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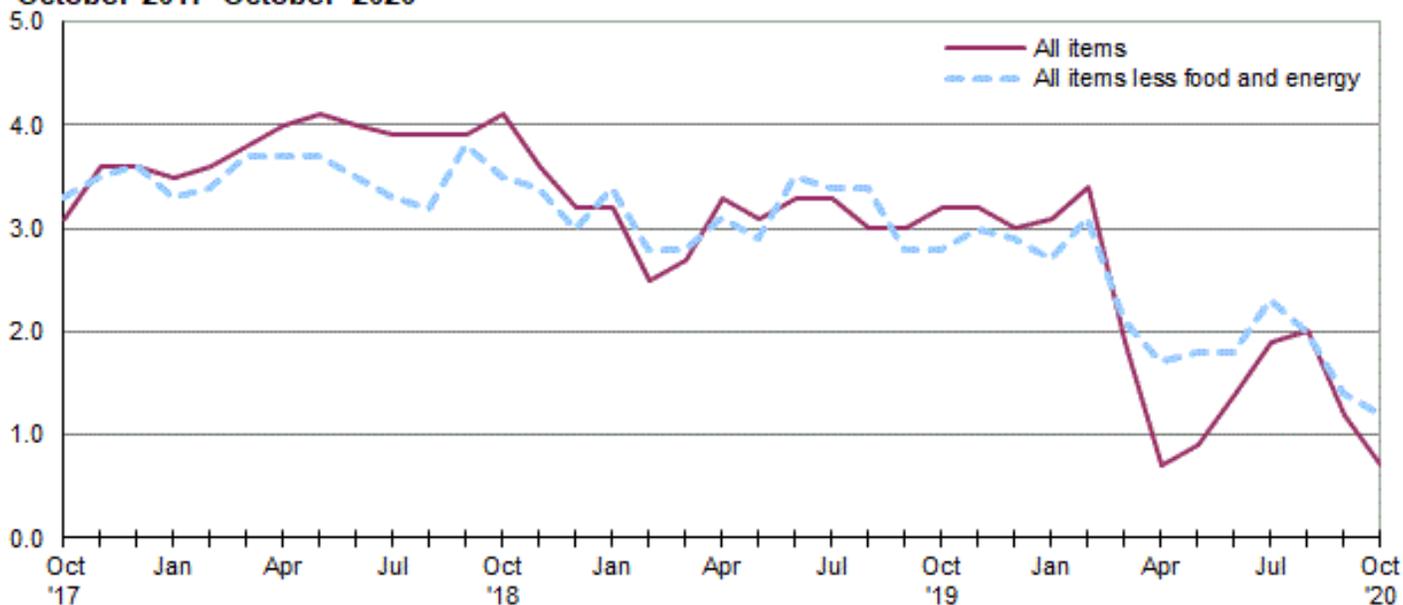
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – October 2020

Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 0.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), crept up 0.2 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the October increase was influenced by higher prices for food 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 increased 0.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent over the year. Food prices rose 4.5 percent. Energy prices fell 13.2 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, October 2017–October 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.5 percent for the month of October. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home rose 0.9 percent, and prices for food away from home crept up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.5 percent. Prices for food at home rose 3.9 percent, influenced by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (6.2 percent). Prices for food away from home rose 5.2 percent since a year ago.

Energy

The energy index rose 0.5 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for electricity (4.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service advanced 0.8 percent, but prices for gasoline declined 1.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 13.2 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-24.4 percent). Meanwhile, prices paid for natural gas service jumped 11.7 percent, and prices for electricity increased 9.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.1 percent in October. Higher prices for other goods and services (1.6 percent) and recreation (1.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new vehicles (-1.7 percent), apparel (-1.7 percent) and medical care (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (4.6 percent) and shelter (1.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in new and used motor vehicles (-3.9 percent), recreation (-2.5 percent), and household furnishings and operations (-1.8 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	-0.3	1.2
October.....	0.4	2.2	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.2	0.2	0.7
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 November 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on December 10, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on October 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 October 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.

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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-		
	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	280.116	279.366	279.947	0.7	-0.1	0.2
All items (1967=100).....	827.588	825.370	827.088	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	280.291	280.194	281.665	4.8	0.5	0.5
Food.....	280.676	280.609	282.121	4.5	0.5	0.5
Food at home.....	266.554	264.757	267.182	3.9	0.2	0.9
Cereals and bakery products.....	276.742	279.528	280.215	1.4	1.3	0.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	300.468	293.475	297.874	6.2	-0.9	1.5
Dairy and related products.....	258.292	264.571	257.931	3.5	-0.1	-2.5
Fruits and vegetables.....	358.768	358.118	364.104	4.8	1.5	1.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	265.168	263.847	264.366	4.4	-0.3	0.2
Other food at home.....	201.754	198.226	202.108	1.9	0.2	2.0
Food away from home.....	291.598	293.217	293.824	5.2	0.8	0.2
Alcoholic beverages.....	255.566	255.132	256.017	7.7	0.2	0.3
Housing.....	326.442	325.431	325.723	2.0	-0.2	0.1
Shelter.....	376.498	375.451	375.196	1.9	-0.3	-0.1
Rent of primary residence(2).....	399.595	399.559	399.028	1.8	-0.1	-0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	392.128	391.998	391.973	2.5	0.0	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	392.106	391.975	391.950	2.5	0.0	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	355.981	355.796	363.872	7.7	2.2	2.3
Household energy.....	308.539	308.311	318.229	9.6	3.1	3.2
Energy services(2).....	307.244	307.037	316.915	9.7	3.1	3.2
Electricity(2).....	347.185	346.838	361.126	9.1	4.0	4.1
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	266.427	266.479	268.634	11.7	0.8	0.8
Household furnishings and operations.....	122.081	120.996	120.701	-1.8	-1.1	-0.2
Apparel.....	108.784	112.550	110.685	1.2	1.7	-1.7
Transportation.....	203.755	203.106	203.415	-9.6	-0.2	0.2
Private transportation.....	202.833	201.449	199.929	-10.2	-1.4	-0.8
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	89.904	88.250	87.585	-3.9	-2.6	-0.8
New vehicles(1).....	169.966	169.256	166.373	-1.2	-2.1	-1.7
Used cars and trucks(1).....	285.349	290.562	293.357	10.6	2.8	1.0
Motor fuel.....	243.443	245.315	242.042	-24.3	-0.6	-1.3
Gasoline (all types).....	237.788	239.630	236.445	-24.4	-0.6	-1.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	236.984	238.628	235.584	-24.8	-0.6	-1.3
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	230.383	232.920	229.142	-23.8	-0.5	-1.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	232.088	234.518	231.003	-22.3	-0.5	-1.5
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	786.324	763.114	768.182	-1.9	-2.3	0.7
Medical care.....	507.625	509.253	506.799	4.6	-0.2	-0.5
Recreation(6).....	105.364	103.605	105.041	-2.5	-0.3	1.4
Education and communication(6).....	151.748	150.811	151.505	1.6	-0.2	0.5
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,984.396	1,970.899	1,968.838	0.5	-0.8	-0.1
Other goods and services.....	453.984	442.513	449.762	2.0	-0.9	1.6
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	280.116	279.366	279.947	0.7	-0.1	0.2
Commodities.....	185.074	185.529	185.088	-1.7	0.0	-0.2
Commodities less food & beverages.....	136.484	137.177	135.880	-6.7	-0.4	-0.9
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	183.102	183.867	181.569	-10.2	-0.8	-1.2
Durables.....	90.972	91.562	91.132	-0.6	0.2	-0.5
Services.....	364.748	362.827	364.403	1.8	-0.1	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-		
	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020	Oct. 2020	Oct. 2019	Aug. 2020	Sep. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	270.249	269.419	270.104	0.4	-0.1	0.3
All items less shelter.....	237.676	237.055	237.989	-0.2	0.1	0.4
Commodities less food	141.600	142.258	141.028	-5.9	-0.4	-0.9
Nondurables	232.884	233.221	232.803	-1.9	0.0	-0.2
Nondurables less food.....	190.263	190.947	188.862	-8.7	-0.7	-1.1
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	357.515	354.295	358.643	1.6	0.3	1.2
Services less medical care services.....	351.370	349.322	351.024	1.4	-0.1	0.5
Energy	268.363	269.500	270.903	-13.2	0.9	0.5
All items less energy	283.128	282.244	282.775	1.7	-0.1	0.2
All items less food and energy	283.752	282.712	283.055	1.2	-0.2	0.1

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.