

News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
PO Box 193766
San Francisco, Calif. 94119-3766



CONTACT:

Richard J. Holden (415) 625-2270

David Kong (415) 625-2284

Internet address: <http://www.bls.gov/ro9/news.htm>

BLS 09-32

FOR RELEASE:

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE SEATTLE AREA, MARCH 2009

Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden of the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today that shelter prices decreased 0.2 percent in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area in March, but were 4.1 percent higher over the year. Within shelter, the rent of primary residence index residence was unchanged in March, yet rose 4.9 percent over the year. The owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index declined 0.3 percent this month, but was 5.3 percent higher than one year ago.

The 0.6 percent decrease in gasoline prices was the primary reason for the 0.7 percent decline in the special aggregate index for energy in March 2009. Gasoline prices dropped 37.5 percent over the year, strongly influencing the 24.9 percent fall in overall energy prices. The household energy index decreased 0.3 percent from February to March, but was 1.1 percent higher than one year ago.

Grocery prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) food at home index, increased 0.3 percent for the month. Compared to March 2008, grocery prices were 6.3 percent higher. The food at home index now stands at 235.807. This means grocery shoppers in the Seattle area spent \$235.81 in March 2009 for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.

Voice phone 202-691-5200

TDD message referral phone number: 800-877-8339

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

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009	Mar. 2009	Mar. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009
Expenditure category						
All items	-	224.737	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	685.085	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	233.051	-	-	-	-
Food	-	234.926	-	-	-	-
Food at home	236.850	235.199	235.807	6.3	-0.4	0.3
Food away from home	-	237.724	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	214.715	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	241.444	-	-	-	-
Shelter	267.324	267.854	267.341	4.1	.0	-2
Rent of primary residence ¹	260.566	260.003	260.124	4.9	-2	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	282.653	282.657	281.724	5.3	-3	-3
Fuels and utilities	-	205.631	-	-	-	-
Household energy	204.149	203.648	203.111	1.1	-5	-3
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	241.472	240.819	240.819	3.4	-3	.0
Electricity ¹	231.902	231.390	231.390	-4	-2	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	223.718	222.818	222.818	15.0	-4	.0
Household furnishings and operations	-	177.145	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	133.250	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	188.750	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	194.061	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	218.171	232.697	230.202	-37.9	5.5	-1.1
Gasoline (all types)	220.329	236.572	235.256	-37.5	6.8	-6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	240.589	258.678	256.916	-37.9	6.8	-7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	172.653	184.799	184.752	-35.9	7.0	.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	201.195	214.239	214.100	-34.9	6.4	-1
Medical care	-	341.494	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	-	97.907	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁵	-	126.026	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	358.258	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	224.737	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	178.495	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	150.950	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	170.680	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	130.082	-	-	-	-
Services	-	267.717	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	219.410	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	208.361	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	153.438	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	200.824	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	173.983	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	-	273.706	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	260.225	-	-	-	-
Energy	214.322	221.757	220.178	-24.9	2.7	-7
All items less energy	-	227.662	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	226.580	-	-	-	-

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 November 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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