

WEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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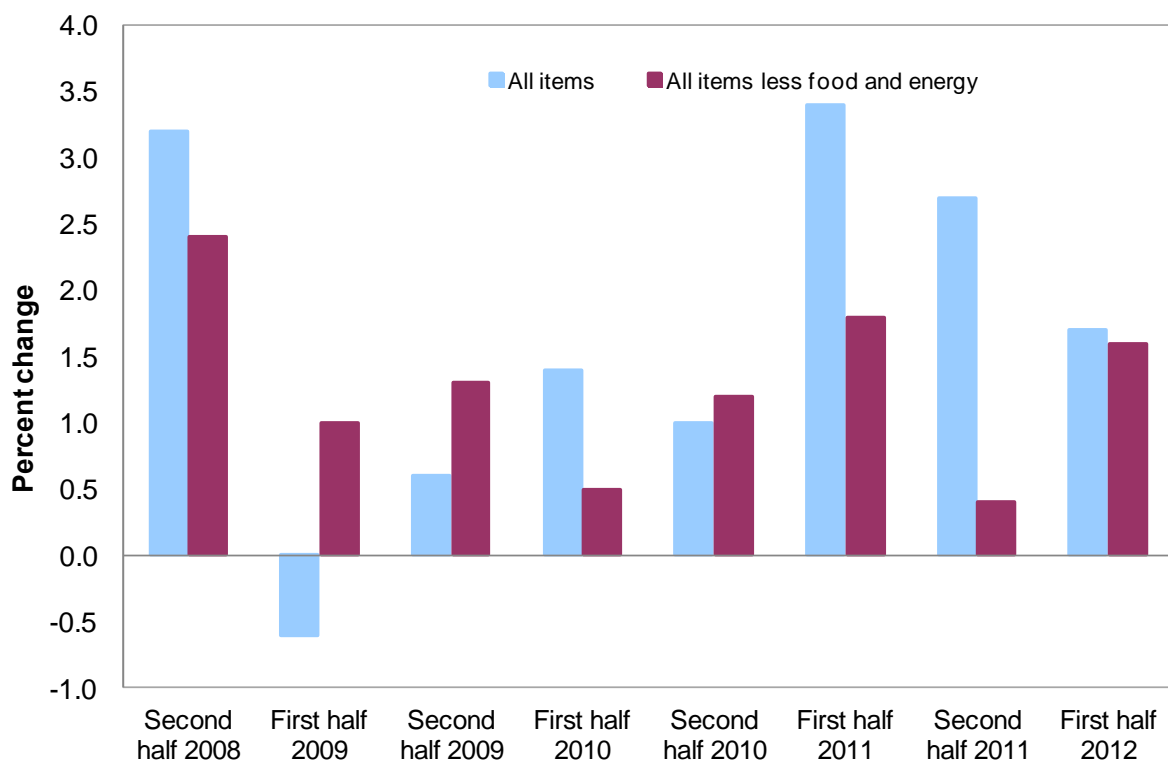
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SAN DIEGO – FIRST HALF 2012

AREA PRICES UP 1.3 PERCENT OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, UP 1.7 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Prices in the greater San Diego 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 the six-month increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. (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 1.7 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices increased 2.4 percent, mainly due to an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.6 percent over the year.

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



Food

Food prices increased 0.7 percent in the first half of 2012. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home inched up 0.1 percent for the past six months. Prices for food away from home rose 1.8 percent for the same period.

For the year ending in the first half of 2012, food prices rose 1.6 percent. Prices for food at home moved up 1.5 percent during the past 12 months, and prices for food away from home increased 2.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 2.6 percent since the second half of 2011. This increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (8.3 percent).

Energy prices increased 2.4 percent over the year, strongly influenced by a 7.0 percent rise in gasoline prices. In contrast, natural gas prices fell 19.0 percent and electricity prices were down 6.7 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent from the second half of 2011 to the first half of 2012. Among the index components, increases were recorded for apparel (3.8 percent), recreation (2.2 percent), medical care (2.0 percent), education and communication (1.6 percent), and shelter (0.9 percent). By contrast, other goods and services inched down 0.1 percent.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.6 percent. Prices increased for apparel (3.9 percent), education and communication (3.8 percent), medical care (2.5 percent), recreation (1.9 percent), and shelter (1.7 percent).

Table A. San Diego 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 | 1.0 | 2.3 | 3.3 | 4.6 | -0.5 | -0.6 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 2.3 | 3.4 | 1.3 | 1.7 |
| Second Half | 1.3 | 2.3 | -0.1 | 3.2 | 1.1 | 0.6 | 1.0 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 2.7 | | |

CPI-W

In the first half of 2012, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers was (CPI-W) 242.759, up 1.5 percent. The CPI-W increased 1.8 percent over the year.

The second half of 2012 Consumer Price Index for San Diego 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 San Diego, CA metropolitan area covered in this release consists of San Diego County in the State of California.

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

San Diego, CA (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 | 252.451 | 253.368 | 256.637 | 1.7 | 1.3 |
| All items (1967=100) | 853.615 | 856.715 | 867.769 | - | - |
| Food and beverages | 232.847 | 234.505 | 236.445 | 1.5 | .8 |
| Food | 230.393 | 232.358 | 234.015 | 1.6 | .7 |
| Food at home | 219.290 | 222.406 | 222.643 | 1.5 | .1 |
| Food away from home | 240.943 | 242.416 | 246.710 | 2.4 | 1.8 |
| Alcoholic beverages | 250.774 | 248.787 | 253.386 | 1.0 | 1.8 |
| Housing | 275.260 | 275.952 | 276.984 | .6 | .4 |
| Shelter | 308.016 | 310.406 | 313.181 | 1.7 | .9 |
| Rent of primary residence ¹ | 299.751 | 302.310 | 306.063 | 2.1 | 1.2 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2} | 328.810 | 330.855 | 333.925 | 1.6 | .9 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2} | 328.810 | 330.855 | 333.925 | 1.6 | .9 |
| Fuels and utilities | 240.727 | 241.786 | 227.245 | -5.6 | -6.0 |
| Household energy | 197.750 | 200.602 | 179.525 | -9.2 | -10.5 |
| Energy services ¹ | 194.295 | 197.161 | 175.009 | -9.9 | -11.2 |
| Electricity ¹ | 180.729 | 184.166 | 168.632 | -6.7 | -8.4 |
| Utility (piped) gas service ¹ | 172.368 | 171.530 | 139.653 | -19.0 | -18.6 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 179.099 | 171.783 | 174.144 | -2.8 | 1.4 |
| Apparel | 130.711 | 130.803 | 135.764 | 3.9 | 3.8 |
| Transportation | 222.913 | 222.457 | 229.775 | 3.1 | 3.3 |
| Private transportation | 215.212 | 214.093 | 221.880 | 3.1 | 3.6 |
| Motor fuel | 305.474 | 302.254 | 327.209 | 7.1 | 8.3 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 306.120 | 302.537 | 327.513 | 7.0 | 8.3 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ³ | 318.831 | 315.151 | 341.450 | 7.1 | 8.3 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4} | 261.658 | 258.298 | 279.189 | 6.7 | 8.1 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ³ | 307.947 | 304.333 | 328.473 | 6.7 | 7.9 |
| Medical care | 390.813 | 392.926 | 400.744 | 2.5 | 2.0 |
| Recreation ⁵ | 141.957 | 141.599 | 144.675 | 1.9 | 2.2 |
| Education and communication ⁵ | 140.360 | 143.481 | 145.762 | 3.8 | 1.6 |
| Other goods and services | 361.727 | 366.223 | 365.777 | 1.1 | -1 |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | |
| All items | 252.451 | 253.368 | 256.637 | 1.7 | 1.3 |
| Commodities | 196.695 | 196.429 | 200.833 | 2.1 | 2.2 |
| Commodities less food and beverages | 176.890 | 175.752 | 181.236 | 2.5 | 3.1 |
| Nondurables less food and beverages | 198.837 | 198.306 | 206.600 | 3.9 | 4.2 |
| Durables | 153.898 | 151.783 | 152.680 | -8 | .6 |
| Services | 302.138 | 304.035 | 306.287 | 1.4 | .7 |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 245.727 | 246.598 | 249.721 | 1.6 | 1.3 |
| All items less shelter | 231.973 | 232.239 | 235.767 | 1.6 | 1.5 |
| Commodities less food | 180.318 | 179.145 | 184.616 | 2.4 | 3.1 |
| Nondurables | 217.740 | 218.161 | 223.903 | 2.8 | 2.6 |
| Nondurables less food | 204.145 | 203.521 | 211.685 | 3.7 | 4.0 |
| Services less rent of shelter ² | 311.646 | 313.219 | 314.672 | 1.0 | .5 |
| Services less medical care services | 293.240 | 295.053 | 297.005 | 1.3 | .7 |
| Energy | 258.995 | 258.259 | 265.101 | 2.4 | 2.6 |
| All items less energy | 253.544 | 254.599 | 257.493 | 1.6 | 1.1 |
| All items less food and energy | 258.996 | 259.905 | 263.036 | 1.6 | 1.2 |

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 November 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.