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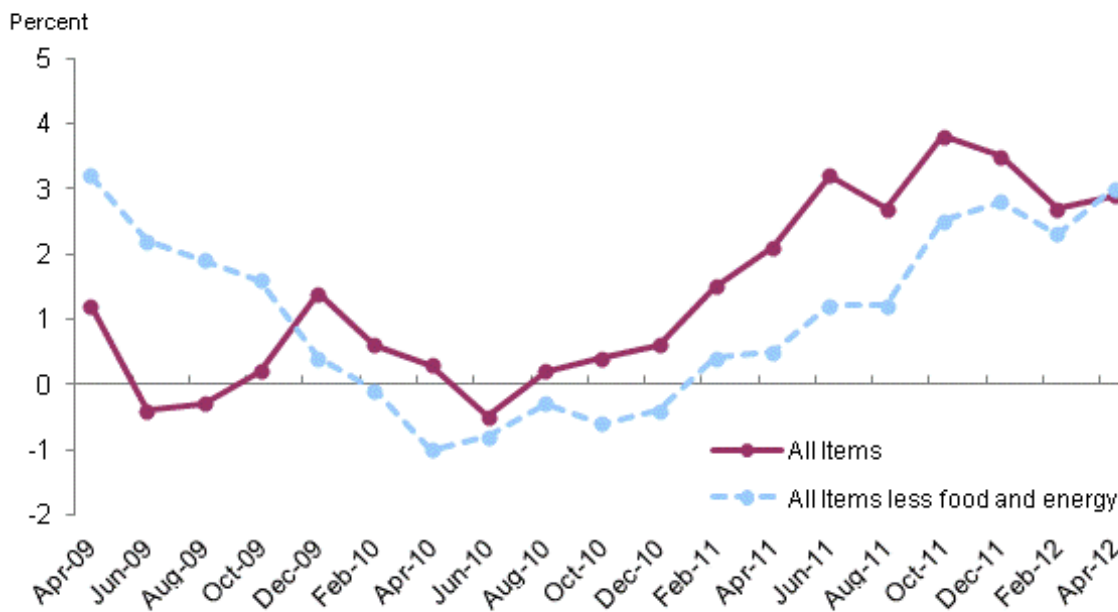
### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SEATTLE AREA – APRIL 2012

**AREA PRICES WERE UP 0.9 PERCENT OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS, UP 2.9 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

Prices in the greater Seattle Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.9 percent for the two months ending April 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the April increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline 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 advanced 2.9 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices rose 4.0 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. Shelter prices, which include rent of primary residence, rose by 3.6 percent over the year. The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.0 percent since April 2011.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Seattle, April 2009 - April 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Food

Food prices decreased 0.4 percent from February to April. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home declined 1.1 percent, but prices for food away from home increased 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.0 percent. Prices for food at home increased 1.1 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home advanced 3.2 percent.

## Energy

The energy index increased 9.4 percent for the two months ending in April 2012. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (13.9 percent). Prices for electricity increased 2.7 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 0.6 percent in April.

Energy prices rose 4.0 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (6.0 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 2.6 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 4.2 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.4 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (2.9 percent) and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 3.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (8.6 percent), shelter (3.6 percent), and education and communication (2.7 percent).

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

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual
February	1.1	4.0	1.3	4.7	1.0	1.4	0.2	0.6	1.2	1.5	0.4	2.7
April	1.9	4.0	0.7	3.4	0.5	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.8	2.1	0.9	2.9
June	-0.1	3.5	2.2	5.8	0.6	-0.4	-0.2	-0.5	0.8	3.2	-	-
August	0.2	3.0	-0.1	5.4	-0.1	-0.3	0.7	0.2	0.2	2.7	-	-
October	1.1	4.1	-0.8	3.4	-0.4	0.2	-0.2	0.4	0.9	3.8	-	-
December	0.2	4.6	-1.5	1.7	-0.3	1.4	-0.2	0.6	-0.5	3.5	-	-

## CPI-W

In April, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 234.808, up 1.2 percent from February. The CPI-W increased 2.8 percent over the year.

**The June 2012 Consumer Price Index for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton is scheduled to be released on July 17, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. (PDT).**

## 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 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 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](http://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](http://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.

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

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the San Francisco Information Office at (415) 625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT.

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—		
	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	Apr. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	235.744	-	237.931	2.9	0.9	-
All items (1967=100) .....	718.639	-	725.306	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	240.046	-	238.725	1.6	-6	-
Food .....	243.455	-	242.430	2.0	-4	-
Food at home .....	235.724	235.867	233.190	1.1	-1.1	-1.1
Food away from home .....	256.654	-	257.618	3.2	.4	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	202.230	-	198.457	-4.4	-1.9	-
Housing .....	241.923	-	242.726	3.3	.3	-
Shelter .....	266.801	267.145	267.551	3.6	.3	.2
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	262.493	263.374	263.350	6.5	.3	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of residences <sup>1 2</sup> .....	280.305	280.905	281.555	2.8	.4	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	280.305	280.905	281.555	2.8	.4	.2
Fuels and utilities .....	230.090	-	232.443	2.4	1.0	-
Household energy .....	216.141	216.529	220.693	1.2	2.1	1.9
Energy services <sup>1</sup> .....	251.952	252.048	257.027	1.1	2.0	2.0
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	258.013	258.139	265.066	2.6	2.7	2.7
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	191.678	191.678	190.545	-4.2	-6	-6
Household furnishings and operations .....	168.063	-	168.082	2.2	.0	-
Apparel .....	133.040	-	136.885	8.6	2.9	-
Transportation .....	228.690	-	239.643	2.3	4.8	-
Private transportation .....	236.760	-	249.511	2.8	5.4	-
Motor fuel .....	388.464	433.494	442.032	5.9	13.8	2.0
Gasoline (all types) .....	395.871	442.074	450.897	6.0	13.9	2.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	434.781	486.872	496.311	6.0	14.2	1.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	304.898	338.819	345.985	6.1	13.5	2.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	348.960	385.966	394.357	6.2	13.0	2.2
Medical care .....	370.405	-	370.860	-	.1	-
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	96.614	-	96.174	1.3	-5	-
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	134.145	-	134.103	2.7	.0	-
Other goods and services .....	385.834	-	386.558	1.1	.2	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	235.744	-	237.931	2.9	.9	-
Commodities .....	193.299	-	196.730	2.2	1.8	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	168.759	-	174.142	2.7	3.2	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	203.328	-	213.374	3.4	4.9	-
Durables .....	133.418	-	134.012	1.5	.4	-
Services .....	275.477	-	276.432	3.2	.3	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	229.638	-	231.908	2.7	1.0	-
All items less shelter .....	224.567	-	227.296	2.5	1.2	-
Commodities less food .....	170.220	-	175.207	2.3	2.9	-
Nondurables .....	221.490	-	226.363	2.4	2.2	-
Nondurables less food .....	203.528	-	212.451	2.8	4.4	-
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	293.231	-	294.436	2.8	.4	-
Services less medical care services .....	266.279	-	267.352	3.0	.4	-
Energy .....	308.817	331.318	337.790	4.0	9.4	2.0
All items less energy .....	233.805	-	234.423	2.8	.3	-
All items less food and energy .....	232.397	-	233.296	3.0	.4	-

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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