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WESTERN INFORMATION OFFICE: San Francisco, Calif.

Technical information: (415) 625-2270 BLSinfoSF@bls.gov www.bls.gov/regions/west

Media contact: (415) 625-2270

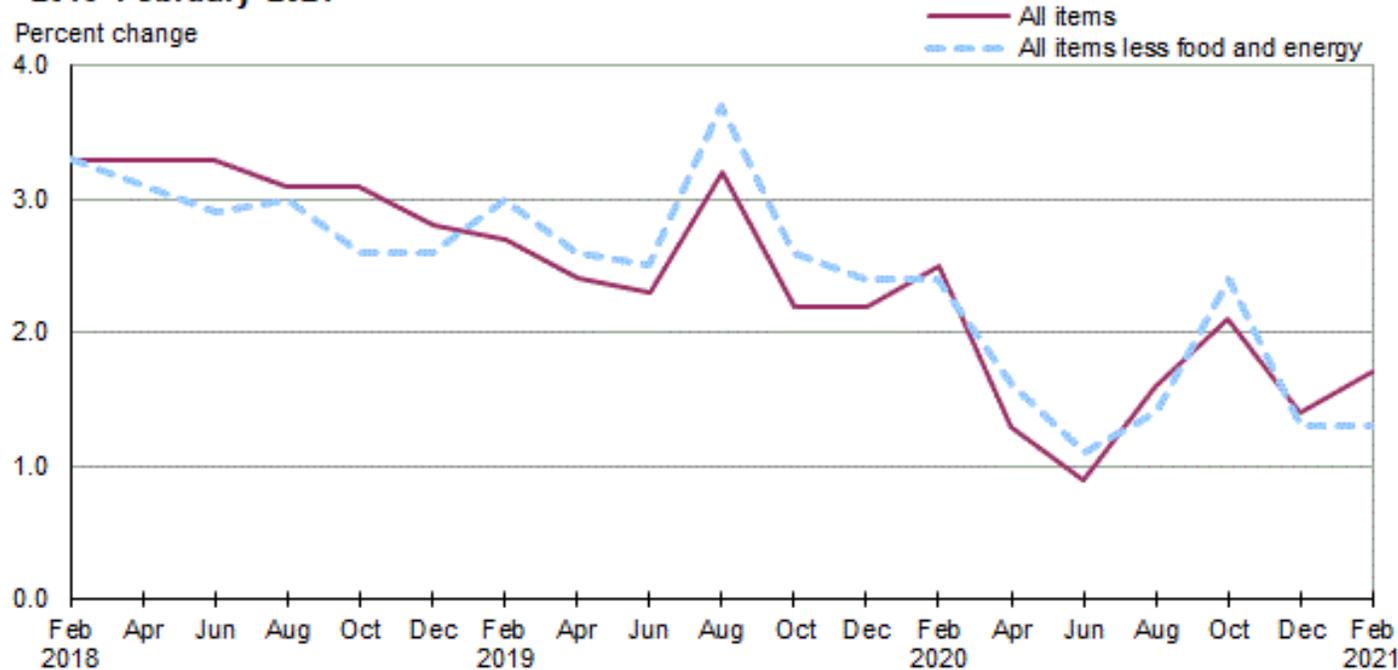
Consumer Price Index, Seattle area — February 2021

Area prices were up 1.2 percent over the past two months, up 1.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Seattle area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.2 percent for the two months ending in February 2021, 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 household furnishings and operations, motor vehicle insurance, and 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 rose 1.7 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices rose 4.8 percent. Energy prices decreased 0.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.3 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA, February 2018–February 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices increased 1.0 percent for the two months ending in February. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home rose 1.3 percent, led by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (4.1 percent). Prices for food away from home increased 0.7 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 4.8 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 5.5 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home rose 4.2 percent, with widespread price increases across all categories except cereal and bakery products (-1.7 percent).

Energy

The energy index rose 4.6 percent for the two months ending in February. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (8.5 percent). Prices for natural gas service were unchanged, while prices for electricity edged down 0.1 percent for the same period.

Energy prices decreased 0.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-2.9 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service increased 3.4 percent, and prices for electricity increased 3.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.1 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for motor vehicle insurance (17.6 percent), household furnishings and operations (5.5 percent), and other goods and services (3.3 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for new vehicles (-5.2 percent) and shelter (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.3 percent. Components contributing to the increase included used cars and trucks (11.8 percent), education and communication (3.3 percent), and shelter (1.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in new vehicles (-10.5 percent) and apparel (-0.3 percent).

Table A. Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	2-month	12-month								
February	1.0	3.4	0.8	3.3	0.7	2.7	1.0	2.5	1.2	1.7
April	0.8	3.1	0.8	3.3	0.5	2.4	-0.6	1.3		
June	0.8	3.0	0.8	3.3	0.7	2.3	0.2	0.9		
August	-0.2	2.5	-0.3	3.1	0.6	3.2	1.4	1.6		
October	0.5	3.0	0.4	3.1	-0.6	2.2	-0.1	2.1		
December	0.5	3.5	0.2	2.8	0.3	2.2	-0.4	1.4		

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

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on February 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 February 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 Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties in the State of Washington.

Information in this release will be made available to individuals with sensory impairments 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 Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Expenditure category						
All items	283.409	-	286.950	1.7	1.2	-
All items (1967=100)	863.940	-	874.734	-	-	-
Food and beverages	290.379	-	293.972	4.9	1.2	-
Food	293.595	-	296.579	4.8	1.0	-
Food at home	264.780	263.677	268.127	4.2	1.3	1.7
Cereals and bakery products	299.146	-	299.084	-1.7	0.0	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	224.998	-	234.170	7.4	4.1	-
Dairy and related products	244.629	-	243.434	8.0	-0.5	-
Fruits and vegetables	419.686	-	432.217	6.0	3.0	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	339.218	-	335.867	6.7	-1.0	-
Other food at home	213.953	-	214.158	0.9	0.1	-
Food away from home	337.641	-	340.121	5.5	0.7	-
Alcoholic beverages	253.775	-	262.556	5.9	3.5	-
Housing	341.917	-	344.131	1.5	0.6	-
Shelter	395.061	396.636	394.825	1.2	-0.1	-0.5
Rent of primary residence(2)	405.554	404.585	402.565	1.0	-0.7	-0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	418.944	418.693	417.945	1.6	-0.2	-0.2
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	418.944	418.693	417.945	1.6	-0.2	-0.2
Fuels and utilities	283.651	-	285.630	2.6	0.7	-
Household energy	254.518	254.400	254.125	3.0	-0.2	-0.1
Energy services(2)	300.895	300.680	300.680	3.1	-0.1	0.0
Electricity(2)	326.525	326.219	326.219	3.1	-0.1	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	175.147	175.147	175.147	3.4	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	180.133	-	190.040	2.9	5.5	-
Apparel	123.089	-	124.238	-0.3	0.9	-
Transportation	211.578	-	220.345	-1.4	4.1	-
Private transportation	226.077	-	234.765	-0.4	3.8	-
New and used motor vehicles(4)	100.810	-	99.898	-0.2	-0.9	-
New vehicles(1)	191.341	-	181.409	-10.5	-5.2	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	346.937	-	349.095	11.8	0.6	-
Motor fuel	308.726	317.939	334.701	-3.1	8.4	5.3
Gasoline (all types)	315.034	324.532	341.876	-2.9	8.5	5.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	339.687	349.773	369.370	-2.7	8.7	5.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	257.223	263.416	272.157	-5.4	5.8	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	296.760	306.538	320.388	-3.2	8.0	4.5
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	509.658	-	599.598	4.0	17.6	-
Medical care	409.420	-	414.255	0.3	1.2	-
Recreation(6)	100.304	-	100.265	2.7	0.0	-
Education and communication(6)	145.897	-	146.480	3.3	0.4	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,731.814	-	1,732.862	2.2	0.1	-
Other goods and services	416.753	-	430.666	1.9	3.3	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	283.409	-	286.950	1.7	1.2	-
Commodities	197.533	-	201.187	2.5	1.8	-
Commodities less food & beverages	153.038	-	156.667	0.6	2.4	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	182.280	-	187.550	-1.3	2.9	-
Durables	122.613	-	124.790	2.8	1.8	-
Services	363.616	-	366.931	1.3	0.9	-

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 Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Feb. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	277.787	-	281.271	1.8	1.3	-
All items less shelter.....	240.804	-	245.606	2.0	2.0	-
Commodities less food	157.067	-	160.914	0.9	2.4	-
Nondurables	234.419	-	238.813	2.4	1.9	-
Nondurables less food.....	188.297	-	193.876	-0.5	3.0	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	334.490	-	341.726	1.4	2.2	-
Services less medical care services.....	356.202	-	359.372	1.3	0.9	-
Energy	288.202	292.869	301.328	-0.6	4.6	2.9
All items less energy	285.928	-	289.064	1.8	1.1	-
All items less food and energy	284.791	-	287.957	1.3	1.1	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a November 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.