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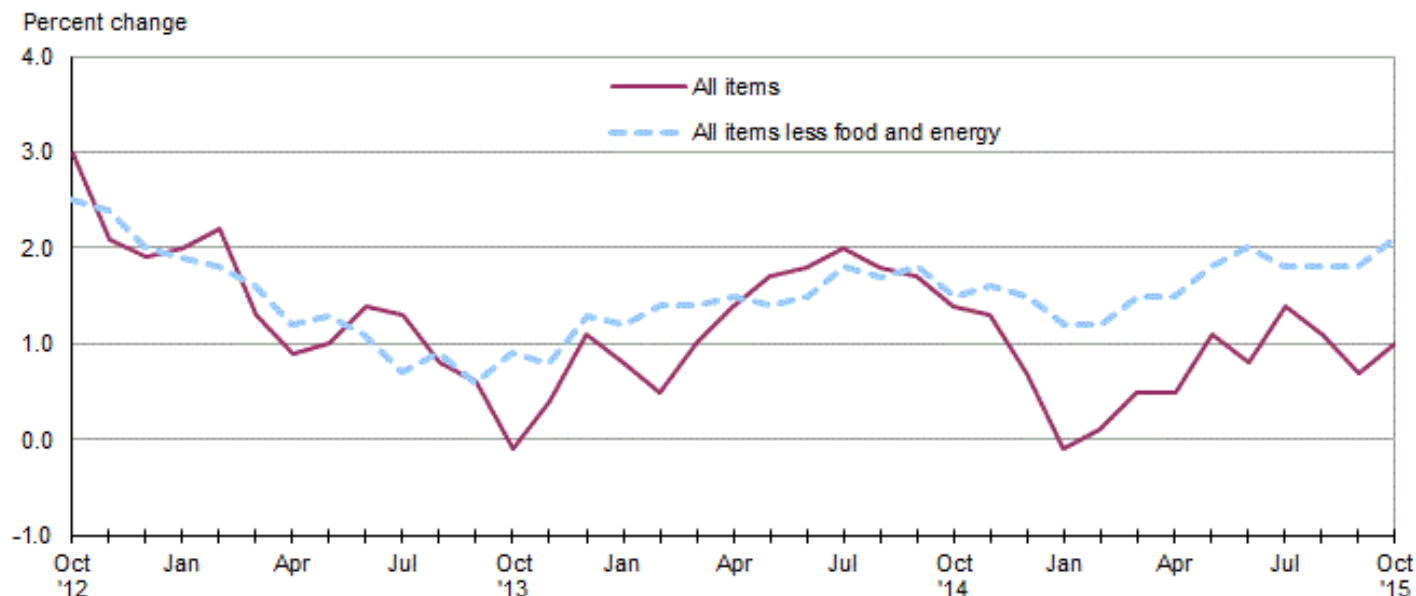
## **Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — October 2015**

**Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 1.0 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), inched up 0.2 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the October increase was influenced by higher prices for recreation and shelter. (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 1.0 percent. (See [chart 1.](#)) Energy prices fell 11.8 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### **Food**

Food prices increased 0.5 percent for the month of October. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home rose 0.6 percent, and prices for food away from home inched up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 1.7 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 2.7 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 1.1 percent.

## Energy

The energy index declined 3.6 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-7.4 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 0.7 percent, but prices for electricity increased 3.5 percent in the same period.

Energy prices fell 11.8 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-16.4 percent). Prices paid for electricity decreased 4.4 percent, and prices for natural gas service declined 3.7 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.4 percent in October. Higher prices for recreation (2.5 percent), medical care (1.6 percent), and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-0.7 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (4.1 percent) and shelter (3.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in household furnishings and operations (-1.8 percent) and apparel (-1.1 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	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	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	-0.4	0.7
October.....	0.3	0.7	0.0	2.8	0.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4	0.2	1.0
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 November 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released on December 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](http://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](http://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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	246.328	245.431	245.812	1.0	-0.2	0.2
All items (1967=100) .....	727.763	725.112	726.237	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	248.660	249.965	251.272	1.7	1.1	0.5
Food .....	249.024	250.499	251.648	1.7	1.1	0.5
Food at home .....	257.616	259.351	260.999	1.1	1.3	0.6
Food away from home .....	234.608	235.732	236.232	2.7	0.7	0.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	229.310	228.488	231.621	1.4	1.0	1.4
Housing .....	268.128	268.534	269.317	2.5	0.4	0.3
Shelter .....	304.185	304.641	305.625	3.6	0.5	0.3
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	318.359	318.925	320.343	3.9	0.6	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	316.295	316.537	317.784	3.4	0.5	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	316.270	316.513	317.756	3.4	0.5	0.4
Fuels and utilities .....	295.443	295.078	297.508	-2.4	0.7	0.8
Household energy .....	260.081	259.239	265.167	-4.3	2.0	2.3
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	258.988	258.159	264.044	-4.2	2.0	2.3
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	290.671	290.671	300.925	-4.4	3.5	3.5
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	226.483	224.068	222.585	-3.7	-1.7	-0.7
Household furnishings and operations .....	115.445	115.943	115.363	-1.8	-0.1	-0.5
Apparel .....	111.391	114.341	113.500	-1.1	1.9	-0.7
Transportation .....	207.441	198.005	194.011	-5.4	-6.5	-2.0
Private transportation .....	203.110	193.629	188.820	-5.2	-7.0	-2.5
Motor fuel .....	283.806	246.755	228.651	-16.4	-19.4	-7.3
Gasoline (all types) .....	277.944	241.579	223.802	-16.4	-19.5	-7.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(3)</sup> .....	278.966	242.193	224.227	-16.6	-19.6	-7.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	267.946	233.497	214.672	-15.7	-19.9	-8.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(3)</sup> .....	261.694	229.035	213.374	-15.5	-18.5	-6.8
Medical care .....	424.885	426.277	433.038	4.1	1.9	1.6
Recreation <sup>(5)</sup> .....	103.423	103.544	106.169	1.2	2.7	2.5
Education and communication <sup>(5)</sup> .....	146.567	147.006	147.283	1.0	0.5	0.2
Other goods and services .....	386.009	388.613	391.837	3.2	1.5	0.8
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	246.328	245.431	245.812	1.0	-0.2	0.2
Commodities .....	179.536	177.301	175.708	-1.9	-2.1	-0.9
Commodities less food & beverages .....	142.441	138.788	136.021	-4.5	-4.5	-2.0
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	188.535	181.951	176.352	-6.1	-6.5	-3.1
Durables .....	97.499	96.637	96.558	-1.7	-1.0	-0.1
Services .....	305.226	305.665	307.972	2.7	0.9	0.8
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	238.348	237.382	237.547	0.8	-0.3	0.1
All items less shelter .....	221.135	219.652	219.771	-0.5	-0.6	0.1
Commodities less food .....	146.381	142.790	140.190	-4.2	-4.2	-1.8
Nondurables .....	220.043	217.102	214.695	-1.9	-2.4	-1.1
Nondurables less food .....	193.046	186.764	181.667	-5.5	-5.9	-2.7
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	315.380	315.800	320.088	1.5	1.5	1.4
Services less medical care services .....	294.610	295.050	296.875	2.6	0.8	0.6
Energy .....	275.895	252.521	243.522	-11.8	-11.7	-3.6
All items less energy .....	246.085	246.813	247.878	2.1	0.7	0.4

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 Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
All items less food and energy .....	245.896	246.488	247.539	2.1	0.7	0.4

Footnotes

(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.