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Consumer Price Index, Honolulu Area – January 2020

Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past two months, up 1.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Honolulu area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.5 percent for the two months ending in January 2020, 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 household furnishings and operations. (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 1.7 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.7 percent over the year. Energy prices rose 6.8 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. Food prices decreased 0.4 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Food

Food prices moved up 0.2 percent for the two months ending in January. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home advanced 0.3 percent, while prices for food away from home were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices decreased 0.4 percent. Prices for food at home declined 1.1 percent since a year ago, but prices for food away from home advanced 0.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 2.3 percent for the two months ending in January. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for electricity (3.8 percent). Prices for gasoline advanced 1.4 percent, but prices for natural gas service dropped 10.0 percent for the same period.

Energy prices rose 6.8 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (16.0 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service rose 0.7 percent, but prices for electricity decreased 3.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.5 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for household furnishings and operations (2.3 percent) and shelter (1.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new and used motor vehicles (-4.3 percent) and other goods and services (-0.9 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (12.4 percent) and shelter (2.5 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in new and used motor vehicles (-5.1 percent).

The March 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Honolulu area is scheduled to be released on April 10, 2020.

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.

Historical data, including semiannual and annual averages, are available at: 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 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.

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. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2019
Expenditure category						
All items	282.248	-	283.683	1.7	0.5	-
All items (1967=100)	777.022	-	780.971	-	-	-
Food and beverages	287.049	-	287.529	-0.2	0.2	-
Food	287.556	-	287.991	-0.4	0.2	-
Food at home	274.175	277.330	275.011	-1.1	0.3	-0.8
Cereals and bakery products	304.256	-	314.141	3.2	3.2	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	250.892	-	253.585	-0.8	1.1	-
Dairy and related products	241.768	-	243.193	3.1	0.6	-
Fruits and vegetables	341.701	-	341.342	-1.3	-0.1	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	341.918	-	323.127	-5.6	-5.5	-
Other food at home	262.080	-	264.147	-2.9	0.8	-
Food away from home	295.690	-	295.804	0.4	0.0	-
Food away from home	295.690	-	295.804	0.4	0.0	-
Alcoholic beverages	277.560	-	278.555	3.4	0.4	-
Housing	308.198	-	312.234	2.2	1.3	-
Shelter	336.674	341.410	340.693	2.5	1.2	-0.2
Rent of primary residence(2)	326.631	333.571	336.832	4.4	3.1	1.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)	350.526	353.445	351.412	1.7	0.3	-0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)	350.526	353.445	351.412	1.7	0.3	-0.6
Fuels and utilities	365.521	-	371.774	0.2	1.7	-
Household energy	283.298	278.752	292.183	-3.0	3.1	4.8
Energy services	278.140	273.731	287.032	-3.2	3.2	4.9
Electricity	274.031	270.789	284.569	-3.3	3.8	5.1
Utility (piped) gas service	313.929	283.131	282.504	0.7	-10.0	-0.2
Household furnishings and operations	145.976	-	149.283	1.6	2.3	-
Apparel	119.317	-	120.218	12.4	0.8	-
Transportation	222.380	-	219.118	0.5	-1.5	-
Private transportation	224.121	-	220.848	1.7	-1.5	-
New and used motor vehicles(3)	103.222	-	98.747	-5.1	-4.3	-
New vehicles(1)	165.007	-	156.216	-5.6	-5.3	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	237.279	-	235.047	-2.4	-0.9	-
Motor fuel	270.649	271.988	274.467	15.9	1.4	0.9
Gasoline (all types)	277.722	279.104	281.655	16.0	1.4	0.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	289.413	291.002	293.625	16.0	1.5	0.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	233.520	233.520	236.436	15.1	1.2	1.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	255.730	256.613	258.978	16.1	1.3	0.9
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	477.600	-	477.600	-2.4	0.0	-
Medical care	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation(3)	134.203	-	134.652	2.0	0.3	-
Education and communication(3)	143.890	-	144.896	0.9	0.7	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,795.838	-	1,795.863	2.5	0.0	-
Other goods and services	504.879	-	500.222	-0.3	-0.9	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	282.248	-	283.683	1.7	0.5	-
Commodities	207.107	-	206.493	1.5	-0.3	-
Commodities less food & beverages	158.503	-	157.361	3.1	-0.7	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	202.934	-	204.192	7.7	0.6	-
Durables	110.874	-	108.001	-3.0	-2.6	-
Services	347.838	-	351.022	1.7	0.9	-

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. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Jan. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2019
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	274.347	-	275.911	1.7	0.6	-
All items less shelter.....	258.499	-	258.618	1.1	0.0	-
Commodities less food	162.838	-	161.757	3.1	-0.7	-
Nondurables	246.485	-	247.264	2.8	0.3	-
Nondurables less food.....	207.544	-	208.782	7.4	0.6	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	359.940	-	361.733	0.7	0.5	-
Services less medical care services.....	339.529	-	342.549	1.6	0.9	-
Energy	274.339	273.180	280.515	6.8	2.3	2.7
All items less energy	284.475	-	285.658	1.4	0.4	-
All items less food and energy	285.796	-	287.133	1.7	0.5	-

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.