THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

September 13, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL BAROODY

Attached are this week's copy of the Weekly Briefing Notes and the September issue of STATUS, A Monthly Chartbook of Social and Economic Trends.

Nelson

WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTES

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FOR CALENDER YEAR 1976

September 7,1976

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

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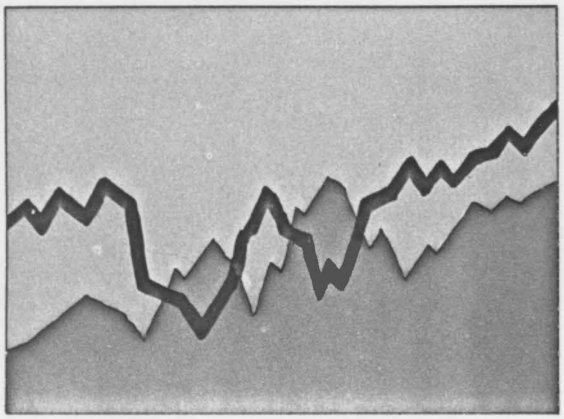

WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTES ON U.S. DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

Prepared for the President and the Vice-President

September 6, 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

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The data on which this Chartbook are 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.

SOURCES OF DATA

THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Earnings Statistics for the United States"

LABOR TURNOVER IN MANUFACTURING
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment and Earnings Statistics for the United States"

INDEX OF HELP WANTED ADVERTISING
The Conference Board

WORK STOPPAGES
Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Monthly Labor Review"

MANUFACTURERS' SHIPMENTS, INVENTORIES, AND ORDERS
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Manufacturers' Shipments, Inventories, and Orders," Series M3-1

WHOLESALE PRICE INDEX
U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Wholesale Price Index"

VALUE OF NEW CONSTRUCTION WORK DONE
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Value of New Construction Put in Place"

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— Travel				X	
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— Concerts, Museums, etc.				X	
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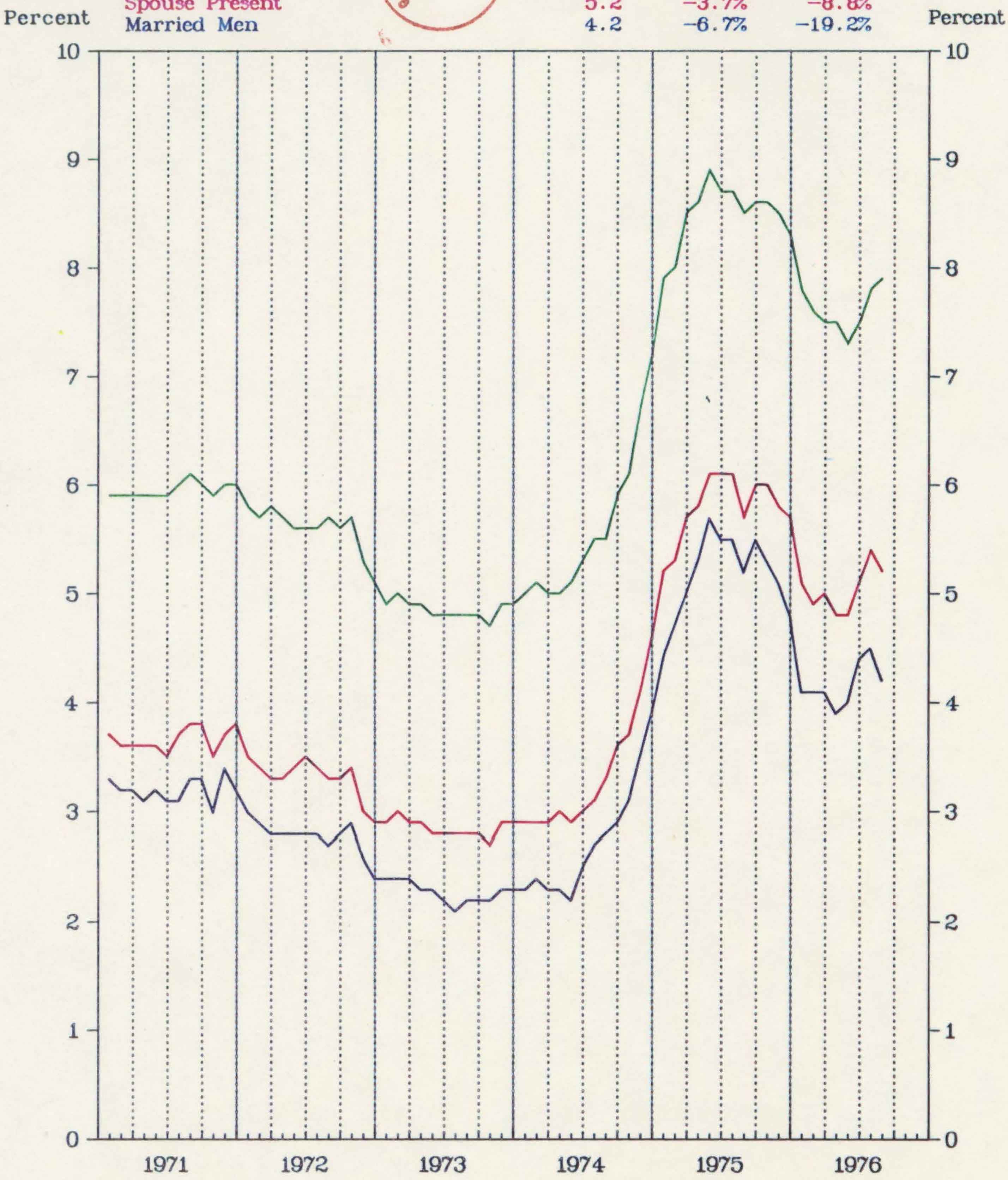
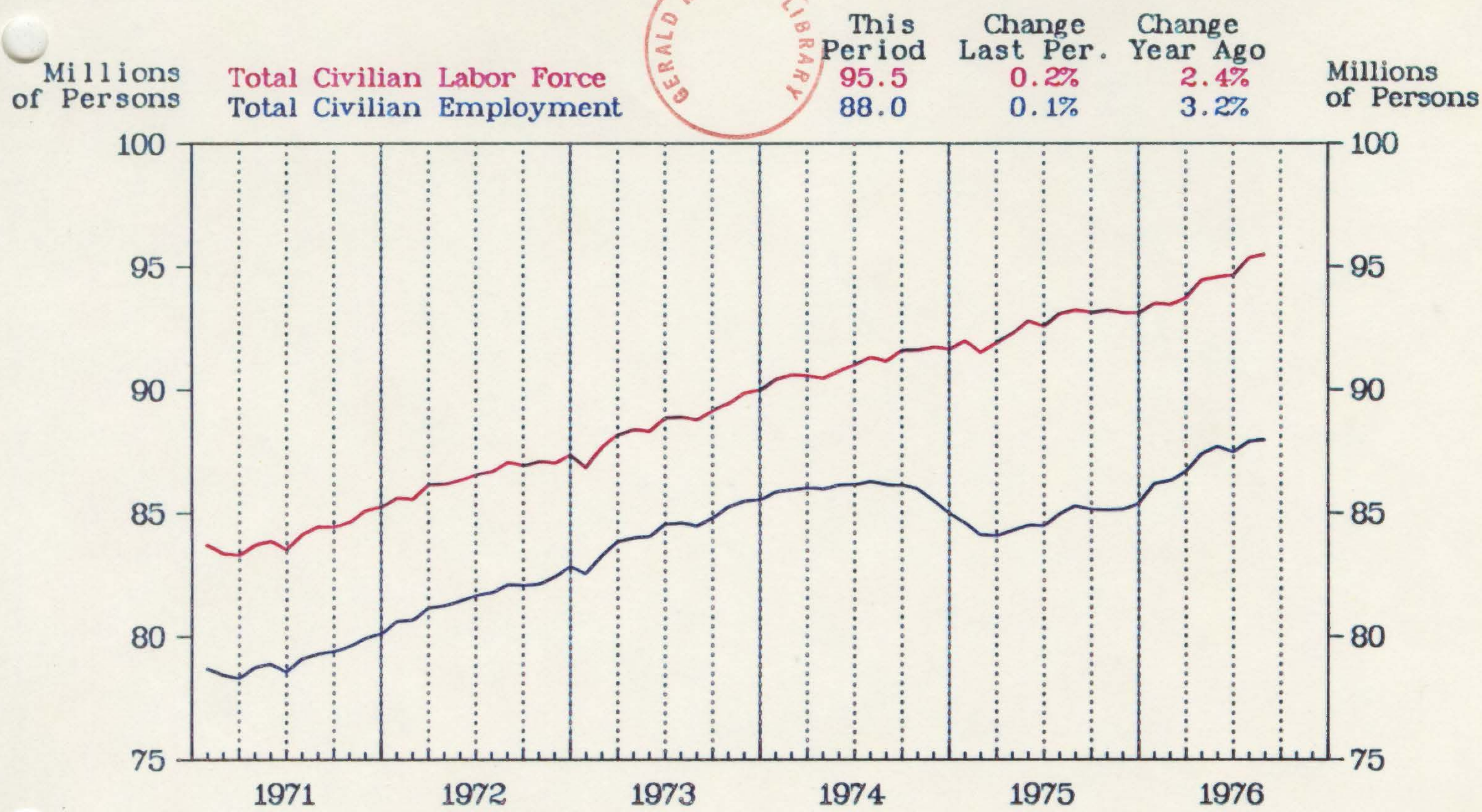
A.2.1–Unemployment Rate

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
All Workers, Total	7.9	1.3%	−7.1%
Household Heads, Spouse Present	5.2	−3.7%	−8.8%
Married Men	4.2	−6.7%	−19.2%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

A.2.1–Civilian Labor Force and Employment



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

- The Unemployment Rate edged slightly upward from 7.8 percent in July to 7.9 percent in August, the third consecutive monthly increase and 0.6 percentage point above the 1976 low of 7.3 percent reached in May.

  - The number of job-seeking workers rose by 80,000 to 7,506,000.

- An increase of 74,000 in Total Civilian Employment to 88.0 million was more than offset by a rise of 154,000 in Total Civilian Labor Force to 95.5 million.

  - Jobless teenage workers, increasing by 155,000, accounted for nearly all of the overall unemployment increase.

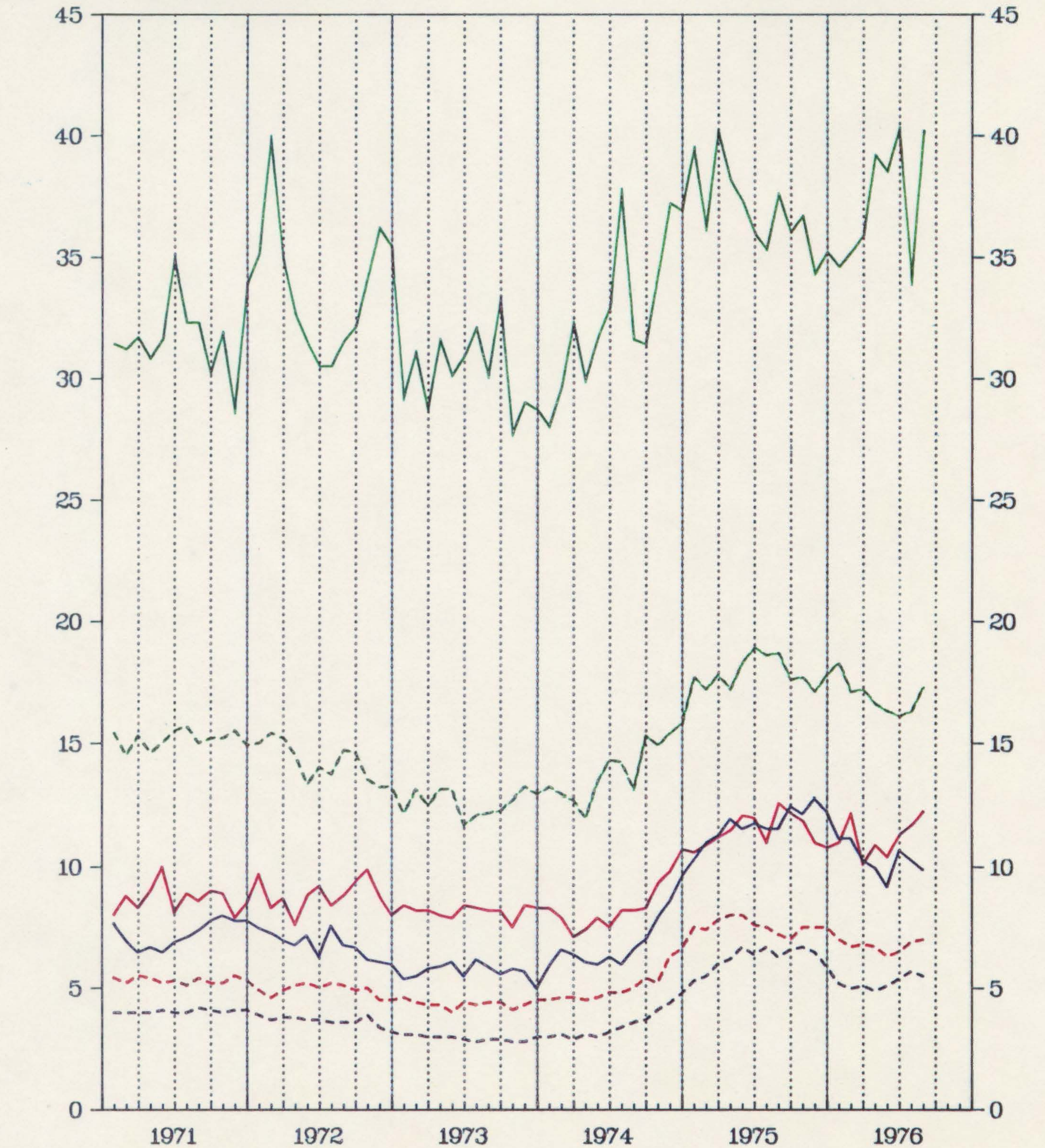
    - Unemployed adult women rose by only 26,000, and unemployed adult males declined by 101,000.

- The jobless rate for Household Heads declined from last month's 1976 high of 5.4 percent to 5.2 percent.

- A decrease from 4.5 percent to 4.2 percent in the unemployment rate of Married Men was nearly a 20 percent drop from the 5.2 percent rate of a year ago.

A.2.1–Unemployment by Age, Sex, and Race

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Teenagers, Negro and Other Races	40.2	17.9%	6.9%
Teenagers, White – – –	17.3	6.1%	–7.5%
Adult Females, Negro and Other Races	12.3	5.1%	–2.4%
Adult Males, Negro and Other Races	9.9	–3.9%	–14.7%
Adult Females, White – – –	7.0	1.4%	–2.8%
Adult Males, White – – –	5.5	–3.5%	–12.7%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

- Most of the increase in the overall Unemployment rate occurred among Teenagers.

    - The jobless rate among White Teenagers rose 1 percentage point to 17.3 percent; and joblessness among Black Teenagers jumped over 6 percentage points, nearly equalling the record unemployment rate of 40.3 percent in June.

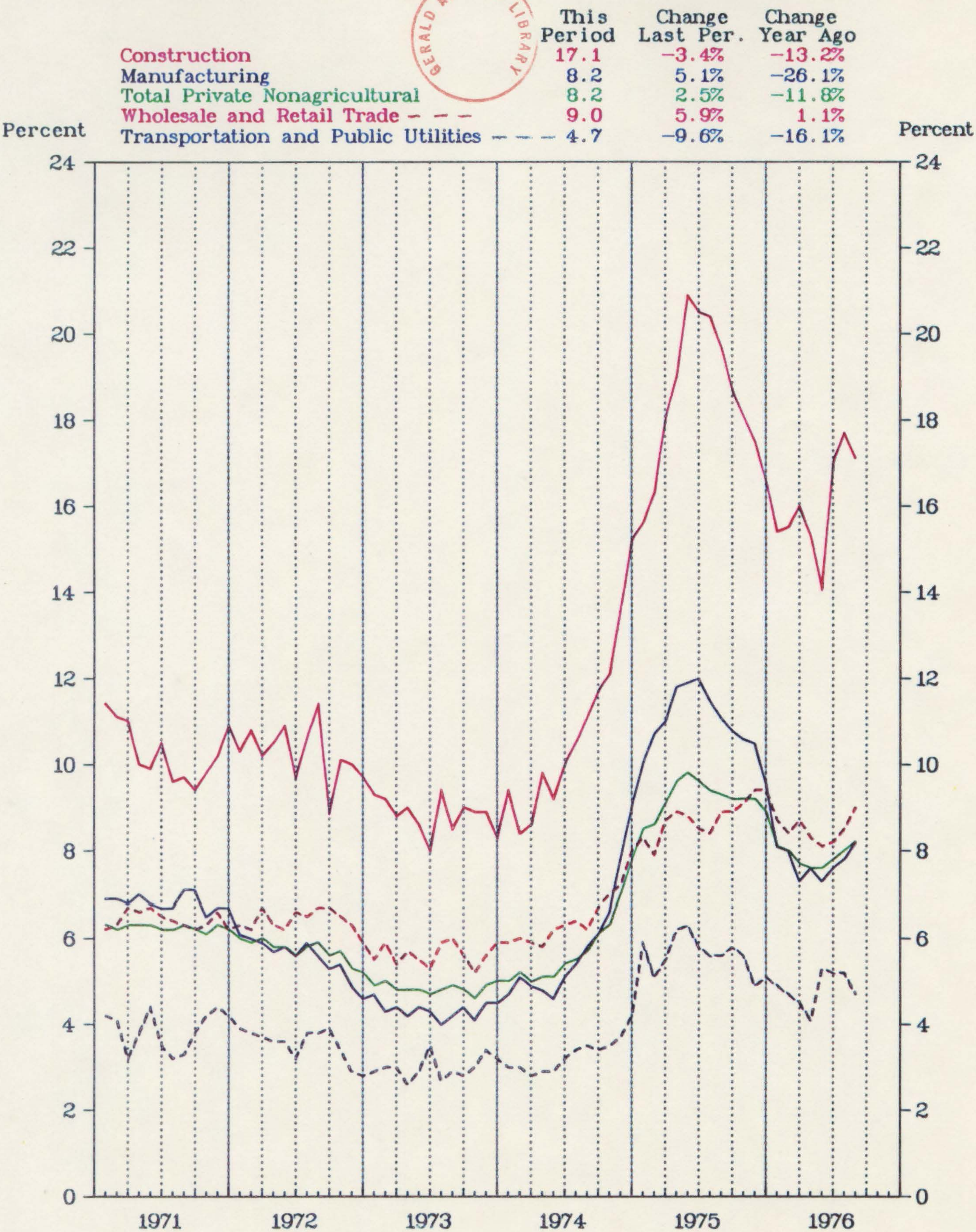
- The unemployment rate among Black Adult Females rose from 11.7 percent to 12.3 percent, the highest level since the 12.6 percent rate recorded a year ago.

    - The jobless rate among Black Adult Males, however, dropped from 10.3 percent to 9.9 percent, resuming the overall decline initiated in November 1975, during which unemployment among Black Adult Males has declined nearly 23 percent.

- Joblessness among White Adult Females edged up from 6.9 percent to 7.0 percent, the third consecutive monthly increase.

- White Adult Male unemployment declined to 5.5 percent, which by offsetting increases in the unemployment rates in the other sectors of the White labor force, held the overall White unemployment rate at last month's level of 7.1 percent.

A.2.1–Unemployment Rate by Industry

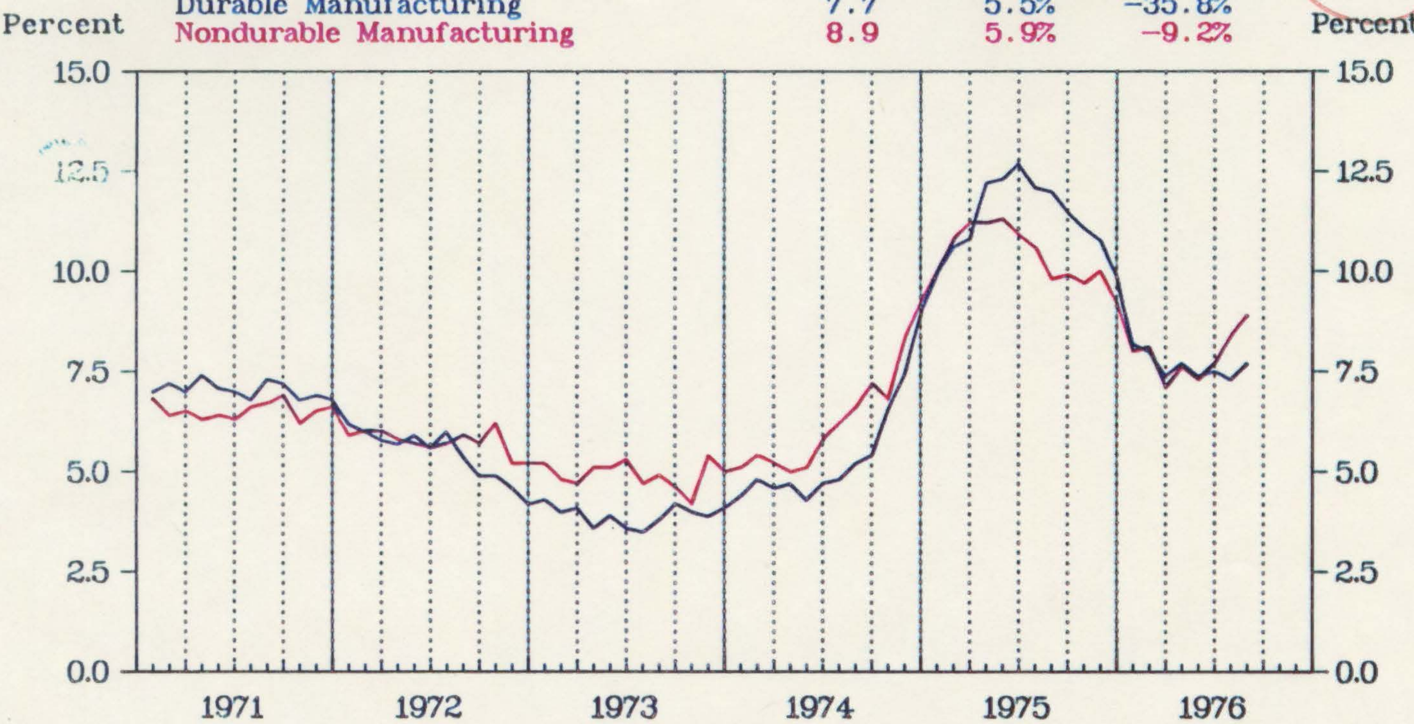


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

A.2.1—Unemployment Rate by Industry

Components of Manufacturing

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Durable Manufacturing	7.7	5.5%	-35.8%
Nondurable Manufacturing	8.9	5.9%	-9.2%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

- Divergent movements occurred in the unemployment rates among major industry groups. Construction declined to a rate of 17.1 percent. However, it was the third consecutive month joblessness remained over 17 percent.

- Unemployment in Manufacturing climbed from 7.8 percent to 8.2 percent, the highest level since December 1975.

    - Roughly equivalent increases in jobless rates occurred in the Durable and Nondurable sectors of Manufacturing.

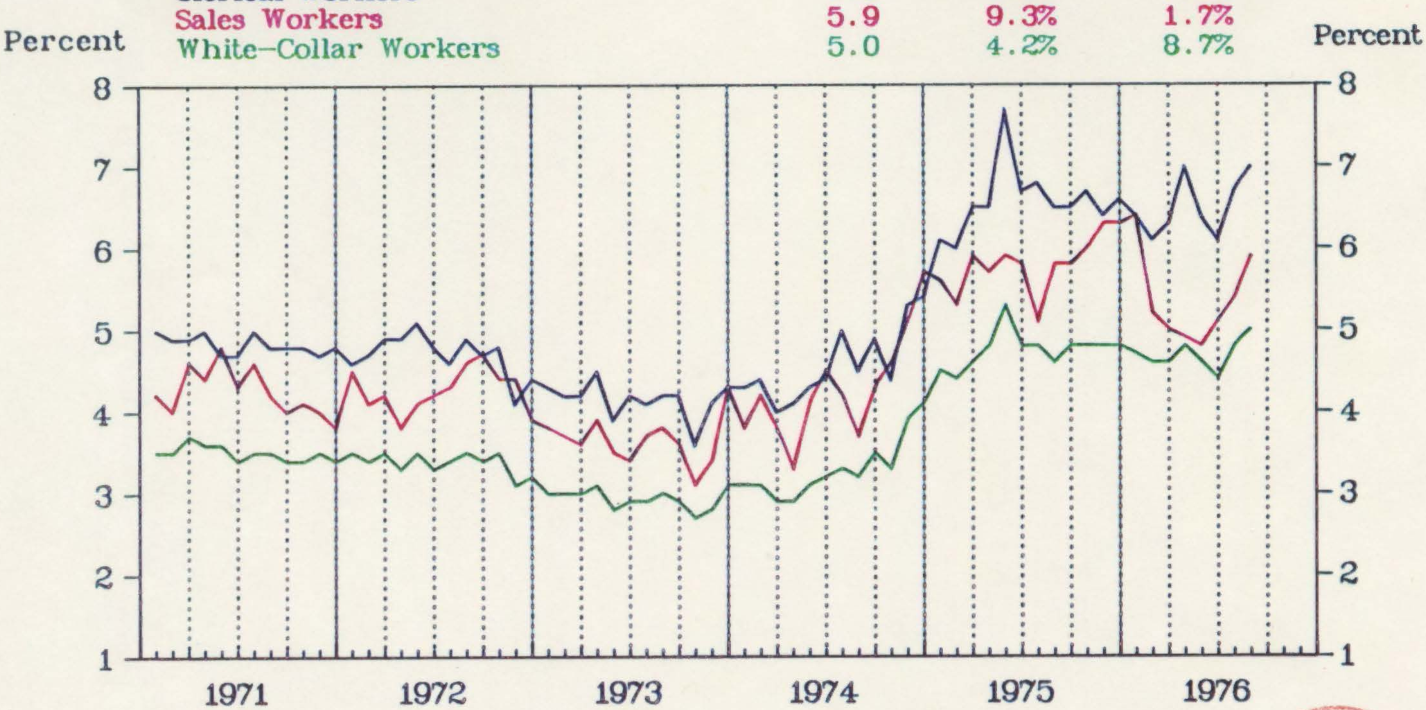
- Reversing the trend of the prior three months, the unemployment rate in Transportation and Public Utilities again dipped below 5.0 percent.

- Wholesale and Retail Trade recorded a 9.0 percent jobless rate, exceeding the 8.9 percent rate of a year ago.

A.2.1–Unemployment Rate by Occupation

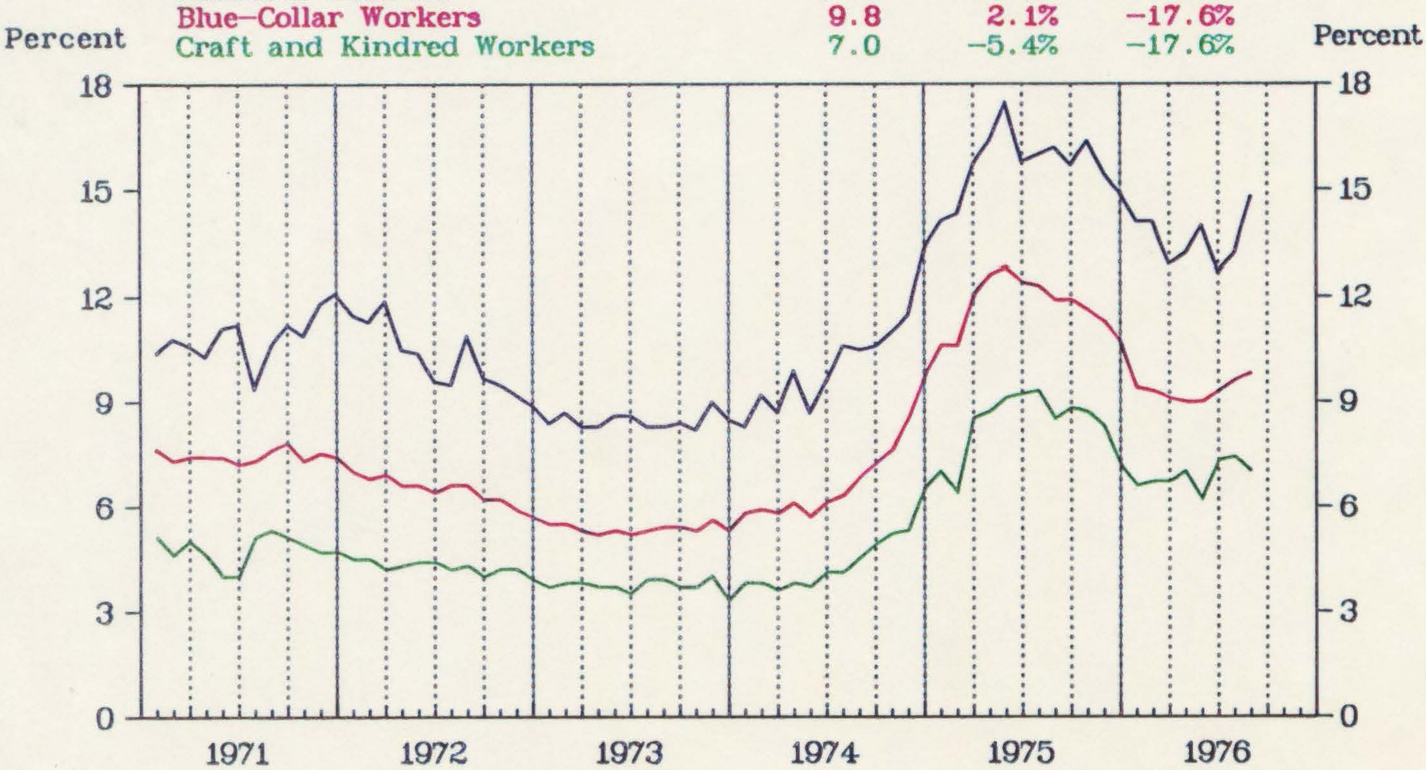
White–Collar Workers

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Clerical Workers	7.0	4.5%	7.7%
Sales Workers	5.9	9.3%	1.7%
White–Collar Workers	5.0	4.2%	8.7%



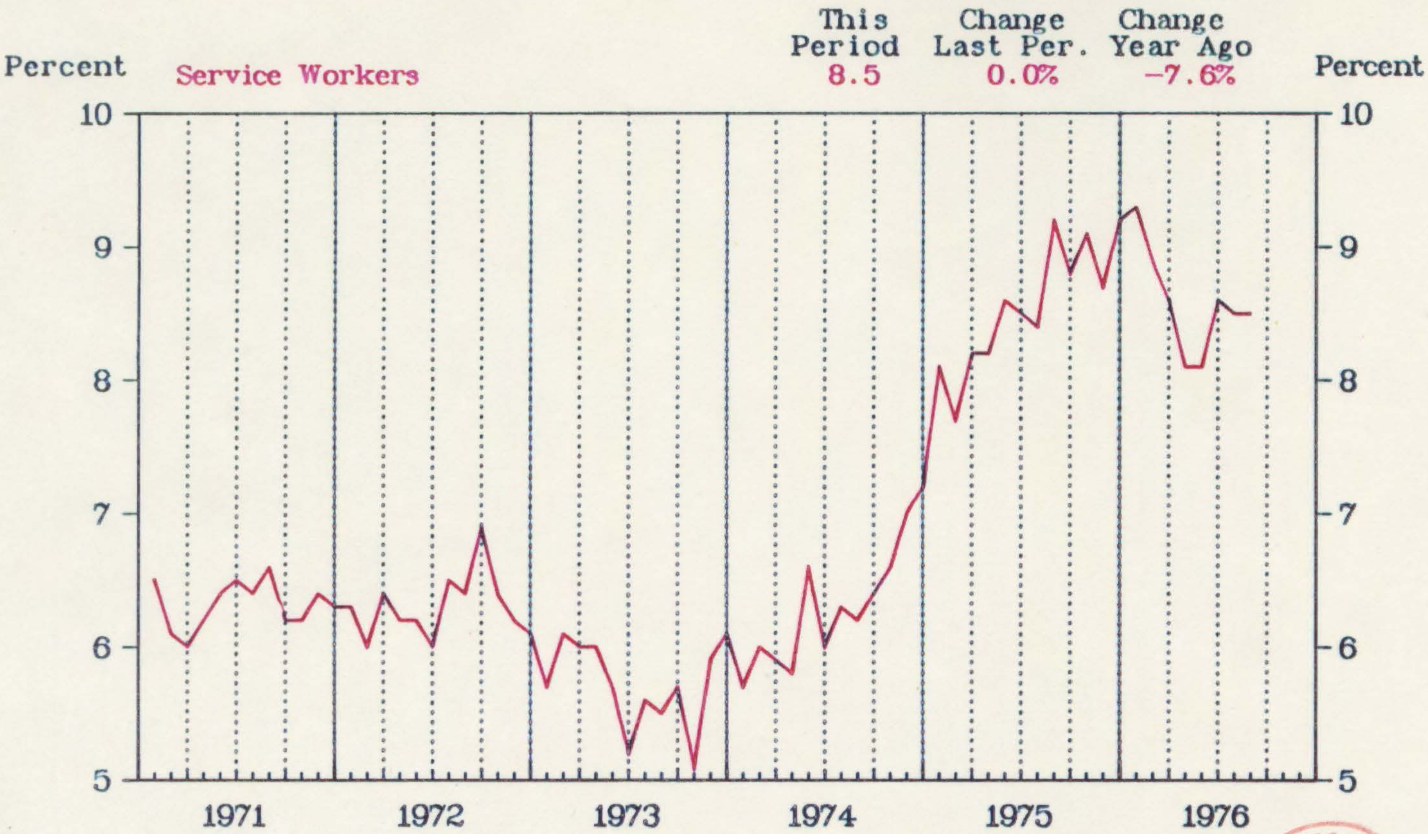
Blue–Collar Workers

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Nonfarm Laborers	14.8	12.1%	-8.6%
Blue–Collar Workers	9.8	2.1%	-17.6%
Craft and Kindred Workers	7.0	-5.4%	-17.6%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

A.2.1–Unemployment Rate by Occupation

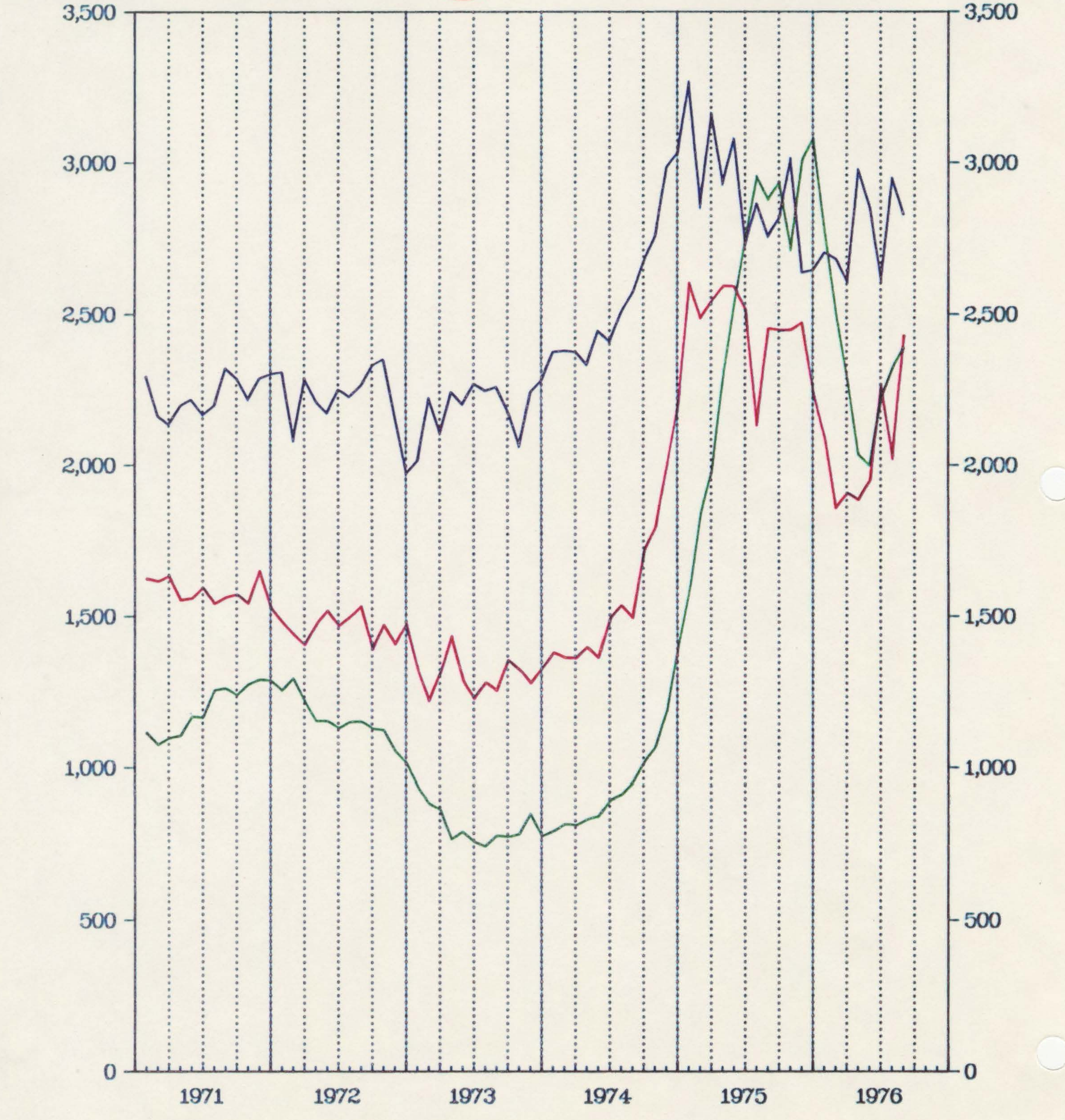


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

- In August, the White-Collar unemployment rate reached 5.0 percent for the first time since May 1975.
  - The two major components showing jobless rate increases were Sales Workers and Clerical Workers.
    - The 0.5 percentage point increase to 5.9 percent among Sales Workers was the highest unemployment rate for this category since January; and the climb in the jobless rate among Clerical Workers to 7.0 percent represented a nearly 15 percent increase in joblessness in the last 2 months.
- The rise from 9.6 percent in Blue-Collar unemployment was mainly the result of offsetting movements.
  - The rise in the unemployment rate among Nonfarm Laborers from 13.2 percent to 14.8 percent was partially counteracted by the decline in Craft and Kindred Workers jobless rate from 7.4 percent to 7.0 percent.
- The unemployment rate among Service Workers remained at 8.5 percent for the second consecutive month.

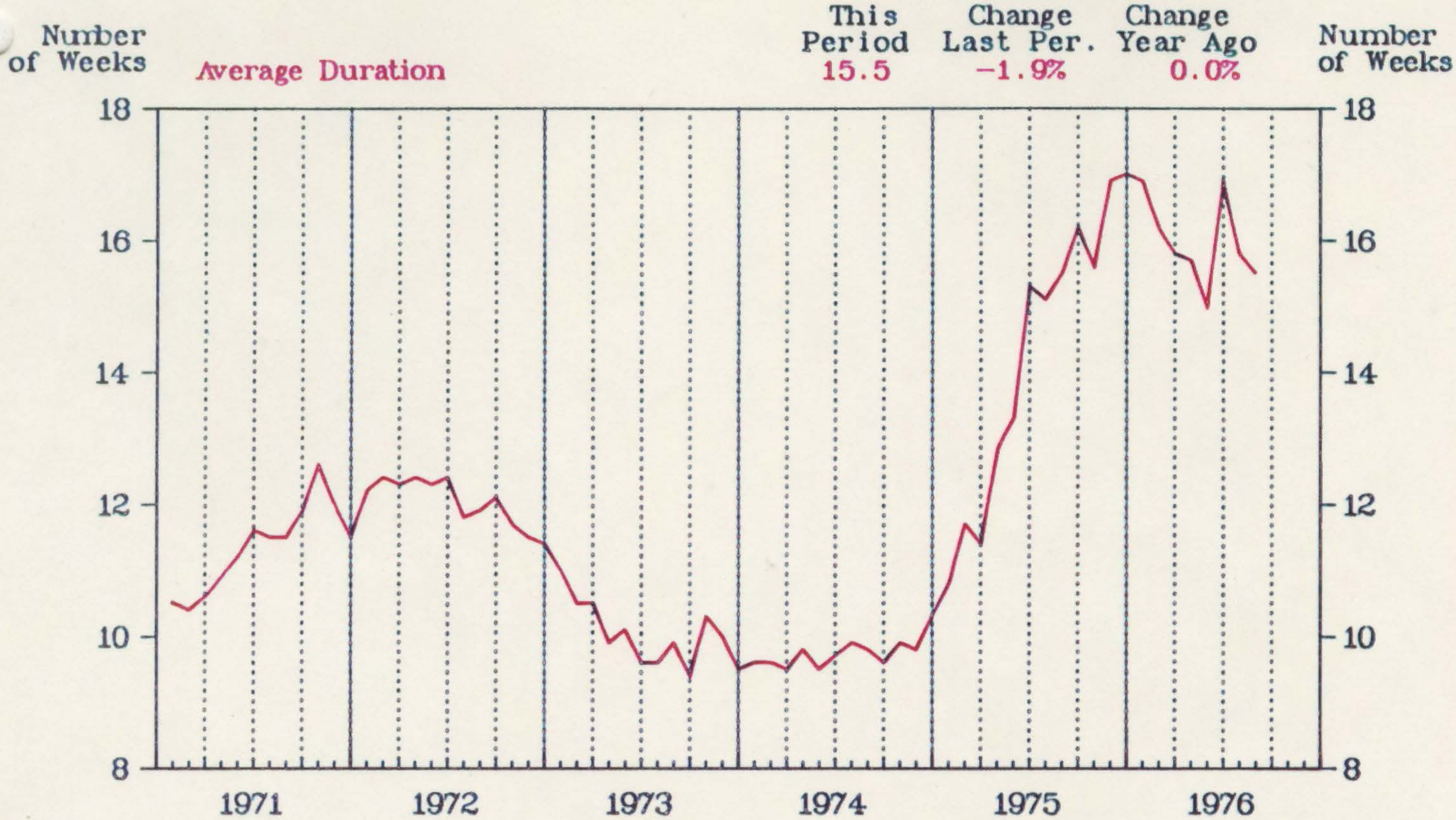
A.2.2—Duration of Unemployment
Number of Workers Unemployed

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Less Than 5 Weeks	2,829	−4.1%	2.6%
5 to 14 Weeks	2,427	19.7%	−0.9%
15 Weeks and Over	2,387	3.0%	−17.1%



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

A.2.2–Average Duration of Unemployment



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

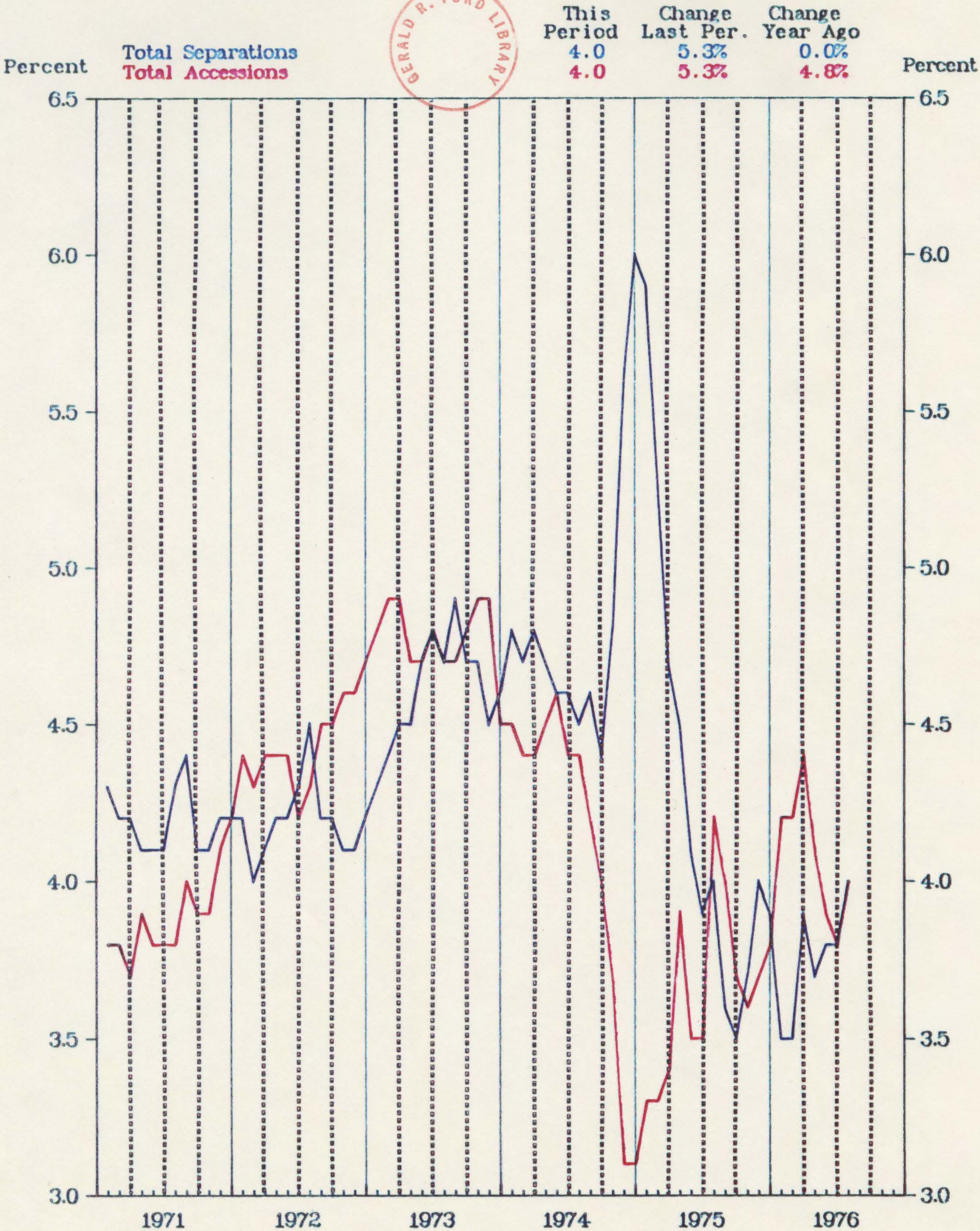
- The number of workers unemployed from 5 to 14 weeks rose 399,000 to 2,427,000 (19.7 percent) in August, and the number unemployed less than 5 weeks declined 122,000 to 2,829,000 (4.1 percent).

    - As a result, the Average (Mean) Duration of Unemployment dropped only 0.3 week to 15.5 weeks.

- Following an increase of 319,000 workers over a 2-month span from May to July, the number of workers unemployed 15 weeks and over rose only 70,000 in August to 2,387,000.

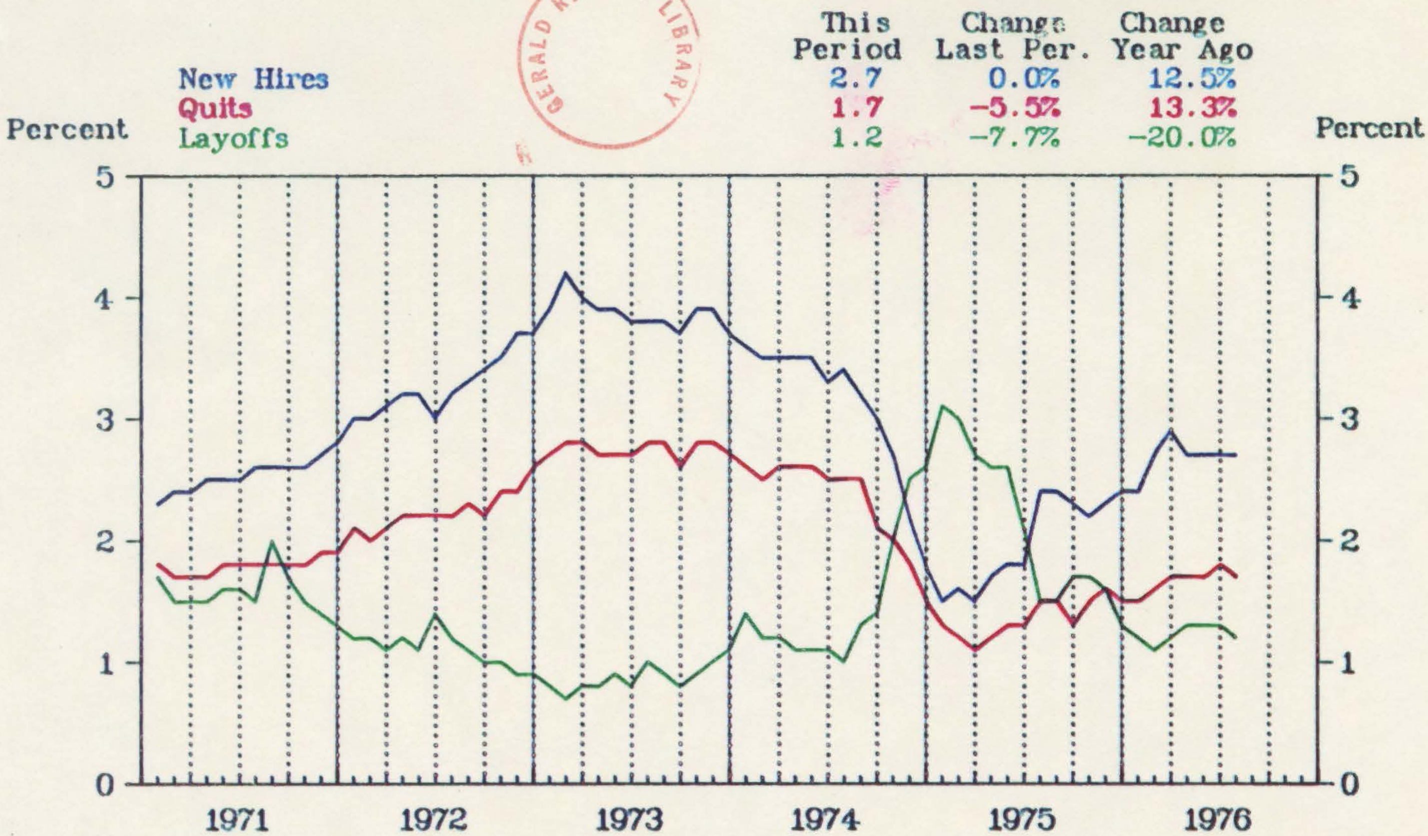
    - Still 491,000 below the 2,878,000 workers unemployed 15 weeks and over in August 1975.

A.2.4–Labor Turnover in Manufacturing



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

A.2.4–Components of Labor Turnover



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

- The Total Separation Rate climbed to 4.0 per 100 workers in July, the highest since November 1975.

  - Quits declined for the first time since December, dropping 5.5 percent.

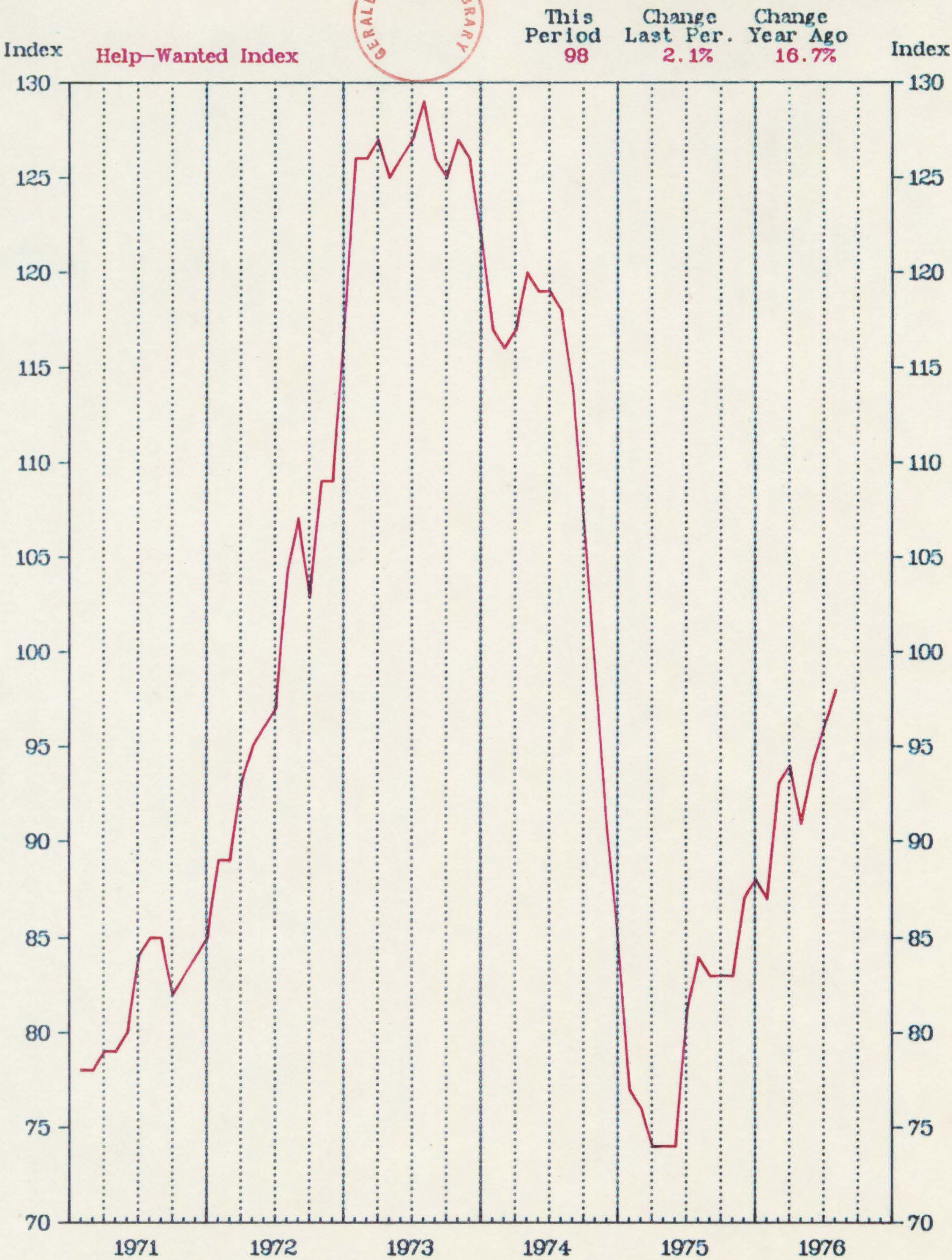
  - The Layoff Rate stood at 1.2 percent, a 7.7 percent decline from June.

- Total Accessions rebounded in July to a rate of 4.0 per 100 workers after three consecutive months of decline.

  - New Hire Rate has remained at a 2.7 percent rate since April.

A.2.5—Index of Help—Wanted Advertising

(1967=100)



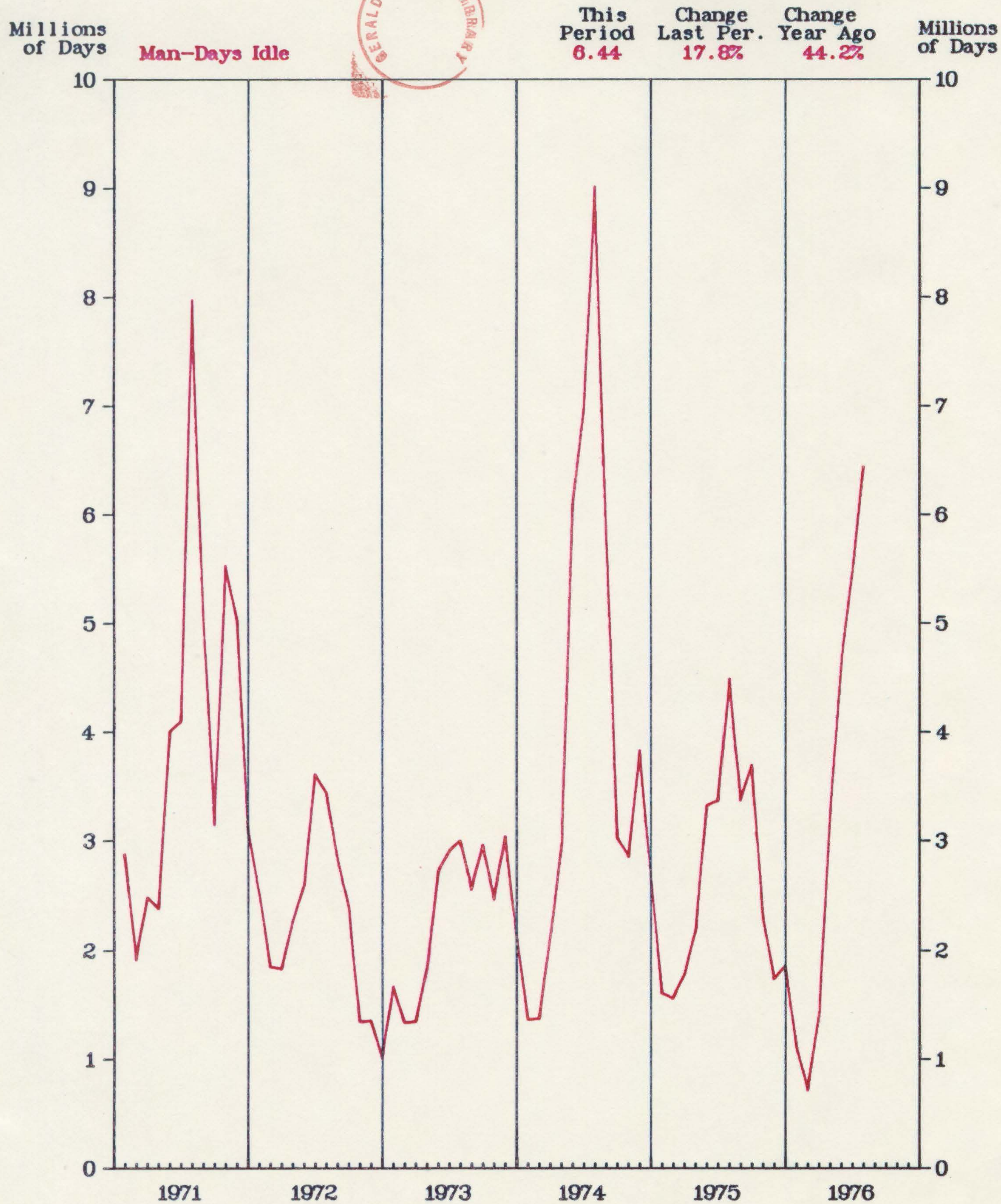
Source: The Conference Board
6 September 1976

- The Index of Help-Wanted Advertising, a sensitive indicator of job market trends, rose 2 points to 98 in July.

  - The Index, which measures the volume of classified advertising in 51 major U.S. newspapers, has risen 14 points, or 16.7 percent, over the level of a year ago.

  - The Index stands 32.4 percent above the low of 74 recorded in March-May 1975, but remains 24 percent below the July 1973 high of 129.

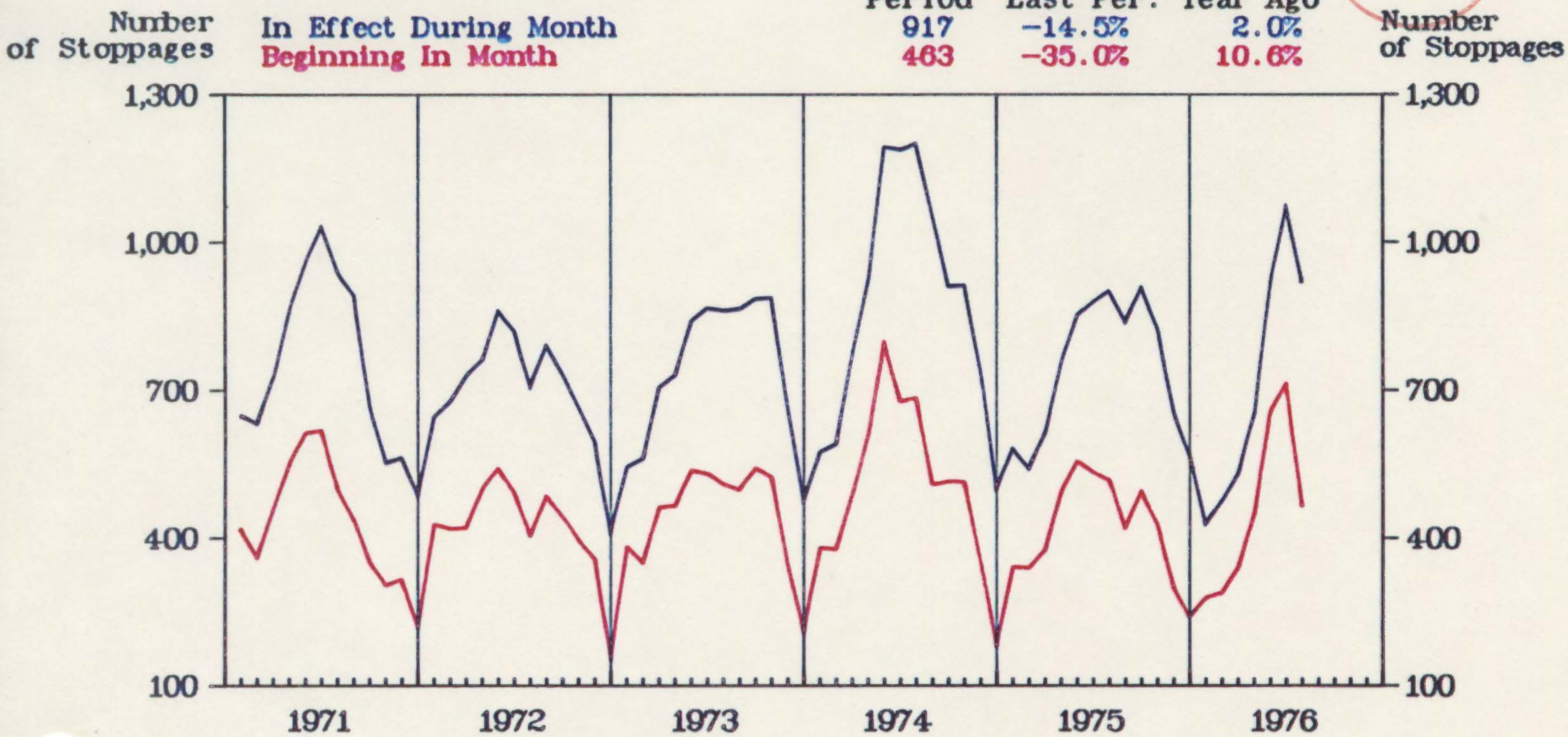
A.3.5–Days Idle as a Result of Work Stoppages
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

A.3.5–Number of Stoppages
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
In Effect During Month	917	−14.5%	2.0%
Beginning In Month	463	−35.0%	10.6%

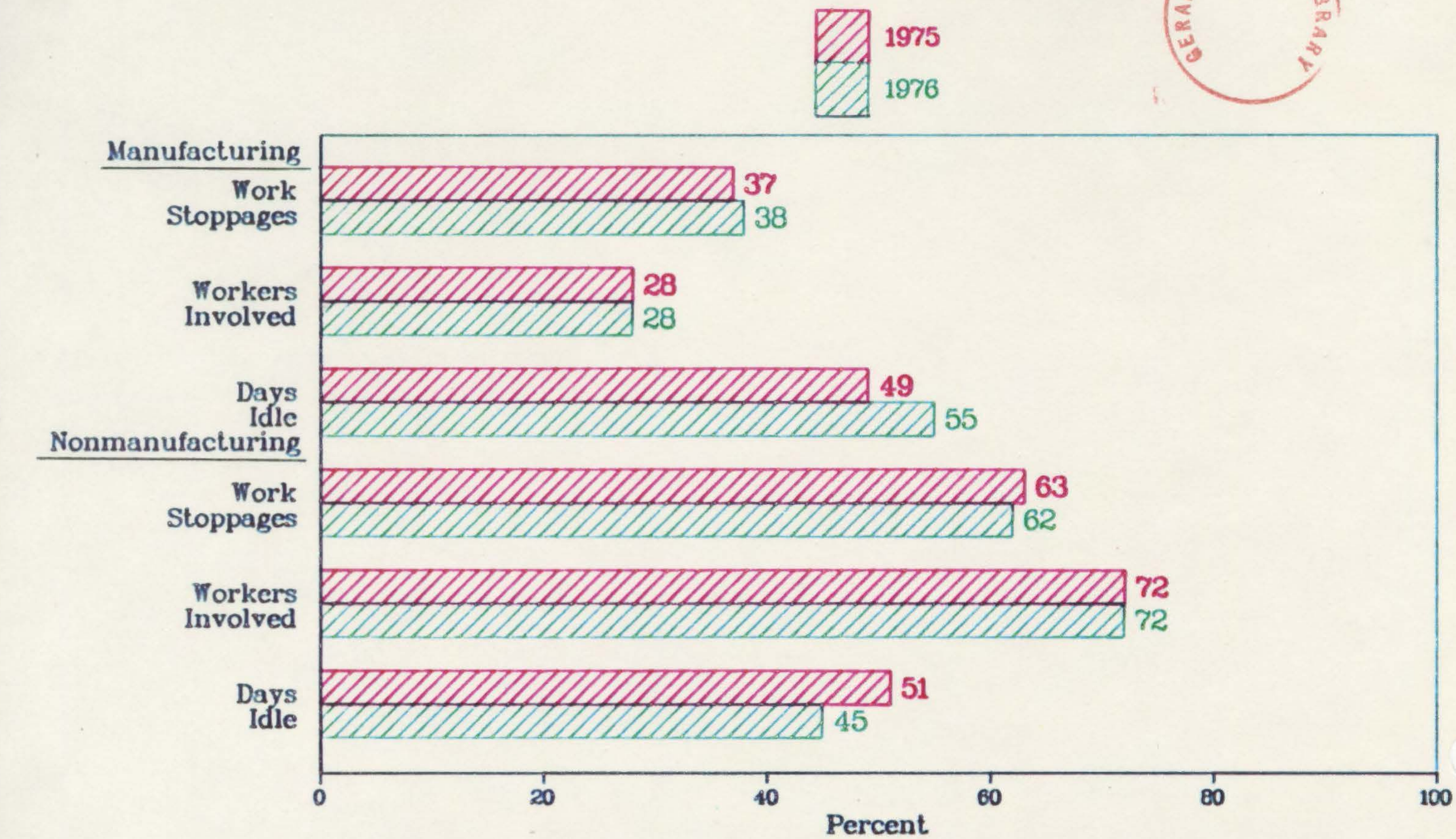


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

- Idleness attributable to work stoppages rose in July for the fifth consecutive month.
    - Days of Idleness increased to 6.4 million, almost 1 million more than in June, and almost 2 million above July 1975.
    - Strikes in mining, rubber, construction and electrical machinery industries were directly attributable to increased Man-Days Idle.
- The number of Stoppages in Effect declined 14.5 percent in July.
- The number of Work Stoppages begun in July decreased by 249 to 463.
    - Some 338,000 workers participated in New Strikes this month compared with 276,000 in June.

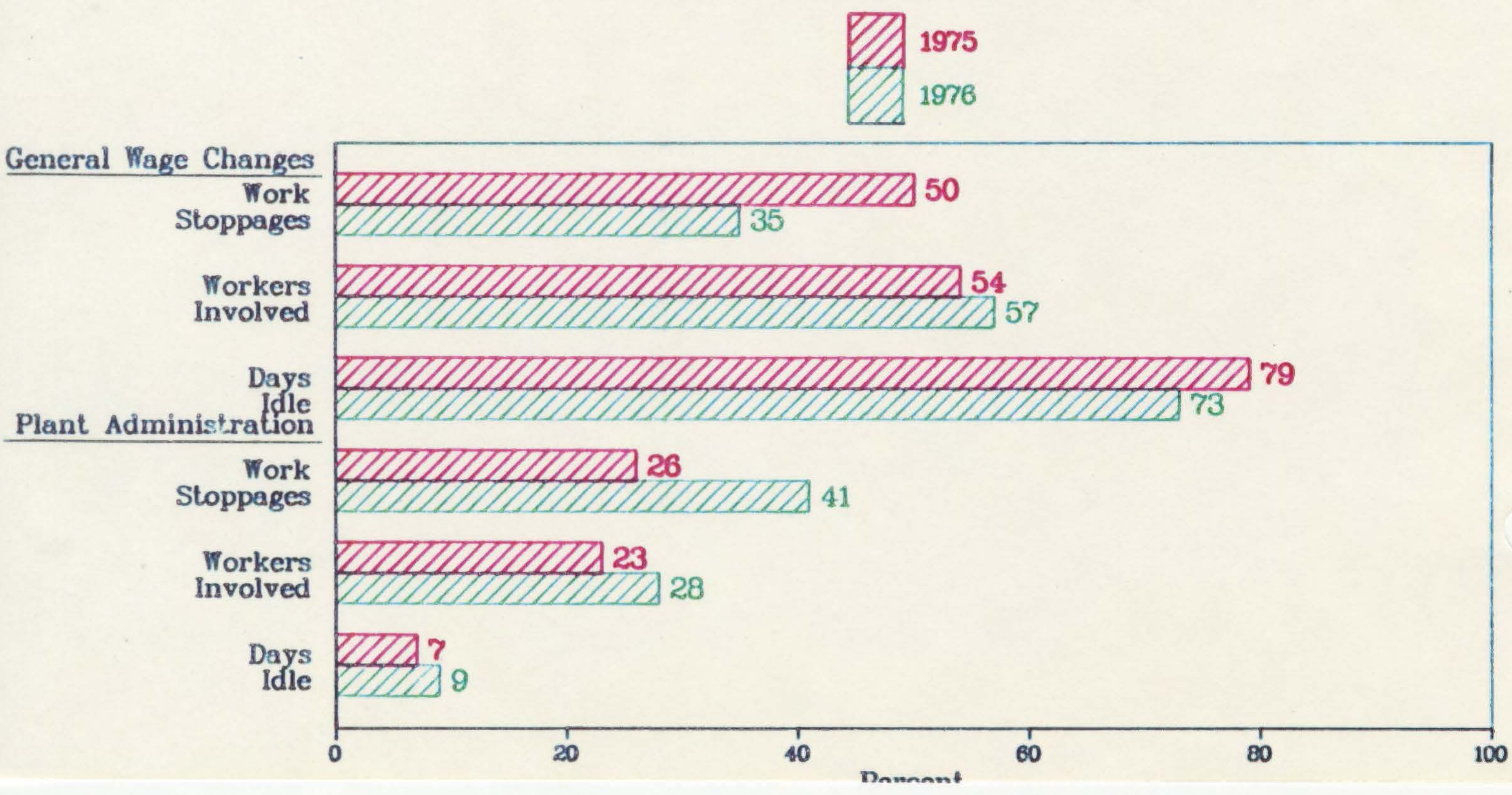
A. 3 . 5–Percent Distribution of Work Stoppages by Industry

(First 6 Months: 1975–1976)



A. 3 . 5–Percent Distribution of Work Stoppages by Major Issue

(First 6 Months: 1975–1976)



- The distribution of strikes throughout the economy showed only slight variation on an industry by industry basis between the first six months of 1975 and 1976.

    - For both periods, the Manufacturing sector accounted for 37 and 38 percent, respectively.

        - During the first half of 1976, as in 1975, 28 percent of workers involved in disputes were in manufacturing, with 72 percent in nonmanufacturing.

        - There was a slight change in the distribution of idleness between the two sectors, with manufacturing increasing its share in 1976.

- The proportion of strikes resulting from Plant Administration issues rose to 41 percent during the first half of 1976, compared to 26 percent in the comparable 1975 period.

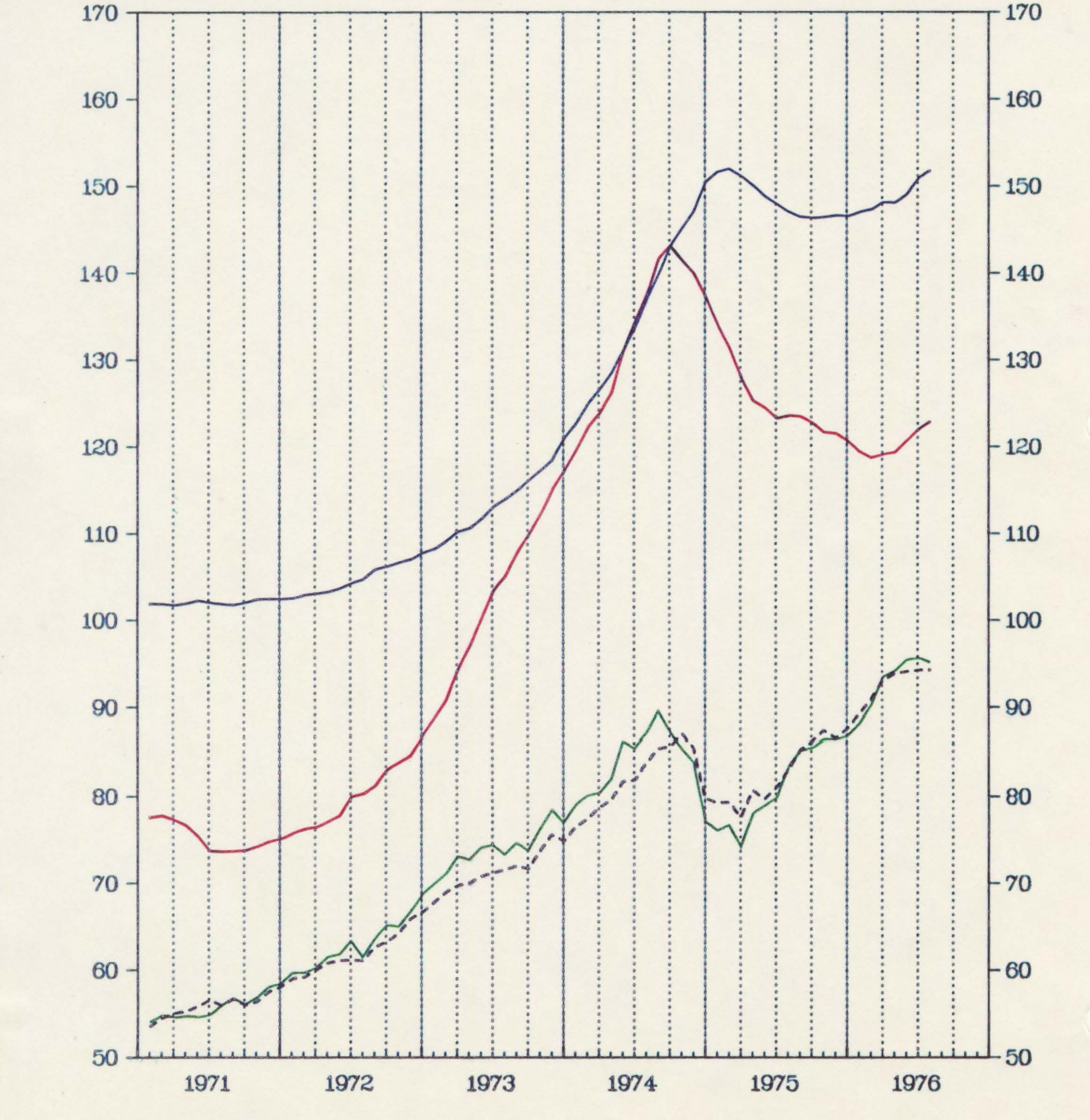
    - Strikes resulting from General Wage Changes declined 30 percent in 1976 down from 50 percent in 1975.

        - In both years, however, this issue accounted for over one-half of all workers and approximately three quarters of all idleness.

A.4.4—Manufacturers' Shipment, Inventories, and Orders

All Manufacturing

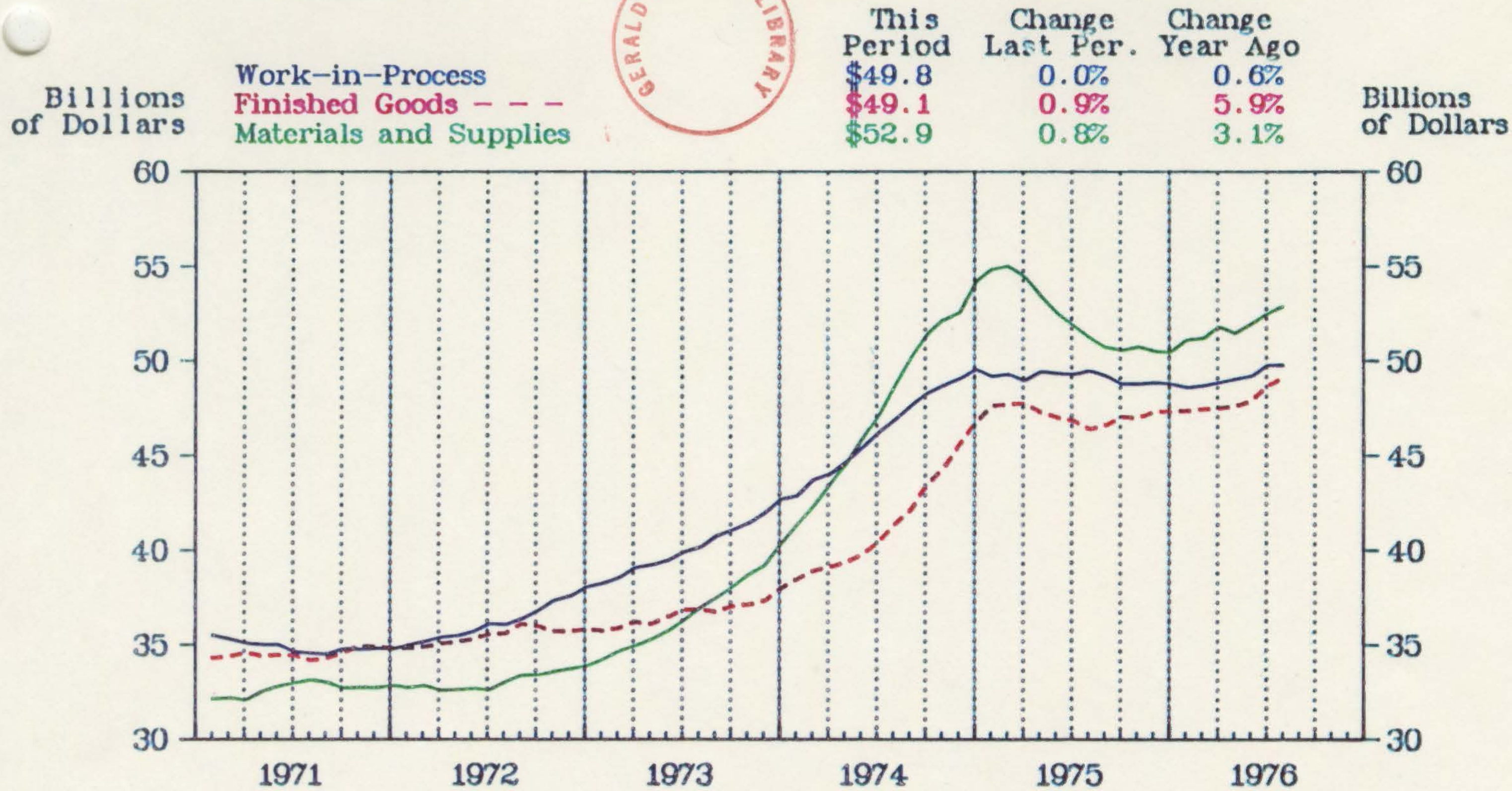
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Inventories	$151.8	0.6%	3.1%
Unfilled Orders	$122.9	0.7%	−0.6%
New Orders	$95.1	−0.5%	14.2%
Shipments – – –	$94.3	0.0%	13.5%



Source: Bureau of the Census
6 September 1976

A.4.4—Inventories by Stage of Fabrication

All Manufacturing



Source: Bureau of the Census
6 September 1976

- Manufacturers' Inventories rose $867 million (0.6 percent) to $151.8 billion for the month.

  - Up 3.1 percent from a year ago and only slightly below the February 1975 high of $152 billion.

- Unfilled Orders were up $883 million over the last period to $122.9 billion (0.7 percent).

  - Down 0.6 percent from a year ago.

- New Orders, which declined $450 million (0.5 percent) to $95.1 billion, were 14.2 percent above those of a year ago.

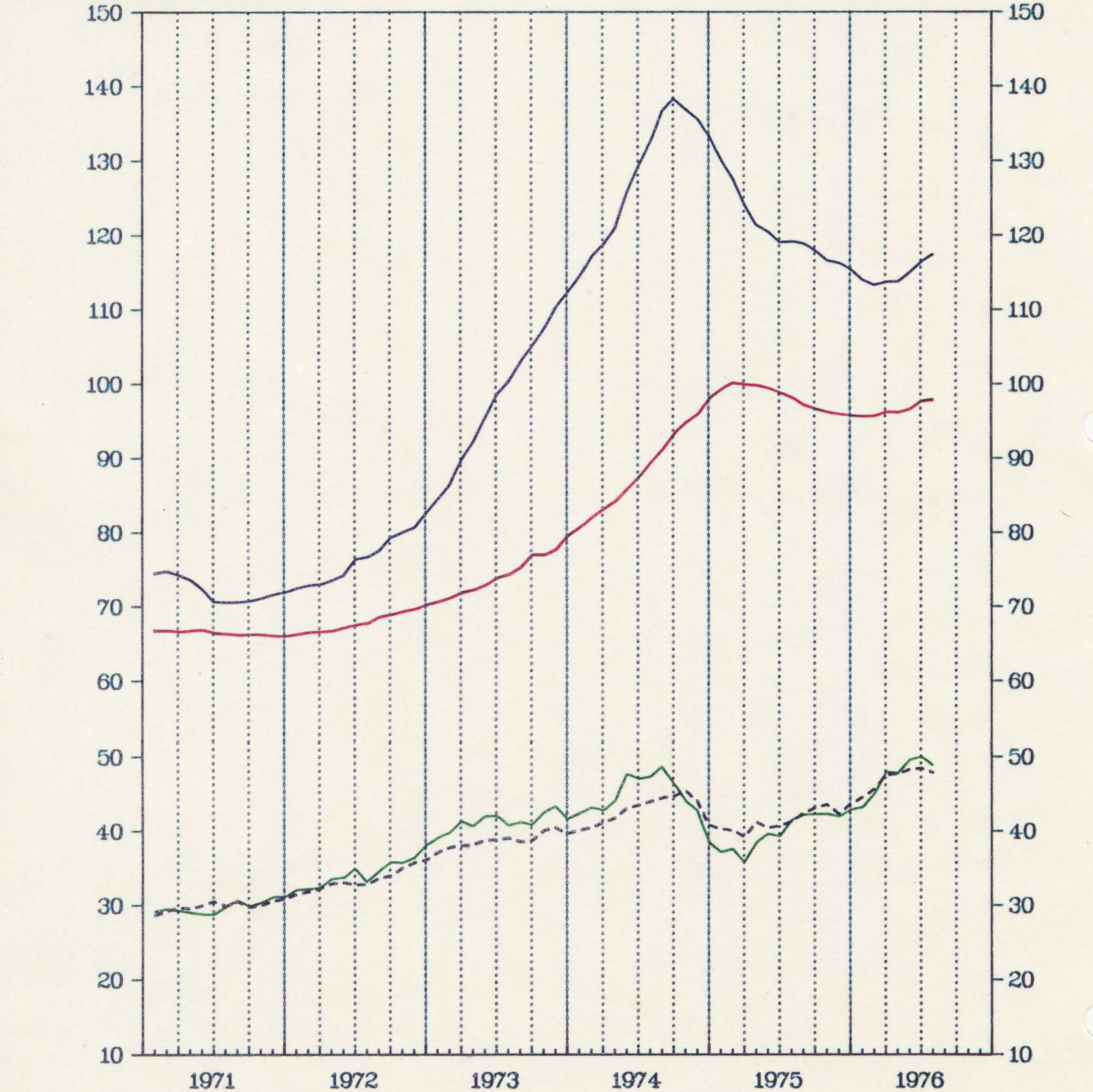
- Shipments, which at $94.3 billion were little changed over the last period, were 13.5 percent above those of a year ago.

- The largest monthly gains in Inventories by Stage of Fabrication were posted by Finished Goods and Materials and Supplies. Finished goods rose $453 million (0.9 percent) to $49.1 billion, and Materials and Supplies rose $395 million (0.8 percent) to $52.9 billion.

- Work-in-Process Inventories at $49.8 billion were at a high for the year and up 0.6 percent over last year.

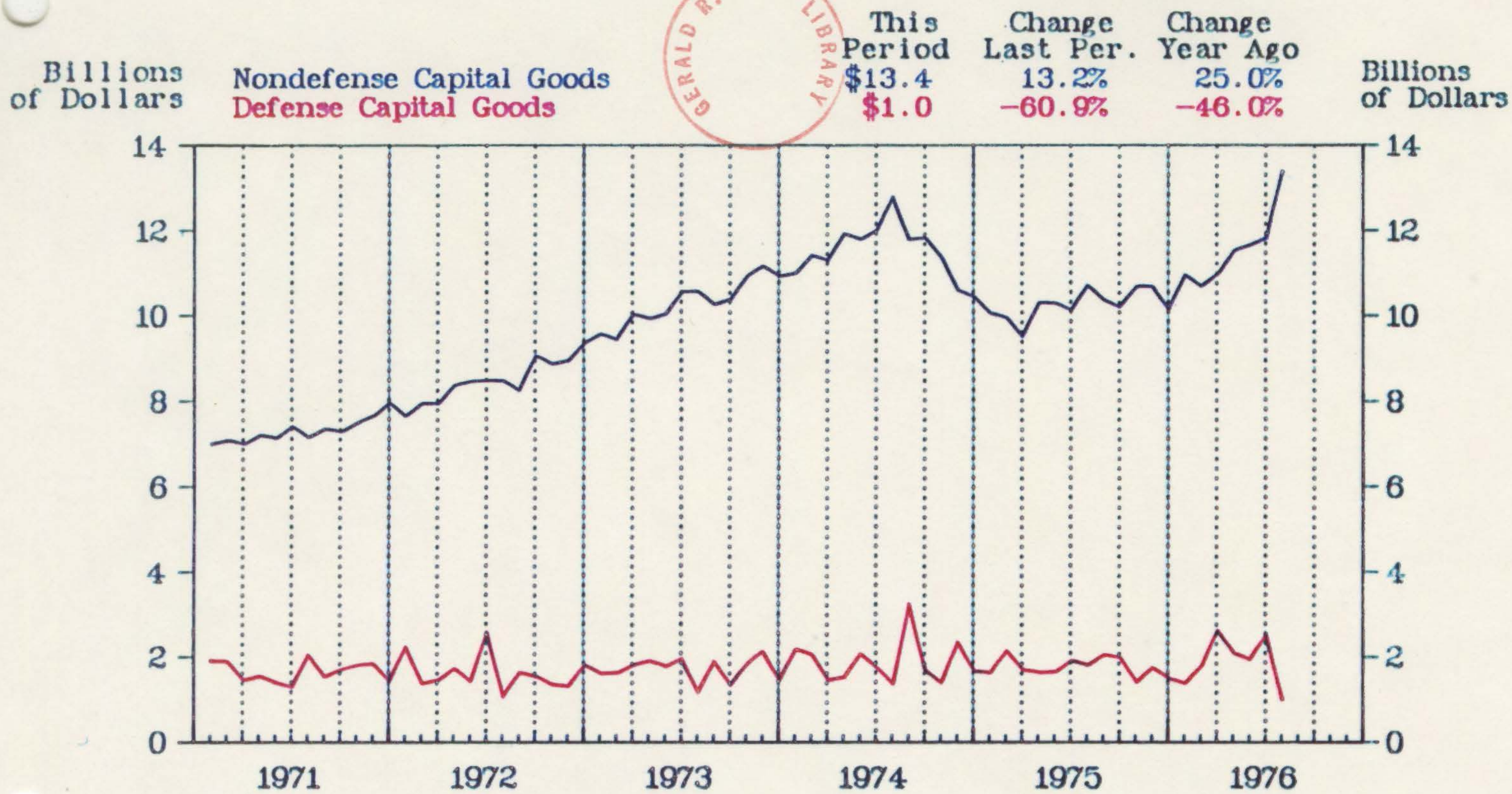
A.4.4–Manufacturers' Shipments Inventories, and Orders
Durable Goods

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Unfilled Orders	$117.5	0.9%	−1.5%
Total Inventories	$97.8	0.2%	−0.4%
New Orders	$48.9	−2.1%	17.9%
Shipments – – –	$47.9	−1.2%	15.8%



Source: Bureau of the Census
6 September 1976

A.4.4—Manufacturers' New Orders
Nondefense and Defense Capital Goods



Source: Bureau of the Census
6 September 1976

- New Orders for Durable Goods declined $1.1 billion (2.1 percent) to $48.9 billion; the largest monthly decline since the 4.8 percent decline in March 1975.

    - New Orders were up 17.9 percent over last year.

- Shipments of Durable Goods declined $0.6 billion (1.2 percent) to $47.9 billion, the first decline in 8 months.

    - Shipments were up 15.8 percent over last year.

- Unfilled orders for Durable Goods were up $1 billion (0.9 percent) to $117.5 billion, and Total Inventories were up $223 million (0.2 percent) to $97.8 billion.

- New Orders for Nondefense Capital Goods increased $1.6 billion (13.2 percent) to $13.4 billion, the fifth consecutive rise.

    - This increase is the largest on record.

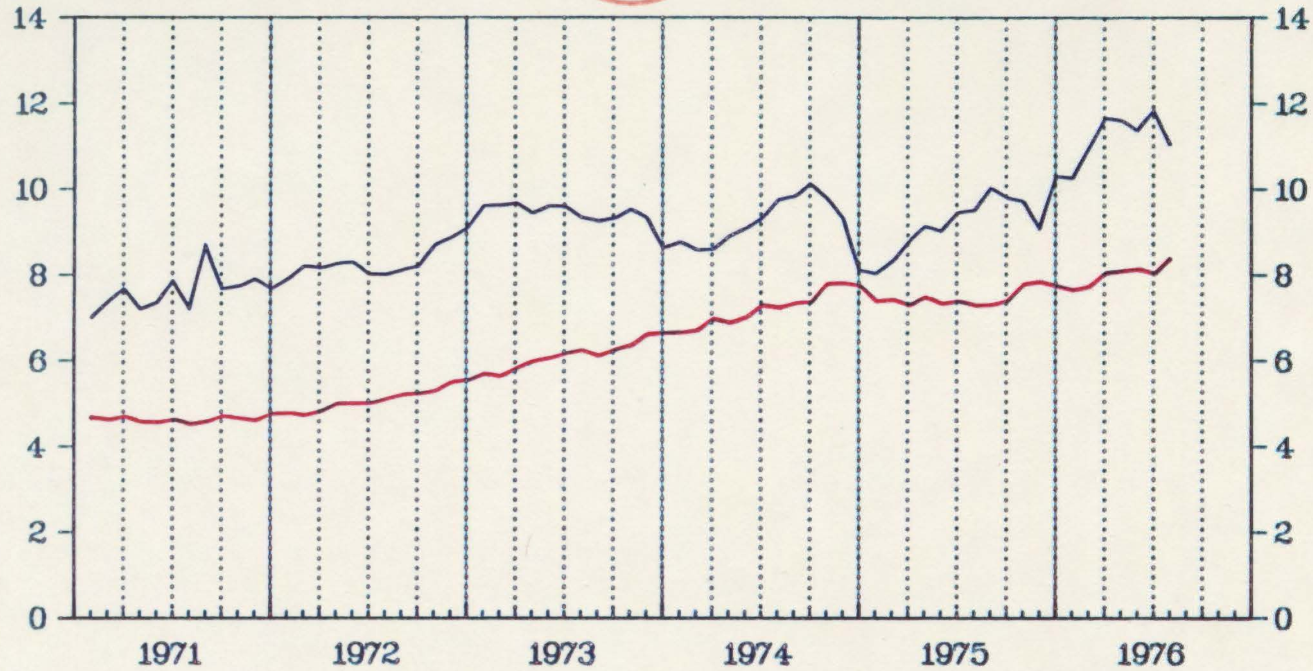
- New Orders for Defense Capital Goods were for the month down $1.5 billion (60.9 percent) to $1 billion and for the year down $835 million (46 percent).

    - This decrease is also a record.

A.4.4—Manufacturers' Shipments
Components of Durable Goods

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Transportation Equipment	$11.0	−6.9%	16.1%
Nonelectrical Machinery	$8.4	4.5%	15.2%

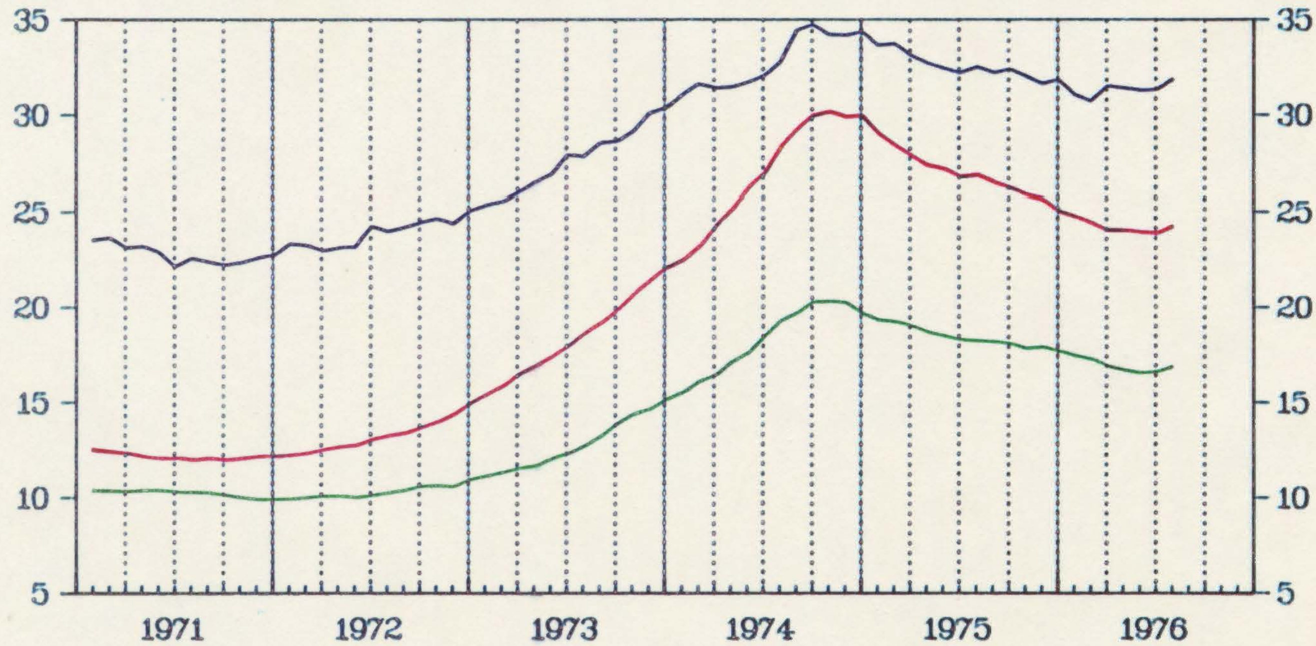
Billions of Dollars



Manufacturers' Unfilled Orders
Components of Durable Goods

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Transportation Equipment	$31.9	1.6%	−2.0%
Nonelectrical Machinery	$24.2	1.4%	−9.7%
Fabricated Metals	$16.9	1.4%	−7.5%

Billions of Dollars



Source: Bureau of the Census
6 September 1976

- The decline in Shipments of Transportation Equipment, down $816 million (6.9 percent) to $11.0 billion, was the major contribution to the decline in Shipments of Manufactured Goods.

    - Transportation Equipment Shipments were up 16.1 percent over last year.

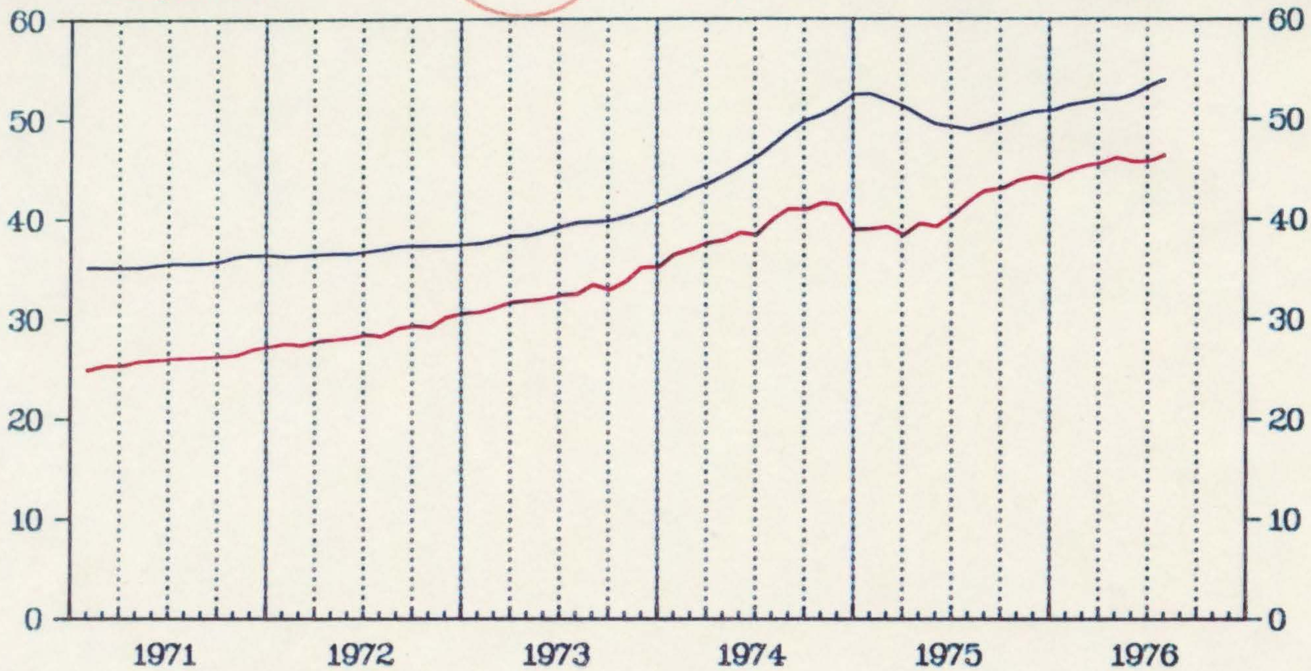
- The increase in Shipments of Nonelectrical Machinery, up $363 million (4.5 percent) to $8.4 billion, helped offset the decline in Transportation Shipments.

- Most of the gains in Unfilled Orders for Manufactured Goods were in Transportation (up 1.6 percent) and Nonelectrical Machinery and Fabricated Metals (both up 1.4 percent).

A.4.4–Manufacturers' Shipments and Inventories
Nondurable Goods

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Inventories	$53.9	1.2%	10.1%
Shipments	$46.4	1.4%	11.3%

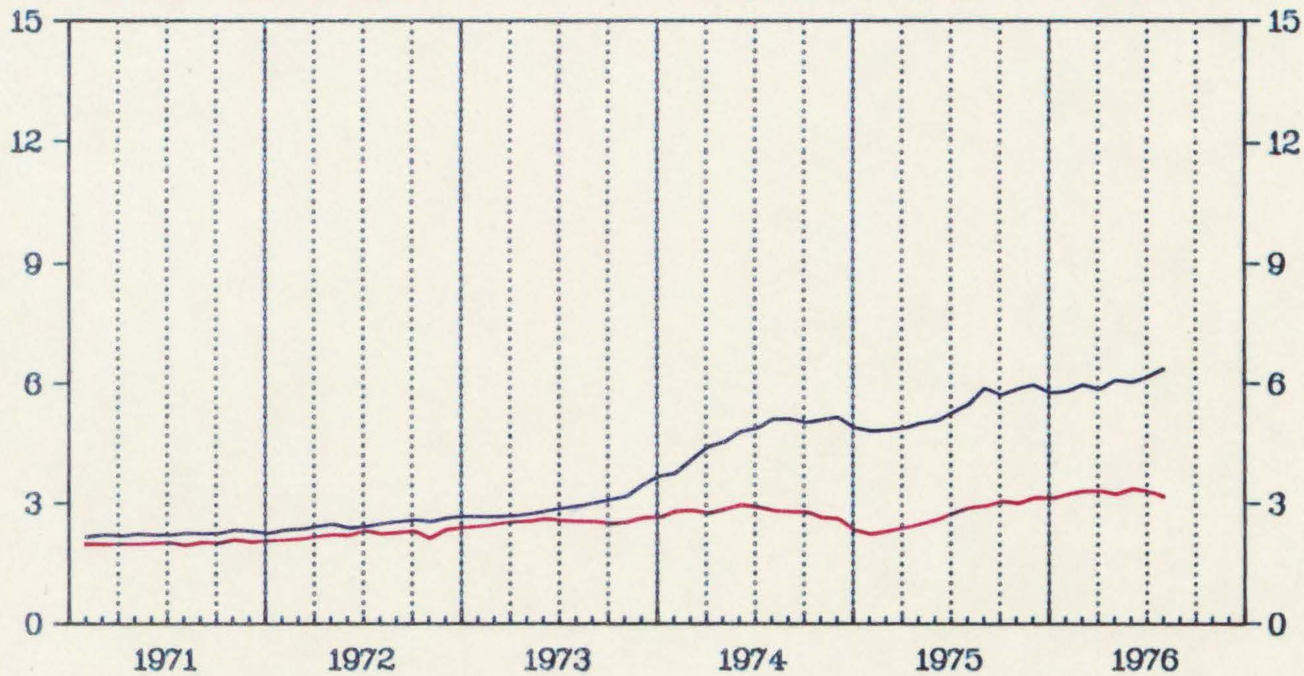
Billions of Dollars



Manufacturers' Shipments
Selected Nondurable Goods

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Petroleum and Coal Products	$6.4	3.1%	1.6%
Textile Mill Products	$3.2	-3.5%	10.2%

Billions of Dollars



Source: Bureau of the Census
6 September 1976

- Inventories of Nondurable Goods, which increased $644 million (1.2 percent) to $53.9 billion, were up 10.1 percent over last year.

    - Nondurable Goods accounted for most of the July increase in Inventories.

- Nondurable Goods Shipments, which rose $625 million (1.4 percent) to $46.4 billion, were up 11.3 percent over July 1975.

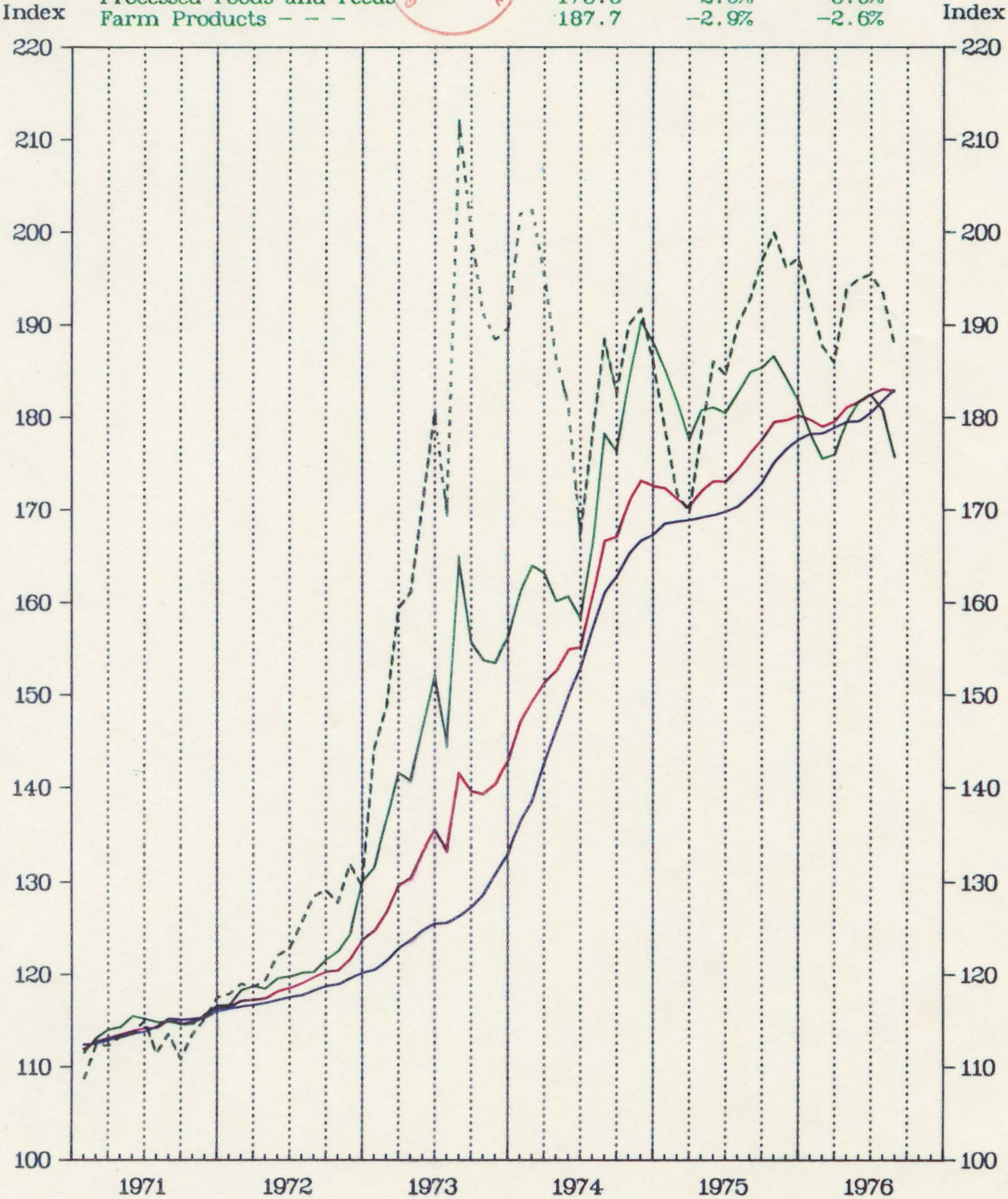
- Shipments of Petroleum and Coal products increased $191 million (3.1 percent) to $6.4 billion.

- Shipments of Textile Mill Products, down $114 million (3.5 percent) to $3.2 billion, registered the sole decline among Nondurable Goods Shipments.

    - Shipments of Textile Mill Products were up 10.2 percent over last year.

A.6.2–Wholesale Price Index
(1967=100)

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Industrial Commodities	183.0	0.7%	6.7%
All Commodities,Total	182.8	-0.1%	3.9%
Processed Foods and Feeds	175.6	-2.9%	-5.0%
Farm Products - - -	187.7	-2.9%	-2.6%



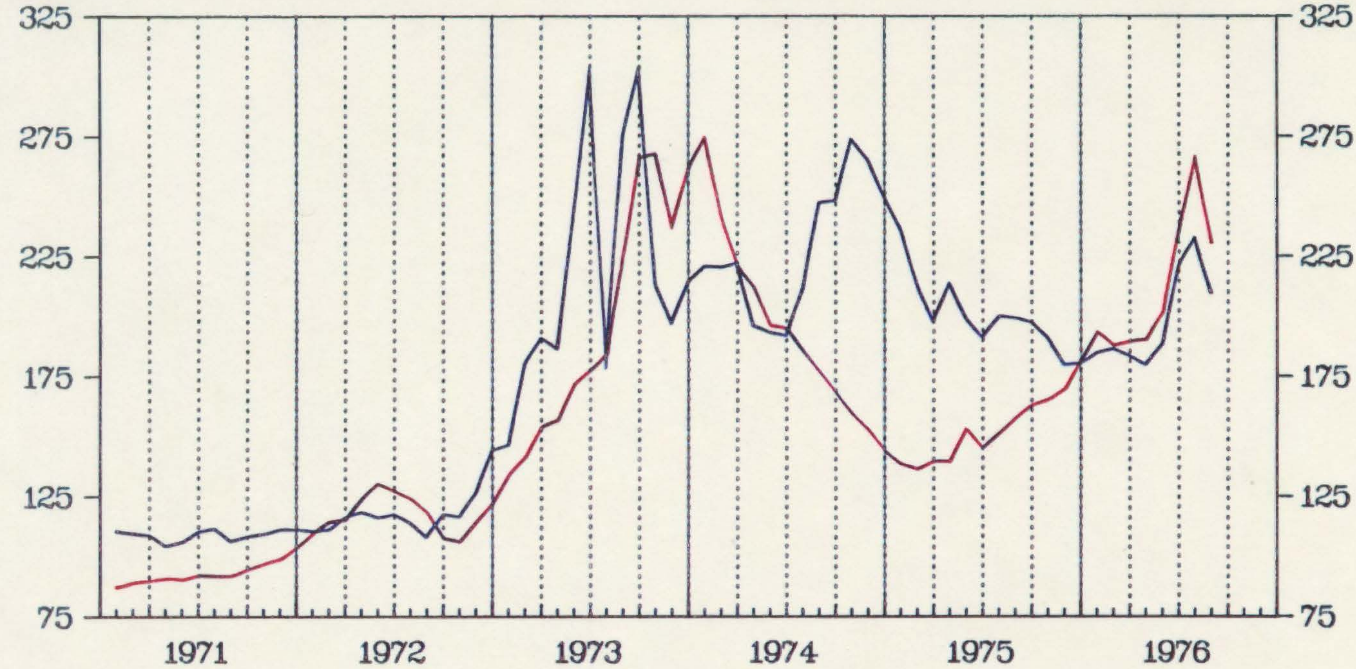
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

- The Wholesale Price Index for All Commodities declined for the third time in 1976, down 0.1 percent in August.
  - This decline followed increases which averaged 0.3 percent in the 3 preceding months.
- The August decline was entirely caused by lower prices for both Farm Products and Processed Food and Feeds, which moved down more than in July.
  - Indexes for Farm Products and Processed Foods and Feeds both declined 2.9 percent, following smaller July decreases of 1.0 and 0.9 percent, respectively.
- The Industrial Commodities Index rose 0.7 percent in August, the third consecutive month of relatively large price advances following smaller increases during the first 5 months of 1976.

A.6.2–Wholesale Price Index

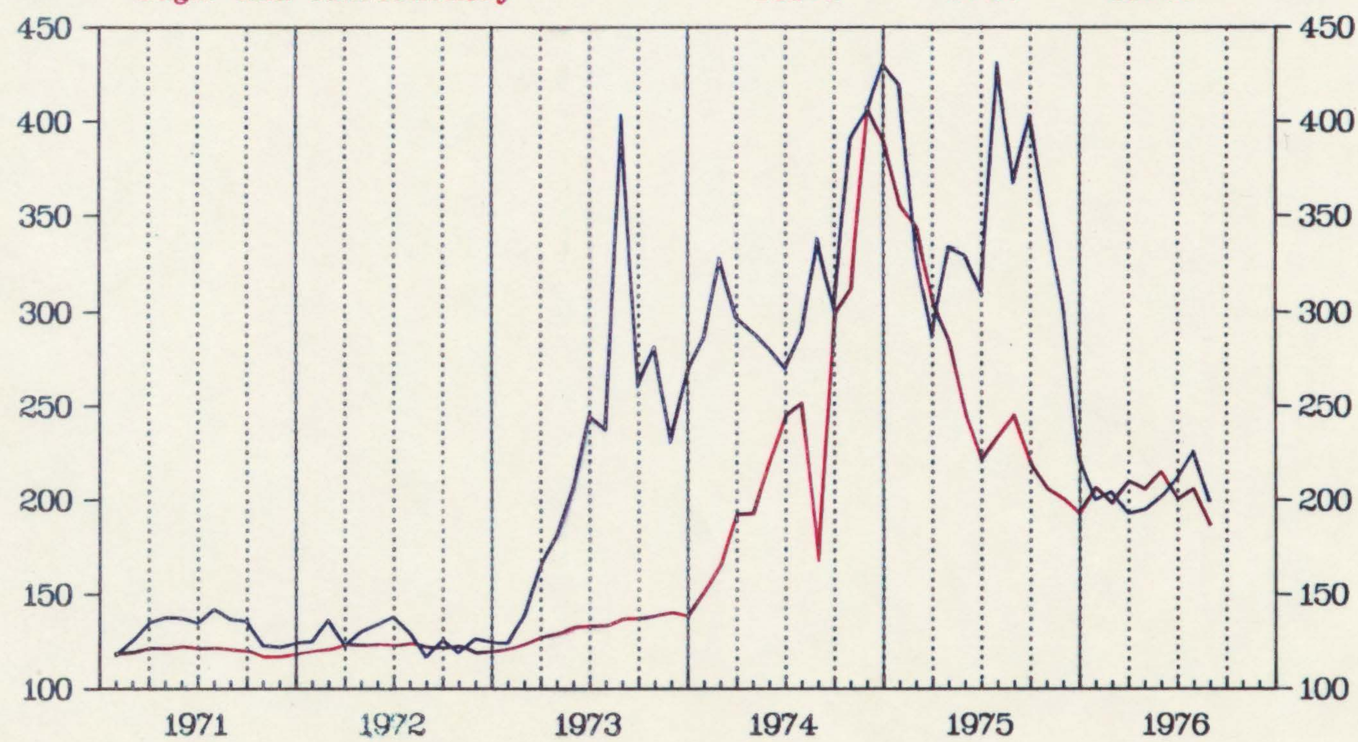
Selected Farm Products

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Hay, Hayseeds, and Oilseeds	209.6	−10.7%	5.2%
Plant and Animal Fibers	229.9	−13.5%	46.2%



Selected Processed Foods and Feeds

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Animal Fats and Oils	199.2	−11.9%	−46.0%
Sugar and Confectionery	186.3	−9.4%	−23.9%

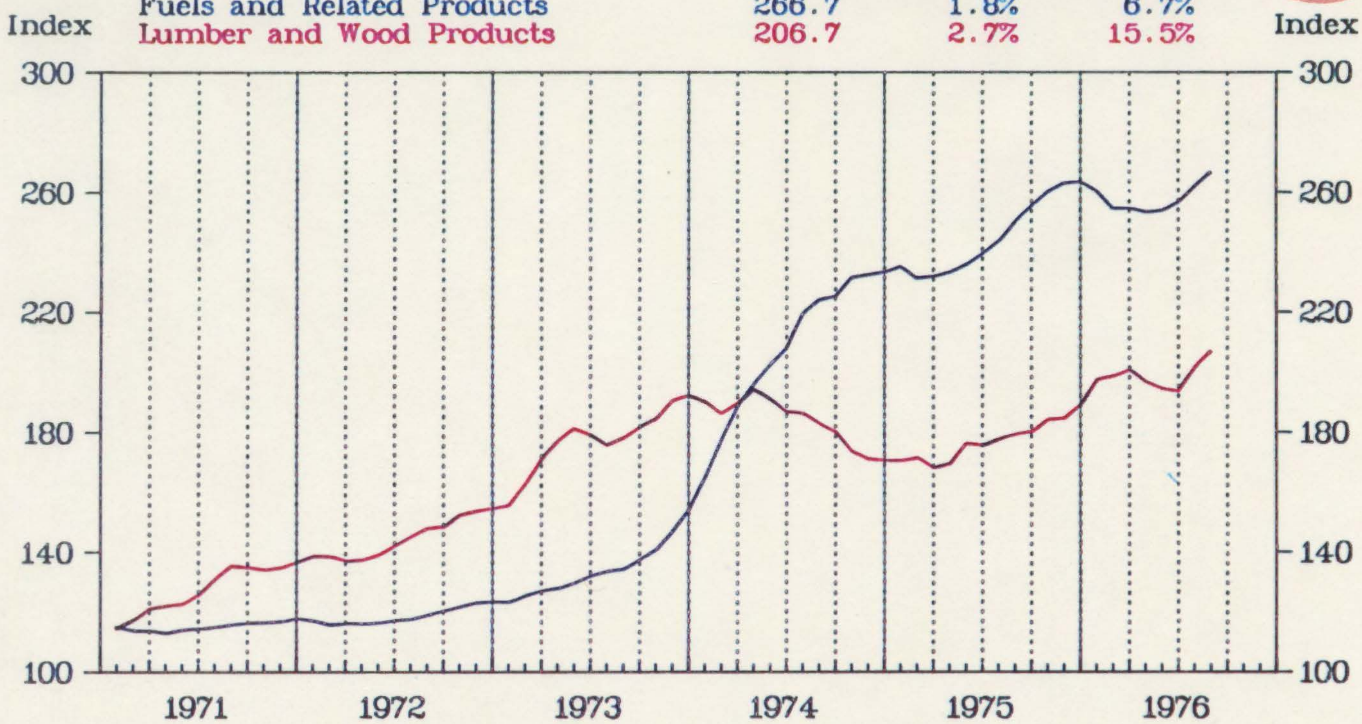


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

A.6.2–Wholesale Price Index

Selected Industrial Commodities

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Fuels and Related Products	266.7	1.8%	6.7%
Lumber and Wood Products	206.7	2.7%	15.5%

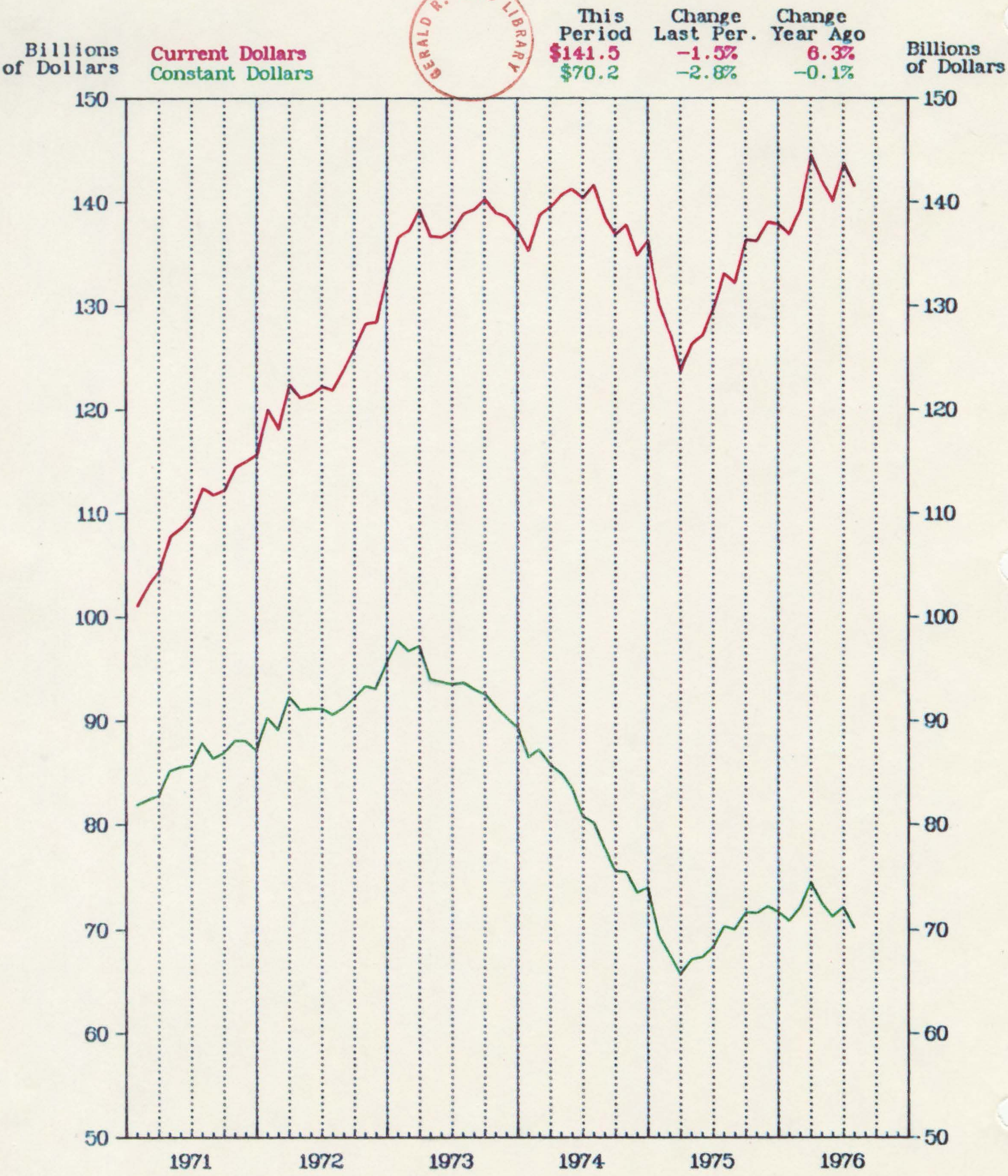


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
6 September 1976

- Among Farm Products, prices for Plant and Animal Fibers and Hay, Hayseeds, and Oilseeds dropped sharply after increases in previous months.
    - Plant and Animal Fibers dropped 13.5 percent, after rising a total of 22.4 percent since February.
    - Hay, Hayseeds and Oilseeds declined 10.7 percent after reporting increases in each of the three previous months.
- Within the Processed Food and Feed group, prices for Sugar and Confectionery and Fats and Oils declined following advances in July.
    - Sugar and Confectionery decreased 9.4 percent to 186.3--Lowest level since August 1974.
    - Animal Fats and Oils declined for the first time in 5 months.
- The largest advances in the Industrial Commodities Index occurred in Lumber and Wood Products and in Fuels and Related Products and Power.
    - Fuels and Related Products and Power continued to rise, increasing 1.8 percent.
    - Lumber and Wood Products rose 2.7 percent to a new high of 206.7.

A.7.2—Value of New Construction Work Done

Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates

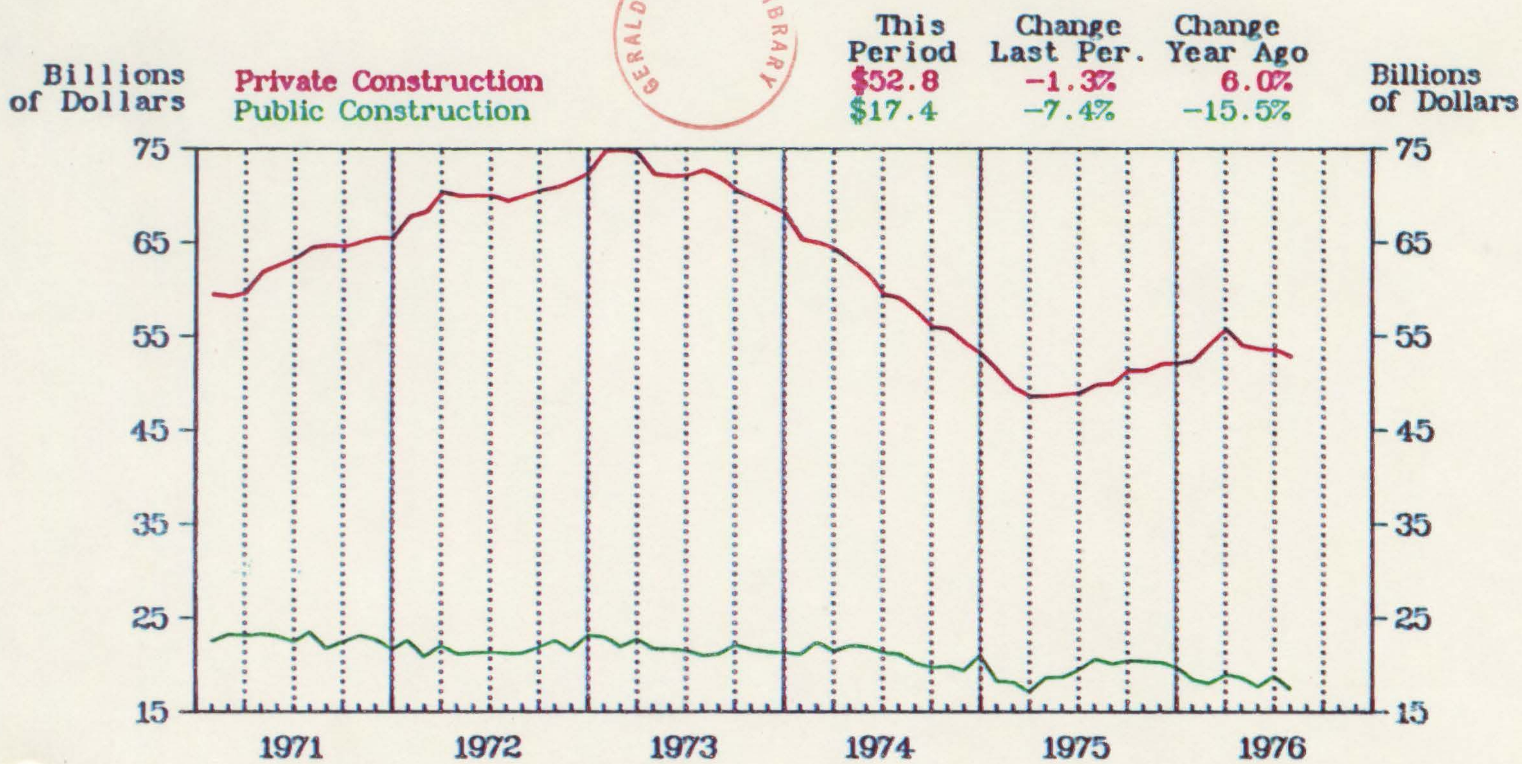


Source: Bureau of the Census

6 September 1976

A.7.2—Value of New Construction Work Done

Private and Public Construction
In Constant Dollars



Source: Bureau of the Census
6 September 1976

- The Value of New Construction Work Done, as measured in constant dollars, declined 2.8 percent to an annual rate of $70.2 billion, $2.0 billion below revised estimate of $72.2 billion and the lowest level since August 1975.

    - Construction outlays in current dollars declined 1.5 percent to an annual rate of $141.5 billion.

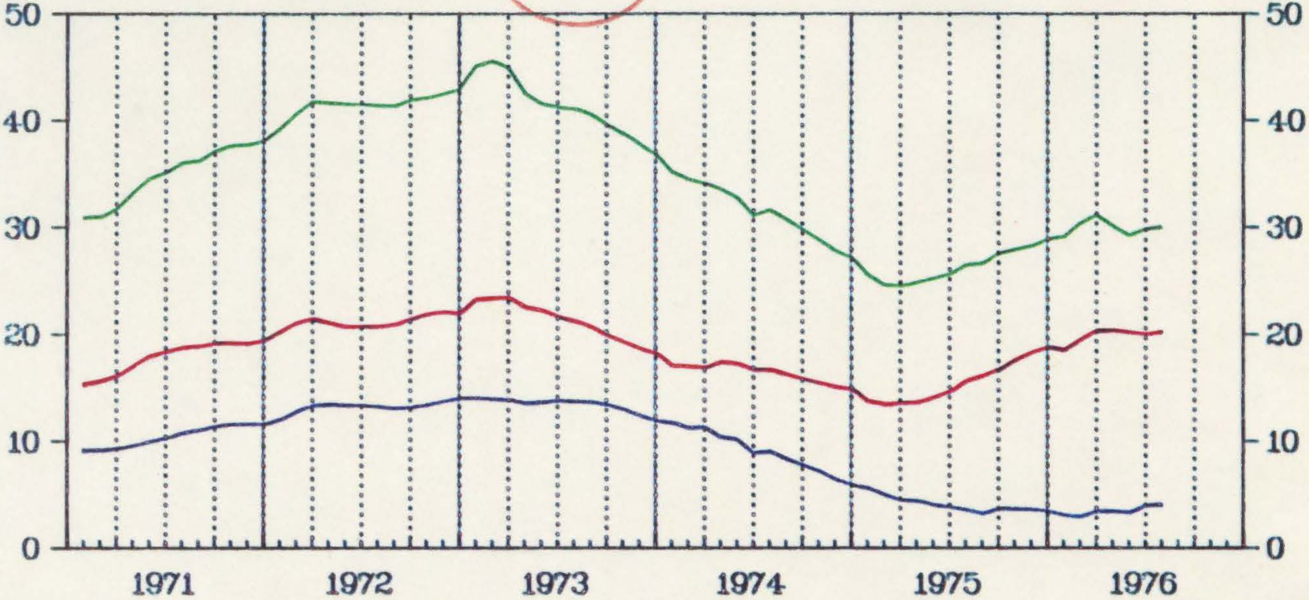
- Public Construction, declining 7.4 percent to an annual rate of $17.4 billion, accounted for about two-thirds of the decline in construction activity.

    - Private Construction dropped $0.7 billion, or 1.3 percent, to an annual pace of $52.8 billion.

A.7.2–Value of New Construction Work Done

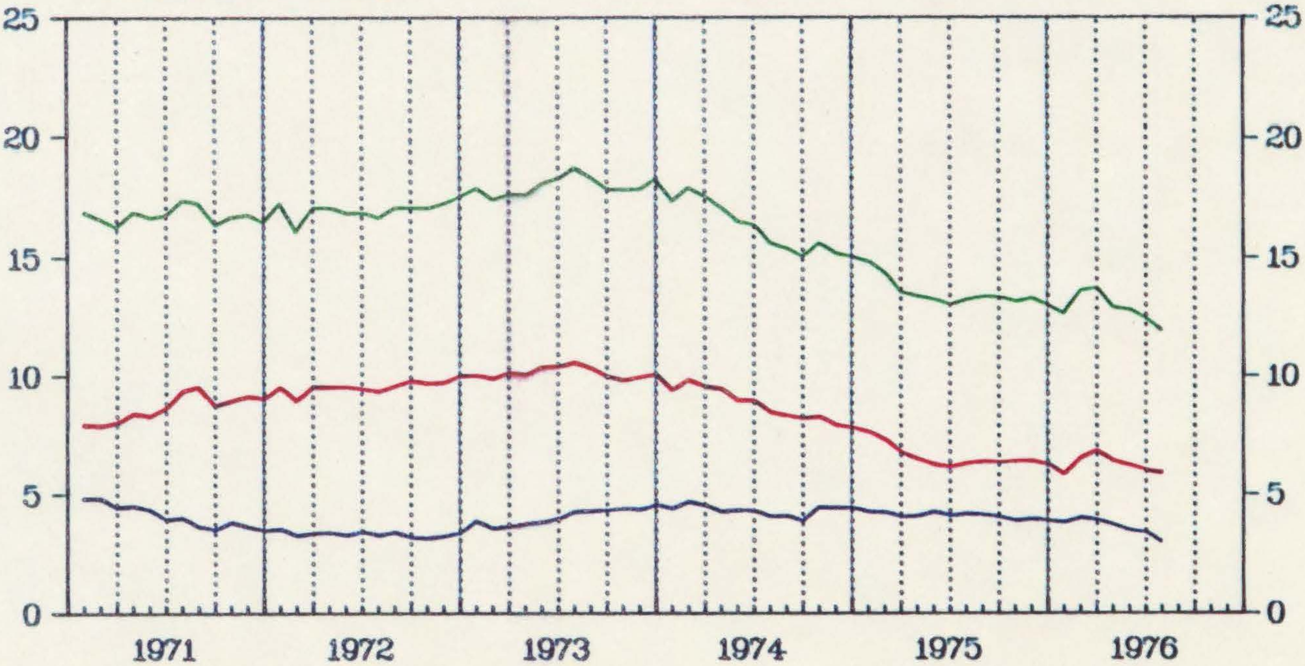
Private Residential Structures
In Constant 1967 Dollars

Billions of 1967 Dollars	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Residential Buildings	$30.0	0.7%	13.2%
1–Unit Structures	$20.2	1.0%	29.5%
Multiunit Structures	$4.0	2.6%	11.1%



Private Nonresidential Structures
In Constant 1967 Dollars

Billions of 1967 Dollars	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Nonresidential Buildings	$11.9	−4.0%	−9.8%
Commercial Buidings	$5.9	−1.7%	−6.3%
Industrial Buildings	$3.0	−11.8%	−28.6%



Source: Bureau of the Census

6 September 1976

- A $0.5 billion decline to $11.9 billion in nonresidential construction was partially offset by a $0.2 billion increase to $30.0 billion in residential construction.

  - The increase in residential construction reflected a $0.2 billion increase to $20.2 billion in the estimated annual rate of construction of 1-unit structures and in a $0.1 billion increase to $4.0 billion in the pace of multiunit construction.

  - The decline in new nonresidential construction occurred primarily in the Industrial Buildings sector, which dropped $0.4 billion, or 11.8 percent, to $3.0 billion, a 5-year low.

    - New construction of Commercial Buildings declined to a $5.9 billion pace, the lowest level in 1976.