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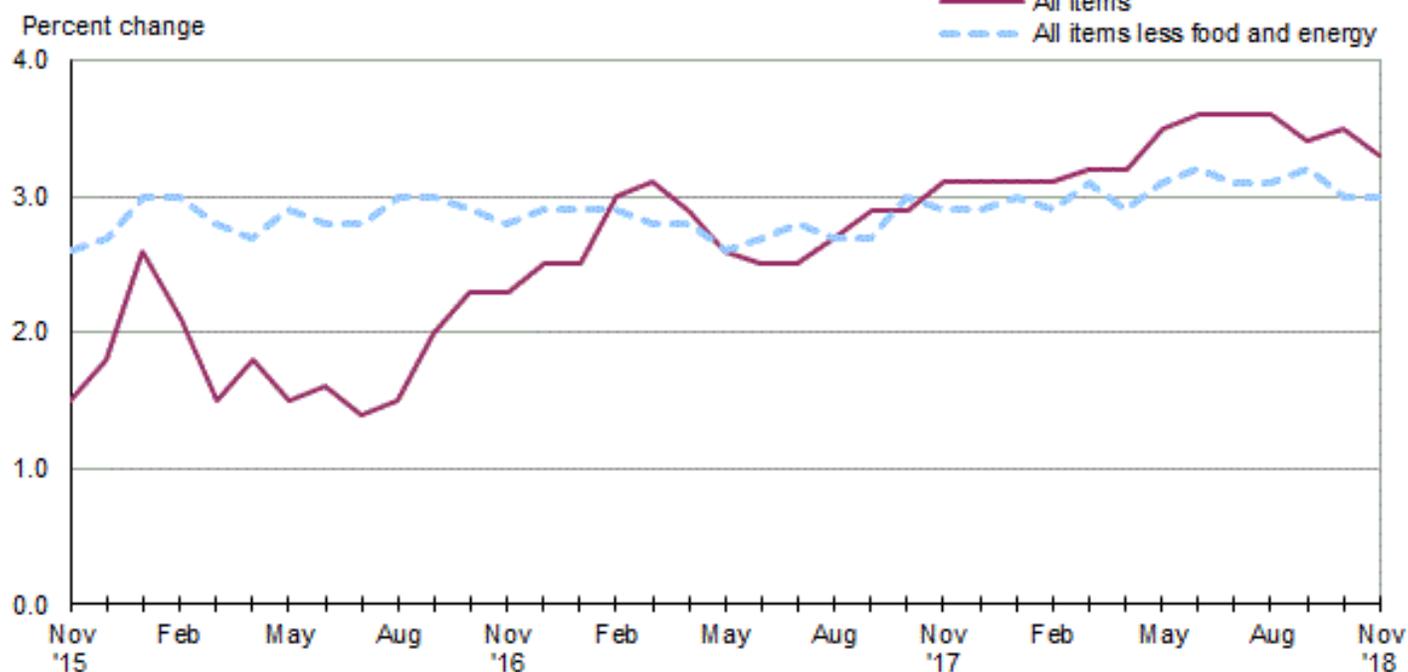
Consumer Price Index, West Region — November 2018

Area prices were down 0.2 percent over the past month, up 3.3 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 0.2 percent in November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) The November decrease was influenced by lower prices for apparel and 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 rose 3.3 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices rose 9.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.0 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, November 2015–November 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

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

Over the year, food prices advanced 2.2 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 3.3 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home rose 1.3 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 2.8 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-2.9 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 5.2 percent, and prices for electricity decreased 2.0 percent for the same period.

Energy prices rose 9.9 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (15.5 percent). Prices paid for electricity increased 2.6 percent, but prices for natural gas service declined 3.6 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in November. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (0.6 percent) and shelter (0.3 percent) helped counter lower prices for apparel (-3.8 percent) and education and communication (-1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 3.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.2 percent) and medical care (2.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-1.1 percent).

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

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Monthly	Annual										
January.....	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5	0.5	3.1
February.....	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0	0.5	3.1
March.....	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1	0.4	3.2
April.....	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.2
May.....	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.5
June.....	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5	0.2	3.6
July.....	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5	0.1	3.6
August.....	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.6
September.....	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	2.9	0.3	3.4
October.....	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.5
November.....	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3	0.0	3.1	-0.2	3.3
December.....	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5	0.1	3.1		

The December 2018 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on January 11, 2019.

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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 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.

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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-		
	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Nov. 2018	Nov. 2017	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	265.105	266.195	265.658	3.3	0.2	-0.2
All items (December 1977=100).....	428.528	430.289	429.421			
Food and beverages	260.238	260.903	261.227	2.3	0.4	0.1
Food	259.955	260.593	260.931	2.2	0.4	0.1
Food at home	246.457	247.233	247.176	1.3	0.3	0.0
Cereals and bakery products	258.351	257.879	260.910		1.0	1.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	255.646	255.331	256.148		0.2	0.3
Dairy and related products	225.997	228.597	226.764		0.3	-0.8
Fruits and vegetables	328.324	328.262	326.857		-0.4	-0.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	171.372	173.788	172.861		0.9	-0.5
Other food at home	210.942	211.686	211.539		0.3	-0.1
Food away from home.....	277.520	277.981	278.829	3.3	0.5	0.3
Alcoholic beverages	260.600	261.592	261.725	2.6	0.4	0.1
Housing	289.398	290.099	290.141	3.8	0.3	0.0
Shelter	333.957	334.494	335.387	4.2	0.4	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1).....	353.140	354.472	356.448	4.8	0.9	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	350.400	351.644	353.001	4.1	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	350.417	351.657	353.009	4.1	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	301.933	301.160	296.737	2.5	-1.7	-1.5
Household energy	257.487	256.716	249.918	1.3	-2.9	-2.6
Energy services(1)	259.548	258.541	251.610	1.4	-3.1	-2.7
Electricity(1).....	288.745	291.133	285.186	2.6	-1.2	-2.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	206.671	196.435	186.173	-3.6	-9.9	-5.2
Household furnishings and operations.....	129.206	130.992	129.971	1.6	0.6	-0.8
Apparel	120.996	121.809	117.200	-1.1	-3.1	-3.8
Transportation	219.326	222.181	221.074	6.4	0.8	-0.5
Private transportation	214.985	217.647	216.667	6.9	0.8	-0.5
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	99.368	100.223	100.804	1.9	1.4	0.6
New vehicles	145.885	146.648	147.272	0.7	1.0	0.4
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	101.315	101.848	102.278	0.7	1.0	0.4
New cars(4).....	143.667	144.055	145.021	1.5	0.9	0.7
Used cars and trucks.....	130.452	131.485	132.754	2.0	1.8	1.0
Motor fuel	273.994	281.378	273.456	15.4	-0.2	-2.8
Gasoline (all types).....	272.802	280.212	272.121	15.5	-0.2	-2.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	270.063	277.448	269.291	15.6	-0.3	-2.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	259.277	265.885	260.202	15.6	0.4	-2.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	265.956	272.982	265.512	14.5	-0.2	-2.7
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	847.893	852.160	854.876		0.8	0.3
Medical Care	495.094	496.643	498.112	2.8	0.6	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	382.609	384.194	385.779	2.6	0.8	0.4
Medical care services.....	530.461	531.989	533.409	2.8	0.6	0.3
Professional services	354.466	355.136	355.201	0.5	0.2	0.0
Recreation(3).....	113.933	114.160	114.244	1.0	0.3	0.1
Education and communication(3).....	138.175	138.038	136.678	0.1	-1.1	-1.0
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6)	1,457.206	1,458.510	1,460.115		0.2	0.1
Other goods and services	437.335	438.842	440.655	2.9	0.8	0.4
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	265.105	266.195	265.658	3.3	0.2	-0.2
Commodities	185.784	187.076	185.928	2.6	0.1	-0.6

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-		
	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018	Nov. 2018	Nov. 2017	Sep. 2018	Oct. 2018
Commodities less food & beverages.....	148.525	149.986	148.347	2.7	-0.1	-1.1
Nondurables less food & beverages	198.314	200.593	196.810	5.0	-0.8	-1.9
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	252.441	255.761	252.612	7.2	0.1	-1.2
Durables	104.306	105.083	105.143	-0.3	0.8	0.1
Services.....	338.639	339.488	339.594	3.7	0.3	0.0
Rent of shelter(2).....	355.560	356.135	357.100	4.2	0.4	0.3
Transportation services	320.048	322.968	323.655	5.2	1.1	0.2
Other services	353.861	355.272	353.623	2.4	-0.1	-0.5
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	254.579	255.646	255.025	3.4	0.2	-0.2
All items less food	266.086	267.246	266.572	3.5	0.2	-0.3
All items less shelter.....	238.155	239.469	238.357	2.8	0.1	-0.5
Commodities less food	152.706	154.166	152.561	2.7	-0.1	-1.0
Nondurables	229.819	231.381	229.451	3.6	-0.2	-0.8
Nondurables less food.....	203.099	205.317	201.737	4.8	-0.7	-1.7
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	252.912	256.007	253.173	6.7	0.1	-1.1
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	354.992	356.282	355.316	3.2	0.1	-0.3
Services less medical care services.....	325.212	326.014	326.034	3.8	0.3	0.0
Energy	271.577	275.834	268.239	9.9	-1.2	-2.8
All items less energy	266.840	267.708	267.680	2.9	0.3	0.0
All items less food and energy	268.827	269.737	269.647	3.0	0.3	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	139.347	140.104	139.238	0.2	-0.1	-0.6
Energy commodities.....	278.696	286.234	278.235	15.2	-0.2	-2.8
Services less energy services.....	344.541	345.495	345.988	3.8	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) Indexes 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.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available

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.