

WEST INFORMATION OFFICE
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Technical information: (415) 625-2284
Media contact: (415) 625-2270

• BLSinfoSF@bls.gov

• www.bls.gov/ro9

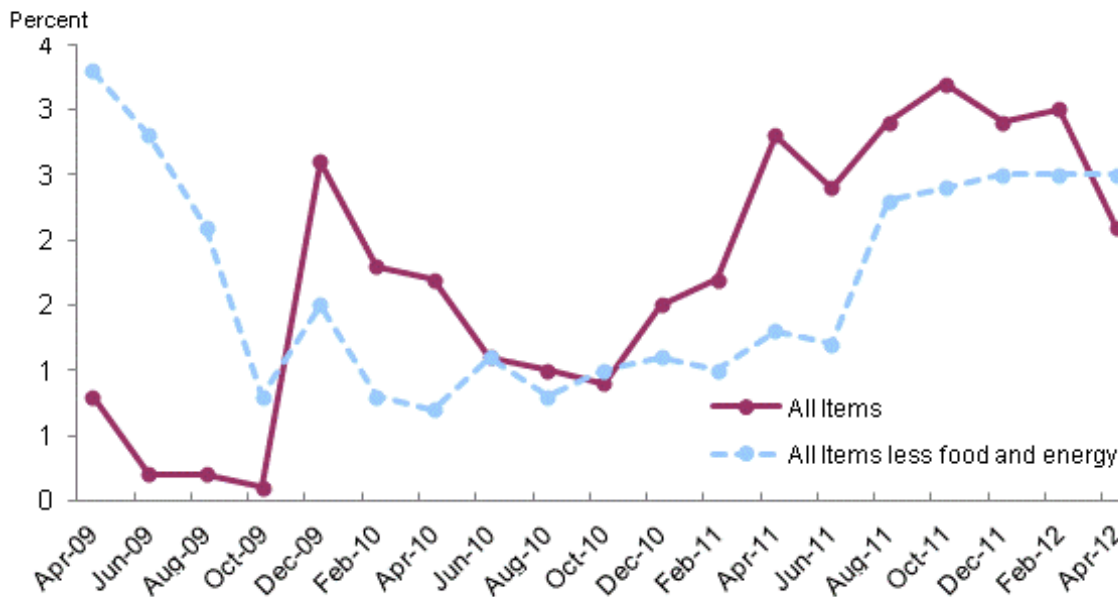
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, SAN FRANCISCO AREA – APRIL 2012

AREA PRICES WERE UP 0.9 PERCENT OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS, UP 2.1 PERCENT FROM A YEAR AGO

Prices in the greater San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.9 percent for the two months ending April 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the April increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and apparel. (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 2.1 percent. (See chart 1.) Shelter prices increased by 2.9 percent, while energy prices decreased 1.2 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of natural gas service. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.5 percent since April 2011.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Francisco, April 2009 - April 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices inched up 0.1 percent from February to April. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home decreased 0.5 percent, but prices for food away from home advanced 0.9 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.5 percent. Prices for food at home increased 0.5 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 2.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 3.5 percent for the two months ending in April 2012. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (5.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service advanced 0.9 percent, and prices for electricity increased 0.8 percent in April.

Energy prices decreased 1.2 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for natural gas service (-7.7 percent). Prices paid for gasoline inched up 0.1 percent, but prices for electricity declined 1.0 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.8 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (5.4 percent), other goods and services (1.0 percent), recreation (0.7 percent), and shelter (0.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-1.5 percent) and education and communication (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.5 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (4.7 percent) and shelter (2.9 percent).

Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CPI-U bi-monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual
February	1.6	3.2	0.5	2.8	1.7	1.2	0.8	1.8	1.0	1.7	1.1	3.0
April	1.0	3.3	1.1	2.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.7	1.8	2.8	0.9	2.1
June	0.1	3.4	1.4	4.2	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.1	-0.2	2.4	-	-
August	0.1	2.6	0.1	4.2	0.0	0.2	-0.1	1.0	0.4	2.9	-	-
October	0.8	3.3	0.2	3.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.9	0.3	3.2	-	-
December	0.2	3.8	-3.2	0.0	-0.8	2.6	-0.2	1.5	-0.4	2.9	-	-

CPI-W

In April, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) was 236.626, up 0.8 percent from February. The CPI-W increased 2.2 percent over the year.

The June 2012 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose is scheduled to be released on July 17, 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 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.

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 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, San Benito, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Solano 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

San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, 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
Expenditure category						
All items	236.880	-	238.985	2.1	0.9	-
All items (1967=100)	728.234	-	734.706	-	-	-
Food and beverages	237.793	-	237.872	1.4	.0	-
Food	237.675	-	237.954	1.5	.1	-
Food at home	234.659	234.231	233.437	.5	-.5	-0.3
Food away from home	240.642	-	242.808	2.5	.9	-
Alcoholic beverages	244.364	-	241.960	.8	-1.0	-
Housing	253.851	-	254.484	2.8	.2	-
Shelter	284.427	284.997	285.641	2.9	.4	.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	312.480	312.963	313.915	4.0	.5	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	308.312	308.895	309.486	2.6	.4	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	308.312	308.895	309.486	2.6	.4	.2
Fuels and utilities	282.458	-	283.314	1.2	.3	-
Household energy	276.281	268.847	277.724	-3.2	.5	3.3
Energy services ¹	274.651	267.227	276.927	-3.0	.8	3.6
Electricity ¹	293.396	295.793	295.793	-1.0	.8	.0
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	215.521	191.556	217.368	-7.7	.9	13.5
Household furnishings and operations	134.990	-	132.984	3.3	-1.5	-
Apparel	115.251	-	121.532	4.7	5.4	-
Transportation	193.582	-	200.197	2.0	3.4	-
Private transportation	185.076	-	189.889	1.3	2.6	-
Motor fuel	302.724	327.962	317.962	.1	5.0	-3.0
Gasoline (all types)	301.685	327.044	317.016	.1	5.1	-3.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ³	303.568	329.356	319.151	.1	5.1	-3.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{3 4}	277.781	300.720	291.744	.1	5.0	-3.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ³	279.463	302.068	293.060	.0	4.9	-3.0
Medical care	403.519	-	404.765	1.3	.3	-
Recreation ⁵	111.527	-	112.290	2.0	.7	-
Education and communication ⁵	143.892	-	143.566	.1	-.2	-
Other goods and services	391.698	-	395.685	1.7	1.0	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	236.880	-	238.985	2.1	.9	-
Commodities	180.426	-	182.795	1.2	1.3	-
Commodities less food and beverages	146.807	-	150.122	1.3	2.3	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	189.151	-	195.003	1.4	3.1	-
Durables	106.054	-	106.891	.8	.8	-
Services	284.169	-	286.039	2.5	.7	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	230.016	-	232.146	2.1	.9	-
All items less shelter	219.200	-	221.761	1.6	1.2	-
Commodities less food	151.387	-	154.545	1.2	2.1	-
Nondurables	215.372	-	218.498	1.2	1.5	-
Nondurables less food	193.730	-	199.082	1.4	2.8	-
Services less rent of shelter ²	299.248	-	302.155	2.1	1.0	-
Services less medical care services	276.382	-	278.280	2.6	.7	-
Energy	297.021	310.884	307.513	-1.2	3.5	-1.1
All items less energy	236.514	-	238.183	2.4	.7	-
All items less food and energy	237.065	-	238.980	2.5	.8	-

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

² Index is on a December 1982=100 base.

³ Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

⁴ Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

⁵ Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

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