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San Francisco, Calif.

For release 10:00 a.m. (PDT) Wednesday, August 15th, 2012

12-1680-SAN

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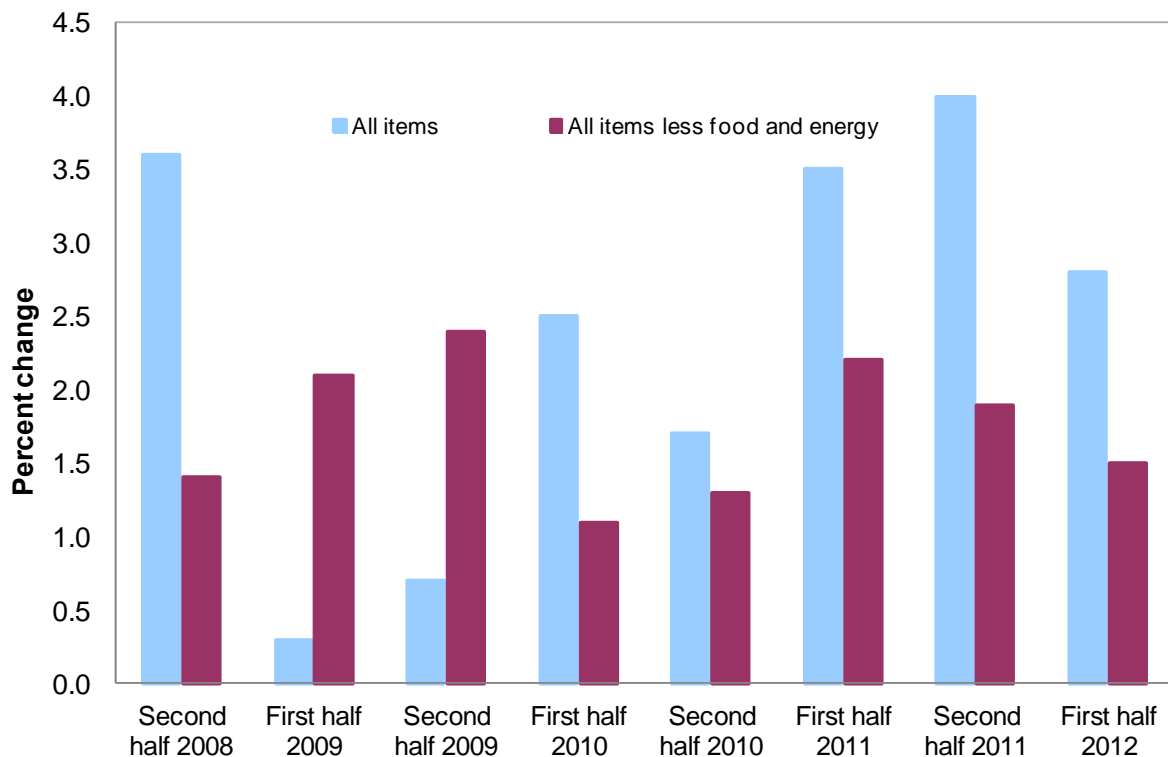
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, HONOLULU – FIRST HALF 2012

AREA PRICES UP 1.3 PERCENT OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, UP 2.8 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Prices in the greater Honolulu area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.3 percent in the first half of 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that this latest six-month period increase was influenced by higher prices for food and gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, six-month-to-six-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the past 12 months, the CPI-U rose 2.8 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices jumped 10.5 percent, mainly due to price increases for electricity and gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent over the year.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Honolulu, Second half of 2008 – First half of 2012



Food

Food prices increased 2.9 percent in the first half of 2012. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home were up 2.3 percent for the past six months. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.0 percent for the same period.

For the year ending in the first half of 2012, food prices rose 4.8 percent. Prices for food at home moved up 3.8 percent during the past 12 months, and prices for food away from home increased 5.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 2.3 percent since the second half of 2011. This increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline (5.9 percent) and natural gas service (2.3 percent). In contrast, prices for electricity declined 0.5 percent.

Energy prices jumped 10.5 percent over the year, strongly influenced by a 16.8 percent increase in electricity prices and a 7.6 percent rise in gasoline prices. Also contributing to the increase was a 4.6 percent advance in natural gas service prices.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.9 percent from the second half of 2011 to the first half of 2012. Among the index components, increases were recorded for apparel (4.1 percent), recreation (2.7 percent), medical care (2.2 percent), other goods and services (1.9 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent). In contrast, lower prices were recorded for household furnishings and operations (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.5 percent. Prices increased for education and communication (4.1 percent), medical care (3.7 percent), recreation (2.6 percent), apparel (2.4 percent), and shelter (0.9 percent). In contrast, lower prices were recorded for household furnishings and operations (-0.6 percent).

Table A. Honolulu CPI-U semi-annual and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Semi-annual period	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual	Semi-annual	Annual
First Half	2.0	5.0	2.2	4.9	-1.0	0.3	0.8	2.5	2.5	3.5	1.3	2.8
Second Half	2.7	4.8	1.3	3.6	1.7	0.7	0.9	1.7	1.4	4.0		

CPI-W

In the first half of 2012, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers was (CPI-W) 248.003, up 1.6 percent. The CPI-W increased 3.0 percent over the year.

The second half of 2012 Consumer Price Index for Honolulu is scheduled to be released mid-February 2013.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the *BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index*, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The Honolulu metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Oahu County in the State of Hawaii.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the San Francisco Information Office at (415) 625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT.

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

Honolulu, HI (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2012 from—	
	1st half 2011	2nd half 2011	1st half 2012	1st half 2011	2nd half 2011
Expenditure category					
All items	241.902	245.342	248.646	2.8	1.3
All items (1967=100)	665.950	675.419	684.515	-	-
Food and beverages	230.565	234.747	241.047	4.5	2.7
Food	231.036	235.476	242.226	4.8	2.9
Food at home	241.327	244.968	250.543	3.8	2.3
Food away from home	216.264	222.016	228.589	5.7	3.0
Alcoholic beverages	222.406	222.512	222.298	.0	-.1
Housing	258.121	263.092	263.954	2.3	.3
Shelter	276.550	278.147	279.116	.9	.3
Rent of primary residence ¹	270.803	273.168	277.224	2.4	1.5
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	286.382	287.844	287.790	.5	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	286.382	287.844	287.790	.5	.0
Fuels and utilities	316.520	353.698	358.849	13.4	1.5
Household energy	282.215	327.880	326.622	15.7	-.4
Energy services ¹	278.004	323.417	321.932	15.8	-.5
Electricity ¹	271.874	319.045	317.555	16.8	-.5
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	332.405	339.798	347.542	4.6	2.3
Household furnishings and operations	153.480	152.788	152.506	-.6	-.2
Apparel	119.380	117.408	122.187	2.4	4.1
Transportation	228.484	229.962	233.236	2.1	1.4
Private transportation	225.028	229.470	236.798	5.2	3.2
Motor fuel	309.026	314.144	332.546	7.6	5.9
Gasoline (all types)	318.076	323.152	342.111	7.6	5.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	337.329	343.414	363.777	7.8	5.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	248.037	251.403	266.309	7.4	5.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	281.582	285.185	301.161	7.0	5.6
Medical care	321.891	326.468	333.781	3.7	2.2
Recreation ⁵	110.544	110.401	113.396	2.6	2.7
Education and communication ⁵	130.444	134.052	135.804	4.1	1.3
Other goods and services	435.239	431.834	440.182	1.1	1.9
Commodity and service group					
All items	241.902	245.342	248.646	2.8	1.3
Commodities	191.728	193.293	198.367	3.5	2.6
Commodities less food and beverages	165.441	165.442	169.598	2.5	2.5
Nondurables less food and beverages	208.060	208.867	216.859	4.2	3.8
Durables	118.555	117.746	117.681	-.7	-.1
Services	285.901	291.033	293.024	2.5	.7
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	237.665	241.044	244.153	2.7	1.3
All items less shelter	227.324	231.402	236.005	3.8	2.0
Commodities less food	167.833	167.838	171.860	2.4	2.4
Nondurables	220.401	223.030	230.336	4.5	3.3
Nondurables less food	208.923	209.684	217.175	3.9	3.6
Services less rent of shelter ²	297.768	307.200	311.190	4.5	1.3
Services less medical care services	281.760	286.945	288.675	2.5	.6
Energy	296.300	319.800	327.295	10.5	2.3
All items less energy	239.986	242.054	244.982	2.1	1.2
All items less food and energy	243.114	244.668	246.853	1.5	.9

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 December 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.