

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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PORTLAND-SALEM CONSUMER PRICES 3.9 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the Portland-Salem metropolitan area rose 3.9 percent from one year prior and 2.0 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 and transportation prices contributed strongly toward the all items annual increase.

The transportation index rose 6.8 percent for the past 12 months and moved up 5.6 percent in the first half of 2008. Average gasoline prices rose 20.4 percent over the past 12 months. Over the past six months, gasoline prices in Portland jumped 20.0 percent.

The housing index rose 3.2 percent for the year and 0.9 percent for the past six months. Prices for the shelter component of housing advanced 2.9 percent and for the fuels and utilities component advanced 4.7 percent over the year. Shelter costs increased 1.0 percent, but fuels and utilities decreased 0.5 percent during the latest six months period. Within fuels and utilities, utility (piped) gas service prices declined 8.4 percent, but electricity rates advanced 11.2 percent for the year. Prices for utility (piped) gas service and electricity decreased 5.8 percent and 0.6 percent, respectively, in the past six months.

Prices for food and beverages rose 4.3 percent over the past 12 months and 2.4 percent over the past six months. The annual and six month price increases for food and beverages exceeded the all items index for the same periods. Prices for food at home increased 5.0 percent and for food away from home increased 3.6 percent over the year. Prices for these two food groups increased 3.4 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively, over the past six months. Prices paid for alcoholic beverages rose 5.8 percent for the past 12 months and 3.1 percent for the past six months.

Annual medical care prices increased 6.4 percent since last year and 2.6 percent in the last six months. Prices for education and communication advanced 1.8 percent during the past year and 0.8 percent for the past six months.

The recreation index decreased 0.8 percent in the past 12 months, making it the only major expenditure category to experience a decline during this period. For the first half of 2008, recreation prices measured 0.4 percent higher.

Apparel prices advanced 2.0 percent for the latest twelve month period. During the first six months of 2008, apparel prices measured 0.6 percent lower.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index advanced 4.1 percent over the year. During the past six months, prices for other goods and services were 3.1 percent higher.

The Portland area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 214.619 (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 \$214.62 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

Portland-Salem, OR-WA (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	206.653	210.460	214.619	3.9	2.0
All items (1967=100)	604.993	616.140	628.313	-	-
Food and beverages	186.141	189.756	194.222	4.3	2.4
Food	186.971	190.484	194.837	4.2	2.3
Food at home	184.240	187.147	193.455	5.0	3.4
Food away from home	193.950	198.887	201.029	3.6	1.1
Alcoholic beverages	178.723	183.383	189.101	5.8	3.1
Housing	200.508	205.028	206.843	3.2	.9
Shelter	229.706	234.005	236.408	2.9	1.0
Rent of primary residence	214.918	219.819	224.958	4.7	2.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	237.561	240.878	244.234	2.8	1.4
Fuels and utilities	209.741	220.867	219.664	4.7	-5
Household energy	181.958	194.010	191.833	5.4	-1.1
Gas (piped) and electricity	224.277	238.961	233.358	4.0	-2.3
Electricity	225.632	252.459	250.977	11.2	-6
Utility (piped) gas service	212.313	206.511	194.537	-8.4	-5.8
Household furnishings and operations	108.810	110.084	111.221	2.2	1.0
Apparel	118.827	121.904	121.179	2.0	-6
Transportation	208.147	210.610	222.302	6.8	5.6
Private transportation	208.926	210.679	222.687	6.6	5.7
Motor fuel	252.275	253.706	303.932	20.5	19.8
Gasoline (all types)	253.344	254.237	305.138	20.4	20.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	251.603	252.126	303.448	20.6	20.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	214.085	215.802	257.491	20.3	19.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	234.913	236.564	281.174	19.7	18.9
Medical care	371.779	385.390	395.546	6.4	2.6
Recreation ⁴	112.913	111.574	112.020	-8	.4
Education and communication ⁴	105.436	106.496	107.333	1.8	.8
Other goods and services	380.840	384.774	396.520	4.1	3.1
Commodity and service group					
All items	206.653	210.460	214.619	3.9	2.0
Commodities	163.188	164.894	169.929	4.1	3.1
Commodities less food and beverages	151.062	151.759	157.016	3.9	3.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	177.520	178.708	191.659	8.0	7.2
Durables	119.205	119.367	118.007	-1.0	-1.1
Services	250.273	256.175	259.373	3.6	1.2
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	198.712	202.086	205.970	3.7	1.9
All items less shelter	199.067	202.556	207.534	4.3	2.5
Commodities less food	151.916	152.792	158.048	4.0	3.4
Nondurables	181.218	183.615	192.382	6.2	4.8
Nondurables less food	176.712	178.182	190.507	7.8	6.9
Services less rent of shelter ¹	282.548	290.237	294.540	4.2	1.5
Services less medical care services	241.090	246.234	248.899	3.2	1.1
Energy	215.854	222.318	247.747	14.8	11.4
All items less energy	208.264	211.897	214.499	3.0	1.2
All items less food and energy	213.869	217.548	219.820	2.8	1.0

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.