

WEST INFORMATION OFFICE  
San Francisco, Calif.

For release 10:00 a.m. (PDT) Tuesday, May 15, 2012

12-964-SAN

Technical information: (415) 625-2283  
Media contact: (415) 625-2270

• BLSinfoSF@bls.gov

• www.bls.gov/ro9

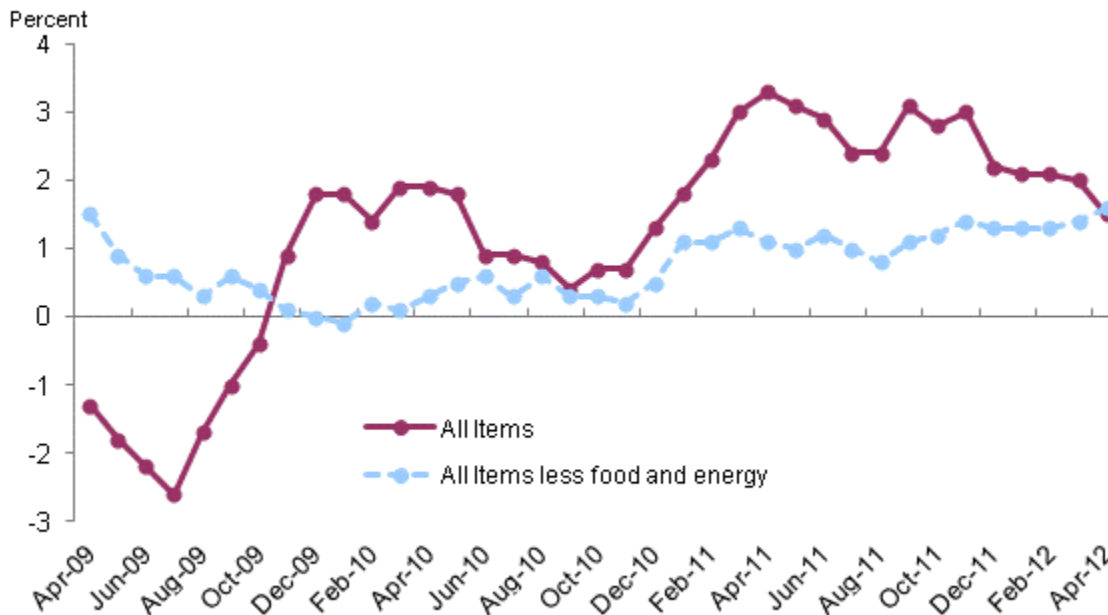
## CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, LOS ANGELES AREA – APRIL 2012

**AREA PRICES WERE UNCHANGED OVER THE PAST MONTH, UP 1.5 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted prices for food and shelter increased, while prices for gasoline declined in April. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 1.5 percent, the lowest year over decline since December 2010. (See chart 1.) Energy prices decreased 0.9 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of natural gas service. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.6 percent since April 2011.

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, April 2009 - April 2012**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Food

Food prices inched up 0.2 percent for the month of April. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home advanced 0.3 percent, while prices for food away from home were virtually unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 2.4 percent. Prices for food at home rose 2.5 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home advanced 2.3 percent.

## Energy

The energy index declined 2.7 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for natural gas service (-5.2 percent) and gasoline (-3.3 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged in April.

Energy prices decreased 0.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for natural gas service (-18.6 percent). Prices paid for gasoline advanced 1.0 percent, but prices for electricity decreased 0.8 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched up 0.2 percent in April. Prices increased 0.4 percent for household furnishings and operations. Over the month, prices for shelter, recreation, and education and communication all increased 0.2 percent.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (3.7 percent), education and communication (2.4 percent), and shelter (1.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in alcoholic beverages (-2.1 percent), household furnishings and operations (-0.6 percent), and apparel (-0.3 percent).

**Table A. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January	0.9	3.2	0.7	3.9	0.5	-0.1	0.4	1.8	0.9	1.8	0.8	2.1
February	1.0	3.5	0.2	3.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.1
March	0.8	3.8	1.0	3.3	0.0	-1.0	0.4	1.9	1.1	3.0	1.0	2.0
April	0.6	3.5	0.5	3.1	0.1	-1.3	0.2	1.9	0.5	3.3	0.0	1.5
May	0.3	2.9	0.9	3.7	0.4	-1.8	0.2	1.8	0.0	3.1	-	-
June	-0.6	2.9	1.1	5.4	0.6	-2.2	-0.2	0.9	-0.4	2.9	-	-
July	0.1	2.9	0.4	5.7	0.0	-2.6	0.1	0.9	-0.4	2.4	-	-
August	-0.1	2.6	-0.6	5.1	0.2	-1.7	0.2	0.8	0.2	2.4	-	-
September	0.2	2.3	-0.5	4.5	0.3	-1.0	-0.1	0.4	0.5	3.1	-	-
October	0.5	3.5	-0.6	3.4	0.0	-0.4	0.3	0.7	0.0	2.8	-	-
November	0.6	4.2	-1.7	1.0	-0.4	0.9	-0.4	0.7	-0.1	3.0	-	-
December	-0.3	4.2	-1.2	0.1	-0.3	1.8	0.3	1.3	-0.5	2.2	-	-

## CPI-W

In April, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 230.023, down 0.1 percent from March. The CPI-W increased 1.3 percent over the year.

**The May 2012 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released on June 14, 2012, at 10:00 a.m. (PDT).**

## Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 88 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 25,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the *BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index*, available on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17\\_a.htm](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties in the State of California.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: 1-800-877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the San Francisco Information Office at (415) 625-2270 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. PT.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012	Apr. 2012	Apr. 2011	Feb. 2012	Mar. 2012
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	234.537	236.941	236.866	1.5	1.0	0.0
All items (1967=100) .....	692.926	700.028	699.806	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	235.931	236.855	237.421	2.1	.6	.2
Food .....	235.549	236.743	237.312	2.4	.7	.2
Food at home .....	246.022	247.935	248.735	2.5	1.1	.3
Food away from home .....	219.058	219.384	219.670	2.3	.3	.1
Alcoholic beverages .....	227.240	224.290	224.792	-2.1	-1.1	.2
Housing .....	246.787	247.775	248.082	1.2	.5	.1
Shelter .....	277.325	278.572	279.119	1.8	.6	.2
Rent of primary residence <sup>1</sup> .....	287.007	287.601	287.750	1.5	.3	.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences <sup>1 2</sup> .....	289.660	290.937	291.512	1.8	.6	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence <sup>1 2</sup> .....	289.660	290.936	291.511	1.8	.6	.2
Fuels and utilities .....	259.811	261.250	259.017	-2.2	-.3	-.9
Household energy .....	238.226	238.315	235.249	-5.4	-1.2	-1.3
Energy services <sup>1</sup> .....	236.531	236.567	233.522	-5.4	-1.3	-1.3
Electricity <sup>1</sup> .....	288.732	288.732	288.732	-.8	.0	.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>1</sup> .....	165.257	165.360	156.830	-18.6	-5.1	-5.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	120.559	120.334	120.839	-.6	.2	.4
Apparel .....	113.026	115.249	115.295	-.3	2.0	.0
Transportation .....	211.332	219.369	217.522	1.3	2.9	-.8
Private transportation .....	205.713	213.835	211.614	1.2	2.9	-1.0
Motor fuel .....	311.808	342.228	331.156	1.0	6.2	-3.2
Gasoline (all types) .....	305.271	335.430	324.450	1.0	6.3	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>3</sup> .....	306.779	337.426	326.527	1.1	6.4	-3.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>3 4</sup> .....	287.406	315.438	304.979	1.0	6.1	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>3</sup> .....	289.035	316.013	305.231	.7	5.6	-3.4
Medical care .....	398.831	400.907	401.008	3.7	.5	.0
Recreation <sup>5</sup> .....	103.894	104.047	104.267	1.0	.4	.2
Education and communication <sup>5</sup> .....	139.293	139.481	139.706	2.4	.3	.2
Other goods and services .....	371.234	373.152	373.278	.1	.6	.0
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	234.537	236.941	236.866	1.5	1.0	.0
Commodities .....	181.203	184.746	184.122	1.0	1.6	-.3
Commodities less food and beverages .....	150.277	154.825	153.706	.1	2.3	-.7
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	198.981	207.505	204.932	.1	3.0	-1.2
Durables .....	102.426	102.800	103.225	-.4	.8	.4
Services .....	280.665	281.913	282.370	1.9	.6	.2
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	227.119	229.511	229.431	1.4	1.0	.0
All items less shelter .....	215.904	218.816	218.468	1.4	1.2	-.2
Commodities less food .....	153.997	158.379	157.294	.0	2.1	-.7
Nondurables .....	219.786	224.905	223.756	1.3	1.8	-.5
Nondurables less food .....	202.918	210.925	208.488	.0	2.7	-1.2
Services less rent of shelter <sup>2</sup> .....	293.453	294.728	295.065	2.1	.5	.1
Services less medical care services .....	271.127	272.333	272.741	1.7	.6	.1
Energy .....	285.777	305.172	297.001	-.9	3.9	-2.7
All items less energy .....	232.576	233.702	234.245	1.8	.7	.2
All items less food and energy .....	232.357	233.472	234.011	1.6	.7	.2

<sup>1</sup> This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

<sup>2</sup> Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

<sup>3</sup> Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

<sup>4</sup> Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

<sup>5</sup> Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.