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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MIAMI-FORT LAUDERDALE—FEBRUARY 2009

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 1.0 percent over the two months ending in February to a level of 220.589 (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that higher costs for transportation, housing, and recreation were primarily responsible for the increase. For the 12 months ending in February 2009, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 0.7 percent.

Food costs edged down 0.2 percent over the two-month pricing period. During this same period, energy prices rose 5.6 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 0.8 percent during the January-February pricing period.

Table A. Percent changes in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for Miami-Fort Lauderdale by expenditure category (not seasonally adjusted).

Expenditure category	Percentage change	
	Over 12 months since February 2008	Over 2 months since December 2008
All items	0.7	1.0
Food and beverages	3.7	-0.2
Housing	2.9	0.7
Apparel	-2.8	3.6
Transportation	-9.2	3.5
Medical care	5.4	0.1
Recreation 1/	3.1	4.2
Education and communication 1/	-0.2	-0.9
Other goods and services	3.9	-0.3

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Over the 12 months ending in February, food costs rose 3.9 percent, while the energy index decreased 18.3 percent. Excluding food and energy, all other items advanced 2.4 percent over the past year.

Among the major groups, the transportation index increased 3.5 percent over the two month pricing period, as motor fuel costs rose 14.3 percent. Over the year, transportation costs decreased 9.2 percent, dominated by a 35.2-percent decline in motor fuel prices.

The housing index rose 0.7 percent over the two-month pricing period. The shelter index, which measures changes in the costs for rent of primary residence, lodging away from home, owners' equivalent rent of primary residence, and tenants' and household insurance, increased 0.8 percent. Costs for household furnishings and operations increased 1.5 percent over the two months. The fuels and utilities index decreased 0.9 percent over the January-February pricing period, as costs for electricity declined 1.0 percent and utility (piped) gas service costs fell 6.6 percent. Since February 2008, housing costs rose 2.9 percent, as costs for shelter advanced 2.3 percent. The recent rise in housing costs was the smallest 12-month percent increase since February 2004. Over the year, costs for fuels and utilities increased 7.4 percent. The index for household furnishings and operations increased 3.1 percent over the year.

Over the two month pricing period, recreation costs increased 4.2 percent. Since last year, costs for recreation have increased 3.1 percent.

Following normal seasonal patterns, apparel costs rose 3.6 percent over the two months. Since February 2008, apparel costs declined 2.8 percent. Over the two months, the medical care index inched up 0.1 percent. Medical care costs have increased 5.4 percent since last year.

The three remaining categories decreased over the two month pricing period. Over the two months, costs for education and communication declined 0.9 percent. Since February 2008, the education and communication index edged down 0.2 percent.

The food and beverages index edged down 0.2 percent in the January-February pricing period, as a 0.4-percent decrease in food at home costs was partially offset by a 0.1-percent increase in costs for food away from home. Over the two months, the alcoholic beverages index increased 0.9 percent. Over the past year, the food and beverages index increased 3.7 percent, as costs for food at home advanced 4.7 percent and costs for food away from home rose 2.7 percent. The index for alcoholic beverages decreased 0.7 percent over the year.

During the January-February pricing period, costs for other goods and services (which includes tobacco and smoking products, personal care products and services, and miscellaneous personal goods) decreased 0.3 percent. Over the year, the other goods and services index rose 3.9 percent.

Consumer Price Index for the South and Atlanta

Consumer price indexes are published for the Atlanta area and the South (which includes the Atlanta and Miami-Fort Lauderdale areas). During the January-February pricing period, consumer prices increased 1.1 percent in the Atlanta area, and 0.9 percent in the South. For the 12 months ending in February 2009, the Atlanta area recorded a 2.4-percent decrease and the South region inched up 0.1 percent.

Technical Notes

The Consumer Price Index for Miami-Fort Lauderdale is published bi-monthly. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has updated the consumption expenditure weights in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) to the 2003-04 period. The updated expenditure weights for this index replace the 2001-2002 weights that were introduced with the January 2004 CPI release. As originally announced by BLS in December 1998, CPI expenditure weights will continue to be updated at two-year intervals.

The CPI program has completed its conversion to Computer Assisted Data Collection (CADC). Due to the efficiencies gained from conversion to CADC, BLS has extended data collection to cover the entire month, beginning with data for January 2004. CPI data collection is scheduled in terms of business days – weekdays excluding holidays. Formerly, data collection covered three pricing periods, each comprising six business days in most months and five days in November and December. Consequently, the last day of scheduled data collection was usually the 18th business day of the month. This allowed time during the end of the month for the mailing of paper schedules back to the Washington Office and the data entry of the information on these schedules. Starting in January 2004, the three pricing periods now have variable lengths, between six and eight business days long. The third pricing period normally will end on the last business day of the month.

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 measurement error than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. The Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

We encourage users interested in learning more about changes to the CPI to contact the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Information on the Consumer Price Index and other surveys are available on our web site at www.bls.gov. Current and historical BLS data are also posted on our Internet page at www.bls.gov/ro4/home.htm. If you have additional questions, you can contact the Atlanta information office directly by dialing (404) 893-4222. Information from the Consumer Price Index program is available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200, Federal Relay Services: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers and Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, Miami-Fort Lauderdale, Florida, (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted

Item and group	All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)			Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)		
	Index	Percent change from		Index	Percent change from	
	Feb. 2009	Feb. 2008	Dec. 2008	Feb. 2009	Feb. 2008	Dec. 2008
All items	220.589	0.7	1.0	217.635	0.3	0.8
All items (Nov. 1977 = 100)	355.559	-	-	353.590	-	-
Food and beverages	225.569	3.7	-0.2	225.090	3.9	-0.2
Food	227.259	3.9	-0.2	227.187	4.0	-0.3
Food at home	229.773	4.7	-0.4	227.436	4.6	-0.5
Food away from home	225.604	2.7	0.1	228.329	3.0	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	204.568	-0.7	0.9	195.507	1.3	0.5
Housing	229.788	2.9	0.7	229.526	3.1	0.4
Shelter	250.869	2.3	0.8	251.678	2.6	0.5
Rent of primary residence (1)	240.162	2.1	-0.6	240.162	2.1	-0.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	255.616	3.4	0.7	245.750	3.4	0.7
Fuels and utilities	177.841	7.4	-0.9	177.950	7.5	-0.9
Household energy	166.258	6.5	-1.1	165.813	6.5	-1.1
Gas (piped) and electricity (1)	163.378	7.0	-1.1	163.352	7.0	-1.1
Electricity (1)	159.510	7.2	-1.0	159.510	7.2	-1.0
Utility (piped) gas service (1)	229.485	-4.4	-6.6	229.495	-4.4	-6.6
Household furnishings and operations	183.082	3.1	1.5	179.999	3.3	1.0
Apparel	147.163	-2.8	3.6	153.506	-1.8	0.2
Transportation	180.028	-9.2	3.5	175.075	-11.6	3.8
Private transportation	181.007	-9.4	4.1	175.409	-12.0	4.2
Motor fuel	181.797	-35.2	14.3	181.791	-35.2	14.3
Gasoline (all types)	179.943	-35.2	14.7	179.951	-35.2	14.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular (3)	178.867	-35.9	15.9	178.873	-35.9	15.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (3) (4)	168.724	-34.2	13.3	168.724	-34.2	13.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium (3)	179.516	-33.6	11.9	179.501	-33.6	11.9
Medical care	358.626	5.4	0.1	361.139	4.9	0.0
Recreation (5)	120.180	3.1	4.2	113.305	1.6	2.9
Education and communication (5)	114.888	-0.2	-0.9	118.198	0.2	-0.7
Other goods and services	279.058	3.9	-0.3	270.594	3.8	-0.3
Commodities	181.131	-4.0	1.4	181.821	-4.5	1.2
Services	251.625	3.3	0.8	250.134	3.4	0.6
All items less shelter	204.704	-0.4	1.2	201.368	-1.1	1.0
All items less medical care	213.787	0.4	1.1	211.504	0.1	0.9
Energy	169.053	-18.3	5.6	166.897	-19.5	6.1
All items less energy	226.384	2.6	0.7	224.074	2.7	0.4
All items less food and energy	226.076	2.4	0.8	223.481	2.4	0.5

Footnotes

(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 November 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.