



Internet Address: www.bls.gov/ro2/home.htm
Information: Martin Kohli, (646) 264-3620
Media Contact: Michael L. Dolfman, (212) 337-2500

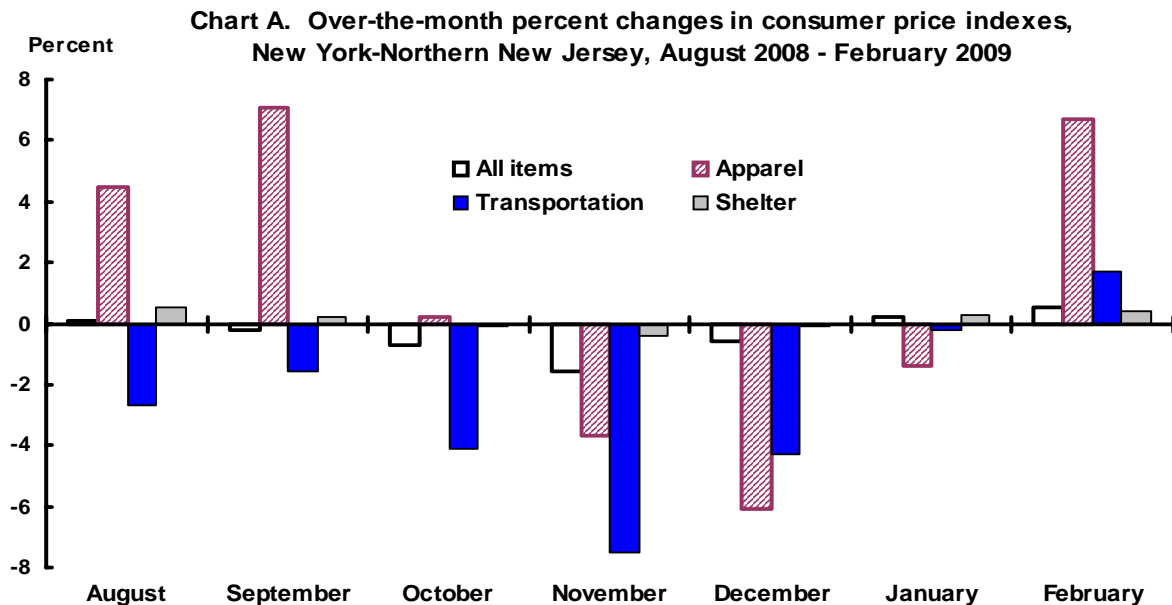
Transmission of material in this release is
embargoed until after 8:30 A.M. (ET)
Wednesday, March 18, 2009

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: FEBRUARY 2009 Area prices post 0.5-percent increase, largest in seven months

Retail prices in the greater New York area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.5 percent in February. Michael L. Dolfman, Regional Commissioner of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said that the February index largely reflected a seasonal price rise in apparel along with higher prices for transportation and shelter. These increases were partially offset by lower prices for household energy. Dolfman pointed out that the index for all items rose only two times during the previous six months, and both increases were less than 0.3 percent. For the year ended in February 2009, the CPI-U rose 1.6 percent, and the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.8 percent.

The apparel index jumped 6.7 percent in February, after three months of declines. With the introduction of spring lines, higher prices were reported for women's footwear, men's furnishings, and girls' apparel. Over the year, apparel prices rose 3.7 percent.

The transportation index increased 1.7 percent, following six monthly declines. (See chart A.) The upturn was driven by a turnaround in gasoline prices, which rose 7.5 percent over the month after declining 1.5 percent in January and 19.7 percent in December. Prices also increased for motor vehicle



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the Consumer Price Index and a variety of other *Bureau of Labor Statistics* data are available by dialing the *New York Information Office's* main telephone number: (646) 264-3600. For recorded messages, press '2'.

New York-Northern New Jersey CPI monthly and annual percent changes
(not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.3	2.7	0.6	4.1	0.8	3.7	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.7	0.2	1.5
February	0.6	2.5	0.4	3.9	0.2	3.6	0.6	3.1	0.5	3.6	0.5	1.6
March	1.1	3.2	1.7	4.4	0.8	2.7	0.7	2.9	0.9	3.8		
April	0.3	3.7	0.0	4.2	0.9	3.6	0.5	2.5	0.3	3.6		
May	0.2	3.9	-0.5	3.4	0.6	4.8	0.6	2.5	1.0	4.0		
June	0.8	4.6	-0.3	2.3	0.5	5.6	0.5	2.5	1.0	4.5		
July	-0.2	3.9	0.9	3.4	0.2	5.0	0.2	2.5	0.7	5.1		
August	0.1	3.3	0.8	4.1	0.4	4.7	-0.1	1.9	0.1	5.4		
September	0.1	3.2	0.8	4.8	-0.5	3.3	0.0	2.4	-0.2	5.2		
October	0.7	3.7	0.4	4.5	-0.5	2.4	0.1	3.1	-0.7	4.3		
November	0.0	3.9	-0.6	3.9	-0.4	2.6	0.4	3.9	-1.6	2.2		
December	-0.2	3.8	-0.5	3.6	0.2	3.3	0.0	3.7	-0.6	1.6		

insurance along with car and truck rental. Despite these increases, transportation prices were 8.5 percent lower than they were 12 months ago; gasoline prices were 36.4 percent lower.

The housing index inched up 0.1 percent in February. A 0.4-percent increase in the shelter component was largely offset by declines in fuels and utilities and household furnishings. Owners' equivalent rent and residential rent each edged up 0.2 percent. Out-of-town lodging, often up at this time of year, also increased. On the other hand, lower charges for electricity (-2.8 percent), natural gas (-1.8 percent), and heating oil contributed to a decline in household energy. Over the year, shelter advanced 3.1 percent. In contrast, the 12-month price change for household energy turned negative (-0.4 percent) in February.

Among other expenditure categories, the recreation index advanced 1.1 percent in February, while the medical care index rose 0.5 percent. The index for food and beverages inched down 0.1 percent during the month, the first decline since March 2007; a 0.4-percent increase in prices for food away from home was offset by a 0.5-percent decline in grocery prices, which included lower prices for milk. Prices for education and communication, as well as other goods and services, turned down in February after inching up in January.

With the New York-Northern New Jersey Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers at 234.663 in February (1982-84=100), \$23.47 was required to purchase what \$10 could in the 1982-84 base period. The purchasing power of the dollar was 42.6 cents in 1982-84 dollars and 14.7 cents in 1967 dollars. In February, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 228.653, up 0.5 percent. The CPI-W rose 1.5 percent over the year. On a 1967 base, the February CPI-W was 651.031.

Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences. The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA consolidated area comprises the five boroughs of New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties in New York State; Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Monmouth, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren Counties in New Jersey; Fairfield County and parts of Litchfield, New Haven and Middlesex Counties in Connecticut; and Pike County in Pennsylvania.

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

New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA (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	233.012	233.402	234.663	1.6	0.7	0.5
All items (1967=100)	673.604	674.732	678.378	-	-	-
Food and beverages	228.213	229.014	228.886	5.8	.3	-1
Food	227.406	228.324	228.195	5.9	.3	-1
Food at home	228.416	230.193	229.149	7.3	.3	-5
Food away from home	232.258	232.160	233.136	4.3	.4	.4
Alcoholic beverages	235.943	234.968	234.853	3.9	-5	.0
Housing	255.615	256.339	256.561	2.5	.4	.1
Shelter	307.530	308.572	309.934	3.1	.8	.4
Rent of primary residence ¹	303.511	304.403	305.125	5.3	.5	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	317.595	317.430	317.982	3.3	.1	.2
Fuels and utilities	203.310	203.015	198.649	.2	-2.3	-2.2
Household energy	204.909	204.783	199.904	-4	-2.4	-2.4
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	202.702	203.564	198.661	3.8	-2.0	-2.4
Electricity ¹	176.269	181.843	176.791	2.6	.3	-2.8
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	255.854	245.716	241.363	6.1	-5.7	-1.8
Household furnishings and operations	127.748	128.092	127.193	-5	-4	-7
Apparel	108.045	106.555	113.702	3.7	5.2	6.7
Transportation	177.308	176.963	179.901	-8.5	1.5	1.7
Private transportation	165.547	165.557	169.432	-9.4	2.3	2.3
Motor fuel	143.045	140.776	150.888	-36.3	5.5	7.2
Gasoline (all types)	141.564	139.408	149.827	-36.4	5.8	7.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	139.517	138.879	149.887	-37.2	7.4	7.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	149.579	143.356	153.060	-35.1	2.3	6.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	148.179	143.160	152.194	-34.6	2.7	6.3
Medical care	367.657	369.972	371.722	1.4	1.1	.5
Recreation ⁵	115.148	115.503	116.724	2.8	1.4	1.1
Education and communication ⁵	133.955	134.102	133.444	4.5	-4	-5
Other goods and services	349.842	350.251	349.370	2.7	-1	-3
Commodity and service group						
All items	233.012	233.402	234.663	1.6	.7	.5
Commodities	170.806	170.585	172.916	-1.9	1.2	1.4
Commodities less food and beverages	134.645	133.942	137.346	-7.3	2.0	2.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	157.964	156.339	162.281	-9.1	2.7	3.8
Durables	103.331	103.698	104.105	-3.8	.7	.4
Services	286.137	287.039	287.415	3.4	.4	.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	226.907	227.232	228.468	1.6	.7	.5
All items less shelter	203.633	203.744	204.978	.6	.7	.6
Commodities less food	138.530	137.815	141.138	-6.8	1.9	2.4
Nondurables	194.149	193.661	196.785	-1.4	1.4	1.6
Nondurables less food	162.649	161.052	166.694	-8.3	2.5	3.5
Services less rent of shelter ²	272.531	273.285	272.414	3.9	.0	-3
Services less medical care services	278.870	279.668	280.034	3.5	.4	.1
Energy	179.954	178.936	180.278	-16.7	.2	.7
All items less energy	239.821	240.351	241.613	3.2	.7	.5
All items less food and energy	243.559	244.019	245.552	2.8	.8	.6

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.