

News

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BLS 09-15

FOR RELEASE:

Friday, February 20, 2008

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE ANCHORAGE AREA, SECOND HALF 2008

Consumer prices in the Anchorage metropolitan area advanced 4.5 percent from one year prior and 2.0 percent in the second half of 2008 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden said higher housing and transportation prices contributed strongly to the all items index increase. Additionally, the all items less food and energy special aggregate index increased 3.2 percent in 2008 and the special energy aggregate index was up 17.3 percent over the past year. Local Consumer Price Index data are not seasonally adjusted.

Transportation prices increased 10.7 percent during the past year and 4.6 percent since the first half of 2008. Annual gasoline prices soared 26.6 percent over the past year. In the past six months, gasoline prices increased 8.0 percent.

The housing index rose 2.9 percent for the year and 1.7 percent for the past six months. Prices for the shelter component of housing advanced 2.8 percent and the fuels and utilities component rose 2.1 percent for the year. During the past six months, costs for shelter increased 1.4 percent and costs for fuels and utilities increased 2.3 percent. Within fuels and utilities index, (utility) piped gas service prices declined 2.0 percent for the year and 0.2 percent for the past six months. Electricity prices increased 6.7 percent for the year and 8.0 percent for the past six months.

Prices paid for food and beverages rose 3.8 percent since last year. During this period, the food at home index advanced 5.7 percent and the food away from home index increased 1.7 percent. For the past six months, the overall food and beverages index rose 1.7 percent. Food at home prices were up 3.2 percent over the past six months and food away from home increased 0.7 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices edged up 0.1 percent since the second half of 2007, but inched down 0.1 percent since the first half of 2008.

Over the year, medical care prices rose 2.9 percent. Between the first half and second half of 2008, prices for medical care crept down 0.1 percent.

Over the year, apparel prices increased 1.5 percent, but decreased over the past six months by 3.7 percent. Prices for recreation increased 2.2 percent since the second half of 2007 and 1.0 percent since the first half of 2008.

Education and communication prices advanced 1.6 during the past year and 1.5 percent during the past six months. Other goods and services rose 7.9 percent on an annual basis and 3.2 percent since six months ago.

The Anchorage area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 191.335 (1982-84=100) during the second half of 2008. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$191.34 during the last six months of 2008.

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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 2nd half 2008 from—	
	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008
Expenditure category					
All items	183.080	187.659	191.335	4.5	2.0
All items (October 1967=100)	488.664	500.889	510.699	-	-
Food and beverages	186.798	190.665	193.901	3.8	1.7
Food	188.357	192.551	196.143	4.1	1.9
Food at home	190.377	195.074	201.316	5.7	3.2
Food away from home	184.914	186.841	188.130	1.7	.7
Alcoholic beverages	166.007	166.379	166.157	.1	-.1
Housing	164.300	166.134	168.995	2.9	1.7
Shelter	165.613	167.893	170.224	2.8	1.4
Rent of primary residence	157.410	160.105	163.543	3.9	2.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	165.285	167.644	169.745	2.7	1.3
Fuels and utilities	239.341	238.919	244.399	2.1	2.3
Household energy	249.972	248.837	257.351	3.0	3.4
Gas (piped) and electricity	276.425	272.471	283.928	2.7	4.2
Electricity	208.146	205.645	222.153	6.7	8.0
Utility (piped) gas service	379.237	372.534	371.687	-2.0	-.2
Household furnishings and operations	112.151	114.030	117.451	4.7	3.0
Apparel	126.447	133.339	128.366	1.5	-3.7
Transportation	184.474	195.160	204.186	10.7	4.6
Private transportation	181.197	191.355	199.724	10.2	4.4
Motor fuel	241.937	284.284	309.392	27.9	8.8
Gasoline (all types)	242.538	284.444	307.109	26.6	8.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	235.672	276.838	299.096	26.9	8.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	229.785	268.360	289.617	26.0	7.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	238.792	278.248	299.302	25.3	7.6
Medical care	369.508	380.845	380.337	2.9	-.1
Recreation ⁴	117.001	118.377	119.584	2.2	1.0
Education and communication ⁴	108.377	108.481	110.114	1.6	1.5
Other goods and services	267.689	279.830	288.784	7.9	3.2
Commodity and service group					
All items	183.080	187.659	191.335	4.5	2.0
Commodities	161.376	168.102	171.060	6.0	1.8
Commodities less food and beverages	148.152	156.091	158.889	7.2	1.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	180.023	195.755	199.907	11.0	2.1
Durables	121.736	123.128	124.775	2.5	1.3
Services	200.930	203.683	207.967	3.5	2.1
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	175.863	180.199	183.970	4.6	2.1
All items less shelter	189.958	195.889	200.176	5.4	2.2
Commodities less food	149.293	156.953	159.634	6.9	1.7
Nondurables	183.770	193.672	197.387	7.4	1.9
Nondurables less food	179.824	194.347	198.145	10.2	2.0
Services less rent of shelter ¹	257.201	261.224	268.687	4.5	2.9
Services less medical care services	189.213	191.492	195.760	3.5	2.2
Energy	240.221	263.884	281.830	17.3	6.8
All items less energy	179.831	183.051	185.800	3.3	1.5
All items less food and energy	178.507	181.616	184.226	3.2	1.4

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.