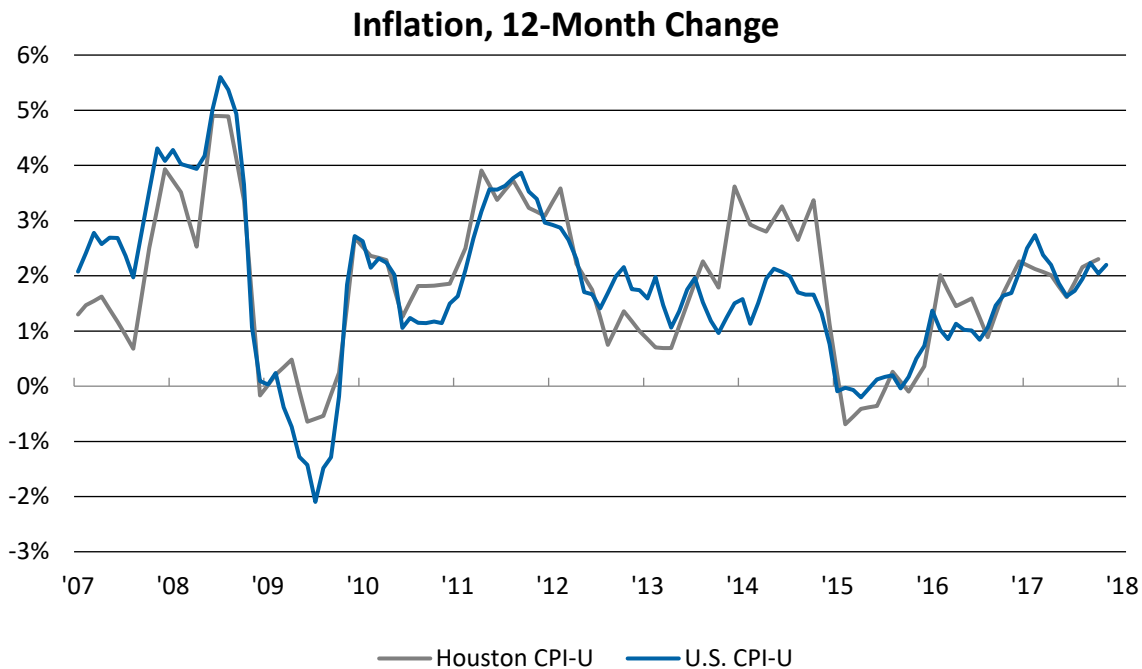




The Partnership sends updates for the six most important economic indicators each month. If you would like to opt-in to receive these updates, please click [here](#).

January 12, 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 2.1 percent nationwide from December '16 to December '17, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Core inflation (all items less the volatile food and energy categories) increased 1.8 percent since December '16.¹

The cost of energy rose 6.9 percent from the previous December. All three energy components posted gains: electricity costs increased 2.6 percent, motor fuel prices jumped 10.7 percent and natural gas prices rose 4.7 percent. The shelter index grew 3.2 percent since December '16. Food

¹ CPI data in this commentary are not seasonally adjusted.

prices were up 1.6 percent, with the cost of dining out increasing 2.5 percent and grocery prices rising slightly by 0.9 percent.

INFLATION-HOUSTON

Consumer prices in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria metro area (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties) grew 1.7 percent from December '16 to December '17. Core inflation rose 0.9 percent.

In the 12 months ending December '17, the energy index rose 11.1 percent. All three subcomponents posted gains with natural gas prices jumping 9.7 percent, electricity prices growing 12.7 percent and motor fuel prices increasing 9.9 percent.

Food and beverage prices rose 2.1 percent during the previous 12 months. The cost of dining out increased 2.9 percent in Houston while grocery prices increased 2.0 percent. The cost of shelter² rose 1.2 percent. The next CPI data release will be on February 14.

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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.