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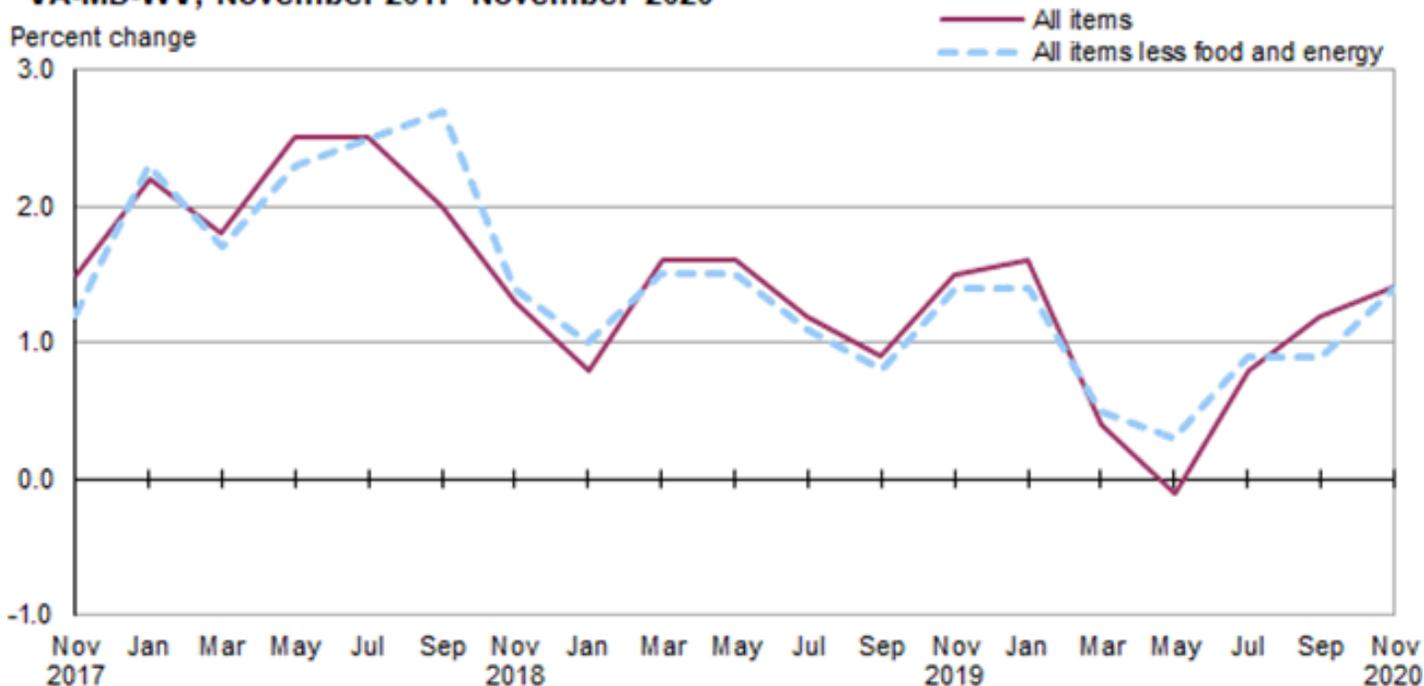
Consumer Price Index, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria – November 2020

Area prices unchanged since September, up 1.4 percent over the year

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Washington-Arlington-Alexandria was unchanged from September to November, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Maureen McDevitt Greene, the Bureau’s acting regional commissioner, noted that the recent increase in the all items less food and energy index, up 0.3 percent, was offset by decreases in the food index and the energy index, down 0.9 and 2.0 percent, respectively. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 1.4 percent, due largely to a 1.4-percent rise in the all items less food and energy index. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Since November 2019, the food index also increased, up 4.0 percent, while the energy index decreased 7.4 percent. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV, November 2017–November 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Following a 1.3-percent increase from July to September, the food index decreased 0.9 percent over the last two months. Prices for food at home declined 2.4 percent, while those for food away from home rose 0.6 percent. Within the food at home component, prices were lower for bacon, breakfast sausage, and related products, as well as citrus fruits, while prices were higher for bread, eggs, and breakfast cereal, among others.

Food prices increased 4.0 percent over the year. Prices were higher for both food away from home (6.0 percent) and for food at home (1.9 percent) since November 2019.

Energy

Since September, the energy index, which includes prices for household and transportation fuels, declined 2.0 percent, due largely to lower prices for electricity (-4.3 percent). Prices were also lower for gasoline (-1.9 percent), while those for utility (piped) gas were higher (3.4 percent) over the past two months.

Energy prices decreased 7.4 percent since November 2019, due mostly to a drop in gasoline prices, down 11.4 percent. Over the year, prices also declined for electricity, down 5.5 percent, while prices were higher for utility (piped) gas service, up 2.2 percent.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent since September. The advance was led by higher prices for shelter (0.4 percent) and recreation (1.1 percent) over the last two months. Lower prices for several categories, including apparel (-3.7 percent), moderated the increase in the all items less food and energy index from September to November.

Since November 2019, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.4 percent. Prices were higher for shelter (2.2 percent) and medical care (7.1 percent), among others. Prices decreased for apparel (-8.1 percent) and recreation (-3.7 percent) since November 2019.

Table A. Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV, 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 |
| January..... | -0.2 | 1.5 | 0.2 | 1.5 | 0.9 | 2.2 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 0.5 | 1.6 |
| March..... | 0.8 | 1.1 | 0.4 | 1.1 | -0.1 | 1.8 | 0.7 | 1.6 | -0.4 | 0.4 |
| May..... | 0.8 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.7 | 2.5 | 0.6 | 1.6 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| July..... | -0.2 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 2.5 | -0.3 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| September..... | -0.3 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 0.4 | 2.0 | 0.1 | 0.9 | 0.6 | 1.2 |
| November..... | 0.2 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 1.5 | -0.7 | 1.3 | -0.2 | 1.5 | 0.0 | 1.4 |

The Consumer Price Index for January 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, February 10, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on November 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 November 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 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 **Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MA-WV, Core Based Statistical Area** includes the District of Columbia; the counties of Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Montgomery, and Prince George's in Maryland; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, and Manassas Park and the counties of Arlington, Clarke, Culpeper, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Rappahannock, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and Warren in Virginia; and the county of Jefferson in West Virginia.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments 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, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)

| Expenditure category | Indexes | | | | Percent change from | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Historical data | Sep. 2020 | Oct. 2020 | Nov. 2020 | Nov. 2019 | Sep. 2020 | Oct. 2020 |
| All items..... |  | 268.788 | | 268.700 | 1.4 | 0.0 | |
| Food and beverages |  | 264.518 | | 262.122 | 3.4 | -0.9 | |
| Food |  | 271.655 | | 269.260 | 4.0 | -0.9 | |
| Food at home |  | 256.472 | 253.882 | 250.267 | 1.9 | -2.4 | -1.4 |
| Cereals and bakery products |  | 330.632 | | 328.988 | 4.3 | -0.5 | |
| Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs..... |  | 276.737 | | 274.381 | 0.5 | -0.9 | |
| Dairy and related products |  | 250.878 | | 240.846 | 0.9 | -4.0 | |
| Fruits and vegetables |  | 267.089 | | 252.036 | -5.2 | -5.6 | |
| Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) |  | 222.330 | | 216.482 | 2.4 | -2.6 | |
| Other food at home |  | 219.001 | | 214.868 | 7.5 | -1.9 | |
| Food away from home..... |  | 291.645 | | 293.464 | 6.0 | 0.6 | |
| Alcoholic beverages |  | 197.647 | | 195.339 | -2.0 | -1.2 | |
| Housing |  | 283.829 | | 283.762 | 1.9 | 0.0 | |
| Shelter |  | 341.944 | 342.475 | 343.341 | 2.2 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Rent of primary residence |  | 380.032 | 380.030 | 378.448 | 2.1 | -0.4 | -0.4 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2)..... |  | 350.731 | 351.357 | 352.172 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2) |  | 350.731 | 351.357 | 352.172 | 2.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 |
| Fuels and utilities..... |  | 236.399 | | 232.302 | -2.2 | -1.7 | |
| Household energy |  | 181.675 | 183.469 | 177.647 | -3.6 | -2.2 | -3.2 |
| Energy services..... |  | 185.935 | 188.091 | 181.918 | -3.5 | -2.2 | -3.3 |
| Electricity |  | 210.697 | 211.632 | 201.702 | -5.5 | -4.3 | -4.7 |
| Utility (piped) gas service |  | 130.466 | 134.418 | 134.841 | 2.2 | 3.4 | 0.3 |
| Household furnishings and operations..... |  | 112.592 | | 110.238 | 3.2 | -2.1 | |
| Apparel |  | 153.947 | | 148.295 | -8.1 | -3.7 | |
| Transportation |  | 208.563 | | 210.196 | -2.5 | 0.8 | |
| Private transportation |  | 212.133 | | 211.772 | -1.3 | -0.2 | |
| New and used motor vehicles(3)..... |  | 96.380 | | 97.236 | 4.7 | 0.9 | |
| New vehicles(1)..... |  | 192.465 | | 193.141 | 0.5 | 0.4 | |
| Used cars and trucks(1) |  | 328.334 | | 327.541 | 11.2 | -0.2 | |
| Motor fuel |  | 212.512 | 214.523 | 208.588 | -11.4 | -1.8 | -2.8 |
| Gasoline (all types)..... |  | 210.211 | 212.235 | 206.155 | -11.4 | -1.9 | -2.9 |
| Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)..... |  | 203.785 | 206.019 | 199.945 | -11.7 | -1.9 | -2.9 |
| Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)..... |  | 223.073 | 224.743 | 219.730 | -6.9 | -1.5 | -2.2 |
| Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)..... |  | 235.387 | 235.453 | 229.896 | -9.1 | -2.3 | -2.4 |
| Motor vehicle insurance(1)..... |  | 810.380 | | 820.365 | -8.2 | 1.2 | |
| Medical care |  | 494.879 | | 496.340 | 7.1 | 0.3 | |
| Recreation(3)..... |  | 111.468 | | 112.653 | -3.7 | 1.1 | |
| Education and communication(3)..... |  | 155.960 | | 156.041 | 2.7 | 0.1 | |
| Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1)..... |  | 1,436.779 | | 1,437.088 | 2.0 | 0.0 | |
| Other goods and services |  | 428.164 | | 434.781 | 4.6 | 1.5 | |
| Commodity and service group | | | | | | | |
| Commodities |  | 182.996 | | 181.281 | 1.1 | -0.9 | |

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, Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV, (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued

| Expenditure category | Indexes | | | | Percent change from | | |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Historical data | Sep. 2020 | Oct. 2020 | Nov. 2020 | Nov. 2019 | Sep. 2020 | Oct. 2020 |
| Commodities less food and beverages |  | 142.214 | | 140.842 | -0.9 | -1.0 | |
| Nondurables less food and beverages... |  | 185.125 | | 182.117 | -4.2 | -1.6 | |
| Durables |  | 101.452 | | 101.208 | 2.9 | -0.2 | |
| Services..... |  | 346.690 | | 348.454 | 1.6 | 0.5 | |
| Special aggregate indexes | | | | | | | |
| All items less shelter..... |  | 239.448 | | 238.858 | 1.0 | -0.2 | |
| All items less medical care |  | 258.108 | | 257.947 | 0.9 | -0.1 | |
| Commodities less food..... |  | 144.770 | | 143.353 | -1.0 | -1.0 | |
| Nondurables |  | 224.418 | | 221.783 | 0.4 | -1.2 | |
| Nondurables less food..... |  | 186.133 | | 183.216 | -3.9 | -1.6 | |
| Services less rent of shelter(2)..... |  | 363.170 | | 365.598 | 0.8 | 0.7 | |
| Services less medical care services..... |  | 331.661 | | 333.513 | 0.8 | 0.6 | |
| Energy |  | 199.010 | 200.937 | 194.942 | -7.4 | -2.0 | -3.0 |
| All items less energy |  | 277.434 | | 277.608 | 1.8 | 0.1 | |
| All items less food and energy |  | 279.564 | | 280.272 | 1.4 | 0.3 | |

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.