



**For Release: Wednesday, March 11, 2020**

**20-426-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

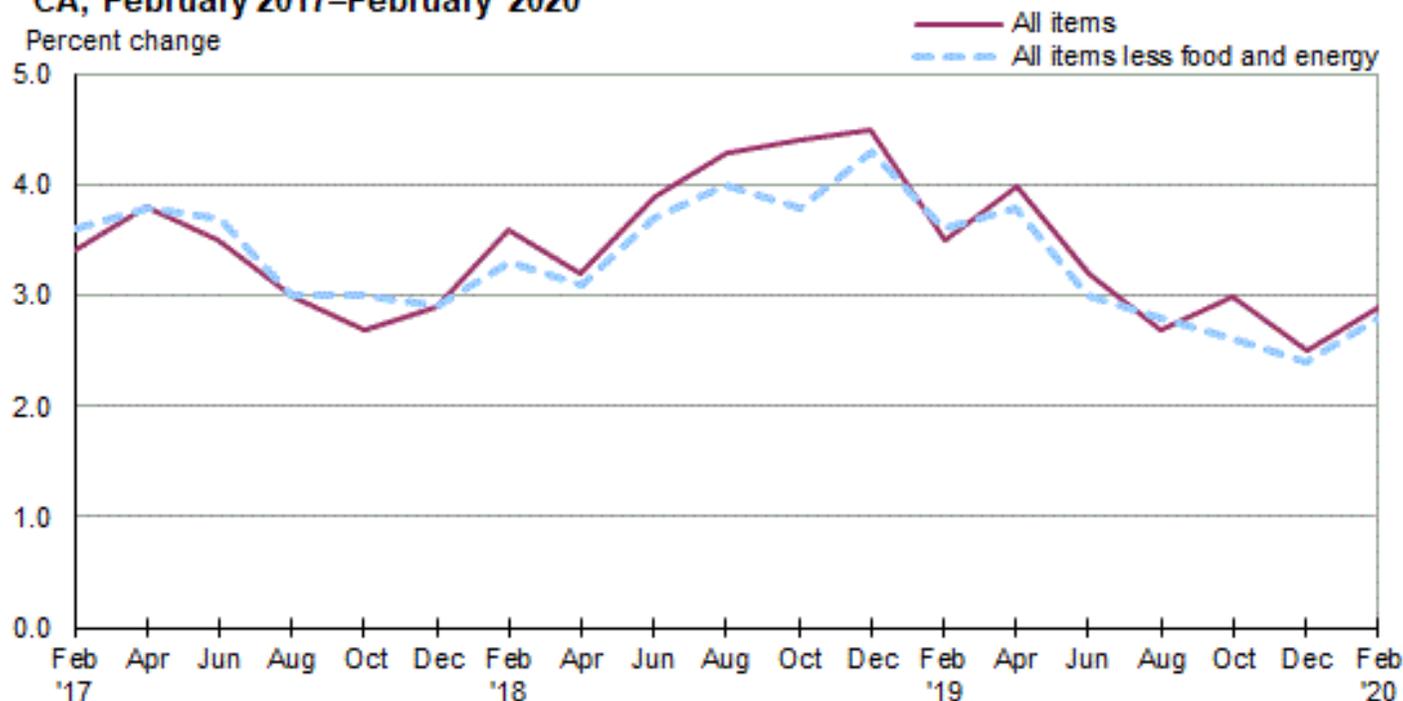
## **Consumer Price Index, San Francisco Area — February 2020**

**Area prices were up 0.9 percent over the past two months, up 2.9 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the San Francisco area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.9 percent for the two months ending in February 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the February increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter 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 2.9 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.8 percent over the year. Food prices rose 3.5 percent. Energy prices increased 4.0 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of electricity. (See [table 1](#).)

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA, February 2017–February 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices increased 1.4 percent for the two months ending in February. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home increased 2.7 percent, but prices for food at home edged up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 3.5 percent. Prices for food way from home moved up 6.3 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 0.5 percent.

## Energy

The energy index decreased 0.8 percent for the two months ending in February. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-4.1 percent). Prices for natural gas service advanced 3.1 percent, and prices for electricity rose 2.7 percent for the same period.

Energy prices increased 4.0 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for electricity (11.2 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service increased 3.3 percent, but prices for gasoline edged down 0.1 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.9 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (12.0 percent), household furnishings and operations (2.3 percent) and shelter (0.7 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for medical care (-1.6 percent) and recreation (-0.7 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (5.1 percent), household furnishings and operations (3.7 percent) and shelter (3.5 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in education and communication and new and used motor vehicles, both down 0.8 percent).

**Table A. San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020	
	2-month	12-month								
February .....	0.9	3.0	0.8	3.4	1.4	3.6	0.5	3.5	0.9	2.9
April .....	0.7	2.7	1.1	3.8	0.8	3.2	1.2	4.0		
June .....	0.6	2.7	0.3	3.5	0.9	3.9	0.2	3.2		
August .....	0.7	3.1	0.2	3.0	0.6	4.3	0.1	2.7		
October .....	0.9	3.6	0.6	2.7	0.7	4.4	1.0	3.0		
December .....	-0.3	3.5	-0.1	2.9	0.1	4.5	-0.5	2.5		

**The April 2020 Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco area is scheduled to be released on May 12, 2020.**

### Consumer Price Index Geographic Revision for 2018

In January 2018, BLS introduced a new geographic area sample for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As part of the new sample, the index for this area was renamed. Additional information on the geographic revision is available at: [www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.htm](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/additional-resources/geographic-revision-2018.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 94 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 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 San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo 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 San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items .....	297.007	-	299.690	2.9	0.9	-
All items (1967=100) .....	913.082	-	921.330	-	-	-
Food and beverages .....	291.161	-	294.897	2.7	1.3	-
Food .....	289.795	-	293.860	3.5	1.4	-
Food at home .....	255.160	252.943	255.459	0.5	0.1	1.0
Cereals and bakery products .....	261.685	-	260.713	3.4	-0.4	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs .....	257.727	-	259.584	5.2	0.7	-
Dairy and related products .....	272.909	-	276.983	2.7	1.5	-
Fruits and vegetables .....	339.390	-	337.537	-2.3	-0.5	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1) .....	208.244	-	205.500	-1.8	-1.3	-
Other food at home .....	215.083	-	215.951	-2.8	0.4	-
Food away from home .....	329.746	-	338.700	6.3	2.7	-
Food away from home .....	329.746	-	338.700	6.3	2.7	-
Alcoholic beverages .....	311.197	-	310.927	-3.6	-0.1	-
Housing .....	352.601	-	355.875	3.8	0.9	-
Shelter .....	403.366	404.651	406.369	3.5	0.7	0.4
Rent of primary residence(2) .....	465.399	467.145	469.062	4.1	0.8	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3) .....	431.525	432.813	435.428	3.4	0.9	0.6
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2) .....	431.525	432.813	435.428	3.4	0.9	0.6
Fuels and utilities .....	421.094	-	428.216	7.6	1.7	-
Household energy .....	361.199	370.673	371.120	9.1	2.7	0.1
Energy services(2) .....	362.411	371.961	372.547	9.2	2.8	0.2
Electricity(2) .....	394.942	405.709	405.709	11.2	2.7	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2) .....	278.293	284.492	286.953	3.3	3.1	0.9
Household furnishings and operations .....	140.571	-	143.846	3.7	2.3	-
Apparel .....	105.638	-	118.319	1.1	12.0	-
Transportation .....	205.815	-	207.576	2.4	0.9	-
Private transportation .....	200.558	-	199.614	1.5	-0.5	-
New and used motor vehicles(4) .....	94.248	-	94.584	-0.8	0.4	-
New vehicles(1) .....	157.614	-	158.826	-3.3	0.8	-
Used cars and trucks(1) .....	247.540	-	247.896	-1.7	0.1	-
Motor fuel .....	261.728	254.945	251.171	-0.1	-4.0	-1.5
Gasoline (all types) .....	260.603	253.829	250.046	-0.1	-4.1	-1.5
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4) .....	260.154	253.300	249.274	-0.5	-4.2	-1.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5) .....	246.885	240.385	236.047	1.4	-4.4	-1.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4) .....	248.322	242.254	239.787	1.3	-3.4	-1.0
Motor vehicle insurance(1) .....	534.852	-	543.610	5.3	1.6	-
Medical care .....	554.645	-	545.970	5.1	-1.6	-
Recreation(6) .....	120.285	-	119.462	1.3	-0.7	-
Education and communication(6) .....	150.738	-	150.916	-0.8	0.1	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,832.700	-	1,832.748	0.0	0.0	-
Other goods and services .....	502.634	-	506.920	1.4	0.9	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items .....	297.007	-	299.690	2.9	0.9	-
Commodities .....	191.711	-	194.559	0.7	1.5	-
Commodities less food & beverages .....	138.789	-	141.125	-1.2	1.7	-
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	183.571	-	186.302	-1.0	1.5	-
Durables .....	95.685	-	97.551	-1.7	2.0	-
Services .....	384.554	-	387.182	3.8	0.7	-

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 Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	Feb. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	286.521	-	289.597	2.7	1.1	-
All items less shelter.....	252.809	-	255.428	2.5	1.0	-
Commodities less food .....	146.124	-	148.395	-1.4	1.6	-
Nondurables .....	238.667	-	241.910	1.2	1.4	-
Nondurables less food.....	193.523	-	196.037	-1.3	1.3	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	377.741	-	379.913	4.4	0.6	-
Services less medical care services.....	373.552	-	376.538	3.6	0.8	-
Energy .....	302.900	302.554	300.439	4.0	-0.8	-0.7
All items less energy .....	300.324	-	303.282	2.9	1.0	-
All items less food and energy .....	302.804	-	305.596	2.8	0.9	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

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