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MARCH 16, 2001

## Producer Price Indexes -- February 2001

The Producer Price Index for Finished Goods edged up 0.1 percent in February, seasonally adjusted, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S Department of Labor reported today. This rise followed a 1.1-percent increase in January and a 0.2-percent gain in December. At the earlier stages of processing, prices received by producers of intermediate goods edged down 0.1 percent, following a 0.7-percent rise in the prior month, while the crude goods index decreased 14.2 percent, after jumping 13.9 percent a month ago. (See table A.)

Table A. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes, seasonally adjusted

Feb.
.1
.6
1.4
$-.3$
4.0
$-.1$
$-14.2$
$r=r e v i s e d$. Some of the figures shown above and elsewhere in this release may differ from those previously reported because data for October 2000 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents.

Led by price declines for passenger cars and light motor trucks, the index for finished goods other than foods and energy fell 0.3 percent, following a 0.7 -percent advance in January. Excluding passenger cars and light motor trucks, this index would have increased 0.1 percent in
February. Prices for finished energy goods rose 1.4 percent, after posting a 3.8-percent advance in the prior month. The rate of increase in prices for finished consumer foods slowed to 0.6 percent in February from 0.8 percent in January.

Before seasonal adjustment, the Producer Price Index for Finished Goods rose 0.2 percent to stand at 141.5 (1982=100). From February 2000 to February 2001, finished goods prices advanced 4.0 percent. Over the same period, the finished energy goods index jumped 18.4 percent, prices for finished goods other than foods and energy gained 1.3 percent, and the index for finished consumer foods increased 2.6 percent. Prices received by producers of intermediate goods moved up 3.5 percent for the 12 months ended in February, and the crude goods index registered a 20.8 -percent gain during the same period.

Table B. Monthly and annual percent changes in selected price indexes for intermediate goods and crude goods, seasonally adjusted


|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| July | -.6 | 1.0 | .2 | 5.2 | -1.9 | -2.3 | -1.5 | 25.3 |
| Aug. | -2.0 | -.5 | -.1 | 4.3 | -3.9 | -4.1 | -1.6 | 14.7 |
| Sept. | .6 | 4.3 | 0 | 4.6 | 3.8 | 11.7 | .8 | 17.4 |
| Oct. | .6 | r1.1 | 0 | 4.6 | 3.1 | $r 5.9$ | r-.8 | r25.3 |
| Nov. | .1 | $r 0$ | -.1 | 4.2 | 1.3 | $r-6.9$ | r-2.2 | 14.9 |
| Dec. | 1.7 | 1.5 | 0 | 4.1 | 3.4 | 14.8 | .3 | 31.6 |
| 2001 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jan. | 1.7 | 3.1 | .2 | 4.4 | 2.2 | 25.0 | .5 | 46.5 |
| Feb. | -1.5 | -1.1 | .1 | 3.5 | -1.6 | -23.3 | -2.5 | 20.8 |

$r=r e v i s e d$. Some of the figures shown above and elsewhere in this release may differ from those previously reported because data for October 2000 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents.

Finished goods
Prices for finished consumer goods other than foods and energy dipped 0.4 percent in February, following a 0.8 -percent rise in January. The passenger car index declined 1.5 percent in February, after having increased 1.2 percent in the prior month. February's decrease in passenger cars is the largest decline since a 1.6-percent drop in July 1997. Light motor truck prices fell 3.6 percent, following a $0.3-p e r c e n t ~ g a i n ~ i n ~$ January. The cigarette index showed no change in February, after posting a 6.3-percent advance in the previous month. Prices for sanitary papers and health products and for cosmetics and other toilet preparations turned down in February. The prescription drugs index showed little change, compared to a 0.5-percent rise in January. By contrast, prices for tufted broadloom carpets turned up 1.9 percent, after falling 1.1 percent in January. The indexes for newspaper circulation, footwear, and women's apparel also turned up in February. Prices for girls', children's, and infants' apparel showed no change, following a decrease in the prior month.

The capital equipment index fell 0.3 percent, after posting a $0.3-$ percent gain in January. February's 3.6-percent decline in light motor truck prices was the largest since a 3.7-percent decrease in October 1982 and followed a 0.3-percent rise in the previous month. The indexes for passenger cars and heavy motor trucks also fell, after advancing a month ago. Prices for civilian aircraft and commercial furniture increased less than in the prior month. Conversely, the index for electronic computers declined 1.1 percent, following a 5.4 -percent drop in the previous month. Prices for communication and related equipment showed little change for the eighth consecutive month. The index for construction machinery and equipment decreased less than a month earlier.

The index for finished energy goods advanced 1.4 percent, after
increasing 3.8 percent in January. Leading this deceleration, the rate of increase in residential natural gas prices slowed to 3.5 percent from an 11.3-percent rate in the prior month. The indexes for liquefied petroleum gas and residential electric power also increased at a slower pace than in January. Gasoline prices turned down in February. On the other hand, the home heating oil index decreased 1.6 percent in February, following a 3.6percent decline in January. Diesel fuel prices also fell less than a month earlier. The index for finished lubricants rose more than in January.

Finished consumer food prices rose 0.6 percent in February, following a 0.8 -percent gain in the prior month. In February, advancing prices for finfish and shellfish, fresh and dry vegetables, processed young chickens, pork, and bakery products outweighed declining prices for fresh fruits and melons, dairy products, and soft drinks.

Intermediate goods
The Producer Price Index for Intermediate Materials, Supplies, and Components edged down 0.1 percent in February, after posting a 0.7-percent gain in January. Prices for intermediate energy goods and intermediate foods and feeds turned down, after rising in the prior month. The index for nondurable manufacturing materials advanced at a slower rate than in the previous month. By contrast, prices for materials and components for construction rose, after decreasing in January. The index for durable manufacturing materials fell less than in the prior month. Excluding foods and energy, prices for intermediate materials, supplies, and components inched up 0.1 percent, following a 0.2 -percent rise in January. (See table B.)

The intermediate energy goods index dropped 1.1 percent in February, compared to a 3.1-percent increase in January. Commercial electric power prices fell 2.6 percent, following a 3.9 -percent advance a month earlier. The indexes for natural gas to electric utilities, industrial electric power, industrial natural gas, and gasoline also turned down, after rising in the prior month. February prices for commercial natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas increased at a slower pace than in January. Conversely, the jet fuels index declined 0.6 percent in February, following a 12.9-percent drop in January. Diesel fuel prices also fell less than in the previous month.

The index for intermediate foods and feeds fell 1.5 percent in February, after posting a 1.7 -percent rise in January. Prices for prepared animal feeds declined 3.5 percent, following a 3.0 -percent advance a month ago. The fluid milk products index also turned down, after moving up in the previous month. In February, beef and veal prices showed no change,
following an increase in the prior month. The index for confectionery materials rose at a slower rate than in January. By contrast, pork prices moved up 1.3-percent in February, after falling 2.6 percent in the prior month. The indexes for butter and for natural, processed, and imitation cheese also rose in February, following declines in the previous month. Refined sugar prices increased at a faster pace than in January.

In February, rising prices for nondurable manufacturing materials slowed to 0.7 percent, following a 1.1-percent rate of increase in January. The index for nitrogenates moved up 4.1 percent in February, after jumping 24.1 percent a month earlier. Prices for paperboard decreased more than in the prior month. The index for inedible fats and oils turned down in February. Paper prices showed no change, after rising in the previous month. On the other hand, the index for basic inorganic chemicals increased 7.3 percent, following a 0.2 -percent decline in January. Prices for synthetic fibers and phosphates also advanced, after falling a month ago. The index for primary basic organic chemicals rose more than in January.

The index for materials and components for construction advanced 0.3 percent in February, following a 0.3-percent decline a month earlier. Softwood lumber prices increased 2.2 percent, after falling 2.9 percent in January. The indexes for fabricated structural metal products, air conditioning and refrigeration equipment, and steel wire also turned up, following declines in the previous month. The rate of decline in prices for plywood and gypsum products slowed from January to February. By contrast, the nonferrous wire and cable index decreased 1.1 percent in February, after declining 0.6 percent in January. Prices for millwork, heating equipment, and wiring devices rose less than in the prior month. The index for fabricated ferrous wire products turned down, after advancing in January.

Price decreases for durable manufacturing materials slowed from a 0.7percent rate of decline in January to a 0.2 percent rate in February. The index for steel mill products fell 1.0 percent, after falling 1.7 percent in January. In February, prices for aluminum mill shapes and cement turned up, following declines a month earlier. The indexes for copper cathode and up, following declines a month earlier. The indexes for copper cathode
refined copper; plywood; and for copper and brass mill shapes fell less than in the prior month. By contrast, a 1.0 -percent drop in flat glass prices was registered in February, following a 0.4 -percent gain a month ago. The indexes for hardwood lumber, metal powders, and platinum also decreased, after rising in the previous month.

Registering the largest one-month decrease in prices since the index's inception, the Producer Price Index for Crude Materials for Further Processing decreased 14.2 percent in February, seasonally adjusted, following a 13.9-percent gain in January. The indexes for crude energy materials, crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs, and basic industrial materials turned down, after advancing a month ago. (See table B.)

Prices for crude energy materials fell 23.3 percent in February, after registering a 25.0 -percent gain in January. The index for natural gas declined 34.7 percent (the largest decrease on record), after rising 46.0 percent in the previous month. On the other hand, prices for coal moved up 12.8 percent, following a 3.0 -percent decrease in January. The index for crude petroleum advanced 2.7 percent in February, after falling 10.6 percent in the prior month.

The index for crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs decreased 1.6 percent in February, following a 2.2-percent increase in January. Corn prices dropped 12.5 percent, after posting a $7.0-p e r c e n t$ gain in the previous month. The indexes for fluid milk, wheat, and for fresh fruits and melons turned down in February, after advancing in the prior month. Prices for slaughter cattle rose at a slower rate in February than in January. The index for soybeans fell more than in the prior month. By contrast, prices for slaughter broilers and fryers moved up 4.3 percent, following a 0.3-percent rise in January. The indexes for unprocessed finfish, alfalfa hay, and raw cane sugar rose more in February than in the previous month. Prices for unprocessed shellfish turned up, after falling in January. The index for slaughter hogs decreased at a slower rate than in January.

Prices for crude nonfood materials less energy declined 2.5 percent in February, after registering a $0.5-p e r c e n t$ increase in January. The index for iron and steel scrap fell 6.9 percent, following an 8.3 -percent gain in the prior month. Prices for copper ores and aluminum base scrap turned down, after rising last month. The indexes for wastepaper and for softwood logs, bolts, and timber fell more than in January. On the other hand, raw cotton prices dropped 4.1 percent, after falling 8.8 percent in the previous month. The index for phosphates turned up, after decreasing a month ago. Prices for construction sand, gravel, and crushed stone rose at a higher rate than in January.

Net output price indexes for mining, manufacturing, and services industries
Mining. The Producer Price Index for the Net Output of Total Mining Industries dropped 19.1 percent in February, following a 22.3-percent increase in January. (Net output price indexes are not seasonally adjusted.) Most of February's downturn in prices can be traced to a 23.5-
percent decrease in prices received by the crude petroleum, natural gas, and natural gas liquids industry, which followed a 27.9 -percent rise in January. The index for the copper ores industry also turned down in February, after an increase in the prior month. Prices received by the oil and gas well drilling, coal mining services, and for construction sand and gravel industries rose less than in January. By contrast, the index for the bituminous coal and lignite industry turned up 8.9 percent in February, following a 1.6-percent decline in the previous month. Prices paid to the potash, soda, and borate minerals industry rose more than in January. In February, the Producer Price Index for the Net Output of Total Mining Industries stood at 138.2 (December $1984=100$ ), 44.3 percent above its yearago level.

Manufacturing. The Producer Price Index for the Net Output of Total
Manufacturing Industries showed no change in February, after increasing 0.2 percent in January. Rising prices paid to the chemical and allied products, printing and publishing, food and kindred products, and lumber and wood products industry groups offset falling prices paid to the transportation equipment, petroleum refining, paper and allied products, and electrical and electronic machinery industry groups. In February, the Producer Price Index for the Net Output of Total Manufacturing Industries stood at 134.7 (December $1984=100$ ), 1.9 percent above its year-ago level.

Services. Among service industries in January, price increases were registered for the security brokers, operators and lessors of
nonresidential buildings, offices of physicians, legal services, and hotels and motels industries. On the other hand, falling prices were observed for the telephone communications, except radiotelephone, help supply services, prepackaged software, and scheduled air transportation industries.
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Producer Price Index data for March 2001 will be
released on Thursday, April 12, 2001 at 8:30 a.m. (E.D.T.)
Table 1. Producer price indexes and percent changes by stage of processing (1982=100)




1/ Comprehensive relative importance figures are initially computed after the publication of December indexes and are recalculated after final December indexes are available. The first-published and final December relative importances initially appear, respectively, in the release tables containing January and May data.
2/ The indexes for October 2000 have been recalculated to incorporate late reports and corrections by respondents. All indexes are subject to revision 4 months after original publication.

3/ Includes crude petroleum.
4/ Excludes crude petroleum.
5/ Percent of total finished goods.
6/ Percent of total intermediate materials.
7/ Formerly titled "Crude materials for further processing, excluding crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs, plant and animal fibers, oilseeds, and leaf tobacco." 8/ Percent of total crude materials.

Table 2. Producer price indexes and percent changes for selected commodity groupings by stage of processing (1982=100 unless otherwise indicated)

01-11
$01-13$
$01-71-07$
$02-11$
$02-13$
$02-14-02$
$02-21-01$
$02-21-04$
$02-22-03$
$02-22-06$
$02-23$
$02-3$
$02-4$
$02-55$
$02-62$
$02-63-01$
$02-78$

FINISHED CONSUMER FOODS..................................... 138.0

Eggs for fresh use (Dec. 1991=100)............................................. 90.7

Men's and boys' apparel..................................... 133.2
extil children s, and infants' apparel 2/........... . 116.1 Footwear 2/ $\qquad$
Residential electric power (Dec. 1990=100)............ 112.9
Residential gas (Dec. 1990=100)............................ 153.0
Gasoline..
153.0
98.2
......................................................
98.2
107.8

Pharmaceutical preps, ethical (Prescription) $2 / . . . . \mid 347.1$
Pharmaceutical preps,proprietary (Over-counter) 2/..| 187.2
Soaps and synthetic detergents 2/..................... 130.2
Cosmetics and other toilet preparations 2/........... 138.5

Sanitary papers and health products $2 / \ldots . . . . . . . . . .$.
Newspaper circulation 2/...................................... 214.9
Periodical circulation.................................... 198.6
Book publishing..

| . | 198.6 |
| :--- | :--- |
| . | 223.1 |

Household furniture 2/....................................... 153.5
Floor coverings $2 / . .$. ......................................... 131.1

138.4139 .5
2.6
-8. 3

| 96.5 | 88.5 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 28.8 |  |


| -11.5 | -8.3 |
| ---: | ---: |
| 35.5 | 13.2 |
| -6.0 | -6.4 |
| 3.1 | .4 |
| -12.3 | -2.3 |
| -.1 | 0 |
| 11.8 | 1. |
| -1.5 | 3. |
| 5.5 | 4. |
| -.3 | -1. |
| 1.7 | 9. |
| 4.1 | .- |
| -.8 | . |
| .4 | . |
| 2.5 | . |
| -10.0 | .- |
| -2.9 | -.3 |
|  |  |
| 6.1 | . |

123.3

| 133.2 | 133.0 |
| :--- | :--- |
| 116.6 | 116.6 |

3. 

-1.
-.1
.1
-.2
0
.6
.9
.8
2.3
1.2
-3.0
.1
.4
-.3
-.3
.2
-1.5
.4
0
-.3

| 2.0 | 4.3 | -8.3 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| -26.0 | 16.2 | 13.2 |
| 6.6 | -3.2 | 1.0 |
| -.2 | .2 | .4 |
| -.1 | -.5 | -2.3 |
| 0 | .2 | 0 |
| 3.5 | 3.4 | 0 |
| .4 | -2.6 | 1.3 |
| -1.2 | -2.4 | 5.6 |
| -.9 | -2.9 | 1.9 |
| 1.3 | .2 | 9.3 |
| 2.0 | 1.6 | -.7 |
| -.2 | .2 | .4 |
| -.3 | .1 | .2 |
| 0 | .6 | -.4 |
| 0 | -.1 | .1 |
| -.5 | -2.1 | -.3 |
|  |  |  |
| .4 | 1.8 | .2 |
| 1.1 | -.1 | -.5 |
| .1 | -.1 | .1 |
| -.1 | -.2 | -.1 |
| 0 | -1.5 | 0 |
| 0 | .2 | .6 |
| .3 | -.4 | .9 |
| 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.0 |
| 6.5 | 11.3 | 3.5 |
| -2.6 | 1.6 | -.8 |
| -.3 | -3.6 | -1.6 |
| .6 | .5 | .1 |
| -.1 | -.2 | .4 |
| .2 | .3 | -.3 |
| 0 | .3 | -.3 |
| -.1 | -.2 | .2 |
| -.7 | 1.8 | -1.5 |
| .1 | -.3 | .4 |
| .3 | -.5 | 0 |
| 1.2 | . .6 | 0 |
| .1 | .1 | .1 |
| 1.8 | -.8 | 1.4 |
| 0 | -.3 | -.1 |
| 0 | -.3 | -.1 |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| .3 |  |  |

.6

| 12-62 | \| Household glassware | 167.5 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 12-64 | \| Household flatware 2/ | 144.8 |
| 12-66 | \| Lawn and garden equip., ex. tractors 2/ | 132.4 |
| 14-11-01 | \| Passenger cars | 135.0 |
| 15-11 | \| Toys, games, and children's vehicles 2/ | 122.0 |
| 15-12 | \| Sporting and athletic goods 2/ | 125.8 |
| 15-2 | \| Tobacco products 2/ | 403.8 |
| 15-5 | \| Mobile homes $2 /$ | 162.1 |
| 15-94-02 | \| Jewelry, platinum, \& karat gold 2/ | 127.2 |
| 15-94-04 | \| Costume jewelry and novelties 2/. | 142.3 |
|  | \| |  |
|  | \| CAPITAL EQUIPMENT | 139.8 |
|  | \| |  |
| 11-1 | \| Agricultural machinery and equipment 2/ | 154.1 |
| 11-2 | \| Construction machinery and equipment | 148.9 |
| 11-37 | \| Metal cutting machine tools 2/ | 162.1 |
| 11-38 | \| Metal forming machine tools 2/. | 163.0 |
| 11-39 | \| Tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, and ind. molds 2/ | 140.9 |
| 11-41 | \| Pumps, compressors, and equipment | 154.6 |
| 11-44 | \| Industrial material handling equipment 2/ | 135.3 |
| 11-51 | \| Electronic computers (Dec. 1998=100) $2 /$ | 70.4 |
| 11-62 | \| Textile machinery 2/ | 156.5 |
| 11-64 | \| Paper industries machinery (June 1982=100) | 164.8 |
| 11-65 | \| Printing trades machinery 2/. | 142.8 |
| 11-74 | \| Transformers and power regulators 2/ | 136.1 |
| 11-76 | \| Communication \& related equip. (Dec. 1985=100) | 110.4 |
| 11-79-05 | \| X-ray and electromedical equipment 2/ | 100.9 |
| 11-91 | \| Oil field and gas field machinery | 129.4 |
| 11-92 | \| Mining machinery and equipment 2/. | 146.5 |
| 11-93 | \| Office and store machines and equipment 2/ | 113.6 |
| 12-2 | \| Commercial furniture 2/ | 158.7 |
| 14-11-05 | \| Light motor trucks. | 161.4 |
| 14-11-06 | \| Heavy motor trucks 2/ | 148.2 |
| 14-14 | \| Truck trailers 2/. | 140.5 |
| 14-21-02 | \| Civilian aircraft (Dec. 1985=100) | 162.9 |
| 14-31 | \| Ships (Dec. 1985=100) 2/ | 148.5 |
| 14-4 | \| Railroad equipment 2/. | 135.8 |
|  | 1 |  |
|  | IINTERMEDIATE MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND COMPONENTS | 130.8 |
|  | 1 |  |
|  | INTERMEDIATE FOODS AND FEEDS. | 111.5 |
| 02-12-03 | \| Flour 2/. | 107.8 |
| 02-53 | \| Refined sugar 2/ | 106.2 |
| 02-54 | \| Confectionery materials. | 93.8 |


| 168.8 | 168.4 | 2.6 | -. 2 | . 2 | . 6 | -. 2 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 148.8 | 148.8 | 6.3 | 0 | . 5 | 0 | 0 |
| 132.5 | 132.8 | . 5 | . 2 | -. 1 | . 7 | . 2 |
| 135.4 | 133.3 | -. 4 | -1.6 | . 2 | 1.2 | -1. 5 |
| 122.2 | 122.6 | . 9 | . 3 | 0 | . 1 | . 3 |
| 125.3 | 125.6 | -. 8 | . 2 | -. 2 | . 1 | . 2 |
| 426.7 | 426.9 | 6.7 | 0 | . 1 | 5.6 | 0 |
| 162.2 | 162.2 | 1.4 | 0 | -. 1 | . 1 | 0 |
| 127.2 | 126.7 | -. 6 | -. 4 | . 2 | -. 2 | -. 4 |
| 142.3 | 142.3 | 1.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 140.2 | 139.7 | . 9 | -. 4 | . 1 | . 3 | -. 3 |
| 153.3 | 153.1 | . 1 | -. 1 | . 2 | -. 1 | -. 1 |
| 149.1 | 149.0 | . 5 | -. 1 | 0 | -. 4 | -. 1 |
| 162.4 | 162.5 | . 6 | . 1 | 0 | . 1 | . 1 |
| 162.2 | 163.5 | 2.0 | . 8 | -. 2 | -. 3 | . 8 |
| 141.9 | 142.2 | 1.0 | . 2 | -. 1 | . 5 | . 2 |
| 155.9 | 156.5 | 2.2 | . 4 | . 1 | . 3 | . 3 |
| 136.2 | 136.4 | 1.9 | . 1 | . 1 | . 5 | . 1 |
| 65.0 | 64.3 | -16.5 | -1.1 | -2.0 | -5.4 | -1.1 |
| 157.0 | 157.0 | . 8 | 0 | . 4 | -. 1 | 0 |
| 164.9 | 165.7 | 1.2 | . 5 | 0 | -. 1 | . 5 |
| 143.6 | 143.6 | 1.5 | 0 | . 4 | -. 1 | 0 |
| 135.4 | 134.9 | -. 1 | -. 4 | . 1 | . 6 | -. 4 |
| 110.4 | 110.4 | -. 5 | 0 | 0 | -. 1 | 0 |
| 100.3 | 100.3 | -2.3 | 0 | -1.4 | . 3 | 0 |
| 129.7 | 130.7 | 2.3 | . 8 | . 2 | -. 4 | . 9 |
| 147.4 | 147.6 | 1.4 | . 1 | . 1 | . 5 | . 1 |
| 113.6 | 112.9 | . 5 | -. 6 | . 3 | -. 1 | -. 6 |
| 159.5 | 159.6 | 1.3 | . 1 | . 1 | . 4 | 1 |
| 160.3 | 154.8 | -1.9 | -3.4 | . 6 | . 3 | -3.6 |
| 149.3 | 149.0 | . 7 | -. 2 | -. 1 | . 5 | -. 2 |
| 139.5 | 138.9 | . 4 | -. 4 | -. 8 | 0 | -. 4 |
| 165.4 | 166.0 | 6.6 | . 4 | . 5 | . 6 | . 4 |
| 148.5 | 148.5 | 1.9 | 0 | 0 | 1.4 | 0 |
| 135.8 | 135.8 | . 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 131.5 | 131.3 | 3.5 | -. 2 | . 4 | . 7 | -. 1 |
| 115.1 | 113.6 | 3.3 | -1.3 | 1.7 | 1.7 | -1.5 |
| 107.5 | 107.0 | 4.6 | -. 5 | -1.0 | 1.3 | -. 5 |
| 107.7 | 110.4 | -3.1 | 2.5 | 0 | 1.6 | 2.5 |
| 101.3 | 101.7 | 8.1 | . 4 | . 1 | 8.1 | . 7 |



See footnotes at end of table.
Table 2. Producer price indexes and percent changes for selected commodity groupings by stage of processing - Continued (1982=100 unless otherwise indicated)

|  |  | \| |  |  | \| Unadjus | ted | \| |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | \| |  |  | \| percen |  | \| Seasona | ly adjus | ted |
|  |  | \| Una | usted i | dex | \| change | to | \| percent | change | from: |
| Commodity |  | 1 |  |  | \| Feb. 20 | 01 fro |  |  |  |
| code | Grouping | I |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | loct. | 1 Jan. | Feb. | Feb. | Jan. | INov. to | Dec. to | Jan. to |
|  |  | 12000 1/ | $\mid 2001$ 1/ | 2001 1/\| | 2000 | 2001 | \| Dec. | Jan. | Feb. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | INTERMEDIATE MATERIALS LESS FOODS AND FEEDS | \| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | -Continued. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 05-42 | Commercial electric power | 133.8 | 135.5 | 131.6 | 4.7 | -2.9 | 0.5 | 3.9 | -2.6 |
| 05-43 | Industrial electric power | \| 134.1 | 136.9 | 134.8 | 6.4 | -1.5 | 1.3 | 3.1 | -1.4 |
| 05-52 | Commercial natural gas (Dec. 1990=100) | \| 153.5 | 203.1 | 224.4 | 94.3 | 10.5 | 5.4 | 21.1 | 13.5 |
| 05-53 | Industrial natural gas (Dec. 1990=100) | . 164.4 | 242.4 | 236.0 | 109.8 | -2.6 | 31.5 | 10.3 | -. 7 |
| 05-54 | Natural gas to electric utilities (Dec. 1990=100) | . 140.8 | 293.2 | 202.7 | 97.4 | -30.9 | 24.6 | 64.4 | -29.8 |
| 05-72-03 | Jet fuels. | . 1104.6 | 88.3 | 87.5 | 7.4 | -. 9 | 3.0 | -12.9 | -. 6 |
| 05-73-03 | No. 2 Diesel fuel | 1110.0 | 96.6 | 93.4 | 8.5 | -3.3 | 1.0 | -5.4 | -3.3 |
| 05-74 | Residual fuel $2 /$. | . 98.8 | 85.2 | 79.5 | 7.4 | -6.7 | -7.0 | -4.2 | -6.7 |
| 06-1 | Industrial chemicals 2/ | . 130.5 | 132.9 | 135.6 | 7.4 | 2.0 | . 5 | 2.1 | 2.0 |
| 06-21 | Prepared paint. | 1160.9 | 162.2 | 163.5 | 1.9 | . 8 | -. 3 | . 1 | . 4 |
| 06-22 | Paint materials 2/ | . 149.7 | 151.7 | 150.8 | 3.5 | -. 6 | . 8 | 1.1 | -. 6 |
| 06-31 | Medicinal and botanical chemicals $2 /$. | . 145.5 | 144.3 | 143.8 | -2. 4 | -. 3 | 0 | -1.0 | -. 3 |
| 06-4 | Fats and oils, inedible 2/. | . 65.5 | 78.6 | 69.2 | -8.3 | -12.0 | 6.3 | 16.6 | -12.0 |
| 06-51 | Mixed fertilizers. | . 1112.6 | 116.1 | 117.6 | 5.5 | 1.3 | . 7 | 1.6 | 1.2 |
| 06-52-01 | Nitrogenates. | . 1330.1 | 176.9 | 186.6 | 77.0 | 5.5 | 4.7 | 24.1 | 4.1 |



| 13-8 | Glass containers 2/. | 127.6 | 129.9 | 130.0 | 2.1 | . 1 | 0 | 2.0 | . 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 14-12 | Motor vehicle parts 2/ | 113.3 | 113.0 | 113.1 | -. 7 | . 1 | 0 | 0 | . 1 |
| 14-23 | Aircraft engines \& engine parts (Dec. 1985=100) | 141.8 | 141.3 | 141.8 | . 9 | . 4 | -. 1 | -. 9 | . 6 |
| 14-25 | Aircraft parts \& aux.equip., nec (June 1985=100) | 146.5 | 146.2 | 146.8 | 1.5 | . 4 | . 2 | . 1 | . 4 |
| 15-42 | Photographic supplies 2/... | 126.4 | 126.3 | (3) | (3) | (3) | -. 1 | 0 | (3) |
| 15-6 | Medical/surgical/personal aid devices 2/. | 146.5 | 147.7 | 147.7 | 1.4 | 0 | . 2 | . 5 | 0 |
|  | CRUDE MATERIALS FOR FURTHER PROCESSING. | 130.3 | 155.0 | 133.2 | 20.8 | -14.1 | 8.5 | 13.9 | -14.2 |
|  | CRUDE FOODSTUFFS AND FEEDSTUFFS. | 99.5 | 105.3 | 104.5 | 7.1 | -. 8 | 3.4 | 2.2 | -1.6 |
| 01-22-02-05\| | Corn. | 71.9 | 85.3 | 77.9 | -5.9 | -8.7 | -. 1 | 7.0 | -12.5 |
| 01-31 \| | Slaughter cattle $2 /$ | 100.2 | 114.4 | 115.7 | 14.3 | 1.1 | 5.5 | 2.5 | 1.1 |
| 01-32 | Slaughter hogs | 70.9 | 62.7 | 63.9 | -3.0 | 1.9 | 7.5 | -4.2 | -3.9 |
| 01-41-02 | Slaughter broilers/fryers | 131.0 | 132.4 | 131.7 | 11.1 | -. 5 | 2.3 | . 3 | 4.3 |
| 01-42 | Slaughter turkeys | 137.3 | 101.7 | 100.8 | . 4 | -. 9 | -1.1 | . 6 | . 5 |
| 01-6 \| | Fluid milk. | 93.8 | 100.2 | 97.5 | 10.0 | -2.7 | 8.5 | 9.9 | -. 2 |
| 01-83-01-31\| | Soybeans 2/ | 79.4 | 82.8 | 75.0 | -10.6 | -9.4 | 6.3 | -1.5 | -9.4 |
| 02-52-01-01\| | Cane sugar, raw $2 /$ | 110.5 | 112.2 | 122.1 | 30.4 | 8.8 | -4.0 | 2.7 | 8.8 |
|  | CRUDE NONFOOD MATERIALS. | 146.7 | 183.5 | 148.2 | 28.8 | -19.2 | 11.1 | 19.4 | -19.3 |
| 01-51-01-01\| | Raw cotton | 103.0 | 94.1 | 93.4 | 4.5 | -. 7 | 2.5 | -8.8 | -4.1 |
| 01-92-01-01\| | Leaf tobacco 2/ | 106.4 | 119.9 | 121.4 | 8.4 | 1.3 | 11.0 | 3.5 | 1.3 |
| 04-11 | Cattle hides 2/ | 189.4 | 191.9 | 191.6 | 23.8 | -. 2 | 2.3 | 1.9 | -. 2 |
| 05-1 | Coal 2/. | 86.3 | 85.4 | 96.3 | 10.3 | 12.8 | 3.0 | -3.0 | 12.8 |
| 05-31 \| | Natural gas 2/ | 201.7 | 339.5 | 221.6 | 111.5 | -34.7 | 35.3 | 46.0 | -34.7 |
| 05-61 | Crude petroleum 2/ | 93.1 | 77.8 | 79.9 | -4.3 | 2.7 | -11.1 | -10.6 | 2.7 |
| 08-5 \| | Logs, timber, etc. | 186.8 | 186.4 | 182.4 | -13.1 | -2.1 | -. 2 | -1.0 | -3.2 |
| 09-12 \| | Wastepaper 2/. | 227.8 | 186.5 | 171.1 | -40.7 | -8.3 | -8.4 | -5.7 | -8.3 |
| 10-11 | Iron ore $2 /$. | 94.9 | 95.9 | 95.9 | 1.6 | 0 | 0 | 1.1 | 0 |
| 10-12 | Iron and steel scrap 2/. | 127.3 | 127.8 | 119.0 | -26.6 | -6.9 | . 2 | 8.3 | -6.9 |
| 10-21 | Nonferrous metal ores (Dec. 1983=100) 2/ | 69.8 | 67.5 | 66.1 | -5.3 | -2.1 | 1.7 | -. 1 | -2.1 |
| 10-23-01 | Copper base scrap 2/. | 127.1 | 128.5 | 127.4 | 3.2 | -. 9 | 1.8 | . 9 | -. 9 |
| 10-23-02 \| | Aluminum base scrap. | 170.8 | 165.6 | 167.1 | -13.6 | . 9 | -2.5 | . 7 | -1.3 |
| 13-21 \| | Construction sand, gravel, and crushed stone. | 164.4 | 165.8 | 167.0 | 4.0 | . 7 | -. 1 | . 5 | . 7 |

1/ The indexes for October 2000 have been recalculated to incorporate late reports and corrections by respondents. All indexes are subject to revision 4 months after original publication.

3/ Not available.

Table 3. Producer price indexes for selected commodity groupings (1982=100 unless otherwise indicated)



1/ Data for October 2000 have been revised to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents. All data are subject to revision 4 months after original publication.

2/ Prices of some items in this grouping are lagged 1 month.
Table 4. Producer price indexes for the net output of major industry groups, not seasonally adjusted


$\overline{1 /}$ Indexes in this table are derived from the net-output-weighted industry price indexes. Because of differences in coverage and aggregation methodology, they will generally not match the movements of similarly-titled indexes which are derived from traditional commodity groupings.
2/ The indexes for October 2000 have been recalculated to incorporate late reports and corrections by respondents All indexes are subject to revision 4 months after original publication
3/ Not available.
Table 5. Producer price indexes by stage of processing, seasonally adjusted (1982=100)




1/ All seasonally adjusted indexes are subject to change up to 5 years after original publication due to the recalculation of seasonal factors each January. The indexes for October 2000 have been recalculated to incorporate late reports and corrections by respondents.
2/ Includes crude petroleum
3/ Excludes crude petroleum
Technical Notes
Brief Explanation of
Producer Price Indexes

The term Producer Price Index (PPI) refers to a family of indexes that measure the average change over time in the selling prices received by domestic producers of goods and services. PPIs measure price change from the perspective of the seller This contrasts with other measures, such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI); CPIs measure price change from the purchaser's perspective. Sellers' and purchasers' prices may differ due to government subsidies, sales and excise taxes, and distribution costs.

More than 10,000 PPIs for individual products and groups of products are released each month. PPIs are available for the products of virtually every industry in the mining and manufacturing sectors of the U.S. economy. New PPIs are gradually being introduced for the products of industries in the transportation, utilities, trade, finance, and services sectors of the economy.

More than 100,000 price quotations per month are organized into three sets of producer price indexes: (1) Stage of processing indexes; (2) commodity indexes; and (3) indexes for the net output of industries and their products. The stage-of-processing structure (tables 1, 2, and 5) organizes products by class of buyer and degree of fabrication. The commodity structure (tables 2 and 3) organizes products by similarity of end-use or material composition. The entire output of various industries is sampled to derive price indexes for the net output of industries
and their products (table 4)
Within the stage-of-processing system, finished goods are commodities that will not undergo further processing and are ready for sale to the final demand user, either an individual consumer or business firm. Consumer foods include unprocessed foods such as eggs and fresh vegetables, as well as processed foods such as bakery products and meats. Other finished consumer goods include durable goods such as automobiles, household furniture, and appliances; and nondurable goods such as apparel and home heating oil. Capital equipment includes producer durable goods such as heavy motor trucks, tractors, and machine tools.

The stage-of-processing category for intermediate materials, supplies, and components consists partly of commodities that have been processed but require further processing. Examples of such semifinished goods include flour, cotton yarn, steel mill products, and lumber. The intermediate goods category also encompasses nondurable physically complete items purchased by business firms as inputs for their operations. Examples include diesel fuel, belts and belting, paper boxes, and fertilizers.

Crude materials for further processing are products
entering the market for the first time that have not been manufactured or fabricated and that are not sold directly to consumers. Crude foodstuffs and feedstuffs include items such as grains and livestock. Examples of crude nonfood materials include raw cotton, crude petroleum, coal, hides and skins, and iron and steel scrap.

Producer price indexes for the net output of industries and their products are grouped according to the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC). Industry price indexes are compatible with other economic time series organized by SIC codes, such as data on employment, wages, and productivity. Table 4 lists indexes for the net output of major mining and manufacturing industry groups at the 2-digit level.

Producer price indexes are based on selling prices reported by establishments of all sizes selected by probability sampling, with the probability of selection proportionate to size.
Individual items and transaction terms from these firms are also chosen by probability proportionate to size. BLS strongly encourages cooperating companies to supply actual transaction prices at the time of shipment to minimize the use of list prices. Prices are normally reported by mail questionnaire for the Tuesday of the week containing the 13th.

Price data are provided on a voluntary and confidential basis; no one but sworn BLS employees are allowed access to
individual company price reports. The Bureau publishes price indexes instead of unit dollar prices. All producer price indexes are routinely subject to revision once, 4 months after original publication, to reflect the availability of late reports and corrections by respondents.

The BLS periodically updates the PPI sample of survey respondents to better reflect current conditions when the structure, membership, technology, or product mix of an industry shifts significantly and to spread reporting burden among smaller firms. Results of these resampling efforts are incorporated into the PPI every January and July.

As part of an ongoing effort to expand coverage to sectors of the economy other than mining and manufacturing, an increasing number of service sector industries have been introduced into the PPI. The following list of recently introduced service industries includes the month in which an article describing the industry's content appeared in the PPI Detailed Report:

## Industry

Wireless Telecommunications
Telephone Communications, Except Radio Telephone
Grocery Stores
Meat and Fish (Seafood) Markets, Fruit and Vegetable Markets
Candy, Nut, and Confectionery Stores Retail Bakeries
Miscellaneous Food Stores
New Car Dealers
Life Insurance Carriers
Property and Casualty Insurance
Operators and Lessors of
Nonresidential Buildings
Real Estate Agents and Managers Prepackaged Software
Home Health Care Services
Legal Services
Engineering, Design, Analysis,

> and Consulting Services

Architectural, Design, Analysis, and Consulting Services
Premiums for Property and Casualty

PPI Detailed
Report Issue
July 1999
July 1995
5411 July 2000
5421 July 2000
5431 July 2000
5441 July 2000
5461 July 2000
5499 July 2000
5511 July 2000
6311 January 1999
6331 July 1998
6512 January 1996
6531 January 1996
7372 January 1998
8082 January 1997
8111 January 1997
8711 January 1997
8712 January 1997

Weights for most traditional commodity groupings of the PPI, as well as all indexes (such as stage-of-processing indexes) calculated from traditional commodity groupings currently reflect 1992 values of shipments as reported in the Census of Manufactures and other sources. From January 1992 through December 1995, PPI weights were derived from 1987 shipment values. Industry indexes shown in table 4 are also now calculated with 1992 net output weights. This periodic update of the value weights used to calculate the PPI is done to more accurately reflect changes in production and marketing patterns in the economy.

Net output values of shipments are used as weights for industry indexes. Net output values refer to the value of shipments from establishments in one industry to establishments classified in another industry. However, weights for commodity price indexes are based on gross shipment values, including shipment values between establishments within the same industry. As a result, broad commodity grouping indexes such as the all commodities index are affected by the multiple counting of price change at successive stages of processing, which can lead to exaggerated or misleading signals about inflation. Stage-ofprocessing indexes partially correct this defect, but industry indexes consistently correct for this at all levels of aggregation. Therefore, industry and stage-of-processing indexes are more appropriate than broad commodity groupings for economic analysis of general price trends.

Effective with publication of January 1988 data, many important PPI series (including stage-of-processing groupings and most commodity groups and individual items) were placed on a new reference base, 1982=100. From 1971 through 1987, the standard reference base for most PPI series was 1967=100 Except for rounding differences, the shift to the new reference base did not alter any changes to previously published percent changes for affected PPI series. (See "Calculating Index Changes," below.) The new reference base is not used for indexes with a base later than December 1981, nor for indexes for the net output of industries and their products.

For further information on the underlying concepts and methodology of the Producer Price Index, see chapter 14, "Producer Prices," in BLS Handbook of Methods (April 1997), Bulletin 2490. Reprints are available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on
request.
Calculating Index Changes
Each index measures price changes from a reference period which equals 100.0 (1982 or some later month). An increase of 5.5 percent from the reference period in the Finished Goods Price Index for example, is shown as 105.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: "Prices received by domestic producers of a systematic sample of finished goods have risen from \$100 in 1982 to $\$ 105.50$ today." Likewise, a current index of 90.0 would indicate that prices received by producers of finished goods today are 10 percent lower than they were in 1982

Movements of price indexes from one month to another are usually expressed as percent changes rather than as changes in index points because index point changes are affected by the level of the index in relation to its base period, while percent changes are not. The example below shows the computation of index point and percent changes

Index point change

| Finished Goods Price Index | 107.5 |
| :--- | ---: |
| Less previous index | 104.0 |
| Equals index point change | 3.5 |

Index percent change
Index point change 3.5
Divided by the previous index
Equals
Result multiplied by 100
104.0
0.034
$0.034 \times 100$
Equals percent change
3.4

Because price data are used for different purposes by different groups, the Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes seasonally adjusted and unadjusted changes each month

Seasonally Adjusted and Unadjusted Data
Seasonally adjusted data are preferred for analyzing genera price trends in the economy because they eliminate the effect of changes that normally occur at about the same time and in about the same magnitude every year--such as price movements resulting from normal weather patterns, regular production and marketing
cycles, model changeovers, seasonal discounts, and holidays. For these reasons, seasonally adjusted data more clearly reveal underlying cyclical trends.

Unadjusted data are of primary interest to users who need information that can be related to actual dollar values of transactions. Individuals requiring this information include marketing specialists, purchasing agents, budget and cost analysts, contract specialists, and commodity traders. It is the unadjusted data that are generally cited in escalating long-term contracts such as purchasing agreements or real estate leases. (See Escalation and Producer Price Indexes: A Guide for Contracting Parties, BLS Report 807, September 1991, available on request from BLS.)

For more information, see "Appendix A: Seasonal Adjustment Methodology at BLS," in the BLS Handbook of Methods (April 1997) Bulletin 2490 and (2) "Summary of Changes to the PPI's Seasonal Adjustment Methodology" in the January 1995 issue of Producer Price Indexes.

