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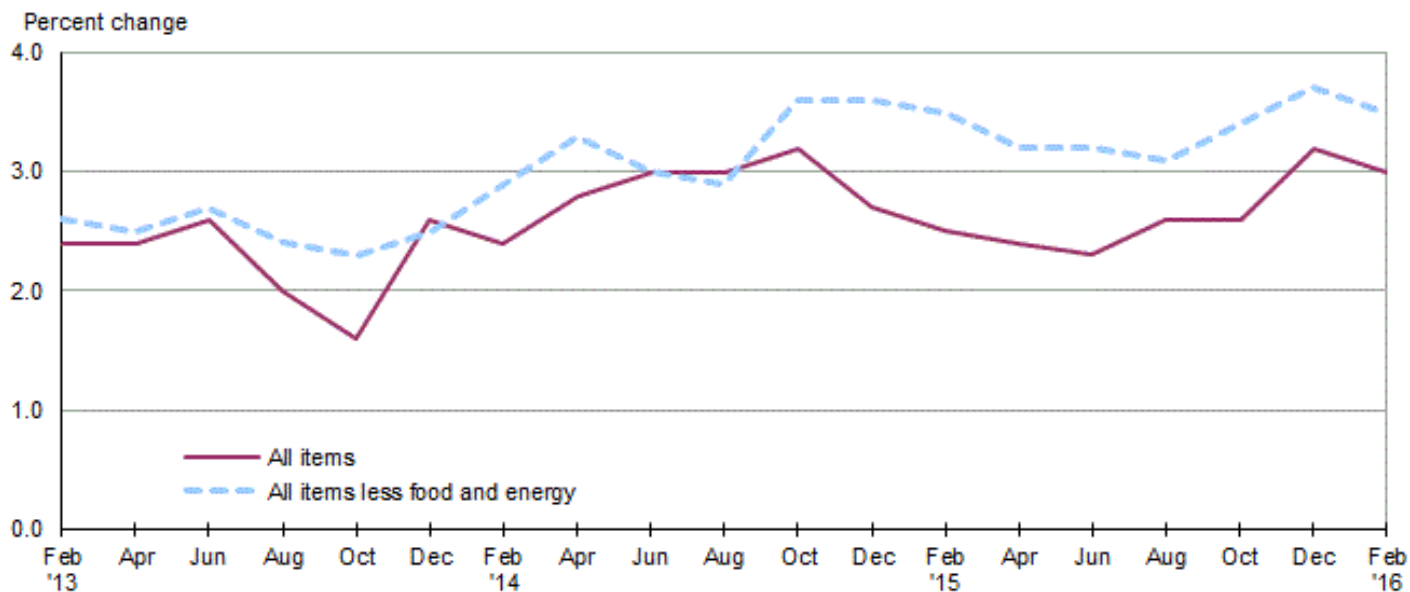
Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — February 2016

Area prices were up 0.9 percent over the past two months, up 3.0 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 0.9 percent for the two months ending in February 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that the February increase was influenced by higher prices for food 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 3.0 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices decreased 6.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.5 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Francisco, February 2013–February 2016



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 1.3 percent for the two months ending in February. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home advanced 2.3 percent, and prices for food away from home inched up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 3.6 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 4.8 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home rose 2.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 1.4 percent for the two months ending in February. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-9.3 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 8.6 percent, and prices for natural gas service moved up 7.7 percent over the past two months.

Energy prices decreased 6.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-14.6 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service declined 1.0 percent, but prices for electricity advanced 5.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.0 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for shelter (1.3 percent) and apparel (1.1 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for other goods and services (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.5 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (6.2 percent) and household furnishings and operations (3.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-3.5 percent).

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

Month	2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016	
	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual
February	1.0	1.7	1.1	3.0	1.3	2.4	1.2	2.4	1.0	2.5	0.9	3.0
April	1.8	2.8	0.9	2.1	0.8	2.4	1.2	2.8	1.1	2.4		
June	-0.2	2.4	0.3	2.6	0.5	2.6	0.7	3.0	0.6	2.3		
August	0.4	2.9	0.6	2.8	0.1	2.0	0.0	3.0	0.3	2.6		
October	0.3	3.2	0.7	3.2	0.2	1.6	0.5	3.2	0.4	2.6		
December	-0.4	2.9	-1.4	2.2	-0.4	2.6	-0.9	2.7	-0.3	3.2		

The April 2016 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose is scheduled to be released on May 17, 2016 (PDT).

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-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
Expenditure category						
All items	260.289	-	262.600	3.0	0.9	-
All items (1967=100)	800.202	-	807.306	-	-	-
Food and beverages	263.727	-	267.183	3.4	1.3	-
Food	264.436	-	267.788	3.6	1.3	-
Food at home	251.970	256.485	257.839	2.7	2.3	0.5
Food away from home	279.265	-	279.472	4.8	0.1	-
Alcoholic beverages	260.918	-	265.654	0.7	1.8	-
Housing	298.672	-	303.045	5.8	1.5	-
Shelter	338.391	340.642	342.825	6.2	1.3	0.6
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	383.630	385.439	387.481	7.0	1.0	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	365.738	367.373	368.833	6.1	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	365.738	367.373	368.833	6.1	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities	340.555	-	356.734	4.0	4.8	-
Household energy	289.207	310.806	312.919	3.4	8.2	0.7
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	289.345	311.412	313.595	3.7	8.4	0.7
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	304.880	331.248	331.248	5.3	8.6	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	244.086	256.759	262.988	-1.0	7.7	2.4
Household furnishings and operations	138.873	-	139.282	3.1	0.3	-
Apparel	113.135	-	114.355	-3.5	1.1	-
Transportation	180.339	-	178.328	-3.7	-1.1	-
Private transportation	170.299	-	167.973	-3.2	-1.4	-
Motor fuel	196.642	195.010	178.296	-14.7	-9.3	-8.6
Gasoline (all types)	195.812	194.258	177.552	-14.6	-9.3	-8.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	195.793	194.186	177.202	-15.0	-9.5	-8.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	182.039	181.151	166.245	-13.7	-8.7	-8.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	186.306	185.006	170.520	-12.9	-8.5	-7.8
Medical care	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	113.507	-	113.933	2.5	0.4	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	144.793	-	144.874	0.9	0.1	-
Other goods and services	432.355	-	431.198	0.9	-0.3	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	260.289	-	262.600	3.0	0.9	-
Commodities	180.357	-	180.347	-0.2	0.0	-
Commodities less food & beverages	135.361	-	133.891	-3.0	-1.1	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	170.099	-	166.842	-3.7	-1.9	-
Durables	101.606	-	101.832	-1.8	0.2	-
Services	327.357	-	331.501	4.5	1.3	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	251.577	-	253.803	3.0	0.9	-
All items less shelter	229.121	-	230.439	0.9	0.6	-
Commodities less food	140.763	-	139.481	-2.8	-0.9	-
Nondurables	217.860	-	217.713	0.3	-0.1	-
Nondurables less food	176.966	-	174.205	-3.3	-1.6	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	329.655	-	333.623	2.2	1.2	-
Services less medical care services	318.195	-	322.306	4.6	1.3	-
Energy	233.545	240.395	230.319	-6.6	-1.4	-4.2
All items less energy	264.822	-	267.449	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-		
	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016	Feb. 2016	Feb. 2015	Dec. 2015	Jan. 2016
All items less food and energy	265.709	-	268.236	3.5	1.0	-

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.