

# News

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**FOR RELEASE:**

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## **ANCHORAGE CONSUMER PRICES 4.6 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO**

Consumer prices in the Anchorage metropolitan area advanced 4.6 percent from one year prior and 2.5 percent in the first half of 2008 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden said higher transportation prices contributed strongly to the all items index increase.

Transportation prices increased 10.3 percent during the past year and 5.8 percent since the second half of 2007. Annual gasoline prices soared 34.9 percent over the past year, the largest increase in gasoline prices since semiannual data first became available in 1985. In the past six months, gasoline prices increased 17.3 percent.

Prices paid for food and beverages rose 5.0 percent since last year. During this period, the food at home index advanced 6.1 percent, and the food away from home index increased 3.4 percent. For the past six months, the overall food and beverages index rose 2.1 percent. Food at home prices were up 2.5 percent over the past six months, and food away from home increased 1.0 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices edged up 0.1 percent since the first half of 2007 and 0.2 percent since the second half of 2007.

The housing index rose 2.2 percent for the year and 1.1 percent for the past six months. Prices for the shelter component of housing advanced 2.7 percent and the fuels and utilities component rose 0.3 percent for the year. During the past six months costs for shelter increased 1.4 percent, but costs for fuels and utilities decreased 0.2 percent. Within fuels and utilities index, (utility) piped gas service prices declined 1.7 percent for the year and 1.8 percent for the past six months. Electricity prices decreased 3.0 percent for the year and 1.2 percent for the past six months.

Over the year medical care prices rose 4.5 percent. Prices for medical care advanced 3.1 percent in the last six months.

Over the year, apparel prices increased 10.9 percent and over the past six months, increased 5.5 percent. Prices for recreation increased 1.6 percent since the first half of 2007 and 1.2 percent since the second half of 2007.

Education and communication prices advanced 2.1 during the past year and edged up 0.1 percent during the past six months. Other goods and services rose 7.3 percent on an annual basis and 4.5 percent since six months ago.

The Anchorage area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 187.659 (1982-84=100) during the first half of 2008. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$187.66 first 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**

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

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2008 from—	
	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	179.394	183.080	187.659	4.6	2.5
All items (October 1967=100) .....	478.827	488.664	500.889	-	-
Food and beverages .....	181.650	186.798	190.665	5.0	2.1
Food .....	182.776	188.357	192.551	5.3	2.2
Food at home .....	183.885	190.377	195.074	6.1	2.5
Food away from home .....	180.686	184.914	186.841	3.4	1.0
Alcoholic beverages .....	166.130	166.007	166.379	.1	.2
Housing .....	162.634	164.300	166.134	2.2	1.1
Shelter .....	163.467	165.613	167.893	2.7	1.4
Rent of primary residence .....	154.723	157.410	160.105	3.5	1.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	162.732	165.285	167.644	3.0	1.4
Fuels and utilities .....	238.100	239.341	238.919	.3	-.2
Household energy .....	251.633	249.972	248.837	-1.1	-1.5
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	278.754	276.425	272.471	-2.3	-1.4
Electricity .....	212.069	208.146	205.645	-3.0	-1.2
Utility (piped) gas service .....	379.064	379.237	372.534	-1.7	-1.8
Household furnishings and operations .....	112.045	112.151	114.030	1.8	1.7
Apparel .....	120.265	126.447	133.339	10.9	5.5
Transportation .....	177.014	184.474	195.160	10.3	5.8
Private transportation .....	173.892	181.197	191.355	10.0	5.6
Motor fuel .....	210.296	241.937	284.284	35.2	17.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	210.787	242.538	284.444	34.9	17.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>2</sup> .....	204.549	235.672	276.838	35.3	17.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>2 3</sup> .....	200.151	229.785	268.360	34.1	16.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>2</sup> .....	208.845	238.792	278.248	33.2	16.5
Medical care .....	364.399	369.508	380.845	4.5	3.1
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	116.486	117.001	118.377	1.6	1.2
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	106.265	108.377	108.481	2.1	.1
Other goods and services .....	260.779	267.689	279.830	7.3	4.5
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	179.394	183.080	187.659	4.6	2.5
Commodities .....	156.431	161.376	168.102	7.5	4.2
Commodities less food and beverages .....	143.386	148.152	156.091	8.9	5.4
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	167.370	180.023	195.755	17.0	8.7
Durables .....	122.516	121.736	123.128	.5	1.1
Services .....	198.171	200.930	203.683	2.8	1.4
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	172.249	175.863	180.199	4.6	2.5
All items less shelter .....	185.329	189.958	195.889	5.7	3.1
Commodities less food .....	144.650	149.293	156.953	8.5	5.1
Nondurables .....	174.736	183.770	193.672	10.8	5.4
Nondurables less food .....	167.983	179.824	194.347	15.7	8.1
Services less rent of shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	253.172	257.201	261.224	3.2	1.6
Services less medical care services .....	186.581	189.213	191.492	2.6	1.2
Energy .....	224.160	240.221	263.884	17.7	9.9
All items less energy .....	177.111	179.831	183.051	3.4	1.8
All items less food and energy .....	176.185	178.507	181.616	3.1	1.7

<sup>1</sup> Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

<sup>2</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>3</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.