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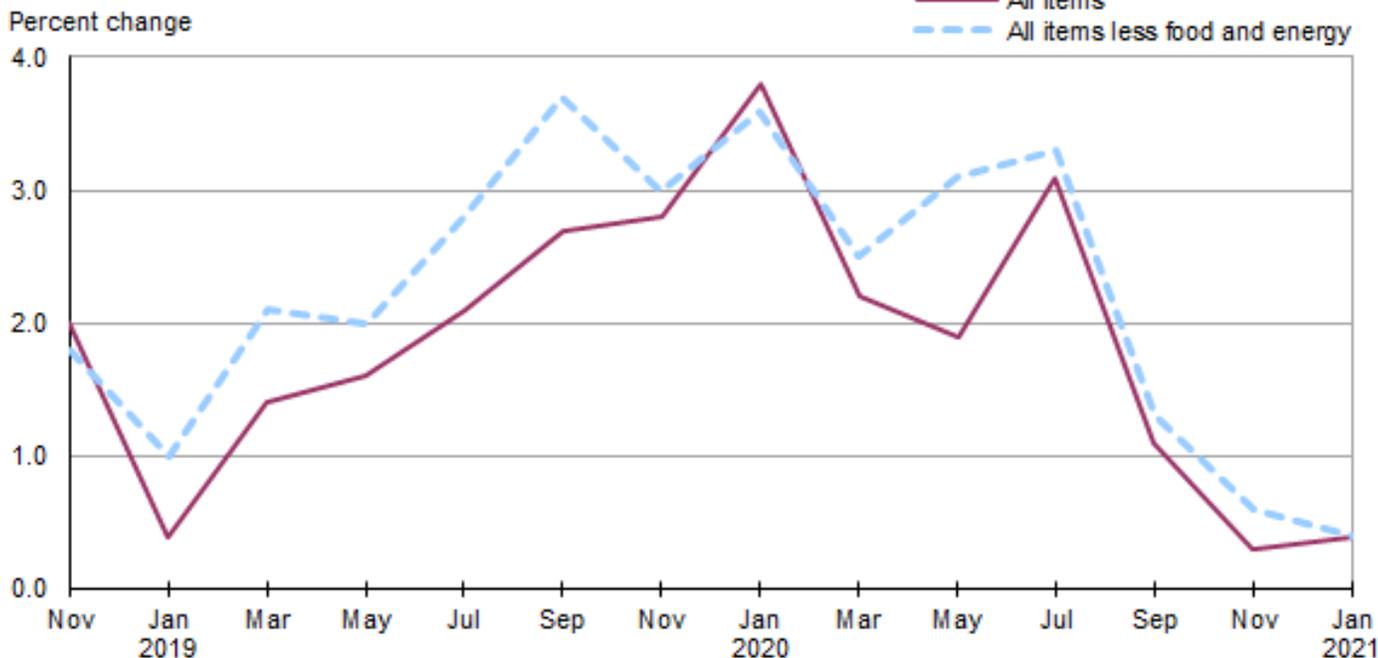
Consumer Price Index, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood – January 2021

Area prices were up 0.1 percent over the past two months, up 0.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), crept up 0.1 percent for the two months ending in January 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that higher prices for energy were nearly offset by lower prices for food and for all items less food and energy. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 0.4 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) Food prices increased 3.2 percent and the index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent over the year. In contrast, energy prices declined 4.7 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO, November 2018–January 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices declined 0.3 percent for the two months ending in January. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home decreased 0.7 percent, while prices for food away from home inched up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 3.2 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 4.3 percent and prices for food at home increased 2.3 percent since a year ago.

Energy

The energy index rose 5.9 percent for the two months ending in January. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (10.9 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices declined 4.7 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline, which fell 8.6 percent. Prices paid for electricity were unchanged during the 12-month period.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched down 0.1 percent in the latest two-month period. Lower prices for recreation (-3.9 percent), new and used motor vehicles (-1.7 percent), and education and communication (-0.9 percent) were largely offset by higher prices for household furnishings and operations (3.1 percent), shelter (0.2 percent), and apparel (3.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included household furnishings and operations (7.1 percent), education and communication (2.7 percent), and used cars and trucks (9.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in shelter (-1.0 percent), recreation (-3.5 percent), and new vehicles (-4.6 percent).

The March 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area is scheduled to be released on Tuesday, April 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on January 2021 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in January was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm.

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 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of

the total U.S. 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/.

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 Denver-Aurora-Lakewood metropolitan area is comprised of Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park counties in Colorado.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
All items	271.837	-	272.156	0.4	0.1	-
All items (1967 = 100)	906.463	-	907.527			
Food and beverages	250.860	-	250.529	3.2	-0.1	-
Food	256.023	-	255.223	3.2	-0.3	-
Food at home	238.936	236.561	237.310	2.3	-0.7	0.3
Cereals and bakery products	276.354	-	282.524	-0.1	2.2	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	243.215	-	236.653	7.6	-2.7	-
Dairy and related products	202.537	-	207.432	4.9	2.4	-
Fruits and vegetables	279.377	-	280.945	0.4	0.6	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	164.699	-	164.628	-4.2	0.0	-
Other food at home	215.337	-	210.478	2.1	-2.3	-
Food away from home	278.408	-	278.884	4.3	0.2	-
Alcoholic beverages	205.272	-	209.597	3.5	2.1	-
Housing	273.423	-	274.759	0.0	0.5	-
Shelter	316.005	315.774	316.795	-1.0	0.2	0.3
Rent of primary residence	329.424	327.694	327.998	-1.4	-0.4	0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	312.203	312.501	313.247	-0.1	0.3	0.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	312.203	312.501	313.247	-0.1	0.3	0.2
Fuels and utilities	239.635	-	237.695	0.4	-0.8	-
Household energy	153.689	153.674	154.399	0.6	0.5	0.5
Energy services	152.033	152.022	152.762	0.4	0.5	0.5
Electricity	157.806	157.806	157.806	0.0	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Household furnishings and operations	125.071	-	128.897	7.1	3.1	-
Apparel	98.685	-	101.889	6.1	3.2	-
Transportation	252.316	-	253.958	-1.9	0.7	-
Private transportation	250.966	-	254.531	-0.6	1.4	-
New and used motor vehicles(3)	109.016	-	107.208	-0.1	-1.7	-
New vehicles(1)	216.321	-	211.504	-4.6	-2.2	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	295.109	-	289.065	9.2	-2.0	-
Motor fuel	177.156	185.783	196.672	-8.8	11.0	5.9
Gasoline (all types)	176.135	184.358	195.406	-8.6	10.9	6.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	168.524	176.539	188.016	-8.8	11.6	6.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	182.883	189.567	197.394	-8.6	7.9	4.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	205.392	214.400	222.336	-7.9	8.2	3.7
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	2,994.586	-	3,080.901	2.8	2.9	-
Medical care	629.609	-	631.437	1.0	0.3	-
Recreation(3)	164.643	-	158.160	-3.5	-3.9	-
Education and communication(3)	128.223	-	127.041	2.7	-0.9	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1)	1,099.824	-	1,101.129	1.3	0.1	-
Other goods and services	383.063	-	385.770	3.3	0.7	-
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	176.130	-	177.152	1.1	0.6	-
Commodities less food and beverages	139.893	-	141.341	-0.1	1.0	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	162.500	-	167.746	-1.2	3.2	-
Durables	114.674	-	113.358	1.0	-1.1	-
Services	356.999	-	356.546	0.1	-0.1	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter	250.738	-	250.844	1.3	0.0	-
All items less medical care	255.600	-	255.858	0.4	0.1	-
Commodities less food	142.448	-	143.991	0.0	1.1	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
Nondurables	205.925	-	208.689	1.2	1.3	-
Nondurables less food.....	165.385	-	170.562	-0.8	3.1	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	411.913	-	409.507	1.5	-0.6	-
Services less medical care services.....	333.541	-	332.909	0.0	-0.2	-
Energy	162.817	166.909	172.455	-4.7	5.9	3.3
All items less energy	282.950	-	282.515	0.7	-0.2	-
All items less food and energy	288.745	-	288.371	0.4	-0.1	-

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a January 1978=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a November 1982=100 base.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (5) Index on a December 1993=100 base.
- Data not available.