BLS
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

NEWS RELEASE

MOUNTAIN-PLAINS INFORMATION OFFICE
Kansas City, Mo.

For release: Thursday, August 18, 2011

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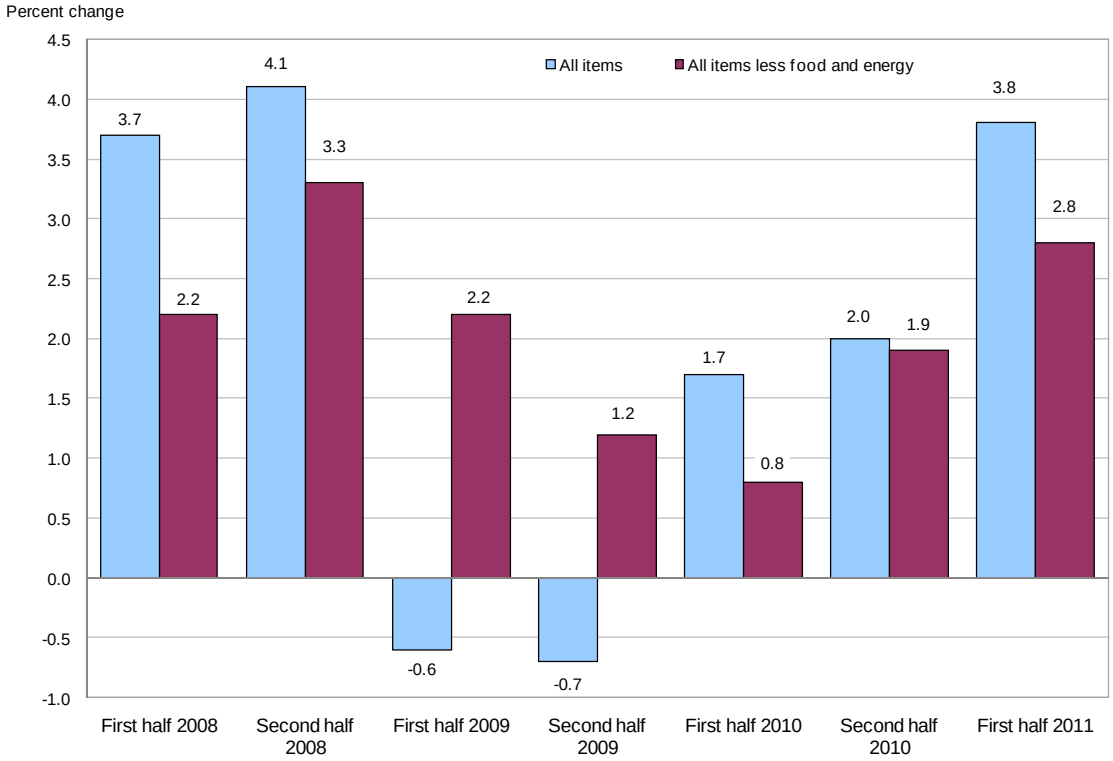
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR DENVER-BOULDER-GREELEY
Prices increased 3.8 percent from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2011

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area increased 3.8 percent from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2011, the largest over-the-year advance since 2008, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that about 30 percent of the advance was attributable to higher energy costs that resulted largely from a rise in prices for motor fuel. An increase in prices for all items less food and energy, led by advances in recreation and shelter, and higher food costs also contributed to the overall increase.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent changes in consumer price indexes, Denver, first half 2008 - first half 2011



SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food
Food prices were up 3.4 percent from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2011 following a 1.6-percent decline in the same period one year ago. The rise was led by a 3.9-percent advance in prices for food at home with higher prices in the most recent six months more than offsetting a decline posted in the first six months of the period. Costs for food away from home rose 2.5 percent over the year.

Energy
The energy index, which includes motor fuel and household fuels, climbed 16.3 percent from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2011. A 28.5-percent jump in motor fuel prices, most of which occurred in the latter six months of the period, accounted for nearly all of the increase in the energy component. Within household energy, utility (piped) gas service costs posted their first annual gain since 2008, turning up 3.1 percent due entirely to an increase in the most recent half of the period. In contrast, prices for electricity declined 2.2 percent following a 21.4-percent increase in the same period one year ago.

All items less food and energy
The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.8 percent from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2011. A record advance in recreation costs, up 7.6 percent over the year, led the increase. Higher shelter costs had the next largest impact with an increase of 1.8 percent. However, the rates of increase for both of these components slowed during the most recent half of the period.

The Denver CPI-U stood at 219.055 for the first half of 2011. This means that a market basket of goods and services that cost $100.00 during the 1982-84 base period cost $219.06 during the first half of 2011. Because metropolitan area CPI data are not adjusted for seasonal price variation, consumers and businesses should be cautious in drawing conclusions about long-term retail price trends from short-term changes in the area indexes.

CPI-W
The Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for the Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., metropolitan area for the first half of 2011 was 209.099. The CPI-W increased 3.4 percent from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2011.

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 87 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 32 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 25,000 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 areas; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Denver-Boulder-Greeley, Colo., Metropolitan Statistical Area includes Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, and Weld Counties in Colorado.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Mountain-Plains Information Office at (816) 285-7000 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request**.**
Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number (Federal Relay Service):
1-800-877-8339

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2011 from—	
	1st half 2010	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011	1st half 2010	2nd half 2010
Expenditure category					
All items	210.978	213.916	219.055	3.8	2.4
All items (1967=100)	703.526	713.320	730.456	-	-
Food and beverages	200.407	201.409	207.141	3.4	2.8
Food	202.727	203.516	209.574	3.4	3.0
Food at home	201.875	200.891	209.663	3.9	4.4
Food away from home	203.744	205.380	208.860	2.5	1.7
Alcoholic beverages	183.786	187.329	189.546	3.1	1.2
Housing	193.022	194.331	196.967	2.0	1.4
Shelter	213.975	216.584	217.851	1.8	.6
Rent of primary residence [1]	208.559	212.606	214.004	2.6	.7
Owners' equivalent rent of residences [1] [2]	209.211	211.196	212.684	1.7	.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence [1] [2]	209.211	211.196	212.684	1.7	.7
Fuels and utilities	192.981	189.542	200.400	3.8	5.7
Household energy	149.330	146.021	150.256	.6	2.9
Energy services [1]	148.016	144.749	148.617	.4	2.7
Electricity [1]	148.705	148.035	145.404	-2.2	-1.8
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	152.643	146.501	157.410	3.1	7.4
Household furnishings and operations	119.194	119.100	121.160	1.6	1.7
Apparel	98.791	98.818	101.516	2.8	2.7
Transportation	234.362	238.438	258.846	10.4	8.6
Private transportation	230.570	234.725	256.101	11.1	9.1
Motor fuel	214.521	220.054	275.765	28.5	25.3
Gasoline (all types)	213.511	218.793	274.209	28.4	25.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	210.462	215.545	271.307	28.9	25.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3] [4]	202.531	207.369	257.400	27.1	24.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	214.885	221.041	273.957	27.5	23.9
Medical care	445.451	447.303	447.767	.5	.1
Recreation [5]	133.563	141.883	143.672	7.6	1.3
Education and communication [5]	117.008	117.904	117.866	.7	.0
Other goods and services	328.199	338.044	331.611	1.0	-1.9
Commodity and service group					
All items	210.978	213.916	219.055	3.8	2.4
Commodities	160.689	161.663	169.273	5.3	4.7
Commodities less food and beverages	139.802	140.756	149.255	6.8	6.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	166.558	168.181	181.860	9.2	8.1
Durables	113.709	113.879	116.372	2.3	2.2
Services	254.247	258.906	261.818	3.0	1.1
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	200.035	202.951	208.135	4.0	2.6
All items less shelter	210.615	213.938	220.839	4.9	3.2
Commodities less food	141.489	142.542	150.806	6.6	5.8
Nondurables	183.930	185.264	195.191	6.1	5.4
Nondurables less food	167.206	168.953	181.819	8.7	7.6
Services less rent of shelter [2]	313.956	322.528	326.934	4.1	1.4
Services less medical care services	238.347	243.033	246.109	3.3	1.3
Energy	177.560	178.419	206.583	16.3	15.8
All items less energy	214.893	218.065	221.122	2.9	1.4
All items less food and energy	217.546	221.175	223.668	2.8	1.1

[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 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.

Table 2. Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W):Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Denver-Boulder-Greeley, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2011 from—	
	1st half 2010	2nd half 2010	1st half 2011	1st half 2010	2nd half 2010
Expenditure category					
All items	202.180	203.666	209.099	3.4	2.7
All items (1967=100)	672.961	677.910	695.990	-	-
Food and beverages	201.604	202.675	209.102	3.7	3.2
Food	204.043	204.942	211.708	3.8	3.3
Food at home	202.605	201.702	211.279	4.3	4.7
Food away from home	206.633	208.716	212.355	2.8	1.7
Alcoholic beverages	188.919	192.222	195.001	3.2	1.4
Housing	186.169	187.240	189.914	2.0	1.4
Shelter	202.954	205.542	206.817	1.9	.6
Rent of primary residence [1]	208.559	212.606	214.004	2.6	.7
Owners' equivalent rent of residences [1 2]	195.309	197.162	198.551	1.7	.7
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence [1 2]	195.309	197.162	198.551	1.7	.7
Fuels and utilities	189.196	185.009	194.970	3.1	5.4
Household energy	148.030	144.663	148.849	.6	2.9
Energy services [1]	147.902	144.547	148.636	.5	2.8
Electricity [1]	148.705	148.035	145.403	-2.2	-1.8
Utility (piped) gas service [1]	152.644	146.502	157.411	3.1	7.4
Household furnishings and operations	125.811	124.262	127.083	1.0	2.3
Apparel	93.887	92.873	94.308	.4	1.5
Transportation	228.958	233.076	254.176	11.0	9.1
Private transportation	226.049	230.246	251.538	11.3	9.2
Motor fuel	214.493	220.033	275.737	28.6	25.3
Gasoline (all types)	213.508	218.790	274.205	28.4	25.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular [3]	210.466	215.549	271.312	28.9	25.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade [3 4]	202.531	207.369	257.400	27.1	24.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium [3]	214.914	221.072	273.995	27.5	23.9
Medical care	444.481	446.476	446.949	.6	.1
Recreation [5]	122.293	121.953	123.419	.9	1.2
Education and communication [5]	114.703	115.069	114.434	-.2	-.6
Other goods and services	328.540	339.639	334.615	1.8	-1.5
Commodity and service group					
All items	202.180	203.666	209.099	3.4	2.7
Commodities	163.931	164.966	173.284	5.7	5.0
Commodities less food and beverages	141.281	142.292	151.683	7.4	6.6
Nondurables less food and beverages	174.136	175.922	191.469	10.0	8.8
Durables	107.765	107.979	111.074	3.1	2.9
Services	242.543	244.493	247.135	1.9	1.1
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	192.718	194.165	199.606	3.6	2.8
All items less shelter	204.808	205.898	213.581	4.3	3.7
Commodities less food	142.841	143.944	153.033	7.1	6.3
Nondurables	191.457	192.880	203.685	6.4	5.6
Nondurables less food	174.665	176.564	191.048	9.4	8.2
Services less rent of shelter [2]	287.337	288.366	292.212	1.7	1.3
Services less medical care services	227.406	229.317	232.074	2.1	1.2
Energy	184.936	185.535	213.661	15.5	15.2
All items less energy	204.433	206.069	209.130	2.3	1.5
All items less food and energy	205.495	207.308	209.531	2.0	1.1

[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 November 1984=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.