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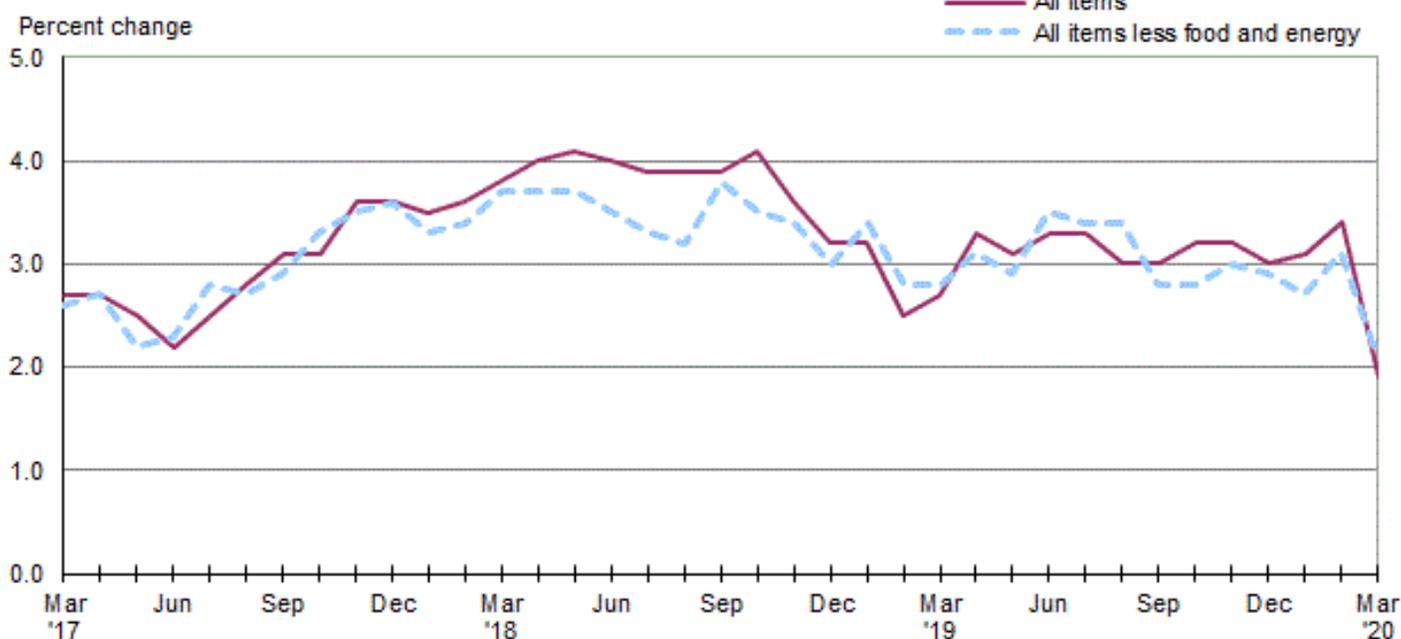
Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – March 2020

Area prices were down 0.7 percent over the past month, up 1.9 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), declined 0.7 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the March decrease was influenced by lower prices for gasoline 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 advanced 1.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent over the year. Food prices rose 3.3 percent. Energy prices declined 3.2 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, March 2017–March 2020



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

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

Over the year, food prices rose 3.3 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 5.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at from home rose 1.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 5.2 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-7.5 percent). Prices for natural gas service declined 5.1 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices declined 3.2 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-5.5 percent). Prices for natural gas service fell 10.4 percent, but prices paid for electricity rose 4.7 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy declined 0.5 percent in March. Lower prices for apparel (-4.3 percent) and recreation (-0.9 percent) were partially offset by higher prices for household furnishings and operations (0.7 percent) and medical care (0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (4.5 percent) and shelter (3.6 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in household furnishings and operations (-2.1 percent) and apparel (-0.3 percent).

Table A. Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	1-month	12-month								
January....	0.7	3.1	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.7	3.2	0.8	3.1
January....	0.7	3.1	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.7	3.2	0.8	3.1
Continued February..	0.0	2.4	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.6	0.1	2.5	0.3	3.4
March	0.3	1.7	0.3	2.7	0.4	3.8	0.6	2.7	-0.7	1.9
April	0.2	2.0	0.2	2.7	0.4	4.0	1.0	3.3		
May.....	0.5	1.4	0.3	2.5	0.4	4.1	0.2	3.1		
June.....	0.1	1.8	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	4.0	0.0	3.3		
July.....	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3		
August	0.0	1.4	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0		
September.	0.2	1.9	0.4	3.1	0.5	3.9	0.5	3.0		
October....	0.4	2.2	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.2		
November..	-0.4	1.8	0.1	3.6	-0.3	3.6	-0.3	3.2		
December..	0.0	2.0	0.0	3.6	-0.3	3.2	-0.6	3.0		

The April 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on May 12, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on March 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) program suspended data collection by personal visit on March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in March was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices being considered temporarily unavailable and imputed. While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at www.bls.gov/bls/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-bls-price-indexes.htm#CPI.

Specific information about the impact of COVID-19 on March 2020 CPI data collection is available at www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/covid19-statement-march-2020.htm

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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Los Angeles and Orange 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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Mar. 2020	Mar. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	277.755	278.657	276.589	1.9		

All items (1967=100)

820.612 823.275 817.166 ---

Food and beverages

271.402 272.546 271.669 2.9 0.1 -0.3

Food

272.904 274.138 273.203 3.3 0.1 -0.3

Food at home

258.997 259.080 258.171 1.2 -0.3 -0.4

Cereals and bakery products

273.713 276.386 271.720 1.8 -0.7 -1.7

Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs

283.279 279.993 283.766 3.4 0.2 1.3

Dairy and related products

255.915 254.288 250.076 1.3 -2.3 -1.7

Fruits and vegetables

346.423 352.276 348.884 1.5 0.7 -1.0

Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)

265.988 260.897 261.974 -1.3 -1.5 0.4

Other food at home

196.280 197.475 196.346 -0.5 0.0 -0.6

Food away from home

283.693 286.037 285.087 5.2 0.5 -0.3

Food away from home

283.693 286.037 285.087 5.2 0.5 -0.3

Alcoholic beverages

234.278 234.278 234.149 -3.1 -0.1 -0.1

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Housing	320.216	321.211	321.162	2.9	0.3	0.0
Shelter	370.579	372.271	372.238	3.6	0.4	0.0
Rent of primary residence(2)	394.761	396.346	397.220	4.4	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	385.738	386.813	387.573	3.8	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	385.716	386.791	387.550	3.8	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities	338.513	335.785	332.849	0.9	-1.7	-0.9
Household energy	293.308	289.442	285.837	0.6		