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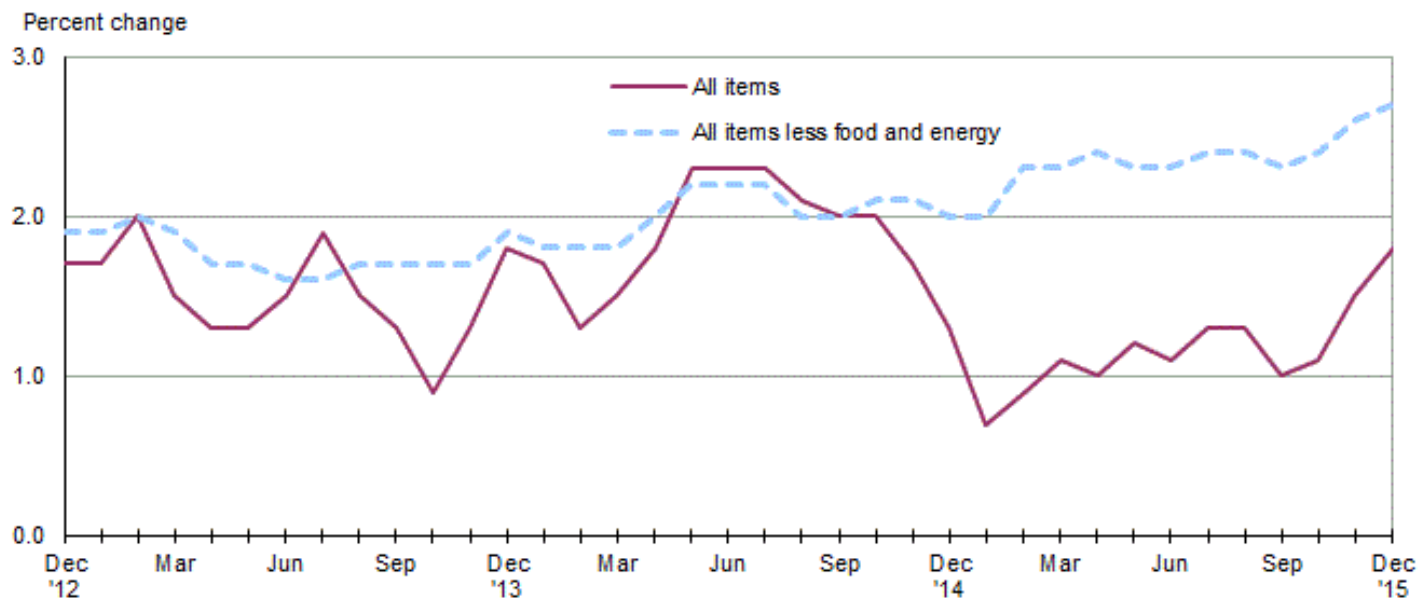
## Consumer Price Index, West Region — December 2015

**Area prices were down 0.1 percent over the past month, up 1.8 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged down 0.1 percent in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The December decrease was influenced by lower prices for gasoline 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 rose 1.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#).) This marks the 14th consecutive month in which consumer prices rose by less than 2.0 percent on an annual basis in the West. Energy prices declined 6.8 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, December 2012–December 2015**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

### Food

Food prices decreased 0.3 percent for the month of December. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home decreased 0.6 percent, while prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.0 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 3.1 percent since a year ago, but prices for food at home declined 0.4 percent.

## Energy

The energy index decreased 1.6 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-3.0 percent). Prices for electricity decreased 0.5 percent, while prices for natural gas service advanced 1.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices declined 6.8 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-11.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service decreased 7.0 percent during the past year, but prices paid for electricity increased 0.7 percent.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy was unchanged in December. Higher prices for household furnishings and operations (0.6 percent) and shelter (0.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-2.6 percent) and recreation (-0.5 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.4 percent) and medical care (2.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-0.7 percent).

**Table A. West Region CPI-U monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)**

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.3	1.9	0.5	1.4	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7
February.....	0.1	1.4	0.6	1.9	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9
March.....	0.3	1.6	0.9	2.6	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1
April.....	0.2	1.5	0.6	3.0	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0
May.....	0.1	1.3	0.3	3.2	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2
June.....	-0.1	0.6	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1
July.....	0.1	0.8	-0.1	2.9	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3
August.....	0.1	0.7	0.2	3.0	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3
September.....	-0.1	0.5	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0
October.....	0.1	0.6	0.0	3.4	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1
November.....	0.0	0.9	-0.2	3.2	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5
December.....	0.2	1.3	-0.3	2.7	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8

**The January 2016 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on February 19, 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](http://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](http://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 West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	244.341	243.749	243.434	1.8	-0.4	-0.1
All items (December 1977=100).....	394.963	394.007	393.498			
Food and beverages .....	252.442	251.757	251.102	1.0	-0.5	-0.3
Food .....	252.711	251.951	251.300	1.0	-0.6	-0.3
Food at home .....	251.638	249.920	248.480	-0.4	-1.3	-0.6
Food away from home.....	252.981	253.577	254.041	3.1	0.4	0.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	245.569	245.827	245.138	0.6	-0.2	-0.3
Housing .....	257.502	257.121	258.106	3.6	0.2	0.4
Shelter .....	291.392	292.216	293.423	4.4	0.7	0.4
Rent of primary residence <sup>(1)</sup> .....	305.692	307.166	308.893	4.8	1.0	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	305.840	306.998	308.301	4.5	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence <sup>(1) (2)</sup> .....	305.821	306.978	308.284	4.5	0.8	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	281.656	273.243	273.085	0.3	-3.0	-0.1
Household energy .....	245.478	234.637	234.451	-1.5	-4.5	-0.1
Energy services <sup>(1)</sup> .....	247.731	236.244	236.140	-1.3	-4.7	0.0
Electricity <sup>(1)</sup> .....	272.223	261.784	260.589	0.7	-4.3	-0.5
Utility (piped) gas service <sup>(1)</sup> .....	204.989	190.266	192.761	-7.0	-6.0	1.3
Household furnishings and operations.....	129.160	128.345	129.113	0.8	0.0	0.6
Apparel .....	121.277	118.848	115.729	-0.7	-4.6	-2.6
Transportation .....	198.551	197.083	195.062	-1.9	-1.8	-1.0
Private transportation .....	192.229	190.213	188.654	-2.1	-1.9	-0.8
New and used motor vehicles <sup>(3)</sup> .....	100.417	100.159	99.778	0.4	-0.6	-0.4
New vehicles .....	145.919	146.557	146.074	0.7	0.1	-0.3
New cars and trucks <sup>(3) (4)</sup> .....	101.336	101.779	101.454	0.6	0.1	-0.3
New cars <sup>(4)</sup> .....	145.050	145.296	144.765	-0.3	-0.2	-0.4
Used cars and trucks.....	140.675	138.050	137.111	-0.4	-2.5	-0.7
Motor fuel .....	214.565	205.325	199.182	-11.5	-7.2	-3.0
Gasoline (all types).....	213.808	204.427	198.342	-11.1	-7.2	-3.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular <sup>(4)</sup> .....	211.165	201.794	195.732	-11.6	-7.3	-3.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade <sup>(4) (5)</sup> .....	205.851	197.104	190.802	-10.0	-7.3	-3.2
Gasoline, unleaded premium <sup>(4)</sup> .....	210.479	201.449	196.112	-9.0	-6.8	-2.6
Medical Care .....	456.524	458.708	459.224	2.9	0.6	0.1
Medical care commodities.....	343.522	346.064	345.408	1.4	0.5	-0.2
Medical care services.....	492.647	494.643	495.621	3.3	0.6	0.2
Professional services .....	338.351	341.335	341.980	2.8	1.1	0.2
Recreation <sup>(3)</sup> .....	111.405	111.266	110.725	1.5	-0.6	-0.5
Education and communication <sup>(3)</sup> .....	138.708	138.879	138.660	0.4	0.0	-0.2
Other goods and services .....	405.842	405.941	406.063	1.7	0.1	0.0
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>						
All Items.....	244.341	243.749	243.434	1.8	-0.4	-0.1
Commodities .....	179.745	178.287	177.122	-0.8	-1.5	-0.7
Commodities less food & beverages.....	143.546	141.820	140.486	-2.1	-2.1	-0.9
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	180.618	177.597	175.142	-3.4	-3.0	-1.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	222.666	219.207	217.157	-4.3	-2.5	-0.9
Durables .....	109.252	108.704	108.388	-0.2	-0.8	-0.3
Services.....	303.877	304.128	304.636	3.3	0.2	0.2
Rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	310.015	310.884	312.178	4.4	0.7	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 West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015	Dec. 2015	Dec. 2014	Oct. 2015	Nov. 2015
Transportation services .....	283.241	286.091	284.624	2.1	0.5	-0.5
Other services .....	338.900	339.305	338.421	1.7	-0.1	-0.3
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>						
All items less medical care .....	234.618	233.918	233.571	1.7	-0.4	-0.1
All items less food .....	243.213	242.648	242.386	1.9	-0.3	-0.1
All items less shelter .....	226.489	225.289	224.322	0.4	-1.0	-0.4
Commodities less food .....	147.405	145.727	144.404	-2.0	-2.0	-0.9
Nondurables .....	216.464	214.504	212.867	-1.0	-1.7	-0.8
Nondurables less food .....	185.433	182.593	180.233	-3.1	-2.8	-1.3
Nondurables less food and apparel .....	224.525	221.429	219.512	-3.8	-2.2	-0.9
Services less rent of shelter <sup>(2)</sup> .....	330.462	329.931	329.466	2.0	-0.3	-0.1
Services less medical care services .....	290.741	290.890	291.366	3.4	0.2	0.2
Energy .....	230.777	220.716	217.214	-6.8	-5.9	-1.6
All items less energy .....	247.346	247.467	247.391	2.4	0.0	0.0
All items less food and energy .....	247.185	247.460	247.485	2.7	0.1	0.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	140.428	139.613	138.860	-0.1	-1.1	-0.5
Energy commodities .....	218.688	209.693	203.507	-11.4	-6.9	-3.0
Services less energy services .....	308.219	309.218	309.766	3.6	0.5	0.2

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) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.