

News

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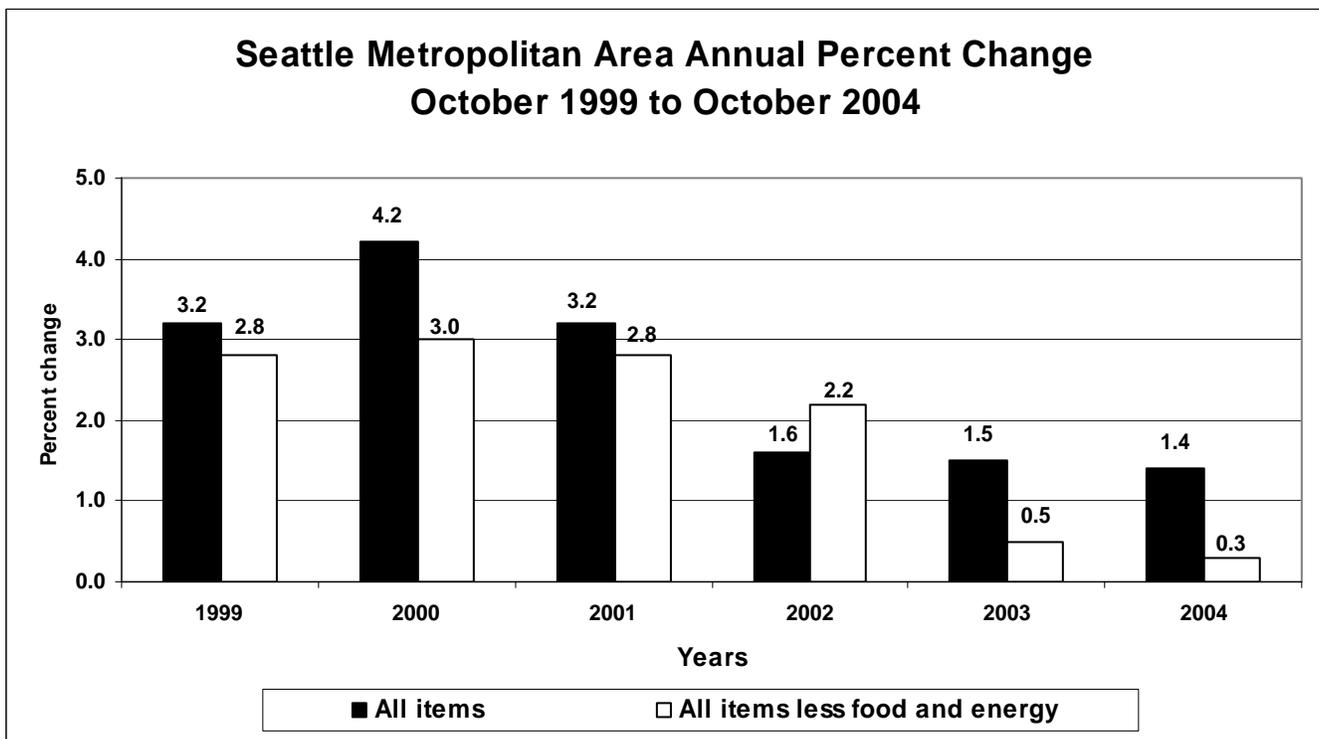
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BLS 04-82
FOR RELEASE:
Wednesday, November 17, 2004

SEATTLE-TACOMA-BREMERTON AREA CONSUMER PRICE INDEXES: OCTOBER 2004

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported consumer prices in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton area increased 1.0 percent for the two months ending October 2004. According to the Bureau's Regional Commissioner, Richard J. Holden, higher transportation; food and beverage; and housing prices accounted for over 75 percent of the all items increase in October. From October 2003 to October 2004, overall prices rose 1.4 percent while the all items less food and energy index increased 0.3 percent. Local Consumer Price Index (CPI) data are not seasonally adjusted.



From August to October the 6.1 percent rise in gasoline prices was primarily responsible for the 1.2 percent increase in the transportation index. Seattle area drivers paid 23.2 percent more for gasoline than they did a year ago.

Food and beverages prices were 1.7 percent higher during the past two months due mainly to higher grocery prices, as measured by the food at home index. The food at home index measured 1.9 percent higher since August while the food away from home index increased 0.8 percent. These indexes have increased 0.6 and 4.0 percent, respectively, from one year ago. Prices for alcoholic beverages increased 2.4 percent during the past two months, and rose 1.3 over the last 12 months.

The housing index advanced 0.7 percent for both the two month and 12 month periods ending in October. In the recent two-month period the shelter index increased 0.6 percent, but during past 12 months decreased 0.5 percent. Within shelter, for the two months ending in October, the rent of primary residence index increased rose 0.2 percent while the owners' equivalent rent of primary residence index decreased 0.2 percent. Lodging away from home, an unpublished sub-category of shelter contributed strongly to the two month increase. The fuels and utilities component moved up 1.8 percent since August mainly due to the 17.1 percent increase in the utility natural gas index. Over the past 12 months, utility natural gas has risen 17.4 percent. Prices for electricity decreased 1.3 percent from August to October, yet measured 0.6 percent higher than in October 2003. Prices for household furnishings and operations increased 1.0 percent for the two-month period, and were up 6.1 percent from one year ago.

Apparel prices increased 3.1 percent over the past two months, identical to the increase since October 2003.

Education and communication prices advanced 1.3 percent from August to October and were 2.4 percent higher than last year's level.

Medical care prices inched up 0.1 percent during the latest two-month period and rose 4.8 percent over the year.

Recreation prices were down 0.3 percent from August to October, and dropped 8.7 percent during the past 12 months.

The other goods and services index was unchanged during the past two months, but rose 2.4 percent over the last 12 months.

The All Items, Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) in the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area for October is 196.5 (1982-84=100). This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$196.50 in October 2004.

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

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004	Oct. 2004	Oct. 2003	Aug. 2004	Sep. 2004
Expenditure category						
All items	194.6	-	196.5	1.4	1.0	-
All items (1967=100)	593.3	-	598.9	-	-	-
Food and beverages	193.7	-	196.9	1.9	1.7	-
Food	195.2	-	198.2	1.9	1.5	-
Food at home	193.8	194.9	197.5	.6	1.9	1.3
Food away from home	200.0	-	201.6	4.0	.8	-
Alcoholic beverages	178.2	-	182.5	1.3	2.4	-
Housing	200.7	-	202.1	.7	.7	-
Shelter	217.4	219.8	218.6	-.5	.6	-.5
Rent of primary residence ¹	208.1	208.4	208.6	.3	.2	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	226.6	226.7	226.2	.4	-.2	-.2
Fuels and utilities	163.4	-	166.4	4.6	1.8	-
Fuels	163.1	162.4	168.4	5.2	3.2	3.7
Gas (piped) and electricity ¹	193.8	193.8	200.8	5.1	3.6	3.6
Electricity ¹	203.6	203.6	201.0	.6	-1.3	-1.3
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	142.6	142.6	167.0	17.4	17.1	17.1
Household furnishings and operations	182.3	-	184.1	6.1	1.0	-
Apparel	127.7	-	131.6	3.1	3.1	-
Transportation	174.5	-	176.6	5.0	1.2	-
Private transportation	180.7	-	183.0	5.4	1.3	-
Motor fuel	210.0	215.8	222.9	23.5	6.1	3.3
Gasoline (all types)	213.9	219.8	226.9	23.2	6.1	3.2
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	233.1	240.5	248.4	24.0	6.6	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	165.4	168.9	175.0	22.0	5.8	3.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	192.8	196.5	201.3	20.9	4.4	2.4
Medical care	296.2	-	296.6	4.8	.1	-
Recreation ⁵	92.4	-	92.1	-8.7	-.3	-
Education and communication ⁵	114.6	-	116.1	2.4	1.3	-
Other goods and services	313.8	-	313.8	2.4	.0	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	194.6	-	196.5	1.4	1.0	-
Commodities	167.8	-	170.2	3.5	1.4	-
Commodities less food and beverages	153.1	-	155.0	4.3	1.2	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	165.2	-	169.3	8.3	2.5	-
Durables	139.7	-	139.5	.9	-.1	-
Services	219.9	-	221.3	.0	.6	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	189.9	-	191.8	1.2	1.0	-
All items less shelter	186.9	-	189.1	2.4	1.2	-
Commodities less food	154.1	-	156.0	4.2	1.2	-
Nondurables	178.9	-	182.6	4.8	2.1	-
Nondurables less food	165.8	-	169.9	7.8	2.5	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	229.0	-	230.8	.4	.8	-
Services less medical care services	213.9	-	215.3	-.5	.7	-
Energy	189.7	192.5	199.2	15.8	5.0	3.5
All items less energy	197.3	-	198.6	.5	.7	-
All items less food and energy	197.9	-	198.8	.3	.5	-

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 November 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.