

Monthly Consumer Price Index Report for Martin, TN, February 2025

1. Summary

Using the base month of January 2025 (CPI=100), the Consumer Price Index value for February 2025 of 101.401 indicates a 1.40% increase in prices in Martin, TN between the first week of January and February of 2025. On a national level, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.4%, capping a 6.0% increase over the previous 12 months. This localized inflation is significantly higher than the national average, indicating a stronger upward pressure on rural prices relative to the national trend. This reflects higher transportation costs for Martin relative to urban hubs, localized scarcity in a consumption desert, and other economic features that are growing increasingly common in remote or isolated rural areas.

2. Detailed Report

Regarding product categories, food was weighted nationally as 13.651% of consumer expenditures in February (8.03% for food at home and 5.621% for food away from home). That was down slightly from January, when food was estimated nationally at 13.681% of consumer expenditures (8.057% for food at home and 5.625% for food away from home).

Table 1. Changes in aggregated index values between January and February 2025.

Product Category	Sub-Category	Change Jan.-Feb.2025
Food		+0.2619%
	Food At Home	+0.6387%
	Food Away from Home	+0.0685%
Energy*		+33.1616%
Commodities (Less Food and Energy)		+4.0022%
	Household Furnishings/Supplies	-0.0588%
	Apparel	+2.9200%
	Transportation (less fuel)	+4.0060%
	Medicine/Medical Equipment	-0.3257%
	Recreation Commodities	-1.0267%
	Education/Communication Commodities	-0.5355%
	Alcoholic Beverages	-0.6351%
	Other Commodities	+0.3885%
Services (Less Energy)		-3.8341%
	Shelter	-5.6653%
	Water/Sewer/Trash	+0.5737%
	Medical Care Services	-4.1704%
	Transportation Services	+7.8836%
	Recreation Services	+0.4212%
	Education/Communication Services	-0.3689%
	Other Personal Services	-6.9330%

*-the Feb.2025 weights on Energy Services increased from 150 to 200, driving part of the increase in the energy sector.

Energy accounted for 6.329% of national consumer expenditures in February 2025 (up from 6.292% in January). Commodities less energy and food – including household furnishings/supplies, apparel, transportation less fuel, medicine, recreation, alcohol, and

education – accounted for 19.392% of consumer expenditures in February (up slightly from 19.372% in January). Services less energy comprised 60.626% (60.654% in January) of consumer expenditures, with the heavy subcategory weights being shelter (35.389%; 35.417% in January), medical care services (6.713%; 6.724% in January), and transportation services (6.327%; 6.355% in January). Table 1 illustrates monthly changes across key economic sectors. The increase in overall prices was driven largely by the increase in commodities and energy prices. Transportation costs for both physical products and services increased substantially between January and February in Martin, TN, reflecting a significant departure from the national trend both in terms of magnitude and direction.

3. Methods

This consumer price index was initially structured similarly to the CPI from the Local Economic Indicators Project (LEIP) established by Dr. Paul Mason at the University of North Florida (University of North Florida, 2025). Modern data collection techniques and weighting processes improve the quality and accuracy of estimates (Graf, 2020; Konny, 2020); however, the rural environment of Martin, TN introduces its own unique challenges. Data were collected directly from area businesses/retailers, including grocery stores, restaurants, healthcare service providers, utilities providers, etc., on the first Wednesday of the month. Using first-Wednesday dates rather than the first-of-the-month collection reduces any weekend price differences, store closures, or grocery prices that shift with product perishability throughout the week. This Consumer Price Index utilizes monthly weights as constructed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for urban areas (U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2025a, 2025b, 2025c). As Martin, TN is not an urban area, the rural weights are also included in the analysis; however, the rural weights are more aggregated and do not necessarily accurately depict purchasing behavior in the region. The urban weights are more granular, though they may not accurately reflect the weights that consumers place on food, energy, and other expenditures. The BLS reports its weights on a two-month lag, so the Feb.2025 national weights were not available until the Apr.2025 CPI data release.

4. Acknowledgements/Attribution

This report was produced by Dr. Anthony R. Delmond, who conducted the analysis. Data were collected by Dr. Delmond and Chayil Watkins, sophomore in agricultural business at the University of Tennessee at Martin.

5. References

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