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## **Consumer Price Index, Hawaii Area – September 2019**

**Area prices were up 0.1 percent over the past two months, up 1.1 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Honolulu area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.1 percent for the two months ending in September 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the September increase was influenced by higher prices for apparel and 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 advanced 1.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.3 percent over the year. Food prices advanced 2.3 percent. Energy prices decreased 4.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of electricity. (See [table 1](#).)

### **Food**

Food prices rose 0.7 percent for the two months ending in September. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home rose 1.4 percent, while prices for food away from home were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 2.3 percent. Prices for food away from home moved up 2.9 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 1.8 percent.

### **Energy**

The energy index declined 0.7 percent for the two months ending in September. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for electricity (-3.6 percent). Prices for natural gas service advanced 2.6 percent, and prices for gasoline increased 1.4 percent for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 4.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for electricity (-8.3 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service decreased 2.3 percent, and prices for gasoline declined 1.7 percent during the past year.

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

The index for all items less food and energy were unchanged in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (4.3 percent) and recreation (0.8 percent) helped counter lower prices for used cars and trucks (-2.8 percent) and shelter (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (7.5 percent) and shelter (2.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in recreation (-2.1 percent).

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**The November 2019 Consumer Price Index for the Honolulu area is scheduled to be released on December 11, 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 January, 2018. The first indexes using the new structure were published 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/pub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/pub/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 Hawaii area covered in this release consists of Honolulu in the State of Hawaii.

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**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-		
	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Sep. 2018	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	281.928	-	282.106	1.1	0.1	-
All items (1967=100) .....	776.141	-	776.631	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	286.820	-	288.845	2.2	0.7	-
Food .....	287.794	-	289.897	2.3	0.7	-
Food at home .....	275.503	274.430	279.412	1.8	1.4	1.8
Cereals and bakery products .....	306.873	-	320.709	1.7	4.5	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	256.110	-	259.093	2.8	1.2	-
Dairy and related products .....	233.274	-	241.165	3.0	3.4	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	343.568	-	348.239	4.6	1.4	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	354.821	-	341.022	1.5	-3.9	-
Other food at home .....	258.082	-	264.782	-1.1	2.6	-
Food away from home .....	294.721	-	294.786	2.9	0.0	-
Food away from home .....	294.721	-	294.786	2.9	0.0	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	268.465	-	269.003	0.2	0.2	-
Housing .....	308.675	-	307.837	1.6	-0.3	-
Shelter .....	336.375	337.367	335.338	2.1	-0.3	-0.6
Rent of primary residence(2) .....	324.765	324.999	325.470	1.5	0.2	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2) .....	349.834	350.252	348.983	2.0	-0.2	-0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2) .....	349.834	350.252	348.983	2.0	-0.2	-0.4
Fuels and utilities .....	372.624	-	372.132	-2.5	-0.1	-
Household energy .....	301.405	300.943	291.448	-7.9	-3.3	-3.2
Energy services .....	296.264	295.899	286.291	-8.0	-3.4	-3.2
Electricity .....	293.643	292.727	283.010	-8.3	-3.6	-3.3
Utility (piped) gas service .....	293.243	305.875	300.900	-2.3	2.6	-1.6
Household furnishings and operations .....	147.089	-	147.081	0.8	0.0	-
Apparel .....	115.789	-	120.772	7.5	4.3	-
Transportation .....	225.351	-	225.011	-1.8	-0.2	-
Private transportation .....	226.415	-	226.093	-0.2	-0.1	-
New and used motor vehicles(3) .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
New vehicles(1) .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	246.401	-	239.382	1.7	-2.8	-
Motor fuel .....	269.399	268.710	273.279	-1.7	1.4	1.7
Gasoline (all types) .....	276.433	275.722	280.439	-1.7	1.4	1.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....	288.932	287.685	292.672	-2.3	1.3	1.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4) (5) .....	233.276	231.895	233.225	0.5	0.0	0.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....	250.397	252.443	256.997	1.2	2.6	1.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	485.506	-	481.526	0.3	-0.8	-
Medical care .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation(3) .....	127.234	-	128.248	-2.1	0.8	-
Education and communication(3) .....	143.234	-	143.329	0.0	0.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) .....	1,781.754	-	1,795.838	-	0.8	-
Other goods and services .....	509.694	-	505.864	1.8	-0.8	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	281.928	-	282.106	1.1	0.1	-
Commodities .....	208.100	-	208.433	1.5	0.2	-
Commodities less food & beverages .....	160.041	-	159.538	0.8	-0.3	-
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	204.906	-	203.476	0.2	-0.7	-
Durables .....	-	-	-	-	-	-

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-		
	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019	Sep. 2019	Sep. 2018	Jul. 2019	Aug. 2019
Services.....	346.398	-	346.445	0.9	0.0	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care.....	274.070	-	274.351	1.0	0.1	-
All items less shelter.....	258.163	-	258.975	0.4	0.3	-
Commodities less food.....	164.138	-	163.654	0.7	-0.3	-
Nondurables.....	247.331	-	247.672	1.4	0.1	-
Nondurables less food.....	208.970	-	207.632	0.2	-0.6	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	356.631	-	358.471	-0.9	0.5	-
Services less medical care services.....	338.385	-	338.225	0.8	0.0	-
Energy.....	281.286	280.697	279.287	-4.6	-0.7	-0.5
All items less energy.....	283.639	-	283.972	1.5	0.1	-
All items less food and energy.....	284.752	-	284.752	1.3	0.0	-

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.