



For Release: Tuesday, April 13, 2021

21-398-DAL

SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas

Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest

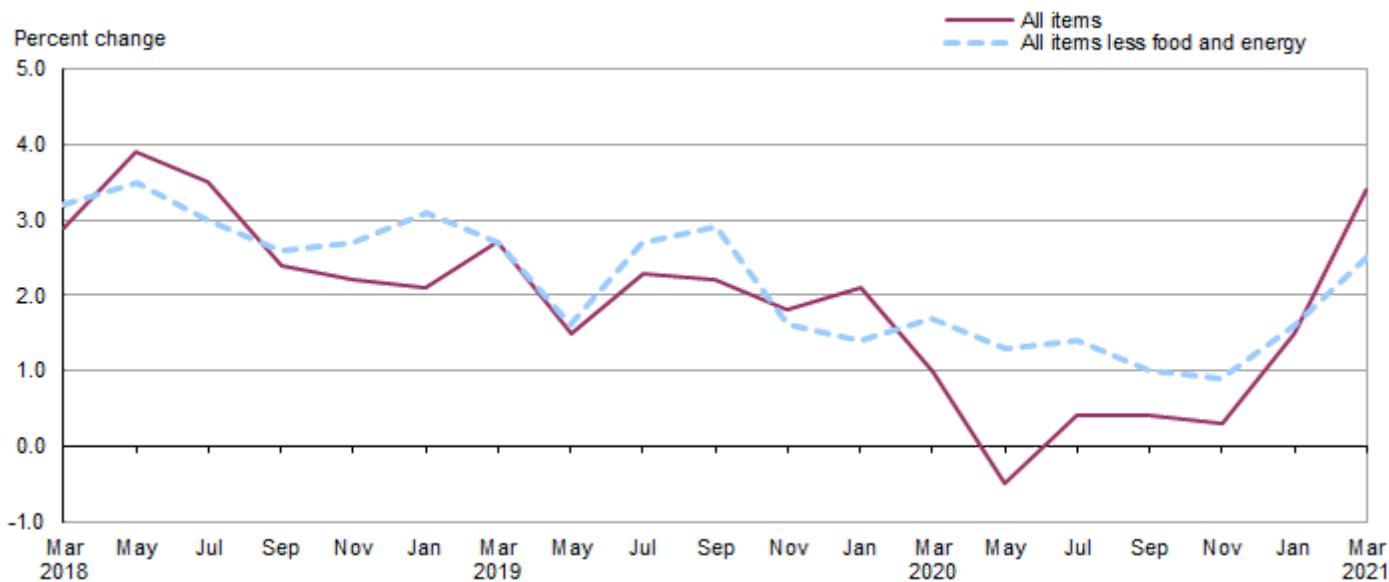
Media contact: (972) 850-4800

Consumer Price Index, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area – March 2021 **Area prices rise 1.8 percent in February and March, up 3.4 percent over the year**

Prices in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.8 percent for the two months ending in March 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that this was the largest two-month increase in the all items index since March 2011. An increase in the index for all items less food and energy was the biggest contributor to the latest bimonthly rise, but higher energy costs were also a major factor. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 3.4 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.5 percent over the year. Energy prices jumped 15.1 percent, while food prices advanced 3.5 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Dallas, TX, March 2018–March 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices inched up 0.2 percent for the two months ending in March. Within the two components of the index, prices for food at home advanced 2.3 percent, while prices for food away from home declined 1.9 percent for the same period.

During the 12 months ending in March 2021, the index for food advanced 3.5 percent. The rise reflected an increase in prices for both food away from home and food at home, which rose 5.0 percent and 2.1 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index increased 9.9 percent for the two months ending in March, after rising 7.7 percent in the two months ending in January. The latest increase was due to higher prices for gasoline (22.9 percent). In contrast, prices for electricity and natural gas service declined, falling 1.8 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively, in February and March 2021.

From March 2020 to March 2021, energy prices surged 15.1 percent, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (31.7 percent), but prices paid for natural gas service also jumped (30.2 percent). Partially countering these increases, prices for electricity fell 2.8 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.5 percent in February and March, after rising 0.8 percent in December and January. The latest movement was fueled by higher prices for owners' equivalent rent of residences (1.0 percent), new and used motor vehicles (2.8 percent), and apparel (6.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.5 percent. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (11.6 percent) and shelter (2.1 percent) contributed the most to the increase. Partly offsetting the increases were falling prices for motor vehicle insurance (-10.6 percent) and apparel (-3.0 percent).

The May 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 10, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on March 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 March 2021 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 **Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas, Core Based Statistical Area** includes the counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise.

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, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX, March 2021 (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
All items	242.513	-	246.995	3.4	1.8	-
All items (1967 = 100)	760.750	-	774.809			
Food and beverages	269.325	-	272.916	4.4	1.3	-
Food	264.337	-	264.904	3.5	0.2	-
Food at home	215.460	219.323	220.368	2.1	2.3	0.5
Cereals and bakery products	260.961	-	260.166	0.4	-0.3	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	245.261	-	250.625	0.4	2.2	-
Dairy and related products	196.393	-	198.356	2.2	1.0	-
Fruits and vegetables	186.218	-	198.362	0.5	6.5	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	195.564	-	199.389	6.6	2.0	-
Other food at home	206.236	-	209.179	3.6	1.4	-
Food away from home	338.327	-	332.015	5.0	-1.9	-
Alcoholic beverages	334.411	-	381.532	14.0	14.1	-
Housing	241.223	-	242.489	2.2	0.5	-
Shelter	270.006	271.298	271.998	2.1	0.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence	291.627	292.952	290.952	2.2	-0.2	-0.7
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	292.585	294.124	295.503	3.0	1.0	0.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	292.585	294.124	295.503	3.0	1.0	0.5
Fuels and utilities	252.986	-	250.364	1.2	-1.0	-
Household energy	222.165	222.785	218.799	1.4	-1.5	-1.8
Energy services	218.790	219.346	215.329	1.5	-1.6	-1.8
Electricity	204.108	204.726	200.350	-2.8	-1.8	-2.1
Utility (piped) gas service	237.316	237.334	236.664	30.2	-0.3	-0.3
Household furnishings and operations	124.744	-	125.379	3.8	0.5	-
Apparel	103.592	-	109.803	-3.0	6.0	-
Transportation	199.436	-	211.699	10.0	6.1	-
Private transportation	204.560	-	217.875	10.7	6.5	-
New and used motor vehicles(3)	109.175	-	112.200	11.6	2.8	-
New vehicles(1)	201.323	-	205.150	11.5	1.9	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	351.600	-	362.472	10.4	3.1	-
Motor fuel	197.281	209.648	242.473	31.5	22.9	15.7
Gasoline (all types)	196.095	208.368	241.040	31.7	22.9	15.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	187.795	199.701	231.838	32.8	23.5	16.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	211.175	224.724	254.043	27.4	20.3	13.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	217.146	229.050	258.016	22.8	18.8	12.6
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	684.830	-	683.887	-10.6	-0.1	-
Medical care	472.041	-	477.233	1.7	1.1	-
Recreation(3)	120.294	-	122.507	1.0	1.8	-
Education and communication(3)	134.603	-	135.022	1.5	0.3	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1)	1,268.745	-	1,272.244	-1.6	0.3	-
Other goods and services	433.057	-	447.320	5.0	3.3	-
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	176.787	-	182.830	5.8	3.4	-
Commodities less food and beverages	136.993	-	143.473	6.7	4.7	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	166.158	-	178.991	6.5	7.7	-
Durables	111.669	-	113.214	6.9	1.4	-
Services	306.534	-	309.504	2.1	1.0	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter	230.285	-	235.976	4.1	2.5	-
All items less medical care	231.414	-	235.843	3.6	1.9	-
Commodities less food	141.843	-	149.193	7.0	5.2	-

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, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX, March 2021 (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
Nondurables	212.502	-	221.531	5.4	4.2	-
Nondurables less food.....	173.776	-	188.167	7.2	8.3	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	354.427	-	358.848	2.0	1.2	-
Services less medical care services.....	288.837	-	291.559	2.0	0.9	-
Energy	210.657	217.120	231.420	15.1	9.9	6.6
All items less energy	249.525	-	252.804	2.6	1.3	-
All items less food and energy	246.971	-	250.644	2.5	1.5	-

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a February 1978=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 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.
- Data not available.