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For release: 7:30 a.m. (CT) Tuesday, October 16, 2012

12-2004-DAL

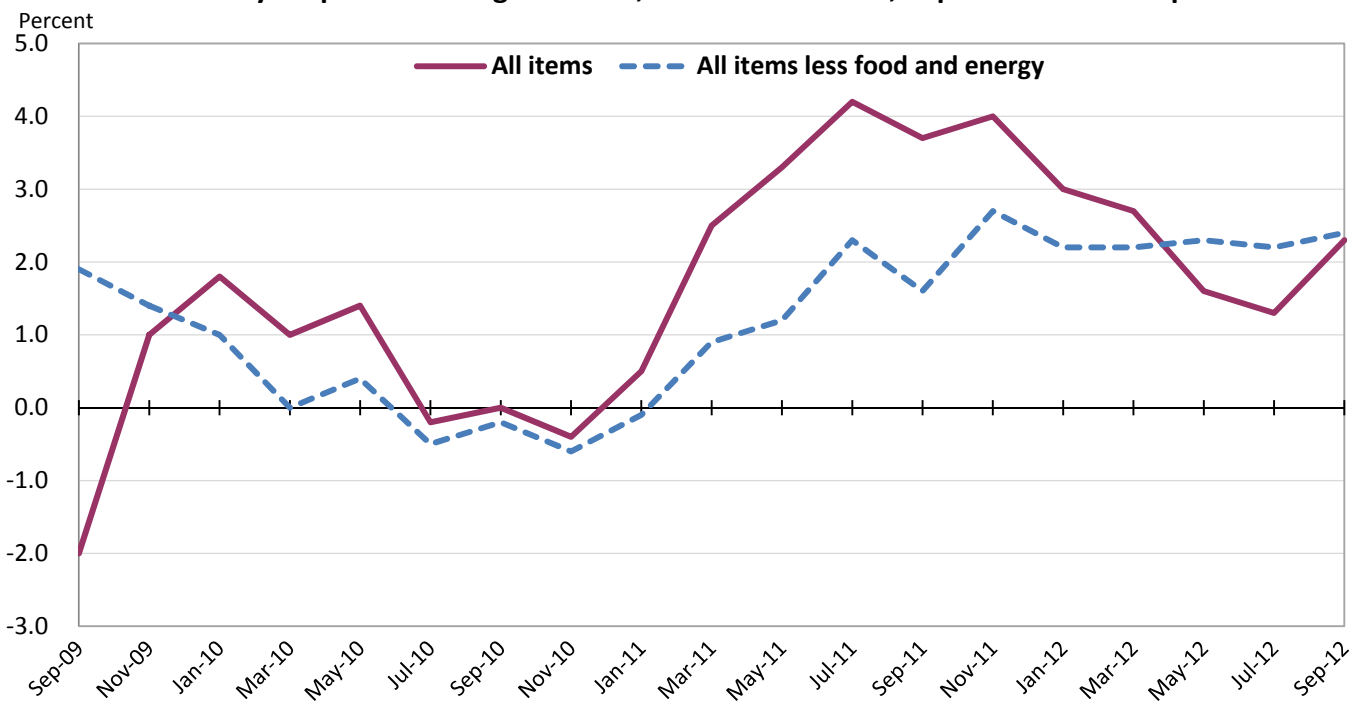
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DALLAS-FORT WORTH CONSUMER PRICE INDEX – SEPTEMBER 2012
Area prices rise 1.3 percent during two-month period, up 2.3 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Dallas-Fort Worth area rose 1.3 percent in August and September, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the increase followed two consecutive periods of decline. The biggest factor in the August-September movement was a 6.1-percent advance in the energy index, which accounted for one-half of the total increase. Higher prices were also reported for all items less food and energy (0.8 percent) and food (0.5 percent). (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 2.3 percent in Dallas-Fort Worth, a sharp increase from July’s annual rate of 1.3 percent, though well below most gains recorded since May 2011. The latest acceleration was mainly the result of a turnaround in energy costs which moved up 0.9 percent after registering over-the-year declines in the two previous periods. Prices for all items less food and energy rose at about the same pace as recent periods, up 2.4 percent during the last 12 months. (See chart 1.)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Local food prices rose 0.5 percent in August and September after increasing 0.4 percent in June and July. Among the two components of the index, prices for food away from home climbed 1.0 percent while prices for food at home (grocery stores) edged up 0.2 percent. Within the grocery group, higher prices were noted for chicken, but lower prices were registered for ground beef.

From September 2011 to September 2012, the food index was up 2.2 percent, reflecting the combined effects of a 2.4-percent price rise at grocery stores and a 2.0-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 recorded in October 2011.

Energy

The energy index rose 6.1 percent in August and September following a 4.2-percent decline in June and July. The increase was primarily the result of a 10.1-percent surge in gasoline prices, though costs for natural gas climbed 9.9 percent. Electricity prices fell 1.3 percent in August and September.

Over the year, total energy costs rose 0.9 percent, the first annual increase since April 2012. Gasoline prices were up 6.8 percent, also the first annual rise since April. In contrast, costs for natural gas and electricity continued to fall on an annual basis. Natural gas costs dropped 37.1 percent over the year and electricity costs fell 2.2 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was up 0.8 percent in August and September, after registering little change in the two previous bimonthly periods. A 9.7-percent advance in apparel prices was responsible for more than one-half of the total increase. Higher prices were most notable for women's clothing, reflecting in part the introduction of new fall and winter lines. Another important factor in the latest gain was a 1.0-percent rise in shelter costs. Offsetting a portion of these increases, medical care prices fell 0.8 percent during the two-month period.

From September 2011 to September 2012, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.4 percent, in line with the annual rates of increase experienced throughout 2012. The leading factor in the current gain was a 4.0-percent advance in shelter costs, the fastest 12-month increase since the year ended in March 2009. Higher prices for motor vehicle insurance and medical care services were also large contributors. Despite the bimonthly increase in clothing prices, the apparel index declined 0.8 percent over the year, the only component to record an annual decline.

Next Release Date: The November 2012 *Consumer Price Index for All Items for Dallas-Fort Worth* will be released on December 14, 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 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 **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.

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— | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | July 2012 | Aug. 2012 | Sep. 2012 | Sep. 2011 | July 2012 | Aug. 2012 |
| Expenditure category | | | | | | |
| All items | 211.267 | - | 214.033 | 2.3 | 1.3 | - |
| All items (1967=100) | 662.732 | - | 671.410 | - | - | - |
| Food and beverages | 236.688 | - | 238.012 | 2.3 | .6 | - |
| Food | 231.479 | - | 232.695 | 2.2 | .5 | - |
| Food at home | 212.373 | 211.183 | 212.745 | 2.4 | .2 | 0.7 |
| Food away from home | 261.298 | - | 263.812 | 2.0 | 1.0 | - |
| Alcoholic beverages | 305.252 | - | 308.781 | 3.3 | 1.2 | - |
| Housing | 185.272 | - | 185.735 | 1.8 | .2 | - |
| Shelter | 194.494 | 194.898 | 196.398 | 4.0 | 1.0 | .8 |
| Rent of primary residence ¹ | 199.259 | 199.613 | 200.341 | 4.4 | .5 | .4 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2} | 209.813 | 210.342 | 211.971 | 4.1 | 1.0 | .8 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2} | 209.813 | 210.342 | 211.971 | 4.1 | 1.0 | .8 |
| Fuels and utilities | 211.968 | - | 212.198 | -5.3 | .1 | - |
| Household energy | 200.430 | 201.581 | 200.477 | -8.0 | .0 | -.5 |
| Energy services ¹ | 196.552 | 197.676 | 196.546 | -8.3 | .0 | -.6 |
| Electricity ¹ | 191.766 | 191.282 | 189.364 | -2.2 | -1.3 | -1.0 |
| Utility (piped) gas service ¹ | 169.447 | 181.493 | 186.245 | -37.1 | 9.9 | 2.6 |
| Household furnishings and operations | 136.488 | - | 130.778 | -2.9 | -4.2 | - |
| Apparel | 109.112 | - | 119.727 | -.8 | 9.7 | - |
| Transportation | 219.503 | - | 228.312 | 4.8 | 4.0 | - |
| Private transportation | 221.495 | - | 230.306 | 5.6 | 4.0 | - |
| Motor fuel | 301.817 | 320.467 | 331.929 | 7.0 | 10.0 | 3.6 |
| Gasoline (all types) | 299.881 | 318.622 | 330.047 | 6.8 | 10.1 | 3.6 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular ³ | 296.129 | 314.628 | 325.478 | 6.9 | 9.9 | 3.4 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4} | 301.370 | 320.827 | 333.732 | 6.6 | 10.7 | 4.0 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium ³ | 296.071 | 313.977 | 326.191 | 6.4 | 10.2 | 3.9 |
| Medical care | 379.443 | - | 376.498 | 2.7 | -.8 | - |
| Recreation ⁵ | 110.110 | - | 111.189 | 2.2 | 1.0 | - |
| Education and communication ⁵ | 138.482 | - | 138.851 | .4 | .3 | - |
| Other goods and services | 366.982 | - | 370.271 | 5.6 | .9 | - |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | | |
| All items | 211.267 | - | 214.033 | 2.3 | 1.3 | - |
| Commodities | 182.384 | - | 186.142 | 2.0 | 2.1 | - |
| Commodities less food and beverages | 155.833 | - | 160.476 | 1.9 | 3.0 | - |
| Nondurables less food and beverages | 188.517 | - | 200.219 | 3.8 | 6.2 | - |
| Durables | 128.472 | - | 124.165 | -2.4 | -3.4 | - |
| Services | 239.768 | - | 241.650 | 2.5 | .8 | - |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | | |
| All items less medical care | 202.944 | - | 205.910 | 2.3 | 1.5 | - |
| All items less shelter | 219.650 | - | 222.837 | 1.6 | 1.5 | - |
| Commodities less food | 160.189 | - | 164.867 | 1.9 | 2.9 | - |
| Nondurables | 211.514 | - | 218.908 | 3.1 | 3.5 | - |
| Nondurables less food | 194.877 | - | 206.503 | 3.8 | 6.0 | - |
| Services less rent of shelter ² | 305.151 | - | 306.911 | 1.0 | .6 | - |
| Services less medical care services | 225.830 | - | 227.674 | 2.4 | .8 | - |
| Energy | 251.470 | 261.458 | 266.701 | .9 | 6.1 | 2.0 |
| All items less energy | 211.076 | - | 212.619 | 2.4 | .7 | - |
| All items less food and energy | 207.747 | - | 209.350 | 2.4 | .8 | - |

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 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.

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