

News

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FOR RELEASE:

August 14, 2009

7:30am Central Time

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE WEST, JULY 2009

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the All Items Consumer Price Index (CPI) in the West decreased 0.2 percent in July 2009. Declines in the housing, apparel, and food and beverages indexes had the largest effect on the all items index – each accounting for approximately one-quarter of the movement in July. During the past 12 months, overall prices decreased 2.0 percent, the fifth consecutive month of over-the-year declines. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted the special aggregate index for energy decreased 0.6 percent for the month following a 9.9-percent increase for the previous month. On an annual basis, overall energy prices declined 26.9 percent. The special index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.1 percent over the past month, but increased 1.0 percent since July 2008. Regional CPI area data are not seasonally adjusted.

The housing index, which comprises approximately 45 percent of the all items index, inched down 0.1 percent in July, yet was unchanged from its July 2008 level. The index for shelter, the largest housing component, declined 0.2 percent for the month, but was 0.4 percent higher than in July 2008. Prices for household fuels and utilities increased 0.7 percent in July, but decreased 3.1 percent from a year ago. Electricity prices increased by 0.5 percent for the month and advanced 5.4 percent over the year. Utility (piped) gas service costs increased 0.3 percent since June 2009, but fell 27.9 percent since July 2008. Prices for household furnishings and operations declined 0.5 percent for the month, but inched up 0.2 percent for the year.

Apparel prices declined 1.7 percent in July. Prices for apparel typically decline in July as retailers continue to discount summer merchandise. Even so, apparel prices were 1.9 percent higher than one year ago.

The food and beverages index decreased 0.4 percent over the month, but edged up 0.1 percent over the past 12 months. The food at home index, which measures grocery prices, declined 1.0 percent since June 2009 and 2.5 percent from a year ago. Conversely, the food away from home index rose 0.3 percent for the month and 3.1 percent for the year. Prices for alcoholic beverages decreased 0.3 percent in July, but increased 2.1 percent over the year.

The recreation index was the only other major expenditure category to record a decline for July 2009. Prices decreased 0.5 percent for the month and 1.1 percent for the year.

Medical care prices rose 0.3 percent from one month ago and 4.1 percent for the year. In July, prices for medical care commodities were hardly changed and prices for medical care services increased 0.3 percent. Over the latest 12-month period, prices for medical care commodities and medical care services advanced 3.4 and 4.3 percent, respectively.

Transportation prices were unchanged in July and had little impact on the all items index, yet were 12.7 percent lower than a year ago. Gasoline prices decreased 1.4 percent for the month and 36.1 percent since July 2008. Prices for new and used motor vehicles were up 0.4 percent in the past month and were virtually unchanged over the past 12 months.

The two remaining major expenditure categories also had little impact on the overall July index with prices for education and communication advancing 0.2 percent and prices for other goods and services edging up 0.1 percent. Over the past year, the index for education and communication increased 2.7 percent and the index for other goods and services was 5.9 percent higher.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the West stood at 219.484 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$219.48 in July 2009.

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

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	July 2008	May 2009	June 2009
Expenditure category						
All items	218.567	219.865	219.484	-2.0	0.4	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100)	353.302	355.400	354.783	-	-	-
Food and beverages	221.966	222.219	221.320	.1	-.3	-.4
Food	221.068	221.363	220.448	-.1	-.3	-.4
Food at home	222.964	223.217	221.009	-2.5	-.9	-1.0
Food away from home	217.555	217.902	218.598	3.1	.5	.3
Alcoholic beverages	231.539	231.286	230.576	2.1	-.4	-.3
Housing	229.484	229.240	228.901	.0	-.3	-.1
Shelter	257.358	256.728	256.224	.4	-.4	-.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	261.512	260.953	260.660	2.1	-.3	-.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	271.402	271.000	270.293	1.2	-.4	-.3
Fuels and utilities	230.943	232.914	234.619	-3.1	1.6	.7
Household energy	214.930	217.218	217.960	-6.1	1.4	.3
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	218.374	220.868	221.890	-4.8	1.6	.5
Electricity ¹	237.269	237.578	238.813	5.4	.7	.5
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	186.729	195.441	195.973	-27.9	5.0	.3
Household furnishings and operations	134.599	134.690	133.973	.2	-.5	-.5
Apparel	115.747	112.448	110.485	1.9	-4.5	-1.7
Transportation	179.222	186.858	186.948	-12.7	4.3	.0
Private transportation	173.739	181.516	181.183	-12.8	4.3	-.2
New and used motor vehicles ³	92.469	92.968	93.367	.1	1.0	.4
New vehicles	134.121	134.911	135.345	1.3	.9	.3
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	93.283	93.751	94.069	1.2	.8	.3
New cars ⁴	136.677	137.058	137.637	1.2	.7	.4
Used cars and trucks	120.926	122.439	123.100	-7.8	1.8	.5
Motor fuel	194.076	226.799	223.875	-36.6	15.4	-1.3
Gasoline (all types)	194.095	227.297	224.223	-36.1	15.5	-1.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	192.518	226.097	223.077	-36.5	15.9	-1.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	183.121	213.597	210.950	-35.4	15.2	-1.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	188.273	218.415	215.271	-34.8	14.3	-1.4
Medical care	382.975	383.154	384.197	4.1	.3	.3
Medical care commodities	307.580	307.642	307.970	3.4	.1	.1
Medical care services	405.940	406.161	407.468	4.3	.4	.3
Professional services	298.446	298.824	299.085	2.2	.2	.1
Recreation ³	109.130	108.837	108.288	-1.1	-.8	-.5
Education and communication ³	126.190	126.387	126.670	2.7	.4	.2
Other goods and services	367.073	367.536	367.766	5.9	.2	.1
Commodity and service group						
All items	218.567	219.865	219.484	-2.0	.4	-.2
Commodities	167.298	169.868	168.981	-5.9	1.0	-.5
Commodities less food and beverages	139.281	142.572	141.732	-9.0	1.8	-.6
Nondurables less food and beverages	170.250	177.196	175.575	-14.7	3.1	-.9
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	209.086	222.917	221.497	-19.0	5.9	-.6
Durables	109.869	110.341	110.111	-1.4	.2	-.2
Services	265.709	265.649	265.803	.8	.0	.1
Rent of shelter ²	273.756	273.081	272.541	.4	-.4	-.2
Transportation services	253.084	253.963	255.655	1.1	1.0	.7
Other services	298.609	298.881	299.342	2.1	.2	.2

See footnotes at end of table.

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

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	May 2009	June 2009	July 2009	July 2008	May 2009	June 2009
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	210.820	212.145	211.718	-2.3	0.4	-0.2
All items less food	218.338	219.789	219.489	-2.2	.5	-.1
All items less shelter	204.014	206.146	205.813	-3.2	.9	-.2
Commodities less food	142.771	145.989	145.147	-8.6	1.7	-.6
Nondurables	196.399	200.336	199.028	-7.7	1.3	-.7
Nondurables less food	174.699	181.241	179.668	-13.6	2.8	-.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	210.739	223.176	221.828	-17.3	5.3	-.6
Services less rent of shelter ²	285.142	285.941	287.089	1.5	.7	.4
Services less medical care services	255.511	255.438	255.531	.6	.0	.0
Energy	204.203	224.406	222.997	-26.9	9.2	-.6
All items less energy	221.581	221.359	221.058	.9	-.2	-.1
All items less food and energy	222.331	222.021	221.822	1.0	-.2	-.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	138.029	137.633	137.057	.7	-.7	-.4
Energy commodities	196.991	229.272	226.221	-36.6	14.8	-1.3
Services less energy services	269.405	269.184	269.283	1.1	.0	.0

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 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.