

Consumer Price Index Data for December 2013

Food

The food index rose 0.1 percent in December, the same increase as in November. The index for food at home was unchanged, although four of the six major grocery store food groups posted increases. The index for nonalcoholic beverages, which declined in November, rose 0.5 percent in December. The index for dairy and related products rose 0.4 percent for the second month in a row, while the indexes for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs and for other food at home both rose 0.3 percent. Offsetting these increases was a sharp decline in the fruits and vegetables index; it fell 1.5 percent as the fresh vegetables index declined 2.7 percent. The index for cereals and bakery products also declined, falling 0.1 percent. The index for food away from home rose 0.1 percent in December after a 0.3 percent increase in November.

Energy

The energy index rose 2.1 percent in December after falling in October and November. The energy index has now risen 0.2 percent over the last six months. The gasoline index, which fell 1.6 percent in November, rose 3.1 percent in December. (Before seasonal adjustment, gasoline prices rose 0.7 percent in December.) The fuel oil index also rose, increasing 2.4 percent in December. The electricity index rose 0.4 percent, its fourth consecutive increase. The only major energy component index to decline was the index for natural gas, which fell 0.4 percent, its third consecutive decrease.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.1 percent in December after a 0.2 percent advance in November. The shelter index rose 0.2 percent in December after a 0.3 percent increase in November. The rent index increased 0.3 percent, while the index for owners' equivalent rent rose 0.2 percent. The index for lodging away from home fell 0.3 percent after rising in November. The apparel index rose 0.9 percent in December after declining in each of the three previous months. The tobacco index rose 0.6 percent and the personal care index increased 0.3 percent. The new vehicles index was unchanged in December, as was the medical care index. The index for medical care services rose 0.3 percent, but the index for medical care commodities fell 0.8 percent, as the prescription drugs index declined 0.9 percent. The airline fares index declined sharply in December, falling 4.7 percent after increasing in recent months. The indexes for recreation, for household furnishings and operations, and for used cars and trucks also fell in December.

Not seasonally adjusted CPI measures

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) increased 1.5 percent over the last 12 months to an index level of 233.049 (1982-84=100). For the month, the index was unchanged prior to seasonal adjustment.

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased 1.5 percent over the last 12 months to an index level of 229.174 (1982-84=100). For the month, the index was unchanged prior to seasonal adjustment.