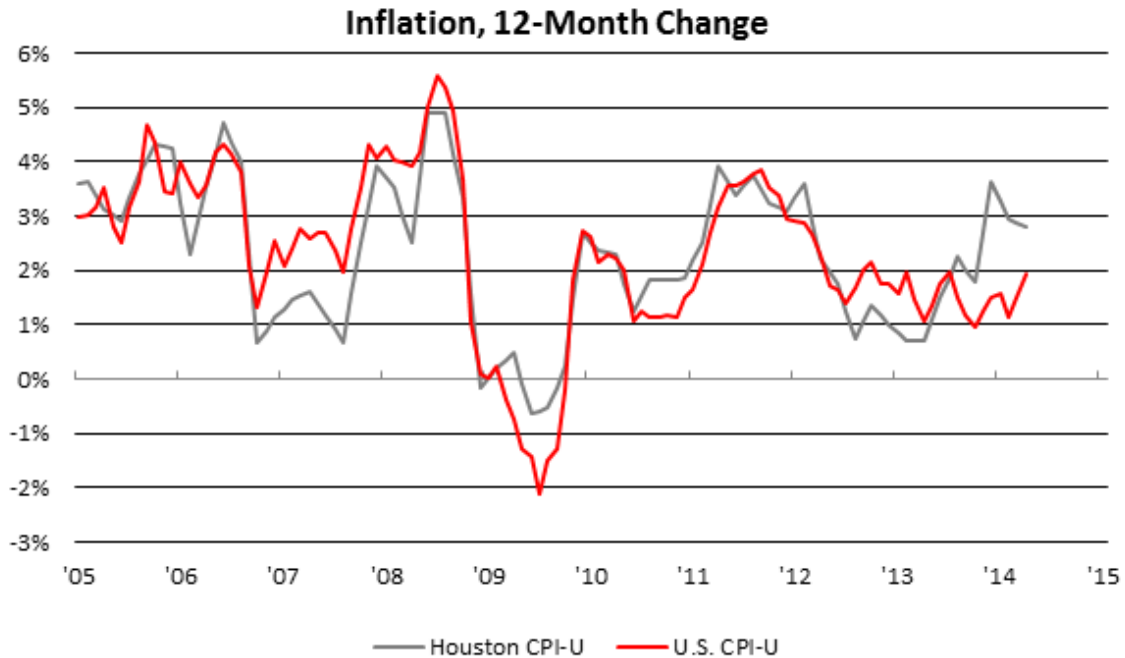


## Inflation

May 15, 2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, not seasonally adjusted

### INFLATION - NATIONWIDE

The cost of consumer goods and services as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers increased 2.0 percent nationwide from April '13 to April '14, according to data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. This was the largest 12-month increase since July '13. Core inflation (all items less the volatile food and energy categories) rose 1.8 percent over the past 12 months.

The energy index increased 3.3 percent from April '13 to April '14, with all of its major components increasing over that period. Since April '13, natural gas prices rose 11.8 percent, gasoline prices increased 2.4 percent, and electricity prices grew 2.1 percent.

Food prices rose 1.9 percent over the year with the cost of dining out increasing 2.2 percent and the cost of groceries rising 1.7 percent. The shelter index rose 2.8 percent since April '13.

### INFLATION - HOUSTON

From April '13 to April '14, consumer prices in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria metro area (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller counties) increased 2.8 percent. Annual core inflation, as measured by the index for all items without food and energy, was 2.8 percent. The leading factor in the growth of the core inflation was higher shelter costs, which increased 3.0 percent over the year. However, the current annual increase in shelter costs came in lower than the 4.7 percent increase in shelter costs experienced a year ago.

During the 12 months ending April '14, the energy index rose 4.5 percent. Much of this increase can be attributed to the 14.2 percent increase in electricity prices, which was offset by the smaller increases in gasoline prices (0.7 percent) and natural gas (0.8 percent).

Food prices rose 1.6 percent during the previous 12 months. This reflects a 1.6 percent rise in the cost of dining out combined with a 1.7 percent increase in grocery store prices.

Full May and June CPI data for Houston will be released on July 22.

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

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