

News

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SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON AREA CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: SEPTEMBER 2008 GASOLINE PRICES DECLINE

Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden of the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today that a 5.8 percent decrease in gasoline prices was the primary reason for a 4.3 percent decrease in the special aggregate index for energy in September 2008. Dominated by a 29.9 percent over-the-year increase in gasoline, energy prices rose 18.3 percent for the same period. The household energy index decreased 0.4 percent from August to September and was 0.7 percent lower than one year ago. Within the household energy index, prices for electricity and utility (piped) gas service were both unchanged from August to September. Over the year, electricity prices advanced 0.7 percent, while prices for utility (piped) gas service declined 11.9 percent.

Shelter prices increased 0.9 percent in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area in September and were 5.8 percent higher over the year. Within shelter, the rent of primary residence index residence increased 0.7 percent for the month and rose 7.7 percent over the year. The owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index advanced 1.3 percent this month and was 7.3 percent higher than in September 2007. Also included in shelter, but not part of the publication structure, are price data for lodging away from home.

Grocery prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) food at home index, decreased 0.6 percent for the month. Compared to one year ago, grocery prices were 6.6 percent higher. The food at home index now stands at 228.552. This means grocery shoppers in the Seattle area spent \$228.55 in September 2008 for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

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

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Sep. 2008	Sep. 2007	July 2008	Aug. 2008
Expenditure category						
All items	-	227.745	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	694.255	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	227.757	-	-	-	-
Food	-	229.562	-	-	-	-
Food at home	233.491	229.902	228.552	6.6	-2.1	-0.6
Food away from home	-	232.207	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	210.075	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	236.579	-	-	-	-
Shelter	261.290	261.099	263.504	5.8	.8	.9
Rent of primary residence ¹	252.093	253.527	255.427	7.7	1.3	.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	271.699	272.444	275.875	7.3	1.5	1.3
Fuels and utilities	-	203.622	-	-	-	-
Household energy	205.842	205.123	204.391	-7	-7	-4
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	236.154	236.154	236.154	-3.1	.0	.0
Electricity ¹	236.457	236.457	236.457	.7	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	193.967	193.967	193.967	-11.9	.0	.0
Household furnishings and operations	-	179.158	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	130.853	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	220.900	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	228.807	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	455.258	424.473	399.047	29.8	-12.3	-6.0
Gasoline (all types)	463.007	431.413	406.339	29.9	-12.2	-5.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	510.711	475.466	447.329	30.1	-12.4	-5.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	352.582	329.651	311.142	29.5	-11.8	-5.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	399.883	373.858	354.756	28.0	-11.3	-5.1
Medical care	-	336.777	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	-	98.584	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁵	-	122.571	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	354.243	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	227.745	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	191.547	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	171.550	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	213.390	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	131.743	-	-	-	-
Services	-	261.809	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	222.726	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	215.761	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	172.961	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	220.421	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	212.487	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	-	268.891	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	254.468	-	-	-	-
Energy	340.455	323.834	310.041	18.3	-8.9	-4.3
All items less energy	-	224.060	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	223.261	-	-	-	-

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.