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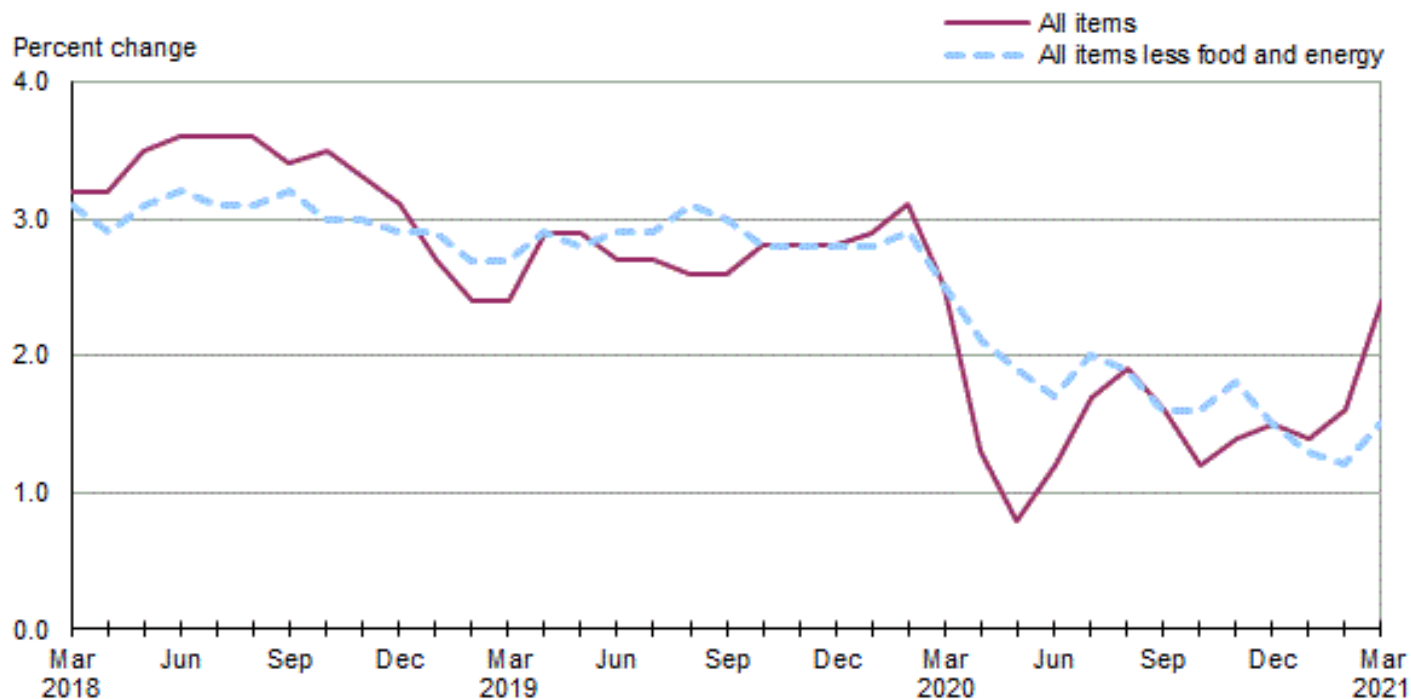
## Consumer Price Index, West Region — March 2021

**Area prices were up 0.7 percent over the past month, up 2.4 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 0.7 percent in March, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) 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 2.4 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Food prices advanced 4.2 percent. Energy prices jumped 10.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy rose 1.5 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, March 2018–March 2021**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Food

Food prices inched up 0.1 percent for the month of March. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food away from home edged up 0.2 percent. Prices for food at home were unchanged for the same period, influenced by higher prices for cereals and bakery products (1.6 percent) and lower prices for nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials (-1.4 percent).

Over the year, food prices advanced 4.2 percent. Prices for food away from home rose 4.8 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 3.8 percent since a year ago, led by higher prices for meat, poultry, fish, and eggs (8.3 percent).

## Energy

The energy index rose 7.4 percent over the month. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (12.6 percent). Prices for electricity increased 1.1 percent, and prices for natural gas service advanced 0.7 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 10.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (13.9 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service advanced 8.5 percent, and prices for electricity increased 6.3 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.3 percent in March. Higher prices for used cars and trucks (2.4 percent), recreation (1.1 percent), and shelter (0.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-0.8 percent), new vehicles (-0.4 percent), and other goods and services (-0.1 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy rose 1.5 percent. Components contributing to the increase included used cars and trucks (9.9 percent), household furnishings and operations (3.6 percent), and shelter (1.4 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price decreases in motor vehicle insurance (-1.4 percent) and apparel (-1.3 percent).

**Table A. West region 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.....	0.5	2.5	0.5	3.1	0.2	2.7	0.3	2.9	0.2	1.4
February.....	0.6	3.0	0.5	3.1	0.2	2.4	0.4	3.1	0.5	1.6
March.....	0.3	3.1	0.4	3.2	0.4	2.4	-0.2	2.5	0.7	2.4
April.....	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.2	0.8	2.9	-0.4	1.3		
May.....	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.5	0.5	2.9	0.1	0.8		
June.....	0.0	2.5	0.2	3.6	0.0	2.7	0.4	1.2		
July.....	0.1	2.5	0.1	3.6	0.0	2.7	0.5	1.7		
August.....	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.6	0.1	2.6	0.3	1.9		
September.....	0.5	2.9	0.3	3.4	0.3	2.6	0.0	1.6		
October.....	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.5	0.5	2.8	0.2	1.2		
November.....	0.0	3.1	-0.2	3.3	-0.1	2.8	0.0	1.4		
December.....	0.1	3.1	-0.2	3.1	-0.2	2.8	-0.1	1.5		

**The April 2021 Consumer Price Index for the West Region 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 West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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 West (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.....	277.238	278.702	280.625	2.4	1.2	0.7
All items (December 1977=100).....	448.139	450.506	453.614			
Food and beverages .....	281.122	282.161	282.539	4.1	0.5	0.1
Food .....	281.443	282.643	282.984	4.2	0.5	0.1
Food at home .....	263.024	263.956	264.033	3.8	0.4	0.0
Cereals and bakery products .....	265.321	265.829	270.165	1.9	1.8	1.6
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	281.551	283.155	285.621	8.3	1.4	0.9
Dairy and related products .....	249.225	246.346	243.666	0.9	-2.2	-1.1
Fruits and vegetables .....	346.758	345.409	342.914	1.5	-1.1	-0.7
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	189.380	190.533	187.960	4.8	-0.7	-1.4
Other food at home .....	218.670	221.463	221.830	3.2	1.4	0.2
Food away from home.....	305.392	306.955	307.658	4.8	0.7	0.2
Alcoholic beverages .....	273.440	272.459	273.293	2.8	-0.1	0.3
Housing .....	309.310	310.182	311.022	2.0	0.6	0.3
Shelter .....	357.040	357.670	358.434	1.4	0.4	0.2
Rent of primary residence(1).....	381.621	382.538	383.015	1.5	0.4	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	376.862	377.607	378.007	1.6	0.3	0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	376.828	377.574	377.971	1.6	0.3	0.1
Fuels and utilities.....	320.809	325.202	327.513	5.8	2.1	0.7
Household energy .....	269.583	274.344	277.188	6.9	2.8	1.0
Energy services(1) .....	271.372	276.192	279.092	6.8	2.8	1.0
Electricity(1).....	302.211	309.398	312.934	6.3	3.5	1.1
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	214.943	214.093	215.606	8.5	0.3	0.7
Household furnishings and operations.....	138.132	138.389	138.858	3.6	0.5	0.3
Apparel .....	111.966	113.304	114.734	-1.3	2.5	1.3
Transportation .....	213.427	216.515	223.648	4.6	4.8	3.3
Private transportation .....	211.674	215.294	222.390	5.6	5.1	3.3
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	103.808	104.034	104.453	4.2	0.6	0.4
New vehicles .....	151.328	151.487	150.926	1.2	-0.3	-0.4
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	105.131	105.229	104.850	1.3	-0.3	-0.4
New cars(4).....		150.286	148.892	0.6		-0.9
Used cars and trucks.....	144.269	145.121	148.563	9.9	3.0	2.4
Motor fuel .....	232.603	244.582	275.493	13.6	18.4	12.6
Gasoline (all types).....	231.807	243.806	274.640	13.9	18.5	12.6
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	228.073	240.237	271.134	14.0	18.9	12.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	225.173	235.437	262.995	12.0	16.8	11.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	232.297	242.779	271.228	13.3	16.8	11.7
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	810.395	833.674	837.972	-1.4	3.4	0.5
Medical Care .....	539.245	539.796	541.390	0.9	0.4	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	419.214	409.235	410.237	-4.3	-2.1	0.2
Medical care services.....	576.341	580.214	581.993	2.1	1.0	0.3
Professional services .....	367.490	374.088	375.957	3.5	2.3	0.5
Recreation(3).....	114.324	115.448	116.717	0.6	2.1	1.1
Education and communication(3).....	140.694	141.118	139.985	1.3	-0.5	-0.8
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6) .....	1,503.207	1,506.289	1,506.734	0.6	0.2	0.0
Other goods and services .....	469.789	473.042	472.339	2.7	0.5	-0.1
<b>Commodity and Service Group</b>						
All Items.....	277.238	278.702	280.625	2.4	1.2	0.7
Commodities .....	191.414	192.894	195.466	3.9	2.1	1.3

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 West (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
Commodities less food & beverages.....	148.131	149.705	152.981	3.8	3.3	2.2
Nondurables less food & beverages .....	189.441	192.047	199.814	3.5	5.5	4.0
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel .....	243.907	247.400	259.550	5.1	6.4	4.9
Durables .....	109.262	110.063	110.303	4.1	1.0	0.2
Services.....	357.050	358.426	359.550	1.5	0.7	0.3
Rent of shelter(2).....	380.246	380.966	381.786	1.4	0.4	0.2
Transportation services .....	306.105	307.975	310.120	-1.3	1.3	0.7
Other services .....	364.854	366.539	368.095	1.1	0.9	0.4
<b>Special aggregate indexes:</b>						
All items less medical care .....	265.309	266.806	268.736	2.6	1.3	0.7
All items less food .....	276.694	278.202	280.385	2.1	1.3	0.8
All items less shelter.....	245.928	247.717	250.091	3.0	1.7	1.0
Commodities less food .....	152.674	154.189	157.422	3.7	3.1	2.1
Nondurables .....	235.212	237.069	241.273	3.9	2.6	1.8
Nondurables less food.....	195.618	197.997	205.335	3.5	5.0	3.7
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	246.701	249.717	260.654	4.8	5.7	4.4
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	367.521	369.885	371.518	1.7	1.1	0.4
Services less medical care services.....	341.769	342.976	344.054	1.5	0.7	0.3
Energy .....	252.230	261.331	280.792	10.7	11.3	7.4
All items less energy .....	281.271	282.229	282.978	1.9	0.6	0.3
All items less food and energy .....	282.032	282.949	283.772	1.5	0.6	0.3
Commodities less food and energy commodities .....	143.491	143.952	144.411	2.0	0.6	0.3
Energy commodities.....	237.605	249.676	280.696	13.6	18.1	12.4
Services less energy services.....	363.379	364.566	365.594	1.3	0.6	0.3

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.