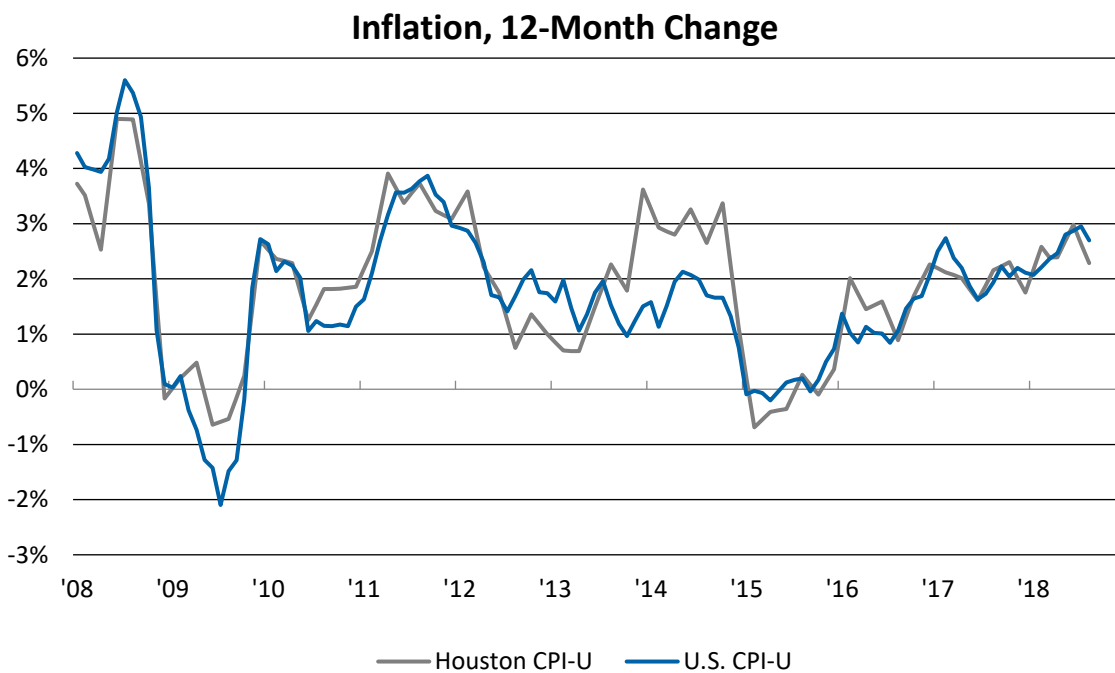




The Partnership sends updates for the six most important economic indicators each month. If you would like to opt-in to receive these updates, please click [here](#).

September 13, 2018

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 2.7 percent nationwide from August '17 to August '18, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Core inflation (all items less the volatile food and energy categories) increased 2.2 percent since August '17.¹

The cost of energy rose 10.2 percent from the previous August. Motor fuel prices jumped 20.3 percent while electricity costs decreased 0.5 percent and natural gas prices increased 0.1

¹ CPI data in this commentary are not seasonally adjusted.

percent. The shelter index rose 3.4 percent from August '17. Food prices grew 1.4 percent, with the cost of dining out increasing 2.6 percent and grocery prices rising 0.5 percent.

INFLATION-HOUSTON

Consumer prices in the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land metro area grew 2.3 percent from August '17 to August '18.

In the 12 months ending August '18, the energy index rose 15.5 percent. While natural gas prices declined 1.2 percent, electricity prices increased 9.8 percent and motor fuel prices jumped 22.1 percent.

Food prices rose 0.8 percent during the previous 12 months. The cost of dining out rose 1.8 percent in Houston while grocery prices fell 0.4 percent. The cost of shelter rose 1.4 percent.

Prepared by Greater Houston Partnership Research Department

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