The original documents are located in Box 40, folder "Weekly Briefing Notes, 5/17/1976" of the William J. Baroody Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

THE VICE PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON

May 20, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL BAROODY

Attached is this week's copy of the *Weekly Briefing Notes*.

Nelson

WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOR CALENDER YEAR 1976

May 17, 1976

FREQUENCY LEGEND: W=Weekly; M=Monthly; Q=Quarterly; A=Annual; O=Other

Table of Contents-Continued

Section B-General Social Indicators

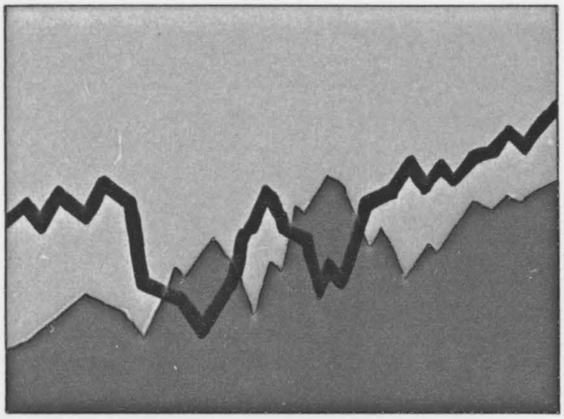
Table of Contents-Continued

SECTION C-Government Activity

Table of Contents-Continued

SECTION D-Environment, Science, Culture

SECTION E-Selected Subjects



WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTES ON U.S. DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

Prepared for the President and the Vice President

MAY 17, 1976

COMPILED BY THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

Coordinated by the Bureau of the Census
at the request of the Statistical Policy Division,
Office of Management and Budget

Vincent P. Barabba, Director
Bureau of the Census

Joseph W. Duncan,
Deputy Associate Director
for Statistical Policy
Office of Management and Budget

SOURCES OF DATA

Average Workweek
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Earnings Statistics for the United States"

Hourly Earnings of Production Workers
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Earnings Statistics for the United States"

Retail Sales
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Monthly Retail Trade Report"

Manufacturing and Trade Sales and Inventories
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Survey of Current Business"

Housing Construction
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Construction Reports," Series C

Consumer Credit
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Statistical Release G.19, "Consumer Credit"

Voter Participation
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Population Characteristics, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1974," Series P-20, No. 293

The data on which this Chartbook is based come from a variety of survey and other sources. Data from sample surveys are subject to sampling error, and the data from all sources are subject to possible nonsampling error due to nonresponse, reporting, and analysis error. The tables and charts are believed to be useful within the limits of such errors.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

SERIES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	QUARTERLY	ANNUAL	OTHER
SECTION B—General Social Indicators (Continued)					
B.3.5 Health Care Delivery					
— Physician and Dental Visits				X	
— Costs and Expenditures				X	
— Facilities				X	
— Personnel				X	
— Attitudes Towards Health Care					X
Part 4—Education					
B.4.1 Educational Achievement by Sex, Race, Socioeconomic Status, Region					
— Math, Science, Reading, Writing					X
— Music, Art, Literature, Citizenship					X
B.4.2 Attainment					
— High School Graduation Rate				X	
— The High School-Educated Population by Race and Sex				X	
— College-Educated Population by Race and Sex				X	
B.4.3 School Enrollment					
— Primary and Secondary School				X	
— Preprimary by Age, Race, Income				X	
— Modal Age Enrollment by Sex, Race				X	
— High School Students Expecting to go to College					X
— College Entrance Rates by Sex, Race, Socioeconomic Status					X
— College Enrollment				X	
— Participation in Adult Education					X
B.4.4 Educational Facilities and Personnel					
— Schools, Classrooms				X	
— Teachers, Administrative, Others				X	
B.4.5 Costs and Expenditures					
— Expected Student Expenses, Higher Education					X
— Expenditures by Level of Government				X	
Part 5—Work					
B.5.1 Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment					
— Labor Force Participation, Selected Characteristics				X	
— Part-time, Part-year Workers, Selected Characteristics				X	
— Employment by Occupation, Selected Characteristics				X	
— Unemployment, Selected Characteristics		X		X	
— Discouraged Workers			X		
— Labor Union Membership				X	
B.5.2 Earnings					
— Median Earnings, Selected Characteristics				X	

TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

SERIES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	QUARTERLY	ANNUAL	OTHER
SECTION B—Socioeconomic Series (Continued)					
B.7.2 Home Tenure					
— Single Family Dwellings				X	
— Mobile Homes				X	
— Condominiums and Other Multiunit Structures				X	
— Vacation Homes				X	
B.7.3 Cost and Expenditures					
— Average Mortgage Payments				X	
— Upkeep and Maintenance				X	
— Average Rental Payments				X	
B.7.4 Attitudes Towards Housing and the Community					X
Part 8—Leisure and Recreation					
B.8.1 Use of Leisure Time					X
B.8.2 Recreation					
— Outdoor (Social, Active Sports, etc.)					X
— Indoor (Television, Visiting, Other)				X	X
Part 9—Public Safety					
B.9.1 Crimes Known to Police					
— Violent			X	X	
— Property			X	X	
B.9.2 Victims of Crime, Selected Characteristics					
— Violent				X	
— Property				X	
B.9.3 Fear of Crime, Selected Characteristics					X
B.9.4 Police Activity					
— Persons Arrested by Charge				X	
— Offenses Cleared				X	
B.9.5 Judicial Activity					
— Persons Sentenced for Federal Crimes				X	
B.9.6 Prisoners, Adults and Juveniles					
— Prisoners by Sentence				X	
— Average Length of Sentence				X	
— Persons Executed and Sentenced to Death				X	
— Average Prison Population				X	
B.9.7 Expenditures for Administration of Criminal Justice				X	
B.9.8 Selected Studies					

TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

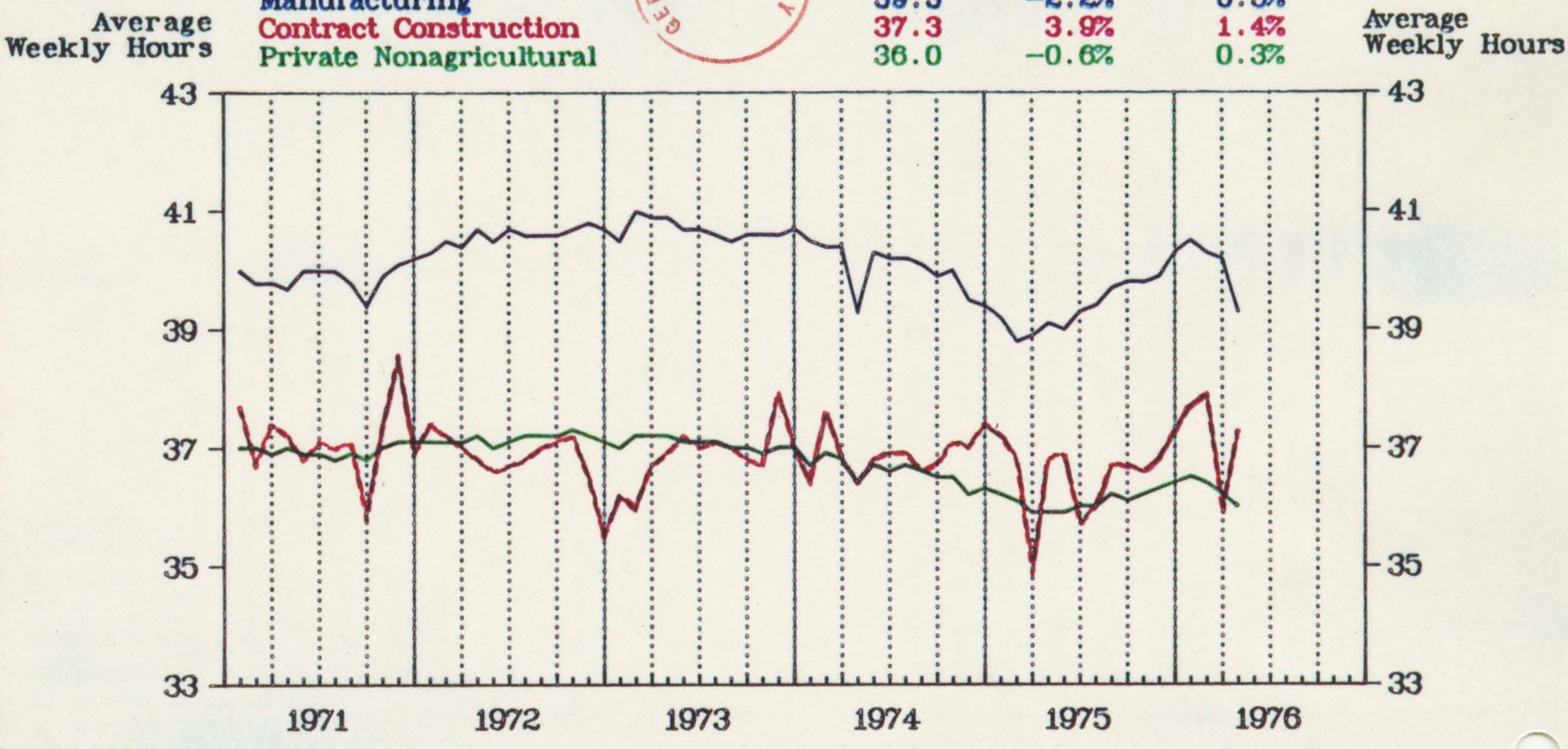
TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

SERIES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	QUARTERLY	ANNUAL	OTHER
SECTION D—Environment, Science, Culture					
D.2.4 Public Attitudes Towards Science and Technology				X	
Part 3—Culture					
D.3.1 Persons Employed in Artistic Professions					
— By Type					X
D.3.2 Children's Skill and Appreciation of Literature Arts, Music					X
D.3.3 Participation in Cultural Activities					
— Voluntary Organizations					X
— Travel				X	
— Hobbies, Sports, Music, etc.				X	
D.3.4 Attendance at Cultural Events					
— Plays, Galleries, Motion Pictures				X	
— Concerts, Museums, etc.				X	
SECTION E—Selected Subjects					

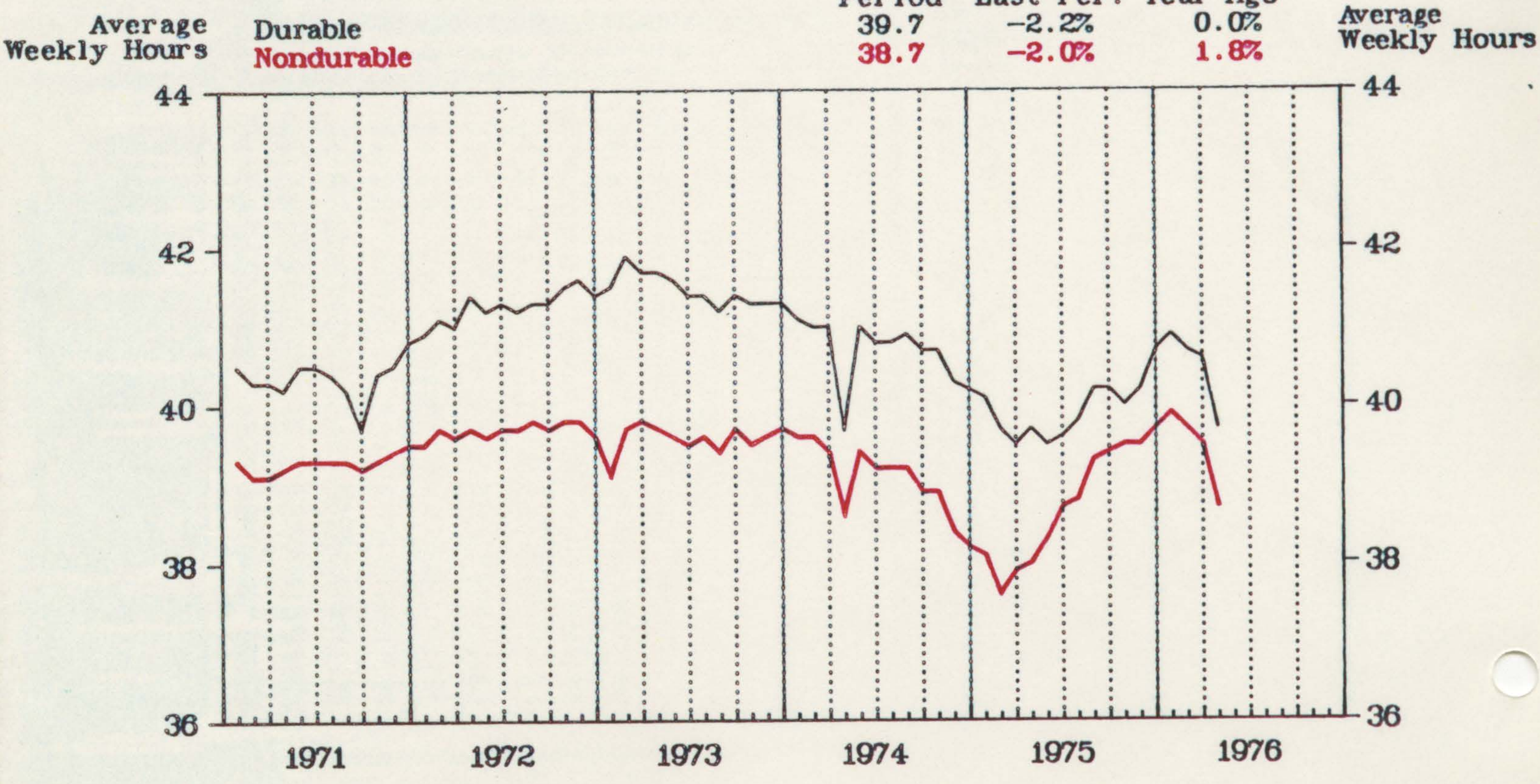
A.3.1—Average Workweek

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Manufacturing	39.3	-2.2%	0.5%
Contract Construction	37.3	3.9%	1.4%
Private Nonagricultural	36.0	-0.6%	0.3%



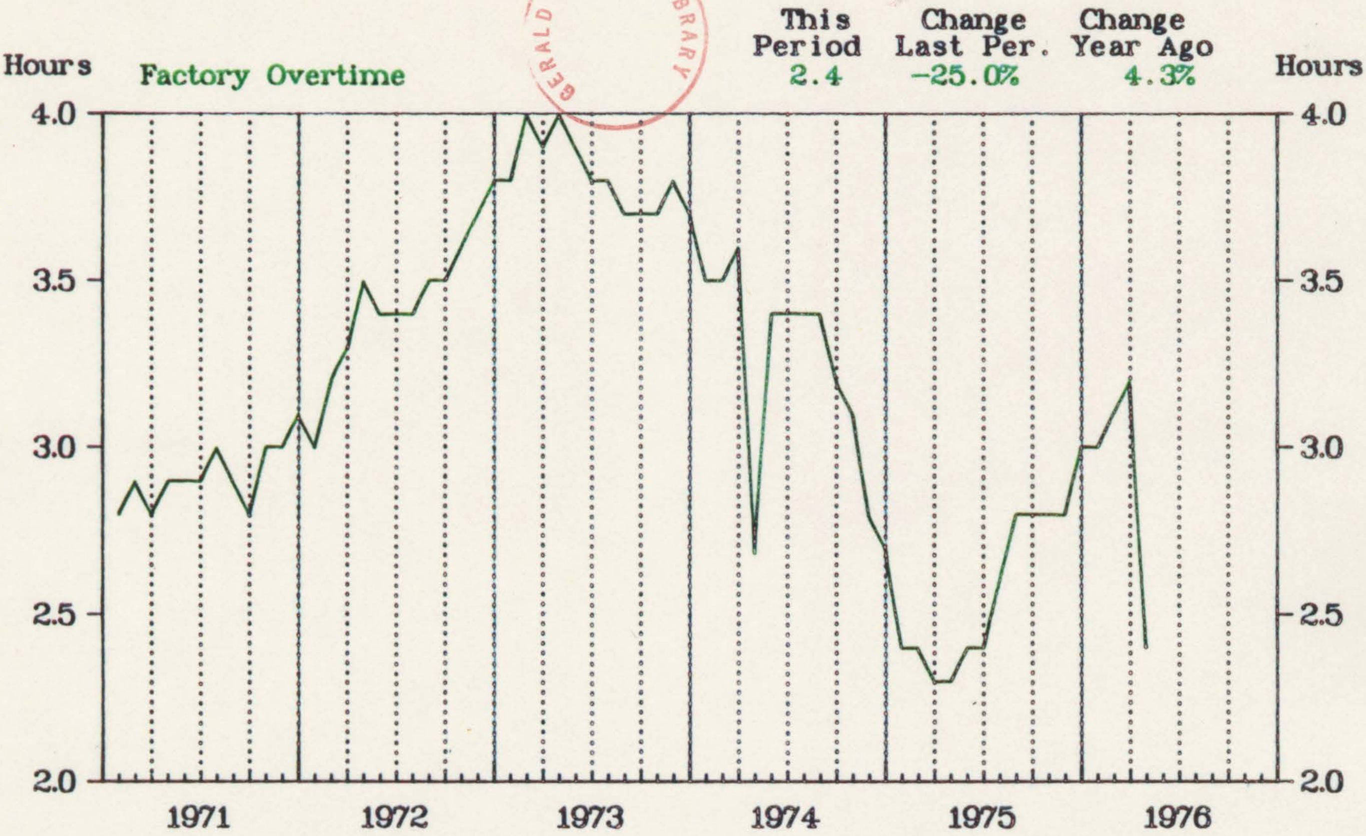
Components of Manufacturing

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Durable	39.7	-2.2%	0.0%
Nondurable	38.7	-2.0%	1.8%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
17 May 1976

A.3.1—Average Overtime in Manufacturing

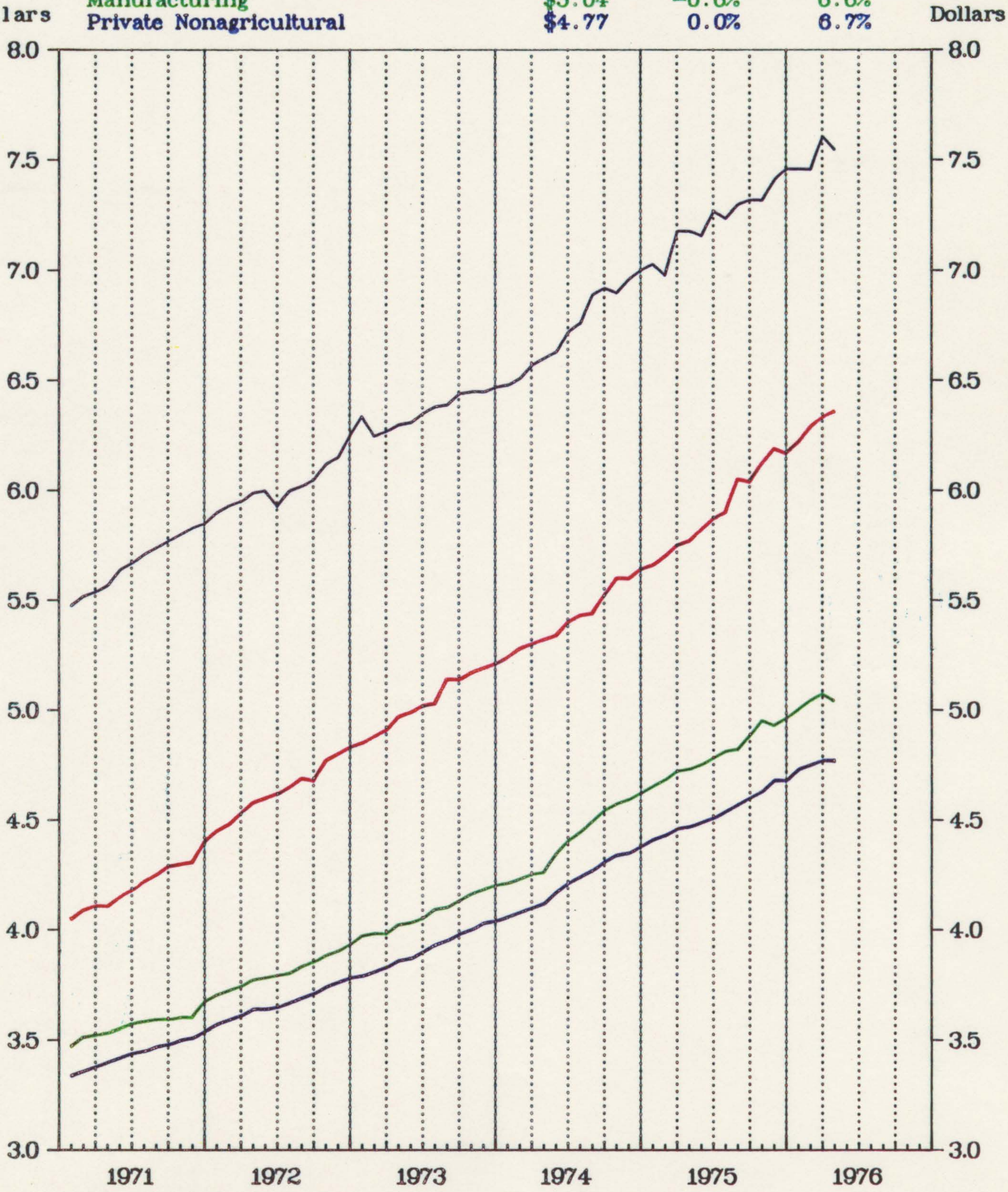


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
17 May 1976

- The Average Workweek for all production and nonsupervisory workers dropped by 0.2 hour in April to 36.0 hours.
  - The Manufacturing Workweek led the decline, dropping 0.9 hour, the largest drop in the average workweek since April 1974.
    - Both Durable and Nondurable Goods industries declined; 0.9 and 0.8 hours, respectively.
    - Most of the drop was in overtime hours (factory overtime declined 25 percent to 2.4 hours).
    - The declines in the Manufacturing Workweek were the direct result of Easter and Passover observances during the survey week.
- Contract Construction jumped 1.4 hours in April to 37.3 hours.

A.3.2–Average Hourly Earnings of Production Workers

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Construction	$7.55	−0.8%	5.2%
Transportation and Public Utilities	$6.36	0.5%	10.2%
Manufacturing	$5.04	−0.6%	6.6%
Private Nonagricultural	$4.77	0.0%	6.7%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
17 May 1976

- Average Hourly Earnings for Production and Nonsupervisory workers remained unchanged in April at $4.77.

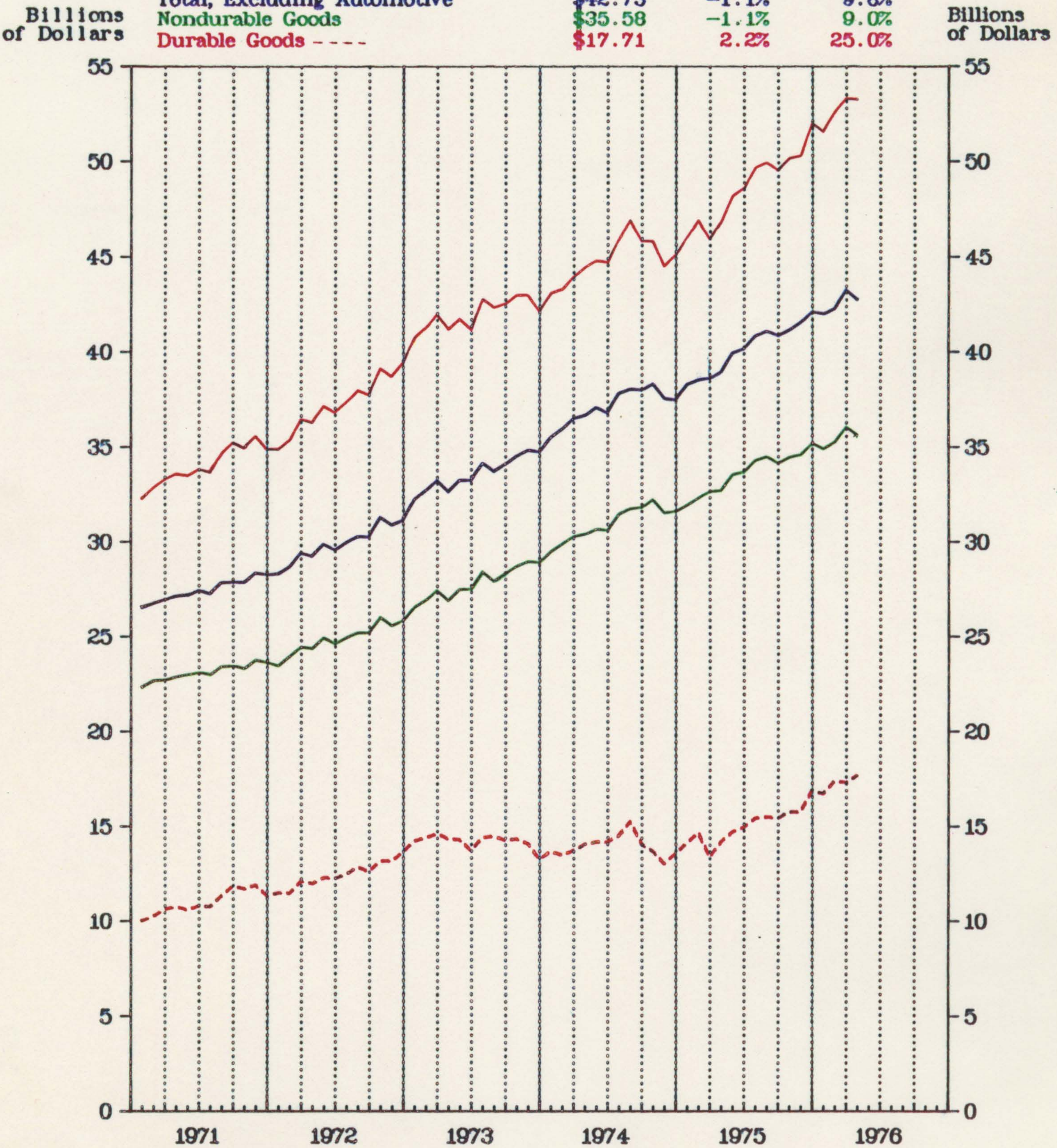
  - The strongest gain--3 cents--was reported by Transportation.

  - Construction reported the largest decline, down 6 cents to $7.55 after recording an all-time high of $7.61 in March.

  - Manufacturing dropped 3 cents to $5.04.

A.4.6—Monthly Retail Sales
April Advance

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Retail Sales, Total	$53.29	0.0%	13.8%
Total, Excluding Automotive	$42.73	−1.1%	9.8%
Nondurable Goods	$35.58	−1.1%	9.0%
Durable Goods ----	$17.71	2.2%	25.0%



Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

- Advance data for April indicate that:

- Total Retail Sales remained unchanged at $53.29 billion.

    - Since last April, Total Sales have increased 13.8 percent. The Consumer Price Index rose only 6.0 percent, indicating that the gain represents a substantial rise in the physical volume of sales.

- Following a 0.4-percent decline in March, the Durable Goods sector rose 2.2 percent ($382 million); reflecting a 4.8-percent boost in auto sales.

- A $398 million decline in sales of Nondurable Goods offset the Durable Goods rise.

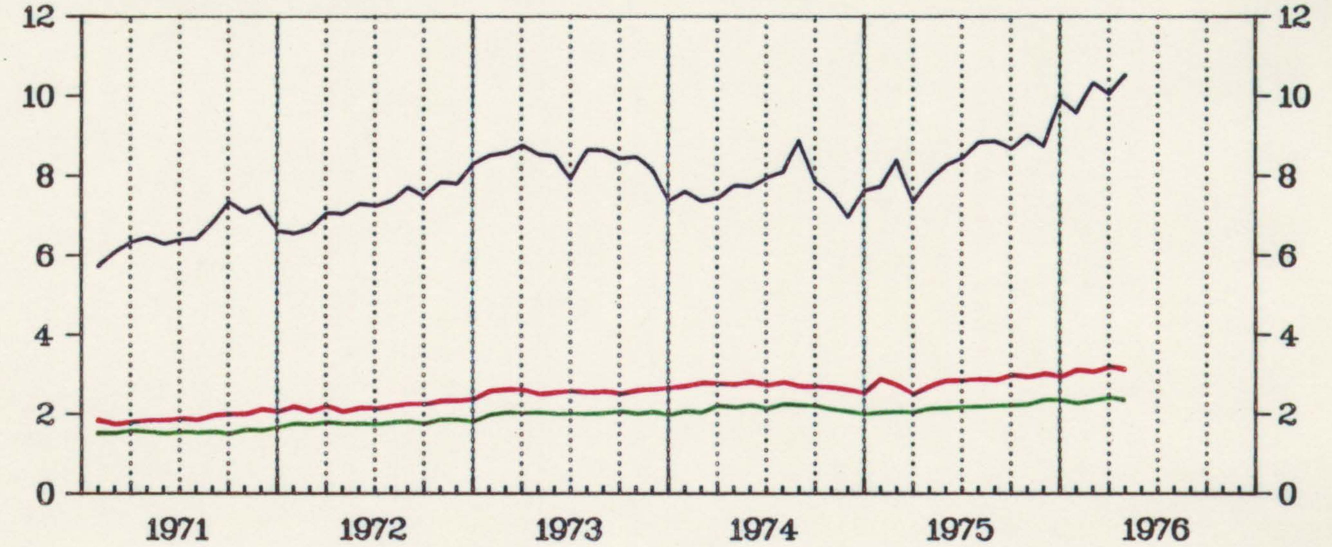
A.4.6—Monthly Retail Sales

Components of Durable Goods
April Advance

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Automotive Dealers	$10.56	4.8%	33.6%
Bldg. Materials, Hardware, & Farm Equip. Dealers, Total	$3.14	-1.8%	16.1%
Furniture & Home Furnishings & Equipment, Total	$2.35	-2.5%	10.1%

Billions of Dollars

Billions of Dollars

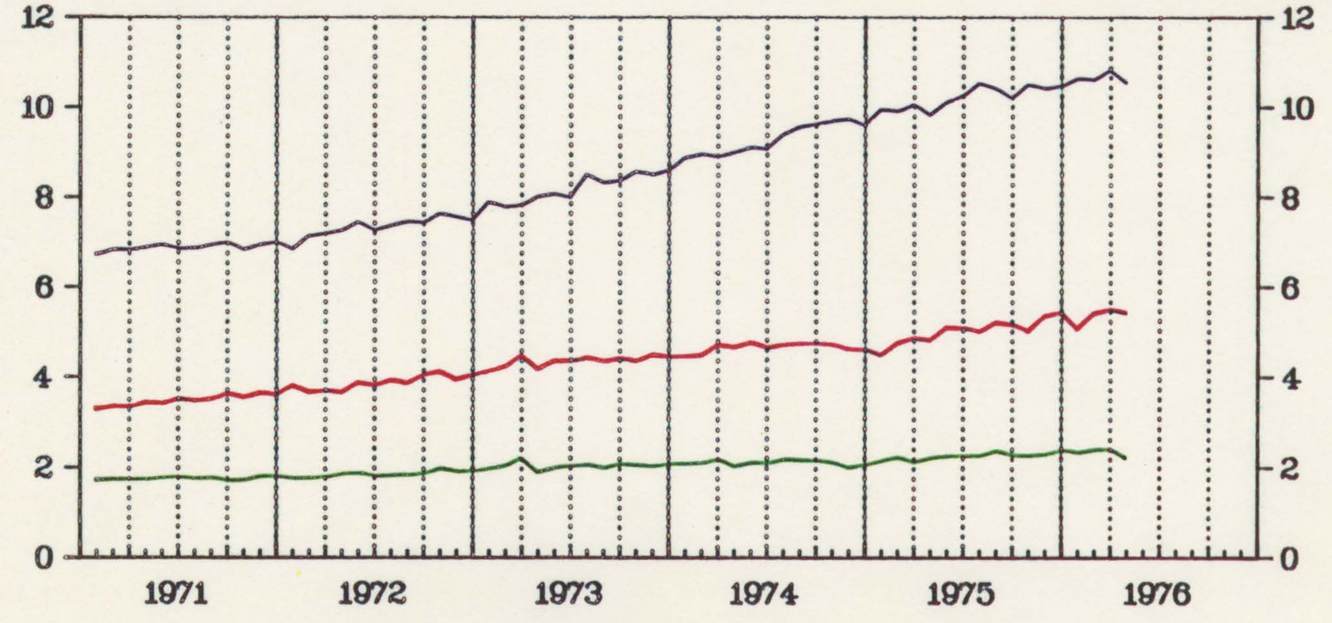


Components of Nondurable Goods

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Grocery Stores	$10.56	-2.4%	7.3%
Department Stores	$5.44	-1.0%	12.7%
Apparel and Accessory Stores, Total	$2.19	-7.5%	0.6%

Billions of Dollars

Billions of Dollars



Source: Bureau of the Census

17 May 1976

DURABLE GOODS

- Recovering from a 2.6-percent decline in March, auto sales rose 4.8 percent. Automotive Dealers reported an increase of $481 million to a new high of $10.56 billion, which represents a 33.6-percent increase over April a year ago.

- Declines in sales of other Durable Goods were partially offsetting.

  - Building Materials, Hardware, and Farm Equipment Dealers reported a 1.8-percent decline ($56 million).

  - Sales of Furniture, Home Furnishings, and Equipment declined for the first time in 3 months, down 2.5 percent or $59 million.

NONDURABLE GOODS

- The largest dollar decline was reported in Grocery Store sales, which fell $263 million (2.4 percent) from the March high of $10.82 billion.

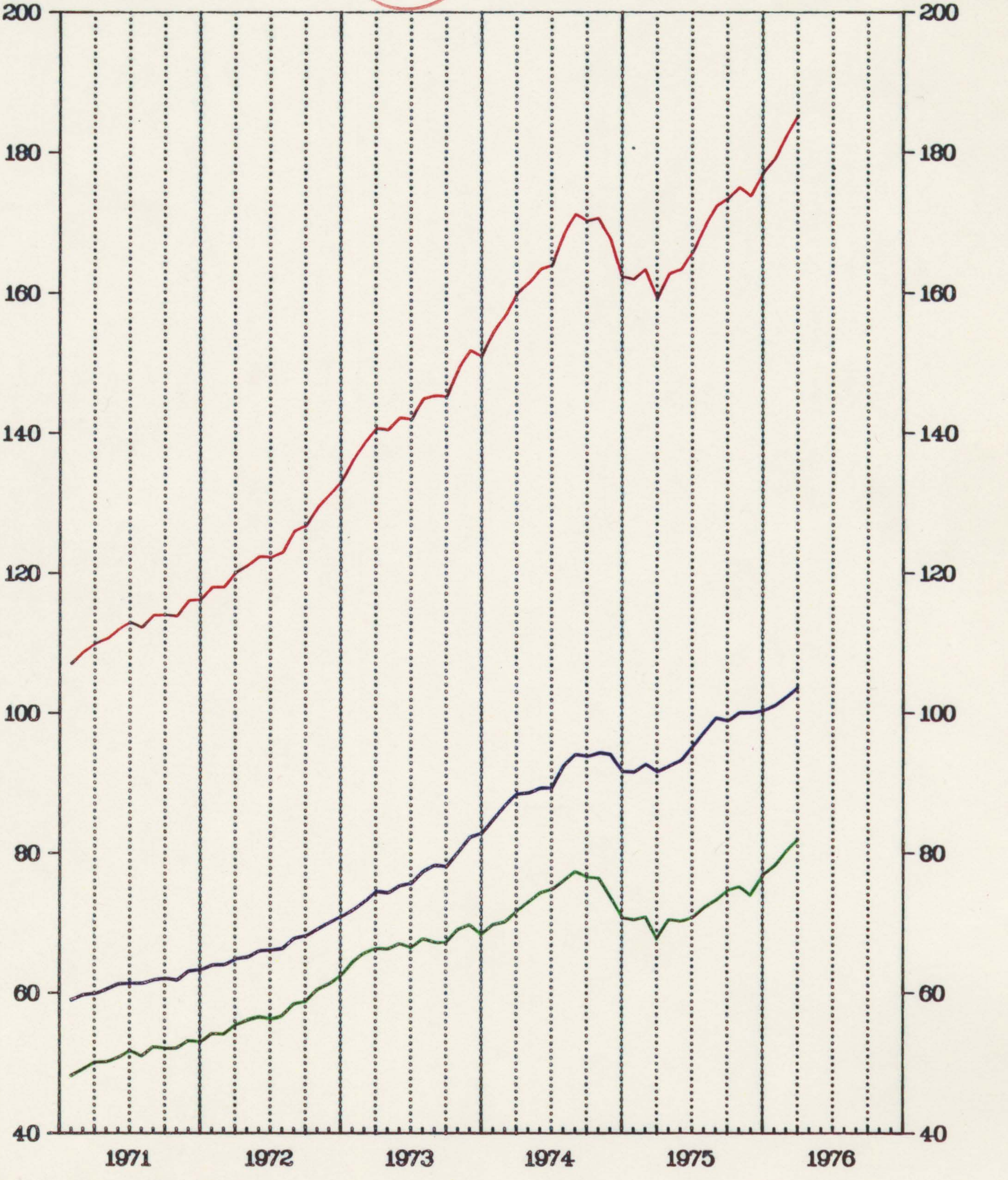
- Apparel and Accessory Stores posted the steepest percentage decline, down 7.5 percent ($179 million) after remaining basically unchanged in March. It was the first decline since January.

- Department Store sales declined 1.0 percent ($54 million) following increases totaling 8.2 percent in February and March.

A.4.8–Manufacturing and Trade Sales

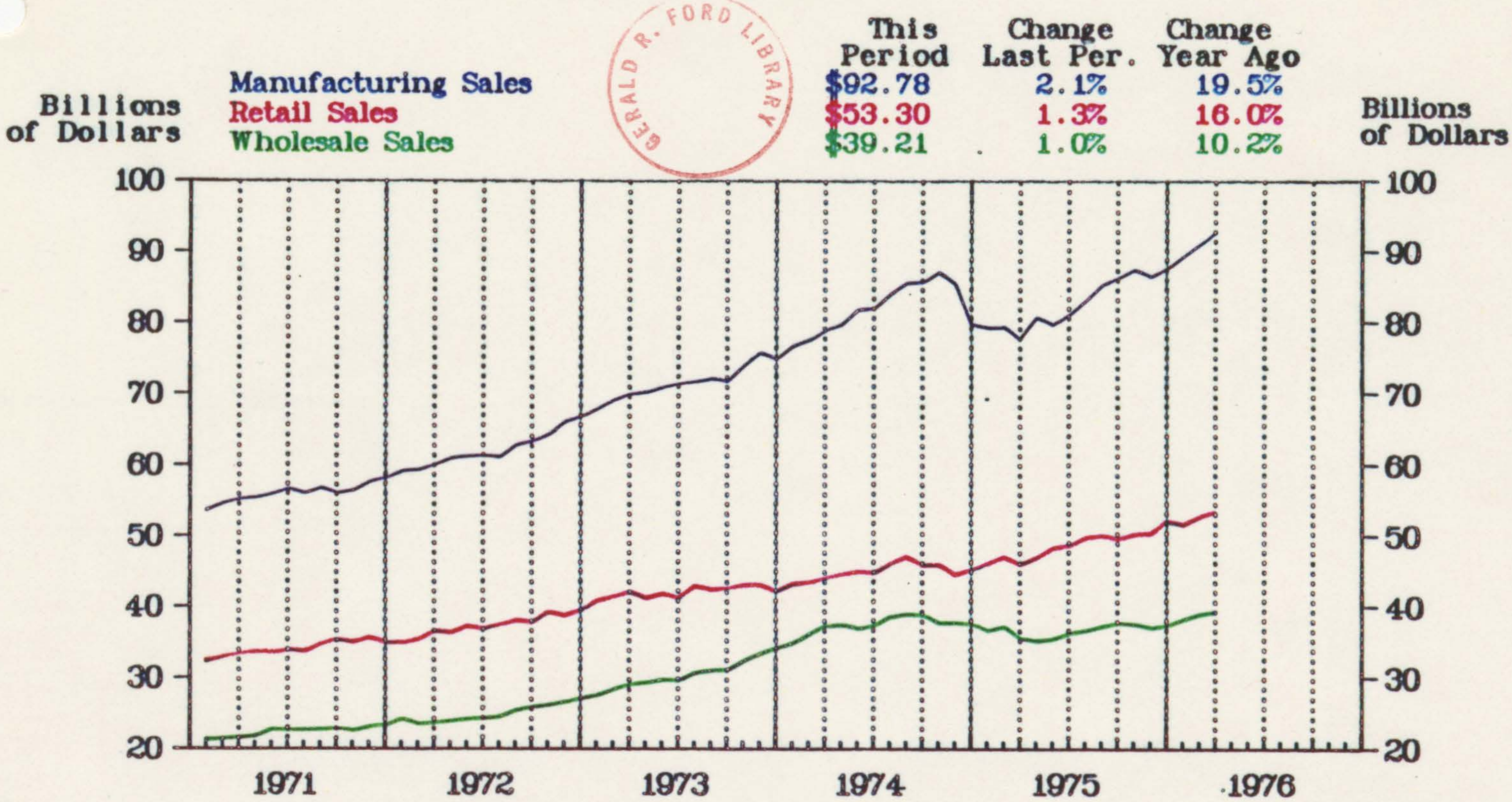
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Sales	$185.30	1.6%	16.4%
Nondurable Sales	$103.53	1.3%	13.1%
Durable Sales	$81.77	2.0%	20.9%

Billions of Dollars



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
17 May 1976

A.4.8–Manufacturing and Trade Sales
By Industry Group



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
17 May 1976

- Total Manufacturing and Trade Sales rose 1.6 percent ($2.97 billion) in March, compared to an upward-revised 1.8-percent gain in February.
    - Reflecting a sharp upturn in Sales of Durable Goods, Total Sales have climbed 4.7 percent in the first quarter of 1976.

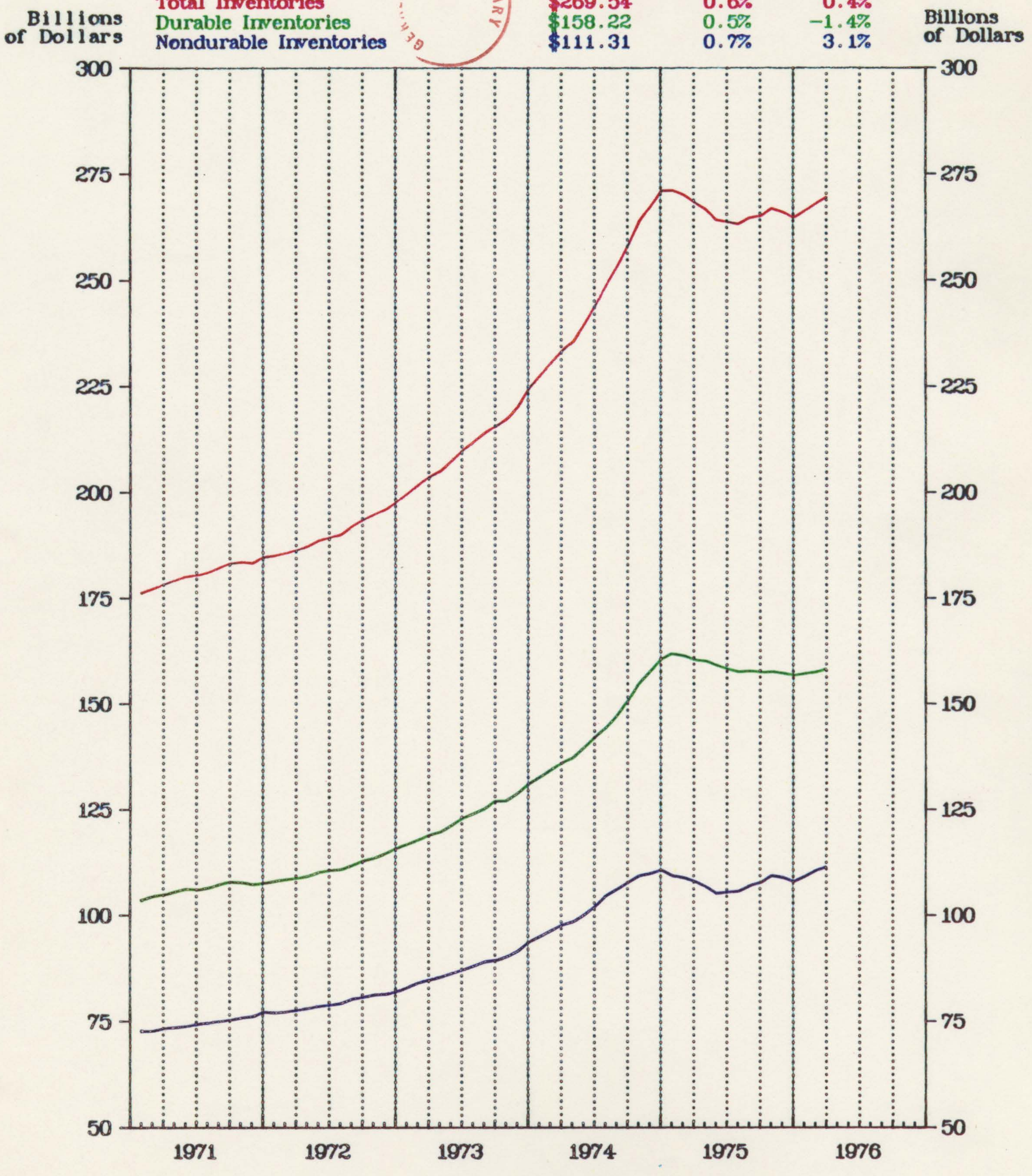
- Following a 2.7-percent increase in February, Sales of Durable Goods rose a further 2.0 percent in March to a new high of $81.77 billion.

- Nondurable Sales increased 1.3 percent compared to a 1.2-percent gain in February.

- Although gains were reported by all industry groups, almost two-thirds of the March gain was recorded in Manufacturing.
    - Manufacturing Sales rose 2.1 percent, or $1.87 billion in March, compared to a 1.8-percent gain in February.

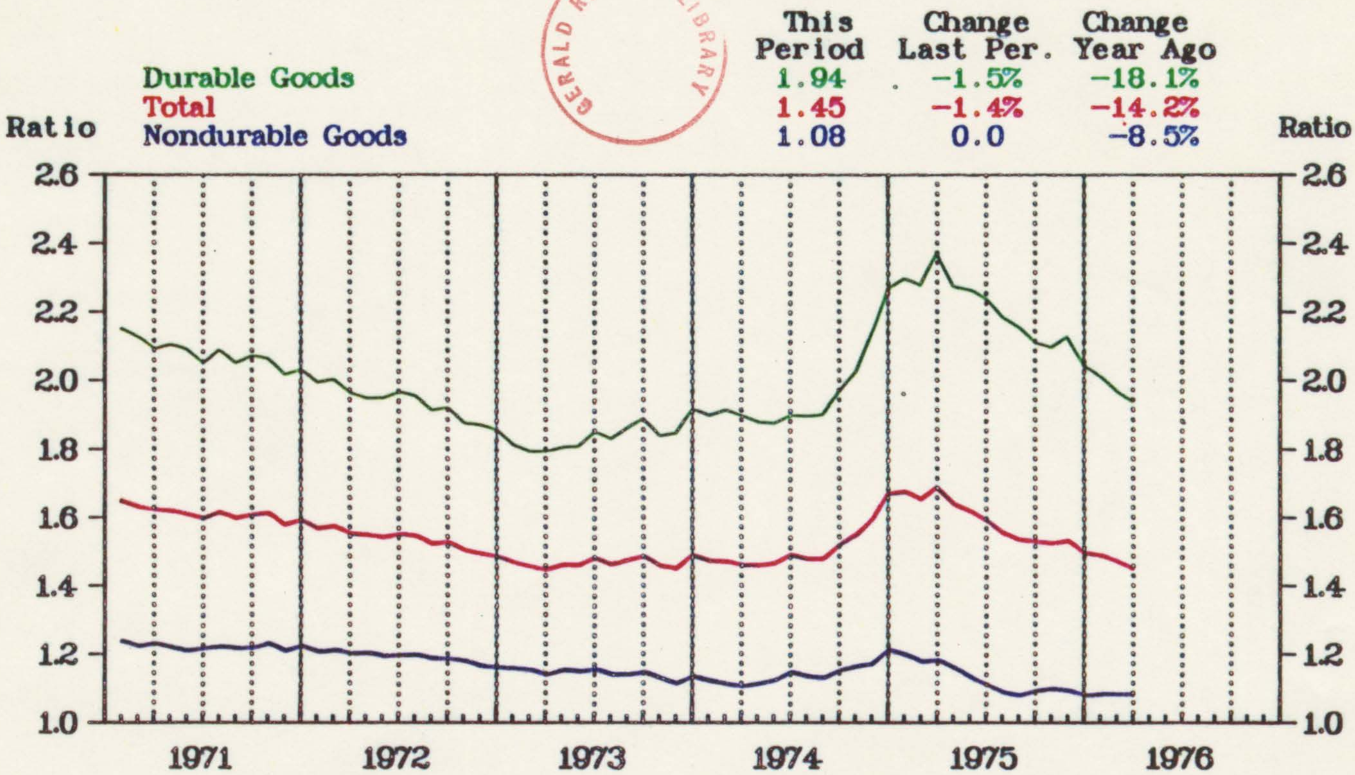
A.4.8–Manufacturing and Trade Inventories

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Inventories	$269.54	0.6%	0.4%
Durable Inventories	$158.22	0.5%	-1.4%
Nondurable Inventories	$111.31	0.7%	3.1%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
17 May 1976

A.4.8—Manufacturing and Trade Inventory to Sales Ratio



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
17 May 1976

- Total Manufacturing and Trade Inventories rose for the third consecutive month in March; up a further 0.6 percent ($1.56 billion) for a total gain of 1.8 percent in the first quarter of 1976.
    - Inventories were valued at $269.54 billion in March; only 0.6 percent below the January 1975 high of $271.15 billion.

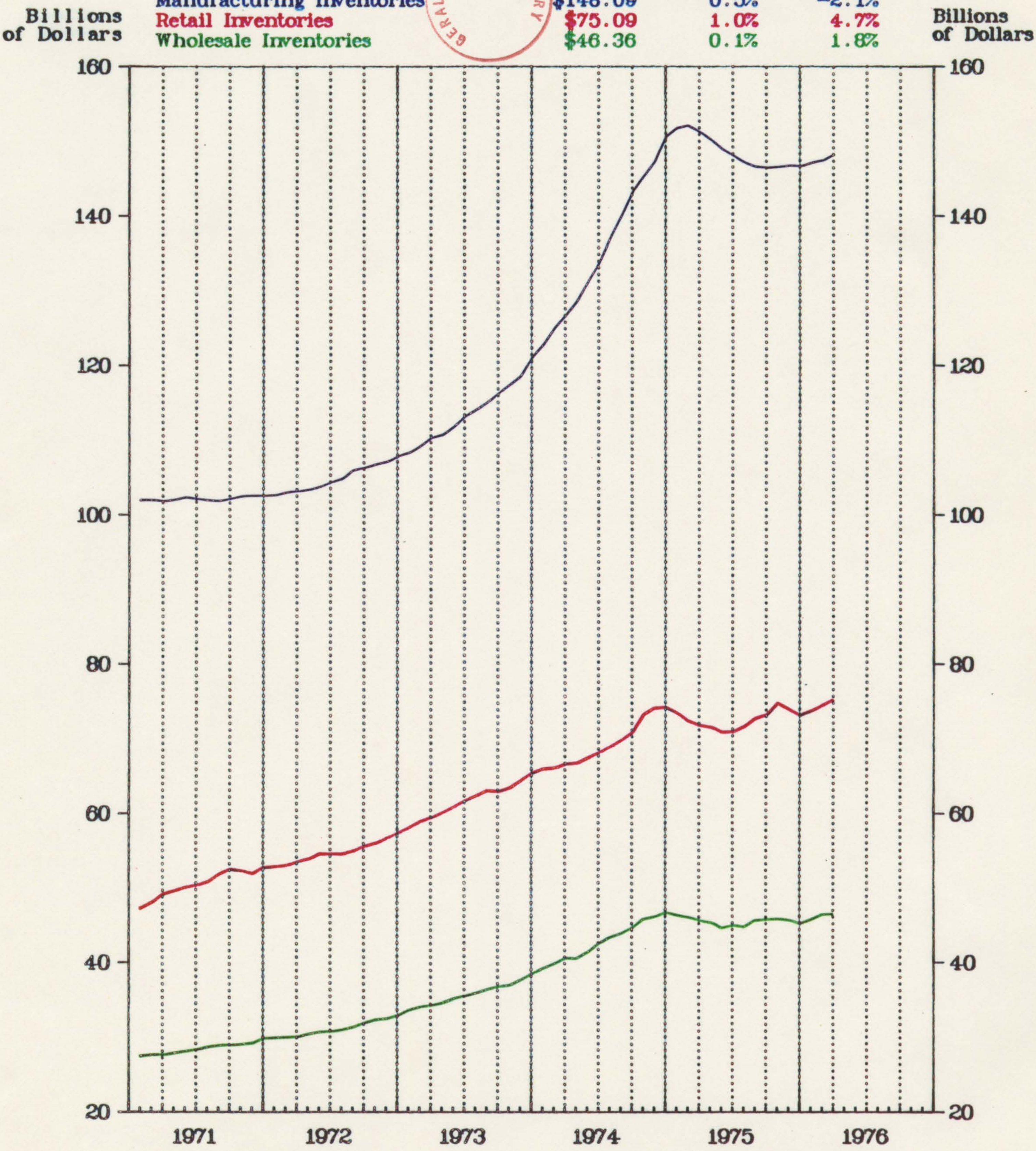
- Durable Inventories rose 0.5 percent or $730 million.

- Nondurable Inventories rose 0.7 percent, or $828 million to $111.31 billion, eclipsing the previous high established in December 1974.

- Sales continued to outpace Inventories resulting in a further decline in the Total Stock-to-Sales Ratio, down 1.4 percent to 1.45, the lowest level since November 1973.
    - The Durable Goods ratio declined to 1.94, the lowest level in 19 months; the Nondurable Goods ratio has remained stable at 1.08 for the last 3 months.

A.4.8–Manufacturing and Trade Inventories
By Industry Group

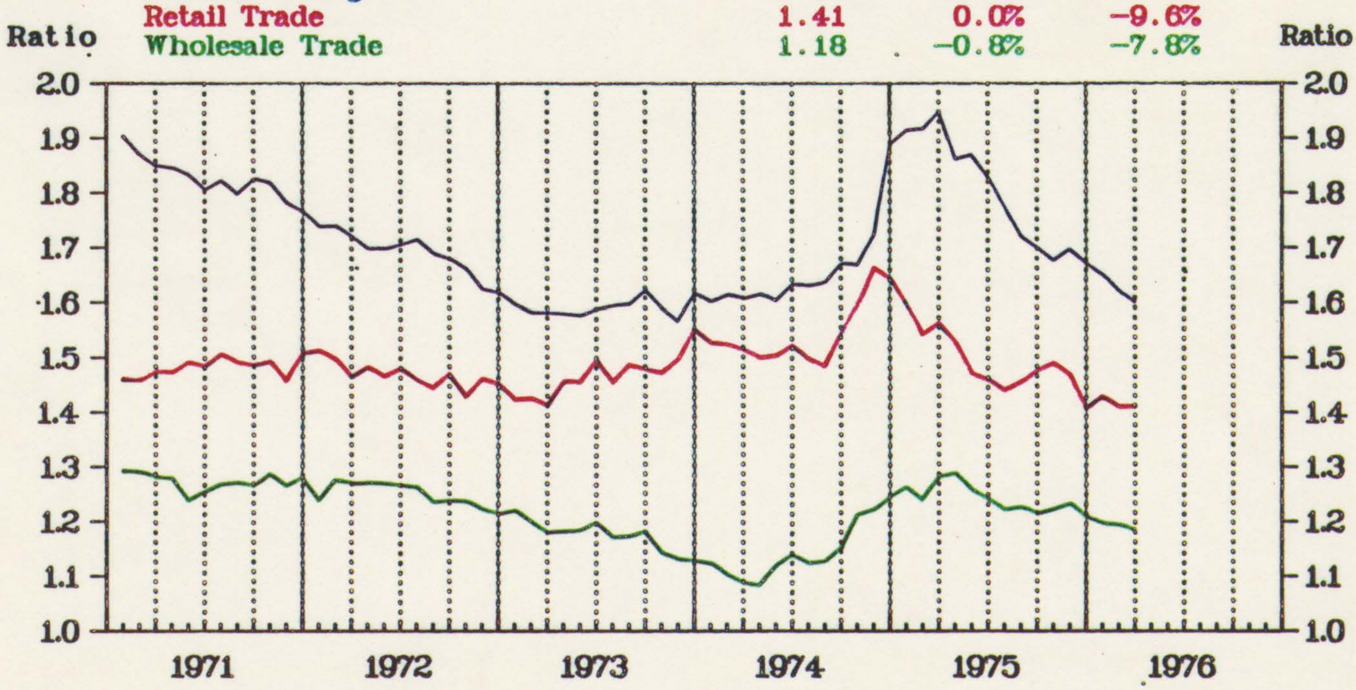
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Manufacturing Inventories	$148.09	0.5%	-2.1%
Retail Inventories	$75.09	1.0%	4.7%
Wholesale Inventories	$46.36	0.1%	1.8%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
17 May 1976

A.4.8—Inventory to Sales Ratio By Industry Group

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Manufacturing	1.60	-1.2%	-17.9%
Retail Trade	1.41	0.0%	-9.6%
Wholesale Trade	1.18	-0.8%	-7.8%

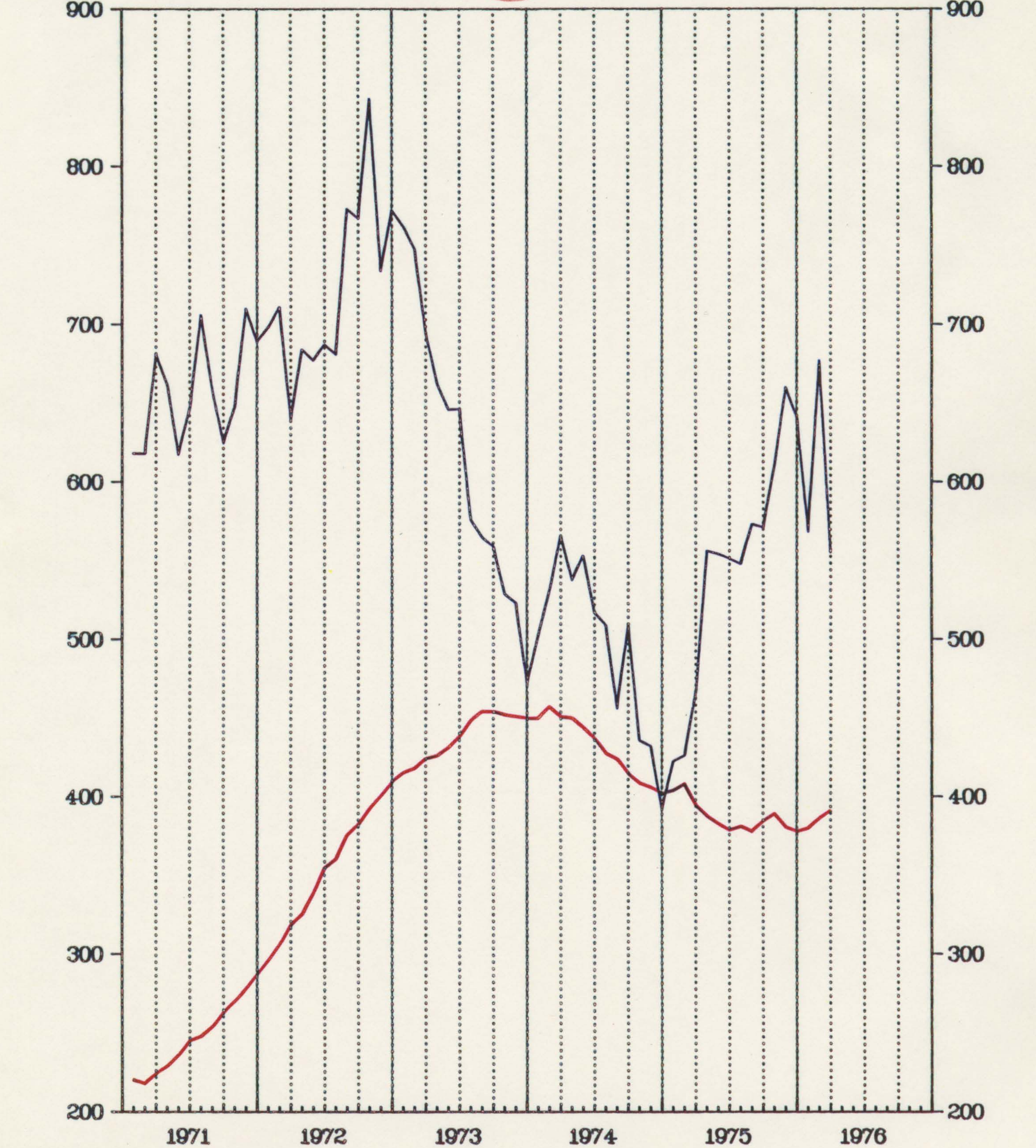


Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
17 May 1976

- The March increase in inventories was nearly equally shared by increases in Manufacturing and Retail Inventories.
    - Manufacturing Inventories were up $762 million, the largest dollar increase since January 1975 when inventories rose $1.22 billion.
    - Retail Inventories rose $745 million or 1.0 percent to a new high of $75.09 billion.
        - Third consecutive increase for a total gain of 2.7 percent in the first quarter.
- The Manufacturing Stock-to-Sales Ratio declined to 1.60, the lowest level since May 1974.
- The Ratio of Wholesale Inventories to Sales edged down to 1.18; and the Retail Ratio was unchanged from February at 1.41.

A.7.1–Sales of New One–Family Homes

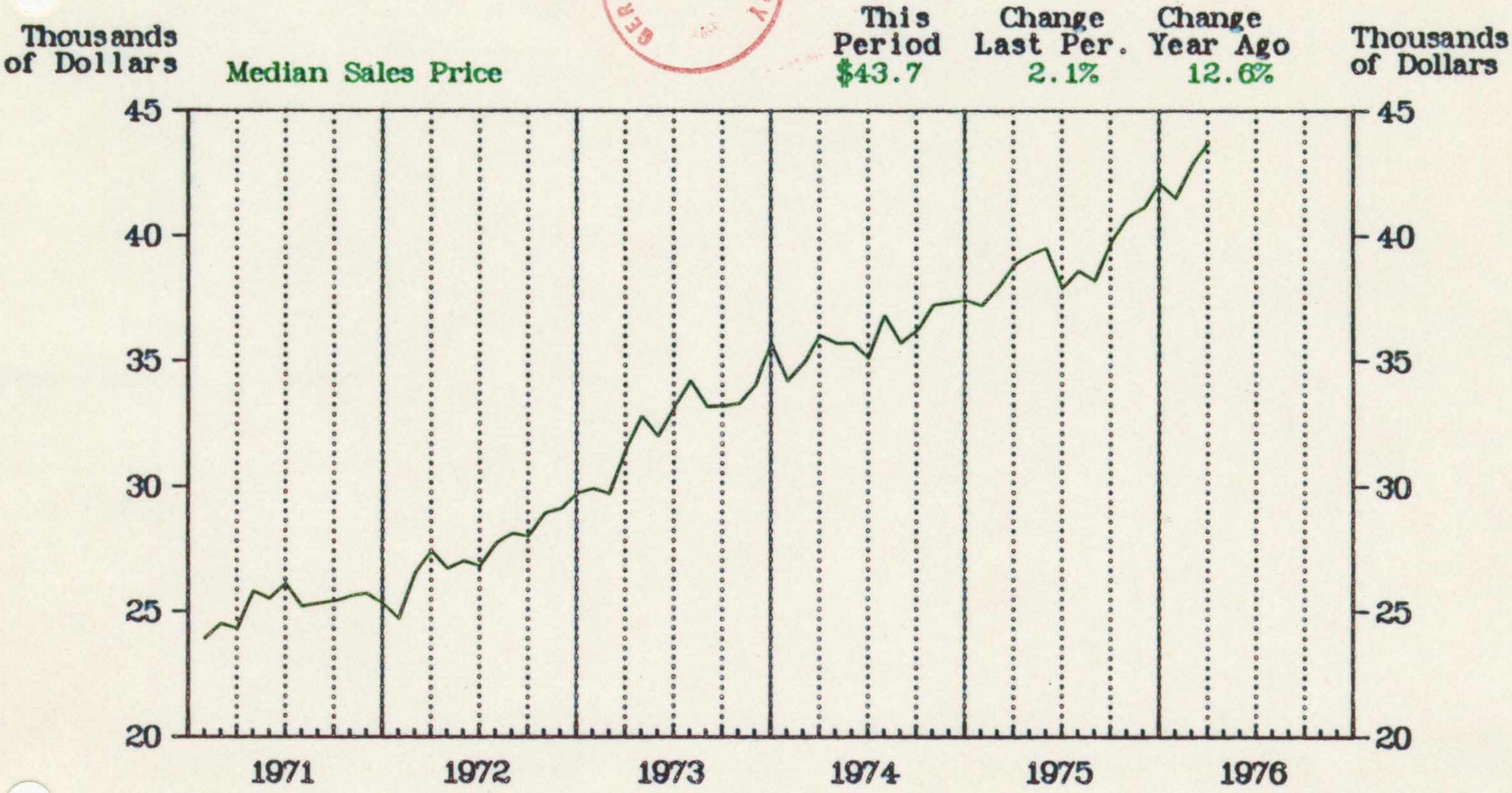
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Homes Sold (Annual Rates)	555	−18.0%	19.1%
Homes for Sale (End of Month)	391	1.3%	−1.0%



Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

A.7.1—Prices of New One-Family Homes

Not Seasonally Adjusted

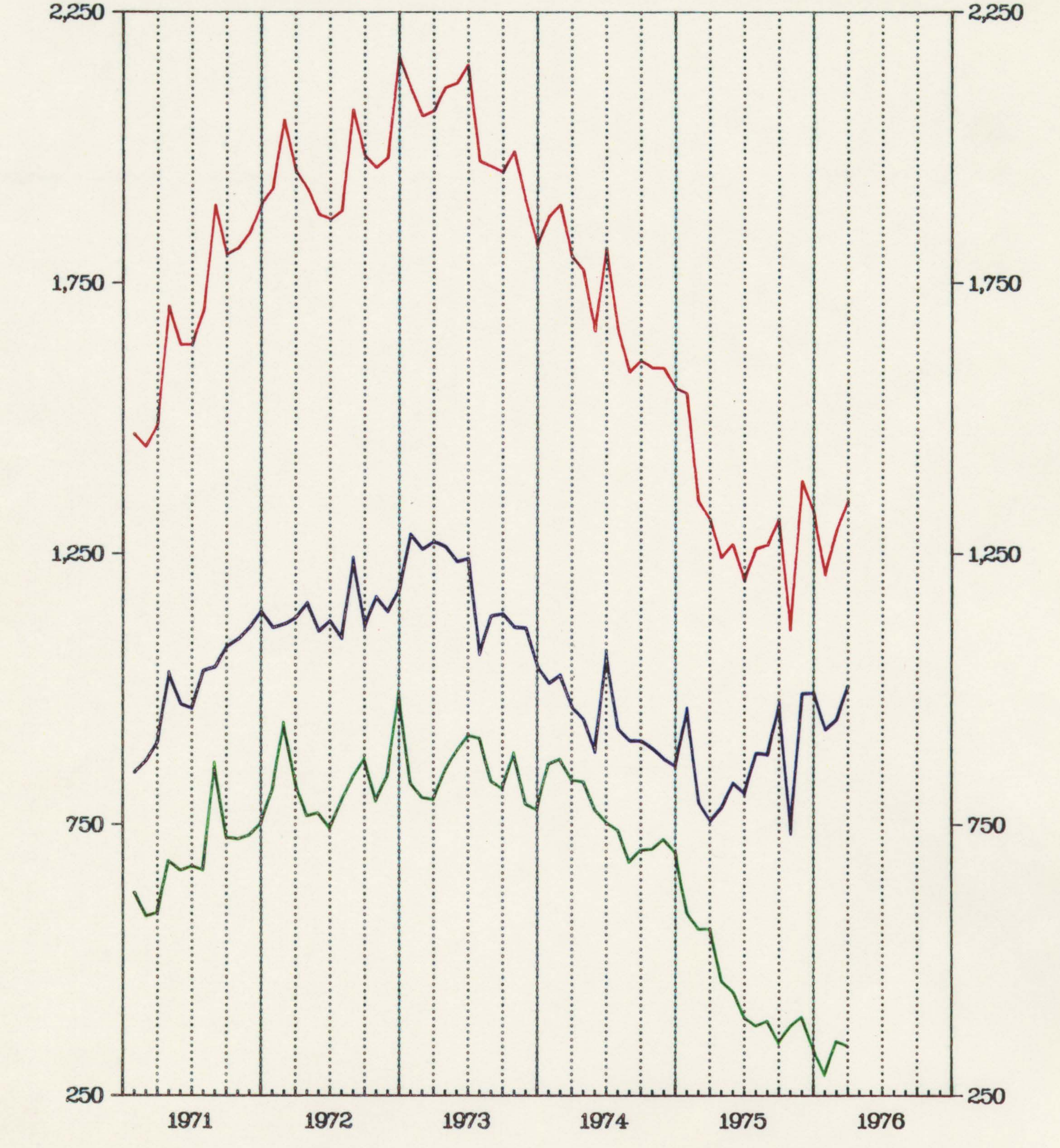


Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

- After February's increase to the highest level in 3 years, the number of New One-Family Homes Sold declined 18 percent to an annual rate of 555,000 in March.
  - The 18-percent decline dropped New Home Sales to the lowest level since July 1975.
- The number of Homes for Sale continued to increase, rising 1.3 percent to 391,000 units; the highest level since March 1975.
  - Represents an 8.8-month supply of houses on the sales market at the current rate of sales.
- The Median Sales Price reached another record high of $43,700 in March.
  - The sixth time in the last 7 months that a new high has been recorded.

A.7.1–New Housing Units Completed
Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates

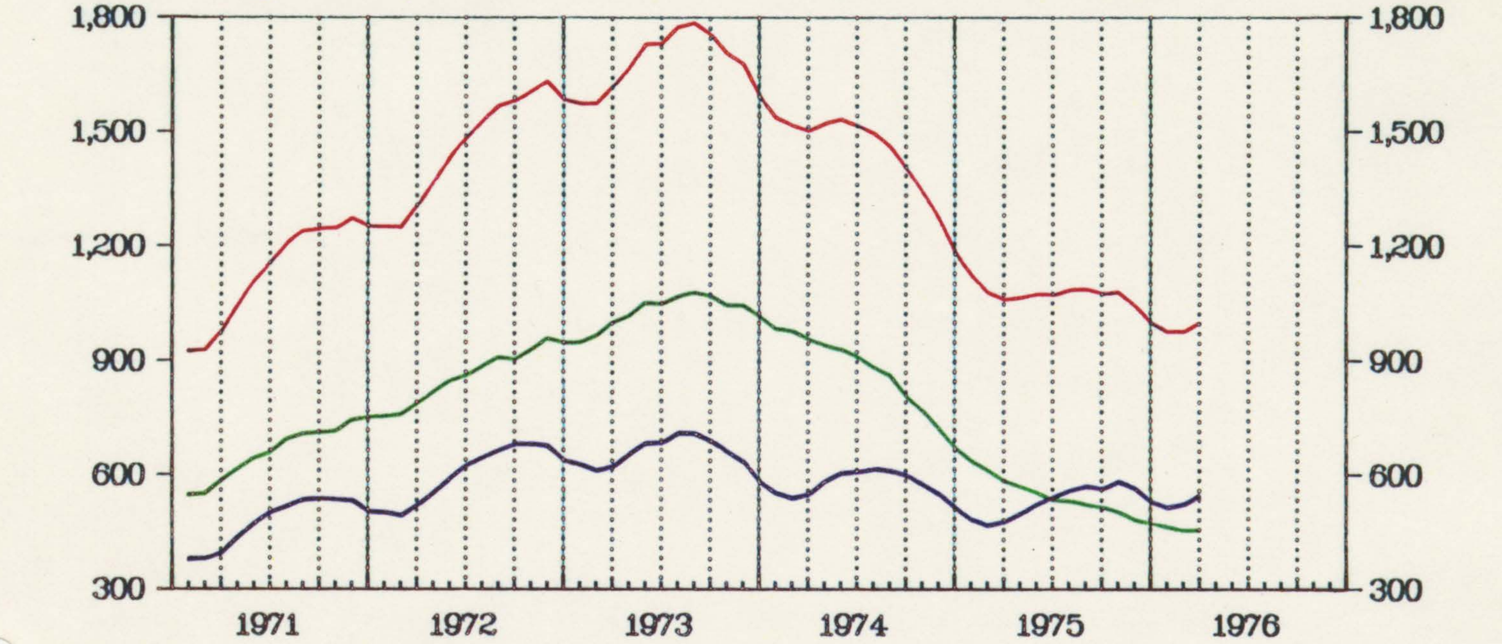
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total	1,348	4.2%	2.6%
Single-Family Units	1,007	6.6%	33.0%
Units in Multifamily Structures	341	-2.3%	-38.8%



Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

A.7.1—New Housing Units Under Construction
Not Seasonally Adjusted

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total	1,001.4	2.2%	-5.8%
Units in Multifamily Structures	455.1	0.0%	-22.3%
Single-Family Units	546.2	4.2%	14.3%



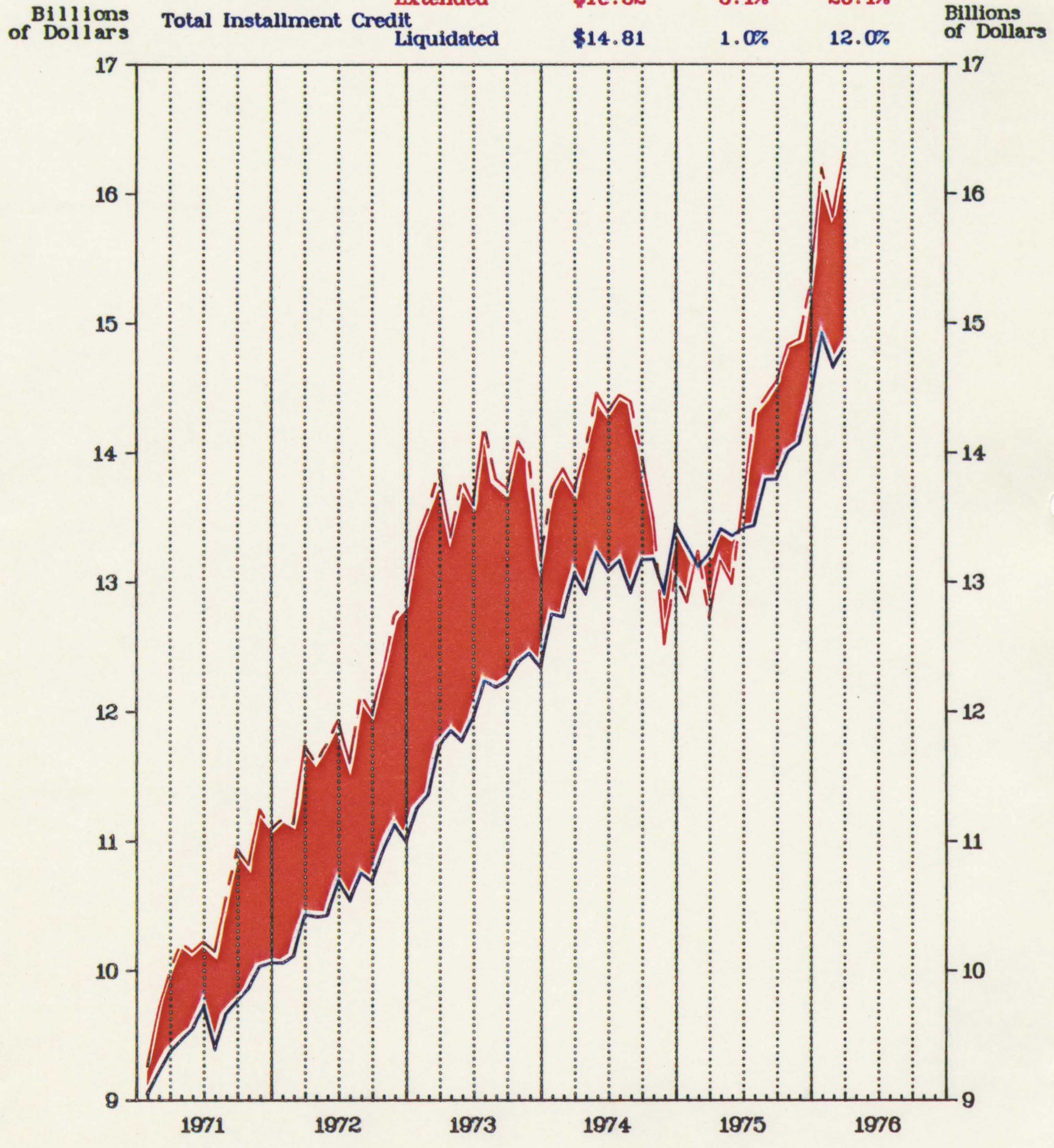
Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

- In March, Privately-Owned Housing Units were completed at an annual rate of 1,348,000, up 4.2 percent from February.
    - A 6.6-percent rise in Completions of Single-Family Units offset a 2.3-percent decline in Multifamily Units.
        - The level of 1,007,000 completions of Single-Family Units was the highest since June 1974.
        - Completions of Multifamily Units have declined in 3 of the past 4 months.

- Total Housing Units Under Construction rose for the first time in 5 months, increasing 2.2 percent in March.
    - A 4.2-percent rise in Single-Family Units accounted for the entire increase.
    - Units in Multifamily Structures remained virtually unchanged.

A.10.3–Consumer Installment Credit
Extensions and Liquidations

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Installment Credit Extended	$16.32	3.1%	28.1%
Total Installment Credit Liquidated	$14.81	1.0%	12.0%

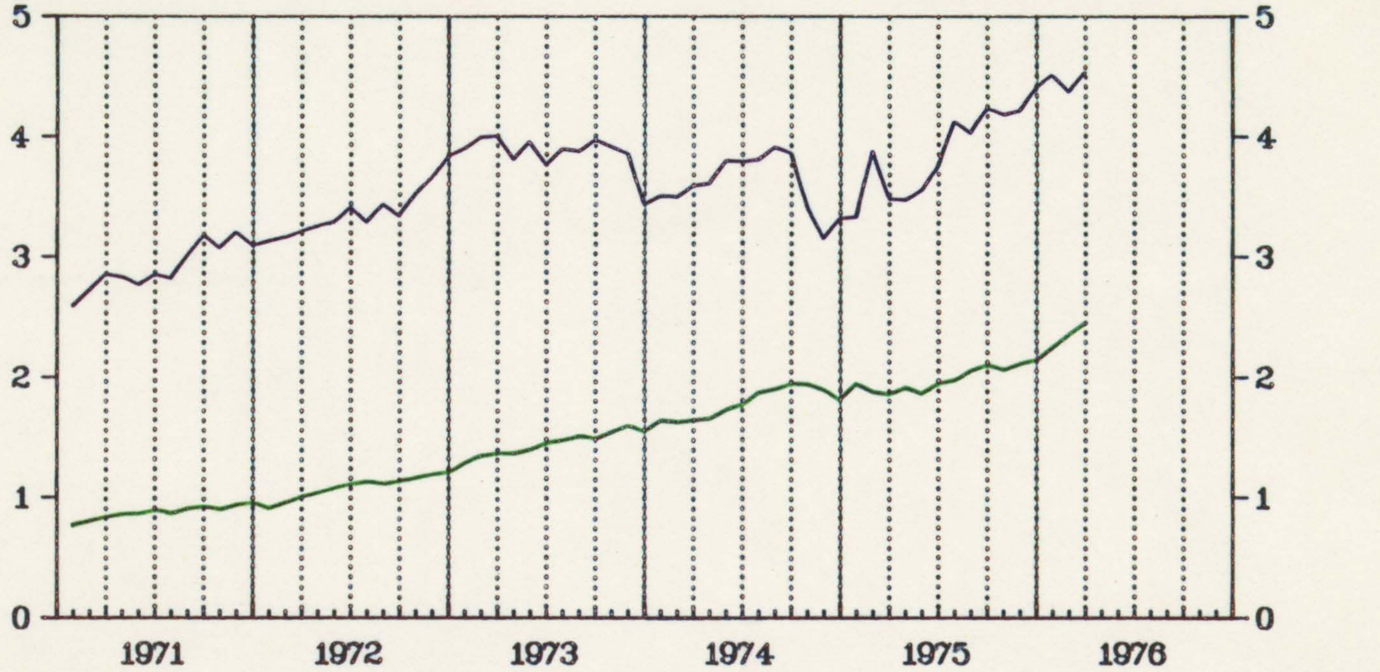


Source: Federal Reserve Board
17 May 1976

A.10.3—Consumer Installment Credit

Components of Extensions

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Automobile Credit	$4.54	3.6%	30.1%
Bank Revolving Credit	$2.44	4.2%	31.5%



Source: Federal Reserve Board
17 May 1976

- Installment Credit Extensions rose 3.1 percent to a record high $16.32 billion and Liquidations advanced 1.0 percent to $14.81 billion.

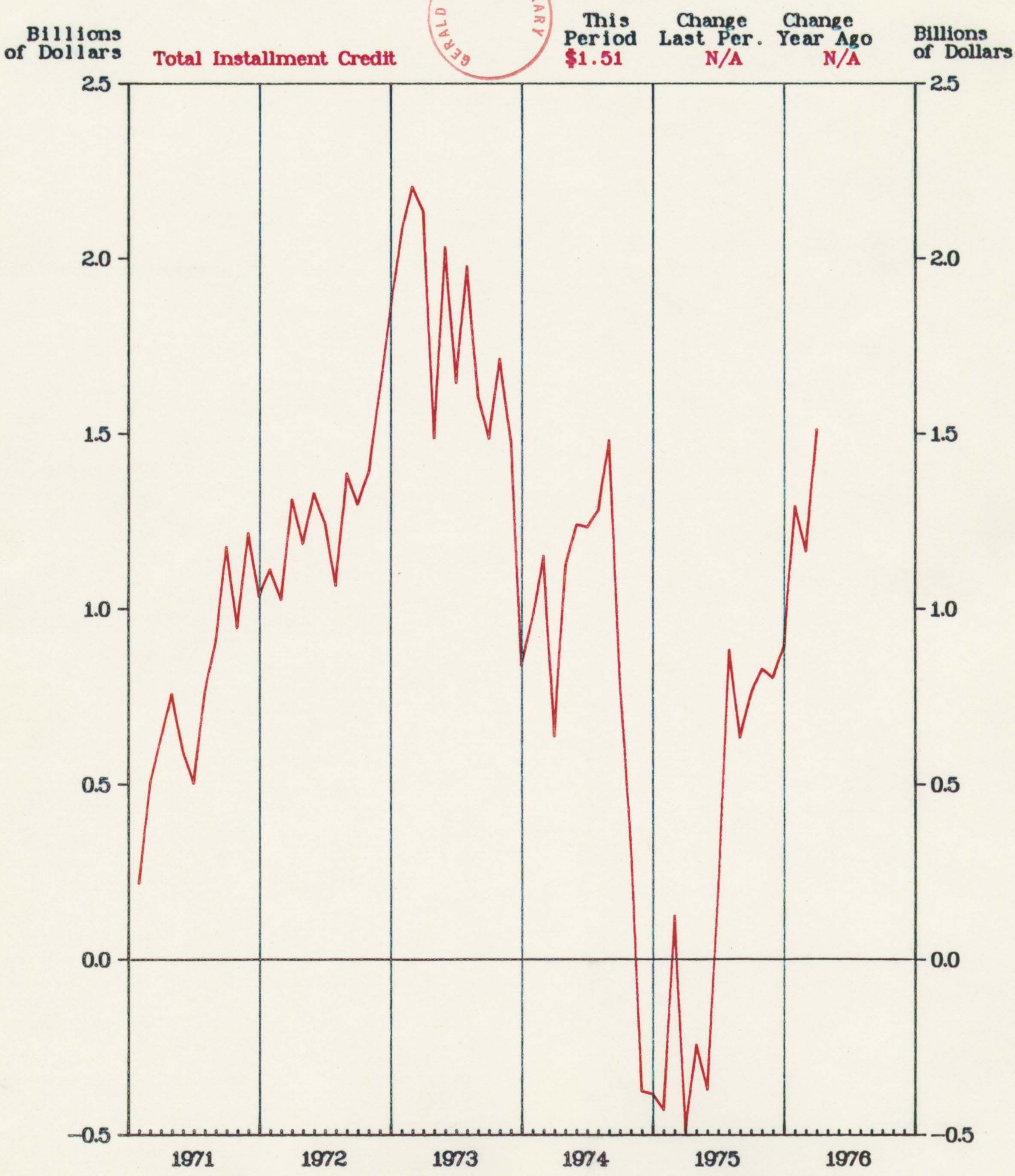
  - Extensions exceeded the previous record of $16.21 billion established 2 months earlier.

  - Liquidations were 0.7 percent below the January high of $14.91 billion.

- Extensions of Automobile Credit reached a new high, reflecting both the accelerating recovery in unit sales and a shift toward larger car models.

- Bank Revolving Credit continued to increase, up 4.2 percent in March and a total gain of 18.5 percent over the last 5 months.

A.10.3—Net Change in Consumer Installment Credit Outstanding

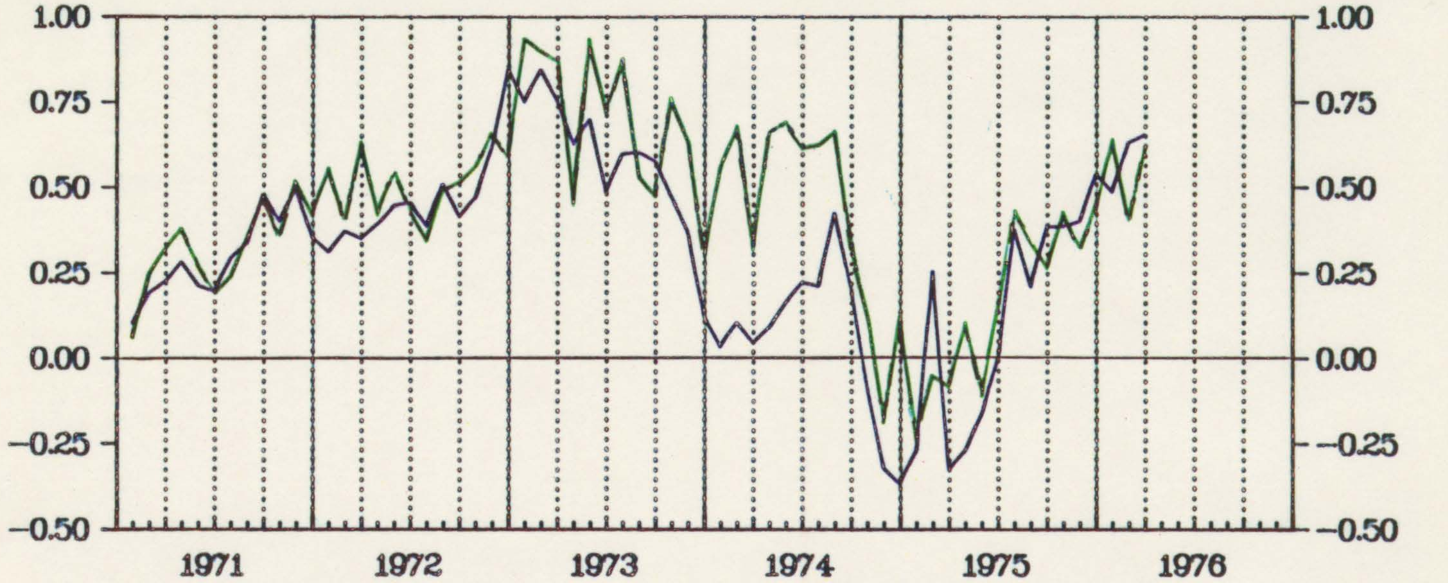


Source: Federal Reserve Board
17 May 1976

A.10.3—Net Change in Consumer Installment Credit Outstanding

By Credit Type

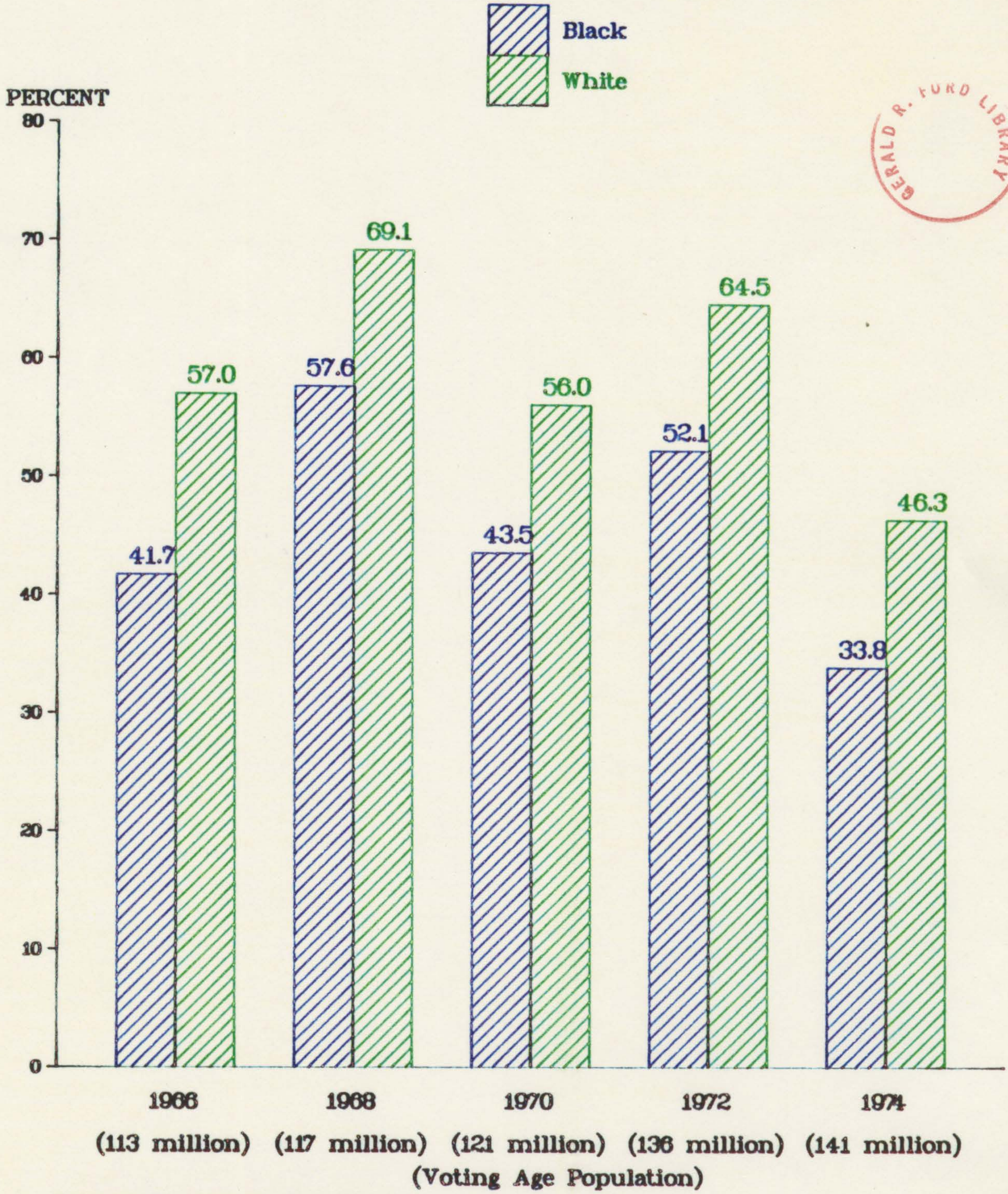
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Automobile Credit	$.654	N/A	N/A
Other Consumer Goods and Personal Loans Credit	$.615	N/A	N/A



Source: Federal Reserve Board
17 May 1976

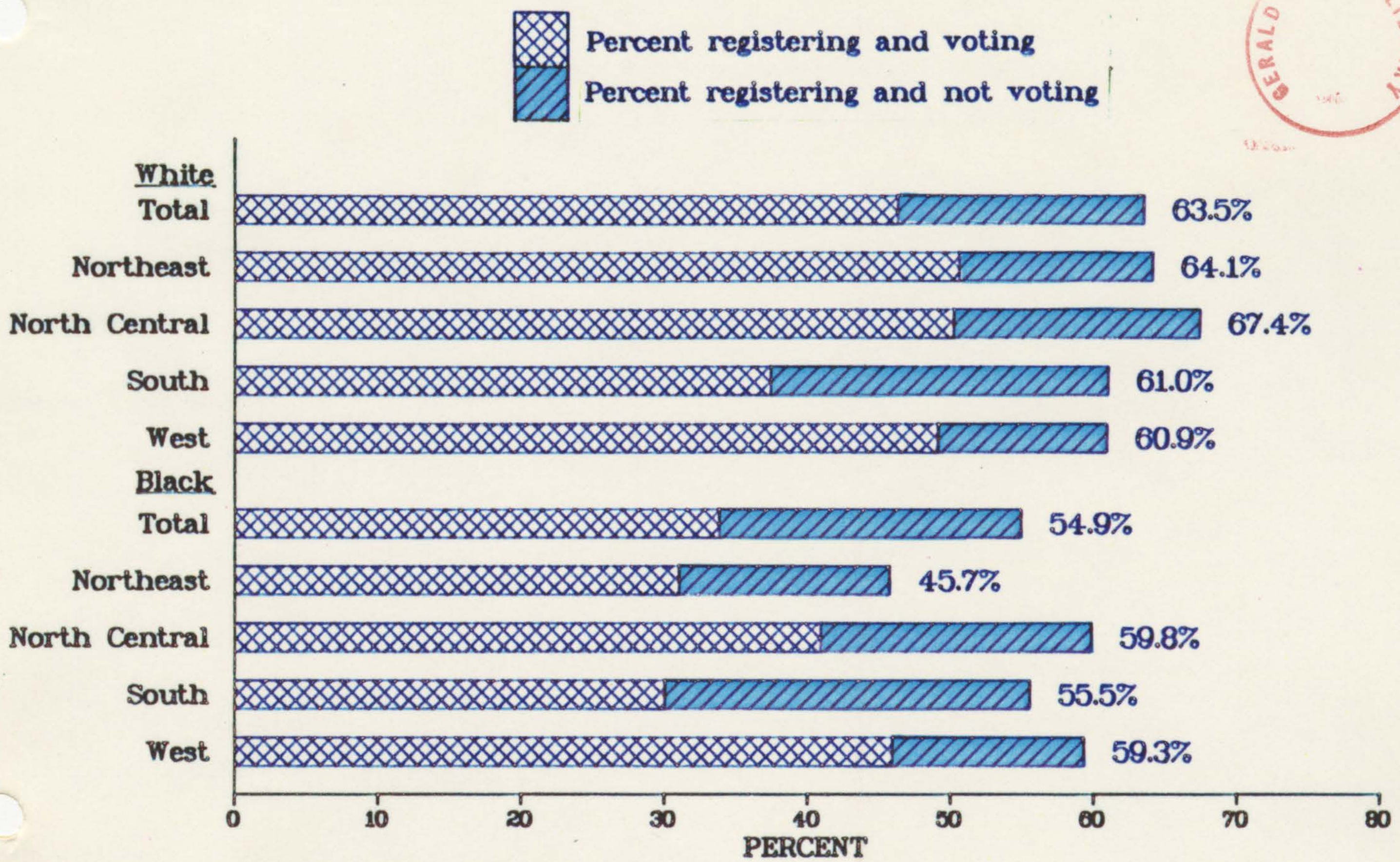
- Installment Credit Outstanding posted the biggest advance in almost 2½ years, increasing $1.51 billion in March.
    - Largest gain since the $1.72 billion in October 1973.
    - Tenth consecutive monthly increase.
    - On the average, Installment Credit Outstanding expanded by $1.33 billion per month during the first quarter of 1976, compared with $843 million the previous quarter; and declined $260 million per month during the recent low in the first quarter of 1975.
- Among major credit types, the $654 million rise in Automobile Credit was the largest advance since a $701 million increase in May 1973.
    - Other Consumer Goods and Personal Loans Credit rose $615 million in March compared to a considerably smaller advance of $392 million in February.

C.4.1—Voter Participation Rates By Race: 1966 to 1974



Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

C.4.1–Registration and Voting by Race and Region: 1974



Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

- About 45 percent of all civilians 18 years and older, not residing in institutions, were reported to have voted in the 1974 Congressional election.

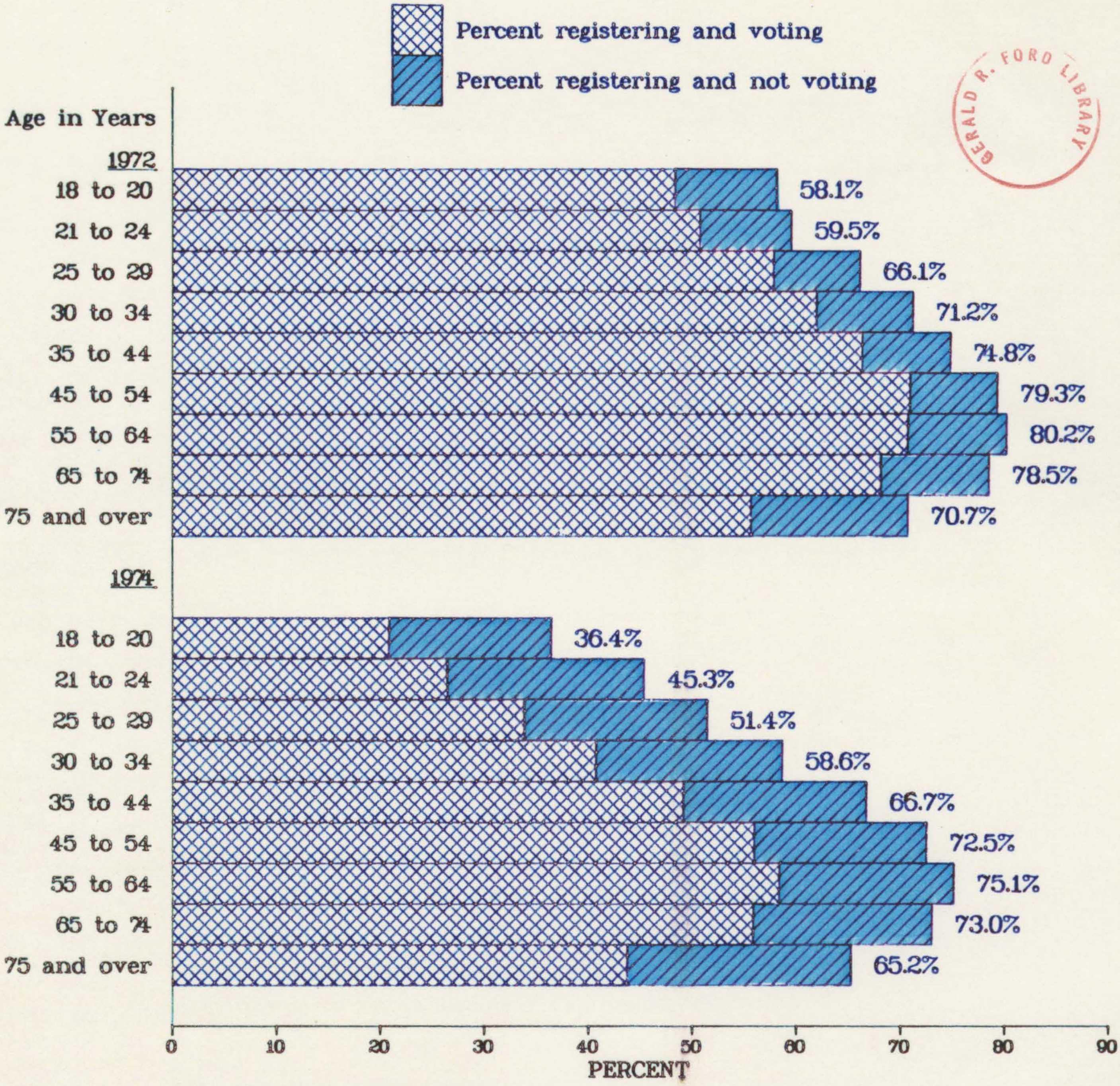
    - Voter participation in 1974 was about 10 percentage points lower than in the previous Congressional election in 1970 and around 18 percentage points below the 1972 Presidential election.

        - The 1972 election had one of the lowest turnouts for a Presidential election in recent American history.

- Among both blacks and whites, a lower proportion voted in the South than in any other region.

- Blacks were less likely than whites to register and vote in all regions except the West where they were as likely to register but still less likely to vote.

C.4.1–Registration and Voting By Age: 1972 and 1974



Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

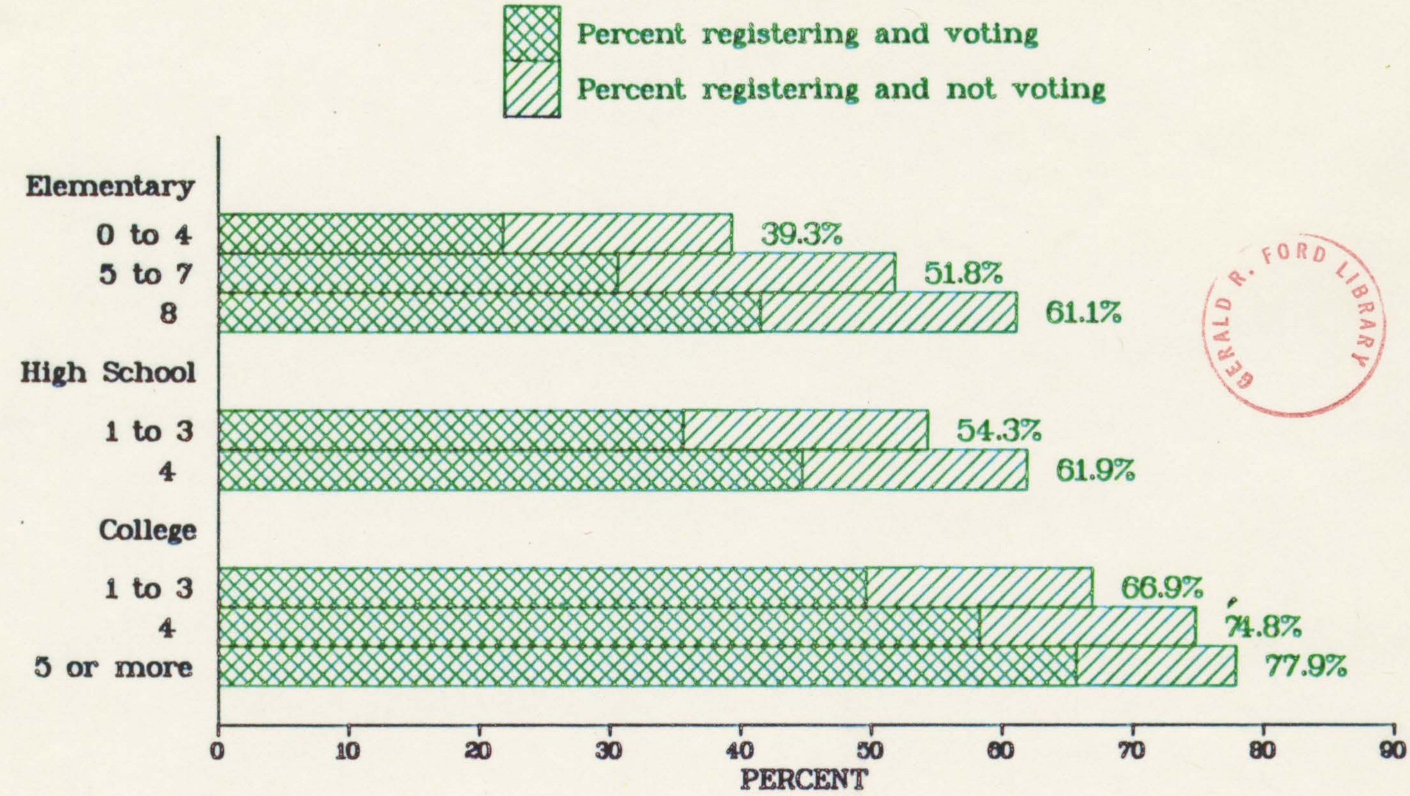
- Despite the unusually low level of participation in the 1974 election, the demographic characteristics that have usually been associated with registration and voting, such as age, race, income, and education, remained generally consistent with previous elections.

- Young adults 18 to 24 years old had the lowest voting and registration turnout in the 1972 and 1974 elections while persons 45 to 64 years old had the highest rates of participation in both years.

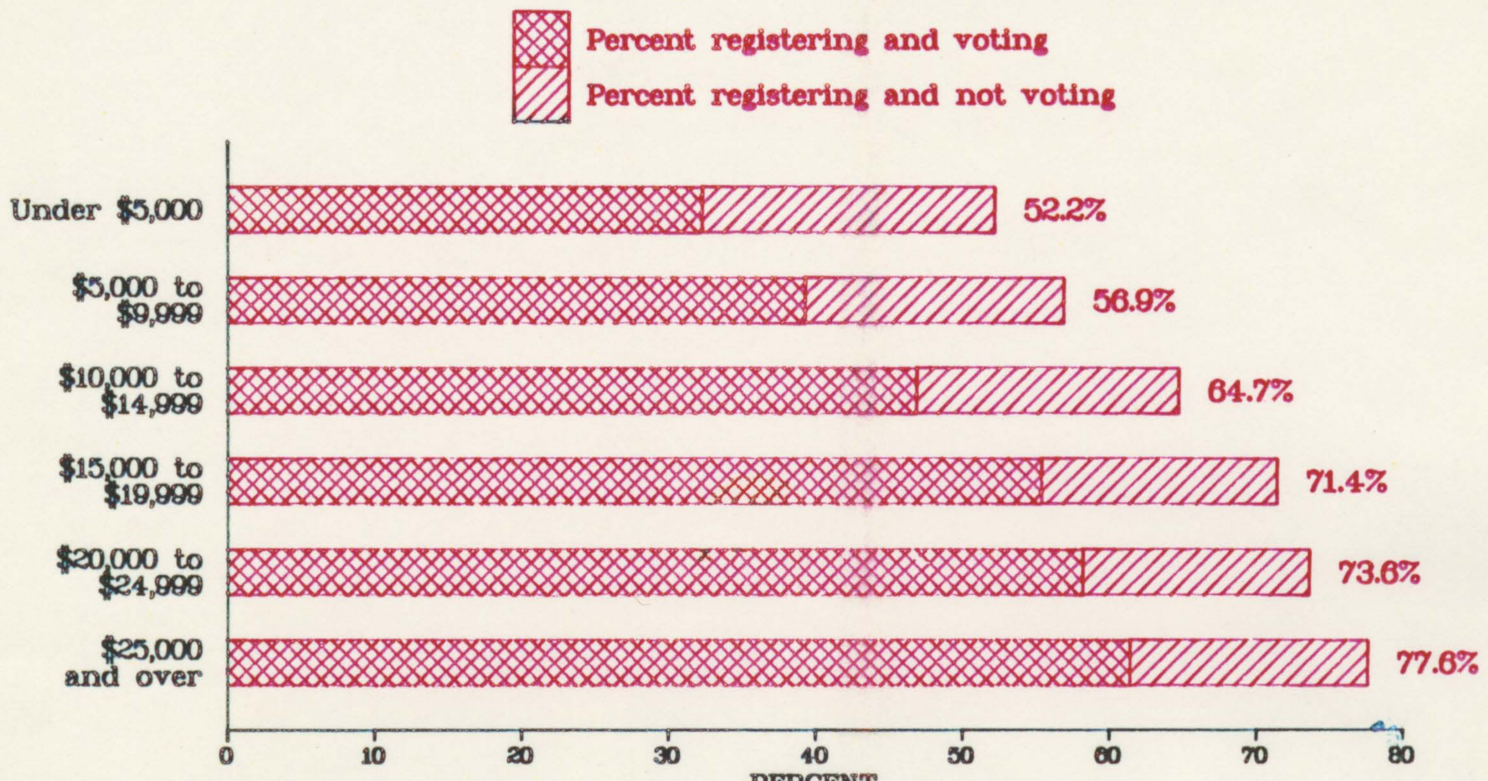
  - However, the dropoff in registration and voting between the Presidential and Congressional election was greater among the younger age groups than the older.

C.4.1–Registration and Voting: 1974

By Years of School Completed



Registration and Voting in Primary Families by Income: 1974



Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

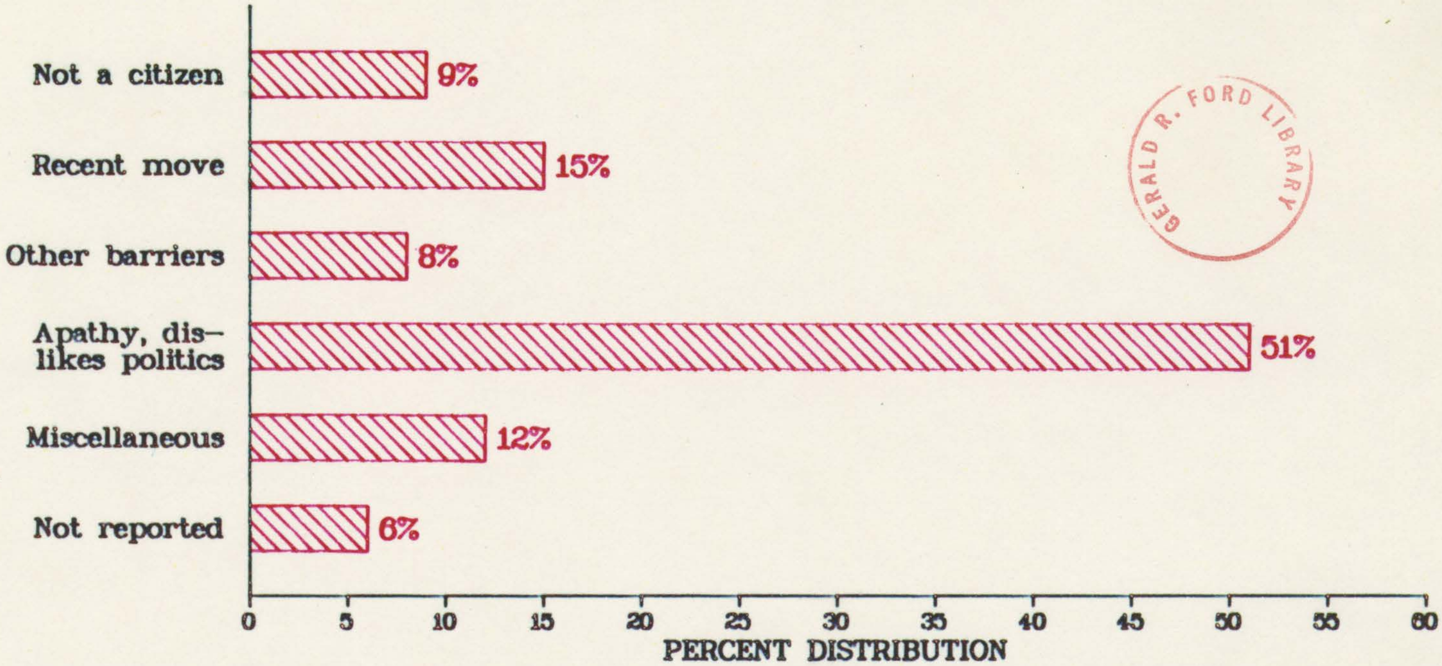
- College graduates are twice as likely to register to vote as those who completed less than 4 years of schooling. Also, college graduates who were registered were more likely to vote than were persons with less education.

- Registration and voting is also more likely for persons with high levels of family income.

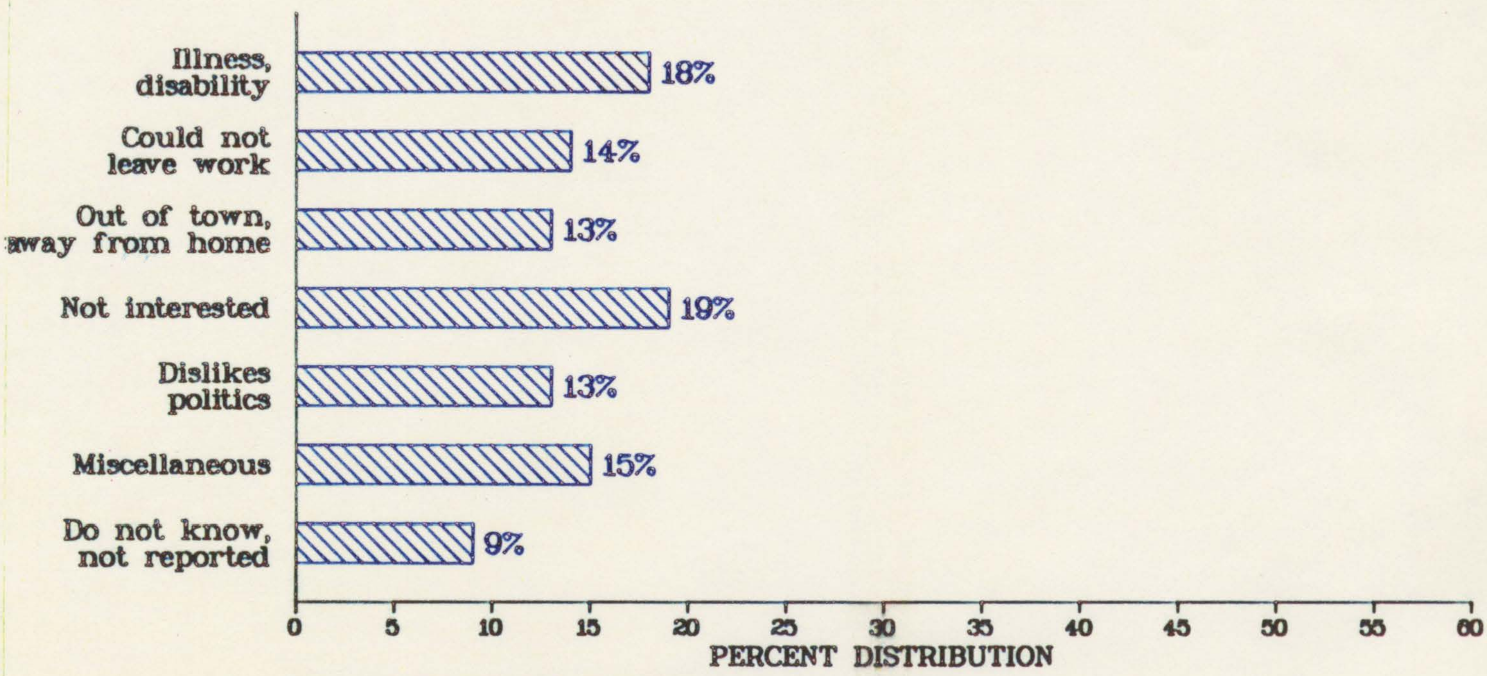
    - About four-fifths of persons in families with income of $25,000 or more were registered and three-fifths voted, while one-half of the people with family income under $5,000 registered and one-third voted.

C.4.1—Voter Participation: 1974

Reasons for Not Registering to Vote



Reasons for Not Voting



Source: Bureau of the Census
17 May 1976

- While the number of persons registering and voting in 1974 was particularly low, the distribution of reasons for not voting was substantially the same in 1974 as in 1972.

- The largest share of nonregistrants, about 51 percent, gave reasons that reflected apathy or cynicism regarding politics.

  - Another 15 percent cited reasons associated with a recent move.

  - Barriers to registration including physical disability, no transportation, etc., comprised another 8 percent.

    - About 9 percent were not citizens.

- Among those who registered but did not vote, about 45 percent were reported as staying away from the polls for reasons essentially beyond their control, such as illness or physical disability, or because they could not take time off from work or were out of town.

  - Another 31 percent of those registered persons who did not vote could be classed as apathetic about politics or the particular election, having a general dislike of politics, no preference among the candidates, etc.