



Consumer Prices in Martin, TN — Second Quarter 2026

Consumer prices in Martin rose about **8.7% over the year ending June 2026** on the urban-weighted index, which is roughly double the 4.2% national rate. The local index was essentially flat across the second quarter itself: a sharp rise in energy and motor-fuel prices (up about 21%, amid U.S.-Iran tensions over the Strait of Hormuz) was offset by declines in housing and apparel. The rural-weighted index rose 5.9% over the year. All figures use January 2025 as the base month (=100) and compare non-seasonally-adjusted 12-month changes.

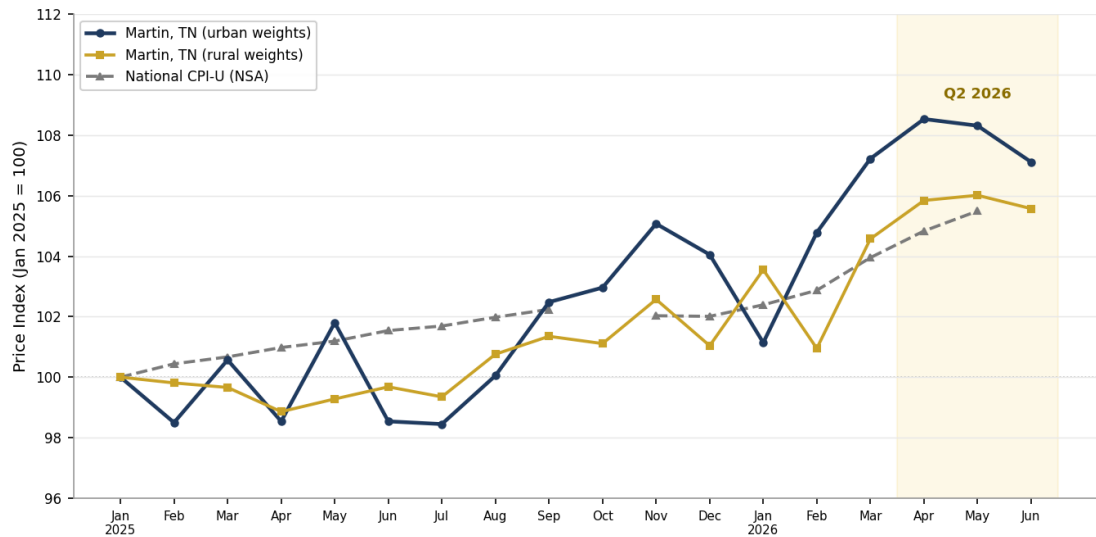


Figure 1. Martin urban and rural indexes vs. the national CPI-U, Jan 2025–Jun 2026 (Jan 2025 = 100); Q2 2026 shaded.

Measure (base Jan 2025 = 100)	Martin Urban	Martin Rural	National
Q2 2026 average index	107.98	105.81	105.16*
12-month change (June)	+8.7%	+5.9%	+4.2%*
Change vs. Q1 2026 average	+3.4%	+2.7%	—

*National figures reflect data through May 2026; the June national index is scheduled for release on July 14, 2026.

Why the gap. Higher transportation costs, localized scarcity, and limited retail competition let a few price movements (chiefly fuel) exert outsized pressure on the rural cost of living. The quarter’s increase is concentrated in energy and transportation and rests on a small number of fuel quotations, so these results are best read as provisional.

Method. Item prices are collected the first Wednesday of each month, converted to relatives against the January 2025 base, combined within ~26 expenditure sub-groups by geometric mean, and weighted to all-items totals using BLS (urban) and harmonized R-HICP (rural) weights held fixed within the year. The national series is BLS CPI-U, all items, not seasonally adjusted (CUUR0000SA0), rebased to January 2025.

This is a product of the Economics & Business Innovation Lab (EBIL), prepared by its founding director, Dr. Anthony R. Delmond. Full report and data available on request.