



For Release: Thursday, June 10, 2021

21-1049-SAN

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Consumer Price Index, San Diego Area – May 2021

Area prices were up 0.7 percent over the past two months, up 5.3 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Diego area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.7 percent for the two months ending in May 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the May increase was influenced by higher prices for new and used motor vehicles and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 5.3 percent. Food prices rose 1.4 percent. Energy prices jumped 35.3 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 4.3 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Food

Food prices edged down 0.2 percent for the two months ending in May. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home decreased 0.8 percent, primarily from lower prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (-6.1 percent). Prices for food away from home rose 0.5 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 1.4 percent. Prices for food at home decreased 1.0 percent since a year ago, influenced by lower prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (-5.2 percent). Prices for food away from home advanced 4.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 4.2 percent for the two months ending in May. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (6.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service increased 7.4 percent, but prices for electricity inched down 0.2 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 35.3 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (45.9 percent). Prices paid for electricity jumped 24.1 percent, and prices for natural gas service increased 9.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for new and used motor vehicles (8.2 percent) and shelter (0.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.5 percent) and medical care (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 4.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included new and used motor vehicles (18.0 percent), education and communication (4.9 percent), and shelter (1.8 percent).

The July 2021 Consumer Price Index for the San Diego area is scheduled to be released on August 11, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) 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 and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at 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 San Diego-Carlsbad, CA metropolitan area includes San Diego County in 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 Diego-Carlsbad (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
Expenditure category						
All items.....	315.035	-	317.141	5.3	0.7	-
All items (1967=100).....	1,065.230	-	1,072.350	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	278.996	-	278.576	2.2	-0.2	-
Food.....	275.919	-	275.450	1.4	-0.2	-
Food at home.....	242.457	243.033	240.557	-1.0	-0.8	-1.0
Cereals and bakery products.....	281.459	-	282.960	-0.9	0.5	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	262.732	-	246.704	-5.2	-6.1	-
Dairy and related products.....	189.226	-	192.327	4.9	1.6	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	263.057	-	271.087	6.0	3.1	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	272.367	-	279.972	-1.2	2.8	-
Other food at home.....	223.987	-	220.952	-3.2	-1.4	-
Food away from home.....	320.471	-	322.090	4.1	0.5	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	299.689	-	299.766	9.5	0.0	-
Housing.....	369.943	-	372.455	2.6	0.7	-
Shelter.....	417.793	420.625	421.289	1.8	0.8	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2).....	414.559	415.398	417.365	1.2	0.7	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2).....	444.089	444.318	444.657	1.0	0.1	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2).....	444.089	444.318	444.657	1.0	0.1	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	386.887	-	389.668	13.6	0.7	-
Household energy.....	369.388	365.947	373.559	20.3	1.1	2.1
Energy services.....	364.885	362.238	369.822	20.4	1.4	2.1
Electricity.....	359.351	358.532	358.532	24.1	-0.2	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service.....	267.681	260.655	287.462	9.1	7.4	10.3
Household furnishings and operations.....	196.713	-	195.503	1.5	-0.6	-
Apparel.....	163.621	-	161.233	7.5	-1.5	-
Transportation.....	248.311	-	256.596	22.0	3.3	-
Private transportation.....	237.549	-	250.746	21.4	5.6	-
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	114.069	-	123.453	18.0	8.2	-
New vehicles(1).....	244.183	-	248.109	6.8	1.6	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	254.539	-	296.869	29.2	16.6	-
Motor fuel.....	309.969	317.951	328.850	45.9	6.1	3.4
Gasoline (all types).....	309.731	317.794	328.699	45.9	6.1	3.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	320.079	328.934	340.283	46.6	6.3	3.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	272.004	277.219	286.681	43.8	5.4	3.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	318.912	325.279	336.185	43.2	5.4	3.4
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	567.678	-	572.272	16.5	0.8	-
Medical care.....	527.185	-	522.776	2.7	-0.8	-
Recreation(3).....	163.934	-	163.731	0.5	-0.1	-
Education and communication(3).....	135.784	-	135.696	4.9	-0.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,554.342	-	1,554.342	1.0	0.0	-
Other goods and services.....	440.903	-	445.915	6.4	1.1	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	315.035	-	317.141	5.3	0.7	-
Commodities.....	214.474	-	217.389	7.1	1.4	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	180.327	-	185.117	11.6	2.7	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	213.679	-	216.375	13.1	1.3	-
Durables.....	145.170	-	151.778	9.8	4.6	-
Services.....	403.695	-	404.820	4.2	0.3	-

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 Diego-Carlsbad (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
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	305.038	-	307.446	5.5	0.8	-
All items less shelter.....	274.086	-	275.664	7.2	0.6	-
Commodities less food	185.805	-	190.355	11.5	2.4	-
Nondurables	247.869	-	248.900	6.3	0.4	-
Nondurables less food.....	222.023	-	224.469	12.7	1.1	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	407.622	-	405.931	7.5	-0.4	-
Services less medical care services.....	389.837	-	391.386	4.4	0.4	-
Energy	326.408	330.484	340.164	35.3	4.2	2.9
All items less energy	317.233	-	318.674	3.8	0.5	-
All items less food and energy	326.043	-	327.909	4.3	0.6	-

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a November 1977=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a November 1982=100 base.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available

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