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THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

September 23, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR BILL BAROODY

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

Nelson

WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTES

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FOR CALENDER YEAR 1976

September 20,1976

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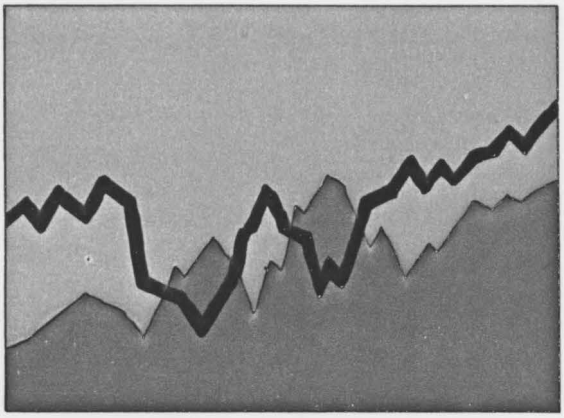

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WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTES ON U.S. DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

Prepared for the President and the Vice President

September 20, 1976

COMPILED BY THE FEDERAL STATISTICAL SYSTEM

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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

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MANUFACTURING AND TRADE SALES AND INVENTORIES
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HOUSING CONSTRUCTION
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Construction Reports," Series C

AUTOMOBILE COSTS
U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, "Cost of Operating an Automobile," April 1974

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL
U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Travel Service, "Highlights of International Travel To and From the U.S.: 1976"

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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.

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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	

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GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

SERIES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	QUARTERLY	ANNUAL	OTHER
SECTION B—General Social Indicators (Continued)					
B.5.3 Working Conditions					
— Regular and Overtime Hours, Selected Characteristics				X	
— Work Injuries by Occupation				X	
— Transportation to Work—Time, Distance, and Mode					X
B.5.4 Benefits					
— Vacations, Holidays					X
— Benefit Plans				X	
B.5.5 Retirement					
— Persons Retiring From Work				X	
— Work-Life Expectancy					X
— Retirement Benefits				X	
Part 6—Income, Consumption, and Wealth					
B.6.1 Income Levels					
— Median Family Income				X	
— Composition of Family Income				X	
— Per Capita Income				X	
B.6.2 Distribution of Income					
— Age, Race, and Sex				X	
— Regional Differences				X	
B.6.3 Poverty				X	
B.6.4 Consumption					
— Personal Consumption Expenditures			X		
— Consumption of Durable Goods				X	
B.6.5 Wealth					
— Net Worth of Consumer Units					X
— Composition of Wealth					X
B.6.6 Consumer Borrowing and Debt					
— Amount of Debt Outstanding				X	
— Debt/Income Ratio				X	
B.6.7 Consumer Attitudes			X		
Part 7—Housing					
B.7.1 Housing Conditions					
— Average Size of Households				X	
— Households Lacking Selected Facilities, by Size, Race, Tenure, and Location				X	
— Average Persons Per Room				X	

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GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

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					

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GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

SERIES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	QUARTERLY	ANNUAL	OTHER
SECTION C—Government Activity					
Part 1—Social Welfare and Security					
C.1.1 Social Security (OASDHI)					
— Current Beneficiaries		X			
— New Beneficiaries		X			
— Average Payment		X			
C.1.2 Old Age Assistance					
— Benefits Paid		X			
— Recipients		X			
C.1.3 Aid to the Disabled					
— Blind		X			
— Deaf		X			
— Other		X			
C.1.4 Aid to Families With Dependent Children					
— Recipients		X			
— Benefits		X			
C.1.5 Unemployment Insurance Coverage					
— Benefits Paid		X			
— Recipients		X			
C.1.6 Housing Assistance					
— Recipients		X			
— Benefits		X			
C.1.7 Food Stamps					
— Recipients		X			
— Benefits		X			
C.1.8 Aid to Disaster Victims					
— Recipients				X	
— Benefits				X	
C.1.9 Veterans Benefits					
— Recipients		X			
— Benefits		X			
Part 2—Equal Opportunity					
C.2.1 Equal Employment Opportunity					
— Minority Employment				X	
— Earnings, Promotions, etc.				X	
C.2.2 School Desegregation					
— Students Attending Predominantly Minority Schools				X	
— Public/Private Enrollment, and Control				X	

TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

SERIES	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	QUARTERLY	ANNUAL	OTHER
SECTION C—Government Activity (Continued)					
Part 3—Government Operation					
C.3.1 Federal Employment					
— Employees		X			
— Payroll		X			
C.3.2 State and Local Employment and Finances					
— Employees		X			
— Payroll		X			
SECTION D—Environment, Science, Culture					
Part 1—Environment					
D.1.1 Air Quality					
— Amount of Pollutants Released Into the Atmosphere				X	
— Ambient Air Quality-National, Major Cities				X	
— Perceived Quality					X
D.1.2 Water Quality					
— Miles of Streams Meeting EPA Standards				X	
— Oil Spills, Fish Kills				X	
D.1.3 Hazardous Substances					
— Estimated Amounts Produced				X	
— Concentration in Biosphere				X	
D.1.4 Ecological Balances					
— Endangered Species (Plant and Animal)				X	
— Critical Areas (Coastal Zones)					X
— Land/People Density				X	
D.1.5 Expenditures—Public and Private					X
Part 2—Science					
D.2.1 Professionals in Scientific Fields					
— By Specialty				X	
— Person Years of Scientists, Engineers Engaged in R&D				X	
D.2.2 Expenditures for Research and Development					
— Private Industry				X	
— Government				X	
D.2.3 Science Achievement in Schools					
— Secondary Schools					X
— Higher Education					X

TABLE OF CONTENTS—Continued

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

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.1.2–Personal Income

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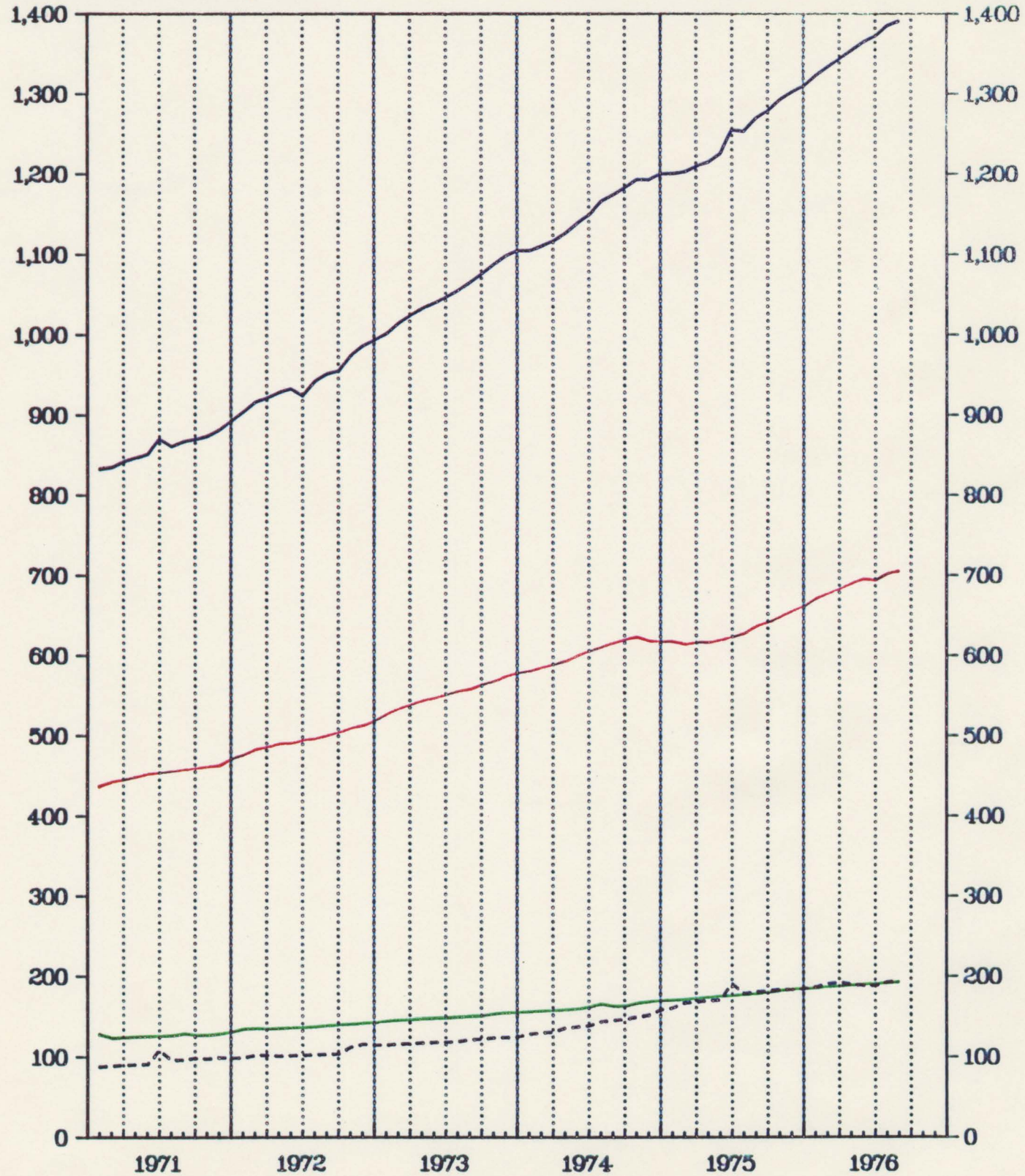
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Personal Income	$1389.5	0.4%	9.6%
Private Wages and Salaries	$704.8	0.5%	10.8%
Government Wages and Salaries	$191.7	0.5%	8.2%
Transfer Payments – – –	$192.9	0.8%	7.6%

Billions of Dollars



Billions of Dollars

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
20 September 1976

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

- Total Personal Income rose for the 13th consecutive month, up 0.4 percent ($6.1 billion) in August.

    - Total Personal Income was up 9.6 percent ($122 billion) over a year ago.

- Private and Government Wages and Salaries were each up 0.5 percent ($3.5 billion and $1 billion, respectively) in August.

    - Private Wages and Salaries were up 10.8 percent over a year ago.

    - Government Wages and Salaries were up 8.2 percent for the year.

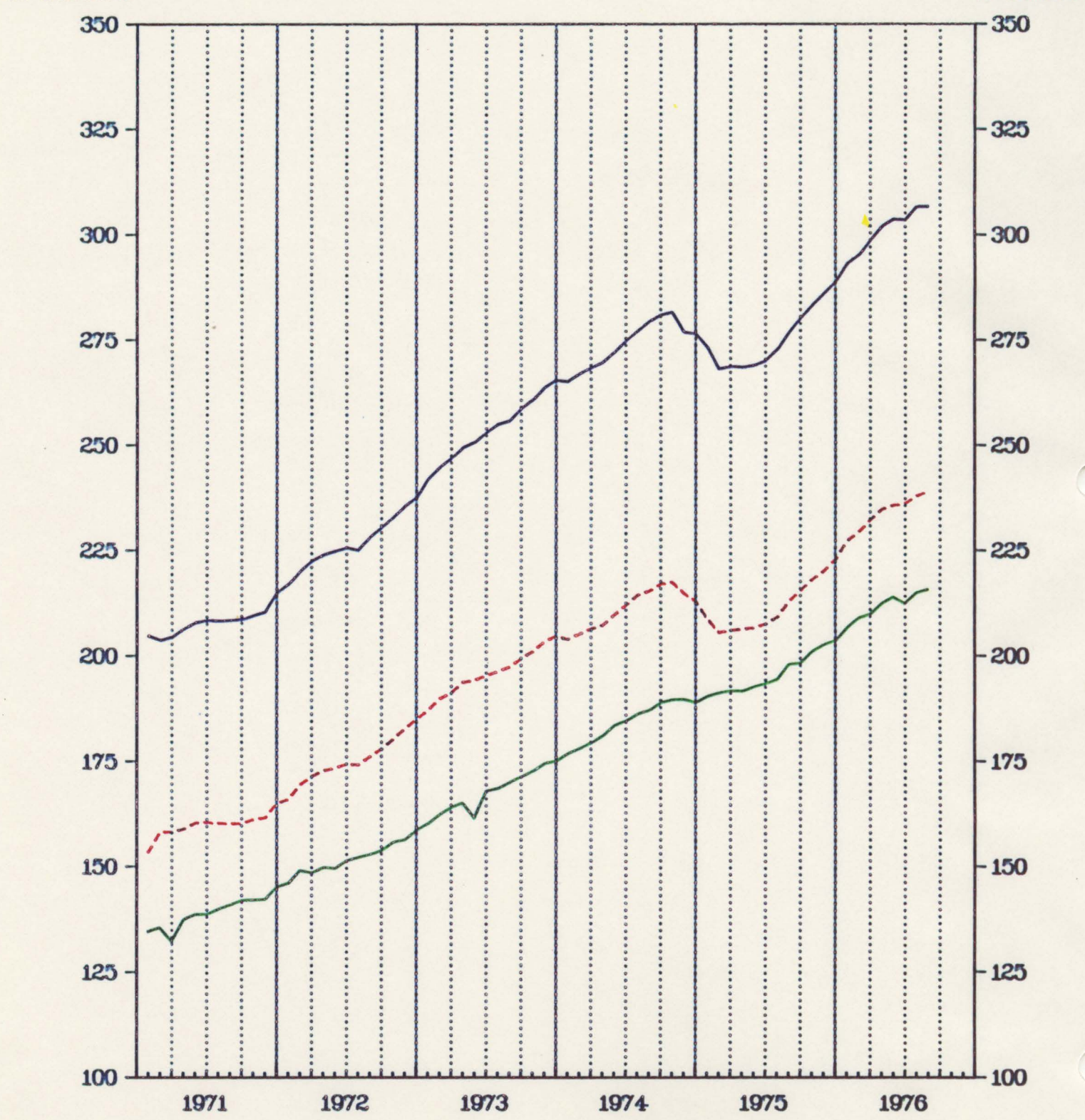
- Transfer Payments increased 0.8 percent ($1.6 billion) in August.

    - The $4.5 billion increase in July was the result of a cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits.

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

A.1.2–Components of Private Wage and Salary Disbursements

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Commodity–Producing Industries	$306.6	0.0%	10.9%
Manufacturing - - -	$239.1	0.5%	12.3%
Distributive Industries	$215.7	0.4%	9.0%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
20 September 1976

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

- The payrolls in Commodity-Producing Industries were virtually unchanged in August, following a $3.1 Billion increase in July.

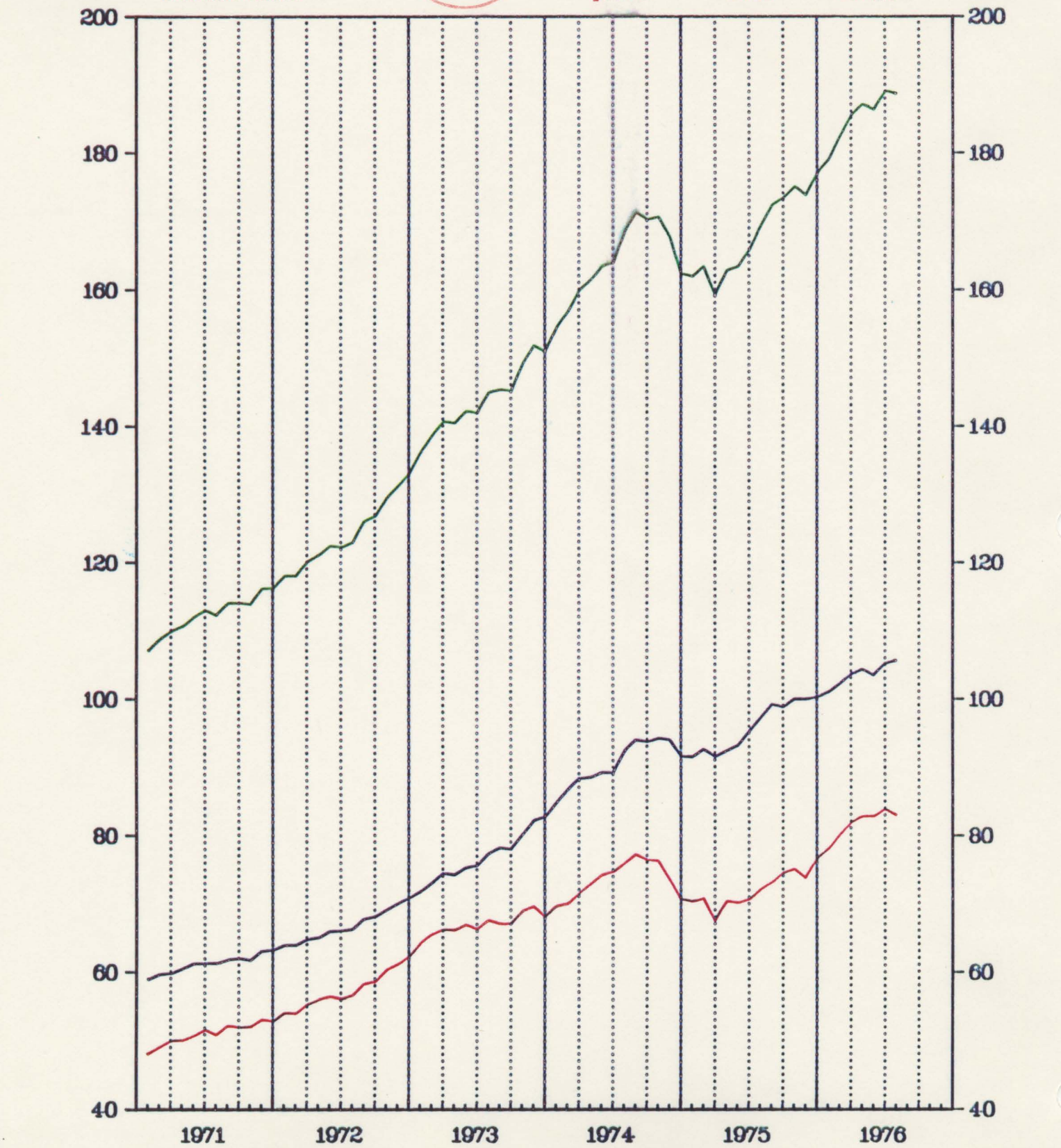
    - The payrolls in Manufacturing increased 0.5 percent ($ 1.1 billion) in August compared to $1.8 billion in July.

- Distributive Industries payroll increased 0.4 percent ($0.8 billion) in August compared to $2.5 billion in July.

A.4.8—Manufacturing and Trade Sales

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

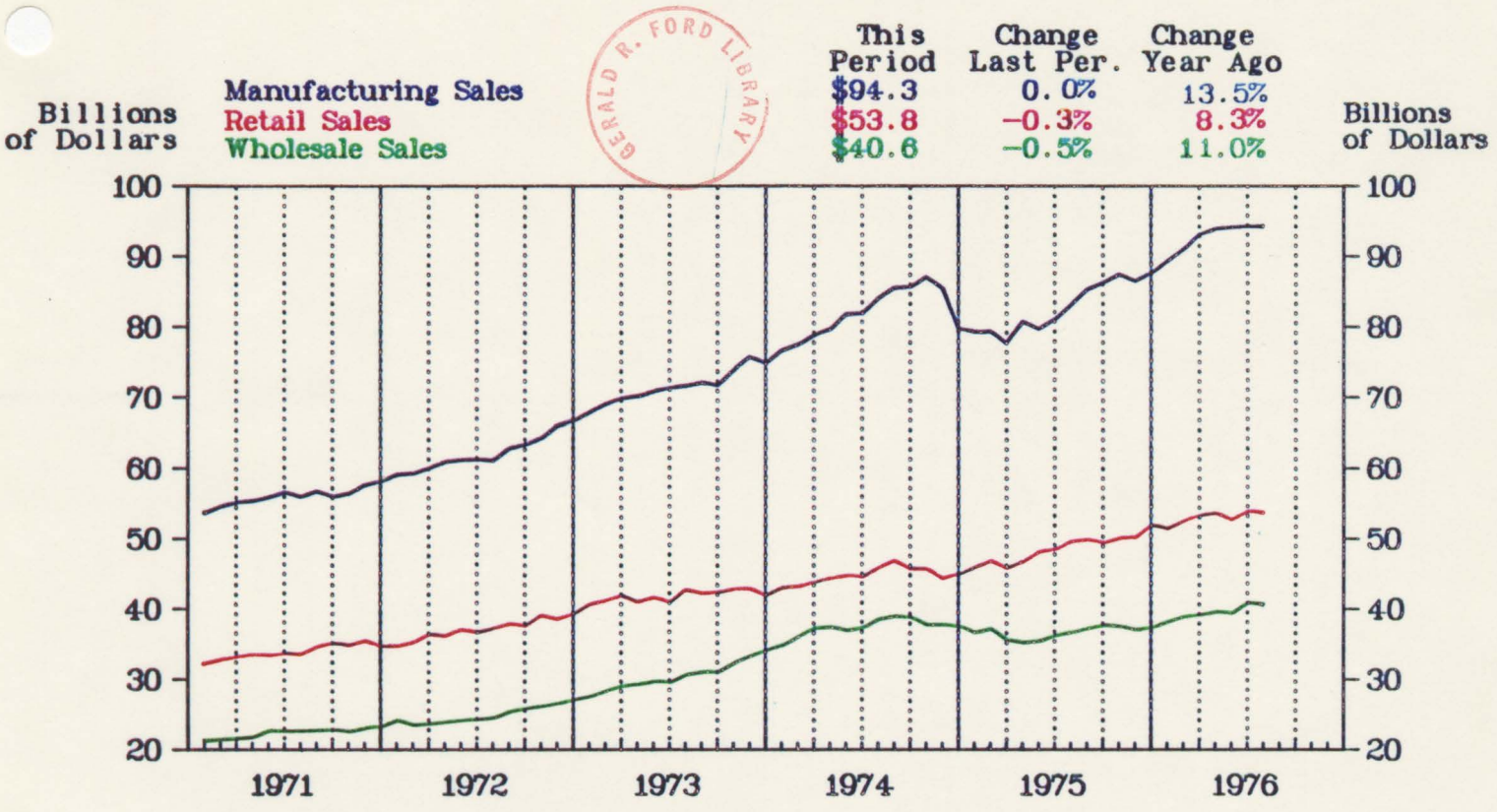
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Sales	$188.7	−0.2%	11.5%
Nondurable Sales	$105.6	0.5%	8.7%
Durable Sales	$83.1	−1.0%	15.2%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
20 September 1976

A.4.8—Manufacturing and Trade Sales
By Industry Group

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
20 September 1976

- After experiencing a 1.4-percent increase in June, Total Manufacturing and Trade Sales edged down 0.2 percent ($351 million) in July.
    - Combined Sales were valued at $188.7 billion, an increase of 11.5 percent since July 1975.
- Nondurable Sales rose 0.5 percent ($478 million) to $105.6 billion.
- The increase in Nondurable Sales was offset by a 1.0-percent decrease ($829 million) in Durable Sales to $83.1 billion.

BY INDUSTRY GROUP:

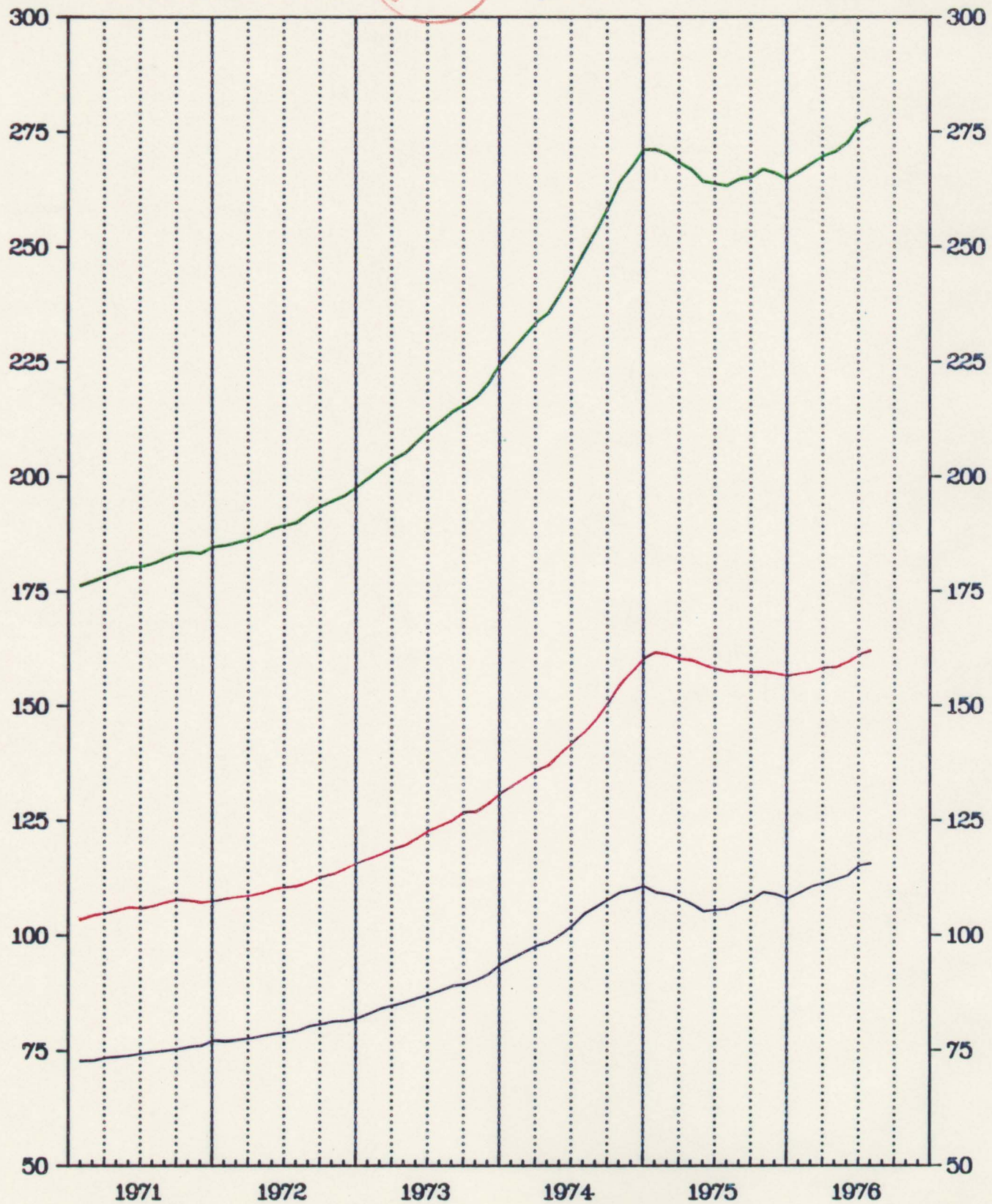
- A $21 million increase in Manufacturing Sales was offset by declines in Both Retail and Wholesale Sales.
    - Retail Sales dropped $186 million (0.3 percent) to $53.8 billion.
    - Wholesale Sales declined $186 million (0.5 percent) to $40.6 billion.

A.4.8—Manufacturing and Trade Inventories

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Inventories	$277.8	0.6%	5.5%
Durable Inventories	$162.2	0.6%	2.9%
Nondurable Inventories	$115.6	0.5%	9.4%

Billions of Dollars

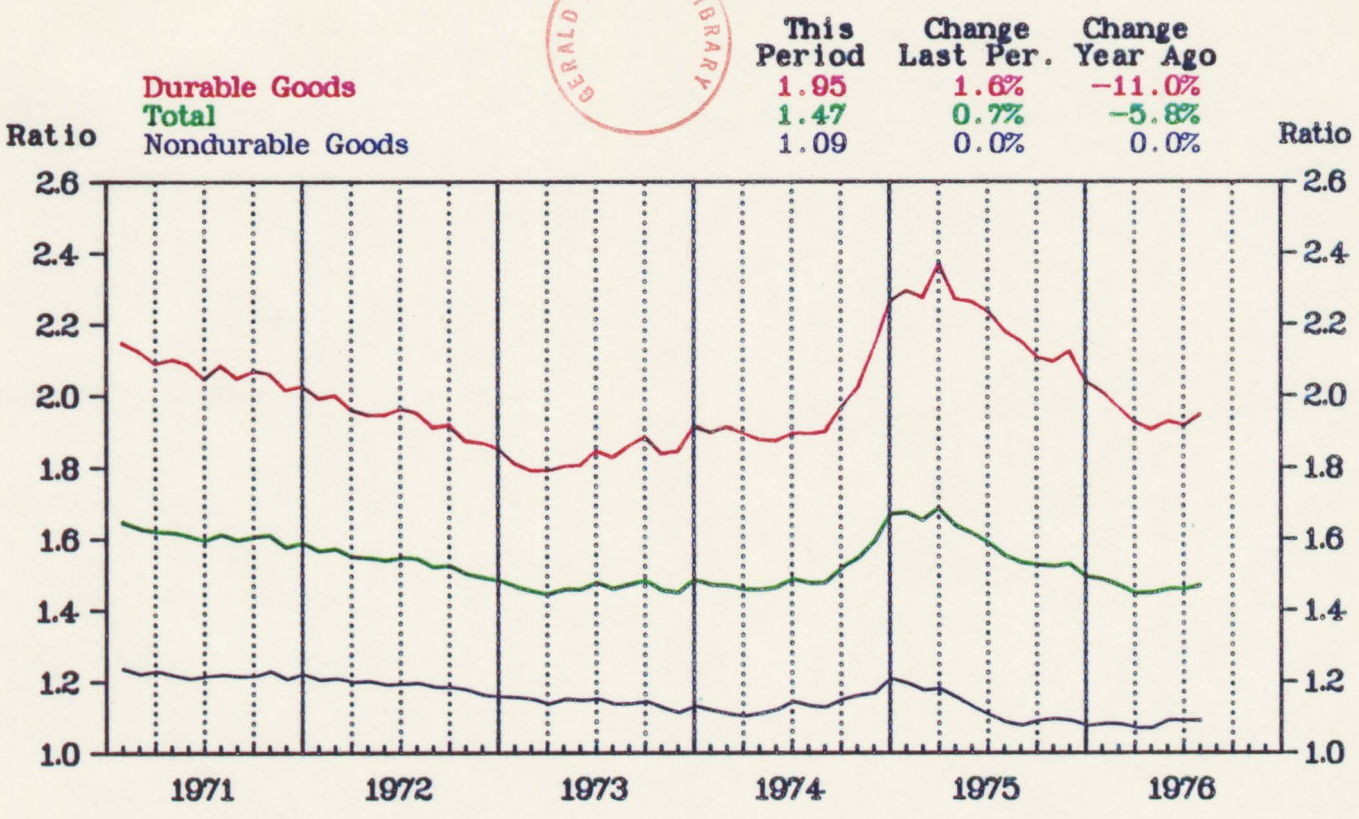


Billions of Dollars

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
20 September 1976

A.4.8–Manufacturing and Trade
Inventory–to–Sales Ratio

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
20 September 1976

- Total Manufacturing and Trade Inventories rose $1.5 billion (0.6 percent) in July to $277.8 billion, continuing the upward trend characteristic of the first 6 months of the year.

- Both Durable and Nondurable Goods Inventories increased in July.
  - Durable Inventories rose $1.0 billion to $162.2 billion.
  - Nondurable Inventories increased $527 million to $115.6 billion.

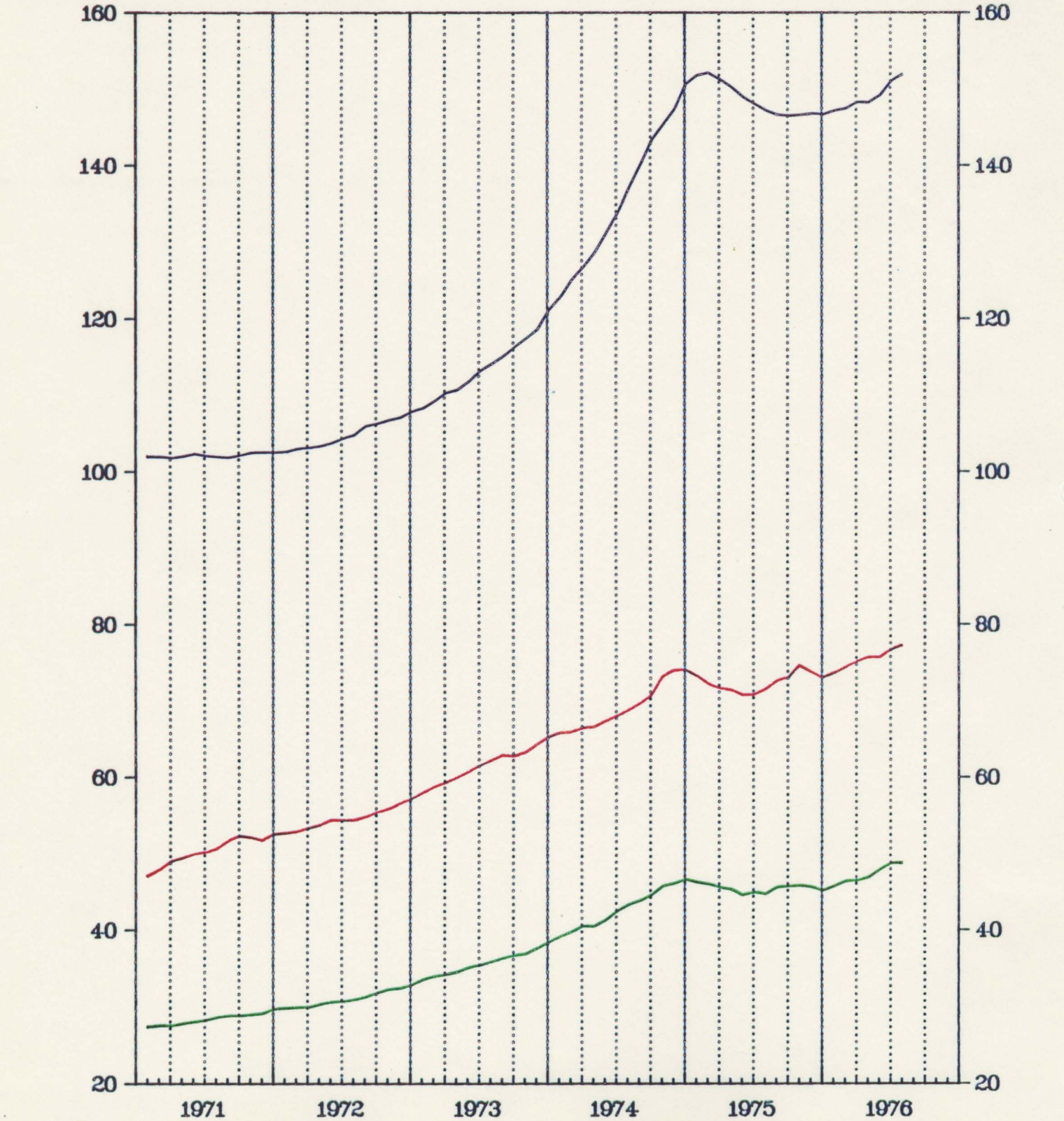
- The Total Stock-to-Sales Ratio rose 0.7 percent to 1.47 in July.
  - The rise in Durable Inventories combined with the decline in Sales resulted in a 1.6-percent increase in the Durable Goods Ratio to 1.95.
  - The Nondurable Goods Ratio remained at 1.09, where it has been for the past 3 months.

A.4.8—Manufacturing and Trade Inventories

By Industry Group

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

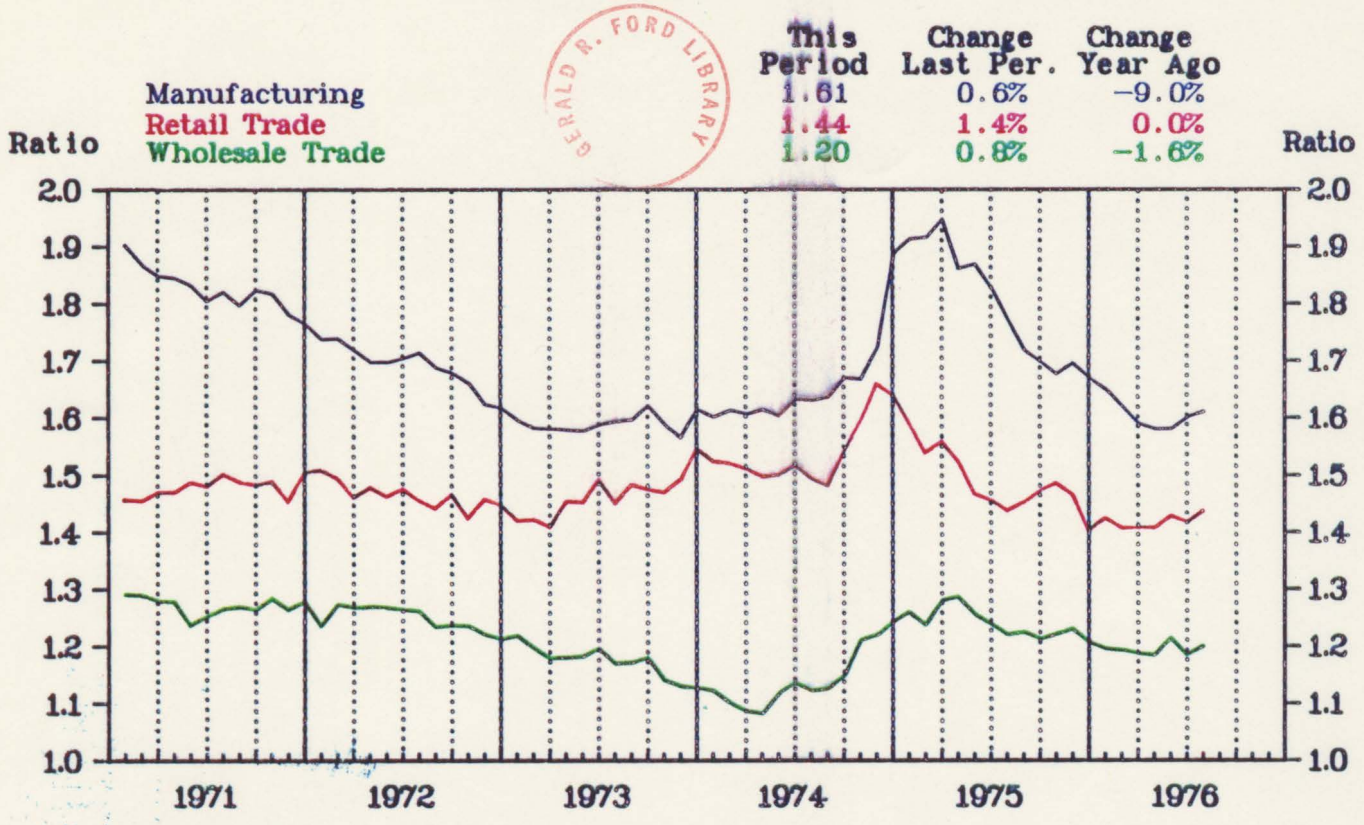
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Manufacturing	$151.8	0.6%	3.1%
Retail Inventories	$77.3	0.8%	8.1%
Wholesale Inventories	$48.7	0.1%	9.1%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
20 September 1976

A.4.8–Inventory–to–Sales Ratio
By Industry Group

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis
20 September 1976

- As in June, the rise in Manufacturers' Inventories ($867 million) accounted for more than half of the July rise in Combined Inventories ($1.5 billion).
  - Retail Inventories increased 0.8 percent ($616 million) to $77.3 billion.
  - Wholesale Inventories rose 0.1 percent ($60 million) to $48.7 billion.
- Reflecting more inventory accumulation than sales, the Manufacturing Inventory-to-Sales Ratio rose to 1.61.
- The downturn in sales caused the Retail and Wholesale Inventory-to-Sales Ratios to rise to 1.44 and 1.20, respectively.

A.7.1–Privately–Owned Housing Units Started

Annual Rates

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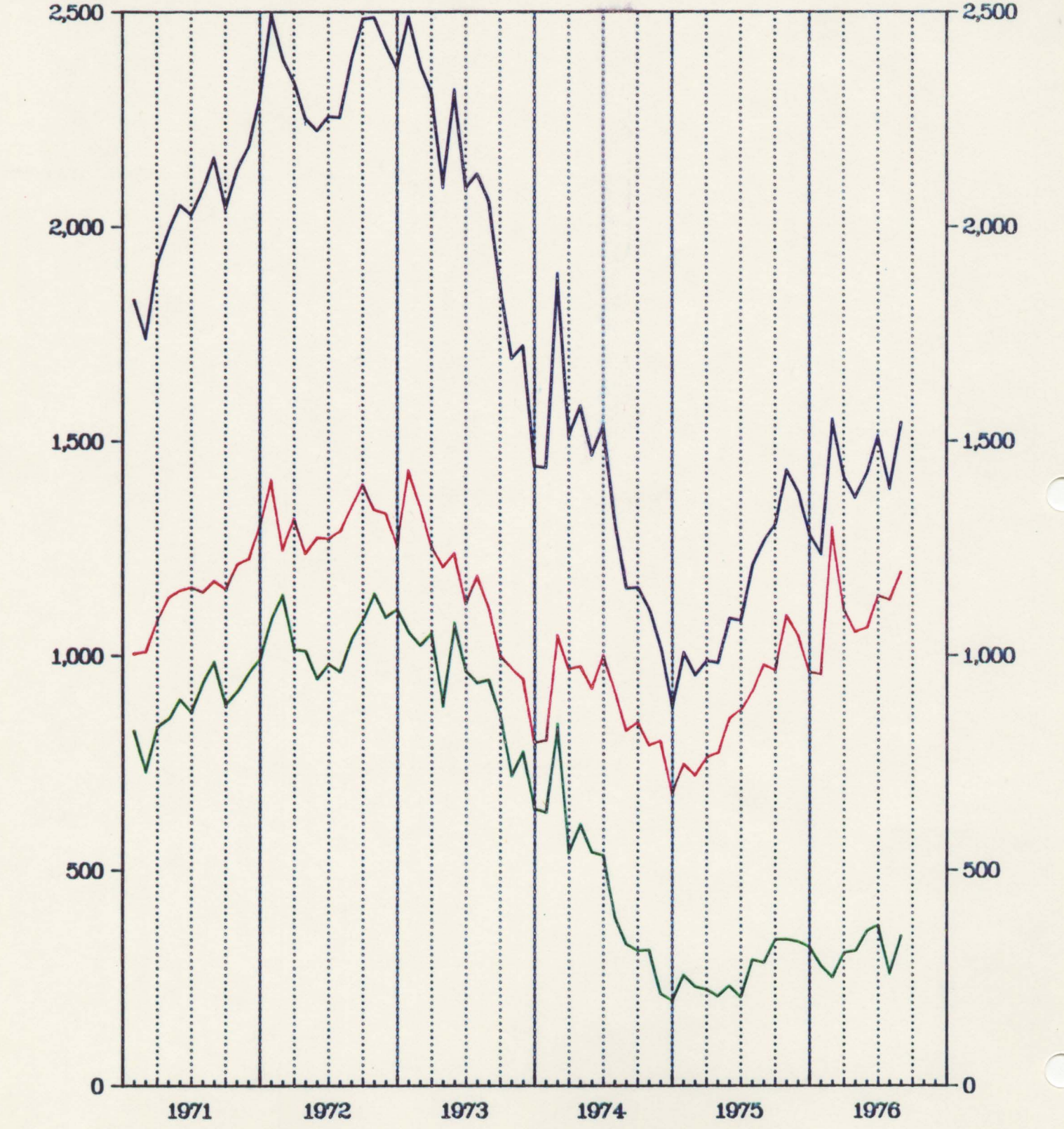
	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Units Started	1,542	10.9%	22.0%
Single–Family Units	1,195	5.8%	22.1%
Units in Multifamily Structures	347	33.0%	21.8%



Source: Bureau of the Census

20 September 1976

A.7.1—Privately-Owned Housing Units Started

By Region

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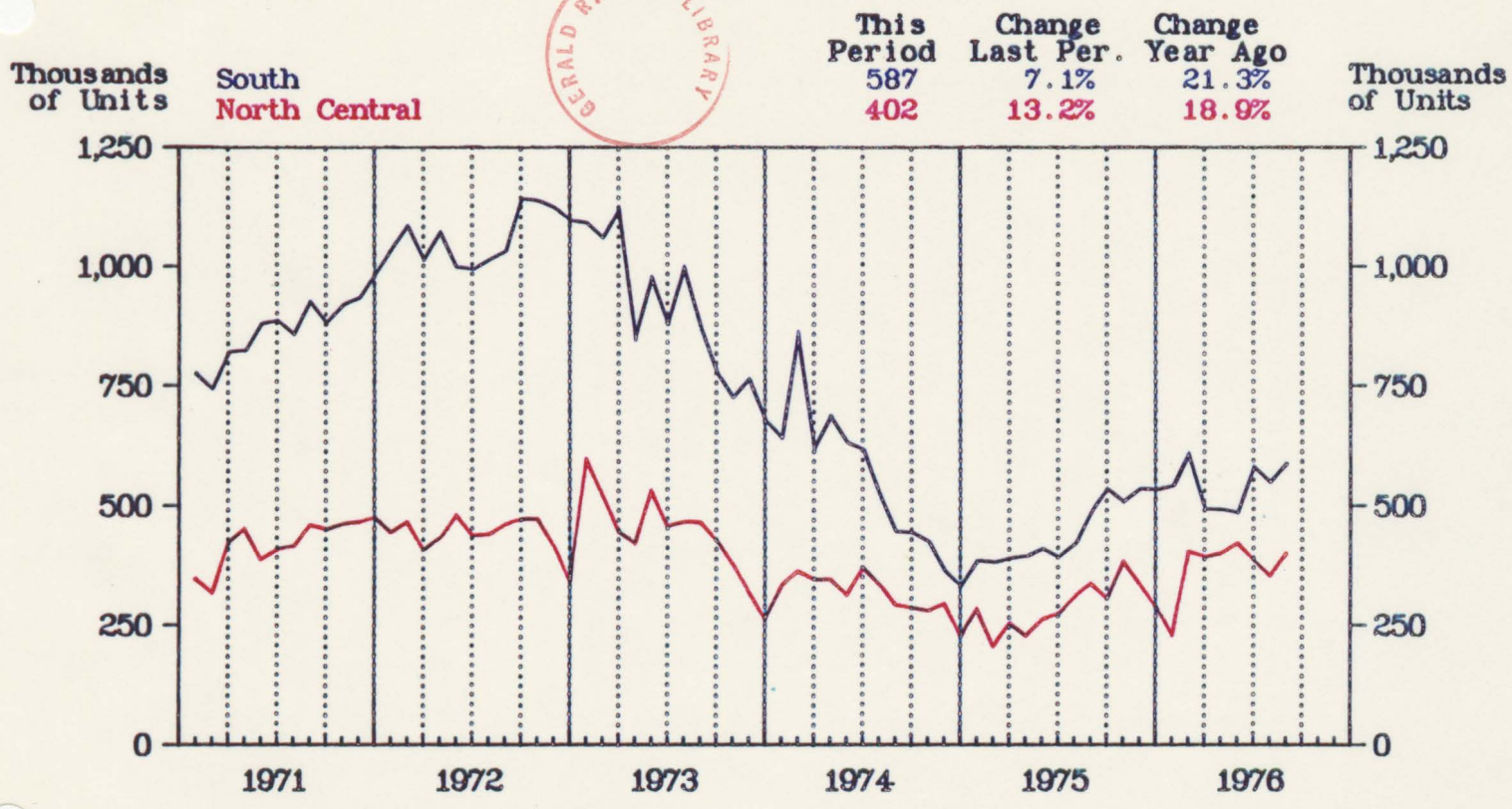


Source: Bureau of the Census
20 September 1976

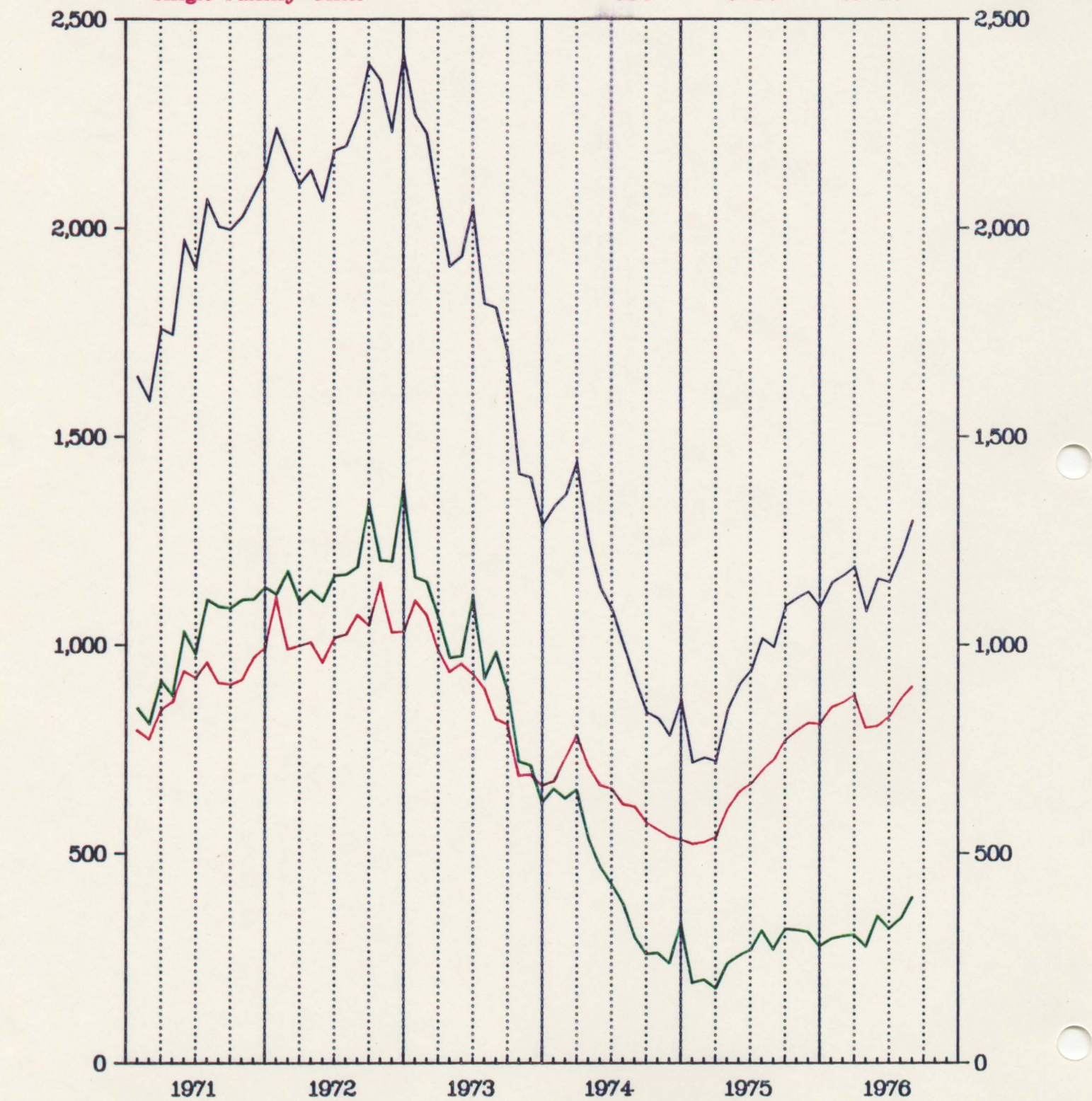
- Privately-Owned Housing Units were started in August at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,542,000 units, up 10.9 percent from July.
    - Largest increase since January.
    - Multifamily Units (up 86,000 units) accounted for 57 percent of the overall increase.
- All regions shared in the increase of Starts, with the North Central and the South registering the largest gains.

A.7.1—Building Permits Issued for Privately-Owned Housing Units in 14,000 Permit Issuing Places

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Annual Rates

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Units Authorized	1,298	6.8%	30.1%
Units in Multifamily Structures	396	14.8%	45.1%
Single Family Units	902	3.4%	24.4%



Source: Bureau of the Census
20 September 1976

A.7.1–Building Permits Issued for Privately–Owned Housing Units in 14,000 Permit-Issuing Places

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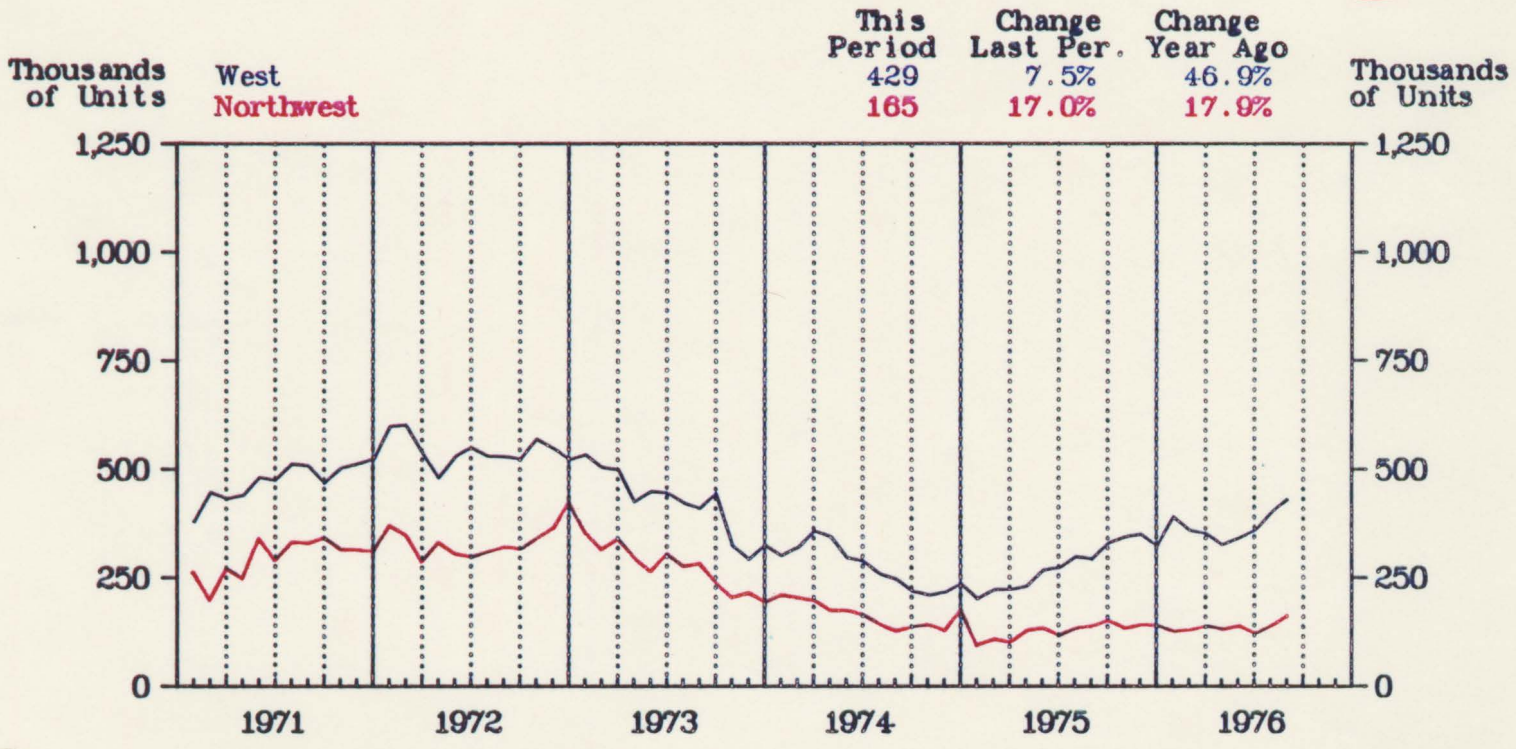
By Region



Source: Bureau of the Census
20 September 1976

- In August, Building Permits for New-Privately-Owned Housing Units were issued at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1,298,000 units, up 6.8 percent from July and 30.1 percent from August, 1975.

  - Multifamily Units accounted for 61 percent of the overall increase.

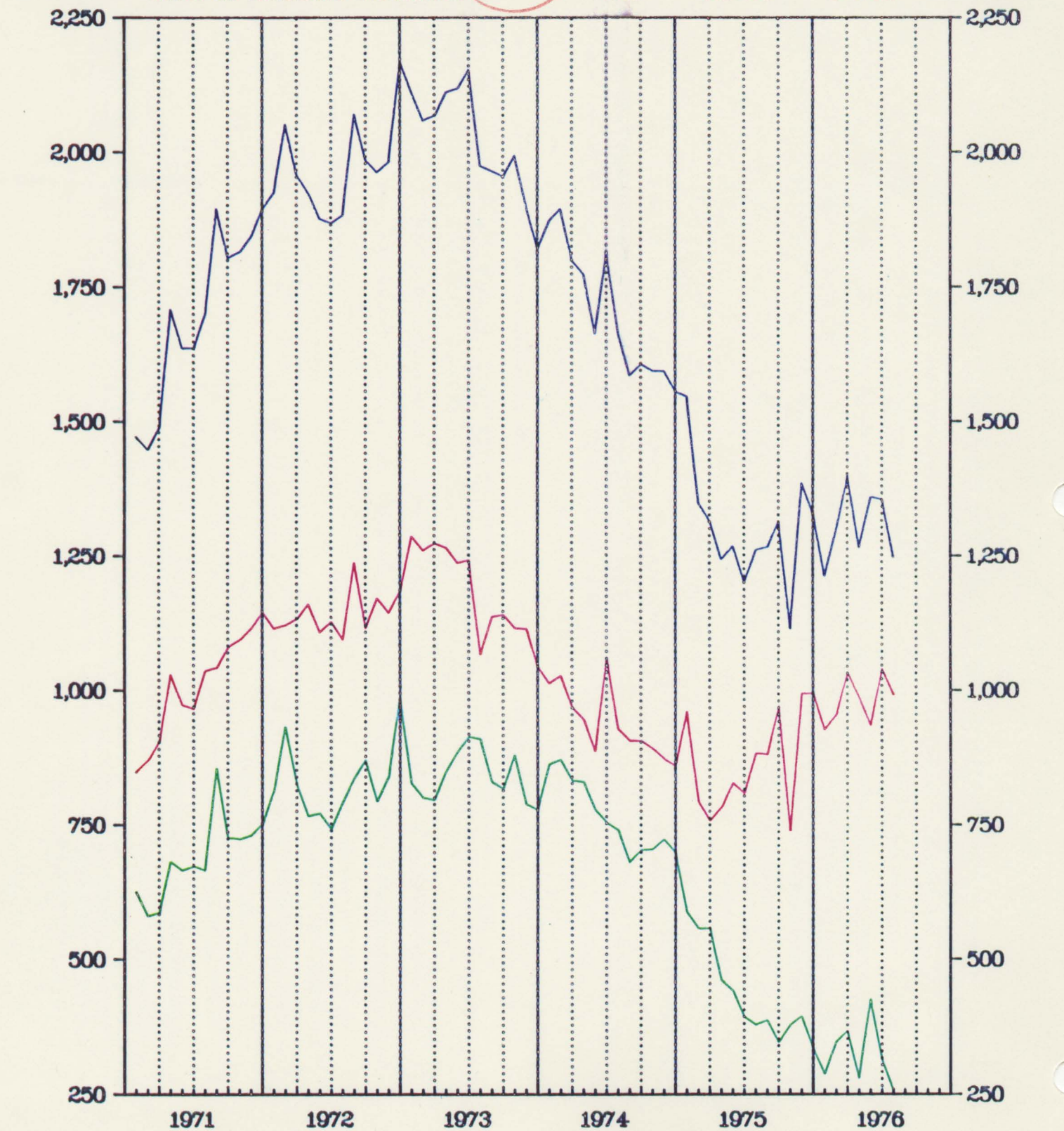
  - Regionally, the Northeast and the West showed the largest gains, up 24,000 and 30,000 units, respectively.

A.7.1—New Housing Units Completed

Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Units Completed	1248	−7.9%	−1.0%
Single-Family Housing Units	991	−4.6%	12.4%
Units in Multiunit Structures	257	−18.7%	−32.2%



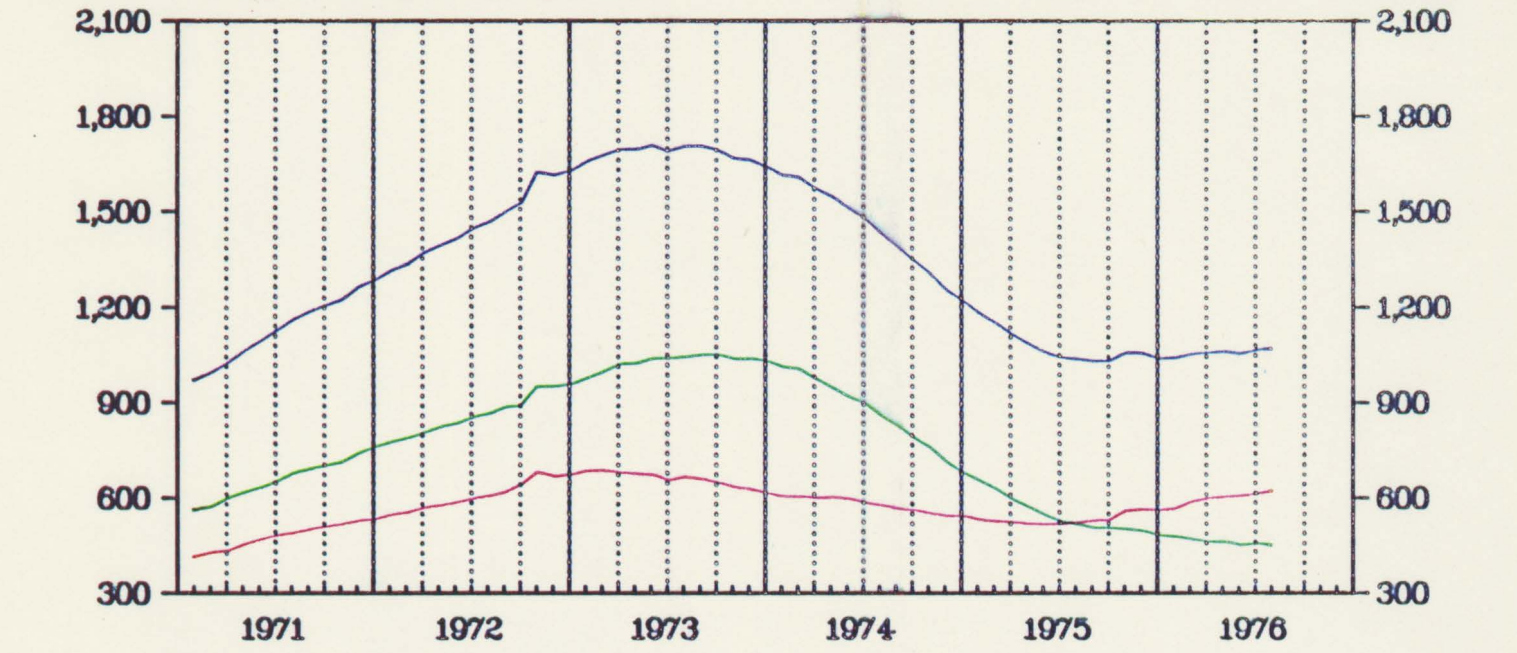
Source: Bureau of the Census
20 September 1976

A.7.1—New Housing Units Under Construction

Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rates

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Total Units Under Construction	1070	0.4%	3.0%
Units in Multiunit Structures	450	-1.1%	-13.1%
Single-Family Housing Units	620	1.5%	19.0%



Source: Bureau of the Census
20 September 1976

- Housing Units Completed declined 7.9 percent in July to a seasonally adjusted rate of 1,248,000 units.
  - The sharp decline resulted from a 4.6-percent decrease (48,000 units) in Single Family Housing Units and an 18.7-percent decrease (59,000 units) in Units in Multiunit Structures.
- Units Under Construction rose 0.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted rate of 1,070,000 units.
  - Single Family Housing Units increased 1.5 percent to 620,000 units as Units in Multiunit Structures decreased 1.1 percent to 450,000 units.

A.7.1—Sales of New One-Family Homes

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	This Period	Change Last Per.	Change Year Ago
Homes Sold Annual Rates	609	4.6%	11.1%
Homes for Sale End-of-Month	410	1.0%	7.6%

Thousands of Units

Thousands of Units

900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200

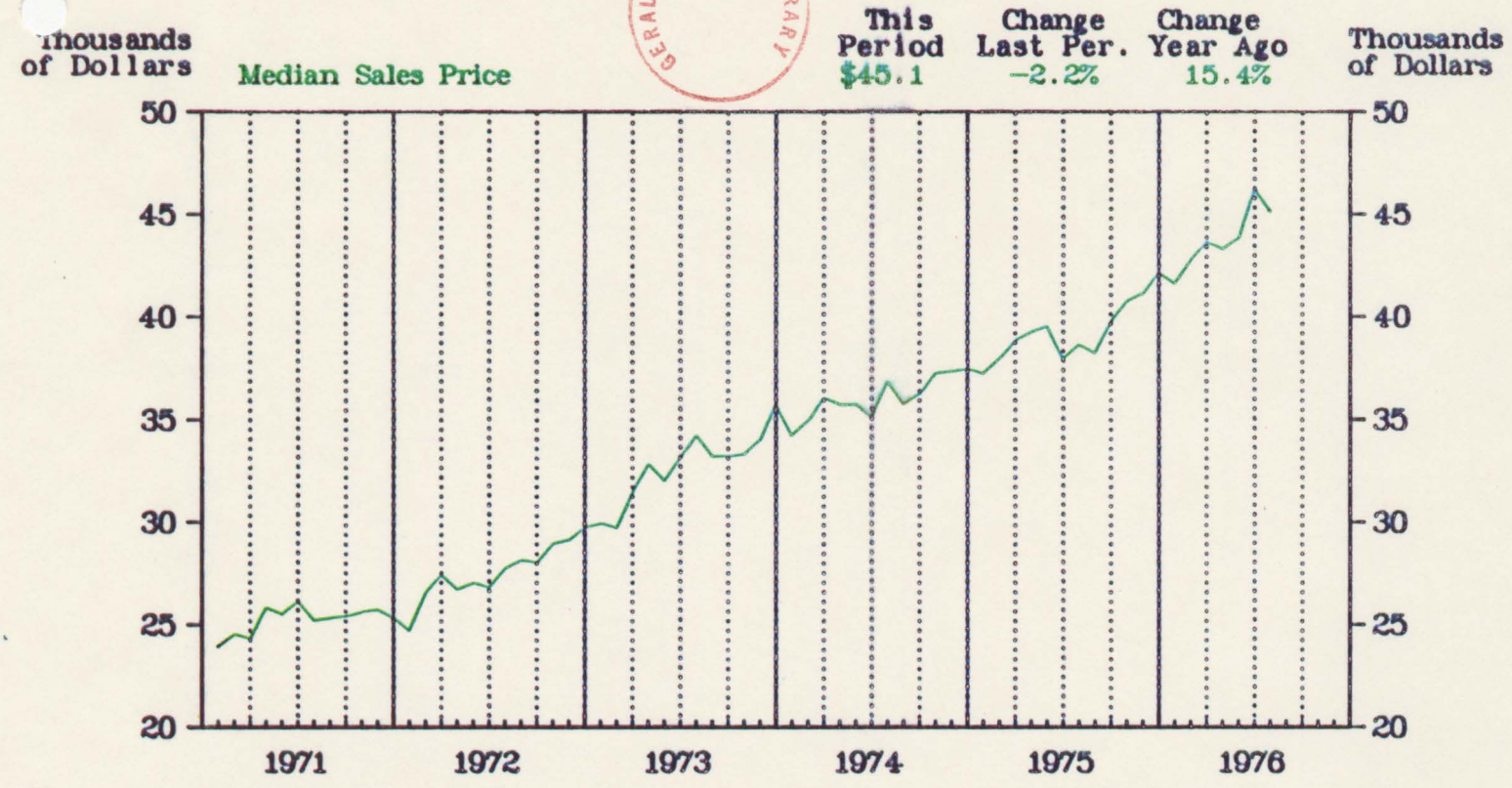
1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976

Source: Bureau of the Census
20 September 1976

A.7.1—Prices of New One-Family Homes

Not Seasonally Adjusted

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY



Source: Bureau of the Census
20 September 1976

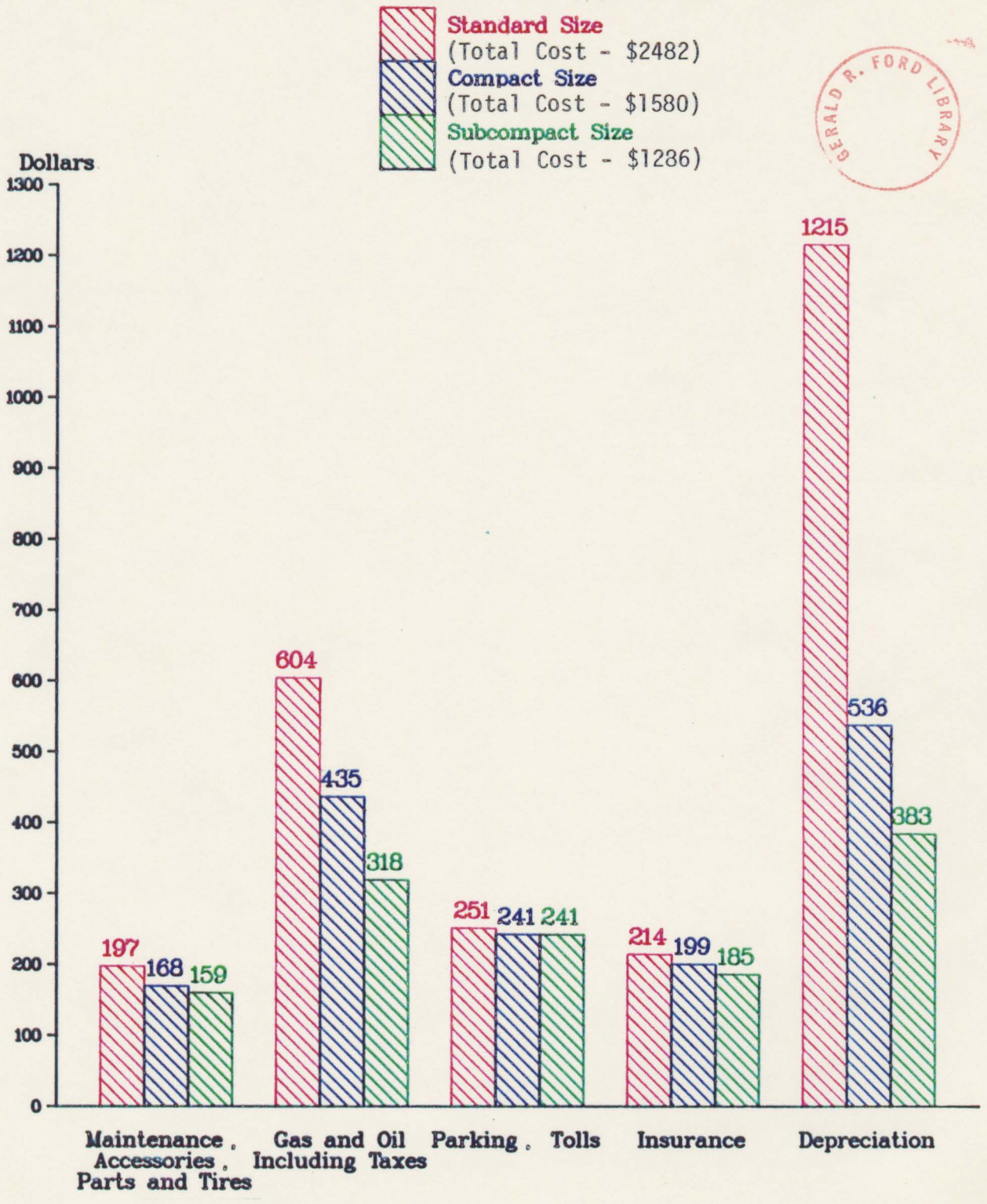
- Continuing the upward trend of June, the number of New One-Family Homes Sold in July increased 4.6 percent to an annual rate of 609,000 units.

- Inventory of Homes for Sale increased 1.0 percent to an estimated 410,000 units.

    - Represents an 8.2 months' supply of houses at the current sales rate.

- The Median Sales Price dropped slightly in July to $45,100 after reaching an all-time high of $46,200 in June.

A. 12 . 1—First Year Operating Costs For 1976 Model Automobiles



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Source: Federal Highway Administration
20 September 1976

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

- The average first-year operating cost for a standard-size 1976 model automobile is estimated at $2482.

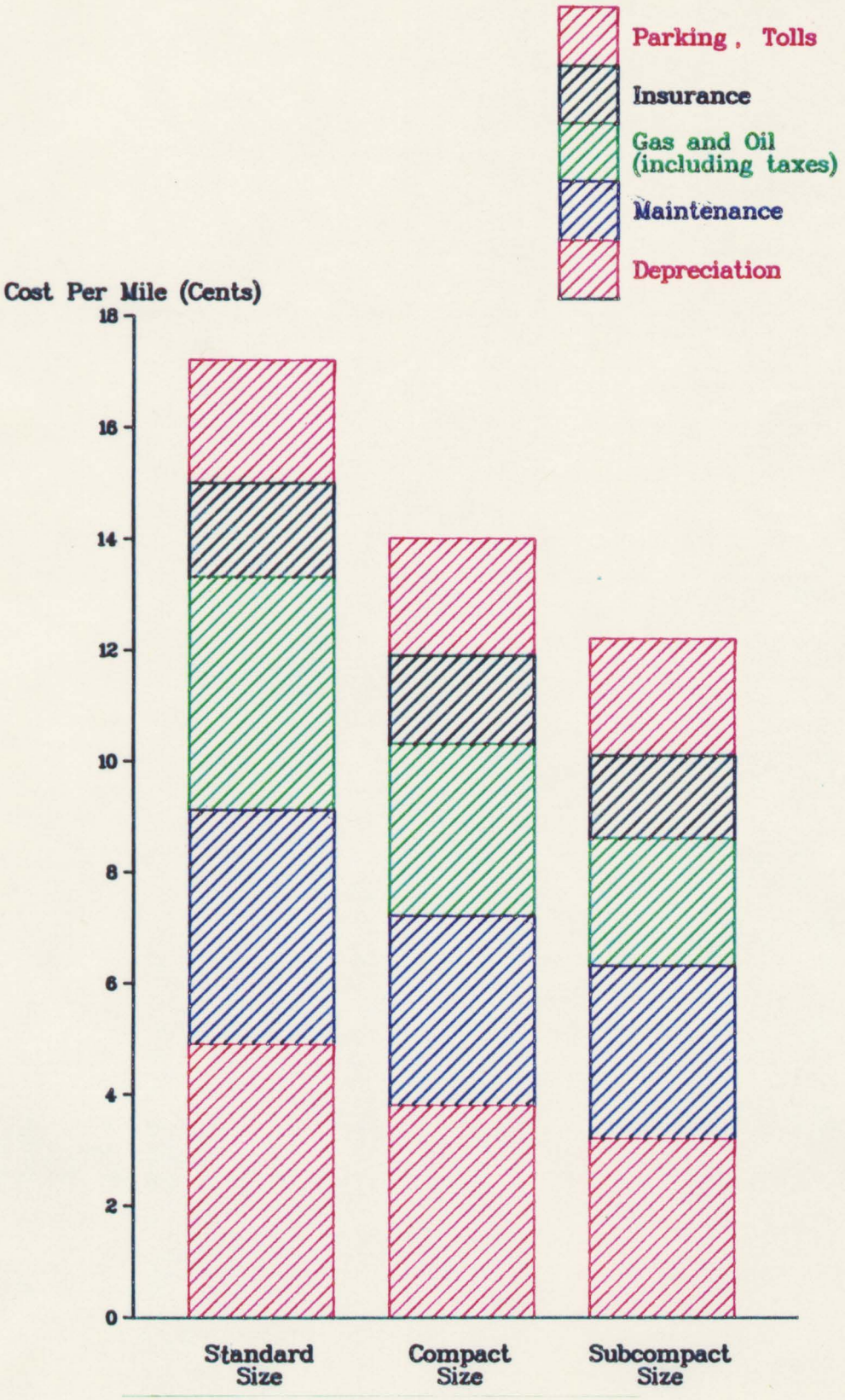
    - This cost compares to $1580 for a compact and $1286 for a subcompact.

        - For all three sizes, depreciation is the greatest single cost, averaging a $1215 loss for standard sizes, a $536 loss for compacts, and a $383 loss for subcompacts.

        - The second greatest operating cost is for gasoline and oil.

NOTE: Costs include State and Federal taxes on gasoline and oil, and F.E.T. on tires.

A. 12 . 1—Estimated Operating Cost Per Mile: 1976 Model Automobile



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Source: Federal Highway Administration
20 September 1976

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

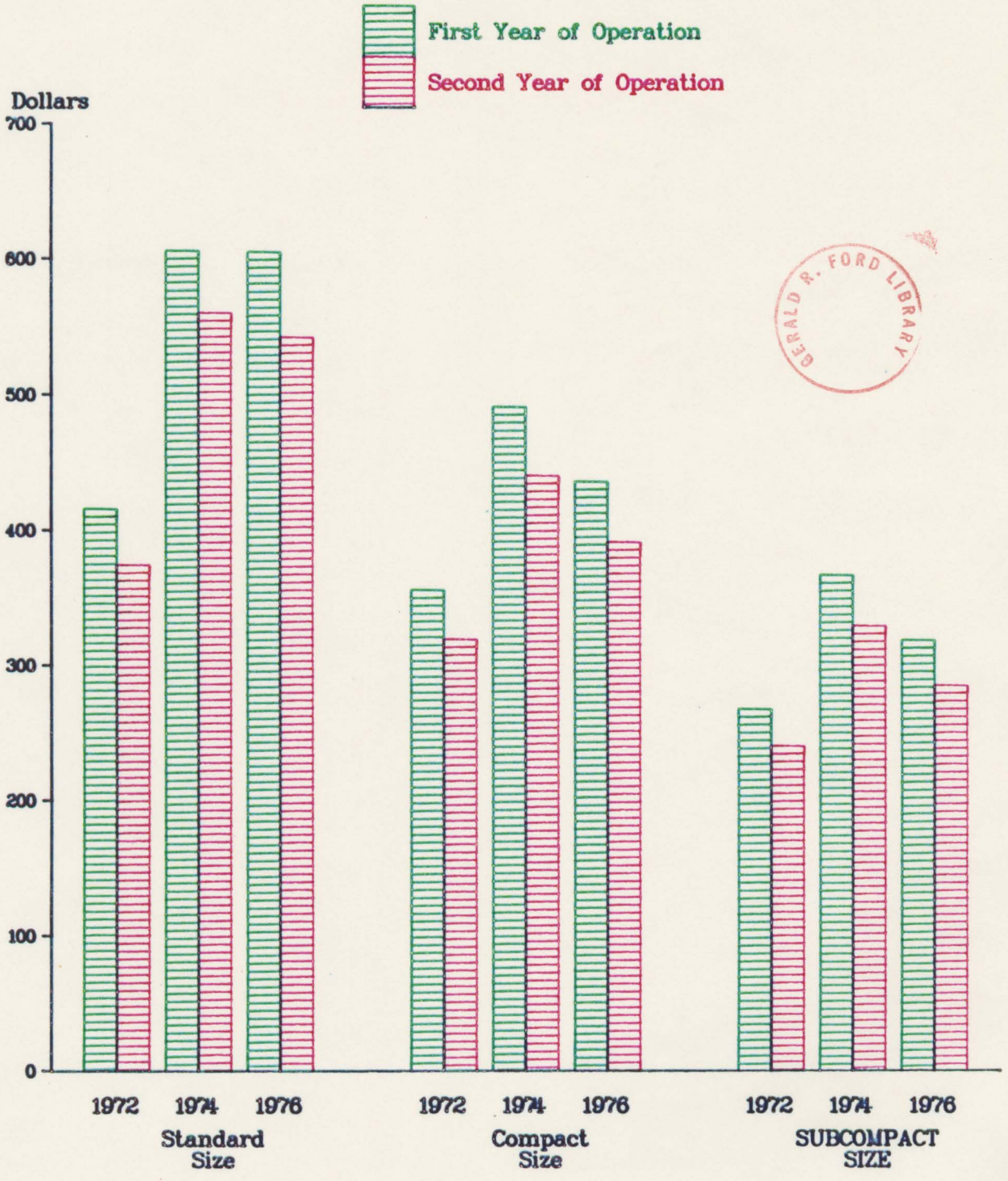
- The estimated average cost per mile for operating a 1976 model automobile ranges from 17.2 cents a mile for a standard size to 14.0 cents for a compact, and 12.2 cents for a subcompact.

    - Over a 10-year period (100,000 miles), normal maintenance would cost an average of 4.2 cents a mile for a standard automobile, 3.4 cents for a compact, and 3.1 cents for a subcompact.

    - During an average 10 years of use, gasoline and oil costs would be approximately the same as maintenance costs for a standard automobile, but less than maintenance costs for a compact or subcompact.

A. 12 . 1—Estimated Annual Gas And Oil Cost

By Size and Year of Operation



GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

Source: Federal Highway Administration
20 September 1976

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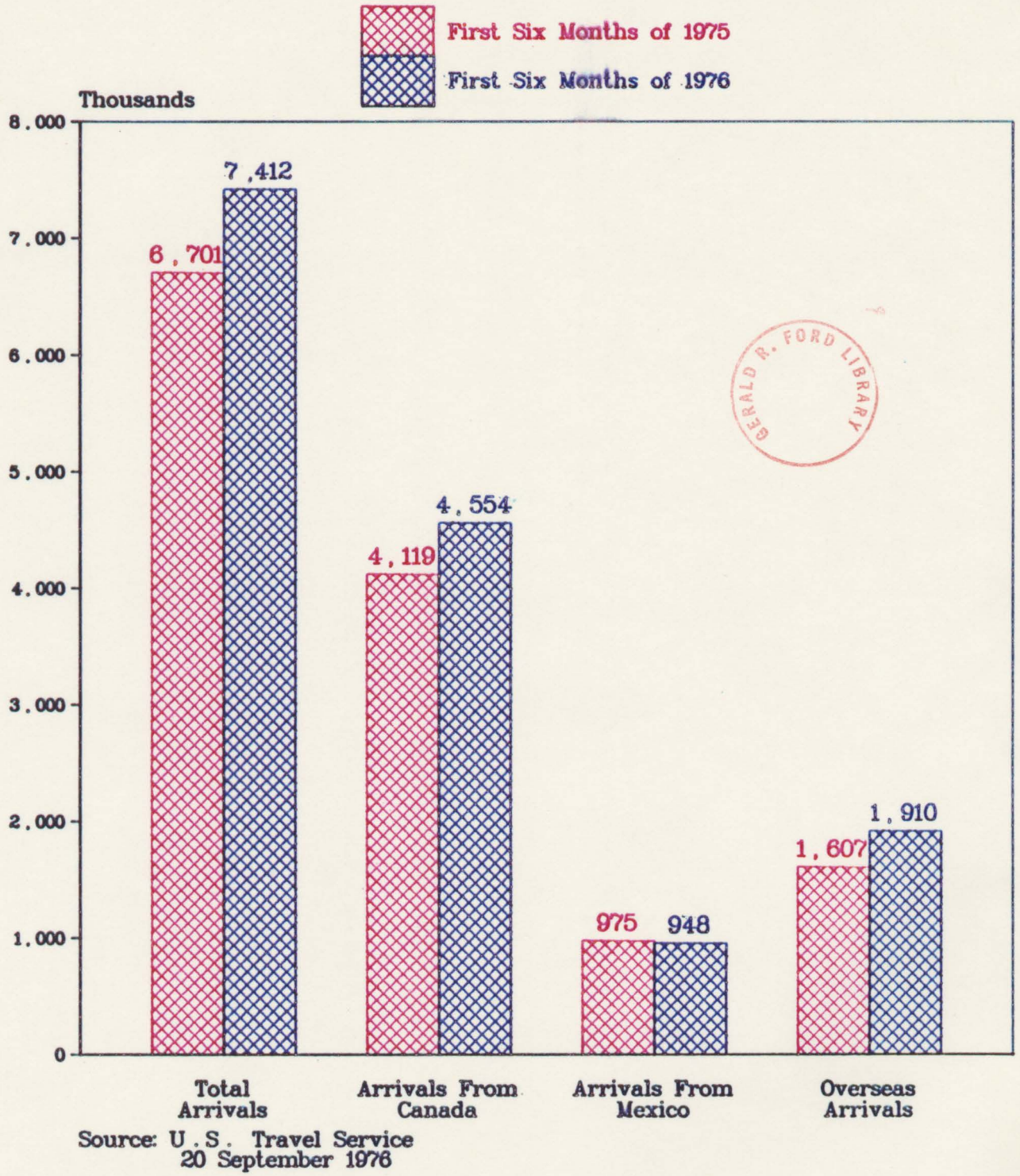
- Despite normal price increases for cars, the estimated annual cost to automobile owners for gasoline and oil decreased between 1974 and 1976.
    - The greatest annual rate of decrease was estimated for subcompact cars--13.1 percent--from $366 in 1974 to $318 in 1976.
    - The rate of decrease for compacts was 11.2 percent; and there was no change for standard-size cars.
- Factors contributing to decreasing costs include the enforcement of 55 mph speed laws (inacted in 1974); and the introduction of legislation aimed at increasing fuel efficiency.*
    - In recent years manufacturers have, on a voluntary basis, made significant efforts in this area.

* By recent laws (PL94-163, Title 3) the auto industry is required to produce vehicles in all ranges, with improved mph potential after the 1977 models.

B . 8 . 1—Arrivals of Tourists to the United Stat



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Source: U.S. Travel Service
20 September 1976

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- The United States hosted approximately 7.4 million international visitors during the first 6 months of the 1976 bicentennial year, 10.6 percent more than during the same period in 1975.

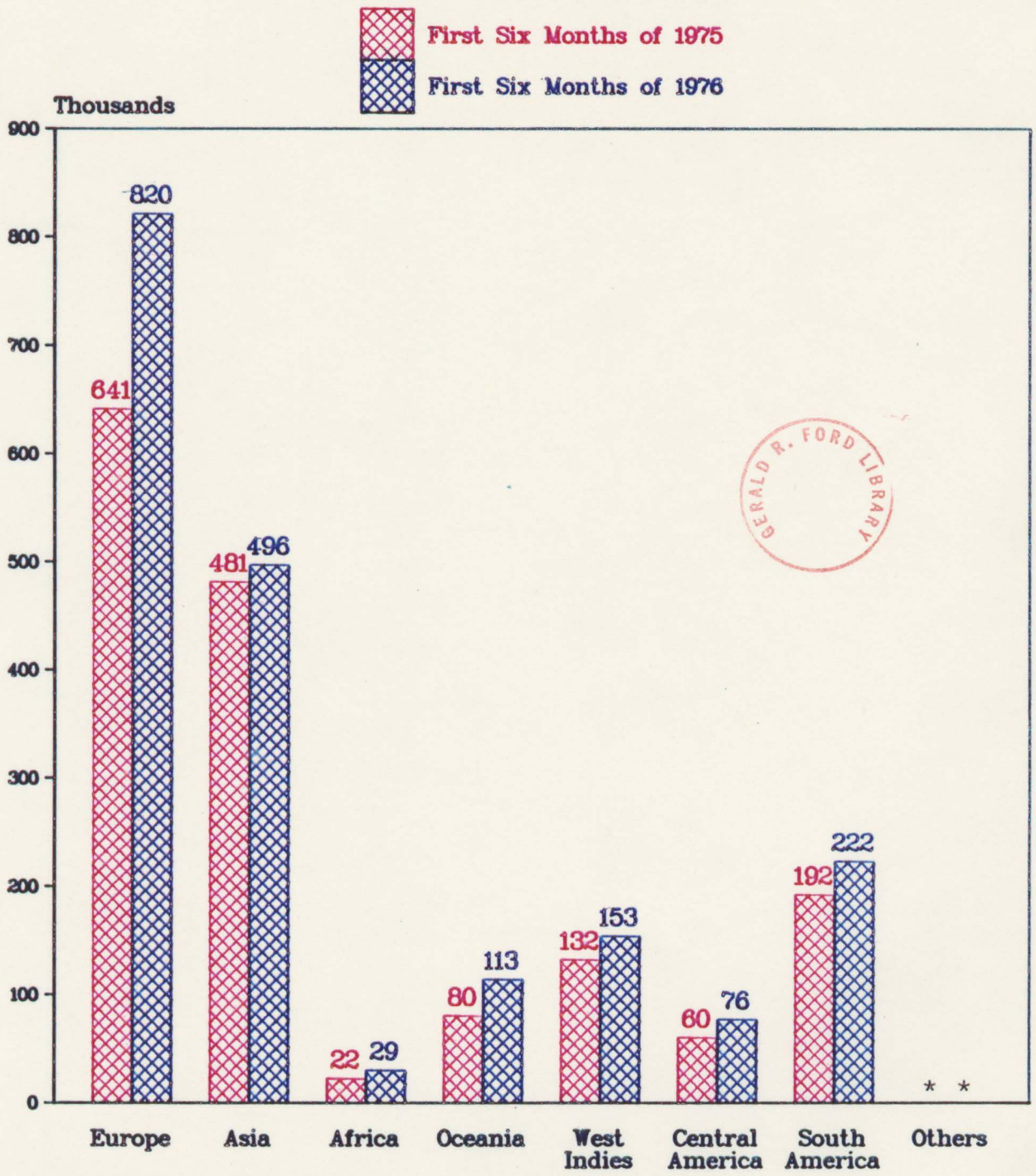
    - The first half of 1976 saw 4.6 million Canadian visitors travel to the United States, a 10.6-percent increase over the first half of 1975.

    - Mexican arrivals in the United States numbered 948,221 during the first 6 months of the year, a decrease of 2.8 percent from 1975.

- Arrivals from overseas countries (excluding Canada and Mexico) increased 18.8 percent from the first 6 months of 1975 to the first 6 months of 1976.

B . 8 . 1—Arrivals of Tourists to the United States

By Geographic Area of Origin



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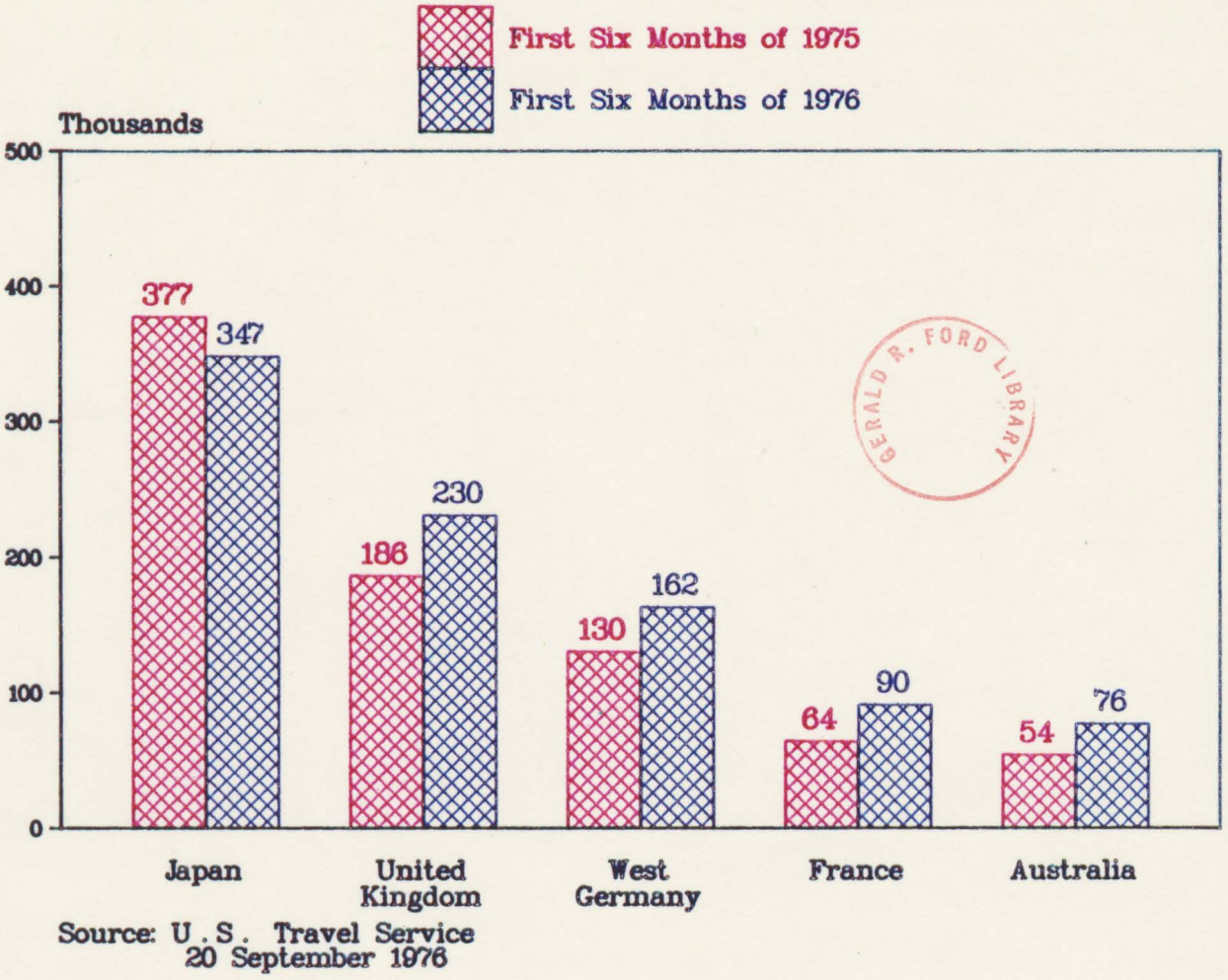
Source: U . S . Travel Service
20 September 1976

* Less than 1.

B.8.1—Top Five Tourist-Generating Overseas Countries



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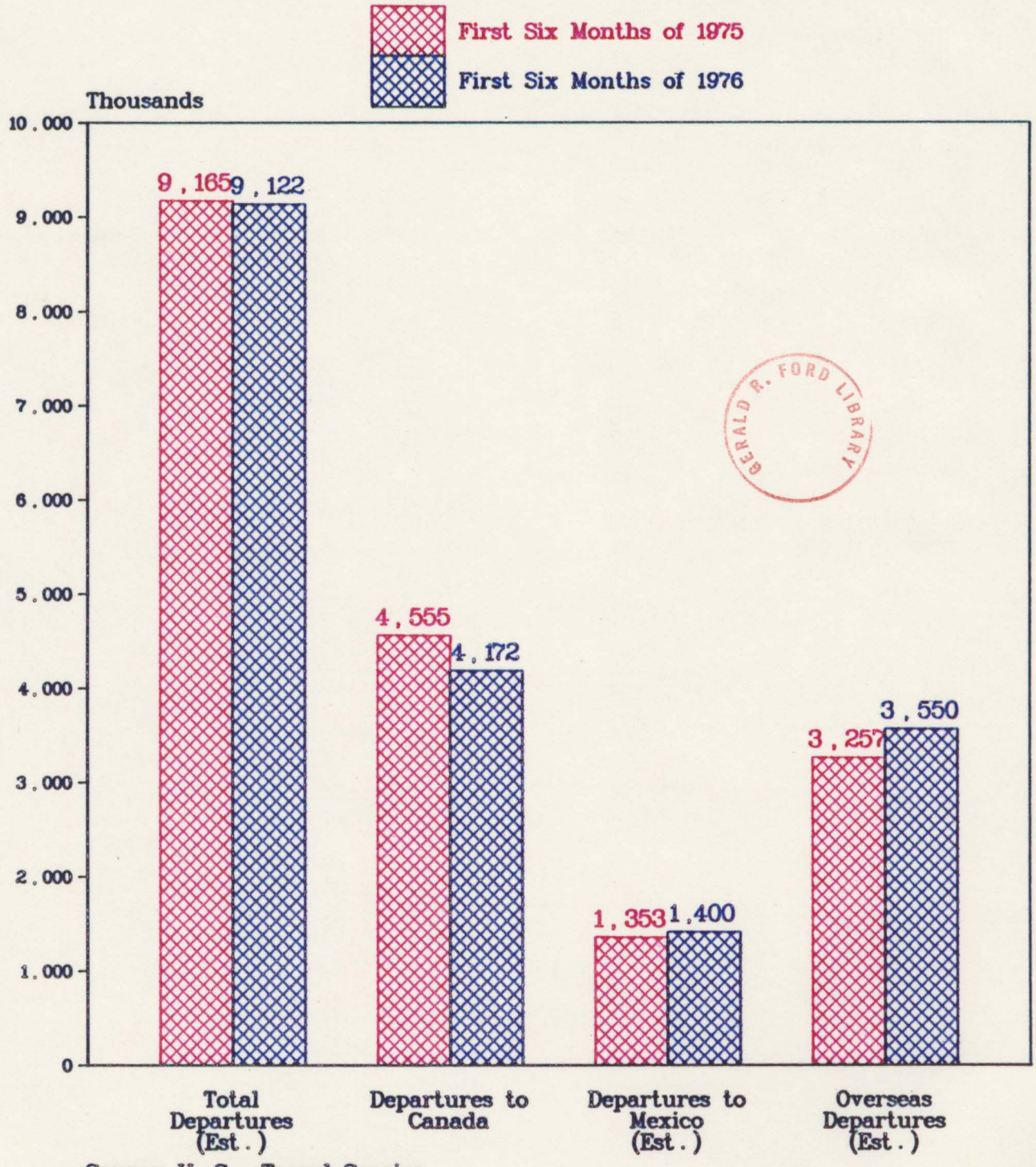
Source: U.S. Travel Service
20 September 1976

- All major geographical areas overseas rose above the 1975 levels for the 6-month period.
  - European arrivals to the United States increased 27.9 percent over the first half of 1975.
    - Increases were recorded in each of the major European markets: United Kingdom, up 23.6 percent; West Germany, up 24.3 percent; and France, up 39.2 percent.
- Asian travel to the United States increased 3.2 percent during the first half of the year, although Japanese arrivals declined 7.9 percent for the period.

B . 8 . 1–Departures of U . S . Citizens

By Geographic Area of Destination



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Source: U . S . Travel Service
20 September 1976

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- Based on preliminary statistics, approximately 9.1 million U.S. citizens traveled abroad to Canada, Mexico, and overseas countries during the first half of 1976, a 0.5-percent decline from same period in 1975.

    - U.S. departures to Canada declined 8.4 percent.

    - The number of U.S. citizens traveling to Mexico increased 3.5 percent.

- The number of U.S. citizens traveling to overseas countries during the first half of 1976 was estimated to rise 9 percent above the same period in 1975.