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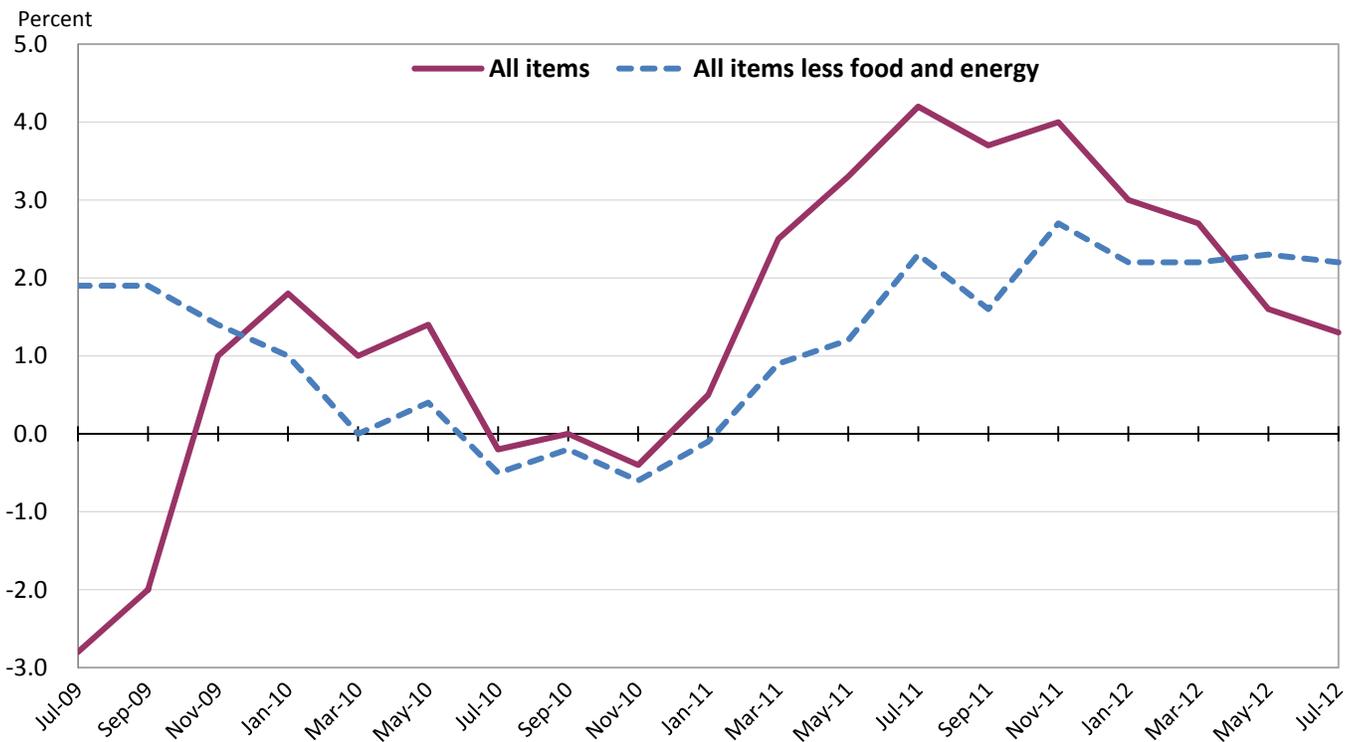
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**DALLAS-FORT WORTH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – JULY 2012**  
Area prices fall 0.5 percent during two-month period, rise 1.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Dallas-Fort Worth area fell 0.5 percent in June and July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the decline resulted from a 4.2-percent decrease in energy costs; food prices rose 0.4 percent while prices for all items less food and energy were unchanged. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, short-term changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U rose 1.3 percent in Dallas-Fort Worth, the slowest annual increase since the year ended in January 2011. (See chart 1.) The slowdown was primarily the result of a 6.9-percent over-the-year decline in energy costs. Annual increases were recorded for the two other major CPI components, food (2.8 percent) and all items less food and energy (2.2 percent).

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Dallas-Fort Worth, July 2009–July 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## **Food**

After registering no change in February and March and edging up 0.1 percent in April and May, local food prices rose 0.4 percent in June and July. Among the two components of the index, prices for food at home (grocery stores) increased 0.5 percent and prices for food away from home rose 0.2 percent. Within the grocery group, higher prices were noted for steak, citrus fruits, and a host of fresh vegetables.

From July 2011 to July 2012, the food index was up 2.8 percent, reflecting the combined effects of a 3.6-percent price rise at grocery stores and a 1.7-percent price rise for food away from home. Annual increases for grocery items have been less than 4.0 percent since March of this year, a marked slowdown from the recent peak of 7.0 percent in October 2011.

## **Energy**

The energy index fell 4.2 percent in June and July following a 2.6-percent decline in April and May. The current decline was the result of a 7.9-percent drop in gasoline prices. In contrast, natural gas prices rose 6.7 percent, though it was the first bimonthly increase since August and September 2011. Electricity prices also rose during the period, up 1.5 percent.

Total energy costs declined 6.9 percent during the year ended in July 2012 as prices fell for each of the energy components. Gasoline prices decreased 7.8 percent in the last 12 months; a year ago, gasoline prices were rising at a 38.2-percent pace. Also contributing to the overall energy price decline, natural gas costs dropped 34.4 percent over the year and electricity costs dipped 0.9 percent.

## **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in June and July, after edging up 0.1 percent in April and May. Though the overall index was unchanged during the period, price movements did occur among the components. The shelter index advanced 0.9 percent as higher costs were registered for both renters (0.6 percent) and homeowners (1.1 percent). The indexes for medical care and other goods and services also rose, up 0.8 and 1.3 percent, respectively. Balancing these increases, apparel prices dropped 9.9 percent and recreation costs fell 1.5 percent.

For the year ended in July 2012, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.2 percent, in line with the annual rates of increase throughout 2012. The leading factor in the current increase was a 3.7-percent advance in the shelter index, though higher prices for medical care (3.8 percent), other goods and services (3.5 percent), and recreation (2.7 percent) also contributed. In contrast, apparel prices fell 2.7 percent over the year, their first annual decline since March 2011.

**Next Release Date:** The September 2012 *Consumer Price Index for All Items for Dallas-Fort Worth* will be released on October 16, 2012.

## 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](http://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](http://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 **Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)** includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Henderson, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, and Tarrant Counties.

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 Southwest Information Office at (972) 850-4800 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

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

Dallas-Fort Worth, TX (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	July 2011	May 2012	June 2012
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	212.226	-	211.267	1.3	-0.5	-
All items (1967=100) .....	665.740	-	662.732	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	235.895	-	236.688	2.8	.3	-
Food .....	230.633	-	231.479	2.8	.4	-
Food at home .....	211.376	210.980	212.373	3.6	.5	0.7
Food away from home .....	260.683	-	261.298	1.7	.2	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	305.838	-	305.252	2.9	-.2	-
Housing .....	183.075	-	185.272	2.1	1.2	-
Shelter .....	192.791	193.381	194.494	3.7	.9	.6
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	198.040	198.182	199.259	5.1	.6	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of residences <sup>1 2</sup> .....	207.576	208.494	209.813	3.4	1.1	.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	207.576	208.494	209.813	3.4	1.1	.6
Fuels and utilities .....	208.885	-	211.968	-3.9	1.5	-
Household energy .....	196.469	201.190	200.430	-6.0	2.0	-.4
Energy services <sup>1</sup> .....	192.553	197.313	196.552	-6.2	2.1	-.4
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	188.896	194.125	191.766	-9	1.5	-1.2
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	158.764	158.764	169.447	-34.4	6.7	6.7
Household furnishings and operations .....	132.644	-	136.488	-.5	2.9	-
Apparel .....	121.117	-	109.112	-2.7	-9.9	-
Transportation .....	227.080	-	219.503	-1.0	-3.3	-
Private transportation .....	228.730	-	221.495	-.3	-3.2	-
Motor fuel .....	327.642	303.759	301.817	-7.5	-7.9	-.6
Gasoline (all types) .....	325.760	301.788	299.881	-7.8	-7.9	-.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	321.179	296.653	296.129	-7.9	-7.8	-.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	330.495	306.468	301.370	-8.1	-8.8	-1.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	321.269	302.266	296.071	-7.2	-7.8	-2.0
Medical care .....	376.530	-	379.443	3.8	.8	-
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	111.738	-	110.110	2.7	-1.5	-
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	138.126	-	138.482	.7	.3	-
Other goods and services .....	362.400	-	366.982	3.5	1.3	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	212.226	-	211.267	1.3	-.5	-
Commodities .....	185.777	-	182.384	-.3	-1.8	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	160.825	-	155.833	-1.9	-3.1	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	199.515	-	188.517	-2.6	-5.5	-
Durables .....	125.959	-	128.472	-.6	2.0	-
Services .....	238.503	-	239.768	2.4	.5	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	204.046	-	202.944	1.1	-.5	-
All items less shelter .....	221.896	-	219.650	.3	-1.0	-
Commodities less food .....	165.165	-	160.189	-1.8	-3.0	-
Nondurables .....	217.589	-	211.514	-.1	-2.8	-
Nondurables less food .....	205.720	-	194.877	-2.3	-5.3	-
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	304.550	-	305.151	1.2	.2	-
Services less medical care services .....	224.583	-	225.830	2.4	.6	-
Energy .....	262.556	252.826	251.470	-6.9	-4.2	-.5
All items less energy .....	211.017	-	211.076	2.3	.0	-
All items less food and energy .....	207.828	-	207.747	2.2	.0	-

<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 December 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.