

CPI Detailed Report

For October 1974

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

October 1974

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.9 percent in October to 153.2 percent of its 1967 base. The rise was due to price increases for a variety of consumer goods and services, notably new and used cars, mortgage interest costs, apparel commodities, cereal and bakery products, and sugar. The effect of these increases was offset partially by declines in prices for meats and gasoline.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the rise in the October CPI was also 0.9 percent. This increase compares with 1.2 percent in September and 1.3 percent in August. The food index rose 1.3 percent after seasonal adjustment in October, following even larger increases in both August and September. The October increase in the index for nonfood commodities of 0.6 percent was less than half the average monthly increase of 1.3 percent in the first 9 months of this year. The

index for services rose 0.9 percent in October, compared with 1.1 percent in each of the preceding 3 months. (See table A.)

Compared with a year ago, the October CPI was up 12.2 percent. The food index was 11.9 percent higher this October than in October 1973, and the index for commodities other than food was up 14.0 percent. The services index rose 10.6 percent over the same period.

Monthly changes in detail (not seasonally adjusted)

Food. The index for food purchased in grocery stores—which usually shows a large seasonal decline in October—rose 0.6 percent. Prices averaged higher for most types of food purchased in grocery stores except meats, poultry, and fresh fruits. Prices rose sharply for cereal and

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items	
								Compound annual rate	From 12 months ago
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	From 3 months ago	
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed
1973:									
October	0.8	0.8	0.1	0.7	0.9	0.5	1.1	13.1	7.9
November .....	.7	.8	1.1	1.4	.7	.7	.6	8.3	8.4
December .....	.7	.6	.9	.5	.6	.6	.6	9.2	8.8
1974:									
January .....	.9	1.1	1.6	1.7	.6	1.3	.7	10.2	9.4
February	1.3	1.2	2.5	2.2	1.0	1.1	.7	12.2	10.0
March	1.1	1.1	1.0	.6	1.5	1.4	.8	14.2	10.2
April .....	.6	.6	-.3	-.4	1.3	1.1	.6	12.1	10.2
May	1.1	1.1	.7	.9	1.6	1.3	1.0	11.4	10.7
June	1.0	1.0	.4	.3	1.4	1.3	1.0	10.9	11.1
July .....	.8	.8	.1	-.4	1.0	1.3	1.1	11.7	11.8
August	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.1	12.9	11.2
September	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.1	1.0	1.1	14.2	12.1
October .....	.9	.9	.7	1.3	.9	.6	.9	14.7	12.2

bakery products and sugar and sweets. Prices for eggs, nonalcoholic beverages, partially prepared foods, fats and oil products, and dairy products continued to move up. Fresh vegetable prices also increased. In contrast, meat and poultry prices turned down in October after 2 months of large increases. The declines were sharper than usual for beef but were largely seasonal for pork and poultry. Fresh fruit prices continued to decline but not as much as is usual for October. The index for food away from home—restaurant meals and snacks—increased 1.0 percent in October.

Rising sugar prices continued as a major source of upward pressure on prices for a wide range of foods purchased in grocery stores and for food away from home, particularly snacks. (See table 7.) Over the past year, wholesale prices for sugar have risen substantially—over 230 percent for raw cane sugar and over 167 percent for refined granulated cane sugar in five pound bags. The surge in prices this year reflects a combination of factors: Middle East countries have shown a greater willingness to pay higher prices for sugar to meet rising demand; harvests of European sugar beet crops were affected by poor weather this fall and the sugar cane crop in the Philippines were damaged by a series of typhoons since June; and there has been considerable speculative trading in world markets. In addition, world sugar consumption has exceeded production in each of the past 3 years.

The large decline in retail beef prices in October resulted from poor retail demand and expanding cattle slaughter. Heavy slaughter of cows and non-fed “baby beef,” which was triggered by rising feed prices, flooded all levels of the marketing system and led to large inventories of Choice and Good grade beef. Consequently, wholesale prices for beef—which rose in July and early August—turned down after mid-August; lower retail prices resulted. Cattle and beef prices have trended down almost steadily over the past year. In October of this year, cattle prices were 14.2 percent lower than a year earlier, wholesale beef prices were down 5.6 percent, and retail beef prices were 2.2 percent lower than in October 1973.

Commodities less food. The index for commodities other than food rose 0.9 percent before seasonal adjustment in October. Over a fifth of the rise was due to an increase in the index for new cars.

October is the first month in which 1975 model-year cars from the three major domestic manufacturers were introduced in the CPI. Changes in the new car index reflect price increases after quality adjustments are made. (See press release USDL-74-636, dated November 14, 1974, for a report of quality changes for 1975

cars.) The October increase in the new car index does not reflect the full effect of the price increase for the 1975 models. Because sales of 1975 models cars have been low, a large part of the sample priced in the October CPI consisted of 1974 models on which dealers were giving higher concessions to clear out year-end inventories. The new car index will continue to reflect price increases on 1975 models over the next several months as inventories of 1974 models are eliminated. In addition, 1975 models from American Motors will be priced for the first time in November and 1975 imported cars will not be introduced until December or January.

In contrast to the low demand for new cars, used car sales have been strong. Automotive Market Report indicates that used cars outsold new cars at franchised dealers in September. With a tight supply of good clean used cars, used car prices continued to increase in October.

Prices for apparel commodities increased seasonally in October. In addition, there were large increases for housefurnishings, housekeeping supplies, reading materials—especially college textbooks which are priced once a year in October, toilet goods, alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, and fuel oil and coal. Gasoline prices declined 2.7 percent, much more than in the two preceding months. (See tables 9 and 10 for indexes and average prices of gasoline.)

Services. The services index rose 0.9 percent in October. Two-fifths of this increase was due to a rise in mortgage interest costs which reflected earlier increases in interest rates on conventionally financed loans as well as previously announced rate increases for FHA-insured loans (from 9.5 to 10.0 percent). Charges for other household services such as home maintenance and most housekeeping services—except for domestic services—continued to increase. October increases for housekeeping services were generally somewhat smaller than in recent months as the impact of the increased minimum wage (effective May 1) has subsided. Charges for residential gas and electricity continued to rise as higher raw fuel costs were passed on.

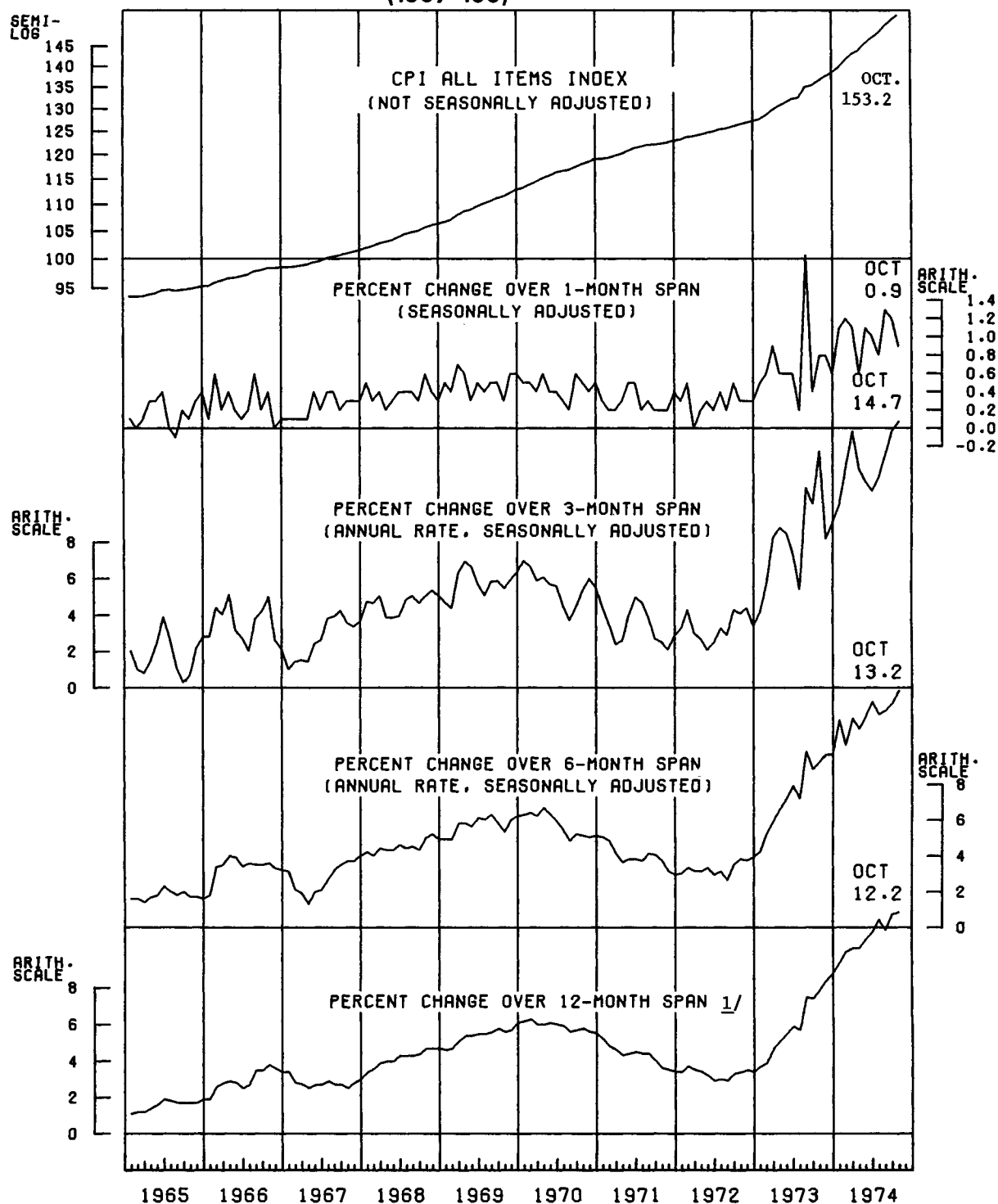
The uptrend in apartment and house rents has been relatively moderate compared to the rise in most other household services; nevertheless, a steady acceleration has been evident this year. In October, rent increased 0.6 percent, the largest monthly increase since January 1973. Among factors which have contributed to the rise in rents are higher costs to landlords for fuel and utilities, taxes, and replacement parts and supplies. Also, the growth in the number of rental units has slowed as a

result of the continued low level of new apartment construction and the increased trend toward condominium conversion. At the same time the demand for rental units has increased because the low level of housing starts, high mortgaging costs, and the difficulty of obtaining loans have postponed home purchases.

Higher charges for most other services such as physicians' and hospital charges, auto repairs, dry-

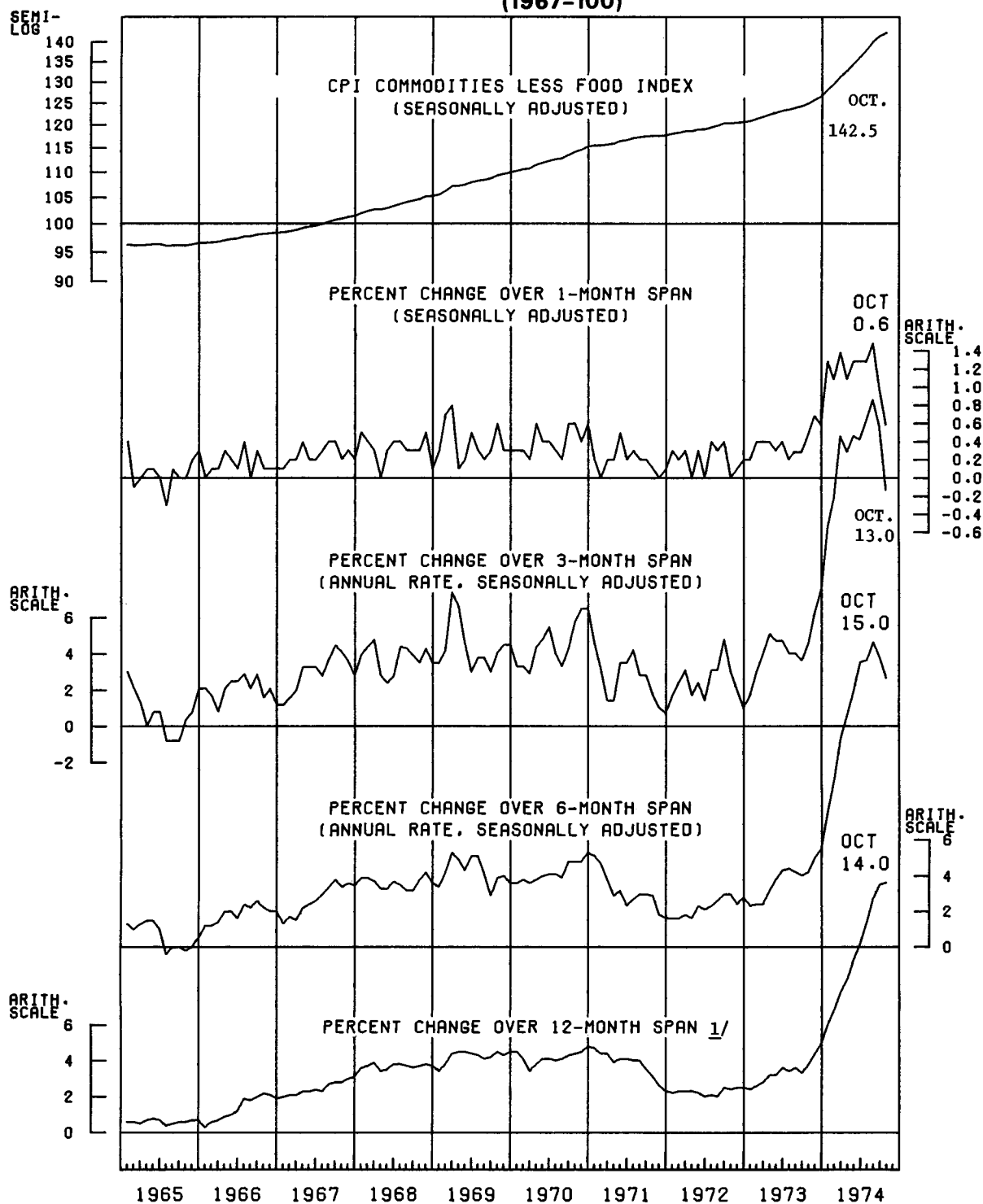
cleaning, and beauty and barber shop services also contributed to the rise in the services index. Charges for auto insurance, however, declined more than in recent months. The October CPI includes the regular annual adjustment to the health insurance component for retained earnings of health insurance companies. The adjustment slightly reduced the increase in the overall services index.

**Chart 1. All items index and its rate of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



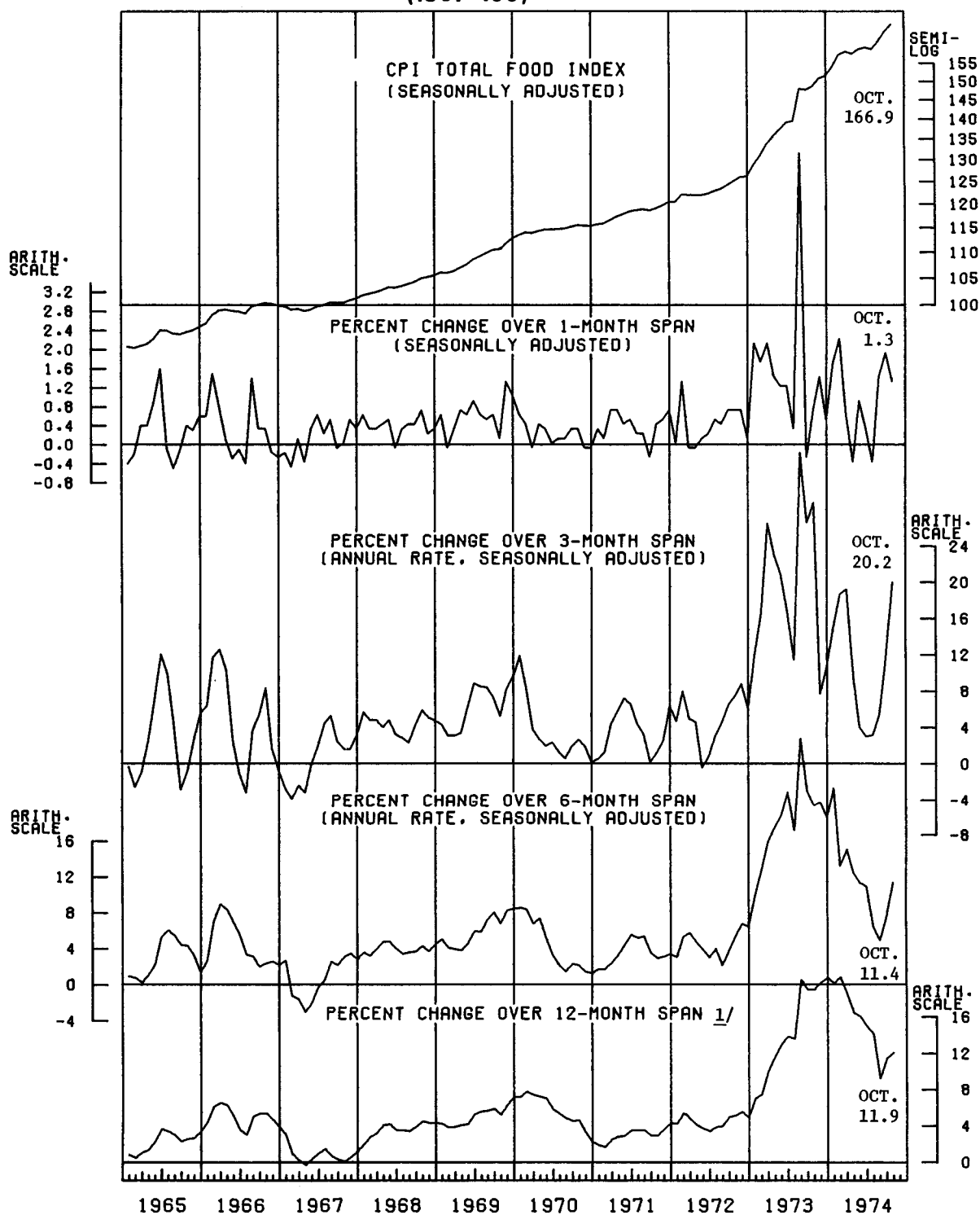
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 2. Commodities less food index and its rate of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



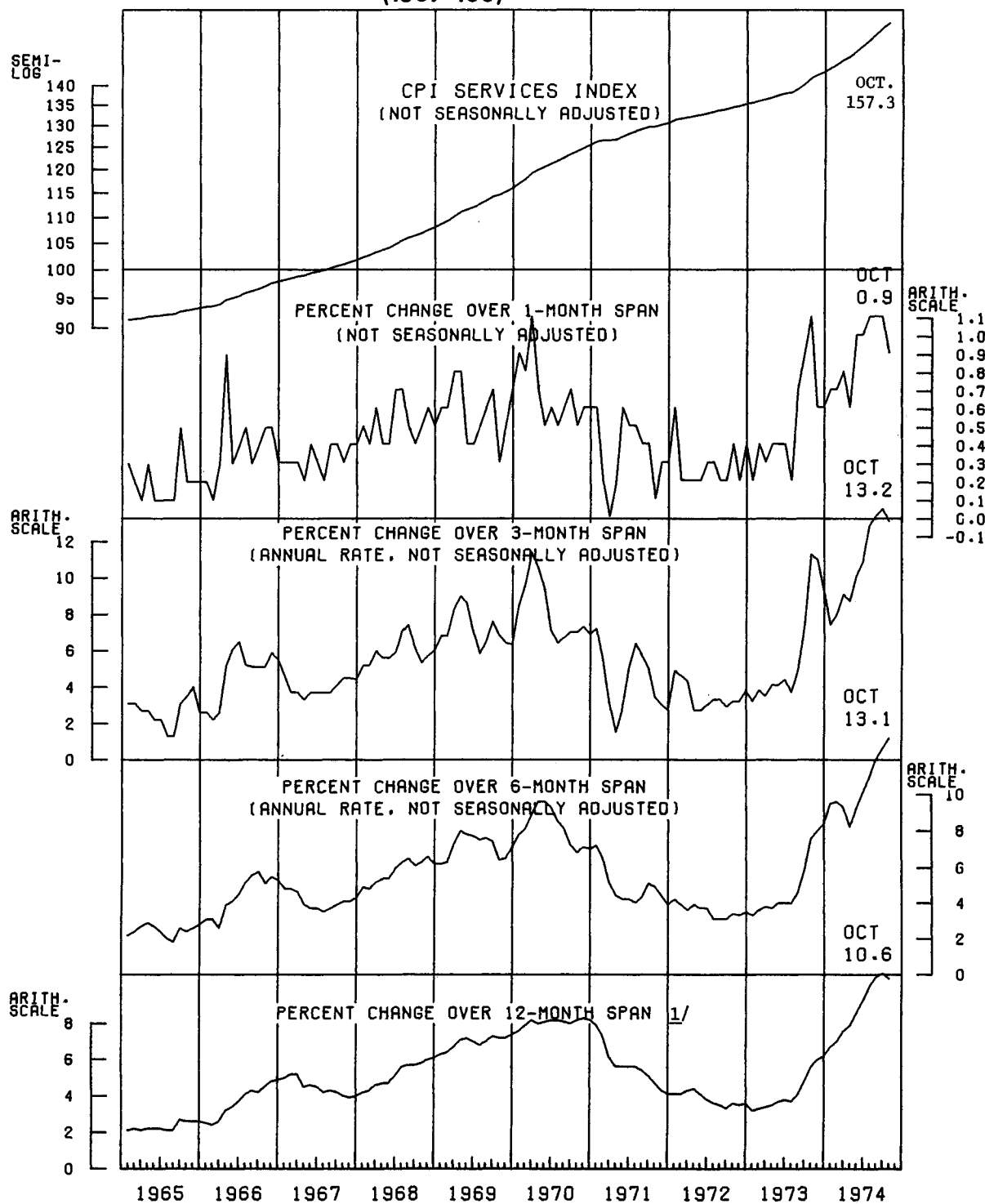
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 3. Total food index and its rate of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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**Chart 4. Services index and its rate of change, 1965-74
(1967=100)**



^{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 October 1974 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
	December 1973	September 1974	October 1974	October 1973	September 1974	July to August	August to September	September to October
	Commodity and service groups							
All items -----	100.000	151.9	153.2	12.2	0.9	1.3	1.2	0.9
All items (1957-59=100)-----	-	176.7	178.2	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities -----	63.454	149.9	151.1	13.2	.8	1.5	1.3	.9
Food -----	24.810	165.0	166.1	11.9	.7	1.4	1.9	1.3
Food at home -----	19.633	165.5	166.5	12.0	.6	1.7	2.0	1.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	2.644	170.4	174.7	25.7	2.5	.8	1.3	2.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	6.988	166.3	163.7	-4.1	-1.6	4.7	3.2	-1.0
Dairy products -----	3.023	151.1	151.7	10.5	.4	-.5	.3	.3
Fruits and vegetables -----	3.146	162.9	162.4	17.0	-.3	-3.7	.5	2.3
Other foods at home -----	3.832	174.2	179.9	31.1	3.3	4.3	3.8	3.5
Food away from home -----	5.177	163.1	164.7	11.5	1.0	.7	.7	.9
Commodities less food -----	38.644	141.6	142.9	14.0	.9	1.5	1.0	.6
Nondurables less food -----	22.978	145.3	146.1	15.0	.6	1.4	.3	.4
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	8.569	139.8	141.0	8.5	.9	2.6	-.2	.1
Men's and boys' -----	2.661	140.0	141.4	10.2	1.0	1.7	.4	.3
Women's and girls' -----	3.815	138.8	140.2	6.7	1.0	3.5	-.8	-.1
Footwear -----	1.504	141.1	141.7	7.3	.4	2.1	.6	.2
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	14.409	148.6	149.2	19.1	.4	.9	.7	.5
Gasoline and motor oil -----	3.162	164.3	160.2	31.0	-2.5	-.5	-1.5	-2.3
Tobacco products -----	1.993	146.5	147.4	6.7	.6	*.9	*.2	*.6
Alcoholic beverages -----	2.349	135.6	137.0	10.8	1.0	*1.8	*1.0	*1.0
Fuel oil and coal -----	.872	222.7	225.5	59.8	1.3	.6	.8	1.3
Other nondurables -----	6.033	138.6	141.0	15.7	1.7	1.4	2.1	1.7
Durable commodities -----	15.666	136.5	138.5	12.4	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.0
Household durables -----	4.566	133.0	134.1	11.4	.8	1.7	1.2	.8
New cars -----	1.917	118.4	123.7	10.5	4.5	.6	2.1	1.1
Used cars -----	1.849	148.8	152.3	28.5	2.4	*3.2	*2.8	*2.4
Other durables -----	7.334	140.8	141.9	9.2	.8	.9	1.1	.8
Services -----	36.546	155.9	157.3	10.6	.9	*1.1	*1.1	*.9
Rent -----	4.873	131.4	132.2	5.0	.6	*.5	*.4	*.6
Service less rent -----	31.673	160.3	161.9	11.5	1.0	*1.1	*1.2	*1.0
Household services less rent -----	15.463	171.5	173.8	14.6	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.2
Transportation services -----	5.090	143.4	144.0	4.8	.4	.5	.7	.4
Medical care services -----	5.423	164.5	165.6	12.0	.7	1.6	1.0	1.1
Other services -----	5.698	144.7	145.5	8.6	.6	.8	.9	.6
Special indexes:								
All items less food -----	75.190	148.1	149.5	12.3	.9	1.4	1.0	.7
Nondurable commodities -----	47.788	154.8	155.8	13.4	.6	1.5	1.2	.9
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	7.064	139.6	140.9	8.7	.9	2.5	-.1	.1
Services less medical care services -----	31.123	154.6	156.0	10.3	.9	*.9	*1.2	*.9
Insurance and finance -----	9.707	167.8	170.6	10.1	1.7	1.3	1.3	1.4
Utilities and public transportation -----	5.318	144.1	144.8	10.5	.5	.9	1.0	.7
Housekeeping and home maintenance service -----	4.457	184.1	185.7	18.7	.9	1.4	1.7	1.0
Appliances (including radio and T.V.) -----	1.489	112.0	113.1	7.0	1.0	*1.4	*1.1	*1.0
Expenditure classes								
All items -----	100.000	151.9	153.2	12.2	0.9	1.3	1.2	0.9
Food -----	24.810	165.0	166.1	11.9	.7	1.4	1.9	1.3
Housing -----	33.321	154.9	156.7	13.5	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.2
Shelter ² -----	21.459	158.1	159.9	10.5	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.1
Rent -----	4.873	131.4	132.2	5.0	.6	*.5	*.4	*.6
Homeownership ³ -----	16.184	167.9	170.1	12.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.2
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	4.820	154.0	155.2	20.7	.8	1.1	1.1	.9
Gas and electricity -----	2.390	150.2	151.5	18.9	.9	1.6	1.5	1.0
Household furnishings and operation -----	7.042	146.6	149.0	17.6	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	9.945	139.9	141.1	8.9	.9	2.3	0	.3
Transportation -----	12.602	144.3	145.1	16.1	.6	.9	1.5	-.3
Private -----	11.233	143.8	144.6	17.7	.6	1.1	1.6	-.3
Public -----	1.369	148.8	148.8	2.5	0	.4	-.1	.3
Health and recreation -----	18.946	144.0	145.2	9.9	.8	*1.1	*1.0	*.8
Medical care -----	6.229	155.2	156.3	11.2	.7	1.5	1.1	.9
Personal care -----	2.513	141.2	143.0	12.3	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.2
Reading and recreation -----	5.346	137.0	137.8	8.3	.6	.6	1.2	.6
Other goods and services -----	4.859	140.4	141.4	8.5	.7	1.2	.6	.7
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter -----	78.541	150.4	151.6	12.7	.8	1.3	1.2	.8
All items less medical care -----	93.771	151.8	153.1	12.2	.9	1.4	1.3	.9
All items less mortgage interest costs -----	95.951	150.1	151.3	11.9	.8	1.3	1.1	.9
CPI-domestically produced farm foods ⁵ -----	17.583	164.3	164.6	9.8	.2	*1.4	*1.4	*.2
CPI-selected beef cuts ⁶ -----	2.290	171.7	165.1	-2.2	-3.8	*5.3	*2.4	*-3.8
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967= \$1.00 -----	-	\$0.658	\$0.653	-10.8	-.8	-	-	-
1957-59= \$1.00 -----	-	.566	.561	-	-	-	-	-

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 telephones, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage services not shown separately.

⁵ Calculated from the CPI food at home component by excluding fish, nonalcoholic beverages, bananas, chocolate candy bars, chocolate syrup, and about half of the index weight for sugar.

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

* 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						
	July 1974	August 1974	September 1974	October 1974	3 months ending in			6 months ending in			
					January 1974	April 1974	July 1974	October 1974	April 1974	October 1974	
	Commodity and service groups										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	10.2	12.1	11.7	14.7	11.1	13.2	
Commodities -----	145.7	147.9	149.8	151.1	12.9	13.1	11.1	15.7	13.0	13.4	
Food -----	159.4	161.7	164.7	166.9	15.3	9.7	3.3	20.2	12.4	11.4	
Food at home -----	159.0	161.7	165.0	167.7	15.5	9.9	.3	23.7	12.7	11.4	
Cereals and bakery products -----	166.7	168.0	170.2	174.7	35.6	33.1	14.6	20.6	34.3	17.6	
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	152.6	159.7	164.8	163.2	4.3	-19.1	-23.4	30.8	-8.2	.1	
Dairy products -----	151.6	150.9	151.4	151.9	28.2	22.2	-5.4	.8	25.1	-2.3	
Fruits and vegetables -----	171.2	164.9	165.7	169.5	21.4	24.6	28.8	-3.9	23.0	11.3	
Other foods at home -----	160.0	166.9	173.2	179.2	14.5	34.6	21.8	57.4	24.1	38.4	
Food away from home -----	160.6	161.7	162.8	164.2	12.8	11.0	12.9	9.3	11.9	11.1	
Commodities less food -----	138.2	140.3	141.7	142.5	11.0	15.1	16.9	13.0	13.0	15.0	
Nondurables less food -----	142.4	144.4	144.9	145.5	17.8	19.1	14.4	9.0	18.5	11.6	
Apparel commodities ¹ -----	136.2	139.7	139.4	139.6	3.5	12.2	8.0	10.4	7.8	9.2	
Men's and boys' ¹ -----	137.2	139.5	140.0	140.4	4.1	16.5	10.9	9.7	10.1	10.3	
Women's and girls' ¹ -----	134.5	139.2	138.1	138.0	.9	11.2	4.3	10.8	6.0	7.5	
Footwear -----	137.4	140.3	141.1	141.4	5.3	7.7	4.5	12.2	6.5	8.3	
Nondurables less food and apparel -----	145.9	147.2	148.2	148.9	28.2	23.1	17.6	8.5	25.6	13.0	
Gasoline and motor oil -----	166.1	165.2	162.7	158.9	75.4	77.8	12.7	-16.2	76.6	-2.8	
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted) -----	144.9	146.2	146.5	147.4	1.5	2.6	16.1	7.1	2.0	11.5	
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted) -----	131.8	134.2	135.6	137.0	7.3	7.8	11.4	16.7	7.6	14.0	
Fuel oil and coal -----	220.5	221.8	223.6	226.6	247.5	26.5	33.1	11.5	109.6	21.8	
Other nondurables -----	134.0	135.9	138.7	141.1	8.5	11.0	20.9	22.9	9.7	21.9	
Durable commodities -----	132.5	134.7	136.8	138.2	1.6	10.1	20.4	18.4	5.8	19.4	
Household durables -----	129.2	131.4	133.0	134.1	6.1	9.5	14.1	16.1	7.8	15.1	
New cars -----	119.0	119.7	122.2	123.6	-2.1	5.9	23.9	16.4	1.8	20.1	
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted) -----	140.2	144.7	148.8	152.3	-33.5	14.6	157.3	39.3	-12.7	89.3	
Other durables -----	138.0	139.2	140.7	141.8	6.3	12.0	7.0	11.5	9.1	9.2	
Services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	152.5	154.2	155.9	157.3	7.5	8.8	13.0	13.2	8.2	13.1	
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	130.3	130.9	131.4	132.2	4.5	4.8	4.7	6.0	4.7	5.3	
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	156.6	158.4	160.3	161.9	7.9	9.5	14.5	14.2	8.7	14.4	
Household services less rent -----	166.8	169.0	171.5	173.6	11.0	12.9	17.2	17.3	12.0	17.3	
Transportation services -----	142.3	143.0	144.0	144.6	.3	4.7	7.7	6.6	2.5	7.1	
Medical care services -----	160.0	162.6	164.3	166.1	4.9	9.1	18.7	16.1	7.0	17.4	
Other services -----	142.2	143.3	144.6	145.4	6.1	7.6	11.4	9.3	6.8	10.4	
Special indexes:											
All items less food -----	144.8	146.8	148.2	149.2	9.0	12.3	15.4	12.7	10.7	14.1	
Nondurable commodities -----	150.6	152.8	154.6	156.0	16.0	14.8	8.1	15.1	15.4	11.6	
Apparel commodities less footwear -----	136.0	139.4	139.2	139.4	2.8	13.0	9.0	10.4	7.8	9.7	
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted) -----	151.4	152.8	154.6	156.0	7.9	8.6	12.2	12.7	8.2	12.5	
Insurance and finance -----	163.7	165.9	168.0	170.3	7.2	5.7	10.7	17.1	6.4	13.9	
Utilities and public transportation -----	142.0	143.3	144.7	145.7	10.7	10.8	9.9	10.8	10.7	10.3	
Housekeeping and home maintenance service -----	178.1	180.6	183.7	185.5	11.2	19.2	27.5	17.7	15.1	22.5	
Appliances (including radio and T. V.) (not seasonally adjusted) -----	109.3	110.8	112.0	113.1	1.1	3.4	9.3	14.6	2.3	11.9	
	Expenditure classes										
All items -----	-	-	-	-	10.2	12.1	11.7	14.7	11.1	13.2	
Food -----	159.4	161.7	164.7	166.9	15.3	9.7	3.3	20.2	12.4	11.4	
Housing -----	151.1	153.0	154.9	156.7	12.1	11.7	14.4	15.7	11.9	15.0	
Shelter ² -----	154.6	156.1	157.9	159.6	8.3	9.0	11.4	13.6	8.6	12.5	
Rent (not seasonally adjusted) -----	130.3	130.9	131.4	132.2	4.5	4.8	4.7	6.0	4.7	5.3	
Homeownership ³ -----	163.4	165.4	167.6	169.6	9.9	11.0	12.4	16.1	10.5	14.2	
Fuel and utilities ⁴ -----	151.2	152.9	154.6	156.0	40.6	16.9	14.1	13.3	28.2	13.7	
Gas and electricity -----	146.8	149.2	151.4	152.9	16.5	24.4	17.2	17.7	20.4	17.4	
Household furnishings and operation -----	141.1	143.9	146.6	149.0	8.8	14.7	23.3	24.3	11.7	23.8	
Apparel and upkeep -----	136.5	139.6	139.6	140.0	3.8	12.2	9.0	10.7	7.9	9.8	
Transportation -----	142.0	143.3	145.5	145.1	9.3	22.7	24.2	9.0	15.8	16.4	
Private -----	141.2	142.7	145.0	144.5	11.5	24.1	26.3	9.7	17.7	17.7	
Public -----	148.5	149.1	148.9	149.4	-3	1.4	6.4	2.4	.5	4.4	
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted) -----	141.0	142.6	144.0	145.2	4.9	8.0	14.5	12.5	6.5	13.5	
Medical care -----	151.2	153.5	155.2	156.6	4.6	8.1	17.3	15.1	6.3	16.2	
Personal care -----	137.8	139.3	141.3	143.0	8.4	9.9	15.2	16.0	9.2	15.6	
Reading and recreation -----	134.5	135.3	136.9	137.7	3.8	6.7	13.2	9.9	5.3	11.5	
Other goods and services -----	137.6	139.3	140.1	141.1	6.0	5.6	12.2	10.6	5.8	11.4	
Special indexes:											
All items less shelter -----	146.7	148.6	150.4	151.6	11.5	12.4	13.0	14.0	11.9	13.5	
All items less medical care -----	147.9	149.9	151.8	153.1	11.0	11.9	11.3	14.8	11.5	13.0	
All items less mortgage interest costs -----	146.6	148.5	150.1	151.5	10.1	11.7	12.0	14.1	10.9	13.0	
CPI-domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted) -----	159.7	162.0	164.3	164.6	15.8	11.8	-5	12.8	13.8	6.0	
CPI-selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted) -----	159.1	167.6	171.7	165.1	-6.0	3.2	-18.6	16.0	-1.5	-2.8	

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 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			
		October 1974			October 1973	July 1974	September 1974
U.S. City average -----	M	153.2	178.2		12.2	3.3	0.9
Chicago -----	M	150.9	171.5		11.2	3.0	1.1
Detroit -----	M	154.2	177.2		11.8	2.9	.9
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	M	147.5	173.5		11.5	2.9	0
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	M	160.2	190.6		11.9	3.6	.8
Philadelphia -----	M	157.5	184.0		13.0	3.6	.9
		October 1974			October 1973	July 1974	
Boston -----	1	153.2	183.6		10.5	2.2	
Houston -----	1	154.4	176.7		13.4	4.2	
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	1	154.1	178.6		13.1	3.4	
Pittsburgh -----	1	152.6	175.5		11.7	2.7	
		August 1974			August 1973	May 1974	
Buffalo -----	2	151.8		³ 166.8	11.1	2.8	
Cleveland -----	2	150.1	169.5		10.4	2.7	
Dallas -----	2	147.9		³ 159.9	10.6	3.2	
Milwaukee -----	2	145.9	164.8		9.5	2.7	
San Diego -----	2	150.3		⁴ 157.9	11.8	3.4	
Seattle -----	2	143.2	168.3		11.2	2.7	
Washington -----	2	152.9	178.1		12.1	3.5	
		September 1974			September 1973	June 1974	
Atlanta -----	3	153.0	175.9		11.7	3.7	
Baltimore -----	3	157.6	182.9		14.6	3.9	
Cincinnati -----	3	150.8	171.1		12.2	3.2	
Honolulu -----	3	145.5		⁵ 156.9	12.3	2.9	
Kansas City -----	3	148.5	176.3		12.1	3.4	
St. Louis -----	3	146.2	170.8		10.5	3.4	
San Francisco-Oakland -----	3	148.5	176.7		10.4	3.1	

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

M - Every month.

1 - January, April, July, and October.

2 - February, May, August, and November.

3 - March, June, September, and December.

³ November 1963=100.

⁴ February 1965=100.

⁵ December 1963=100.

NOTE: The Consumer Price Index cannot be used for measuring differences in living costs among areas; it indicates price change within areas. Estimates of differences in living costs among areas are found in the family budgets.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups, percent change from September 1974 to October 1974

Group	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.9	1.1	0.9	0	0.8	0.9
Food -----	.7	1.3	.7	.2	1.1	.5
Housing -----	1.2	1.9	1.7	-.2	1.0	1.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	.9	.3	-1.4	-.6	.4	.9
Transportation -----	.6	.3	.2	.2	.6	.5
Health and recreation -----	.8	.3	1.1	.5	.5	1.3
Medical care -----	.7	.9	.7	.7	.2	1.7
Personal care -----	1.3	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.6	0	.6	0	-.1	.6
Other goods and services -----	.7	.1	.8	.8	1.5	1.0

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, October 1974, and percent changes from July 1974

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 -----	153.2	153.2	150.9	154.2	154.4	147.5	154.1	160.2	157.5	152.6
Food -----	166.1	165.2	165.4	166.3	170.6	160.2	168.4	171.4	169.7	168.4
Food at home -----	166.5	165.6	166.5	166.9	168.4	162.9	167.5	172.4	168.7	167.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	174.7	170.4	181.1	187.4	172.3	170.7	181.4	177.8	175.9	178.6
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	163.7	165.1	163.1	164.1	162.8	161.9	166.6	168.7	168.3	165.5
Dairy products -----	151.7	150.2	146.2	156.4	162.0	150.3	153.7	153.7	149.9	143.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	162.4	162.2	165.2	150.8	166.8	157.0	157.7	179.5	169.7	164.4
Other food at home -----	179.9	178.2	180.7	180.2	179.0	173.2	179.1	183.2	179.7	183.0
Food away from home -----	164.7	163.5	161.0	164.4	178.3	152.3	172.5	169.0	173.7	175.0
Housing -----	156.7	159.6	149.1	157.2	157.8	150.0	159.8	165.5	164.1	153.0
Shelter -----	159.9	159.1	152.3	165.2	163.1	151.7	166.4	167.3	174.3	159.6
Rent, residential -----	132.2	144.9	(²)	131.8	118.2	(²)	128.3	145.7	(²)	125.6
Homeownership costs -----	170.1	165.3	163.1	171.9	178.7	158.6	172.9	183.4	183.8	169.2
Fuel and utilities -----	155.2	172.1	141.5	148.8	139.4	149.4	148.5	176.5	159.0	142.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	225.5	221.2	214.0	213.3	-	-	216.9	234.9	218.2	-
Gas and electricity -----	151.5	157.8	134.5	153.0	138.3	168.6	147.1	178.7	158.5	157.7
Household furnishings and operation -----	149.0	152.7	144.1	137.9	157.9	144.7	147.6	154.6	148.4	145.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	141.1	143.3	136.8	137.6	147.3	135.3	146.1	143.1	137.1	141.1
Men's and boys' -----	141.4	137.6	132.5	143.2	138.0	129.0	147.6	140.4	142.0	133.7
Women's and girls' -----	140.2	145.3	140.0	128.4	159.5	136.2	148.8	144.5	128.2	146.1
Footwear -----	141.7	141.9	136.0	146.2	142.9	138.5	146.0	138.2	142.5	141.7
Transportation -----	145.1	139.9	148.0	144.6	139.3	145.1	138.7	152.2	147.6	144.9
Private -----	144.6	139.3	145.7	143.6	137.8	146.7	139.2	149.1	147.7	145.3
Public -----	148.8	142.9	163.2	156.5	162.4	115.0	133.0	164.2	147.2	142.9
Health and recreation -----	145.2	141.2	146.3	151.1	147.6	137.5	145.0	152.5	150.9	145.6
Medical care -----	156.3	155.0	155.7	169.5	157.6	152.7	148.9	167.3	168.9	152.4
Personal care -----	143.0	138.3	(²)	144.0	151.3	(²)	144.6	(²)	140.2	137.8
Reading and recreation -----	137.8	137.3	138.3	140.2	135.7	126.5	143.6	144.5	142.3	138.6
Other goods and services -----	141.4	134.2	146.6	142.9	142.8	132.0	142.2	150.8	145.8	149.7
Percent changes July 1974 to October 1974										
All items -----	3.3	2.2	3.0	2.9	4.2	2.9	3.4	3.6	3.6	2.7
Food -----	3.5	2.2	3.1	2.3	4.9	3.0	3.4	3.9	3.2	3.4
Food at home -----	3.7	2.1	3.3	2.4	5.4	3.5	3.4	4.4	3.8	3.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	4.8	3.2	3.8	.4	5.9	3.8	3.2	6.6	5.2	5.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	5.9	3.5	5.8	4.5	5.0	5.6	5.9	6.4	5.5	7.7
Dairy products -----	.1	.5	.1	3.2	-.5	1.4	-.5	-.5	-.6	.4
Fruits and vegetables -----	-9.1	-10.3	-9.8	-12.0	-.1	-7.7	-3.7	-7.7	-6.6	-14.0
Other food at home -----	13.6	12.6	13.1	12.6	13.1	11.2	11.4	15.0	14.1	15.2
Food away from home -----	2.7	2.6	2.6	1.8	3.2	1.4	3.7	2.5	.3	2.5
Housing -----	3.8	1.9	3.5	3.7	5.2	4.4	4.2	3.3	4.9	3.2
Shelter -----	3.6	1.1	3.4	3.1	5.5	4.3	4.3	2.3	6.2	2.2
Rent, residential -----	1.5	1.3	(²)	1.0	1.9	(²)	1.0	1.0	(²)	1.5
Homeownership costs -----	4.2	1.0	4.5	3.4	6.4	5.1	4.7	2.6	7.2	2.4
Fuel and utilities -----	2.8	1.8	1.1	4.6	4.3	3.6	.2	3.5	1.0	5.2
Fuel oil and coal -----	3.2	2.9	-.4	.4	-	-	-5.4	6.6	4.5	-
Gas and electricity -----	3.6	1.4	2.0	6.2	7.0	2.9	1.4	4.0	-.8	7.4
Household furnishings and operation -----	5.4	4.1	5.3	4.9	5.1	5.3	6.5	6.2	4.6	3.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	4.3	4.4	4.9	5.0	2.8	2.1	8.9	7.8	5.7	1.2
Men's and boys' -----	4.0	6.2	2.3	5.6	2.5	1.9	7.9	6.0	5.0	.5
Women's and girls' -----	5.5	4.7	8.2	7.7	4.5	2.2	14.4	12.5	7.0	1.3
Footwear -----	3.5	2.4	4.5	1.5	3.2	2.3	6.0	8.3	6.0	-.6
Transportation -----	1.8	.8	1.4	.8	3.4	1.5	-.7	1.3	1.7	1.9
Private -----	1.9	.9	1.7	.9	3.6	1.5	-.6	1.7	1.9	2.2
Public -----	.1	-.2	.2	.6	-.2	-.8	-.6	.1	0	.3
Health and recreation -----	3.0	2.4	2.2	2.9	2.9	1.9	2.8	2.9	2.5	2.1
Medical care -----	3.2	4.4	2.9	4.2	2.3	2.4	3.4	3.9	2.2	1.9
Personal care -----	3.8	3.8	(²)	3.0	5.5	(²)	4.7	(²)	4.6	5.0
Reading and recreation -----	2.4	1.4	1.4	2.7	4.1	1.0	2.3	1.8	2.1	2.7
Other goods and services -----	2.7	1.0	2.3	1.1	.8	1.5	2.1	3.1	2.3	.7

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available

³ Change from August 1974.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, October 1974, and percent changes from September 1974

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 -----	166.1	166.5	174.7	163.7	151.7	162.4	179.9	164.7
Atlanta -----	172.0	174.3	179.0	174.5	160.2	168.8	182.8	164.3
Baltimore -----	170.8	171.7	178.6	168.1	150.5	171.6	187.0	167.1
Boston -----	165.2	165.6	170.4	165.1	150.2	162.2	178.2	163.5
Buffalo -----	163.8	163.4	175.4	164.1	149.7	154.9	172.1	166.1
Chicago -----	165.4	166.5	181.1	163.1	146.2	165.2	180.7	161.0
Cincinnati -----	170.2	173.2	187.1	168.3	165.0	165.8	186.6	159.0
Cleveland -----	165.3	166.0	176.7	158.9	154.5	165.3	179.2	161.8
Dallas -----	162.1	160.1	166.3	155.6	145.1	153.5	175.8	169.3
Detroit -----	166.3	166.9	187.4	164.1	156.4	150.8	180.2	164.4
Honolulu -----	163.9	163.5	182.6	159.8	155.7	153.9	168.8	164.4
Houston -----	170.6	168.4	172.3	162.8	162.0	166.8	179.0	178.3
Kansas City -----	167.9	169.4	173.8	162.6	169.2	158.8	184.1	163.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	160.2	162.9	170.7	161.9	150.3	157.0	173.2	152.3
Milwaukee -----	162.3	163.4	176.6	159.4	149.5	156.3	177.4	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	168.4	167.5	181.4	166.6	153.7	157.7	179.1	172.5
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	171.4	172.4	177.8	168.7	153.7	179.5	183.2	169.0
Philadelphia -----	169.7	168.7	175.9	168.3	149.9	169.7	179.7	173.7
Pittsburgh -----	168.4	167.3	178.6	165.5	143.8	164.4	183.0	175.0
St. Louis -----	163.3	163.5	180.3	155.0	156.0	159.9	174.8	162.0
San Diego -----	163.7	162.4	165.1	163.3	150.1	158.8	171.3	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland -----	159.9	163.4	167.0	160.7	150.8	160.7	177.4	147.5
Seattle -----	159.0	161.2	172.9	160.6	149.5	147.5	175.8	152.1
Washington -----	172.4	173.1	180.4	164.7	143.2	177.8	198.3	170.0
	Percent changes September 1974 to October 1974							
U.S. city average -----	0.7	0.6	2.5	-1.6	0.4	-0.3	3.3	1.0
Atlanta -----	1.2	1.4	2.5	0	1.1	-.4	3.7	.6
Baltimore -----	1.1	1.2	4.6	-1.8	1.5	-.8	5.2	.7
Boston -----	.4	.1	.5	-1.2	.3	-1.9	3.5	1.7
Buffalo -----	1.2	1.4	.9	-.7	.5	.6	6.1	.3
Chicago -----	1.3	1.3	3.0	-1.1	.6	3.8	3.1	1.2
Cincinnati -----	1.8	1.9	3.5	.7	.9	1.2	4.2	1.5
Cleveland -----	-.4	-.6	2.3	-.9	-4.6	-3.5	2.9	.8
Dallas -----	.2	.1	1.7	-2.0	-1.0	2.1	3.7	.7
Detroit -----	.7	.5	1.1	-.8	3.2	-2.7	3.3	1.7
Honolulu -----	.3	.2	.8	-1.4	-.1	-.8	3.2	.6
Houston -----	.6	.3	2.5	-2.8	.1	.2	3.3	1.5
Kansas City -----	1.3	1.4	3.1	-.7	-.5	1.0	4.9	.8
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	.2	.1	2.2	-3.7	.1	2.0	2.6	.3
Milwaukee -----	.9	1.2	2.0	-1.3	1.2	1.9	3.9	(²)
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	.4	0	-.4	-1.7	.1	-.1	2.1	2.4
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	1.1	1.2	4.6	-.6	-.6	.6	3.6	1.2
Philadelphia -----	.5	.7	1.5	-1.3	.5	.1	4.1	-.1
Pittsburgh -----	1.6	1.8	3.6	.1	2.1	-.2	4.6	1.0
St. Louis -----	.1	0	2.2	-2.3	1.4	-2.4	2.8	.4
San Diego -----	-1.0	-1.3	.6	-5.9	.4	1.4	1.9	(²)
San Francisco-Oakland -----	.2	.1	2.1	-2.8	.9	.8	2.7	.3
Seattle -----	-.2	-.3	2.0	-3.8	.5	-.2	2.4	.5
Washington -----	.5	.2	3.8	-3.1	.7	-1.4	3.9	1.0

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, October 1974 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to October 1974 from—		
	October 1974		October 1973	September 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	166.1	166.9	11.9	0.7	1.3
Food away from home	164.7	164.2	11.5	1.0	.9
Restaurant meals	164.1	163.6	10.3	.7	.6
Snacks	167.3	166.8	17.3	1.8	1.3
Food at home	166.5	167.7	12.0	.6	1.6
Cereals and bakery products	174.7	174.7	25.7	2.5	2.6
Flour	169.0	169.7	8.2	-.4	-.4
Cracker meal	207.7	208.5	36.8	3.9	4.4
Corn flakes	148.2	148.6	38.2	5.9	5.5
Rice	234.9	236.1	48.7	-2.9	-2.6
Bread, white	163.6	163.8	16.5	2.3	3.1
Bread, whole wheat	168.7	168.4	18.1	.9	.9
Cookies	163.1	162.9	35.7	8.2	8.2
Layer cakes	170.2	170.0	23.9	1.6	1.6
Cinnamon rolls	177.6	176.9	27.8	5.3	4.6
Meats, poultry, and fish	163.7	163.2	-4.1	-1.6	-1.0
Meats	163.5	163.0	-5.3	-1.9	-1.2
Beef and veal	166.8	167.8	-2.2	-3.5	-2.4
Steak, round	163.0	165.7	1.9	-3.9	-2.2
Steak, sirloin	157.2	158.8	2.6	-5.5	-2.5
Steak, porterhouse	162.0	163.3	4.9	-4.5	-1.8
Rump roast	159.0	160.6	1.4	-3.8	-2.7
Rib roast	175.2	176.8	4.7	-2.4	-.2
Chuck roast	170.1	172.3	-4.3	-3.6	-2.3
Hamburger	169.3	169.3	-10.1	-3.5	-3.1
Beef liver	157.9	157.1	-7.2	-1.4	-1.2
Veal cutlets	198.1	198.1	.9	-1.6	-1.2
Pork	164.0	161.9	-7.4	-.5	.2
Chops	160.7	160.7	2.6	-1.6	2.4
Loin roast	167.7	167.0	-.6	-1.5	2.0
Pork sausage	172.6	167.9	-18.3	.2	-.2
Ham, whole	150.6	152.7	-9.9	1.6	1.7
Picnics	155.8	154.0	-17.5	-2.3	-2.7
Bacon	172.2	166.2	-7.3	.8	-.3
Other meats	155.8	154.7	-8.9	-.3	-.4
Lamb chops	157.7	158.7	8.1	-1.6	-.7
Frankfurters	155.6	153.6	-15.4	-.1	.0
Ham, canned	149.7	148.8	-12.1	1.3	.4
Bologna sausage	162.2	160.8	-11.8	.0	.4
Salami sausage	157.2	156.1	-8.4	.3	.2
Liverwurst	152.4	151.6	-11.2	-1.4	-1.0
Poultry	147.0	146.6	-6.8	-.7	.5
Frying chicken	148.9	149.3	-3.7	-1.3	.5
Chicken breasts	145.3	144.6	-2.6	-.3	1.5
Turkey	140.2	138.9	-22.5	2.0	1.1
Fish	190.4	190.8	11.5	1.0	1.0
Shrimp, frozen	160.5	161.1	-4.1	-1.3	-1.4
Fish, fresh or frozen	214.5	214.9	7.1	-.7	-.6
Tuna fish, canned	170.5	170.5	15.4	-.1	-.8
Sardines, canned	215.3	215.3	27.9	5.1	5.0
Dairy products	151.7	151.9	10.5	.4	.3
Milk, fresh, grocery	150.7	150.4	10.2	.1	-.2
Milk, fresh, skim	163.4	163.2	11.2	-.1	-.1
Milk, evaporated	180.5	180.5	27.8	.4	.4
Ice cream	139.1	139.2	16.3	2.2	2.4
Cheese, American process	164.3	165.1	12.8	.6	.9
Butter	113.9	113.4	-11.0	.9	.4

See footnote at end of table.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, October 1974 indexes, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to October 1974 from—		
	October 1974		October 1973	September 1974	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food away from home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables	162.4	169.5	17.0	-.3	2.3
Fresh fruits and vegetables	151.6	162.0	7.1	-.7	2.8
Fresh fruits	156.7	157.6	11.3	-2.1	2.7
Apples	148.3	168.0	7.9	-14.4	5.4
Bananas	155.6	150.9	40.1	17.8	15.7
Oranges	158.9	146.7	1.4	2.2	-.9
Orange juice, fresh	143.5	143.4	8.5	1.3	1.6
Grapefruit	149.3	123.9	-19.6	-21.6	-20.1
Grapes	176.1	182.5	10.7	4.3	-5.7
Strawberries	(1)	-	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	-	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	147.7	163.6	3.7	.5	.4
Potatoes	165.2	178.4	-2.3	-2.6	3.0
Onions	144.1	154.1	5.0	-4.8	2.7
Asparagus	(1)	-	(1)	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	128.5	137.9	-28.0	-.9	-4.6
Carrots	150.1	149.7	7.8	1.8	-6.0
Celery	148.6	154.3	8.8	6.7	4.3
Cucumbers	124.5	152.0	-2.3	13.2	.7
Lettuce	156.5	158.6	24.4	2.3	-4.0
Peppers, green	120.6	165.4	5.5	-.4	.8
Spinach	176.8	177.9	8.3	4.1	3.8
Tomatoes	125.2	152.1	12.6	-1.2	-10.8
Processed fruits and vegetables	178.4	178.2	32.4	.1	.2
Fruit cocktail, canned	174.0	174.7	31.2	1.1	1.4
Pears, canned	158.7	158.5	24.9	2.7	2.9
Pineapple-grapefruit juice drink	154.2	153.9	26.9	4.5	4.1
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	146.0	146.1	7.0	2.9	3.8
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	158.8	159.4	31.1	4.0	3.1
Beets, sliced can or jar	176.2	176.2	21.0	3.0	3.2
Peas, green, canned	143.9	144.3	27.9	2.1	2.9
Tomatoes, canned	161.2	161.4	26.6	1.8	2.5
Dried beans	343.3	340.2	77.0	-8.0	-8.1
Broccoli, frozen	140.5	140.9	12.9	2.2	2.4
Other food at home	179.9	179.2	31.1	3.3	3.5
Eggs	172.2	168.0	-3.9	6.2	10.0
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	236.9	236.7	49.8	4.3	4.3
Salad dressing, Italian	139.2	139.6	21.1	2.4	2.6
Salad or cooking oil	234.0	233.1	52.0	1.7	1.6
Sugar and sweets	226.5	226.7	72.6	6.8	6.9
Sugar	345.1	345.4	160.8	9.8	10.0
Grape jelly	195.9	196.5	44.5	2.4	2.7
Chocolate bar	206.2	205.6	48.9	4.4	4.4
Syrup, chocolate flavored	175.2	175.7	48.5	10.3	10.2
Nonalcoholic beverages	169.2	169.2	27.0	1.6	1.4
Coffee, can	171.8	171.6	22.4	.6	.5
Coffee, instant	170.3	170.6	28.1	.8	.5
Tea	126.7	126.6	13.5	1.4	1.4
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	182.7	182.9	37.2	2.5	2.4
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	185.3	185.5	39.4	4.3	4.3
Prepared and partially prepared foods	155.9	155.9	28.9	1.2	1.2
Bean soup canned	183.5	183.9	49.1	.2	.1
Chicken soup, canned	135.6	135.9	23.2	.8	1.0
Spaghetti, in tomato sauce	153.3	153.5	22.8	.1	.0
Mashed potatoes, instant	152.6	153.4	28.0	3.3	3.6
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	170.1	170.3	44.0	.7	.9
Baby food, strained	145.0	144.6	24.4	1.1	1.3
Sweet pickle relish	152.3	152.8	14.9	3.5	3.3
Pretzels	154.9	155.4	29.1	.7	1.0

¹ Priced only in season.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, October 1974, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to October 1974 from:	
		September 1974	October 1974	October 1973	September 1974
Housing		154.9	156.7	13.5	1.2
Shelter ¹		158.1	159.9	10.5	1.1
Rent, residential		131.4	132.2	5.0	.6
Homeownership ²		167.9	170.1	12.3	1.3
Mortgage interest rates		144.5	147.9	11.5	2.4
Property taxes		150.5	151.1	-1.0	.4
Property insurance premiums		124.1	124.2	.3	.1
Maintenance and repairs		179.6	180.6	16.8	.6
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		157.4	156.3	11.6	-.7
Exterior house paint		145.4	148.4	22.8	2.1
Interior house paint		137.0	138.8	13.4	1.3
Maintenance and repair services		189.2	191.1	18.7	1.0
Repainting living and dining rooms		198.3	200.5	14.8	1.1
Reshingling house roofs		209.0	211.0	26.3	1.0
Residing house		180.3	182.8	23.6	1.4
Replacing sink		185.1	186.5	17.2	.8
Repairing furnace		180.7	181.5	8.4	.4
Fuel and utilities		154.0	155.2	20.7	.8
Fuel oil and coal		222.7	225.5	59.8	1.3
Fuel oil, No. 2		220.1	222.3	58.8	1.0
Gas and electricity		150.2	151.5	18.9	.9
Gas		147.1	148.8	15.9	1.2
Electricity		153.2	154.0	21.7	.5
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		122.1	122.1	3.9	0
Residential water and sewerage services		156.8	157.9	7.1	.7
Household furnishings and operation ⁴		146.6	149.0	17.6	1.6
Housefurnishings		135.6	137.5	14.3	1.4
Textiles		136.8	139.1	18.3	1.7
Sheets		143.6	145.1	19.2	
Curtains, tailored		129.7	130.4	13.5	.5
Bedspreads		142.7	144.2	28.3	1.1
Drapery fabric		161.0	164.0	25.8	1.9
Pillows, bed		113.9	118.6	9.9	4.1
Slipcovers and throws, ready made		129.4	131.3	11.3	
Furniture and bedding		139.4	140.9	10.7	1.1
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	125.0	126.1	12.6	.9
Sofas, upholstered		134.3	135.7	8.4	1.0
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	120.3	121.4	14.3	.9
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	124.6	126.4	13.5	1.4
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	108.7	109.7	9.6	.9
Sofas, dual purpose		131.6	132.1	8.5	.4
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	123.0	124.9	14.0	1.5
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Cribs		139.8	141.9	11.3	1.5
Floor coverings		124.0	125.5	14.7	1.2
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		115.7	116.7	12.0	.9
Vinyl sheet goods		139.6	143.1	16.4	2.5
Vinyl asbestos tile		147.2	149.0	24.0	1.2
Appliances excluding radio and T.V.		118.7	120.4	9.5	1.4
Washing machines, electric, automatic		120.4	122.3	10.2	1.6
Vacuum cleaners		109.4	110.4	5.7	.9
Refrigerator freezers, electric		118.5	121.1	11.6	2.2
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		119.0	121.4	9.6	2.0
Clothes dryers, electric		125.2	127.2	11.1	1.6
Air conditioners, demountable		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable		(⁵)	118.2	8.8	(⁵)
Garbage disposal units		120.7	122.4	8.8	1.4
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		158.4	158.3	19.0	-1.1
Flatware, stainless steel		153.0	156.2	17.0	2.1
Table lamps, with shade		139.2	142.0	11.0	2.0
Lawn mower, power, rotary type		134.5	138.2	(⁶)	2.8
Electric drills, hand-held		115.0	117.7	9.7	2.3
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps		143.0	148.0	28.5	3.5
Paper napkins		179.5	185.2	33.0	3.2
Toilet tissue		166.8	176.1	34.2	5.6
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		189.7	189.7	24.6	0
Baby sitter services		176.7	178.0	22.1	.7
Postal charges		175.3	175.3	19.6	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		176.0	177.3	15.8	.7
Licensed day care services, preschool child		146.0	147.4	10.1	1.0
Washing machine repairs		171.9	174.7	15.7	1.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, October 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to October 1974 from:	
		September 1974	October 1974	October 1973	September 1974
Apparel and upkeep ⁷ -----		139.9	141.1	8.9	0.9
Apparel commodities -----		139.8	141.0	8.5	.9
Apparel commodities less footwear -----		139.6	140.9	8.7	.9
Men's and boys' -----		140.0	141.4	10.2	1.0
Men's: -----					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends -----		145.9	146.2	9.2	.2
Suits, year round weight -----		135.5	138.7	2.1	2.4
Sport jacket -----	June 74	100.0	100.7	(⁶)	.7
Jackets, lightweight -----		130.1	130.0	8.4	-.1
Slacks, wool or wool blends -----		117.4	117.7	-.1	.3
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends -----		142.3	145.0	4.8	1.9
Trousers, work, cotton -----		144.1	147.7	20.0	2.5
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		146.6	147.3	19.4	.5
Shirts, polyester/cotton -----		126.9	127.9	9.5	.8
T-shirts, chiefly cotton -----		146.2	147.2	18.4	.7
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers -----		124.1	124.6	5.8	.4
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton -----		148.6	148.9	21.4	.2
Boys': -----					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends -----		119.6	122.2	-3.0	2.2
Sport coats, wool or wool blends -----		127.8	126.0	2.9	-1.4
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends -----		167.3	168.8	18.6	.9
Undershorts, cotton -----		147.5	149.3	18.7	1.2
Women's and girls' -----		138.8	140.2	6.7	1.0
Women's: -----					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends -----		150.7	153.1	7.6	1.6
Carcoat, heavyweight, cotton -----		149.3	154.9	9.4	3.8
Sweaters, wool, wool or acrylic -----		144.4	145.7	4.9	.9
Skirts, wool blend or manmade fibers -----		161.0	162.9	9.5	1.2
Skirts, cotton or polyester cotton -----		136.3	137.9	(⁶)	1.2
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers -----		136.3	139.2	7.7	2.1
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fibers -----		142.4	144.1	3.0	1.2
Slips, nylon -----		117.9	118.0	5.9	.1
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot -----		132.2	136.9	13.0	3.6
Girdles, manmade blend -----		124.9	124.8	4.3	-.1
Brassieres, nylon lace -----		134.5	135.8	8.7	1.0
Hose, or panty hose, seamless -----		92.5	90.6	-3.1	-2.1
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers -----		126.7	128.2	12.1	1.2
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton -----		123.4	124.9	10.2	1.2
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic -----		169.3	169.1	7.6	-.1
Girls': -----					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton or polyester blends -----		133.5	133.3	8.6	-.1
Shirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic -----		135.4	139.5	9.3	3.0
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends -----		136.7	137.9	10.6	.9
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton -----		170.8	177.1	24.1	3.7
Slips, polyester blends -----		120.6	120.8	9.9	.2
Handbags, plastic -----		150.5	150.9	11.2	.3
Footwear -----		141.1	141.7	7.3	.4
Men's: -----					
Shoes, street, oxford -----		145.4	146.0	8.6	.4
Shoes, work, high -----		152.1	154.3	9.9	1.4
Women's: -----					
Shoes, street, pump -----		138.7	139.3	5.9	.4
Shoes, evening, pump -----		130.3	130.4	3.8	.1
Shoes, casual, pump -----		140.5	142.8	8.0	1.6
Houseslippers, scuff -----		137.3	136.2	4.8	-.8
Children's: -----					
Shoes, oxford -----		142.2	143.2	6.5	.7
Sneakers, boys, oxford type -----		141.6	142.0	12.0	.3
Dress shoes, girls, strap -----		147.8	147.8	9.7	0
Miscellaneous apparel: -----					
Diapers, cotton gauze or disposable -----		168.2	170.6	42.9	1.4
Yard goods, polyester blend -----		162.3	162.8	23.4	.3
Wrist watches, men's and women's -----		128.9	129.9	7.8	.8
Apparel services: -----					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses -----		139.9	141.3	13.8	1.0
Automatic laundry service -----		126.3	126.4	6.6	.1
Laundry, men's shirts -----		147.0	148.0	12.4	.7
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment -----		148.7	149.3	4.7	.4
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift -----		135.2	135.9	9.2	.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, October 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to October 1974 from:	
		September 1974	October 1974	October 1973	September 1974
Transportation -----		144.3	145.1	16.1	0.6
Private ⁸ -----		143.8	144.6	17.7	.6
Automobiles, new -----		118.4	123.7	10.5	4.5
Automobiles, used -----		148.8	152.3	28.5	2.4
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		165.4	160.9	32.1	-2.7
Motor oil, premium -----		150.3	151.0	16.9	.5
Tires, new, tubeless -----		123.0	123.5	14.0	.4
Auto repairs and maintenance ⁹ -----		162.6	164.4	13.9	1.1
Auto insurance rates -----		138.1	137.1	.3	-.7
Auto registration -----		128.9	128.9	4.2	0
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		161.4	161.7	5.1	.2
Public -----		148.8	148.8	2.5	0
Local transit fares -----		147.6	147.6	-1.7	0
Taxicab fares -----		154.2	154.2	11.5	0
Railroad fares, coach -----		138.8	138.8	13.2	0
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		148.3	148.3	8.2	0
Bus fares, intercity -----		165.5	165.5	13.4	0
Health and recreation -----		144.0	145.2	9.9	.8
Medical care -----		155.2	156.3	11.2	.7
Drugs and prescriptions -----		111.3	112.0	5.6	.6
Over-the-counter items -----		119.8	120.8	7.1	.8
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		98.5	98.6	3.6	.1
Aspirin compounds -----		125.4	125.9	7.0	.4
Liquid tonics -----		108.5	109.6	7.7	1.0
Adhesive bandages, packages -----		141.4	143.9	12.8	1.8
Cold tablets or capsules -----		116.6	116.6	1.6	0
Cough syrup -----		123.7	125.0	8.0	1.1
Prescriptions -----		104.1	104.6	4.1	.5
Anti-infectives -----		69.3	69.1	-1.6	-.3
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		144.6	146.6	12.3	1.4
Ataractics -----		105.1	105.0	1.1	-.1
Antispasmodics -----		112.1	113.6	5.3	1.3
Cough preparations -----		150.5	152.7	10.3	1.5
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives -----		116.5	117.0	2.9	.4
Analgesics, internal -----		112.9	113.0	2.0	.1
Anti-obesity -----		123.0	123.8	4.8	.7
Hormones -----		96.4	96.7	5.7	.3
Professional services: -----					
Physicians' fees -----		155.9	157.3	12.4	.9
General physician, office visits -----		159.9	161.4	14.0	.9
General physician, house visits -----		155.9	157.2	9.5	.8
Obstetrical cases -----		153.7	154.7	10.8	.7
Pediatric care, office visits -----		157.7	159.7	12.5	1.3
Psychiatrist, office visits -----		144.7	145.2	8.1	.3
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		142.0	142.3	7.7	.2
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		149.5	151.0	12.8	1.0
Dentists' fees -----		150.5	151.8	9.8	.9
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		154.3	156.0	11.1	1.1
Extractions, adult -----		149.1	150.8	9.8	1.1
Dentures, full upper -----		144.0	144.1	7.3	.1
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses -----		141.4	142.3	8.5	.6
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis -----		142.1	142.2	14.5	.1
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	118.9	120.4	12.5	1.3
Semiprivate rooms -----		209.6	212.3	14.6	1.3
Operating room charges -----		211.4	215.4	18.7	1.9
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G.I. -----		144.9	146.1	9.8	.8
Laboratory tests, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	116.1	118.3	11.9	1.9
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	103.3	104.3	7.5	1.0
Tranquilizers, chlorthalidoxepoxide, HCL and meprobamate -----	Jan. 72	108.9	109.9	4.4	.9
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	115.6	116.3	10.3	.6
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	112.3	113.6	8.6	1.2
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	119.9	120.8	12.7	.8
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	113.2	114.0	8.1	.7
Personal care -----		141.2	143.0	12.3	1.3
Toilet goods -----		138.1	140.4	15.9	1.7
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		116.1	118.4	7.1	2.0
Toilet soap, hard-milled -----		189.6	197.3	51.5	4.1
Hand lotions, liquid -----		136.3	137.0	8.0	.5
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		112.4	114.6	4.8	2.0
Face powder, pressed -----		156.5	155.4	4.0	-.7
Deodorants, aerosol -----		107.4	108.7	3.4	1.2
Cleansing tissues -----		167.1	170.6	33.5	2.1
Home permanent wave kits -----		111.6	112.0	2.4	.4
Personal care services -----		144.3	145.7	8.8	1.0
Men's haircuts -----		147.6	148.8	8.8	.8
Beauty shop services -----		142.0	143.5	8.8	1.1
Women's haircuts -----		152.5	155.0	12.6	1.6
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		145.2	146.6	8.0	1.0
Permanent waves, cold -----		124.3	125.1	6.3	.6

See footnotes at end table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, October 1974, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

1967=100

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to October 1974 from:	
		September 1974	October 1974	October 1973	September 1974
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation ¹⁰		137.0	137.8	8.3	0.6
Recreational goods		117.2	118.0	7.2	.7
TV sets, portable and console		99.7	100.1	2.2	.4
TV replacement tubes		140.1	141.2	4.3	.8
Radios, portable and table model		103.4	103.5	3.3	.1
Tape recorders, portable		96.1	96.0	1.4	-.1
Phonograph records, stereophonic		114.7	116.2	6.9	1.3
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		92.7	93.3	3.0	.6
Film, 35mm, color		114.8	115.2	7.1	-.3
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		103.3	103.0	-.7	.3
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		139.6	140.0	9.1	.3
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		114.2	115.2	4.7	.9
Bowling balls		123.9	124.6	7.2	.6
Bicycles, boys'		138.6	138.9	11.4	.2
Tricycles		127.4	128.7	10.1	1.0
Dog food, canned or boxed		151.1	154.0	20.1	1.9
Recreational services		142.7	142.9	7.1	.1
Indoor movie admissions		158.6	159.7	7.0	.7
Adult		155.4	156.3	6.5	.6
Children's		167.6	169.1	8.3	.9
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		172.3	169.3	12.6	-1.7
Bowling fees, evening		131.6	133.2	6.2	1.2
Golf green fees		148.9	149.0	8.3	.1
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		102.8	103.0	2.4	.2
Film developing, color		118.2	118.4	2.4	.2
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		163.1	164.3	20.3	.7
Magazines, single copy and subscription		140.8	140.8	3.4	0
Piano lessons, beginner		136.5	136.9	6.1	.3
Other goods and services		140.4	141.4	8.5	.7
Tobacco products		146.5	147.4	6.7	.6
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		148.5	149.2	6.6	.5
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		148.6	149.6	6.6	.7
Cigars, domestic, regular size		121.3	121.5	7.0	.2
Alcoholic beverages		135.6	137.0	10.8	1.0
Beer		131.9	134.2	15.2	1.7
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		112.0	112.5	2.7	.4
Wine, dessert and table		149.1	149.9	8.1	.5
Beer away from home		150.1	151.0	10.6	.6
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult		136.5	137.2	6.4	.5
Bank service charges, checking accounts		105.3	105.5	.8	.2
Legal services, short form will		178.6	178.5	6.2	-.1

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 Not available.

⁷ 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.

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

⁹ Includes prices for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front end alignment, and chassis lubrication.

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

Table 9. Consumer Price Index—United States city average and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for regular and premium gasoline

(October 1973=100)

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Index		Percent change to October 1974 from—	Index		Percent change to October 1974 from—
	September 1974	October 1974		September 1974	October 1974	
U. S. city average ²	167.4	162.6	-2.9	160.4	156.6	-2.4
Atlanta	139.1	131.6	-5.4	135.8	131.1	-3.5
Baltimore	137.6	132.8	-3.5	135.0	131.9	-2.3
Boston	135.9	131.6	-3.2	132.9	129.7	-2.4
Buffalo	142.6	135.8	-4.8	139.6	133.6	-4.3
Chicago	135.3	130.1	-3.8	131.4	127.0	-3.3
Cincinnati	136.9	134.1	-2.0	133.5	131.1	-1.9
Cleveland	133.2	130.5	-2.0	130.3	128.4	-1.5
Dallas	144.1	141.2	-2.0	140.4	137.8	-1.8
Detroit	133.8	129.5	-3.2	130.5	126.9	-2.8
Honolulu	132.9	131.2	-1.3	129.6	128.0	-1.2
Houston	141.5	138.4	-2.2	138.4	135.8	-1.9
Kansas City	136.9	132.6	-3.1	134.9	130.4	-3.3
Los Angeles—Long Beach	133.0	129.2	-2.9	130.4	127.3	-2.4
Milwaukee	138.5	132.3	-4.5	135.8	130.6	-3.8
Minneapolis—St. Paul	134.1	129.4	-3.5	131.6	126.7	-3.7
New York—Northeastern N. J.	138.0	133.5	-3.3	136.2	132.8	-2.5
Philadelphia	138.7	134.4	-3.1	135.1	132.3	-2.1
Pittsburgh	136.4	132.7	-2.7	132.5	129.3	-2.4
St. Louis	134.0	129.3	-3.5	131.7	128.1	-2.7
San Diego	133.1	129.6	-2.6	131.4	128.2	-2.4
San Francisco—Oakland	135.0	131.6	-2.5	131.8	128.6	-2.4
Seattle	132.5	128.8	-2.8	129.5	126.2	-2.5
Washington	135.6	132.5	-2.3	132.3	129.2	-2.3

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

² 1967=100.

Table 10. Consumer Price Index—United States city average and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, average prices for regular and premium gasoline

(October 1973=100)

October 1973=100)

Area ¹	Regular gasoline			Premium gasoline		
	Average price per gallon					
	August 1974	September 1974	October 1974	August 1974	September 1974	October 1974
U. S. city average -----	\$ 0.554	\$ 0.550	\$ 0.534	\$ 0.591	\$ 0.587	\$ 0.573
Atlanta -----	.555	.553	.523	.592	.588	.568
Baltimore -----	.564	.563	.543	.606	.604	.591
Boston -----	.552	.550	.532	.591	.590	.575
Buffalo -----	.580	.574	.547	.614	.611	.585
Chicago -----	.575	.569	.547	.610	.604	.583
Cincinnati -----	.567	.554	.543	.605	.593	.582
Cleveland -----	.552	.542	.531	.592	.580	.572
Dallas -----	.512	.507	.497	.550	.546	.536
Detroit -----	.564	.559	.541	.602	.597	.580
Honolulu -----	.605	.601	.593	.638	.631	.623
Houston -----	.493	.491	.481	.533	.534	.524
Kansas City -----	.532	.523	.507	.573	.568	.549
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	.543	.537	.522	.580	.574	.560
Milwaukee -----	.534	.533	.509	.576	.574	.552
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	.545	.530	.511	.585	.572	.550
New York—Northeastern N. J -----	.585	.585	.566	.625	.624	.608
Philadelphia -----	.554	.554	.537	.600	.599	.586
Pittsburgh -----	.546	.546	.531	.586	.586	.571
St. Louis -----	.550	.545	.526	.591	.584	.568
San Diego -----	.552	.551	.536	.591	.590	.575
San Francisco—Oakland -----	.582	.576	.562	.616	.611	.597
Seattle -----	.543	.533	.519	.583	.573	.558
Washington -----	.561	.561	.548	.602	.603	.589

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,	<u>0.005</u>
Results multiplied by one hundred	0.005×100
Equals percent change:	0.5

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

A system of "replicated" samples introduced into the index structure in the 1964 revision permits an estimate of sampling error for the CPI.¹ The table below shows standard errors for monthly, quarterly, and annual *percent changes* in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1973 averages.

Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 1973 data

Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items . . . . .	.04	.06	.08
Food at home . . . .	.10	.15	.17
Food away from home . . . . .	.14	.26	.29
Housing . . . . .	.06	.10	.17
Apparel and upkeep . . . . .	.19	.26	.29
Transportation . . . .	.06	.10	.17
Medical care . . . . .	.08	.14	.18
Personal care . . . . .	.14	.20	.39
Reading and recreation . . . . .	.09	.14	.17
Other goods and services . . . . .	.09	.11	.27

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 is almost always significant, regardless of the time period to which it relates.

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1971 data which was included in the CPI report through January 1974.

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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