

Statistics Bureau News Bulletin

Japan

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Japan's Consumer Price Index in 2008

Japan's "All Items" index of consumer prices stood at 101.7 in 2008 (2005=100), up 1.4% from the previous year.

The "All Items index excluding fresh food" stood at 101.6, up 1.5% from the previous year.

The "All Items index excluding food (excluding alcoholic beverages) and energy" stood at 99.3, unchanged from the previous year.

The main factors behind the changes of the price index in 2008 were as follows:

Main factors behind the changes of the price index in 2008: (Change from the previous year, unless otherwise mentioned)

- "Gasoline" and "Kerosene" rose due to the oil price hike. (However, the indices fell from September, due to a steep fall in the oil price. Also, the gasoline index plunged in April when temporary tax had expired.)
- "Electricity" and "Gas" rose due to steep rises in the price of oil and liquefied natural gas.
- "Cereals" rose, mainly due to a steep rise in the price of wheat.
- "Meat" and "Dairy products & eggs" rose due to a steep rise in the price of feedstuff.
- "Cakes & candies" rose mainly due to a steep rise in the prices of cacao beans and dairy products.
- "National expressway tolls" fell, mainly due to the discount for vehicle equipped with the ETC system.
- "Automotive insurance premium (compulsion)" fell due to a fall in the insurance rate following a revision in April due to a long-term decline of vehicle accidents.
- "Durable goods" such as "TV sets (LCD)" and "Personal computers" fell, mainly because of technical progress and performance upgrades for them.
- "Package tours to overseas" rose, mainly due to rises in the fuel surcharge.

By basic classification

Among sub-indices for the ten major groups, "Food" rose 2.6% from the previous year, mainly due to a rise in "Cereals" and "Cakes & candies". "Housing" rose 0.2%, mainly due to a rise in "Repairs & maintenance". "Fuel, light & water charges" rose 6.0%, mainly due to a rise in "Other fuel & light (Kerosene)". "Clothes & footwear" rose 0.5%, mainly due to a rise in "Footwear". "Transportation & communication" rose 2.0%, mainly due to a rise in "Private transportation" which includes "Gasoline". "Education" rose 0.7%, mainly due to a rise in "School fees". "Miscellaneous" rose 0.4%, mainly due to a rise in "Personal effects".

On the other hand, "Furniture & household utensils" fell 0.3%, mainly due to a fall in "Household durables". "Medical care" fell 0.3%, mainly due to a fall in "Medical supplies & appliances". "Reading & recreation" fell 0.5%, mainly due to a fall in "Recreational durables".

By goods and services classification

The goods index rose 2.4% from the previous year resulting from increases in "Petroleum products" due to the oil price hike, and in "Food products", such as "White bread" and "Chocolate".

The services index rose 0.4%, mainly due to a rise in "General services" such as "Package tours to overseas".

