



For Release: Thursday, June 10, 2021

21-1033-DAL

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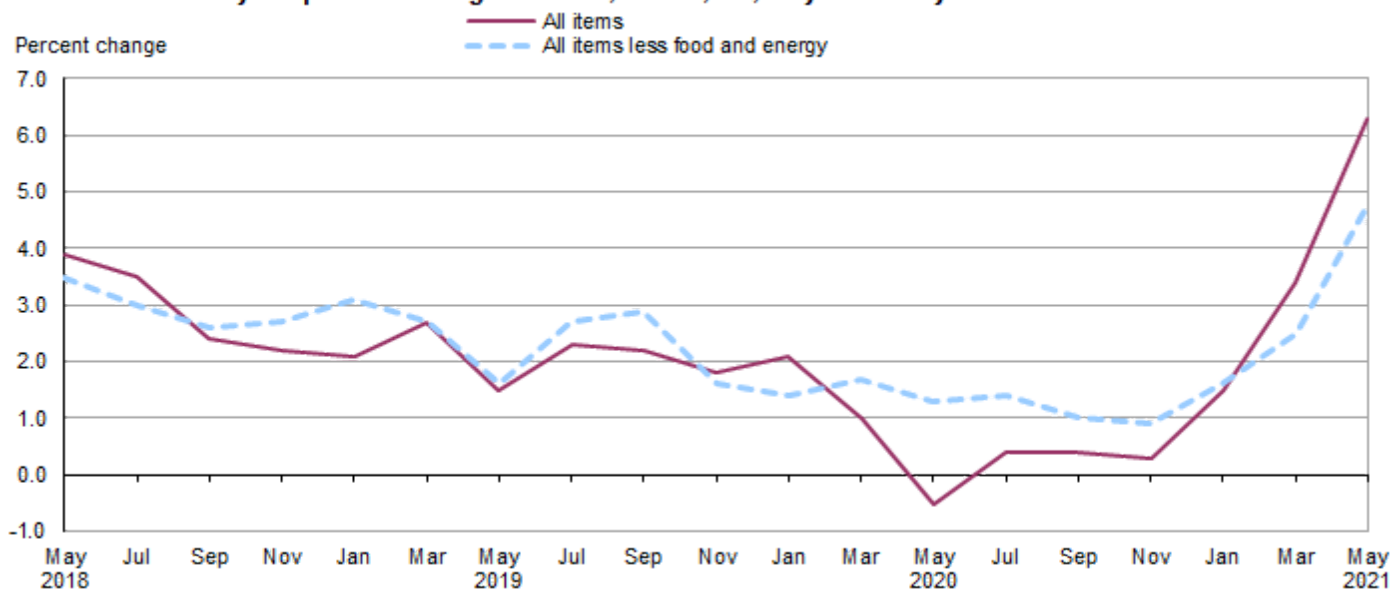
Consumer Price Index, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area – May 2021

Area prices rise 1.7 percent in April and May, up 6.3 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 1.7 percent for the two months ending in May 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that the May increase was influenced by higher prices for all items less food and energy, but higher energy costs were also a 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 advanced 6.3 percent, the largest yearly increase in the all items index since December 1990. (See [chart 1](#).) The index for all items less food and energy rose 4.8 percent over the year. Energy prices jumped 35.8 percent, while food prices advanced 3.3 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.3 percent for the two months ending in May. Within the two components of the index, prices for food at home advanced 1.1 percent, while prices for food away from home declined 0.6 percent for the same period.

During the 12 months ending in May 2021, the index for food rose 3.3 percent. The rise reflected an increase in prices for both food away from home and food at home, which rose 4.2 percent and 2.5 percent, respectively.

Energy

The energy index rose 4.5 percent for the two months ending in May, after rising 9.9 percent in the two months ending in March. The latest increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (7.7 percent), but prices for natural gas service also increased (4.5 percent). Prices for electricity increased, inching up 0.2 percent for the same period.

From May 2020 to May 2021, energy prices jumped 35.8 percent, the largest increase since October 2005. The biggest factor in the advance was due to higher prices for gasoline (93.3 percent); this was the largest 12-month increase in gasoline prices since the series began in 1979. Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 32.6 percent, while prices for electricity fell 3.7 percent over the year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.7 percent in April and May, after rising 1.5 percent in February and March. The latest movement was fueled by higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (7.2 percent), shelter (1.0 percent) and household furnishings and operations (3.0 percent). These increases were partially offset by lower prices for alcoholic beverages (-9.5 percent) and other goods and services (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 4.8 percent. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (19.4 percent), shelter (2.4 percent) and household furnishings and operations (7.9 percent) contributed most to the increase. Partly offsetting the increases were falling prices for alcoholic beverages (-2.4 percent) and tuition, other school fees, and childcare (-1.6 percent).

The July 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on May 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 May 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, May 2021 (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	May 2021	May 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021
All items	246.995	-	251.228	6.3	1.7	-
All items (1967 = 100)	774.809	-	788.087			
Food and beverages	272.916	-	271.289	2.8	-0.6	-
Food	264.904	-	265.682	3.3	0.3	-
Food at home	220.368	222.240	222.871	2.5	1.1	0.3
Cereals and bakery products	260.166	-	266.505	2.2	2.4	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	250.625	-	262.382	2.4	4.7	-
Dairy and related products	198.356	-	201.201	1.8	1.4	-
Fruits and vegetables	198.362	-	197.031	4.1	-0.7	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	199.389	-	191.853	-1.0	-3.8	-
Other food at home	209.179	-	210.855	4.0	0.8	-
Food away from home	332.015	-	330.055	4.2	-0.6	-
Alcoholic beverages	381.532	-	345.249	-2.4	-9.5	-
Housing	242.489	-	245.318	2.8	1.2	-
Shelter	271.998	272.942	274.691	2.4	1.0	0.6
Rent of primary residence	290.952	292.179	293.422	2.4	0.8	0.4
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)	295.503	295.836	296.599	2.6	0.4	0.3
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2)	295.503	295.836	296.599	2.6	0.4	0.3
Fuels and utilities	250.364	-	252.036	1.0	0.7	-
Household energy	218.799	217.296	220.934	1.2	1.0	1.7
Energy services	215.329	213.832	217.280	1.1	0.9	1.6
Electricity	200.350	197.881	200.695	-3.7	0.2	1.4
Utility (piped) gas service	236.664	241.323	247.422	32.6	4.5	2.5
Household furnishings and operations	125.379	-	129.138	7.9	3.0	-
Apparel	109.803	-	112.046	7.8	2.0	-
Transportation	211.699	-	225.643	28.2	6.6	-
Private transportation	217.875	-	229.448	28.5	5.3	-
New and used motor vehicles(3)	112.200	-	120.311	19.4	7.2	-
New vehicles(1)	205.150	-	208.864	11.9	1.8	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	362.472	-	421.669	30.2	16.3	-
Motor fuel	242.473	237.946	261.107	92.6	7.7	9.7
Gasoline (all types)	241.040	236.500	259.701	93.3	7.7	9.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	231.838	226.994	250.032	96.7	7.8	10.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	254.043	253.772	274.215	80.6	7.9	8.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	258.016	256.870	275.377	67.8	6.7	7.2
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	683.887	-	685.646	17.6	0.3	-
Medical care	477.233	-	481.412	0.8	0.9	-
Recreation(3)	122.507	-	124.827	2.1	1.9	-
Education and communication(3)	135.022	-	135.229	1.5	0.2	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1)	1,272.244	-	1,272.244	-1.6	0.0	-
Other goods and services	447.320	-	445.023	7.3	-0.5	-
Commodity and service group						
Commodities	182.830	-	186.582	11.0	2.1	-
Commodities less food and beverages	143.473	-	148.729	16.4	3.7	-
Nondurables less food and beverages	178.991	-	183.627	20.2	2.6	-
Durables	113.214	-	118.806	12.2	4.9	-
Services	309.504	-	314.208	3.8	1.5	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter	235.976	-	240.963	8.6	2.1	-
All items less medical care	235.843	-	240.059	6.8	1.8	-
Commodities less food	149.193	-	153.630	15.3	3.0	-

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, May 2021 (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	May 2021	May 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021
Nondurables	221.531	-	223.538	10.5	0.9	-
Nondurables less food.....	188.167	-	190.937	17.9	1.5	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	358.848	-	366.615	5.4	2.2	-
Services less medical care services.....	291.559	-	296.051	4.1	1.5	-
Energy	231.420	228.407	241.765	35.8	4.5	5.8
All items less energy	252.804	-	256.633	4.6	1.5	-
All items less food and energy	250.644	-	254.915	4.8	1.7	-

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.