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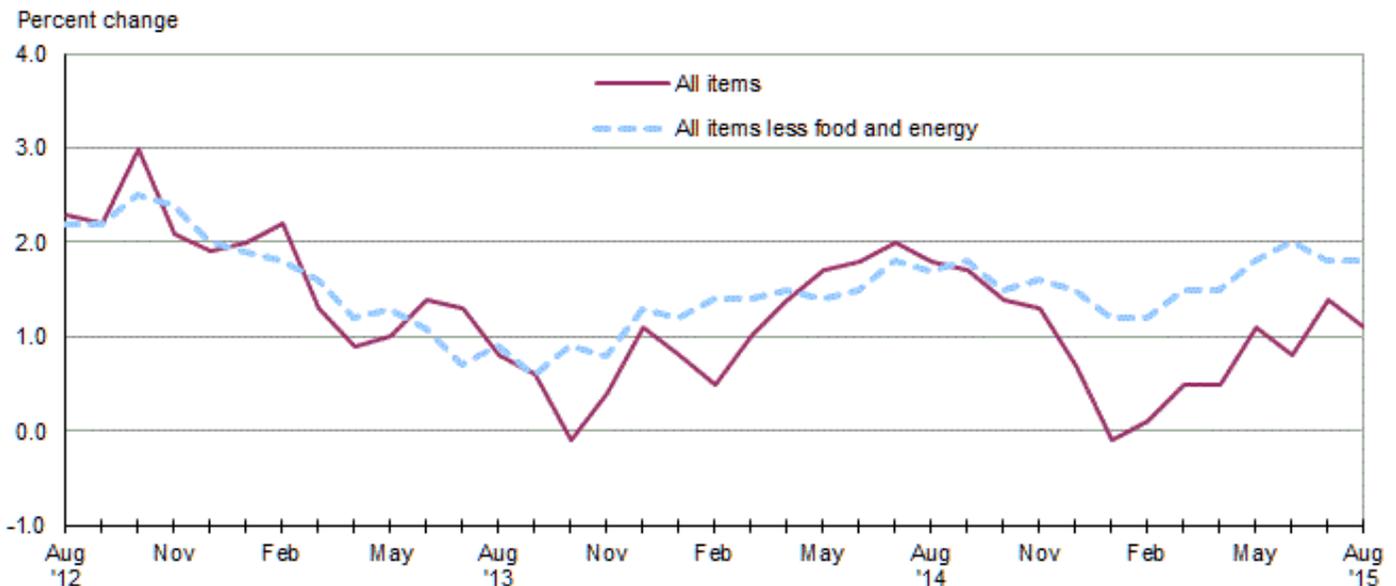
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — August 2015

Area prices were down 0.3 percent over the past month, up 1.1 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), declined 0.3 percent in August, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the August decrease was influenced by lower prices for gasoline. (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 advanced 1.1 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) Energy prices decreased 5.1 percent, primarily the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, August 2012–August 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged down 0.2 percent for the month of August. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home decreased 0.4 percent, while prices for food away from home were virtually unchanged for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 1.1 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 2.0 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 0.5 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 5.4 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-8.3 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, while prices for natural gas service rose 1.3 percent in the same period.

Energy prices decreased 5.1 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-5.5 percent). Prices paid for electricity declined 4.3 percent, and prices for natural gas service decreased 3.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy crept up 0.2 percent in August. Higher prices for apparel (4.6 percent) and other goods and services (0.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (3.7 percent) and medical care (2.0 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-3.3 percent), recreation (-0.9 percent), and household furnishings and operations (-0.9 percent).

Table A. Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Monthly	Annual										
January.....	0.4	1.8	0.9	1.8	0.8	2.1	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	-0.1
February.....	0.0	1.4	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1
March.....	0.4	1.9	1.1	3.0	1.0	2.0	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.5
April.....	0.2	1.9	0.5	3.3	0.0	1.5	-0.4	0.9	0.0	1.4	-0.1	0.5
May.....	0.2	1.8	0.0	3.1	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.1
June.....	-0.2	0.9	-0.4	2.9	-0.4	1.6	-0.1	1.4	0.1	1.8	-0.3	0.8
July.....	0.1	0.9	-0.4	2.4	-0.1	1.9	-0.1	1.3	0.1	2.0	0.7	1.4
August.....	0.2	0.8	0.2	2.4	0.6	2.3	0.1	0.8	-0.1	1.8	-0.3	1.1
September.....	-0.1	0.4	0.5	3.1	0.4	2.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.7		
October.....	0.3	0.7	0.0	2.8	0.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4		
November.....	-0.4	0.7	-0.1	3.0	-1.0	2.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.7	1.3		
December.....	0.3	1.3	-0.5	2.2	-0.7	1.9	0.0	1.1	-0.5	0.7		

The September 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released on October 15, 2015.

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 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 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 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 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/homch17_a.htm.

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 Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura Counties in the State of California.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
Expenditure category						
All items.....	245.459	247.066	246.328	1.1	0.4	-0.3
All items (1967=100).....	725.196	729.944	727.763	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	247.561	249.259	248.660	1.1	0.4	-0.2
Food.....	247.716	249.521	249.024	1.1	0.5	-0.2
Food at home.....	255.905	258.745	257.616	0.5	0.7	-0.4
Food away from home.....	233.832	234.295	234.608	2.0	0.3	0.1
Alcoholic beverages.....	230.789	231.106	229.310	0.1	-0.6	-0.8
Housing.....	266.760	267.487	268.128	2.7	0.5	0.2
Shelter.....	302.387	303.424	304.185	3.7	0.6	0.3
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	315.732	316.908	318.359	3.9	0.8	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	314.233	315.254	316.295	3.4	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	314.217	315.232	316.270	3.4	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	293.574	294.852	295.443	-2.1	0.6	0.2
Household energy.....	259.449	259.298	260.081	-4.2	0.2	0.3
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	258.160	258.017	258.988	-4.1	0.3	0.4
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	290.713	290.696	290.671	-4.3	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	223.994	223.608	226.483	-3.5	1.1	1.3
Household furnishings and operations.....	115.807	115.233	115.445	-0.9	-0.3	0.2
Apparel.....	108.261	106.516	111.391	-3.3	2.9	4.6
Transportation.....	208.484	214.516	207.441	-1.6	-0.5	-3.3
Private transportation.....	202.136	209.783	203.110	-1.5	0.5	-3.2
Motor fuel.....	280.247	309.603	283.806	-5.6	1.3	-8.3
Gasoline (all types).....	274.363	303.245	277.944	-5.5	1.3	-8.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	275.591	305.141	278.966	-5.7	1.2	-8.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	261.374	284.904	267.946	-3.9	2.5	-6.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	258.768	284.780	261.694	-5.3	1.1	-8.1
Medical care.....	422.304	424.680	424.885	2.0	0.6	0.0
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	104.313	104.267	103.423	-0.9	-0.9	-0.8
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	146.030	146.469	146.567	0.4	0.4	0.1
Other goods and services.....	384.949	384.517	386.009	1.2	0.3	0.4
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	245.459	247.066	246.328	1.1	0.4	-0.3
Commodities.....	178.772	181.321	179.536	-1.0	0.4	-1.0
Commodities less food & beverages.....	141.852	144.657	142.441	-2.4	0.4	-1.5
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	186.845	193.161	188.535	-3.0	0.9	-2.4
Durables.....	97.950	97.431	97.499	-1.5	-0.5	0.1
Services.....	304.277	304.917	305.226	2.4	0.3	0.1
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care.....	237.543	239.111	238.348	1.1	0.3	-0.3
All items less shelter.....	220.669	222.521	221.135	-0.3	0.2	-0.6
Commodities less food.....	145.855	148.602	146.381	-2.3	0.4	-1.5
Nondurables.....	218.607	222.829	220.043	-0.9	0.7	-1.3
Nondurables less food.....	191.542	197.538	193.046	-2.7	0.8	-2.3
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	315.662	315.729	315.380	0.6	-0.1	-0.1
Services less medical care services.....	293.747	294.282	294.610	2.5	0.3	0.1
Energy.....	273.440	291.646	275.895	-5.1	0.9	-5.4

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
All items less energy.....	245.324	245.738	246.085	1.7	0.3	0.1
All items less food and energy.....	245.236	245.394	245.896	1.8	0.3	0.2

(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) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

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