

CPI Detailed Report

April 1976



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



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For April 1976

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



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Price Movements

April 1976

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.4 percent in April before seasonal adjustment to 168.2 percent of its 1967 base. The April CPI was 6.1 percent higher than in April 1975.

Seasonally adjusted changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI rose 0.4 percent in April. The April rise was larger than the increases of 0.1 percent in February and 0.2 percent in March primarily because food prices rose in April, following declines in each of the previous 3 months. Prices turned up in April for many types of food purchased in grocery stores, notably fresh vegetables, pork, poultry, and dairy products. Fresh fruit and coffee prices continued to advance. Although beef prices moved down, the decline was much smaller than in February or March.

The index for nonfood commodities continued to rise moderately in April—0.3 percent after seasonal adjustment,

the same as the average monthly increase since last August. Price rises for major consumer items such as apparel and household durables remained relatively moderate and the increase in new car prices was smaller than in recent months. Used car prices, however, rose rapidly for the third consecutive month and the index for fuel oil and coal rose for the first time in 6 months. The gasoline and motor oil index continued to decline, but the decline was much smaller than earlier in the year.

The services index increased 0.5 percent in April after seasonal adjustment. The April rise was slower than in recent months because of smaller increases for many types of services such as auto insurance, medical care, natural gas, electricity, housekeeping, apparel, personal care, and recreational services.

Monthly changes in detail

Food. The index for food purchased in grocery stores—which usually declines in April—increased 0.2 percent.

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	
	Unad-justed		Seasonally adjusted		Unad-justed		Seasonally adjusted		Compound annual rate	From 12 months ago
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	From 3 months ago	Unad-justed
1975:										
April	0.5	0.5	-0.1	0.2	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	5.7	10.2
May .....	.4	.5	.4	.9	.6	.3	.2	.4	5.7	9.5
June .....	.8	.7	1.5	1.2	.5	.4	.7	.7	7.0	9.3
July	1.1	1.0	2.4	1.8	.7	.9	.5	.5	9.1	9.7
August .....	.3	.4	-.3	-.2	.5	.6	.5	.4	8.5	8.6
September .....	.5	.4	-.2	.3	.5	.3	1.0	.8	7.4	7.8
October .....	.6	.6	.7	.9	.5	.3	.6	.6	5.8	7.6
November .....	.6	.6	.4	.6	.3	.3	1.1	1.0	6.8	7.3
December .....	.4	.5	.5	.6	.1	.4	.6	.6	7.3	7.0
1976:										
January .....	.2	.4	.1	-.2	-.3	.2	1.0	1.1	6.5	6.8
February .....	.2	.1	-.4	-1.0	.3	.3	.7	.7	4.4	6.3
March .....	.2	.2	-.7	-.8	.4	.3	.6	.7	2.9	6.1
April .....	.4	.4	.3	.6	.6	.3	.3	.5	2.9	6.1

Prices for fresh fruits and vegetables and coffee advanced sharply, while prices declined for meats, fats and oil products, and cereal and bakery products. Prices of dairy products averaged unchanged.

Fresh vegetable prices rose contraseasonally and fresh fruit prices rose more than they usually do in April. Higher prices for green peppers, tomatoes, and strawberries were partly due to smaller supplies from Mexico. Potato prices rose in response to strong export demand and record low supplies held in storage in the Eastern States. Reduced supplies and good demand resulted in higher prices for apples and grapefruit.

Retail prices for coffee rose substantially, as earlier increases in wholesale prices were passed through. Wholesale prices for green and roasted coffee continued to move up in April; producing countries were offering small supplies of coffee at very high prices and roasters were holding buying to a minimum—a situation which has existed since the mid-1975 frost damage to Brazilian crops.

Sugar prices, which had declined steadily during the preceding 6 months, increased slightly in April after earlier advances in wholesale prices this year. Lower estimates of world sugar production and withholding of supplies by producing countries were primarily responsible for the rise in prices. In April, wholesale sugar prices fell again as inadequate storage facilities and a need for foreign exchange forced the Dominican Republic to alter its holding policy. Swift settlement of a strike by Panama Canal workers also contributed to lower wholesale prices in April as did an estimate that European sugar beet acreage will be up 3.4 percent in the 1976-77 crop season.

Beef and pork prices at retail continued to decline in April reflecting earlier declines at the wholesale level. However, after falling substantially in the first 3 months of this year, wholesale beef prices rose over 14 percent and cattle prices over 16 percent in April. This price upswing stemmed from reductions in cattle marketings and beef production at a time when demand was expanding. Increased demand was triggered in part by the threat of a strike by the Teamsters Union; retailers attempted to build inventories before a stoppage of transportation. Wholesale pork and hog prices also increased in April, as hog marketings were curtailed while farmers tended to field work throughout the Corn Belt. The rise in cattle prices was an important factor supporting higher prices for hogs.

Among cereal and bakery products, flour prices continued to decline due to lower wheat prices and heavy promotional activity by retailers. Rice prices fell for the eighth consecutive month due to lower wholesale prices brought about by decreased export demand and record U.S. rice production. Lower ingredient costs led to price reduction for white bread, layer cake, and cinnamon rolls. Among dairy products, prices for milk and cheese declined, but prices increased for butter and other processed dairy products.

The index for food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—rose 0.5 percent in April, about the same as in recent months.

Commodities less food. The index for commodities other than food rose 0.6 percent in April before seasonal adjustment. About half of this rise was due to a 5.6 percent increase in used car prices. Prices rose more moderately for many other nonfood commodities except gasoline, fuel oil, and new cars, which declined.

The index for apparel increased 0.5 percent, slightly more than usual for April. Footwear prices continued to rise rapidly—1.0 percent for the third consecutive month. Manufacturers' prices for footwear have been moving up steadily since mid-1975 in response to good demand and rising materials costs. Prices of other apparel items increased a seasonal 0.4 percent. Prices for housekeeping supplies and toilet goods rose in response to higher costs for labor, transportation, and raw materials. Higher ingredient and marketing costs accounted for the rise in prices of drugs and prescriptions such as adhesive bandage strips, cough syrup, cold tablets, anti-infectives, and antispasmodics.

Among household durables, furniture prices increased 0.4 percent in April, following a rise of 0.7 percent in March—about as much as they usually do in these months. Prices for most furniture items rose moderately in April. There were large increases, however, for sofas which reflected rises in costs of upholstery fabric and for aluminum chairs which reflected increases in aluminum and plastic materials. Prices for floor coverings rose 0.4 percent in April, less than in recent months, due to clearance sales. Continuing the steady uptrend of the past year, appliance prices increased 0.5 percent. The upsurge of consumer buying has allowed many wholesale price increases to be passed along to consumers.

The new car index decreased 0.1 percent in April. This decrease, however, was somewhat smaller than usual for this time of year—an indication that discounts to customers have not been so large as they usually are in the spring. Although sales of subcompacts are lagging, producers have been unable to keep pace with the very strong market for compacts and intermediate cars.

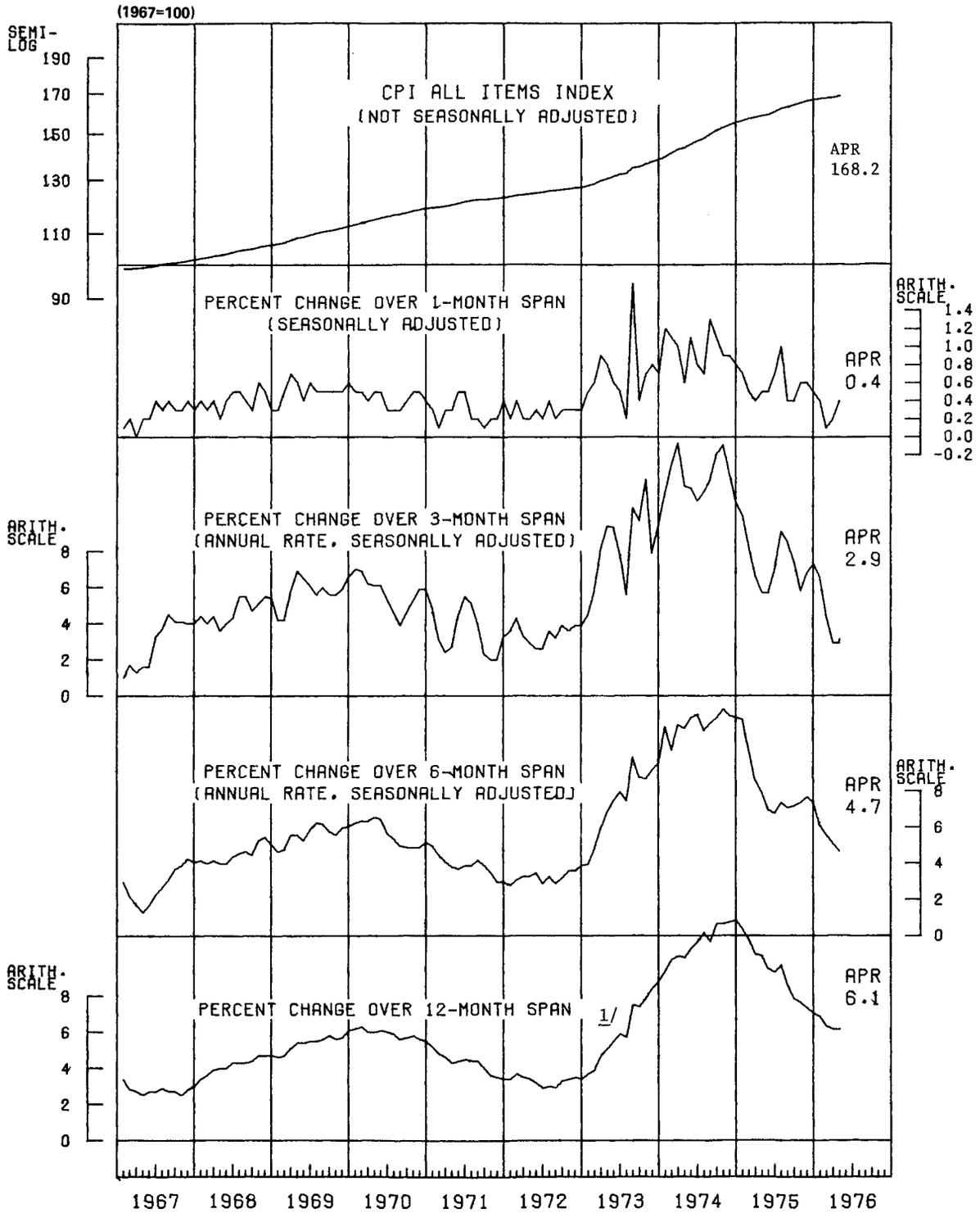
Gasoline prices declined in April for the seventh consecutive month. The contraseasonal decline of 0.4 percent (for regular, premium, and unleaded combined) resulted from continued efforts by major brand and independent gas stations to maintain market shares. Fuel oil prices declined 0.4 percent, less than is usual for April.

Services. The services index rose 0.3 percent in April before seasonal adjustment, half as much as in February or March. Increases of 0.4 percent for transportation services and 0.5 percent for medical care services were noticeably smaller

than in recent months. Auto insurance rates rose 0.8 percent—considerably less than in each of the preceding 6 months. From September 1975 through March 1976, auto insurance rates had risen almost 25 percent. Auto repair charges increased 0.4 percent, about the same as in recent months and much less than in late 1975 and early 1976. Following a large rise in March, local transit fares were unchanged in April. Physicians' fees rose 0.7 percent and dentists' fees 0.2 percent—less than in recent months. Hospital service charges rose 0.6 percent in April; this rise compares with increases of 2.2 percent in January, 1.5 percent in February, and 0.9 in March.

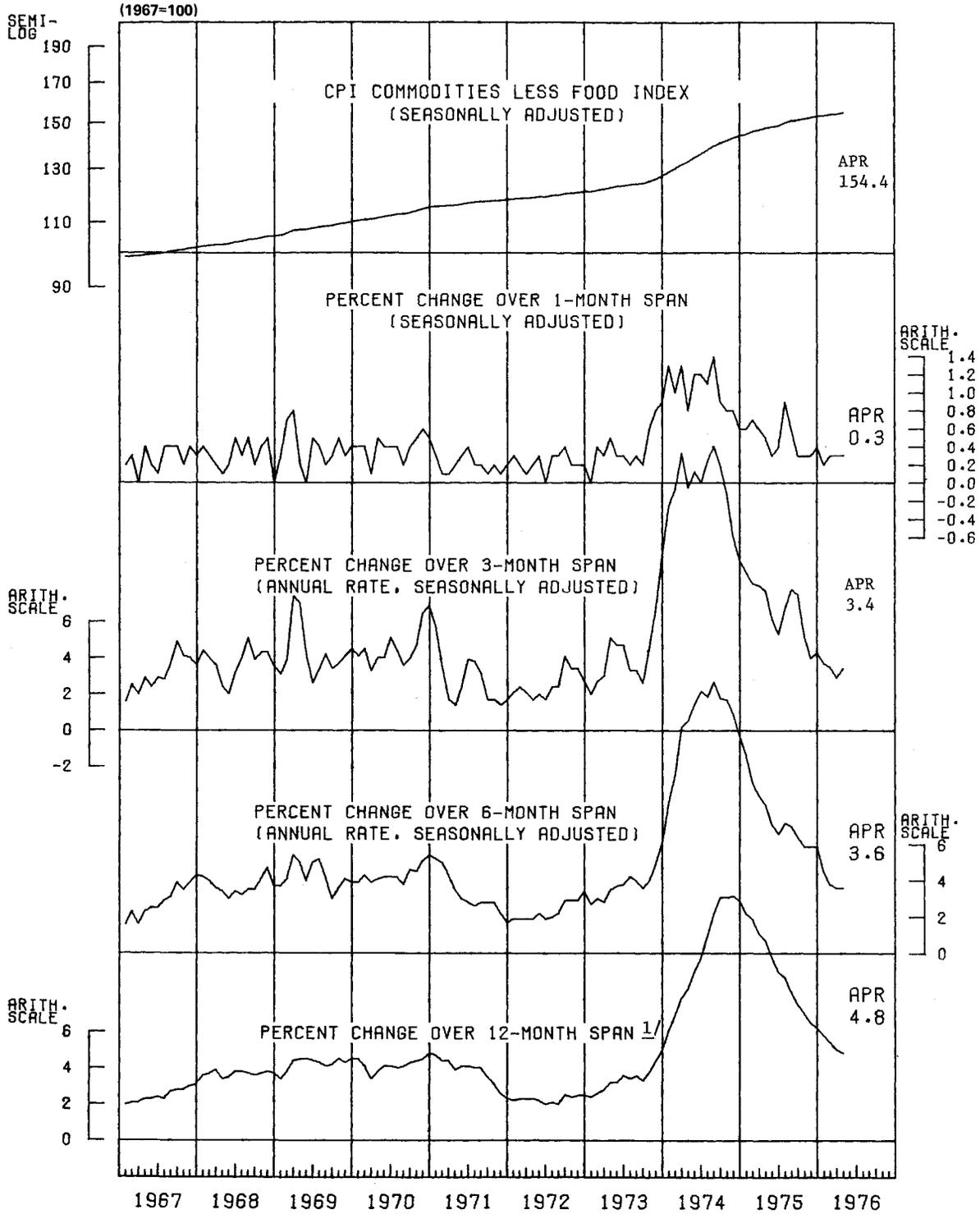
Charges for rent rose 0.4 percent, the same as in March. The increase of 0.2 percent for household services other than rent was down from 0.4 percent in both February and March. Charges for water and sewerage, domestic and laundry services, and property insurance each rose about 1.0 percent. Postal charges rose 0.7 percent due to an increase in prices of money orders which went into effect on April 18. Reflecting higher costs for both labor and materials, charges for home maintenance and repair services continued to move up. Natural gas rates rose 0.6 percent. Mortgage interest costs declined as a result of lower interest rates on both conventional and VA loans.

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



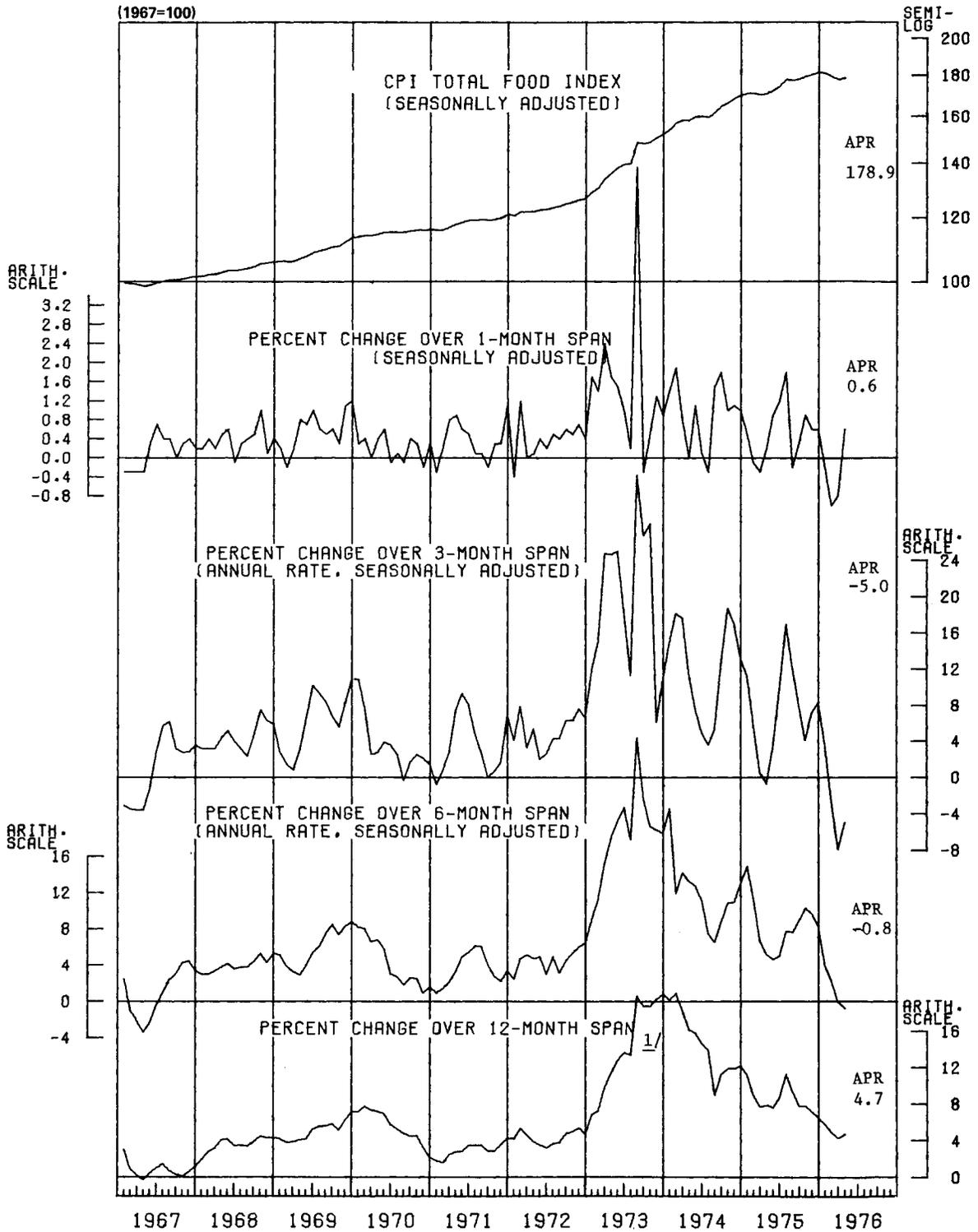
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Chart 2. Commodities less food index and rates of change, 1967-76



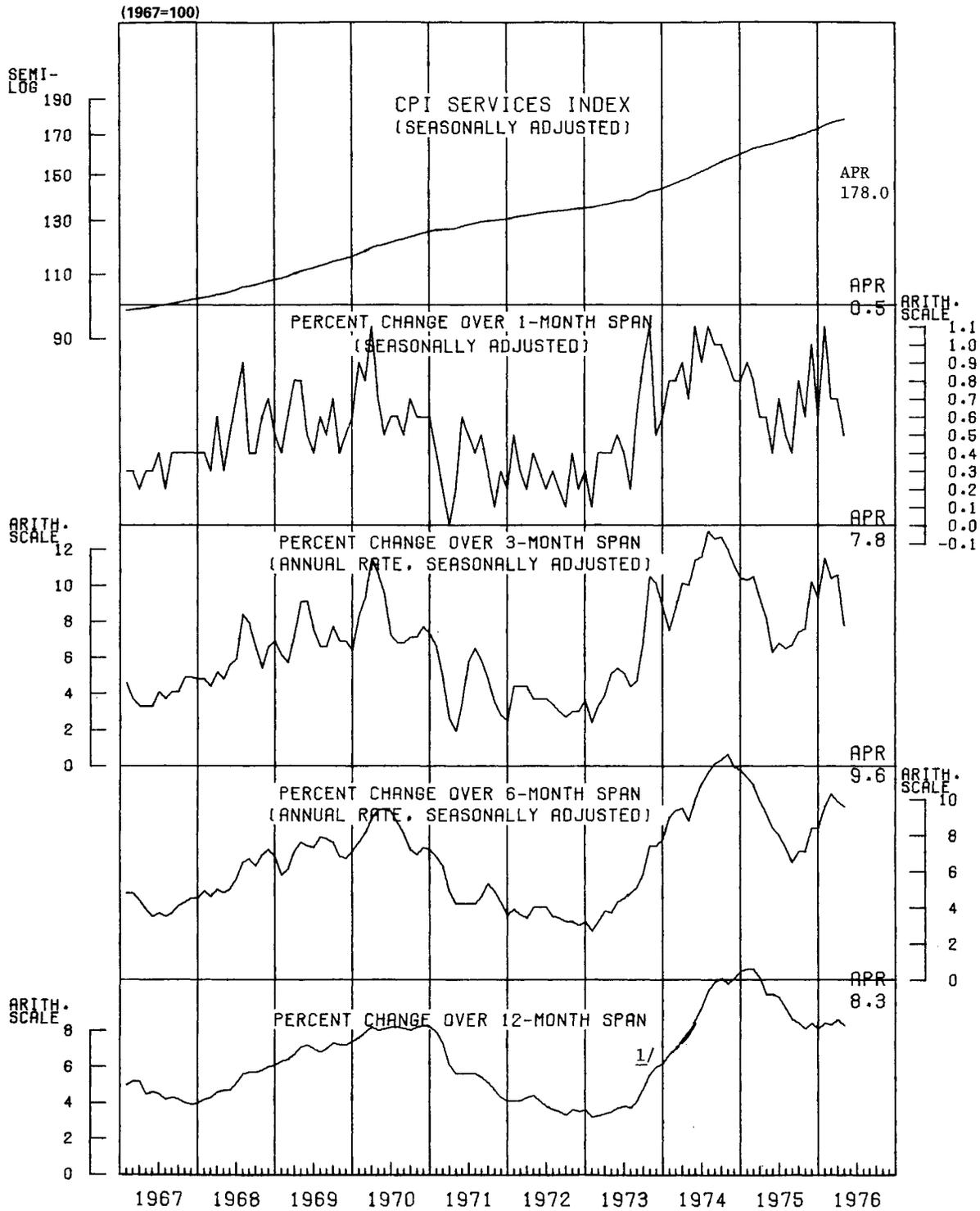
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series
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Chart 3. Total food index and rates of change, 1967-76



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



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

(Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100)								
Group	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
	December 1975	March 1976	April 1976	April 1975	March 1976	January to February	February to March	March to April
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100,000	167.5	168.2	6.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.4
All items (1957-59=100)	-	194.8	195.6	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	63,355	162.3	163.1	4.8	.5	-.2	-.2	.4
Food	24,675	178.7	179.2	4.7	.3	-1.0	-.8	.6
Food at home	19,524	177.7	178.1	4.2	.2	-1.5	-1.2	.7
Cereals and bakery products	2,702	180.6	180.2	-4.6	-.2	-1.3	-.6	0
Meats, poultry, and fish	6,641	180.2	178.0	10.0	-1.2	-3.1	-2.1	-.1
Dairy products	2,876	167.9	167.9	8.5	0	-.6	-.3	.2
Fruits and vegetables	3,103	173.6	179.0	6.7	3.1	-1.7	-.5	2.3
Other foods at home	4,202	182.9	183.9	-2.3	.5	.2	-1.1	1.3
Food away from home	5,150	182.8	183.8	6.7	.5	.8	.5	.3
Commodities less food	38,681	153.3	154.2	4.8	.6	.3	.3	.3
Nondurables less food	22,872	155.5	156.0	4.1	.3	.1	-.1	.1
Apparel commodities	7,861	143.1	143.9	2.6	.6	.2	0	.2
Men's and boys'	2,475	145.4	146.0	2.7	.4	1.0	.3	-.4
Women's and girls'	3,426	138.5	139.2	2.4	.5	-.8	-.4	.5
Footwear	1,377	147.5	149.0	3.2	1.0	1.0	.5	.7
Other apparel commodities	.584	150.9	151.4	1.7	.3	.1	.3	.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	15,011	162.8	163.2	5.0	.2	0	-.1	0
Gasoline and motor oil	3,498	170.9	170.4	5.1	-.3	-1.5	-1.7	-.9
Tobacco products	1,800	159.5	159.9	4.4	.3	.7	.2	.4
Alcoholic beverages	2,244	145.2	146.0	3.0	.6	.1	.7	.5
Fuel oil and coal	1,045	247.6	246.6	7.7	-.4	-.6	-.1	.3
Other nondurables	6,343	157.7	158.4	5.4	.4	.6	-.2	.7
Durable commodities	15,809	150.4	151.9	5.8	1.0	.9	.7	.7
Household durables	4,495	144.8	145.5	4.4	.5	.7	.3	.3
New automobiles	1,910	134.5	134.4	5.4	-.1	.5	.3	.1
Used automobiles	2,046	150.9	159.4	15.4	5.6	2.7	3.8	3.4
Other durables	7,358	159.0	159.4	4.1	.3	*-.1	*.2	*.3
Services	36,645	177.2	177.7	8.3	.3	.7	.7	.5
Rent	4,497	142.7	143.2	5.4	.4	.6	.4	.4
Services less rent	32,147	183.4	184.0	8.7	.3	.8	.8	.4
Household services less rent	16,030	195.1	195.4	7.5	.2	.6	.6	.4
Transportation services	5,012	171.1	171.7	14.8	.4	1.3	1.3	.2
Medical care services	5,642	192.5	193.5	10.0	.5	1.1	1.0	.7
Other services	5,463	158.4	159.1	5.6	.4	.5	.6	.3
Special indexes:								
All items less food	75,325	164.2	165.0	6.5	.5	*.5	*.5	*.5
Nondurable commodities	47,547	166.7	167.2	4.4	.3	*-.1	*-.3	*.3
Apparel commodities less footwear	6,485	142.2	142.8	2.4	.4	-.1	.1	.1
Services less medical care services	31,002	174.8	175.2	8.0	.2	*.6	*.6	*.2
Insurance and finance	9,808	194.1	193.9	9.3	-.1	.6	.7	.3
Utilities and public transportation	5,484	168.7	169.2	10.2	.3	.7	.9	.4
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4,649	205.6	207.0	8.5	.7	*.5	*.8	*.7
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1,417	122.1	122.7	4.7	.5	.5	.3	.6
Expenditure classes								
All items	100,000	167.5	168.2	6.1	0.4	0.1	0.2	0.4
Food	24,675	178.7	179.2	4.7	.3	-1.0	-.8	.6
Housing	33,998	174.5	174.9	6.2	.2	*.3	*.4	*.2
Shelter ¹	21,370	176.3	176.6	5.4	.2	*.1	*.2	*.2
Rent	4,497	142.7	143.2	5.4	.4	.6	.4	.4
Homeownership ²	16,484	188.7	188.9	5.3	.1	*-.1	*.1	*.1
Fuel and utilities ³	5,205	178.9	179.3	8.9	.2	.3	.8	.2
Gas and electricity	2,722	183.7	184.4	10.9	.4	1.1	1.1	.2
Household furnishings and operation	7,422	166.6	167.4	6.8	.5	1.0	.7	.2
Apparel and upkeep	9,217	145.0	145.7	3.1	.5	0	.3	.3
Transportation	13,053	159.8	161.3	10.3	.9	.9	.4	.6
Private	11,729	158.5	160.1	10.0	1.0	1.0	.4	.7
Public	1,324	172.3	172.4	13.1	.1	.1	1.3	.6
Health and recreation	18,681	160.6	161.4	6.1	.5	*.7	*.6	*.5
Medical care	6,413	180.6	181.6	9.5	.6	*1.2	*1.0	*.6
Personal care	2,505	157.4	158.3	5.9	.6	*.8	*.3	*.6
Reading and recreation	5,148	149.0	149.5	4.2	.3	.3	.4	.1
Other goods and services	4,616	151.8	152.5	3.9	.5	.5	.3	.5
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78,630	165.3	166.1	6.3	.5	*.3	*.2	*.5
All items less medical care	93,587	166.8	167.4	5.8	.4	*.2	*.2	*.4
All items less mortgage interest costs	95,610	165.3	166.1	6.1	.5	*.33	*.2	*.5
CPI—domestically produced farm foods ⁴	17,148	174.8	174.9	4.0	.1	*-.9	*-1.2	*.1
CPI—selected beef cuts ⁵	2,056	165.4	161.3	5.3	-2.5	*-4.1	*-2.4	*-2.5
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967= \$1.00	-	\$0.597	\$0.595	-5.7	-.3	-	-	-
1957-59= \$1.00	-	.513	.511	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

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

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

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

Group	Seasonally adjusted ¹ indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	January 1976	February 1976	March 1976	April 1976	3 months ending in			6 months ending in		
					July 1975	October 1975	January 1976	April 1976	October 1975	April 1976
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	9.1	5.8	6.5	2.9	7.4	4.7
Commodities	163.1	162.7	162.4	163.1	10.7	4.8	4.0	0	7.7	2.0
Food	181.2	179.4	177.9	178.9	16.9	4.1	3.6	-5.0	10.3	-1.8
Food at home	181.4	178.6	176.5	177.7	20.1	3.6	2.7	-7.9	11.6	-2.8
Cereals and bakery products	182.0	179.7	178.6	178.6	-1.9	-8.3	-7	-7.3	-5.2	-4.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	188.6	182.8	178.9	178.7	67.7	15.8	-6.3	-19.4	39.3	-13.1
Dairy products	167.7	166.7	166.2	166.6	5.0	12.4	20.4	-2.6	8.6	8.3
Fruits and vegetables	177.2	174.2	173.4	177.4	34.2	-12.7	9.8	.5	8.2	5.0
Other foods at home	183.4	183.8	181.8	184.1	-14.8	1.6	3.6	1.5	-7.0	2.5
Food away from home	180.9	182.4	183.4 ²	184.0	5.0	7.1	7.9	7.0	6.0	7.5
Commodities less food	153.1	153.5	153.9	154.4	6.7	5.2	3.7	3.4	5.9	3.6
Nondurables less food	155.6	155.7	155.6	155.7	8.0	5.4	3.1	.3	6.7	1.7
Apparel commodities	143.3	143.6	143.6	143.9	2.3	2.0	4.0	1.7	2.1	2.8
Men's and boys'	144.2	145.6	146.0	145.4	.3	2.6	4.3	3.4	1.4	3.8
Women's and girls'	140.8	139.7	139.2	139.9	5.1	1.2	5.9	-2.5	3.1	1.6
Footwear	145.3	146.7	147.5	148.6	-3	3.4	.8	3.4	1.5	5.0
Other apparel commodities	150.6	150.8	151.2	151.7	-5	1.3	3.3	3.0	.4	3.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	162.9	162.9	162.7	162.7	11.0	7.2	2.7	.5	9.1	1.1
Gasoline and motor oil	176.2	173.6	170.6	169.0	36.5	13.3	-6.9	-15.4	24.3	-11.3
Tobacco products	158.4	159.5	159.8	160.5	-1.0	2.4	11.1	5.4	.7	8.2
Alcoholic beverages	144.1	144.3	145.3	146.0	2.6	1.4	2.8	5.4	2.0	4.1
Fuel oil and coal	244.0	242.6	242.3	243.0	21.8	22.0	-7.9	-1.6	21.9	-4.8
Other nondurables	156.0	157.4	158.0	158.2	4.1	5.1	7.8	4.4	4.6	6.1
Durable commodities	149.7	150.6	151.7	152.7	5.1	5.3	4.4	8.3	5.2	6.3
Household durables	143.7	144.7	145.2	145.6	2.0	5.2	4.6	5.4	3.6	5.0
New automobiles	133.1	133.8	134.2	134.3	-1.6	8.5	11.6	33.7	3.3	7.6
Used automobiles	150.0	154.1	159.9	165.4	13.8	7.5	-1.8	47.8	10.6	20.5
Other durables (not seasonally adjusted)	158.8	158.7	159.0	159.4	6.7	3.6	4.7	1.5	5.2	3.1
Services	174.7	176.0	177.2	178.0	6.5	7.6	11.5	7.8	7.1	9.6
Rent	141.1	142.0	142.6	143.1	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.8	5.4	5.4
Services less rent	180.7	182.1	183.5	184.3	6.5	7.9	12.6	8.2	7.2	10.4
Household services less rent	193.1	194.2	195.3	196.0	7.0	5.3	11.8	6.1	6.1	8.9
Transportation services	166.7	168.9	171.1	171.5	4.6	17.2	26.5	12.0	10.7	19.0
Medical care services	188.4	190.4	192.3	193.7	10.1	9.9	8.5	11.7	10.0	10.1
Other services (not seasonally adjusted)	156.8	157.6	158.6	159.1	3.8	5.9	6.6	6.0	4.8	6.3
Special indexes:										
All items less food (not seasonally adjusted)	162.6	163.4	164.2	165.0	7.2	7.3	5.6	6.0	7.2	5.8
Nondurable commodities (not seasonally adjusted)	167.3	167.2	166.7	167.2	12.8	3.4	2.2	-2	8.0	1.0
Apparel commodities less footwear	143.0	142.8	142.9	143.1	2.6	2.0	4.9	.3	2.3	2.6
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	172.8	173.8	174.8	175.2	5.5	8.5	12.5	5.7	7.0	9.0
Insurance and finance	191.7	192.9	194.3	194.9	6.0	3.1	22.5	6.8	4.5	14.4
Utilities and public transportation	165.3	166.4	167.9	168.5	11.2	16.8	5.2	8.0	13.9	6.6
Housekeeping and home maintenance service (not seasonally adjusted)	202.8	203.9	205.6	207.0	6.7	8.1	10.7	8.5	7.4	9.6
Appliances (including radio and TV)	121.2	121.8	122.2	122.9	3.4	4.8	4.4	5.7	4.1	5.1
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	9.1	5.8	6.5	2.9	7.4	4.7
Food	181.2	179.4	177.9	178.9	16.9	4.1	3.6	-5.0	10.3	-1.8
Housing (not seasonally adjusted)	173.2	173.8	174.5	174.9	6.0	6.6	8.3	4.0	6.3	6.1
Shelter ¹ (not seasonally adjusted)	175.9	176.0	176.3	176.6	6.4	5.5	8.1	1.6	5.9	4.8
Rent	141.1	142.0	142.6	143.1	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.8	5.4	5.4
Homeownership ² (not seasonally adjusted)	188.8	188.6	188.7	188.9	6.6	5.6	8.9	.2	6.1	4.5
Fuel and utilities ³	175.6	176.1	177.5	177.9	14.2	12.4	4.2	5.3	13.3	4.8
Gas and electricity	178.6	180.5	182.4	182.8	15.9	13.0	5.3	9.7	14.4	7.5
Household furnishings and operation	164.4	166.0	167.1	167.4	3.4	5.9	10.1	7.5	4.6	8.8
Apparel and upkeep	145.0	145.0	145.4	145.8	2.6	2.6	5.1	2.2	2.6	3.7
Transportation	158.7	160.1	160.8	161.8	13.2	13.0	7.4	8.0	13.1	7.7
Private	157.4	158.9	159.5	160.6	14.1	10.5	7.4	8.4	12.3	7.9
Public	169.7	169.9	172.1	173.1	5.6	39.9	2.1	8.3	21.6	5.2
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	158.6	159.7	160.6	161.4	5.1	6.1	6.0	7.3	5.6	6.6
Medical care (not seasonally adjusted)	176.6	178.8	180.6	181.6	10.0	9.0	7.3	11.8	9.5	9.6
Personal care (not seasonally adjusted)	155.7	157.0	157.4	158.3	4.6	4.6	7.5	6.8	4.6	7.2
Reading and recreation	148.3	148.8	149.4	149.5	2.0	6.2	5.3	3.3	4.1	4.3
Other goods and services	150.7	151.5	152.0	152.7	1.6	2.5	6.3	5.4	2.1	5.9
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter (not seasonally adjusted)	164.4	164.9	165.3	166.1	10.6	5.9	4.5	4.2	8.2	4.4
All items less medical care (not seasonally adjusted)	166.2	166.5	166.8	167.4	10.0	5.3	5.2	2.9	7.6	4.1
All items less mortgage interest costs (not seasonally adjusted)	164.4	164.9	165.3	166.1	10.1	5.6	4.8	4.2	7.8	4.5
CPI - domestically produced farm foods ⁴ (not seasonally adjusted)	178.5	176.9	174.8	174.9	27.7	-3.5	3.0	-7.8	11.0	-2.6
CPI - selected beef cuts ⁵ (not seasonally adjusted)	176.6	169.4	165.4	161.3	128.2	-16.1	-7.8	-30.4	38.4	-19.9

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown.

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

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

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

⁵ Calculated from the CPI beef and veal component by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver, separately, 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 April 1976 from—			Item and group	Index		Percent change to April 1976 from—		
	April 1976		April 1975		March 1976		April 1976		April 1975		March 1976
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted		Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	179.2	178.9	4.7	0.3	0.6	Food—Continued					
Food away from home	183.8	184.0	6.7	.5	.3	Food at home—Continued					
Restaurant meals	182.8	(1)	6.9	.6	(1)	Fruits and vegetables—Continued					
Snacks	188.6	188.6	6.1	.4	.1	Fresh fruits and vegetables—Continued					
Food at home	178.1	177.7	4.2	.2	.7	Fresh fruits—Continued					
Cereals and bakery products	180.2	178.6	-4.6	-.2	0	Oranges	142.8	151.9	-1.9	-0.7	1.6
Flour	155.3	151.8	-9.1	-1.3	-1.2	Orange juice, fresh	151.1	(1)	3.8	-.1	(1)
Cracker meal	223.8	222.7	-6.3	.1	.7	Grapefruit	143.1	160.2	-5.5	4.9	4.2
Corn flakes	166.5	166.5	-.6	.2	.2	Grapes	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Rice	202.3	198.9	-7.5	-.5	.2	Strawberries	181.2	164.9	7.2	(2)	(2)
Bread, white	161.8	(1)	-4.7	-.2	(1)	Watermelon	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Bread, whole wheat	176.5	175.6	.1	.7	.7	Fresh vegetables	188.0	184.9	17.8	5.0	7.2
Cookies	188.7	(1)	-4.5	.1	(1)	Potatoes	219.1	220.4	59.2	3.7	3.2
Layer cake	184.5	183.6	-5.2	-.6	-.2	Onions	177.5	169.4	16.9	4.0	-.2
Cinnamon rolls	193.3	192.3	-4.3	-.6	-.8	Asparagus	167.7	178.2	-5.7	-20.5	1.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	178.0	178.7	10.0	-1.2	-.1	Cabbage	153.0	150.0	-3.6	-1.4	2.4
Meats	176.6	176.8	10.2	-1.7	.3	Carrots	143.3	149.3	-20.0	-2.1	4.1
Beef and veal	160.8	159.8	4.0	-2.4	-.6	Celery	165.4	180.4	14.9	-12.7	-6.2
Steak, round	160.9	159.8	3.3	-2.3	.3	Cucumbers	190.6	151.3	-17.3	-2.3	1.1
Steak, sirloin	158.3	158.9	6.9	-1.4	.2	Lettuce	147.4	(1)	6.0	6.4	(1)
Steak, porterhouse	169.9	171.4	11.4	-3.0	-1.9	Peppers, green	249.9	227.4	45.0	54.7	45.3
Rump roast	158.2	157.3	2.3	-1.9	.4	Spinach	191.8	190.1	4.6	1.9	1.9
Rib roast	182.4	182.8	10.8	-2.3	-1.0	Tomatoes	187.1	188.0	16.2	15.4	23.7
Chuck roast	157.7	155.5	1.2	-7.1	-4.0	Processed fruits and vegetables	185.4	183.2	4.0	-.4	-.9
Hamburger	156.6	155.8	4.7	-2.1	.3	Fruit cocktail, canned	174.1	174.1	-1.9	-.1	.2
Beef liver	127.5	123.7	-10.5	-3.6	-5.9	Pears, canned	157.4	157.7	-5.6	-.3	0
Veal cutlets	185.8	185.2	.1	-.5	.1	Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned	173.9	174.2	1.1	.2	.3
Pork	200.0	204.9	17.6	-2.1	1.3	Orange juice concentrate, frozen	159.4	(1)	4.3	-.3	(1)
Chops	182.5	191.1	14.3	-3.6	2.0	Lemonade concentrate, frozen	188.8	185.6	-2.8	-1.2	-2.1
Loin roast	197.2	205.4	18.7	-5.0	1.1	Beets, canned	183.8	(1)	-2.9	-.8	(1)
Sausage	228.1	230.2	19.1	.6	2.2	Peas, green, canned	157.5	157.5	-3.1	.1	.4
Ham, whole	202.3	200.1	23.3	-.7	.1	Tomatoes, canned	177.0	(1)	.7	-.1	(1)
Picnics	191.3	187.9	21.3	-4.5	-3.8	Dried beans	306.4	(1)	36.0	-1.5	(1)
Bacon	209.4	214.5	15.4	0	2.4	Broccoli, frozen	157.2	(1)	2.7	1.2	(1)
Other meats	178.4	179.5	12.5	.4	1.6	Other food at home	183.9	184.1	-2.3	.5	1.3
Lamb chops	182.3	184.5	12.4	2.6	4.9	Eggs	159.4	162.2	.8	-.6	2.2
Frankfurters	167.6	167.3	9.6	-1.2	-.4	Fats and oils:	171.7	170.7	-18.1	-1.9	-1.5
Ham, canned	209.8	208.3	25.9	-.2	.8	Margarine	185.0	184.3	-23.2	-3.3	-2.6
Bologna sausage	174.7	176.1	9.0	.3	1.5	Salad dressing, Italian	151.1	149.9	-4.9	-1.2	-1.3
Salami sausage	166.3	167.5	8.4	.2	.8	Salad or cooking oil	179.7	178.6	-22.0	-1.3	-1.2
Liverwurst	169.0	169.3	8.5	.6	.8	Sugar and sweets	221.1	(1)	-13.5	-.6	(1)
Poultry	158.0	158.6	6.1	.2	.4	Sugar	210.6	(1)	-39.2	.1	(1)
Frying chicken	160.4	160.4	5.5	-.1	-.1	Grape jelly	222.3	(1)	-4.5	-.3	(1)
Chicken breasts	160.9	161.2	8.8	.2	.1	Chocolate bar	235.5	(1)	-1.5	-2.0	(1)
Turkey	143.8	145.3	6.1	1.3	2.0	Syrup, chocolate flavored	214.2	209.8	-1.1	.1	.5
Fish	222.3	(1)	12.7	1.4	(1)	Nonalcoholic beverages	198.0	(1)	11.2	2.6	(1)
Shrimp, frozen	218.8	(1)	32.2	2.6	(1)	Coffee	212.0	(1)	27.0	4.9	(1)
Fish, fresh or frozen	239.8	(1)	10.3	2.3	(1)	Coffee, instant	210.3	210.3	21.1	2.2	1.8
Tuna fish, canned	183.9	182.3	4.2	.6	.2	Tea	149.1	148.7	3.8	.9	1.0
Sardines, canned	245.4	245.9	7.3	.1	.2	Carbonated drink, cola flavored	192.4	(1)	-8.4	-.2	(1)
Dairy products	167.9	166.6	8.5	0	.2	Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	198.7	(1)	-5.2	.7	(1)
Milk, fresh, grocery	160.4	158.7	5.2	-.2	.1	Prepared and partially prepared foods	169.0	(1)	2.4	1.0	(1)
Milk, fresh, skim	177.0	175.4	6.1	.3	.6	Bean soup, canned	207.8	(1)	10.2	.6	(1)
Milk, evaporated	203.7	(1)	11.9	.2	(1)	Chicken soup, canned	135.3	134.8	-.4	.7	.7
Ice cream	157.0	157.0	3.8	.2	.7	Spaghetti, canned	162.8	164.4	.2	1.7	2.4
Cheese, American process	194.9	192.2	15.4	-.9	-1.2	Mashed potatoes, instant	156.3	157.4	-.7	1.3	1.6
Butter	145.4	146.9	25.8	1.7	2.8	Potatoes, french fried, frozen	179.0	180.4	6.1	1.6	1.5
Fruits and vegetables	179.0	177.4	6.7	3.1	2.3	Baby foods	166.6	(1)	2.8	2.6	(1)
Fresh fruits and vegetables	174.7	172.5	8.6	5.8	4.1	Sweet pickle relish	182.8	180.1	4.2	-.5	-.2
Fresh fruits	158.4	159.5	-2.6	7.0	1.3	Pretzels	161.0	160.5	-4.7	.7	.5
Apples	149.9	155.2	-3.3	5.9	2.8						
Bananas	154.3	148.8	-2.5	1.8	-5.8						

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 April 1976 from—	
		March 1976	April 1976	April 1975	March 1976
Housing		174.5	174.9	6.2	0.2
Shelter ¹		176.3	176.6	5.4	.2
Rent, residential		142.7	143.2	5.4	.4
Homeownership ²		188.7	188.9	5.3	.1
Mortgage interest rates		142.7	141.7	.8	-.7
Property taxes		167.2	166.1	5.8	-.7
Property insurance premiums		139.8	141.0	9.6	.9
Maintenance and repairs		194.7	196.1	6.0	.7
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		165.0	165.9	3.7	.5
Exterior house paint		160.9	161.8	3.8	.6
Interior house paint		149.6	147.9	.9	-1.1
Maintenance and repair services		207.6	209.1	6.8	.7
Repainting living and dining rooms		220.3	220.8	7.8	.2
Reshingling house roof		227.6	230.0	7.1	1.1
Residing house		194.2	196.4	5.8	1.1
Replacing sink		206.1	207.4	7.5	.6
Repairing furnace		201.3	202.4	6.9	.5
Fuel and utilities		178.9	179.3	8.9	.2
Fuel oil and coal		247.6	246.6	7.7	-.4
Fuel oil, No. 2		243.8	242.8	8.7	-.4
Gas and electricity		183.7	184.4	10.9	.4
Gas		193.6	194.8	15.7	.6
Electricity		174.6	174.8	6.3	.1
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		128.9	128.9	4.1	0
Residential water and sewerage services		183.8	185.7	10.5	1.0
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		166.6	167.4	6.8	.5
Housefurnishings		149.5	150.1	4.5	.4
Textiles		147.4	147.6	4.5	.1
Sheets, full, flat		158.9	156.6	6.6	-1.4
Curtains, tailored		143.6	145.1	9.7	1.0
Bedspreads		147.2	148.5	.8	.9
Drapery fabrics		174.4	176.2	4.9	1.0
Pillows, bed		124.1	122.3	2.7	-1.5
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		135.3	136.1	2.0	.6
Furniture and bedding		151.0	151.6	3.5	.4
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	131.4	131.9	3.6	.4
Sofas, upholstered		139.5	140.6	1.1	.8
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	129.9	129.6	4.3	-.2
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	134.9	134.7	4.2	-.1
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	112.4	112.6	1.6	.2
Sofas, dual purpose		139.5	140.1	3.8	.4
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	132.5	132.5	2.0	0
Aluminum folding chairs	(⁵)	(⁵)	182.5	10.7	(⁵)
Cribs		151.7	152.3	4.0	.4
Floor coverings		135.6	136.0	5.5	.3
Broadloom carpeting		123.7	124.1	4.7	.3
Vinyl sheet goods		163.0	163.5	9.2	.3
Vinyl floor tile		163.4	164.4	5.0	.6
Appliances (excluding radio and TV)		133.3	134.3	6.3	.8
Washing machines, electric		139.2	140.2	8.0	.7
Vacuum cleaners		119.5	120.1	4.0	.5
Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric		133.0	134.1	5.7	.8
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		137.1	137.4	7.0	.2
Clothes dryers, electric		145.7	147.4	9.8	1.2
Air conditioners, demountable	(⁵)	(⁵)	128.5	4.4	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Garbage disposal units		133.0	133.9	4.8	.7
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		188.4	190.9	10.0	1.3
Flatware, stainless steel		182.9	180.6	4.3	-1.3
Table lamps, with shade		148.0	148.4	2.3	.3
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		162.2	162.2	7.3	0
Electric drills, hand-held		128.4	128.8	5.0	.3
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		173.0	173.8	7.7	.5
Paper napkins		217.7	217.8	6.1	0
Toilet tissue		226.7	230.8	14.1	1.8
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		209.2	211.2	9.1	1.0
Baby sitter services		211.2	212.0	12.5	.4
Postal charges		218.1	219.7	25.3	.7
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		200.2	202.0	9.3	.9
Licensed day care services, preschool child		161.2	161.4	6.1	.1
Washing machine repairs		198.7	199.2	8.3	.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 April 1976 from—	
		March 1976	April 1976	April 1975	March 1976
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		145.0	145.7	3.1	0.5
Apparel commodities.....		143.1	143.9	2.6	.6
Apparel commodities less footwear.....		142.2	142.8	2.4	.4
Men's and boys' ⁷		145.4	146.0	2.7	.4
Men's:					
Topcoats and all-weather coats.....		146.0	146.3	2.7	.2
Suits, year round weight.....		141.5	141.0	.3	-.4
Sport jackets.....	June 74	98.9	98.2	-4.2	-7.7
Jackets, lightweight.....		138.3	137.6	3.0	-5.5
Slacks, heavyweight.....		120.4	120.2	1.0	-2.2
Slacks, lightweight.....		144.5	144.5	.8	0
Trousers, work.....		157.1	158.5	5.0	.9
Shirts, work.....		154.4	155.6	3.0	.8
Shirts, business or dress.....		130.4	131.1	2.7	.5
T-shirts.....		158.1	158.7	3.3	.4
Socks.....		133.8	133.9	4.4	.1
Handkerchiefs.....		160.6	162.1	5.6	.9
Boys':					
Coats, heavyweight.....		111.6	112.7	3.1	1.0
Sport coats, wool or wool blends.....		123.8	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Dungarees.....		183.8	185.7	7.8	1.0
Undershorts.....		155.0	156.0	3.0	.6
Handkerchiefs.....		138.5	139.2	2.4	.5
Women's and girls' ⁸					
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight.....		126.2	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Carcoats, heavyweight.....		134.1	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Sweaters.....		132.4	137.2	1.3	3.6
Skirts, winter weight.....		152.6	152.0	.9	-.4
Skirts, summer weight.....		149.0	152.4	2.7	2.3
Blouses.....		139.9	143.7	-2	2.7
Dresses, street, year round weight.....		146.9	149.3	3.3	1.6
Slips.....		123.9	124.0	9.4	.1
Panties.....		147.8	149.3	6.8	1.0
Girdles.....		132.4	133.1	4.4	-.5
Brassieres.....		148.0	148.9	5.5	.6
Hose or panty hose, nylon.....		91.9	92.3	1.3	.4
Anklets or knee-length socks.....		133.9	134.5	2.0	.4
Gloves, fabric.....		128.6	130.7	2.1	1.6
Handbags.....		167.9	168.8	-1.2	.5
Girls':					
Raincoats.....		128.2	127.3	-.9	-.7
Skirts, fall and winter.....		150.8	148.8	(⁷)	-1.3
Dresses.....		131.6	129.6	0	-1.5
Slacks, fall and winter.....		166.0	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Slips.....		130.7	131.0	3.4	.2
Handbags.....		135.5	138.1	-3.6	1.9
Other apparel commodities.....		150.9	151.4	1.7	.3
Diapers.....		185.6	186.6	2.2	.5
Yard goods.....		157.9	159.2	-1.3	.8
Wrist watches, men's and women's.....		138.9	139.1	3.9	.1
Footwear.....		147.5	149.0	3.2	1.0
Men's:					
Shoes, street.....		150.8	152.8	3.7	1.3
Shoes, work, high.....		166.7	168.0	5.6	.8
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump.....		141.7	143.0	1.9	.9
Shoes, evening, pump.....		132.4	134.5	1.9	1.6
Shoes, casual.....		148.5	151.3	3.1	1.9
Houseslippers, scuff.....		144.6	145.6	4.2	.7
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford.....		149.1	150.3	3.9	.8
Sneakers, boys', oxford type.....		150.5	149.4	.3	-.7
Dress shoes, girls'.....		158.3	159.9	5.1	1.0
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning.....		158.6	159.2	6.9	.4
Automatic laundry service.....		142.5	142.0	7.4	-.4
Laundry, men's shirts.....		160.0	162.6	7.5	1.6
Tailoring charges.....		158.9	159.7	4.9	.5
Shoe repairs.....		146.8	147.2	5.7	.3
Transportation.....		159.8	161.3	10.3	.9
Private ⁹		158.5	160.1	10.0	1.0
Automobiles, new.....		134.5	134.4	5.4	-.1
Automobiles, used.....		150.9	159.4	15.4	5.6
Gasoline, regular, premium and unleaded.....		171.9	171.2	5.2	-.4
Motor oil.....		158.1	158.8	3.3	.4
Tires.....		130.2	130.1	3.0	-.1
Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance ⁹		186.6	187.4	7.3	.4
Auto insurance premiums.....		182.1	183.5	29.3	.8
Auto registration fees.....		132.8	132.8	1.5	0
Parking fees, private and municipal.....		179.6	181.6	5.8	1.1

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to April 1976 from—	
		March 1976	April 1976	April 1975	March 1976
Transportation—Continued					
Public		172.3	172.4	13.1	0.1
Local transit fares		172.3	172.3	16.6	0
Taxicab fares		174.7	175.3	5.1	.3
Railroad fares, coach		161.5	161.6	7.7	.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		168.2	168.2	9.0	0
Bus fares, intercity		192.6	192.6	9.7	0
Health and recreation¹					
Medical care ¹⁰		160.6	161.4	6.1	.5
Drugs and prescriptions		180.6	181.6	9.5	.6
Over-the-counter items		123.9	124.7	6.1	.6
Multiple vitamin concentrates		136.1	137.2	6.5	.8
Aspirin compounds		104.8	105.0	3.8	.2
Liquid tonics		137.6	137.7	5.4	.1
Adhesive bandages, packages		119.4	119.8	4.4	.3
Cold tablets or capsules		176.0	180.0	10.6	2.3
Cough syrup		129.3	129.7	4.3	.3
Cough syrup		141.5	142.7	7.6	.8
Cough syrup		113.7	114.3	5.7	.5
Prescriptions		72.4	73.0	3.3	.8
Anti-infectives		160.8	162.1	5.9	.8
Sedatives and hypnotics		110.6	111.2	5.4	.5
Ataractics		110.6	111.2	11.7	.5
Antispasmodics		133.3	133.9	11.7	.5
Cough preparations		178.1	179.6	10.1	.8
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		120.1	120.2	1.3	.1
Analgesics, internal		120.5	121.1	3.0	.5
Anti-obesity		(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Hormones		109.4	109.5	8.0	.1
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		184.3	185.6	11.7	.7
General physician, office visits		189.3	190.4	11.6	.6
General physician, house visits		185.6	186.9	11.8	.7
Obstetrical cases		187.8	189.7	16.0	1.0
Pediatric care, office visits		189.0	189.2	11.9	.1
Psychiatrist, office visits		162.6	163.1	9.0	.3
Herniorrhaphy, adult		164.3	166.7	11.0	1.5
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		175.1	177.7	10.9	1.5
Dentists' fees		169.4	169.8	6.3	.2
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		174.7	175.0	6.4	.2
Extractions, adult		168.1	168.6	6.2	.3
Dentures, full upper		159.9	160.5	6.4	.4
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		156.7	157.3	6.2	.4
Routine laboratory tests		158.0	158.1	5.0	.1
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	145.4	146.2	13.1	.6
Semiprivate rooms		261.5	262.5	14.7	.4
Operating room charges		265.9	268.1	14.3	.8
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI		169.8	171.6	12.2	1.1
Laboratory tests	Jan. 72	140.8	141.2	11.6	.3
Anti-infectives	Jan. 72	120.7	121.6	10.0	.7
Tranquillizers	Jan. 72	128.0	128.9	10.6	.7
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	135.0	135.8	9.1	.6
Intravenous solution	Jan. 72	141.7	142.1	11.5	.3
Physical therapy	Jan. 72	145.2	145.3	9.2	.1
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	129.4	129.3	3.9	-.1
Personal care	Jan. 72	157.4	158.3	5.9	.6
Toilet goods		155.8	156.8	5.1	.6
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		137.1	136.2	4.5	-.7
Toilet soap, hard-milled		193.7	194.9	-.7	.6
Hand lotions		159.9	161.2	6.9	.8
Shaving cream		131.1	132.4	6.5	1.0
Face powder		160.6	161.0	7.0	.2
Deodorants		116.1	118.9	.1	2.4
Cleansing tissues		214.3	215.6	9.8	.6
Home permanent wave kits		126.7	127.0	7.4	.2
Personal care services		159.0	159.9	6.8	.6
Men's haircuts		159.9	160.6	5.2	.4
Beauty shop services		158.5	159.4	8.0	.6
Women's haircuts		179.9	180.5	12.3	.3
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		160.1	161.1	6.6	.6
Permanent waves, cold		133.4	134.4	5.9	.7
Reading and recreation ¹¹		149.0	149.5	4.2	.3
Recreational goods		126.2	126.8	3.6	.5
TV sets, portable and console		103.1	103.1	1.9	0
TV replacement tubes		165.3	166.0	6.5	.4
Radios, portable and table models		105.2	105.1	1.1	-.1
Tape recorders, portable		95.5	95.7	.1	.2
Phonograph records, stereophonic		124.0	123.8	2.1	-.2
Movie cameras, 8mm		95.4	95.5	1.9	.1
Film, 35mm, color		122.0	123.9	4.8	1.6
Golf balls		103.1	104.3	-.1	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 April 1976 from—	
		March 1976	April 1976	April 1975	March 1976
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation—Continued					
Recreational goods—Continued					
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		147.2	146.7	2.2	-0.3
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		124.0	124.3	3.7	.2
Bowling balls		129.2	129.3	3.8	.1
Bicycles, boys'		143.2	144.2	1.1	.7
Tricycles		147.2	148.3	10.6	.7
Dog food, canned or boxed		169.7	169.7	.7	0
Recreational services		153.0	153.6	3.4	.4
Indoor movie admissions		174.4	175.8	4.0	.8
Adult		169.3	170.4	3.0	.6
Children's		188.7	190.9	6.4	1.2
Drive-in movie admissions		176.7	177.4	1.2	.4
Bowling fees, evening		145.5	145.7	5.4	.1
Golf green fees		(⁵)	159.7	5.3	(⁵)
TV repair		106.3	106.3	1.1	0
Film developing		124.0	124.0	1.1	0
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		180.6	181.0	4.4	.2
Magazines, single copy and subscription		177.8	177.8	4.3	0
Piano lessons, beginner		143.1	143.6	3.6	.3
Other goods and services		151.8	152.5	3.9	.5
Tobacco products		159.5	159.9	4.4	.3
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		161.7	162.0	4.3	.2
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		162.1	162.7	4.4	.4
Cigars, domestic, regular size		128.4	128.9	4.3	.4
Alcoholic beverages		145.2	146.0	3.0	.6
Beer, at home		142.5	143.1	1.6	.4
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		115.6	115.9	1.8	.3
Wine, dessert and table		156.1	156.2	2.0	.1
Beer, away from home		162.6	164.2	5.4	1.0
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		148.6	149.0	4.7	.3
Bank service charges, checking account		124.8	125.1	6.8	.2
Legal services, short form will		197.9	198.8	7.2	.5

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

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

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

⁵ Priced only in season.

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

⁷ Not available.

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

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

¹⁰ Also includes health insurance not shown separately.

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

(*) Discontinued.

Table 5. CPI—selected areas, all items index

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

Area ¹	Pricing schedule ²	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases	April 1975	January 1976	March 1976
April 1976							
U.S. city average	M	168.2	195.6		6.1	0.9	0.4
Chicago	M	162.9	185.0		4.4	1.5	.6
Detroit	M	166.6	191.4		5.5	.4	.5
Los Angeles—Long Beach	M	164.1	193.0		5.5	-.4	.1
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	M	174.3	207.4		6.5	.9	.2
Philadelphia	M	170.3	198.9		5.6	.7	.4
April 1976							
Boston	1	172.5	206.6		8.5	0.3	
Houston	1	174.1	199.2		7.9	1.0	
Minneapolis—St. Paul	1	168.7	195.6		7.6	1.0	
Pittsburgh	1	166.7	191.7		5.7	1.6	
February 1976							
Buffalo	2	167.2		³ 183.7	6.1	0.8	
Cleveland	2	165.1	186.4		4.7	.4	
Dallas	2	163.7		³ 177.0	6.3	.8	
Milwaukee	2	162.5	183.5		6.8	.6	
San Diego	2	167.3		⁴ 175.9	6.4	1.5	
Seattle	2	161.7	190.0		6.5	1.3	
Washington	2	167.0	194.5		5.8	1.0	
March 1976							
Atlanta	3	166.6	191.6		5.1	0.2	
Baltimore	3	170.4	197.8		4.6	1.2	
Cincinnati	3	167.1	189.7		7.3	1.5	
Honolulu	3	160.5		⁵ 173.0	6.0	.8	
Kansas City	3	163.4	194.0		5.6	.2	
St. Louis	3	162.7	190.0		6.8	1.5	
San Francisco—Oakland	3	165.5	196.9		6.1	.8	

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

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

- M — Every month.
- 1 — January, April, July, and October.
- 2 — February, May, August, and November.

³ March, June, September, and December.

⁴ November 1963=100.

⁵ February 1965=100.

⁶ December 1963=100.

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

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

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

Expenditure class	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.4
Food	.3	1.0	.7	-.2	.2	.1
Housing	.2	.2	.1	-.3	.1	.3
Apparel and upkeep	.5	-.4	.9	-.7	.1	.1
Transportation	.9	1.1	.9	1.2	.3	1.0
Health and recreation	.5	.6	.5	.9	.4	.6
Medical care	.6	.5	.3	.9	.5	.6
Personal care	.6	(²)	(²)	(²) ⁹	(²) ⁵	(²) ⁶
Reading and recreation	.3	.3	.9	.6	.3	.7
Other goods and services	.5	1.3	.6	1.9	.2	.5

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

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

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

Group	U.S. city average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles—Long Beach	Minneapolis	New York—North-eastern New Jersey	Phila-delphia	Pitts-burgh
Indexes (April 1976)										
All items	168.2	² 172.5	162.9	166.6	174.1	164.1	168.7	174.3	170.3	166.7
Food	179.2	182.4	179.1	174.8	185.4	170.6	185.7	183.5	184.7	181.0
Food at home	178.1	181.1	178.4	172.7	181.0	169.7	181.4	183.5	182.3	178.8
Cereals and bakery products	180.2	184.7	181.6	183.0	181.3	175.4	190.8	183.8	182.4	189.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	178.0	182.1	183.7	172.8	183.1	173.3	183.3	177.1	182.2	181.6
Dairy products	167.9	162.9	160.6	168.4	179.3	155.6	178.6	171.3	168.2	157.5
Fruits and vegetables	179.0	185.7	176.8	162.5	179.9	161.6	173.5	194.1	188.4	183.0
Other food at home	183.9	187.4	182.3	177.9	179.9	177.3	182.1	194.8	189.0	179.6
Food away from home	183.8	187.0	181.8	184.3	200.5	173.0	204.6	183.8	194.8	194.8
Housing	174.9	173.1	160.4	169.8	186.8	171.8	177.6	180.6	177.4	173.9
Shelter	176.6	168.8	160.4	174.2	193.5	176.7	185.4	180.2	186.3	181.3
Rent, residential	143.2	154.8	(³)	140.3	135.6	(³)	140.1	161.3	(³)	133.5
Homeownership	188.9	174.7	171.2	180.9	213.7	187.8	193.2	194.0	194.9	195.0
Fuel and utilities	179.3	191.9	161.8	176.3	181.4	161.2	164.9	200.2	172.0	165.6
Fuel oil and coal	246.6	243.9	233.0	241.6	-	-	240.9	255.4	237.8	-
Gas and electricity	184.4	180.0	167.7	190.2	203.4	186.5	167.7	217.7	175.1	188.2
Household furnishings and operation	167.4	170.9	159.5	151.9	177.4	159.9	162.6	170.5	164.6	163.7
Apparel and upkeep	145.7	153.0	135.8	142.3	159.5	137.6	140.5	142.8	138.1	142.9
Men's and boys'	146.0	138.9	130.9	152.6	151.1	130.4	144.0	141.2	147.1	136.6
Women's and girls'	139.2	160.3	130.5	128.1	161.1	132.4	131.7	134.7	119.3	140.0
Footwear	149.0	149.4	140.4	148.8	156.5	143.7	148.5	147.1	149.3	151.3
Transportation	161.3	⁴ 189.5	162.0	156.0	152.3	161.9	152.4	181.4	162.0	159.3
Private	160.1	⁵ 194.2	161.2	154.9	151.2	164.1	153.1	169.6	163.7	157.8
Public	172.4	160.1	166.6	167.8	169.9	120.4	141.2	226.8	152.0	169.0
Health and recreation	161.4	158.5	162.9	171.6	166.5	157.9	161.1	167.4	165.4	158.5
Medical care	181.6	172.1	185.2	204.4	187.7	183.0	168.9	196.3	196.0	172.7
Personal care	158.3	155.5	(³)	160.1	168.5	(³)	163.4	(³)	151.1	148.7
Reading and recreation	149.5	153.4	151.3	151.8	147.6	139.7	159.4	152.7	150.5	150.2
Other goods and services	152.5	152.8	156.3	156.4	154.2	150.8	152.7	157.2	155.3	157.1
Percent changes January 1976 to April 1976										
All items	0.9	0.3	1.5	0.4	1.0	-0.4	1.0	0.9	0.7	1.6
Food	-0.9	-0.6	.3	-0.9	-0.5	-2.4	-0.7	-0.9	-1.1	.1
Food at home	-1.5	-1.2	.1	-1.5	-1.5	-3.9	-1.3	-1.8	-1.6	-0.3
Cereals and bakery products	-1.0	.5	-0.4	.1	-1.0	-2.9	-2.0	-1.4	.8	2.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	-4.6	-3.5	-2.1	-3.2	-4.6	-5.8	-3.2	-5.6	-5.4	-3.7
Dairy products	-0.2	-0.5	.5	-1.8	.2	-1.2	-2.2	-0.6	.5	3.6
Fruits and vegetables	3.3	1.6	6.8	2.5	3.0	-3.5	2.2	3.9	3.2	4.7
Other food at home	-1.5	-1.2	-1.0	-2.3	-1.1	-3.5	-0.2	-0.8	-2.2	-2.5
Food away from home	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.9	2.3	1.8	1.2	1.9	1.1	2.1
Housing	1.0	.9	1.0	0	1.5	-1.9	.9	.9	1.1	3.0
Shelter .....	.4	.4	²	-0.9	1.7	-3.0	.4	.6	⁴	2.8
Rent, residential	1.4	.9	(³)	0.7	3.0	(³)	1.9	.7	(³)	.8
Homeownership .....	.1	.1	-1.3	-1.3	1.3	-4.1	.3	-0.6	.3	3.2
Fuel and utilities	1.7	.4	3.7	1.7	-0.9	.1	.2	2.0	-0.1	2.3
Fuel oil and coal	-0.9	-0.3	-3.9	-1.6	-	-	-1.9	-0.3	-1.1	-
Gas and electricity	2.7	1.2	7.5	2.4	-1.4	0	-1.1	4.4	-0.3	2.8
Household furnishings and operation	2.3	2.5	1.9	1.9	2.7	1.4	2.3	1.2	3.4	4.0
Apparel and upkeep	1.7	.7	1.6	1.9	2.4	1.2	1.1	2.1	2.1	-0.4
Men's and boys'	2.4	1.8	1.0	4.7	3.4	.8	1.1	2.5	7.7	2.6
Women's and girls' .....	.8	-1.1	1.2	-0.1	3.1	1.3	-0.1	1.2	-1.2	-5.6
Footwear	3.0	3.2	3.3	.7	3.2	1.3	3.2	6.7	2.0	5.0
Transportation	2.0	.5	3.3	1.0	.9	2.0	2.4	2.3	2.3	3.9
Private	2.1	.6	3.8	.8	.9	1.9	2.4	2.9	2.6	2.6
Public	1.3	.1	.3	2.4	1.9	1.2	1.7	.8	.3	12.1
Health and recreation	1.8	.4	2.5	1.7	1.6	2.7	2.4	1.8	.9	.8
Medical care	2.8	.3	4.3	1.6	2.7	4.0	1.8	2.3	1.3	1.2
Personal care	1.7	1.5	(³)	1.4	2.7	(³)	1.2	(³)	1.7	.9
Reading and recreation .....	.9	.3	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.4	4.3	.9	-0.2	.6
Other goods and services	1.3	.2	2.0	2.0	-0.3	3.4	1.3	.7	.8	.3

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Revised index: January 1976, 171.9 (1967=100); January 1976, 205.9 (1957-59=100).

³ Not available.

⁴ Revised index: January 1976, 188.5; 1975 Annual average, 153.0.

⁵ Revised index: January 1976, 193.1; 1975 Annual average, 153.3.

⁶ Change from February 1976.

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 (April 1976)								
U.S. city average	179.2	178.1	180.2	178.0	167.9	179.0	183.9	183.8
Atlanta	185.2	185.3	183.3	184.7	180.7	192.6	185.9	184.6
Baltimore	182.5	181.4	174.4	180.6	168.4	187.4	191.5	186.8
Boston	182.4	181.1	184.7	182.1	162.9	185.7	187.4	187.0
Buffalo	177.3	176.3	182.3	176.9	165.5	175.5	180.4	182.9
Chicago	179.1	178.4	181.6	183.7	160.6	176.8	182.3	181.8
Cincinnati	180.9	183.4	187.4	183.5	169.8	186.8	188.2	171.4
Cleveland	182.8	182.8	188.6	178.3	172.3	188.6	189.4	183.2
Dallas	175.3	171.6	175.0	170.0	158.5	174.5	177.2	188.8
Detroit	174.8	172.7	183.0	172.8	168.4	162.5	177.9	184.3
Honolulu	182.5	178.9	171.5	180.9	175.7	182.9	180.3	192.7
Houston	185.4	181.0	181.3	183.1	179.3	179.9	179.9	200.5
Kansas City	178.3	177.8	180.0	173.9	177.4	169.5	188.2	179.8
Los Angeles—Long Beach	170.6	169.7	175.4	173.3	155.6	161.6	177.3	173.0
Milwaukee	177.0	177.0	182.4	176.4	171.2	180.2	177.1	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul	185.7	181.4	190.8	183.3	178.6	173.5	182.1	204.6
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	183.5	183.5	183.8	177.1	171.3	194.1	194.8	183.8
Philadelphia	184.7	182.3	182.4	182.2	168.2	188.4	189.0	194.8
Pittsburgh	181.0	178.8	189.9	181.6	157.5	183.0	179.6	194.8
St. Louis	180.2	180.3	192.3	179.9	171.4	180.3	180.0	180.0
San Diego	175.5	169.3	173.9	176.7	158.0	158.1	171.1	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland	172.1	174.1	177.1	180.3	158.4	165.9	180.6	165.1
Seattle	173.3	174.0	178.9	182.2	165.9	158.9	178.4	171.2
Washington	183.4	181.5	183.5	172.5	160.2	192.8	199.8	188.2
Percent changes March 1976 to April 1976								
U.S. city average	0.3	0.2	-0.2	-1.2	0	3.1	0.5	0.5
Atlanta .....	.5	.5	-.3	.9	-.1	4.8	-1.6	.4
Baltimore .....	.3	.3	-.9	-2.3	.1	6.4	1.1	.6
Boston .....	.2	-.1	-.3	-.8	.4	1.0	.3	.8
Buffalo	-.1	-.2	-2.5	-1.8	.9	4.0	-.3	.4
Chicago	1.0	1.1	.1	.6	1.0	4.6	.3	.5
Cincinnati .....	.2	.1	-1.8	-2.5	-.3	6.0	.1	.6
Cleveland .....	.3	.3	.2	-1.6	-.2	4.8	.5	.3
Dallas .....	.4	.5	-.3	-1.0	-.7	4.2	1.5	.2
Detroit .....	.7	.6	.7	.5	-.4	1.5	.5	1.1
Honolulu	-.1	-.6	-4.6	-1.5	-.1	4.0	-.1	1.4
Houston .....	.1	-.4	-1.3	-2.0	.3	3.1	-.2	1.1
Kansas City	-1.1	-1.5	-.1	-2.7	-3.3	.2	-.6	0
Los Angeles—Long Beach	-.2	-.5	-1.5	-1.9	.1	1.6	.5	.5
Milwaukee .....	.3	.3	-.3	-1.7	1.2	4.3	.5	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	.3	.3	.6	-.8	-1.5	1.9	1.5	.6
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	.2	0	.4	-2.0	-.3	2.3	1.4	.7
Philadelphia .....	.1	0	.7	-1.4	-.4	2.1	.5	.2
Pittsburgh .....	.9	.8	-.2	-.9	3.9	4.7	-.6	1.3
St. Louis	1.0	1.2	-.8	.7	.8	3.7	1.6	.3
San Diego	0	.1	.1	-.9	.6	-.1	1.3	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland	-.1	-.1	-.4	-1.4	.6	1.3	-.7	.2
Seattle .....	.5	.1	-.4	-1.7	-.7	3.8	1.1	2.0
Washington .....	.5	.7	-1.0	.3	-.1	2.8	1.0	0.3

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		
	Index		Percent change to April 1976 from—	Index		Percent change to April 1976 from—	Index		Percent change to April 1976 from—
	March 1976	April 1976		March 1976	April 1976		March 1976	April 1976	
U.S. city average	97.4	97.0	-0.4	98.2	97.8	-0.4	98.1	97.6	-0.5
Atlanta	97.4	97.2	-.2	99.0	98.9	-.1	98.4	98.4	0
Baltimore	96.1	95.7	-.4	97.6	97.3	-.3	97.4	97.2	-.2
Boston	97.4	96.2	-1.2	99.0	98.0	-1.0	97.7	96.8	-.9
Buffalo	96.5	96.3	-.2	97.6	97.1	-.5	96.7	96.2	-.5
Chicago	97.0	96.8	-.2	98.2	97.9	-.3	97.5	97.2	-.3
Cincinnati	97.2	96.3	-.9	98.7	97.9	-.8	97.9	97.0	-.9
Cleveland	96.0	97.0	1.0	97.9	98.4	.5	96.3	97.1	.8
Dallas	97.9	97.6	-.3	98.8	98.4	-.4	98.6	98.1	-.5
Detroit	97.0	96.7	-.3	98.6	97.9	-.7	97.9	97.3	-.6
Honolulu	99.2	98.2	-1.0	99.2	98.0	-1.2	98.9	97.7	-1.2
Houston	98.3	97.3	-1.0	98.7	97.9	-.8	98.0	97.3	-.7
Kansas City	97.4	99.1	1.7	98.2	99.7	1.5	97.1	99.2	2.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach	97.3	97.4	.1	98.3	98.3	0	98.3	98.2	-.1
Milwaukee	98.1	97.9	-.2	99.0	99.0	0	98.4	97.9	-.5
Minneapolis—St. Paul	96.7	98.4	1.8	98.7	100.2	1.5	97.8	98.8	1.0
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	96.4	95.0	-1.5	98.7	97.6	-1.1	97.7	96.6	-1.1
Philadelphia	95.5	95.3	-.2	98.2	98.1	-.1	96.6	96.1	-.5
Pittsburgh	96.2	97.0	.8	97.9	98.6	.7	97.6	98.2	.6
St. Louis	98.3	98.0	-.3	98.5	98.2	-.3	98.2	98.1	-.1
San Diego	97.5	96.5	-1.0	98.3	97.7	-.6	98.0	97.6	-.4
San Francisco—Oakland	97.3	97.7	.4	98.0	97.3	-.7	98.0	97.6	-.4
Seattle	98.2	98.2	0	98.2	98.0	-.2	98.2	98.1	-.1
Washington	96.9	96.7	-.2	98.3	98.3	0	97.7	97.7	0

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								
	February 1976	March 1976	April 1976	February 1976	March 1976	April 1976	February 1976	March 1976	April 1976
U.S. city average	\$ 0.578	\$ 0.569	\$ 0.567	\$ 0.600	\$ 0.594	\$ 0.592	\$ 0.623	\$ 0.617	\$ 0.614
Atlanta .....	.570	.562	.561	.598	.595	.594	.623	.617	.617
Baltimore .....	.586	.574	.572	.600	.599	.597	.633	.627	.626
Boston .....	.581	.570	.563	.599	.595	.589	.625	.615	.609
Buffalo .....	.586	.573	.572	.610	.602	.599	.633	.620	.617
Chicago .....	.588	.581	.580	.623	.620	.618	.634	.626	.624
Cincinnati .....	.571	.559	.554	.590	.585	.580	.620	.609	.604
Cleveland .....	.581	.562	.568	.592	.582	.585	.621	.605	.610
Dallas .....	.533	.526	.525	.551	.549	.547	.575	.571	.568
Detroit .....	.572	.562	.560	.599	.596	.591	.625	.619	.615
Honolulu .....	.682	.680	.673	.693	.690	.682	.721	.719	.710
Houston .....	.522	.518	.513	.540	.539	.534	.568	.565	.561
Kansas City .....	.551	.539	.549	.566	.559	.568	.596	.582	.594
Los Angeles—Long Beach .....	.573	.568	.568	² .603	.600	.600	.621	.616	.616
Milwaukee .....	.540	.534	.533	.563	.560	.560	.590	.583	.580
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	.565	.556	.566	.585	.584	.592	.624	.619	.626
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	.592	.568	.568	.612	.607	.600	.646	.634	.627
Philadelphia .....	.566	.557	.556	.603	.601	.600	.629	.619	.616
Pittsburgh .....	.571	.559	.563	.594	.589	.593	.618	.610	.614
St. Louis .....	.559	.557	.556	.576	.574	.572	.605	.603	.603
San Diego .....	.594	.588	.582	.622	.618	.614	.642	.637	.634
San Francisco—Oakland .....	.608	.597	.600	.623	.619	.615	.651	.646	.643
Seattle .....	.564	.563	.563	.582	.583	.582	.609	.607	.606
Washington .....	.590	.583	.582	.620	.617	.617	.648	.641	.641

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

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

² Revised.

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 1975 data

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

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

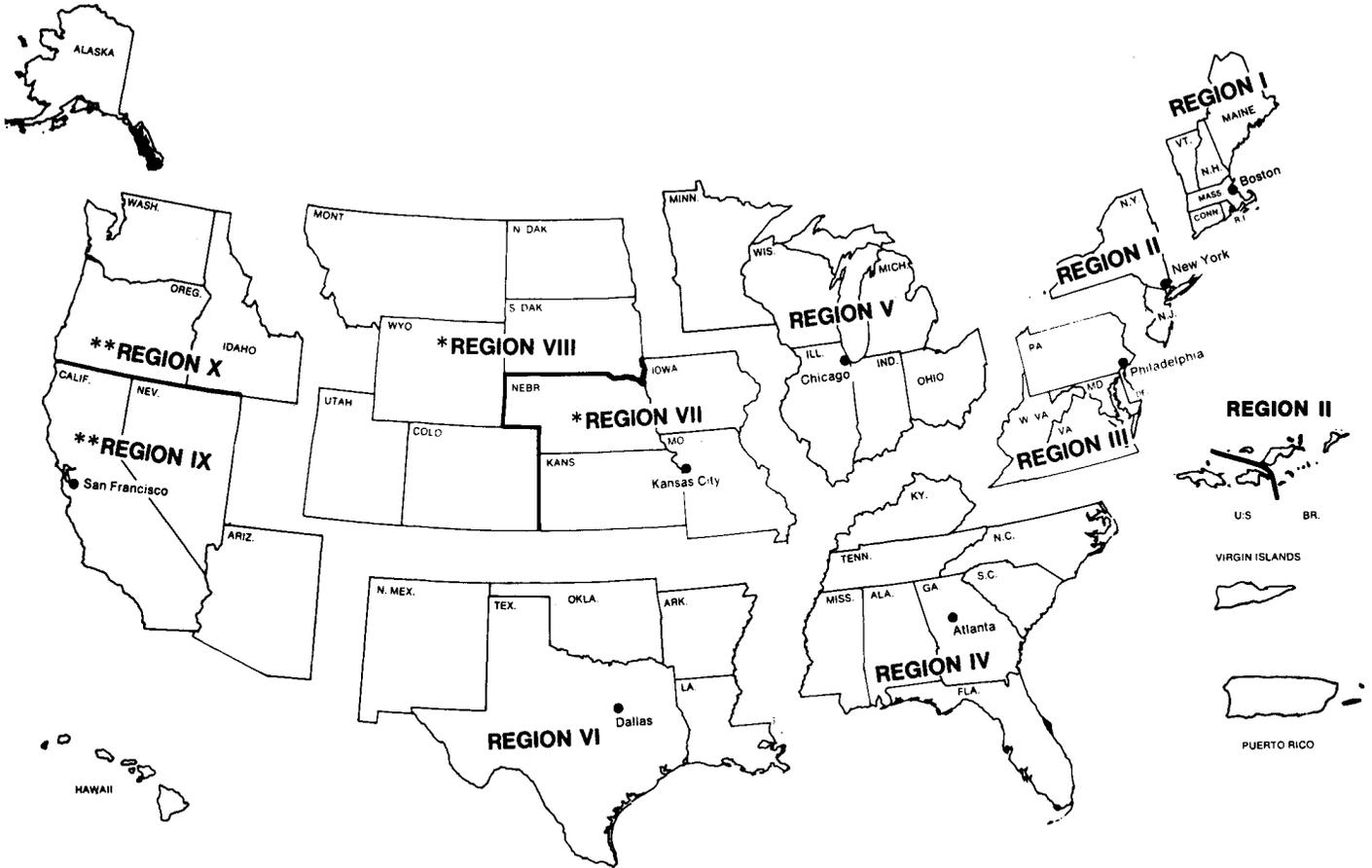
Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. As the table indicates, for example, a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all-items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might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

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

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

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