

CPI Detailed Report

For March 1975

Consumer Price Index U.S. and City Averages



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

March 1975

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent in March to 157.8 percent of its 1967 base. Prices increased for many nonfood items including automobiles, clothing, houses, and medical care services. However, mortgage interest rates declined, and prices were lower for many foods, particularly beef, eggs, and sugar.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the rise in the March CPI was 0.3 percent, continuing the declining trend in the rate of increase which began last fall. The March increase was the smallest since July 1973 when wage-price controls were in effect. The food index declined 0.5 percent in March, the nonfood commodities index rose 0.6 percent, and the services index increased 0.4 percent. All these increases were well below the rates of increases prevailing in August and September 1974.

Prices in the first quarter

The CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.6 percent in the 3 months ending in March. This was the smallest calendar quarter increase since the fourth quarter of 1972 and was well below the peak rate of about 14 percent observed in the third quarter of 1974. The first quarter slowdown in the CPI reflected declines in many food prices and in mortgage interest rates. The increase in food prices fell from a 14.6-percent rate in the fourth quarter of 1974 to a 1.4-percent annual rate in the first quarter. The rise in services declined by a smaller amount and the rise in nonfood commodities was slightly faster than in the fourth quarter. Increases in all 3 components were well below those in the fall of 1974. (See table B.)

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items	
								Compound annual rate	From 12 months ago
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	From 3 months ago	
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed
1974:									
March	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.6	1.5	1.4	0.8	14.2	10.2
April .....	.6	.5	-.3	-.4	1.1	.9	.6	11.7	10.1
May	1.1	1.1	.7	.9	1.4	1.1	1.0	11.0	10.6
June	1.0	.9	.4	.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	10.3	11.0
July .....	.7	.7	.1	-.4	1.0	1.3	1.1	11.1	11.5
August	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.1	12.4	11.0
September	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	14.2	12.0
October .....	.9	.9	.7	1.3	.9	.6	.9	15.0	12.0
November .....	.8	.9	1.0	1.4	.8	.8	.8	13.0	12.1
December .....	.7	.7	1.1	.7	.4	.4	.9	10.1	12.2
1975:									
January .....	.5	.6	.7	.8	0	.6	.8	9.2	11.7
February .....	.7	.6	.4	.1	.7	.8	.8	8.1	11.1
March .....	.4	.3	-.2	-.5	.8	.6	.4	6.6	10.3

Table B. Percent change in selected components of the Consumer and Wholesale Price Indexes

(Seasonally adjusted, except services; compound annual rate)

Component	1974				1975
	December 1973 to March 1974	March 1974 to June 1974	June 1974 to September 1974	September 1974 to December 1974	December 1974 to March 1975
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX					
All items	14.2	10.3	14.2	10.1	6.6
Food	19.4	3.1	12.3	14.6	1.4
Commodities less food	16.0	13.7	16.2	7.3	8.3
Services	9.2	11.0	13.9	10.9	8.2
WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX					
All commodities	24.5	12.2	35.2	13.4	-6.7
Farm products and processed foods and feeds	10.8	-29.3	59.2	21.9	-29.2
Crude foods and feeds ¹	5.6	-53.5	94.9	10.3	-41.4
Intermediate materials for food manufacturing ²	61.5	13.6	81.9	88.1	-50.0
Consumer foods	17.3	-16.7	29.4	29.1	-13.2
Industrial commodities	32.3	37.5	28.3	8.2	5.1
Crude materials except foods	88.7	10.4	29.1	-14.8	-7.5
Intermediate materials except foods ..	32.6	43.7	32.2	8.2	4.2
Producers' finished goods	13.2	27.2	31.8	18.7	11.6
Consumer finished goods except foods	28.3	25.3	18.5	10.6	4.9

¹ Does not include plant and animal fibers, which are in the farm products index.

² Does not include manufactured animal feeds, which are included in processed foods and feeds index.

The WPI, which measures prices at the primary market level for goods at all stages of production, declined at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.7 percent for the 3 months ending in March. This calendar quarter decline was the first in 8 years and contrasts sharply with increases in 1974 of 35.2 percent at an annual rate in the third quarter and 13.4 percent in the fourth quarter. The decline in the WPI reflected sharply lower food prices at all stages of production—crude, semi-processed, and processed foods. Farm and food prices had risen in the preceding 2 quarters. In addition, the index for crude nonfood materials declined for the second consecutive quarter, and increases continued to moderate for goods and products at the intermediate stage of production and for finished nonfood commodities. (See table B.)

The difference in movement between the WPI and the CPI, as in the first quarter, is not unusual since the 2 indexes cover different sectors of the economy. A major difference is that the CPI has a services component,

while the WPI does not. Services represent over one-third of total index weight of the CPI. In the WPI, crude and intermediate goods—used to produce finished goods—represent about three-fifths of the index weight. The consumer finished goods component of the WPI—the component most nearly comparable to the commodities component of the CPI—represents less than one-third of the total index weight in the WPI. Furthermore, since consumer price indexes are retail measures, they include transportation, utilities, wages, and other costs of retailing as well as margins. Of course, even if the concepts were strictly comparable, changes in the CPI and the WPI would probably differ because demand and supply conditions at given times could differ in consumers' and producers' markets. Prices of consumer goods in the 2 indexes, nevertheless, tend to move in the same direction—although not necessarily simultaneously—because of the interrelationship of prices at the 2 stages of production.

Consumer food

The slowdown in the rate of increase in prices in the first quarter was most evident in the food sector. In the CPI, prices of food purchased in grocery stores declined at a 1.4-percent rate in the first quarter after rising at a 16.2-percent rate in the preceding quarter. Prices turned down in the first quarter for a wide range of food items including poultry, pork, milk, eggs, flour, rice, salad oil, coffee, and sugar. Beef and fresh vegetable prices declined for the second consecutive quarter. Some items such as

bakery products, nonalcoholic beverages, and other processed foods, particularly those which contain sugar, continued to increase. Prices of food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—rose at a 10.9-percent rate.

The decline in grocery store food prices in the CPI, much of which occurred late in the quarter, followed earlier declines at the wholesale level. The WPI index for consumer foods declined at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 13.2 percent in the 3 months ended in March, following a rise of more than 29 percent in each of the preceding 2 quarters.

Table C. Changes in wholesale and retail prices for consumer goods and services

(Seasonally adjusted, except total services, and rent; compound annual rate)

Component	Relative importance December 1974		Index	1974				1975
	CPI	WPI		December 1973 to March 1974	March 1974 to June 1974	June 1974 to September 1974	September 1974 to December 1974	December 1974 to March 1975
Consumer Price Index				14.2	10.3	14.2	10.1	6.6
Consumer goods	100.0		CPI	16.9	10.0	14.0	10.3	5.9
		100.0	WPI	24.0	4.5	23.6	17.5	-2.7
Food	38.9		CPI	19.4	3.1	12.3	14.6	1.4
		43.2	WPI	17.3	-16.7	29.4	29.1	-13.2
Commodities less food	61.1		CPI	16.0	13.7	16.2	7.3	8.3
		56.8	WPI	28.3	25.3	18.5	10.6	4.9
Nondurables less food	36.5		CPI	23.1	13.9	11.8	6.2	5.6
		36.2	WPI	40.4	30.9	19.1	7.7	5.2
Apparel, less footwear	10.7		CPI	10.0	9.7	12.7	2.3	-1.4
		9.0	WPI	10.5	15.2	9.9	2.4	-.9
Footwear	2.3		CPI	7.4	7.3	1.5	2.9	5.5
		1.8	WPI	7.1	13.7	14.8	2.0	.3
Gasoline	5.3		CPI	106.8	23.4	-8.2	-10.8	7.0
		7.8	WPI	160.7	67.3	26.5	-20.2	14.7
Durables	24.7		CPI	6.0	14.1	19.9	11.1	12.4
		20.6	WPI	11.3	15.0	15.6	17.4	5.1
New cars	3.0		CPI	3.7	18.3	19.8	5.3	8.7
		10.3	WPI	6.7	10.2	15.0	20.6	3.4
Furniture	2.1		CPI	9.3	13.4	11.7	8.3	5.2
		2.5	WPI	8.1	17.0	15.6	14.4	0
Appliances, including radio and TV ...	2.3		CPI	3.8	6.5	14.4	11.5	6.8
		2.9	WPI	6.8	10.8	13.4	20.3	5.0
Services	100.0		CPI	9.2	11.0	13.9	10.9	8.2
Rent	12.6		CPI	4.8	4.4	5.0	6.5	6.1
Household services less rent	43.8		CPI	13.7	15.1	18.1	13.5	8.9
Medical care	15.1		CPI	9.4	14.9	17.5	11.4	13.9
Transportation	13.2		CPI	1.4	6.5	7.6	7.4	3.6
Other services	15.3		CPI	7.3	9.9	10.6	8.9	7.2

A number of factors could account for the difference in movements in the 2 indexes. In addition to food costs, prices at the retail level include other cost inputs such as transportation, utilities, wages, advertising, and other retailing costs. Also, there is usually some lag before changes at the wholesale level show up in retail prices, particularly for more processed foods. The 2 food indexes may lag partly because food prices in the CPI are collected early in the month while prices in the WPI are for the Tuesday of the week that contains the 13th of the month.

The slower rate of increase and decline in food prices reflected developments at the farm level. Prices of food products at the farm level declined at a seasonally adjusted annual rate exceeding 40 percent in the 3 months ending in March. Prices declined for commodities such as grains, oilseeds, livestock, poultry, milk, and coffee. The decline in farm products prices in the first quarter was a resumption of a downtrend which began early in 1974 but which was interrupted last fall when adverse weather conditions in grain producing areas caused a temporary surge in export demand.

In the first quarter, both domestic and export demand for grains slackened as a result of continued economic slowdown in many industrial countries and expectations for increased output this year. Domestic demand for grains and for animal feeds was down because of a combination of factors. Flour millers were cautious about accumulating large inventories of wheat when bakers were buying flour only on a short-term basis; cattlemen continued to reduce feedlot operations; and farmers cut back hog and poultry production. Prices for grains and for manufactured animal feeds both fell at an annual rate of more than 50 percent in the first quarter.

Declines in cattle prices continued to have a major impact on food prices in the first quarter. Cattle prices declined almost steadily from late 1973 through mid-1974. After rising briefly last fall, the downtrend resumed in the fourth quarter when prices of other farm products—including hogs and poultry—were rising. The decline continued into the first quarter of this year as supplies exceeded demand. Because of high cattle inventories on the farm, rising costs, and falling prices, marketings were increased and cattle slaughter remained at near-record levels in January and February. The depressed cattle market tended to put downward pressure on hog and poultry prices which declined despite reduced supplies. Late in the first quarter, however, both cattle and hog prices turned up. The upturn in cattle prices has been attributed to curtailed marketings stemming from various factors: Adverse weather conditions; smaller numbers of grain-fed cattle of marketable size currently in feedlots; and placement of more

cattle in feedlots because of higher prices for feed cattle and lower feed prices. The rise in hog prices reflects smaller supplies. In March, the inventory of hogs and pigs on farms was 17 percent below the year-earlier level, and hog slaughter this year has consistently fallen below the 1974 levels.

Commodities other than food

The nonfood commodities index in the CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 8.3 percent in the 3 months ending in March compared with 7.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 1974. In the WPI, the index for consumer nonfood commodities rose at a 4.9-percent rate. If used cars and home purchases—which are not included in the WPI—are excluded, the increase in the CPI was 6.3 percent at an annual rate, much closer to the rise in the WPI but still somewhat larger. Historically, retail prices of nonfood commodities have risen somewhat faster than manufacturers' prices of consumer nonfood commodities (even if used cars and home purchases are excluded). But, in 1973 and 1974, calendar quarter increases were consistently larger in the WPI than in the CPI. (See table C.)

Although price rises for most nonfood commodities at the retail level have moderated considerably since the third quarter of 1974, increases in the first quarter for many types of consumer goods were still large. Prices for durable goods such as furniture, appliances, and recreational goods continued to reflect earlier increases at the wholesale level. Manufacturers' prices for most durables rose sharply throughout 1974; increases still were accelerating in the fourth quarter when prices at the retail level were under downward pressure because of a sharp slowdown in demand. Because of the long lead time required to produce durable goods, prices continued to reflect sharp cost increases for materials and semi-finished products such as metals and metal products and plastic materials, as well as increases in labor costs which followed the termination of wage and price controls in April 1974. But, a continued slowdown in retailers' orders, cutbacks in production, and slower rises in materials prices contributed to a substantially smaller increase in manufacturers' prices in the first quarter.

In the CPI, the new car index rose at a somewhat faster rate in the 3 months ending in March than in the preceding 3-month period primarily reflecting higher prices for 1975 model imports. Rebates offered by domestic manufacturers were reflected in the CPI for January and February.

In the nondurables component, cyclically-sensitive apparel prices at the retail level had the first 3-month

decline since mid-1972. Prices for fuel oil also declined at both the retail and wholesale levels in the first quarter ending in March as a result of high inventories. Winter weather was warmer-than-usual in major fuel-consuming areas and consumption fell for other refined petroleum products such as diesel fuel because of the slowdown in economic activity. Gasoline prices, on the other hand, increased in the first quarter, reversing a downtrend evident in the second half of 1974. Refiners passed on increased crude oil costs to service stations. The increase at the retail level, however, was smaller than at wholesale.

Prices of most other nondurable goods such as house-keeping supplies, toilet goods, and drugs and prescriptions continued to increase in the first quarter—although not as much as in the preceding quarter. Manufacturers' prices for these products rose at an accelerating pace in the second half of 1974, but showed a noticeable slowdown in the first quarter as cost increases, particularly for materials, continued to moderate.

In the 3 months ending in March, the rise in the index for industrial goods at the intermediate stage of production slowed to a 4.2-percent annual rate, from over 8 percent in the preceding quarter, and rates of 30 to 40 percent in the first 3 quarters of 1974. Prices declined in the first quarter for textiles, plastics, petrochemical feedstocks, inedible fats and oil products, and fabricated metal products as a result of the slowdown in demand, particularly in the automobile, apparel, housing, and appliance industries. Prices for paper products and steel mill products rose moderately: most of the increases occurred early in the quarter. Some steel products such as stainless sheet, wire, and bars were faced with extremely heavy import competition.

In the lumber group, prices for hardwood lumber continued to decline because of lagging demand from furniture, flooring, and pallet manufacturers. But, prices for softwood lumber, which had declined steadily in the last 3 quarters of 1974, turned up in the first quarter. Two factors contributed to the upward pressure: The large flow of funds into savings institutions and falling interest rates which led the housing industry to anticipate increased demand.

The index for crude industrial materials declined in the 3 months ending in March at a 7.5-percent annual rate, about half the rate of decline in the fourth quarter of 1974. Prices for iron and steel scrap, plant and animal fibers, and wastepaper continued to decline in the first quarter, but the declines were much smaller than in the preceding quarter. Prices for crude petroleum and gas fuels continued to increase. There were also signs that prices of copper and leather, which had also declined in 1974, were turning up due to strengthening of prices in

international markets. Prices for cattlehides and copper scrap both turned up late in the first quarter.

Services

The services component of the CPI is a heterogeneous group composed of diverse items such as rent, utilities, property taxes, movie admissions, as well as payments to hairdressers, auto repairmen, babysitters, and doctors. Service prices had accelerated sharply during the first 3 quarters of 1974 after wage and price controls were lifted. In late 1974, price increases moderated slightly, although the rise was still at the rate of 10.9 percent. In the first quarter of 1975, price increases for services continued to decelerate to an annual rate of 8.2 percent. (See table C.) Price increases slowed for several types of services but a substantial share of the first quarter deceleration resulted from the decrease in mortgage interest rates. These smaller increases were offset partly by larger increases in the medical care services sector, and gas and electricity charges.

Household services. Mortgage interest rates fell 4.2 percent in the first quarter, reflecting lower rates for VA loans, FHA-insured loans, as well as conventional home loans. Throughout most of 1974, developments in the money market had led to shortages of mortgage funds which resulted in higher interest rates. However, with the easing of monetary restraints and substantial government support programs designed to provide funds to the housing market, interest rates began to level off in late 1974. The decline in the first quarter was the first since March 1974. During the first quarter, the supply of lendable funds increased as savings inflows improved over mid-1974 and lending institutions built up some liquidity. The inventory of unsold homes remained high, but optimism was generated in the housing market as Congress considered various measures designed to grant tax rebates and other assistance to home buyers. The decrease in mortgage interest rates was responsible for the significant slowdown within the household services (less rent) category.

Within the household services group, however, charges for gas and electricity accelerated in the first quarter, as higher fuel costs were passed on to consumers. Despite consumer resistance, utility companies also were granted higher rates to help meet increasing operating costs, payroll, replacement equipment, as well as to increase investment revenue. Expansion of power facilities has been slowed somewhat due in part to difficulties experienced by some companies in securing capital at existing interest rates. To make their earnings attractive to

prospective investors, companies sought increased rates for funds to help in further growth.

In addition, property tax rates continued to increase in the first quarter. Many localities in financial stress, partly from the overall deterioration in the economic situation during the past year, at the same time had to supply more services and pay higher salaries to employees. Increases in local property taxes had been avoided in recent years by supplemental funds through State and federal revenue sharing programs and other sources, such as income and sales taxes.

The CPI for apartment and home rentals increased about the same in the first quarter of 1975 as in the final quarter of 1974. Utility bills, apartment repairs, and maintenance costs continued to rise as demand for rentals remained high. The low level of apartment construction resulting from the tight money supply during much of 1974 and the increased trend toward condominium conversion had increased the demand for available units.

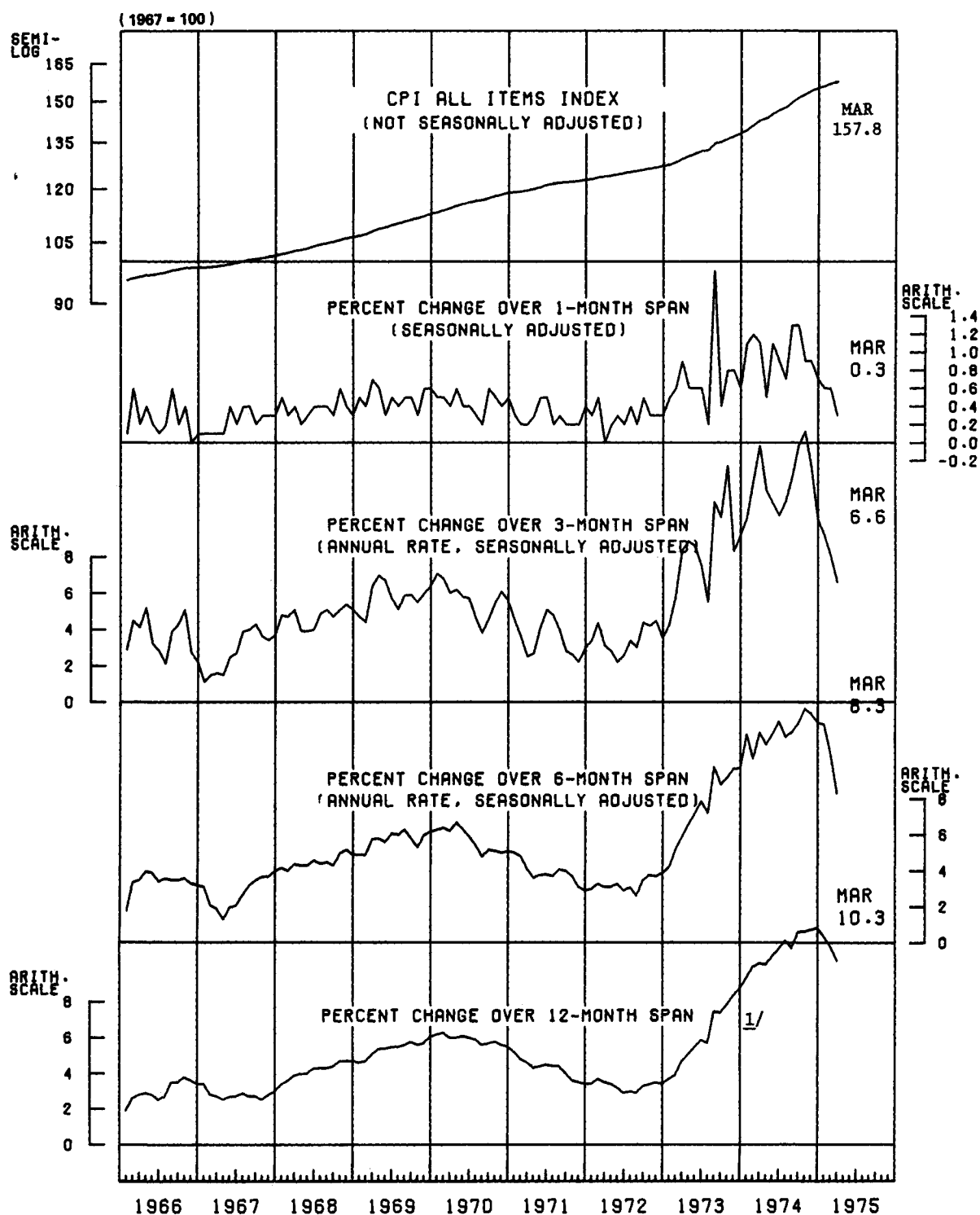
Charges for medical care services rose at an annual rate of 13.9 percent, accelerating from 11.4 percent in the final quarter of 1974. The increase was slightly smaller than in the second and third quarters of 1974, immediately after the termination of the Economic Stabilization Program. The health industry had been under mandatory controls since the program began in August 1971. A number of factors contributed to the current rise in hospital charges: Steady employment and rising wages as well as higher costs for utilities, equipment, and construction projects. In the past, some medical care facilities had depended on philanthropic drives and private donations to finance various expansion projects.

However, with the cutback in private donations and increasing construction costs, some medical care facilities have had to issue revenue bonds, acquire mortgages, and pay interest. In addition, the demand for health care, which is relatively inelastic, has become less sensitive to changes in the general business cycle because of Medicare and Medicaid, and private health insurance. Charges for general physicians' house and office visits increased 15.5 percent in the first quarter, compared to 10.3 percent in the final quarter of 1974.

Transportation services. The rate of increase in transportation services was about half as fast as in the final quarter of 1974. Public transportation charges declined slightly as intercity bus fares decreased during the first quarter. Airline fares, which were increased in November 1974, remained stable. Local transit fares also remained stable as many transit systems had more riders and increased subsidies. On the other hand, prices paid by consumers for auto repairs and maintenance accelerated again in the first quarter.

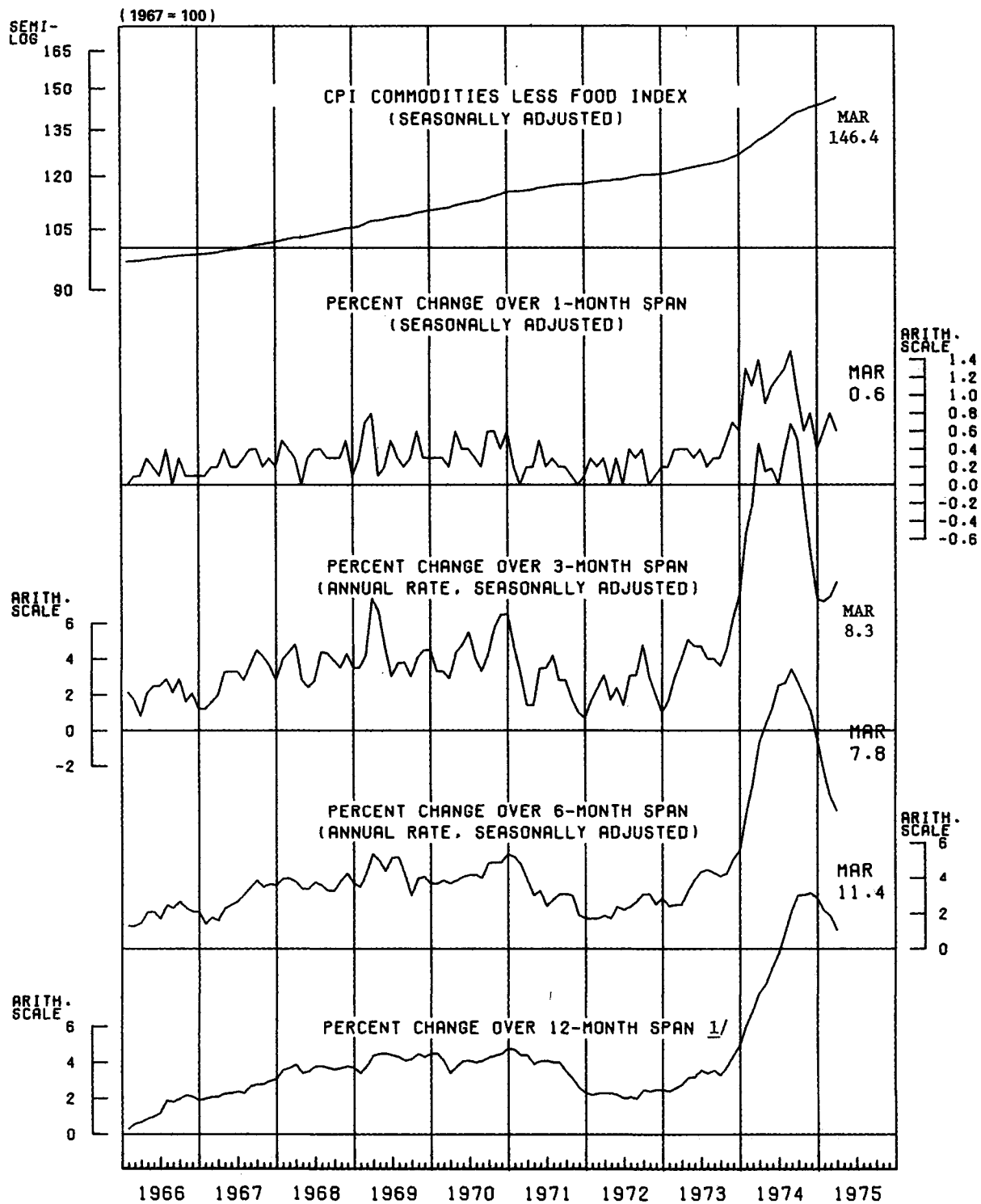
Other services. In other services, such as apparel, personal care, and recreation, the rise during the first quarter was less than in the final quarter of 1974. Employers attributed some of the price rise to higher labor costs resulting from the 1974 amendments (effective in January 1975) to the Fair Labor Standards Act, which extended minimum wage and overtime provisions. Drycleaning charges increased significantly in the first quarter, as some cleaning establishments passed higher operating costs through to consumers.

Chart 1. All items index and its rate of change, 1966-75



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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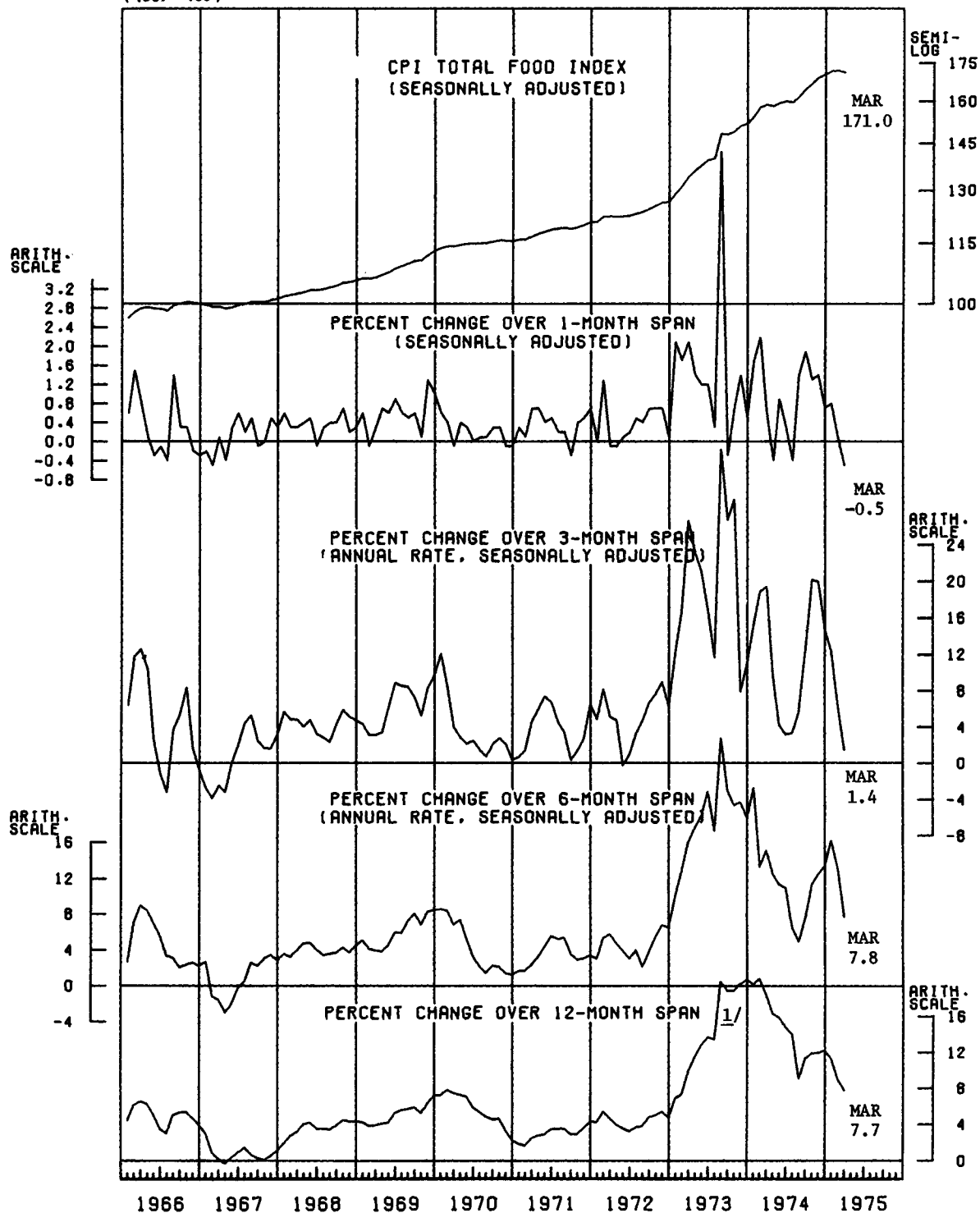
Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1966-75



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1966-75

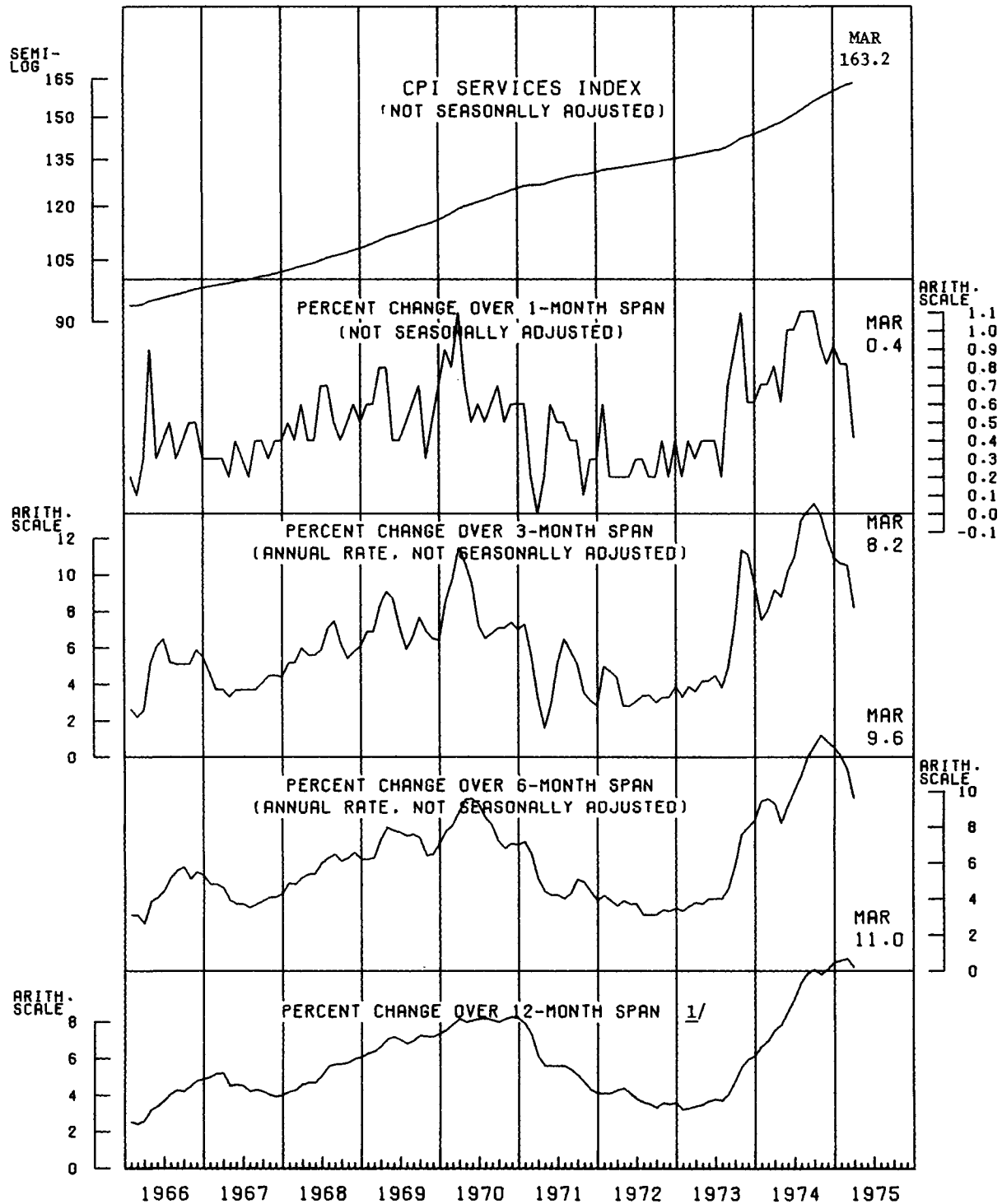
(1967 = 100)



1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 4. Services index and its rates of change, 1966-75

(1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Table 1. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes

Group	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes 1967=100 unless otherwise noted			Unadjusted percent change to		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
		December 1974	February 1975	March 1975	March 1974	February 1975	December to January	January to February	February to March
Commodity and service groups									
All items	100.000	157.2	157.8	157.8	10.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3
All items (1957-59=100)	-	182.8	183.6	183.6	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	63.762	154.4	155.0	155.0	9.9	.4	.7	.6	.2
Food	24.785	171.6	171.3	171.3	7.7	-2	.8	.1	-5
Food at home	19.657	172.0	171.4	171.4	6.7	-3	.6	-1	-9
Cereals and bakery products	2.882	187.3	189.1	189.1	19.2	1.0	2.0	.8	1.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.140	162.7	161.8	161.8	-5.7	-6	-9	-1.7	-2.1
Dairy products	2.887	155.6	155.4	155.4	2.6	-1	-3	.1	0
Fruits and vegetables	3.111	166.7	167.4	167.4	3.0	.4	.1	1.5	-7
Other foods at home	4.637	193.1	190.1	190.1	26.6	-1.6	-2	1.0	-1.1
Food away from home	5.128	170.5	171.3	171.3	11.5	.5	1.1	.9	.6
Commodities less food	38.977	144.9	146.0	146.0	11.4	.8	.6	.8	.6
Nondurables less food	23.255	148.2	148.8	148.8	9.3	.4	.5	.5	.3
Apparel commodities ¹	8.273	139.2	139.9	139.9	5.9	.5	-3	.2	.1
Men's and boys'	2.617	140.6	141.3	141.3	7.2	.5	-3	.6	-2
Women's and girls'	3.611	135.4	136.1	136.1	3.4	.5	-7	-8	.5
Footwear	1.438	143.0	144.0	144.0	6.7	.7	.4	.7	.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.982	153.6	154.2	154.2	11.3	.4	.8	.9	.4
Gasoline and motor oil	3.388	160.1	160.5	160.5	2.0	.2	.9	.8	.1
Tobacco products	1.936	152.8	153.1	153.1	9.8	.2	*.8	*.5	*.2
Alcoholic beverages	2.315	140.7	141.4	141.4	11.3	.5	*.6	*1.0	*.5
Fuel oil and coal	1.028	229.5	228.3	228.3	13.3	-5	-7	0	-8
Other nondurables	6.316	147.7	148.5	148.5	17.2	.5	1.1	1.1	.5
Durable commodities	15.722	140.3	142.1	142.1	14.3	1.3	.6	1.0	1.3
Household durables	4.575	137.3	138.3	138.3	11.8	.7	.8	.4	.5
New automobiles	1.905	124.5	127.3	127.3	12.9	2.2	-1.8	1.2	2.8
Used automobiles	2.026	133.5	135.3	135.3	32.4	1.3	*-2.5	*-1.0	*1.3
Other durables	7.217	149.3	151.3	151.3	12.3	1.3	1.6	1.6	1.5
Services	36.238	162.6	163.2	163.2	11.0	.4	*.8	*.8	*.4
Rent	4.568	135.1	135.5	135.5	5.5	.3	*.4	*.8	*.3
Services less rent	31.670	167.5	168.3	168.3	11.9	.5	*.8	*.8	*.5
Household services less rent	15.856	180.4	180.8	180.8	13.9	.2	.9	1.1	.1
Transportation services	4.796	147.2	148.3	148.3	6.2	.7	-5	.3	1.2
Medical care services	5.473	172.9	174.7	174.7	14.4	1.0	1.3	1.2	.8
Other services	5.545	149.7	150.1	150.1	9.1	.3	.7	.7	.3
Special indexes									
All items less food	75.215	153.0	153.9	153.9	11.2	.6	.7	.9	.5
Nondurable commodities	48.040	159.6	159.7	159.7	8.5	.1	.6	.4	-3
Apparel commodities less footwear	6.835	138.5	139.1	139.1	5.7	.4	-4	.1	0
Services less medical care services	30.765	160.9	161.4	161.4	10.4	.3	*.7	*.7	*.3
Insurance and finance	9.634	176.3	176.5	176.5	11.1	.1	.5	.9	.2
Utilities and public transportation	5.246	151.4	152.3	152.3	10.2	.6	1.2	.7	.6
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.691	189.7	190.1	190.1	15.0	.2	.9	.6	.1
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1.445	116.4	116.9	116.9	9.8	.4	*.7	*.3	*.4
Expenditure classes									
All items	100.000	157.2	157.8	157.8	10.3	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.3
Food	24.785	171.6	171.3	171.3	7.7	-2	.8	.1	-5
Housing	33.766	162.7	163.6	163.6	12.9	.6	1.0	1.1	.6
Shelter ²	21.293	165.8	166.6	166.6	11.5	.5	1.0	1.2	.5
Rent	4.568	135.1	135.5	135.5	5.5	.3	*.4	*.8	*.3
Homeownership ³	16.335	177.3	178.2	178.2	13.4	.5	1.2	1.2	.6
Fuel and utilities ⁴	5.008	162.2	163.0	163.0	12.5	.5	1.1	.8	.4
Gas and electricity	2.548	162.7	164.0	164.0	17.1	.8	1.9	1.4	.9
Household furnishings and operation	7.465	154.7	155.6	155.6	17.3	.6	.8	1.0	.4
Apparel and upkeep	9.633	140.2	140.9	140.9	6.6	.5	-2	.4	.1
Transportation	12.715	143.5	144.8	144.8	9.7	.9	-3	.7	1.0
Private	11.450	142.5	144.0	144.0	10.4	1.1	-1	.6	1.1
Public	1.266	152.3	152.3	152.3	3.9	0	.1	-1	-1
Health and recreation	18.723	150.2	151.1	151.1	11.6	.6	*.9	*.9	*.6
Medical care	6.241	163.0	164.6	164.6	13.7	1.0	1.3	1.2	.7
Personal care	2.519	147.8	148.9	148.9	13.0	.7	.9	.9	.7
Reading and recreation	5.222	141.8	142.0	142.0	9.7	.1	.8	.8	.2
Other goods and services	4.742	145.9	146.5	146.5	10.3	.4	.7	.8	.4
Special indexes:									
All items less shelter	78.707	155.0	155.6	155.6	10.0	.4	.6	.4	.3
All items less medical care	93.759	156.9	157.5	157.5	10.1	.4	.6	.6	.4
All items less mortgage interest costs	95.615	155.1	155.7	155.7	9.9	.4	.5	.6	.3
CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁵	17.214	169.3	168.5	168.5	4.2	-5	*.5	*.4	*-.5
CPI - selected beef cuts ⁶	1.976	154.8	151.6	151.6	-14.3	-2.1	*-.9	*-1.1	*-2.1
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:									
1967= \$1.00	-	\$0.636	\$0.634	\$0.634	-9.3	-3	-	-	-
1957-59= \$1.00	-	.547	.545	.545	-	-	-	-	-

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

⁵ Calculated from the 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 outlets and beef liver.

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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						
	December 1974	January 1975	February 1975	March 1975	3 months ending in			6 months ending in			
					June 1974	September 1974	December 1974	March 1975	September 1974	March 1975	
	Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	10.3	14.2	10.1	6.6	12.2	8.3	
Commodities	153.0	154.0	154.9	155.2	10.0	14.0	10.3	5.9	12.0	8.1	
Food	170.4	171.8	171.9	171.0	3.1	12.3	14.6	1.4	7.6	7.8	
Food at home	171.3	172.4	172.3	170.7	1.0	12.0	16.2	-1.4	6.3	7.0	
Cereals and bakery products	182.1	185.7	187.1	188.9	19.5	11.6	31.0	15.8	15.5	23.2	
Meats, poultry, and fish	167.7	166.2	163.4	160.0	-30.8	28.5	7.2	-17.1	-5.7	-5.7	
Dairy products	155.5	155.0	155.1	155.1	7.6	-6.6	11.3	-1.0	.3	4.9	
Fruits and vegetables	166.1	166.2	168.7	167.6	33.8	-19.6	1.0	3.7	3.7	2.3	
Other foods at home	190.3	190.0	191.9	189.7	20.0	48.5	45.7	-1.3	33.5	20.0	
Food away from home	167.4	169.2	170.8	171.8	12.5	10.5	11.8	10.9	11.5	11.4	
Commodities less food	143.5	144.3	145.5	146.4	13.6	16.2	7.3	8.3	15.0	7.8	
Nondurables less food	147.1	147.8	148.6	149.1	13.9	11.8	6.2	5.6	12.9	5.9	
Apparel commodities ¹	140.3	139.9	140.2	140.3	9.4	12.0	2.6	0	10.7	1.3	
Men's and boys'	141.5	141.1	142.0	141.7	12.7	11.6	4.4	.6	12.1	2.4	
Women's and girls'	137.9	137.0	135.9	136.6	5.6	13.1	-2.6	-3.7	9.3	-2.2	
Footwear	142.1	142.6	143.6	144.0	7.3	11.5	2.9	5.5	9.4	4.2	
Nondurables less food and apparel	151.3	152.5	153.8	154.4	17.5	11.3	8.6	8.5	14.3	8.5	
Gasoline and motor oil	158.1	159.5	160.7	160.8	23.4	-8.4	-10.8	7.0	6.4	-2.3	
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted)	150.9	152.1	152.8	153.1	10.1	10.8	12.6	6.0	10.4	9.2	
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted)	138.5	139.3	140.7	141.4	9.4	18.4	8.8	8.6	13.8	8.7	
Fuel oil and coal	229.5	227.8	227.7	225.8	34.9	17.4	11.0	-6.3	25.9	2.0	
Other nondurables	144.6	146.2	147.8	148.6	18.2	21.2	18.1	11.5	19.7	14.8	
Durable commodities	138.7	139.6	141.0	142.8	14.1	19.9	11.1	12.4	17.0	11.7	
Household durables	136.1	137.2	137.7	138.4	13.6	17.3	9.7	6.9	15.4	8.3	
New automobiles	123.8	121.6	123.0	126.4	18.3	19.8	5.3	8.7	19.0	7.0	
Used automobiles (not seasonally adjusted)	138.4	134.9	133.5	135.3	104.4	53.0	7.6	-8.7	76.8	-9.9	
Other durables	144.6	146.9	149.3	151.6	6.7	10.6	11.6	20.8	8.6	16.1	
Services (not seasonally adjusted)	160.0	161.3	162.6	163.2	11.0	13.9	10.9	8.2	12.5	9.6	
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	133.5	134.0	135.1	135.5	4.4	5.0	6.5	6.1	4.7	6.3	
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted)	164.8	166.2	167.5	168.3	11.9	15.3	11.7	8.8	13.6	10.2	
Household services less rent	177.0	178.6	180.6	180.8	15.1	18.1	13.5	8.9	16.6	11.1	
Transportation services	146.6	145.8	146.2	147.9	6.5	7.6	7.4	3.6	7.0	5.5	
Medical care services	168.8	171.0	173.1	174.4	14.9	17.5	11.4	13.9	16.2	12.7	
Other services	147.7	148.8	149.8	150.3	9.9	10.6	8.9	7.2	10.3	8.0	
Special indexes:											
All items less food	151.0	152.0	153.3	154.1	13.0	15.1	8.7	8.5	14.0	8.6	
Nondurable commodities	158.3	159.3	159.9	159.5	8.7	12.2	9.9	3.1	10.5	6.4	
Apparel commodities less footwear	140.0	139.4	139.5	139.5	9.7	12.7	2.3	-1.4	11.2	.4	
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	158.7	159.8	160.9	161.4	10.2	13.4	11.0	7.0	11.8	9.0	
Insurance and finance	173.8	174.6	176.1	176.5	8.6	15.4	14.5	6.4	11.9	10.4	
Utilities and public transportation	148.0	149.8	150.8	151.7	10.3	10.9	9.4	10.4	10.6	9.9	
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	187.5	189.2	190.3	190.5	24.1	22.0	8.5	6.6	23.1	7.5	
Appliances (including radio and TV) (not seasonally adjusted)	115.2	116.0	116.4	116.9	6.9	14.4	11.9	6.0	10.6	8.9	
	Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	10.3	14.2	10.1	6.6	12.2	8.3	
Food	170.4	171.8	171.9	171.0	3.1	12.3	14.6	1.4	7.6	7.8	
Housing	159.4	161.0	162.7	163.6	12.7	15.9	12.1	11.0	14.3	11.5	
Shelter ²	162.5	164.1	166.0	166.8	10.0	13.1	12.2	11.0	11.6	11.6	
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	133.5	134.0	135.1	135.5	4.4	5.0	6.5	6.1	4.7	6.3	
Homeownership ³	173.3	175.4	177.5	178.6	10.6	16.0	14.3	12.8	13.2	13.6	
Fuel and utilities ⁴	158.6	160.3	161.6	162.2	16.2	13.7	10.8	9.4	14.9	10.1	
Gas and electricity	156.5	159.4	161.7	163.2	16.1	20.2	14.2	18.3	18.1	16.2	
Household furnishings and operation	152.5	153.7	155.2	155.8	19.6	24.4	17.1	8.9	22.0	12.9	
Apparel and upkeep	140.8	140.5	141.0	141.2	9.7	12.3	3.5	1.1	11.0	2.3	
Transportation	143.4	142.9	143.9	145.4	18.0	15.9	.3	5.7	17.0	3.0	
Private	142.4	142.2	143.1	144.7	18.9	17.4	-3	6.6	18.1	3.1	
Public	151.8	151.9	151.8	151.7	6.5	1.6	8.0	-3	4.0	3.8	
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	147.5	148.9	150.2	151.1	12.4	13.9	10.1	10.1	13.1	10.1	
Medical care	159.3	161.3	163.2	164.4	13.3	16.8	11.0	13.4	15.0	12.2	
Personal care	145.3	146.6	147.9	148.9	14.7	15.2	11.8	10.3	14.9	11.0	
Reading and recreation	139.9	141.0	142.1	142.4	10.6	11.6	9.1	7.3	11.1	8.2	
Other goods and services	143.9	144.9	146.0	146.6	9.3	12.9	11.3	7.7	11.1	9.5	
Special indexes:											
All items less shelter	153.7	154.6	155.2	155.6	10.6	14.2	10.2	5.0	12.4	7.6	
All items less medical care	155.3	156.2	157.1	157.7	10.1	13.7	10.4	6.3	11.9	8.4	
All items less mortgage interest costs	153.5	154.3	155.3	155.7	9.9	13.6	10.3	5.9	11.8	8.0	
CPI — domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted)	167.8	168.7	169.3	168.5	-3.7	10.6	8.8	1.7	3.2	5.2	
CPI — selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted)	158.0	156.6	154.8	151.6	-29.7	26.5	-28.3	-15.2	-5.7	-22.0	

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 city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items

(1967=100)

19967-109

Item and group	Index		Percent change to March 1975 from—			Item and group	Index		Percent change to March 1975 from—				
	March 1975		March 1974		February 1975		March 1975		March 1974		February 1975		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted		Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted		
Food	171.3	171.0	7.7	-0.2	-0.5	Food—Continued							
Food away from home	171.3	171.8	11.5	.5	.6	Food at home—Continued							
Restaurant meals	170.4	170.9	10.1	.5	.5	Fruits and vegetables—Continued							
Snacks	175.8	176.2	18.7	.5	.7	Fresh fruits and vegetables—Continued							
Food at home	171.4	170.7	6.7	-3.3	-1.9	Fresh fruits—Continued							
Cereals and bakery products	189.1	188.9	19.2	1.0	1.0	Oranges	146.4	152.3	5.4	0.5	0.1		
Flour	170.5	169.8	-4.9	-2.3	-2.4	Orange juice, fresh	145.4	145.7	146.4	.5	.6		
Cracker meal	231.3	230.4	33.0	5.4	5.1	Grapefruit	142.4	162.2	7.2	.1	-.1		
Corn flakes	166.9	166.7	39.3	.4	.2	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)		
Rice	219.7	218.4	-8.8	.2	.6	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)		
Bread, white	171.9	171.9	10.0	-.2	-.3	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)		
Bread, whole wheat	176.4	176.4	12.1	-.2	.1	Fresh vegetables	165.2	159.6	-10.0	-.7	-3.9		
Cookies	199.1	198.9	57.9	4.5	3.9	Potatoes	142.9	147.6	-45.8	-6.2	-7.6		
Layer cake	194.8	194.2	32.6	.3	-.2	Onions	125.7	128.0	-32.2	11.2	13.4		
Cinnamon rolls	202.8	203.4	35.1	.8	1.1	Asparagus	217.8	180.7	9.7	(1)	(1)		
Meats, poultry, and fish	161.8	160.0	-5.7	-6.6	-2.1	Cabbage	158.7	148.6	-.4	-.3	3.8		
Meats	159.7	157.8	-7.7	-.7	-2.4	Carrots	179.8	179.1	32.8	5.8	7.5		
Beef and veal	153.3	151.8	-14.1	-2.1	-2.8	Celery	141.7	138.5	7.3	-1.9	1.2		
Steak, round	152.8	150.0	-10.6	-2.1	-2.5	Cucumbers	236.0	192.3	56.2	10.2	10.5		
Steak, sirloin	143.7	143.4	-9.3	-2.6	-3.5	Lettuce	147.7	159.0	7.7	-16.9	-17.7		
Steak, porterhouse	148.9	148.6	-6.0	-2.2	-2.8	Peppers, green	179.4	159.8	28.1	-2.7	-6.3		
Rump roast	152.2	150.0	-8.8	-1.5	-1.8	Spinach	181.2	181.4	3.8	-.4	1.5		
Rib roast	163.4	161.6	-4.2	-1.6	-2.8	Tomatoes	175.6	174.2	5.5	.1	3.7		
Chuck roast	155.3	150.0	-18.1	-1.7	-3.5	Processed fruits and vegetables	178.7	178.9	9.8	.4	.6		
Hamburger	150.2	149.2	-23.4	-2.4	-2.7	Fruit cocktail, canned	178.7	178.5	24.3	.5	.4		
Beef liver	144.4	145.1	-17.8	-3.0	-3.7	Pears, canned	166.4	166.7	24.2	.2	.4		
Veal cutlets	185.3	185.3	-9.0	-1.5	-2.4	Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned	170.1	170.1	36.6	1.7	1.5		
Pork	170.5	167.3	.9	.5	-1.9	Orange juice concentrate, frozen	152.5	153.3	8.9	.5	.4		
Chops	159.3	155.3	1.1	-.2	-2.5	Lemonade concentrate, frozen	188.1	186.8	48.3	1.7	1.6		
Loin roast	166.3	162.4	-1.9	-.4	-2.6	Beets, canned	189.6	189.4	24.5	2.3	1.8		
Sausage	189.8	188.7	-.3	.7	-1.6	Peas, green, canned	162.2	162.7	35.2	.2	.5		
Ham, whole	165.4	162.2	-1.2	.9	-.2	Tomatoes, canned	174.2	174.5	26.1	.8	.9		
Picnics	159.9	155.1	-9.9	1.8	-1.2	Dried beans	237.1	237.6	-39.1	-2.5	-1.7		
Bacon	183.1	182.2	9.8	.9	-.5	Broccoli, frozen	153.7	153.7	17.1	.9	.7		
Other meats	158.8	158.0	-5.3	.3	-.8	Other food at home	190.1	189.7	26.6	-1.6	-1.1		
Lamb chops	162.0	161.4	4.1	.2	-.3	Eggs	153.5	152.3	-12.7	-10.8	-7.9		
Frankfurters	152.8	151.9	-12.1	-.1	-2.2	Fats and oils	213.1	-	31.4	-.8	(1)		
Ham, canned	166.6	165.0	-.8	.8	.5	Margarine	248.9	249.4	35.9	-1.6	-1.6		
Bologna sausage	161.4	161.4	-8.4	.5	-.4	Salad dressing, Italian	157.7	157.5	29.4	1.4	1.2		
Salami sausage	154.4	154.6	-7.2	.3	-.5	Salad or cooking oil	234.3	234.8	29.4	-1.5	-1.3		
Liverwurst	155.4	155.6	-6.7	.5	.8	Sugar and sweets	269.5	269.0	66.4	-1.6	-2.0		
Poultry	151.8	150.6	-.1	-.1	-2.3	Sugar	410.6	410.2	138.2	-7.6	-7.7		
Frying chicken	155.1	153.4	1.8	.3	-2.5	Grape jelly	231.7	230.5	58.0	2.0	1.5		
Chicken breasts	150.5	150.7	2.7	-.3	-1.2	Chocolate bar	238.7	240.1	30.4	2.3	2.3		
Turkey	138.2	137.9	-11.9	-1.6	-2.1	Syrup, chocolate flavored	216.5	215.0	46.7	1.1	.6		
Fish	197.1	196.7	6.4	-.1	-.2	Nonalcoholic beverages	177.8	177.8	25.2	.5	.5		
Shrimp, frozen	163.2	163.0	-8.9	-.8	-.8	Coffee	167.1	167.1	11.3	-.1	.1		
Fish, fresh or frozen	216.8	217.9	.9	-.5	.5	Coffee, instant	173.4	173.4	20.5	.1	.3		
Tuna fish, canned	178.7	178.3	9.4	.1	.0	Tea	142.3	142.4	23.2	1.9	1.7		
Sardines, canned	228.5	229.0	24.3	.7	1.3	Carbonated drink, cola flavored	209.5	208.9	48.2	1.0	.6		
Dairy products	155.4	155.1	2.6	-.1	.0	Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	210.1	210.1	47.6	.4	.1		
Milk, fresh, grocery	153.4	152.6	-.2	-.4	-.8	Prepared and partially prepared foods	164.7	164.4	24.1	.7	.6		
Milk, fresh, skim	167.3	166.8	2.0	-.2	-.5	Bean soup, canned	188.6	188.2	29.4	.7	.8		
Milk, evaporated	182.7	183.1	11.1	.0	-.1	Chicken soup, canned	135.3	134.8	9.8	.4	.3		
Ice cream	152.3	152.1	21.5	.5	.2	Spaghetti, canned	162.4	162.1	21.7	-.6	-.6		
Cheese, American process	168.8	168.8	-1.3	.2	.4	Mashed potatoes, instant	156.1	155.8	22.8	-.3	-.1		
Butter	115.3	115.4	.1	.3	.6	Potatoes, french fried, frozen	169.5	169.3	31.4	-.5	-.8		
Fruits and vegetables	167.4	167.6	3.0	.4	-.7	Baby foods	161.4	161.4	23.4	.5	.4		
Fresh fruits and vegetables	159.9	160.2	-1.5	.4	-1.4	Sweet pickle relish	173.9	172.3	22.4	2.1	1.4		
Fresh fruits	153.4	160.1	12.9	1.9	.9	Pretzels	168.6	168.4	30.4	3.3	3.1		
Apples	149.6	157.1	-3.4	-.9	-3.4								
Bananas	147.3	149.2	60.5	9.5	9.9								

¹ Priced only in season.

Table 4. Consumers Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1975, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1975 from—	
		February 1975	March 1975	March 1974	February 1975
Housing		162.7	163.6	12.9	0.6
Shelter ¹		165.8	166.6	11.5	.5
Rent, residential		135.1	135.5	5.5	.3
Homeownership ²		177.3	178.2	13.4	.5
Mortgage interest rates		145.6	142.7	6.5	-2.0
Property taxes		155.9	156.3	3.4	.3
Property insurance premiums		128.0	128.4	3.7	.3
Maintenance and repairs		183.9	184.1	13.5	.1
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		157.9	158.4	9.2	.3
Exterior house paint		154.9	155.2	21.8	.2
Interior house paint		146.4	145.5	16.3	-.6
Maintenance and repair services		195.2	195.2	15.1	0
Repainting living and dining rooms		205.0	204.7	13.8	-.1
Reshingling house roof		214.6	213.4	18.2	-.6
Residing house		186.4	185.0	16.0	-.8
Replacing sink		191.4	192.6	15.7	.6
Repairing furnace		185.9	188.9	10.7	1.6
Fuel and utilities		162.2	163.0	12.5	.5
Fuel oil and coal		229.5	228.3	13.3	-.5
Fuel oil, No. 2		224.4	223.1	10.7	-.6
Gas and electricity		162.7	164.0	17.1	.8
Gas		162.4	163.9	18.4	.9
Electricity		163.0	164.0	16.0	.6
Other utilities					
Residential telephone services		122.4	123.4	2.0	.8
Residential water and sewerage services					
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		165.0	166.0	9.8	.6
Housefurnishings		154.7	155.6	17.3	.6
Housefurnishings		141.4	142.4	14.3	.7
Textiles		141.8	141.3	12.2	-.4
Sheets, full, flat		149.4	145.6	11.8	-2.5
Curtains, tailored		134.0	132.9	8.8	-.8
Bedsprings		146.9	146.9	16.5	0
Drapery fabrics		164.9	168.6	16.8	2.2
Pillows, bed		122.6	121.6	10.2	-.8
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		132.5	131.5	8.1	-.8
Furniture and bedding		142.3	144.0	9.6	1.2
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	126.3	126.9	9.6	.5
Sofas, upholstered		137.0	137.3	8.5	.2
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	121.6	122.7	11.0	.9
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	127.0	129.5	11.8	2.0
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	109.8	110.5	6.6	.6
Sofas, dual purpose		133.5	134.9	7.3	1.0
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	128.2	128.2	13.7	0
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Crib		145.4	148.0	11.6	1.8
Floor coverings		128.0	128.5	14.2	.4
Broadloom carpeting		118.0	118.3	11.1	.3
Vinyl sheet goods		147.6	148.7	18.7	.7
Vinyl floor tile		155.3	155.7	22.2	.3
Appliances (excluding radio and TV)		125.3	126.1	13.5	.6
Washing machines, electric		128.7	129.2	15.3	.4
Vacuum cleaners		114.7	114.9	10.1	.2
Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric					
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		126.4	126.5	15.8	.1
Clothes dryers, electric		126.3	127.5	14.7	1.0
Air conditioners, demountable		132.6	134.0	16.1	1.1
Room heaters, electric, portable		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Garbage disposal units		120.6	121.2	8.0	.5
Other housefurnishings		126.3	126.7	11.2	.3
Dinnerware, fine china		168.5	170.8	21.9	1.4
Flatware, stainless steel		167.9	171.5	22.2	2.1
Table lamps, with shade		143.6	143.9	10.4	.2
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		146.2	149.0	15.2	1.9
Electric drills, hand-held		121.6	120.4	9.7	-1.0
Housekeeping supplies					
Laundry soaps and detergents		158.2	160.1	31.7	1.2
Paper napkins		202.2	201.5	36.1	-.3
Toilet tissue		199.7	199.5	40.2	-.1
Housekeeping services					
Domestic services, general					
housework		192.4	193.3	23.7	.5
Baby sitter services		183.8	185.6	24.8	1.0
Postal charges		175.3	175.3	-.1	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		182.5	183.9	13.6	.8
Licensed day care services, preschool child		151.3	151.7	10.3	.3
Washing machine repairs		183.2	184.4	15.5	.7

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1975, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1975 from—	
		February 1975	March 1975	March 1974	February 1975
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		140.2	140.9	6.6	.5
Apparel commodities.....		139.2	139.9	5.9	.5
Apparel commodities less footwear.....		138.5	139.1	5.7	.4
Men's and boys'.....		140.6	141.3	7.2	.5
Men's:					
Topcoats and all-weather coats.....		141.6	140.3	4.2	-.9
Suits, year round weight.....		137.0	137.4	3.5	.3
Sport jackets.....		98.8	101.0	.0	2.2
Jackets, lightweight.....		131.5	133.4	9.3	1.4
Slacks, heavyweight.....		114.8	118.1	1.5	2.9
Slacks, lightweight.....		141.3	142.6	1.1	-.9
Trousers, work.....		151.1	151.3	16.1	.1
Shirts, work.....		151.5	151.4	14.1	-.1
Shirts, business or dress.....		125.6	126.6	7.0	.8
T-shirts.....		152.6	154.1	13.6	1.0
Socks.....		127.9	127.9	6.8	.0
Handkerchiefs.....		151.6	153.3	14.8	1.1
Boys':					
Coats, heavyweight.....		110.2	108.8	-2.4	-1.3
Sport coats, wool or wool blends.....		118.9	118.7	-4.3	.2
Dungarees.....		172.0	172.8	14.9	.5
Undershorts.....		152.0	152.1	12.6	.1
Women's and girls'.....		135.4	136.1	3.4	.5
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight.....		123.4	121.2	(7)	-1.8
Carcoats, heavyweight.....		131.9	(5)	(5)	(5)
Sweaters.....		128.7	137.7	(7)	7.0
Skirts, winter weight.....		142.5	148.0	(7)	3.9
Skirts, summer weight.....		149.6	150.3	11.3	.5
Blouses.....		144.2	143.9	9.3	-.2
Dresses, street, year round weight.....		144.1	144.4	4.1	.2
Slips.....		117.1	117.4	3.1	.3
Panties.....		136.1	137.4	10.6	1.0
Girdles.....		125.8	126.0	3.5	.2
Brasieres.....		139.6	139.8	7.9	.1
Hose or panty hose, nylon.....		91.8	91.9	.1	.1
Anklelets or knee-length socks.....		130.7	130.9	10.7	.2
Gloves, fabric.....		127.1	128.0	7.5	.7
Handbags.....		171.9	171.4	7.4	-.3
Girls':					
Raincoats.....		128.2	129.4	12.3	.9
Skirts, fall and winter.....		132.2	132.2	(7)	0
Dresses.....		134.0	134.7	8.5	.5
Slacks, fall and winter.....		165.7	168.0	(7)	1.4
Slips.....		125.3	125.3	11.4	0
Handbags.....		142.0	139.5	-2.3	-1.8
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers.....		176.3	180.1	38.0	2.2
Yard goods.....		163.8	162.0	11.9	-1.1
Wrist watches, men's and women's.....		132.8	133.3	7.7	.4
Footwear.....		143.0	144.0	6.7	.7
Men's:					
Shoes, street.....		147.0	148.0	7.3	.7
Shoes, work, high.....		158.0	158.5	9.9	.3
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump.....		137.8	139.1	4.7	.9
Shoes, evening, pump.....		132.1	132.1	4.0	0
Shoes, casual.....		145.2	145.8	7.1	.4
Houseslippers, scuff.....		137.3	138.3	5.0	.7
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford.....		142.0	143.9	5.5	1.3
Sneakers, boys', oxford type.....		148.0	148.7	11.4	.5
Dress shoes, girls'.....		150.3	152.1	8.9	1.2
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning.....		147.2	148.5	13.6	.9
Automatic laundry service.....		130.4	132.1	8.7	1.3
Laundry, men's shirts.....		150.3	151.2	9.8	.6
Tailoring charges.....		151.8	152.2	5.2	.3
Shoe repairs.....		137.9	138.9	8.4	.7
Transportation.....		143.5	144.8	9.7	.9
Private ⁸		142.5	144.0	10.4	1.1
Automobiles, new.....		124.5	127.3	12.9	2.2
Automobiles, used.....		133.5	135.3	32.4	1.3
Gasoline, regular and premium.....		160.6	161.0	1.4	.2
Motor oil.....		153.4	153.6	9.7	.1
Tires.....		125.6	125.7	11.2	.1
Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance ⁹		171.9	173.9	15.7	1.2
Auto insurance premiums.....		138.3	139.2	.9	.7
Auto registration fees.....		130.4	130.4	1.2	0
Parking fees, private and municipal.....		167.4	168.3	8.7	.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1975, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1975 from—	
		February 1975	March 1975	March 1974	February 1975
Transportation—Continued					
Public		152.3	152.3	3.9	0
Local transit fares		147.8	147.8	-.6	0
Taxicab fares		165.4	165.9	14.1	.3
Railroad fares, coach		149.2	150.1	18.1	.6
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		154.2	154.3	9.0	.1
Bus fares, intercity		178.5	175.5	10.4	-1.7
Health and recreation					
Medical care		150.2	151.1	11.6	.6
Drugs and prescriptions		163.0	164.6	13.7	1.0
Over-the-counter items		116.0	116.8	8.9	.7
Multiple vitamin concentrates		126.3	127.6	11.6	1.0
Aspirin compounds		100.3	101.6	5.5	1.3
Liquid tonics		128.6	129.4	9.4	.6
Adhesive bandages, packages		113.1	113.9	9.9	.7
Cold tablets or capsules		156.4	159.0	21.8	1.7
Cough syrup		123.2	124.5	7.5	1.1
Prescriptions		130.4	131.0	11.4	.5
Anti-infectives		107.4	107.7	6.1	.3
Sedatives and hypnotics		70.3	70.5	3.7	.3
Ataractics		151.4	152.8	11.9	.9
Antispasmodics		105.6	105.4	.7	-.2
Cough preparations		118.3	118.7	9.1	.3
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		161.7	162.4	13.4	.4
Analgessics, internal		118.2	118.6	4.1	.3
Anti-obesity		116.8	117.2	4.6	.3
Hormones		100.8	101.1	8.0	.3
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		162.9	165.0	13.8	1.3
General physician, office visits		167.4	169.7	14.6	1.4
General physician, house visits		163.4	166.4	14.5	1.8
Obstetrical cases		158.7	160.2	12.0	.9
Pediatric care, office visits		166.1	167.4	13.3	.8
Psychiatrist, office visits		147.8	148.8	8.8	.7
Herniorrhaphy, adult		147.5	148.4	10.1	.6
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		155.8	158.5	15.2	1.7
Dentists' fees		157.2	158.7	12.2	1.0
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		161.6	163.1	13.1	.9
Extractions, adult		156.6	157.8	11.8	.8
Dentures, full upper		148.7	150.5	10.4	1.2
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		145.8	146.9	9.4	.8
Routine laboratory tests		145.3	148.1	15.4	1.9
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	127.3	128.4	16.5	.9
Semiprivate rooms		226.1	227.8	19.0	.8
Operating room charges		230.6	232.7	22.7	.9
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI		151.0	151.4	11.7	.3
Laboratory tests	Jan. 72	124.1	126.0	16.2	1.5
Anti-infectives	Jan. 72	107.1	108.6	8.3	1.4
Tranquilizers	Jan. 72	115.6	116.1	8.4	.4
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	123.8	124.2	13.6	.3
Intravenous solution	Jan. 72	123.8	126.8	18.3	2.4
Physical therapy	Jan. 72	131.6	132.3	19.3	.5
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	117.8	118.5	9.5	.6
Personal care					
Toilet goods		147.8	148.9	13.0	.7
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		146.6	148.3	17.2	1.2
Toilet soap, hard-milled		126.2	128.7	16.9	2.0
Hand lotions		198.6	197.1	31.0	-.8
Shaving cream		145.0	147.5	13.7	1.7
Face powder		121.4	123.6	13.1	1.8
Deodorants		151.2	150.8	.0	-.3
Cleansing tissues		116.1	118.4	11.7	2.0
Home permanent wave kits		190.8	194.9	36.7	2.1
Personal care services		114.2	116.6	5.7	2.1
Men's haircuts		148.9	149.4	8.7	.3
Beauty shop services		152.1	152.4	8.9	.2
Women's haircuts		146.7	147.3	8.6	.4
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		159.0	159.9	11.2	.6
Permanent waves, cold		150.2	150.8	8.6	.4
Reading and recreation ¹⁰		126.6	126.8	5.6	.2
Recreational goods		141.8	142.0	9.7	.1
TV sets, portable and console		121.3	121.9	8.5	.5
TV replacement tubes		100.9	100.8	2.9	-.1
Radios, portable and table models		153.8	155.1	13.1	.8
Tape recorders, portable		103.5	103.7	3.0	.2
Phonograph records, stereophonic		95.6	95.4	.5	-.2
Movie cameras, 8mm		121.4	121.5	10.2	.1
Film, 35mm, color		94.1	94.1	3.5	0
Golf balls		118.9	119.2	9.7	.3
		104.6	103.6	-.5	-1.0

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1975, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1975 from—	
		February 1975	March 1975	March 1974	February 1975
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation—Continued					
Recreational goods—Continued					
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		142.1	142.4	9.5	.2
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		116.9	118.3	6.0	1.2
Bowling balls		124.6	124.7	7.0	.1
Bicycles, boys'		141.2	141.8	10.2	.4
Tricycles		131.4	133.6	10.8	1.7
Dog food, canned or boxed		166.0	167.5	17.5	.9
Recreational services		148.5	148.0	9.1	-.3
Indoor movie admissions		169.5	169.0	11.7	-.3
Adult		166.4	165.5	10.8	-.5
Children's		178.4	178.8	14.2	.2
Drive-in movie admissions		172.5	172.8	12.4	.2
Bowling fees, evening		137.7	137.8	6.6	.1
Golf green fees		(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)
TV repair		104.6	105.2	4.7	.6
Film developing		122.1	123.3	5.9	1.0
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		171.2	172.2	19.5	.6
Magazines, single copy and subscription		143.1	143.1	7.0	0
Piano lessons, beginner		138.1	138.5	5.2	.3
Other goods and services		145.9	146.5	10.3	.4
Tobacco products		152.8	153.1	9.8	.2
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		154.7	155.1	10.1	.3
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		155.7	155.9	10.3	.1
Cigars, domestic, regular size		122.6	122.9	4.5	.2
Alcoholic beverages		140.7	141.4	11.3	.5
Beer, at home		139.4	140.8	17.2	1.0
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		113.5	113.6	3.5	.1
Wine, dessert and table		151.9	152.8	5.4	.6
Beer, away from home		154.9	155.1	10.4	.1
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		140.7	141.8	6.7	.8
Bank service charges, checking account		115.9	116.8	12.6	.8
Legal services, short form will		182.6	183.4	6.2	.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 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 Not available.

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

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

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

Table 5. 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	1967-59=100	Other bases			
		March 1975			March 1974	December 1974	February 1975
U.S. city average	M	157.8	183.6		10.3	1.5	0.4
Chicago	M	155.6	176.8		9.5	1.6	.8
Detroit	M	157.2	180.6		8.5	.6	.3
Los Angeles—Long Beach	M	154.2	181.4		12.1	2.8	1.3
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	M	163.4	194.4		8.4	1.1	.1
Philadelphia	M	161.1	188.2		9.6	1.2	.4
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		January 1975			January 1974	October 1974	
Boston	1	156.4	187.3		10.1	2.2	
Houston	1	159.4	182.3		14.6	3.4	
Minneapolis—St. Paul	1	156.2	181.0		11.3	1.5	
Pittsburgh	1	154.4	177.6		10.8	1.4	
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		February 1975			February 1974	November 1974	
Buffalo	2	157.6		³ 173.3	9.3	1.6	
Cleveland	2	157.7	178.0		11.0	3.1	
Dallas	2	154.0		³ 166.5	10.3	1.8	
Milwaukee	2	152.2	171.8		9.5	1.5	
San Diego	2	157.2		⁴ 165.2	12.1	2.4	
Seattle	2	151.8	178.4		11.8	2.6	
Washington	2	157.9	183.9		9.7	1.2	
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		March 1975			March 1974	December 1974	
Atlanta	3	158.5	182.3		10.0	1.7	
Baltimore	3	162.9	189.1		10.6	1.8	
Cincinnati	3	156.0	177.0		10.4	1.4	
Honolulu	3	151.4		⁵ 163.2	9.9	2.2	
Kansas City	3	154.8	183.7		11.7	1.4	
St. Louis	3	152.4	178.1		10.3	2.6	
San Francisco—Oakland	3	156.0	185.7		12.1	2.6	

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.

³ November 1963=100.

⁴ February 1965=100.

⁵ 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. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from February 1975 To March 1975

Expenditure class	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items	0.4	0.8	0.3	1.3	0.1	0.4
Food	-.2	-.3	-.8	-.2	-.1	-.1
Housing .....	.6	1.6	.5	3.1	-.3	.8
Apparel and upkeep .....	.5	1.6	1.9	.0	.1	.5
Transportation .....	.9	1.0	1.2	.8	1.1	.7
Health and recreation .....	.6	.7	.1	.7	.5	.4
Medical care	1.0	1.1	.2	.7	1.4	1.0
Personal care .....	.7	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation .....	.1	.5	.2	.2	-.5	-.2
Other goods and services .....	.4	.3	-.5	.4	.3	.3

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, March 1975, and percent changes from December 1974

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles— Long Beach	New York— Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items	157.8	155.6	157.2	154.2	163.4	161.1
Food	171.3	172.4	166.4	166.0	176.3	173.9
Food at home	171.4	173.4	165.7	168.6	176.9	172.8
Cereals and bakery products	189.1	197.6	194.4	187.9	190.7	191.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	161.8	164.2	155.5	159.9	165.2	165.1
Dairy products	155.4	152.4	157.2	152.2	161.9	153.7
Fruits and vegetables	167.4	173.7	154.2	161.5	182.6	170.3
Other food at home	190.1	190.7	181.9	186.0	195.3	192.0
Food away from home	171.3	168.2	169.7	158.6	175.0	178.9
Housing	163.6	156.3	162.2	161.6	168.8	169.9
Shelter	166.6	160.1	170.4	166.1	169.5	178.0
Rent, residential	135.5	131.2	(²)	132.7	(²)	144.1
Homeownership	178.2	173.5	177.6	176.6	183.5	187.0
Fuel and utilities	163.0	147.5	152.6	153.3	182.4	168.9
Fuel oil and coal	228.3	211.9	217.5	-	236.4	219.8
Gas and electricity	164.0	146.6	159.0	175.2	190.4	177.9
Household furnishings and operation	155.6	150.3	143.1	150.0	159.2	155.4
Apparel and upkeep	140.9	136.6	137.1	134.3	141.4	135.4
Men's and boys'	141.3	132.4	144.9	127.0	138.8	143.1
Women's and girls'	136.1	136.2	124.0	132.6	136.9	120.1
Footwear	144.0	139.3	147.9	139.9	140.6	143.5
Transportation	144.8	146.1	144.4	145.8	153.5	147.9
Private	144.0	143.1	143.1	147.3	149.8	147.3
Public	152.3	164.9	158.7	117.5	168.0	151.3
Health and recreation	151.1	151.7	157.9	144.7	157.3	155.8
Medical care	164.6	163.8	180.7	160.6	177.3	178.3
Personal care	148.9	147.1	(²)	139.9	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	142.0	143.5	144.2	131.5	146.5	144.5
Other goods and services	146.5	149.7	148.4	140.4	153.9	149.6
Percent changes December 1974 to March 1975						
All items	1.5	1.6	0.6	2.8	1.1	1.2
Food .....	.9	1.4	-3.3	1.1	1.3	.7
Food at home .....	.6	.9	-4.4	1.0	.9	.5
Cereals and bakery products	4.1	5.6	-2.3	4.2	3.3	3.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	-1.0	-.5	-6.9	-.7	-1.0	-2.6
Dairy products .....	.1	1.5	-4.3	-.1	1.1	.1
Fruits and vegetables	3.8	4.0	-.4	1.1	3.8	4.7
Other food at home	-.9	-2.4	-4.8	1.6	-.2	-.1
Food away from home	2.2	3.0	2.0	1.4	2.5	1.8
Housing	2.3	3.2	1.8	5.3	.5	2.0
Shelter	2.2	3.4	1.1	6.9	.1	.7
Rent, residential	1.5	3.4	(²)	4.0	(²)	1.5
Homeownership	2.4	4.3	1.1	8.2	-1.2	.4
Fuel and utilities	2.9	3.8	3.4	1.9	.7	3.8
Fuel oil and coal	-.2	1.2	1.2	-	-.1	-1.3
Gas and electricity	4.7	7.2	4.4	2.9	1.1	8.2
Household furnishings and operation	2.2	2.0	2.9	1.6	1.7	3.1
Apparel and upkeep	-.7	-1.2	0	-.8	.2	-1.5
Men's and boys'	-.8	-1.3	1.8	-1.7	-1.4	-.3
Women's and girls'	-2.8	-2.9	-2.7	-1.8	-2.1	-5.4
Footwear	1.3	.9	1.3	-.4	5.1	.3
Transportation .....	.9	.1	1.0	1.3	.9	.8
Private	1.1	.1	1.1	1.4	1.1	1.0
Public .....	.2	-.1	-.1	0	-.1	-.1
Health and recreation	2.4	1.9	3.2	2.6	1.9	2.4
Medical care	3.5	3.2	5.4	3.1	4.5	4.3
Personal care	2.5	.2	(²)	2.7	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	1.6	2.1	1.1	2.0	.9	1.7
Other goods and services	1.8	.9	2.4	2.6	.7	1.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, March 1975, and percent changes from December 1974

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	St. Louis	San Francisco—Oakland
Indexes (1967=100)							
All items	158.5	162.9	156.0	151.4	154.8	152.4	156.0
Food	177.2	175.1	174.3	173.6	173.8	169.3	166.4
Food at home	179.6	175.0	177.3	173.6	174.8	169.3	170.4
Cereals and bakery products	188.6	187.4	201.1	195.2	189.3	198.2	183.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	170.2	166.7	165.6	162.6	160.2	154.8	162.4
Dairy products	164.9	151.1	167.4	164.4	172.0	157.5	152.6
Fruits and vegetables	177.0	173.9	168.1	168.2	165.7	168.0	167.6
Other food at home	196.6	197.1	198.5	187.9	194.7	183.2	190.7
Food away from home	169.1	175.2	163.1	172.9	170.6	169.3	152.3
Housing	163.6	174.9	154.7	144.4	156.1	152.4	164.3
Shelter	166.8	186.8	154.1	145.2	159.9	151.4	170.0
Rent, residential	128.2	125.0	118.8	149.0	118.1	115.0	143.0
Homeownership	178.4	213.0	170.5	142.8	176.3	161.9	183.6
Fuel and utilities	160.4	160.0	170.0	138.8	147.3	155.0	152.7
Fuel oil and coal	-	224.8	-	-	-	235.1	-
Gas and electricity	167.2	161.8	166.5	157.7	159.6	153.4	168.5
Household furnishings and operation	158.4	157.6	147.1	144.9	151.7	152.6	151.9
Apparel and upkeep	138.6	147.3	142.3	140.2	146.8	133.9	141.1
Men's and boys'	148.5	148.2	139.7	134.6	147.7	132.8	145.0
Women's and girls'	129.8	135.7	136.7	133.6	146.0	129.3	138.9
Footwear	126.8	154.8	154.5	137.1	153.1	143.1	138.6
Transportation	138.0	142.3	138.5	142.7	142.7	140.4	147.0
Private	141.5	144.0	142.9	146.1	142.2	143.8	146.9
Public	91.8	130.7	104.3	123.9	148.5	100.9	147.3
Health and recreation	156.3	153.0	154.1	145.4	148.8	148.7	145.4
Medical care	180.8	178.0	174.1	161.0	159.3	152.3	158.0
Personal care	153.9	148.5	149.7	152.0	150.2	154.9	145.4
Reading and recreation	141.5	139.8	134.3	145.6	136.2	139.6	135.0
Other goods and services	138.4	145.9	154.5	124.0	150.1	149.8	139.3
Percent changes December 1974 to March 1975							
All items	1.7	1.8	1.4	2.2	1.4	2.6	2.6
Food	.6	2.2	.9	2.7	1.0	1.0	1.3
Food at home	.5	1.9	.9	2.7	.6	1.0	1.1
Cereals and bakery products	1.8	5.7	6.7	3.6	5.2	4.5	3.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	-4.4	-4.4	.1	1.9	-5.5	-6.6	-2.2
Dairy products	-3.3	-1.1	-1.9	2.1	.4	.4	.5
Fruits and vegetables	2.8	7.6	1.9	5.1	1.5	3.1	2.4
Other food at home	-2.2	.4	-6.6	1.6	-1.1	-5.5	.5
Food away from home	1.0	3.1	1.1	2.6	2.5	1.3	2.1
Housing	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.2	1.4	5.5	4.0
Shelter	.7	2.6	1.5	0	1.0	7.5	4.6
Rent, residential	.5	.8	1.2	.9	.9	.5	1.2
Homeownership	.7	3.1	1.7	-6	1.0	9.1	5.9
Fuel and utilities	9.0	1.7	4.2	4.0	4.2	3.8	6.3
Fuel oil and coal	-	2.6	-	-	-	-1.1	-
Gas and electricity	8.9	2.3	7.3	6.8	4.9	6.0	10.3
Household furnishings and operation	1.8	1.5	2.4	3.8	.7	2.6	1.1
Apparel and upkeep	1.8	.9	.4	2.0	1.7	.2	-.1
Men's and boys'	1.3	-1	-4	1.0	1.9	1.4	2.0
Women's and girls'	2.6	-7	-1.2	2.8	1.8	-1.2	-2.9
Footwear	-1.1	.8	2.6	1.1	2.5	.8	1.2
Transportation	.2	1.1	.1	1.9	.4	.6	2.1
Private	.2	1.3	0	2.2	.1	.6	2.2
Public	-1	-1	0	-1	2.6	.4	.5
Health and recreation	3.6	1.5	2.6	2.8	2.6	2.6	2.8
Medical care	6.2	3.2	4.8	4.3	4.0	2.5	5.0
Personal care	2.1	2.6	.4	2.6	1.6	4.2	2.2
Reading and recreation	1.2	-3	1.9	2.3	2.5	2.0	1.3
Other goods and services	2.5	.8	1.8	1.5	1.3	2.5	1.3

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

³ Change from January 1975.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, March 1975 and percent changes from selected dates

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	171.3	171.4	189.1	161.8	155.4	167.4	190.1	171.3
Atlanta	177.2	179.6	188.6	170.2	164.9	177.0	196.6	169.1
Baltimore	175.1	175.0	187.4	166.7	151.1	173.9	197.1	175.2
Boston	171.4	170.8	190.6	161.9	151.7	166.5	190.2	173.2
Buffalo	170.0	169.4	198.2	160.5	150.2	160.6	187.1	173.4
Chicago	172.4	173.4	197.6	164.2	152.4	173.7	190.7	168.2
Cincinnati	174.3	177.3	201.1	165.6	167.4	168.1	198.5	163.1
Cleveland	169.3	169.6	192.0	157.8	154.9	166.7	186.8	168.4
Dallas	167.7	165.7	180.9	152.6	150.1	164.1	185.0	175.3
Detroit	166.4	165.7	194.4	155.5	157.2	154.2	181.9	169.7
Honolulu	173.6	173.6	195.2	162.6	164.4	168.2	187.9	172.9
Houston	176.5	174.1	186.1	163.6	166.5	171.6	187.9	184.9
Kansas City	173.8	174.8	189.3	160.2	172.0	165.7	194.7	170.6
Los Angeles—Long Beach	166.0	168.6	187.9	159.9	152.2	161.5	186.0	158.6
Milwaukee	169.2	170.1	194.1	157.9	153.7	171.7	186.2	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul	173.8	172.5	194.1	163.1	156.9	167.7	187.8	179.5
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	176.3	176.9	190.7	165.2	161.9	182.6	195.3	175.0
Philadelphia	173.9	172.8	191.0	165.1	153.7	170.3	192.0	178.9
Pittsburgh	173.6	172.1	191.9	163.3	150.8	170.4	190.4	182.3
St. Louis	169.3	169.3	198.2	154.8	157.5	168.0	183.2	169.3
San Diego	170.3	168.6	184.8	162.8	152.1	163.6	182.9	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland	166.4	170.4	183.9	162.4	152.6	167.6	190.7	152.3
Seattle	165.4	168.2	188.3	163.9	155.8	154.3	184.1	156.3
Washington	177.3	176.9	195.4	162.3	144.4	180.6	208.1	177.7
	Percent changes February 1975 to March 1975							
U.S. city average	-0.2	-0.3	1.0	-0.6	-0.1	0.4	-1.6	.5
Atlanta .....	.1	-.1	-.4	.8	-.1	2.8	-2.2	.8
Baltimore .....	.2	-.1	1.2	-.8	.1	2.4	-1.3	1.2
Boston	-.2	-.4	1.0	-1.6	.4	.8	-.9	.4
Buffalo .....	.7	.5	3.2	.1	.1	.1	.1	1.0
Chicago	-.3	-.5	2.2	-.7	-.4	.7	-3.2	.2
Cincinnati	-.2	-.3	2.8	.4	-2.6	-1.2	-.8	.1
Cleveland	-.3	-.4	-1.7	.1	.3	1.2	-1.4	0
Dallas	-.2	-.4	.6	-.7	.9	1.4	-2.3	.3
Detroit	-.8	-1.1	.8	-2.1	0	-.1	-2.3	.3
Honolulu .....	.4	.3	.4	-.2	-.1	1.5	.6	.6
Houston	-.3	-.5	.6	-1.3	.1	1.2	-1.6	.1
Kansas City	-.3	-.5	.9	-.6	.1	.1	-1.8	.5
Los Angeles—Long Beach	-.2	-.4	1.1	-.9	0	-1.1	-.3	.3
Milwaukee .....	.1	.1	3.1	-.3	-.8	2.3	-1.7	(³)
Minneapolis—St. Paul	-.2	-.5	1.7	-1.0	-.2	-.2	-1.4	.9
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	-.1	-.3	1.2	-1.1	.3	.7	-1.5	.7
Philadelphia	-.1	-.2	.9	-.8	.3	1.1	-1.2	.4
Pittsburgh	-.3	-.5	-.4	-.7	2.5	-2.5	-2.2	.3
St. Louis	-.1	-.2	.3	-.4	-.1	.2	-.8	.5
San Diego	-.3	-.4	.7	-.7	-.1	-.1	-1.1	(³)
San Francisco—Oakland .....	.1	-.3	.2	-.4	.4	-.4	-.7	1.4
Seattle	0	-.1	1.1	1.4	-.8	-1.3	-1.1	.4
Washington .....	.4	.3	1.9	1.4	-.1	2.3	-2.6	.6

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.
² Revised index = February 1975, 168.9.
³ Not available.

Table 9. Consumer Price Index—Regular and premium gasoline indexes, selected areas and U.S. city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers

(October 1973=100)

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Index		Percent change to March 1975 from—	Index		Percent change to March 1975 from—
	February 1975	March 1975		February 1975	March 1975	
U.S. city average ²	162.2	162.6	0.2	156.7	157.2	0.3
Atlanta	135.8	134.5	-1.0	134.1	134.4	.2
Baltimore	135.3	134.6	-.5	133.2	133.5	.2
Boston	131.2	133.3	1.6	129.2	131.4	1.7
Buffalo	133.0	132.6	-.3	131.3	130.7	-.5
Chicago	129.9	130.4	.4	126.7	127.2	.4
Cincinnati	130.3	131.7	1.1	128.7	129.7	.8
Cleveland	131.1	132.3	.9	128.8	130.7	1.5
Dallas	139.2	139.7	.4	136.6	137.0	.3
Detroit	127.6	128.6	.8	125.6	127.2	1.3
Honolulu	133.8	134.4	.4	130.5	131.0	.4
Houston	136.7	138.0	1.0	134.9	135.9	.7
Kansas City	129.5	129.8	.2	128.5	128.3	-.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach	133.0	132.6	-.3	130.4	130.7	.2
Milwaukee	129.8	130.1	.2	129.5	129.2	-.2
Minneapolis—St. Paul	128.3	127.2	-.9	128.8	127.5	-1.0
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	130.4	130.4	0	131.1	131.3	.2
Philadelphia	132.4	132.3	-.1	131.6	132.0	.3
Pittsburgh	133.8	133.4	-.3	130.4	130.1	-.2
St. Louis	128.3	128.7	.3	127.6	127.8	.2
San Diego	133.3	133.6	.2	131.7	132.0	.2
San Francisco—Oakland	132.1	133.1	.8	129.9	131.2	1.0
Seattle	130.8	131.0	.2	128.4	128.5	.1
Washington	132.6	133.4	.6	129.6	131.2	1.2

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. Consumer Price Index—Regular and premium gasoline prices, selected areas and U.S. city averages for urban wage earners and clerical workers

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Average price per gallon					
	January 1975	February 1975	March 1975	January 1975	February 1975	March 1975
U.S. city average	\$ 0.532	\$ 0.533	\$ 0.534	\$ 0.572	\$ 0.574	\$ 0.576
Atlanta .....	.539	.540	.534	.581	.581	.582
Baltimore .....	.550	.554	.551	.595	.596	.598
Boston .....	.533	.531	.539	.574	.573	.583
Buffalo .....	.535	.536	.534	.575	.575	.572
Chicago .....	.544	.546	.548	.581	.582	.584
Cincinnati .....	.526	.528	.533	.571	.572	.576
Cleveland .....	.530	.534	.539	.571	.573	.582
Dallas .....	.484	.490	.491	.527	.531	.533
Detroit .....	.536	.533	.537	.576	.574	.582
Honolulu .....	.607	.605	.607	.639	.636	.638
Houston .....	.471	.475	.479	.516	.520	.524
Kansas City .....	.501	.495	.496	.543	.541	.540
Los Angeles—Long Beach .....	.539	.537	.535	.576	.574	.575
Milwaukee .....	.500	.500	.501	.548	.547	.546
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	.507	.507	.503	.553	.559	.554
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	.553	.552	.552	.598	.601	.602
Philadelphia .....	.530	.529	.529	.582	.583	.585
Pittsburgh .....	.537	.535	.534	.577	.576	.575
St. Louis .....	.522	.522	.523	.566	.566	.566
San Diego .....	.552	.552	.553	.590	.591	.592
San Francisco—Oakland .....	.566	.564	.568	.604	.603	.609
Seattle .....	.527	.527	.527	.576	.568	.568
Washington .....	.549	.549	.552	.592	.590	.598

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.

Table 11. Consumer Price Index—Population size groups, 15 classes and U.S. city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers

Area and group	Relative importance	Indexes (1967=100)				Percent change to March 1975	
	December 1974	March 1974	December 1974	March 1975	March 1974	December 1974	
United States:							
All items	100.000	143.1	155.4	157.8	10.3	1.5	
Food	24.785	159.1	169.7	171.3	7.7	.9	
Housing	33.766	144.9	159.9	163.6	12.9	2.3	
Apparel and upkeep	9.633	132.2	141.9	140.9	6.6	-.7	
Transportation	12.715	132.0	143.5	144.8	9.7	.9	
Health and recreation	18.723	135.4	147.5	151.1	11.6	2.4	
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):							
All items	32.525	145.9	157.2	159.4	9.3	1.4	
Food	8.346	160.7	171.6	172.9	7.6	.8	
Housing	10.752	148.4	161.0	164.4	10.8	2.1	
Apparel and upkeep	3.192	131.5	139.0	138.6	5.4	-.3	
Transportation	4.059	136.8	147.7	148.9	8.8	.8	
Health and recreation	6.176	138.3	150.7	154.0	11.4	2.2	
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):							
All items	11.701	142.3	154.3	157.0	10.3	1.7	
Food	2.955	158.2	169.1	171.0	8.1	1.1	
Housing	3.945	142.8	156.9	160.8	12.6	2.5	
Apparel and upkeep	1.146	133.3	143.1	142.7	7.1	-.3	
Transportation	1.466	131.5	143.0	144.9	10.2	1.3	
Health and recreation	2.189	135.1	146.4	150.3	11.3	2.7	
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):							
All items	25.644	141.9	154.4	156.9	10.6	1.6	
Food	6.084	158.1	168.9	171.0	8.2	1.2	
Housing	8.846	143.2	158.6	162.1	13.2	2.2	
Apparel and upkeep	2.449	133.5	142.8	142.2	6.5	-.4	
Transportation	3.404	130.0	141.5	142.4	9.5	.6	
Health and recreation	4.861	135.3	146.9	150.7	11.4	2.6	
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):							
All items	12.531	141.8	154.7	157.0	10.7	1.5	
Food	3.074	158.1	167.3	169.0	6.9	1.0	
Housing	4.280	144.1	160.5	164.2	13.9	2.3	
Apparel and upkeep	1.236	132.4	145.0	142.9	7.9	-1.4	
Transportation	1.624	128.8	141.4	143.3	11.3	1.3	
Health and recreation	2.318	133.6	145.1	148.7	11.3	2.5	
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):							
All items	17.223	141.2	155.1	157.6	11.6	1.6	
Food	4.326	158.8	169.1	170.6	7.4	.9	
Housing	5.944	142.6	160.9	165.3	15.9	2.7	
Apparel and upkeep	1.611	130.1	142.4	140.6	8.1	-1.3	
Transportation	2.162	129.3	141.2	142.4	10.1	.8	
Health and recreation	3.179	132.0	145.5	148.9	12.8	2.3	

¹ Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

Table 12. Consumer Price Index—Regional groups, 4 areas and U.S. city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers

Area and group	Relative ¹ importance	Indexes (1967=100) ¹				Percent change to March 1975	
	December 1974	March 1974	December 1974	March 1975	March 1974	December 1974	
United States:							
All items	100.000	143.1	155.4	157.8	10.3	1.5	
Food	24.785	159.1	169.7	171.3	7.7	.9	
Housing	33.766	144.9	159.9	163.6	12.9	2.3	
Apparel and upkeep	9.633	132.2	141.9	140.9	6.6	-.7	
Transportation	12.715	132.0	143.5	144.8	9.7	.9	
Health and recreation	18.723	135.4	147.5	151.1	11.6	2.4	
Northeast:							
All items	32.821	147.4	158.9	160.7	9.0	1.1	
Food	8.729	161.1	171.4	173.5	7.7	1.2	
Housing	10.698	152.1	165.2	167.3	10.0	1.3	
Apparel and upkeep	3.381	133.7	142.5	141.8	6.1	-.5	
Transportation	3.835	135.4	146.5	147.8	9.2	.9	
Health and recreation	6.177	138.7	150.6	153.6	10.7	2.0	
North Central:							
All items	27.925	141.2	152.9	155.2	9.9	1.5	
Food	6.881	159.7	168.9	169.3	6.0	.2	
Housing	9.417	138.6	152.5	157.1	13.3	3.0	
Apparel and upkeep	2.587	131.2	142.1	140.3	6.9	-1.3	
Transportation	3.740	132.4	143.3	143.7	8.5	.3	
Health and recreation	5.301	136.3	148.0	151.7	11.3	2.5	
South:							
All items	22.077	143.5	157.5	160.1	11.6	1.7	
Food	5.315	160.8	172.6	174.6	8.6	1.2	
Housing	7.631	146.4	164.2	168.0	14.8	2.3	
Apparel and upkeep	2.181	132.6	142.8	142.3	7.3	-.4	
Transportation	2.887	129.7	142.2	143.6	10.7	1.0	
Health and recreation	4.062	135.3	148.6	152.6	12.8	2.7	
West:							
All items	16.346	137.7	150.9	154.4	12.1	2.3	
Food	3.733	152.0	163.7	166.3	9.4	1.6	
Housing	5.883	140.7	157.4	162.6	15.6	3.3	
Apparel and upkeep	1.449	129.4	138.3	137.6	6.3	-.5	
Transportation	2.192	128.3	140.3	143.0	11.5	1.9	
Health and recreation	3.088	128.5	140.2	144.2	12.2	2.9	

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.

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 changes, 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

Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 1974 data

Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items .....	.05	.07	.12
Food at home .....	.10	.19	.40
Food away from home .....	.13	.23	.42
Housing .....	.09	.15	.23
Apparel and upkeep ..	.21	.28	.33
Transportation .....	.07	.10	.20
Medical care .....	.16	.21	.28
Personal care .....	.19	.24	.34
Reading and recreation .....	.16	.21	.27
Other goods and services .....	.13	.18	.28

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

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

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