

News

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

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported consumer prices in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area edged down 0.1 percent for the two months ending August 2008. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden said that the decrease in the all items index was primarily due to lower prices for transportation. From August 2007 to August 2008, overall prices rose 5.4 percent, while the all items less food and energy index increased 3.4 percent. Local Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

The transportation index decreased 1.7 percent during the past two months, primarily due to a 7.2 percent drop in gasoline prices. Over the year, the transportation index rose 12.3 percent and gasoline prices were up 41.9 percent.

The housing index was unchanged for the two months ending August 2008, yet rose 4.3 percent over the year. Shelter, the primary component of housing, increased 0.3 percent over the past two months and was up 5.5 percent compared to one year ago. Within the shelter category, the rent of primary residence index rose 1.2 percent and the owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index advanced 0.8 percent from June to August. Over the past year, the rent of primary residence index rose 7.5 percent and the owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index increased 6.6 percent. Shelter also includes lodging away from home, an unpublished subcategory. Fuels and utilities, another component of housing, increased 0.2 percent during the past two months and was 2.2 percent higher over the past 12 months. Within the fuels and utilities index, prices for electricity were unchanged percent over the past two months, while prices for utility (piped) gas services edged up 0.1 percent. Compared to August 2007, prices for electricity increased 2.2 percent, while prices for utility (piped) gas services declined 11.9 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations moved down 2.8 percent during the latest two-month period and were 3.0 percent lower compared to one year ago.

The food and beverages index advanced 0.3 percent from June to August and was 5.8 percent higher over the year. Grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, inched up 0.1 percent over the past two months and were 8.0 percent higher than a year ago. Food away from home rose 0.7 percent from June to August and moved up 3.7 percent for the latest 12-month period.

Apparel prices declined 2.2 percent for the latest two-month period and were 0.7 percent lower over the past year.

Medical care prices increased 2.0 percent for the two months ending in August and advanced 1.1 percent over the year.

The education and communication index rose 0.4 percent during the recent two-month period and advanced 3.4 percent over the past 12 months.

The recreation index increased 1.5 percent for the past two months and was 4.0 percent higher over the year.

The other goods and services index was unchanged from June to August, yet advanced 2.1 percent over the latest 12-month period.

The All Items, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area measured 227.745 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$227.75 in August 2008.

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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—		
	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Aug. 2007	June 2008	July 2008
Expenditure category						
All items	228.068	-	227.745	5.4	-0.1	-
All items (1967=100)	695.241	-	694.255	-	-	-
Food and beverages	227.185	-	227.757	5.8	.3	-
Food	228.696	-	229.562	6.1	.4	-
Food at home	229.692	233.491	229.902	8.0	.1	-1.5
Food away from home	230.532	-	232.207	3.7	.7	-
Alcoholic beverages	212.101	-	210.075	2.3	-1.0	-
Housing	236.596	-	236.579	4.3	.0	-
Shelter	260.201	261.290	261.099	5.5	.3	-1.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	250.424	252.093	253.527	7.5	1.2	.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	270.393	271.699	272.444	6.6	.8	.3
Fuels and utilities	203.239	-	203.622	2.2	.2	-
Household energy	204.584	205.842	205.123	.8	.3	-3
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	236.116	236.154	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	193.967	193.967	-11.9	.1	.0
Household furnishings and operations	184.280	-	179.158	-3.0	-2.8	-
Apparel	133.782	-	130.853	-7	-2.2	-
Transportation	224.830	-	220.900	12.3	-1.7	-
Private transportation	234.153	-	228.807	12.1	-2.3	-
Motor fuel	457.177	455.258	424.473	42.1	-7.2	-6.8
Gasoline (all types)	464.933	463.007	431.413	41.9	-7.2	-6.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	512.853	510.711	475.466	42.5	-7.3	-6.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	353.081	352.582	329.651	40.3	-6.6	-6.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	402.675	399.883	373.858	38.9	-7.2	-6.5
Medical care	330.192	-	336.777	1.1	2.0	-
Recreation ⁵	97.087	-	98.584	4.0	1.5	-
Education and communication ⁵	122.108	-	122.571	3.4	.4	-
Other goods and services	354.306	-	354.243	2.1	.0	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	228.068	-	227.745	5.4	-1	-
Commodities	194.286	-	191.547	6.0	-1.4	-
Commodities less food and beverages	175.643	-	171.550	6.2	-2.3	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	220.229	-	213.390	13.3	-3.1	-
Durables	133.437	-	131.743	-2.2	-1.3	-
Services	259.985	-	261.809	5.1	.7	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	223.330	-	222.726	5.7	-3	-
All items less shelter	216.634	-	215.761	5.4	-4	-
Commodities less food	176.962	-	172.961	6.0	-2.3	-
Nondurables	223.692	-	220.421	9.4	-1.5	-
Nondurables less food	218.890	-	212.487	12.3	-2.9	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	266.042	-	268.891	4.5	1.1	-
Services less medical care services	253.020	-	254.468	5.1	.6	-
Energy	340.859	340.455	323.834	26.3	-5.0	-4.9
All items less energy	223.267	-	224.060	3.8	.4	-
All items less food and energy	222.479	-	223.261	3.4	.4	-

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.