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Consumer Price Index, Honolulu Area – January 2021

Area prices were up 0.3 percent over the past two months, up 1.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Honolulu area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.3 percent for the two months ending in January 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the January increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and food away from home. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 1.4 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.4 percent over the year. Food prices increased 5.8 percent. Energy prices dropped 10.7 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1.](#))

Food

Food prices advanced 0.5 percent for the two months ending in January. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home rose 1.6 percent. Prices for food at home decreased 0.5 percent for the same period influenced by lower prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (-2.5 percent) and fruits and vegetables (-2.3 percent).

Over the year, food prices increased 5.8 percent. Prices for food at home increased 9.0 percent influenced by higher prices for nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials (19.8 percent), fruits and vegetables (10.9 percent), and meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (9.7 percent). Prices for food away from home rose 2.2 percent since a year ago.

Energy

The energy index rose 2.6 percent for the two months ending in January. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (3.2 percent). Prices for natural gas service rose 6.4 percent, and prices for electricity increased 1.8 percent for the same period.

Energy prices dropped 10.7 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-11.6 percent). Prices paid for electricity declined 9.9 percent and prices for natural gas service decreased 3.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.1 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for motor vehicle insurance (8.1 percent), household furnishings and operations (1.5 percent), and shelter (0.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new vehicles (-4.4 percent), recreation (-4.2 percent), and medical care (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (6.5 percent), education and communication (2.9 percent) and shelter (1.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-7.1 percent) and recreation (-2.0 percent).

The March 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Honolulu area is scheduled to be released on April 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on January 2021 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 January 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-		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	286.872	-	287.634	1.4	0.3	-
All items (1967=100).....	789.750	-	791.849	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	303.016	-	304.273	5.8	0.4	-
Food.....	303.145	-	304.609	5.8	0.5	-
Food at home.....	301.003	302.047	299.644	9.0	-0.5	-0.8
Cereals and bakery products.....	326.099	-	337.222	7.3	3.4	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	285.294	-	278.081	9.7	-2.5	-
Dairy and related products.....	241.548	-	253.130	4.1	4.8	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	387.397	-	378.514	10.9	-2.3	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	375.393	-	387.041	19.8	3.1	-
Other food at home.....	283.454	-	279.373	5.8	-1.4	-
Food away from home.....	297.334	-	302.198	2.2	1.6	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	299.376	-	297.259	6.7	-0.7	-
Housing.....	313.054	-	315.706	1.1	0.8	-
Shelter.....	344.034	344.396	346.669	1.8	0.8	0.7
Rent of primary residence(2).....	342.165	341.258	342.021	1.5	0.0	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2).....	354.575	353.845	357.490	1.7	0.8	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2).....	354.575	353.845	357.490	1.7	0.8	1.0
Fuels and utilities.....	349.028	-	352.982	-5.1	1.1	-
Household energy.....	259.177	256.777	264.380	-9.5	2.0	3.0
Energy services.....	254.365	251.995	259.521	-9.6	2.0	3.0
Electricity.....	251.880	249.213	256.499	-9.9	1.8	2.9
Utility (piped) gas service.....	257.336	262.350	273.801	-3.1	6.4	4.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	149.206	-	151.455	1.5	1.5	-
Apparel.....	111.693	-	111.668	-7.1	0.0	-
Transportation.....	215.667	-	216.018	-1.4	0.2	-
Private transportation.....	218.971	-	219.368	-0.7	0.2	-
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	108.790	-	105.138	6.5	-3.4	-
New vehicles(1).....	174.145	-	166.488	6.6	-4.4	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	260.819	-	256.402	9.1	-1.7	-
Motor fuel.....	234.930	239.222	242.483	-11.7	3.2	1.4
Gasoline (all types).....	241.056	245.473	248.844	-11.6	3.2	1.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	248.702	253.341	256.918	-12.5	3.3	1.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	212.780	214.615	217.038	-8.2	2.0	1.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	230.201	234.398	237.305	-8.4	3.1	1.2
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	432.281	-	467.157	-2.2	8.1	-
Medical care.....	437.903	-	434.368	-	-0.8	-
Recreation(3).....	137.843	-	131.999	-2.0	-4.2	-
Education and communication(3).....	149.269	-	149.143	2.9	-0.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,810.241	-	1,810.241	0.8	0.0	-
Other goods and services.....	506.997	-	513.586	2.7	1.3	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	286.872	-	287.634	1.4	0.3	-
Commodities.....	210.139	-	209.784	1.6	-0.2	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	154.440	-	153.210	-2.6	-0.8	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	189.710	-	189.797	-7.0	0.0	-
Durables.....	114.150	-	112.022	3.7	-1.9	-
Services.....	353.843	-	355.559	1.3	0.5	-

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	278.798	-	279.764	1.4	0.3	-
All items less shelter.....	261.787	-	261.563	1.1	-0.1	-
Commodities less food	159.558	-	158.295	-2.1	-0.8	-
Nondurables	249.130	-	249.849	1.0	0.3	-
Nondurables less food.....	196.618	-	196.561	-5.9	0.0	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	363.606	-	363.699	0.5	0.0	-
Services less medical care services.....	344.883	-	346.623	1.2	0.5	-
Energy	244.147	245.434	250.605	-10.7	2.6	2.1
All items less energy	291.278	-	291.698	2.1	0.1	-
All items less food and energy	290.890	-	291.104	1.4	0.1	-

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.