

# CPI Detailed Report

For December 1976

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

## Contents



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February 1976

	Page
Price movements .....	1
Chart 1. All items index and rates of changes, 1967-76 .....	11
Chart 2. Commodities less food index and rates of change, 1967-76 .....	12
Chart 3. Total food index and rates of change, 1967-76 .....	13
Chart 4. Services index and rates of change, 1967-76 .....	14
Table 1. CPI—U.S. city average, by commodity and service group and expenditure class .....	15
Table 1-A. CPI—U.S. 1976 annual average, by commodity and service group and expenditure class .....	16
Table 2. CPI—seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by commodity and service group and expenditure class .....	17
Table 3. CPI—food items, U.S. city average .....	18
Table 3-A. CPI—food items, U.S. 1976 annual average .....	20
Table 4. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. city average .....	22
Table 4-A. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. 1976 annual average .....	26
Table 5. CPI—selected areas, all items index .....	30
Table 6. CPI—areas priced monthly, by expenditure class, percent change from November 1976 to December 1976 .....	30
Table 7. CPI—selected areas, by expenditure class .....	31
Table 7-A. CPI—selected areas, 1976 annual average, by expenditure class .....	33
Table 8. CPI—food groups, selected areas .....	35
Table 9. CPI—gasoline indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas .....	36
Table 10. CPI—gasoline average prices, U.S. city average and selected areas .....	36
Table 11. CPI—by population size .....	37
Table 11-A. CPI—by population size, 1976 annual average .....	38
Table 12. CPI—by region .....	39
Table 12-A. CPI—by region, 1976 annual average .....	40

# Price Movements

## December 1976

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.3 percent in December before seasonal adjustment to 174.3 percent of its 1967 base. The December CPI was 4.8 percent higher than in December 1975, the smallest December-to-December rise in 4 years.

### Seasonally adjusted changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI increased 0.4 percent in December, compared with 0.3 percent in October and November. Food prices, which declined in November, rose 0.2 percent in December. Prices of other commodities and consumer services increased about the same as in recent months, 0.5 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively.

The 0.2-percent increase in the food price index in December was due to higher prices for beef, eggs, coffee, poultry, fresh fruits and vegetables, and restaurant meals. Poultry and fresh vegetable prices, which declined in

November, rose 2.7 percent and 1.3 percent, respectively. Coffee prices advanced 6.8 percent in December, resulting in a total rise for 1976 of 57.9 percent. Beef prices increased 2.4 percent, about the same as in November. On the other hand, prices of some food items declined, particularly pork, cereal and bakery products, dairy products, and sugar.

Prices of most commodities other than food rose after seasonal adjustment in December. Apparel prices rose 0.5 percent, used cars 1.7 percent, new cars 0.6 percent, and fuel oil and coal 1.4 percent. These increases were larger than in November and accounted for over half of the December rise of 0.5 percent in the nonfood commodities index. The price index for gasoline and motor oil decreased 0.1 percent after seasonal adjustment in December, the first decline since April. Tire prices also declined in December, following relatively large increases in each of the preceding 4 months.

More than half of the 0.4-percent increase in the consumer services index in December was due to a rise of 2.6

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

Month	Changes from preceding month								Changes in all items	
									Compound annual rate from 3 months ago	From 12 months ago
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services		Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted		
1975:										
December . . . . .	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.6	7.3	7.0
1976:										
January . . . . .	.2	.4	.1	-.2	-.3	.2	1.0	1.1	6.5	6.8
February . . . . .	.2	.1	-.4	-1.0	.3	.3	.7	.7	4.4	6.3
March . . . . .	.2	.2	-.7	-.8	.4	.3	.6	.7	2.9	6.1
April . . . . .	.4	.4	.3	.6	.6	.3	.3	.5	2.9	6.1
May . . . . .	.6	.6	.4	1.0	.8	.6	.4	.4	4.9	6.2
June . . . . .	.5	.5	.5	.2	.6	.5	.6	.6	6.1	5.9
July . . . . .	.6	.5	.7	.1	.4	.6	.7	.6	6.3	5.4
August . . . . .	.5	.5	.2	.3	.6	.6	.6	.6	6.0	5.6
September . . . . .	.4	.4	-.4	0	.6	.4	.8	.5	5.8	5.5
October . . . . .	.4	.3	0	.3	.4	.4	.5	.5	5.2	5.3
November . . . . .	.3	.3	-.3	-.2	.4	.4	.5	.4	4.3	5.0
December . . . . .	.3	.4	.3	.2	.2	.5	.4	.4	4.2	4.8

percent in charges for natural gas and electricity. Charges for other household services such as housekeeping and home repair services rose slightly, while mortgage interest rates declined in December for the eighth consecutive month. The index for medical care services rose 0.6 percent in December. The index for transportation services was unchanged, following large increases in each of the 3 preceding months.

### Annual changes

For the 12 months ended in December 1976, the CPI rose 4.8 percent, compared with an increase of 7.0 percent in 1975 and 12.2 percent in 1974. All three major components of the CPI—food, other commodities, and services—increased less in 1976 than in 1975. Particularly

notable was the slowdown in the food component, from an increase of 6.5 percent in 1975 to 0.6 percent in 1976 (table B). The index for commodities other than food rose 5.1 percent in 1976, compared with 6.2 percent in 1975. The services index rose 7.3 percent in 1976, less than the 8.1-percent rise in 1975, and accounted for almost three-fifths of the December-to-December rise in the CPI.

### Food

Prices of food purchased in grocery stores—the major part of the CPI food index—declined 0.9 percent in 1976, the first December-to-December decline since 1961. Prices of most types of food at the retail level were responsive to changes at the primary market level. As expanded supply

**Table B. Percent changes in Wholesale and Consumer Price Indexes, 1974-76**

Index	Decem- ber 1974 to Decem- ber 1975	Decem- ber 1975 to Decem- ber 1976	3 months ending— (Compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted except as noted)							
			1975				1976			
			March	June	Septem- ber	Decem- ber	March	June	Septem- ber	Decem- ber
<i>Consumer Price Index</i>										
All items .....	7.0	4.8	6.6	7.0	7.4	7.3	2.9	6.1	5.8	4.2
Food .....	6.5	.6	.5	9.7	8.0	8.3	-7.9	7.2	1.8	1.1
Commodities less food .....	6.2	5.1	8.0	5.3	7.5	4.3	2.9	5.6	6.6	5.4
Services .....	8.1	7.3	9.3	6.8	7.4	9.3	10.6	6.2	7.1	5.4
All items less food and energy items <sup>1</sup> .....	6.7	6.2	9.4	5.1	5.8	7.1	7.7	5.5	6.7	4.9
Commodities less food and energy items <sup>1</sup> .....	5.7	5.3	9.4	4.2	5.0	4.4	5.2	5.7	5.6	5.0
Services less energy items <sup>1</sup> .....	7.7	6.9	8.5	6.3	6.7	9.3	11.1	5.5	6.9	3.8
Energy items <sup>1</sup> .....	11.6	6.8	1.4	17.0	23.6	6.0	-8.3	10.2	14.6	12.8
<i>Wholesale Price Index</i>										
All commodities .....	4.2	4.7	-5.2	6.5	10.8	6.5	-1.8	6.6	4.7	9.0
Farm products and processed foods and feeds .....	-3	-1.1	-24.7	18.3	18.3	-4.1	-15.8	18.0	-11.0	7.9
Crude food and feeds <sup>2</sup> .....	3.9	-3.9	-37.4	63.8	16.8	-2.0	-24.9	30.7	-24.8	15.1
Intermediate materials for food manufacturing <sup>3 4</sup> .....	-26.5	-7.2	-46.6	-39.4	22.3	-26.2	-11.1	-3.4	-11.7	-2.2
Consumer foods .....	5.5	-2.5	-14.3	28.7	11.2	.9	-20.5	16.8	-12.2	11.7
Industrial commodities .....	6.0	6.4	3.9	2.1	8.0	10.8	3.2	3.6	9.6	8.9
Crude materials except foods ...	4.5	13.5	-13.0	13.5	16.7	4.4	1.9	17.3	14.4	21.3
Intermediate materials except foods .....	5.4	6.3	4.4	.2	5.8	12.1	3.7	3.3	9.3	9.3
Producers' finished goods .....	8.2	6.5	12.7	4.8	6.3	9.1	6.8	3.3	5.7	10.0
Consumer finished goods except foods .....	6.7	4.8	3.5	4.1	10.7	9.3	.5	2.3	10.1	6.8
Industrial commodities except fuels .....	5.0	6.1	5.1	.2	4.3	10.6	6.1	3.6	6.9	8.0
Fuel and fuel products .....	12.7	8.1	-2.2	13.6	28.7	13.7	-12.7	3.2	24.6	21.6

<sup>1</sup> Energy items in the CPI include gasoline, motor oil, fuel oil, fuel oil, coal, natural gas, and electricity.

<sup>2</sup> Does not include plant and animal fibers, which are included in farm products index.

<sup>3</sup> Does not include manufactured animal feeds, which are included in processed foods and feeds index.

<sup>4</sup> Not seasonally adjusted.

outpaced demand, prices for foods at the primary market level declined in 1976 at all stages of production—crude, intermediate, and finished foods.

At the farm level, prices for cattle, hogs, poultry, and milk—which advanced sharply in 1975—declined in 1976. Grain prices continued to decline in 1976, as they did in 1975. On the other hand, coffee and cocoa bean prices rose substantially, and egg prices rose more than in 1975. Among intermediate materials used in food manufacturing, prices declined for flour, sugar, and milk used in processing. Reflecting these changes, retail prices for beef, pork, poultry, cereal and bakery products, and sugar declined in 1976, while coffee prices advanced sharply.

As usual, food prices displayed considerable volatility during the year, and the magnitude of change was generally larger at the farm level than at the retail level, (chart A, table C). The direction of change was influenced greatly by the behavior of meat prices.

Cattle and beef prices declined almost steadily during the first three quarters of 1976, except for a brief period early in the spring when prices climbed due to a strike threat by the Teamsters' Union. Beef production through mid-August was at a record high or 11 percent above its

level a year earlier. The bulk of the production was made up of grain-fed cattle, but because of dry weather during the summer, grass-fed cattle, including cows, were marketed at a higher rate than had been expected. Prices turned up sharply in the fourth quarter, as fewer grain-fed cattle were marketed as a result of reduced feedlot placement during the summer.

In contrast to beef, pork production declined during the first half of 1976 as a result of reduced farrowings in the fall of 1975. Prices for hog and pork, therefore, generally rose during the second quarter of 1976, although the increases were held down by competitive pressures from large supplies of beef. After mid-year, hog and pork prices turned down sharply as hog slaughter and pork production rose in response to a 16-percent increase in the spring pig crop. The June-November pig crop was up 18 percent from the same period in 1975.

Poultry prices declined during most months of 1976. Because of higher prices during 1975, poultry producers stepped up production in 1976 to record levels or 14 percent above 1975 production through September 1976. Although output was down slightly during the fourth quarter, poultry prices remained under competitive pressure from increased pork supplies.

**Table C. Percent changes in food prices, 1974-76**

Commodity	Index	December 1974 to December 1975	December 1975 to December 1976	3 months ending— (Compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted)							
				1975				1976			
				March	June	September	December	March	June	September	December
Consumer foods .....	CPI	6.2	0.6	-2.1	11.3	8.2	8.6	-11.7	7.7	0.7	1.1
	WPI	5.5	-2.5	-14.3	28.7	11.2	.9	-20.5	16.8	-12.2	11.7
Beef and veal .....	CPI	9.1	-8.0	-33.2	100.8	-12.6	21.2	-37.4	19.1	-21.4	22.4
	WPI	30.9	-14.7	-20.8	275.9	-7.6	9.3	-68.7	17.5	-13.5	66.3
Pork .....	CPI	31.4	-20.4	-1.4	75.2	49.1	15.6	-31.7	20.6	-30.3	-30.2
	WPI	26.8	-14.9	22.0	79.0	51.1	-21.5	-25.5	47.8	-57.9	13.2
Poultry .....	CPI	8.8	-14.5	-21.2	21.3	21.3	20.8	-34.3	12.2	-33.9	9.3
	WPI	7.4	-15.8	-46.4	117.6	-16.0	35.4	-43.8	14.1	-41.1	33.2
Cereal and bakery products .....	CPI	.3	-1.6	16.0	-1.9	-4.9	-6.8	-4.4	8.3	.9	-10.3
	WPI	-4.0	-3.4	2.0	-6.1	-1.1	-10.8	2.3	8.8	-15.1	-8.0
Dairy products .....	CPI	6.6	3.6	-8	0	11.9	15.8	5.2	5.4	11.9	-7.4
	WPI	16.8	-2.3	1.9	13.1	28.5	25.4	-13.3	8.2	6.8	-9.5
Fresh fruits and vegetables .....	CPI	8.4	5.7	1.3	7.7	17.4	9.0	-17.4	-16.3	39.3	29.5
	WPI	16.2	-8.4	-19.9	80.9	29.0	-.4	-30.9	-58.8	234.3	-25.8
Processed fruits and vegetables .....	CPI	4.6	-3.0	-2.0	-5.3	4.6	23.5	-4.0	-7.0	2.2	-3.2
	WPI	-.9	4.3	2.1	.9	-5.9	-.7	-1.2	6.1	5.0	7.6
Eggs .....	CPI	2.2	9.9	-19.0	13.8	-4.8	23.8	-11.2	46.5	-4.7	17.5
	WPI	6.2	11.1	8.2	-7.3	12.9	14.7	-30.0	130.8	-25.8	27.2
Sugar and sweets <sup>1</sup> .....	CPI	-19.1	-6.5	-12.9	-40.4	2.4	-19.4	-5.7	-5.5	-7.8	-2.2
	WPI	-50.4	-14.4	-61.7	-72.8	-3.0	-40.9	40.8	-16.4	-51.4	-6.1

<sup>1</sup> . In the WPI, this title is sugar and confectionery.

**Chart A. Changes in prices of food by stage of processing, 1972-76**

(Percent change over 3-month span, annual rate, seasonally adjusted)

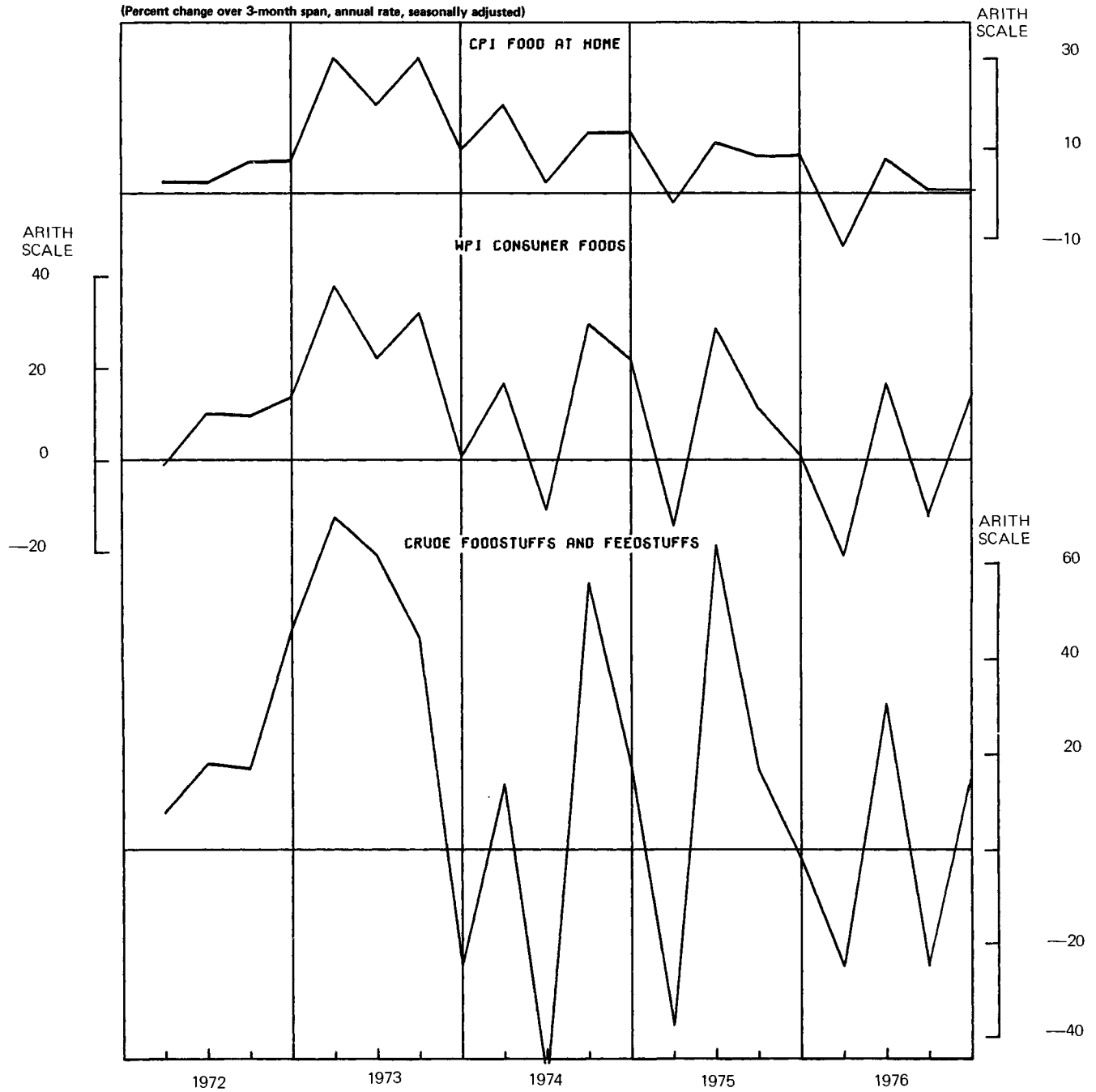


Table D. Percent changes in prices of consumer goods other than food, 1974-76

Commodity	Index	Decem- ber 1974 to Decem- ber 1975	Decem- ber 1975 to Decem- ber 1976	3 months ending— (Compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted)							
				1975				1976			
				March	June	Septem- ber	Decem- ber	March	June	Septem- ber	Decem- ber
Commodities less food . .	CPI	6.2	5.1	8.0	5.3	7.5	4.3	2.9	5.6	6.6	5.4
	WPI	6.7	4.8	3.5	4.1	10.7	9.3	.5	2.3	10.1	6.8
Nondurables less food <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	CPI	5.2	4.4	4.1	4.9	8.2	4.2	.8	4.7	7.3	5.1
	WPI	7.6	5.4	2.3	5.4	14.4	9.5	-.9	2.6	13.3	7.2
Apparel less footwear . . . . .	CPI	1.5	3.9	-.6	-.3	4.1	3.2	2.3	3.4	8.0	1.9
	WPI	1.0	5.8	.3	-3.5	.9	6.8	9.8	3.5	5.9	4.0
Footwear . . . . .	CPI	2.5	5.3	4.9	-.3	1.4	4.2	4.5	5.8	6.9	4.0
	WPI	3.9	8.9	1.7	3.3	7.6	3.8	7.1	11.4	13.3	4.0
Gasoline <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	CPI	10.5	2.7	-3.7	17.0	30.0	2.7	-17.7	8.2	15.5	8.0
	WPI	23.0	5.3	-3.4	23.0	72.7	13.1	-26.7	2.7	40.5	16.2
Heating fuel <sup>3</sup> . . . .	CPI	8.7	6.4	-7.5	14.5	28.8	2.1	-8.1	9.4	18.6	7.3
	WPI	12.1	4.0	-25.4	13.8	42.4	31.6	-21.5	-3.1	28.6	19.5
Durables <sup>1</sup> . . . . .	CPI	7.6	6.1	13.6	6.3	6.2	4.4	6.9	6.5	5.8	5.2
	WPI	5.1	3.9	6.1	1.2	4.4	9.2	3.4	1.1	5.1	6.2
New cars . . . . .	CPI	7.3	4.8	9.3	.3	6.1	14.4	2.4	1.2	6.7	8.8
	WPI	6.0	5.3	3.7	1.8	3.7	15.7	2.6	.6	6.7	11.7
Furniture . . . . .	CPI	5.5	3.2	6.3	7.4	3.9	4.7	3.8	0	1.3	7.6
	WPI	3.5	6.0	2.8	-1.1	3.6	8.7	4.1	4.6	7.0	8.5
Appliances, including radio and TV . . . . .	CPI	4.9	3.2	7.5	4.2	4.5	3.7	5.4	4.3	2.0	1.3
	WPI	4.3	1.3	6.1	4.2	2.4	4.5	2.0	3.4	0	.3

<sup>1</sup> Includes items not shown separately.  
<sup>2</sup> CPI includes motor oil.

<sup>3</sup> CPI includes coal.

Large supplies of other farm products such as grains, rice, and milk contributed to the declines in prices of cereal and bakery products and dairy products, particularly after mid-1976. Prices of grains moved up early in the year due to adverse weather conditions in the Midwest but declined after mid-year as the damage was less severe than expected. Growing and harvesting conditions in the summer and fall were quite favorable and production of both wheat and corn reached record levels. In addition, export demand for wheat was down sharply because most world wheat-producing countries, including the Soviet Union, had excellent harvests in 1976. Rice prices declined as world supplies expanded at a faster rate than demand. World rice production for the 1975-76 season was 6.4 percent higher than the previous year's record crop. The U.S. carryover supplies at the start of the 1976-77 growing season were at the highest level in 20 years due to declines in exports. The gain in milk production resulted from substantial increases in output per cow, a reflection of favorable milk-feed price relationships during 1976. Processors' prices for butter and cheese, which were at record high levels at the end of 1975, declined during 1976 due to lower milk prices and decreased consumer demand;

prices for these products at the retail level rose considerably less in 1976 than in 1975.

Heavy worldwide production and sluggish industrial and consumer demand led to a 27.6-percent decline in wholesale raw sugar prices in 1976; the previous year, prices fell 70 percent after rising over 320 percent in 1974. The increased switch by manufacturers to sugar substitutes, especially high fructose corn syrup, contributed to the decline in sugar prices during 1976. At the retail level, sugar prices declined 18.4 percent in 1976, compared with a decline of 58 percent in 1975.

Coffee prices advanced rapidly throughout 1976. By the end of the year, green coffee prices were double their level at the end of 1975; wholesale prices of roasted coffee were up almost 70 percent and retail prices almost 60 percent. Coffee prices began to rise around mid-1975 after a severe frost and subsequent drought in Brazil wiped out a large portion of that country's production capacity. The Brazilian coffee crop is not expected to return to normal for several years. The effect of the civil war in Angola and the disruption of transportation in Guatemala by a major earthquake also contributed to the accelerated price increases in 1976. Like coffee, supplies of cocoa beans were

extremely limited during 1976 because of adverse conditions in growing areas and prices rose 120 percent.

### Commodities other than food

As with food, prices of other consumer goods generally move in response to prices at the manufacturers' level. However, the timing and magnitude of change are likely to differ, depending on prevailing demand and supply conditions in consumer markets. In 1976, the direction of change in the CPI for consumer goods other than food was similar to the corresponding WPI component, particularly when used car and house prices which are not in the WPI were excluded (table B and chart B). Omitting these prices, the increase in the CPI was 4.4 percent in 1976, compared with 5.3 percent in 1975. The WPI for consumer finished goods other than food rose 4.8 percent in 1976, compared with 6.7 percent in 1975.

The slower rise in prices of nonfood consumer goods in the WPI and the CPI in 1976 than in 1975 was primarily due to considerably smaller increases in gasoline prices. Prices for fuel oil, appliances, and new cars also increased less in 1976. On the other hand, prices for apparel, footwear, textile housefurnishings, and tires increased more in 1976 than in 1975.

Although the direction of change was the same, the magnitude for consumer goods excluding foods, used cars, and houses in the CPI—4.4 percent—was smaller than in the WPI—4.8 percent. Retail prices of nonfood commodities have usually risen somewhat faster than manufacturers' prices whether used cars and house prices were included or excluded. This relationship existed in all but 3 years during the period from 1956 through 1971. Increases in 1972 were about the same; since 1972, however, increases in manufacturers' prices have been consistently larger than at retail. From 1971 to 1974, wage and price controls may have contributed to the divergence from the historical pattern. The larger increase in the WPI component in 1975 was due almost entirely to the sharper increases in gasoline and fuel oil prices in the WPI.

In 1976, gasoline prices continued to record larger increases in the WPI than in the CPI. In addition, prices of other consumer goods such as apparel, footwear, tires, tobacco products, and furniture increased more at the manufacturers' level than at retail. The smaller rise in retail prices may be due in part to the usual lag before goods carrying higher manufacturers' prices appear in consumer markets. Apparently, a weakness in demand prevented retailers from passing through price increases to the usual extent. On the other hand, large increases in materials prices in late 1975 and during most of 1976 exerted strong upward pressure on prices of finished consumer goods at the manufacturers' level.

In the spring of 1975, the economy started to pick up from the 1974 recession. Prices of crude industrial materials turned up sharply in the second quarter. As the

recovery continued during the summer of 1975, retailers and manufacturers began to replenish their inventories, and production of materials and finished goods started to rise again. Price rises for intermediate materials and finished goods accelerated in the last half of the year.

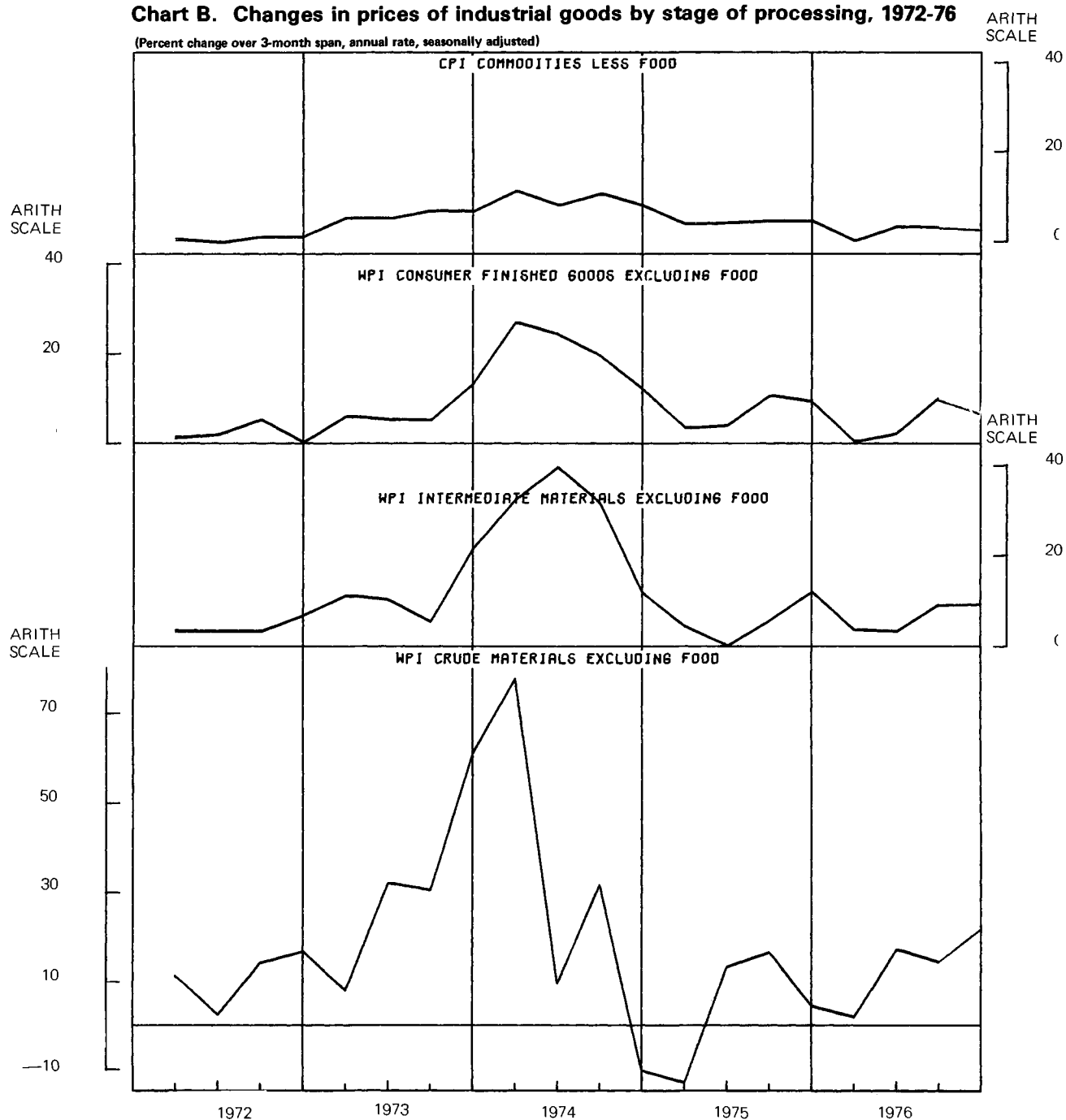
As retail sales remained strong early in 1976, production increased more rapidly than growth in final demand, resulting in a high rate of inventory accumulation. As consumer demand weakened around mid-year, the rise in industrial production slowed sharply. Reflecting the slowdown in the economy, prices of crude industrial materials (other than fuels) were virtually unchanged in the third quarter, after large increases in the first two quarters. Price rises for intermediate materials (other than fuels), however, accelerated in the third quarter as a widely expressed concern to provide profits needed for capital expansion encouraged producers to pass through earlier increases in costs of materials, fuels, and labor. An upturn in construction activity also contributed to the third quarter acceleration. Price rises for finished goods also gained momentum, with earlier increases in material costs contributing significantly to the advance.

The lull in economic activity continued early in the fourth quarter. Even new automobile sales—a major stimulus to the economy in 1975 and during much of 1976—were not as strong initially for 1977 models, particularly small cars, as the industry had expected. Prices for crude industrial materials (other than fuels) rose slightly in the fourth quarter, while prices at the intermediate level continued to show large increases. Among WPI industrial commodity groups, prices rose sharply in 1976 for metals, rubber, plastic, leather, and lumber products. Increases for chemicals and fuels were somewhat smaller than in 1975.

*Gasoline and heating oil.* During the early months of 1976, fuel prices declined reflecting relatively large inventories, as well as the effect of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act on prices of domestic crude petroleum and refined petroleum products. This law decreased the composite average crude petroleum price and limited price increases for lower tier (old oil) production and upper tier (new oil) production to prescribed monthly increases. Prices of both lower tier and upper tier crude petroleum were frozen from June 1 through December 31 under Federal Energy Administration (FEA) regulations. Gasoline prices started to rise in early spring as improved demand permitted refiners to pass along increased costs stemming from use of a higher proportion of more expensive imported crude petroleum. Refiners raised their prices substantially in late spring and early summer as a sharp rise in gasoline consumption reduced refinery stocks. In the late summer, gasoline prices declined less than usual as inventories remained tight due to less-than-seasonal declines in demand. Additionally, refiners continued to pass on higher average costs for crude oil resulting from increased imported crude oil

**Chart B. Changes in prices of industrial goods by stage of processing, 1972-76**

(Percent change over 3-month span, annual rate, seasonally adjusted)





consumption and decontrolled "stripper well" crude oil prices.

Fuel oil prices declined in the first quarter of 1976, chiefly due to abnormally warm weather in major fuel-consuming areas, as well as the impact of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. Prices turned up in the second quarter and continued to rise for the rest of the year, partly because natural gas shortages led some users to switch to fuel oil for home heating. Prices of refined petroleum products such as middle distillates (heating oil) and residual oil were decontrolled around mid-year. However, decontrol seemed to have little direct effect on these prices through the end of 1976. The FEA has a system—"distillate trigger"—designed to restore price controls if home heating oil prices rise between 4.5 and 5.5 cents per gallon, on the average, in a region.

*Apparel* prices at the manufacturers' level rose 5.8 percent in 1976, compared with 1.0 percent in 1975. The largest increases occurred early in the year when prices were raised for fall and winter items to be introduced at the retail level later in 1976. Throughout the year, consumers preferred apparel in natural fibers such as cotton rather than double-knits. The change occurred when the cotton crop was down sharply and prices were climbing. Although retail prices for apparel rose sharply in the third quarter as fall and winter clothing items carrying higher manufacturers' prices were introduced, weaker consumer demand had led to extensive promotional sales during the fourth quarter.

The rise in *footwear* prices accelerated in 1976. Prices for cattlehides moved up sharply from mid-1975 and through mid-1976, when demand from both the domestic footwear industry and from foreign sources was high. However, an increase in supplies of cattle hides following unusually high slaughter rates and reduced demand contributed to lower prices for hides and leather in the final quarter of 1976, and a somewhat slower rise in footwear prices.

Manufacturers' prices for *furniture* increased 6.0 percent in 1976, compared with 3.5 percent in 1975. Increases accelerated after mid-year due in large part to higher prices for hardwood lumber and metal products used in furniture production, as well as the improvement in housing starts. Retail furniture prices increased 3.2 percent in 1976, about half the rise in 1975, as the demand for furniture was weak during much of the year. Reflecting sluggish demand, prices of other household durables such as appliances increased less in 1976 than in 1975 at both the manufacturers' and retail levels.

The rise in 1976 *new car* indexes—5.3 percent in the WPI and 4.8 percent in the CPI—was also somewhat smaller than in 1975. Domestic car producers sold 22 percent more cars in 1976 than in 1975. Auto sales in 1976 reflected a stronger-than-expected demand for large cars and weaker-than-expected demand for small cars. In planning production schedules for 1976 model year cars, automakers expected buyers to be concerned about fuel economy and

to be looking for smaller and more efficient cars. Instead, consumers generally preferred big cars. Although production schedules were subsequently revised, shortages of some larger models developed during the spring and summer. Since prices of large cars did not decline as usual during the model year, the seasonally adjusted new car indexes rose sharply in the third quarter. The rise in the indexes in the fourth quarter reflected price increases for 1977 domestic cars and for some imported cars. The effect of these increases was partly offset by rebates and price cuts on some small cars. The demand for large cars carried into the *used car* market. Because large, late-model used cars were in short supply, prices rose sharply during 1976. For the year ending in December 1976, the used car index rose 19 percent, over twice as much as in 1975.

Price rises for *tobacco products*, which were relatively moderate in the first three quarters of 1976, accelerated in the fourth quarter, partly due to higher prices for leaf tobacco marketed in late summer. Prices of other commodities such as housekeeping supplies—particularly paper products, toilet goods, and drugs and prescriptions, continued to rise in 1976, as they had in 1975. Higher materials costs were an important factor in these prices; because the demand for these products is relatively inelastic, producers were able to pass through the cost increases.

## Services

Charges for all types of services—transportation, medical care, and household services—rose sharply in the first quarter and more moderately in subsequent quarters (table E). Nevertheless, for the year ending in December 1976, transportation services rose 10.8 percent, almost the same as in 1975, which was the largest since 1970. The index for medical care services rose 10.7 percent in 1976, also the same as in 1975. However, the 6.0 percent increase for household services other than rent was smaller than in 1975, and rents continued to increase moderately as they had in the previous 4 years.

*Transportation services.* Higher automobile insurance rates accounted for more than 65 percent of the increase in the transportation services index in 1976. From 1971 to 1974, auto insurance rates rose an average of 1.2 percent while the CPI increased at a rate of 6.9 percent. During this period, some companies chose to forego rate increases assuming that the energy crisis would result in less driving and consequently fewer accidents. However, large price increases in many sectors of the economy in 1973 and 1974 offset the decline in the number of accidents and claims. As a result, some insurance companies were forced to be more selective in insuring drivers. In 1975 and 1976, insurance companies requested frequent and sizable rate increases to recover past losses and to meet rising costs for medical care, auto parts, and higher administrative expenses.

Table E. Percent changes in prices of consumer services, 1974-76

Service	Decem- ber 1974 to Decem- ber 1975	Decem- ber 1975 to Decem- ber 1976	3 months ending— (Compound annual rate, seasonally adjusted except as noted)							
			1975				1976			
			March	June	Septem- ber	Decem- ber	March	June	Septem- ber	Decem- ber
Services .....	8.1	7.3	9.3	6.8	7.4	9.3	10.6	6.2	7.1	5.4
Rent .....	5.2	5.5	5.2	4.5	4.8	6.5	5.5	5.1	5.4	5.9
Household services less rent <sup>1</sup> .....	8.2	6.0	10.3	8.4	4.9	9.3	9.1	6.3	6.2	2.4
Mortgage interest rates <sup>2</sup> .....	-3.1	-4.8	-15.9	-6.8	.6	11.9	-4.6	-7.3	2.0	-9.1
Housekeeping and home maintenance services <sup>2</sup> .....	6.0	8.9	5.2	6.0	7.2	5.6	13.9	8.2	8.5	5.1
Gas and electricity .....	14.2	12.2	15.3	16.7	15.2	9.9	6.4	12.1	13.6	17.3
Medical care .....	10.3	10.7	14.5	9.2	10.5	7.2	14.0	7.5	9.3	11.9
Transportation <sup>1</sup> .....	11.8	10.8	6.7	5.5	16.7	18.9	21.1	5.0	10.3	7.2
Auto insurance rates <sup>2</sup> .....	17.9	22.4	2.3	11.1	10.2	54.5	55.0	8.8	18.6	12.0
Public transportation .....	11.9	4.6	3.2	5.1	45.0	-2	7.5	3.5	6.9	.9
Other services <sup>1</sup> .....	5.4	6.4	7.2	3.2	5.7	5.6	7.9	4.9	7.2	5.5
Personal care services <sup>2</sup> .....	5.0	8.4	4.7	4.1	4.6	6.7	10.4	6.7	10.5	6.2
Recreational services <sup>2</sup> .....	3.5	5.0	6.2	1.6	3.0	3.2	5.7	5.9	4.5	4.1

<sup>1</sup> Includes items not shown separately.<sup>2</sup> Not seasonally adjusted.

In 1976, auto insurance rates increased 22.4 percent, after a 17.9-percent rise in 1975. Among other expenses associated with the private operation of automobiles, parking fees rose 7.7 percent in 1976, about the same as in 1975 and auto repairs and maintenance increased 6.5 percent, less than in 1975.

In the public transportation sector, airplane fares were raised 3 times during 1976, for an increase of 7.4 percent, a larger rise than in 1975. Despite keen competition from other modes of transportation, railroad fares rose 7.3 percent in 1976, slightly more than in 1975. However, the increase of 3.2 percent in local transit fares in 1976 was one-fifth as large as in 1975. Alternative revenue sources such as special tax levies and State and Federal subsidies enabled transit systems to meet operating expenses without raising fares.

**Medical care services.** The rise in charges for medical care services in 1976 and 1975 has decelerated slightly since 1974 when they rose 13.3 percent. The rise in physicians' fees and hospital service charges accelerated early in 1974 after termination of wage and price controls; increases in 1975 and 1976—although slightly smaller than in 1974—were still substantial. Hospital service charges rose 11.4 percent in 1976, compared with 13.0 percent in 1975, and 14.2 percent in 1974. Charges for semiprivate and operating rooms have continued to rise rapidly. Physicians' fees rose 9.7 percent in 1976, 11.8 percent in 1975, and 13.3 percent in 1974. A factor contributing to the rise in physicians' fees has been the passing through of higher malpractice insurance fees. The annual adjustment of retained earnings of health insurance companies also contributed

significantly to the rise in the CPI medical care services index in 1976. Health insurance premiums, represented in the index by prices of services for which benefits are paid, measure changes in the ratio of profits and overhead costs to benefits.

**Household services other than rent.** Price increases for household services (less rent) were smaller than in 1975 and less than half as much as in 1974. During 1976, mortgage interest rates fell, particularly in the first 6 months and late in the year. In the first quarter, supplies of lendable funds were ample as the flow of new savings received by saving and loan institutions reached a record. Consumer demand for mortgage funds during this period was slack and the resulting supply-demand imbalance helped rates to fall through June. However, at mid-year, a combination of factors, such as renewed interest in real estate and other competing money markets and concern about possible tighter monetary policy and a resurgence of inflation, caused lenders to restrict loans and raise rates. Veterans Administration and Federal Housing Administration insured loan rates also rose in the third quarter. Late in the year, inflows of savings to lending institutions were substantial. In addition, the slowdown in the economy lessened the demand for available funds when corporations and government postponed borrowing from capital markets. As a result, the index of mortgage interest rates declined in the fourth quarter.

Other household services, such as property taxes, electricity rates, and telephone charges, increased less than in 1975. Property taxes increased less than in 1975 despite continued rising operating expenses for schools and various

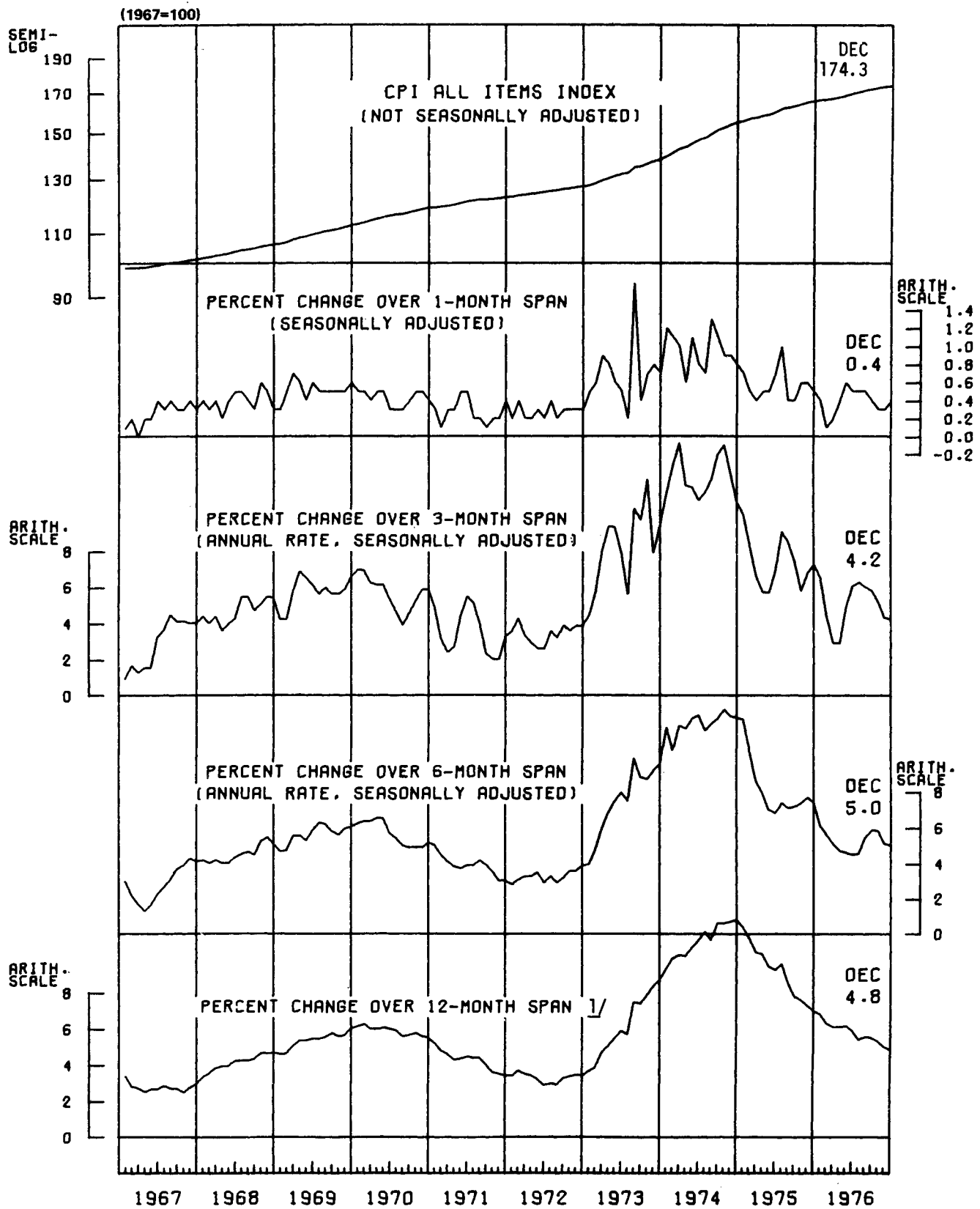
city services. Homeowners were successful in limiting increases in property taxes. Electricity charges increased less in 1976 than in 1975 because of stable prices through much of the year for electricity-producing fuels, particularly coal. In addition, electricity producers continued to face strong consumer resistance to further rate increases, which resulted in delays and smaller rate increases than requested.

In contrast to electricity, natural gas prices rose sharply in 1976—17.9 percent, after increasing 20.2 percent in 1975 and 17.1 percent in 1974. Rates jumped in the second half of the year, due in part to the Federal Power Commission's decision to allow higher prices for some natural gas sold in interstate commerce. Property insurance premiums also rose significantly in 1976—10.1 percent, following a rise of 8.2 percent in 1975, and an average yearly increase of 2 percent from 1971 through 1974 as companies sought increases to catch up on past expenses. Within the housekeeping services group, postage rates for first class and parcel post rose in the first quarter. The increase in the minimum wage in January contributed to higher charges for domestic services, babysitters, and laundry flatwork.

*Rent.* The CPI for apartment and home rentals advanced 5.5 percent as landlords continued to press for higher rents to cover rising property taxes, fuel and utility charges, and sharply higher maintenance and administrative expenses. In 1976, new apartment construction continued to be sluggish compared to the heavy construction period of the early 1970's. In the face of a tight supply situation in many areas, demand for available units was strong as some renters continued to postpone buying a home until their savings increased, interest rates fell further, and home prices leveled off.

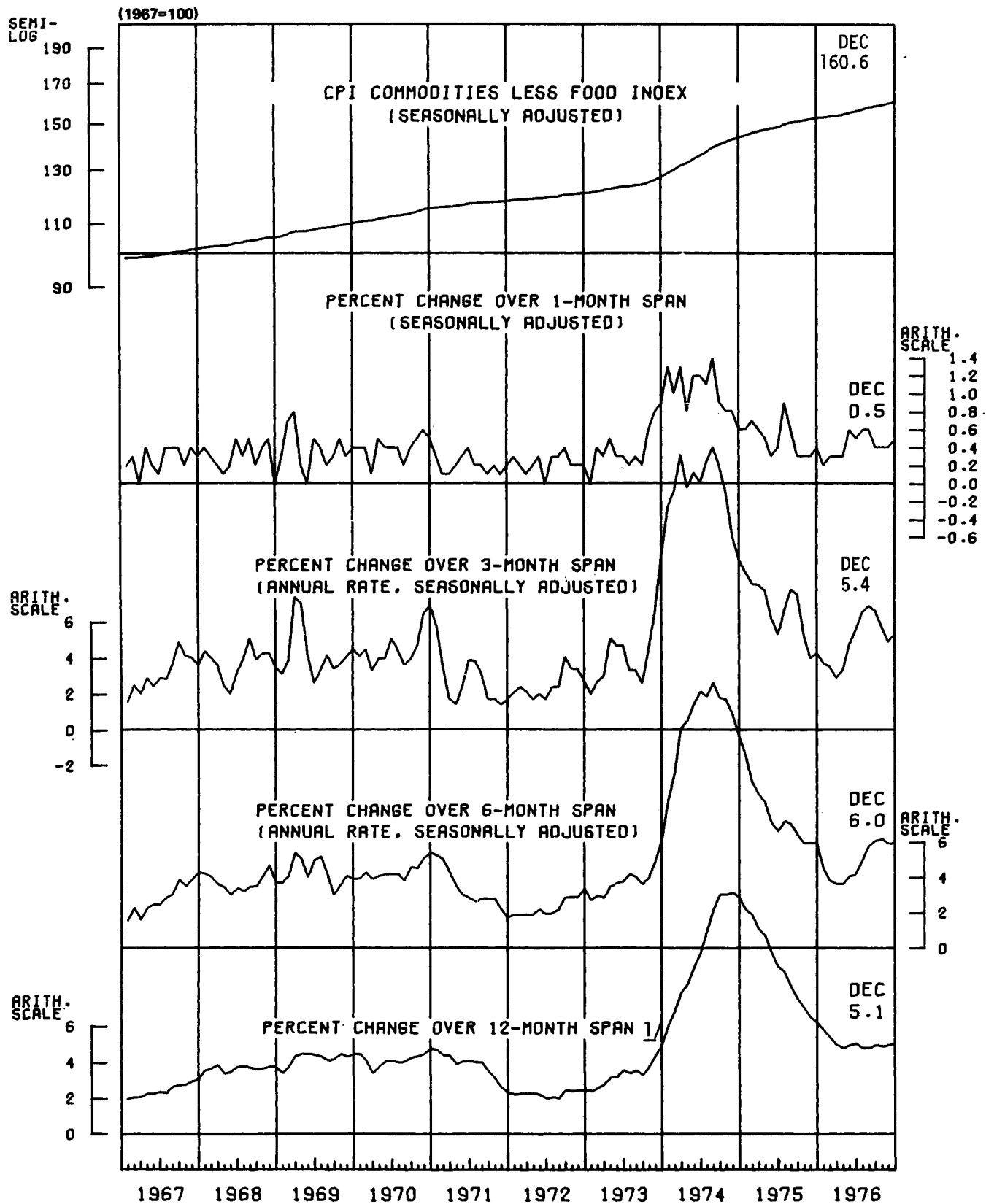
*Other services.* Prices for most other services in the CPI accelerated slightly in 1976. Charges for these services—which are more susceptible to discretionary spending than most medical, transportation, and household services—rose 6.4 percent, compared with 5.4 percent in 1975. Personal care services, such as beauty and barber shop charges, apparel services such as drycleaning and laundry, and recreational services increased more in 1976 than in 1975.

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



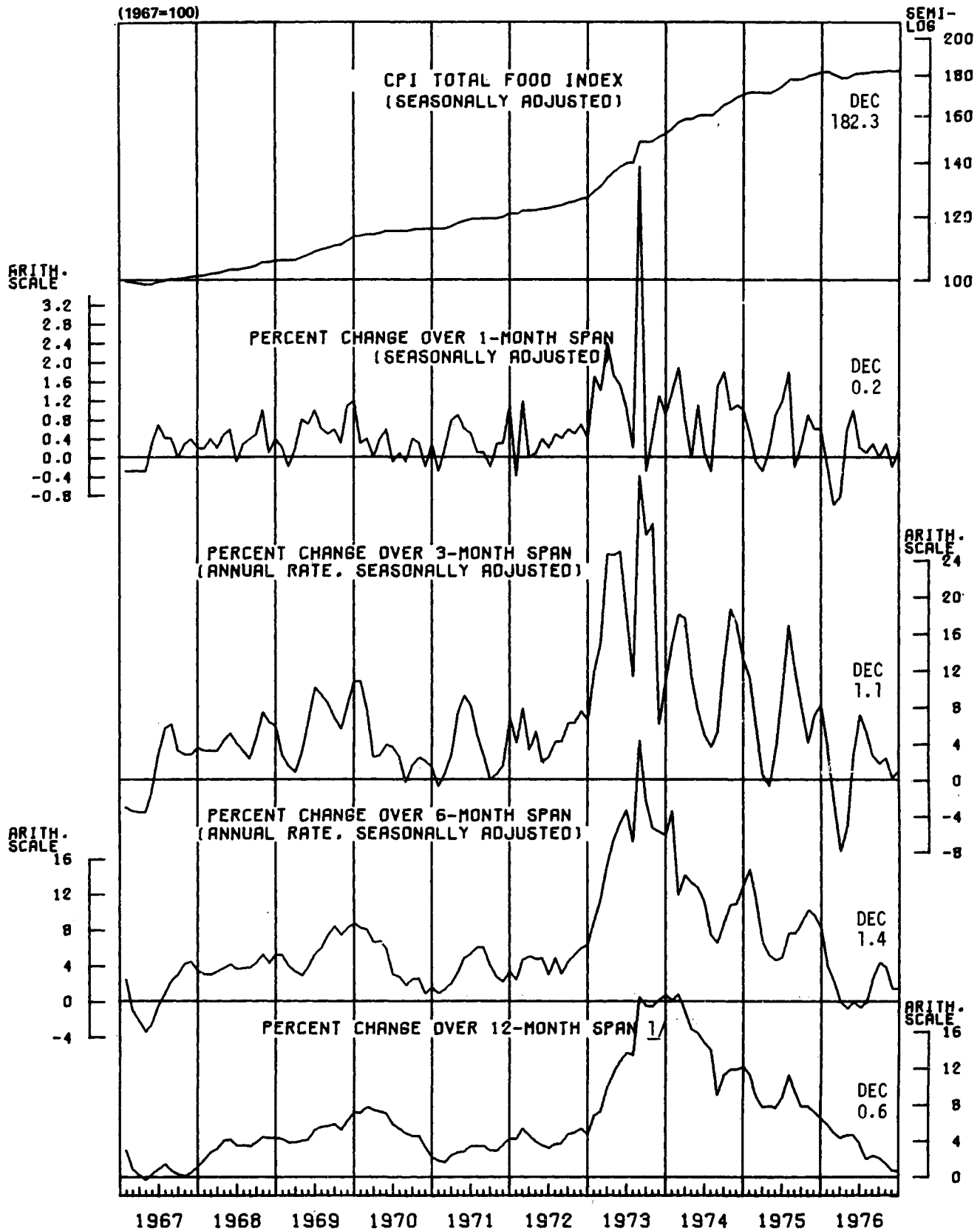
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.  
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
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Chart 2. Commodities less food index and rates of change, 1967-76



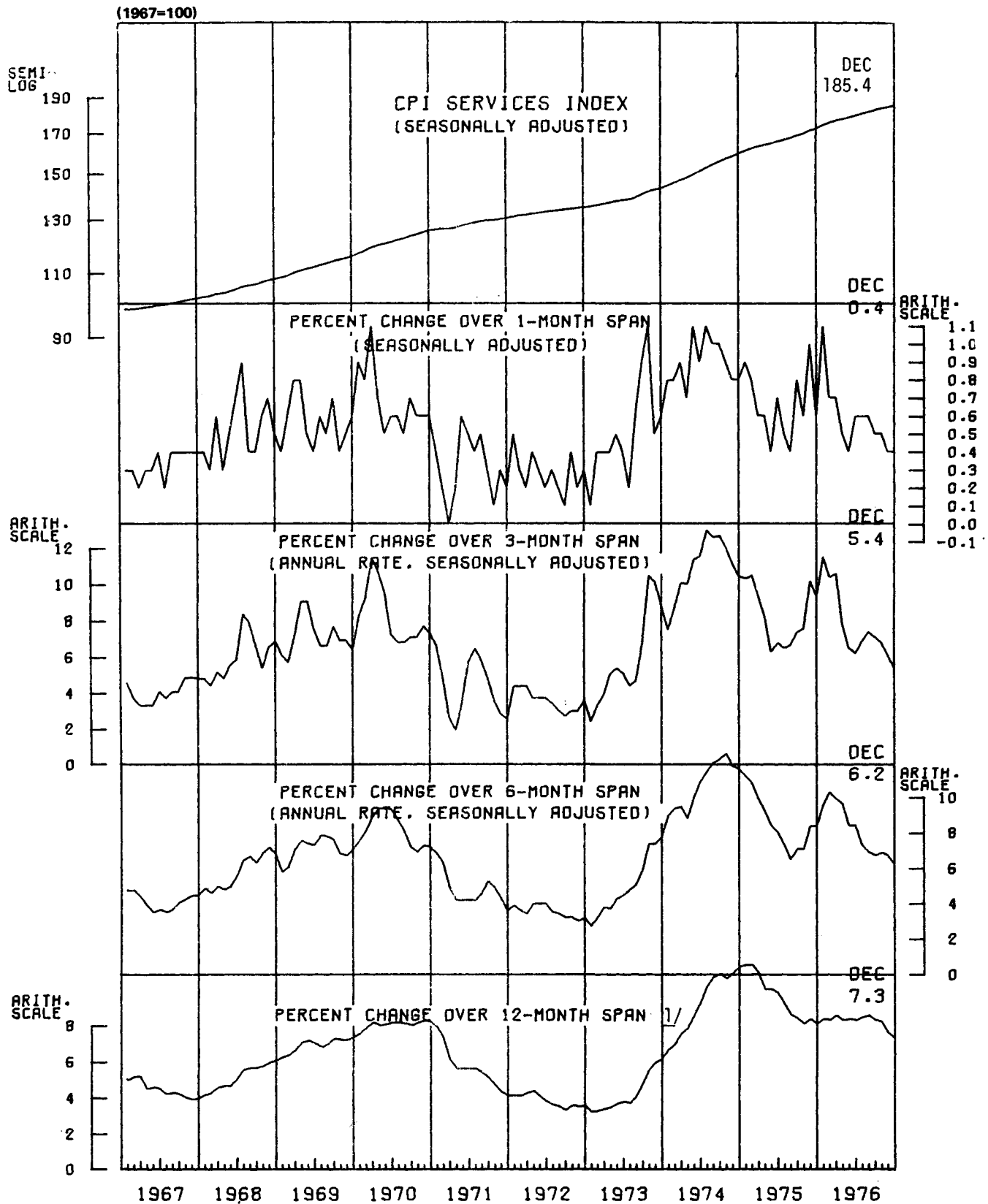
1/ Computed from the unadjusted series.  
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Chart 3. Total food index and rates of change, 1967-76



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



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

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

Group or class	Relative importance	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
	December 1975	November 1976	December 1976	December 1975	November 1976	September to October	October to November	November to December
<b>Commodity and service groups</b>								
All items	100.000	173.8	174.3	4.8	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.4
All items (1957-59=100)	-	202.1	202.7	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	63.355	167.7	168.1	3.3	.2	.3	.2	.4
Food	24.675	181.1	181.7	.6	.3	.3	-.2	.2
Food at home	19.524	178.9	179.3	-.9	.2	.3	-.4	.2
Cereals and bakery products	2.702	179.9	179.3	-1.6	-.3	-1.0	-.6	-1.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.641	172.0	170.2	-10.0	-1.0	-1.4	-.3	.2
Dairy products	2.876	171.7	171.4	3.6	-.2	.2	-1.4	-.8
Fruits and vegetables	3.103	174.8	175.5	2.0	.4	4.5	-1.6	.4
Other foods at home	4.202	197.3	202.2	8.8	2.5	.5	1.4	1.3
Food away from home	5.150	190.0	190.9	6.1	.5	.1	.3	.6
Commodities less food	38.681	160.3	160.6	5.1	.2	.4	.4	.5
Nondurables less food	22.872	161.9	162.3	4.4	.2	.4	.5	.4
Apparel commodities	7.861	150.1	149.9	4.2	-.1	-.1	.3	.5
Men's and boys'	2.475	150.8	150.7	4.5	-.1	-.4	.1	.5
Women's and girls'	3.426	147.3	146.9	3.4	-.3	-.3	.3	.5
Footwear	1.377	153.7	153.4	5.3	-.2	.1	.4	.5
Other apparel commodities	.584	156.4	156.9	4.5	.3	1.2	.5	.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	15.011	169.0	169.7	4.6	.4	.6	.7	.4
Gasoline and motor oil	3.498	180.3	179.9	2.7	-.2	1.3	.7	-.1
Tobacco products	1.880	162.7	163.7	4.4	.6	.4	1.2	.4
Alcoholic beverages	2.244	148.6	148.8	3.5	.1	.3	.3	.1
Fuel oil and coal	1.045	258.0	264.5	6.4	2.5	.2	.2	1.4
Other nondurables	6.343	163.8	164.5	5.9	.4	.5	.6	.4
Durable commodities	15.809	158.0	158.4	6.1	.3	.3	.4	.6
Household durables	4.495	147.8	148.2	3.6	.3	.4	.5	.4
New automobiles	1.910	139.7	140.4	4.8	.5	1.4	.1	.6
Used automobiles	2.046	179.0	178.0	19.0	-.6	-.1	.9	1.7
Other durables	7.358	164.5	165.1	4.4	.4	*.2	*.2	*.4
Services	36.645	185.1	185.8	7.3	.4	.5	.4	.4
Rent	4.497	147.5	148.3	5.5	.5	.5	.4	.5
Services less rent	32.147	191.8	192.6	7.6	.4	.6	.4	.4
Household services less rent	16.030	202.6	203.5	6.0	.4	.3	-.1	.4
Transportation services	5.012	180.2	180.8	10.8	.3	.9	.8	0
Medical care services	5.642	204.5	205.7	10.7	.6	.7	1.5	.6
Other services	5.643	165.2	165.7	6.4	.3	.5	.5	.3
<b>Special indexes:</b>								
All items less food	75.325	171.6	172.2	6.2	.3	*.5	*.5	*.3
Nondurable commodities	47.547	171.3	171.7	2.4	.2	*.2	*.2	*.2
Apparel commodities less footwear	6.485	149.4	149.2	3.9	-.1	-.2	.2	.5
Services less medical care services	31.002	181.9	182.7	6.8	.4	*.5	*.3	*.4
Insurance and finance	9.808	200.7	200.4	5.4	-.1	-.1	-.3	-.3
Utilities and public transportation	5.484	177.0	179.6	8.5	1.5	.8	.5	1.1
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.649	216.1	216.7	8.9	.3	*.6	*.4	*.3
Appliances (including radio and TV)	1.417	124.8	124.7	3.2	-.1	-.1	.2	.2
<b>Expenditure classes</b>								
All items	100.000	173.8	174.3	4.8	.3	.3	.3	.4
Food	24.675	181.1	181.7	.6	.3	.3	-.2	.2
Housing	33.998	180.7	181.6	5.5	.5	*.3	*.3	*.5
Shelter <sup>1</sup>	21.370	182.1	182.4	4.2	.2	*.3	*.1	*.2
Rent	4.497	147.5	148.3	5.5	.5	.5	.4	.5
Homeownership <sup>2</sup>	16.484	194.8	195.0	3.8	.1	*.2	*.0	*.1
Fuel and utilities <sup>3</sup>	5.205	188.2	192.0	9.0	2.0	1.0	.2	1.7
Gas and electricity	2.722	195.5	200.9	12.2	2.8	1.3	.1	2.6
Household furnishings and operation	7.422	171.7	172.3	6.4	.3	.4	.5	.6
Apparel and upkeep	9.217	151.9	151.8	4.5	-.1	-.1	.4	.4
Transportation	13.053	171.4	171.4	8.8	0	.6	.4	.5
Private	11.729	170.6	170.7	9.3	.1	.8	.4	.6
Public	1.324	177.6	178.0	4.6	.2	.5	.4	-.7
Health and recreation	18.681	167.3	168.0	6.7	.4	*.5	*.7	*.4
Medical care	6.413	191.3	192.3	10.1	.5	*.5	*.1, 3	*.5
Personal care	2.505	164.8	165.2	6.9	.2	*.7	*.5	*.2
Reading and recreation	5.148	154.1	154.4	4.7	.2	.5	.5	.3
Other goods and services	4.616	155.3	155.9	4.1	.4	.3	.7	.4
<b>Special indexes:</b>								
All items less shelter	78.630	171.6	172.2	4.9	.3	*.4	*.4	*.3
All items less medical care	93.587	172.7	173.2	4.5	.3	*.4	*.2	*.3
All items less mortgage interest costs	95.610	171.7	172.3	5.1	.3	*.4	*.4	*.3
CPI—domestically produced farm foods <sup>4</sup>	17.148	173.1	173.0	-3.2	-.1	*.2	*.7	*.1
CPI—selected beef cuts <sup>5</sup>	2.056	160.5	161.9	-8.0	.9	*.2, 4	*.7	*.9
<b>Purchasing power of consumer dollar:</b>								
1967=\$1.00	-	\$0.575	\$0.574	-4.5	-.2	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.495	.493	-	-	-	-	-

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

<sup>4</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>5</sup> 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 1-A. CPI—U.S. 1976 annual average, by commodity and service group and expenditure class**

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

Group or class	Indexes		Percent change to 1976 from—
	1975 Average	1976 Average	1975 Average
All items .....	161.2	170.5	5.8
All items (1957-59=100) .....	187.5	198.3	-
Commodities .....	158.4	165.2	4.3
Food .....	175.4	180.8	3.1
Food at home .....	175.8	179.5	2.1
Cereals and bakery products .....	184.8	180.6	-2.3
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	178.0	179.4	.8
Dairy products .....	156.6	169.3	8.1
Fruits and vegetables .....	171.0	175.4	2.6
Other foods at home .....	184.8	189.9	2.8
Food away from home .....	174.3	186.1	6.8
Commodities less food .....	149.1	156.6	5.0
Nondurables less food .....	151.7	158.3	4.4
Apparel commodities .....	141.2	145.8	3.3
Men's and boys' .....	142.2	147.2	3.5
Women's and girls' .....	138.1	141.9	2.8
Footwear .....	144.2	149.9	4.0
Other apparel commodities .....	148.8	153.0	2.8
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	157.9	165.7	4.9
Gasoline and motor oil .....	169.7	176.6	4.1
Tobacco products .....	153.9	160.5	4.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	142.1	146.8	3.3
Fuel oil and coal .....	235.3	250.8	6.6
Other nondurables .....	151.2	160.2	6.0
Durable commodities .....	145.5	154.3	6.0
Household durables .....	140.3	146.0	4.1
New automobiles .....	127.6	135.7	6.3
Used automobiles .....	146.4	167.9	14.7
Other durables .....	154.2	161.7	4.9
Services .....	166.6	180.4	8.3
Rent .....	137.3	144.7	5.4
Services less rent .....	171.9	186.8	8.7
Household services less rent .....	184.7	198.4	7.4
Transportation services .....	152.7	174.3	14.1
Medical care services .....	179.1	197.1	10.1
Other services .....	152.1	161.1	5.9
Special indexes:			
All items less food .....	157.1	167.5	6.6
Nondurable commodities .....	163.2	169.2	3.7
Apparel commodities less footwear .....	140.6	144.9	3.1
Services less medical care services .....	164.7	177.7	7.9
Insurance and finance .....	180.4	196.6	9.0
Utilities and public transportation .....	157.1	172.2	9.6
Housekeeping and home maintenance service .....	193.7	210.2	8.5
Appliances (including radio and TV) .....	118.4	123.3	4.1
All items .....	161.2	170.5	5.8
Food .....	175.4	180.8	3.1
Housing .....	166.8	177.2	6.2
Shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	169.7	179.0	5.5
Rent .....	137.3	144.7	5.4
Homeownership <sup>2</sup> .....	181.7	191.7	5.5
Fuel and utilities <sup>3</sup> .....	167.8	182.7	8.9
Gas and electricity .....	169.6	188.8	11.3
Household furnishings and operation .....	158.1	168.5	6.6
Apparel and upkeep .....	142.3	147.6	3.7
Transportation .....	150.6	165.5	9.9
Private .....	149.8	164.6	9.9
Public .....	158.6	174.2	9.8
Health and recreation .....	153.5	163.3	6.4
Medical care .....	168.6	184.7	9.5
Personal care .....	150.7	160.5	6.5
Reading and recreation .....	144.4	151.2	4.7
Other goods and services .....	147.4	153.3	4.0
Special indexes:			
All items less shelter .....	159.1	168.3	5.8
All items less medical care .....	160.9	169.7	5.5
All items less mortgage interest costs .....	159.1	168.4	5.8
CPI—domestically produced farm foods <sup>4</sup> .....	173.6	175.4	1.0
CPI—selected beef cuts <sup>5</sup> .....	170.3	165.5	-2.8
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:			
1967=\$1.00 .....	\$0.621	\$0.587	-5.5
1957-59=\$1.00 .....	.533	.504	-

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

<sup>4</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>5</sup> Calculated from the CPI beef and veal component by excluding veal cutlets and beef liver.

\* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

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

Group and class	Seasonally adjusted indexes				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
	September 1976	October 1976	November 1976	December 1976	3 months ending in				6 months ending in	
					March 1976	June 1976	September 1976	December 1976	June 1976	December 1976
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	2.9	6.1	5.8	4.2	4.5	5.0
Commodities	166.8	167.3	167.6	168.3	-1.2	6.3	4.7	3.6	2.5	4.2
Food	181.8	182.3	181.9	182.3	-7.9	7.2	1.8	1.1	-7.7	1.4
Food at home	180.1	180.7	180.0	180.3	-11.7	7.7	.7	.4	-2.5	.6
Cereals and bakery products	182.6	180.8	179.7	177.7	-4.4	8.3	.9	-10.3	1.8	-4.9
Meats, poultry, and fish	176.3	173.8	173.2	173.5	-26.0	11.9	-15.7	-6.2	-9.0	-11.1
Dairy products	173.2	173.6	171.2	169.9	5.2	5.4	11.9	-7.4	5.3	1.8
Fruits and vegetables	175.7	183.6	180.6	181.3	-9.5	-11.9	19.6	13.4	-10.7	16.5
Other foods at home	193.1	194.1	196.9	199.4	-3.4	18.3	7.6	13.7	6.9	10.6
Food away from home	188.5	188.7	189.2	190.3	9.0	5.8	5.5	3.9	7.4	4.7
Commodities less food	158.5	159.1	159.8	160.6	2.9	5.6	6.6	5.4	4.2	6.0
Nondurables less food	160.2	160.8	161.6	162.2	.8	4.7	7.3	5.1	2.7	6.2
Apparel commodities	147.7	147.5	147.9	148.6	2.5	4.0	7.7	2.5	3.2	5.0
Men's and boys'	149.7	149.1	149.3	150.0	7.2	0	10.5	.8	3.5	5.6
Women's and girls'	143.6	143.2	143.7	144.4	-1.4	6.8	6.1	2.2	2.6	4.1
Footwear	152.1	152.3	152.9	153.6	4.5	5.8	6.9	4.0	5.1	5.4
Other apparel commodities	153.5	155.3	156.1	156.9	3.2	2.7	3.5	9.2	3.0	6.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	167.7	168.7	169.8	170.4	-2	5.3	7.2	6.6	2.5	6.9
Gasoline and motor oil	180.4	182.7	184.0	183.9	-17.7	8.2	15.5	8.0	-5.6	11.7
Tobacco products	160.4	161.0	162.9	163.5	8.2	.5	1.0	8.0	4.3	4.4
Alcoholic beverages	147.6	148.0	148.5	148.7	5.1	5.0	1.4	3.0	5.1	2.2
Fuel oil and coal	258.6	259.1	259.6	263.2	-8.1	9.4	18.6	7.3	.2	12.8
Other nondurables <sup>1</sup>	161.8	162.6	163.6	164.3	7.1	4.6	5.1	6.3	5.9	5.7
Durable commodities	156.3	156.8	157.4	158.3	6.9	6.5	5.8	5.2	6.7	5.5
Household durables	146.3	146.9	147.7	148.3	5.7	1.7	1.4	5.6	3.7	3.5
New automobiles	136.8	138.7	138.9	139.7	2.4	1.2	6.7	8.8	1.8	7.7
Used automobiles	173.5	173.3	174.8	177.8	31.2	26.9	9.3	10.3	29.0	9.8
Other durables <sup>1</sup>	163.9	164.2	164.5	165.1	2.3	5.7	6.9	3.0	4.0	4.9
Services	183.0	184.0	184.7	185.4	10.6	6.2	7.1	5.4	8.4	6.2
Rent	146.3	147.0	147.6	148.4	5.5	5.1	5.4	5.9	5.3	5.6
Services less rent	189.6	190.7	191.4	192.1	11.7	6.2	7.3	5.4	8.9	6.3
Household services less rent	201.3	201.9	201.6	202.5	9.1	6.3	6.2	2.4	7.7	4.3
Transportation services	177.5	179.1	180.6	180.6	21.1	5.0	10.3	7.2	12.8	8.7
Medical care services	200.2	201.7	204.7	205.9	14.0	7.5	9.3	11.9	10.7	10.6
Other services	163.3	164.1	165.0	165.5	7.9	4.9	7.2	5.5	6.4	6.3
Special indexes:										
All items less food <sup>1</sup>	170.0	170.8	171.6	172.2	5.3	7.0	7.4	5.3	6.1	6.3
Nondurable commodities <sup>1</sup>	170.7	171.0	171.3	171.7	-2.1	5.6	4.1	2.4	1.7	3.2
Apparel commodities less footwear	146.9	146.6	146.9	147.6	2.3	3.4	8.0	1.9	2.8	4.9
Services less medical care services <sup>1</sup>	180.4	181.3	181.9	182.7	8.9	4.9	8.2	5.2	6.9	6.7
Insurance and finance	199.7	199.5	198.9	198.4	13.4	4.6	6.7	-2.6	8.9	1.9
Utilities and public transportation	175.7	177.1	177.9	179.8	5.7	9.1	9.9	9.7	7.4	9.8
Housekeeping and home maintenance service <sup>1</sup>	214.0	215.2	216.1	216.7	13.9	8.2	8.5	5.1	11.0	6.8
Appliances (including radio and TV)	124.1	124.0	124.3	124.5	5.4	4.3	2.0	1.3	4.9	1.6
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	2.9	6.1	5.8	4.2	4.5	5.0
Food	181.8	182.3	181.9	182.3	-7.9	7.2	1.8	1.1	-7.7	1.4
Housing <sup>1,2</sup>	179.5	180.1	180.7	181.6	5.5	4.7	7.0	4.8	5.1	5.9
Shelter <sup>1,2</sup>	181.5	182.0	182.1	182.4	3.0	4.4	7.6	2.0	3.7	4.8
Rent	146.3	147.0	147.6	148.4	5.5	5.1	5.4	5.9	5.3	5.6
Homeownership <sup>1,3</sup>	194.4	194.8	194.8	195.0	1.9	4.3	8.0	1.2	3.1	4.6
Fuel and utilities <sup>4</sup>	186.8	188.6	189.0	192.2	2.8	9.8	11.7	12.1	6.2	11.9
Gas and electricity	193.8	196.3	196.5	201.7	6.4	12.1	13.6	17.3	9.2	15.5
Household furnishings and operation	169.7	170.4	171.2	172.3	13.2	2.7	3.6	6.3	7.8	4.9
Apparel and upkeep	149.5	149.4	150.0	150.6	3.7	4.2	7.3	3.0	3.9	5.1
Transportation	169.7	170.7	171.4	172.3	6.5	9.8	13.0	6.3	8.1	9.6
Private	168.6	170.0	170.6	171.6	6.5	11.0	12.5	7.3	8.7	9.9
Public	176.5	177.4	178.1	176.9	7.5	3.5	6.9	.9	5.5	3.8
Health and recreation <sup>1</sup>	165.3	166.1	167.3	168.0	8.1	5.6	6.3	6.7	6.8	6.5
Medical care <sup>1</sup>	187.9	188.9	191.3	192.3	14.2	7.0	9.5	9.7	10.6	9.6
Personal care <sup>1</sup>	162.8	163.9	164.8	165.2	7.4	6.2	7.7	6.0	6.8	6.9
Reading and recreation	152.5	153.3	154.1	154.6	5.0	3.5	4.9	5.6	4.2	5.2
Other goods and services	153.7	154.2	155.3	155.9	6.3	3.7	.8	5.8	5.0	3.3
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter <sup>1</sup>	170.4	171.0	171.6	172.2	3.0	6.9	5.6	4.3	4.9	4.9
All items less medical care <sup>1</sup>	171.7	172.4	172.7	173.2	2.4	6.4	5.5	3.5	4.4	4.5
All items less mortgage interest costs <sup>1</sup>	170.4	171.1	171.7	172.3	3.2	6.9	5.6	4.5	5.1	5.1
CPI—domestically produced farm foods <sup>1,5</sup>	174.8	174.4	173.1	173.0	-8.7	2.5	-2.5	-4.1	-3.2	-3.3
CPI—selected beef cuts <sup>1,6</sup>	163.4	159.4	160.5	161.9	-21.8	5.4	-9.7	-3.6	-9.2	-6.7

<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 telephones, fuel oil, coal, water, and sewerage services not shown separately.<sup>5</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>6</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 December 1976 from—		
	December 1976		December 1975	November 1976	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food .....	181.7	182.3	0.6	0.3	0.2
Food away from home .....	190.9	190.3	6.1	.5	.6
Restaurant meals .....	189.8	(1)	6.2	.5	(1)
Snacks .....	196.0	196.2	5.5	.3	.6
Food at home .....	179.3	180.3	-.9	.2	.2
Cereals and bakery products .....	179.3	177.7	-1.6	-.3	-1.1
Flour .....	147.2	145.9	-8.6	-2.1	-2.7
Cracker meal .....	222.0	224.2	-1.2	0	.5
Corn flakes .....	165.1	164.0	-.5	.1	-.3
Rice .....	187.9	184.0	-11.2	-1.7	-3.3
Bread, white .....	162.0	(1)	.2	-.2	(1)
Bread, whole wheat .....	179.2	178.1	0	-.6	-.5
Cookies .....	191.6	(1)	4.5	2.0	(1)
Layer cake .....	187.2	186.3	-1.1	.5	.6
Cinnamon rolls .....	196.0	193.7	-1.3	-1.4	-1.8
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	170.2	173.5	-10.0	-1.0	.2
Meats .....	167.4	170.8	-11.8	-1.4	.1
Beef and veal .....	160.7	166.4	-8.0	.8	2.4
Steak, round .....	158.2	165.8	-10.7	.7	3.1
Steak, sirloin .....	159.8	167.5	-8.9	2.4	4.5
Steak, porterhouse .....	174.6	180.9	-7.6	1.4	3.1
Rump roast .....	157.9	164.5	-7.8	2.9	4.7
Rib roast .....	187.8	191.8	-7.4	3.2	3.6
Chuck roast .....	161.1	167.8	-12.7	-.9	.2
Hamburger .....	156.4	161.4	-4.8	-.8	.7
Beef liver .....	122.7	123.8	-13.0	.7	1.9
Veal cutlets .....	181.7	183.5	-5.2	-.3	.2
Pork .....	174.7	177.0	-20.4	-4.2	-2.0
Chops .....	159.7	165.0	-19.2	-5.2	-2.2
Loaf roast .....	168.4	174.3	-22.6	-6.2	-3.3
Sausage .....	204.4	206.9	-17.7	-4.3	-1.4
Ham, whole .....	190.4	182.0	-14.1	3.9	1.5
Picnics .....	163.4	164.2	-22.4	-3.1	-1.8
Bacon .....	176.7	178.5	-24.3	-6.9	-4.1
Other meats .....	171.8	171.6	-5.2	-1.5	-1.2
Lamb chops .....	181.2	184.1	.6	-1.1	-.8
Frankfurters .....	157.0	157.8	-10.0	-2.1	-.9
Ham, canned .....	194.9	190.9	-7.1	-2.9	-3.3
Bologna sausage .....	169.2	168.4	-6.3	-1.4	-1.0
Salami sausage .....	165.5	164.8	-2.1	-.8	0
Liverwurst .....	162.2	161.9	-6.1	-.8	-.7
Poultry .....	144.0	149.8	-14.5	-.3	2.7
Frying chicken .....	143.5	152.3	-17.0	-.1	3.7
Chicken breasts .....	156.2	161.5	-7.4	.4	1.7
Turkey .....	134.7	132.6	-9.4	-2.0	.8
Fish .....	237.6	(1)	11.0	.9	(1)
Shrimp, frozen .....	231.3	(1)	12.8	0	(1)
Fish, fresh or frozen .....	267.3	(1)	17.1	1.3	(1)
Tuna fish, canned .....	193.6	194.2	9.1	.1	-.4
Sardines, canned .....	257.3	254.5	5.6	1.8	1.7
Dairy products .....	171.4	169.9	3.6	-.2	-.8
Milk, fresh, grocery .....	161.8	160.7	2.5	-.6	-.9
Milk, fresh, skim .....	179.4	178.3	3.7	-.2	-.8
Milk, evaporated .....	209.4	(1)	8.4	.4	(1)
Ice cream .....	163.6	161.2	4.8	1.8	.7
Cheese, American process .....	201.3	200.3	3.3	.3	0
Butter .....	154.5	149.4	2.3	-1.3	-2.0
Fruits and vegetables .....	175.5	181.3	2.0	.4	.4
Fresh fruits and vegetables .....	171.4	183.7	5.7	.4	1.4
Fresh fruits .....	165.1	177.9	13.9	-1.1	1.7
Apples .....	166.6	181.7	28.5	5.4	0
Bananas .....	145.1	155.4	-.3	-2.5	.5
Oranges .....	155.7	157.8	.2	-7.5	-2.3
Orange juice, fresh .....	157.0	(1)	5.7	.1	(1)
Grapefruit .....	147.0	164.6	6.4	-7.3	-4.4
Grapes .....	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Strawberries .....	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Watermelon .....	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)
Fresh vegetables .....	176.7	188.6	.3	1.6	1.3
Potatoes .....	168.0	190.3	-11.9	2.1	2.8
Onions .....	155.9	171.3	-6.8	4.7	4.5
Asparagus .....	(2)	(1)	(2)	(2)	(1)
Cabbage .....	188.1	198.6	27.2	32.4	32.3
Carrots .....	190.7	186.4	23.6	7.4	1.4
Celery .....	180.6	184.7	-7.3	4.8	9.0
Cucumbers .....	177.8	192.4	-8.6	29.8	12.8
Lettuce .....	157.1	(1)	-2.0	-26.5	(1)
Peppers, green .....	173.6	179.9	8.6	10.6	5.6
Spinach .....	211.5	215.8	10.4	5.9	6.0
Tomatoes .....	184.2	175.8	6.2	5.3	-4.3

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 December 1976 from—		
	December 1976		December 1975	November 1976	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food at home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables—Continued					
Processed fruits and vegetables	181.4	181.0	-3.0	0.2	-0.2
Fruit cocktail, canned	180.9	179.3	2.7	1.5	1.6
Pears, canned	156.8	155.4	-3.0	.4	.7
Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned	178.4	177.0	2.4	1.4	1.5
Orange juice concentrate, frozen	153.0	( <sup>1</sup> )	-3.2	1.5	( <sup>1</sup> )
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	183.5	183.0	-3.6	-.2	.1
Beets, canned	190.9	( <sup>1</sup> )	2.7	.6	( <sup>1</sup> )
Peas, green, canned	160.8	159.5	.5	-.2	-.2
Tomatoes, canned	184.4	( <sup>1</sup> )	2.7	2.3	( <sup>1</sup> )
Dried beans	243.8	( <sup>1</sup> )	-20.8	-4.0	( <sup>1</sup> )
Broccoli, frozen	163.9	( <sup>1</sup> )	5.4	1.8	( <sup>1</sup> )
Other food at home	202.2	199.4	8.8	2.5	1.3
Eggs	193.8	179.6	9.9	8.4	1.0
Fats and oils	177.3	174.3	-4.6	.9	.9
Margarine	190.4	186.7	-7.4	.8	1.6
Salad dressing, Italian	157.1	156.5	3.2	.5	.4
Salad or cooking oil	185.0	181.4	-7.6	1.3	1.3
Sugar and sweets	211.1	( <sup>1</sup> )	-6.5	-.6	( <sup>1</sup> )
Sugar	178.4	( <sup>1</sup> )	-18.4	-2.1	( <sup>1</sup> )
Grape jelly	217.8	( <sup>1</sup> )	-3.7	-.4	( <sup>1</sup> )
Chocolate bar	229.1	( <sup>1</sup> )	-5.3	.1	( <sup>1</sup> )
Syrup, chocolate flavored	214.6	210.8	-.2	-.3	-2.1
Nonalcoholic beverages	246.9	( <sup>1</sup> )	29.9	3.9	( <sup>1</sup> )
Coffee	309.6	( <sup>1</sup> )	57.9	6.8	( <sup>1</sup> )
Coffee, instant	259.3	260.9	32.1	2.7	3.1
Tea	156.0	155.8	4.4	.6	-.1
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	195.7	( <sup>1</sup> )	.8	.1	( <sup>1</sup> )
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	200.2	( <sup>1</sup> )	0	-.2	( <sup>1</sup> )
Prepared and partially prepared foods	173.1	( <sup>1</sup> )	4.8	.5	( <sup>1</sup> )
Bean soup, canned	209.9	( <sup>1</sup> )	8.1	.3	( <sup>1</sup> )
Chicken soup, canned	143.9	142.9	8.0	1.3	.8
Spaghetti, canned	166.1	164.8	1.2	.2	-.1
Mashed potatoes, instant	158.9	158.6	2.6	-.3	-.3
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	181.0	179.9	3.7	-.9	-.6
Baby foods	177.5	( <sup>1</sup> )	10.2	2.9	( <sup>1</sup> )
Sweet pickle relish	185.9	183.9	4.4	0	-.9
Pretzels	161.5	163.0	.9	.6	1.2

<sup>1</sup> Not available.<sup>2</sup> Priced only in season.

**Table 3-A. CPI—food items, U.S. 1976 annual average**

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

Item and group	Indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to 1976 from
	1975 Average	1976 Average	1975 Average
Food .....	175.4	180.8	3.1
Food away from home.....	174.3	186.1	6.8
Restaurant meals .....	173.2	185.1	6.9
Snacks .....	179.7	191.2	6.4
Food at home .....	175.8	180.0	2.4
Cereals and bakery products .....	184.8	180.6	-2.3
Flour .....	165.4	154.7	-6.5
Cracker meal .....	231.1	223.5	-3.3
Corn flakes .....	166.5	165.5	-.6
Rice .....	217.0	198.7	-8.4
Bread, white.....	165.8	162.7	-1.9
Bread, whole wheat .....	176.5	178.2	1.0
Cookies .....	186.1	189.6	1.9
Layer cake .....	191.9	185.1	-3.5
Cinnamon rolls .....	198.0	195.9	-1.1
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	178.0	179.4	.8
Meats .....	177.9	178.2	.2
Beef and veal .....	170.0	164.5	-3.2
Steak, round .....	171.6	162.9	-5.1
Steak, sirloin .....	169.4	163.5	-3.5
Steak, porterhouse .....	177.4	177.9	.3
Rump roast .....	167.7	159.2	-5.1
Rib roast .....	189.5	188.4	-.6
Chuck roast .....	176.0	166.0	-5.7
Hamburger .....	162.5	160.7	-1.1
Beef liver .....	144.4	127.4	-11.8
Veal cutlets .....	190.7	186.4	-2.3
Pork .....	196.9	199.5	1.3
Chops .....	183.5	182.5	-.5
Loin roast .....	195.9	197.7	.9
Sausage .....	218.1	226.6	3.9
Ham, whole .....	184.9	199.6	8.0
Picnics .....	181.1	189.0	4.4
Bacon .....	215.6	210.4	-2.4
Other meats .....	168.5	178.4	5.9
Lamb chops .....	172.0	185.9	8.1
Frankfurters .....	165.6	166.9	.8
Ham, canned .....	177.9	205.2	15.3
Bologna sausage .....	171.2	176.1	2.9
Salami sausage .....	160.5	167.7	4.5
Liverwurst .....	163.1	168.0	3.0
Poultry .....	162.4	155.7	-4.1
Frying chicken .....	167.0	157.6	-5.6
Chicken breasts .....	160.7	161.5	-.5
Turkey .....	142.8	141.4	-1.0
Fish .....	203.3	227.3	11.8
Shrimp, frozen .....	180.2	222.8	23.6
Fish, fresh or frozen .....	220.9	249.4	12.9
Tuna fish, canned .....	175.3	186.9	6.6
Sardines, canned .....	235.3	248.9	5.8
Dairy products .....	156.6	169.3	8.1
Milk, fresh, grocery .....	152.7	160.7	5.2
Milk, fresh, skim .....	167.7	176.8	5.4
Milk, evaporated .....	183.9	204.8	11.4
Ice cream .....	151.6	158.6	4.6
Cheese, American process .....	175.8	198.6	13.0
Butter .....	124.2	153.1	23.3
Fruits and vegetables .....	171.0	175.3	2.5
Fresh fruits and vegetables .....	166.1	170.2	2.5
Fresh fruits .....	161.1	160.8	-.2
Apples .....	162.5	155.6	-4.2
Bananas .....	149.4	151.3	1.3
Oranges .....	154.2	153.6	-.4
Orange juice, fresh .....	147.0	154.1	4.8
Grapefruit .....	162.6	159.5	-1.9
Grapes .....	192.4	216.0	12.3
Strawberries .....	147.9	151.1	2.2
Watermelon .....	198.3	183.6	-7.4
Fresh vegetables .....	170.4	178.0	4.5
Potatoes .....	184.4	200.1	8.5
Onions .....	179.9	170.5	-5.2
Asparagus .....	183.8	188.8	2.7
Cabbage .....	153.9	151.6	-1.5
Carrots .....	168.9	160.2	-5.2
Celery .....	162.8	185.5	13.9
Cucumbers .....	170.9	154.9	-9.4
Lettuce .....	151.9	172.9	13.8
Peppers, green .....	161.4	158.7	-1.7
Spinach .....	184.5	196.3	6.4
Tomatoes .....	163.9	163.5	-.2

Table 3-A. CPI—food items, U.S. 1976 annual average—Continued

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

Item and group	Indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to 1976 from
	1975 Average	1976 Average	1975 Average
Food—Continued			
Food at home—Continued			
Fruits and vegetables—Continued			
Processed fruits and vegetables .....	178.3	183.0	2.6
Fruit cocktail, canned .....	177.2	177.0	-.1
Pears, canned .....	164.4	157.3	-4.3
Pineapple-grapefruit drink, canned .....	171.7	175.0	1.9
Orange juice concentrate, frozen .....	153.2	156.9	2.4
Lemonade concentrate, frozen .....	187.8	184.4	-1.8
Beets, canned .....	187.5	185.9	-.9
Peas, green canned .....	161.7	158.4	-2.0
Tomatoes, canned .....	176.3	178.3	1.1
Dried beans .....	235.9	280.7	19.0
Broccoli, frozen .....	153.5	158.3	3.1
Other food at home .....	184.8	189.9	2.8
Eggs .....	157.8	172.4	9.3
Fats and oils .....	198.6	173.7	-12.5
Margarine .....	224.6	188.3	-16.2
Salad dressing, Italian .....	155.2	152.5	-1.7
Salad or cooking oil .....	216.8	181.4	-16.3
Sugar and sweets .....	246.2	218.2	-11.4
Sugar .....	308.8	201.3	-34.8
Grape jelly .....	230.5	221.0	-4.1
Chocolate bar .....	238.9	233.5	-2.3
Syrup, chocolate flavored .....	215.3	214.5	-.4
Nonalcoholic beverages .....	178.9	214.0	19.6
Coffee .....	172.9	243.6	40.9
Coffee, instant .....	178.0	227.3	27.7
Tea .....	145.6	150.7	3.5
Carbonated drink, cola flavored .....	200.5	194.2	-3.1
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored .....	203.8	199.3	-2.2
Prepared and partially prepared foods .....	163.0	169.4	3.9
Bean soup, canned .....	183.1	207.8	13.5
Chicken soup, canned .....	134.5	136.7	1.6
Spaghetti, canned .....	163.1	163.8	.4
Mashed potatoes, instant .....	155.9	157.4	1.0
Potatoes, french fried, frozen .....	168.6	179.8	6.6
Baby foods .....	161.2	168.5	4.5
Sweet pickle relish .....	172.7	180.6	4.6
Pretzels .....	163.5	160.2	-2.0

**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 December 1976 from—	
		November 1976	December 1976	December 1975	November 1976
Housing .....		180.7	181.6	5.5	0.5
Shelter <sup>1</sup> .....		182.1	182.4	4.2	.2
Rent, residential .....		147.5	148.3	5.5	.5
Homeownership <sup>2</sup> .....		194.8	195.0	3.8	.1
Mortgage interest rates .....		139.2	137.4	-4.8	-1.3
Property taxes .....		169.7	170.8	3.4	.6
Property insurance premium .....		148.8	148.9	10.1	.1
Maintenance and repairs .....		205.1	206.0	7.1	.4
Maintenance and repair commodities <sup>3</sup> .....		171.0	172.4	5.4	.8
Exterior house paint .....		166.4	168.1	5.3	1.0
Interior house paint .....		154.6	155.7	4.4	.7
Maintenance and repair services .....		220.0	220.5	7.7	.2
Repainting living and dining rooms .....		232.8	233.0	6.9	.1
Reshingling house roof .....		239.8	240.1	6.6	.1
Residing house .....		208.0	208.8	9.3	.4
Replacing sink .....		215.3	215.2	6.0	0
Repairing furnace .....		214.2	215.9	9.0	.8
Fuel and utilities .....		188.2	192.0	9.0	2.0
Fuel oil and coal .....		258.0	264.5	6.4	2.5
Fuel oil, No. 2 .....		254.8	261.2	6.6	2.5
Gas and electricity .....		195.5	200.9	12.2	2.8
Gas .....		212.0	220.7	17.9	4.1
Electricity .....		180.2	182.4	6.4	1.2
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services .....		131.5	131.5	2.0	0
Residential water and sewerage services .....		195.8	196.5	10.9	.4
Household furnishings and operation <sup>4</sup> .....		171.7	172.3	6.4	.3
Housefurnishings .....		152.9	153.2	3.9	.2
Textiles .....		152.3	152.5	5.7	.1
Sheets, full, flat .....		157.4	155.4	-4	-1.3
Curtains, tailored .....		146.8	146.6	7.4	-.1
Bedsprads .....		153.8	153.5	5.0	-.2
Drapery fabrics .....		182.1	182.7	7.5	.3
Pillows, bed .....		133.8	134.5	8.6	.5
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made .....		139.0	141.2	6.2	1.6
Furniture and bedding .....		154.3	154.8	3.2	.3
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser .....	Mar. 70	136.4	136.9	5.1	.4
Sofas, upholstered .....		142.6	142.6	1.6	0
Cocktail tables .....	Dec. 71	134.0	134.4	3.8	.3
Dining room chairs .....	Mar. 70	140.2	141.2	5.5	.7
Recliners, upholstered .....	Dec. 71	113.2	112.8	2.1	-.4
Sofas, dual purpose .....		139.0	139.3	1.4	.2
Bedding, mattress and box springs .....	June 70	136.8	137.8	4.8	.7
Aluminum folding chairs .....		( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Cribs .....		157.5	157.4	3.9	-.1
Floor coverings .....		137.8	138.4	4.5	.4
Broadloom carpeting .....		125.3	125.8	3.8	.4
Vinyl sheet goods .....		166.6	168.0	6.9	.8
Vinyl floor tile .....		167.3	167.4	5.0	.1
Appliances (excluding radio and TV) .....		137.7	137.6	4.6	-.1
Washing machines, electric .....		143.2	143.3	5.4	.1
Vacuum cleaners .....		123.8	123.0	3.7	-.6
Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric .....		136.9	136.5	3.3	-.3
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric .....		140.4	141.1	4.6	.5
Clothes dryers, electric .....		152.1	151.5	6.5	-.4
Air conditioners, demountable .....		( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Room heaters, electric, portable .....		133.5	134.0	5.2	.4
Garbage disposal units .....		136.0	135.9	4.1	-.1
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china .....		191.9	192.1	7.9	.1
Flatware, stainless steel .....		181.9	181.8	.5	-.1
Table lamps, with shade .....		147.1	149.4	1.4	1.6
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type .....		164.7	164.3	5.8	-.2
Electric drills, hand-held .....		129.0	128.9	1.6	-.1
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents .....		178.0	178.9	7.7	.5
Paper napkins .....		224.6	227.2	6.5	1.2
Toilet tissue .....		248.7	254.2	17.8	2.2
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework .....		214.7	214.8	7.0	0
Baby sitter services .....		220.9	221.5	11.2	.3
Postal charges .....		225.6	225.6	28.8	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service .....		209.2	210.6	8.6	.7
Licensed day care services, preschool child .....		165.9	166.3	4.6	.2
Washing machine repairs .....		204.8	205.5	7.0	.3

See footnotes at end of table.

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

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

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to December 1976 from—	
		November 1976	December 1976	December 1975	November 1976
Apparel and upkeep <sup>6</sup> .....		151.9	151.8	4.5	-0.1
Apparel commodities .....		150.1	149.9	4.2	-.1
Apparel commodities less footwear .....		149.4	149.2	3.9	-.1
Men's and boys' .....		150.8	150.7	4.5	-.1
Men's:					
Topcoats and all-weather coats .....		154.0	154.1	6.0	.1
Suits, year round weight .....		145.0	142.9	2.1	-1.4
Sport jackets .....	June 74	95.2	97.3	-6.4	2.2
Jackets, lightweight .....		142.4	142.8	4.9	.3
Slacks, heavyweight .....		119.6	120.7	.4	.9
Slacks, lightweight .....		150.5	152.0	5.6	1.0
Trousers, work .....		165.1	165.7	8.9	.4
Shirts, work .....		162.2	162.5	7.0	.2
Shirts, business or dress .....		138.4	137.8	6.4	-.4
T-shirts .....		161.9	162.2	5.5	.2
Socks .....		137.4	137.6	4.2	.1
Handkerchiefs .....		165.4	164.7	5.8	-.4
Boys':					
Coats, heavyweight .....		126.5	123.8	2.3	-2.1
Sport coats, wool or wool blends .....		129.0	128.8	2.8	-.2
Dungarees .....		196.8	197.1	11.2	.2
Undershorts .....		158.3	158.2	4.8	-.1
Women's and girls' .....		147.3	146.9	3.4	-.3
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight .....		165.9	159.3	5.8	-4.0
Carcoats, heavyweight .....		169.7	164.0	4.9	-3.4
Sweaters .....		144.9	144.4	-.5	-.3
Skirts, winter weight .....		165.2	163.5	-3.8	-1.0
Skirts, summer weight .....		( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Blouses .....		148.5	147.8	6.5	-.5
Dresses, street, year round weight .....		153.5	153.7	4.2	.1
Slips .....		130.4	130.8	9.5	.3
Panties .....		154.1	154.5	8.1	.3
Girdles .....		136.4	135.9	4.7	-.4
Brassieres .....		153.6	153.9	6.2	.2
Hose or panty hose, nylon .....		93.2	93.0	.5	-.2
Anklets or knee-length socks .....		138.1	138.2	3.6	.1
Gloves, fabric .....		129.4	129.7	2.0	.2
Handbags .....		175.2	177.3	3.3	1.2
Girls':					
Raincoats .....		141.6	140.3	6.0	-.9
Skirts, fall and winter .....		163.2	161.9	-.4	-.8
Dresses .....		140.2	137.0	3.6	-2.3
Slacks, fall and winter .....		174.4	177.3	4.0	1.7
Slips .....		139.8	140.2	7.9	.3
Handbags .....		145.6	148.4	4.1	1.9
Other apparel commodities .....		156.4	156.9	4.5	.3
Diapers .....		198.8	200.4	10.4	.8
Yard goods .....		165.8	166.5	5.0	.4
Wrist watches, men's and women's .....		141.9	141.7	2.3	-.1
Footwear .....		153.7	153.4	5.3	-.2
Men's:					
Shoes, street .....		160.8	161.0	8.6	.1
Shoes, work, high .....		176.2	177.2	9.5	.6
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump .....		147.8	145.4	3.3	-1.6
Shoes, evening, pump .....		137.9	138.0	2.9	.1
Shoes, casual .....		155.7	154.9	4.8	-.5
Houseslippers, scuff .....		149.5	149.8	6.0	.2
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford .....		153.9	153.4	5.6	-.3
Sneakers, boys', oxford type .....		150.4	151.1	.8	.5
Dress shoes, girls' .....		161.9	162.2	4.9	.2
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning .....		164.4	165.2	6.6	.5
Automatic laundry service .....		147.0	147.4	6.1	.3
Laundry, men's shirts .....		169.3	170.0	7.7	.4
Tailoring charges .....		165.5	166.3	7.8	.5
Shoe repairs .....		154.7	155.5	7.5	.5
Transportation .....		171.4	171.4	8.8	0
Private <sup>7</sup> .....		170.6	170.7	9.3	.1
Automobiles, new .....		139.7	140.4	4.8	.5
Automobiles, used .....		179.0	178.0	19.0	-.6
Gasoline, regular, premium, and unleaded .....		181.7	181.2	2.6	-.3
Motor oil .....		161.7	161.9	2.8	.1
Tires .....		139.5	138.9	7.8	-.4
Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance <sup>8</sup> .....		193.8	194.4	6.5	.3
Auto insurance premiums .....		199.0	199.7	22.4	.4
Auto registration fees .....		132.8	132.8	1.5	0
Parking fees, private and municipal .....		190.1	191.0	7.7	.5

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 December 1976 from—	
		November 1976	December 1976	December 1975	November 1976
Transportation—Continued					
Public		177.6	178.0	4.6	0.2
Local transit fares		175.8	175.8	3.2	0
Taxicab fares		181.5	181.6	6.0	.1
Railroad fares, coach		169.3	169.4	7.3	.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		177.7	177.8	7.4	.1
Bus fares, intercity		203.6	211.2	9.7	3.7
Health and recreation		167.3	168.0	6.7	.4
Medical care <sup>9</sup>		191.3	192.3	10.1	.5
Drugs and prescriptions		128.5	128.9	5.7	.3
Over-the-counter items		142.1	142.5	6.3	.3
Multiple vitamin concentrates		106.9	106.9	2.7	0
Aspirin compounds		141.0	140.7	3.5	-.2
Liquid tonics		121.7	121.6	2.2	-.1
Adhesive bandages, packages		191.0	192.7	12.6	.9
Cold tablets or capsules		133.6	133.2	5.0	-.3
Cough syrup		149.4	150.7	7.8	.9
Prescriptions		117.1	117.5	5.0	.3
Anti-infectives		73.6	73.6	2.5	0
Sedative and hypnotics		167.5	167.8	6.3	.2
Ataractics		116.1	116.3	7.1	.2
Antispasmodics		140.3	140.6	7.9	.2
Cough preparations		185.5	186.9	9.6	.8
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		122.0	122.4	2.8	.3
Analgesics, internal		120.8	121.9	.9	.9
Hormones		112.1	112.6	5.5	.4
Professional services:					
Physicians' fees		194.9	195.6	9.7	.4
General physician, office visits		201.1	201.7	10.0	.3
General physician, house visits		195.4	196.7	8.7	.7
Obstetrical cases		198.6	198.7	11.1	.1
Pediatric care, office visits		198.5	200.1	10.7	.8
Psychiatrist, office visits		166.5	166.6	4.9	.1
Herniorrhaphy, adult		175.9	176.7	11.2	.5
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		184.2	185.4	9.3	.7
Dentists' fees		176.6	177.9	6.8	.7
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		181.8	183.3	7.0	.8
Extractions, adult		176.8	178.1	7.4	.7
Dentures, full upper		165.8	166.4	5.7	.4
Other professional services:					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		161.8	162.4	5.8	.4
Routine laboratory tests		163.7	163.9	6.6	.1
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	153.8	154.8	11.4	.7
Semiprivate rooms		279.3	281.5	13.0	.8
Operating room charges		287.5	290.3	15.3	1.0
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI		179.9	181.0	10.7	.6
Laboratory tests	Jan. 72	143.5	144.0	8.5	.3
Anti-infectives	Jan. 72	126.2	126.6	9.4	.3
Tranquilizers	Jan. 72	131.4	131.4	5.0	0
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	139.1	140.2	8.2	.8
Intravenous solution	Jan. 72	148.2	148.8	11.1	.4
Physical therapy	Jan. 72	154.3	155.1	10.5	.5
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	133.7	134.0	6.3	.2
Personal care		164.8	165.2	6.9	.2
Toilet goods		162.0	162.3	5.4	.2
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		141.6	140.6	3.9	-.7
Toilet soap, hard-milled		193.3	192.9	-1.8	-.2
Hand lotions		167.5	168.2	5.7	.4
Shaving cream		138.6	139.0	7.2	.3
Face powder		173.3	174.1	11.2	.5
Deodorants		123.0	123.5	4.9	.4
Cleansing tissues		222.4	224.2	8.8	.8
Home permanent wave kits		130.6	130.4	5.5	-.2
Personal care services		167.6	168.2	8.4	.4
Men's haircuts		168.3	168.6	7.5	.2
Beauty shop services		167.2	168.0	9.1	.5
Women's haircuts		197.5	198.5	16.1	.5
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		166.3	167.1	7.2	.5
Permanent waves, cold		138.5	138.9	4.8	.3
Reading and recreation <sup>10</sup>		154.1	154.4	4.7	.2
Recreational goods		128.7	128.7	3.1	0
TV sets, portable and console		103.0	102.9	.1	-.1
TV replacement tubes		167.2	168.0	3.9	.5
Radios, portable and table models		105.6	105.0	1.0	-.6
Tape recorders, portable		96.0	96.4	1.6	.4
Phonograph records, stereophonic		123.9	124.1	.5	.2
Movie cameras, 8mm		95.7	95.7	1.7	0
Film, 35mm, color		128.0	128.4	7.7	.3
Golf balls		103.9	103.8	-.4	-.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 December 1976 from—	
		November 1976	December 1976	December 1975	November 1976
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation—Continued					
Recreational goods—Continued					
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover .....		146.5	146.7	0.1	0.1
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting .....		125.0	125.2	2.2	.2
Bowling balls .....		132.4	132.9	4.2	.4
Bicycles, boys' .....		146.7	146.0	2.9	-.5
Tricycles .....		152.9	152.5	5.5	-.3
Dog food, canned or boxed .....		177.9	178.5	6.1	.3
Recreational services .....		158.0	158.5	5.0	.3
Indoor movie admissions .....		179.6	180.7	5.1	.6
Adult .....		173.1	174.0	4.1	.5
Children's .....		197.8	199.7	7.9	1.0
Drive-in movie admissions .....		183.0	183.0	5.0	0
Bowling fees, evening .....		151.1	151.4	5.5	.2
Golf green fees .....		( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
TV repair .....		109.0	109.3	3.1	.3
Film developing .....		123.8	123.6	-.2	-.2
Reading and education:					
Newspapers, street sale and delivery .....		185.2	185.3	4.0	.1
Magazines, single copy and subscription .....		188.0	194.0	9.1	3.2
Piano lessons, beginner .....		149.3	150.7	6.1	.9
Other goods and services .....		155.3	155.9	4.1	.4
Tobacco products .....		162.7	163.7	4.4	.6
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size .....		165.0	166.0	4.2	.6
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size .....		165.3	166.4	4.6	.7
Cigars, domestic, regular size .....		132.6	132.8	5.0	.2
Alcoholic beverages .....		148.6	148.8	3.5	.1
Beer, at home .....		145.4	145.8	3.3	.3
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon .....		116.0	115.7	.7	-.3
Wine, dessert and table .....		158.9	158.9	2.3	0
Beer, away from home .....		168.5	169.0	5.4	.3
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:					
Funeral services, adult .....		151.5	152.2	3.8	.5
Bank service charges, checking account .....		131.6	131.9	7.6	.2
Legal services, short form will .....		203.0	203.6	4.9	.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 filter, 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 4-A. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. 1976 annual average**

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

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change
		1975	1976	From 1975 to 1976
Housing .....		166.8	177.2	6.2
Shelter <sup>1</sup> .....		169.7	179.0	5.5
Rent, residential .....		137.3	144.7	5.4
Homeownership <sup>2</sup> .....		181.7	191.7	5.5
Mortgage interest rates .....		142.1	140.9	-.8
Property taxes .....		158.8	167.6	5.5
Property insurance premium .....		131.4	144.3	9.8
Maintenance and repairs .....		187.6	199.6	6.4
Maintenance and repair commodities <sup>3</sup> .....		160.9	168.2	4.5
Exterior house paint .....		155.6	163.0	4.8
Interior house paint .....		147.1	151.7	3.1
Maintenance and repair services .....		199.0	213.2	7.1
Repainting living and dining rooms .....		210.2	225.6	7.3
Reshingling house roof .....		218.7	233.4	6.7
Residing house .....		187.9	200.7	6.8
Replacing sink .....		195.9	210.2	7.3
Repairing furnace .....		192.3	207.1	7.7
Fuel and utilities .....		167.8	182.7	8.9
Fuel oil and coal .....		235.3	250.8	6.6
Fuel oil, No. 2 .....		230.6	247.2	7.2
Gas and electricity .....		169.6	188.8	11.3
Gas .....		172.5	200.9	16.5
Electricity .....		167.0	177.6	6.3
Other utilities:				
Residential telephone services .....		125.3	129.8	3.6
Residential water and sewerage services .....		169.9	188.7	11.1
Household furnishings and operation <sup>4</sup> .....		158.1	168.5	6.6
Housefurnishings .....		144.4	150.7	4.4
Textiles .....		141.4	148.3	4.9
Sheets, full, flat .....		147.6	153.4	3.9
Curtains, tailored .....		134.0	144.3	7.7
Bedsprads .....		145.2	149.1	2.7
Drapery fabrics .....		168.0	178.2	6.1
Pillows, bed .....		119.4	125.9	5.4
Slipcovers and throws, ready-made .....		133.2	137.7	3.4
Furniture and bedding .....		147.0	152.2	3.5
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser .....	Mar. 70	128.1	133.3	4.1
Sofas, upholstered .....		138.9	141.2	1.7
Cocktail tables .....	Dec. 71	124.5	130.7	5.0
Dining room chairs .....	Mar. 70	130.2	136.6	4.9
Recliners, upholstered .....	Dec. 71	110.4	112.0	1.4
Sofas, dual purpose .....		136.4	139.0	1.9
Bedding, mattress and box springs .....	June 70	130.1	134.3	3.2
Aluminum folding chairs .....		172.6	178.3	3.3
Cribs .....		148.5	154.0	3.7
Floor coverings .....		129.8	136.5	5.2
Broadloom carpeting .....		119.1	124.4	4.5
Vinyl sheet goods .....		152.0	164.1	8.0
Vinyl floor tile .....		157.2	165.0	5.0
Appliances (excluding radio and TV) .....		128.1	135.3	5.6
Washing machines, electric .....		131.9	141.0	6.9
Vacuum cleaners .....		116.7	121.0	3.7
Refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, electric .....		128.7	134.8	4.7
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric .....		130.0	138.7	6.7
Clothes dryers, electric .....		136.7	148.6	8.7
Air conditioners, demountable .....		123.8	129.5	4.6
Room heaters, electric, portable .....		124.0	130.3	5.1
Garbage disposal units .....		128.6	134.3	4.4
Other housefurnishings:				
Dinnerware, fine china .....		174.6	190.6	9.2
Flatware, stainless steel .....		173.3	181.3	4.6
Table lamps, with shade .....		145.5	148.2	1.9
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type .....		151.6	163.6	7.9
Electric drills, hand-held .....		123.9	128.3	3.6
Housekeeping supplies:				
Laundry soaps and detergents .....		161.9	174.9	8.0
Paper napkins .....		206.9	219.9	6.3
Toilet tissue .....		208.0	234.4	12.7
Housekeeping services:				
Domestic services, general housework .....		196.1	211.2	7.7
Baby sitter services .....		191.5	214.6	12.1
Postal charges .....		175.4	222.3	26.7
Laundry, flatwork, finished service .....		187.3	203.9	8.9
Licensed day care services, preschool child .....		154.2	162.8	5.6
Washing machine repairs .....		187.0	200.4	7.2

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 4-A. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. 1976 annual average—Continued**

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

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change
		1975	1976	From 1975 to 1976
Apparel and upkeep <sup>5</sup> . . . . .		142.3	147.6	3.7
Apparel commodities . . . . .		141.2	145.8	3.3
Apparel commodities less footwear . . . . .		140.6	144.9	3.1
Men's and boys' . . . . .		142.2	147.2	3.5
Men's:				
Topcoats and all-weather coats . . . . .		143.2	149.4	4.3
Suits, year round weight . . . . .		139.2	140.8	1.1
Sport jackets . . . . .	June 74	101.4	97.6	-3.7
Jackets, lightweight . . . . .		134.4	139.1	3.5
Slacks, heavyweight . . . . .		118.5	120.1	1.4
Slacks, lightweight . . . . .		143.0	145.9	2.0
Trousers, work . . . . .		151.0	161.0	6.6
Shirts, work . . . . .		151.3	159.1	5.2
Shirts, business or dress . . . . .		127.7	133.1	4.2
T-shirts . . . . .		153.5	159.2	3.7
Socks . . . . .		129.1	134.7	4.3
Handkerchiefs . . . . .		153.2	161.9	5.7
Boys':				
Coats, heavyweight . . . . .		115.6	118.9	2.9
Sport coats, wool or wool blends . . . . .		120.6	126.4	4.8
Dungarees . . . . .		173.6	190.0	9.4
Undershorts . . . . .		151.1	156.4	3.5
Women's and girls' . . . . .		138.1	141.9	2.8
Women's:				
Coats, heavyweight . . . . .		142.4	149.3	4.8
Carcoats, heavyweight . . . . .		148.6	156.0	5.0
Sweaters . . . . .		139.3	139.4	.1
Skirts, winter weight . . . . .		155.2	157.3	1.4
Skirts, summer weight . . . . .		147.2	146.8	-.3
Blouses . . . . .		140.2	142.8	1.9
Dresses, street, year round weight . . . . .		144.2	149.3	3.5
Slips . . . . .		116.9	125.2	7.1
Panties . . . . .		140.0	150.3	7.4
Girdles . . . . .		127.7	133.5	4.5
Brassieres . . . . .		142.6	150.4	5.5
Hose or panty hose, nylon . . . . .		92.0	92.4	.4
Anklets or knee-length socks . . . . .		131.5	135.2	2.8
Gloves, fabric . . . . .		127.5	129.0	1.2
Handbags . . . . .		170.4	170.5	.1
Girls':				
Raincoats . . . . .		129.9	130.8	.7
Skirts, fall and winter . . . . .		145.8	156.3	7.2
Dresses . . . . .		131.2	134.3	2.4
Slacks, fall and winter . . . . .		167.1	171.2	2.5
Slips . . . . .		127.2	134.6	5.8
Handbags . . . . .		141.2	140.7	-.4
Other apparel commodities . . . . .		148.8	153.0	2.8
Diapers . . . . .		180.5	190.2	5.4
Yard goods . . . . .		160.1	160.4	.2
Wrist watches, men's and women's . . . . .		135.6	140.2	3.4
Footwear . . . . .		144.2	149.9	4.0
Men's:				
Shoes, street . . . . .		147.6	155.3	5.2
Shoes, work, high . . . . .		159.3	170.6	7.1
Women's:				
Shoes, street, pump . . . . .		139.0	143.0	2.9
Shoes, evening, pump . . . . .		132.3	134.8	1.9
Shoes, casual . . . . .		145.9	151.5	3.8
Houseslippers, scuff . . . . .		139.8	146.8	5.0
Children's:				
Shoes, oxford . . . . .		144.3	151.9	5.3
Sneakers, boys', oxford type . . . . .		149.2	149.4	.1
Dress shoes, girls' . . . . .		152.6	159.7	4.7
Apparel services:				
Drycleaning . . . . .		150.6	160.6	6.6
Automatic laundry service . . . . .		134.3	143.4	6.8
Laundry, men's shirts . . . . .		153.0	164.9	7.8
Tailoring charges . . . . .		152.8	161.9	6.0
Shoe repairs . . . . .		140.9	149.6	6.2
Transportation . . . . .		150.6	165.5	9.9
Private <sup>6</sup> . . . . .		149.8	164.6	9.9
Automobiles, new . . . . .		127.6	135.7	6.3
Automobiles, used . . . . .		146.4	167.9	14.7
Gasoline, regular, premium, and unleaded . . . . .		170.8	177.9	4.2
Motor oil . . . . .		155.3	159.7	2.8
Tires . . . . .		126.3	133.0	5.3
Auto repairs (mechanical) and maintenance <sup>7</sup> . . . . .		176.6	189.7	7.4
Auto insurance premiums . . . . .		145.9	187.9	28.8
Auto registration fees . . . . .		130.7	132.8	1.6
Parking fees, private and municipal . . . . .		172.1	183.9	6.9

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 4-A. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. 1976 annual average—Continued**

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

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change
		1975	1976	From 1975 to 1976
Transportation—Continued				
Public		158.6	174.2	9.8
Local transit fares		155.5	173.3	11.4
Taxicab fares		167.6	176.9	5.5
Railroad fares, coach		151.5	165.3	9.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach		159.0	172.2	8.3
Bus fares, intercity		186.0	196.9	5.9
Health and recreation		153.5	163.3	6.4
Medical care <sup>a</sup>		168.6	184.7	9.5
Drugs and prescriptions		118.8	126.0	6.1
Over-the-counter items		130.1	138.9	6.8
Multiple vitamin concentrates		102.4	105.7	3.2
Aspirin compounds		132.6	139.0	4.8
Liquid tonics		115.9	120.5	4.0
Adhesive bandages, packages		164.6	182.8	11.1
Cold tablets or capsules		124.6	131.1	5.2
Cough syrup		134.0	145.5	8.6
Prescriptions		109.3	115.2	5.4
Anti-infectives		71.1	73.0	2.7
Sedative and hypnotics		154.3	163.8	6.2
Ataractics		106.0	113.2	6.8
Antispasmodics		124.2	136.1	9.6
Cough preparations		165.2	181.4	9.8
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives		118.4	121.1	2.3
Analgesics, internal		118.9	121.0	1.8
Hormones		103.2	110.5	7.1
Professional services:				
Physicians' fees		169.4	188.5	11.3
General physician, office visits		173.9	193.8	11.4
General physician, house visits		170.5	189.8	11.3
Obstetrical cases		167.2	192.1	14.9
Pediatric care, office visits		172.5	192.7	11.7
Psychiatrist, office visits		153.0	163.9	7.1
Herniorrhaphy, adult		152.3	169.3	11.2
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy		163.3	179.2	9.7
Dentists' fees		161.9	172.2	6.4
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface		166.7	177.4	6.4
Extractions, adult		160.9	171.5	6.6
Dentures, full upper		153.0	162.3	6.1
Other professional services:				
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of eyeglasses		149.6	158.9	6.2
Routine laboratory tests		151.4	160.5	6.0
Hospital service charges	Jan. 72	132.3	148.7	12.4
Semiprivate rooms		236.1	268.6	13.8
Operating room charges		239.4	274.8	14.8
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper GI		156.2	174.6	11.8
Laboratory tests	Jan. 72	128.1	140.7	9.8
Anti-infectives	Jan. 72	111.0	123.2	11.0
Tranquilizers	Jan. 72	118.8	129.3	8.8
Electrocardiogram	Jan. 72	125.7	136.6	8.7
Intravenous solution	Jan. 72	128.1	144.0	12.4
Physical therapy	Jan. 72	136.2	148.8	9.3
Oxygen, inhalation therapy	Jan. 72	123.3	130.5	5.8
Personal care		150.7	160.5	6.5
Toilet goods		150.0	158.5	5.7
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice		130.7	137.7	5.4
Toilet soap, hard-milled		196.1	193.5	-1.3
Hand lotions		152.1	163.3	7.4
Shaving cream		125.0	135.0	8.0
Face powder		152.5	166.5	9.2
Deodorants		117.2	120.3	2.6
Cleansing tissues		198.8	217.1	9.2
Home permanent wave kits		119.3	128.6	7.8
Personal care services		151.4	162.5	7.3
Men's haircuts		153.9	163.3	6.1
Beauty shop services		149.7	162.0	8.2
Women's haircuts		163.8	186.6	13.9
Shampoo and wave sets, plain		152.5	162.5	6.6
Permanent waves, cold		129.2	135.7	5.0
Reading and recreation <sup>a</sup>		144.4	151.2	4.7
Recreational goods		123.2	127.4	3.4
TV sets, portable and console		101.6	102.9	1.3
TV replacement tubes		157.1	166.1	5.7
Radios, portable and table models		104.0	105.2	1.2
Tape recorders, portable		95.4	95.9	.5
Phonograph records, stereophonic		122.4	123.7	1.1
Movie cameras, 8mm		94.1	95.5	1.5
Film, 35mm, color		118.6	125.3	5.6
Golf balls		104.3	104.0	-.3

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 4-A. CPI—nonfood commodities and services, U.S. 1976 annual average—Continued**

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

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change
		1975	1976	From 1975 to 1976
Health and recreation—Continued				
Reading and recreation—Continued				
Recreational goods—Continued				
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover .....		144.5	147.4	2.0
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting .....		120.3	124.3	3.3
Bowling balls .....		126.1	130.2	3.3
Bicycles, boys' .....		143.1	145.2	1.5
Tricycles .....		138.1	150.0	8.6
Dog food, canned or boxed .....		167.8	171.8	2.4
Recreational services .....		149.1	155.3	4.2
Indoor movie admissions .....		170.8	177.5	3.9
Adult .....		166.7	171.7	3.0
Children's .....		182.3	193.8	6.3
Drive-in movie admissions .....		173.5	179.8	3.6
Bowling fees, evening .....		139.0	146.8	5.6
Golf green fees .....		152.3	166.5	9.3
TV repair .....		105.2	107.1	1.8
Film developing .....		122.8	123.9	.9
Reading and education:				
Newspapers, street sale and delivery .....		174.5	182.1	4.4
Magazines, single copy and subscription .....		164.2	185.1	12.7
Piano lessons, beginner .....		139.5	145.6	4.4
Other goods and services .....		147.4	153.3	4.0
Tobacco products .....		153.9	160.5	4.3
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size .....		156.0	162.7	4.3
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size .....		156.5	163.2	4.3
Cigars, domestic, regular size .....		124.2	129.9	4.6
Alcoholic beverages .....		142.1	146.8	3.3
Beer, at home .....		140.3	143.7	2.4
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon .....		114.1	116.0	1.7
Wine, dessert and table .....		154.0	157.4	2.2
Beer, away from home .....		157.2	165.5	5.3
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:				
Funeral services, adult .....		143.5	149.8	4.4
Bank service charges, checking account .....		119.2	127.3	6.8
Legal services, short form will .....		187.8	199.9	6.4

<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 filter, 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> 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>6</sup> Also includes storage batteries and drivers' license fees not shown separately.

<sup>7</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>8</sup> Also includes health insurance not shown separately.

<sup>9</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			
		December 1976			December 1975	September 1976	November 1976
U.S. city average . . . . .	M	174.3	202.7		4.8	1.0	0.3
Chicago . . . . .	M	169.1	192.2		4.8	1.0	.4
Detroit . . . . .	M	173.1	198.9		5.2	1.1	.3
Los Angeles—Long Beach . . . . .	M	172.8	203.2		5.6	1.2	.4
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. . . . .	M	179.7	213.9		4.2	.6	.4
Philadelphia . . . . .	M	175.5	205.0		4.2	.6	-.1
		October 1976			October 1975	July 1976	
Boston . . . . .	1	176.1	210.9		6.9	.5	
Houston . . . . .	1	182.0	208.2		7.9	2.6	
Minneapolis—St. Paul . . . . .	1	173.4	201.0		5.1	1.0	
Pittsburgh . . . . .	1	170.9	196.5		5.0	1.4	
		November 1976			November 1975	August 1976	
Buffalo . . . . .	2	173.8		<sup>3</sup> 191.0	4.8	1.0	
Cleveland . . . . .	2	173.0	195.3		5.2	1.4	
Dallas . . . . .	2	171.7		<sup>3</sup> 185.6	5.7	1.6	
Milwaukee . . . . .	2	170.5	192.5		5.6	.8	
San Diego . . . . .	2	173.9		<sup>4</sup> 182.8	5.5	1.0	
Seattle . . . . .	2	167.9	197.3		5.1	1.3	
Washington . . . . .	2	174.7	203.5		5.7	1.0	
		December 1976			December 1975	September 1976	
Atlanta . . . . .	3	172.0	197.8		3.5	.2	
Baltimore . . . . .	3	178.4	207.1		6.0	1.1	
Cincinnati . . . . .	3	174.5	198.0		6.0	1.4	
Honolulu . . . . .	3	165.5		<sup>5</sup> 178.4	3.6	.9	
Kansas City . . . . .	3	170.7	202.6		4.7	1.2	
St. Louis . . . . .	3	168.2	196.5		4.9	.7	
San Francisco—Oakland . . . . .	3	172.5	205.2		5.1	1.5	

<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> 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 November 1976 to December 1976**

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

Expenditure class	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles—Long Beach	New York—Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items . . . . .	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	-0.1
Food . . . . .	.3	-.1	1.0	.8	.7	-.2
Housing . . . . .	.5	1.3	.2	.4	.6	.1
Apparel and upkeep . . . . .	-.1	-.2	-.1	.6	-.1	-.6
Transportation . . . . .	0	-.1	.1	-.1	-.2	.1
Health and recreation . . . . .	.4	.2	.2	.3	.2	.2
Medical care . . . . .	.5	.6	0	.1	.1	0
Personal care . . . . .	.2	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Reading and recreation . . . . .	.2	0	.4	.3	.4	.7
Other goods and services . . . . .	.4	.1	.4	.4	.1	.1

<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)

Expenditure class	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles— Long Beach	New York— Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes, December 1976						
All items .....	174.3	169.1	173.1	172.8	179.7	175.5
Food .....	181.7	180.5	177.5	176.0	186.8	186.0
Food at home .....	179.3	178.7	174.4	174.0	186.5	182.0
Cereals and bakery products .....	179.3	180.1	191.2	178.0	183.8	186.5
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	170.2	172.6	163.2	171.2	173.0	173.2
Dairy products .....	171.4	163.5	171.0	157.5	174.5	172.4
Fruits and vegetables .....	175.5	178.4	157.4	169.5	194.7	177.8
Other food at home .....	202.2	202.5	200.7	191.0	214.8	206.4
Food away from home .....	190.9	187.6	191.4	181.4	188.3	202.7
Housing .....	181.6	167.2	178.1	182.0	185.6	184.0
Shelter .....	182.4	167.1	181.0	189.4	183.7	192.4
Rent, residential .....	148.3	( <sup>2</sup> )	144.6	( <sup>2</sup> )	165.5	( <sup>2</sup> )
Homeownership .....	195.0	179.8	188.2	202.4	196.7	200.9
Fuel and utilities .....	192.0	172.3	195.2	162.5	212.2	181.8
Fuel oil and coal .....	264.5	255.5	265.0	-	272.9	257.7
Gas and electricity .....	200.9	182.7	211.7	188.4	236.4	180.8
Household furnishings and operation .....	172.3	164.0	157.8	165.5	174.9	169.9
Apparel and upkeep .....	151.8	141.5	144.4	142.6	149.2	142.3
Men's and boys' .....	150.7	131.9	154.6	140.6	139.3	146.4
Women's and girls' .....	146.9	138.2	128.7	134.7	147.5	126.5
Footwear .....	153.4	147.1	150.1	146.2	149.0	151.3
Transportation .....	171.4	175.3	166.6	175.3	189.4	170.5
Private .....	170.7	174.3	166.2	176.9	179.2	173.4
Public .....	178.0	181.3	170.3	144.9	228.6	153.3
Health and recreation .....	168.0	169.2	178.2	165.3	174.4	172.1
Medical care .....	192.3	196.9	217.5	194.5	207.4	208.1
Personal care .....	165.2	161.9	( <sup>2</sup> )	153.5	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Reading and recreation .....	154.4	154.5	155.3	143.0	159.6	154.5
Other goods and services .....	155.9	158.9	159.8	156.5	160.1	157.5
Percent changes, September 1976 to December 1976						
All items .....	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	0.6	0.6
Food .....	.1	-.4	1.3	1.4	.3	-.5
Food at home .....	-.3	-.8	1.3	1.3	.1	-1.0
Cereals and bakery products .....	-.6	-.9	3.9	.4	-.5	.3
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	-5.1	-5.2	-4.8	-1.7	-3.2	-5.5
Dairy products .....	.2	-1.2	3.7	.1	.5	-.5
Fruits and vegetables .....	2.8	3.8	4.0	6.0	1.9	.9
Other food at home .....	4.2	3.9	6.6	3.7	3.9	3.8
Food away from home .....	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.8	1.0	1.4
Housing .....	1.2	1.7	.2	1.1	1.1	1.0
Shelter .....	.5	1.6	-.5	1.1	.6	.3
Rent, residential .....	1.4	( <sup>2</sup> )	2.9	( <sup>2</sup> )	3.7	( <sup>2</sup> )
Homeownership .....	.3	2.1	-.9	1.1	.3	0
Fuel and utilities .....	3.7	3.1	3.3	.9	2.3	3.8
Fuel oil and coal .....	5.5	5.8	5.2	-	5.6	7.2
Gas and electricity .....	4.5	3.8	3.0	1.3	1.5	.1
Household furnishings and operation .....	1.2	1.1	.6	1.2	1.5	1.0
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.1	-.4	.5	.6	-.5	.4
Men's and boys' .....	.4	0	.5	1.5	-1.8	-.5
Women's and girls' .....	1.3	-1.9	-.9	-1.0	-1.4	.8
Footwear .....	.7	1.0	1.4	.2	-.1	-.3
Transportation .....	1.1	1.7	2.0	.7	.6	.9
Private .....	1.2	1.9	2.2	.8	.7	.9
Public .....	.6	.2	.2	.3	.1	.1
Health and recreation .....	1.6	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.0	1.3
Medical care .....	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.2
Personal care .....	1.5	2.7	( <sup>2</sup> )	2.3	( <sup>2</sup> )	( <sup>2</sup> )
Reading and recreation .....	1.0	1.2	1.0	1.1	.9	1.5
Other goods and services .....	1.3	1.1	1.7	2.4	.6	.6

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)

Expenditure class	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	St. Louis	San Francisco—Oakland
Indexes, December 1976							
All items	172.0	178.4	174.5	165.5	170.7	168.2	172.5
Food	185.0	185.0	185.9	185.3	181.0	180.7	175.1
Food at home	184.4	182.3	187.0	181.0	177.9	170.2	176.4
Cereals and bakery products	189.7	174.9	193.5	172.5	176.8	184.3	170.3
Meats, poultry, and fish	169.7	176.1	176.9	181.7	165.5	162.2	174.9
Dairy products	186.2	170.8	176.3	183.5	178.6	176.8	160.3
Fruits and vegetables	185.0	177.1	180.8	182.0	165.3	179.1	169.6
Other food at home	199.5	209.2	213.9	184.8	204.0	204.1	201.3
Food away from home	187.0	195.5	181.4	197.9	190.9	187.8	170.3
Housing	178.2	193.6	179.0	157.7	175.8	169.5	182.9
Shelter	178.3	205.4	177.1	157.4	177.7	166.3	188.8
Rent, residential	131.8	140.2	126.4	159.3	126.7	123.1	160.3
Homeownership	191.9	232.9	200.7	156.1	197.6	178.6	203.2
Fuel and utilities	187.1	178.2	216.9	158.5	178.3	178.4	163.2
Fuel oil and coal	-	262.8	-	-	-	274.1	-
Gas and electricity	201.9	176.9	241.8	187.2	209.5	183.3	185.6
Household furnishings and operation	173.4	176.9	162.0	158.1	169.8	170.3	173.5
Apparel and upkeep	148.0	158.0	155.6	148.0	154.3	144.5	147.3
Men's and boys'	158.2	158.9	152.8	146.2	161.1	140.9	148.5
Women's and girls'	142.6	141.2	150.7	135.7	147.2	138.4	141.7
Footwear	132.0	167.6	165.3	146.4	160.3	155.9	148.3
Transportation	158.8	163.4	162.4	157.3	165.9	165.3	171.5
Private	163.6	164.3	168.4	163.4	166.4	170.5	172.5
Public	96.8	156.3	116.7	124.0	153.2	104.4	152.7
Health and recreation	170.8	168.9	171.3	165.3	164.4	164.6	164.6
Medical care	204.4	199.3	206.3	191.5	182.2	176.4	188.6
Personal care	167.6	158.3	161.8	170.0	167.0	167.8	162.7
Reading and recreation	153.5	152.1	145.1	161.2	146.5	151.2	148.5
Other goods and services	142.0	163.7	165.4	139.0	162.1	160.5	148.0
Percent changes, September 1976 to December 1976							
All items	0.2	1.1	1.4	0.9	1.2	0.7	1.5
Food	-1.2	-.8	.2	1.8	-.5	-.2	.6
Food at home	-1.6	-1.4	-.3	1.7	-1.1	-.6	.4
Cereals and bakery products	0	-.5	2.1	.1	-1.6	-2.9	-1.4
Meats, poultry, and fish	-8.4	-4.4	-5.5	-.1	-7.1	-6.7	-2.9
Dairy products	1.9	-.6	1.8	-.2	1.2	.8	-1.1
Fruits and vegetables	.1	-2.7	.2	5.4	-1.3	3.0	3.0
Other food at home	3.1	3.5	4.0	4.3	5.2	5.9	6.1
Food away from home	.4	1.2	2.0	2.1	1.3	1.4	1.2
Housing	.5	2.1	3.1	-.3	1.9	.5	2.2
Shelter	-1.1	2.2	.1	-.3	1.2	-.7	2.6
Rent, residential	.1	2.2	1.8	.7	1.2	1.4	3.2
Homeownership	-1.3	2.2	-.4	-.8	1.2	-1.2	2.5
Fuel and utilities	7.1	2.4	18.8	-.1	5.4	3.7	-.8
Fuel oil and coal	-	6.9	-	-	-	4.7	-
Gas and electricity	10.8	1.1	29.4	-.2	8.2	4.9	-1.4
Household furnishings and operation	.4	1.7	1.3	-.2	1.6	.7	2.0
Apparel and upkeep	.1	1.0	-.9	-.5	-.3	.5	1.0
Men's and boys'	-.9	1.4	-.7	1.0	2.5	-1.3	.7
Women's and boys'	.8	-.2	-2.3	-3.1	-4.1	1.1	.6
Footwear	-.3	.9	.1	.5	1.1	.3	.6
Transportation	.9	.7	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.7	1.2
Private	.9	.7	.7	1.6	1.9	1.8	1.2
Public	.3	.2	7.9	0	.7	.2	.3
Health and recreation	1.2	1.9	1.5	1.3	2.2	1.7	1.7
Medical care	1.8	2.3	2.8	2.4	4.0	3.3	2.5
Personal care	1.3	1.2	2.3	.7	2.2	.3	.9
Reading and recreation	.7	.7	-.4	.2	.5	1.0	.8
Other goods and services	.7	3.2	1.3	1.6	1.6	.8	1.4

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 5.<sup>2</sup> Not available.<sup>3</sup> Change from October 1976.

**Table 7-A. CPI—selected areas<sup>1</sup>, 1976 annual average, by expenditure class**

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

Expenditure class	U.S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles— Long Beach	New York— Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items .....	170.5	165.1	<sup>2</sup> 168.8	168.0	176.3	172.4
All items (1957-59=100) .....	198.3	187.6	194.0	197.5	209.8	201.3
Food .....	180.8	180.1	175.6	173.5	185.4	186.2
Food at home .....	179.5	179.2	173.3	172.7	185.6	183.5
Cereals and bakery products .....	180.6	181.4	184.5	177.9	184.8	184.3
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	179.4	181.9	172.4	176.0	179.8	184.1
Dairy products .....	169.3	162.0	167.3	156.6	172.5	170.2
Fruits and vegetables .....	175.4	177.0	158.7	163.6	191.9	181.6
Other food at home .....	189.9	189.0	184.5	183.1	201.2	194.9
Food away from home .....	186.1	183.7	186.4	175.6	185.0	197.5
Housing .....	177.2	162.4	<sup>3</sup> 173.0	176.8	182.2	179.5
Shelter .....	179.0	162.7	177.2	<sup>4</sup> 183.3	181.3	188.6
Rent, residential .....	144.7	-	141.5	-	162.5	-
Homeownership .....	191.7	174.0	184.3	195.7	195.2	197.3
Fuel and utilities .....	182.7	164.1	<sup>5</sup> 181.5	161.4	204.0	174.7
Fuel oil and coal .....	250.8	241.0	248.6	-	258.9	241.3
Gas and electricity .....	188.8	170.4	<sup>6</sup> 195.5	186.7	224.6	177.9
Household furnishings and operation .....	168.5	160.5	154.1	161.4	171.8	165.7
Apparel and upkeep .....	147.6	138.2	142.0	139.3	144.9	139.4
Men's and boys' .....	147.2	131.7	151.5	133.8	139.9	145.4
Women's and girls' .....	141.9	133.9	128.1	133.7	139.8	122.5
Footwear .....	149.9	142.6	147.2	144.4	146.2	150.3
Transportation .....	165.5	167.3	160.2	167.8	184.5	165.4
Private .....	164.6	166.6	159.5	169.7	173.3	167.6
Public .....	174.2	171.6	168.6	131.9	227.2	152.5
Health and recreation .....	163.3	164.5	173.6	160.1	169.8	167.9
Medical care .....	184.7	188.7	209.4	187.0	199.9	200.9
Personal care .....	160.5	155.8	-	148.6	-	-
Reading and recreation .....	151.2	151.8	152.2	140.4	155.3	151.8
Other goods and services .....	153.3	156.4	156.4	151.8	158.3	155.6
Percent changes, 1975-76						
All items .....	5.8	4.8	5.4	6.6	5.8	5.0
Food .....	3.1	2.9	2.3	2.0	3.2	3.7
Food at home .....	2.1	1.9	1.3	.1	2.7	2.9
Cereals and bakery products .....	-2.3	-2.5	-2.8	-3.7	-1.4	-9
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	.8	1.0	.1	-.3	.3	.6
Dairy products .....	8.1	8.1	5.4	2.9	7.2	9.8
Fruits and vegetables .....	2.6	1.0	.8	-.1	4.5	4.1
Other food at home .....	2.8	3.1	3.7	1.7	5.1	3.6
Food away from home .....	6.8	6.8	7.1	7.5	4.9	6.9
Housing .....	6.2	4.0	5.9	8.0	5.6	4.8
Shelter .....	5.5	2.4	4.1	9.0	4.7	4.4
Rent, residential .....	5.4	-	4.1	-	5.7	-
Homeownership .....	5.5	1.8	4.0	9.6	3.9	4.0
Fuel and utilities .....	8.9	8.7	14.5	2.9	9.4	4.9
Fuel oil and coal .....	6.6	8.5	9.7	-	7.3	6.8
Gas and electricity .....	11.3	13.1	13.9	3.4	14.5	4.5
Household furnishings and operation .....	6.6	6.0	6.3	6.2	5.6	5.7
Apparel and upkeep .....	3.7	1.2	3.0	2.1	2.7	2.6
Men's and boys' .....	3.5	-1.1	4.8	2.5	1.5	3.3
Women's and girls' .....	2.8	-1.0	1.3	-.4	2.4	-.1
Footwear .....	4.0	2.7	.2	2.7	4.2	4.4
Transportation .....	9.9	10.2	7.4	9.9	14.3	8.3
Private .....	9.9	11.4	7.8	9.8	12.0	9.5
Public .....	9.8	3.8	4.9	10.1	21.4	.9
Health and recreation .....	6.4	6.7	7.8	8.5	6.7	5.9
Medical care .....	9.5	11.6	11.7	12.9	10.4	9.0
Personal care .....	6.5	5.4	-	5.3	-	-
Reading and recreation .....	4.7	4.3	5.0	4.9	4.5	3.5
Other goods and services .....	4.0	4.1	4.5	6.9	2.9	3.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7-A. CPI—selected areas<sup>1</sup>, 1976 annual average, by expenditure class—Continued

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

Expenditure class	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	St. Louis	San Francisco—Oakland
Indexes (1967=100)							
All items .....	169.2	173.9	170.1	162.8	166.5	165.1	168.0
Food .....	194.6	201.9	193.1	<sup>7</sup> 175.4	197.7	192.9	199.9
Food at home .....	185.8	184.3	184.0	183.0	180.8	180.5	173.9
Cereals and bakery products .....	185.8	182.8	186.5	179.5	179.8	180.2	176.0
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	186.3	175.3	190.5	176.4	179.2	190.8	175.3
Dairy products .....	183.3	183.6	186.7	182.9	177.2	176.5	181.8
Fruits and vegetables .....	182.3	169.1	172.6	179.8	178.5	172.9	160.0
Other food at home .....	186.5	180.8	182.1	177.3	169.2	177.4	166.6
Food away from home .....	190.8	196.9	198.9	178.5	192.1	186.9	186.8
Housing .....	185.4	190.0	174.8	193.1	184.2	182.3	166.5
Shelter .....	175.2	185.9	173.0	156.4	170.3	166.8	176.9
Rent, residential .....	178.5	195.8	176.4	155.7	173.8	165.2	181.9
Homeownership .....	131.2	135.5	124.0	156.8	124.0	120.4	153.7
Fuel and utilities .....	192.5	221.1	200.8	154.9	193.4	178.0	196.1
Fuel oil and coal .....	171.6	173.4	182.7	158.8	164.2	170.6	161.1
Gas and electricity .....	-	246.8	-	-	-	262.9	-
Household furnishings and operation .....	182.4	174.7	187.9	187.6	187.0	173.3	183.0
Apparel and upkeep .....	169.1	171.7	158.0	156.8	165.1	167.7	168.5
Men's and boys' .....	143.9	154.1	153.0	146.7	149.3	141.7	145.4
Women's and girls' .....	155.0	155.4	149.7	144.0	154.1	139.7	147.2
Footwear .....	135.3	138.6	149.8	135.7	146.3	135.1	141.0
Transportation .....	128.6	163.4	162.4	144.4	157.4	152.9	145.6
Private .....	153.9	159.0	156.1	153.7	160.2	159.1	165.0
Public .....	158.4	159.7	162.3	159.1	160.6	163.8	165.7
Health and recreation .....	95.7	153.6	108.5	124.0	151.4	103.7	150.0
Medical care .....	167.1	164.6	167.1	160.4	159.3	159.7	160.1
Personal care .....	197.2	192.8	197.0	182.1	174.1	168.9	181.6
Reading and recreation .....	164.4	155.8	157.1	167.6	161.7	163.5	158.5
Other goods and services .....	151.6	149.5	144.2	158.2	144.0	148.3	145.6
	140.9	158.6	163.3	135.4	158.0	157.0	145.3
Percent changes, 1975-76							
All items .....	4.6	5.3	6.1	5.0	5.4	5.8	5.6
Food .....	2.3	3.4	3.7	3.6	1.7	3.6	1.6
Food at home .....	.9	2.6	3.2	2.1	.2	3.0	.2
Cereals and bakery products .....	-.7	-2.3	-1.0	-7.2	-3.2	-2.3	-3.9
Meats, poultry, and fish .....	-1.4	1.5	3.3	4.6	.2	1.8	.2
Dairy products .....	9.4	10.6	4.1	8.1	2.4	8.9	4.2
Fruits and vegetables .....	2.1	2.3	3.1	5.5	-.4	3.0	-.9
Other food at home .....	-.3	3.5	4.7	-.8	1.1	4.1	1.4
Food away from home .....	7.0	6.6	6.2	8.1	6.6	6.5	7.1
Housing .....	4.9	5.6	6.7	4.8	7.0	6.8	6.8
Shelter .....	3.7	4.8	6.7	4.8	6.0	6.2	6.9
Rent, residential .....	1.7	6.4	3.2	4.3	4.0	3.7	6.1
Homeownership .....	4.1	4.3	7.8	5.2	6.3	6.7	7.1
Fuel and utilities .....	7.3	6.8	6.9	1.1	11.3	7.2	3.7
Fuel oil and coal .....	-	7.6	-	-	-	6.2	-
Gas and electricity .....	9.4	6.1	11.3	-.3	16.6	9.3	5.1
Household furnishings and operation .....	5.6	6.9	6.3	6.7	7.3	6.8	7.9
Apparel and upkeep .....	3.7	4.4	6.5	3.9	2.5	4.8	2.6
Men's and boys' .....	5.2	4.6	5.4	6.3	5.4	4.3	2.4
Women's and girls' .....	2.9	2.4	8.2	2.1	1.5	3.9	1.1
Footwear .....	3.8	4.6	6.4	3.7	3.6	5.9	4.2
Transportation .....	7.7	8.6	8.3	4.7	7.9	9.0	8.7
Private .....	7.9	7.5	8.7	5.4	8.2	9.4	9.1
Public .....	3.2	17.1	3.8	.1	2.0	1.8	1.6
Health and recreation .....	5.3	5.3	6.8	7.8	5.8	5.9	6.9
Medical care .....	7.3	6.9	11.5	10.5	8.5	8.3	10.1
Personal care .....	4.9	3.2	3.5	7.0	5.5	3.8	6.9
Reading and recreation .....	4.8	4.5	4.9	6.2	4.4	4.4	4.7
Other goods and services .....	1.7	5.5	4.6	7.0	4.2	5.2	3.5

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 1, table 5.<sup>2</sup> Revised index: 1975 annual average, 160.1.<sup>3</sup> Revised index: 1975 annual average, 163.3.<sup>4</sup> Revised index: 1975 annual average, 168.1.<sup>5</sup> Revised index: 1975 annual average, 158.5.<sup>6</sup> Revised index: 1975 annual average, 166.7.<sup>7</sup> December 1963=100.

**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, December 1976								
U.S. city average .....	181.7	179.3	179.3	170.2	171.4	175.5	202.2	190.9
Atlanta .....	185.0	184.4	189.7	169.7	186.2	185.0	199.5	187.0
Baltimore .....	185.0	182.3	174.9	176.1	170.8	177.1	209.2	195.5
Boston .....	180.9	177.6	181.2	170.1	164.7	175.0	201.0	192.9
Buffalo .....	178.8	176.3	176.6	169.3	170.5	169.2	196.7	192.8
Chicago .....	180.5	178.7	180.1	172.6	163.5	178.4	202.5	187.6
Cincinnati .....	185.9	187.0	193.5	176.9	176.3	180.8	213.9	181.4
Cleveland .....	188.6	188.3	190.7	174.2	182.3	174.6	223.4	190.8
Dallas .....	179.3	174.7	174.3	162.9	167.4	172.0	196.0	196.3
Detroit .....	177.5	174.4	191.2	163.2	171.0	157.4	200.7	191.4
Honolulu .....	185.3	181.0	172.5	181.7	183.5	182.0	184.8	197.9
Houston .....	188.4	182.0	175.5	176.7	182.1	184.2	192.1	210.9
Kansas City .....	181.0	177.9	176.8	165.5	178.6	165.3	204.0	190.9
Los Angeles—Long Beach .....	176.0	174.0	178.0	171.2	157.5	169.5	191.0	181.4
Milwaukee .....	181.6	179.8	178.0	171.6	178.0	180.0	194.7	( <sup>2</sup> )
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	185.7	179.7	189.4	169.1	179.2	169.2	195.3	212.1
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	186.8	186.5	183.8	173.0	174.5	194.7	214.8	188.3
Philadelphia .....	186.0	182.0	186.5	173.2	172.4	177.8	206.4	202.7
Pittsburgh .....	180.7	177.0	183.3	172.8	160.3	174.7	194.1	202.5
St. Louis .....	180.7	179.2	184.3	162.2	176.8	179.1	204.1	187.8
San Diego .....	182.5	173.3	170.5	172.4	161.6	172.8	185.8	( <sup>2</sup> )
San Francisco—Oakland .....	175.1	176.4	170.3	174.9	160.3	169.6	201.3	170.3
Seattle .....	177.4	176.3	174.7	176.0	168.6	161.3	195.2	181.0
Washington .....	188.3	182.9	184.5	162.3	164.2	187.9	221.7	202.1
Percent changes November 1976 to December 1976								
U.S. city average .....	0.3	0.2	-0.3	-1.0	-0.2	0.4	2.5	0.5
Atlanta .....	-.5	-.8	-.5	-3.2	-.5	-1.1	1.9	.3
Baltimore .....	.7	.8	.7	.3	.1	-.9	3.3	.1
Boston .....	-.7	-.9	-.9	-2.0	-1.8	.2	.3	-.1
Buffalo .....	.2	.2	-3.2	-.6	.4	1.0	2.5	0
Chicago .....	-.1	-.2	.8	-1.0	.1	-3.7	2.7	.5
Cincinnati .....	.1	-.2	.8	-.7	-.3	-2.5	2.1	.9
Cleveland .....	.5	.4	1.1	-.7	-.3	1.5	1.3	.7
Dallas .....	.9	1.2	-.6	-.2	1.6	3.9	1.7	.1
Detroit .....	1.0	1.0	1.1	-.5	1.0	-.4	4.4	.7
Honolulu .....	.7	.6	-.1	.5	-.1	.4	2.0	1.0
Houston .....	.5	.6	.1	-.3	-.8	2.5	1.5	.5
Kansas City .....	.1	.2	-.3	-1.6	.2	-1.0	3.2	-.3
Los Angeles—Long Beach .....	.8	.8	.1	.8	.2	1.0	1.5	.7
Milwaukee .....	.1	.1	-.7	-.8	-.3	-.6	2.4	( <sup>2</sup> )
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	-.4	-.7	.6	-2.1	-4.2	1.0	1.3	1.1
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	.7	.8	.5	-.6	.8	1.0	3.0	.4
Philadelphia .....	-.2	-.5	-1.3	-2.4	-.3	.5	2.3	.8
Pittsburgh .....	-.3	-.5	-.4	-1.7	-.2	.1	.7	.7
St. Louis .....	.3	.2	-.2	-2.4	.8	1.6	2.5	1.0
San Diego .....	1.2	1.8	1.2	1.3	.8	2.1	3.4	( <sup>2</sup> )
San Francisco—Oakland .....	.6	.6	-1.2	.5	-.7	-.1	3.6	.4
Seattle .....	.1	.1	-2.2	-.3	-1.4	1.1	2.0	0
Washington .....	.3	.2	.4	-2.2	1.1	-1.6	3.4	.6

<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 December 1976 from—	Index		Percent change to December 1976 from—	Index		Percent change to December 1976 from—
	November 1976	December 1976		November 1976	December 1976		November 1976	December 1976	
U.S. city average .....	103.0	102.7	-0.3	103.9	103.5	-0.4	103.3	103.1	-0.2
Atlanta .....	102.9	100.8	-2.0	105.0	104.0	-1.0	103.8	103.1	-.7
Baltimore .....	101.7	101.6	-.1	102.2	102.1	-.1	101.7	101.7	0
Boston .....	101.5	101.9	.4	104.2	104.4	.2	102.7	102.8	.1
Buffalo .....	102.8	102.2	-.6	102.6	102.2	-.4	102.3	102.2	-.1
Chicago .....	103.8	103.3	-.5	104.8	104.8	0	104.5	104.6	.1
Cincinnati .....	102.4	101.8	-.6	104.1	103.3	-.8	102.9	102.0	-.9
Cleveland .....	101.2	101.1	-.1	103.0	102.4	-.6	101.8	101.5	-.3
Dallas .....	104.4	103.6	-.8	105.0	104.2	-.8	104.3	103.6	-.7
Detroit .....	101.9	102.0	.1	105.0	104.1	-.9	103.0	103.2	.2
Honolulu .....	102.5	102.5	0	102.4	102.6	.2	101.9	102.2	.3
Houston .....	104.1	103.2	-.9	104.8	104.0	-.8	103.6	103.0	-.6
Kansas City .....	104.5	103.8	-.7	105.4	105.0	-.4	104.3	103.8	-.5
Los Angeles—Long Beach .....	104.3	104.4	.1	104.6	104.5	-.1	103.8	103.5	-.3
Milwaukee .....	103.8	103.6	-.2	105.2	105.0	-.2	103.8	103.8	0
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	102.7	103.3	.6	105.1	105.7	.6	104.2	103.5	-.7
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	101.5	101.1	-.4	103.9	103.5	-.4	102.1	101.8	-.3
Philadelphia .....	101.5	100.7	-.8	103.5	102.9	-.6	102.4	102.6	.2
Pittsburgh .....	102.7	102.4	-.3	104.2	103.4	-.8	103.5	103.3	-.2
St. Louis .....	104.7	104.8	.1	104.4	105.1	.7	103.6	103.9	.3
San Diego .....	103.1	102.9	-.2	104.1	104.3	.2	103.4	103.3	-.1
San Francisco—Oakland .....	103.8	104.3	.5	103.7	103.9	.2	102.7	103.2	.5
Seattle .....	104.1	104.2	.1	103.9	103.9	0	103.7	103.7	0
Washington .....	101.5	102.0	.5	104.6	104.4	-.2	103.1	103.1	0

<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								
	October 1976	November 1976	December 1976	October 1976	November 1976	December 1976	October 1976	November 1976	December 1976
U.S. city average .....	\$0.603	\$0.602	\$0.600	\$0.629	\$0.629	\$0.626	\$0.651	\$0.650	\$0.648
Atlanta .....	.597	.594	.582	.633	.631	.625	.654	.651	.646
Baltimore .....	.610	.608	.607	.628	.627	.627	.657	.655	.655
Boston .....	.597	.594	.597	.629	.627	.628	.647	.646	.647
Buffalo .....	.612	.610	.607	.633	.633	.631	.656	.656	.655
Chicago .....	.625	.622	.619	.644	.662	.662	.673	.671	.672
Cincinnati .....	.591	.589	.585	.615	.617	.612	.638	.641	.635
Cleveland .....	.593	.592	.592	.609	.612	.609	.639	.639	.637
Dallas .....	.562	.561	.557	.584	.583	.579	.604	.604	.600
Detroit .....	.592	.591	.591	.631	.634	.629	.652	.651	.652
Honolulu .....	.704	.702	.702	.712	.713	.714	.739	.741	.743
Houston .....	.549	.549	.544	.571	.572	.568	.596	.597	.593
Kansas City .....	.575	.579	.575	.597	.600	.598	.619	.625	.622
Los Angeles—Long Beach .....	.606	.609	.609	.638	.639	.638	.650	.651	.649
Milwaukee .....	.566	.565	.564	.597	.595	.594	.617	.615	.615
Minneapolis—St. Paul .....	.594	.590	.594	.624	.621	.625	.664	.660	.655
N.Y.—Northeastern N.J. ....	.607	.607	.604	.639	.639	.636	.664	.662	.660
Philadelphia .....	.593	.592	.587	.633	.633	.630	.659	.656	.658
Pittsburgh .....	.599	.596	.595	.629	.627	.622	.650	.647	.645
St. Louis .....	.595	.594	.594	.612	.608	.612	.638	.636	.638
San Diego .....	.623	.622	.620	.655	.654	.655	.671	.672	.671
San Francisco—Oakland .....	.637	.637	.640	.655	.655	.657	.678	.677	.680
Seattle .....	.598	.597	.598	.616	.617	.617	.640	.641	.641
Washington .....	.615	.611	.614	.659	.656	.655	.678	.676	.676

<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				Percent change to December 1976 from—	
		December 1975	December 1975	September 1976	December 1976	December 1975	September 1976
United States:							
All items .....	100.000	166.3	172.6	174.3	4.8	1.0	
Food .....	24.675	180.7	181.6	181.7	.6	.1	
Housing .....	33.998	172.2	179.5	181.6	5.5	1.2	
Apparel and upkeep .....	9.217	145.2	150.2	151.8	4.5	1.1	
Transportation .....	13.053	157.6	169.5	171.4	8.8	1.1	
Health and recreation .....	18.681	157.5	165.3	168.0	6.7	1.6	
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):							
All items .....	32.409	167.6	173.9	175.4	4.7	.9	
Food .....	8.280	182.1	182.5	183.1	.5	.3	
Housing .....	10.730	171.8	178.4	180.4	5.0	1.1	
Apparel and upkeep .....	3.013	140.4	146.0	145.8	3.8	-.1	
Transportation .....	4.241	165.1	177.6	179.4	8.7	1.0	
Health and recreation .....	6.145	160.4	169.7	172.0	7.2	1.4	
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):							
All items .....	11.694	165.0	171.9	174.0	5.5	1.2	
Food .....	2.948	180.5	182.5	181.7	.7	-.4	
Housing .....	3.951	168.1	175.5	179.4	6.7	2.2	
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.095	146.2	149.7	151.6	3.7	1.3	
Transportation .....	1.493	155.8	171.3	173.0	11.0	1.0	
Health and recreation .....	2.207	158.0	165.6	168.5	6.6	1.8	
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):							
All items .....	25.645	165.2	171.6	173.3	4.9	1.0	
Food .....	6.073	180.3	181.3	181.8	.8	.3	
Housing .....	8.909	170.9	178.6	180.3	5.5	1.0	
Apparel and upkeep .....	2.365	147.5	153.6	155.9	5.7	1.5	
Transportation .....	3.444	153.1	164.3	166.7	8.9	1.5	
Health and recreation .....	4.854	156.9	163.7	166.4	6.1	1.6	
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):							
All items .....	12.584	166.2	171.9	173.5	4.4	.9	
Food .....	3.085	179.7	180.4	179.5	-.1	-.5	
Housing .....	4.330	173.7	181.1	183.3	5.5	1.2	
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.191	149.4	152.2	155.5	4.1	2.2	
Transportation .....	1.668	155.3	165.3	166.9	7.5	1.0	
Health and recreation .....	2.312	154.9	161.8	164.7	6.3	1.8	
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):							
All items .....	17.292	166.6	173.0	174.6	4.8	.9	
Food .....	4.289	179.3	180.7	180.2	.5	-.3	
Housing .....	6.078	176.0	183.7	185.4	5.3	.9	
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.554	147.0	151.7	154.8	5.3	2.0	
Transportation .....	2.207	154.2	165.3	167.3	8.5	1.2	
Health and recreation .....	3.163	154.8	162.1	165.2	6.7	1.9	

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

**Table 11-A. CPI—by population size<sup>1</sup>, 1976 annual average**

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

Area and group	Relative importance	Annual average indexes			Percent change to 1976 from—	
		1975	1976		1975	
United States:						
All items .....		161.2	170.5		5.8	
Food .....		175.4	180.8		3.1	
Housing .....		166.8	177.2		6.2	
Apparel and upkeep .....		142.3	147.6		3.7	
Transportation .....		150.6	165.5		9.9	
Health and recreation .....		153.5	163.3		6.4	
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):						
All items .....		162.5	171.6		5.6	
Food .....		176.4	181.7		3.0	
Housing .....		166.8	176.2		5.6	
Apparel and upkeep .....		139.2	142.7		2.5	
Transportation .....		155.9	173.2		11.1	
Health and recreation .....		156.3	167.3		7.0	
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):						
All items .....		160.4	169.8		5.9	
Food .....		175.1	181.1		3.4	
Housing .....		163.6	173.6		6.1	
Apparel and upkeep .....		143.8	148.5		3.3	
Transportation .....		150.2	167.2		11.3	
Health and recreation .....		153.5	163.6		6.6	
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):						
All items .....		160.3	169.4		5.7	
Food .....		174.8	180.4		3.2	
Housing .....		165.7	176.2		6.3	
Apparel and upkeep .....		144.0	151.1		4.9	
Transportation .....		147.7	160.5		8.7	
Health and recreation .....		152.9	162.0		6.0	
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):						
All items .....		160.7	169.9		5.7	
Food .....		173.5	179.2		3.3	
Housing .....		167.9	178.9		6.6	
Apparel and upkeep .....		145.4	151.0		3.9	
Transportation .....		148.9	161.8		8.7	
Health and recreation .....		150.9	159.9		6.0	
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):						
All items .....		161.3	171.0		6.0	
Food .....		174.4	179.7		3.0	
Housing .....		169.1	181.4		7.3	
Apparel and upkeep .....	-	143.3	150.4	-	5.0	-
Transportation .....	-	148.1	161.4	-	9.0	-
Health and recreation .....	-	151.2	160.4	-	6.1	-

<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	Indexes			Percent change to December 1976 from—	
	December 1975	December 1975	September 1976	December 1976	December 1975	September 1976
United States:						
All items .....	100.000	166.3	172.6	174.3	4.8	1.0
Food .....	24.675	180.7	181.6	181.7	.6	.1
Housing .....	33.998	172.2	179.5	181.6	5.5	1.2
Apparel and upkeep .....	9.217	145.2	150.2	151.8	4.5	1.1
Transportation .....	13.053	157.6	169.5	171.4	8.8	1.1
Health and recreation .....	18.681	157.5	165.3	168.0	6.7	1.6
Northeast:						
All items .....	32.686	169.2	175.2	176.7	4.4	.9
Food .....	8.696	182.6	183.9	183.9	.7	0
Housing .....	10.607	175.3	181.1	183.6	4.7	1.4
Apparel and upkeep .....	3.228	145.6	150.9	152.1	4.5	.8
Transportation .....	4.031	164.7	177.7	179.0	8.7	.7
Health and recreation .....	6.124	159.7	167.6	169.7	6.3	1.3
North Central:						
All items .....	27.874	163.3	169.8	171.5	5.0	1.0
Food .....	6.853	180.0	181.1	180.6	.3	-.3
Housing .....	9.495	164.4	172.3	174.4	6.1	1.2
Apparel and upkeep .....	2.467	145.0	149.2	151.2	4.3	1.3
Transportation .....	3.770	154.6	166.2	168.7	9.1	1.5
Health and recreation .....	5.288	157.9	165.7	168.7	6.8	1.8
South:						
All items .....	22.104	168.7	175.1	176.6	4.7	.9
Food .....	5.281	183.4	184.2	183.6	.1	-.3
Housing .....	7.732	178.0	185.8	187.3	5.2	.8
Apparel and upkeep .....	2.102	147.3	153.7	155.4	5.5	1.1
Transportation .....	2.938	154.8	165.1	167.4	8.1	1.4
Health and recreation .....	4.050	158.5	166.0	169.1	6.7	1.9
West:						
All items .....	16.499	163.0	169.7	171.8	5.4	1.2
Food .....	3.716	174.4	174.7	176.3	1.1	.9
Housing .....	6.022	172.4	180.6	182.7	6.0	1.2
Apparel and upkeep .....	1.385	141.4	144.8	146.4	3.5	1.1
Transportation .....	2.253	154.3	167.1	168.8	9.4	1.0
Health and recreation .....	3.123	151.7	159.9	162.6	7.2	1.7

<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.



**Table 12-A. CPI—by region, 1976 annual average**

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

Area and group	Relative importance	Annual average indexes <sup>1</sup>			Percent change to 1976 from—	
		1975	1976		1975	
United States:						
All items .....		161.2	170.5		5.8	
Food .....		175.4	180.8		3.1	
Housing .....		166.8	177.2		6.2	
Apparel and upkeep .....		142.3	147.6		3.7	
Transportation .....		150.6	165.5		9.9	
Health and recreation .....		153.5	163.3		6.4	
Northeast:						
All items .....		164.0	173.3		5.7	
Food .....		177.0	183.1		3.4	
Housing .....		170.3	179.7		5.5	
Apparel and upkeep .....		143.0	147.7		3.3	
Transportation .....		154.6	173.9		12.5	
Health and recreation .....		155.8	165.4		6.2	
North Central:						
All items .....		158.5	167.6		5.7	
Food .....		173.3	179.9		3.8	
Housing .....		160.0	169.9		6.3	
Apparel and upkeep .....		142.2	147.5		3.7	
Transportation .....		149.3	162.2		8.6	
Health and recreation .....		154.1	164.0		6.4	
South:						
All items .....		163.7	172.8		5.6	
Food .....		178.7	183.1		2.5	
Housing .....		171.8	183.2		6.6	
Apparel and upkeep .....		144.0	151.4		5.1	
Transportation .....		149.2	161.6		8.3	
Health and recreation .....		154.7	164.2		6.1	
West:						
All items .....		157.7	167.3		6.1	
Food .....		169.9	173.7		2.2	
Housing .....		165.5	177.7		7.4	
Apparel and upkeep .....	-	139.2	143.7	-	3.2	-
Transportation .....	-	148.6	162.2	-	9.2	-
Health and recreation .....	-	147.1	157.8	-	7.3	-

<sup>1</sup> Regional indexes exclude Anchorage, Alaska, and Honolulu, Hawaii, which are included in the U.S. totals.

## 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	0.005x100
Equals percent change:	0.5

## A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

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

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

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

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

## Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

A system of "replicated" samples introduced into the index structure in the 1964 revision permits an estimate of sampling error for the CPI.<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 1975 data**

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

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

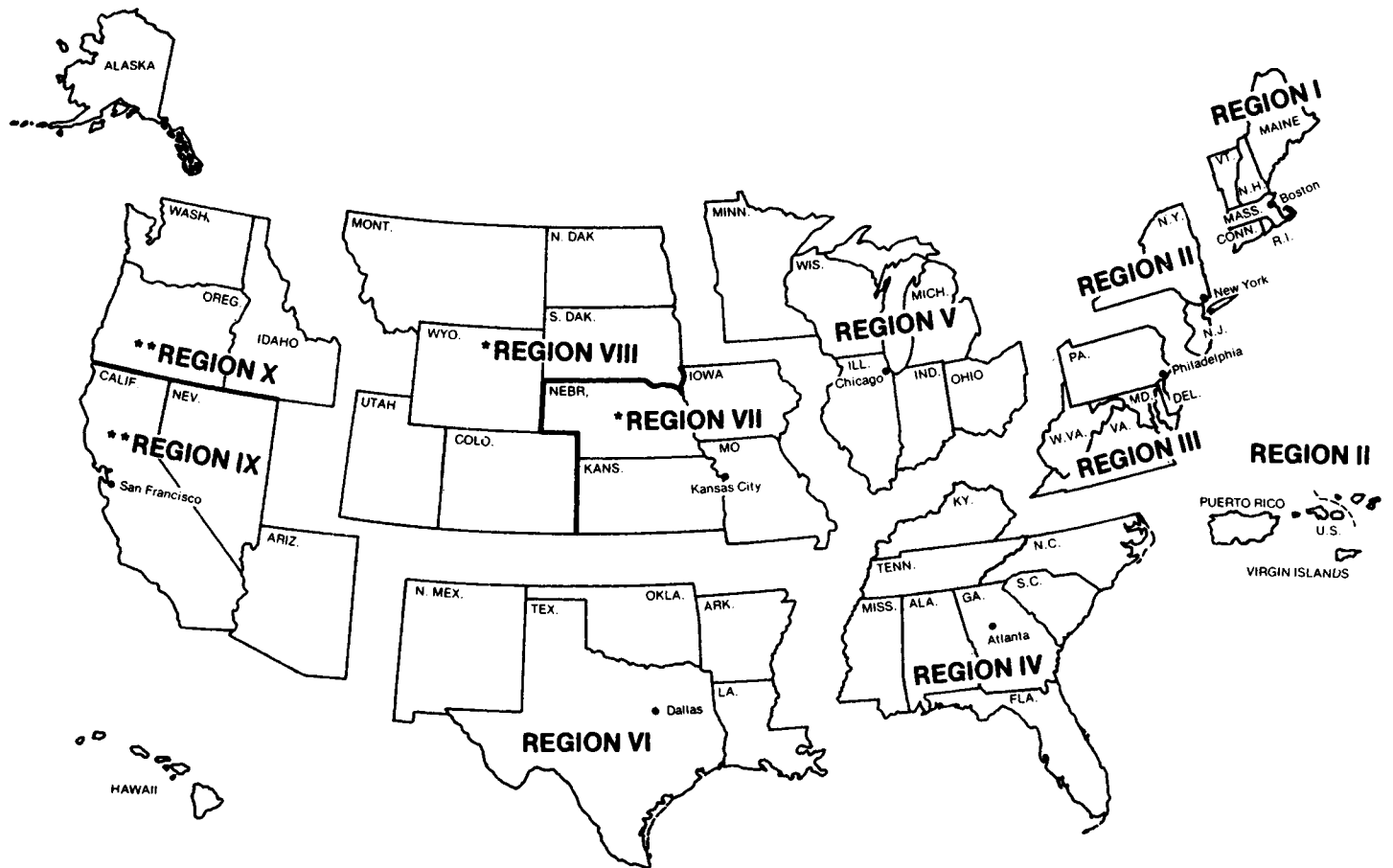
Because the CPI is rounded to one decimal place, some ambiguity may arise in interpreting small index changes. As the table indicates, for example, a month-to-month change of 0.1 percent in the all-items CPI is significant. Because of rounding, however, a change of this size in the published index might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

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

<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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