

News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
PO Box 193766
San Francisco, Calif. 94119-3766



CONTACT:

Richard J. Holden (415) 625-2245
Todd H. Johnson (415) 625-2283
Internet address: <http://www.bls.gov/ro9/ro9news.htm>

BLS 08-21
FOR RELEASE:
5:30 AM PST / 8:30 AM EST
Friday, March 14, 2008

LOS ANGELES AREA CONSUMER PRICES RISE 0.2 PERCENT IN FEBRUARY

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the February 2008 all items Consumer Price Index in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area increased 0.2 percent for the month, compared to a 0.7 percent increase for a previous month. The annual increase for the year ending February 2008 was 3.1 percent, compared to a 3.9 percent increase for the year ending January 2008. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the housing index, which represents approximately 46 percent of the all items index, provided the largest contribution to the index for the month and year. Local Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

The housing index increased 0.4 percent in February 2008 and 2.9 percent since 12 months ago. Shelter, household fuels and utilities, and household furnishings and operations are all components of the housing index. Shelter advanced 0.4 percent over the month and increased 3.8 percent over the year. Household fuels and utilities rose 1.9 percent for the month and moved up 1.4 percent for the year. Within household fuels and utilities, prices for electricity decreased 0.1 percent over the month, while prices for utility (piped) gas service increased 8.8 percent. Since February 2007, the electricity index fell 5.5 percent, while the utility (piped) gas service index rose 8.6 percent. The final housing subcategory, household furnishings and operations, declined 0.7 percent in February 2008 and was 2.9 percent lower than in February 2007.

Food and beverages prices inched up 0.1 percent from January to February and were 3.5 percent higher than last year's level. Grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, decreased 0.5 percent for the month, but increased 4.0 percent since February 2007. Food away from home prices rose 0.4 percent for the month and 2.5 percent for the year. Alcoholic beverages prices advanced 4.0 percent since last month and 5.9 percent since one year ago.

The index for transportation prices declined 0.6 percent in February following no change between December and January. Over the year, transportation prices increased by 5.3 percent, the largest over-the-year advance among all major expenditure categories. This annual increase was primarily due to higher gasoline prices. For the month of February gasoline prices declined 1.5 percent, but were 20.4 percent higher for the year.

The apparel index represents less than four percent of the overall index. In February, a 4.9 percent increase in apparel prices had the second largest effect on the all items index. Over the year, however, apparel prices decreased 1.6 percent.

Medical care prices increased 0.6 percent over the month and were 3.6 percent higher over the year. The other goods and services index increased 0.5 percent over the month and 2.8 percent since February 2007.

Recreation prices declined 1.0 percent over the month and edged down 0.1 percent in the past 12 months. The education and communication indexes declined 0.5 percent for the month, but rose 4.2 percent since last year.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, stands at 221.431 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$221.43 in February 2008.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.

Voice phone 202-691-5200

TDD message referral phone number: 800-877-8339

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

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008	Feb. 2008	Feb. 2007	Dec. 2007	Jan. 2008
Expenditure category						
All items	219.373	220.918	221.431	3.1	0.9	0.2
All items (1967=100)	648.124	652.691	654.206	-	-	-
Food and beverages	213.801	217.108	217.425	3.5	1.7	.1
Food	212.923	216.398	216.167	3.3	1.5	-1
Food at home	223.433	228.564	227.326	4.0	1.7	-5
Food away from home	197.160	198.799	199.643	2.5	1.3	.4
Alcoholic beverages	213.642	214.193	222.811	5.9	4.3	4.0
Housing	238.758	240.414	241.449	2.9	1.1	.4
Shelter	267.826	269.583	270.727	3.8	1.1	.4
Rent of primary residence ¹	270.330	271.836	272.321	5.3	.7	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	279.382	280.472	281.303	3.9	.7	.3
Fuels and utilities	234.264	236.848	241.341	1.4	3.0	1.9
Household energy	234.892	237.427	243.523	-9	3.7	2.6
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	233.619	235.954	242.153	-1.5	3.7	2.6
Electricity ¹	265.832	261.367	261.209	-5.5	-1.7	-1
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	200.194	215.691	234.672	8.6	17.2	8.8
Household furnishings and operations	125.863	126.731	125.902	-2.9	.0	-7
Apparel	102.915	101.454	106.471	-1.6	3.5	4.9
Transportation	186.278	186.230	185.158	5.3	-6	-6
Private transportation	180.451	180.613	179.660	5.7	-4	-5
Motor fuel	253.531	249.700	246.194	20.6	-2.9	-1.4
Gasoline (all types)	248.263	244.426	240.688	20.4	-3.1	-1.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	248.560	244.782	240.529	20.9	-3.2	-1.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	234.998	230.968	228.539	20.0	-2.7	-1.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	237.577	234.076	231.004	19.0	-2.8	-1.3
Medical care	343.730	349.063	351.109	3.6	2.1	.6
Recreation ⁵	114.091	115.310	114.174	-1	.1	-1.0
Education and communication ⁵	122.630	124.216	123.634	4.2	.8	-5
Other goods and services	333.708	336.749	338.314	2.8	1.4	.5
Commodity and service group						
All items	219.373	220.918	221.431	3.1	.9	.2
Commodities	167.387	168.431	168.716	2.8	.8	.2
Commodities less food and beverages	140.116	140.301	140.557	2.5	.3	.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	177.244	176.244	177.539	6.7	.2	.7
Durables	104.238	105.247	104.751	-3.0	.5	-5
Services	264.569	266.567	267.290	3.3	1.0	.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	213.309	214.727	215.189	3.1	.9	.2
All items less shelter	198.226	199.681	199.910	2.7	.8	.1
Commodities less food	143.766	143.961	144.400	2.6	.4	.3
Nondurables	197.632	198.577	199.453	5.0	.9	.4
Nondurables less food	181.516	180.577	182.245	6.6	.4	.9
Services less rent of shelter ²	267.107	269.525	269.600	2.4	.9	.0
Services less medical care services	257.272	259.139	259.836	3.2	1.0	.3
Energy	248.536	246.818	246.512	12.2	-8	-1
All items less energy	218.986	220.796	221.376	2.4	1.1	.3
All items less food and energy	220.506	222.048	222.762	2.3	1.0	.3

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 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.