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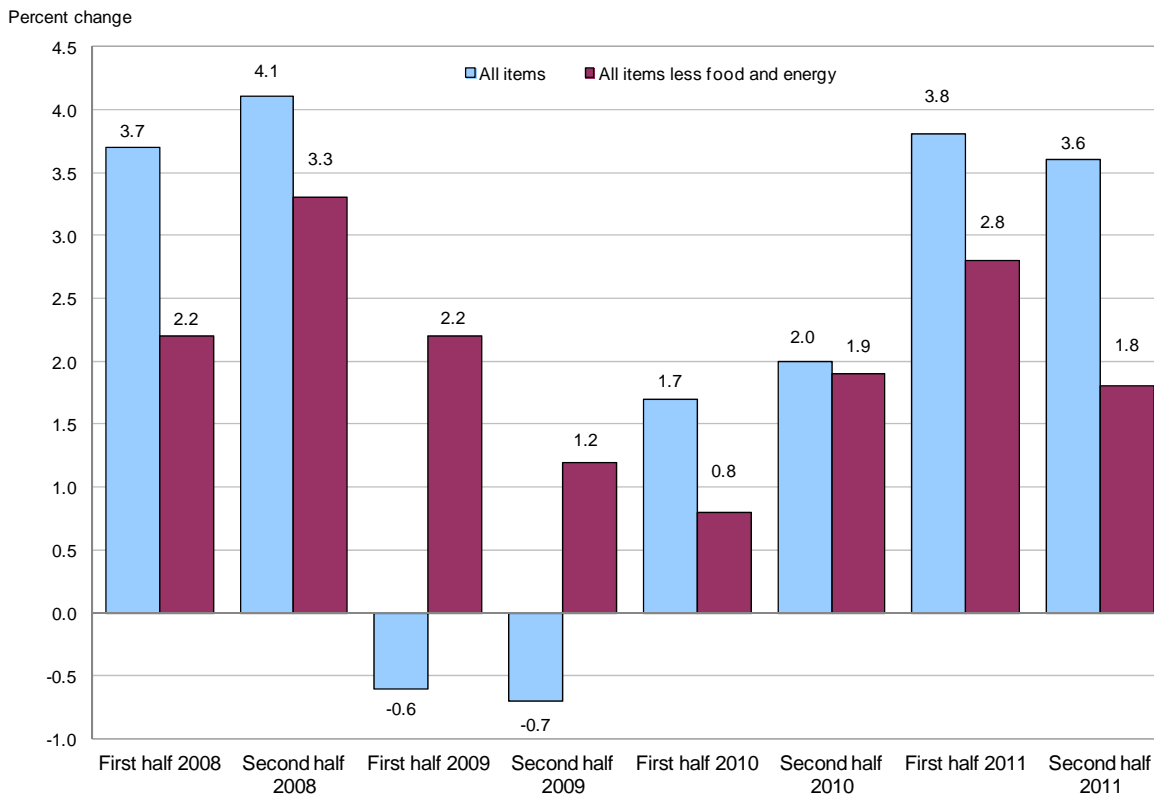
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CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR DENVER-BOULDER-GREELEY
Prices increased 3.6 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area increased 3.6 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that higher costs for motor fuel, food, and shelter had the largest upward impact on the index. Energy costs rose 20.3 percent and food prices were up 5.0 percent. Excluding food and energy, prices were 1.8 percent higher over the year.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent changes in consumer price indexes, Denver, first half 2008–second half 2011



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices were up 5.0 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011 following a 1.1-percent increase in the same period one year ago. The rise was led by a 6.6-percent advance in prices for food at home, much of which occurred in the first half of the period. Costs for food away from home rose 3.5 percent over the year.

Energy

The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, climbed 20.3 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011, the largest over-the-year increase since 2005. A 28.4-percent advance in motor fuel prices, nearly all of which occurred in the first six months of the period, was largely responsible for the increase in the energy component. Within household energy, utility (piped) gas service costs turned up 14.2 percent following a 5.4-percent decline in the same period one year ago. Electricity prices rose 4.7 percent and also contributed to the increase.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.8 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011. Among the components of the index that contributed to the increase were shelter (1.5 percent), medical care (2.1 percent), and apparel (2.7 percent).

The Denver CPI-U stood at 221.521 for the second half of 2011. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 during the 1982-84 base period cost \$221.52 during the second half of 2011. Because metropolitan area CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the area indexes.

CPI-W

The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area for the second half of 2011 was 211.960. The CPI-W increased 4.1 percent from the second half of 2010 to the second half of 2011.

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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 25,000 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 areas; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, and Weld Counties in Colorado.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Mountain-Plains Information Office at (816) 285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.
Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number (Federal Relay Service):
1-800-877-8339

Table 1. 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 2nd half 2011 from—	
	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011	2nd half 2011	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011
Expenditure category					
All items	213.916	219.055	221.521	3.6	1.1
All items (1967=100)	713.320	730.456	738.682	-	-
Food and beverages	201.409	207.141	210.675	4.6	1.7
Food	203.516	209.574	213.632	5.0	1.9
Food at home	200.891	209.663	214.220	6.6	2.2
Food away from home	205.380	208.860	212.660	3.5	1.8
Alcoholic beverages	187.329	189.546	187.131	-1	-1.3
Housing	194.331	196.967	199.036	2.4	1.1
Shelter	216.584	217.851	219.845	1.5	.9
Rent of primary residence ¹	212.606	214.004	216.946	2.0	1.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	211.196	212.684	214.549	1.6	.9
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	211.196	212.684	214.549	1.6	.9
Fuels and utilities	189.542	200.400	211.398	11.5	5.5
Household energy	146.021	150.256	159.812	9.4	6.4
Energy services ¹	144.749	148.617	158.205	9.3	6.5
Electricity ¹	148.035	145.404	155.041	4.7	6.6
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	146.501	157.410	167.293	14.2	6.3
Household furnishings and operations	119.100	121.160	118.422	-6	-2.3
Apparel	98.818	101.516	101.474	2.7	.0
Transportation	238.438	258.846	261.757	9.8	1.1
Private transportation	234.725	256.101	259.875	10.7	1.5
Motor fuel	220.054	275.765	282.487	28.4	2.4
Gasoline (all types)	218.793	274.209	280.802	28.3	2.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	215.545	271.307	278.000	29.0	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	207.369	257.400	263.338	27.0	2.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	221.041	273.957	279.961	26.7	2.2
Medical care	447.303	447.767	456.780	2.1	2.0
Recreation ⁵	141.883	143.672	144.258	1.7	.4
Education and communication ⁵	117.904	117.866	119.449	1.3	1.3
Other goods and services	338.044	331.611	335.797	-7	1.3
Commodity and service group					
All items	213.916	219.055	221.521	3.6	1.1
Commodities	161.663	169.273	171.649	6.2	1.4
Commodities less food and beverages	140.756	149.255	151.033	7.3	1.2
Nondurables less food and beverages	168.181	181.860	184.485	9.7	1.4
Durables	113.879	116.372	117.187	2.9	.7
Services	258.906	261.818	264.358	2.1	1.0
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	202.951	208.135	210.357	3.6	1.1
All items less shelter	213.938	220.839	223.612	4.5	1.3
Commodities less food	142.542	150.806	152.425	6.9	1.1
Nondurables	185.264	195.191	198.278	7.0	1.6
Nondurables less food	168.953	181.819	184.096	9.0	1.3
Services less rent of shelter ²	322.528	326.934	330.349	2.4	1.0
Services less medical care services	243.033	246.109	248.268	2.2	.9
Energy	178.419	206.583	214.680	20.3	3.9
All items less energy	218.065	221.122	223.043	2.3	.9
All items less food and energy	221.175	223.668	225.186	1.8	.7

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.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W):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 2nd half 2011 from—	
	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011	2nd half 2011	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011
Expenditure category					
All items	203.666	209.099	211.960	4.1	1.4
All items (1967=100)	677.910	695.990	705.514	-	-
Food and beverages	202.675	209.102	212.685	4.9	1.7
Food	204.942	211.708	215.870	5.3	2.0
Food at home	201.702	211.279	215.615	6.9	2.1
Food away from home	208.716	212.355	216.182	3.6	1.8
Alcoholic beverages	192.222	195.001	191.758	-2	-1.7
Housing	187.240	189.914	192.176	2.6	1.2
Shelter	205.542	206.817	208.864	1.6	1.0
Rent of primary residence ¹	212.606	214.004	216.946	2.0	1.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	197.162	198.551	200.292	1.6	.9
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	197.162	198.551	200.292	1.6	.9
Fuels and utilities	185.009	194.970	206.059	11.4	5.7
Household energy	144.663	148.849	158.397	9.5	6.4
Energy services ¹	144.547	148.636	158.218	9.5	6.4
Electricity ¹	148.035	145.403	155.041	4.7	6.6
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	146.502	157.411	167.295	14.2	6.3
Household furnishings and operations	124.262	127.083	122.746	-1.2	-3.4
Apparel	92.873	94.308	96.055	3.4	1.9
Transportation	233.076	254.176	258.381	10.9	1.7
Private transportation	230.246	251.538	255.986	11.2	1.8
Motor fuel	220.033	275.737	282.461	28.4	2.4
Gasoline (all types)	218.790	274.205	280.798	28.3	2.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	215.549	271.312	278.005	29.0	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	207.369	257.400	263.338	27.0	2.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	221.072	273.995	279.999	26.7	2.2
Medical care	446.476	446.949	457.242	2.4	2.3
Recreation ⁵	121.953	123.419	124.049	1.7	.5
Education and communication ⁵	115.069	114.434	115.039	.0	.5
Other goods and services	339.639	334.615	339.059	-2	1.3
Commodity and service group					
All items	203.666	209.099	211.960	4.1	1.4
Commodities	164.966	173.284	176.187	6.8	1.7
Commodities less food and beverages	142.292	151.683	154.289	8.4	1.7
Nondurables less food and beverages	175.922	191.469	195.318	11.0	2.0
Durables	107.979	111.074	112.398	4.1	1.2
Services	244.493	247.135	249.976	2.2	1.1
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	194.165	199.606	202.241	4.2	1.3
All items less shelter	205.898	213.581	217.032	5.4	1.6
Commodities less food	143.944	153.033	155.382	7.9	1.5
Nondurables	192.880	203.685	207.344	7.5	1.8
Nondurables less food	176.564	191.048	194.309	10.1	1.7
Services less rent of shelter ²	288.366	292.212	296.436	2.8	1.4
Services less medical care services	229.317	232.074	234.536	2.3	1.1
Energy	185.535	213.661	222.309	19.8	4.0
All items less energy	206.069	209.130	211.370	2.6	1.1
All items less food and energy	207.308	209.531	211.356	2.0	.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 1984=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.