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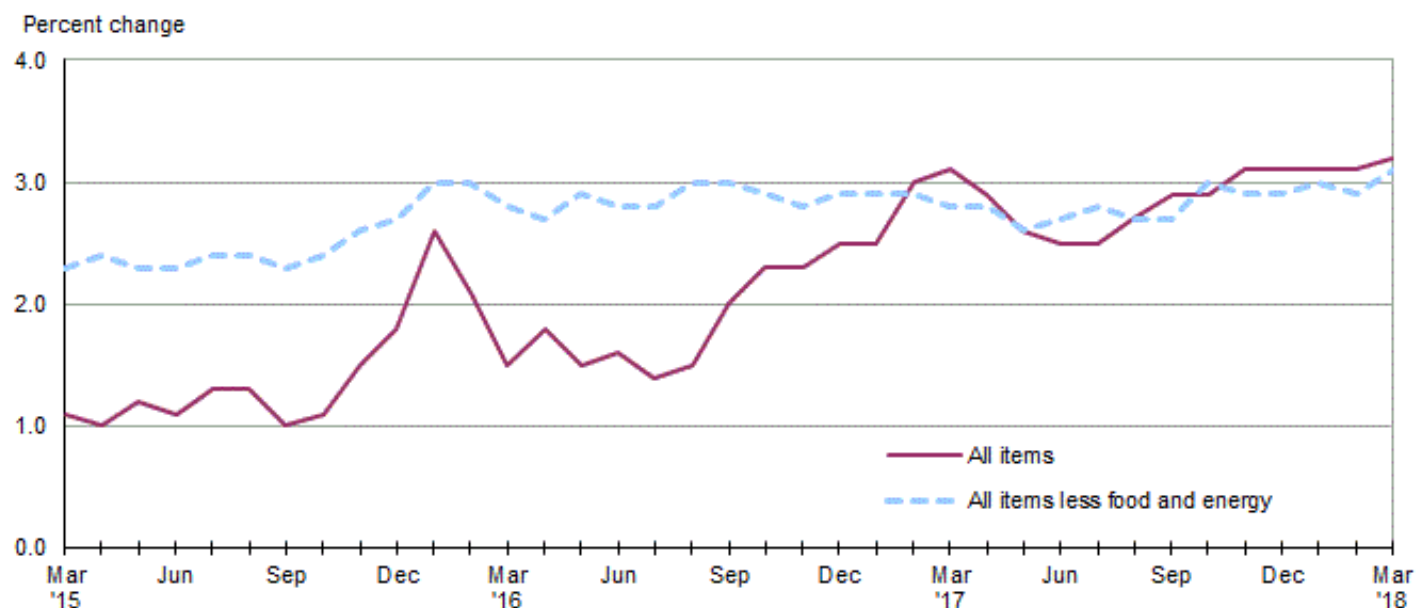
Consumer Price Index, West Region — March 2018

Area prices were up 0.4 percent over the past month, up 3.2 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.4 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) The March 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 rose 3.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices advanced 7.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, March 2015–March 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 0.3 percent for the month of March. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home advanced 0.4 percent, and prices for food at home increased 0.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 1.6 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.4 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home inched up 0.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 1.0 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (1.7 percent). Prices for electricity rose 0.5 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 2.5 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 7.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (11.2 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 4.4 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 1.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent in March. Higher prices for used cars and trucks (1.3 percent), recreation (0.7 percent), and shelter (0.4 percent) were partially offset by a lower price for other goods and services (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 3.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.3 percent) and medical care (3.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-0.9 percent).

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

Month	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Annual
January.....	0.3	1.7	0.3	1.7	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5	0.5	3.1
February.....	0.8	2.0	0.4	1.3	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0	0.5	3.1
March.....	0.4	1.5	0.6	1.5	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1	0.4	3.2
April.....	0.0	1.3	0.3	1.8	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9		
May.....	0.2	1.3	0.6	2.3	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6		
June.....	0.1	1.5	0.1	2.3	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5		
July.....	0.0	1.9	0.1	2.3	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5		
August.....	0.1	1.5	-0.1	2.1	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7		
September.....	0.2	1.3	0.1	2.0	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	2.9		
October.....	-0.1	0.9	-0.1	2.0	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3	0.3	2.9		
November.....	-0.4	1.3	-0.6	1.7	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3	0.0	3.1		
December.....	0.0	1.8	-0.5	1.3	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5	0.1	3.1		

The April 2018 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on May 10, 2018.

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 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 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 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately

22,000 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.

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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-		
	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	258.638	259.986	260.994	3.2	0.9	0.4
All items (December 1977=100).....	418.073	420.252	421.883			
Food and beverages	257.656	257.552	258.422	1.6	0.3	0.3
Food	257.498	257.364	258.260	1.6	0.3	0.3
Food at home	246.729	245.834	246.683	0.2	0.0	0.3
Cereals and bakery products	257.314	256.095	258.468		0.4	0.9
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	253.147	253.836	257.212		1.6	1.3
Dairy and related products	227.833	225.991	227.306		-0.2	0.6
Fruits and vegetables	332.137	327.416	325.096		-2.1	-0.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	170.209	170.867	169.825		-0.2	-0.6
Other food at home	212.163	211.710	212.397		0.1	0.3
Food away from home.....	271.543	272.390	273.346	3.4	0.7	0.4
Alcoholic beverages	256.442	256.715	257.254	1.7	0.3	0.2
Housing	282.103	283.071	283.968	3.9	0.7	0.3
Shelter	324.386	325.619	326.804	4.3	0.7	0.4
Rent of primary residence(1).....	343.295	344.082	344.503	4.4	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	341.404	342.157	343.115	4.4	0.5	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	341.401	342.156	343.116	4.4	0.5	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	293.786	295.214	295.361	3.3	0.5	0.0
Household energy	250.575	251.781	251.607	3.1	0.4	-0.1
Energy services(1)	252.135	253.481	253.156	3.1	0.4	-0.1
Electricity(1).....	282.727	283.732	285.080	4.4	0.8	0.5
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	194.772	197.169	192.315	-1.5	-1.3	-2.5
Household furnishings and operations.....	129.937	129.828	130.039	1.0	0.1	0.2
Apparel	116.516	120.338	120.474	-0.9	3.4	0.1
Transportation	208.490	211.782	213.377	4.9	2.3	0.8
Private transportation	203.570	206.681	208.246	5.4	2.3	0.8
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	99.419	100.372	100.700	0.3	1.3	0.3
New vehicles	146.965	147.182	147.020	-1.7	0.0	-0.1
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	102.078	102.231	102.119	-1.7	0.0	-0.1
New cars(4).....	143.406	143.662	143.454	-2.0	0.0	-0.1
Used cars and trucks.....	131.703	132.834	134.616	0.7	2.2	1.3
Motor fuel	234.327	242.672	246.796	11.2	5.3	1.7
Gasoline (all types).....	233.056	241.523	245.739	11.2	5.4	1.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	230.194	238.678	242.874	11.3	5.5	1.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	223.076	230.775	234.631	10.6	5.2	1.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	229.790	237.552	241.566	10.6	5.1	1.7
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	808.172	817.530	824.374		2.0	0.8
Medical Care	487.607	488.655	491.089	3.2	0.7	0.5
Medical care commodities.....	379.413	380.225	378.301	3.9	-0.3	-0.5
Medical care services.....	521.556	522.677	526.583	3.1	1.0	0.7
Professional services	356.214	356.793	357.605	1.0	0.4	0.2
Recreation(3).....	113.466	113.538	114.298	1.2	0.7	0.7
Education and communication(3).....	136.314	135.575	135.674	0.1	-0.5	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6)	1,383.317	1,378.817	1,380.942		-0.2	0.2
Other goods and services	428.382	433.833	433.408	5.2	1.2	-0.1
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	258.638	259.986	260.994	3.2	0.9	0.4
Commodities	181.796	183.013	183.741	1.8	1.1	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-		
	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018	Mar. 2018	Mar. 2017	Jan. 2018	Feb. 2018
Commodities less food & beverages.....	144.214	145.864	146.501	1.9	1.6	0.4
Nondurables less food & beverages	186.549	190.304	191.230	4.3	2.5	0.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	235.508	239.179	240.668	5.9	2.2	0.6
Durables	105.843	105.822	106.213	-1.3	0.3	0.4
Services.....	329.818	331.260	332.527	3.9	0.8	0.4
Rent of shelter(2).....	345.360	346.684	347.957	4.3	0.8	0.4
Transportation services	309.895	314.358	315.796	6.3	1.9	0.5
Other services	346.508	347.101	348.440	1.9	0.6	0.4
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	248.172	249.529	250.474	3.2	0.9	0.4
All items less food	258.988	260.568	261.595	3.4	1.0	0.4
All items less shelter.....	232.916	234.313	235.254	2.5	1.0	0.4
Commodities less food	148.364	149.990	150.630	1.9	1.5	0.4
Nondurables	222.154	224.170	225.082	2.8	1.3	0.4
Nondurables less food.....	191.703	195.279	196.188	4.0	2.3	0.5
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	237.208	240.553	241.950	5.5	2.0	0.6
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	346.931	348.681	350.084	3.4	0.9	0.4
Services less medical care services.....	316.419	317.878	318.969	4.0	0.8	0.3
Energy	244.320	249.957	252.436	7.7	3.3	1.0
All items less energy	261.831	262.878	263.788	2.9	0.7	0.3
All items less food and energy	263.366	264.619	265.534	3.1	0.8	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities	139.128	139.981	140.204	0.1	0.8	0.2
Energy commodities.....	239.090	247.397	251.623	11.1	5.2	1.7
Services less energy services.....	335.602	337.056	338.416	4.0	0.8	0.4

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.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available

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.