

Consumer Price Index Report

Energy:

The energy index increased 0.9 percent in May after rising 0.3 percent in April. Major energy components were mixed in May. The electricity index rose 2.3 percent in May after declining 2.6 percent in April. This is largely due to semiannual climate credits applied to electricity bills in California. The credits were applied to bills in April, causing the decline, while the May increase reflects those bills returning to levels that do not include the credit. The gasoline index rose 0.7 percent in May. In contrast, the index for natural gas declined in May, falling 1.7 percent after increasing in each of the four previous months. The fuel oil index also declined in May, falling 1.4 percent. The energy index has risen 3.3 percent over the past 12 months, the same 12-month change as in April. All major energy component indexes have increased over that time period, including electricity (3.6 percent) and gasoline (2.3 percent).

Crude Core:

The index for crude non-food materials less energy moved up 5.0 percent in December and 4.9 percent for the 3 months ending in December. For the three months ending in September, crude core prices climbed 12.3 percent. In December, over half of the monthly increase can be attributed to a 12.7 percent jump in prices for iron and steel scrap. An advance in the non-ferrous metal ores index also was a significant factor in the rise in prices for crude non-food materials less energy.