

# News

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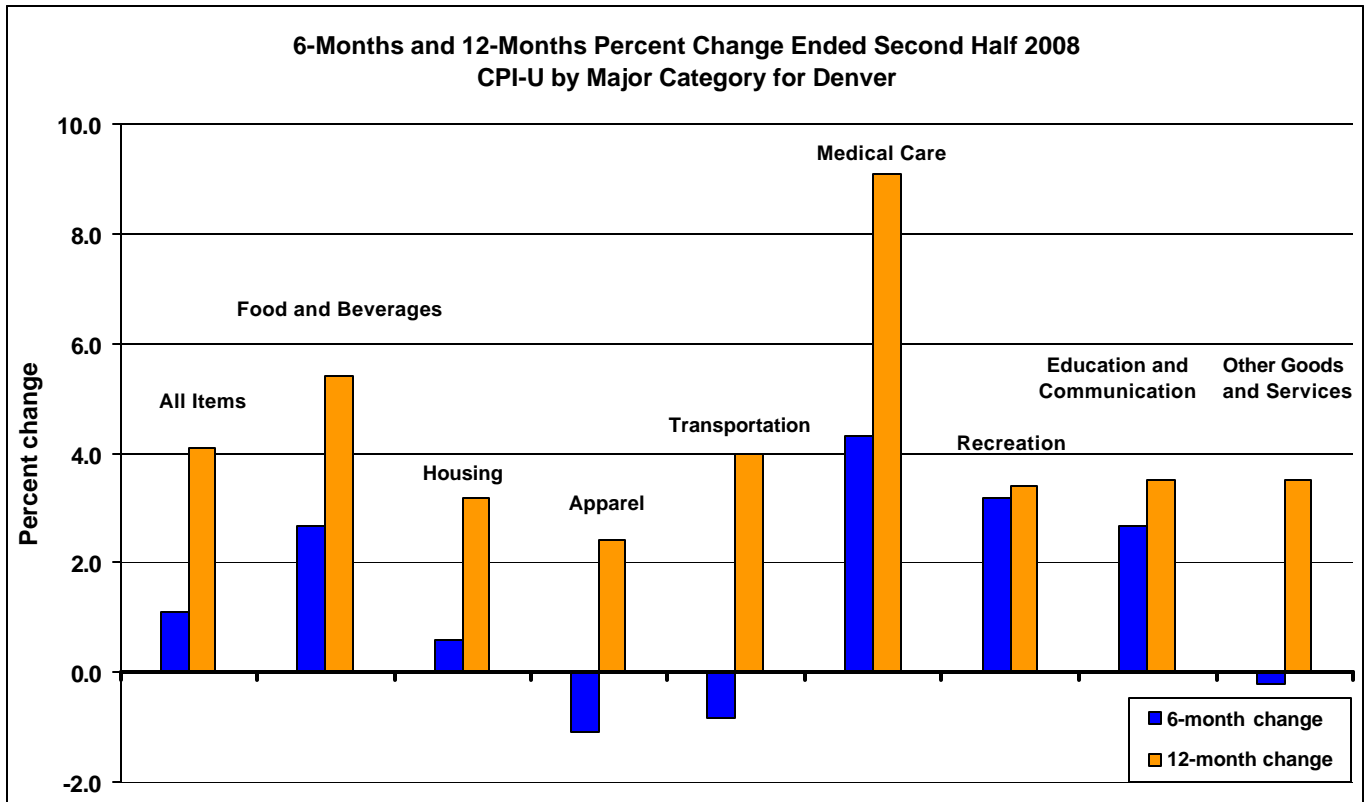
FOR RELEASE:

February 20, 2009

7:30am Central Time

## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR DENVER-BOULDER-GREELEY, CO Prices increased 4.1 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver metropolitan area increased 4.1 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008, with most of the increase occurring in the first half of the period, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman, while costs in all eight major expenditure categories were up over the period, nearly a third of the increase in the overall index was attributable to rising costs for housing.



Among the eight major expenditure categories, rising housing costs had the largest impact on the overall index, advancing 3.2 percent with both shelter and household energy costs contributing to the over-the-year increase. The shelter index rose 1.8 percent as rent of primary residence increased 2.8 percent and owners' equivalent rent of primary residence rose 1.4 percent. Prices for household energy jumped 22.5 percent from the second half of 2007

to the second half of 2008 after declining 20.6 percent from the second half of 2005 to the second half of 2007. Electricity prices increased 15.9 percent, the largest over-the-year advance since 1984. Charges for utility (piped) gas service turned up 24.9 percent over the year after falling 12.7 percent from the second half of 2006 to the second half of 2007. Prices for household furnishings and operations rose 2.6 percent.

The food and beverages index had the second largest effect on the all items index as costs rose 5.4 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008, the largest over-the-year increase since 1990. Prices for food at home climbed 6.6 percent and accounted for nearly two-thirds of the increase in the food and beverages index. Costs for food away from home increased 5.1 percent and alcoholic beverages prices were 0.7 percent lower.

Transportation costs had slightly less impact than food and beverages, advancing 4.0 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008 following an increase of 4.8 percent in the same period one year ago. Private transportation costs, which include prices for motor vehicles and motor fuel, rose 3.2 percent over the year. Prices for motor fuel were 3.6 percent higher with price declines during the second half of the year partially offsetting increases registered earlier in the year. The over-the-year increase moderated after advancing 14.6 percent in the same period one year ago.

The Denver metropolitan area also recorded higher prices in the remaining five major expenditure categories. Medical care costs rose 9.1 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008, the largest over-the-year advance since 1991. The index for education and communication rose 3.5 percent and recreation prices, which include admissions to movies, concerts, and sporting events, rose 3.4 percent. Prices for other goods and services, which include tobacco and smoking products and personal care items, increased 3.5 percent since the second half of 2007. Apparel prices turned up 2.4 percent over the period following a 7.6-percent decline in the same period one year ago.

Energy prices, which include prices for motor fuel and household fuels, were up 10.6 percent over the year with price increases in the first half of the year more than offsetting decreases in the second half. The special aggregate index for all items less energy rose 3.8 percent. Excluding the impact of food and energy prices the Denver CPI-U was up 3.3 percent from the second half of 2007 to the second half of 2008.

The Denver CPI-U stood at 211.066 for the second half of 2008. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 during the 1982-84 base period cost \$211.07 during the second half of 2008. Because metropolitan area CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the area indexes.

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

**Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2008 from—	
	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	202.799	208.741	211.066	4.1	1.1
All items (1967=100) .....	676.250	696.062	703.816	-	-
Food and beverages .....	193.495	198.694	203.999	5.4	2.7
Food .....	195.709	201.300	207.440	6.0	3.1
Food at home .....	198.286	206.180	211.420	6.6	2.5
Food away from home .....	190.746	194.831	200.456	5.1	2.9
Alcoholic beverages .....	177.959	179.526	176.706	-7	-1.6
Housing .....	187.856	192.726	193.800	3.2	.6
Shelter .....	208.567	210.836	212.358	1.8	.7
Rent of primary residence .....	197.873	201.535	203.463	2.8	1.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	204.749	206.194	207.680	1.4	.7
Fuels and utilities .....	176.639	204.087	201.037	13.8	-1.5
Household energy .....	132.685	162.211	162.563	22.5	.2
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	131.385	160.559	160.954	22.5	.2
Electricity .....	119.364	128.589	138.391	15.9	7.6
Utility (piped) gas service .....	160.697	219.193	200.659	24.9	-8.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	124.155	125.553	127.329	2.6	1.4
Apparel .....	99.748	103.331	102.186	2.4	-1.1
Transportation .....	223.280	234.245	232.319	4.0	-.8
Private transportation .....	219.836	230.264	226.845	3.2	-1.5
Motor fuel .....	238.771	271.312	247.272	3.6	-8.9
Gasoline (all types) .....	237.751	269.589	245.709	3.3	-8.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>2</sup> .....	235.052	267.401	242.482	3.2	-9.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>2 3</sup> .....	224.526	253.554	233.591	4.0	-7.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>2</sup> .....	237.364	266.502	245.383	3.4	-7.9
Medical care .....	405.130	423.776	442.049	9.1	4.3
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	125.918	126.174	130.241	3.4	3.2
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	110.703	111.570	114.536	3.5	2.7
Other goods and services .....	301.431	312.664	311.976	3.5	-.2
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	202.799	208.741	211.066	4.1	1.1
Commodities .....	159.024	163.771	163.869	3.0	.1
Commodities less food and beverages .....	140.630	145.097	142.742	1.5	-1.6
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	169.025	178.221	172.453	2.0	-3.2
Durables .....	113.057	112.888	113.822	.7	.8
Services .....	239.539	246.453	251.041	4.8	1.9
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	192.999	198.443	200.231	3.7	.9
All items less shelter .....	201.266	208.784	211.487	5.1	1.3
Commodities less food .....	142.046	146.387	144.017	1.4	-1.6
Nondurables .....	181.832	189.122	188.774	3.8	-.2
Nondurables less food .....	168.990	177.537	172.039	1.8	-3.1
Services less rent of shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	285.031	298.761	308.147	8.1	3.1
Services less medical care services .....	225.221	231.196	234.834	4.3	1.6
Energy .....	181.413	212.339	200.634	10.6	-5.5
All items less energy .....	205.422	209.366	213.132	3.8	1.8
All items less food and energy .....	207.563	211.161	214.445	3.3	1.6

<sup>1</sup> Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

<sup>2</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>3</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

**Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W):Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods**

**Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO** (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 2nd half 2008 from—	
	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	2nd half 2007	1st half 2008
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	194.819	201.124	202.605	4.0	0.7
All items (1967=100) .....	648.459	669.447	674.377	-	-
Food and beverages .....	194.358	199.964	205.782	5.9	2.9
Food .....	196.572	202.522	208.975	6.3	3.2
Food at home .....	197.866	206.174	211.808	7.0	2.7
Food away from home .....	192.956	196.746	202.631	5.0	3.0
Alcoholic beverages .....	183.108	184.260	180.985	-1.2	-1.8
Housing .....	180.345	185.442	186.433	3.4	.5
Shelter .....	197.307	199.463	200.946	1.8	.7
Rent of primary residence .....	197.873	201.535	203.463	2.8	1.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	191.143	192.492	193.879	1.4	.7
Fuels and utilities .....	173.492	201.201	197.979	14.1	-1.6
Household energy .....	132.092	161.594	161.805	22.5	.1
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	131.841	161.234	161.461	22.5	.1
Electricity .....	119.364	128.589	138.391	15.9	7.6
Utility (piped) gas service .....	160.698	219.195	200.660	24.9	-8.5
Household furnishings and operations .....	127.617	129.158	131.569	3.1	1.9
Apparel .....	94.522	99.783	97.701	3.4	-2.1
Transportation .....	222.035	231.963	227.450	2.4	-1.9
Private transportation .....	219.401	228.988	224.151	2.2	-2.1
Motor fuel .....	238.736	271.268	247.232	3.6	-8.9
Gasoline (all types) .....	237.748	269.585	245.705	3.3	-8.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>2</sup> .....	235.057	267.406	242.487	3.2	-9.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>2 3</sup> .....	224.526	253.554	233.591	4.0	-7.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>2</sup> .....	237.397	266.539	245.417	3.4	-7.9
Medical care .....	403.098	423.167	443.009	9.9	4.7
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	114.859	115.011	119.186	3.8	3.6
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	111.652	112.064	113.963	2.1	1.7
Other goods and services .....	302.802	314.058	311.517	2.9	-.8
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	194.819	201.124	202.605	4.0	.7
Commodities .....	162.132	167.804	167.237	3.1	-.3
Commodities less food and beverages .....	141.897	147.390	144.013	1.5	-2.3
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	178.587	191.296	183.007	2.5	-4.3
Durables .....	105.790	105.765	106.073	.3	.3
Services .....	228.722	235.503	239.388	4.7	1.6
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	186.272	192.152	193.179	3.7	.5
All items less shelter .....	196.615	204.692	206.197	4.9	.7
Commodities less food .....	143.371	148.757	145.376	1.4	-2.3
Nondurables .....	190.037	199.358	198.203	4.3	-.6
Nondurables less food .....	178.643	190.663	182.688	2.3	-4.2
Services less rent of shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	261.695	275.010	282.363	7.9	2.7
Services less medical care services .....	215.035	220.992	223.999	4.2	1.4
Energy .....	191.326	223.597	210.693	10.1	-5.8
All items less energy .....	195.360	199.225	202.430	3.6	1.6
All items less food and energy .....	196.053	199.457	201.964	3.0	1.3

<sup>1</sup> Index is on a November 1984=100 base.

<sup>2</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>3</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.