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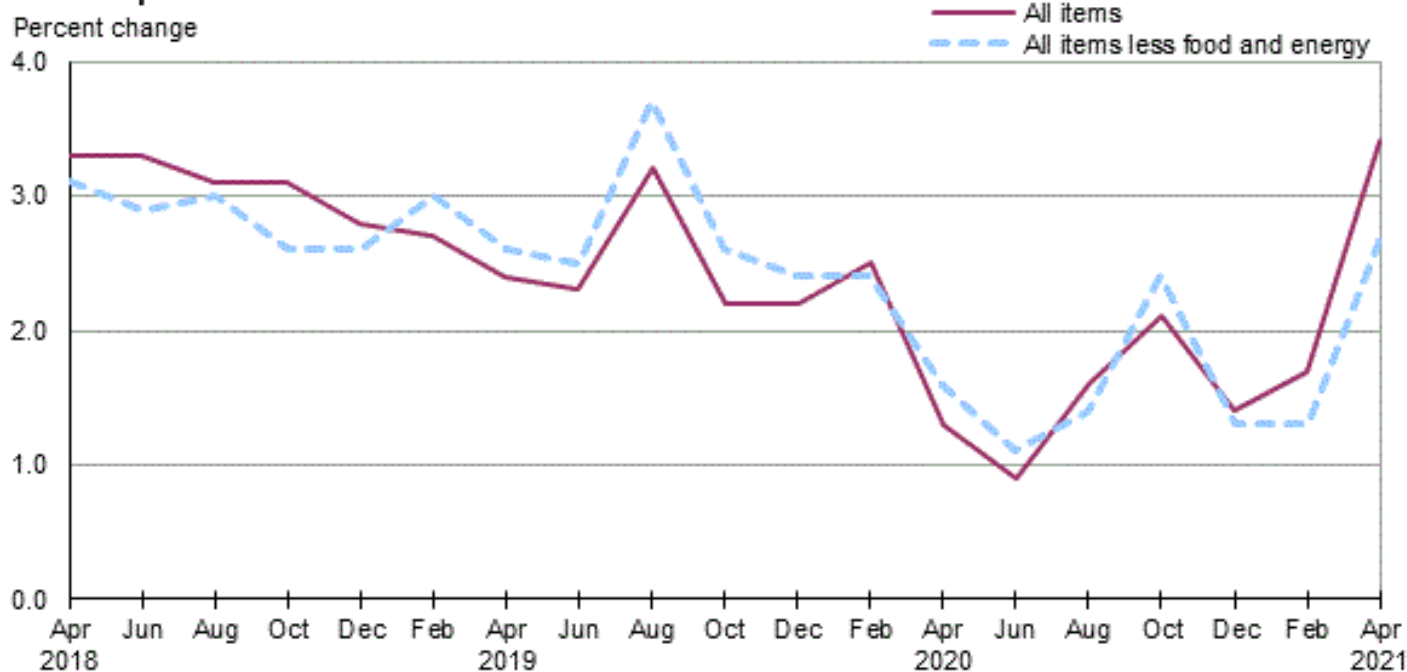
Consumer Price Index, Seattle area — April 2021

Area prices were up 1.1 percent over the past two months, up 3.4 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Seattle area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.1 percent for the two months ending in April 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the April increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline, used cars and trucks, and shelter. (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 3.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Food prices increased 2.8 percent. Energy prices jumped 20.1 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

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



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices rose 0.8 percent for the two months ending in April. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home increased 0.9 percent. Prices for food at home moved up 0.8 percent, led by higher prices for cereals and bakery products (4.4 percent) for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 2.8 percent. Prices for food away from home increased 5.0 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home rose 0.9 percent, with widespread price increases across most categories except for other food at home (-4.0 percent) and cereals and bakery products (-1.5 percent).

Energy

The energy index rose 9.4 percent for the two months ending in April. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (15.6 percent). Prices for electricity advanced 1.6 percent, while prices for natural gas service were unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 20.1 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (34.8 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service rose 3.2 percent, and prices for electricity rose 3.1 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.7 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for used cars and trucks (11.9 percent) and shelter (0.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations (-3.0 percent) and recreation (-1.3 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 2.7 percent. Components contributing to the increase included used cars and trucks (22.8 percent), education and communication (4.2 percent), and shelter (1.7 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	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	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	1.1	3.4
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 June 2021 Consumer Price Index for the Seattle area is scheduled to be released on July 13, 2021.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on April 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 April 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.

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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-		
	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
Expenditure category						
All items	286.950	-	290.068	3.4	1.1	-
All items (1967=100)	874.734	-	884.239	-	-	-
Food and beverages	293.972	-	297.714	4.0	1.3	-
Food	296.579	-	299.051	2.8	0.8	-
Food at home	268.127	268.893	270.284	0.9	0.8	0.5
Cereals and bakery products	299.084	-	312.384	-1.5	4.4	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	234.170	-	240.646	3.6	2.8	-
Dairy and related products	243.434	-	231.473	1.1	-4.9	-
Fruits and vegetables	432.217	-	433.081	7.0	0.2	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	335.867	-	343.834	0.4	2.4	-
Other food at home	214.158	-	213.207	-4.0	-0.4	-
Food away from home	340.121	-	343.069	5.0	0.9	-
Alcoholic beverages	262.556	-	277.191	17.4	5.6	-
Housing	344.131	-	344.295	1.6	0.0	-
Shelter	394.825	395.103	396.604	1.7	0.5	0.4
Rent of primary residence(2)	402.565	403.263	405.162	1.1	0.6	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3)	417.945	417.537	417.725	1.1	-0.1	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2)	417.945	417.537	417.725	1.1	-0.1	0.0
Fuels and utilities	285.630	-	287.746	2.7	0.7	-
Household energy	254.125	254.424	257.375	3.3	1.3	1.2
Energy services(2)	300.680	300.680	304.408	3.1	1.2	1.2
Electricity(2)	326.219	326.219	331.556	3.1	1.6	1.6
Utility (piped) gas service(2)	175.147	175.147	175.147	3.2	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	190.040	-	184.304	0.1	-3.0	-
Apparel	124.238	-	125.187	5.9	0.8	-
Transportation	220.345	-	236.824	10.9	7.5	-
Private transportation	234.765	-	250.291	10.2	6.6	-
New and used motor vehicles(4)	99.898	-	105.522	-	5.6	-
New vehicles(1)	181.409	-	180.997	-	-0.2	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	349.095	-	390.546	22.8	11.9	-
Motor fuel	334.701	368.651	386.788	34.5	15.6	4.9
Gasoline (all types)	341.876	376.753	395.318	34.8	15.6	4.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	369.370	407.932	427.958	35.7	15.9	4.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	272.157	297.549	307.273	24.4	12.9	3.3
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	320.388	350.185	368.529	32.5	15.0	5.2
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	599.598	-	599.598	4.0	0.0	-
Medical care	414.255	-	414.581	0.0	0.1	-
Recreation(6)	100.265	-	98.987	3.8	-1.3	-
Education and communication(6)	146.480	-	146.785	4.2	0.2	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	1,732.862	-	1,737.477	3.3	0.3	-
Other goods and services	430.666	-	-	-	-	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	286.950	-	290.068	3.4	1.1	-
Commodities	201.187	-	205.079	5.1	1.9	-
Commodities less food & beverages	156.667	-	160.572	6.0	2.5	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	187.550	-	194.627	8.2	3.8	-
Durables	124.790	-	126.048	3.4	1.0	-
Services	366.931	-	369.151	2.5	0.6	-

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-		
	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	Apr. 2020	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	281.271	-	284.531	3.7	1.2	-
All items less shelter.....	245.606	-	249.146	4.4	1.4	-
Commodities less food	160.914	-	165.285	6.8	2.7	-
Nondurables	238.813	-	244.176	5.7	2.2	-
Nondurables less food.....	193.876	-	201.636	9.3	4.0	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....	341.726	-	344.529	3.5	0.8	-
Services less medical care services.....	359.372	-	361.856	2.6	0.7	-
Energy	301.328	318.899	329.710	20.1	9.4	3.4
All items less energy	289.064	-	291.054	2.7	0.7	-
All items less food and energy	287.957	-	289.862	2.7	0.7	-

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.