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Retail Apparel Prices Rise in November

By KRISTI ELLIS

WASHINGTON — Retailers took a gamble on their pricing power in November, pushing prices higher during the crucial holiday season as retail apparel prices rose a seasonally adjusted 0.6 percent, the U.S. Labor Department's Consumer Price Index showed Friday.

On a year-over-year basis, apparel prices at retail were 4.8 percent higher last month compared with November 2010.

Women's apparel prices increased 0.7 percent in November compared with October and were 4.4 percent above November 2010. Men's apparel prices were up 1.3 percent in November and were 5.9 percent higher than a year earlier.

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The overall Consumer Price Index was flat last month, but prices were 3.4 percent higher than November 2010. Core retail prices, excluding volatile food and energy prices, rose 0.2 percent in November compared with October.

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