NEWS RELEASE
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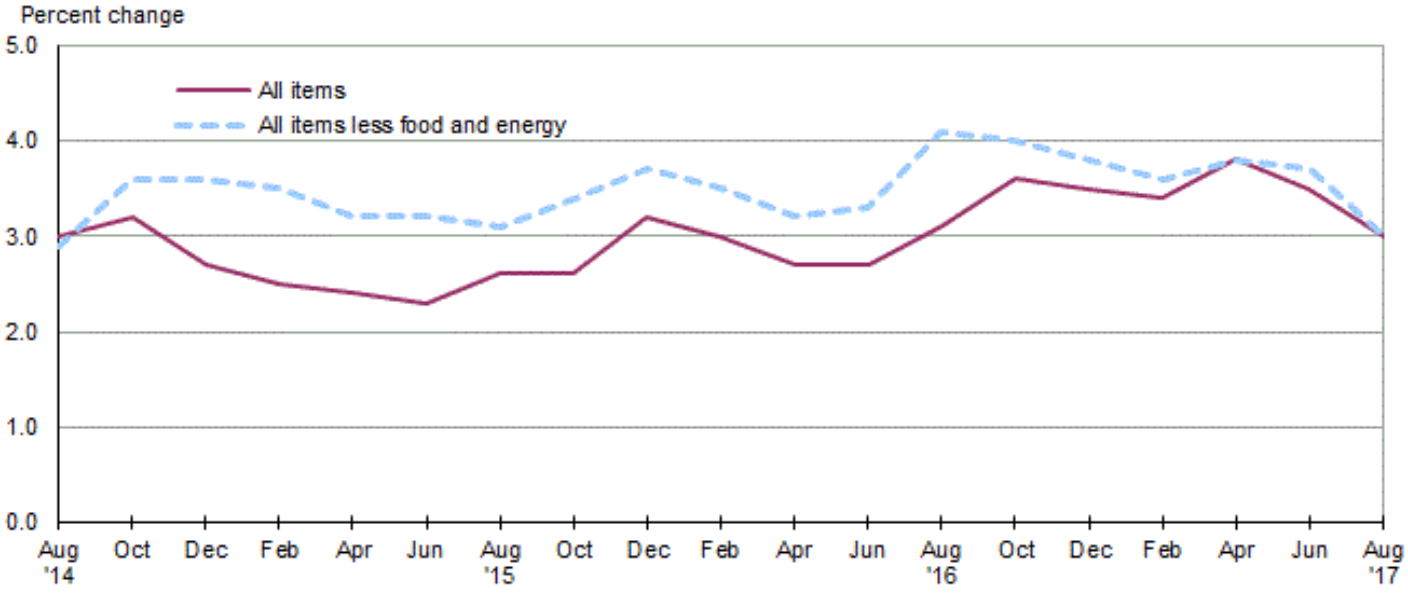
Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — August 2017

Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past two months, up 3.0 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), moved up 0.2 percent for the two months ending in August 2017, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the August increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and, to a lesser extent, food. (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 increased 3.0 percent. (See chart 1 and table A.) Energy prices rose 6.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.0 percent over the year. (See table 1.)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Francisco, August 2014–August 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 1.0 percent for the two months ending in August. (See table 1.) Prices for food away from home advanced 1.0 percent, and prices for food at home rose 0.9 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 1.3 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 2.7 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home decreased 0.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 2.0 percent for the two months ending in August. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-2.7 percent). Prices for natural gas service decreased 4.0 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices rose 6.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (11.8 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 5.2 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 5.8 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.2 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for recreation (1.5 percent) and shelter (1.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-2.7 percent) and other goods and services (-1.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included other goods and services (5.7 percent) and shelter (5.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-3.3 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-2.0 percent).

Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CPI-U bi-monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual
February	1.1	3.0	1.3	2.4	1.2	2.4	1.0	2.5	0.9	3.0	0.8	3.4
April	0.9	2.1	0.8	2.4	1.2	2.8	1.1	2.4	0.7	2.7	1.1	3.8
June	0.3	2.6	0.5	2.6	0.7	3.0	0.6	2.3	0.6	2.7	0.3	3.5
August	0.6	2.8	0.1	2.0	0.0	3.0	0.3	2.6	0.7	3.1	0.2	3.0
October	0.7	3.2	0.2	1.6	0.5	3.2	0.4	2.6	0.9	3.6		
December	-1.4	2.2	-0.4	2.6	-0.9	2.7	-0.3	3.2	-0.3	3.5		

The October 2017 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose is scheduled to be released on November 15, 2017.

Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS will introduce a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area will be renamed. The first indexes using the new structure will be published in February 2018. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.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 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 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Solano 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 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Aug. 2016	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017
Expenditure category						
All items	275.304	-	275.893	3.0	0.2	-
All items (1967=100)	846.360	-	848.172	-	-	-
Food and beverages	268.137	-	270.544	1.4	0.9	-
Food	268.293	-	270.880	1.3	1.0	-
Food at home	249.315	251.803	251.657	-0.1	0.9	-0.1
Food away from home	291.227	-	294.114	2.7	1.0	-
Alcoholic beverages	271.826	-	272.188	2.7	0.1	-
Housing	324.142	-	326.813	4.8	0.8	-
Shelter	368.358	369.076	372.764	5.6	1.2	1.0
Rent of primary residence(1)	415.888	417.307	419.229	5.2	0.8	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	398.762	399.924	401.482	5.0	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	398.762	399.924	401.482	5.0	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities	396.458	-	395.770	2.8	-0.2	-
Household energy	357.998	353.046	353.682	1.7	-1.2	0.2
Energy services(1)	359.628	354.597	355.214	1.7	-1.2	0.2
Electricity(1)	372.022	372.022	372.022	5.2	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	316.561	302.210	303.968	-5.8	-4.0	0.6
Household furnishings and operations	136.227	-	132.604	-2.0	-2.7	-
Apparel	115.904	-	115.919	-3.3	0.0	-
Transportation	193.954	-	189.392	3.5	-2.4	-
Private transportation	184.323	-	182.032	4.9	-1.2	-
Motor fuel	227.099	218.805	221.035	11.7	-2.7	1.0
Gasoline (all types)	226.286	217.981	220.206	11.8	-2.7	1.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	226.372	217.900	220.161	11.9	-2.7	1.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	211.533	203.264	205.492	11.3	-2.9	1.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	214.481	207.605	209.490	11.3	-2.3	0.9
Medical care	493.123	-	489.826	0.8	-0.7	-
Recreation(5)	112.456	-	114.119	-0.6	1.5	-
Education and communication(5)	141.707	-	140.876	-2.0	-0.6	-
Other goods and services	465.939	-	460.979	5.7	-1.1	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	275.304	-	275.893	3.0	0.2	-
Commodities	184.465	-	184.193	1.6	-0.1	-
Commodities less food & beverages	139.118	-	137.732	1.9	-1.0	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	180.727	-	179.600	3.6	-0.6	-
Durables	98.852	-	97.233	-1.0	-1.6	-
Services	351.076	-	352.340	3.6	0.4	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	266.400	-	267.156	3.2	0.3	-
All items less shelter	237.107	-	235.803	1.0	-0.5	-
Commodities less food	144.789	-	143.447	1.9	-0.9	-
Nondurables	225.761	-	226.283	2.3	0.2	-
Nondurables less food	187.674	-	186.636	3.5	-0.6	-
Services less rent of shelter(2)	344.804	-	341.512	0.4	-1.0	-
Services less medical care services	342.350	-	344.046	3.9	0.5	-
Energy	278.505	271.307	272.988	6.7	-2.0	0.6
All items less energy	278.457	-	279.372	2.8	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 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017	Aug. 2017	Aug. 2016	Jun. 2017	Jul. 2017
All items less food and energy	280.845	-	281.513	3.0	0.2	-

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) 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.