



NEWS RELEASE



MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE
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WEST REGION CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) – DECEMBER 2009

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the West declined 0.2 percent in December 2009. During the past 12 months, overall prices advanced 2.2 percent. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted the special aggregate index for energy decreased 0.8 percent for the month, but jumped 28.0 percent since December 2008. The special index for all items less food and energy declined 0.2 percent over the past month, but rose 0.9 percent on an annual basis. Regional CPI area data are not seasonally adjusted.

The housing index, which comprises approximately 45 percent of the all items index, declined 0.2 percent in December and 0.9 percent over the past year. The index for shelter, the largest housing component, decreased 0.2 percent for the month and 1.3 percent for the year. Prices for household fuels and utilities were virtually unchanged in December, but advanced 3.0 percent from a year ago. Household electricity prices edged up 0.2 percent for the month and rose 5.2 percent over the year. Utility (piped) gas service costs decreased 1.4 percent for the month and 9.2 percent since December of last year. Prices for household furnishings and operations edged up 0.2 percent for the month, but fell 1.5 percent for the year.

The food and beverages index was unchanged over the month, but fell 1.5 percent over the year. The food at home index, which measures grocery prices, was also unchanged since last month, but declined 4.5 percent from a year ago. The food away from home index was virtually unchanged for the month, yet advanced 1.9 percent for the year. Prices for alcoholic beverages decreased 0.5 percent in the month of December and rose 0.8 percent for the year.

Prices for transportation edged down 0.1 percent for the month, but were 14.0 percent higher than a year ago. Gasoline prices fell 1.2 percent for the month, but jumped 57.0 percent since December 2008. Prices for new and used motor vehicles increased 0.2 percent in the past month and advanced 5.7 percent over the past 12 months.

Medical care prices inched up 0.1 percent last month and increased 4.3 percent for the year. In December, prices for medical care commodities slipped down 0.2 percent, yet medical care services prices were barely changed. Over the latest 12-month period, prices for medical care commodities and medical care services advanced 3.4 percent and 4.6 percent, respectively.

Apparel prices decreased 2.1 percent in December 2009. Despite the monthly decline, apparel prices increased 1.4 percent over the year. Prices for recreation fell 0.5 percent for the month and were down 1.4 percent since December 2008.

Along with medical care and food and beverages, the two remaining indexes -- other goods and services and education and communication -- had little impact on the overall December index. Prices for other goods and services edged up 0.2 percent during the past month and rose 5.5 percent for the year. Education and communication prices edged 0.1 percent lower, but were 2.5 percent higher than in December 2008.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the West stood at 219.307 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$219.31 in December 2009.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.
Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number (Federal Relay Service):
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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2009	Dec. 2008	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009
Expenditure category						
All items	220.447	219.728	219.307	2.2	-0.5	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	356.341	355.178	354.497	-	-	-
Food and beverages	221.118	220.121	220.126	-1.5	-.4	.0
Food	220.230	219.010	219.112	-1.7	-.5	.0
Food at home	220.385	218.231	218.185	-4.5	-1.0	.0
Food away from home	218.886	218.832	219.117	1.9	.1	.1
Alcoholic beverages	230.568	232.305	231.123	.8	.2	-.5
Housing	228.052	226.352	225.972	-.9	-.9	-.2
Shelter	255.238	253.720	253.141	-1.3	-.8	-.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	259.541	259.213	259.237	-.4	-.1	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2 3}	268.994	268.260	268.183	-1.0	-.3	.0
Fuels and utilities	236.498	230.818	230.562	3.0	-2.5	-.1
Household energy	219.375	212.136	211.846	1.7	-3.4	-.1
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	222.584	214.317	213.894	1.6	-3.9	-.2
Electricity ¹	239.958	230.944	231.310	5.2	-3.6	.2
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	195.494	188.515	185.888	-9.2	-4.9	-1.4
Household furnishings and operations	132.320	131.797	132.057	-1.5	-.2	.2
Apparel	115.196	114.460	112.031	1.4	-2.7	-2.1
Transportation	190.348	191.229	190.999	14.0	.3	-.1
Private transportation	184.806	185.609	185.355	15.2	.3	-.1
New and used motor vehicles ⁴	95.559	96.086	96.306	5.7	.8	.2
New vehicles	137.737	138.549	138.453	4.8	.5	-.1
New cars and trucks ^{4 5}	95.651	96.191	96.120	4.7	.5	-.1
New cars ⁵	139.299	140.447	140.544	3.5	.9	.1
Used cars and trucks	130.574	132.082	135.198	9.0	3.5	2.4
Motor fuel	229.593	230.330	227.649	54.5	-.8	-1.2
Gasoline (all types)	229.634	230.020	227.291	57.0	-1.0	-1.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁵	228.314	228.715	225.978	58.1	-1.0	-1.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{5 6}	216.282	216.609	214.149	55.3	-1.0	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁵	221.055	221.090	218.549	53.1	-1.1	-1.1
Medical care	386.872	387.453	387.650	4.3	.2	.1
Medical care commodities	311.704	312.463	311.984	3.4	.1	-.2
Medical care services	409.680	410.181	410.640	4.6	.2	.1
Professional services	300.253	300.478	300.769	2.5	.2	.1
Recreation ⁴	108.310	108.300	107.714	-1.4	-.6	-.5
Education and communication ⁴	128.759	128.556	128.478	2.5	-.2	-.1
Other goods and services	369.535	369.939	370.853	5.5	.4	.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	220.447	219.728	219.307	2.2	-.5	-.2
Commodities	170.717	170.575	170.178	5.0	-.3	-.2
Commodities less food and beverages	144.092	144.268	143.743	9.0	-.2	-.4
Nondurables less food and beverages	179.211	179.235	177.577	15.2	-.9	-.9
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	224.481	225.008	223.833	20.7	-.3	-.5
Durables	111.427	111.704	112.028	2.6	.5	.3
Services	265.937	264.639	264.205	.4	-.7	-.2
Rent of shelter ³	271.463	269.836	269.217	-1.3	-.8	-.2
Transportation services	256.107	256.709	256.234	3.6	.0	-.2
Other services	302.515	302.704	302.416	1.7	.0	-.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2009	Dec. 2008	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	212.613	211.855	211.417	2.0	-0.6	-0.2
All items less food	220.633	219.990	219.489	2.8	-.5	-.2
All items less shelter	207.617	207.232	206.875	4.1	-.4	-.2
Commodities less food	147.459	147.679	147.132	8.6	-.2	-.4
Nondurables	200.934	200.486	199.576	6.0	-.7	-.5
Nondurables less food	183.100	183.228	181.591	14.0	-.8	-.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	224.516	225.159	223.985	18.3	-.2	-.5
Services less rent of shelter ³	288.942	287.955	287.731	2.7	-.4	-.1
Services less medical care services	255.557	254.180	253.706	.0	-.7	-.2
Energy	226.952	224.352	222.654	28.0	-1.9	-.8
All items less energy	221.787	221.214	220.893	.5	-.4	-.1
All items less food and energy	222.714	222.248	221.855	.9	-.4	-.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	138.915	139.019	138.720	2.4	-.1	-.2
Energy commodities	232.404	233.567	230.996	52.6	-.6	-1.1
Services less energy services	269.382	268.522	268.087	.3	-.5	-.2

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

² This index series will undergo a change in composition in January, 2010. The expenditure class will include weight from secondary residences, and will be re-titled Owners' equivalent rent of residences. The item stratum Owners' equivalent rent of primary residences, which prior to January, 2010 is identical to the EC, will be published as well.

³ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁵ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁶ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2009	Dec. 2008	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009
Expenditure category						
All items	214.718	214.228	213.919	2.8	-0.4	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100)	345.470	344.681	344.183	-	-	-
Food and beverages	220.753	219.851	219.838	-1.7	-.4	.0
Food	219.537	218.357	218.379	-1.9	-.5	.0
Food at home	219.349	217.266	217.151	-4.5	-1.0	-.1
Food away from home	219.706	219.740	219.947	1.8	.1	.1
Alcoholic beverages	234.982	237.973	237.469	1.2	1.1	-.2
Housing	225.042	223.647	223.424	-.7	-.7	-.1
Shelter	248.325	247.388	247.097	-1.0	-.5	-.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	260.347	260.014	260.015	-.6	-.1	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2 3}	238.490	237.831	237.698	-1.0	-.3	-.1
Fuels and utilities	234.034	228.823	228.650	2.9	-2.3	-.1
Household energy	217.260	210.762	210.571	1.7	-3.1	-.1
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	220.803	213.348	213.035	1.5	-3.5	-.1
Electricity ¹	237.295	229.226	229.604	5.1	-3.2	.2
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	196.947	190.461	188.159	-9.4	-4.5	-1.2
Household furnishings and operations	131.751	130.787	130.799	-1.3	-.7	.0
Apparel	115.197	114.403	112.142	.4	-2.7	-2.0
Transportation	187.302	188.377	188.364	15.6	.6	.0
Private transportation	183.696	184.723	184.724	16.4	.6	.0
New and used motor vehicles ⁴	93.142	93.834	94.336	6.2	1.3	.5
New vehicles	139.720	140.732	140.609	4.9	.6	-.1
Used cars and trucks	131.180	132.696	135.822	9.0	3.5	2.4
Motor fuel	229.934	230.898	228.466	54.5	-.6	-1.1
Gasoline (all types)	230.156	230.776	228.300	57.1	-.8	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁵	228.656	229.271	226.798	58.2	-.8	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{5 6}	217.124	217.728	215.483	55.4	-.8	-1.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁵	221.705	221.987	219.662	53.4	-.9	-1.0
Medical care	385.965	386.445	386.722	4.6	.2	.1
Medical care commodities	299.506	300.285	299.777	3.3	.1	-.2
Medical care services	410.204	410.555	411.132	4.9	.2	.1
Professional services	303.902	304.145	304.471	2.6	.2	.1
Recreation ⁴	103.668	103.558	102.911	-1.9	-.7	-.6
Education and communication ⁴	125.683	125.436	125.388	1.9	-.2	.0
Other goods and services	375.877	376.618	377.166	7.2	.3	.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	214.718	214.228	213.919	2.8	-.4	-.1
Commodities	173.191	173.167	172.841	5.8	-.2	-.2
Commodities less food and beverages	147.543	147.847	147.419	10.5	-.1	-.3
Nondurables less food and beverages	185.300	185.376	183.650	17.7	-.9	-.9
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	236.859	237.529	236.134	24.6	-.3	-.6
Durables	113.043	113.493	114.007	3.4	.9	.5
Services	259.690	258.650	258.369	.5	-.5	-.1
Rent of shelter ³	239.869	238.957	238.675	-1.1	-.5	-.1
Transportation services	254.847	255.562	254.970	3.8	.0	-.2
Other services	286.381	286.197	285.878	1.3	-.2	-.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	208.174	207.662	207.340	2.7	-.4	-.2
All items less food	213.711	213.337	212.972	3.7	-.3	-.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009	Dec. 2009	Dec. 2008	Oct. 2009	Nov. 2009
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter	203.037	202.713	202.395	4.7	-0.3	-0.2
Commodities less food	150.794	151.166	150.733	10.1	.0	-3
Nondurables	204.232	203.849	202.909	6.9	-6	-5
Nondurables less food	189.244	189.481	187.812	16.3	-8	-9
Nondurables less food and apparel	236.019	236.897	235.586	22.0	-2	-6
Services less rent of shelter ³	254.011	252.925	252.681	2.6	-5	-1
Services less medical care services	250.066	248.979	248.664	.2	-6	-1
Energy	228.534	226.650	225.041	30.2	-1.5	-7
All items less energy	214.689	214.329	214.142	.7	-3	-1
All items less food and energy	213.897	213.692	213.466	1.2	-2	-1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	139.853	140.084	139.937	2.9	.1	-1
Energy commodities	232.526	233.850	231.499	53.2	-4	-1.0
Services less energy services	262.849	262.285	262.005	.4	-3	-1

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