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## **Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – May 2021**

**Area prices were up 0.6 percent over the past month, up 3.9 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 0.6 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the May increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline, shelter, and new and used motor vehicles. (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 3.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Food prices rose 3.4 percent. Energy prices jumped 30.1 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

### **Food**

Food prices advanced 0.4 percent for the month of May. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home rose 0.5 percent. Prices for food at home increased 0.3 percent.

Over the year, food prices rose 3.4 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 4.4 percent since a year ago. Prices for food at home moved up 2.3 percent led by higher prices for fruits and vegetables (4.7 percent).

### **Energy**

The energy index rose 4.2 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.0 percent). Prices for natural gas service jumped 20.9 percent, but prices for electricity decreased 0.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 30.1 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (45.5 percent). Prices paid for electricity increased 10.6 percent, and prices for natural gas service rose 10.5 percent during the past year.

### **All items less food and energy**

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.4 percent in May. Higher prices for motor vehicle insurance (2.9 percent), new and used motor vehicles (2.5 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-1.6 percent) and recreation (-0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included motor vehicle insurance (21.2 percent), new and used motor vehicles (9.3 percent), and shelter (1.0 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in household furnishings and operations (-2.1 percent) and education and communication (-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	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.7	3.2	0.8	3.1	0.2	0.9
February.....	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.6	0.1	2.5	0.3	3.4	0.4	1.0
March.....	0.3	2.7	0.4	3.8	0.6	2.7	-0.7	1.9	0.5	2.2
April.....	0.2	2.7	0.4	4.0	1.0	3.3	-0.3	0.7	1.1	3.6
May.....	0.3	2.5	0.4	4.1	0.2	3.1	0.4	0.9	0.6	3.9
June.....	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	4.0	0.0	3.3	0.5	1.4		
July.....	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3	0.6	1.9		
August.....	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0	0.1	2.0		
September.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	3.9	0.5	3.0	-0.3	1.2		
October.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.2	0.2	0.7		
November.....	0.1	3.6	-0.3	3.6	-0.3	3.2	0.1	1.0		
December.....	0.0	3.6	-0.3	3.2	-0.6	3.0	-0.2	1.5		

**The June 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on July 13, 2021.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on May 2021 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 U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of

the total U.S. 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 6,000 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

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, CA metropolitan area includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties in 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-		
	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	May 2021	May 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	282.648	285.808	287.620	3.9	1.8	0.6
All items (1967=100).....	835.067	844.403	849.756	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	283.505	287.089	288.225	3.4	1.7	0.4
Food.....	283.750	287.567	288.639	3.4	1.7	0.4
Food at home.....	267.292	273.030	273.803	2.3	2.4	0.3
Cereals and bakery products.....	281.430	283.353	282.619	0.0	0.4	-0.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	302.461	307.235	311.151	1.4	2.9	1.3
Dairy and related products.....	259.853	258.855	262.934	-0.3	1.2	1.6
Fruits and vegetables.....	358.042	374.431	364.347	4.7	1.8	-2.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	268.265	276.135	274.821	1.1	2.4	-0.5
Other food at home.....	199.524	203.904	208.027	4.5	4.3	2.0
Food away from home.....	296.916	298.823	300.175	4.4	1.1	0.5
Alcoholic beverages.....	260.197	260.793	262.603	3.1	0.9	0.7
Housing.....	326.591	327.410	328.792	1.4	0.7	0.4
Shelter.....	375.676	376.875	378.182	1.0	0.7	0.3
Rent of primary residence(2).....	400.962	401.462	402.879	0.9	0.5	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	392.227	391.614	392.634	0.6	0.1	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	392.204	391.592	392.612	0.6	0.1	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	373.221	371.953	384.156	9.9	2.9	3.3
Household energy.....	325.995	324.439	339.425	10.6	4.1	4.6
Energy services(2).....	324.444	322.917	338.030	10.6	4.2	4.7
Electricity(2).....	381.498	383.502	382.304	10.6	0.2	-0.3
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	250.837	241.865	292.442	10.5	16.6	20.9
Household furnishings and operations.....	120.176	120.280	118.394	-2.1	-1.5	-1.6
Apparel.....	111.445	110.832	110.660	7.2	-0.7	-0.2
Transportation.....	216.878	225.729	232.220	19.5	7.1	2.9
Private transportation.....	218.064	224.775	230.905	19.8	5.9	2.7
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	91.675	96.073	98.432	9.3	7.4	2.5
New vehicles(1).....	171.386	173.352	175.268	1.8	2.3	1.1
Used cars and trucks(1).....	293.092	320.026	341.860	29.3	16.6	6.8
Motor fuel.....	291.927	301.473	313.441	45.4	7.4	4.0
Gasoline (all types).....	285.179	294.486	306.245	45.5	7.4	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	284.872	294.509	306.623	46.6	7.6	4.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	273.815	283.189	293.696	42.9	7.3	3.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	276.184	283.871	293.985	41.8	6.4	3.6
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	802.689	800.022	823.411	21.2	2.6	2.9
Medical care.....	505.630	508.953	510.991	0.0	1.1	0.4
Recreation(6).....	105.756	110.592	109.800	2.1	3.8	-0.7
Education and communication(6).....	147.020	146.927	147.137	-1.5	0.1	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,911.766	1,911.766	1,916.782	-2.6	0.3	0.3
Other goods and services.....	462.504	468.902	465.845	3.7	0.7	-0.7
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	282.648	285.808	287.620	3.9	1.8	0.6
Commodities.....	190.310	193.088	194.665	7.3	2.3	0.8
Commodities less food & beverages.....	142.487	144.819	146.550	11.1	2.9	1.2
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	194.778	197.510	200.080	14.4	2.7	1.3
Durables.....	92.146	94.010	94.971	6.2	3.1	1.0
Services.....	364.509	367.939	369.922	2.2	1.5	0.5

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. 2021	Apr. 2021	May 2021	May 2020	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	272.925	276.059	277.851	4.2	1.8	0.6
All items less shelter.....	241.621	245.599	247.617	5.8	2.5	0.8
Commodities less food .....	147.596	149.884	151.630	10.6	2.7	1.2
Nondurables .....	240.376	243.550	245.414	7.6	2.1	0.8
Nondurables less food.....	201.533	204.134	206.673	13.2	2.6	1.2
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	358.214	364.931	367.927	3.9	2.7	0.8
Services less medical care services.....	351.183	354.558	356.612	2.3	1.5	0.6
Energy .....	306.138	311.797	324.926	30.1	6.1	4.2
All items less energy .....	283.317	286.335	287.403	2.3	1.4	0.4
All items less food and energy .....	283.389	286.255	287.323	2.1	1.4	0.4

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.