

# News

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**FOR RELEASE:**

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## **CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR THE PHOENIX AREA, FIRST HALF OF 2009**

Consumer prices in the Phoenix-Mesa metropolitan area decreased 1.3 percent from the year prior and declined 1.9 percent in the first half of 2009, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the decline in the transportation index contributed to an overall decrease in the annual all items index.

The housing index slipped 0.2 percent for the year and declined 1.1 percent for the past six months. Over the year, prices for the shelter component fell 1.1 percent; however, the fuels and utilities component reported a 3.9 percent increase over the same time period. In the past six months costs for shelter decreased 1.1 percent and costs for fuels and utilities slipped 0.7 percent. Within the fuels and utilities index, (utility) piped gas service prices fell 1.4 percent for the year, but rose by 1.6 percent for the past six months. Electricity prices increased 5.1 percent for the year, but fell 5.3 percent since the second half of 2008. The household furnishings and operations component increased 0.8 percent since the first half of 2008, but declined 1.5 percent since the second half of 2008.

The transportation index exhibited declines in all areas, and the index dropped 12.5 percent for the year. Overall, gasoline prices were 40.8 percent lower since the first half of 2008 and 35.5 percent since the second half of 2008.

Prices paid for food and beverages rose 2.2 percent over the course of the year. During this period, both the food at home index and the food away from home index increased by 2.5 percent. In the past six months, food at home prices slipped 1.6 percent while prices for food away from home rose 0.6 percent. The price of alcoholic beverages declined 0.5 percent for the year and 0.8 percent since the second half of 2008.

Medical care prices rose 5.2 percent for the past twelve months and 3.9 percent for the past six months.

Apparel prices reported a drop of 2.8 percent for the year, but showed a 1.7 percent increase for the second half of 2008. Yearly and semi-annual prices for recreation made gains of 3.0 and 1.3 percent, respectively.

Education and communication prices advanced 2.6 percent during the past year and increased 0.2 percent since the past six months. Other goods and services jumped by 9.7 percent on an annual basis and 6.2 percent on a semi-annual basis.

The Phoenix area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) stood at 117.335 (1982-84=100) during the first half of 2009. Therefore, a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$117.34 in the first six months of 2009. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

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

**Phoenix-Mesa, AZ** (December 2001=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2009 from—	
	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008	1st half 2009	1st half 2008	2nd half 2008
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	118.912	119.616	117.335	-1.3	-1.9
Food and beverages .....	123.438	126.912	126.092	2.2	-.6
Food .....	123.925	127.690	126.883	2.4	-.6
Food at home .....	129.291	134.753	132.587	2.5	-1.6
Food away from home .....	117.080	119.384	120.052	2.5	.6
Alcoholic beverages .....	117.823	118.187	117.225	-.5	-.8
Housing .....	117.513	118.661	117.315	-.2	-1.1
Shelter .....	116.978	116.915	115.682	-1.1	-1.1
Rent of primary residence .....	117.580	117.596	117.667	.1	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence .....	115.206	116.007	114.914	-.3	-.9
Fuels and utilities .....	137.785	144.198	143.172	3.9	-.7
Household energy .....	144.062	156.887	149.116	3.5	-5.0
Gas (piped) and electricity .....	143.187	156.365	149.327	4.3	-4.5
Electricity .....	145.956	161.931	153.404	5.1	-5.3
Utility (piped) gas service .....	133.283	129.338	131.413	-1.4	1.6
Household furnishings and operations .....	107.603	110.137	108.454	.8	-1.5
Apparel .....	116.186	111.029	112.948	-2.8	1.7
Transportation .....	120.571	117.456	105.500	-12.5	-10.2
Private transportation .....	121.637	117.738	105.422	-13.3	-10.5
Motor fuel .....	297.547	272.399	175.619	-41.0	-35.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	296.711	272.442	175.764	-40.8	-35.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>1</sup> .....	303.953	278.466	178.314	-41.3	-36.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>1</sup> .....	286.792	264.907	172.628	-39.8	-34.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>1</sup> .....	280.873	259.573	172.929	-38.4	-33.4
Medical care .....	131.209	132.903	138.047	5.2	3.9
Recreation .....	105.330	107.119	108.462	3.0	1.3
Education and communication .....	114.813	117.601	117.842	2.6	.2
Other goods and services .....	125.034	129.121	137.115	9.7	6.2
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	118.912	119.616	117.335	-1.3	-1.9
Commodities .....	115.752	114.827	109.712	-5.2	-4.5
Commodities less food and beverages .....	111.618	108.491	101.252	-9.3	-6.7
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	144.291	139.465	123.825	-14.2	-11.2
Durables .....	84.752	82.946	82.124	-3.1	-1.0
Services .....	121.238	123.221	123.174	1.6	.0
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	118.182	118.830	116.124	-1.7	-2.3
All items less shelter .....	120.157	121.076	118.334	-1.5	-2.3
Commodities less food .....	111.852	108.869	101.887	-8.9	-6.4
Nondurables .....	133.127	132.769	125.059	-6.1	-5.8
Nondurables less food .....	141.982	137.625	123.292	-13.2	-10.4
Services less rent of shelter .....	125.601	130.099	131.876	5.0	1.4
Services less medical care services .....	119.734	121.727	121.319	1.3	-.3
Energy .....	210.526	206.526	159.613	-24.2	-22.7
All items less energy .....	113.576	114.673	114.839	1.1	.1
All items less food and energy .....	111.889	112.547	112.874	.9	.3

<sup>1</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.