



For Release: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

16-1000-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

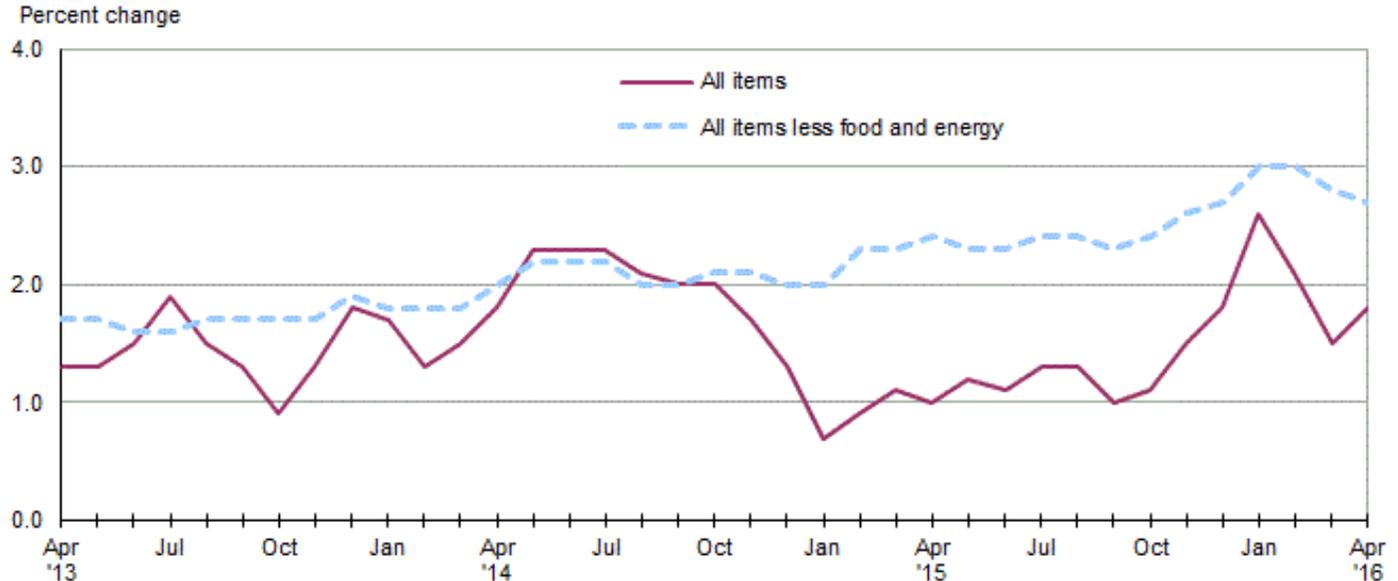
Consumer Price Index, West Region — April 2016

Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past month, up 1.8 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.5 percent in April, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) The April increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and recreation. (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 1.8 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) Energy prices decreased 7.9 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, April 2013–April 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices were unchanged for the month of April. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home were virtually unchanged (-0.1 percent), while prices for food away from home advanced 0.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 1.4 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.3 percent since

a year ago, yet prices for food at home were unchanged.

Energy

The energy index rose 4.8 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (8.9 percent). Prices for natural gas service advanced 4.0 percent, while prices for electricity were virtually unchanged (-0.1 percent) for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 7.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-14.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service decreased 5.5 percent, but prices paid for electricity increased 1.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy crept up 0.2 percent in April. Higher prices for recreation (0.7 percent) and apparel (0.6 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.5 percent) and medical care (2.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in household furnishings and operations (-0.6 percent).

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Monthly	Annual										
January.....	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6
February.....	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1
March.....	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5
April.....	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8
May.....	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2		
June.....	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1		
July.....	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3		
August.....	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3		
September.....	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0		
October.....	0.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1		
November.....	-0.2	3.2	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5		
December.....	-0.3	2.7	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8		

The May 2016 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on June 16, 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 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-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	244.821	245.404	246.589	1.8	0.7	0.5
All items (December 1977=100).....	395.739	396.681	398.597			
Food and beverages.....	252.898	251.809	252.018	1.4	-0.3	0.1
Food.....	252.966	251.882	252.003	1.4	-0.4	0.0
Food at home.....	250.045	247.901	247.623	0.0	-1.0	-0.1
Food away from home.....	255.841	256.275	256.965	3.3	0.4	0.3
Alcoholic beverages.....	248.670	247.520	248.907	2.5	0.1	0.6
Housing.....	261.126	261.671	261.967	3.7	0.3	0.1
Shelter.....	296.707	297.777	298.069	4.5	0.5	0.1
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	311.351	312.443	313.242	4.9	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	310.751	311.834	312.866	4.7	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	310.742	311.831	312.866	4.7	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	278.267	276.515	278.853	1.3	0.2	0.8
Household energy.....	239.532	237.235	239.117	-0.3	-0.2	0.8
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	241.383	239.236	241.273	-0.4	0.0	0.9
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	266.632	268.322	268.148	1.2	0.6	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	196.429	184.968	192.420	-5.5	-2.0	4.0
Household furnishings and operations.....	130.220	129.960	129.304	-0.6	-0.7	-0.5
Apparel.....	119.697	120.739	121.463	0.2	1.5	0.6
Transportation.....	190.635	193.690	198.203	-2.7	4.0	2.3
Private transportation.....	184.063	187.324	191.566	-2.9	4.1	2.3
New and used motor vehicles ⁽³⁾	100.691	101.601	102.074	0.0	1.4	0.5
New vehicles.....	147.376	148.043	148.223	0.5	0.6	0.1
New cars and trucks ^{(3) (4)}	102.354	102.815	102.932	0.5	0.6	0.1
New cars ⁽⁴⁾	146.173	146.169	146.177	-0.3	0.0	0.0
Used cars and trucks.....	138.133	140.089	141.238	-2.5	2.2	0.8
Motor fuel.....	173.893	184.310	200.563	-14.2	15.3	8.8
Gasoline (all types).....	173.287	183.791	200.130	-14.1	15.5	8.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽⁴⁾	170.322	180.770	197.293	-14.6	15.8	9.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(4) (5)}	168.365	179.465	193.552	-13.0	15.0	7.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽⁴⁾	174.285	183.889	198.496	-12.2	13.9	7.9
Medical Care.....	466.390	464.715	466.222	2.2	0.0	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	351.417	351.389	351.872	2.0	0.1	0.1
Medical care services.....	503.121	500.851	502.722	2.3	-0.1	0.4
Professional services.....	345.538	345.751	348.154	3.4	0.8	0.7
Recreation ⁽³⁾	111.764	111.247	111.985	1.8	0.2	0.7
Education and communication ⁽³⁾	138.429	138.530	138.508	0.1	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services.....	405.812	406.765	407.450	1.3	0.4	0.2
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	244.821	245.404	246.589	1.8	0.7	0.5
Commodities.....	176.682	177.373	178.873	-1.0	1.2	0.8
Commodities less food & beverages.....	139.193	140.548	142.486	-2.8	2.4	1.4
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	171.339	173.836	177.976	-4.0	3.9	2.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel.....	208.314	211.798	218.212	-5.4	4.8	3.0
Durables.....	109.165	109.556	109.655	-1.0	0.4	0.1
Services.....	307.770	308.242	309.109	3.4	0.4	0.3
Rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	315.685	316.831	317.164	4.5	0.5	0.1
Transportation services.....	286.440	287.083	289.811	2.7	1.2	1.0

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-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Other services.....	339.607	339.874	340.851	1.9	0.4	0.3
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care.....	234.701	235.382	236.552	1.7	0.8	0.5
All items less food.....	243.730	244.570	245.920	1.8	0.9	0.6
All items less shelter.....	224.910	225.290	226.868	0.3	0.9	0.7
Commodities less food.....	143.228	144.528	146.467	-2.6	2.3	1.3
Nondurables.....	211.634	212.485	214.839	-1.1	1.5	1.1
Nondurables less food.....	176.818	179.126	183.137	-3.5	3.6	2.2
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	211.786	214.852	220.811	-4.6	4.3	2.8
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	332.466	332.098	333.772	2.1	0.4	0.5
Services less medical care services.....	294.210	294.857	295.656	3.5	0.5	0.3
Energy.....	205.191	210.052	220.077	-7.9	7.3	4.8
All items less energy.....	249.793	250.060	250.593	2.5	0.3	0.2
All items less food and energy.....	250.019	250.516	251.120	2.7	0.4	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities.....	140.513	140.772	141.053	-0.3	0.4	0.2
Energy commodities.....	178.266	188.493	204.648	-13.9	14.8	8.6
Services less energy services.....	312.779	313.415	314.211	3.6	0.5	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⁾ 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.