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Consumer Price Index, Riverside Area – January 2021

Area prices were up 0.9 percent over the past two months, up 2.2 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Riverside area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.9 percent for the two months ending in January 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the January increase was influenced by higher prices for household furnishings and operations, gasoline, and apparel. (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 2.2 percent. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.0 percent over the year. Food prices increased 6.0 percent. Energy prices declined 1.1 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. (See [table 1.](#))

Food

Food prices advanced 1.1 percent for the two months ending in January. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 1.1 percent, led by higher prices for dairy and related products (6.3 percent) and cereals and bakery products (6.2 percent). Prices for food away from home rose 1.1 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 6.0 percent. Prices for food at home increased 9.0 percent since a year ago, led by fruits and vegetables (14.8 percent). Prices for food away from home increased 2.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index rose 2.6 percent for the two months ending in January. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (4.4 percent). Prices for natural gas service rose 3.7 percent, while prices for electricity were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices declined 1.1 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-8.3 percent). Prices paid for electricity jumped 11.2 percent, and prices for natural gas service rose 6.8 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.6 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for apparel (6.9 percent) and household furnishings and operations (5.8 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-2.1 percent) and education and communication (-1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.0 percent. Components contributing to the increase included apparel (8.7 percent), medical care (3.9 percent), and shelter (1.5 percent).

The March 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Riverside area is scheduled to be released on April 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on January 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 January 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 and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at 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 Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA metropolitan area includes Riverside and San Bernardino Counties in 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-		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
Expenditure category						
All items.....	108.626	-	109.550	2.2	0.9	-
Food and beverages	111.702	-	112.682	5.8	0.9	-
Food	112.011	-	113.231	6.0	1.1	-
Food at home	110.756	110.914	111.921	9.0	1.1	0.9
Cereals and bakery products	111.660	-	118.631	13.1	6.2	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	108.492	-	107.611	6.3	-0.8	-
Dairy and related products	106.197	-	112.929	6.8	6.3	-
Fruits and vegetables	119.733	-	119.763	14.8	0.0	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	111.989	-	112.955	4.6	0.9	-
Other food at home	107.674	-	106.640	8.6	-1.0	-
Food away from home.....	112.942	-	114.220	2.7	1.1	-
Alcoholic beverages	106.567	-	102.904	3.1	-3.4	-
Housing	111.284	-	112.236	2.1	0.9	-
Shelter	111.167	111.311	111.547	1.5	0.3	0.2
Rent of primary residence	111.942	112.367	112.558	2.3	0.6	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of residences	111.476	111.809	112.058	1.6	0.5	0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence.....	111.476	111.809	112.058	1.6	0.5	0.2
Fuels and utilities.....	120.042	-	121.191	7.5	1.0	-
Household energy	121.251	121.632	121.681	9.8	0.4	0.0
Energy services.....	121.575	121.870	122.426	10.3	0.7	0.5
Electricity	120.854	120.854	120.826	11.2	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service	123.532	125.058	128.050	6.8	3.7	2.4
Household furnishings and operations.....	100.924	-	106.755	1.6	5.8	-
Apparel	95.030	-	101.618	8.7	6.9	-
Transportation	101.899	-	103.615	-2.9	1.7	-
Private transportation	102.962	-	105.221	-1.3	2.2	-
New and used motor vehicles	99.440	-	100.281	1.8	0.8	-
New vehicles	103.167	-	103.404	1.5	0.2	-
Used cars and trucks.....	110.233	-	108.366	9.1	-1.7	-
Motor fuel	101.159	101.623	105.705	-8.4	4.5	4.0
Gasoline (all types).....	101.343	101.669	105.773	-8.3	4.4	4.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(1).....	101.159	101.504	105.676	-8.4	4.5	4.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(1).....	104.612	104.400	107.680	-7.2	2.9	3.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(1).....	101.678	101.991	105.872	-8.1	4.1	3.8
Motor vehicle insurance	116.013	-	121.221	6.7	4.5	-
Medical care	109.482	-	109.847	3.9	0.3	-
Recreation	105.481	-	103.310	4.0	-2.1	-
Education and communication	108.483	-	107.433	2.6	-1.0	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care.....	119.282	-	118.503	2.0	-0.7	-
Other goods and services	109.019	-	110.704	2.8	1.5	-
Commodity and service group						
All items.....	108.626	-	109.550	2.2	0.9	-
Commodities	105.460	-	107.516	3.0	1.9	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....	101.765	-	104.452	1.2	2.6	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	98.740	-	102.445	-1.6	3.8	-
Durables	104.478	-	106.067	4.3	1.5	-
Services.....	110.576	-	110.837	1.8	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-		
	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Jan. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020
All items less medical care	108.568	-	109.530	2.1	0.9	-
All items less shelter.....	107.224	-	108.468	2.7	1.2	-
Commodities less food	101.862	-	104.370	1.3	2.5	-
Nondurables	105.624	-	107.882	2.4	2.1	-
Nondurables less food.....	99.112	-	102.428	-1.4	3.3	-
Services less rent of shelter	109.723	-	109.816	2.4	0.1	-
Services less medical care services.....	110.376	-	110.648	1.6	0.2	-
Energy	109.916	110.349	112.794	-1.1	2.6	2.2
All items less energy	108.490	-	109.243	2.6	0.7	-
All items less food and energy	107.950	-	108.628	2.0	0.6	-

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.