

News

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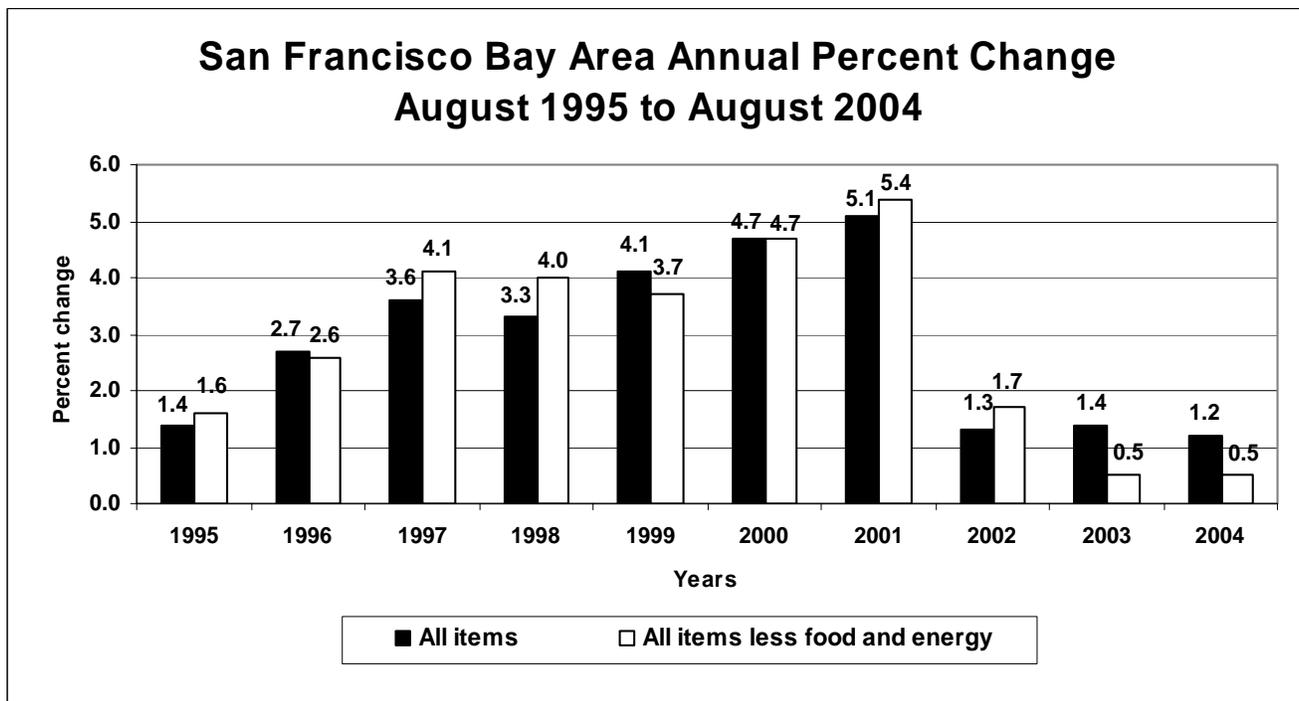
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SAN FRANCISCO AREA CONSUMER PRICES DECREASE 0.2 PERCENT OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that the overall August consumer price index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area decreased 0.2 percent since June, but advanced 1.2 percent from the previous 12 months. Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden said transportation prices provided the largest downward pressure on the all items index for the two months ended in August. Housing prices were unchanged from June to August. Declining housing prices over the past 12 month period have kept increases in the overall index moderate. Commodities increased 2.3 percent over the year, whereas services increased 0.6 percent. Local area Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.



Transportation prices decreased 1.6 percent since June, in contrast to a rise of 3.2 percent over the year. Bay Area gasoline prices fell 8.9 percent for the two months ending in August, abating from record highs in June and contributing to the decline in overall transportation prices. Over the past 12 months, gasoline prices increased 8.6 percent.

The overall housing index was virtually unchanged over the last two months, but measured 1.6 percent lower than a year ago. Housing was the only major expenditure category to record a decline in price level since August 2003. Shelter, the main component of housing, is measured by rent of primary residence, the equivalent rent an owner would receive for their residence, and lodging away from home. This figure fell 1.4 percent over the year. The household fuels and utilities index increased 4.3 percent for the two months ended in August, however, for the year the index declined by 0.4 percent. Household furnishings and operations prices decreased 2.4 percent over the past two months, and were 3.8 percent lower than a year ago.

Prices for food and beverages increased 0.4 percent since June, and 4.1 percent over the past 12 months. Grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index, increased 0.2 percent since June and measured 3.4 percent higher than a year ago. The food away from home index rose 0.8 percent over the past two months, and 5.1 percent over the past year. The index for alcoholic beverages decreased 0.7 percent over the two-month period, and rose 2.9 percent over the year.

Apparel prices decreased 0.2 percent for two months. However, for the year apparel prices increased by 9.4 percent, the largest increase among all expenditure categories.

During the past two months, medical care prices increased 0.3 percent. From a year ago, medical care prices increased 5.9 percent, the second largest annual increase among all major expenditure categories.

At 0.1 percent, the recreation index was essentially unchanged during the most recent two-month period. Over the last 12 months, recreation prices advanced by 3.2 percent.

Education and communication prices increased 0.4 percent from June to August, and advanced 1.0 percent since August 2003.

Prices for other goods and services decreased 0.9 percent during the past two months. Over the past 12 months, the index increased by 1.2 percent.

The All Items Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area measured 198.7 (1982-84=100) in August. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$198.70 in August 2004.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request.

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

San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	June 2004	July 2004	Aug. 2004	Aug. 2003	June 2004	July 2004
Expenditure category						
All items	199.0	-	198.7	1.2	-0.2	-
All items (1967=100)	611.9	-	610.7	-	-	-
Food and beverages	198.5	-	199.2	4.1	.4	-
Food	198.3	-	199.2	4.3	.5	-
Food at home	202.9	204.8	203.3	3.4	.2	-0.7
Food away from home	192.8	-	194.4	5.1	.8	-
Alcoholic beverages	204.8	-	203.3	2.9	-7	-
Housing	220.9	-	221.0	-1.6	.0	-
Shelter	251.8	251.5	251.8	-1.4	.0	.1
Rent of primary residence ¹	261.7	261.7	261.8	-3	.0	.0
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	271.3	271.3	271.4	-9	.0	.0
Fuels and utilities	189.8	-	198.0	-4	4.3	-
Fuels	188.4	188.5	199.9	-3.4	6.1	6.0
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	188.1	188.2	199.9	-3.4	6.3	6.2
Electricity ¹	205.5	205.5	205.6	-8.3	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	176.1	176.4	203.7	4.5	15.7	15.5
Household furnishings and operations	122.8	-	119.8	-3.8	-2.4	-
Apparel	111.7	-	111.5	9.4	-2	-
Transportation	151.7	-	149.2	3.2	-1.6	-
Private transportation	144.2	-	141.9	3.3	-1.6	-
Motor fuel	175.2	168.3	161.0	9.4	-8.1	-4.3
Gasoline (all types)	175.7	168.2	160.1	8.6	-8.9	-4.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	174.9	167.2	158.8	9.2	-9.2	-5.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	164.7	157.7	150.9	7.7	-8.4	-4.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	168.7	162.1	155.3	7.0	-7.9	-4.2
Medical care	291.1	-	292.0	5.9	.3	-
Recreation ⁵	98.1	-	98.2	3.2	.1	-
Education and communication ⁵	114.6	-	115.1	1.0	.4	-
Other goods and services	329.3	-	326.4	1.2	-9	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	199.0	-	198.7	1.2	-2	-
Commodities	156.0	-	154.0	2.3	-1.3	-
Commodities less food and beverages	129.7	-	126.6	1.0	-2.4	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	151.0	-	146.5	5.9	-3.0	-
Durables	108.4	-	106.6	-3.9	-1.7	-
Services	234.9	-	235.9	.6	.4	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	195.0	-	194.6	1.0	-2	-
All items less shelter	178.4	-	177.8	3.0	-3	-
Commodities less food	133.4	-	130.3	1.1	-2.3	-
Nondurables	176.1	-	174.1	4.9	-1.1	-
Nondurables less food	155.3	-	150.9	5.5	-2.8	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	224.6	-	227.0	4.0	1.1	-
Services less medical care services	231.1	-	232.0	.3	.4	-
Energy	182.9	178.4	177.5	4.1	-3.0	-5
All items less energy	202.7	-	202.7	1.1	.0	-
All items less food and energy	204.0	-	203.8	.5	-1	-

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. See map in technical notes.

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