

# Consumer Price Index

The Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a fixed market basket of consumer goods and services. The CPI-U provides a way for consumers to compare what the same market basket of goods cost a month or a year ago.

The December 1999 to December 2000 change in the CPI-U was 3.4 percent. This is the largest over-

the-year increase since 1990 when the increase reached 6.1 percent. The CPI-U consists of eight components. Energy grew the fastest, 14.2 percent. Housing increased 4.3 percent followed by other Goods and Services (4.2 percent), medical care (4.2 percent), transportation services (4.1 percent), recreation (1.7 percent), and education and communication (1.3 percent). Apparel saw the only decrease over-the-year, -1.8 percent.

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The December 2000 Over-The-Year  
Change in the CPI-U Was Highest in Ten Years

