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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR MIAMI-FORT LAUDERDALE – DECEMBER 2009

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Miami-Fort Lauderdale edged up 0.2 percent over the two months ending in December to a level of 222.943 (1982-84=100), not seasonally adjusted, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that increases in the costs of transportation and food and beverages were partially offset by decreases in the costs for apparel, housing, and education and communication. For the 12 months ending in December 2009, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale increased 2.1 percent.

Food costs increased 0.9 percent over the two-month pricing period. During this same period, energy prices rose 3.0 percent. Excluding food and energy, the CPI-U for Miami-Fort Lauderdale edged down 0.2 percent during the November-December pricing period. Over the 12 months ending in December, food costs rose 0.3 percent while costs for energy increased 22.7 percent. Excluding food and energy, all other items advanced 0.6 percent over the past year.

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 December 2008	Over 2 months since October 2009
All items	2.1	0.2
Food and beverages	0.4	0.9
Housing	-1.1	-0.1
Apparel	-4.9	-8.1
Transportation	14.2	2.3
Medical care	2.0	0.2
Recreation 1/	1.5	0.2
Education and communication 1/	1.8	-0.6
Other goods and services	8.7	0.3

1/ Index on a December 1997=100 base.

Among the major groups, the transportation index advanced 2.3 percent over the two-month pricing period, as costs for motor fuel increased 3.7 percent. Over the year, transportation costs increased 14.2 percent, the largest 12-month increase in the index since November 1980. The over-the-year increase in transportation costs was dominated by a 51.9-percent increase in motor fuel prices.

The food and beverages index increased 0.9 percent during the November-December pricing period, as costs for food at home rose 0.8 percent and food away from home costs increased 1.1 percent. The index for alcoholic beverages declined 0.7 percent over the two months. Over the past year, the food and beverages index increased 0.4 percent, as costs for food away from home advanced 2.8 percent and the index for alcoholic beverages increased 1.0 percent. Costs for food at home declined 1.3 percent since December 2008.

Over the two month pricing period, medical care costs edged up 0.2 percent. Medical care costs advanced 2.0 percent since December 2008. Over the two months, the recreation index edged up 0.2 percent, 1.5 percent higher than its year-ago level.

The other goods and services index (which includes tobacco and smoking products, personal care products and services, and miscellaneous personal goods) increased 0.3 percent over the two-month pricing period and advanced 8.7 percent over the year.

The three remaining categories declined over the November-December pricing period. Following normal seasonal patterns, the apparel index fell 8.1 percent over the two months. Since December 2008, apparel costs declined 4.9 percent.

The housing index inched down 0.1 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, edged down 0.3 percent over the same period. Costs for household furnishings and operations declined 1.2 percent over the two months. The fuels and utilities index advanced 1.7 percent over the November-December pricing period, as electricity costs rose 2.2 percent and costs for utility (piped) gas service increased 3.6 percent. Since December 2008, the housing index declined 1.1 percent, the largest 12-month decrease since January 1983. The shelter index fell 1.3 percent and costs for household furnishing and operations decreased 3.9 percent over the year. The index for fuels and utilities increased 2.7 percent over the year as a 0.4-percent increase in costs for electricity was partially offset by a 16.3-percent decline in costs for utility (piped) gas service.

Costs for education and communication declined 0.6 percent during the November-December pricing period. The index increased 1.8 percent over the year.

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 November-December pricing period, consumer prices in the Atlanta area decreased 0.3 percent and inched up 0.1 percent in the South. For the 12 months ending in December 2009, the Atlanta area recorded a 1.8-percent increase and prices in the South region rose 2.9 percent.

The Consumer Price Index for February 2010 is scheduled to be released on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. (EST).

Technical Note

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 2005-06 period. The updated expenditure weights for this index replace the 2003-2004 weights that were introduced with the January 2006 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	
	Dec. 2009	Dec. 2008	Oct. 2009	Dec. 2009	Dec. 2008	Oct. 2009
All items	222.943	2.1	0.2	221.067	2.4	0.3
All items (Nov. 1977 = 100)	359.352	-	-	359.167	-	-
Food and beverages	226.760	0.4	0.9	225.770	0.1	0.8
Food	228.502	0.3	0.9	227.963	0.1	0.8
Food at home	227.799	-1.3	0.8	225.314	-1.4	0.7
Food away from home	231.543	2.8	1.1	234.237	2.7	1.0
Alcoholic beverages	204.792	1.0	-0.7	193.453	-0.5	-1.4
Housing	225.782	-1.1	-0.1	225.975	-1.2	-0.1
Shelter	245.790	-1.3	-0.3	246.885	-1.4	-0.3
Rent of primary residence (1)	236.037	-2.3	-0.4	236.037	-2.3	-0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1) (2)	250.158	-1.5	-0.5	240.503	-1.5	-0.5
Fuels and utilities	184.252	2.7	1.7	184.755	2.9	1.7
Household energy	168.100	0.0	2.2	167.693	0.0	2.2
Gas (piped) and electricity (1)	165.274	0.0	2.2	165.346	0.1	2.2
Electricity (1)	161.747	0.4	2.2	161.747	0.4	2.2
Utility (piped) gas service (1)	205.509	-16.3	3.6	205.519	-16.3	3.6
Household furnishings and operations	173.344	-3.9	-1.2	169.944	-4.6	-1.3
Apparel	135.080	-4.9	-8.1	145.211	-5.2	-8.4
Transportation	198.692	14.2	2.3	197.219	16.9	2.7
Private transportation	199.215	14.5	2.2	197.485	17.4	2.6
Motor fuel	241.583	51.9	3.7	241.572	51.9	3.7
Gasoline (all types)	239.467	52.6	3.8	239.478	52.6	3.8
Gasoline unleaded regular (3)	239.601	55.2	3.9	239.610	55.2	3.9
Gasoline unleaded midgrade (3) (4)	223.351	50.0	3.7	223.351	50.0	3.7
Gasoline unleaded premium (3)	234.152	45.9	3.4	234.133	45.9	3.4
Medical care	365.493	2.0	0.2	368.050	1.9	0.5
Recreation (5)	117.103	1.5	0.2	110.505	0.3	0.1
Education and communication (5)	118.075	1.8	-0.6	120.668	1.4	-0.7
Other goods and services	304.175	8.7	0.3	296.600	9.3	0.2
Commodities	188.385	5.5	0.5	190.180	5.9	0.6
Services	250.528	0.4	0.1	249.563	0.3	0.2
All items less shelter	211.276	4.5	0.6	209.050	4.9	0.7
All items less medical care	215.969	2.1	0.2	214.805	2.4	0.3
Energy	196.357	22.7	3.0	195.374	24.2	3.1
All items less energy	226.045	0.5	0.0	224.370	0.5	0.0
All items less food and energy	225.469	0.6	-0.2	223.674	0.6	-0.1

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) Indexes for CPI-U on a November 1982=100 base; CPI-W on a November 1984=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.