

Mid-Atlantic Regional Office CPI Announcement

Table 1. Consumer Price Indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas, December 2008 (1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Item	All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)										Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)									
	U.S. city average		Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City		Washington-Baltimore (1)		Northeast region		South region		U.S. city average		Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City		Washington-Baltimore (1)		Northeast region		South region	
	Percent change from		Percent change from		Percent change from		Percent change from		Percent change from		Percent change from		Percent change from		Percent change from		Percent change from		Percent change from	
	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Dec 2008	Dec 2007
All items (2)	210.228	0.1	218.186	-0.4	-	-	225.091	0.7	203.501	0.0	204.813	-0.5	217.610	-0.5	-	-	221.446	0.6	199.399	-0.7
All items (1967 = 100) (3)	629.751	-	630.327	-	-	-	354.450	-	330.108	-	610.075	-	632.086	-	-	-	345.886	-	322.949	-
Food and beverages (2)	218.839	5.8	206.753	4.4	-	-	224.017	6.0	216.357	5.8	218.269	5.9	210.026	4.4	-	-	223.208	6.2	215.214	5.8
Food (2)	218.805	5.9	206.530	4.5	-	-	223.695	6.1	217.159	5.9	218.155	6.0	209.096	4.4	-	-	223.002	6.3	216.002	5.9
Food at home	218.683	6.6	219.333	5.1	137.193	5.5	224.440	6.9	214.978	6.5	217.498	6.5	221.218	4.9	136.284	5.3	223.023	6.9	213.414	6.4
Food away from home (4)	220.684	5.0	184.989	3.7	-	-	225.865	5.1	223.331	5.2	220.847	5.2	184.778	3.6	-	-	226.267	5.4	222.431	5.3
Alcoholic beverages (4)	217.975	4.4	207.062	4.0	-	-	227.084	5.1	204.079	3.7	218.445	4.6	214.153	4.3	-	-	224.101	5.2	202.871	3.8
Housing (2)	216.073	2.4	229.663	1.1	-	-	240.758	1.9	201.377	3.3	212.452	2.8	232.273	1.4	-	-	238.420	2.4	200.854	3.6
Shelter	247.085	1.9	273.168	0.7	153.437	3.2	285.035	1.7	221.191	2.4	240.752	2.2	279.416	1.0	155.630	3.6	280.994	2.2	220.328	2.5
Rent of primary residence (2) (7)	247.278	3.4	259.125	3.1	166.005	5.1	280.027	4.1	222.006	3.3	246.026	3.3	259.125	3.1	166.032	5.1	277.260	4.0	220.856	3.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (5) (7)	254.875	2.1	280.538	0.2	153.807	3.2	296.811	1.8	224.599	2.4	230.926	2.1	249.488	0.2	153.291	3.2	261.205	1.9	209.165	2.3
Fuels and utilities	215.184	6.0	208.826	2.3	-	-	220.994	3.3	221.528	9.8	213.861	6.5	211.020	2.8	-	-	219.080	3.9	221.043	10.2
Household energy	194.335	5.9	189.270	0.6	199.029	9.0	207.130	2.6	193.652	10.4	192.050	6.5	190.170	1.4	194.167	9.4	204.731	3.3	191.290	10.8
Gas (piped) and electricity (7)	199.487	7.7	207.290	5.2	192.887	9.6	213.441	7.8	194.705	11.2	197.545	7.9	208.729	5.1	190.620	9.7	211.464	7.7	193.067	11.4
Electricity (7)	188.342	8.6	192.963	3.8	189.979	10.3	188.653	6.2	185.473	12.5	186.472	8.8	192.962	3.8	186.021	10.2	187.369	6.0	183.198	12.5
Utility (piped) gas service (7)	232.548	5.5	238.916	8.2	181.294	7.4	260.958	11.0	239.613	5.1	232.380	5.6	238.911	8.2	185.687	7.6	259.794	11.0	242.496	5.1
Household furnishings and operations	128.535	2.0	125.330	2.5	-	-	129.046	1.4	128.204	2.1	124.314	2.0	119.607	2.9	-	-	123.141	1.6	122.834	2.0
Apparel (2)	117.078	-1.0	90.678	-4.1	-	-	115.702	1.2	129.072	-2.7	117.006	-0.9	94.251	-2.0	-	-	115.961	1.3	129.423	-2.7
Transportation (2)	164.628	-13.3	169.009	-12.7	-	-	168.216	-11.2	160.241	-14.9	160.914	-15.3	171.809	-14.4	-	-	165.127	-14.0	156.007	-16.5
Private transportation	159.411	-14.4	165.884	-13.0	-	-	161.259	-12.3	157.793	-15.6	157.272	-16.0	169.499	-14.7	-	-	159.786	-15.0	154.050	-17.0
Motor fuel	149.132	-42.2	165.279	-39.1	144.776	-41.2	152.878	-40.2	148.048	-42.2	149.650	-42.2	165.275	-39.1	144.613	-41.2	153.213	-40.1	148.008	-42.3
Gasoline	146.102	-43.1	160.046	-40.1	144.433	-41.3	150.255	-40.9	144.461	-43.3	146.644	-43.1	160.046	-40.1	144.287	-41.3	150.686	-40.8	144.386	-43.4
Medical care (2)	367.133	2.6	423.742	4.2	-	-	390.323	2.6	350.309	2.7	367.301	2.7	411.728	4.1	-	-	386.857	2.4	353.117	2.8
Recreation (6)	113.674	1.8	122.410	3.1	-	-	116.526	3.0	114.584	1.7	110.487	1.6	120.505	3.7	-	-	116.500	3.6	111.139	1.5
Education and communication (6)	125.921	3.6	126.959	3.7	-	-	130.170	4.6	121.670	3.1	121.819	3.4	121.769	3.7	-	-	124.492	4.5	117.372	2.7
Other goods and services (2)	349.220	3.4	389.677	2.9	-	-	373.961	4.8	336.920	2.9	362.986	4.1	396.665	2.6	-	-	406.481	6.4	346.711	3.1
Energy (2)	171.158	-21.3	179.326	-17.7	174.072	-15.7	184.169	-17.9	166.812	-19.8	168.726	-22.6	176.332	-18.4	174.320	-15.1	180.011	-19.4	165.017	-20.9

Footnotes:

- (1) For Washington Baltimore, Dec. 1997=100 unless otherwise noted.
- (2) For Washington-Baltimore, Nov. 1996=100.
- (3) For the Northeast and the South, Dec. 1977=100.
- (4) For Washington-Baltimore, Nov. 1997=100.
- (5) For the CPI-U in the U.S., Philadelphia, Northeast, and South, Dec. 1982 = 100.
- For the CPI-W in these areas, Dec. 1984 = 100.
- (6) Indexes are on the Dec. 1997=100 base.
- (7) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

Area definitions:

The **Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md.** area includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.

The **Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va.** area includes the District of Columbia; Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and Washington Counties and Baltimore City in Maryland; Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren Counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities in Virginia; and Berkeley and Jefferson Counties in West Virginia.

The **Northeast region** includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

The **South region** includes the District of Columbia and the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index and percent change, all items, U.S. city average and selected areas 1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted (not seasonally adjusted)

Area	All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)					Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
	Index		Percent change to Dec 2008 from --			Index		Percent change to Dec 2008 from --		
	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Oct 2008	Nov 2008	Nov 2008	Dec 2008	Dec 2007	Oct 2008	Nov 2008
U.S. city average	212.425	210.228	0.1	-2.9	-1.0	207.296	204.813	-0.5	-3.5	-1.2
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, Ill.-Ind.-Wis.	209.053	205.959	-0.6	-3.5	-1.5	202.022	198.434	-0.9	-4.0	-1.8
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, Calif.	222.229	219.620	0.1	-2.9	-1.2	214.083	211.007	-0.6	-3.5	-1.4
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, N.Y.-N.J.-Conn.-Pa.	234.498	233.012	1.6	-2.3	-0.6	228.727	227.223	1.5	-2.4	-0.7
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, Mass.-N.H.-Maine-Conn.	232.354	-	-	-	-	231.854	-	-	-	-
Cleveland-Akron, Ohio	198.187	-	-	-	-	188.860	-	-	-	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas	200.051	-	-	-	-	201.479	-	-	-	-
Washington-Baltimore, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va. (Nov. 1996=100)	138.547	-	-	-	-	137.700	-	-	-	-
Atlanta, Ga.	-	196.961	-2.9	-4.6	-	-	195.310	-3.3	-4.8	-
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, Mich.	-	197.991	-1.1	-3.5	-	-	192.808	-1.6	-3.9	-
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, Texas	-	185.930	-0.2	-2.7	-	-	183.088	-1.0	-3.9	-
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	-	218.324	0.5	-2.4	-	-	215.867	0.1	-2.8	-
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, Pa.-N.J.-Del.-Md.	-	218.186	-0.4	-3.1	-	-	217.610	-0.5	-3.3	-
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Calif.	-	218.528	0.0	-3.2	-	-	213.685	-0.2	-3.4	-
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, Wash.	-	222.580	1.7	-1.5	-	-	216.424	1.1	-1.9	-

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Official Business

Consumer Price Index, December 2008

Note to CPI users:

This announcement details Consumer Price Indexes for two population groups: All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Both indexes reflect 1982-84 spending patterns. Monthly percent changes are shown for the U.S. and five large areas; bimonthly data are presented for the remaining areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the levels of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

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 other measurement error than the national index. As a result, area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

January indexes are scheduled for release at 8:30 am, on Friday, February 20, 2009

Discontinuance of mailing list:

As of April 1, 2008, subscribers will no longer receive paper copies of the Mid-Atlantic CPI Announcement (Philadelphia Blue Card) in the mail. The Mid-Atlantic CPI Announcement will continue to be available through the Bureau's Web site at http://www.bls.gov/xg_shells/ro3xg01a.htm.

A free email subscription service is available for the CPI announcement. Shortly after the CPI announcement is posted online each month, subscribers to this service receive an email message containing a link to the announcement. To subscribe via email, please email us at blsinphiladelphia@bls.gov or call us at (215) 597-3282.

The mailing of regional CPI announcements (summaries) and other regional publications is being discontinued as a result of unanticipated budget constraints faced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. See <http://www.bls.gov/bls/budgetimpact.htm> for details.

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