



For Release: Friday, July 17, 2015

15-1416-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

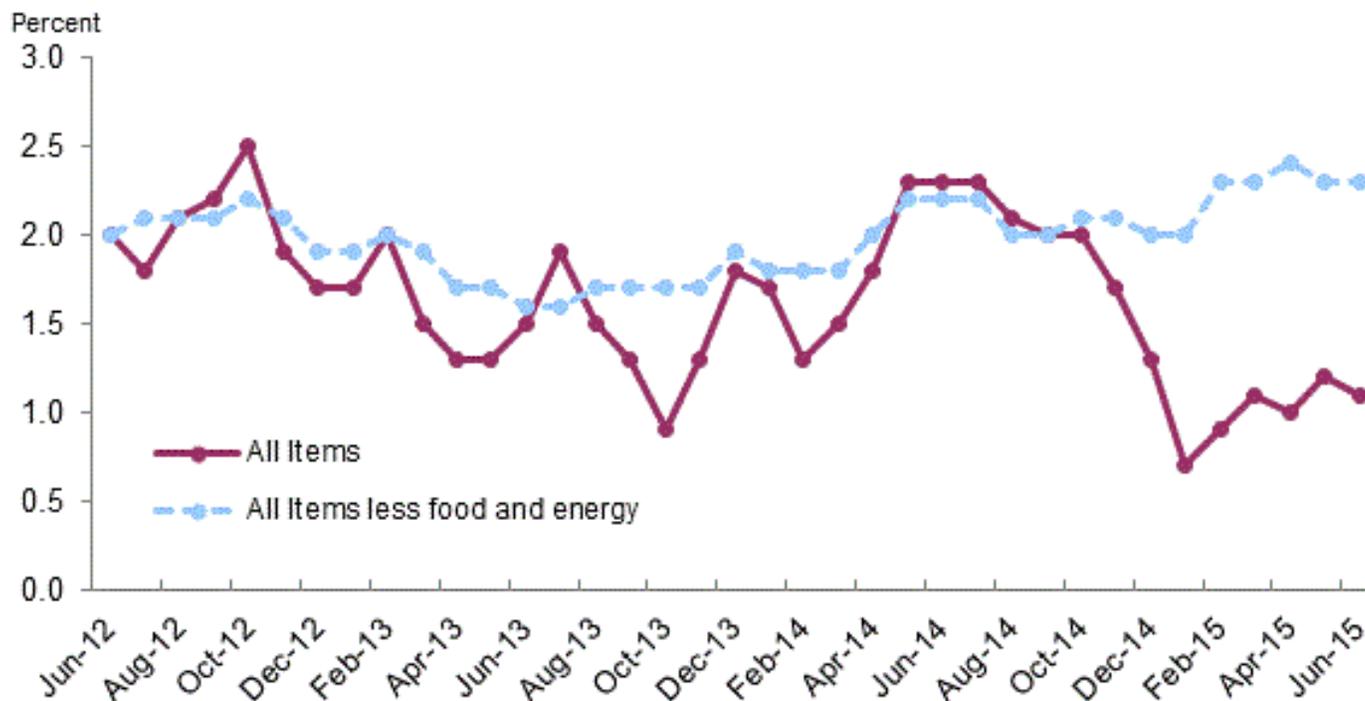
Consumer Price Index, West Region — June 2015

Area prices were unchanged over the past month, up 1.1 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged in June, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) During this period, lower gasoline and apparel prices helped counter higher shelter prices. (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 advanced 1.1 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices fell 11.0 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.3 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West Region, June 2012–June 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices crept up 0.2 percent for the month of June. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home rose 0.3 percent, while prices for food away from home were virtually unchanged (0.1 percent) for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 2.2 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 2.9 percent and prices for food at home rose 1.7 percent since a year ago.

Energy

The energy index decreased 0.8 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-2.1 percent). Prices for electricity crept up 0.2 percent, and prices for natural gas service advanced 2.4 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 11.0 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-17.7 percent). Prices paid for electricity declined 0.6 percent, but prices for natural gas service increased 1.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.1 percent in June. Higher prices for recreation (0.5 percent) and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-2.4 percent) and medical care (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.3 percent. Shelter prices rose 4.1 percent and contributed to nearly the entire increase. Partly offsetting the increase were price declines in apparel (-3.6 percent) and education and communication (-0.5 percent).

Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Monthly	Annual										
January.....	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7
February.....	0.1	1.4	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9
March.....	0.3	1.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1
April.....	0.2	1.5	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0
May.....	0.1	1.3	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2
June.....	-0.1	0.6	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1
July.....	0.1	0.8	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3		
August.....	0.1	0.7	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1		
September.....	-0.1	0.5	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0		
October.....	0.1	0.6	0.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0		
November.....	0.0	0.9	-0.2	3.2	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7		
December.....	0.2	1.3	-0.3	2.7	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3		

The July 2015 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on August 19, 2015.

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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 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 26,000 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 West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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 West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2015	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jun. 2014	Apr. 2015	May 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	242.302	244.227	244.332	1.1	0.8	0.0
All items (December 1977=100).....	391.668	394.779	394.950			
Food and beverages	248.465	248.352	248.831	2.1	0.1	0.2
Food	248.641	248.429	249.018	2.2	0.2	0.2
Food at home	247.676	247.018	247.781	1.7	0.0	0.3
Food away from home.....	248.779	249.196	249.537	2.9	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages	242.818	243.962	243.043	1.5	0.1	-0.4
Housing	252.715	253.790	254.543	3.4	0.7	0.3
Shelter	285.244	286.077	286.858	4.1	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	298.514	299.516	300.077	4.3	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	298.891	299.898	300.971	4.1	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	298.884	299.887	300.959	4.1	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	275.144	281.185	283.095	1.6	2.9	0.7
Household energy	239.889	247.553	249.570	-0.4	4.0	0.8
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	242.277	250.363	252.200	-0.2	4.1	0.7
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	264.929	275.611	276.156	-0.6	4.2	0.2
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	203.588	205.983	211.028	1.2	3.7	2.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	130.059	129.596	129.694	0.6	-0.3	0.1
Apparel	121.179	120.486	117.569	-3.6	-3.0	-2.4
Transportation	203.645	212.655	212.102	-5.0	4.2	-0.3
Private transportation	197.192	205.723	204.699	-5.3	3.8	-0.5
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	102.118	102.208	102.482	1.0	0.4	0.3
New vehicles	147.433	147.661	147.987	2.0	0.4	0.2
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	102.436	102.610	102.854	1.9	0.4	0.2
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	146.593	147.015	147.414	1.2	0.6	0.3
Used cars and trucks.....	144.846	145.806	146.081	-1.2	0.9	0.2
Motor fuel	233.860	268.693	263.316	-17.8	12.6	-2.0
Gasoline (all types).....	232.967	268.144	262.634	-17.7	12.7	-2.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	230.937	266.188	260.676	-18.1	12.9	-2.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	222.347	254.903	249.069	-16.7	12.0	-2.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	226.015	258.601	253.719	-16.2	12.3	-1.9
Medical Care	456.010	455.768	453.453	2.8	-0.6	-0.5
Medical care commodities.....	345.117	344.021	343.741	3.6	-0.4	-0.1
Medical care services.....	491.296	491.402	488.314	2.6	-0.6	-0.6
Professional services	336.675	336.863	339.843	2.6	0.9	0.9
Recreation ⁽³⁾	109.966	110.491	111.025	0.6	1.0	0.5
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	138.366	137.667	137.813	-0.5	-0.4	0.1
Other goods and services	402.053	401.752	402.541	1.6	0.1	0.2
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	242.302	244.227	244.332	1.1	0.8	0.0
Commodities	180.769	183.355	182.581	-1.9	1.0	-0.4
Commodities less food & beverages.....	146.598	150.207	148.943	-4.5	1.6	-0.8
Nondurables less food & beverages	185.309	192.865	190.276	-7.1	2.7	-1.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	230.603	243.739	241.327	-8.1	4.7	-1.0
Durables	110.805	110.832	110.771	-0.3	0.0	-0.1
Services.....	298.908	300.174	301.127	3.0	0.7	0.3
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	303.474	304.362	305.205	4.1	0.6	0.3

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 West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2015	May 2015	Jun. 2015	Jun. 2014	Apr. 2015	May 2015
Transportation services	282.205	285.891	287.959	1.4	2.0	0.7
Other services	334.619	334.293	336.128	1.0	0.5	0.5
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	232.528	234.530	234.732	1.0	0.9	0.1
All items less food	241.495	243.761	243.790	1.0	1.0	0.0
All items less shelter	226.183	228.591	228.409	-0.4	1.0	-0.1
Commodities less food	150.304	153.862	152.600	-4.3	1.5	-0.8
Nondurables	217.139	221.181	220.002	-2.4	1.3	-0.5
Nondurables less food	189.702	196.912	194.409	-6.5	2.5	-1.3
Nondurables less food and apparel	231.423	243.387	241.122	-7.3	4.2	-0.9
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	326.987	328.894	330.100	1.7	1.0	0.4
Services less medical care services	285.601	286.924	288.102	3.0	0.9	0.4
Energy	238.975	261.834	259.758	-11.0	8.7	-0.8
All items less energy	244.516	244.871	245.143	2.2	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy	244.563	245.018	245.235	2.3	0.3	0.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	141.427	141.292	140.485	-0.6	-0.7	-0.6
Energy commodities	237.637	272.201	267.044	-17.6	12.4	-1.9
Services less energy services	303.268	304.102	305.001	3.2	0.6	0.3

Footnotes

(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) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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