

News

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES FOR THE SEATTLE AREA, JUNE 2009

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported consumer prices in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area increased 0.6 percent for the two months ending June 2009. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden said that the increase in the all items index was mainly due to higher prices for transportation. From June 2008 to June 2009, overall prices decreased 0.4 percent, while the all items less food and energy index rose 2.2 percent. Local Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.

The transportation index rose 4.9 percent during the past two months, primarily due to a 22.7 percent increase in gasoline prices. Over the year, the transportation index declined 9.8 percent and gasoline prices dropped 33.6 percent.

The housing index decreased 0.4 percent for the two months ending June 2009, but was 1.9 percent higher over the year. Shelter, the primary component of housing, was virtually unchanged over the past two months, yet increased 2.6 percent compared to one year ago. Within the shelter category, the rent of primary residence index decreased 0.5 percent from April to June, but moved up 3.5 percent over the latest 12-month period. The owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index declined 0.3 percent since April, but advanced 4.2 percent since June 2008. Shelter also includes lodging away from home, an unpublished subcategory. Fuels and utilities, another component of housing, decreased 0.6 percent during the past two months, but was 2.6 percent higher during the past 12 months. Within the fuels and utilities index, prices for electricity were virtually unchanged from April to June, while utility (piped) gas services declined 1.7 percent. Compared to one year ago, prices for electricity moved down 0.3 percent, but prices for utility (piped) gas services rose 13.4 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations decreased 2.7 percent over the past two months and 3.5 percent over the past year.

The food and beverages index inched down 0.1 percent from April to June, but increased 1.5 percent over the year. Grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, moved down 0.5 percent over the past two months, but were 0.3 percent higher than a year ago. Food away from home prices edged down 0.1 percent from April to June, but advanced 2.9 percent for the latest 12-month period.

Medical care prices inched down 0.1 percent for the two months ending in June, but moved up 3.9 percent over the year.

Apparel prices increased 1.4 percent for the latest two-month period and were 2.0 percent higher over the past year.

Among the remaining major expenditure categories, prices for education and communication declined 0.4 percent and prices for recreation decreased 1.4 percent for the latest two-month period. Over the past year, education and communication prices increased 2.5 percent, while recreation prices were virtually unchanged. The other goods and services index increased 0.7 percent from April to June and moved up 3.7 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 227.257 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$227.26 in June 2009.

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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—		
	Apr. 2009	May 2009	June 2009	June 2008	Apr. 2009	May 2009
Expenditure category						
All items	225.918	-	227.257	-0.4	0.6	-
All items (1967=100)	688.685	-	692.768	-	-	-
Food and beverages	230.688	-	230.551	1.5	-1	-
Food	232.820	-	232.124	1.5	-3	-
Food at home	231.537	231.302	230.493	.3	-5	-0.3
Food away from home	237.484	-	237.201	2.9	-1	-
Alcoholic beverages	210.095	-	214.897	1.3	2.3	-
Housing	242.057	-	241.160	1.9	-4	-
Shelter	267.051	267.346	266.934	2.6	.0	-2
Rent of primary residence ¹	260.476	259.870	259.240	3.5	-5	-2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	282.501	282.519	281.712	4.2	-3	-3
Fuels and utilities	209.786	-	208.564	2.6	-6	-
Household energy	205.984	206.360	204.267	-2	-8	-1.0
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	244.417	244.417	243.275	3.0	-5	-5
Electricity ¹	235.783	235.783	235.783	-3	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	223.739	223.739	219.864	13.4	-1.7	-1.7
Household furnishings and operations	182.742	-	177.797	-3.5	-2.7	-
Apparel	134.652	-	136.516	2.0	1.4	-
Transportation	193.474	-	202.882	-9.8	4.9	-
Private transportation	199.436	-	209.850	-10.4	5.2	-
Motor fuel	246.666	267.131	300.972	-34.2	22.0	12.7
Gasoline (all types)	251.672	273.590	308.851	-33.6	22.7	12.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	275.398	300.006	338.988	-33.9	23.1	13.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	195.984	211.816	238.659	-32.4	21.8	12.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	227.202	244.139	273.963	-32.0	20.6	12.2
Medical care	343.534	-	343.226	3.9	-1	-
Recreation ⁵	98.481	-	97.080	.0	-1.4	-
Education and communication ⁵	125.688	-	125.154	2.5	-4	-
Other goods and services	364.968	-	367.355	3.7	.7	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	225.918	-	227.257	-4	.6	-
Commodities	180.349	-	183.306	-5.7	1.6	-
Commodities less food and beverages	154.566	-	158.778	-9.6	2.7	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	175.481	-	185.955	-15.6	6.0	-
Durables	132.608	-	131.505	-1.4	-8	-
Services	268.308	-	268.219	3.2	.0	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	220.553	-	221.956	-6	.6	-
All items less shelter	210.442	-	212.448	-1.9	1.0	-
Commodities less food	156.706	-	160.938	-9.1	2.7	-
Nondurables	202.175	-	207.540	-7.2	2.7	-
Nondurables less food	177.958	-	187.912	-14.2	5.6	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	276.254	-	276.203	3.8	.0	-
Services less medical care services	260.714	-	260.654	3.0	.0	-
Energy	230.273	241.272	258.144	-24.3	12.1	7.0
All items less energy	228.366	-	227.941	2.1	-.2	-
All items less food and energy	227.736	-	227.355	2.2	-.2	-

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.