

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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SAN DIEGO CONSUMER PRICES 4.6 PERCENT HIGHER THAN A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the San Diego metropolitan area advanced 4.6 percent from one year prior and 3.3 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 increases in housing and transportation contributed strongly to the overall index for the past year and the past six months.

The housing index rose 4.0 percent from the first half of 2007 to the first half of 2008. In the same period, the shelter component of housing advanced 4.4 percent and the fuels and utilities component rose 0.3 percent. The overall housing category increased 2.6 percent during the past six months. Costs for shelter increased 2.3 percent and for fuels and utilities increased 2.5 percent during the same period. Within fuels and utilities, utility (piped) gas service prices jumped 13.4 percent, while over-the-year electricity rates declined 9.0 percent for the year. Utility (piped) gas service prices soared 21.8 percent in the past six months, while electricity prices decreased 3.5 percent in the same period.

Transportation prices advanced 6.4 percent during the past year and 6.0 percent since the second half of 2007. In the past year, the percentage gain for transportation was highest among all eight major expenditure categories. Annual gasoline prices jumped 21.9 percent and rose 19.3 percent in the past six months.

Prices for food and beverages rose 4.2 percent since the first half of 2007. In the same period grocery prices, represented by the food at home index, advanced 5.1 percent and food away from home prices increased 4.0 percent. For the past six months, the overall food and beverage's index rose 2.8 percent. During this period, grocery prices were up 4.0 percent, while food away from home prices increased 2.1 percent. Prices for alcoholic beverages advanced 3.5 percent and 1.1 percent for the annual and six-month periods, respectively.

Over the year, apparel prices increased 5.1 percent and over the past six months increased 2.2 percent. Prices for recreation increased 3.2 percent since last year and 3.9 in the first half of 2008.

Education and communication prices advanced 5.3 percent during the past year and 1.8 percent during the past six months. Other goods and services rose 1.8 percent on an annual basis and 3.3 percent since six months ago.

The San Diego area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 242.440 (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 \$242.44 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

San Diego, CA (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	231.870	234.772	242.440	4.6	3.3
All items (1967=100)	784.022	793.838	819.765	-	-
Food and beverages	210.531	213.479	219.445	4.2	2.8
Food	208.105	210.864	216.981	4.3	2.9
Food at home	193.347	195.335	203.164	5.1	4.0
Food away from home	225.009	229.371	234.089	4.0	2.1
Alcoholic beverages	231.398	236.887	239.502	3.5	1.1
Housing	259.223	262.839	269.695	4.0	2.6
Shelter	292.463	298.458	305.462	4.4	2.3
Rent of primary residence	275.984	282.172	289.221	4.8	2.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ¹	309.733	316.710	322.412	4.1	1.8
Fuels and utilities	197.015	192.741	197.625	.3	2.5
Household energy	172.894	163.736	165.470	-4.3	1.1
Gas (piped) and electricity	170.776	160.719	160.809	-5.8	.1
Electricity	155.546	146.765	141.590	-9.0	-3.5
Utility (piped) gas service	198.510	184.800	225.014	13.4	21.8
Household furnishings and operations	177.336	175.940	181.182	2.2	3.0
Apparel	121.645	125.135	127.873	5.1	2.2
Transportation	192.918	193.518	205.196	6.4	6.0
Private transportation	187.924	188.007	199.235	6.0	6.0
Motor fuel	240.039	245.413	293.176	22.1	19.5
Gasoline (all types)	240.908	246.182	293.636	21.9	19.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ²	250.261	255.303	305.410	22.0	19.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{2 3}	208.289	213.750	252.300	21.1	18.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ²	243.840	249.633	296.313	21.5	18.7
Medical care	-	-	368.155	-	-
Recreation ⁴	137.525	136.695	141.990	3.2	3.9
Education and communication ⁴	113.777	117.764	119.832	5.3	1.8
Other goods and services	335.831	331.081	341.929	1.8	3.3
Commodity and service group					
All items	231.870	234.772	242.440	4.6	3.3
Commodities	180.625	181.390	188.796	4.5	4.1
Commodities less food and beverages	163.773	163.530	171.382	4.6	4.8
Nondurables less food and beverages	175.671	178.435	194.486	10.7	9.0
Durables	154.556	151.362	151.369	-2.1	.0
Services	276.983	281.913	289.820	4.6	2.8
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	226.213	228.802	236.360	4.5	3.3
All items less shelter	207.960	209.655	217.426	4.6	3.7
Commodities less food	166.892	166.809	174.551	4.6	4.6
Nondurables	194.348	197.212	208.670	7.4	5.8
Nondurables less food	180.566	183.516	198.830	10.1	8.3
Services less rent of shelter ¹	270.663	274.105	282.690	4.4	3.1
Services less medical care services	269.137	273.749	281.517	4.6	2.8
Energy	211.259	210.621	239.402	13.3	13.7
All items less energy	235.226	238.467	244.365	3.9	2.5
All items less food and energy	241.222	244.571	250.472	3.8	2.4

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.