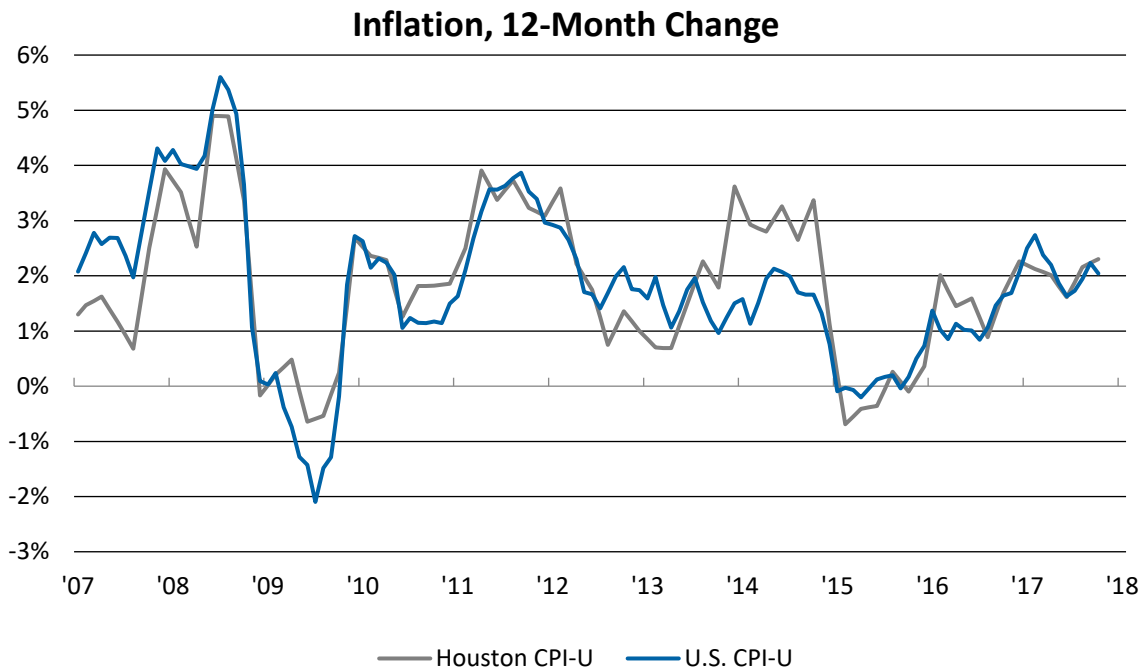




The Partnership sends updates for the six most important economic indicators each month. If you would like to opt-in to receive these updates, please click [here](#).

November 15, 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 2.0 percent nationwide from October '16 to October '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 October '16.¹

The cost of energy rose 6.4 percent from the previous October. Electricity costs increased 2.0 percent, motor fuel prices grew 10.8 percent and natural gas prices rose 3.2 percent. The shelter

¹ CPI data in this commentary are not seasonally adjusted.

index rose 3.2 percent from October '16. Food prices grew 1.3 percent, with the cost of dining out increasing 2.3 percent and grocery prices rising slightly by 0.6 percent.

INFLATION-HOUSTON

Consumer prices in the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria metro area (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, and Waller Counties) grew 2.3 percent from October '16. Core inflation rose 1.6 percent.

In the 12 months ending October '17, the energy index rose 12.6 percent. All three subcomponents posted gains with natural gas prices jumping 9.6 percent, electricity prices growing 11.7 percent and motor fuel prices increasing 13.9 percent.

Food prices rose 1.6 percent during the previous 12 months. The cost of dining out increased 0.9 percent in Houston while grocery prices increased 2.2 percent. The cost of shelter² rose 1.5 percent since October '16, the largest contributor to the rise in core inflation.

Full November and December CPI data for Houston will be released January 12.

Prepared by Greater Houston Partnership Research Department

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² The cost of shelter is typically a third of total consumer expenditures in the Houston area. Although a 1.5 percent increase appears small, it is of greater importance due to its relative weight in calculating overall spending.