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**ERRATA**

Incorrect prices for prescription drugs were used for the CPI-U and CPI-W indexes from May through August 2016 in a number of areas. Several indexes were affected, including the all items and medical care indexes. A list of the series affected can be found at [www.bls.gov/bls/errata/cpi-price-corrections-10182016.htm](http://www.bls.gov/bls/errata/cpi-price-corrections-10182016.htm), and the corrected data are available in the CPI database ([www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/data.htm)).

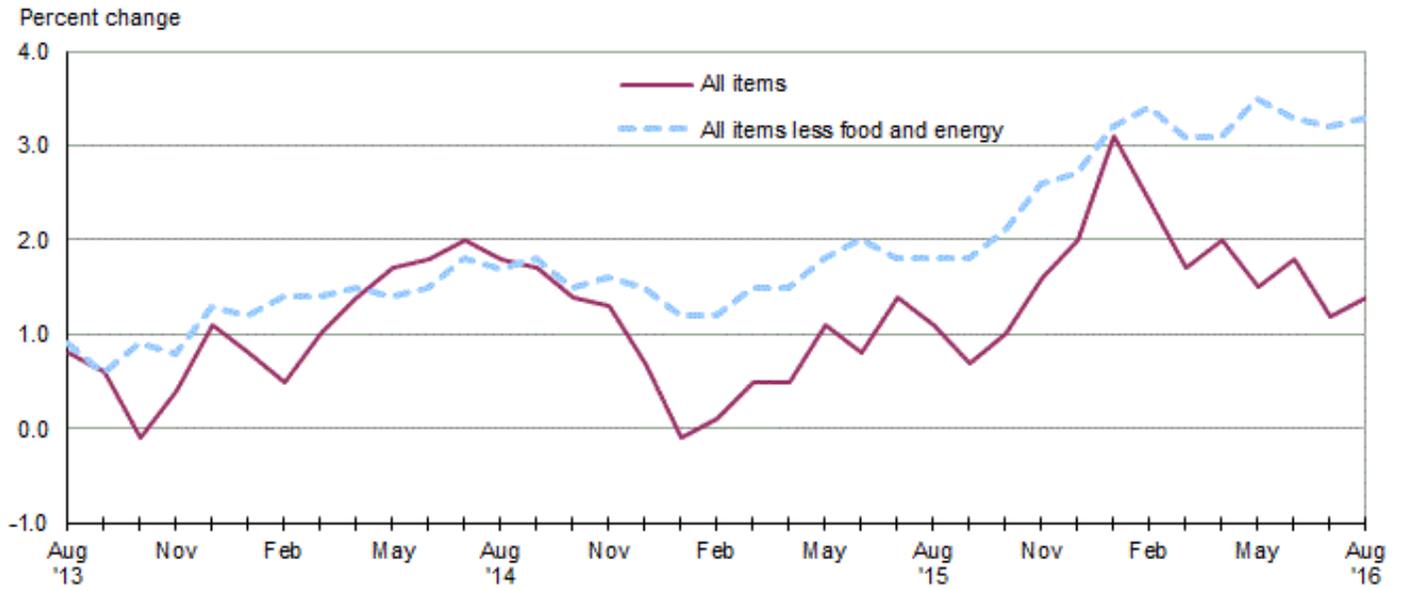
## **Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — August 2016**

**Area prices were unchanged over the past month, up 1.4 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that during this period higher shelter prices helped counter lower gasoline 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 rose 1.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices dropped 16.5 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.3 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, August 2013–August 2016**



## Food

Food prices edged down 0.2 percent for the month of August. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home decreased 0.4 percent, while prices for food away from home were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 0.7 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 4.0 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home decreased 1.7 percent.

## Energy

The energy index declined 3.5 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-6.9 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged in the same period, while prices for natural gas service increased 3.6 percent.

Energy prices dropped 16.5 percent over the year, primarily due to lower prices for gasoline (-27.7 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 2.2 percent, and prices paid for natural gas service increased 8.3 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent in August. Higher prices for apparel (3.5 percent), medical care (0.6 percent), and shelter (0.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-0.9 percent) and recreation (-0.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (11.0 percent) and shelter (4.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in education and communication (-2.3 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-1.5 percent).

**Table A. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Monthly	Annual										
January.....	0.9	1.8	0.8	2.1	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	-0.1	0.7	3.1
February.....	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	2.4
March.....	1.1	3.0	1.0	2.0	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.3	1.7
April.....	0.5	3.3	0.0	1.5	-0.4	0.9	0.0	1.4	-0.1	0.5	0.2	2.0
May.....	0.0	3.1	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.5
June.....	-0.4	2.9	-0.4	1.6	-0.1	1.4	0.1	1.8	-0.3	0.8	0.1	1.8
July.....	-0.4	2.4	-0.1	1.9	-0.1	1.3	0.1	2.0	0.7	1.4	0.0	1.2
August.....	0.2	2.4	0.6	2.3	0.1	0.8	-0.1	1.8	-0.3	1.1	0.0	1.4
September.....	0.5	3.1	0.4	2.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.7	-0.4	0.7		
October.....	0.0	2.8	0.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4	0.2	1.0		
November.....	-0.1	3.0	-1.0	2.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.7	1.3	0.0	1.6		
December.....	-0.5	2.2	-0.7	1.9	0.0	1.1	-0.5	0.7	-0.1	2.0		

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**The September 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released on Tuesday October 18, 2016.**

### **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](http://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](http://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 Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties in the State of California.

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 Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	249.947	249.936	249.852	1.4	0.0	0.0
All items (1967=100).....	738.454	738.422	738.174	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	251.004	251.194	250.820	0.9	-0.1	-0.1
Food.....	251.154	251.326	250.771	0.7	-0.2	-0.2
Food at home.....	254.595	254.255	253.217	-1.7	-0.5	-0.4
Food away from home.....	243.144	243.944	243.992	4.0	0.3	0.0
Alcoholic beverages.....	233.951	234.378	236.634	3.2	1.1	1.0
Housing.....	276.626	277.721	278.827	4.0	0.8	0.4
Shelter.....	315.521	317.028	318.650	4.8	1.0	0.5
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	329.915	331.727	333.819	4.9	1.2	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	327.546	329.343	330.789	4.6	1.0	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	327.527	329.324	330.770	4.6	1.0	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	300.817	301.456	303.350	2.7	0.8	0.6
Household energy.....	261.739	266.117	268.581	3.3	2.6	0.9
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	260.003	264.979	267.472	3.3	2.9	0.9
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	296.613	297.137	297.154	2.2	0.2	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	220.986	236.801	245.277	8.3	11.0	3.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	114.955	114.741	113.705	-1.5	-1.1	-0.9
Apparel.....	109.947	108.518	112.359	0.9	2.2	3.5
Transportation.....	195.993	194.234	189.529	-8.6	-3.3	-2.4
Private transportation.....	190.370	189.800	184.964	-8.9	-2.8	-2.5
Motor fuel.....	223.300	220.516	205.366	-27.6	-8.0	-6.9
Gasoline (all types).....	218.530	215.797	200.841	-27.7	-8.1	-6.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	218.907	216.123	200.955	-28.0	-8.2	-7.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	209.352	207.820	194.039	-27.6	-7.3	-6.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	208.968	206.368	192.970	-26.3	-7.7	-6.5
Medical care.....	468.661	468.604	471.505	11.0	0.6	0.6
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	106.631	106.964	106.315	2.8	-0.3	-0.6
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	145.366	143.580	143.228	-2.3	-1.5	-0.2
Other goods and services.....	386.699	390.008	392.387	1.7	1.5	0.6
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	249.947	249.936	249.852	1.4	0.0	0.0
Commodities.....	174.677	174.221	172.983	-3.6	-1.0	-0.7
Commodities less food & beverages.....	134.689	133.993	132.467	-7.0	-1.6	-1.1
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	175.862	174.586	172.384	-8.6	-2.0	-1.3
Durables.....	94.331	94.207	93.346	-4.3	-1.0	-0.9
Services.....	316.920	317.310	318.261	4.3	0.4	0.3
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care.....	240.514	240.505	240.307	0.8	-0.1	-0.1
All items less shelter.....	221.364	220.661	219.797	-0.6	-0.7	-0.4
Commodities less food.....	138.979	138.304	136.858	-6.5	-1.5	-1.0
Nondurables.....	214.374	213.744	212.335	-3.5	-1.0	-0.7
Nondurables less food.....	181.421	180.214	178.209	-7.7	-1.8	-1.1
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	327.996	326.745	326.724	3.6	-0.4	0.0
Services less medical care services.....	304.460	304.893	305.702	3.8	0.4	0.3
Energy.....	238.883	238.837	230.391	-16.5	-3.6	-3.5

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016	Aug. 2016	Aug. 2015	Jun. 2016	Jul. 2016
All items less energy.....	252.679	252.671	253.217	2.9	0.2	0.2
All items less food and energy.....	253.273	253.235	253.968	3.3	0.3	0.3

(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) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

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

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

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