



For Release: Wednesday, March 15, 2017

17-331-SAN

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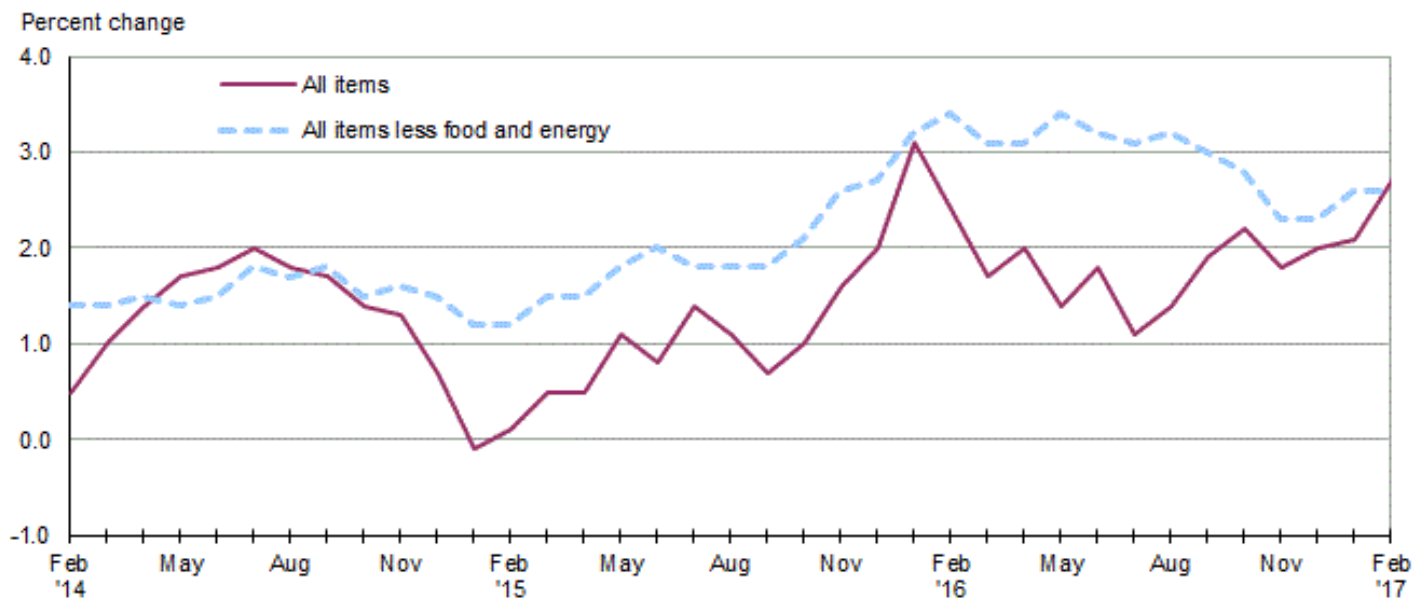
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area — February 2017

Area prices were up 0.6 percent over the past month, up 2.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.6 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the February 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 jumped 10.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles, February 2014–February 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged up 0.1 percent for the month of February. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home rose 0.9 percent, but prices for food at home decreased 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices inched down 0.1 percent. Prices for food at home declined 2.2 percent since a year ago, but prices for food away from home advanced 2.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 2.2 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.4 percent). Prices for electricity were unchanged, while prices for natural gas service decreased 2.8 percent in the same period.

Energy prices jumped 10.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (18.5 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service increased 4.0 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 0.4 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.5 percent in February. Higher prices for apparel (4.1 percent), education and communication (1.5 percent), and shelter (0.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for other goods and services (-1.2 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.6 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (5.3 percent) and medical care (1.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in apparel (-5.6 percent) and recreation (-1.3 percent).

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

Month	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.8	2.1	0.8	2.0	0.5	0.8	-0.3	-0.1	0.7	3.1	0.9	2.1
February	0.5	2.1	0.7	2.2	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.0	2.4	0.6	2.7
March	1.0	2.0	0.1	1.3	0.6	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.3	1.7		
April	0.0	1.5	-0.4	0.9	0.0	1.4	-0.1	0.5	0.2	2.0		
May.....	0.1	1.6	0.1	1.0	0.4	1.7	1.0	1.1	0.5	1.4		
June.....	-0.4	1.6	-0.1	1.4	0.1	1.8	-0.3	0.8	0.1	1.8		
July	-0.1	1.9	-0.1	1.3	0.1	2.0	0.7	1.4	0.0	1.1		
August	0.6	2.3	0.1	0.8	-0.1	1.8	-0.3	1.1	0.0	1.4		
September.....	0.4	2.2	0.2	0.6	0.0	1.7	-0.4	0.7	0.2	1.9		
October.....	0.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1	-0.1	1.4	0.2	1.0	0.4	2.2		
November.....	-1.0	2.1	-0.5	0.4	-0.7	1.3	0.0	1.6	-0.4	1.8		
December.....	-0.7	1.9	0.0	1.1	-0.5	0.7	-0.1	2.0	0.0	2.0		

The March 2017 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County is scheduled to be released April 14, 2017.

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.

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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. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
Expenditure category						
All items	250.189	252.373	253.815	2.7	1.4	0.6
All items (1967=100)	739.171	745.623	749.881	-	-	-
Food and beverages	251.893	253.317	253.438	-0.1	0.6	0.0
Food	251.864	253.236	253.592	-0.1	0.7	0.1
Food at home	253.486	255.079	254.014	-2.2	0.2	-0.4
Food away from home	246.083	247.162	249.263	2.7	1.3	0.9
Alcoholic beverages	237.363	239.443	236.171	-0.4	-0.5	-1.4
Housing	282.416	284.696	285.754	4.7	1.2	0.4
Shelter	322.695	325.595	327.217	5.3	1.4	0.5
Rent of primary residence(1)	339.426	341.115	342.343	5.2	0.9	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2)	335.733	337.597	338.967	5.2	1.0	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	335.713	337.578	338.948	5.2	1.0	0.4
Fuels and utilities	306.812	304.962	304.509	2.9	-0.8	-0.1
Household energy	273.087	264.439	262.666	1.4	-3.8	-0.7
Energy services(1)	271.625	262.860	261.069	1.2	-3.9	-0.7
Electricity(1)	313.251	301.898	301.917	0.4	-3.6	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1)	223.261	218.858	212.696	4.0	-4.7	-2.8
Household furnishings and operations	115.531	117.101	116.737	0.5	1.0	-0.3
Apparel	103.972	105.915	110.245	-5.6	6.0	4.1
Transportation	188.577	192.435	195.460	5.3	3.6	1.6
Private transportation	184.208	187.851	190.716	5.8	3.5	1.5
Motor fuel	208.577	217.767	227.233	18.6	8.9	4.3
Gasoline (all types)	203.866	212.880	222.224	18.5	9.0	4.4
Gasoline, unleaded regular(3)	203.835	213.079	222.491	18.7	9.2	4.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(3)(4)	197.041	203.958	213.229	17.6	8.2	4.5
Gasoline, unleaded premium(3)	196.659	204.484	213.067	18.0	8.3	4.2
Medical care	465.171	465.997	465.127	1.8	0.0	-0.2
Recreation(5)	104.464	106.123	106.204	-1.3	1.7	0.1
Education and communication(5)	141.694	141.298	143.463	-0.5	1.2	1.5
Other goods and services	393.012	393.872	389.313	-0.7	-0.9	-1.2
Commodity and service group						
All items	250.189	252.373	253.815	2.7	1.4	0.6
Commodities	171.787	173.767	174.964	0.6	1.8	0.7
Commodities less food & beverages	130.408	132.514	134.087	1.2	2.8	1.2
Nondurables less food & beverages	168.690	171.514	175.166	3.0	3.8	2.1
Durables	92.900	94.301	93.819	-2.1	1.0	-0.5
Services	319.975	322.337	323.995	3.8	1.3	0.5
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	240.899	243.126	244.649	2.8	1.6	0.6
All items less shelter	218.445	220.314	221.681	1.0	1.5	0.6
Commodities less food	134.846	136.977	138.443	1.1	2.7	1.1
Nondurables	210.754	212.996	215.103	1.3	2.1	1.0
Nondurables less food	174.689	177.515	180.865	2.8	3.5	1.9
Services less rent of shelter(2)	325.036	326.645	328.386	1.6	1.0	0.5
Services less medical care services	307.526	309.984	311.735	3.9	1.4	0.6
Energy	234.112	236.489	241.676	10.7	3.2	2.2
All items less energy	253.302	255.488	256.658	2.2	1.3	0.5

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. 2016	Jan. 2017	Feb. 2017	Feb. 2016	Dec. 2016	Jan. 2017
All items less food and energy	253.882	256.209	257.518	2.6	1.4	0.5

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.