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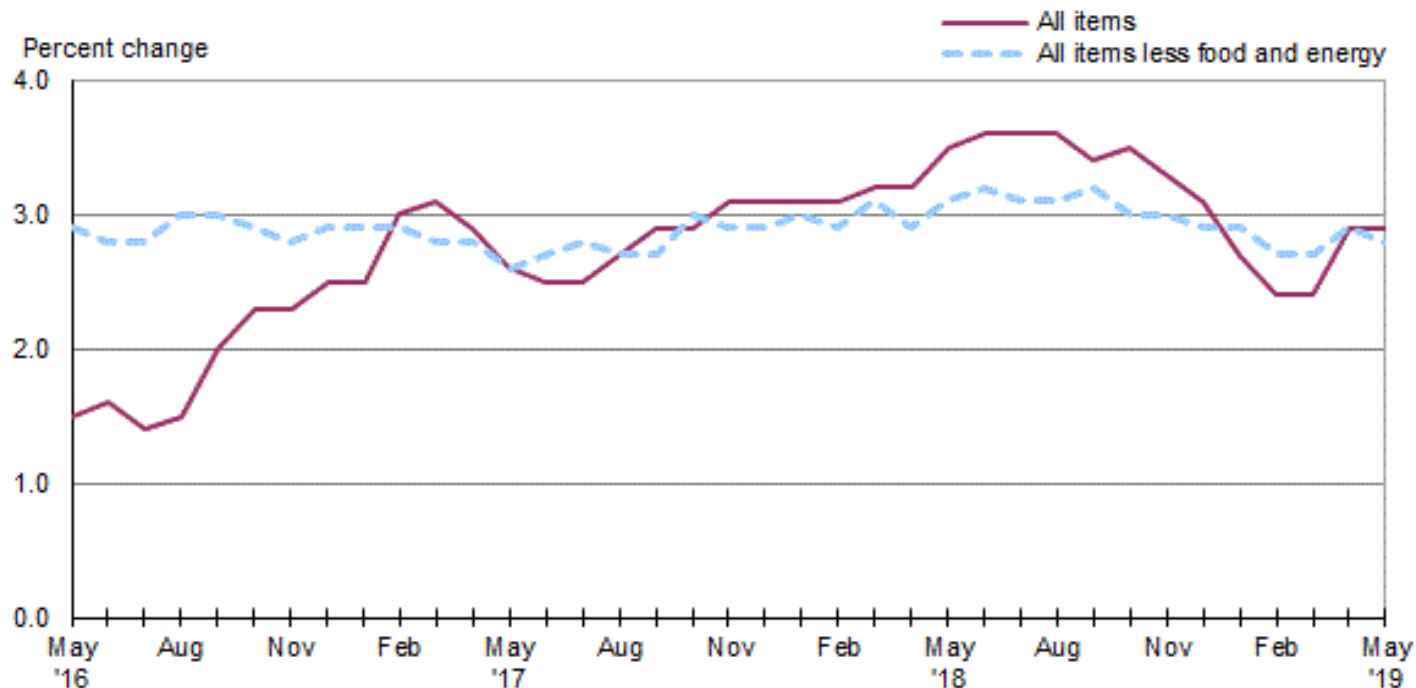
Consumer Price Index, West Region — May 2019

Area prices were up 0.5 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), advanced 0.5 percent in May, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See table A.) The May increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline and shelter. (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 2.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices increased 4.3 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.8 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices edged up 0.2 percent for the month of May. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for both food at home and food away from home inched up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.7 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 3.4 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home advanced 2.1 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 4.6 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (5.7 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 3.0 percent, and prices for natural gas service increased 1.8 percent for the same period.

Energy prices increased 4.3 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (6.7 percent). Prices paid for electricity rose 1.2 percent, but prices for natural gas service decreased 2.6 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy crept up 0.2 percent in May. Higher prices for household furnishings and operations (1.1 percent) and shelter (0.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for apparel (-1.2 percent) and recreation (-0.6 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.5 percent) and medical care (2.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-1.8 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	0.4	2.4
April.....	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.2	0.8	2.9
May.....	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.5	0.5	2.9
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 June 2019 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on July 11, 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 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-		
	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	May 2018	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	267.370	269.522	270.880	2.9	1.3	0.5
All items (December 1977=100).....	432.189	435.668	437.862			
Food and beverages	264.728	265.309	265.812	2.6	0.4	0.2
Food	264.503	265.213	265.728	2.7	0.5	0.2
Food at home	250.581	250.761	251.223	2.1	0.3	0.2
Cereals and bakery products	266.782	268.815	269.246	4.7	0.9	0.2
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	257.109	258.895	259.650	1.8	1.0	0.3
Dairy and related products	230.775	227.794	230.481	2.1	-0.1	1.2
Fruits and vegetables	334.352	336.582	335.637	2.2	0.4	-0.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	174.032	174.734	174.776	4.0	0.4	0.0
Other food at home	214.244	212.510	212.768	0.2	-0.7	0.1
Food away from home.....	282.618	284.010	284.595	3.4	0.7	0.2
Alcoholic beverages	264.272	263.201	263.539	1.7	-0.3	0.1
Housing	295.049	295.968	297.487	4.0	0.8	0.5
Shelter	340.834	342.714	343.752	4.5	0.9	0.3
Rent of primary residence(1).....	361.809	363.035	363.623	4.9	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	358.207	359.596	360.524	4.5	0.6	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	358.215	359.608	360.538	4.5	0.6	0.3
Fuels and utilities.....	300.659	300.944	306.620	2.0	2.0	1.9
Household energy	252.622	252.052	258.796	0.5	2.4	2.7
Energy services(1)	254.042	253.686	260.761	0.4	2.6	2.8
Electricity(1).....	284.879	285.156	293.840	1.2	3.1	3.0
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	196.211	194.118	197.563	-2.6	0.7	1.8
Household furnishings and operations.....	133.339	131.321	132.761	2.2	-0.4	1.1
Apparel	117.775	118.039	116.675	-1.8	-0.9	-1.2
Transportation	214.635	222.493	226.846	2.8	5.7	2.0
Private transportation	210.032	217.909	221.540	2.8	5.5	1.7
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.725	100.217	100.135	-0.3	-0.6	-0.1
New vehicles	148.368	147.416	148.318	0.7	0.0	0.6
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	103.032	102.368	102.987	0.7	0.0	0.6
New cars(4).....	145.667	144.981	146.045	1.1	0.3	0.7
Used cars and trucks.....	135.391	135.162	134.113	0.8	-0.9	-0.8
Motor fuel	243.824	278.896	294.800	6.6	20.9	5.7
Gasoline (all types).....	242.567	278.093	294.057	6.7	21.2	5.7
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	239.611	275.236	291.448	6.8	21.6	5.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	231.986	264.429	278.754	6.6	20.2	5.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	239.031	271.420	285.004	6.3	19.2	5.0
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	852.069	851.247	851.108	1.9	-0.1	0.0
Medical Care	503.464	507.429	507.396	2.9	0.8	0.0
Medical care commodities.....	383.737	386.605	389.466	0.9	1.5	0.7
Medical care services.....	541.250	545.566	544.546	3.4	0.6	-0.2
Professional services	356.551	359.178	359.646	0.3	0.9	0.1
Recreation(3).....	114.948	115.022	114.357	0.2	-0.5	-0.6
Education and communication(3).....	136.896	136.774	136.854	0.8	0.0	0.1
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6)	1,459.781	1,460.406	1,466.132	6.0	0.4	0.4
Other goods and services	444.421	445.412	446.490	2.7	0.5	0.2
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	267.370	269.522	270.880	2.9	1.3	0.5
Commodities	185.324	187.966	189.555	1.9	2.3	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 West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019	May 2019	May 2018	Mar. 2019	Apr. 2019
Commodities less food & beverages.....	146.239	149.518	151.431	1.4	3.6	1.3
Nondurables less food & beverages	190.253	198.966	202.457	2.1	6.4	1.8
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	240.949	255.702	262.679	3.4	9.0	2.7
Durables	106.504	105.515	106.148	0.3	-0.3	0.6
Services.....	343.635	345.218	346.298	3.5	0.8	0.3
Rent of shelter(2).....	362.957	364.974	366.086	4.5	0.9	0.3
Transportation services	320.549	322.512	325.305	1.8	1.5	0.9
Other services	356.293	356.482	355.680	2.1	-0.2	-0.2
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	256.577	258.646	260.060	2.9	1.4	0.5
All items less food	267.996	270.374	271.864	2.9	1.4	0.6
All items less shelter.....	238.575	240.842	242.331	2.0	1.6	0.6
Commodities less food	150.558	153.749	155.636	1.4	3.4	1.2
Nondurables	227.473	232.532	234.684	2.4	3.2	0.9
Nondurables less food.....	195.668	203.867	207.196	2.0	5.9	1.6
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	242.869	256.106	262.447	3.2	8.1	2.5
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	357.512	358.724	359.883	2.3	0.7	0.3
Services less medical care services.....	329.816	331.216	332.431	3.5	0.8	0.4
Energy	251.002	272.448	284.955	4.3	13.5	4.6
All items less energy	270.786	271.552	272.109	2.8	0.5	0.2
All items less food and energy	272.681	273.459	274.026	2.8	0.5	0.2
Commodities less food and energy commodities	140.463	139.924	140.177	0.2	-0.2	0.2
Energy commodities.....	248.744	283.769	299.649	6.5	20.5	5.6
Services less energy services.....	350.136	351.832	352.589	3.6	0.7	0.2

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.