

News

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEST – SEPTEMBER 2008

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the West decreased 0.3 percent in September 2008. During the past 12 months, the overall index increased 4.3 percent. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the annual increase was primarily due to higher transportation prices. The special all items less food and energy index rose by 0.2 percent in September, but the energy index decreased 5.4 percent. On an annual basis, these indexes rose by 2.4 percent and 21.4 percent, respectively. Regional CPI area data are not seasonally adjusted.

The transportation index, which comprises approximately 19 percent of the all items index, declined 2.8 percent in September. For the year ending September 2008, transportation prices advanced 9.6 percent. Gasoline prices decreased 6.3 percent for the month, but increased 31.9 percent since September 2007. New cars and trucks prices declined 1.2 percent in September and were 2.1 percent lower than a year ago. On a year-over-year basis, prices for new cars and trucks have declined in every month since November 2006.

The housing index was unchanged for September, but rose 2.8 percent since September 2007. The index for shelter, the largest housing component, edged up 0.2 percent for the month and was 2.7 percent higher for the year. Prices for household fuels and utilities decreased 2.6 percent in September, but increased 5.2 percent since last year. Within the fuels and utilities index, electricity prices declined 0.2 percent in September and advanced 3.7 percent from a year ago. Prices for utility (piped) gas service fell 11.5 percent for the month, but increased 5.6 percent over the year. Prices for household furnishings and operations advanced 0.6 percent for the month and increased 1.9 percent for the year.

Food and beverages prices rose 0.4 percent in September 2008 and increased 5.6 percent over the past 12 months. Both food price measures, food at home and food away from home, advanced 0.4 percent in September. Over the year, prices for food at home increased 7.3 percent, and prices for food away from home increased 3.9 percent. Prices for alcoholic beverages rose 0.5 percent in September and 3.4 percent over the year.

The medical care index edged up 0.2 percent for the month and increased 3.7 percent for the year. In September, both medical care commodities and medical care services prices increased 0.2 percent and matched the overall medical care category. Over the latest 12-month period, prices for medical care commodities and medical care services advanced 1.4 and 4.4 percent, respectively.

Apparel prices were up 2.8 percent in September, but decreased 0.8 percent over the past 12 months.

Among the remaining major expenditure categories, prices for education and communication increased 0.9 percent, and prices for other goods and services were up 0.3 percent. Over the past year, prices for education and communication were 3.3 percent higher, and prices for other goods and services were up 3.9 percent. The recreation index inched up 0.2 percent in September and advanced 1.3 percent for the year.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the West stands at 222.132 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$222.13 in September 2008.

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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008
Expenditure category						
All items	223.867	222.823	222.132	4.3	-0.8	-0.3
All items (December 1977=100)	361.869	360.181	359.064	-	-	-
Food and beverages	221.139	221.506	222.465	5.6	.6	.4
Food	220.636	221.063	222.005	5.8	.6	.4
Food at home	226.684	227.153	228.134	7.3	.6	.4
Food away from home	211.971	212.342	213.231	3.9	.6	.4
Alcoholic beverages	225.897	225.552	226.703	3.4	.4	.5
Housing	228.864	228.814	228.805	2.8	.0	.0
Shelter	255.242	255.593	256.149	2.7	.4	.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	255.331	255.857	256.817	3.9	.6	.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	267.153	267.752	268.801	3.2	.6	.4
Fuels and utilities	242.120	238.144	232.056	5.2	-4.2	-2.6
Household energy	232.065	226.527	218.748	5.1	-5.7	-3.4
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	232.998	227.545	219.737	4.3	-5.7	-3.4
Electricity ¹	226.634	226.719	226.335	3.7	-.1	-.2
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	271.903	250.776	221.909	5.6	-18.4	-11.5
Household furnishings and operations	133.764	134.122	134.951	1.9	.9	.6
Apparel	108.467	108.777	111.784	-8	3.1	2.8
Transportation	214.211	208.298	202.514	9.6	-5.5	-2.8
Private transportation	207.719	201.618	196.009	9.2	-5.6	-2.8
New and used motor vehicles ³	93.306	93.047	91.832	-2.2	-1.6	-1.3
New vehicles	133.658	133.072	131.419	-2.1	-1.7	-1.2
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	92.930	92.520	91.364	-2.1	-1.7	-1.2
New cars ⁴	136.059	136.451	135.188	.9	-.6	-.9
Used cars and trucks	133.558	133.153	130.710	-3.0	-2.1	-1.8
Motor fuel	353.317	325.719	304.860	32.0	-13.7	-6.4
Gasoline (all types)	351.110	323.707	303.302	31.9	-13.6	-6.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	351.523	323.909	303.249	32.5	-13.7	-6.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	326.734	301.628	282.985	31.2	-13.4	-6.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	330.394	305.000	286.611	30.1	-13.3	-6.0
Medical care	369.054	369.557	370.387	3.7	.4	.2
Medical care commodities	297.892	298.723	299.341	1.4	.5	.2
Medical care services	390.598	390.964	391.862	4.4	.3	.2
Professional services	292.694	293.323	293.476	3.7	.3	.1
Recreation ³	109.522	109.664	109.857	1.3	.3	.2
Education and communication ³	123.309	124.122	125.217	3.3	1.5	.9
Other goods and services	347.269	348.239	349.167	3.9	.5	.3
Commodity and service group						
All items	223.867	222.823	222.132	4.3	-.8	-.3
Commodities	179.590	177.335	175.951	5.5	-2.0	-.8
Commodities less food and beverages	155.765	152.663	150.490	5.5	-3.4	-1.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	205.744	199.217	195.424	11.9	-5.0	-1.9
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	273.438	262.284	253.934	16.3	-7.1	-3.2
Durables	111.723	111.264	110.376	-1.9	-1.2	-.8
Services	263.600	263.842	263.890	3.5	.1	.0
Rent of shelter ²	271.585	271.961	272.461	2.7	.3	.2
Transportation services	252.805	253.395	251.865	6.1	-.4	-.6
Other services	293.133	294.607	296.457	3.9	1.1	.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	216.737	215.649	214.911	4.4	-0.8	-0.3
All items less food	224.516	223.246	222.305	4.1	-1.0	-.4
All items less shelter	212.525	210.876	209.647	5.2	-1.4	-.6
Commodities less food	158.771	155.722	153.624	5.4	-3.2	-1.3
Nondurables	215.535	212.116	210.474	8.7	-2.3	-.8
Nondurables less food	207.868	201.685	198.173	11.3	-4.7	-1.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	268.173	258.090	250.678	15.1	-6.5	-2.9
Services less rent of shelter ²	282.877	282.958	282.377	4.7	-.2	-.2
Services less medical care services	254.106	254.339	254.343	3.5	.1	.0
Energy	305.028	286.478	270.952	21.4	-11.2	-5.4
All items less energy	219.193	219.557	220.061	2.9	.4	.2
All items less food and energy	219.605	219.959	220.391	2.4	.4	.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	136.167	136.156	136.392	-.4	.2	.2
Energy commodities	356.642	329.118	308.252	31.9	-13.6	-6.3
Services less energy services	266.230	266.833	267.380	3.5	.4	.2

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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