

# Consumer Prices and Inflation – February 2009

## Consumer Price Stats at a Glance

Percent Change 12 Months Ending:	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-W, All Items Less Medical Care
February 2005	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%
February 2006	3.6%	3.7%	3.7%
February 2007	2.4%	2.2%	2.1%
February 2008	4.0%	4.4%	4.4%
February 2009	0.2%	-0.3%	-0.4%
<b>2009 Forecast</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>		
<b>2010 Forecast</b>	<b>1.7%</b>		

*Percent changes in consumer prices above are drawn from non-seasonally adjusted data. This is the data used to calculate changes in COLA. Forecasts are from Consensus Economics (Nov. 10 survey date).*

*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.*

- Overall prices rose 0.4 percent in February on a seasonally-adjusted basis, after having risen 0.35 percent in January. Prices had declined the last three months of 2008.
- Energy prices also rose again in February, which still left energy prices 18.5 percent lower than one year ago.
- When the volatile food and energy sectors are excluded, the "core" CPI was also up in February, with an increase of 0.2 percent.

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 April 15, 2009.