

News

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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE HONOLULU AREA, SECOND HALF 2008 Honolulu Prices 3.6 Percent Higher than a Year Ago

Consumer prices in the Honolulu metropolitan area advanced 3.6 percent from one year prior and 1.3 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 food and beverages prices contributed strongly to the all items index annual increase. In addition, the energy special aggregate index, composed of household energy and motor fuel, jumped 22.3 percent for the year. Local Consumer Price Index data are not seasonally adjusted.

The housing index rose 3.1 percent for the year and 1.6 percent for the past six months. Prices for the shelter component of housing advanced 1.0 percent and the fuels and utilities component soared 29.5 percent for the year. During the past six months costs for shelter increased 0.4 percent and costs for fuels and utilities advanced 13.1 percent. Within fuels and utilities index, (utility) piped gas service prices jumped 22.0 percent for the year and 3.7 percent for the past six months. Electricity prices soared 36.7 percent for the year and 14.0 percent for the past six months.

Prices paid for food and beverages rose 6.7 percent since last year. During this period, the food at home index advanced 10.3 percent and the food away from home index increased 4.5 percent. For the past six months, the overall food and beverages index rose 4.0 percent. Food at home prices were up 5.3 percent over the past six months, and food away from home prices increased 3.7 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices advanced 2.2 percent since the second half of 2007, but declined 1.1 percent since the first half of 2008.

Transportation prices increased 3.3 percent during the past year, but decreased 1.4 percent since the first half of 2008. Gasoline prices rose 11.9 percent over the past year. In the past six months, gasoline prices decreased 2.8 percent.

Over the year, medical care prices rose 3.0 percent. Between the first half and second half of 2008, prices for medical care advanced 0.4 percent.

Apparel prices decreased 1.0 percent for the year ending 2008 and 1.2 percent over the past six months. Prices for recreation increased 1.8 percent since the second half of 2007, but decreased 0.6 percent since the first half of 2008.

Education and communication prices advanced 3.5 percent for both the most recent 12-month and 6-month periods. Other goods and services rose 5.2 percent on an annual basis and 2.3 percent since six months ago.

The Honolulu area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 230.387 (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 \$230.39 during the last six months of 2008. 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

Honolulu, HI (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	222.388	227.334	230.387	3.6	1.3
All items (1967=100)	612.229	625.844	634.249	-	-
Food and beverages	206.932	212.390	220.859	6.7	4.0
Food	206.742	212.150	221.334	7.1	4.3
Food at home	212.387	222.424	234.214	10.3	5.3
Food away from home	196.995	198.595	205.919	4.5	3.7
Alcoholic beverages	208.188	215.070	212.801	2.2	-1.1
Housing	243.250	246.676	250.725	3.1	1.6
Shelter	264.263	265.862	266.960	1.0	.4
Rent of primary residence	251.252	255.297	257.136	2.3	.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	271.858	274.321	275.191	1.2	.3
Fuels and utilities	232.643	266.498	301.325	29.5	13.1
Household energy	209.310	251.277	284.530	35.9	13.2
Gas (piped) and electricity	206.825	247.930	281.204	36.0	13.4
Electricity	202.546	243.024	276.956	36.7	14.0
Utility (piped) gas service	237.090	279.037	289.223	22.0	3.7
Household furnishings and operations	165.835	164.402	165.514	-2	.7
Apparel	105.642	105.917	104.637	-1.0	-1.2
Transportation	205.652	215.519	212.477	3.3	-1.4
Private transportation	202.994	210.861	207.461	2.2	-1.6
Motor fuel	250.603	288.576	281.320	12.3	-2.5
Gasoline (all types)	257.599	296.734	288.356	11.9	-2.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	272.268	313.895	308.008	13.1	-1.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	200.981	229.433	233.685	16.3	1.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	229.421	265.117	247.123	7.7	-6.8
Medical care	309.195	317.380	318.531	3.0	.4
Recreation ⁴	103.087	105.600	104.979	1.8	-6
Education and communication ⁴	115.047	115.126	119.110	3.5	3.5
Other goods and services	351.295	361.286	369.596	5.2	2.3
Commodity and service group					
All items	222.388	227.334	230.387	3.6	1.3
Commodities	175.698	180.499	181.726	3.4	.7
Commodities less food and beverages	153.579	157.863	155.445	1.2	-1.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	183.012	192.383	189.833	3.7	-1.3
Durables	119.758	119.774	117.585	-1.8	-1.8
Services	263.341	268.371	273.096	3.7	1.8
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	217.894	222.682	225.787	3.6	1.4
All items less shelter	203.880	210.819	214.789	5.4	1.9
Commodities less food	155.893	160.254	157.831	1.2	-1.5
Nondurables	196.344	203.722	206.873	5.4	1.5
Nondurables less food	184.605	193.812	191.284	3.6	-1.3
Services less rent of shelter ¹	258.574	270.207	280.604	8.5	3.8
Services less medical care services	259.409	263.885	268.319	3.4	1.7
Energy	231.085	271.033	282.696	22.3	4.3
All items less energy	223.620	226.301	228.767	2.3	1.1
All items less food and energy	228.307	230.438	231.560	1.4	.5

¹ Index is on a December 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.