

CPI Detailed Report

For February 1976

Consumer Price Index: U.S. City Average and Selected Areas



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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The CPI Detailed Report is a monthly report on consumer price movements including statistical tables and technical notes.

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Price Movements

February 1976

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.2 percent in February before seasonal adjustment to 167.1 percent of its 1967 base. The CPI in February was 6.3 percent higher than in February 1975.

Seasonally adjusted changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI rose 0.1 percent in February—the smallest increase since September 1971. The February increase compares with a rise of 0.4 percent in January and an average monthly increase of 0.6 percent in the last 3 months of 1975. The slowdown in February was primarily due to declines in prices of many types of food. Gasoline prices also declined. Charges for consumer services continued to rise but by less than in January.

The food index declined 1.0 percent in February, after seasonal adjustment. Prices of grocery store foods—which account for the major portion of the food index—fell 1.5 percent in February, following a decline of 0.4 percent in January. A sharp decline in beef prices—5.9 percent—was a major source of the large February decline in the food index. In addition, pork, poultry, fresh fruit, fresh vegetable, and sugar prices continued to move down. Prices of cereal and bakery products, which rose in January, declined in February. For the first time in 9 months, prices of dairy products declined after seasonal adjustment. Prices rose for some foods; for example coffee. Prices of restaurant meals and snacks away from home increased 0.8 percent after seasonal adjustment, the same as in January.

Continuing the moderate rate of advance evident since last August, the index for commodities other than food

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	
	Unadjusted		Seasonally adjusted		Unadjusted		Seasonally adjusted		Compound annual rate	From 12 months ago
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	From 3 months ago	Unadjusted
1975:										
February	0.7	0.5	0.4	-0.1	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	8.3	11.1
March .....	.4	.4	-.2	-.3	.8	.6	.4	.6	6.6	10.2
April .....	.5	.5	-.1	.2	.8	.5	.6	.6	5.7	10.2
May .....	.4	.5	.4	.9	.6	.3	.2	.4	5.7	9.5
June .....	.8	.7	1.5	1.2	.5	.4	.7	.7	7.0	9.3
July	1.1	1.0	2.4	1.8	.7	.9	.5	.5	9.1	9.7
August .....	.3	.4	-.3	-.2	.5	.6	.5	.4	8.5	8.6
September .....	.5	.4	-.2	.3	.5	.3	1.0	.8	7.4	7.8
October .....	.6	.6	.7	.9	.5	.3	.6	.6	5.8	7.6
November .....	.6	.6	.4	.6	.3	.3	1.1	1.0	6.8	7.3
December .....	.4	.5	.5	.6	.1	.4	.6	.6	7.3	7.0
1976:										
January .....	.2	.4	.1	-.2	-.3	.2	1.0	1.1	6.5	6.8
February .....	.2	.1	-.4	-1.0	.3	.3	.7	.7	4.4	6.3

increased 0.3 percent in February after seasonal adjustment. The downtrend in the indexes for gasoline and motor oil and fuel oil and coal—which began in late 1975—continued in February with declines of 1.5 percent and 0.6 percent respectively after seasonal adjustment. Clothing prices rose moderately, as they had in the 4 previous months. In February, the used car index rose sharply. The new car index also increased, following a decline in January. Prices for household durables rose more than in recent months, and cigarette prices continued to move up rapidly.

The services index increased 0.7 percent in February after seasonal adjustment, following a rise of 1.1 percent in January. Charges for transportation services and household services other than rent rose, but by less than in January. Sharp increases in auto insurance rates accounted for much of the 1.3 percent rise in transportation services. Charges for household services other than rent rose 0.6 percent, compared with 1.0 percent in January. Within this group, mortgage interest rates increased less than in January, and postal charges were unchanged following their large January rise; charges for other housekeeping services, however, increased more than in recent months, and gas, electricity, and water and sewerage rates rose sharply. The rent index increased 0.6 percent in February, more than in recent months. Charges for medical care services increased 1.1 percent in February, about the same as in January and December.

Monthly changes in detail (not seasonally adjusted)

The index for food purchased in grocery stores declined 0.7 percent in February before seasonal adjustment. Prices declined for many food items which usually rise seasonally in February, such as beef, poultry, pork, cereal and bakery products, and processed fruits and vegetables. The decline in beef prices reflected a sharp expansion in cattle slaughter and beef production.

In January, cold storage beef holdings rose for the fourth consecutive month. Poultry supplies were also ample for demand. Pork supplies, however, were restricted but prices were depressed by poor consumer demand. Lower cost for ingredients such as flour, sugar, and shortening resulted in lower prices for most bakery products. Processed fruits and vegetable prices declined in response to promotional efforts by wholesalers to reduce stocks.

The index for fresh vegetables, which usually moves up in February, showed virtually no change as increases in potato prices were offset by declines for most other vegetables. The fresh fruit index rose but by less than it usually does in February. Banana prices increased as the earthquake in Guatemala created uncertainties about supplies, but orange and grapefruit prices declined as supplies were plentiful.

The index for dairy products increased 0.2 percent, the smallest increase since mid-1975. A drop of 5.1 percent in

butter prices partially offset price increases for most other processed dairy products.

Among other foods purchased in grocery stores, prices for fats and oil products continued to decline reflecting an abundant supply of soybeans, competition from foreign oils, and a sluggish export demand. Exports of soybean oil during October-December 1975 totaled 163 million pounds compared with 406 million pounds for the same time period in 1974. Sugar prices also declined in February but by less than in recent months. Wholesale sugar prices increased in January, but declined again in February. Substantial stocks of sugar were still being held by some of the major producing nations, including Thailand, Colombia, and the Philippines.

Coffee prices, on the other hand, continued to increase. Coffee supplies, already reduced by weather damage in Brazil last summer, registered another setback in February when earthquakes disrupted shipping capabilities in Guatemala. Wholesale coffee prices rose sharply in February.

The index for commodities other than food increased 0.3 percent in February before seasonal adjustment. Higher prices for many items contributed to the increase. With the end of clearance sales, prices rose for apparel and textile housefurnishings. Among household durables, prices for furniture and bedding rose slightly, but there were large increases for floor coverings—particularly vinyl sheet flooring—and appliances. Since the first of the year, most appliance manufacturers have raised prices to dealers on entire model lines. Prices of housekeeping supplies such as laundry soap, detergents, and toilet tissue rose sharply in February. Cigarette prices continued to rise reflecting earlier increases in manufacturers' prices.

Contrary to their usual seasonal movement, both the new and used car indexes increased slightly in February. The strength of new car sales in February seems to have kept price concessions on full-sized cars lower than would be expected for this time of year. This effect was offset somewhat by higher concessions on small cars as a result of increased rebate programs from producers. Domestic new car sales for the first 2 months of this year were up 24 percent from the same two months last year. Domestic new cars in stock represented 58 days of inventory at the end of February compared with 67 days at the end of January and 67 days in February 1975. Used car prices increased for all model years—except 5 year olds—as buying was at a high level at most auction markets.

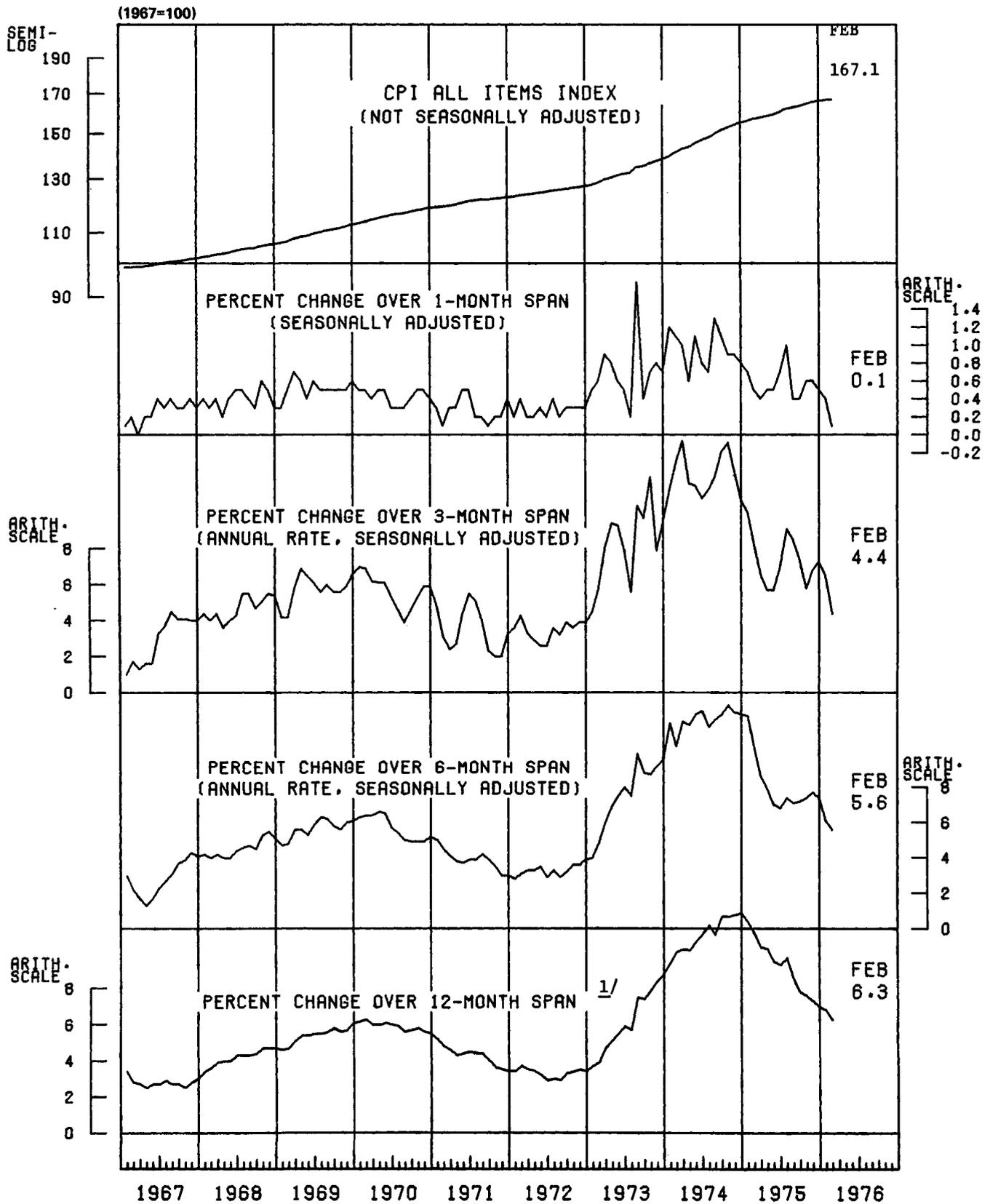
Fuel oil prices increased 0.2 percent in February, much less than the usual increase at this time of the year. Unseasonably warm weather in some fuel consuming areas was in part responsible for the slower-than-usual rise. Gasoline prices (regular, premium, and unleaded combined) declined 1.1 percent, more than in each of the preceding 4 months.

The services index rose 0.7 percent in February before seasonal adjustment. Over a fifth of this increase was due to higher auto insurance charges. Charges for medical care serv-

ices also rose sharply. Physicians' fees increased 1.3 percent. Hospital service charges rose 1.5 percent, following a rise of 2.2 percent in January. Among household services, charges for natural gas increased 1.7 percent; electricity—which declined in January—rose 0.9 percent; and water and sewerage rates increased 1.6 percent. Charges for domestic services, baby sitters, washing machine repairs, and laundering serv-

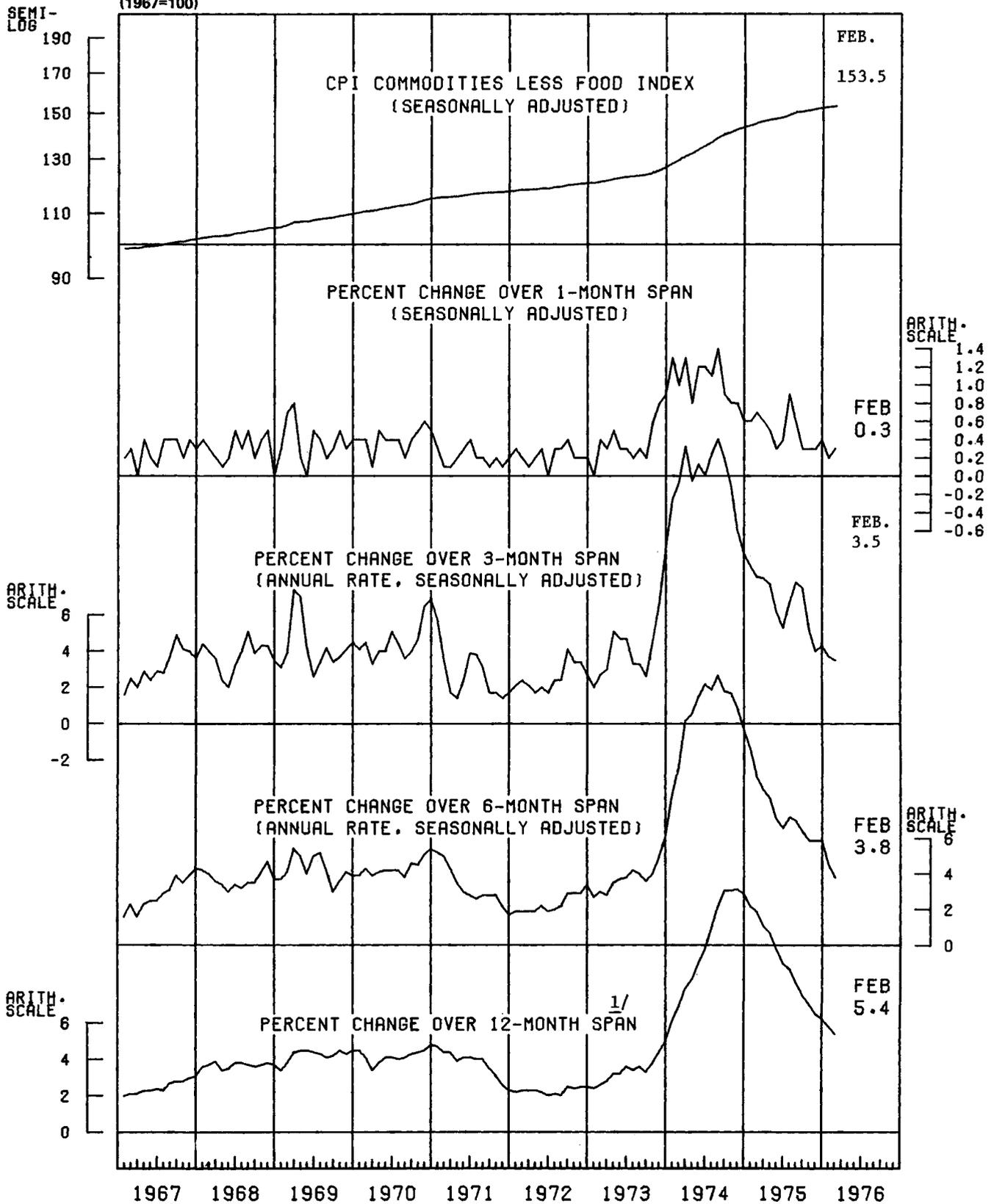
ices rose sharply. The increase in the minimum wage in January was a contributing factor. Mortgage interest costs, however, declined for the first time since last May. The decline reflected lower interest rates on conventional and VA loans. Among other services, charges for beauty shop services rose 1.9 percent, and bank service charges on checking accounts rose 1.4 percent.

Chart 1. All items index and its rate of change, 1967-76



1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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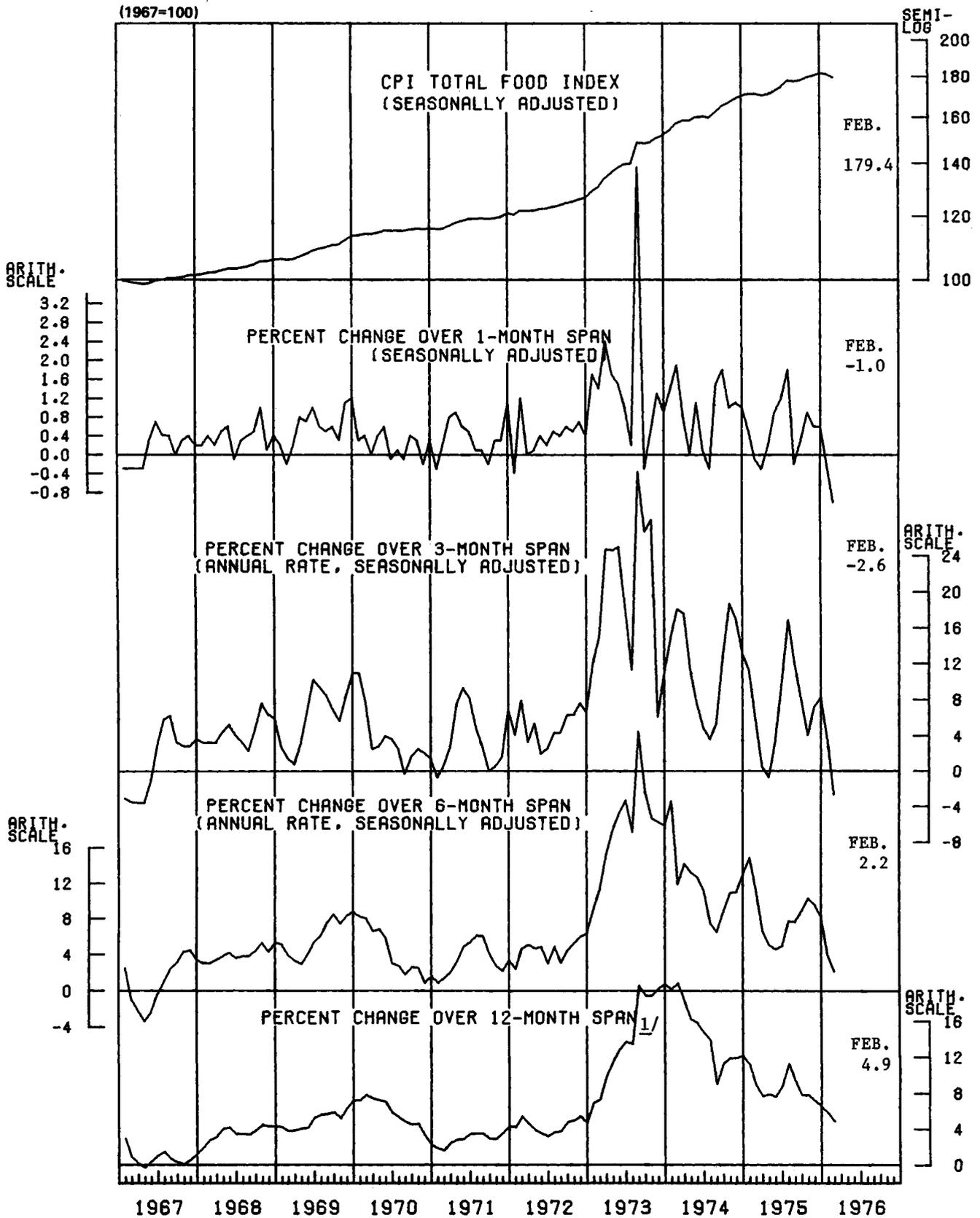
Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1967-76
(1967=100)



1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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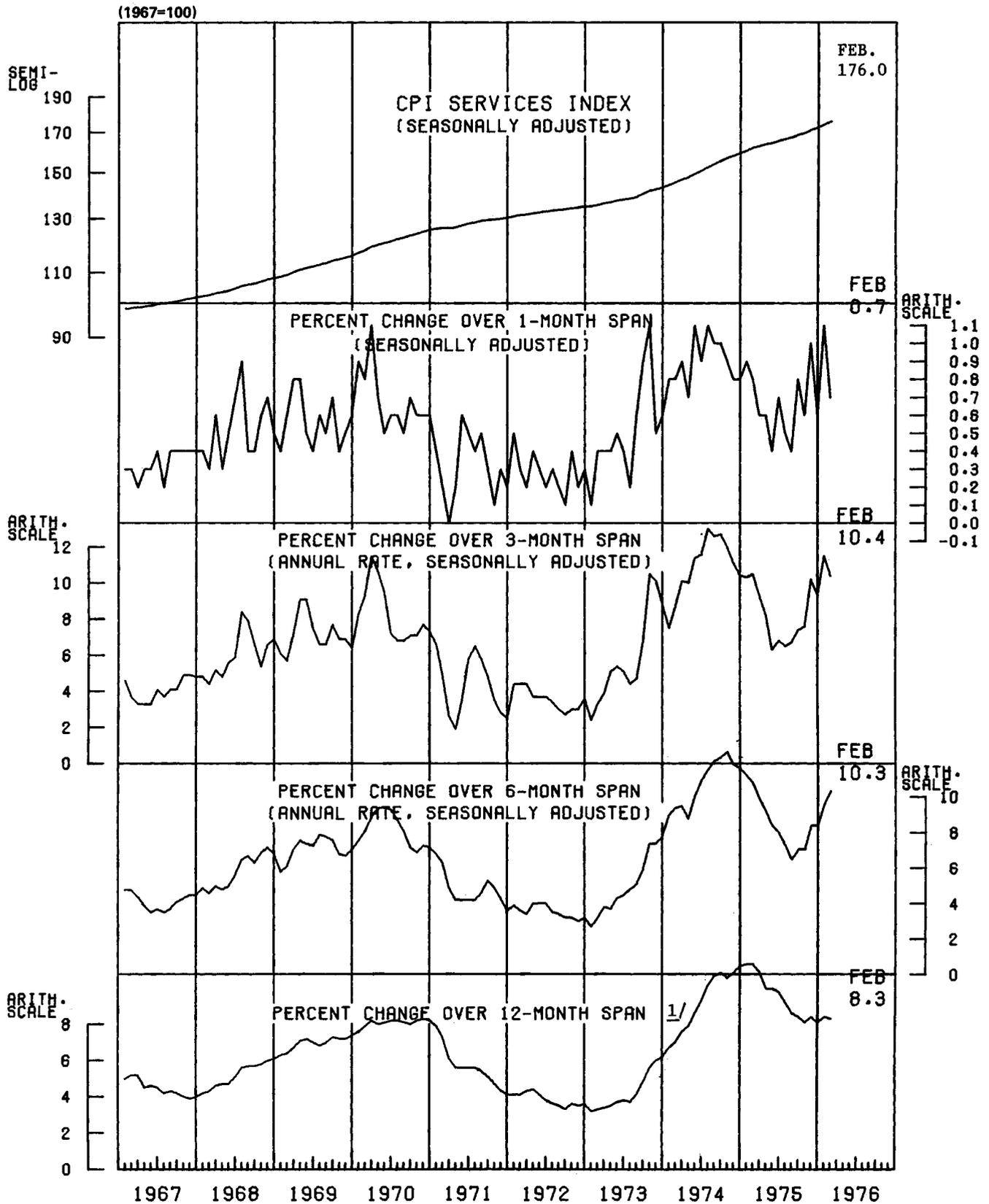
Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1967-76

(1967=100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 4. Services index and its rates of change, 1967-76



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Table 1. CPI—U.S. city average, by commodity and service group and expenditure class

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Group	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to Feb, 1976 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
		December 1975	January 1976	February 1976	February 1975	January 1976	November to December	December to January	January to February
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100,000	166.7	167.1	6.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1
All items (1957-59=100)	-	193.9	194.4	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	63,355	162.4	162.3	5.1	-1.1	.4	.1	-1.0
Food	24,675	180.8	180.0	4.9	-4	.6	-2	-1.5
Food at home	19,524	180.8	179.6	4.4	-7	.5	-4	-1.3
Cereals and bakery products	2,702	182.0	181.1	-3.3	-5	-6	.8	-3.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	6,641	186.5	183.0	12.5	-1.9	.1	-2.2	-6
Dairy products	2,876	168.2	168.5	8.3	.2	1.1	2.2	-1.7
Fruits and vegetables	3,103	173.3	173.2	3.9	-1	2.0	-3	.2
Other foods at home	4,202	186.7	186.6	-3.4	-1	.4	0	.8
Food away from home	5,150	180.9	181.9	6.7	.6	.5	.8	.8
Commodities less food	38,681	152.3	152.7	5.4	.3	.4	.2	.3
Nondurables less food	22,872	154.7	155.2	4.7	.3	.3	.2	.1
Apparel commodities	7,861	141.5	142.2	2.2	.5	.2	.4	.2
Men's and boys'	2,475	142.6	143.9	2.3	.9	.1	.5	1.0
Women's and girls'	3,426	138.1	138.2	2.1	.1	.4	.8	-.8
Footwear	1,377	144.7	146.1	2.2	1.0	.2	-.4	1.0
Other apparel commodities	.584	150.0	150.2	1.9	.1	.4	.4	.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	15,011	162.6	162.9	6.1	.2	.4	.1	0
Gasoline and motor oil	3,498	174.8	173.1	8.1	-1.0	-2	-1.6	-1.5
Tobacco products	1,880	158.1	159.2	4.2	.7	1.2	1.1	.7
Alcoholic beverages	2,244	144.0	144.4	2.6	.3	.1	.4	.1
Fuel oil and coal	1,045	248.9	249.4	8.7	.2	-2	-1.4	-6
Other nondurables	6,343	156.0	157.1	6.4	.7	.6	.8	.6
Durable commodities	15,809	149.0	149.3	6.4	.2	.5	.3	.6
Household durables	4,495	143.3	144.0	4.9	.5	.4	.3	.7
New automobiles	1,910	134.2	134.3	7.9	.1	2.2	-2	.5
Used automobiles	2,046	144.6	144.9	8.5	.2	-5	.4	2.7
Other durables	7,358	158.8	158.7	6.3	-1	*.3	*.4	*-.1
Services	36,645	174.9	176.1	8.3	.7	.6	1.1	.7
Rent	4,497	141.2	142.1	5.2	.6	.4	.3	.6
Services less rent	32,147	181.0	182.2	8.8	.7	.7	1.2	.8
Household services less rent	16,030	193.7	194.4	7.8	.4	.7	1.0	.6
Transportation services	5,012	167.0	168.9	14.7	1.1	.7	2.2	1.3
Medical care services	5,642	188.0	190.4	10.1	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.1
Other services	5,463	156.6	157.4	5.1	.5	.4	.8	.5
Special indexes:								
All items less food	75,325	162.6	163.4	6.8	.5	*.4	*.3	*.5
Nondurable commodities	47,547	167.3	167.2	4.8	-1	*.3	*-.2	*-.1
Apparel commodities less footwear	6,485	140.9	141.4	2.1	.4	.3	.6	-.1
Services less medical care services	31,002	172.8	173.8	8.0	.6	*.6	*1.0	*.6
Insurance and finance	9,808	192.9	193.5	9.8	.3	.9	1.8	.6
Utilities and public transportation	5,484	165.8	167.2	10.4	.8	.4	-2	.7
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4,649	202.8	203.9	7.5	.5	*.3	*1.9	*.5
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1,417	121.3	121.8	4.6	.4	.2	.5	.5
Expenditure classes								
All items	100,000	166.7	167.1	6.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.1
Food	24,675	180.8	180.0	4.9	-4	.6	-2	-1.0
Housing	33,998	173.2	173.8	6.8	.3	*.5	*.6	*.3
Shelter ¹	21,370	175.9	176.0	6.1	.1	*.5	*.5	*.1
Rent	4,497	141.2	142.1	5.2	.6	.4	.3	.6
Homeownership ²	16,484	188.8	188.6	6.4	-1	*.5	*.5	*-.1
Fuel and utilities ³	5,205	176.3	177.9	9.7	.9	.7	-.4	.3
Gas and electricity	2,722	179.5	181.9	11.8	1.3	1.1	-6	1.1
Household furnishings and operation	7,422	163.7	165.2	6.8	.9	.5	1.5	1.0
Apparel and upkeep	9,217	143.3	144.0	2.7	.5	.3	.6	0
Transportation	13,053	158.1	158.5	10.5	.3	.6	.3	.9
Private	11,729	156.8	157.2	10.3	.3	.6	.3	1.0
Public	1,324	170.2	170.4	11.9	.1	-3	.4	.1
Health and recreation	18,681	158.6	159.7	6.3	.7	*.6	*.7	*.7
Medical care	6,413	176.6	178.8	9.7	1.2	*.8	*1.1	*1.2
Personal care	2,505	155.7	157.0	6.2	.8	*.7	*.7	*.8
Reading and recreation	5,148	148.2	148.5	4.7	.2	.5	.5	.3
Other goods and services	4,616	150.5	151.3	3.7	.5	.5	.7	.5
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78,630	164.4	164.9	6.4	.3	*.4	*.2	*.3
All items less medical care	93,587	166.2	166.5	6.1	.2	*.4	*.2	*.2
All items less mortgage interest costs	95,610	164.4	164.9	6.3	.3	*.4	*.2	*.3
CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁴	17,148	178.5	176.9	4.5	-9	*.6	*-.2	*-.9
CPI - selected beef cuts ⁵	2,056	176.6	169.4	9.4	-4.1	*-.5	*.4	*-4.1
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967= \$1.00	-	\$0.600	\$0.598	-6.0	-.3	-	-	-
1957-59= \$1.00	-	.516	.514	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

³ Also includes residential telephone, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

⁴ Calculated from the food at home component by excluding fish, nonalcoholic beverages, bananas,

chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup, and about half of the index weight for sugar.

⁵ Calculated from the CPI beef and veal component by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver.

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

Table 2. CPI—seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by commodity and service group and expenditure class

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	November 1975	December 1975	January 1976	February 1976	3 months ending in				6 months ending in	
					May 1975	August 1975	November 1975	February 1976	August 1975	February 1976
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	5.7	8.5	6.8	4.4	7.1	5.6
Commodities	162.2	162.9	163.1	162.7	5.0	9.5	5.4	1.2	7.2	3.3
Food	180.6	181.6	181.2	179.4	3.3	12.1	7.2	-2.6	7.6	2.2
Food at home	181.2	182.1	181.4	178.6	2.8	14.2	7.1	-5.6	8.3	.6
Cereals and bakery products	181.7	180.6	182.0	179.7	.2	-1.3	-7.7	-4.3	-.5	-6.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	192.7	192.9	188.6	182.8	22.3	41.8	14.0	-19.0	31.7	-3.9
Dairy products	162.3	164.1	167.7	166.7	-2.3	10.6	14.5	11.3	3.9	12.9
Fruits and vegetables	174.3	177.8	177.2	174.2	-4.9	18.5	3.3	-2.2	6.2	1.5
Other foods at home	182.7	183.4	183.4	183.8	-9.9	-10.0	4.7	2.4	-9.9	3.6
Food away from home	178.6	179.5	180.9	182.4	5.2	5.2	7.7	8.8	5.2	8.3
Commodities less food	152.2	152.8	153.1	153.5	6.2	7.8	4.0	3.5	7.0	3.8
Nondurables less food	154.8	155.3	155.6	155.7	3.5	9.4	3.7	2.3	6.4	3.0
Apparel commodities	142.4	142.7	143.3	143.6	-.3	5.5	.3	3.4	2.6	1.8
Men's and boys'	143.4	143.5	144.2	145.6	-1.4	0	4.6	6.3	-.7	5.4
Women's and girls'	139.2	139.7	140.8	139.7	-.6	12.5	-4.5	1.4	5.8	-1.6
Footwear	145.6	145.9	145.3	146.7	.8	.6	4.2	3.1	.7	3.6
Other apparel commodities	149.4	150.0	150.6	150.8	2.2	2.2	-.3	3.8	2.2	1.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	162.2	162.8	162.9	162.9	6.1	11.5	5.6	1.7	8.8	3.7
Gasoline and motor oil	179.4	179.1	176.2	173.6	5.6	37.5	7.2	-12.3	20.5	-3.0
Tobacco products	154.9	156.7	158.4	159.5	2.1	0	2.9	12.4	1.0	7.5
Alcoholic beverages	143.3	143.5	144.1	144.3	4.6	1.4	1.7	2.8	3.0	2.3
Fuel oil and coal	248.1	247.5	244.0	242.6	9.5	25.6	10.8	-8.6	17.3	.7
Other nondurables	154.4	155.3	156.5	157.4	7.5	4.0	6.2	8.0	5.8	7.1
Durable commodities	148.5	149.2	149.7	150.6	9.4	6.2	4.1	5.8	7.8	5.0
Household durables	142.7	143.2	143.7	144.7	5.6	2.6	5.5	5.7	4.1	5.6
New automobiles	130.5	133.4	133.1	133.8	10.0	2.2	9.1	10.5	6.1	9.8
Used automobiles	150.1	149.4	150.0	154.1	2.0	26.0	-2.9	11.1	13.4	3.9
Other durables (not seasonally adjusted)	157.6	158.1	158.8	158.7	14.1	3.9	4.7	2.8	8.9	3.8
Services	171.7	172.8	174.7	176.0	6.3	6.7	10.2	10.4	6.5	10.3
Rent	140.1	140.7	141.1	142.0	4.2	5.1	5.9	5.5	4.6	5.7
Services less rent	177.3	178.5	180.7	182.1	6.6	7.0	10.6	11.3	6.8	10.9
Household services less rent	189.8	191.1	193.1	194.2	6.4	7.0	8.4	9.6	6.7	9.0
Transportation services	162.0	163.1	166.7	168.9	7.3	5.7	29.4	18.2	6.5	23.6
Medical care services	184.3	186.1	188.4	190.4	10.3	9.6	6.5	13.9	9.9	10.2
Other services	155.0	155.6	156.8	157.6	3.2	4.9	5.9	6.9	4.0	6.4
Special indexes:										
All items less food (not seasonally adjusted)	161.5	162.1	162.6	163.4	7.0	7.1	8.3	4.8	7.0	6.5
Nondurable commodities (not seasonally adjusted)	167.1	167.6	167.3	167.2	3.0	11.4	4.7	.2	7.1	2.4
Apparel commodities less footwear	141.7	142.1	143.0	142.8	-.6	6.7	-.8	3.1	3.0	1.1
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	170.0	171.1	172.8	173.8	4.3	6.3	12.4	9.2	5.3	10.8
Insurance and finance	186.7	188.3	191.7	192.9	7.2	5.9	12.2	14.0	6.6	13.1
Utilities and public transportation	164.9	165.6	165.3	166.4	9.1	10.0	19.6	3.7	9.5	11.3
Housekeeping and home maintenance service (not seasonally adjusted)	198.5	199.0	202.8	203.9	4.1	6.6	8.0	11.3	5.3	9.7
Appliances (including radio and TV)	120.4	120.6	121.2	121.8	5.3	3.4	5.1	4.7	4.3	4.9
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	5.7	8.5	6.8	4.4	7.1	5.6
Food	180.6	181.6	181.2	179.4	3.3	12.1	7.2	-2.6	7.6	2.2
Housing (not seasonally adjusted)	171.3	172.2	173.2	173.8	6.3	5.9	8.9	6.0	6.1	7.4
Shelter ¹ (not seasonally adjusted)	174.1	175.0	175.9	176.0	5.7	6.1	8.2	4.4	5.9	6.3
Rent	140.1	140.7	141.1	142.0	4.2	5.1	5.9	5.5	4.6	5.7
Homeownership ² (not seasonally adjusted)	186.8	187.8	188.8	188.6	6.5	6.1	9.0	3.9	6.3	6.4
Fuel and utilities ³	175.1	176.3	175.6	176.1	10.3	13.8	12.3	2.3	12.0	7.2
Gas and electricity	177.7	179.6	178.6	180.5	12.4	15.2	13.4	6.5	13.8	9.9
Household furnishings and operation	161.2	162.0	164.4	166.0	4.4	4.1	6.2	12.5	4.3	9.3
Apparel and upkeep	143.6	144.1	145.0	145.0	.9	5.5	.6	4.0	3.1	2.2
Transportation	157.4	158.3	158.7	160.1	6.2	16.1	12.9	7.0	11.1	9.9
Private	156.1	157.0	157.4	158.9	6.5	17.7	9.8	7.4	12.0	8.6
Public	169.5	169.0	169.7	169.9	4.6	3.7	43.0	.9	4.1	20.1
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	156.5	157.5	158.6	159.7	6.5	5.3	5.0	8.4	5.9	6.7
Medical care (not seasonally adjusted)	173.3	174.7	176.6	178.8	9.7	10.2	5.7	13.3	9.9	9.5
Personal care (not seasonally adjusted)	153.6	154.6	155.7	157.0	5.8	4.1	5.9	9.2	4.9	7.5
Reading and recreation	146.9	147.6	148.3	148.8	4.6	3.7	5.3	5.3	4.1	5.3
Other goods and services	148.9	149.7	150.7	151.5	3.9	1.1	3.0	7.2	2.5	5.1
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter (not seasonally adjusted)	163.4	164.1	164.4	164.9	5.3	10.0	6.6	3.7	7.6	5.2
All items less medical care (not seasonally adjusted)	165.2	165.8	166.2	166.5	5.2	9.1	7.1	3.2	7.1	5.1
All items less mortgage interest costs (not seasonally adjusted)	163.3	164.0	164.4	164.9	5.8	8.9	6.6	4.0	7.4	5.3
CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) ⁴	177.8	178.8	178.5	176.9	-.5	21.7	.5	-2.0	10.0	-.8
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) ⁵	176.8	175.9	176.6	169.4	33.2	50.8	-15.3	-15.7	41.7	-15.5

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

³ Also includes residential telephone, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage service not shown separately.

⁴ Calculated from the food at home component by excluding fish, nonalcoholic beverages, bananas,

chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup, and about half of the index weight for sugar.

⁵ Calculated from the CPI beef and veal component by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver.

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

Table 3. CPI—food items, U.S. city average

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to February 1976 from—			Item and group	Index		Percent change to February 1976 from—			Seasonally adjusted
	February 1976		Feb. 1975	January 1976			February 1976		Feb. 1975	January 1976		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted		Unadjusted	Unadjusted		Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted		Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	
Food	180.0	179.4	4.9	-0.4	-1.0	Food—Continued						
Food away from home	181.9	182.4	6.7	.6	.8	Food at home—Continued						
Restaurant meals	180.8	(²)	6.6	.6	(²)	Fruits and vegetables—Continued						
Snacks	187.2	187.4	7.0	.5	.7	Fresh fruits and vegetables—Continued						
Food at home	179.6	178.6	4.4	-.7	-1.5	Fresh fruits—Continued						
Cereals and bakery products	181.1	179.7	-3.3	-.5	-1.3	Oranges	143.1	149.1	-1.7	-4.5	-4.8	
Flour	157.8	155.3	-9.6	-2.0	-2.8	Orange juice, fresh	151.0	(²)	4.4	.3	(²)	
Cracker meal	224.0	224.0	2.1	-.7	-1.9	Grapefruit	136.7	153.6	-3.9	-2.1	-2.5	
Corn flakes	166.1	165.4	-.1	-.1	.4	Grapes	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	
Rice	205.3	199.5	-6.3	-1.2	-1.5	Strawberries	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	
Bread, white	162.1	(²)	-5.9	-.8	(²)	Watermelon	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	
Bread, whole wheat	176.3	175.6	-.2	-1.5	-2.1	Fresh vegetables	179.2	177.4	7.8	-.1	-3.8	
Cookies	189.8	(²)	-.4	2.6	(²)	Potatoes	214.2	226.4	40.6	12.0	8.2	
Layer cake	185.6	185.4	-4.4	-.3	-.6	Onions	186.1	199.5	64.7	-.4	-4.3	
Cinnamon rolls	195.2	193.7	-3.0	-.5	-.7	Asparagus	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	
Meats, poultry, and fish	183.0	182.8	12.5	-1.9	-3.1	Cabbage	169.0	165.5	6.2	-2.8	-5.3	
Meats	182.8	182.4	13.6	-2.1	-3.6	Carrots	151.0	148.8	-11.1	-1.2	-4.0	
Beef and veal	168.3	168.8	7.5	-3.8	-5.9	Celery	224.0	222.4	55.0	-6.4	-5.0	
Steak, round	169.7	167.4	8.7	-5.7	-8.9	Cucumbers	167.5	139.9	-21.8	-2.8	-16.7	
Steak, sirloin	165.2	166.9	11.9	-5.9	-8.0	Lettuce	142.0	(²)	-20.1	-10.4	(²)	
Steak, porterhouse	179.9	181.2	18.1	-4.9	-6.9	Peppers, green	157.3	151.5	-14.7	.3	3.8	
Rump roast	165.3	163.3	7.0	-5.1	-8.3	Spinach	192.6	189.6	5.8	.6	-1.0	
Rib roast	194.2	194.8	17.0	-4.9	-5.7	Tomatoes	153.0	137.7	-12.8	-10.5	-9.9	
Chuck roast	174.0	170.8	10.1	-1.3	-7.5	Processed fruits and vegetables	186.4	185.7	4.8	-.5	-.7	
Hamburger	161.7	162.8	5.1	-1.9	-4.0	Fruit cocktail, canned	175.1	174.6	-1.5	-.5	-.5	
Beef liver	133.5	134.7	-10.3	-1.8	-2.7	Pears, canned	159.5	159.2	-4.0	-.9	-.7	
Veal cutlets	187.3	188.4	-.5	-1.3	-2.8	Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned	172.6	172.3	3.2	-.7	-.5	
Pork	208.5	205.4	22.9	-.8	-2.0	Orange juice concentrate, frozen	159.2	(²)	4.9	-.1	(²)	
Chops	190.2	187.6	19.2	1.4	-.2	Lemonade concentrate, frozen	190.7	189.6	3.1	-.5	-.7	
Loin roast	209.3	207.6	25.4	1.0	-.1	Beets, canned	185.6	(²)	.2	-.4	(²)	
Sausage	234.5	234.7	24.4	-1.1	-2.6	Pest, green, canned	158.2	157.1	-2.3	0	-.1	
Ham, whole	207.2	203.1	26.4	-6.3	-2.9	Tomatoes, canned	177.8	(²)	2.9	-.8	(²)	
Picnics	206.4	204.4	31.5	-1.3	-2.1	Dried beans	308.3	(²)	26.7	-.9	(²)	
Bacon	216.4	212.8	19.3	-.4	-2.5	Broccoli, frozen	157.2	(²)	3.2	.5	(²)	
Other meats	178.8	178.4	13.0	-.8	-1.9	Other food at home	186.6	183.8	-3.4	-.1	.2	
Lamb chops	178.4	178.0	10.3	-.6	-2.1	Eggs	184.9	170.4	7.4	1.1	1.9	
Frankfurters	169.9	170.9	11.0	-1.0	-3.0	Fats and oils:	177.4	176.9	-17.4	-2.7	-2.5	
Ham, canned	212.3	209.0	28.5	-.4	0	Margarine	194.2	192.9	-23.2	-4.0	-4.1	
Bologna sausage	175.8	176.3	9.5	-1.1	-2.5	Salad dressing, Italian	153.0	152.8	-1.6	.3	.7	
Salami sausage	165.6	166.8	7.5	-.7	-1.3	Saled or cooking oil	186.2	186.6	-21.7	-3.8	-3.5	
Liverwurst	170.0	169.7	10.0	-1.4	-2.2	Sugar and sweets	224.0	(²)	-18.2	-.2	(²)	
Poultry	159.8	162.2	5.1	-2.9	-3.5	Sugar	212.2	(²)	-52.3	-.7	(²)	
Frying chicken	162.2	166.0	4.8	-3.5	-3.4	Grape jelly	224.3	(²)	-1.2	-.2	(²)	
Chicken breasts	164.2	167.0	8.8	-.5	-1.4	Chocolate bar	241.9	(²)	3.6	-.1	(²)	
Turkey	144.9	148.2	3.1	-2.2	.7	Syrup, chocolate flavored	215.7	212.1	.7	0	0	
Fish	219.2	(²)	11.2	1.4	(²)	Nonalcoholic beverages	191.7	(²)	8.3	.3	(²)	
Shrimp, frozen	210.9	(²)	28.2	2.1	(²)	Coffee	199.1	(²)	19.1	.6	(²)	
Fish, fresh or frozen	236.0	(²)	8.3	1.9	(²)	Coffee, instant	203.4	204.0	17.4	1.7	1.1	
Tuna fish, canned	182.4	181.7	2.2	1.1	.6	Tea	148.5	148.4	6.3	-.1	-.7	
Sardines, canned	246.1	245.9	8.4	.7	.6	Carbonated drink, cola flavored	194.0	(²)	-6.5	.4	(²)	
Dairy products	168.5	166.7	8.3	.2	-.6	Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	197.4	(²)	-5.7	-1.3	(²)	
Milk, fresh, grocery	160.7	158.8	4.4	-.6	-.2	Prepared and partially prepared foods	167.5	(²)	2.4	.7	(²)	
Milk, fresh, skim	175.3	173.6	4.5	-.1	-1.0	Bean soup, canned	205.5	(²)	9.7	2.8	(²)	
Milk, evaporated	201.7	(²)	10.4	.9	(²)	Chicken soup, canned	133.0	132.7	-1.3	0	-.6	
Ice cream	158.3	157.5	4.5	1.7	1.7	Spaghetti, canned	163.6	162.9	.1	-.6	-.6	
Cheese, American process	199.0	196.3	18.2	.9	-.1	Mashed potatoes, instant	155.9	156.1	-.4	.6	.3	
Butter	149.4	148.4	29.9	-5.1	-4.2	Potatoes, french fried, frozen	177.3	179.5	4.0	.3	.9	
Fruits and vegetables	173.2	174.2	3.9	-.1	-1.7	Baby foods	161.2	(²)	-.4	-.2	(²)	
Fresh fruits and vegetables	164.4	167.6	3.3	.4	-2.3	Sweet pickle relish	182.1	180.3	6.9	1.2	1.3	
Fresh fruits	146.2	154.7	-2.9	.9	-.2	Pretzels	160.1	160.4	-1.9	.9	-.2	
Apples	137.2	147.2	-9.1	3.6	2.3							
Bananas	151.6	156.9	12.7	4.0	0							

¹ Priced only in season.

² Not available.

Table 4. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. city average

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1976 from	
		January 1976	February 1976	January 1975	February 1976
Housing		173.2	173.8	6.8	0.3
Shelter ¹		175.9	176.0	6.1	.1
Rent, residential		141.2	142.1	5.2	.6
Homeownership ²		188.8	188.6	6.4	-.1
Mortgage interest rates		144.5	143.7	-1.3	-.6
Property taxes		166.5	166.9	7.1	.2
Property insurance premiums		137.4	139.2	8.8	1.3
Maintenance and repairs		193.2	193.7	5.3	.3
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		164.1	164.6	4.2	.3
Exterior house paint		160.7	162.0	4.6	.8
Interior house paint		150.7	149.4	2.0	-.9
Maintenance and repair services		205.9	206.3	5.7	.2
Repainting living and dining rooms		218.3	219.2	6.9	.4
Reshingling house roof		226.3	226.8	5.7	.2
Residing house		192.4	192.6	3.3	.1
Replacing sink		204.4	204.3	6.7	0
Repairing furnace		199.6	200.7	8.0	.6
Fuel and utilities		176.3	177.9	9.7	.9
Fuel oil and coal		248.9	249.4	8.7	.2
Fuel oil, No. 2		245.2	245.6	9.4	.2
Gas and electricity		179.5	181.9	11.8	1.3
Gas		188.6	191.8	18.1	1.7
Electricity		171.0	172.6	5.9	.9
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		128.0	128.1	4.7	.1
Residential water and sewerage services		179.9	182.8	10.8	1.6
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		163.7	165.2	6.8	.9
Housefurnishings		147.4	148.5	5.0	.7
Textiles		141.3	145.4	2.5	2.9
Sheets, full, flat		142.9	158.5	6.1	10.9
Curtains, tailored		139.1	139.8	4.3	.5
Bedspreads		142.1	144.1	-1.9	1.4
Drapery fabrics		170.6	172.2	4.4	.9
Pillows, bed		117.4	122.0	-5	3.9
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		134.7	135.4	2.2	.5
Furniture and bedding		149.7	150.0	5.4	.2
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	130.3	130.0	2.9	-.2
Sofas, upholstered		139.4	139.6	1.9	.1
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	128.0	129.4	6.4	1.1
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	134.3	133.5	5.1	-.6
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	110.6	109.6	-2	-.9
Sofas, dual purpose		137.9	138.4	3.7	.4
Bedding, mattress and box springs		131.0	132.6	3.4	1.2
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Cribs		150.7	151.2	4.0	.3
Floor coverings		133.4	134.3	4.9	.7
Broadloom carpeting		122.0	122.5	3.8	.4
Vinyl sheet goods		157.8	160.6	8.8	1.8
Vinyl floor tile		162.1	162.9	4.9	.5
Appliances (excluding radio and TV)		132.1	132.9	6.1	.6
Washing machines, electric		136.8	137.9	7.1	.8
Vacuum cleaners		118.5	118.5	3.3	0
Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric		132.4	133.4	5.5	.8
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		136.1	136.6	8.2	.4
Clothes dryers, electric		143.0	144.0	8.6	.7
Air conditioners, demountable		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable		127.9	128.7	6.7	.6
Garbage disposal units		131.3	132.0	4.5	.5
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		181.8	186.3	10.6	2.5
Flatware, stainless steel		179.6	182.2	8.5	1.4
Table lamps, with shade		148.2	148.2	3.2	0
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		(⁶)	157.0	7.4	(⁶)
Electric drills, hand-held		128.0	128.3	5.5	.2
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		168.4	169.9	7.4	.9
Paper napkins		215.5	215.9	6.8	.2
Toilet tissue		218.0	225.3	12.8	3.3
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		204.4	207.6	7.9	1.6
Baby sitter services		201.0	204.2	11.1	1.6
Postal charges		218.1	218.1	24.4	.0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		195.8	198.6	8.8	1.4
Licensed day care services, preschool child		159.2	160.3	5.9	.7
Washing machine repairs		193.1	195.7	6.8	1.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. city average—Continued

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1976 from	
		January 1976	February 1976	January 1975	February 1976
Apparel and upkeep ⁷		143.3	144.0	2.7	0.5
Apparel commodities		141.5	142.2	2.2	.5
Apparel commodities less footwear		140.9	141.4	2.1	.4
Men's and boys'		142.6	143.9	2.3	.9
Men's:					
Topcoats and all-weather coats		145.3	144.8	2.3	-.3
Suits, year round weight		136.6	138.7	1.2	1.5
Sport jackets	June 74	100.6	99.2	.4	-1.4
Jackets, lightweight		135.8	136.9	4.1	.8
Slacks, heavyweight		118.1	117.7	2.5	-.3
Slacks, lightweight		141.8	143.6	1.6	1.3
Trousers, work		153.4	155.8	3.1	1.6
Shirts, work		153.2	154.6	2.0	.9
Shirts, business or dress		126.4	128.0	1.9	1.3
T-shirts		155.4	155.8	2.1	.3
Socks		132.7	133.1	4.1	.3
Handkerchiefs		157.3	158.0	4.2	.4
Boys':					
Coats, heavyweight		110.1	111.9	1.5	1.6
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		123.3	124.3	4.5	.8
Dungarees		179.5	182.1	5.9	1.4
Undershorts		151.2	152.3	.2	.7
Women's and girls'		138.1	138.2	2.1	.1
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight		134.7	129.0	4.5	-4.2
Carcoats, heavyweight		139.5	138.5	5.0	-.7
Sweaters		139.7	136.0	5.7	-2.6
Skirts, winter weight		156.8	150.5	5.6	-4.0
Skirts, summer weight	(⁸)	(⁸)	148.4	-.8	(⁹)
Blouses		139.6	137.7	-4.5	-1.4
Dresses, street, year round weight		145.6	146.9	1.9	.9
Slips		120.0	122.3	4.4	1.9
Panties		143.7	144.3	6.0	.4
Girdles		130.3	131.2	4.3	.7
Brassieres		144.2	147.2	5.4	2.1
Hose or panty hose, nylon		90.8	91.2	-.7	.4
Anklets or knee-length socks		133.5	134.0	2.5	.4
Gloves, fabric		127.8	128.3	.9	.4
Handbags		168.2	166.7	-3.0	-.9
Girls':					
Raincoats		119.7	127.8	-.3	6.8
Skirts, fall and winter		150.2	148.6	12.4	-1.1
Dresses		129.8	129.9	-3.1	.1
Slacks, fall and winter		163.6	165.8	.1	1.3
Slips		130.1	131.1	4.6	.8
Handbags		141.9	137.7	-3.0	-3.0
Other apparel commodities		150.0	150.2	1.9	.1
Diapers		182.2	183.3	4.0	.6
Yard goods		157.4	157.2	-4.0	-.1
Wrist watches, men's and women's		138.7	138.7	4.4	0
Footwear		144.7	146.1	2.2	1.0
Men's:					
Shoes, street		147.3	147.6	.4	.2
Shoes, work, high		163.5	164.4	4.1	.6
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		138.2	140.9	2.2	2.0
Shoes, evening, pump		130.9	131.8	-.2	.7
Shoes, casual		145.6	147.4	1.5	1.2
House slippers, scuff		141.3	143.8	4.7	1.8
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		145.5	146.9	3.5	1.0
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		149.8	150.3	1.6	.3
Dress shoes, girls'		155.6	157.1	4.5	1.0
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning		156.2	157.0	6.7	.5
Automatic laundry service		140.0	140.5	7.7	.4
Laundry, men's shirts		159.4	160.5	6.8	.7
Tailoring charges		155.4	157.7	3.9	1.5
Shoe repairs		145.6	145.7	5.7	.1
Transportation		158.1	158.5	10.5	.3
Private: ⁸		156.8	157.2	10.3	.3
Automobiles, new		134.2	134.3	7.9	.1
Automobiles, used		144.6	144.9	8.5	.2
Gasoline, regular and premium		176.1	174.2	8.5	-1.1
Motor oil		157.5	158.0	3.0	.3
Tires		129.9	130.4	3.8	.4
Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance		184.9	185.6	8.0	.4
Auto insurance premiums		172.5	177.6	28.4	3.0
Auto registration fees		132.8	132.8	1.8	0
Parking fees, private and municipal		178.2	179.4	7.2	.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. city average—Continued

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1976 from	
		January 1976	February 1976	January 1975	February 1976
Transportation—Continued					
Public		170.2	170.4	11.9	0.1
Local transit fares		170.4	170.4	15.3	0
Taxicab fares		172.2	173.3	4.8	.6
Railroad fares, coach		158.0	158.1	6.0	.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		165.6	165.6	7.4	0
Bus fares, intercity		192.6	192.6	7.9	0
Health and recreation¹					
Medical care ¹⁰		158.6	159.7	6.3	.7
Drugs and prescriptions		176.6	178.8	9.7	1.2
Over-the-counter items		122.6	123.3	6.3	.6
Multiple vitamin concentrates		134.7	135.4	7.2	.5
Aspirin compounds		104.6	105.0	4.7	.4
Liquid tonics		136.8	137.1	6.6	.2
Adhesive bandages, packages		119.3	119.4	5.6	.1
Cold tablets or capsules		170.8	172.7	10.4	1.1
Cough syrup		128.3	128.6	4.4	.2
Prescriptions		141.2	142.3	9.1	.8
Anti-infectives		112.4	113.1	5.3	.6
Sedatives and hypnotics		71.8	72.1	2.6	.4
Ataractics		159.3	160.0	5.7	.4
Antispasmodics		109.6	110.6	4.7	.9
Cough preparations		130.8	132.0	11.6	.9
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		171.7	173.1	7.1	.8
Analgesics, internal		119.6	119.8	1.4	.2
Anti-obesities		120.3	120.5	3.2	.2
Hormones		107.5	108.7	7.8	1.1
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		179.5	181.9	11.7	1.3
General physician, office visits		184.2	187.1	11.8	1.6
General physician, house visits		181.8	184.1	12.7	1.3
Obstetrical cases		180.6	183.0	15.3	1.3
Pediatric care, office visits		184.6	186.3	12.2	.9
Psychiatrist, office visits		159.7	161.1	9.0	.9
Herniorrhaphy, adult		159.6	161.3	9.4	1.1
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		170.6	171.7	10.2	.6
Dentists' fees		167.2	168.2	7.0	.6
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		172.2	173.4	7.3	.7
Extractions, adult		166.2	166.9	6.6	.4
Dentures, full upper		157.9	158.9	6.9	.6
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		154.8	156.0	7.0	.8
Routine laboratory tests		154.3	154.9	6.6	.4
Hospital service charges					
Semiprivate rooms	Jan. 72	142.0	144.1	13.2	1.5
Operating room charges		254.8	259.2	14.6	1.7
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI		258.3	263.2	14.1	1.9
Laboratory tests		167.0	168.5	11.6	.9
Anti-infectives	Jan. 72	135.1	137.3	10.6	1.6
Tranquilizers	Jan. 72	120.6	121.2	13.2	.5
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	126.7	127.3	10.1	.5
Intravenous solution	Jan. 72	131.8	134.1	8.3	1.7
Physical therapy	Jan. 72	137.2	139.9	13.0	2.0
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	142.5	144.4	9.7	1.3
Personal care	Jan. 72	126.7	128.0	8.7	1.0
Toilet goods		155.7	157.0	6.2	.8
Toothpastes, standard dentifrice		155.5	156.2	6.5	.5
Toilet soap, hard-milled		136.2	136.3	8.0	.1
Hand lotions		195.6	194.9	-1.9	-.4
Shaving cream		159.4	160.0	10.3	.4
Face powder		132.0	132.7	9.3	.5
Deodorants		158.3	160.2	6.0	1.2
Cleansing tissues		118.4	119.4	2.8	.8
Home permanent wave kits		210.9	213.4	11.8	1.2
Personal care services		125.4	125.8	10.2	.3
Men's haircuts		155.8	157.8	6.0	1.3
Beauty shop services		157.8	158.5	4.2	.4
Women's haircuts		154.4	157.3	7.2	1.9
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		171.6	178.2	12.1	3.8
Permanent waves, cold		156.3	158.7	5.7	1.5
Reading and recreation ¹¹		132.9	133.1	5.1	.2
Recreational goods		148.2	148.5	4.7	.2
TV sets, portable and console		125.3	126.0	3.9	.6
TV replacement tubes		103.0	103.1	2.2	.1
Radios, portable and table models		163.3	164.5	7.0	.7
Tape recorders, portable		104.2	104.8	1.3	.6
Phonograph records, stereophonic		94.5	94.9	-7.7	-.4
Movie cameras, 8mm		124.0	124.0	2.1	0
Film, 35mm, color		94.7	95.3	1.3	.6
Golf balls		119.6	120.9	1.7	1.1
		104.2	104.2	-.4	0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. city average—Continued

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to February 1976 from	
		January 1976	February 1976	January 1975	February 1976
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation—Continued					
Recreational goods—Continued					
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		146.9	147.8	4.0	0.6
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		122.8	123.5	5.6	.6
Bowling balls		127.9	128.6	3.2	.5
Bicycles, boys'		142.4	143.1	1.3	.5
Tricycles		145.4	147.0	11.9	1.1
Dog food, canned or boxed		168.7	170.3	2.6	.9
Recreational services		152.0	152.1	2.4	.1
Indoor movie admissions		174.1	173.3	2.2	-.5
Adult		169.6	168.4	1.2	-.7
Children's		186.6	187.3	5.0	.4
Drive-in movie admissions		174.6	175.6	1.8	.6
Bowling fees, evening		144.6	145.4	5.6	.6
Golf green fees		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
TV repair		106.4	106.4	1.7	0
Film developing		123.9	123.6	1.2	-.2
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		179.1	179.3	4.7	.1
Magazines, single copy and subscription		177.8	177.8	24.2	0
Piano lessons, beginner		142.6	142.9	3.5	.2
Other goods and services		150.5	151.3	3.7	.5
Tobacco products		158.1	159.2	4.2	.7
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		160.5	161.5	4.4	.6
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		160.6	162.0	4.0	.9
Cigars, domestic, regular size		127.1	127.7	4.2	.5
Alcoholic beverages		144.0	144.4	2.6	.3
Beer, at home		141.1	141.4	1.4	.2
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		115.6	115.8	2.0	.2
Wine, dessert and table		155.9	155.9	2.6	0
Beer, away from home		160.6	161.4	4.2	.5
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		147.2	148.3	5.4	.7
Bank service charges, checking account		122.5	124.2	7.2	1.4
Legal services, short form will		194.1	194.9	6.7	.4

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

³ Also includes pine shelving, furnace filter, 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 Not available.

⁷ 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.

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

⁹ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, front-end alignment, and chassis lubrication; does not include prices for auto body repairs. In the CPI this component represents consumers' direct, out-of-pocket expenses for automobile repairs and maintenance.

¹⁰ Also includes health insurance not shown separately.

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

(*) Discontinued.

Table 5. CPI—selected areas, all items index

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Area ¹	Pricing schedule ²	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases	February 1976	November 1975	January 1976
					February 1975	November 1975	January 1976
U.S. city average	M	167.1	194.4		6.3	0.9	0.2
Chicago	M	161.5	183.5		4.6	.5	.6
Detroit	M	166.0	190.7		5.9	1.2	.1
Los Angeles—Long Beach	M	163.8	192.6		7.6	.8	-.5
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	M	173.5	206.4		6.3	1.2	.5
Philadelphia	M	169.7	198.2		5.8	.7	.4
					January 1975	October 1975	
Boston	1	172.4	206.6		10.2	4.6	
Houston	1	172.3	197.1		8.1	2.1	
Minneapolis—St. Paul	1	167.1	193.7		7.0	1.3	
Pittsburgh	1	164.1	188.7		6.3	.8	
					February 1976	November 1975	
Buffalo	2	167.2		³ 183.7	6.1	0.8	
Cleveland	2	165.1	186.4		4.7	.4	
Dallas	2	163.7		³ 177.0	6.3	.8	
Milwaukee	2	162.5	183.5		6.8	-.6	
San Diego	2	167.3		⁴ 175.9	6.4	1.5	
Seattle	2	161.7	190.0		6.5	1.3	
Washington	2	167.0	194.5		5.8	1.0	
					December 1976	December 1974	September 1975
Atlanta	3	166.2	191.1		6.6	0.9	
Baltimore	3	168.3	195.4		5.2	.4	
Cincinnati	3	164.7	186.9		7.1	.5	
Honolulu	3	159.2		⁵ 171.7	7.4	1.4	
Kansas City	3	163.0	193.5		6.7	1.7	
St. Louis	3	160.3	187.2		7.9	.9	
San Francisco—Oakland	3	164.2	195.4		8.0	1.7	

¹ Area coverage includes the urban portion of the corresponding Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) except for New York and Chicago which have more extensive Standard Consolidated Areas. Area definitions were established for the 1960 Census and exclude 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.
⁴ November 1963=100.
⁵ February 1965=100.
December 1963=100.

NOTE: Price changes within areas are found in the Consumer Price Index; differences in living costs among areas are found in family budgets.

Table 6. CPI—areas priced monthly, by expenditure class, percent change from January 1976 to February 1976

Expenditure class	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items	0.2	0.6	0.1	-0.5	0.5	0.4
Food	-.4	.1	-.4	-1.4	-.3	.1
Housing	.3	.3	0	-1.4	.5	.6
Apparel and upkeep	.5	1.3	.7	.1	1.8	1.3
Transportation	.3	1.6	-.1	.3	.2	0
Health and recreation	.7	.8	.7	1.2	.9	.2
Medical care	1.2	2.0	.8	2.8	1.0	.5
Personal care	.8	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	.2	.1	.3	.6	.5	-.5
Other goods and services	.5	.3	1.1	.3	-.1	.2

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

Table 7. CPI—selected areas, by expenditure class

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items	167.1	161.5	166.0	163.8	173.5	169.7
Food	180.0	178.7	175.6	172.3	184.6	186.9
Food at home	179.6	178.4	174.5	172.9	185.6	185.4
Cereals and bakery products	181.1	181.8	183.1	179.3	184.9	179.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	183.0	186.5	175.6	179.2	184.0	189.8
Dairy products	168.5	161.5	170.1	156.4	172.2	169.6
Fruits and vegetables	173.2	167.6	159.8	160.1	187.8	186.1
Other food at home	186.6	184.0	182.4	181.4	196.8	194.2
Food away from home	181.9	179.8	181.1	170.6	181.7	193.2
Housing	173.8	159.3	169.8	172.7	179.9	176.5
Shelter	176.0	160.0	174.6	178.4	179.4	185.8
Rent, residential	142.1	(²)	139.3	(²)	160.2	(²)
Homeownership	188.6	171.2	181.6	190.8	193.6	194.7
Fuel and utilities	177.9	158.3	175.8	161.0	199.7	171.0
Fuel oil and coal	249.4	241.8	244.4		259.2	240.0
Gas and electricity	181.9	159.5	190.0	186.4	215.0	173.5
Household furnishings and operation	165.2	157.8	150.7	158.5	169.9	162.9
Apparel and upkeep	144.0	135.4	140.6	136.2	142.4	137.0
Men's and boys'	143.9	131.7	148.4	128.6	141.4	143.1
Women's and girls'	138.2	131.1	129.3	131.4	135.4	120.4
Footwear	146.1	138.3	146.0	142.6	141.4	146.9
Transportation	158.5	159.3	154.3	159.2	177.7	158.4
Private	157.2	158.3	153.2	161.4	165.4	159.6
Public	170.4	166.1	167.6	119.0	224.9	151.5
Health and recreation	159.7	160.3	170.0	155.6	165.8	164.4
Medical care	178.8	181.1	202.9	180.9	193.8	194.4
Personal care	157.0	(²)	(²)	(²)	159.3	(²)
Reading and recreation	148.5	149.2	150.1	138.6	152.0	150.0
Other goods and services	151.3	153.7	155.1	146.3	156.0	154.4
Percent changes November 1975 to February 1976						
All items	0.9	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.2	0.7
Food .....	.1	-.8	.2	-1.5	.7	1.2
Food at home	-.2	-1.2	.1	-2.4	.5	1.3
Cereals and bakery products	-.4	-.7	.5	-2.3	-.1	-1.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	-4.4	-4.8	-4.5	-5.6	-3.1	-2.9
Dairy products	3.5	4.0	3.5	.6	3.1	6.7
Fruits and vegetables	2.7	-1.4	3.6	-1.4	3.9	5.6
Other food at home	2.0	2.2	3.3	-.3	3.1	3.4
Food away from home	1.5	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	.9
Housing	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.9	1.5	.6
Shelter	1.1	1.1	.9	2.0	1.1	0
Rent, residential	1.6	(²)	3.6	(²)	3.6	(²)
Homeownership	1.0	1.3	.8	2.3	.2	-.3
Fuel and utilities	2.0	1.6	1.7	-.1	2.6	1.4
Fuel oil and coal	1.2	1.0	.3	-	3.2	1.1
Gas and electricity	2.9	2.6	2.1	0	4.3	2.4
Household furnishings and operation	2.2	1.7	1.2	2.7	1.9	1.6
Apparel and upkeep	-1.0	-2.4	.1	-1.4	-1.0	-1.3
Men's and boys'	-.6	-2.4	2.8	-2.8	.8	.2
Women's and girls'	-3.1	-4.9	-1.4	-2.4	-3.6	-4.6
Footwear	-.1	-1.7	-2.7	0	-.3	-.9
Transportation .....	.7	1.0	.4	.1	1.2	.2
Private .....	.7	1.1	.2	.2	1.5	-.3
Public .....	.9	.4	3.4	-2.3	.4	.4
Health and recreation	2.0	2.0	3.3	2.8	2.7	1.5
Medical care	3.2	3.7	4.2	4.9	4.6	1.9
Personal care	2.2	(²)	(²)	(²)	5.6	(²)
Reading and recreation	1.0	.7	2.9	1.6	.9	1.4
Other goods and services	1.6	1.6	3.0	1.8	1.2	1.4

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. CPI—selected areas,¹ by expenditure class—Continued

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (1967=100)							
All items	167.2	165.1	163.7	162.5	167.3	161.7	167.0
Food	179.2	182.8	176.2	177.6	178.2	173.1	183.6
Food at home	178.8	183.0	173.3	177.8	173.0	175.1	182.0
Cereals and bakery products	183.4	191.5	179.1	183.1	177.9	180.0	182.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	181.9	181.8	174.1	180.1	182.0	187.5	174.9
Dairy products	164.3	170.1	161.7	171.2	159.4	167.8	159.3
Fruits and vegetables	175.6	179.5	166.9	173.5	160.0	152.4	189.7
Other food at home	184.7	191.5	180.1	179.6	175.3	178.9	201.7
Food away from home	181.8	182.3	186.9	176.4	191.2	166.9	187.4
Housing	174.8	160.7	166.3	160.4	181.1	171.8	168.3
Shelter	166.3	160.0	170.3	156.0	198.2	178.4	168.0
Rent, residential	146.7	128.0	126.3	141.4	154.8	137.0	145.8
Homeownership	169.9	165.6	190.0	160.5	216.3	190.7	180.9
Fuel and utilities	213.0	165.8	158.0	179.3	152.8	164.1	169.9
Fuel oil and coal	248.3	-	-	257.0	-	234.1	249.2
Gas and electricity	219.1	178.1	170.6	185.9	171.0	132.6	184.1
Household furnishings and operation	170.7	159.7	161.8	159.1	150.8	161.0	168.6
Apparel and upkeep	155.9	145.3	142.5	156.6	143.5	144.4	145.1
Men's and boys'	181.6	146.6	144.2	156.4	144.2	140.0	143.8
Women's and girls'	147.9	144.8	130.7	157.7	141.1	138.8	134.5
Footwear	141.4	137.4	144.2	156.0	139.3	146.0	151.4
Transportation	154.4	154.0	161.2	155.3	157.6	140.7	157.2
Private	154.0	160.5	160.9	152.2	159.2	144.9	156.9
Public	157.7	112.3	165.1	192.9	130.0	116.8	159.3
Health and recreation	155.1	171.6	159.4	157.0	153.5	152.4	164.8
Medical care	164.5	196.8	171.7	176.2	173.2	169.6	191.4
Personal care	158.9	170.3	161.0	162.5	149.2	152.6	153.6
Reading and recreation	148.3	152.3	151.4	148.2	142.2	146.0	144.7
Other goods and services	150.0	164.1	148.0	146.9	145.2	142.8	167.5
Percent changes November 1975 to February 1976							
All items	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.6	1.5	1.3	1.0
Food	1.5	-.2	-.3	.6	-.3	-.4	-.1
Food at home	1.4	-.4	-1.2	.5	-2.1	-.8	-.5
Cereals and bakery products	-2.3	3.3	.2	-.5	-1.4	-.2	-.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	-3.1	-6.8	-7.2	-3.2	-5.7	-4.5	-6.5
Dairy products	6.1	3.7	4.0	3.8	1.9	2.4	6.1
Fruits and vegetables	8.9	2.3	2.0	4.2	.4	-.9	2.1
Other food at home	2.5	3.3	2.0	2.1	-.7	.7	2.7
Food away from home	1.7	1.2	3.0	1.1	4.1	1.3	-.9
Housing	.5	-.2	2.2	.8	2.6	1.8	1.6
Shelter	.6	-1.4	1.9	.6	2.9	2.1	.7
Rent, residential	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.7	2.1	1.6
Homeownership	.4	-1.8	2.0	.4	3.1	2.0	.3
Fuel and utilities	-1.6	2.8	2.1	-.5	0	.1	2.8
Fuel oil and coal	1.9	-	-	2.3	-	-.0	-1.4
Gas and electricity	-3.6	4.2	4.0	-1.5	.2	1.3	3.3
Household furnishings and operation	2.4	2.4	2.8	2.2	3.1	2.4	3.6
Apparel and upkeep	-1.7	-.5	-.4	-1.4	1.4	2.7	-1.2
Men's and boys'	-1.8	2.1	-.1	.3	.8	-.5	-3.2
Women's and girls'	-3.6	-3.3	-2.8	-4.0	1.5	5.0	-1.2
Footwear	1.4	-.3	.7	.1	.1	3.7	.3
Transportation	-.9	.2	-.7	-.1	-.1	-.1	.3
Private	-.9	.2	-.7	-.2	-.1	-.3	.2
Public	.8	.4	.2	1.0	.9	1.5	.5
Health and recreation	1.8	2.7	1.6	2.1	2.8	1.9	3.3
Medical care	3.7	5.5	2.8	4.1	3.8	4.1	4.2
Personal care	1.3	1.6	.2	1.4	1.3	1.7	2.7
Reading and recreation	.2	.4	1.0	.6	1.8	.4	1.4
Other goods and services	1.5	1.7	1.2	2.0	3.7	1.3	4.6

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

³ Change from December 1975.

Table 7-A. CPI—selected areas,¹ 1975 annual average, by expenditure class

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (1967=100)							
All items	161.8	160.9	158.2	157.0	160.8	155.8	161.6
All items (1957-59=100)	² 177.9	181.6	² 171.0	177.3	³ 169.0	183.0	188.3
Food	173.6	175.8	172.5	171.9	173.9	169.6	180.7
Food at home	173.2	176.4	171.2	172.4	172.0	172.7	180.5
Cereals and bakery products	191.8	189.5	177.8	185.9	180.9	184.3	187.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	175.2	177.3	172.4	172.3	180.0	181.4	176.3
Dairy products	150.9	157.0	151.3	154.6	153.0	158.7	146.2
Fruits and vegetables	164.9	171.7	167.4	172.7	162.5	156.7	187.4
Other food at home	182.5	184.2	179.8	178.7	174.9	178.6	200.6
Food away from home	175.6	172.8	177.8	169.1	178.2	159.4	180.9
Housing	169.9	157.8	158.0	154.5	171.9	164.0	161.4
Shelter	162.5	159.2	162.9	151.6	186.9	170.0	161.8
Rent, residential	140.8	123.7	122.1	136.9	148.7	130.8	140.3
Homeownership	166.6	165.5	181.3	156.2	202.8	181.5	174.4
Fuel and utilities	207.6	159.8	143.8	165.9	148.2	158.2	162.8
Fuel oil and coal	235.3	-	-	237.7	-	220.2	236.3
Gas and electricity	219.3	169.1	147.3	169.0	163.0	127.9	178.0
Household furnishings and operation	163.7	151.5	155.0	153.6	145.1	153.2	159.3
Apparel and upkeep	154.1	145.1	141.4	152.7	140.6	139.2	144.8
Men's and boys'	177.5	143.5	146.5	155.1	142.9	141.7	146.5
Women's and girls'	148.5	147.3	132.2	150.8	137.3	130.0	134.4
Footwear	139.9	139.3	141.7	154.8	139.5	139.7	150.1
Transportation	147.4	153.5	156.5	151.6	152.9	136.2	151.9
Private	146.5	152.3	156.4	147.2	154.5	140.0	151.8
Public	155.7	162.2	159.7	205.3	124.0	114.4	153.1
Health and recreation	149.7	163.6	153.5	150.4	145.9	146.2	156.9
Medical care	155.3	183.0	162.8	163.6	161.5	158.5	179.5
Personal care	152.7	161.6	157.6	155.6	144.7	147.4	147.2
Reading and recreation	145.1	149.5	145.4	145.1	135.9	142.0	140.8
Other goods and services	147.0	157.6	145.5	142.0	139.3	138.7	157.5
Percent changes 1974-75							
All items	8.2	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.2	10.1	7.7
Food	8.4	9.1	9.2	8.7	9.0	8.9	8.3
Food at home	8.3	8.8	9.5	8.6	8.4	9.2	8.1
Cereals and bakery products	13.6	13.5	10.8	11.7	14.2	13.3	10.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	7.0	11.8	10.2	8.2	7.7	10.3	7.8
Dairy products	1.3	-1.9	2.7	2.7	4.1	5.9	1.4
Fruits and vegetables	2.2	1.8	7.8	8.3	3.6	4.6	3.6
Other food at home	17.8	14.6	12.5	11.9	12.1	11.2	14.2
Food away from home	8.4	10.5	8.6	8.6	9.3	7.6	8.5
Housing	9.7	11.0	10.0	10.2	10.8	12.2	7.9
Shelter	5.8	11.3	9.8	9.3	10.1	12.0	6.4
Rent, residential	6.4	4.3	4.4	6.3	4.9	10.8	6.6
Homeownership	5.7	12.3	11.5	10.2	11.7	12.2	6.4
Fuel and utilities	17.6	10.4	12.5	12.6	11.7	10.3	10.2
Fuel oil and coal	4.9	-	-	8.3	-	9.1	7.5
Gas and electricity	23.3	14.2	20.1	19.2	14.7	10.6	15.8
Household furnishings and operation	13.9	10.8	9.5	10.2	12.5	13.5	10.9
Apparel and upkeep	5.8	2.5	3.3	7.8	2.4	6.5	2.9
Men's and boys'	6.4	3.8	2.3	6.0	4.3	6.5	3.7
Women's and girls'	5.1	.3	-3	10.9	-2.6	4.5	-3.0
Footwear	5.0	.9	3.5	6.1	3.4	5.2	5.1
Transportation	8.1	5.3	9.9	8.3	10.5	9.3	9.0
Private	8.9	7.6	10.3	8.6	10.5	9.6	10.1
Public	-5	-6.1	5.3	5.2	9.8	7.2	3.0
Health and recreation	7.9	10.5	9.1	8.6	9.6	10.1	9.0
Medical care	9.3	11.4	10.2	11.0	12.2	11.9	11.4
Personal care	11.7	11.7	8.7	10.4	10.0	10.1	9.9
Reading and recreation	5.9	10.2	9.8	6.5	7.4	9.7	5.6
Other goods and services	6.6	9.0	6.2	7.4	8.4	8.5	9.3

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.
² November 1963=100.

³ February 1965=100.

Table 8. CPI—food groups, selected areas¹

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)

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	180.0	179.6	181.1	183.0	168.5	173.2	186.6	181.9
Atlanta	186.0	186.7	184.0	189.5	180.4	180.9	192.0	183.6
Baltimore	183.6	183.3	176.0	188.3	169.1	176.0	194.8	184.8
Boston	182.5	181.9	184.1	185.3	163.9	182.0	189.0	184.3
Buffalo	179.2	178.8	183.4	181.9	164.3	175.6	184.7	181.8
Chicago	178.7	178.4	181.8	186.5	161.5	167.6	184.0	179.8
Cincinnati	181.2	184.3	190.6	190.5	171.4	174.8	190.5	169.2
Cleveland	182.8	183.0	191.5	181.8	170.1	179.5	191.5	182.3
Dallas	176.2	173.3	179.1	174.1	161.7	166.9	180.1	186.9
Detroit	175.6	174.5	183.1	175.6	170.1	159.8	182.4	181.1
Honolulu	184.4	182.5	189.2	186.0	176.3	177.9	179.2	189.6
Houston	186.4	183.2	184.1	189.6	179.9	172.8	183.1	197.7
Kansas City	182.7	183.7	180.4	183.2	183.8	171.6	195.0	179.8
Los Angeles—Long Beach	172.3	172.9	179.3	179.2	156.4	160.1	181.4	170.6
Milwaukee	177.6	177.8	183.1	180.1	171.2	173.5	179.6	176.4
Minneapolis—St. Paul	186.1	182.4	191.2	185.4	181.6	170.7	183.4	202.7
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	184.6	185.6	184.9	184.0	172.2	187.8	196.8	181.7
Philadelphia	186.9	185.4	179.9	189.8	169.6	186.1	194.2	193.2
Pittsburgh	180.0	178.1	183.2	185.5	151.8	175.1	185.3	191.7
St. Louis	179.3	179.6	194.0	181.4	171.4	171.2	180.7	178.1
San Diego	178.2	173.0	177.9	182.0	159.4	160.0	175.3	191.2
San Francisco—Oakland	173.4	176.5	177.3	184.8	159.6	163.5	185.5	162.9
Seattle	173.1	175.1	180.0	187.5	167.8	152.4	178.9	166.9
Washington	183.6	182.0	182.5	174.9	159.3	189.7	201.7	187.4
Percent changes January 1976 to February 1976								
U.S. city average	-0.4	-0.7	-0.5	-1.9	0.2	-0.1	-0.1	0.6
Atlanta	-.5	-.7	-.3	-1.3	1.1	-2.4	-.2	.2
Baltimore .....	.3	.4	-.3	.9	2.0	-1.2	.2	.1
Boston	-.5	-.8	.2	-1.8	.1	-.4	-.3	.2
Buffalo .....	.0	-.1	-2.9	-.8	.5	2.8	.5	.2
Chicago .....	.1	.1	-.3	-.6	1.1	1.2	-.1	.3
Cincinnati	-.1	-.2	.3	0	-.5	-1.2	.6	.2
Cleveland	-1.0	-1.3	-.2	-3.8	.3	-.7	.7	.8
Dallas	-.2	-.9	.2	-.35	1.6	.8	-.2	2.0
Detroit	-.4	-.5	.2	-1.7	-.8	.8	.2	.2
Honolulu .....	.8	1.1	4.5	-.3	1.1	1.5	.1	.1
Houston	0	-.3	.5	-1.3	.6	-1.0	.7	.9
Kansas City	-.4	-.5	-.2	-1.4	-.6	-.4	.2	0
Los Angeles—Long Beach	-1.4	-2.0	-.8	-2.6	-.7	-4.4	-1.3	.4
Milwaukee	-.4	-.8	-.3	-2.3	-.3	.5	-.1	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul	-.5	-.7	-1.8	-2.1	-.5	.5	.5	.2
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	-.3	-.6	-.9	-1.9	-.1	.5	.3	.8
Philadelphia .....	.1	.1	-.6	-1.5	1.3	2.0	.5	.3
Pittsburgh	-.5	-.7	-1.6	-1.6	-.2	.2	.6	.5
St. Louis	-.4	-.5	.6	-1.5	.4	-.8	-.2	.3
San Diego	-.3	-2.0	-.8	-2.3	-.9	-4.4	-1.7	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland	-1.6	-2.1	.3	-4.2	-1.1	-3.1	.1	.4
Seattle	-.7	-1.1	.1	-2.3	-.4	-2.6	.5	.7
Washington	-.9	-1.4	-.8	-4.4	.4	.4	-.2	.3

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

Table 9. CPI—regular and premium gasoline indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, October 1973=100)

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Index		Percent change to February 1976 from—	Index		Percent change to February 1976 from—
	January 1976	February 1976		January 1976	February 1976	
U.S. city average ²	177.9	175.8	-1.2	171.8	170.2	-0.9
Atlanta	145.2	143.4	-1.2	144.7	143.9	-.6
Baltimore	146.1	143.3	-1.9	143.9	141.3	-1.8
Boston	144.7	143.6	-.8	141.8	141.0	-.6
Buffalo	147.4	145.6	-1.2	146.4	144.5	-1.3
Chicago	142.5	139.8	-1.9	139.8	138.0	-1.3
Cincinnati	142.0	141.1	-.6	140.1	139.5	-.4
Cleveland	143.8	142.8	-.7	141.1	139.6	-1.1
Dallas	152.9	151.5	-.9	148.8	147.7	-.7
Detroit	138.8	137.0	-1.3	138.2	136.6	-1.2
Honolulu	151.6	150.9	-.5	149.2	148.1	-.7
Houston	151.8	150.3	-1.0	149.4	147.3	-1.4
Kansas City	144.9	144.1	-.6	142.2	141.5	-.5
Los Angeles—Long Beach	144.5	142.0	-1.7	142.5	141.1	-1.0
Milwaukee	141.3	140.2	-.8	140.3	139.7	-.4
Minneapolis—St. Paul	145.5	143.1	-1.6	145.8	143.7	-1.4
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	141.1	139.7	-1.0	141.6	141.0	-.4
Philadelphia	145.9	141.8	-2.8	144.6	141.8	-1.9
Pittsburgh	145.2	142.7	-1.7	141.4	139.9	-1.1
St. Louis	139.5	137.6	-1.4	138.6	136.6	-1.4
San Diego	145.7	143.5	-1.5	144.8	143.1	-1.2
San Francisco—Oakland	143.8	142.4	-1.0	142.1	140.3	-1.3
Seattle	142.5	140.2	-1.6	139.8	137.8	-1.4
Washington	145.4	142.6	-1.9	143.9	142.3	-1.1

¹ Area coverage includes the urban portion of the corresponding Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) except for New York and Chicago where the more extensive Standard Consolidated Areas

are used. Area definitions are those established for the 1960 Census and do not include revisions made since 1960.

² 1967=100.

Table 10. CPI—regular and premium gasoline average prices, U.S. city average and selected areas

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Average price per gallon					
	December 1975	January 1976	February 1976	December 1975	January 1976	February 1976
U.S. city average	\$0.586	\$0.584	\$0.578	\$0.630	\$0.629	\$0.623
Atlanta	.577	.577	.570	.627	.627	.623
Baltimore	.598	.598	.586	.643	.644	.633
Boston	.588	.585	.581	.634	.629	.625
Buffalo	.595	.594	.586	.644	.641	.633
Chicago	.597	.599	.588	.642	.642	.634
Cincinnati	.581	.575	.571	.627	.622	.620
Cleveland	.587	.585	.581	.626	.628	.621
Dallas	.543	.538	.533	.584	.579	.575
Detroit	.579	.579	.572	.630	.632	.625
Honolulu	.691	.685	.682	.733	.727	.721
Houston	.530	.527	.522	.578	.576	.568
Kansas City	.551	.554	.551	.595	.599	.596
Los Angeles—Long Beach	.583	.583	.573	.630	.627	.621
Milwaukee	.546	.544	.540	.595	.593	.590
Minneapolis—St. Paul	.572	.575	.565	.631	.633	.624
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	.599	.598	.592	.650	.649	.646
Philadelphia	.583	.583	.566	.642	.641	.629
Pittsburgh	.582	.581	.571	.627	.625	.618
St. Louis	.568	.567	.559	.614	.614	.605
San Diego	.607	.603	.594	.652	.650	.642
San Francisco—Oakland	.617	.614	.608	.660	.659	.651
Seattle	.577	.574	.564	.620	.618	.609
Washington	.604	.602	.590	.657	.656	.648

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.

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 food, 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	0.005x100
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*

Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 1975 data

Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items .....	.04	.06	.13
Food at home .....	.10	.17	.38
Food away from home ..	.11	.22	.36
Housing .....	.08	.12	.26
Apparel and upkeep .....	.16	.22	.28
Transportation .....	.07	.11	.13
Medical care .....	.13	.17	.36
Personal care .....	.14	.22	.46
Reading and recreation ..	.11	.16	.37
Other goods and services .....	.08	.11	.22

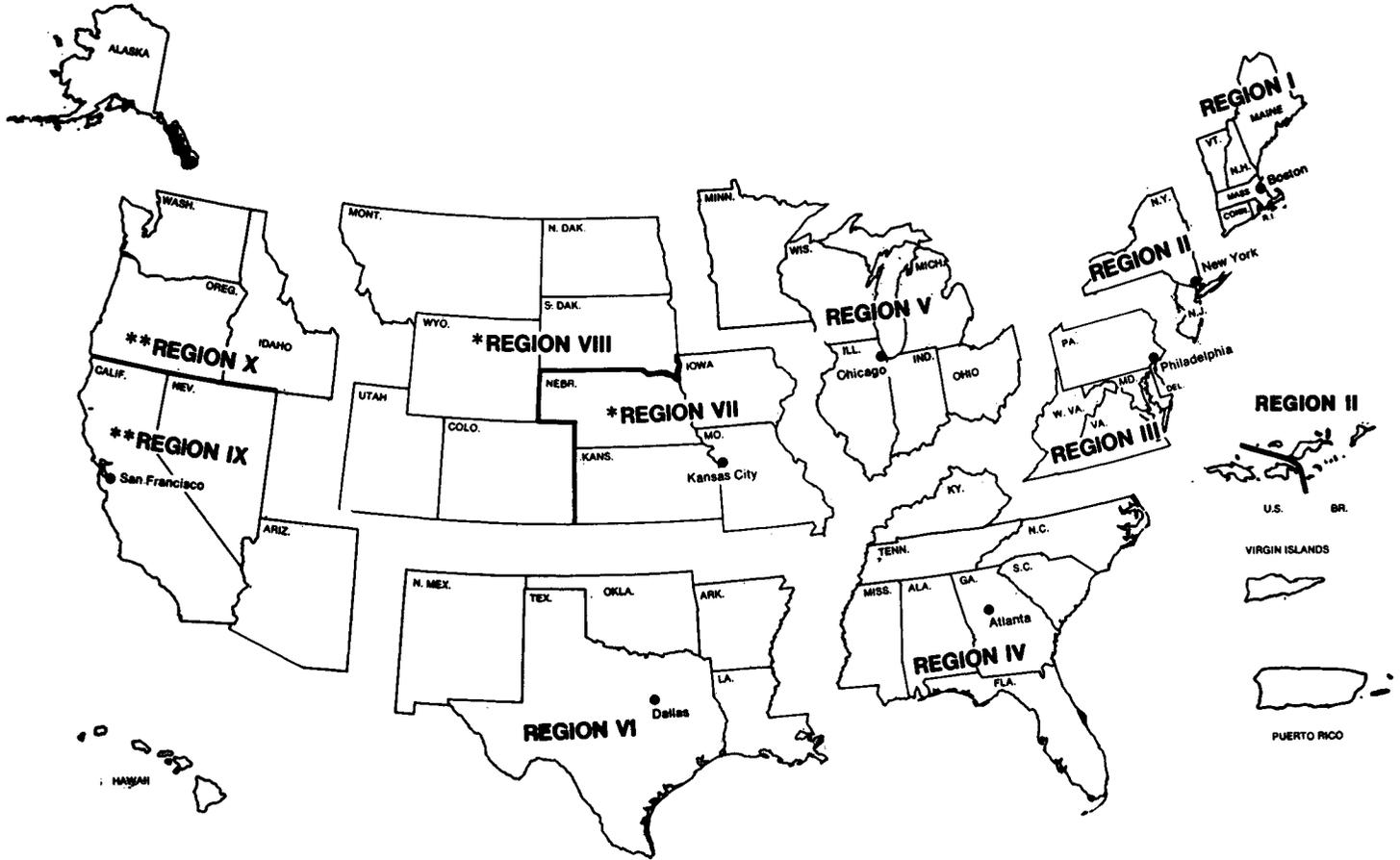
changes in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1974 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: The changes are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard 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 for a 1-month period is almost always significant.

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1974 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1975.

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

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