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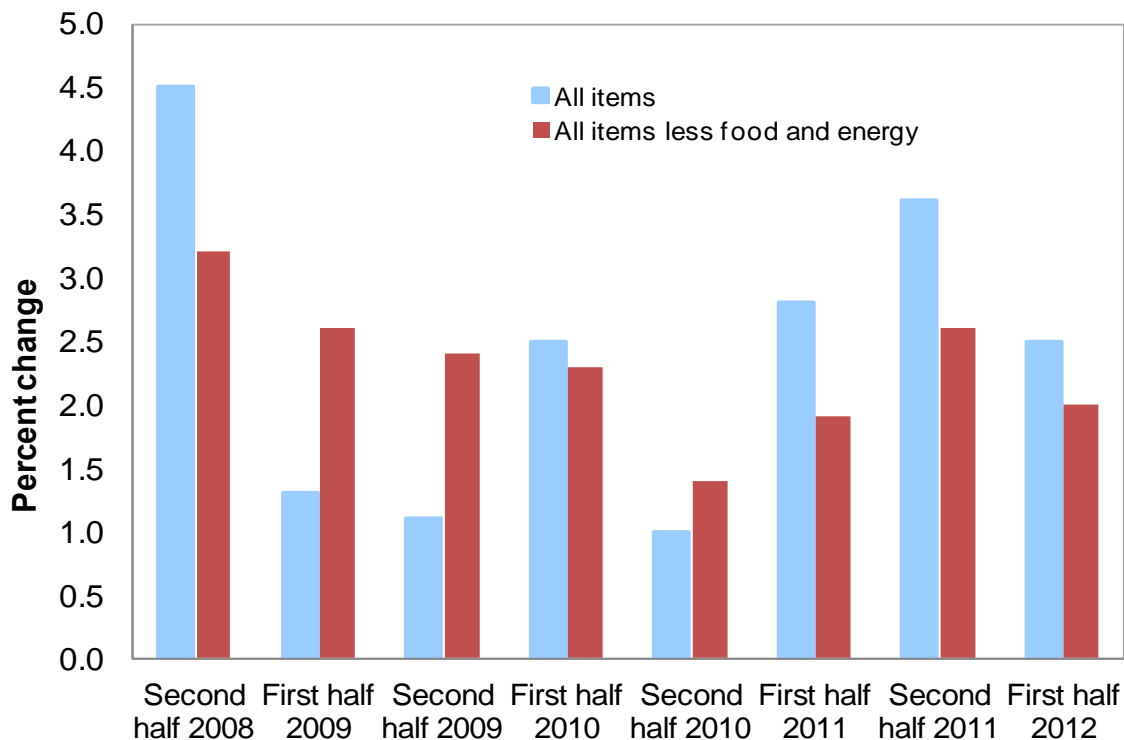
## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, ANCHORAGE – FIRST HALF 2012

**AREA PRICES UP 1.3 PERCENT OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, UP 2.5 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

Prices in the greater Anchorage 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 this latest six-month period increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter, gasoline, and food. (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 2.5 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices advanced 4.1 percent, mainly due to an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent over the year.

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



## Food

Food prices advanced 1.7 percent in the first half of 2012. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home were up 1.1 percent for the past six months. Prices for food away from home rose 2.2 percent for the same period.

For the year ending in the first half of 2012, food prices rose 4.4 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 3.9 percent during the past 12 months, and prices for food away from home increased 4.6 percent.

## Energy

Energy prices increased 4.1 percent since the second half of 2011. Higher prices for gasoline (5.4 percent), natural gas service (4.1 percent), and electricity (1.2 percent) all contributed to the increase.

Energy prices increased 4.1 percent over the year, influenced by a 7.2 percent gain in electricity prices and a 5.7 percent increase in gasoline prices. From a year ago, natural gas service prices were 5.2 percent lower.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.0 percent from the second half of 2011 to the first half of 2012. Among the index components, increases were recorded for medical care (2.7 percent), shelter (1.7 percent), and other goods and services (1.2 percent). In contrast, lower prices were recorded for apparel (-3.7 percent), household furnishings and operations (-1.0 percent), recreation (-0.7 percent), and education and communication (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.0 percent. Prices increased for apparel (4.6 percent), medical care (4.3 percent), shelter (2.5 percent), and other goods and services (2.3 percent). In contrast, lower prices were recorded for recreation (-1.4 percent) and education and communication (-0.5 percent).

**Table A. Anchorage 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	0.8	1.5	2.5	4.6	-0.7	1.3	0.7	2.5	2.5	2.8	1.3	2.5
Second Half	2.1	2.9	2.0	4.5	1.8	1.1	0.3	1.0	1.1	3.6		

## CPI-W

In the first half of 2012, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers was (CPI-W) 203.514, up 1.3 percent. The CPI-W increased 2.2 percent over the year.

**The second half of 2012 Consumer Price Index for Anchorage 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](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 Anchorage metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Anchorage Borough in the State of Alaska.

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**

**Anchorage, AK** (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
<b>Expenditure category</b>					
All items .....	200.278	202.576	205.215	2.5	1.3
All items (October 1967=100) .....	534.571	540.704	547.746	-	-
Food and beverages .....	196.112	200.582	203.489	3.8	1.4
Food .....	200.207	205.383	208.933	4.4	1.7
Food at home .....	202.820	208.360	210.662	3.9	1.1
Food away from home .....	195.985	200.613	204.981	4.6	2.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	152.106	150.901	148.399	-2.4	-1.7
Housing .....	179.584	181.207	183.847	2.4	1.5
Shelter .....	181.469	182.925	185.960	2.5	1.7
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	177.411	178.917	181.910	2.5	1.7
Owners' equivalent rent of residences <sup>1 2</sup> .....	182.384	183.499	187.175	2.6	2.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	182.384	183.499	187.175	2.6	2.0
Fuels and utilities .....	255.821	256.639	262.420	2.6	2.3
Household energy .....	265.315	263.488	270.220	1.8	2.6
Energy services <sup>1</sup> .....	289.390	284.600	292.060	.9	2.6
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	221.613	234.606	237.461	7.2	1.2
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	393.566	358.453	373.257	-5.2	4.1
Household furnishings and operations .....	124.780	127.521	126.256	1.2	-1.0
Apparel .....	136.958	148.724	143.264	4.6	-3.7
Transportation .....	207.567	208.251	213.613	2.9	2.6
Private transportation .....	206.870	207.740	212.165	2.6	2.1
Motor fuel .....	317.670	318.927	335.529	5.6	5.2
Gasoline (all types) .....	319.010	319.683	337.100	5.7	5.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	310.524	311.238	328.308	5.7	5.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	300.508	300.794	316.768	5.4	5.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	309.348	309.863	326.203	5.4	5.3
Medical care .....	438.665	445.423	457.587	4.3	2.7
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	121.251	120.377	119.559	-1.4	-.7
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	111.057	110.866	110.529	-.5	-.3
Other goods and services .....	318.406	321.718	325.737	2.3	1.2
<b>Commodity and service group</b>					
All items .....	200.278	202.576	205.215	2.5	1.3
Commodities .....	175.174	178.797	180.346	3.0	.9
Commodities less food and beverages .....	163.802	167.010	167.962	2.5	.6
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	211.337	217.644	220.637	4.4	1.4
Durables .....	123.446	123.817	123.092	-.3	-.6
Services .....	221.124	222.202	225.800	2.1	1.6
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>					
All items less medical care .....	191.333	193.475	195.802	2.3	1.2
All items less shelter .....	207.816	210.555	212.922	2.5	1.1
Commodities less food .....	163.717	166.716	167.496	2.3	.5
Nondurables .....	204.404	209.832	212.682	4.0	1.4
Nondurables less food .....	207.277	212.893	215.332	3.9	1.1
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	284.878	285.305	289.562	1.6	1.5
Services less medical care services .....	206.594	207.360	210.448	1.9	1.5
Energy .....	288.487	288.427	300.378	4.1	4.1
All items less energy .....	194.905	197.323	199.488	2.4	1.1
All items less food and energy .....	194.186	196.149	198.077	2.0	1.0

<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 November 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.