

CPI Detailed Report for July 1975



Consumer Price Index
U.S. and City Averages

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics



CPI Detailed Report

For July 1975

Consumer Price Index U.S. and City Averages



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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

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Price Movements

July 1975

The Consumer Price Index rose 1.1 percent in July. Price increases for meats, poultry, fresh fruits and vegetables, gasoline, and used cars accounted for about three-fourths of the July increase. The July CPI was 162.3 (1967=100), 9.7 percent higher than a year ago.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI increased 1.2 percent in July. The July increase compares with a rise of 0.8 percent in June and an average monthly increase of about 0.5 percent in the first 5 months of this year. The food index rose 1.7 percent after seasonal adjustment, slightly more than in June. The index for commodities other than food increased 0.9 percent, compared with 0.5 percent in June. The increase in the services index of 0.5 percent in July was slightly smaller than in June. (See table A.)

Monthly changes in detail

Food. The index for food purchased in grocery stores—the major portion of the food index—rose 2.9 percent in July, considerably more than the usual seasonal rise for this month of the year. About a third of this increase stemmed from a contraseasonal increase in fresh vegetable prices. Poultry, pork, and beef prices also rose much more than they usually do in July. Prices for fresh fruits, eggs, fish, and dairy products also rose in July. Prices declined for all other categories of food.

Fresh vegetable prices rose 16.7 percent in July, following an increase of 10.3 percent in June. In both months, potato prices rose sharply as a result of a 13-percent decrease in the size of the crop this summer com-

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		Serv-ices ¹	From 3 months ago	
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed
1974:									
July	0.7	0.8	0.1	-0.6	1.0	1.3	1.1	11.7	11.5
August	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.8	1.3	1.3	1.0	12.3	11.0
September	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.1	1.2	13.4	12.0
October .....	.9	.9	.7	1.3	.9	.7	.8	13.6	12.0
November .....	.8	.9	1.0	1.1	.8	.8	.9	12.7	12.1
December .....	.7	.8	1.1	.9	.4	.6	.9	11.0	12.2
1975:									
January .....	.5	.6	.7	.9	0	.5	.7	9.8	11.7
February .....	.7	.5	.4	-.3	.7	.8	.8	8.2	11.1
March .....	.4	.3	-.2	-.6	.8	.5	.4	6.0	10.3
April .....	.5	.6	-.1	.4	.8	.8	.6	5.8	10.2
May .....	.4	.4	.4	.5	.6	.2	.2	5.0	9.5
June .....	.8	.8	1.5	1.5	.5	.5	.7	7.1	9.3
July	1.1	1.2	2.4	1.7	.7	.9	.5	9.5	9.7

¹ Not seasonally adjusted; data contain little or no seasonal movements.

pared to last year. Acreage was reduced because of poor price prospects last winter when planting decisions were being made. In addition, yields were down in some areas because of insufficient moisture. Onion and tomato prices continued to move up because of reduced output of spring and early summer crops and because supplies from local producing areas scattered across the country were not yet available. Fresh fruit prices continued to increase due to seasonal declines in supplies of citrus fruits and smaller supplies of apples in storage.

The rise in beef prices—which was somewhat smaller in July than in May or June—reflected earlier increases at the wholesale level. Prices at wholesale started to rise in March and advanced 40.8 percent through June. Retail beef prices rose more than 20 percent in the April-July period. Prices rose in response to shortages of Choice beef, which caused price spreads of as much as \$10 per cwt. between Good and Choice grades in the carlot dressed meat trade. However, as consumers began to resist high beef prices at retail, packers' demand slowed and wholesale prices for beef and cattle turned down in July. Retail and wholesale pork prices, however, continued to rise at a rapid rate in July as hog slaughter and pork production declined. Live hog supplies remained short of supplying the demand from packer buyers, and the short supply of pork moving into retail channels was still finding buyers at high prices. Pork prices at wholesale moved up over 30 percent in the March-July period and retail prices rose more than 20 percent from April to July. Because of the drop in meat production in recent months, and increased demand for poultry, poultry prices—at retail and wholesale—have also been advancing rapidly since April and increases accelerated sharply in July.

After declining from February through June, prices of dairy products increased in July. Cheese and evaporated milk prices rose as a result of strong demand and higher prices at the wholesale level. At wholesale, price increases for processed dairy products have been accelerating since April because the cost of milk for manufacturing use has been rising due to increased demand and a seasonal decline in milk production. Egg prices also increased in July—after declining in the 2 preceding months—as production in June was down 3.5 percent from the May level.

Prices declined for many types of food purchased in grocery stores in July. Sugar prices continued to decline sharply at the retail level, reflecting earlier declines in wholesale prices. Prices at the wholesale level, however, turned up in July because some major cane producing countries withheld supplies and some refiners started to replenish their inventories.

Cereal and bakery products prices declined for the fourth consecutive month at the retail level. Flour prices fell sharply in response to lower wholesale prices for family flour (flour for home use) brought about by earlier declines in wheat prices. Retail prices of bakery products also declined, but not as much as in recent months. At the wholesale level, the index for cereal and bakery products increased in July, after declining sharply in the preceding 4 months. The increase was primarily due to higher prices for all types of flour other than family flour.

Prices of fats and oil products declined at both retail and wholesale primarily as a result of increased use of cheaper imported vegetable oil—mainly palm oil—in the manufacture of shortening and margarine in place of higher priced soybean and cottonseed oils.

The index for food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—rose 0.6 percent, more than in May and June.

Commodities other than food. The index for commodities other than food rose 0.7 percent in July. Almost three-fifths of this increase was due to higher prices for gasoline and fuel oil. Gasoline prices (regular and premium grades combined) rose 4.3 percent in July for a rise of 10.5 percent since March, when increases started accelerating. Fuel oil prices—which usually decline in July—rose 1.6 percent, considerably more than in recent months.

The Federal Energy Administration (FEA) allows refiners to make one price change per month to reflect changing production costs. Most oil companies used their price option very early in July and retail gasoline prices jumped sharply just before the July 4th holiday. The refiners continued to attribute their increases to higher costs for crude oil and labor. The \$2 per barrel excise tax on foreign crude oil, the FEA's "entitlements" program, and the regulated price of "old" domestic crude oil (held at \$5.25 per barrel, while world market prices have moved up to about \$13 per barrel) have caused refiners to take action to preserve margins.

Not all of the refinery price hikes have been passed on to consumers. A few gas stations are still under "pay-back" programs to refund money overcharged during past pricing periods. More important, many gasoline station operators have been unable to increase the pump price by the full amount of the rise in their wholesale costs because of competitive pressures. Although the demand for gasoline is still quite strong as many families are traveling during vacations, more consumers are apparently becoming cost conscious. Major brand name oil companies report declines in sales levels—while inde-

pendents (who may have lower gas prices) report stronger demand.

Among commodities other than food and fuels, prices of used cars continued to advance rapidly in July because of strong demand. Prices of most household durables also rose in July. Floor covering prices rose primarily due to a large increase in vinyl tile prices which, in turn, are still being affected by earlier price rises for petrochemical materials. Appliance prices were higher, reflecting a slight pickup in sales volume after a very slow spring and early summer. The demand for air conditioners was strong because of hot weather, and, since inventories were at less-than-normal levels, dealers were able to pass on recent wholesale price increases. For the most part, however, the improvement in appliance sales has been in the replacement market as housing starts have remained sluggish. Television prices rose in July. Although there were end-of-model-year clearance promotions on 1975 models, the 1976 models with higher prices began appearing on showroom floors. Because of lower prices on the 1975 models and the industry switch to the 90-day (instead of 1 full year) warranty on 1976 models, the demand has been better for the '75's than for the '76's. The "clearance" sales, therefore, were on selected models only and did not represent drastic price reductions. Among nondurable goods, prices were higher in July for toilet goods, housekeeping supplies, reading materials, drugs and prescriptions, and cigarettes. Higher taxes accounted for much of the rise in cigarette prices.

Competitive pressures and efforts to improve sales accounted for price declines for some consumer goods. New car prices were lower because of larger concessions given by dealers and continuation by one company of rebates to customers. Bargain and promotional prices were used to bolster the depressed demand conditions in the furniture industry. Prices of textile housefurnish-

ings were lower because of white sales. Apparel prices also declined, but not as much as they usually do in July. Lower prices due to summer clearance sales were partially offset by higher prices for fall items which began to appear in stores in some areas.

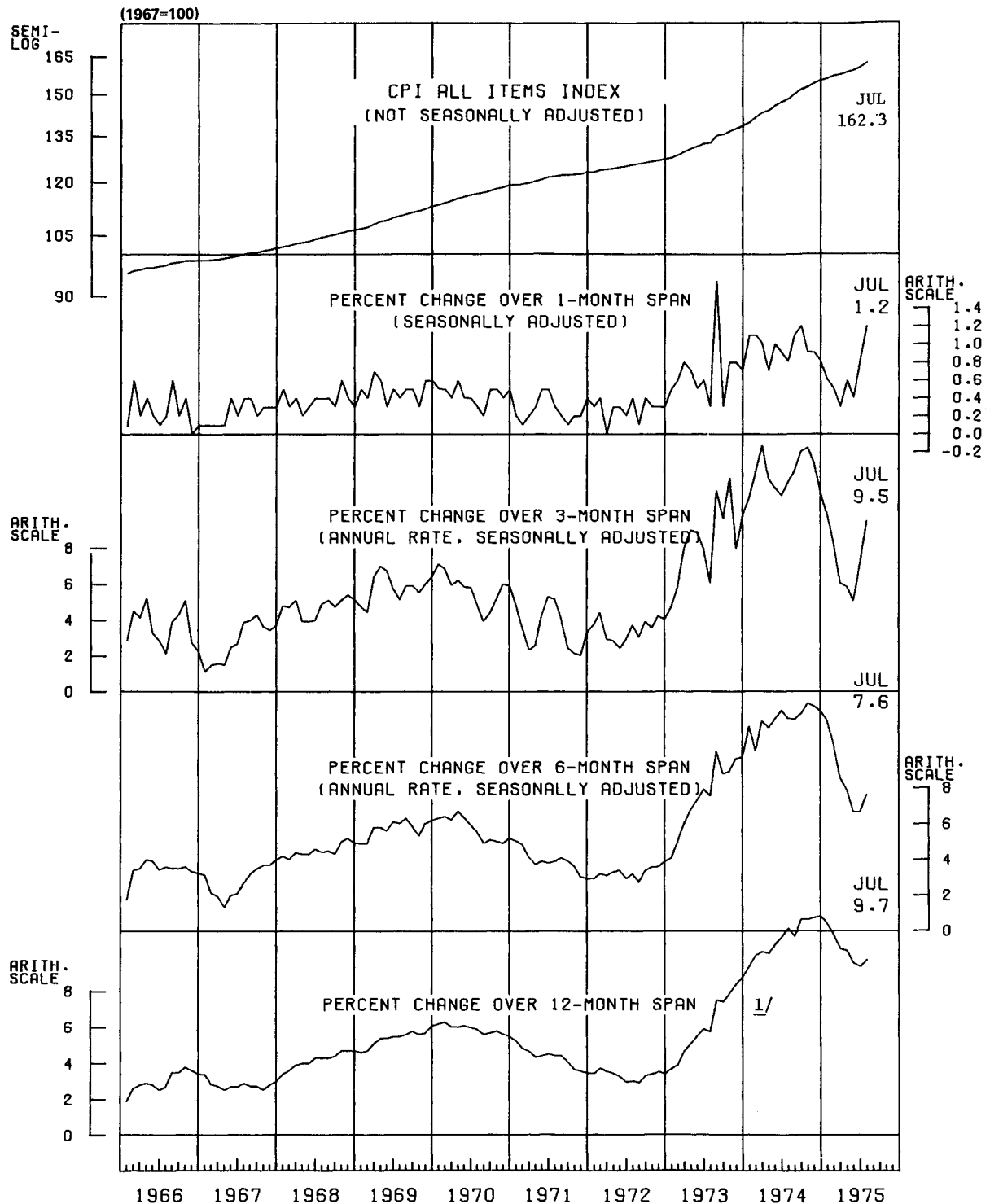
Services. The services index rose 0.5 percent in July. Almost one-third of this rise was due to an increase of 1.1 percent in charges for medical care. Hospital service charges rose 1.6 percent, considerably more than increases during the spring. Semiprivate room rates rose 2.7 percent and operating room rates 1.4 percent. Fees for doctors, dentists, and other professional services rose 0.6 percent, about the same rate as in recent months. For many hospitals, the fiscal year begins in July, at which time fee schedules are reviewed. Introduction of higher fee schedules this July has been attributed in part to the rise in malpractice insurance premiums and other overhead costs.

The index for household services excluding rent rose 0.5 percent in July, half as much as in June. Charges for electricity rose sharply, and home maintenance and repair services continued to increase. Natural gas charges and mortgage interest rates declined, however. Mortgage interest rates have declined steadily since late 1974, except for an increase in June. The rent index rose 0.3 percent, about the same rate as in recent months.

The transportation services index rose 0.5 percent in July, the same as the June rise. Local transit fares—which had declined slowly in 1974 and in the first half of this year—rose 0.9 percent in July. Parking fees rose after declining in the 2 preceding months. Most of the increase was in municipal parking fees. Charges for auto insurance and auto repairs continued to rise.

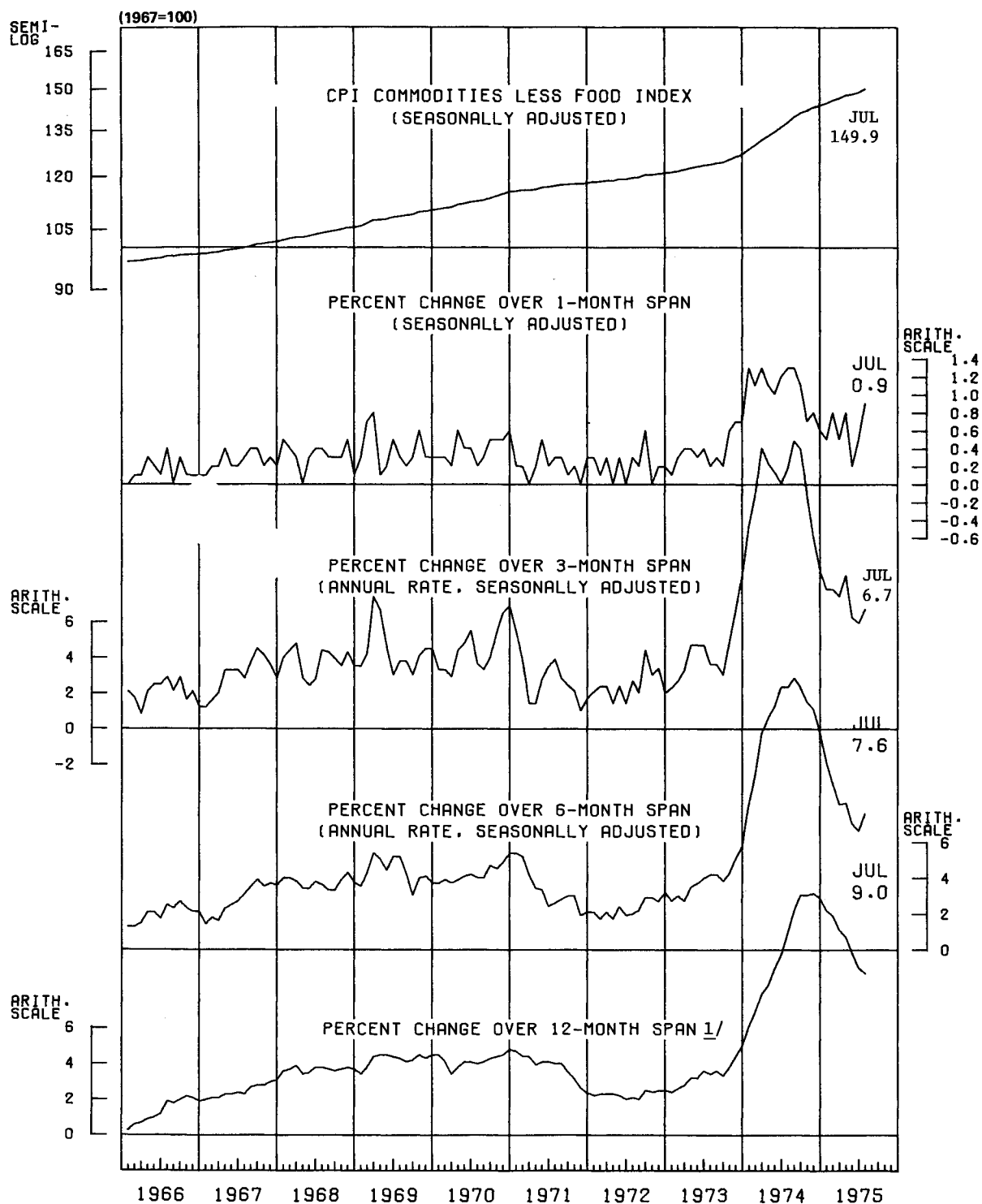
Charges for other services—including personal care, apparel, and recreational services—rose 0.4 percent, about the same as increases in recent months.

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



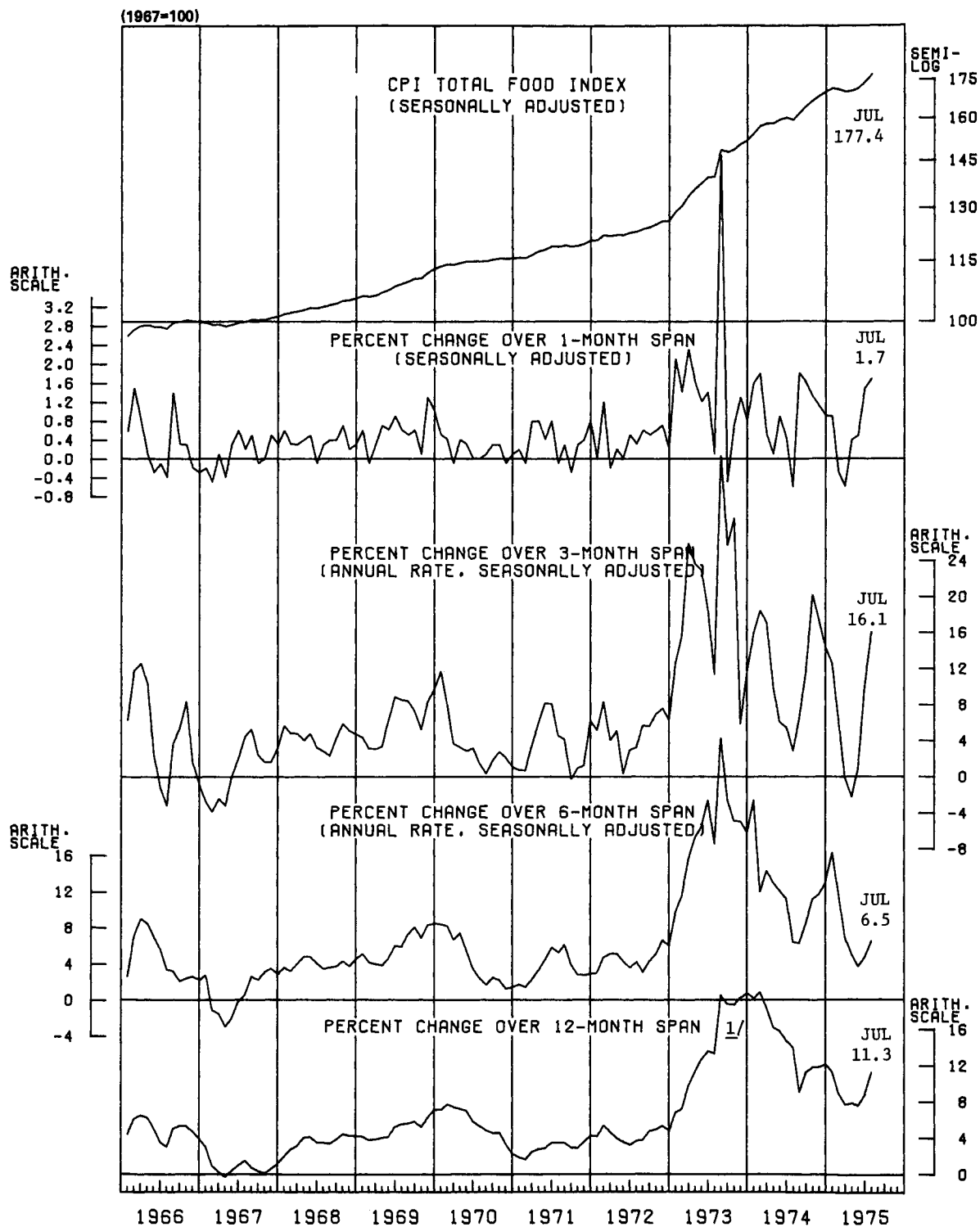
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rates of change, 1966-75



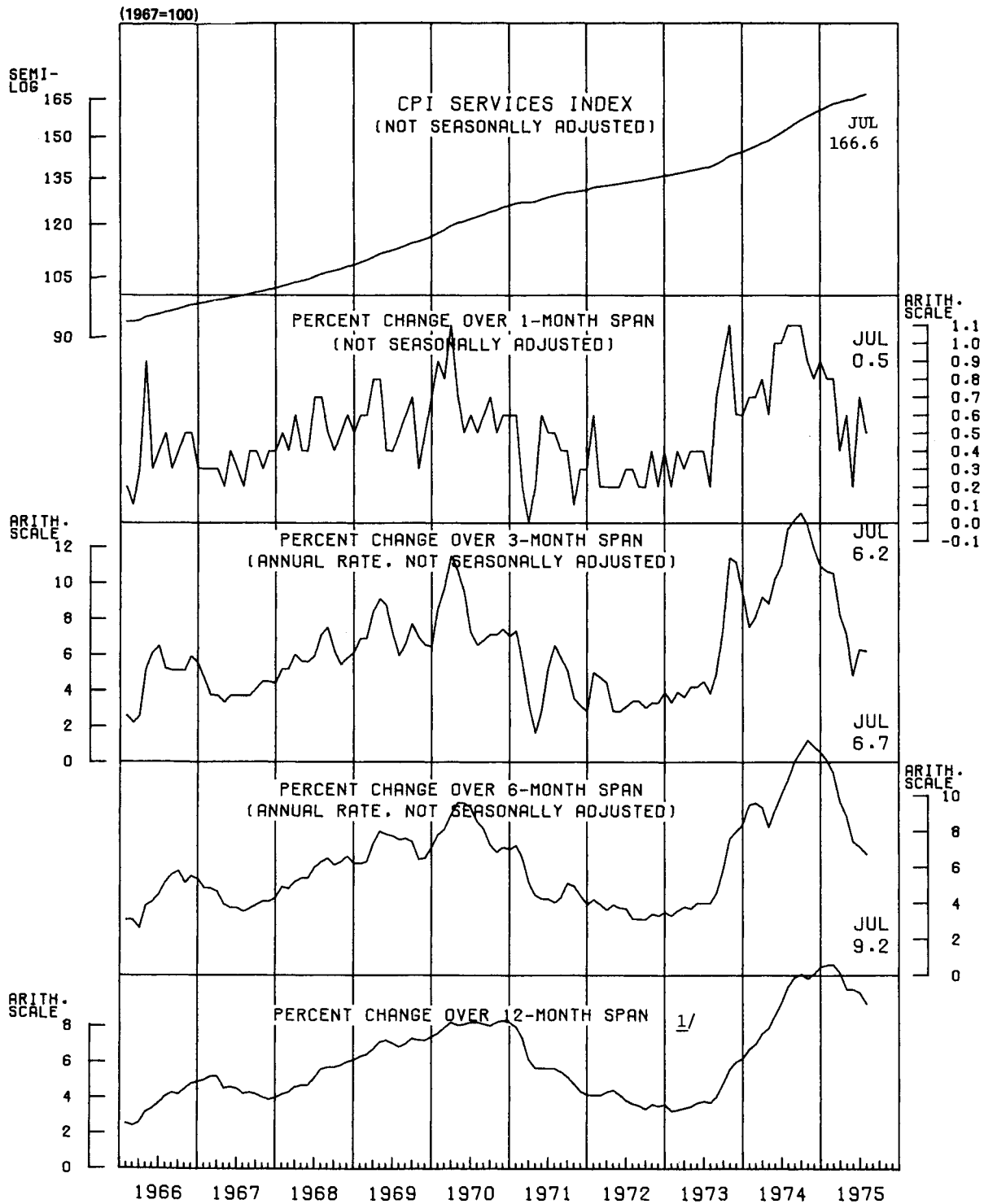
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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Chart 3. Total food index and its rates of change, 1966-75



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



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

Group	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes (1967=100 unless otherwise noted)		Unadjusted percent change to July 1975 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
	December 1974	June 1975	July 1975	July 1974	June 1975	April to May	May to June	June to July
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.000	160.6	162.3	9.7	1.1	0.4	0.8	1.2
All items (1957-59=100)	-	186.8	188.8	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	63.762	157.9	160.1	10.0	1.4	.4	.8	1.5
Food	24.785	174.4	178.6	11.3	2.4	.5	1.5	1.7
Food at home	19.657	174.9	179.9	12.0	2.9	.6	1.9	1.9
Cereals and bakery products	2.882	185.2	184.6	10.7	-.3	-.9	-.4	-.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.140	177.2	187.7	21.4	5.9	5.7	5.8	3.5
Dairy products	2.887	153.3	153.4	1.2	.1	-.7	.1	.5
Fruits and vegetables	3.111	177.4	188.8	5.7	6.4	-.4	2.4	5.6
Other foods at home	4.637	178.7	177.6	12.1	-.6	-2.0	-1.6	-.8
Food away from home	5.128	173.1	174.2	8.6	.6	.3	.2	.5
Commodities less food	38.977	148.9	149.9	9.0	.7	.2	.5	.9
Nondurables less food	23.255	151.2	152.2	7.3	.7	.3	.5	1.1
Apparel commodities ¹	8.273	140.3	139.8	3.6	-.4	-.1	.1	.7
Men's and boys'	2.617	142.1	140.5	3.3	-1.1	.1	-.4	.4
Women's and girls'	3.611	136.3	136.5	2.7	.1	-.1	.3	1.4
Footwear	1.438	143.8	143.1	4.5	-.5	-.1	-.1	-.1
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.982	157.7	159.5	9.3	1.1	.5	.9	1.1
Gasoline and motor oil	3.388	169.5	176.3	6.0	4.0	1.0	3.0	3.3
Tobacco products	1.936	153.6	154.0	6.3	.3	*.1	*.2	*.3
Alcoholic beverages	2.315	142.1	142.2	7.9	.1	*.1	*.1	*.1
Fuel oil and coal	1.028	230.6	234.1	7.1	1.5	1.1	.8	2.2
Other nondurables	6.316	151.4	151.7	13.1	.2	.3	.3	.5
Durable commodities	15.722	145.8	146.9	11.7	.8	.3	.3	.8
Household durables	4.575	140.3	140.6	8.6	.2	.3	0	.3
New automobiles	1.905	127.0	126.6	7.3	-.3	-.5	.4	-.2
Used automobiles	2.026	147.5	153.2	19.8	3.9	*3.0	*3.7	*3.9
Other durables	7.217	154.9	155.6	12.8	.5	.8	.2	.6
Services	36.238	165.7	166.6	9.2	.5	*.2	*.7	*.5
Rent	4.568	136.9	137.3	5.1	.3	*.4	*.4	*.3
Services less rent	31.670	170.9	171.9	9.8	.6	.2	.7	.6
Household services less rent	15.856	183.9	184.8	11.0	.5	.3	1.0	.3
Transportation services	4.796	150.4	151.1	6.2	.5	.3	.3	.5
Medical care services	5.473	178.4	180.4	12.6	1.1	.7	.7	1.1
Other services	5.545	151.4	152.0	7.0	.4	0	.3	.5
Special indexes:								
All items less food	75.215	156.6	157.6	9.1	.6	.3	.5	.8
Nondurable commodities	48.040	162.4	165.0	9.3	1.6	.4	1.0	1.6
Apparel commodities less footwear	6.835	139.6	139.1	3.3	-.4	-.1	.1	.8
Services less medical care services	30.765	163.7	164.4	8.6	.4	*.2	*.7	*.4
Insurance and finance	9.634	178.9	179.7	9.9	.4	.1	.9	.1
Utilities and public transportation	5.246	155.9	156.6	10.4	.4	.7	1.2	.6
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.691	192.9	193.9	8.6	.5	.1	.4	.4
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1.445	117.9	118.3	8.2	.3	*.3	*.3	*.3
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.000	160.6	162.3	9.7	1.1	0.4	0.8	1.2
Food	24.785	174.4	178.6	11.3	2.4	.5	1.5	1.7
Housing	33.766	166.4	167.1	10.7	.4	.4	.6	.5
Shelter ²	21.293	169.4	170.2	10.2	.5	.5	.5	.4
Rent	4.568	136.9	137.3	5.1	.3	*.4	*.4	*.3
Homeownership ³	16.335	181.4	182.3	11.7	.5	.6	.5	.3
Fuel and utilities ⁴	5.008	166.9	168.0	11.3	.7	.7	1.3	.8
Gas and electricity	2.548	169.4	170.4	16.6	.6	.7	2.0	.9
Household furnishings and operation	7.465	158.1	158.3	12.0	.1	.1	.4	.2
Apparel and upkeep	9.633	141.4	141.1	4.3	-.2	-.1	.1	.8
Transportation	12.715	149.8	152.6	8.5	1.9	.3	1.2	1.8
Private	11.450	149.3	152.3	9.0	2.0	.3	1.4	1.9
Public	1.266	154.1	155.0	4.3	.6	.3	.3	.8
Health and recreation	18.723	153.2	154.0	9.2	.5	.2	.3	.5
Medical care	6.241	168.1	169.8	12.2	1.0	.6	.7	1.0
Personal care	2.519	150.3	151.2	9.7	.6	.2	.2	.7
Reading and recreation	5.222	144.1	144.4	7.3	.2	.1	0	.3
Other goods and services	4.742	147.3	147.6	7.2	.2	.3	0	.1
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78.707	158.4	160.3	9.5	1.2	.3	.9	1.4
All items less medical care	93.759	160.3	162.0	9.5	1.1	.3	.8	1.2
All items less mortgage interest costs	95.615	158.6	160.3	9.5	1.1	.4	.8	1.3
CPI — domestically produced farm foods ⁵	17.214	172.9	178.8	12.0	3.4	*.5	*2.2	*3.4
CPI — selected beef cuts ⁶	1.976	177.7	188.3	18.4	6.0	*8.6	*6.9	*6.0
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967 = \$1.00	-	\$0.623	\$0.616	-8.9	-1.1	-	-	-
1957-59 = \$1.00	-	.535	.530	-	-	-	-	-

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

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

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

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

Table 2. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	April 1975	May 1975	June 1975	July 1975	3 months ending in—				6 months ending in—	
					Oct. 1974	Jan. 1975	Apr. 1975	July 1975	Jan. 1975	July 1975
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	13.6	9.8	5.8	9.5	11.7	7.6
Commodities	155.7	156.3	157.6	159.9	14.5	9.6	4.5	11.2	12.0	7.8
Food	170.9	171.8	174.4	177.4	20.2	12.5	-2.3	16.1	16.3	6.5
Food at home	170.5	171.6	174.9	178.3	23.1	12.2	-4.8	19.6	17.5	6.7
Cereals and bakery products	188.1	186.4	185.6	185.0	19.2	28.8	4.8	-6.4	23.9	-1.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	160.5	169.7	179.5	185.7	30.4	4.7	-11.1	79.2	16.9	26.2
Dairy products	154.2	153.1	153.3	154.0	.8	6.7	-2.0	-.5	3.7	-1.3
Fruits and vegetables	165.8	165.2	169.1	178.6	.9	-4.6	-4.0	34.6	-1.9	13.7
Other foods at home	188.7	184.9	182.0	180.5	50.4	32.0	-4.9	-16.3	40.9	-10.8
Food away from home	172.5	173.0	173.3	174.2	9.8	12.7	8.0	4.0	11.3	6.0
Commodities less food	147.5	147.8	148.5	149.9	13.1	7.8	8.6	6.7	10.4	7.6
Nondurables less food	149.8	150.2	151.0	152.7	10.2	6.2	5.2	8.0	8.2	6.6
Apparel commodities ¹	140.3	140.1	140.2	141.2	9.4	1.7	.6	2.6	5.5	1.6
Men's and boys'	141.6	141.8	141.3	141.8	9.7	2.0	1.4	.6	5.8	1.0
Women's and girls'	136.5	136.3	136.7	138.6	8.6	-.9	-2.6	6.3	3.7	1.8
Footwear	144.0	143.9	143.8	143.7	12.2	3.4	4.0	-.8	7.7	1.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	155.4	156.1	157.5	159.3	9.4	9.4	7.8	10.4	9.4	9.1
Gasoline and motor oil	162.4	164.1	169.0	174.6	-9.4	-2.0	6.4	33.6	-5.7	19.2
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted)	153.2	153.3	153.6	154.0	7.1	13.4	2.9	2.1	10.2	2.5
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted)	141.7	141.9	142.1	142.2	16.7	6.9	7.1	1.4	11.7	4.2
Fuel oil and coal	227.2	229.7	231.5	236.5	11.1	2.9	-1.7	17.4	6.9	7.4
Other nondurables	150.1	150.5	150.9	151.7	21.9	15.9	11.1	4.3	18.9	7.7
Durable commodities	144.3	144.8	145.2	146.3	17.2	10.4	13.8	5.7	13.7	9.7
Household durables	139.5	139.9	139.9	140.3	15.0	10.6	6.9	2.3	12.8	4.6
New automobiles	127.5	126.8	127.3	127.1	16.8	-4.5	20.1	-1.2	5.6	8.9
Used automobiles (not seasonally adjusted)	138.1	142.2	147.5	153.2	41.1	-12.3	9.8	51.4	11.2	29.0
Other durables	153.4	154.6	154.9	155.8	11.8	15.5	18.3	6.4	13.6	12.2
Services (not seasonally adjusted)	164.1	164.5	165.7	166.6	12.9	10.6	7.1	6.2	11.7	6.7
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	135.9	136.4	136.9	137.3	5.9	6.2	4.2	4.2	6.1	4.2
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted)	169.5	169.9	171.1	172.1	13.1	11.1	8.7	6.3	12.1	7.5
Household services less rent	182.2	182.8	184.6	185.2	16.5	12.8	8.3	6.8	14.6	7.5
Transportation services	149.2	149.6	150.1	150.9	6.3	5.1	8.5	4.6	5.7	6.5
Medical care services	175.7	177.0	178.2	180.2	15.6	12.9	11.5	10.6	14.2	11.0
Other services	150.8	150.8	151.2	152.0	9.6	9.7	5.5	3.2	9.7	4.3
Special indexes:										
All items less food	155.2	155.6	156.4	157.6	12.8	9.2	8.4	6.3	10.9	7.4
Nondurable commodities	159.9	160.6	162.2	164.8	14.2	9.8	1.0	12.8	12.0	6.8
Apparel commodities less footwear	139.6	139.4	139.5	140.6	9.1	1.4	0	2.9	5.2	1.4
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	162.2	162.6	163.7	164.4	13.0	10.1	5.9	5.5	11.5	5.7
Insurance and finance	178.3	178.4	180.0	180.2	15.2	10.5	9.8	4.3	12.8	7.0
Utilities and public transportation	153.0	154.0	155.9	156.8	10.8	11.1	9.4	10.3	11.0	9.9
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	191.6	191.8	192.5	193.3	16.9	9.6	4.7	3.6	13.2	4.2
Appliances (including radio and TV) (not seasonally adjusted)	117.2	117.6	117.9	118.3	14.6	10.7	4.2	3.8	12.6	4.0
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	13.6	9.8	5.8	9.5	11.7	7.6
Food	170.9	171.8	174.4	177.4	20.2	12.5	-2.3	16.1	16.3	6.5
Housing	165.0	165.6	166.6	167.4	14.8	12.0	10.3	5.9	13.4	8.1
Shelter ²	168.1	168.9	169.7	170.4	13.0	12.0	10.1	5.6	12.5	7.8
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	135.9	136.4	136.9	137.3	5.9	6.2	4.2	4.2	6.1	4.2
Homeownership ³	180.1	181.2	182.1	182.7	15.8	13.6	11.9	5.9	14.7	8.9
Fuel and utilities ⁴	163.8	165.0	167.2	168.5	13.0	10.9	9.3	12.0	12.0	10.6
Gas and electricity	165.1	166.3	169.6	171.1	18.0	18.4	14.5	15.3	18.2	14.9
Household furnishings and operation	157.1	157.2	157.8	158.1	22.7	14.4	8.9	2.6	18.5	5.7
Apparel and upkeep	141.3	141.2	141.3	142.4	10.0	2.9	1.4	3.2	6.4	2.3
Transportation	146.5	147.0	148.8	151.5	9.5	2.0	8.6	14.4	5.7	11.5
Private	145.8	146.2	148.3	151.1	10.8	.8	9.6	15.4	5.7	12.4
Public	152.6	153.0	153.5	154.7	2.4	8.3	1.1	5.6	5.3	3.3
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	152.3	152.6	153.0	153.8	12.5	11.2	9.2	4.0	11.8	6.5
Medical care	165.8	166.8	167.9	169.6	14.8	12.8	11.6	9.5	13.8	10.6
Personal care	149.5	149.8	150.1	151.2	15.6	10.8	8.2	4.6	13.2	6.4
Reading and recreation	143.6	143.8	143.8	144.3	9.9	9.9	7.6	2.0	9.9	4.7
Other goods and services	146.9	147.4	147.4	147.5	11.2	10.6	5.6	1.6	10.9	3.6
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter	156.3	156.7	158.1	160.3	13.8	9.3	4.5	10.6	11.5	7.5
All items less medical care	158.4	158.9	160.1	162.0	13.3	10.1	5.5	9.4	11.7	7.4
All items less mortgage interest costs	156.5	157.1	158.3	160.3	13.2	9.6	5.3	10.1	11.4	7.6
CPI — domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted)	168.2	169.1	172.9	178.8	12.8	10.3	-1.2	27.7	11.6	12.3
CPI — selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted)	153.2	166.3	177.7	188.3	16.0	-19.1	-8.4	128.2	-3.1	44.6

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

Table 3. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, July 1975 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

1987=100	Index					Percent change to July 1975 from—						Index					Percent change to July 1975 from—				
Item and group	July 1975		July 1974	June 1975		Item and group	July 1975		July 1974	June 1975			July 1975		July 1974	June 1975					
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted		Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted		Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted				
Food	178.6	177.4	11.3	2.4	1.7	Food—Continued															
Food away from home	174.2	174.2	8.6	.6	.5	Food at home—Continued															
Restaurant meals	173.0	173.2	7.9	.6	.7	Fruits and vegetables—Continued															
Snacks	180.2	180.4	12.0	.9	.8	Fresh fruits and vegetables—Continued															
Food at home	179.9	178.3	12.0	2.9	1.9	Fresh fruits—Continued															
Cereals and bakery products	184.6	185.0	10.7	-.3	-.3	Oranges	159.2	159.2	7.3	4.5	3.0										
Flour	161.0	162.6	-5.7	-3.1	-3.0	Orange juice, fresh	146.6	146.7	5.9	0	.1										
Cracker meal	242.4	242.6	27.2	-.2	.5	Grapefruit	198.0	183.0	28.5	13.1	6.9										
Corn flakes	166.6	165.8	22.4	-1.1	.2	Grapes	250.2	215.5	15.0	11.2	0										
Rice	217.2	219.6	-11.0	-1.1	0	Strawberries	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)										
Bread, white	164.2	164.2	2.6	-1	-.2	Watermelon	194.1	203.9	15.4	-19.8	.2										
Bread, whole wheat	175.9	176.4	7.6	-.4	-.9	Fresh vegetables	207.6	189.4	5.1	16.7	17.6										
Cookies	183.7	184.3	27.8	.8	.5	Potatoes	273.2	228.6	-1.7	47.5	44.5										
Layer cake	193.1	194.3	23.5	-.3	.1	Onions	240.5	225.8	62.7	12.0	11.2										
Cinnamon rolls	196.1	196.9	20.3	-.6	0	Asparagus	196.0	198.2	10.9	15.2	11.6										
Meats, poultry, and fish	187.7	185.7	21.4	5.9	3.5	Cabbage	158.9	155.9	-.8	-10.6	-4.0										
Meats	188.5	186.3	22.4	6.0	3.6	Carrots	184.4	174.6	16.4	.3	-1.5										
Beef and veal	186.4	182.9	15.8	5.5	2.9	Celery	175.1	160.9	1.0	7.9	1.8										
Steak, round	189.1	191.2	19.2	4.4	5.2	Cucumbers	162.2	169.0	11.9	-4.9	2.5										
Steak, sirloin	193.4	186.7	27.5	7.3	3.6	Lettuce	137.2	128.0	-24.3	-10.8	-7.3										
Steak, porterhouse	201.6	195.2	30.8	8.2	4.8	Peppers, green	197.9	201.7	5.4	22.8	41.0										
Rump roast	182.9	184.9	17.4	4.2	5.2	Spinach	190.7	187.9	6.7	6.4	4.7										
Rib roast	217.7	214.9	34.5	12.1	9.5	Tomatoes	230.3	214.6	38.0	22.0	24.8										
Chuck roast	199.8	202.0	24.3	8.5	7.8	Processed fruits and vegetables	174.7	175.6	1.2	-.2	.1										
Hamburger	173.9	171.8	6.0	3.9	2.1	Fruit cocktail, canned	177.4	177.9	15.5	.3	.1										
Beef liver	149.2	147.9	-1.6	3.1	3.1	Pears, canned	165.2	165.7	18.2	.1	.4										
Veal cutlets	198.4	195.7	1.4	2.8	1.4	Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned	173.5	173.3	30.7	.9	.6										
Pork	204.9	202.5	40.4	9.0	5.6	Orange juice concentrate, frozen	153.7	153.4	9.1	1.1	.7										
Chops	201.8	198.8	32.1	11.3	7.1	Lemonade concentrate, frozen	183.9	185.8	35.9	-4.5	-3.8										
Loin roast	216.3	216.1	36.4	12.6	10.0	Beets, canned	188.3	188.9	17.6	-.7	-.6										
Sausage	219.6	219.6	38.5	6.3	3.9	Peas, green, canned	163.8	163.8	28.0	1.2	.6										
Ham, whole	179.6	182.5	36.4	5.1	4.0	Tomatoes, canned	177.3	177.5	20.4	.4	.4										
Picnics	183.2	187.9	26.9	10.4	10.3	Dried beans	199.8	201.6	-52.2	-.3	.3										
Bacon	218.6	217.5	65.1	7.6	5.1	Broccoli, frozen	153.4	153.1	13.0	.3	.5										
Other meats	170.1	169.9	13.2	2.2	1.4	Other food at home	177.6	180.5	12.1	-.6	-.8										
Lamb chops	177.5	174.9	10.9	1.5	.9	Eggs	144.6	159.3	13.1	5.4	1.9										
Frankfurters	170.2	170.4	18.8	1.8	.1	Fats and oils	191.7	193.8	11.3	-2.1	-1.8										
Ham, canned	169.0	172.3	19.2	1.0	.9	Margarine	211.6	213.1	8.8	-2.0	-2.4										
Bologna sausage	176.8	176.8	14.6	3.8	2.6	Salad dressing, Italian	155.6	156.1	20.2	-1.6	-1.5										
Salami sausage	162.5	161.7	6.8	2.6	1.4	Salad or cooking oil	207.9	211.1	8.2	-2.4	-1.9										
Liverwurst	164.0	164.3	9.7	2.6	1.8	Sugar and sweets	228.9	228.7	17.3	-3.3	-3.1										
Poultry	172.8	172.3	26.9	9.6	8.4	Sugar	223.0	222.1	-16.2	-14.5	-14.5										
Frying chicken	180.2	178.9	31.4	11.2	9.7	Grape jelly	235.3	234.4	33.9	.9	.8										
Chicken breasts	170.6	170.3	22.8	8.9	8.1	Chocolate bar	240.9	240.9	25.7	.2	1.0										
Turkey	140.1	140.7	7.9	.6	-.8	Syrup, chocolate flavored	215.3	217.7	37.5	-.2	.9										
Fish	202.9	203.1	7.8	1.2	1.3	Nonalcoholic beverages	174.1	173.2	10.1	-.5	-.7										
Shrimp, frozen	181.1	180.6	7.2	3.6	3.7	Coffee	164.5	164.3	.7	0	-.1										
Fish, fresh or frozen	218.6	218.8	1.0	.2	.1	Coffee, instant	173.1	172.4	7.4	.1	.5										
Tuna fish, canned	171.4	171.1	.3	-.9	-.3	Tea	146.5	146.2	21.7	-.2	-.1										
Sardines, canned	238.5	240.4	21.1	1.7	2.1	Carbonated drink, cola flavored	198.0	197.6	19.4	-1.2	-1.2										
Dairy products	153.4	154.0	1.2	.1	.5	Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	201.3	200.7	20.7	-1.2	-1.1										
Milk, fresh, grocery	149.8	150.6	-1.8	-.2	.4	Prepared and partially prepared foods	161.7	161.9	10.4	-.4	-.3										
Milk, fresh, skim	165.5	166.0	.2	.2	.8	Bean soup, canned	178.0	177.8	2.0	-.4	-.1										
Milk, evaporated	181.9	182.3	4.1	.2	.6	Chicken soup, canned	135.6	136.0	3.0	1.0	.9										
Ice cream	150.3	149.9	12.0	0	-.5	Spaghetti, canned	163.3	163.3	12.5	.6	.6										
Cheese, American process	172.0	172.5	3.5	1.2	1.5	Mashed potatoes, instant	156.1	155.3	9.7	-.3	-.3										
Butter	116.0	117.9	6.4	.1	-.1	Potatoes, french fried, frozen	165.0	164.7	7.8	-.1	-.4										
Fruits and vegetables	188.8	178.6	5.7	6.4	5.6	Baby foods	161.6	161.4	15.0	-.1	.1										
Fresh fruits and vegetables	198.4	180.5	8.5	10.8	9.3	Sweet pickle relish	169.9	171.6	20.7	-.6	-.4										
Fresh fruits	187.1	170.4	13.6	3.6	1.4	Pretzels	162.7	162.2	13.1	-2.8	-2.4										
Apples	206.3	174.8	9.0	10.7	3.1																
Bananas	160.8	154.6	28.5	-3.7	-3.7																

¹ Priced only in season.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to July 1975 from—	
		June 1975	July 1975	July 1974	June 1975
Housing		166.4	167.1	10.7	0.4
Shelter ¹		169.4	170.2	10.2	.5
Rent, residential		136.9	137.3	5.1	.3
Homeownership ²		181.4	182.3	11.7	.5
Mortgage interest rates		140.2	140.0	.2	-.1
Property taxes		158.0	158.4	5.7	.3
Property insurance premiums		130.6	131.8	6.2	.9
Maintenance and repairs		186.9	188.1	8.0	.6
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		161.5	162.0	4.6	.3
Exterior house paint		154.4	154.6	13.4	.1
Interior house paint		146.8	147.2	10.3	.3
Maintenance and repair services		197.9	199.3	9.3	.7
Repainting living and dining rooms		209.0	211.1	9.7	1.0
Reshingling house roof		217.0	218.5	9.1	.7
Residing house		186.5	187.6	8.5	.6
Replacing sink		194.6	195.5	10.5	.5
Repairing furnace		192.4	194.3	9.5	1.0
Fuel and utilities		166.9	168.0	11.3	.7
Fuel oil and coal		230.6	234.1	7.1	1.5
Fuel oil, No. 2		225.7	229.4	5.4	1.6
Gas and electricity		169.4	170.4	16.6	.6
Gas		173.8	172.8	20.6	-.6
Electricity		165.2	168.2	13.0	1.8
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		125.3	125.5	3.5	.2
Residential water and sewerage services		168.8	169.4	9.5	.4
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		158.1	158.3	12.0	.1
Housefurnishings		144.6	144.4	10.2	-.1
Textiles		142.9	138.9	5.5	-2.8
Sheets, full, flat		153.1	138.8	2.5	-9.3
Curtains, tailored		134.4	134.3	6.1	-.1
Bedspreads		146.7	143.5	4.2	-2.2
Drapery fabrics		168.3	167.4	7.7	-.5
Pillows, bed		120.2	115.2	6.4	-4.2
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made		133.8	133.2	6.2	-.4
Furniture and bedding		147.8	147.4	8.0	-.3
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	128.3	127.4	4.5	-.7
Sofas, upholstered		138.9	138.3	4.7	-.4
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	124.6	125.3	7.9	.6
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	130.2	129.6	6.0	-.5
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	109.5	108.0	1.0	-1.4
Sofas, dual purpose		137.6	137.5	6.3	-.1
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	130.1	130.7	9.6	.5
Aluminum folding chairs		174.7	173.4	37.1	-.7
Crib		148.3	149.3	8.0	.6
Floor coverings		128.7	129.5	8.2	.6
Broadloom carpeting		118.2	118.4	5.1	.2
Vinyl sheet goods		151.8	152.3	15.4	.3
Vinyl floor tile		154.2	158.3	13.2	2.7
Appliances (excluding radio and TV)		127.6	128.2	11.5	.5
Washing machines, electric		130.7	131.2	12.9	.4
Vacuum cleaners		116.6	117.4	8.7	.7
Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric		128.4	129.0	14.0	.5
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		129.1	130.2	13.5	.9
Clothes dryers, electric		136.4	136.6	12.6	.1
Air conditioners, demountable		124.3	124.8	9.3	.4
Room heaters, electric, portable		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Garbage disposal units		128.1	129.0	10.2	.7
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		175.9	176.7	18.3	.5
Flatware, stainless steel		170.6	174.0	16.7	2.0
Table lamps, with shade		144.8	145.6	7.1	.6
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		153.6	153.4	15.9	-.1
Electric drills, hand-held		124.0	123.6	9.0	-.3
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		161.3	162.1	22.5	.5
Paper napkins		206.0	208.5	24.7	1.2
Toilet tissue		210.6	211.8	34.9	.6
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		194.9	196.0	5.6	.6
Baby sitter services		192.2	192.0	11.4	-.1
Postal charges		175.3	175.3	0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		187.4	187.7	8.9	.2
Licensed day care services, preschool child		153.4	153.7	8.2	.2
Washing machine repairs		186.5	187.1	13.2	.3

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to July 1975 from—	
		June 1975	July 1975	July 1974	June 1975
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		141.4	141.1	4.3	-0.2
Apparel commodities		140.3	139.8	3.6	-.4
Apparel commodities less footwear		139.6	139.1	3.3	-.4
Men's and boys'		142.1	140.5	3.3	-1.1
Men's:					
Topcoats and all-weather coats		143.6	141.9	(?)	-1.2
Suits, year round weight		140.0	136.7	4.3	-.24
Sport jackets		103.0	93.9	-2.0	-8.8
Jackets, lightweight		135.1	134.6	7.3	-.4
Slacks, heavyweight		119.1	118.1	2.1	-.8
Slacks, lightweight		142.0	141.9	.6	-.1
Trousers, work		150.6	150.7	6.0	.1
Shirts, work		151.0	151.3	5.4	.2
Shirts, business or dress		128.4	127.6	4.6	-.6
T-shirts		154.0	154.0	7.3	0
Socks		128.5	128.7	5.5	.2
Handkerchiefs		153.6	152.9	5.9	-.5
Boys':					
Coats, heavyweight		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Sport coats, wool or wool blends		119.3	(5)	(5)	(5)
Dungarees		170.8	171.5	4.7	.4
Undershorts		150.4	151.3	6.2	.6
Women's and girls'		136.3	136.5	2.7	.1
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Carcoats, heavyweight		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Sweaters		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Skirts, winter weight		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Skirts, summer weight		155.3	141.5	8.1	-8.9
Blouses		142.5	138.8	5.4	-2.6
Dresses, street, year round weight		141.3	139.8	1.0	-1.1
Slips		115.6	117.2	2.0	1.4
Panties		140.1	140.0	8.6	-.1
Girdles		126.7	125.5	2.4	-.9
Brassieres		142.5	143.2	8.1	.5
Hose or panty hose, nylon		92.6	92.5	.3	-.1
Anklets or knee-length socks		132.6	132.1	6.3	-.4
Gloves, fabric		128.0	128.7	6.0	.5
Handbags		168.9	167.8	3.1	-.7
Girls':					
Raincoats		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Skirts, fall and winter		(5)	(5)	(5)	(5)
Dresses		127.6	127.1	-4.4	-.4
Slacks, fall and winter		163.9	167.0	(?)	1.9
Slips		126.6	126.9	8.6	.2
Handbags		140.5	138.9	-4.9	-1.1
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers		180.9	181.9	14.3	.6
Yard goods		159.3	159.1	-.4	-.1
Wrist watches, men's and women's		135.3	136.1	7.8	.6
Footwear		143.8	143.1	4.5	-.5
Men's:					
Shoes, street		147.1	146.9	2.9	-.1
Shoes, work, high		158.9	158.9	6.9	0
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump		139.3	136.4	3.9	-2.1
Shoes, evening, pump		131.9	131.2	3.1	-.5
Shoes, casual		145.3	142.1	4.9	-2.2
Houseslipppers, scuff		139.0	140.5	4.2	1.1
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford		144.1	143.7	2.9	-.3
Sneakers, boys', oxford type		148.6	149.0	7.4	.3
Dress shoes, girls'		151.7	152.3	8.3	.4
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning		150.2	150.8	10.6	.4
Automatic laundry service		132.9	134.3	7.4	1.1
Laundry, men's shirts		152.1	152.7	5.1	.4
Tailoring charges		152.3	152.7	3.0	.3
Shoe repairs		140.2	141.3	7.0	.8
Transportation		149.8	152.6	8.5	1.9
Private: ⁸					
Automobiles, new		149.3	152.3	9.0	2.0
Automobiles, used		127.0	126.6	7.3	-.3
Gasoline, regular and premium		147.5	153.2	19.8	3.9
Motor oil		170.6	177.9	6.1	4.3
Tires		155.0	155.7	5.7	.5
Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance		125.6	126.1	4.3	.4
Auto insurance premiums		176.2	177.2	12.9	.6
Auto registration fees		142.9	143.6	3.8	.5
Auto registration fees		130.8	130.8	1.5	0
Parking fees, private and municipal		171.1	173.2	8.7	1.2

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to July 1975 from—	
		June 1975	July 1975	July 1974	June 1975
Transportation—Continued					
Public		154.1	155.0	4.3	0.6
Local transit fares		147.4	148.7	.8	.9
Taxicab fares		168.0	168.0	9.0	0
Railroad fares, coach		151.7	152.4	8.5	.5
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		161.7	161.7	9.1	0
Bus fares, intercity		192.6	192.6	20.8	0
Health and recreation ⁷		153.2	154.0	9.2	.5
Medical care ¹⁰		168.1	169.8	12.2	1.0
Drugs and prescriptions		118.7	119.4	9.0	.6
Over-the-counter items		130.3	131.2	11.7	.7
Multiple vitamin concentrates		101.3	103.0	5.5	1.7
Aspirin compounds		132.5	134.2	9.6	1.3
Liquid tonics		115.8	116.9	9.9	.9
Adhesive bandages, packages		166.2	166.3	21.7	.1
Cold tablets or capsules		125.0	125.2	7.8	.2
Cough syrup		133.9	134.9	11.3	.7
Prescriptions		109.0	109.6	6.7	.6
Anti-infectives		71.0	71.2	3.6	.3
Sedatives and hypnotics		154.1	154.1	9.7	0
Ataractics		105.5	105.7	1.1	.2
Antispasmodics		123.9	125.5	14.0	1.3
Cough preparations		164.9	164.7	11.8	-.1
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		117.9	118.1	2.3	.2
Analgesics, internal		118.9	119.9	6.2	.8
Anti-obesity		(11)	(11)	(11)	(11)
Hormones		102.9	103.7	9.3	.8
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		168.8	169.7	11.4	.5
General physician, office visits		173.0	173.8	11.4	.5
General physician, house visits		169.4	170.5	11.7	.6
Obstetrical cases		166.8	167.5	10.9	.4
Pediatric care, office visits		172.1	173.2	12.3	.6
Psychiatrist, office visits		153.0	153.4	8.0	.3
Herniorrhaphy, adult		151.8	151.8	9.1	0
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		164.1	165.5	13.8	.9
Dentists' fees		161.8	163.0	10.6	.7
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		166.8	168.1	11.9	.8
Extractions, adult		160.7	161.6	9.7	.6
Dentures, full upper		152.6	153.8	8.5	.8
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		149.2	150.3	7.6	.7
Routine laboratory tests		153.1	154.0	13.1	.6
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	131.1	133.2	15.5	1.6
Semiprivate rooms		232.8	239.0	18.0	2.7
Operating room charges		237.2	240.6	20.6	1.4
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI		155.8	156.8	11.9	.6
Laboratory tests	Jan. 72	128.0	128.5	15.6	.4
Anti-infectives	Jan. 72	111.4	111.2	6.4	-.2
Tranquilizers	Jan. 72	117.3	117.4	8.0	.1
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	126.0	126.7	13.0	.6
Intravenous solution	Jan. 72	128.6	128.4	17.9	-.2
Physical therapy	Jan. 72	136.3	137.0	18.3	.5
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	118.6	119.3	6.9	.6
Personal care		150.3	151.2	9.7	.6
Toilet goods		149.7	150.8	12.5	.7
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		131.6	131.0	14.2	-.5
Toilet soap, hard-milled		194.9	196.6	10.3	.9
Hand lotions		153.6	153.8	14.6	.1
Shaving cream		124.7	126.0	14.1	1.0
Face powder		150.0	150.5	-3.8	.3
Deodorants		117.3	118.5	14.3	1.0
Cleansing tissues		197.5	201.8	29.3	2.2
Home permanent wave kits		120.1	119.8	6.7	-.2
Personal care services:					
Men's haircuts		150.9	151.5	6.9	.4
Beauty shop services		153.0	153.5	6.1	.3
Women's haircuts		149.4	150.1	7.6	.5
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		163.5	164.1	10.9	.4
Permanent waves, cold		152.3	152.8	7.2	.3
Reading and recreation ¹²		128.5	130.0	4.6	1.2
Recreational goods		144.1	144.4	7.3	.2
TV sets, portable and console		123.3	123.6	7.4	.2
TV replacement tubes		101.1	101.3	2.7	.2
Radios, portable and table models		156.9	157.2	12.4	.2
Tape recorders, portable		103.9	103.9	1.8	0
Phonograph records, stereophonic		95.3	95.2	-.2	-.1
Movie cameras, 8mm		122.5	122.7	8.2	.2
Film, 35mm, color		94.3	94.1	2.4	-.2
Golf balls		118.5	118.6	4.5	.1
		104.3	104.6	-.2	.3

See footnotes at end of table.

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

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to July 1975 from—	
		June 1975	July 1975	July 1974	June 1975
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation—Continued					
Recreational goods—Continued					
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		144.8	145.3	8.2	0.3
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		120.6	121.1	5.3	.4
Bowling balls		126.1	126.7	4.6	.5
Bicycles, boys'		144.1	144.5	6.6	.3
Tricycles		137.3	138.0	11.3	.5
Dog food, canned or boxed		169.4	169.6	16.0	.1
Recreational services		148.6	148.9	5.2	.2
Indoor movie admissions		171.2	172.2	7.6	.6
Adult		166.8	167.5	5.9	.4
Children's		183.3	185.2	12.1	1.0
Drive-in movie admissions		173.3	174.1	4.1	.5
Bowling fees, evening		137.0	137.0	5.9	0
Golf green fees		151.6	151.9	3.1	.2
TV repair		105.0	105.0	3.3	0
Film developing		123.5	122.5	3.0	-.8
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		174.3	175.4	9.4	.6
Magazines, single copy and subscription		170.4	170.4	21.0	0
Piano lessons, beginner		138.9	139.0	4.2	.1
Other goods and services		147.3	147.6	7.2	.2
Tobacco products		153.6	154.0	6.3	.3
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		155.7	155.9	6.3	.1
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		156.3	156.8	6.6	.3
Cigars, domestic, regular size		123.8	124.5	3.8	.6
Alcoholic beverages		142.1	142.2	7.9	.1
Beer, at home		140.9	140.7	11.5	-.1
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		113.7	113.7	2.9	0
Wine, dessert and table		154.2	154.7	5.0	.3
Beer, away from home		156.7	157.1	7.2	.3
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		143.2	143.4	5.9	.1
Bank service charges, checking account		120.1	120.2	16.2	.1
Legal services, short form will		187.0	188.5	6.0	.8

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 filters, 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 tuneup, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

¹⁰ Also includes health insurance not shown separately.

¹¹ Discontinued.

¹² Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks not shown separately.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items most recent index, and percent changes from selected dates

Area ¹	Pricing schedule ²	Indexes			Percent change from—		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases			
		July 1975			July 1974	April 1975	June 1975
U.S. city average	M	162.3	188.8		9.7	2.3	1.1
Chicago	M	158.3	179.8		8.3	1.5	1.2
Detroit	M	161.0	184.9		7.6	2.0	.7
Los Angeles—Long Beach	M	158.1	185.9		10.6	1.6	.9
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	M	166.6	198.2		7.8	1.8	.8
Philadelphia	M	165.0	192.7		8.7	2.3	.9
		July 1975			July 1974	April 1975	
Boston	1	163.0	195.2		8.9	2.5	
Houston	1	165.8	189.7		12.0	2.7	
Minneapolis—St. Paul	1	161.9	187.6		8.9	3.3	
Pittsburgh	1	161.7	185.9		9.0	2.5	
		May 1975			May 1974	February 1975	
Buffalo	2	160.4		³ 176.3	8.7	1.8	
Cleveland	2	159.5	180.1		9.2	1.1	
Dallas	2	155.8		³ 168.4	8.9	1.2	
Milwaukee	2	155.4	175.5		9.4	2.1	
San Diego	2	158.8		⁴ 166.9	9.4	1.0	
Seattle	2	154.5	181.5		10.9	1.8	
Washington	2	160.0	186.5		8.4	1.3	
		June 1975			June 1974	March 1975	
Atlanta	3	160.9	185.1		9.3	1.5	
Baltimore	3	164.7	191.2		8.8	1.1	
Cincinnati	3	160.8	182.5		10.4	3.1	
Honolulu	3	153.6		⁵ 165.6	8.8	1.5	
Kansas City	3	157.2	186.6		9.7	1.6	
St. Louis	3	156.7	183.0		11.0	2.8	
San Francisco—Oakland	3	158.6	188.7		10.3	1.7	

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.

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

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from June 1975 to July 1975

Expenditure class	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items	1.1	1.2	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.9
Food	2.4	2.5	2.3	1.5	2.4	2.5
Housing .....	.4	.2	-.9	.5	0	0
Apparel and upkeep	-.2	-.7	.1	-1.1	-.3	-1.2
Transportation	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.0	1.5	1.1
Health and recreation .....	.5	.9	.7	.7	.2	1.2
Medical care	1.0	1.5	1.5	.7	.8	3.3
Personal care .....	.6	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation .....	.2	.9	-.1	1.1	-.1	-.1
Other goods and services .....	.2	.2	-.1	.4	-.4	-.1

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

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

Group	U.S. city average	Boston	Chicago	Detroit	Houston	Los Angeles— Long Beach	Minne- apolis	New York— North- eastern New Jersey	Phila- delphia	Pitts- burgh
Indexes (1967=100)										
All items	162.3	163.0	158.3	161.0	165.8	158.1	161.9	166.6	165.0	161.7
Food	178.6	178.2	176.5	174.8	182.7	172.2	180.4	182.9	183.5	182.2
Food at home	179.9	179.1	177.4	175.0	181.2	175.2	177.8	185.2	182.9	181.9
Cereals and bakery products	184.6	188.7	179.9	190.6	176.7	185.2	190.6	187.5	189.1	191.7
Meats, poultry, and fish	187.7	183.8	187.9	180.5	191.7	185.9	187.8	189.7	194.4	189.0
Dairy products	153.4	146.0	143.4	156.4	166.2	150.2	156.5	157.7	152.3	147.8
Fruits and vegetables	188.8	190.7	193.5	173.0	184.9	175.8	179.7	198.2	188.3	197.8
Other food at home	177.6	179.5	172.1	170.6	176.0	171.4	174.0	184.3	179.8	177.2
Food away from home	174.2	174.5	172.8	174.7	188.0	163.7	191.8	176.2	185.9	184.3
Housing	167.1	166.6	156.7	162.3	172.3	162.5	169.7	172.0	170.2	165.1
Shelter	170.2	166.1	159.7	170.0	179.1	166.3	177.0	172.6	179.1	171.5
Rent, residential	137.3	149.4	133.1	(²)	125.6	135.0	132.8	(²)	146.5	129.3
Homeownership	182.3	173.5	171.9	176.8	197.8	175.9	184.7	187.0	187.7	183.7
Fuel and utilities	168.0	178.5	151.8	154.2	158.4	157.7	162.6	185.5	165.2	161.7
Fuel oil and coal	234.1	228.2	224.6	225.3	-	-	230.9	239.6	222.8	-
Gas and electricity	170.4	167.4	151.9	160.5	170.3	182.4	166.5	196.2	168.9	183.4
Household furnishings and operation	158.3	160.0	150.7	143.8	167.1	151.7	153.1	162.9	156.8	153.1
Apparel and upkeep	141.1	145.4	134.7	138.0	152.2	135.3	137.9	137.9	132.7	140.2
Men's and boys'	140.5	135.4	132.0	145.8	146.7	130.0	142.0	133.8	136.7	130.6
Women's and girls'	136.5	149.9	132.2	125.6	155.1	132.3	131.5	131.8	119.6	141.9
Footwear	143.1	142.4	136.4	145.8	151.3	139.2	143.3	139.0	138.6	145.6
Transportation	152.6	153.4	153.9	152.3	146.9	155.9	145.0	158.7	154.4	150.9
Private	152.3	154.0	152.1	151.4	145.6	157.7	145.5	155.9	155.0	151.5
Public	155.0	149.2	165.4	161.8	167.6	121.2	138.1	169.7	151.0	146.8
Health and recreation	154.0	153.2	154.8	161.2	159.6	147.9	152.9	159.3	159.8	152.8
Medical care	169.8	166.8	170.6	188.0	175.2	166.3	160.7	182.2	188.2	164.6
Personal care	151.2	149.1	(²)	152.4	162.1	(²)	153.6	(²)	144.8	142.3
Reading and recreation	144.4	149.8	146.8	144.3	144.1	133.7	149.6	148.1	147.8	143.7
Other goods and services	147.6	146.4	150.2	149.5	151.4	142.3	146.9	153.4	149.5	155.0
Percent changes April 1975 to July 1975										
All items	2.3	2.5	1.5	2.0	2.7	1.6	3.3	1.8	2.3	2.5
Food	4.3	4.2	2.5	4.2	3.5	3.5	3.9	4.3	5.3	4.7
Food at home	5.2	5.0	2.6	4.9	4.2	4.0	3.4	5.5	5.8	5.5
Cereals and bakery products	-2.3	-1.5	-7.9	-3.3	-5.3	-2.0	-2.5	-1.0	.4	-2.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	16.0	13.1	15.3	14.2	17.7	15.0	14.2	15.2	16.5	15.6
Dairy products	-9	-3.6	-5.5	-1	-5	-1.3	.5	-3	-1.0	-1.7
Fruits and vegetables	12.5	14.4	10.0	11.0	6.6	8.9	7.5	9.3	10.8	16.8
Other food at home	-5.7	-4.6	-9.7	-5.4	-5.5	-5.7	-5.7	-5.0	-5.9	-6.5
Food away from home	1.2	1.2	1.9	1.7	1.2	1.8	5.8	.5	2.7	.2
Housing	1.5	1.0	.2	0	2.2	-1.5	3.9	.9	.5	2.1
Shelter	1.6	1.2	.1	(²)	2.0	-1.9	5.6	1.1	.1	3.2
Rent, residential	1.0	.7	(²)	(²)	2.2	.8	1.3	(²)	3.9	1.8
Homeownership	1.6	1.3	-1.5	.1	1.9	-1.7	6.2	1.1	-2.2	3.6
Fuel and utilities	2.1	.8	1.5	-1	5.0	.6	.4	.5	1.9	1.6
Fuel oil and coal	2.2	2.8	7.5	3.9	-	-	5.1	2.0	1.4	-
Gas and electricity	2.5	-9	.5	-9	8.1	.7	-2	.4	3.6	2.4
Household furnishings and operation	1.0	.6	-3	-7	1.3	.7	1.0	.9	.4	-4
Apparel and upkeep	-1	.1	-1.6	.9	1.6	.1	-1.1	-1.4	-2.1	-1.0
Men's and boys'	-1.2	-2.3	-2.1	.2	1.7	.8	-7	-4.0	-5.8	-4.0
Women's and girls' .....	.4	.5	-2.2	2.6	1.6	-1.5	-1.7	-6	.3	.8
Footwear	-9	-1.0	-2.0	-1.4	.2	-1.4	-2.5	-1.1	-3.5	-1.8
Transportation	4.4	4.1	4.6	4.9	5.0	5.1	4.8	2.8	3.7	3.9
Private	4.7	4.4	5.3	5.1	5.3	5.2	5.0	3.3	4.4	4.2
Public	1.7	2.5	.3	1.8	1.2	3.1	2.8	1.0	-2	1.7
Health and recreation	1.2	2.7	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.4	1.6	.9	2.2	1.3
Medical care	2.4	2.1	3.9	2.8	3.7	2.3	2.8	2.2	5.0	4.0
Personal care	1.1	2.0	(²)	2.6	.3	(²)	2.0	(²)	.5	.7
Reading and recreation .....	.6	1.4	1.1	-4	.9	1.3	.7	.2	2.1	-6
Other goods and services .....	.5	5.4	.3	-1	.1	.6	.9	-3	-3	.5

¹ See footnote 1, table 1.

² Not available.

³ Change from May 1975.

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

Area ¹	Total food	Food at home						Food away from home
		Total	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish,	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Other foods at home	
	Indexes (1967=100)							
U.S. city average	178.6	179.9	184.6	187.7	153.4	188.8	177.6	174.2
Atlanta	184.8	188.7	189.0	194.6	165.1	202.9	186.0	171.9
Baltimore	182.2	183.2	179.1	189.5	150.8	201.5	182.8	177.9
Boston	178.2	179.1	188.7	183.8	146.0	190.7	179.5	174.5
Buffalo	178.9	179.3	194.0	185.6	147.3	188.6	177.8	176.8
Chicago	176.5	177.4	179.9	187.9	143.4	193.5	172.1	172.8
Cincinnati	181.0	185.3	194.5	189.6	162.2	195.3	181.1	165.0
Cleveland	178.6	179.9	191.8	187.5	151.9	184.8	176.7	172.0
Dallas	175.8	175.3	175.3	185.5	148.0	183.3	171.9	177.9
Detroit	174.8	175.0	190.6	180.5	156.4	173.0	170.6	174.7
Honolulu	177.8	177.0	193.2	180.2	164.1	169.8	173.4	179.3
Houston	182.7	181.2	176.7	191.7	166.2	184.9	176.0	188.0
Kansas City	179.9	182.3	184.3	185.8	172.5	184.0	182.0	172.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach	172.2	175.2	185.2	185.9	150.2	175.8	171.4	163.7
Milwaukee	173.0	174.6	184.5	181.4	147.3	187.9	170.9	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul	180.4	177.8	190.6	187.8	156.5	179.7	174.0	191.8
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	182.9	185.2	187.5	189.7	157.7	198.2	184.3	176.2
Philadelphia	183.5	182.9	189.1	194.4	152.3	188.3	179.8	185.9
Pittsburgh	182.2	181.9	191.7	189.0	147.8	197.8	177.2	184.3
St. Louis	179.2	181.1	198.0	184.0	156.1	192.8	175.5	170.5
San Diego	174.8	174.7	182.4	190.4	151.5	172.4	164.0	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland	175.1	180.6	182.9	193.6	151.5	183.0	177.2	155.8
Seattle	172.1	176.3	185.0	192.4	155.4	170.0	172.0	158.5
Washington	184.8	186.0	185.7	189.7	143.5	209.0	192.6	181.3
	Percent changes June 1975 to July 1975							
U.S. city average	2.4	2.9	-0.3	5.9	0.1	6.4	-0.6	0.6
Atlanta	3.0	3.9	0	8.4	1.5	6.5	0	.2
Baltimore	2.9	3.5	-.1	6.3	-.7	9.0	-.5	.3
Boston	3.2	3.8	.6	5.5	.3	9.9	.8	.8
Buffalo	2.1	2.3	-.6	5.9	-1.4	5.2	-.7	.6
Chicago	2.5	2.8	-.8	6.3	-.6	6.9	-2.1	1.3
Cincinnati	2.1	2.5	.6	4.8	1.2	5.2	-1.9	.8
Cleveland	2.1	2.3	2.5	4.9	-.8	3.2	-.8	.8
Dallas	2.6	3.2	-.2	7.5	.1	6.9	-1.5	.6
Detroit	2.3	2.6	-.8	5.4	.2	4.0	.5	1.1
Honolulu	1.8	1.4	.4	3.4	-.1	2.6	-1.0	2.5
Houston	1.7	2.0	-2.2	6.2	-.2	3.0	-.7	.8
Kansas City	1.9	2.3	-.9	6.8	-.5	4.4	-1.2	.5
Los Angeles—Long Beach	1.5	1.6	-1.1	5.0	.1	3.4	-1.6	1.0
Milwaukee	1.7	2.2	-1.0	5.9	-.1	3.4	-.9	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul	2.5	2.4	-1.5	6.2	.9	5.0	-.9	3.2
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	2.4	3.0	.2	5.6	.3	5.4	-.3	.4
Philadelphia	2.5	2.7	.3	6.2	-.5	4.8	-1.0	1.3
Pittsburgh	2.5	3.0	-.4	5.2	-.7	7.2	.7	-.2
St. Louis	2.5	3.1	.4	6.7	-.5	5.7	-.3	.2
San Diego	1.5	2.0	-.4	5.3	.1	4.5	-2.0	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland	2.0	2.3	-.3	6.0	0	2.8	-.9	.8
Seattle	1.4	1.7	-.3	4.3	-1.6	4.4	-.4	.4
Washington	2.6	3.5	-.2	7.7	-.8	6.4	-.2	.2

¹ See footnote 1, table 5.

² Not available.

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

(October 1973=100)

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Index		Percent change to July 1975 from—	Index		Percent change to July 1975 from—
	June 1975	July 1975		June 1975	July 1975	
U.S. city average ²	172.5	180.0	4.3	165.9	172.7	4.1
Atlanta	145.5	150.4	3.4	143.7	147.6	2.7
Baltimore	143.4	148.4	3.5	140.5	145.0	3.2
Boston	138.7	148.2	6.8	135.7	144.3	6.3
Buffalo	141.8	150.0	5.8	139.0	149.1	7.3
Chicago	137.3	145.2	5.8	134.5	141.5	5.2
Cincinnati	141.4	146.8	3.8	138.3	143.0	3.4
Cleveland	141.4	147.2	4.1	138.1	144.1	4.3
Dallas	149.4	158.1	5.8	145.1	152.1	4.8
Detroit	135.7	143.8	6.0	133.0	140.5	5.6
Honolulu	149.0	153.9	3.3	145.8	150.3	3.1
Houston	148.5	156.8	5.6	145.3	152.3	4.8
Kansas City	138.6	146.4	5.6	136.5	143.0	4.8
Los Angeles—Long Beach	140.4	145.9	3.9	137.6	142.9	3.9
Milwaukee	137.9	145.8	5.7	135.9	142.9	5.2
Minneapolis—St. Paul	141.0	148.2	5.1	139.4	145.7	4.5
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.	135.1	142.1	5.2	135.1	142.8	5.7
Philadelphia	141.4	146.2	3.4	139.5	144.0	3.2
Pittsburgh	141.9	147.6	4.0	138.0	143.2	3.8
St. Louis	137.4	143.6	4.5	135.5	141.4	4.4
San Diego	140.2	146.8	4.7	137.8	144.3	4.7
San Francisco—Oakland	139.8	144.7	3.5	137.4	142.2	3.5
Seattle	139.5	143.4	2.8	136.1	139.8	2.7
Washington	140.0	146.0	4.3	137.4	143.2	4.2

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

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

² 1967=100.

Table 10. Consumer Price Index—Regular and premium gasoline prices, selected areas and U.S. city averages for urban wage earners and clerical workers

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Average price per gallon					
	May 1975	June 1975	July 1975	May 1975	June 1975	July 1975
U.S. city average	\$0.550	\$0.567	\$0.591	\$0.591	\$0.607	\$0.632
Atlanta . . . . .	.556	.578	.598	.604	.622	.639
Baltimore . . . . .	.571	.587	.607	.613	.629	.649
Boston . . . . .	.549	.561	.600	.591	.602	.640
Buffalo . . . . .	.558	.571	.604	.597	.609	.653
Chicago . . . . .	.561	.577	.611	.601	.618	.650
Cincinnati . . . . .	.551	.573	.595	.593	.614	.635
Cleveland . . . . .	.557	.576	.599	.597	.615	.641
Dallas . . . . .	.512	.525	.556	.552	.564	.592
Detroit . . . . .	.545	.567	.600	.588	.608	.642
Honolulu . . . . .	.649	.673	.695	.684	.710	.732
Houston . . . . .	.497	.516	.544	.543	.560	.587
Kansas City . . . . .	.521	.530	.559	.564	.575	.602
Los Angeles—Long Beach . . . . .	.551	.567	.589	.591	.605	.629
Milwaukee . . . . .	.514	.531	.561	.562	.574	.604
Minneapolis—St. Paul . . . . .	.527	.557	.586	.575	.605	.633
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. . . . .	.560	.572	.602	.606	.619	.654
Philadelphia . . . . .	.547	.565	.584	.598	.618	.638
Pittsburgh . . . . .	.554	.568	.590	.592	.610	.633
St. Louis . . . . .	.547	.559	.584	.588	.601	.627
San Diego . . . . .	.569	.580	.607	.609	.618	.648
San Francisco—Oakland . . . . .	.583	.597	.618	.622	.637	.660
Seattle . . . . .	.548	.562	.577	.588	.602	.618
Washington . . . . .	.569	.579	.604	.614	.626	.652

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

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

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

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

A Note About Calculating Index Changes

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

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

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

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

<i>Index Point Change</i>	
CPI	123.8
Less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
Equals index point change:	0.6
<i>Percent Change</i>	
Index point difference,	<u>0.6</u>
Divided by the previous index,	123.2
Equals,	0.005
Results multiplied by one hundred	0.005x100
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 montly, quarterly, and annual

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

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

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

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

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1973 data which was included in the CPI report through January 1975.

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

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