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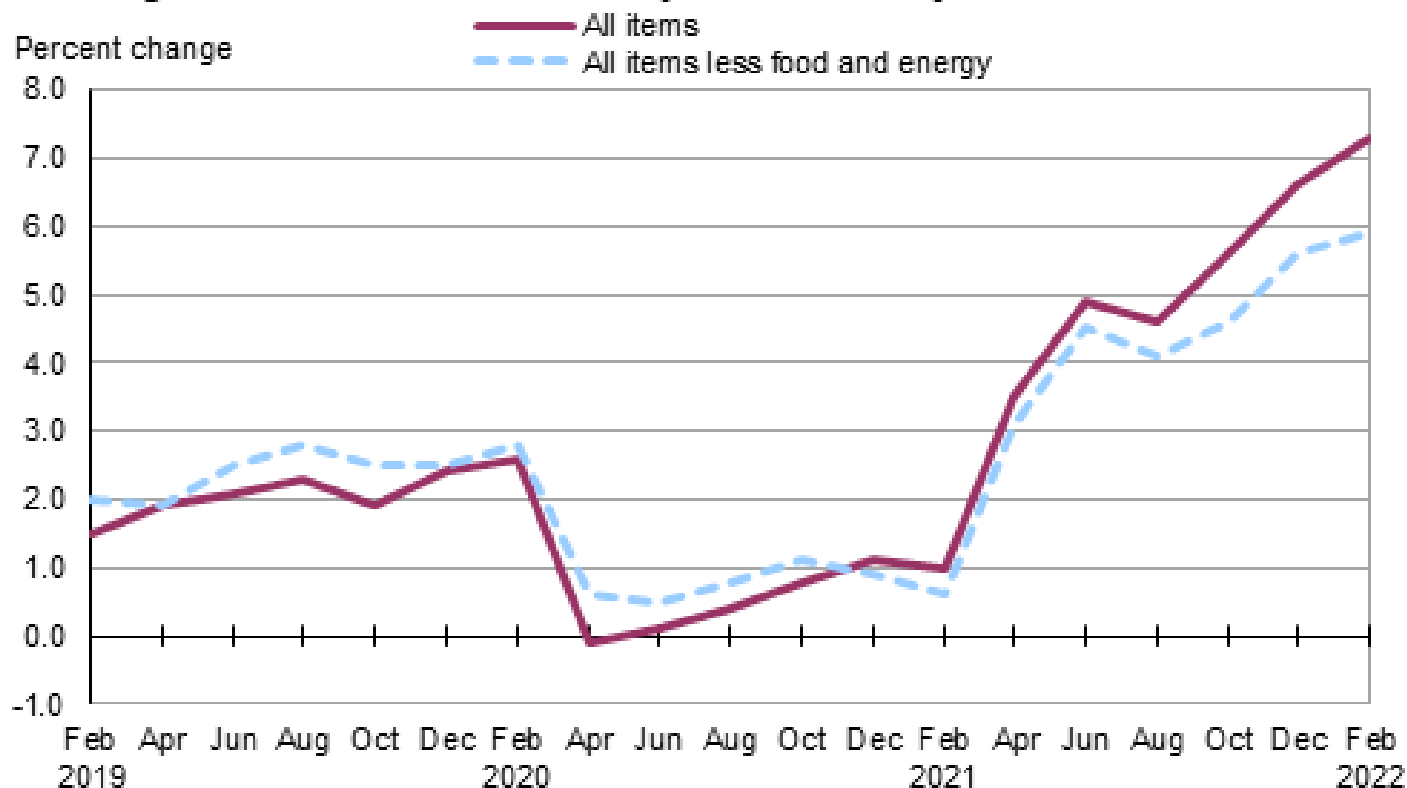
Consumer Price Index, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington – February 2022

Area prices were up 1.5 percent over the past 2 months, up 7.3 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.5 percent for the 2 months ending in February 2022, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Alexandra Hall Bovee noted that the February increase was primarily due to a 1.2 percent jump in the all items less food and energy index where nearly every major component increased since December. A 4.7 percent increase in the energy index and a 2.1 percent rise in the food index accounted for the remaining third of the overall increase. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 7.3 percent, the largest over-the-year increase since December 1990. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 5.9 percent over the year, the largest over-the-year increase since March 1991. Energy prices were up 24.4 percent mostly due to higher gasoline prices. Food prices increased 8.2 percent, the largest over-the-year increase for food since February 1990. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, February 2019–February 2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 2.1 percent in February, reflecting a 3.7-percent price increase for food at home, the largest such increase since October 2003, driven by increasing prices for nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials (8.7 percent), fruits and vegetables (5.4 percent), and cereals and bakery products (5.6 percent), among other items. The increases in nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials and fruits and vegetables were the largest since these series started in 2018. These gains were partially offset by a 0.4 percent decline for the other food at home category. Food away from home prices decreased 0.1 percent since December.

Over the year, food prices increased 8.2 percent, dominated by a 10.1 percent jump in the food at home index; each of these were the largest over-the-year increases in those indexes since February 1990. All of the major grocery categories were up over the year, led by meats, poultry, fish, and eggs where the 17.3 percent increase was the largest since the series began in December 2018. Prices for food away from home also rose, up 5.5 percent, the largest increase since November 1989.

Energy

The energy index increased 4.7 percent over the 2-month pricing period, largely due to higher prices for gasoline and electricity, both up 4.6 percent. Utility (piped) gas service increased just 0.9 percent in the same period, moderating after seven consecutive increases that ranged from 2.2 to 13.3 percent.

Over the year, the energy index increased 24.4 percent, dominated by a 31.6 percent increase for gasoline which moderated after peaking at 48.4 percent in May 2021. Electricity prices were up 11.2 percent and utility (piped) gas service increased 22.6 percent, the largest over-the-year gain since May 2006.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.2 percent from December to February driven by higher prices for shelter (0.7 percent), apparel (7.7 percent), and recreation (2.2 percent). Within the shelter index, the owners' equivalent rent of residences index increased just 0.5 percent, moderating after a 2.1 percent jump in December 2021. New and used motor vehicle prices increased 1.2 percent, due to a 2.4 percent increase in new vehicles and a 2.6 percent increase in used cars and trucks.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 5.9 percent. This increase reflects an increase in the new and used motor vehicles category (28.8 percent). The 42.7 percent over-the-year increase for used cars and trucks was part of a sustained increase in that index which began in April 2021 and peaked at 45.3 percent in June. Over the year prices for shelter increased 5.0 percent, partially driven by owners' equivalent rent of residences which increased 4.6 percent.

Table A. Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February	0.4	0.5	0.8	1.5	1.0	2.6	0.8	1.0	1.5	7.3
April	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.9	-1.3	-0.1	1.2	3.5		
June	0.2	1.9	0.5	2.1	0.6	0.1	1.9	4.9		
August	0.3	1.7	0.5	2.3	0.8	0.4	0.6	4.6		
October	0.0	1.6	-0.4	1.9	0.0	0.8	1.0	5.6		
December	-0.7	1.0	-0.3	2.4	0.0	1.1	0.9	6.6		

The Consumer Price Index for April 2022 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. (ET).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index for Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington is published bi-monthly. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force. The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.










































The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/. In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with

weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **Note: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The **Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, Core Based Statistical Area** includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties in Pennsylvania; Burlington, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties in New Jersey; New Castle County in Delaware; and Cecil County in Maryland.
















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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Feb. 2021	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022
All items.....		277.163		281.402	7.3	1.5	
All items (1967 = 100)		800.707		812.955			
Food and beverages		259.113		264.576	7.9	2.1	
Food		260.566		266.116	8.2	2.1	
Food at home		258.670	262.521	268.158	10.1	3.7	2.1
Cereals and bakery products		334.639		353.360	10.9	5.6	
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		303.740		312.873	17.3	3.0	
Dairy and related products		199.381		209.373	4.5	5.0	
Fruits and vegetables		270.517		285.192	1.2	5.4	
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)		170.578		185.384	17.2	8.7	
Other food at home		242.716		241.761	9.5	-0.4	
Food away from home.....		256.452		256.079	5.5	-0.1	
Alcoholic beverages		234.779		239.125	2.6	1.9	
Housing		286.668		289.928	6.2	1.1	
Shelter		353.428	354.942	355.991	5.0	0.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence		331.017	332.002	333.117	4.2	0.6	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2).....		365.373	366.160	367.255	4.6	0.5	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)		365.373	366.160	367.255	4.6	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....		232.186		242.304	15.6	4.4	
Household energy		190.769	198.664	199.814	18.2	4.7	0.6
Energy services.....		199.211	206.556	205.813	14.6	3.3	-0.4
Electricity		191.216	201.727	200.064	11.2	4.6	-0.8
Utility (piped) gas service		203.078	203.939	205.003	22.6	0.9	0.5
Household furnishings and operations		131.098		132.281	6.1	0.9	
Apparel		104.635		112.696	4.0	7.7	
Transportation		245.890		251.620	20.1	2.3	
Private transportation		255.385		260.762	22.9	2.1	
New and used motor vehicles(3).....		128.159		129.738	28.8	1.2	
New vehicles(1).....		218.261		223.415	22.2	2.4	
Used cars and trucks(1)		386.010		396.116	42.7	2.6	
Motor fuel		318.304	316.398	333.089	31.6	4.6	5.3
Gasoline (all types).....		314.358	312.464	328.941	31.6	4.6	5.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....		311.011	308.997	326.075	32.3	4.8	5.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....		319.808	318.594	331.496	28.7	3.7	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....		313.158	312.207	323.494	27.0	3.3	3.6
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....		664.807					
Medical care		573.176		575.891	-0.2	0.5	
Recreation(3).....		128.821		131.675	4.3	2.2	
Education and communication(3).....		135.760		135.443	1.3	-0.2	
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1)		1,085.312		1,080.349	2.4	-0.5	
Other goods and services		608.168		616.917	6.2	1.4	
Commodity and service group							

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

Expenditure category	Indexes				Percent change from		
	Historical data	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	Feb. 2022	Feb. 2021	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022
Commodities		204.925		210.755	12.9	2.8	
Commodities less food and beverages		173.554		179.227	16.2	3.3	
Nondurables less food and beverages...		208.863		218.035	12.8	4.4	
Durables		129.603		132.317	20.4	2.1	
Services.....		349.802		352.666	4.3	0.8	
Special aggregate indexes							
All items less shelter.....		252.084		257.050	8.5	2.0	
All items less medical care		264.649		268.946	8.1	1.6	
Commodities less food		176.188		181.840	15.7	3.2	
Nondurables		235.204		242.690	10.2	3.2	
Nondurables less food.....		210.510		219.322	12.1	4.2	
Services less rent of shelter(2).....		353.660		356.873	3.4	0.9	
Services less medical care services.....		332.339		334.984	4.7	0.8	
Energy		236.853	241.827	247.985	24.4	4.7	2.5
All items less energy		284.266		287.934	6.2	1.3	
All items less food and energy		291.045		294.445	5.9	1.2	

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base
- (2) Indexes 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.