



Consumer Price Index Summary

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: FEBRUARY 2005

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 0.6 percent in February, before seasonal adjustment, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The February level of 191.8 (1982-84=100) was 3.0 percent higher than in February 2004.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased 0.5 percent in February, prior to seasonal adjustment. The February level of 187.3 (1982-84=100) was 3.0 percent higher than in February 2004.

The Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U) increased 0.5 percent in February on a not seasonally adjusted basis. The February level of 111.7 (December 1999=100) was 2.6 percent higher than in February 2004. Please note that the indexes for the post-2003 period are subject to revision.

CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI-U advanced 0.4 percent in February, following a 0.1 percent increase in January. The energy index, which registered substantial declines in the preceding two months, increased 2.0 percent in February, accounting for virtually all the acceleration in the overall CPI-U. Within energy, the index for petroleum-based energy increased 3.1 percent and the index for energy services rose 0.8 percent. The food index increased 0.1 percent in February, the same as in January. A 0.2 percent decrease in the index for food at home was more than offset by a 0.3 percent increase in the index for food away from home. The index for all items less food and energy, which increased 0.2 percent in each of the preceding four months, advanced 0.3 percent in February. Larger increases in the indexes for shelter and medical care more than offset a smaller rise in the index for new vehicles and a decline in the index for apparel.

Table A. Percent changes in CPI for Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

Expenditure	Seasonally adjusted	Changes from preceding month	Un-	
			Compound	adjusted
			annual rate	12-mos.

Category	2004					2005		3-mos. ended	ended
	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Feb. '05	Feb. '05
All Items	.1	.2	.6	.3	.0	.1	.4	1.7	3.0
Food and beverages	.0	.0	.5	.3	.0	.1	.1	.6	2.6
Housing	.1	.3	.2	.3	.2	.1	.4	2.7	3.0
Apparel	-.3	.0	.0	.2	-.4	.3	-.2	-1.3	.1
Transportation	-.3	.2	2.1	.2	-.7	-.2	.8	-.2	4.6
Medical care	.3	.3	.4	.3	.3	.4	.6	5.2	4.3
Recreation	-.2	.2	.1	.1	.0	.1	-.2	-.4	.6
Education and communication	.0	.4	-.2	.4	.1	.1	.3	1.8	1.4
Other goods and services	.2	.2	.2	.1	.4	.4	.3	4.4	2.8
Special indexes:									
Energy	-.3	-.3	4.0	1.0	-1.3	-1.1	2.0	-2.0	10.4
Food	.0	-.1	.6	.3	.0	.1	.1	.6	2.6
All items less food and energy	.1	.3	.2	.2	.2	.2	.3	2.4	2.4