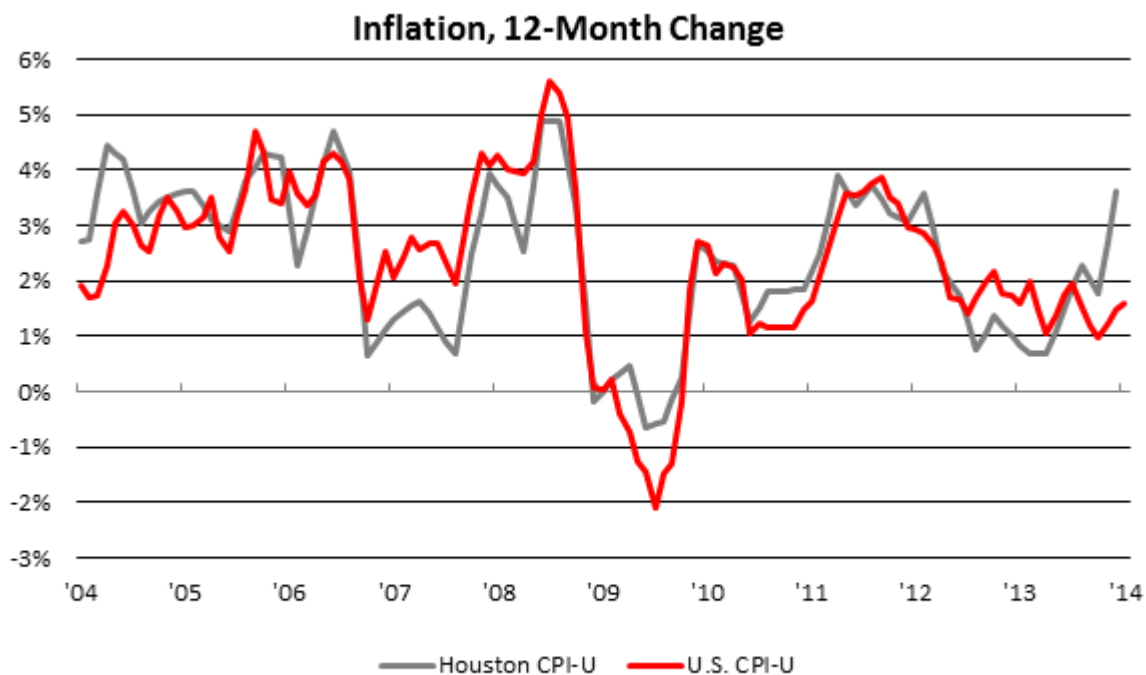


Inflation

February 20, 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

INFLATION- NATIONWIDE

The cost of consumer goods and services as measured by the *Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers* increased 1.6 percent nationwide from January '13 to January '14, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Consumer prices decreased 0.4 percent in January. Core inflation (all items less the volatile food and energy categories) rose 1.6 percent over past 12 months and increased 0.2 percent over the month.

Since January '13, the energy index increased 2.1 percent reflecting a sharp rise in the price of piped gas service to homes (4.9 percent) and household electricity (4.4 percent), while motor fuel costs rose slightly by 0.1 percent.

Food prices grew 1.1 percent over the year with the cost of dining out increasing 2.0 percent and the cost of groceries rising 0.5 percent. The cost of housing rose 2.4 percent since January '13.

INFLATION- HOUSTON

In Houston (for this data series, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties), the energy index increased 2.9 percent for the month and 5.0 percent over the past 12 months. The cost of household energy rose 14.0 percent from January '13 to January '14 reflecting a 17.6 percent increase in electricity prices, while the cost of piped gas service fell 0.8 percent and motor fuel prices decreased 0.1 percent. The shelter index increased 3.5 percent over the year and grocery prices rose 1.0 percent.

Full January and February CPI data for Houston will be released on March 18.

For the latest data, click [here](#).

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