

News

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Consumer Price Index for Food and Energy Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT June 2009

Energy costs in the Boston metropolitan area rose 8.1 percent in June 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. The June increase was largely attributable to higher gasoline prices, up 15.5 percent over the month, the largest one-month increase in Boston since April 2006. Regional Commissioner Denis M. McSweeney noted that, despite the monthly advance, consumers in the Boston area faced energy prices in June 2009 that were 32.9 percent lower than those the year before.

Over the month, the index for gasoline (all types) rose 15.5 percent, the sixth consecutive monthly advance. Before increasing by 2.8 percent in January, gas prices in Boston fell 57.8 percent between the peak level in June and December 2008. The price of a gallon of gasoline in Boston increased 35 cents to \$2.617 in June. Despite the monthly increase, Boston area drivers have seen prices at the pump fall by 35.7 percent over the year.

In the other energy categories, electricity prices rose 1.1 percent over the month and utility (piped) gas service edged down 0.3 percent. Over the year, electricity prices were slightly higher, up 0.5 percent from last June while utility (piped) gas prices fell sharply, down 52.9 percent, the largest drop recorded since data became available in 1971. In June, the Boston energy index on the 1982-84 base was 195.182, meaning that Boston area consumers would have to spend \$19.52 for selected energy items that cost \$10.00 in 1982-84.

The cost of groceries, as measured by the food at home index, fell 0.8 percent over the month. Grocery prices in Boston have decreased in five of the last six months, but were still 2.4 percent higher than they were last June.

NOTE: Local area CPI indexes are the by-products of the national CPI program. Since each local area index is a small subset of the national index, it has a smaller sample size and is therefore subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than that for the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal factors. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility compared with the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. Additional information is available from the BLS Internet Web site at www.bls.gov/cpi or by calling the Boston Economic Analysis and Information office at 617-565-2327.

Free email subscription service! To receive the most recent monthly Consumer Price Indexes for the U.S. and Northeast, and bimonthly indexes for the Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT metropolitan area, please subscribe at <http://www.bls.gov/bls/list.htm> and select the notification titled New England CPI Summary (Boston). Boston Consumer Price Index for July will be released on Friday, August 14, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

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

Boston-Brockton-Nashua, MA-NH-ME-CT (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	June 2008	Apr. 2009	May 2009
Expenditure category						
All items	-	231.891	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	673.998	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	228.812	-	-	-	-
Food	-	228.869	-	-	-	-
Food at home	220.535	222.447	220.584	2.4	0.0	-0.8
Food away from home	-	240.793	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	230.328	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	232.656	-	-	-	-
Shelter	275.061	275.399	277.233	1.4	.8	.7
Rent of primary residence ¹	277.121	277.604	277.149	2.0	.0	-.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	288.497	288.913	289.446	2.6	.3	.2
Fuels and utilities	-	202.423	-	-	-	-
Household energy	209.052	173.058	176.511	-29.0	-15.6	2.0
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	229.597	181.628	183.020	-19.8	-20.3	.8
Electricity ¹	224.449	208.243	210.458	.5	-6.2	1.1
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	228.849	120.168	119.860	-52.9	-47.6	-.3
Household furnishings and operations	-	128.187	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	134.904	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	164.273	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	163.448	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	172.342	191.860	220.829	-36.5	28.1	15.1
Gasoline (all types)	169.459	190.183	219.611	-35.7	29.6	15.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	167.562	188.879	218.501	-36.1	30.4	15.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	172.091	190.860	220.000	-35.2	27.8	15.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	170.277	188.159	215.170	-34.1	26.4	14.4
Medical care	-	524.580	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	-	121.443	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁵	-	137.078	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	403.841	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	231.891	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	174.089	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	145.255	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	182.798	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	107.772	-	-	-	-
Services	-	284.066	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	220.291	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	216.825	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	148.588	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	204.691	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	184.989	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	-	307.716	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	266.970	-	-	-	-
Energy	192.249	180.609	195.182	-32.9	1.5	8.1
All items less energy	-	240.421	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	243.273	-	-	-	-

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.