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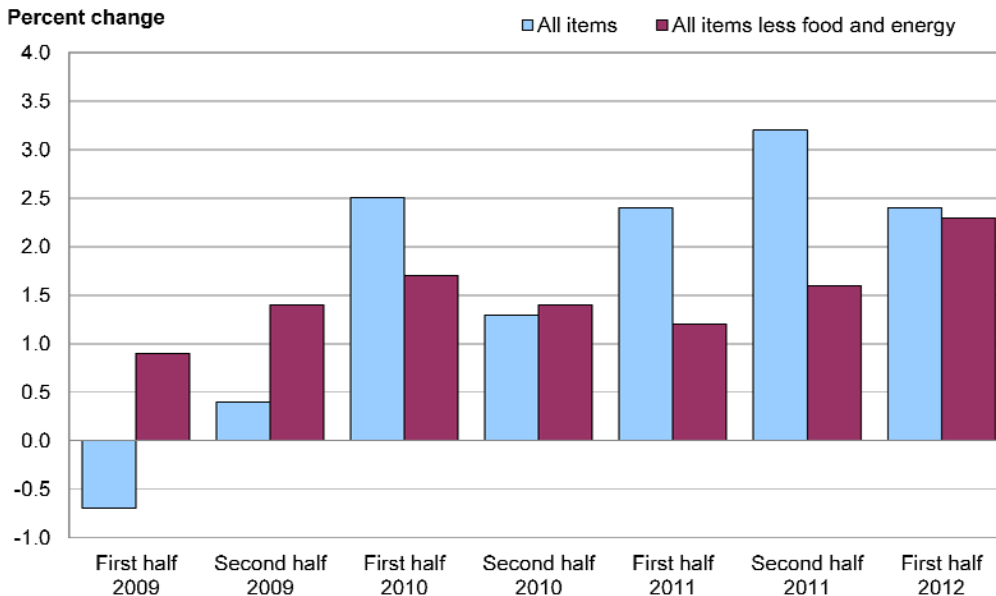
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**CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR TAMPA-ST. PETERSBURG-CLEARWATER—
FIRST HALF 2012**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater area rose 2.4 percent from the first half of 2011 to the first half of 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the energy index was 2.4 percent higher compared to its first half 2011 level, primarily due to an increase in motor fuel prices. Food prices were up 3.7 percent over the year and the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.3 percent. The 12-month advance in the all items less food and energy index reflected higher prices for shelter and medical care. (See chart 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, not seasonally adjusted



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices rose 3.7 percent since the first half of 2011. Prices advanced for both food at home (3.6 percent) and food away from home (4.0 percent) over the year.

Energy

The energy index rose 2.4 percent from the first half 2011 to the first half of 2012. Motor fuel prices rose 3.2 percent over the year and costs for electricity rose 2.0 percent. Utility (piped) gas service prices decreased 6.7 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.3 percent. Among the components of the index that contributed to the increase were shelter (1.5 percent) and medical care (5.1 percent).

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time of goods and services purchased by households. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W), which covers 29 percent of the total population and (2) the CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) and the Chained CPI for All Urban Consumers (C-CPI-U), which cover approximately 88 percent of the total population and include, in addition to wage earners and clerical worker households, 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 CPIs are 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. Prices are collected each month 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.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights, which represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. For the CPI-U and CPI-W separate indexes are also published by size of city, by region of the country, for cross-classifications of regions and population-size classed, and for 27 local areas. Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices among cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period. For the C-CPI-U, data are issued only at the national level. It is important to note that the CPI-U and CPI-W are considered final when released, but the C-CPI-U is issued in preliminary form and subject to two annual revisions.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date. For the CPI-U and the CPI-W the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. The reference base for the C-CPI-U is December 1999 equals 100. An increase of 16.5 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 116.500. 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.

The South region is comprised of Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

For further details visit the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi or contact our CPI Information and Analysis Section at (202) 691-7000.

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.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and present changes for selected periods

Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater (1987=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	197.908	199.968	202.716	2.4	1.4
Food and beverages	199.114	205.153	206.323	3.6	0.6
Food	198.531	204.892	205.796	3.7	0.4
Food at home	198.356	204.544	205.519	3.6	0.5
Food away from home	199.304	205.716	207.194	4.0	0.7
Alcoholic beverages	194.407	196.621	200.983	3.4	2.2
Housing	183.584	184.210	185.922	1.3	0.9
Shelter	199.259	200.109	202.237	1.5	1.1
Rent of primary residence (1)	196.479	198.753	200.934	2.3	1.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences (1)	211.239	211.742	213.250	1.0	0.7
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence (1)	211.239	211.742	213.250	1.0	0.7
Fuels and utilities	200.758	201.728	204.497	1.9	1.4
Household energy	166.946	167.042	168.964	1.2	1.2
Energy services (1)	164.203	164.261	166.080	1.1	1.1
Electricity (1)	161.884	162.488	165.105	2.0	1.6
Utility (piped) gas service (1)	245.375	236.637	228.932	-6.7	-3.3
Household furnishings and operations	121.944	120.392	120.434	-1.2	0.0
Apparel	154.168	150.189	159.322	3.3	6.1
Transportation	207.526	210.756	215.296	3.7	2.2
Private transportation	212.447	216.794	221.859	4.4	2.3
Motor fuel	371.281	364.932	383.140	3.2	5.0
Gasoline (all types)	364.355	357.850	375.631	3.1	5.0
Unleaded regular (2)	362.643	355.877	374.054	3.1	5.1
Unleaded midgrade (2) (3)	317.164	311.906	326.465	2.9	4.7
Unleaded premium (2)	355.050	349.659	365.764	3.0	4.6
Medical Care	305.894	310.897	321.420	5.1	3.4
Recreation (4)	116.504	117.531	119.097	2.2	1.3
Education and communication (4)	130.005	131.458	132.701	2.1	0.9
Other goods and services	276.464	279.482	281.871	2.0	0.9
Commodity and service group					
All Items	197.908	199.968	202.716	2.4	1.4
Commodities	173.037	174.301	176.528	2.0	1.3
Commodities less food & beverages	158.467	157.313	160.132	1.1	1.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	228.422	225.369	232.575	1.8	3.2
Durables	99.575	99.922	99.238	-0.3	-0.7
Services	220.429	223.218	226.557	2.8	1.5
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	191.656	193.580	195.993	2.3	1.2
All items less shelter	198.684	201.157	204.319	2.8	1.6
Commodities less food	160.949	159.929	162.848	1.2	1.8
Nondurables	212.286	214.066	217.938	2.7	1.8
Nondurables less food	225.999	223.406	230.473	2.0	3.2
Services less rent of shelter	243.968	248.829	254.227	4.2	2.2
Services less medical care services	210.457	213.031	215.940	2.6	1.4
Energy	244.437	242.077	250.188	2.4	3.4
All items less energy	193.479	195.932	198.348	2.5	1.2
All items less food and energy	192.792	194.496	197.195	2.3	1.4

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(4) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

NOTE: Data not seasonally adjusted.