

# Inflation continues to rise, hitting consumers at the gas station and supermarket

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Bloomberg

Inflation in the metropolitan area continued to rise in March for urban consumers, led by surging gas prices after Russia's invasion of Ukraine and supported by higher costs for food.

The region's inflation rose by 6.1% for the fiscal year that ended in March, the largest increase since February 1991, according to figures from the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. That was still not as dramatic as overall U.S. inflation, which surged to 8.5% for the year, its highest level since the early 1980s.

It is in the monthly advance for the Northeast that the effect of rising gasoline prices—up nearly 18% in the New York region—are clearest, according to BLS's regional commissioner, Alexandra Hall Bovee, who added that the advance is the highest on record since monthly publication of the index began in 1987.

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Beyond fuel and electricity, the New York area saw the largest jumps in the meat, poultry, fish and eggs [grocery](#) category, which went up 14.1% during the year; cereals and bakery products, which rose 11.6%; and the other food-at-home group, which includes spices, seasonings, condiments and sauces, in addition to snacks—

which increased 11.4%. The price index for [food at restaurants](#) was down slightly from last month, though still up 6% since March 2021.

The price increases particularly affect New Yorkers who drive and purchase food, of course. The recent rises also have delivered substantial hits to businesses and nonprofits.

BronxWorks, which offers social services and nutrition programs to low-income families, has been hearing from constituents that their wages and benefits are not going as far as they used to, according to Executive Director Eileen Torres, who added that the organization has been affected itself.

“Rising food prices means that our nutrition program budgets are stretched incredibly thin,” Torres said via email. “A [food pantry](#)’s funding doesn’t go as far as it used to, and our team expends a significant amount of time and energy comparing ever-changing prices and trying to figure out which groceries they are able to offer, all while working to prioritize healthy items, like produce and fish.”