



For Release: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

20-1545-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, San Diego Area – July 2020

Area prices were up 1.4 percent over the past two months, up 2.1 percent from a year ago

Prices in the San Diego area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.4 percent for the two months ending in July 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the July increase was influenced by higher 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 increased 2.1 percent. The index for all items less food and energy increased 2.5 percent over the year. Food prices rose 5.9 percent. Energy prices fell 11.9 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1](#).)

Food

Food prices were unchanged for the two months ending in July. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food at home declined 0.6 percent, but prices for food away from home rose 0.5 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 5.9 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 6.2 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 5.6 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 7.9 percent for the two months ending in July. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (11.1 percent). Prices for electricity rose 4.3 percent, and prices for natural gas service rose 0.6 percent for the same period.

Energy prices fell 11.9 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-17.8 percent). Prices for electricity decreased 7.0 percent, but prices paid for natural gas service jumped 27.2 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 1.3 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for education and communication (4.4 percent), apparel (3.7 percent), new and used motor vehicles (2.8 percent), and medical care, (2.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for other goods and services (-0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 2.5 percent. Components contributing to the increase included recreation (8.1 percent), medical care (5.9 percent), and shelter (2.7 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in new and used motor vehicles (-1.5 percent).

The September 2020 Consumer Price Index for the San Diego area is scheduled to be released on October 13, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact on July 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 July 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 San Diego-Carlsbad, CA metropolitan area covered in this release consists of San Diego County 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 San Diego-Carlsbad (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Jul. 2019	May 2020	Jun. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	301.317	-	305.611	2.1	1.4	-
All items (1967=100).....	1,018.846	-	1,033.363	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	272.698	-	273.727	6.0	0.4	-
Food.....	271.648	-	271.517	5.9	0.0	-
Food at home.....	242.896	243.062	241.546	5.6	-0.6	-0.6
Cereals and bakery products.....	285.666	-	278.901	4.2	-2.4	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	260.270	-	257.597	12.2	-1.0	-
Dairy and related products.....	183.430	-	191.439	2.1	4.4	-
Fruits and vegetables.....	255.750	-	263.305	-0.5	3.0	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	283.417	-	270.675	8.3	-4.5	-
Other food at home.....	228.205	-	225.615	5.2	-1.1	-
Food away from home.....	309.408	-	311.055	6.2	0.5	-
Alcoholic beverages.....	273.728	-	286.086	6.8	4.5	-
Housing.....	362.981	-	365.294	2.2	0.6	-
Shelter.....	413.708	413.980	414.716	2.7	0.2	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2).....	412.275	412.455	412.706	3.5	0.1	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2).....	440.308	439.847	440.546	2.7	0.1	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2).....	440.308	439.847	440.546	2.7	0.1	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	342.936	-	350.552	-0.2	2.2	-
Household energy.....	310.599	321.122	321.113	-1.0	3.4	0.0
Energy services.....	307.048	317.908	317.590	-0.9	3.4	-0.1
Electricity.....	288.932	301.433	301.433	-7.0	4.3	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service.....	263.536	266.365	265.242	27.2	0.6	-0.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	192.679	-	197.981	0.9	2.8	-
Apparel.....	150.008	-	155.592	1.5	3.7	-
Transportation.....	210.241	-	218.122	-7.1	3.7	-
Private transportation.....	206.604	-	216.534	-5.7	4.8	-
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	104.660	-	107.622	-1.5	2.8	-
New vehicles(1).....	232.325	-	237.927	1.8	2.4	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....	229.747	-	234.349	-1.4	2.0	-
Motor fuel.....	225.398	238.486	250.256	-17.8	11.0	4.9
Gasoline (all types).....	225.247	238.423	250.223	-17.8	11.1	4.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	232.071	245.527	258.293	-18.2	11.3	5.2
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	199.311	210.540	218.677	-17.4	9.7	3.9
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	234.710	249.029	259.058	-16.0	10.4	4.0
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	491.321	-	535.557	0.3	9.0	-
Medical care.....	508.824	-	521.409	5.9	2.5	-
Recreation(3).....	162.912	-	164.746	8.1	1.1	-
Education and communication(3).....	129.346	-	135.065	2.9	4.4	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,538.358	-	1,540.026	-2.4	0.1	-
Other goods and services.....	419.225	-	417.682	1.6	-0.4	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	301.317	-	305.611	2.1	1.4	-
Commodities.....	202.947	-	207.012	1.1	2.0	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	165.803	-	171.588	-2.6	3.5	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	191.263	-	198.880	-4.4	4.0	-
Durables.....	138.283	-	142.237	-0.4	2.9	-
Services.....	388.442	-	392.730	2.6	1.1	-

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 San Diego-Carlsbad (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jul. 2020	Jul. 2019	May 2020	Jun. 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	291.542	-	295.448	1.8	1.3	-
All items less shelter.....	257.058	-	262.485	1.7	2.1	-
Commodities less food	170.750	-	176.845	-1.9	3.6	-
Nondurables	234.086	-	238.178	1.6	1.7	-
Nondurables less food.....	199.257	-	207.332	-3.1	4.1	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	377.760	-	386.189	2.4	2.2	-
Services less medical care services.....	375.000	-	378.448	2.1	0.9	-
Energy	251.387	263.473	271.177	-11.9	7.9	2.9
All items less energy	306.989	-	310.412	3.0	1.1	-
All items less food and energy	314.477	-	318.690	2.5	1.3	-

Footnotes

- (1) Indexes on a November 1977=100 base.
- (2) Indexes on a November 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.

- Data not available

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