

3.6 Consumer Price Index (CPI-U)

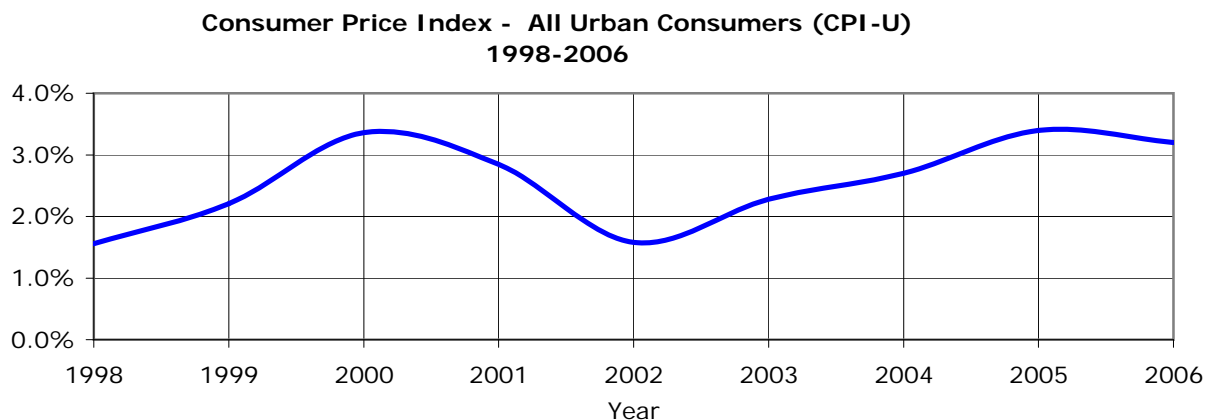
The Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (Cost of Living Index) increased 3.2% in 2006, down from 3.4% in 2005. 2006 marked the first year the percent change had not been higher than the previous year since 2002.

Figure 3-8
Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U, 1998-2006)

| | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| U.S. City Average | 163.0 | 166.6 | 172.2 | 177.1 | 179.9 | 184.0 | 188.9 | 195.3 | 201.6 |
| % Change from Previous | 1.6% | 2.2% | 3.4% | 2.8% | 1.6% | 2.3% | 2.7% | 3.4% | 3.2% |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Figure 3-9
Annual Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U, 1998-2006)



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics