

# 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/news.htm>**

**BLS 09-11**

**FOR RELEASE:**

**Friday, February 20, 2009**

## **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE PORTLAND AREA, SECOND HALF 2008 Portland-Salem Prices Rose by 2.7 percent in 2008**

Consumer prices in the Portland-Salem metropolitan area advanced 2.7 percent from one year prior and 0.7 percent in the second half of 2008 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden said higher food and housing prices contributed largely to the all items index increase. Additionally, the all items less food and energy special aggregate index increased 1.9 percent in 2008 and the special energy aggregate index was up 5.0 percent over the past year. Local Consumer Price Index data are not seasonally adjusted.

Food and beverage prices increased by 6.5 percent in 2008, up from 3.4 percent in 2007. In 2008, prices paid for food at home increased 7.1 percent, while prices paid for food away from home increased 5.7 percent. For the past six months, the overall food and beverages index rose 4.1 percent. Food at home prices were up 3.6 percent over the past six months, and food away from home prices increased 4.6 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices rose 5.6 percent since the second half of 2007 and increased 2.4 percent over the past six months.

The housing index rose 2.1 percent for the year and 1.2 percent for the past six months. Prices for the shelter component of housing advanced 2.7 percent, while the fuels and utilities component inched down 0.1 percent for the year. During the past six months costs for shelter increased 1.7 percent and costs for fuels and utilities increased 0.5 percent. Within fuels and utilities index, (utility) piped gas service prices declined 1.0 percent for the year, but rose 5.1 percent for the past six months. Electricity prices fell 3.5 percent for the year and declined 2.9 percent for the past six months.

Transportation prices increased 2.7 percent during the past year, but declined 2.7 percent since the first half of 2008. Annual gasoline prices rose 9.7 percent over the past year. In the past six months, gasoline prices have declined 8.6 percent.

Over the year, medical care prices rose 4.7 percent. Between the first half and second half of 2008, prices for medical care increased 2.0 percent.

Apparel prices fell 6.9 percent over the year and by 6.3 percent over the past six months. Prices for recreation increased 1.5 percent since the second half of 2007 and 1.1 percent over the past six months.

Education and communication prices advanced 3.4 percent during the past year, and by 2.6 percent during the past six months. Other goods and services rose 2.5 percent on an annual basis, but declined 0.5 percent since six months ago.

The Portland area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 216.159 (1982-84=100) during the second half of 2008. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$216.16 during the last six months of 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 for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods**

**Portland-Salem, OR-WA** (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 .....	210.460	214.619	216.159	2.7	0.7
All items (1967=100) .....	616.140	628.313	632.822	-	-
Food and beverages .....	189.756	194.222	202.104	6.5	4.1
Food .....	190.484	194.837	203.036	6.6	4.2
Food at home .....	187.147	193.455	200.497	7.1	3.6
Food away from home .....	198.887	201.029	210.232	5.7	4.6
Alcoholic beverages .....	183.383	189.101	193.674	5.6	2.4
Housing .....	205.028	206.843	209.423	2.1	1.2
Shelter .....	234.005	236.408	240.430	2.7	1.7
Rent of primary residence .....	219.819	224.958	228.439	3.9	1.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	240.878	244.234	248.693	3.2	1.8
Fuels and utilities .....	220.867	219.664	220.698	-.1	.5
Household energy .....	194.010	191.833	190.546	-1.8	-1.7
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	238.961	233.358	231.916	-2.9	-1.6
Electricity .....	252.459	250.977	243.716	-3.5	-2.9
Utility (piped) gas service .....	206.511	194.537	204.502	-1.0	5.1
Household furnishings and operations .....	110.084	111.221	111.005	.8	-.2
Apparel .....	121.904	121.179	113.539	-6.9	-6.3
Transportation .....	210.610	222.302	216.355	2.7	-2.7
Private transportation .....	210.679	222.687	215.227	2.2	-3.3
Motor fuel .....	253.706	303.932	278.163	9.6	-8.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	254.237	305.138	278.878	9.7	-8.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>2</sup> .....	252.126	303.448	277.051	9.9	-8.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>2 3</sup> .....	215.802	257.491	236.547	9.6	-8.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>2</sup> .....	236.564	281.174	257.800	9.0	-8.3
Medical care .....	385.390	395.546	403.598	4.7	2.0
Recreation <sup>4</sup> .....	111.574	112.020	113.246	1.5	1.1
Education and communication <sup>4</sup> .....	106.496	107.333	110.104	3.4	2.6
Other goods and services .....	384.774	396.520	394.495	2.5	-.5
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	210.460	214.619	216.159	2.7	.7
Commodities .....	164.894	169.929	168.931	2.4	-.6
Commodities less food and beverages .....	151.759	157.016	152.179	.3	-3.1
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	178.708	191.659	184.080	3.0	-4.0
Durables .....	119.367	118.007	115.619	-3.1	-2.0
Services .....	256.175	259.373	263.661	2.9	1.7
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	202.086	205.970	207.280	2.6	.6
All items less shelter .....	202.556	207.534	208.179	2.8	.3
Commodities less food .....	152.792	158.048	153.554	.5	-2.8
Nondurables .....	183.615	192.382	192.367	4.8	.0
Nondurables less food .....	178.182	190.507	183.890	3.2	-3.5
Services less rent of shelter <sup>1</sup> .....	290.237	294.540	299.901	3.3	1.8
Services less medical care services .....	246.234	248.899	253.097	2.8	1.7
Energy .....	222.318	247.747	233.468	5.0	-5.8
All items less energy .....	211.897	214.499	217.328	2.6	1.3
All items less food and energy .....	217.548	219.820	221.630	1.9	.8

<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.