

Consumer Prices and Inflation – October 2009

Consumer Price Stats at a Glance

Percent Change 12 Months Ending:	CPI-U	CPI-W	CPI-W, All Items Less Medical Care
October 2005	4.3%	4.7%	4.7%
October 2006	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%
October 2007	3.5%	3.7%	3.7%
October 2008	3.7%	3.8%	3.9%
October 2009	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.5%

2009 Forecast **-0.5%**

2010 Forecast **1.9%**

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 (September 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 rose slightly faster in October than in September. Much of the acceleration was due to energy price increases, as the prices for gasoline, fuel oil, natural gas and electricity all increased.
- The CPI is still down slightly from its year-ago level, with October 2009 prices 0.2 percent below those of October 2008.
- "Core" inflation, excluding the volatile food and energy sectors, remained steady in October.

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

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

Next release: the November Consumer Price Index will be released on December 16.