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San Francisco, Calif.

For release 10:00 a.m. (PDT) Friday, September 14, 2012

12-1880-SAN

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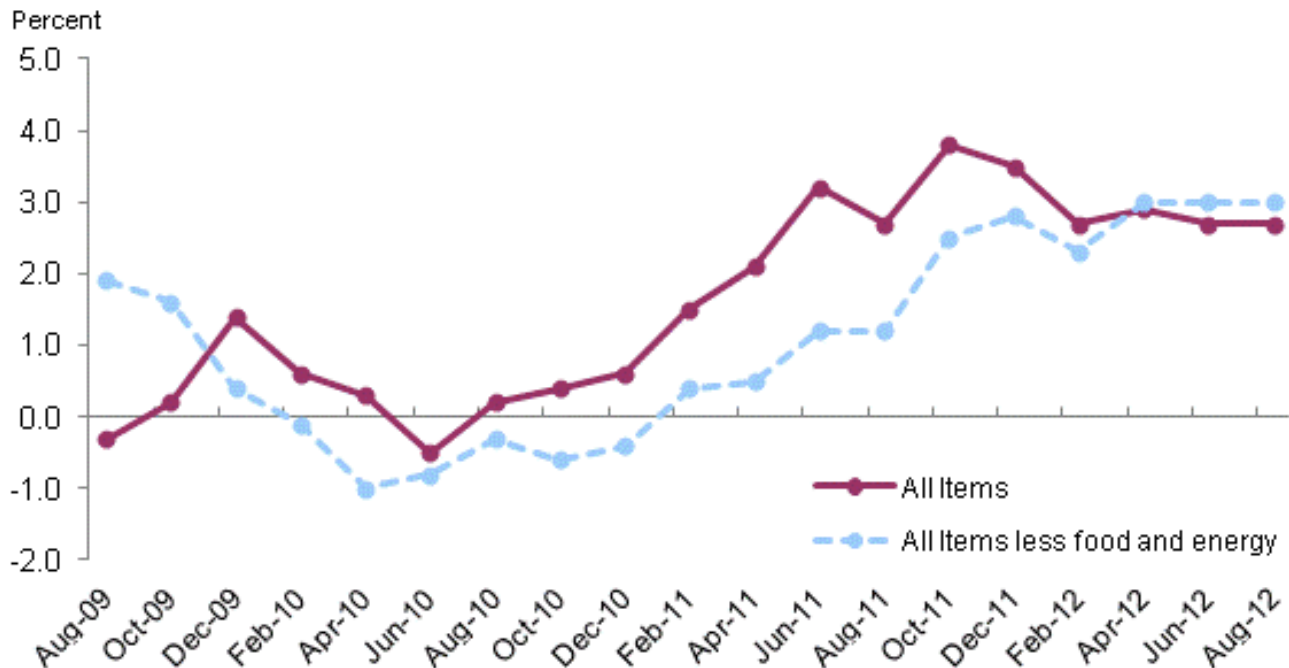
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SEATTLE AREA – AUGUST 2012

AREA PRICES WERE UP 0.3 PERCENT OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS, UP 2.7 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Prices in the greater Seattle Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.3 percent for the two months ending August 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the August increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and apparel. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 2.7 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices rose 2.4 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.0 percent since August 2011.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Seattle, August 2009–August 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices increased 0.5 percent from June to August. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home rose 0.7 percent, and prices for food away from home moved up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.5 percent. Prices for food at home were unchanged since a year ago, while prices for food away from home rose 3.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 2.8 percent for the two months ending in August 2012. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-4.5 percent). Prices for natural gas service were unchanged, while prices for electricity edged down 0.1 percent in August.

Energy prices rose 2.4 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (3.3 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 2.6 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 3.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.5 percent in the latest two month period. Higher prices for apparel (3.1 percent) and medical care (1.6 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-2.5 percent) and education and communication (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (8.8 percent), medical care (7.5 percent), and shelter (3.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in household furnishings and operations (-1.7 percent) and other goods and services (-0.3 percent).

Table A. Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton CPI-U bi-monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual
February	1.1	4.0	1.3	4.7	1.0	1.4	0.2	0.6	1.2	1.5	0.4	2.7
April	1.9	4.0	0.7	3.4	0.5	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	2.1	0.9	2.9
June	-0.1	3.5	2.2	5.8	0.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.5	0.8	3.2	0.7	2.7
August	0.2	3.0	-0.1	5.4	-0.1	-0.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	2.7	0.3	2.7
October	1.1	4.1	-0.8	3.4	-0.4	0.2	-0.2	0.4	0.9	3.8	-	-
December	0.2	4.6	-1.5	1.7	-0.3	1.4	-0.2	0.6	-0.5	3.5	-	-

CPI-W

In August, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 236.750, up 0.2 percent from June. The CPI-W increased 2.7 percent over the year.

The October 2012 Consumer Price Index for Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton is scheduled to be released on November 15, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. (PST).

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 Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties in the State of Washington.

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 and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2012	July 2012	Aug. 2012	Aug. 2011	June 2012	July 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	239.540	-	240.213	2.7	0.3	-
All items (1967=100)	730.211	-	732.261	-	-	-
Food and beverages	242.230	-	243.541	1.8	.5	-
Food	245.243	-	246.460	1.5	.5	-
Food at home	236.138	236.476	237.802	.0	.7	0.6
Food away from home	260.286	-	260.923	3.7	.2	-
Alcoholic beverages	207.695	-	209.753	3.7	1.0	-
Housing	244.706	-	245.812	3.0	.5	-
Shelter	269.654	271.109	272.136	3.6	.9	.4
Rent of primary residence ¹	264.724	265.684	266.755	5.7	.8	.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	282.418	283.390	284.838	2.8	.9	.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	282.418	283.390	284.838	2.8	.9	.5
Fuels and utilities	234.220	-	234.271	3.2	.0	-
Household energy	221.796	221.111	221.640	1.2	-.1	.2
Energy services ¹	260.175	259.964	259.964	1.4	-.1	.0
Electricity ¹	268.148	267.872	267.872	2.6	-.1	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	193.322	193.322	193.322	-3.2	.0	.0
Household furnishings and operations	169.901	-	165.670	-1.7	-2.5	-
Apparel	132.928	-	137.092	8.8	3.1	-
Transportation	241.706	-	237.153	1.5	-1.9	-
Private transportation	250.007	-	246.526	2.1	-1.4	-
Motor fuel	432.085	387.434	413.382	3.3	-4.3	6.7
Gasoline (all types)	441.545	395.268	421.552	3.3	-4.5	6.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	486.378	434.278	462.849	3.1	-4.8	6.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	337.468	304.941	326.485	4.2	-3.3	7.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	386.339	347.082	369.888	3.3	-4.3	6.6
Medical care	372.800	-	378.648	7.5	1.6	-
Recreation ⁵	98.033	-	99.166	2.6	1.2	-
Education and communication ⁵	132.901	-	132.531	1.2	-.3	-
Other goods and services	386.679	-	391.347	-3	1.2	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	239.540	-	240.213	2.7	.3	-
Commodities	197.433	-	197.098	1.5	-.2	-
Commodities less food and beverages	173.630	-	172.598	1.4	-.6	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	211.386	-	210.827	3.0	-.3	-
Durables	135.018	-	133.498	-.9	-1.1	-
Services	278.914	-	280.567	3.5	.6	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	233.503	-	233.934	2.4	.2	-
All items less shelter	228.723	-	228.720	2.3	.0	-
Commodities less food	175.118	-	174.220	1.6	-.5	-
Nondurables	226.893	-	227.192	2.4	.1	-
Nondurables less food	211.384	-	211.040	3.0	-.2	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	297.392	-	298.099	3.3	.2	-
Services less medical care services	269.919	-	271.178	3.0	.5	-
Energy	333.460	310.985	324.116	2.4	-2.8	4.2
All items less energy	236.401	-	237.676	2.8	.5	-
All items less food and energy	235.134	-	236.419	3.0	.5	-

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.

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