

Consumer Prices and Inflation – April 2009

Consumer Price Stats at a Glance

Percent Change 12 Months Ending:	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-W, All Items Less Medical Care
April 2005	3.7%	3.5%	3.6%
April 2006	3.7%	3.5%	3.6%
April 2007	2.5%	2.6%	2.5%
April 2008	4.2%	3.9%	4.2%
April 2009	-1.3%	-0.7%	-1.6%
2009 Forecast	-0.7%		
2010 Forecast	1.6%		

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 (April 14 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.

- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, consumer prices were unchanged in April, leaving them well below the level of April 2008. The 12-month change in the CPI has been negative in four of the past five months, the first time prices have fallen on such a sustained basis since 1955.
- Wild swings in energy prices continue to have a strong influence on the overall level of prices. Energy prices were down for the second straight month in April, and are down by 25.2 percent compared to a year ago.
- When the volatile food and energy sectors are excluded, the "core" CPI has been growing at a steady 2.5 percent annual rate for the past three months.

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

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

Next release: the May Consumer Price Index will be released on June 17, 2009.