

# News

U.S. Department of Labor  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
PO Box 193766  
San Francisco, Calif. 94119-3766



**CONTACT:**

**Richard J. Holden (415) 625-2270**

**Amar Mann (415) 625-2285**

**Internet address: <http://www.bls.gov/ro9/ro9news.htm>**

**BLS 08-78**

**FOR RELEASE:**

**Tuesday, September 16, 2008**

## **SAN FRANCISCO AREA CONSUMER PRICES INCREASE 4.2 PERCENT OVER THE PAST YEAR**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the August 2008 All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area increased 4.2 percent over the past 12 months. This matches the 4.2 percent increase for the June 2007 to June 2008 period. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that increasing transportation prices contributed significantly to the recent annual gain. Additionally, over the past two months, Bay Area consumer prices edged up 0.1 percent. Local Consumer Price Index data are not seasonally adjusted.

Transportation prices in the San Francisco area decreased by 3.1 percent between June and August. The transportation index, accounts for about 17 percent of the CPI All Items Index and exhibited the largest bi-monthly decrease among the eight major CPI expenditure categories. Over the past 12 months, however, transportation prices advanced 12.3 percent. Within the transportation index, gasoline prices declined 8.4 percent over the past two months, but advanced 38.3 percent over the past year.

The housing index, which comprises approximately 46 percent of the San Francisco area's all items index, increased 0.8 since June and has advanced 2.3 percent compared to 12 months ago. Shelter, household fuels and utilities, and household furnishings and operations are all components of the housing index. Shelter increased 0.6 percent over the past two months and advanced 1.9 percent over the past year. Household fuels and utilities increased 1.4 percent since June and advanced 8.4 percent since August 2007. Within household fuels and utilities, prices for the utility (piped) gas service index rose 3.1 percent and electricity prices were unchanged during the past two months. Since August 2007, the utility (piped) gas service index jumped 36.8 percent, while electricity prices decreased 1.0 percent. Meanwhile, household furnishings and operations rose 1.9 percent since June and advanced 2.0 percent from a year ago.

The San Francisco area's food and beverages index, which accounts for 14 percent of the San Francisco all items index, grew 0.4 percent since June and was 3.8 percent higher than last year's level. The food at home index, which measures grocery prices, increased 1.1 percent over the past two months and advanced 4.4 percent from a year ago. Food away from home prices were unchanged since June and advanced 3.2 percent since August 2007. Additionally, prices for alcoholic beverages declined 1.2 percent over the past two months and advanced 2.7 percent over the past year.

Medical care prices decreased 0.4 percent since June and increased 2.3 percent since August 2007.

The apparel index increased 3.8 percent over the past two months, but decreased 1.6 percent over the past year.

The San Francisco area education and communication index rose 1.1 percent since June and has increased 4.9 percent compared to August 2007.

Among the remaining major expenditure categories, the recreation index increased 0.3 percent and the other goods and services index increased 1.7 percent between June and August. Over the past year, recreation prices were up 2.5 percent and other goods and services prices rose 5.2 percent.

The all items less food and energy special aggregate index increased 0.7 percent since June. Over the past 12 months, the index has advanced 2.4 percent. Additionally, the special energy aggregate index was down 5.7 percent over the past two months, but stood 27.3 percent higher than in August 2007.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, stands at 225.411 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$225.41 in August 2008.

---

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.

Voice phone 202-691-5200

TDD message referral phone number: 800-877-8339

---

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

San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2008	July 2008	Aug. 2008	Aug. 2007	June 2008	July 2008
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	225.181	-	225.411	4.2	0.1	-
All items (1967=100) .....	692.268	-	692.975	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	224.404	-	225.364	3.8	.4	-
Food .....	223.641	-	224.948	3.9	.6	-
Food at home .....	225.556	228.336	228.094	4.4	1.1	-0.1
Food away from home .....	221.162	-	221.096	3.2	.0	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	238.009	-	235.102	2.7	-1.2	-
Housing .....	242.174	-	244.190	2.3	.8	-
Shelter .....	272.247	273.786	273.980	1.9	.6	.1
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	288.085	288.994	290.625	4.5	.9	.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	293.391	294.244	295.210	3.0	.6	.3
Fuels and utilities .....	270.490	-	274.327	8.4	1.4	-
Household energy .....	295.465	310.870	298.277	9.7	1.0	-4.1
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	294.315	309.920	297.330	9.1	1.0	-4.1
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	275.345	275.379	275.379	-1.0	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	336.008	390.997	346.563	36.8	3.1	-11.4
Household furnishings and operations .....	126.017	-	128.473	2.0	1.9	-
Apparel .....	99.085	-	102.839	-1.6	3.8	-
Transportation .....	191.044	-	185.165	12.3	-3.1	-
Private transportation .....	182.063	-	175.763	11.3	-3.5	-
Motor fuel .....	343.212	341.875	314.230	38.8	-8.4	-8.1
Gasoline (all types) .....	340.526	339.158	311.970	38.3	-8.4	-8.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	343.004	341.219	313.420	39.2	-8.6	-8.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	312.748	312.099	288.071	36.4	-7.9	-7.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	314.422	314.649	290.814	35.5	-7.5	-7.6
Medical care .....	366.446	-	365.035	2.3	-.4	-
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	105.725	-	106.034	2.5	.3	-
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	132.413	-	133.863	4.9	1.1	-
Other goods and services .....	366.933	-	373.200	5.2	1.7	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	225.181	-	225.411	4.2	.1	-
Commodities .....	174.870	-	173.511	5.7	-.8	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	144.341	-	142.173	6.9	-1.5	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	187.922	-	183.802	13.1	-2.2	-
Durables .....	103.764	-	103.277	-1.0	-.5	-
Services .....	266.962	-	268.606	3.4	.6	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	219.220	-	219.504	4.4	.1	-
All items less shelter .....	207.473	-	207.026	5.7	-.2	-
Commodities less food .....	148.788	-	146.574	6.7	-1.5	-
Nondurables .....	208.654	-	206.819	8.1	-.9	-
Nondurables less food .....	192.109	-	188.047	12.1	-2.1	-
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	274.421	-	275.982	5.7	.6	-
Services less medical care services .....	260.054	-	261.914	3.5	.7	-
Energy .....	331.855	336.047	313.030	27.3	-5.7	-6.8
All items less energy .....	221.378	-	222.826	2.6	.7	-
All items less food and energy .....	221.669	-	223.143	2.4	.7	-

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

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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