

MID-ATLANTIC INFORMATION OFFICE CPI ANNOUNCEMENT



Table 1. Consumer Price Indexes, U.S. city average and selected areas, March 2004 (1982-84=100, unless otherwise note

Expenditure Category	All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)										Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)									
	United States		Phila-delphia		Wash.-Balt.		North-east		South		United States		Phila-delphia		Wash.-Balt.		North-east		South	
	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003	Index	Percent change from Mar. 2003
All items 2/.....	187.4	1.7	-	-	118.1	1.9	198.6	2.9	180.1	1.5	182.9	1.4	-	-	117.6	1.8	195.1	2.8	176.7	1.0
All items (1967 = 100) 3/.....	561.5	-	-	-	-	-	312.8	-	292.1	-	544.8	-	-	-	-	-	304.7	-	286.2	-
Food and beverages 2/.....	184.9	3.2	-	-	118.7	5.3	187.0	3.3	182.1	3.2	184.4	3.3	-	-	118.7	5.4	186.5	3.6	181.2	3.3
Food 2/.....	184.4	3.2	-	-	119.2	5.8	186.3	3.4	182.2	3.3	183.8	3.3	-	-	119.2	5.9	186.0	3.6	181.2	3.4
Food at home.....	184.3	3.7	188.2	3.5	117.3	7.4	186.4	4.3	179.7	3.6	183.5	3.8	189.9	4.3	117.7	7.2	186.1	4.6	178.6	3.7
Food away from home 4/.....	185.8	2.7	-	-	119.5	3.7	188.7	2.2	188.2	2.9	185.6	2.5	-	-	119.3	3.6	188.6	2.1	187.3	2.8
Alcoholic beverages 4/.....	190.8	2.3	-	-	110.2	0.1	194.9	2.4	181.6	2.3	191.2	2.4	-	-	110.6	0.0	192.8	2.6	180.9	2.6
Housing 2/.....	187.9	2.0	-	-	124.0	2.6	207.5	3.2	171.8	1.9	183.2	1.8	-	-	124.1	2.8	202.9	2.9	169.6	1.7
Shelter.....	217.8	2.7	237.5	5.0	128.6	3.5	249.7	4.0	191.9	2.1	211.0	2.5	241.5	5.0	129.1	3.7	243.8	3.8	189.8	1.8
Rent of primary residence 2/ 7/.....	209.2	2.5	218.7	5.1	134.8	4.3	231.2	3.9	186.7	1.5	208.4	2.5	218.7	5.1	134.8	4.3	229.8	3.8	186.1	1.5
Owners' equivalent ren of primary residence 5/ 7/.....	223.3	2.0	240.5	4.5	127.2	3.6	259.0	3.5	193.2	1.8	202.7	2.0	213.9	4.5	126.7	3.5	227.6	3.5	179.9	1.8
Fuels and utilities.....	155.2	0.5	-	-	111.7	-2.7	152.5	-0.1	155.0	3.1	154.7	0.7	-	-	109.1	-1.7	151.8	0.1	155.2	3.5
Fuels.....	137.6	-0.6	143.1	5.8	110.0	-3.6	141.3	-0.7	132.4	2.3	136.6	-0.3	142.1	6.7	107.5	-2.2	140.5	-0.6	131.5	2.8
Gas (piped) and electricity 7/.....	143.5	0.0	160.0	8.2	106.7	-3.6	152.5	1.9	133.8	2.5	142.9	0.2	159.4	8.3	105.5	-2.2	152.3	1.6	133.4	2.9
Electricity 7/.....	136.1	1.6	149.5	4.4	100.2	1.8	137.0	2.9	126.6	5.1	135.4	1.7	149.5	4.4	99.9	1.6	136.9	2.6	126.2	5.2
Utility natural gas service 7/.....	169.7	-3.2	186.6	15.0	129.0	-15.7	183.5	0.4	176.2	-7.7	170.4	-2.9	186.6	15.0	132.0	-13.6	183.4	0.2	179.6	-6.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	125.7	-1.1	-	-	108.5	-0.2	127.8	0.0	126.3	-1.0	121.4	-1.1	-	-	106.1	0.0	121.7	-0.4	121.3	-1.3
Apparel 2/.....	123.5	-0.1	-	-	88.7	-1.1	124.8	5.1	134.7	-2.4	122.9	0.3	-	-	89.9	-1.9	123.0	5.8	134.7	-2.0
Transportation 2/.....	160.5	-0.3	-	-	110.0	-0.6	161.3	1.3	157.0	-0.4	158.5	-1.1	-	-	108.6	-1.5	162.2	1.1	154.2	-1.5
Private transportation.....	156.6	-0.4	-	-	109.1	-1.2	155.5	0.7	155.5	-0.4	155.7	-1.3	-	-	108.1	-1.8	157.7	0.4	152.9	-1.5
Motor fuel.....	150.5	1.6	151.9	4.5	143.4	1.0	144.4	3.6	145.1	2.4	150.9	1.6	151.9	4.5	143.2	0.8	144.5	3.7	144.9	2.3
Gasoline.....	149.8	1.6	149.7	4.6	143.7	1.2	143.7	3.7	144.4	2.5	150.3	1.7	149.7	4.6	143.5	1.1	143.8	3.8	144.3	2.4
Medical care 2/.....	307.5	4.5	-	-	120.8	2.7	326.3	4.7	297.2	3.9	306.9	4.6	-	-	119.7	2.7	322.8	4.8	298.1	3.9
Recreation 6/.....	108.8	1.3	-	-	110.7	-0.6	110.0	1.3	109.1	1.2	106.5	1.0	-	-	108.3	0.4	108.7	1.5	106.9	1.2
Education and communication 6/.....	111.1	1.6	-	-	112.5	-0.5	112.3	1.8	109.1	0.0	109.8	0.8	-	-	109.9	-0.8	111.1	1.3	107.1	-0.8
Other goods and services 2/.....	303.1	2.0	-	-	136.6	1.6	327.1	3.0	290.1	1.3	310.8	1.7	-	-	147.3	1.7	348.1	3.3	295.0	0.8
Energy 2/.....	143.1	0.4	144.8	5.8	122.3	-1.6	143.0	1.1	135.3	2.3	143.0	0.6	142.2	6.1	121.6	-0.9	142.3	1.4	135.0	2.4

1/For Wash.-Balt., Dec. 1997=100 unless otherwise noted. 2/For Wash.-Balt., Nov. 1996=100. 3/For the Northeast and the South, Dec. 1977=100. 4/For Wash.-Balt., Nov. 1997=100. 5/CPI-U data for the U.S., Phila., Northeast, and South are on the Dec 1982=100 base. CPI-W data for those same areas are on the Dec. 1984=100 base. 6/Indexes are on the Dec. 1997=100 base. 7/This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series converted to a geometric means estimator in January, 1999.

**Area Definitions**

**Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-DE-NJ-MD, CMSA**  
 Pennsylvania Portion: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties; New Jersey Portion: Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties; Delaware Portion: New Castle County; and Maryland Portion: Cecil County

**Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, CMSA**

District of Columbia Portion: Washington, D.C.; Maryland Portion: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's and Washington Counties, and Baltimore City; Virginia Portion: Arlington, Clarke, Culpepper, Fairfax, Fauquier, King George, Loudoun, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Warren Counties, and Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park Cities; West Virginia Portion: Berkeley and Jefferson Counties

**Northeast**

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont

**South**

Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia

**CHANGES TO LOCAL AREA SERIES**

Due to the revised MSA definitions, a single index is now published bimonthly for the **Washington-Baltimore, CMSA**. The separate indexes for Washington, DC-MD-VA, and Baltimore, MD, will no longer be published.

Indexes for the **Philadelphia** area are now published bimonthly. The area definition also changed from Philadelphia-Wilmington-Trenton, PA-DE-NJ-MD, to Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-DE-NJ-MD. Trenton is now part of the New York area.

In January and July each year, semi-annual average indexes will be published for **Pittsburgh, PA**. Bimonthly indexes have been discontinued. Butler County was added to the area definition.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index and percent change, all items, U.S. city average and selected areas 1982-84=100, unless otherwise noted

	<u>All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)</u>					<u>Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers</u>				
	Indexes		Percent change to March 2004 from --			Indexes		Percent change to March 2004 from --		
	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004	Feb. 2004	Mar. 2004	Mar. 2003	Jan. 2004	Feb. 2004
U.S. city average .....	186.2	187.4	1.7	1.2	0.6	181.9	182.9	1.4	1.1	0.5
Chicago-Gary-Kenosha, IL-IN-WI .....	186.4	186.3	0.8	0.5	-0.1	179.9	179.7	0.4	0.4	-0.1
Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA .....	190.1	191.5	1.8	1.6	0.7	183.4	184.9	1.8	1.8	0.8
New York-Northern N.J.-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA .....	201.1	203.4	3.2	1.8	1.1	196.3	198.2	3.2	1.7	1.0
Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT .....	-	208.7	2.9	0.1	-	-	207.4	2.5	0.3	-
Cleveland-Akron, OH .....	-	180.0	2.6	0.9	-	-	171.0	2.3	0.7	-
Dallas-Fort Worth, TX .....	-	177.7	0.5	1.1	-	-	177.6	0.6	1.1	-
Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV (1) .....	-	118.1	1.9	0.9	-	-	117.6	1.8	0.9	-
Atlanta, GA.....	180.8	-	-	-	-	178.7	-	-	-	-
Detroit-Ann Arbor-Flint, MI .....	183.4	-	-	-	-	178.1	-	-	-	-
Houston-Galveston-Brazoria, TX .....	168.5	-	-	-	-	165.7	-	-	-	-
Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL .....	183.6	-	-	-	-	180.8	-	-	-	-
Philadelphia-Wilmington-Atlantic City, PA-NJ-DE-MD .....	191.4	-	-	-	-	191.2	-	-	-	-
San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA .....	198.1	-	-	-	-	194.1	-	-	-	-
Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA .....	193.5	-	-	-	-	187.8	-	-	-	-

(1) Indexes on a November 1996=100 base.

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## Consumer Price Index, March 2004

**Note to CPI users:**

This announcement details Consumer Price Indexes for two population groups: All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Both indexes reflect 1982-84 spending patterns. Monthly percent changes are shown for the U.S. and five large areas; bimonthly data are presented for the remaining areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the levels of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

Local area CPI indexes are by-products of the national CPI program. Because each local index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is, therefore, subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. As a result, area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. Therefore, the Bureau of Labor Statistics strongly urges users to consider adopting the national average CPI for use in escalator clauses.

This announcement is primarily intended for those users requiring the current indexes on a regular basis. More detailed information may be obtained by writing this office, calling (215) 597-3282, or faxing (215) 861-5720. For accuracy in requesting changes to this mailing list, please notify this office in writing. **Such requests should be accompanied by a copy of the old mailing label.**

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