



the consumer price index for December 1973

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

CONTENTS

	Page
Price movements	1
Charts 1—4. Consumer price indexes for all items and major components, and rates of change over 1-, 3-, 6-, and 12-months spans	10
Table 1. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes	14
Table 1-A. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1973 annual average index	15
Table 2. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes	16
Table 3. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items most recent index and percent changes from selected dates	17
Table 4. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from November 1973 to December 1973	17
Table 5. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, December 1973 index, and percent changes from September 1973	18
Table 5-A. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1973 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1972-73	20
Table 6. CPI—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, December 1973 indexes, and percent changes from November 1973	22
Table 7. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, December 1973 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates	23
Table 7-A. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items 1973 annual average indexes, and percent changes from 1972 to 1973	25
Table 8. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, December 1973, and percent changes from selected dates	27
Table 8-A. CPI—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1973 annual average indexes for selected items and groups and percent changes from previous year	31
Table 9. CPI—United States average and areas grouped by size of population for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups, December 1973 and percent changes from selected dates	35
Table 9-A. CPI—United States average and areas grouped by size of population for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items all major groups, year 1973 and percent changes from selected dates	36
Table 10. CPI—United States average and areas grouped by region for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups, December 1973, and percent changes from selected dates	37
Table 10-A. CPI—United States average and areas grouped by region for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups, year 1973, and percent changes from selected dates	38

Price Movements

December 1973

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The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.7 percent to 138.5 percent of its 1967 base. Higher prices for energy items—gasoline, heating oil, electricity, natural gas, and coal—accounted for over a third of the increase in the index. Increases in prices of most types of food and in mortgage interest costs also contributed significantly to the rise. The effect of these increases was moderated by price declines for some food and nonfood items—notably meats, used cars, and property taxes.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the December increase in the CPI was 0.5 percent compared with an increase of 0.8 percent in each of the 2 preceding months. The food index rose 0.3 percent following a 1.4-percent increase in November. The indexes for nonfood commodities and services increased 0.7 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively, the same as the rise in November. (See table A.)

Analysis of 1973 changes

For the fourth quarter, the All Items CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 9.0 percent. Increases in the first 3 quarters of the year were 8.6 percent, 7.4 percent, and 10.3 percent, respectively. For calendar year 1973, the rise in the CPI was 8.8 percent, the largest December-to-December increase since 1947. About half of the annual increase was due to a 20.1-percent increase in food prices. Most of the increase in food prices occurred in the first 3 quarters of the year, when food prices rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 23.9 percent. In the quarter ending in December, the annual rate of increase in food prices was 9.2 percent. The nonfood commodities index, on the other hand, rose more rapidly in the fourth quarter than it did earlier in the year, largely because of sharp price increases for gasoline and fuel oil. The increase in the services index in the fourth quarter, at an annual rate of 9.4 percent, was also more rapid than it was earlier in the year. Price increases for energy items during 1973 accounted for about 10 percent of the overall rise in the CPI.

The behavior of the food and nonfood commodity components of the CPI reflected movements in similar components of the Wholesale Price Index, although the magnitude of changes in the two indexes differed. For

the year 1973, the WPI for all commodities rose 18.2 percent, the largest increase since 1946. These commodities grouped by stage of processing show that prices of consumer foods in the WPI rose 22.5 percent, somewhat more than in the CPI. Finished consumer products other than food rose 20.6 percent in the WPI, compared with 5.0 percent in the CPI. (See tables B and C.)

Shortages and rising costs of materials put strong upward pressure on prices of finished goods in 1973. The shortages resulted primarily from a worldwide economic boom and reduced harvests of some important crops in 1972 and early 1973. As demand continued to outpace production, prices of such commodities as grains, animal feeds, cotton, lumber, metals, and fuels increased. Devaluations of the dollar resulted in increased demand for U.S. products abroad and in higher prices for imports. Prices and supplies also were influenced by modifications in the Economic Stabilization Program, the change from mandatory Phase 2 controls during 1972 to largely self-administered Phase 3 controls early in 1973; a general price freeze late in the second quarter; and tighter Phase 4 controls late in the third quarter. As the year progressed, prices for farm products and raw industrial materials continued to rise and increases spread to semi-finished materials and products and to finished goods—food and nonfood commodities—at wholesale and retail.

The supply situation for some farm products improved late in 1973, as a result of increased production and lower demand. In the industrial sector, there was also some improvement in supplies, particularly among construction materials, reflecting a slowdown in housing starts and government actions to increase the supply of lumber. Supplies remained low, however, for a number of commodities, and the problem was aggravated by the Middle East war and the related oil embargo by Arab countries. At yearend, fuels were an important source of upward pressure on prices, although there were large increases in prices of other industrial commodities, such as textiles, chemicals, paper, rubber, and metals.

Food

The rise in retail food prices—both foods purchased in grocery stores and in restaurants—accelerated in 1973

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items		
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	compound annual rates		From 12 months ago
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	From 3 months ago	From 6 months ago	
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed
1972:										
December	0.3	0.2	0.5	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	3.4	3.9	3.4
1973:										
January .....	.3	.5	2.1	2.1	-.5	.2	.2	4.0	4.1	3.7
February .....	.7	.7	1.9	1.9	.3	.3	.4	5.7	5.0	3.9
March .....	.9	.9	2.6	2.4	.5	.5	.3	8.6	5.9	4.7
April .....	.7	.6	1.5	1.4	.7	.4	.4	9.2	6.6	5.1
May .....	.6	.6	1.0	1.1	.6	.4	.4	8.7	7.2	5.5
June .....	.7	.6	1.4	.9	.6	.5	.4	7.4	8.0	5.9
July .....	.2	.2	.8	.5	-.2	.1	.2	5.7	7.4	5.7
August	1.8	1.9	6.0	6.1	.2	.5	.7	11.4	10.0	7.5
September .....	.3	.3	-.7	-.1	.4	.1	.9	10.3	8.8	7.4
October .....	.8	.8	.1	.5	.9	.5	1.1	13.0	9.2	7.9
November .....	.7	.8	1.1	1.4	.7	.7	.6	8.0	9.7	8.4
December .....	.7	.5	.9	.3	.6	.7	.6	9.0	9.6	8.8

in response to rapid increases in wholesale food prices which began in mid-1972. In the first 3 quarters of 1973, wholesale prices rose at a faster rate than retail prices; in the fourth quarter, however, food prices leveled out in the WPI but continued to increase in the CPI.

During 1973, retail food prices rose 20.1 percent, somewhat less than the increase of 22.5 percent at the wholesale level. Since 1967, food prices have risen more at wholesale than at retail level, except in 1970, when wholesale prices declined while retail prices continued to increase.

Movements of food prices at retail and wholesale over a long period of time shows that it is usual for increases at retail to be smaller than at wholesale when wholesale prices are increasing at a rapid pace. But when wholesale prices are declining, retail prices either continue to rise or decline less than they do at wholesale. The pattern of price movements between similar categories of food in the WPI and the CPI is much the same as for the overall food index. (See table C.)

Although individual items priced in these categories are not entirely identical in the two indexes, historical changes show that there is a strong correlation in movements between the two indexes. Annual changes since 1947 have shown a high degree of correlation in the cereal and bakery products category (R-square .97), poultry (.88), and eggs (.94). The correlation was some-

what less for meats (.72); this lower correlation may be due to differences in coverage, the role of other variables which influence price behavior, or the fact that changes in wholesale prices are often reflected in retail prices over a period of time.

Much of the rise in food prices in 1973 can be traced to the effects of unfavorable weather which reduced agricultural supplies in the United States and in many areas of the world in 1972 and early 1973. Curtailed harvests in other countries, notably the U.S.S.R., and a scarcity of Peruvian fishmeal caused an upsurge in export demand for U.S. grains and feed materials at a time when domestic crops were affected by poor weather and by expanding domestic demand. The demand for U.S. supplies was fueled further by the devaluation of the dollar and by speculative buying. A rapid rise in prices of grains and animal feeds from mid-1972 through the third quarter of 1973 had an impact throughout 1973 on prices and supplies of a wide range of food items—meats, poultry, dairy products, cereal and bakery products, eggs, and salad oils.

As supplies of grains and grain products tightened and prices advanced in 1972 and early 1973, a number of government actions were taken. Changes were made in the various government farm commodity programs in an effort to expand domestic crop production. To augment free market supplies, the U.S. Government sold virtually

all of its inventories of major grains. Export subsidy to wheat exporters was discontinued as world prices moved above domestic levels in late 1972, and subsequently all direct export subsidies on agricultural commodities were terminated. In mid-June, export restrictions were placed on soybeans and cottonseeds, when it appeared that pending exports would deplete supplies for domestic users before new crop supplies became available.

Early in the fourth quarter of 1973, prices of grains and manufactured animal feeds declined in response to forecasts of record crops of wheat, corn, and soybeans in the 1973-74 season, to a lull in export transactions, and to some slowing in domestic demand. Because of earlier high feed prices and concern about future supplies, livestock, dairy, and poultry producers did not expand production as expected. By the yearend, however, grain prices were rising again.

Throughout 1972, meat prices rose at a rapid pace as demand expanded. Price rises accelerated in late 1972 at the wholesale level and in early 1973 at retail, as livestock supplies were reduced by a severe winter. Death

losses among cattle and pigs were unusually high. Feedlot operators had difficulty fattening cattle and marketing was delayed, while feed prices continued to rise and the demand for meats remained strong. Furthermore, because of bad weather in late 1972 and a late harvest of grain crops, farmers did not increase their December-May pig crop as much as expected.

By early spring, concern over large increases in meat prices was growing. In late March, price ceilings were imposed on retail prices of meats, and in early April, consumers organized meat boycotts. These actions, as well as the general price freeze imposed in mid-June, moderated the rise in meat prices in the second quarter and early in the third quarter. But, the retail price freeze, combined, with high feed costs, resulted in curtailment of cattle marketings and a contraction of the June-November pig crop, instead of the expansion that had been anticipated. As a result, pork prices rose sharply in August after the freeze was terminated in mid-July on all foods except beef, and cost pass-through was per-

Table B. Changes in food prices, 1971-73

(Compound annual rates, seasonally adjusted except as indicated)

Commodity	Index	December 1971 to December 1972	December 1972 to December 1973	3 months ending							
				1972				1973			
				March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December
Consumer foods . . .	CPI	4.7	20.1	6.5	0.3	7.7	4.9	28.6	14.7	28.8	9.2
	WPI	8.0	22.5	3.4	4.1	11.8	13.2	44.2	14.2	36.2	.3
Meats	CPI	11.3	26.5	23.6	-2.2	12.5	12.8	64.6	9.2	71.7	-16.9
	WPI	13.5	18.1	10.9	8.9	6.7	28.1	97.7	-13.9	76.1	-35.0
Poultry	CPI	2.5	32.4	-.4	-9.7	10.8	11.7	198.1	-.3	123.8	-53.7
	WPI	13.7	28.6	13.3	-4.2	28.2	22.4	187.9	32.9	105.7	-65.3
Cereal and bakery products ¹	CPI	1.8	28.2	2.5	-.3	.7	4.3	10.4	14.9	34.7	58.2
	WPI	7.6	33.3	3.6	2.5	10.3	14.3	4.1	16.0	89.4	38.1
Dairy products ²	CPI	1.9	22.5	4.2	-1.0	-.3	4.9	11.3	8.8	21.5	52.9
	WPI	4.8	15.7	5.6	-11.6	16.2	11.2	16.6	-.9	37.4	13.1
Fresh fruits and vegetables	CPI	1.9	10.3	-30.0	29.0	25.6	16.1	25.5	43.2	-30.7	18.6
	WPI	6.6	27.5	-44.1	29.0	105.9	-11.0	65.0	129.4	-59.8	74.0
Processed fruits and vegetables	CPI	3.0	20.3	4.8	.3	2.4	4.7	8.1	-9.6	11.1	58.6
	WPI	7.7	10.5	4.6	5.9	4.1	16.6	6.2	1.9	8.8	27.0
Eggs	CPI	15.8	42.7	16.7	10.2	11.1	23.8	70.2	150.5	41.5	-31.2
	WPI	25.8	32.5	47.5	5.5	-11.5	72.3	150.2	137.9	-24.7	-31.2

¹ Not seasonally adjusted in the WPI.

² Not seasonally adjusted in the CPI.

mitted under Phase 4 of the Economic Stabilization Program. Pork prices declined, however, from September through December, mostly because of a slowdown in consumer demand. Beef prices also declined after the retail price ceiling was lifted in September, and animals of excessive weight and finished were marketed while the demand slowed. Even with the declines in the fourth quarter, beef and pork prices in December were 21.1 and 32.5 percent above the December 1972 levels. With increasing consumer resistance to high prices, per capita consumption of red meats for 1973 is expected to show a 4-percent decline from 1972 to the lowest level in 6 years.

Large increases in poultry and egg prices in the first 3 quarters of 1973 were due to smaller supplies resulting primarily from high feed costs and rising consumer demand for lower-priced substitutes for red meats. Pro-

duction of poultry and eggs was sharply curtailed when the price freeze was in effect; the result was a huge price increase in August after the freeze was lifted. Prices declined in the fourth quarter as production increased.

Prices of dairy products rose throughout the year; the largest increases occurred in the fourth quarter as the demand for milk continued to exceed supplies. Milk production declined as producers cut back on feed ration due to high feed costs. Ratios of milk to feed price in 1973 were at the lowest levels since 1955. Because of high feed costs and favorable meat prices, it was profitable to sell milk cows for slaughter.

Prices of cereal and bakery products rose throughout the year, as did prices of such ingredients as flour, shortening, and sugar, while the demand remained strong. Consequently, bread prices rose 28.1 percent in 1973. In addition, prices of rice advanced sharply in response to

Table C. Changes in prices of consumer goods other than food, 1971-73

(Compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted)

Commodity	Index	December 1971 to December 1972	December 1972 to December 1973	3 months ending							
				1972				1973			
				March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December
Commodities less food	CPI	2.5	5.0	3.1	2.0	3.7	1.3	4.0	5.4	2.6	7.9
	WPI	2.2	20.6	2.5	2.5	3.6	.4	7.2	17.5	.7	66.9
Nondurables less food ¹	CPI	2.4	6.8	2.7	1.4	3.0	2.7	4.7	7.0	1.3	14.8
	WPI	3.0	31.2	2.5	3.2	3.6	2.8	9.7	24.7	.3	115.6
Apparel, less footwear	CPI	2.5	4.1	2.7	.7	2.3	4.0	3.6	5.6	3.5	3.8
	WPI	1.9	5.3	1.8	1.8	2.1	3.2	4.2	7.4	-.4	10.5
Footwear	CPI	3.4	4.2	2.3	3.3	3.6	4.2	5.8	3.5	4.4	3.1
	WPI	9.9	3.0	9.1	19.0	3.9	7.8	5.7	-6.1	3.8	8.9
Gasoline ²	CPI	2.6	18.6	-3.6	-.4	13.7	1.1	7.4	25.5	-5.9	55.8
	WPI	6.7	113.8	2.4	-.8	20.7	5.7	30.8	123.9	2.9	592.5
Durables ¹	CPI	2.6	2.4	2.8	2.7	5.5	-.7	2.4	3.4	4.3	-.3
	WPI	1.0	3.7	2.5	1.8	5.4	-5.5	3.6	6.4	3.1	1.4
New cars	CPI	.2	1.3	7.2	2.9	7.4	-14.9	3.0	5.2	6.6	-8.9
	WPI	-.2	2.1	3.5	2.1	7.5	12.6	3.6	3.5	2.4	-1.0
Furniture	CPI	1.7	5.2	1.3	1.3	1.7	2.0	2.0	8.4	6.2	4.5
	WPI	2.6	7.3	2.8	1.7	2.8	3.4	3.1	11.8	4.6	9.6
Appliances, including radio and TV	CPI	0	-.1	.4	-.4	-.4	.4	-1.1	-.4	.4	.8
	WPI	-1.0	.6	-.8	-.4	4.0	-5.9	.4	-2.3	3.6	4.4

¹ Includes items not shown separately.

² In the CPI, includes motor oil.

heavy export demand in the face of dwindling world supplies. By the end of the year, the increase in the index for cereal and bakery products was 20.2 percent, the largest on record.

Changes in fresh fruit and vegetables prices reflected poor weather conditions that affected the growth, yields, and harvests almost continuously from late 1972 through mid-1973 and again in late fall and early winter. As 1973 progressed, the rise in fresh fruit and vegetable prices was reflected in the prices of processed fruits and vegetables. In addition, carryover stocks from the 1972 season were low and the demand was strong for most processed fruits and vegetables, and particularly for dried beans, a high protein food. Increases in dried beans prices were especially sharp in the fourth quarter. Dried beans are included in the processed fruits and vegetables category in the CPI, but in the fresh fruits and vegetables category in the WPI.

Commodities other than food

Prices of nonfood commodities in the CPI are affected by changes in wholesale prices of these goods. In 1973,

the increase in nonfood commodities component in the CPI was 5.0 percent, compared with 20.6 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 was 5.8 percent.

Historically, retail prices of nonfood commodities have risen faster than manufacturer's prices of consumer nonfood commodities—about one-half percent a year on average from 1956 through 1972. 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 1972. The departure from the usual pattern in 1973 occurred primarily because of a markedly larger increase in gasoline and fuel oil prices in the wholesale than in the consumer index.¹ In addition, prices of other nonfood commodities such as furniture, apparel, and new cars increased somewhat more at wholesale than retail.

The fuel items of chief importance in the CPI, gasoline and fuel oil, rose 19.7 percent and 46.8 percent,

Table D. Changes in prices of consumer services, 1971-73

(Compound annual rates, seasonally adjusted except as indicated)

Service	December 1971 to December 1972	December 1972 to December 1973	3 months ending							
			1972				1973			
			March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December
Services ¹	3.6	6.2	4.4	3.1	3.0	3.9	3.6	4.5	7.4	9.4
Rent ¹	3.5	4.9	3.8	3.4	3.1	3.7	6.1	4.0	4.6	4.9
Household services less rent ²	4.3	8.7	4.8	4.7	3.2	4.6	3.7	6.0	11.5	13.5
Mortgage interest rates ¹	-.9	14.7	-3.0	-2.0	.3	1.0	1.0	3.1	33.5	24.6
House maintenance and repair services ¹	4.8	8.2	3.6	5.3	3.8	6.3	5.4	10.0	7.0	10.4
Gas and electricity	3.6	6.9	4.1	4.1	3.0	3.3	7.7	2.9	5.2	11.8
Medical care ²	3.8	5.8	2.7	3.9	2.0	6.8	2.9	4.6	3.7	12.4
Transportation ²	1.7	1.2	.3	3.6	3.3	-.3	-3.7	3.9	3.0	2.3
Auto repairs and maintenance ¹	3.7	6.7	6.5	2.7	4.2	1.5	10.0	5.8	4.9	6.0
Public transportation	3.4	1.4	2.9	3.7	4.9	2.5	-4.6	2.8	3.6	3.9
Other services ^{1 2}	2.9	6.0	1.9	2.9	3.5	3.2	4.8	6.7	6.2	6.1
Personal care services ¹	3.3	8.1	1.7	3.3	3.0	5.3	7.9	9.7	6.3	8.4
Recreational services ¹	2.3	3.7	2.9	4.5	.3	1.6	3.4	7.2	1.5	2.7

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

² Includes items not shown separately.

respectively, in 1973.² In the WPI, gasoline prices were up 113.8 percent and middle distillates—which consist mostly of heating fuel—increased 186.4 percent. The steep climb in prices of refined petroleum products reflected a combination of circumstances, of which some had been developing over a long period of time and others had arisen only recently.

On the demand side, consumption of gasoline has been increasing at an accelerating rate in recent years. The increased numbers of cars in use, more miles driven per car, installation of pollution control devices on new cars, increased average weight of cars, more extensive use of air conditioning, and the increase in disposable personal income—all have contributed to a rapid rise in gasoline consumption. In addition, the demand for other refined petroleum products such as jet fuels, industrial fuels, and home heating fuels has been increasing at a rapid rate since the mid-1960's. Distillate fuels have been in greater demand as industries, which formerly used residual fuel oil for industrial heating because it was cheaper, are mixing middle distillate fuel with residual fuel to meet pollution emission standards. The demand for distillate fuels has grown also, because natural gas has been in short supply.

On the supply side, domestic output of crude petroleum did not increase in proportion to the rise in production of refined petroleum products, and in 1973, it began to run below output levels of the year before. The need for imports of crude oil thus expanded markedly and, as a result, quotas on imports of crude oil and refined products were lifted in the spring of 1973. A further constraint on supply was the fact that refinery capacity had not been increased sufficiently to meet expanding demand; also, many refineries were not built to process the higher sulfur crude oil obtained from many overseas sources.

During 1973, a number of temporary developments also influenced oil prices. Early in the year, gasoline stocks were below the levels of the preceding year, because output was hampered by refinery breakdowns and by shortages of sweet crude oil used in the production of gasoline. In addition, refineries did not start to maximize gasoline output in time to build up stocks, as is normally done to meet the peak demand in the summer months. In the spring, flooding in the Midwest impeded both production and distribution of crude oil. Small refiners, especially in the Midwest, found it difficult to obtain domestic crude petroleum, as they had in the past. Refineries were forced to operate at less than full capacity, so that gasoline stocks fell below the level of the previous year and products had to be allocated among customers. The result was a strong upward pressure on prices.

Prices of distillates (including heating fuel) rose sharply in the first half of the year, influenced by the scarcity of crude petroleum and by increased demand for the product by users, such as electric utilities, both for direct consumption and for blending with residual fuels to lower sulfur levels. Furthermore, prices of distillates were not lowered in early spring, as they usually are, to free storage capacity to meet seasonal needs for gasoline. Because of lower gasoline stocks last spring, unused storage capacity was available for distillates and residual fuels; and with strong demand for fuel oil, there was little pressure on refiners to lower prices.

Higher prices of crude petroleum in early 1973 were initiated by small refineries in an attempt to stimulate exploration for oil in the mid-continent area of the United States; these higher bids induced the major oil companies to match the price increases to assure continuation of their own crude oil supplies. Refined petroleum products showed no significant price changes in the summer months because of the price freeze then in effect. However, there was a further substantial price advance for crude petroleum, reflecting short supplies of domestic crude.

With the ending of the price freeze and the initiation of Phase 4, higher costs could be passed on to consumers of refined products under special rules set-up for the petroleum industry. In addition, new production of crude petroleum was freed from price controls, and price increases for this portion of output were reflected in the Wholesale Price Index. However, imported oil, which is not currently priced for the WPI, went up much more sharply than the domestic material and had a considerable impact on prices of refined products. In the last quarter of 1973, prices of gasoline and distillates shot up at record rates, first under the threat of an embargo on shipments of crude oil to the United States by Arab countries and later by the actual cutoff of supplies. It became evident that the ever-widening gap between requirements and production of domestic crude oil could not be filled by imports. Programs were initiated to reduce consumption of refined products; by mid-December, the Federal Energy Office was formed and the Congress was working on energy legislation.

Apparel prices at retail rose 4.1 percent in 1973, the largest increase in 4 years. Strong consumer demand contributed to the 1973 rise in apparel prices, as indicated by the value of retail sales, which averaged about 9 percent above the 1972 levels. Apparel prices were even more strongly affected by shortages and rising costs of raw materials. Reflecting decreased production of raw cotton and wool because of bad weather and increased exports spurred by the dollar devaluation, prices rose for all types of textile fabrics—cotton, wool, and man-

made fibers. Thus, price rises for apparel at the manufacturer's level accelerated during the year to an annual rate exceeding 10 percent in the fourth quarter. For the entire year, apparel prices in the WPI rose 5.3 percent, the largest increase since 1951.

In contrast to textile products, prices for hides and skins, which had advanced sharply in 1972, declined almost steadily in 1973 as supplies increased. Leather prices, therefore, moved down, and footwear prices in the WPI, which rose 9.9 percent in 1972, increased 3.0 percent in 1973. At retail, the increase in footwear prices which had been held to 3.4 percent in 1972, despite the large increase at wholesale, rose 4.2 percent in 1973. As in apparel stores, retail sales in shoe stores showed a large increase in 1973, about 15 percent more than in 1972.

Retail prices for furniture increased 5.2 percent in 1973, the largest increase since the late 1960's. The increase at wholesale was 7.3 percent. In addition to the influence of strong consumer demand (spurred by increases in disposable income and home construction) rising wages and higher costs for materials, such as hardwood lumber and textile products exerted persistent upward pressure on prices. The sharp increase in hardwood lumber prices was mostly the result of a strong demand for wood products and considerably supply difficulties. Bad weather in the fall of 1972 held up cutting, transportation, and processing of timber and the situation worsened with the floods in the spring of 1973 in some timber-producing areas. Rising material costs also contributed to price rises for other household durables such as floor covering and home repair and maintenance commodities.

Home appliances and electronic equipment were an exception to the strong upward price movement among household durable goods. In the CPI, the appliances index, excluding radio and TV, increased slightly and the index including radio and TV decreased slightly for the year. Appliance prices were stable for the second consecutive year, despite strong consumer demand, higher materials costs, the devaluations of the dollar, and other developments. This stability appears to reflect certain countervailing factors, such as strong competition at both the producing and distributing levels, the influence of low cost imports, and the historic ability of many of the industries to achieve better than average gains in productivity.

Property insurance rates decreased for the first time since the mid-1950's due primarily to two factors: (1) changes in fire protection classifications reflecting better fire fighting capabilities for the nation, and (2) the removal of civil disorder loadings from property insurance policies. The civil disorder loading was a sur-

charge added to residential property insurance policies in 1968 to cover the added risks of riots. In the intervening years, the incidence of riots has been lower, and the surcharge has been dropped in most cities. The policyholder is still protected against riots and attending damage, but at no additional cost.

The index for medical care services rose 5.8 percent in 1973, compared with 3.8 percent in 1972. The increase resulting from the annual retained earnings adjustment in medical insurance was primarily responsible for the larger rise in 1973. Fees charged by doctors, dentists, and for other professional services such as eye examinations increased at a somewhat faster rate than they did in 1972, but hospital services rose at about the same rate. Mandatory controls on health services remained in effect during Phases 3 and 4 as in Phase 2.

For the second consecutive year, the transportation services index rose moderately, 1.2 percent in 1973 and 1.7 percent in 1972. These were the smallest increases since the early 1960's. Among auto-related services, the rise in auto repair charges accelerated in 1973, but increases for parking fees were smaller than in 1972, and auto registration fees and auto insurance rates declined. The downtrend in auto insurance rates began in late 1971 in response to improved underwriting experience by insurance companies, open rating laws, and closer regulation of the insurance industry by State legislatures and State insurance departments. Furthermore, no fault insurance, with its restriction on the right to sue for pain and suffering, has contributed to lower liability premiums in states where it has been adopted. In the public transportation group, local-transit fares declined in 1973 after rising substantially in 1972; however, there were large fare increases for taxis, airplanes, intercity buses, and railroads late in 1973.

The rise in charges for other services such as dry-cleaning, shirt laundering, shoe repairs, men's haircuts, and beauty shop services accelerated noticeably in 1973. Increases in labor and materials costs and other overhead expenses such as utility charges were usually the reasons given in justification of higher charges for these services.

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 (accounting for about 40 percent of the weight of the CPI market basket) represent monthly comparisons. About 66 percent of these monthly comparisons showed no change between November and December, 22 percent showed an increase and 12 percent a decrease, as can be seen in table E. The

Table E. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons¹

Item	1972	December 1972 to January 1973	1973					
	November to December		January to February	February to March	March to April	April to May	May to June	
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Increases	14	21	27	26	24	20	20	
Decreases	9	10	9	8	10	11	11	
No change	77	69	64	66	66	69	69	
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Increases	17	23	31	30	27	23	23	
Decreases	10	8	10	9	12	13	12	
No change	73	69	59	61	61	64	65	
Commodities less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Increases	6	7	12	11	11	9	13	
Decreases	4	8	4	5	4	5	5	
No change	90	85	84	84	85	86	82	
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
Increases	3	9	5	4	4	6	3	
Decreases	3	27	4	2	3	3	2	
No change	94	64	91	94	93	91	95	
1973—Continued								
			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
Increases		16	29	23	26	25	22	22
Decreases		9	9	18	19	16	12	12
No change		75	62	59	55	59	66	66
Food at home		100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases		18	34	26	29	27	23	23
Decreases		10	10	21	22	10	15	15
No change		72	56	53	49	54	62	62
Commodities less food		100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases		8	7	10	23	33	31	31
Decreases		6	5	11	5	4	4	4
No change		86	88	79	72	63	65	65
Services		100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases		2	5	5	6	5	6	6
Decreases		2	2	4	3	1	1	1
No change		96	93	91	91	94	93	93

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 96,000 individual quotations.

proportion of food prices increasing in December was the smallest since July and the proportion showing no change was the largest since July. The proportions of nonfood commodities and service prices increasing were about the same in December as in November.

The December index also includes approximately 24,000 price comparisons from periods before November, 19,000 of which cover the quarterly span from September to December. About 18 percent of these quarterly price comparisons increased, less than in the August-to-November period. In addition, about 4,800 rental units were surveyed in December, and 24 percent of these reported rent increases from June 1973, less than for the 6-month period ended in November.

The new car index increased 1.3 percent in the CPI and 2.1 percent in the WPI for 1973. Increases at both levels of distribution followed a roughly similar pattern during the year. Price increases on 1973 models granted to the industry in late 1972 and increases on imported cars resulting from the dollar devaluation were reflected in the new car indexes during the first half of 1973. Price increases were supported by strong demand, which had kept car sales at record levels from late 1971 through 1972 and into the first quarter of 1973. By mid-year, with increasing uncertainties about gasoline supplies, the trend to smaller cars became evident. During the summer months, as sales of larger cars slackened, bigger concessions were made on these cars to reduce inventories, but the demand for smaller cars accelerated; the new car indexes, therefore, did not decline as much as they usually do at the end of the model year.

In October, with the introduction of the 1974 models and elimination of yearend rebates for the 1973 models, prices at both levels increased. However, because of price controls then in effect, the increases were less than usual for the period and both indexes declined on a seasonally adjusted basis. In computing the increases in the indexes resulting from the introduction of new models, allowances were made for the addition of legally required safety equipment, and some adjustments also were made for other quality changes. Thus, the increases in the indexes are less than those indicated by a direct comparison of list prices for the old and new model years.

In December, the Cost of Living Council removed price controls from automobiles, subject to pledges by the industry that increases on compact cars would be held to specific limits. The three biggest producers announced price increases effective in the middle of December. Part of the increase was reflected in the

December WPI. In the CPI, the new car index declined in December because a large number of vehicles were already available on dealers' lots at the old prices and because of higher concessions given on the larger and medium size cars. Slackening demand for large cars was also apparent in the used car market. The used car index in the CPI declined 2.1 percent for 1973, compared with an increase of 7.3 percent in 1972.

Services

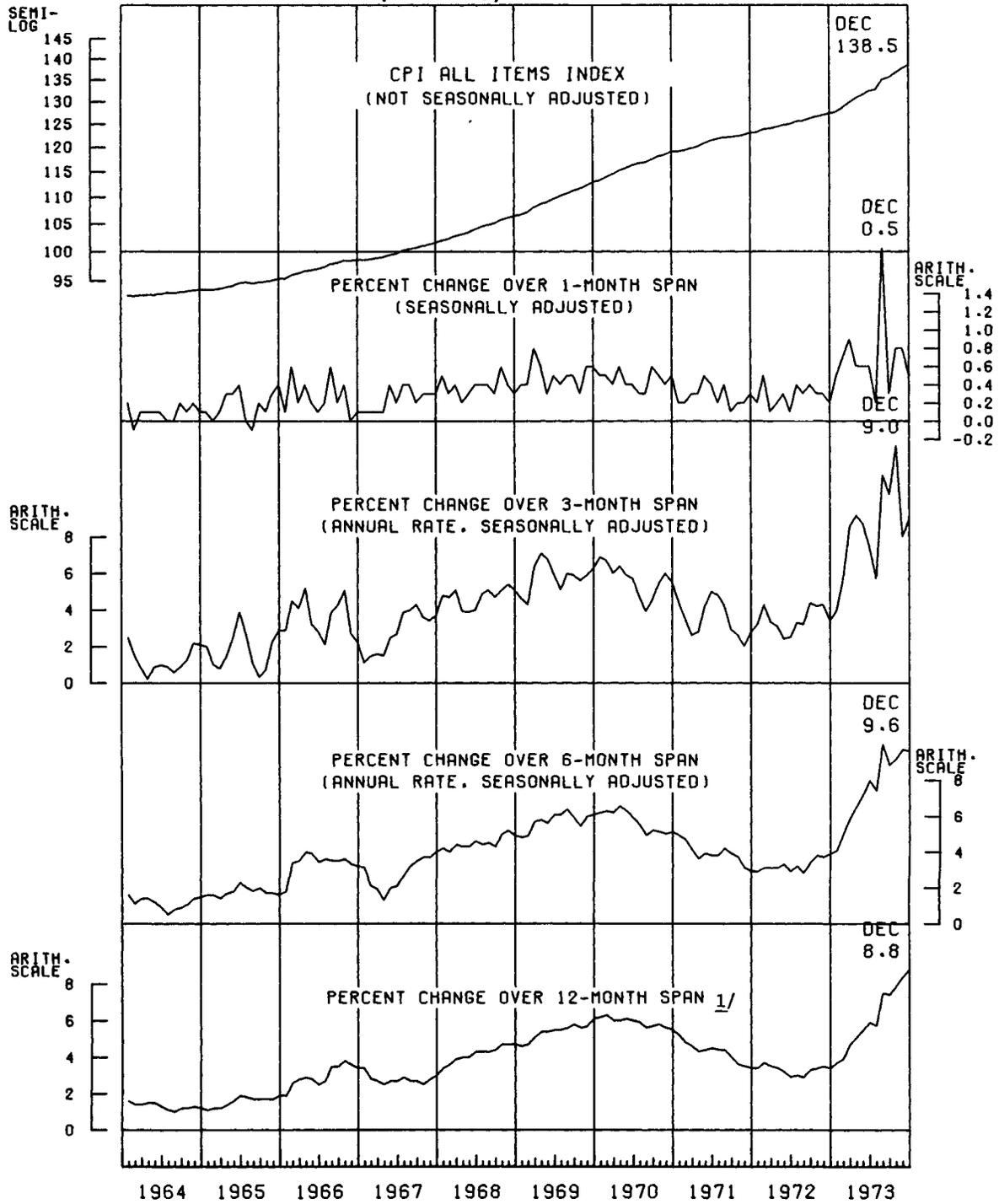
The services index rose 6.2 percent in 1973, the largest increase since 1970. About a third of the 1973 rise was due to increases in mortgage interest costs. But, even after excluding mortgage interest costs, the increase of 4.9 percent in the services index was somewhat larger than it was in the 2 preceding years. Indexes for all major categories of services in the CPI, except transportation, increased more in 1973 than in 1972.

In the household services category, the rent index rose 4.9 percent in 1973, the largest December-to-December increase since 1953. The sharpest increase occurred in the first quarter, when rents—which were under direct controls during Phase 2 of the Economic Stabilization Program—were removed from all controls with the start of Phase 3 early in 1973.

The index for household services other than rent rose 8.7 percent in 1973, considerably more than it had in 1971 and 1972. Over half the increase in 1973 was due to the rise in mortgage interest rates. Interest rates on conventional mortgage loans started to move up rapidly in the spring and interest rates on FHA and VA mortgage loans were raised in the third quarter. At the end of 1973, the index for mortgage interest rates was 14.7 percent above its year-earlier level and slightly above the previous peak reached in late 1970. Charges for house-keeping and home maintenance and repair services, gas, and electricity increased more in 1973 than in 1972, partly because of higher costs for materials such as lumber, aluminum siding, paints, and fuels. Residential property taxes, however, increased much less in 1973 than in 1972, and property insurance rates declined.

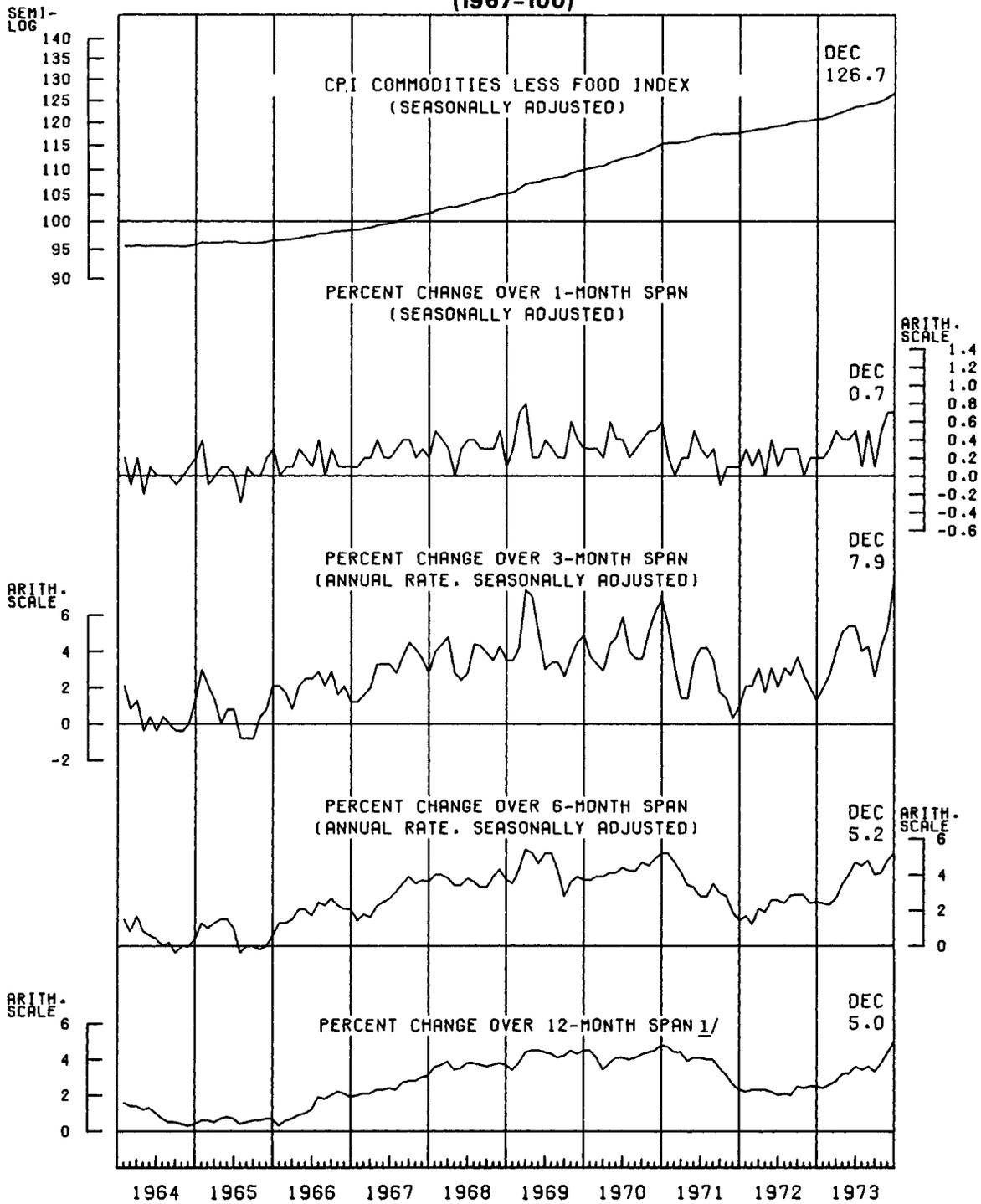
The slower rise in property taxes in 1973—0.7 percent, compared with 9.4 percent in 1972—resulted from tax credits in the form of rebates, discounts, or increased exemptions to homeowners in some states. In addition, local jurisdictions are finding alternate sources of revenue for financing education, the most frequently cited sources being the State government and the Federal revenue sharing plans.

Chart 1. All items index and its rate of change, 1964-73
(1967=100)



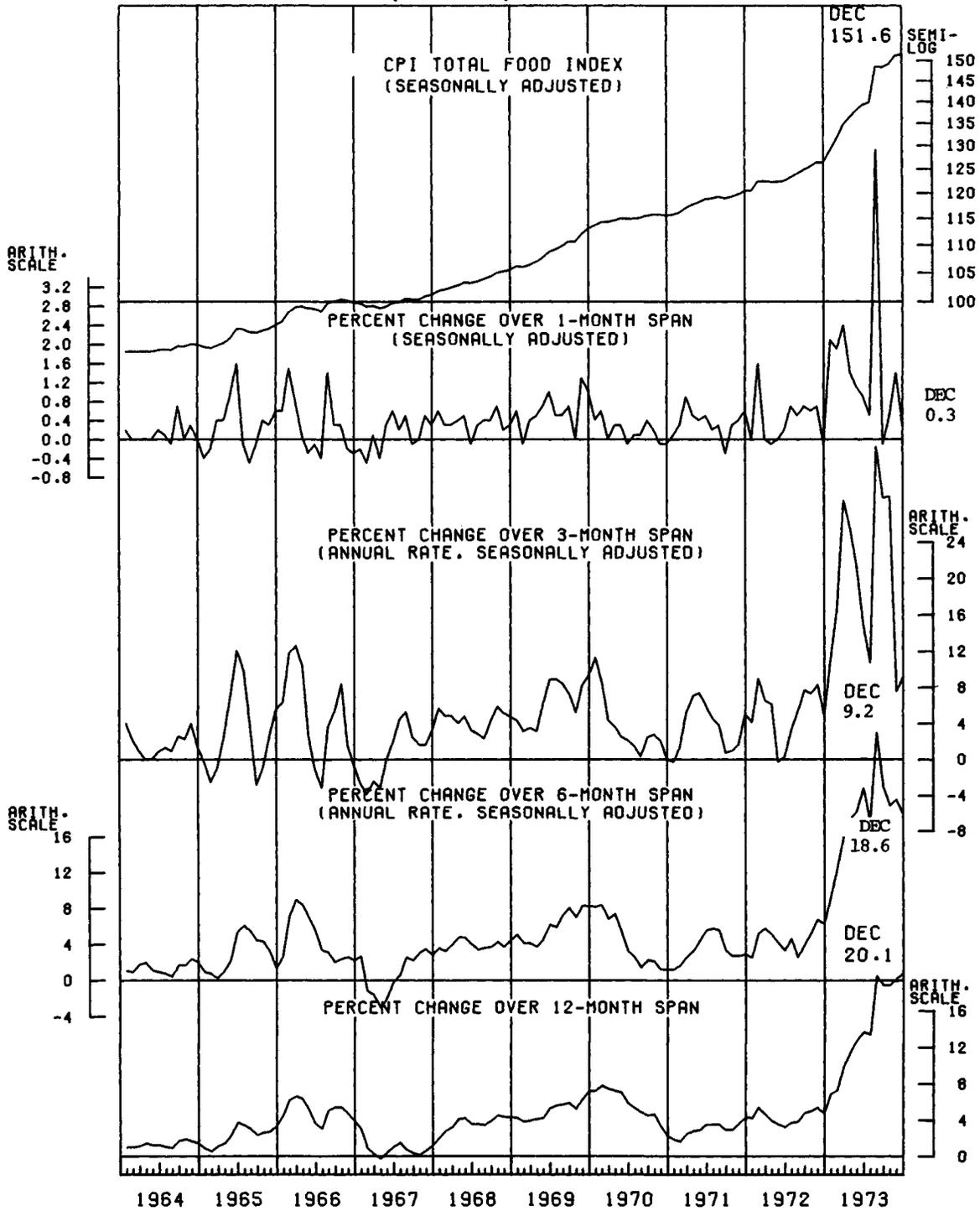
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1964-73
(1967=100)**



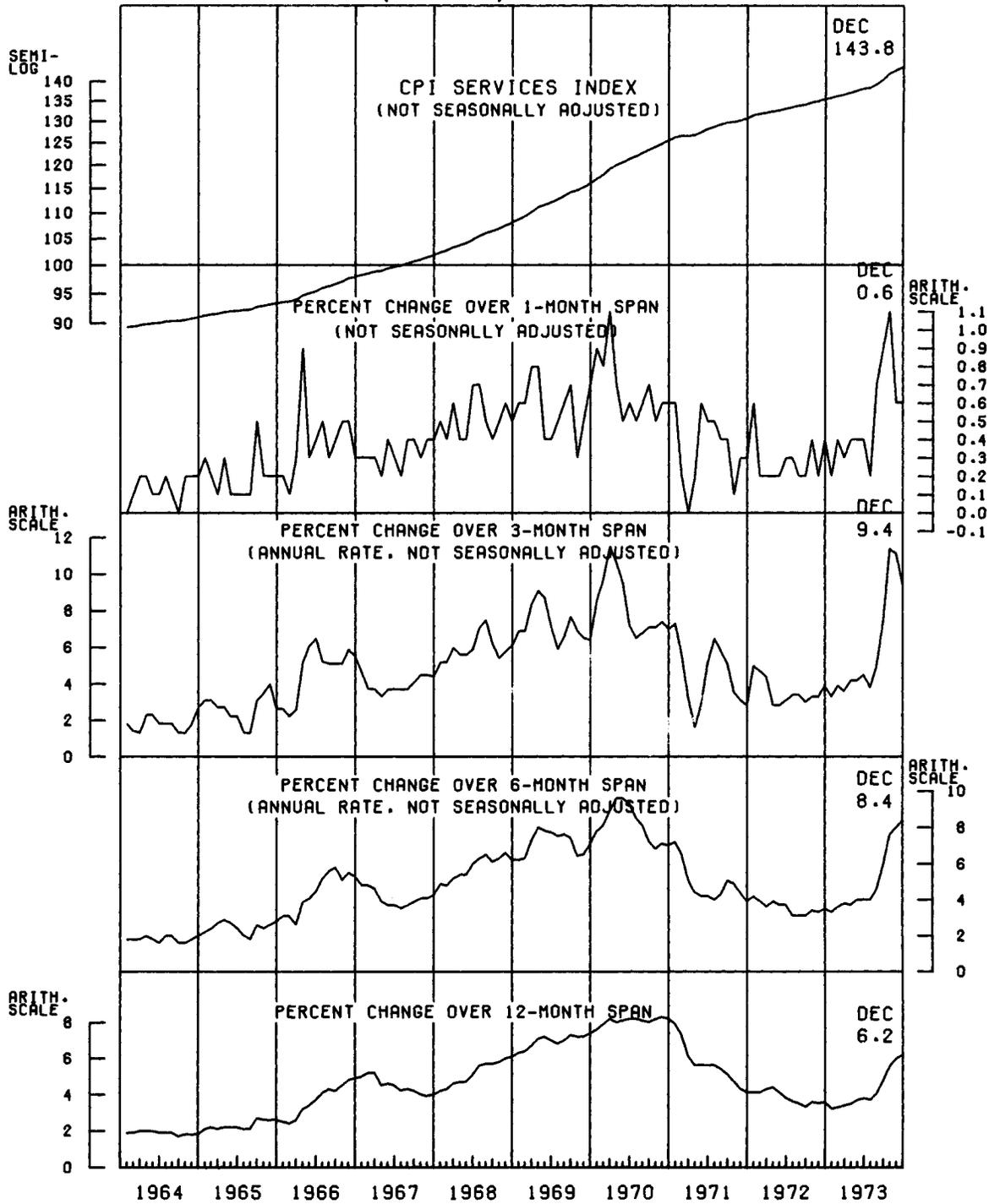
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
 BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

**Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1964-73
(1967=100)**



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**Chart 4. Services index and its rates of change, 1964-73
(1967=100)**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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Table 1-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1973 annual average index

(unadjusted, unless otherwise indicated)

Group	Indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to 1973 from— 1972 average
	1972 average	1973 average	
All items	125.3	133.1	6.2
All items (1957-59=100)	145.7	154.7	-
Commodities	120.9	129.9	7.4
Food	123.5	141.4	14.5
Food at home	121.6	141.4	16.3
Cereals and bakery products	114.7	127.7	11.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	128.0	160.4	25.3
Dairy products	117.1	127.9	9.2
Fruits and vegetables	125.0	142.5	14.0
Other foods at home	116.7	130.3	11.7
Food away from home	131.1	141.4	7.9
Commodities less food	119.4	123.5	3.4
Nondurables less food	119.8	124.8	4.2
Apparel commodities ¹	122.7	127.1	3.6
Men's and boys'	121.9	126.4	3.7
Women's and girls'	123.0	127.3	3.5
Footwear	124.9	130.2	4.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	118.2	123.4	4.4
Gasoline and motor oil	108.8	118.8	9.2
Tobacco products	133.3	137.0	2.8
Alcoholic beverages	119.6	122.5	2.4
Fuel oil and coal	118.5	136.0	14.8
Other nondurables	117.8	120.7	2.5
Durable commodities	118.9	121.9	2.5
Household durables	115.0	118.8	3.3
New cars	111.0	111.1	.1
Used cars	110.5	117.6	6.4
Other durables	126.4	128.5	1.7
Services	133.3	139.1	4.4
Rent	119.2	124.2	4.2
Services less rent	135.9	141.8	4.3
Household services less rent	139.2	146.8	5.5
Transportation services	136.0	136.9	.7
Medical care services	138.2	144.3	4.4
Other services	125.8	131.6	4.6
Special indexes:			
All items less food	125.8	130.7	3.9
Nondurable commodities	121.7	132.8	9.2
Apparel commodities less footwear	122.3	126.5	3.4
Services less medical care services	132.6	138.3	4.3
Insurance and finance	143.8	149.3	3.8
Utilities and public transportation	125.8	130.0	3.3
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	144.3	152.9	6.0
Appliances (including radio and T. V.)	105.8	105.5	- .3
	Expenditure classes		
All items	125.3	133.1	6.2
Food	123.5	141.4	14.5
Housing	129.2	135.0	4.5
Shelter ²	134.5	140.7	4.6
Rent	119.2	124.2	4.2
Homeownership ³	140.1	146.7	4.7
Fuel and utilities ⁴	120.1	126.9	5.7
Gas and electricity	120.5	126.4	4.9
Household furnishings and operation	121.0	124.9	3.2
Apparel and upkeep	122.3	126.8	3.7
Transportation	119.9	123.8	3.3
Private	117.5	121.5	3.4
Public	143.4	144.8	1.0
Health and recreation	126.1	130.2	3.3
Medical care	132.5	137.7	3.9
Personal care	119.8	125.2	4.5
Reading and recreation	122.8	125.9	2.5
Other goods and services	125.5	129.0	2.8
Special indexes:			
All items less shelter	122.9	131.1	6.7
All items less medical care	124.9	132.9	6.4
All items less mortgage interest costs	124.4	132.1	6.2
CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁵	121.3	142.3	17.3
CPI - selected beef cuts ⁶	135.3	162.4	20.0
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:			
1967=\$1.00	\$0.799	\$0.752	-5.9
1957-59=\$1.00 .....	.687	.647	-

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.

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

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	September 1973	October 1973	November 1973	December 1973	3 months ending in			6 months ending in		
					March 1973	June 1973	September 1973	December 1973	June 1973	December 1973
Commodity and service groups										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	8.6	7.4	10.3	9.0	8.0	9.6
Commodities -----	132.8	133.5	134.7	135.6	11.5	9.5	12.0	8.7	10.5	10.3
Food -----	148.3	149.1	151.2	151.6	28.6	14.7	28.8	9.2	21.5	18.6
Food at home -----	149.1	149.6	151.6	152.0	35.4	15.4	31.6	8.0	25.0	19.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	132.5	139.1	146.1	148.6	10.4	14.9	34.7	58.2	12.6	46.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	178.4	170.9	169.3	168.3	71.4	9.8	71.0	-20.8	37.2	16.4
Dairy products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	130.3	137.3	141.2	144.9	11.3	8.8	21.5	52.9	10.0	36.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	139.1	144.1	147.8	148.9	20.8	31.2	-18.3	31.3	25.9	3.6
Other foods at home -----	135.6	136.8	138.0	139.5	14.2	26.4	17.7	12.0	20.1	14.8
Food away from home -----	145.0	147.6	149.6	150.7	7.1	12.0	15.4	16.7	9.5	16.0
Commodities less food -----	124.3	124.9	125.8	126.7	4.0	5.4	2.6	7.9	4.7	5.2
Nondurables less food -----	125.1	126.4	127.9	129.5	4.7	7.0	1.3	14.8	5.9	7.8
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	128.4	128.8	129.1	129.5	3.9	4.9	4.2	3.5	4.4	3.8
Men's and boys' -----	127.3	127.4	127.6	128.2	3.6	5.2	2.2	2.9	4.4	2.5
Women's and girls' -----	129.0	129.5	129.7	129.7	3.9	5.9	5.1	2.2	4.9	3.6
Footwear -----	131.3	131.7	132.2	132.3	5.8	3.5	4.4	3.1	4.6	3.7
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	123.6	125.0	127.3	129.6	4.8	8.5	.6	20.9	6.6	10.3
Gasoline and motor oil -----	117.8	121.3	126.7	131.6	7.4	25.5	-5.9	55.8	16.1	21.1
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	138.0	138.2	138.3	139.5	3.9	5.4	2.1	1.5	4.7	1.8
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted) -----	123.2	123.7	124.3	125.3	2.7	3.3	3.0	7.0	3.0	5.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	134.1	141.7	155.8	173.0	28.4	16.0	6.5	177.0	22.0	71.8
Other nondurables -----	121.3	121.9	122.6	123.1	2.0	3.4	3.0	6.1	2.7	4.5
Durable commodities -----	123.1	123.0	122.9	123.0	2.4	3.4	4.3	-.3	2.9	2.0
Household durables -----	120.1	120.4	120.8	121.1	2.1	7.4	3.7	3.4	4.7	3.6
New cars -----	113.2	111.0	111.0	110.6	3.0	5.2	6.6	-8.9	4.1	-1.4
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted) -----	120.3	118.5	116.1	112.6	-4.4	33.9	-6.4	-23.2	13.1	-15.2
Other durables -----	129.1	129.9	130.2	130.9	1.3	.6	3.8	5.7	.9	4.7
Services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	140.6	142.2	143.0	143.8	3.6	4.5	7.4	9.4	4.0	8.4
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	125.4	125.9	126.3	126.9	6.1	4.0	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.7
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	143.4	145.2	146.1	146.9	3.5	4.4	7.9	10.1	4.0	9.0
Household services less rent -----	149.2	151.7	153.0	154.0	3.7	6.0	11.5	13.5	4.9	12.5
Transportation services -----	137.9	138.1	138.1	138.7	-3.7	3.9	3.0	2.3	0	2.6
Medical care services -----	144.8	148.2	148.8	149.1	2.9	4.6	3.7	12.4	3.7	8.0
Other services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	133.3	134.0	134.8	135.3	4.8	6.7	6.2	6.1	5.7	6.2
Special indexes:										
All items less food -----	131.8	132.8	133.7	134.6	3.2	5.4	5.0	8.8	4.3	6.9
Nondurable commodities -----	136.4	137.4	139.0	140.3	15.7	10.7	15.1	11.9	13.2	13.5
Apparel commodities less footwear Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	127.7	128.2	128.5	128.9	3.6	5.6	3.5	3.8	4.6	3.7
Insurance and finance -----	140.0	141.4	142.3	143.1	3.6	4.5	8.1	9.2	4.1	8.6
Utilities and public transportation -----	152.1	155.0	156.3	156.4	-.3	4.8	14.3	11.8	2.2	13.0
Housekeeping and home maintenance services -----	130.8	131.7	132.4	134.0	1.6	3.2	4.4	10.2	2.4	7.2
Appliances (including radio and T. V.) (not seasonally adjusted) -----	155.0	156.2	157.3	158.6	6.1	7.7	7.3	9.6	6.9	8.4
105.5	105.7	105.8	105.7	-1.5	0	.4	.8	-.8	.6	
Expenditure classes										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	8.6	7.4	10.3	9.0	8.0	9.6
Food -----	148.3	149.1	151.2	151.6	28.6	14.7	28.8	9.2	21.5	18.6
Housing (not seasonally adjusted) -----	136.6	138.1	139.4	140.5	3.7	4.6	8.3	11.9	4.2	10.1
Shelter ² -----	142.8	144.6	145.5	146.3	3.0	5.3	9.8	10.2	4.1	10.0
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	125.4	125.9	126.3	126.9	6.1	4.0	4.6	4.9	5.0	4.7
Homeownership ³ -----	148.9	151.3	152.4	153.3	2.3	5.7	10.9	12.4	4.0	11.6
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	127.3	129.2	132.0	135.8	7.8	5.6	4.5	29.5	6.7	16.3
Gas and electricity -----	127.1	128.2	129.7	130.7	7.7	2.9	5.2	11.8	5.3	8.5
Household furnishings and operation -----	126.0	126.7	127.5	128.1	2.0	4.3	5.6	6.8	3.1	6.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	128.0	128.6	129.1	129.5	3.6	5.2	4.2	4.8	4.4	4.5
Transportation -----	124.9	124.6	125.7	126.6	2.7	7.1	2.6	5.6	4.8	4.1
Private -----	122.6	122.5	123.6	124.4	3.1	7.9	2.3	6.0	5.5	4.1
Public -----	145.8	146.1	145.6	147.2	-4.6	2.8	3.6	3.9	-1.0	3.8
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted) -----	131.1	132.1	132.6	133.0	3.5	4.4	3.4	5.9	4.0	4.7
Medical care -----	138.0	140.9	141.3	141.8	2.7	3.6	3.3	11.5	3.1	7.3
Personal care (not seasonally adjusted) -----	126.3	127.3	128.1	129.2	5.4	6.0	4.6	9.5	5.7	7.0
Reading and recreation -----	126.7	127.1	127.4	127.7	2.6	2.9	2.9	3.2	2.8	3.0
Other goods and services -----	129.5	129.9	130.5	131.2	4.8	4.5	.6	5.4	4.6	3.0
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter -----	133.6	134.5	135.7	136.5	10.0	8.1	10.5	9.0	9.0	9.7
All items less medical care -----	135.4	136.4	137.5	138.3	9.1	7.9	10.4	8.8	8.5	9.6
All items less mortgage interest costs CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) -----	134.4	135.2	136.3	137.1	8.5	7.7	9.4	8.3	8.1	8.9
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) -----	150.7	149.9	151.2	152.7	41.0	17.3	32.7	5.4	28.6	18.3
176.4	168.8	165.4	163.1	93.5	8.0	39.9	-26.9	44.6	1.1	

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

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

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

Area ¹	Pricing schedule ²	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967= 100	1957-59= 100	Other bases	December 1972	September 1973	November 1973
December 1973							
U. S. city average -----	M	138.5	161.1		8.8	2.2	0.7
Chicago -----	M	136.8	155.4		8.5	1.6	.5
Detroit -----	M	140.0	160.8		9.1	2.0	.7
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	M	134.1	157.7		7.8	2.2	.4
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	M	145.9	173.6		9.1	2.5	1.0
Philadelphia -----	M	141.3	165.1		9.6	2.3	.6
October 1973							
Boston -----	1	138.7	166.2		7.6	3.4	
Houston -----	1	136.2	155.8		7.8	3.6	
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	1	136.3	158.0		7.2	2.4	
Pittsburgh -----	1	136.6	157.1		8.0	3.0	
November 1973							
Buffalo -----	2	138.6		³ 152.3	7.8	1.5	
Cleveland -----	2	137.5	155.3		7.5	1.2	
Dallas -----	2	135.6		³ 146.6	7.9	1.4	
Milwaukee -----	2	135.7	153.2		8.6	1.9	
San Diego -----	2	136.5		⁴ 143.5	7.6	1.6	
Seattle -----	2	131.4	154.4		8.4	2.0	
Washington -----	2	139.4	162.4		7.5	2.2	
December 1973							
Atlanta -----	3	138.9	159.7		8.8	1.4	
Baltimore -----	3	140.7	163.3		9.9	2.3	
Cincinnati -----	3	136.6	155.0		8.0	1.6	
Honolulu -----	3	132.8		⁵ 143.2	6.8	2.5	
Kansas City -----	3	134.4	159.6		7.1	1.4	
St. Louis -----	3	133.8	156.3		8.2	1.1	
San Francisco-Oakland -----	3	135.2	160.9		7.0	.5	

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

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

M - Every month.

1 - January, April, July, and October.

2 - February, May, August, and November.

3 - March, June, September, and December.

³ November 1963= 100.

⁴ February 1965= 100.

⁵ December 1963= 100.

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

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas ¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from November 1973 to December 1973

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.4	1.0	0.6
Food -----	.9	.8	.7	1.2	.8	.7
Housing -----	.8	.3	1.0	.3	2.0	.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	0	-.3	.1	-.1	-.2	-.1
Transportation -----	.7	.8	1.4	-.1	.9	1.2
Health and recreation -----	.3	.7	.1	.2	.3	.1
Medical care -----	.4	.1	0	.1	.3	0
Personal care -----	.9	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.1	-.1	-.8	.1	0	.2
Other goods and services -----	.4	2.2	1.6	0	.1	0

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, December 1973 index, and percent changes from September 1973

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items -----	138.5	136.8	140.0	134.1	145.9	141.3
Food -----	151.3	152.0	154.3	146.4	155.3	153.1
Food at home -----	151.5	153.1	155.7	147.8	155.5	152.4
Cereals and bakery products -----	148.5	154.3	159.2	143.2	149.0	146.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	165.8	164.8	172.4	166.1	167.1	167.5
Dairy products -----	144.9	144.5	144.9	136.7	150.9	143.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	145.3	145.7	139.6	140.6	154.7	145.9
Other food at home -----	141.2	143.3	145.2	136.9	144.2	142.4
Food away from home -----	150.7	147.7	148.4	142.2	154.9	156.3
Housing -----	140.5	132.5	142.3	137.1	151.6	144.5
Shelter -----	146.4	136.6	152.9	140.8	158.1	156.3
Rent, residential -----	126.9	(²)	126.4	(²)	139.6	(²)
Homeownership -----	153.6	142.1	158.2	145.9	172.3	162.7
Fuel and utilities -----	135.8	125.2	127.3	137.4	154.0	134.4
Fuel oil and coal -----	172.8	163.2	155.1	-	198.4	154.8
Gas and electricity -----	131.0	³ 123.0	129.3	150.4	142.4	137.2
Household furnishings and operation -----	128.0	124.8	119.7	124.6	133.4	129.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	130.5	128.0	125.2	125.3	130.4	127.8
Men's and boys' -----	129.1	124.3	125.3	117.5	129.2	129.9
Women's and girls' -----	131.8	132.1	118.2	129.6	129.2	123.9
Footwear -----	132.6	126.3	140.9	130.9	128.6	133.6
Transportation -----	126.7	131.1	127.9	125.3	138.3	130.2
Private -----	124.6	126.0	125.6	125.5	131.6	127.7
Public -----	146.5	163.6	155.5	120.9	164.3	144.9
Health and recreation -----	133.0	134.4	136.9	126.9	138.7	137.0
Medical care -----	141.4	140.6	153.0	138.7	148.9	153.8
Personal care -----	129.2	130.3	(²)	120.3	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	127.6	128.2	128.4	118.0	131.2	130.5
Other goods and services -----	131.3	136.8	128.8	124.2	140.1	131.0
Percent changes September 1973 to December 1973						
All items -----	2.2	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.3
Food -----	2.0	1.4	.9	2.7	2.1	2.5
Food at home -----	1.5	1.0	.1	2.1	1.8	2.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	12.2	12.8	13.0	14.9	11.2	10.0
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-8.0	-8.1	-9.4	-7.4	-6.6	-6.3
Dairy products -----	11.2	9.1	8.4	8.3	14.8	12.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	5.8	5.7	6.2	10.5	4.4	8.9
Other food at home -----	3.9	4.2	4.5	2.0	4.0	4.7
Food away from home -----	3.9	3.2	4.6	4.6	3.1	2.5
Housing -----	2.9	1.8	2.5	3.6	4.1	3.1
Shelter -----	2.4	1.5	2.2	4.1	2.9	3.5
Rent, residential -----	1.2	(²)	4.5	(²)	4.9	(²)
Homeownership -----	2.9	1.7	2.4	5.0	3.9	4.2
Fuel and utilities -----	7.1	3.8	5.5	5.3	14.7	4.3
Fuel oil and coal -----	29.3	25.3	20.3	-	42.0	19.5
Gas and electricity -----	3.6	1.0	5.8	8.7	4.8	.8
Household furnishings and operation -----	1.5	1.5	1.7	1.1	1.2	1.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.7	0	.8	-.3	.9	1.5
Men's and boys' -----	1.4	1.1	1.8	-1.7	2.1	3.3
Women's and girls' -----	1.8	-1.6	-2.1	-.8	-1.4	.6
Footwear -----	1.0	1.1	5.1	.2	.1	1.1
Transportation -----	2.3	2.5	3.3	1.4	2.1	2.5
Private -----	2.5	2.7	3.6	1.3	2.7	2.8
Public -----	.7	1.9	.6	2.7	.2	1.0
Health and recreation -----	1.4	2.0	1.7	.9	1.6	1.0
Medical care -----	2.2	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.3	2.2
Personal care -----	2.3	3.2	(²)	1.1	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.6	.3	.4	-.2	.7	.2
Other goods and services -----	1.1	3.4	3.2	.6	1.2	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, December 1973 index, and percent changes from September 1973—Continued

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	San Francisco-Oakland	St. Louis
Indexes (1967= 100)							
All items -----	138.9	140.7	136.6	132.8	134.4	135.2	133.8
Food -----	154.1	155.2	151.9	146.1	151.8	145.6	150.1
Food at home -----	154.5	155.8	152.9	145.3	152.6	148.1	149.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	152.4	149.0	152.7	143.5	150.5	(2)	153.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	168.9	169.6	165.2	157.7	164.1	(2)	160.1
Dairy products -----	147.7	145.1	151.3	137.0	160.5	(2)	149.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	152.2	155.3	143.9	138.7	140.9	(2)	142.6
Other food at home -----	142.5	145.1	143.7	135.7	141.1	(2)	137.1
Food away from home -----	152.4	152.6	148.0	148.2	149.3	136.5	152.2
Housing -----	143.1	142.7	133.3	131.4	131.4	139.7	129.8
Shelter -----	149.0	152.2	138.7	138.0	135.9	145.1	130.1
Rent, residential -----	122.7	118.7	113.0	136.6	113.6	135.8	111.2
Homeownership -----	157.0	166.3	150.7	139.0	144.5	149.9	135.4
Fuel and utilities -----	134.6	129.8	129.2	112.9	124.2	129.6	132.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	159.2	-	-	-	-	5 192.2
Gas and electricity -----	133.7	123.0	119.8	107.8	123.6	134.5	126.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	134.6	129.6	121.4	119.9	124.2	127.2	126.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	126.6	135.3	131.4	127.5	131.6	129.3	126.0
Men's and boys' -----	134.1	141.5	130.4	121.2	125.4	127.5	121.3
Women's and girls' -----	122.6	127.8	129.5	128.9	135.3	131.5	128.3
Footwear -----	122.3	143.7	139.8	124.5	139.0	127.0	135.4
Transportation -----	119.8	123.5	122.1	125.8	125.2	125.1	123.5
Private -----	122.6	123.6	124.9	127.3	124.1	124.3	125.8
Public -----	83.8	122.4	100.3	117.4	142.9	138.4	95.9
Health and recreation -----	136.5	135.4	135.3	126.3	131.9	127.9	130.3
Medical care -----	151.1	155.4	148.7	137.1	138.8	134.8	133.6
Personal care -----	133.1	131.7	134.0	124.5	131.6	124.7	129.3
Reading and recreation -----	129.7	127.2	123.1	124.3	121.8	122.8	124.0
Other goods and services -----	124.4	127.3	134.1	117.9	136.0	125.7	133.1
Percent changes September 1973 to December 1973							
All items -----	1.4	2.3	1.6	2.5	1.4	0.5	1.1
Food -----	1.9	2.4	1.1	5.2	1.9	.5	1.4
Food at home -----	1.6	2.2	.2	5.7	1.5	.3	.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	13.9	15.4	11.1	23.9	10.0	(2)	10.4
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	-6.5	-6.5	-9.6	2.0	-9.4	(2)	-8.4
Dairy products -----	10.8	11.3	10.2	6.1	14.1	(2)	11.9
Fruits and vegetables -----	1.3	4.2	2.4	2.3	7.1	(2)	.9
Other food at home -----	3.8	5.5	4.4	3.7	3.4	(2)	4.4
Food away from home -----	2.8	3.2	4.7	3.8	3.3	1.0	3.7
Housing -----	1.0	3.0	2.5	1.2	1.0	.3	2.3
Shelter -----	1.5	3.0	2.5	1.2	.8	-.1	1.9
Rent, residential -----	1.1	1.5	.5	1.4	.5	1.2	.5
Homeownership -----	1.7	3.5	3.4	1.2	.9	-.6	2.3
Fuel and utilities -----	0	5.5	2.6	-.1	2.0	2.1	4.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	24.0	-	-	-	-	20.4
Gas and electricity -----	.1	1.7	1.3	.2	2.5	4.0	1.8
Household furnishings and operation -----	.3	1.6	2.2	1.7	.9	.7	1.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	.6	1.3	1.0	1.3	-.5	-.4	-.8
Men's and boys' -----	1.1	1.3	1.2	2.5	-1.1	-.6	.4
Women's and girls' -----	.7	.1	-.6	.2	-1.6	.5	-1.3
Footwear -----	-.6	1.1	.9	3.8	.5	.4	-2.5
Transportation -----	2.7	2.2	.4	2.2	1.9	1.1	-.7
Private -----	2.7	2.4	2.1	2.5	1.9	1.1	2.8
Public -----	2.3	.7	-13.8	0	.6	1.4	-34.1
Health and recreation -----	.9	1.7	2.0	1.2	2.3	1.0	1.4
Medical care -----	1.5	3.8	3.0	1.9	2.7	1.7	2.3
Personal care -----	1.2	2.4	.9	.7	5.4	1.1	2.3
Reading and recreation -----	.1	.2	.5	1.0	.3	.3	-.1
Other goods and services -----	.6	.6	2.5	1.2	2.7	.8	1.4

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

³ Revised index: November 1973, 122.2.

⁴ Change from October 1973.

⁵ Revised index: September 1973, 159.6.

Table 5-A. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, 1973 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1972-73

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles- Long Beach	New York- Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
	Indexes (1967= 100)					
All items -----	133.1	132.0	134.5	129.2	139.7	135.5
All items (1957-59= 100) -----	154.7	150.0	154.5	152.0	166.2	158.2
Food -----	141.4	142.7	143.6	136.5	145.4	142.7
Food at home -----	141.4	143.6	144.8	137.9	144.8	141.7
Cereals and bakery products -----	127.7	132.5	134.5	123.3	128.8	128.8
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	160.4	161.0	166.5	160.6	160.0	160.0
Dairy products -----	127.9	128.8	127.5	123.8	130.9	127.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	142.5	143.5	135.6	133.8	150.4	141.9
Other food at home -----	130.3	131.7	132.5	128.6	133.1	130.1
Food away from home -----	141.4	139.3	138.8	132.6	147.6	147.0
Housing -----	135.0	128.7	137.4	131.8	144.4	137.8
Shelter -----	140.7	133.0	147.4	135.0	152.0	148.0
Rent, residential -----	124.2	-	124.2	-	136.6	-
Homeownership -----	146.7	138.2	152.1	139.0	163.7	152.9
Fuel and utilities -----	126.9	119.8	121.2	131.1	134.7	126.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	136.0	130.3	129.3	-	142.3	129.5
Gas and electricity -----	126.4	120.2	123.1	139.7	134.3	131.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	124.9	121.3	117.3	121.6	130.5	126.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	126.8	125.5	122.3	123.1	126.3	124.7
Men's and boys' -----	126.4	121.1	121.8	118.5	126.9	124.7
Women's and girls' -----	127.3	130.4	117.3	126.3	124.2	121.6
Footwear -----	130.2	124.2	132.6	128.8	127.7	130.5
Transportation -----	123.8	127.8	123.6	123.1	135.6	127.6
Private -----	121.5	122.5	121.3	123.4	128.3	124.8
Public -----	144.8	160.8	150.8	118.2	163.6	143.6
Health and recreation -----	130.2	131.2	133.8	124.7	135.6	134.4
Medical care -----	137.7	137.0	148.5	134.9	145.1	149.0
Personal care -----	125.2	125.8	-	119.1	-	-
Reading and recreation -----	125.9	127.1	127.1	116.9	129.6	128.8
Other goods and services -----	129.0	132.2	125.0	122.2	137.1	129.9
	Percent changes 1972-73					
All items -----	6.2	6.2	6.6	5.6	6.3	6.7
Food -----	14.5	15.2	16.8	13.4	13.1	14.7
Food at home -----	16.3	17.1	19.1	15.4	15.4	16.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	11.3	14.4	16.1	10.4	10.2	11.9
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	25.3	24.1	26.9	25.7	21.8	25.8
Dairy products -----	9.2	10.3	11.2	7.7	8.7	7.0
Fruits and vegetables -----	14.0	15.1	14.5	10.5	14.3	13.9
Other food at home -----	11.7	12.3	14.1	12.0	12.3	13.1
Food away from home -----	7.9	8.0	7.9	8.1	6.5	7.8
Housing -----	4.5	3.5	3.1	3.7	5.9	5.5
Shelter -----	4.6	3.4	3.0	3.8	6.4	5.9
Rent, residential -----	4.2	-	3.3	-	7.4	-
Homeownership -----	4.7	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.7	6.4
Fuel and utilities -----	5.7	3.8	4.9	5.8	8.5	7.7
Fuel oil and coal -----	14.8	14.6	13.5	-	18.2	15.3
Gas and electricity -----	4.9	3.8	5.2	7.4	9.9	7.5
Household furnishings and operation -----	3.2	3.8	1.9	3.1	3.0	3.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	3.7	4.8	3.4	2.6	2.7	3.9
Men's and boys' -----	3.7	3.6	3.8	1.3	4.1	2.2
Women's and girls' -----	3.5	6.4	1.6	2.6	.9	5.4
Footwear -----	4.2	5.1	6.3	4.4	2.7	3.5
Transportation -----	3.3	2.9	6.1	4.7	2.0	2.0
Private -----	3.4	3.5	6.5	4.9	2.5	2.2
Public -----	1.0	0	1.5	1.7	.5	.7
Health and recreation -----	3.3	3.1	4.0	3.6	3.6	3.4
Medical care -----	3.9	4.2	5.0	4.8	3.5	4.9
Personal care -----	4.5	4.1	-	3.4	-	-
Reading and recreation -----	2.5	2.9	2.4	2.8	1.9	2.1
Other goods and services -----	2.8	1.3	2.9	2.5	4.6	2.9

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, 1973 annual average indexes and percent changes, 1972-73—Continued

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	San Francisco-Oakland	St. Louis
	Indexes (1967= 100)						
All items -----	133.7	134.9	132.1	128.3	130.3	131.5	129.3
All items (1957-59= 100) -----	153.8	156.6	149.9	² 138.3	154.7	156.5	151.0
Food -----	144.0	143.8	142.9	135.2	141.4	138.0	140.2
Food at home -----	144.2	144.3	144.2	133.8	141.8	139.6	139.8
Cereals and bakery products -----	130.6	126.4	130.4	117.9	130.0	120.0	133.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	162.6	162.3	161.0	146.5	160.4	157.5	154.6
Dairy products -----	132.4	129.4	133.4	127.8	139.4	123.8	130.2
Fruits and vegetables -----	150.8	149.1	145.6	134.7	134.0	138.0	143.7
Other food at home -----	131.3	132.8	133.0	127.1	130.7	132.0	125.8
Food away from home -----	143.3	141.7	138.0	139.0	140.0	132.1	142.0
Housing -----	138.5	137.5	128.6	128.8	128.8	136.2	125.6
Shelter -----	143.5	146.4	133.5	135.1	133.3	141.4	126.4
Rent, residential -----	120.3	116.1	111.6	133.1	112.6	133.2	110.2
Homeownership -----	150.4	159.1	143.6	136.5	141.2	145.6	130.9
Fuel and utilities -----	133.3	123.0	124.6	112.2	120.9	126.5	125.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	130.2	-	-	-	-	151.0
Gas and electricity -----	131.5	121.0	120.0	106.9	119.7	128.2	124.3
Household furnishings and operation -----	130.3	126.5	117.9	117.3	121.6	124.3	123.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.5	130.5	128.0	124.1	130.6	126.7	123.1
Men's and boys' -----	130.6	138.0	127.2	116.7	126.3	125.5	116.7
Women's and girls' -----	119.2	122.1	126.4	126.2	134.9	128.6	125.6
Footwear -----	120.6	140.2	137.4	120.8	136.0	126.1	133.4
Transportation -----	116.6	120.7	123.5	123.9	122.9	123.2	124.1
Private -----	119.3	120.4	122.1	125.5	121.8	122.5	122.8
Public -----	81.3	121.8	135.2	114.9	141.9	135.8	137.2
Health and recreation -----	133.5	132.2	131.8	124.1	128.6	125.6	127.4
Medical care -----	146.3	148.9	143.8	133.3	135.1	132.0	129.9
Personal care -----	129.8	126.2	132.1	122.7	125.1	121.8	126.6
Reading and recreation -----	127.9	126.7	122.0	122.7	120.6	121.5	122.0
Other goods and services -----	122.6	125.4	129.2	116.5	132.4	123.1	130.2
	Percent changes 1972-73						
All items -----	6.5	6.8	5.9	4.5	5.1	5.8	5.7
Food -----	15.8	15.3	14.8	9.7	14.4	13.7	14.4
Food at home -----	18.0	17.5	16.8	11.0	16.5	16.1	16.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	11.4	10.7	12.0	11.1	11.2	6.8	11.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	29.0	27.4	26.7	17.5	26.5	24.2	25.3
Dairy products -----	11.6	8.6	11.3	8.0	10.5	7.1	8.7
Fruits and vegetables -----	14.2	15.9	12.3	3.1	13.2	14.0	14.5
Other food at home -----	12.3	11.7	11.5	8.4	11.9	12.7	12.2
Food away from home -----	9.1	7.3	7.7	6.3	7.9	5.1	7.2
Housing -----	5.1	5.0	3.3	3.6	2.1	4.4	2.6
Shelter -----	4.9	5.7	3.4	4.2	1.1	4.4	1.4
Rent, residential -----	2.8	3.1	1.8	4.2	1.7	3.1	1.5
Homeownership -----	5.3	6.6	4.0	4.3	.9	5.1	1.3
Fuel and utilities -----	6.5	4.8	2.4	1.9	4.5	4.3	6.7
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	13.2	-	-	-	-	25.0
Gas and electricity -----	6.9	2.5	1.3	1.9	3.5	8.5	2.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	4.7	3.1	3.2	2.4	3.4	4.5	2.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	4.0	5.4	4.1	3.0	2.4	4.1	2.3
Men's and boys' -----	5.6	7.8	2.9	2.5	1.2	3.1	.8
Women's and girls' -----	4.0	3.6	5.4	1.5	2.3	4.5	2.4
Footwear -----	3.3	6.7	4.4	4.8	4.4	3.1	5.0
Transportation -----	3.2	3.4	-.2	.7	3.8	2.3	3.3
Private -----	3.5	3.9	3.7	.6	4.0	2.4	4.2
Public -----	-3.0	.3	-20.4	1.8	1.7	1.4	-5.6
Health and recreation -----	4.1	3.0	3.9	2.4	3.2	3.8	3.0
Medical care -----	4.8	4.5	5.3	4.5	4.6	3.9	3.3
Personal care -----	4.6	4.2	5.1	1.9	3.1	4.9	2.5
Reading and recreation -----	3.6	.7	2.3	.7	2.4	3.4	3.0
Other goods and services -----	2.7	3.4	3.4	2.3	2.2	3.6	2.7

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.
² December 1963= 100.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, December 1973 indexes, and percent changes from November 1973

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 -----	151.3	151.5	148.5	165.8	144.9	145.3	141.2	150.7
Atlanta -----	154.1	154.5	152.4	168.9	147.7	152.2	142.5	152.4
Baltimore -----	155.2	155.8	149.0	169.6	145.1	155.3	145.1	152.6
Boston -----	150.4	151.2	152.9	164.0	142.1	145.6	139.1	147.3
Buffalo -----	149.4	149.2	150.5	162.5	143.3	144.4	135.7	150.5
Chicago -----	152.0	153.1	154.3	164.8	144.5	145.7	143.3	147.7
Cincinnati -----	151.9	152.9	152.7	165.2	151.3	143.9	143.7	148.0
Cleveland -----	151.7	152.6	149.3	163.8	152.6	145.7	141.7	147.1
Dallas -----	148.2	146.8	143.8	159.7	139.8	140.0	139.6	153.3
Detroit -----	154.3	155.7	159.2	172.4	144.9	139.6	145.2	148.4
Honolulu -----	146.1	145.3	143.5	157.7	137.0	138.7	135.7	148.2
Houston -----	153.3	151.4	148.3	165.8	150.0	144.1	139.1	160.2
Kansas City -----	151.8	152.6	150.5	164.1	160.5	140.9	141.1	149.3
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	146.4	147.8	143.2	167.1	136.7	140.6	136.9	142.2
Milwaukee -----	148.8	149.1	147.8	164.2	143.2	141.2	137.8	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	151.9	151.2	156.6	169.8	145.6	137.5	140.7	155.3
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	155.3	155.5	149.0	166.1	150.9	154.7	144.2	154.9
Philadelphia -----	153.1	152.4	146.9	167.5	143.8	145.9	142.4	156.3
Pittsburgh -----	152.0	151.0	147.0	162.3	140.8	150.3	144.3	158.0
St. Louis -----	150.1	149.6	153.8	160.1	149.2	142.6	137.1	152.2
San Diego -----	147.7	146.9	139.8	166.3	138.1	137.3	135.1	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland -----	145.6	148.1	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	136.5
Seattle -----	145.4	146.4	142.9	165.5	140.9	131.5	138.4	142.0
Washington -----	156.8	155.8	150.5	165.4	138.1	163.5	150.5	159.0
Percent changes November 1973 to December 1973								
U. S. city average -----	0.9	0.9	1.9	-1.0	2.6	1.1	2.4	0.7
Atlanta -----	.9	1.0	2.8	-.8	.7	.2	3.5	.5
Baltimore -----	.9	.8	.7	-.9	2.3	1.3	3.2	1.2
Boston -----	.6	.6	2.9	-1.2	2.2	-.7	2.4	.5
Buffalo -----	.2	.1	1.6	-2.3	1.9	1.1	1.5	.5
Chicago -----	.8	.8	1.3	-.8	3.1	-.7	3.5	1.0
Cincinnati -----	.9	.8	.7	-1.1	2.0	.8	3.5	1.0
Cleveland -----	1.7	1.8	4.6	-.2	2.5	1.7	3.5	.5
Dallas -----	1.0	1.2	3.2	-1.1	.9	1.5	3.8	.2
Detroit -----	.7	.7	2.3	-.4	1.7	-1.1	2.9	.1
Honolulu -----	1.2	1.1	2.9	.2	.6	2.7	.4	1.6
Houston -----	.8	1.1	1.6	-.2	2.0	.2	2.8	.1
Kansas City -----	1.3	1.3	2.5	-1.0	2.4	3.7	2.0	1.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	1.2	1.2	1.9	-.4	.9	4.6	.8	1.1
Milwaukee -----	.7	.9	1.2	-1.6	2.7	1.4	3.8	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	1.2	1.3	1.8	-.6	2.2	1.6	2.8	.8
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	.8	.9	1.6	-1.1	5.2	-.1	2.6	.5
Philadelphia -----	.7	.7	.5	.1	2.6	-.5	1.8	.4
Pittsburgh -----	.4	.3	1.4	-2.2	1.4	.5	3.2	.8
St. Louis -----	1.1	1.0	1.5	-1.8	2.7	2.0	3.9	1.4
San Diego -----	.8	1.1	1.2	1.0	.9	4.6	-.8	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland -----	1.4	1.6	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	.4
Seattle -----	1.4	1.5	3.1	-.3	2.1	4.9	.6	.9
Washington -----	1.0	.9	1.5	-2.5	1.3	3.3	4.5	1.1

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.
² Not available.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, December 1973 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to December 1973 from—		
	December 1973		December 1972	November 1973	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	151.3	151.6	20.1	0.9	0.3
Food away from home	150.7	150.7	12.7	.7	.7
Restaurant meals	152.0	152.0	13.5	.7	.8
Snacks	144.3	144.3	8.7	.6	.6
Food at home	151.5	152.0	22.1	.9	.3
Cereals and bakery products	148.5	148.6	28.2	1.9	1.7
Flour	163.3	164.0	58.4	.4	.7
Cracker meal	157.4	158.5	15.7	1.2	1.3
Corn flakes	112.4	112.3	13.4	4.3	4.3
Rice	223.0	223.2	100.4	7.2	6.7
Bread, white	146.4	146.7	28.1	1.2	1.2
Bread, whole wheat	148.7	148.4	22.5	1.6	1.4
Cookies	121.4	121.9	9.5	1.2	.7
Layer cakes	139.6	139.3	16.2	.6	.2
Cinnamon rolls	143.7	144.1	16.7	.1	.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	165.8	168.3	26.4	-1.0	-6.6
Meats	167.6	170.7	26.5	-.9	-2.2
Beef and veal	165.7	169.3	21.1	-1.2	-6.6
Steak, round	156.0	160.5	17.0	-1.8	-6.6
Steak, sirloin	145.9	150.7	12.1	-2.4	-1.2
Steak, porterhouse	149.0	153.6	11.4	-1.0	-1.2
Rump roast	152.6	156.7	15.3	-1.9	-.9
Rib roast	163.3	165.6	19.3	-.4	-.7
Chuck roast	168.1	172.2	24.9	-1.2	-1.3
Hamburger	182.0	183.8	31.4	-.9	-1.1
Beef liver	170.8	172.9	27.4	.6	1.2
Veal cutlets	195.9	198.9	18.7	-.4	.3
Pork	170.1	173.6	32.5	-1.2	-1.1
Chops	152.2	156.7	18.6	-2.7	-1.0
Loin Roast	163.3	167.3	27.0	-2.4	-1.0
Pork sausage	195.0	198.4	42.5	-2.8	-.9
Ham, whole	176.2	174.3	40.3	4.3	1.8
Picnics	179.9	183.2	41.8	-1.0	-.4
Bacon	171.9	177.0	36.8	-1.0	.5
Other meats	168.2	169.0	30.1	-.2	-.1
Lamb chops	147.7	149.2	12.3	2.9	3.5
Frankfurters	175.1	176.7	35.7	-1.7	-1.0
Ham, canned	172.1	173.0	37.7	.3	.8
Bologna sausage	178.2	179.5	32.7	-.8	-.7
Salami sausage	168.2	169.0	27.5	-1.1	-.6
Liverwurst	169.3	170.3	36.4	.1	.4
Poultry	145.9	150.6	32.4	-2.5	-1.7
Frying chicken	141.2	147.1	29.3	-2.4	-1.5
Chicken breasts	141.9	143.5	24.7	-1.9	-2.3
Turkey	172.3	173.9	54.3	-3.5	-2.1
Fish	178.1	177.7	19.9	1.3	.7
Shrimp, frozen	175.6	175.8	24.7	1.6	.9
Fish, fresh or frozen	209.1	208.7	26.6	.8	.1
Tuna fish, canned	153.2	153.5	12.9	1.7	1.5
Sardines, canned	174.9	174.2	14.6	1.0	.8
Dairy products	144.9	-	22.5	2.6	-
Milk, fresh, grocery	146.5	146.6	25.2	3.0	3.0
Milk, fresh, delivered	146.4	-	20.3	2.2	0
Milk, fresh, skim	155.4	155.6	25.9	3.0	2.9
Milk, evaporated	151.4	151.6	24.4	2.9	3.3
Ice cream	123.7	123.3	16.5	1.0	.7
Cheese, American process	158.5	158.5	24.2	3.5	3.2
Butter	122.6	122.5	16.3	1.2	1.3

See footnote at end of table.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, December 1973 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to December 1973 from—		
	December 1973		December 1972	November 1973	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables	145.3	148.9	14.1	1.1	0.7
Fresh fruits and vegetables	144.0	150.8	10.3	-0.8	-1.0
Fresh fruits	136.1	146.7	12.9	-2.7	-1.7
Apples	147.9	168.5	26.1	4.0	1.0
Bananas	100.4	106.9	3.2	-6.4	-3.2
Oranges	141.6	143.3	18.2	-8.8	-3.4
Orange juice, fresh	133.9	133.5	2.0	-0.3	.4
Grapefruit	133.0	152.7	1.9	-4.1	.4
Grapes	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	150.6	152.4	8.4	.8	-2.5
Potatoes	186.6	197.5	36.9	3.6	3.0
Onions	148.3	158.9	3.3	5.6	6.0
Asparagus	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	149.2	154.0	18.4	-2.7	-8.8
Carrots	136.0	134.5	-5.9	.6	-5.7
Celery	125.9	123.8	-7.4	-4.3	-7.9
Cucumbers	115.9	115.2	5.4	-18.9	-33.5
Lettuce	119.0	98.7	-20.4	-6.1	-12.2
Peppers, green	173.1	189.2	44.0	19.9	13.4
Spinach	162.6	159.1	12.1	2.0	-2.1
Tomatoes	138.2	115.8	-5.5	2.1	-16.9
Processed fruits and vegetables	147.2	146.9	20.3	4.0	3.8
Fruit cocktail, canned	137.7	137.2	11.7	1.3	1.0
Pears, canned	130.2	130.2	8.0	.7	.9
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	121.5	121.5	4.5	0	.4
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	138.9	139.2	2.1	.6	.7
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	123.2	122.5	3.3	.6	-1.1
Beets, canned	146.0	145.9	14.6	-3	-4
Peas, green, canned	114.4	114.1	6.7	.7	1.0
Tomatoes, canned	131.9	131.8	10.5	.8	.7
Dried beans	286.5	285.9	103.2	18.6	18.2
Broccoli, frozen	126.2	126.5	6.2	.3	.2
Other food at home	141.2	139.5	17.5	2.4	1.1
Eggs	182.7	167.6	42.7	8.0	-1.5
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	160.7	160.7	37.7	-2	-5
Salad dressing, Italian	118.5	118.5	8.1	1.0	1.0
Salad or cooking oil	159.8	160.3	34.1	.8	.8
Sugar and sweets	138.4	138.4	14.0	2.1	2.0
Sugar	138.8	138.9	19.1	1.6	1.7
Grape jelly	141.7	142.0	12.3	1.1	.9
Chocolate bar	139.9	139.5	6.9	.6	.6
Syrup, chocolate flavored	133.2	133.7	19.9	5.5	5.5
Nonalcoholic beverages	135.4	135.7	10.0	.9	1.1
Coffee, can and bag	142.1	142.4	15.4	.6	.9
Coffee, instant	135.6	135.5	9.1	.5	.2
Tea	113.4	113.6	3.3	1.3	1.5
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	135.6	136.0	5.0	.9	1.2
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	136.4	136.8	6.6	1.6	1.9
Prepared and partially prepared foods	125.0	125.1	8.0	1.4	1.4
Bean soup, canned	128.4	128.5	10.1	1.3	1.2
Chicken soup, canned	116.8	116.7	11.5	1.5	1.2
Spaghetti, canned	126.5	126.2	3.5	.5	.5
Mashed potatoes, instant	121.7	122.2	7.9	1.1	1.3
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	123.4	123.8	10.3	2.2	2.1
Baby foods	120.3	120.2	9.6	1.5	1.4
Sweet pickle relish	137.7	137.4	6.0	2.2	2.2
Pretzels	123.0	123.4	7.0	.8	1.0

¹ Priced only in season.

Table 7-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items 1973 annual average indexes, and percent changes from 1972 to 1973

(1967=100)

Item and group	Indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to 1973 from 1972 average
	1972 average	1973 average	
Food	123.5	141.4	14.5
Food away from home	131.1	141.4	7.9
Restaurant meals	131.1	142.1	8.4
Snacks	131.2	138.0	5.2
Food at home	121.6	141.4	16.3
Cereals and bakery products	114.7	127.7	11.3
Flour	100.4	127.1	26.6
Cracker meal	135.3	144.5	6.8
Corn flakes	100.6	104.4	3.8
Rice	109.9	141.9	29.1
Bread, white	113.0	126.7	12.1
Bread, whole wheat	120.1	132.3	10.2
Cookies	110.2	115.0	4.4
Layer cakes	120.0	129.0	7.5
Cinnamon rolls	120.7	130.7	8.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	128.0	160.4	25.3
Meats	129.2	161.1	24.7
Beef and veal	136.6	163.8	19.9
Steak, round	134.2	158.9	18.4
Steak, sirloin	132.1	150.3	13.8
Steak, porterhouse	134.7	152.0	12.8
Rump roast	133.0	154.9	16.5
Rib roast	138.1	162.0	17.3
Chuck roast	136.2	171.7	26.1
Hamburger	137.4	173.7	26.4
Beef liver	129.4	157.5	21.7
Veal cutlets	161.6	188.7	16.8
Pork	121.6	161.7	33.0
Chops	123.7	154.7	25.1
Pork sausage	123.3	162.6	31.9
Pork sausage, fresh	128.4	179.1	39.5
Ham, whole	114.9	152.3	32.6
Picnics	123.9	168.2	35.8
Bacon	116.9	161.1	37.8
Other meats	124.0	154.4	24.5
Lamb chops	129.3	145.3	12.4
Frankfurters	124.7	162.3	30.2
Ham, canned	115.2	149.1	29.4
Bologna sausage	129.1	162.8	26.1
Salami sausage	126.0	154.5	22.6
Liverwurst	119.6	152.8	27.8
Poultry	110.4	154.8	40.2
Frying chicken	109.6	158.1	44.3
Chicken breasts	113.1	147.8	30.7
Turkey	111.8	146.7	31.2
Fish	141.9	162.8	14.7
Shrimp, frozen	134.9	157.0	16.4
Fish, fresh or frozen	152.3	188.9	24.0
Tuna fish, canned	133.0	143.5	7.9
Sardines, canned	147.3	162.4	10.3
Dairy products	117.1	127.9	9.2
Milk, fresh, grocery	116.3	127.3	9.5
Milk, fresh, delivered	120.3	130.7	8.6
Milk, fresh, skim	121.9	135.5	11.2
Milk, evaporated	120.0	134.3	11.9
Ice cream	106.5	113.1	6.2
Cheese, American process	124.7	138.5	11.1
Butter	105.3	110.7	5.1

Table 7-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items 1973 annual average indexes, and percent changes from 1972 to 1973—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to 1973 from 1972 average
	1972 average	1973 average	
Food—Continued			
Food at home—Continued			
Fruits and vegetables	125.0	142.5	14.0
Fresh fruits and vegetables	128.0	150.8	17.8
Fresh fruits	123.9	138.7	11.9
Apples	121.6	144.9	19.2
Bananas	101.6	106.2	4.5
Oranges	125.4	140.5	12.0
Orange juice, fresh	130.8	132.6	1.4
Grapefruit	144.8	147.1	1.6
Grapes	163.0	165.5	1.5
Strawberries	112.5	131.7	17.1
Watermelon	130.0	153.5	18.1
Fresh vegetables	131.5	160.7	22.2
Potatoes	126.6	187.9	48.4
Onions	128.8	183.8	42.7
Asparagus	141.8	155.0	9.3
Cabbage	129.3	161.7	25.1
Carrots	135.5	139.2	2.7
Celery	143.4	146.1	1.9
Cucumbers	122.1	136.9	12.1
Lettuce	124.7	152.9	22.6
Peppers, green	136.9	149.5	9.2
Spinach	139.6	158.8	13.8
Tomatoes	132.7	136.5	2.9
Processed fruits and vegetables	120.5	130.2	8.0
Fruit cocktail, canned	121.7	130.2	7.0
Pears, canned	118.3	125.1	5.7
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	115.3	119.7	3.8
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	136.0	137.0	.7
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	117.4	120.3	2.5
Beets, canned	122.0	139.1	14.0
Peas, green, canned	107.7	110.6	2.7
Tomatoes, canned	116.6	125.2	7.4
Dried beans	137.9	171.8	24.6
Broccoli, frozen	118.5	122.1	3.0
Other food at home	116.7	130.3	11.7
Eggs	107.7	160.2	48.7
Fats and oils:			
Margarine	117.6	133.4	13.4
Salad dressing, Italian	110.0	112.1	1.9
Salad or cooking oil	121.4	133.4	9.9
Sugar and sweets	120.9	128.3	6.1
Sugar	115.0	124.9	8.6
Grape jelly	124.8	134.1	7.5
Chocolate bar	130.7	135.6	3.7
Syrup, chocolate flavored	111.8	117.6	5.2
Nonalcoholic beverages	121.3	130.2	7.3
Coffee, can and bag	119.4	135.0	13.1
Coffee, instant	124.1	131.4	5.9
Tea	108.7	111.1	2.2
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	128.3	131.7	2.7
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	128.0	131.6	2.8
Prepared and partially prepared foods	114.7	119.0	3.7
Bean soup, canned	116.1	120.0	3.4
Chicken soup, canned	105.3	107.7	2.3
Spaghetti, canned	119.6	123.9	3.6
Mashed potatoes, instant	112.1	117.6	4.9
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	110.9	115.4	4.1
Baby foods	110.6	114.5	3.5
Sweet pickle relish	125.5	132.2	5.3
Pretzels	115.0	118.3	2.9

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, December 1973, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to December 1973 from—	
		November 1973	December 1973	December 1972	November 1973
Housing		139.4	140.5	7.1	0.8
Shelter		145.6	146.4	7.0	.5
Rent, residential		126.3	126.9	4.9	.5
Homeownership ¹		152.6	153.6	7.7	.7
Mortgage interest rates		134.2	134.8	14.7	.4
Property taxes		153.6	151.6	.7	-1.3
Property insurance premiums		123.7	123.7	-1.0	0
Maintenance and repairs		155.3	156.9	8.8	1.0
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		140.2	140.7	10.5	.4
Exterior house paint		122.2	122.4	3.6	.2
Interior house paint		121.5	121.1	1.9	-.3
Maintenance and repair service		161.8	163.9	8.2	1.3
Repainting living and dining rooms		175.3	176.0	7.5	.4
Reshingling house roof		168.3	171.1	7.9	1.7
Residing house		149.0	153.8	10.9	3.2
Replacing sink		159.3	160.8	6.9	.9
Repairing furnace		168.5	166.8	6.0	-1.0
Fuel and utilities		132.1	135.8	11.4	2.8
Fuel oil and coal		155.6	172.8	44.7	11.1
Fuel oil, No. 2		154.2	171.8	46.8	11.4
Gas and electricity		129.8	131.0	6.9	.9
Gas		132.3	133.1	6.4	.6
Electricity		127.5	129.0	7.3	1.2
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		117.5	120.2	4.5	2.3
Residential water and sewerage services		148.5	149.1	5.2	.4
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		127.5	128.0	4.7	.4
Housefurnishings		121.1	121.3	3.4	.2
Textiles		119.7	120.1	4.1	.3
Sheets		123.3	121.9	2.4	-1.1
Curtains, tailored		119.1	118.5	4.7	-.5
Bedspreads		115.2	116.3	2.1	1.0
Drapery fabric		133.1	134.8	8.2	1.3
Pillows, bed		109.0	109.9	2.3	.8
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		118.2	118.9	4.2	.6
Furniture and bedding		128.2	128.5	5.2	.2
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	112.9	113.4	7.2	.4
Sofas, upholstered		126.1	126.3	4.2	.2
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	107.4	107.6	5.9	.2
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	112.3	112.6	7.0	.3
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	101.8	101.4	2.7	-.4
Sofas, dual purpose		122.3	123.2	4.2	.7
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	109.9	109.9	4.5	0
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Cribs		127.7	126.9	5.6	-.6
Floor coverings		109.6	109.7	2.9	.1
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		104.1	104.1	2.7	0
Vinyl sheet goods		124.3	124.5	4.5	.2
Vinyl asbestos tile		120.4	120.8	2.3	.3
Appliances (excluding radio and T.V.)		110.2	110.1	.2	-.1
Washing machines, electric, automatic		111.2	111.3	.5	.1
Vacuum cleaners		104.6	103.9	.1	-.7
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.6	108.4	0	-.2
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		110.7	110.4	-.5	-.3
Clothes dryers, electric		114.8	114.9	.1	.1
Air conditioners, demountable		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable		109.5	109.8	.4	.3
Garbage disposal units		112.5	112.4	1.3	-.1
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		134.4	135.4	7.0	.7
Flatware, stainless steel		132.9	132.7	2.2	-.2
Table lamps, with shade		127.9	127.9	1.2	0
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Electric drills, hand-held		107.2	106.4	-.6	-.7
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		116.1	117.4	5.3	1.1
Paper napkins		139.1	140.5	4.5	1.0
Toilet tissue		132.1	132.9	5.8	.6
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		153.3	153.4	8.3	.1
Baby sitter services		146.3	146.9	5.5	.4
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		154.2	155.7	10.5	1.0
Licensed day care services, preschool child		135.2	135.9	8.0	.5
Washing machine repairs		151.4	153.4	6.8	1.3

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 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to December 1973 from—	
		November 1973	December 1973	December 1972	November 1973
Apparel and upkeep ⁶ -----		130.5	130.5	4.4	0
Apparel commodities -----		130.8	130.7	4.1	-1
Apparel commodities less footwear -----		130.4	130.3	4.1	-1
Men's and boys' -----		128.9	129.1	3.4	.2
Men's					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends -----		137.1	136.5	4.4	-4
Suits, year round weight -----		136.4	136.1	1.3	-2
Suits, tropical -----		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Jackets, lightweight -----		119.9	120.5	5.4	.5
Slacks, wool or wool blends -----		118.0	117.1	.6	-8
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends -----		138.9	138.6	-2.4	-2
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		123.6	124.1	7.7	.4
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		124.4	126.0	8.6	1.3
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton -----		117.6	117.8	3.8	.2
T-shirts, chiefly cotton -----		124.4	124.7	5.2	.2
Socks, cotton -----		118.0	118.1	1.6	.1
Handkerchiefs, cotton or manmade fibers -----		123.6	124.5	6.4	.7
Boy's					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends -----		123.6	123.5	-2.8	-1
Sport coats, wool or wool blends -----		122.1	122.7	.9	.5
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends -----		143.1	143.2	10.4	.1
Undershorts, cotton -----		126.4	127.0	5.2	.5
Women's and girls' -----		132.2	131.8	4.3	-3
Women's					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or blends -----		143.6	139.2	3.5	-3.1
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton -----		147.4	147.0	7.9	-3
Sweaters, wool or acrylic -----		138.9	137.9	10.9	-7
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers -----		155.5	153.0	3.9	-1.6
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers -----		128.5	128.8	3.3	.2
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber -----		139.8	140.7	5.5	.6
Slips, nylon -----		111.6	111.6	1.0	0
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot -----		121.8	122.3	2.9	.4
Girdles, manmade blend -----		120.1	120.0	1.5	-1
Brassieres, nylon lace -----		127.0	128.1	3.6	.9
Hose or panty hose, nylon seamless -----		92.2	92.0	-3.2	-2
Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers -----		114.5	113.0	-1.6	-1.3
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton -----		114.4	114.4	3.2	0
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic -----		158.0	158.9	7.1	.6
Girl's:					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends -----		124.3	121.0	5.6	-2.7
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic -----		125.6	126.1	5.9	.4
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends -----		125.6	124.4	-7	-1.0
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton -----		146.2	146.3	3.8	.1
Slips, polyester blends -----		109.9	109.7	-1	-2
Handbags, plastic -----		137.3	136.1	7.2	-9
Footwear -----		132.6	132.6	4.2	0
Men's					
Shoes, street -----		135.3	136.0	6.7	.5
Shoes, work, high -----		141.0	141.1	11.0	.1
Women's					
Shoes, street, pump -----		131.9	131.1	2.1	-6
Shoes, evening, pump -----		126.3	125.6	1.6	-6
Shoes, casual -----		132.5	133.0	3.7	.4
Houseslippers, scuff -----		130.6	130.7	3.0	.1
Childrens:					
Shoes, oxford -----		134.3	134.6	3.5	.2
Sneakers, boys', oxford type -----		127.8	127.5	2.1	-2
Dress shoes, girls, strap or pump -----		135.6	136.6	4.9	.7
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable -----		121.1	121.7	4.1	.5
Yard goods, polyester blend -----		134.8	135.5	14.2	.5
Wrist watches, men's and women's -----		121.6	121.9	3.9	.2
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses -----		125.9	126.6	6.6	.6
Automatic laundry service -----		119.1	119.5	3.3	.3
Laundry, men's shirts -----		132.5	133.7	7.0	.9
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment -----		142.4	143.7	6.1	.9
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift -----		125.0	126.7	6.6	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 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to December 1973 from—	
		November 1973	December 1973	December 1972	November 1973
Transportation -----		125.8	126.7	4.5	.7
Private -----		123.8	124.6	4.8	.6
Automobiles, new -----		112.2	112.0	1.3	-.2
Automobiles, used -----		116.1	112.6	-2.1	-3.0
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		126.3	131.9	19.7	4.4
Motor oil, premium -----		130.4	132.1	5.9	1.3
Tires, new, tubeless -----		109.9	110.3	-3.9	.4
Auto repairs and maintenance ⁸ -----		144.9	145.9	6.7	.7
Auto insurance rates -----		137.4	137.4	-1.6	0
Auto registration -----		123.7	123.7	-3.1	0
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		155.5	155.4	4.0	-.1
Public -----		144.6	146.5	1.4	1.3
Local transit fares -----		149.2	149.2	-1.1	0
Taxicab fares -----		138.3	145.3	7.2	5.1
Railroad fares, coach -----		122.6	126.7	3.7	3.3
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		137.1	141.4	7.0	3.1
Bus fares, intercity -----		145.9	150.9	4.8	3.4
Health and recreation -----		132.6	133.0	4.3	.3
Medical care -----		140.9	141.4	5.2	.4
Drugs and prescriptions -----		106.2	106.3	.7	-.1
Over-the-counter items -----		112.8	113.0	1.2	.2
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		95.7	95.8	.9	-.1
Aspirin compounds -----		117.8	118.0	.9	.2
Liquid Tonics -----		101.9	102.2	1.3	.3
Adhesive bandages, packages -----		127.8	128.4	2.6	.5
Cold tablets or capsules -----		114.5	114.6	.4	-.1
Cough syrup -----		115.4	115.1	.8	2.3
Prescriptions -----		100.6	100.7	.2	-.1
Anti-infectives -----		70.0	69.9	-3.7	-.1
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		130.8	131.5	2.8	.5
Ataractics -----		103.7	104.1	.6	.4
Antispasmodics -----		107.9	108.0	0	-.1
Cough preparations -----		139.0	139.5	5.7	.4
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives -----		114.0	114.1	1.8	-.1
Analgesics, internal -----		111.1	111.2	1.0	-.1
Anti-obesity -----		118.9	119.0	1.7	-.1
Hormones -----		91.4	91.3	-1.4	-.1
Professional services: -----					
Physicians' fees -----		140.3	140.8	4.0	.4
General physician, office visits -----		141.9	142.8	4.5	.6
General physician, house visits -----		143.7	142.7	2.8	-.7
Obstetrical cases -----		139.9	140.1	4.1	-.1
Pediatric care, office visits -----		142.1	142.5	3.4	.3
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		135.1	135.0	2.5	-.1
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		132.5	132.8	2.5	.2
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		135.0	135.2	3.6	.1
Dentists' fees -----		138.4	138.6	3.7	-.1
Filling, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		140.7	140.8	3.9	-.1
Extractions, adult -----		137.5	137.9	3.5	.3
Dentures, full upper -----		134.6	134.9	3.6	.2
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		131.8	132.1	4.6	.2
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis -----		124.5	124.7	2.8	.2
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	107.2	107.6	4.3	.4
Semiprivate rooms -----		185.8	186.4	5.7	.3
Operating room charges -----		182.2	183.8	6.2	.9
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----		133.3	133.3	2.5	0
Laboratory tests, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	105.8	106.5	3.7	.7
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	96.0	96.6	-2.8	.6
Tranquilizer, chlorthalidoxid, HCL and meprobamate -----	Jan. 72	106.2	106.2	4.2	0
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	105.2	105.5	1.4	.3
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	104.7	105.0	2.1	.3
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	107.3	107.5	4.6	.2
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	106.9	106.7	4.2	-.2
Personal care -----		128.1	129.2	6.3	.9
Toilet goods -----		122.1	123.3	4.6	1.0
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		110.1	109.3	-.2	-.7
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		136.3	141.2	14.5	3.6
Hand lotions, liquid -----		126.5	126.9	-.3	-.3
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		109.2	109.1	1.4	-.1
Face powder, pressed -----		149.8	150.0	7.7	-.1
Deodorants, aerosol -----		105.4	105.0	.4	-.4
Cleansing tissues -----		129.4	133.9	9.6	3.5
Home permanent wave kits -----		109.2	109.3	-.5	-.1
Personal care services -----		134.4	135.3	8.1	.7
Men's haircuts -----		136.9	138.0	8.5	.8
Beauty shop services -----		132.7	133.4	7.7	.5
Women's haircuts -----		139.1	140.9	11.5	1.3
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		136.4	136.8	7.4	.3
Permanent waves, cold -----		118.1	118.3	4.1	.2

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 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to December 1973 from—	
		November 1973	December 1973	December 1972	November 1973
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation ¹ -----		127.5	127.6	2.9	0.1
Recreational goods-----		110.2	110.3	2.2	.1
TV sets, portable and console-----		97.9	97.8	-1.2	-.1
TV replacement tubes-----		135.4	135.3	1.4	-.1
Radios, portable and table model-----		99.8	99.8	.6	0
Tape recorders, portable-----		94.4	94.2	-.3	-.2
Phonograph records, stereophonic-----		108.8	109.0	-.9	-.2
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens-----		90.7	90.7	2.8	0
Film, 35mm, color-----		107.6	107.6	-.5	0
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core-----		103.5	103.3	-1.7	-.2
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover-----		128.5	128.3	1.8	-.2
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting-----		110.1	110.2	1.9	.1
Bowling balls-----		115.9	115.5	1.1	-.3
Bicycles, boys'-----		125.1	125.2	7.3	.1
Tricycles-----		116.9	117.3	2.5	.3
Dog food, canned or boxed-----		132.1	135.0	22.0	2.2
Recreational services-----		134.2	134.1	3.7	-.1
Indoor movie admissions-----		149.5	149.0	4.9	-.3
Adult-----		147.1	146.8	4.3	-.2
Child-----		156.2	155.4	6.5	-.5
Drive-in movie admissions, adult-----		151.1	151.4	3.3	.2
Bowling fees, evening-----		127.7	127.9	4.8	.2
Golf green fees----- ⁽⁵⁾		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
TV repair, color picture tube replacement-----		100.3	100.4	1.7	.1
Film developing, color-----		115.9	115.5	-.5	-.3
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery-----		137.2	137.9	3.4	.5
Magazines, single copy and subscription-----		133.7	133.7	-.3	0
Piano lessons, beginner-----		129.7	129.9	3.9	.2
Other goods and services-----		130.8	131.3	3.8	.4
Tobacco products-----		138.3	138.5	3.2	.1
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size-----		140.0	140.1	3.1	.1
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size-----		140.5	140.5	3.2	0
Cigars, domestic, regular size-----		114.4	115.3	3.6	.8
Alcoholic beverages-----		124.3	125.3	4.0	.8
Beer-----		117.1	117.7	2.9	.5
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon-----		109.4	109.5	.5	.1
Wine, dessert and table-----		140.6	141.8	10.5	.9
Beer away from home-----		137.2	139.0	4.8	1.3
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult-----		129.5	129.8	5.8	.2
Bank service charges, checking accounts-----		104.7	104.8	-1.6	-.1
Legal services, short form will-----		168.8	168.9	10.4	.1

¹ All 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 window shades, nails, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholstering, and moving expenses.
⁵ Priced only in season.
⁶ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.
⁷ Also includes storage batteries 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 8-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1973 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 1972 to 1973
		1972	1973	
Housing		129.2	135.0	4.5
Shelter ¹		134.5	140.7	4.6
Rent		119.2	124.3	4.3
Homeownership ²		140.1	146.7	4.7
Mortgage interest rates		117.5	123.2	4.9
Property taxes		145.7	152.3	4.5
Property insurance premiums		123.2	124.4	1.0
Maintenance and repairs		140.7	151.0	7.3
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		124.1	136.2	9.8
Exterior house paint		117.7	120.0	2.0
Interior house paint		117.1	120.3	2.7
Maintenance and repair services		147.9	157.3	6.4
Repainting living and dining rooms		159.4	170.4	6.9
Reshingling house roof		155.5	164.4	5.7
Residing house		135.7	144.8	6.7
Replacing sink		146.4	155.2	6.0
Repairing furnace		153.3	162.7	6.1
Fuel and utilities		120.1	126.9	5.7
Fuel oil and coal		118.5	136.0	14.8
Fuel oil, No. 2		116.6	134.5	15.4
Gas and electricity		120.5	126.4	4.9
Gas		122.3	127.9	4.6
Electricity		118.9	124.9	5.0
Other utilities:				
Residential telephone services		113.5	116.5	2.6
Residential water and sewerage services		138.5	146.1	5.5
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		121.0	124.9	3.2
Housefurnishings		116.2	119.0	2.4
Textiles		113.6	116.2	2.3
Sheets		115.1	118.6	3.0
Curtains, tailored		112.1	114.9	2.5
Bedspreads		110.5	112.4	1.7
Drapery fabric		122.6	128.5	4.8
Pillows, bed		107.2	106.5	-.7
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		114.0	116.3	2.0
Furniture and bedding		121.1	125.3	3.5
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	105.1	109.6	4.3
Sofas, upholstered		120.4	123.7	2.7
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	100.7	104.4	3.7
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	104.3	108.8	4.3
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	98.5	99.8	1.3
Sofas, dual purpose		117.1	119.9	2.4
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	104.7	107.6	2.8
Aluminum folding chairs		124.7	129.9	4.2
Cribs		118.6	124.1	4.6
Floor coverings		106.5	108.2	1.6
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		101.5	102.8	1.3
Vinyl sheet goods		118.0	121.5	3.0
Vinyl asbestos tile		118.0	119.9	1.6
Appliances (excluding radio and T. V.)		109.7	109.8	-.1
Washing machines, electric, automatic		110.5	111.0	.5
Vacuum cleaners		103.8	104.1	.3
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.1	108.3	.2
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		110.9	110.3	-.5
Clothes dryers, electric		114.2	114.4	.2
Air conditioners, demountable		110.7	110.1	-.5
Room heaters, electric, portable		108.7	108.7	0
Garbage disposal units		111.0	111.9	.8
Other housefurnishings:				
Dinnerware, fine china		124.1	131.0	5.6
Flatware, stainless steel		124.8	132.0	5.8
Table lamps, with shade		123.8	128.2	3.6
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		119.3	121.7	2.0
Electric drills, hand-held		106.5	106.7	.2
Housekeeping supplies:				
Laundry soaps and detergents		111.2	113.4	2.0
Paper napkins		131.1	138.6	5.7
Toilet tissue		124.9	128.4	2.8
Housekeeping services:				
Domestic services, general housework		139.1	147.3	5.9
Baby sitter services		136.3	142.8	4.8
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		138.7	148.9	7.4
Licensed day care services, preschool child		122.5	130.5	6.5
Washing machine repairs		140.7	148.7	5.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1973 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 1972 to 1973
		1972	1973	
Apparel and upkeep ⁵		122.3	126.8	3.7
Apparel commodities		122.7	127.1	3.6
Apparel commodities less footwear		122.3	126.5	3.4
Men's and boys'		121.9	126.4	3.7
Men's:				
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends		125.8	132.2	5.1
Suits, year round weight		130.3	133.1	2.1
Suits, tropical weight		134.0	143.8	7.3
Jackets, lightweight		114.2	118.2	3.5
Slacks, wool or wool blends		115.7	116.1	.3
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		137.6	140.3	2.0
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		114.8	120.2	4.7
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		115.2	120.9	4.9
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		112.6	113.9	1.2
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		117.9	122.0	3.5
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		115.8	117.3	1.3
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton		116.4	120.7	3.7
Boys':				
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends		119.9	123.6	3.1
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		121.1	121.7	.5
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends		127.5	137.0	7.5
Undershorts, cotton		120.4	123.6	2.7
Women's and girls'		123.0	127.3	3.5
Women's:				
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends		130.1	137.0	5.3
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton		131.4	139.8	6.4
Sweater, wool or acrylic		126.3	130.1	3.0
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers		139.4	145.0	4.0
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton		117.1	124.3	6.1
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers		123.1	126.2	2.5
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber		130.1	135.8	4.4
Slips, nylon		110.9	111.2	.3
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot		117.7	120.0	2.0
Girdles, manmade blend		117.6	118.7	.9
Brasieres, nylon lace		122.4	124.6	1.8
Hose or panty hose, seamless		96.2	94.0	-2.3
Anklets or knee-length socks, various fibers		114.8	114.1	-.6
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton		110.6	112.3	1.5
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic		143.7	151.6	5.5
Girls':				
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends		116.3	117.0	.6
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic		113.5	121.0	6.6
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends		119.9	122.9	2.5
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton		137.5	141.9	3.2
Slips, polyester blends		110.8	109.6	-1.1
Handbags, plastic		125.7	129.6	3.1
Footwear		124.9	130.2	4.2
Men's:				
Shoes, street		123.6	132.6	7.3
Shoes, work, high		122.9	135.9	10.6
Women's:				
Shoes, street, pump		126.3	129.4	2.5
Shoes, evening, pump		122.2	124.5	1.9
Shoes, casual		125.6	130.2	3.7
Housealippers, scuff		125.2	128.7	2.8
Children's:				
Shoes, oxford		126.8	132.7	4.7
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		123.5	125.9	1.9
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump		129.8	133.6	2.9
Miscellaneous apparel:				
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable		115.0	118.9	3.4
Yard goods, polyester blend		119.2	125.2	5.0
Wrist watches, men's and women's		115.6	119.7	3.5
Apparel services:				
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses		117.7	122.0	3.7
Automatic laundry service		114.9	117.7	2.4
Laundry, men's shirts		122.0	129.0	5.7
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment		133.2	138.9	4.3
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift		116.0	122.1	5.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1973 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 1972 to 1973
		1972	1973	
Transportation		119.9	123.8	3.3
Private ⁶		117.5	121.5	3.4
Automobiles, new		111.0	111.1	.1
Automobiles, used		110.5	117.6	6.4
Gasoline, regular and premium		107.6	118.1	9.8
Motor oil, premium		123.6	127.9	3.5
Tires, new, tubeless		135.9	110.6	-4.6
Auto repairs and maintenance ⁷		135.1	142.2	5.3
Auto insurance rates		140.5	138.0	-1.8
Auto registration		127.4	123.6	-3.0
Parking fees, private and municipal		144.5	152.8	5.7
Parking fees, private and municipal		143.4	144.8	1.0
Public		150.1	150.1	0
Local transit fares		133.5	137.8	3.2
Taxicab fares		124.5	122.8	-1.4
Railroad fares, coach		130.3	134.7	3.4
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		140.1	145.7	4.0
Bus fares, intercity				
Health and recreation ⁸		126.1	130.2	3.3
Medical care		132.5	137.7	3.9
Drugs and prescriptions		105.6	105.9	.3
Over-the-counter items		111.3	112.4	1.0
Multiple vitamin concentrates		95.2	94.9	-.3
Aspirin compounds		116.4	117.7	1.1
Liquid tonics		101.2	101.6	.4
Adhesive bandages, packages		124.2	126.6	1.9
Cold tablets or capsules		113.8	114.5	.6
Cough syrup		113.4	115.2	1.6
Prescriptions		100.9	100.5	-.4
Anti-infectives		75.0	71.1	-5.2
Sedatives and hypnotics		126.6	129.4	2.2
Ataractics		103.1	103.8	.7
Antispasmodics		107.9	107.8	-.1
Cough preparations		130.4	136.9	5.0
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		111.8	113.0	1.1
Analgesics, internal		109.5	111.2	1.6
Anti-obesity		117.4	117.5	.1
Hormones		93.2	91.6	-1.7
Professional services:				
Physicians' fees		133.8	138.2	3.3
General physician, office visits		134.8	139.5	3.5
General physician, house visits		136.7	141.7	3.7
Obstetrical cases		133.8	138.1	3.2
Pediatric care, office visits		136.2	140.5	3.2
Psychiatrist, office visits		129.2	133.6	3.4
Herniorrhaphy, adult		128.2	131.3	2.4
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		129.9	132.8	2.2
Dentists' fees		132.3	136.4	3.1
Filling, adult, amalgam, one surface		133.8	138.7	3.7
Extractions, adult		132.2	135.4	2.4
Dentures, full upper		129.3	132.6	2.6
Other professional services:				
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		124.9	129.5	3.7
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis		120.4	122.8	2.0
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	102.0	105.6	3.5
Semiprivate rooms		173.9	182.1	4.7
Operating room charges		168.6	179.1	6.2
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G. I.		129.1	131.8	2.1
Laboratory tests, urinalysis	Jan. 72	101.9	104.3	2.4
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL	Jan. 72	99.9	97.6	-2.3
Tranquilizer, chlordiazepoxide, HCL and meprobamate	Jan. 72	101.2	104.3	3.1
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	102.7	104.7	1.9
Intravenous solution, saline	Jan. 72	101.9	103.9	2.0
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath	Jan. 72	101.7	106.2	4.4
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	101.7	103.9	2.2
Personal care		119.8	125.2	4.5
Toilet goods		116.9	120.0	2.7
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		109.8	109.8	0
Toilet soap, hard milled		121.9	128.8	5.7
Hand lotions, liquid		125.6	126.6	.8
Shaving cream, aerosol		107.3	108.7	1.3
Face powder, pressed		131.6	145.6	10.6
Deodorants, aerosol		105.0	104.8	-.2
Cleansing tissues		124.1	126.0	1.5
Home permanent wave kits		110.0	109.5	-.5
Personal care services		122.9	130.6	6.3
Men's haircuts		125.3	132.9	6.1
Beauty shop services		121.3	129.1	6.4
Women's haircuts		122.1	133.9	9.7
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		125.0	132.7	6.2
Permanent waves, cold		112.5	116.4	3.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8-A. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1973 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 1972 to 1973
		1972	1973	
Health and recreation—Continued				
Reading and recreation		122.8	125.9	2.5
Recreational goods		107.9	109.2	1.2
TV sets, portable and console		99.5	98.0	-1.5
TV replacement tubes		130.9	134.7	2.9
Radios, portable and table model		98.9	99.4	.5
Tape recorders, portable		94.3	93.4	-1.0
Phonograph records, stereophonic		107.3	108.5	1.1
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		88.4	89.5	1.2
Film, 35mm, color		108.2	107.8	-.4
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		105.1	104.0	-1.0
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		126.1	127.3	1.0
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		108.0	109.4	1.3
Bowling balls		113.8	115.5	1.5
Bicycles, boys'		116.2	122.2	5.2
Tricycles		113.9	115.6	1.5
Dog food, canned or boxed		110.5	122.1	10.5
Recreational services		128.3	132.3	3.1
Indoor movie admissions		141.5	147.3	4.1
Adult		140.4	145.4	3.6
Children's		144.5	152.8	5.7
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		145.9	150.0	2.8
Bowling fees, evening		119.3	123.9	3.9
Golf green fees		130.5	136.6	4.7
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		98.3	99.9	1.6
Film developing, color		117.0	116.0	-.9
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		132.3	135.8	2.6
Magazines, single copy and subscription		131.4	135.2	2.9
Piano lessons, beginner		123.0	126.9	3.2
Other goods and services		125.5	129.0	2.8
Tobacco products		133.3	137.0	2.8
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		134.8	138.7	2.9
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		135.4	139.1	2.7
Cigars, domestic, regular size		110.8	112.9	1.9
Alcoholic beverages		119.6	122.5	2.4
Beer		113.9	115.6	1.5
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		108.6	109.2	.6
Wine, dessert and table		127.0	135.2	6.5
Beer away from home		130.9	135.2	3.3
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:				
Funeral services, adult		121.2	126.4	4.3
Bank service charges, checking accounts		107.5	106.3	-1.1
Legal services, short form will		148.6	161.8	8.9

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

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

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

⁵ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.

⁶ Also includes storage batteries and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

⁷ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

⁸ 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 1973 and percent changes from selected dates

Area and group	Relative importance	Indexes (1967=100)			Percent change to December 1973 from—	
	December 1972	December 1972	September 1973	December 1973	December 1972	September 1973
United States:						
All items -----	100.000	127.3	135.5	138.5	8.8	2.2
Food -----	22.492	126.0	148.3	151.3	20.1	2.0
Housing -----	33.859	131.2	136.6	140.5	7.1	2.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	10.370	125.0	128.3	130.5	4.4	1.7
Transportation -----	13.134	121.3	123.9	126.7	4.5	2.3
Health and recreation -----	19.768	127.5	131.1	133.0	4.3	1.4
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):						
All items -----	32.754	129.6	138.0	141.1	8.9	2.2
Food -----	7.606	128.0	150.1	153.0	19.5	1.9
Housing -----	10.914	133.8	138.9	143.6	7.3	3.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	3.470	123.8	127.8	128.5	3.8	.5
Transportation -----	4.272	127.3	129.5	132.3	3.9	2.2
Health and recreation -----	6.492	129.7	133.5	135.6	4.5	1.6
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):						
All items -----	11.815	127.6	135.4	138.0	8.2	1.9
Food -----	2.684	125.8	148.0	150.8	19.9	1.9
Housing -----	4.030	131.2	135.7	138.6	5.6	2.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.228	125.4	129.1	132.2	5.4	2.4
Transportation -----	1.534	122.5	124.4	126.4	3.2	1.6
Health and recreation -----	2.339	128.1	131.2	132.8	3.7	1.2
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):						
All items -----	25.705	126.7	134.8	137.6	8.6	2.1
Food -----	5.513	125.3	147.0	150.1	19.8	2.1
Housing -----	8.909	130.8	136.6	139.7	6.8	2.3
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.647	126.4	129.6	132.1	4.5	1.9
Transportation -----	3.490	118.8	121.6	124.4	4.7	2.3
Health and recreation -----	5.146	127.3	130.8	132.8	4.3	1.5
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):						
All items -----	12.442	125.7	134.1	137.1	9.1	2.2
Food -----	2.796	124.6	147.7	150.1	20.5	1.6
Housing -----	4.219	129.6	135.4	139.3	7.5	2.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.314	126.2	128.3	131.7	4.4	2.7
Transportation -----	1.644	117.2	119.9	123.0	4.9	2.6
Health and recreation -----	2.469	126.6	129.9	131.4	3.8	1.2
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):						
All items -----	16.907	124.7	133.1	136.6	9.5	2.6
Food -----	3.892	124.5	147.2	150.8	21.1	2.4
Housing -----	5.788	128.2	133.6	138.2	7.8	3.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.711	123.8	126.6	129.5	4.6	2.3
Transportation -----	2.194	117.3	120.5	123.4	5.2	2.4
Health and recreation -----	3.322	124.4	128.1	130.1	4.6	1.6

¹ Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

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 1973 and percent changes from selected dates

Area and group	Annual average indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to 1973 from— 1972 average
	1972	1973	
United States:			
All items -----	125.3	133.1	6.2
Food -----	123.5	141.4	14.5
Housing -----	129.2	135.0	4.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	122.3	126.8	3.7
Transportation -----	119.9	123.8	3.3
Health and recreation -----	126.1	130.2	3.3
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):			
All items -----	127.5	135.6	6.4
Food -----	125.6	143.1	13.9
Housing -----	131.4	137.8	4.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	121.3	126.2	4.0
Transportation -----	125.5	129.4	3.1
Health and recreation -----	128.2	132.6	3.4
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):			
All items -----	125.5	133.0	6.0
Food -----	123.2	141.1	14.5
Housing -----	128.9	134.2	4.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.3	127.9	3.7
Transportation -----	121.1	124.2	2.6
Health and recreation -----	126.4	130.4	3.2
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):			
All items -----	124.7	132.4	6.2
Food -----	122.7	140.4	14.4
Housing -----	128.9	134.6	4.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.0	128.6	4.6
Transportation -----	117.4	121.4	3.4
Health and recreation -----	125.9	130.0	3.3
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):			
All items -----	123.9	131.7	6.3
Food -----	122.3	140.4	14.8
Housing -----	127.7	133.9	4.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.0	127.7	3.8
Transportation -----	116.4	119.8	2.9
Health and recreation -----	125.2	128.9	3.0
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):			
All items -----	122.9	130.7	6.3
Food -----	122.0	140.1	14.8
Housing -----	126.5	132.1	4.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	121.8	125.7	3.2
Transportation -----	116.1	120.1	3.4
Health and recreation -----	123.3	127.1	3.1

¹ Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

Table 10. Consumer Price Index—United States average and areas grouped by region for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups, December 1973, and percent changes from selected dates

Area and group	Relative importance ¹ December 1972	Indexes (1967= 100) ¹			Percent change to December 1973 from—	
		December 1972	September 1973	December 1973	December 1972	September 1973
United States:						
All items -----	100.000	127.3	135.5	138.5	8.8	2.2
Food -----	22.492	126.0	148.3	151.3	20.1	2.0
Housing -----	33.859	131.2	136.6	140.5	7.1	2.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	10.370	125.0	128.3	130.5	4.4	1.7
Transportation -----	13.134	121.3	123.9	126.7	4.5	2.3
Health and recreation -----	19.768	127.5	131.1	133.0	4.3	1.4
Northeast:						
All items -----	32.988	130.7	138.9	142.5	9.0	2.6
Food -----	7.974	128.2	149.3	152.9	19.3	2.4
Housing -----	10.747	135.9	141.5	146.9	8.1	3.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	3.647	125.9	129.1	131.2	4.2	1.6
Transportation -----	4.051	126.7	128.4	131.4	3.7	2.3
Health and recreation -----	6.568	131.1	134.4	136.2	3.9	1.3
North Central:						
All items -----	28.059	125.8	134.0	136.6	8.6	1.9
Food -----	6.229	125.2	148.7	151.5	21.0	1.9
Housing -----	9.605	127.4	131.8	134.4	5.5	2.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.783	125.1	128.3	130.4	4.2	1.6
Transportation -----	3.845	120.6	124.0	127.1	5.4	2.5
Health and recreation -----	5.595	127.9	131.5	133.6	4.5	1.6
South:						
All items -----	21.679	126.6	135.8	138.8	9.6	2.2
Food -----	4.749	126.2	151.1	153.1	21.3	1.3
Housing -----	7.451	131.3	137.7	141.8	8.0	3.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.334	125.1	128.6	131.5	5.1	2.3
Transportation -----	2.907	117.2	120.2	123.5	5.4	2.7
Health and recreation -----	4.238	126.9	130.8	132.9	4.7	1.6
West:						
All items -----	16.433	124.2	131.4	134.0	7.9	2.0
Food -----	3.426	123.0	142.3	145.6	18.4	2.3
Housing -----	5.904	129.3	134.6	138.2	6.9	2.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.569	122.5	125.8	127.1	3.8	1.0
Transportation -----	2.266	118.7	120.8	122.1	2.9	1.1
Health and recreation -----	3.268	121.5	125.1	126.6	4.2	1.2

¹ Regional index and relative importance data exclude Anchorage, Alaska and Honolulu, Hawaii which are included in the U.S. level data. Consequently, regional relative importances will not add to U.S. totals.

Table 10-A. Consumer Price Index—United States average and areas grouped by region for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups, year 1973, and percent changes from selected dates

Area and group	Annual average indexes (1967=100) ¹		Percent change to 1973 from— 1972 average
	1972	1973	
United States:			
All items -----	125.3	133.1	6.2
Food -----	123.5	141.4	14.5
Housing -----	129.2	135.0	4.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	122.3	126.8	3.7
Transportation -----	119.9	123.8	3.3
Health and recreation -----	126.1	130.2	3.3
Northeast:			
All items -----	128.5	136.7	6.4
Food -----	125.8	143.0	13.7
Housing -----	133.2	140.4	5.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	123.6	127.9	3.5
Transportation -----	125.5	128.6	2.5
Health and recreation -----	129.4	133.6	3.2
North Central:			
All items -----	124.0	131.5	6.0
Food -----	122.8	141.2	15.0
Housing -----	126.0	130.4	3.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	122.4	127.1	3.8
Transportation -----	119.4	123.7	3.6
Health and recreation -----	126.4	130.6	3.3
South:			
All items -----	124.8	133.0	6.6
Food -----	123.6	142.9	15.6
Housing -----	129.4	135.6	4.8
Apparel and upkeep -----	122.3	127.7	4.4
Transportation -----	116.4	120.0	3.1
Health and recreation -----	125.7	129.8	3.3
West:			
All items -----	122.1	129.3	5.9
Food -----	120.4	136.7	13.5
Housing -----	127.1	133.0	4.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	120.9	124.6	3.1
Transportation -----	116.1	120.2	3.5
Health and recreation -----	120.1	124.1	3.3

¹ Regional index data exclude Anchorage, Alaska and Honolulu, Hawaii which are included in the U.S. level data.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

A Note About Calculating Index Changes

Movements of the indexes from one month to another are usually expressed as percent changes rather than changes in index points because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percent changes are not. The example in the accompanying box illustrates the computation of index point and percent changes.

Seasonally adjusted percent changes in the U.S. All Items Index are based on seasonal adjustment factors and seasonally adjusted indexes carried to two decimal places. This procedure helps to eliminate rounding error in the percent changes.

Percent changes for 3-month and 6-month periods are expressed as annual rates and are computed according to the standard formula for compound growth rates. These data indicate what the percent change would be if the current rate were maintained for a 12-month

period. BLS does not publish annual rates based on data for 1 month.

<i>Index Point Change</i>	
CPI	123.8
Less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
Equals index point change:	0.6
<i>Percent Change</i>	
Index point difference,	<u>0.6</u>
Divided by the previous index,	123.2
Equals,	0.005
Results multiplied by one hundred	0.005×100
Equals percent change:	0.5

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

A system of "replicated" samples introduced into the index structure in the 1964 revision permits an estimate of sampling error for the CPI.¹ The table below shows standard errors for monthly, quarterly, and annual *percent changes* in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1972 averages.

Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 1972 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

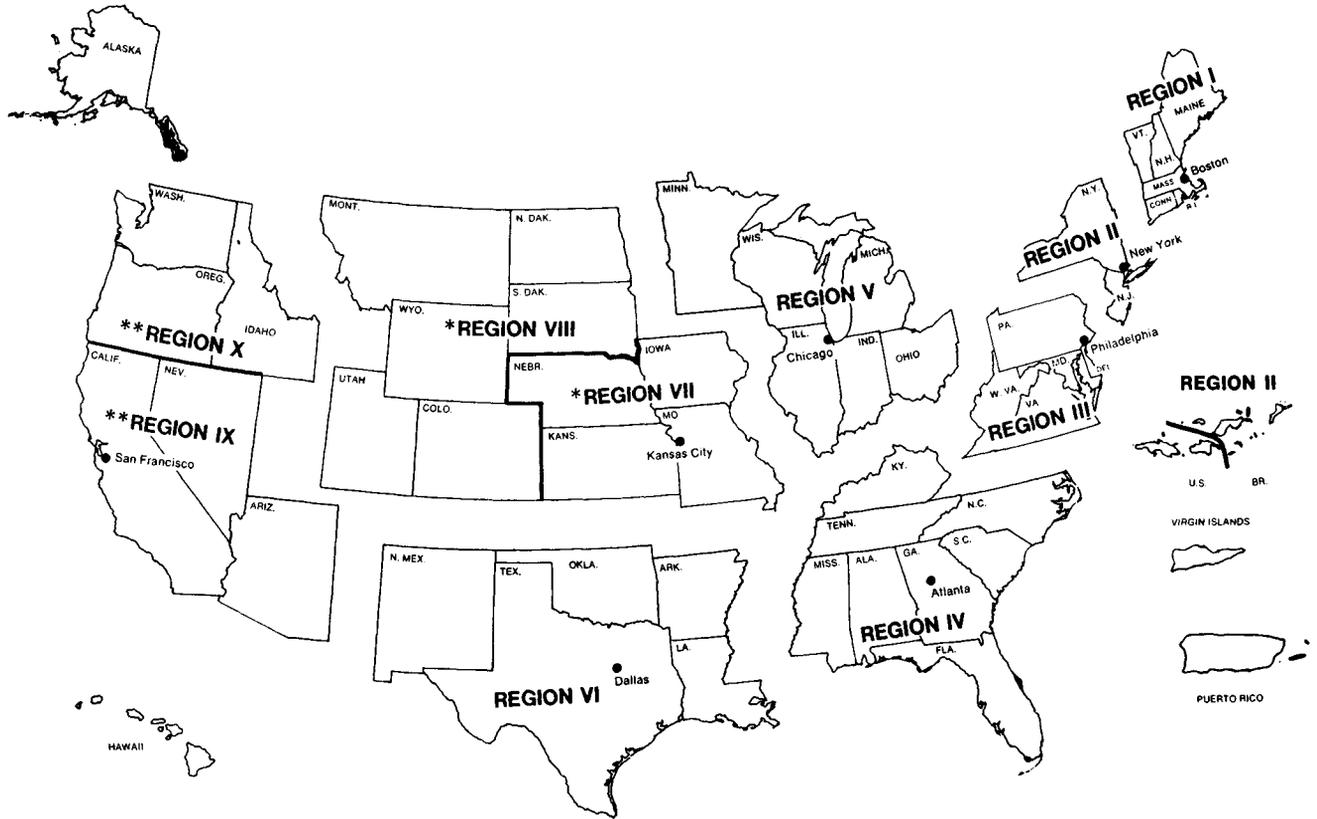
The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard error.

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

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1971 data which was included in the CPI report through March 1973.

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

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