

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON AREA CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: JULY 2008

Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden of the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today that grocery prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers food at home index, increased 1.7 percent in July. Compared to one year ago, grocery prices were 7.9 percent higher. The food at home index now stands at 233.491. This means grocery shoppers in the Seattle area spent \$233.49 in July for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

Shelter prices increased 0.4 percent in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area in July and were 6.6 percent higher over the year. Within shelter, the rent of primary residence index residence increased 0.7 percent for the month and rose 8.2 percent over the year. The owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index moved up 0.5 percent this month and was 6.7 percent higher than in July 2007.

The special aggregate for energy edged down 0.1 percent for the month, but was 28.2 percent higher than a year ago. The household energy index increased 0.6 percent in July and was up 1.2 percent over the past year. Gasoline prices decreased 0.4 percent over the month, but were 43.7 percent above last year's level.

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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	May 2008	June 2008	July 2008	July 2007	May 2008	June 2008
Expenditure category						
All items	-	228.068	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	695.241	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	227.185	-	-	-	-
Food	-	228.696	-	-	-	-
Food at home	229.113	229.692	233.491	7.9	1.9	1.7
Food away from home	-	230.532	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	212.101	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	236.596	-	-	-	-
Shelter	257.815	260.201	261.290	6.6	1.3	.4
Rent of primary residence ¹	248.953	250.424	252.093	8.2	1.3	.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	269.112	270.393	271.699	6.7	1.0	.5
Fuels and utilities	-	203.239	-	-	-	-
Household energy	204.180	204.584	205.842	1.2	.8	.6
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	236.116	236.116	236.154	-2.1	.0	.0
Electricity ¹	236.457	236.457	236.457	2.2	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	193.837	193.837	193.967	-11.9	.1	.1
Household furnishings and operations	-	184.280	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	133.782	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	224.830	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	234.153	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	413.855	457.177	455.258	44.0	10.0	-.4
Gasoline (all types)	418.918	464.933	463.007	43.7	10.5	-.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	461.493	512.853	510.711	44.3	10.7	-.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	319.664	353.081	352.582	42.0	10.3	-.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	364.985	402.675	399.883	40.5	9.6	-.7
Medical care	-	330.192	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	-	97.087	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁵	-	122.108	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	354.306	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	228.068	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	194.286	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	175.643	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	220.229	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	133.437	-	-	-	-
Services	-	259.985	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	223.330	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	216.634	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	176.962	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	223.692	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	218.890	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	-	266.042	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	253.020	-	-	-	-
Energy	317.765	340.859	340.455	28.2	7.1	-.1
All items less energy	-	223.267	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	222.479	-	-	-	-

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.