



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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July 1976

CPI Detailed Report

For May 1976

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

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Price Movements

May 1976

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.6 percent in May before seasonal adjustment to 169.2 percent of its 1967 base. The CPI in May was 6.2 percent higher than in May 1975.

Seasonally adjusted changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI rose 0.6 percent in May. This compares with an increase of 0.4 percent in April, 0.2 percent in March, and 0.1 percent in February. The acceleration in May was due to larger increases than in April for food and some other commodities.

The food index rose 1.0 percent in May, following an increase of 0.6 percent in April and declines in the first 3 months of this year. In May, beef prices rose sharply, the first increase this year, and increases for pork and poultry were considerably larger than in April. Prices of cereal and bakery products moved up for the first time in 4 months.

Coffee prices, rising since mid-1975, continued to advance. Fresh fruit and vegetable prices, however, declined after rising in April.

The index for commodities other than food rose 0.6 percent in May compared with an average monthly increase of about 0.3 percent in the previous 8 months. The faster rise in May reflected an increase in gasoline prices for the first time since last October, and larger increases than in recent months for apparel, fuel oil, houses, and new cars. Although the index for used cars advanced sharply for the fourth consecutive month, the May increase of 1.9 percent after seasonal adjustment was smaller than in any of the preceding 3 months. Price increases were also smaller than in recent months for household durables and tobacco products.

The rise in the services index of 0.4 percent in May was about the same as in April and much smaller than earlier this year. However, the source of the April and May

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

Month	Changes from preceding month								Changes in all items	
									Compound annual rate	From 12 months ago
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services		From 3 months ago	
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed
1975:										
May.....	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	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
May.....	.6	.6	.4	1.0	.8	.6	.4	.4	4.9	6.2

increases differed. Among household services, the index for mortgage interest rates declined in May—the first seasonally adjusted decline since last October. Charges for housekeeping services rose less than in recent months. In contrast, gas and electricity rates, which showed a small rise in April, increased 1.1 percent in May. Among other services, the rise in hospital service charges continued to moderate in May as did charges for apparel-related services, but charges for transportation services showed a somewhat larger increase in May than in April.

Monthly change in detail (not seasonally adjusted)

Food. The index for food purchased in grocery stores—which usually declines sharply in May—increased 0.3 percent. The increase was due primarily to higher prices for meats, fish, coffee, and cereal and bakery products. Prices declined for most other foods, including fruits and vegetables, poultry, eggs, dairy products, and sugar.

After declining in the preceding 3 months, beef prices rose 3.8 percent in May. The upturn followed a rise of over 14 percent in wholesale beef prices in April due primarily to reductions in cattle marketings. In May, however, wholesale beef prices declined again—by 5.5 percent—as retailers' demand slowed while cattle slaughter and beef production increased. Pork prices at retail rose 1.0 percent in May—the first increase since last October; at wholesale, pork prices rose slightly in April and sharply in May. The increases reflected smaller supplies and good packer demand as fewer hogs were marketed because of spring field work.

Prices for shrimp, canned tuna, and fresh and frozen fish continued to move up as supplies remained tight due to firm demand, lower domestic landings and imports, and heavy withdrawal from inventories. The rise in tinplate and other production costs also contributed to higher prices.

The rise in prices for cereal and bakery products—the first increase this year—stemmed in part from higher ingredient costs. Wholesale flour prices rose during the first quarter along with wheat prices as adverse weather conditions caused uncertainty about the size of this year's winter wheat crop. In April and May, however, both wheat and wholesale flour prices declined due to improved weather in wheat-producing areas and predictions of a record spring wheat crop. In addition, export demand continued slow as increased foreign competition cut into potential U.S. exports.

The uptrend in coffee prices—which began in mid-1975—has accelerated in recent months, with increases of 4.9 percent in April and 4.8 percent in May. In May, retail coffee prices were 35 percent higher than in May 1975, while wholesale prices for roasted coffee have risen over 54 percent and green coffee, about 68 percent.

Poultry and egg prices declined less than is usual for May; although there were large supplies in the distributive channels, the demand was strong. Prices for fresh fruits and vegetables declined, instead of moving up seasonally, as supplies increased from Mexico and from domestic spring

crops. Prices fell sharply for cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, and strawberries. Among dairy products, milk prices declined but butter and cheese prices increased. Sugar prices declined again in May after a small increase in April. The trend in sugar prices has been downward since late 1974 because of ample supplies; recently, however, wholesale sugar prices have fluctuated from month to month in reaction to withholding actions by major producing nations and to varying estimates of beet sugar production.

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

Commodities other than food. The index for commodities other than food rose 0.8 percent in May before seasonal adjustment. About two-thirds of the rise was due to increases in prices for used cars, gasoline, and apparel. In addition, there were large increases for houses, and home maintenance and repair commodities.

Prices of apparel commodities increased 0.8 percent, a sharper rise than in recent months, and larger than usual for May. There were large increases particularly for cotton items such as men's work trousers and shirts, boys' dungarees, and women's dresses and skirts. Earlier increases in manufacturers' prices for these items reflected sharply higher prices for raw cotton during the past year.

Gasoline prices rose 1.5 percent in May—the first rise in 7 months—as distributors and dealers passed along increased costs to consumers. (Since gasoline is still under price controls, all price increases must be cost-justified.) Despite higher prices, oil companies expect to maintain gallonage; increased gasoline consumption in recent months has reduced refinery stocks even though production has increased.

Used car prices continued to advance at a rapid rate as the demand for larger cars remained strong. The demand for new cars has also been strong this year—domestic new car sales in the first 5 months of this year were up 37.6 percent from the same period last year. Consequently, the new car index held relatively stable in May for the fifth consecutive month instead of declining seasonally as is usual during this period.

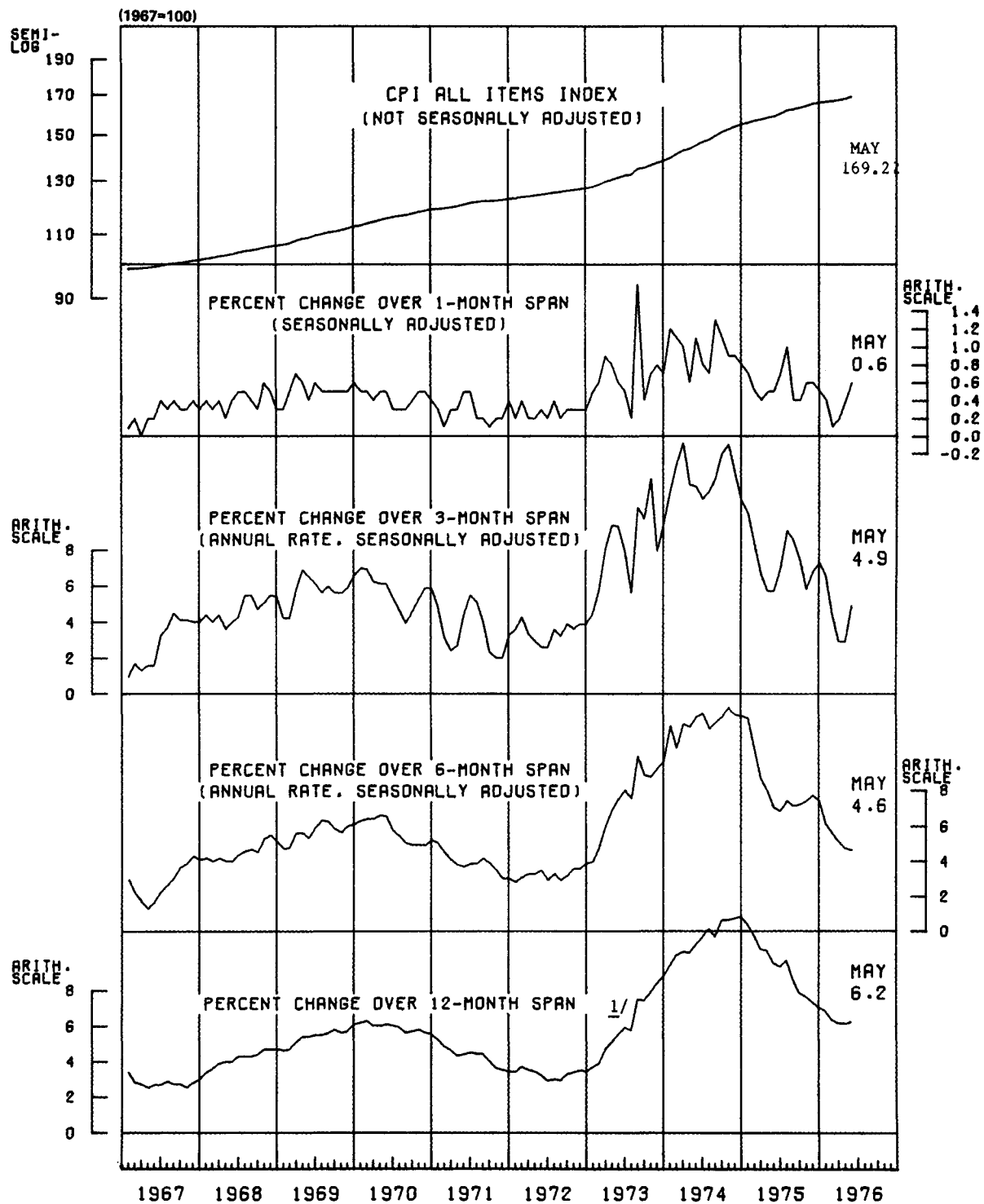
Prices for most other nonfood commodities such as furniture, appliances, housekeeping supplies, and toilet goods rose moderately, while prices for floor coverings, textile housefurnishings, and fuel oil declined. The decline of 0.2 percent for fuel oil, however, was smaller than is usual for May.

Services. The services index increased 0.4 percent in May before seasonal adjustment. Indexes for rent and household services other than rent increased 0.4 percent, medical care services rose 0.6 percent, and transportation services 0.3 percent. Among household services, charges for natural gas and electricity increased considerably more than in April. However, charges for domestic and laundry services were

unchanged in May following sharp increases in recent months, and mortgage interest costs declined reflecting lower interest rates on conventional and FHA loans. Among medical care services, physicians' fees rose 0.6 percent, about the same as in April, while the increase of 0.3 percent in charges for hospital services was noticeably smaller than increases earlier this year. In the transportation services

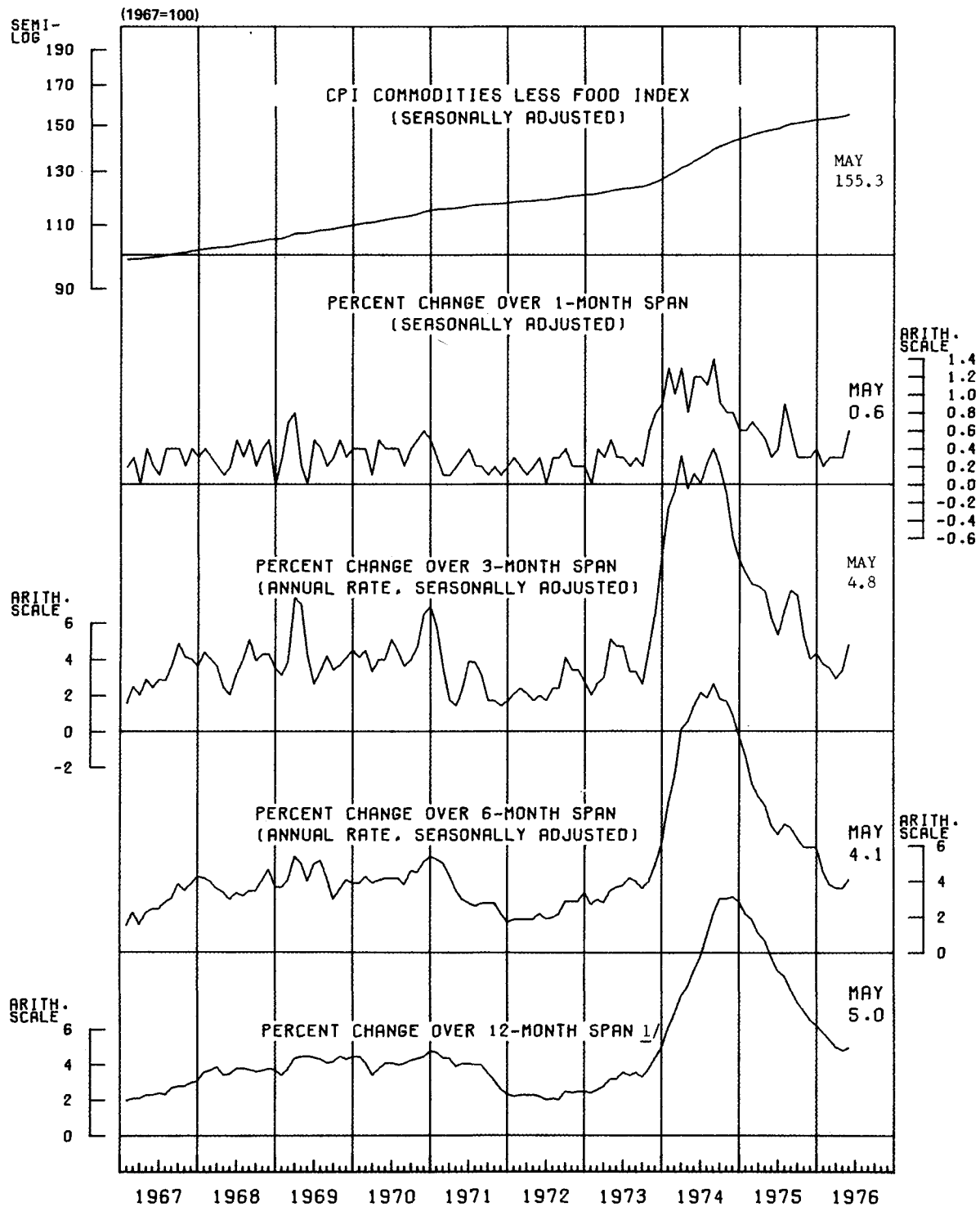
category, auto insurance rose 0.6 percent and auto repairs 0.5 percent, both about the same as in April, but public transportation charges were unchanged. Among other services, charges for drycleaning and laundering men's shirts showed little change, but charges for barber and beauty shop services increased somewhat more than in April.

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



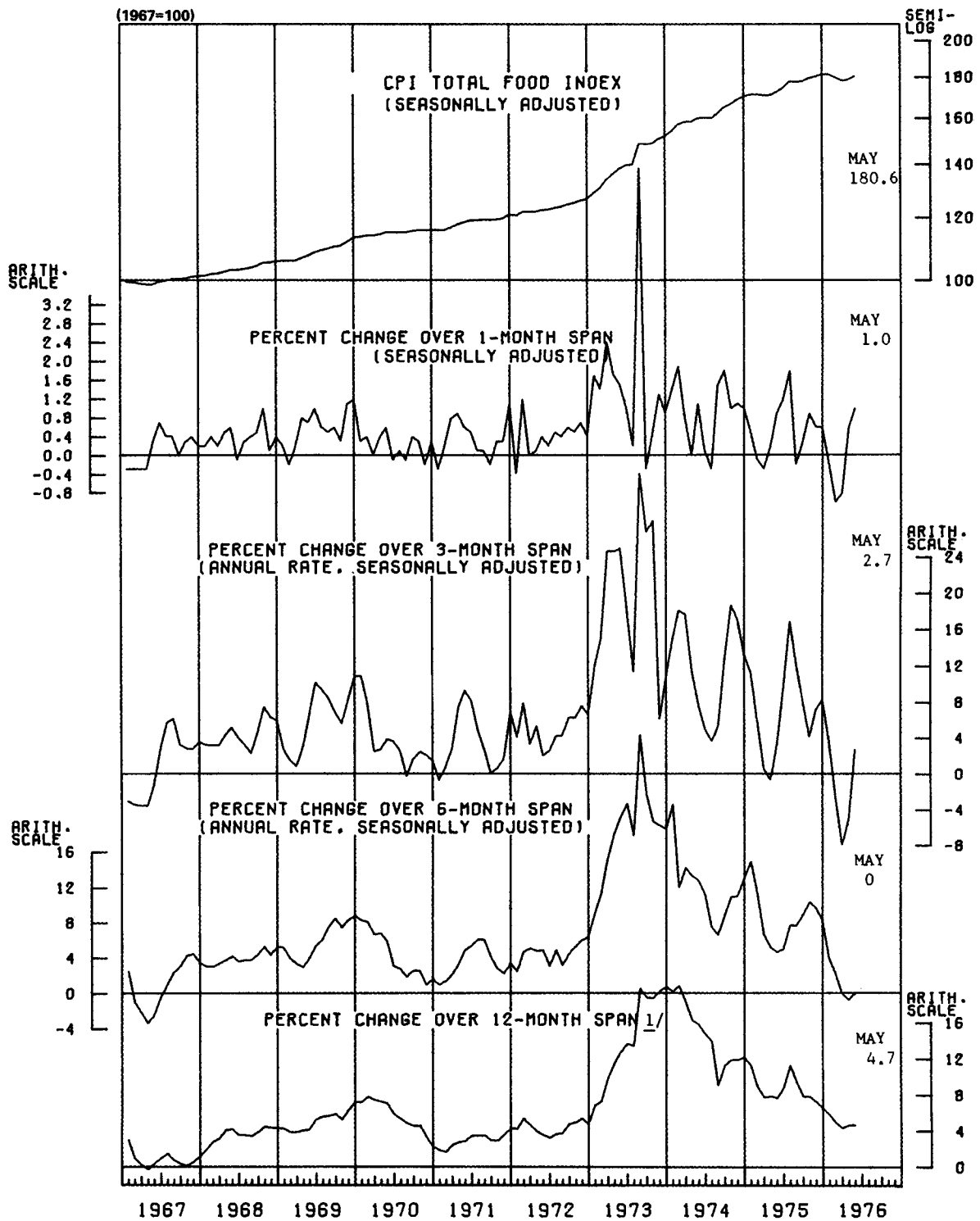
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series
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Chart 2. Commodities less food index and rates of change, 1967-76



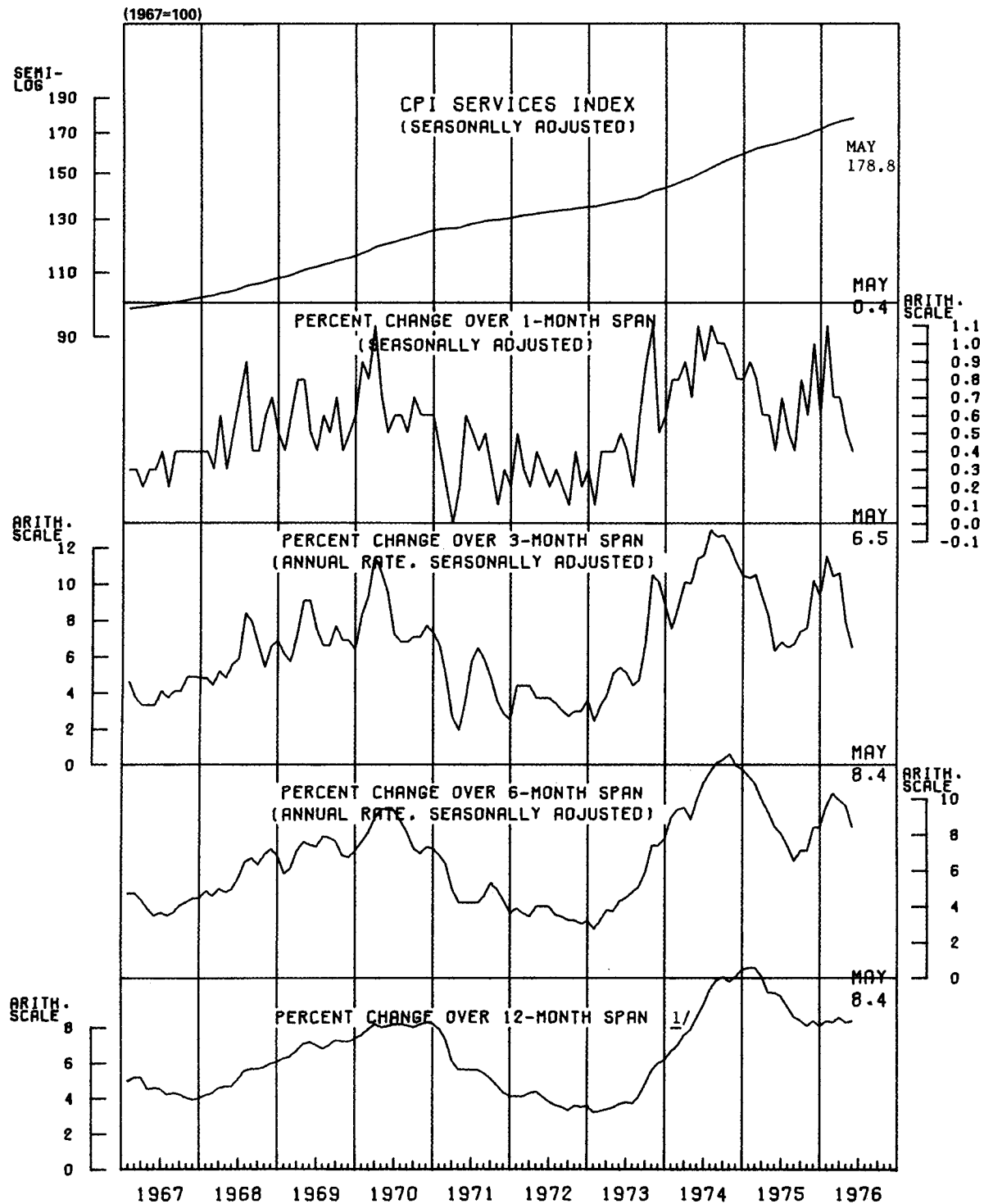
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series
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Chart 3. Total food index and rates of change, 1967-76



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



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

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

Group	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
	December 1975	April 1976	May 1976	May 1975	April 1976	February to March	March to April	April to May
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.000	168.2	169.2	6.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6
All items (1957-59=100)	-	195.6	196.7	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	63.355	163.1	164.2	4.9	.7	-.2	.4	.7
Food	24.675	179.2	179.9	4.7	.4	-.8	.6	1.0
Food at home	10.524	178.1	178.7	4.1	.3	-1.2	.7	1.0
Cereals and bakery products	2.702	180.2	180.8	-3.3	.3	-.6	0	.7
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.641	178.0	181.1	7.7	1.7	-2.1	-.1	3.0
Dairy products	2.876	167.9	167.4	9.0	-.3	-.3	.2	.1
Fruits and vegetables	3.103	179.0	176.4	4.4	-1.5	-.5	2.3	-2.5
Other foods at home	4.202	183.9	184.1	.8	.1	-1.1	1.3	1.5
Food away from home	5.150	183.8	184.8	6.9	.5	.5	.3	.5
Commodities less food	38.681	154.2	155.5	5.0	.8	.3	.3	.6
Nondurables less food	22.872	156.0	157.0	4.3	.6	-.1	.1	.6
Apparel commodities	7.861	143.9	145.1	3.1	.8	0	.2	.5
Men's and boys'	2.475	146.0	147.3	3.2	.9	.3	-.4	.6
Women's and girls'	3.426	139.2	140.6	2.9	1.0	-.4	.5	.5
Footwear	1.377	149.0	149.6	3.5	.4	.5	.7	.3
Other apparel commodities	.584	151.4	151.9	2.1	.3	.3	.3	0
Nondurables less food and apparel	15.011	163.2	164.2	5.1	.6	-.1	0	.6
Gasoline and motor oil	3.498	170.4	172.7	4.7	1.3	-1.7	-.9	.9
Tobacco products	1.880	159.9	160.1	4.4	.1	.2	.4	.1
Alcoholic beverages	2.244	146.0	146.6	3.3	.4	.7	.5	.6
Fuel oil and coal	1.045	246.6	246.2	7.0	-.2	-.1	.3	.5
Other nondurables	6.343	158.4	159.4	5.8	.6	.4	.1	.8
Durable commodities	15.809	151.9	153.5	6.0	1.1	.7	.7	.6
Household durables	4.495	145.5	145.8	4.1	.2	.3	.3	.1
New automobiles	1.910	134.4	134.5	6.1	.1	.3	.1	.4
Used automobiles	2.046	159.4	167.8	18.0	5.3	3.8	3.4	1.9
Other durables	7.358	159.4	160.4	4.0	.6	*.2	*.3	*.6
Services	36.645	177.7	178.4	8.4	.4	.7	.5	.4
Rent	4.497	143.2	143.8	5.4	.4	.4	.4	.5
Services less rent	32.147	184.0	184.7	8.9	.4	.8	.4	.4
Household services less rent	16.030	195.4	196.1	7.7	.4	.6	.4	.5
Transportation services	5.012	171.7	172.3	15.2	.3	1.3	.2	.6
Medical care services	5.642	193.5	194.6	9.9	.6	1.0	.7	.6
Other services	5.463	159.1	159.7	5.8	.4	.6	.3	.4
Special indexes:								
All items less food	75.325	165.0	166.0	6.7	.6	*.5	*.5	*.6
Nondurable commodities	47.547	167.2	168.1	4.5	.5	*.3	*.3	*.5
Apparel commodities less footwear	6.485	142.8	144.2	2.9	1.0	.1	.1	.5
Services less medical care services	31.002	175.2	175.8	8.1	.3	*.6	*.2	*.3
Insurance and finance	9.808	193.9	194.1	9.5	.1	.7	.3	.5
Utilities and public transportation	5.484	169.2	170.1	10.2	.5	.9	.4	.8
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.649	207.0	208.1	8.6	.5	*.8	*.7	*.5
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1.417	122.7	123.0	4.6	.2	.3	.6	.4
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.000	168.2	169.2	6.2	0.6	0.2	0.4	0.6
Food	24.675	179.2	179.9	4.7	.4	-.8	.6	1.0
Housing	33.998	174.9	175.6	6.2	.4	*.4	*.2	*.4
Shelter ¹	21.370	176.6	177.3	5.4	.4	*.2	*.2	*.4
Rent	4.497	143.2	143.8	5.4	.4	.4	.4	.5
Homeownership ²	16.484	188.9	189.6	5.3	.4	*.1	*.1	*.4
Fuel and utilities ³	5.205	179.3	180.2	8.9	.5	.8	.2	.8
Gas and electricity	2.722	184.4	186.1	11.2	.9	1.1	.2	1.1
Household furnishings and operation	7.422	167.4	167.9	6.7	.3	.7	.2	.2
Apparel and upkeep	9.217	145.7	146.8	3.5	.8	.3	.3	.5
Transportation	13.053	161.3	163.5	10.9	1.4	.4	.6	.9
Private	11.729	160.1	162.5	10.7	1.5	.4	.7	.9
Public	1.324	172.4	172.4	13.0	0	1.3	.6	.3
Health and recreation	18.681	161.4	162.1	6.2	.4	*.6	*.5	*.4
Medical care	6.413	181.6	182.6	9.5	.6	*1.0	*.6	*.6
Personal care	2.505	158.3	158.9	6.0	.4	*.3	*.6	*.4
Reading and recreation	5.148	149.5	150.3	4.5	.5	.4	.1	.4
Other goods and services	4.616	152.5	152.9	3.9	.3	.3	.5	.3
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78.630	166.1	167.1	6.4	.6	*.2	*.5	*.6
All items less medical care	93.587	167.4	168.4	6.0	.6	*.2	*.4	*.6
All items less mortgage interest costs	95.610	166.1	167.1	6.2	.6	*.2	*.5	*.6
CPI — domestically produced farm foods ⁴	17.148	174.9	175.2	3.6	.2	*-1.2	*.1	*.2
CPI — selected beef cuts ⁵	2.056	161.3	168.3	1.2	4.3	*-2.4	*-2.5	*4.3
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967= \$1.00	-	\$0.595	\$0.591	-5.9	-.7	-	-	-
1957-59= \$1.00	-	.511	.508	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

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

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

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

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	February 1976	March 1976	April 1976	May 1976	3 months ending in			6 months ending in		
					August 1975	November 1975	February 1976	May 1976	November 1975	May 1976
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	8.5	6.8	4.4	4.9	7.7	4.6
Commodities	162.7	162.4	163.1	164.3	9.5	5.4	1.2	4.0	7.4	2.6
Food	179.4	177.9	178.9	180.6	12.1	7.2	-2.6	2.7	9.6	0
Food at home	178.6	176.5	177.7	179.5	14.2	7.1	-5.6	2.0	10.6	-1.9
Cereals and bakery products	179.7	178.6	178.6	179.9	-1.3	-7.7	-4.3	.4	-4.6	-2.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	182.8	178.9	178.7	184.0	41.8	14.0	-19.0	2.7	27.1	-8.8
Dairy products	166.7	166.2	166.6	166.7	10.6	14.5	11.3	0	12.5	5.5
Fruits and vegetables	174.2	173.4	177.4	172.9	18.5	3.3	-.2	-3.0	10.6	-1.6
Other foods at home	183.8	181.8	184.1	186.9	-10.0	4.7	2.4	6.9	-2.9	4.7
Food away from home	182.4	183.4	184.0	185.0	5.2	7.7	8.8	5.8	6.5	7.3
Commodities less food	153.5	153.9	154.4	155.3	7.8	4.0	3.5	4.8	5.9	4.1
Nondurables less food	155.7	155.6	155.7	156.6	9.4	3.7	2.3	2.3	6.5	2.3
Apparel commodities	143.6	143.6	143.9	144.6	5.5	.3	3.4	2.8	2.9	3.1
Men's and boys'	145.6	146.0	145.4	146.3	0	4.6	6.3	1.9	2.3	4.1
Women's and girls'	139.7	139.2	139.9	140.6	12.5	-4.5	1.4	2.6	3.7	2.0
Footwear	146.7	147.5	148.6	149.0	.6	4.2	3.1	6.4	2.4	4.7
Other apparel commodities	150.8	151.2	151.7	151.7	2.2	-.3	3.8	2.4	.9	3.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	162.9	162.7	162.7	163.7	11.5	5.6	1.7	2.0	8.5	1.9
Gasoline and motor oil	173.6	170.6	169.0	170.5	37.5	7.2	-12.3	-7.0	21.4	-9.7
Tobacco products	159.5	159.8	160.5	160.6	0	2.9	12.4	2.8	1.4	7.5
Alcoholic beverages	144.3	145.3	146.0	146.9	1.4	1.7	2.8	7.4	1.6	5.1
Fuel oil and coal	242.6	242.3	243.0	244.2	25.6	10.8	-8.6	2.7	18.0	-3.1
Other nondurables	157.4	158.0	158.2	159.4	4.0	6.2	8.0	5.2	5.1	6.6
Durable commodities	150.6	151.7	152.7	153.6	6.2	4.1	5.8	8.2	5.2	7.0
Household durables	144.7	145.2	145.6	145.7	2.6	5.5	5.7	2.8	4.0	4.2
New automobiles	133.8	134.2	134.3	134.8	2.2	9.1	10.5	3.0	5.6	6.7
Used automobiles	154.1	159.9	165.4	168.5	26.0	-2.9	11.1	43.0	10.6	26.0
Other durables (not seasonally adjusted)	158.7	159.0	159.4	160.4	3.9	4.7	2.8	4.4	4.3	3.6
Services	176.0	177.2	178.0	178.8	6.7	10.2	10.4	6.5	8.4	8.4
Rent	142.0	142.6	143.1	143.8	5.1	5.9	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.4
Services less rent	182.1	183.5	184.3	185.1	7.0	10.6	11.3	6.8	8.8	9.0
Household services less rent	194.2	195.3	196.0	196.9	7.0	8.4	9.6	5.7	7.7	7.6
Transportation services	168.9	171.1	171.5	172.5	5.7	29.4	18.2	8.8	17.0	13.4
Medical care services	190.4	192.3	193.7	194.8	9.6	6.5	13.9	9.6	8.1	11.7
Other services	157.6	158.6	159.1	159.7	4.9	5.9	6.9	5.4	5.4	6.2
Special indexes:										
All items less food (not seasonally adjusted)	163.4	164.2	165.0	166.0	7.1	8.3	4.8	6.5	7.7	5.7
Nondurable commodities (not seasonally adjusted)	167.2	166.7	167.2	168.1	11.4	4.7	.2	2.2	8.0	1.2
Apparel commodities less footwear	142.8	142.9	143.1	143.8	6.7	-.8	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.0
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	173.8	174.8	175.2	175.8	6.3	12.4	9.2	4.7	9.3	6.9
Insurance and finance	192.9	194.3	194.9	195.9	5.9	12.2	14.0	6.4	9.0	10.1
Utilities and public transportation	166.4	167.9	168.5	169.8	10.0	19.6	3.7	8.4	14.7	6.0
Housekeeping and home maintenance service (not seasonally adjusted)	203.9	205.6	207.0	208.1	6.6	8.0	11.3	8.5	7.3	9.9
Appliances (including radio and TV)	121.8	122.2	122.9	123.4	3.4	5.1	4.7	5.4	4.3	5.0
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	8.5	6.8	4.4	4.9	7.7	4.6
Food	179.4	177.9	178.9	180.6	12.1	7.2	-2.6	2.7	9.6	0
Housing (not seasonally adjusted)	173.8	174.5	174.9	175.6	5.9	8.9	6.0	4.2	7.4	5.1
Shelter ¹ (not seasonally adjusted)	176.0	176.3	176.6	177.3	6.1	8.2	4.4	3.0	7.1	
Rent	142.0	142.6	143.1	143.8	5.1	5.9	5.5	5.2	5.5	5.4
Homeownership ² (not seasonally adjusted)	188.6	188.7	188.9	189.6	6.1	9.0	3.9	2.1	7.6	3.0
Fuel and utilities ³	176.1	177.5	177.9	179.3	13.8	12.3	2.3	7.5	13.0	4.9
Gas and electricity	180.5	182.4	182.8	184.8	15.2	13.4	6.5	9.9	14.3	8.2
Household furnishings and operation	166.0	167.1	167.4	167.7	4.1	6.2	12.5	4.2	5.2	8.2
Apparel and upkeep	145.0	145.4	145.8	146.5	5.5	.6	4.0	4.2	3.0	4.1
Transportation	160.1	160.8	161.8	163.2	16.1	12.9	7.0	8.0	14.5	7.5
Private	158.9	159.5	160.6	162.0	17.7	9.8	7.4	8.0	13.7	7.7
Public	169.9	172.1	173.1	173.6	3.7	43.0	.9	9.0	21.8	4.9
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	159.7	160.6	161.4	162.1	5.3	5.0	8.4	6.1	5.2	7.3
Medical care (not seasonally adjusted)	178.8	180.6	181.6	182.6	10.2	5.7	13.3	8.8	7.9	11.0
Personal care (not seasonally adjusted)	157.0	157.4	158.3	158.9	4.1	5.9	9.2	4.9	5.0	7.0
Reading and recreation	148.8	149.4	149.5	150.1	3.7	5.3	5.3	3.5	4.5	4.4
Other goods and services	151.5	152.0	152.7	153.2	1.1	3.0	7.2	4.6	2.0	5.9
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter (not seasonally adjusted)	164.9	165.3	166.1	167.1	10.0	6.6	3.7	5.4	8.3	4.6
All items less medical care (not seasonally adjusted)	166.5	166.8	167.4	168.4	9.1	7.1	3.2	4.6	8.1	3.9
All items less mortgage interest costs (not seasonally adjusted)	164.9	165.3	166.1	167.1	8.9	6.6	4.0	5.4	7.8	4.7
CPI — domestically produced farm foods ⁴ (not seasonally adjusted)	176.9	174.8	174.9	175.2	21.7	.5	-2.0	-3.8	10.6	-2.9
CPI — selected beef cuts ⁵ (not seasonally adjusted)	169.4	165.4	161.3	168.3	50.8	-15.3	-15.7	-2.6	13.0	-9.4

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.
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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)

Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, 1967=100											
Item and group	Index		Percent change to May 1976 from—			Item and group	Index		Percent change to May 1976 from—		
	May 1976		May 1975	April 1976	May 1976		May 1975	April 1976			
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted			Unadjusted				Seasonally adjusted		
Food	179.9	180.6	4.7	0.4	1.0	Food—Continued					
Food away from home	184.8	185.0	6.9	.5	.5	Food at home—Continued					
Restaurant meals	183.9	(¹)	7.2	.6	(¹)	Fruits and vegetables—Continued					
Snacks	189.2	189.4	6.2	.3	.4	Fresh fruits and vegetables—Continued					
Food at home	178.7	179.5	4.1	.3	1.0	Fresh fruits—Continued					
Cereals and bakery products	180.8	179.9	-3.3	.3	.7	Oranges	141.9	144.4	-6.2	-0.6	-4.9
Flour	155.7	153.2	-8.0	.3	.9	Orange juice, fresh	153.0	(¹)	4.0	1.3	(¹)
Cracker meal	223.2	220.3	-7.3	-.3	-1.1	Grapefruit	149.5	158.7	-9.4	4.5	-.9
Corn flakes	166.1	165.8	-.5	-.2	-.4	Grapes	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Rice	201.2	200.2	-7.7	-.5	.7	Strawberries	137.6	144.5	-2.8	-24.1	-12.4
Bread, white	162.8	(¹)	-2.2	.6	(¹)	Watermelon	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Bread, whole wheat	177.5	176.8	.1	.6	.7	Fresh vegetables	182.8	171.3	13.3	-2.8	-7.4
Cookies	190.5	(¹)	1.1	1.0	(¹)	Potatoes	227.6	221.2	48.2	3.9	.4
Layer cake	184.4	183.8	-4.9	-.1	.1	Onions	188.2	165.4	-7.9	6.0	-2.4
Cinnamon rolls	195.2	194.4	-2.3	1.0	1.1	Asparagus	169.8	186.0	7.8	1.3	4.4
Meats, poultry, and fish	181.1	184.0	7.7	1.7	3.0	Cabbage	148.2	142.2	-5.1	-3.1	-5.2
Meats	180.5	185.1	7.5	2.2	4.7	Carrots	151.0	153.1	-19.9	5.4	2.5
Beef and veal	166.9	168.1	.3	3.8	5.2	Celery	185.3	184.4	21.1	12.0	2.2
Steak, round	164.1	164.6	-3.5	2.0	3.0	Lettuce	134.4	129.7	-10.8	-29.5	-14.3
Steak, sirloin	168.6	171.0	3.1	6.5	7.6	Cucumbers	162.6	(¹)	13.2	10.3	(¹)
Steak, porterhouse	180.6	183.5	7.7	6.3	7.1	Peppers, green	172.9	128.8	-.3	-30.8	-43.4
Rump roast	160.1	159.9	-4.0	1.2	1.7	Spinach	188.9	191.8	6.5	-1.5	.9
Rib roast	190.8	193.3	7.7	4.6	5.7	Tomatoes	170.3	170.6	9.0	-9.0	-9.3
Chuck roast	170.5	171.9	-.9	8.1	10.5	Processed fruits and vegetables	183.3	182.8	4.5	-1.1	-.2
Hamburger	165.1	166.6	3.1	5.4	6.9	Fruit cocktail, canned	173.7	175.3	-1.8	-.2	.7
Beef liver	127.4	126.4	-11.3	-.1	2.2	Pears, canned	156.1	157.8	-5.3	-.8	.1
Veal cutlets	187.4	187.2	-1.6	.9	1.1	Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned	172.5	173.9	1.5	-.8	-.2
Pork	201.9	213.4	15.0	1.0	4.1	Orange juice concentrate, frozen	159.6	(¹)	5.2	.1	(¹)
Chops	184.8	196.4	11.8	1.3	2.8	Lemonade concentrate, frozen	186.3	185.0	-4.4	-1.3	-.3
Loin roast	202.2	215.3	16.7	2.5	4.8	Beets, canned	182.6	(¹)	-3.3	-.7	(¹)
Sausage	225.1	230.2	15.0	-1.3	0	Peas, green, canned	157.4	158.7	-3.3	-.1	.8
Ham, whole	200.2	211.2	23.0	-1.0	5.5	Tomatoes, canned	176.6	(¹)	.1	-.2	(¹)
Picnics	191.9	199.7	22.1	.3	6.3	Dried beans	295.1	(¹)	44.7	-3.7	(¹)
Bacon	214.5	229.2	10.8	2.4	6.9	Broccoli, frozen	156.0	(¹)	2.0	-.8	(¹)
Other meats	180.2	182.6	12.3	1.0	1.7	Other food at home	184.1	186.9	.8	.1	1.5
Lamb chops	191.4	193.1	14.5	5.0	4.7	Eggs	154.5	168.5	6.8	-3.1	3.9
Frankfurters	171.0	174.8	8.6	2.0	4.5	Fats and oils	170.6	171.7	-16.0	-.6	.2
Ham, canned	204.4	205.8	23.5	-2.6	-1.2	Margarine	184.8	188.6	-18.4	-.1	2.3
Bologna sausage	177.7	180.2	8.9	1.7	2.3	Salad dressing, Italian	149.8	148.8	-5.5	-.9	-.7
Salami sausage	168.3	169.5	9.6	1.2	1.2	Salad or cooking oil	178.1	177.9	-20.4	-.9	-.4
Liverwurst	167.5	170.2	7.6	-.9	.5	Sugar and sweets	219.5	(¹)	-10.8	-.7	(¹)
Poultry	155.3	160.3	3.7	-1.7	1.1	Sugar	208.5	(¹)	-31.8	-1.0	(¹)
Frying chicken	157.0	162.0	2.7	-2.1	1.0	Grape jelly	221.6	(¹)	-4.6	-.3	(¹)
Chicken breasts	161.4	163.9	7.3	.3	1.7	Chocolate bar	232.0	(¹)	-2.9	-1.5	(¹)
Turkey	141.6	146.7	4.4	-1.5	1.0	Syrup, chocolate flavored	214.1	212.2	-.3	0	1.1
Fish	225.1	(¹)	13.1	1.3	(¹)	Nonalcoholic beverages	203.3	(¹)	16.0	2.7	(¹)
Shrimp, frozen	223.8	(¹)	31.3	2.3	(¹)	Coffee	222.2	(¹)	35.0	4.8	(¹)
Fish, fresh or frozen	242.4	(¹)	11.4	1.1	(¹)	Coffee, instant	215.5	214.6	24.6	2.5	2.0
Tuna fish, canned	185.7	184.0	5.3	1.0	.9	Tea	149.1	148.7	3.5	0	(¹)
Sardines, canned	246.9	246.7	7.0	.6	.3	Carbonated drink, cola flavored	193.5	(¹)	-4.5	.6	(¹)
Dairy products	167.4	166.7	9.0	-.3	.1	Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	200.0	(¹)	-3.2	.7	(¹)
Milk, fresh, grocery	159.3	158.2	5.8	-.7	-.3	Prepared and partially prepared foods	169.0	(¹)	3.6	0	(¹)
Milk, fresh, skim	175.4	174.2	5.9	-.9	-.7	Bean soup, canned	208.9	(¹)	15.3	.5	(¹)
Milk, evaporated	204.0	(¹)	12.2	.1	(¹)	Chicken soup, canned	135.7	135.8	1.0	.3	.7
Ice cream	156.4	156.7	3.9	-.4	-.2	Spaghetti, canned	162.8	164.1	.3	0	-.2
Cheese, American process	196.8	194.5	15.8	1.0	1.2	Mashed potatoes, instant	157.1	157.1	.3	.5	-.2
Butter	146.3	149.6	26.7	.6	1.8	Potatoes, french fried, frozen	179.5	180.8	7.9	.3	.2
Fruits and vegetables	176.4	172.9	4.4	-1.5	-2.5	Baby foods	168.3	(¹)	4.1	1.0	(¹)
Fresh fruits and vegetables	171.7	166.2	4.3	-1.7	-3.7	Sweet pickle relish	178.8	178.8	3.8	-2.2	-.7
Fresh fruits	158.1	157.2	-6.5	-.2	-1.4	Pretzels	160.5	159.4	-5.3	-.3	-.7
Apples	157.9	155.0	-6.0	5.3	-.1						
Bananas	155.4	150.6	-6.3	.7	1.2						

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 May 1976 from—	
		April 1976	May 1976	May 1975	April 1976
Housing		174.9	175.6	6.2	0.4
Shelter ¹		176.6	177.3	5.4	.4
Rent, residential		143.2	143.8	5.4	.4
Homeownership ²		188.9	189.6	5.3	.4
Mortgage interest rates		141.7	140.2	1.1	-1.1
Property taxes		166.1	166.5	5.6	.2
Property insurance premiums		141.0	142.3	9.8	.9
Maintenance and repairs		196.1	197.6	6.4	.8
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		165.9	167.8	4.4	1.1
Exterior house paint		161.8	161.0	3.4	-.5
Interior house paint		147.9	149.8	2.7	1.3
Maintenance and repair services		209.1	210.5	7.1	.7
Repainting living and dining rooms		220.8	222.7	7.6	.9
Reshingling house roof		230.0	231.3	7.3	.6
Residing house		196.4	198.0	6.2	.8
Replacing sink		207.4	208.1	7.7	.3
Repairing furnace		202.4	203.1	7.3	.3
Fuel and utilities		179.3	180.2	8.9	.5
Fuel oil and coal		246.6	246.2	7.0	-.2
Fuel oil, No. 2		242.8	242.3	8.0	-.2
Gas and electricity		184.4	186.1	11.2	.9
Gas		194.8	197.0	15.1	1.1
Electricity		174.8	175.9	7.4	.6
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		128.9	129.0	3.8	.1
Residential water and sewerage services		185.7	186.0	10.1	.2
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		167.4	167.9	6.7	.3
Housefurnishings		150.1	150.3	4.4	.1
Textiles		147.6	147.4	5.1	-.1
Sheets, full, flat		156.6	152.1	7.0	-2.9
Curtains, tailored		145.1	144.0	8.6	-.8
Bedsprings		148.5	150.5	2.5	1.3
Drapery fabrics		176.2	177.4	5.7	.7
Pillows, bed		122.3	122.3	4.3	0
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		136.1	137.3	2.5	.9
Furniture and bedding		151.6	152.1	3.0	.3
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	131.9	133.0	4.1	.8
Sofas, upholstered		140.6	141.3	1.7	.5
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	129.6	129.7	4.2	.1
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	134.7	135.9	4.9	.9
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	112.6	111.8	.3	-.7
Sofas, dual purpose		140.1	138.3	.9	-1.3
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	132.5	133.2	2.2	.5
Aluminum folding chairs		182.5	182.2	4.4	-.2
Cribs		152.3	153.2	3.7	.6
Floor coverings		136.0	135.8	5.4	-.1
Broadloom carpeting		124.1	123.7	4.0	-.3
Vinyl sheet goods		163.5	164.0	9.4	.3
Vinyl floor tile		164.4	164.0	6.5	-.2
Appliances (excluding radio and TV)		134.3	134.6	6.0	.2
Washing machines, electric		140.2	140.7	7.9	.4
Vacuum cleaners		120.1	120.3	3.6	.2
Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric		134.1	133.9	4.9	-.1
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		137.4	138.0	7.1	.4
Clothes dryers, electric		147.4	148.3	10.0	.6
Air conditioners, demountable		128.5	129.4	5.0	.7
Room heaters, electric, portable		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Garbage disposal units		133.9	133.8	4.3	-.1
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		190.9	191.7	9.2	.4
Flatware, stainless steel		180.6	180.2	5.9	-.2
Table lamps, with shade		148.4	148.1	2.1	-.2
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		162.2	166.1	8.8	2.4
Electric drills, hand-held		128.8	128.5	4.0	-.2
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		173.8	174.3	8.3	.3
Paper napkins		217.8	218.2	5.2	.2
Toilet tissue		230.8	232.7	12.6	.8
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		211.2	211.2	8.8	0
Baby sitter services		212.0	214.9	13.7	1.4
Postal charges		219.7	219.7	25.3	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		202.0	202.0	8.7	0
Licensed day care services, preschool child		161.4	161.3	5.7	-.1
Washing machine repairs		199.2	199.6	7.3	.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 May 1976 from—	
		April 1976	May 1976	May 1975	April 1976
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		145.7	146.8	3.5	0.8
Apparel commodities		143.9	145.1	3.1	.8
Apparel commodities less footwear		142.8	144.2	2.9	1.0
Men's and boys'		146.0	147.3	3.2	.9
Men's:					
Topcoats and all-weather coats		146.3	147.9	2.8	1.1
Suits, year round weight		141.0	141.7	-.4	.5
Sport jackets		98.2	98.8	-4.5	.6
Jackets, lightweight		137.6	138.9	2.9	.9
Slacks, heavyweight		120.2	121.4	1.4	1.0
Slacks, lightweight		144.5	144.3	1.2	-.1
Trousers, work		158.5	161.7	7.1	2.0
Shirts, work		155.6	159.6	5.5	2.6
Shirts, business or dress		131.1	131.6	2.6	.4
T-shirts		158.7	158.2	2.9	-.3
Socks		133.9	133.7	4.0	-.1
Handkerchiefs		162.1	163.3	5.8	.7
Boys':					
Coats, heavyweight		112.7	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Dungarees		185.7	189.4	9.6	2.0
Undershorts		156.0	156.9	3.6	.6
Women's and girls'		139.2	140.6	2.9	1.0
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Carcoats, heavyweight		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Sweaters		137.2	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Skirts, winter weight		152.0	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Skirts, summer weight		152.4	158.3	1.6	3.9
Blouses		143.7	144.3	1.5	.4
Dresses, street, year round weight		149.3	149.7	3.5	.3
Slips		124.0	125.3	8.5	1.0
Panties		149.3	150.7	7.4	.9
Girdles		133.1	133.7	4.0	.5
Brassieres		148.9	150.3	5.4	.9
Hose or panty hose, nylon		92.3	92.8	.3	.5
Anklets or knee-length socks		134.5	133.7	.8	-.6
Gloves, fabric		130.7	129.9	1.1	-.6
Handbags		168.8	167.5	-1.7	-.8
Girls':					
Raincoats		127.3	119.2	-7.1	-6.4
Skirts, fall and winter		148.8	154.4	(⁷)	3.8
Dresses		129.6	133.3	1.1	2.9
Slacks, fall and winter		(⁷)	173.7	4.6	(⁷)
Slips		131.0	131.7	3.7	.5
Handbags		138.1	138.6	-2.0	.4
Other apparel commodities		151.4	151.9	2.1	.3
Diapers		186.6	187.7	2.5	.6
Yard goods		159.2	158.3	-1.0	-.6
Wrist watches, men's and women's		139.1	139.2	3.4	.1
Footwear		149.0	149.6	3.5	.4
Men's:					
Shoes, street		152.8	154.7	4.2	1.2
Shoes, work, high		168.0	169.0	6.3	.6
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		143.0	142.9	1.9	-.1
Shoes, evening, pump		134.5	135.2	2.4	.5
Shoes, casual		151.3	151.2	3.3	-.1
Houseslippers, scuff		145.6	146.5	4.9	.6
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		150.3	151.1	4.4	.5
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		149.4	148.5	-.5	-.6
Dress shoes, girls'		159.9	160.0	6.0	.1
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning		159.2	159.1	6.4	-.1
Automatic laundry service		142.0	143.0	7.8	.7
Laundry, men's shirts		162.6	162.8	7.4	.1
Tailoring charges		159.7	160.6	5.4	.6
Shoe repairs		147.2	148.6	6.1	1.0
Transportation		161.3	163.5	10.9	1.4
Private: ⁸		160.1	162.5	10.7	1.5
Automobiles, new		134.4	134.5	6.1	.1
Automobiles, used		159.4	167.8	18.0	5.3
Gasoline, regular, premium and unleaded		171.2	173.8	4.9	1.5
Motor oil		158.8	159.0	3.2	.1
Tires		130.1	130.2	4.0	.1
Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance ⁹		187.4	188.3	7.3	.5
Auto insurance premiums		183.5	184.6	30.1	.6
Auto registration fees		132.8	132.8	1.5	0
Parking fees, private and municipal		181.6	181.7	6.1	.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 May 1976 from—	
		April 1976	May 1976	May 1975	April 1976
Transportation—Continued					
Public		172.4	172.4	13.0	0
Local transit fares		172.3	172.3	16.6	0
Taxicab fares		175.3	175.9	4.8	.3
Railroad fares, coach		161.6	161.5	7.5	-.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		168.2	168.2	9.0	0
Bus fares, intercity		192.6	192.6	9.7	0
Health and recreation		161.4	162.1	6.2	.4
Medical care ¹⁰		181.6	182.6	9.5	.6
Drugs and prescriptions		124.7	125.5	6.3	.6
Over-the-counter items		137.2	138.2	6.7	.7
Multiple vitamin concentrates		105.0	105.1	4.0	.1
Aspirin compounds		137.7	139.1	5.5	1.0
Liquid tonics		119.8	119.9	4.3	.1
Adhesive bandages, packages		180.0	182.0	10.5	1.1
Cold tablets or capsules		129.7	130.9	4.8	.9
Cough syrup		142.7	143.9	8.4	.8
Prescriptions		114.3	114.9	5.9	.5
Anti-infectives		73.0	73.2	3.2	.3
Sedatives and hypnotics		162.1	162.9	6.3	.5
Ataractics		111.2	111.9	6.2	.6
Antispasmodics		133.9	135.1	11.0	.9
Cough preparations		179.6	181.4	10.3	1.0
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		120.2	120.8	2.6	.5
Analgesics, internal		121.1	121.2	2.0	.1
Anti-obesity		(*)	(*)	(*)	(*)
Hormones		109.5	110.1	8.0	.5
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		185.6	186.8	11.7	.6
General physician, office visits		190.4	191.6	11.9	.6
General physician, house visits		186.9	187.4	11.2	.3
Obstetrical cases		189.7	191.7	16.5	1.1
Pediatric care, office visits		189.2	190.9	12.1	.9
Psychiatrist, office visits		163.1	163.6	7.8	.3
Herniorrhaphy, adult		166.7	167.8	11.4	.7
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		177.7	179.4	10.6	1.0
Dentists' fees		169.8	170.6	5.8	.5
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		175.0	176.1	6.1	.6
Extractions, adult		168.6	168.8	5.0	.1
Dentures, full upper		160.5	161.1	6.1	.4
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		157.3	158.0	6.3	.4
Routine laboratory tests		158.1	160.5	5.2	1.5
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	146.2	146.7	12.8	.3
Semiprivate rooms		262.5	263.2	14.4	.3
Operating room charges		268.1	269.4	14.0	.5
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI		171.6	171.5	11.2	-.1
Laboratory tests	Jan. 72	141.2	141.6	11.1	.3
Anti-infectives	Jan. 72	121.6	123.5	11.8	1.6
Tranquilizers	Jan. 72	128.9	129.5	10.8	.5
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	135.8	135.8	8.1	0
Intravenous solution	Jan. 72	142.1	142.6	11.2	.4
Physical therapy	Jan. 72	145.3	145.5	7.1	.1
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	129.3	129.2	3.4	-.1
Personal care		158.3	158.9	6.0	.4
Toilet goods		156.8	157.0	5.1	.1
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		136.2	135.9	3.7	-.2
Toilet soap, hard-milled		194.9	194.6	-.3	-.2
Hand lotions		161.2	161.0	5.5	-.1
Shaving cream		132.4	132.8	7.4	.3
Face powder		161.0	162.4	8.6	.9
Deodorants		118.9	119.5	1.4	.5
Cleansing tissues		215.6	214.7	8.7	-.4
Home permanent wave kits		127.0	128.3	7.4	1.0
Personal care services ¹¹		159.9	160.9	7.0	.6
Men's haircuts		160.6	161.7	5.8	.7
Beauty shop services		159.4	160.5	7.9	.7
Women's haircuts		180.5	182.7	12.4	1.2
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		161.1	161.7	6.5	.4
Permanent waves, cold		134.4	135.0	5.6	.4
Reading and recreation		149.5	150.3	4.5	.5
Recreational goods		126.8	127.1	3.4	.2
TV sets, portable and console		103.1	103.1	1.8	0
TV replacement tubes		166.0	166.0	5.8	0
Radios, portable and table models		105.1	105.5	1.2	.4
Tape recorders, portable		95.7	96.1	.4	.4
Phonograph records, stereophonic		123.8	122.8	.7	-.8
Movie cameras, 8mm		95.5	95.4	1.5	-.1
Film, 35mm, color		123.9	125.1	5.7	1.0
Golf balls		104.3	104.7	.3	.4

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 May 1976 from—	
		April 1976	May 1976	May 1975	April 1976
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation—Continued					
Recreational goods—Continued					
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		146.7	147.1	2.2	0.3
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		124.3	124.8	4.1	.4
Bowling balls		129.3	129.4	3.1	.1
Bicycles, boys'		144.2	144.7	.8	.3
Tricycles		148.3	148.9	10.0	.4
Dog food, canned or boxed		169.7	169.4	.5	-.2
Recreational services		153.6	154.2	3.7	.4
Indoor movie admissions		175.8	176.0	3.5	.1
Adult		170.4	169.9	2.2	-.3
Children's		190.9	193.4	7.1	1.3
Drive-in movie admissions		177.4	178.1	1.9	.4
Bowling fees, evening		145.7	145.7	5.7	0
Golf green fees		159.7	163.1	7.9	2.1
TV repair		106.3	106.2	1.0	-.1
Film developing		124.0	124.0	.6	0
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		181.0	181.4	4.4	.2
Magazines, single copy and subscription		177.8	188.0	10.3	5.7
Piano lessons, beginner		143.6	144.0	3.9	.3
Other goods and services		152.5	152.9	3.9	.3
Tobacco products		159.9	160.1	4.4	.1
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		162.0	162.2	4.4	.1
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		162.7	162.9	4.5	.1
Cigars, domestic, regular size		128.9	129.4	4.4	.4
Alcoholic beverages		146.0	146.6	3.3	.4
Beer, at home		143.1	143.8	2.1	.5
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		115.9	115.6	2.1	-.3
Wine, dessert and table		156.2	157.2	2.1	.6
Beer, away from home		164.2	165.2	5.6	.6
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		149.0	149.3	4.6	.2
Bank service charges, checking account		125.1	125.5	4.9	.3
Legal services, short form will		198.8	199.4	7.0	.3

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			
		May 1976			May 1975	February 1976	April 1976
U.S. city average	M	169.2	196.7		6.2	1.3	0.6
Chicago	M	163.7	185.9		5.3	1.4	.5
Detroit	M	167.4	192.4		5.7	.8	.5
Los Angeles—Long Beach	M	166.3	195.6		6.0	1.5	1.3
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	M	174.9	208.1		6.5	.8	.3
Philadelphia	M	171.1	199.9		5.6	.8	.5
		April 1976			April 1975	January 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	
		May 1976			May 1975	February 1976	
Buffalo	2	169.1		³ 185.8	5.4	1.2	
Cleveland	2	166.9	188.4		4.6	1.1	
Dallas	2	166.2		³ 179.6	6.7	1.5	
Milwaukee	2	165.9	187.3		6.8	2.1	
San Diego	2	169.3		⁴ 177.9	6.6	1.2	
Seattle	2	162.6	191.0		5.2	.6	
Washington	2	170.0	198.0		6.3	1.8	
		March 1976			March 1975	December 1975	
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.

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 priced monthly, by expenditure class, percent change from April 1976 to May 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	0.6	0.5	0.5	1.3	0.3	0.5
Food .....	.4	-.4	.4	1.0	.5	.4
Housing .....	.4	.4	.6	1.9	.3	.4
Apparel and upkeep .....	.8	.9	-1.1	.9	.1	.7
Transportation	1.4	2.0	1.4	1.2	.7	1.2
Health and recreation .....	.4	.4	.5	.9	.4	.2
Medical care .....	.6	.9	.9	1.4	.4	.2
Personal care .....	.4	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation .....	.5	.3	.2	.1	.3	.5
Other goods and services .....	.3	.1	.6	1.3	.6	0

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

Table 7. CPI—selected areas, by expenditure class

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

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles— Long Beach	New York— Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (May 1976)						
All items	169.2	163.7	167.4	166.3	174.9	171.1
Food	179.9	178.4	175.5	172.3	184.4	185.5
Food at home	178.7	177.4	173.3	171.8	184.2	183.1
Cereals and bakery products	180.8	181.8	183.4	177.8	186.4	186.2
Meats, poultry, and fish	181.1	181.2	176.8	179.0	179.7	185.0
Dairy products	167.4	158.4	164.6	155.6	170.7	168.2
Fruits and vegetables	176.4	176.9	158.5	159.0	191.3	184.7
Other food at home	184.1	183.5	179.6	179.1	195.0	188.9
Food away from home	184.8	182.4	185.6	173.7	185.2	195.8
Housing	175.6	161.0	170.8	175.1	181.1	178.1
Shelter	177.3	161.2	174.3	181.3	180.0	187.7
Rent, residential	143.8	137.4	(²)	143.0	(²)	154.2
Homeownership	189.6	171.8	180.9	193.4	193.6	196.4
Fuel and utilities	180.2	163.1	181.9	162.1	201.1	171.7
Fuel oil and coal	246.2	235.7	243.2	-	253.8	234.8
Gas and electricity	186.1	169.7	198.5	187.7	220.5	175.8
Household furnishings and operation	167.9	159.2	152.6	159.6	172.1	164.6
Apparel and upkeep	146.8	137.0	140.7	138.9	143.0	139.1
Men's and boys'	147.3	133.6	150.4	132.0	142.3	146.7
Women's and girls'	140.6	130.8	126.0	134.4	134.4	121.2
Footwear	149.6	141.6	146.1	144.6	147.6	150.6
Transportation	163.5	165.3	158.2	163.9	182.7	164.0
Private	162.5	165.1	157.3	166.2	171.2	166.0
Public	172.4	166.6	167.8	120.4	226.8	152.0
Health and recreation	162.1	163.6	172.5	159.4	168.0	165.8
Medical care	182.6	186.8	206.2	185.5	197.0	196.4
Personal care	158.9	(²)	(²)	(²)	162.5	(²)
Reading and recreation	150.3	151.8	152.1	139.8	153.2	151.2
Other goods and services	152.9	156.4	157.3	152.7	158.1	155.3
Percent changes February 1976 to May 1976						
All items	1.3	1.4	0.8	1.5	0.8	0.8
Food	-.1	-.2	-.1	0	-.1	-.7
Food at home	-.5	-.6	-.7	-.6	-.8	-1.2
Cereals and bakery products	-.2	0	.2	-.8	.8	3.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	-1.0	-2.8	.7	-.1	-2.3	-2.5
Dairy products	-.7	-1.9	-3.2	-.5	-.9	-.8
Fruits and vegetables	1.8	5.5	-.8	-.7	1.9	-.8
Other food at home	-1.3	-.3	-1.5	-1.3	-.9	-2.7
Food away from home	1.6	1.4	2.5	1.8	1.9	1.3
Housing	1.0	1.1	.6	1.4	.7	.9
Shelter .....	.7	.8	-.2	1.6	.3	1.0
Rent, residential	1.2	3.8	(²)	3.3	(²)	3.7
Homeownership .....	.5	.4	-.4	1.4	0	.9
Fuel and utilities	1.3	3.0	3.5	.7	.7	.4
Fuel oil and coal	-1.3	-2.5	-.5	-	-2.1	-2.2
Gas and electricity	2.3	6.4	4.5	.7	2.6	1.3
Household furnishings and operation	1.6	.9	1.3	.7	1.5	1.0
Apparel and upkeep	1.9	1.2	.1	2.0	.4	1.5
Men's and boys'	2.4	1.4	1.3	2.6	.6	2.5
Women's and girls'	1.7	-.2	-2.6	2.3	-.7	.7
Footwear	2.4	2.4	.1	1.4	4.4	2.5
Transportation	3.2	3.8	2.5	3.0	2.8	3.5
Private	3.4	4.3	2.7	3.0	3.5	4.0
Public	1.2	.3	.1	1.2	.8	.3
Health and recreation	1.5	2.1	1.5	2.4	1.3	.9
Medical care	2.1	3.1	1.6	2.5	1.7	1.0
Personal care	1.2	.6	1.4	.9	2.0	.8
Reading and recreation	1.2	1.7	1.3	.9	.8	.8
Other goods and services	1.1	1.8	1.4	4.4	1.3	.6

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

Group	Buffalo	Cleveland	Dallas	Milwaukee	San Diego	Seattle	Washington
Indexes (May 1976)							
All items	169.1	166.9	166.2	165.9	169.3	162.6	170.0
Food	177.3	185.4	176.0	179.0	179.3	173.8	184.4
Food at home	176.0	185.8	172.2	178.4	171.5	174.6	181.5
Cereals and bakery products	184.7	191.2	174.3	182.4	176.9	178.0	183.4
Meats, poultry, and fish	177.2	184.3	175.0	180.7	180.5	187.9	175.0
Dairy products	165.3	175.1	159.1	171.3	158.8	164.4	160.2
Fruits and vegetables	170.6	183.0	170.3	180.3	158.3	156.9	190.1
Other food at home	180.8	194.3	175.9	177.0	172.8	176.8	198.1
Food away from home	184.9	184.0	189.9	180.7	198.8	171.2	191.6
Housing	176.5	161.5	168.6	164.4	182.8	170.0	171.9
Shelter	166.2	160.6	171.3	160.6	200.2	174.6	173.1
Rent, residential	148.0	129.5	128.2	143.4	157.4	139.5	147.5
Homeownership	169.5	166.0	190.6	166.0	218.1	184.9	188.0
Fuel and utilities	223.9	166.6	167.2	182.9	153.5	164.2	168.1
Fuel oil and coal	245.7	-	-	255.1	-	230.4	246.2
Gas and electricity	235.4	178.9	187.3	192.0	171.6	132.6	177.9
Household furnishings and operation	170.6	161.1	163.2	161.9	152.3	162.5	170.7
Apparel and upkeep	162.9	146.7	145.3	162.6	144.5	148.3	150.6
Men's and boys'	199.3	149.0	150.4	160.5	148.5	143.4	151.7
Women's and girls'	152.8	142.5	132.8	167.3	139.5	145.8	140.1
Footwear	143.1	143.3	146.7	161.1	139.3	147.0	154.1
Transportation	159.9	158.3	168.5	159.5	161.3	144.6	161.9
Private	159.8	165.4	168.6	156.7	162.9	149.3	161.9
Public	159.0	112.1	165.9	192.9	133.4	117.4	162.6
Health and recreation	156.5	173.1	161.1	159.5	155.6	154.8	166.7
Medical care	166.6	199.4	172.5	181.0	175.8	173.5	194.8
Personal care	162.7	170.6	164.7	163.4	151.2	160.7	155.5
Reading and recreation	148.7	153.8	154.3	150.1	143.5	146.7	146.3
Other goods and services	150.5	165.0	148.0	148.5	147.4	143.5	167.8
Percent changes February 1976 to May 1976							
All items	1.1	1.1	1.5	2.1	1.2	0.6	1.8
Food	-1.1	1.4	-.1	.8	.6	.4	.4
Food at home	-1.6	1.5	-.6	.3	-.9	-.3	-.3
Cereals and bakery products . . . . .	.7	-.2	-2.7	-.4	-.6	-1.1	.5
Meats, poultry, and fish	-2.6	1.4	.5	.3	-.8	.2	.1
Dairy products . . . . .	.6	2.9	-1.6	.1	-.4	-2.0	.6
Fruits and vegetables	-2.8	1.9	2.0	3.9	-1.1	3.0	.2
Other food at home	-2.1	1.5	-2.3	-1.4	-1.4	-1.2	-1.8
Food away from home	1.7	.9	1.6	2.4	4.0	2.6	2.2
Housing	1.0	.5	1.4	2.5	.9	-1.0	2.1
Shelter	-.1	.4	.6	2.9	1.0	-2.1	3.0
Rent, residential . . . . .	.9	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.8	1.2
Homeownership	-.2	.2	.3	3.4	.8	-3.0	3.9
Fuel and utilities	5.1	.5	5.8	2.0	.5	.1	-1.1
Fuel oil and coal	-1.0	-	-	-.7	-	-1.6	-1.2
Gas and electricity	7.4	.4	9.8	3.3	.4	0	-3.4
Household furnishings and operation	-.1	.9	.9	1.8	1.0	.9	1.2
Apparel and upkeep	4.5	1.0	2.0	3.8	.7	2.7	3.8
Men's and boys'	9.7	1.6	4.3	2.6	3.0	2.4	5.5
Women's and girls'	3.3	-1.6	1.6	6.1	-1.1	5.0	4.2
Footwear	1.2	4.3	1.7	3.3	0	.7	.8
Transportation	3.6	2.8	4.5	2.7	2.3	2.8	3.0
Private	3.8	3.1	4.8	3.0	2.3	3.0	3.2
Public . . . . .	.8	-.2	.5	0	2.6	.5	2.1
Health and recreation . . . . .	.9	.9	1.1	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.2
Medical care	1.3	1.3	.5	2.7	1.5	2.3	1.8
Personal care	2.4	.2	2.3	.6	1.3	5.3	1.2
Reading and recreation . . . . .	.3	1.0	1.9	1.3	.9	.5	1.1
Other goods and services . . . . .	.3	.5	0	1.1	1.5	.5	.2

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

³ Change from March 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 (May 1976)								
U.S. city average	179.9	178.7	180.8	181.1	167.4	176.4	184.1	184.8
Atlanta	184.4	184.2	181.8	183.5	179.8	192.4	184.6	184.8
Baltimore	183.2	181.9	174.3	185.0	168.2	180.4	191.7	188.5
Boston	183.3	181.8	184.2	184.2	163.1	186.5	186.8	188.5
Buffalo	177.3	176.0	184.7	177.2	165.3	170.6	180.8	184.9
Chicago	178.4	177.4	181.8	181.2	158.4	176.9	183.5	182.4
Cincinnati	182.7	185.5	189.5	188.1	169.4	184.6	192.7	172.2
Cleveland	185.4	185.8	191.2	184.3	175.1	183.0	194.3	184.0
Dallas	176.0	172.2	174.3	175.0	159.1	170.3	175.9	189.9
Detroit	175.5	173.3	183.4	176.8	164.6	158.5	179.6	185.6
Honolulu	183.1	179.4	176.9	183.2	176.1	183.3	173.4	193.6
Houston	186.5	182.3	181.1	188.9	179.8	174.1	181.0	201.3
Kansas City	179.3	178.9	180.4	179.0	176.2	170.0	186.0	180.6
Los Angeles—Long Beach	172.3	171.8	177.8	179.0	155.6	159.0	179.1	173.7
Milwaukee	179.0	178.4	182.4	180.7	171.3	180.3	177.0	180.7
Minneapolis—St. Paul	185.8	181.5	188.3	184.3	182.5	172.7	180.6	204.7
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	184.4	184.2	186.4	179.7	170.7	191.3	195.0	185.2
Philadelphia	185.5	183.1	186.2	185.0	168.2	184.7	188.9	195.8
Pittsburgh	181.2	178.7	183.9	184.6	159.1	178.0	181.6	195.6
St. Louis	180.1	180.1	194.0	180.0	171.6	179.6	178.3	180.2
San Diego	179.3	171.5	176.9	180.5	158.8	158.3	172.8	198.8
San Francisco—Oakland	173.3	175.6	176.0	185.2	158.9	167.1	179.1	165.2
Seattle	173.8	174.6	178.0	187.9	164.4	156.9	176.8	171.2
Washington	184.4	181.5	183.4	175.0	160.2	190.1	198.1	191.6
Percent changes April 1976 to May 1976								
U.S. city average	0.4	0.3	0.3	1.7	-0.3	-1.5	0.1	0.5
Atlanta	-.4	-.6	-.8	-.6	-.5	-.1	-.7	.1
Baltimore	-.4	-.3	-.1	2.4	-.1	-3.7	.1	-.9
Boston	-.5	-.4	-.3	1.2	.1	-.4	-.3	.8
Buffalo	0	-.2	1.3	.2	-.1	-2.8	.2	1.1
Chicago	-.4	-.6	.1	-1.4	-1.4	.1	.7	.3
Cincinnati	1.0	1.1	1.1	2.5	-.2	-1.2	2.4	.5
Cleveland	1.4	1.6	1.4	3.4	1.6	-3.0	2.6	.4
Dallas .....	.4	.3	-.4	2.9	.4	-2.4	-.7	.6
Detroit .....	.4	.3	.2	2.3	-2.3	-2.5	1.0	.7
Honolulu .....	.3	.3	3.1	1.3	.2	.2	-3.8	.5
Houston .....	.6	.7	-.1	3.2	.3	-3.2	.6	.4
Kansas City .....	.6	.6	.2	2.9	-.7	.3	-1.2	.4
Los Angeles—Long Beach	1.0	1.2	1.4	3.3	0	-1.6	1.0	.4
Milwaukee	1.1	.8	0	2.4	.1	.1	-.1	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	.1	.1	-1.3	.5	2.2	-.5	-.8	0
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	.5	.4	1.4	1.5	-.4	-1.4	.1	.8
Philadelphia .....	.4	.4	2.1	1.5	0	-2.0	-.1	.5
Pittsburgh .....	.1	-.1	-3.2	1.7	1.0	-2.7	1.1	.4
St. Louis	-.1	-.1	.9	.1	.1	-.4	-.9	.1
San Diego	2.2	1.3	1.7	2.2	.5	.1	1.0	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland .....	.7	.9	-.6	2.7	.3	.7	-.8	.1
Seattle .....	.3	.3	-.5	3.1	-.9	-1.3	-.9	0
Washington .....	.5	0	-.1	1.4	0	-1.4	-.9	1.8

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		
	Index		Percent change to May 1976 from—	Index		Percent change to May 1976 from—	Index		Percent change to May 1976 from—
	April 1976	May 1976		April 1976	May 1976		April 1976	May 1976	
U.S. city average	97.0	98.5	1.5	97.8	99.1	1.3	97.6	98.8	1.2
Atlanta	97.2	99.1	2.0	98.9	101.0	2.1	98.4	99.9	1.5
Baltimore	95.7	98.0	2.4	97.3	100.2	3.0	97.2	99.3	2.2
Boston	96.2	96.9	.7	98.0	99.1	1.1	96.8	97.8	1.0
Buffalo	96.3	98.0	1.8	97.1	98.4	1.3	96.2	97.6	1.5
Chicago	96.8	98.3	1.5	97.9	98.6	.7	97.2	98.9	1.7
Cincinnati	96.3	97.9	1.7	97.9	99.8	1.9	97.0	98.5	1.5
Cleveland	97.0	98.7	1.8	98.4	99.8	1.4	97.1	97.9	.8
Dallas	97.6	99.9	2.4	98.4	100.3	1.9	98.1	99.6	1.5
Detroit	96.7	99.1	2.5	97.9	100.0	2.1	97.3	98.7	1.4
Honolulu	98.2	98.5	.3	98.0	98.3	.3	97.7	98.0	.3
Houston	97.3	99.6	2.4	97.9	99.7	1.8	97.3	99.5	2.3
Kansas City	99.1	99.8	.7	99.7	100.5	.8	99.2	99.7	.5
Los Angeles—Long Beach	97.4	98.0	.6	98.3	98.5	.2	98.2	98.5	.3
Milwaukee	97.9	100.5	2.7	99.0	101.6	2.6	97.9	99.7	1.8
Minneapolis—St. Paul	98.4	100.1	1.7	100.2	101.7	1.5	98.8	100.6	1.8
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	95.0	96.3	1.4	97.6	99.0	1.4	96.6	97.8	1.2
Philadelphia	95.3	97.0	1.8	98.1	99.1	1.0	96.1	97.5	1.5
Pittsburgh	97.0	98.9	2.0	98.6	100.0	1.4	98.2	99.6	1.4
St. Louis	98.0	100.3	2.3	98.2	100.3	2.1	98.1	99.3	1.2
San Diego	96.5	97.8	1.3	97.7	98.9	1.2	97.6	98.8	1.2
San Francisco—Oakland	97.7	97.5	-.2	97.3	98.0	.7	97.6	97.6	0
Seattle	98.2	99.2	1.0	98.0	98.8	.8	98.1	99.1	1.0
Washington	96.7	97.9	1.2	98.3	100.2	1.9	97.7	99.2	1.5

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)

Consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers:

Area ¹	Leaded regular gasoline			Unleaded regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Average price per gallon								
	March 1976	April 1976	May 1976	March 1976	April 1976	May 1976	March 1976	April 1976	May 1976
U.S. city average	\$0.569	\$0.567	\$0.576	\$0.594	\$0.592	\$0.600	\$0.617	\$0.614	\$0.621
Atlanta .....	.562	.561	.572	.595	.594	.607	.617	.617	.626
Baltimore .....	.574	.572	.586	.599	.597	.615	.627	.626	.640
Boston .....	.570	.563	.567	.595	.589	.596	.615	.609	.615
Buffalo .....	.573	.572	.582	.602	.599	.607	.620	.617	.626
Chicago .....	.581	.580	.589	.620	.618	.623	.626	.624	.635
Cincinnati .....	.559	.554	.563	.585	.580	.591	.609	.604	.613
Cleveland .....	.562	.568	.578	.582	.585	.593	.605	.610	.615
Dallas .....	.526	.525	.537	.549	.547	.557	.571	.568	.576
Detroit .....	.562	.560	.574	.596	.591	.604	.619	.615	.624
Honolulu .....	.680	.673	.675	.690	.682	.684	.719	.710	.712
Houston .....	.518	.513	.525	.539	.534	.544	.565	.561	.573
Kansas City .....	.539	.549	.553	.559	.568	.573	.582	.594	.597
Los Angeles—Long Beach .....	.568	.568	.572	.600	.600	.602	.616	.616	.618
Milwaukee .....	.534	.533	.547	.560	.560	.575	.583	.580	.591
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	.556	.566	.575	.584	.592	.601	.619	.626	.637
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	.576	.568	.576	.607	.600	.609	.634	.627	.635
Philadelphia .....	.557	.556	.565	.601	.600	.606	.619	.616	.625
Pittsburgh .....	.559	.563	.574	.589	.593	.602	.610	.614	.622
St. Louis .....	.557	.556	.569	.574	.572	.584	.603	.603	.610
San Diego .....	.588	.582	.590	.618	.614	.621	.637	.634	.642
San Francisco—Oakland .....	.597	.600	.598	.619	.615	.619	.646	.643	.643
Seattle .....	.563	.563	.569	.583	.582	.586	.607	.606	.613
Washington .....	.583	.582	.589	.617	.617	.628	.641	.641	.650

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

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

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures average changes in prices of goods and services usually bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers. It is based on prices of about 400 items which were selected to represent the movement of prices of all goods and services purchased by wage earners and clerical workers. Prices for these items are obtained in urban portions of 39 major statistical areas and 17 smaller cities, which were chosen to represent all urban places in the United States. They are collected from about 18,000 establishments—grocery and department stores, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments.

Prices of food, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all 56 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the five largest areas and every 3 months in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by

personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives. Mail questionnaires are used to obtain local transit fares, public utility rates, newspaper prices, fuel prices, and certain other items.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights which represent their importance in the spending of all wage earners and clerical workers. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published for 23 areas.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date—1967—which equals 100.0. An increase of 22 percent, for example, is shown as 122.0. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: The price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services bought by urban wage earners and clerical workers has risen from \$10 in 1967 to \$12.20.

A Note About Calculating Index Changes

Movements of the indexes from one month to another are usually expressed as percent changes rather than changes in index points because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percent changes are not. The example in the accompanying box illustrates the computation of index point and percent changes.

Seasonally adjusted percent changes in the U.S. All Items Index are based on seasonal adjustment factors and seasonally adjusted indexes carried to two decimal places. This procedure helps to eliminate rounding error in the percent changes.

Percent changes for 3-month and 6-month periods are expressed as annual rates and are computed according to the standard formula for compound growth rates. These data indicate what the percent change would be if the current rate were maintained for a 12-month

period. BLS does not publish annual rates based on data for 1 month.

<i>Index Point Change</i>	
CPI	123.8
Less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
Equals index point change:	0.6
<i>Percent Change</i>	
Index point difference,	<u>0.6</u>
Divided by the previous index,	123.2
Equals,	0.005
Results multiplied by one hundred	0.005 x 100
Equals percent change:	0.5

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

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.

