

## **New Seasonal Adjustment Method to be Implemented**

Effective with the release of revised seasonally adjusted data for 1992-1996 on February 14, 1997, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) will begin using X-12-ARIMA seasonal adjustment software (developed by the Bureau of the Census) for performing Intervention Analysis Seasonal Adjustment (IASA) for selected CPI series. The X-12 ARIMA methodology incorporates a number of technical enhancements that improve the estimation of seasonal factors. This change will affect 20 CPI series. In addition, all remaining Consumer Price Index series requiring seasonal adjustment will be processed using X-12-ARIMA software beginning in February 1998. Seasonal adjustment methods in the Producer Price Index will change in similar fashion.

For more information, please contact Claire McAnaw Gallagher on (202) 606-6968.

## **Recalculated Seasonally Adjusted Indexes to be Available on February 14, 1997**

Each year with the release of the January CPI, seasonal adjustment factors are recalculated to reflect price movements from the just-completed calendar year. This routine annual recalculation may result in revisions to seasonally adjusted indexes for the previous 5 years. BLS will make available recalculated seasonally adjusted indexes, as well as recalculated seasonal adjustment factors, for the period January 1992 through December 1996, at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, February 14, 1997. Seasonal factors for 1997 for directly adjusted series will also be available. This date is 2 working days before the scheduled release of the January 1997 CPI on Wednesday, February 19, 1997.

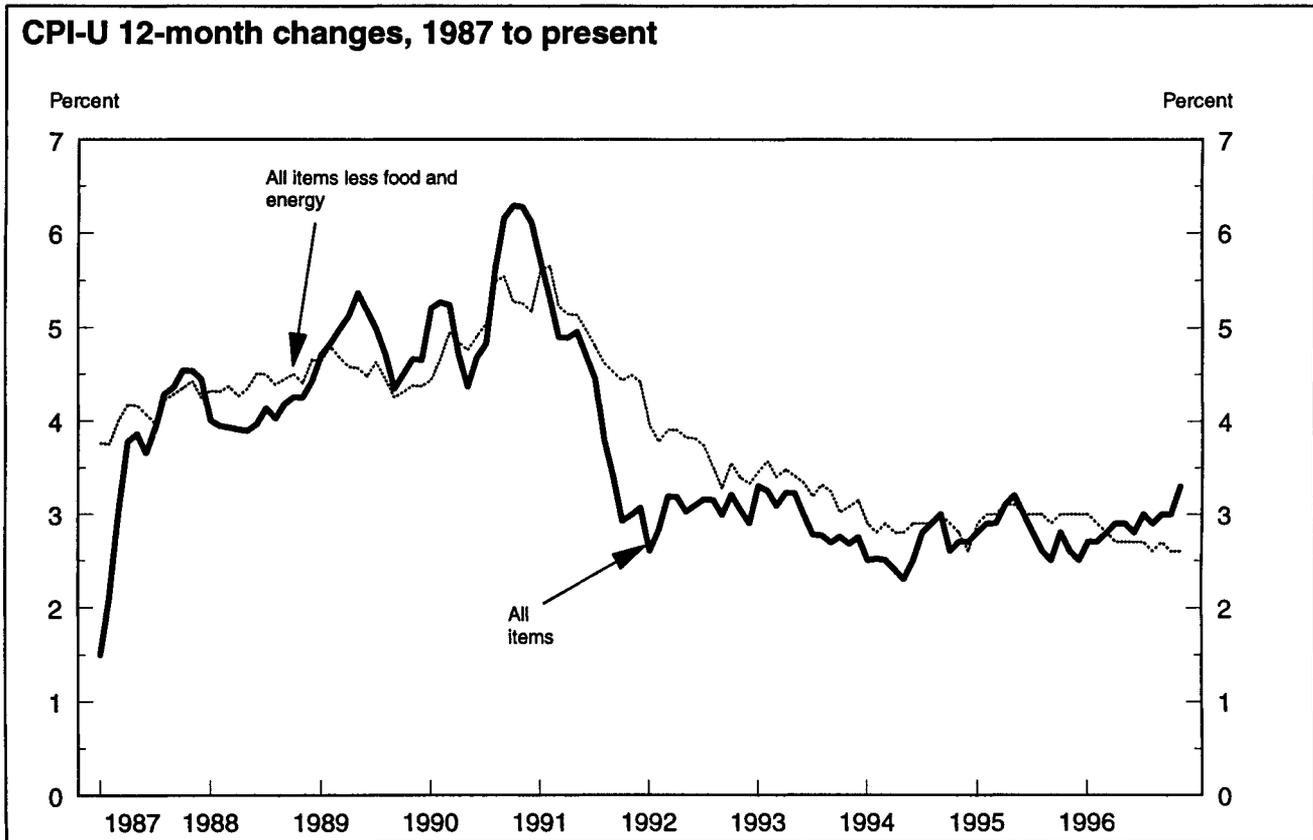
The revised indexes and seasonal factors will be available on the internet at [gopher://stats.bls.gov](http://gopher://stats.bls.gov). Choose the "special requests" directory, and then the "cpi" directory. The revised seasonal data will be in the file `revseas.cpi`.

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The index for other goods and services increased 0.4 percent in November, the same as in October. The index for tobacco products increased 0.4 percent in November and has risen 1.8 percent in the past 3 months.

### CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers rose 0.3 percent in November.



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### **Commissioner Held Briefing on December 19th on CPI Advisory Commission's Recommendations**

The Commissioner of BLS Katharine G. Abraham, held a briefing on Thursday, December 19th, on the major technical issues raised in the Final Report of the Advisory Commission to Study the CPI.

The briefing covered the Bureau's reaction to the Commission's recommendations regarding changes to the formulas used to construct the CPI. In addition, the briefing addressed the broad topic of how changes in the quality of goods and services, changes in the variety of items available, and changes in the mix of retail outlets at which consumers shop potentially affect the accuracy of the CPI.

Documents which were made available at the December 19th briefing, as well as documents distributed at an earlier (December 3rd) briefing, are available on the World Wide Web at: <http://stats.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>