



the consumer price index

for March 1973

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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*a monthly report
on consumer price movements
including statistical tables
and technical notes.*

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Price Movements

March 1973

The Consumer Price Index rose 0.9 percent in March, to 129.8 percent of its 1967 base. A substantial increase in food prices, due largely to higher prices for poultry and meats, accounted for about two-thirds of the rise in the CPI. Increases for clothing, used cars, and rent and other household services also contributed significantly to the rise. The March index was 4.7 percent higher than it was a year ago.

After seasonal adjustment, the March increase was 0.8 percent. Prices of food, including restaurant meals and snacks, rose an average of 2.5 percent after seasonal adjustment. The nonfood commodities index increased 0.3 percent after seasonal adjustment. The services index rose 0.3 percent.

Price developments in the first quarter

In the calendar quarter ending in March, which includes 1 month of Phase 2 and 2 months of Phase 3 of the Economic Stabilization Program, the CPI rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 8.8 percent; in the quarter ending in December, the rate of advance was 3.2 percent. The acceleration was primarily due to a faster rate of increase in the food index which advanced at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 29.8 percent in the December–March period—the largest increase for any 3-month period since 1951. The index for nonfood commodities increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.4 percent in the 3 months ending in March, compared with 1.0 percent in the quarter ending in December. The increase reflected the action of the Price Commission to postpone most of the price increases for new cars from the fourth quarter of 1972 into 1973 and a first quarter acceleration in the price increases for fuel oil and gasoline. The services index increased at a 3.6 percent rate in the December–March period, slightly less than the 3.9 percent rate in the preceding quarter.

In mid-January, the Economic Stabilization Program shifted from Phase 2 controls, which required prenotification of wage and price changes for larger economic units, to self-administered controls under Phase 3 for most economic sectors. Phase 2 controls were retained, however, in three areas—medical care, construction, and food (at processor, wholesaler, and retailer levels). Some prices, notably farm products, continued to be exempt,

as they were under Phases 1 and 2; and controls on rent were removed completely.

Food

Higher food prices accounted for about three-fourths of the rise in the CPI in the first quarter. Prices of food purchased in grocery stores—the major portion of the total food index—advanced at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 35.8 percent, after rising at a 6.3 percent rate in the last 3 months of 1972. Price advances accelerated for all major categories of food purchased in grocery stores as well as in food-away from home—restaurant meals and snacks, as the following tabulation shows:

	3 months ending	
	December 1972	March 1973
Food at home	6.3	35.8
Cereal and bakery products	5.3	10.8
Meats, poultry, and fish	11.3	74.8
Dairy products	4.9	12.4
Fruits and vegetables	2.2	24.5
Other foods at home	6.3	16.0
Food away from home	4.0	7.1

The rise in consumer food prices at the wholesale level was even sharper—at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 45.0 percent—as increases in most categories of food were larger at wholesale than at retail. The most significant increases were in meat and poultry prices.

Meat prices began to advance sharply at the wholesale level in late 1972 as supplies, already under pressure from strong demand, were further reduced by severe weather conditions which curtailed livestock marketings. Grain harvesting also was affected by bad weather. Since feed grains were in tight supply due to heavy domestic and export demand, prices of feeds rose sharply. An unusually strong export demand for pork following the dollar devaluation in mid-February was another factor which contributed to smaller meat supplies.

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

Month	Changes from preceding month							Changes in all items at seasonally adjusted compound annual rates		
	All items		Food		Commodities less food		Services	From 3 months ago	From 6 months ago	From 12 months ago
	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed	Seasonally adjusted	Unad-justed			
1972:										
March	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	0.2	3.6	3.1	3.5
April .....	.2	.2	0	-.1	.3	.2	.2	3.1	3.2	3.4
May .....	.3	.3	-.1	-.1	.6	.5	.2	2.1	3.5	3.2
June .....	.2	.1	.6	.2	.2	0	.3	2.2	2.9	2.9
July .....	.4	.4	1.0	.6	0	.3	.3	3.3	3.2	3.0
August .....	.2	.2	.3	.5	.1	.3	.2	2.9	2.5	2.9
September .....	.4	.5	.2	.6	.7	.4	.2	4.6	3.4	3.3
October .....	.3	.3	.1	.2	.4	-.1	.4	4.1	3.7	3.4
November .....	.2	.3	.4	1.1	.2	.1	.2	4.2	3.6	3.5
December .....	.3	.2	.5	0	.1	.2	.4	3.2	3.9	3.4
1973:										
January .....	.3	.5	2.1	1.9	.5	0	.2	4.1	4.1	3.7
February .....	.7	.8	1.9	2.2	.3	.5	.4	6.3	5.2	3.9
March .....	.9	.8	2.6	2.5	.5	.3	.3	8.8	5.9	4.7

All of these factors combined to push up livestock and meat prices at an even faster rate in the first quarter of 1973 than in the fourth quarter of 1972. As wholesale price increases were reflected in retail prices, consumer protests intensified and meat boycotts were organized. In late March, the Cost-of-Living Council announced a price ceiling on meats sold by retailers and by processors and distributors at the wholesale level. The ceilings do not apply to farmers' sales of live cattle, hogs, sheep, or lambs.

Historically, price changes for livestock and meat at all stages of processing have shown a definite relationship to one another. This relationship exists because beef and pork prices are sensitive to the quantity of meat available, as well as the demand for meat. And, the quantity of beef or pork available at the meat counter is closely associated with cattle and hog supplies. Chart A shows the relationship between cattle and beef prices and chart B the relationship between hog and pork prices. (pages 10-11).

Percent changes from the first quarter of 1964 to the first quarter of 1973 indicate that the CPI for beef and for pork generally move in the same direction as the WPI for beef and for pork with a lag of 1 to 3 months. The magnitude of change, both upward and downward, in the CPI has usually been smaller than in the WPI.

The WPI for pork moved in the same direction as the WPI for hogs, but the degree of increase or decrease has been generally smaller for pork. Large fluctuations in hog prices reflect reversals in hog production cycles which in

turn are influenced by prices farmers receive for hogs and for corn. Smaller fluctuations in wholesale pork prices in relation to hog prices may be partly due to the fact that, except for fresh pork, supplies of processed products such as ham and bacon can be held in cold storage over a long period of time. In addition, wholesale and retail pork prices are highly responsive to changes in demand and vice versa.

On the other hand, both the direction and the rate of change in the WPI for beef and for cattle have been very similar. Since beef products typically are not held in cold storage for long periods, adjustments in beef supplies influence cattle numbers and vice versa. The amount of beef on the market could be increased by dipping into the basic breeding herd for slaughter. However, beef supplies will decline if more than the usual number of cattle are retained for replacement and herd expansion.¹

Over the long run, particularly since the early 1960's, beef production has risen sharply—at a much faster pace than cattle numbers—because of the rapid expansion of the fed-cattle industry. In 1972, about 75 percent of the cattle slaughtered came from large-scale feedlots which numbered over 2,000, twice as much as in 1962. The rise in beef production, however, has barely kept pace with the rise in beef consumption. Strong economic growth and rising income in 1972 and early 1973 permitted

¹ Blaine W. Bickel "Meeting Consumer Demand for Beef—From Ranch to Roast," *Monthly Review*, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, April 1973.

greater consumption of beef despite rising prices.

An exceptionally large increase in wholesale and retail poultry prices in the first quarter of 1973 reflected the shift in demand away from red meats, as well as reduction in supplies due to curtailed slaughter in many areas and the effects of higher food costs. Increased demand and rising costs for dairy and poultry feeds also contributed to higher prices for other meat substitutes such as cheese and eggs.

Retail prices for cereal and bakery products rose at a faster rate in the first quarter, as they reflected earlier advances in wheat and flour prices caused by strong domestic and export demand. Wholesale prices for grains declined in the first quarter as a result of aggressive selling of grain stocks by the Commodity Credit Corporation. As a result, the increase in wholesale prices for cereal and bakery products moderated in the first quarter.

Unfavorable weather conditions in 1972 and early 1973 were primarily responsible for large increases in prices of fresh vegetables, such as onions and potatoes, and for oranges and coffee.

Commodities less food

The index for nonfood commodities increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 3.4 percent in the first quarter, up from 1.0 percent in the last 3 months of 1972. See table 1 for seasonally adjusted monthly changes during the first quarter and table 2 for quarterly changes at an annual rate. The behavior of this index in both quarters was influenced by the Price Commission action which resulted in a postponement of most of the price increase for the 1973 model cars from the fourth quarter of 1972 to the first quarter of 1973. Higher prices for new cars also was due to the fact that, because of strong demand, concessions from list prices granted by new car dealers did not increase as much as they usually do in the first quarter. Price increases for imported cars following the mid-February devaluation of the dollar have not yet been reflected in the CPI.

Higher prices for fuel oil and gasoline contributed significantly to the rise in the nonfood commodity index in the first quarter. Fuel oil prices advanced sharply, reflecting increases in wholesale prices. Gasoline prices moved up as, in response to tightening supplies, discounts and rebates were eliminated. The increase in retail gasoline prices did not reflect the sharp rise in wholesale prices at the refinery level. These prices moved up strongly as the demand continued to outpace refinery production.

The demand for gasoline has been rising because of antipollution devices and airconditioners in cars, production of heavier cars, greater numbers of cars on the road, and more miles driven per car. At the same time, gasoline production has been hampered by refinery

breakdowns and shortages of crude oil. Refineries in early 1973 did not start to maximize gasoline output in time to build up stocks as normally is done to meet the peak demand for the summer season. This lag was largely due to the use of refinery capacity and available crude oil for output of heating oil to meet seasonal needs. In early March, mandatory controls were reimposed on the oil industry; in addition, actions were taken to increase the inflow of foreign oil and refined petroleum products through a revision of the oil import program.

Among other nonfood commodities, price rises also accelerated for home maintenance and repair commodities and footwear, but moderated for furniture and apparel other than footwear. Prices declined for used cars, tires and tubes, and appliances.

The increase in prices of home maintenance and repair commodities stemmed primarily from higher lumber prices. Lumber prices, which rose strongly during 1972, advanced substantially in the first quarter of 1973, as supplies continued to tighten due to a combination of factors: the strong demand created by high rate of housing starts and other types of construction; rail car shortages which slowed deliveries at various times; and adverse weather conditions in producing areas. During the first quarter, hearings were held by the Cost-of-Living Council on possible controls on lumber prices and steps were taken by the government to speed up production of timber from national forest lands.

Higher lumber prices have contributed to a slightly faster rise in wholesale furniture prices since the fall of 1972. The increase in retail furniture prices was modest throughout 1972 and in the first quarter of 1973. The small rise in retail furniture prices, as well as the decline in appliance prices, appear to be partly due to sales and competitive changes as furniture and appliance retailers attempt to maintain their share of the market in the face of pressure from discount stores.

Retail footwear prices rose at a progressively faster rate in 1972, and the increase in the first quarter of 1973 was the sharpest in 3 years. Retail prices have moved up in response to—but not as much as—the rise in wholesale prices. Sharp advances in leather prices were reflected quickly in wholesale prices, particularly in the first half of 1972 and again in the first quarter of 1973. Prices of apparel other than footwear also have been under pressure from sharp increases in prices of all types of textile fabrics. In addition, retail apparel sales have been improving since late 1972. Apparel prices at wholesale and retail rose sharply in the fourth quarter of 1972, but moderated somewhat in the first quarter of this year.

Services

Prices for consumer services rose at a slightly slower

Table B. Percent distribution of monthly price comparisons ¹

Item	1971		December	1972					
	October to November	November to December	1971 to January 1972	January to February	February to March	March to April	April to May	May to June	June to July
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	11	16	14	22	15	14	13	15	18
Decreases	9	7	11	8	10	12	12	11	10
No change	80	77	75	70	75	74	75	74	72
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	13	17	15	24	16	15	14	17	20
Decreases	10	8	11	9	12	13	13	12	11
No change	77	75	74	67	72	72	73	71	69
Commodities									
less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	7	6	7	8	10	7	8	6	8
Decreases	6	5	10	7	5	7	6	7	7
No change	87	89	83	85	85	86	86	87	85
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	2	6	12	8	3	6	7	5	4
Decreases	1	1	5	3	1	4	5	3	3
No change	97	93	83	89	96	90	88	92	93
	1972—Continued						December	1973	
	July to August	August to September	September to October	October to November	November to December	December 1972 to January 1973	January to February	February to March	
All items ²	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	16	15	15	14	14	21	27	26	
Decreases	11	10	11	11	9	10	9	8	
No change	73	75	74	75	77	69	64	66	
Food at home	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	18	16	17	16	17	23	31	30	
Decreases	13	12	12	12	10	8	10	9	
No change	69	72	71	72	73	69	59	61	
Commodities									
less food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	8	11	6	6	6	7	12	11	
Decreases	6	5	6	5	4	8	4	5	
No change	86	84	88	89	90	85	84	84	
Services	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Increases	3	4	4	4	3	9	5	4	
Decreases	3	2	5	2	3	27	4	2	
No change	94	94	91	94	94	64	91	94	

¹ Regulations of the Economic Stabilization Program permit certain types of increases, but it is not possible to determine whether allowable increases accounted for all increases shown in the table.

² Based on approximately 98,000 individual quotations.

rate in the first quarter than in the fourth quarter of 1972. Among the five major components of the services index, transportation services declined at a faster rate than they did in the fourth quarter, and medical care services and household services less rent increased at a slower rate. The rent and other service components rose more rapidly than they had in the final quarter of 1972. (See tables 1 and 2.)

In the transportation services component, local-transit fares edged down slightly, auto insurance charges continued to decline as no-fault insurance was introduced in some more States, and auto registration fees fell. However, charges for auto repairs and parking fees rose sharply.

The first quarter increase in the medical care services component was considerably smaller than the increase in the fourth quarter, which reflected the effects of the annual adjustment for retained earnings of health insurance companies. Since health care is one of the areas in which Phase 2 regulations have been retained the annual increase in physicians' fees is still limited to 2.5 percent and hospital charges to 6.0 percent.

The rise in the index for household services less rent was slower in the first quarter of 1973 than in the fourth quarter of 1972 mostly because of a smaller increase in property taxes. Charges for home repair and maintenance services rose sharply, at the same rate as they did in the fourth quarter of 1972, and the increase for domestic services was twice as large. Among utilities, the rise in telephone charges remained moderate, reflecting a 1 percent decline in the Federal excise tax, but charges for resi-

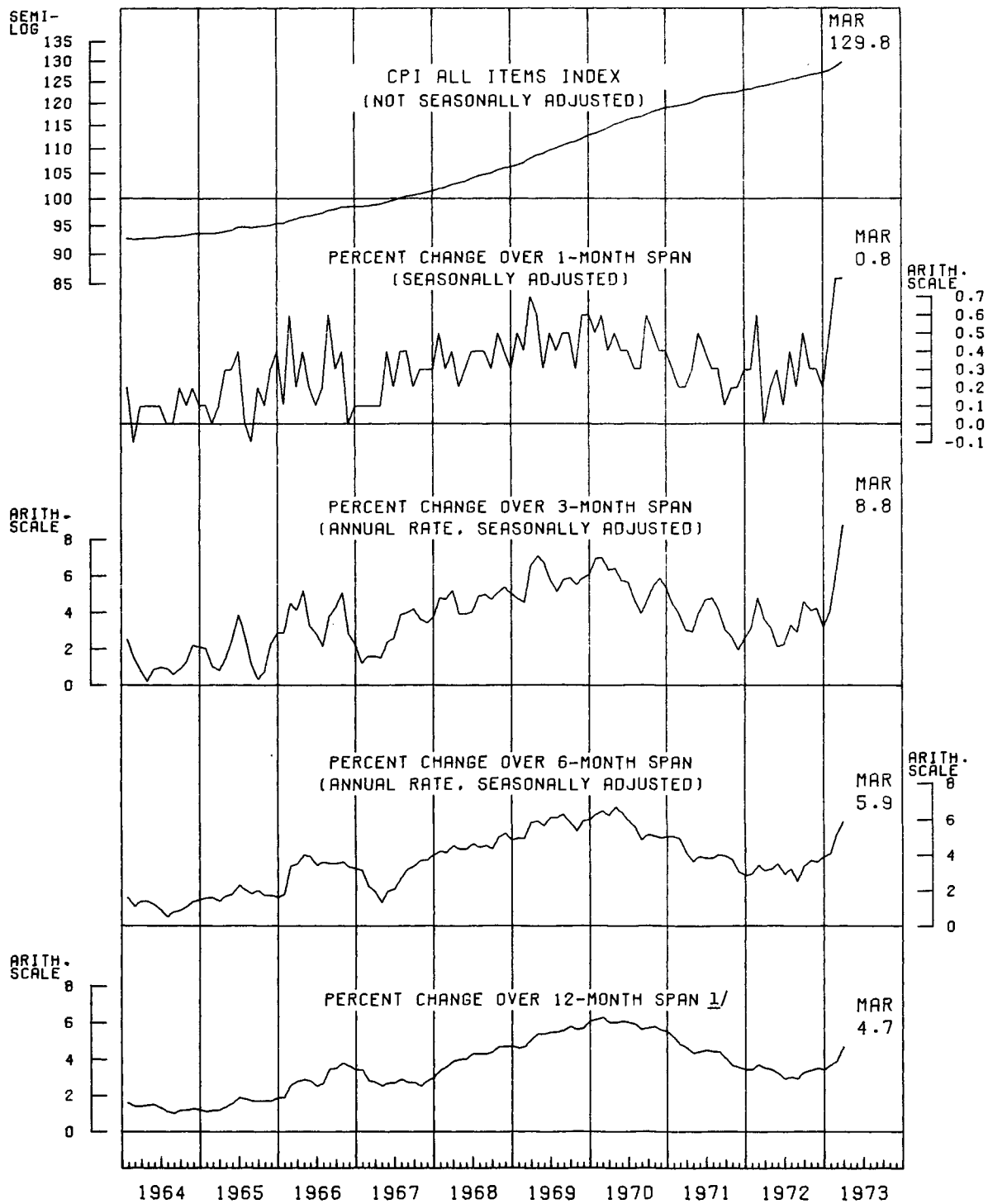
dential electricity and gas services rose substantially and at a faster rate than they did in the fourth quarter. The increase in rent in the first quarter was the largest in 2 years.

Among other services, charges for personal care services rose at a 7.9 percent annual rate, accelerating from a 5.3 percent rate in the fourth quarter of 1972. The rate of advance in charges for apparel services in the first quarter was 3.0 percent, less than the 4.3 percent rate in the preceding quarter.

Diffusion of individual price changes

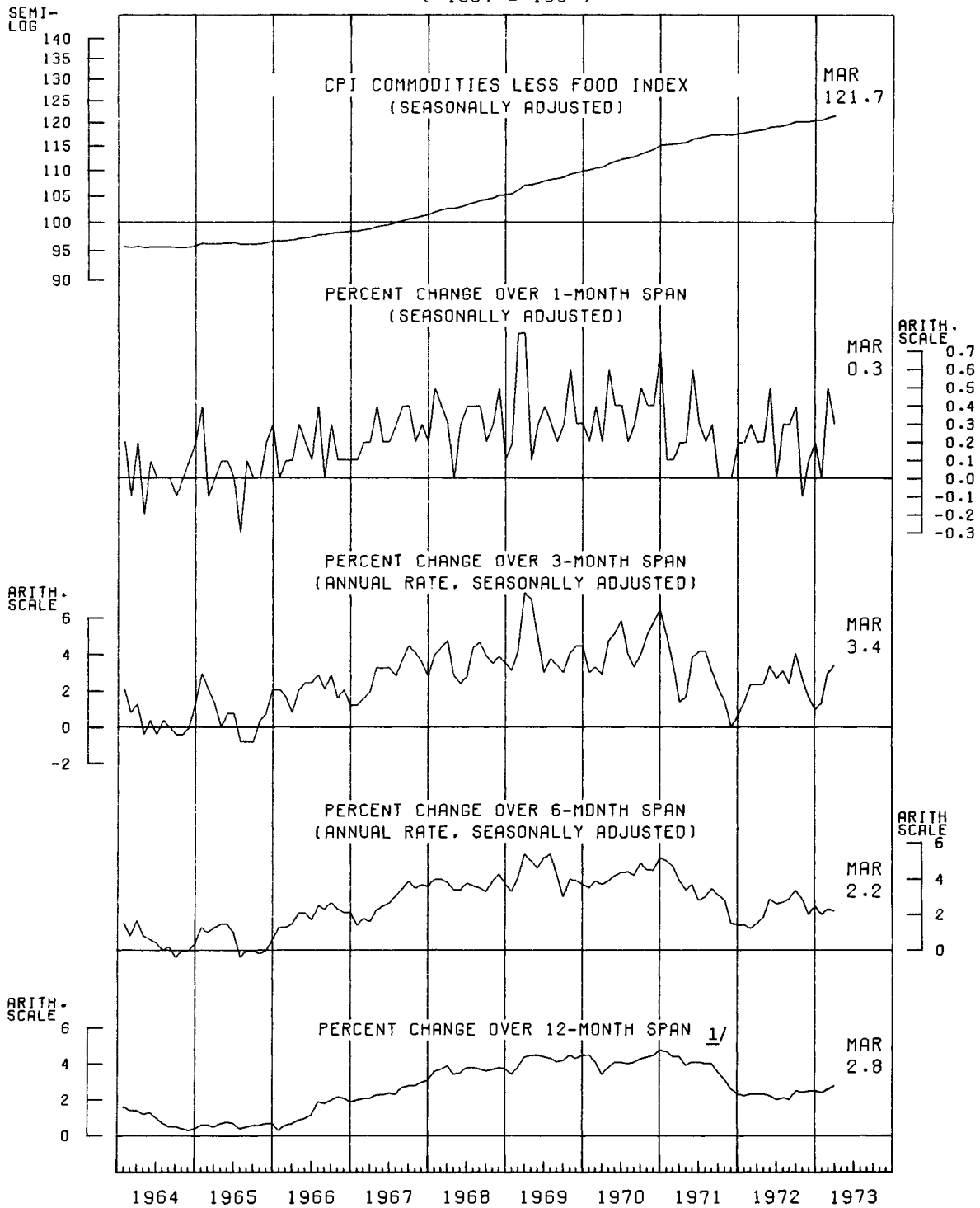
Approximately 120,000 individual prices were collected directly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in March for use in the index. Approximately 80 percent of these quotations represent monthly comparisons. As can be seen from table B, 66 percent of these monthly comparisons were unchanged, 8 percent decreased, and 26 percent increased from February to March. The proportion of prices increasing in March was slightly smaller than the proportion in February for the three major components of the index—food, nonfood commodities, and services. The March index also includes 24,000 price comparisons to March from periods before February, 19,000 of which cover the quarterly span from December to March. About 19 percent of these increased—considerably more than in the November–February period. In addition, about 5,000 rental units were surveyed in March and 20 percent of these reported rent increases from September 1972.

CHART 1. ALL ITEMS INDEX AND ITS RATE OF CHANGE 1964-73
 (1967 = 100)



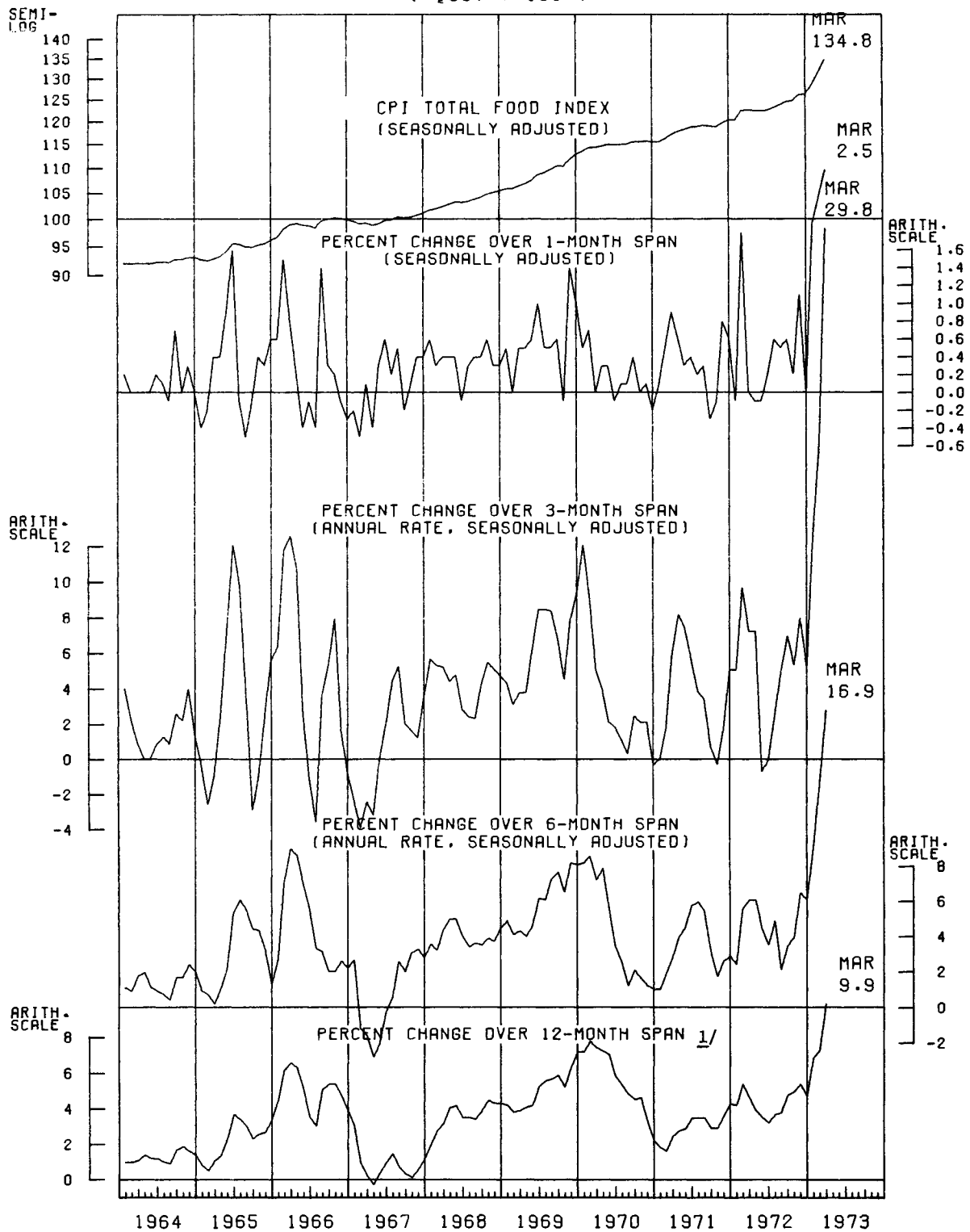
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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CHART 2. COMMODITIES LESS FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1964-73
 (1967 = 100)



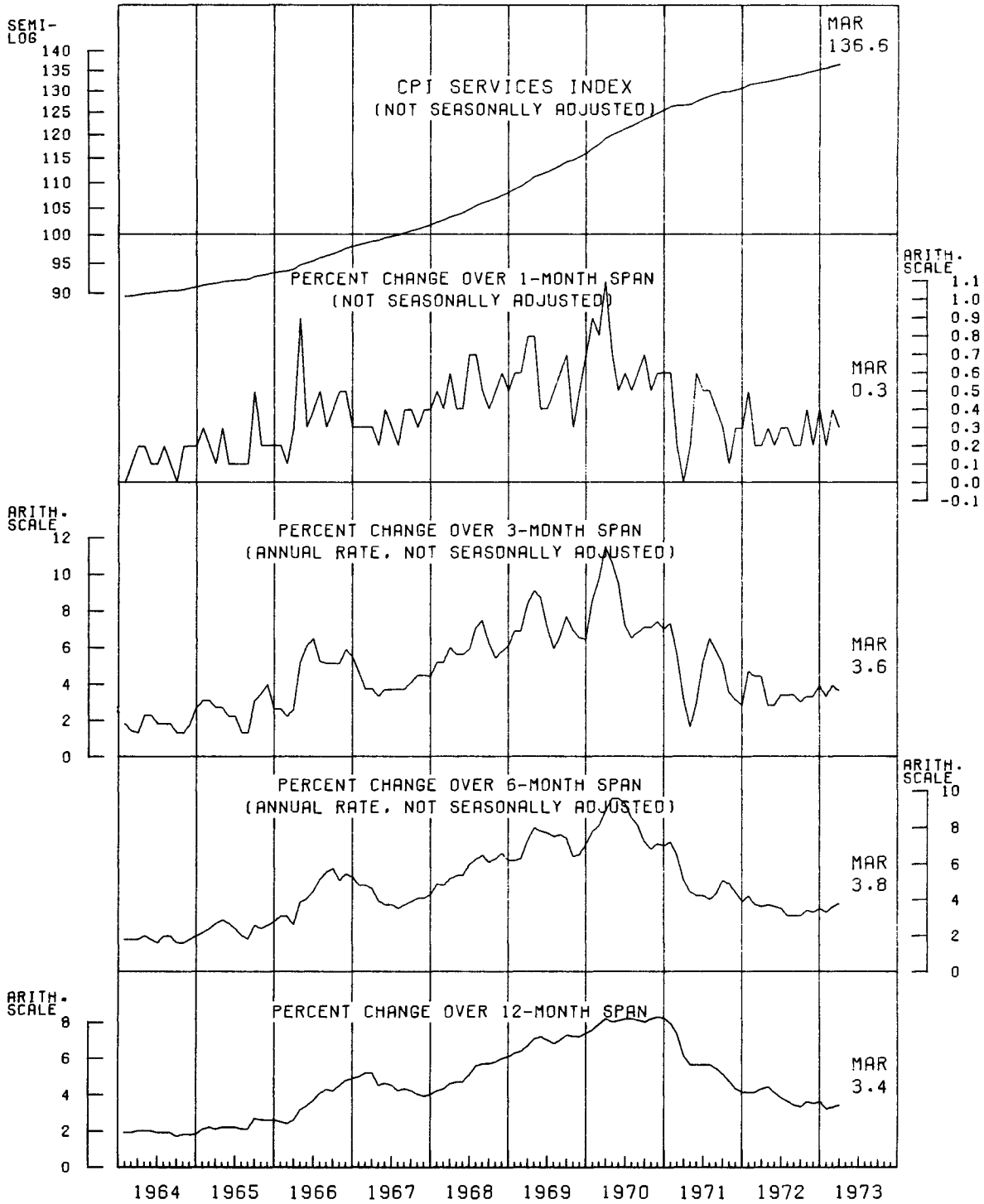
^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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CHART 3. TOTAL FOOD INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1964-73
(1967 = 100)



^{1/} Computed from the unadjusted series.
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CHART 4. SERVICES INDEX AND ITS RATES OF CHANGE 1964-73
 (1967 = 100)



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CHART A. PERCENT CHANGE FOR BEEF AND CATTLE PRICES, 3-MONTHS ENDING MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ANNUAL RATE)

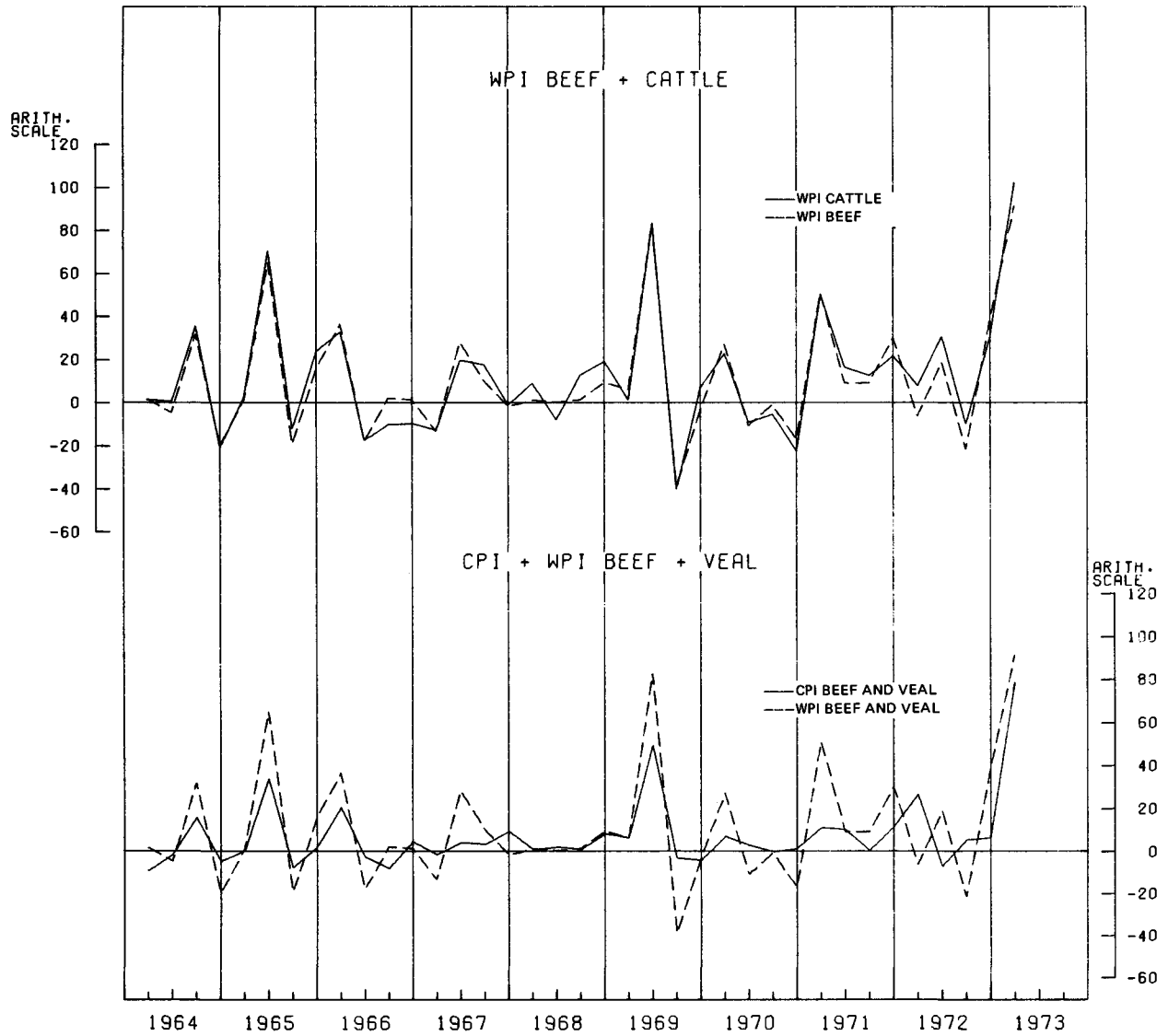


CHART B. PERCENT CHANGE FOR PORK AND HOG PRICES, 3-MONTHS ENDING MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED ANNUAL RATE)

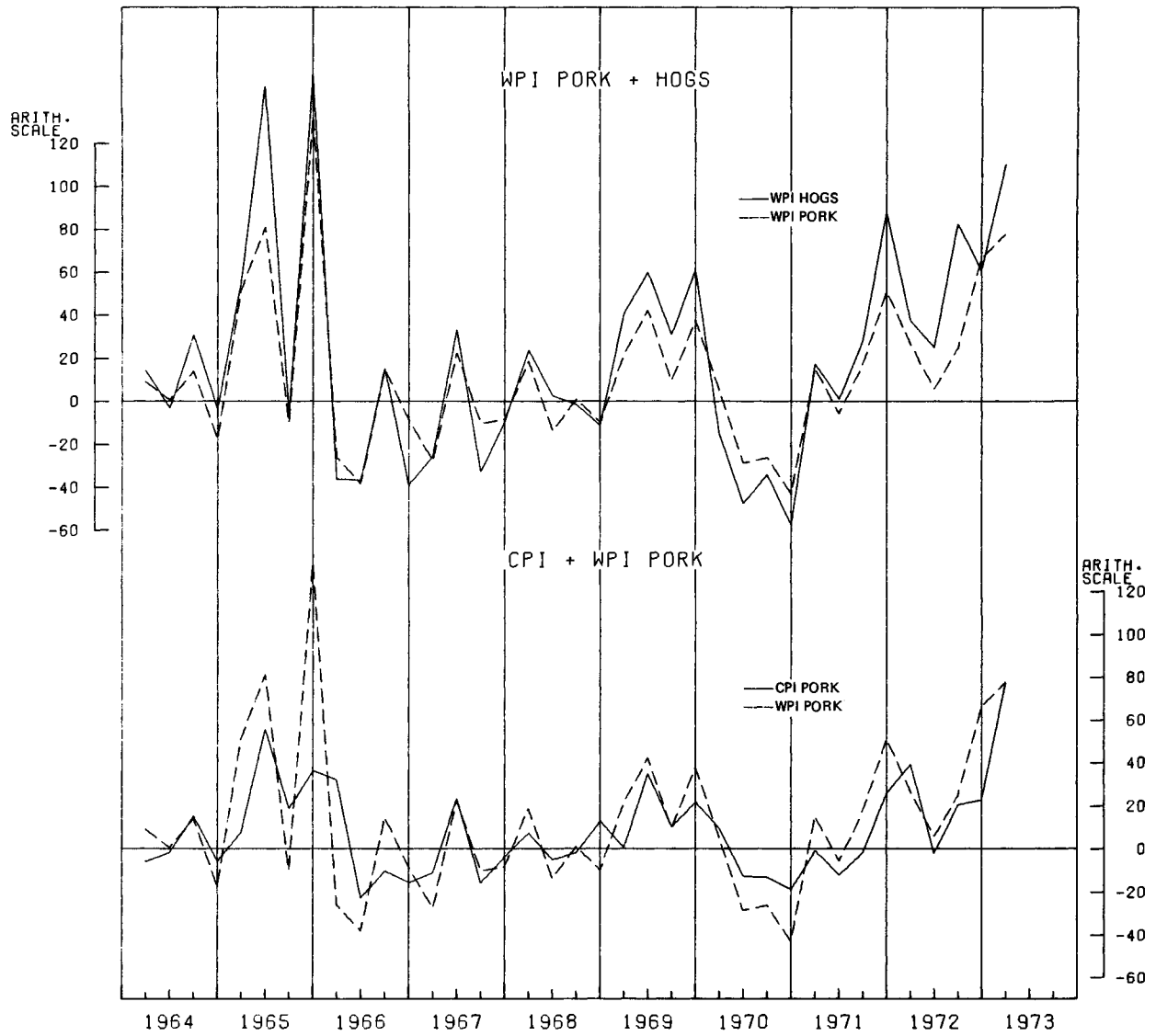


Table 1. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, by commodity and service groups, and expenditure classes

Group	Relative importance December 1972	Unadjusted indexes 1967-100 unless otherwise noted		Unadjusted percent change to March 1973 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from		
		February 1973	March 1973	March 1972	February 1973	December to January	January to February	February to March
Commodity and service groups								
All items	100.000	128.6	129.8	4.7	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.8
All items (1957-59=100)	-	149.5	150.9	-	-	-	-	-
Commodities	62.552	124.5	126.1	5.3	1.3	.7	1.1	1.2
Food	22.492	131.1	134.5	9.9	2.6	1.9	2.2	2.5
Food at home	17.494	130.1	134.2	11.3	3.2	2.3	2.4	3.1
Cereals and bakery products	2.243	117.8	119.0	3.7	1.0	.3	1.3	1.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	6.016	142.8	152.7	20.4	6.9	3.3	5.0	6.0
Dairy products	2.685	121.0	121.5	3.6	.4	.7	1.8	.5
Fruits and vegetables	2.999	133.3	136.8	12.7	2.6	1.7	2.4	1.5
Other foods at home	3.552	123.1	123.2	5.6	.1	2.6	.1	1.1
Food away from home	4.998	134.7	135.7	4.9	.7	.4	.4	.9
Commodities less food	40.059	120.9	121.5	2.8	.5	0	.5	.3
Nondurables less food	23.415	121.6	122.4	2.9	.7	0	.6	.5
Apparel commodities ¹	8.960	123.8	125.2	3.0	1.1	-.3	.3	.9
Men's and boys'	2.799	123.3	124.6	3.6	1.1	.2	-.1	.6
Women's and girls'	3.982	123.3	125.1	2.1	1.5	-.8	.4	1.2
Footwear	1.572	127.6	128.7	4.2	.9	-.1	.9	.5
Nondurables less food and apparel	14.455	120.4	120.8	3.0	.3	.3	.7	.3
Gasoline and motor oil	2.902	112.4	113.0	5.3	.5	.3	1.2	-.3
Tobacco products	2.103	134.5	135.5	2.3	.7	*0	*2	*7
Alcoholic beverages	2.459	121.2	121.3	2.0	.1	*.2	*.4	*1
Fuel oil coal .....	.655	127.2	127.8	7.7	.5	.4	5.4	.7
Other nondurables	6.335	119.1	119.3	2.1	.2	.1	.3	.1
Durables commodities	16.644	119.9	120.2	2.5	.3	-.2	.3	.3
Household durables	4.772	116.3	116.9	2.5	.5	0	.2	.3
New cars	2.060	111.0	110.8	-.8	-.2	1.0	-.1	.3
Used cars	2.056	112.4	113.7	9.4	1.2	*-1.9	*-.4	*1.2
Other durables	7.756	127.3	127.4	1.9	.1	-.2	.2	.2
Services	37.448	136.2	136.6	3.4	.3	*.2	*.4	*.3
Rent	5.059	122.1	122.6	3.9	.4	*.4	*.5	*.4
Services less rent	32.389	138.7	139.2	3.4	.4	*.2	*.3	*.4
Household services less rent	15.486	142.8	143.2	4.1	.3	.6	.6	-.1
Transportation services	5.473	136.1	136.3	.7	.1	-1.0	*-.1	.1
Medical care services	5.575	141.5	142.2	3.9	.5	.3	.2	.2
Other services	5.855	128.6	129.2	3.6	.5	.2	.6	.3
Special indexes:								
All items less food	77.508	127.9	128.4	3.1	.4	0	.5	.2
Nondurable commodities	45.907	126.2	128.3	6.4	1.7	1.0	1.4	1.6
Apparel commodities less footwear	7.388	123.1	124.5	2.6	1.1	-.3	.3	.8
Services less medical care services	31.873	135.3	135.8	3.4	.4	*.2	*.3	*.4
Insurance and finance	9.829	145.7	145.7	2.2	0	-.2	.3	-.3
Utilities and public transportation	5.522	128.5	128.9	3.3	.3	.4	.1	.2
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	4.502	148.4	149.4	4.9	.7	.5	.4	.4
Appliances (including radio and T. V.)	-	105.5	105.4	-.4	-.1	-	-	-
Expenditure classes								
All items	100.000	128.6	129.8	4.7	0.9	0.5	0.8	0.8
Food	22.492	131.1	134.5	9.9	2.6	1.9	2.2	2.5
Housing	33.859	132.0	132.3	3.4	.2	*.2	*.5	*.2
Shelter ²	21.830	137.3	137.7	3.7	.3	.2	.5	-.1
Rent	5.059	122.1	122.6	3.9	.4	*.4	*.5	*.4
Homeownership ³	16.355	142.9	143.2	3.6	.2	.3	.4	-.3
Fuel and utilities ⁴	4.708	124.1	124.6	4.4	.4	.8	1.1	.3
Gas and electricity	2.434	124.5	125.0	4.5	.4	1.3	.1	.6
Household furnishings and operation	7.321	122.6	123.0	2.4	.3	.2	.1	.2
Apparel and upkeep	10.370	123.6	124.8	2.9	1.0	-.2	.2	.7
Transportation	13.134	121.1	121.5	2.6	.3	-.5	.5	.4
Private	11.665	118.7	119.1	2.8	.3	-.5	.4	.3
Public	1.469	144.3	144.5	1.5	.1	-.7	.1	-.6
Health and recreation	19.768	128.1	128.6	2.9	.4	*.2	*.2	*.4
Medical care	6.447	135.3	135.8	3.3	.4	.3	.1	.1
Personal care	2.573	122.4	123.1	3.7	.6	.3	.6	.4
Reading and recreation	5.656	124.3	124.5	2.3	.2	0	.4	.2
Other goods and services	5.093	127.1	127.6	2.4	.4	.3	.5	.6
Special indexes:								
All items less shelter	78.170	126.4	127.8	4.9	1.1	.6	.9	.9
All items less medical care	93.553	128.2	129.5	4.8	1.0	.5	.9	.9
All items less mortgage interest costs	96.298	127.8	129.0	4.7	.9	.4	.9	.8
CPI—domestically produced farm foods ⁵	15.519	130.4	134.9	12.0	3.5	2.7	2.5	3.5
CPI—selected beef cuts ⁶	2.060	151.5	159.1	16.3	5.0	5.0	7.0	5.0
Purchasing power of consumer dollar:								
1967-\$1.00	-	\$0.778	\$0.770	-4.5	-1.0	-	-	-
1957-59=\$1.00	-	.669	.663	-	-	-	-	-

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

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

* Not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

Group	Seasonally adjusted indexes (1967=100)				Seasonally adjusted annual rate Percent changes for					
					3 months ending in			6 months ending in		
	December 1972	January 1973	February 1973	March 1973	June 1972	September 1972	December 1972	March 1973	September 1972	March 1973
Commodity and service groups										
All items	-	-	-	-	2.2	4.6	3.2	8.8	3.4	5.9
Commodities	122.8	123.6	124.9	126.4	2.0	5.4	2.3	12.3	3.7	7.2
Food	126.3	128.7	131.5	134.8	0	7.0	5.2	29.8	3.5	16.9
Food at home	124.6	127.5	130.5	134.5	-1.3	7.9	6.3	35.8	3.2	20.2
Cereals and bakery products	116.0	116.3	117.8	119.0	-.7	-.3	5.3	10.8	-.5	8.0
Meats, poultry, and fish	132.8	137.2	144.0	152.7	-2.5	10.9	11.3	74.8	4.0	39.5
Dairy products	118.2	119.0	121.1	121.7	-2.0	-.3	4.9	12.4	-1.2	8.6
Fruits and vegetables	129.5	131.7	134.8	136.8	4.4	21.4	2.2	24.5	12.6	12.8
Other foods at home	118.8	121.9	122.0	123.3	0	.7	6.3	16.0	.3	11.1
Food away from home	133.7	134.2	134.8	136.0	4.1	4.3	4.0	7.1	4.2	5.5
Commodities less food	120.7	120.7	121.3	121.7	2.7	4.1	1.0	3.4	3.4	2.2
Nondurables less food	121.3	121.3	122.0	122.6	1.4	3.7	2.3	4.4	2.5	3.3
Apparel commodities ¹	124.5	124.1	124.5	125.6	1.0	2.6	4.6	3.6	1.8	4.1
Men's and boys'	124.2	124.4	124.3	125.0	2.7	3.0	6.0	2.6	2.8	4.3
Women's and girls'	124.7	123.7	124.2	125.7	-1.6	2.3	4.6	3.2	.3	3.9
Footwear	127.0	126.9	128.0	128.7	3.6	3.6	4.2	5.5	3.6	4.8
Nondurables less food and apparel	119.4	119.7	120.5	120.9	1.7	4.5	.7	5.1	3.1	2.9
Gasoline and motor oil	111.4	111.7	113.0	112.7	-.4	17.5	.4	4.8	8.2	2.5
Tobacco products (not seasonally adjusted)	134.2	134.2	134.5	135.5	4.6	.6	0	3.9	2.6	1.9
Alcoholic beverages (not seasonally adjusted)	120.5	120.7	121.2	121.3	.7	3.7	1.0	2.7	2.2	1.8
Fuel oil and coal	119.4	119.9	126.4	127.3	.3	.3	3.4	29.2	.3	15.6
Other nondurables	118.8	118.9	119.2	119.3	3.5	1.4	1.7	1.7	2.4	1.7
Durables commodities	120.1	119.9	120.3	120.7	3.1	5.9	-1.0	2.0	4.5	-.5
Household durables	116.3	116.3	116.5	116.9	2.8	2.8	2.1	2.1	2.8	2.1
New cars	108.9	110.0	109.9	110.2	3.6	4.0	-14.4	4.9	3.8	-5.2
Used cars (not seasonally adjusted)	115.0	112.8	112.4	113.7	35.0	5.8	5.0	-4.4	19.5	.2
Other durables	127.2	126.9	127.2	127.4	4.2	4.2	-1.2	.6	4.2	-.3
Services (not seasonally adjusted)	135.4	135.7	136.2	136.6	3.1	3.0	3.9	3.6	3.1	3.8
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	121.0	121.5	122.1	122.6	3.4	3.1	3.7	5.4	3.2	4.6
Services less rent (not seasonally adjusted)	138.0	138.3	138.7	139.2	3.3	3.0	3.9	3.5	3.1	3.7
Household services less rent	141.8	142.6	143.4	143.2	4.4	2.6	5.2	4.0	3.5	4.6
Transportation services	136.9	135.5	135.3	135.5	3.3	4.2	-.6	-4.0	3.7	-2.3
Medical care services	140.9	141.3	141.6	141.9	3.9	1.8	7.1	2.9	2.8	5.0
Other services	127.8	128.1	128.9	129.3	1.6	4.2	3.8	4.8	2.9	4.3
Special indexes:										
All items less food	127.5	127.5	128.2	128.5	3.2	3.5	2.5	3.2	3.4	2.9
Nondurable commodities	123.7	124.9	126.6	128.6	.7	5.7	3.3	16.8	3.2	9.8
Apparel commodities less footwear	124.0	123.6	124.0	125.0	.3	2.3	4.6	3.3	1.3	4.0
Services less medical care services (not seasonally adjusted)	134.6	134.9	135.3	135.8	3.4	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.2	3.6
Insurance and finance	145.7	145.4	145.8	145.5	4.6	2.8	2.8	-.5	3.7	1.0
Utilities and public transportation	127.6	128.1	128.2	128.5	3.9	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.6	3.0
Housekeeping and home maintenance service	147.4	148.2	148.8	149.4	4.9	3.1	6.2	5.5	4.0	5.9
Expenditure classes										
All items	-	-	-	-	2.2	4.6	3.2	8.8	3.4	5.9
Food	126.3	128.7	131.5	134.8	0	7.0	5.2	29.8	3.5	16.8
Housing (not seasonally adjusted)	131.2	131.4	132.0	132.3	3.5	3.8	3.1	3.4	3.6	3.3
Shelter ²	136.7	137.0	137.7	137.6	4.6	4.2	3.3	2.7	4.4	3.0
Rent (not seasonally adjusted)	121.0	121.5	122.1	122.6	3.4	3.1	3.7	5.4	4.4	4.6
Homeownership ³	142.5	142.9	143.5	143.1	4.7	5.0	3.1	1.7	4.8	2.4
Fuel and utilities ⁴	121.7	122.7	124.0	124.4	3.1	2.7	3.0	9.2	2.9	6.0
Gas and electricity	122.4	124.0	124.1	124.8	3.4	2.7	4.0	8.1	3.0	6.0
Household furnishings and operation	122.4	122.6	122.7	123.0	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.0	2.5	2.3
Apparel and upkeep	124.1	123.9	124.2	125.1	1.3	3.3	4.0	3.3	2.3	3.6
Transportation	121.2	120.6	121.2	121.7	2.4	9.4	-2.6	1.7	5.8	-0.5
Private	118.9	118.3	118.8	119.2	2.1	11.1	-2.6	1.0	6.5	-0.8
Public	145.2	144.2	144.3	143.4	2.6	6.3	2.5	-4.9	4.4	-1.2
Health and recreation (not seasonally adjusted)	127.5	127.8	128.1	128.6	3.6	2.2	2.2	3.5	2.9	2.9
Medical care	134.8	135.2	135.4	135.5	3.7	1.5	6.2	2.1	2.6	4.1
Personal care	121.5	121.9	122.6	123.1	4.5	1.7	3.4	5.4	3.1	4.4
Reading and recreation	124.0	124.0	124.5	124.7	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.3	3.0	1.6
Other goods and services	126.2	126.6	127.1	127.9	3.9	-0.6	1.3	5.5	1.6	3.4
Special indexes:										
All items less shelter	124.8	125.6	126.7	127.9	2.0	4.3	3.3	10.3	3.1	6.7
All items less medical care	126.8	127.4	128.5	129.6	2.6	4.6	2.9	9.1	3.6	6.0
All items less mortgage interest costs	126.4	126.9	128.1	129.1	2.3	4.6	3.2	8.8	3.4	6.0
CPI—domestically produced farm foods (not seasonally adjusted)	123.8	127.2	130.4	134.9	0.7	6.8	4.0	41.0	3.7	21.1
CPI—selected beef cuts (not seasonally adjusted)	134.9	141.6	151.5	159.1	-7.7	7.4	-4.6	93.5	-0.4	35.9

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

² Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.

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

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

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

Table 3. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items most recent index and percent changes from selected dates

Area ¹	Pricing schedule ²	Indexes			Percent change from:		
		1967=100	1957-59=100	Other bases	March 1972	December 1972	February 1973
March 1973							
U. S. city average -----	M	129.8	150.9		4.7	2.0	0.9
Chicago -----	M	129.0	146.6		4.7	2.3	1.2
Detroit -----	M	131.1	150.6		4.9	2.2	1.1
Los Angeles-Long Beach -----	M	126.4	148.6		4.4	1.6	.7
N. Y.-Northeastern N. J. -----	M	136.5	162.4		4.9	2.1	1.2
Philadelphia -----	M	132.5	154.8		5.3	2.8	1.5
January 1973							
Boston -----	1	129.7	155.4		3.9	0.6	
Houston -----	1	127.2	145.5		3.2	.6	
Minneapolis-St. Paul -----	1	127.8	148.1		3.2	.5	
Pittsburgh -----	1	127.2	146.3		3.2	.6	
February 1973							
Buffalo -----	2	130.3		³ 143.2	4.3	1.3	
Cleveland -----	2	129.9	146.6		3.2	1.6	
Dallas -----	2	127.7		³ 138.1	3.2	1.6	
Milwaukee -----	2	127.0	143.4		3.9	1.6	
San Diego -----	2	128.2		⁴ 134.7	5.0	1.1	
Seattle -----	2	123.1	144.7		3.4	1.6	
Washington -----	2	130.7	152.2		4.8	.8	
March 1973							
Atlanta -----	3	130.1	149.7		5.1	1.9	
Baltimore -----	3	131.9	153.1		5.6	3.0	
Cincinnati -----	3	129.8	147.3		5.5	2.6	
Honolulu -----	3	126.0		⁵ 135.8	2.9	1.3	
Kansas City -----	3	127.4	151.3		4.1	1.5	
St. Louis -----	3	126.2	147.4		4.5	2.0	
San Francisco-Oakland -----	3	128.7	153.1		4.9	1.9	

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

² Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all cities; most other goods and services priced as indicated:

- M—Every month.
- 1—January, April, July, and October.
- 2—February, May, August, and November.
- 3—March, June, September, and December.

³ November 1963=100.

⁴ February 1965=100.

⁵ December 1963=100.

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

Table 4. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, major groups percent changes from February 1973 to March 1973

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
All items -----	0.9	1.2	1.1	0.7	1.2	1.5
Food -----	2.6	2.1	3.1	1.6	2.5	3.3
Housing -----	.2	1.0	.2	-.1	.4	1.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.0	2.6	1.3	2.2	3.2	2.1
Transportation -----	.3	.5	.2	.2	.1	0
Health and recreation -----	.4	.1	.8	.7	.3	.5
Medical care -----	.4	.4	1.5	.8	-.2	1.2
Personal care -----	.6	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.2	-.2	.7	.4	.3	-.4
Other goods and services -----	.4	-.2	.3	.5	.7	.4

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, March 1973, and percent changes from December 1972

Group	U. S. city average	Chicago	Detroit	Los Angeles-Long Beach	New York-Northeastern New Jersey	Philadelphia
Indexes (1967=100)						
All items -----	129.8	129.0	131.1	126.4	136.5	132.5
Food -----	134.5	135.2	135.1	129.8	139.0	136.5
Food at home -----	134.2	135.7	135.8	131.1	137.6	135.5
Cereals and bakery products -----	119.0	123.9	123.8	115.4	119.9	120.5
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	152.7	153.1	157.3	152.8	152.2	152.4
Dairy products -----	121.5	121.8	119.3	119.5	124.6	122.6
Fruits and vegetables -----	136.8	134.6	127.4	127.5	144.3	141.3
Other food at home -----	123.2	124.2	124.0	121.9	126.2	122.1
Food away from home -----	135.7	133.1	132.5	125.9	143.8	140.5
Housing -----	132.3	127.0	135.0	129.7	141.0	134.8
Shelter -----	137.7	231.3	144.4	132.6	148.1	144.5
Rent, residential -----	122.6	120.1	(²)	120.3	(²)	127.6
Homeownership -----	143.2	136.3	148.8	136.3	159.2	149.0
Fuel and utilities -----	124.6	118.5	119.8	128.1	130.1	122.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	127.8	123.4	125.2	-	128.4	121.0
Gas and electricity -----	125.0	119.3	121.3	134.5	130.3	128.5
Household furnishings and operation -----	123.0	119.3	116.1	120.3	129.0	124.5
Apparel and upkeep -----	124.8	125.6	121.9	122.6	125.6	125.1
Men's and boys' -----	124.6	120.3	120.3	119.5	127.4	123.4
Women's and girls' -----	125.1	132.7	118.9	126.4	123.7	123.4
Footwear -----	128.7	122.9	131.6	127.7	127.1	131.4
Transportation -----	121.5	125.2	120.6	120.7	134.1	125.9
Private -----	119.1	119.6	118.2	120.9	126.5	123.0
Public -----	144.5	160.5	148.5	117.3	163.3	143.5
Health and recreation -----	128.6	129.4	132.5	123.0	133.9	132.8
Medical care -----	135.8	135.2	146.4	132.7	143.0	146.6
Personal care -----	123.1	123.6	(²)	118.8	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	124.5	125.4	126.8	115.1	128.6	127.5
Other goods and services -----	127.6	130.3	124.3	120.8	135.2	128.9
Percent changes December 1972 to March 1973						
All items -----	2.0	2.3	2.2	1.6	2.1	2.8
Food -----	6.7	6.8	7.7	5.7	6.2	7.6
Food at home -----	8.1	8.2	9.3	7.4	7.8	9.3
Cereals and bakery products -----	2.8	5.3	5.3	1.8	2.0	2.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	16.4	15.2	17.4	17.0	13.7	17.0
Dairy products -----	2.7	3.0	4.0	3.0	2.1	2.1
Fruits and vegetables -----	7.5	6.3	6.0	2.1	8.8	11.2
Other food at home -----	2.5	1.8	2.1	3.2	3.2	3.7
Food away from home -----	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.1	1.7	1.3
Housing -----	.8	1.2	-.3	.5	1.1	1.8
Shelter -----	.7	1.1	-.6	.5	.7	1.9
Rent, residential -----	1.3	³ 3.4	(²)	³ .4	(²)	³ .6
Homeownership -----	.4	-.4	-.7	.4	-.1	2.1
Fuel and utilities -----	2.2	2.3	1.7	.2	3.9	2.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	7.0	7.9	9.9	-	6.6	6.3
Gas and electricity -----	2.0	2.8	1.1	.5	5.3	3.1
Household furnishings and operation -----	.6	1.1	-.4	.5	.7	1.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	-.2	1.9	.9	.9	.2	2.1
Men's and boys' -----	-.2	.9	-.9	.9	2.7	-.2
Women's and girls' -----	-1.0	3.3	1.7	1.7	-1.7	4.0
Footwear -----	1.1	1.3	3.5	1.3	.6	1.5
Transportation -----	.2	-.2	2.0	-.5	0	-.4
Private -----	.2	-.3	2.2	-.5	.1	-.4
Public -----	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and recreation -----	.9	.6	1.5	1.1	1.1	.8
Medical care -----	1.0	1.2	2.2	1.5	0	1.3
Personal care -----	1.3	0	(²)	1.4	(²)	(²)
Reading and recreation -----	.4	.8	.6	.9	.6	0
Other goods and services -----	.9	.2	1.9	.4	1.6	.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, commodity groups, March 1973, and percent changes from December 1972—Continued

Group	Atlanta	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Honolulu	Kansas City	San Francisco—Oakland	St. Louis
Indexes (1967= 100)							
All items -----	130.1	131.9	129.8	126.0	127.4	128.7	126.2
Food -----	136.4	137.0	136.0	129.6	133.3	131.6	132.9
Food at home -----	136.2	137.5	137.0	128.1	133.2	132.5	132.2
Cereals and bakery products -----	121.5	118.6	122.2	107.8	121.1	111.7	124.3
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	155.6	154.9	153.9	140.3	151.0	150.5	145.9
Dairy products -----	125.4	123.5	126.0	125.0	131.4	119.9	121.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	141.4	143.3	138.0	132.0	126.1	132.3	139.1
Other food at home -----	123.2	126.0	126.6	121.3	122.6	125.8	118.7
Food away from home -----	137.0	135.0	132.5	133.8	133.4	128.4	135.8
Housing -----	135.3	135.8	126.7	127.4	127.2	134.1	124.1
Shelter -----	139.9	144.6	131.8	133.4	131.9	139.3	125.4
Rent, residential -----	118.8	114.7	110.8	130.8	112.0	131.6	109.7
Homeownership -----	146.2	157.2	141.4	135.1	139.6	143.2	129.7
Fuel and utilities -----	⁴ 132.0	121.7	123.2	112.2	120.4	124.0	124.6
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	122.8	-	-	-	-	137.0
Gas and electricity -----	129.5	120.4	119.9	106.4	119.5	124.7	124.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	126.7	124.8	115.7	116.1	119.4	122.1	121.0
Apparel and upkeep -----	122.0	127.5	126.2	122.7	129.2	124.6	120.6
Men's and boys' -----	128.6	136.8	126.0	114.8	126.2	123.0	113.2
Women's and girls' -----	118.5	117.9	124.4	125.2	132.7	126.3	123.1
Footwear -----	119.0	137.3	136.3	120.6	134.7	125.9	130.2
Transportation -----	⁵ 114.5	118.9	127.0	123.8	121.4	121.1	123.3
Private -----	⁶ 117.2	118.4	120.0	125.8	120.2	120.3	121.2
Public -----	79.2	121.6	181.2	113.0	141.3	133.6	145.3
Health and recreation -----	130.9	131.1	130.5	122.9	127.2	124.4	125.8
Medical care -----	142.2	146.7	142.3	131.2	134.1	131.0	128.6
Personal care -----	128.0	124.4	131.4	121.2	121.9	120.0	125.6
Reading and recreation -----	126.1	126.3	122.2	121.9	119.2	120.6	119.7
Other goods and services -----	120.9	124.8	126.7	116.0	131.5	121.4	128.5
Percent changes December 1972 to March 1973							
All items -----	1.9	3.0	2.6	1.3	1.5	1.9	2.0
Food -----	7.3	7.3	7.1	2.2	5.9	6.2	6.3
Food at home -----	8.9	9.0	8.5	3.0	7.3	7.9	7.6
Cereals and bakery products -----	3.1	3.0	4.4	-1.2	2.8	-1.0	3.1
Meats, poultry, and fish -----	20.2	17.2	17.6	9.5	16.4	16.6	14.6
Dairy products -----	3.2	2.5	3.0	3.6	3.2	2.6	.8
Fruits and vegetables -----	4.7	9.6	5.3	-5.4	5.4	6.2	9.4
Other food at home -----	2.6	2.2	2.6	1.8	1.3	3.2	2.4
Food away from home -----	2.7	.7	2.3	.2	1.2	.5	.7
Housing -----	.7	2.5	.7	1.1	0	1.4	.7
Shelter -----	.2	3.0	1.2	1.1	-.6	1.5	.3
Rent, residential -----	.7	.7	.4	1.2	.4	.8	.3
Homeownership -----	.1	3.8	1.4	1.0	-1.0	1.8	.2
Fuel and utilities -----	3.6	2.3	-.3	1.3	1.7	.2	3.9
Fuel oil and coal -----	-	6.3	-	-	-	-	11.0
Gas and electricity -----	5.9	-.5	-.9	.2	1.9	4.7	2.9
Household furnishings and operation -----	.3	1.0	-.3	1.2	.8	1.5	-.2
Apparel and upkeep -----	.7	2.7	.9	1.7	.2	.4	.1
Men's and boys' -----	-.1	8.0	1.2	.3	1.5	-1.0	-1.4
Women's and girls' -----	.6	.4	.4	1.1	-1.9	.2	.4
Footwear -----	2.3	1.6	1.4	4.4	3.1	1.5	.9
Transportation -----	-.1	.8	.8	.6	.7	-.9	.6
Private -----	-.1	.9	.9	.6	.8	-1.0	.6
Public -----	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and recreation -----	.8	.6	1.8	.6	1.1	1.2	.8
Medical care -----	.6	.8	3.0	1.0	1.7	1.2	1.5
Personal care -----	2.1	1.9	1.2	.1	.6	.7	-.1
Reading and recreation -----	.4	-.5	2.2	.2	.6	1.1	-.3
Other goods and services -----	.8	1.1	.6	1.0	1.2	1.8	1.3

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

³ Change from January 1973.

⁴ Revised indexes: December 1972, 128.1; January 1973, 132.3; February 1973, 132.6.

⁵ Revised indexes: March 1972, 111.3; June 1972, 112.2; September 1972, 113.7; December 1972, 114.6; 1972 annual average, 113.0.

⁶ Revised indexes: March 1972, 113.9; June 1972, 114.7; September 1972, 116.3; December 1972, 117.3; 1972 annual average, 115.3.

Table 6. Consumer Price Index—United States and selected areas for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food and its subgroups, March 1973, and percent changes from February 1973

Area ¹	Total food	Food at home						Food away from home
		Total	Cereals and bakery products	Meats, poultry, and fish	Dairy products	Fruits and vegetables	Other foods at home	
Indexes (1967= 100)								
U.S. city average -----	134.5	134.2	119.0	152.7	121.5	136.8	123.2	135.7
Atlanta -----	136.4	136.2	121.5	155.6	125.4	141.4	123.2	137.0
Baltimore -----	137.0	137.5	118.6	154.9	123.5	143.3	126.0	135.0
Boston -----	133.6	133.8	121.1	149.7	121.7	137.0	122.6	132.9
Buffalo -----	135.0	134.9	118.3	150.5	120.8	148.1	121.3	135.5
Chicago -----	135.2	135.7	123.9	153.1	121.8	134.6	124.2	133.1
Cincinnati -----	136.0	137.0	122.2	153.9	126.0	138.0	126.6	132.5
Cleveland -----	135.4	136.3	118.5	155.5	125.0	136.6	124.5	131.2
Dallas -----	133.6	132.1	116.7	152.9	113.6	134.9	120.9	139.2
Detroit -----	135.1	135.8	123.8	157.3	119.3	127.4	124.0	132.5
Honolulu -----	129.6	128.1	107.8	140.3	125.0	132.0	121.3	133.8
Houston -----	136.6	134.0	115.2	156.8	122.8	132.8	121.5	145.5
Kansas City -----	133.3	133.2	121.1	151.0	131.4	126.1	122.6	133.4
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	129.8	131.1	115.4	152.8	119.5	127.5	121.9	125.9
Milwaukee -----	132.3	132.5	120.4	152.0	119.7	132.2	120.9	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	135.1	134.6	129.6	156.7	123.0	129.3	124.1	137.7
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	139.0	137.6	119.9	152.2	124.6	144.3	126.2	143.8
Philadelphia -----	136.5	135.5	120.5	152.4	122.6	141.3	122.1	140.5
Pittsburgh -----	134.9	134.3	116.5	152.6	117.4	142.8	123.2	138.4
St. Louis -----	132.9	132.2	124.3	145.9	121.8	139.1	118.7	135.8
San Diego -----	134.0	134.1	115.1	160.8	119.1	127.0	122.1	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland -----	131.6	132.5	111.7	150.5	119.9	132.3	125.8	128.4
Seattle -----	130.1	130.0	115.8	148.1	121.4	125.7	123.3	130.5
Washington -----	138.4	137.2	122.2	154.2	116.4	146.5	126.7	141.5
Percent changes February 1973 to March 1973								
U.S. city average -----	2.6	3.2	1.0	6.9	0.4	2.6	0.1	0.7
Atlanta -----	2.7	3.1	1.1	8.1	1.0	1.6	-.8	1.3
Baltimore -----	3.2	3.9	1.3	7.8	.6	4.8	-.2	.6
Boston -----	2.4	2.9	2.4	5.3	.7	1.9	.8	.5
Buffalo -----	3.4	3.8	1.1	8.3	-.7	5.0	0	.9
Chicago -----	2.1	2.3	1.1	5.6	.5	.1	-.6	1.2
Cincinnati -----	3.3	3.9	1.8	9.1	-.2	2.4	.4	1.2
Cleveland -----	3.5	4.1	2.8	8.4	-.5	2.9	1.3	.2
Dallas -----	1.9	2.5	1.0	6.5	-.6	2.3	-1.1	0
Detroit -----	3.1	3.7	-.4	8.2	.6	3.0	-.1	.2
Honolulu -----	1.3	1.7	-1.2	5.1	.4	.1	-.4	0
Houston -----	2.2	2.8	1.1	7.3	.2	1.3	-1.1	.5
Kansas City -----	2.2	2.5	1.5	6.4	.6	.2	-.2	1.2
Los Angeles—Long Beach -----	1.6	1.9	1.3	5.5	.3	-.5	-.7	.7
Milwaukee -----	2.8	3.5	.2	8.6	1.2	2.2	-.4	(²)
Minneapolis—St. Paul -----	1.9	2.4	.9	7.0	.2	.2	-.2	.2
N. Y.—Northeastern N. J. -----	2.5	3.1	.9	5.7	.2	3.5	-.6	1.0
Philadelphia -----	3.3	4.1	1.7	7.3	.7	5.6	-.2	.4
Pittsburgh -----	3.6	4.1	.6	9.2	.3	4.2	-.1	.4
St. Louis -----	2.9	3.4	2.2	6.9	0	3.8	-.3	.3
San Diego -----	1.9	2.7	.9	6.4	.4	1.0	-.5	(²)
San Francisco—Oakland -----	1.6	2.1	-1.0	5.8	.1	-.2	-.2	0
Seattle -----	1.2	1.6	1.5	4.2	.7	.8	-.9	.2
Washington -----	3.1	4.1	1.2	9.0	.1	4.0	-.4	.6

¹ See footnote 1, table 3.

² Not available.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, March 1973 indexes and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to March 1973 from—		
	March 1973		March 1972	February 1973	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food	134.5	134.8	9.9	2.6	2.5
Food away from home	135.7	136.0	4.9	.7	.9
Restaurant meals	135.9	136.2	5.1	.7	.7
Snacks	134.3	134.6	3.1	.3	.5
Food at home	134.2	134.5	11.3	3.2	3.1
Cereals and bakery products	119.0	119.0	3.7	1.0	1.0
Flour	111.8	111.6	10.9	3.4	3.2
Cracker meal	139.1	139.1	3.1	.7	.4
Corn flakes	99.5	99.3	-2.5	.1	.1
Rice	118.7	118.6	7.9	1.9	1.9
Bread, white	217.0	217.1	3.4	1.6	1.7
Bread, whole wheat	125.4	125.4	5.2	.7	.6
Cookies	112.6	112.8	1.7	-.6	-1.3
Layer cakes	123.7	123.7	2.7	1.8	2.1
Cinnamon rolls	123.2	123.2	2.7	-.2	.1
Meats, poultry, and fish	152.7	152.7	20.4	6.9	6.0
Meats	153.0	153.5	19.6	5.4	4.8
Beef and veal	160.2	160.7	16.8	5.2	4.6
Steak, round	158.9	159.2	15.6	4.1	3.7
Steak, sirloin	149.4	150.8	12.9	3.6	2.5
Steak, porterhouse	149.8	151.6	11.1	2.2	1.7
Rump roast	154.1	154.9	13.8	3.1	3.0
Rib roast	158.2	159.0	12.9	4.5	3.9
Chuck roast	167.9	167.1	18.9	4.8	3.8
Hamburger	166.0	166.2	20.9	8.0	7.4
Beef liver	150.7	151.5	24.2	7.7	7.3
Veal cutlets	185.4	186.0	17.8	6.0	5.4
Pork	149.8	150.7	26.7	5.3	4.9
Chops	153.0	153.8	28.6	4.4	4.1
Loin roast	156.3	156.9	30.8	6.1	5.4
Pork sausage	157.6	159.4	27.6	8.6	8.1
Ham, whole	135.0	132.9	18.1	4.3	3.9
Picnics	154.2	152.8	24.6	8.7	7.5
Bacon	143.5	145.5	27.4	2.9	2.0
Other meats	142.1	142.4	16.9	6.0	5.7
Lamb chops	144.7	145.4	13.7	3.4	3.1
Frankfurters	147.9	148.9	20.0	10.1	9.3
Ham, canned	134.0	132.1	18.9	4.1	3.5
Bologna sausage	148.0	148.6	17.2	6.9	6.8
Salami sausage	142.1	143.1	16.0	6.2	6.4
Liverwurst	135.9	136.4	15.7	5.7	6.1
Poultry	150.7	150.5	35.0	24.9	23.6
Frying chicken	158.8	158.6	43.1	30.5	28.6
Chicken, breasts	145.5	146.1	29.3	18.8	18.3
Turkey	118.0	118.2	3.8	3.3	3.6
Fish	152.8	152.6	10.5	1.0	1.3
Shrimp, frozen	145.6	145.2	10.4	2.8	2.9
Fish, fresh or frozen	174.5	173.8	20.4	.4	.2
Tuna fish, canned	136.8	136.8	3.6	.4	.8
Sardines, canned	154.5	154.5	7.2	.5	1.1
Dairy products	121.5	121.7	3.6	.4	.5
Milk, fresh, grocery	120.5	120.6	3.1	0	0
Milk, fresh, delivered	125.0	125.1	4.2	.2	.3
Milk, fresh, skim	127.8	128.2	4.9	0	.1
Milk, evaporated	125.8	126.4	4.1	1.7	1.8
Ice cream	109.1	109.2	1.9	1.3	1.4
Cheese, American process	130.5	130.5	5.8	.6	.7
Butter	105.9	106.1	.1	.3	.6

See footnote at end of table.

Table 7. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, food items, March 1973 indexes and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Index		Percent change to March 1973 from—		
	March 1973		March 1972	February 1973	
	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Unadjusted	Unadjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Food—Continued					
Food away from home—Continued					
Fruits and vegetables	136.8	136.8	12.7	2.6	1.5
Fresh fruits and vegetables	145.1	145.0	18.6	3.8	1.8
Fresh fruits	127.6	132.5	10.5	1.0	-5
Apples	125.8	131.0	12.1	2.6	-8
Bananas	97.2	96.5	-1.1	-4.0	-5.6
Oranges	133.3	139.3	9.9	2.9	2.7
Orange juice, fresh	132.0	132.3	1.0	-3	-1.0
Grapefruit	128.9	148.2	3.5	0	1.6
Grapes	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Strawberries	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Watermelon	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Fresh vegetables	159.2	154.4	24.5	5.6	3.3
Potatoes	163.9	171.1	42.0	7.3	6.3
Onions	210.6	211.4	100.4	20.1	18.6
Asparagus	182.1	146.0	11.4	(1)	(1)
Cabbage	166.6	157.0	24.9	24.6	-6.9
Carrots	145.2	153.5	1.0	.6	7.1
Celery	145.6	152.0	-11.4	-1.0	3.4
Cucumbers	187.9	153.4	29.1	16.1	18.0
Lettuce	133.7	136.6	25.7	.4	26.9
Peppers, green	146.4	126.3	-9	-4.4	-7.9
Spinach	152.6	152.3	12.4	1.0	2.4
Tomatoes	138.4	132.7	22.6	-5.7	-8.9
Processed fruits and vegetables	124.5	124.7	3.8	.6	.8
Fruit cocktail, canned	127.7	128.2	5.2	.8	.9
Pears, canned	122.8	123.0	4.8	1.0	1.3
Pineapple-grapefruit juice, drink	118.2	118.6	2.6	.2	.1
Orange juice, concentrate, frozen	137.3	138.3	.5	.3	.5
Lemonade concentrate, frozen	119.7	118.4	1.6	.2	.2
Beets, canned	132.8	132.9	10.9	2.2	1.9
Peas, green, canned	109.4	109.8	1.4	1.1	1.2
Tomatoes, canned	121.7	121.8	5.4	.1	-2
Dried beans	141.1	141.5	3.4	-1	.7
Broccoli, frozen	119.0	119.1	0	.1	1.0
Other food at home	123.2	123.3	5.6	.1	1.1
Eggs	136.2	136.3	26.7	-3.5	2.9
Fats and oils:					
Margarine	117.5	117.0	-9	.8	.3
Salad dressing, Italian	110.4	110.5	-4	.5	.5
Salad or cooking oil	120.1	120.2	-2.9	.9	1.1
Sugar and sweets	124.0	124.2	2.3	1.0	.8
Sugar	118.6	118.8	3.2	.6	.4
Grape jelly	131.3	130.9	5.5	1.3	1.0
Chocolate bar	131.3	132.2	.5	.2	0
Syrup, chocolate flavored	113.8	113.5	.3	1.9	1.9
Nonalcoholic beverages	126.4	126.5	4.5	.6	.6
Coffee, can and bag	128.4	128.4	8.5	.9	.9
Coffee, instant	128.1	129.0	2.4	.4	1.1
Tea	110.1	110.4	1.9	0	.1
Carbonated drink, cola flavored	130.2	129.9	1.6	.5	.2
Carbonated drink, fruit flavored	129.9	130.4	1.3	.5	.5
Prepared and partially prepared foods	117.0	116.9	2.3	.7	.5
Bean soup, canned	117.0	116.9	.7	0	-2
Chicken soup, canned	105.2	105.0	-1.1	.5	.2
Spaghetti, canned	122.8	122.6	5.1	.2	.2
Mashed potatoes, instant	115.1	115.1	2.5	1.9	1.9
Potatoes, french fried, frozen	112.5	112.5	1.9	.6	.4
Baby foods	111.7	112.0	.3	.9	1.2
Sweet pickle relish	132.0	131.2	6.1	1.2	.9
Pretzels	117.0	117.2	1.6	.3	.3

¹ Priced only in season.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1973, and percent changes from selected dates

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1973 from:	
		February 1973	March 1973	March 1972	February 1973
Housing		132.0	132.3	3.4	0.2
Shelter ¹		137.3	137.7	3.7	.3
Rent, residential		122.1	122.6	3.9	.4
Homeownership ²		142.9	143.2	3.6	.2
Mortgage interest rates		118.1	117.8	.1	-.3
Property taxes		151.7	151.9	5.8	.1
Property insurance premiums		124.5	124.7	1.9	.2
Maintenance and repairs		145.3	146.5	5.7	.8
Maintenance and repair commodities ³		128.6	130.3	6.8	1.3
Exterior house paint		118.8	119.1	.8	.3
Interior house paint		119.3	119.2	2.5	-.1
Maintenance and repair services		152.5	153.5	5.2	.7
Repainting living and dining rooms		165.1	166.0	6.7	.5
Reshingling house roof		160.2	161.0	5.2	.5
Residing house		139.6	140.7	5.1	.8
Replacing sink		150.7	152.1	4.8	.9
Repairing furnace		158.3	158.9	4.4	.4
Fuel and utilities		124.1	124.6	4.4	.4
Fuel oil and coal		127.2	127.8	7.7	.5
Fuel oil, No. 2		125.1	125.7	7.9	.5
Gas and electricity		124.5	125.0	4.5	.4
Gas		126.6	126.7	3.7	.1
Electricity		122.6	123.4	5.3	.7
Other utilities:					
Residential telephone services		115.2	115.4	2.7	.2
Residential water and sewerage services		141.7	143.2	4.0	1.1
Household furnishing and operation ⁴		122.6	123.0	2.4	.3
Housefurnishings		117.2	117.6	1.7	.3
Textiles		115.2	115.1	1.7	-.1
Sheets		117.5	117.7	2.9	.2
Curtains, tailored		113.5	111.3	.4	-1.9
Bedspreads		113.6	113.7	3.6	.1
Drapery fabric		125.3	126.0	4.0	.6
Pillows, bed		105.7	106.0	-2.0	.3
Slipcovers, and throws, ready made		115.1	115.3	.6	.2
Furniture and bedding		121.7	122.8	1.7	.9
Bedroom furniture, chest and dresser	Mar. 70	105.4	106.9	2.2	1.4
Sofas, upholstered		120.9	121.8	1.8	.7
Cocktail tables	Dec. 71	102.1	102.4	2.9	.3
Dining room chairs	Mar. 70	104.0	106.5	2.2	2.4
Recliners, upholstered	Dec. 71	98.8	98.6	0	-.2
Sofas, dual purpose		116.5	117.4	.4	.8
Bedding, mattress and box springs	June 70	105.2	105.7	1.2	.5
Aluminum folding chairs		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Cribs		120.1	120.8	1.5	.6
Floor coverings		107.1	107.2	.8	.1
Broadloom carpeting, manmade fibers		101.6	101.6	.1	0
Vinyl sheet goods		119.8	120.3	3.1	.4
Vinyl asbestos tile		119.7	119.7	1.6	0
Appliances (excluding radio and T. V.)		109.7	109.5	-.1	-.2
Washing machines, electric, automatic		110.9	110.8	.2	-.1
Vacuum cleaners, canister type		103.8	103.8	.1	0
Refrigerators or refrigerator-freezers, electric		108.3	108.2	-.1	-.1
Ranges, free standing, gas or electric		110.9	109.8	-.6	-1.0
Clothes dryers, electric		114.0	114.2	.5	.2
Air conditioners, demountable		(⁵)	110.0	-.4	(⁵)
Room heaters, electric, portable		107.8	108.0	-.5	.2
Garbage disposal units		111.4	111.1	.1	-.3
Other housefurnishings:					
Dinnerware, fine china		128.6	128.7	5.3	.1
Flatware, stainless steel		130.8	130.9	7.8	.1
Table lamps, with shade		127.1	127.8	5.0	.6
Lawn mowers, power, rotary type		(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Electric drills, hand-held		105.9	106.6	1.2	.7
Housekeeping supplies:					
Laundry soaps and detergents		111.7	112.2	.9	.4
Paper napkins		137.2	137.4	6.6	.1
Toilet tissue		126.2	126.6	1.2	.3
Housekeeping services:					
Domestic services, general housework		142.2	143.8	5.0	1.1
Babysitter services		139.4	140.7	4.4	.9
Postal charges		146.6	146.6	0	0
Laundry, flatwork, finished service		143.8	144.6	5.5	.6
Licensed day care services, preschool child		126.1	126.4	5.1	.2
Washing machine repairs		144.9	146.2	5.3	.9

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1973 from:	
		February 1973	March 1973	March 1972	February 1973
Apparel and upkeep ⁶		123.6	124.8	2.9	1.0
Apparel commodities		123.8	125.2	3.0	1.1
Apparel commodities less footwear		123.1	124.5	2.6	1.1
Men's and boys'		123.3	124.6	3.6	1.1
Men's:					
Topcoats, wool or all-weather coats, polyester blends		126.6	130.0	9.0	2.7
Suits, year round weight		129.2	131.7	3.2	1.9
Suits, tropical weight	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Jackets, lightweight		116.0	116.8	1.6	.7
Slacks, wool or wool blends	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Slacks, cotton or manmade blends		141.8	141.7	3.1	-.1
Trousers, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		116.7	117.1	2.4	.3
Shirts, work, cotton or polyester/cotton		116.7	118.0	3.1	1.1
Shirts, business, polyester/cotton		111.0	111.3	-1.0	.3
T-shirts, chiefly cotton		118.9	119.0	1.0	.1
Socks, cotton or manmade fibers		116.3	116.6	.3	.3
Handkerchiefs, cotton or polyester/cotton or cotton		118.4	119.4	2.8	.8
Boys':					
Coats, all purpose, cotton or cotton blends		123.3	122.0	8.6	-1.1
Sport coats, wool or wool blends	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Dungarees, cotton or cotton blends		131.1	131.6	3.8	.4
Undershorts, cotton		121.2	121.2	.6	0
Women's and girls'		123.3	125.1	2.1	1.5
Women's:					
Coats, heavyweight, wool or wool blends	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Carcoats, heavyweight, cotton	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Sweaters, wool or acrylic	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Skirts, wool, wool blend or manmade fibers	119.1	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Skirts, cotton or polyester/cotton	127.6	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Blouses, cotton or manmade fibers	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Dresses, street, chiefly manmade fiber	125.5	124.8	2.1	-.6	
Slips, nylon	132.4	133.6	2.5	.9	
Panties, acetate or nylon tricot	110.9	111.0	.5	.1	
Girdles, manmade blend	118.7	118.9	2.1	.2	
Brassieres, nylon lace	117.8	117.9	.4	.1	
Hose or panty hose, nylon seamless	121.6	123.2	1.3	1.3	
Anklets, or knee-length socks, various fibers	94.4	95.3	-2.3	1.0	
Gloves, fabric, nylon or cotton	114.3	114.7	-1.2	.3	
Handbags, rayon faille or plastic	111.6	111.0	.6	-.5	
Handbags, plastic	146.4	145.3	2.7	-.8	
Girls':					
Raincoats, vinyl, cotton, or polyester blends	109.8	114.3	-2.1	4.1	
Skirts, wool, wool blends or acrylic	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	
Dresses, cotton, manmade fibers or blends	123.4	124.9	4.8	1.2	
Slacks, cotton or chiefly cotton	138.7	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)	
Slips, polyester blends	109.4	109.0	-2.8	-.4	
Handbags, plastic	123.5	126.2	-2.0	2.2	
Miscellaneous apparel:					
Diapers, cotton gauze of disposable	117.1	117.9	4.2	.7	
Yard goods, polyester blend	118.7	119.8	.8	.9	
Wrist watches, men's and women's	118.0	117.9	3.1	-.1	
Footwear		127.6	128.7	4.2	.9
Men's:					
Shoes, street	129.1	130.4	7.2	1.0	
Shoes, work, high	129.4	130.3	7.4	.7	
Women's:					
Shoes, street, pump	127.0	128.9	3.5	1.5	
Shoes, evening, pump	123.3	123.8	2.0	.4	
Shoes, casual	126.8	128.3	2.2	1.2	
Houseslippers, scuff	126.7	126.9	2.2	.2	
Children's:					
Shoes, oxford	130.1	131.3	5.4	.9	
Sneakers, boys', oxford type	124.8	125.3	2.5	.4	
Dress shoes, girls', strap or pump	132.9	134.3	4.4	1.1	
Apparel services:					
Drycleaning, men's suits and women's dresses	119.3	119.5	1.8	.2	
Automatic laundry service	115.8	116.4	1.9	.5	
Laundry, men's shirts	126.5	126.9	5.0	.3	
Tailoring charges, hem adjustment	135.7	136.2	3.1	.4	
Shoe repairs, women's heel lift	119.6	120.1	5.4	.4	

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967=100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1973 from:	
		February 1973	March 1973	March 1972	February 1973
Transportation -----		121.1	121.5	2.6	0.3
Private -----		118.7	119.1	2.8	.3
Automobiles, new -----		111.0	110.8	- .8	-.2
Automobiles, used -----		112.4	113.7	9.4	1.2
Gasoline, regular and premium -----		111.4	112.0	5.6	.5
Motor oil, premium -----		125.3	125.8	2.5	.4
Tires, new, tubeless -----		112.9	112.1	-3.9	-.7
Auto repairs and maintenance ⁸ -----		139.3	140.1	4.6	.6
Auto insurance rates -----		138.2	138.1	-1.8	-.1
Auto registration -----		123.0	123.6	-2.8	-.5
Parking fees, private and municipal -----		150.6	150.9	9.1	.2
Public -----		144.3	144.5	1.5	.1
Local transit fares -----		150.5	150.7	1.5	.1
Taxicab fares -----		135.6	135.7	2.1	.1
Railroad fares, coach -----		122.2	122.3	-3.6	.1
Airplane fares, chiefly coach -----		132.1	132.1	1.9	0
Bus fares, intercity -----		144.0	144.6	5.1	.4
Health and recreation -----		128.1	128.6	2.9	.4
Medical care -----		135.3	135.8	3.3	.4
Drugs and prescriptions -----		105.8	105.6	.1	-.2
Over-the-counter items -----		111.8	112.5	1.2	.3
Multiple vitamin concentrates -----		93.6	94.5	- .6	1.0
Aspirin compounds -----		118.2	118.4	3.0	.2
Liquid tonics -----		101.2	101.1	- .1	-.1
Cold tablets or capsules -----		114.1	114.4	.8	.3
Adhesive bandages, packages -----		125.1	125.4	1.2	.2
Cough syrup -----		114.7	115.1	1.9	.3
Prescriptions -----		100.8	100.2	- .9	-.6
Anti-infectives -----		72.9	71.3	-7.0	-2.2
Sedatives and hypnotics -----		123.1	128.2	2.5	.1
Ataractics -----		103.7	103.7	.0	0
Antispasmodics -----		108.0	107.6	- .2	-.4
Cough preparations -----		134.6	135.1	5.1	.4
Cardiovasculars and antihypertensives -----		112.4	112.4	.5	0
Analgesics, internal -----		110.6	110.8	.5	.2
Anti-obesity -----		117.7	116.3	-1.0	-1.2
Hormones -----		92.8	91.5	-2.5	-1.4
Professional services: -----					
Physicians fees -----		136.1	136.7	2.9	.4
General physician, office visits -----		137.1	137.9	2.9	.6
General physician, house visits -----		139.5	140.7	3.8	.9
Obstetrical cases -----		136.2	136.8	3.0	.4
Pediatric care, office visits -----		138.7	139.2	2.7	.4
Psychiatrists, office visits -----		132.6	132.9	3.4	.2
Herniorrhaphy, adult -----		129.9	130.6	2.5	.5
Tonsillectomy and adenoidectomy -----		130.9	131.1	1.5	.2
Dentists' fees -----		134.4	134.7	2.8	.2
Fillings, adult, amalgam, one surface -----		136.8	137.0	3.6	.1
Extractions, adult -----		133.3	133.7	2.1	.3
Dentures, full upper -----		130.8	131.1	2.2	.2
Other professional services: -----					
Examination, prescription, and dispensing of -----					
eyeglasses -----		126.7	127.2	2.6	.4
Routine laboratory tests, urinalysis -----		121.6	121.1	1.4	-.4
Hospital service charges -----	Jan. 72	104.1	104.6	3.4	.5
Semiprivate rooms -----		178.9	180.1	4.6	.7
Operating room charges -----		175.6	177.3	6.9	1.0
X-ray, diagnostic series, upper G. I. -----		130.8	130.9	1.8	.1
Laboratory tests, urinalysis -----	Jan. 72	102.8	103.0	1.6	.2
Anti-infectives, tetracycline, HCL -----	Jan. 72	98.3	98.2	-1.8	-.1
Tranquilizers, chlordiazepoxide, HCL and -----					
meprobate -----	Jan. 72	102.4	102.4	2.5	0
Electrocardiogram -----	Jan. 72	104.1	104.4	1.9	.3
Intravenous solution, saline -----	Jan. 72	103.3	103.6	2.2	.3
Physical therapy, whirlpool bath -----	Jan. 72	103.6	104.0	3.3	.4
Oxygen, inhalation therapy -----	Jan. 72	102.1	103.1	1.6	1.0
Personal care -----		122.4	123.1	3.7	.6
Toilet goods -----		118.2	118.7	2.5	.4
Toothpaste, standard dentifrice -----		109.1	110.1	.5	.9
Toilet soap, hard milled -----		123.1	124.7	3.0	1.3
Hand lotions, liquid -----		127.5	127.0	2.6	-.4
Shaving cream, aerosol -----		108.2	107.8	.6	-.4
Face powder, pressed -----		140.4	140.4	12.2	0
Deodorants, aerosol -----		104.2	104.4	-1.1	.2
Cleansing tissues -----		123.2	125.3	1.5	1.7
Home permanent wave kits -----		109.9	110.1	-.4	.2
Personal care services -----		126.8	127.6	4.8	.6
Men's haircuts -----		128.6	129.1	3.9	.4
Beauty shop services -----		125.5	126.6	5.6	.9
Women's haircuts -----		128.5	130.3	8.1	1.4
Shampoo and wave sets, plain -----		129.0	130.3	5.5	1.0
Permanent waves, cold -----		114.9	115.0	2.9	.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 8. Consumer Price Index—United States city average for urban wage earners and clerical workers, indexes for selected items and groups, March 1973, and percent changes from selected dates—Continued

(1967= 100)

Item and group	Other index base	Indexes		Percent change to March 1973 from:	
		February 1973	March 1973	March 1972	February 1973
Health and recreation—Continued					
Reading and recreation¹					
Recreational goods					
TV sets, portable and console		124.3	124.5	2.3	0.2
TV replacement tubes		108.0	108.2	.6	.2
Radio, portable and table model		98.5	98.5	-1.5	0
Tape recorders, portable		134.2	134.2	4.2	0
Phonograph records, stereophonic		92.6	92.1	-1.3	.2
Movie cameras, super 8, zoom lens		92.6	108.4	1.7	-.5
Film, 35mm, color		88.2	88.5	-1.3	.2
Golf balls, liquid center or solid core		108.2	108.2	-.1	.3
Basketballs, rubber or vinyl cover		105.3	105.2	-.2	0
Fishing rods, fresh-water spincasting		126.9	126.5	.2	-.1
Bowling balls		107.6	108.6	1.2	-.3
Bicycles, boys'		115.0	115.0	1.6	-.9
Tricycles		118.2	119.0	3.6	0
Dog food, canned or boxed		114.1	114.4	.9	.7
Recreational services		111.1	112.5	1.9	.3
Indoor movie admissions		130.1	130.4	2.4	1.3
Adult		143.4	144.7	4.0	.2
Children's		141.8	143.1	3.5	.9
Drive-in movie admissions, adult		147.7	149.0	5.1	.9
Bowling fees, evening		148.1	147.9	2.9	-.1
Golf green fees		122.7	122.9	3.2	.2
TV repair, color picture tube replacement		(⁴)	(⁵)	(⁵)	(⁵)
Film developing, color		99.1	99.2	.9	.1
Reading and education:		115.8	115.9	-1.9	.1
Newspapers, street sale and delivery		133.6	133.6	2.1	0
Magazines, single copy and subscription		134.1	134.1	7.4	0
Piano lessons, beginner		125.5	125.6	2.9	.1
Other goods and services					
Tobacco products					
Cigarettes, nonfilter tip, regular size		127.1	127.6	2.4	.4
Cigarettes, filter tip, king size		134.5	135.5	2.3	.7
Cigars, domestic, regular size		136.3	137.3	2.7	.7
Alcoholic beverages		136.5	137.6	2.1	.8
Beer		111.3	111.6	.9	.3
Whiskey, spirit blended and straight bourbon		121.2	121.3	2.0	.1
Wine, dessert and table		114.8	114.9	.9	.1
Beer, away from home		109.1	109.2	4.6	.1
Financial and miscellaneous personal expenses:		129.3	130.0	3.3	.5
Funeral services, adult		133.8	133.8	3.6	0
Bank service charges, checking account		123.4	124.1	2.9	.6
Legal services, short form will		106.5	106.5	-1.6	0
		155.7	157.1	10.7	.9

¹ Also includes hotel and motel rates not shown separately.
² Also includes home purchase costs not shown separately.
³ Also includes pine shelving, furnace filters, packaged dry cement mix, and shrubbery not shown separately.
⁴ Also includes venetian blinds, nails, carpet sweepers, air deodorizers, steel wool scouring pads, envelopes, reupholstering, and moving expenses.
⁵ Priced only in season.
⁶ Also includes men's sport shirts, women's and girls' lightweight coats, women's slacks, bathing suits, girls' shorts, earrings, and zippers not shown separately.
⁷ Also includes storage batteries and drivers' license fees not shown separately.
⁸ Includes price for water pump replacement, motor tune-up, automatic transmission repair, exhaust system repair, front-end alignment, and chassis lubrication.
⁹ Also includes outboard motors, nondurable toys, college tuition fees, paperback books, and college textbooks, not shown separately.

Table 9. Consumer Price Index—United States average and areas grouped by size of population¹ for urban wage earners and clerical workers, all items and major groups, March 1973, and percent changes from selected dates

Area and group	Relative importance ² December 1972	Indexes (1967=100)		Percent change to March 1973 from—		
		March 1973	December 1972	December 1972	March 1972	
United States:						
All items -----	100.000	129.8	127.3	124.0	2.0	4.7
Food -----	22.492	134.5	126.0	122.4	6.7	9.9
Housing -----	33.859	132.3	131.2	127.9	.8	3.4
Apparel and upkeep -----	10.370	124.8	125.0	121.3	-.2	2.9
Transportation -----	13.134	121.5	121.3	118.4	.2	2.6
Health and recreation -----	19.768	128.6	127.5	125.0	.9	2.9
Class A-1 (3.5 million or more):						
All items -----	32.754	132.4	129.6	126.3	2.2	4.8
Food -----	7.606	136.3	128.0	124.4	6.5	9.6
Housing -----	10.914	135.0	133.8	129.9	.9	3.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	3.470	124.8	123.8	121.6	.8	2.6
Transportation -----	4.272	127.3	127.3	124.1	0	2.6
Health and recreation -----	6.492	131.0	129.7	126.8	1.0	3.3
Class A-2 (1.4 million to 3.5 million):						
All items -----	11.815	130.0	127.6	124.2	1.9	4.7
Food -----	2.684	134.3	125.8	121.9	6.8	10.2
Housing -----	4.030	132.2	131.2	127.5	.8	3.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.228	125.0	125.4	122.2	-.3	2.3
Transportation -----	1.534	122.5	122.5	119.6	0	2.4
Health and recreation -----	2.339	129.0	128.1	125.3	.7	3.0
Class B (250,000 to 1.4 million):						
All items -----	25.705	129.2	126.7	123.4	2.0	4.7
Food -----	5.513	133.8	125.3	121.6	6.8	10.0
Housing -----	8.909	131.9	130.8	127.9	.8	3.1
Apparel and upkeep -----	2.647	126.2	126.4	121.1	-.2	4.2
Transportation -----	3.490	119.0	118.8	115.5	.2	3.0
Health and recreation -----	5.146	128.4	127.3	124.9	.9	2.8
Class C (50,000 to 250,000):						
All items -----	12.442	128.2	125.7	122.6	2.0	4.6
Food -----	2.796	133.5	124.6	121.4	7.1	10.0
Housing -----	4.219	130.8	129.6	126.1	.9	3.7
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.314	124.5	126.2	120.6	-1.3	3.2
Transportation -----	1.644	117.4	117.2	115.3	.2	1.8
Health and recreation -----	2.469	127.2	126.6	124.2	.5	2.4
Class D (2,500 to 50,000):						
All items -----	16.907	127.0	124.7	121.9	1.8	4.2
Food -----	3.892	132.8	124.5	120.8	6.7	9.9
Housing -----	5.788	129.2	128.2	125.5	.8	2.9
Apparel and upkeep -----	1.711	122.4	123.8	120.6	-1.1	1.5
Transportation -----	2.194	117.5	117.3	114.7	.2	2.4
Health and recreation -----	3.322	125.4	124.4	122.7	.8	2.2

¹ Based upon 1960 Census of Population.

² These relative importance data include the 0.38 percent weight for personal financing charges, other than mortgage interest and auto financing charges, which is imputed from priced items.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

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

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

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

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

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

A Note 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 changes, holidays, and sales.

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

Reliability of Percent Changes in the CPI

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

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.

Average standard errors of percent changes in the CPI based on 1971 data

Component	Standard error		
	Monthly change	Quarterly change	Annual change
All items . . . . .	.03	.05	.08
Food at home . . . . .	.07	.10	.12
Food away from home . . . . .	.08	.15	.30
Housing . . . . .	.05	.08	.16
Apparel and upkeep . . . . .	.19	.31	.26
Transportation . . . . .	.09	.16	.20
Medical care . . . . .	.06	.10	.17
Personal care . . . . .	.11	.19	.34
Reading and recreation . . . . .	.06	.10	.16
Other goods and services . . . . .	.08	.14	.32

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

This replaces the table of average errors based on 1971 data which was included in the CPI report through December 1972.

annual percent changes in the CPI for all items and for nine commodity groupings based on 1971 averages. The figures may be interpreted as follows: The chances

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

A Note About Calculating Index Changes

Percent changes expressed as annual rates 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.

Movements of the indexes from 1 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 following example illustrates the computation of index point and percent changes:

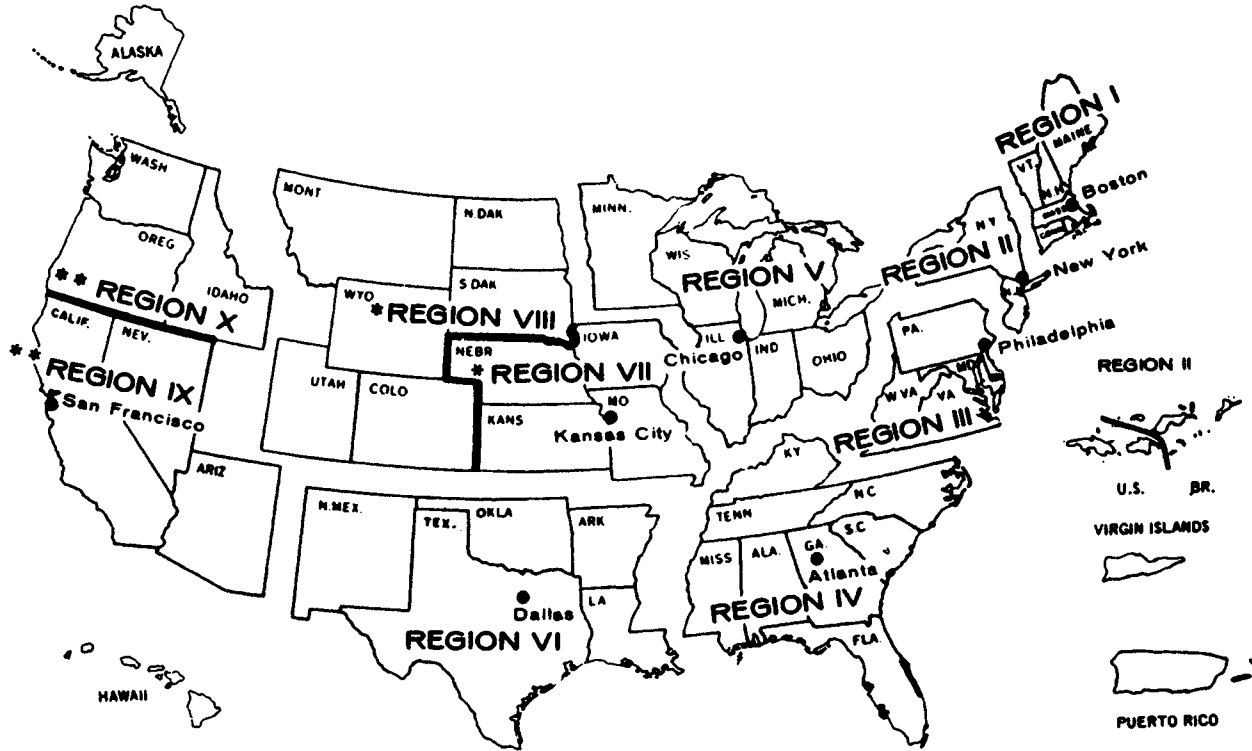
$$\begin{array}{r} \text{CPI} \qquad \qquad \qquad 123.8 \\ \text{less previous index} \qquad \underline{123.2} \\ \text{index point difference} = \qquad \qquad 0.6 \end{array}$$

Index point difference divided by the index for the previous period:

$$\frac{123.8 - 123.2}{123.2} \times 100 = 0.5$$

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.

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