

News

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA, FEBRUARY 2009 Prices Increased 1.7 Percent over the Past Two Months

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the February 2009 All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area increased 1.7 percent over the past two months. This compares to a 3.2 percent decrease for the October to December period. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that higher housing and transportation prices contributed significantly to the recent increase in consumer prices. Over the past year, Bay Area consumer prices were advanced 1.2 percent. Local Consumer Price Index data are not seasonally adjusted.

The housing index, which comprises 47 percent of the San Francisco area's all items index, increased 1.1 percent since December and 2.6 percent compared to 12 months ago. Shelter, household fuels and utilities, and household furnishings and operations are all components of the housing index. Shelter increased 1.0 percent over the past two months and increased 2.6 percent over the past year. Household fuels and utilities prices advanced 2.2 percent since December and 3.2 percent since February 2008. Within household fuels and utilities, prices for the utility (piped) gas service index advanced 12.8 percent, but electricity prices inched down 0.1 percent during the past two months. Since February 2008, the utility (piped) gas service index dropped 11.0 percent, but electricity prices rose 8.7 percent. Meanwhile, household furnishings and operations advanced 0.9 percent since December and 2.1 percent from a year ago.

Transportation prices in the San Francisco area increased by 3.8 percent between December and February. Over the past 12 months, transportation prices declined by 7.1 percent. The transportation index, accounts for approximately 15 percent of the all items index. Within the transportation index, gasoline prices jumped 19.1 percent over the past two months, but have fallen 31.9 percent over the past year.

The San Francisco area's food and beverages index, which accounts for roughly 15 percent of the San Francisco all items index, decreased by 0.3 percent and was the only major expenditure category to decline during the past two months. Food and beverages prices were 2.7 percent higher than last year's level. The food at home index, which measures grocery prices, declined 1.2 percent over the past two months, but rose 2.0 percent from a year ago. Food away from home prices advanced 0.6 percent since December and 3.1 percent since February 2008. Additionally, prices for alcoholic beverages edged up 0.1 percent over the past two months and advanced 4.8 percent over the past year.

Medical care prices increased 3.5 percent since December and 3.0 percent since February 2008. The apparel index rose 8.6 percent over the past two months and advanced 2.6 percent over the past year.

The San Francisco area's education and communication prices edged up 0.2 percent since December and has increased 4.5 percent compared to February 2008.

Among the remaining major expenditure categories, the recreation index increased 1.9 percent, and the other goods and services index increased 1.4 percent between December and February. Over the past year, recreation prices advanced 1.7 percent and other goods and services prices rose 5.1 percent.

The all items less food and energy special aggregate index increased 1.5 percent since December. Over the past 12 months, the index has advanced 2.8 percent. Additionally, the special aggregate energy index increased 10.5 percent over the past two months, but stood 20.4 percent lower than in February 2008.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, stands at 222.166 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$222.17 in February 2009.

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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—		
	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009	Feb. 2008	Dec. 2008	Jan. 2009
Expenditure category						
All items	218.528	-	222.166	1.2	1.7	-
All items (1967=100)	671.815	-	683.001	-	-	-
Food and beverages	228.388	-	227.708	2.7	-3	-
Food	227.714	-	226.939	2.5	-3	-
Food at home	230.444	229.823	227.779	2.0	-1.2	-0.9
Food away from home	224.320	-	225.654	3.1	.6	-
Alcoholic beverages	241.094	-	241.447	4.8	.1	-
Housing	243.029	-	245.673	2.6	1.1	-
Shelter	274.453	275.921	277.254	2.6	1.0	.5
Rent of primary residence ¹	294.582	295.639	297.160	4.7	.9	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	298.365	298.861	299.517	3.4	.4	.2
Fuels and utilities	243.629	-	249.003	3.2	2.2	-
Household energy	253.448	262.792	260.351	2.9	2.7	-9
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	253.308	262.609	260.133	3.4	2.7	-9
Electricity ¹	275.056	274.889	274.889	8.7	-1	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	192.024	225.273	216.535	-11.0	12.8	-3.9
Household furnishings and operations	131.274	-	132.459	2.1	.9	-
Apparel	104.205	-	113.129	2.6	8.6	-
Transportation	152.122	-	157.949	-7.1	3.8	-
Private transportation	142.346	-	148.494	-8.7	4.3	-
Motor fuel	144.347	155.306	168.967	-31.9	17.1	8.8
Gasoline (all types)	141.060	153.240	167.998	-31.9	19.1	9.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	139.844	152.794	167.865	-32.1	20.0	9.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	133.422	143.393	157.075	-31.7	17.7	9.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	138.408	147.112	159.577	-31.0	15.3	8.5
Medical care	366.218	-	378.985	3.0	3.5	-
Recreation ⁵	104.675	-	106.639	1.7	1.9	-
Education and communication ⁵	136.361	-	136.587	4.5	.2	-
Other goods and services	373.641	-	378.927	5.1	1.4	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	218.528	-	222.166	1.2	1.7	-
Commodities	160.246	-	163.946	-2.6	2.3	-
Commodities less food and beverages	123.461	-	128.617	-5.9	4.2	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	143.518	-	154.349	-9.4	7.5	-
Durables	102.976	-	103.280	-1.1	.3	-
Services	267.507	-	271.042	3.3	1.3	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	212.389	-	215.702	1.1	1.6	-
All items less shelter	196.699	-	200.776	.3	2.1	-
Commodities less food	128.431	-	133.493	-5.3	3.9	-
Nondurables	185.913	-	191.596	-3.1	3.1	-
Nondurables less food	150.560	-	160.767	-8.2	6.8	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	272.580	-	277.321	4.2	1.7	-
Services less medical care services	260.767	-	263.628	3.3	1.1	-
Energy	182.372	192.938	201.442	-20.4	10.5	4.4
All items less energy	223.743	-	226.446	2.7	1.2	-
All items less food and energy	223.768	-	227.034	2.8	1.5	-

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.