



For Release: Wednesday, September 16, 2015

15-1808-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

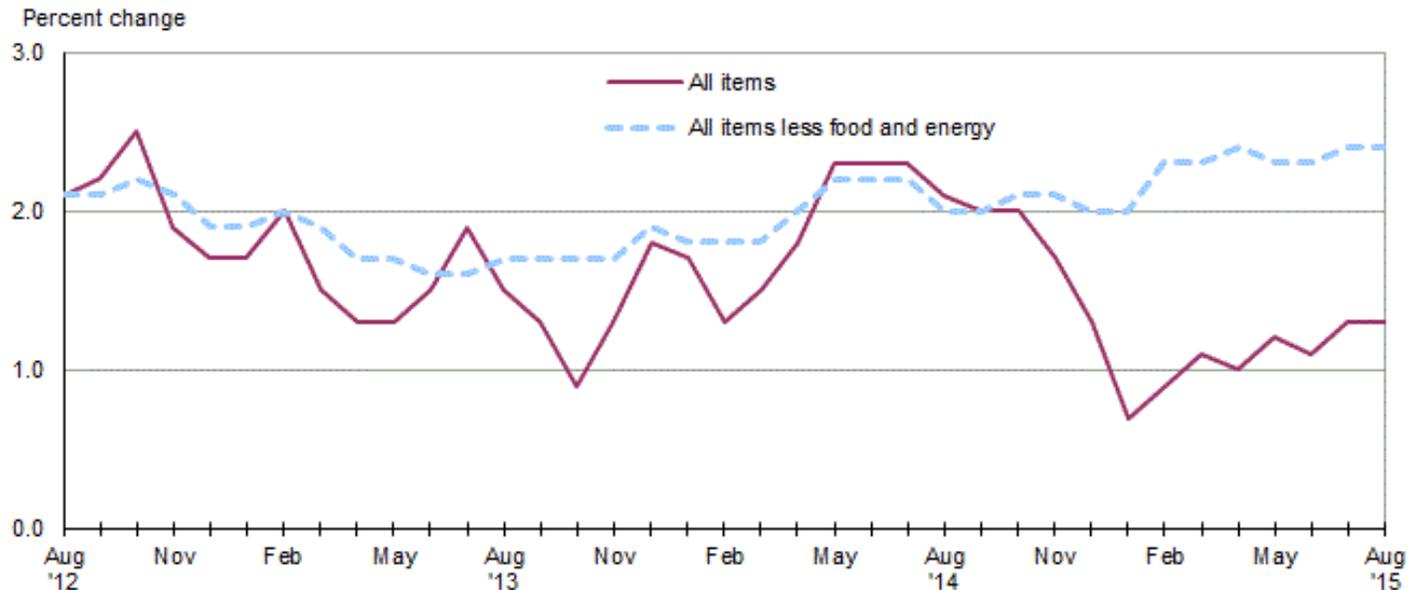
Consumer Price Index, West Region — August 2015

Area prices were down 0.1 percent over the past month, up 1.3 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged down 0.1 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The August decrease was influenced by lower prices for gasoline. (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 1.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#).) Energy prices decreased 9.5 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 0.3 percent for the month of August. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home advanced 0.4 percent, and prices for food at home increased 0.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 1.5 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 2.0 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 1.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 2.5 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-4.5 percent). Prices for electricity edged down 0.1 percent, but prices for natural gas service increased 1.4 percent during the same period.

Energy prices decreased 9.5 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-15.4 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 1.0 percent during the past year, but prices paid for electricity advanced 0.6 percent

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in August. Categories with higher prices included apparel (1.4 percent), shelter (0.4 percent), and education and communication (0.3 percent). In contrast, prices declined for medical care (-0.8 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.3 percent) and medical care (2.5 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-1.6 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	0.3	1.3
August.....	0.1	0.7	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3
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 September 2015 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on October 15, 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	244.332	245.040	244.737	1.3	0.2	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100).....	394.950	396.093	395.603			
Food and beverages	248.831	249.041	249.795	1.4	0.4	0.3
Food	249.018	249.229	250.045	1.5	0.4	0.3
Food at home	247.781	249.077	249.825	1.1	0.8	0.3
Food away from home.....	249.537	248.217	249.125	2.0	-0.2	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	243.043	243.237	243.187	0.3	0.1	0.0
Housing	254.543	255.592	256.383	3.6	0.7	0.3
Shelter	286.858	288.418	289.532	4.3	0.9	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	300.077	301.282	302.665	4.3	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	300.971	302.165	303.446	4.3	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	300.959	302.150	303.428	4.3	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	283.095	282.591	284.512	1.7	0.5	0.7
Household energy	249.570	248.442	249.042	-0.2	-0.2	0.2
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	252.200	251.242	251.895	0.2	-0.1	0.3
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	276.156	276.848	276.609	0.6	0.2	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	211.028	206.061	208.891	-1.0	-1.0	1.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	129.694	129.673	128.751	0.7	-0.7	-0.7
Apparel	117.569	116.120	117.732	-1.6	0.1	1.4
Transportation	212.102	213.790	209.616	-4.1	-1.2	-2.0
Private transportation	204.699	207.669	204.559	-4.2	-0.1	-1.5
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	102.482	102.678	102.268	1.0	-0.2	-0.4
New vehicles	147.987	147.620	146.327	1.6	-1.1	-0.9
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	102.854	102.586	101.674	1.6	-1.1	-0.9
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	147.414	146.810	145.475	0.6	-1.3	-0.9
Used cars and trucks.....	146.081	146.251	146.008	-2.1	0.0	-0.2
Motor fuel	263.316	274.229	261.905	-15.6	-0.5	-4.5
Gasoline (all types).....	262.634	273.797	261.539	-15.4	-0.4	-4.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	260.676	271.793	259.528	-15.8	-0.4	-4.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	249.069	259.585	249.585	-13.8	0.2	-3.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	253.719	264.212	252.389	-13.8	-0.5	-4.5
Medical Care	453.453	455.089	451.436	2.5	-0.4	-0.8
Medical care commodities.....	343.741	345.506	344.317	4.3	0.2	-0.3
Medical care services.....	488.314	489.865	485.294	2.0	-0.6	-0.9
Professional services	339.843	341.435	338.330	1.8	-0.4	-0.9
Recreation ⁽³⁾	111.025	111.030	110.834	0.6	-0.2	-0.2
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	137.813	137.604	138.013	-0.5	0.1	0.3
Other goods and services	402.541	402.499	401.912	0.5	-0.2	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	244.332	245.040	244.737	1.3	0.2	-0.1
Commodities	182.581	183.246	182.356	-1.7	-0.1	-0.5
Commodities less food & beverages.....	148.943	149.773	148.236	-3.8	-0.5	-1.0
Nondurables less food & beverages	190.276	192.300	189.788	-5.8	-0.3	-1.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	241.327	245.683	240.400	-7.0	-0.4	-2.2
Durables	110.771	110.518	109.871	-0.5	-0.8	-0.6
Services.....	301.127	301.866	302.133	3.1	0.3	0.1
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	305.205	306.829	308.020	4.3	0.9	0.4

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-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
Transportation services	287.959	285.501	281.861	2.1	-2.1	-1.3
Other services	336.128	336.067	336.534	0.8	0.1	0.1
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	234.732	235.399	235.232	1.2	0.2	-0.1
All items less food	243.790	244.577	244.096	1.2	0.1	-0.2
All items less shelter	228.409	228.759	227.850	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4
Commodities less food	152.600	153.416	151.914	-3.6	-0.4	-1.0
Nondurables	220.002	221.198	220.190	-2.1	0.1	-0.5
Nondurables less food	194.409	196.334	193.957	-5.3	-0.2	-1.2
Nondurables less food and apparel	241.122	245.071	240.299	-6.3	-0.3	-1.9
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	330.100	329.763	328.848	1.7	-0.4	-0.3
Services less medical care services	288.102	288.789	289.332	3.2	0.4	0.2
Energy	259.758	265.318	258.734	-9.5	-0.4	-2.5
All items less energy	245.143	245.488	245.659	2.2	0.2	0.1
All items less food and energy	245.235	245.605	245.663	2.4	0.2	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	140.485	140.120	139.901	-0.4	-0.4	-0.2
Energy commodities	267.044	277.746	265.451	-15.6	-0.6	-4.4
Services less energy services	305.001	305.850	306.093	3.3	0.4	0.1

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.