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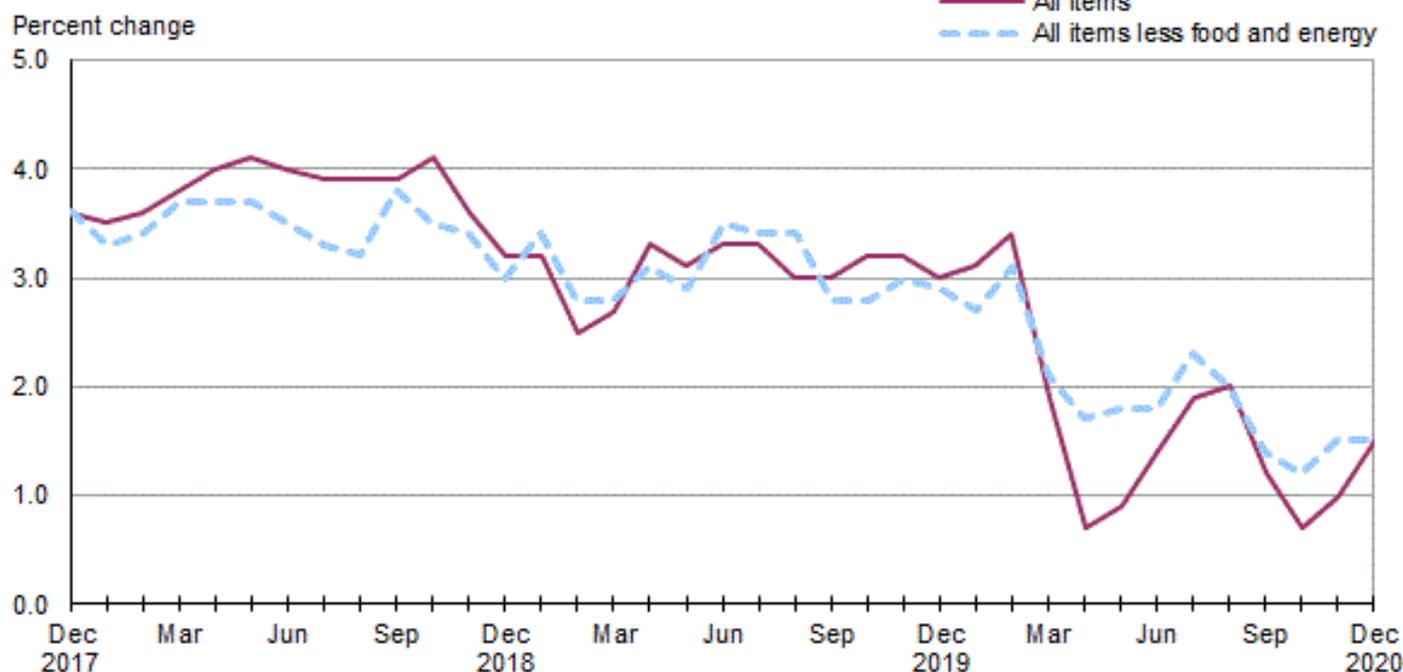
## **Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – December 2020**

**Area prices were down 0.2 percent over the past month, up 1.5 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), decreased 0.2 percent in December, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the December decrease was influenced by lower prices for apparel and recreation. (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 1.5 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) This marks the tenth consecutive month of price increases of 2.0 percent or less. The index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent over the year. Food prices rose 4.5 percent. Energy prices declined 5.7 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, December 2017–December 2020**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices increased 0.2 percent for the month of December. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 0.3 percent largely due to price advances for nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials (1.2 percent) and dairy and related products (1.1 percent). Prices for food away from home moved up 0.2 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.5 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 5.6 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home increased 3.3 percent.

## Energy

The energy index increased 0.6 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (0.8 percent). Prices for natural gas service advanced 1.7 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices declined 5.7 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-14.5 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service jumped 13.1 percent, and prices for electricity rose 9.4 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy decreased 0.3 percent in December. Lower prices for apparel (-4.4 percent), recreation (-1.8 percent), and household furnishings and operations (-1.4 percent) were partially offset by higher prices for new vehicles (1.0 percent) and education and communication (0.4 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 1.5 percent. Components contributing to the increase included medical care (4.2 percent) and shelter (1.1 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in apparel (-1.8 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.1 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
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	-0.3	0.7
May.....	0.5	1.4	0.3	2.5	0.4	4.1	0.2	3.1	0.4	0.9
June.....	0.1	1.8	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	4.0	0.0	3.3	0.5	1.4
July.....	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3	0.6	1.9
August.....	0.0	1.4	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0	0.1	2.0
September.....	0.2	1.9	0.4	3.1	0.5	3.9	0.5	3.0	-0.3	1.2
October.....	0.4	2.2	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.2	0.2	0.7
November.....	-0.4	1.8	0.1	3.6	-0.3	3.6	-0.3	3.2	0.1	1.0
December.....	0.0	2.0	0.0	3.6	-0.3	3.2	-0.6	3.0	-0.2	1.5

**The January 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on February 10, 2021.**

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on December 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 December 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 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. 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 6,000 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; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

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, CA metropolitan area includes Los Angeles and Orange Counties in California.

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**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-		
	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2019	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	279.947	280.102	279.560	1.5	-0.1	-0.2
All items (1967=100).....	827.088	827.545	825.943	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	281.665	281.077	281.658	5.2	0.0	0.2
Food.....	282.121	280.852	281.552	4.5	-0.2	0.2
Food at home.....	267.182	264.325	265.017	3.3	-0.8	0.3
Cereals and bakery products.....	280.215	276.914	277.127	2.1	-1.1	0.1
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	297.874	294.640	294.757	4.7	-1.0	0.0
Dairy and related products.....	257.931	254.654	257.360	1.7	-0.2	1.1
Fruits and vegetables.....	364.104	360.548	359.525	5.0	-1.3	-0.3
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	264.366	263.921	267.137	2.9	1.0	1.2
Other food at home.....	202.108	199.194	199.659	2.3	-1.2	0.2
Food away from home.....	293.824	294.116	294.816	5.6	0.3	0.2
Alcoholic beverages.....	256.017	263.423	262.588	15.4	2.6	-0.3
Housing.....	325.723	324.681	324.149	1.5	-0.5	-0.2
Shelter.....	375.196	374.409	374.059	1.1	-0.3	-0.1
Rent of primary residence(2).....	399.028	399.286	399.271	1.3	0.1	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	391.973	391.008	391.045	1.6	-0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	391.950	390.986	391.023	1.6	-0.2	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	363.872	358.059	359.099	8.2	-1.3	0.3
Household energy.....	318.229	311.089	312.367	10.3	-1.8	0.4
Energy services(2).....	316.915	309.675	310.964	10.3	-1.9	0.4
Electricity(2).....	361.126	361.082	361.082	9.4	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	268.634	245.671	249.775	13.1	-7.0	1.7
Household furnishings and operations.....	120.701	120.354	118.717	-0.1	-1.6	-1.4
Apparel.....	110.685	109.352	104.579	-1.8	-5.5	-4.4
Transportation.....	203.415	205.939	206.284	-3.6	1.4	0.2
Private transportation.....	199.929	202.898	205.099	-3.3	2.6	1.1
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	87.585	91.440	92.134	2.7	5.2	0.8
New vehicles(1).....	166.373	170.244	171.936	2.1	3.3	1.0
Used cars and trucks(1).....	293.357	289.811	287.062	9.2	-2.1	-0.9
Motor fuel.....	242.042	238.730	240.660	-14.5	-0.6	0.8
Gasoline (all types).....	236.445	233.181	235.018	-14.5	-0.6	0.8
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	235.584	232.135	234.021	-14.9	-0.7	0.8
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	229.142	227.580	228.316	-14.1	-0.4	0.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	231.003	228.358	230.072	-12.7	-0.4	0.8
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	768.182	768.182	788.183	0.7	2.6	2.6
Medical care.....	506.799	507.010	506.219	4.2	-0.1	-0.2
Recreation(6).....	105.041	107.758	105.869	0.0	0.8	-1.8
Education and communication(6).....	151.505	151.268	151.838	1.9	0.2	0.4
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,968.838	1,963.776	1,963.558	0.2	-0.3	0.0
Other goods and services.....	449.762	452.822	454.213	1.5	1.0	0.3
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	279.947	280.102	279.560	1.5	-0.1	-0.2
Commodities.....	185.088	184.780	184.677	1.0	-0.2	-0.1
Commodities less food & beverages.....	135.880	135.708	135.296	-2.6	-0.4	-0.3
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	181.569	180.616	178.861	-6.0	-1.5	-1.0
Durables.....	91.132	91.581	92.245	2.9	1.2	0.7
Services.....	364.403	365.011	364.052	1.7	-0.1	-0.3

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 Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Dec. 2019	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	270.104	270.256	269.726	1.3	-0.1	-0.2
All items less shelter.....	237.989	238.544	237.923	1.7	0.0	-0.3
Commodities less food .....	141.028	141.120	140.691	-1.6	-0.2	-0.3
Nondurables .....	232.803	232.028	231.437	0.6	-0.6	-0.3
Nondurables less food.....	188.862	188.518	186.814	-4.1	-1.1	-0.9
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	358.643	361.281	359.424	2.5	0.2	-0.5
Services less medical care services.....	351.024	351.674	350.789	1.4	-0.1	-0.3
Energy .....	270.903	266.204	267.915	-5.7	-1.1	0.6
All items less energy .....	282.775	283.257	282.559	1.9	-0.1	-0.2
All items less food and energy .....	283.055	283.873	282.907	1.5	-0.1	-0.3

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.