

CPI Detailed Report

For March 1977

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



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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

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Price Movements

March 1977

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.6 percent in March before seasonal adjustment to 178.2 percent of its 1967 base. The March CPI was 6.4 percent higher than in March 1976.

Seasonally adjusted changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI also rose 0.6 percent in March. This compares with rises of 1.0 percent in February and 0.8 percent in January, and an average monthly increase of 0.3 percent in the last 4 months of 1976. The March rise was slower than earlier this year because of smaller price increases for food and other commodities (table A).

Price developments, first quarter 1977

In the 3 months ending in March, the CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 10 percent, compared with 4.2 percent in the final quarter of 1976. The acceleration occurred primarily in the food component as adverse winter weather conditions curtailed production and disrupted marketings of many food items. In addition, the upsurge in coffee prices continued. The food index rose at a 14.6-percent rate in the first quarter, compared with no change in the last quarter of 1976, and a small rise—at a 1.6-percent rate—in the third quarter.

In the energy sector—where prices and supplies also were affected by the cold weather this winter—prices of energy items in the CPI (gas, electricity, fuel oil, coal, gasoline, and motor oil) rose at a 7.7-percent rate in the 3 months ending in March, less than the increase in the fourth quarter of 1976. Although fuel oil and natural gas prices rose sharply, increases in gasoline price slowed.

If food and energy items are excluded, the rise in the CPI accelerated in the first quarter to a 7.3-percent rate from 4.7 percent in the preceding quarter. Much of this acceleration was due to sharp rises in charges for services and prices of used cars. Prices of some other consumer goods, reflecting earlier increases in manufacturers' prices, also rose at a faster rate in the first quarter than in late 1976.

Changes in the CPI are influenced partly by behavior of prices at the producers' level. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI), which measures prices at the primary market level for commodities from the raw to the finished stage, rose at a 10.2-percent rate in the 3 months ending in March, following a 7.1-percent rise in the fourth quarter of 1976. The acceleration in the first quarter in the WPI, as in the CPI, was primarily in the agricultural sector (Table B). Prices for fuels and fuel products in the WPI rose at an 18.3-percent rate, about the same as in the last two quarters of 1976. The industrial commodities index including fuels rose at a 7.9-percent rate and excluding fuels at a 6.1-percent rate—both about as rapidly as in the last two quarters of 1976. The following tabulation shows annual rates of price change (in percent) in industrial commodities other than fuels grouped by stage of processing:

| 3 months ending: | Crude materials | Intermediate materials | Finished goods | |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|----------------|----------|
| | | | Consumer | Producer |
| Mar. 1976. . . | 0.2 | 7.2 | 7.0 | 5.0 |
| Dec. 1976 . . | -5.5 | 7.5 | 3.5 | 9.2 |
| Mar. 1977. . . | 10.1 | 6.9 | 7.6 | 5.3 |

Adverse weather conditions this winter had an impact not only on food and fuel prices, but also on prices and activities in many other sectors of the economy. In addition to weather-related factors, faster price rises in the first quarter,

Consumer Price Index Revision

The completion of the comprehensive program to revise the Consumer Price Index will be delayed beyond the previously announced date of April 1977. Although much of the work required for the revision has been completed, serious problems have been encountered, principally in the design and operation of the new computer system required to process and calculate the indexes and in data validation. The Bureau now estimates that the additional time required will delay completion

of the revision program and publication of a revised Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers as well as a new Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers until the fall of 1977.

Until these revised indexes are officially introduced, the Bureau will, of course continue to publish the present CPI. In accordance with previously announced plans, the Bureau also will continue the present CPI for a 6-month period after the introduction of the revised indexes.

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 3 months ago | From 12 months ago |
| | Unad-justed | Seasonally adjusted | Unad-justed | Seasonally adjusted | Unad-justed | Seasonally adjusted | Unad-justed | Seasonally adjusted | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Seasonally adjusted | Unad-justed |
| 1976: | | | | | | | | | | |
| March | 0.2 | 0.2 | -0.7 | -0.6 | 0.4 | 0.3 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 3.9 | 6.1 |
| April | .4 | .4 | .3 | .5 | .6 | .3 | .3 | .5 | 3.1 | 6.1 |
| May | .6 | .7 | .4 | .8 | .8 | .6 | .4 | .6 | 5.4 | 6.2 |
| June | .5 | .4 | .5 | .2 | .6 | .4 | .6 | .6 | 6.1 | 5.9 |
| July | .6 | .5 | .7 | .1 | .4 | .4 | .7 | .7 | 6.3 | 5.4 |
| August | .5 | .5 | .2 | .2 | .6 | .6 | .6 | .6 | 5.5 | 5.6 |
| September | .4 | .3 | -.4 | .1 | .6 | .3 | .8 | .5 | 5.3 | 5.5 |
| October | .4 | .3 | 0 | .2 | .4 | .4 | .5 | .4 | 4.8 | 5.3 |
| November | .3 | .3 | -.3 | -.3 | .4 | .4 | .5 | .4 | 4.0 | 5.0 |
| December | .3 | .4 | .3 | .1 | .2 | .6 | .4 | .4 | 4.2 | 4.8 |
| 1977: | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | .6 | .8 | .9 | .9 | 0 | .7 | .9 | .9 | 6.1 | 5.2 |
| February | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 2.0 | .6 | .7 | .6 | .6 | 9.1 | 6.0 |
| March | .6 | .6 | .5 | .6 | .6 | .4 | .7 | .8 | 10.0 | 6.4 |

particularly among industrial materials, were accompanied by the continued improvement in economic activity that began in late 1976. Although temporarily set back by the cold weather and fuel supply problems in early 1977, output in the private sector rose at a strong 5.8-percent rate in the first quarter, twice as fast as in the fourth quarter of 1976. The rise in output reflected a step-up in inventory buildup by manufacturers and a resurgence in demand, particularly for motor vehicles.

Food. After declining in the preceding quarter, prices of food purchased in grocery stores rose at a 15.8-percent rate in the 3 months ending in March. Prices rose for many foods, including fruits and vegetables, coffee, pork, poultry, cereal and bakery products, sugar and sweets, and salad and cooking oils. Beef prices, however, declined. The rise in prices of food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—also accelerated, to a 10.9-percent rate in the first quarter, from 3.7 percent in the fourth quarter.

The rise in retail food prices in the first quarter stemmed not only from weather-related factors, but also from earlier increases in prices at the processors' and farm levels. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for consumer foods and for crude foods began to move up in the fourth quarter of 1976 and increases accelerated in the first quarter (tables B and C).

Fresh fruit and vegetable prices rose sharply as supplies were curtailed during the first quarter. New crops of Florida citrus and vegetables such as snap beans, sweet

corn, and celery were damaged by the severe freeze. The Western drought limited offerings of fresh produce from California, which accounts for 40 percent of the Nation's supply. The index for processed fruits and vegetables in the WPI registered the largest quarterly rate of increase (22.8 percent) since the fall of 1974, while the corresponding index in the CPI advanced 5.2 percent.

Prices for cereal and bakery products at both the retail and producer levels turned up in the first quarter. The upturn at the retail level was primarily due to higher prices for bakery products resulting from increased costs for ingredients such as cocoa, sugar, and shortening. Flour and rice prices continued to decline. At the processors' level, however, rice prices rose due to improved export demand and a concern over the drought in California. In addition, flour prices turned up reflecting increases in wheat prices. The winter wheat crop outlook was poor during most of the first quarter due to the Midwest drought and the possibility of reduced crops in other growing areas in the world. However, stored supplies remained high and prices were still below levels of last year.

Among livestock products, hog prices moved up in the latter part of the fourth quarter of 1976 and early in the first quarter of 1977 as severe cold weather adversely affected marketings. Smaller supplies resulted in higher pork prices during the first quarter. By the end of the quarter, however, hog marketings and pork production rose resulting in declining prices. Prices for cattle and beef declined as a result of increased supplies of beef and com-

peting meats; weaker demand for beef also helped to reduce prices. Retail prices of beef and veal also moved down over the quarter, despite a January increase.

Shortages of broilers and fryers, arising from weather-related transportation problems, caused prices for poultry to rise at both producer and retail levels in the early part of the quarter. Producer prices moved down later when the weather improved, but retail prices continued to rise.

Prices for eggs at the farm level moved down from December to March at the fastest rate (35.1 percent) since the second quarter of 1974. Increased egg production in the wake of a period of low supplies and near-record prices was a major reason for this downward movement. At the retail level, egg prices rose in January and February, but declined in March.

Retail prices for dairy products continued to decline in the first quarter of 1977; however, the rate of decline was much slower than from September to December, as unusually high demand for butter and cheese caused prices of dairy products at the processor level to turn up after declining in the preceding quarter.

Prices of coffee and some food items continued to be influenced by changes in international markets. Price increases for green coffee, cocoa beans, and tea accelerated in the first quarter. World supplies of both coffee and cocoa beans remained tight in the wake of unfavorable growing conditions in many producing countries. Processors' prices of roasted coffee were 108.5 percent higher this March than a year earlier, while retail prices were up 92.8 percent over the same span. Increased demand for tea as a coffee substitute resulted in sharply higher prices for tea as well.

Retail prices for sugar and sweets turned up after declining in 3 of the 4 previous quarters. Prices for sugar and confectionery in the WPI rose sharply in the first quarter, after showing no change in the previous 3 months. This index had registered large declines during much of 1976. Major influences in the rise for sugar prices were the large purchases in the world market by the Soviet Union and the Peoples Republic of China. Higher prices for cocoa beans contributed to increases in prices for chocolate coating and candy bars.

Table B. Changes in selected components of the Consumer and Wholesale Price Indexes, 1976-77

| Index | 3 months ending (compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted) | | | | |
|--|---|------|-----------|----------|-------|
| | 1976 | | | | 1977 |
| | March | June | September | December | March |
| <i>Consumer Price Index</i> | | | | | |
| All items | 3.9 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 10.0 |
| Food | -5.4 | 6.2 | 1.6 | 0 | 14.6 |
| Commodities less food | 4.0 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 7.4 |
| Services | 10.6 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 5.1 | 9.8 |
| All items less food and energy items | 8.0 | 5.8 | 6.5 | 4.6 | 8.3 |
| Commodities less food and energy items ... | 5.5 | 5.7 | 5.3 | 4.7 | 7.3 |
| Services less energy items | 10.6 | 6.5 | 6.9 | 4.0 | 9.4 |
| Energy items (gas, electricity, fuel oil, coal, gasoline, motor oil) | -5.9 | 10.9 | 10.9 | 13.1 | 7.7 |
| <i>Wholesale Price Index</i> | | | | | |
| All commodities | 1.3 | 6.6 | 3.5 | 7.1 | 10.2 |
| Farm products and processed foods and feeds | -10.1 | 13.4 | -12.0 | 6.6 | 19.3 |
| Crude foods and feeds | -12.0 | 21.0 | -25.0 | 6.2 | 26.5 |
| Intermediate materials for food manufacturing | -4.3 | 15.5 | -27.4 | -8.0 | 25.7 |
| Consumer foods | -13.9 | 13.2 | -13.6 | 8.4 | 12.5 |
| Industrial commodities | 5.3 | 4.8 | 8.0 | 7.6 | 7.9 |
| Crude materials except foods | 5.6 | 16.4 | 10.6 | 21.6 | 21.9 |
| Intermediate materials except foods | 6.0 | 3.5 | 8.3 | 7.1 | 8.2 |
| Producers' finished goods | 7.3 | 4.3 | 4.7 | 9.5 | 5.3 |
| Consumer finished goods except foods | 3.1 | 3.6 | 7.7 | 5.2 | 8.5 |
| Industrials except fuels | 7.3 | 4.3 | 6.7 | 6.1 | 6.4 |

Prices for salad and cooking oils, which began to move up in the fourth quarter of 1976, rose at a rapid rate in the first quarter primarily as a result of higher costs for ingredients, especially soybeans. World supplies of soybeans were low partly due to unfavorable weather conditions in Brazil during harvest time.

Commodities other than food. Prices of consumer goods other than food increased at a faster rate in the first quarter of 1977 than in the final quarter of 1976—at a 7.4-percent rate compared with 5.7 percent in the CPI and 8.5 percent compared with 5.2 percent in the WPI, (tables B and C). Excluding used car and home purchase

Table C. Changes in wholesale and retail prices for consumer goods and services, 1976-77 ¹

| Index | Index | 3 months ending (compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted) | | | | |
|--|-------|---|-------|-----------|----------|-------|
| | | 1976 | | | | 1977 |
| | | March | June | September | December | March |
| Consumer Price Index | | 3.9 | 6.1 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 10.0 |
| Consumer goods | CPI | .2 | 6.0 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 10.4 |
| | WPI | -3.5 | 6.9 | -5 | 6.0 | 10.1 |
| Food ¹ | CPI | -5.4 | 6.2 | 1.6 | 0 | 14.6 |
| | WPI | -13.9 | 13.2 | -13.6 | 8.4 | 12.5 |
| Meats, poultry, fish | CPI | -20.2 | 6.3 | -16.3 | -7.9 | 8.6 |
| | WPI | -29.2 | -1.1 | -25.6 | 20.7 | -2.6 |
| Dairy products | CPI | 5.5 | 7.2 | 11.6 | -8.9 | -7 |
| | WPI | -10.8 | 11.6 | 2.1 | -10.6 | 1.2 |
| Cereal and bakery products . . | CPI | -5.0 | 7.6 | 1.5 | -9.5 | 2.7 |
| | WPI | 2.3 | 7.3 | -12.7 | -9.5 | 9.7 |
| Fresh fruits and vegetables . . | CPI | -14.0 | -14.1 | 34.8 | 25.6 | 63.6 |
| | WPI | -26.8 | -58.2 | 156.3 | -10.4 | 107.6 |
| Commodities less food | CPI | 4.0 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 7.4 |
| | WPI | 3.1 | 3.6 | 7.7 | 5.2 | 8.5 |
| Nondurables less food ¹ | CPI | 1.8 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 5.4 | 5.5 |
| | WPI | 2.4 | 3.8 | 9.1 | 6.5 | 9.5 |
| Apparel less footwear | CPI | 3.4 | 4.3 | 6.2 | 1.9 | 4.4 |
| | WPI | 7.6 | 6.9 | 3.8 | 4.9 | 10.2 |
| Footwear | CPI | 5.3 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 3.5 | 5.3 |
| | WPI | 11.6 | 11.0 | 8.3 | 4.8 | 6.5 |
| Gasoline ² | CPI | -13.6 | 7.2 | 10.2 | 9.5 | 2.6 |
| | WPI | -15.5 | -2.4 | 21.6 | 22.5 | 3.6 |
| Fuel oil ³ | CPI | -1.9 | 7.7 | 11.2 | 8.7 | 27.9 |
| | WPI | -9.4 | -4.2 | 17.8 | 13.8 | 25.4 |
| Tobacco products | CPI | 7.3 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 6.6 | 5.7 |
| | WPI | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 16.6 | 12.0 |
| Durables ¹ | CPI | 7.2 | 6.5 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 10.5 |
| | WPI | 4.0 | 3.1 | 5.1 | 3.3 | 7.0 |
| New cars | CPI | 4.6 | 1.5 | 6.4 | 6.9 | 4.1 |
| | WPI | 3.5 | 3.5 | 7.9 | 5.7 | 4.2 |
| Furniture | CPI | 3.8 | .5 | 1.3 | 7.6 | 2.9 |
| | WPI | 5.5 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 4.6 |
| Appliances including radio and television | CPI | 5.8 | 4.7 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 2.3 |
| | WPI | 2.7 | 3.7 | 1.0 | -2.0 | 2.3 |
| Services | CPI | 10.6 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 5.1 | 9.8 |
| Rent | CPI | 6.1 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 6.3 |
| Household less rent | CPI | 8.9 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 2.0 | 12.0 |
| Medical care | CPI | 13.0 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 13.2 | 9.4 |
| Transportation | CPI | 20.3 | 7.0 | 10.3 | 6.4 | 8.9 |
| Other services | CPI | 7.7 | 5.4 | 6.9 | 5.8 | 6.7 |

¹ Includes items not listed.
² CPI includes motor oil.

³ CPI includes coal.

prices—which are not included in the WPI—the rise at the retail level was 5.2 percent or about the same as in the last two quarters of 1976. Price increases accelerated at both the retail and manufacturers' levels for fuel oil, apparel, footwear, and appliances, and moderated for gasoline, tobacco products, new cars, and furniture. Although price movements were similar at both levels, increases were generally larger at the manufacturers' level.

Much of the acceleration in the CPI for consumer goods other than food in the first quarter of 1977 was due to used car prices, which rose at a 40-percent rate, compared with 16.2 percent in the fourth quarter of 1976. Demand for full and intermediate size used cars continued strong despite the cold weather; the supply of late-model cars was tight. The new car index, however, rose at a somewhat slower rate in the first quarter than in the preceding quarters. New car sales were usually strong in the first quarter, particularly for full and intermediate size models. However, rebates on some smaller models were offered to help stimulate sluggish sales.

The rise in fuel oil prices in both the CPI and the WPI accelerated sharply in the first quarter because cold weather increased demand at the same time that frozen rivers limited barge and truck deliveries. In addition, January 1 increases in imported crude oil prices by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries were passed through to refined petroleum products.

In contrast to fuel oil prices, the rate of increase in gasoline prices slowed in the first quarter because many suppliers had stockpiled foreign crude oil in anticipation of the OPEC price increase. The severe winter weather also curtailed consumer driving and thus reduced demand for gasoline during much of the first quarter.

The faster price rise in the first quarter among other consumer goods such as apparel, footwear, and appliances reflected earlier increases in manufacturers' prices. Despite the acceleration, increases for these consumer goods were relatively moderate due to slow demand and wide sale promotions by retailers. At the manufacturers' level, rising costs for materials such as textile, leather, and fabricated metal products were passed through.

Materials cost, which were a major source of the rise in prices of finished goods during the past year, continued to move up rapidly in the first quarter. Higher fuel costs for production contributed to price increases for some industrial goods. The severe winter weather and widespread cut-backs in the availability of natural gas to business customers disrupted production and transportation in many parts of the country. Temporary shortages or unexpected low inventories of some commodities resulted from these abnormal conditions. An early return of good weather in some areas contributed to a generally quick recovery of business activity. With the economy rebounding rapidly in the latter part of the first quarter, many producers raised prices to reflect earlier cost increases and to improve profit margins.

Prices of *intermediate industrial commodities (other than fuel)* rose at a slightly slower rate during the first quarter (6.9 percent) than during the preceding quarter (7.5) percent. Metals and textile products generally rose more than in the final quarter of 1976, but lumber and wood products moved lower after rising steeply at the end of last year. Stronger demand and fears of a possible copper strike helped to accelerate price increases for nonferrous metals, while the steel price increase effective last December led to advances for many types of fabricated metal products.

Among textile products, prices for knit goods turned up in the first quarter. Renewed consumer interest in knit goods and increased demand from apparel manufacturers were among the influences contributing to the first quarter increases. Prices for raw cotton remained high due to tight supplies in domestic and foreign markets. The decline in prices of most lumber and wood products was due largely to adverse winter weather, which curtailed construction activity sharply in much of the country. The return of more favorable weather led to higher prices for most of these products at the end of the first quarter, although plywood prices continued to fall because of excess production. Among other intermediate industrial materials, prices turned up for motor vehicle parts, leather, and agricultural chemicals following decreases in the fourth quarter, but paperboard prices turned down.

Prices of *crude industrial commodities (other than fuel)* moved up at a 10.1-percent rate from December to March, following a 5.5-percent rate of decline in the previous quarter. Large advances for both nonferrous and ferrous scrap metals, reflecting improved demand as the economy strengthened, were responsible for most of this upward movement. Strong export demand in January led to higher prices of hides and skins, but these prices moved back somewhat later in the quarter. Prices of iron ore, crude natural rubber, sand, gravel, and crushed stone, and waste-paper also increased from December to March.

Services. Prices of consumer services accelerated sharply in the first quarter to an annual rate of 9.8 percent, compared with 5.1 percent in the previous quarter. The first quarter increase in service prices was the largest since early 1976 and contributed to about 40 percent of the rise in the All Items CPI. Excluding changes in energy items—natural gas and electricity—the services index rose 9.4 percent, up from 4.0 percent in the fourth quarter of 1976. Household services, particularly property taxes, mortgage interest costs, and property insurance rates, accelerated in the March quarter. In addition, transportation services, residential rents, and various other services such as apparel, recreational, and personal care services, increased more than in the final quarter of 1976. The increase for medical care services was smaller than in the last quarter of 1976, but still substantial (table C).

Within the household services sectors, mortgage interest costs—which reflect changes in house prices and interest

rates—rose in the first quarter of 1977, following a decline in the final quarter of 1976. The average price of new homes constructed in the first quarter accelerated sharply, and prices of existing homes continued to increase rapidly. Mortgage interest rates continued to decline in the first quarter, but by less than in the previous quarter. Despite continued strong savings inflows and slack demand during much of the quarter, some mortgage lending institutions were hesitant to lower rates further because of anticipated heavy demand for funds when home construction improved. By the end of the first quarter, housing starts had improved significantly as a result of better weather.

Property taxes rose at an annual rate of 22.0 percent, nearly three times as much as in the final quarter of 1976. Metropolitan areas continued to face escalating costs for nearly all types of city services. Some localities, confronted with consumer resistance to further property tax hikes, opted for more frequent property tax assessments to increase revenues. Property insurance rates also accelerated sharply in the first quarter as insurance companies faced higher costs for nearly all types of claims.

Among utilities, the natural gas index in the CPI rose at a 16.7-percent rate in the first quarter—a substantial rise, although less than in the last two quarters of 1976. The Federal Government restructured the pricing schedule of natural gas sold in interstate commerce to induce producers to sell their gas across State lines rather than hold it in reserve or sell within the producing State where the price is usually unregulated. As natural gas contracts expired, companies had to purchase available gas at higher prices from companies with newer wells. Subsequently, consumer gas bills reflected higher charges passed through by gas distribution companies. Price increases allowed under the Emergency Gas Purchase Act passed in January 1977 showed up in the natural gas index late in the first quarter.

The 10.9-percent first quarter rise in water and sewer rates nearly doubled the fourth quarter increase. The rise in charges for electricity in the CPI remained moderate—3.8 percent in the first quarter and less than the 7.8-percent rate in the fourth quarter of 1976. Residential telephone service charges declined partly as a result of the reduction in the Federal excise tax on telephone services in the first quarter.

Residential rents rose at a 6.3-percent rate, somewhat faster than the quarterly increases in recent years. Part of this increase represented the annual adjustment to take

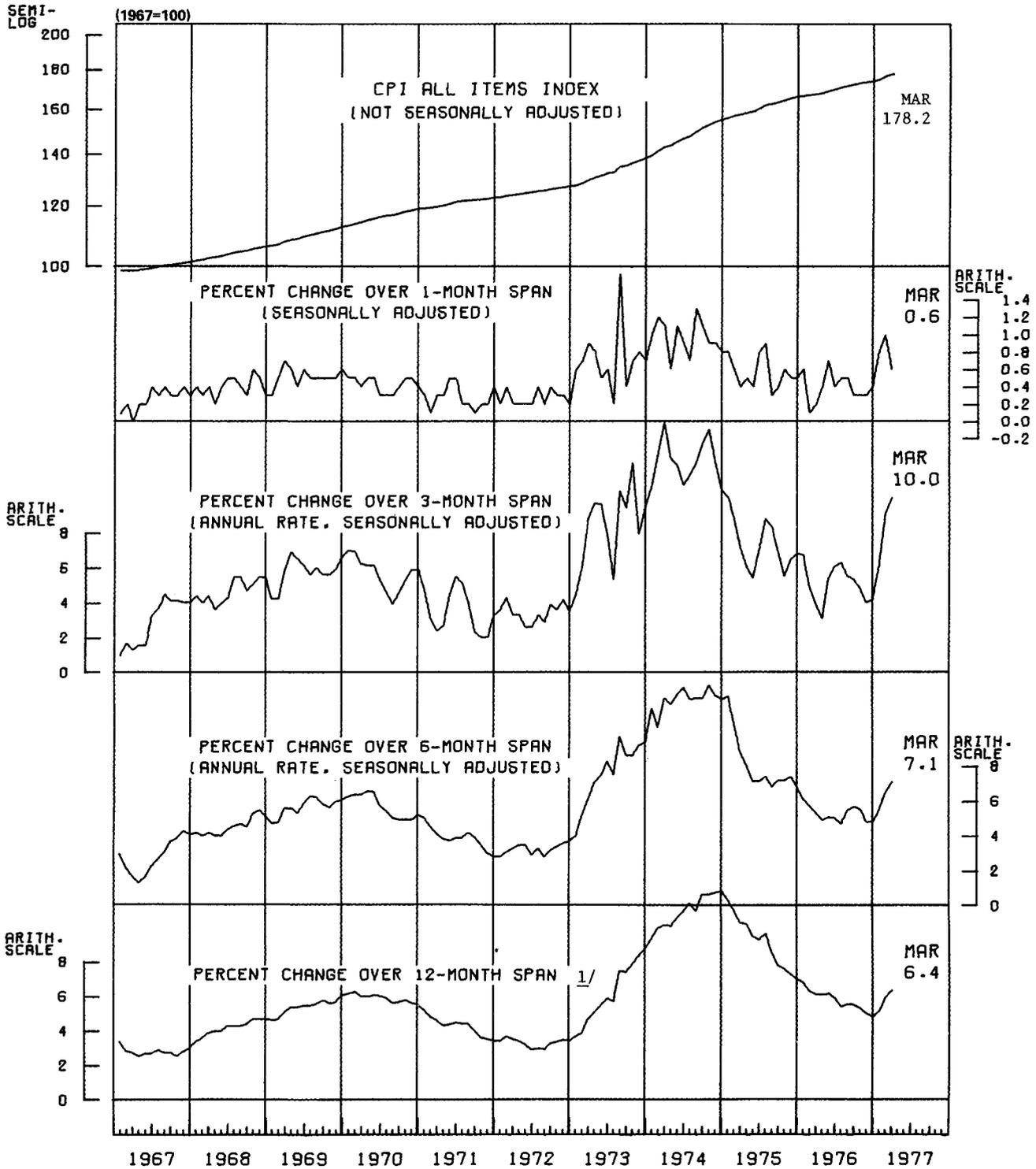
account of special rent-controlled units in New York. In addition, some landlords raised rents to cover higher fuel bills and rising property taxes and to earn a larger return on their investment.

Prices for medical care services increased at an annual rate of 9.4 percent, about the same as in the second and third quarters of 1976, but significantly less than in the fourth quarter. The unusually sharp increase in the fourth quarter resulted partly from the annual adjustment of retained earnings of health insurance companies. During the first quarter, physicians' fees rose at a 12.2-percent rate, the fastest rise since early 1976. The rate of price increase for hospital service charges accelerated sharply in the first quarter to 13.2 percent from 8.7 percent in the previous quarter. Some health facilities have been under increasing cost pressures from rising labor costs, declining contributions, and sharply higher insurance rates, particularly for malpractice insurance. Hospitals which have borrowed funds to operate have had to incur additional interest expenses. In addition, more frequent and more sophisticated medical tests which require highly expensive and complex equipment have added to the increase in hospital service charges.

Transportation services accelerated to an annual rate of 8.9 percent as auto insurance rates rose at an annual rate above 10.0 percent for the fourth consecutive quarter. Insurance companies continued to press for further rate hikes in many areas to meet increasing damage repair bills. The first quarter annual rate of increase for auto repairs and maintenance charges was nearly double the rate in the final quarter of 1976. In the public transportation sector, airline, railroad, and taxi and local transit fares increased more in the first quarter of 1977 than in the final quarter of 1976. Local transit fares rose despite reports of increased ridership over the previous year for many transit systems. Subsidies, special taxes, and fare hikes were imposed to help finance expansion of mass transit service and to repair existing systems. Airline fares which were increased on January 15 rose 1.6 percent in the first quarter. Taxicab fares rose in New York, Los Angeles, Washington, and Seattle in the first quarter.

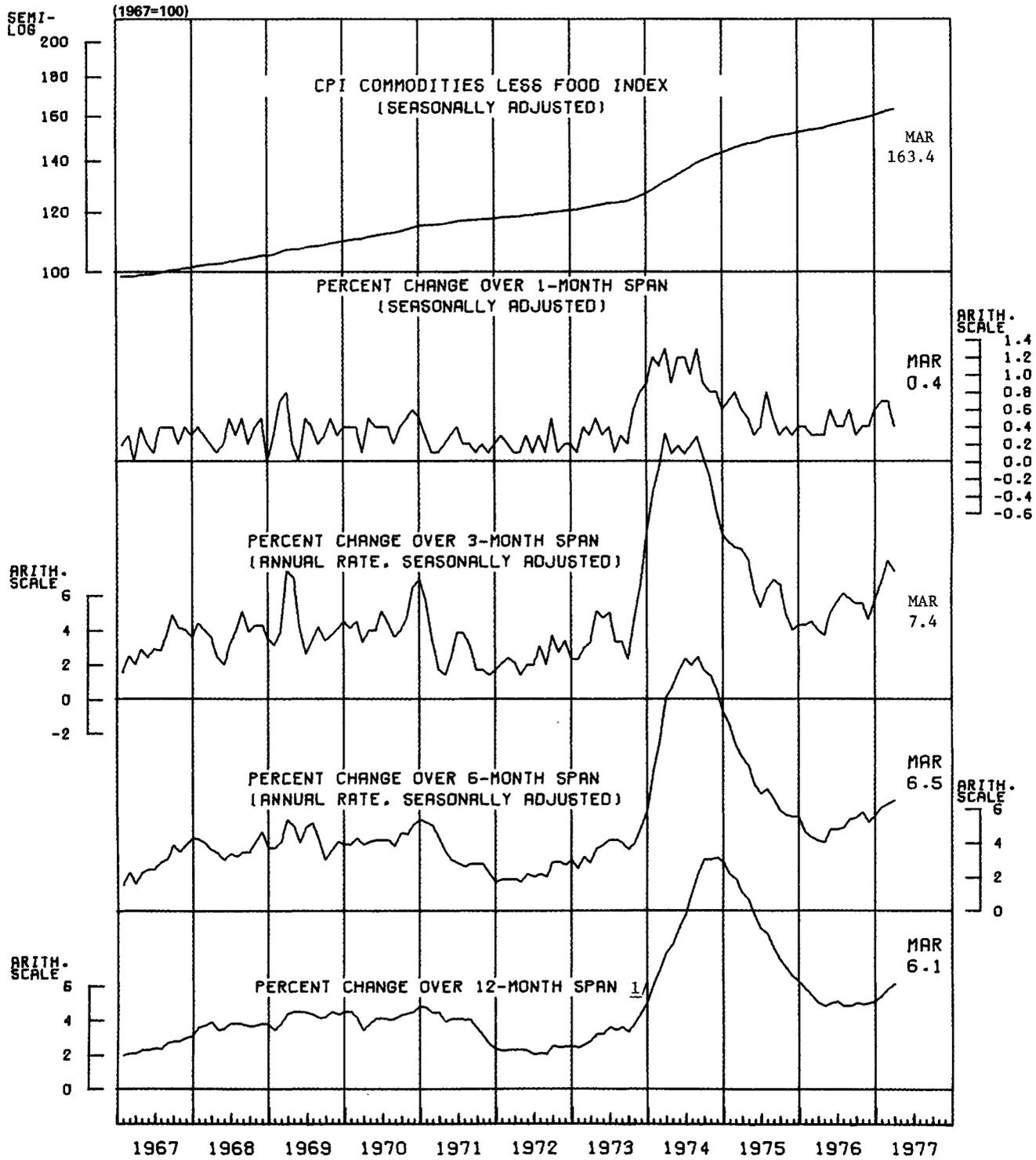
The CPI for other services accelerated in the first quarter from a rate of 5.8 percent to 6.7 percent. Influences behind higher charges included increasing overhead expenses, such as utility charges, along with a first quarter rise in the legal minimum wage for some employees in retail trade from \$2.00 to \$2.20 an hour.

Chart 1. All items index and its rates of change, 1967-77



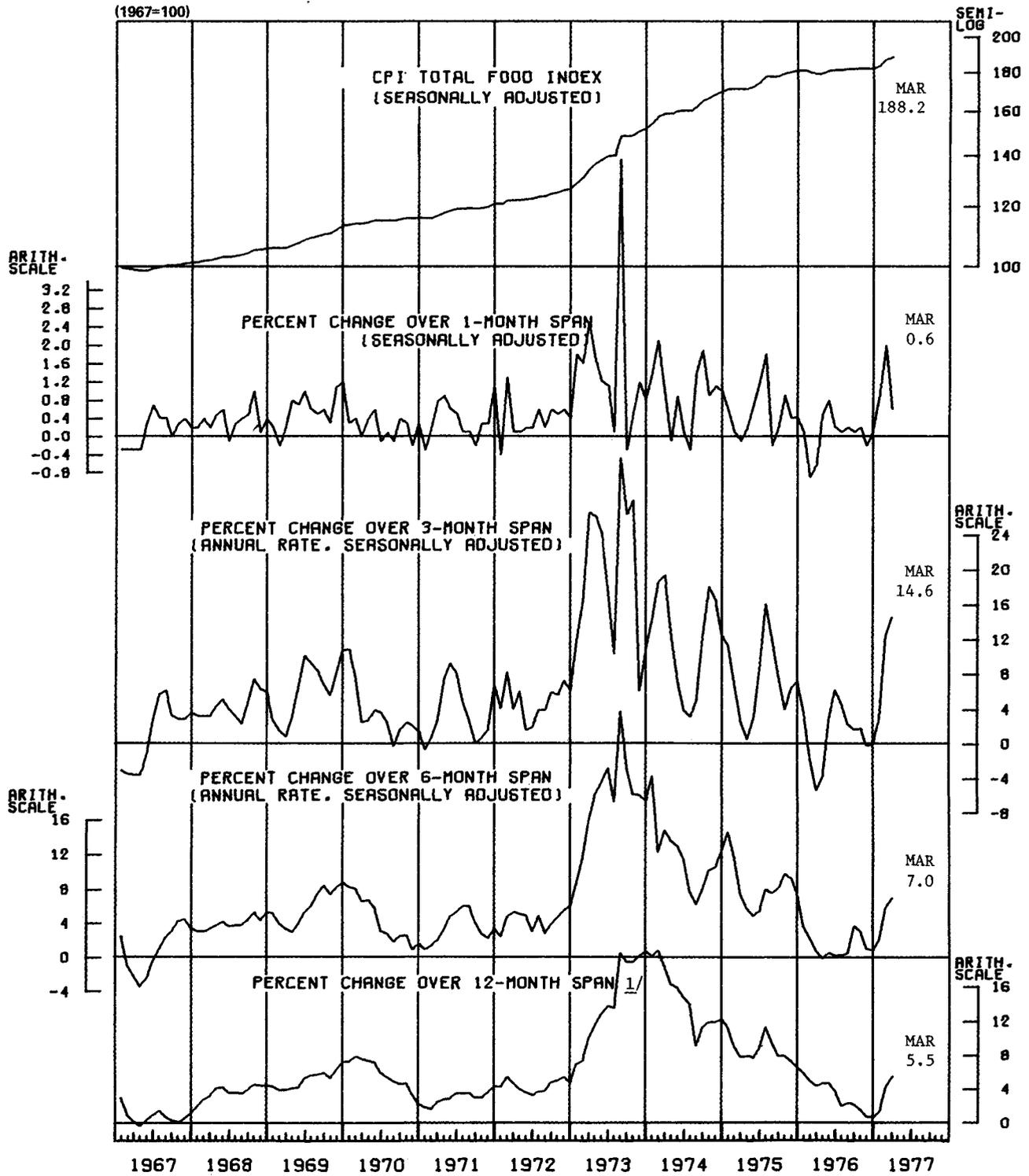
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1967-77



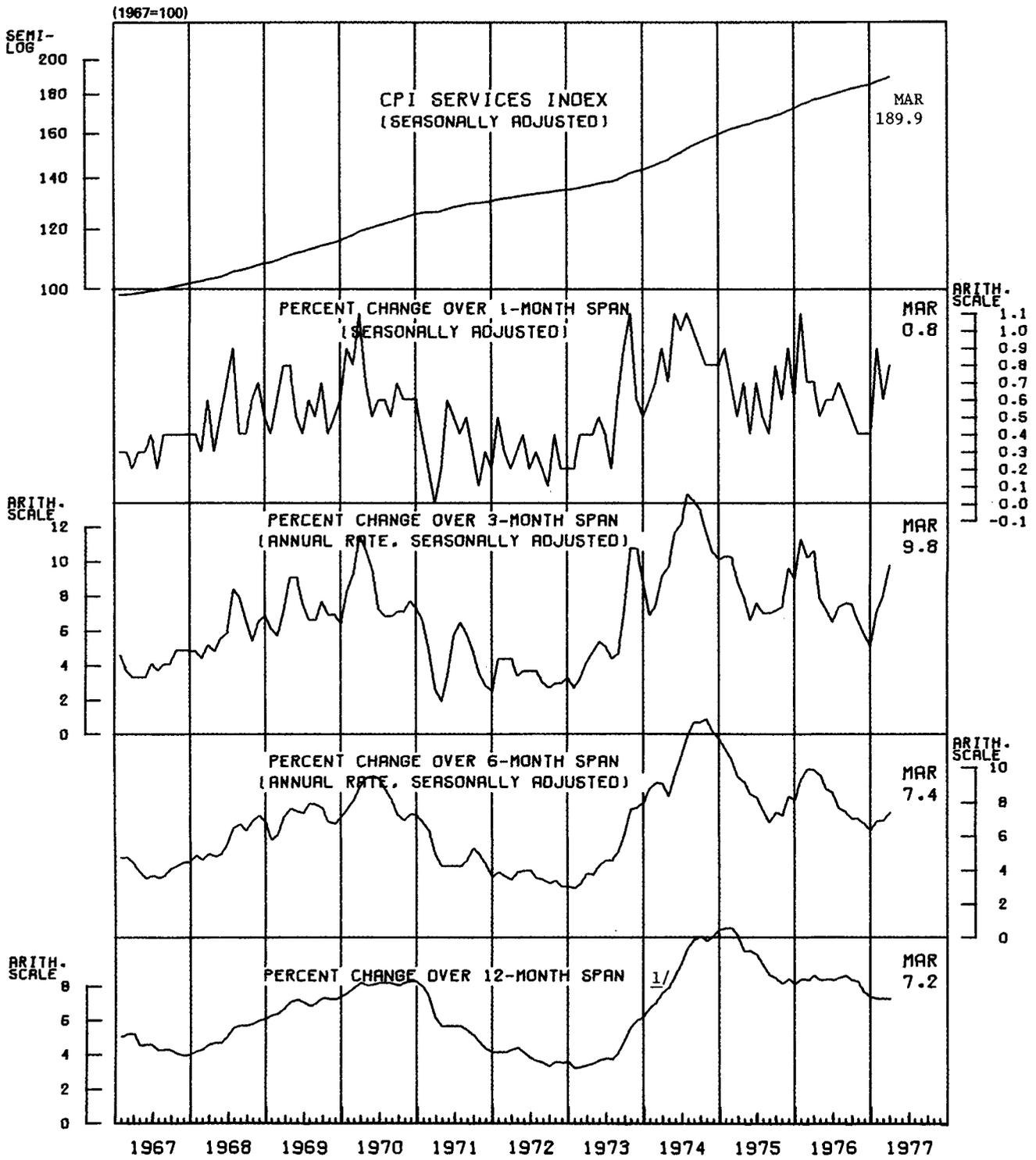
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1967-77



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

Chart 4. Services index and its rates of change, 1967-77



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

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 or class | Relative importance | Unadjusted indexes | | Unadjusted percent change to March 1977 from— | | Seasonally adjusted percent change from— | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|------------|---|---------------|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| | December 1976 | February 1977 | March 1977 | March 1976 | February 1977 | December to January | January to February | February to March |
| Commodity and service groups | | | | | | | | |
| All items | 100.000 | 177.1 | 178.2 | 6.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.6 |
| All items (1957-59=100) | - | 206.0 | 207.2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Commodities | 62.468 | 170.9 | 171.8 | 5.9 | .5 | .8 | 1.2 | .5 |
| Food | 23.667 | 187.7 | 188.6 | 5.5 | .5 | .9 | 2.0 | .6 |
| Food at home | 18.456 | 186.2 | 186.9 | 5.2 | .4 | .9 | 2.3 | .5 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 2.537 | 180.0 | 181.3 | .4 | .7 | .8 | -.6 | .5 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 5.700 | 174.7 | 175.0 | -2.9 | .2 | 1.1 | .8 | .2 |
| Dairy products | 2.841 | 171.1 | 171.2 | 2.0 | .1 | .5 | -1.1 | .5 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 3.019 | 194.7 | 196.8 | 13.4 | 1.1 | -.1 | 8.3 | .3 |
| Other foods at home | 4.360 | 213.0 | 213.2 | 16.6 | .1 | 1.8 | 3.6 | 1.4 |
| Food away from home | 5.210 | 193.6 | 195.2 | 6.8 | .8 | .8 | 1.0 | .7 |
| Commodities less food | 38.801 | 161.6 | 162.6 | 6.1 | .6 | .7 | .7 | .4 |
| Nondurables less food | 22.795 | 163.1 | 163.9 | 5.4 | .5 | .5 | .6 | .3 |
| Apparel commodities | 7.811 | 148.5 | 149.3 | 4.3 | .5 | .6 | .4 | -.1 |
| Men's and boys' | 2.467 | 150.6 | 152.6 | 5.0 | 1.3 | .5 | 1.1 | .5 |
| Women's and girls' | 3.378 | 143.3 | 143.3 | 3.5 | 0 | .9 | -.2 | -.6 |
| Footwear | 1.383 | 154.4 | 155.4 | 5.4 | .6 | .4 | .6 | .3 |
| Other apparel commodities | .582 | 157.7 | 157.8 | 4.6 | .1 | .7 | .2 | -.1 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel | 14.984 | 171.8 | 172.6 | 6.0 | .5 | .5 | .6 | .5 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 3.426 | 182.0 | 183.4 | 7.3 | .8 | -.7 | .9 | .4 |
| Tobacco products | 1.873 | 165.8 | 166.0 | 4.1 | .1 | 1.2 | .1 | .1 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 2.217 | 148.8 | 149.3 | 2.8 | .3 | .1 | -.1 | .3 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 1.060 | 278.3 | 281.4 | 13.7 | 1.1 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.2 |
| Other nondurables | 6.408 | 166.1 | 166.8 | 5.8 | .4 | .6 | .6 | .4 |
| Durable commodities | 16.006 | 159.7 | 160.8 | 6.9 | .7 | .9 | .9 | .6 |
| Household durables | 4.444 | 148.8 | 149.7 | 3.4 | .6 | .3 | .5 | .5 |
| New automobiles | 1.909 | 140.7 | 140.9 | 4.8 | .1 | .6 | .1 | .4 |
| Used automobiles | 2.323 | 179.1 | 182.7 | 21.1 | 2.0 | 3.8 | 3.3 | 1.5 |
| Other durables | 7.329 | 167.2 | 168.0 | 5.7 | .5 | *.5 | *.7 | *.5 |
| Services | 37.532 | 188.7 | 190.0 | 7.2 | .7 | .9 | .6 | .8 |
| Rent | 4.525 | 150.2 | 150.8 | 5.7 | .4 | .8 | .3 | .5 |
| Services less rent | 33.007 | 195.6 | 197.1 | 7.5 | .8 | .9 | .7 | .8 |
| Household services less rent | 16.208 | 206.8 | 208.4 | 6.8 | .8 | 1.3 | .6 | 1.0 |
| Transportation services | 5.295 | 183.6 | 185.1 | 8.2 | .8 | .5 | .9 | .8 |
| Medical care services | 5.958 | 209.4 | 211.5 | 9.9 | 1.0 | .8 | .7 | .8 |
| Other services | 5.547 | 167.5 | 168.1 | 6.1 | .4 | .7 | .5 | .5 |
| Special indexes: | | | | | | | | |
| All items less food | 76.333 | 174.0 | 175.1 | 6.6 | .6 | *.4 | *.6 | *.6 |
| Nondurable commodities | 46.462 | 175.0 | 175.9 | 5.5 | .5 | *.4 | *1.5 | *.5 |
| Apparel commodities less footwear | 6.428 | 147.4 | 148.1 | 4.1 | .5 | .7 | .4 | 0 |
| Services less medical care services | 31.575 | 185.3 | 186.5 | 6.7 | .6 | *.9 | *.5 | *.6 |
| Insurance and finance | 9.864 | 204.5 | 205.6 | 5.9 | .5 | 1.5 | .9 | 1.0 |
| Utilities and public transportation | 5.675 | 182.0 | 183.8 | 9.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | .1 | 1.0 |
| Housekeeping and home maintenance service | 4.830 | 218.8 | 220.5 | 7.2 | .8 | *.4 | *.6 | *.8 |
| Appliances (including radio and TV) | 1.395 | 125.0 | 125.0 | 2.4 | 0 | .2 | .2 | .1 |
| Expenditure classes | | | | | | | | |
| All items | 100.000 | 177.1 | 178.2 | 6.4 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.6 |
| Food | 23.667 | 187.7 | 188.6 | 5.5 | .5 | .9 | 2.0 | .6 |
| Housing | 34.202 | 184.3 | 185.5 | 6.3 | .7 | *.8 | *.7 | *.7 |
| Shelter ¹ | 21.256 | 185.3 | 186.3 | 5.7 | .5 | *.9 | *.7 | *.5 |
| Rent | 4.525 | 150.2 | 150.8 | 5.7 | .4 | .8 | .3 | .5 |
| Homeownership ² | 16.328 | 198.1 | 199.3 | 5.6 | .6 | *.9 | *.7 | *.6 |
| Fuel and utilities ³ | 5.414 | 196.4 | 198.5 | 11.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | .3 | 1.4 |
| Gas and electricity | 2.913 | 205.4 | 208.5 | 13.5 | 1.5 | .9 | .3 | 1.4 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 7.532 | 173.6 | 174.6 | 4.8 | .6 | .5 | .7 | .3 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 9.194 | 150.8 | 151.7 | 4.6 | .6 | .7 | .2 | .2 |
| Transportation | 13.548 | 173.3 | 174.8 | 9.4 | .9 | .9 | .9 | .6 |
| Private | 12.227 | 172.7 | 174.1 | 9.8 | .8 | .9 | 1.0 | .5 |
| Public | 1.321 | 178.9 | 180.4 | 4.7 | .8 | 1.0 | .4 | .8 |
| Health and recreation | 19.013 | 169.8 | 170.7 | 6.3 | .5 | *.6 | *.5 | *.5 |
| Medical care | 6.734 | 195.8 | 197.6 | 9.4 | .9 | *.9 | *.9 | *.9 |
| Personal care | 2.554 | 166.7 | 167.3 | 6.3 | .4 | *.6 | *.3 | *.4 |
| Reading and recreation | 5.143 | 155.5 | 155.8 | 4.6 | .2 | .4 | .4 | .4 |
| Other goods and services | 4.582 | 156.9 | 157.3 | 3.6 | .3 | .6 | .1 | .3 |
| Special indexes: | | | | | | | | |
| All items less shelter | 78.744 | 175.0 | 176.1 | 6.5 | .6 | *.5 | *1.1 | *.6 |
| All items less medical care | 93.266 | 176.0 | 177.0 | 6.1 | .6 | *.6 | *1.0 | *.6 |
| All items less mortgage interest costs | 95.840 | 175.1 | 176.2 | 6.6 | .6 | *.6 | *1.0 | *.6 |
| CPI—domestically produced farm foods ⁴ | 15.827 | 178.6 | 178.3 | 2.0 | -.2 | *.8 | *2.5 | *-.2 |
| CPI—selected beef cuts ⁵ | 1.806 | 162.2 | 161.5 | -2.4 | -.4 | 1.6 | -.8 | -2.2 |
| Purchasing power of consumer dollar: | | | | | | | | |
| 1967=\$1.00 | - | \$0.565 | \$0.561 | -6.0 | -.7 | - | - | - |
| 1957-59=\$1.00 | - | .485 | .483 | - | - | - | - | - |

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 and class | Seasonally adjusted indexes | | | | Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|--|----------------|---------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| | December 1976 | January 1977 | February 1977 | March 1977 | 3 months ending in | | | | 6 months ending in | |
| | | | | | June 1976 | September 1976 | December 1976 | March 1977 | September 1976 | March 1977 |
| Commodity and service groups | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items | - | - | - | - | 6.1 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 10.0 | 5.7 | 7.1 |
| Commodities | 168.0 | 169.4 | 171.4 | 172.2 | 6.0 | 3.9 | 3.4 | 10.4 | 5.0 | 6.8 |
| Food | 181.9 | 183.5 | 187.1 | 188.2 | 6.2 | 1.6 | 0 | 14.6 | 3.8 | 7.0 |
| Food at home | 179.7 | 181.3 | 185.4 | 186.4 | 6.0 | .4 | - .9 | 15.8 | 3.2 | 7.1 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 178.1 | 179.5 | 178.4 | 179.3 | 7.6 | 1.5 | -9.5 | 2.7 | 4.5 | -3.6 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 172.1 | 174.0 | 175.4 | 175.7 | 6.3 | -16.3 | -7.9 | 8.6 | -5.7 | 0 |
| Dairy products | 169.5 | 170.3 | 168.4 | 169.2 | 7.2 | 11.6 | -8.9 | - .7 | 9.4 | -4.9 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 181.3 | 181.2 | 196.3 | 196.8 | -10.4 | 17.6 | 12.6 | 38.8 | 2.7 | 25.0 |
| Other foods at home | 198.7 | 202.3 | 209.6 | 212.6 | 17.0 | 8.3 | 11.4 | 31.1 | 12.5 | 20.8 |
| Food away from home | 190.4 | 192.0 | 194.0 | 195.4 | 7.0 | 5.7 | 3.7 | 10.9 | 6.3 | 7.2 |
| Commodities less food | 160.5 | 161.6 | 162.7 | 163.4 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.7 | 7.4 | 5.5 | 6.5 |
| Nondurables less food | 162.0 | 162.8 | 163.7 | 164.2 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| Apparel commodities | 148.5 | 149.4 | 150.0 | 149.9 | 4.5 | 6.2 | 2.7 | 3.8 | 5.4 | 3.3 |
| Men's and boys' | 149.8 | 150.6 | 152.3 | 153.1 | .5 | 10.2 | .3 | 9.1 | 5.3 | 4.6 |
| Women's and girls' | 144.2 | 145.5 | 145.2 | 144.3 | 7.4 | 3.7 | 2.8 | .3 | 5.5 | 1.5 |
| Footwear | 153.4 | 154.0 | 155.0 | 155.4 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 3.5 | 5.3 | 6.3 | 4.4 |
| Other apparel commodities | 156.9 | 158.0 | 158.3 | 158.1 | 2.9 | 3.5 | 8.9 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 5.9 |
| Nondurables less food and apparel | 170.0 | 170.8 | 171.8 | 172.7 | 5.3 | 6.0 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 5.6 | 6.6 |
| Gasoline and motor oil | 183.1 | 181.8 | 183.5 | 184.3 | 7.2 | 10.2 | 9.5 | 2.6 | 8.7 | 6.0 |
| Tobacco products | 163.5 | 165.4 | 165.6 | 165.8 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 6.6 | 5.7 | 1.9 | 6.2 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 148.8 | 148.9 | 148.8 | 149.3 | 4.8 | 1.6 | 3.3 | 1.4 | 3.2 | 2.3 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 261.4 | 266.6 | 272.0 | 278.1 | 7.7 | 11.2 | 8.7 | 28.1 | 9.4 | 18.0 |
| Other nondurables | 164.3 | 165.3 | 166.3 | 167.0 | 4.9 | 5.4 | 6.1 | 6.7 | 5.1 | 6.4 |
| Durable commodities | 158.4 | 159.9 | 161.4 | 162.4 | 6.5 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 10.5 | 5.7 | 8.2 |
| Household durables | 148.4 | 148.8 | 149.5 | 150.2 | 1.9 | 1.4 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 1.7 | 5.3 |
| New automobiles | 139.2 | 140.0 | 140.1 | 140.6 | 1.5 | 6.4 | 6.9 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 5.5 |
| Used automobiles | 178.7 | 185.5 | 191.6 | 194.4 | 25.5 | 5.0 | 16.2 | 40.1 | 14.8 | 27.6 |
| Other durables ¹ | 165.1 | 166.0 | 167.2 | 168.0 | 5.7 | 6.9 | 3.0 | 7.2 | 6.3 | 5.1 |
| Services | 185.5 | 187.2 | 188.4 | 189.9 | 6.5 | 7.5 | 5.1 | 9.8 | 7.0 | 7.4 |
| Rent | 148.3 | 149.5 | 149.9 | 150.6 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 5.8 |
| Services less rent | 192.2 | 194.0 | 195.4 | 197.0 | 6.7 | 7.7 | 5.4 | 10.4 | 7.2 | 7.8 |
| Household services less rent | 202.5 | 205.1 | 206.4 | 208.4 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 2.0 | 12.2 | 6.7 | 7.0 |
| Transportation services | 180.6 | 181.5 | 183.1 | 184.5 | 7.0 | 10.3 | 6.4 | 8.9 | 8.6 | 7.7 |
| Medical care services | 206.4 | 208.0 | 209.4 | 211.1 | 8.2 | 8.9 | 13.2 | 9.4 | 8.5 | 11.3 |
| Other services | 165.6 | 166.7 | 167.5 | 168.3 | 5.4 | 6.9 | 5.8 | 6.7 | 6.1 | 6.2 |
| Special indexes: | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items less food ¹ | 172.2 | 172.9 | 174.0 | 175.1 | 7.0 | 7.4 | 5.3 | 6.9 | 7.2 | 6.1 |
| Nondurable commodities ¹ | 171.7 | 172.4 | 175.0 | 175.9 | 5.6 | 4.1 | 2.4 | 10.1 | 4.9 | 6.2 |
| Apparel commodities less footwear | 147.4 | 148.4 | 149.0 | 149.0 | 4.3 | 6.2 | 1.9 | 4.4 | 5.2 | 3.2 |
| Services less medical care services ¹ | 182.7 | 184.3 | 185.3 | 186.5 | 4.9 | 8.2 | 5.2 | 8.6 | 6.5 | 6.9 |
| Insurance and finance | 198.5 | 201.5 | 203.3 | 205.4 | 5.7 | 6.9 | -2.8 | 14.6 | 6.3 | 5.6 |
| Utilities and public transportation | 179.2 | 181.1 | 181.3 | 183.1 | 9.1 | 8.9 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 9.0 | 9.0 |
| Housekeeping and home maintenance service ¹ | 216.7 | 217.6 | 218.8 | 220.5 | 8.2 | 8.5 | 5.1 | 7.2 | 8.3 | 6.2 |
| Appliances (including radio and TV) | 124.4 | 124.7 | 125.0 | 125.1 | 4.7 | 1.6 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 3.1 | 1.6 |
| Expenditure classes | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items | - | - | - | - | 6.1 | 5.3 | 4.2 | 10.0 | 5.7 | 7.1 |
| Food | 181.9 | 183.5 | 187.1 | 188.2 | 6.2 | 1.6 | 0 | 14.6 | 3.8 | 7.0 |
| Housing ¹ | 181.6 | 183.1 | 184.3 | 185.5 | 4.7 | 7.0 | 4.8 | 8.9 | 5.8 | 6.8 |
| Shelter ^{1, 2} | 182.4 | 184.1 | 185.3 | 186.3 | 4.4 | 7.6 | 2.0 | 8.8 | 6.0 | 5.4 |
| Rent | 148.3 | 149.5 | 149.9 | 150.6 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.3 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 5.8 |
| Homeownership ^{1, 3} | 195.0 | 196.7 | 198.1 | 199.3 | 4.3 | 8.0 | 1.2 | 9.1 | 6.1 | 5.1 |
| Fuel and utilities ⁴ | 191.8 | 194.0 | 194.6 | 197.3 | 9.5 | 10.0 | 12.3 | 12.0 | 9.8 | 12.2 |
| Gas and electricity | 201.6 | 203.4 | 204.0 | 206.8 | 12.4 | 12.9 | 17.8 | 10.7 | 12.7 | 14.2 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 172.2 | 173.1 | 174.3 | 174.8 | 3.6 | 3.9 | 5.5 | 6.2 | 3.8 | 5.9 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 150.6 | 151.7 | 152.0 | 152.3 | 4.2 | 6.4 | 3.3 | 4.6 | 5.3 | 3.9 |
| Transportation | 171.9 | 173.5 | 175.1 | 176.2 | 9.5 | 10.3 | 7.3 | 10.4 | 9.9 | 8.8 |
| Private | 171.5 | 173.0 | 174.8 | 175.7 | 10.1 | 10.4 | 8.9 | 10.2 | 10.3 | 9.5 |
| Public | 176.3 | 178.0 | 178.7 | 180.2 | 5.2 | 4.2 | .2 | 9.1 | 4.7 | 4.6 |
| Health and recreation ¹ | 168.0 | 169.0 | 169.8 | 170.7 | 5.6 | 6.3 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 5.9 | 6.6 |
| Medical care ¹ | 192.3 | 194.1 | 195.8 | 197.6 | 7.0 | 9.5 | 9.7 | 11.5 | 8.2 | 10.6 |
| Personal care ¹ | 165.2 | 166.2 | 166.7 | 167.3 | 6.2 | 7.7 | 6.0 | 5.2 | 7.0 | 5.6 |
| Reading and recreation | 154.5 | 155.1 | 155.7 | 156.3 | 3.2 | 4.9 | 5.4 | 4.7 | 4.1 | 5.0 |
| Other goods and services | 155.8 | 156.7 | 156.9 | 157.3 | 4.0 | 1.8 | 4.8 | 3.9 | 2.9 | 4.3 |
| Special indexes: | | | | | | | | | | |
| All items less shelter ¹ | 172.2 | 173.1 | 175.0 | 176.1 | 6.9 | 5.6 | 4.3 | 9.4 | 6.3 | 6.8 |
| All items less medical care ¹ | 173.2 | 174.2 | 174.2 | 177.0 | 6.4 | 5.5 | 3.5 | 9.1 | 6.0 | 6.3 |
| All items less mortgage interest costs ¹ | 172.3 | 173.3 | 175.1 | 176.2 | 6.9 | 5.6 | 4.5 | 9.4 | 6.3 | 6.9 |
| CPI—domestically produced farm foods ^{1, 5} | 173.0 | 174.3 | 178.6 | 178.3 | 2.5 | -2.5 | -4.1 | 12.8 | 0 | 4.0 |
| CPI—selected beef cuts ⁶ | 163.9 | 166.5 | 165.2 | 161.5 | 3.4 | -18.1 | 14.1 | -5.7 | -7.9 | 3.7 |

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

⁵ Calculated from the CPI food at home component by excluding fish, nonalcoholic

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

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

r=revised.

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 1977 from— | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | March 1977 | | March 1976 | February 1977 | |
| | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted | Unadjusted | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted |
| Food | 188.6 | 188.2 | 5.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 |
| Food away from home | 195.2 | 195.4 | 6.8 | .8 | .7 |
| Restaurant meals | 193.5 | (1) | 6.4 | .8 | (1) |
| Snacks | 203.4 | 203.8 | 8.3 | 1.2 | 1.4 |
| Food at home | 186.9 | 186.4 | 5.2 | .4 | .5 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 181.3 | 179.3 | .4 | .7 | .5 |
| Flour | 145.6 | 142.6 | -7.4 | .6 | .1 |
| Cracker meal | 229.7 | 228.1 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 0 |
| Corn flakes | 172.4 | 172.1 | 3.8 | 1.1 | 1.8 |
| Rice | 184.6 | 182.4 | -9.2 | -2.2 | .2 |
| Bread, white | 161.6 | 159.8 | -1.4 | -1.1 | -1.4 |
| Bread, whole wheat | 180.4 | 179.9 | 2.9 | -1.1 | 0 |
| Cookies | 201.1 | 198.9 | 6.7 | 4.6 | 5.7 |
| Layer cake | 188.1 | 186.2 | 1.3 | .6 | .2 |
| Cinnamon rolls | 196.0 | 194.6 | .8 | -2.2 | .2 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 175.0 | 175.7 | -2.9 | .2 | .2 |
| Meats | 170.8 | 168.6 | -4.9 | -3.3 | -2.9 |
| Beef and veal | 160.7 | 159.9 | -2.4 | -5.5 | -2.5 |
| Steak, round | 160.8 | 158.4 | -2.4 | .1 | -2.5 |
| Steak, sirloin | 155.9 | 155.6 | -2.9 | .1 | -3.1 |
| Steak, porterhouse | 170.4 | 173.5 | -2.7 | -1.1 | -1.5 |
| Rump roast | 157.5 | 156.7 | -2.3 | .5 | -1.7 |
| Rib roast | 185.0 | 185.0 | -.9 | -1.5 | -2.8 |
| Chuck roast | 163.3 | 161.2 | -3.8 | -1.6 | -3.7 |
| Hamburger | 156.4 | 154.4 | -2.2 | -1.0 | -3.6 |
| Beef liver | 122.4 | 122.0 | -7.5 | .9 | .1 |
| Veal cutlets | 187.9 | 188.1 | .6 | -1.7 | -2.4 |
| Pork | 184.1 | 186.1 | -9.9 | -5.5 | .4 |
| Chops | 175.8 | 179.0 | -7.1 | -2.9 | -1.4 |
| Loin roast | 182.8 | 183.2 | -11.9 | -2.6 | -2.8 |
| Sausage | 207.7 | 208.1 | -8.4 | 3.0 | 2.7 |
| Ham, whole | 189.2 | 187.7 | -7.1 | 1.1 | 1.7 |
| Picnics | 167.5 | 164.7 | -16.4 | -2.9 | -4.0 |
| Bacon | 187.3 | 190.3 | -10.6 | 1.3 | 2.3 |
| Other meats | 174.5 | 174.0 | -1.8 | .5 | .1 |
| Lamb chops | 188.9 | 189.3 | 6.4 | .4 | .3 |
| Frankfurters | 159.7 | 160.5 | -5.8 | .9 | .1 |
| Ham, canned | 195.2 | 191.4 | -7.1 | 1.1 | .8 |
| Bologna sausage | 172.4 | 172.4 | -1.0 | 1.6 | .5 |
| Salami sausage | 164.4 | 165.4 | -1.0 | -.9 | -1.3 |
| Liverwurst | 164.9 | 165.6 | -1.8 | 1.0 | 1.4 |
| Poultry | 158.3 | 161.0 | .4 | 3.5 | 3.0 |
| Frying chicken | 161.8 | 164.8 | .8 | 4.3 | 2.9 |
| Chicken breasts | 163.8 | 166.3 | 2.1 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Turkey | 137.0 | 138.1 | -3.5 | 1.1 | .3 |
| Fish | 241.5 | 241.3 | 10.1 | .2 | .7 |
| Shrimp, frozen | 235.9 | (1) | 10.6 | -.3 | (1) |
| Fish, fresh or frozen | 275.2 | (1) | 17.4 | 1.1 | (1) |
| Tuna fish, canned | 197.4 | 195.8 | 8.0 | -1.2 | -1.2 |
| Sardines, canned | 256.8 | 257.3 | 4.8 | .6 | 1.0 |
| Dairy products | 171.2 | 169.2 | 2.0 | .1 | .5 |
| Milk, fresh, grocery | 161.5 | 159.0 | .5 | -1.1 | -1.1 |
| Milk, fresh, skim | 179.1 | 176.8 | 1.5 | -1.1 | -2.2 |
| Milk, evaporated | 210.8 | (1) | 3.7 | .4 | (1) |
| Ice cream | 162.3 | 161.2 | 3.6 | .4 | .6 |
| Cheese, American process | 200.6 | 198.0 | 2.0 | .3 | .7 |
| Butter | 154.9 | 154.7 | 8.4 | .5 | 1.6 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 196.8 | 196.8 | 13.4 | 1.1 | .3 |
| Fresh fruits and vegetables | 205.4 | 206.6 | 24.3 | .9 | -.9 |
| Fresh fruits | 180.9 | 192.2 | 22.1 | 5.0 | 4.9 |
| Apples | 177.8 | 190.8 | 25.7 | 2.7 | 1.8 |
| Bananas | 176.5 | 180.3 | 16.4 | 14.2 | 13.0 |
| Oranges | 162.1 | 169.9 | 12.7 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| Orange juice, fresh | 161.5 | (1) | 6.8 | 2.6 | (1) |
| Grapefruit | 160.9 | 182.6 | 18.0 | -4.8 | -4.0 |
| Grapes | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) |
| Strawberries | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) |
| Watermelon | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) | (2) |
| Fresh vegetables | 225.3 | 218.5 | 25.8 | -1.6 | -4.3 |
| Potatoes | 197.2 | 202.7 | -6.6 | 2.1 | -.5 |
| Onions | 246.5 | 261.4 | 44.5 | 6.9 | 10.3 |
| Asparagus | 269.4 | 225.3 | 27.7 | (2) | (2) |
| Cabbage | 354.6 | 335.5 | 128.6 | -9.2 | -10.7 |
| Carrots | 235.7 | 234.1 | 61.0 | -12.6 | -12.4 |
| Celery | 264.3 | 272.5 | 39.5 | -.5 | 5.6 |
| Cucumbers | 233.7 | 176.2 | 19.8 | 11.4 | -.7 |
| Lettuce | 156.4 | (1) | 12.9 | -10.7 | (1) |
| Peppers, green | 258.5 | 249.3 | 60.1 | 11.4 | 11.5 |
| Spinach | 224.1 | 223.2 | 19.0 | -2.9 | -2.1 |
| Tomatoes | 201.5 | 187.8 | 24.2 | -14.3 | -13.5 |

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

| Item and group | Index | | Percent change to March 1977 from— | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| | March 1977 | | March 1976 | February 1977 | |
| | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted | Unadjusted | Unadjusted | Seasonally adjusted |
| Food—Continued | | | | | |
| Food at home—Continued | | | | | |
| Fruits and vegetables—Continued | | | | | |
| Processed fruits and vegetables | 184.0 | 182.4 | -1.1 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| Fruit cocktail, canned | 180.9 | 180.9 | 3.8 | -.2 | -.1 |
| Pears, canned | 157.0 | 157.0 | -.6 | .2 | .5 |
| Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned | 180.1 | 180.1 | 3.7 | 2.6 | 2.7 |
| Orange juice concentrate, frozen | 175.5 | (¹) | 10.4 | 11.6 | (¹) |
| Lemonade concentrate, frozen | 187.4 | 185.4 | -1.9 | .7 | .5 |
| Beets, canned | 192.4 | (¹) | 3.9 | .6 | (¹) |
| Peas, green canned | 159.7 | 159.2 | 1.5 | -.1 | .3 |
| Tomatoes, canned | 190.3 | (¹) | 7.5 | 1.5 | (¹) |
| Dried beans | 229.7 | 221.7 | -26.2 | -2.1 | -2.7 |
| Broccoli, frozen | 179.2 | (¹) | 15.3 | 5.0 | (¹) |
| Other food at home | 213.2 | 212.6 | 16.6 | .1 | 1.4 |
| Eggs | 179.5 | 181.9 | 11.9 | -13.7 | -3.0 |
| Fats and oils | 180.7 | 178.9 | 3.3 | .7 | .7 |
| Margarine | 191.3 | 188.5 | 0 | .5 | .3 |
| Salad dressing, Italian | 162.3 | 160.5 | 6.1 | .7 | -.1 |
| Salad or cooking oil | 188.7 | 187.9 | 3.6 | .8 | .9 |
| Sugar and sweets | 222.8 | 218.2 | .2 | 1.6 | 1.4 |
| Sugar | 183.0 | 177.7 | -13.0 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
| Grape jelly | 216.0 | (¹) | -3.1 | .5 | (¹) |
| Chocolate bar | 254.4 | (¹) | 5.8 | 2.7 | (¹) |
| Syrup, chocolate flavored | 232.5 | 227.3 | 8.7 | 1.3 | .7 |
| Nonalcoholic beverages | 286.4 | (¹) | 48.4 | 4.6 | (¹) |
| Coffee | 389.7 | (¹) | 92.8 | 7.0 | (¹) |
| Coffee, instant | 294.4 | 295.9 | 43.1 | 4.2 | 4.7 |
| Tea | 159.6 | 159.6 | 8.1 | .4 | .4 |
| Carbonated drink, cola flavored | 199.9 | (¹) | 3.7 | .4 | (¹) |
| Carbonated drink, fruit flavored | 202.1 | (¹) | 2.4 | .3 | (¹) |
| Prepared and partially prepared foods | 173.8 | 173.1 | 3.9 | .3 | .4 |
| Bean soup, canned | 205.6 | 203.2 | -.4 | -.5 | -1.0 |
| Chicken soup, canned | 146.4 | 146.3 | 9.0 | 1.0 | .7 |
| Spaghetti, canned | 166.2 | 167.0 | 3.8 | .1 | 1.0 |
| Mashed potatoes, instant | 158.5 | 159.5 | 2.7 | .2 | .7 |
| Potatoes, french fried, frozen | 181.3 | 183.3 | 3.0 | 1.2 | 1.8 |
| Baby foods | 181.4 | (¹) | 11.8 | .7 | (¹) |
| Sweet pickle relish | 189.7 | 185.1 | 3.2 | .4 | -.3 |
| Pretzels | 161.6 | 161.4 | 1.1 | -.4 | -.7 |

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 1977 from— | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| | | February 1977 | March 1977 | March 1976 | February 1977 |
| Housing | | 184.3 | 185.5 | 6.3 | 0.7 |
| Shelter ¹ | | 185.3 | 186.3 | 5.7 | .5 |
| Rent, residential | | 150.2 | 150.8 | 5.7 | .4 |
| Homeownership ² | | 198.1 | 199.3 | 5.6 | .6 |
| Mortgage interest rates | | 137.0 | 136.6 | -4.3 | -.3 |
| Property taxes | | 178.5 | 179.5 | 7.4 | .6 |
| Property insurance premium | | 149.6 | 150.9 | 7.9 | .9 |
| Maintenance and repairs | | 207.9 | 209.8 | 7.8 | .9 |
| Maintenance and repair commodities ³ | | 174.8 | 176.2 | 6.8 | .8 |
| Exterior house paint | | 169.8 | 169.6 | 5.4 | -.1 |
| Interior house paint | | 156.9 | 156.1 | 4.3 | -.5 |
| Maintenance and repair services | | 222.3 | 224.4 | 8.1 | .9 |
| Repainting living and dining rooms | | 233.9 | 235.9 | 7.1 | .9 |
| Reshingling house roof | | 242.4 | 245.4 | 7.8 | 1.2 |
| Residing house | | 210.2 | 211.8 | 9.1 | .8 |
| Replacing sink | | 217.5 | 220.1 | 6.8 | 1.2 |
| Repairing furnace | | 218.0 | 220.1 | 9.3 | 1.0 |
| Fuel and utilities | | 196.4 | 198.5 | 11.0 | 1.1 |
| Fuel oil and coal | | 278.3 | 281.4 | 13.7 | 1.1 |
| Fuel oil, No. 2 | | 275.4 | 278.2 | 14.1 | 1.0 |
| Gas and electricity | | 205.4 | 208.5 | 13.5 | 1.5 |
| Gas | | 229.5 | 231.8 | 19.7 | 1.0 |
| Electricity | | 182.9 | 186.7 | 6.9 | 2.1 |
| Other utilities: | | | | | |
| Residential telephone services | | 130.5 | 130.6 | 1.3 | .1 |
| Residential water and sewerage services | | 200.6 | 201.6 | 9.7 | .5 |
| Household furnishings and operation ⁴ | | 173.6 | 174.6 | 4.8 | .6 |
| Housefurnishings | | 153.7 | 154.7 | 3.5 | .7 |
| Textiles | | 153.6 | 156.0 | 5.8 | 1.6 |
| Sheets, full, flat | | 158.2 | 158.8 | -.1 | .4 |
| Curtains, tailored | | 149.3 | 149.7 | 4.2 | .3 |
| Bedspreads | | 158.6 | 161.0 | 9.4 | 1.5 |
| Drapery fabrics | | 184.4 | 191.5 | 9.8 | 3.9 |
| Pillows, bed | | 133.1 | 134.3 | 8.2 | .9 |
| Slipcovers and throws, ready-made | | 137.6 | 139.6 | 3.2 | 1.5 |
| Furniture and bedding | | 154.3 | 155.5 | 3.0 | .8 |
| Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser | Mar. 70 | 136.4 | 137.5 | 4.6 | .8 |
| Sofas, upholstered | | 142.0 | 142.8 | 2.4 | .6 |
| Cocktail tables | Dec. 71 | 130.5 | 132.1 | 1.7 | 1.2 |
| Dining room chairs | Mar. 70 | 140.2 | 141.8 | 5.1 | 1.1 |
| Recliners, upholstered | Dec. 71 | 113.5 | 114.9 | 2.2 | 1.1 |
| Sofas, dual purpose | | 139.6 | 140.5 | .7 | .6 |
| Bedding, mattress and box springs | June 70 | 137.5 | 137.8 | 4.0 | .2 |
| Aluminum folding chairs | | (⁵) | (⁵) | (⁵) | (⁵) |
| Cribs | | 159.1 | 160.2 | 5.6 | .7 |
| Floor coverings | | 138.6 | 139.1 | 2.6 | .4 |
| Broadloom carpeting | | 125.8 | 125.7 | 1.6 | -.1 |
| Vinyl sheet goods | | 169.0 | 170.8 | 4.8 | 1.1 |
| Vinyl floor tile | | 167.9 | 170.0 | 4.0 | 1.3 |
| Appliances (excluding radio and TV) | | 138.2 | 138.3 | 3.8 | .1 |
| Washing machines, electric | | 143.6 | 144.5 | 3.8 | .6 |
| Vacuum cleaners | | 123.3 | 124.1 | 3.8 | .6 |
| Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric | | 138.0 | 138.1 | 3.8 | .1 |
| Ranges, free standing, gas or electric | | 140.8 | 142.1 | 3.6 | .9 |
| Clothes dryers, electric | | 151.9 | 152.7 | 4.8 | .5 |
| Air conditioners, demountable | | (⁵) | (⁵) | (⁵) | (⁵) |
| Room heaters, electric, portable | | 133.9 | 130.1 | 3.1 | -2.8 |
| Garbage disposal units | | 137.3 | 137.8 | 3.6 | .4 |
| Other housefurnishings: | | | | | |
| Dinnerware, fine china | | 198.0 | 200.9 | 6.6 | 1.5 |
| Flatware, stainless steel | | 183.6 | 185.1 | 1.2 | .8 |
| Table lamps, with shade | | 150.1 | 151.4 | 2.3 | .9 |
| Lawn mowers, power, rotary type | | (⁵) | 166.7 | 2.8 | (⁵) |
| Electric drills, hand-held | | 130.1 | 131.5 | 2.4 | 1.1 |
| Housekeeping supplies: | | | | | |
| Laundry soaps and detergents | | 181.8 | 183.2 | 5.9 | .8 |
| Paper napkins | | 230.6 | 231.0 | 6.1 | .2 |
| Toilet tissue | | 256.8 | 258.3 | 13.9 | .6 |
| Housekeeping services: | | | | | |
| Domestic services, general housework | | 218.7 | 219.3 | 4.8 | .3 |
| Baby sitter services | | 224.4 | 225.6 | 6.8 | .5 |
| Postal charges | | 225.6 | 225.6 | 3.4 | 0 |
| Laundry, flatwork, finished service | | 214.9 | 216.2 | 8.0 | .6 |
| Licensed day care services, preschool child | | 168.9 | 169.3 | 5.0 | .2 |
| Washing machine repairs | | 206.3 | 208.7 | 5.0 | 1.2 |

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 1977 from— | |
|--|------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | February 1977 | March 1977 | March 1976 | February 1977 |
| Apparel and upkeep ⁶ | | 150.8 | 151.7 | 4.6 | 0.6 |
| Apparel commodities | | 148.5 | 149.3 | 4.3 | .5 |
| Apparel commodities less footwear | | 147.4 | 148.1 | 4.1 | .5 |
| Men's and boys' | | 150.6 | 152.6 | 5.0 | 1.3 |
| Men's: | | | | | |
| Topcoats and all-weather coats | | 150.6 | 153.4 | 5.1 | 1.9 |
| Suits, year round weight | | 139.7 | 144.0 | 1.8 | 3.1 |
| Sport jackets | June 74 | 94.7 | 93.5 | -5.5 | -1.3 |
| Jackets, lightweight | | 145.0 | 144.5 | 4.5 | -.3 |
| Slacks, heavyweight | | 116.3 | 119.0 | -1.2 | 2.3 |
| Slacks, lightweight | | 150.8 | 151.4 | 4.8 | .4 |
| Trousers, work | | 169.3 | 170.7 | 8.7 | .8 |
| Shirts, work | | 168.9 | 169.6 | 9.8 | .4 |
| Shirts, business or dress | | 138.9 | 141.6 | 8.6 | 1.9 |
| T-shirts | | 170.9 | 173.5 | 9.7 | 1.5 |
| Socks | | 137.8 | 138.0 | 3.1 | .1 |
| Handkerchiefs | | 167.3 | 170.4 | 6.1 | 1.9 |
| Boys': | | | | | |
| Coats, heavyweight | | 113.8 | 118.1 | 5.8 | 3.8 |
| Sport coats, wool or wool blends | | 127.1 | 126.8 | 2.4 | -.2 |
| Dungarees | | 200.7 | 202.6 | 10.2 | .9 |
| Undershorts | | 162.8 | 166.2 | 7.2 | 2.1 |
| Women's and girls' | | 143.3 | 143.3 | 3.5 | 0 |
| Women's: | | | | | |
| Coats, heavyweight | | 140.5 | 137.6 | 9.0 | -2.1 |
| Carcoats, heavyweight | | 149.0 | 133.3 | -6.6 | -10.5 |
| Sweaters | | 134.9 | 135.6 | 2.4 | .5 |
| Skirts, winter weight | | 146.3 | 154.4 | 1.2 | 5.5 |
| Skirts, summer weight | | 158.2 | 160.6 | 7.8 | 1.5 |
| Blouses | | 145.4 | 146.1 | 4.4 | .5 |
| Dresses, street, year round weight | | 153.4 | 154.8 | 5.4 | .9 |
| Slips | | 131.2 | 132.7 | 7.1 | 1.1 |
| Panties | | 154.3 | 155.1 | 4.9 | .5 |
| Girdles | | 137.0 | 138.3 | 4.5 | .9 |
| Brassieres | | 154.9 | 155.2 | 4.9 | .2 |
| Hose or panty hose, nylon | | 91.8 | 92.5 | .7 | .8 |
| Anklets or knee-length socks | | 139.0 | 140.2 | 4.7 | .9 |
| Gloves, fabric | | 129.9 | 131.5 | 2.3 | 1.2 |
| Handbags | | 174.5 | 174.4 | 3.9 | -.1 |
| Girls': | | | | | |
| Raincoats | | 137.3 | 128.1 | -.1 | -6.7 |
| Skirts, fall and winter | | 154.1 | 154.8 | 2.7 | .5 |
| Dresses | | 131.2 | 136.6 | 3.8 | 4.1 |
| Slacks, fall and winter | | 170.2 | 171.9 | 3.6 | 1.0 |
| Slips | | 141.6 | 142.3 | 8.9 | .5 |
| Handbags | | 150.3 | 149.4 | 10.3 | -.6 |
| Other apparel commodities | | 157.7 | 157.8 | 4.6 | .1 |
| Diapers | | 204.0 | 202.1 | 8.9 | -.9 |
| Yard goods | | 168.0 | 169.6 | 7.4 | 1.0 |
| Wrist watches, men's and women's | | 141.2 | 141.2 | 1.7 | 0 |
| Footwear | | 154.4 | 155.4 | 5.4 | .6 |
| Men's: | | | | | |
| Shoes, street | | 162.0 | 162.3 | 7.6 | .2 |
| Shoes, work, high | | 178.7 | 180.3 | 8.2 | .9 |
| Women's: | | | | | |
| Shoes, street, pump | | 145.7 | 148.1 | 4.5 | 1.6 |
| Shoes, evening, pump | | 137.8 | 137.8 | 4.1 | 0 |
| Shoes, casual | | 155.6 | 157.1 | 5.8 | 1.0 |
| Houseslippers, scuff | | 151.4 | 150.4 | 4.0 | -.7 |
| Children's: | | | | | |
| Shoes, oxford | | 156.3 | 158.5 | 6.3 | 1.4 |
| Sneakers, boys', oxford type | | 152.3 | 151.4 | .6 | -.6 |
| Dress shoes, girls' | | 163.6 | 166.1 | 4.9 | 1.5 |
| Apparel services: | | | | | |
| Drycleaning | | 166.8 | 168.1 | 6.0 | .8 |
| Automatic laundry service | | 147.8 | 150.9 | 5.9 | 2.1 |
| Laundry, men's shirts | | 172.9 | 174.0 | 8.8 | .6 |
| Tailoring charges | | 167.0 | 167.9 | 5.7 | .5 |
| Shoe repairs | | 157.2 | 158.2 | 7.8 | .6 |
| Transportation | | 173.3 | 174.8 | 9.4 | .9 |
| Private ⁷ : | | | | | |
| Automobiles, new | | 172.7 | 174.1 | 9.8 | .8 |
| Automobiles, used | | 140.7 | 140.9 | 4.8 | .1 |
| Gasoline, regular, premium, and unleaded | | 179.1 | 182.7 | 21.1 | 2.0 |
| Motor oil | | 183.5 | 184.9 | 7.6 | .8 |
| Tires | | 163.0 | 163.9 | 3.7 | .6 |
| Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance ⁸ | | 140.0 | 138.3 | 6.2 | -1.2 |
| Auto insurance premiums | | 198.3 | 200.3 | 7.3 | 1.0 |
| Auto registration fees | | 203.8 | 206.0 | 13.1 | 1.1 |
| Auto registration fees | | 137.5 | 137.5 | 3.5 | 0 |
| Parking fees, private and municipal | | 190.7 | 191.3 | 6.5 | .3 |

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

| Item and group | Other index base | Indexes | | Percent change to March 1977 from— | |
|---|------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| | | February 1977 | March 1977 | March 1976 | February 1977 |
| Transportation—Continued | | | | | |
| Public | | 178.9 | 180.4 | 4.7 | 0.8 |
| Local transit fares | | 177.0 | 177.4 | 3.0 | .2 |
| Taxicab fares | | 182.5 | 187.7 | 7.4 | 2.8 |
| Railroad fares, coach | | 169.4 | 173.6 | 7.5 | 2.5 |
| Airplane fares, chiefly coach | | 177.8 | 180.7 | 7.4 | 1.6 |
| Bus fares, intercity | | 211.2 | 211.2 | 9.7 | 0 |
| Health and recreation | | | | | |
| Medical care ⁹ | | 169.8 | 170.7 | 6.3 | .5 |
| Drugs and prescriptions | | 195.8 | 197.6 | 9.4 | .9 |
| Over-the-counter items | | 130.7 | 131.4 | 6.1 | .5 |
| Multiple vitamin concentrates | | 144.3 | 145.0 | 6.5 | .5 |
| Aspirin compounds | | 107.6 | 108.0 | 3.1 | .4 |
| Liquid tonics | | 142.1 | 143.9 | 4.6 | 1.3 |
| Adhesive bandages, packages | | 121.5 | 121.9 | 2.1 | .3 |
| Cold tablets or capsules | | 198.3 | 199.8 | 13.5 | .8 |
| Cough syrup | | 134.3 | 134.1 | 3.7 | -.1 |
| Cough syrup | | 152.3 | 152.3 | 7.6 | 0 |
| Prescriptions | | 119.3 | 120.1 | 5.6 | .7 |
| Anti-infectives | | 74.1 | 74.3 | 2.6 | .3 |
| Sedative and hypnotics | | 169.9 | 171.1 | 6.4 | .7 |
| Ataractics | | 116.8 | 117.1 | 5.9 | .3 |
| Antispasmodics | | 144.5 | 146.8 | 10.1 | 1.6 |
| Cough preparations | | 193.4 | 197.2 | 10.7 | 2.0 |
| Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives | | 123.9 | 124.3 | 3.5 | .3 |
| Analgesics, internal | | 123.0 | 123.4 | 2.4 | .3 |
| Hormones | | 115.5 | 116.6 | 6.6 | 1.0 |
| Professional services: | | | | | |
| Physicians' fees | | 198.8 | 201.3 | 9.2 | 1.3 |
| General physician, office visits | | 204.6 | 207.7 | 9.7 | 1.5 |
| General physician, house visits | | 200.1 | 202.0 | 8.8 | .9 |
| Obstetrical cases | | 202.2 | 203.3 | 8.3 | .5 |
| Pediatric care, office visits | | 206.2 | 208.7 | 10.4 | 1.2 |
| Psychiatrist, office visits | | 167.8 | 169.0 | 3.9 | .7 |
| Herniorrhaphy, adult | | 178.6 | 179.6 | 9.3 | .6 |
| Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy | | 189.4 | 191.7 | 9.5 | 1.2 |
| Dentists' fees | | 179.9 | 180.9 | 6.8 | .6 |
| Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface | | 185.6 | 186.7 | 6.9 | .6 |
| Extractions, adult | | 180.8 | 181.9 | 8.2 | .6 |
| Dentures, full upper | | 167.5 | 168.1 | 5.1 | .4 |
| Other professional services: | | | | | |
| Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses | | 164.3 | 165.2 | 5.4 | .5 |
| Routine laboratory tests | | 164.6 | 165.6 | 4.8 | .6 |
| Hospital service charges | Jan. 72 | 158.2 | 159.7 | 9.8 | .9 |
| Semiprivate rooms | | 288.3 | 291.2 | 11.4 | 1.0 |
| Operating room charges | | 300.6 | 302.6 | 13.8 | .7 |
| X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI | | 183.7 | 184.6 | 8.7 | .5 |
| Laboratory tests | Jan. 72 | 145.9 | 147.1 | 4.5 | .8 |
| Anti-infectives | Jan. 72 | 127.9 | 130.0 | 7.7 | 1.6 |
| Tranquilizers | Jan. 72 | 133.8 | 136.5 | 6.6 | 2.0 |
| Electrocardiogram | Jan. 72 | 142.7 | 143.2 | 6.1 | .4 |
| Intravenous solution | Jan. 72 | 150.5 | 151.5 | 6.9 | .7 |
| Physical therapy | Jan. 72 | 158.2 | 159.2 | 9.6 | .6 |
| Oxygen, inhalation therapy | Jan. 72 | 136.6 | 138.0 | 6.6 | 1.0 |
| Personal care | | 166.7 | 167.3 | 6.3 | .4 |
| Toilet goods | | 163.5 | 164.1 | 5.3 | .4 |
| Toothpaste, standard dentifrice | | 142.5 | 142.9 | 4.2 | .3 |
| Toilet soap, hard-milled | | 194.1 | 196.3 | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| Hand lotions | | 170.5 | 171.0 | 6.9 | .3 |
| Shaving cream | | 139.9 | 137.4 | 4.8 | -1.8 |
| Face powder | | 172.4 | 173.7 | 8.2 | .8 |
| Deodorants | | 121.6 | 124.6 | 7.3 | 2.5 |
| Cleansing tissues | | 228.2 | 228.8 | 6.8 | .3 |
| Home permanent wave kits | | 133.3 | 132.9 | 4.9 | -.3 |
| Personal care services | | 170.0 | 170.6 | 7.3 | .4 |
| Men's haircuts | | 170.2 | 170.7 | 6.8 | .3 |
| Beauty shop services | | 170.0 | 170.6 | 7.6 | .4 |
| Women's haircuts | | 201.3 | 202.4 | 12.5 | .5 |
| Shampoo and wave sets, plain | | 169.3 | 169.9 | 6.1 | .4 |
| Permanent waves, cold | | 139.7 | 140.0 | 4.9 | .2 |
| Reading and recreation ¹⁰ | | 155.5 | 155.8 | 4.6 | .2 |
| Recreational goods | | 129.2 | 129.6 | 2.7 | .3 |
| TV sets, portable and console | | 102.4 | 102.2 | -.9 | -.2 |
| TV replacement tubes | | 170.8 | 171.1 | 3.5 | .2 |
| Radios, portable and table models | | 105.1 | 105.3 | .1 | .2 |
| Tape recorders, portable | | 95.9 | 95.5 | 0 | -.4 |
| Phonograph records, stereophonic | | 123.9 | 123.7 | -.2 | -.2 |
| Movie cameras, 8mm | | 95.9 | 95.8 | .4 | -.1 |
| Film, 35mm, color | | 130.3 | 131.3 | 7.6 | .8 |
| Golf balls | | 104.5 | 104.7 | 1.6 | .2 |

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 1977 from— | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| | | February 1977 | March 1977 | March 1976 | February 1977 |
| Health and recreation—Continued | | | | | |
| Reading and recreation—Continued | | | | | |
| Recreational goods—Continued | | | | | |
| Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover | | 147.3 | 148.6 | 1.0 | 0.9 |
| Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting | | 127.4 | 127.4 | 2.7 | 0 |
| Bowling balls | | 133.8 | 134.0 | 3.7 | .1 |
| Bicycles, boys' | | 146.3 | 146.7 | 2.4 | .3 |
| Tricycles | | 152.8 | 153.3 | 4.1 | .3 |
| Dog food, canned or boxed | | 180.3 | 181.2 | 6.8 | .5 |
| Recreational services | | 160.2 | 160.3 | 4.8 | .1 |
| Indoor movie admissions | | 184.8 | 183.7 | 5.3 | -.6 |
| Adult | | 178.2 | 176.9 | 4.5 | -.7 |
| Children's | | 203.5 | 202.8 | 7.5 | -.3 |
| Drive-in movie admissions | | 184.5 | 186.5 | 5.5 | 1.1 |
| Bowling fees, evening | | 153.2 | 153.5 | 5.5 | .2 |
| Golf green fees | | (⁵) | (⁵) | (⁵) | (⁵) |
| TV repair | | 110.0 | 109.7 | 3.2 | -.3 |
| Film developing | | 121.2 | 123.0 | -.8 | 1.5 |
| Reading and education: | | | | | |
| Newspapers, street sale and delivery | | 187.8 | 188.5 | 4.4 | .4 |
| Magazines, single copy and subscription | | 194.0 | 194.0 | 9.1 | 0 |
| Piano lessons, beginner | | 151.5 | 151.7 | 6.0 | .1 |
| Other goods and services | | 156.9 | 157.3 | 3.6 | .3 |
| Tobacco products | | 165.8 | 166.0 | 4.1 | .1 |
| Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size | | 168.1 | 168.2 | 4.0 | .1 |
| Cigarettes, filter tip, king size | | 168.7 | 168.9 | 4.2 | .1 |
| Cigars, domestic, regular size | | 133.6 | 134.1 | 4.4 | .4 |
| Alcoholic beverages | | 148.8 | 149.3 | 2.8 | .3 |
| Beer, at home | | 144.3 | 145.0 | 1.8 | .5 |
| Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon | | 116.5 | 116.7 | 1.0 | .2 |
| Wine, dessert and table | | 159.2 | 159.4 | 2.1 | .1 |
| Beer, away from home | | 170.3 | 170.7 | 5.0 | .2 |
| Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses: | | | | | |
| Funeral services, adult | | 153.9 | 154.4 | 3.9 | .3 |
| Bank service charges, checking account | | 132.4 | 132.1 | 5.8 | -.2 |
| Legal services, short form will | | 208.5 | 211.8 | 7.0 | 1.6 |

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

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

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

⁵ Priced only in season.

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

⁷ Also includes storage batteries and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

⁸ 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.

⁹ Also includes health insurance not shown separately.

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

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 1976 | December 1976 | February 1977 |
| | | March 1977 | | | March 1976 | December 1976 | February 1977 |
| U.S. city average | M | 178.2 | 207.2 | | 6.4 | 2.2 | 0.6 |
| Chicago | M | 172.4 | 195.8 | | 6.4 | 2.0 | .7 |
| Detroit | M | 176.8 | 203.1 | | 6.8 | 2.1 | 1.0 |
| Los Angeles—Long Beach | M | 176.7 | 207.8 | | 7.8 | 2.3 | .2 |
| N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. | M | 182.9 | 217.6 | | 5.2 | 1.8 | .4 |
| Philadelphia | M | 180.4 | 210.7 | | 6.3 | 2.8 | 1.0 |
| | | January 1977 | | | January 1976 | October 1976 | |
| Boston | 1 | 178.2 | 213.5 | | 3.7 | 1.2 | |
| Houston | 1 | 183.6 | 210.1 | | 6.6 | .9 | |
| Minneapolis—St. Paul | 1 | 175.9 | 203.9 | | 5.3 | 1.4 | |
| Pittsburgh | 1 | 172.9 | 198.9 | | 5.4 | 1.2 | |
| | | February 1977 | | | February 1976 | November 1976 | |
| Buffalo | 2 | 177.5 | | ³ 195.1 | 6.2 | 2.1 | |
| Cleveland | 2 | 177.3 | 200.1 | | 7.4 | 2.5 | |
| Dallas | 2 | 175.2 | | ³ 189.3 | 7.0 | 2.0 | |
| Milwaukee | 2 | 173.6 | 196.0 | | 6.8 | 1.8 | |
| San Diego | 2 | 176.6 | | ⁴ 185.6 | 5.6 | 1.6 | |
| Seattle | 2 | 171.4 | 201.4 | | 6.0 | 2.1 | |
| Washington | 2 | 178.4 | 207.8 | | 6.8 | 2.2 | |
| | | March 1977 | | | March 1976 | December 1976 | |
| Atlanta | 3 | 176.1 | 202.5 | | 5.7 | 2.4 | |
| Baltimore | 3 | 182.2 | 211.6 | | 6.9 | 2.1 | |
| Cincinnati | 3 | 178.8 | 202.9 | | 7.0 | 2.5 | |
| Honolulu | 3 | 168.3 | | ⁵ 181.5 | 4.5 | 1.7 | |
| Kansas City | 3 | 175.0 | 207.7 | | 7.1 | 2.5 | |
| St. Louis | 3 | 173.2 | 202.3 | | 6.5 | 3.0 | |
| San Francisco—Oakland | 3 | 176.2 | 209.6 | | 6.5 | 2.1 | |

¹ Area coverage includes the urban portion of the corresponding Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) except for New York and Chicago which have more extensive Standard Consolidated Areas. Area definitions were established for the 1960 Census and exclude revisions made since 1960.

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

M — Every month.
1 — January, April, July, and October.

2 — February, May, August, and November.

3 — March, June, September, and December.

³ November 1963=100.

⁴ February 1965=100.

⁵ December 1963=100.

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

Table 6. CPI—areas ¹ priced monthly, by expenditure class, percent change from February 1977 to March 1977

(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 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 1.0 |
| Food | .5 | 1.0 | -.2 | -.6 | .2 | 1.0 |
| Housing | .7 | .1 | 1.3 | -.2 | .6 | 1.1 |
| Apparel and upkeep | .6 | 1.6 | .3 | .3 | .1 | 1.0 |
| Transportation | .9 | .7 | 2.0 | .6 | .7 | .8 |
| Health and recreation | .5 | .6 | 1.2 | .4 | .5 | .6 |
| Medical care | .9 | .3 | 2.3 | .4 | 1.4 | 1.6 |
| Personal care | .4 | (²) | (²) | (²) | (²) | (²) |
| Reading and recreation | .2 | .9 | .3 | .1 | -.4 | .2 |
| Other goods and services | .3 | .7 | .5 | .4 | .3 | .1 |

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

Table 7. CPI—selected areas¹, by expenditure class

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

| Expenditure class | U.S. city average | Chicago | Detroit | Los Angeles—Long Beach | New York—Northeastern New Jersey | Philadelphia |
|--|-------------------|---------|------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Indexes, March 1977 | | | | | | |
| All items | 178.2 | 172.4 | 176.8 | 176.7 | 182.9 | 180.4 |
| Food | 188.6 | 186.7 | 181.4 | 181.4 | 192.2 | 196.2 |
| Food at home | 186.9 | 185.0 | 178.7 | 180.6 | 193.1 | 193.3 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 181.3 | 183.0 | 185.2 | 181.7 | 183.8 | 191.9 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 175.0 | 175.5 | 167.8 | 172.6 | 176.2 | 184.1 |
| Dairy products | 171.2 | 163.8 | 170.9 | 155.6 | 175.0 | 172.5 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 196.8 | 198.7 | 171.3 | 181.4 | 218.5 | 205.2 |
| Other food at home | 213.2 | 211.5 | 205.8 | 208.9 | 222.7 | 218.2 |
| Food away from home | 195.2 | 193.6 | 193.4 | 183.5 | 189.8 | 208.4 |
| Housing | 185.5 | 169.3 | 182.2 | 186.9 | 189.3 | 187.6 |
| Shelter | 186.3 | 168.7 | 185.3 | 195.6 | 187.5 | 195.1 |
| Rent, residential | 150.8 | 140.4 | (²) | 152.7 | (²) | 163.4 |
| Homeownership | 199.3 | 181.3 | 192.9 | 209.1 | 201.2 | 203.3 |
| Fuel and utilities | 198.5 | 176.5 | 201.9 | 164.4 | 217.0 | 190.9 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 281.4 | 274.9 | 284.9 | - | 289.3 | 274.2 |
| Gas and electricity | 208.5 | 187.0 | 219.7 | 192.4 | 240.0 | 193.2 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 174.6 | 166.5 | 159.7 | 167.3 | 178.0 | 171.9 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 151.7 | 141.0 | 145.4 | 144.7 | 146.0 | 142.2 |
| Men's and boys' | 152.6 | 133.6 | 157.1 | 140.6 | 140.0 | 148.9 |
| Women's and girls' | 143.3 | 132.0 | 129.3 | 139.1 | 137.4 | 121.8 |
| Footwear | 155.4 | 149.9 | 149.5 | 147.7 | 152.7 | 154.0 |
| Transportation | 174.8 | 178.8 | 171.1 | 177.4 | 192.7 | 175.4 |
| Private | 174.1 | 178.3 | 171.0 | 179.1 | 182.6 | 179.1 |
| Public | 180.4 | 181.8 | 171.3 | 145.6 | 231.5 | 153.7 |
| Health and recreation | 170.7 | 172.6 | 181.6 | 168.1 | 177.5 | 175.0 |
| Medical care | 197.6 | 202.6 | 224.8 | 199.4 | 213.8 | 215.6 |
| Personal care | 167.3 | 165.3 | (²) | 156.2 | (²) | (²) |
| Reading and recreation | 155.8 | 157.5 | 155.8 | 144.9 | 160.4 | 155.6 |
| Other goods and services | 157.3 | 160.1 | 161.3 | 157.8 | 162.1 | 158.1 |
| Percent changes, December 1976 to March 1977 | | | | | | |
| All items | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.8 | 2.8 |
| Food | 3.8 | 3.4 | 2.2 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 5.5 |
| Food at home | 4.2 | 3.5 | 2.5 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 6.2 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 1.1 | 1.6 | -3.1 | 2.1 | 0 | 2.9 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 2.8 | 1.7 | 2.8 | .8 | 1.8 | 6.3 |
| Dairy products | -.1 | .2 | -.1 | -1.2 | .3 | .1 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 12.1 | 11.4 | 8.8 | 7.0 | 12.2 | 15.4 |
| Other food at home | 5.4 | 4.4 | 2.5 | 9.4 | 3.7 | 5.7 |
| Food away from home | 2.3 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 1.2 | .8 | 2.8 |
| Housing | 2.1 | 1.3 | 2.3 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Shelter | 2.1 | 1.0 | 2.4 | 3.3 | 2.1 | 1.4 |
| Rent, residential | 1.7 | 3.4 | (²) | 3.5 | (²) | 3.1 |
| Homeownership | 2.2 | .8 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 2.3 | 1.2 |
| Fuel and utilities | 3.4 | 2.4 | 3.4 | 1.2 | 2.3 | 5.0 |
| Fuel oil and coal | 6.4 | 7.6 | 7.5 | - | 6.0 | 6.4 |
| Gas and electricity | 3.5 | 2.4 | 3.8 | 2.1 | 1.1 | 6.9 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.8 | 1.2 |
| Apparel and upkeep | -.1 | -.4 | .7 | 1.5 | -2.1 | -.1 |
| Men's and boys' | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 0 | .5 | 1.7 |
| Women's and girls' | -2.5 | -4.5 | .5 | 3.3 | -6.8 | -3.7 |
| Footwear | 1.3 | 1.9 | -.4 | 1.0 | 2.5 | 1.8 |
| Transportation | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.7 | 1.2 | 1.7 | 2.9 |
| Private | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 3.3 |
| Public | 1.3 | .3 | .6 | .5 | 1.3 | .3 |
| Health and recreation | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| Medical care | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| Personal care | 1.3 | 2.1 | (²) | 1.8 | (²) | (²) |
| Reading and recreation | .9 | 1.9 | .3 | 1.3 | .5 | .8 |
| Other goods and services | .9 | .8 | .9 | .8 | 1.2 | .4 |

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7. CPI—selected areas¹, by expenditure class—Continued

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

| Expenditure class | Atlanta | Baltimore | Cincinnati | Honolulu | Kansas City | St. Louis | San Francisco—Oakland |
|---|--|-----------|------------|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| | Indexes, March 1977 | | | | | | |
| All items | 176.1 | 182.2 | 178.8 | 168.3 | 175.0 | 173.2 | 176.2 |
| Food | 192.9 | 192.2 | 193.4 | 189.6 | 189.1 | 188.6 | 182.6 |
| Food at home | 192.1 | 190.0 | 195.6 | 185.2 | 185.6 | 187.9 | 185.2 |
| Cereals and bakery products | 186.8 | 175.2 | 192.9 | 171.9 | 180.7 | 185.7 | 178.2 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 174.4 | 179.2 | 182.2 | 182.6 | 172.7 | 177.3 | 170.9 |
| Dairy products | 185.1 | 170.8 | 176.7 | 185.0 | 176.6 | 176.8 | 163.1 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 214.4 | 205.0 | 199.6 | 191.1 | 183.9 | 196.6 | 187.8 |
| Other food at home | 209.4 | 218.7 | 229.2 | 196.5 | 213.6 | 217.2 | 217.8 |
| Food away from home | 195.2 | 200.7 | 185.0 | 202.2 | 200.4 | 191.5 | 173.7 |
| Housing | 181.6 | 196.9 | 181.6 | 160.6 | 178.9 | 174.4 | 185.6 |
| Shelter | 181.3 | 206.7 | 179.3 | 158.3 | 179.7 | 170.6 | 191.8 |
| Rent, residential | 133.0 | 141.6 | 129.8 | 161.0 | 128.6 | 125.1 | 164.1 |
| Homeownership | 195.5 | 234.1 | 202.4 | 156.4 | 199.7 | 183.6 | 205.7 |
| Fuel and utilities | ⁴ 193.6 | 190.1 | 219.9 | 171.0 | 188.9 | 190.0 | 164.8 |
| Fuel oil and coal | - | 280.1 | - | - | - | 285.2 | - |
| Gas and electricity | ⁵ 202.8 | 195.8 | 246.3 | 198.1 | 226.3 | 201.1 | 189.5 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 175.9 | 179.1 | 165.3 | 161.4 | 171.0 | 172.5 | 175.4 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 152.3 | 159.8 | 158.2 | 151.3 | 160.4 | 150.3 | 149.8 |
| Men's and boys' | 165.0 | 160.4 | 155.1 | 148.2 | 170.7 | 147.9 | 153.6 |
| Women's and girls' | 145.6 | 143.0 | 153.7 | 140.4 | 153.6 | 145.5 | 142.5 |
| Footwear | 136.1 | 167.6 | 167.7 | 150.0 | 164.4 | 156.9 | 150.2 |
| Transportation | 160.3 | 166.1 | 165.6 | 158.0 | 168.9 | 166.3 | 173.2 |
| Private | 165.2 | 167.3 | 171.5 | 164.1 | 169.7 | 171.5 | 174.2 |
| Public | 96.9 | 156.8 | 120.0 | 125.1 | 152.9 | 104.9 | 153.6 |
| Health and recreation | 174.1 | 171.6 | 175.9 | 167.9 | 166.7 | 168.0 | 168.2 |
| Medical care | 211.2 | 205.7 | 217.9 | 196.6 | 188.3 | 183.1 | 195.1 |
| Personal care | 171.3 | 159.6 | 162.8 | 174.2 | 169.8 | 168.8 | 164.8 |
| Reading and recreation | 155.1 | 153.5 | 147.0 | 162.3 | 147.3 | 152.9 | 149.4 |
| Other goods and services | 141.4 | 165.2 | 167.3 | 139.8 | 161.0 | 162.8 | 151.3 |
| | Percent changes, December 1976 to March 1977 | | | | | | |
| All items | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 2.5 | 3.0 | 2.1 |
| Food | 4.3 | 3.9 | 4.0 | 2.3 | 4.5 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| Food at home | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.6 | 2.3 | 4.3 | 4.9 | 5.0 |
| Cereals and bakery products | -1.5 | .2 | -.3 | -.3 | 2.2 | .8 | 4.6 |
| Meats, poultry, and fish | 2.8 | 1.8 | 3.0 | .5 | 4.4 | 5.4 | 1.4 |
| Dairy products | -.6 | 0 | .2 | .8 | -1.1 | 0 | 1.7 |
| Fruits and vegetables | 15.9 | 15.8 | 10.4 | 5.0 | 11.3 | 9.8 | 10.7 |
| Other food at home | 5.0 | 4.5 | 7.2 | 6.3 | 4.7 | 6.4 | 8.2 |
| Food away from home | 4.4 | 2.7 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 5.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
| Housing | 1.9 | 1.7 | 1.5 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 2.9 | 1.5 |
| Shelter | 1.7 | .6 | 1.2 | .6 | 1.1 | 2.6 | 1.6 |
| Rent, residential | .9 | 1.0 | 2.7 | 1.1 | 1.5 | 1.6 | 2.4 |
| Homeownership | 1.9 | .5 | .8 | .2 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 1.2 |
| Fuel and utilities | 4.1 | 6.7 | 1.4 | 7.9 | 5.9 | 6.5 | 1.0 |
| Fuel oil and coal | - | 6.6 | - | - | - | 4.0 | - |
| Gas and electricity | 1.3 | 10.7 | 1.9 | 5.8 | 8.0 | 9.7 | 2.1 |
| Household furnishings and operation | 1.4 | 1.2 | 2.0 | 2.1 | .7 | 1.3 | 1.1 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 2.9 | 1.1 | 1.7 | 2.2 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 1.7 |
| Men's and boys' | 4.3 | .9 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 6.0 | 5.0 | 3.4 |
| Women's and girls' | 2.1 | 1.3 | 2.0 | 3.5 | 4.3 | 5.1 | .6 |
| Footwear | 3.1 | 0 | 1.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 | .6 | 1.3 |
| Transportation | .9 | 1.7 | 2.0 | .4 | 1.8 | .6 | 1.0 |
| Private | 1.0 | 1.8 | 1.8 | .4 | 2.0 | .6 | 1.0 |
| Public | .1 | .3 | 2.8 | .9 | -2.2 | .5 | .6 |
| Health and recreation | 1.9 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| Medical care | 3.3 | 3.2 | 5.6 | 2.7 | 3.3 | 3.8 | 3.4 |
| Personal care | 2.2 | .8 | .6 | 2.5 | 1.7 | .6 | 1.3 |
| Reading and recreation | 1.0 | .9 | 1.3 | .7 | .5 | 1.1 | .6 |
| Other goods and services | -.4 | .9 | 1.1 | .6 | -.7 | 1.4 | 2.2 |

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

³ Change from January 1977.

⁴ Revised indexes: December 1976, 186.0; Annual average 1976, 171.5.

⁵ Revised indexes: December 1976, 200.1; Annual average 1976, 182.2.

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 1977 | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. city average | 188.6 | 186.9 | 181.3 | 175.0 | 171.2 | 196.8 | 213.2 | 195.2 |
| Atlanta | 192.9 | 192.1 | 186.8 | 174.4 | 185.1 | 214.4 | 209.4 | 195.2 |
| Baltimore | 192.2 | 190.0 | 175.2 | 179.2 | 170.8 | 205.0 | 218.7 | 200.7 |
| Boston | 186.8 | 184.3 | 184.2 | 173.8 | 163.9 | 197.2 | 208.6 | 196.0 |
| Buffalo | 186.9 | 185.2 | 184.7 | 170.8 | 170.1 | 197.1 | 209.7 | 196.7 |
| Chicago | 186.7 | 185.0 | 183.0 | 175.5 | 163.8 | 198.7 | 211.5 | 193.6 |
| Cincinnati | 193.4 | 195.6 | 192.9 | 182.2 | 176.7 | 199.6 | 229.2 | 185.0 |
| Cleveland | 195.1 | 195.2 | 191.2 | 177.6 | 187.4 | 194.0 | 232.0 | 195.5 |
| Dallas | 187.7 | 183.5 | 181.4 | 167.8 | 165.3 | 194.7 | 207.9 | 203.1 |
| Detroit | 181.4 | 178.7 | 185.2 | 167.8 | 170.9 | 171.3 | 205.8 | 193.4 |
| Honolulu | 189.6 | 185.2 | 171.9 | 182.6 | 185.0 | 191.1 | 196.5 | 202.2 |
| Houston | 196.6 | 191.4 | 178.8 | 185.5 | 182.5 | 203.0 | 205.0 | 214.7 |
| Kansas City | 189.1 | 185.6 | 180.7 | 172.7 | 176.6 | 183.9 | 213.6 | 200.4 |
| Los Angeles—Long Beach | 181.4 | 180.6 | 181.7 | 172.6 | 155.6 | 181.4 | 208.9 | 183.5 |
| Milwaukee | 185.9 | 184.1 | 178.3 | 174.9 | 175.6 | 193.8 | 201.3 | (²) |
| Minneapolis—St. Paul | 190.6 | 184.5 | 190.6 | 173.6 | 177.8 | 181.4 | 201.9 | 217.1 |
| N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. | 192.2 | 193.1 | 183.8 | 176.2 | 175.0 | 218.5 | 222.7 | 189.8 |
| Philadelphia | 196.2 | 193.3 | 191.9 | 184.1 | 172.5 | 205.2 | 218.2 | 208.4 |
| Pittsburgh | 189.2 | 186.0 | 187.8 | 178.2 | 158.9 | 195.6 | 210.2 | 208.0 |
| St. Louis | 188.6 | 187.9 | 185.7 | 170.9 | 176.8 | 196.6 | 217.2 | 191.5 |
| San Diego | 186.3 | 178.3 | 173.9 | 173.9 | 158.7 | 182.1 | 200.3 | (²) |
| San Francisco—Oakland | 182.6 | 185.2 | 178.2 | 177.3 | 163.1 | 187.8 | 217.8 | 173.7 |
| Seattle | 181.9 | 180.4 | 173.5 | 174.1 | 168.4 | 173.9 | 207.3 | 186.9 |
| Washington | 196.3 | 192.3 | 196.1 | 171.2 | 162.6 | 210.3 | 228.8 | 206.2 |
| Percent changes, February 1977 to March 1977 | | | | | | | | |
| U.S. city average | 0.5 | 0.4 | 0.7 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 0.8 |
| Atlanta | .5 | -.1 | -1.5 | -1.6 | -.8 | 2.5 | 1.2 | 2.1 |
| Baltimore | .3 | -.2 | .1 | -.6 | -.1 | 1.8 | -1.1 | 2.0 |
| Boston | 0 | -.2 | 1.1 | -.9 | -.2 | 1.4 | -1.2 | .7 |
| Buffalo | .3 | .2 | 2.8 | -.5 | -.1 | -.9 | .4 | 1.2 |
| Chicago | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.9 | .5 | .6 | 2.0 | .6 | 1.3 |
| Cincinnati | .2 | -.2 | -.1 | -.2 | -.2 | -.9 | .5 | 1.3 |
| Cleveland | .9 | .9 | .2 | -.3 | 2.7 | 3.1 | .6 | .5 |
| Dallas | .2 | 0 | 1.7 | .3 | -1.0 | 1.1 | -1.2 | .6 |
| Detroit | -.2 | -.3 | -1.0 | -.7 | .1 | .7 | -.4 | .6 |
| Honolulu | .7 | .5 | -.8 | .1 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.6 | 1.0 |
| Houston | 1.0 | 1.1 | .4 | 2.5 | .2 | 1.4 | 0 | .7 |
| Kansas City | 1.1 | .5 | -.6 | 0 | -.2 | 4.0 | -.1 | 3.0 |
| Los Angeles—Long Beach | .6 | .7 | .2 | -.7 | .1 | 1.7 | 2.2 | .2 |
| Milwaukee | -.4 | -.5 | -.8 | -.7 | -.6 | 1.3 | -1.2 | (²) |
| Minneapolis—St. Paul | .1 | 0 | 2.2 | 0 | -1.8 | 1.3 | -.7 | 0 |
| N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. | .2 | .1 | 1.4 | .5 | .3 | .2 | -1.5 | .5 |
| Philadelphia | 1.0 | 1.0 | .5 | 1.8 | .2 | 2.2 | -.2 | .8 |
| Pittsburgh | .7 | .8 | 2.2 | .2 | -.1 | 1.2 | 1.1 | .5 |
| St. Louis | 1.0 | .9 | -.3 | 1.7 | .2 | 1.4 | .8 | .9 |
| San Diego | .6 | .9 | 1.0 | -.2 | -.5 | 3.3 | 1.7 | (²) |
| San Francisco—Oakland | 1.1 | 1.0 | 1.0 | -.4 | 1.1 | 3.3 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| Seattle | -.2 | -.4 | -.5 | -1.2 | .9 | -.5 | -.3 | .8 |
| Washington | .8 | .8 | 1.8 | .9 | -.2 | 2.9 | -.7 | .8 |

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

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 ² | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| | Index | | Percent change to March 1977 from— | Index | | Percent change to March 1977 from— | Index | | Percent change to March 1977 from— |
| | February 1977 | March 1977 | February 1977 | February 1977 | March 1977 | February 1977 | February 1977 | March 1977 | February 1977 |
| U.S. city average | 103.9 | 104.7 | 0.8 | 105.2 | 106.2 | 1.0 | 104.3 | 105.1 | 0.8 |
| Atlanta | 103.0 | 103.5 | .5 | 105.5 | 106.2 | .7 | 104.0 | 104.3 | .3 |
| Baltimore | 102.9 | 104.2 | 1.3 | 104.5 | 105.6 | 1.1 | 103.1 | 104.1 | 1.0 |
| Boston | 102.9 | 103.6 | .7 | 106.7 | 108.3 | 1.5 | 104.2 | 105.3 | 1.1 |
| Buffalo | 103.0 | 104.0 | 1.0 | 103.2 | 104.6 | 1.4 | 102.4 | 104.3 | 1.9 |
| Chicago | 104.5 | 105.1 | .6 | 105.9 | 106.5 | .6 | 105.3 | 105.8 | .5 |
| Cincinnati | 103.1 | 103.9 | .8 | 105.7 | 106.3 | .6 | 103.1 | 104.1 | 1.0 |
| Cleveland | 101.2 | 101.8 | .6 | 104.7 | 106.4 | 1.6 | 102.1 | 103.4 | 1.3 |
| Dallas | 105.4 | 107.1 | 1.6 | 105.7 | 107.9 | 2.1 | 105.2 | 106.6 | 1.3 |
| Detroit | 103.5 | 104.1 | .6 | 106.0 | 107.4 | 1.3 | 104.1 | 105.6 | 1.4 |
| Honolulu | 102.6 | 103.2 | .6 | 102.9 | 103.7 | .8 | 102.4 | 103.1 | .7 |
| Houston | 105.6 | 106.6 | .9 | 106.6 | 108.3 | 1.6 | 104.7 | 106.0 | 1.2 |
| Kansas City | 105.3 | 106.2 | .9 | 106.8 | 108.3 | 1.4 | 104.9 | 106.6 | 1.6 |
| Los Angeles—Long Beach | 106.8 | 107.1 | .3 | 106.4 | 107.3 | .8 | 105.3 | 106.2 | .9 |
| Milwaukee | 104.6 | 105.3 | .7 | 106.9 | 107.7 | .7 | 104.2 | 105.6 | 1.3 |
| Minneapolis—St. Paul | 103.4 | 103.8 | .4 | 106.1 | 106.5 | .4 | 104.8 | 106.1 | 1.2 |
| N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. | 101.8 | 102.4 | .6 | 104.5 | 104.8 | .3 | 103.1 | 103.5 | .4 |
| Philadelphia | 103.6 | 104.1 | .5 | 105.9 | 107.6 | 1.6 | 104.4 | 105.8 | 1.3 |
| Pittsburgh | 104.4 | 105.2 | .8 | 106.3 | 107.5 | 1.1 | 105.7 | 106.6 | .9 |
| St. Louis | 105.4 | 105.5 | .1 | 106.2 | 106.6 | .4 | 104.9 | 105.5 | .6 |
| San Diego | 104.3 | 105.2 | .7 | 105.8 | 106.7 | .9 | 104.6 | 105.3 | .7 |
| San Francisco—Oakland | 105.1 | 105.8 | .7 | 104.9 | 105.6 | .7 | 104.1 | 104.6 | .5 |
| Seattle | 105.6 | 106.4 | .8 | 105.6 | 106.5 | .9 | 105.4 | 106.3 | .9 |
| Washington | 104.0 | 104.4 | .4 | 106.4 | 107.1 | .7 | 105.1 | 105.4 | .3 |

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 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 1977 | February 1977 | March 1977 | January 1977 | February 1977 | March 1977 | January 1977 | February 1977 | March 1977 |
| U.S. city average | \$0.600 | \$0.607 | \$0.612 | \$0.627 | \$0.637 | \$0.643 | \$0.649 | \$0.656 | \$0.661 |
| Atlanta | .586 | .594 | .597 | .627 | .634 | .638 | .647 | .652 | .654 |
| Baltimore | .607 | .615 | .623 | .625 | .641 | .648 | .653 | .664 | .671 |
| Boston | .597 | .602 | .607 | .628 | .642 | .651 | .647 | .655 | .662 |
| Buffalo | .602 | .612 | .617 | .629 | .637 | .645 | .652 | .656 | .668 |
| Chicago | .620 | .626 | .630 | .661 | .669 | .673 | .671 | .676 | .679 |
| Cincinnati | .587 | .593 | .598 | .612 | .626 | .630 | .636 | .642 | .648 |
| Cleveland | .590 | .592 | .596 | .609 | .622 | .633 | .639 | .641 | .649 |
| Dallas | .560 | .567 | .576 | .579 | .587 | .599 | .603 | .609 | .617 |
| Detroit | .591 | .600 | .603 | .632 | .640 | .649 | .655 | .658 | .667 |
| Honolulu | .702 | .703 | .707 | .714 | .716 | .722 | .743 | .744 | .749 |
| Houston | .543 | .557 | .562 | .567 | .582 | .591 | .592 | .603 | .611 |
| Kansas City | .575 | .583 | .588 | .598 | .608 | .617 | .621 | .628 | .638 |
| Los Angeles—Long Beach | .612 | .623 | .625 | .641 | .650 | .655 | .652 | .660 | .666 |
| Milwaukee | .565 | .569 | .573 | .596 | .605 | .609 | .615 | .618 | .626 |
| Minneapolis—St. Paul | .594 | .594 | .597 | .625 | .627 | .630 | .660 | .664 | .672 |
| N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. | .604 | .608 | .612 | .637 | .642 | .644 | .660 | .669 | .672 |
| Philadelphia | .585 | .604 | .607 | .630 | .648 | .658 | .658 | .669 | .678 |
| Pittsburgh | .594 | .606 | .611 | .624 | .640 | .647 | .645 | .660 | .666 |
| St. Louis | .590 | .598 | .598 | .606 | .618 | .621 | .636 | .644 | .648 |
| San Diego | .620 | .629 | .634 | .655 | .665 | .670 | .671 | .680 | .684 |
| San Francisco—Oakland | .641 | .645 | .649 | .659 | .663 | .667 | .682 | .686 | .690 |
| Seattle | .599 | .606 | .610 | .618 | .627 | .632 | .641 | .652 | .657 |
| Washington | .615 | .626 | .628 | .657 | .667 | .672 | .678 | .689 | .691 |

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—by population size ¹

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

| Area and group | Relative importance | Indexes | | Percent change to March 1977 from— | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|
| | | December 1976 | March 1976 | December 1976 | March 1977 | March 1976 |
| United States: | | | | | | |
| All items | 100,000 | 167.5 | 174.3 | 178.2 | 6.4 | 2.2 |
| Food | 23,667 | 178.7 | 181.7 | 188.6 | 5.5 | 3.8 |
| Housing | 34,202 | 174.5 | 181.6 | 185.5 | 6.3 | 2.1 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 9,194 | 145.0 | 151.8 | 151.7 | 4.6 | -.1 |
| Transportation | 13,548 | 159.8 | 171.4 | 174.8 | 9.4 | 2.0 |
| Health and recreation | 19,013 | 160.6 | 168.0 | 170.7 | 6.3 | 1.6 |
| Class A-1 (3.5 million or more): | | | | | | |
| All items | 32,358 | 168.7 | 175.4 | 178.9 | 6.0 | 2.0 |
| Food | 7,943 | 179.5 | 183.1 | 189.0 | 5.3 | 3.2 |
| Housing | 10,747 | 173.5 | 180.4 | 184.1 | 6.1 | 2.1 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 2,984 | 140.3 | 145.8 | 144.5 | 3.0 | -.9 |
| Transportation | 4,396 | 167.6 | 179.4 | 182.8 | 9.1 | 1.9 |
| Health and recreation | 6,288 | 164.3 | 172.0 | 175.1 | 6.6 | 1.8 |
| Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million): | | | | | | |
| All items | 11,763 | 167.0 | 174.0 | 178.1 | 6.6 | 2.4 |
| Food | 2,831 | 179.2 | 181.7 | 189.0 | 5.5 | 4.0 |
| Housing | 4,021 | 170.6 | 179.4 | 182.9 | 7.2 | 2.0 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 1,083 | 146.9 | 151.6 | 152.8 | 4.0 | .8 |
| Transportation | 1,582 | 162.2 | 173.0 | 177.7 | 9.6 | 2.7 |
| Health and recreation | 2,246 | 161.0 | 168.5 | 171.4 | 6.5 | 1.7 |
| Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million): | | | | | | |
| All items | 25,678 | 166.3 | 173.3 | 177.2 | 6.6 | 2.3 |
| Food | 5,840 | 178.6 | 181.8 | 189.1 | 5.9 | 4.0 |
| Housing | 8,966 | 173.5 | 180.3 | 184.1 | 6.1 | 2.1 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 2,384 | 147.4 | 155.9 | 155.9 | 5.8 | 0 |
| Transportation | 3,576 | 154.4 | 166.7 | 169.6 | 9.8 | 1.7 |
| Health and recreation | 4,913 | 159.6 | 166.4 | 169.3 | 6.1 | 1.7 |
| Class C (50,000 to 250,000): | | | | | | |
| All items | 12,537 | 166.7 | 173.5 | 177.6 | 6.5 | 2.4 |
| Food | 2,940 | 177.5 | 179.5 | 187.5 | 5.6 | 4.5 |
| Housing | 4,358 | 175.4 | 183.3 | 187.4 | 6.8 | 2.2 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 1,182 | 147.7 | 155.5 | 156.7 | 6.1 | .8 |
| Transportation | 1,710 | 156.4 | 166.9 | 169.8 | 8.6 | 1.7 |
| Health and recreation | 2,346 | 157.2 | 164.7 | 166.6 | 6.0 | 1.2 |
| Class D (2,500 to 50,000): | | | | | | |
| All items | 17,288 | 168.2 | 174.6 | 178.8 | 6.3 | 2.4 |
| Food | 4,111 | 178.1 | 180.2 | 187.7 | 5.4 | 4.2 |
| Housing | 6,110 | 179.2 | 185.4 | 190.1 | 6.1 | 2.5 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 1,562 | 146.8 | 154.8 | 155.2 | 5.7 | .3 |
| Transportation | 2,285 | 155.6 | 167.3 | 170.8 | 9.8 | 2.1 |
| Health and recreation | 3,220 | 158.0 | 165.2 | 167.2 | 5.8 | 1.2 |

¹ Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

Table 12. CPI—by region

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

| Area and group | Relative ¹ importance | Indexes ¹ | | | Percent change to March 1977 from— | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| | | December 1976 | March 1976 | December 1976 | March 1977 | March 1976 |
| United States: | | | | | | |
| All items | 100.000 | 167.5 | 174.3 | 178.2 | 6.4 | 2.2 |
| Food | 23.667 | 178.7 | 181.7 | 188.6 | 5.5 | 3.8 |
| Housing | 34.202 | 174.5 | 181.6 | 185.5 | 6.3 | 2.1 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 9.194 | 145.0 | 151.8 | 151.7 | 4.6 | -.1 |
| Transportation | 13.548 | 159.8 | 171.4 | 174.8 | 9.4 | 2.0 |
| Health and recreation | 19.013 | 160.6 | 168.0 | 170.7 | 6.3 | 1.6 |
| Northeast: | | | | | | |
| All items | 32.560 | 170.7 | 176.7 | 180.2 | 5.6 | 2.0 |
| Food | 8.354 | 181.4 | 183.9 | 190.3 | 4.9 | 3.5 |
| Housing | 10.600 | 177.6 | 183.6 | 187.0 | 5.3 | 1.9 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 3.219 | 144.3 | 152.1 | 150.0 | 4.0 | -1.4 |
| Transportation | 4.178 | 169.6 | 179.0 | 183.4 | 8.1 | 2.5 |
| Health and recreation | 6.210 | 162.7 | 169.7 | 172.4 | 6.0 | 1.6 |
| North Central: | | | | | | |
| All items | 27.937 | 164.5 | 171.5 | 175.7 | 6.8 | 2.4 |
| Food | 6.560 | 177.8 | 180.6 | 187.6 | 5.5 | 3.9 |
| Housing | 9.608 | 167.1 | 174.4 | 178.5 | 6.8 | 2.4 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 2.456 | 144.4 | 151.2 | 152.1 | 5.3 | 1.0 |
| Transportation | 3.925 | 155.5 | 168.7 | 172.0 | 10.6 | 2.0 |
| Health and recreation | 5.389 | 161.6 | 168.7 | 171.9 | 6.4 | 1.9 |
| South: | | | | | | |
| All items | 22.078 | 169.7 | 176.6 | 180.6 | 6.4 | 2.3 |
| Food | 5.043 | 181.4 | 183.6 | 192.0 | 5.8 | 4.6 |
| Housing | 7.763 | 180.1 | 187.3 | 191.1 | 6.1 | 2.0 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 2.117 | 148.4 | 155.4 | 156.7 | 5.6 | .8 |
| Transportation | 3.033 | 155.8 | 167.4 | 170.2 | 9.2 | 1.7 |
| Health and recreation | 4.122 | 161.4 | 169.1 | 171.2 | 6.1 | 1.2 |
| West: | | | | | | |
| All items | 16.590 | 164.0 | 171.8 | 175.6 | 7.1 | 2.2 |
| Food | 3.585 | 171.3 | 176.3 | 182.4 | 6.5 | 3.5 |
| Housing | 6.091 | 174.4 | 182.7 | 187.4 | 7.5 | 2.6 |
| Apparel and upkeep | 1.369 | 142.2 | 146.4 | 147.2 | 3.5 | .5 |
| Transportation | 2.351 | 155.9 | 168.8 | 171.2 | 9.8 | 1.4 |
| Health and recreation | 3.193 | 154.9 | 162.6 | 165.3 | 6.7 | 1.7 |

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

Appendix: Technical Notes

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 | 0.005×100 |
| Equals percent change: | 0.5 |

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 1976 data

| Component | Standard error | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| | Monthly change | Quarterly change | Annual change |
| All items | .04 | .05 | .10 |
| Food at home | .10 | .11 | .22 |
| Food away from home .. | .08 | .14 | .31 |
| Housing | .06 | .10 | .18 |
| Apparel and upkeep | .15 | .27 | .25 |
| Transportation | .07 | .12 | .20 |
| Medical care | .14 | .19 | .27 |
| Personal care | .16 | .26 | .64 |
| Reading and recreation .. | .09 | .16 | .33 |
| Other goods and services | .11 | .12 | .18 |

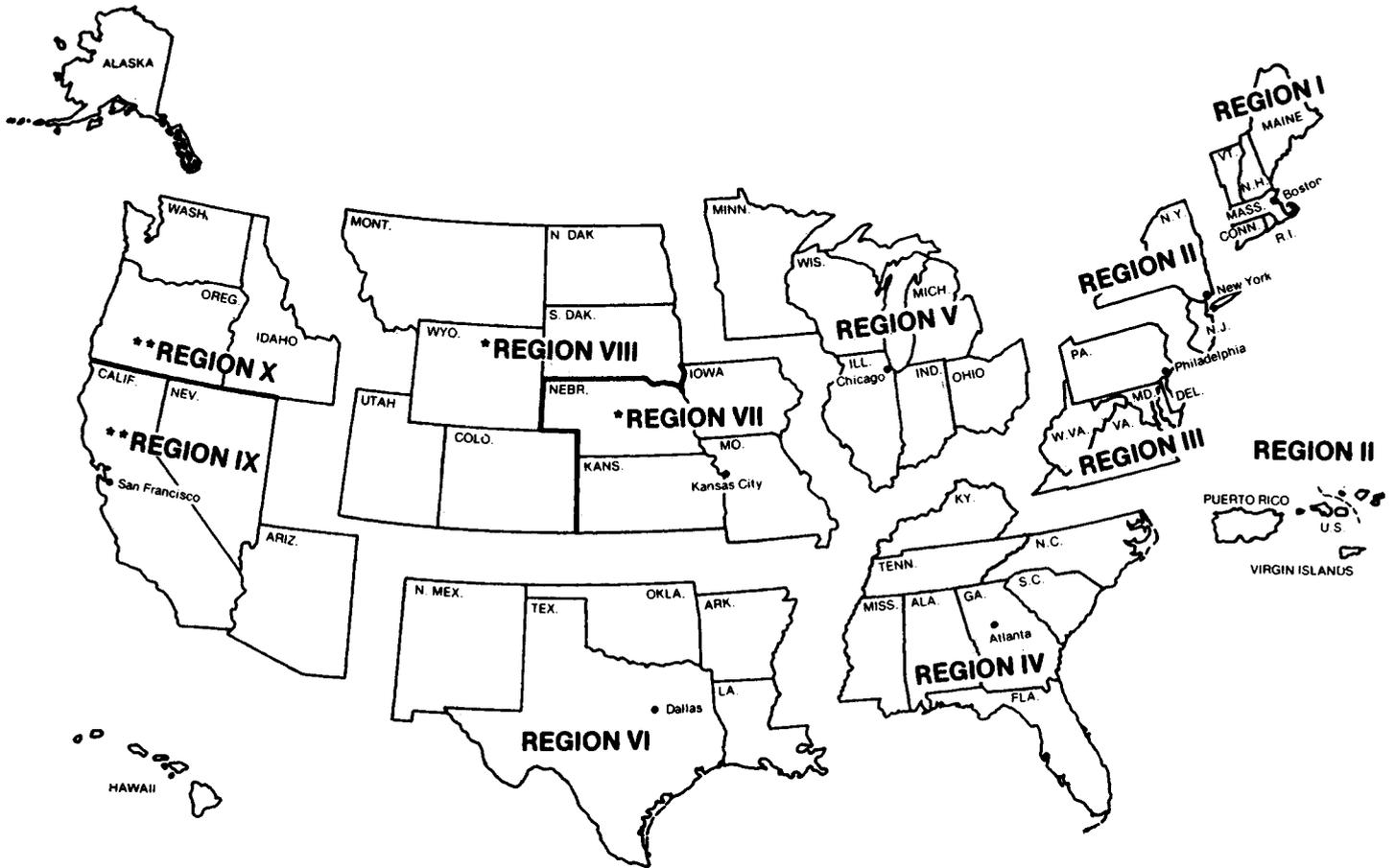
changes in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1975 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances are about 95 out of 100 that the percent change in the CPI as computed differs from the corresponding "complete coverage" change by less than twice the standard error.

Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. As the table indicates, for example, a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might result from a much smaller change in the unrounded value. Hence, any particular change of 0.1 percent may or may not be significant. On the other hand, a published change of 0.2 percent for a 1-month period is always significant.

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1975 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1976.

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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