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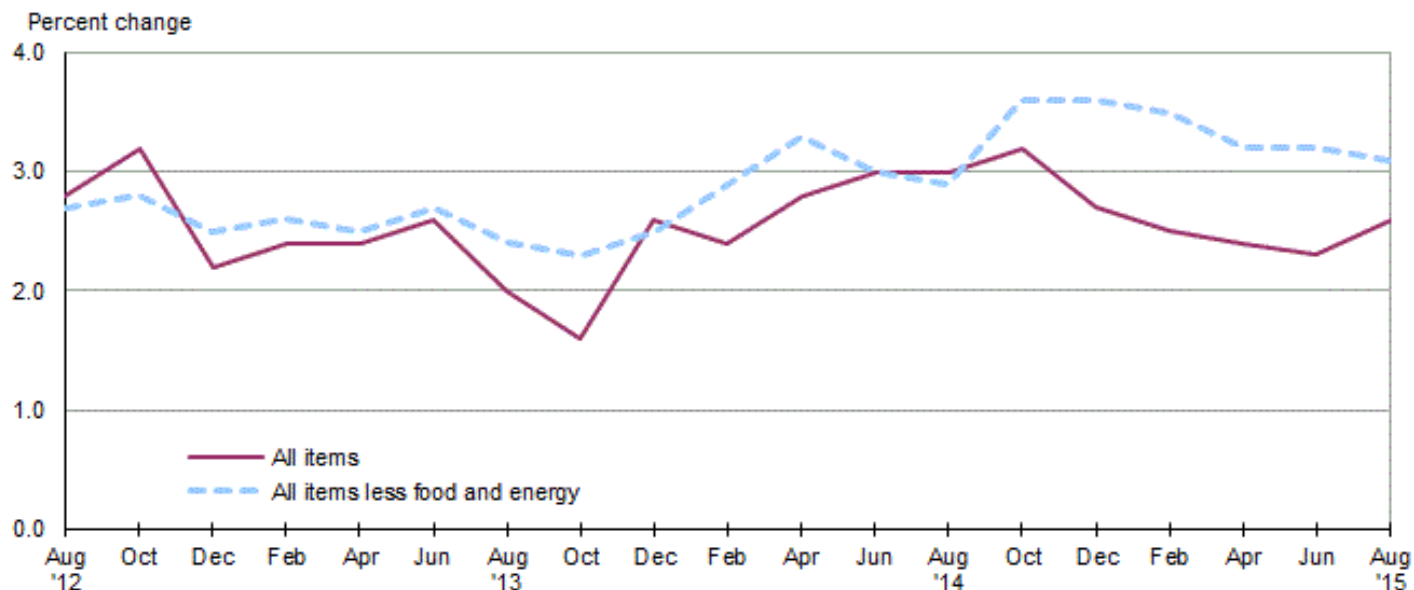
Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — August 2015

Area prices were up 0.3 percent over the past two months, up 2.6 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), rose 0.3 percent for the two months ending in August 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the August increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and food. (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 rose 2.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices decreased 8.4 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 2.2 percent for the two months ending in August. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 3.2 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 1.0 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.3 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 5.0 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home rose 3.8 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 1.2 percent for the two months ending in August. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-2.1 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, but natural gas service prices increased 0.2 percent for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 8.4 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-16.6 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service moved up 9.5 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 4.8 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.1 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (3.8 percent) and shelter (1.0 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-1.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (5.2 percent) and household furnishings and operations (4.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-4.0 percent).

Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose CPI-U bi-monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual
February	0.8	1.8	1.0	1.7	1.1	3.0	1.3	2.4	1.2	2.4	1.0	2.5
April	0.7	1.7	1.8	2.8	0.9	2.1	0.8	2.4	1.2	2.8	1.1	2.4
June	0.2	1.1	-0.2	2.4	0.3	2.6	0.5	2.6	0.7	3.0	0.6	2.3
August	-0.1	1.0	0.4	2.9	0.6	2.8	0.1	2.0	0.0	3.0	0.3	2.6
October	0.1	0.9	0.3	3.2	0.7	3.2	0.2	1.6	0.5	3.2		
December	-0.2	1.5	-0.4	2.9	-1.4	2.2	-0.4	2.6	-0.9	2.7		

The October 2015 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose is scheduled to be released on November 17, 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 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 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 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Solano 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 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, 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	259.117	-	259.917	2.6	0.3	-
All items (1967=100)	796.597	-	799.058	-	-	-
Food and beverages	259.733	-	264.734	3.8	1.9	-
Food	260.305	-	265.927	4.3	2.2	-
Food at home	249.931	253.343	257.881	3.8	3.2	1.8
Food away from home	272.482	-	275.110	5.0	1.0	-
Alcoholic beverages	258.413	-	256.345	-2.3	-0.8	-
Housing	292.549	-	294.572	5.3	0.7	-
Shelter	328.284	331.582	331.436	5.2	1.0	0.0
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	369.549	371.893	372.725	5.8	0.9	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	353.990	356.348	357.428	5.3	1.0	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	353.990	356.348	357.428	5.3	1.0	0.3
Fuels and utilities	357.574	-	358.793	8.1	0.3	-
Household energy	319.416	315.457	319.364	5.6	0.0	1.2
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	319.843	315.974	320.099	6.0	0.1	1.3
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	330.729	330.882	330.882	4.8	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	285.849	271.797	286.363	9.5	0.2	5.4
Household furnishings and operations	140.580	-	138.353	4.1	-1.6	-
Apparel	109.924	-	114.153	-4.0	3.8	-
Transportation	194.067	-	189.447	-4.6	-2.4	-
Private transportation	181.508	-	179.973	-3.9	-0.8	-
Motor fuel	253.019	257.434	247.551	-16.8	-2.2	-3.8
Gasoline (all types)	252.202	256.721	246.954	-16.6	-2.1	-3.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	252.847	257.600	247.597	-16.9	-2.1	-3.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	232.957	235.887	229.514	-16.0	-1.5	-2.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	236.647	239.945	231.379	-15.8	-2.2	-3.6
Medical care	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	113.087	-	113.871	3.7	0.7	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	142.239	-	142.565	0.5	0.2	-
Other goods and services	431.917	-	428.980	0.4	-0.7	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	259.117	-	259.917	2.6	0.3	-
Commodities	183.160	-	183.674	-0.6	0.3	-
Commodities less food & beverages	140.917	-	139.490	-3.8	-1.0	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	178.700	-	178.833	-5.7	0.1	-
Durables	104.400	-	101.692	-0.9	-2.6	-
Services	322.857	-	323.898	4.2	0.3	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	250.505	-	251.563	2.6	0.4	-
All items less shelter	231.934	-	231.693	1.0	-0.1	-
Commodities less food	146.103	-	144.641	-3.8	-1.0	-
Nondurables	220.488	-	222.979	-0.5	1.1	-
Nondurables less food	184.847	-	184.831	-5.4	0.0	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	332.490	-	330.741	2.8	-0.5	-
Services less medical care services	313.590	-	315.092	4.4	0.5	-
Energy	280.775	282.107	277.272	-8.4	-1.2	-1.7
All items less energy	261.107	-	262.142	3.3	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 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, 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 food and energy	262.049	-	262.350	3.1	0.1	-

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.