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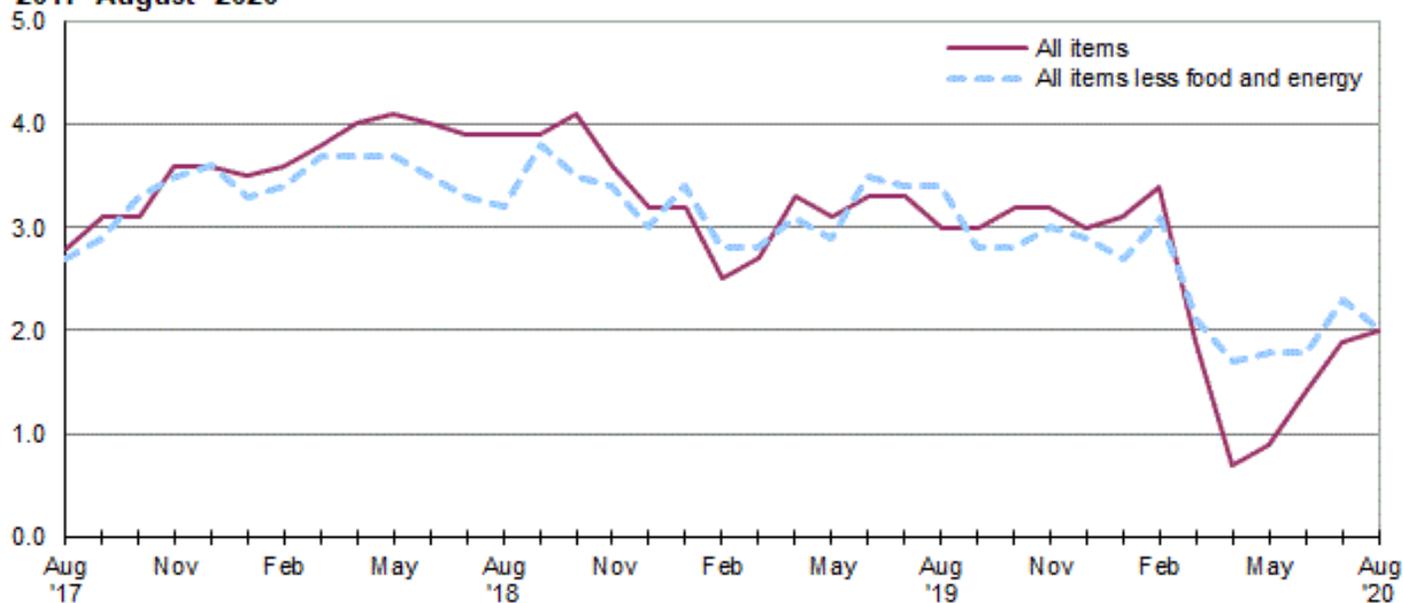
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – August 2020

Area prices were up 0.1 percent over the past month, up 2.0 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.1 percent in August, 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 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 advanced 2.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent over the year. Food prices rose 4.9 percent. Energy prices decreased 4.5 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, August 2017–August 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 0.2 percent for the month of August. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 0.3 percent, largely due to meats, poultry, fish and eggs prices (1.6 percent), while prices for food away from home were unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.9 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 5.6 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 4.2 percent, with meat, poultry, fish and eggs prices rising 8.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 1.3 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (2.3 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, but prices for natural gas service decreased 0.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 4.5 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-11.6 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 13.1 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 6.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in August. Higher prices for used cars and trucks (5.7 percent), apparel (3.2 percent), and education and communication (0.5 percent) helped counter prices for other goods and services (-1.2 percent), medical care (-0.8 percent), and shelter (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (4.2 percent) and shelter (2.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in new and used motor vehicles (-1.9 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	0.5	1.4
July.....	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3	0.6	1.9
August.....	0.0	1.4	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0	0.1	2.0
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 September 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on October 13, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on August 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 August 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-		
	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2019	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	278.121	279.899	280.116	2.0	0.7	0.1
All items (1967=100).....	821.692	826.946	827.588	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	279.880	279.461	280.291	5.0	0.1	0.3
Food.....	278.999	280.204	280.676	4.9	0.6	0.2
Food at home.....	265.933	265.709	266.554	4.2	0.2	0.3
Cereals and bakery products.....	279.137	275.677	276.742	1.8	-0.9	0.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	304.442	295.628	300.468	8.1	-1.3	1.6
Dairy and related products.....	254.502	256.966	258.292	3.1	1.5	0.5
Fruits and vegetables.....	355.139	363.937	358.768	3.2	1.0	-1.4
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	271.228	264.679	265.168	2.7	-2.2	0.2
Other food at home.....	196.604	200.909	201.754	3.6	2.6	0.4
Food away from home.....	288.908	291.494	291.598	5.6	0.9	0.0
Alcoholic beverages.....	269.985	250.624	255.566	6.1	-5.3	2.0
Housing.....	324.922	326.919	326.442	2.9	0.5	-0.1
Shelter.....	375.172	377.002	376.498	2.8	0.4	-0.1
Rent of primary residence(2).....	399.973	400.287	399.595	3.1	-0.1	-0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	391.458	392.021	392.128	3.0	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	391.436	391.998	392.106	3.0	0.2	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	349.898	356.211	355.981	7.1	1.7	-0.1
Household energy.....	307.227	308.821	308.539	8.1	0.4	-0.1
Energy services(2).....	305.967	307.536	307.244	8.2	0.4	-0.1
Electricity(2).....	344.110	347.185	347.185	6.5	0.9	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	268.666	267.355	266.427	13.1	-0.8	-0.3
Household furnishings and operations.....	121.428	122.514	122.081	0.4	0.5	-0.4
Apparel.....	104.058	105.437	108.784	0.8	4.5	3.2
Transportation.....	199.707	202.731	203.755	-4.8	2.0	0.5
Private transportation.....	198.058	201.397	202.833	-4.1	2.4	0.7
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	89.615	89.794	89.904	-1.9	0.3	0.1
New vehicles(1).....	171.152	170.138	169.966	0.8	-0.7	-0.1
Used cars and trucks(1).....	261.205	269.844	285.349	3.1	9.2	5.7
Motor fuel.....	228.537	238.014	243.443	-11.6	6.5	2.3
Gasoline (all types).....	223.166	232.451	237.788	-11.6	6.6	2.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	222.328	231.515	236.984	-11.9	6.6	2.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	215.821	224.835	230.383	-11.6	6.7	2.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	218.181	227.498	232.088	-9.9	6.4	2.0
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	768.278	786.324	786.324	1.5	2.3	0.0
Medical care.....	506.888	511.623	507.625	4.2	0.1	-0.8
Recreation(6).....	106.313	105.458	105.364	1.0	-0.9	-0.1
Education and communication(6).....	148.297	150.956	151.748	1.9	2.3	0.5
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,969.840	1,969.854	1,984.396	1.7	0.7	0.7
Other goods and services.....	460.930	459.519	453.984	1.7	-1.5	-1.2
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	278.121	279.899	280.116	2.0	0.7	0.1
Commodities.....	182.603	183.933	185.074	0.8	1.4	0.6
Commodities less food & beverages.....	133.148	135.234	136.484	-2.8	2.5	0.9
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	177.915	181.290	183.102	-3.9	2.9	1.0
Durables.....	89.304	90.243	90.972	-1.2	1.9	0.8
Services.....	363.293	365.455	364.748	2.6	0.4	-0.2

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-		
	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Aug. 2020	Aug. 2019	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	268.222	269.884	270.249	1.9	0.8	0.1
All items less shelter.....	235.405	237.153	237.676	1.5	1.0	0.2
Commodities less food	138.862	140.211	141.600	-2.2	2.0	1.0
Nondurables	230.067	231.556	232.884	1.3	1.2	0.6
Nondurables less food.....	186.476	188.202	190.263	-2.9	2.0	1.1
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	355.848	358.530	357.515	2.3	0.5	-0.3
Services less medical care services.....	349.903	351.878	351.370	2.3	0.4	-0.1
Energy	258.193	264.930	268.363	-4.5	3.9	1.3
All items less energy	281.664	283.124	283.128	2.5	0.5	0.0
All items less food and energy	282.329	283.839	283.752	2.0	0.5	0.0

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.