
Consumer Price Index

December 1998 to December 1999

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 1998 to December 1999 change in the CPI-U was 2.7 percent. The December to December change has been

greater than two percent every year this decade, except 1997 and 1998 when it was 1.7 and 1.6 percent, respectively. The CPI-U consists of eight components. Energy grew the fastest, 13.4 percent. Other goods and services increased 5.1 percent followed by medical care (3.7 percent), transportation services (2.3 percent), housing (2.2 percent), education and communication (1.6 percent), and recreation (0.8 percent). Apparel saw the only decrease over-the-year, -0.5 percent.

Elisabeth Picard

The Over-The-Year Change in the CPI-U Climbed
Back over Two Percent in December 1999

