

News

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ANCHORAGE CONSUMER PRICES UP 1.0 PERCENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2004—2.8 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the Anchorage metropolitan area advanced 1.0 percent in the first half of 2004 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden said compared to the same period a year ago, prices increased 2.8 percent. Annual increases in housing, followed by food and beverages, led the advance in the overall index. The area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 165.6 (1982-84=100) during the first half of 2004. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$165.60 during the past six months. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

The housing index rose 0.9 percent during the first half of 2004. In the same period, the shelter component of housing advanced 0.5 percent and fuels and utilities rose 7.7 percent. Electricity prices increased 6.4 percent and utility natural gas service prices jumped 12.6 percent from six months ago. Household furnishings and operations decreased 1.3 percent since the second half of 2003. The overall housing category increased 2.2 percent between the first half of 2003 and the first half of 2004.

Prices paid for food and beverages rose 1.9 percent in the first half of 2004. Grocery prices, represented by the food at home index, advanced 2.5 percent for the same period and increased 5.6 percent from a year ago. Since the second half of 2003, the cost of dining out increased 2.1 percent and increased 3.4 percent over the year. Prices paid for alcoholic beverages edged down 0.1 percent in the past 6 months, but advanced 0.4 percent in the past 12 months. For the past 12 months, the overall food and index rose 4.5 percent.

Transportation prices advanced 0.4 percent during the first half of 2004, and increased 1.9 percent since the first half of 2003. Gasoline prices advanced 2.0 percent during the past six months and consumers paid 6.6 percent more for gasoline than they did a year ago.

Prices for recreation advanced 1.5 percent since the second half of 2003, while over-the-year the index rose 2.1 percent.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index advanced 2.3 percent in the past six months and 2.6 percent over the year.

The education and communication index inched up 0.1 percent during the first half of 2004 and advanced 2.2 percent from a year ago.

Apparel prices decreased 2.8 percent in the last six months, but increased 2.7 percent over-the-year. Apparel was the only major expenditure category to post a semi-annual price reduction.

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

Anchorage, AK¹ (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2004 from-	
	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003	1st half 2004	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003
Expenditure category					
All items	161.1	163.9	165.6	2.8	1.0
All items (October 1967=100)	430.1	437.6	441.9	-	-
Food and beverages	159.7	163.8	166.9	4.5	1.9
Food	159.5	163.8	167.1	4.8	2.0
Food at home	161.5	166.4	170.5	5.6	2.5
Food away from home	157.4	159.4	162.8	3.4	2.1
Alcoholic beverages	163.1	164.0	163.8	0.4	-0.1
Housing	145.8	147.7	149.0	2.2	0.9
Shelter	149.4	152.1	152.8	2.3	0.5
Rent of primary residence	140.8	143.3	143.9	2.2	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ²	150.4	152.9	153.9	2.3	0.7
Fuels and utilities	159.5	161.2	173.6	8.8	7.7
Fuels	159.9	162.0	176.4	10.3	8.9
Gas (piped) and electricity	177.7	180.2	196.1	10.4	8.8
Electricity	168.0	173.7	184.9	10.1	6.4
Utility (piped) gas service	189.8	187.1	210.6	11.0	12.6
Household furnishings and operations	113.7	112.5	111.0	-2.4	-1.3
Apparel	119.8	126.5	123.0	2.7	-2.8
Transportation	157.1	159.4	160.1	1.9	0.4
Private transportation	154.6	157.0	158.2	2.3	0.8
Motor fuel	144.2	150.6	153.7	6.6	2.1
Gasoline (all types)	144.6	151.1	154.1	6.6	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	139.2	145.8	149.0	7.0	2.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	138.7	144.9	147.2	6.1	1.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	150.2	154.8	156.9	4.5	1.4
Medical care	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	111.9	112.5	114.2	2.1	1.5
Education and communication ⁵	101.4	103.5	103.6	2.2	0.1
Other goods and services	225.6	226.3	231.5	2.6	2.3

See footnotes at end of table.

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

Anchorage, AK¹ (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2004 from-	
	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003	1st half 2004	1st half 2003	2nd half 2003
Commodity and service group					
All items	161.1	163.9	165.6	2.8	1.0
Commodities	144.3	146.1	146.3	1.4	0.1
Commodities less food and beverages	135.7	136.2	135.2	-0.4	-0.7
Nondurables less food and beverages	145.2	148.7	149.2	2.8	0.3
Durables	126.2	123.9	121.7	-3.6	-1.8
Services	175.1	178.7	181.5	3.7	1.6
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	155.3	157.9	159.2	2.5	0.8
All items less shelter	165.1	168.0	170.1	3.0	1.3
Commodities less food	137.0	137.6	136.6	-0.3	-0.7
Nondurables	152.8	156.6	158.3	3.6	1.1
Nondurables less food	147.0	150.3	150.8	2.6	0.3
Services less rent of shelter ²	214.8	220.6	226.6	5.5	2.7
Services less medical care services	165.5	168.7	171.0	3.3	1.4
Energy	147.7	152.2	160.0	8.3	5.1
All items less energy	162.6	165.4	166.5	2.4	0.7
All items less food and energy	163.0	165.5	166.4	2.1	0.5

¹ Includes Anchorage Borough only.

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 reflects monthly averages over a six month period.