



For Release: Wednesday, June 10, 2020

20-1209-SAN

WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

Consumer Price Index, Riverside Area – May 2020

Area prices were down 0.2 percent over the past two months, up 0.9 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Riverside area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged down 0.2 percent for the two months ending in May 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the May decrease was influenced by lower prices for 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 rose 0.9 percent. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.1 percent over the year. Food prices rose 7.6 percent. Energy prices fell 18.1 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

Food

Food prices increased 3.7 percent for the two months ending in May. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home rose 5.2 percent and prices for food away from home advanced 2.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 7.6 percent. Prices for food at home increased 8.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home increased 6.9 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 7.1 percent for the two months ending in May. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-17.6 percent). Prices for natural gas service jumped 19.2 percent, and prices for electricity rose 5.5 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 18.1 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-33.3 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 15.5 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 9.6 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged down 0.2 percent in the latest two-month period. Lower prices for used cars and trucks (-1.9 percent), other goods and services (-1.4 percent) and shelter (-0.1 percent) were partially offset by higher prices for household furnishings and operations (3.4 percent) and recreation (1.3 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 (5.5 percent) and shelter (4.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in apparel (-2.2 percent).

The July 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Riverside area is scheduled to be released on August 12, 2020.

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

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in May 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 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 <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.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 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-		
	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	May 2019	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	107.162	-	106.899	0.9	-0.2	-
Food and beverages	106.700	-	110.430	7.0	3.5	-
Food	107.099	-	111.077	7.6	3.7	-
Food at home	103.561	109.123	108.969	8.2	5.2	-0.1
Cereals and bakery products	106.098	-	115.875	14.9	9.2	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	103.272	-	104.803	5.4	1.5	-
Dairy and related products	105.285	-	106.880	3.8	1.5	-
Fruits and vegetables	104.932	-	114.581	14.8	9.2	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	111.713	-	113.766	9.7	1.8	-
Other food at home	97.063	-	104.172	4.0	7.3	-
Food away from home.....	110.736	-	113.014	6.9	2.1	-
Alcoholic beverages	99.779	-	98.737	-3.5	-1.0	-
Housing	109.955	-	110.788	4.4	0.8	-
Shelter	110.835	110.706	110.730	4.1	-0.1	0.0
Rent of primary residence	110.836	111.047	111.052	4.9	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences	111.161	111.005	111.028	4.2	-0.1	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence	111.161	111.005	111.028	4.2	-0.1	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	111.293	-	116.975	7.6	5.1	-
Household energy	108.627	108.686	117.261	10.6	7.9	7.9
Energy services.....	108.831	108.935	117.677	10.8	8.1	8.0
Electricity	108.665	107.855	114.621	9.6	5.5	6.3
Utility (piped) gas service	108.573	112.498	129.434	15.5	19.2	15.1
Household furnishings and operations	99.660	-	103.024	3.4	3.4	-
Apparel	97.442	-	96.667	-2.2	-0.8	-
Transportation	103.961	-	96.278	-14.4	-7.4	-
Private transportation	104.834	-	97.253	-13.5	-7.2	-
New and used motor vehicles	99.065	-	96.735	-3.4	-2.4	-
New vehicles	102.993	-	103.193	2.1	0.2	-
Used cars and trucks.....	102.569	-	100.622	-0.8	-1.9	-
Motor fuel	108.421	91.163	89.461	-33.2	-17.5	-1.9
Gasoline (all types).....	108.474	91.056	89.420	-33.3	-17.6	-1.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(1).....	108.339	90.544	89.008	-33.8	-17.8	-1.7
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(1).....	111.433	94.383	91.959	-30.9	-17.5	-2.6
Gasoline, unleaded premium(1).....	108.597	93.121	91.088	-30.9	-16.1	-2.2
Motor vehicle insurance	116.349	-	106.331	-3.4	-8.6	-
Medical care	107.539	-	108.070	5.5	0.5	-
Recreation	101.545	-	102.827	1.3	1.3	-
Education and communication	105.182	-	105.837	2.2	0.6	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care	116.232	-	116.209	3.9	0.0	-
Other goods and services	108.452	-	106.982	0.4	-1.4	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	107.162	-	106.899	0.9	-0.2	-
Commodities	103.827	-	102.778	-3.0	-1.0	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	102.106	-	98.259	-8.8	-3.8	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	102.000	-	94.503	-15.9	-7.4	-
Durables	101.708	-	101.768	0.5	0.1	-
Services.....	109.210	-	109.405	3.2	0.2	-
Special aggregate indexes						

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-		
	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020	May 2020	May 2019	Mar. 2020	Apr. 2020
All items less medical care	107.138	-	106.820	0.6	-0.3	-
All items less shelter.....	105.094	-	104.738	-0.9	-0.3	-
Commodities less food	102.003	-	98.236	-8.7	-3.7	-
Nondurables	104.496	-	102.962	-4.2	-1.5	-
Nondurables less food.....	101.842	-	94.688	-15.2	-7.0	-
Services less rent of shelter	106.946	-	107.563	2.0	0.6	-
Services less medical care services.....	109.112	-	109.274	3.0	0.1	-
Energy	109.047	98.815	101.326	-18.1	-7.1	2.5
All items less energy	106.975	-	107.361	2.9	0.4	-
All items less food and energy	106.992	-	106.789	2.1	-0.2	-

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.