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WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

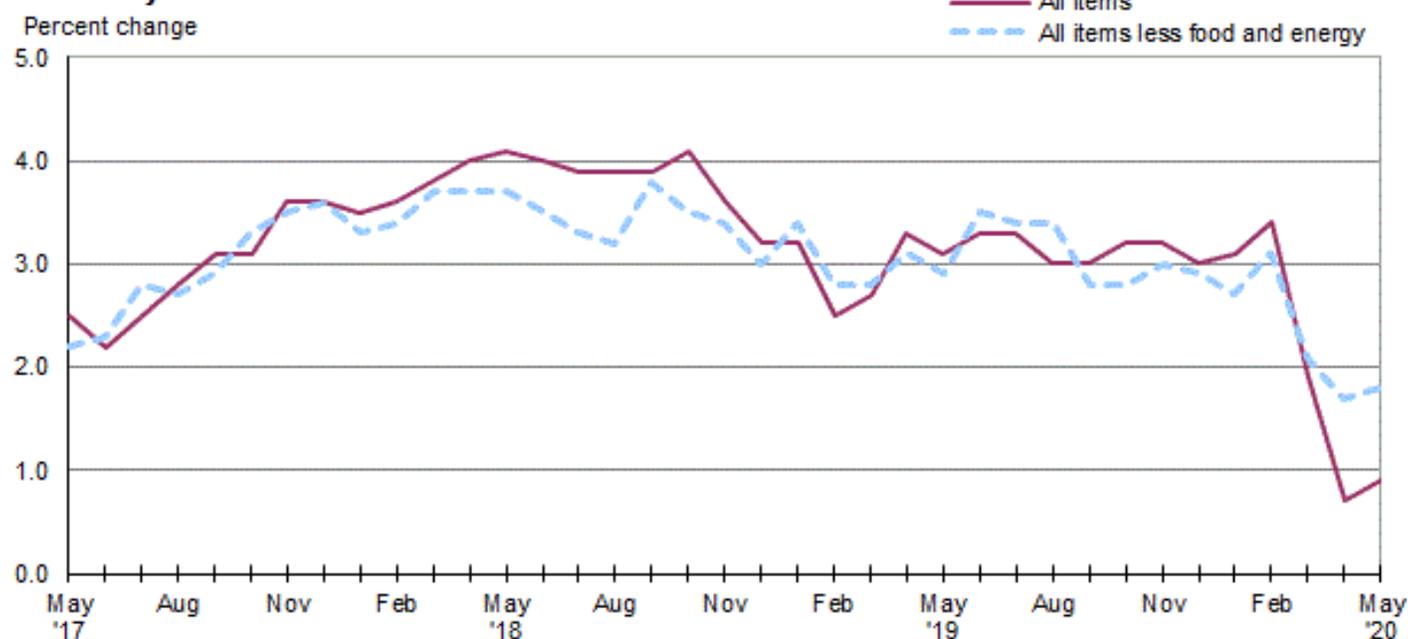
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – May 2020

Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past month, up 0.9 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.4 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the May increase was influenced by higher prices for food and medical care. (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 0.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.8 percent over the year. Food prices rose 4.5 percent. Energy prices fell 17.4 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, May 2017–May 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 1.1 percent for the month of May. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home rose 2.0 percent, and prices for food away from home advanced 0.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.5 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 4.9 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home rose 4.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 1.2 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for natural gas service (18.6 percent). Prices for electricity rose 3.8 percent, but prices for gasoline decreased 3.1 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 17.4 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-30.5 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service increased 15.8 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 6.9 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy moved up 0.2 percent in May. Higher prices for medical care (2.3 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new and used motor vehicles (-0.9 percent) and recreation (-0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (5.6 percent) and shelter (3.5 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-5.0 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-1.5 percent).

Table A. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month								
January.....	0.7	3.1	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.7	3.2	0.8	3.1
February.....	0.0	2.4	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.6	0.1	2.5	0.3	3.4
March.....	0.3	1.7	0.3	2.7	0.4	3.8	0.6	2.7	-0.7	1.9
April.....	0.2	2.0	0.2	2.7	0.4	4.0	1.0	3.3	-0.3	0.7
May.....	0.5	1.4	0.3	2.5	0.4	4.1	0.2	3.1	0.4	0.9
June.....	0.1	1.8	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	4.0	0.0	3.3		
July.....	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3		
August.....	0.0	1.4	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0		
September.....	0.2	1.9	0.4	3.1	0.5	3.9	0.5	3.0		
October.....	0.4	2.2	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.2		
November.....	-0.4	1.8	0.1	3.6	-0.3	3.6	-0.3	3.2		
December.....	0.0	2.0	0.0	3.6	-0.3	3.2	-0.6	3.0		

The June 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on July 14, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on May 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in May was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.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 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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles and Orange 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-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	May 2019	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	276.589	275.853	276.842	0.9	0.1	0.4
All items (1967=100).....	817.166	814.991	817.913	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	271.669	276.101	278.810	4.7	2.6	1.0
Food.....	273.203	276.185	279.152	4.5	2.2	1.1
Food at home.....	258.171	262.351	267.566	4.2	3.6	2.0
Cereals and bakery products.....	271.720	284.534	282.739	2.3	4.1	-0.6
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	283.766	288.203	306.865	8.7	8.1	6.5
Dairy and related products.....	250.076	260.443	263.686	6.5	5.4	1.2
Fruits and vegetables.....	348.884	348.901	347.840	1.4	-0.3	-0.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	261.974	267.840	271.735	4.7	3.7	1.5
Other food at home.....	196.346	196.149	199.090	1.7	1.4	1.5
Food away from home.....	285.087	286.872	287.618	4.9	0.9	0.3
Alcoholic beverages.....	234.149	255.200	254.708	6.4	8.8	-0.2
Housing.....	321.162	322.624	324.152	3.3	0.9	0.5
Shelter.....	372.238	373.697	374.276	3.5	0.5	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2).....	397.220	398.555	399.259	4.4	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	387.573	389.571	390.476	3.9	0.7	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	387.550	389.549	390.454	3.9	0.7	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	332.849	332.824	349.707	6.6	5.1	5.1
Household energy.....	285.837	285.806	306.992	9.0	7.4	7.4
Energy services(2).....	284.438	284.472	305.686	9.1	7.5	7.5
Electricity(2).....	336.323	332.952	345.607	6.9	2.8	3.8
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	216.079	223.100	264.700	15.8	22.5	18.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	119.239	121.095	120.960	-1.5	1.4	-0.1
Apparel.....	109.624	103.359	103.244	-5.0	-5.8	-0.1
Transportation.....	206.780	196.441	194.270	-13.3	-6.0	-1.1
Private transportation.....	205.655	195.216	192.695	-12.6	-6.3	-1.3
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	90.780	90.854	90.029	-2.0	-0.8	-0.9
New vehicles(1).....	171.255	170.766	172.184	0.7	0.5	0.8
Used cars and trucks(1).....	269.562	266.420	264.445	-0.7	-1.9	-0.7
Motor fuel.....	252.972	222.500	215.604	-30.5	-14.8	-3.1
Gasoline (all types).....	247.056	217.188	210.463	-30.5	-14.8	-3.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	246.587	216.272	209.198	-31.2	-15.2	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	239.988	213.621	205.559	-29.2	-14.3	-3.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	238.851	212.267	207.318	-27.8	-13.2	-2.3
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	786.324	679.162	679.162	-12.4	-13.6	0.0
Medical care.....	500.341	499.720	511.177	5.6	2.2	2.3
Recreation(6).....	107.776	108.317	107.591	2.8	-0.2	-0.7
Education and communication(6).....	148.729	149.159	149.334	1.6	0.4	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,960.820	1,963.667	1,968.023	3.9	0.4	0.2
Other goods and services.....	445.003	450.417	449.121	3.2	0.9	-0.3
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	276.589	275.853	276.842	0.9	0.1	0.4
Commodities.....	182.697	180.993	181.378	-3.1	-0.7	0.2
Commodities less food & beverages.....	137.012	132.570	131.888	-9.2	-3.7	-0.5
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	185.427	176.017	174.971	-12.5	-5.6	-0.6
Durables.....	90.062	89.794	89.441	-3.6	-0.7	-0.4
Services.....	360.201	360.450	362.004	2.8	0.5	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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	May 2019	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	266.878	266.142	266.754	0.6	0.0	0.2
All items less shelter.....	234.478	232.812	233.970	-0.9	-0.2	0.5
Commodities less food	141.363	137.783	137.103	-8.3	-3.0	-0.5
Nondurables	229.726	227.215	228.048	-2.9	-0.7	0.4
Nondurables less food.....	190.854	183.606	182.591	-10.8	-4.3	-0.6
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	352.444	350.960	353.953	1.8	0.4	0.9
Services less medical care services.....	347.252	347.441	348.431	2.4	0.3	0.3
Energy	266.478	246.634	249.692	-17.4	-6.3	1.2
All items less energy	279.462	280.000	280.859	2.2	0.5	0.3
All items less food and energy	280.815	280.885	281.340	1.8	0.2	0.2

Footnotes

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

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

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

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

- Data not available

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