

News

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FOR RELEASE:
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Consumer Price Index for Denver Annual changes from the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2004

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver metropolitan area decreased 0.7 percent from the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2004, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. According to John Gordon, Acting Regional Commissioner, the decrease in the index was largely the result of declining prices for housing and transportation, which typically make up a large share of consumer expenditures. Prices in the remaining major expenditure categories increased over the period.

The housing index was down 1.4 percent for the year, driven by a 3.4 percent decline in shelter costs. Within shelter, rent of primary residence decreased 1.7 percent, while owners' equivalent rent of primary residence fell 3.2 percent. Prices for lodging away from home also were down for the year. Partially offsetting the decline in shelter costs, prices for fuels and utilities increased 11.3 percent from the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2004. Electricity prices were up 2.6 percent, while prices for utility (piped) gas service rose 27.0 percent. Prices for household furnishings and operations increased 2.8 percent over the year.

Transportation prices declined 5.5 percent from the first half of 2003 to the first half of 2004. Despite a 12.9 percent increase in motor fuel prices over the period, private transportation costs were down 6.0 percent overall.

The food and beverages index increased 2.9 percent over the year. Prices for food at home rose 3.1 percent, while prices for food away from home increased 1.6 percent. Alcoholic beverages prices were up 4.7 percent.

The Denver metropolitan area experienced rising prices in the remaining expenditure categories as well. Apparel prices increased 1.3 percent, while costs for medical care edged up 0.6 percent. Recreation costs were up 3.6 percent over first half 2003 levels and education and communication costs rose 2.6 percent. Prices for other goods and services increased 1.1 percent.

The Denver CPI-U stood at 186.5 for the first half of 2004. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 during the 1982-84 base period cost \$186.50 during the first half of 2004.

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

Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (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.....	187.8	185.7	186.5	-0.7	0.4
All items (1967=100).....	626.3	619.3	622.0	-	-
Food and beverages.....	173.4	176.3	178.4	2.9	1.2
Food.....	175.6	178.5	180.4	2.7	1.1
Food at home.....	181.9	187.4	187.6	3.1	.1
Food away from home.....	167.0	167.8	169.7	1.6	1.1
Alcoholic beverages.....	157.6	160.6	165.0	4.7	2.7
Housing.....	186.7	183.8	184.1	-1.4	.2
Shelter.....	206.4	202.2	199.4	-3.4	-1.4
Rent of primary residence.....	195.8	192.7	192.4	-1.7	-2.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1)	210.4	207.3	203.7	-3.2	-1.7
Fuels and utilities.....	155.3	169.2	172.8	11.3	2.1
Fuels.....	119.0	131.9	134.2	12.8	1.7
Gas (piped) and electricity.....	118.6	131.7	133.7	12.7	1.5
Electricity.....	108.8	112.2	111.6	2.6	-5.5
Utility (piped) gas service.....	131.3	160.5	166.8	27.0	3.9
Household furnishings and operations.....	131.5	129.5	135.2	2.8	4.4
Apparel.....	84.8	82.2	85.9	1.3	4.5
Transportation.....	198.8	190.9	187.8	-5.5	-1.6
Private transportation.....	195.5	187.0	183.7	-6.0	-1.8
Motor fuel.....	126.1	124.1	142.4	12.9	14.7
Gasoline (all types).....	125.9	123.8	142.2	12.9	14.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular (2).....	122.5	120.3	139.1	13.6	15.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (2) (3).....	123.4	121.7	138.2	12.0	13.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium (2).....	130.8	129.6	145.5	11.2	12.3
Medical care.....	334.9	331.7	336.8	.6	1.5
Recreation (4).....	109.3	111.1	113.2	3.6	1.9
Education and communication (4).....	99.9	101.4	102.5	2.6	1.1
Other goods and services.....	263.6	264.9	266.4	1.1	.6
Commodity and service group					
All items.....	187.8	185.7	186.5	-.7	.4
Commodities.....	140.5	139.8	142.7	1.6	2.1
Commodities less food and beverages.....	123.5	121.3	124.1	.5	2.3
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	128.9	127.9	134.0	4.0	4.8
Durables.....	116.7	113.0	113.3	-2.9	0.3
Services.....	228.6	225.2	224.0	-2.0	-5.5
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care.....	180.0	178.0	178.6	-.8	.3
All items less shelter.....	179.3	178.8	180.7	.8	1.1
Commodities less food.....	124.8	122.8	125.7	.7	2.4
Nondurables.....	150.8	151.6	156.1	3.5	3.0
Nondurables less food.....	130.7	130.0	136.0	4.1	4.6
Services less rent of shelter (1)	258.8	258.1	256.9	-.7	-5.5
Services less medical care services.....	217.9	214.6	213.0	-2.2	-7.7
Energy.....	121.8	126.8	137.3	12.7	8.3
All items less energy.....	194.9	192.0	192.0	-1.5	.0
All items less food and energy.....	198.7	194.8	194.4	-2.2	-2.2

1 Index is on a November 1982=100 base.
 2 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
 3 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
 4 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
 - Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions.
 NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.