



the consumer price index

for November 1972

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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AND LIVING CONDITIONS
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*a monthly report
on consumer price movements
including statistical tables
and technical notes.*

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Price Movements

November 1972

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 percent in November, to 126.9 percent of its (1967=100) base. Almost two-thirds of the rise was due to higher prices for food, apparel, and residential gas. The November index, was 3.5 percent higher than it was a year ago.

After seasonal adjustment, the November increase was 0.3 percent. In the 6-month period ending in November, the CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.6 percent. Prices in the last 3 months of the period rose at a 4.2-percent rate, compared with 2.9 percent in the first 3 months. The larger advance in the last 3 months is attributable to the food price index which in November rose 1.1 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis, following increases of 0.2 percent in October and 0.6 percent in September. After seasonal adjustment, the nonfood commodities index increased 0.1 percent, compared with a decrease of 0.1 percent in October and a rise of 0.4 percent in September. The November increase of 0.2 percent for services was smaller than the 0.4-percent rise in October and the same as in September.

During the first year of Phase II of the Economic Stabilization Program, the CPI rose 3.5 percent. This rate compares with a rise of 3.8 percent at a seasonally adjusted annual rate in the 8 months of 1971 before the start of Phase I.

The index of food purchased in grocery stores increased 0.5 percent. It usually decreases 1.0 percent in November. The index of food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—increased 0.4 percent.

Fresh vegetable prices rose even more sharply than usual as reduced fall planting acreage for some items, adverse growing and harvesting weather, and a shift in the source of supplies from summer producing areas to winter producing areas curtailed supplies in November. Meat prices, which normally decline appreciably at this season, increased on average. Prices of most beef cuts rose despite earlier price decreases at the wholesale level; pork prices declined but by significantly less than usual. Bread and flour prices advanced, because of recent increases in wheat and flour prices which manufacturers

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items at seasonally adjusted compound annual rates		
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Serv- ices	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			
November 1971	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.1	0	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	.6	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	.2	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
September .....	.4	.5	.2	.6	.7	.4	.2	4.6	3.4	3.3
October .....	.3	.3	.1	.2	.4	-.1	.4	4.1	3.7	3.4
November .....	.2	.3	.4	1.1	.2	.1	.2	4.2	3.6	3.5

Table B. Comparative seasonally adjusted annual rates of change in the CPI and its major components before and during the Economic Stabilization Program.

Group	1971 before Phase I (December 1970 to August 1971)	3 months Phase I (August 1971 to November 1971)	12 months Phase II (November 1971 to November 1972)	15 months Phase I and II (August 1971 to November 1972)
All items	3.8	1.9	3.5	3.2
Food	5.0	1.7	5.4	4.7
Commodities less food	2.9	0	2.5	2.0
Services	4.5	3.1	3.5	3.5

have been allowed by the Price Commission to pass on to the retail level. Prices of eggs and fresh fruits declined, but less than seasonally for November; poultry prices decreased a little more than usual. Dairy product prices were also higher in November, apparently because of a decline in fluid milk supplies.

The nonfood commodities index rose 0.2 percent before seasonal adjustment in November. Over half of the rise was due to price increases for apparel, particularly for items of fall and winter clothing priced for the first time this season in several cities. Some items of year-round clothing also showed price increases in November; prices of footwear continued to rise.

Used car prices rose again in November, but by substantially less than in the 2 preceding months. Prices of new cars increased, continuing to reflect the introduction of 1973 models. The increase was smaller than usual for November and the smallest November rise since 1963. As in October, substantial quality improvements related to Federal safety and environmental requirements, and the fact that list price increases on new models had been largely disallowed by the Price Commission, combined to hold down the rise in new car prices. Higher prices were recorded for furniture, housekeeping supplies, home maintenance and repair commodities and houses. Gasoline and tire prices, however, declined.

The services index rose 0.2 percent. Medical care services increased 0.1 percent in November following a 0.7-percent rise in October when the regular annual adjustment to the health insurance component was made. Rents rose less than in recent months. Charges for residential gas rose sharply as a result of changeovers to winter rates in several areas and rate increases in others. Most other household services, such as water and sewerage charges, mortgage interest rates, and charges for domestic and day care services, also were higher. Transportation services prices rose, following a slight decline in October, as increases were reported in auto insurance rates, parking and registration fees, and maintenance and repair costs.

Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 120,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in November for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from table C, 75 percent of these monthly comparisons remained unchanged, 11 percent decreased, and 14 percent increased between October and November. The proportion of nonfood commodity prices increasing was the same as in October and less than in September. The November index also includes 23,000 price comparisons to November from periods before October, of which 18,500 cover the quarterly span from August to November. About 14 percent of these increased, compared with about 15 percent in last month's index. In addition, about 4,500 rental units were surveyed in November and 20 percent of these reported rent increases from May.

Introduction of additional series on food prices

Effective with release of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for November 1972, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has initiated monthly publication of two additional index series. The additional series, entitled (1) domestically produced farm foods and (2) selected beef cuts, are derived from existing index data and published monthly in table 1 of the CPI press release and detailed report.

As well as being published by BLS, the new series will be used by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in its monthly report, Price Spreads for Farm Foods and in the Marketing and Transportation Situation. The new BLS series on domestically produced farm foods will serve as the basis for estimating changes in the retail value of U.S. farm foods in these publications. The series for domestically produced farm foods is calculated by excluding the following items from the food-at-home component of the

Table C. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons ¹

Item	1971			1972			
	September to October	October to November	November to December	December to January	January to February	February to March	March to April
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	11	11	16	14	22	15	14
Decreases	10	9	7	11	8	10	12
No change	79	80	77	75	70	75	74
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	12	13	17	15	24	16	15
Decreases	11	10	8	11	9	12	13
No change	77	77	75	74	67	72	72
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	7	7	6	7	8	10	7
Decreases	7	6	5	10	7	5	7
No change	86	87	89	83	85	85	86
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	1	2	6	12	8	3	6
Decreases	8	1	1	5	3	1	4
No change	91	97	93	83	89	96	90
1972—Continued							
	April to May	May to June	June to July	July to August	August to September	September to October	October to November
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	13	15	18	16	15	15	14
Decreases	12	11	10	11	10	11	11
No change	75	74	72	73	75	74	75
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	14	17	20	18	16	17	16
Decreases	13	12	11	13	12	12	12
No change	73	71	69	69	72	71	72
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	8	6	8	8	11	6	6
Decreases	6	7	7	6	5	6	5
No change	86	87	85	86	84	88	89
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	7	5	4	3	4	4	4
Decreases	5	3	3	3	2	5	2
No change	88	92	93	94	94	91	94

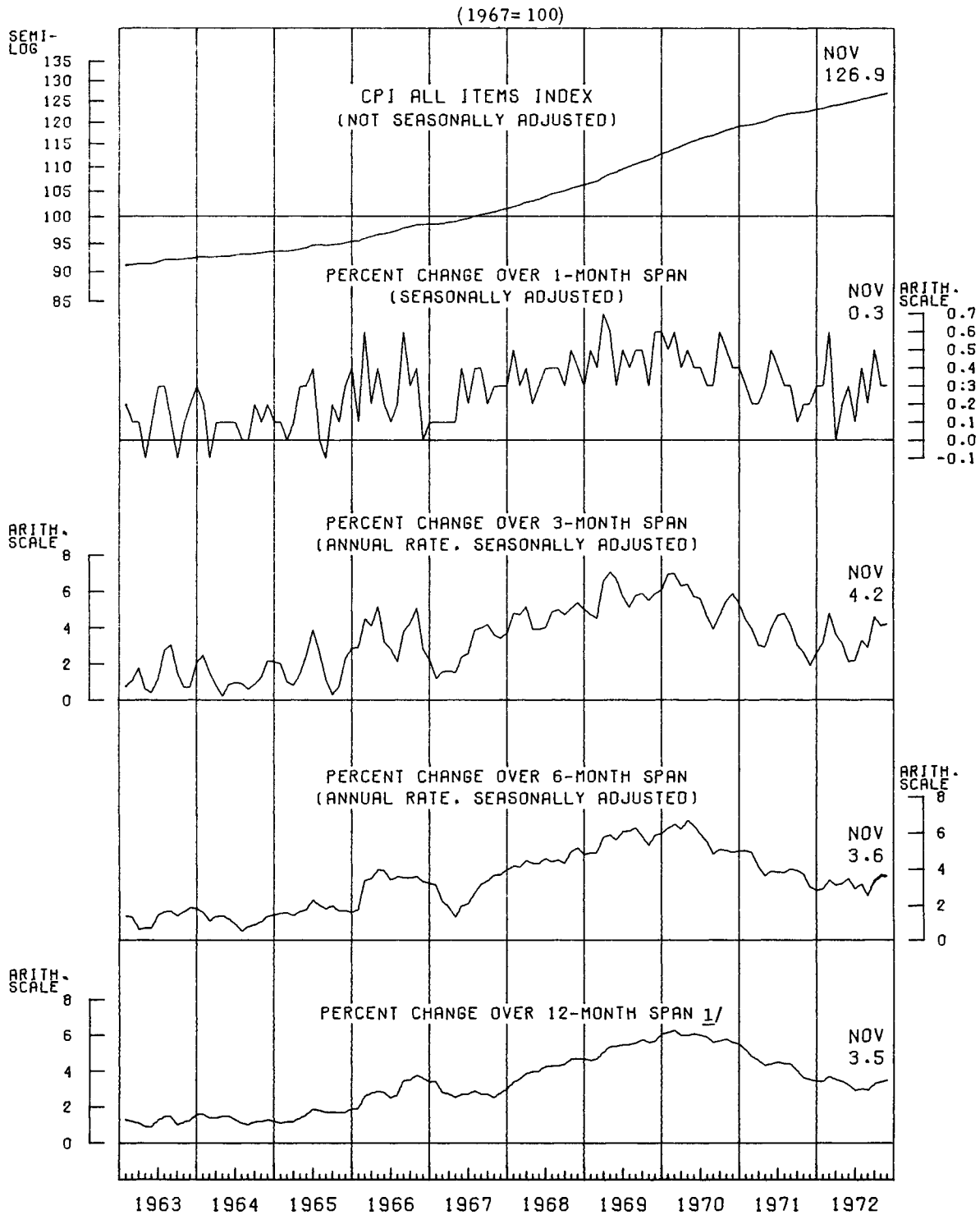
¹ Regulations of the Economic Stabilization Program permit certain types of increases, but it is not possible to determine whether allowable increases accounted for all increases shown in the table.

² Based on approximately 98,000 individual quotations.

CPI: fish, nonalcoholic beverages, bananas, chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup, and about half of the index weight for sugar. These exclusions are items which are not produced on U.S. farms. The new series for selected beef cuts is calculated by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver from the CPI for beef and veal. The new indexes are on the current reference base, 1967=100. Data for the new series covering the period from November 1971 appear in the following tabulation:

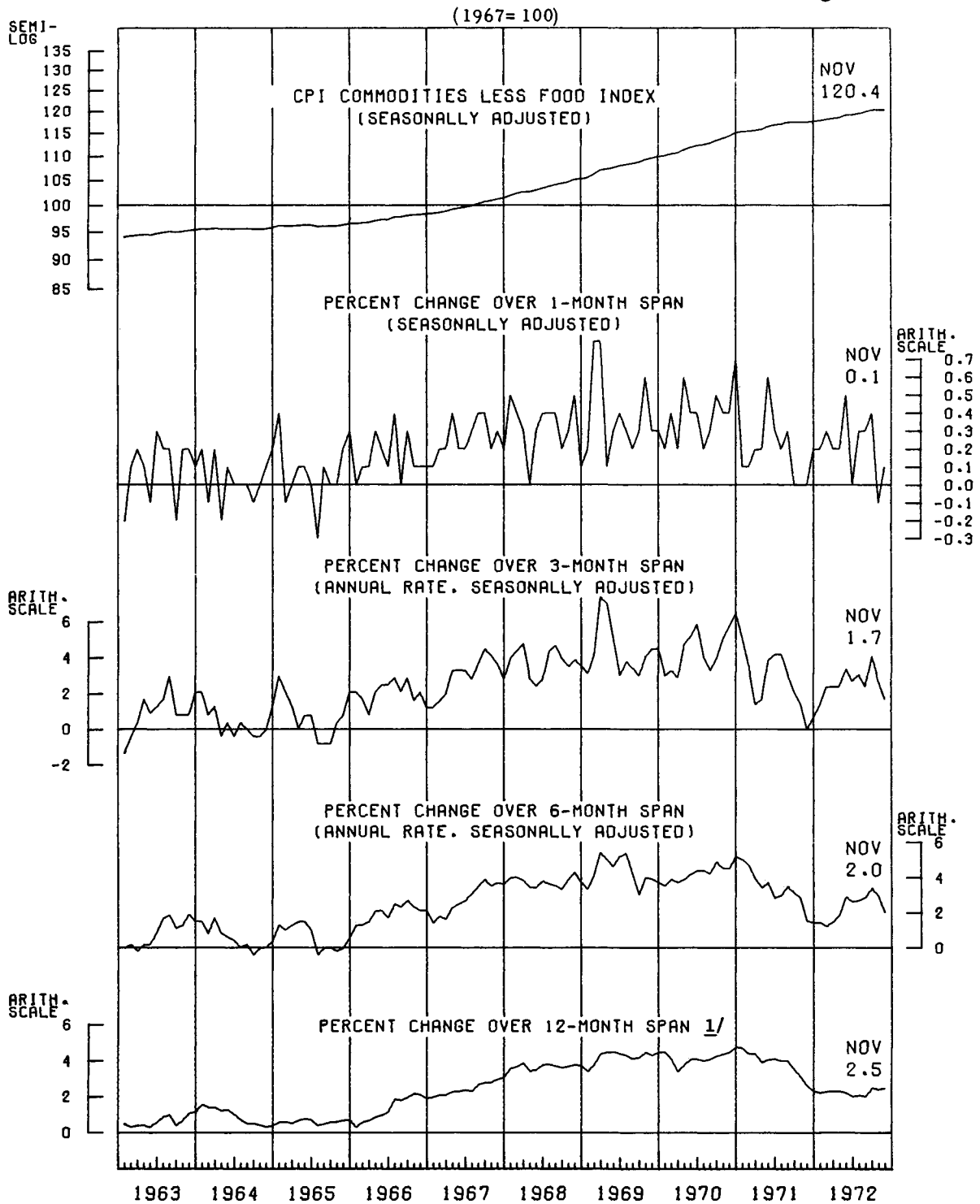
	Domestically produced farm foods	Selected beef cuts
November 1971	116.1	126.0
December	117.9	127.5
January 1972	117.8	130.6
February	120.3	135.9
March	120.4	136.8
April	119.9	134.7
May	119.8	132.3
June	120.6	134.1
July	122.2	138.0
August	122.6	138.8
September	122.6	136.5
October	122.5	135.2
November	123.1	135.6

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



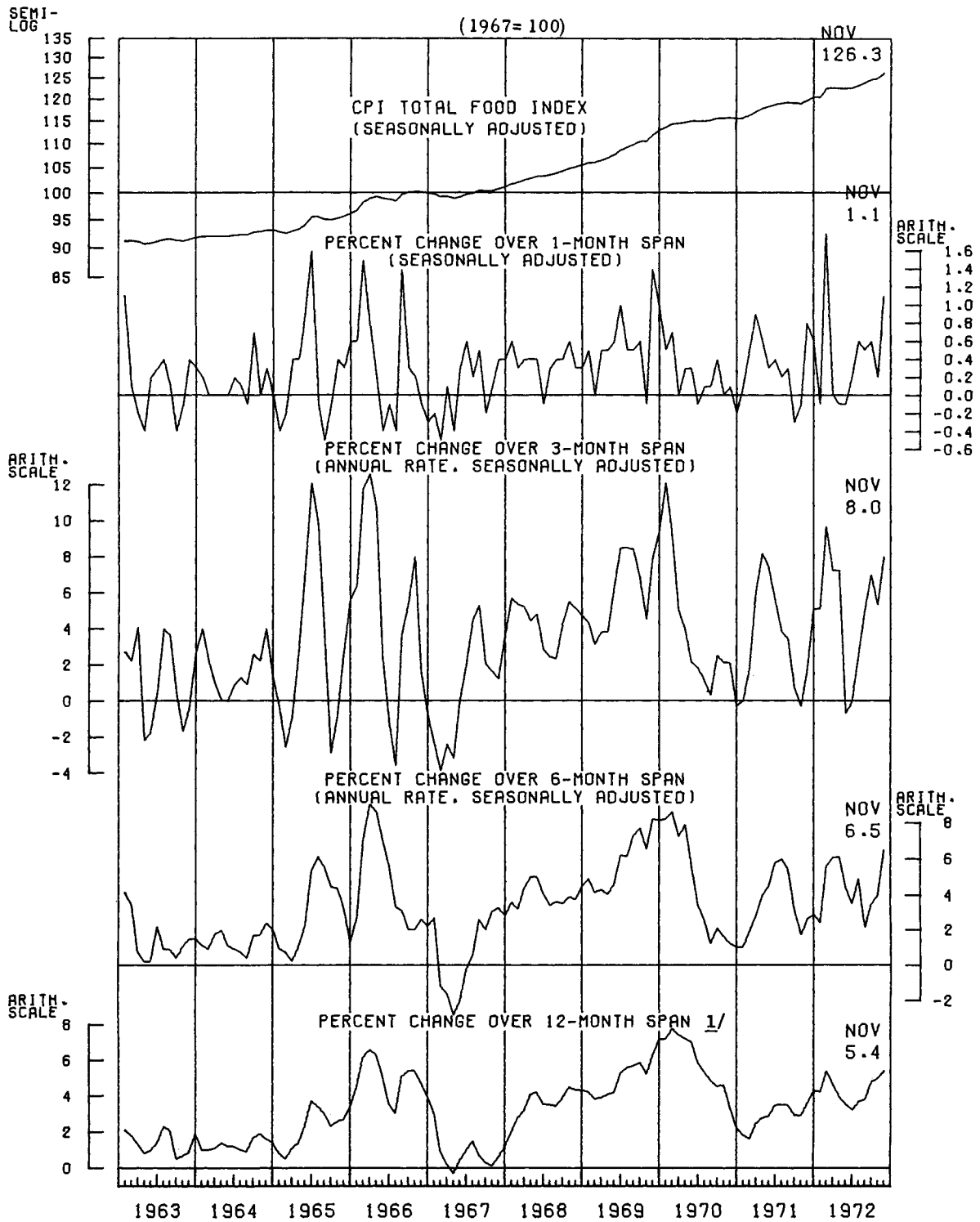
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1963-72



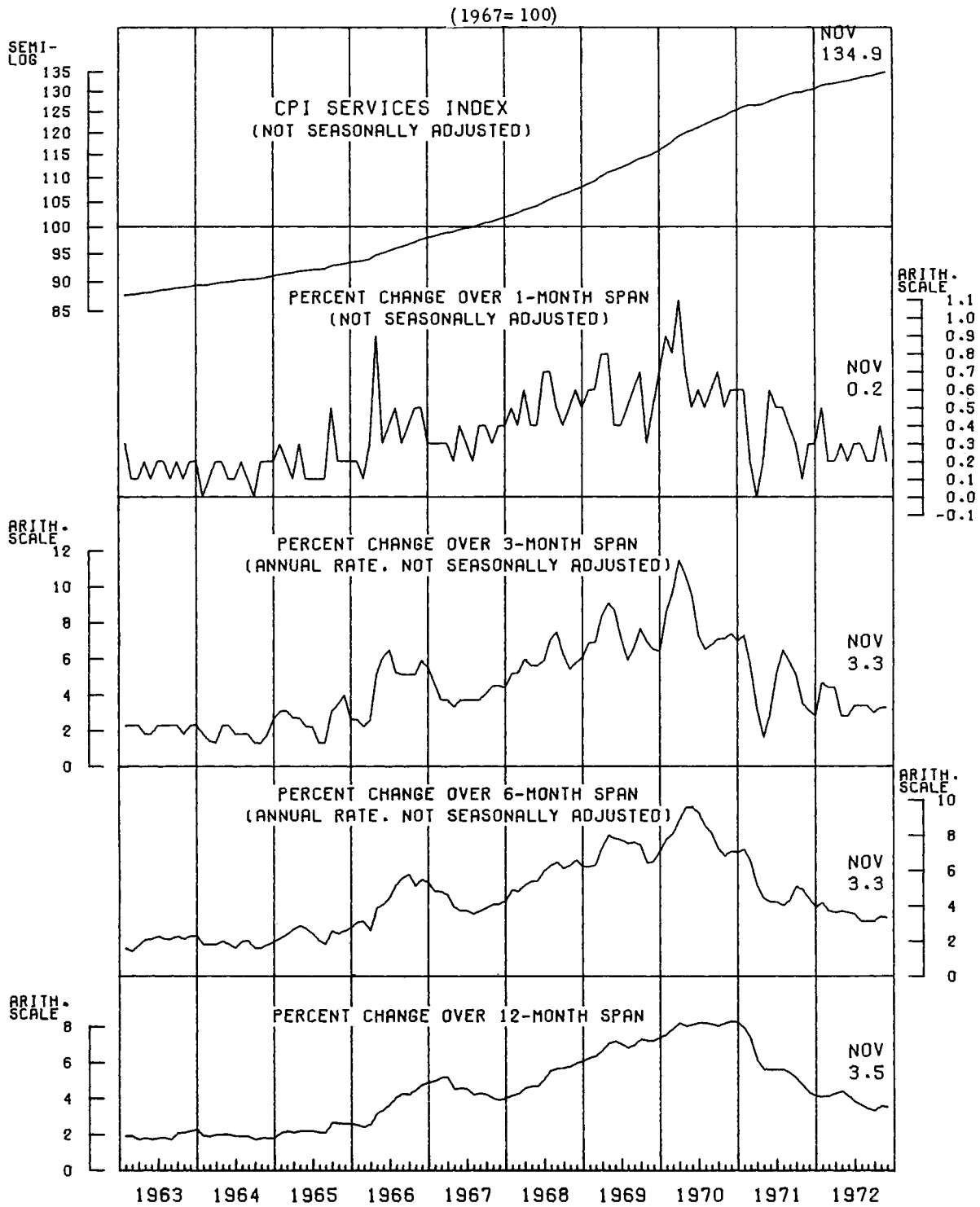
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1963-72



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 4. Services index and its rates of change, 1963-72



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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 November 1972 from:		Seasonally adjusted percent change from previous month		
		November 1972	October 1972	October 1972	November 1971	October to November	September to October	August to September
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.00	126.9	126.6	0.2	3.5	0.3	0.3	0.5
All items (1957-59=100)		147.6	147.2					
Commodities	62.59	122.7	122.3	.3	3.5	.4	.1	.7
Food	22.19	125.4	124.9	.4	5.4	1.1	.2	.6
Food at home	17.23	123.4	122.8	.5	5.7	1.5	.1	.7
Cereals and bakery products	2.28	115.0	114.6	.3	.8	.5	0	.2
Meats, poultry, and fish	5.64	131.5	131.3	.2	11.3	1.3	1.3	.2
Dairy products	2.72	117.7	117.1	.5	1.6	.5	.2	.3
Fruits and vegetables	3.03	126.5	124.5	1.6	7.4	.8	.7	2.1
Other foods at home	3.56	118.1	118.0	.1	2.2	.9	.1	.9
Food away from home	4.96	133.3	132.8	.4	4.0	.4	.1	.5
Commodities less food	40.40	121.0	120.8	.2	2.5	.1	-.1	.4
Nondurables less food	23.63	121.7	121.3	.3	2.5	.3	.1	.6
Apparel commodities ¹	9.03	125.6	124.9	.6	2.6	.2	.6	.8
Men's and boys'	2.82	124.8	123.8	.8	2.5	.7	.4	1.0
Women's and girls'	4.02	126.5	125.9	.5	2.5	.1	.7	1.1
Footwear	1.57	127.1	126.5	.5	3.2	.4	.4	.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.60	119.4	119.3	.1	2.5	.3	-.1	.6
Gasoline and motor oil	2.92	111.1	111.2	-.1	2.9	.8	-.7	1.9
Tobacco products	2.09	134.3	134.3	0	4.1	*0	*.1	*.1
Alcoholic beverages	2.50	120.4	120.3	.1	1.8	*.1	*.1	*.3
Fuel oil and coal	.67	119.3	118.1	1.0	1.0	.8	-.1	0
Other nondurables	6.42	118.6	118.5	.1	2.2	0	.3	.3
Durables commodities	16.77	120.3	120.1	.2	2.5	-.1	-.4	.5
Household durables	4.83	116.0	115.8	.2	2.1	.2	.1	.3
New cars	2.12	110.2	110.1	.1	.5	-.6	-.3	.3
Used cars	1.98	116.0	115.2	.7	5.3	*.7	*1.4	*1.1
Other durables	7.84	127.5	127.4	.1	2.5	-.2	-.2	-.1
Services	37.41	134.9	134.6	.2	3.5	*.2	*.4	*.2
Rent	5.05	120.5	120.3	.2	3.3	*.2	*.3	*.3
Services less rent	32.36	137.6	137.2	.3	3.6	*.3	*.4	*.2
Household services less rent	15.36	141.3	140.7	.4	4.4	.3	.4	.2
Transportation services ⁷	5.57	136.3	136.2	.1	1.8	.1	-.1	.2
Medical care services	5.55	140.1	139.9	.1	3.9	.3	1.3	.1
Other services ⁷	5.88	127.4	127.0	.3	2.7	.4	.2	.5
Special indexes:								
All items less food	77.81	127.4	127.1	.2	3.0	.2	.1	.4
Nondurable commodities	45.82	123.5	123.1	.3	3.9	.5	.2	.7
Apparel commodities less footwear	7.46	125.3	124.6	.6	2.5	.2	.7	.8
Services less medical care services	31.86	134.2	133.8	.3	3.5	*.3	*.3	*.2
Insurance and finance ⁷	9.85	145.3	145.1	.1	3.1	.1	.2	.1
Utilities and public transportation ⁷	5.51	127.3	126.5	.6	4.6	.5	R.4	R.6
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.46	146.3	145.9	.3	3.9	.3	.4	0
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.00	126.9	126.6	0.2	3.5	0.3	0.3	0.5
Food	22.19	125.4	124.9	.4	5.4	1.1	.2	.6
Housing ²	33.84	130.8	130.4	.3	3.5	*.3	*.2	*.2
Shelter ²	21.72	136.2	136.0	.1	3.7	0	.2	.1
Rent	5.05	120.5	120.3	.2	3.3	*.2	*.3	*.3
Homeownership ³	16.25	142.0	141.8	.1	3.9	0	.2	.1
Fuel and utilities ⁴	4.71	121.7	120.6	.9	4.5	.3	R.2	R.6
Gas and electricity ⁷	2.43	122.2	120.9	1.1	5.2	.5	R.2	R.5
Household furnishings and operation	7.41	122.1	121.8	.2	2.2	.2	.2	.3
Apparel and upkeep	10.45	125.0	124.3	.6	2.5	.4	.3	.8
Transportation ⁷	13.27	121.4	121.2	.2	2.3	.3	-.8	1.1
Private ⁷	11.80	119.0	R118.7	.3	2.1	.4	-.9	R1.2
Public	1.47	144.1	144.1	0	3.4	.1	.6	.5
Health and recreation	19.87	127.4	127.2	.2	3.0	*.2	*.3	*.2
Medical care	6.46	134.1	133.9	.1	3.4	.2	1.1	.2
Personal care	2.58	121.0	120.8	.2	2.6	.2	.2	.3
Reading and recreation	5.71	124.1	124.0	.1	2.7	0	.2	.5
Other goods and services	5.12	126.4	126.4	0	2.9	0	.1	-.1
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	77.28	124.6	124.2	.3	3.5	.4	.3	.6
All items less medical care	93.54	126.6	126.2	.3	3.6	.4	.2	.5
All items less mortgage interest costs	96.25	126.1	125.7	.3	3.6	.3	.2	.5
CPI-domestically produced farm foods ⁵	15.28	123.1	122.5	.5	6.0	*.5	*.1	*0
CPI-selected beef cuts ⁶	2.01	135.6	135.2	.3	7.6	*.3	*-1.0	*-1.7
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$1.00	-	\$0.788	\$0.790	-.3	-3.4	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.678	.679	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Also includes infants' wear, sewing materials, and jewelry not shown.

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

³ Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

⁴ Also includes residential telephone, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

⁵ Calculated from the CPI food at home component by excluding fish, nonalcoholic beverages, bananas, chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup, and about half of the index weight for sugar.

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

⁷ Revisions have been made in historical series to reflect the effect of retroactive refunds. Revised data will be published in the November 1972 issue of The Consumer Price Index.

* Not seasonally adjusted.

R=Revised in accordance with BLS policy covering retroactive refunds.

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

Table 2. Consumer Price Index—Seasonally adjusted indexes and percent changes at annual rates, commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes

Groups	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent changes for					
	November 1972	October 1972	September 1972	August 1972	3 months ending in			6 months ending in		
					November 1972	August 1972	May 1972	February 1972	November 1972	May 1972
Commodity and service groups										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	4.2	2.9	2.1	4.8	3.6	3.5
Commodities -----	122.7	122.2	122.1	121.3	4.7	3.4	1.7	4.5	4.0	3.1
Food -----	126.3	124.9	124.7	123.9	8.0	5.0	-0.7	9.7	6.5	4.4
Food at home -----	124.6	122.8	122.7	121.8	9.5	5.4	-2.3	10.6	7.5	3.9
Cereals and bakery products -----	115.1	114.5	114.5	114.3	2.8	-1.7	1.8	0.4	0.5	1.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	132.7	131.0	129.3	129.0	12.0	13.1	-6.7	30.1	12.5	10.1
Dairy products -----	117.6	117.0	116.8	116.5	3.8	-3.0	1.4	4.2	0.3	2.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	130.7	129.7	128.8	126.1	15.4	18.7	-13.6	12.4	17.1	-1.5
Other foods at home -----	118.2	117.1	117.0	115.9	8.2	-6.3	11.6	-3.7	0.7	3.7
Food away from home -----	133.0	132.5	132.4	131.8	3.7	4.0	4.7	3.5	3.9	4.1
Commodities less food -----	120.4	120.3	120.4	119.9	1.7	2.4	3.4	2.4	2.0	2.9
Nondurables less food -----	121.1	120.7	120.6	119.9	4.1	0.7	3.1	2.4	2.4	2.7
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	124.1	123.8	123.1	122.1	6.7	-1.3	3.0	2.3	2.6	2.7
Men's and boys' -----	123.7	122.9	122.4	121.2	8.5	-2.3	4.0	.0	3.0	2.0
Women's and girls' -----	124.3	124.2	123.3	121.9	8.1	-3.5	1.3	4.7	2.1	3.0
Footwear -----	126.7	126.2	125.7	125.4	4.2	3.9	3.6	1.0	4.1	2.3
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	119.4	119.1	119.2	118.5	3.1	1.4	3.5	2.1	2.2	2.8
Gasoline and motor oil -----	111.4	110.5	111.3	109.2	8.3	5.3	1.5	-3.3	6.8	-0.9
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	134.3	134.3	134.2	134.1	0.6	2.7	3.7	9.6	1.7	6.6
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted) -----	120.4	120.3	120.2	119.9	1.7	1.3	2.7	1.4	1.5	2.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	119.3	118.3	118.4	118.4	3.1	-1.7	3.1	-0.3	0.7	1.4
Other nondurables -----	118.6	118.6	118.3	118.0	2.0	1.0	3.5	2.1	1.5	2.8
Durable commodities -----	119.8	119.9	120.4	119.8	.0	5.2	2.8	2.1	2.6	2.4
Household durables -----	116.0	115.8	115.7	115.4	2.1	2.8	2.8	0.7	2.5	1.8
New cars -----	108.1	108.8	113.2	112.9	-16.0	5.1	2.6	12.4	-6.0	7.4
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted) -----	116.0	115.2	113.6	112.4	13.4	9.0	30.1	-23.7	11.2	-0.4
Other durables -----	127.2	127.4	127.6	127.7	-1.6	6.2	2.6	2.6	2.2	2.6
Services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	134.9	134.6	134.1	133.8	3.3	3.4	2.8	4.7	3.3	3.7
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	120.5	120.3	119.9	119.6	3.0	3.4	2.7	4.2	3.2	3.5
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	137.6	137.2	136.7	136.4	3.6	3.3	2.7	4.9	3.4	3.8
Household services less rent -----	141.0	140.6	140.0	139.7	3.8	3.5	1.8	8.9	3.6	5.3
Transportation services -----	137.1	137.0	137.1	136.8	0.9	3.9	2.1	0.3	2.4	1.2
Medical care services -----	140.7	140.3	138.5	138.3	7.1	2.9	2.4	3.6	5.0	3.0
Other services -----	127.4	126.9	126.6	126.0	4.5	2.6	1.6	2.3	3.5	1.9
Special indexes:										
All items less food -----	127.1	126.8	126.7	126.2	2.9	2.6	3.3	2.9	2.7	3.1
Nondurable commodities -----	123.6	123.0	122.7	121.8	6.0	2.7	1.0	5.8	4.3	3.4
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	123.7	123.4	122.6	121.6	7.1	-1.6	2.0	2.7	2.6	2.3
Services less medical care (not seasonally adjusted) -----	134.2	133.8	133.4	133.1	3.3	3.4	2.8	4.4	3.4	3.6
Insurance and finance -----	145.3	145.1	144.8	144.7	1.7	5.1	1.1	4.6	3.4	2.9
Utilities and public transportation -----	127.7	127.1	126.6	125.9	5.8	1.9	1.9	8.8	3.9	5.3
Housekeeping and maintenance -----	146.3	145.8	145.2	145.2	3.1	4.5	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.0
Expenditure classes										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	4.2	2.9	2.1	4.8	3.6	3.5
Food -----	126.3	124.9	124.7	123.9	8.0	5.0	-0.7	9.7	6.5	4.4
Housing (not seasonally adjusted) -----	130.8	130.4	130.1	129.9	2.8	4.4	2.9	3.9	3.6	3.4
Shelter ² -----	135.9	135.9	135.6	135.4	1.5	4.9	2.4	6.2	3.2	4.3
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	120.5	120.3	119.9	119.6	3.0	3.4	2.7	4.2	3.2	3.5
Homeownership ³ -----	141.7	141.7	141.4	141.2	1.4	6.5	1.2	6.6	3.9	3.8
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	121.5	121.1	120.8	120.1	4.7	1.3	2.7	9.2	3.0	5.9
Gas and electricity -----	122.1	121.5	121.2	120.6	5.1	1.7	4.1	10.0	3.4	7.0
Household furnishings and operation -----	122.1	121.9	121.6	121.2	3.0	2.0	3.0	0.7	2.5	1.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.8	123.3	122.9	121.9	6.4	-0.7	2.7	2.0	2.8	2.3
Transportation -----	121.4	121.0	122.0	120.7	2.3	4.8	3.1	-1.0	3.6	1.0
Private -----	119.1	118.6	119.7	118.3	2.7	5.6	3.5	-3.4	4.2	.0
Public -----	145.3	145.1	144.3	143.6	4.8	2.5	-2.2	9.1	3.7	3.3
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted) -----	127.4	127.2	126.8	126.5	2.9	2.2	3.6	3.3	2.6	3.4
Medical care -----	134.6	134.3	132.8	132.6	6.2	2.8	1.8	2.8	4.5	2.3
Personal care -----	121.0	120.8	120.5	120.1	3.0	1.7	3.4	2.4	2.4	2.9
Reading and recreation -----	124.0	124.0	123.7	123.1	3.0	2.3	2.3	3.4	2.6	2.8
Other goods and services -----	125.9	125.9	125.8	125.9	.0	-0.3	5.2	7.0	-0.2	6.1
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter -----	124.7	124.2	123.8	123.1	5.3	2.6	2.0	4.0	4.0	3.0
All items less medical care -----	126.6	126.1	125.9	125.3	4.2	3.3	2.3	4.7	3.7	3.5
All items less mortgage interest cost CPI-domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) -----	126.1	125.7	125.4	124.8	4.2	3.3	2.3	4.7	3.8	3.5
CPI-selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) -----	123.1	122.5	122.6	122.6	1.6	9.7	-1.7	15.3	5.6	6.5
CPI-selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) -----	135.6	135.2	136.5	138.8	-8.9	21.1	-10.2	35.3	5.1	10.3

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.

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

Table 3. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from October 1972 to November 1972

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	0.3	0.1	0.2
Food	.4	.6	.7	.4	.5	.4
Housing	.3	-.1	-.1	.3	-.1	.1
Apparel and upkeep	.6	.6	.2	.0	-.2	-.2
Transportation	.2	.3	.1	.4	.1	.6
Health and recreation	.2	.2	.2	.1	.0	.2
Medical care	.1	.5	.1	-.1	.6	.1
Personal care	.2	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	.1	-.2	.0	.0	-.2	.8
Other goods and services	.0	-.2	.1	.2	-.2	.0

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

Table 4. 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	October 1972	August 1972	November 1971
November 1972							
U. S. City Average	M	126.9	147.6		0.2	1.0	3.5
Chicago	M	125.7	142.8		.2	.6	3.2
Detroit	M	127.4	146.4		.2	.4	3.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach	M	124.3	146.2		.3	1.2	3.7
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J.	M	133.3	158.6		.1	1.2	4.5
Philadelphia	M	129.0	150.6		.2	1.3	3.4
October 1972							
Boston	1	128.9	154.4			1.4	3.5
Houston	1	126.4	144.6			1.0	3.3
Minneapolis—St. Paul	1	127.2	147.4			1.4	3.1
Pittsburgh	1	126.5	145.5			.8	2.9
November 1972							
Buffalo	2	128.6		³ 141.4		1.4	4.5
Cleveland	2	127.9	144.4			1.3	2.8
Dallas	2	125.7		³ 135.9		.2	2.7
Milwaukee	2	125.0	141.2			.3	3.4
San Diego	2	126.8		⁴ 133.3		1.4	5.0
Seattle	2	121.2	142.4			1.1	3.1
Washington	2	129.7	151.1			1.6	4.4
September 1972							
Atlanta	3	126.9	146.0			1.7	4.1
Baltimore	3	127.7	148.3			1.8	2.7
Cincinnati	3	126.3	143.3			1.4	4.0
Honolulu	3	123.1		⁵ 132.7		.7	1.6
Kansas City	3	125.5	149.0			1.3	3.3
St. Louis	3	123.6	144.4			1.4	2.6
San Francisco—Oakland	3	125.6	149.5			1.2	4.1

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

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

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles— Long Beach	New York— Northeastern New Jersey	Phila- delphia
	(Monthly indexes 1967=100)					
All items	126.9	125.7	127.4	124.3	133.3	129.0
Food	125.4	126.0	124.7	122.3	130.6	126.1
Food at home	123.4	124.6	123.5	121.5	127.3	123.3
Cereals and bakery products	115.0	115.8	117.0	112.5	117.9	116.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	131.5	133.2	134.8	131.0	133.8	130.1
Dairy products	117.7	118.4	114.3	115.8	120.3	120.2
Fruits and vegetables	126.5	125.8	118.0	124.1	134.5	127.1
Other foods at home	118.1	119.3	118.8	116.1	120.5	115.4
Food away from home	133.3	131.2	130.3	124.3	141.1	138.0
Housing	² 130.8	124.6	133.8	129.0	138.5	133.2
Shelter	136.2	129.0	143.0	131.9	145.5	143.4
Rent	120.5	114.5	(³)	119.5	(³)	126.2
Homeownership costs	142.0	135.5	147.3	135.7	157.7	147.9
Fuel and utilities	⁴ 121.7	115.5	116.5	127.8	125.2	119.1
Fuel oil and coal	119.3	114.1	113.9		120.4	113.8
Gas and electricity	⁵ 122.2	115.4	118.0	133.6	123.7	124.5
Household furnishings and operation	122.1	117.0	116.7	119.7	128.2	123.1
Apparel and upkeep	125.0	123.4	121.4	121.1	125.5	122.8
Men's and boys'	124.8	118.7	121.9	125.0	117.5	125.4
Women's and girls'	126.5	129.5	118.5	124.4	125.8	118.3
Footwear	127.1	120.9	126.4	125.1	126.5	129.3
Transportation	⁶ 121.4	125.5	116.9	121.4	134.0	126.1
Private	⁷ 119.0	120.0	114.2	121.6	126.3	123.3
Public	144.1	160.4	148.5	117.0	163.1	142.8
Health and recreation	127.4	128.5	130.5	121.5	132.5	131.6
Medical care	134.1	133.6	143.4	130.2	142.0	144.4
Personal care	121.0	(³)	(³)	(³)	118.6	(³)
Reading and recreation	124.1	124.2	125.9	114.2	128.8	127.4
Other goods and services	126.4	130.6	121.9	120.0	132.9	127.9
Quarterly percent changes August 1972 to November 1972						
All items	1.0	0.6	0.4	1.2	1.2	1.3
Food	.6	.1	.5	.9	-.6	1.4
Food at home	.6	-.3	.4	.7	-.7	1.6
Cereals and bakery products	.5	-.3	.9	.9	1.1	3.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	.5	-.8	-.1	.3	-.5	.2
Dairy products	.9	1.6	1.2	.7	-.7	1.3
Fruits and vegetables	-1.2	-3.5	-2.4	1.8	-1.4	2.6
Other foods at home	1.8	1.9	3.1	.9	3.0	2.9
Food away from home	1.1	1.5	.9	1.1	-.6	.6
Housing	.7	-.6	-.5	.9	1.0	.8
Shelter	.5	-1.1	-1.2	.5	1.2	.5
Rent	.8	-.4	(³)	⁸ 1.4	(³)	⁸ 6.6
Homeownership costs	.5	-2.0	-1.6	.4	1.3	.3
Fuel and utilities	1.3	.5	.3	2.3	.3	1.2
Fuel oil and coal	1.2	.4	.0		.0	1.7
Gas and electricity	1.4	.4	.6	2.0	.2	1.7
Household furnishings and operation	.7	.4	1.5	1.5	.9	1.2
Apparel and upkeep	3.5	6.2	3.2	1.9	4.6	4.6
Men's and boys'	3.7	3.7	5.9	1.3	5.5	6.6
Women's and girls'	5.6	12.6	3.1	3.3	7.2	5.9
Footwear	1.6	2.0	.2	.9	-.6	2.2
Transportation	.7	-.1	.0	2.6	.5	.4
Private	.8	-.1	-.2	2.7	.6	.5
Public	.6	.0	.7	.3	.2	.4
Health and recreation	.7	.8	1.2	.7	.5	.6
Medical care	.9	1.4	1.1	.6	1.1	.8
Personal care	.7	(³)	(³)	(³)	-.9	(³)
Reading and recreation	.9	.3	1.8	.0	.9	1.0
Other goods and services	.3	.2	.3	.5	.2	.2

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, November 1972 index and percent changes from August 1972—Continued

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
(Quarterly indexes 1967=100)							
All items	128.6	127.9	125.7	125.0	126.8	121.2	129.7
Food	124.8	125.6	124.9	122.6	125.4	122.5	129.2
Food at home	123.2	124.9	121.8	120.6	122.5	120.6	124.9
Cereals and bakery products	114.5	111.6	113.1	115.1	112.7	112.7	118.7
Meats, poultry, and fish	130.4	133.2	131.7	130.5	135.3	128.2	127.2
Dairy products	116.7	122.1	110.1	115.6	115.3	117.2	113.3
Fruits and vegetables	126.9	129.9	125.8	120.2	122.5	119.5	138.4
Other foods at home	119.6	118.3	116.7	113.6	114.5	118.0	122.9
Food away from home	133.6	129.8	136.3	130.4	132.5	128.5	140.1
Housing	135.7	127.4	128.2	126.5	135.5	124.1	132.7
Shelter	137.7	129.9	133.5	129.4	147.7	129.1	136.7
Rent	122.1	113.8	112.1	119.2	134.5	105.8	120.1
Homeownership costs	140.7	132.7	143.2	132.6	153.4	135.8	146.5
Fuel and utilities	143.5	124.2	117.0	123.7	117.8	115.5	126.0
Fuel oil and coal	121.1	-	-	118.9	-	119.2	118.2
Gas and electricity	146.6	124.4	113.6	129.2	119.3	109.1	128.4
Household furnishings and operation	124.4	119.6	122.4	120.5	113.0	117.3	124.4
Apparel and upkeep	130.0	125.2	123.9	129.7	124.1	119.9	127.2
Men's and boys'	148.3	120.2	126.5	131.1	122.3	123.1	128.0
Women's and girls'	125.5	128.1	123.8	128.1	132.3	119.3	129.7
Footwear	123.3	128.7	127.7	130.9	122.1	118.7	129.7
Transportation	119.6	126.4	119.7	121.6	120.5	111.7	124.9
Private	117.2	121.6	117.6	116.6	121.3	112.6	120.8
Public	146.2	158.3	146.4	183.5	106.8	106.4	147.7
Health and recreation	127.2	134.3	127.7	125.0	121.0	120.7	129.6
Medical care	126.8	146.2	132.8	129.3	126.5	126.0	141.4
Personal care	121.7	125.5	127.8	122.6	117.3	115.2	118.5
Reading and recreation	130.0	126.4	122.4	125.0	118.1	119.0	124.2
Other goods and services	127.4	133.5	126.2	122.4	119.8	119.5	128.5
Quarterly percent changes August 1972 to November 1972							
All items	1.4	1.3	0.2	0.3	1.4	1.1	1.6
Food	.2	.7	1.0	.3	1.0	.7	1.3
Food at home	-.1	.8	1.0	.2	.9	.6	1.0
Cereals and bakery products	.3	.5	.0	.9	-.2	2.5	1.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	-.4	1.4	2.0	.7	.0	-1.5	1.2
Dairy products	.5	.5	.9	1.7	.7	.8	.4
Fruits and vegetables	-3.4	-.2	-.6	-3.9	2.8	1.4	2.1
Other foods at home	2.8	1.0	1.1	.8	1.9	2.0	.2
Food away from home	1.7	.5	1.1	.9	1.1	.6	2.0
Housing	1.6	2.2	-.3	-.6	1.6	1.1	2.0
Shelter	2.0	2.7	-.8	-1.1	1.7	1.1	2.2
Rent	1.1	.4	.4	.9	.3	.2	.7
Homeownership costs	2.2	3.0	-1.2	-1.8	2.1	1.3	3.0
Fuel and utilities	.6	2.4	.2	.2	4.2	.9	3.7
Fuel oil and coal	.0	-	-	.4	-	.4	.6
Gas and electricity	.7	.9	.2	.2	6.1	.0	1.1
Household furnishings and operation	1.0	.7	.7	.2	.4	1.3	.6
Apparel and upkeep	4.8	1.3	1.9	3.8	2.6	3.0	2.7
Men's and boys'	7.4	-1.1	1.0	4.0	.7	8.6	4.9
Women's and girls'	5.3	2.7	3.5	6.0	4.9	1.9	2.9
Footwear	2.8	2.9	2.5	1.1	2.0	-.9	1.8
Transportation	1.2	-.2	-1.4	-.7	1.2	1.8	.6
Private	-.7	-.2	-1.6	-.8	2.3	2.2	.7
Public	6.0	.4	.6	.4	-16.3	-.3	.4
Health and recreation	1.1	1.0	.3	.8	1.3	.4	1.0
Medical care	.6	.8	.9	.8	2.0	-.2	.6
Personal care	.7	2.3	.4	2.1	.0	.5	.4
Reading and recreation	2.4	1.2	-.3	.9	1.6	1.2	1.0
Other goods and services	.0	.5	.2	.2	.4	.0	1.7

¹ See footnote 1, table 2.

² Revised index: September 1972, 130.2.

³ Not available.

⁴ Revised index: August 1971, 116.0; May 1972, 119.8; September 1972, 120.4.

⁵ Revised index: April 1971, 113.8; August 1971, 115.6; September 1971, 115.6; October 1971, 115.6; February 1972, 119.3; March 1972, 119.6; April 1972, 120.1; September 1972, 120.7.

⁶ Revised index: July 1971, 119.4; November 1971, 118.7; December 1971, 118.5; January 1972, 118.9; July 1972, 120.2.

⁷ Revised index: April 1971, 116.1; May 1971, 116.9; June 1971, 117.5; February 1972, 115.6; September 1972, 118.5; October 1972, 118.7.

⁸ Change from September 1972.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, November 1972, and percent changes from October 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	125.4	123.4	115.0	131.5	117.7	126.5	118.1	133.3
Atlanta	127.1	125.2	117.6	131.3	121.2	135.7	118.3	133.0
Baltimore	126.9	125.3	113.4	132.0	119.8	131.3	121.0	133.5
Boston	125.9	124.3	115.9	133.4	118.6	127.1	117.2	131.8
Buffalo	124.8	123.2	114.5	130.4	116.7	126.9	119.6	133.6
Chicago	126.0	124.6	115.8	133.2	118.4	125.8	119.3	131.2
Cincinnati	126.3	125.5	116.3	130.4	121.1	131.8	120.7	129.1
Cleveland	125.6	124.9	111.6	133.2	122.1	129.9	118.3	129.8
Dallas	124.9	121.8	113.1	131.7	110.1	125.8	116.7	136.3
Detroit	124.7	123.5	117.0	134.8	114.3	118.0	118.8	130.3
Honolulu	124.8	122.2	105.9	127.7	119.6	133.0	117.5	132.5
Houston	127.8	123.2	110.4	131.4	119.7	128.8	118.0	143.9
Kansas City	125.2	123.3	117.2	129.1	126.6	120.4	119.0	131.0
Los Angeles—Long Beach	122.3	121.5	112.5	131.0	115.8	124.1	116.1	124.3
Milwaukee	122.6	120.6	115.1	130.5	115.6	120.2	113.6	130.4
Minneapolis—St. Paul	126.5	124.6	122.4	134.5	118.2	122.3	120.9	135.0
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J.	130.6	127.3	117.9	133.8	120.3	134.5	120.5	141.1
Philadelphia	126.1	123.3	116.1	130.1	120.2	127.1	115.4	138.0
Pittsburgh	123.9	121.9	111.2	128.7	116.3	127.4	118.2	135.8
St. Louis	124.3	122.3	120.3	127.7	120.7	126.1	113.5	133.7
San Diego	125.4	122.5	112.7	135.3	115.3	122.5	114.5	132.5
San Francisco—Oakland	123.1	121.9	112.2	128.9	117.0	123.1	119.1	127.4
Seattle	122.5	120.6	112.7	128.2	117.2	119.5	118.0	128.5
Washington	129.2	124.9	118.7	127.2	113.3	138.4	122.9	140.1
Percent changes October 1972 to November 1972								
U. S. City Average	0.4	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.5	1.6	0.1	0.4
Atlanta	.4	.4	.6	.5	2.8	-.9	-.2	.4
Baltimore	.0	.1	-.7	.4	.1	-.2	.0	.1
Boston	-.1	-.2	.7	-.6	.3	-.9	-.3	.5
Buffalo	.6	.6	-.8	-.3	.1	3.8	.7	.7
Chicago	.6	.6	.5	.2	.7	2.2	.2	.2
Cincinnati	.7	.9	.7	-.2	2.2	2.5	.2	.2
Cleveland	.6	.6	-.7	.5	.6	2.4	.5	.5
Dallas	.2	.1	-.1	.5	-.8	1.0	-.6	.4
Detroit	.7	.8	.0	.7	1.8	1.2	.7	.4
Honolulu	.9	1.1	.7	.9	.2	4.2	-.9	.5
Houston	.2	.1	.4	-.2	.8	.8	-.6	.8
Kansas City	.3	.2	.2	.1	.6	.3	.5	.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach	.4	.3	.9	.0	.3	2.4	-.9	.4
Milwaukee	.4	.2	.4	.8	.8	-.2	-.8	.9
Minneapolis—St. Paul	.3	.4	.1	.1	.4	1.5	.3	.1
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J.	.5	.6	.3	.3	.3	1.0	1.0	.3
Philadelphia	.4	.5	1.3	-.1	.5	1.4	.3	.1
Pittsburgh	.2	.2	-.1	-.8	.3	1.4	.8	.3
St. Louis	.7	.8	1.3	.9	.2	1.7	-.1	.3
San Diego	.6	.4	-.5	.3	.2	3.7	-1.0	1.1
San Francisco—Oakland	.2	.2	-.2	-.4	.3	3.7	.0	.3
Seattle	.4	.5	.9	-.8	.9	4.1	-.8	-.1
Washington	.3	-.1	2.1	-.7	.2	.4	-.8	1.2

¹ See footnote 1, table 2.

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

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change November 1972 from—		November 1971 unadjusted
	November 1972		October 1972		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Food	125.4	126.3	0.4	1.1	5.4
Food away from home	133.3	133.0	.4	.4	4.0
Restaurant meals	133.5	133.2	.4	.4	4.4
Snacks	132.4	132.3	.2	.5	2.3
Food at home	123.4	124.6	.5	1.5	5.7
Cereals and bakery products	115.0	115.1	.3	.5	.8
Flour	101.5	101.6	1.5	1.6	.4
Cracker meal	135.5	135.9	-.1	-.2	2.9
Corn flakes	99.7	99.6	-.1	-.5	-3.7
Rice	109.8	110.0	.4	.5	.0
Bread, white	113.2	113.1	.7	.6	1.1
Bread, whole wheat	120.9	120.5	.2	.2	1.3
Cookies	110.1	110.9	-.1	-.7	1.3
Layer cakes	120.1	120.3	-.1	-.2	-.3
Cinnamon rolls	122.1	122.2	.5	.7	2.4
Meats, poultry, and fish	131.5	132.7	.2	1.3	11.3
Meats	132.9	133.8	.2	1.2	12.4
Beef and veal	137.7	139.0	.3	1.3	8.8
Steak, round	134.3	135.5	1.3	2.1	7.3
Steak, sirloin	132.2	134.3	1.2	3.1	7.0
Steak, porterhouse	135.4	137.6	1.0	3.1	7.7
Rump roast	132.9	134.1	.3	1.4	7.2
Rib roast	136.3	137.7	-.8	-.1	5.8
Chuck roast	134.6	136.4	-.3	.8	6.9
Hamburger	139.1	139.9	-.4	.1	9.0
Beef liver	134.9	135.3	.1	.7	17.6
Veal cutlets	167.6	168.8	.4	1.1	13.9
Pork	128.6	129.8	-.5	1.6	21.0
Chops	130.0	132.0	-.3	2.2	17.6
Loin roast	130.4	131.7	.1	2.4	19.4
Pork sausage	137.4	136.7	-.1	1.0	22.7
Ham, whole	120.3	121.0	2.5	2.5	17.5
Picnics	127.5	128.4	-1.4	-.2	17.3
Bacon	125.9	127.4	-2.3	1.0	29.3
Other meats	128.9	129.0	.9	1.3	10.6
Lamb chops	132.3	132.8	.4	.8	6.3
Frankfurters	129.7	129.6	.3	.7	11.9
Ham, canned	122.1	122.1	2.1	2.0	12.7
Bologna sausage	133.6	133.9	-.1	.4	11.4
Salami sausage	132.3	132.4	1.3	1.6	13.7
Liverwurst	123.3	123.8	1.1	2.0	8.3
Poultry	110.2	112.2	-1.6	-.4	1.9
Frying chicken	108.9	111.8	-2.2	-.7	2.0
Chicken breasts	114.4	115.8	-1.1	.7	4.3
Turkey	112.6	111.6	1.1	1.1	-.3
Fish	148.0	148.4	1.5	1.6	11.4
Shrimp, frozen	141.6	142.5	2.4	2.6	17.4
Fish, fresh or frozen	163.7	164.7	2.9	3.3	14.7
Tuna fish, canned	134.8	135.5	.1	.7	5.1
Sardines, canned	151.7	151.4	.5	.3	8.6
Dairy products	117.7	117.6	.5	.5	1.6
Milk, fresh, grocery	116.3	116.0	.4	.4	1.0
Milk, fresh, delivered	121.2	121.1	.4	.5	2.6
Milk, fresh, skim	122.7	122.7	.6	.7	2.2
Milk, evaporated	121.2	121.1	1.2	1.3	.8
Ice cream	106.7	106.6	.4	.2	.3
Cheese, American process	126.4	126.7	.9	.9	3.4
Butter	105.5	105.3	.1	.1	-.2

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item or group	Index		Percent change to November 1972 from—		
	November 1972		October 1972		November 1971 unadjusted
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	
Fruits and vegetables	126.5	130.7	1.6	0.8	7.4
Fresh fruits and vegetables	129.5	136.6	2.2	.8	10.4
Fresh fruits	122.6	129.6	-3.7	.3	8.5
Apples	112.9	134.4	-.2	2.5	14.6
Bananas	100.0	103.5	-1.2	7.5	6.3
Oranges	129.1	121.3	-3.8	.1	-3.0
Orange juice, fresh	130.7	130.0	.2	.3	.6
Grapefruit	137.0	151.7	-27.1	-7.6	8.0
Grapes	166.5	168.2	-2.0	-14.3	20.5
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	135.1	143.0	7.0	1.9	11.8
Potatoes	135.2	145.4	4.9	4.3	22.7
Onions	140.9	151.3	.7	3.1	32.7
Asparagus	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	124.6	137.4	-1.6	-3.1	10.0
Carrots	134.6	141.7	-2.8	-1.8	11.6
Celery	133.9	135.9	-.5	-8.6	3.7
Cucumbers	98.1	115.3	4.1	-5.0	-6.5
Lettuce	138.5	125.8	10.1	3.1	-5.5
Peppers, green	121.4	141.8	16.6	1.2	2.4
Spinach	141.2	144.2	.6	3.7	7.8
Tomatoes	148.8	155.3	27.5	8.6	22.3
Processed fruits and vegetables	122.1	122.1	.7	.7	3.0
Fruit cocktail, canned	123.0	122.9	1.0	.9	2.6
Pears, canned	120.7	120.7	.5	.5	3.3
Pineapple-grapefruit juice, drink	116.6	116.0	1.0	.9	1.3
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	136.4	136.7	1.1	1.6	.8
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	119.3	119.5	1.4	1.2	3.5
Beets, canned	126.0	126.0	1.7	1.6	7.9
Peas, green, canned	107.7	107.2	.7	.0	-.3
Tomatoes, canned	118.5	118.7	.5	.6	2.4
Dried beans	140.4	140.5	-.4	-.4	6.4
Broccoli, frozen	118.3	118.7	.1	.3	.4
Other food at home	118.1	118.2	.1	.9	2.2
Eggs	113.6	114.2	-.8	4.0	10.1
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	117.0	117.4	-.1	-.1	-.7
Salad dressing, Italian	109.7	109.8	.2	.3	-.8
Salad or cooking oil	119.4	119.8	-.6	-.6	-3.3
Sugar and sweets	121.1	121.2	.2	.3	.9
Sugar	115.8	115.7	.3	.3	2.0
Grape jelly	125.8	126.1	-.2	-.2	3.6
Chocolate bar	130.8	130.4	.2	.5	-.4
Syrup, chocolate flavored	110.9	111.5	.3	.6	-1.4
Nonalcoholic beverages	122.9	122.9	.2	.2	1.7
Coffee, can and bag	122.8	122.8	.3	.4	3.2
Coffee, instant	123.5	123.5	.3	.3	-1.3
Tea	109.5	109.6	-.2	-.1	1.6
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	129.4	129.5	.5	.6	1.8
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	128.2	128.3	.2	.5	.4
Prepared and partially prepared foods	115.4	115.5	.3	.5	1.9
Bean soup, canned	116.5	116.9	.2	.4	1.6
Chicken soup, canned	104.7	104.9	.5	.7	-1.2
Spaghetti, canned	121.9	121.8	.3	.3	3.6
Mashed potatoes, instant	112.4	112.5	.2	.2	1.5
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	111.5	111.8	.1	.5	2.8
Baby foods	109.6	109.4	-.5	-.5	-1.5
Sweet pickle relish	128.9	128.5	1.0	.6	6.9
Pretzels	115.2	115.4	.9	1.1	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, November 1972 and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item or group	Other indexes bases	Indexes		Percent change to November 1972 from:	
		November 1972	October 1972	October 1972	November 1971
Housing		¹ 130.8	130.4	0.3	3.5
Shelter ²		136.2	136.0	.1	3.7
Rent, residential		120.5	120.3	.2	3.3
Homeownership ³		142.0	141.8	.1	3.9
Mortgage interest rates		117.5	117.3	.2	-1.2
Property taxes		149.6	149.3	.2	9.8
Property insurance premiums		123.7	123.6	.1	1.1
Maintenance and repairs		142.9	142.4	.4	4.2
Commodities ⁴		126.7	126.2	.4	4.9
Exterior house paint		117.7	116.7	.9	1.0
Interior house paint		117.9	117.4	.4	2.3
Services		149.8	149.5	.2	4.0
Repainting living and dining rooms		162.8	162.7	.1	6.0
Reshingling house roof		157.3	157.1	.1	4.4
Residing house		137.6	137.3	.2	3.3
Replacing sink		148.2	147.7	.3	3.2
Repairing furnace		153.9	153.1	.5	3.2
Fuel and utilities		⁵ 121.7	120.6	.9	4.5
Fuel oil and coal		119.3	118.1	1.0	1.0
Fuel oil, No. 2		117.0	116.7	.3	.5
Gas and electricity		⁶ 122.2	120.9	1.1	5.2
Gas		⁷ 124.6	122.0	2.1	5.6
Electricity		120.0	119.9	.1	4.8
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		114.9	114.9	0	5.3
Residential water and sewerage services		141.6	138.8	2.0	3.8
Household furnishings and operation ⁸		122.1	121.8	.2	2.2
Housefurnishings		117.1	116.9	.2	1.7
Textiles		115.1	114.7	.3	1.9
Sheets		118.0	116.9	.9	1.3
Curtains, tailored		112.9	113.0	-.1	1.8
Bedsprads		113.5	111.5	1.8	4.7
Drapery fabric		123.9	124.9	-.8	4.1
Pillows, bed		108.3	107.7	.6	-1.1
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		113.8	114.2	-.4	.9
Furniture and bedding		121.9	121.5	.3	1.7
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	105.7	105.4	.3	.9
Sofas upholstered		121.2	120.7	.4	1.8
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	101.7	101.2	.5	(⁹)
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	104.9	103.9	1.0	1.5
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	98.3	98.5	-.2	(⁹)
Sofas, dual purpose		118.0	117.7	.3	1.4
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	105.2	105.1	.1	1.3
Aluminum folding chairs		⁽¹⁰⁾ 119.0	⁽¹⁰⁾ 118.4	⁽¹⁰⁾ .5	⁽¹⁰⁾ -2.2
Cribs		106.6	106.6	0	.3
Floor coverings		101.4	101.4	0	-4.4
Broadloom, carpeting, manmade fibers		119.5	119.2	.3	2.8
Vinyl sheet goods		118.1	117.9	.2	.9
Vinyl asbestos tile		109.9	109.9	0	.5
Appliances (excluding radio and T. V.) ¹¹		110.7	110.9	-.2	.6
Washing machines, electric, automatic		103.7	103.8	-.1	-2.2
Vacuum cleaners, canister type					
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.3	108.3	0	.1
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		111.0	111.6	-.5	0
Clothes dryers, electric		115.2	114.8	.3	1.9
Air conditioners, demountable		⁽¹⁰⁾ 109.1	⁽¹⁰⁾ 107.7	⁽¹⁰⁾ 1.4	⁽¹⁰⁾ 1.9
Room heaters, electric, portable		109.1	108.4	.6	.6
Garbage disposal units		111.1	111.4	-.3	.7
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		126.7	125.8	.7	6.3
Flatware, stainless steel		129.4	129.4	0	6.1
Table lamps, with shade		126.3	125.6	.6	3.4
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		⁽¹⁰⁾ 106.6	⁽¹⁰⁾ 107.2	⁽¹⁰⁾ -.6	⁽¹⁰⁾ -3.3
Electric drills, hand-held					
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		111.4	111.4	0	.7
Paper napkins		133.5	133.5	0	3.6
Toilet tissue		125.7	123.5	1.8	1.7
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic service, general housework		141.5	140.8	.5	4.0
Baby sitter services		138.5	138.3	.1	4.6
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished services		140.4	140.2	.1	3.5
Licensed day care services, preschool child		125.6	124.7	.7	5.5
Washing machine repairs		142.7	142.2	.4	3.3

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, November 1972 and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item or group	Other indexes bases	Indexes		Percent change to November 1972 from:	
		November 1972	October 1972	October 1972	November 1971
Apparel and upkeep ¹²		125.0	124.3	0.6	2.5
Apparel commodities		125.6	124.9	.6	2.6
Apparel commodities less footwear		125.3	124.6	.6	2.5
Men's and boys'		124.8	123.8	.8	2.5
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends		132.4	130.1	1.8	6.4
Suits, year round weight		133.5	133.4	.1	.4
Suits, tropical weight	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)
Jackets, lightweight		114.0	113.9	-.1	-.2
Slacks, wool or wool blends		116.1	115.8	.3	-1.3
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		143.2	143.0	.1	6.3
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		115.3	114.8	.4	1.1
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		115.8	115.4	.3	.9
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		112.8	111.8	.9	-1.4
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		118.2	118.8	-.5	-.2
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		115.6	115.0	.5	-.1
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton		117.1	117.2	-.1	1.2
Boy's:					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or blends		128.0	121.5	5.3	6.4
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		122.7	121.9	.7	3.7
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends		128.9	128.5	.3	3.0
Undershorts, cotton		120.5	120.2	.2	.8
Women's and girls'		126.5	125.9	.5	2.5
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends		136.1	134.1	1.5	6.6
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton		137.0	136.2	.6	5.1
Sweaters, wool or acrylic		129.5	129.3	.2	4.8
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers		146.2	141.5	3.3	2.9
Skirts, cotton polyester/cotton	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers		125.6	125.1	.4	2.8
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fibers		132.2	131.5	.5	.8
Slips, nylon		110.6	111.1	-.5	.2
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot		118.8	118.7	.1	2.2
Girdles, manmade blend		118.2	118.2	0	.3
Brassieres, nylon lace		123.8	123.0	.7	.3
Hose, or panty hose, nylon seamless		95.3	94.6	.7	-3.0
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers		114.2	113.7	.4	-1.2
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton		110.8	110.7	.1	1.0
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic		147.7	146.3	1.0	8.0
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends		115.2	116.9	-1.5	-3.6
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic		119.5	121.1	-1.3	11.6
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends		124.2	124.3	-.1	13.5
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton		140.1	140.0	.1	6.5
Slips, polyester blends		110.1	110.1	0	-1.1
Handbags, plastic		125.2	123.8	1.1	-3.7
Footwear		127.1	126.5	.5	3.2
Men's:					
Shoes, street		126.8	125.7	.9	4.7
Shoes, work, high		126.0	124.8	1.0	4.7
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		128.8	128.2	.5	2.9
Shoes, evening, pump		123.6	123.6	0	2.1
Shoes, casual		128.0	126.2	1.4	1.6
Houseslippers, scuff		126.7	126.1	.5	2.5
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		129.3	129.0	.2	3.9
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		125.2	124.8	.3	4.4
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump		130.5	131.1	-.5	1.5
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable		116.9	117.0	-.1	3.2
Yard goods, polyester blend		119.3	119.3	0	-2.5
Wrist watches, men's and women's		117.1	116.9	.2	2.9
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses		118.4	118.1	.3	1.2
Automatic laundry service		115.7	115.2	.4	1.7
Laundry, men's shirts		123.9	123.7	.2	3.9
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment		135.5	134.1	1.0	3.3
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift		118.5	118.1	.3	3.9

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, November 1972 and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

Item or group	Other indexes bases	Indexes		Percent change to November 1972 from:	
		November 1972	October 1972	October 1972	November 1971
Transportation		¹³ 121.4	121.2	0.2	2.3
Private ¹⁴		¹⁵ 119.0	118.7	.3	2.1
Automobiles, new		110.2	110.1	.1	.5
Automobiles, used		116.0	115.2	.7	5.3
Gasoline, regular and premium		110.1	110.2	-.1	3.0
Motor oil, premium		124.5	124.6	-.1	2.2
Tires, new, tubeless		114.6	114.8	-.2	-3.5
Auto repairs and maintenance ¹⁶		136.6	136.4	.1	3.8
Auto insurance rates		¹⁷ 139.8	139.6	.1	-1.2
Auto registration		127.7	127.5	.2	3.2
Parking fees, private and municipal		148.8	147.9	.6	8.8
Public		144.1	144.1	0	3.4
Local transit fares		150.8	150.8	0	4.7
Taxicab fares		133.7	133.7	0	1.5
Railroad fares, coach		122.0	122.0	0	-4.4
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		131.9	131.9	0	1.8
Bus fares, intercity		142.1	142.1	0	4.6
Health and recreation		127.4	127.2	.2	3.0
Medical care		134.1	133.9	.1	3.4
Drugs and prescriptions		105.6	105.7	-.1	-.1
Over-the-counter items		111.7	111.7	0	1.1
Multiple vitamin concentrates		95.3	95.5	-.2	-.1
Aspirin compounds		117.1	117.1	0	1.5
Liquid tonics		101.1	101.0	.1	.3
Adhesive bandages, packages		125.0	124.8	.2	1.1
Cold tablets or capsules		114.3	114.2	.1	1.0
Cough syrup		113.7	114.3	-.5	2.2
Prescriptions		100.5	100.6	-.1	-1.1
Anti-infectives		72.7	72.9	-.3	-8.4
Sedatives and hypnotics		127.8	128.3	-.4	2.6
Ataractics		103.5	103.3	.2	.9
Antispasmodics		108.0	108.0	0	.2
Cough preparations		132.0	131.7	.2	3.8
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		112.1	112.0	.1	.1
Analgesics, internal		109.9	109.7	.2	1.9
Anti-obesity		117.2	116.9	.3	.2
Hormones		92.7	92.8	-.1	-2.0
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		134.8	134.6	.1	2.1
General physician, office visits		135.7	135.6	.1	2.0
General physician, house visits		138.0	137.8	.1	2.9
Obstetrical cases		134.6	134.5	.1	2.4
Pediatric care, office visits		137.8	137.0	.6	2.3
Psychiatrist, office visits		130.8	129.5	1.0	2.8
Herniorrhaphy, adult		129.2	128.8	.3	2.4
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		130.4	130.5	-.1	1.3
Dentists' fees		133.5	133.3	.2	2.9
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		135.2	135.0	.1	3.2
Extractions, adult		133.3	133.1	.2	3.0
Dentures, full upper		130.2	130.1	.1	2.0
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		126.3	125.6	.6	2.8
Routine laboratory tests		121.3	121.3	0	3.0
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	103.0	102.9	.1	(⁹)
Semiprivate rooms		176.0	175.8	.1	5.4
Operating room charges		172.9	171.6	.8	8.7
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G. I.		130.1	129.7	.3	2.8
Laboratory tests, urinalysis	Jan. 72	102.2	102.5	-.3	(⁹)
Anti-infectives, Tetracycline, HCL	Jan. 72	99.1	99.1	0	(⁹)
Tranquilizers, Chlordiazepoxide, HCL	Jan. 72	101.8	102.2	-.4	(⁹)
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	103.5	103.4	.1	(⁹)
Intravenous solution, saline	Jan. 72	102.4	102.7	-.3	(⁹)
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath	Jan. 72	102.7	102.4	.3	(⁹)
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	101.9	102.0	-.1	(⁹)
Personal care		121.0	120.8	.2	2.6
Toilet goods		117.7	117.6	.1	2.5
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		109.7	110.2	-.5	1.3
Toilet soap, hard milled		123.3	122.1	1.0	3.8
Hand lotions, liquid		127.5	127.8	-.2	6.3
Shaving cream, aerosol		107.4	107.0	.4	-.4
Face powder, pressed		139.0	136.4	1.9	13.6
Deodorants, aerosol		103.8	103.5	.3	-2.0
Cleansing tissues		121.7	124.9	-2.6	-1.5
Home permanent wave kits		109.7	109.7	0	-1.8
Personal care services		124.4	124.2	.2	2.6
Men's haircuts		126.6	126.4	.2	2.3
Beauty shop services		122.9	122.6	.2	2.9
Women's haircuts		124.6	123.9	.6	3.7
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		126.7	126.5	.2	3.3
Permanent waves, cold		113.1	112.9	.2	1.5

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item or group	Other indexes bases	Indexes		Percent change to November 1972 from:	
		November 1972	October 1972	October 1972	November 1971
Reading and recreation ^{1a}		124.1	124.0	0.1	2.7
Recreational goods		108.2	108.3	-.1	.9
TV sets, portable and console		99.3	99.4	-.1	-1.0
TV replacement tubes		133.2	133.0	.2	7.0
Radios, portable and table model		99.2	98.9	.3	.8
Tape recorders, portable		94.3	94.8	-.5	1.9
Phonograph records, stereophonic		107.4	108.0	-.6	.8
Movie cameras, Super 8, zoom lens		88.6	88.6	0	-.3
Film, 35mm, color		108.1	108.2	-.1	-.4
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		105.5	105.6	-.1	.7
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		126.0	125.9	.1	.4
Fishing rods, fresh water spincasting		108.0	108.0	0	-2.5
Bowling balls		114.2	114.5	-.3	1.3
Bicycles, boys'		117.6	117.6	0	3.5
Tricycles		114.9	114.6	.3	2.9
Dog food, canned or boxed		111.4	111.1	.3	.5
Recreational services		129.4	128.8	.5	2.2
Indoor movie admissions		141.9	142.0	-.1	2.3
Adult		140.6	140.7	-.1	1.7
Children's		145.6	145.4	.1	3.9
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		147.9	147.5	.3	3.9
Bowling fees, evening		122.1	120.0	1.8	3.7
Golf green fees		(¹⁹)	131.1	(¹⁰)	(¹⁰)
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		98.5	98.2	.3	0
Film developing, color		116.1	116.1	0	-1.9
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		133.2	133.1	.1	2.0
Magazines, single copy and subscription		134.1	133.4	.5	7.5
Piano lessons, beginner		125.2	124.4	.6	3.0
Other goods and services		126.4	126.4	0	2.9
Tobacco products		134.3	134.3	0	4.1
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		136.0	136.0	0	4.4
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		136.3	136.2	.1	4.2
Cigars, domestic, regular size		111.1	111.2	-.1	1.6
Alcoholic beverages		120.4	120.3	.1	1.8
Beer		114.1	114.2	-.1	.4
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		108.8	108.9	-.1	1.8
Wine, dessert and table		128.3	128.0	.2	2.7
Beer, away from home		132.7	132.4	.2	3.0
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral service, adult		122.3	122.1	.2	2.7
Bank service charges, checking accounts		106.9	106.8	.1	-2.2
Legal services, short form will		152.6	152.4	.1	8.8
Other special groups:					
All items less shelter		124.6	124.2	.3	3.5
Commodities less food		121.0	120.8	.2	2.5
Nondurables less food and apparel		119.4	119.3	.1	2.5
Household services less rent		141.3	140.7	.4	4.4
Transportation services		¹⁹ 136.3	136.2	.1	1.8
Other services		²⁰ 127.4	127.0	.3	2.7

¹ Revised index: September 1972, 130.2.
² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
³ Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.
⁴ Also includes pine shelving, furnace filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.
⁵ Revised index: August 1971, 116.0; May 1972, 119.8; September 1972, 120.4.
⁶ Revised index: April 1971, 113.8; August 1971, 115.6; September 1971, 115.6; October 1971, 115.6; February 1972, 119.3; March 1972, 119.6; April 1972, 120.1; September 1972, 120.7.
⁷ Revised index: January 1971, 112.6; February 1971, 114.5; March 1971, 114.7; April 1971, 115.7; May 1971, 116.5; June 1971, 116.3; July 1971, 116.0; August 1971, 116.7; September 1971, 116.7; October 1971, 116.7; November 1971, 118.0; 1971 annual average, 116.2; January 1972, 121.6; February 1972, 121.8; September 1972, 121.7.
⁸ Also includes venetian blinds, nails, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholstering, and moving expenses.
⁹ Not available.
¹⁰ Priced only in season.
¹¹ Radios and television sets are shown separately under reading and recreation.
¹² 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.
¹³ Revised index: July 1971, 119.4; November 1971, 118.7; December 1971, 118.5; January 1972, July 9; July 1972, 120.2.
¹⁴ Also includes recapped tires and drivers' license fees not shown separately.
¹⁵ Revised index: April 1971, 116.1; May 1971, 116.9; June 1971, 117.5; February 1972, 115.6; September 1972, 118.5; October 1972, 118.7.
¹⁶ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.
¹⁷ Revised index: March 1971, 139.7; April 1971, 141.5; May 1971, 141.8; June 1971, 142.2; July 1971, 142.4; August 1971, 142.6; September 1971, 142.6; October 1971, 141.5; November 1971, 141.5; December 1971, 141.5; 1971 annual average, 141.1; January 1972, 140.8; February 1972, 140.6; March 1972, 140.7; April 1972, 140.6; May 1972, 140.5; October 1972, 139.6.
¹⁸ Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.
¹⁹ Revised index: March 1971, 131.9; April 1971, 132.9; May 1971, 133.0; June 1971, 134.0; July 1971, 134.2; August 1971, 134.0; September 1971, 133.7; October 1971, 133.8; November 1971, 133.9; December 1971, 134.1; 1971 annual average, 133.0; February 1972, 135.6; March 1972, 135.4.
²⁰ Revised index: December 1971, 124.0.

Table 9. United States city average Consumer Price Index: Indexes affected by refunds of insurance premiums in Massachusetts

	1971										
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual average
Auto Insurance:											
Revised -----	139.7	141.5	141.8	142.2	142.4	142.6	142.6	141.5	141.5	141.5	141.1
Previously published -----	140.1	141.9	142.1	142.5	142.7	142.9	142.9	141.8	141.8	141.8	141.4
Private Transportation:											
Revised -----	115.9	116.1	116.9	117.5	117.4	117.3	116.4	117.2	116.6	116.3	116.6
Previously published -----	115.9	116.2	117.0	117.6	117.4	117.3	116.4	117.2	116.6	116.3	116.6
Total Transportation:											
Revised -----	117.8	118.1	118.8	119.6	119.4	119.3	118.6	119.3	118.7	118.5	118.6
Previously published -----	117.8	118.1	118.8	119.6	119.5	119.3	118.6	119.3	118.8	118.6	118.6
Transportation Service:											
Revised -----	131.9	132.9	133.0	134.0	134.2	134.0	133.7	133.8	133.9	134.1	133.0
Previously published -----	132.0	133.0	133.1	134.1	134.3	134.1	133.8	133.9	134.0	134.2	133.1
Insurance and Finance:											
Revised -----	137.2	136.6	137.0	137.7	138.3	138.9	139.2	140.0	140.9	141.2	138.9
Previously published -----	137.3	136.6	137.0	137.7	138.3	139.0	139.2	140.1	140.9	141.3	139.0
	1972										
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	
Auto Insurance:											
Revised -----	140.8	140.6	140.7	140.6	140.5	140.7	141.1	141.1	140.4	139.6	
Previously published -----	141.0	140.8	140.9	140.7	140.6	140.7	141.1	141.1	140.4	139.7	
Private Transportation:											
Revised -----	116.4	115.6	115.9	116.1	117.1	117.3	117.8	118.1	118.5	118.7	
Previously published -----	116.4	115.7	115.9	116.1	117.1	117.3	117.8	118.1	118.6	118.8	
Total Transportation:											
Revised -----	118.9	118.3	118.4	118.6	119.5	119.8	120.2	120.5	121.0	121.2	
Previously published -----	119.0	118.3	118.4	118.6	119.5	119.8	120.3	120.5	121.0	121.2	
Transportation Services:											
Revised -----	135.6	135.6	135.4	135.6	135.8	136.0	136.3	136.3	136.3	136.2	
Previously published -----	135.6	135.7	135.5	135.6	135.8	136.0	136.3	136.3	136.3	136.2	
Insurance and Finance:											
Revised -----	142.3	142.4	142.5	142.7	142.9	143.5	144.3	144.7	144.7	145.1	
Previously published -----	142.3	142.4	142.6	142.7	143.0	143.5	144.3	144.7	144.7	145.1	

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

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 1 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:

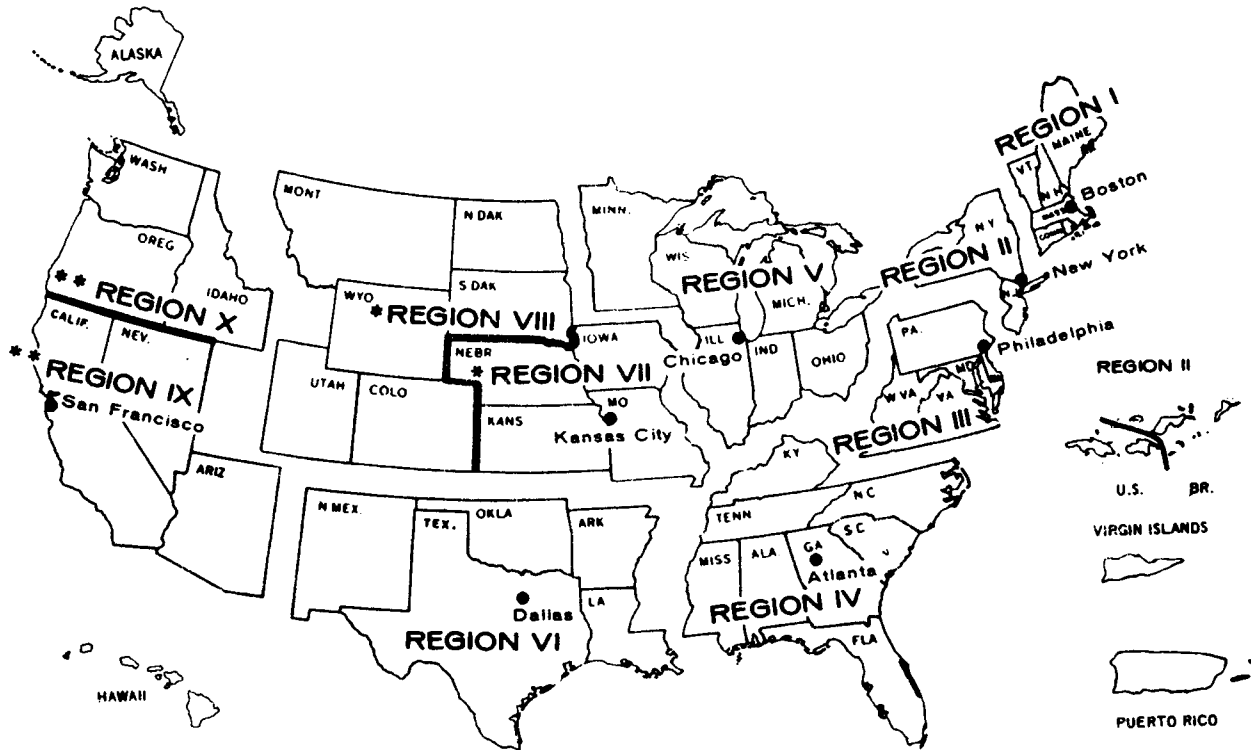
CPI	123.8
less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
index point difference =	0.6

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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