

News

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HONOLULU CONSUMER PRICES 4.9 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the Honolulu metropolitan area rose 4.9 percent from one year prior and 2.2 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 that rising housing prices contributed strongly to the all items annual increase.

The housing index rose 5.6 percent for the year and 1.4 percent for the past six months. Over-the-year prices for the shelter component of housing advanced 3.5 percent while the fuels and utilities component jumped 36.4 percent. Costs for shelter increased 0.6 percent and fuels and utilities increased 14.6 percent during the past six months. Within fuels and utilities, utility (piped) gas service prices rose 31.7 percent and electricity rates soared 43.5 percent for the year. This was the largest annual electricity price gain since a 61.2 percent increase from 1980 to 1981. Prices for utility (piped) gas service advanced 17.7 percent and for electricity advanced 20.0 percent in the past six months.

The transportation index for Honolulu rose 5.4 percent from first half of 2007, and 4.8 percent from the second half of 2007. Gasoline prices rose 21.8 percent from a year prior and 15.2 percent from six months ago.

Food and beverages prices increased 4.7 percent for the year and 2.6 percent for the past six month period. Food away from home prices increased 2.8 percent for the year, compared to a 6.1 percent increase for food at home prices. Over the six-month period, prices for food away from home increased 0.8 percent compared to a 4.7 percent increase for food at home. Prices for alcoholic beverages advanced 7.3 percent for the year, and 3.3 percent for the past six months.

Recreation prices rose 3.5 percent over the year and 2.4 percent from six months ago. The education and communication index measured 2.0 percent higher for the year and edged up 0.1 percent for the past six months.

Apparel prices increased 3.2 percent over the past year and 0.3 percent over the past six months. Miscellaneous other goods and services prices advanced 5.1 percent for the year and 2.8 percent for the past six months.

The Honolulu area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 227.334 (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 \$227.33 during the past six months. 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 1st half 2008 from—	
	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	1st half 2007	2nd half 2007
Expenditure category					
All items	216.620	222.388	227.334	4.9	2.2
All items (1967=100)	596.348	612.229	625.844	-	-
Food and beverages	202.952	206.932	212.390	4.7	2.6
Food	202.957	206.742	212.150	4.5	2.6
Food at home	209.613	212.387	222.424	6.1	4.7
Food away from home	193.148	196.995	198.595	2.8	.8
Alcoholic beverages	200.485	208.188	215.070	7.3	3.3
Housing	233.606	243.250	246.676	5.6	1.4
Shelter	256.773	264.263	265.862	3.5	.6
Rent of primary residence	243.521	251.252	255.297	4.8	1.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	263.859	271.858	274.321	4.0	.9
Fuels and utilities	195.437	232.643	266.498	36.4	14.6
Household energy	175.748	209.310	251.277	43.0	20.1
Gas (piped) and electricity	173.554	206.825	247.930	42.9	19.9
Electricity	169.383	202.546	243.024	43.5	20.0
Utility (piped) gas service	211.818	237.090	279.037	31.7	17.7
Household furnishings and operations	164.901	165.835	164.402	-3	-9
Apparel	102.648	105.642	105.917	3.2	.3
Transportation	204.402	205.652	215.519	5.4	4.8
Private transportation	202.616	202.994	210.861	4.1	3.9
Motor fuel	237.118	250.603	288.576	21.7	15.2
Gasoline (all types)	243.614	257.599	296.734	21.8	15.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	256.888	272.268	313.895	22.2	15.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	190.856	200.981	229.433	20.2	14.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	218.030	229.421	265.117	21.6	15.6
Medical care	-	309.195	317.380	-	2.6
Recreation ⁴	102.058	103.087	105.600	3.5	2.4
Education and communication ⁴	112.887	115.047	115.126	2.0	.1
Other goods and services	343.703	351.295	361.286	5.1	2.8
Commodity and service group					
All items	216.620	222.388	227.334	4.9	2.2
Commodities	173.259	175.698	180.499	4.2	2.7
Commodities less food and beverages	152.010	153.579	157.863	3.9	2.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	177.151	183.012	192.383	8.6	5.1
Durables	121.081	119.758	119.774	-1.1	.0
Services	254.551	263.341	268.371	5.4	1.9
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	212.090	217.894	222.682	5.0	2.2
All items less shelter	199.166	203.880	210.819	5.9	3.4
Commodities less food	154.164	155.893	160.254	4.0	2.8
Nondurables	191.526	196.344	203.722	6.4	3.8
Nondurables less food	178.635	184.605	193.812	8.5	5.0
Services less rent of shelter ¹	248.762	258.574	270.207	8.6	4.5
Services less medical care services	250.348	259.409	263.885	5.4	1.7
Energy	207.288	231.085	271.033	30.8	17.3
All items less energy	219.057	223.620	226.301	3.3	1.2
All items less food and energy	223.558	228.307	230.438	3.1	.9

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.