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

the consumer price index

for December 1972

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Price Movements

December 1972

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.3 percent in December, to 127.3 percent of its 1967 base. Most of the rise was due to higher prices for eggs, fresh vegetables, and household services, the effects of which were moderated by lower prices for meats, fresh fruits, and used cars.

After seasonal adjustment, the December increase was 0.2 percent. Food prices were unchanged after seasonal adjustment, following increases of 1.1 percent in November and 0.2 percent in October. Prices of nonfood commodities rose 0.2 percent on a seasonally adjusted basis in December. They declined 0.1 percent in October and increased 0.1 percent in November. Charges for consumer services rose 0.4 percent in December, more than the 0.2 percent rise in November and the same as in October.

In the 3 months ending in September, the pace quickened to a rate of 4.6 percent as prices of food began to rise sharply again and those of nonfood commodities advanced at a faster rate than they had in the second quarter. Increases in the food and nonfood components slowed in the final 3 months of the year with the result that the CPI rose at a slower rate, 3.2 percent from September to December.

Price behavior in 1972 was marked by the existence of Phase II of the Economic Stabilization Program put into effect by the President on August 15, 1971. Phase I of that program consisted of a freeze of virtually all wages and prices that lasted until November 13, 1971. Phase II, which ensued immediately, consisted of a varied program

Table A. Percent changes in CPI components, selected periods

Month and year	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items at seasonally adjusted compound annual rates		
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Serv-ices	From 3 mos. ago	From 6 mos. ago	From 12 mos. ago
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed			
December 1971	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.6	0	0.2	0.3	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
December . . . . .	.3	.2	.5	0	.1	.2	.4	3.2	3.9	3.4

In the 12-months ending in December 1972, the Consumer Price Index rose 3.4 percent. The pattern of movement in the CPI was varied throughout the year. In the 3 months ending in March, the CPI rose at an annual rate of 3.6 percent. In spring 1972, as food prices fell and price rises for services decelerated, the pace of increase slowed to 2.2 percent in the 3 months ending in June.

of regulation ranging from the exemption of prices of certain raw commodities, particularly farm products, to the imposition of absolute control of the rate of price increase in areas such as medical care. Other regulations governed the extent to which cost increases could be passed through as price increases and the extent to which profit margins could rise.

From the start of the Economic Stabilization Program in August 1971 through December 1972, the CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.2 percent. The rate of advance during Phase II through December 1972 was 3.4 percent, just 0.4 percentage points less than the 3.8 percent annual rate in the first 8 months of 1971. The comparisons made between the first 8 months of 1971 and periods preceding and following them are affected by the sharp decline in mortgage interest rates in the spring of 1971. If the change in the CPI in the first 8 months of 1971 is recalculated to exclude mortgage interest costs¹ and the effect the elimination of the excise tax on autos had on the August CPI, the rate of advance is higher, 4.8 percent rather than 3.8 percent; and if mortgage interest costs are excluded from the CPI during Phase II, the rate of advance was 3.6 percent, a slowdown of 1.2 percentage points. During Phase II, price rises for nonfood commodities and services decelerated from the first 8 months of 1971 before the freeze. Food prices, however, rose at the same pace as they had in the first 8 months of 1971.

Food

Food price increases were of concern virtually throughout 1972. The index for food purchased in grocery stores—the major part of the CPI for food—increased 5.0 percent between December 1971 and December 1972. Typically, the index displayed considerable volatility during the year. In the 3 months ending in March, it rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 7.3 percent; but the index actually declined at a 1.3 percent rate in the 3 months ending in June. The index moved up in the quarter ending in September—at a 7.9 percent annual rate—because of sharp increases in meat and fresh fruits and vegetable prices. The rise in the index slowed slightly

in the last 3 months of 1972—to a 6.3 percent rate—as a result of deceleration in the fruit and vegetable component, while all other major food components accelerated.

As is usual, the pattern of movement in the CPI food component mirrored rises in food prices in WPI, but retail food prices rose less than wholesale, a relationship that usually prevails, especially when wholesale price rises exceed 2 percent. In 1972, wholesale prices for consumer foods rose 8.0 percent. As the following tabulation shows, price increases during 1972 in all major groups of food were larger at wholesale than at retail:

	12-months ending December 1972	
	CPI	WPI
Total food	4.7	8.0
Food at home	5.0	-
Cereal and bakery products	1.8	7.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	10.3	13.2
Dairy products	1.9	4.8
Fresh fruits and vegetables	1.9	6.6
Eggs	15.8	25.8
Food away from home	4.2	-

Retail meat prices rose 11.3 percent in the year ending in December 1972, accounting for about 60 percent of the rise in the food at home index in CPI. Pork prices rose 19.8 percent mostly due to declines in hog slaughter and pork production. Rising demand, triggered by higher income, was an important factor in the increase of 6.9 percent in beef prices. In addition, poor weather conditions affected livestock marketings and therefore prices of meats during 1972, especially in the first and fourth quarters. In November, rain and snow held back marketings, and in December sellers continued to hold inventories in anticipation of even higher prices. The unusually cold weather forced livestock owners to feed

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

Items	1971 before Phase I (December 1970– August 1971)	Phase I (August 1971– November 1971)	Phase II (November 1971– December 1972)	Phase I & II (August 1971– December 1972)	Latest 6 months (June 1972– December 1972)
All items	3.8	1.9	3.4	3.2	3.9
Food	5.0	1.7	5.0	4.4	6.1
Commodities less food	2.9	0	2.5	2.0	2.5
Services	4.5	3.1	3.6	3.5	3.5

¹ The mortgage interest cost component of the CPI measures not only changes in mortgage interest rates but also changes in the

size of mortgages, which are related to changes in house prices.

heavily while rain, sleet, snow, and ice at various times in the late fall brought the harvesting of grains and oilseeds (used in manufacturing animal feeds) to a standstill. In addition to increased domestic requirements for animal feeds, export demand was strong, and wholesale prices of animal feeds climbed almost 39 percent in the fourth quarter of 1972. All of these factors contributed to a substantial rise in wholesale prices for livestock and meats in December.

Poultry prices in grocery stores rose 2.5 percent for the year ending in December 1972, after declining in the preceding 2 years. Poultry production increased 6 percent, but greater demand for poultry as a substitute for higher-priced red meat resulted in a decline of 33 percent in cold storage holdings of broilers and fryers.

Egg prices advanced sharply in 1972—the first December-to-December increase in 3 years. Production was down 6 percent as many producers reduced their flock size. Smaller output combined with increased demand resulted in a 17 percent decline in cold storage holdings during the year.

The increase in retail prices for cereal and bakery products was considerably smaller than at wholesale. Flour prices at wholesale started to move up in late summer after wheat prices advanced sharply following large purchases by the U.S.S.R. Higher prices for flour pushed up bread prices. These increases at wholesale were beginning to be reflected at retail late in 1972.

Prices of dairy products rose 1.9 percent during 1972—the smallest increase since 1967. Butter prices were unchanged over the year from December 1971 to December 1972, and increases for fresh milk and canned evaporated milk were moderate. Strong demand, however, caused a large increase in cheese prices.

In December 1972, average prices of fresh fruits and vegetables in grocery stores were 1.9 percent higher than the December 1971 level in sharp contrast to the increase of 17.2 percent in the 12 months ending in December 1971. Prices of most fresh vegetables including lettuce, tomatoes, celery, cabbage, and green peppers, were considerably lower in December 1972 than in December 1971. However, prices for potatoes, carrots, and onions were much higher. Fresh vegetable prices rose sharply during the summer and early fall because of smaller supplies resulting from unusual weather conditions and reduced plantings. In the last 3 months of 1972, larger production from winter producing areas resulted in price declines for vegetables. In contrast, prices of most fresh fruits, except oranges, were considerably higher in December 1972 than they were a year earlier. Apples were in tight supply throughout the year; bananas were imported at a slower rate; and the late maturing grapefruit crop in Florida kept prices up in the fourth quarter.

Among other foods purchased in grocery stores, coffee prices rose 3.9 percent in 1972. At wholesale, green coffee prices increased considerably more—19.5 percent—mostly in response to the freeze damage to Brazilian coffee crop in July.

Prices of food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—increased at a steady pace throughout the year, for an increase of 4.2 percent for the year ending in December 1972. The large increase in wholesale prices of meats, poultry, and fish, which represent about 45 percent of the cost of food purchased by eating places, was a major source of upward pressure on restaurant prices.

Commodities less food

Prices of nonfood commodities in the CPI are affected directly by changes in wholesale prices of these goods. In 1972, the increase in nonfood commodities in the CPI was 2.5 percent, compared with 2.2 percent in the WPI. When prices of used cars and houses, which are not in the wholesale measure, are excluded, the increase in the CPI component is 2.1 percent.

Historically, retail prices of nonfood commodities have risen somewhat faster than manufacturer's prices of consumer nonfood commodities—about one-half percent a year on average from 1956 through 1971. Even if used cars and houses are excluded from the CPI component, retail prices still have risen faster than wholesale prices for these commodities in all but 3 years from 1956 to 1971. In 1964, both series rose by the same small amount. In the other 2 years—1960 and 1965—the WPI for consumer finished goods, excluding food, rose faster primarily because new car prices dropped more at retail than at wholesale. In 1965, this difference was attributable to the reduction in auto excise taxes which are included in the CPI, to the extent that they are passed through to consumers, but not in the WPI. The relationship during 1972 was then another exception from the typical pattern, and there is some evidence that Phase II profit margin regulation was an important factor. (See "Prices in 1972: An Analysis of Changes During Phase II", by Joel Popkin, *Monthly Labor Review*, February 1973.)

In 1972, retail prices of nondurables rose 2.4 percent, somewhat less than prices of similar goods in the WPI. This was the first year since both series became available in 1956 in which retail prices for these commodities rose less than manufacturers' prices when the latter were rising. In 3 of the 4 years from 1968 to 1971, the difference exceeded 1 percentage point. Price increases for gasoline and footwear were considerably smaller at retail than wholesale for the year ending December 1972. Prices for apparel and tobacco products rose more at retail than wholesale.

Gasoline prices at retail rose 2.7 percent in 1972; much of the increase occurred in the 3 months ending in September. They rose slightly in the 3 months ending in December. Prices declined in the first half of 1972. Although competitive pressures held down price rises at retail, wholesale prices at refineries rose at a strong pace throughout the year because of the imbalance in demand and supply. The rise in footwear prices, which was 9.9 percent at wholesale and 3.4 percent at retail, was fueled by the sharp advance in prices of hides. In 1972, however, the advance in retail footwear prices was particularly low, in view of the substantial increase in hide prices.

Apparel prices at retail increased 2.5 percent in the 12 months ending in December 1972. In the final 3 months, prices rose at a 4.6 percent annual rate—the sharpest pace in 2 years, as retail sales in apparel stores started to strengthen. The increase for tobacco products—3.9 percent at retail—was considerably larger than at wholesale. Higher cigarette taxes accounted for a large portion of the price increase at retail.

Retail prices for durable goods increased 2.6 percent in the 12 months ending in December 1972, compared with 1.0 percent at wholesale. This faster rise is mainly attributable to the advance in prices of houses and used cars, both exempted from regulation during Phases I and II. In 1972, strength in demand for new cars spilled over, as it usually does, to used cars, resulting in higher prices. The rise in used car prices started in the spring of 1972, after a period during which prices fell. The earlier decline was probably due to the elimination of the 7-percent excise tax on new cars, which made them cheaper relative to used cars, so a downward adjustment of used car prices had to occur.

New car prices at retail increased 0.2 percent for the 12 months ending in December 1972, while wholesale prices decreased by 0.2 percent. Changes in new car prices were small due to the fact that approved price increases for 1973 models before December were less than the value BLS placed on the quality changes. In early December, the Price Commission approved increases which were reflected fully at the wholesale level, but not at retail where many cars sold during December were ordered for dealer inventories before the increases.

Retail prices for furniture increased 1.7 percent, the smallest December to December rise since the mid-1960's and less than the increase at wholesale. Prices of floor coverings at retail showed no change between December 1971 and December 1972, while wholesale prices moved up moderately. Appliance prices increased slightly and by about the same amount at retail and wholesale. Retail prices of other housefurnishings such as dinnerware and flatware—both imported and domestic—increased significantly during 1972. Prices of home repair and im-

provement goods also rose sharply, reflecting advances in lumber prices.

Services

Just as the relationship between prices of nonfood commodities at wholesale and retail was atypical in 1972, the relationship between retail prices for nonfood commodities and services departed from the usual pattern. The index for services increased 3.6 percent in 1972, the smallest rise since 1965. The increase in the services index, excluding mortgage interest costs, was also 3.6 percent. Over periods of time, as long as a year, service prices excluding mortgage interest costs usually rise 1.5 to 2.5 percentage points faster than prices of nonfood commodities. Since the index for commodities less food rose 2.5 percent in 1972, the difference was 1.1 percentage points. The only other deviation from the historical pattern occurred in 1967—in part, a year of economic slowdown—when the difference was also 1.1 percentage points. The slowdown in service prices cannot be attributed entirely to Phase II controls. Although the rate of increase was reduced sharply in certain sectors like medical care and rent, where direct controls were put into effect, equally sharp deceleration occurred in other parts of the service sector which consist of many small firms, exempt from most, if not all forms of regulation. Among the major components in the services index, the sharpest deceleration occurred in transportation services—from an increase of 5.2 percent in 1971 to 1.7 percent in 1972. A significant factor in this slowdown was the decline in auto insurance charges. After rising sharply from 1968 through the first half of 1971, auto insurance charges declined almost steadily from mid-1971 through December 1972 as a result of improved underwriting experience by insurance writers, no fault insurance laws, open rating laws, and closer regulations of the insurance industry by State legislatures and insurance departments. Charges for auto registration and repairs and taxicab and airplane fares rose much less in 1972 than in 1971. Local transit fares, which rose moderately in 1971, increased somewhat more in 1972 but still much less than in the 1968-70 period. The rise in parking fees, however, accelerated in 1972.

Medical care services rose 3.8 percent in 1972, down from 5.3 percent in 1971. Increases in physicians' and dentists' fees were about half as large as in 1971 and not much different from the 2.5 percent limitation (exclusive of cost-pass-through) placed on them by the Price Commission. Hospital charges for semiprivate rooms, which increased more than 9 percent in 1971, rose 5.0 percent in 1972, well within the 6-percent limit placed on them by the Price Commission.

In the household services component, the index for rent rose 3.5 percent in 1972, less than the rise in 1971 before the freeze. Rent increases were limited to 2.5 percent plus pass-through of selected costs. The increase in household services component excluding rent was slightly larger than it was in 1971, primarily because the decline in mortgage interest rates in 1972 was smaller than in 1971. The rapid upward trend in property taxes continued in 1972. On the other hand, charges for home maintenance and repairs and utilities increased much less in 1972 than they had in 1971.

The rise in the other services component of the CPI decelerated significantly in 1971 and slowed further in 1972. In many of these services areas—such as personal care, apparels, and recreational services—there is a prevalence of small firms with 60 employees or fewer, which were generally exempt from regulation. The demand for many of these services is highly responsive to economic changes. With the rapid rise in business activity in 1972 and rising personal income, consumer spending for dry-cleaning, shoe repairs, shirt laundry, barber and beauty

shop services, piano lessons, and many recreational services started to strengthen. By late 1972, charges for these services were moving up at a more rapid rate than they had been earlier in the year or in 1971.

Diffusion of individual price changes

Approximately 120,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in December for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from table C, 77 percent of these monthly comparisons remained unchanged, 9 percent decreased, and 14 percent increased between November and December. The December index also includes 24,000 price comparisons to December from periods before November, of which 19,000 cover the quarterly span from September to December. About 11 percent of these increases compared with about 14 percent in last month's index. In addition, about 5,000 rental units were surveyed in December, and 18 percent of these reported rent increases from June.

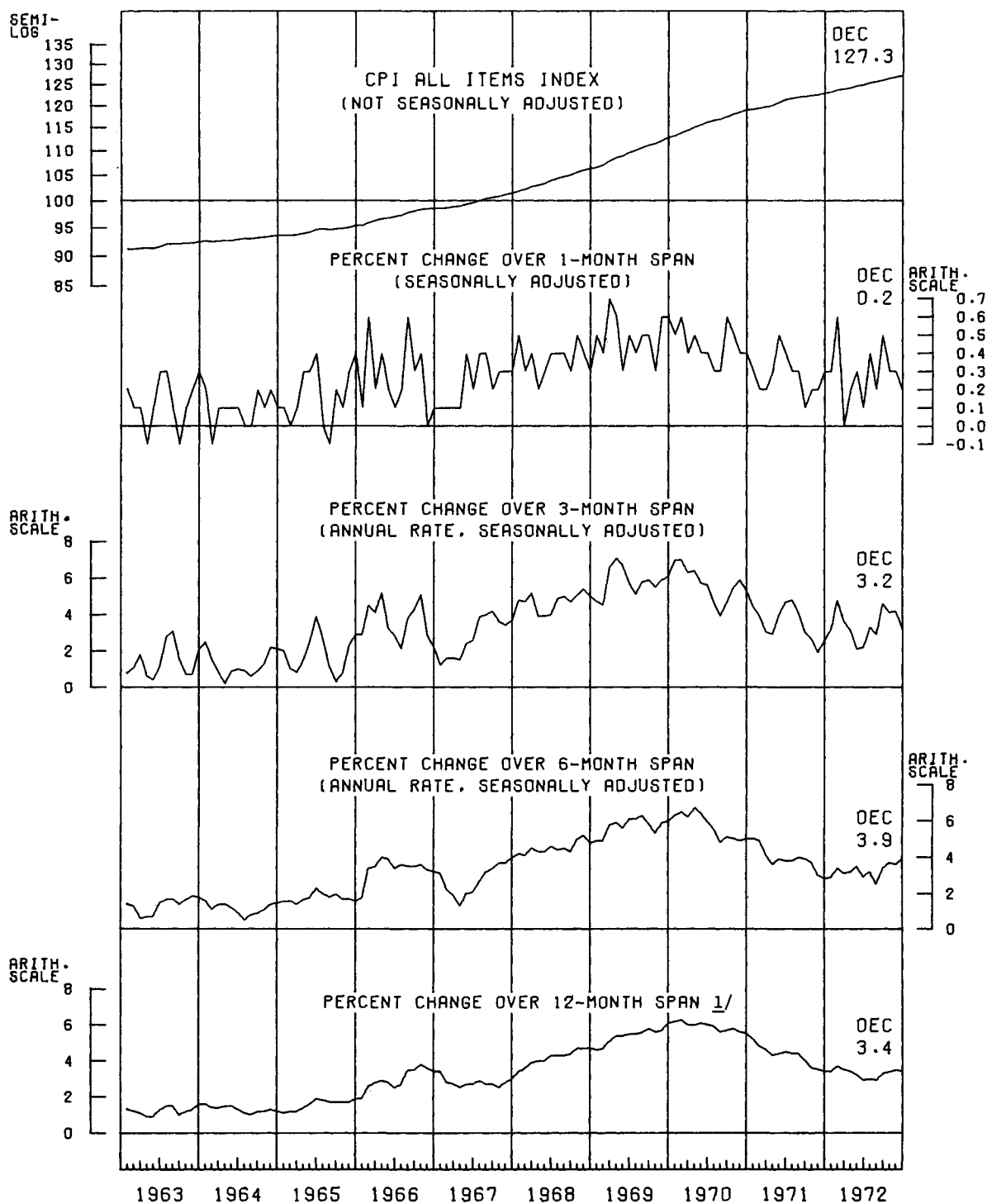
Table C. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons¹

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

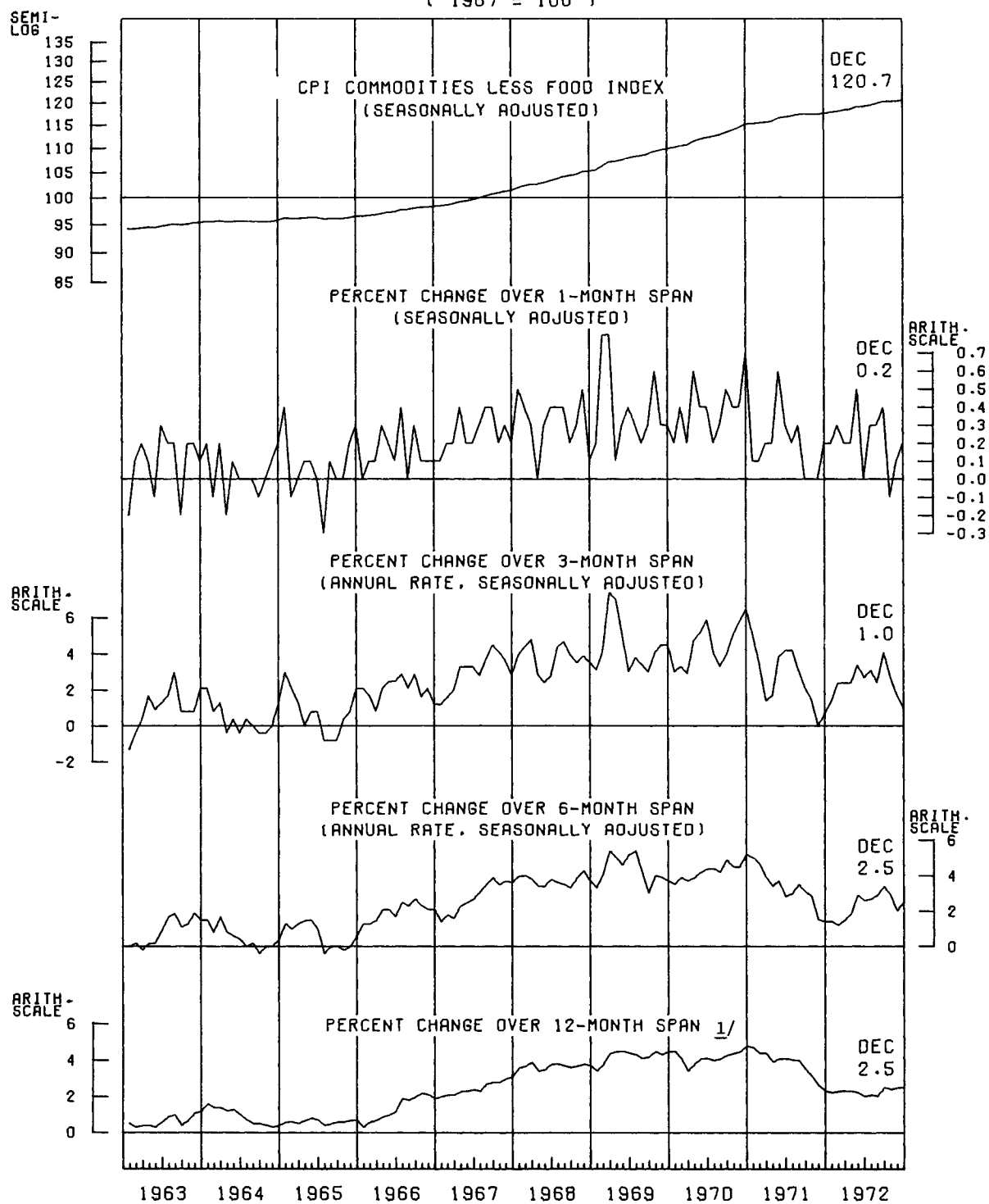
² Based on approximately 98,000 individual quotations.

CHART 1. ALL ITEMS INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1963-72
(1967 = 100)



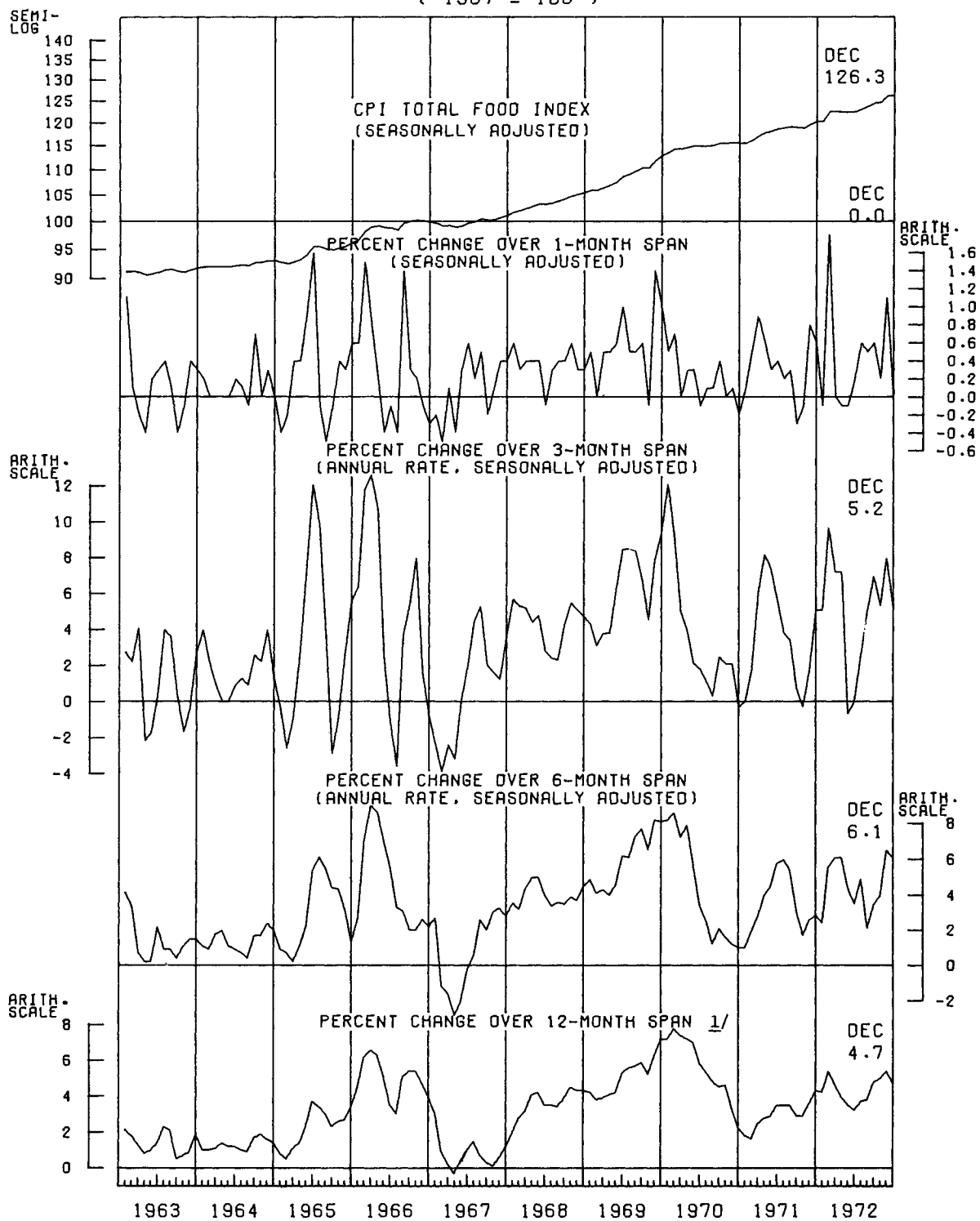
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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CHART 2. COMMODITIES LESS FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1963-72
(1967 = 100)



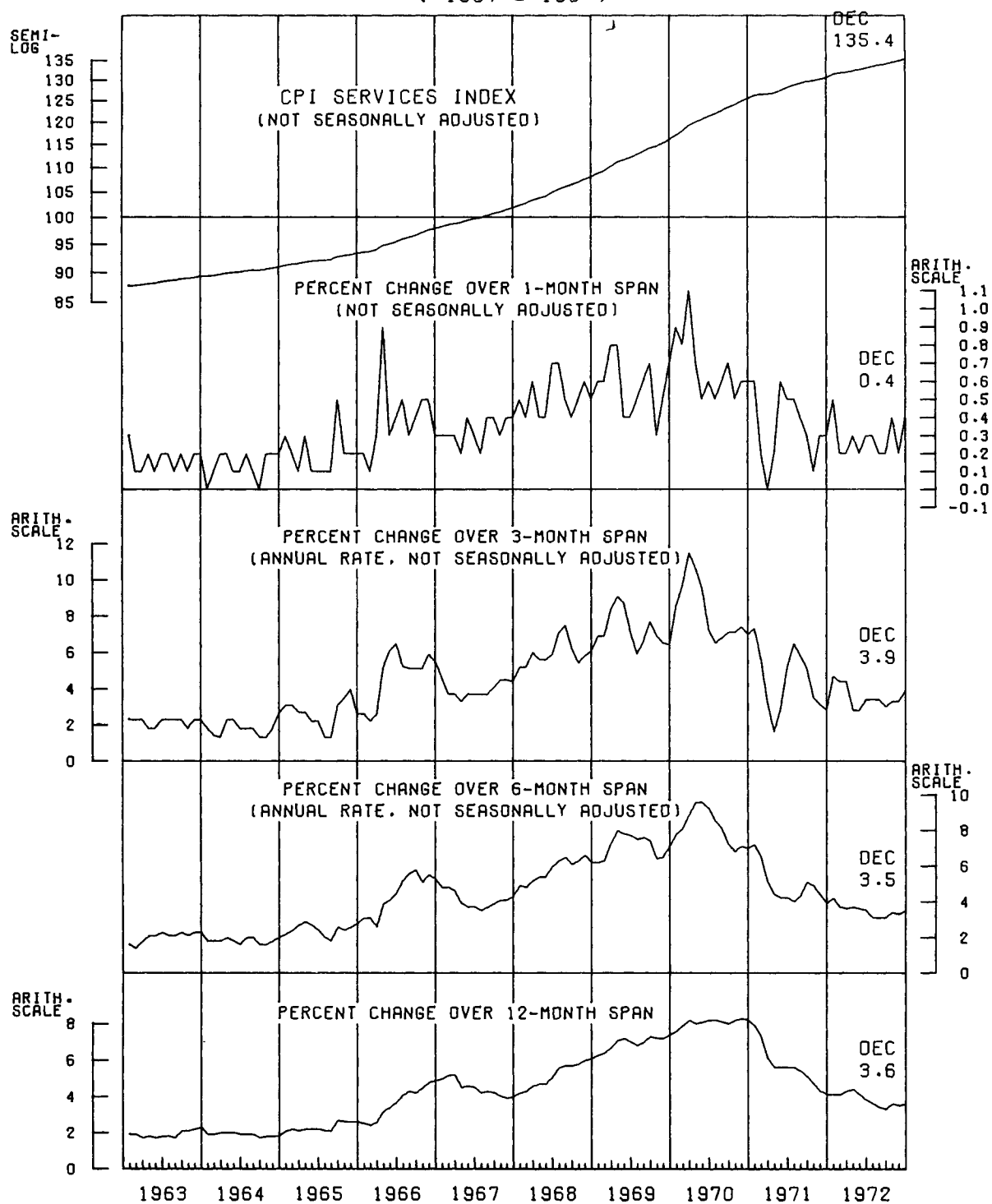
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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CHART 3. TOTAL FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1963-72
(1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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CHART 4. SERVICES INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1963-72
(1967 = 100)



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

Group	Relative importance December	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to December 1972 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from		
	1971	November 1972	December 1972	December 1971	November 1972	September to October	October to November	November to December
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.00	126.9	127.3	3.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
All items (1957-59=100)	-	147.6	148.0	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	62.59	122.7	122.9	3.4	.2	.1	.4	.1
Food	22.19	125.4	126.0	4.7	.5	.2	1.1	0
Food at home	17.23	123.4	124.1	5.0	.6	.1	1.5	0
Cereals and bakery products	2.28	115.0	115.8	1.8	.7	0	.5	.8
Meats, poultry, and fish	5.64	131.5	131.2	10.3	-.2	1.3	1.3	.1
Dairy products	2.72	117.7	118.3	1.9	.5	.2	.5	.5
Fruits and vegetables	3.03	126.5	127.3	2.3	.6	.7	.8	-.9
Other foods at home	3.56	118.1	120.2	3.1	1.8	.1	.9	.5
Food away from home	4.96	133.3	133.7	4.2	.3	.1	.4	.5
Commodities less food	40.40	121.0	121.1	2.5	.1	-.1	.1	.2
Nondurables less food	23.63	121.7	121.7	2.4	0	.1	.3	.2
Apparel commodities ¹	9.03	125.6	125.5	2.7	-.1	.6	.2	.3
Men's and boys'	2.82	124.8	124.8	2.6	0	.4	.7	.4
Women's and girls'	4.02	126.5	126.4	2.6	-.1	.7	.1	.3
Footwear	1.57	127.1	127.3	3.4	.2	.4	.4	.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.60	119.4	119.5	2.3	.1	-.1	.3	0
Gasoline and motor oil	2.92	111.1	111.2	2.6	.1	-.7	.8	0
Tobacco products	2.09	134.3	134.2	3.9	-.1	*.1	*.0	*.1
Alcoholic beverages	2.50	120.4	120.5	1.8	.1	*.1	*.1	*.1
Fuel oil and coal	.67	119.3	119.4	1.1	.1	-.1	.8	.1
Other nondurables	6.42	118.6	118.8	2.1	.2	.3	0	.2
Durables commodities	16.77	120.3	120.3	2.6	0	-.4	-.1	.3
Household durables	4.83	116.0	116.2	2.2	.2	.1	.2	.3
New cars	2.12	110.2	110.6	.2	.4	-3.9	-.6	.7
Used cars	1.98	116.0	115.0	7.3	-.9	*1.4	*.7	*.9
Other durables	7.84	127.5	127.5	2.4	.1	-.2	-.2	0
Services	37.41	134.9	135.4	3.6	.4	*.4	*.2	*.4
Rent	5.05	120.5	121.0	3.5	.4	*.3	*.2	*.4
Services less rent	32.36	137.6	138.0	3.5	.3	*.4	*.3	*.3
Household services less rent	15.36	141.3	141.9	4.3	.4	.4	.3	.6
Transportation services	5.57	136.3	136.4	1.7	.1	-.1	.1	-.1
Medical care services	5.55	140.1	140.5	3.8	.3	1.3	.3	.1
Other services	5.88	127.4	127.7	3.0	.2	.2	.4	.3
Special indexes:								
All items less food	77.81	127.4	127.6	3.0	.2	.1	.2	.3
Nondurable commodities	45.82	123.5	123.8	3.6	.2	.2	.5	.1
Apparel commodities less footwear	7.46	125.3	125.2	2.5	-.1	.7	.2	.2
Services less medical care services	31.86	134.2	134.6	3.5	.3	*.3	*.3	*.3
Insurance and finance	9.85	145.3	145.8	3.3	.3	.2	.1	.3
Utilities and public transportation	5.51	127.3	127.6	3.9	.2	.4	.5	-.1
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.46	146.3	147.4	4.4	.8	.4	.3	.8
Appliances (including radio and T. V.)	-	105.9	105.8	0	-.1	-	-	-
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.00	126.9	127.3	3.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.2
Food	22.19	125.4	126.0	4.7	.5	.2	1.1	0
Housing	33.84	130.8	131.2	3.5	.3	*.2	*.3	*.3
Shelter ²	21.72	136.2	136.8	4.0	.4	.2	0	.6
Rent	5.05	120.5	121.0	3.5	.4	*.3	*.2	*.4
Homeownership ³	16.25	142.0	142.6	4.1	.4	.2	0	.6
Fuel and utilities ⁴	4.71	121.7	121.9	3.7	.2	.2	.3	.2
Gas and electricity	2.43	122.2	122.5	3.6	.2	.2	.5	.2
Household furnishings and operation	7.41	122.1	122.3	2.3	.2	.2	.2	.2
Apparel and upkeep	10.45	125.0	125.0	2.6	0	.3	.4	.2
Transportation	13.27	121.4	121.3	2.4	-.1	-.8	.3	-.2
Private	11.80	119.0	118.9	2.2	-.1	-.9	.4	-.2
Public	1.47	144.1	144.5	3.4	.3	.6	.1	-.1
Health and recreation	19.87	127.4	127.5	2.9	.1	*.3	*.2	*.1
Medical care	6.46	134.1	134.4	3.3	.2	1.1	.2	.1
Personal care	2.58	121.0	121.5	3.1	.4	.2	.2	.4
Reading and recreation	5.71	124.1	124.0	2.4	-.1	.2	0	0
Other goods and services	5.12	126.4	126.5	2.8	.1	.1	0	.2
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	77.28	124.6	124.8	3.2	.2	.3	.4	.1
All items less medical care	93.54	126.6	126.9	3.4	.2	.2	.4	.2
All items less mortgage interest costs	96.25	126.1	126.4	3.4	.2	.2	.3	.2
CPI—domestically produced farm foods ⁵	15.28	123.1	123.8	5.0	.6	*.1	*.5	*.6
CPI—selected beef cuts ⁶	2.01	135.6	134.9	5.8	-.5	*.1	*.3	*.5
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967=\$1.00	-	\$0.788	\$0.786	-3.2	-.3	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.678	.676	-	-	-	-	-

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

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

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

Table 1-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1972 annual average index

(unadjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Group	Indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to 1972 from—
	1971 average	1972 average	
All items	121.3	125.3	3.3
All items (1957-59=100)	141.0	145.7	-
Commodities	117.4	120.9	3.0
Food	118.4	123.5	4.3
Food at home	116.4	121.6	4.5
Cereals and bakery products	113.9	114.7	.7
Meats, poultry, and fish	116.9	128.0	9.5
Dairy products	115.3	117.1	1.6
Fruits and vegetables	119.1	125.0	5.0
Other foods at home	115.9	116.7	.7
Food away from home	126.1	131.1	4.0
Commodities less food	116.8	119.4	2.2
Nondurables less food	117.0	119.8	2.4
Apparel commodities ¹	120.1	122.7	2.2
Men's and boys'	120.3	121.9	1.3
Women's and girls'	120.1	123.0	2.4
Footwear	121.5	124.9	2.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	115.2	118.2	2.6
Gasoline and motor oil	107.3	108.8	1.4
Tobacco products	126.4	133.3	5.5
Alcoholic beverages	116.9	119.6	2.3
Fuel oil and coal	117.5	118.5	.9
Other nondurables	114.9	117.8	2.5
Durables commodities	116.5	118.9	2.1
Household durables	112.9	115.0	1.9
New cars	112.0	111.0	-.9
Used cars	110.2	110.5	.3
Other durables	122.1	126.4	3.5
Services	128.4	133.3	3.8
Rent	115.2	119.2	3.5
Services less rent	130.8	135.9	3.9
Household services less rent	132.6	139.2	5.0
Transportation services	133.0	136.0	2.3
Medical care services	133.3	138.2	3.7
Other services	122.5	125.8	2.7
Special indexes:			
All items less food	122.1	125.8	3.0
Nondurable commodities	117.7	121.7	3.4
Apparel commodities less footwear	119.9	122.3	2.0
Services less medical care services	127.7	132.6	3.8
Insurance and finance	138.9	143.8	3.5
Utilities and public transportation	120.0	125.8	4.8
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	137.1	144.3	5.3
Appliances (including radio and T. V.)	105.5	105.8	.3
Expenditure classes			
All items	121.3	125.3	3.3
Food	118.4	123.5	4.3
Housing	124.3	129.2	3.9
Shelter ²	128.8	134.5	4.4
Rent	115.2	119.2	3.5
Homeownership ³	133.7	140.1	4.8
Fuel and utilities ⁴	115.0	120.1	4.4
Gas and electricity	114.7	120.5	5.1
Household furnishings and operation	118.1	121.0	2.5
Apparel and upkeep	119.8	122.3	2.1
Transportation	118.6	119.9	1.1
Private	116.6	117.5	.8
Public	137.7	143.4	4.1
Health and recreation	122.2	126.1	3.2
Medical care	128.4	132.5	3.2
Personal care	116.8	119.8	2.6
Reading and recreation	119.3	122.8	2.9
Other goods and services	120.9	125.5	3.8
Special indexes:			
All items less shelter	119.3	122.9	3.0
All items less medical care	120.9	124.9	3.3
All items less mortgage interest costs	120.3	124.4	3.4
CPI-domestically produced farm foods ⁵	(7)	121.3	-
CPI-selected beef cuts ⁶	(7)	135.3	-
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:			
1967=\$1.00	\$0.824	\$0.799	-3.0
1957-59=\$1.00	.709	.687	

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

⁴ Also includes residential telephone, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage services 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 Not available.

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

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent changes for					
					3 months ending in				6 months ending in	
	September 1972	October 1972	November 1972	December 1972	March 1972	June 1972	September 1972	December 1972	June 1972	December 1972
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	3.6	2.2	4.6	3.2	2.9	3.9
Commodities	122.1	122.2	122.7	122.8	3.8	2.0	5.4	2.3	2.9	3.9
Food	124.7	124.9	126.3	126.3	7.2	0	7.0	5.2	3.5	6.1
Food at home	122.7	122.8	124.6	124.6	7.3	-1.3	7.9	6.3	2.9	7.1
Cereals and bakery products	114.5	114.5	115.1	116.0	2.8	-0.8	-0.3	5.3	1.1	2.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	129.3	131.0	132.7	132.8	23.4	-2.5	10.9	11.3	9.7	11.1
Dairy products	116.8	117.0	117.6	118.2	5.3	-2.0	-0.3	4.9	1.6	2.2
Fruits and vegetables	128.8	129.7	130.7	129.5	-15.3	4.4	21.4	2.2	-6.1	11.4
Other foods at home	117.0	117.1	118.2	118.8	5.7	0	.7	6.3	2.8	4.2
Food away from home	132.4	132.5	133.0	133.7	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.0	4.3	4.2
Commodities less food	120.4	120.3	120.4	120.7	2.4	2.7	4.1	1.0	2.6	2.5
Nondurables less food	120.6	120.7	121.1	121.3	2.4	1.4	3.7	2.3	1.9	3.0
Apparel commodities ¹	123.1	123.8	124.1	124.5	2.7	1.0	2.6	4.6	1.8	3.6
Men's and boys'	122.4	122.9	123.7	124.2	-1.0	2.7	3.0	6.0	.8	4.5
Women's and girls'	123.3	124.2	124.3	124.7	5.4	-1.6	2.3	4.6	1.8	3.5
Footwear	125.7	126.2	126.7	127.0	2.0	3.6	3.6	4.2	2.8	3.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	119.2	119.1	119.4	119.4	2.4	1.7	4.5	.7	2.1	2.6
Gasoline and motor oil	111.3	110.5	111.4	111.4	-5.8	-0.4	17.5	.4	-3.1	8.6
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted)	134.2	134.3	134.3	134.2	10.6	4.6	.6	0	7.6	.3
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted)	120.2	120.3	120.4	120.5	1.7	.7	3.7	1.0	1.2	2.4
Fuel oil and coal	118.4	118.3	119.3	119.4	.3	.3	.3	3.4	.3	1.9
Other nondurables	118.3	118.6	118.6	118.8	1.7	3.5	1.4	1.7	2.6	1.5
Durables commodities	120.4	119.9	119.8	120.1	2.8	3.1	5.9	-1.0	2.9	2.4
Household durables	115.7	115.8	116.0	116.3	1.1	2.8	2.8	2.1	1.9	2.5
New cars	113.2	108.8	108.1	108.9	1.9	3.6	4.0	-14.4	6.4	-5.6
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted)	113.6	115.2	116.0	115.0	-11.8	35.0	5.8	5.0	9.2	5.4
Other durables	127.6	127.4	127.2	127.2	2.6	4.2	4.2	-1.2	3.4	1.4
Services (not seasonally adjusted)	134.1	134.6	134.9	135.4	4.4	3.1	3.0	3.9	3.7	3.5
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	119.9	120.3	120.5	121.0	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.7	3.6	3.4
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted)	136.7	137.2	137.6	138.0	4.0	3.3	3.0	3.9	3.6	3.4
Household services less rent	140.0	140.6	141.0	141.8	5.1	4.4	2.6	5.2	4.8	3.9
Transportation services	137.1	137.0	137.1	136.9	0	3.3	4.2	-6	1.6	1.8
Medical care services	138.5	140.3	140.7	140.9	2.7	3.9	1.8	7.1	3.3	4.4
Other services	126.6	126.9	127.4	127.8	2.3	1.6	4.2	3.8	1.9	4.0
Special indexes:										
All items less food	126.7	126.8	127.1	127.5	2.6	3.2	3.5	2.5	2.9	3.0
Nondurable commodities	122.7	123.0	123.6	123.7	4.8	.7	5.7	3.3	2.7	4.5
Apparel commodities less footwear	122.6	123.4	123.7	124.0	3.0	.3	2.3	4.6	1.7	3.5
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	133.4	133.8	134.2	134.6	3.7	3.4	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.4
Insurance and finance	144.8	145.1	145.3	145.6	3.2	4.6	2.8	2.2	3.9	2.5
Utilities and public transportation	126.6	127.1	127.7	127.6	5.3	3.9	3.2	3.2	4.6	3.2
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	145.2	145.8	146.3	147.4	3.4	4.9	3.1	6.2	4.1	4.6
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	3.6	2.2	4.6	2.9	2.9	3.7
Food	124.7	124.9	126.3	126.3	7.2	0	7.0	5.2	3.5	6.1
Housing (not seasonally adjusted)	130.1	130.4	130.8	131.2	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.1	3.5	3.4
Shelter ²	135.6	135.9	135.9	136.7	3.7	4.6	4.2	3.3	4.1	3.8
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	119.9	120.3	120.5	121.0	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.7	3.3	3.4
Homeownership ³	141.4	141.7	141.7	142.4	3.6	4.7	5.0	2.9	4.1	3.9
Fuel and utilities ⁴	120.8	121.1	121.5	121.7	5.9	3.1	2.7	3.0	4.5	2.9
Gas and electricity	121.2	121.5	122.1	122.4	4.5	3.4	2.7	4.0	3.9	3.1
Household furnishings and operation	121.6	121.9	122.1	122.4	1.3	2.4	2.7	2.7	1.8	2.7
Apparel and upkeep	122.9	123.3	123.8	124.1	1.7	1.3	3.3	4.0	1.5	3.6
Transportation	122.0	121.0	121.4	121.2	.7	2.4	9.4	-2.6	1.5	3.2
Private	119.7	118.6	119.1	118.9	-1.0	2.1	11.1	-2.6	.5	4.0
Public	144.3	145.1	145.3	145.2	2.3	2.6	6.3	2.5	2.4	4.4
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	126.8	127.2	127.4	127.5	3.6	3.6	2.2	2.2	3.6	2.2
Medical care	132.8	134.3	134.6	134.8	1.9	3.7	1.5	6.2	2.8	3.8
Personal care	120.5	120.8	121.0	121.5	2.7	4.5	1.7	3.4	3.6	2.5
Reading and recreation	123.7	124.0	124.0	124.0	2.7	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.8	2.0
Other goods and services	125.8	125.9	125.9	126.2	6.7	3.9	-6	1.3	5.3	.3
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter	123.8	124.2	124.7	124.8	3.3	2.0	4.3	3.3	2.7	3.8
All items less medical care	125.9	126.1	126.6	126.8	3.6	2.6	4.6	2.9	3.1	3.7
All items less mortgage interest costs	125.4	125.7	126.1	126.4	3.6	2.3	4.6	3.2	3.0	3.9
CPI-domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted)	122.6	122.5	123.1	123.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
CPI-selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted)	136.5	135.2	135.6	134.9	-	-	-	-	-	-

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

Table 3. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items most recent index and percent changes from selected dates

Area ¹	Pricing schedule ²	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967= 100	1957-59= 100	Other bases			
		December 1972			December 1971	September 1972	November 1972
U. S. city average	M	127.3	148.0		3.4	0.9	0.3
Chicago	M	126.1	143.3		3.1	.6	.3
Detroit	M	128.3	147.4		3.7	.8	.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach	M	124.4	146.4		3.7	.5	.1
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J.	M	133.7	159.1		4.5	.6	.3
Philadelphia	M	128.9	150.6		3.1	.4	-.1
		October 1972			October 1971	July 1972	
Boston	1	128.9	154.4		3.5	1.4	
Houston	1	126.4	144.6		3.3	1.0	
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1	127.2	147.4		3.1	1.4	
Pittsburgh	1	126.5	145.5		2.9	.8	
		November 1972			November 1971	August 1972	
Buffalo	2	128.6		³ 141.4	4.5	1.4	
Cleveland	2	127.9	144.4		2.8	1.3	
Dallas	2	125.7		³ 135.9	2.7	.2	
Milwaukee	2	125.0	141.2		3.4	.3	
San Diego	2	126.8		⁴ 133.3	5.0	1.4	
Seattle	2	121.2	142.4		3.1	1.1	
Washington	2	129.7	151.1		4.4	1.6	
		December 1972			December 1971	September 1972	
Atlanta	3	127.7	146.9		3.4	0.6	
Baltimore	3	128.0	148.6		2.3	.2	
Cincinnati	3	126.5	143.6		3.8		
Honolulu	3	124.4		⁵ 134.1	2.7	1.1	
Kansas City	3	125.5	148.9		3.4	0	
St. Louis	3	123.7	144.5		2.3	.1	
San Francisco-Oakland	3	126.3	150.2		3.9	.6	

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

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

M - Every month.

1 - January, April, July, and October.

2 - February, May, August, and November.

3 - March, June, September, and December.

³ November 1963=100.

⁴ February 1965=100.

⁵ December 1963=100.

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

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups percent changes from November 1972 to December 1972

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.3	-0.1
Food	.5	.5	.6	.4	.2	.6
Housing	.3	.7	1.2	0	.7	-.6
Apparel and upkeep	0	-.1	-.5	.3	-.2	-.2
Transportation	-.1	0	1.1	-.1	.1	.2
Health and recreation	.1	.1	0	.2	0	.1
Medical care	.2	0	-.1	.4	.7	.2
Personal care	.4	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	-.1	.2	.1	-.1	-.8	.1
Other goods and services	.1	-.4	.1	.3	.2	-.1

¹ See footnote 1, table 2.

² Not available.

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

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles— Long Beach	New York— North- eastern New Jersey	Phila- delphia
(Monthly indexes 1967= 100)						
All items	127.3	126.1	128.3	124.4	133.7	128.9
Food	126.0	126.6	125.4	122.8	130.9	126.8
Food at home	124.1	125.4	124.3	122.1	127.6	124.0
Cereals and bakery products	115.8	117.7	117.6	113.4	117.5	117.8
Meats, poultry, and fish	131.2	132.9	134.0	130.6	133.9	130.3
Dairy products	118.3	118.3	114.7	116.0	122.0	120.1
Fruits and vegetables	127.3	126.6	120.2	124.9	132.6	127.1
Other food at home	120.2	122.0	121.4	118.1	122.3	117.8
Food away from home	133.7	131.4	130.8	124.5	141.4	138.7
Housing	131.2	125.5	135.4	129.0	139.5	132.4
Shelter	136.8	129.9	145.2	131.9	147.1	141.8
Rent	121.0	(²)	121.8	(²)	131.0	(²)
Homeownership	142.6	136.8	149.9	135.7	159.4	145.9
Fuel and utilities	121.9	115.8	³ 117.8	127.9	125.2	119.1
Fuel oil and coal	119.4	114.4	113.9	-	120.4	113.8
Gas and electricity	122.5	116.0	⁴ 120.0	133.8	123.8	124.6
Household furnishings and operation	122.3	118.0	116.6	119.7	128.1	123.3
Apparel and upkeep	125.0	123.3	120.8	121.5	125.3	122.5
Men's and boys'	124.8	119.2	121.4	118.4	124.1	123.7
Women's and girls'	126.4	128.4	116.9	124.3	125.9	118.7
Footwear	127.3	121.3	127.1	126.0	126.3	129.4
Transportation	121.3	125.5	118.2	121.3	134.1	126.4
Private	118.9	120.0	115.7	121.5	126.4	123.5
Public	144.5	160.5	148.5	117.3	163.3	143.5
Health and recreation	127.5	128.6	130.5	121.7	132.5	131.7
Medical care	134.4	133.6	143.3	130.7	143.0	144.7
Personal care	121.5	123.6	(²)	117.2	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	124.0	124.4	126.0	114.1	127.8	127.5
Other goods and services	126.5	130.1	122.0	120.3	133.1	127.8
Quarterly percent changes, September 1972 to December 1972						
All items	0.9	0.6	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.4
Food	1.0	1.4	1.5	.9	.4	1.5
Food at home	1.1	1.5	1.6	.9	.4	1.6
Cereals and bakery products	1.0	2.4	.4	1.2	.3	3.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	.2	.4	.6	-2	-1	.2
Dairy products	1.2	1.5	2.0	.5	1.8	1.5
Fruits and vegetables	1.3	2.2	2.8	2.7	-1.8	1.8
Other food at home	2.2	3.0	3.1	1.5	2.2	4.1
Food away from home	.9	1.1	.8	.8	.5	.9
Housing	.8	.6	.1	.2	1.4	-.4
Shelter	.8	.5	-.2	.1	1.9	-1.1
Rent	.9	(²)	.5	(²)	⁵ 1.3	(²)
Homeownership	.8	.6	-.4	0	1.8	-1.5
Fuel and utilities	1.2	.1	.9	2.4	.2	1.1
Fuel oil and coal	1.2	.4	0	-	0	1.7
Gas and electricity	1.5	.1	1.5	2.1	.1	1.6
Household furnishings and operation	.6	.8	.3	.1	.4	.4
Apparel and upkeep	1.5	.6	.6	.3	-.4	0
Men's and boys'	1.9	.2	2.4	0	-.6	-.9
Women's and girls'	2.0	.6	-1.6	.2	-1.2	-.2
Footwear	1.3	1.5	.7	1.4	.1	.6
Transportation	.2	.1	1.5	.7	.3	.6
Private	.3	.1	1.8	.7	.3	.7
Public	.3	.1	0.0	.3	.1	.5
Health and recreation	.6	.4	.9	.5	.3	.6
Medical care	1.0	1.1	1.0	.8	1.9	.9
Personal care	.8	.7	(²)	1.7	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	.2	.2	.4	-.3	-.8	1.0
Other goods and services	.2	-.5	.5	.3	.3	0

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, December 1972 index and percent changes from September 1972—Continued

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	San Francisco—Oakland	St. Louis
(Quarterly indexes 1967=100)							
All items	127.7	128.0	126.5	124.4	125.5	126.3	123.7
Food	127.1	127.7	127.0	126.8	125.9	123.9	125.0
Food at home	125.1	126.1	126.3	124.4	124.1	122.8	122.9
Cereals and bakery products	117.9	115.1	117.1	109.1	117.8	112.8	120.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	129.5	132.2	130.9	128.1	129.7	129.1	127.3
Dairy products	121.5	120.5	122.3	120.7	127.3	116.9	120.8
Fruits and vegetables	135.0	130.8	131.1	139.5	119.6	124.6	127.2
Other food at home	120.1	123.3	123.4	119.2	121.0	121.9	115.9
Food away from home	133.4	134.0	129.5	133.5	131.8	127.7	134.8
Housing	134.3	132.5	125.8	126.0	127.2	132.2	123.2
Shelter	139.6	140.4	130.3	132.0	132.7	137.2	125.0
Rent	118.0	113.9	110.4	129.3	111.5	130.5	109.4
Homeownership	146.1	151.5	139.5	133.8	141.0	140.6	129.4
Fuel and utilities	127.3	119.0	123.6	110.8	118.4	123.8	119.9
Fuel oil and coal	-	115.5	-	-	-	-	⁶ 123.4
Gas and electricity	123.2	121.0	121.0	106.2	117.3	119.1	121.4
Household furnishings and operation	126.3	123.6	115.3	114.7	118.4	120.3	121.3
Apparel and upkeep	121.2	124.1	125.1	120.7	129.0	124.1	120.5
Men's and boys'	128.7	126.7	124.5	114.5	124.3	124.2	114.8
Women's and girls'	117.8	117.4	123.9	123.8	135.3	126.1	122.6
Footwear	116.3	135.1	134.4	115.5	130.6	124.1	129.1
Transportation	115.5	117.9	126.0	123.1	⁷ 120.5	122.2	⁹ 122.6
Private	118.3	117.3	118.9	125.0	⁸ 119.2	121.5	¹⁰ 120.5
Public	79.2	121.6	181.2	113.0	141.3	133.6	145.3
Health and recreation	129.8	130.3	128.2	122.2	125.8	122.9	124.8
Medical care	141.3	145.6	138.1	129.9	131.8	129.4	126.7
Personal care	125.4	122.1	129.8	121.1	121.2	119.2	125.7
Reading and recreation	125.6	126.9	119.6	121.6	118.5	119.3	120.0
Other goods and services	119.9	123.5	126.0	114.8	129.9	119.3	126.9
Quarterly percent changes, September 1972 to December 1972							
All items	0.6	0.2	0.2	1.1	0.0	0.6	0.1
Food	.7	1.0	1.0	2.4	.7	1.0	1.0
Food at home	.6	1.0	1.0	2.7	.6	1.1	.9
Cereals and bakery products	.2	1.2	-.3	2.9	.4	.4	.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	-.2	1.5	0	.4	0	-.1	.6
Dairy products	2.8	1.1	3.2	1.3	.9	.7	.3
Fruits and vegetables	.1	-2.2	1.0	9.6	-.6	3.7	.7
Other food at home	1.5	3.0	2.2	1.4	2.3	1.6	2.7
Food away from home	.8	1.1	.6	1.4	.9	.6	1.3
Housing	.6	-.3	-.3	1.3	-.5	.4	-.9
Shelter	.3	-.9	-1.1	1.7	-1.2	.4	-2.1
Rent	.3	.4	.4	.6	.5	.3	.4
Homeownership	.2	-1.4	-1.7	2.4	-1.6	.4	-2.7
Fuel and utilities	2.2	1.4	1.7	0	1.6	.3	1.0
Fuel oil and coal	-	.5	-	-	-	-	.4
Gas and electricity	.5	2.8	2.7	.1	2.4	.7	1.4
Household furnishings and operation	.6	.4	.8	.5	.2	.4	.6
Apparel and upkeep	0	-.2	.6	-.2	-.7	0	-.3
Men's and boys'	2.2	-1.2	.2	.4	.1	.2	-1.1
Women's and girls'	-1.3	-.7	.6	-.8	-1.8	-.9	-.6
Footwear	-.9	.3	1.5	-.4	-1.4	.6	.9
Transportation	.8	.3	-.9	0	.2	.1	.7
Private	.9	.3	-1.2	0	.3	.1	.8
Public	0	.1	1.3	0	0	.1	0
Health and recreation	.7	.3	.6	.6	.6	.9	.4
Medical care	.6	.8	.9	1.5	1.7	1.0	.4
Personal care	.7	-.1	2.5	.8	-.3	2.7	1.7
Reading and recreation	1.4	-.1	.2	-.8	.3	.5	.1
Other goods and services	-.1	.5	0	1.1	-.2	0	.1

¹ See footnote 1, table 2.

² Not available.

³ Revised index: November 1972, 117.8.

⁴ Revised index: November 1972, 120.0.

⁵ Change from October 1972.

⁶ Revised index: September 1972, 122.9

⁷ Revised index: June 1972, 119.2; September 1972, 120.2.

⁸ Revised index: June 1972, 117.6; September 1972, 118.9.

⁹ Revised index: June 1972, 119.9; September 1972, 121.7.

¹⁰ Revised index: June 1972, 117.7; September 1972, 119.6.

Table 5-A. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1972 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1971-72

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles- Long Beach	New York- North- eastern New Jersey	Phila- delphia
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items	125.3	124.3	126.2	131.4	122.3	127.0
All items (1957-59=100)	145.7	141.2	145.0	143.8	156.4	148.3
Food	123.5	123.9	122.9	128.6	120.4	124.4
Food at home	121.6	122.6	121.6	125.5	119.5	121.5
Cereals and bakery products	114.7	115.8	115.8	116.9	111.7	115.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	128.0	129.7	131.2	131.4	127.8	127.2
Dairy products	117.1	116.8	114.7	120.4	115.0	119.4
Fruits and vegetables	125.0	124.7	118.4	131.6	121.1	124.6
Other foods at home	116.7	117.3	116.1	118.5	114.8	115.0
Food away from home	131.1	129.0	128.6	138.6	122.7	136.4
Housing	129.2	124.3	133.3	136.4	127.1	130.6
Shelter	134.5	128.6	143.1	142.9	130.1	139.7
Rent	119.2	-	120.2	127.2	-	-
Homeownership	140.1	135.5	147.7	154.8	133.7	143.7
Fuel and utilities	120.1	115.4	115.5	124.2	123.9	117.5
Fuel oil and coal	118.5	113.7	113.9	120.4	-	112.3
Gas and electricity	120.5	115.8	117.0	122.2	130.1	122.5
Household furnishings and operation	121.0	116.9	115.1	126.7	118.0	121.9
Apparel and upkeep	122.3	119.7	118.3	123.0	120.0	120.0
Men's and boys'	121.9	116.9	117.3	121.9	117.0	122.0
Women's and girls'	123.0	122.6	115.5	123.1	123.1	115.4
Footwear	124.9	118.2	124.8	124.3	123.4	126.1
Transportation	119.9	124.2	116.5	133.0	117.6	125.1
Private	117.5	118.4	113.9	125.2	117.6	122.1
Public	143.4	160.8	148.5	162.8	116.2	142.6
Health and recreation	126.1	127.3	128.7	130.9	120.4	130.0
Medical care	132.5	131.5	141.4	140.2	128.7	142.1
Personal care	119.8	120.8	-	-	115.2	-
Reading and recreation	122.8	123.5	124.1	127.2	113.7	126.1
Other goods and services	125.5	130.5	121.5	131.1	119.2	126.2
Percent changes 1971-72						
All items	3.3	2.9	3.7	3.2	4.4	2.8
Food	4.3	4.6	4.8	4.8	4.5	3.6
Food at home	4.5	4.9	4.7	5.1	4.3	3.1
Cereals and bakery products	-7	-1.2	1.1	1.0	1.7	-2.2
Meats, poultry, and fish	9.5	10.6	10.2	10.8	7.8	8.3
Dairy products	1.6	2.2	1.1	1.4	1.9	.8
Fruits and vegetables	5.0	5.2	3.0	5.3	5.6	4.4
Other foods at home	.7	.6	1.5	1.8	-.3	-1.5
Food away from home	4.0	3.2	4.3	4.0	5.0	5.1
Housing	3.9	3.3	3.9	3.6	6.0	3.8
Shelter	4.4	3.7	4.2	3.5	7.0	4.7
Rent	3.5	-	3.3	-	6.6	-
Homeownership	4.8	4.2	4.5	4.0	7.4	4.8
Fuel and utilities	4.4	3.6	4.2	5.8	6.4	3.8
Fuel oil and coal	.9	.4	.2	-	1.1	-2.2
Gas and electricity	5.1	6.0	4.9	6.2	9.0	6.1
Household furnishings and operation	2.5	2.1	2.2	2.9	3.1	1.5
Apparel and upkeep	2.1	2.0	2.4	1.7	2.1	0.7
Men's and boys'	1.3	-.5	0	.3	-.7	0.7
Women's and girls'	2.4	3.3	3.9	1.7	4.4	-1.2
Footwear	2.8	1.5	3.5	3.4	3.2	3.2
Transportation	1.1	-1.0	1.7	2.3	3.1	1.6
Private	.8	-1.3	1.9	2.3	.6	1.5
Public	4.1	0	.1	2.7	10.9	2.3
Health and recreation	3.2	3.5	4.3	2.4	3.9	2.4
Medical care	3.2	2.4	5.4	2.4	3.2	3.4
Personal care	2.6	3.0	-	2.3	-	-
Reading and recreation	2.9	3.7	3.5	2.2	3.0	2.4
Other goods and services	3.8	4.8	3.2	2.6	5.8	1.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5-A. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1972 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1971-72—Continued

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	St. Louis	San Francisco-Oakland
Indexes (1967= 100)							
All items	125.5	126.3	124.7	122.8	124.0	122.3	124.3
All items (1957-59= 100)	144.3	146.6	141.5	132.3	147.2	142.8	147.9
Food	124.4	124.7	124.5	123.2	123.6	122.5	121.4
Food at home	122.2	122.8	123.5	120.5	121.7	120.3	120.2
Cereals and bakery products	117.2	114.2	116.4	106.1	116.9	120.0	112.4
Meats, poultry, and fish	126.0	127.4	127.1	124.7	126.8	123.4	126.8
Dairy products	118.6	119.2	119.9	118.3	126.2	119.8	115.6
Fruits and vegetables	132.0	128.7	129.7	130.6	118.4	125.5	121.1
Other foods at home	116.9	118.9	119.3	117.3	116.8	112.1	117.1
Food away from home	131.4	132.1	128.1	130.8	129.7	132.5	125.7
Housing	131.8	130.9	124.5	124.3	126.1	122.4	130.5
Shelter	136.8	138.5	129.1	129.6	131.8	124.7	135.4
Rent	117.0	112.6	109.6	127.7	110.7	108.6	129.2
Homeownership	142.8	149.3	138.1	130.9	140.0	129.2	138.5
Fuel and utilities	125.2	117.4	121.7	110.1	115.7	118.0	121.3
Fuel oil and coal	-	115.0	-	-	-	120.8	-
Gas and electricity	123.0	118.0	118.5	104.9	115.6	120.8	118.2
Household furnishings and operation	124.4	122.7	114.2	114.5	117.6	120.3	119.0
Apparel and upkeep	118.7	123.8	122.9	120.5	127.5	120.3	121.7
Men's and boys'	123.7	128.0	123.6	113.9	124.8	115.8	121.7
Women's and girls'	114.6	117.9	119.9	124.3	131.9	122.6	123.1
Footwear	116.8	131.4	131.6	115.3	130.3	127.0	122.3
Transportation	113.9	116.7	123.8	123.0	118.4	120.1	120.4
Private	116.2	115.9	117.7	124.8	117.1	117.9	119.6
Public	83.8	121.4	169.9	112.9	139.5	145.3	133.9
Health and recreation	128.3	128.4	126.8	121.2	124.6	123.7	121.0
Medical care	139.6	142.5	136.5	127.5	129.1	125.8	127.1
Personal care	124.1	121.1	125.7	120.4	121.3	123.5	116.1
Reading and recreation	123.5	125.8	119.2	121.8	117.8	118.4	117.5
Other goods and services	119.4	121.3	124.9	113.9	129.5	126.8	118.8
Percent changes 1971-72							
All items	3.1	2.4	3.3	3.3	2.9	2.3	3.5
Food	5.3	3.1	5.2	4.3	4.2	3.8	4.6
Food at home	5.7	3.0	5.6	4.8	4.8	4.0	5.1
Cereals and bakery products	3.7	-1.8	3.0	1.1	1.0	.3	2.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	11.0	6.3	10.5	7.1	10.1	9.0	9.6
Dairy products	2.5	1.6	2.4	3.7	3.2	1.8	2.3
Fruits and vegetables	6.4	5.4	6.9	4.2	4.8	3.4	3.6
Other foods at home	1.7	-3	.7	4.3	1.3	1.0	2.3
Food away from home	4.2	3.4	3.7	3.1	2.4	2.8	3.1
Housing	3.8	3.2	2.7	3.3	3.6	2.4	4.3
Shelter	4.0	3.4	2.9	3.6	4.4	2.1	4.5
Rent	2.8	2.2	1.4	3.0	1.6	.9	3.0
Homeownership	4.3	3.8	3.4	4.1	5.4	2.5	5.2
Fuel and utilities	4.8	4.4	4.0	2.7	2.5	4.0	6.7
Fuel oil and coal	-	0	-	-	-	3.2	-
Gas and electricity	5.5	4.9	5.2	.7	2.0	5.0	3.0
Household furnishings and operation	3.2	2.1	1.5	2.3	1.8	2.2	2.6
Apparel and upkeep	2.3	.3	.5	2.5	2.5	1.0	2.3
Men's and boys'	3.3	-2	-8	2.2	-1.0	.2	1.9
Women's and girls'	.8	-1.3	.7	2.3	4.8	0	2.3
Footwear	3.1	3.5	2.2	.2	3.4	3.9	2.3
Transportation	-1.1	-.7	3.2	2.0	0	.7	2.0
Private	2.4	-1.0	1.3	1.8	-.4	.8	2.2
Public	-39.8	1.3	13.3	3.2	-6.4	.3	.5
Health and recreation	3.1	3.0	3.6	2.5	3.2	1.6	2.5
Medical care	2.6	4.9	3.6	2.2	3.8	1.9	3.2
Personal care	2.7	2.3	4.7	2.6	3.1	1.9	1.9
Reading and recreation	3.3	2.4	1.6	4.0	2.8	2.6	3.0
Other goods and services	3.8	2.1	4.7	.6	3.3	.2	1.2

¹ See footnote 1, table 2.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, December 1972, and percent changes from November 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	126.0	124.1	115.8	131.2	118.3	127.3	120.2	133.7
Atlanta	127.1	125.1	117.9	129.5	121.5	135.0	120.1	133.4
Baltimore	127.7	126.1	115.1	132.2	120.5	130.8	123.3	134.0
Boston	126.1	124.5	116.5	132.4	119.2	126.0	119.9	132.0
Buffalo	125.4	123.9	115.8	129.2	117.3	130.0	120.8	133.6
Chicago	126.6	125.4	117.7	132.9	118.3	126.6	122.0	131.4
Cincinnati	127.0	126.3	117.1	130.9	122.3	131.1	123.4	129.5
Cleveland	126.1	125.4	114.0	132.8	122.4	126.7	121.9	130.2
Dallas	125.5	122.5	113.5	131.1	110.7	126.7	119.5	136.5
Detroit	125.4	124.3	117.6	134.0	114.7	120.2	121.4	130.8
Honolulu	126.8	124.4	109.1	128.1	120.7	139.5	119.2	133.5
Houston	128.3	123.8	110.6	132.2	119.3	128.3	119.9	144.1
Kansas City	125.9	124.1	117.8	129.7	127.3	119.6	121.0	131.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach	122.8	122.1	113.4	130.6	116.0	124.9	118.1	124.5
Milwaukee	123.0	121.1	115.7	129.7	115.2	121.3	115.8	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul	127.8	126.1	122.8	135.4	120.4	124.6	122.4	135.4
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J.	130.9	127.6	117.5	133.9	122.0	132.6	122.3	141.4
Philadelphia	126.8	124.0	117.8	130.3	120.1	127.1	117.8	138.7
Pittsburgh	125.1	123.2	112.5	129.9	116.4	128.3	120.6	136.7
St. Louis	125.0	122.9	120.6	127.3	120.8	127.2	115.9	134.8
San Diego	125.6	122.8	113.2	134.7	115.2	121.9	117.1	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland	123.9	122.8	112.8	129.1	116.9	124.6	121.9	127.7
Seattle	123.4	121.8	112.8	128.6	117.3	122.4	120.4	128.5
Washington	128.9	124.6	119.8	126.1	113.5	135.1	124.9	139.9
		Percent changes November 1972 to December 1972						
U.S. city average	0.5	0.6	0.7	-0.2	0.5	0.6	1.8	0.3
Atlanta	.0	-.1	.3	-1.4	.2	-.5	1.5	.3
Baltimore	.6	.6	1.5	.2	.6	-.4	1.9	.4
Boston	.2	.2	.5	-.7	.5	-.9	2.3	.2
Buffalo	.5	.6	1.1	-.9	.5	2.4	1.0	.0
Chicago	.5	.6	1.6	-.2	-.1	.6	2.3	.2
Cincinnati	.6	.6	.7	.4	1.0	-.5	2.2	.3
Cleveland	.4	.4	2.2	-.3	.2	-2.5	3.0	.3
Dallas	.5	.6	.4	-.5	.5	.7	2.4	.1
Detroit	.6	.6	.5	-.6	.3	1.9	2.2	.4
Honolulu	1.6	1.8	3.0	.3	.9	4.9	1.4	.8
Houston	.4	.5	.2	.6	-.3	-.4	1.6	.1
Kansas City	.6	.6	.5	.5	.6	-.7	1.7	.6
Los Angeles-Long Beach	.4	.5	.8	-.3	.2	.6	1.7	.2
Milwaukee	.3	.4	.5	-.6	-.3	.9	1.9	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul	1.0	1.2	.3	.7	1.9	1.9	1.2	.3
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J.	.2	.2	-.3	.1	1.4	-1.4	1.5	.2
Philadelphia	.6	.6	1.5	.2	-.1	.0	2.1	.5
Pittsburgh	1.0	1.1	1.2	-.9	.1	.7	2.0	.7
St. Louis	.6	.5	.2	-.3	.1	.9	2.1	.8
San Diego	.2	.2	.4	-.4	-.1	-.5	2.3	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland	.6	.7	.5	.2	-.1	1.2	2.4	.2
Seattle	.7	1.0	.1	.3	.1	2.4	2.0	.0
Washington	-.2	-.2	.9	-.9	.2	-2.4	1.6	-.1

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, December 1972 indexes and percent changes from selected dates

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to December 1972 from—		
	December 1972		December 1971	November 1972	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	126.0	126.3	4.7	0.5	0.0
Food away from home	133.7	133.7	4.2	.3	.5
Restaurant meals	133.9	133.8	4.6	.3	.5
Snacks	132.7	132.7	2.4	.2	.3
Food at home	124.1	124.6	5.0	.6	0
Cereals and bakery products	115.8	116.0	1.8	.7	.8
Flour	103.1	103.7	2.6	1.6	2.1
Cracker meal	99.1	136.6	3.2	.4	.5
Corn flakes	111.1	98.9	-3.8	-.6	-.7
Rice	114.3	111.4	1.2	1.4	1.3
Bread, white	114.3	114.5	2.6	1.0	1.2
Bread, whole wheat	121.4	121.2	2.4	.4	.6
Cookies	110.9	111.2	1.5	.7	.3
Layer cakes	120.1	119.9	-.6	0	-.3
Cinnamon rolls	123.1	123.7	3.9	.8	1.2
Meats, poultry, and fish	131.2	132.8	10.3	-.2	.1
Meats	132.5	134.2	11.3	-.3	.3
Beef and veal	136.8	139.0	6.9	-.7	0
Steak, round	133.3	133.4	5.5	-.7	.7
Steak, sirloin	130.2	133.5	3.7	-1.5	-.6
Steak, porterhouse	133.7	137.0	4.9	-1.3	-.4
Rump roast	132.4	135.1	6.4	-.4	.7
Rib roast	136.9	137.9	3.9	.4	.1
Chuck roast	134.6	136.8	4.4	0	.3
Hamburger	138.5	139.6	7.3	-.4	-.2
Beef liver	134.1	134.9	17.0	-.6	-.3
Veal cutlets	165.0	167.0	11.5	-1.6	-1.1
Pork	128.4	130.5	19.8	-.2	.5
Chops	128.3	131.5	15.4	-1.3	-.4
Loin roast	128.6	131.0	17.2	-1.4	-.5
Pork sausage	136.8	138.5	22.8	-.4	1.3
Ham, whole	125.6	123.9	18.6	4.4	2.4
Picnics	126.9	127.4	14.0	-.5	-.8
Bacon	125.7	129.1	29.2	-.2	1.3
Other meats	129.3	129.7	10.9	.3	.5
Lamb chops	131.5	132.3	5.7	-.6	-.4
Frankfurters	129.0	129.6	12.0	-.5	0
Ham, canned	125.0	125.4	16.0	2.4	2.7
Bologna sausage	134.3	134.7	11.8	.5	.6
Salami sausage	131.9	132.0	12.4	-.3	-.3
Liverwurst	124.1	124.6	8.8	.6	.6
Poultry	110.2	112.9	2.5	0	.6
Frying chicken	109.2	112.6	2.8	.3	.7
Chicken breasts	113.8	114.8	3.6	-.5	-.9
Turkey	111.7	113.1	.3	-.8	1.3
Fish	148.6	148.7	11.6	.4	.2
Shrimp, frozen	140.8	141.4	16.9	-.6	-.8
Fish, fresh or frozen	165.2	165.7	15.8	.9	.4
Tuna fish, canned	135.7	136.1	5.4	.7	.4
Sardines, canned	152.6	151.8	8.3	.6	.3
Dairy products	118.3	118.2	1.9	.5	.5
Milk, fresh, grocery	117.0	116.9	1.6	.6	.8
Milk, fresh, delivered	121.7	121.5	2.7	.4	.3
Milk, fresh, skim	123.4	123.3	2.7	.6	.5
Milk, evaporated	121.7	122.1	.9	.4	.8
Ice cream	106.2	105.9	-.9	-.5	-.7
Cheese, American process	127.6	127.9	4.5	.9	.9
Butter	105.4	105.3	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, December 1972 indexes and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to December 1972 from—		
	December 1972		December 1971	November 1972	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Fruits and vegetables	127.3	129.5	2.3	0.6	-0.9
Fresh fruits and vegetables	130.6	134.9	1.9	.8	-1.2
Fresh fruits	120.5	130.3	7.4	-1.7	.5
Apples	117.3	134.8	14.9	3.9	.3
Bananas	97.3	103.8	5.5	-2.7	.3
Oranges	119.8	119.7	-6.7	-7.2	-1.3
Orange juice, fresh	131.3	131.0	.6	.5	.8
Grapefruit	130.5	148.6	8.2	-4.7	-2.0
Grapes	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	138.9	137.5	-1.7	2.8	-3.8
Potatoes	136.3	145.2	21.3	.8	-.1
Onions	143.5	153.8	36.0	1.8	1.7
Asparagus	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	126.0	127.0	-20.4	1.1	-7.0
Carrots	144.5	140.7	7.7	7.4	-.7
Celery	136.0	137.8	-15.7	1.6	1.4
Cucumbers	110.0	106.3	-12.1	12.1	-7.8
Lettuce	149.5	129.3	-13.6	7.9	2.8
Peppers, green	120.2	122.3	-18.9	-1.0	-13.8
Spinach	145.0	143.1	3.6	2.7	-.8
Tomatoes	146.2	119.4	-13.5	-1.7	-23.1
Processed fruits and vegetables	122.4	122.2	3.0	.2	.1
Fruit cocktail, canned	123.3	122.6	2.6	.2	-.2
Pears, canned	120.5	120.6	3.4	-.2	-.1
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	116.3	116.2	1.7	-.3	.2
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	136.1	136.8	.4	-.2	.1
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	119.3	118.5	2.1	0	-.8
Beets, canned	127.4	127.7	8.9	1.1	1.3
Peas, green, canned	107.2	106.6	-1.3	-.5	-.6
Tomatoes, canned	119.4	119.3	3.7	.8	.5
Dried beans	141.0	140.7	5.9	.4	.1
Broccoli, frozen	118.8	118.9	.8	.4	.2
Other food at home	120.2	118.8	3.1	1.8	.5
Eggs	128.0	118.1	15.8	12.7	3.4
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	116.7	116.4	-.8	-.3	-.9
Salad dressing, Italian	109.6	109.7	-1.2	-.1	-.1
Salad or cooking oil	119.2	119.7	-3.5	-.2	-.1
Sugar and sweets	121.4	121.4	1.1	.2	.2
Sugar	116.5	116.6	2.6	.6	.8
Grape jelly	126.2	126.1	3.8	.3	0
Chocolate bar	130.9	130.2	-.3	.1	-.2
Syrup, chocolate flavored	111.1	111.5	-1.4	.2	0
Nonalcoholic beverages	123.1	123.3	2.2	.2	.3
Coffee, can and bag	123.1	123.3	3.9	.2	.4
Coffee, instant	124.3	124.1	-.6	.6	.5
Tea	109.8	110.0	3.6	.3	.4
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	129.1	129.5	1.6	-.2	0
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	128.0	128.4	.1	-.2	.1
Prepared and partially prepared foods	115.7	115.8	2.1	.3	.3
Bean soup, canned	116.6	116.7	1.7	.1	-.2
Chicken soup, canned	104.8	104.9	-.9	.1	0
Spaghetti, canned	122.2	122.0	4.0	.2	.2
Mashed potatoes, instant	112.8	113.1	1.6	.4	.5
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	111.9	112.3	2.4	.4	.4
Baby foods	109.8	109.6	-1.2	.2	.2
Sweet pickle relish	129.9	129.6	7.2	.8	.9
Pretzels	115.0	115.2	.4	-.2	-.2

¹ Priced only in season.

Table 7-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items 1972 annual average indexes and percent changes from 1971 to 1972

(1967=100)

Item and group	Indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to 1972 from— 1971 average
	1971 average	1972 average	
Food	118.4	123.5	4.3
Food away from home	126.1	131.1	4.0
Restaurant meals	125.8	131.1	4.2
Snacks	127.5	131.2	2.9
Food at home	116.4	121.6	4.5
Cereals and bakery products	113.9	114.7	.7
Flour	101.0	100.4	-.6
Cracker meal	129.8	135.3	4.2
Corn flakes	107.3	100.6	-6.2
Rice	109.4	109.9	.5
Bread, white	112.3	113.0	.6
Bread, whole wheat	117.5	120.1	2.2
Cookies	108.7	110.2	1.4
Layer cakes	120.1	120.0	-.1
Cinnamon rolls	118.2	120.7	2.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	116.9	128.0	9.5
Meats	116.7	129.2	10.7
Beef and veal	124.9	136.6	9.4
Steak, round	123.5	134.2	8.7
Steak, sirloin	122.8	132.1	7.6
Steak, porterhouse	124.1	134.7	8.5
Rump roast	122.4	133.0	8.7
Rib roast	126.2	138.1	9.4
Chuck roast	124.4	136.2	9.5
Hamburger	126.2	137.4	8.9
Beef liver	113.7	129.4	13.8
Veal cutlets	141.7	161.6	14.0
Pork	105.0	121.6	15.8
Chops	107.4	123.7	15.2
Loin roast	106.6	123.3	15.7
Pork sausage	111.4	128.4	15.3
Ham, whole	103.9	114.9	10.6
Picnics	108.0	123.9	14.7
Bacon	96.6	116.9	21.0
Other meats	115.6	124.0	7.3
Lamb chops	121.5	129.3	6.4
Frankfurters	115.1	124.7	8.3
Ham, canned	107.2	115.2	7.5
Bologna sausage	118.8	129.1	8.7
Salami sausage	116.3	126.0	8.3
Liverwurst	114.3	119.6	4.6
Poultry	109.0	110.4	1.3
Frying chicken	108.5	109.6	1.0
Chicken breasts	109.5	113.1	3.3
Turkey	111.1	111.8	.6
Fish	130.2	141.9	9.0
Shrimp, frozen	117.6	134.9	14.7
Fish, fresh or frozen	140.2	152.3	8.6
Tuna fish, canned	128.4	133.0	3.6
Sardines, canned	134.7	147.3	9.4
Dairy products	115.3	117.1	1.6
Milk, fresh, grocery	114.6	116.3	1.5
Milk, fresh, delivered	117.6	120.3	2.3
Milk, fresh, skim	119.7	121.9	1.8
Milk, evaporated	118.6	120.0	1.2
Ice cream	106.2	106.5	.3
Cheese, American process	121.0	124.7	3.1
Butter	105.8	105.3	-.5

Table 7-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items 1972 annual average indexes and percent changes from 1971 to 1972—Continued

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Indexes (1967= 100)		Percent change to 1972 from— 1971 average
	1971 average	1972 average	
Fruits and vegetables	119.1	125.0	5.0
Fresh fruits and vegetables	121.0	128.0	5.8
Fresh fruits	117.5	123.9	5.4
Apples	114.2	121.6	6.5
Bananas	95.5	101.6	6.4
Oranges	125.5	125.4	-.1
Orange juice, fresh	124.3	130.8	5.2
Grapefruit	135.7	144.8	6.7
Grapes	143.8	163.0	13.4
Strawberries	114.1	112.5	-1.4
Watermelon	141.7	130.0	-8.3
Fresh vegetables	123.9	131.5	6.1
Potatoes	117.3	126.6	7.9
Onions	104.4	128.8	23.4
Asparagus	131.0	141.8	8.2
Cabbage	122.2	129.3	5.8
Carrots	129.9	135.5	4.3
Celery	118.5	143.4	21.0
Cucumbers	120.1	122.1	1.7
Lettuce	124.1	124.7	.5
Peppers, green	142.9	136.9	-4.2
Spinach	129.2	139.6	8.0
Tomatoes	131.8	132.7	.7
Processed fruits and vegetables	116.2	120.5	3.7
Fruit cocktail, canned	117.9	121.7	3.2
Pears, canned	116.7	118.3	1.4
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	113.6	115.3	1.5
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	127.2	136.0	6.9
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	113.9	117.4	3.1
Beets, canned	115.1	122.0	6.0
Peas, green, canned	106.6	107.7	1.0
Tomatoes, canned	115.6	116.6	.9
Dried beans	122.8	137.9	12.3
Broccoli, frozen	117.7	118.5	.7
Other food at home	115.9	116.7	.7
Eggs	108.4	107.7	-.6
Fats and oils:			
Margarine	116.0	117.6	1.4
Salad dressing, Italian	109.3	110.0	.6
Salad or cooking oil	120.1	121.4	1.1
Sugar and sweets	119.3	120.9	1.3
Sugar	112.5	115.0	2.2
Grape jelly	119.3	124.8	4.6
Chocolate bar	130.9	130.7	-.2
Syrup, chocolate flavored	113.2	111.8	-1.2
Nonalcoholic beverages	121.6	121.3	-.2
Coffee, can and bag	121.8	119.4	-2.0
Coffee, instant	124.7	124.1	-.5
Tea	107.6	108.7	1.0
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	125.9	128.3	1.9
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	126.4	128.0	1.3
Prepared and partially prepared foods	112.7	114.7	1.8
Bean soup, canned	114.1	116.1	1.8
Chicken soup, canned	106.4	105.3	-1.0
Spaghetti, canned	117.3	119.6	2.0
Mashed potatoes, instant	110.8	112.1	1.2
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	110.1	110.9	.7
Baby foods	110.9	110.6	-.3
Sweet pickle relish	117.4	125.5	6.9
Pretzels	113.1	115.0	1.7

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to December 1972 from:	
		November 1972	December 1972	December 1971	November 1972
Housing		130.8	131.2	3.5	0.3
Shelter ¹		136.2	136.8	4.0	.4
Rent, residential		120.5	121.0	3.5	.4
Homeownership ²		142.0	142.6	4.1	.4
Mortgage interest rates		117.5	117.5	-.9	0
Property taxes		149.6	150.6	9.4	.7
Property insurance premiums		123.7	125.0	2.1	1.1
Maintenance and repairs		142.9	144.2	4.9	.9
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		126.7	127.3	5.4	.5
Exterior house paint		117.7	118.1	1.1	.3
Interior house paint		117.9	118.9	3.0	.8
Maintenance and repair services		149.8	151.5	4.8	1.1
Repainting living and dining rooms		162.8	163.7	6.3	.6
Reshingling house roof		157.3	158.6	4.6	.8
Residing house		137.6	138.7	4.1	.8
Replacing sink		148.2	150.4	4.7	1.5
Repairing furnace		153.9	157.4	4.8	2.3
Fuel and utilities		121.7	121.9	3.7	.2
Fuel oil and coal		119.3	119.4	1.1	.1
Fuel oil, No. 2		117.0	117.0	.5	0
Gas and electricity		122.2	122.5	3.6	.2
Gas		124.6	125.1	3.8	.4
Electricity		120.0	120.2	3.6	.2
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		114.9	115.0	5.0	.1
Residential water and sewerage services		141.6	141.7	3.9	.1
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		122.1	122.3	2.3	.2
Housefurnishings		117.1	117.3	1.7	.2
Textiles		115.1	115.4	2.0	.3
Sheets		118.0	119.0	2.1	.8
Curtains		112.9	113.2	2.4	.3
Bedspreads		113.5	113.9	4.7	.4
Drapery fabric		123.9	124.6	4.6	.6
Pillows, bed		108.3	107.4	-2.5	-.8
Slipcovers and throws, ready made		113.8	114.1	.8	.3
Furniture and bedding		121.9	122.1	1.7	.2
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	105.7	105.8	1.1	.1
Sofas, upholstered		121.2	121.2	1.4	0
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	101.7	101.6	1.6	-.1
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	104.9	105.2	1.6	.3
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	98.3	98.7	-1.3	-.4
Sofas, dual purpose		118.0	118.2	1.1	.2
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	105.2	105.2	.8	0
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Cribs		119.0	120.2	1.2	1.0
Floor coverings		106.6	106.6	0	0
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		101.4	101.4	-.7	0
Vinyl sheet goods		119.5	119.1	2.2	-.3
Vinyl asbestos tile		118.1	118.1	.6	0
Appliances (excluding radio and T.V.)		109.9	109.9	.4	0
Washing machines, electric, automatic		110.7	110.8	.7	.1
Vacuum cleaners, canister type		103.7	103.8	.2	.1
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.3	108.4	.1	.1
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		111.0	111.0	-.3	0
Clothes dryers, electric		115.2	114.8	1.6	-.3
Air conditioners, demountable	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable		109.1	109.4	.5	.3
Garbage disposal units		111.1	111.0	.5	-.1
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		126.7	126.6	6.0	-.1
Flatware, stainless steel		129.4	129.8	6.6	.3
Table lamps, with shade		126.3	126.4	3.8	.1
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Electric drills, hand-held		106.6	107.0	.1	.4
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		111.4	111.5	.6	.1
Paper napkins		133.5	134.4	4.5	.7
Toilet tissue		125.7	125.6	1.5	-.1
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		141.5	141.6	4.0	.1
Baby sitter services		138.5	139.3	4.9	.6
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		140.4	140.9	3.4	.4
Licensed day care services, preschool child		125.6	125.8	5.4	.2
Washing machine repairs		142.7	143.6	3.9	.6

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to December 1972 from:	
		November 1972	December 1972	December 1971	November 1972
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		125.0	125.0	2.6	0.0
Apparel commodities		125.6	125.5	2.7	-.1
Apparel commodities less footwear		125.3	125.2	2.5	-.1
Men's and boys'		124.8	124.8	2.6	0
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends		132.4	130.8	5.3	-1.2
Suits, year round weight		133.5	134.3	2.1	.6
Suits, tropical weight	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Jackets, lightweight		114.0	114.3	0	.3
Slacks, wool or wool blends		116.1	116.4	-.3	.3
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		143.2	142.0	5.4	-.8
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/ cotton		115.3	115.2	1.1	-.1
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		115.8	116.0	1.3	.2
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		112.8	113.5	-.8	.6
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		118.2	118.5	.3	.3
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		115.6	116.2	.3	.5
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton		117.1	117.0	.8	-.1
Boys':					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends		128.0	127.1	7.4	-.7
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		122.7	121.6	.2	-.9
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends		128.9	129.7	3.1	.6
Undershorts, cotton		120.5	120.7	-.9	.2
Women's and girls'		126.5	126.4	2.6	-.1
Women's:					
Coats, heavy weight, wool or wool blends		136.1	134.5	6.7	-1.2
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton		137.0	136.2	6.0	-.6
Sweaters, wool or acrylic		129.5	124.4	.7	-3.9
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers		146.2	147.2	3.6	.7
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers		125.6	124.7	2.5	-.7
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fibers		132.2	133.4	2.5	-.9
Slips, nylon		110.6	110.5	-.6	-.1
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot		118.8	118.8	2.2	0
Girdles, manmade blend		118.2	118.2	.1	0
Brassieres, nylon lace		123.8	123.7	.2	-.1
Hose or panty hose, nylon seamless		95.3	95.0	-3.4	-.3
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers		114.2	114.8	-1.4	.5
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton		110.8	110.8	.9	0
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic		147.7	148.3	7.3	.4
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton, or polyester blends		115.2	114.6	-3.9	-.5
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic		119.5	119.1	9.7	-.3
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends		124.2	125.3	14.6	.9
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton		140.1	140.9	7.0	.6
Slips, polyester blends		110.1	109.8	-1.9	-.3
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable		116.9	116.9	3.2	0
Yard goods, cotton		119.3	118.7	-2.6	-.5
Wrist watches, mens and womens		117.1	117.3	3.1	.2
Footwear		127.1	127.3	3.4	.2
Men's:					
Shoes, street		126.8	127.5	5.4	.6
Shoes, work, high		126.0	127.1	5.4	.9
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		128.8	128.4	2.6	-.3
Shoes, evening, pump		123.6	123.6	2.1	0
Shoes, casual		128.0	128.3	2.0	.2
Houseslippers, scuff		126.7	126.9	2.8	.2
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		129.3	130.0	4.8	.5
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		125.2	124.9	3.8	-.2
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump		130.5	130.2	1.4	-.2
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses		118.4	118.8	1.5	.3
Automatic laundry service		115.7	115.7	1.6	0
Laundry, men's shirts		123.9	125.0	3.8	.9
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment		135.5	135.5	3.0	0
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift		118.5	118.9	4.5	.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, December 1972 and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to December 1972 from:	
		November 1972	December 1972	December 1971	November 1972
Transportation		112.4	121.3	2.4	-0.1
Private		119.0	118.9	2.2	-1.1
Automobiles, new		110.2	110.6	.2	.4
Automobiles, used		116.0	115.0	7.3	-9.9
Gasoline, regular and premium		110.1	110.2	2.7	.1
Motor oil, premium		124.5	124.7	2.3	.2
Tires, new, tubeless		114.6	114.8	-3.0	.2
Auto repairs and maintenance ^a		136.6	136.8	3.7	.1
Auto insurance rates		129.8	139.6	-1.3	-1.1
Auto registration		127.7	127.7	3.2	0
Parking fees, private and municipal		148.8	149.4	8.7	.4
Public		144.1	144.5	3.4	.3
Local transit fares		150.8	150.8	4.4	0
Taxicab fares		133.7	135.6	2.1	1.4
Railroad fares, coach		122.0	122.2	-4.7	.2
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		131.9	132.1	1.9	.2
Bus fares, intercity		142.1	144.0	5.8	1.3
Health and recreation		127.4	125.7	2.9	.1
Medical care		134.1	134.4	3.3	.2
Drugs and prescriptions		105.6	105.6	0	0
Over-the-counter items		111.7	111.7	1.4	0
Multiple vitamin concentrates		95.3	94.9	-2.2	-4.4
Aspirin compounds		117.1	117.0	2.6	-1.1
Liquid tonics		101.1	100.9	.1	-2.2
Cold tablets or capsules		114.3	114.2	1.2	-1.1
Adhesive bandages, packages		125.0	125.2	.9	.2
Cough syrup		113.7	114.2	2.6	.4
Prescriptions		100.5	100.5	-1.2	0
Anti-infectives		72.7	72.6	-8.2	-1.1
Sedatives and hypnotics		127.8	127.9	2.5	.1
Anesthetics		103.5	103.5	.9	0
Anti-spasmodics		108.0	108.0	0	0
Cough preparations		132.0	132.0	3.8	0
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		112.1	112.1	0	0
Analgesics, internal		109.9	110.1	1.7	.2
Anti-obesity		117.2	117.0	-1.3	-2.2
Hormones		92.7	92.6	-2.3	-1.1
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		134.8	135.4	2.4	.4
General physician, office visits		135.7	136.6	2.5	.7
General physician, house visits		138.0	138.8	3.1	.6
Obstetrical cases		134.6	134.6	2.3	0
Pediatric care, office visits		137.8	137.8	1.8	0
Psychiatrist, office visits		130.8	131.7	3.5	.7
Herniorrhaphy, adult		129.2	129.6	2.5	.3
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		130.4	130.5	1.4	.1
Dentists' fees		133.5	133.7	2.8	.1
Filling, adult, amalgam, one surface		135.2	135.5	3.2	.2
Extractions, adult		133.3	133.3	2.9	0
Dentures, full upper		130.2	130.2	2.0	0
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		126.3	126.3	2.8	0
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis		121.3	121.3	2.3	0
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	103.0	103.2	(9)	.2
Semiprivate rooms		176.0	176.3	5.0	.2
Operating room charges		172.9	173.1	6.5	.1
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G. I		130.1	130.1	2.5	0
Laboratory tests, urinalysis	Jan. 72	102.2	102.7	(9)	.5
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL	Jan. 72	99.1	99.4	(9)	.3
Tranquilizer, chlorthalidoxid, HCL and meprobate	Jan. 72	101.8	101.9	(9)	.1
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	103.5	104.0	(9)	.5
Intravenous solution, saline	Jan. 72	102.4	102.8	(9)	.4
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath	Jan. 72	102.7	102.8	(9)	.1
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	101.9	102.4	(9)	.5
Personal care		121.0	121.5	3.1	.4
Toilet goods		117.7	117.9	2.7	.2
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		109.7	109.5	.2	-2.2
Toilet soap, hard milled		123.3	123.3	3.0	0
Hand lotions, liquid		127.5	127.3	5.7	-2.2
Shaving cream, aerosol		107.4	107.6	.3	.2
Face powder, pressed		139.0	139.3	14.2	.2
Deodorants, aerosol		103.8	104.6	-1.2	.8
Cleansing tissues		121.7	122.2	.3	.4
Home permanent wave kits		109.7	109.8	-1.6	.1
Personal care services		124.4	125.2	3.3	.6
Men's haircuts		126.6	127.2	2.7	.5
Beauty shop services		122.9	123.9	3.9	.8
Women's haircut		124.6	126.4	5.4	1.4
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		126.7	127.4	3.9	.6
Permanent waves, cold		113.1	113.6	2.1	.4

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, December 1972 and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to December 1972 from:	
		November 1972	December 1972	December 1971	November 1972
Reading and recreation ¹⁰		124.1	124.0	2.4	-0.1
Recreational goods		108.2	107.9	.6	-.3
TV sets, portable and console		99.3	99.0	-1.3	-.3
TV replacement tubes		133.2	133.4	7.0	.2
Radios, portable and table model		99.2	99.2	.8	0
Tape recorders, portable		94.3	94.5	1.5	.2
Phonograph records, stereophonic		107.4	108.0	.8	.6
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		88.6	88.2	-.8	-.5
Film, 35mm, color		108.1	108.1	-.6	0
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		105.5	105.1	-.2	-.4
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		126.0	126.0	.2	0
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		108.0	108.1	-2.3	.1
Bowling balls		114.2	114.2	1.1	0
Bicycle, boys'		117.6	116.7	3.0	-.8
Tricycles		114.9	114.4	2.0	-.4
Dog food, canned or boxed		111.4	110.7	.5	-.6
Recreational services		129.4	129.3	2.3	-.1
Indoor movie admissions		141.9	142.1	3.0	.1
Adult		140.6	140.8	2.5	.1
Children's		145.6	145.9	4.9	.2
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		147.9	146.6	2.9	-.9
Bowling fees, evening		122.1	122.0	3.7	-.1
Golf green fees		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		98.5	98.7	.1	.2
Film developing, color		116.1	116.1	-1.8	0
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		133.2	133.4	2.1	.2
Magazines, single copy and subscription		134.1	134.1	7.4	0
Piano lessons, beginner		125.2	125.0	2.9	-.2
Other goods and services		126.4	126.5	2.8	.1
Tobacco products		134.3	134.2	3.9	-.1
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		136.0	135.0	4.1	-.1
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		136.3	136.2	3.9	-.1
Cigars, domestic, regular size		111.1	111.3	1.6	.2
Alcoholic beverages		120.4	120.5	1.8	.1
Beer		114.1	114.4	.5	.3
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		108.8	109.0	1.9	.2
Wine, dessert and table		128.3	128.3	2.6	0
Beer away from home		132.7	132.6	3.0	-.1
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		122.3	122.7	2.9	.3
Bank service charges, checking accounts		106.9	106.5	-2.7	-.4
Legal services, short form will		152.6	153.0	8.2	.3

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

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

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

⁵ Priced only in season.

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

⁷ Also includes recapped tires and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

⁸ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

⁹ Not available.

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

Table 8-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1972 annual average indexes for selected items and groups and percent changes from previous year

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change from 1971 to 1972
		1971	1972	
Housing		124.3	129.2	3.9
Shelter ¹		128.8	134.5	4.4
Rent, residential		115.2	119.2	3.5
Homeownership ²		133.7	140.1	4.8
Mortgage interest rates		120.4	117.5	-2.4
Property taxes		131.1	145.7	11.1
Property insurance premiums		119.9	123.2	2.8
Maintenance and repairs		133.7	140.7	5.2
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		119.0	124.1	4.3
Exterior house paint		115.9	117.7	1.6
Interior house paint		114.5	117.1	2.3
Maintenance and repair services		140.0	147.9	5.6
Repainting living and dining rooms		148.3	159.4	7.5
Reshingling house roof		144.8	155.5	7.4
Residing house		130.6	135.7	3.9
Replacing sink		140.6	146.4	4.1
Repairing furnace		144.3	153.3	6.2
Fuel and utilities:		115.0	120.1	4.4
Fuel oil and coal		117.5	118.5	.9
Fuel oil, No. 2		116.1	116.6	.4
Gas and electricity		114.7	120.5	5.1
Gas		116.2	122.3	5.2
Electricity		113.2	118.9	5.0
Other utilities:				
Residential telephone services		107.5	113.5	5.6
Residential water and sewerage services		133.4	138.5	3.8
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		118.1	121.0	2.5
Housefurnishings		114.3	116.2	1.7
Textiles		111.6	113.6	1.8
Sheets		113.9	115.1	1.1
Curtains, tailored		110.0	112.1	1.9
Bedsprings		107.8	110.5	2.5
Draperies, fabric		118.4	122.6	3.5
Pillows, bed		107.6	107.2	-.4
Slipcovers and throws, ready made		111.8	114.0	2.0
Furniture and bedding		119.1	121.1	1.7
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	103.6	105.1	1.4
Sofas, upholstered		117.5	120.4	2.5
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	(⁵)	100.7	(⁵)
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	103.0	104.3	1.3
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	(⁵)	98.5	(⁵)
Sofas, dual purpose		116.4	117.1	.6
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	103.4	104.7	1.3
Aluminum folding chairs		115.8	124.7	7.7
Cribs		117.9	118.6	.6
Floor coverings		106.3	106.5	.2
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		102.3	101.5	-.8
Vinyl sheet goods		114.7	118.0	2.9
Vinyl asbestos tile		116.6	118.0	1.2
Appliances (excluding radio and T.V.)		109.1	109.7	.5
Washing machines, electric, automatic		109.4	110.5	1.0
Vacuum cleaners, canister type		103.8	103.8	0
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.1	108.1	0
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		111.0	110.9	-.1
Clothes dryer, electric		112.4	114.2	1.6
Air conditioners, demountable		110.2	110.7	.5
Room heaters, electric, portable		108.1	108.7	.6
Garbage disposal units		110.1	111.0	.8
Other housefurnishings:				
Dinnerware, fine china		117.8	124.1	5.3
Flatware, stainless steel		120.4	124.8	3.7
Table lamps, with shade		121.0	123.8	2.3
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		116.4	119.3	2.5
Electric drills, hand-held		106.7	106.5	-.2
Housekeeping supplies:				
Laundry soaps and detergents		109.8	111.2	1.3
Paper napkins		126.7	131.1	3.5
Toilet tissue		123.6	124.9	1.1
Housekeeping services:				
Domestic services, general housework		133.8	139.1	4.0
Baby sitter services		130.0	136.3	4.8
Postal charges		138.1	146.6	6.2
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		133.3	138.7	4.1
Licensed day care services, preschool child		118.2	122.5	3.6
Washing machine repairs		135.3	140.7	4.0

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change from 1971 to 1972
		1971	1972	
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		119.8	122.3	2.1
Apparel commodities		120.1	122.7	2.2
Apparel commodities less footwear		119.9	122.3	2.0
Men's and boys'		120.3	121.9	1.3
Men's:				
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends		122.3	125.8	2.9
Suits, year round weight		129.0	130.3	1.0
Suits, tropical weight		129.2	134.0	3.7
Jackets, lightweight		112.5	114.2	1.5
Slacks, wool or wool blends		116.8	115.7	-.9
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		132.3	137.6	4.0
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		113.0	114.8	1.6
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		113.3	115.2	1.7
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		112.7	112.6	-.1
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		119.0	117.9	-.9
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		115.5	115.8	.3
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton		114.9	116.4	1.3
Boys':				
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends		118.3	118.3	1.4
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		122.0	121.1	-.7
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends		122.5	127.5	4.1
Undershorts, cotton		119.5	120.4	.8
Women's and girls'		120.1	123.0	2.4
Women's:				
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends		122.9	130.1	5.9
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton		127.2	131.4	3.3
Sweaters, wool or acrylic		120.8	126.3	4.6
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers		131.7	139.4	5.8
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton		114.0	117.1	2.7
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers		121.9	123.1	1.0
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fibers		127.6	130.1	2.0
Slips, nylon		110.7	110.9	.2
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot		115.2	117.7	2.2
Girdles, manmade blend		116.2	117.6	1.2
Brassieres, nylon lace		120.9	122.4	1.2
Hose or pany hose, nylon seamless		98.9	96.2	-2.7
Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers		115.8	114.8	-.9
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton		109.6	110.6	.9
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic		132.4	143.7	8.5
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blend		116.5	116.3	-.2
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic		106.8	113.5	6.3
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends		107.4	119.9	11.6
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton		131.3	137.5	4.7
Slips, polyester blends		110.4	110.8	.4
Handbags, plastic		129.0	125.7	-2.6
Miscellaneous apparel:				
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable		112.0	115.0	2.7
Yard goods, polyester blends		122.1	119.2	-2.4
Wrist watches, men's and women's		113.0	115.6	2.3
Footwear		121.5	124.9	2.8
Men's:				
Shoes, street, oxford		119.6	123.6	3.3
Shoes, work, high		118.7	122.9	3.5
Women's:				
Shoes, street		123.4	126.3	2.4
Shoes, evening, pump		120.2	122.2	1.7
Shoes, casual		124.1	125.6	1.2
Houseslippers, scuff		121.9	125.2	2.7
Children's:				
Shoes, oxford		122.3	126.8	3.7
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		118.8	123.5	4.0
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump		125.8	129.8	3.2
Apparel services:				
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses		116.6	117.7	.9
Automatic laundry service		113.8	114.9	1.0
Laundry, men's shirts		119.1	122.0	2.4
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment		128.5	133.2	3.7
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift		112.0	116.0	3.6

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change from 1971 to 1972
		1971	1972	
Transportation		118.6	119.9	1.1
Private ⁷		116.6	117.5	.8
Automobiles, new		112.0	111.0	-.9
Automobiles, used		110.2	110.5	.3
Gasoline, regular and premium		106.3	107.6	1.2
Motor oil, premium		120.0	123.6	3.0
Tires, new, tubeless		116.3	115.9	-.3
Auto repairs and maintenance ⁸		129.2	135.1	4.6
Auto insurance rates		141.1	140.5	-.4
Auto registration		123.2	127.4	3.4
Parking fees, private and municipal		135.3	144.5	6.8
Public		137.7	143.4	4.1
Local transit fares		143.4	150.1	4.7
Taxicab fares		126.5	133.5	5.5
Railroad fares, coach		126.8	124.5	-1.8
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		126.9	130.3	2.7
Bus fares, intercity		132.7	140.1	5.6
Health and recreation ⁹		122.2	126.1	3.2
Medical care		128.4	132.5	3.2
Drugs and prescriptions		105.4	105.6	.2
Over-the-counter items		110.2	111.3	1.0
Multiple vitamin concentrates		96.6	95.2	-1.4
Aspirin compounds		114.1	116.4	2.0
Liquid tonics		101.3	101.2	-.1
Cold tablets or capsules		111.3	113.8	2.2
Adhesive bandages, packages		122.6	124.2	1.3
Cough syrup		112.4	113.4	.9
Prescriptions		101.3	100.9	-.4
Anti-infectives		80.2	75.0	-6.5
Sedatives and hypnotics		122.9	126.6	3.0
Ataractics		101.7	103.1	1.4
Anti-spasmodics		107.1	107.9	.7
Cough preparations		126.0	130.4	3.5
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		111.1	111.8	.6
Amalgemics, internal		107.8	109.5	1.6
Anti-obesity		114.9	117.4	2.2
Hormones		94.9	93.2	-1.8
Professional services:				
Physicians' fees		129.8	133.8	3.1
General physician, office visits		131.4	134.8	2.6
General physician, house visits		131.0	136.7	4.4
Obstetrical cases		129.0	133.8	3.7
Pediatric care, office visits		132.0	136.2	3.2
Psychiatrist, office visits		124.8	129.2	3.5
Herniorrhaphy, adult		123.4	128.2	3.9
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		125.2	129.9	3.8
Dentists' fees		127.0	132.3	4.2
Filling, adult, amalgam, one surface		128.0	133.8	4.5
Extraction, adult		126.9	132.3	4.2
Dentures, full upper		124.9	129.3	3.5
Other professional services:				
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		120.3	124.9	3.8
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis		116.1	120.4	3.7
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	(⁵)	102.0	(⁵)
Semiprivate room rates		163.1	173.9	6.6
Operating room charges		156.1	168.6	8.0
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I.		124.9	129.1	3.4
Laboratory tests, urinalysis	Jan. 72	(⁵)	101.9	(⁵)
Anti-infective, tetracycline, HCL	Jan. 72	(⁵)	99.9	(⁵)
Tranquillizer, chlordiazepoxide, HCL and meprobate	Jan. 72	(⁵)	101.2	(⁵)
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	(⁵)	102.7	(⁵)
Intravenous solution, saline	Jan. 72	(⁵)	101.9	(⁵)
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath	Jan. 72	(⁵)	101.7	(⁵)
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	(⁵)	101.7	(⁵)
Personal care		116.8	119.8	2.6
Toilet goods		113.8	116.9	2.7
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		107.7	109.8	1.9
Toilet soap, hard milled		114.1	121.9	6.8
Hand lotions, liquid		119.5	125.6	5.1
Shaving cream, aerosol		106.6	107.3	.7
Face powder, pressed		123.5	131.6	6.6
Deodorants, aerosol		105.6	105.0	-.6
Cleansing tissues		123.3	124.1	.6
Home permanent wave kits		110.9	110.0	-.8
Personal care services		120.0	122.9	2.4
Men's haircuts		122.6	125.3	2.2
Beauty shop services		118.2	121.3	2.6
Women's haircut		119.1	122.1	2.5
Shampoo and wave set, plain		121.4	125.0	3.0
Permanent waves, cold		110.2	112.5	2.1

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index bases	Indexes		Percent change from 1971 to 1972
		1971	1972	
Reading and recreation		119.3	122.8	2.9
Recreational goods		106.6	107.9	1.2
TV sets, portable and console		100.1	99.5	-.6
TV replacement tubes		122.5	130.9	6.9
Radios, portable and table model		98.5	98.9	.4
Tape recorders, portable		94.2	94.3	.1
Phonograph records, stereophonic		103.5	107.3	3.7
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		89.4	88.4	-1.1
Film, 35mm, color		108.3	108.2	-.1
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		104.5	105.1	.6
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		124.1	126.1	1.6
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		110.1	108.0	-1.9
Bowling balls		111.4	113.8	2.2
Bicycles, boys'		112.6	116.2	3.2
Tricycles		111.2	113.9	2.4
Dog food, canned or boxed		109.0	110.5	1.4
Recreational services		125.2	128.3	2.5
Indoor movie admissions		137.6	141.5	2.8
Adult		137.4	140.4	2.2
Children's		138.0	144.5	4.7
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		140.1	145.9	4.1
Bowling fees, evening		116.3	119.3	2.6
Golf green fees		127.5	130.5	2.4
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		98.0	98.3	.3
Film developing, color		116.7	117.0	.3
Reading and education:				
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		129.6	132.3	2.1
Magazines, single copy and subscription		125.1	131.4	5.0
Piano lessons, beginner		121.0	123.0	1.7
Other goods and services		120.9	125.5	3.8
Tobacco products		126.4	133.3	5.5
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		127.9	134.8	5.4
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		128.1	135.4	5.7
Cigars, domestic, regular size		107.1	110.8	3.5
Alcoholic beverages		116.9	119.6	2.3
Beer		112.9	113.9	.9
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight				
bourbon		106.4	108.6	2.1
Wine, dessert and table		122.3	127.0	3.8
Beer away from home		126.4	130.9	3.6
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:				
Funeral services, adult		117.2	121.2	3.4
Bank service charges, checking accounts		110.6	107.5	-2.8
Legal services, short form will		135.5	148.6	9.7

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

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

⁵ Not available.

⁶ Also includes 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.

⁷ Also includes recapped tires and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

⁸ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

⁹ Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks not shown separately.

Table 9. Consumer Price Index—United States average and areas grouped by size of population¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups December 1972 and percent changes from selected dates

Area and group	Relative ² importance December 1971	Indexes (1967=100)			Percent change to December 1972 from—	
		December 1971	September 1972	December 1972	December 1971	September 1972
United States:						
All items	100.00	123.1	126.2	127.3	3.4	.9
Food	22.28	120.3	124.8	126.0	4.7	1.0
Housing	33.97	126.8	r 130.2	131.2	3.5	.8
Apparel and upkeep	10.49	121.8	123.1	125.0	2.6	1.5
Transportation	13.32	r 118.5	121.0	121.3	2.4	.2
Health and recreation	19.94	123.9	126.8	127.5	2.9	.6
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):						
All items	32.74	124.8	128.9	129.6	3.8	.5
Food	7.53	122.0	126.9	128.0	4.9	.9
Housing	10.87	r 128.3	132.8	133.8	4.3	.8
Apparel and upkeep	3.52	120.9	123.8	123.8	2.4	0
Transportation	4.30	123.3	126.7	127.3	3.2	.5
Health and recreation	6.52	125.4	129.1	129.7	3.4	.5
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5):						
All items	11.88	r 123.5	126.4	127.6	3.3	.9
Food	2.66	120.2	124.7	125.8	4.7	.9
Housing	4.05	r 126.8	129.8	131.2	3.5	1.1
Apparel and upkeep	1.25	123.3	123.5	125.4	1.7	1.5
Transportation	1.56	120.3	122.2	122.5	1.8	.2
Health and recreation	2.36	124.3	127.2	128.1	3.1	.7
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):						
All items	25.85	122.7	125.5	126.7	3.3	1.0
Food	5.46	119.5	123.9	125.3	4.9	1.1
Housing	9.00	127.2	129.7	130.8	2.8	.8
Apparel and upkeep	2.65	122.0	122.8	126.4	3.6	2.9
Transportation	3.55	116.3	118.6	118.8	2.1	.2
Health and recreation	5.19	123.8	126.5	127.3	2.8	.6
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):						
All items	12.50	121.8	124.6	125.7	3.2	.9
Food	2.77	119.0	123.6	124.6	4.7	.8
Housing	4.23	r 125.2	r 128.6	129.6	3.5	.8
Apparel and upkeep	1.32	122.1	123.1	126.2	3.4	2.5
Transportation	1.68	115.6	117.0	117.2	1.4	.2
Health and recreation	2.50	123.7	125.7	126.6	2.3	.7
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):						
All items	17.03	121.0	123.5	124.7	3.1	1.0
Food	3.86	119.0	122.9	124.5	4.6	1.3
Housing	5.82	124.2	127.2	128.2	3.2	.8
Apparel and upkeep	1.75	121.7	121.3	123.8	1.7	2.1
Transportation	2.23	115.0	117.0	117.3	2.0	.3
Health and recreation	3.37	121.7	123.8	124.4	2.2	.5

¹ Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

² These relative importance data include the 0.38 percent weight for personal financing charges, other than mortgage interest and auto financing charges, which is imputed from priced items.

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Table 9-A. Consumer Price Index—United States average and areas grouped by size of population¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups year 1972 and percent changes from selected dates

Area and group	Indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to year 1972 from— year 1971
	year 1971	year 1972	
United States:			
All items	121.3	125.3	3.3
Food	118.4	123.5	4.3
Housing	124.3	129.2	3.9
Apparel and upkeep	119.8	122.3	2.1
Transportation	118.6	119.9	1.1
Health and recreation	122.2	126.1	3.2
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):			
All items	r 122.9	127.5	3.7
Food	120.2	125.6	4.5
Housing	125.6	131.4	4.6
Apparel and upkeep	119.0	121.3	1.9
Transportation	123.3	125.5	1.8
Health and recreation	123.8	128.2	3.6
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):			
All items	121.7	125.5	3.1
Food	118.5	123.2	4.0
Housing	r 124.1	128.9	3.9
Apparel and upkeep	120.9	123.3	2.0
Transportation	119.8	121.1	1.1
Health and recreation	122.8	126.4	2.9
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):			
All items	120.8	124.7	3.2
Food	117.5	122.7	4.4
Housing	124.5	128.9	3.5
Apparel and upkeep	120.0	123.0	2.5
Transportation	116.0	117.4	1.2
Health and recreation	121.9	125.9	3.3
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):			
All items	120.1	123.9	3.2
Food	117.1	122.3	4.4
Housing	r 122.9	127.7	3.9
Apparel and upkeep	120.3	123.0	2.2
Transportation	116.0	116.4	.3
Health and recreation	121.6	125.2	3.0
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):			
All items	119.5	122.9	2.8
Food	117.3	122.0	4.0
Housing	122.4	126.5	3.3
Apparel and upkeep	119.6	121.8	1.8
Transportation	115.2	116.1	.8
Health and recreation	120.1	123.3	2.7

¹ Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

² These relative importance data include the 0.38 percent weight for personal financing charges, other than mortgage interest and auto financing charges, which is imputed from priced items.

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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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

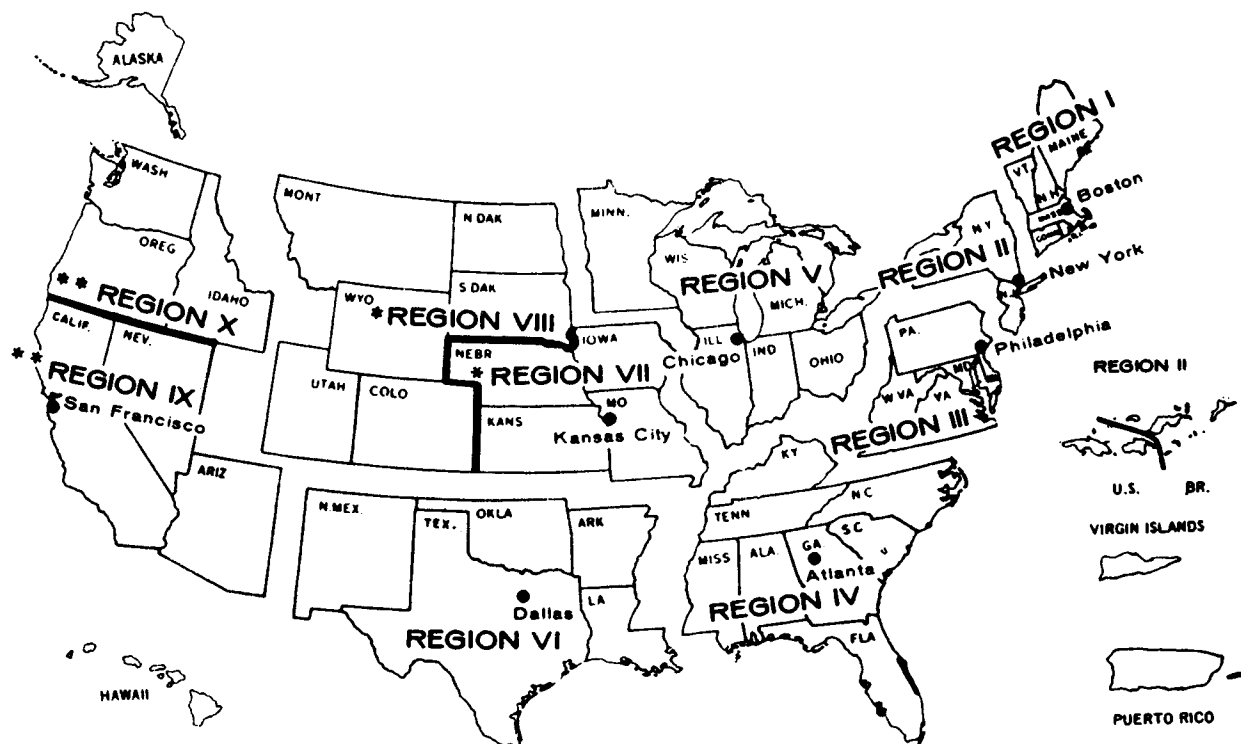
For analyzing general price trends in the economy, seasonally adjusted changes are usually preferred, since they eliminate the effect of changes that normally occur at the same time and in about the same magnitude every year such as price movements resulting from changing

climatic conditions, production cycles, model changeovers, 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.

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