

Consumer Prices and Inflation – January 2008

Consumer Price Stats at a Glance

Percent Change 12 Months Ending:	CPI - U	CPI-W	CPI-W, All Items Less Medical Care
January 2004	1.9%	1.8%	1.7%
January 2005	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
January 2006	4.0%	4.1%	4.1%
January 2007	2.1%	1.8%	1.7%
January 2008	4.3%	4.6%	4.6%
2008 Forecast	2.8%		

Percent changes in consumer prices above are drawn from non-seasonally adjusted data. This is the data used to calculate changes in COLA.

CPI-U is the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. It is based on a typical "market basket" of goods consumed by urban consumers, including salaried employees, business owners and retirees as well as wage earners.

CPI-W is the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Wage and Clerical Workers. It is based on a typical "market basket" of goods consumed by urban households that receive most of their income from clerical or hourly wage occupations.

Over the last three months, consumer prices have been rising at an annualized rate of 6.8 percent.

While energy remains the main inflation driver, food and beverage costs also rose sharply in January, registering their highest monthly increase since February of last year.

The full Bureau of Labor Statistics report can be found at:

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cpi.toc.htm>

Next release: the February Consumer Price Index will be released on March 14.