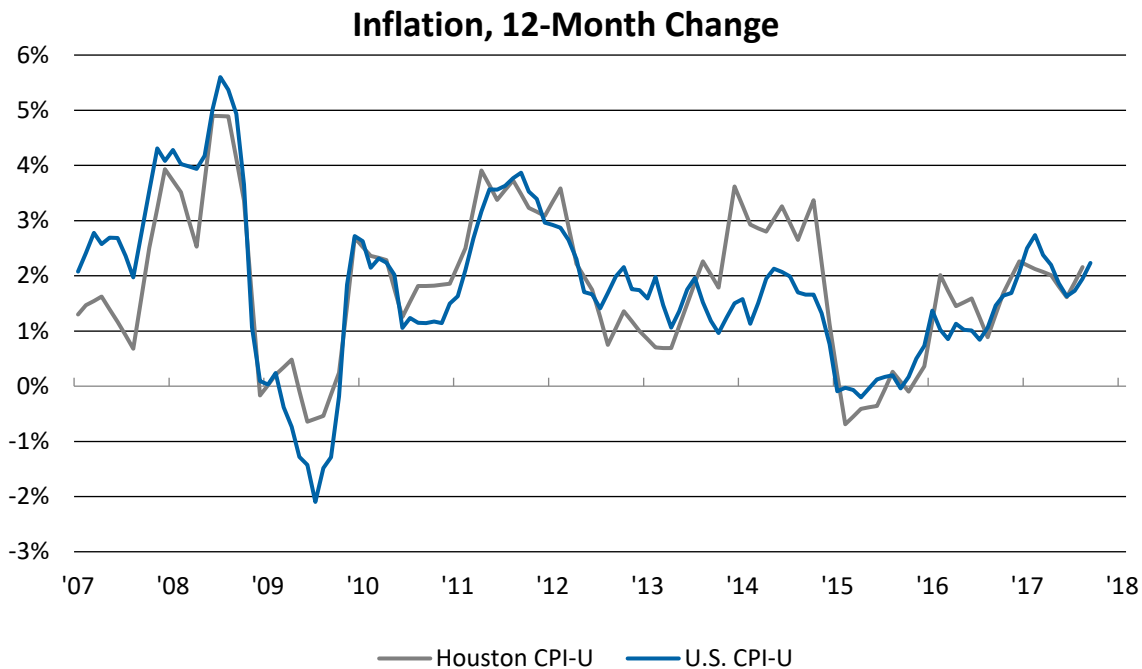




The Partnership sends updates for the six most important economic indicators each month. If you would like to opt-in to receive these updates, please click [here](#).

October 16, 2017

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



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 (CPI-U) rose 2.2 percent nationwide from September '16 to September '17, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Core inflation (all items less the volatile food and energy categories) increased 1.7 percent since September '16.¹

The cost of energy rose 10.1 percent from the previous September primarily due to a sharp increase in motor fuel costs that resulted from refinery disruptions caused by Hurricane Harvey. All three energy components posted gains: electricity costs increased 1.7 percent, motor fuel prices jumped 19.2 percent and natural gas prices rose 3.8 percent. The shelter index rose 3.2

¹ CPI data in this commentary are not seasonally adjusted.

percent from September '16. Food prices grew 1.2 percent, with the cost of dining out increasing 2.4 percent and grocery prices rising slightly by 0.4 percent.

INFLATION-HOUSTON

In Houston (for this data series, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller Counties), the energy index rose 11.5 percent since September '16 as a 1.9 percent drop in electricity wasn't enough to offset a 23.9 percent increase in motor fuel costs and a 9.5 percent jump in natural gas prices. The shelter index increased 2.3 percent and grocery prices dropped 0.5 percent from September '16.

Full September and October CPI data for Houston will be released November 15.

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