



the consumer price index

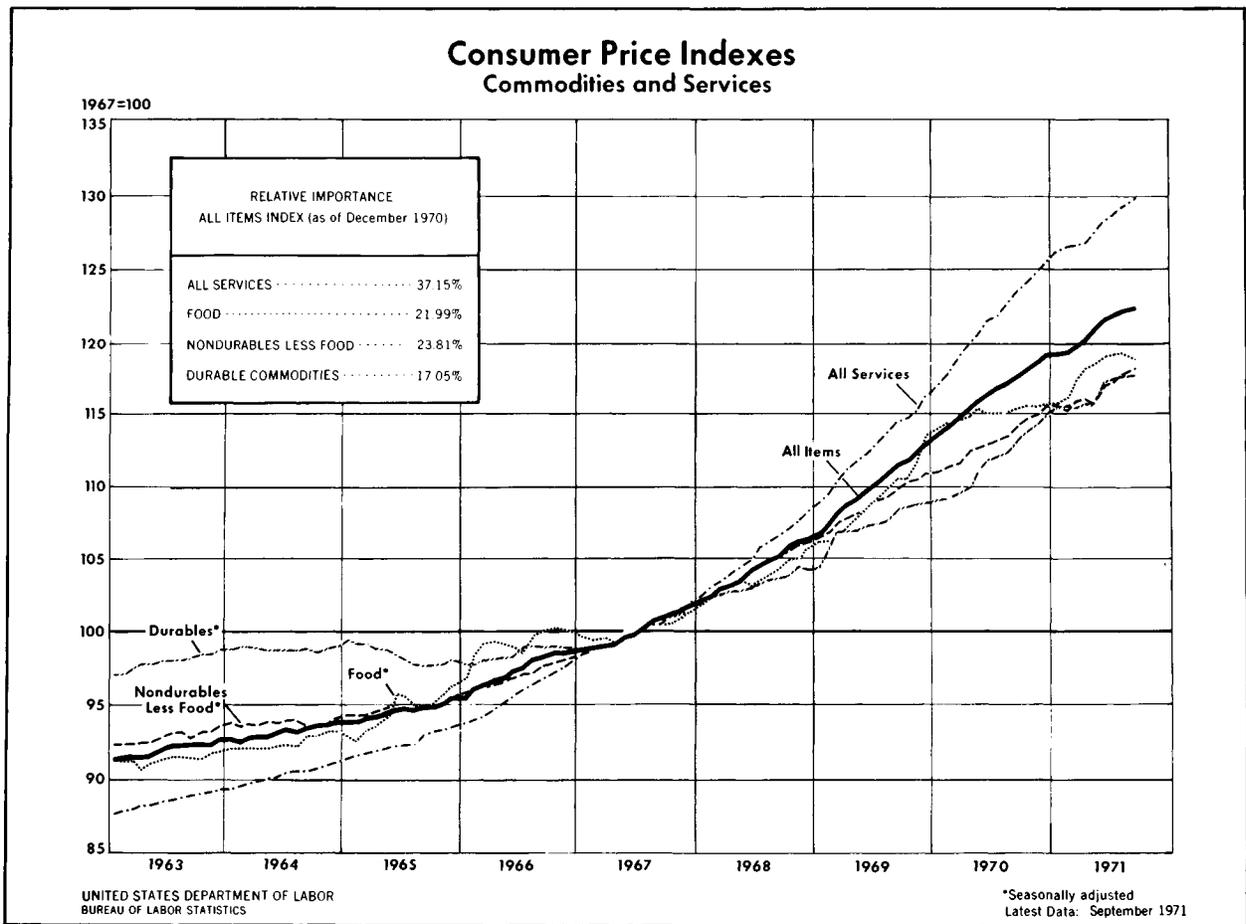
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
J. D. Hodgson, Secretary

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
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OFFICE OF PRICES
AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Joel Popkin, Assistant Commissioner

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



THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX
FOR
SEPTEMBER 1971

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 percent in September to 122.4 percent of its 1967 base. Prices for apparel commodities, household services, college tuition, and some other items increased, while prices for food and automobiles declined. The September index was 4.2 percent above its level a year ago.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the increase in the September index was also 0.2 percent. The food price index declined 0.3 percent between August and September. The decrease was the first in 1971 and the largest since April 1967. The index of nonfood commodities increased 0.2 percent, compared with 0.5 percent in August. Charges for services rose 0.4 percent, slightly less than in each of the 4 preceding months.

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items at seasonally adjusted compound annual rate		
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	From 3 mos. ago	From 6 mos. ago	From 12 mos. ago
	Unadj.	Seas. adj.	Unadj.	Seas. adj.	Unadj.	Seas. adj.	Unadj.			
September 1970 ---	0.5	0.5	-0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.7	4.5	5.2	5.7
October -----	.5	.5	-.2	.0	1.0	.4	.5	5.2	5.0	5.8
November -----	.3	.3	-.5	.1	.5	.4	.6	5.6	4.7	5.6
December -----	.5	.5	.3	-.1	.3	.7	.6	5.3	4.9	5.5
January 1971 ----	.1	.3	.2	.0	-.3	.2	.6	4.5	4.9	5.2
February -----	.2	.2	.3	.5	.0	-.1	.2	4.0	4.8	4.8
March -----	.3	.2	.9	.9	.3	.2	.0	2.8	4.1	4.6
April -----	.3	.3	.7	.9	.3	.2	.2	2.8	3.6	4.3
May -----	.5	.6	.3	.2	.7	.7	.6	4.2	4.1	4.4
June -----	.6	.5	.8	.5	.4	.3	.5	5.3	4.0	4.5
July -----	.2	.2	.5	.1	-.1	.1	.5	4.9	3.9	4.4
August -----	.3	.4	.2	.1	.3	.5	.5	4.4	4.3	4.5
September -----	.2	.2	-.8	-.3	.4	.2	.4	3.3	4.3	4.2

Impact of the Wage-Price-Rent Freeze

Analysis of price data in the September CPI indicates that most of the increase in the September index for items covered by the freeze occurred before August 15 or was due to seasonal or other price changes which, under certain conditions, are permissible under the freeze.

The bulk of the 400 items included in the index are covered by the freeze, but some important items such as raw agricultural products, taxes, and mortgage interest rates, are exempt from the freeze. Mortgage interest rates and taxes went up, but prices of raw agricultural products declined substantially. Excluding the effect of price changes for these exempt items, the index would have increased 0.4 percent.

A little less than half of this 0.4 percent change was due largely to seasonal increases in prices of apparel. Some clothing on sale in August had price increases in September, and fall and winter items reappeared on the market at prices higher than last spring's sale prices. Regulations of the Cost of Living Council permit certain types of

seasonal increases, but it is not possible to determine from data used in the CPI whether allowable seasonal increases accounted for all the rise in apparel prices.

Somewhat more than a fifth of the 0.4 percent change reflects price changes of earlier months. Most services included in the CPI are priced once every 3 months and all rents are priced every 6 months. The Bureau undertook a special collection and analysis program to isolate the August to September price change for these items. Virtually all of the increase in the 4,000 prices analyzed for these services included in the September CPI occurred before August. More than 5,000 rental units were surveyed for the September CPI, and only 1 percent reported increases after announcement of the freeze.

Almost a tenth of the 0.4 percent change was due to increased charges for college tuition. Tuition charges for the 1971-72 academic year were collected in July, August, and September from a large number of institutions. Tuition fees included in the September CPI reflect changes from last year, because fees generally change only once a year.

Imports, which are subject to special regulation, were responsible for about 2-1/2 percent of the change. Most of this was due to higher prices for imported apparel items and cars.

The effect of the freeze on the remaining 20 to 25 percent of the change cannot be determined specifically. About a third of this residual was due to grocery store food items covered by the freeze. However, prices in August were collected before announcement of the freeze. These prices could have been below permissible ceilings when they were collected. Another large portion of the residual reflects price changes from periods before the freeze was announced for items such as restaurant meals and gasoline.

The above analysis is of necessity based on averages of prices for many items collected in many stores in many cities. Some indication of what has happened to individual prices of the nonfood items included in the CPI may be derived from a special tabulation of changes in price quotations collected in September and in August after the wage-price-rent freeze was announced. This analysis, which covers 3,885 prices in the 5 largest cities, shows that fewer than 8 percent of the prices increased, 87 percent showed no change, and almost 6 percent decreased.

Price Developments in the Third Quarter

The annual rate of change in the CPI for the 3 months ending in September was 3.3 percent, compared with 5.3 percent for the 3 months ending in June, 4.9 percent in July, and 4.4 percent in August. The 3-month change for September was the lowest since late 1967, except for the 2.8 percent rate recorded in the 3 months ending in March, when mortgage interest rates were declining rapidly. The slowdown occurred primarily in the food component which declined at an annual rate of 0.3 percent in the 3 months ending in September after they had advanced at a 6.3-percent rate in the first two quarters of 1971. Prices of non-food commodities increased less than in the second quarter, a 3.1 percent rate compared with 4.9 percent in the second quarter. The services component rose at a 5.4 percent rate, about the same as in the second quarter.

Food

The index for food purchased in grocery stores decreased 1.4 percent at an annual rate after seasonal adjustment in the 3 months ending in September, compared with increases of about 6 percent in the 3 months ending in March and in June. (See Table B.) During the third quarter, the food index rose slightly after seasonal adjustment in July, held steady in August and fell somewhat in September. Lower food prices at the retail level reflected a substantial decline in wholesale prices of farm products and consumer foods, which began early in the third quarter.

Sharp price declines in September for fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, and coffee accounted for much of the decline in retail food prices in the third quarter. Fresh fruit and vegetable prices, which advanced 12.9 percent in the first quarter, and 26.9 percent in the second quarter, dropped 13.7 percent in the third quarter. The decline occurred in the last month of the quarter as supplies of fresh vegetables from late summer and early fall crops reached retail markets at the same time, and early season supplies of grapes were larger than usual.

Egg prices rose much less in the third quarter than they usually do. On a seasonally adjusted basis, they declined at an annual rate of 50.4 percent. The decline resulted from a smaller than usual decrease in output. Egg prices increased 3.7 percent in the first quarter, and 15.5 percent in the second quarter. Coffee prices, which have been trending down since late 1970 in response to lower wholesale prices for green coffee, decreased further in September to a level 4.2 percent below the September 1970 level.

Although prices rose for most other food purchased in grocery stores, increases for the most part were smaller than in both the first and second quarters. The index for cereal and bakery products rose substantially less than the quarterly increases recorded since late 1969. The record corn crop forecast for this year had a moderating influence on prices of cereal products. The increase of 1.0 percent at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in the dairy products index in the third quarter was the smallest since late 1968. All of the increase occurred between June and July. Beef prices were virtually unchanged in the third quarter after they increased significantly in the first two quarters of this year. Prices declined in July and August as production outpaced consumer demand, but in September, beef prices increased sharply. Pork prices, however, continued to decline on a seasonally adjusted basis in the June-September period as cold storage holdings remained ample.

In the third quarter prices of some items such as frozen orange juice and salad oils increased at a faster rate than in the second quarter. Weather damage to citrus crops earlier in 1971 continued to influence frozen orange juice prices. The rise in salad oil prices reflected higher wholesale prices of crude and refined vegetable oils during the past year; these resulted from the strong demand for U.S. vegetable oils.

Prices of food eaten away from home--restaurant meals and snacks--increased at an annual rate of 5.2 percent, slightly faster than in the second quarter, but less than in the first quarter.

Commodities less food

Prices of nonfood commodities typically decline slightly in the third quarter. Prices edge down in July and August because of traditional summer sales and larger concessions on new cars at the end of the model year, and increase in September as seasonal items, particularly fall and winter apparel items, reappear on the market. This year prices rose, instead of declining on balance in the June-September period, primarily because of an unusually sharp rise in gasoline prices in August. However, the seasonally adjusted annual rate of increase of 3.1 percent in the 3-months ending in September was smaller than the 4.9 percent rise in the 3-months ending in June. The slower pace in the third quarter resulted from lower prices for cars and smaller increases for many nonfood commodities, including apparel, homes, textile housefurnishings, and household durables.

The new car index decreased 0.3 percent on a seasonally adjusted annual rate basis in the 3 months ending in September--the first quarterly decline since late 1968. The index for used cars also declined for the first time since September 1970. The decline in the new car index reflected, to some extent, the influence of the various facets of the President's economic stabilization program. The refunding of the excise tax by one U.S. automobile company on its 1971 model cars in advance of Congressional approval of the proposal to eliminate the excise tax on new cars had a substantial effect on the new car index in August and September. Also the new car index was affected slightly in both months by the price increase

announced by a large foreign automobile manufacturer after the President's announcement on August 15. In addition, the wage-price freeze appears to have stimulated wholesale price reductions on 1971 model cars. Generally, higher prices for new 1972 models help new car dealers in selling their inventories of old (1971) models. However, the wage-price freeze apparently moderated this stimulus since auto manufacturers instituted substantial wholesale price reductions on the 1971 model cars shortly after the wage-price-rent freeze was put into effect.

After declining seasonally in July and August, prices of apparel commodities increased somewhat more than they usually do in September. On a seasonally adjusted annual rate basis, the increase of 0.7 percent for the 3 months ending in September was down from 4.4 percent in the 3 months ending in June and was the smallest quarterly increase since the third quarter of 1965. Prices of men's and boys' apparel declined 2.6 percent, the first quarterly decline since early 1964. The third quarter decline, which occurred in July and August, compares with an unusually large increase of 6.2 percent in the second quarter of 1971. Prices increased in September because of higher prices for some year-round items, which were on sale in July and August, and some seasonal items were introduced at higher prices than those that prevailed at the end of the last season. Prices of women's and girls' apparel prices rose 3.0 percent at a seasonally adjusted annual rate--somewhat less than they had in the second quarter. Footwear prices increased 1.7 percent in the 3 months ending in September, the smallest quarterly increase since the second quarter of 1965.

Prices for household durables such as furniture, floor coverings, and appliances all increased at a slower pace than in the second quarter. The overall rise of 2.1 percent at an annual rate in the household durables index in the 3 months ending in September, was half the increase in the 3 months ending in June. However, it was the same as the 3-month change in September 1970. Furniture prices increased slightly after seasonal adjustment in the third quarter as lower prices for seasonal items were more than offset by higher prices for upholstered furniture, bedding, and other items.

Price rises accelerated for some nonfood commodities in the third quarter. The price index for tires, which moved up sharply in July after large increases at the wholesale level, continued to rise in August and in September as price increases were recorded in some cities which were last priced in June. The increase in September was moderated by price decreases in some cities, particularly in Detroit. Tire prices rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 7.1 percent in the third quarter, the sharpest since the third quarter of 1970, when they rose 7.7 percent. Prices of tobacco products rose 2.0 percent, the sharpest quarterly increase since late 1969; prices rose for cigars and cigarettes, and taxes were increased on cigarettes in some areas.

Services

The rise in the index for services in the third quarter was about the same as in the second quarter. Those increases were considerably larger than in the first quarter when mortgage interest rates were declining sharply. Since June, mortgage interest rates have been rising and accounted for the faster rise in the household services category compared with the second quarter. In addition, property taxes and charges for home maintenance and repair services continued to advance at a rapid pace. The increase in the index for home repair charges was particularly large in September. Gas and electricity rates also rose sharply in the third quarter--but the increases occurred early in the quarter. They were unchanged in September. Property insurance rates held steady in September, for the second consecutive month, after large increases from February through July.

Increases in transportation services, rent, and medical care services were smaller than in the second quarter. The rent index rose 3.2 percent at an annual rate in the 3 months ending in September, the smallest 3-month rise since early 1969. The rise in the index for medical care services slowed during the quarter as increases in professional fees and hospital charges became smaller. On a seasonally adjusted annual rate basis, the index for

medical care services rose 6.1 percent in the quarter ending in September; it showed a steady deceleration from the recent peak of 8.8 percent in the first 2 quarters of 1970. The slowdown in the rise in the index for transportation services was notable. The increase for the 3 months ending in September was 3.0 percent, down from the increase of 11.1 percent in the first quarter, and 9.1 percent in the second. Charges for auto repairs continued to increase but at a slower pace; auto insurance rates, which rose sharply in 1970 and in the first quarter of this year, moved up at a somewhat slower pace in the second quarter and leveled out in the third quarter. Auto insurance rates held steady in September. Rate increases that were to go into effect in September were deferred until after November 13. In public transportation services, local-transit fares were level during the 3 months ending in September, but intercity bus fares, which were last priced in June, showed a large increase in September.

In the other services category, college tuition, priced each year in September, rose almost 9 percent since last year. Fees for legal services also increased significantly in September. Mostly because of these increases and a faster rise in charges for men's hair-cuts, the index for the other services group rose 4.7 percent on a seasonally adjusted annual rate basis for the 3 months ending in September. The increase was larger than in the quarter ending in June, but smaller than the increase of 6.2 percent in the first quarter.

TABLE B. Seasonally adjusted compound annual rate of changes in CPI and components, 1970-71

	3-month ending						
	1971				1970		
	Sept.	June	Mar.	Dec.	Sept.	June	March
All Items	3.3	5.3	2.8	5.3	4.5	5.9	6.2
Food	-.3	6.3	6.0	0	1.8	2.1	5.0
Food at home	-1.4	6.0	5.7	-.7	.7	.4	4.7
Food away from home	5.2	4.9	6.0	4.0	5.4	7.3	7.8
Commodities less food	3.1	4.9	1.0	6.5	4.0	6.3	2.6
Nondurables less food	4.2	3.9	1.4	5.0	4.0	4.7	2.9
Apparel commodities	.7	4.4	1.0	4.9	3.8	3.5	2.8
Gasoline and motor oil	15.6	-3.0	-7.2	8.9	2.3	7.5	-6.7
Durables	1.7	6.0	1.4	7.6	4.7	7.5	3.4
New cars	-.3	3.2	4.7	16.0	7.3	1.9	2.3
Household durables	2.1	4.0	1.1	3.3	2.2	3.3	2.2
Services*	5.4	5.2	3.2	7.0	7.1	7.2	11.5
Rent*	3.2	4.6	4.7	6.3	4.1	3.7	4.1
Household less rent	7.2	4.7	-4.8	9.3	7.5	7.6	14.8
Medical care	6.1	7.5	7.3	7.8	8.0	8.8	8.7
Transportation	3.0	9.1	11.1	7.9	10.2	9.7	14.2
Other services	4.7	3.3	6.2	4.8	5.6	7.5	4.3

*Not seasonally adjusted.

A NOTE ABOUT CALCULATING INDEX CHANGES

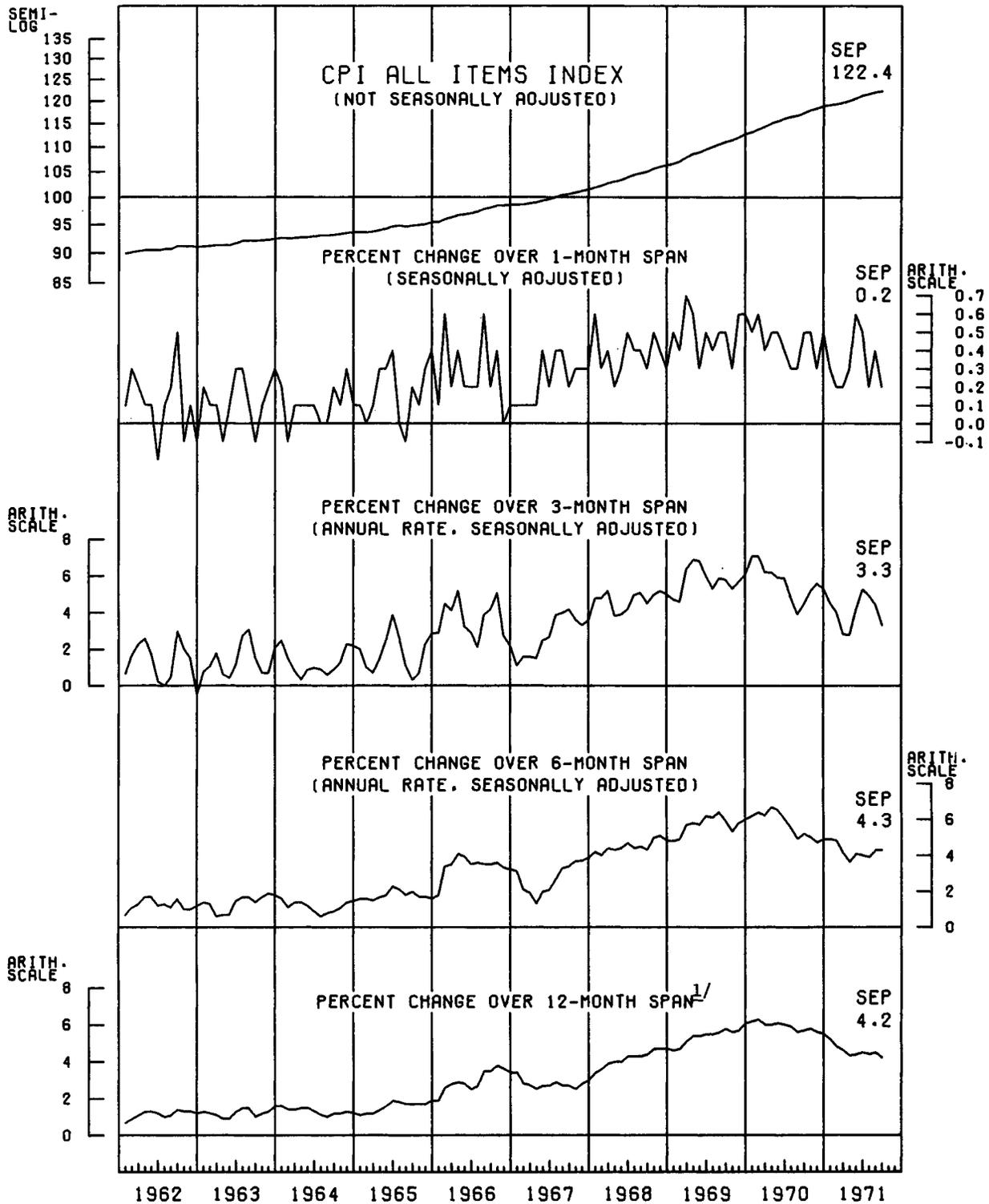
Effective with the February 1970 release, and continuing thereafter, percent changes expressed as annual rates will be computed according to the standard formula for compound growth rates. These data indicate what the percent change would be if the current rate were maintained for a 12-month period.

Movements of the indexes from one date to another are usually expressed as percent changes rather than changes in the 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:

Index Point Change		Percent Change
September 1971 CPI (1967=100)	122.4	Index point difference divided by the index for the previous period:
less August index	<u>122.2</u>	
index point difference =	0.2	
		$\frac{122.4 - 122.2}{122.2} \times 100 = 0.2$

Effective with the July 1970 release, and continuing thereafter, seasonally adjusted percent changes in the U.S. All Items Index will be based on seasonal adjustment factors and seasonally adjusted indexes carried to two decimal places. This procedure will help to eliminate rounding error in the percent changes.

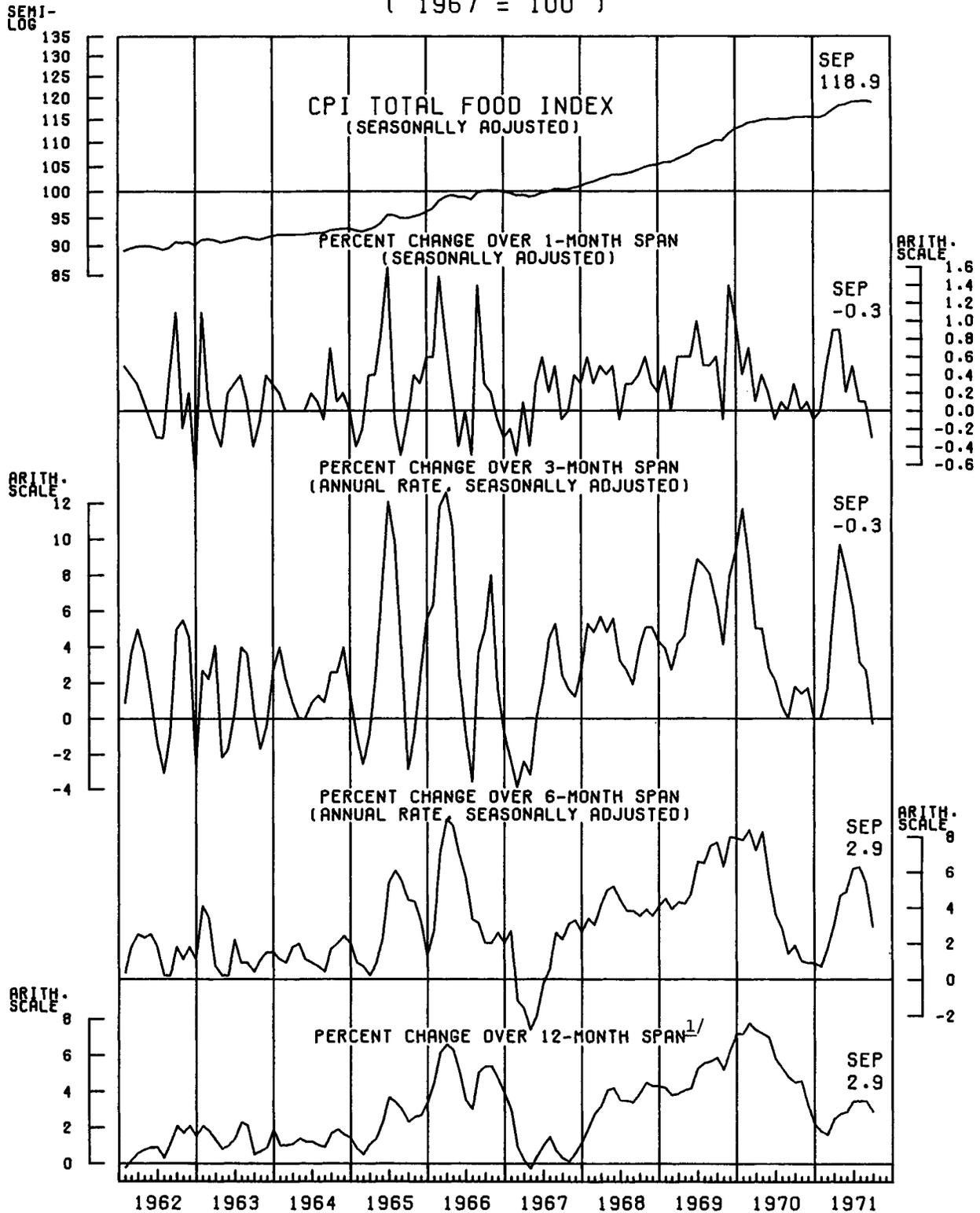
ALL ITEMS INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1962-71
(1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

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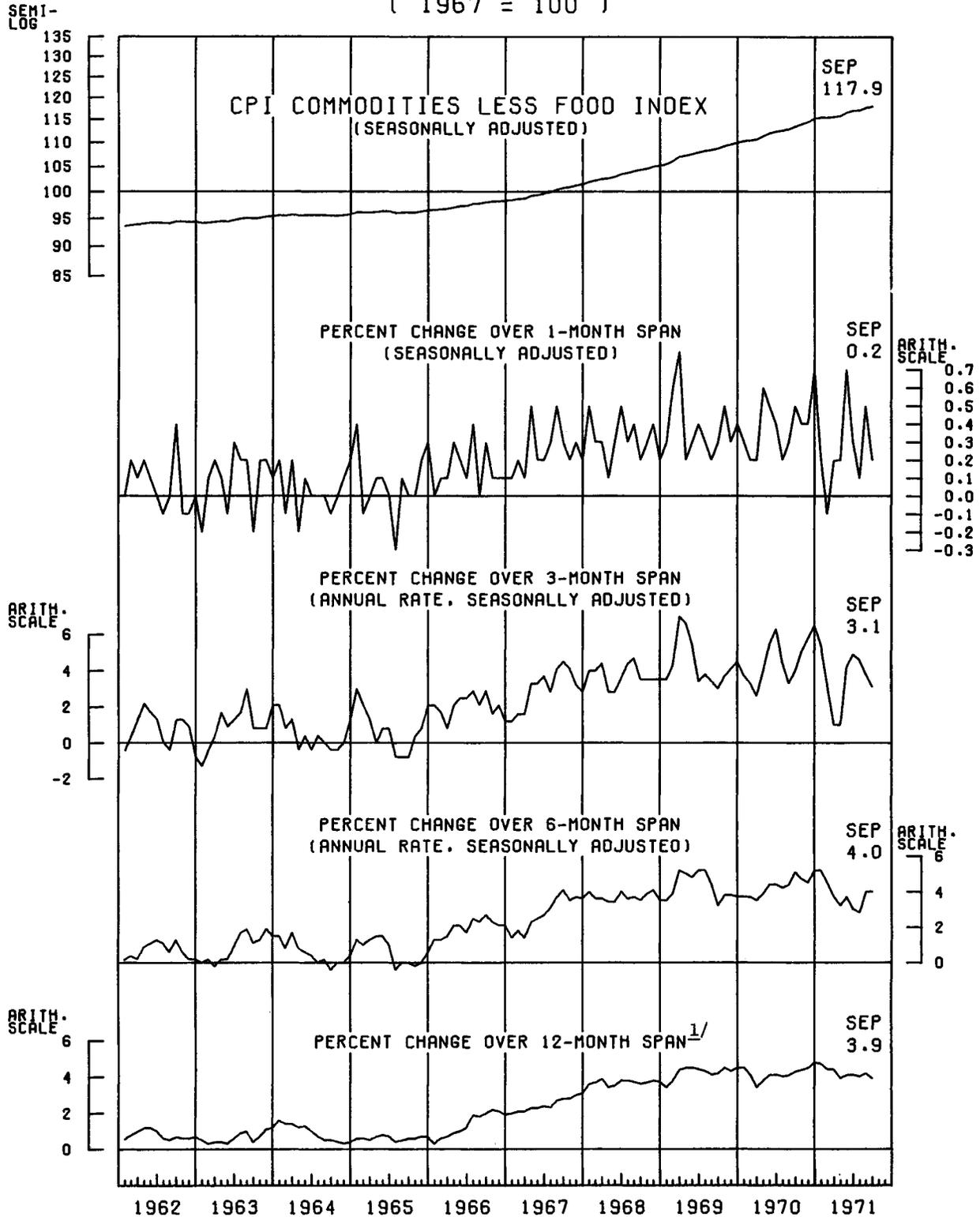
TOTAL FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1962-71 (1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

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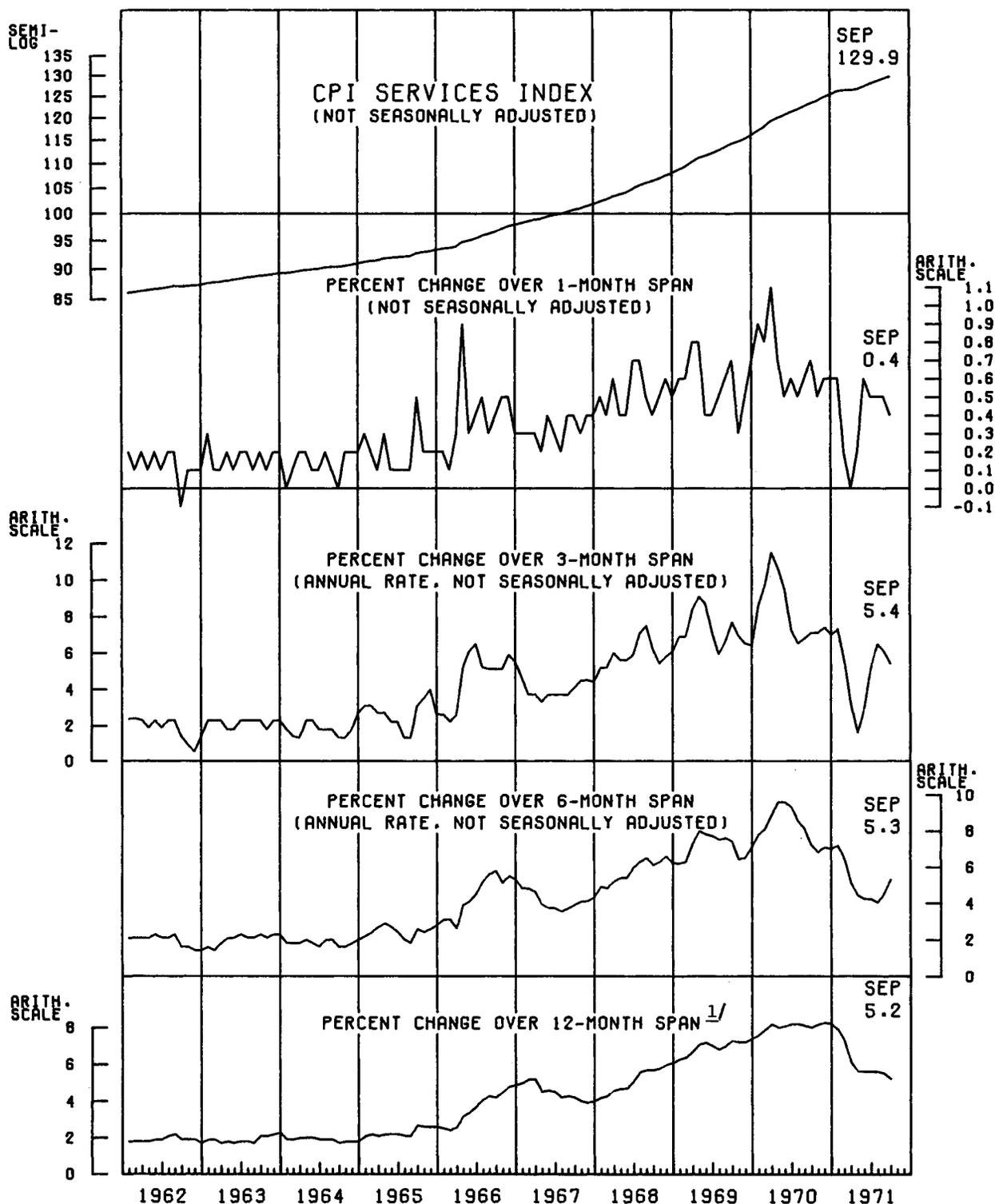
COMMODITIES LESS FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1962-71 (1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.

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SERVICES INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1962-71 (1967 = 100)



1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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TABLE 1. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, September 1971

Group	(Indexes 1967=100) (unless otherwise specified)				Percent change to September 1971 from:		
	September 1971	August 1971	June 1971	September 1970	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
	All items -----	122.4	122.2	121.5	117.5	0.2	0.7
All items (1957-59=100) -----	142.3	142.1	141.3	136.6	-	-	-
Food -----	119.1	120.0	119.2	115.7	-.8	-.1	2.9
Food at home -----	116.9	118.1	117.4	114.2	-1.0	-.4	2.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.6	114.5	114.2	110.2	.1	.4	4.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	119.1	118.7	117.4	117.0	.3	1.4	1.8
Dairy products -----	116.1	116.0	115.7	112.5	.1	.3	3.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.6	123.6	125.1	111.5	-5.7	-6.8	4.6
Other foods at home -----	115.5	116.7	114.7	115.8	-1.0	.7	-.3
Food away from home -----	127.6	127.1	125.9	121.5	.4	1.4	5.0
Housing -----	125.5	125.1	124.0	120.6	.3	1.2	4.1
Shelter 1/ -----	130.1	129.5	128.3	125.9	.5	1.4	3.3
Rent -----	116.1	115.8	115.2	110.9	.3	.8	4.7
Homeownership 2/ -----	135.1	134.4	133.0	131.3	.5	1.6	2.9
Fuel and utilities 3/ -----	116.3	116.3	114.6	108.4	0	1.5	7.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	117.8	117.8	117.4	111.4	0	.3	5.7
Gas and electricity -----	115.7	115.7	114.6	107.6	0	1.0	7.5
Household furnishings and operation -----	119.4	119.1	118.7	114.2	.3	.6	4.6
Apparel and upkeep 4/ -----	120.6	119.0	120.1	117.2	1.3	.4	2.9
Men's and boys' -----	120.8	119.6	121.4	117.9	1.0	-.5	2.5
Women's and girls' -----	121.3	118.2	119.9	117.7	2.6	1.2	3.1
Footwear -----	122.2	121.5	121.7	118.4	.6	.4	3.2
Transportation -----	119.8	120.1	119.6	113.0	-.2	-.2	6.0
Private -----	117.8	118.1	117.6	111.2	-.3	.2	5.9
New cars -----	111.2	112.9	113.9	105.1	-1.5	-2.4	5.8
Used cars -----	111.6	112.5	114.1	104.9	-.8	-2.2	6.4
Gasoline -----	108.7	107.9	104.9	105.5	.7	3.6	3.0
Public -----	139.3	139.1	139.0	131.2	.1	.2	6.2
Health and recreation -----	123.6	123.1	122.1	117.7	.4	1.2	5.0
Medical care -----	130.4	130.0	128.6	122.6	.3	1.4	6.4
Personal care -----	117.6	117.5	116.8	114.0	.1	.7	3.2
Reading and recreation -----	120.5	119.7	119.3	114.7	.7	1.0	5.1
Other goods and services -----	122.4	121.8	120.3	117.4	.5	1.7	4.3
Seasonally Adjusted:							
Food -----	118.9	119.2	119.0	-	-.3	-.1	-
Apparel and upkeep -----	120.4	120.1	120.0	-	.2	.3	-
Transportation -----	120.6	120.5	119.2	-	.1	1.2	-
Special Groups:							
All items less food -----	123.3	122.9	122.2	118.0	.3	.9	4.5
All items less medical care -----	121.9	121.8	121.1	117.2	.1	.7	4.0
Commodities less food -----	117.8	117.3	117.1	113.4	.4	.6	3.9
Commodities -----	118.3	118.3	117.9	114.2	0	.3	3.6
Nondurables -----	118.7	118.6	118.1	114.9	.1	.5	3.3
Nondurables less food -----	118.2	117.2	116.9	114.1	.9	1.1	3.6
Apparel commodities -----	120.9	119.1	120.4	117.7	1.5	.4	2.7
Durables -----	117.2	117.4	117.4	112.5	-.2	-.2	4.2
Household durables -----	113.5	113.4	113.1	110.6	.1	.4	2.6
Services -----	129.9	129.4	128.2	123.5	.4	1.3	5.2
Services less rent -----	132.4	131.9	130.6	125.8	.4	1.4	5.2
Services less medical care -----	129.1	128.6	127.4	123.1	.4	1.3	4.9
Insurance and finance -----	139.6	139.2	137.7	137.2	.3	1.4	1.7
Utilities and public transportation -----	121.6	121.6	120.0	113.5	0	1.3	7.1
Housekeeping and home maintenance services --	140.4	139.4	137.6	128.5	.7	2.0	9.3
Medical care services -----	135.6	135.1	133.5	126.5	.4	1.6	7.2
Purchasing Power of Consumer Dollar:							
1967=\$1.00 -----	\$.817	\$.818	\$.823	\$.851	-.1	-.7	-4.0
1957-59=\$1.00 -----	.703	.704	.708	.732	-	-	-

1/ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
 2/ Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.
 3/ Also includes telephone, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.
 4/ Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, jewelry, and apparel upkeep services not shown separately.

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

TABLE 2. Consumer Price Index--The 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	August 1971	June 1971	September 1970
		September 1971			August 1971	June 1971	September 1970
U.S. City Average -----	M	122.4	142.3		0.2	0.7	4.2
Chicago -----	M	121.8	138.4		.2	.7	3.4
Detroit -----	M	123.1	141.4		.2	1.0	4.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach ---	M	120.1	141.3		.4	1.2	3.7
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. --	M	127.5	151.7		.5	1.1	5.8
Philadelphia -----	M	124.8	145.7		.9	.6	4.3
		July 1971				April 1971	July 1970
Boston -----	1	122.9	147.2			1.0	5.6
Houston -----	1	121.3	138.8			1.5	3.8
Minneapolis-St. Paul ----	1	121.9	141.3			1.3	3.4
Pittsburgh -----	1	121.8	140.1			.7	4.1
		August 1971				May 1971	August 1970
Buffalo -----	2	122.9		3/ 135.1		1.2	5.6
Cleveland -----	2	123.3	139.1			1.1	2.7
Dallas -----	2	122.8		3/ 132.7		2.0	3.5
Milwaukee -----	2	121.5	137.2			2.0	4.6
San Diego -----	2	120.9		4/ 127.0		1.2	4.3
Seattle -----	2	117.7	138.3			1.9	2.7
Washington -----	2	123.6	144.0			1.1	4.5
		September 1971				June 1971	September 1970
Atlanta -----	3	122.3	140.6			0.0	4.0
Baltimore -----	3	124.5	144.6			.8	5.3
Cincinnati -----	3	121.5	137.9			.7	4.0
Honolulu -----	3	121.3		5/ 130.8		2.4	4.4
Kansas City -----	3	121.9	144.7			1.1	4.5
St. Louis -----	3	120.7	140.9			.7	3.5
San Francisco-Oakland ----	3	121.1	144.1			1.0	3.8

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--The United States and selected areas 1/ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups percent change from August 1971 to September 1971

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.9
Food -----	.8	- 1.1	- .8	- .6	- .6	- .3
Housing -----	.4	.1	1.1	.8	.5	2.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.3	3.8	.8	1.6	3.4	3.7
Transportation -----	.2	-.5	- 1.2	.4	-.5	-.5
Health and recreation -----	.4	.5	.2	.3	.2	0
Medical care -----	.3	.2	.7	.2	-.1	.1
Personal care -----	.1	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	.7	.6	.2	.8	.9	.7
Other goods and services -----	.5	.5	.3	.1	.2	(2/)

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

Group	Indexes			Percent change to: September 1971	
	September 1971	August 1971	June 1971	From: 1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago
Food -----	118.9	119.2	119.0	- 0.3	- 0.1
Food at home -----	116.6	117.2	117.0	- .5	- .3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	117.3	116.8	117.4	.4	-.1
Dairy products -----	116.0	116.0	115.7	0	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	119.3	121.8	121.2	- 2.1	- 1.6
Other foods at home -----	114.6	116.5	117.3	- 1.6	- 2.3
Fuel and utilities <u>1/</u> -----	116.5	116.4	114.8	.1	1.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	118.2	118.5	118.2	-.3	0
Apparel and upkeep <u>2/</u> -----	120.4	120.1	120.0	.2	.3
Men's and boys' -----	120.6	120.3	121.4	.2	-.7
Women's and girls' -----	120.8	120.0	119.9	.7	.8
Footwear -----	122.2	121.6	121.7	.5	.4
Transportation -----	120.6	120.5	119.2	.1	1.2
Private -----	118.8	118.5	117.2	.3	1.4
New cars -----	114.6	115.0	114.7	-.3	-.1
Commodities -----	118.3	118.2	117.8	.1	.4
Commodities less food -----	117.9	117.7	117.0	.2	.8
Nondurables -----	118.5	118.4	118.0	.1	.4
Nondurables less food -----	118.1	117.7	116.9	.3	1.0
Apparel commodities -----	120.5	120.2	120.3	.2	.2
Durables -----	117.7	117.5	117.2	.2	.4

1/ Also includes telephone, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

2/ Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, jewelry, and apparel upkeep services not shown separately.

TABLE 5. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas 1/ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, September 1971 index and percent changes from June 1971

Group	U.S. City Average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles- Long Beach	New York- Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
(Indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise specified)						
All items -----	122.4	121.8	123.1	120.1	127.5	124.8
Food -----	119.1	119.4	118.4	115.1	124.2	121.4
Food at home -----	116.9	117.9	117.2	113.6	121.0	118.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.6	119.4	116.5	110.1	116.0	119.2
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	119.1	120.4	122.1	116.9	124.3	119.5
Dairy products -----	116.1	115.5	115.4	114.2	118.5	119.5
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.6	116.1	113.0	112.3	122.6	119.5
Other foods at home -----	115.5	115.5	113.6	111.7	118.5	116.3
Food away from home -----	127.6	125.5	124.1	119.3	134.2	131.9
Housing -----	125.5	120.5	130.2	125.1	130.7	127.3
Shelter -----	130.1	123.9	139.6	128.2	135.6	136.9
Rent -----	116.1	111.2	(2/)	117.2	(2/)	120.6
Homeownership -----	135.1	129.5	144.1	131.4	146.8	141.1
Fuel and utilities -----	116.3	111.5	111.3	121.9	119.8	111.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	117.8	113.2	113.9	-	120.2	111.9
Gas and electricity -----	115.7	109.2	112.1	124.3	113.8	112.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	119.4	115.6	113.7	116.2	124.6	119.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	120.6	120.4	116.3	119.8	123.0	121.0
Men's and boys' -----	120.8	118.4	117.7	118.0	124.1	124.7
Women's and girls' -----	121.3	124.5	113.1	123.4	122.9	119.3
Footwear -----	122.2	117.7	120.4	121.9	121.2	123.1
Transportation -----	119.8	126.7	115.4	117.0	130.0	123.8
Private -----	117.8	121.2	112.6	117.2	125.1	121.0
Public -----	139.3	161.2	148.9	113.5	148.8	140.7
Health and recreation -----	123.6	124.0	124.9	118.7	127.6	127.8
Medical care -----	130.4	129.9	136.4	127.7	137.3	140.1
Personal care -----	117.6	117.6	(2/)	113.4	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	120.5	120.2	121.6	112.0	124.9	124.8
Other goods and services -----	122.4	124.8	118.3	116.7	125.8	124.0
Percent changes from June 1971 to September 1971						
All items -----	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.2	1.1	0.6
Food -----	-.1	-.3	-.2	-.1	.2	.5
Food at home -----	-.4	-.4	-.3	-.6	-.2	.1
Cereals and bakery products -----	.4	2.0	.2	-.8	.5	.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.4	.9	1.7	.9	1.4	1.4
Dairy products -----	.3	.2	1.4	-.1	.3	1.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	- 6.8	- 5.8	- 7.1	- 4.1	- 6.6	- 4.2
Other foods at home -----	.7	-.5	.6	-.4	1.3	.6
Food away from home -----	1.4	.3	.6	1.4	1.6	1.8
Housing -----	1.2	.8	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.1
Shelter -----	1.4	1.1	2.6	2.0	1.3	3.6
Rent -----	.8	3/ .6	(2/)	3/ .5	(2/)	3/ .9
Homeownership -----	1.6	1.3	3.1	2.2	1.5	4.1
Fuel and utilities -----	1.5	.4	.1	5.0	4.5	- 3.8
Fuel oil and coal -----	.3	.3	.7	-	.8	- 5.0
Gas and electricity -----	1.0	.2	0	3.6	2.0	- 4.6
Household furnishings and operation -----	.6	.1	.6	.8	1.1	- 1.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	.4	2.3	.7	.9	2.2	0
Men's and boys' -----	-.5	.6	.4	.9	- 1.9	2.5
Women's and girls' -----	1.2	3.7	1.4	.5	7.4	-.4
Footwear -----	.4	1.9	-.4	1.9	.1	.4
Transportation -----	.2	1.1	-.3	1.8	-.2	-.3
Private -----	.2	1.3	-.4	1.9	-.3	-.3
Public -----	.2	.1	.1	.1	0	0
Health and recreation -----	1.2	.6	1.1	.4	1.4	.7
Medical care -----	1.4	.9	1.9	.6	1.3	2.2
Personal care -----	.7	.2	(2/)	-.4	(2/)	(2/)
Reading and recreation -----	1.0	.8	.7	.7	1.0	1.0
Other goods and services -----	1.7	.2	.9	.2	1.9	-.3

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 5. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas 1/ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, September 1971 index and percent changes from June 1971--Continued

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	San Francisco-Oakland	St. Louis
(Indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise specified)							
All items -----	122.3	124.5	121.5	121.3	121.9	121.1	120.7
Food -----	119.0	122.2	118.7	121.4	120.0	115.5	118.8
Food at home -----	116.3	120.2	117.0	119.2	117.5	113.3	116.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.1	117.0	114.7	105.9	116.8	110.1	119.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	115.5	120.6	116.8	120.4	117.8	116.3	115.1
Dairy products -----	116.6	118.0	117.6	114.9	124.2	114.9	119.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	124.0	126.9	117.5	136.9	113.9	109.0	120.6
Other foods at home -----	114.1	118.0	117.9	115.1	115.5	112.7	110.7
Food away from home -----	127.8	129.9	125.1	127.6	127.9	123.5	129.8
Housing -----	126.6	127.1	122.4	123.2	123.1	126.8	120.9
Shelter -----	130.2	133.6	126.8	128.6	127.8	130.8	123.3
Rent -----	114.7	110.7	108.6	125.3	109.5	126.2	107.8
Homeownership -----	134.7	143.1	135.2	130.6	134.9	132.9	127.6
Fuel and utilities -----	120.9	114.4	118.6	108.9	113.3	120.2	115.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	114.9	-	-	-	-	119.7
Gas and electricity -----	117.6	116.0	114.9	104.4	113.7	116.2	117.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	121.6	120.8	113.0	113.4	117.1	117.3	119.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	116.5	124.6	122.8	117.7	126.3	120.8	120.9
Men's and boys' -----	121.0	129.4	125.4	111.8	128.5	120.3	115.9
Women's and girls' -----	113.7	120.3	119.4	121.5	128.2	123.4	126.4
Footwear -----	113.9	128.1	128.8	114.9	127.9	120.7	123.2
Transportation -----	116.4	119.0	121.2	4/ 122.9	119.9	119.4	120.2
Private -----	114.6	118.5	117.7	124.7	118.1	118.5	117.9
Public -----	140.6	121.5	148.7	5/ 112.9	151.9	134.2	145.1
Health and recreation -----	126.1	6/ 126.7	123.6	119.6	121.9	118.7	122.5
Medical care -----	137.8	140.0	133.3	125.9	126.9	125.0	124.9
Personal care -----	121.1	119.7	120.9	119.4	118.6	113.8	122.4
Reading and recreation -----	120.8	124.7	119.1	119.0	115.4	114.9	115.3
Other goods and services -----	117.7	7/ 119.5	119.9	113.3	125.7	116.8	126.9
Percent changes from June 1971 to September 1971							
All items -----	0.0	0.8	0.7	2.4	1.1	1.0	0.7
Food -----	.2	.6	-.5	4.1	1.0	-1.0	.4
Food at home -----	-.1	.1	-1.0	5.2	1.0	-1.6	.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	.6	.3	1.1	.5	.8	.1	.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	1.6	1.1	1.6	5.7	1.9	.3	2.7
Dairy products -----	1.1	.5	.3	.7	1.1	1.2	.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	-6.0	-1.5	-9.3	10.9	-2.2	-9.6	-4.8
Other foods at home -----	.5	-.6	1.6	5.2	2.2	-1.5	1.0
Food away from home -----	1.2	2.5	1.3	1.3	1.0	1.4	.7
Housing -----	-.9	-.3	1.6	2.9	1.4	2.2	1.1
Shelter -----	-1.9	-.4	2.3	4.0	1.7	2.3	.5
Rent -----	.9	.5	.6	1.0	.5	.6	.2
Homeownership -----	-2.7	-.8	3.0	5.8	2.1	3.0	.6
Fuel and utilities -----	.5	.4	.3	0	.3	5.6	3.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	0	-	-	-	-	6.0
Gas and electricity -----	.8	-.1	0	-.1	.3	1.6	5.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	.6	-.2	.2	.8	1.2	.3	.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.5	2.3	1.0	1.0	2.5	1.9	2.4
Men's and boys' -----	2.3	1.8	.6	.8	2.2	.3	-.3
Women's and girls' -----	1.8	3.6	2.2	1.8	4.1	3.6	5.8
Footwear -----	1.2	.8	-.5	-.9	1.4	.7	.6
Transportation -----	-.4	.3	.3	-.2	-.3	.8	-.7
Private -----	-.5	.2	.4	-.2	-.3	.9	-.8
Public -----	.2	0	0	0	.2	.2	.1
Health and recreation -----	.8	2.0	.8	1.5	1.3	.5	.3
Medical care -----	.8	3.6	.6	1.1	2.4	1.4	.9
Personal care -----	-.1	1.8	.7	2.5	2.1	.2	.6
Reading and recreation -----	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.6	1.1	.6	-.6
Other goods and services -----	.5	.6	.4	-.2	-.1	-.9	.6

1/ See footnote 1, table 2.

2/ Not available.

3/ Change from July 1971.

4/ Corrected Indexes: March 1971 = 116.6; June 1971 = 123.1.

5/ Corrected Indexes: March 1971 = 104.4; June 1971 = 112.9.

6/ Corrected Indexes: March 1971 = 122.9; June 1971 = 124.2.

7/ Corrected Indexes: March 1971 = 118.4; June 1971 = 118.8.

TABLE 6. Consumer Price Index--United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, September 1971 indexes and percent changes from August 1971

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 unless otherwise specified)								
U.S. City Average -----	119.1	116.9	114.6	119.1	116.1	116.6	115.5	127.6
Atlanta -----	119.0	116.3	114.1	115.5	116.6	124.0	114.1	127.8
Baltimore -----	122.2	120.2	117.0	120.6	118.0	126.9	118.0	129.9
Boston -----	118.5	116.6	112.1	121.6	114.6	116.5	112.8	125.4
Buffalo -----	119.6	117.9	118.7	120.5	118.0	112.5	117.5	129.1
Chicago -----	119.4	117.9	119.4	120.4	115.5	116.1	115.5	125.5
Cincinnati -----	118.7	117.0	114.7	116.8	117.6	117.5	117.9	125.1
Cleveland -----	118.2	117.0	111.7	117.6	119.9	119.3	115.0	124.9
Dallas -----	118.6	114.8	114.4	116.1	111.5	116.5	113.9	132.5
Detroit -----	118.4	117.2	116.5	122.1	115.4	113.0	113.6	124.1
Honolulu -----	121.4	119.2	105.9	120.4	114.9	136.9	115.1	127.6
Houston -----	120.1	115.8	112.1	117.1	115.5	117.9	115.2	135.0
Kansas City -----	120.0	117.5	116.8	117.8	124.2	113.9	115.5	127.9
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	115.1	113.6	110.1	116.9	114.2	112.3	111.7	119.3
Milwaukee -----	116.8	115.0	118.2	117.8	113.3	111.3	112.8	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	119.5	117.2	121.6	119.1	117.3	112.1	116.4	129.7
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. -	124.2	121.0	116.0	124.3	118.5	122.6	118.5	134.2
Philadelphia -----	121.4	118.9	119.2	119.5	119.5	119.5	116.3	131.9
Pittsburgh -----	119.4	117.4	114.0	117.3	119.4	119.2	117.2	131.3
St. Louis -----	118.8	116.4	119.9	115.1	119.1	120.6	110.7	129.8
San Diego -----	117.8	114.6	111.0	120.3	113.5	112.6	110.1	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	115.5	113.3	110.1	116.3	114.9	109.0	112.7	123.5
Seattle -----	116.8	114.2	110.9	115.8	115.2	111.8	114.6	125.0
Washington -----	121.3	117.2	118.2	115.4	110.4	123.7	119.4	131.8
Percent changes August 1971 to September 1971								
U.S. City Average -----	- 0.8	- 1.0	0.1	0.3	0.1	- 5.7	- 1.0	0.4
Atlanta -----	- .3	- .4	.1	1.0	0	- 3.5	- .9	.4
Baltimore -----	- .3	- .8	- 1.4	- .7	0	- .3	- 1.7	1.6
Boston -----	- .6	- .9	.3	.2	- .5	- 5.3	.2	.2
Buffalo -----	- 2.0	- 2.4	.1	0	.4	- 12.0	- 1.4	.2
Chicago -----	- 1.1	- 1.3	.2	.4	.1	- 6.1	- 3.0	.2
Cincinnati -----	- .8	- 1.3	.4	- .3	.2	- 5.3	- .7	.6
Cleveland -----	- .7	- .8	- .1	.2	0	- 4.3	- .9	- .2
Dallas -----	- .8	- 1.1	.4	.2	.1	- 5.4	- 1.2	.6
Detroit -----	- .8	- 1.1	.4	.9	1.8	- 7.2	- 2.2	.1
Honolulu -----	1.5	1.9	.3	1.2	0	5.3	2.2	.6
Houston -----	- .3	- .6	- .1	1.1	.3	- 4.9	- .6	.5
Kansas City -----	- .2	- .6	.3	.3	.3	- 3.6	- .6	.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach -	- .6	- .9	- 1.5	.4	0	- 3.5	- .8	.3
Milwaukee -----	- .7	- .8	1.0	.1	.1	- 6.1	- .1	(2/)
Minneapolis-St. Paul ---	- 2.1	- 2.7	- 1.5	- 1.4	- .9	- 8.7	- 1.6	.2
N.Y.-Northeastern N.J. -	- .6	- .9	.6	.3	0	- 4.7	- 1.6	.3
Philadelphia -----	- .3	- .6	.3	.5	0	- 2.9	- 1.5	.4
Pittsburgh -----	- .6	- .8	.3	.9	- .1	- 4.9	- 1.3	.7
St. Louis -----	- 1.0	- 1.4	- .2	- .6	.6	- 6.0	- .6	.4
San Diego -----	- .3	- .5	- 1.2	1.0	0	- 2.9	- 1.2	(2/)
San Francisco-Oakland --	- .9	- 1.3	.2	- .3	.2	- 6.1	- 1.4	.7
Seattle -----	- .2	- .6	.5	.3	- .3	- 4.0	- .2	.9
Washington -----	- .7	- 1.2	1.7	- .3	- .1	- 5.4	- 1.1	.3

^{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 September 1971 indexes and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to September 1971 from--		
	September 1971		August 1971		September 1970
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
Total food -----	119.1	118.9	- 0.8	- 0.3	2.9
Food away from home -----	127.6	-	.4	-	5.0
Restaurant meals -----	127.3	-	.3	-	5.0
Snacks -----	128.6	-	.3	-	4.9
Food at home -----	116.9	116.6	- 1.0	- .5	2.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	114.6	-	.1	-	4.0
Flour -----	101.5	-	.3	-	2.0
Cracker meal -----	131.5	-	.3	-	9.7
Corn flakes -----	104.2	-	- 1.3	-	- .8
Rice -----	110.1	-	.2	-	3.7
Bread, white -----	113.4	-	.4	-	1.9
Bread, whole wheat -----	119.1	-	.3	-	5.8
Cookies -----	109.9	-	- .1	-	4.2
Layer cake -----	121.5	-	.2	-	4.8
Cinnamon rolls -----	118.6	-	- .4	-	6.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	119.1	117.3	.3	.4	1.8
Meats -----	118.8	116.9	.3	.4	.3
Beef and veal -----	127.7	126.1	.7	.7	5.5
Steak, round -----	126.1	124.5	.6	.7	5.2
Steak, sirloin -----	127.8	-	2.2	-	8.4
Steak, porterhouse -----	129.5	-	1.1	-	9.0
Rump roast -----	124.0	-	- .1	-	4.4
Rib roast -----	130.8	129.2	.7	.2	8.2
Chuck roast -----	125.9	124.5	- .1	.2	3.0
Hamburger -----	128.3	127.0	.9	1.2	4.2
Beef liver -----	114.0	-	- .3	-	- .6
Veal cutlets -----	146.0	145.3	.3	.6	10.9
Pork -----	106.4	103.2	- .5	- .2	- 8.7
Chops -----	109.9	105.9	- 2.8	- 1.9	- 6.9
Loin roast -----	110.0	-	- 1.0	-	- 6.1
Pork sausage -----	113.0	-	1.4	-	- 6.3
Ham, whole -----	103.8	103.7	- .9	.3	- 5.1
Picnics -----	106.7	-	- .7	-	- 7.1
Bacon -----	97.7	93.5	1.1	.6	- 16.1
Other meats -----	117.0	116.4	.5	.7	1.2
Lamb chops -----	124.7	-	.4	-	5.9
Frankfurters -----	116.0	114.2	.3	0	1.0
Ham, canned -----	108.0	-	1.3	-	- 2.6
Bologna sausage -----	120.4	-	.5	-	1.2
Salami sausage -----	117.7	-	.1	-	1.4
Liverwurst -----	114.8	-	.5	-	- .2
Poultry -----	112.2	-	.1	-	6.4
Frying chicken -----	111.9	109.3	.2	0	7.8
Chicken breasts -----	112.7	-	- .7	-	5.4
Turkey -----	113.3	-	.6	-	.9
Fish -----	132.5	132.9	.5	.5	10.5
Shrimp, frozen -----	119.7	-	- .2	-	3.7
Fish, fresh or frozen -----	142.5	142.5	.1	.3	12.0
Tuna fish, canned -----	129.2	-	.1	-	9.5
Sardines, canned -----	138.5	-	1.6	-	16.6
Dairy products -----	116.1	116.0	.1	0	3.2
Milk, fresh, grocery -----	115.4	115.3	.2	- .1	3.0
Milk, fresh, delivered -----	118.1	-	0	-	2.8
Milk, fresh, skim -----	120.8	-	.4	-	3.5
Milk, evaporated -----	121.2	-	0	-	6.1
Ice cream -----	106.9	-	.4	-	.9
Cheese, American process -----	121.8	122.3	- .2	.2	5.1
Butter -----	105.8	105.9	.1	0	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, September 1971 indexes and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item or Group	Index		Percent change to September 1971 from--		September 1970
	September 1971		August 1971		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Fruits and vegetables -----	116.6	119.3	- 5.7	- 2.1	4.6
Fresh fruits and vegetables -----	115.3	119.9	- 9.5	- 3.7	2.5
Apples -----	125.3	115.2	- 9.9	.4	2.3
Bananas -----	98.5	96.3	- 1.0	- 1.7	.2
Oranges -----	138.3	129.3	2.2	- .6	13.8
Orange juice, fresh -----	129.4	-	.9	-	6.5
Grapefruit -----	171.6	143.6	- 2.4	- 1.0	12.0
Grapes 1/ -----	120.3	139.6	- 29.1	- 15.6	9.7
Strawberries 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Watermelon 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)
Potatoes -----	115.0	118.4	- 9.9	1.6	- 1.5
Onions -----	111.3	112.9	- 3.4	6.9	2.1
Asparagus 1/ -----	(1/)	(1/)	(1/)	-	(1/)
Cabbage -----	103.4	118.7	- 5.5	- 1.1	- 3.8
Carrots -----	125.5	128.6	- 22.9	- 16.1	20.3
Celery -----	111.2	121.5	- 11.5	- 2.2	3.3
Cucumbers -----	84.8	-	- 5.8	-	11.7
Lettuce -----	111.4	117.1	- 10.2	- 6.4	- 19.6
Peppers, green -----	90.8	-	- 13.7	-	2.1
Spinach -----	128.1	-	- .7	-	8.5
Tomatoes -----	95.4	132.0	- 21.8	- 9.9	13.2
Processed fruits and vegetables -----	118.6	-	.6	-	7.8
Fruit cocktail, canned -----	120.2	-	.9	-	9.5
Pears, canned -----	117.7	-	.3	-	6.3
Pineapple-Grapefruit juice, drink -----	114.0	-	- .1	-	2.2
Orange juice concentrate, frozen -----	136.3	136.0	2.0	1.8	12.2
Lemonade concentrate, frozen -----	115.5	-	.6	-	9.0
Beets, canned -----	117.5	-	.8	-	6.2
Peas, green, canned -----	108.0	-	.4	-	5.2
Tomatoes, canned -----	116.6	-	.3	-	3.6
Dried beans -----	129.5	-	1.1	-	22.5
Broccoli, frozen -----	118.4	-	.3	-	3.7
Other food at home -----	115.5	114.6	- 1.0	- 1.6	- .3
Eggs -----	102.4	97.0	- 6.7	- 11.4	- 19.2
Fats and oils:					
Margarine -----	117.6	-	1.0	-	9.6
Salad dressing, Italian -----	110.2	-	.2	-	6.4
Salad or cooking oil -----	123.3	-	1.4	-	11.0
Sugar and sweets -----	120.2	-	- .1	-	3.2
Sugar -----	113.5	-	.3	-	4.0
Grape jelly -----	121.6	-	- .1	-	6.7
Chocolate bar -----	131.4	-	- .2	-	1.2
Syrup, chocolate flavored -----	113.2	-	- .2	-	1.2
Nonalcoholic beverages -----	121.0	-	- .8	-	.4
Coffee, can and bag -----	119.1	-	- 2.2	-	- 4.2
Coffee, instant -----	125.4	-	.2	-	3.0
Tea -----	108.0	-	0	-	1.4
Cola drink -----	127.0	-	.2	-	5.9
Carbonated fruit drink -----	127.6	-	.1	-	4.6
Prepared and partially prepared foods -----	113.4	-	- .1	-	3.0
Bean soup, canned -----	114.7	-	- .1	-	1.8
Chicken soup, canned -----	106.6	-	.3	-	.7
Spaghetti, canned -----	117.7	-	.1	-	2.9
Mashed potatoes, instant -----	110.4	-	- 1.3	-	1.1
Potatoes, french fried, frozen -----	110.3	-	- .5	-	.1
Baby foods, canned -----	111.8	-	0	-	3.0
Sweet pickle relish -----	119.5	-	.5	-	7.9
Pretzels -----	114.5	-	.4	-	5.3

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, September 1971 and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to September 1971 from	
		September 1971	August 1971	August 1971	September 1970
Housing -----		125.5	125.1	0.3	4.1
Shelter 1/ -----		130.1	129.5	.5	3.3
Rent -----		116.1	115.8	.3	4.7
Homeownership costs 2/ -----		135.1	134.4	.5	2.9
Mortgage interest rates -----		118.7	118.1	.5	- 11.1
Property taxes -----		133.1	132.2	.7	7.6
Property insurance rates -----		121.5	121.5	0	6.6
Maintenance and repairs -----		136.8	135.8	.7	8.4
Commodities 3/ -----		120.9	120.6	.2	5.0
Exterior house paint -----		116.5	115.3	1.0	3.1
Interior house paint -----		115.5	115.2	.3	4.1
Services -----		143.7	142.4	.9	9.8
Repainting living and dining rooms -----		153.0	151.3	1.1	11.2
Reshingling house roof -----		150.1	148.8	.9	13.4
Residing house -----		132.8	132.1	.5	6.8
Sink replacement -----		143.4	143.0	.3	9.2
Furnace repair -----		148.9	145.9	2.1	10.3
Fuel and utilities -----		116.3	116.3	0	7.3
Fuel oil and coal -----		117.8	117.8	0	5.7
Fuel oil, #2 -----		116.4	116.4	0	5.6
Gas and electricity -----		115.7	115.7	0	7.5
Gas -----		116.8	116.8	0	7.4
Electricity -----		114.6	114.6	0	7.4
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services *** -----		110.2	110.2	0	7.1
Residential water and sewerage services -----		135.0	135.0	0	9.9
Household furnishings and operation 4/ -----		119.4	119.1	.3	4.6
Housefurnishings -----		114.9	114.8	.1	2.8
Textiles -----		111.9	111.1	.7	2.5
Sheets, percale or muslin -----		114.0	110.2	3.4	- .5
Curtains, tailored, polyester -----		111.3	111.5	-.2	4.8
Bedspreads, chiefly cotton -----		107.4	107.0	.4	.3
Drapery fabric, cotton or rayon/acetate -----		118.8	118.9	-.1	3.6
Pillows, bed, polyester, acrylic, or kapok -----		108.0	106.4	1.5	4.7
Slipcover, throws, ready made chiefly cotton -----		111.6	112.4	-.7	2.1
Furniture and bedding -----		119.7	119.6	.1	3.2
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser -----	Mar. 70	104.6	104.5	.1	3.0
Living room suites, good and inexpensive quality --		116.4	116.2	.2	2.0
Lounge chairs, upholstered -----		125.6	125.1	.4	5.4
Dining room chairs -----	Mar. 70	103.4	102.9	.5	2.9
Sofas, upholstered -----		117.5	117.5	0	3.2
Sofas, dual purpose -----		116.3	116.5	-.2	1.7
Bedding, mattress and box springs -----	June 70	103.7	104.0	-.3	3.8
Aluminum folding chair 5/ -----		(5/)	112.8	(5/)	(5/)
Cribs -----		118.4	118.0	.3	4.4
Floor coverings -----		106.5	106.8	-.3	1.5
Broadloom, carpeting, manmade fibers -----		102.2	102.7	-.5	-.2
Vinyl sheet goods -----		116.1	115.9	.2	6.5
Vinyl asbestos tile -----		116.7	116.4	.3	4.1
Appliances 6/ -----		105.8	105.7	.1	1.5
Washing machines, electric, automatic -----		110.1	109.9	.2	2.9
Vacuum cleaners, canister type -----		104.3	104.3	0	1.4
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric --		108.3	108.2	.1	2.2
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric -----		111.2	111.4	-.2	1.9
Clothes dryers, electric, automatic -----		113.4	113.2	.2	4.3
Air conditioners, demountable -----		(5/)	111.0	(5/)	(5/)
Room heaters, electric, portable 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Garbage disposal units -----		110.3	110.2	.1	.2
Other housefurnishings:					
China, dinnerware, chinaware -----		119.2	118.9	.3	6.2
Flatware, stainless steel -----		121.7	121.5	.2	1.4
Table lamps, with shade -----		122.2	122.3	-.1	5.0
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type -----		(5/)	115.2	(5/)	(5/)
Electric drills, hand held -----		107.2	106.3	.8	.3
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents -----		111.1	111.1	0	3.7
Paper napkins -----		128.3	128.1	.2	6.5
Toilet tissue -----		123.7	122.6	.9	3.9
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic service, general housework -----		135.1	134.9	.1	4.6
Baby sitter service -----		132.1	130.7	1.1	6.1
Postal charges -----		146.6	146.6	0	25.3
Laundry, flatwork, finished service -----		135.0	134.6	.3	7.2
Licensed day care service, preschool child -----		119.1	119.0	.1	2.8
Washing machine repairs -----		137.4	137.3	.1	8.2

TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, September 1971 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to September 1971 from:	
		September 1971	August 1971	August 1971	September 1970
Apparel and upkeep 7/ -----		120.6	119.0	1.3	2.9
Apparel commodities -----		120.9	119.1	1.5	2.7
Apparel commodities less footwear -----		120.7	118.6	1.8	2.6
Men's and boys' -----		120.8	119.6	1.0	2.5
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends 5/ -----		121.9	(5/)	(5/)	1.3
Suits, year round weight -----		130.5	127.7	2.2	3.7
Suits, tropical weight 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Jackets, lightweight -----		112.2	112.1	.1	-.4
Slacks, wool or wool blends -----		118.2	115.4	2.4	1.9
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends -----		132.5	130.9	1.2	6.0
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		113.7	113.7	0	3.4
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		114.2	114.0	.2	3.6
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton -----		113.0	112.4	.5	.8
T-shirts, chiefly cotton -----		118.8	119.0	-.2	-.5
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers -----		115.2	114.9	.3	-.3
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		115.4	115.2	.2	1.6
Boy's:					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blend 5/ -		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Sport coats, wool or wool blend 5/ -----		123.5	(5/)	(5/)	1.6
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blend -----		123.2	122.7	.4	4.1
Undershorts, cotton -----		119.6	119.9	-.3	.5
Women's and girls' -----		121.3	118.2	2.6	3.1
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blend 5/ -----		121.7	(5/)	(5/)	.8
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton 5/ -----		128.0	(5/)	(5/)	7.0
Sweaters, wool or acrylic 5/ -----		121.9	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers 5/ -		131.1	(5/)	(5/)	4.5
Skirts, cotton or polyester cotton 5/ -----		(5/)	102.9	(5/)	(5/)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers -----		122.1	119.1	2.5	3.0
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber -----		127.5	126.8	.6	- 2.1
Dresses, street, wool or wool blend 5/ -----		140.3	(5/)	(5/)	8.4
Slips, nylon -----		111.1	111.1	0	2.0
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot -----		115.8	115.7	.1	2.9
Girdles, manmade blend -----		117.1	116.8	.3	4.5
Brassiers, nylon lace -----		122.2	121.2	.8	5.3
Hose, or panty hose, nylon seamless -----		97.9	98.6	-.7	- 1.7
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers -		114.8	114.8	0	-.9
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton -----		109.9	109.7	.2	.9
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic -----		135.6	134.2	1.0	8.2
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl cotton, or polyester blends 5/		115.6	(5/)	(5/)	2.9
Skirts, wool, wool blends, or acrylic 5/ -----		105.2	(5/)	(5/)	- 5.2
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends -----		109.3	107.4	1.8	4.2
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton 5/ -----		(5/)	(5/)	(5/)	(5/)
Slips, polyester blends -----		111.0	109.8	1.1	3.2
Handbags, plastic -----		128.3	126.9	1.1	1.5
Footwear -----		122.2	121.5	.6	3.2
Men's:					
Shoes, street, oxford -----		120.9	119.2	1.4	4.6
Shoes, work, high -----		120.0	119.5	.4	4.8
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump -----		123.2	122.9	.2	1.4
Shoes, evening, pump -----		120.3	119.6	.6	.9
Shoes, casual -----		124.3	123.5	.6	1.6
Houseslippers, scuff -----		123.4	123.5	-.1	2.4
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford -----		122.8	122.4	.3	4.3
Sneakers, boys', oxford type -----		119.5	119.4	.1	5.1
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump -----		127.3	126.4	.7	7.1
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze -----		112.7	112.5	.2	2.6
Yard goods, polyester blend -----		122.1	121.9	.2	.2
Wrist watches, men's and women's -----		113.4	113.7	-.3	2.3
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses ----		117.1	116.8	.3	3.4
Automatic laundry service -----		113.3	113.2	.1	1.9
Laundry, men's shirts -----		119.1	119.2	-.1	2.7
Tailoring charge, hem adjustment -----		129.6	129.0	.5	6.3
Shoe repair, women's heel lift -----		113.5	112.4	1.0	4.7

TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, September 1971 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100 unless otherwise specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to September 1971 from:	
		September 1971	August 1971	August 1971	September 1970
Transportation -----		119.8	120.1	- 0.2	6.0
Private 8/ -----		117.8	118.1	- .3	5.9
Automobiles, new -----		111.2	112.9	- 1.5	5.8
Automobiles, used -----		111.6	112.5	- .8	6.4
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		108.7	107.9	.7	3.0
Motor oil, premium -----		121.5	121.0	.4	5.0
Tires, new, tubeless -----		117.5	117.3	.2	2.9
Auto repairs and maintenance 9/ -----		131.2	131.0	.2	7.5
Auto insurance rates -----		142.9	142.9	0	10.3
Auto registration -----		123.7	123.7	0	4.9
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		136.6	136.7	.1	7.9
Public -----		139.3	139.1	.1	6.2
Local transit fares -----		144.0	144.0	0	5.0
Taxicab fares -----		131.7	131.7	0	11.9
Railroad fares, coach -----		127.7	127.4	.2	2.7
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		129.6	129.6	0	6.6
Bus fares, intercity -----		135.9	132.9	2.3	13.4
Health and recreation -----		123.6	123.1	.4	5.0
Medical care -----		130.4	130.0	.3	6.4
Drugs and prescriptions -----		105.7	105.6	.1	1.3
Over-the-counter items -----		110.3	110.2	.1	2.9
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		95.1	95.3	- .2	- 3.2
Aspirin compounds -----		115.1	114.2	.8	6.0
Liquid tonics -----		100.7	101.3	- .6	- .5
Adhesive bandages, package -----		124.1	123.8	.2	7.4
Cold tablets or capsules -----		112.0	112.2	- .2	3.3
Cough syrup -----		111.4	111.3	.1	2.3
Prescriptions -----		101.8	101.7	.1	0
Anti-infectives -----		79.9	80.0	- .1	- 11.3
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		124.2	123.8	.3	5.3
Ataractics -----		102.6	102.3	.3	2.0
Anti-spasmodics -----		108.1	108.1	0	4.3
Cough preparations -----		127.9	127.3	.5	6.4
Cardiovasculars and anti-hypertensives -----		112.0	112.0	0	4.5
Analgesics, internal -----		108.3	108.2	.1	2.4
Anti-obesity -----		117.1	116.6	.4	7.0
Hormones -----		94.9	94.8	.1	- .6
Professional services: -----					
Physicians' fees -----		131.5	131.2	.2	6.7
General physician, office visits -----		133.0	132.7	.2	6.6
General physician, house visits -----		133.6	132.0	1.2	7.7
Obstetrical cases -----		131.3	130.9	.3	6.5
Pediatric care, office visits -----		133.5	133.4	.1	7.3
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		125.7	125.7	0	4.1
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		124.4	124.3	.1	6.6
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		128.0	128.0	0	7.7
Dentists' fees -----		128.2	127.9	.2	6.0
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		129.5	129.3	.2	6.1
Extractions, adult -----		127.7	127.4	.2	6.2
Dentures, full upper -----		126.0	125.6	.3	5.2
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		122.1	121.9	.2	6.4
Routine laboratory tests -----		117.6	117.2	.3	5.5
Hospital service charges: -----					
Daily service charges -----		164.4	163.5	.6	11.5
Semiprivate rooms -----		166.8	165.8	.6	11.8
Private rooms -----		160.9	160.0	.6	11.0
Operating room charges -----		158.0	156.7	.8	8.8
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----		126.5	126.4	.1	6.9
Personal care -----		117.6	117.5	.1	3.2
Toilet goods -----		114.6	114.5	.1	3.3
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		108.6	107.7	.8	.9
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		115.2	116.8	- 1.4	6.3
Hand lotions, liquid -----		119.7	119.0	.6	3.5
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		107.2	106.9	.3	5.0
Face powder, pressed -----		124.1	124.0	.1	2.1
Deodorants, aerosol -----		106.4	106.0	.4	1.3
Cleansing tissues -----		124.1	124.2	- .1	4.0
Home permanent wave kits -----		111.7	111.5	.2	2.9
Personal care services -----		120.8	120.6	.2	3.1
Men's haircuts -----		123.4	123.2	.2	2.3
Beauty shop services -----		118.9	118.8	.1	3.7
Women's haircuts -----		119.4	119.2	.2	2.4
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		122.5	122.2	.2	4.5
Permanent waves, cold -----		110.8	110.8	0	3.2

TABLE 8. Consumer Price Index--United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, September 1971 and percent changes from selected dates--Continued

(1967=100 unless otherwise Specified)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change to September 1971 from:	
		September 1971	August 1971	August 1971	September 1970
Reading and recreation ^{1/} -----		120.5	119.7	0.7	5.1
Recreational goods -----		107.1	106.9	.2	1.9
TV sets, portable and console -----		100.0	99.9	.1	.4
TV replacement tubes -----		123.4	122.1	1.1	2.7
Radios, portable and table mode ¹ -----		98.5	98.4	.1	-.3
Tape recorders, portable -----		93.0	93.6	-.6	-1.5
Phonograph records, stereophonic -----		106.5	105.8	.7	6.7
Movie cameras, Super 8, zoom lens -----		89.1	89.3	-.2	-2.8
Film, 35mm, color -----		108.4	108.4	0	1.1
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core -----		104.8	104.6	.2	1.6
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover -----		125.4	125.3	.1	5.0
Fishing rods, fresh water spincasting -----		110.8	110.0	.7	.1
Bowling balls -----		112.6	112.2	.4	4.0
Bicycles, boys' -----		113.7	114.0	-.3	3.9
Tricycles -----		112.0	111.9	.1	2.3
Dog food, canned or boxed -----		110.7	110.3	.4	4.4
Recreational services -----		126.2	126.1	.2	4.4
Indoor movie admissions -----		138.9	138.2	.5	3.7
Adult -----		139.0	138.4	.4	3.4
Children's -----		138.6	137.8	.6	4.4
Drive-in movie admissions, adult -----		142.5	142.5	0	5.6
Bowling fees, evening -----		116.1	116.1	0	5.1
Golf green fees -----		128.4	128.8	-.3	4.7
TV repair, color picture tube replacement -----		98.5	98.1	.4	2.2
Film developing, color -----		118.3	117.7	.5	5.1
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery -----		130.6	130.5	.1	7.8
Magazines, single copy and subscription -----		126.3	126.3	0	7.3
Piano lessons, beginner -----		121.4	120.7	.6	2.5
Other goods and services -----		122.4	121.8	.5	4.3
Tobacco products -----		128.9	127.9	.8	4.4
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size -----		130.2	129.6	.5	4.2
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size -----		130.8	129.6	.9	4.7
Cigars, domestic, regular size -----		108.5	107.3	1.1	2.7
Alcoholic beverages -----		117.6	117.4	.2	3.8
Beer -----		113.4	113.3	.1	3.4
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon -----		107.0	107.0	0	1.1
Wine, dessert and table -----		124.5	123.9	.5	6.0
Away from home -----		127.1	126.8	.2	5.1
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult -----		118.4	118.3	.1	4.0
Bank service charges, checking accounts -----		110.9	110.9	0	4.4
Legal services, short form will -----		137.4	133.9	2.6	9.6
<u>Other special groups:</u>					
All items less shelter -----		120.4	120.3	.1	4.3
Commodities less food -----		117.8	117.3	.4	3.9
Nondurables less food and apparel -----		116.6	116.2	.3	4.1
Household services less rent -----		134.2	133.6	.4	4.0
Transportation services -----		134.4	134.5	-.1	7.7
Other services -----		123.7	122.8	.7	4.7

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 air filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.

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

5/ Priced only in season.

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

7/ Also includes men's sweaters, sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, cocktail dresses, bathing suits, girls' robes, cotton and polyester blend skirts, shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

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

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

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

*** Corrected indexes for residential telephone services:

1970 Indexes (1967=100): Jan. 100.7, Feb. 100.5, Mar. 101.6, Apr. 102.4, May 102.5, June 102.5, July 102.8, Aug. 102.9, Sept. 103.1, Oct. 103.2, Average 102.5. 1971: Jan. 104.8, Mar. 105.9, June 106.5, Aug. 110.2.

1970 Indexes (1957-59=100): Jan. 102.9, Feb. 102.7, Mar. 103.8, Apr. 104.7, May 104.8, June 104.8, July 105.1, Aug. 105.2, Sept. 105.4, Oct. 105.5, Average 104.8.

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 1970 averages. 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. The table below indicates, for example, that 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.

Average Standard Errors of Percent Changes in the
CPI Based on 1970 Data

Component	Standard Error		
	Monthly Change	Quarterly Change	Annual Change
All Items -----	.04	.06	.09
Food at home -----	.08	.13	.18
Food away from home -----	.11	.21	.36
Housing -----	.06	.10	.19
Apparel -----	.15	.26	.29
Transportation -----	.10	.16	.19
Medical care -----	.12	.15	.29
Personal care -----	.13	.23	.34
Reading and recreation -----	.11	.17	.23
Other goods and services -----	.10	.16	.41

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1969 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1970.

^{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.

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

*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.

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