

# News

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**FOR RELEASE:**

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## **PHOENIX-MESA CONSUMER PRICES 3.8 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO**

Consumer prices in the Phoenix-Mesa metropolitan area rose 3.8 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 that rising prices for transportation and housing contributed strongly to the overall increase during both the past year and six months.

The overall transportation index rose 7.0 percent for the past 12 months and 6.3 percent in the first half of 2008. Gasoline prices jumped 23.1 percent over the past 12 months. Over the past six months, average gasoline prices in Phoenix rose 20.9 percent.

The overall housing index increased 2.7 percent for the year. During the first half of 2008, housing prices rose 1.2 percent. Over the past 12 months, the shelter component of housing increased by 2.6 percent. Shelter prices rose 1.5 percent over past six months. For the past year, fuels and utilities prices increased 7.3 percent, but decreased 0.2 percent in the past six months. Within fuels and utilities, utility (piped) gas service prices advanced 2.0 percent and electricity rates rose 8.7 percent for the year. In the past six months utility (piped) gas service and electricity prices declined 0.3 percent and 5.1 percent, respectively. In the past year, household furnishings and operations prices advanced 0.7 percent; for the past six months the index advanced 2.2 percent.

Prices for food and beverages rose 5.3 percent over the past 12 months. During this period, grocery prices, as represented by the food at home index, increased 5.9 percent and prices for food away from home increased 4.4 percent. During the first half of 2008, the food and beverages index rose 2.4 percent. For the past six months, price for food at home and food away from home increased 2.6 and 1.6 percent, respectively. Prices for alcoholic beverages rose 2.8 percent for the past year and 2.4 percent for the past six months.

Apparel prices declined 3.1 percent for the year, but measured 2.2 percent higher during the first six months of 2008.

Medical care prices increased 5.0 percent over the past 12 months and 2.8 percent in the first half of 2008.

Prices for education and communication advanced 2.5 percent during the past twelve months. During the first half of 2008, education and communication prices advanced 0.8 percent. The recreation index increased 3.3 percent in the past twelve months and 1.0 percent in the first half of 2008.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index advanced 3.1 percent over the year. Over the past six months, prices for other goods and services were 1.7 percent higher.

The Phoenix area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 118.912 (December 2001=100) during the first half of 2008. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in December 2001 would have cost \$118.91 during the 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**

**Phoenix-Mesa, AZ** (December 2001=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 .....	114.531	116.038	118.912	3.8	2.5
Food and beverages .....	117.256	120.510	123.438	5.3	2.4
Food .....	117.489	120.985	123.925	5.5	2.4
Food at home .....	122.130	126.019	129.291	5.9	2.6
Food away from home .....	112.192	115.256	117.080	4.4	1.6
Alcoholic beverages .....	114.568	115.088	117.823	2.8	2.4
Housing .....	114.465	116.140	117.513	2.7	1.2
Shelter .....	114.026	115.195	116.978	2.6	1.5
Rent of primary residence .....	111.638	115.756	117.580	5.3	1.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence .....	112.288	114.050	115.206	2.6	1.0
Fuels and utilities .....	128.448	138.032	137.785	7.3	-2
Household energy .....	133.160	150.578	144.062	8.2	-4.3
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	132.876	150.296	143.187	7.8	-4.7
Electricity .....	134.237	153.864	145.956	8.7	-5.1
Utility (piped) gas service .....	130.725	133.666	133.283	2.0	-.3
Household furnishings and operations .....	106.885	105.280	107.603	.7	2.2
Apparel .....	119.857	113.697	116.186	-3.1	2.2
Transportation .....	112.661	113.421	120.571	7.0	6.3
Private transportation .....	114.670	115.226	121.637	6.1	5.6
Motor fuel .....	240.108	244.904	297.547	23.9	21.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	241.048	245.442	296.711	23.1	20.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>1</sup> .....	246.475	250.871	303.953	23.3	21.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>1</sup> .....	234.124	238.070	286.792	22.5	20.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>1</sup> .....	229.358	234.524	280.873	22.5	19.8
Medical care .....	124.971	127.579	131.209	5.0	2.8
Recreation .....	101.916	104.305	105.330	3.3	1.0
Education and communication .....	112.053	113.921	114.813	2.5	.8
Other goods and services .....	121.311	122.946	125.034	3.1	1.7
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	114.531	116.038	118.912	3.8	2.5
Commodities .....	111.761	112.079	115.752	3.6	3.3
Commodities less food and beverages .....	108.748	107.584	111.618	2.6	3.7
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	135.293	134.369	144.291	6.7	7.4
Durables .....	86.391	85.114	84.752	-1.9	-.4
Services .....	116.553	119.002	121.238	4.0	1.9
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	113.914	115.354	118.182	3.7	2.5
All items less shelter .....	114.954	116.592	120.157	4.5	3.1
Commodities less food .....	108.967	107.870	111.852	2.6	3.7
Nondurables .....	125.600	126.967	133.127	6.0	4.9
Nondurables less food .....	133.498	132.703	141.982	6.4	7.0
Services less rent of shelter .....	118.442	122.320	125.601	6.0	2.7
Services less medical care services .....	115.358	117.689	119.734	3.8	1.7
Energy .....	179.579	191.723	210.526	17.2	9.8
All items less energy .....	110.631	111.695	113.576	2.7	1.7
All items less food and energy .....	109.527	110.185	111.889	2.2	1.5

<sup>1</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.