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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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November 1977

# CPI Detailed Report

For September 1977

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

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# Price Movements

September 1977

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.4 percent in September before seasonal adjustment to 184.0 percent of its 1967 base. The September CPI was 6.6 percent higher than in September 1976.

## Seasonally adjusted changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI rose 0.3 percent in September, the same as in August. The July increase was 0.4 percent. The CPI rose moderately in September for the third consecutive month as prices for food and other commodities continued to show small increases. Food prices increased 0.1 percent in September, and prices of nonfood commodities rose 0.2 percent. Charges for consumer services rose 0.5 percent in September, the same as in August, and less than the average monthly increase of 0.8 percent in the first 7 months of this year.

## Changes in the third quarter

For the 3 months ended in September, the CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.2 percent; this was noticeably slower than the 8.1 percent rise in the quarter ended in June, the 10 percent rise in the quarter ended in March, and the same as in the final quarter of 1976. (See table B.) The slowdown occurred primarily in the food and nonfood commodities components, reflecting larger supplies of farm and energy products this summer compared with last winter and a slackening in consumer demand since spring.

*Food.* The rise in retail food prices slowed to a 1.7 percent rate in the third quarter as food prices at the processors' level declined at a 7.5 percent rate. In the first half year, food prices at both retail and processors' levels advanced at rates exceeding 13 percent. The decline at the processors' level—which was broad based—reflected lower prices at the farm level. Prices for crude foods and feeds declined at

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

Month	Changes from preceding month								Changes in all items	
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services		Compound annual rate from 3 months ago	From 12 months ago
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed
1976:										
September .....	0.4	0.3	-0.4	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.8	0.5	5.3	5.5
October .....	.4	.3	0	.2	.4	.4	.5	.4	4.8	5.3
November .....	.3	.3	-.3	-.3	.4	.4	.5	.4	4.0	5.0
December .....	.3	.4	.3	.1	.2	.6	.4	.4	4.2	4.8
1977:										
January .....	.6	.8	.9	.9	0	.7	.9	.9	6.1	5.2
February .....	1.0	1.0	2.3	2.0	.6	.7	.6	.6	9.1	6.0
March .....	.6	.6	.5	.6	.6	.4	.7	.8	10.0	6.4
April .....	.8	.8	1.2	1.5	.6	.4	.7	.8	9.9	6.8
May .....	.6	.6	.4	.7	.7	.4	.5	.7	8.4	6.7
June .....	.7	.6	1.0	.8	.4	.2	.7	.8	8.1	6.9
July .....	.4	.4	.5	.1	.1	.1	.8	.8	6.4	6.7
August .....	.4	.3	.3	.3	.2	.3	.5	.5	5.2	6.6
September .....	.4	.3	-.4	.1	.4	.2	.7	.5	4.2	6.6

a 12 percent rate in the second quarter and at a 27.3 percent rate in the third quarter. Prices of intermediate materials used in food manufacturing also declined in the third quarter—at a 33.9 percent rate—following sharp advances in the first two quarters of this year. (See table B.)

An important turnaround in food prices in the third quarter was for coffee. With prices of green coffee moving down since the second quarter as a result of a sharp cut-back in coffee purchases by consumers, roasters and retailers reduced their prices in the third quarter. However, the declines were small relative to the sharp advances recorded during 1976 and particularly in the first two quarters of this year.

Prices for pork, poultry, and eggs also declined at both the retail and processors' levels in the third quarter in response to increased output which was reflected in declining prices at the farm level. Beef prices declined at the retail level reflecting earlier declines in prices at the proc-

essors' level as well as increased competition from large supplies of pork and poultry; however, beef prices at the processors' level and cattle prices at the farm level turned up in the third quarter; the increase was primarily due to strong demand which bolstered cow prices; heavy slaughter continued to depress steer prices.

Although prices rose at the retail level for other foods such as dairy products, cereal and bakery products, salad and cooking oils, and sugar and sweets, increases in the third quarter were smaller than earlier in the year. Price rises at retail slowed as prices for these products turned down at the processors' level for the first quarterly decline this year. The downturn in processors' prices reflected earlier declines in prices for raw commodities and ingredients such as wheat, flour, raw sugar, cocoa beans, soybeans, and milk used in processed dairy products.

Prices for wheat, corn, and soybeans—which have a widespread impact on food production costs and prices—

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

Index	3 months ending (compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted)						
	1976				1977		
	March	June	September	December	March	June	September
<i>Consumer Price Index</i>							
All items . . . . .	3.9	6.1	5.3	4.2	10.0	8.1	4.2
Food . . . . .	-5.4	6.2	1.6	0	14.6	12.7	1.7
Commodities less food . . . . .	4.0	5.6	5.5	5.7	7.4	4.2	2.7
Services . . . . .	10.6	6.5	7.5	5.1	9.8	9.4	7.4
All items less food and energy items . . .	8.0	5.8	6.5	4.6	8.3	7.1	4.6
Commodities less food and energy items . . . . .	5.5	5.7	5.3	4.7	7.3	4.1	2.8
Services less energy items . . . . .	10.6	6.5	6.9	4.0	9.4	9.7	6.6
Energy items (gas, electricity, fuel oil, coal, gasoline, motor oil) . .	-5.9	10.9	10.9	13.1	7.7	9.8	6.7
<i>Wholesale Price Index</i>							
All commodities . . . . .	1.3	6.6	3.5	7.1	10.2	3.6	1.9
Farm products and processed foods and feeds . . . . .	-10.1	13.4	-12.0	6.6	19.1	-2.5	-17.0
Crude foods and feeds . . . . .	-12.0	21.0	-25.0	6.2	26.5	-12.0	-27.3
Intermediate materials for food manufacturing . . . . .	-4.3	15.5	-27.4	-8.0	25.7	28.4	-33.9
Consumer foods . . . . .	-13.9	13.2	-13.6	8.4	12.7	13.8	-7.5
Industrial commodities . . . . .	5.3	4.8	8.0	7.6	7.9	5.3	7.6
Crude materials except foods <sup>1</sup> . . . .	5.6	16.4	10.6	21.8	21.7	-2.0	8.9
Intermediate materials except foods . . . . .	6.0	3.5	8.3	7.1	7.6	4.7	7.8
Producers' finished goods . . . . .	7.3	4.3	4.7	9.2	5.5	6.3	5.6
Consumer finished goods except foods . . . . .	3.1	3.6	7.7	5.2	8.5	6.5	5.2
Industrial except fuels . . . . .	7.3	4.3	6.7	6.1	6.4	4.0	7.2

<sup>1</sup> Crude materials, excluding foods, feeds, and fibers.

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

Index	Index	3 months ending (compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted)						
		1976				1977		
		March	June	September	December	March	June	September
Consumer Price Index . . .		3.9	6.1	5.3	4.2	10.0	8.1	4.2
Consumer goods . . . . .	CPI	.2	6.0	3.9	3.4	10.4	7.4	2.3
	WPI	-3.5	6.9	-5	6.3	9.9	9.2	.4
Food <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	CPI	-5.4	6.2	1.6	0	14.6	12.7	1.7
	WPI	-13.9	13.2	-13.6	8.4	12.7	13.8	-7.5
Meats, poultry, fish . . .	CPI	-20.2	6.3	-16.3	-7.9	8.6	8.7	-2.2
	WPI	-29.2	-1.1	-25.6	21.0	-2.8	-.7	-.7
Dairy products . . . . .	CPI	5.5	7.2	11.6	-8.9	-.7	15.0	6.3
	WPI	-10.8	11.6	2.1	-10.6	1.2	27.7	-2.2
Cereal and bakery products . . . . .	CPI	-5.0	7.6	1.5	-9.5	2.7	9.5	8.3
	WPI	2.3	7.3	-12.7	-9.5	9.7	9.2	-.9
Fresh fruits and vegetables . . . . .	CPI	-14.0	-14.1	34.8	25.6	63.9	-33.7	1.5
	WPI	-26.8	-58.2	156.3	-10.2	106.7	-69.6	87.9
Commodities less food . . .	CPI	4.0	5.6	5.5	5.7	7.4	4.2	2.7
	WPI	3.1	3.6	7.7	5.2	8.5	6.5	5.2
Nondurables less food <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	CPI	1.8	5.0	6.0	5.4	5.5	5.2	4.2
	WPI	2.4	3.8	9.1	9.5	9.5	7.0	4.8
Apparel less footwear . . . . .	CPI	3.4	4.3	6.2	1.9	4.4	4.6	2.1
	WPI	7.6	6.9	3.8	4.9	10.2	2.5	2.7
Footwear . . . . .	CPI	5.3	6.1	6.6	3.5	5.3	4.4	2.1
	WPI	11.6	11.0	8.3	4.5	6.7	5.4	3.1
Gasoline <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	CPI	-13.6	7.2	10.2	9.5	2.6	4.2	2.2
	WPI	-15.5	-2.4	21.6	23.0	3.1	6.7	-5.8
Fuel oil <sup>3</sup> . . . . .	CPI	-1.9	7.7	11.2	8.7	28.1	10.9	7.9
	WPI	-9.4	-4.2	17.8	14.1	25.1	13.4	7.2
Tobacco products . . .	CPI	7.3	1.8	2.0	6.6	5.7	1.5	9.7
	WPI	5.7	5.4	5.6	16.6	12.0	-.2	43.1
Durables <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	CPI	7.2	6.5	5.0	6.0	10.5	2.5	1.0
	WPI	4.0	3.1	5.1	3.3	7.0	6.0	5.4
New cars . . . . .	CPI	4.6	1.5	6.4	6.9	4.1	4.0	5.8
	WPI	3.5	3.5	7.9	5.7	4.2	7.2	8.5
Furniture . . . . .	CPI	3.8	.5	1.3	7.6	2.9	4.2	3.3
	WPI	5.5	6.5	6.1	5.8	4.6	7.5	3.2
Appliances including radio and television . . . . .	CPI	5.8	4.7	1.6	1.0	2.3	3.2	1.9
	WPI	2.7	3.7	1.0	-2.0	2.3	3.7	-.3
Services . . . . .	CPI	10.6	6.5	7.5	5.1	9.8	9.4	7.4
Rent . . . . .	CPI	6.1	5.4	5.4	5.3	6.3	6.3	7.0
Household less rent . . . . .	CPI	8.9	6.5	6.8	2.0	12.2	10.8	8.3
Medical care . . . . .	CPI	13.0	8.2	8.9	13.2	9.4	10.0	8.6
Transportation . . . . .	CPI	20.3	7.0	10.3	6.4	8.9	11.1	5.4
Other services . . . . .	CPI	7.7	5.4	6.9	5.8	6.7	5.8	6.2

<sup>1</sup> Includes items not listed.<sup>2</sup> CPI includes motor oil.<sup>3</sup> CPI includes coal.

NOTE: Consumer goods represent 62.5 percent and services 36.5 percent of all items in the Consumer Price Index. Consumer goods represent 30 percent of all commodities in the Wholesale Price Index.

declined sharply in the third quarter as harvests this summer pointed to large supplies for the 1977-78 marketing year. Both corn and soybean crops are expected to surpass last year's record and the wheat crop is expected to be just slightly less than last year's record.

Raw sugar prices, which declined in the second quarter, turned up in the third quarter. The increase, which occurred in August, was primarily due to expectations of government action to boost sugar prices. Prices declined again late in the quarter following reports of increased supplies in the

world market. Cocoa bean prices also turned up in the third quarter. Ghana, the largest producer of cocoa beans, raised its prices as the world supply remained tight; in addition, the crop in Brazil—the second largest producer—is expected to be reduced because of adverse weather conditions.

Prices for fresh fruits and vegetables turned up in the third quarter and prices of processed fruits and vegetables continued to increase at the retail, processors' and farm levels. Although prices of most fruits and vegetables have moved erratically from quarter-to-quarter, prices for fresh orange juice and frozen orange concentrates have been moving up steadily this year because of the effects of last winter's freeze in Florida and the smaller California-Arizona valencia crop this year.

*Consumer goods other than food.* During the third quarter of 1977, prices for consumer goods other than food rose at an annual rate of 2.7 percent at the retail level. This was the smallest increase in any calendar quarter since September 1973 and it was down from the 5.8 percent rate in the first half year. At the primary market level, the rise in these prices moderated to a 5.2 percent rate from June to September, following a 7.5 percent rate of advance registered from December to June.

The slowdown in the CPI component was primarily due to a sharp decline in used car prices (which are not included in the WPI). Used car prices declined in each month during the third quarter reflecting weak demand especially for large-size cars. House prices—which are also in the CPI component but not in the WPI—rose at a faster rate in the third quarter than in either of the first two quarters of this year. The CPI for commodities excluding food, used cars, and houses—which would be most nearly comparable to the WPI for consumer finished goods excluding foods—rose at a 4.0 percent rate in the third quarter, slightly less than the 4.6 percent rate in the second quarter, and the 5.2 percent rate in the first quarter.

Prices increased less in the third quarter for apparel, appliances, furniture, and footwear at both the retail and manufacturers' levels. A smaller rise in consumer demand this summer than in the first half year as well as slower rise in prices of some materials contributed to the slowdown. Among energy products, the WPI for gasoline moved down, and prices for retail gasoline increased less than in the second quarter. Fuel oil prices at the retail and manufacturing levels continued to advance but at rates much slower than those posted in the first quarter. Record seasonal stocks as a result of abundant crude oil inventories and increased production of refined petroleum products contributed to these developments.<sup>1</sup>

New car price indexes in both the WPI and CPI rose at a faster rate in the third quarter than in the first two quarters

of this year. The acceleration was primarily due to price increases on imported cars following a decline in the value of the dollar in international markets. Also, year-end discounts on domestic cars were smaller-than-usual because of strong demand.

Prices of tobacco products advanced sharply in the third quarter at both the retail and manufacturers' levels primarily due to higher costs for leaf tobacco.

Materials costs are important factors which affect manufacturers' prices. In the third quarter, prices of industrial materials at the intermediate stage of process rose at a 7.8 percent rate, faster than the 4.7 percent rate in the second quarter, and about the same as the rates posted in the first quarter of this year and in the fourth quarter of 1976. Sharply higher prices for some kinds of construction materials and metals accounted for much of the third quarter rise.

Among other intermediate industrial materials, prices were higher from June to September for liquefied petroleum gas, electric power, and motor vehicle parts. On the other hand, prices moved down after increasing during the second quarter for inedible fats and oils, leather, and most kinds of textile products.

Prices for crude materials excluding foods, feeds, and fibers moved up at an 8.9 percent annual rate in the third quarter after declining slightly in the second quarter. Most of the increase was due to higher prices for natural gas and crude petroleum reflecting upward adjustments in regulated prices. Both ferrous and nonferrous scrap metal quotations declined, partly as a result of sluggish domestic steel production and continued excess production and inventories of copper.

*Services.* Prices of consumer services rose at an annual rate of 7.4 percent in the third quarter, compared with rates of 9.8 and 9.4 percent in the first and second quarters of 1977. The rate of price increase in transportation service in the third quarter was less than one-half the rate of increase in the previous quarter. In addition, charges for household services excluding rent and medical care services rose less in the September quarter than in the previous 3-month period. Residential rent charges rose at a rate of 7.0 percent, slightly more than in the first and second quarters of 1977.

In the transportation services sector, auto insurance rates rose at the slowest rate since early 1975. It appeared that the sizable rate increases for auto insurance throughout most of 1975 and 1976 enabled companies to replenish reserves which had been liquidated during the 1973-75 period, when underwriting losses were heavy. Increased profits in 1977 permitted some insurance companies to pay consumers dividends and postpone further rate hikes. In the public transportation sector, smaller increases in the third quarter were noted for local transit fares, taxicab charges, railroad and bus fares. Also, in the third quarter,

<sup>1</sup> Gasoline and fuel oil prices in the WPI are lagged one month but are current in the CPI.

airline fares rose for the third time in 1977, as the Civil Aeronautics Board agreed for the first time to consider future airline costs on fare increase requests.

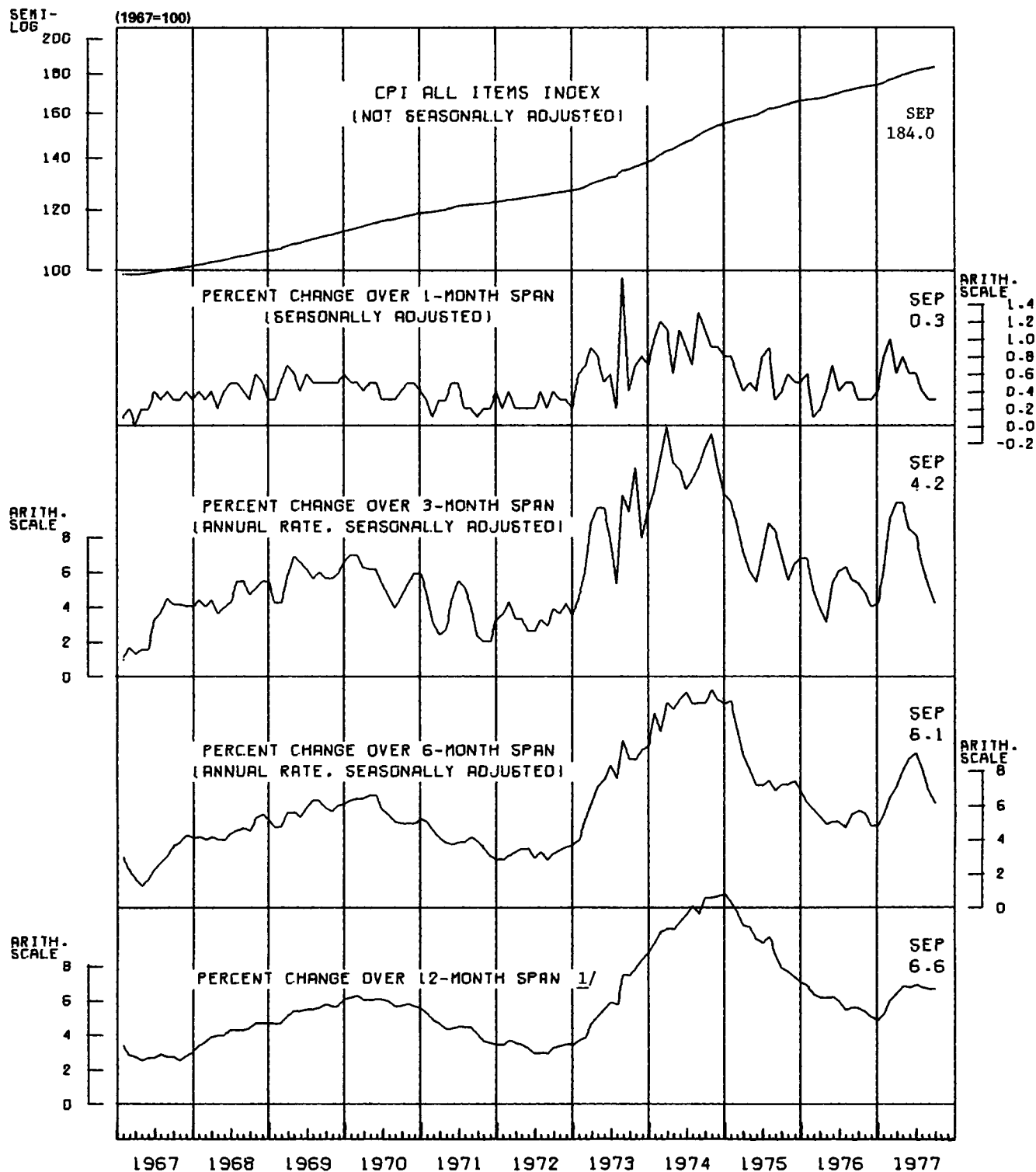
The rate of increase in household services other than rent slowed to 8.3 percent from its 10.8 percent rate in the second quarter. Mortgage interest rates turned down in the third quarter as the amount of lendable funds continued to be adequate despite the continued surge in new home construction and subsequent demand for mortgage funds. Property taxes increased at the smallest rate in over a year. Charges for housekeeping and home repair services also increased at a slower rate in the third quarter. On the other hand, charges for natural gas and electricity continued to increase rapidly—13.2 percent-rate in the September quarter compared with a rate of 12.1 percent in the previous 3 months. Consumer electric bills rose sharply when many areas were granted rate increases and higher costs for coal, petroleum, and other fuels were passed through. Gas prices also continued to increase sharply in the third quarter as

rate hikes were noted in many large metropolitan areas including Los Angeles, Houston, San Francisco, Baltimore, and San Diego.

Medical care services also increased at a slower rate in the third quarter, as the rate of change for physicians' fees decelerated slightly. There were signs that advances in some physicians' expenses such as medical malpractice insurance were easing somewhat. Hospital service charges continued to increase at an annual rate above 10 percent for the third consecutive quarter. Large increases were noted for semi-private and operating room rates.

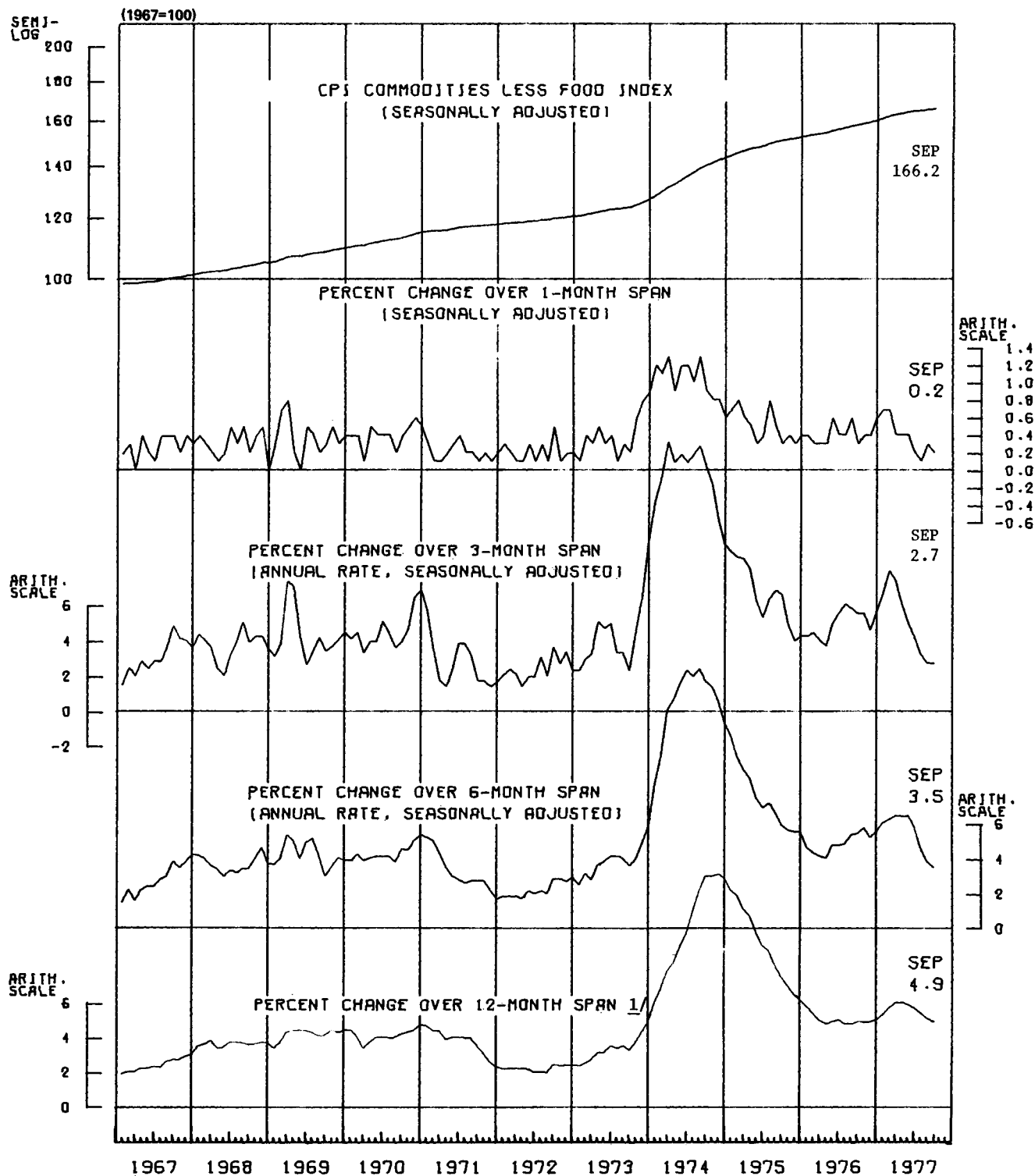
Other types of services, including personal care, recreational, and apparel services rose at an annual rate of 6.2 percent, slightly higher than in the June quarter. Charges for these services—which traditionally are more susceptible to discretionary spending than most household or medical care services—continued to advance as higher labor, material, and overhead changes were passed through to consumers.

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



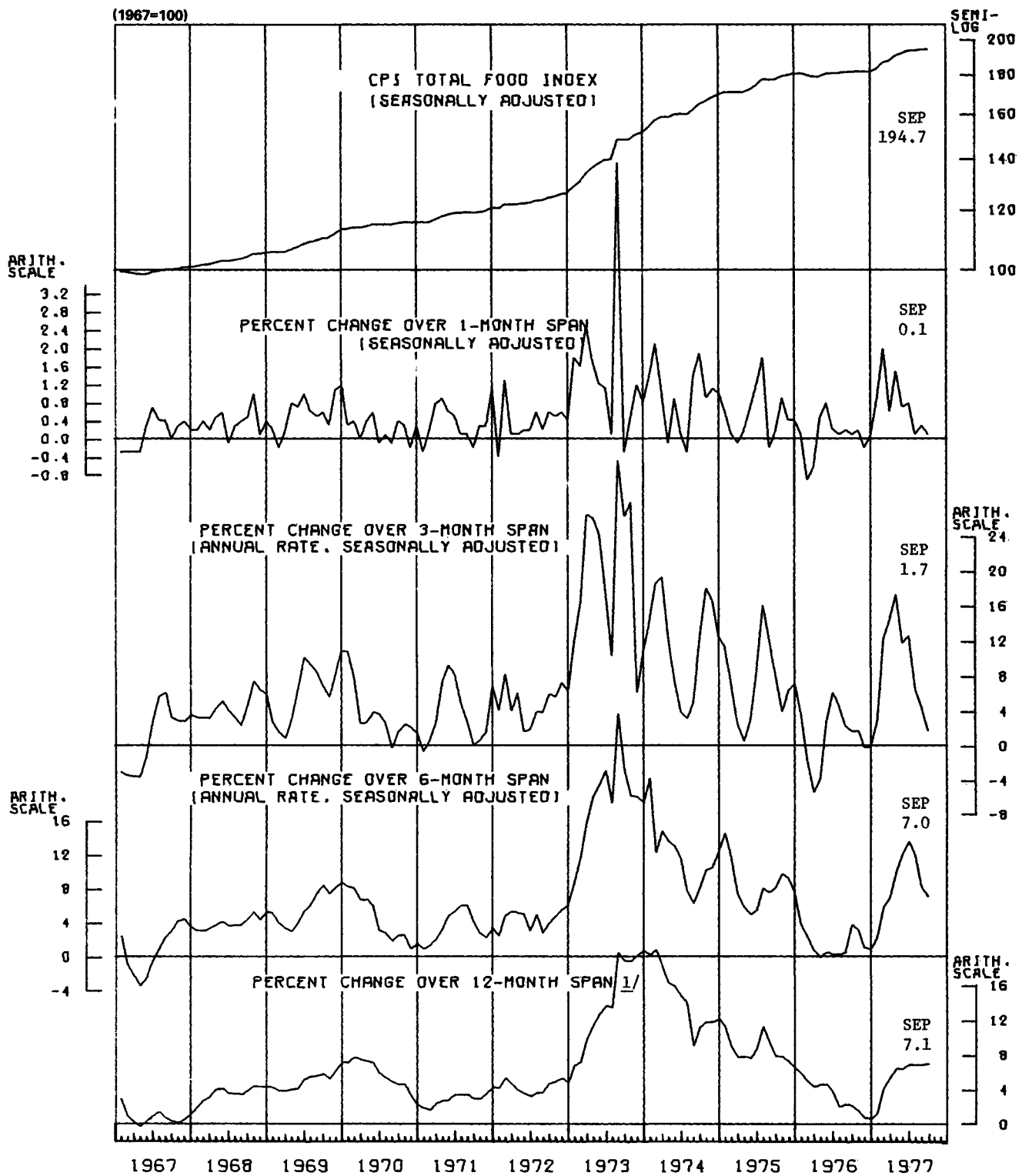
<sup>1/</sup> Computed from the unadjusted series.  
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**Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rate of change, 1967-77**



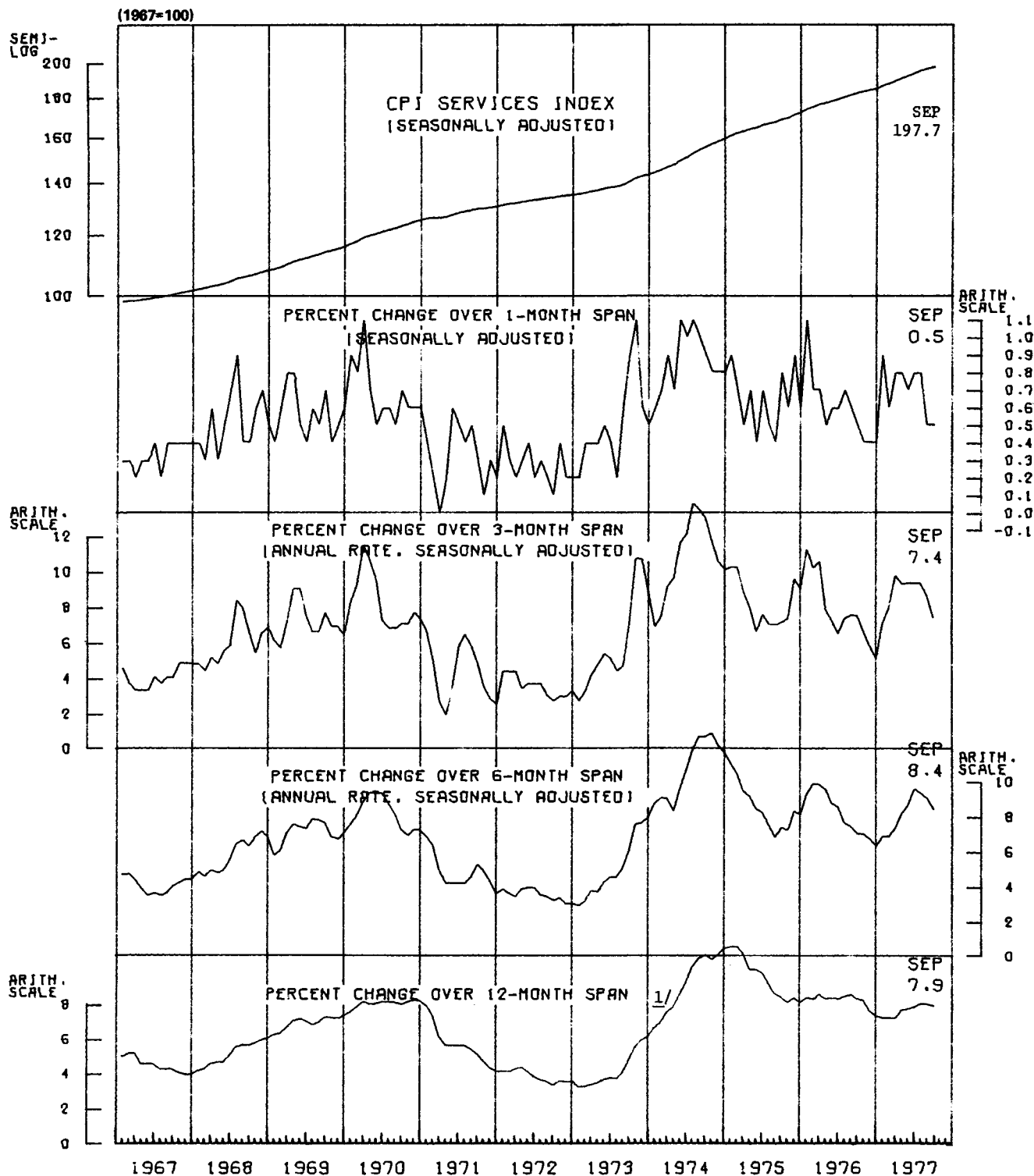
<sup>1/</sup> Computed from the unadjusted series.  
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**Chart 3. Total food index and its rate of change, 1967-77**



<sup>1/</sup> Computed from the unadjusted series.  
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**Chart 4. Services index and its rate of change, 1967-77**



<sup>1/</sup> 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 or class	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to September 1977 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—			
		December 1976	August 1977	September 1977	September 1976	August 1977	June to July	July to August	August to September
Commodity and service groups									
All items	100.000	183.3	184.0	6.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	
All items (1957-59=100)	-	213.2	214.0	-	-	-	-	-	
Commodities	62.468	176.3	176.6	5.7	.2	.1	.3	.2	
Food	23.667	195.2	194.5	7.1	-.4	.1	.3	.1	
Food at home	18.456	193.2	192.2	6.8	-.5	-.1	.2	.1	
Cereals and bakery products	2.537	182.7	184.9	2.5	1.2	.7	.5	.9	
Meats, poultry, and fish	5.700	181.8	182.1	1.6	.2	-1.2	.6	.1	
Dairy products	2.841	175.1	175.4	2.5	.2	1.1	.9	-.4	
Fruits and vegetables	3.019	192.1	183.2	7.3	-4.6	-1.5	.5	1.5	
Other foods at home	4.360	232.3	232.6	19.8	.1	1.2	-.9	-.9	
Food away from home	5.210	203.0	203.7	7.9	.3	.4	.5	.2	
Commodities less food	38.801	166.0	166.7	4.9	.4	.1	.3	.2	
Nondurables less food	22.795	167.3	168.4	5.0	.7	.3	.4	.3	
Apparel commodities	7.811	152.1	153.5	3.4	.9	.3	.7	-.4	
Men's and boys'	2.467	154.3	155.8	3.8	1.0	.7	.4	.3	
Women's and girls'	3.378	147.0	148.6	2.5	1.1	.3	.9	-1.4	
Footwear	1.383	157.3	158.1	3.8	.5	-.2	.5	.2	
Other apparel commodities	.582	162.1	163.1	6.0	.6	.1	.8	.7	
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.984	176.3	177.2	5.9	.5	.2	.3	.7	
Gasoline and motor oil	3.426	189.1	188.9	4.6	-.1	-.3	.2	.6	
Tobacco products	1.873	167.4	170.0	5.9	1.6	.3	.1	1.9	
Alcoholic beverages	2.217	151.1	151.9	2.8	.5	.5	-.5	.5	
Fuel oil and coal	1.060	284.1	285.1	13.7	.4	.6	.9	.4	
Other nondurables	6.408	171.1	172.0	6.3	.5	.5	.4	.5	
Durable commodities	16.006	164.3	164.5	4.8	.1	0	.1	.2	
Household durables	4.444	152.3	152.8	4.2	.3	.1	.3	.3	
New automobiles	1.909	141.6	141.1	5.1	-.4	.2	.6	.6	
Used automobiles	2.323	186.4	182.5	1.3	-2.1	-2.7	-2.4	-2.5	
Other durables	7.329	172.9	174.4	6.4	.9	*.8	*.5	*.9	
Services	37.532	196.3	197.7	7.9	.7	.8	.5	.5	
Rent	4.525	154.4	155.3	6.2	.6	.6	.5	.6	
Services less rent	33.007	203.9	205.4	8.2	.7	.8	.5	.5	
Household services less rent	16.208	216.6	218.1	8.2	.7	1.2	.5	.4	
Transportation services	5.295	190.2	191.3	7.9	.6	.4	.5	.4	
Medical care services	5.985	219.6	221.1	10.2	.7	.7	.6	.8	
Other services	5.547	171.8	173.6	6.1	1.0	.4	.5	.6	
Special indexes:									
All items less food	76.333	179.9	180.9	6.4	.6	*.4	*.4	*.6	
Nondurable commodities	46.462	180.8	181.0	6.0	.1	*.2	*.4	*.1	
Apparel commodities less footwear	6.428	151.1	152.6	3.2	1.0	.4	.6	-.5	
Services less medical care services	31.575	192.6	193.9	7.5	.7	*.8	*.5	*.7	
Insurance and finance	9.864	214.7	216.4	8.5	.8	1.2	.4	.3	
Utilities and public transportation	5.675	189.5	190.4	8.8	.5	1.2	.4	.3	
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.830	227.2	228.5	6.8	.6	*.5	*.5	*.6	
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1.395	126.2	126.8	2.1	.5	.2	0	.3	
Expenditure classes									
All items	100.000	183.3	184.0	6.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	
Food	23.667	195.2	194.5	7.1	-.4	.1	.3	.1	
Housing	34.202	191.4	192.7	7.4	.7	*.8	*.5	*.7	
Shelter <sup>1</sup>	21.256	193.2	194.7	7.3	.8	*1.0	*.5	*.8	
Rent	4.525	154.4	155.3	6.2	.6	.6	.5	.6	
Homeownership <sup>2</sup>	16.328	207.4	209.1	7.6	.8	*1.1	*.6	*.8	
Fuel and utilities <sup>3</sup>	5.414	204.5	205.5	11.0	.5	1.1	.8	.5	
Gas and electricity	2.913	217.4	218.0	13.4	.3	1.8	1.0	.4	
Household furnishings and operation	7.532	178.1	178.9	5.1	.4	.4	.4	.1	
Apparel and upkeep	9.194	154.8	156.2	4.0	.9	.4	.4	0	
Transportation	13.548	178.9	178.5	5.3	-.2	-.3	.1	.1	
Private	12.227	178.3	177.9	5.5	-.2	-.3	0	.2	
Public	1.321	183.5	184.1	4.1	.3	.2	-.1	-.4	
Health and recreation	19.013	174.7	176.1	6.5	.8	*.5	*.3	*.8	
Medical care	6.734	204.9	206.3	9.8	.7	*.8	*.7	*.7	
Personal care	2.554	172.1	172.8	6.1	.4	*.4	*.5	*.4	
Reading and recreation	5.143	158.1	159.8	4.6	1.1	.1	.7	.6	
Other goods and services	4.582	159.1	160.6	4.4	.9	.3	-.1	1.2	
Special indexes:									
All items less shelter	78.744	180.8	181.2	6.3	.2	*.3	*.3	*.2	
All items less medical care	93.266	182.0	182.6	6.3	.3	*.4	*.3	*.3	
All items less mortgage interest costs	95.840	181.0	181.6	6.6	.3	*.4	*.3	*.3	
CPI—domestically produced farm foods <sup>4</sup>	15.827	180.8	179.7	2.8	-.6	*.6	*.2	*.6	
CPI—selected beef cuts <sup>5</sup>	1.806	164.7	164.9	.9	.1	-1.8	-1.6	.4	
All items less food and energy <sup>6</sup>	68.934	177.2	178.3	6.2	.6	.6	.3	.3	
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:									
1967=\$1.00	-	\$0.546	\$0.543	-6.2	-.5	-	-	-	
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.469	.467	-	-	-	-	-	

<sup>1</sup> Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.<sup>2</sup> Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.<sup>3</sup> Also includes residential telephone, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage services not shown separately.<sup>4</sup> Calculated from the CPI food at home component by excluding fish, non-alcoholic beverages, bananas, chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup, and about half of the

index weight for sugar.

<sup>5</sup> Calculated from the CPI beef and veal component by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver.<sup>6</sup> Energy includes gasoline, motor oil, fuel oil, coal, gas, and electricity.

\* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

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

Group and class	Seasonally adjusted indexes				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for—					
	June 1977	July 1977	August 1977	September 1977	3 months ending in—				6 months ending in—	
					December 1976	March 1977	June 1977	September 1977	March 1977	September 1977
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	4.2	10.0	8.1	4.2	7.1	6.1
Commodities	175.3	175.5	176.0	176.3	3.4	10.4	7.4	2.3	6.8	4.8
Food	193.9	194.0	194.5	194.7	0	14.6	12.7	1.7	7.0	7.0
Food at home	192.1	191.9	192.3	192.4	-9	15.8	12.8	.6	7.1	6.5
Cereals and bakery products	183.4	184.6	185.5	187.1	-9.5	2.7	9.5	8.3	-3.6	8.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	179.4	177.2	178.2	178.4	-7.9	8.6	8.7	-2.2	0	3.1
Dairy products	175.2	177.1	178.7	177.9	-8.9	-7	15.0	6.3	-4.9	10.5
Fruits and vegetables	188.1	185.2	186.1	188.9	12.6	38.8	-16.5	1.7	25.0	-7.9
Other foods at home	233.4	236.1	233.9	231.7	11.4	31.1	45.3	-2.9	20.8	18.8
Food away from home	201.2	202.1	203.2	203.7	3.7	10.9	12.4	5.1	7.2	8.7
Commodities less food	165.1	165.3	165.8	166.2	5.7	7.4	4.2	2.7	6.5	3.5
Nondurables less food	166.3	166.8	167.5	168.0	5.4	5.5	5.2	4.2	5.5	4.7
Apparel commodities	151.6	152.1	153.1	152.5	2.7	3.8	4.6	2.4	3.3	3.5
Men's and boys'	153.2	154.3	154.9	155.3	.3	9.1	.3	5.6	4.6	2.9
Women's and girls'	147.0	147.5	148.8	146.7	2.8	.3	7.7	-8	1.5	3.4
Footwear	157.1	156.8	157.6	157.9	3.5	5.3	4.4	2.1	4.4	3.2
Other apparel commodities	160.1	160.3	161.6	162.8	8.9	3.1	5.2	6.9	5.9	6.0
Nondurables less food and apparel	175.1	175.5	176.0	177.2	6.6	6.5	5.7	4.9	6.6	5.3
Gasoline and motor oil	186.2	185.7	186.1	187.2	9.5	2.6	4.2	2.2	6.0	3.2
Tobacco products	166.4	166.9	167.1	170.3	6.6	5.7	1.5	9.7	6.2	5.5
Alcoholic beverages	151.0	151.7	150.9	151.7	3.3	1.4	4.6	1.9	2.3	3.2
Fuel oil and coal	285.4	287.1	289.6	290.9	8.7	28.1	10.9	7.9	18.0	9.4
Other nondurables	169.9	170.7	171.4	172.2	6.1	6.7	7.1	5.5	6.4	6.3
Durable commodities	163.4	163.4	163.5	163.8	6.0	10.5	2.5	1.0	8.2	1.7
Household durables	151.4	151.6	152.1	152.5	5.6	4.9	3.2	2.9	5.3	3.1
New automobiles	142.0	142.3	143.2	144.0	6.9	4.1	4.0	5.8	5.5	4.9
Used automobiles	188.4	183.3	178.9	174.5	16.2	40.1	-11.8	-26.4	27.6	-19.4
Other durables <sup>1</sup>	170.7	172.0	172.9	174.4	3.0	7.2	6.6	9.0	5.1	7.8
Services	194.2	195.7	196.7	197.7	5.1	9.8	9.4	7.4	7.4	8.4
Rent	152.9	153.8	154.6	155.5	5.3	6.3	6.3	7.0	5.8	6.6
Services less rent	201.6	203.3	204.3	205.3	5.4	10.4	9.7	7.5	7.8	8.6
Household services less rent	213.8	216.3	217.3	218.1	2.0	12.2	10.8	8.3	7.0	9.5
Transportation services	189.4	190.2	191.2	191.9	6.4	8.9	11.1	5.4	7.7	8.2
Medical care services	216.2	217.7	218.9	220.7	13.2	9.4	10.0	8.6	11.3	9.3
Other services	170.7	171.4	172.3	173.3	5.8	6.7	5.8	6.2	6.2	6.0
Special indexes:										
All items less food <sup>1</sup>	178.4	179.2	179.9	180.9	5.3	6.9	7.8	5.7	6.1	6.7
Nondurable commodities <sup>1</sup>	179.7	180.1	180.8	181.0	2.4	10.1	8.9	2.9	6.2	5.9
Apparel commodities less footwear	150.7	151.3	152.2	151.5	1.9	4.4	4.6	2.1	3.2	3.4
Services less medical care services <sup>1</sup>	190.1	191.6	192.6	193.9	5.2	8.6	7.9	8.2	6.9	8.1
Insurance and finance	212.7	215.3	216.2	216.8	-2.8	14.6	15.0	7.9	5.6	11.4
Utilities and public transportation	187.2	189.5	190.3	190.8	9.0	9.0	9.3	7.9	9.0	8.6
Housekeeping and home maintenance service <sup>1</sup>	224.9	226.0	227.2	228.5	5.1	7.2	8.2	6.6	6.2	7.4
Appliances (including radio and TV)	126.1	126.3	126.3	126.7	1.0	2.3	3.2	1.9	1.6	2.6
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	4.2	10.0	8.1	4.2	7.1	6.1
Food <sup>1</sup>	193.9	194.0	194.5	194.7	0	14.6	12.7	1.7	7.0	7.0
Housing	189.0	190.5	191.4	192.7	4.8	8.9	7.8	8.1	6.8	7.9
Shelter <sup>1,2</sup>	190.3	192.2	193.2	194.7	2.0	8.8	8.9	9.6	5.4	9.2
Rent	152.9	153.8	154.6	155.5	5.3	6.3	6.3	7.0	5.8	6.6
Homeownership <sup>1,3</sup>	203.9	206.2	207.4	209.1	1.2	9.1	9.6	10.6	5.1	10.1
Fuel and utilities <sup>4</sup>	202.0	204.3	205.9	206.9	12.3	12.0	9.9	10.1	12.2	10.0
Gas and electricity	212.8	216.6	218.7	219.5	17.8	10.7	12.1	13.2	14.2	12.7
Household furnishings and operation	176.9	177.6	178.3	178.5	5.5	6.2	4.9	3.7	5.9	4.3
Apparel and upkeep	154.2	154.8	155.4	155.4	3.3	4.6	5.1	3.1	3.9	4.1
Transportation	178.1	177.5	177.7	177.8	7.3	10.4	4.4	-7	8.8	1.8
Private	177.5	176.9	176.9	177.2	8.9	10.2	4.2	-7	9.5	1.7
Public	184.1	184.4	184.2	183.4	.2	9.1	8.9	-1.5	4.6	3.6
Health and recreation <sup>1</sup>	173.2	174.1	174.7	176.1	6.7	6.6	6.0	6.9	6.6	6.4
Medical care <sup>1</sup>	201.8	203.5	204.9	206.3	9.7	11.5	8.8	9.2	10.6	9.0
Personal care <sup>1</sup>	170.6	171.3	172.1	172.8	6.0	5.2	8.1	5.3	5.6	6.7
Reading and recreation	157.4	157.5	158.6	159.5	5.4	4.7	2.8	5.4	5.0	4.1
Other goods and services	158.6	159.1	158.9	160.8	4.8	3.9	3.3	5.7	4.3	4.5
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter <sup>1</sup>	179.7	180.2	180.8	181.2	4.3	9.4	8.4	3.4	6.8	5.9
All items less medical care <sup>1</sup>	180.6	181.4	182.0	182.6	3.5	9.1	8.4	4.5	6.3	6.4
All items less mortgage interest costs <sup>1</sup>	179.7	180.4	181.0	181.6	4.5	9.4	8.2	4.3	6.9	6.2
All items less food and energy <sup>5</sup>	175.9	176.9	177.4	177.9	4.6	8.3	7.1	4.6	6.4	5.9
CPI—domestically produced farm foods <sup>1,6</sup>	179.3	180.4	180.8	179.7	-4.1	12.8	2.3	.9	4.0	1.6
CPI—selected beef cuts <sup>7</sup>	165.0	162.0	159.4	160.1	14.1	-5.7	9.0	-11.4	3.7	-1.7

<sup>1</sup> Not seasonally adjusted.

<sup>2</sup> Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

<sup>3</sup> Includes home purchase, mortgage interest, taxes, insurance, and maintenance and repairs.

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

<sup>5</sup> Energy includes gasoline, motor oil, fuel oil, coal, gas and electricity.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Calculated from the CPI beef and veal component by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver.

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

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

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

Item and group	Index		Percent change to September 1977 from—		
	September 1977		September 1976	August 1977	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food .....	194.5	194.7	7.1	-0.4	0.1
Food away from home .....	203.7	203.7	7.9	.3	.2
Restaurant meals .....	200.6	(1)	6.9	.3	(1)
Snacks .....	218.8	219.0	13.0	.5	.6
Food at home .....	192.2	192.4	6.8	-.5	.1
Cereals and bakery products .....	184.9	187.1	2.5	1.2	.9
Flour .....	137.7	141.5	-10.4	-1.9	-2.4
Cracker meal .....	233.8	235.4	4.4	0	.3
Corn flakes .....	182.9	184.7	11.1	-.4	-.6
Rice .....	185.3	188.5	-4.9	.2	-.2
Bread, white .....	163.5	165.3	.2	.1	-.4
Bread, whole wheat .....	183.9	185.2	2.9	.9	.5
Cookies .....	217.5	220.4	13.6	10.4	10.9
Layer cake .....	193.8	194.2	5.6	.2	-1.2
Cinnamon rolls .....	194.2	197.2	-.9	.6	-.1
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	182.1	178.4	1.6	.2	.1
Meats .....	177.7	173.5	.2	.2	-.1
Beef and veal .....	164.1	159.8	1.1	.1	.4
Steak, round .....	161.5	156.5	1.1	.4	.1
Steak, sirloin .....	172.1	165.5	6.4	4.0	5.3
Steak, porterhouse .....	189.2	182.3	6.2	2.9	3.7
Rump roast .....	156.6	151.6	-.3	.1	-.9
Rib roast .....	193.5	188.6	4.8	-.7	.3
Chuck roast .....	160.3	155.6	-.7	-2.3	-1.8
Hamburger .....	154.3	152.5	-3.3	-1.6	-.3
Beef liver .....	122.2	(1)	-1.1	-.9	(1)
Veal cutlets .....	193.5	193.1	4.9	-.5	.5
Pork .....	197.6	188.5	-1.5	.4	-1.5
Chops .....	186.6	177.5	2.2	-.4	-.9
Loin roast .....	195.8	185.6	-.8	-.8	-1.7
Sausage .....	226.2	217.9	-1.2	2.1	.8
Ham, whole .....	190.2	191.5	-1.8	1.1	-.2
Picnics .....	177.3	173.1	-2.9	-.6	-1.4
Bacon .....	209.7	192.2	-5.0	.9	-4.2
Other meats .....	179.9	178.3	1.1	.1	-.2
Lamb chops .....	197.0	195.8	6.0	-1.0	.6
Frankfurters .....	163.9	160.7	-1.0	-.4	-.2
Ham, canned .....	199.1	203.6	-.5	.3	-.7
Bologna sausage .....	178.3	174.5	.4	1.1	.3
Salami sausage .....	171.2	169.3	1.7	-.1	-.2
Liverwurst .....	168.7	165.6	-.7	1.0	.2
Poultry .....	160.3	152.1	3.4	-.5	-2.9
Frying chicken .....	162.3	152.7	3.4	-.9	-3.4
Chicken breasts .....	169.3	163.1	4.5	.2	-.4
Turkey .....	142.1	139.5	2.1	.8	-1.1
Fish .....	258.8	260.1	10.4	.8	.5
Shrimp, frozen .....	252.1	(1)	8.6	1.0	(1)
Fish, fresh or frozen .....	291.1	(1)	11.4	1.3	(1)
Tuna fish, canned .....	218.6	220.6	15.3	-.1	0
Sardines, canned .....	272.7	273.0	7.6	.9	.4
Dairy products .....	175.4	177.9	2.5	.2	-.4
Milk, fresh, grocery .....	162.6	165.2	.9	-.2	-.8
Milk, fresh, skim .....	181.9	184.1	2.5	.2	-.4
Milk, evaporated .....	222.5	(1)	8.1	.7	(1)
Ice cream .....	170.0	171.9	6.1	1.4	.8
Cheese, American process .....	206.0	209.8	2.3	-.2	-1.0
Butter .....	165.4	163.8	1.0	.6	-2.8
Fruits and vegetables .....	183.2	188.9	7.3	-4.6	1.5
Fresh fruits and vegetables .....	177.6	187.1	8.6	-8.2	2.9
Fresh fruits .....	180.4	175.1	10.4	-9.9	-4.2
Apples .....	181.2	167.9	9.2	-14.1	-6.1
Bananas .....	155.7	155.2	3.7	-3.8	-2.6
Oranges .....	184.7	175.9	13.2	4.7	4.8
Orange juice, fresh .....	181.1	(1)	15.5	4.0	(1)
Grapefruit .....	197.5	164.3	7.0	.6	1.4
Grapes .....	209.8	240.0	25.1	-30.7	-15.6
Strawberries .....	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Watermelon .....	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Fresh vegetables .....	175.5	196.1	7.0	-6.7	7.0
Potatoes .....	185.6	206.5	6.1	-15.7	7.8
Onions .....	174.4	174.4	8.9	-15.5	-5.9
Asparagus .....	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Cabbage .....	140.8	154.0	6.7	-3.4	1.4
Carrots .....	172.5	183.5	8.4	-2.8	6.8
Celery .....	175.7	188.3	8.5	-8.0	-.2
Cucumbers .....	136.1	180.5	9.1	-9.7	-2.0
Lettuce .....	186.7	(1)	-4.5	18.3	(1)
Peppers, green .....	136.0	172.6	6.3	-13.9	-6.6
Spinach .....	224.1	228.0	12.3	4.8	8.2
Tomatoes .....	166.1	207.4	23.8	-9.7	-6.5

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

Item and group	Index		Percent change to September 1977 from—		
	September 1977		September 1976	August 1977	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables—Continued					
Processed fruits and vegetables	191.5	192.8	5.6	0.7	0.1
Fruit cocktail, canned	185.1	183.1	2.6	.2	-1.2
Pears, canned	159.8	159.5	2.1	.4	-.1
Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned	188.0	188.2	6.0	1.4	1.5
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	201.9	(1)	30.8	5.2	(1)
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	186.4	188.5	3.8	.4	-.4
Beets, canned	204.4	(1)	9.3	1.1	(1)
Peas, green canned	159.9	160.1	.4	-.1	-.5
Tomatoes, canned	198.7	(1)	11.4	0	(1)
Dried beans	239.4	248.9	-9.0	.5	-1.5
Broccoli, frozen	191.5	(1)	19.8	-.2	(1)
Other food at home	232.6	231.7	19.8	.1	-.9
Eggs	166.6	159.6	-8.6	-.2	-6.8
Fats and oils	200.1	201.9	16.9	-.4	-2.1
Margarine	219.2	219.0	18.0	.3	-4.0
Salad dressing, Italian	166.3	168.1	10.3	-1.0	-1.2
Salad or cooking oil	214.9	215.3	20.8	-.6	-3.1
Sugar and sweets	233.2	238.2	8.5	-.3	.4
Sugar	178.6	184.7	-7.1	.1	.2
Grape jelly	216.4	(1)	-1.4	-.3	(1)
Chocolate bar	289.6	(1)	26.0	.6	(1)
Syrup, chocolate flavored	241.3	248.5	12.3	.8	.4
Nonalcoholic beverages	346.2	(1)	52.1	.3	(1)
Coffee	487.5	(1)	80.6	-1.7	(1)
Coffee, instant	386.4	(1)	58.0	2.2	(1)
Tea	192.8	(1)	27.9	2.1	(1)
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	207.1	(1)	6.1	1.5	(1)
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	207.7	(1)	4.2	.3	(1)
Prepared and partially prepared foods	176.3	176.8	3.8	1.1	1.3
Bean soup, canned	205.9	207.1	-1.4	1.0	1.5
Chicken soup, canned	151.1	151.3	11.1	2.4	2.6
Spaghetti, canned	170.6	170.1	4.4	.8	.7
Mashed potatoes, instant	160.9	160.7	1.3	.2	.4
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	186.4	184.4	2.3	2.1	1.5
Baby foods	187.8	(1)	9.4	1.0	(1)
Sweet pickle relish	184.6	189.1	3.9	1.2	1.4
Pretzels	163.8	163.5	2.5	.6	.4

<sup>1</sup> Not available.

<sup>2</sup> 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 September 1977 from—	
		August 1977	September 1977	September 1976	August 1977
Housing .....		191.4	192.7	7.4	0.7
Shelter <sup>1</sup> .....		193.2	194.7	7.3	.8
Rent, residential .....		154.4	155.3	6.2	.6
Homeownership <sup>2</sup> .....		207.4	209.1	7.6	.8
Mortgage interest rates .....		140.0	140.1	-.4	.1
Property taxes .....		182.6	183.0	9.0	.2
Property insurance premium .....		155.8	156.8	5.8	.6
Maintenance and repairs .....		217.1	218.5	7.5	.6
Maintenance and repair commodities <sup>3</sup> .....		181.3	182.3	7.4	.6
Exterior house paint .....		168.6	168.7	2.9	.1
Interior house paint .....		158.4	159.5	4.0	.7
Maintenance and repair services .....		232.6	234.2	7.6	.7
Repainting living and dining rooms .....		244.1	246.1	6.9	.8
Reshingling house roof .....		256.0	257.1	8.4	.4
Residing house .....		220.8	222.6	8.4	.8
Replacing sink .....		225.6	227.0	5.6	.6
Repairing furnace .....		227.1	228.1	8.0	.4
Fuel and utilities .....		204.5	205.5	11.0	.5
Fuel oil and coal .....		284.1	285.1	13.7	.4
Fuel oil, No. 2 .....		280.8	281.7	13.9	.3
Gas and electricity .....		217.4	218.0	13.4	.3
Gas .....		241.7	242.3	18.1	.2
Electricity .....		194.8	195.3	8.4	.3
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services .....		131.4	131.7	.7	.2
Residential water and sewerage services .....		209.8	215.1	11.2	2.5
Household furnishings and operation <sup>4</sup> .....		178.1	178.9	5.1	.4
Housefurnishings .....		157.0	157.9	4.1	.6
Textiles .....		154.5	158.3	4.8	2.5
Sheets, full, flat .....		145.8	154.4	-1.5	5.9
Curtains, tailored .....		144.9	146.8	-.5	1.3
Bedspreads .....		163.4	165.4	9.8	1.2
Drapery fabrics .....		197.8	201.2	10.9	1.7
Pillows, bed .....		129.9	136.1	5.1	4.8
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made .....		143.7	144.3	3.7	.4
Furniture and bedding .....		158.8	159.1	4.5	.2
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser .....	Mar. 70	141.0	141.0	4.8	0
Sofas, upholstered .....		144.1	145.0	2.5	.6
Cocktail tables .....	Dec. 71	132.6	128.7	-1.1	-2.9
Dining room chairs .....	Mar. 70	146.7	148.2	8.2	1.0
Recliners, upholstered .....	Dec. 71	112.8	114.3	1.4	1.3
Sofas, dual purpose .....		143.0	143.7	3.2	.5
Bedding, mattress and box springs .....	June 70	138.7	138.8	2.6	.1
Aluminum folding chairs .....		191.3	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Cribs .....		165.7	166.3	7.8	.4
Floor coverings .....		141.0	141.3	2.9	.2
Broadloom carpeting .....		127.6	128.0	2.2	.3
Vinyl sheet goods .....		172.5	171.7	4.1	-.5
Vinyl floor tile .....		171.7	172.6	4.2	.5
Appliances (excluding radio and TV) .....		140.6	141.5	3.5	.6
Washing machines, electric .....		145.7	146.5	2.7	.5
Vacuum cleaners .....		126.9	126.3	3.4	-.5
Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric .....		139.8	140.6	3.0	.6
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric .....		144.0	144.0	2.8	0
Clothes dryers, electric .....		155.7	157.4	4.9	1.1
Air conditioners, demountable .....		136.1	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Room heaters, electric, portable .....		( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Garbage disposal units .....		140.1	140.6	3.5	.4
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china .....		206.7	207.8	7.6	.5
Flatware, stainless steel .....		186.8	186.0	2.1	-.4
Table lamps, with shade .....		153.3	154.1	4.1	.5
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type .....		168.4	167.5	1.9	-.5
Electric drills, hand-held .....		131.9	130.1	1.6	-1.4
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents .....		187.9	188.8	6.5	.5
Paper napkins .....		242.9	242.8	10.0	0
Toilet tissue .....		269.4	267.7	12.9	-.6
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework .....		223.5	223.6	4.7	0
Baby sitter services .....		228.2	229.2	4.8	.4
Postal charges .....		225.6	225.6	.0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service .....		224.9	226.0	9.4	.5
Licensed day care services, preschool child .....		172.2	174.1	5.8	1.1
Washing machine repairs .....		211.2	211.6	4.2	.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 September 1977 from—	
		August 1977	September 1977	September 1976	August 1977
Apparel and upkeep <sup>6</sup> . . . . .		154.8	156.2	4.0	0.9
Apparel commodities . . . . .		152.1	153.5	3.4	.9
Apparel commodities less footwear . . . . .		151.1	152.6	3.2	1.0
Men's and boys' . . . . .		154.3	155.8	3.8	1.0
Men's: . . . . .					
Topcoats and all-weather coats . . . . .		155.0	156.0	2.6	.6
Suits, year round weight . . . . .		140.4	141.7	-3.0	.9
Sport jackets . . . . .	June 74	94.5	95.6	-4.2	1.2
Jackets, lightweight . . . . .		145.7	147.9	5.6	1.5
Slacks, heavyweight . . . . .		117.0	119.0	-2.2	1.7
Slacks, lightweight . . . . .		150.4	151.3	3.1	.6
Trousers, work . . . . .		175.2	177.2	8.5	1.1
Shirts, work . . . . .		175.5	176.2	8.9	.4
Shirts, business or dress . . . . .		144.1	145.8	7.0	1.2
T-shirts . . . . .		179.7	179.8	11.7	.1
Socks . . . . .		139.4	140.7	3.0	.9
Handkerchiefs . . . . .		172.5	174.4	6.5	1.1
Boys': . . . . .					
Coats, heavyweight . . . . .		123.8	126.1	-6	1.9
Sport coats, wool or wool blends . . . . .		( <sup>5</sup> )	130.3	3.1	( <sup>5</sup> )
Dungarees . . . . .		207.5	206.7	6.5	-4
Undershorts . . . . .		172.0	173.1	9.6	.6
Women's and girls' . . . . .		147.0	148.6	2.5	1.1
Women's: . . . . .					
Coats, heavyweight . . . . .		160.9	163.4	1.1	1.6
Carcoats, heavyweight . . . . .		161.0	166.3	-3	3.3
Sweaters . . . . .		( <sup>5</sup> )	152.9	9.1	( <sup>5</sup> )
Skirts, winter weight . . . . .		( <sup>5</sup> )	159.6	1.4	( <sup>5</sup> )
Skirts, summer weight . . . . .		148.0	146.7	4.0	-9
Blouses . . . . .		148.5	149.3	2.9	.5
Dresses, street, year round weight . . . . .		153.6	157.2	3.6	2.3
Slips . . . . .		137.2	136.9	9.4	-2
Panties . . . . .		160.1	162.3	6.6	1.4
Girdles . . . . .		135.7	138.3	2.6	1.9
Brassieres . . . . .		156.5	155.8	3.1	-4
Hose or panty hose, nylon . . . . .		93.3	93.4	.8	.1
Anklets or knee-length socks . . . . .		139.3	140.1	2.9	.6
Gloves, fabric . . . . .		133.2	127.9	.2	-4.0
Handbags . . . . .		174.0	172.8	-5	-7
Girls': . . . . .					
Raincoats . . . . .		123.1	122.9	-13.3	-2
Skirts, fall and winter . . . . .		154.3	156.2	-4.8	1.2
Dresses . . . . .		136.3	139.8	-3	2.6
Slacks, fall and winter . . . . .		171.3	176.7	2.3	3.2
Slips . . . . .		143.7	143.8	3.8	.1
Handbags . . . . .		152.8	154.3	7.8	1.0
Other apparel commodities . . . . .		162.1	163.1	6.0	.6
Diapers . . . . .		211.7	214.8	12.6	1.5
Yard goods . . . . .		174.2	174.2	8.1	0
Wrist watches, men's and women's . . . . .		142.1	142.7	.9	.4
Footwear . . . . .		157.3	158.1	3.8	.5
Men's: . . . . .					
Shoes, street . . . . .		165.2	166.4	4.4	.7
Shoes, work, high . . . . .		185.0	185.9	7.8	.5
Women's: . . . . .					
Shoes, street, pump . . . . .		146.4	148.5	2.3	1.4
Shoes, evening, pump . . . . .		141.3	141.7	4.3	.3
Shoes, casual . . . . .		157.2	159.5	2.7	1.5
Houseslippers, scuff . . . . .		152.1	152.9	2.8	.5
Children's: . . . . .					
Shoes, oxford . . . . .		159.6	160.3	3.0	.4
Sneakers, boys', oxford type . . . . .		155.6	153.6	3.0	-1.3
Dress shoes, girls' . . . . .		167.5	166.8	3.4	-4
Apparel services: . . . . .					
Drycleaning . . . . .		171.6	172.5	6.5	.5
Automatic laundry service . . . . .		161.3	161.6	11.9	.2
Laundry, men's shirts . . . . .		178.7	179.3	6.7	.3
Tailoring charges . . . . .		174.6	177.0	8.1	1.4
Shoe repairs . . . . .		163.1	165.5	9.9	1.5
Transportation . . . . .		178.9	178.5	5.3	-2
Private <sup>7</sup> . . . . .		178.3	177.9	5.5	-2
Automobiles, new . . . . .		141.6	141.1	5.1	-4
Automobiles, used . . . . .		186.4	182.5	1.3	-2.1
Gasoline, regular, premium, and unleaded . . . . .		190.8	190.5	4.6	-2
Motor oil . . . . .		166.4	167.0	4.0	.4
Tires . . . . .		137.5	138.0	1.5	.4
Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance <sup>8</sup> . . . . .		205.4	206.7	7.7	.6
Auto insurance premiums . . . . .		214.6	216.7	11.6	1.0
Auto registration fees . . . . .		142.2	142.2	7.1	0
Parking fees, private and municipal . . . . .		195.4	195.3	5.0	-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 September 1977 from—	
		August 1977	September 1977	September 1976	August 1977
Transportation—Continued					
Public .....		183.5	184.1	4.1	0.3
Local transit fares .....		179.2	179.1	1.9	-.1
Taxicab fares .....		191.6	192.7	8.8	.6
Railroad fares, coach .....		185.9	186.1	10.2	.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach .....		181.1	184.3	3.9	1.8
Bus fares, intercity .....		232.2	232.2	14.0	0
Health and recreation .....		174.7	176.1	6.5	.8
Medical care <sup>9</sup> .....		204.9	206.3	9.8	.7
Drugs and prescriptions .....		135.1	135.9	6.7	.6
Over-the-counter items .....		150.0	150.8	7.3	.5
Multiple vitamin concentrates .....		109.0	109.7	3.7	.6
Aspirin compounds .....		149.2	150.2	7.2	.7
Liquid tonics .....		122.9	122.5	1.0	-.3
Adhesive bandages, packages .....		215.2	216.1	15.6	.4
Cold tablets or capsules .....		135.9	138.0	4.1	1.5
Cough syrup .....		156.1	156.7	6.0	.4
Prescriptions .....		122.8	123.5	6.1	.6
Anti-infectives .....		75.1	75.1	2.7	0
Sedative and hypnotics .....		173.5	175.1	5.6	.9
Ataractics .....		117.2	117.8	2.3	.5
Antispasmodics .....		151.9	153.3	10.6	.9
Cough preparations .....		203.4	204.6	10.7	.6
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives .....		126.2	126.4	3.9	.2
Analgesics, internal .....		125.8	126.4	4.5	.5
Hormones .....		122.4	123.6	10.8	1.0
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees .....		208.6	209.9	9.2	.6
General physician, office visits .....		214.7	216.2	9.3	.7
General physician, house visits .....		207.2	208.8	8.1	.8
Obstetrical cases .....		208.1	210.9	7.2	1.3
Pediatric care, office visits .....		215.4	216.3	10.4	.4
Psychiatrist, office visits .....		174.5	175.4	5.9	.5
Herniorrhaphy, adult .....		186.1	187.3	8.3	.6
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy .....		205.8	206.3	12.9	.2
Dentists' fees .....		187.3	188.8	8.2	.8
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface .....		194.0	195.3	8.7	.7
Extractions, adult .....		188.8	190.4	9.2	.8
Dentures, full upper .....		171.9	173.9	6.0	1.2
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses .....		169.8	170.7	6.4	.5
Routine laboratory tests .....		170.5	172.1	4.9	.9
Hospital service charges .....	Jan. 72	166.4	167.6	10.6	.7
Semiprivate rooms .....		304.3	306.3	11.3	.7
Operating room charges .....		316.5	318.7	13.1	.7
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI .....		191.2	192.8	7.6	.8
Laboratory tests .....	Jan. 72	151.8	150.4	6.8	-.9
Anti-infectives .....	Jan. 72	131.8	135.2	9.6	2.6
Tranquilizers .....	Jan. 72	144.7	147.2	13.6	1.7
Electrocardiogram .....	Jan. 72	146.0	146.4	6.2	.3
Intravenous solution .....	Jan. 72	158.8	159.3	8.7	.3
Physical therapy .....	Jan. 72	169.2	170.8	11.3	.9
Oxygen, inhalation therapy .....	Jan. 72	143.5	144.1	9.1	.4
Personal care .....		172.1	172.8	6.1	.4
Toilet goods .....		168.9	169.2	5.8	.2
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice .....		143.3	144.5	4.2	.8
Toilet soap, hard-milled .....		211.2	211.5	10.5	.1
Hand lotions .....		175.6	176.2	6.4	.3
Shaving cream .....		140.4	137.1	.3	-2.4
Face powder .....		172.3	174.1	1.9	1.0
Deodorants .....		125.8	126.5	4.1	.6
Cleansing tissues .....		237.5	239.0	9.0	.6
Home permanent wave kits .....		137.4	137.6	6.1	.1
Personal care services .....		175.5	176.6	6.6	.6
Men's haircuts .....		175.2	176.0	5.5	.5
Beauty shop services .....		175.9	177.2	7.3	.7
Women's haircuts .....		210.3	213.6	10.6	1.6
Shampoo and wave sets, plain .....		174.2	175.0	6.4	.5
Permanent waves, cold .....		144.5	144.9	5.2	.3
Reading and recreation <sup>10</sup> .....		158.1	159.8	4.6	1.1
Recreational goods .....		130.8	131.4	2.5	.5
TV sets, portable and console .....		101.2	101.4	-1.5	.2
TV replacement tubes .....		174.0	176.2	5.6	1.3
Radios, portable and table models .....		105.3	105.3	.1	0
Tape recorders, portable .....		95.1	95.0	-1.5	-.1
Phonograph records, stereophonic .....		126.5	127.0	2.7	.4
Movie cameras, 8mm .....		96.5	96.3	.4	-.2
Film, 35mm, color .....		134.1	134.2	5.0	.1
Golf balls .....		104.0	104.4	.5	.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 September 1977 from—	
		August 1977	September 1977	September 1976	August 1977
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation—Continued					
Recreational goods—Continued					
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover .....		150. 4	150. 6	1. 6	0. 1
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting .....		128. 6	128. 3	3. 2	-. 2
Bowling balls .....		134. 7	134. 4	2. 8	-. 2
Bicycles, boys' .....		148. 2	148. 4	1. 1	. 1
Tricycles .....		155. 3	156. 3	3. 0	. 6
Dog food, canned or boxed .....		183. 3	185. 5	7. 3	1. 2
Recreational services .....		162. 4	163. 5	4. 2	. 7
Indoor movie admissions .....		186. 3	188. 9	5. 2	1. 4
Adult .....		177. 6	178. 9	3. 0	. 7
Children's .....		210. 9	217. 4	10. 8	3. 1
Drive-in movie admissions .....		192. 1	192. 4	5. 4	. 2
Bowling fees, evening .....		153. 0	155. 0	5. 3	1. 3
Golf green fees .....		174. 7	174. 5	4. 1	-. 1
TV repair .....		109. 7	110. 2	2. 7	. 5
Film developing .....		122. 0	121. 3	-1. 9	-. 6
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery .....		194. 6	195. 0	6. 8	. 2
Magazines, single copy and subscription .....		204. 1	204. 1	8. 6	0
Piano lessons, beginner .....		153. 8	156. 1	5. 5	1. 5
Other goods and services .....		159. 1	160. 6	4. 4	. 9
Tobacco products .....		167. 4	170. 0	5. 9	1. 6
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size .....		169. 6	172. 6	6. 1	1. 8
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size .....		170. 4	172. 9	5. 9	1. 5
Cigars, domestic, regular size .....		134. 8	135. 5	3. 9	. 5
Alcoholic beverages .....		151. 1	151. 9	2. 8	. 5
Beer, at home .....		145. 8	146. 6	1. 8	. 5
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon .....		118. 0	118. 5	1. 7	. 4
Wine, dessert and table .....		161. 8	163. 1	3. 1	. 8
Beer, away from home .....		173. 9	174. 8	4. 3	. 5
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult .....		157. 3	157. 6	4. 5	. 2
Bank service charges, checking account .....		133. 9	134. 4	3. 9	. 4
Legal services, short form will .....		215. 4	216. 0	7. 1	. 3

<sup>1</sup> Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

<sup>2</sup> Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.

<sup>3</sup> Also includes pine shelving, furnace filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.

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

<sup>5</sup> Priced only in season.

<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> Also includes storage batteries and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Also includes health insurance not shown separately.

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

**Table 5. CPI—selected areas, all items index**

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

Area <sup>1</sup>	Pricing schedule <sup>2</sup>	Indexes			Percent change from—		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases			
		September 1977			September 1976	June 1977	August 1977
U.S. city average .....	M	184.0	214.0		6.6	1.2	0.4
Chicago .....	M	178.5	202.8		6.6	1.9	.7
Detroit .....	M	182.8	210.0		6.7	1.0	.1
Los Angeles—Long Beach .....	M	181.6	213.6		6.4	1.2	.6
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	M	187.3	222.9		4.9	.6	.1
Philadelphia .....	M	186.5	217.8		6.9	1.5	.8
		July 1977			July 1976	April 1977	
Boston .....	1	185.0	221.6		5.5	1.6	
Houston .....	1	191.6	219.2		8.1	1.6	
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	1	184.5	213.8		7.5	2.7	
Pittsburgh .....	1	180.6	207.7		7.2	1.4	
		August 1977			August 1976	May 1977	
Buffalo .....	2	182.7		<sup>3</sup> 200.8	6.2	0.8	
Cleveland .....	2	181.1	204.5		6.2	.7	
Dallas .....	2	182.4		<sup>3</sup> 197.2	7.9	1.7	
Milwaukee .....	2	178.7	201.7		5.7	.4	
San Diego .....	2	184.1		<sup>4</sup> 193.5	7.0	1.9	
Seattle .....	2	180.2	211.8		8.8	2.3	
Washington .....	2	185.5	216.1		7.2	1.8	
		September 1977			September 1976	June 1977	
Atlanta .....	3	183.0	210.5		6.6	2.2	
Baltimore .....	3	188.8	219.2		7.0	1.6	
Cincinnati .....	3	<sup>5</sup> 185.2	<sup>6</sup> 210.2		7.6	1.8	
Honolulu .....	3	173.4		<sup>7</sup> 186.9	5.7	1.7	
Kansas City .....	3	180.6	214.4		7.1	.9	
St. Louis .....	3	179.1	209.2		7.2	1.0	
San Francisco—Oakland .....	3	184.0	219.0		8.3	1.8	

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> November 1963=100.

<sup>4</sup> February 1965=100.

<sup>5</sup> Revised index for June 1977, 182.0.

<sup>6</sup> Revised index for June 1977, 206.6.

<sup>7</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup> priced monthly, by expenditure class, percent change from August 1977 to September 1977**

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

Expenditure class	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items .....	0.4	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.8
Food .....	-.4	.5	-.8	.1	-1.1	.5
Housing .....	.7	.9	.4	.9	.4	1.2
Apparel and upkeep .....	.9	1.9	.3	1.1	.7	.3
Transportation .....	-.2	-.5	-.2	-.4	-.2	.9
Health and recreation .....	.8	1.0	.7	.8	.8	.8
Medical care .....	.7	.8	.6	.7	.3	.5
Personal care .....	.4	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Reading and recreation .....	1.1	.6	1.3	.3	1.9	.8
Other goods and services .....	.9	1.1	.9	1.3	.6	1.3

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 5.

<sup>2</sup> Not available.

**Table 7. CPI—selected areas<sup>1</sup>, by expenditure class**

(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
Indexes, September 1977						
All items .....	184.0	178.5	182.8	181.6	187.3	186.5
Food .....	194.5	195.2	187.9	188.3	196.4	200.1
Food at home .....	192.2	194.3	185.1	186.5	197.1	196.0
Cereals and bakery products .....	184.9	187.1	197.7	183.2	188.0	192.1
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	182.1	185.0	173.6	179.7	180.0	187.1
Dairy products .....	175.4	169.4	175.7	160.9	179.0	179.2
Fruits and vegetables .....	183.2	196.2	159.4	172.9	198.6	188.6
Other food at home .....	232.6	237.3	226.1	227.4	246.4	235.7
Food away from home .....	203.7	198.8	200.3	193.2	194.9	217.4
Housing .....	192.7	175.8	186.8	192.2	194.0	195.2
Shelter .....	194.7	177.3	190.6	200.5	191.9	204.7
Rent, residential .....	155.3	144.5	( <sup>3</sup> )	160.4	( <sup>2</sup> )	167.9
Homeownership .....	209.1	192.0	198.3	212.9	206.0	214.3
Fuel and utilities .....	205.5	178.2	205.6	169.5	226.3	197.2
Fuel oil and coal .....	285.1	279.3	285.7	-	292.5	275.3
Gas and electricity .....	218.0	188.3	219.6	199.9	260.7	206.2
Household furnishings and operation .....	178.9	169.4	162.6	174.4	180.3	176.4
Apparel and upkeep .....	156.2	146.4	148.0	145.2	152.9	144.4
Men's and boys' .....	155.8	137.5	154.8	136.6	143.3	148.6
Women's and girls' .....	148.6	140.3	132.5	140.3	147.7	126.5
Footwear .....	158.1	151.5	149.1	149.1	155.8	153.2
Transportation .....	178.5	182.0	177.3	181.7	194.7	185.8
Private .....	177.9	181.8	177.4	183.5	184.8	187.0
Public .....	184.1	183.6	174.0	149.2	232.8	178.9
Health and recreation .....	176.1	177.8	190.8	172.7	182.0	181.0
Medical care .....	206.3	211.3	243.2	208.1	219.5	226.9
Personal care .....	172.8	173.4	( <sup>3</sup> )	160.4	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Reading and recreation .....	159.8	158.7	158.6	145.9	168.0	158.8
Other goods and services .....	160.6	164.7	165.6	160.8	163.0	160.7
Percent changes June 1977 to September 1977						
All items .....	1.2	1.9	1.0	1.2	0.6	1.5
Food .....	.5	2.3	-.3	.9	-.3	.5
Food at home .....	.2	2.9	-.4	.6	-.6	.5
Cereals and bakery products .....	1.1	4.2	2.4	.8	1.2	-1.5
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	2.0	2.9	0	3.3	1.0	1.0
Dairy products .....	.6	2.2	.9	2.9	.2	2.1
Fruits and vegetables .....	-6.9	-2.6	-11.7	-6.3	-7.8	-5.3
Other food at home .....	2.0	6.3	4.8	.7	1.3	4.2
Food away from home .....	1.5	.3	.1	1.6	.8	.4
Housing .....	2.0	2.7	1.4	1.6	.8	2.3
Shelter .....	2.3	4.2	1.4	1.6	1.1	2.6
Rent, residential .....	1.6	<sup>3</sup> 1.3	( <sup>2</sup> )	<sup>3</sup> 1.7	( <sup>2</sup> )	<sup>3</sup> 1.0
Homeownership .....	2.6	5.0	1.5	1.0	1.3	2.8
Fuel and utilities .....	1.8	-.4	.9	2.5	.3	2.7
Fuel oil and coal .....	.7	.6	0	-	.9	.4
Gas and electricity .....	2.3	-1.5	-.5	3.0	0	5.3
Household furnishings and operation .....	1.0	.2	1.4	1.6	.2	1.8
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.5	2.6	.5	.9	2.8	2.0
Men's and boys' .....	1.3	1.1	1.5	-.1	1.3	1.6
Women's and girls' .....	1.8	4.4	.2	1.1	5.3	4.4
Footwear .....	.8	.9	-2.5	-.1	1.2	-.1
Transportation .....	-.4	-.9	.3	-.1	-.2	.5
Private .....	-.4	-1.0	.3	-.1	-.3	.6
Public .....	.5	.1	.4	.3	.2	.2
Health and recreation .....	1.7	1.9	2.3	1.8	.9	2.0
Medical care .....	2.2	2.0	3.3	2.5	1.1	3.5
Personal care .....	1.3	2.7	1.7	1.7	.9	1.3
Reading and recreation .....	1.4	.9	1.9	1.0	1.8	.6
Other goods and services .....	1.4	2.6	1.4	1.6	-.2	1.5

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 7. CPI—selected areas<sup>1</sup>, by expenditure class—Continued**

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

Expenditure class	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	St. Louis	San Francisco—Oakland
Indexes, September 1977							
All items .....	183.0	188.8	<sup>4</sup> 185.2	173.4	180.6	179.1	184.0
Food .....	199.9	199.4	201.1	196.0	196.1	195.8	190.2
Food at home .....	198.8	196.9	202.9	191.9	191.5	194.8	191.7
Cereals and bakery products .....	188.7	178.8	196.9	172.4	183.8	196.6	180.9
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	182.9	187.8	187.4	190.6	178.7	176.9	186.8
Dairy products .....	194.6	173.6	179.6	190.8	184.5	184.5	168.4
Fruits and vegetables .....	203.1	197.6	199.5	190.5	177.5	184.7	171.8
Other food at home .....	226.2	238.8	252.6	213.5	228.3	237.3	241.6
Food away from home .....	203.4	208.9	193.9	207.7	210.6	200.5	185.1
Housing .....	190.7	206.3	<sup>5</sup> 189.1	165.5	186.2	181.7	197.3
Shelter .....	192.6	218.9	187.1	161.2	188.6	180.0	199.9
Rent, residential .....	136.9	145.5	136.4	165.0	133.3	128.4	166.9
Homeownership .....	208.9	249.7	210.7	158.6	210.2	194.7	216.3
Fuel and utilities .....	201.8	196.5	232.6	186.9	191.6	192.3	213.9
Fuel oil and coal .....	-	283.3	-	-	-	287.2	-
Gas and electricity .....	214.5	203.2	253.1	210.1	229.6	204.9	218.6
Household furnishings and operation .....	180.9	184.0	169.5	166.1	176.9	178.3	181.2
Apparel and upkeep .....	159.1	164.8	164.3	152.9	166.5	152.6	152.2
Men's and boys' .....	169.9	169.0	159.9	153.8	179.5	151.6	155.2
Women's and girls' .....	154.3	146.9	161.5	136.6	159.6	145.8	142.8
Footwear .....	139.4	172.8	173.9	152.6	167.9	160.5	152.0
Transportation .....	163.2	169.6	167.8	159.9	170.7	169.6	177.7
Private .....	168.1	170.5	174.1	166.2	171.5	174.8	178.8
Public .....	98.6	162.7	119.7	126.5	154.6	107.5	156.5
Health and recreation .....	179.8	176.3	182.0	174.8	172.2	173.9	174.9
Medical care .....	217.3	209.5	224.8	209.9	193.3	190.4	205.0
Personal care .....	177.7	167.3	170.4	181.8	177.2	174.4	173.0
Reading and recreation .....	160.4	157.7	149.9	165.0	152.5	157.3	152.2
Other goods and services .....	146.8	169.6	174.8	144.9	166.4	168.4	157.2
Percent changes June 1977 to September 1977							
All items .....	2.2	1.6	1.6	1.7	0.9	1.0	1.8
Food .....	2.0	.8	1.6	1.9	.5	-.2	.7
Food at home .....	2.1	.6	1.5	1.7	.1	-.7	.4
Cereals and bakery products .....	-.7	4.7	3.7	3.5	1.8	.7	.9
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	3.5	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.5	1.3	3.1
Dairy products .....	3.2	.3	2.9	.9	.2	2.4	1.8
Fruits and vegetables .....	-5.9	-6.6	-3.9	1.9	-5.0	-8.3	-6.9
Other food at home .....	6.5	2.0	3.5	1.0	.3	-.2	.5
Food away from home .....	2.0	1.5	1.9	2.1	1.6	1.7	2.1
Housing .....	2.5	3.4	1.9	2.0	1.5	2.1	3.1
Shelter .....	2.6	4.1	2.3	.9	1.3	2.2	2.4
Rent, residential .....	1.2	1.7	2.7	.9	2.0	1.2	1.9
Homeownership .....	2.8	4.8	2.2	.8	1.2	2.3	2.6
Fuel and utilities .....	4.9	3.6	4.8	8.5	1.6	2.3	10.8
Fuel oil and coal .....	-	.4	-	-	-	.3	-
Gas and electricity .....	7.4	5.6	4.5	4.9	2.1	4.0	3.3
Household furnishings and operation .....	.9	1.3	.8	1.4	1.8	1.7	1.6
Apparel and upkeep .....	6.8	1.2	3.9	1.0	3.3	1.3	1.5
Men's and boys' .....	10.3	1.2	1.2	4.3	3.5	1.8	2.3
Women's and girls' .....	9.4	2.0	9.1	-2.9	4.5	.8	1.2
Footwear .....	5.1	1.7	2.2	1.8	2.6	2.1	1.4
Transportation .....	-.6	-.7	-1.2	-.6	-1.3	-.7	-.2
Private .....	-.7	-.9	-1.2	-.8	-1.3	-.9	-.2
Public .....	.3	.1	.3	1.1	.1	1.6	.2
Health and recreation .....	1.5	1.3	2.1	2.6	1.8	2.0	2.5
Medical care .....	1.3	.9	2.0	4.6	1.6	2.4	3.3
Personal care .....	1.2	1.1	2.1	3.8	1.8	1.3	2.5
Reading and recreation .....	1.3	1.6	1.9	.5	2.3	1.2	1.3
Other goods and services .....	2.5	1.4	2.5	2.3	1.6	2.6	2.5

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 5.

<sup>2</sup> Not available.

<sup>3</sup> Change from July 1977.

<sup>4</sup> Revised index: June 1977, 182.0.

<sup>5</sup> Revised index: June 1977, 184.7.

Table 8. CPI—food groups, selected areas

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

Area <sup>1</sup>	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, September 1977								
U.S. city average . . . . .	194.5	192.2	184.9	182.1	175.4	183.2	232.6	203.7
Atlanta . . . . .	199.9	198.8	188.7	182.9	194.6	203.1	226.2	203.4
Baltimore . . . . .	199.4	196.9	178.8	187.8	173.6	197.6	238.8	208.9
Boston . . . . .	193.8	191.1	189.8	182.8	169.1	182.1	233.3	203.6
Buffalo . . . . .	191.1	189.0	185.4	178.8	174.8	175.1	229.2	203.3
Chicago . . . . .	195.2	194.3	187.1	185.0	169.4	196.2	237.3	198.8
Cincinnati . . . . .	201.1	202.9	196.9	187.4	179.6	199.5	252.6	193.9
Cleveland . . . . .	193.6	191.9	193.4	183.2	181.1	173.9	226.0	202.7
Dallas . . . . .	194.2	188.4	185.6	177.8	170.8	179.1	219.6	215.3
Detroit . . . . .	187.9	185.1	197.7	173.6	175.7	159.4	226.1	200.3
Honolulu . . . . .	196.0	191.9	172.4	190.6	190.8	190.5	213.5	207.7
Houston . . . . .	200.4	193.0	180.8	189.8	182.0	192.0	212.6	226.2
Kansas City . . . . .	196.1	191.5	183.8	178.7	184.5	177.5	228.3	210.6
Los Angeles—Long Beach . . . . .	188.3	186.5	183.2	179.7	160.9	172.9	227.4	193.2
Milwaukee . . . . .	192.3	189.6	186.2	182.4	179.8	179.0	217.7	( <sup>2</sup> )
Minneapolis—St. Paul . . . . .	198.6	191.5	194.8	183.2	188.2	173.4	216.2	229.7
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. . . . .	196.4	197.1	188.0	180.0	179.0	198.6	246.4	194.9
Philadelphia . . . . .	200.1	196.0	192.1	187.1	179.2	188.6	235.7	217.4
Pittsburgh . . . . .	196.1	192.5	194.4	186.4	171.6	179.6	226.9	218.0
St. Louis . . . . .	195.8	194.8	196.6	176.9	184.5	184.7	237.3	200.5
San Diego . . . . .	192.8	180.3	173.8	174.6	162.8	171.9	213.2	( <sup>2</sup> )
San Francisco—Oakland . . . . .	190.2	191.7	180.9	186.8	168.4	171.8	241.6	185.1
Seattle . . . . .	190.8	189.4	183.8	184.6	172.0	166.8	230.5	195.5
Washington . . . . .	202.8	197.1	199.5	179.7	158.6	195.3	248.7	217.5
Percent changes, August 1977 to September 1977								
U.S. city average . . . . .	-0.4	-0.5	1.2	0.2	0.2	-4.6	0.1	0.3
Atlanta . . . . .	.3	0	-.1	-.1	1.3	-1.8	.5	1.3
Baltimore . . . . .	.4	.4	2.0	.8	.9	-3.3	1.5	.1
Boston . . . . .	.2	.2	1.8	1.1	.1	-4.0	.8	.2
Buffalo . . . . .	.1	.1	2.1	1.2	.2	-4.8	.7	.2
Chicago . . . . .	.5	.6	1.0	.5	.8	-.6	.3	0
Cincinnati . . . . .	.3	.1	4.8	-.2	1.2	-4.0	1.0	1.2
Cleveland . . . . .	.7	.7	6.4	1.5	-.1	-4.8	.8	-.1
Dallas . . . . .	-.1	-.3	2.5	1.1	-.2	-3.5	-1.2	.3
Detroit . . . . .	-.8	-1.1	2.2	-1.4	.3	-8.9	2.1	0
Honolulu . . . . .	.2	-.2	-.4	.1	.3	-.8	0	1.0
Houston . . . . .	-.9	-1.2	.3	-1.3	-.7	-3.7	-.6	.1
Kansas City . . . . .	.2	.1	2.6	1.0	-.3	-2.3	-.7	.7
Los Angeles—Long Beach . . . . .	.1	-.2	1.5	.7	.5	-3.9	0	.6
Milwaukee . . . . .	-.2	-.2	3.6	-.4	-.2	-4.5	.9	( <sup>2</sup> )
Minneapolis—St. Paul . . . . .	-.6	-.9	-.9	-.4	2.8	-5.7	-.6	.3
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. . . . .	-1.1	-1.4	.8	-.4	0	-6.8	-.6	-.1
Philadelphia . . . . .	.5	.5	1.2	.3	.3	-.3	1.2	.1
Pittsburgh . . . . .	-.3	-.4	2.1	1.4	1.1	-6.1	-.9	.3
St. Louis . . . . .	-.7	-.9	1.0	.1	.7	-7.5	.4	.7
San Diego . . . . .	-.3	-.4	.4	.1	.2	-4.1	.3	( <sup>2</sup> )
San Francisco—Oakland . . . . .	-.3	-.5	2.8	-.3	.1	-4.7	-.1	.3
Seattle . . . . .	-.8	-1.1	2.9	.1	.5	-7.4	-1.2	.4
Washington . . . . .	.3	.3	5.1	-1.3	0	-3.0	2.1	.4

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 5.<sup>2</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup>	Leaded regular gasoline			Unleaded regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Index		Percent change to Sept. 1977 from	Index		Percent change to Sept. 1977 from	Index		Percent change to Sept. 1977 from
	August 1977	September 1977		August 1977	September 1977		August 1977	September 1977	
U.S. city average .....	107.9	107.7	-0.2	110.2	110.1	-0.1	108.7	108.7	0
Atlanta .....	106.4	108.1	1.6	112.4	113.8	1.2	110.5	111.9	1.3
Baltimore .....	105.2	104.8	-.4	108.5	108.7	.2	107.0	107.0	0
Boston .....	106.6	106.3	-.3	112.0	112.1	.1	108.8	108.8	0
Buffalo .....	108.0	106.8	-1.1	109.2	107.8	-1.3	109.0	107.5	-1.4
Chicago .....	108.4	107.6	-.7	110.2	109.7	-.5	109.1	108.4	-.6
Cincinnati .....	107.3	107.2	-.1	110.3	110.2	-.1	107.6	107.5	-.1
Cleveland .....	104.3	105.4	1.1	108.8	109.3	.5	105.7	106.8	1.0
Dallas .....	111.0	110.7	-.3	113.0	113.1	.1	111.0	111.0	0
Detroit .....	107.8	107.5	-.3	112.5	112.4	-.1	109.9	110.1	.2
Honolulu .....	105.2	105.4	.2	106.0	106.4	.4	105.1	105.4	.3
Houston .....	110.5	110.0	-.5	112.5	112.1	-.4	109.9	109.7	-.2
Kansas City .....	109.4	109.2	-.2	112.3	111.9	-.4	109.5	109.4	-.1
Los Angeles—Long Beach .....	108.2	108.4	.2	109.6	110.0	.4	107.8	108.2	.4
Milwaukee .....	109.6	109.0	-.5	112.1	111.8	-.3	109.8	109.3	-.5
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	109.4	108.7	-.6	112.3	111.5	-.7	110.0	109.7	-.3
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	104.9	104.4	-.5	108.5	108.6	.1	106.7	106.9	.2
Philadelphia .....	106.3	106.3	0	110.5	110.2	-.3	108.1	108.2	.1
Pittsburgh .....	107.2	107.8	.6	110.2	110.4	.2	109.3	109.5	.2
St. Louis .....	109.0	108.5	-.5	110.7	110.5	-.2	108.9	108.8	-.1
San Diego .....	106.4	106.9	.5	108.6	109.0	.4	106.7	107.1	.4
San Francisco—Oakland .....	108.0	108.1	.1	107.9	107.9	0	106.6	106.5	-.1
Seattle .....	111.6	111.4	-.2	111.9	112.1	.2	111.3	111.5	.2
Washington .....	107.0	106.4	-.6	110.3	110.3	0	108.6	108.5	-.1

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

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

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

Area <sup>1</sup>	Leaded regular gasoline			Unleaded regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Average price per gallon								
	July 1977	August 1977	September 1977	July 1977	August 1977	September 1977	July 1977	August 1977	September 1977
U.S. city average .....	\$0.631	\$0.630	\$0.629	\$0.667	\$0.667	\$0.666	\$0.683	\$0.684	\$0.684
Atlanta.....	.618	.614	.624	.676	.675	.684	.694	.693	.701
Baltimore.....	.631	.629	.626	.666	.666	.667	.689	.689	.689
Boston.....	.624	.624	.622	.673	.673	.674	.684	.684	.684
Buffalo.....	.641	.641	.634	.671	.674	.665	.695	.699	.689
Chicago.....	.650	.650	.645	.697	.696	.693	.701	.701	.696
Cincinnati.....	.618	.617	.617	.654	.653	.653	.672	.670	.669
Cleveland.....	.611	.611	.617	.646	.647	.650	.664	.664	.671
Dallas.....	.597	.597	.595	.628	.628	.628	.642	.642	.642
Detroit.....	.625	.625	.623	.680	.680	.679	.695	.694	.696
Honolulu.....	.721	.721	.722	.738	.738	.740	.765	.764	.766
Houston.....	.585	.582	.580	.615	.614	.612	.633	.633	.632
Kansas City.....	.607	.606	.605	.642	.640	.637	.658	.656	.655
Los Angeles—Long Beach.....	.633	.631	.633	.668	.669	.672	.677	.676	.678
Milwaukee.....	.597	.596	.593	.633	.634	.632	.651	.651	.648
Minneapolis—St. Paul.....	.629	.629	.625	.666	.664	.659	.697	.697	.695
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J.....	.625	.627	.624	.667	.667	.668	.692	.692	.694
Philadelphia.....	.623	.620	.620	.677	.676	.674	.695	.693	.694
Pittsburgh.....	.627	.623	.626	.664	.663	.664	.681	.683	.684
St. Louis.....	.624	.618	.615	.648	.645	.643	.672	.669	.668
San Diego.....	.646	.641	.645	.685	.682	.685	.697	.693	.696
San Francisco—Oakland.....	.663	.663	.663	.681	.682	.682	.703	.703	.702
Seattle.....	.641	.640	.639	.664	.664	.665	.688	.688	.689
Washington.....	.649	.644	.640	.694	.692	.692	.712	.712	.711

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

Table 11. CPI—by population size <sup>1</sup>

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

Area and group	Relative importance	Indexes (1967=100)			Percent change to September 1977 from—	
	December 1976	September 1976	June 1977	September 1977	September 1976	June 1977
United States:						
All items .....	100.000	172.6	181.8	184.0	6.6	1.2
Food .....	23.667	181.6	193.6	194.5	7.1	.5
Housing .....	34.202	179.5	189.0	192.7	7.4	2.0
Apparel and upkeep .....	9.194	150.2	153.9	156.2	4.0	1.5
Transportation .....	13.548	169.5	179.2	178.5	5.3	-.4
Health and recreation .....	19.013	165.3	173.2	176.1	6.5	1.7
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):						
All items .....	32.358	173.9	182.1	184.0	5.8	1.0
Food .....	7.943	182.5	193.7	194.6	6.6	.5
Housing .....	10.747	178.4	186.7	189.4	6.2	1.4
Apparel and upkeep .....	2.984	146.0	146.1	149.4	2.3	2.3
Transportation .....	4.396	177.6	187.1	186.7	5.1	-.2
Health and recreation .....	6.288	169.7	177.7	180.4	6.3	1.5
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):						
All items .....	11.763	171.9	181.6	183.9	7.0	1.3
Food .....	2.831	182.5	194.9	195.0	6.8	.1
Housing .....	4.021	175.5	185.8	190.5	8.5	2.5
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.083	149.7	153.4	155.6	3.9	1.4
Transportation .....	1.582	171.3	181.8	181.2	5.8	-.3
Health and recreation .....	2.246	165.6	173.8	176.8	6.8	1.7
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):						
All items .....	25.678	171.6	181.2	183.6	7.0	1.3
Food .....	5.840	181.3	194.0	195.1	7.6	.6
Housing .....	8.966	178.6	188.6	192.8	8.0	2.2
Apparel and upkeep .....	2.384	153.6	158.8	162.1	5.5	2.1
Transportation .....	3.576	164.3	174.0	172.9	5.2	-.6
Health and recreation .....	4.913	163.7	171.5	174.3	6.5	1.6
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):						
All items .....	12.537	171.9	181.5	183.7	6.9	1.2
Food .....	2.940	180.4	192.7	193.9	7.5	.6
Housing .....	4.358	181.1	191.5	194.9	7.6	1.8
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.182	152.2	159.2	160.0	5.1	.5
Transportation .....	1.710	165.3	174.7	174.2	5.4	-.3
Health and recreation .....	2.346	161.8	169.0	172.6	6.7	2.1
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):						
All items .....	17.288	173.0	182.7	184.8	6.8	1.1
Food .....	4.111	180.7	192.9	193.7	7.2	.4
Housing .....	6.110	183.7	193.7	197.9	7.7	2.2
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.562	151.7	158.3	158.1	4.2	-.1
Transportation .....	2.285	165.3	175.2	174.6	5.6	-.3
Health and recreation .....	3.220	162.1	170.4	173.6	7.1	1.9

<sup>1</sup> Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

Table 12. CPI—by region

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

Area and group	Relative <sup>1</sup> importance	Index <sup>1</sup>			Percent change to September 1977 from—	
	December 1976	September 1976	June 1977	September 1977	September 1976	June 1977
United States:						
All items .....	100.000	172.6	181.8	184.0	6.6	1.2
Food .....	23.667	181.6	193.6	194.5	7.1	.5
Housing .....	34.202	179.5	189.0	192.7	7.4	2.0
Apparel and upkeep .....	9.194	150.2	153.9	156.2	4.0	1.5
Transportation .....	13.548	169.5	179.2	178.5	5.3	-.4
Health and recreation .....	19.013	165.3	173.2	176.1	6.5	1.7
Northeast:						
All items .....	32.560	175.2	183.4	184.9	5.5	.8
Food .....	8.354	183.9	194.8	195.2	6.1	.2
Housing .....	10.600	181.1	190.0	191.9	6.0	1.0
Apparel and upkeep .....	3.219	150.9	152.5	155.7	3.2	2.1
Transportation .....	4.178	177.7	187.0	187.0	5.2	0
Health and recreation .....	6.210	167.6	174.7	176.9	5.5	1.3
North Central:						
All items .....	27.937	169.8	179.5	181.6	6.9	1.2
Food .....	6.560	181.1	193.5	193.8	7.0	.2
Housing .....	9.608	172.3	181.6	185.7	7.8	2.3
Apparel and upkeep .....	2.456	149.2	154.4	155.7	4.4	.8
Transportation .....	3.925	166.2	177.0	175.9	5.8	-.6
Health and recreation .....	5.389	165.7	174.6	178.0	7.4	1.9
South:						
All items .....	22.078	175.1	184.4	187.3	7.0	1.6
Food .....	5.043	184.2	196.2	198.5	7.8	1.2
Housing .....	7.763	185.8	195.2	200.2	7.8	2.6
Apparel and upkeep .....	2.117	153.7	159.1	162.0	5.4	1.8
Transportation .....	3.033	165.1	174.7	173.5	5.1	-.7
Health and recreation .....	4.122	166.0	174.1	177.3	6.8	1.8
West:						
All items .....	16.590	169.7	179.7	182.2	7.4	1.4
Food .....	3.585	174.7	188.6	189.7	8.6	.6
Housing .....	6.091	180.6	191.9	196.5	8.8	2.4
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.369	144.8	148.4	149.5	3.2	.7
Transportation .....	2.351	167.1	175.8	175.5	5.0	-.2
Health and recreation .....	3.193	159.9	167.5	170.7	6.8	1.9

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

# Appendix: Technical Notes

## Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

## A Note About Calculating Index Changes

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

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

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

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

<i>Index Point Change</i>	
CPI	123.8
Less previous index	<u>123.2</u>
Equals index point change:	0.6
<i>Percent Change</i>	
Index point difference,	<u>0.6</u>
Divided by the previous index,	123.2
Equals,	0.005
Results multiplied by one hundred	0.005 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 change-overs, 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.<sup>1</sup> The table below shows standard errors for monthly, quarterly, and annual *percent*

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

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

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

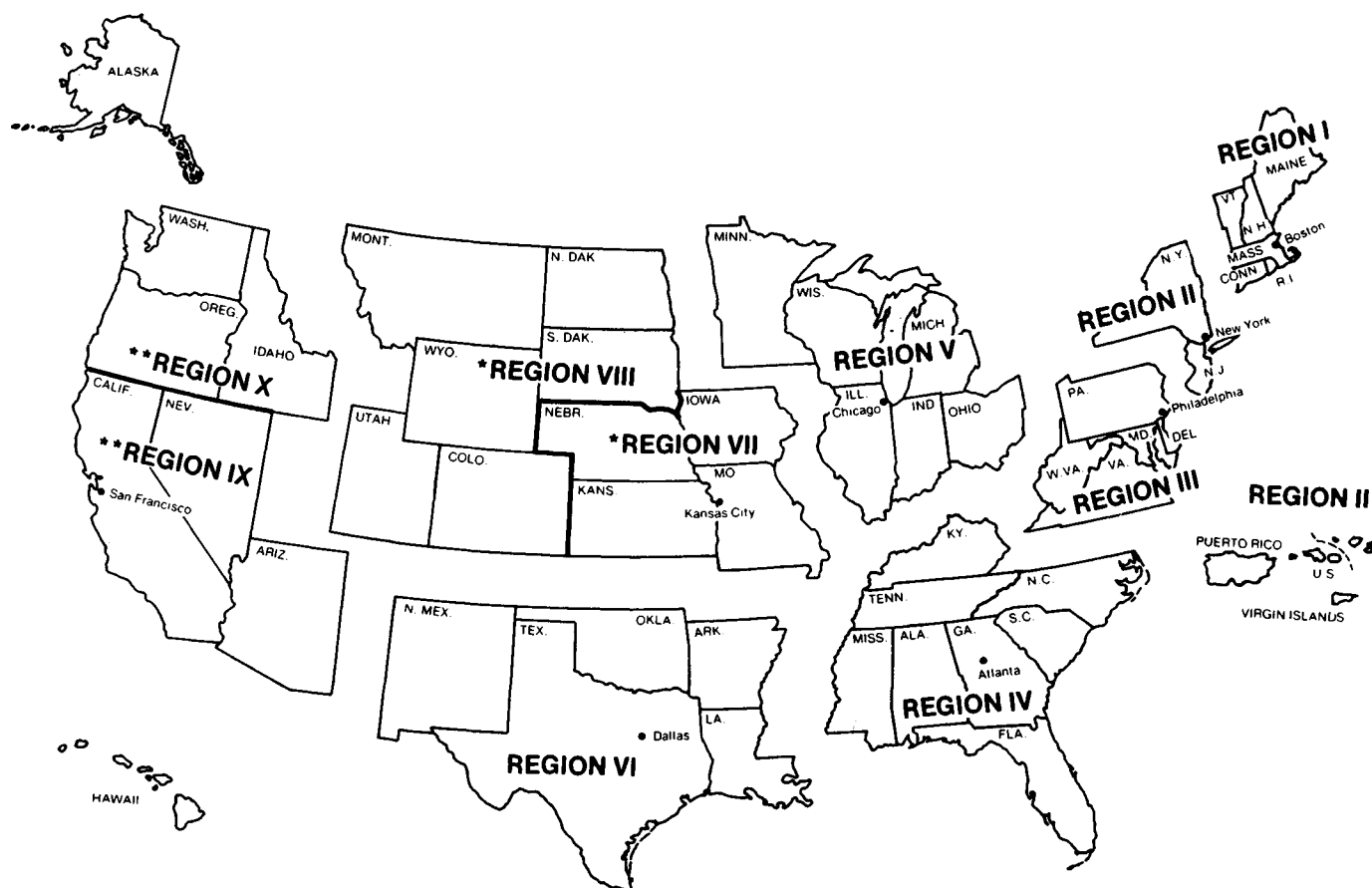
Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. As the table indicates, for example, a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might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

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

<sup>1</sup> 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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