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Consumer Price Index, Honolulu Area – November 2020

Area prices were down 0.2 percent over the past two months, up 1.6 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Honolulu area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), decreased 0.2 percent for the two months ending in November 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the November decrease was influenced by lower prices for food. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 1.6 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent over the year. Food prices rose 5.4 percent. Energy prices fell 11.0 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1.](#))

Food

Food prices decreased 2.8 percent for the two months ending in November. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home moved down 4.1 percent. Prices for food at home decreased 1.7 percent for the same period influenced by lower prices for dairy and related products (-4.9 percent) and fruits and vegetables (-2.0 percent),

Over the year, food prices rose 5.4 percent. Prices for food at home increased 9.8 percent influenced by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (13.7 percent) and fruits and vegetables (13.4 percent). Prices for food away from home rose 0.6 percent since a year ago.

Energy

The energy index rose 0.5 percent for the two months ending in November. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (0.9 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 0.3 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 7.5 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 11.0 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-13.2 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service fell 18.0, and electricity declined 8.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (4.9 percent) and recreation (2.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-2.7 percent) and shelter (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (5.4 percent), education and communication (3.7 percent), and shelter (2.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in motor vehicle insurance (-9.5 percent) apparel (-6.4 percent).

The January 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Honolulu area is scheduled to be released on February 10, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on November 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in November was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.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 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

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 Hawaii area covered in this release consists of Honolulu in the State of Hawaii.

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

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	287.529	-	286.872	1.6	-0.2	-
All items (1967=100).....	791.559	-	789.750	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	311.244	-	303.016	5.6	-2.6	-
Food.....	311.952	-	303.145	5.4	-2.8	-
Food at home.....	306.362	297.737	301.003	9.8	-1.7	1.1
Cereals and bakery products.....	327.514	-	326.099	7.2	-0.4	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	282.299	-	285.294	13.7	1.1	-
Dairy and related products.....	253.952	-	241.548	-0.1	-4.9	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	395.392	-	387.397	13.4	-2.0	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	371.609	-	375.393	9.8	1.0	-
Other food at home.....	296.740	-	283.454	8.2	-4.5	-
Food away from home.....	310.097	-	297.334	0.6	-4.1	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	-	-	299.376	7.9	-	-
Housing.....	313.643	-	313.054	1.6	-0.2	-
Shelter.....	344.773	344.505	344.034	2.2	-0.2	-0.1
Rent of primary residence(2).....	341.856	342.129	342.165	4.8	0.1	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2).....	354.121	354.524	354.575	1.2	0.1	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2).....	354.121	354.524	354.575	1.2	0.1	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	348.975	-	349.028	-4.5	0.0	-
Household energy.....	259.084	261.251	259.177	-8.5	0.0	-0.8
Energy services.....	254.426	256.527	254.365	-8.5	0.0	-0.8
Electricity.....	251.039	254.289	251.880	-8.1	0.3	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service.....	278.252	253.331	257.336	-18.0	-7.5	1.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	149.362	-	149.206	2.2	-0.1	-
Apparel.....	114.753	-	111.693	-6.4	-2.7	-
Transportation.....	210.089	-	215.667	-3.0	2.7	-
Private transportation.....	213.191	-	218.971	-2.3	2.7	-
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	103.666	-	108.790	5.4	4.9	-
New vehicles(1).....	165.852	-	174.145	5.5	5.0	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	261.495	-	260.819	9.9	-0.3	-
Motor fuel.....	232.780	236.817	234.930	-13.2	0.9	-0.8
Gasoline (all types).....	238.859	243.001	241.056	-13.2	0.9	-0.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	246.452	250.804	248.702	-14.1	0.9	-0.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	212.780	212.780	212.780	-8.9	0.0	0.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	227.750	231.932	230.201	-10.0	1.1	-0.7
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	431.087	-	432.281	-9.5	0.3	-
Medical care.....	438.896	-	437.903	-	-0.2	-
Recreation(3).....	134.486	-	137.843	2.7	2.5	-
Education and communication(3).....	149.183	-	149.269	3.7	0.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,810.241	-	1,810.241	0.8	0.0	-
Other goods and services.....	506.162	-	506.997	0.4	0.2	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	287.529	-	286.872	1.6	-0.2	-
Commodities.....	212.899	-	210.139	1.5	-1.3	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	154.142	-	154.440	-2.6	0.2	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	191.406	-	189.710	-6.5	-0.9	-
Durables.....	112.357	-	114.150	3.0	1.6	-
Services.....	352.718	-	353.843	1.7	0.3	-

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 Hawaii (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2019	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	279.437	-	278.798	1.6	-0.2	-
All items less shelter.....	262.412	-	261.787	1.3	-0.2	-
Commodities less food	159.230	-	159.558	-2.0	0.2	-
Nondurables	254.342	-	249.130	1.1	-2.0	-
Nondurables less food.....	198.122	-	196.618	-5.3	-0.8	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	359.300	-	363.606	1.0	1.2	-
Services less medical care services.....	343.554	-	344.883	1.6	0.4	-
Energy	242.927	246.105	244.147	-11.0	0.5	-0.8
All items less energy	292.053	-	291.278	2.4	-0.3	-
All items less food and energy	290.069	-	290.890	1.8	0.3	-

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1977=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.