

News

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEST, SEPTEMBER 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 increased 0.2 percent in September 2009. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the increase in September was primarily due to higher transportation prices. During the past 12 months, overall prices declined 0.8 percent, the seventh consecutive month of over-the-year declines. The special aggregate energy for index increased 0.7 percent for the month, but decreased 15.3 percent since September 2008. The special index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.2 percent over the past month and rose 0.9 percent on an annual basis. Regional CPI area data are not seasonally adjusted.

The transportation index moved up 1.0 percent in September, but was 6.0 percent lower than a year ago. Gasoline prices increased 2.2 percent for the month, but were 21.9 percent lower since September 2008. Prices for new and used motor vehicles increased 1.0 percent in the past month and advanced 2.5 percent over the past 12 months.

The housing index, which comprises approximately 45 percent of the all items index, fell 0.2 percent in both September and over the past year. The index for shelter, the largest housing component, was virtually unchanged over the past month and year. Prices for household fuels and utilities decreased 0.9 percent in September, but increased 0.7 percent from a year ago. Household electricity prices declined 0.8 percent for the month, but advanced 4.8 percent over the year. Utility (piped) gas service costs dropped 3.5 percent for the month and fell 14.2 percent since September 2008. Prices for household furnishings and operations were barely changed for the month, but fell 1.6 percent for the year.

The food and beverages index decreased 0.2 percent over the month and 0.8 percent over the year. The food at home index, which measures grocery prices, decreased 0.5 percent since August 2009 and 3.8 percent from a year ago. The food away from home index rose 0.2 percent for the month and advanced 2.7 percent for the year. Prices for alcoholic beverages decreased 0.8 percent in September, but rose 1.2 percent over the year.

Apparel prices increased 2.2 percent over the month. Over the past year, apparel prices increased 1.2 percent.

Medical care prices rose 0.3 percent from one month ago and 4.2 percent for the year. In September, prices for medical care commodities were 0.7 percent higher and prices for medical care services increased 0.2 percent. Over the latest 12-month period, prices for medical care commodities and medical care services advanced 3.9 and 4.3 percent, respectively.

Education and communication prices advanced 0.7 percent during the past month and 2.9 percent during the past year.

The two remaining major expenditure categories had little impact on the overall September index with prices for recreation declining 0.4 percent and prices for other goods and services increased 0.3 percent. Over the past year, the index for recreation declined 1.3 percent, while the index for other goods and services rose 5.6 percent.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the West stood at 220.294 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$220.29 in September 2009.

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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—		
	July 2009	Aug. 2009	Sep. 2009	Sep. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009
Expenditure category						
All items	219.484	219.884	220.294	-0.8	0.4	0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	354.783	355.430	356.094	-	-	-
Food and beverages	221.320	221.100	220.587	-8	-3	-2
Food	220.448	220.154	219.751	-1.0	-3	-2
Food at home	221.009	220.437	219.431	-3.8	-7	-5
Food away from home	218.598	218.651	218.998	2.7	.2	.2
Alcoholic beverages	230.576	231.265	229.414	1.2	-5	-8
Housing	228.901	228.666	228.269	-2	-3	-2
Shelter	256.224	256.224	255.775	-1	-2	-1
Rent of primary residence ¹	260.660	260.093	260.007	1.2	-3	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	270.293	269.898	269.427	.2	-3	-2
Fuels and utilities	234.619	235.787	233.612	.7	-4	-9
Household energy	217.960	218.786	215.819	-1.3	-1.0	-1.4
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	221.890	222.569	219.354	-2	-1.1	-1.4
Electricity ¹	238.813	239.240	237.268	4.8	-6	-8
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	195.973	197.405	190.486	-14.2	-2.8	-3.5
Household furnishings and operations	133.973	132.685	132.854	-1.6	-8	.1
Apparel	110.485	110.631	113.107	1.2	2.4	2.2
Transportation	186.948	188.414	190.306	-6.0	1.8	1.0
Private transportation	181.183	182.836	184.755	-5.7	2.0	1.0
New and used motor vehicles ³	93.367	93.264	94.162	2.5	.9	1.0
New vehicles	135.345	133.879	135.593	3.2	.2	1.3
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	94.069	93.091	94.146	3.0	.1	1.1
New cars ⁴	137.637	135.603	137.323	1.6	-2	1.3
Used cars and trucks	123.100	125.906	127.274	-2.6	3.4	1.1
Motor fuel	223.875	231.648	236.529	-22.4	5.7	2.1
Gasoline (all types)	224.223	231.925	236.919	-21.9	5.7	2.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	223.077	230.738	235.687	-22.3	5.7	2.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	210.950	218.001	222.851	-21.2	5.6	2.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	215.271	222.739	227.494	-20.6	5.7	2.1
Medical care	384.197	384.811	386.084	4.2	.5	.3
Medical care commodities	307.970	309.062	311.147	3.9	1.0	.7
Medical care services	407.468	407.883	408.816	4.3	.3	.2
Professional services	299.085	299.089	299.329	2.0	.1	.1
Recreation ³	108.288	108.827	108.383	-1.3	.1	-4
Education and communication ³	126.670	128.040	128.903	2.9	1.8	.7
Other goods and services	367.766	367.831	368.775	5.6	.3	.3
Commodity and service group						
All items	219.484	219.884	220.294	-8	.4	.2
Commodities	168.981	169.357	170.371	-3.2	.8	.6
Commodities less food and beverages	141.732	142.308	143.829	-4.4	1.5	1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	175.575	177.855	180.234	-7.8	2.7	1.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	221.497	225.224	227.578	-10.4	2.7	1.0
Durables	110.111	109.420	110.243	-1	.1	.8
Services	265.803	266.217	265.990	.8	.1	-1
Rent of shelter ²	272.541	272.398	272.037	-2	-2	-1
Transportation services	255.655	255.714	255.588	1.5	.0	.0
Other services	299.342	301.829	302.572	2.1	1.1	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

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—		
	July 2009	Aug. 2009	Sep. 2009	Sep. 2008	July 2009	Aug. 2009
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	211.718	212.106	212.483	-1.1	0.4	0.2
All items less food	219.489	219.995	220.530	-.8	.5	.2
All items less shelter	205.813	206.440	207.169	-1.2	.7	.4
Commodities less food	145.147	145.730	147.171	-4.2	1.4	1.0
Nondurables	199.028	200.180	201.251	-4.4	1.1	.5
Nondurables less food	179.668	181.862	183.996	-7.2	2.4	1.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	221.828	225.252	227.195	-9.4	2.4	.9
Services less rent of shelter ²	287.089	288.332	288.267	2.1	.4	.0
Services less medical care services	255.531	255.940	255.656	.5	.0	-.1
Energy	222.997	227.914	229.541	-15.3	2.9	.7
All items less energy	221.058	221.096	221.411	.6	.2	.1
All items less food and energy	221.822	221.916	222.355	.9	.2	.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	137.057	136.738	137.766	1.0	.5	.8
Energy commodities	226.221	234.030	238.916	-22.5	5.6	2.1
Services less energy services	269.283	269.681	269.643	.8	.1	.0

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 December 1982=100 base.

³ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁵ 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.