

News

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SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON AREA CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: JULY 2004 GROCERY AND GASOLINE PRICES DECLINE

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area grocery prices, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for food at home index, declined 1.1 percent for the month. Compared to one year ago, grocery prices were 2.0 percent higher. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden of the Bureau of Labor Statistics said that the food at home index now stands at 194.5. This means grocery shoppers in the greater Seattle spent \$194.50 in July for a basket of food items that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

Dominated by decreasing gasoline prices, the special aggregate index for energy decreased 7.0 percent in July 2004, yet was 16.0 percent higher percent over the year. Gasoline prices dropped 11.0 percent over the month. However, Seattle area gasoline prices were still 25.3 percent higher than one year ago. The household fuels index was unchanged this month, and was up 3.6 percent from one year ago. Within household fuels, prices for electricity and utility natural gas service were unchanged for the month of July. These indexes have increased 0.2 and 12.4 percent, respectively, since July 2003.

The shelter index was unchanged for the month of July, and was 2.0 percent below last year's level. Within shelter, rent of primary residence edged up 0.1 percent for the month yet was 0.2 percent lower than a year ago. The owners equivalent rent of primary residence index showed a 0.3 percent increase this month, and was also 0.3 percent higher than July 2003.

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Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton¹, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2004	June 2004	July 2004	July 2003	May 2004	June 2004
Expenditure category						
All items	-	195.3	-	-	-	-
All items (1967=100)	-	595.3	-	-	-	-
Food and beverages	-	194.9	-	-	-	-
Food	-	196.3	-	-	-	-
Food at home	199.3	196.6	194.5	2.0	-2.4	-1.1
Food away from home	-	197.6	-	-	-	-
Alcoholic beverages	-	179.9	-	-	-	-
Housing	-	199.8	-	-	-	-
Shelter	217.7	216.6	216.7	-2.0	-0.5	0.0
Rent of primary residence ²	208.3	207.8	208.1	-0.2	-0.1	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{2 3}	225.4	225.0	225.7	0.3	0.1	0.3
Fuels and utilities	-	163.3	-	-	-	-
Fuels	163.1	163.0	163.0	3.6	-0.1	0.0
Gas (piped) and electricity ²	193.8	193.8	193.8	3.0	0.0	0.0
Electricity ²	203.6	203.6	203.6	0.2	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ²	142.6	142.6	142.6	12.4	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	-	180.4	-	-	-	-
Apparel	-	127.2	-	-	-	-
Transportation	-	180.2	-	-	-	-
Private transportation	-	186.8	-	-	-	-
Motor fuel	236.8	244.5	218.0	25.4	-7.9	-10.8
Gasoline (all types)	241.5	249.4	222.0	25.3	-8.1	-11.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	264.7	273.3	242.8	25.8	-8.3	-11.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	185.2	191.7	171.2	24.8	-7.6	-10.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	215.1	221.0	198.3	23.6	-7.8	-10.3
Medical care	-	295.1	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁶	-	92.4	-	-	-	-
Education and communication ⁶	-	113.9	-	-	-	-
Other goods and services	-	305.5	-	-	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton¹, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2004	June 2004	July 2004	July 2003	May 2004	June 2004
Commodity and service group						
All items	-	195.3	-	-	-	-
Commodities	-	170.1	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food and beverages	-	155.9	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	-	171.2	-	-	-	-
Durables	-	139.5	-	-	-	-
Services	-	218.9	-	-	-	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	-	190.7	-	-	-	-
All items less shelter	-	188.2	-	-	-	-
Commodities less food	-	156.8	-	-	-	-
Nondurables	-	182.5	-	-	-	-
Nondurables less food	-	171.5	-	-	-	-
Services less rent of shelter ³	-	227.8	-	-	-	-
Services less medical care services	-	212.8	-	-	-	-
Energy	204.4	208.5	194.0	16.0	-5.1	-7.0
All items less energy	-	196.6	-	-	-	-
All items less food and energy	-	196.8	-	-	-	-

¹ Includes - Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties.

² This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

³ Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

⁴ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁶ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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