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](#).

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

July 16, 2020

**Inflation, 12-Month Change**

![Graph showing inflation, 12-month change](#)

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 0.6 percent nationwide from June ’19 to June ’20, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Core inflation (all items less the volatile food and energy categories) increased 1.2 percent since June ’19.

The cost of energy decreased 12.6 percent from the previous June, largely due to a 23.3 percent decline in motor fuel prices. Electricity went up 0.1 percent, while natural gas costs went down 0.2 percent. The
shelter index grew 2.4 percent from June ‘19. Food prices increased 4.5 percent, with the cost of dining out increasing 3.1 percent. Grocery prices rose 5.6 percent.

INFLATION- HOUSTON

Consumer prices in the Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land metro area dropped 0.2 percent from June ‘19 to June ‘20, the second consecutive 12-month decrease. Core inflation, all items less food and energy, rose 0.8 percent. The shelter index went up 1.6 percent.

Food prices rose 3.3 percent during the previous 12 months. The cost of dining out grew 4.0 percent and grocery prices went up 2.5 percent.

In the 12 months ending June ‘20, the energy index fell 16.8 percent, nearly offsetting the other increases. Prices declined in all three of the energy sub-components, with motor fuel prices sinking 28.6 percent motor fuel costs, electricity decreasing 2.8 percent and natural gas falling 7.7 percent.

The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to higher prices for medical care (4.3 percent) as well as price declines in educational items, such as tuition, school fees and childcare (-2.4 percent).

Prepared by Greater Houston Partnership Research Division

Elizabeth Balderrama, PCED  Patrick Jankowski, CERP
Manager, Research Senior Vice President, Research
713-844-3615  713-844-3616
ebalderrama@houston.org  pjankowski@houston.org