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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MIAMI-FORT LAUDERDALE—JUNE 2009

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Miami-Fort Lauderdale edged up 0.3 percent over the two months ending in June at 221.485 (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that an increase in transportation costs was partially offset by lower costs for housing, food and beverages, and other goods and services. For the 12 months ending in June 2009, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale declined 1.6 percent; this was the largest 12-month decrease in the history of this index, dating back to November 1978.

Food costs decreased 1.0 percent over the two-month pricing period. During this same period, energy prices rose 10.7 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale decreased 0.4 percent during the May-June pricing period. Over the 12 months ending in June, food costs rose 1.1 percent, while the energy index declined 21.5 percent. Excluding food and energy, all other items advanced 0.7 percent over the past year.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for Miami-Fort Lauderdale by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percentage change	
	Over 12 months since June 2008	Over 2 months since April 2009
All items	-1.6	0.3
Food and beverages	1.0	-1.0
Housing	0.7	-0.9
Apparel	-10.4	0.0
Transportation	-12.0	6.5
Medical care	5.0	0.0
Recreation 1/	3.9	-0.8
Education and communication 1/	-0.4	0.0
Other goods and services	3.6	-2.6

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Among the major groups, the transportation index increased 6.5 percent over the two month pricing period, as motor fuel costs jumped 24.5 percent. This was the largest 2-month increase in the history of the transportation index, dating back to January 1978. Over the year, transportation costs decreased 12.0 percent; dominated by a 34.2-percent drop in motor fuel prices.

Over the two months, the indexes for medical care, apparel, and education and communication were unchanged. Since last year, the medical care index rose 5.0 percent. The apparel index and education and communication index declined 10.4 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively.

The housing index declined 0.9 percent over the two-month pricing period; this was the largest 2-month decline since November 1988. The shelter index, which measures changes in the costs for rent of primary residence, lodging away from home, owners' equivalent rent of primary residence, and tenants' and household insurance, decreased 0.9 percent. The fuels and utilities index decreased 1.9 percent over the May-June pricing period, as electricity costs fell 2.3 percent and costs for utility (piped) gas service declined 8.2 percent. Costs for household furnishings and operations increased 0.5 percent over the two months. Since June 2008, housing costs increased 0.7 percent, as the household furnishings and operations index rose 3.7 percent, prices for fuels and utilities increased 3.0 percent, and costs for shelter edged up 0.2 percent.

The food and beverages index decreased 1.0 percent in the May-June pricing period, as food at home declined 1.7 percent. Costs for food away from home were unchanged over the two-month pricing period. The index for alcoholic beverages decreased 0.4 percent over the two months. Over the past year, the food and beverages index increased 1.0 percent, as costs for food away from home advanced 3.8 percent and costs for food at home declined 0.8 percent. The index for alcoholic beverages edged down 0.2 percent over the year.

The other goods and services index (which includes tobacco and smoking products, personal care products and services, and miscellaneous personal goods) decreased 2.6 percent over the two-month pricing period. Over the year, other goods and services increased 3.6 percent. During the May-June pricing period, recreation costs declined 0.8 percent. Since June 2008, the recreation index advanced 3.9 percent.

Consumer Price Index for the South and Atlanta

Consumer price indexes are published for the Atlanta area and the South (which includes the Atlanta and Miami-Fort Lauderdale areas). During the May-June pricing period, consumer prices rose 2.2 percent in the Atlanta area and increased 1.3 percent in the South. For the 12 months ending in June 2009, the Atlanta area recorded a 4.0-percent decrease and prices in the South region fell 1.4 percent.

Technical Notes

The Consumer Price Index for Miami-Fort Lauderdale is published bi-monthly. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has updated the consumption expenditure weights in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to the 2005-06 period. The updated expenditure weights for this index replace the 2003-2004 weights that were introduced with the January 2006 CPI release. As originally announced by BLS in December 1998, CPI expenditure weights will continue to be updated at two-year intervals.

The CPI program has completed its conversion to Computer Assisted Data Collection (CADC). Due to the efficiencies gained from conversion to CADC, BLS has extended data collection to cover the entire month, beginning with data for January 2004. CPI data collection is scheduled in terms of business days – weekdays excluding holidays. Formerly, data collection covered three pricing periods, each comprising six business days in most months and five days in November and December. Consequently, the last day of scheduled data collection was usually the 18th business day of the month. This allowed time during the end of the month for the mailing of paper schedules back to the Washington Office and the data entry of the information on these schedules. Starting in January 2004, the three pricing periods now have variable lengths, between six and eight business days long. The third pricing period normally will end on the last business day of the month.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at www.bls.gov. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 893-4222. Information from the Consumer Price Index program is available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers and Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida, (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted

Item and group	All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)		
	Index	Percent change from		Index	Percent change from	
	Jun. 2009	Jun. 2008	Apr. 2009	Jun. 2009	Jun. 2008	Apr. 2009
All items	221.485	-1.6	0.3	219.091	-2.1	0.5
All items (Nov. 1977 = 100)	357.003	-	-	355.957	-	-
Food and beverages	224.851	1.0	-1.0	223.413	0.5	-1.3
Food	226.472	1.1	-1.0	225.424	0.5	-1.3
Food at home	225.747	-0.8	-1.7	222.609	-1.3	-2.0
Food away from home	229.527	3.8	0.0	231.972	3.8	0.0
Alcoholic beverages	205.167	-0.2	-0.4	196.098	1.6	-0.3
Housing	227.356	0.7	-0.9	227.175	0.6	-0.8
Shelter	247.885	0.2	-0.9	248.831	0.0	-0.8
Rent of primary residence (1)	237.546	-1.1	-0.5	237.546	-1.1	-0.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	252.935	0.6	-0.7	243.173	0.6	-0.7
Fuels and utilities	174.431	3.0	-1.9	174.514	3.1	-1.9
Household energy	162.121	2.5	-2.4	161.774	2.6	-2.4
Gas (piped) and electricity (1)	159.267	3.0	-2.4	159.319	3.2	-2.4
Electricity (1)	155.801	3.7	-2.3	155.801	3.7	-2.3
Utility (piped) gas service (1)	202.684	-23.0	-8.2	202.694	-23.0	-8.2
Household furnishings and operations	185.390	3.7	0.5	182.721	3.8	0.7
Apparel	133.406	-10.4	0.0	144.674	-2.0	0.5
Transportation	192.802	-12.0	6.5	189.923	-14.1	7.6
Private transportation	194.101	-11.9	6.8	190.598	-14.2	7.9
Motor fuel	238.756	-34.2	24.5	238.745	-34.2	24.5
Gasoline (all types)	236.749	-34.1	24.6	236.760	-34.1	24.6
Gasoline unleaded regular (3)	237.439	-34.4	25.1	237.448	-34.4	25.1
Gasoline unleaded midgrade (3) (4)	220.476	-33.4	24.7	220.476	-33.4	24.7
Gasoline unleaded premium (3)	229.709	-33.6	22.3	229.691	-33.6	22.3
Medical care	361.728	5.0	0.0	363.301	4.6	-0.1
Recreation (5)	119.284	3.9	-0.8	112.136	1.4	-0.7
Education and communication (5)	114.933	-0.4	0.0	118.244	-0.3	0.0
Other goods and services	285.263	3.6	-2.6	277.461	4.3	-2.6
Commodities	186.877	-6.4	2.5	188.123	-6.9	2.6
Services	249.087	1.2	-0.8	247.626	1.1	-0.7
All items less shelter	207.801	-2.7	1.2	205.046	-3.4	1.4
All items less medical care	214.602	-1.9	0.4	212.927	-2.4	0.6
Energy	191.911	-21.5	10.7	191.104	-22.4	11.5
All items less energy	224.909	0.8	-0.5	222.681	0.7	-0.5
All items less food and energy	224.485	0.7	-0.4	222.168	0.7	-0.3

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes for CPI-U on a November 1982=100 base; CPI-W on a November 1984=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.