

News

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA, MARCH 2009

Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden of the Bureau of Labor Statistics said that a 2.1 percent decrease in gasoline prices was the primary reason for the 1.3 decline in the special aggregate index for energy in March 2009. Gasoline prices dropped 39.7 percent over the year, strongly influencing the 27.2 percent fall in overall energy prices. The household energy index increased 0.5 percent for the month and rose 1.2 percent over the year. Within household fuels, electricity prices moved up 4.0 percent for the month and advanced 11.0 percent for the year. The utility (piped) gas service index declined 10.1 percent from February to March and was 21.9 percent lower than one year ago.

Area grocery prices decreased 1.0 percent from February to March, but were 0.9 percent higher than a year ago. The food at home index now stands at 225.401. This means grocery shoppers in the greater Bay Area spent \$225.40 in March for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84.

The shelter index was unchanged in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area in March 2009, yet was 1.9 percent higher compared to one year earlier. Within shelter, the rent of primary residence rose 0.3 percent last month and was 4.7 percent higher than in March 2008. The owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index increased 0.2 percent over the month and advanced 3.2 percent over the year. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

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

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

San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (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	-	222.166	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	683.001	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	227.708	-	-	-	-
Food	-	226.939	-	-	-	-
Food at home	229.823	227.779	225.401	0.9	-1.9	-1.0
Food away from home	-	225.654	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	241.447	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	245.673	-	-	-	-
Shelter	275.921	277.254	277.375	1.9	.5	.0
Rent of primary residence ¹	295.639	297.160	298.017	4.7	.8	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	298.861	299.517	300.092	3.2	.4	.2
Fuels and utilities	-	249.003	-	-	-	-
Household energy	262.792	260.351	261.557	1.2	-.5	.5
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	262.609	260.133	261.832	2.0	-.3	.7
Electricity ¹	274.889	274.889	285.846	11.0	4.0	4.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	225.273	216.535	194.569	-21.9	-13.6	-10.1
Household furnishings and operations	-	132.459	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	113.129	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	157.949	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	148.494	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	155.306	168.967	164.605	-40.1	6.0	-2.6
Gasoline (all types)	153.240	167.998	164.472	-39.7	7.3	-2.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	152.794	167.865	163.991	-40.1	7.3	-2.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	143.393	157.075	154.025	-39.1	7.4	-1.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	147.112	159.577	157.808	-38.1	7.3	-1.1
Medical care	-	378.985	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	-	106.639	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁵	-	136.587	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	378.927	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	222.166	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	163.946	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	128.617	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	154.349	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	103.280	-	-	-	-
Services	-	271.042	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	215.702	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	200.776	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	133.493	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	191.596	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	160.767	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	-	277.321	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	263.628	-	-	-	-
Energy	192.938	201.442	198.869	-27.2	3.1	-1.3
All items less energy	-	226.446	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	227.034	-	-	-	-

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 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.