

News

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE ANCHORAGE AREA, FIRST HALF OF 2009

Consumer prices in the Anchorage metropolitan area advanced 1.3 percent from one year prior, but declined 0.7 percent in the first half of 2009 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden said the increase in the housing index contributed to the higher annual all items index increase.

The housing index rose 3.9 percent for the year and 2.2 percent for the past six months. Over the year prices for the shelter component of housing advanced 2.4 percent and the fuels and utilities component rose 15.0 percent. During the past six months costs for shelter increased 1.0 percent and costs for fuels and utilities increased 12.4 percent. Within the fuels and utilities index, (utility) piped gas service prices increased 21.1 percent for the year and 21.3 percent for the past six months. Electricity prices increased 25.0 percent for the year and 15.7 percent for the past six months. The household furnishings and operations index rose 4.7 percent since the first half of 2008 and 1.6 percent since the second half of 2008.

Partially offsetting the increase in the all items index, transportation prices decreased 5.4 percent during the past year and 9.6 percent since the second half of 2008. Annual gasoline prices fell 28.4 percent over the past year. In the past six months, gasoline prices plummeted 33.7 percent.

Prices paid for food and beverages rose 1.0 percent since last year. During this period, the food at home index advanced 2.3 percent and the food away from home index increased 0.9 percent. For the past six months, the overall food and beverages index decreased 0.6 percent. Food at home prices were down 0.9 percent over the past six months, but food away from home prices increased 0.2 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices decreased 2.6 percent since the first half of 2008 and 2.4 percent since the second half of 2008.

In the past 12 months medical care prices rose 3.5 percent. Prices for medical care advanced 3.7 percent in the last six months.

Over the year, apparel prices decreased 0.7 percent, but over the past six months increased 3.1 percent. Prices for recreation increased 1.3 percent since the first half of 2008 and 0.2 percent since the second half of 2008.

Education and communication prices advanced 1.3 percent during the past year, but edged down 0.2 percent during the past six months. Other goods and services rose 6.3 percent on an annual basis and 3.0 percent since six months ago.

The Anchorage area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 190.032 (1982-84=100) during the first half of 2009. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$190.03 in the first six months of 2009. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Anchorage, AK (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2009 from—	
	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008
Expenditure category					
All items	187.659	191.335	190.032	1.3	-0.7
All items (October 1967=100)	500.889	510.699	507.221	-	-
Food and beverages	190.665	193.901	192.649	1.0	-.6
Food	192.551	196.143	195.192	1.4	-.5
Food at home	195.074	201.316	199.599	2.3	-.9
Food away from home	186.841	188.130	188.566	.9	.2
Alcoholic beverages	166.379	166.157	162.089	-2.6	-2.4
Housing	166.134	168.995	172.688	3.9	2.2
Shelter	167.893	170.224	171.890	2.4	1.0
Rent of primary residence	160.105	163.543	165.560	3.4	1.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	167.644	169.745	172.020	2.6	1.3
Fuels and utilities	238.919	244.399	274.760	15.0	12.4
Household energy	248.837	257.351	296.687	19.2	15.3
Gas (piped) and electricity	272.471	283.928	335.613	23.2	18.2
Electricity	205.645	222.153	257.064	25.0	15.7
Utility (piped) gas service	372.534	371.687	450.958	21.1	21.3
Household furnishings and operations	114.030	117.451	119.340	4.7	1.6
Apparel	133.339	128.366	132.372	-.7	3.1
Transportation	195.160	204.186	184.671	-5.4	-9.6
Private transportation	191.355	199.724	176.578	-7.7	-11.6
Motor fuel	284.284	309.392	208.015	-26.8	-32.8
Gasoline (all types)	284.444	307.109	203.554	-28.4	-33.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	276.838	299.096	197.289	-28.7	-34.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	268.360	289.617	193.830	-27.8	-33.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	278.248	299.302	202.585	-27.2	-32.3
Medical care	380.845	380.337	394.347	3.5	3.7
Recreation ⁴	118.377	119.584	119.859	1.3	.2
Education and communication ⁴	108.481	110.114	109.839	1.3	-.2
Other goods and services	279.830	288.784	297.469	6.3	3.0
Commodity and service group					
All items	187.659	191.335	190.032	1.3	-.7
Commodities	168.102	171.060	162.838	-3.1	-4.8
Commodities less food and beverages	156.091	158.889	147.646	-5.4	-7.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	195.755	199.907	177.598	-9.3	-11.2
Durables	123.128	124.775	122.910	-.2	-1.5
Services	203.683	207.967	212.822	4.5	2.3
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	180.199	183.970	182.213	1.1	-1.0
All items less shelter	195.889	200.176	197.390	.8	-1.4
Commodities less food	156.953	159.634	148.659	-5.3	-6.9
Nondurables	193.672	197.387	185.440	-4.3	-6.1
Nondurables less food	194.347	198.145	177.286	-8.8	-10.5
Services less rent of shelter ¹	261.224	268.687	279.522	7.0	4.0
Services less medical care services	191.492	195.760	200.006	4.4	2.2
Energy	263.884	281.830	238.723	-9.5	-15.3
All items less energy	183.051	185.800	187.396	2.4	.9
All items less food and energy	181.616	184.226	186.250	2.6	1.1

¹ Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

² Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

³ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.