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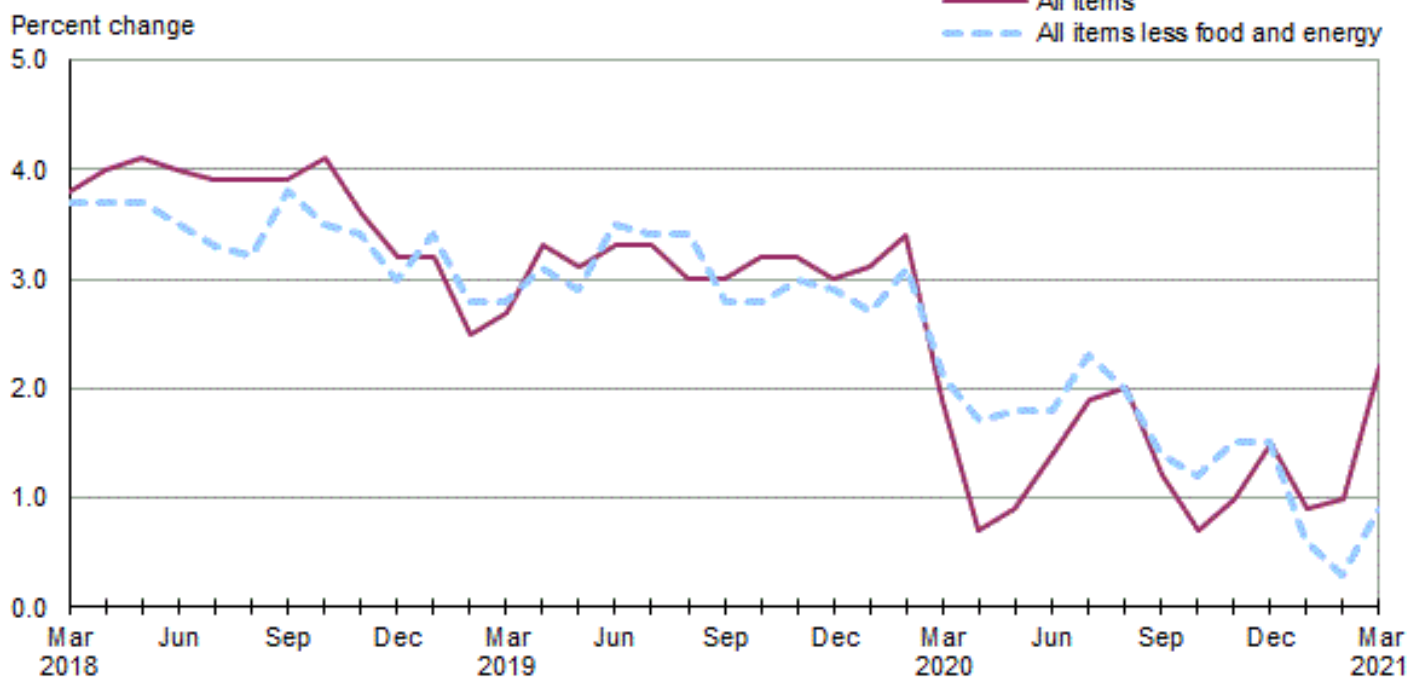
## **Consumer Price Index, Los Angeles area – March 2021**

**Area prices were up 0.5 percent over the past month, up 2.2 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Los Angeles area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.5 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Christopher J. Rosenlund noted that the March increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline. (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 2.2 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Food prices advanced 3.9 percent. Energy prices jumped 14.9 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 0.9 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA, March 2018–March 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices were unchanged for the month of March. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home declined 0.7 percent, but prices for food away from home advanced 0.7 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices advanced 3.9 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 4.1 percent since a year ago. Prices for food at home moved up 3.5 percent led, by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (6.6 percent).

## Energy

The energy index rose 4.9 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (8.0 percent). Prices for electricity and natural gas service both edged up 0.1 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 14.9 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (15.4 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service moved up 16.1 percent, and prices for electricity increased 13.4 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy edged up 0.2 percent in March. Higher prices for apparel (3.9 percent) and recreation (3.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-1.9 percent) and new and used vehicles (-0.9 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 0.9 percent. Components contributing to the increase included alcoholic beverages (11.1 percent), used cars and trucks (8.7 percent), other goods and services (3.9 percent), and shelter (0.9 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in recreation (-1.9 percent) and education and communication (-1.1 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	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	0.9	2.1	0.8	3.5	0.7	3.2	0.8	3.1	0.2	0.9
February.....	0.6	2.7	0.7	3.6	0.1	2.5	0.3	3.4	0.4	1.0
March.....	0.3	2.7	0.4	3.8	0.6	2.7	-0.7	1.9	0.5	2.2
April.....	0.2	2.7	0.4	4.0	1.0	3.3	-0.3	0.7		
May.....	0.3	2.5	0.4	4.1	0.2	3.1	0.4	0.9		
June.....	-0.2	2.2	-0.2	4.0	0.0	3.3	0.5	1.4		
July.....	0.3	2.5	0.2	3.9	0.1	3.3	0.6	1.9		
August.....	0.3	2.8	0.2	3.9	0.0	3.0	0.1	2.0		
September.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	3.9	0.5	3.0	-0.3	1.2		
October.....	0.4	3.1	0.5	4.1	0.7	3.2	0.2	0.7		
November.....	0.1	3.6	-0.3	3.6	-0.3	3.2	0.1	1.0		
December.....	0.0	3.6	-0.3	3.2	-0.6	3.0	-0.2	1.5		

**The April 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Los Angeles area is scheduled to be released on May 12, 2021.**

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on March 2021 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 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 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-		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
<b>Expenditure category</b>						
All items.....	280.178	281.347	282.648	2.2	0.9	0.5
All items (1967=100).....	827.771	831.223	835.067	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....	282.411	283.522	283.505	4.4	0.4	0.0
Food.....	282.453	283.715	283.750	3.9	0.5	0.0
Food at home.....	265.426	269.217	267.292	3.5	0.7	-0.7
Cereals and bakery products.....	274.140	277.500	281.430	3.6	2.7	1.4
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	290.529	299.450	302.461	6.6	4.1	1.0
Dairy and related products.....	263.911	261.590	259.853	3.9	-1.5	-0.7
Fruits and vegetables.....	364.430	363.625	358.042	2.6	-1.8	-1.5
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....	270.014	275.704	268.265	2.4	-0.6	-2.7
Other food at home.....	199.499	203.485	199.524	1.6	0.0	-1.9
Food away from home.....	296.186	294.972	296.916	4.1	0.2	0.7
Alcoholic beverages.....	261.550	260.811	260.197	11.1	-0.5	-0.2
Housing.....	324.947	326.053	326.591	1.7	0.5	0.2
Shelter.....	374.862	375.778	375.676	0.9	0.2	0.0
Rent of primary residence(2).....	399.228	401.167	400.962	0.9	0.4	-0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....	391.601	392.372	392.227	1.2	0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	391.579	392.349	392.204	1.2	0.2	0.0
Fuels and utilities.....	363.244	372.538	373.221	12.1	2.7	0.2
Household energy.....	314.114	325.529	325.995	14.0	3.8	0.1
Energy services(2).....	312.707	324.104	324.444	14.1	3.8	0.1
Electricity(2).....	360.746	381.106	381.498	13.4	5.8	0.1
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....	256.013	250.556	250.837	16.1	-2.0	0.1
Household furnishings and operations.....	118.378	117.480	120.176	0.8	1.5	2.3
Apparel.....	107.232	107.305	111.445	1.7	3.9	3.9
Transportation.....	208.813	211.493	216.878	4.9	3.9	2.5
Private transportation.....	208.134	213.448	218.064	6.0	4.8	2.2
New and used motor vehicles(4).....	91.787	92.547	91.675	1.0	-0.1	-0.9
New vehicles(1).....	168.749	172.218	171.386	0.1	1.6	-0.5
Used cars and trucks(1).....	284.903	286.569	293.092	8.7	2.9	2.3
Motor fuel.....	252.791	270.418	291.927	15.4	15.5	8.0
Gasoline (all types).....	246.904	264.161	285.179	15.4	15.5	8.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	246.180	263.769	284.872	15.5	15.7	8.0
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	238.894	255.014	273.815	14.1	14.6	7.4
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	240.606	256.056	276.184	15.6	14.8	7.9
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....	802.689	802.689	802.689	2.1	0.0	0.0
Medical care.....	509.547	507.285	505.630	1.1	-0.8	-0.3
Recreation(6).....	102.102	102.330	105.756	-1.9	3.6	3.3
Education and communication(6).....	149.515	149.850	147.020	-1.1	-1.7	-1.9
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,910.404	1,910.404	1,911.766	-2.5	0.1	0.1
Other goods and services.....	462.877	466.852	462.504	3.9	-0.1	-0.9
<b>Commodity and service group</b>						
All items.....	280.178	281.347	282.648	2.2	0.9	0.5
Commodities.....	186.017	187.956	190.310	4.2	2.3	1.3
Commodities less food & beverages.....	136.865	139.124	142.487	4.0	4.1	2.4
Nondurables less food & beverages.....	184.195	188.403	194.778	5.0	5.7	3.4
Durables.....	90.772	91.359	92.146	2.3	1.5	0.9
Services.....	363.933	364.297	364.509	1.2	0.2	0.1

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

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Mar. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>						
All items less medical care .....	270.245	271.527	272.925	2.3	1.0	0.5
All items less shelter.....	238.459	239.730	241.621	3.0	1.3	0.8
Commodities less food .....	142.180	144.350	147.596	4.4	3.8	2.2
Nondurables .....	234.499	237.175	240.376	4.6	2.5	1.3
Nondurables less food.....	191.729	195.613	201.533	5.6	5.1	3.0
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	357.969	357.544	358.214	1.6	0.1	0.2
Services less medical care services.....	350.343	350.902	351.183	1.1	0.2	0.1
Energy .....	276.433	291.972	306.138	14.9	10.7	4.9
All items less energy .....	282.653	282.868	283.317	1.4	0.2	0.2
All items less food and energy .....	282.846	282.860	283.389	0.9	0.2	0.2

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.