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## **Consumer Price Index, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater – March 2021**

### **Area prices up 4.9 percent from a year ago**

The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater rose 1.6 percent from January to March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Regional Commissioner Janet S. Rankin noted that the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.2 percent over bi-monthly period, while the energy index jumped 9.3 percent. The food index rose 0.5 percent from January to March. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect the impact of seasonal influences.)

The all items CPI-U advanced 4.9 percent from March 2020 to March 2021. The index for all items less food and energy increased 4.3 percent over the past 12 months. The food index and the energy index also increased over the year, up 6.3 percent and 9.2 percent, respectively. ([See table 1.](#))

#### **Food**

The food index rose 0.5 percent from January to March. The food away from home index and the food at home index each increased over the bi-monthly period, up 0.7 percent and 0.3 percent, respectively.

The food index advanced 6.3 percent for the 12 months ending in March, led by a 10.0-percent jump in the food at home index. The food away from home index also increased over the year, up 2.1 percent.

#### **Energy**

The energy index jumped 9.3 percent from January to March, led by a 20.5-percent sharp increase in the gasoline index. The utility (piped) gas service index also increased over the bi-monthly period, up 5.7 percent, while the electricity index declined 0.7 percent.

The energy index increased 9.2 percent for the 12 months ending in March, reflecting a 20.7-percent increase in the gasoline index. In contrast, the electricity index declined 0.6 percent over the past 12 months, while the utility (piped) gas service index fell 8.7 percent.

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

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.2 percent from January to March, led by increases in the shelter (1.4 percent) and the new and used motor vehicles (3.1 percent) indexes.

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 4.3 percent for the 12 months ending in March. Increases in the shelter (4.7 percent) and medical care (7.8 percent) indexes contributed to the over-the-year increase.

**Table A. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2019		2020		2021	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
January.....	-1.1	0.4	0.7	3.8	0.9	3.4
March.....	1.9	1.7	0.2	2.1	1.6	4.9
May.....	0.9	2.2	-0.3	0.9		
July.....	0.1	2.1	1.0	1.8		
September.....	-0.1	1.5	1.4	3.3		
November.....	0.2	2.0	0.1	3.2		

**The Consumer Price Index for April 2021 is scheduled to be released on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. (ET).**

### **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 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 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 **Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL, Core Based Statistical Area** includes Hernando, Hillsborough, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (1987=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	239.135	-	242.910	4.9	1.6	-
Food and beverages .....	249.207	-	251.282	6.3	0.8	-
Food .....	250.248	-	251.551	6.3	0.5	-
Food at home .....	257.384	260.329	258.276	10.0	0.3	-0.8
Cereals and bakery products .....	273.911	-	276.360	12.8	0.9	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	245.686	-	249.616	13.7	1.6	-
Dairy and related products .....	251.154	-	253.206	13.1	0.8	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	363.063	-	365.757	11.2	0.7	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	203.564	-	195.870	7.6	-3.8	-
Other food at home .....	202.863	-	203.639	4.0	0.4	-
Food away from home.....	240.620	-	242.404	2.1	0.7	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	221.216	-	231.611	6.3	4.7	-
Housing .....	246.876	-	249.333	4.6	1.0	-
Shelter .....	283.190	285.551	287.198	4.7	1.4	0.6
Rent of primary residence .....	288.780	290.733	291.830	4.3	1.1	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences .....	297.982	300.759	302.408	4.7	1.5	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence.....	297.982	300.759	302.408	4.7	1.5	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....	214.689	-	213.831	0.4	-0.4	-
Household energy .....	165.974	164.837	165.060	-0.9	-0.6	0.1
Energy Services .....	163.765	162.633	162.855	-0.9	-0.6	0.1
Electricity .....	161.577	160.429	160.398	-0.6	-0.7	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service .....	208.017	208.017	219.822	-8.7	5.7	5.7
Household furnishings and operations.....	135.650	-	133.955	8.6	-1.2	-
Apparel .....	124.764	-	126.767	-2.6	1.6	-
Transportation .....	202.378	-	215.381	7.2	6.4	-
Private transportation .....	208.209	-	222.500	7.4	6.9	-
New and used motor vehicles(1).....	111.326	-	114.810	4.2	3.1	-
New vehicles .....	124.798	-	129.510	2.5	3.8	-
Used cars and trucks.....	142.094	-	145.869	8.0	2.7	-
Motor fuel .....	248.336	271.286	298.562	20.6	20.2	10.1
Gasoline (all types).....	242.517	265.045	292.315	20.7	20.5	10.3
Unleaded regular(2) .....	232.993	255.344	282.676	20.7	21.3	10.7
Unleaded midgrade(2)(3).....	250.963	273.632	298.315	32.4	18.9	9.0
Unleaded premium(2).....	283.708	303.940	326.760	20.4	15.2	7.5
Motor vehicle insurance .....	590.036	-	614.846	2.0	4.2	-
Medical Care .....	440.026	-	437.976	7.8	-0.5	-
Recreation(1).....	123.122	-	123.923	-0.4	0.7	-
Education and communication(1).....	133.809	-	135.279	3.7	1.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care.....	644.253	-	644.253	2.2	0.0	-
Other goods and services .....	305.552	-	305.474	-1.4	0.0	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All Items.....	239.135	-	242.910	4.9	1.6	-
Commodities .....	178.775	-	183.449	5.8	2.6	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	143.639	-	149.338	5.3	4.0	-
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	197.081	-	209.849	5.3	6.5	-
Durables .....	94.803	-	96.224	5.4	1.5	-
Services.....	292.660	-	295.773	4.4	1.1	-
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						

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, Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL (1987=100 unless otherwise noted) (not seasonally adjusted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
All items less medical care .....	228.430	-	232.472	4.6	1.8	-
All items less shelter.....	220.769	-	224.480	5.0	1.7	-
Commodities less food .....	147.316	-	153.219	5.4	4.0	-
Nondurables .....	224.336	-	231.207	5.9	3.1	-
Nondurables less food.....	199.101	-	211.637	5.4	6.3	-
Services less rent of shelter .....	299.267	-	301.002	4.0	0.6	-
Services less medical care services.....	276.402	-	279.933	3.9	1.3	-
Energy .....	198.414	206.370	216.819	9.2	9.3	5.1
All items less energy .....	242.203	-	244.800	4.6	1.1	-
All items less food and energy .....	241.162	-	243.967	4.3	1.2	-

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.
- (2) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.
- (3) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.
- Data not available.