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Consumer Price Index, Riverside Area – March 2019

Area prices were up 0.7 percent over the past two months, up 2.8 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Riverside Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.7 percent for the two months ending in March 2019, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the March increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 2.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices advanced 1.2 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of natural gas service. The index for all items less food and energy increased 3.1 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Food

Food prices rose 0.3 percent for the two months ending in March. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home advanced 1.0 percent, but prices for food at home decreased 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.2 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 3.9 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 0.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index increased 2.6 percent for the two months ending in March. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.4 percent). Prices for electricity declined 1.0 percent, and prices for natural gas service decreased 0.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 1.2 percent over the year, largely due to a price jump in natural gas service (20.4 percent). Prices paid for electricity were unchanged, while prices for gasoline declined 0.6 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for other goods and services (3.9 percent), education and communication (1.3 percent), and shelter (0.9 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-2.7 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.9 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 3.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included other goods and services (5.2 percent), education and communication (4.5 percent), and shelter (3.9 percent).

The May 2019 Consumer Price Index for the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario area is scheduled to be released on June 12, 2019.

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 Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario metropolitan area covered in this release consists of Riverside and San Bernardino 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 Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
Expenditure category						
All items	103.991	-	104.749	2.8	0.7	-
Food and beverages	102.901	-	103.091	2.0	0.2	-
Food	103.025	-	103.310	2.2	0.3	-
Food at home	101.773	100.880	101.347	0.6	-0.4	0.5
Cereals and bakery products	105.023	-	104.160	3.5	-0.8	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	102.960	-	101.305	-0.3	-1.6	-
Dairy and related products	101.742	-	104.009	3.8	2.2	-
Fruits and vegetables	103.140	-	100.928	0.9	-2.1	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials	102.761	-	104.065	2.1	1.3	-
Other food at home	97.743	-	98.006	-2.3	0.3	-
Food away from home	104.292	-	105.299	3.9	1.0	-
Food away from home	104.292	-	105.299	3.9	1.0	-
Alcoholic beverages	100.811	-	99.389	-2.2	-1.4	-
Housing	104.690	-	105.321	3.9	0.6	-
Shelter	104.501	105.083	105.414	3.9	0.9	0.3
Rent of primary residence	104.638	104.761	105.010	4.2	0.4	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences	104.105	104.560	105.143	4.3	1.0	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence	104.105	104.560	105.143	4.3	1.0	0.6
Fuels and utilities	109.111	-	108.780	6.0	-0.3	-
Household energy	107.605	106.626	107.086	4.3	-0.5	0.4
Energy services	107.938	106.605	107.071	4.3	-0.8	0.4
Electricity	105.435	105.406	104.409	0.0	-1.0	-0.9
Utility (piped) gas service	116.600	110.753	116.285	20.4	-0.3	5.0
Household furnishings and operations	100.895	-	100.003	1.1	-0.9	-
Apparel	107.614	-	104.730	0.7	-2.7	-
Transportation	104.622	-	106.459	1.1	1.8	-
Private transportation	104.709	-	106.474	1.4	1.7	-
New and used motor vehicles	102.389	-	102.721	0.9	0.3	-
New vehicles	102.478	-	102.620	1.3	0.1	-
Used cars and trucks	101.706	-	102.675	0.0	1.0	-
Motor fuel	106.372	106.405	111.006	-0.5	4.4	4.3
Gasoline (all types)	106.384	106.406	111.025	-0.6	4.4	4.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(1)	106.594	106.505	111.150	-0.6	4.3	4.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(1)	106.300	106.173	111.156	0.3	4.6	4.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(1)	105.232	105.850	110.268	-0.4	4.8	4.2
Motor vehicle insurance	110.121	-	110.121	5.4	0.0	-
Medical care	100.838	-	101.665	2.4	0.8	-
Recreation	102.618	-	102.147	0.5	-0.5	-
Education and communication	102.602	-	103.917	4.5	1.3	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care	111.974	-	111.974	12.1	0.0	-
Other goods and services	103.108	-	107.097	5.2	3.9	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	103.991	-	104.749	2.8	0.7	-
Commodities	103.113	-	103.759	1.0	0.6	-
Commodities less food & beverages	103.254	-	104.205	0.4	0.9	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	103.810	-	104.962	-0.2	1.1	-
Durables	102.454	-	103.116	1.3	0.6	-
Services	104.532	-	105.358	3.9	0.8	-

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 Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario (December 2017=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Mar. 2019	Mar. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	104.211	-	104.964	2.8	0.7	-
All items less shelter	103.706	-	104.377	2.2	0.6	-
Commodities less food	103.166	-	104.032	0.3	0.8	-
Nondurables	103.327	-	103.968	1.0	0.6	-
Nondurables less food	103.631	-	104.630	-0.3	1.0	-
Services less rent of shelter	104.577	-	105.277	3.9	0.7	-
Services less medical care services	104.758	-	105.566	4.0	0.8	-
Energy	106.822	106.485	109.575	1.2	2.6	2.9
All items less energy	103.737	-	104.316	3.0	0.6	-
All items less food and energy	103.870	-	104.503	3.1	0.6	-

Footnotes

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

- Data not available

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