

News

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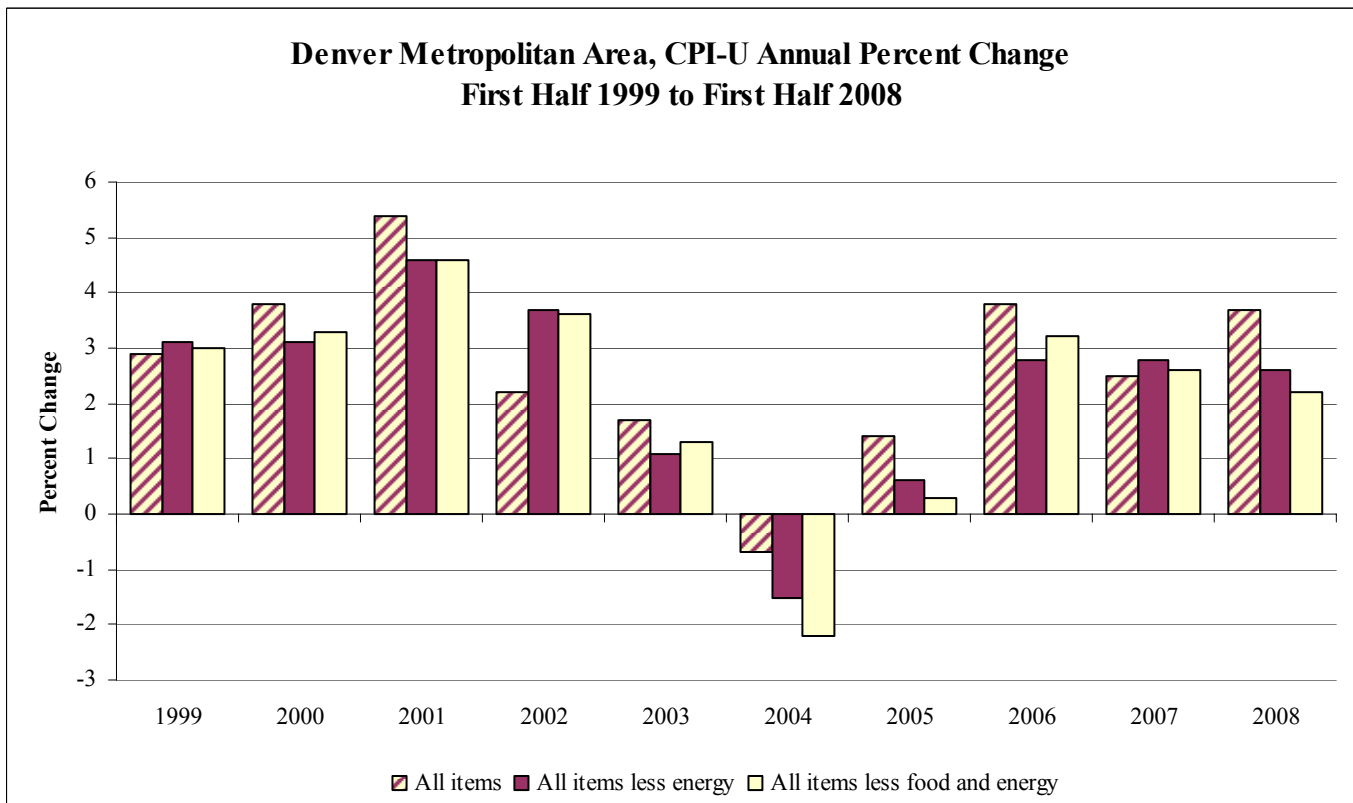
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR DENVER-BOULDER-GREELEY, CO Prices increase 3.7 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver metropolitan area increased 3.7 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman, while costs in all eight major expenditure categories were up over the period, over one-third of the increase in the overall index was attributable to advances in the transportation index.

Energy prices, which include prices for motor fuel and household fuels, rose 19.0 percent from one year ago after declining 0.6 percent from the first half of 2006 to the first half of 2007. Excluding the impact of energy prices, the CPI for Denver rose 2.6 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008.



The transportation index, led by accelerating motor fuel prices, had the greatest impact on the overall index. Transportation costs advanced 8.7 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008 following an increase of 0.9 percent in the same period one year ago. Private transportation costs, which include prices for vehicles and motor fuel, rose 8.4 percent over the year. Motor fuel prices in the Denver metropolitan area climbed 24.8 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008, following a 5.9 percent increase over the same period one year ago.

The housing index rose 1.7 percent largely due to the advance in the shelter component. Shelter costs increased 1.6 percent, as rent of primary residence was up 2.0 percent and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence increased 0.2 percent. Higher prices for lodging away from home also contributed to the gain in shelter costs. Prices for fuels and utilities advanced 7.5 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008. Within fuels and utilities, electricity costs rose 4.2 percent over the year and the index for utility (piped) gas service increased 17.4 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations declined 3.0 percent over the period.

The food and beverages index increased 4.1 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008 primarily as a result of rising costs for food at home. Food at home prices advanced 5.7 percent, the cost of food away from home was up 3.4 percent, and prices for alcoholic beverages rose 1.3 percent over the period.

The remaining five major expenditure categories each accounted for less than ten percent of the increase in the overall index. Costs for medical care advanced 5.8 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008. Recreation prices, which include admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting goods, rose 3.1 percent. The apparel index increased 4.3 percent over the year and education and communication costs were up 1.3 percent. The index for other goods and services, which includes tobacco and smoking products and personal care items, rose 2.5 percent over the period.

The Denver CPI-U stood at 208.741 for the first half of 2008. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 during the 1982-84 base period cost \$208.74 during the first half of 2008. Because metropolitan area CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the area indexes.

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

Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (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
Expenditure category					
All items	201.258	202.799	208.741	3.7	2.9
All items (1967=100)	671.112	676.250	696.062	-	-
Food and beverages	190.844	193.495	198.694	4.1	2.7
Food	192.812	195.709	201.300	4.4	2.9
Food at home	195.093	198.286	206.180	5.7	4.0
Food away from home	188.429	190.746	194.831	3.4	2.1
Alcoholic beverages	177.159	177.959	179.526	1.3	.9
Housing	189.463	187.856	192.726	1.7	2.6
Shelter	207.470	208.567	210.836	1.6	1.1
Rent of primary residence	197.545	197.873	201.535	2.0	1.9
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	205.861	204.749	206.194	.2	.7
Fuels and utilities	189.868	176.639	204.087	7.5	15.5
Household energy	146.281	132.685	162.211	10.9	22.3
Gas (piped) and electricity	145.203	131.385	160.559	10.6	22.2
Electricity	123.427	119.364	128.589	4.2	7.7
Utility (piped) gas service	186.627	160.697	219.193	17.4	36.4
Household furnishings and operations	129.497	124.155	125.553	-3.0	1.1
Apparel	99.061	99.748	103.331	4.3	3.6
Transportation	215.548	223.280	234.245	8.7	4.9
Private transportation	212.443	219.836	230.264	8.4	4.7
Motor fuel	217.329	238.771	271.312	24.8	13.6
Gasoline (all types)	216.402	237.751	269.589	24.6	13.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	214.015	235.052	267.401	24.9	13.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	204.516	224.526	253.554	24.0	12.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	215.531	237.364	266.502	23.6	12.3
Medical care	400.579	405.130	423.776	5.8	4.6
Recreation ⁴	122.420	125.918	126.174	3.1	.2
Education and communication ⁴	110.175	110.703	111.570	1.3	.8
Other goods and services	304.913	301.431	312.664	2.5	3.7
Commodity and service group					
All items	201.258	202.799	208.741	3.7	2.9
Commodities	156.532	159.024	163.771	4.6	3.0
Commodities less food and beverages	138.248	140.630	145.097	5.0	3.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	163.603	169.025	178.221	8.9	5.4
Durables	113.456	113.057	112.888	-.5	-.1
Services	239.086	239.539	246.453	3.1	2.9
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	191.580	192.999	198.443	3.6	2.8
All items less shelter	199.401	201.266	208.784	4.7	3.7
Commodities less food	139.760	142.046	146.387	4.7	3.1
Nondurables	177.769	181.832	189.122	6.4	4.0
Nondurables less food	164.083	168.990	177.537	8.2	5.1
Services less rent of shelter ¹	285.079	285.031	298.761	4.8	4.8
Services less medical care services	224.956	225.221	231.196	2.8	2.7
Energy	178.399	181.413	212.339	19.0	17.0
All items less energy	204.132	205.422	209.366	2.6	1.9
All items less food and energy	206.591	207.563	211.161	2.2	1.7

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.

Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W):Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (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
Expenditure category					
All items	193.585	194.819	201.124	3.9	3.2
All items (1967=100)	644.352	648.459	669.447	-	-
Food and beverages	191.577	194.358	199.964	4.4	2.9
Food	193.634	196.572	202.522	4.6	3.0
Food at home	194.754	197.866	206.174	5.9	4.2
Food away from home	190.350	192.956	196.746	3.4	2.0
Alcoholic beverages	181.808	183.108	184.260	1.3	.6
Housing	183.055	180.345	185.442	1.3	2.8
Shelter	197.414	197.307	199.463	1.0	1.1
Rent of primary residence	197.545	197.873	201.535	2.0	1.9
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	192.181	191.143	192.492	.2	.7
Fuels and utilities	186.935	173.492	201.201	7.6	16.0
Household energy	145.790	132.092	161.594	10.8	22.3
Gas (piped) and electricity	145.730	131.841	161.234	10.6	22.3
Electricity	123.426	119.364	128.589	4.2	7.7
Utility (piped) gas service	186.628	160.698	219.195	17.5	36.4
Household furnishings and operations	133.978	127.617	129.158	-3.6	1.2
Apparel	91.658	94.522	99.783	8.9	5.6
Transportation	213.127	222.035	231.963	8.8	4.5
Private transportation	210.589	219.401	228.988	8.7	4.4
Motor fuel	217.297	238.736	271.268	24.8	13.6
Gasoline (all types)	216.399	237.748	269.585	24.6	13.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	214.019	235.057	267.406	24.9	13.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	204.516	224.526	253.554	24.0	12.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	215.561	237.397	266.539	23.6	12.3
Medical care	398.456	403.098	423.167	6.2	5.0
Recreation ⁴	112.146	114.859	115.011	2.6	.1
Education and communication ⁴	112.304	111.652	112.064	-2	.4
Other goods and services	306.889	302.802	314.058	2.3	3.7
Commodity and service group					
All items	193.585	194.819	201.124	3.9	3.2
Commodities	159.082	162.132	167.804	5.5	3.5
Commodities less food and beverages	138.819	141.897	147.390	6.2	3.9
Nondurables less food and beverages	171.292	178.587	191.296	11.7	7.1
Durables	107.250	105.790	105.765	-1.4	.0
Services	229.491	228.722	235.503	2.6	3.0
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	185.155	186.272	192.152	3.8	3.2
All items less shelter	194.733	196.615	204.692	5.1	4.1
Commodities less food	140.371	143.371	148.757	6.0	3.8
Nondurables	184.738	190.037	199.358	7.9	4.9
Nondurables less food	171.805	178.643	190.663	11.0	6.7
Services less rent of shelter ¹	263.210	261.695	275.010	4.5	5.1
Services less medical care services	216.032	215.035	220.992	2.3	2.8
Energy	187.336	191.326	223.597	19.4	16.9
All items less energy	194.572	195.360	199.225	2.4	2.0
All items less food and energy	195.710	196.053	199.457	1.9	1.7

¹ Index is on a November 1984=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.