

News

United States
Department
of Labor



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**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ENERGY AND FOOD
DETROIT-ANN ARBOR-FLINT, MI CMSA
MARCH 2009**

Energy costs in the Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint Metropolitan area increased 0.7 percent in March, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Overall energy costs decreased 22.5 percent over the past year, following an increase of 17.5 percent during the previous 12-month period.

The largest contributor to the monthly gain in energy costs was gasoline which rose 3.1 percent from February to March. Costs for electricity, another component of the energy index, rose 1.1 percent. Prices for utility (piped) gas service fell 2.7 percent over the month, partially offsetting these gains. The 22.5 percent over-the-year decline in energy costs was mostly due to a 39.7 percent drop in prices at the gasoline pumps. Costs for electricity rose 10.6 percent over the year, while costs for utility (piped) gas service fell 5.5 percent.

The cost of grocery food (food at home index) rose 0.2 percent during March. Over the year, grocery food prices in the Detroit metro area were up 5.5 percent. This follows increases of 0.4 and 3.1 percent during the previous two 12-month periods ending in March (2008 and 2007).

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Scheduled release date for April 2009 CPI:
Friday, May 15, 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 Detroit 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 changes 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 Detroit is (313) 226-7558.

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, Bulletin 2490, April 1997, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, also available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

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

Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI (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	-	201.913	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	600.168	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	199.597	-	-	-	-
Food	-	199.690	-	-	-	-
Food at home	196.171	195.561	195.972	5.5	-0.1	0.2
Food away from home	-	205.993	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	192.171	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	192.029	-	-	-	-
Shelter	213.789	214.206	214.742	-8	.4	.3
Rent of primary residence ¹	205.706	207.584	208.051	1.8	1.1	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	212.583	212.754	214.580	-1	.9	.9
Fuels and utilities	-	222.911	-	-	-	-
Household energy	188.843	186.812	185.368	2.0	-1.8	-8
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	190.727	188.797	187.563	2.6	-1.7	-7
Electricity ¹	169.889	169.840	171.711	10.6	1.1	1.1
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	208.623	204.202	198.745	-5.5	-4.7	-2.7
Household furnishings and operations	-	125.081	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	109.582	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	195.167	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	193.111	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	172.589	166.066	170.409	-40.1	-1.3	2.6
Gasoline (all types)	171.501	164.912	170.088	-39.7	-8	3.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	175.416	167.665	173.605	-40.4	-1.0	3.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	192.779	188.346	193.345	-38.2	.3	2.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	165.880	163.345	164.994	-37.1	-5	1.0
Medical care	-	355.187	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	-	118.037	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁵	-	132.723	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	351.252	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	201.913	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	158.094	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	136.183	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	156.222	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	112.467	-	-	-	-
Services	-	247.856	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	195.841	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	199.916	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	138.379	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	177.677	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	158.563	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	-	294.859	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	239.817	-	-	-	-
Energy	182.033	177.870	179.154	-22.5	-1.6	.7
All items less energy	-	207.069	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	209.162	-	-	-	-

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.