowling fees, evening -----		117.8	118.4	-.5	1.5
Golf green fees -----		130.9	130.8	.1	1.6
TV repair, color picture tube replacement -----		98.1	98.0	.1	.0
Film developing, color -----		116.4	116.5	-.1	-1.1
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery -----		133.1	133.1	.0	2.0
Magazines, single copy and subscription -----		133.4	133.4	.0	5.6
Piano lessons, beginner -----		122.5	122.3	.2	1.5
Other goods and services -----		126.0	125.8	.2	3.4
Tobacco products -----		134.1	134.0	.1	4.8
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size -----		135.9	135.6	.2	4.9
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size -----		136.1	136.1	.0	5.0
Cigars, domestic, regular size -----		111.0	110.9	.1	3.4
Alcoholic beverages -----		119.9	119.6	.3	2.1
Beer -----		113.9	113.4	.4	.5
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon -----		108.9	109.0	-.1	1.8
Wine, dessert and table -----		127.6	127.5	.1	3.0
Away from home (beer)-----		131.5	131.2	.2	3.7
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral service, adult -----		121.4	121.3	.1	2.6
Bank service charges, checking accounts -----		107.0	107.0	.0	-3.5
Legal services, short form will -----		150.3	150.2	.1	12.2
Other special groups:					
All items less shelter -----		123.2	123.1	.1	2.5
Commodities less food -----		119.5	119.4	.1	2.0
Nondurables less food and apparel -----		118.6	118.2	.3	2.1
Household services less rent -----		140.0	139.6	.3	4.8
Transportation services -----		136.3	136.3	.0	1.6
Other services -----		125.9	125.8	.1	2.5

^{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/} Not available.

^{6/} Also includes radios and television sets, shown separately under reading and recreation.

^{7/} Priced only in season.

^{8/} Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

^{9/} Also includes recapped tires and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

^{10/} Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

^{11/} Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

*Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

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

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

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI 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

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.

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:

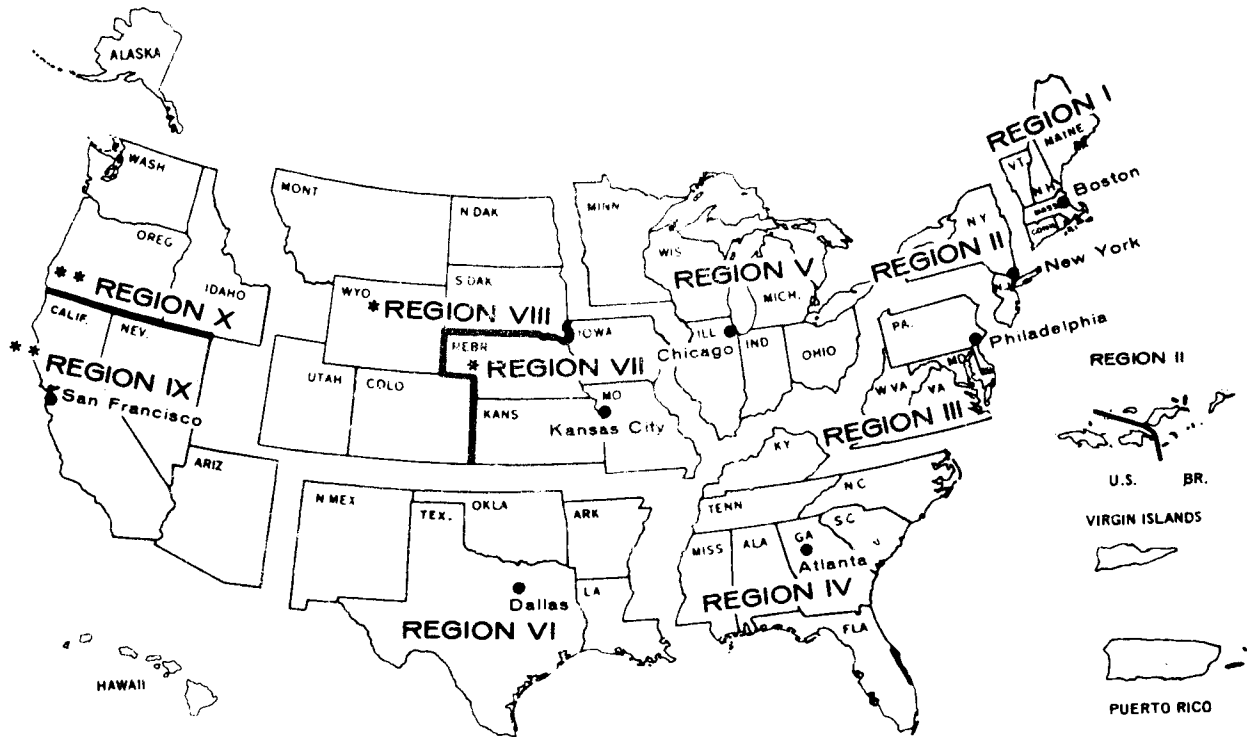
CPI	123.8
less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
index point differences =	0.6

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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