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SOUTHWEST INFORMATION OFFICE: Dallas, Texas

Technical information: (972) 850-4800 BLSInfoDallas@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/southwest

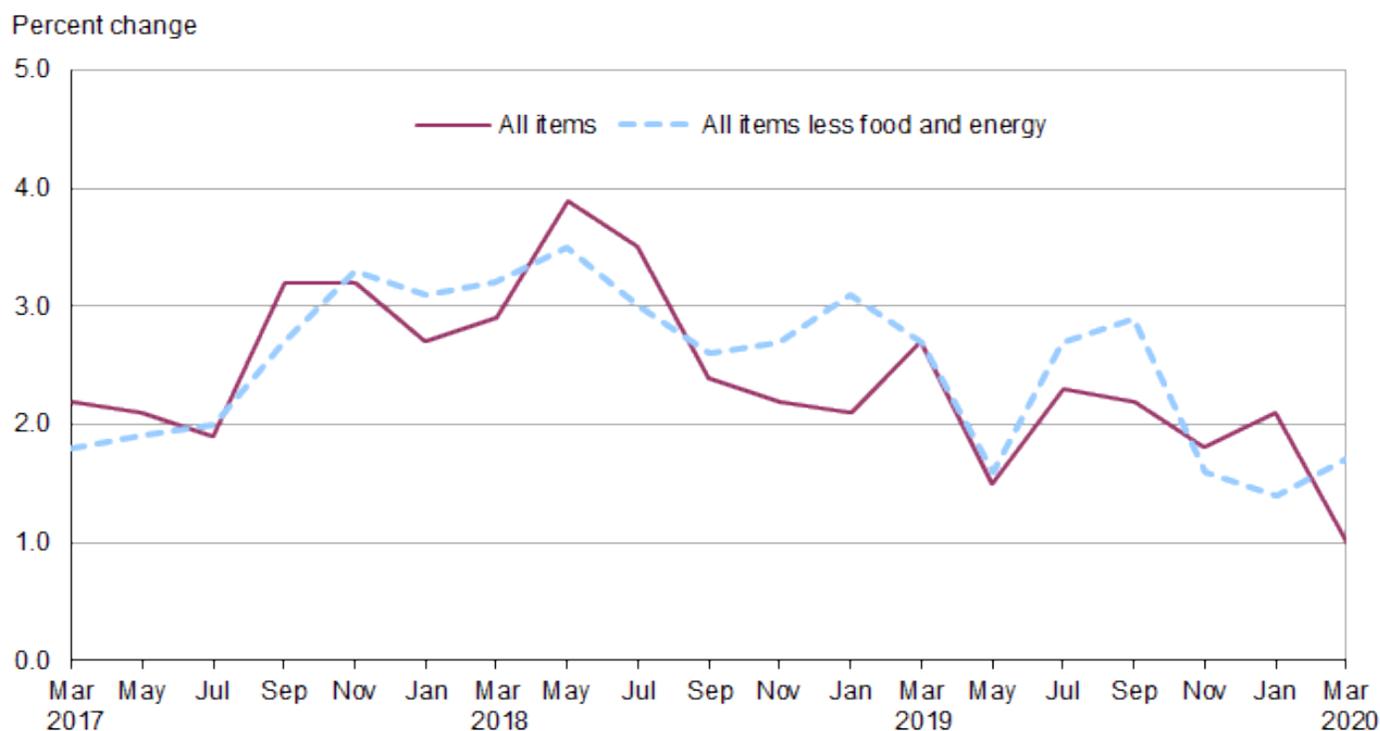
Media contact: (972) 850-4800

Consumer Price Index, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington — March 2020 **Area prices unchanged in February and March; up 1.0 percent over the year**

Prices in the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged for the two months ending in March 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Acting Regional Commissioner Susan Mendez noted that the indexes for both food and for all items less food and energy posted 0.6-percent advances during the period. However, these increases were balanced by an 8.3-percent decline in energy costs during the two months ending in March. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the all items CPI-U advanced 1.0 percent, while the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table 1](#).) During the 12-month period ending in March 2020, food prices increased 2.1 percent, while energy costs fell 8.9 percent.

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Dallas, TX, March 2017–March 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.6 percent for the two months ending in March, after edging up 0.1 percent in December and January. The latest movement was entirely the result of a 1.0-percent increase in the food at home index (grocery store prices), as prices for food away from home were unchanged during the period.

During the 12 months ending in March 2020, food prices advanced 2.1 percent, reflecting the combined effects of a 2.3-percent increase in prices for food at home and a 1.9-percent rise in prices for food away from home.

Energy

The energy index dropped 8.3 percent for the two months ending in March, after declining 0.5 percent in December and January. During the latest period, prices fell for all three of the major components within the energy index, but the largest contributor was a 14.0-percent decline in motor fuel prices. The cost of electricity fell 2.2 percent and natural gas prices declined 7.1 percent during the two-month period.

Over the year, the energy index decreased 8.9 percent, the first twelve-month decline since October 2019. The biggest factor in the latest annual decline was a 17.0-percent drop in motor fuel costs. Also contributing was a 2.2-percent decline in natural gas costs. In contrast, prices for electricity rose 0.3 percent during the last 12 months.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.6 percent in February and March, after edging up 0.1 percent in December and January. In the latest bi-monthly period, higher prices were registered for a number of components, including shelter (1.3 percent), apparel (3.5 percent), and medical care (1.4 percent). These increases were partly offset by price declines for new vehicles and public transportation, particularly airline fares.

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.7 percent. Leading factors in the price increase included shelter (4.7 percent), medical care (4.2 percent), and apparel (4.2 percent). Partially countering these gains were price declines for new and used motor vehicles (-8.7 percent), recreation (-2.6 percent), and household furnishings and operations (-1.9 percent).

The May 2020 Consumer Price Index for All Items for Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington is scheduled to be released Wednesday, June 10, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on March 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) program suspended data collection by personal visit on 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 being 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/bls/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-bls-price-indexes.htm#CPI.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index for Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington is published bi-monthly. 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 population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 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 (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 **Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, Texas, Core Based Statistical Area** includes the counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise.

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, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020
All items.....	238.935	-	238.865	1.0	0.0	-
All items (1967 = 100).....	749.526	-	749.305			
Food and beverages.....	259.487	-	261.443	2.1	0.8	-
Food.....	254.505	-	255.909	2.1	0.6	-
Food at home.....	213.543	212.278	215.773	2.3	1.0	1.6
Cereals and bakery products.....	252.772	-	259.234	-2.6	2.6	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	243.305	-	249.729	4.5	2.6	-
Dairy and related products.....	199.131	-	194.100	1.7	-2.5	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	201.215	-	197.351	1.0	-1.9	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	182.257	-	186.977	8.3	2.6	-
Other food at home.....	198.946	-	201.817	0.7	1.4	-
Food away from home.....	316.094	-	316.173	1.9	0.0	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	324.746	-	334.613	5.0	3.0	-
Housing.....	235.154	-	237.318	3.6	0.9	-
Shelter.....	263.105	265.418	266.409	4.7	1.3	0.4
Rent of primary residence.....	280.434	282.535	284.827	4.7	1.6	0.8
Owners' equivalent rent of residences(2).....	282.877	285.145	286.916	5.1	1.4	0.6
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence(2).....	282.877	285.145	286.916	5.1	1.4	0.6
Fuels and utilities.....	252.360	-	247.288	1.4	-2.0	-
Household energy.....	222.266	221.394	215.790	-0.1	-2.9	-2.5
Energy services.....	218.544	217.541	212.209	-0.1	-2.9	-2.5
Electricity.....	210.942	210.942	206.218	0.3	-2.2	-2.2
Utility (piped) gas service.....	195.650	189.073	181.819	-2.2	-7.1	-3.8
Household furnishings and operations.....	119.099	-	120.834	-1.9	1.5	-
Apparel.....	109.365	-	113.159	4.2	3.5	-
Transportation.....	202.133	-	192.383	-8.2	-4.8	-
Private transportation.....	204.851	-	196.742	-7.7	-4.0	-
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	104.388	-	100.529	-8.7	-3.7	-
New vehicles(1).....	199.406	-	184.054	-12.6	-7.7	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	318.974	-	328.412	-0.6	3.0	-
Motor fuel.....	214.459	198.037	184.408	-17.0	-14.0	-6.9
Gasoline (all types).....	212.963	196.553	183.021	-17.1	-14.1	-6.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	203.803	187.777	174.517	-17.6	-14.4	-7.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	229.866	213.250	199.477	-15.2	-13.2	-6.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	237.245	222.119	210.196	-12.7	-11.4	-5.4
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	755.625	-	764.690	-3.3	1.2	-
Medical care.....	462.745	-	469.228	4.2	1.4	-
Recreation(3).....	121.966	-	121.323	-2.6	-0.5	-
Education and communication(3).....	132.628	-	133.070	1.0	0.3	-
Tuition, other school fees, and childcare(1) ...	1,286.352	-	1,292.468	2.2	0.5	-
Other goods and services.....	428.813	-	425.990	3.6	-0.7	-
Commodity and service group						
Commodities.....	175.257	-	172.801	-1.7	-1.4	-
Commodities less food and beverages.....	138.210	-	134.484	-3.9	-2.7	-
Nondurables less food and beverages.....	173.596	-	168.012	-3.2	-3.2	-
Durables.....	108.182	-	105.945	-4.8	-2.1	-
Services.....	300.965	-	303.210	2.6	0.7	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less shelter.....	228.284	-	226.599	-1.0	-0.7	-
All items less medical care.....	228.101	-	227.746	0.7	-0.2	-
Commodities less food.....	142.844	-	139.375	-3.7	-2.4	-

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, Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from -		
	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020
Nondurables	212.622	-	210.202	-0.4	-1.1	-
Nondurables less food.....	180.432	-	175.553	-2.8	-2.7	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	351.725	-	351.932	0.0	0.1	-
Services less medical care services.....	284.091	-	285.767	2.2	0.6	-
Energy	219.249	210.642	201.026	-8.9	-8.3	-4.6
All items less energy	244.920	-	246.282	1.7	0.6	-
All items less food and energy	243.141	-	244.495	1.7	0.6	-

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a February 1978=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a December 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.
- Data not available.