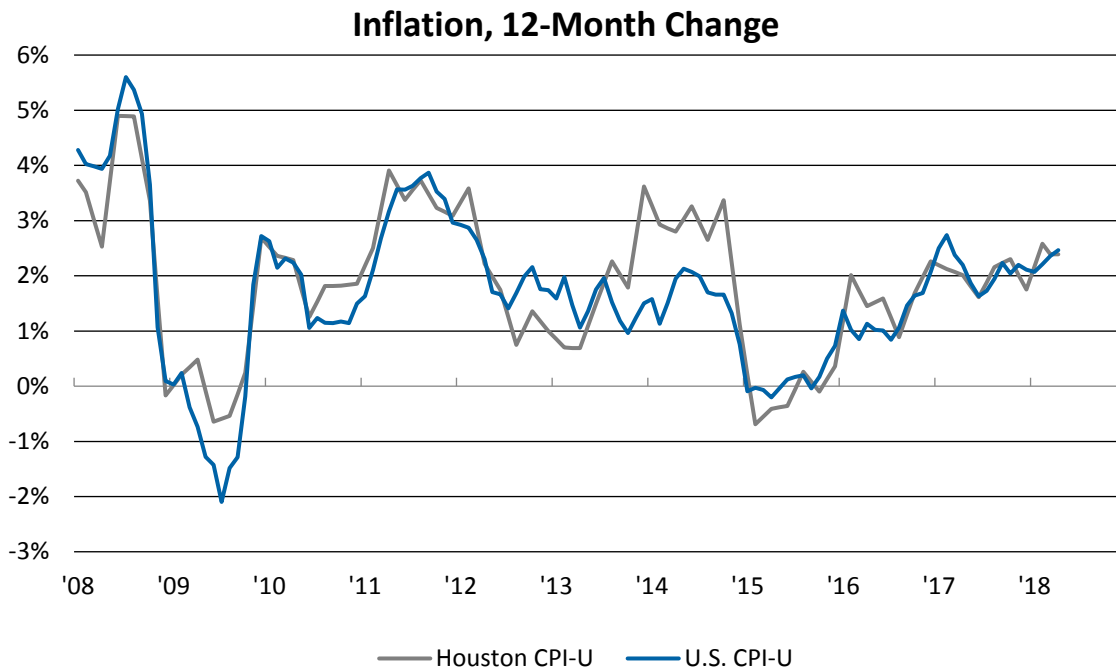




The Partnership sends updates for the six most important economic indicators each month. If you would like to opt-in to receive these updates, please click [here](#).

May 10, 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 2.5 percent nationwide from April '17 to April '18, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Core inflation (all items less the volatile food and energy categories) increased 2.1 percent since April '17.¹

The cost of energy rose 7.9 percent from the previous April. All three energy components posted gains: motor fuel prices jumped 13.5 percent, natural gas prices rose 1.0 percent and electricity costs increased 1.2 percent. The shelter index grew 3.4 percent from April '17. Food prices grew

¹ CPI data in this commentary are not seasonally adjusted.

1.4 percent, with the cost of dining out increasing 2.5 percent and grocery prices rising 0.5 percent.

INFLATION-HOUSTON

Consumer prices in the Houston-The Woodlands- Sugar Land metro area grew 2.4 percent from April '17 to April '18.

In the 12 months ending April '18, the energy index rose 9.5 percent. All three subcomponents posted gains with natural gas prices rising 5.4 percent, electricity prices jumping 7.2 percent and motor fuel prices increasing 11.6 percent.

Food prices rose 1.3 percent during the previous 12 months. The cost of dining out increased 2.8 percent in Houston while grocery prices were unchanged over the year. The cost of shelter² rose 2.1 percent.

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² The cost of shelter is typically a third of total consumer expenditures in the Houston area. Although a 1.2 percent increase appears small, it is of greater importance due to its relative weight in calculating overall spending.