

How to Access CPI Data

Step 1 Go to the Bureau of Labor Statistics Web site: www.bls.gov/cpi .

The screenshot shows the Bureau of Labor Statistics website. At the top, it says "UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR" and "www.bls.gov". There is a search bar with "All BLS.gov" entered. Below that, the "BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS" logo is prominent. Navigation tabs include "Home", "Subject Areas", "Databases & Tables", "Publications", and "Economic Releases". A secondary navigation bar lists categories like "INFLATION", "SPENDING", "UNEMPLOYMENT", "EMPLOYMENT", "PAY & BENEFITS", "PRODUCTIVITY", and "INJURIES". The main heading is "Consumer Price Index". On the left, there is a "BROWSE CPI" menu with options like "CPI HOME", "CPI OVERVIEW", "CPI NEWS RELEASES", "CPI DATABASES", "CPI TABLES", "CPI PUBLICATIONS", "CPI FAQs", and "CONTACT CPI". Below that is a "SEARCH CPI" field with a "Go" button. The main content area includes an "Announcement" about common misconceptions, a "Next Release: April 15, 2009" notice stating that March 2008 CPI data are scheduled for release on April 15, 2009, at 8:30 A.M. Eastern Time, and a "On This Page" section with links to "CPI News Releases", "CPI Publications", and "CPI Databases". On the right, there is a "Latest Numbers" section with data for "CPI-U, US City Average, All Items" for NSA, SA, and NSA categories, showing percentages for Feb 2009 and historical data links.

Step 2 Scroll down and on the right hand side, select “Los Angeles” in the drop-down menu under the map of states, and click “Go”.

The screenshot shows the "CPI Databases" section of the website. It features a table of databases with columns for "Database Name", "Special Notice", "Top Picks", "One Screen", "Multi-Screen", "Tables", and "Text Files". The databases listed are: "All Urban Consumers (Current Series)", "Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (Current Series)", "All Urban Consumers (Chained CPI)", "Average Price Data", and "Department Store Inventory Price Index". Each database row has icons for "TOP PICKS", "ONE-SCREEN DATA SEARCH", "MULTI-SCREEN DATA SEARCH", "TABLES", and "TEXT FILES". On the right side, there is a "Regional Resources" section with a map of the United States. Below the map is a drop-down menu with "Los Angeles" selected and a "Go" button. A red arrow points to the "Los Angeles" text in the drop-down menu. Above the map is a "Subscribe" section with an RSS icon and a "SUBSCRIBE" button.

Step 3 On the next screen, click on “More Formatting Options”.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
www.bls.gov Search: All BLS.gov for: Search

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Databases, Tables & Calculators by Subject

Change Output Options: From: 1999 To: 2009 GO
 include graphs **NEW!** [More Formatting Options](#)

Data extracted on: March 25, 2009 (10:46:07 AM)

Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers

Series Id: CUURA421SA0, CUUSA421SA0
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
 Area: Los Angeles--Riverside--Orange County, CA
 Item: All items
 Base Period: 1982-84=100

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual	HALF1	HALF2
1999	164.2	164.6	165.0	166.6	166.2	165.4	165.8	166.3	167.2	167.2	167.1	167.3	166.1	165.3	166.8
2000	167.9	169.3	170.7	170.6	171.1	171.0	171.7	172.2	173.3	173.8	173.5	173.5	171.6	170.1	173.0
2001	174.2	175.4	176.2	176.6	177.5	178.9	178.3	178.4	178.8	178.3	178.1	177.1	177.3	176.5	178.2
2002	178.9	180.1	181.1	182.2	182.6	181.9	182.2	183.0	183.4	183.7	184.0	183.7	182.2	181.1	183.3

Step 4 Now select the following options:

- Check the box, “12 Months Percent Change”
- Specify year range, (select the year prior and the current calendar year)*
- Click on “Select one time period” and select “February”
- Click “Retrieve Data”

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Databases

Select view of the data
 Column Format
 Table Format

Original Data Value
 1 Month Percent Change
 2 Months Percent Change
 3 Months Percent Change
 6 Months Percent Change
 12 Months Percent Change

Select the time frame for your data
 All years OR Specify year range:
 From: 2008 To: 2009
 All Time Periods OR Select one time period:
 Annual Data
 January
 February
 March
 April
 May

Output Type: (select one) HTML table OR Text
 comma delimited include graphs

Retrieve Data

* For a historical comparison of the CPI and retiree COLAs, you may specify a range earlier than the current year.

Step 5 You will be given the CPI for Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange Counties. The resulting number is the retiree COLA for the coming fiscal year.

Databases, Tables & Calculators by Subject

Change Output Options:

From: 2008 To: 2009 **GO**

include graphs **NEW!**

[More Formatting Options](#) →

Data extracted on: March 25, 2009 (11:17:46 AM)

Consumer Price Index - All Urban Consumers

Series Id: CUURA421SA0,CUUSA421SA0
Not Seasonally Adjusted
Area: Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA
Item: All items
Base Period: 1982-84=100

Year	Feb
2008	221.431
2009	221.439

12 Months Percent Change

Series Id: CUURA421SA0,CUUSA421SA0
Not Seasonally Adjusted
Area: Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA
Item: All items
Base Period: 1982-84=100

Year	Feb
2008	3.1
2009	0.0

← Basis for 2008 Retiree COLA

← Basis for 2009 Retiree COLA