

# News

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Bureau of Labor Statistics

New York Office

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## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, NEW YORK-NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: MARCH 2009 Area prices edged up 0.2 percent over the month, 0.8 percent over the year

Retail prices in the greater New York area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.2 percent in March. The March upturn largely reflected increases for shelter, apparel, and other goods and services. Michael L. Dolfman, Regional Commissioner of the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, said that the 0.8-percent over-the-year change was the smallest 12-month increase since 1961. For the year that ended in March 2009, the index for all items less food and energy climbed 2.2 percent.

The housing index rose 0.4 percent in March. A 0.7-percent increase in the shelter component was partially offset by declines in fuels and utilities and in household furnishings. Under the shelter component, owners' equivalent rent rose 0.6 percent, while residential rent rose 0.5 percent. The increase for owners' equivalent rent was the largest since June 2008. The index for household energy declined 1.1 percent in large part because of a 3.2-percent decline for natural gas. Over the year, the housing index advanced 1.9 percent, the smallest 12-month increase since 1999.

Apparel, often up in March, rose 1.4 percent, the ninth consecutive monthly increase. Price increases were reported for infants' and toddlers' apparel and for jewelry. Other goods and services rose 1.4 percent. This was largely attributable to an increase in cigarette prices.

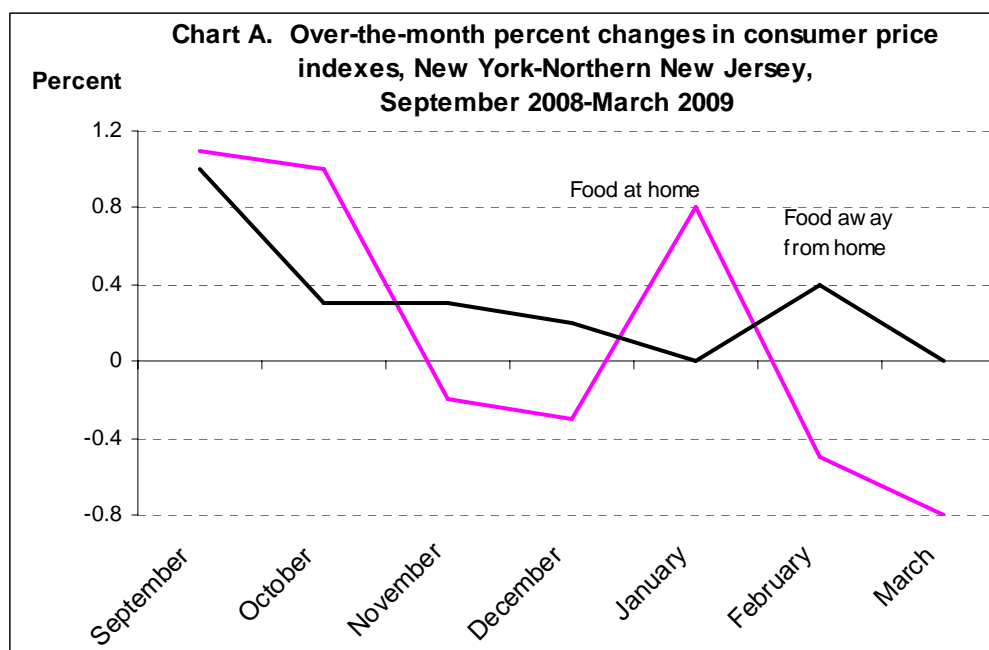
### New York-Northern New Jersey CPI monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

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	0.2	0.8
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		



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'.

Food and beverages prices declined 0.4 percent in March, the largest monthly decline since November 2006. The food at home index dropped 0.8 percent, while food away from home remained unchanged. For food at home, this was the fourth reported decline in the last five months. (See chart A.) The drop in grocery prices was largely due to a decrease in the price of milk. The alcoholic beverages index also dropped 0.8-percent, the largest monthly decline in nearly five years. Lower prices were reported for beer. For the year that ended in March 2009, food and beverage prices increased 4.6 percent; grocery prices climbed 5.3 percent.



The transportation index inched up 0.1 percent. A 1.4-percent increase for gasoline was in part offset by lower prices for used cars and trucks. Over the year, the transportation index fell 10.0 percent.

Declines were reported in recreation prices (-0.6 percent), medical care (-0.4 percent), and education and communication (-0.1 percent).

With the New York-Northern New Jersey Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers at 235.067 in March (1982-84=100), \$23.51 was required to purchase what \$10 could in the 1982-84 base period. The purchasing power of the dollar was 42.5 cents in 1982-84 dollars and 14.7 cents in 1967 dollars. In March, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 229.064, up 0.2 percent. The CPI-W rose 0.9 percent over the year. On a 1967 base, the March CPI-W was 652.202.

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. 2009	Feb. 2009	Mar. 2009	Mar. 2008	Jan. 2009	Feb. 2009
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	233.402	234.663	235.067	0.8	0.7	0.2
All items (1967=100) .....	674.732	678.378	679.546	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	229.014	228.886	227.880	4.6	-5	-4
Food .....	228.324	228.195	227.244	4.7	-5	-4
Food at home .....	230.193	229.149	227.340	5.3	-1.2	-8
Food away from home .....	232.160	233.136	233.199	4.0	.4	.0
Alcoholic beverages .....	234.968	234.853	233.043	1.8	-8	-8
Housing .....	256.339	256.561	257.491	1.9	.4	.4
Shelter .....	308.572	309.934	311.959	2.5	1.1	.7
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	304.403	305.125	306.714	5.4	.8	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	317.430	317.982	319.755	3.7	.7	.6
Fuels and utilities .....	203.015	198.649	196.734	-3	-3.1	-1.0
Household energy .....	204.783	199.904	197.776	-9	-3.4	-1.1
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	203.564	198.661	197.572	5.9	-2.9	-5
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	181.843	176.791	178.535	7.7	-1.8	1.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	245.716	241.363	233.726	3.0	-4.9	-3.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	128.092	127.193	125.852	-1.5	-1.7	-1.1
Apparel .....	106.555	113.702	115.284	2.3	8.2	1.4
Transportation .....	176.963	179.901	180.067	-10.0	1.8	.1
Private transportation .....	165.557	169.432	169.518	-10.7	2.4	.1
Motor fuel .....	140.776	150.888	152.721	-38.2	8.5	1.2
Gasoline (all types) .....	139.408	149.827	151.877	-38.2	8.9	1.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	138.879	149.887	151.915	-39.1	9.4	1.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	143.356	153.060	155.371	-36.4	8.4	1.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	143.160	152.194	154.145	-36.1	7.7	1.3
Medical care .....	369.972	371.722	370.132	1.0	.0	-4
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	115.503	116.724	116.071	2.2	.5	-6
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	134.102	133.444	133.355	4.4	-6	-1
Other goods and services .....	350.251	349.370	354.342	3.6	1.2	1.4
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	233.402	234.663	235.067	.8	.7	.2
Commodities .....	170.585	172.916	172.523	-3.4	1.1	-2
Commodities less food and beverages .....	133.942	137.346	137.268	-8.9	2.5	-1
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	156.339	162.281	162.991	-11.2	4.3	.4
Durables .....	103.698	104.105	103.139	-4.6	-5	-9
Services .....	287.039	287.415	288.486	3.1	.5	.4
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	227.232	228.468	228.933	.8	.7	.2
All items less shelter .....	203.744	204.978	204.680	-3	.5	-1
Commodities less food .....	137.815	141.138	141.008	-8.5	2.3	-1
Nondurables .....	193.661	196.785	196.684	-3.1	1.6	-1
Nondurables less food .....	161.052	166.694	167.273	-10.3	3.9	.3
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	273.285	272.414	272.298	3.9	-4	.0
Services less medical care services .....	279.668	280.034	281.058	3.1	.5	.4
Energy .....	178.936	180.278	179.791	-18.3	.5	-3
All items less energy .....	240.351	241.613	242.107	2.6	.7	.2
All items less food and energy .....	244.019	245.552	246.322	2.2	.9	.3

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.