

# News

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**FOR RELEASE:**

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## **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE SEATTLE AREA, JULY 2009**

Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden of the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today that a 4.4 percent decrease in gasoline prices in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area was the primary reason for the 2.7 percent decrease in the special aggregate index for energy in July 2009. Gasoline prices dropped 36.2 percent in the past year, strongly influencing the 26.3 percent fall in overall energy prices for the same period. The household energy index declined 0.3 percent from June to July and was 1.0 percent lower than one year ago. Within household fuels, prices for both electricity and utility (piped) gas service were unchanged for the month. Over the year, electricity prices decreased 0.3 percent, but utility (piped) gas service prices jumped 13.4 percent.

Grocery prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) food at home index, moved down 2.0 percent for the month. Compared to July 2008, grocery prices were 3.3 percent lower. The food at home index now stands at 225.822. This means grocery shoppers in the Seattle area spent \$225.82 in July 2009 for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84.

Shelter prices decreased 0.2 percent for the month, but were 1.9 percent higher over the year. Within shelter, the rent of primary residence index decreased 0.2 percent in June, but increased 2.7 percent over the year. The owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index moved down 0.5 percent over the month, but advanced 3.2 percent since June 2008. Also included in shelter, but not part of the publication structure, are price data for lodging away from home. 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—		
	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	July 2008	May 2009	June 2009
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	-	227.257	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100) .....	-	692.768	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	-	230.551	-	-	-	-
Food .....	-	232.124	-	-	-	-
Food at home .....	231.302	230.493	225.822	-3.3	-2.4	-2.0
Food away from home .....	-	237.201	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	-	214.897	-	-	-	-
Housing .....	-	241.160	-	-	-	-
Shelter .....	267.346	266.934	266.288	1.9	-4	-2
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	259.870	259.240	258.839	2.7	-4	-2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	282.519	281.712	280.404	3.2	-7	-5
Fuels and utilities .....	-	208.564	-	-	-	-
Household energy .....	206.360	204.267	203.743	-1.0	-1.3	-3
Gas (piped) and electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	244.417	243.275	243.275	3.0	-5	.0
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	235.783	235.783	235.783	-3	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	223.739	219.864	219.864	13.4	-1.7	.0
Household furnishings and operations .....	-	177.797	-	-	-	-
Apparel .....	-	136.516	-	-	-	-
Transportation .....	-	202.882	-	-	-	-
Private transportation .....	-	209.850	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel .....	267.131	300.972	288.032	-36.7	7.8	-4.3
Gasoline (all types) .....	273.590	308.851	295.168	-36.2	7.9	-4.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	300.006	338.988	323.455	-36.7	7.8	-4.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	211.816	238.659	229.774	-34.8	8.5	-3.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	244.139	273.963	263.281	-34.2	7.8	-3.9
Medical care .....	-	343.226	-	-	-	-
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	-	97.080	-	-	-	-
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	-	125.154	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services .....	-	367.355	-	-	-	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	-	227.257	-	-	-	-
Commodities .....	-	183.306	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	-	158.778	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	-	185.955	-	-	-	-
Durables .....	-	131.505	-	-	-	-
Services .....	-	268.219	-	-	-	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	-	221.956	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter .....	-	212.448	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food .....	-	160.938	-	-	-	-
Nondurables .....	-	207.540	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food .....	-	187.912	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	-	276.203	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services .....	-	260.654	-	-	-	-
Energy .....	241.272	258.144	251.050	-26.3	4.1	-2.7
All items less energy .....	-	227.941	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy .....	-	227.355	-	-	-	-

<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 November 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.