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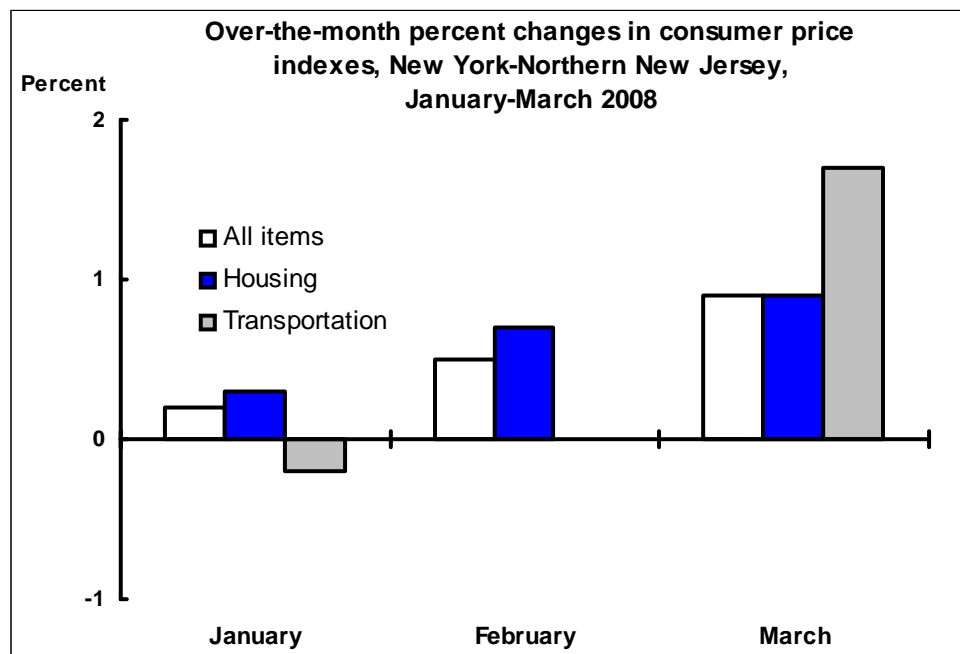
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NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CPI UP 0.9 PERCENT IN MARCH, 3.8 PERCENT RISE FROM YEAR AGO

Retail prices in the greater New York area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.9 percent in March, the largest increase since April 2006. Michael L. Dolfman, Regional Commissioner of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said the March rise reflected higher prices for housing, transportation, apparel, and food and beverages. For the year ended in March 2008, the CPI-U rose 3.8 percent, and core inflation, as measured by the all items less food and energy index, was 2.6 percent.

The index for housing advanced 0.9 percent in March, after increasing 0.7 percent in February and 0.3 percent in January. (See chart A.) The shelter component rose 1.2 percent, primarily reflecting an increase for out-of-town lodging. Residential rent and owners' equivalent rent edged up 0.4 and 0.2 percent, respectively. Among the other components of housing, the index for household furnishings and operations was unchanged, while fuels and utilities declined 0.5 percent. Natural gas prices dipped 0.3 percent, while charges for electricity dropped 3.8 percent.



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	2003		2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.8	3.3	0.3	2.7	0.6	4.1	0.8	3.7	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.7
February	0.8	3.3	0.6	2.5	0.4	3.9	0.2	3.6	0.6	3.1	0.5	3.6
March	0.5	3.1	1.1	3.2	1.7	4.4	0.8	2.7	0.7	2.9	0.9	3.8
April	-0.2	2.6	0.3	3.7	0.0	4.2	0.9	3.6	0.5	2.5		
May	0.1	2.8	0.2	3.9	-0.5	3.4	0.6	4.8	0.6	2.5		
June	0.1	2.8	0.8	4.6	-0.3	2.3	0.5	5.6	0.5	2.5		
July	0.4	3.0	-0.2	3.9	0.9	3.4	0.2	5.0	0.2	2.5		
August	0.7	3.1	0.1	3.3	0.8	4.1	0.4	4.7	-0.1	1.9		
September	0.3	3.3	0.1	3.2	0.8	4.8	-0.5	3.3	0.0	2.4		
October	0.2	3.3	0.7	3.7	0.4	4.5	-0.5	2.4	0.1	3.1		
November	-0.3	3.1	0.0	3.9	-0.6	3.9	-0.4	2.6	0.4	3.9		
December	-0.1	3.2	-0.2	3.8	-0.5	3.6	0.2	3.3	0.0	3.7		

The transportation index rose 1.7 percent in March, after being unchanged in February and falling 0.2 percent in January. Gasoline prices jumped 4.2 percent in March. The increase followed three months of relatively smaller changes, ranging from -1.3 to 1.9 percent. The transportation index was also buoyed by higher prices for air transportation, motor fuels other than gasoline, car and truck rental, and other intercity transportation.

The apparel index, often up in March, increased 2.9 percent over the month, after climbing 4.5 percent in February. Despite these advances, the index was 1.4 percent below last year's level. Among the apparel items recording higher March prices was jewelry.

The food and beverages index rose 0.7 percent. Grocery store prices advanced 1.1 percent—the largest increase in 14 months. A broad array of grocery prices advanced, including those for chicken, bread, bananas, uncooked ground beef, and soups. Aside from groceries, prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent, and prices for alcoholic beverages increased 1.3 percent.

Among other expenditure categories, the other goods and services index increased 0.5 percent. Education and communication, medical care, and recreation were all unchanged over the month.

With the New York-Northern New Jersey Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers at 233.122 in March (1982-84=100), \$23.31 was required to purchase what \$10 could in the 1982-84 base period. The purchasing power of the dollar was 42.9 cents in 1982-84 dollars and 14.8 cents in 1967 dollars. In March, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 226.951, up 0.7 percent over the month. The CPI-W rose 3.9 percent over the year. On a 1967 base, the March CPI-W was 646.186.

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—		
	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Mar. 2008	Mar. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008
Expenditure category						
All items	229.869	231.020	233.122	3.8	1.4	0.9
All items (1967=100)	664.520	667.848	673.924	-	-	-
Food and beverages	216.257	216.392	217.953	4.9	.8	.7
Food	215.453	215.477	216.948	5.0	.7	.7
Food at home	214.574	213.504	215.803	5.2	.6	1.1
Food away from home	222.274	223.624	224.132	4.7	.8	.2
Alcoholic beverages	224.177	225.980	228.860	4.7	2.1	1.3
Housing	248.563	250.328	252.586	3.5	1.6	.9
Shelter	298.233	300.736	304.244	3.7	2.0	1.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	288.886	289.775	290.943	4.7	.7	.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	306.943	307.776	308.414	2.7	.5	.2
Fuels and utilities	198.529	198.303	197.303	8.1	-6	-5
Household energy	200.992	200.732	199.579	8.4	-7	-6
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	191.337	191.300	186.483	2.1	-2.5	-2.5
Electricity ¹	172.635	172.351	165.808	3.7	-4.0	-3.8
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	226.969	227.510	226.907	-2	.0	-3
Household furnishings and operations	127.203	127.781	127.754	-3.5	.4	.0
Apparel	104.895	109.602	112.728	-1.4	7.5	2.9
Transportation	196.532	196.627	200.012	7.7	1.8	1.7
Private transportation	187.682	187.105	189.936	7.9	1.2	1.5
Motor fuel	239.795	236.792	247.212	24.2	3.1	4.4
Gasoline (all types)	238.853	235.739	245.733	23.9	2.9	4.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	241.606	238.519	249.334	24.0	3.2	4.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	239.142	235.959	244.449	24.0	2.2	3.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	235.776	232.596	241.152	23.2	2.3	3.7
Medical care	368.031	366.619	366.596	2.5	-4	.0
Recreation ⁵	113.854	113.525	113.542	-8	-3	.0
Education and communication ⁵	127.531	127.671	127.688	3.4	.1	.0
Other goods and services	340.952	340.327	341.966	3.0	.3	.5
Commodity and service group						
All items	229.869	231.020	233.122	3.8	1.4	.9
Commodities	175.430	176.202	178.566	4.5	1.8	1.3
Commodities less food and beverages	147.054	148.095	150.731	4.2	2.5	1.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	176.863	178.595	183.522	8.0	3.8	2.8
Durables	107.944	108.165	108.113	-2.3	.2	.0
Services	276.502	277.976	279.870	3.4	1.2	.7
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	223.675	224.900	227.055	3.9	1.5	1.0
All items less shelter	203.135	203.711	205.228	3.9	1.0	.7
Commodities less food	150.311	151.381	154.042	4.2	2.5	1.8
Nondurables	198.545	199.539	202.929	6.4	2.2	1.7
Nondurables less food	179.987	181.729	186.564	7.7	3.7	2.7
Services less rent of shelter ²	262.046	262.256	262.143	3.1	.0	.0
Services less medical care services	269.000	270.599	272.565	3.5	1.3	.7
Energy	217.924	216.522	220.181	14.9	1.0	1.7
All items less energy	232.633	234.042	236.006	2.9	1.4	.8
All items less food and energy	237.232	238.911	240.980	2.6	1.6	.9

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.