



For Release: Wednesday, March 16, 2016

16-537-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

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

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

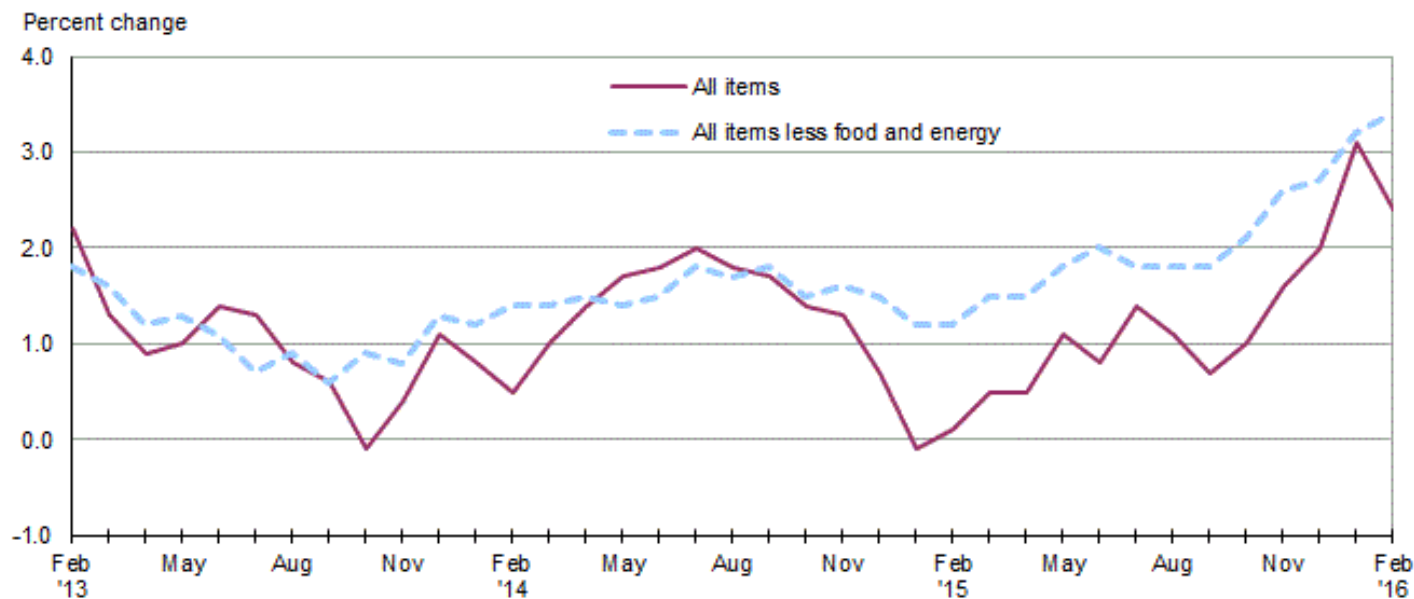
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — February 2016

Area prices were unchanged over the past month, up 2.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the two expenditure categories with the largest opposing effects were lower gasoline prices and higher apparel prices. (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 increased 2.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices decreased 7.9 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, Los Angeles, February 2013–February 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.7 percent for the month of February. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home rose 0.7 percent, and prices for food at home advanced 0.6 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 1.9 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 4.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 0.3 percent

Energy

The energy index decreased 8.3 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-14.3 percent). Prices for natural gas service decreased 0.3 percent, while prices for electricity were virtually unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 7.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-12.5 percent). Prices for electricity declined 1.7 percent, and prices paid for natural gas service declined 1.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.6 percent in February. Higher prices for apparel (6.9 percent) and medical care (2.7 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-1.7 percent) and recreation (-1.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.4 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (9.2 percent), apparel (7.0 percent), and shelter (4.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in household furnishings and operations (-1.0 percent) and education and communication (-0.7 percent).

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.9	1.8	0.8	2.1	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	-0.1	0.7	3.1
February.....	0.5	2.3	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	2.4
March.....	1.1	3.0	1.0	2.0	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.5		
April.....	0.5	3.3	0.0	1.5	-0.4	0.9	0.0	1.4	-0.1	0.5		
May.....	0.0	3.1	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.1		
June.....	-0.4	2.9	-0.4	1.6	-0.1	1.4	0.1	1.8	-0.3	0.8		
July.....	-0.4	2.4	-0.1	1.9	-0.1	1.3	0.1	2.0	0.7	1.4		
August.....	0.2	2.4	0.6	2.3	0.1	0.8	-0.1	1.8	-0.3	1.1		
September.....	0.5	3.1	0.4	2.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.7	-0.4	0.7		
October.....	0.0	2.8	0.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4	0.2	1.0		
November.....	-0.1	3.0	-1.0	2.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.7	1.3	0.0	1.6		
December.....	-0.5	2.2	-0.7	1.9	0.0	1.1	-0.5	0.7	-0.1	2.0		

The March 2016 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area is scheduled to be released on April 14, 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 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.

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Expenditure category						
All items	245.357	247.155	247.113	2.4	0.7	0.0
All items (1967=100)	724.893	730.207	730.081	-	-	-
Food and beverages	249.752	251.903	253.685	1.9	1.6	0.7
Food	249.838	252.083	253.784	1.9	1.6	0.7
Food at home	256.077	258.072	259.695	0.3	1.4	0.6
Food away from home	238.404	240.923	242.695	4.2	1.8	0.7
Alcoholic beverages	233.690	234.369	237.203	2.4	1.5	1.2
Housing	270.386	272.241	273.047	3.2	1.0	0.3
Shelter	307.810	309.527	310.774	4.1	1.0	0.4
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	323.270	324.583	325.509	4.3	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	320.073	321.183	322.226	3.8	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	320.054	321.164	322.208	3.8	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities	290.880	294.663	295.788	-0.2	1.7	0.4
Household energy	256.045	259.428	259.039	-1.5	1.2	-0.1
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	254.881	258.261	257.877	-1.5	1.2	-0.1
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	296.080	301.034	300.681	-1.7	1.6	-0.1
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	204.688	205.093	204.573	-1.1	-0.1	-0.3
Household furnishings and operations	115.587	117.049	116.170	-1.0	0.5	-0.8
Apparel	106.662	109.239	116.730	7.0	9.4	6.9
Transportation	191.681	192.534	185.554	-2.9	-3.2	-3.6
Private transportation	186.458	187.604	180.257	-2.9	-3.3	-3.9
Motor fuel	218.367	223.372	191.643	-12.6	-12.2	-14.2
Gasoline (all types)	213.709	218.785	187.573	-12.5	-12.2	-14.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	214.090	219.173	187.470	-12.8	-12.4	-14.5
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	204.578	209.295	181.278	-11.1	-11.4	-13.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	204.270	208.928	180.614	-11.7	-11.6	-13.6
Medical care	443.162	445.247	457.056	9.2	3.1	2.7
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	106.622	108.878	107.655	4.7	1.0	-1.1
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	146.643	146.789	144.245	-0.7	-1.6	-1.7
Other goods and services	390.022	390.459	392.085	2.6	0.5	0.4
Commodity and service group						
All items	245.357	247.155	247.113	2.4	0.7	0.0
Commodities	173.172	175.053	173.879	-0.3	0.4	-0.7
Commodities less food & beverages	133.158	134.833	132.515	-2.0	-0.5	-1.7
Nondurables less food & beverages	171.621	174.709	169.987	-2.1	-1.0	-2.7
Durables	95.479	95.761	95.816	-1.7	0.4	0.1
Services	309.571	311.291	312.265	3.9	0.9	0.3
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	236.745	238.525	238.028	2.0	0.5	-0.2
All items less shelter	218.173	220.019	219.387	1.4	0.6	-0.3
Commodities less food	137.462	139.132	136.919	-1.8	-0.4	-1.6
Nondurables	211.415	214.140	212.307	0.1	0.4	-0.9
Nondurables less food	177.323	180.331	175.929	-1.8	-0.8	-2.4
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	320.856	322.629	323.216	3.7	0.7	0.2
Services less medical care services	297.997	299.771	299.917	3.4	0.6	0.0
Energy	233.640	238.041	218.222	-7.9	-6.6	-8.3
All items less energy	248.104	249.720	251.168	3.2	1.2	0.6

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-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
All items less food and energy	248.140	249.652	251.059	3.4	1.2	0.6

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.