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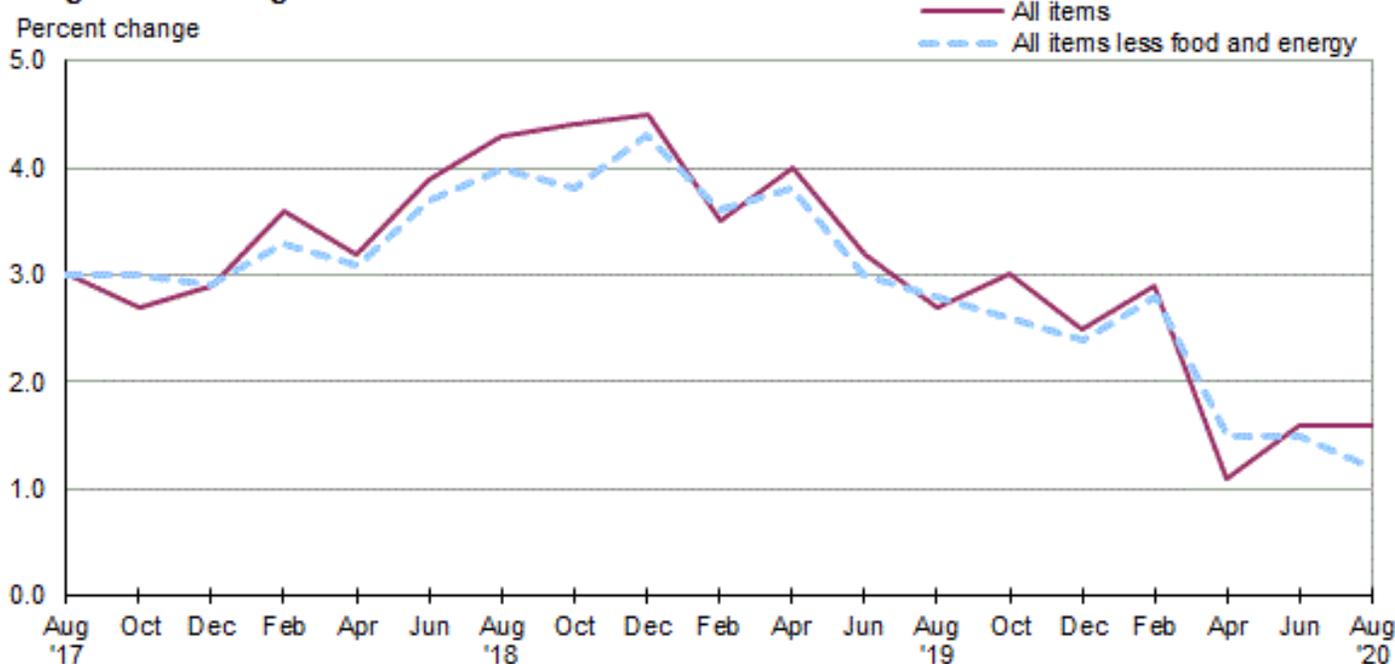
## **Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — August 2020**

**Area prices were unchanged over the past two months, up 1.6 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged for the two months ending in August 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that higher prices for gasoline were offset by lower prices for food at home during the past two months, holding the overall index level virtually unchanged. (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 1.6 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 5.4 percent. Energy prices decreased 1.8 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, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA, August 2017–August 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices declined 0.8 percent for the two months ending in August. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home decreased 2.2 percent, largely due to price declines in meat, poultry, fish and eggs (-4.7 percent). Prices for food away from home advanced 0.7 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 5.4 percent. Prices for food at home increased 7.2 percent since a year ago, led by meat, poultry, fish and eggs prices (17.4 percent). Prices for food away from home advanced 3.6 percent.

## Energy

The energy index advanced 3.7 percent for the two months ending in August. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (7.6 percent). Prices for natural gas service rose 2.3 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 1.8 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-10.2 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 8.2 percent, and prices for natural gas service increased 6.9 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy were unchanged in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for used cars and trucks (9.2 percent), motor vehicle insurance (6.7 percent), and shelter (0.1 percent) helped offset lower prices for other goods and services (-1.1 percent), education and communication (-0.3 percent), and medical care (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included motor vehicle insurance (5.3 percent) and shelter (2.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increase was a price decrease in new and used motor vehicles (-2.7 percent).

**Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	2-month	12-month								
February .....	0.9	3.0	0.8	3.4	1.4	3.6	0.5	3.5	0.9	2.9
April .....	0.7	2.7	1.1	3.8	0.8	3.2	1.2	4.0	-0.5	1.1
June .....	0.6	2.7	0.3	3.5	0.9	3.9	0.2	3.2	0.7	1.6
August .....	0.7	3.1	0.2	3.0	0.6	4.3	0.1	2.7	0.0	1.6
October .....	0.9	3.6	0.6	2.7	0.7	4.4	1.0	3.0		
December .....	-0.3	3.5	-0.1	2.9	0.1	4.5	-0.5	2.5		

**The October 2020 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco area is scheduled to be released on November 12, 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 94 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 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](http://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](http://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-Hayward, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo 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-Hayward, CA (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
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	300.032	-	300.182	1.6	0.0	-
All items (1967=100).....	922.381	-	922.844	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	307.228	-	304.761	4.8	-0.8	-
Food.....	306.745	-	304.224	5.4	-0.8	-
Food at home.....	277.767	272.252	271.580	7.2	-2.2	-0.2
Cereals and bakery products.....	280.741	-	271.309	3.6	-3.4	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	308.789	-	294.156	17.4	-4.7	-
Dairy and related products.....	276.654	-	282.821	4.3	2.2	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	364.899	-	359.733	5.1	-1.4	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	215.962	-	213.055	6.7	-1.3	-
Other food at home.....	226.823	-	223.071	2.9	-1.7	-
Food away from home.....	338.892	-	341.262	3.6	0.7	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	316.570	-	314.740	-0.5	-0.6	-
Housing.....	358.994	-	359.510	3.3	0.1	-
Shelter.....	408.086	408.303	408.494	2.6	0.1	0.0
Rent of primary residence(2).....	463.704	465.091	465.713	2.4	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	434.761	435.824	435.842	2.2	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	434.761	435.824	435.842	2.2	0.2	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	445.822	-	453.492	6.3	1.7	-
Household energy.....	394.084	393.461	395.961	7.2	0.5	0.6
Energy services(2).....	396.028	395.693	397.817	7.3	0.5	0.5
Electricity(2).....	425.164	425.164	425.164	8.2	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	324.306	322.898	331.825	6.9	2.3	2.8
Household furnishings and operations.....	148.320	-	147.205	7.4	-0.8	-
Apparel.....	98.889	-	98.388	-17.0	-0.5	-
Transportation.....	197.106	-	199.573	-3.8	1.3	-
Private transportation.....	190.879	-	196.605	-2.2	3.0	-
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	92.706	-	93.619	-2.7	1.0	-
New vehicles(1).....	155.520	-	158.123	-0.3	1.7	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	245.845	-	268.469	3.0	9.2	-
Motor fuel.....	220.382	229.239	236.785	-10.3	7.4	3.3
Gasoline (all types).....	219.374	228.286	235.957	-10.2	7.6	3.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	218.538	227.494	235.174	-10.5	7.6	3.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	206.781	215.450	222.488	-9.7	7.6	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	211.077	219.286	226.534	-9.1	7.3	3.3
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	509.395	-	543.610	5.3	6.7	-
Medical care.....	549.438	-	548.733	-	-0.1	-
Recreation(6).....	117.230	-	117.921	0.4	0.6	-
Education and communication(6).....	150.797	-	150.404	0.7	-0.3	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,843.031	-	1,831.860	2.6	-0.6	-
Other goods and services.....	514.435	-	508.703	1.4	-1.1	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	300.032	-	300.182	1.6	0.0	-
Commodities.....	194.764	-	194.856	0.3	0.0	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	135.670	-	136.952	-4.0	0.9	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	174.122	-	176.771	-7.1	1.5	-
Durables.....	97.310	-	97.518	0.7	0.2	-
Services.....	387.637	-	387.835	2.1	0.1	-

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-Hayward, CA (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
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	289.826	-	290.006	1.7	0.1	-
All items less shelter.....	255.063	-	255.085	0.8	0.0	-
Commodities less food .....	143.263	-	144.452	-3.7	0.8	-
Nondurables .....	242.398	-	242.403	0.2	0.0	-
Nondurables less food.....	185.156	-	187.477	-6.3	1.3	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	378.443	-	378.324	1.3	0.0	-
Services less medical care services.....	376.719	-	376.920	2.2	0.1	-
Energy .....	290.884	296.017	301.597	-1.8	3.7	1.9
All items less energy .....	304.094	-	303.749	1.8	-0.1	-
All items less food and energy .....	304.515	-	304.510	1.2	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.