



For Release: Wednesday, November 15, 2017

17-1522-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

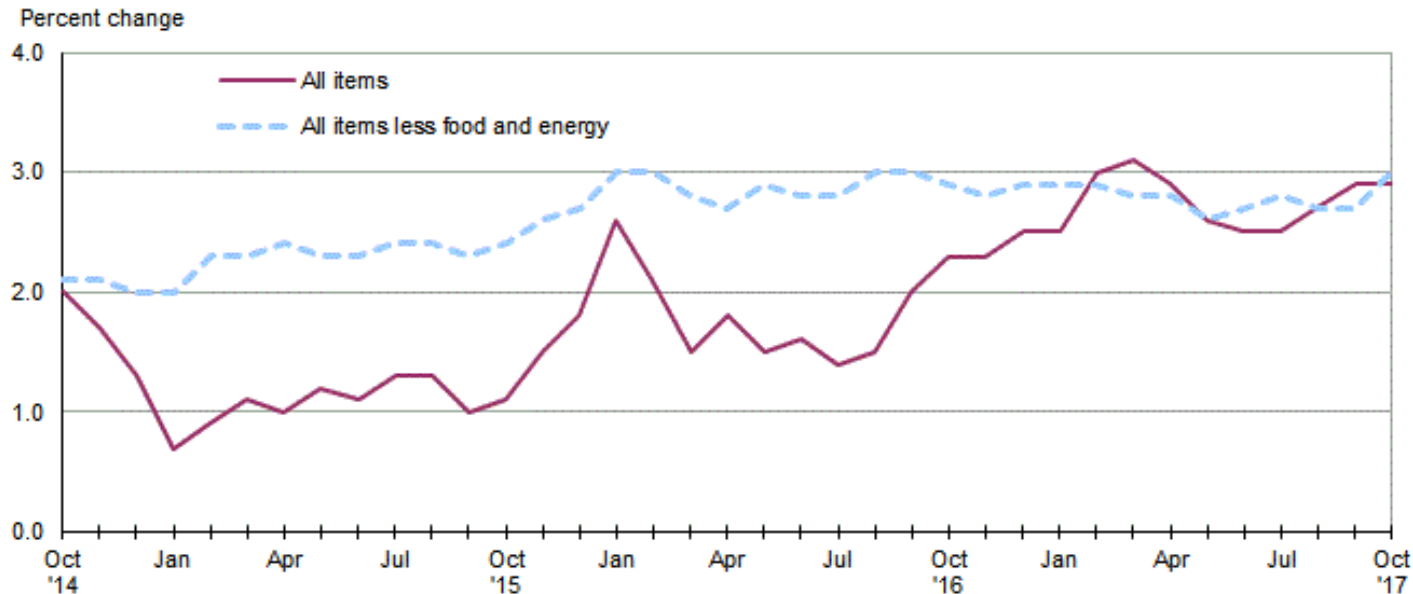
Consumer Price Index, West Region — October 2017

Area prices were up 0.3 percent over the past month, up 2.9 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.3 percent in October, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The October increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter 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 2.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices advanced 5.0 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.0 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, October 2014–October 2017



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged down 0.2 percent for the month of October. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home declined 0.6 percent, but prices for food away from home crept up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 1.5 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 3.5 percent since a year ago, while prices for food at home were unchanged.

Energy

The energy index decreased 1.4 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-3.1 percent). Prices for electricity and natural gas service both increased 0.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 5.0 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (9.2 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 1.9 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 4.1 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 October. Higher prices for apparel (1.7 percent) and shelter (0.7 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for used cars and trucks (-0.9 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.9 percent), other goods and services (4.6 percent), and medical care (2.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in used cars and trucks (-2.1 percent), household furnishings and operations (-0.7 percent), and education and communication (-0.4 percent).

Table A. West Region 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.....	0.4	2.6	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5
February.....	0.4	2.5	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0
March.....	0.9	2.4	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1
April.....	0.2	2.1	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9
May.....	0.2	2.0	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6
June.....	-0.2	2.0	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5
July.....	-0.3	1.8	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5
August.....	0.5	2.1	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7
September.....	0.5	2.2	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	2.9
October.....	0.4	2.5	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3	0.3	2.9
November.....	-0.7	1.9	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3		
December.....	-0.5	1.7	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5		

The November 2017 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on December 13, 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 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.

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 West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Oct. 2017	Oct. 2016	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	255.282	256.504	257.223	2.9	0.8	0.3
All items (December 1977=100).....	412.649	414.625	415.786			
Food and beverages	255.140	256.241	255.751	1.5	0.2	-0.2
Food	255.086	256.226	255.590	1.5	0.2	-0.2
Food at home	245.591	246.581	245.094	0.0	-0.2	-0.6
Food away from home.....	267.324	268.673	269.251	3.5	0.7	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	252.515	253.075	254.567	1.7	0.8	0.6
Housing	278.205	278.592	280.172	4.0	0.7	0.6
Shelter	318.929	319.659	321.741	4.9	0.9	0.7
Rent of primary residence(1).....	335.741	336.493	338.364	4.8	0.8	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	334.579	335.814	337.539	5.0	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	334.590	335.821	337.547	5.0	0.9	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....	296.842	296.756	297.769	1.7	0.3	0.3
Household energy	256.389	255.958	257.284	0.7	0.3	0.5
Energy services(1)	258.781	258.133	259.651	0.5	0.3	0.6
Electricity(1).....	287.100	287.179	288.877	1.9	0.6	0.6
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	207.598	205.169	206.353	-4.1	-0.6	0.6
Household furnishings and operations.....	128.280	127.647	127.713	-0.7	-0.4	0.1
Apparel.....	117.120	120.642	122.676	0.1	4.7	1.7
Transportation	203.809	206.646	205.592	3.8	0.9	-0.5
Private transportation	198.976	201.848	200.274	4.0	0.7	-0.8
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.064	99.340	99.057	-0.5	-1.0	-0.3
New vehicles	145.768	146.069	145.898	-1.2	0.1	-0.1
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	101.245	101.454	101.330	-1.2	0.1	-0.1
New cars(4).....	142.346	142.413	142.454	-1.7	0.1	0.0
Used cars and trucks.....	134.351	132.279	131.139	-2.1	-2.4	-0.9
Motor fuel	222.750	236.781	229.619	9.3	3.1	-3.0
Gasoline (all types).....	221.923	235.889	228.558	9.2	3.0	-3.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	219.170	233.275	225.865	9.3	3.1	-3.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	212.069	224.087	218.107	9.1	2.8	-2.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	218.984	231.464	225.170	8.8	2.8	-2.7
Medical Care	480.581	482.243	483.541	2.1	0.6	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	374.209	374.072	373.801	4.5	-0.1	-0.1
Medical care services.....	513.883	516.198	518.068	1.4	0.8	0.4
Professional services	352.155	352.941	353.532	0.5	0.4	0.2
Recreation(3).....	112.431	112.813	113.238	1.0	0.7	0.4
Education and communication(3).....	135.778	136.162	136.464	-0.4	0.5	0.2
Other goods and services	425.773	425.862	428.217	4.6	0.6	0.6
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	255.282	256.504	257.223	2.9	0.8	0.3
Commodities	180.155	181.816	181.256	1.4	0.6	-0.3
Commodities less food & beverages.....	142.993	144.800	144.238	1.4	0.9	-0.4
Nondurables less food & beverages	183.208	187.844	187.122	3.6	2.1	-0.4
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	229.664	235.120	232.626	4.8	1.3	-1.1
Durables	106.324	105.788	105.371	-1.7	-0.9	-0.4
Services.....	324.861	325.645	327.590	3.7	0.8	0.6
Rent of shelter(2).....	339.535	340.318	342.547	4.9	0.9	0.7
Transportation services	300.766	301.491	304.522	5.6	1.2	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 West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017	Oct. 2017	Oct. 2016	Aug. 2017	Sep. 2017
Other services	343.520	344.641	345.744	1.1	0.6	0.3
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	244.982	246.183	246.875	3.0	0.8	0.3
All items less food	255.484	256.720	257.648	3.2	0.8	0.4
All items less shelter.....	230.440	231.883	232.026	1.8	0.7	0.1
Commodities less food	147.061	148.849	148.337	1.4	0.9	-0.3
Nondurables	219.150	222.191	221.568	2.5	1.1	-0.3
Nondurables less food.....	188.311	192.748	192.146	3.5	2.0	-0.3
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	231.550	236.564	234.429	4.5	1.2	-0.9
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	342.567	343.442	345.234	2.3	0.8	0.5
Services less medical care services.....	311.652	312.335	314.279	4.0	0.8	0.6
Energy	240.324	248.061	244.605	5.0	1.8	-1.4
All items less energy	258.492	259.236	260.273	2.8	0.7	0.4
All items less food and energy	259.860	260.539	261.863	3.0	0.8	0.5
Commodities less food and energy commodities	139.079	139.425	139.704	0.0	0.4	0.2
Energy commodities.....	227.055	241.218	233.954	9.3	3.0	-3.0
Services less energy services.....	329.899	330.774	332.752	3.9	0.9	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) 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.