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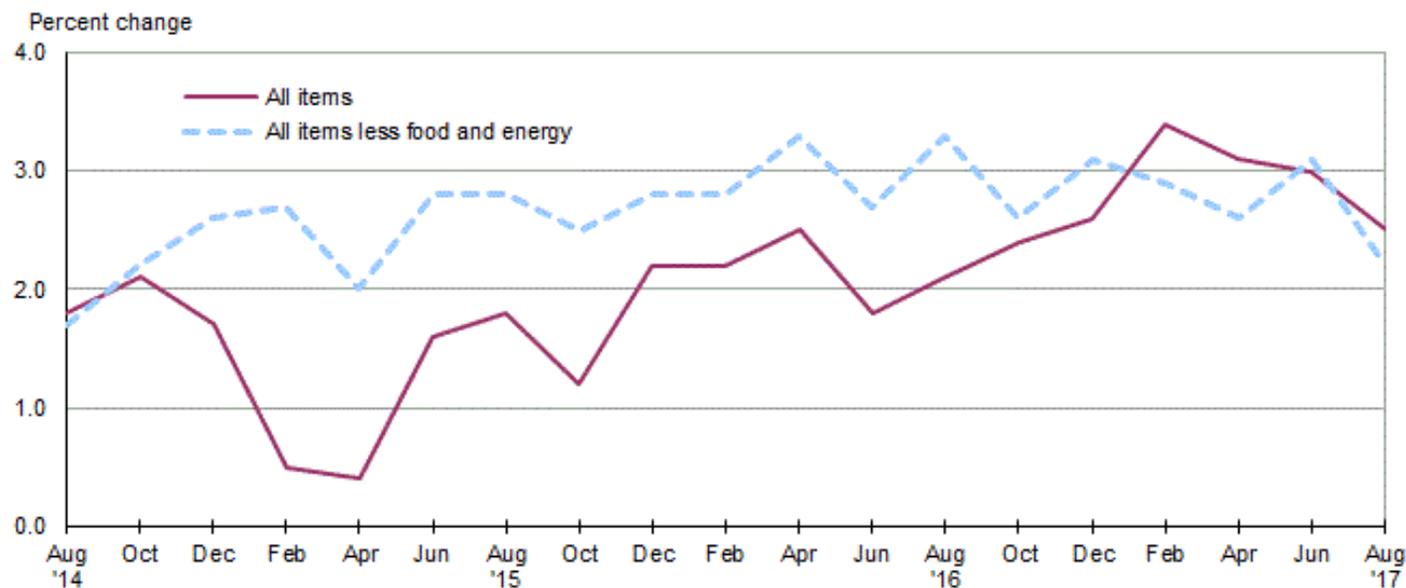
Consumer Price Index, Seattle area — August 2017

Area prices were down 0.2 percent over the past two months, up 2.5 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Seattle Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), declined 0.2 percent for the two months ending in August 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the August decrease was influenced by lower prices for recreation 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 2.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices advanced 7.4 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.2 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Seattle, August 2014–August 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 0.4 percent for the two months ending in August. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home advanced 0.4 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 0.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 2.0 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.8 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 1.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 0.7 percent for the two months ending in August. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (1.7 percent). Prices for electricity and natural gas service were both unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 7.4 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (11.4 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 3.7 percent, and prices for natural gas service advanced 2.4 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy declined 0.3 percent in the latest two-month period. Lower prices for recreation (-2.7 percent) and apparel (-2.0 percent) were partially offset by higher prices for shelter (0.8 percent) and education and communication (0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (6.9 percent) and shelter (6.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in recreation (-5.5 percent) and education and communication (-3.5 percent).

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Bi-monthly	Annual										
February	0.4	2.7	0.8	1.8	0.7	1.2	0.2	1.1	0.2	2.2	1.0	3.4
April	0.9	2.9	0.4	1.2	1.6	2.4	0.9	0.4	1.1	2.5	0.8	3.1
June	0.7	2.7	0.8	1.4	0.4	2.0	1.6	1.6	0.9	1.8	0.8	3.0
August	0.3	2.7	0.0	1.1	-0.2	1.8	0.0	1.8	0.3	2.1	-0.2	2.5
October	0.5	2.3	0.0	0.6	0.3	2.1	-0.3	1.2	0.0	2.4		
December	-1.4	1.4	-0.7	1.3	-1.1	1.7	-0.2	2.2	0.0	2.6		

The October 2017 Consumer Price Index for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton is scheduled to be released on November 15, 2017.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area will be renamed. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm.

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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 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.

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Table 1. 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-		
	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Aug. 2016	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017
Expenditure category						
All items	263.756	-	263.333	2.5	-0.2	-
All items (1967=100)	804.030	-	802.742	-	-	-
Food and beverages	264.649	-	266.033	2.0	0.5	-
Food	267.564	-	268.546	2.0	0.4	-
Food at home	248.622	249.867	249.580	1.3	0.4	-0.1
Food away from home	296.751	-	297.775	2.8	0.3	-
Alcoholic beverages	230.103	-	235.528	2.7	2.4	-
Housing	303.189	-	304.931	5.4	0.6	-
Shelter	344.928	347.850	347.847	6.1	0.8	0.0
Rent of primary residence(1)	349.889	352.595	354.637	6.8	1.4	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	358.338	359.928	361.934	6.0	1.0	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	358.338	359.928	361.934	6.0	1.0	0.6
Fuels and utilities	268.686	-	267.881	3.2	-0.3	-
Household energy	246.419	245.261	245.321	3.5	-0.4	0.0
Energy services(1)	295.292	295.292	295.292	3.5	0.0	0.0
Electricity(1)	320.624	320.624	320.624	3.7	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	171.510	171.510	171.510	2.4	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	175.155	-	173.665	1.7	-0.9	-
Apparel	140.716	-	137.890	6.9	-2.0	-
Transportation	219.269	-	215.799	2.0	-1.6	-
Private transportation	224.770	-	223.369	2.2	-0.6	-
Motor fuel	307.543	305.586	312.707	11.2	1.7	2.3
Gasoline (all types)	314.111	312.135	319.501	11.4	1.7	2.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	340.329	338.184	346.162	11.4	1.7	2.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	248.248	247.918	252.228	11.3	1.6	1.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	291.433	289.331	296.529	11.2	1.7	2.5
Medical care	394.386	-	392.698	-2.1	-0.4	-
Recreation(5)	95.793	-	93.215	-5.5	-2.7	-
Education and communication(5)	132.558	-	133.080	-3.5	0.4	-
Other goods and services	410.524	-	405.412	1.5	-1.2	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	263.756	-	263.333	2.5	-0.2	-
Commodities	191.843	-	190.106	1.4	-0.9	-
Commodities less food & beverages	155.898	-	152.888	1.0	-1.9	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	188.293	-	186.972	4.2	-0.7	-
Durables	123.441	-	119.034	-3.1	-3.6	-
Services	330.757	-	331.580	3.1	0.2	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	257.873	-	257.510	2.8	-0.1	-
All items less shelter	232.827	-	231.121	0.5	-0.7	-
Commodities less food	159.041	-	156.333	1.1	-1.7	-
Nondurables	224.918	-	224.874	3.0	0.0	-
Nondurables less food	191.894	-	191.073	4.1	-0.4	-
Services less rent of shelter(2)	321.881	-	320.236	-0.5	-0.5	-
Services less medical care services	323.101	-	324.217	3.6	0.3	-
Energy	283.315	281.738	285.190	7.4	0.7	1.2
All items less energy	265.461	-	264.894	2.2	-0.2	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. 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) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Aug. 2016	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017
All items less food and energy	265.353	-	264.523	2.2	-0.3	-

Footnotes(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.