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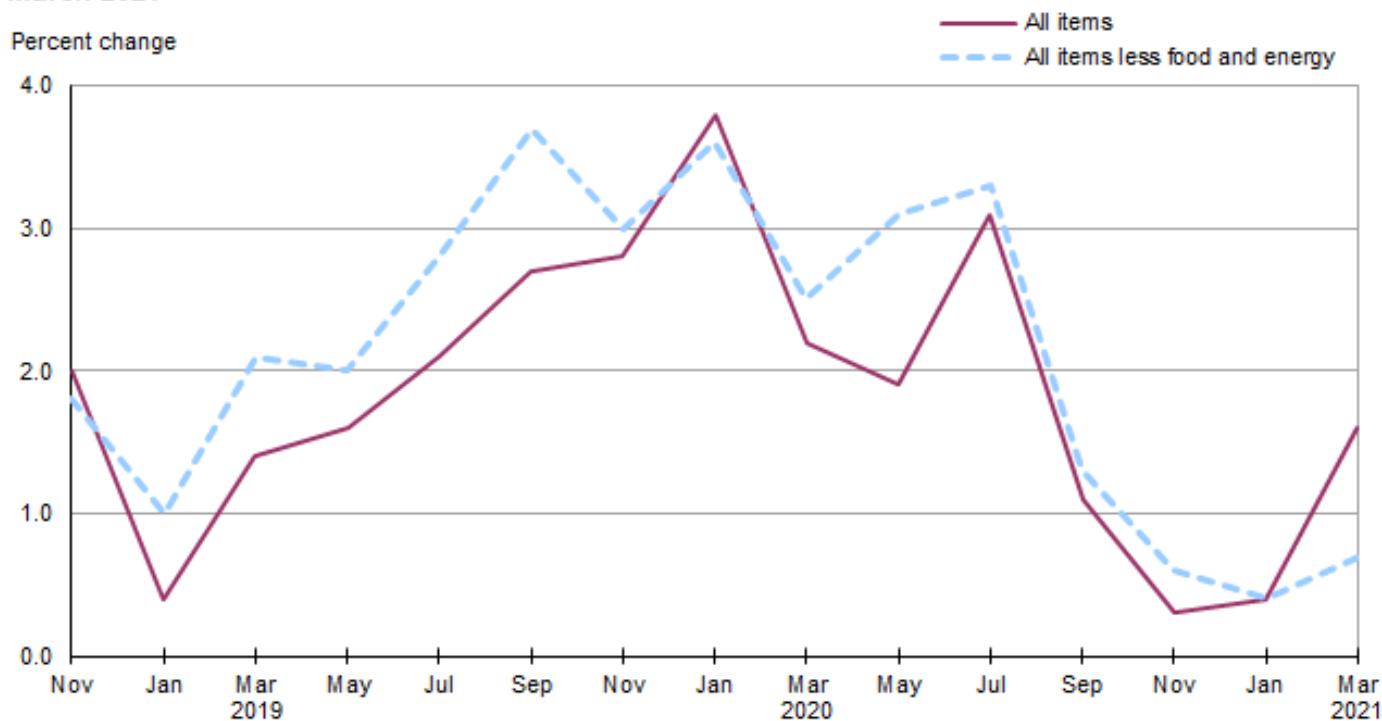
## **Consumer Price Index, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area – March 2021**

### **Area prices up 0.8 percent over the past two months, up 1.6 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.8 percent for the two months ending in March 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Michael Hirniak noted that the March increase was due to higher prices for energy and all items less food and energy. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U increased 1.6 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.7 percent, while food prices increased 1.8 percent. During the same period, energy prices surged 18.6 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO, November 2018–March 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## **Food**

Food prices decreased 0.8 percent for the two months ending in March. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home decreased 1.3 percent and food at home declined 0.4 percent during the period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 1.8 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 2.6 percent and prices for food at home advanced 1.2 percent since a year ago.

## **Energy**

The energy index escalated 12.2 percent for the two months ending in March. Higher prices for gasoline led the advance with an increase of 22.1 percent. Prices for electricity were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices rose 18.6 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (35.8 percent). Prices paid for electricity were unchanged during the past year.

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

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.4 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (8.6 percent), shelter (0.6 percent), and medical care (2.0 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-3.7 percent) and new vehicles (-4.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 0.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (17.8 percent) and medical care (2.4 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in new vehicles (-7.9 percent) and shelter (-0.6 percent).

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**The May 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Denver-Aurora-Lakewood area is scheduled to be released on Thursday, June 10, 2021.**

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on March 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 March 2021 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](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm).

## **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measures 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 Denver-Aurora-Lakewood metropolitan area is comprised of Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Elbert, Gilpin, Jefferson, and Park counties in Colorado.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
All items .....	272.156	-	274.430	1.6	0.8	-
All items (1967 = 100) .....	907.527	-	915.110			
Food and beverages .....	250.529	-	248.385	1.8	-0.9	-
Food .....	255.223	-	253.114	1.8	-0.8	-
Food at home .....	237.310	235.231	236.291	1.2	-0.4	0.5
Cereals and bakery products .....	282.524	-	285.620	-0.7	1.1	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	236.653	-	233.286	5.7	-1.4	-
Dairy and related products .....	207.432	-	205.940	-2.3	-0.7	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	280.945	-	277.166	-2.2	-1.3	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	164.628	-	163.377	-1.3	-0.8	-
Other food at home .....	210.478	-	212.392	2.8	0.9	-
Food away from home .....	278.884	-	275.135	2.6	-1.3	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	209.597	-	207.054	1.4	-1.2	-
Housing .....	274.759	-	274.870	-0.3	0.0	-
Shelter .....	316.795	317.723	318.558	-0.6	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence .....	327.998	329.765	332.017	0.0	1.2	0.7
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2) ....	313.247	315.380	315.171	0.3	0.6	-0.1
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2) .....	313.247	315.380	315.171	0.3	0.6	-0.1
Fuels and utilities .....	237.695	-	238.366	-0.2	0.3	-
Household energy .....	154.399	154.660	154.910	0.6	0.3	0.2
Energy services .....	152.762	152.999	153.239	0.8	0.3	0.2
Electricity .....	157.806	157.806	157.806	0.0	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service .....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Household furnishings and operations .....	128.897	-	124.079	1.7	-3.7	-
Apparel .....	101.889	-	110.647	17.8	8.6	-
Transportation .....	253.958	-	261.063	4.9	2.8	-
Private transportation .....	254.531	-	263.732	6.6	3.6	-
New and used motor vehicles(3) .....	107.208	-	105.028	-2.1	-2.0	-
New vehicles(1) .....	211.504	-	201.554	-7.9	-4.7	-
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	289.065	-	297.244	8.5	2.8	-
Motor fuel .....	196.672	204.405	240.224	35.3	22.1	17.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	195.406	202.991	238.497	35.8	22.1	17.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....	188.016	195.456	230.900	37.5	22.8	18.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....	197.394	203.977	236.828	29.2	20.0	16.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....	222.336	230.309	263.555	28.3	18.5	14.4
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	3,080.901	-	3,145.929	3.9	2.1	-
Medical care .....	631.437	-	644.336	2.4	2.0	-
Recreation(3) .....	158.160	-	160.142	-1.4	1.3	-
Education and communication(3) .....	127.041	-	127.937	2.9	0.7	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,101.129	-	1,116.080	2.6	1.4	-
Other goods and services .....	385.770	-	385.214	1.3	-0.1	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
Commodities .....	177.152	-	180.305	4.2	1.8	-
Commodities less food and beverages .....	141.341	-	146.205	5.7	3.4	-
Nondurables less food and beverages .....	167.746	-	180.519	11.8	7.6	-
Durables .....	113.358	-	112.345	-0.3	-0.9	-
Services .....	356.546	-	357.734	0.2	0.3	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less shelter .....	250.844	-	253.337	2.9	1.0	-
All items less medical care .....	255.858	-	257.702	1.5	0.7	-
Commodities less food .....	143.991	-	148.639	5.5	3.2	-

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, Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
Nondurables .....	208.689	-	214.802	6.2	2.9	-
Nondurables less food.....	170.562	-	182.248	10.9	6.9	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	409.507	-	409.730	1.4	0.1	-
Services less medical care services.....	332.909	-	333.081	-0.1	0.1	-
Energy .....	172.455	176.264	193.414	18.6	12.2	9.7
All items less energy .....	282.515	-	283.293	0.8	0.3	-
All items less food and energy .....	288.371	-	289.639	0.7	0.4	-

**Footnotes**

(1) Indexes on a January 1978=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) Index on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available.