

News

United States
Department
of Labor



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chicago, Ill. 60604

General Information: (312) 353-1880
Media Contact: Paul LaPorte
(312) 353-1138
www.bls.gov/ro5

FOR RELEASE:
8:30 A.M. ET
Friday, February 20, 2009

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX CINCINNATI-HAMILTON, OH-KY-IN SECOND HALF 2008 SEMIANNUAL AVERAGES AND 2008 ANNUAL AVERAGES

Consumer prices in the Cincinnati-Hamilton metropolitan area increased 1.5 percent during the second half of 2008, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics announced today. The Cincinnati-Hamilton Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the second half of 2008 was 203.031 (1982-84=100). This second half gain was less than the 1.9 percent increase recorded in the second half of 2007.

On an annual average basis, Cincinnati area consumers paid 3.9 percent more for retail goods and services in 2008 than in 2007. Major contributing factors included increased costs for food and beverages, transportation, housing, and apparel. The remaining consumer expenditure categories of medical care, education and communication, other goods and services, and recreation also rose, but with less effect on the overall index.

The food and beverages component gained 6.9 percent over the year. This was the largest increase in this component since 1990 when prices for food and beverages rose 7.3 percent. Grocery food prices (food at home index) rose 7.0 percent while the cost of food away from home (restaurant meals, vending machines, school cafeterias, and carryout) increased 7.8 percent. Alcoholic beverage prices rose 4.7 percent over the year.

The transportation component increased 5.4 percent during 2008. This change was largely due to increased gasoline prices, which rose 14.3 percent over the year. During the previous annual period, gasoline prices in the Cincinnati area rose 8.1 percent.

The housing component rose 2.1 percent from 2007 to 2008. This was the same as the 2.1-percent increase reported during the previous annual period. Among the three primary categories within this component, shelter costs rose 0.7 percent, costs for fuels and utilities increased 8.6 percent, and prices for household furnishings and operations rose 3.5 percent. Within the fuels and utilities category, costs for electricity and utility (piped) gas increased 6.6 and 18.4 percent, respectively.

Apparel prices increased 10.7 percent in 2008. This represented a substantial increase from the 2.2 and 0.8 percent increases recorded in 2007 and 2006, respectively.

The other goods and services component rose 4.2 percent in 2008 following a 3.3 percent increase in 2007. The recreation component increased 3.1 percent in 2008 following a 1.9 percent increase in 2007.

Medical care costs increased 2.9 percent in 2008. This was less than the increases of 4.9 and 8.1 percent during the prior two years. The education and communication component gained 2.7 percent in 2008, less than the 3.5 percent increase in 2007.

#

Scheduled release date for the 1st Half of 2009 CPI:
Friday, August 14, 2009

CPI HOTLINE SERVICE PROVIDES LATEST INDEXES 24 HOURS A DAY

The all items CPI-U and CPI-W for the U. S. City Average and for the Cincinnati area are available to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Bureau's CPI HOTLINE service. This recorded message also provides percent change from the prior period and from a year earlier as well as the scheduled release date for the next CPI issuance. The HOTLINE number in Cincinnati is (513) 684-2349.

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 50,000 housing units and approximately 23,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index. Prices of food, fuels, and a few other items are obtained every month in all

87 locations. Prices of most other commodities and services are collected every month in the three largest geographic areas and every other month in other areas. Prices of most goods and services are obtained by personal visits of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classes, and for 27 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65.

For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

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

Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2008 from—	
	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008
Expenditure category					
All items	195.673	200.054	203.031	3.8	1.5
All items (1967=100)	605.456	619.011	628.224	-	-
Food and beverages	182.614	188.212	198.899	8.9	5.7
Food	179.947	185.728	196.800	9.4	6.0
Food at home	177.130	183.914	192.000	8.4	4.4
Food away from home	185.516	190.604	205.807	10.9	8.0
Alcoholic beverages	211.584	214.977	222.531	5.2	3.5
Housing	182.874	183.810	187.773	2.7	2.2
Shelter	205.021	207.016	207.464	1.2	.2
Rent of primary residence	204.961	206.755	209.859	2.4	1.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	205.306	208.843	209.863	2.2	.5
Fuels and utilities	199.286	197.669	214.815	7.8	8.7
Household energy	171.906	171.912	188.593	9.7	9.7
Gas (piped) and electricity	177.313	175.308	193.765	9.3	10.5
Electricity	168.992	162.222	177.968	5.3	9.7
Utility (piped) gas service	227.066	251.472	287.705	26.7	14.4
Household furnishings and operations	116.543	118.318	123.062	5.6	4.0
Apparel	128.644	132.694	138.166	7.4	4.1
Transportation	184.840	195.386	188.531	2.0	-3.5
Private transportation	183.732	194.417	187.256	1.9	-3.7
Motor fuel	259.152	305.285	270.410	4.3	-11.4
Gasoline (all types)	258.592	304.016	267.770	3.5	-11.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	266.901	314.203	276.544	3.6	-12.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	250.129	293.851	258.371	3.3	-12.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	222.491	259.647	230.195	3.5	-11.3
Medical care	371.239	376.975	380.138	2.4	.8
Recreation ⁴	117.417	120.736	122.578	4.4	1.5
Education and communication ⁴	118.351	119.706	121.311	2.5	1.3
Other goods and services	370.655	378.718	385.989	4.1	1.9
Commodity and service group					
All items	195.673	200.054	203.031	3.8	1.5
Commodities	162.530	168.941	170.510	4.9	.9
Commodities less food and beverages	150.658	157.346	154.520	2.6	-1.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	182.315	196.737	190.096	4.3	-3.4
Durables	121.537	120.894	121.640	.1	.6
Services	231.362	233.697	238.202	3.0	1.9
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	187.464	191.775	194.730	3.9	1.5
All items less shelter	193.678	199.347	203.088	4.9	1.9
Commodities less food	152.859	159.419	157.086	2.8	-1.5
Nondurables	183.811	193.983	195.971	6.6	1.0
Nondurables less food	184.503	198.036	192.705	4.4	-2.7
Services less rent of shelter ¹	266.948	270.726	279.758	4.8	3.3
Services less medical care services	217.991	220.341	224.918	3.2	2.1
Energy	212.610	233.363	226.199	6.4	-3.1
All items less energy	195.709	198.700	202.762	3.6	2.0
All items less food and energy	199.912	202.365	204.982	2.5	1.3

¹ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

² Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

³ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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

Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Annual average indexes		Percent change to 2008 from 2007
	2007	2008	
Expenditure category			
All items	193.892	201.543	3.9
All items (1967=100)	599.945	623.617	-
Food and beverages	181.035	193.556	6.9
Food	178.456	191.264	7.2
Food at home	175.607	187.957	7.0
Food away from home	183.820	198.206	7.8
Alcoholic beverages	208.854	218.754	4.7
Housing	181.932	185.791	2.1
Shelter	205.715	207.240	.7
Rent of primary residence	204.393	208.307	1.9
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	205.943	209.353	1.7
Fuels and utilities	189.951	206.242	8.6
Household energy	164.481	180.252	9.6
Gas (piped) and electricity	169.638	184.536	8.8
Electricity	159.588	170.095	6.6
Utility (piped) gas service	227.781	269.588	18.4
Household furnishings and operations	116.574	120.690	3.5
Apparel	122.316	135.430	10.7
Transportation	182.183	191.959	5.4
Private transportation	180.879	190.837	5.5
Motor fuel	250.653	287.847	14.8
Gasoline (all types)	250.203	285.893	14.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	257.980	295.373	14.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	242.866	276.111	13.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	215.470	244.921	13.7
Medical care	367.832	378.557	2.9
Recreation ⁴	118.054	121.657	3.1
Education and communication ⁴	117.310	120.509	2.7
Other goods and services	366.899	382.354	4.2
Commodity and service group			
All items	193.892	201.543	3.9
Commodities	160.407	169.725	5.8
Commodities less food and beverages	148.348	155.933	5.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	177.212	193.417	9.1
Durables	121.757	121.267	-.4
Services	229.898	235.949	2.6
Special aggregate indexes			
All items less medical care	185.759	193.252	4.0
All items less shelter	190.948	201.218	5.4
Commodities less food	150.528	158.253	5.1
Nondurables	180.351	194.977	8.1
Nondurables less food	179.522	195.370	8.8
Services less rent of shelter ¹	262.811	275.242	4.7
Services less medical care services	216.762	222.629	2.7
Energy	204.608	229.781	12.3
All items less energy	194.769	200.731	3.1
All items less food and energy	199.072	203.674	2.3

¹ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

² Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

³ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.