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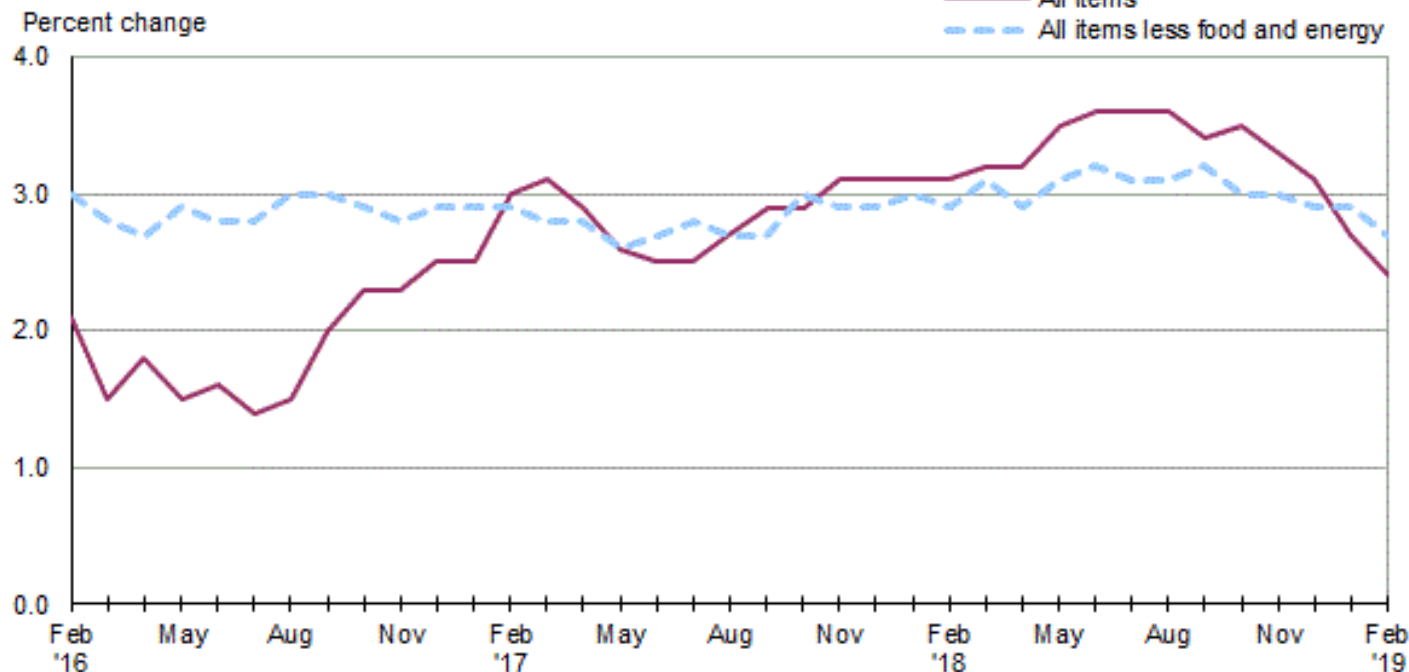
## **Consumer Price Index, West Region — February 2019**

**Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 2.4 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.2 percent in February, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) The February increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter, food, 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 increased 2.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices declined 2.0 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, February 2016–February 2019**



## Food

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

Over the year, food prices advanced 2.6 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.5 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 1.8 percent.

## Energy

The energy index decreased 1.5 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-2.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 1.2 percent, and prices for electricity decreased 0.4 percent for the same period.

Energy prices declined 2.0 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-3.3 percent). Prices for natural gas service decreased 0.8 percent, and prices paid for electricity declined 0.3 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in February. Higher prices for apparel (1.4 percent), household furnishings and operations (0.9 percent), and shelter (0.4 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-0.8 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.2 percent) and medical care (2.8 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-3.2 percent).

**Table A. West region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5	0.5	3.1	0.2	2.7
February.....	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0	0.5	3.1	0.2	2.4
March.....	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1	0.4	3.2		
April.....	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.2		
May.....	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.5		
June.....	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5	0.2	3.6		
July.....	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5	0.1	3.6		
August.....	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.6		
September.....	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	2.9	0.3	3.4		
October.....	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.5		
November.....	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3	0.0	3.1	-0.2	3.3		
December.....	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5	0.1	3.1	-0.2	3.1		

**The March 2019 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on April 10, 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 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](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-		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All Items.....	265.209	265.624	266.215	2.4	0.4	0.2
All items (December 1977=100).....	428.696	429.366	430.322			
Food and beverages .....	262.181	263.345	264.248	2.6	0.8	0.3
Food .....	261.855	263.047	263.967	2.6	0.8	0.3
Food at home .....	248.218	249.310	250.208	1.8	0.8	0.4
Cereals and bakery products .....	261.853	262.666	263.999	3.1	0.8	0.5
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	257.246	257.439	257.040	1.3	-0.1	-0.2
Dairy and related products .....	226.828	228.486	228.867	1.3	0.9	0.2
Fruits and vegetables .....	331.647	334.573	334.891	2.3	1.0	0.1
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	172.432	175.277	175.763	2.9	1.9	0.3
Other food at home .....	211.872	211.549	213.704	0.9	0.9	1.0
Food away from home.....	279.600	280.922	281.872	3.5	0.8	0.3
Alcoholic beverages .....	263.056	263.861	264.525	3.0	0.6	0.3
Housing .....	291.204	292.683	293.930	3.8	0.9	0.4
Shelter .....	336.308	337.955	339.427	4.2	0.9	0.4
Rent of primary residence(1).....	357.850	358.907	359.909	4.6	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	354.193	355.581	356.837	4.3	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	354.199	355.586	356.844	4.3	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	298.971	299.677	299.218	1.4	0.1	-0.2
Household energy .....	252.425	252.252	250.987	-0.3	-0.6	-0.5
Energy services(1) .....	254.277	253.980	252.537	-0.4	-0.7	-0.6
Electricity(1).....	285.289	284.146	282.977	-0.3	-0.8	-0.4
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	195.999	197.947	195.624	-0.8	-0.2	-1.2
Household furnishings and operations .....	131.016	132.196	133.324	2.7	1.8	0.9
Apparel .....	113.373	114.914	116.537	-3.2	2.8	1.4
Transportation .....	215.713	212.839	212.308	0.2	-1.6	-0.2
Private transportation .....	211.645	208.593	207.509	0.4	-2.0	-0.5
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.103	100.415	100.349	0.0	0.2	-0.1
New vehicles .....	147.735	148.085	148.132	0.6	0.3	0.0
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	102.607	102.848	102.877	0.6	0.3	0.0
New cars(4).....	145.307	145.533	145.594	1.3	0.2	0.0
Used cars and trucks.....	132.951	133.580	134.124	1.0	0.9	0.4
Motor fuel .....	255.210	239.968	234.893	-3.2	-8.0	-2.1
Gasoline (all types).....	253.747	238.517	233.532	-3.3	-8.0	-2.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	250.792	235.515	230.505	-3.4	-8.1	-2.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	244.108	230.099	224.213	-2.8	-8.2	-2.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	249.022	235.203	230.957	-2.8	-7.3	-1.8
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	852.986	854.341	854.341	4.5	0.2	0.0
Medical Care .....	500.699	502.208	502.117	2.8	0.3	0.0
Medical care commodities.....	385.342	384.030	382.849	0.7	-0.6	-0.3
Medical care services.....	537.012	539.474	539.756	3.3	0.5	0.1
Professional services .....	355.554	356.295	356.672	0.0	0.3	0.1
Recreation(3).....	115.330	115.443	114.556	0.9	-0.7	-0.8
Education and communication(3).....	137.114	136.832	137.144	1.2	0.0	0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) .....	1,458.000	1,460.073	1,460.060	5.9	0.1	0.0
Other goods and services .....	439.672	441.881	443.306	2.2	0.8	0.3
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>						
All Items.....	265.209	265.624	266.215	2.4	0.4	0.2
Commodities .....	184.375	183.890	184.186	0.6	-0.1	0.2

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-		
	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Feb. 2019	Feb. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019
Commodities less food & beverages.....	145.936	144.858	144.913	-0.7	-0.7	0.0
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	190.829	187.921	187.345	-1.6	-1.8	-0.3
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	245.129	239.022	236.860	-1.0	-3.4	-0.9
Durables .....	105.547	105.906	106.438	0.6	0.8	0.5
Services.....	340.293	341.620	342.496	3.4	0.6	0.3
Rent of shelter(2).....	358.088	359.855	361.431	4.3	0.9	0.4
Transportation services .....	317.832	318.519	320.168	1.8	0.7	0.5
Other services .....	355.347	356.032	355.631	2.5	0.1	-0.1
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>						
All items less medical care .....	254.447	254.814	255.433	2.4	0.4	0.2
All items less food .....	265.909	266.202	266.743	2.4	0.3	0.2
All items less shelter.....	237.358	237.279	237.518	1.4	0.1	0.1
Commodities less food .....	150.229	149.192	149.264	-0.5	-0.6	0.0
Nondurables .....	226.607	225.549	225.652	0.7	-0.4	0.0
Nondurables less food.....	196.144	193.433	192.926	-1.2	-1.6	-0.3
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	246.533	241.088	239.195	-0.6	-3.0	-0.8
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	355.727	356.645	356.735	2.3	0.3	0.0
Services less medical care services.....	326.541	327.790	328.703	3.4	0.7	0.3
Energy .....	257.960	248.473	244.834	-2.0	-5.1	-1.5
All items less energy .....	267.943	269.081	269.986	2.7	0.8	0.3
All items less food and energy .....	269.797	270.930	271.834	2.7	0.8	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	138.775	139.403	140.075	0.1	0.9	0.5
Energy commodities.....	259.887	244.677	239.672	-3.1	-7.8	-2.0
Services less energy services.....	346.582	348.004	349.012	3.5	0.7	0.3

**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) Indexes 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.