

News

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FOR RELEASE:

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SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON AREA CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: SEPTEMBER 2004 GROCERY AND GASOLINE PRICES RISE

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area grocery prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for food at home index, advanced 0.6 percent in September. Consumers paid 0.3 percent more for groceries than they did a year ago. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden of the Bureau of Labor Statistics said that the food at home index now stands at 194.9. This means grocery shoppers in the greater Seattle spent \$194.90 in September for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

Dominated by increasing gasoline prices, the special aggregate index for energy rose 1.5 percent in September and measured 5.2 percent higher than one year ago. Gasoline prices advanced 2.8 percent over the month. Compared to one year ago, Seattle area gasoline prices were 6.1 percent higher. The household fuels index decreased 0.4 percent this month, yet was up 3.0 percent from one year ago. Within household fuels, prices for electricity and utility natural gas service were unchanged for the month of September. These indexes have increased 0.2 and 12.4 percent, respectively, since September 2003.

The shelter index advanced 1.1 percent for the month of September yet was 0.4 percent below last year's level. This marks the fourth consecutive month where the over-the-year change in shelter prices was negative. Within shelter, rent of primary residence edged up 0.1 percent for the month, and rose 0.2 percent over the year. The owners equivalent rent of primary residence index was unchanged this month; however, prices were 0.8 percent higher than in September 2003.

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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—		
	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004	Sep. 2003	July 2004	Aug. 2004
Expenditure category						
All items	-	194.6	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	593.3	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	193.7	-	-	-	-
Food	-	195.2	-	-	-	-
Food at home	194.5	193.8	194.9	0.3	0.2	0.6
Food away from home	-	200.0	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	178.2	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	200.7	-	-	-	-
Shelter	216.7	217.4	219.8	-4	1.4	1.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	208.1	208.1	208.4	.2	.1	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	225.7	226.6	226.7	.8	.4	.0
Fuels and utilities	-	163.4	-	-	-	-
Fuels	163.0	163.1	162.4	3.0	-4	-4
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	193.8	193.8	193.8	3.0	.0	.0
Electricity ¹	203.6	203.6	203.6	.2	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	142.6	142.6	142.6	12.4	.0	.0
Household furnishings and operations	-	182.3	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	127.7	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	174.5	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	180.7	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	218.0	210.0	215.8	6.4	-1.0	2.8
Gasoline (all types)	222.0	213.9	219.8	6.1	-1.0	2.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	242.8	233.1	240.5	6.1	-9	3.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	171.2	165.4	168.9	5.6	-1.3	2.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	198.3	192.8	196.5	6.9	-9	1.9
Medical care	-	296.2	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁵	-	92.4	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁵	-	114.6	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	313.8	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	194.6	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	167.8	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	153.1	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	165.2	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	139.7	-	-	-	-
Services	-	219.9	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	189.9	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	186.9	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	154.1	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	178.9	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	165.8	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	-	229.0	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	213.9	-	-	-	-
Energy	194.0	189.7	192.5	5.2	-8	1.5
All items less energy	-	197.3	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	197.9	-	-	-	-

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.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.

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