



For Release: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

16-1002-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

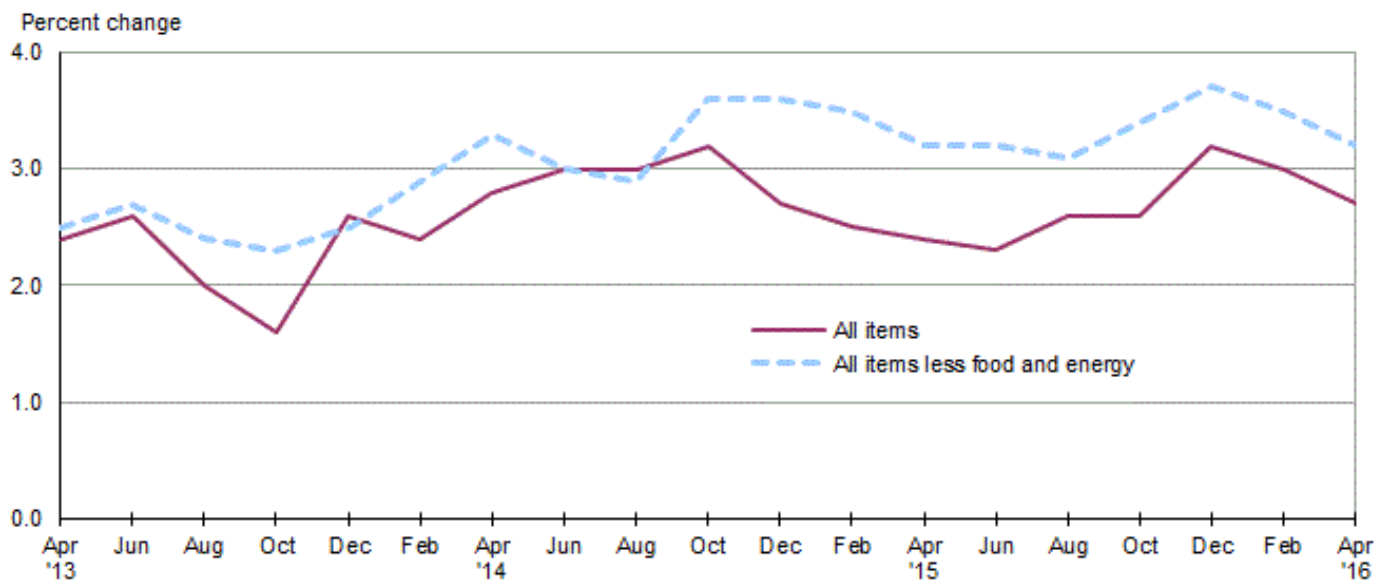
Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — April 2016

Area prices were up 0.7 percent over the past two months, up 2.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.7 percent for the two months ending in April 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the April increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and gasoline. (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 2.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices declined 7.7 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 3.2 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices decreased 0.5 percent for the two months ending in April. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home moved down 1.5 percent, but prices for food away from home moved up 0.6 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 3.3 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 4.3 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 2.4 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 7.7 percent for the two months ending in April. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (13.6 percent). Prices for natural gas service rose 2.8 percent, and prices for electricity moved up 1.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices declined 7.7 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-15.8 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service declined 2.9 percent, but prices for electricity advanced 5.6 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 the latest two-month period. Higher prices for recreation (1.6 percent), apparel (1.4 percent), and shelter (0.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-1.7 percent) and education and communication (-1.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 3.2 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (6.1 percent) and recreation (3.3 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in household furnishings and operations (-3.3 percent) and apparel (-1.1 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	0.7	2.7
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 June 2016 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose is scheduled to be released on July 15, 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.

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 San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
Expenditure category						
All items.....	262.600	-	264.565	2.7	0.7	-
All items (1967=100).....	807.306	-	813.347	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	267.183	-	266.126	3.4	-0.4	-
Food.....	267.788	-	266.373	3.3	-0.5	-
Food at home.....	257.839	254.236	253.883	2.4	-1.5	-0.1
Food away from home.....	279.472	-	281.228	4.3	0.6	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	265.654	-	268.720	4.0	1.2	-
Housing.....	303.045	-	304.909	5.2	0.6	-
Shelter.....	342.825	343.574	345.409	6.1	0.8	0.5
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	387.481	387.690	389.716	6.7	0.6	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	368.833	369.480	372.622	6.2	1.0	0.9
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	368.833	369.480	372.622	6.2	1.0	0.9
Fuels and utilities.....	356.734	-	361.837	4.1	1.4	-
Household energy.....	312.919	300.023	318.809	3.1	1.9	6.3
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	313.595	300.429	319.645	3.4	1.9	6.4
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	331.248	338.609	336.472	5.6	1.6	-0.6
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	262.988	211.387	270.288	-2.9	2.8	27.9
Household furnishings and operations.....	139.282	-	136.974	-3.3	-1.7	-
Apparel.....	114.355	-	115.913	-1.1	1.4	-
Transportation.....	178.328	-	184.865	-3.4	3.7	-
Private transportation.....	167.973	-	173.700	-2.9	3.4	-
Motor fuel.....	178.296	191.074	202.420	-15.8	13.5	5.9
Gasoline (all types).....	177.552	190.351	201.697	-15.8	13.6	6.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	177.202	190.246	201.654	-16.0	13.8	6.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	166.245	176.764	187.543	-15.6	12.8	6.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	170.520	181.623	192.029	-14.4	12.6	5.7
Medical care.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	113.933	-	115.705	3.3	1.6	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	144.874	-	142.574	0.1	-1.6	-
Other goods and services.....	431.198	-	434.127	0.5	0.7	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	262.600	-	264.565	2.7	0.7	-
Commodities.....	180.347	-	181.692	-0.6	0.7	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	133.891	-	136.175	-3.7	1.7	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	166.842	-	173.209	-3.6	3.8	-
Durables.....	101.832	-	100.247	-4.1	-1.6	-
Services.....	331.501	-	333.985	4.3	0.7	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care.....	253.803	-	255.771	2.8	0.8	-
All items less shelter.....	230.439	-	232.154	0.5	0.7	-
Commodities less food.....	139.481	-	141.812	-3.3	1.7	-
Nondurables.....	217.713	-	220.696	0.3	1.4	-
Nondurables less food.....	174.205	-	180.396	-2.9	3.6	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	333.623	-	335.571	1.6	0.6	-
Services less medical care services.....	322.306	-	324.853	4.5	0.8	-
Energy.....	230.319	233.891	248.135	-7.7	7.7	6.1

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-		
	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016	Apr. 2016	Apr. 2015	Feb. 2016	Mar. 2016
All items less energy	267.449	-	268.612	3.3	0.4	-
All items less food and energy	268.236	-	269.787	3.2	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.