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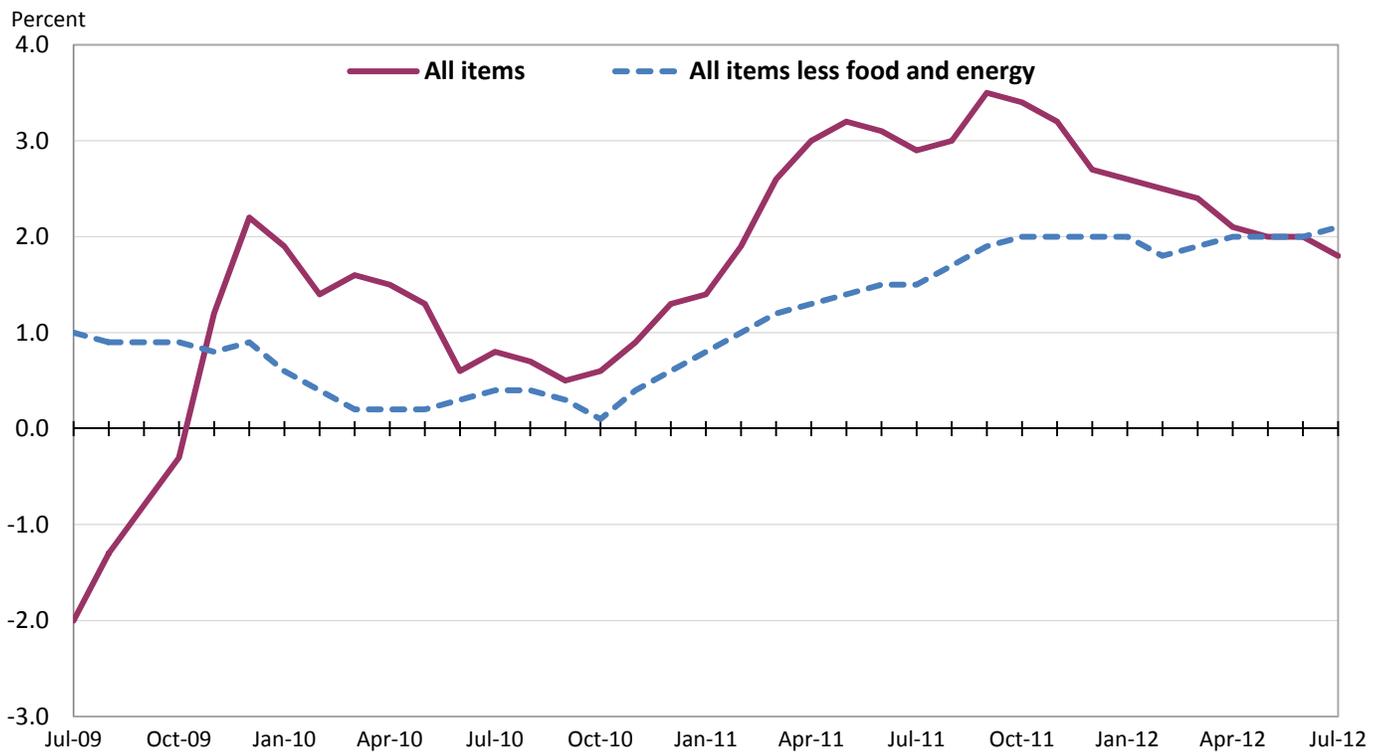
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, WEST REGION – JULY 2012

Area prices were down 0.3 percent over the past month, up 1.8 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), declined 0.3 percent in July, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) Regional Commissioner Stanley W. Suchman noted that the July decrease was influenced by lower prices for gasoline and apparel. (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 rose 1.8 percent. (See chart 1.) Energy prices declined 1.3 percent, largely the result of decreases in gasoline and natural gas service prices. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent since July 2011.

Chart 1. 12-month percent change in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), West region, July 2009–July 2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Food

Food prices were unchanged for the month of July. (See table 1.) Prices for food at home edged down 0.1 percent, while prices for food away from home edged up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 2.1 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 1.4 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home rose 3.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 4.2 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-6.8 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 0.4 percent, while prices for natural gas service were unchanged in July.

Energy prices declined 1.3 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for natural gas service (-7.9 percent) and gasoline (-1.4 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 1.5 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 July. Higher prices for components including medical care (0.5 percent), education and communication (0.4 percent) and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-2.1 percent) and recreation (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (3.9 percent), medical care (3.6 percent) and shelter (2.2 percent). In contrast, prices for used cars and trucks edged down 0.2 percent.

Table A. West region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	1-month	12-month										
January	0.8	3.0	0.5	3.8	0.6	0.1	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6
February	0.6	3.1	0.3	3.5	0.5	0.3	0.1	1.4	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5
March	0.9	3.4	1.0	3.7	0.1	-0.5	0.3	1.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4
April	0.6	3.3	0.4	3.5	0.3	-0.7	0.2	1.5	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1
May	0.5	3.0	0.7	3.7	0.3	-1.1	0.1	1.3	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0
June	-0.2	3.0	0.9	4.9	0.6	-1.4	-0.1	0.6	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0
July	-0.1	2.8	0.4	5.3	-0.2	-2.0	0.1	0.8	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8
August	-0.1	2.4	-0.5	4.9	0.2	-1.3	0.1	0.7	0.2	3.0	-	-
September	0.2	2.5	-0.3	4.3	0.2	-0.8	-0.1	0.5	0.4	3.5	-	-
October	0.5	3.3	-0.5	3.3	0.1	-0.3	0.1	0.6	0.0	3.4	-	-
November	0.5	4.2	-1.8	1.0	-0.3	1.2	0.0	0.9	-0.2	3.2	-	-
December	-0.1	4.1	-1.1	0.0	-0.2	2.2	0.2	1.3	-0.3	2.7	-	-

The August 2012 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on September 14, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. (CT).

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 88 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 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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 the 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/pdf/homch17.pdf.

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 West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; TDD message referral phone number: (800) 877-8339.

For personal assistance or further information on Consumer Price Indexes, as well as other Bureau products, contact the Southwest Information Office at (972) 850-4800 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CT.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	July 2011	May 2012	June 2012
Expenditure category						
All items	233.053	232.701	231.893	1.8	-0.5	-0.3
All items (December 1977=100)	376.717	376.149	374.841	-	-	-
Food and beverages	234.682	235.150	235.071	2.1	.2	.0
Food	234.519	234.931	234.845	2.1	.1	.0
Food at home	235.534	235.803	235.563	1.4	.0	-.1
Food away from home	231.920	232.534	232.667	3.2	.3	.1
Alcoholic beverages	233.445	234.692	234.721	1.3	.5	.0
Housing	232.514	232.888	233.294	1.9	.3	.2
Shelter	260.020	260.229	260.710	2.2	.3	.2
Rent of primary residence ¹	268.976	268.886	269.655	3.1	.3	.3
Owners' equivalent rent of residences ^{1 2}	273.608	273.621	274.062	1.9	.2	.2
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence ^{1 2}	273.619	273.633	274.072	1.9	.2	.2
Fuels and utilities	251.865	253.721	254.476	.8	1.0	.3
Household energy	225.828	227.563	227.966	-1.0	.9	.2
Energy services ¹	227.436	229.521	230.201	-8	1.2	.3
Electricity ¹	254.144	253.851	254.895	1.5	.3	.4
Utility (piped) gas service ¹	178.474	185.785	185.703	-7.9	4.1	.0
Household furnishings and operations	129.771	129.982	129.911	.7	.1	-.1
Apparel	120.922	119.036	116.488	3.9	-3.7	-2.1
Transportation	224.095	220.703	215.526	.5	-3.8	-2.3
Private transportation	218.194	214.487	209.161	.4	-4.1	-2.5
New and used motor vehicles ³	101.891	102.474	102.767	1.1	.9	.3
New vehicles	144.310	144.304	144.318	1.3	.0	.0
New cars and trucks ^{3 4}	100.208	100.177	100.166	1.3	.0	.0
New cars ⁴	145.746	145.923	145.707	.9	.0	-.1
Used cars and trucks	147.844	149.624	150.209	-2	1.6	.4
Motor fuel	336.019	319.409	297.915	-1.5	-11.3	-6.7
Gasoline (all types)	335.180	318.816	297.067	-1.4	-11.4	-6.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁴	334.763	318.438	296.153	-1.5	-11.5	-7.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{4 5}	313.546	298.195	279.051	-1.1	-11.0	-6.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁴	316.401	300.698	282.187	-1.1	-10.8	-6.2
Medical care	421.174	421.702	423.630	3.6	.6	.5
Medical care commodities	336.487	335.055	334.668	1.0	-.5	-.1
Medical care services	447.133	448.390	451.163	4.4	.9	.6
Professional services	315.159	315.136	316.925	1.8	.6	.6
Recreation ³	108.698	109.553	109.374	1.4	.6	-.2
Education and communication ³	134.372	134.196	134.700	2.0	.2	.4
Other goods and services	383.651	385.919	387.176	1.5	.9	.3
Commodity and service group						
All items	233.053	232.701	231.893	1.8	-.5	-.3
Commodities	185.723	184.389	182.162	.9	-1.9	-1.2
Commodities less food and beverages	159.318	157.245	154.156	.3	-3.2	-2.0
Nondurables less food and beverages	208.737	204.211	197.799	.6	-5.2	-3.1
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	270.338	263.961	254.838	-.3	-5.7	-3.5
Durables	113.257	113.636	113.859	-.3	.5	.2
Services	275.976	276.590	277.179	2.4	.4	.2
Rent of shelter ²	276.566	276.789	277.294	2.2	.3	.2
Transportation services	270.659	271.438	270.914	1.3	.1	-.2

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods-Continued

West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from—		
	May 2012	June 2012	July 2012	July 2011	May 2012	June 2012
Commodity and service group						
Other services	319.017	320.094	320.988	2.9	0.6	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	224.343	223.960	223.049	1.7	-.6	-.4
All items less food	233.030	232.550	231.620	1.8	-.6	-.4
All items less shelter	223.636	223.044	221.683	1.6	-.9	-.6
Commodities less food	162.481	160.486	157.462	.3	-3.1	-1.9
Nondurables	223.378	221.141	217.623	1.3	-2.6	-1.6
Nondurables less food	211.427	207.185	201.080	.7	-4.9	-2.9
Nondurables less food and apparel	266.616	260.923	252.623	-.2	-5.2	-3.2
Services less rent of shelter ²	306.659	307.856	308.623	2.5	.6	.2
Services less medical care services	264.060	264.632	265.093	2.2	.4	.2
Energy	289.816	281.256	269.356	-1.3	-7.1	-4.2
All items less energy	230.459	230.772	230.859	2.1	.2	.0
All items less food and energy	230.466	230.762	230.881	2.1	.2	.1
Commodities less food and energy commodities	142.345	142.291	141.696	.8	-.5	-.4
Energy commodities	339.553	322.806	301.216	-1.6	-11.3	-6.7
Services less energy services	279.758	280.273	280.857	2.5	.4	.2

¹ This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

² Index is on a December 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.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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