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WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

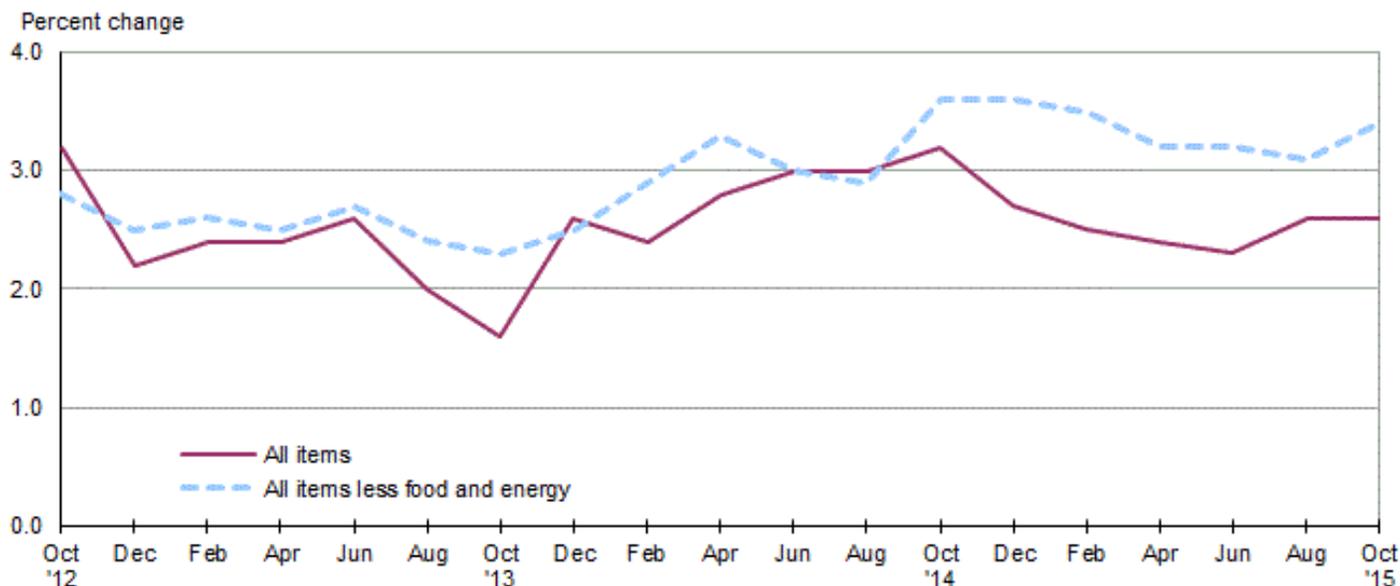
Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — October 2015

Area prices were up 0.4 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), increased 0.4 percent for the two months ending in October 2015, 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 shelter and apparel. (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 2.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices fell 12.9 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.4 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices inched up 0.1 percent for the two months ending in October. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 0.2 percent, and prices for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 3.9 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 4.7 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home moved up 3.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index fell 10.2 percent for the two months ending in October. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-15.7 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 4.9 percent, and prices for electricity decreased 2.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 12.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-22.0 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service declined 2.6 percent, while prices for electricity advanced 2.6 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.2 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (3.9 percent), and shelter (1.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (5.6 percent) and recreation (3.1 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										
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	0.4	2.6
December	-0.2	1.5	-0.4	2.9	-1.4	2.2	-0.4	2.6	-0.9	2.7		

The December 2015 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose is scheduled to be released on January 20, 2016.

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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
Expenditure category						
All items	259.917	-	261.019	2.6	0.4	-
All items (1967=100)	799.058	-	802.446	-	-	-
Food and beverages	264.734	-	265.907	3.8	0.4	-
Food	265.927	-	266.323	3.9	0.1	-
Food at home	257.881	256.367	258.357	3.2	0.2	0.8
Food away from home	275.110	-	275.402	4.7	0.1	-
Alcoholic beverages	256.345	-	266.515	2.2	4.0	-
Housing	294.572	-	297.542	5.2	1.0	-
Shelter	331.436	334.406	335.907	5.6	1.3	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	372.725	375.965	378.360	6.3	1.5	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	357.428	359.814	361.244	5.4	1.1	0.4
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Fuels and utilities	358.793	-	354.684	3.7	-1.1	-
Household energy	319.364	309.308	309.512	0.9	-3.1	0.1
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	320.099	309.857	309.859	1.2	-3.2	0.0
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	330.882	322.259	322.259	2.6	-2.6	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	286.363	272.194	272.201	-2.6	-4.9	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	138.353	-	137.832	2.3	-0.4	-
Apparel	114.153	-	118.560	0.8	3.9	-
Transportation	189.447	-	183.669	-6.5	-3.0	-
Private transportation	179.973	-	172.792	-5.9	-4.0	-
Motor fuel	247.551	223.945	208.973	-22.1	-15.6	-6.7
Gasoline (all types)	246.954	223.227	208.157	-22.0	-15.7	-6.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	247.597	223.409	208.232	-22.3	-15.9	-6.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	229.514	206.971	193.511	-21.8	-15.7	-6.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	231.379	211.397	197.540	-20.5	-14.6	-6.6
Medical care	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	113.871	-	114.199	3.1	0.3	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	142.565	-	144.057	1.7	1.0	-
Other goods and services	428.980	-	432.766	1.0	0.9	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	259.917	-	261.019	2.6	0.4	-
Commodities	183.674	-	182.500	-0.5	-0.6	-
Commodities less food & beverages	139.490	-	137.377	-3.8	-1.5	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	178.833	-	174.162	-5.6	-2.6	-
Durables	101.692	-	101.818	-1.0	0.1	-
Services	323.898	-	326.905	4.1	0.9	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	251.563	-	252.457	2.5	0.4	-
All items less shelter	231.693	-	231.302	0.7	-0.2	-
Commodities less food	144.641	-	142.915	-3.4	-1.2	-
Nondurables	222.979	-	221.069	-0.4	-0.9	-
Nondurables less food	184.831	-	181.149	-4.9	-2.0	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	330.741	-	331.912	2.0	0.4	-
Services less medical care services	315.092	-	317.847	4.1	0.9	-
Energy	277.272	258.466	249.002	-12.9	-10.2	-3.7
All items less energy	262.142	-	264.791	3.5	1.0	-

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-		
	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015	Oct. 2015	Oct. 2014	Aug. 2015	Sep. 2015
All items less food and energy	262.350	-	265.370	3.4	1.2	-

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.