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## **Consumer Price Index, Alaska area – June 2019**

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

Prices in the Anchorage area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 2.5 percent for the two months ending in June 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the June increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and new and used motor vehicles. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices increased 3.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of electricity. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

### **Food**

Food prices advanced 1.2 percent for the two months ending in June. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home rose 2.1 percent, while prices for food away from home were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 3.8 percent. Prices for food at home rose 3.9 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home moved up 3.6 percent.

### **Energy**

The energy index increased 0.2 percent for the two months ending in June. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (0.4 percent). Prices for both electricity and natural gas service were unchanged, for the same period.

Energy prices increased 3.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for electricity (21.3 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service decreased 2.8 percent, and prices for gasoline declined 1.9 percent during the past year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.9 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for shelter (6.8 percent), apparel (2.1 percent), and new and used motor vehicles (1.6 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-1.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new vehicles (3.8 percent), medical care (3.6 percent), and shelter (3.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-9.1 percent) and education and communication (-0.9 percent).

**The August 2019 Consumer Price Index for the Urban Alaska area is scheduled to be released on September 12, 2019.**

### **Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018**

In January 2018, BLS introduced a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). This index changed to a bimonthly publication schedule beginning in February, 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: [www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm).

Historical data, including semiannual and annual averages, are available at: [www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/data.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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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 Urban Alaska area covered in this release consists of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the State of Alaska.

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

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Urban Alaska (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2019	May 2019	Jun. 2019	Jun. 2018	Apr. 2019	May 2019
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	228.553	-	234.179	2.5	2.5	-
All items (1967=100).....	610.039	-	625.057	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	214.123	-	216.386	4.0	1.1	-
Food.....	219.565	-	222.170	3.8	1.2	-
Food at home.....	212.016	213.996	216.487	3.9	2.1	1.2
Cereals and bakery products.....	223.991	-	229.490	6.0	2.5	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	195.607	-	200.417	2.6	2.5	-
Dairy and related products.....	198.650	-	201.828	-0.4	1.6	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	325.948	-	337.937	6.1	3.7	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	150.346	-	152.298	3.4	1.3	-
Other food at home.....	178.401	-	179.853	3.9	0.8	-
Food away from home.....	229.235	-	229.239	3.6	0.0	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	159.044	-	158.334	6.5	-0.4	-
Housing.....	208.253	-	219.951	3.9	5.6	-
Shelter.....	207.302	210.178	221.485	3.2	6.8	5.4
Rent of primary residence(2).....	201.155	201.164	201.021	0.2	-0.1	-0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2).....	206.300	206.319	206.237	0.7	0.0	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2).....	206.300	206.319	206.237	0.7	0.0	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	361.685	-	362.233	10.0	0.2	-
Household energy.....	381.873	381.987	382.101	10.7	0.1	0.0
Energy services.....	425.742	425.742	425.742	10.9	0.0	0.0
Electricity.....	390.372	390.372	390.372	21.3	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service.....	459.057	459.057	459.057	-2.8	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations.....	128.720	-	131.232	1.9	2.0	-
Apparel.....	148.754	-	151.944	-9.1	2.1	-
Transportation.....	232.239	-	232.431	0.9	0.1	-
Private transportation.....	241.142	-	243.149	0.5	0.8	-
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	110.425	-	112.246	1.6	1.6	-
New vehicles(1).....	254.415	-	255.423	3.8	0.4	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	263.393	-	264.737	2.0	0.5	-
Motor fuel.....	263.283	277.455	264.336	-2.1	0.4	-4.7
Gasoline (all types).....	264.619	278.931	265.709	-1.9	0.4	-4.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	255.575	270.104	256.617	-2.1	0.4	-5.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	253.359	268.077	254.432	-1.8	0.4	-5.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	266.700	276.730	267.860	-0.6	0.4	-3.2
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	1,007.596	-	1,007.596	3.2	0.0	-
Medical care.....	610.641	-	618.009	3.6	1.2	-
Recreation(3).....	128.778	-	126.900	1.9	-1.5	-
Education and communication(3).....	113.526	-	113.521	-0.9	0.0	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	727.849	-	727.981	3.3	0.0	-
Other goods and services.....	356.848	-	360.376	3.3	1.0	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	228.553	-	234.179	2.5	2.5	-
Commodities.....	185.008	-	186.344	1.0	0.7	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	169.474	-	170.399	-0.4	0.5	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	217.687	-	217.598	-3.2	0.0	-
Durables.....	128.715	-	130.127	2.3	1.1	-
Services.....	266.030	-	275.467	3.3	3.5	-

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 Urban Alaska (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2019	May 2019	Jun. 2019	Jun. 2018	Apr. 2019	May 2019
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	215.156	-	220.663	2.4	2.6	-
All items less shelter.....	237.203	-	238.209	2.1	0.4	-
Commodities less food .....	169.413	-	170.271	-0.2	0.5	-
Nondurables .....	216.278	-	217.426	0.4	0.5	-
Nondurables less food.....	213.528	-	213.372	-2.5	-0.1	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	362.462	-	362.612	3.4	0.0	-
Services less medical care services.....	245.955	-	255.124	3.3	3.7	-
Energy .....	314.185	323.038	314.929	3.7	0.2	-2.5
All items less energy .....	223.809	-	229.771	2.4	2.7	-
All items less food and energy .....	224.875	-	231.374	2.1	2.9	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1978=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available

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