

CPI Detailed Report

For March 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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Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Price movements	1
Chart 1. All items index and rates of change, 1967-76	7
Chart 2. Commodities less food index and rates of change, 1967-76	8
Chart 3. Total food index and rates of change, 1967-76	9
Chart 4. Services index and rates of change, 1967-76	10
Table 1. CPI—U.S. city average, by commodity and service group and expenditure class	11
Table 2. CPI—seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by commodity and service group and expenditure class	12
Table 3. CPI—food items, U.S. city average	13
Table 4. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. city average	14
Table 5. CPI—selected areas, all items index	18
Table 6. CPI—areas priced monthly, by expenditure class, percent change from February 1976 to March 1976	18
Table 7. CPI—selected areas, by expenditure class	19
Table 8. CPI—food groups, selected areas	21
Table 9. CPI—gasoline indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas	22
Table 10. CPI—gasoline average prices, U.S. city average and selected areas	22
Table 11. CPI—regular leaded gasoline indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas	23
Table 12. CPI—premium gasoline indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas	25
Table 13. CPI—by population size	27
Table 14. CPI—by region	27

Price Movements

March 1976

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.2 percent in March, before seasonal adjustment, to 167.5 percent of its 1967 base. The CPI in March was 6.1 percent higher than in March 1975.

Seasonally adjusted changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI rose 0.2 percent in March. In February, the increase was 0.1 percent. These increases compare 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 indexes for food and gasoline declined substantially in March as they had in February. Prices of most other commodities increased moderately in March; a notable exception was used car prices which rose sharply. Charges for consumer services continued to rise rapidly.

Price changes, first quarter

The CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.9 percent for the 3 months ending in March. This was the slowest pace in almost 4 years and compares with a steady rise of about 7 percent in 1975. Declines in food and fuel prices accounted for much of the slowdown in the first quarter. Prices of other commodities rose at a moderate pace—about the same as in the preceding 3 quarters. Charges for consumer services continued the rapid rise evident since mid-1975 (table B).

Changes in the CPI are influenced partly by behavior of prices at the producers' level. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures prices of food and industrial commodities at all stages of production, but it has no services component. The WPI component most nearly comparable to the commodities component of the CPI is the index for finished consumer goods.

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

Month	Changes from preceding month								Changes in all items	
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services		Compound annual rate	From 12 months ago
									From 3 months ago	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted
1975:										
March	0.4	0.4	-0.2	-0.3	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.6	6.6	10.3
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
March .....	.2	.2	-.7	-.8	.4	.3	.6	.7	2.9	6.1

Table B. Quarterly percent changes in selected components of the Consumer and Wholesale Price Indexes, 1975-76

Component	Compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted, for 3 months ending—				
	1975				1976
	March	June	September	December	March
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX					
All items.....	6.6	7.0	7.4	7.3	2.9
Food.....	.5	9.7	8.0	8.3	-7.5
Commodities less food.....	8.0	5.3	7.5	4.3	2.9
Services.....	9.3	6.8	7.4	9.3	11.1
All items less food and energy items.....	9.4	5.1	5.8	7.1	7.7
Commodities less food and energy items.....	9.4	4.2	5.0	4.4	5.2
Services less energy items.....	7.4	5.7	8.2	9.7	9.7
Energy items (gas, electricity, fuel oil, coal, gasoline, motor oil).....	1.4	17.0	23.6	6.0	-8.3
WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX					
All commodities.....	-5.2	6.5	10.8	6.5	-1.8
Farm products and processed foods and feeds.....	-24.7	18.3	18.3	-4.1	-15.8
Crude foods and feeds.....	-37.4	63.8	17.0	-2.4	-24.7
Intermediate materials for food manufacturing.....	-46.6	-39.4	22.3	-26.2	-11.1
Consumer foods.....	-14.3	28.7	11.2	.9	-20.5
Industrial commodities.....	3.9	2.1	8.0	10.8	3.2
Crude materials except foods.....	-13.0	13.5	16.7	4.4	1.9
Intermediate materials except feeds.....	4.4	-.2	5.8	12.1	3.7
Producers' finished goods.....	12.7	4.8	6.3	9.1	6.8
Consumer finished goods except food.....	3.5	4.1	10.7	9.3	.5

The WPI for consumer finished goods declined at a 7.8-percent rate in the 3 months ending in March. The decline followed a deceleration in 1975 from a 13.9-percent rate of advance in the second quarter to 5.6 percent in the fourth quarter. The deceleration in 1975 was primarily due to changes in the food component; nonfood commodities rose at rapid rates in the third and fourth quarters of 1975. For the 3 months ending in March 1976, the consumer food index declined sharply while the index for nonfood commodities held almost steady (table C).

Consumer foods

Food prices in the WPI declined at a 20.5-percent rate in the first quarter, following a small rise of 0.9 percent in the final quarter of 1975. Lower prices by processors led to declines in retail prices in the first quarter for most grocery store foods, including beef, pork, poultry, eggs, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, sugar, cereal and bakery products, and fats and oil products. Thus, the index for food purchased in grocery stores—the major portion of the food index in the CPI—declined at an 11.7-percent rate, compared with increases of 8 to 11 percent in the preceding 3 quarters.

Declines in food prices can be traced to sharply lower prices at all stages of food production—crude, semi-processed, and processed. Cattle prices fell at an annual rate of about 65 percent as marketings increased. In contrast to 1975, when record numbers of grass-fed cattle were marketed, much of the expansion in marketings this winter was in grain-fed cattle. More cattle were placed in feedlots after mid-1975 as a result of lower feed costs and favorable prices cattlemen were receiving for their livestock. As beef production increased, processors' prices declined 68.7 percent and retail prices fell 37.3 percent in the first 3 months of 1976. According to the Department of Agriculture, 6.3 million head of cattle were marketed in the first quarter of 1976; in the second quarter, cattlemen expect to market 6 percent less. Cattle placed on feed during the first quarter totaled 5.4 million head or 14 percent more than the very low level in the first quarter of 1975. On April 1, feedlots in the 23 major feeding states had 10.8 million head of cattle—28 percent more than on April 1, 1975, but still 12 percent less than on April 1, 1974.

In the first quarter of 1976, live and processed poultry prices also moved down sharply—by more than 40 percent—and retail prices declined 34 percent. Poultry production was increased in late 1975 as a result of lower

Table C. Quarterly percent change in wholesale and retail prices for consumer goods and services, 1975-76

Goods and services	Index	Compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted, for 3 months ending—				
		1975				1976
		March	June	September	December	March
Consumer goods	CPI	5.1	6.9	7.8	5.9	-1.2
	WPI	-4.4	13.9	10.7	5.6	-7.8
Food	CPI	.5	9.7	8.0	8.3	-7.9
	WPI	-14.3	28.7	11.2	.9	-20.5
Commodities less food	CPI	8.0	5.3	7.5	4.3	2.9
	WPI	3.5	4.1	10.7	9.3	.5
Nondurables less food ¹	CPI	4.1	4.9	8.2	4.2	.8
	WPI	2.3	5.4	14.4	9.5	-.9
Apparel less footwear	CPI	-.6	-.3	4.1	3.2	2.3
	WPI	.3	-3.5	.9	6.8	9.8
Footwear	CPI	4.9	-.3	1.4	4.2	4.5
	WPI	1.7	3.3	7.6	3.8	7.1
Gasoline ²	CPI	-3.7	17.0	30.0	2.7	-17.7
	WPI	-3.4	23.0	72.7	13.1	-26.7
Fuel oil	CPI	-7.5	14.5	28.8	2.1	-8.1
	WPI	-25.4	13.8	42.4	31.6	-21.5
Tobacco products	CPI	7.1	.3	2.1	6.6	8.2
	WPI	6.4	-.8	2.7	26.4	.8
Durables ¹	CPI	13.6	6.3	6.2	4.4	6.9
	WPI	6.1	1.2	4.4	9.2	3.4
New cars	CPI	9.3	.3	6.1	14.4	2.4
	WPI	3.7	1.8	3.7	15.7	2.6
Furniture	CPI	6.3	7.4	3.9	4.7	3.8
	WPI	2.8	-1.1	3.6	8.7	4.1
Appliances including radio and TV	CPI	7.5	4.2	4.5	3.7	5.4
	WPI	6.1	4.2	2.4	4.5	2.0
Services	CPI	9.3	6.8	7.4	9.3	10.6
Rent	CPI	5.2	4.5	4.8	6.5	5.5
Household less rent	CPI	10.3	8.4	4.9	9.3	9.1
Medical care	CPI	14.5	9.2	10.5	7.2	14.0
Transportation	CPI	6.7	5.5	16.7	18.9	21.1
Other services	CPI	7.2	3.2	5.7	5.6	7.9

¹ Includes items not listed.

² CPI includes motor oil. Also see note on Gasoline, p. 6).

feed costs and higher chicken prices in late summer and early fall. The downtrend in hog and wholesale pork prices, which began in the fourth quarter of 1975, continued until late in the first quarter. The declines were primarily due to consumer resistance to high prices and abundant supplies of beef and poultry. The upturn late in the quarter was due to smaller supplies of marketable hogs. Although a record corn crop was predicted for 1975-76, hog producers were cautious about increasing pig crops last fall. However, a report released by the Department of Agriculture in mid-March indicated that the 14 major hog-producing States expected a 12-percent increase in the December 1975-May 1976 pig crop compared with a year earlier. This would be the first year-to-year increase in 5 years.

After rising sharply in the second half of 1975, milk prices at the farm level and processors' prices for dairy

products turned down in the first quarter of 1976. Retail prices for dairy products continued to rise, but at a slower rate. Prices of milk used by processors declined due to increased milk output with higher butterfat content, combined with reduced demand for processed dairy products. Butter prices fell substantially.

Prices for margarine, as well as for all types of fats and oil products, continued to decline in the first quarter due to surplus soybean supplies, price competition from foreign oils such as palm oil, and a sluggish export market. Ample supplies resulted in lower prices for other foods such as eggs, fresh vegetables, and canned and frozen fruits and vegetables.

Adverse weather was partly responsible for price advances for some farm products—notably grains, coffee, and fresh fruits. Banana prices increased as earthquakes

in Guatemala created uncertainties about supplies. Coffee prices continued to rise as supplies, already reduced by weather damage to the Brazilian crop last summer, registered another setback in February when earthquakes in Guatemala disrupted shipping capabilities.

Grain prices, which declined during most of 1975, rose in the first 3 months of 1976. Wheat prices rose due to (1) weather damage to the 1976 winter crop in the Southwestern states; (2) the possibility of additional wheat sales to the Soviet Union because of weather damage to crops there. Corn prices also rose in the first quarter reflecting increased demand. The increase in the price of corn, as well as other grains such as barley and rye, was also due to limited selling by farmers.

After declining steadily during 1975, sugar prices at the wholesale level increased for the quarter ending in March. The increase was due primarily to (1) higher prices for sugar cane which apparently reflected lowered estimates of world sugar production, especially in the Soviet Union, and (2) the holding back of supplies by sugar-producing countries, such as the Dominican Republic and the Philippines. Beet sugar prices, however, declined slightly during the first quarter as a result of the large supplies on hand from last year's record U.S. crop. Further downward pressure was created when the Department of Agriculture released a prospective planting report which showed beet sugar acreage unchanged from last year. A reduction of at least 10 percent had been expected. Sugar prices at the retail level continued to decline in the first quarter, but at a slower pace than in the fourth quarter of 1975.

Consumer goods other than food

The CPI for consumer goods other than food rose at an annual rate of 2.9 percent during the 3 months ending in March 1976. The WPI for consumer finished goods other than food rose at a 0.5 percent annual rate. The slowdown was primarily due to declines in gasoline and fuel oil prices.

Large inventories led to a sharp decline in gasoline prices in the first quarter despite an uptrend in demand. Many areas experienced "gas wars" as major oil companies tried to maintain market and gallonage. Fuel oil prices also declined sharply in the first quarter chiefly due to abnormally warm winter weather in major fuel-consuming areas.

Retail prices for most consumer goods other than food and fuels increased in the first quarter. Prices for apparel, footwear, furniture, and appliances rose at a moderate rate reflecting small increases at the manufacturers' level last summer and fall. Although the demand for consumer goods has been rising, outlays for most items—except autos—rose at a considerably slower rate in the first quarter of 1976 than in the spring and summer of 1975. Outlays (in constant dollars) for apparel and footwear rose at about a 4-percent rate in the first quarter, compared with almost 16 percent in the second quarter of 1975. Outlays for furniture and other household durables increased at about

a 1.6-percent rate in the first quarter of this year compared with 18 percent in the second quarter of 1975.

New car prices also rose moderately in the first quarter, after large increases in the fourth quarter when 1976 models were introduced. Auto sales rose sharply in the first quarter—continuing the recovery which began in the spring of 1975. But, contrary to manufacturers' expectations for a rapid growth in small car sales, consumers have shown a preference for larger cars. Thus, prices rose for some larger models in short supply, while rebate programs were initiated to promote sales of smaller cars. Used car prices, which declined in late 1975, rose sharply in the first quarter in response to strong demand for clean, standard size cars.

Reflecting earlier increases in prices at the manufacturers' level, price rises accelerated for some consumer goods such as floor coverings, tobacco products, textile housefurnishings, and housekeeping supplies.

The WPI for new cars, furniture, appliances, and tobacco products increased at a slower rate in the first quarter than in the last quarter of 1975, but apparel and footwear price rises accelerated (table C).

Consumer services

Charges for consumer services continued to rise rapidly in the first quarter of 1976. The rise began accelerating after mid-1975; service charges rose at a rate of 10.6 percent in the first quarter of 1976 compared with 9.3 percent in the previous quarter. Indexes for medical care, transportation, and various other services rose at a faster rate in the first quarter and rent and household services other than rent increased at about the same rate as in the previous quarter (table C).

In the first quarter, transportation services increased 21.1 percent—more rapidly than in the two final quarters of 1975. Additional increases in auto insurance rates during the first quarter accounted for about three-fourths of the increase in the transportation services index. Rates for auto insurance have risen at annual rates of 10.2, 54.4, and 55.0 percent in the last three quarters. The rapid rise in auto repair parts as well as labor charges have had a substantial impact on auto insurance rates. The auto repairs and maintenance index in the CPI, which represents consumers direct out-of-pocket expenses for auto repairs and maintenance, rose at a rate of 9.3 percent in the first quarter compared with 8.5 percent in the fourth quarter of 1975. Among the public transportation groups, airline fares rose again in the first quarter after a 2.2-percent rate increase on November 15, 1975. Increases for local transit fares were also larger in the first quarter but intercity bus and railroad fares registered smaller increases than in the final quarter of 1975.

During the first quarter, the index for medical care services rose at the sharpest rate in more than a year. The rate of advance had slowed during the fourth quarter of 1975 reflecting to a large extent the impact of the annual adjustment to the CPI health insurance component. In

the March quarter, physicians' fees increased at a 14.2-percent rate—about the same as in the previous quarter—but hospital services jumped significantly. Increases in semi-private room rates and laboratory tests, as well as various drugs prescribed in hospitals, were more than double the increases in the fourth quarter. Spiraling operating costs and higher malpractice insurance premiums were cited as the reasons for the significant increases.

Despite first-quarter declines in mortgage interest rates and smaller increases in property taxes and natural gas and electricity rates, the household services index continued to increase rapidly because of higher charges for property insurance and housekeeping services. Property insurance rates, which had averaged about an 8.0-percent increase in each quarter of 1975, jumped to a rate of 14.3 percent in the first quarter of 1976. Many insurance companies raised rates to cover increases in claims. Replacement costs have risen because of increases in material prices, such as lumber, concrete, plumbing fixtures, and general millwork during the last 3 years. Charges for nearly all types of housekeeping services accelerated in the March quarter. Postal rates rose significantly, reflecting the increase in first class and parcel post rates. The increase in the minimum wage on January 1 contributed to increased charges for domestic services, baby sitters, and laundry flatwork. Smaller increases for natural gas and declines in electricity rates helped to offset the increase for other household services in the first quarter. Electricity rates declined as the surplus of petroleum for energy production caused fuel prices to be adjusted downward in some areas. In addition, some electricity producers have encountered new legislation which attempts to limit the pass-through of changes in fuel costs. Property taxes, which had increased nearly 15.0 percent in the final quarter of 1975, rose only about one-third as much in the first quarter of 1976.

During the first quarter of 1976, the index for mortgage interest rates declined at a 4.6-percent rate, the first decline since mid-1975. After increasing significantly in the final quarter of 1975, conventional rates began falling early in 1976 and VA- and FHA- insured rates followed later in the first quarter. Supplies of lendable funds increased in the first quarter as the flow of new savings received by savings and loan institutions reached a record in January. Furthermore, despite renewed interest in real estate, demand for mortgage funds remained weak in many areas partly because of competition from bond markets.

The CPI for rent increased at a 5.5-percent rate, or slightly less than the 6.5 percent rate in the final quarter of 1975. Strong demand in many large metropolitan areas for available units resulted in low rental vacancy rates. Landlords continued to press for higher rents to cover rising operating costs.

Prices for most other services in the CPI also rose at a faster rate in the first quarter of 1976 than in the final

quarter of 1975. Increases in charges for recreational services, personal care, and apparel services were larger in the March quarter.

Industrial materials

Changes in materials costs are an important factor affecting manufacturers' prices of finished goods and, therefore, prices consumers pay for goods and some services. Price rises for industrial commodities at the intermediate stage of production—just below the finished goods level—decelerated sharply from mid-1974 to mid-1975. In the second half of 1975, with economic recovery underway, prices of these commodities rose at 5.8 percent rate in the third quarter and 12.1 percent in the fourth. In the first quarter of 1976, price rises slowed to a 3.7-percent rate. This slowdown may have reflected in part a more moderate rate of economic expansion in late 1975 than earlier in the year; also the rise in crude materials prices slowed in late 1975 (table B).

Prices of steel mill products averaged unchanged in the first quarter, after a large increase in the last quarter of 1975. Prices rose for some steel products due to increased demand from automobile and appliance manufacturers. Weak demand particularly in the capital goods sector caused some prices to decline. Prices for refined petroleum products declined and price increases were smaller than in the fourth quarter for petroleum-based products such as plastic materials, chemicals, and synthetic rubber partly because of lower prices for crude oil. Prices of textile products also increased at a slower rate in the first quarter reflecting primarily falling demand for double-knit fabrics.

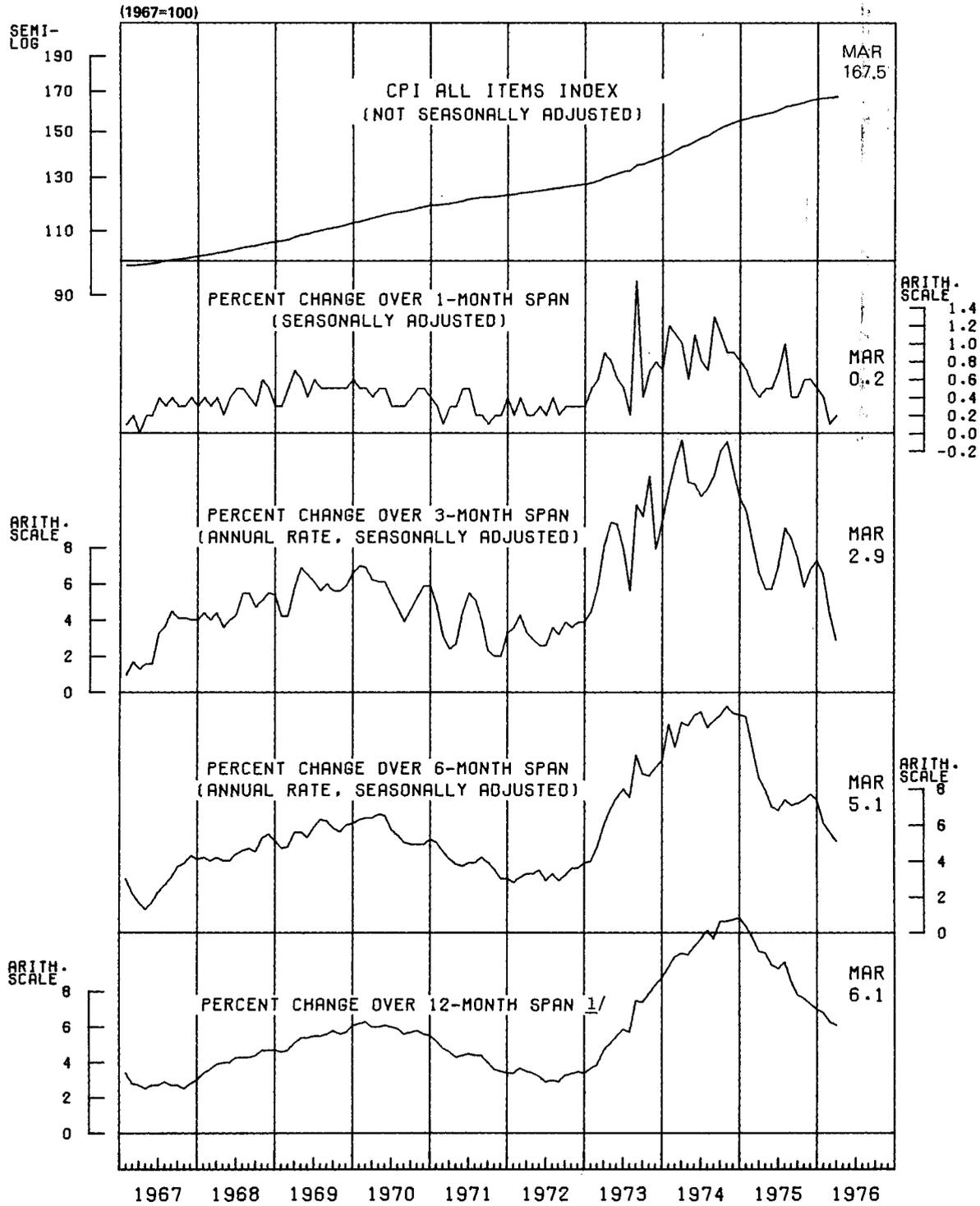
Leather prices, however, continued to advance rapidly in response to higher prices for hides and skins and increased demand from manufacturers of footwear and leather garments. The rise in prices of construction materials accelerated as the construction outlook continued to improve. Higher prices for some nonferrous metals and fabricated metal products resulted from the higher level of housing starts and increased demand for consumer goods.

The WPI for raw industrial materials increased at a 1.9-percent rate in the 3 months ending in March, a smaller rise than in any of the three preceding quarters. The slowdown was primarily due to lower prices for crude petroleum (which accounts for almost one-third of the weight of the raw industrials component). Prices of fertilizer materials continued to decline in the first quarter because of excess supplies, but prices of other raw industrial materials rose. Iron and steel scrap and nonferrous scrap prices turned up as mills increased the level of their inventories at the same time that they stepped up regular purchases to meet expanding production needs. Prices for crude rubber and wastepaper continued to rise at rapid rates.

Announcement of Changes in Gasoline Price Data

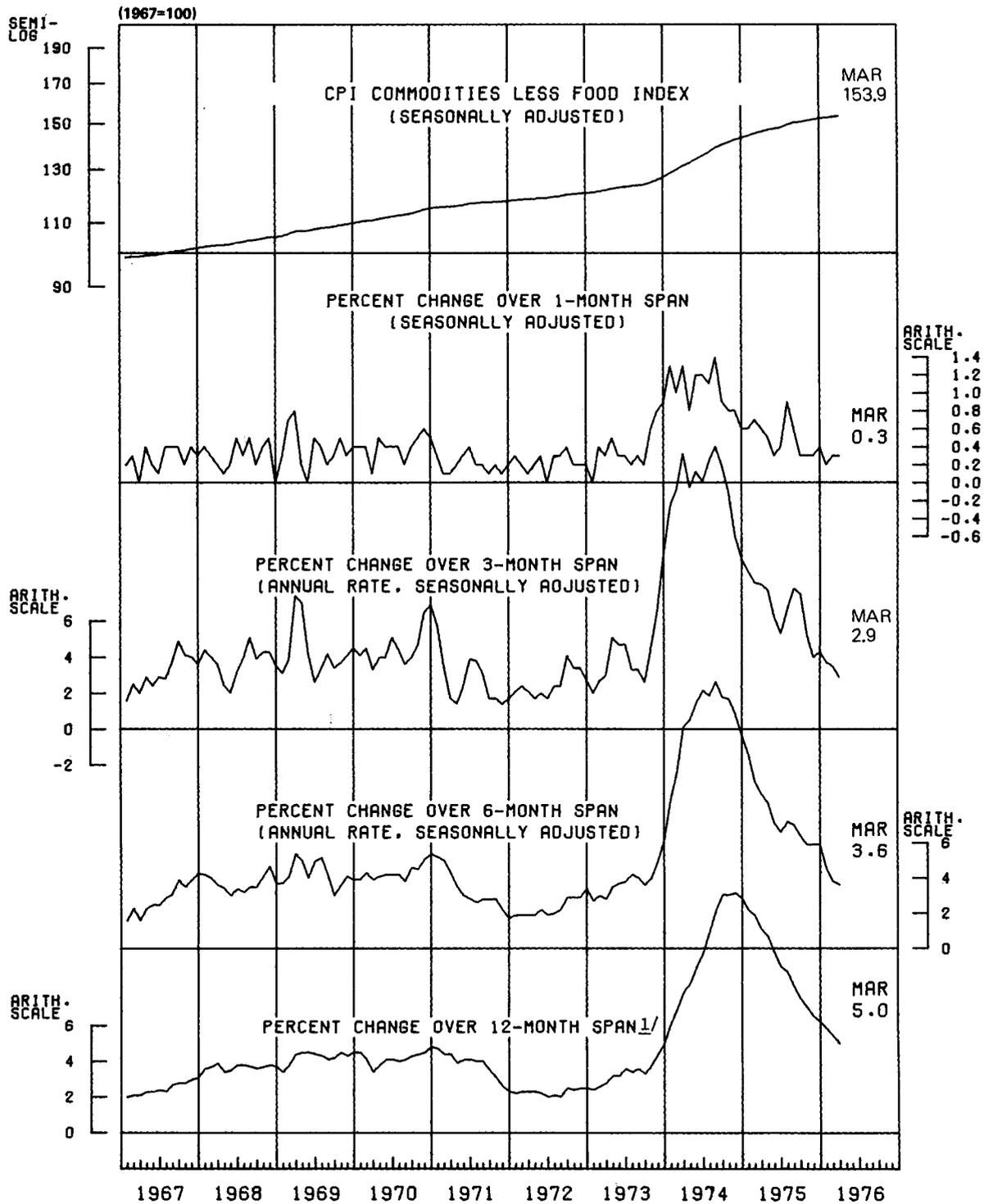
Effective with release of the March 1976 CPI, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has begun publication of indexes and average prices for unleaded regular gasoline. Separate indexes and average prices will now be available for regular unleaded, regular leaded, and premium gasoline for the U.S. city average and separately for 23 metropolitan areas. In order to facilitate comparisons among indexes for the several types of gasoline, each has been put on a January 1967=100 reference base effective with the release of the Consumer Price Index for March. For the convenience of users, the historical index series for regular leaded and premium gasoline on the new base appear in tables 11 and 12 of this bulletin. It should be noted that rebasing does not indicate a change in price levels, but simply a change in the point of time from which price changes are measured.

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



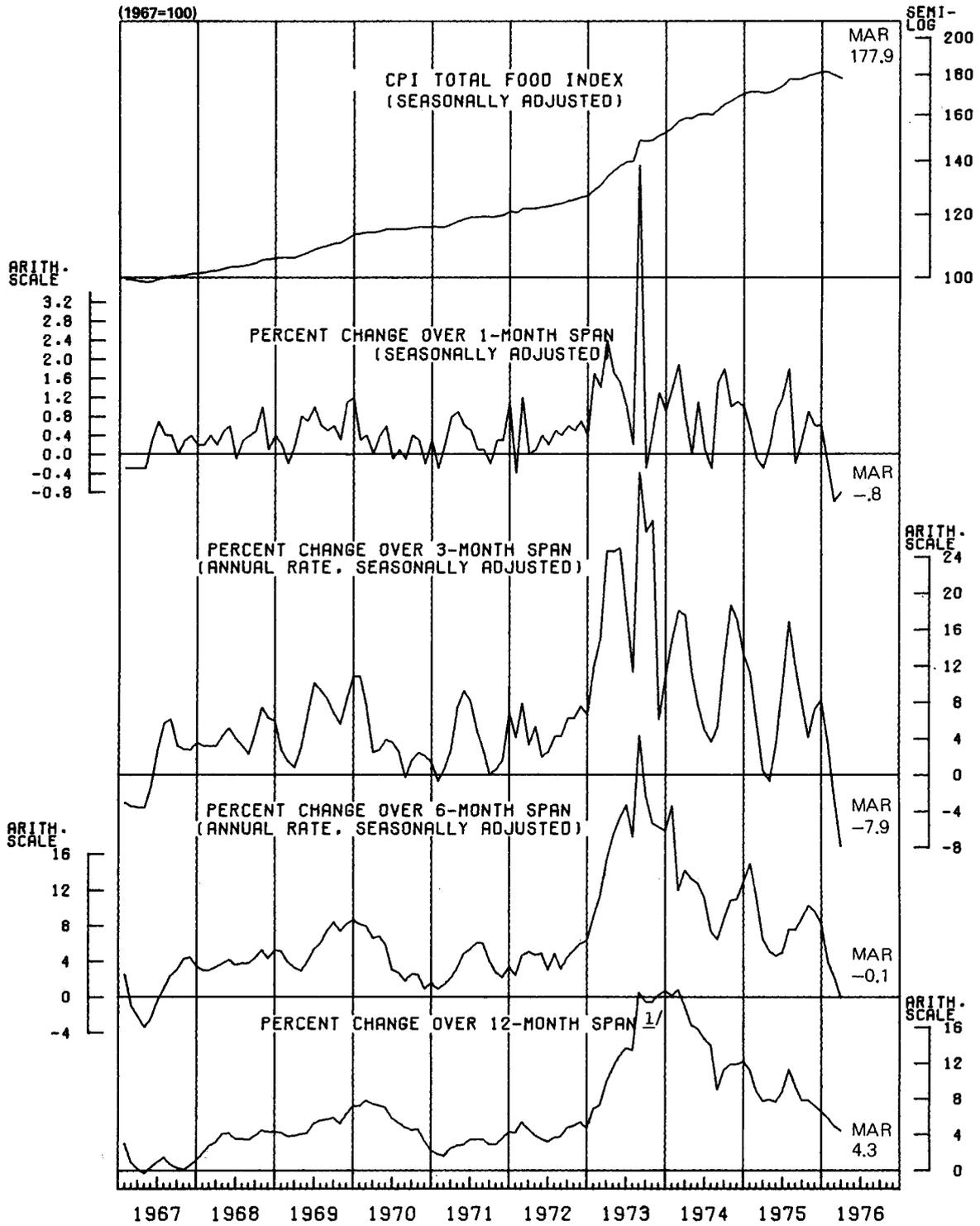
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 2. Commodities less food index and rates of change, 1967-76



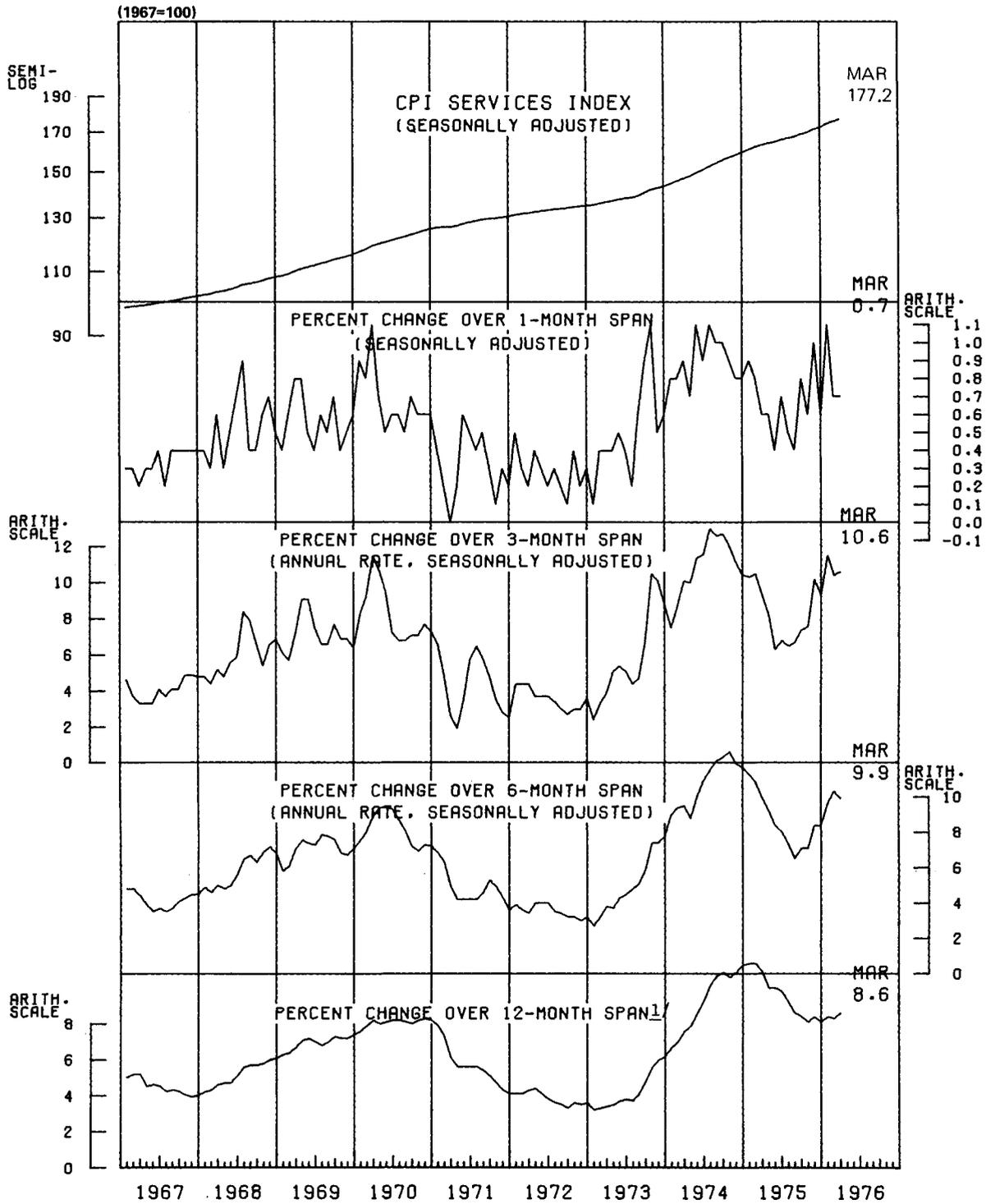
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 3. Total food index and rates of change, 1967-76



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 4. Services index and 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		Unadjusted percent change to		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
	December 1975	February, 1976	March 1976	March 1975	February 1976	December to January	January to February	February to March
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.000	167.1	167.5	6.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2
All items (1957-59=100)	-	194.4	194.8	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	63.355	162.3	162.3	4.7	0	.1	-.2	-.2
Food	24.675	180.0	178.7	4.3	-.7	-.2	-1.0	-.8
Food at home	19.524	179.6	177.7	3.7	-1.1	-.4	-1.5	-1.2
Cereals and bakery products	2.702	181.1	180.6	-4.5	-.3	.8	-1.3	-.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.641	183.0	180.2	11.4	-1.5	-2.2	-3.1	-2.1
Dairy products	2.876	168.5	167.9	8.0	-.4	2.2	-.6	-.3
Fruits and vegetables	3.103	173.2	173.6	3.7	.2	-.3	-1.7	-.5
Other foods at home	4.202	186.6	182.9	-3.8	-2.0	0	.2	-1.1
Food away from home	5.150	181.9	182.8	6.7	.5	.8	.8	.5
Commodities less food	38.681	152.7	153.3	5.0	.4	.2	.3	.3
Nondurables less food	22.872	155.2	155.5	4.5	.2	.2	.1	-.1
Apparel commodities	7.861	142.2	143.1	2.3	.6	.4	.2	0
Men's and boys'	2.475	143.9	145.4	2.9	1.0	.5	1.0	.3
Women's and girls'	3.426	138.2	138.5	1.8	.2	.8	-.8	-.4
Footwear	1.377	146.1	147.5	2.4	1.0	-.4	1.0	.5
Other apparel commodities	.584	150.2	150.9	1.8	.5	.1	.1	.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	15.011	162.9	162.8	5.6	-.1	.1	0	-.1
Gasoline and motor oil	3.498	173.1	170.9	6.5	-1.3	-1.6	-1.5	-1.7
Tobacco products	1.880	159.2	159.5	4.2	.2	1.1	.7	.2
Alcoholic beverages	2.244	144.4	145.2	2.7	.6	.4	.1	.7
Fuel oil and coal	1.045	249.4	247.6	8.5	-.7	-1.4	-.6	-.1
Other nondurables	6.343	157.1	157.7	5.8	.4	.8	.0	.4
Durable commodities	15.809	149.3	150.4	5.8	.7	.7	.8	.7
Household durables	4.495	144.0	144.8	4.7	.6	.3	.7	.3
New automobiles	1.910	134.3	134.5	5.7	.1	-.2	.5	.3
Used automobiles	2.046	144.9	150.9	11.5	4.1	.4	2.7	3.8
Other durables	7.358	158.7	159.0	5.1	.2	*.4	*.1	*.2
Services	36.645	176.1	177.2	8.6	.6	1.1	.7	.7
Rent	4.497	142.1	142.7	5.3	.4	.3	.6	.4
Services less rent	32.147	182.2	183.4	9.0	.7	1.2	.8	.8
Household services less rent	16.030	194.4	195.1	7.9	.4	1.0	.6	.6
Transportation services	5.012	168.9	171.1	15.4	1.3	2.2	1.3	1.3
Medical care services	5.642	190.4	192.5	10.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.0
Other services	5.463	157.4	158.4	5.5	.6	.8	.5	.6
Special indexes:								
All items less food	75.325	163.4	164.2	6.7	.5	*.3	*.5	*.5
Nondurable commodities	47.547	167.2	166.7	4.4	-.3	*.2	*.1	*.3
Apparel commodities less footwear	6.485	141.4	142.2	2.2	.6	.6	-.1	.1
Services less medical care services	31.002	173.8	174.8	8.3	.6	*1.0	*.6	*.6
Insurance and finance	9.808	193.5	194.1	10.0	.3	1.8	.6	.7
Utilities and public transportation	5.484	167.2	168.7	10.8	.9	-.2	.7	.9
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.649	203.9	205.6	8.2	.8	*1.9	*.5	*.8
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1.417	121.8	122.1	4.4	.2	.5	.5	.3
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.000	167.1	167.5	6.1	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.2
Food	24.675	180.0	178.7	4.3	-.7	-.2	-1.0	-.8
Housing	33.998	173.8	174.5	6.7	.4	*.6	*.3	*.4
Shelter ¹	21.370	176.0	176.3	5.8	.2	*.5	*.1	*.2
Rent	4.497	142.1	142.7	5.3	.4	.3	.6	.4
Homeownership ²	16.484	188.6	188.7	5.9	.1	*.5	*.1	*.1
Fuel and utilities ³	5.205	177.9	178.9	9.8	.6	-.4	.3	.8
Gas and electricity	2.722	181.9	183.7	12.0	1.0	-.6	1.1	1.1
Household furnishings and operation	7.422	165.2	166.6	7.1	.8	1.5	1.0	.7
Apparel and upkeep	9.217	144.0	145.0	2.9	.7	.6	0	.3
Transportation	13.053	158.5	159.8	10.4	.8	.3	.9	.4
Private	11.729	157.2	158.5	10.1	.8	.3	1.0	.4
Public	1.324	170.4	172.3	13.1	1.1	.4	.1	1.3
Health and recreation	18.681	159.7	160.6	6.3	.6	*.7	*.7	*.6
Medical care	6.413	178.8	180.6	9.7	1.0	*1.1	*1.2	*1.0
Personal care	2.505	157.0	157.4	5.7	.3	*.7	*.8	*.3
Reading and recreation	5.148	148.5	149.0	4.9	.3	.5	.3	.4
Other goods and services	4.616	151.3	151.8	3.6	.3	.7	.5	.3
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78.630	164.9	165.3	6.2	.2	*.2	*.3	*.2
All items less medical care	93.587	166.5	166.8	5.9	.2	*.2	*.2	*.2
All items less mortgage interest costs	95.610	164.9	165.3	6.2	.2	*.2	*.3	*.2
CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁴	17.148	176.9	174.8	3.7	-1.2	*.2	*.9	*1.2
CPI - selected beef cuts ⁵	2.056	169.4	165.4	9.1	-2.4	*.4	*.4	*.2
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967= \$1.00	-	\$.598	\$.597	-5.8	-.2	-	-	-
1957-59= \$1.00	-	.514	.513	-	-	-	-	-

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 services not shown separately.

⁴ Calculated from the CPI food at home component by excluding fish, nonalcoholic beverages, bananas, chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup and about half of the index weight for sugar.

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				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	December 1975	January 1976	February 1976	March 1976	3 months ending in			6 months ending in		
					June 1975	September 1975	December 1975	March 1976	September 1975	March 1976
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	7.0	7.4	7.3	2.9	7.2	5.1
Commodities	162.9	163.1	162.7	162.4	6.9	7.8	5.9	-1.2	7.4	2.3
Food	181.6	181.2	179.4	177.9	9.7	8.0	8.3	-7.9	8.9	-1.1
Food at home	182.1	181.4	178.6	176.5	11.3	8.2	8.6	-11.7	9.7	-2.1
Cereals and bakery products	180.6	182.0	179.7	178.6	-1.9	-4.9	-6.8	-4.4	-3.4	-5.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	192.9	188.6	182.8	178.9	52.2	20.7	13.0	-26.0	35.6	-8.6
Dairy products	164.1	167.7	166.7	166.2	0	11.9	15.8	5.2	5.8	10.4
Fruits and vegetables	177.8	177.2	174.2	173.4	3.6	8.8	13.4	-9.5	6.2	1.3
Other foods at home	183.4	183.4	183.8	181.8	-12.3	-3.0	4.3	-3.4	-7.8	.3
Food away from home	179.5	180.9	182.4	183.3	3.8	7.1	7.2	8.7	5.4	8.0
Commodities less food	152.8	153.1	153.5	153.9	5.3	7.5	4.3	2.9	6.4	3.6
Nondurables less food	155.3	155.6	155.7	155.6	4.9	8.2	4.2	.8	6.6	2.5
Apparel commodities ¹	142.7	143.3	143.6	143.6	-6	3.8	3.1	2.5	1.6	2.8
Men's and boys'	143.5	144.2	145.6	146.0	-1.4	3.2	3.1	7.2	.8	5.1
Women's and girls'	139.7	140.8	139.7	139.2	.3	5.1	3.2	-1.4	2.6	.9
Footwear	145.9	145.3	146.7	147.5	-3	1.4	4.2	4.5	.6	4.3
Other apparel commodities	150.0	150.6	150.8	151.2	0	1.9	2.2	3.2	.9	2.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	162.8	162.9	162.9	162.7	7.5	10.9	4.8	-2	9.2	2.2
Gasoline and motor oil	179.1	176.2	173.6	170.6	17.0	30.0	2.7	-17.7	23.3	-8.0
Tobacco products	156.7	158.4	159.5	159.8	.3	2.1	6.6	8.2	1.2	7.4
Alcoholic beverages	143.5	144.1	144.3	145.3	2.3	.3	3.1	5.1	1.3	4.1
Fuel oil and coal	247.5	244.0	242.6	242.3	14.5	28.8	2.1	-8.1	21.5	-3.1
Other nondurables	155.3	156.5	157.4	158.0	6.3	4.9	6.4	7.1	5.6	6.8
Durable commodities	149.2	149.7	150.6	151.7	6.3	6.2	4.4	6.9	6.2	5.6
Household durables	143.2	143.7	144.7	145.2	3.8	3.8	5.5	5.7	3.8	5.6
New automobiles	133.4	133.1	133.8	134.2	-3	6.1	14.4	2.4	3.2	8.2
Used automobiles	149.4	150.5	154.1	159.9	2.8	19.3	-3.7	31.2	10.7	12.4
Other durables (not seasonally adjusted)	158.1	158.8	158.7	159.0	9.9	4.7	3.6	2.3	7.3	3.0
Services (not seasonally adjusted)	172.8	174.7	176.0	177.2	6.8	7.4	9.3	10.6	7.1	9.9
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	140.7	141.1	142.0	142.6	4.5	4.8	6.5	5.5	4.6	6.0
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted)	178.5	180.7	182.1	183.5	7.1	7.7	9.7	11.7	7.4	10.7
Household services less rent	191.1	193.1	194.2	195.3	8.4	4.9	9.3	9.1	6.6	9.2
Transportation services	163.1	166.7	168.9	171.1	5.5	16.7	18.9	21.1	10.9	20.0
Medical care services	186.1	188.4	190.4	192.3	9.2	10.5	7.2	14.0	9.9	10.5
Other services (not seasonally adjusted)	155.6	156.8	157.6	158.6	3.2	5.7	5.6	7.9	4.4	6.8
Special indexes:										
All items less food (not seasonally adjusted)	162.1	162.6	163.4	164.2	7.2	7.6	6.7	5.3	7.4	6.0
Nondurable commodities (not seasonally adjusted)	167.6	167.3	167.2	166.7	6.9	7.6	5.4	-2.1	7.3	1.6
Apparel commodities less footwear	142.1	143.0	142.8	142.9	-3	4.1	3.2	2.3	1.9	2.7
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	171.1	172.8	173.8	174.8	5.8	8.1	10.5	8.9	6.9	9.7
Insurance and finance	188.3	191.7	192.9	194.3	8.4	2.9	15.3	13.4	5.6	14.3
Utilities and public transportation	165.6	165.3	166.4	167.9	11.8	18.6	7.3	5.7	15.2	6.5
Housekeeping and home maintenance service (not seasonally adjusted)	199.0	202.8	203.9	205.6	6.0	7.2	7.6	13.9	6.6	9.7
Appliances (including radio and TV)	120.6	121.2	121.8	122.2	4.2	4.5	3.7	5.4	4.3	4.6
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	7.0	7.4	7.3	2.9	7.2	5.1
Food	181.6	181.2	179.4	177.9	9.7	8.0	8.3	-7.9	8.9	-1.1
Housing (not seasonally adjusted)	172.2	173.2	173.8	174.5	7.0	6.1	8.0	5.5	6.6	6.7
Shelter ² (not seasonally adjusted)	175.0	175.9	176.0	176.3	6.9	5.3	8.2	3.0	6.1	5.6
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	140.7	141.1	142.0	142.6	4.5	4.8	6.5	5.5	4.6	6.0
Homeownership ² (not seasonally adjusted)	187.8	188.8	188.6	188.7	7.4	5.6	8.8	1.9	6.5	5.3
Fuel and utilities ³	176.3	175.6	176.1	177.5	13.5	14.1	9.1	2.8	13.8	5.9
Gas and electricity	179.6	178.6	180.5	182.4	16.7	15.2	9.9	6.4	15.9	8.1
Household furnishings and operation	162.0	164.4	166.0	167.1	5.0	4.6	5.9	13.2	4.8	9.5
Apparel and upkeep	144.1	145.0	145.0	145.4	0	4.0	3.7	3.7	2.0	3.7
Transportation	158.3	158.7	160.1	160.8	8.2	19.9	7.4	6.5	13.9	6.9
Private	157.0	157.4	158.9	159.5	9.1	16.9	8.0	6.5	13.0	7.3
Public	169.0	169.7	169.9	172.1	5.1	45.0	-2	7.5	23.4	3.6
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	157.5	158.6	159.7	160.6	5.7	5.9	5.5	8.1	5.8	6.8
Medical care (not seasonally adjusted)	174.7	176.6	178.8	180.6	8.8	10.1	5.9	14.2	9.4	10.0
Personal care (not seasonally adjusted)	154.6	155.7	157.0	157.4	3.8	4.9	6.7	7.4	4.3	7.1
Reading and recreation	147.6	148.3	148.8	149.4	4.0	5.1	5.3	5.0	4.5	5.1
Other goods and services	149.7	150.7	151.5	152.0	1.9	1.4	5.0	6.3	1.6	5.6
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter (not seasonally adjusted)	164.1	164.4	164.9	165.3	7.4	8.3	6.3	3.0	7.9	4.6
All items less medical care (not seasonally adjusted)	165.8	166.2	166.5	166.8	7.3	7.4	6.5	2.4	7.4	4.5
All items less mortgage interest costs (not seasonally adjusted)	164.0	164.4	164.9	165.3	7.7	7.8	6.1	3.2	7.7	4.6
CPI - domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) ⁴	178.8	178.5	176.9	174.8	10.9	8.3	5.6	-8.7	9.6	-1.8
CPI - selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) ⁵	175.9	176.6	169.4	165.4	88.8	1.4	-5.3	-21.8	38.3	-13.9

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown.

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

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

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

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

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 March 1976			Item and group	Index		Percent change to March 1976		
	March 1976		from—				March 1976		from—		
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Mar. 1975	Feb. 1976	Seasonally adjusted		Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	178.7	177.9	4.3	-0.7	-0.8	Food—Continued					
Food away from home	182.8	183.4	6.7	.5	.5	Food at home—Continued					
Restaurant meals	181.8	(1)	6.7	.6	(1)	Fruits and vegetables—Continued					
Snacks	187.8	188.4	6.8	.3	.5	Fresh fruits and vegetables—Continued					
Food at home	177.7	176.5	3.7	-1.1	-1.2	Fresh fruits—Continued					
Cereals and bakery products	180.6	178.6	-4.5	-.3	-.6	Oranges	143.8	149.5	-1.8	0.5	0.3
Flour	157.3	153.6	-7.7	-.3	-1.1	Orange juice, fresh	151.2	-	4.0	.1	-
Cracker meal	223.6	221.2	-3.3	-.2	-1.3	Grapefruit	136.4	153.8	-4.2	-.2	.1
Corn flakes	166.1	166.1	-.5	0	.4	Grapes	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Rice	203.4	198.6	-7.4	-.9	-.5	Strawberries	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Bread, white	162.2	(1)	-5.6	.1	(1)	Watermelon	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Bread, whole wheat	175.3	174.4	-.6	-.6	-.7	Fresh vegetables	179.1	172.5	8.4	-.1	-2.8
Cookies	188.5	(1)	-5.3	-.7	(1)	Potatoes	211.2	213.5	47.8	-1.4	-5.7
Layer cake	185.7	184.0	-4.7	.1	-.8	Onions	170.6	169.8	35.7	-8.3	-14.9
Cinnamon rolls	194.5	193.9	-4.1	-.4	.1	Asparagus	210.9	176.3	-3.2	(2)	(2)
Meats, poultry, and fish	180.2	178.9	11.4	-1.5	-2.1	Cabbage	155.1	146.5	-2.3	-8.2	-11.5
Meats	179.6	176.3	12.5	-1.8	-3.3	Carrots	146.4	143.4	-18.6	-3.0	-3.6
Beef and veal	164.7	160.8	7.4	-2.1	-4.7	Celery	189.4	192.3	33.7	-15.4	-13.5
Steak, round	164.7	159.4	7.8	-2.9	-4.8	Cucumbers	195.1	149.7	-17.3	16.5	7.0
Steak, sirloin	160.5	158.6	11.7	-2.8	-5.0	Lettuce	138.5	-	-6.2	-2.5	-
Steak, porterhouse	175.1	174.8	17.6	-2.7	-3.5	Peppers, green	161.5	156.5	-10.0	2.7	3.3
Rump roast	161.2	156.7	5.9	-2.5	-4.0	Spinach	188.3	186.6	3.9	-2.2	-1.6
Rib roast	186.6	184.6	14.2	-3.9	-5.2	Tomatoes	162.2	152.0	-7.6	6.0	10.4
Chuck roast	169.7	161.9	9.3	-2.5	-5.2	Processed fruits and vegetables	186.1	184.8	4.1	-.2	-.5
Hamburger	159.9	155.4	6.5	-1.1	-4.5	Fruit cocktail, canned	174.2	173.7	-2.5	-5	-.5
Beef liver	132.3	131.4	-8.4	-.9	-2.4	Pears, canned	157.9	157.7	-5.1	-1.0	-.9
Veal cutlets	186.7	185.0	.8	-.3	-1.8	Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned	173.6	173.6	2.1	.6	.8
Pork	204.3	202.3	19.8	-2.0	-1.5	Orange juice concentrate, frozen	158.9	(1)	4.2	-.2	(1)
Chops	189.3	187.4	18.8	-.5	-.1	Lemonade concentrate, frozen	191.0	189.5	1.5	.2	-.1
Loin roast	207.6	203.1	24.8	-.8	-2.2	Beets, canned	185.2	(1)	-2.3	-.2	(1)
Sausage	226.7	225.3	19.4	-3.3	-4.0	Peas, green, canned	157.4	156.8	-3.0	-.5	-.2
Ham, whole	203.7	199.9	23.2	-1.7	-1.6	Tomatoes, canned	177.1	(1)	1.7	-.4	(1)
Picnics	200.3	195.4	25.3	-3.0	-4.4	Dried beans	311.1	(1)	31.2	.9	(1)
Bacon	209.5	209.5	14.4	-3.2	-1.6	Broccoli, frozen	155.4	(1)	1.1	-1.1	(1)
Other meats	177.7	176.6	11.9	-.6	-1.0	Other food at home	182.9	181.8	-3.8	-2.0	-1.1
Lamb chops	177.6	175.8	9.6	-.4	-1.2	Eggs	160.4	158.7	4.5	-13.3	-6.9
Frankfurters	169.6	167.9	11.0	-.2	-1.8	Fats and oils:	175.0	173.3	-17.9	-1.4	-2.0
Ham, canned	210.2	206.7	26.2	-1.0	-1.1	Margarine	191.3	189.2	-23.1	-1.5	-1.9
Bologna sausage	174.2	173.5	7.9	-.9	-1.6	Salad dressing, Italian	152.9	151.8	-3.0	-.1	-.7
Salami sausage	166.0	166.2	7.5	.2	-.4	Salad or cooking oil	182.1	180.7	-22.3	-2.2	-3.2
Liverwurst	168.0	168.0	8.1	-1.2	-1.0	Sugar and sweets	222.4	(1)	-17.5	-.7	(1)
Poultry	157.7	157.9	3.9	-1.3	-2.7	Sugar	210.4	(1)	-48.8	-.8	(1)
Frying chicken	160.5	160.5	3.5	-1.0	-3.3	Grape jelly	222.9	(1)	-3.8	-.6	(1)
Chicken breasts	160.5	161.0	6.6	-2.3	-3.6	Chocolate bar	240.4	(1)	.7	-.6	(1)
Turkey	142.0	142.4	2.7	-2.0	-3.9	Syrup, chocolate flavored	213.9	208.7	-1.2	-.8	-1.6
Fish	219.3	(1)	11.3	0	(1)	Nonalcoholic beverages	193.0	(1)	8.5	.7	(1)
Shrimp, frozen	213.3	(1)	30.7	1.1	(1)	Coffee	202.1	(1)	20.9	1.5	(1)
Fish, fresh or frozen	234.4	(1)	8.1	-.7	(1)	Coffee, instant	205.8	206.6	18.7	1.2	1.3
Tuna fish, canned	182.8	181.9	2.3	.2	.1	Tea	147.7	147.3	3.8	-.5	-.7
Sardines, canned	245.1	245.3	7.3	-.4	-.2	Carbonated drink, cola flavored	192.8	(1)	-8.0	-.6	(1)
Dairy products	167.9	166.2	8.0	-.4	-.3	Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	197.4	(1)	-6.0	0	(1)
Milk, fresh, grocery	160.7	158.5	4.8	0	-.2	Prepared and partially prepared foods	167.3	(1)	1.6	-.1	(1)
Milk, fresh, skim	176.5	174.4	5.5	.7	.5	Bean soup, canned	206.5	(1)	9.5	.5	(1)
Milk, evaporated	203.3	-	11.3	.8	-	Chicken soup, canned	134.3	133.8	-.7	1.0	.8
Ice cream	156.7	155.9	2.9	-1.0	-1.0	Spaghetti, canned	160.1	160.6	-1.4	-2.1	-1.4
Cheese, American process	196.6	194.5	16.5	-1.2	-.9	Mashed potatoes, instant	154.3	154.9	-1.2	-1.0	-.8
Butter	142.9	142.9	23.9	-4.4	-3.7	Potatoes, french fried, frozen	176.1	177.7	3.9	-.7	-1.0
Fruits and vegetables	173.6	173.4	3.7	.2	-.5	Potatoes, fresh	162.3	(1)	.6	.7	(1)
Fresh fruits and vegetables	165.2	165.7	3.3	.5	-1.1	Sweet pickle relish	183.8	180.4	5.7	.9	.1
Fresh fruits	148.1	157.4	-3.5	1.3	1.7	Pretzels	159.9	159.7	-5.2	-1.1	-.4
Apples	141.5	151.0	-5.4	3.1	2.6						
Bananas	151.6	157.9	2.9	0	.6						

¹ Not available.

² Priced only in season.

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 March 1976 from—	
		February 1976	March 1976	March 1975	February 1976
Housing		173.8	174.5	6.7	0.4
Shelter ¹		176.0	176.3	5.8	.2
Rent, residential		142.1	142.7	5.3	.4
Homeownership ²		188.6	188.7	5.9	.1
Mortgage interest rates		143.7	142.7	0	-.7
Property taxes		166.9	167.2	7.0	.2
Property insurance premiums		139.2	139.8	8.9	.4
Maintenance and repairs		193.7	194.7	5.8	.5
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		164.6	165.0	4.2	.2
Exterior house paint		162.0	160.9	3.7	-.7
Interior house paint		149.4	149.6	2.8	.1
Maintenance and repair services		206.3	207.6	6.4	.6
Repainting living and dining rooms		219.2	220.3	7.6	.5
Reshingling house roof		226.8	227.6	6.7	.4
Residing house		192.6	194.2	5.0	.8
Replacing sink		204.3	206.1	7.0	.9
Repairing furnace		200.7	201.3	6.6	.3
Fuel and utilities		177.9	178.9	9.8	.6
Fuel oil and coal		249.4	247.6	8.5	-.7
Fuel oil, No. 2		245.6	243.8	9.3	-.7
Gas and electricity		181.9	183.7	12.0	1.0
Gas		191.8	193.6	18.1	.9
Electricity		172.6	174.6	6.5	1.2
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		128.1	128.9	4.5	.6
Residential water and sewerage services		182.8	183.8	10.7	.5
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		165.2	166.6	7.1	.8
Housefurnishings		148.5	149.5	5.0	.7
Textiles		145.4	147.4	4.3	1.4
Sheets, full, flat		158.5	158.9	9.1	.3
Curtains, tailored		139.8	143.6	8.1	2.7
Bedsprads		144.1	147.2	3.2	2.2
Drapery fabrics		172.2	174.4	4.4	1.3
Pillows, bed		122.0	124.1	2.1	1.7
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		135.4	135.3	2.9	-.1
Furniture and bedding		150.0	151.0	4.9	.7
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	130.0	131.4	3.5	1.1
Sofas, upholstered		139.6	139.5	1.6	-.1
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	129.4	129.9	5.9	.4
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	133.5	134.9	4.2	1.0
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	109.6	112.4	1.7	2.6
Sofas, dual purpose		138.4	139.5	3.4	.8
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	132.6	132.5	3.4	-.1
Aluminum folding chairs	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Cribs		151.2	151.7	2.5	.3
Floor coverings		134.3	135.6	5.5	1.0
Broadloom carpeting		122.5	123.7	4.6	1.0
Vinyl sheet goods		160.6	163.0	9.6	1.5
Vinyl floor tile		162.9	163.4	4.9	.3
Appliances (excluding radio and TV)		132.9	133.3	5.7	.3
Washing machines, electric		137.9	139.2	7.7	.9
Vacuum cleaners		118.5	119.5	4.0	.8
Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric		133.4	133.0	5.1	-.3
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		136.6	137.1	7.5	.4
Clothes dryers, electric		144.0	145.7	8.7	1.2
Air conditioners, demountable	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable		128.7	126.2	4.1	-1.9
Garbage disposal units		132.0	133.0	5.0	.8
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		186.3	188.4	10.3	1.1
Flatware, stainless steel		182.2	182.9	6.6	.4
Table lamps, with shade		148.2	148.0	2.8	-.1
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		157.0	162.2	8.9	3.3
Electric drills, hand-held		128.3	128.4	6.6	.1
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		169.9	173.0	8.1	1.8
Paper napkins		215.9	217.7	8.0	.8
Toilet tissue		225.3	226.7	13.6	.6
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		207.6	209.2	8.2	.8
Baby sitter services		204.2	211.2	13.8	3.4
Postal charges		218.1	218.1	24.4	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		198.6	200.2	8.9	.8
Licensed day care services, preschool child		160.3	161.2	6.3	.6
Washing machine repairs		195.7	198.7	7.8	1.5

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 March 1976 from—	
		February 1976	March 1976	March 1975	February 1976
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		144.0	145.0	2.9	0.7
Apparel commodities		142.2	143.1	2.3	.6
Apparel commodities less footwear		141.4	142.2	2.2	.6
Men's and boys'		143.9	145.4	2.9	1.0
Men's:					
Topcoats and all-weather coats		144.8	146.0	4.1	.8
Suits, year round weight		138.7	141.5	3.0	2.0
Sport jackets	June 74	99.2	98.9	-2.1	-.3
Jackets, lightweight		136.9	138.3	3.7	1.0
Slacks, heavyweight		117.7	120.4	1.9	2.3
Slacks, lightweight		143.6	144.5	1.3	.6
Trousers, work		155.8	157.1	3.8	.8
Shirts, work		154.6	154.4	2.0	-.1
Shirts, business or dress		128.0	130.4	3.0	1.9
T-shirts		155.8	158.1	2.6	1.5
Socks		133.1	133.8	4.6	.5
Handkerchiefs		158.0	160.6	4.8	1.6
Boys':					
Coats, heavyweight		111.9	111.6	2.6	-.3
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		124.3	123.8	4.3	-.4
Dungarees		182.1	183.8	6.4	.9
Undershorts		152.3	155.0	1.9	1.8
Women's and girls'		138.2	138.5	1.8	.2
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight		129.0	126.2	4.1	-2.2
Carcoats, heavyweight		138.5	134.1	(7)	-3.2
Sweaters		136.0	132.4	-3.8	-2.6
Skirts, winter weight		150.5	152.6	3.1	1.4
Skirts, summer weight		148.4	149.0	-.9	.4
Blouses		137.7	139.9	-2.8	1.6
Dresses, street, year round weight		146.9	146.9	1.7	0
Slips		122.3	123.9	5.5	1.3
Panties		144.3	147.8	7.6	2.4
Girdles		131.2	132.4	5.1	.9
Brassieres		147.2	148.0	5.9	.5
Hose or panty hose, nylon		91.2	91.9	0	.8
Anklets or knee-length socks		134.0	133.9	2.3	-.1
Gloves, fabric		128.3	128.6	5	.2
Handbags		166.7	167.9	-2.0	.7
Girls':					
Raincoats		127.8	128.2	-.9	.3
Skirts, fall and winter		148.6	150.8	14.1	1.5
Dresses		129.9	131.6	-2.3	1.3
Slacks, fall and winter		165.8	166.0	-1.2	-.1
Slips		131.1	130.7	4.3	-.3
Handbags		137.7	135.5	-2.9	-1.6
Other apparel commodities		150.2	150.9	1.8	.5
Diapers		183.3	185.6	3.1	1.3
Yard goods		157.2	157.9	-2.5	.4
Wrist watches, men's and women's		138.7	138.9	4.2	.1
Footwear		146.1	147.5	2.4	1.0
Men's:					
Shoes, street		147.6	150.8	1.9	2.2
Shoes, work, high		164.4	166.7	5.2	1.4
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		140.9	141.7	1.9	.6
Shoes, evening, pump		131.8	132.4	.2	.5
Shoes, casual		147.4	148.5	1.9	.7
Houseslippers, scuff		143.8	144.6	4.6	.6
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		146.9	149.1	3.6	1.5
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		150.3	150.5	1.2	.1
Dress shoes, girls'		157.1	158.3	4.1	.8
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning		157.0	158.6	6.8	1.0
Automatic laundry service		140.5	142.5	7.9	1.4
Laundry, men's shirts		160.5	160.0	5.8	-.3
Tailoring charges		157.7	158.9	4.4	.8
Shoe repairs		145.7	146.8	5.7	.8
Transportation		158.5	159.8	10.4	.8
Private ⁸		157.2	158.5	10.1	.8
Automobiles, new		134.3	134.5	5.7	.1
Automobiles, used		144.9	150.9	11.5	4.1
Gasoline, regular, premium and unleaded		174.2	171.9	6.8	-1.3
Motor oil		158.0	158.1	2.9	.1
Tires		130.4	130.2	3.6	-.2
Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance ⁹		185.6	186.6	7.3	.5
Auto insurance premiums		177.6	182.1	30.8	2.5
Auto registration fees		132.8	132.8	1.8	0
Parking fees, private and municipal		179.4	179.6	6.7	.1

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 March 1976 from—	
		February 1976	March 1976	March 1975	February 1976
Transportation—Continued					
Public					
Local transit fares		170.4	172.3	13.1	1.1
Taxicab fares		170.4	172.3	16.6	1.1
Railroad fares, coach		173.3	174.7	5.3	.8
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		158.1	161.5	7.6	2.2
Bus fares, intercity		165.6	168.2	9.0	1.6
		192.6	192.6	9.7	0
Health and recreation¹⁰					
Medical care		159.7	160.6	6.3	.6
Drugs and prescriptions		178.8	180.6	9.7	1.0
Over-the-counter items		123.3	123.9	6.1	.5
Multiple vitamin concentrates		135.4	136.1	6.7	.5
Aspirin compounds		105.0	104.8	3.1	-.2
Liquid tonics		137.1	137.6	6.3	.4
Adhesive bandages, packages		119.4	119.4	4.8	0
Cold tablets or capsules		172.7	176.0	10.7	1.9
Cough syrup		128.6	129.3	3.9	.5
Prescriptions		142.3	141.5	8.0	-.6
Anti-infectives		113.1	113.7	5.6	.5
Sedatives and hypnotics		72.1	72.4	2.7	.4
Ataractics		160.0	160.8	5.2	.5
Antispasmodics		110.6	110.6	4.9	0
Cough preparations		132.0	133.3	12.3	1.0
Cardiovascular and antihypertensives		173.1	178.1	9.7	2.9
Analgesics, internal		119.8	120.1	1.3	.3
Anti-obesities		120.5	120.5	2.8	0
Hormones		(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
		108.7	109.4	8.2	.6
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		181.9	184.3	11.7	1.3
General physician, office visits		187.1	189.3	11.5	1.2
General physician, house visits		184.1	185.6	11.5	.8
Obstetrical cases		183.0	187.8	17.2	2.6
Pediatric care, office visits		186.3	189.0	12.9	1.4
Psychiatrist, office visits		161.1	162.6	9.3	.9
Herniorrhaphy, adult		161.3	164.3	10.7	1.9
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		171.7	175.1	10.5	2.0
Dentists' fees		168.2	169.4	6.7	.7
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		173.4	174.7	7.1	.7
Extractions, adult		166.9	168.1	6.5	.7
Dentures, full upper		158.9	159.9	6.2	.6
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		156.0	156.7	6.7	.4
Routine laboratory tests		154.9	158.0	6.7	2.0
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	144.1	145.4	13.2	.9
Semiprivate rooms		259.2	261.5	14.8	.9
Operating room charges		263.2	265.9	14.3	1.0
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI		168.5	169.8	12.2	.8
Laboratory tests		137.3	140.8	11.7	2.5
Anti-infectives	Jan. 72	121.2	120.7	11.1	-.4
Tranquilizers	Jan. 72	127.3	128.0	10.2	.5
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	134.1	135.0	8.7	.7
Intravenous solution	Jan. 72	139.9	141.7	11.8	1.3
Physical therapy	Jan. 72	144.4	145.2	9.8	.6
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	128.0	129.4	9.2	1.1
Personal care					
Toilet goods		157.0	157.4	5.7	.3
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		156.2	155.8	5.1	-.3
Toilet soap, hard-milled		136.3	137.1	6.5	.6
Hand lotions		194.9	193.7	-1.7	-.6
Shaving cream		160.0	159.9	8.4	-.1
Face powder		132.7	131.1	6.1	-1.2
Deodorants		160.2	160.6	6.5	.2
Cleansing tissues		119.4	116.1	-1.9	-2.8
Home permanent wave kits		213.4	214.3	10.0	.4
Personal care services		125.8	126.7	8.7	.7
Men's haircuts		157.8	159.0	6.4	.8
Beauty shop services		158.5	159.9	4.9	.9
Women's haircuts		157.3	158.5	7.6	.8
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		178.2	179.9	12.5	1.0
Permanent waves, cold		158.7	160.1	6.2	.9
Reading and recreation¹¹					
Recreational goods		133.1	133.4	5.2	.2
TV sets, portable and console		148.5	149.0	4.0	.3
TV replacement tubes		126.0	126.2	3.5	.2
Radios, portable and table models		103.1	103.1	2.3	0
Tape recorders, portable		164.5	165.3	6.6	.5
Phonograph records, stereophonic		104.8	105.2	1.4	.4
Movie cameras, 8mm		94.9	95.5	.1	.6
Film, 35mm, color		124.0	124.0	2.1	0
Golf balls		95.3	95.4	1.4	.1
		120.9	122.0	2.3	.9
		104.2	103.1	-.5	-1.1

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 March 1976 from—	
		February 1976	March 1976	March 1975	February 1976
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation—Continued					
Recreational goods—Continued					
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		147.8	147.2	3.4	-0.4
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		123.5	124.0	4.8	.4
Bowling balls		128.6	129.2	3.6	.5
Bicycles, boys ¹		143.1	143.2	1.0	.1
Tricycles		147.0	147.2	10.2	.1
Dog food, canned or boxed		170.3	169.7	1.3	-.4
Recreational services		152.1	153.0	3.4	.6
Indoor movie admissions		173.3	174.4	3.2	.6
Adult		168.4	169.3	2.3	.5
Children's		187.3	188.7	5.5	.7
Drive-in movie admissions		175.6	176.7	2.3	.6
Bowling fees, evening		145.4	145.5	5.6	.1
Golf green fees		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
TV repair		106.4	106.3	1.0	-.1
Film developing		123.6	124.0	.6	.3
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		179.3	180.6	4.9	.7
Magazines, single copy and subscription		177.8	177.8	24.2	0
Piano lessons, beginner		142.9	143.1	3.3	.1
Other goods and services		151.3	151.8	3.6	.3
Tobacco products		159.2	159.5	4.2	.2
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		161.5	161.7	4.3	.1
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		162.0	162.1	4.0	.1
Cigars, domestic, regular size		127.7	128.4	4.5	.5
Alcoholic beverages		144.4	145.2	2.7	.6
Beer, at home		141.4	142.5	1.2	.8
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		115.8	115.6	1.8	-.2
Wine, dessert and table		155.9	156.1	2.2	.1
Beer, away from home		161.4	162.6	4.8	.7
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		148.3	148.6	4.8	.2
Bank service charges, checking account		124.2	124.8	6.8	.5
Legal services, short form will		194.9	197.9	7.9	1.5

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

⁴ Also includes window shades, nails, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelops, 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, 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)

Area ¹	Pricing schedule ²	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases	March 1975	December 1975	February 1976
		March 1976			March 1975	December 1975	February 1976
U.S. city average	M	167.5	194.8		6.1	0.7	0.2
Chicago	M	162.0	184.1		4.1	.4	.3
Detroit	M	165.8	190.5		5.5	.6	-.1
Los Angeles—Long Beach	M	163.9	192.8		6.3	.1	.1
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	M	173.9	207.0		6.4	.9	.2
Philadelphia	M	169.7	198.2		5.3	.7	0
January 1976							
Boston	1	³ 171.9	³ 205.9		9.9	4.3	
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							
Buffalo	2	167.2		⁴ 183.7	6.1	0.8	
Cleveland	2	165.1	186.4		4.7	.4	
Dallas	2	163.7		⁴ 177.0	6.3	.8	
Milwaukee	2	162.5	183.5		6.8	.6	
San Diego	2	167.3		⁵ 175.9	6.4	1.5	
Seattle	2	161.7	190.0		6.5	1.3	
Washington	2	167.0	194.5		5.8	1.0	
March 1976							
Atlanta	3	166.6	191.6		5.1	0.2	
Baltimore	3	170.4	197.8		4.6	1.2	
Cincinnati	3	⁶ 167.1	⁷ 189.7		7.3	1.5	
Honolulu	3	160.5		⁸ 173.0	6.0	.8	
Kansas City	3	163.4	194.0		5.6	.2	
St. Louis	3	162.7	190.0		6.8	1.5	
San Francisco—Oakland	3	165.5	196.9		6.1	.8	

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

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

- M — Every month.
- 1 — January, April, July, and October.
- 2 — February, May, August, and November.
- 3 — March, June, September, and December.

³ Revised indexes.

⁴ November 1963=100.

⁵ February 1965=100.

⁶ Revised indexes for March 1975, 155.8; June 1975, 160.6; annual average 1975, 160.3.

⁷ Revised indexes for March 1975, 176.9; June 1975, 182.3; annual average 1975, 182.0.

⁸ December 1963=100.

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

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

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

Expenditure class	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items	0.2	0.3	-0.1	0.1	0.2	0
Food	-.7	-.8	-1.1	-.8	-.8	-1.2
Housing . . . . .	.4	.5	-.1	-.2	.3	.2
Apparel and upkeep . . . . .	.7	.7	.3	1.8	.1	.7
Transportation . . . . .	.8	.6	.2	.5	1.8	1.3
Health and recreation . . . . .	.6	1.1	.4	.6	.6	0
Medical care	1.0	1.8	.4	.3	.8	.3
Personal care . . . . .	.3	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation . . . . .	.3	1.1	.5	.2	.1	-.3
Other goods and services . . . . .	.3	.4	.2	1.2	.6	.1

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 (March 1976)						
All items	167.5	162.0	165.8	163.9	173.9	169.7
Food	178.7	177.3	173.6	170.9	183.2	184.6
Food at home	177.7	176.4	171.7	170.5	183.5	182.3
Cereals and bakery products	180.6	181.5	181.7	178.0	183.0	181.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	180.2	182.6	171.9	176.6	180.7	184.8
Dairy products	167.9	159.0	169.0	155.5	171.8	168.8
Fruits and vegetables	173.6	169.1	160.1	159.0	189.8	184.6
Other food at home	182.9	181.8	177.0	176.4	192.2	188.1
Food away from home	182.8	180.9	182.3	172.1	182.6	194.4
Housing	174.5	160.1	169.7	172.4	180.5	176.9
Shelter	176.3	160.3	173.9	177.5	179.9	185.6
Rent, residential	142.7	136.3	(²)	141.2	(²)	153.1
Homeownership	188.7	171.1	180.8	188.9	194.4	194.1
Fuel and utilities	178.9	161.2	176.5	160.9	200.2	172.7
Fuel oil and coal	247.6	234.9	242.8	-	257.1	237.8
Gas and electricity	183.7	166.2	190.4	186.0	216.6	177.0
Household furnishings and operation	166.6	158.9	151.9	160.0	170.5	163.7
Apparel and upkeep	145.0	136.4	141.0	138.6	142.6	138.0
Men's and boys'	145.4	133.5	149.1	131.4	142.0	145.8
Women's and girls'	138.5	131.0	129.0	134.8	135.0	120.1
Footwear	147.5	139.5	148.2	143.3	143.6	148.8
Transportation	159.8	160.3	154.6	160.0	180.9	160.4
Private	158.5	159.3	153.5	162.1	168.9	161.9
Public	172.3	166.6	167.8	120.4	226.8	152.0
Health and recreation	160.6	162.0	170.7	156.5	166.8	164.4
Medical care	180.6	184.3	203.8	181.4	195.4	194.9
Personal care	157.4	152.9	(²)	145.6	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	149.0	150.9	150.8	138.9	152.2	149.5
Other goods and services	151.8	154.3	155.4	148.0	156.9	154.5
Percent changes December 1975 to March 1976						
All items	0.7	0.4	0.6	0.1	0.9	0.7
Food	-1.1	-2.0	-1.8	-2.5	-1.0	-2.2
Food at home	-1.8	-2.8	-2.6	-3.9	-1.8	-6.6
Cereals and bakery products	-0.9	-0.7	-1.6	-2.1	-2.8	-0.2
Meats, poultry, and fish	-4.8	-5.4	-5.9	-5.6	-4.4	-4.0
Dairy products	1.5	1.1	1.0	-0.8	0.8	3.7
Fruits and vegetables	0.9	-2.7	2.1	-4.4	2.8	3.5
Other food at home	-1.6	-1.2	-2.9	-4.3	-1.6	-1.7
Food away from home	1.6	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.4	1.3
Housing	1.3	1.1	0.7	0.1	1.3	1.3
Shelter	0.7	0.4	0.3	-0.4	0.8	0.5
Rent, residential	1.5	3.7	(²)	3.1	(²)	3.9
Homeownership	0.5	-0.1	0.3	-1.2	0.2	0.2
Fuel and utilities	1.6	3.0	0.6	-0.9	2.4	1.6
Fuel oil and coal	-0.4	-3.0	-1.6	-	0.6	-1.2
Gas and electricity	2.6	6.5	0.8	-1.2	5.2	3.8
Household furnishings and operation	2.8	2.5	1.8	2.8	2.1	2.6
Apparel and upkeep	-0.1	-1.0	0.6	0.4	0.1	-0.4
Men's and boys'	0.8	0.5	3.5	0.6	2.2	3.3
Women's and girls'	-2.5	-3.8	-1.5	-0.4	-2.2	-5.4
Footwear	1.2	-0.1	-0.7	0.8	2.4	1.5
Transportation	1.4	1.8	0.6	0.9	2.0	1.1
Private	1.5	2.0	0.5	1.0	2.4	1.3
Public	1.3	0.3	2.4	1.2	0.8	0.3
Health and recreation	2.0	2.5	3.1	2.6	2.5	1.2
Medical care	3.4	4.5	4.0	3.9	3.9	1.6
Personal care	1.8	1.5	(²)	1.2	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation	1.0	2.0	2.9	1.7	1.1	1.1
Other goods and services	1.3	1.2	2.6	2.0	0.6	0.9

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	St. Louis	San Francisco—Oakland
	Indexes (March 1976)						
All items	166.6	170.4	⁴ 167.1	160.5	163.4	162.7	165.5
Food	184.2	181.9	180.6	182.6	180.3	178.4	172.2
Food at home	184.3	180.9	183.3	180.0	180.5	178.2	174.3
Cereals and bakery products	183.9	176.0	190.8	179.8	180.1	193.9	177.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	183.0	184.8	188.2	183.6	178.7	178.7	182.8
Dairy products	180.8	168.2	170.3	175.9	183.4	170.1	157.4
Fruits and vegetables	183.8	176.2	176.2	175.9	169.2	173.8	163.7
Other food at home	188.9	189.5	188.1	180.5	189.4	177.1	179.3
Food away from home	183.9	185.6	170.4	190.0	179.8	179.4	164.8
Housing	172.8	181.3	⁵ 170.9	152.6	166.7	165.2	174.0
Shelter	176.9	189.1	⁶ 175.1	153.6	171.1	⁷ 163.5	178.8
Rent, residential	130.6	132.8	123.0	154.8	122.3	119.0	150.4
Homeownership	190.6	212.6	⁸ 199.6	152.8	⁹ 190.3	¹⁰ 176.4	193.2
Fuel and utilities	167.6	173.7	177.4	142.2	154.7	168.1	159.0
Fuel oil and coal	-	243.5	-	-	-	260.7	-
Gas and electricity	178.5	175.4	179.5	158.0	172.1	169.6	179.9
Household furnishings and operation	166.4	168.6	156.2	155.5	162.8	166.7	165.7
Apparel and upkeep	141.5	151.6	151.2	145.1	146.9	140.2	145.5
Men's and boys'	150.9	154.3	147.9	142.9	148.1	137.0	149.9
Women's and girls'	131.4	136.0	148.5	132.8	143.3	134.6	142.0
Footwear	126.3	160.7	159.4	143.3	155.8	150.2	143.6
Transportation	148.6	154.2	148.4	151.5	154.9	153.1	159.7
Private	152.7	154.0	154.0	156.6	155.1	157.3	160.3
Public	94.5	154.5	¹¹ 105.3	123.9	150.3	103.1	148.3
Health and recreation	164.8	162.0	165.7	157.7	156.6	156.6	158.0
Medical care	193.7	187.9	193.4	177.2	170.3	165.2	178.8
Personal care	161.9	154.4	156.2	167.2	158.7	159.0	155.9
Reading and recreation	149.7	147.3	143.1	155.6	141.9	146.3	143.9
Other goods and services	140.5	157.3	163.3	133.6	156.2	154.2	144.2
	Percent changes December 1975 to March 1976						
All items	0.2	1.2	1.5	0.8	0.2	1.5	0.8
Food	-1.9	-.5	-.2	.2	-2.0	-.4	-2.1
Food at home	-2.6	-.8	-.6	.1	-2.7	-.8	-3.2
Cereals and bakery products	-.8	-.5	1.1	-1.3	-1.3	.5	.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	-8.3	-3.8	-2.3	-1.2	-6.4	-3.9	-5.6
Dairy products	5.5	5.3	.1	2.1	1.0	2.6	-1.7
Fruits and vegetables	-.8	1.0	.1	1.3	-1.3	2.2	-1.6
Other food at home	-1.2	-.7	.1	1.7	-2.0	-1.9	-3.7
Food away from home	.7	.7	1.4	.4	.7	1.4	2.4
Housing	1.1	1.7	1.9	0	-.9	2.9	1.4
Shelter	.1	.7	1.2	-.6	-.1	2.0	1.0
Rent, residential	.2	1.5	.4	1.4	.8	.8	1.2
Homeownership	-.1	.4	1.6	-1.9	-.7	2.3	.8
Fuel and utilities	2.0	5.8	3.7	-.7	1.6	4.2	.1
Fuel oil and coal	-	-.7	-	-	-	1.3	-
Gas and electricity	3.3	8.3	6.2	-.7	2.4	6.1	0
Household furnishings and operation	2.9	1.8	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.3	3.4
Apparel and upkeep	.9	2.2	2.8	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.0
Men's and boys'	1.3	2.9	2.7	3.1	1.6	.9	2.5
Women's and girls'	-1.3	1.9	2.2	.4	2.1	2.5	.1
Footwear	1.6	1.4	3.9	1.6	2.3	1.8	1.6
Transportation	.3	2.3	-.1	1.1	.1	.9	1.7
Private	.3	.5	-.2	1.4	.1	1.0	1.6
Public	0	16.8	.4	0	.6	.4	1.2
Health and recreation	1.0	1.3	3.5	2.1	1.5	2.0	2.3
Medical care	2.4	2.4	6.7	4.1	3.0	3.3	4.0
Personal care	1.1	.9	1.9	2.1	1.3	.3	.8
Reading and recreation	-.3	0	1.5	-.9	.7	1.0	1.1
Other goods and services	0	1.6	2.3	-.9	.5	2.1	1.5

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

³ Change from January 1976.

⁴ Revised indexes: March 1975, 155.8; June 1975, 160.6; 1975 annual average, 160.3.

⁵ Revised indexes: March 1975, 154.3; June 1975, 164.2; 1975 annual average, 162.1.

⁶ Revised indexes: March 1975, 153.6; June 1975, 168.2; 1975 annual average, 165.3.

⁷ Revised indexes: June 1975, 157.2; September 1975, 159.7; December 1975, 160.3; 1975 annual average, 155.5.

⁸ Revised indexes: March 1975, 169.7; June 1975, 191.0; September 1975, 197.4; December 1975, 196.4; 1975 annual average, 186.2.

⁹ Revised indexes: June 1975, 181.2; September 1975, 184.5; December 1975, 191.6; 1975 annual average, 182.0.

¹⁰ Revised indexes: June 1975, 169.2; September 1975, 172.1; December 1975, 172.5; 1975 annual average, 166.9.

¹¹ Revised indexes: September 1975, 104.5; December 1975, 104.8; 1975 annual average, 104.5.

Table 8. CPI—food groups, selected areas

(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 (March 1976)								
U.S. city average	178.7	177.7	180.6	180.2	167.9	173.6	182.9	182.8
Atlanta	184.2	184.3	183.9	183.0	180.8	183.8	188.9	183.9
Baltimore	181.9	180.9	176.0	184.8	168.2	176.2	189.5	185.6
Boston	182.1	181.2	185.2	183.6	162.3	183.8	186.9	185.5
Buffalo	177.5	176.7	187.0	180.2	164.0	168.7	181.0	182.1
Chicago	177.3	176.4	181.5	182.6	159.0	169.1	181.8	180.9
Cincinnati	180.6	183.3	190.8	188.2	170.3	176.2	188.1	170.4
Cleveland	182.2	182.2	188.2	181.2	172.6	180.0	188.4	182.7
Dallas	174.6	170.8	175.6	171.7	161.2	167.4	174.6	188.4
Detroit	173.6	171.7	181.7	171.9	169.0	160.1	177.0	182.3
Honolulu	182.6	180.0	179.8	183.6	175.9	175.9	180.5	190.0
Houston	185.3	181.7	183.6	186.8	178.7	174.5	180.2	198.3
Kansas City	180.3	180.5	180.1	178.7	183.4	169.2	189.4	179.8
Los Angeles—Long Beach	170.9	170.5	178.0	176.6	155.5	159.0	176.4	172.1
Milwaukee	176.5	176.4	182.9	179.5	169.1	172.8	176.2	176.4
Minneapolis—St. Paul	185.1	180.9	189.6	184.7	181.4	170.3	179.4	203.3
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	183.2	183.5	183.0	180.7	171.8	189.8	192.2	182.6
Philadelphia	184.6	182.3	181.1	184.8	168.8	184.6	188.1	194.4
Pittsburgh	179.4	177.3	190.3	183.2	151.6	174.8	180.7	192.3
St. Louis	178.4	178.2	193.9	178.7	170.1	173.8	177.1	179.4
San Diego	175.5	169.2	173.8	178.3	157.1	158.3	168.9	191.2
San Francisco—Oakland	172.2	174.3	177.9	182.8	157.4	163.7	179.3	164.8
Seattle	172.5	173.9	179.7	185.4	167.1	153.1	176.5	167.9
Washington	182.4	180.3	185.4	172.0	160.3	187.5	197.9	187.6
Percent changes February 1976 to March 1976								
U.S. city average	-0.7	-1.1	-0.3	-1.5	-0.4	0.2	-2.0	0.5
Atlanta	-1.0	-1.3	-.1	-3.4	.2	1.6	-1.6	.2
Baltimore	-.9	-1.3	0	-1.9	-.5	.1	-2.7	.4
Boston	-.2	-.4	.6	-.9	-1.0	1.0	-1.1	.7
Buffalo	-.9	-1.2	2.0	-.9	-.2	-3.9	-2.0	.2
Chicago	-.8	-1.1	-.2	-2.1	-1.5	.9	-1.2	.6
Cincinnati	-.3	-.5	.1	-1.2	-.6	.8	-1.3	.7
Cleveland	-.3	-.4	-1.7	-.3	1.5	.3	-1.6	.2
Dallas	-.9	-1.4	-2.0	-1.4	-.3	.3	-3.1	.8
Detroit	-1.1	-1.6	-.8	-2.1	-.6	.2	-3.0	.7
Honolulu	-1.0	-1.4	-5.0	-1.3	-.2	-1.1	-.7	.2
Houston	-.6	-.8	-.3	-1.5	-.7	1.0	-1.6	.3
Kansas City	-1.3	-1.7	-.2	-2.5	-.2	-1.4	-2.9	0
Los Angeles—Long Beach	-.8	-1.4	-.7	-1.5	-.6	-.7	-2.8	.9
Milwaukee	-.6	-.8	-.1	-.3	-1.2	-.4	-1.9	0
Minneapolis—St. Paul	-.5	-.8	-.8	-.4	-.1	-.2	-2.2	.3
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	-.8	-1.1	-1.0	-1.8	-.2	1.1	-2.3	.5
Philadelphia	-1.2	-1.7	.7	-2.6	-.5	-.8	-3.1	.6
Pittsburgh	-.3	-.4	3.9	-1.2	-.1	-.2	-2.5	.3
St. Louis	-.5	-.8	-.1	-1.5	-.8	1.5	-2.0	.7
San Diego	-1.5	-2.2	-2.3	-2.0	-1.4	-1.1	-3.7	0
San Francisco—Oakland	-.7	-1.2	.3	-1.1	-1.4	.1	-3.3	1.2
Seattle	-.3	-.7	-.2	-1.1	-.4	.5	-1.3	.6
Washington	-.7	-.9	1.6	-1.7	.6	-1.2	-1.9	.1

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

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, January 1976=100)

Area ¹	Leaded regular gasoline			Unleaded regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Index		Percent change to March 1976 from—	Index		Percent change to March 1976 from—	Index		Percent change to March 1976 from—
	February 1976	March 1976		February 1976	March 1976		February 1976	March 1976	
U.S. city average ²	96.8	97.4	-1.4	99.1	98.2	-0.9	99.1	98.1	-1.0
Atlanta	98.8	97.4	-1.4	99.5	99.0	-.5	99.4	98.4	-1.0
Baltimore	98.1	96.1	-2.0	97.7	97.6	-.1	98.2	97.4	-.8
Boston	99.2	97.4	-1.8	99.6	99.0	-.6	99.4	97.7	-1.7
Buffalo	98.8	96.5	-2.3	98.9	97.6	-1.3	98.7	96.7	-2.0
Chicago	98.1	97.0	-1.1	98.7	98.2	-.5	98.7	97.5	-1.2
Cincinnati	99.4	97.2	-2.2	99.6	98.7	-.9	99.6	97.9	-1.7
Cleveland	99.3	96.0	-3.3	99.5	97.9	-1.6	98.9	96.3	-2.6
Dallas	99.1	97.9	-1.2	99.2	98.8	-.4	99.3	98.6	-.7
Detroit	98.7	97.0	-1.7	99.1	98.6	-.5	98.8	97.9	-.9
Honolulu	99.5	99.2	-.3	99.6	99.2	-.4	99.3	98.9	-.4
Houston	99.0	98.3	-.7	98.9	98.7	-.2	98.6	98.0	-.6
Kansas City	99.4	97.4	-2.0	99.4	98.2	-1.2	99.5	97.1	-2.4
Los Angeles—Long Beach	98.3	97.3	-1.0	100.4	98.3	-2.1	99.0	98.3	-.7
Milwaukee	99.2	98.1	-1.1	99.5	99.0	-.5	99.6	98.4	-1.2
Minneapolis—St. Paul	98.4	96.7	-1.7	99.0	98.7	-.3	98.6	97.8	-.8
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	99.0	96.4	-2.6	99.6	98.7	-.9	99.6	97.7	-1.9
Philadelphia	97.2	95.5	-1.7	98.5	98.2	-.3	98.1	96.6	-1.5
Pittsburgh	98.3	96.2	-2.1	98.7	97.9	-.8	98.9	97.6	-1.3
St. Louis	98.6	98.3	-.3	98.9	98.5	-.4	98.6	98.2	-.4
San Diego	98.5	97.5	-1.0	99.0	98.3	-.7	98.8	98.0	-.8
San Francisco—Oakland	99.0	97.3	-1.7	98.5	98.0	-.5	98.7	98.0	-.7
Seattle	98.4	98.2	-.2	98.1	98.2	.1	98.6	98.2	-.4
Washington	98.1	96.9	-1.2	98.8	98.3	-.5	98.9	97.7	-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.

lication of indexes and average prices for unleaded regular gasoline. In order to facilitate comparisons among indexes for the several types of gasoline, each has been put on a January 1976=100 reference base. For the convenience of users, the historical index series for regular leaded and premium gasoline on the new base are given in tables 11 and 12 of this publication. It should be noted that rebasing does not indicate a change in price levels, but is simply a change in the point of time from which price changes are measured.

NOTE: Effective with the release of the March 1976 CPI, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has begun pub-

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

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers)

Area ¹	Leaded regular gasoline			Unleaded regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Average price per gallon								
	January 1976	February 1976	March 1976	January 1976	February 1976	March 1976	January 1976	February 1976	March 1976
U.S. city average	\$0.584	\$0.578	\$0.569	\$0.605	\$0.600	\$0.594	\$0.629	\$0.623	\$0.617
Atlanta	.577	.570	.562	.601	.598	.595	.627	.623	.617
Baltimore	.598	.586	.574	.614	.600	.599	.644	.633	.627
Boston	.585	.581	.570	.601	.599	.595	.629	.625	.615
Buffalo	.594	.586	.573	.617	.610	.602	.641	.633	.620
Chicago	.599	.588	.581	.632	.623	.620	.642	.634	.626
Cincinnati	.575	.571	.559	.592	.590	.585	.622	.620	.609
Cleveland	.585	.581	.562	.595	.592	.582	.628	.621	.605
Dallas	.538	.533	.526	.556	.551	.549	.579	.575	.571
Detroit	.579	.572	.562	.604	.599	.596	.632	.625	.619
Honolulu	.685	.682	.680	.696	.693	.690	.727	.721	.719
Houston	.527	.522	.518	.546	.540	.539	.576	.568	.565
Kansas City	.554	.551	.539	.570	.566	.559	.599	.596	.582
Los Angeles—Long Beach	.583	.573	.568	.611	.613	.600	.627	.621	.616
Milwaukee	.544	.540	.534	.566	.563	.560	.593	.590	.583
Minneapolis—St. Paul	.575	.565	.556	.591	.585	.584	.633	.624	.619
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	.598	.592	.576	.615	.612	.607	.649	.646	.634
Philadelphia	.583	.566	.557	.612	.603	.601	.641	.629	.619
Pittsburgh	.581	.571	.559	.602	.594	.589	.625	.618	.610
St. Louis	.567	.559	.557	.582	.576	.574	.614	.605	.603
San Diego	.603	.594	.588	.628	.622	.618	.650	.642	.637
San Francisco—Oakland	.614	.608	.597	.632	.623	.619	.659	.651	.646
Seattle	.574	.564	.563	.594	.582	.583	.618	.609	.607
Washington	.602	.590	.583	.627	.620	.617	.656	.648	.641

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. CPI—regular leaded gasoline indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, January 1976=100)

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual Average
U. S. City Average													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.9	71.5	74.8	-
1974	79.5	84.0	90.3	91.8	94.1	95.1	95.5	94.8	94.1	91.4	90.3	90.3	90.9
1975	90.9	91.2	91.4	92.5	94.1	97.0	101.2	101.8	102.1	101.6	100.7	100.2	97.1
Atlanta													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.9	71.3	75.7	-
1974	79.5	83.5	90.0	93.2	94.4	96.8	98.2	96.3	95.8	90.6	90.4	90.7	91.6
1975	93.4	93.5	92.6	94.2	96.3	100.2	103.6	103.1	103.2	101.7	100.8	100.0	98.6
Baltimore													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.4	71.5	75.1	-
1974	79.7	85.4	89.7	92.7	94.4	95.1	95.2	94.3	94.2	90.9	91.0	90.4	91.1
1975	91.9	92.6	92.1	93.6	95.6	98.2	101.6	102.9	102.6	102.0	101.0	100.1	97.8
Boston													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.1	71.7	74.9	-
1974	78.6	83.6	88.3	89.0	92.5	93.2	94.7	94.3	93.9	90.9	90.7	90.9	90.0
1975	91.0	90.7	92.1	93.0	93.7	95.9	102.4	102.8	101.9	101.9	101.2	100.5	97.2
Buffalo													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67.8	70.0	72.6	-
1974	76.1	82.9	91.2	96.5	95.7	97.2	98.0	97.7	96.7	92.1	90.3	90.5	92.1
1975	90.2	90.2	90.0	91.2	94.0	96.2	101.8	102.2	102.7	101.6	100.9	100.3	96.7
Chicago													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.2	73.4	77.1	-
1974	83.4	86.4	93.3	93.3	94.9	96.8	96.7	95.9	94.9	91.3	90.1	90.3	92.3
1975	90.8	91.2	91.5	92.4	93.5	96.4	101.9	102.2	102.5	101.3	100.1	99.6	97.0
Cincinnati													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.4	75.4	78.1	-
1974	79.6	86.4	92.3	94.7	98.7	98.9	99.0	98.5	96.4	94.4	92.0	91.6	93.5
1975	91.4	91.8	92.7	93.5	95.8	99.6	103.4	104.0	104.1	103.0	100.9	101.1	98.5
Cleveland													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.5	73.6	76.6	-
1974	79.0	85.7	90.5	89.6	97.0	97.2	94.6	94.2	92.6	90.8	90.3	90.5	91.0
1975	90.6	91.2	92.0	93.6	95.1	98.3	102.4	103.1	102.8	102.0	100.8	100.3	97.7
Dallas													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65.4	67.8	71.1	-
1974	77.6	83.5	90.6	93.5	94.2	95.7	95.0	95.2	94.2	92.3	90.1	90.1	91.0
1975	90.1	91.0	91.4	92.2	95.2	97.7	103.4	102.9	103.3	102.9	101.8	100.9	97.7
Detroit													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72.0	74.6	78.9	-
1974	83.3	88.0	97.0	99.2	98.9	99.6	99.1	97.3	96.4	93.3	91.7	91.9	94.7
1975	92.5	91.9	92.7	93.4	94.0	97.8	103.6	103.2	103.5	102.3	100.3	100.0	97.9
Honolulu													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66.0	67.8	69.6	-
1974	73.2	77.7	83.0	82.9	85.9	87.4	87.7	88.3	87.7	86.5	86.8	87.4	84.6
1975	88.7	88.3	88.7	90.9	94.7	98.3	101.5	101.7	102.6	101.9	101.8	100.7	96.6
Houston													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	65.9	68.5	71.1	-
1974	77.1	81.0	86.0	91.0	92.7	94.5	93.4	93.5	93.2	91.2	89.4	88.9	89.3
1975	89.4	90.1	90.9	91.4	94.3	97.8	103.3	103.2	103.0	102.2	101.3	100.5	97.3

Table 11. CPI—regular leaded gasoline indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas—Continued

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, January 1976=100)

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual Average
Kansas City													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.0	72.3	74.5	-
1974	84.0	86.7	90.1	93.6	95.4	96.7	97.6	96.1	94.5	91.5	90.6	89.9	92.2
1975	90.5	89.4	89.6	91.4	94.1	95.7	101.0	102.6	102.4	101.6	100.0	99.5	96.5
Los Angeles—Long Beach													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.2	72.1	74.6	-
1974	79.2	84.8	90.8	92.5	94.1	94.3	94.0	93.1	92.0	89.4	89.0	89.8	90.2
1975	92.3	92.0	91.8	93.4	94.5	97.2	101.0	100.8	101.2	101.7	100.6	100.0	97.2
Milwaukee													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.8	74.6	77.6	-
1974	81.5	86.6	96.6	97.9	97.8	100.1	99.5	98.1	98.0	93.6	91.6	91.2	94.4
1975	91.9	91.9	92.1	92.6	94.5	97.6	103.2	103.3	103.5	102.9	100.9	100.4	97.9
Minneapolis—St. Paul													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.7	70.8	73.7	-
1974	80.4	83.8	88.6	93.3	95.3	96.3	97.0	94.8	92.2	88.9	87.7	87.7	90.5
1975	88.2	88.2	87.4	89.7	91.7	96.9	101.9	102.7	102.3	102.3	101.2	99.5	96.0
New York—Northeastern New Jersey													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.9	72.9	76.8	-
1974	81.3	86.5	91.9	93.4	96.7	98.7	99.0	97.9	97.8	94.6	93.5	92.7	93.7
1975	92.5	92.4	92.4	93.2	93.6	95.7	100.7	101.3	102.2	101.1	100.4	100.1	97.2
Philadelphia													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.5	69.6	74.3	-
1974	78.3	83.3	93.1	92.3	94.0	95.5	95.8	95.0	95.1	92.1	90.9	90.7	91.4
1975	90.9	90.7	90.7	91.5	93.9	96.9	100.2	100.8	100.8	101.4	100.7	100.0	96.6
Pittsburgh													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.9	71.1	73.7	-
1974	79.3	83.2	88.8	91.5	93.8	93.9	94.5	94.1	93.9	91.4	90.1	90.9	90.4
1975	92.4	92.1	91.9	93.5	95.3	97.7	101.7	103.1	102.1	101.6	100.7	100.2	97.7
St. Louis													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.7	74.0	76.9	-
1974	83.9	88.0	92.6	94.4	96.1	98.4	98.3	97.0	96.0	92.7	91.5	91.2	93.3
1975	92.0	92.0	92.3	93.8	96.4	98.5	102.9	103.9	104.2	102.4	101.5	100.1	98.4
San Diego													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.6	70.6	72.8	-
1974	77.6	84.0	89.2	90.0	92.1	92.6	92.7	91.6	91.4	88.9	88.6	89.7	89.0
1975	91.5	91.5	91.7	92.9	94.3	96.2	100.8	101.3	102.0	102.1	100.8	100.6	97.1
San Francisco—Oakland													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.5	72.2	75.2	-
1974	78.9	83.2	88.5	88.8	93.0	93.8	95.1	94.9	93.9	91.5	91.7	91.7	90.4
1975	92.1	91.9	92.6	94.3	94.9	97.2	100.6	102.0	101.7	101.6	101.3	100.5	97.6
Seattle													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.2	72.2	74.9	-
1974	79.6	83.7	90.7	91.4	93.3	95.1	94.2	94.7	93.0	90.4	89.9	89.7	90.5
1975	91.8	91.8	91.9	93.8	95.6	97.9	100.6	101.8	101.7	101.6	101.5	100.6	97.5
Washington													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.8	70.7	74.1	-
1974	79.5	82.3	87.8	88.9	92.7	93.3	93.5	93.3	93.3	91.1	90.9	90.9	89.8
1975	91.3	91.2	91.7	92.8	94.6	96.3	100.4	101.0	101.4	100.7	100.5	100.3	96.8

Table 12. CPI—premium gasoline indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, January 1976=100)

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual Average
U. S. City Average													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.8	72.2	75.2	-
1974	79.6	83.7	89.6	91.2	93.3	93.9	94.5	93.9	93.4	91.2	90.2	90.3	90.4
1975	90.9	91.2	91.5	92.4	93.9	96.6	100.5	101.2	101.6	101.2	100.6	100.2	96.8
Atlanta													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.1	71.6	75.8	-
1974	79.0	82.9	88.8	91.8	92.3	94.4	95.6	94.4	93.8	90.6	90.5	90.7	90.4
1975	92.7	92.7	92.9	94.3	96.3	99.3	102.0	101.7	101.7	101.2	100.8	100.0	98.0
Baltimore													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.5	72.3	75.8	-
1974	80.1	85.5	89.2	92.5	93.7	94.2	94.9	94.1	93.8	91.7	91.3	91.7	91.0
1975	92.3	92.6	92.8	94.2	95.2	97.6	100.8	102.1	102.6	102.2	100.8	99.9	97.8
Boston													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.5	73.0	76.0	-
1974	79.3	84.1	88.2	89.1	92.2	92.7	94.1	94.0	93.7	91.5	91.2	91.1	90.1
1975	91.3	91.1	92.7	93.2	94.0	95.7	101.8	102.0	101.7	101.8	101.3	100.8	97.2
Buffalo													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.3	70.5	72.8	-
1974	76.2	82.7	90.6	95.3	94.7	95.7	96.7	95.8	95.4	91.3	89.7	89.5	91.1
1975	89.7	89.7	89.3	90.4	93.1	94.9	101.8	102.2	102.3	100.9	100.6	100.4	96.3
Chicago													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.5	74.3	78.0	-
1974	83.6	85.9	93.1	93.1	94.2	95.2	95.2	95.0	94.0	90.8	90.1	90.3	91.7
1975	90.6	90.6	91.0	92.1	93.6	96.2	101.2	101.9	102.1	100.9	100.1	99.9	96.7
Cincinnati													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.4	76.2	78.3	-
1974	79.7	86.1	91.2	93.5	97.4	97.6	97.4	97.2	95.3	93.6	92.1	91.9	92.8
1975	91.7	91.9	92.6	93.1	95.3	98.7	102.1	102.6	102.7	102.2	100.6	100.7	97.9
Cleveland													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.9	74.7	76.7	-
1974	79.5	86.3	89.7	90.6	96.0	96.5	94.1	94.3	92.3	91.0	90.7	90.7	91.0
1975	90.9	91.3	92.6	93.7	95.1	97.9	102.1	102.3	101.9	101.8	100.9	99.7	97.5
Dallas													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67.2	69.1	72.5	-
1974	78.0	83.6	90.5	92.7	93.3	94.4	94.8	95.1	94.4	92.6	90.3	90.5	90.9
1975	91.1	91.8	92.1	92.5	95.3	97.5	102.2	102.2	102.8	102.6	101.5	100.9	97.7
Detroit													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72.4	74.6	78.5	-
1974	82.6	86.5	95.0	97.1	97.0	96.7	97.1	95.3	94.4	91.8	90.5	91.0	92.9
1975	91.2	90.9	92.0	92.4	93.1	96.2	101.7	101.4	102.5	101.2	99.8	99.8	96.8
Honolulu													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67.0	68.6	70.4	-
1974	73.7	77.9	82.9	82.8	85.8	87.0	87.1	87.7	86.9	85.8	86.1	86.6	84.2
1975	87.9	87.5	87.8	90.0	94.2	97.7	100.7	101.1	101.8	101.8	101.7	100.9	96.1
Houston													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66.9	69.3	71.4	-
1974	76.9	80.7	85.3	89.9	91.4	93.1	92.8	92.5	92.6	90.9	89.5	89.4	88.8
1975	89.6	90.3	91.0	91.6	94.2	97.3	101.9	102.1	101.9	101.6	100.7	100.4	96.9

Table 12. CPI—premium gasoline indexes. U.S. city average and selected areas—Continued

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, January 1976=100)

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Annual Average
Kansas City													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.3	73.2	75.5	-
1974	84.3	86.4	89.8	92.8	94.4	95.8	97.1	95.6	94.9	91.7	91.2	90.0	92.0
1975	90.6	90.4	90.2	91.7	94.1	96.0	100.6	102.5	102.7	101.5	100.1	99.4	96.6
Los Angeles—Long Beach													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.2	72.5	75.3	-
1974	79.5	84.6	90.3	92.0	93.6	93.7	93.0	92.6	91.5	89.3	89.3	89.8	90.0
1975	91.8	91.5	91.7	93.0	94.2	96.6	100.3	100.8	101.0	101.5	100.9	100.5	97.0
Milwaukee													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.3	75.1	77.7	-
1974	81.2	85.7	95.2	96.2	96.3	96.9	97.5	97.1	96.8	93.1	91.7	91.4	93.2
1975	92.4	92.3	92.1	92.9	94.9	96.9	101.9	102.6	102.9	102.4	101.0	100.3	97.7
Minneapolis—St. Paul													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	68.6	70.4	72.9	-
1974	79.1	82.2	86.6	90.7	92.1	92.7	93.3	92.5	90.3	86.9	86.4	86.7	88.3
1975	87.4	88.3	87.4	89.0	90.7	95.6	99.9	101.2	100.3	100.4	100.2	99.7	95.1
New York—Northeastern New Jersey													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.6	72.5	76.1	-
1974	80.3	85.1	90.8	91.8	95.6	96.8	97.1	96.4	96.2	93.8	92.6	92.2	92.4
1975	92.2	92.6	92.7	93.1	93.4	95.4	100.8	101.4	101.5	101.1	101.0	100.1	97.1
Philadelphia													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.2	70.5	73.9	-
1974	77.6	82.3	91.1	91.0	92.4	93.4	93.7	93.6	93.4	91.5	89.1	90.5	90.0
1975	90.7	91.0	91.3	92.0	93.3	96.5	99.6	100.6	100.8	101.0	100.5	100.1	96.5
Pittsburgh													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.7	72.8	74.9	-
1974	79.8	83.6	88.4	91.2	93.4	93.6	94.3	93.8	93.7	91.4	90.6	91.4	90.5
1975	92.4	92.2	92.0	93.7	94.7	97.6	101.3	102.5	101.5	101.4	100.6	100.4	97.5
St. Louis													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	72.2	74.4	77.0	-
1974	83.4	87.1	91.5	93.4	95.1	96.7	97.0	96.2	95.0	92.4	91.5	91.3	92.6
1975	92.1	92.1	92.2	93.6	95.7	97.8	102.0	103.0	103.6	101.8	101.2	100.0	97.9
San Diego													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.1	70.8	73.1	-
1974	77.6	83.2	88.1	89.0	91.0	91.7	91.6	91.0	90.7	88.5	88.5	89.5	88.4
1975	90.8	91.0	91.2	92.1	93.6	95.2	99.7	100.2	101.0	101.1	100.3	100.3	96.4
San Francisco—Oakland													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	70.4	72.8	75.5	-
1974	78.9	82.8	88.0	87.6	92.0	92.8	93.5	93.5	92.8	90.5	90.6	90.8	89.4
1975	91.7	91.4	92.3	93.7	94.4	96.7	100.1	101.0	101.8	100.8	100.4	100.1	97.0
Seattle													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	71.5	73.4	75.5	-
1974	80.5	84.0	90.3	91.7	93.3	94.6	93.6	94.3	92.6	90.3	89.9	89.9	90.4
1975	91.7	91.8	91.9	93.7	95.1	97.4	100.0	101.1	101.0	101.0	101.1	100.4	97.2
Washington													
1973	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	69.5	71.4	74.5	-
1974	79.5	81.9	86.8	87.9	91.5	91.5	91.8	91.8	91.9	89.8	89.6	89.9	88.7
1975	90.3	90.1	91.2	91.9	93.6	95.5	99.5	100.3	100.9	100.4	100.1	100.1	96.2

Table 13. CPI—by population size

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

Area and group	Relative importance	Indexes		Percent change to March 1976 from—		
	December 1975	March 1975	December 1975	March 1976	March 1975	December 1975
United States:						
All items	100.000	157.8	166.3	167.5	6.1	0.7
Food	24.675	171.3	180.7	178.7	4.3	-1.1
Housing	34.002	163.6	172.2	174.5	6.7	1.3
Apparel and upkeep	9.217	140.9	145.2	145.0	2.9	-1.1
Transportation	13.053	144.8	157.6	159.8	10.4	1.4
Health and recreation	18.681	151.1	157.5	160.6	6.3	2.0
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):						
All items	32.409	159.4	167.6	168.7	5.8	.7
Food	8.280	172.9	182.1	179.5	3.8	-1.4
Housing	10.730	164.4	171.8	173.5	5.5	1.0
Apparel and upkeep	3.013	138.6	140.4	140.3	1.2	-1.1
Transportation	4.241	148.9	165.1	167.6	12.6	1.5
Health and recreation	6.145	154.0	160.4	164.3	6.7	2.4
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):						
All items	11.694	157.0	165.0	167.0	6.4	1.2
Food	2.948	171.0	180.5	179.2	4.8	-1.4
Housing	3.951	160.8	168.1	170.6	6.1	1.5
Apparel and upkeep	1.095	142.7	146.2	146.9	2.9	.5
Transportation	1.493	144.9	155.8	162.2	11.9	4.1
Health and recreation	2.207	150.3	158.0	161.0	7.1	1.9
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):						
All items	25.645	156.9	165.2	166.3	6.0	.7
Food	6.073	171.0	180.3	178.6	4.4	-1.4
Housing	8.909	162.1	170.9	173.4	7.0	1.5
Apparel and upkeep	2.365	142.2	147.5	147.4	3.7	-1.1
Transportation	3.444	142.4	153.1	154.4	8.4	.8
Health and recreation	4.854	150.7	156.9	159.6	5.9	1.7
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):						
All items	12.584	157.0	166.2	166.7	6.2	.3
Food	3.085	169.0	179.7	177.5	5.0	-1.2
Housing	4.330	164.2	173.7	175.4	6.8	1.0
Apparel and upkeep	1.191	142.9	149.4	147.7	3.4	-1.1
Transportation	1.668	143.3	155.3	156.4	9.1	.7
Health and recreation	2.312	148.7	154.9	157.2	5.7	1.5
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):						
All items	17.292	157.6	166.6	168.2	6.7	1.0
Food	4.289	170.6	179.3	178.1	4.4	-1.7
Housing	6.078	165.3	176.0	179.2	8.4	1.8
Apparel and upkeep	1.554	140.6	147.0	146.8	4.4	-1.1
Transportation	2.207	142.4	154.2	155.6	9.3	.9
Health and recreation	3.163	148.9	154.7	158.0	6.1	2.1

¹ Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

Table 14. CPI—by region

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

Area and group	Relative importance ¹	Indexes ¹		Percent change to March 1976 from—		
	December 1975	March 1975	December 1975	March 1976	March 1975	December 1975
United States:						
All items	100.000	157.8	166.3	167.5	6.1	0.7
Food	24.675	171.3	180.7	178.7	4.3	-1.1
Housing	34.002	163.6	172.2	174.5	6.7	1.3
Apparel and upkeep	9.217	140.9	145.2	145.0	2.9	-1.1
Transportation	13.053	144.8	157.6	159.8	10.4	1.4
Health and recreation	18.681	151.1	157.5	160.6	6.3	2.0
Northeast:						
All items	32.686	160.7	169.2	170.7	6.2	.9
Food	8.696	173.5	182.6	181.4	4.6	-1.7
Housing	10.607	167.3	175.3	177.6	6.2	1.3
Apparel and upkeep	3.228	141.8	145.6	144.3	1.8	-1.9
Transportation	4.031	147.8	164.7	169.6	14.7	3.0
Health and recreation	6.124	153.6	159.7	162.7	5.9	1.9
North Central:						
All items	27.874	155.2	163.3	164.5	6.0	.7
Food	6.853	169.3	180.0	177.8	5.0	-1.2
Housing	9.495	157.1	164.5	167.1	6.4	1.6
Apparel and upkeep	2.467	140.3	145.0	144.4	2.9	-1.4
Transportation	3.770	143.7	154.6	155.5	8.2	.6
Health and recreation	5.288	151.7	157.9	161.6	6.5	2.3
South:						
All items	22.104	160.1	168.7	169.7	6.0	.6
Food	5.281	174.6	183.4	181.4	3.9	-1.1
Housing	7.732	168.0	178.0	180.1	7.2	1.2
Apparel and upkeep	2.102	142.3	147.3	148.4	4.3	.7
Transportation	2.938	143.6	154.8	155.8	8.5	.6
Health and recreation	4.050	152.6	158.5	161.4	5.8	1.8
West:						
All items	16.499	154.4	163.0	164.0	6.2	.6
Food	3.716	166.3	174.4	171.3	3.0	-1.8
Housing	6.022	162.6	172.4	174.4	7.3	1.2
Apparel and upkeep	1.385	137.6	141.4	142.2	3.3	.6
Transportation	2.253	143.0	154.3	155.9	9.0	1.0
Health and recreation	3.123	144.2	151.7	154.9	7.4	2.1

¹ Regional index and relative importance data exclude Anchorage, Alaska, and Honolulu, Hawaii, which are included in the U.S. level data. Consequently, relative importance by region 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 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	0.005 x 100
Equals percent change:	0.5

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

changes in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 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.

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

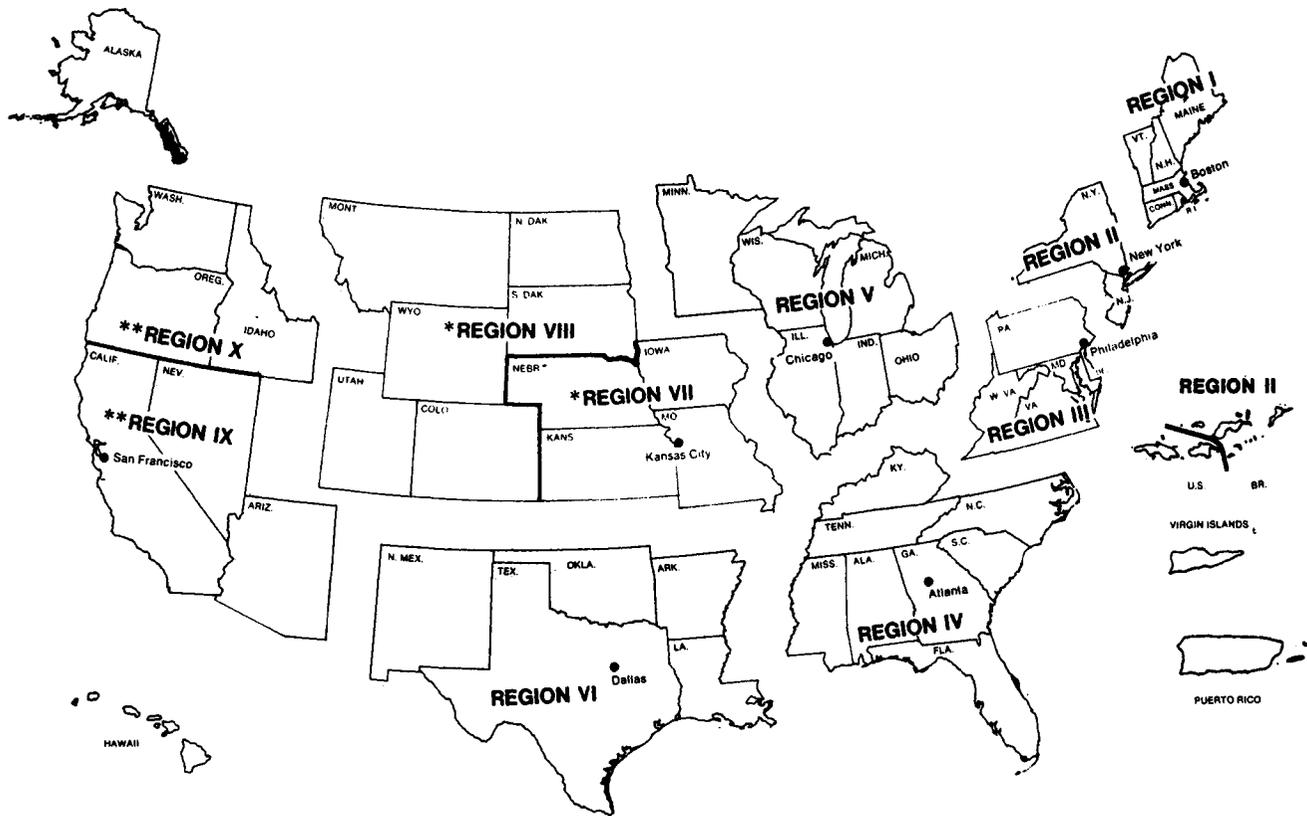
Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items . . . . .	.04	.06	.13
Food at home . . . . .	.10	.17	.38
Food away from home . .	.11	.22	.36
Housing . . . . .	.08	.12	.26
Apparel and upkeep . . . .	.16	.22	.28
Transportation . . . . .	.07	.11	.13
Medical care . . .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

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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