

News

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Department
of Labor



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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: MARCH 2003

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.6 percent in March, before seasonal adjustment, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The March level of 184.2 (1982-84=100) was 3.0 percent higher than in March 2002.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) also increased 0.6 percent in March, prior to seasonal adjustment. The March level of 180.3 was 3.2 percent higher than in March 2002.

CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI-U rose 0.3 percent in March, following an increase of 0.6 percent in February. Energy costs again rose sharply--up 4.6 percent in March--and accounted for over 90 percent of the advance in the overall CPI-U. Within energy, the index for petroleum-based energy advanced 4.3 percent and the index for energy services increased 5.0 percent. The index for food rose 0.2 percent in March, following a 0.7 percent rise in February. The index for food at home, which increased 0.9 percent in February, rose 0.1 percent in March. The moderation was largely as the result of a markedly smaller increase in the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs. The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in March after increasing 0.1 percent in both January and February.

Table A. Percent changes in CPI for Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

Expenditure Category	Seasonally adjusted							Compound annual rate 3-mos. ended Mar. '03	Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended Mar. '03
	Changes from preceding month								
	2002				2003				
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.		
All Items	.2	.2	.1	.1	.3	.6	.3	5.2	3.0
Food and beverages	.2	.1	.2	.2	-.2	.6	.2	2.5	1.5
Housing	.2	.3	.1	.2	.4	.3	.4	4.2	2.9
Apparel	-.2	-.2	-.2	-.2	-.9	-.2	-.4	-5.7	-3.6
Transportation	.2	.5	-.2	-.3	1.1	2.0	1.0	17.6	7.0
Medical care	.3	.6	.5	.4	.1	.1	.2	1.7	4.3
Recreation	.1	.2	.0	.2	.2	.3	.1	2.3	1.2
Education and communication	-.1	.0	.0	.2	.5	.2	-.1	2.2	2.6
Other goods and services	.4	-.5	.1	.1	.2	.3	-.1	2.0	3.1
Special Indexes									
Energy	.4	1.4	-.5	-.4	4.0	5.9	4.6	76.5	23.4
Food	.2	.1	.2	.2	-.2	.7	.2	2.7	1.4
All Items less food and energy	.2	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.0	.8	1.7

For the first three months of 2003, consumer prices increased at a seasonally adjusted annual rate (SAAR) of 5.2 percent. This compares with an increase of 2.4 percent for all of 2002. The index for energy, which rose 10.7 percent in 2002, accelerated in the first quarter of 2003, advancing at a 76.5 percent SAAR and accounting for about 80 percent of the first quarter advance in the overall CPI-U. Petroleum-based energy costs increased at a 125.0 percent annual rate and charges for energy services rose at a 37.4 percent annual rate. The food index rose at a 2.7 percent SAAR in the first quarter of 2003. The index for grocery store food prices increased at a 3.0 percent annual rate, as price increases for cereal and bakery products and for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs--up at annual rates of 9.6 and 6.8 percent, respectively--were only partially offset by declines in the indexes for fruits and vegetables, dairy products, and nonalcoholic beverages.

Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U advanced at a 0.8 percent SAAR in the first quarter, following a 1.9 percent rise in all of 2002. Smaller increases in the indexes for shelter and medical care, coupled with a larger decrease in the index for apparel, were largely responsible for the deceleration. The annual rates for selected groups for the last seven and ¼ years are shown below.

	Percentage change 12 months ended in December							SAAR 3 mos. ended in March
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
All items	3.3	1.7	1.6	2.7	3.4	1.6	2.4	5.2
Food and beverages	4.2	1.6	2.3	2.0	2.8	2.8	1.5	2.5
Housing	2.9	2.4	2.3	2.2	4.3	2.9	2.4	4.2
Apparel	-2	1.0	-7	-5	-1.8	-3.2	-1.8	-5.7
Transportation	4.4	-1.4	-1.7	5.4	4.1	-3.8	3.8	17.6
Medical care	3.0	2.8	3.4	3.7	4.2	4.7	5.0	1.7
Recreation	3.0	1.5	1.2	.8	1.7	1.5	1.1	2.3
Education and communication	3.4	3.0	.7	1.6	1.3	3.2	2.2	2.2
Other goods and services	3.6	5.2	8.8	5.1	4.2	4.5	3.3	2.0
Special indexes								
Energy	8.6	-3.4	-8.8	13.4	14.2	-13.0	10.7	76.5
Energy commodities	13.8	-6.9	-15.1	29.5	15.7	-24.5	23.7	125.0
Energy services	3.8	.2	-3.3	1.2	12.7	-1.5	.4	37.4
All items less energy	2.9	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.6	2.8	1.8	1.1
Food	4.3	1.5	2.3	1.9	2.8	2.8	1.5	2.7
All items less food and energy	2.6	2.2	2.4	1.9	2.6	2.7	1.9	0.8

The food and beverages index rose 0.2 percent in March. The index for food at home, which advanced 0.9 percent in February, increased 0.1 percent in March. While most major grocery store food groups contributed to the moderation, the index for meats, poultry, fish and eggs, which was unchanged in March after increasing 2.0 percent in February, accounted for about two-thirds of the deceleration. The index for beef and veal rose 1.2 percent in March, following a 3.3 percent rise in February. The indexes for pork and for other meats, which increased 1.1 and 1.7 percent, respectively, in February, declined 0.8 and 1.2 percent in March. Poultry prices rose 0.1 percent in March after advancing 1.2 percent in February. The index for fruits and vegetables rose 0.1 percent in March, following a 0.8 percent increase in February. The indexes for fresh fruits and for fresh vegetables were each virtually unchanged, while the index for processed fruits and vegetables increased 0.9 percent. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, fresh fruit prices rose 0.4 percent, while prices for fresh vegetables and for processed fruits and vegetables each declined 0.1 percent.) The index for dairy products, which increased 0.5 percent in February, declined 0.1 percent in March. The index for nonalcoholic beverages--down 0.1 percent--declined for the third consecutive month, but by less than in February. The remaining two major grocery store food groups--cereals and bakery products and other food at home--increased 0.4 percent and were unchanged, respectively. The other two components of the food and beverage index--food away from home and alcoholic beverages--increased 0.2 and 0.6 percent, respectively.

The index for housing rose 0.4 percent in March. Shelter costs were virtually unchanged for the second consecutive month. Within shelter, the indexes for rent and owners' equivalent rent increased 0.2 and 0.1 percent, respectively, while the index for lodging away from home fell 1.3 percent. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, the index for lodging away from home rose 1.8 percent.) The index for fuels and utilities rose 4.4 percent in March. The index for fuel oil increased 9.8 percent in March, and prices for fuel oil were 60.0 percent higher than in March 2002. The index for natural gas rose 14.8 percent, bringing the increase in the past 12 months to 34.6 percent. The index for electricity increased 0.8 percent in March, accounting for all of its increase in the last 12 months. The index for household furnishings and operations declined 0.5 percent in March, reflecting price declines in all major categories.

The transportation index rose 1.0 percent in March, following increases of 1.1 and 2.0 percent in the preceding two months. The index for gasoline, which rose 6.6 and 9.9 percent in January and February, respectively, increased 4.1 percent in March. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, gasoline prices rose 5.5 percent in March.) As of March, the price of gasoline was 1.0 percent higher than its previous peak level of May 2001. The index for new vehicles increased 0.2 percent in March, but during the last 12 months it has fallen 1.0 percent. The index for used cars and trucks rose 0.6 percent in March, but this index has declined 2.4 percent in the last 12 months. Airline fares increased for the second consecutive month--up 1.9 percent in March--but are 1.8 percent lower than a year ago.

The index for apparel declined 0.4 percent in March. (Prior to seasonal adjustment, apparel prices rose 2.5 percent, reflecting the introduction of spring-summer apparel wear.)

Medical care costs rose 0.2 percent in March to a level 4.3 percent higher than a year ago. The index for medical care commodities--prescription drugs, nonprescription drugs, and medical supplies--rose 0.4 percent. The index for medical care services rose 0.1 percent in March. Charges for professional services and for hospital and related services increased 0.1 and 0.2 percent, respectively.

The index for recreation rose 0.1 percent in March. Increases in the indexes for club membership dues and fees for participant sports, for newspapers and magazines, and for toys more than offset declines in the indexes for video and audio, for sporting goods, for photography, and for admissions to sporting events.

The index for education and communication decreased 0.1 percent in March. Educational costs rose 0.5 percent, while the index for communication costs fell 0.7 percent. Within the latter group, the index for telephone services declined 0.8 percent, reflecting a 2.4 percent decrease in long distance charges. The index for personal computers and peripheral equipment declined 0.5 percent.

The index for other goods and services declined 0.1 percent in March. A 1.2 percent drop in the index for tobacco and smoking products was partially offset by a 0.3 percent increase in the index for personal care. Within the latter group, the index for legal services increased sharply for the third consecutive month--up 1.1 percent in March.

CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers increased 0.5 percent in March.

Table B. Percent changes in CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)

Expenditure Category	Seasonally adjusted							Compound annual rate 3-mos. ended Mar. '03	Un-adjusted 12-mos. ended Mar. '03
	Changes from preceding month								
	2002				2003				
	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.		
All Items	.2	.2	.1	.1	.3	.7	.5	6.2	3.2
Food and beverages	.2	.1	.3	.2	-.1	.6	.2	2.7	1.4
Housing	.2	.3	.2	.2	.4	.3	.6	5.0	3.2
Apparel	-.2	-.3	-.2	-.2	-1.0	-.2	-.2	-5.5	-3.5
Transportation	.2	.5	-.3	-.3	1.2	2.2	1.1	19.9	7.4
Medical care	.3	.6	.5	.4	.1	.1	.2	1.7	4.5
Recreation	-.1	.2	.0	.3	.1	.2	.0	1.1	.8
Education and communication	-.1	-.1	.0	.2	.4	.2	-.2	1.5	2.3
Other goods and services	.6	-.9	.0	.0	.2	.3	-.3	.7	3.5
Special Indexes									
Energy	.4	1.6	-.6	-.6	4.2	6.1	4.6	78.6	24.0
Food	.2	.1	.3	.2	-.2	.7	.1	2.5	1.3
All Items less food and energy	.1	.1	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	0.9	1.7

Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U)

The C-CPI-U increased 0.6 percent in March on a not seasonally adjusted basis. The March level of 107.8 (December 1999=100) was 2.6 percent higher than in March 2002. Table 7 contains the most recent indexes for all items and the component series that are published. Data will be published monthly in the CPI Detailed Report and are available on the CPI home page: <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/>. Please note that the indexes for the post-2001 period are subject to revision.

Consumer Price Index data for April are scheduled for release on Friday, May 16, 2003, at 8:30 A.M. (EDT).

Facilities for Sensory Impaired

Information from this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339. For a recorded message of Summary CPI data, call (202) 691-5200.

Brief Explanation of the CPI

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time of goods and services purchased by households. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which covers households of wage earners and clerical workers that comprise approximately 32 percent of the total population and (2) the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U), which cover approximately 87 percent of the total population and include in addition to wage earners and clerical worker households, 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 CPIs are based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and 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 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 or telephone calls of the Bureau's trained representatives.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights, which represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. For the CPI-U and CPI-W 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. For the C-CPI-U data are issued only at the national level. It is important to note that the CPI-U and CPI-W are considered final when released, but the C-CPI-U is issued in preliminary form and subject to two annual revisions.

The index measures price change from a designed reference date. For the CPI-U and the CPI-W the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100.0. The reference base for the C-CPI-U is December 1999 equals 100. An increase of 16.5 percent from the reference base, 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 visit the CPI home page on the Internet at <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/> or contact our CPI Information and Analysis Section on (202) 691-7000.

Calculating Index Changes

Movements of the indexes from one month to another are usually expressed as percent changes rather than changes in index points, because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period while percent changes are not. The example below illustrates the computation of index point and percent changes.

Percent changes for 3-month and 6-month periods are expressed as annual rates and are computed according to the standard formula for compound growth rates. These data indicate what the percent change would be if the current rate were maintained for a 12-month period.

Index Point Change

CPI	115.7
Less previous index	111.2
Equals index point change	4.5

Percent Change

Index point difference	4.5
Divided by the previous index	111.2
Equals	0.040
Results multiplied by one hundred	0.040x100
Equals percent change	4.0

Regions Defined

The states in the four regions shown in Tables 3 and 6 are listed below.

The Northeast--Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The Midwest--Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The South--Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

The West--Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

A Note on Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data

Because price data are used for different purposes by different groups, the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes seasonally adjusted as well as unadjusted changes each month.

For analyzing general price trends in the economy, seasonally adjusted changes are usually preferred since they eliminate the effect of changes that normally occur at the same time and in about the same magnitude every year--such as price movements resulting from changing climatic conditions, production cycles, model changeovers, holidays, and sales.

The unadjusted data are of primary interest to consumers concerned about the prices they actually pay. Unadjusted data also are used extensively for escalation purposes. Many collective bargaining contract agreements and pension plans, for example, tie compensation changes to the Consumer Price Index unadjusted for seasonal variation.

Seasonal factors used in computing the seasonally adjusted indexes are derived by the X-12-ARIMA Seasonal Adjustment Method. The updated seasonal data at the end of 1977 replaced data from 1967 through 1977. Subsequent annual updates have replaced 5 years of seasonal data; e.g., data from 1998 through 2002 were replaced at the end of 2002. In January 2002, dependently seasonally adjusted series were revised for January 1987-December 2001 as a result of a change in the aggregation weights for dependently adjusted series. For further information, please see "Aggregation of Dependently Adjusted Seasonally Adjusted Series," in the October 2001 issue of the CPI Detailed Report.

The seasonal movement of all items and 54 other aggregations is derived by combining the seasonal movement of 73 selected components. Each year the seasonal status of every series is reevaluated based upon certain statistical criteria. If any of the 73 components change their seasonal adjustment status from seasonally adjusted to not seasonally adjusted, not seasonally adjusted data will be used for the last 5 years, but the seasonally adjusted indexes will be used before that period. Note: 44 of the 73 components are seasonally adjusted for 2003.

Seasonally adjusted data, including the All items index levels, are subject to revision for up to five years after their original release. For this reason, BLS advises against the use of these data in escalation agreements.

Effective with the calculation of the seasonal factors for 1990, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has used an enhanced seasonal adjustment procedure called Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment for some CPI series. Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment allows for better estimates of seasonally adjusted data. Extreme values and/or sharp movements which might distort the seasonal pattern are estimated and removed from the data prior to calculation of seasonal factors. Beginning with the calculation of seasonal factors for 1996, X-12-ARIMA software was used for Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment.

For the fuel oil, natural gas, motor fuels, and educational books and supplies indexes, this procedure was used to offset the effects that extreme price volatility would otherwise have had on the estimates of seasonally adjusted data for those series. For the Nonalcoholic beverages index, the procedure was used to offset the effects of a large increase in coffee prices due to adverse weather. The procedure was used to account for unusual butter fat supply reductions and decreases in milk supply affecting the Fats and oils series. For the Water and sewerage maintenance index, the procedure was used to account for a data collection anomaly and dry weather in California. It was used to offset an increase in demand due to warmer than expected weather and increased rates to conserve supplies for Electricity. For

New vehicles, New cars, and New trucks, the procedure was used to offset the effects of a model changeover combined with financing incentives.

For a complete list of series that used Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment, a list of unusual events modeled for them, or for a description of intervention analysis please write to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Consumer Prices and Price Indexes, Washington, DC 20212 or by calling Daniel Chow on (202) 691-6968 or sending e-mail to Chow_Dan@BLS.GOV. If you have general questions about the CPI, please call our information staff at (202) 691-7000.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-U	Relative importance, December 2002	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Mar. 2003 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
		Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2002	Feb. 2003	Dec. to Jan.	Jan. to Feb.	Feb. to Mar.
Expenditure category								
All items	100.000	183.1	184.2	3.0	0.6	0.3	0.6	0.3
All items (1967=100)	-	548.5	551.8	-	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	15.583	178.9	179.2	1.5	.2	-.2	.6	.2
Food	14.554	178.3	178.6	1.4	.2	-.2	.7	.2
Food at home	8.338	177.6	177.7	.8	.1	-.2	.9	.1
Cereals and bakery products	1.281	201.8	202.1	2.6	.1	1.0	.9	.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	2.222	164.7	164.8	1.2	.1	-.3	2.0	.0
Dairy and related products ¹ .....	.876	167.2	167.1	-1.4	-.1	-.5	.5	-.1
Fruits and vegetables	1.234	223.3	223.6	-1.0	.1	-1.2	.8	.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials .....	.954	140.8	140.3	.1	-.4	-.5	-.4	-.1
Other food at home	1.771	162.2	162.6	1.7	.2	.0	.4	.0
Sugar and sweets .....	.314	161.8	162.5	3.4	.4	-.4	.9	.6
Fats and oils .....	.252	158.7	157.5	.7	-.8	1.0	2.0	-.8
Other foods	1.205	177.9	178.6	1.5	.4	-.1	-.1	.1
Other miscellaneous foods ^{1 2} .....	.287	110.5	110.1	2.1	-.4	-.5	.7	-.4
Food away from home ¹	6.216	180.7	181.0	2.2	.2	-.1	.4	.2
Other food away from home ² .....	.388	120.2	120.4	3.5	.2	.3	.3	.3
Alcoholic beverages	1.029	185.9	186.6	2.2	.4	.3	-.2	.6
Housing	40.854	183.2	184.3	2.9	.6	.4	.3	.4
Shelter	31.728	211.6	212.1	2.5	.2	.3	.0	.0
Rent of primary residence ³	6.467	203.7	204.1	3.0	.2	.4	.2	.2
Lodging away from home ^{2 3}	2.654	117.6	119.7	-1.8	1.8	.1	-1.8	-1.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{3 4}	22.243	218.7	218.9	2.9	.1	.3	.2	.1
Tenants' and household insurance ^{1 2} .....	.365	114.1	114.0	6.7	-.1	1.4	.2	-.1
Fuels and utilities	4.469	148.3	154.5	10.2	4.2	1.4	2.0	4.4
Fuels	3.604	131.9	138.5	11.9	5.0	1.8	2.4	5.2
Fuel oil and other fuels .....	.205	156.3	169.0	49.8	8.1	7.1	14.2	9.0
Gas (piped) and electricity ³	3.399	136.9	143.5	9.8	4.8	1.5	1.6	5.0
Water and sewer and trash collection services ² .....	.864	115.0	115.9	3.2	.8	.0	.3	.5
Household furnishings and operations	4.658	127.7	127.1	-1.2	-.5	.2	.2	-.5
Household operations ^{1 2} .....	.820	122.0	121.6	2.3	-.3	.8	1.0	-.3
Apparel	4.220	120.6	123.6	-3.6	2.5	-.9	-.2	-.4
Men's and boys' apparel	1.065	117.3	121.0	-3.4	3.2	-1.3	-.1	1.9
Women's and girls' apparel	1.738	112.4	117.2	-3.4	4.3	-1.2	.1	-.7
Infants' and toddlers' apparel .....	.193	122.3	124.1	-4.5	1.5	-3.0	.7	.0
Footwear .....	.853	119.8	119.8	-3.0	.0	.7	-.6	-2.4
Transportation	17.293	158.9	161.0	7.0	1.3	1.1	2.0	1.0
Private transportation	16.121	155.3	157.3	7.5	1.3	1.2	2.2	1.1
New and used motor vehicles ²	8.170	98.0	98.0	-1.6	.0	-.5	-.1	.3
New vehicles	4.864	139.2	139.3	-1.0	.1	-.9	-.1	.2
Used cars and trucks	2.025	148.4	148.5	-2.4	.1	.2	.4	.6
Motor fuel	3.119	140.4	148.1	37.5	5.5	6.6	9.8	4.0
Gasoline (all types)	3.091	139.7	147.4	37.6	5.5	6.6	9.9	4.1
Motor vehicle parts and equipment ¹ .....	.416	108.2	107.9	1.3	-.3	.7	.4	-.3
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair	1.418	194.5	194.3	3.1	-.1	.1	.2	.0
Public transportation	1.172	203.6	206.1	-.9	1.2	-.6	-.4	.5
Medical care	5.961	293.7	294.2	4.3	.2	.1	.1	.2
Medical care commodities	1.387	260.4	261.4	2.9	.4	.2	.0	.4
Medical care services	4.574	302.3	302.6	4.7	.1	.1	.2	.1
Professional services ³	2.808	258.8	259.1	2.9	.1	.0	.1	.1
Hospital and related services ³	1.451	388.2	388.7	8.2	.1	.4	.4	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group-Continued

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-U Expenditure category	Relative importance, December 2002	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Mar. 2003 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—			
		Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2002	Feb. 2003	Dec. to Jan.	Jan. to Feb.	Feb. to Mar.	
Recreation ²	5.943	107.2	107.4	1.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	
Video and audio ²	1.638	103.8	103.7	.8	-1	-4	.0	-1	
Education and communication ²	5.798	109.7	109.4	2.6	-3	.5	.2	-1	
Education ²	2.835	131.0	131.1	6.3	.1	.6	.5	.5	
Educational books and supplies .....	.236	332.8	333.2	6.0	.1	1.0	.7	.5
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare	2.599	376.3	376.5	6.3	.1	.6	.5	.5	
Communication ²	2.963	91.9	91.3	-8	-7	.2	-1	-7	
Information and information processing ^{1 2}	2.765	90.1	89.5	-1.4	-7	.3	-2	-7	
Telephone services ^{1 2}	2.273	100.5	99.7	.6	-8	.5	.1	-8	
Information and information processing other than telephone services ^{1 5} .....	.492	16.9	16.8	-10.6	-6	-6	-1.2	-6
Personal computers and peripheral equipment ^{1 2} .....	.210	19.1	19.0	-17.7	-5	-1.0	-2.1	-5
Other goods and services	4.350	297.5	297.3	3.1	-1	.2	.3	-1	
Tobacco and smoking products ¹ .....	.992	472.7	467.2	7.8	-1.2	.0	.1	-1.2
Personal care ¹	3.358	176.7	177.2	1.8	.3	.3	.5	.3	
Personal care products ¹ .....	.680	153.3	153.3	-1.2	.0	-3	.2	.0
Personal care services ¹ .....	.897	190.9	191.7	2.3	.4	.4	.2	.4
Miscellaneous personal services	1.573	280.4	281.4	3.1	.4	.2	.5	.4	
Commodity and service group									
Commodities	40.822	152.0	153.1	2.5	.7	.3	1.1	.4	
Food and beverages	15.583	178.9	179.2	1.5	.2	-2	.6	.2	
Commodities less food and beverages	25.239	136.4	138.0	3.2	1.2	.7	1.3	.6	
Nondurables less food and beverages	13.824	151.2	154.5	7.6	2.2	.9	2.5	.8	
Apparel	4.220	120.6	123.6	-3.6	2.5	-9	-2	-4	
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	9.604	174.1	177.8	13.0	2.1	1.6	3.8	2.8	
Durables	11.416	119.7	119.5	-2.1	-2	-2	.1	-2	
Services	59.178	214.0	215.1	3.4	.5	.3	.2	.4	
Rent of shelter ⁴	31.364	220.3	220.9	2.5	.3	.3	.0	.0	
Tenants' and household insurance ^{1 2} .....	.365	114.1	114.0	6.7	-1	1.4	.2	-1
Gas (piped) and electricity ³	3.399	136.9	143.5	9.8	4.8	1.5	1.6	5.0	
Water and sewer and trash collection services ² .....	.864	115.0	115.9	3.2	.8	.0	.3	.5
Household operations ^{1 2} .....	.820	122.0	121.6	2.3	-3	.8	1.0	-3
Transportation services	6.722	213.4	214.2	3.3	.4	.1	.2	.2	
Medical care services	4.574	302.3	302.6	4.7	.1	.1	.2	.1	
Other services	11.071	252.4	252.6	3.7	.1	.4	.4	.1	
Special indexes									
All items less food	85.446	183.9	185.2	3.3	.7	.4	.6	.4	
All items less shelter	68.272	174.0	175.3	3.3	.7	.3	.9	.5	
All items less medical care	94.039	177.3	178.4	2.9	.6	.3	.6	.4	
Commodities less food	26.268	138.3	139.8	3.1	1.1	.7	1.3	.6	
Nondurables less food	14.853	153.3	156.5	7.3	2.1	.8	2.3	.9	
Nondurables less food and apparel	10.633	174.4	177.7	12.0	1.9	1.6	3.3	2.3	
Nondurables	29.406	165.3	167.2	4.4	1.1	.6	1.3	.7	
Services less rent of shelter ⁴	27.815	222.8	224.4	4.5	.7	.3	.5	.8	
Services less medical care services	54.604	206.4	207.4	3.3	.5	.3	.2	.4	
Energy	6.723	135.4	142.6	23.4	5.3	4.0	5.9	4.6	
All items less energy	93.277	189.7	190.2	1.7	.3	.1	.2	.0	
All items less food and energy	78.724	192.5	193.0	1.7	.3	.1	.1	.0	
Commodities less food and energy commodities	22.945	142.1	142.6	-1.4	.4	-3	-1	-1	
Energy commodities	3.324	142.1	150.1	38.2	5.6	6.6	10.2	4.3	
Services less energy services	55.779	221.9	222.4	3.0	.2	.3	.1	.0	
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1982-84=\$1.00)	-	\$.546	\$.543	-	-	-	-	-	
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1967=\$1.00)	-	\$.182	\$.181	-	-	-	-	-	

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

² Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

³ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.

- Data not available.

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

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-U	Seasonally adjusted indexes				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
					3 months ended—			6 months ended—		
	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	June 2002	Sep. 2002	Dec. 2002	Mar. 2003	Sep. 2002	Mar. 2003
Expenditure category										
All items	181.6	182.2	183.3	183.9	2.9	2.5	1.6	5.2	2.7	3.3
Food and beverages	178.0	177.7	178.8	179.1	.0	1.1	2.3	2.5	.6	2.4
Food	177.3	177.0	178.2	178.5	-2	1.1	2.1	2.7	.5	2.4
Food at home	176.3	175.9	177.4	177.6	-2.0	.5	2.1	3.0	-8	2.5
Cereals and bakery products	198.1	200.0	201.8	202.7	1.0	1.0	-8	9.6	1.0	4.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	162.3	161.8	165.0	165.0	-1.9	-2.7	3.0	6.8	-2.3	4.9
Dairy and related products ¹	167.3	166.4	167.2	167.1	-3.3	-4.0	2.4	-5	-3.6	1.0
Fruits and vegetables	223.3	220.6	222.3	222.6	-9.9	3.5	4.6	-1.2	-3.4	1.6
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	140.7	140.0	139.5	139.3	-2.6	6.8	.6	-3.9	2.0	-1.7
Other food at home	161.7	161.7	162.4	162.4	2.0	.5	2.5	1.7	1.3	2.1
Sugar and sweets	160.3	159.7	161.1	162.1	5.2	1.8	2.3	4.6	3.5	3.4
Fats and oils	154.2	155.8	158.9	157.7	-4.3	.0	-1.8	9.4	-2.2	3.6
Other foods	178.5	178.4	178.3	178.4	2.8	.2	3.2	-2	1.5	1.5
Other miscellaneous foods ^{1 2}	110.2	109.7	110.5	110.1	4.5	2.6	1.8	-4	3.6	.7
Food away from home ¹	180.1	179.9	180.7	181.0	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.0	2.4	2.0
Other food away from home ²	119.6	119.9	120.3	120.7	5.6	.3	4.5	3.7	2.9	4.1
Alcoholic beverages	185.3	185.8	185.5	186.6	2.2	1.3	2.6	2.8	1.8	2.7
Housing	182.2	182.9	183.4	184.1	2.5	2.2	2.5	4.2	2.4	3.3
Shelter	210.8	211.4	211.5	211.4	2.9	3.1	2.7	1.1	3.0	1.9
Rent of primary residence ³	202.3	203.1	203.5	203.9	3.1	2.6	3.0	3.2	2.8	3.1
Lodging away from home ^{2 3}	118.9	119.0	116.9	115.4	1.4	1.4	1.7	-11.3	1.4	-5.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{3 4}	217.7	218.3	218.7	218.9	3.2	3.2	2.8	2.2	3.2	2.5
Tenants' and household insurance ^{1 2}	112.3	113.9	114.1	114.0	3.8	8.4	8.6	6.2	6.1	7.4
Fuels and utilities	145.3	147.4	150.3	156.9	2.8	1.7	3.4	36.0	2.3	18.6
Fuels	128.7	131.0	134.1	141.1	3.2	1.3	3.2	44.5	2.2	22.1
Fuel oil and other fuels	123.0	131.7	150.4	163.9	21.7	15.8	13.4	215.3	18.7	89.1
Gas (piped) and electricity ³	135.6	137.6	139.8	146.8	2.4	.3	3.0	37.4	1.4	18.9
Water and sewer and trash collection services ²	114.7	114.7	115.0	115.6	2.5	2.9	3.9	3.2	2.7	3.6
Household furnishings and operations	127.4	127.6	127.8	127.1	-3	-2.2	-1.6	-9	-1.2	-1.2
Household operations ^{1 2}	119.9	120.8	122.0	121.6	-3	3.1	.7	5.8	1.4	3.2
Apparel	122.9	121.8	121.6	121.1	-5.3	-3	-2.6	-5.7	-2.8	-4.2
Men's and boys' apparel	119.7	118.2	118.1	120.4	-10.8	-1.3	-3.3	2.4	-6.2	-.5
Women's and girls' apparel	114.9	113.5	113.6	112.8	-4.1	.7	-2.7	-7.1	-1.7	-5.0
Infants' and toddlers' apparel	125.3	121.5	122.4	122.4	-5.2	.6	-4.0	-8.9	-2.3	-6.5
Footwear	121.4	122.3	121.6	118.7	-2.3	-1.0	.0	-8.6	-1.6	-4.4
Transportation	154.5	156.2	159.3	160.9	7.4	3.4	.0	17.6	5.4	8.5
Private transportation	150.5	152.3	155.6	157.3	7.9	3.8	.0	19.3	5.8	9.2
New and used motor vehicles ²	98.3	97.8	97.7	98.0	-2.4	.8	-3.6	-1.2	-8	-2.4
New vehicles	139.8	138.6	138.4	138.7	-2.0	1.2	-.3	-3.1	-4	-1.7
Used cars and trucks	147.9	148.2	148.8	149.7	-2.8	-1.6	-9.6	5.0	-2.2	-2.6
Motor fuel	122.1	130.2	143.0	148.7	46.8	9.7	.7	120.0	26.9	48.8
Gasoline (all types)	121.5	129.5	142.3	148.1	46.6	9.8	1.0	120.8	26.9	49.3
Motor vehicle parts and equipment ¹	107.0	107.8	108.2	107.9	.8	2.7	-1.5	3.4	1.7	.9
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair	193.5	193.7	194.1	194.1	3.9	2.3	4.7	1.2	3.1	2.9
Public transportation	206.5	205.3	204.4	205.5	2.9	-6.0	1.6	-1.9	-1.6	-2
Medical care	292.3	292.6	293.0	293.5	4.5	4.9	6.1	1.7	4.7	3.9
Medical care commodities	260.0	260.5	260.4	261.4	3.0	3.3	3.1	2.2	3.2	2.7
Medical care services	300.6	300.8	301.4	301.7	4.9	5.3	7.1	1.5	5.1	4.2
Professional services ³	258.0	258.0	258.3	258.6	2.4	3.5	4.6	.9	3.0	2.8
Hospital and related services ³	383.9	385.3	386.7	387.5	9.0	8.6	11.5	3.8	8.8	7.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group-Continued

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-U	Seasonally adjusted indexes				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
					3 months ended—			6 months ended—		
	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	June 2002	Sep. 2002	Dec. 2002	Mar. 2003	Sep. 2002	Mar. 2003
Expenditure category										
Recreation ²	106.7	106.9	107.2	107.3	0.4	0.8	1.5	2.3	0.6	1.9
Video and audio ²	103.8	103.4	103.4	103.3	1.2	-.4	4.4	-1.9	.4	1.2
Education and communication ²	109.0	109.5	109.7	109.6	2.3	5.3	.7	2.2	3.8	1.5
Education ²	129.4	130.2	130.9	131.5	6.3	7.2	5.1	6.7	6.7	5.9
Educational books and supplies	324.8	327.9	330.2	331.8	7.5	3.3	4.3	8.9	5.4	6.6
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare	372.0	374.4	376.3	378.0	6.3	7.6	4.9	6.6	7.0	5.7
Communication ²	91.8	92.0	91.9	91.3	-.9	3.1	-3.0	-2.2	1.1	-2.6
Information and information processing ^{1 2}	90.0	90.3	90.1	89.5	-.9	.4	-3.1	-2.2	-.2	-2.6
Telephone services ^{1 2}	99.9	100.4	100.5	99.7	.4	3.7	-.8	-.8	2.0	-.8
Information and information processing other than telephone services ^{1 5}	17.2	17.1	16.9	16.8	-8.2	-12.4	-12.8	-9.0	-10.4	-10.9
Personal computers and peripheral equipment ^{1 2}	19.7	19.5	19.1	19.0	-8.4	-24.0	-24.0	-13.5	-16.6	-18.9
Other goods and services	295.8	296.5	297.5	297.3	8.4	3.6	-1.6	2.0	6.0	.2
Tobacco and smoking products ¹	472.5	472.4	472.7	467.2	35.3	16.7	-10.5	-4.4	25.6	-7.5
Personal care ¹	175.4	175.9	176.7	177.2	1.9	.0	1.1	4.2	.9	2.6
Personal care products ¹	153.4	153.0	153.3	153.3	.8	-2.5	-2.6	-.3	-.9	-1.4
Personal care services ¹	189.9	190.6	190.9	191.7	2.2	1.9	1.5	3.8	2.0	2.7
Miscellaneous personal services	277.8	278.4	279.8	280.8	3.4	1.3	3.4	4.4	2.4	3.9
Commodity and service group										
Commodities	150.0	150.5	152.2	152.8	2.4	1.1	-.8	7.7	1.8	3.4
Food and beverages	178.0	177.7	178.8	179.1	.0	1.1	2.3	2.5	.6	2.4
Commodities less food and beverages	134.0	134.9	136.7	137.5	3.6	1.2	-2.6	10.9	2.4	3.9
Nondurables less food and beverages	148.1	149.5	153.2	154.5	1.1	5.4	6.2	18.4	3.2	12.1
Apparel	122.9	121.8	121.6	121.1	-5.3	-.3	-2.6	-5.7	-2.8	-4.2
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	165.0	167.7	174.0	178.8	14.4	3.7	-.5	37.9	8.9	17.1
Durables	119.7	119.5	119.6	119.4	-1.6	-1.6	-4.2	-1.0	-1.6	-2.6
Services	212.9	213.6	214.1	214.9	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.8	3.3	3.5
Rent of shelter ⁴	219.4	220.0	220.1	220.2	3.0	3.0	2.4	1.5	3.0	1.9
Tenants' and household insurance ^{1 2}	112.3	113.9	114.1	114.0	3.8	8.4	8.6	6.2	6.1	7.4
Gas (piped) and electricity ³	135.6	137.6	139.8	146.8	2.4	.3	3.0	37.4	1.4	18.9
Water and sewer and trash collection services ²	114.7	114.7	115.0	115.6	2.5	2.9	3.9	3.2	2.7	3.6
Household operations ^{1 2}	119.9	120.8	122.0	121.6	-.3	3.1	.7	5.8	1.4	3.2
Transportation services	212.4	212.7	213.2	213.7	3.9	3.7	3.3	2.5	3.8	2.9
Medical care services	300.6	300.8	301.4	301.7	4.9	5.3	7.1	1.5	5.1	4.2
Other services	250.3	251.3	252.3	252.6	3.5	4.6	2.9	3.7	4.1	3.3
Special indexes										
All items less food	182.3	183.1	184.2	184.9	3.6	2.5	1.6	5.8	3.0	3.7
All items less shelter	172.2	172.8	174.3	175.2	2.9	2.1	1.2	7.2	2.5	4.1
All items less medical care	175.8	176.4	177.5	178.2	2.8	2.3	1.4	5.6	2.6	3.5
Commodities less food	135.9	136.8	138.6	139.4	3.9	1.2	-2.6	10.7	2.5	3.8
Nondurables less food	150.4	151.6	155.1	156.5	1.1	4.7	6.4	17.2	2.9	11.7
Nondurables less food and apparel	166.2	168.9	174.5	178.6	12.3	4.0	.7	33.4	8.1	15.9
Nondurables	163.0	163.9	166.1	167.2	.8	2.5	3.8	10.7	1.6	7.2
Services less rent of shelter ⁴	221.2	221.8	223.0	224.7	3.6	4.3	3.5	6.5	3.9	5.0
Services less medical care services	205.3	205.9	206.4	207.2	3.2	3.4	2.8	3.8	3.3	3.3
Energy	125.1	130.1	137.8	144.2	20.9	5.0	2.3	76.5	12.7	34.4
All items less energy	189.2	189.3	189.7	189.7	1.7	2.2	1.7	1.1	1.9	1.4
All items less food and energy	192.1	192.3	192.5	192.5	2.1	2.5	1.5	.8	2.3	1.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	142.7	142.3	142.2	142.1	-1.1	-.3	-2.5	-1.7	-.7	-2.1
Energy commodities	122.8	130.9	144.2	150.4	45.5	10.1	1.3	125.0	26.6	51.0
Services less energy services	220.8	221.4	221.7	221.8	3.4	3.5	3.3	1.8	3.5	2.6

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

² Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

³ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in

January, 1999.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.

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

Table 3. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Selected areas, all items index

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-U	Pricing schedule 1	All items										
		Indexes				Percent change to Mar.2003 from—			Percent change to Feb.2003 from—			
		Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Feb. 2002	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	
U.S. city average	M	180.9	181.7	183.1	184.2	3.0	1.4	0.6	3.0	1.2	0.8	
Region and area size²												
Northeast urban	M	189.6	190.5	191.7	193.0	3.2	1.3	.7	3.0	1.1	.6	
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	191.4	192.2	193.5	194.6	3.2	1.2	.6	3.0	1.1	.7	
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	112.6	113.1	113.8	115.0	3.4	1.7	1.1	3.0	1.1	.6	
Midwest urban	M	175.5	176.2	177.8	178.6	2.9	1.4	.4	3.1	1.3	.9	
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	177.8	178.2	180.0	180.7	2.7	1.4	.4	3.0	1.2	1.0	
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	111.4	112.0	112.8	113.6	3.1	1.4	.7	2.9	1.3	.7	
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	169.5	170.7	172.5	173.0	3.5	1.3	.3	3.5	1.8	1.1	
South urban	M	174.6	175.1	176.4	177.5	3.1	1.4	.6	3.2	1.0	.7	
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	175.9	176.7	178.3	179.1	3.3	1.4	.4	3.4	1.4	.9	
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	111.6	111.7	112.5	113.3	3.0	1.4	.7	2.9	.8	.7	
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	172.3	173.2	174.8	175.4	3.2	1.3	.3	3.7	1.5	.9	
West urban	M	185.5	186.6	188.1	189.3	2.9	1.4	.6	2.7	1.4	.8	
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	188.0	189.2	190.9	192.1	3.2	1.5	.6	3.0	1.5	.9	
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	113.1	113.8	114.5	115.4	2.3	1.4	.8	1.9	1.2	.6	
Size classes												
A ⁴	M	165.4	166.1	167.5	168.4	3.1	1.4	.5	3.1	1.3	.8	
B/C ³	M	111.9	112.3	113.1	114.0	3.0	1.5	.8	2.7	1.1	.7	
D	M	173.8	174.6	176.0	176.9	3.1	1.3	.5	3.1	1.3	.8	
Selected local areas⁵												
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI	M	182.4	182.7	184.1	184.8	2.8	1.1	.4	3.0	.9	.8	
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA ..	M	183.7	185.2	186.5	188.2	3.9	1.6	.9	3.6	1.5	.7	
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	M	193.1	194.7	196.2	197.1	3.1	1.2	.5	3.3	1.6	.8	
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT	1	-	199.8	-	202.8	4.2	1.5	-	-	-	-	
Cleveland-Akron, OH	1	-	173.5	-	175.4	1.0	1.1	-	-	-	-	
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	-	174.0	-	176.8	2.7	1.6	-	-	-	-	
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV ⁶	1	-	114.6	-	115.9	3.6	1.1	-	-	-	-	
Atlanta, GA	2	177.3	-	180.7	-	-	-	-	2.6	1.9	-	
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI	2	179.7	-	182.4	-	-	-	-	3.5	1.5	-	
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	2	159.8	-	164.0	-	-	-	-	4.7	2.6	-	
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	2	177.9	-	180.3	-	-	-	-	3.0	1.3	-	
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	2	185.3	-	186.6	-	-	-	-	2.5	.7	-	
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	2	193.2	-	197.7	-	-	-	-	3.3	2.3	-	
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA	2	190.0	-	191.3	-	-	-	-	2.0	.7	-	

¹ Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all areas; most other goods and services priced as indicated:

M - Every month.

1 - January, March, May, July, September, and November.

2 - February, April, June, August, October, and December.

² Regions defined as the four Census regions. See technical notes.

³ Indexes on a December 1996=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.

⁵ In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 39 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Phoenix-Mesa, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland-Salem, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA;

Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.

⁶ Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

- Data not available.

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

NOTE: Local area indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their escalator clauses.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-W Expenditure category	Relative importance, December 2002	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Mar. 2003 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—		
		Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2002	Feb. 2003	Dec. to Jan.	Jan. to Feb.	Feb. to Mar.
All items	100.000	179.2	180.3	3.2	0.6	0.3	0.7	0.5
All items (1967=100)	-	533.7	537.1	-	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	17.072	178.3	178.5	1.4	.1	-.1	.6	.2
Food	16.071	177.7	177.9	1.3	.1	-.2	.7	.1
Food at home	9.646	176.7	176.8	.7	.1	-.2	.9	.1
Cereals and bakery products	1.449	201.9	202.1	2.6	.1	1.1	.9	.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	2.773	164.5	164.8	1.3	.2	-.4	2.0	.1
Dairy and related products ¹ .....	.977	167.1	166.7	-1.5	-.2	-.5	.5	-.2
Fruits and vegetables	1.337	221.8	222.2	-1.2	.2	-.9	.5	.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	1.118	140.1	139.5	-.1	-.4	-.6	-.4	-.3
Other food at home	1.992	161.9	162.1	1.6	.1	-.1	.6	.0
Sugar and sweets .....	.337	161.3	162.1	3.2	.5	-.6	.9	.7
Fats and oils .....	.302	158.7	157.7	.9	-.6	.9	1.9	-.6
Other foods	1.353	178.5	178.9	1.4	.2	-.2	.2	-.1
Other miscellaneous foods ^{1 2} .....	.308	110.9	110.5	2.0	-.4	-.5	.7	-.4
Food away from home ¹	6.425	180.5	181.0	2.3	.3	-.1	.4	.3
Other food away from home ² .....	.278	120.4	120.7	3.3	.2	.2	.3	.2
Alcoholic beverages	1.001	185.7	186.8	2.5	.6	.3	.0	.7
Housing	38.134	178.7	179.9	3.2	.7	.4	.3	.6
Shelter	29.422	205.5	205.9	2.6	.2	.2	.1	.0
Rent of primary residence ³	8.456	203.0	203.4	3.0	.2	.3	.2	.2
Lodging away from home ^{2 3}	1.499	118.0	120.4	-1.5	2.0	.0	-.9	-1.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{3 4}	19.144	198.6	198.8	2.8	.1	.3	.1	.2
Tenants' and household insurance ^{1 2} .....	.323	113.9	113.8	6.5	-.1	1.2	.2	-.1
Fuels and utilities	4.783	147.4	153.6	10.0	4.2	1.5	1.8	4.4
Fuels	3.902	130.5	137.0	11.6	5.0	1.7	2.2	5.2
Fuel oil and other fuels .....	.192	155.7	167.9	49.0	7.8	6.2	14.4	8.6
Gas (piped) and electricity ³	3.710	136.0	142.6	9.9	4.9	1.5	1.7	5.0
Water and sewer and trash collection services ² .....	.880	115.1	116.0	3.3	.8	.1	.2	.7
Household furnishings and operations	3.929	123.5	122.8	-1.7	-.6	.1	.2	-.7
Household operations ^{1 2} .....	.357	122.8	122.5	2.5	-.2	.7	.9	-.2
Apparel	4.638	119.4	122.5	-3.5	2.6	-1.0	-.2	-.2
Men's and boys' apparel	1.176	116.8	120.6	-3.7	3.3	-1.3	-.1	2.0
Women's and girls' apparel	1.801	111.0	115.9	-3.2	4.4	-1.2	-.3	-.5
Infants' and toddlers' apparel .....	.244	123.6	125.8	-4.5	1.8	-3.3	.9	.1
Footwear	1.136	119.3	119.6	-2.6	.3	.5	-.6	-1.4
Transportation	19.666	158.2	160.3	7.4	1.3	1.2	2.2	1.1
Private transportation	18.751	155.7	157.8	7.8	1.3	1.4	2.2	1.2
New and used motor vehicles ²	9.568	97.9	98.0	-1.7	.1	-.3	.0	.3
New vehicles	4.682	140.3	140.4	-1.0	.1	-.7	-.4	.3
Used cars and trucks	3.783	149.2	149.2	-2.5	.0	.2	.4	.6
Motor fuel	3.836	140.9	148.5	37.5	5.4	6.7	9.7	4.1
Gasoline (all types)	3.803	140.3	147.8	37.5	5.3	6.7	9.5	4.0
Motor vehicle parts and equipment ¹ .....	.524	107.5	107.2	1.4	-.3	.8	.4	-.3
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair	1.458	196.2	196.0	3.2	-.1	.2	.3	-.1
Public transportation .....	.915	199.8	202.0	-.5	1.1	-.5	-.2	.5
Medical care	4.747	293.0	293.5	4.5	.2	.1	.1	.2
Medical care commodities	1.012	255.1	256.1	2.9	.4	.2	.0	.4
Medical care services	3.735	302.3	302.7	5.0	.1	.1	.2	.1
Professional services ³	2.265	261.0	261.3	2.9	.1	-.1	.2	.1
Hospital and related services ³	1.177	384.8	385.3	8.7	.1	.4	.4	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group-Continued

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-W Expenditure category	Relative importance, December 2002	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Mar. 2003 from—		Seasonally adjusted percent change from—			
		Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2002	Feb. 2003	Dec. to Jan.	Jan. to Feb.	Feb. to Mar.	
Recreation ²	5.567	105.4	105.4	0.8	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	
Video and audio ²	1.795	103.0	102.9	.8	-1	-3	-1	.0	
Education and communication ²	5.604	109.2	108.9	2.3	-3	.4	.2	-2	
Education ²	2.472	130.7	130.8	6.1	.1	.5	.5	.5	
Educational books and supplies .....	.217	333.6	333.9	6.0	.1	.9	.7	.5
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare	2.256	368.0	368.2	6.0	.1	.5	.4	.5	
Communication ²	3.132	93.4	92.8	-5	-6	.3	-1	-6	
Information and information processing ^{1 2}	2.972	92.2	91.6	-1.1	-7	.3	-1	-7	
Telephone services ^{1 2}	2.536	100.7	99.9	.6	-8	.6	.0	-8	
Information and information processing other than telephone services ^{1 5} .....	.436	17.5	17.4	-10.8	-6	-6	-1.1	-6
Personal computers and peripheral equipment ^{1 2} .....	.191	18.6	18.6	-18.4	.0	-1.0	-2.6	.0
Other goods and services	4.571	306.4	305.6	3.5	-3	.2	.3	-3	
Tobacco and smoking products ¹	1.542	474.8	469.1	8.1	-1.2	.0	.1	-1.2	
Personal care ¹	3.030	175.7	176.1	1.4	.2	.3	.3	.2	
Personal care products ¹ .....	.786	154.0	153.8	-1.4	-1	-3	.1	-1
Personal care services ¹ .....	.896	191.6	192.4	2.3	.4	.3	.2	.4
Miscellaneous personal services	1.170	279.9	281.1	3.2	.4	.1	.5	.4	
Commodity and service group									
Commodities	45.066	152.8	154.0	2.8	.8	.5	1.1	.5	
Food and beverages	17.072	178.3	178.5	1.4	.1	-1	.6	.2	
Commodities less food and beverages	27.994	138.0	139.6	3.6	1.2	.8	1.5	.7	
Nondurables less food and beverages	15.152	153.8	157.3	8.6	2.3	.9	2.6	1.1	
Apparel	4.638	119.4	122.5	-3.5	2.6	-1.0	-2	-2	
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	10.514	178.7	182.6	14.6	2.2	1.8	4.1	2.9	
Durables	12.842	119.9	119.8	-2.0	-1	-2	.1	.0	
Services	54.934	210.2	211.2	3.6	.5	.3	.3	.4	
Rent of shelter ⁴	29.099	197.9	198.3	2.6	.2	.3	.1	.1	
Tenants' and household insurance ^{1 2} .....	.323	113.9	113.8	6.5	-1	1.2	.2	-1
Gas (piped) and electricity ³	3.710	136.0	142.6	9.9	4.9	1.5	1.7	5.0	
Water and sewer and trash collection services ² .....	.880	115.1	116.0	3.3	.8	.1	.2	.7
Household operations ^{1 2} .....	.357	122.8	122.5	2.5	-2	.7	.9	-2
Transportation services	6.706	213.2	213.9	4.0	.3	.2	.3	.3	
Medical care services	3.735	302.3	302.7	5.0	.1	.1	.2	.1	
Other services	10.123	247.1	247.0	3.4	.0	.4	.3	.1	
Special indexes									
All items less food	83.929	179.3	180.6	3.6	.7	.5	.7	.6	
All items less shelter	70.578	171.5	172.9	3.5	.8	.5	.9	.6	
All items less medical care	95.253	174.2	175.4	3.2	.7	.4	.7	.5	
Commodities less food	28.995	139.7	141.4	3.6	1.2	.7	1.4	.7	
Nondurables less food	16.153	155.8	159.2	8.3	2.2	.7	2.5	1.2	
Nondurables less food and apparel	11.514	178.7	182.3	13.4	2.0	1.8	3.8	2.6	
Nondurables	32.224	166.5	168.5	4.8	1.2	.4	1.6	.7	
Services less rent of shelter ⁴	25.835	197.9	199.5	4.7	.8	.3	.5	.9	
Services less medical care services	51.199	202.9	204.0	3.6	.5	.2	.3	.5	
Energy	7.738	135.1	142.2	24.0	5.3	4.2	6.1	4.6	
All items less energy	92.262	185.5	185.9	1.6	.2	.1	.2	.1	
All items less food and energy	76.191	187.5	188.0	1.7	.3	.1	.1	.1	
Commodities less food and energy commodities	24.967	142.6	143.1	-1.3	.4	-3	.0	-1	
Energy commodities	4.028	142.1	150.0	38.0	5.6	6.7	9.9	4.3	
Services less energy services	51.224	218.5	218.8	3.2	.1	.2	.2	.1	
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1982-84=\$1.00)	-	\$.558	\$.555	-	-	-	-	-	
Purchasing power of the consumer dollar (1967=\$1.00)	-	\$.187	\$.186	-	-	-	-	-	

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

² Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

³ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1984=100 base

⁵ Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.

- Data not available.

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

Table 5. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-W	Seasonally adjusted indexes				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
					3 months ended—			6 months ended—		
	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	June 2002	Sep. 2002	Dec. 2002	Mar. 2003	Sep. 2002	Mar. 2003
Expenditure category										
All items	177.5	178.1	179.3	180.2	3.0	2.5	1.4	6.2	2.8	3.8
Food and beverages	177.2	177.0	178.1	178.4	-2	1.1	2.1	2.7	.5	2.4
Food	176.7	176.4	177.6	177.8	-5	.9	2.3	2.5	.2	2.4
Food at home	175.3	175.0	176.5	176.6	-2.3	.2	2.1	3.0	-1.0	2.5
Cereals and bakery products	197.9	200.1	201.9	202.5	1.0	1.0	-1.2	9.6	1.0	4.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	162.2	161.6	164.8	164.9	-1.9	-2.9	3.3	6.8	-2.4	5.0
Dairy and related products ¹	167.2	166.3	167.1	166.7	-3.3	-4.0	2.7	-1.2	-3.6	.7
Fruits and vegetables	221.7	219.7	220.7	221.4	-10.5	3.3	4.1	-5	-3.8	1.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	140.1	139.3	138.7	138.3	-2.9	7.5	.3	-5.0	2.2	-2.4
Other food at home	161.2	161.1	162.0	162.0	2.0	.2	2.3	2.0	1.1	2.1
Sugar and sweets	160.1	159.2	160.6	161.7	5.7	1.5	1.8	4.1	3.6	2.9
Fats and oils	154.3	155.7	158.7	157.8	-4.5	.8	-1.5	9.4	-1.9	3.8
Other foods	178.8	178.5	178.9	178.7	2.8	-4	3.4	-2	1.1	1.6
Other miscellaneous foods ^{1 2}	110.7	110.1	110.9	110.5	4.9	1.8	2.2	-7	3.4	.7
Food away from home ¹	180.0	179.8	180.5	181.0	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.2
Other food away from home ²	120.0	120.2	120.6	120.9	5.2	.3	4.5	3.0	2.8	3.7
Alcoholic beverages	185.0	185.5	185.5	186.8	2.7	.7	3.1	3.9	1.7	3.5
Housing	177.7	178.4	178.9	179.9	2.5	2.1	2.7	5.0	2.3	3.9
Shelter	204.6	205.1	205.3	205.4	3.0	3.0	3.0	1.6	3.0	2.3
Rent of primary residence ³	201.7	202.4	202.8	203.2	3.1	2.4	3.2	3.0	2.8	3.1
Lodging away from home ^{2 3}	118.9	118.9	117.8	116.2	-1.3	2.7	1.7	-8.8	.7	-3.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{3 4}	197.8	198.3	198.5	198.8	3.4	3.1	2.9	2.0	3.2	2.5
Tenants' and household insurance ^{1 2}	112.3	113.7	113.9	113.8	3.8	8.4	8.2	5.5	6.1	6.8
Fuels and utilities	144.6	146.7	149.4	156.0	2.6	1.4	3.7	35.5	2.0	18.5
Fuels	127.6	129.8	132.7	139.6	2.6	1.3	3.5	43.3	1.9	21.8
Fuel oil and other fuels	123.0	130.6	149.4	162.2	21.4	17.5	14.5	202.4	19.4	86.1
Gas (piped) and electricity ³	134.6	136.6	138.9	145.8	1.8	.6	3.0	37.7	1.2	19.1
Water and sewer and trash collection services ²	114.7	114.8	115.0	115.8	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.9	2.9	3.7
Household furnishings and operations	123.4	123.5	123.7	122.8	-6	-3.2	-1.0	-1.9	-1.9	-1.4
Household operations ^{1 2}	120.8	121.7	122.8	122.5	.3	2.0	2.0	5.7	1.2	3.9
Apparel	122.0	120.8	120.5	120.3	-4.7	-1.0	-2.6	-5.5	-2.9	-4.0
Men's and boys' apparel	119.4	117.8	117.7	120.0	-10.5	-2.0	-3.9	2.0	-6.3	-1.0
Women's and girls' apparel	113.9	112.5	112.2	111.6	-2.1	.3	-2.8	-7.8	-9	-5.3
Infants' and toddlers' apparel	127.2	123.0	124.1	124.2	-2.7	-1.2	-4.6	-9.1	-2.0	-6.9
Footwear	121.2	121.8	121.1	119.4	-3.9	-1.0	.3	-5.8	-2.4	-2.8
Transportation	153.3	155.2	158.6	160.4	8.0	3.7	-.8	19.9	5.8	9.1
Private transportation	150.5	152.6	156.0	157.9	8.2	4.1	-1.1	21.2	6.1	9.5
New and used motor vehicles ²	98.1	97.8	97.8	98.1	-2.8	.4	-4.7	.0	-1.2	-2.4
New vehicles	140.9	139.9	139.4	139.8	-2.0	1.1	-.3	-3.1	-.4	-1.7
Used cars and trucks	148.7	149.0	149.6	150.5	-3.1	-1.0	-10.1	4.9	-2.1	-2.9
Motor fuel	122.3	130.5	143.1	148.9	47.7	10.4	-.3	119.7	27.7	48.0
Gasoline (all types)	121.8	130.0	142.4	148.1	48.0	10.1	.0	118.6	27.7	47.8
Motor vehicle parts and equipment ¹	106.3	107.1	107.5	107.2	.8	3.1	-1.5	3.4	1.9	.9
Motor vehicle maintenance and repair	195.1	195.4	196.0	195.8	4.1	2.3	4.9	1.4	3.2	3.1
Public transportation	202.2	201.1	200.6	201.6	3.0	-5.4	2.0	-1.2	-1.3	.4
Medical care	291.6	291.9	292.3	292.8	4.5	5.2	6.6	1.7	4.8	4.1
Medical care commodities	254.5	255.1	255.1	256.1	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.8
Medical care services	300.7	300.9	301.4	301.8	5.0	5.8	7.5	1.5	5.4	4.5
Professional services ³	260.3	260.0	260.5	260.8	2.2	3.7	4.9	.8	2.9	2.8
Hospital and related services ³	380.4	381.8	383.2	384.1	9.5	8.9	12.8	3.9	9.2	8.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 5. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Seasonally adjusted U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group-Continued

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-W	Seasonally adjusted indexes				Seasonally adjusted annual rate percent change for					
					3 months ended—			6 months ended—		
	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	June 2002	Sep. 2002	Dec. 2002	Mar. 2003	Sep. 2002	Mar. 2003
Expenditure category										
Recreation ²	105.0	105.1	105.3	105.3	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.1	0.0	1.5
Video and audio ²	103.0	102.7	102.6	102.6	.8	-1.2	5.2	-1.5	-2	1.8
Education and communication ²	108.6	109.0	109.2	109.0	2.3	4.9	.4	1.5	3.6	.9
Education ²	129.2	129.9	130.5	131.1	6.6	7.2	4.5	6.0	6.9	5.2
Educational books and supplies	326.1	328.9	331.3	333.0	6.9	3.3	5.2	8.7	5.1	6.9
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare	364.2	366.1	367.6	369.4	6.5	7.6	4.4	5.8	7.0	5.1
Communication ²	93.2	93.5	93.4	92.8	-9	3.5	-2.9	-1.7	1.3	-2.3
Information and information processing ^{1 2}	92.0	92.3	92.2	91.6	-9	1.3	-3.0	-1.7	.2	-2.4
Telephone services ^{1 2}	100.1	100.7	100.7	99.9	.0	4.1	-.8	-.8	2.0	-.8
Information and information processing other than telephone services ^{1 5}	17.8	17.7	17.5	17.4	-8.0	-12.0	-14.3	-8.7	-10.0	-11.5
Personal computers and peripheral equipment ^{1 2}	19.3	19.1	18.6	18.6	-8.5	-24.3	-25.9	-13.7	-16.8	-20.0
Other goods and services	305.1	305.6	306.4	305.6	11.7	5.8	-3.5	.7	8.7	-1.4
Tobacco and smoking products ¹	474.3	474.3	474.8	469.1	35.9	17.9	-11.1	-4.3	26.6	-7.7
Personal care ¹	174.7	175.2	175.7	176.1	1.6	.0	.7	3.2	.8	2.0
Personal care products ¹	154.2	153.8	154.0	153.8	.5	-2.5	-2.6	-1.0	-1.0	-1.8
Personal care services ¹	190.7	191.3	191.6	192.4	2.1	2.1	1.5	3.6	2.1	2.5
Miscellaneous personal services	277.7	277.9	279.3	280.5	3.6	1.5	3.7	4.1	2.5	3.9
Commodity and service group										
Commodities	150.6	151.3	153.0	153.8	2.7	1.3	-1.3	8.8	2.0	3.6
Food and beverages	177.2	177.0	178.1	178.4	-.2	1.1	2.1	2.7	.5	2.4
Commodities less food and beverages	135.3	136.4	138.4	139.3	4.8	1.5	-3.5	12.4	3.1	4.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	150.7	152.0	156.0	157.7	1.1	6.5	7.8	19.9	3.8	13.7
Apparel	122.0	120.8	120.5	120.3	-4.7	-1.0	-2.6	-5.5	-2.9	-4.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	168.5	171.6	178.7	183.9	16.6	5.1	-.9	41.9	10.7	18.6
Durables	119.9	119.7	119.8	119.8	-1.6	-1.3	-4.9	-.3	-1.5	-2.6
Services	209.0	209.7	210.3	211.2	3.4	3.4	3.5	4.3	3.4	3.9
Rent of shelter ⁴	197.0	197.5	197.7	197.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	1.8	2.9	2.4
Tenants' and household insurance ^{1 2}	112.3	113.7	113.9	113.8	3.8	8.4	8.2	5.5	6.1	6.8
Gas (piped) and electricity ³	134.6	136.6	138.9	145.8	1.8	.6	3.0	37.7	1.2	19.1
Water and sewer and trash collection services ²	114.7	114.8	115.0	115.8	2.9	2.9	3.6	3.9	2.9	3.7
Household operations ^{1 2}	120.8	121.7	122.8	122.5	.3	2.0	2.0	5.7	1.2	3.9
Transportation services	211.8	212.2	212.8	213.4	4.4	4.3	4.5	3.1	4.3	3.8
Medical care services	300.7	300.9	301.4	301.8	5.0	5.8	7.5	1.5	5.4	4.5
Other services	245.2	246.2	246.9	247.1	3.6	4.4	2.8	3.1	4.0	3.0
Special indexes										
All items less food	177.5	178.3	179.5	180.5	3.7	2.8	1.1	6.9	3.2	4.0
All items less shelter	169.5	170.3	171.8	172.9	3.2	2.2	.7	8.3	2.7	4.4
All items less medical care	172.5	173.2	174.4	175.2	3.1	2.1	1.2	6.4	2.6	3.8
Commodities less food	137.1	138.1	140.1	141.1	4.8	1.5	-3.1	12.2	3.1	4.2
Nondurables less food	152.8	153.9	157.8	159.7	1.1	6.4	7.4	19.3	3.7	13.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	169.5	172.5	179.0	183.6	14.0	4.9	.5	37.7	9.4	17.6
Nondurables	164.3	164.9	167.5	168.6	.2	3.3	4.8	10.9	1.7	7.8
Services less rent of shelter ⁴	196.5	197.1	198.1	199.9	3.8	4.4	3.7	7.1	4.1	5.4
Services less medical care services	201.8	202.3	202.9	204.0	3.1	3.7	3.0	4.4	3.4	3.7
Energy	124.3	129.5	137.4	143.7	22.3	5.7	1.6	78.6	13.7	34.7
All items less energy	184.9	185.0	185.4	185.5	1.5	2.2	1.3	1.3	1.9	1.3
All items less food and energy	187.1	187.3	187.4	187.5	2.0	2.4	1.3	.9	2.2	1.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	143.2	142.8	142.8	142.7	-.6	.0	-3.3	-1.4	-.3	-2.3
Energy commodities	122.8	131.0	144.0	150.2	46.0	10.8	.3	123.8	27.2	49.8
Services less energy services	217.3	217.8	218.2	218.5	3.2	3.6	3.6	2.2	3.4	2.9

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

² Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

³ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in

January, 1999.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1984=100 base

⁵ Indexes on a December 1988=100 base.

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

Table 6. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Selected areas, all items index

(1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted)

CPI-W	Pricing schedule 1	All items										
		Indexes				Percent change to Mar.2003 from—			Percent change to Feb.2003 from—			
		Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Feb. 2002	Dec. 2002	Jan. 2003	
U.S. city average	M	177.0	177.7	179.2	180.3	3.2	1.5	0.6	3.2	1.2	0.8	
Region and area size²												
Northeast urban	M	186.6	187.2	188.6	189.8	3.7	1.4	.6	3.5	1.1	.7	
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	187.1	187.7	189.1	190.0	3.5	1.2	.5	3.4	1.1	.7	
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	112.7	113.2	114.0	115.2	4.0	1.8	1.1	3.5	1.2	.7	
Midwest urban	M	171.0	171.8	173.3	174.1	3.0	1.3	.5	3.1	1.3	.9	
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	172.4	172.9	174.6	175.4	2.8	1.4	.5	3.1	1.3	1.0	
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	111.0	111.7	112.5	113.1	3.1	1.3	.5	3.0	1.4	.7	
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	167.2	168.4	170.1	170.6	3.5	1.3	.3	3.5	1.7	1.0	
South urban	M	172.0	172.5	173.9	175.0	3.2	1.4	.6	3.1	1.1	.8	
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	173.1	174.0	175.7	176.5	3.5	1.4	.5	3.7	1.5	1.0	
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	110.8	110.9	111.7	112.5	2.9	1.4	.7	2.8	.8	.7	
Size D - Nonmetropolitan (less than 50,000)	M	172.6	173.2	174.8	175.7	3.2	1.4	.5	3.5	1.3	.9	
West urban	M	180.8	181.5	183.2	184.7	3.2	1.8	.8	2.9	1.3	.9	
Size A - More than 1,500,000	M	181.6	182.5	184.4	185.9	3.6	1.9	.8	3.2	1.5	1.0	
Size B/C - 50,000 to 1,500,000 ³	M	112.9	113.2	114.0	115.1	2.6	1.7	1.0	2.0	1.0	.7	
Size classes												
A ⁴	M	163.7	164.3	165.8	166.8	3.4	1.5	.6	3.3	1.3	.9	
B/C ³	M	111.4	111.8	112.6	113.5	3.1	1.5	.8	2.8	1.1	.7	
D	M	172.5	173.2	174.7	175.6	3.2	1.4	.5	3.2	1.3	.9	
Selected local areas⁵												
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI	M	176.0	176.4	178.1	179.0	3.2	1.5	.5	3.3	1.2	1.0	
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA ..	M	176.7	177.8	179.6	181.6	4.5	2.1	1.1	3.9	1.6	1.0	
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA	M	188.7	189.7	191.3	192.1	3.5	1.3	.4	3.6	1.4	.8	
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT	1	-	199.3	-	202.3	4.7	1.5	-	-	-	-	
Cleveland-Akron, OH	1	-	165.3	-	167.1	1.8	1.1	-	-	-	-	
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX	1	-	173.3	-	176.5	3.0	1.8	-	-	-	-	
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV ⁶	1	-	114.1	-	115.5	3.7	1.2	-	-	-	-	
Atlanta, GA	2	174.6	-	178.1	-	-	-	-	2.8	2.0	-	
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI	2	174.4	-	176.8	-	-	-	-	3.7	1.4	-	
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX	2	158.0	-	161.7	-	-	-	-	4.8	2.3	-	
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL	2	175.3	-	178.0	-	-	-	-	3.3	1.5	-	
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD	2	184.9	-	185.9	-	-	-	-	2.5	.5	-	
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA	2	189.6	-	193.7	-	-	-	-	3.7	2.2	-	
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA	2	184.6	-	186.2	-	-	-	-	2.0	.9	-	

¹ Foods, fuels, and several other items priced every month in all areas; most other goods and services priced as indicated:

- M - Every month.
- 1 - January, March, May, July, September, and November.
- 2 - February, April, June, August, October, and December.

² Regions defined as the four Census regions. See technical notes.

³ Indexes on a December 1996=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1986=100 base.

⁵ In addition, the following metropolitan areas are published semiannually and appear in Tables 34 and 39 of the January and July issues of the CPI Detailed Report: Anchorage, AK; Cincinnati-Hamilton, OH-KY-IN; Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO; Honolulu, HI; Kansas City, MO-KS; Milwaukee-Racine, WI; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI; Phoenix-Mesa, AZ; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland-Salem, OR-WA; St. Louis, MO-IL; San Diego, CA;

Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL.

⁶ Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

- Data not available.

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

NOTE: Local area indexes are byproducts of the national CPI program. Each local index has a smaller sample size than the national index and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in their escalator clauses.

Table 7. Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U): U.S. city average, by expenditure category and commodity and service group

(December 1999=100, unless otherwise noted)

C-CPI-U	Relative importance, 1999-2000	Unadjusted indexes		Unadjusted percent change to Mar. 2003 from—	
		Feb. 2003	Mar. 2003	Mar. 2002	Feb. 2003
Expenditure category					
All items	100.000	107.2	107.8	2.6	0.6
Food and beverages	15.451	107.1	107.3	1.4	.2
Food	14.432	107.1	107.2	1.3	.1
Food at home	8.335	106.1	106.2	.8	.1
Food away from home	6.096	108.4	108.6	2.2	.2
Alcoholic beverages	1.019	107.7	108.1	2.3	.4
Housing	40.040	110.4	111.0	2.6	.5
Shelter	30.643	111.9	112.2	2.4	.3
Fuels and utilities	4.376	114.3	118.5	9.3	3.7
Household furnishings and operations	5.020	97.8	97.4	-1.6	-.4
Apparel	4.819	91.9	94.3	-4.1	2.6
Transportation	17.770	106.5	107.7	6.4	1.1
Private transportation	16.520	106.9	108.1	7.0	1.1
Public transportation	1.250	101.1	102.3	-1.0	1.2
Medical care	5.563	115.0	115.2	4.2	.2
Medical care commodities	1.330	111.0	111.4	2.8	.4
Medical care services	4.233	116.3	116.4	4.5	.1
Recreation	6.124	103.0	103.1	.4	.1
Education and communication	6.068	98.2	97.8	.7	-.4
Education	2.546	120.3	120.4	6.3	.1
Communication	3.522	84.2	83.5	-3.1	-.8
Other goods and services	4.164	111.4	111.3	2.7	-.1
Commodity and service group					
Services	57.098	111.7	112.3	3.2	.5
Commodities	42.902	101.4	102.1	1.8	.7
Durables	12.953	91.0	90.9	-2.7	-.1
Nondurables	29.949	106.0	107.2	3.9	1.1
All items less food and energy	78.851	106.1	106.4	1.2	.3
Energy	6.717	^R 120.2	126.0	22.7	4.8

^R Revised.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.
Indexes for 2003 are initial estimates. Indexes for 2002 are interim adjustments.